



Open Space 2021 Annual Report

Libertyville Township Open Space District owns over 1,500 acres of Open Space. The Township now 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 2021, the Township applied 3,394.06 gallons of herbicide, sowed 1,216.64 pounds of native seed, 1,872 lbs. of cover crop sowed, 12 lbs. of native seed collected, conducted prescribed burns on 152.84 acres, mowed 129.28 acres, cleared 41.54 acres of invasive species, 22 brush piles were burned, held 13 volunteer workdays, and 45 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 has been submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Rt. 45 Parcel Restoration Planning

Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC (RES) formerly known as Applied Ecological Services (AES) completed a Natural Resources Inventory, Ecological Restoration, and Management Plan (ERMP) with a wetland delineation and tree survey. The ERMP is being used to pursue grant opportunities for the restoration of the site.

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.

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 has submitted two grant applications for funding to purchase seed and plugs. In addition to restoring the site, there will be improved public access to the site.

Eagle Scout Projects

Libertyville Township sponsored two Eagle Scout Projects. One project was the Wildlife Restoration Project at Liberty Prairie by Nick Psimaras. The project involved the creation of different types of wildlife habitat: 2 birdhouses, 6 nurse logs, 6 snags, and 4 brush piles/dens.

The second project was completed by Nolan Johnson in which he built and mounted five American Kestrel nesting boxes across several open space parcels.

Liberty Prairie Reserve Educational Signage

The Township has partnered with Openlands to create educational signage in the Liberty Prairie Reserve. The signage will be strategically located at prominent trail head locations. It is anticipated the installation will occur late Spring/Summer of 2022.

Volunteer Herbicide Class for Open Space Volunteers

On January 30, 2021, Libertyville Township and Dave Eubanks from Eubanks Environmental partnered to provide a virtual herbicide training class to 13 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 2021, the Township held 13 volunteer workdays with participation from 45 individual volunteers.

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 2021, the Township completed the following monitoring activities:

- Brennan Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on October 4, 2021.
- Bott Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on October 8, 2021.
- 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 October 7, 2021.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 2 on October 7, 2021.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 3 on October 7, 2021.
- Maxey Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on October 4, 2021.
- Pritzker – Completed baseline of conservation easement & reviewed with representatives of property owner on March 8, 2021.
- Bleck Easement – In 2018, the Bleck property was sold to a new property owner. The easement was regularly monitored during the construction of home. The annual easement monitoring was conducted on October 7, 2021.

Site Specific Activities

In 2021, the Libertyville Township Open Space District applied approximately 3,394.06 gallons of herbicide, spread approximately 1,216.64 pounds of native seed, cleared 41.54 acres of invasive species, 22 brush piles burned, mowed 129.28 acres, and conducted prescribed burns on 152.84 acres. These numbers will fluctuate based on each property's needs over time.

Atkinson

- Applied 774.08 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Cleaned storm grate along the berm.

- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, March, May, July, August, September, & November
- Contractor conducted prescribed burn on 18 acres.
- Installed and/or repaired signage as needed.
- Mowed trail edges.
- Mowed .87 acres.
- Reconstructed trail was monitored following rain events for potential drainage issues.
- Removed trash.
- Rolled trails as needed.

Butterfield/Canterbury

- Applied 4197.34 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 19 brush piles
- Cleared 24.74 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, March, April, July, August, September, & November.
- Hauled and spread 1 load of mulch.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 9.78 acres.
- Removed trash.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled trail as needed.
- Sowed 816 lbs. of cover crop.
- Site of Carmel High School's October 30th Volunteer Workday.

Casey North/Oak Openings & Donnelley Oaks & Prairies

- Applied 746.82 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Cleared 1.1 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: February, March, April, June, October, and December.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 18.2 acres.
- Conducted streambank assessment.
- Continued ongoing monitoring and maintenance of 319 grant: biannual inspections, mowing, and herbicide applications as needed.
- Finished clearing hedgerow.
- Hauled & spread 5 loads of mulch.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Installed firebreak.
- Monitored ice in parking lot & spread stone for traction.
- Mowed 89.75 acres.
- Porta-potty delivered & removed.
- Removed ditch checks.
- Replaced and repaired fencing as needed.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Spread 30.55 lbs. of native seed.
- Site of 5 volunteer workdays and activities included applying herbicide and removing invasive species. Volunteer workdays were held: 1/9, 4/10, 8/4, 10/9, & 12/11.
- Village of Libertyville Fire Department/SRT Prescribed Burn training held – March 30, 2021.

