



**Hoffman Estates Park District
Natural Areas Management Plan**

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Natural Area Management Plan

Purpose

To define, identify and plan for the management of Hoffman Estates Park District owned natural areas.

Overview

Many of the properties owned by the Hoffman Estates Park District contain sections that are “naturalized areas”. These areas are comprised of one or more types of natural areas, wetland, woodland or prairie. A natural area is defined by the National Park Service as:

“an area that visually exhibits primarily nonhuman created qualities, such as an urban forest or wetland.”

In this case natural does not mean pristine or without any influence by humans

Though sometimes small in area, natural areas often become valuable assets. Most of the Hoffman Estate Park District’s natural areas are well defined, though some could be designated as recovering natural areas. The native plants that could provide wildlife with food and shelter are often missing. The deep roots of these native plants could stabilize shorelines and prevent fertilizer runoff, keeping the ponds free of silt and algae. Most natural areas in the District need additional work to create the vegetation that performs these desirable functions.

Restoration is the word most often associated with a management plan for natural areas. Properly restored and managed natural areas result in a diversity of native plants that possess unique characteristics and aesthetic appeal. Economically speaking “Habitat Quarterly” estimates that once natural areas are established *“the maintenance of a natural landscape can be as little as one-seventh the cost of a traditional park landscape.”*

Classification of Sites

Numerous classification systems exist to identify natural areas. The Hoffman Estates Park District’s natural areas will be divided into three basic categories: Wetland, Woodland, and Prairie.

Wetlands

Water at or near the soil surface for prolonged periods defines a wetland. The plants found in wetlands are uniquely adapted to the prolonged wet environment.

Wetlands deserve special attention. Due to their ecological significance, Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act empowered the United States Army Corp of Engineers to delineate and protect wetlands. As caretakers of these designated wetlands the Hoffman Estates Park District has an obligation to protect them.

Woodlands

The District's woodlands consist primarily of mature hardwoods. Without fire or mechanical thinning or leaving lots unattended non-native invasive Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multi Flora Rose, and Garlic Mustard, thrive. Most native plants cannot grow under the shade of these invasive plants and the area becomes poor quality woodland.

Prairies

The prairies of Illinois were a type of grassland, a combination of forbs and grass. Prairies were converted to cropland, cropland converted to subdivisions. The Hoffman Estates Park District receives parkland donations in these subdivisions. The potential exists to recreate grasslands in certain parks received from developers. Though it is difficult if not impossible to create a full functioning prairie ecosystem, restoration to prairie type habitat is desirable.

Several of the District's larger natural areas have prairies. Without the influence of mowing, fire or grazing animals these areas that at one time were prairie if untended develop into poor quality woodlands.

Inventory of Sites

Based on the aforementioned characterizations, approximately 300 acres, or 38% of the Park District's properties qualify as natural areas. This acreage is distributed amongst 70+ parks with areas ranging in size from 0.6 acres at Valley Park to 90 acres at Victoria Park.

It is the District's intention to add natural areas when marginal use or difficult to maintain areas are identified. Monitoring of park usage and need for more environmental controls will determine the amount restored to the natural state.

Management Plan

A primary plan of the Hoffman Estates Park District is to:

"Provide residents with opportunities to use and appreciate unique, natural resources within the District."

This Natural Area Management Plan will assist us:

"To reclaim, enhance and develop our natural areas."

The following objectives have been established to help us achieve our goals.

Short Term Objectives

Short term objectives are the foundation of the restoration process and an instruction for ongoing maintenance tasks.

1. Eliminate encroachment onto park's properties.

Encroachment; *"To take another's possessions or rights gradually or stealthily encroach on a neighbor's land"*
Acts of encroachment violate the natural aspect of an area, introduce exotic plants, suppress native plants and present liability issues for the Hoffman Estates Park District. Encroachments can be placed in five categories. They are listed below in order of priority for elimination.

- a) Mowing – cutting Park grass, without a signed mowing agreement, unauthorized mowing is the most common encroachment affecting our parks and naturalized areas.

- b) Structures – physical objects such as fences, sheds and bird feeders.
- c) Hardscapes – rock walls, retaining walls and raised gardens.
- d) Softscapes – gardens, trees and shrubs. Plantings placed by residents for aesthetics or food.
- e) Dumping – landscape waste, sod, spoils and garbage.
- f) Plantings - Unauthorized plantings of trees or shrubs become a mowing hazard.

2. Remove evidence of human activity.

Manmade objects such as man-made play forts and old fence lines are simply unnatural. They distract from the overall aesthetics of a site and could be considered safety hazards. Party sites and unauthorized trails are also undesirable as they could become liability issues.

3. Remove exotic invasive plants.

Flora management techniques are applied to remove exotic invasive plants. This is the first step in restoring the ecological diversity of a site. Removal reduces the non-native seed source as well as plant competition. This becomes an ongoing annual process.

4. Perform site-specific ecological inventories.

The Park District has to know what it has in order to implement the most effective restoration plan for a particular site. These inventories supply data necessary to facilitate long term management objectives and amount of restoration needed.

Long-term Objectives

Long-term objectives are the impetus for adopting plans and will sustain the District's natural areas into the future.

1. Re-establish native species to increase ecological/aesthetic value of the area.

Due to the degraded status of some of our natural areas planting of indigenous native flora suitable to the site is necessary.

2. Educate the community on naturalization benefits.

Our natural areas can be platforms for outdoor education. Natural area education serves to protect the environment, reduce costs and increase community awareness. When educated on the environmental, ecological, and economic benefits of naturalization residents start to appreciate natural areas as a positive.

Management Tools

Encroachment Procedure

The Hoffman Estates Park District has a procedure #6.102 for handling encroachment issues. Offenders are notified and requested to eliminate the encroachment within thirty days. If they do not comply, depending on the encroachment, either law enforcement is notified and a citation is written in the amount of \$750.00 for each day the encroachment exists after notification, or the Park District removes the encroachment in-house and invoices the offender for the labor, equipment and material costs necessary to return the area back to its natural state.

Ecological Inventory

The ecological inventory is the compilation of data used to determine how best to manage an area if the District is to achieve its goals. Aerial photos and field surveys can be used to gather information. The ecological inventory becomes the baseline from which the District can measure its progress.

