



LIBERTYVILLE TOWNSHIP

**ANNUAL OPEN SPACE REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

**Kathleen M. O'Connor
Supervisor**

Presented to the Town Clerk this 11th day of April 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Anne Hansen

Township Clerk



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBERTYVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
CONCERNING THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

Pursuant to The Township Open Space Act, 60 ILCS 1/115-110, the Board of Trustees of the Town of Libertyville, Lake County, Illinois hereby reports that the Board has taken the following actions to implement the Open Space Plan and Program during calendar year 2022.

**I.
Taxes Levied and Received**

There were no taxes levied or received for Calendar Year 2022.

**II.
Expenditures**

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 03-5070 | Land Management | 34,364.08 |
| 03-5950 | Volunteer Support | 199.50 |
| 03-6150 | Supplies - Equipment | 4,547.42 |
| 03-6170 | Supplies - Herbicide | 13,927.97 |
| 03-6170 | Supplies - Landscape | 131.20 |
| 03-6210 | Supplies - Signage | 2,840.35 |
| 03-6220 | Supplies - Trails | 3,535.01 |
| 03-7100 | Purchases - Equipment | 18,519.41 |
| 03-8100 | Miscellaneous Expense | 12.00 |
| | TOTAL: | 78,076.94 |

**III.
Lands Acquired.**

None.

End of Report.



Open Space 2022 Annual Report

Libertyville Township Open Space District owns over 1,500 acres of Open Space. The Township has 3 full time employees who are responsible for all maintenance and restoration efforts. In addition to the staff, Libertyville Township has a long-standing established partnership with Conserve Lake County that has now merged with Openlands. They have linked the Township to grant opportunities, coordinated volunteer workdays and provided professional assistance in a variety of areas.

In 2022, the Township applied 3,971.33 gallons of herbicide, sowed 108 pounds of native seed, 1,100 lbs. of cover crop sowed, 28.5 lbs. of native seed collected, conducted prescribed burns on 217.6 acres, rough-cut mowed 130.5 acres, cleared 1.67 acres of invasive species, 43 brush piles were burned, 65 trees were planted, held 13 volunteer workdays, and 37 individuals volunteered.

Special Projects

Donnelley Prairies & Oaks Mitigation Bank Planning

Hey & Associates, Inc. is providing technical assistance in the Township's pursuit of a permit to create a wetland mitigation bank. The Prospectus and Banking Instrument have been submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, the 30-day notice for Public Comment has been held and the responses to the Public Comment have been submitted. Construction of the bank is anticipated to begin late 2023.

Kildare Ave Parcel Restoration Project

The nine-acre site was completely cleared of buckthorn, brush, and other invasive species. There were four loads of scrap metal and five loads of tires and trash removed from the site. The Township received a ComEd Green Region Grant for the purchase of seed and plugs. Volunteer workdays are scheduled for June 24 and 25, 2023. In addition to restoring the site, there will be improved public access to the site.

Liberty Prairie Reserve Educational Signage

The Township partnered with Openlands to create educational signage in the Liberty Prairie Reserve. The signage was strategically located at prominent trail head locations.

Lindholm Park Solar Panel Gate

To reduce the potential of after-hours activity in Lindholm Park, the Township hired Gate Systems to install a solar powered gate at the parking lot entrance.

Open Space Inventory VI Updated

In April 2022 with the assistance of David Holman, the Township updated the Open Space Inventory.

Rt. 45 Parcel Restoration Project

The Township applied and was accepted to be included in Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's DCEO grant application. Gewalt Hamilton was hired to provide engineering services for the project. The Township has met with the US Army Corps of Engineers to review the project. The next step is for the Illinois General Assembly to approve the Township's grant application.

Rt. 137 Wetland Restoration & Beaver Activity

As the restoration efforts of the Rt. 137 property continue so has monitoring and managing of beaver activity. There has been further thinning of undergrowth, dead and diseased trees, and invasive species. With the additional clearing, there is increased light penetration through the canopy to the understory which is promoting the establishment of prairie and savanna vegetation.

As the beavers continue to construct lodges and dams and migrate up stream, the Township has partnered with USDA's Wildlife Services to manage the situation: the reduction of the beaver population and removal of structures.

St. Mary's Road Rapid Road Rectangular Flashing Beacon System Project

The Township partnered with the Village of Green Oaks and Lake County Division of Transportation to install flashing pedestrian signage at St. Mary's Road to provide safer access to the Township's St. Mary's Road Property and Lindholm Park.

Volunteer Herbicide Class for Open Space Volunteers

On January 29, 2022, Libertyville Township and Dave Eubanks from Eubanks Environmental partnered to provide a virtual herbicide training class to 9 volunteers interested obtaining a volunteer herbicide license. The license allows open space volunteers to participate in herbicide activities under the supervision of Township staff and Dave Eubanks.