Casey South/Liberty Prairie & Donnelley Oaks & Prairies

- Applied 3,373.86 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 1 brush pile.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 66.69 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: February, March, April, June & October.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 18.42 acres.
- Delivered and removed porta-potty.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Held volunteer workdays: 3/13, 6/12, 7/10, 9/3 & 11/13

Kildare

- Applied 128.46 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned brush piles.
- Cleared 9.6 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachment: March, April, June, October, November, and December.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Measured new parking pad layout.
- Removed suspected coyote den.
- Removed 4 loads of scrap and 5 loads of tires and trash.
- Replaced property markers.

Lindholm Park

- Applied 502.48 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Conducted ball field maintenance.
- Conducted playground equipment inspection.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 2.8 acres.
- Conducted property inspections & monitored encroachments: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, & December.
- Installed firebreaks.
- Installed 4,500 lbs. of Turface/field conditioner.
- Installed signage as needed. Mow as needed.
- Repaired and replaced fencing as needed.
- Sealcoated the parking lot and trail.

Milwaukee Road

- Applied 76.8 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Applied 34.50 ounces of herbicide to sidewalks.
- Checked Egidi Lane Drainage Project.
- Completed Alta Survey.
- Conducted property inspections & monitored encroachments: January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, November, & December.
- Installed firebreak.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 1.27 acres.

Old School

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

River Road

- Applied 393 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 1 brush pile.
- Conducted property inspections: January, March, May, July, August, September, and November.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Mowed trail edges.
- Mowed 4.41 acres.
- Conducted maintenance and rolled trails as needed.

Rt. 45

- Applied approximately 1.92 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Natural Resources Inventory Ecological Restoration and Management Plan (ERMP).
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, February, March April, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.
- Explored grant opportunities.
- Installed culverts and access pad.
- Installed firebreak.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.

Rt. 137

- Applied 1,592.6 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Conducted maintenance and rolled trails as needed.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 30 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, March, June & October.
- Conducted streambank assessment.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Installed 10 bluebird boxes.
- Mowed .2 acres.
- Monitored beaver activity & removed 2 log jams/beaver dams.
- Removed 2 loads of scrap metal.
- Sealcoated trail heads.
- Sowed 288 lbs. of cover crop.
- Spread 137.49 lbs. of native seed.
- Site of volunteer workday which resulted in 21 volunteers sowing 1024.78 lbs. of native seed with 31 different species – May 8, 2021.

St. Mary's

- Applied 1,564.32 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Cleared 1 acre of invasive species.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 17.15 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, & December.
- Installed fire break.
- Installed signage as needed.

- Mowed .78 acres.
- Removed 2 dead trees.
- Repaired and replaced fencing as needed.
- Spread 528 lbs. of cover crop.
- Sowed 149.15 lbs. of native seed.

Township Grounds

- Applied 145.92 ounces 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, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and November.
- Installed signage as needed.

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. Psimaras Eagle Scout Ceremony – August 1, 2021

K. O'Connor, J. Happ, & D. Cederberg provided tour of Oak Openings, Donnelley Prairies and Oaks, and Liberty Prairie to Openlands staff – October 15, 2021

K. O'Connor attended and served as Meeting Chair Prop Tem for Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Watershed Management Board's Annual Meeting – December 1, 2021

Professional Development

D. Cederberg & J. Happ successfully completed the Open Meeting Act Training – March 11, 2021

D. Cederberg attended the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Workgroup Meetings – April 14, May 12, June 9, August 11, October 13, November 18, and December 19, 2021

D. Cederberg successfully completed the S130, S190 Wildland Fire Refresher Training & Fitness Test – April 2, 2021

D. Cederberg successfully completed the Fire Engine (Type 6) Operations Training – April 17, 2021

A. Rodriguez, D. Cederberg, & J. Happ successfully completed Lake County Department of Transportation's Certified Flagger Training – June 4, 2021

D. Cederberg, J. Happ, J. Meverden, K. O'Connor, and A. Rodriguez successfully completed Libertyville Township's CPR and First Aid Training – June 17, 2021

D. Cederberg, J. Happ, & J. Meverden successfully completed the Sexual Harassment Training – June 18, 2021

D. Cederberg successfully completed the S131, S133, S211 Fire Training Class – August 19 & 20, 2021

J. Happ attended the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup Meeting – August 29, 2021

J. Meverden successfully completed the S130, S190, L180 Fire Training Class – August 30, 2021

D. Cederberg, J. Happ, and J. Meverden attended Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's online deicing workshop – September 30, 2021

D. Cederberg successfully completed the S230 & S231 (NWCG Crew Boss/Fire Engine Boss) Fire Training, Big Rivers Compact Fire Academy – October 18 - 22, 2021

J. Meverden successfully obtained his CDL license – November 5, 2021

D. Cederberg successfully completed the Chicago Wilderness/MCCD Brule pile Burn Boss training – November 6, 2021