Flora Management Techniques

Currently invasive exotic species of plants overshadow native plants in many of the District's natural areas. It is the native plants that should dominate our landscape. Native plants provide the greatest biodiversity, are best suited to our region, and have the lowest long-term maintenance costs per acre.

The following are several techniques used to eliminate undesirable plants while allowing native plants to flourish. Following an Integrated Pest Management System (IPM) and incorporating all these techniques will raise the odds of success and make a positive ecological impact.

1. Prescribed Burns – the use of controlled fires.

- a) Fire is the principal tool when it comes to managing native areas. It is acre for acre, the most efficient / effective management tool available.
- b) The technique of using fire is referred to as "prescribed burn". It is a planned process with clear objectives. Trained, experienced individuals conduct the burn only after considering time of year, time of day, weather, fuel conditions, appropriate burn techniques and above all else safety. A permit is required from the Illinois EPA, as well as notification of neighbors, police and local fire departments.
- c) "Prescribed burns" are used because native plants evolved in a fire regime. The Northern Illinois ecosystem relied heavily on fire to maintain its character. Fire recycled nutrients, controlled woody plants, improved habitat, increased plant growth and reduced the risk of large fires. With the coming of settlers and agriculture fire was taken out of the equation. This allowed exotic species to dominate the landscape and disrupt the ecosystem.

2. Mechanical – mowing, brush cutting, hand pulling and controlled water levels.

- a) Mechanical control methods are labor intensive but necessary. They are used where fire cannot be introduced or to remove specific plants. Areas close to homes, areas with little fuel and very wet areas are prime sites for mechanical removal.

3. Chemical – herbicide.

- a) There are two types of herbicides used to control plants; selective and non-selective herbicides. Selective herbicides kill plants in a specific family such as broadleaf weeds or woody plants. Selective herbicides are used to manipulate the type of plants that you want to grow in a given area. Non-selective herbicides kill any plant to which they are applied. Non-selective herbicides are most often used to remove all plants from an area prior to restoration work.

4. Biological – insects and bacteria

- a) Currently approved biological control methods are limited. Investigations are underway to combat specific problem plants. An example is the *Galerucella* or Loosestrife Beetle as it is commonly known, has been successfully introduced to control purple loosestrife in wetlands.
At this point in time no biological controls are being used by the District to control unwanted plants but true to its IPM plan the District will entertain the use of cost efficient and successfully proven methods.

Management Practices

Plant management in the District's natural areas is the greatest challenge. Each site has its own characteristics and predisposition. The District's initial approach is general and is intended to control the predominant problem of invasive undesirable plants. After 2-3 years of following the basic practices each site will be re-evaluated to identify issues. A site-specific management practice will then be developed to address remaining issues and specific site objectives.

Wetland Practices

Woody plants, reed canary grass and purple loosestrife are the major unwanted plants to be addressed in our wetlands.

- 1) Burn the wetland preferably in the fall or spring prior to green up.
- 2) Introduce desirable species of plants immediately after burn.
- 3) Unwanted woody plants that survive the prescribed burn should be removed by cutting.
- 4) Treat remaining stumps/stems with a non-selective herbicide in order to kill roots and prevent re-growth.
- 5) Where practical, purple loosestrife should be killed in place with an aquatic use approved non-selective herbicide.
- 6) The area should be monitored, evaluated and have results documented.

Woodland Practices

Buckthorn, Japanese Honeysuckle, Multi Flora Rose and garlic mustard are the major undesirables in our woodlands.

These are understory plants that shade out native forest floor fauna. This creates a barren soil that is susceptible to erosion.

- 1) In the fall, after leaf drop, burn the woodland. If the woodland is open enough for grass to grow it may be possible to burn in the spring.
- 2) Introduce desirable species of plants immediately after burn.
- 3) Mechanical removal of undesirable trees and shrubs that do not respond to fire is required.
- 4) After mechanical removal treat remaining stumps/stems with a non-selective herbicide in order to kill the roots and prevent re-growth.
- 5) Monitor the area, evaluate, and document results.

Prairie Practices

Illinois prairies were once a mix of numerous species of forbs and grasses. Today undesirables such as crown vetch, Bull Thistle, Canadian Thistle, teasel and canary reed grass dominate our landscape.

- 1) Burn. Where warm season or native grasses dominate, a fall burn is preferred.
- 2) Introduce desirable species of grass immediately after the burn.
- 3) Unwanted woody plants that survive the burn should be removed mechanically.
- 4) Treat remaining stumps/stems with a non-selective herbicide in order to kill roots and prevent re-growth.
- 5) Use appropriate herbicides to kill herbaceous plants that do not respond to fire.
- 6) Monitor the area, evaluate, and document results.

PARK DISTRICT NATURALIZED AREA MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Each park in the district is unique in design and utilization and the same can be said for the naturalized areas within them. The park district utilizes the concept of “maintenance modes” for its turf management which refers to “the way of maintenance” ranging from most intensive to least intensive. Modes 1, 2, 3 and 4 address the manicured turf areas in the parks and can be viewed in the Master Plan. Modes 5, 6, and 7 address the management of the naturalized areas.

Mode 5 – Naturalized Area

Priority One naturalized areas have been rehabilitated by park’s personnel and undergo a year round management plan to assist them in thriving. The plan consists of burning every year for three years then every third year after that when conditions allow, or a yearly mowing, herbicide treatments when needed to eradicate invasive species, manual weeding of various undesirable and invasive plants, and the introduction of new plant material.

Mode 5 – Naturalized Areas

Black Bear Park
Charlemagne Park
Chestnut Park
Eisenhower Park
Evergreen Park
Highland Park
Joseph L. Fabbrini Park Shorelines
North Ridge Park
North Twin Park
Prairie Stone Sport and Wellness Center
Princeton Pond
South Twin Park
Triphahn Center
Vogelei Park
Westbury Park
Whispering Park

Mode 6 – Naturalized Area

Priority Two naturalized areas have been rehabilitated by park’s personnel and left to regenerate on their own. The management plan for these areas consist of burning when conditions allow, yearly mowing, herbicide treatments when needed to eradicate invasive species, and manual weeding of various undesirable and invasive plants.

Mode 6 – Naturalized Areas

Essex Park
Oak Park
Rohrssen Park
Tall Oaks Park
Walnut Pond Park

Mode Seven – Naturalized Area

Priority Three naturalized areas are natural areas that have not been developed, changed or altered by recent human activities. The management plan consists of burning when conditions allow, mowing and herbicide treatments when necessary to eradicate invasive species.

