

# Libertyville Township Annual Open Space Report 2016



# 2016 Accomplishments

- 2,694.5 gallons of herbicide applied
- 23+ Ash trees removed
- 113.1 acres Rx burned
- 284 trees/shrubs planted
- 818 plugs planted
- 673 lbs. of native seed sowed
- 5 acres cleared of invasive trees
- 30 Brush piles burned
- 17 volunteer work days
- 104 individual volunteers



# Bull Creek Trail-Completion

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- Residents have requested a trail connection for over 20 years
- Existing path was mowed, rough shape
  - Only connected Bull Creek Subdivision
  - No creek crossing
- Worked with the Lake County Forest Preserve District and the Lake County Division of Transportation on the preliminary routes and feasibility
- Held public open house
- Partnership with ComEd and the Village of Libertyville

# Bull Creek Trail

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- Pearson Brown & Associates hired for engineering and construction observation
- Team Reil Inc. was awarded contract
- Total construction of the project: \$834,695.70 excluding engineering and permitting fees

# Original Mowed Path



# Final Surface

## LAYING

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## COMPACTING

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# Site Restoration

## HYDROMULCH & BLANKET



## GERMINATION



# Amenities



# Trail Opening



# Rt. 137 Clearing and Site Prep

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



# Birdscaping Project



# Grants Received for Restoration

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- Lake County Audubon Society has secured several grants on behalf of the Township to assist in the restoration efforts and improve bird habitat:
  - DAS Charitable Fund for the Preservation of Feline Animal Life - \$5,000
  - Lake County Audubon Society - \$3,000
  - Liberty Prairie Foundation - \$4,000
  - Trees Forever Illinois Buffer Partnership - \$2,000
  - Trees Forever - Pollinator Habitat Conservation - \$1,000

# Birdscaping Project

## NATIVE SEEDING



## PLUG PLANTING



# Birdscaping Project

## PLANTING PREP



## PLANT MATERIAL



# Birdscaping Project

VOLUNTEER DAY



# St. Mary's Restoration Update

PRIOR CONDITIONS



PHASE I



# St. Mary's Restoration Update

## PHASE II

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# Atkinson Tree Removals

BEFORE

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# Atkinson Tree Removals

AFTER

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# River Road Land Exchange

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- ① 10 acre swap - house plot for paddocks
- ① Fragmented parcel
- ① Simplified complicated easements and easement monitoring

# River Road House Fire Training

## PREPARATION



# River Road House Fire Training

## TRAINING



# River Road House Fire Training

BURN DOWN

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# River Road House Demolition

## WELL SEALING



## SEPTIC DISABLEMENT



# Lindholm Park Ball Field Restoration

## PREPARATION

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## MATERIALS

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# Lindholm Park Ball Field Restoration

## SPREADING

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## INCORPORATION

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# Casey Road Farmland Restoration Project

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- ◉ Ad hoc advisory committee established in 2014
- ◉ Partners included:
  - Conserve Lake County
  - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
  - Lake County Forest Preserve District
  - Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
- ◉ Engaged the public through open houses and a public survey
- ◉ Casey Road Land Use Conceptual Plan approved by the Board in November 2014

# Casey Road Farmland Restoration Project

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## ● Phase 1 Funding Opportunities

- Donnelley Foundation Grant – Awarded
- \$150,000 for hydrological and vegetation restoration
  
- Lake County Stormwater Management Commission WMB Grant – Awarded
- Matched funds for hydrological and vegetation restoration
  
- ComEd Green Region Grant – Awarded
- \$10,000 for native seed

## ● Future Funding Opportunities

- Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant – Submitted
- Engaged Hey & Associates to conduct a mitigation bank feasibility study

# Casey Road Farmland Restoration Project

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## ○ Phase 1

- Water & Soil Sampling
- Surveying & Legal Descriptions
- Baseline Photos
- Hedgerow Removal
- Drain Tile Removal
- Seed Purchase
- Oak Planting

# Water & Soil Sampling



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# Casey Road Restoration Project