Volunteer Workdays

Most of the volunteer workdays are held the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to Noon and are typically held at Oak Openings, Liberty Prairie, or Donnelley Oaks and Prairies. In 2022, the Township held 13 volunteer workdays which included 37 individuals.

Conservation Easement Baseline Data

In 2010, Libertyville Township began documenting baselines and conducting annual monitoring for the conservation easements it holds on 6 privately owned properties. The work is being carried out with the assistance of Openlands. This provides an opportunity for the Township to partner with the landowners to ensure the integrity of each conservation easement is maintained. In 2022, the Township completed the following monitoring activities:

- Bleck Easement – The property owner began a barn construction project. The site was regularly monitored. The annual easement monitoring was conducted on May 25, 2022.
- Bott Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on May 23, 2022.
- Brennan Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on May 25, 2022.
- Getz Easement – This easement covers three separate properties. Separate baselines have been created for each property. In 2016, all 3 properties were purchased by a single owner.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 1 on May 25, 2022.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 2 on May 25, 2022.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 3 on May 25, 2022.
- Maxey Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on May 25, 2022.
- Pritzker – Completed baseline of conservation easement & reviewed with representatives of property owner on May 23, 2022.

Site Specific Activities

In 2022, the Libertyville Township Open Space District applied 3,971.33 gallons of herbicide, collected 28.5, spread approximately 108 pounds of native seed and 1,110 of cover crop, cleared 1.67 acres of invasive species, 43 brush piles burned, mowed 130.5 acres, planted 65 trees, and conducted prescribed burns on 217.6 acres. These numbers will fluctuate based on each property's needs over time.

Atkinson

- Applied 292 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Cleaned storm grate along the berm.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, March, April, May, July, & September.
- Contractor conducted prescribed burn on 63.11 acres.
- Installed and/or repaired signage as needed.
- Mowed trail edges.
- Mowed 1.13 acres.
- Reconstructed trail was monitored following rain events for potential drainage issues.
- Removed trash.
- Rolled trails as needed.

Butterfield/Canterbury

- Applied 657.46 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, March, April, May, July, & September.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 1.93 acres.
- Removed trash.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled trail as needed.
- Sowed 4 lbs. of native seed.
- Site of Carmel High School's April 23 and October 22 Volunteer Workday.

Casey North/Oak Openings & Donnelley Prairies & Oaks

- Applied 557.46 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 2 brush piles.
- Cleared 1.05 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: February, March, April, June, October, and December.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 18.98 acres.
- Conducted streambank assessment.
- Continued ongoing monitoring and maintenance of 319 grant: biannual inspections, mowing, and herbicide applications as needed.
- Finished clearing hedgerow.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Installed firebreak.
- Maintenance and repairs to kiosk as needed.
- Monitored ice in parking lot & spread stone for traction.
- Mowed 89.07 acres.
- Porta-potty delivered & removed.
- Replaced and repaired fencing as needed.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Spread 110 lbs. of native seed.
- Five volunteer workdays were held at Oak Openings: 1/8, 4/9, 8/13, 10/8, & 12/10. Three volunteer days held at Donnelly Prairies and Oaks: 5/14, 6/11, & 7/9. Activities included applying herbicide and removing invasive species.

Casey South/Liberty Prairie & Donnelley Oaks & Prairies

- Applied 460.5 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Collected 15 lbs. of native seed.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 19.5 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, February, June, August, & December.
- Installed signage as needed.
- ISWS well survey on 5//24.
- Mowed 18.11 acres.
- Sowed 52 lbs. of native seed on 3 acres.
- Delivered and removed porta-potty.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Two volunteer workdays were held at Liberty Prairie: 9/10 & 11/12. Three volunteer workdays held at Donnelley Prairies and Oaks: 5/14, 6/11 & 7/9. Activities that included applying herbicide and removing invasive species.

Kildare

- Applied 178 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned brush piles.
- Continued clearing.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachment: February, May, June, August, October, November, & December.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Planted 47 bare root trees.
- Removed suspected coyote den.
- Removed trash.
- Replaced property markers.
- Sowed 1,047 lbs. of cover crop on 9.5 acres.

Lindholm Park

- Applied 134.5 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Awarded contract for the installation of a solar powered gate at the parking lot entrance
- Conducted ball field maintenance.
- Conducted playground equipment inspection.
- Conducted property inspections & monitored encroachments: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, & December.
- Installed firebreaks.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mow as needed.
- Repaired and replaced fencing as needed.

Milwaukee Road

- Applied 39 gallons of herbicide to invasive species and sidewalks.
- Burned 4 brush piles.
- Checked Egidi Lane Drainage Project.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 1.3 acres.
- Conducted property inspections & monitored encroachments: January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, November, & December.

- Installed firebreak.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Monitored installation of fence at Vintage Oak stables.
- Mowed .73 acres.
- Site survey, below ground utility survey, and retrieved historic well and septic documents.

Old School

- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, March, May, July, August, September, and November.
- Replaced a property marker.