Mode Seven – Naturalized Areas

Beacon Point Wetlands
Birch Park
Cannon Crossings Park
Canterbury Fields Park
Canterbury Park
Colony Nature Area
Cottonwood Park
Golf Road Basin
Hunter's Ridge Wetlands
Hunter's Ridge Wetlands East
Hunter's Ridge Basin
Joseph L. Fabbrini Park
Locust Park
Olmstead Park
Maple Park
Park Services
Pine Park
Poplar Park
Princeton Park
Seminole Park Wetlands
Seascape Aquatic Center
Shoe Factory Basin
South Ridge Park
Triangle Park
Valley Park
Victoria Park
Willow Greenway
Willow Park
Willow Recreation Center
Winding Trails Basin
Yorkshire Pond – East
Yorkshire Pond - West

Implementation

All short-term objectives are readily done in-house. Eliminating encroachments, removing evidence of human activity, removal of exotic invasive species and site-specific ecological inventories can be done on a scheduled basis with District staff.

Once the District's Management Practices have begun, it will take 3 to 5 years for a show of native flowers and grasses to bloom. To maintain recovery it will require the continued monitoring and application of management tools to the site.

This is commonly referred to as "stewardship".

Timeline

We are presently in the process of maintaining our existing naturalized areas and restoring those that are evaluated as recovering. Our process is a continuous effort and each existing and new park areas are evaluated for naturalization.

SITE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The most efficient maintenance tool for all of the naturalized areas is fire. On new areas, burning should be done once a year for the first three years. Established areas can be burned every three years. Burning reduces the need for herbicides as most invasive species are not fire tolerant like the native plants. It reduces labor and the need to bring equipment into these areas to mechanically cut and remove invasive species.

Existing Naturalized Areas – 346.96 Acres

1. Beacon Point Wetlands **8.0** (8.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
2. Birch Park **0.80** (5.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
3. Black Bear Park **25.66** (27.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.
4. Brittany Park **0.80** (5.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
5. Cannon Park **4.35** (26.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
6. Canterbury Fields Park **3.0** (15.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
7. Canterbury Park **4.0** (17.0) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
8. Charlemagne Park **17.0** (19.32) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species (Reed Canary Grass, Thistle, Teasel) and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
9. Chestnut Park **0.60** (11.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
10. Colony Nature Area **3.90** (3.9) Monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
11. Cottonwood Park **2.05** (11.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
12. Evergreen Park (perimeter of pond) **0.20** (13.0) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
13. Eisenhower Park **3.80** (7.0) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
14. Essex Park **23.24** (23.24) Monitor for invasive species and control as needed. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.

15. Highland Park **3.60** (9.0) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species (Reed Canary Grass and Thistle) and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
16. Hunter's Ridge Wetlands **30.0** (30.0) Wetland/Prairie sections annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit. Woodland sections annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, and Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.
17. Hunter's Ridge Wetlands East **28.96** (28.96) Wetland/Prairie sections annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit. Woodland sections annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard, and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed
18. Hunter's Ridge Basin **0.95** (1.10) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
19. Joseph L. Fabbrini Park **2.96** (43.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
20. Locust Park **2.54** (3.70) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
21. Maple Park **1.2** (3.0) Monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
22. North Ridge Park (perimeter of pond) **0.40** (5.0) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
23. North Twin Park (perimeter of pond) **0.50** (12.0) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.

24. Oak Park **9.7** (9.7) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.
25. Olmstead Park **0.80** (3.1) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
26. Park Services **1.55** (4.3) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
27. Pine Greenway (between Pine and Willow Parks) **1.75** (1.75) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
28. Pine Park **3.67** (9.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Thistle and Teasel) and control as needed.
29. Poplar Park **0.75** (4.45) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.
30. Princeton Pond (perimeter of pond) **1.1** (3.7) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
31. Princeton Park **0.80** (1.5) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
32. Prairie Stone Sport and Wellness Center **0.80** (9.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Crown Vetch, Teasel, Thistle) and control as needed.
33. Rohrssen Park **4.5** (4.5) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Loosestrife) and control as needed.
34. Seminole Park Wetlands **5.45** (10.0) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
35. Seascape Aquatic Center **1.95** (12.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Thistle and Teasel) and control as needed.
36. Shoe Factory Basin **1.75** (1.75) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
37. South Ridge Park (perimeter of pond) **0.80** (31.6) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit

to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.

38. Sundance Greenway (between Sundance Park and Thornbark Park) **1.75** Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed
39. Tall Oaks Park **9.6** (10.5) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.
40. Triangle Park **5.5** (5.5) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
41. Triphahn Center **1.75** (10.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
42. Valley Park **0.60** (4.0) Perimeter mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
43. Victoria Park **90.0** (115.10) Annual mowing and Loosestrife control; monitor for other invasive species and control as needed when ground and weather conditions permit.
44. Victoria Soccer **3.50** (8.25) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
45. Vogelei Park **2.83** (10.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
46. Walnut Pond **11.2** (12.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species (Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, Garlic Mustard) and control as needed. Annual control of Poison Ivy as needed, it is a native plant and not considered an invasive species; but is an undesirable plant where people may come in contact with it.
47. Westbury Park **0.70** (17.0) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
48. Whispering Park (perimeter of pond) **0.50** (6.0) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
49. Willow Greenway **1.2** (3.98) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
50. Willow Park **5.2** (10.8) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
51. Willow Recreation Center **5.05** (16.0) Perimeter mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.

52. Winding Trails Basin **3.4** (3.55) Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
53. Yorkshire Pond – East **0.10** (450 feet of naturalized shoreline) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.
54. Yorkshire Pond – West **0.20** (900 feet of naturalized shoreline) Establish a buffer of native plants around the pond. This will help stabilize the shoreline reducing erosion. It will also filter runoff reducing the amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus that will reach the pond which contributes to algae growth. An added benefit to this buffer zone is that it will deter geese; as they dislike taller vegetation on shorelines. Annual mowing, monitor for invasive species and control as needed.