Site Surveys

## CASEY NORTH



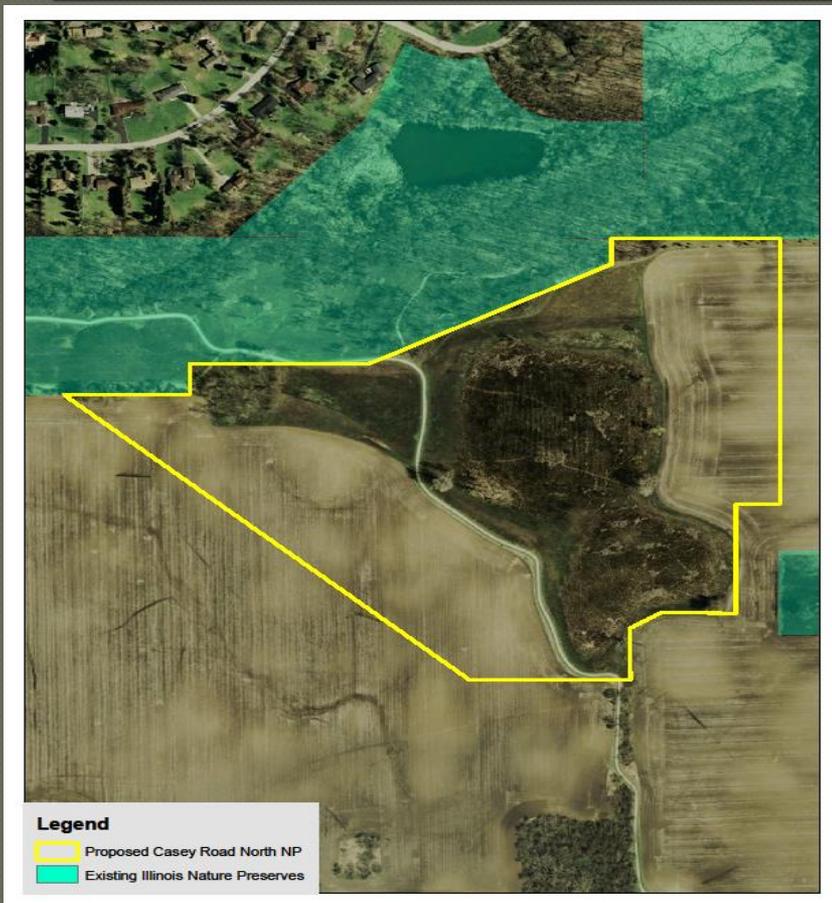
## CASEY SOUTH



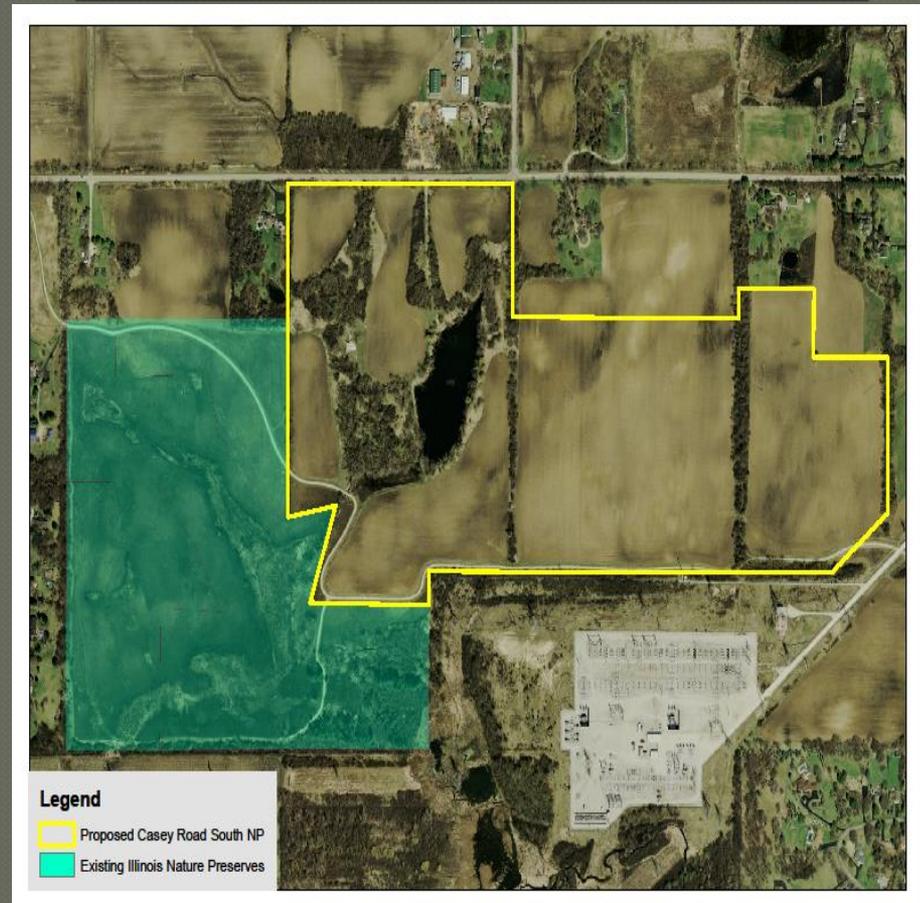
# Casey Road Restoration Project

## Legal Descriptions

### CASEY NORTH



### CASEY SOUTH



# Baseline Photos

- 100 photos document current conditions
- Retaking photos will document progress over time



# Hedgerow Removal

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- 2 hedgerows removed
  - Invasive, weedy, or diseased trees removed: ash, black cherry, box elder, buckthorn, & honeysuckle
  - Oak, hackberry & healthy black cherry remain
- Created nearly 70 uninterrupted acres of habitat

# Hedgerow Removal



# Hedgerow Removal



# Hedgerow Removal

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# Hedgerow Removal

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# Drain Tile Removal

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- Casey South – 907'
- Casey North – 365'
- 4 days of in-house work with excavator and track loader
- Excavated topsoil and clay, crushed drain tile and backfilled
- Returned water to soil reviving wetlands, wet prairie pockets and swales

# Drain Tile Removal

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# Drain Tile Removal



# Drain Tile Removal

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# Seed Purchase

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- 680 pounds of native seed
- 4,300 pounds of seed oats
  - Supplement to purchase made with Donnelley Grant funds by Conserve Lake County
- Wildflower, grass & sedge seeding to take place in two parts
  - Part 1 – February '17 (6 species, 1,200 pounds natives, 4300 pounds seed oats)
  - Part 2 - Fall '17 (108 species, 1,323 pounds natives)

# Oak Planting

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- Volunteer workday – November 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Casey North restoration area
  - 15 Burr Oak – planted, mulched, caged and watered