River Road

- Applied 139.5 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 1 brush pile.
- Conducted maintenance and rolled trails as needed.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 6.41 acres.
- Conducted property inspections: January, March, April, May, June, August, October, and December.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Mowed trail edges.
- Mowed 13.47 acres.
- Planted 18 bare root trees.

Rt. 45

- Applied for DCEO grant.
- Cleared .52 acres.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 1.1 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, February, March April, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.
- Installed culverts and access pad.
- Installed firebreak.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Removed garbage and debris.

Rt. 137

- Applied 618.3 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 3 brush piles.
- Conducted maintenance and rolled trails as needed.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 1 acre.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: March, April, May, June, August, September, & October.
- Conducted streambank assessment.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Maintenance and repairs to kiosk as needed.
- Mowed 3.39 acres.
- Removed garbage and debris.

St. Mary's

- Applied 906.17 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.

- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, & October.
- Installed fire break.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 3.3 acres.
- Repaired and replaced fencing as needed.
- Sowed 8 lbs. of native seed.

Township Grounds

- Applied 40.65 gallons of herbicide to invasive species.
- Hauling & spreading mulch on landscape beds.

Winchester Rd/Libertyville Township Soccer Complex (LTSC)

- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, February, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Removed downed trees and buckthorn.

Seasonal Maintenance Activities

Winter:

- Clearing of buckthorn and other invasive trees.
- Burning of brush piles.
- Monthly volunteer workdays.
- Open Space employees assist with snow removal in the unincorporated areas of Libertyville Township.
- Open Space employees assist with the maintenance of Township grounds.
- Assist with food pantry activities as needed.

Spring:

- Herbiciding invasive plants.
- Planting native species.
- Trail maintenance and repairs.
- Burning is done on a rotating basis during March and April. Sites are prioritized and are burned in accordance with the prescribed burn management plan.
- Clean and inspect water control structures for wetlands – close for the spring.
- Weekly activities: mowing, weed whacking, raking of baseball diamonds.
- Monthly volunteer workdays.
- Open Space employees assist with the maintenance of Township grounds.
- Assist Road District in weather related events as needed.
- Assist with food pantry activities as needed.

Summer:

- Grading of dirt along trail edges.
- Herbiciding invasive plants.
- Trail maintenance and repairs.
- Weekly activities: mowing, weed whacking, raking of baseball diamonds.
- Monthly volunteer workdays.
- Open Space employees assist with the maintenance of Township grounds.

- Assist with food pantry activities as needed.

Fall:

- Seed collection.
- Planting native species.
- Herbiciding invasive plants.
- Trail maintenance and repairs.
- Clean and inspect water control structures for wetlands – open for fall.
- Burning is done on a rotating basis during the month of November. Sites are prioritized and are burned in accordance with the prescribed burn management plan.
- Weekly activities: mowing, weed whacking, raking of baseball diamonds.
- Monthly volunteer workdays.
- Open Space employees assist with the maintenance of Township grounds.
- Assist with food pantry activities as needed.

Public Communication and Outreach

K. O'Connor served on the ComEd Green Region Advisory Grant Committee.

K. O'Connor attended N. Johnson Eagle Scout Ceremony – January 9, 2022

K. O'Connor attended Annual Libertyville Township Soccer Complex Meeting – January 25, 2022

K. O'Connor Wetland Mitigation Bank Presentation to the Lake Bluff Wetland Mitigation Bank Task Force – February 22, 2022

D. Cederberg provided tour of the Libertyville Township's Open Space District – March 7, 2022

D. Cederberg assistance with Illinois Department of Natural Resources prescribed burn at Illinois Beach State Park – April 26, 2022

D. Cederberg assistance with Illinois Department of Natural Resources prescribed burn at Silver Springs State Park – April 29, 2022

D. Cederberg served on Wildland Fire Assignment in Cerro Pelado, New Mexico – May 19 – 26, 2022

K. O'Connor presentation on Libertyville Township's Open Space at Openlands' Leadership Meeting – June 2, 2022

K. O'Connor & D. Cederberg provided tour of Oak Openings, Donnelley Prairies and Oaks, and Liberty Prairie to T. Price from The Farm Foundation – August 4, 2022

D. Cederberg served on Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildfire Detail for Six Rivers Lighting Complex – August 11 – 30, 2022

Professional Development

J. Happ attended the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup Meetings – February 17 and August 18, 2022

D. Cederberg attended the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Workgroup Meetings – February 22, March 9 and May 11, 2022

D. Cederberg, J. Happ, and J. Meverden successfully completed the University of Illinois Extension Center's Forestry Webinar Series – March 30, April 6, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 18, and May 25, 2022

D. Cederberg successfully completed the S130, S190 Wildland Fire Refresher Training & Fitness Test – April 1, 2022

J. Meverden successfully completed Skid Steer Training – May 11, 2022

B. Ellingson successfully passed the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Online Exam – May 26, 2022

T. Batesky successfully passed the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Online Exam – July 1, 2022