The preceding list of existing naturalized areas has a notation summarizing the maintenance for each site. The level of maintenance and number of sites that receive annual maintenance is dictated by weather and ground conditions permitting access at all sites. Ground conditions are most critical in the wetland sites for access. Ground and weather conditions dictates weather burning will be an option. Weather conditions dictate the level of herbicide control of invasive species throughout the growing season. Herbicide applications are governed by wind, temperature and rainfall; all of which influence applications and effectiveness of these applications.

The reality is most wetland sites never dry out enough or freeze solid enough to ever be completely mowed.

References

- 1) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service
- 2) U.S. Department of the Interior, National Wetland Inventory
- 3) Illinois Department of Natural Services
- 4) Prairie Establishment and Landscaping by William E. McClain
- 5) Division of Natural Heritage- IL Dept of Natural Resources



Existing Naturalized Areas Hoffman Estates Park District March 2015 Appendix A

Color Key to Photos

Yellow = Existing Naturalized Area



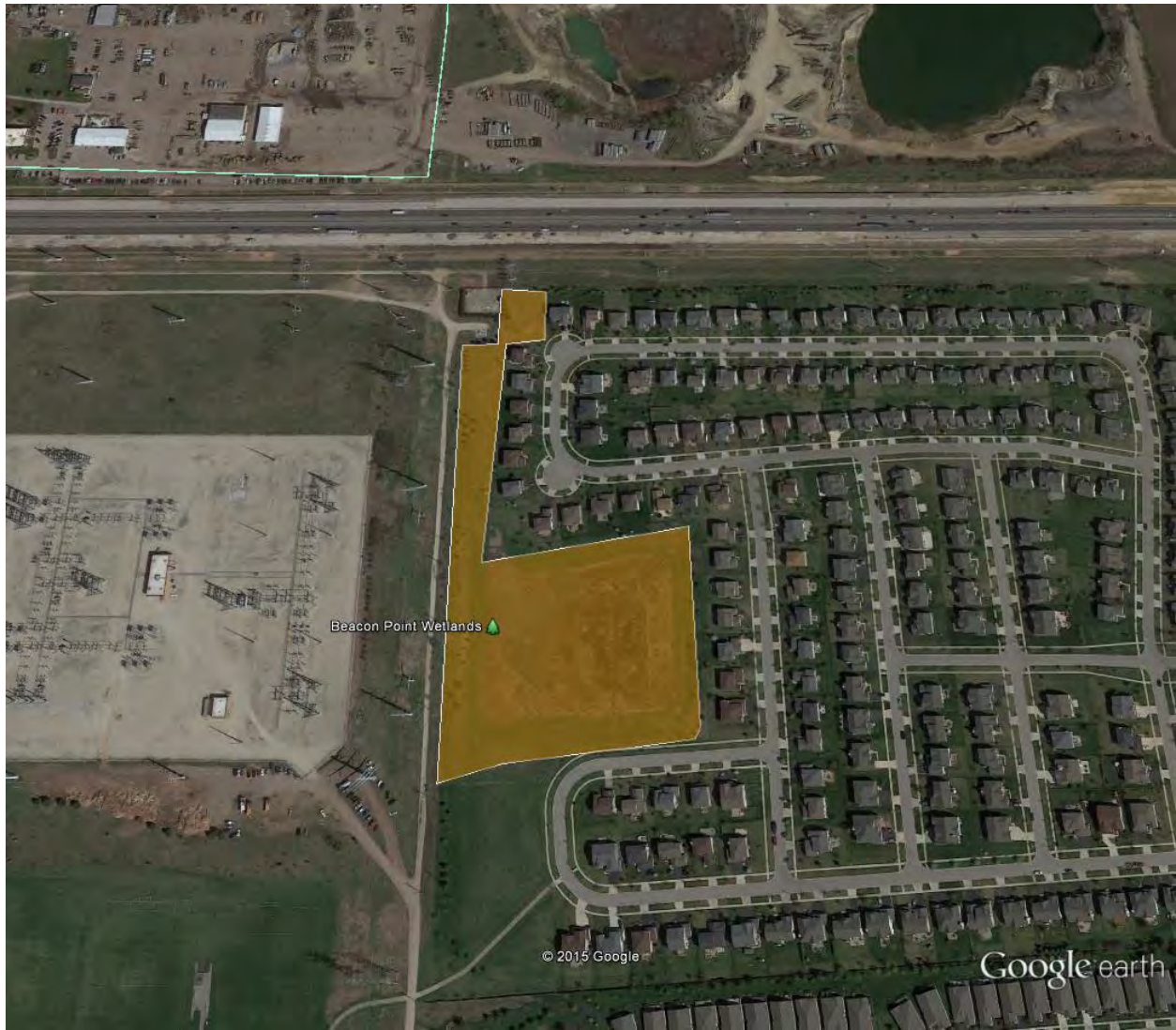
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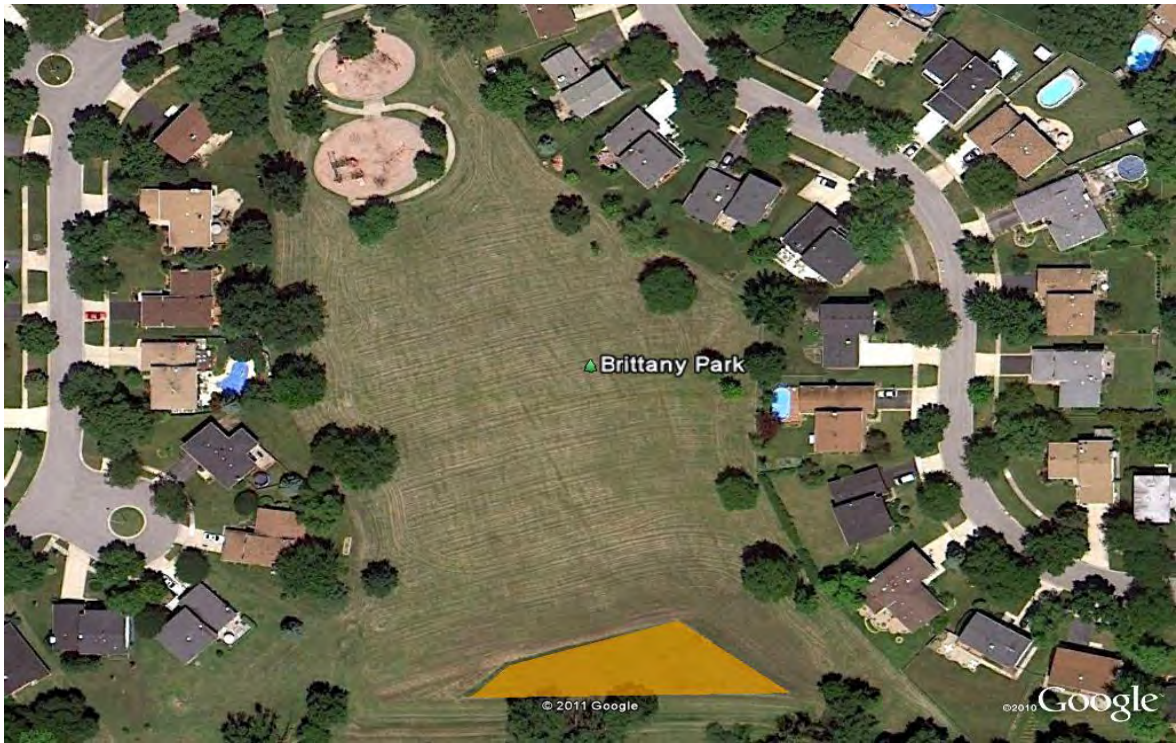
Beacon Point Wetlands consists of 8.0 acres of naturalized area.