# Oak Planting



# Oak Planting



# Special Activities

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- Volunteer Herbicide Class
  - 19 Participants
- Red-tailed hawk nesting platform
  - Thomas Conlon - Prairie Crossing Student
  - Installed at Canterbury
- Bluebird nest boxes
  - Jonathan Rogin – Eagle Scout Project
  - Installed at Canterbury

# Volunteer Herbicide Class



# Red-tailed Hawk Nest Platform



# Bluebird Nest Boxes



# Prescribed Burning

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- ◉ Milwaukee Road Prairie
- ◉ Canterbury
- ◉ Bott Prairie (Rt. 45)

# Milwaukee Road Prairie



# Milwaukee Road Prairie

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# Canterbury



# Canterbury



# Bott Prairie (Rt. 45)



# Fencing & Bollards

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- Fence and bollards installed to restrict vehicular access to trails at:
  - Atkinson, Canterbury, Lindholm Park, & Rt. 137
  - 9 bollards

# Fencing & Bollards



# Fencing & Bollards



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# Fencing & Bollards



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# Conservation Easement Monitoring

- Annual monitoring visits on Township held conservation easements:
  - Bott, Brennan, Getz and Maxey
- Monitoring visits ensure terms of the conservation easements are upheld



# 2017 Preview

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## ◉ Winter

- Casey Road Restoration Phase I native seeding
- Clearing at Casey South, Rt. 137, River Rd.

## ◉ Spring

- Complete River Road House Demolition and Restoration
- Ball Field Maintenance
- Turf herbicide application

## ◉ Summer

- Casey Road Restoration Phase I maintenance

## ◉ Fall/Winter

- Casey Road Restoration Phase I native seeding

# Thanks!

- Residents and Neighbors
- Volunteers
- Seasonal Employees
  - Jack Neal
  - Henry Schmidt
  - Jacob Cowsky
  - Tim Ryan
  - Patrick Ryan
  - Mike Geary
  - Andrew Lindquist



# Questions?

