



Open Space 2020 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 work days and provided professional assistance in a variety of areas.

In 2020, the Township planted 6,850 plugs, applied 1,775.53 gallons of herbicide, sowed 45.55 pounds of native seed, 620 lbs. of cover crop sowed, 46 lbs. of native seed collected, conducted prescribed burns on 167.81 acres, mowed 124.06 acres, cleared 1.1 acres of invasive species, 15 brush piles were burned, held 11 volunteer workdays, and 48 individuals volunteered.

Special Projects

Rt. 137 Wetland Restoration – Beaver Activity

As the restoration efforts of the Rt. 137 property continue so has the monitoring and managing beaver activity. The Township reached out to ComEd to discuss and evaluate lodges and dams built by the beavers as they migrate up stream. Staff has begun to remove structures built by the beavers and protect Township property. The Township has sought the assistance from USDA's Wildlife Services in managing the situation.

Egidi Lane Drainage Project

The Township hired the engineering services of Pearson, Brown, & Associates to address flooding and drainage concerns with the associated issues of erosion, ice build-up, and sediment. The construction contract was awarded to Canyon Contracting, Inc. The completed project redefined and graded channel, improved the capacity of the drainage structures and sediment deposited from upstream sources was removed. The project included the planting of 3,200 native plugs.

St. Mary's Road Property Drainage Project

The Township hired the engineering services of Pearson, Brown & Associates to evaluate the functioning of a berm and assess the impact of repairing it to its original condition. The goal of the project is to assist in addressing a flooding and drainage concern. Campanella and Sons, Inc. was awarded the contract. The work included the removal of trees, redefining ditches, and the reconstruction of the berm to its original condition. As built, the berm will provide protection for a 50-year rain event.

Volunteer Herbicide Class for Open Space Volunteers

On January 25, 2020, Libertyville Township and Dave Eubanks from Eubanks Environmental partnered to provide an herbicide training class to 11 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 Donnelly Oaks and Prairies. In 2020, the Township held

12 volunteer workdays with participation from 48 individual volunteers. The April workday was cancelled due to COVID. On September 22, 2020, a corporate workday was held. Activities included applying herbicide, clearing invasive species, collecting seed, pulling garlic mustard and/or clover and participating in prescribed burns.

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 2020, the Township completed the following monitoring activities:

- Brennan Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on September 23, 2020.
- Bott Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on September 24, 2020.
- 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 September 24, 2020.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 2 on September 24, 2020.
 - Completed annual easement monitoring for Getz 3 on September 24, 2020.
- Maxey Easement – Completed annual easement monitoring on September 23, 2020.
- Bleck Easement – In 2018, the Bleck property was sold to a new property owner. The amendment to the conservation easement was approved by the Township Board on March 12, 2020.

Site Specific Activities

In 2020, the Libertyville Township Open Space District applied approximately 1,775.53 gallons of herbicide, spread approximately 45.55 pounds of native seed, cleared 1.1 acres of invasive species, 15 brush piles burned, mowed 124.06 acres, and conducted prescribed burns on 167.81 acres. These numbers will fluctuate based on each property's needs over time.

Atkinson

- Applied 157.44 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Rolled trails as needed.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Installed and/or repaired signage as needed.
- Reconstructed trail was monitored following rain events for potential drainage issues.
- Replacement of 1 culvert.
- 3 semi-loads of trail screenings were placed.

Butterfield/Canterbury

- Applied 840.46 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Removed 2 trees.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Installed signage as needed.

Casey North/Oak Openings & Donnelley Oaks & Prairies

- Applied 318.88 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Applied 50 lbs. of cover crop.

- Burned 1 brush pile.
- Cleaned out underpass drainage and creek culvert.
- Collected 25 lb. of native seed.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 61.8 acres.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 88.41 acres.
- Planted 3,650 plugs.
- Replaced and repaired fencing as needed.
- Replaced 1 dismount block.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Spread 30.55 lbs. of native seed.
- Site of 7 volunteer workdays and activities included applying herbicide and removing invasive species. Volunteer workdays were held: 2/8, 6/13, 8/8, & 10/10.

Casey South/Liberty Prairie & Donnelley Oaks & Prairies

- Applied 1,971.62 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Applied 320 lbs. of cover crop.
- Collected 1 lb. of native seed.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 55.52 acres.
- Burned 11 brush piles.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 16.65 acres.
- Spread 5 pounds of native seed.
- Removed 2 culverts.
- Repaired sections of trail and rolled entire trail.
- Replaced 1 dismount block.
- Held volunteer workdays: 3/13, 5/9, 7/1, 9/12 & 11/12
- Applied for grants and explored other funding opportunities to support restoration activities.

Kildare

- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Removed 3 downed trees.

Lindholm Park

- Applied 439.04 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Conducted ball field maintenance.
- Conducted playground equipment inspection.
- Conducted property inspections & monitored encroachments.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Removed leaning trees.
- Mow as needed.

Milwaukee Road

- Applied 261.35 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Applied 35 lbs. of turf seed.

- Planted 3,200 plugs.
- Collected 1 lb. of seed.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 1.4 acres.
- Conducted property inspections & monitored encroachments.
- Mowed 1.06 acres.

Old School

- Applied 14.08 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Removed 1 fallen tree.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 7.7 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.

River Road

- Conducted property inspections.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Trail maintenance as needed.

Rt. 45

- Applied approximately 1.92 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Conducted a prescribed burn on 1.2 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Removed 2 fallen trees from creek.

Rt. 137

- Applied 1,624 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Burned 3 brush piles.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Installed signage and property markers as needed.
- Monitored beaver activity.

St. Mary's

- Applied 1,755.69 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.
- Collected 12 lbs. of seed.
- Conducted prescribed burn on 21.89 acres.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Mowed 10.73 acres.

Township Grounds

- Applied 142.08 ounces of herbicide to invasive species.

Winchester Rd/Libertyville Township Soccer Complex (LTSC)

- Monitored repairs to the berm.
- Installed signage as needed.
- Conducted property inspections and monitored encroachments.

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 and J. Happ hosted Open Space Volunteer Appreciation Event – January 25, 2020

Professional Development

J. Happ attended the Des Plaines River Watershed Workgroup Meeting – February 20, and August 20, 2020

D. Cederberg attended the North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Workgroup Meetings – February 12, August 12, October 14, November 18, and December 19, 2020

D. Cederberg, J. Happ, A. Lindquist and A. Rodriguez attended Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's deicing workshop – October 14, 2020

D. Cederberg attended the S130, S190 Wildland Fire Refresher Training & Fitness Test – March 13, 2020

J. Happ successfully completed herbicide exam 3-year renewal – December 28, 2020

D. Cederberg successfully completed herbicide exam 3-year renewal – December 29, 2020