Birch Park is a 5.0 acre park and consists of 0.80 acres of naturalized bio-swale.



Black Bear Park is a total of 27.0 acres, 25.66 acres of naturalized area.



Brittany Park is a 5.0 acre park with .80 acres of naturalized area.



Cannon Crossing is a 26.0 acre athletic complex with 4.35 acres of naturalized area.



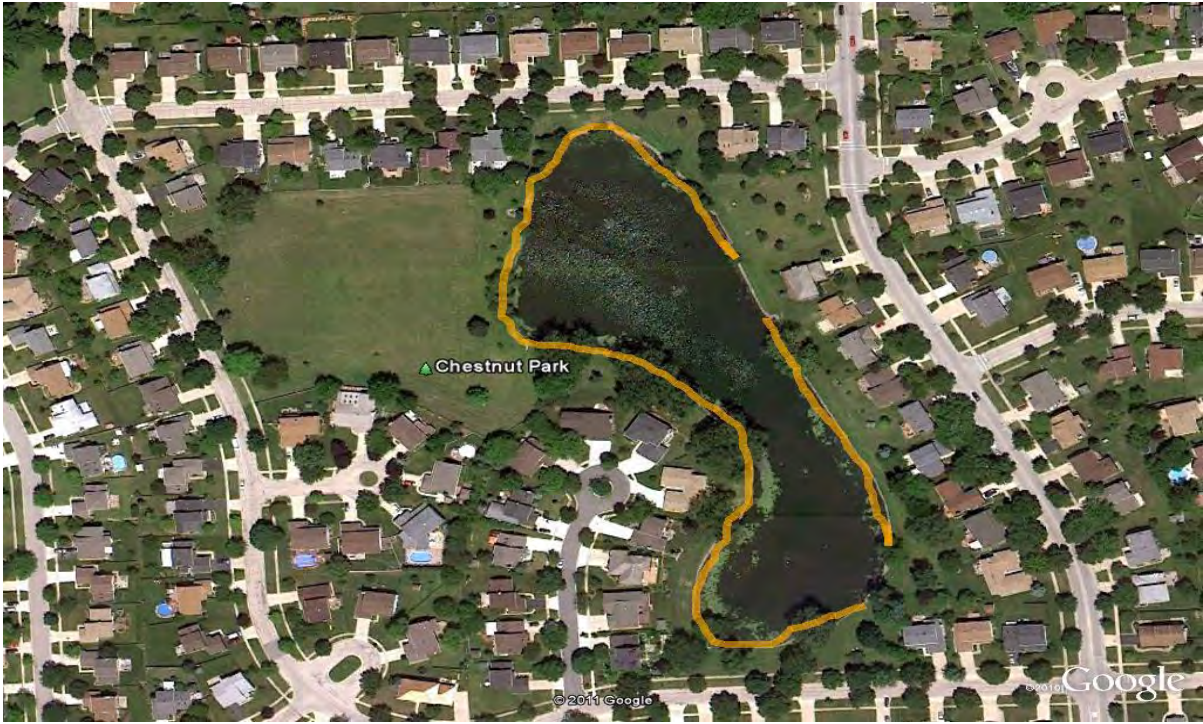
Canterbury Fields is a 15.0 acre athletic park with 3.0 acres of naturalized area.



Canterbury Park Place is a 17.0 acre athletic park with 4.0 acres of natural wetlands



Charlemagne Park is a 19.32 acre natural retention park with 17.0 naturalized.



Chestnut Park is an 11.0 acre park with 0.6 acres of naturalized shoreline around the retention pond.



Colony Nature Park is a 3.9 acre naturalized park.



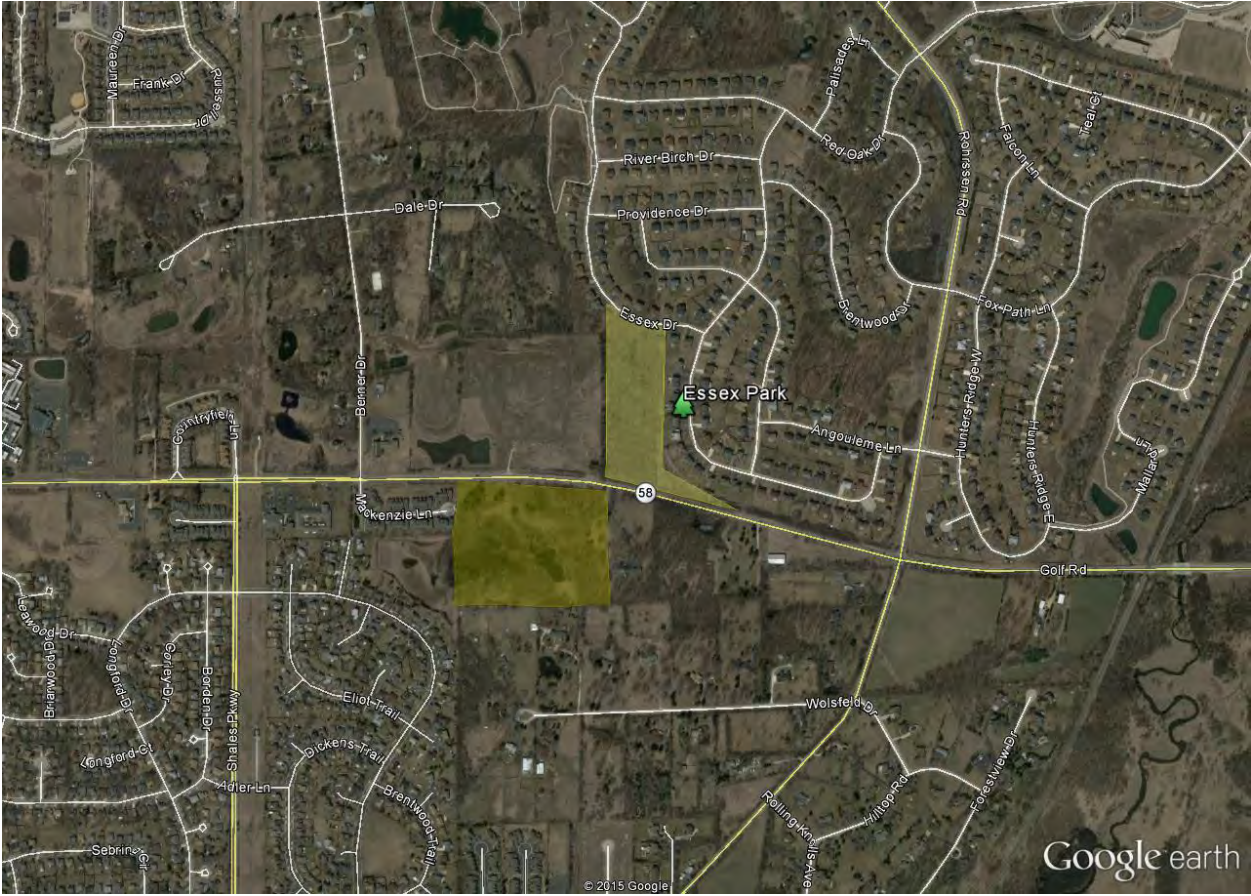
Cottonwood Park is an 11.0 acre athletic park with 2.05 acres of natural area.



Evergreen Park is a 13.0 acre park with .20 acres of naturalized shoreline.



Eisenhower Park is a 7.0 acre athletic park with 3.80 acres of naturalized area.



Essex Park is a 23.24 acre naturalized woodlot.



Joseph L. Fabbrini Park is a 43.0 acres multi-purpose park with 2.96 acres of naturalized areas.



Highland Park is a 9.0 acre park with 3.6 acres of naturalized area and 0.10 acres shoreline.



Hunter's Ridge Wetlands is a 30.0 acre naturalized wetland area.
Hunter's Ridge Wetlands East is a 28.96 acre naturalized wetland area.



Hunter's Ridge Basin is a 1.10 acre retention area with .95 acres of naturalized area.



Locust Park is a 3.7 acre park with 2.54 acres of naturalized area.



Maple Park is a 3.0 acre park with 1.2 acres of naturalized woodland area.



North Ridge Park is a 5.0 acre park with .40 acres of naturalized shoreline.



North Twin Park is a 12.0 acre park with .50 acres of naturalized shoreline.



Oak Park is a 9.7 acre naturalized woodlot.



Olmstead Park is a 3.1 acre park with .8 acres of naturalized berms.



Park Services is the 4.3 acre maintenance facility and contains 1.55 acres of naturalized retention.



Pine Greenway is 1.75 acres of naturalized area.



Pine Park is a 9.0 acre park with 3.67 acres of naturalized grass hill area and woodlands.



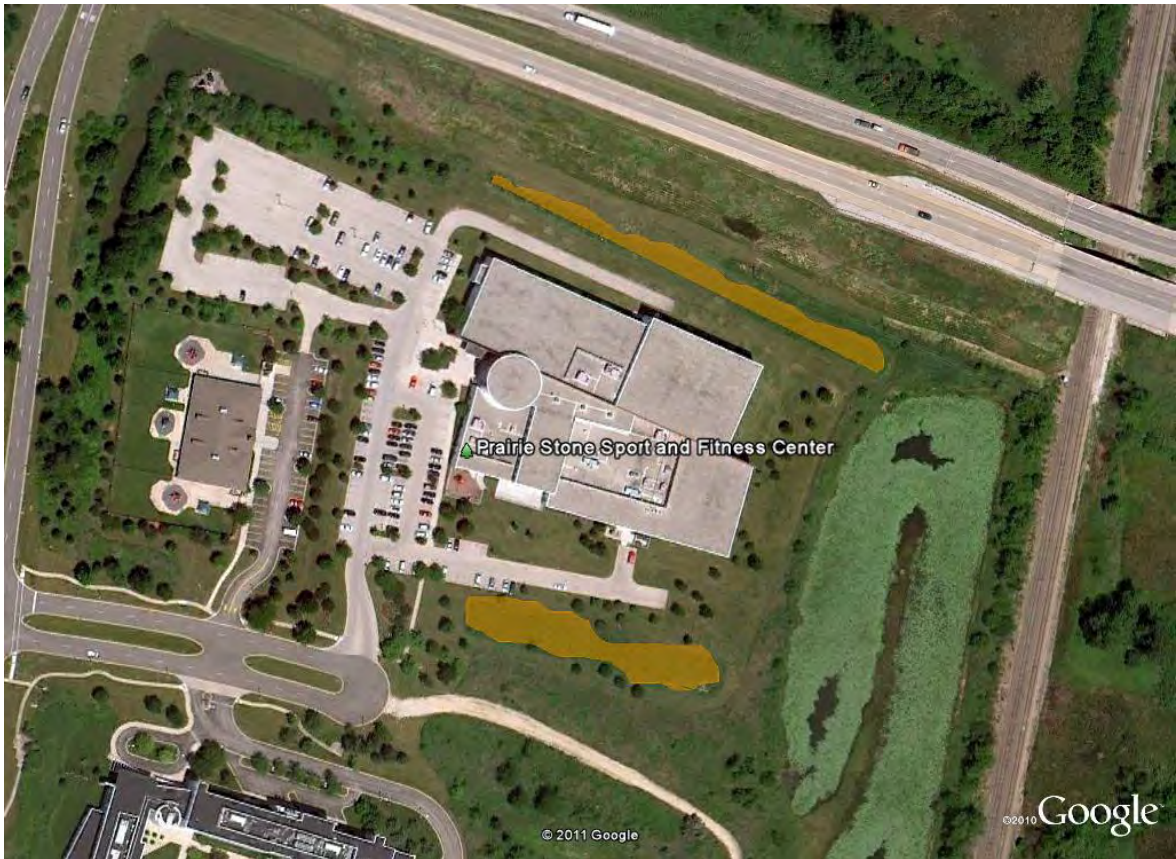
Poplar Park is a 4.45 acre park with 0.75 acres of naturalized woodland and creek line.



Princeton Pond is a 3.7 acre park with 1.10 acres of naturalized woodland and grassland.



Princeton Park is a 1.5 acre park with 0.80 acres of naturalized retention area.



Prairie Stone Sports and Wellness Center is a 9.0 acre sports health club complex with 0.80 acres naturalized.



Rhorssen Park is a 4.5 acre naturalized park.



Seminole Park Wetlands is a 10.0 acre park with 5.45 acres of natural wetlands.



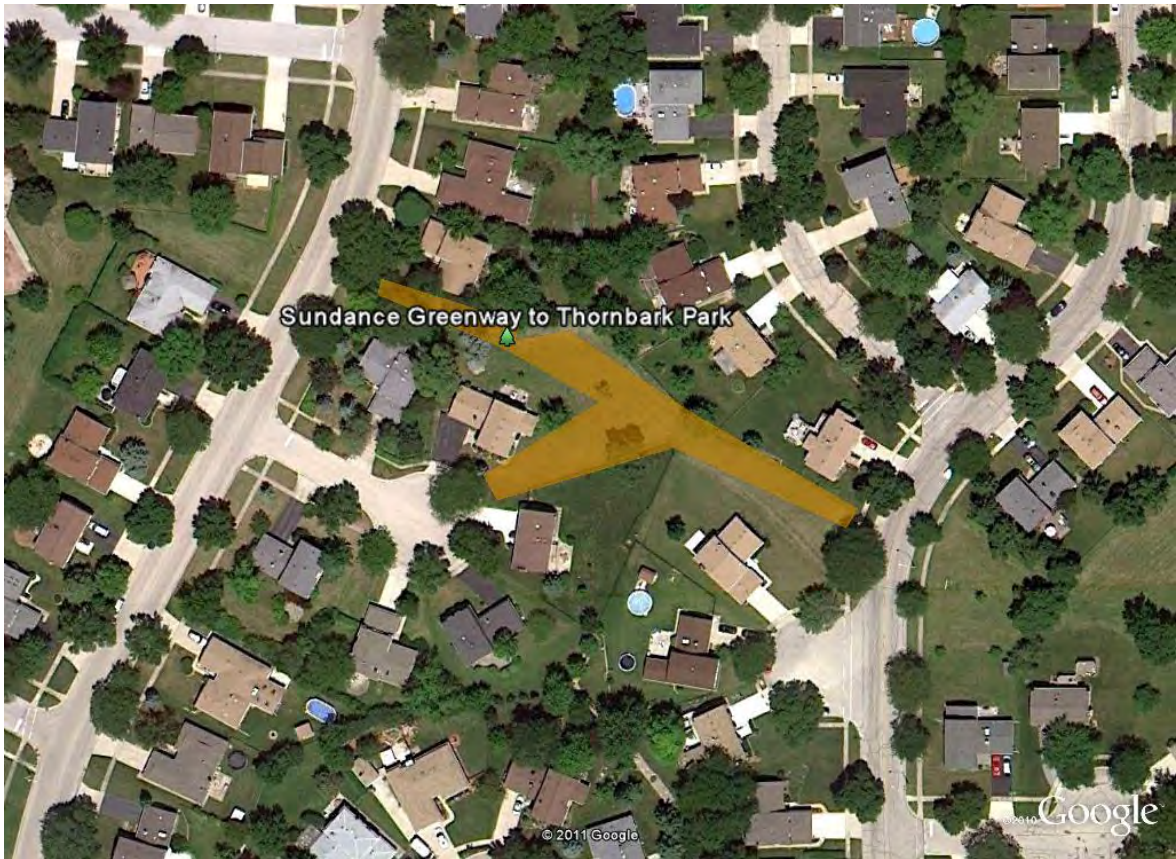
Seascape Aquatic Park is a 12 acre aquatic sport complex with 1.8 acres of naturalized sled hill.



Shoe Factory Basin is a 1.75 acre naturalized retention area.



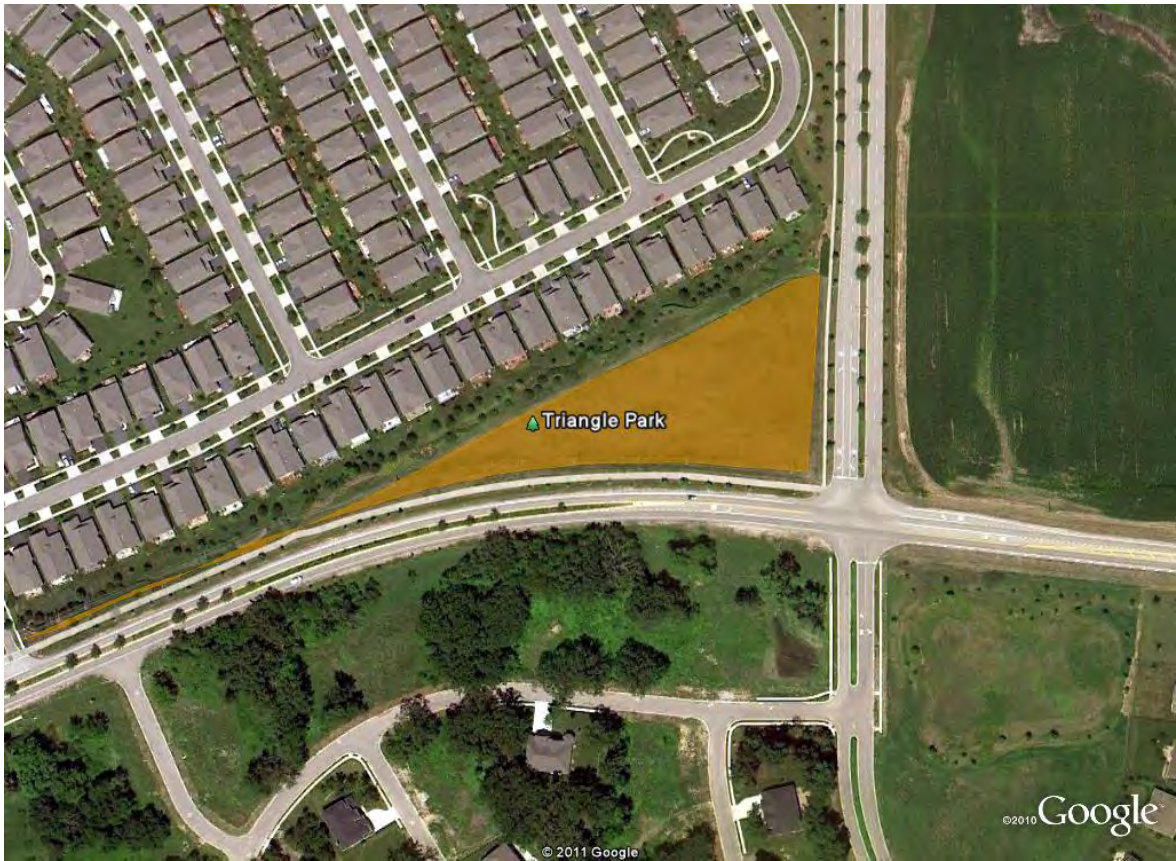
South Ridge Park is a 31.6 acre park with .80 acres of naturalized shoreline.



Sundance Greenway is a 1.75 acre naturalized greenway.



Tall Oaks Park is a 10.5 acre naturalized woodlot.



Triangle Park is a 5.5 acre naturalized grassland.



Triphahn Center is a 10.0 acre administrative and ice center with 1.75 acres of naturalized area.



Valley Park is a 4.0 acre park with 0.60 acres of naturalized woodland and creek line.



Victoria Park is a 115 acre Park with 90.0 acres of naturalized and wetland area.



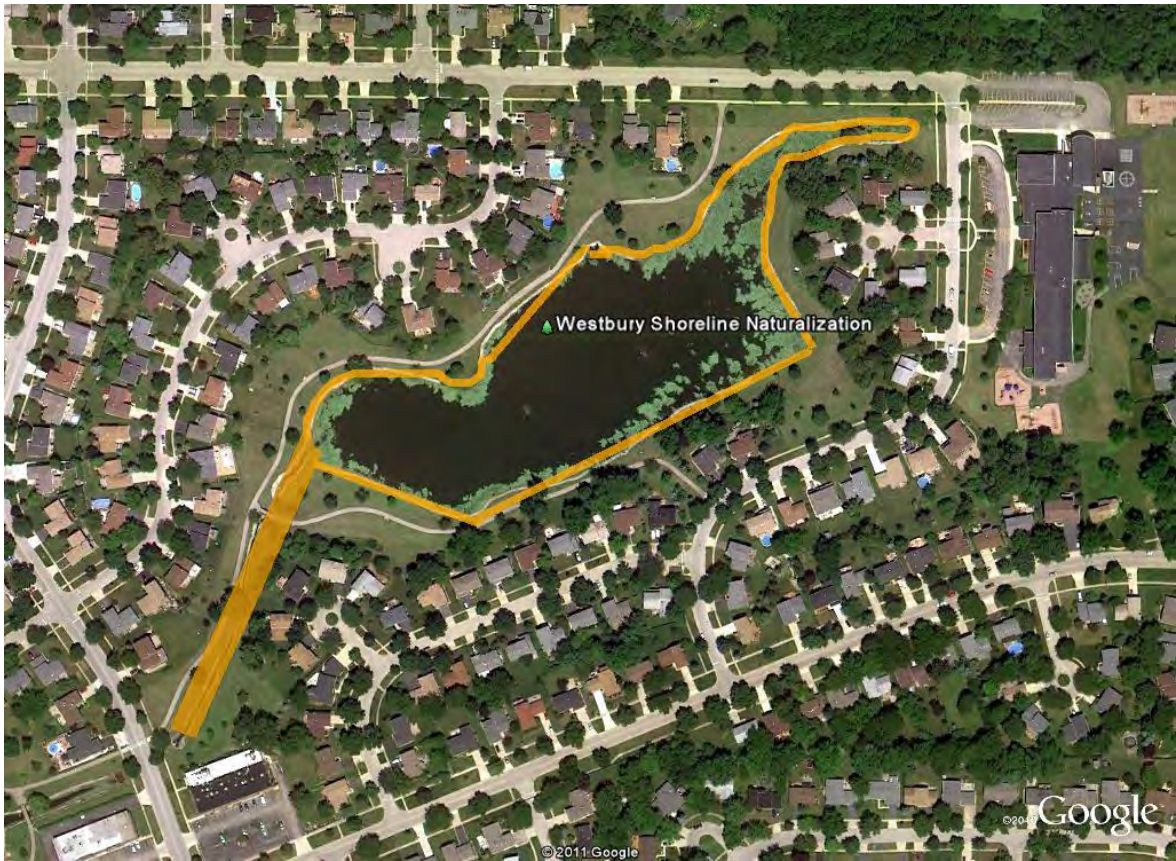
Victoria Soccer is a 8.25 acre soccer area with 3.5 acres of naturalized area.



Vogelei Park is a 10.0 acre park with 2.83 acres of naturalized wetlands and grasslands.



Walnut Pond is an 11.2 acre naturalized woodlot and pond site.



Westbury Park is a 17.0 acre park with .70 acres of naturalized shoreline.



Whispering Park is a 6.0 acre park with .50 acres of naturalized shoreline.



Willow Greenway is a 3.98 acre greenway with 1.2 acres of existing naturalized woodland.



Willow Park is a 10.80 acre park with 5.20 acres of naturalized woodland and grassland.



Willow Recreation Center is a 16.0 acre recreation center with 5.05 acres naturalized.



Winding Trails Basin is a 3.55 acre naturalized retention area.



East Yorkshire Pond is a 0.22 acre parcel with 450 feet of natural shoreline.



West Yorkshire Pond is a 0.91 Acre parcel with 900 feet of natural shoreline.



Appendix B- Proposed Naturalized Areas Table of Contents

Pink = Proposed Naturalized Areas

At the present time there are no proposed naturalized areas.