



Woodridge
PARK DISTRICT

NATURAL AREA IMPROVEMENT WORK AT JUBILEE POINT PARK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NATURAL AREA MAINTENANCE QUESTIONS

1. Did the site always have natural areas (e.g. open woodlands, wetlands, prairies, etc.) on the property?

No, prior to settlement, the area was identified as open grassland. However, it was then used as farmland and remained open fields until the mid-1970s, when pioneer tree species began to establish on the site.

2. Why does the invasive vegetation need to be removed?

The non-native invasive vegetation chokes out native plant growth. Non-native plants tend to leaf out early and hold their leaves longer. This prevents our native trees and flowers from germinating or growing in the dense shade. The result is less groundcover to protect our soils and increased erosion and pollution in our waterways. Invasive vegetation also is a poor food source for wildlife.

3. Aren't all trees good?

While all trees do have some worth, our native trees provide much more value as habitat and food sources to wildlife, birds and insects. Since non-native/invasive trees do not provide a food source for wildlife, they are left untouched and then aggressively overtake natural areas.

4. What type of invasive species will be removed?

The non-native, invasive species that are specified for removal include, but are not limited to buckthorn, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and mulberry.

5. Was a tree survey completed to inventory the type and condition of all trees on the property?

In 2018, the District hired a consultant to conduct a tree inventory of all trees with a diameter of six inches or more. This inventory is being used as a guide to determine trees to be evaluated for removal based on their condition. Prior to removal, trees will be evaluated by an ISA® Certified Arborist who will determine if their removal is needed or if they can remain for wildlife habitat.

6. What will the property visually look like after the invasive species are removed?

Immediately after the invasive removal step, the site will be visually more open as much of the smaller understory trees will be removed. Overall, its appearance will be very similar to the 18 other sites where the District has completed this same type of work.

7. Is the scope of work similar to the invasive species removed at Hawthorne Hill Woods in 2017?

Yes. Structurally, the results will be similar to what Hawthorne Hill Woods looked like after the invasive brush was removed. However, the biggest difference is that the woodland at Hawthorne Hill Woods is dominated by mature native trees (oak, hickory, etc.) compared to the shorter lived, pioneer species, such as cottonwood and boxelder, at Jubilee Point Park (JPP).

Additionally, the scope of work at JPP will be completed with hand equipment instead of large machinery to minimize the impact on the site and preserve the soil for more successful seeding of native grasses and flowers.

8. How long will it take to complete this invasive species removal project?

The invasive brush removal is anticipated to take approximately one month depending on weather and site conditions.

9. After invasive species removal, what are the next natural area improvement steps and how long will it take?

After invasive species are removed, an ISA® Certified Arborist will review the trees that were identified for removal in the 2018 tree inventory. If the trees are likely to fail and fall outside of the natural area, they will be removed. Trees that are dead or in decline that are not likely to fall outside of the natural area or to impact park users may be left for wildlife habitat.

10. Will any areas be restored to open prairie/grasslands besides the preservation of the open woodlands?

Yes, the District has identified five different preliminary management areas. These areas include a large wetland, several drainage ways, a low-lying prairie area, an upland prairie on the sled hill and the remaining woodland.

11. Will additional native trees be replanted in the natural areas where invasive species were removed?

Yes, although the site was historically open prairie prior to settlement, the District will be installing a wide variety of new native trees so that the site will remain wooded. The trees will include oaks which have been declining in our region, but provide valuable habitat for numerous species of mammals, birds and insects.



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12. Will the District fund additional native tree plantings, shrubs and natural seeding restoration efforts?

The District received a \$2,000 IDNR Habitat Improvement Grant to plant and improve native tree habitats. Additional funds have been set aside to install native seed, trees and shrubs. The additional plantings will take place over several years to help ensure the survival of the desired plants. District staff will also be seeking additional grants to support the habitat improvements.

13. What will it look like when the work is done?

Overall, the site will appear much more open after the removal of the invasive brush understory. There will be several different areas from prairie to woodland on the site. The native seed, trees and shrubs that will be installed by the District will take time to establish, but will eventually begin to fill in the understory, creating areas of denser woods gradually transitioning to savanna and prairie in several areas of the park.

14. Will the District conduct prescribed burns on the site?

Yes, the District will be utilizing fire as a tool to maintain the natural areas. Initial applications of fire will likely occur on the sled hill, which was planted in 2019. Native vegetation will need to establish before more of the site can be effectively burned. Extra care will also be needed in areas where new trees are planted to allow them to establish without being impacted by the fire.

15. Where can I find out more about the natural area maintenance plans for the site?

A Natural Area Improvement Plan was developed to specifically address some of the challenges of the site. This plan can be found on the District's webpage at:

 https://www.woodridgeparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/JPP-NAIP_FinalReport.pdf

16. Were there any peer reviews by environmental experts of the Natural Area Improvement Plan to ensure best environmental management practices are implemented?

Yes, the District sought feedback from outside agencies and received letters of support for the Plan from The Conservation Foundation, Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

WILDLIFE QUESTIONS

17. What will happen to all the deer/wildlife during the project?

Deer and other wildlife may be temporarily displaced from areas while work is occurring. However, we have observed deer and other wildlife returning to the areas as soon as the work stops for the day.

18. Will the deer/wildlife return to the area once the project is complete?

Once the project is complete, deer and other wildlife will find the site to be more favorable, as it will not only provide shelter, but the improved diversity of native plants will be a valuable food source for a wide variety of wildlife.

PARK DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

19. Are trees planned to be removed per the proposed Phase 2 Park Development Plans?

Yes, there will be some tree loss that will be directly related to the proposed park development. The tree removals will be kept to a minimum as most of the park development will occur in existing turf areas and in the current garden plots. There will also be new trees planted in the developed areas in accordance with the Village's Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance.

20. Will the sled hill be impacted by the development?

No, there should be no impact to the use of the sled hill.

21. Where can I find out more information about the proposed park development?

Up to date information regarding the process of the Jubilee Point Park improvements can be found on the District's webpage at:

 <https://www.woodridgeparks.org/projects/jubilee-point-park-development/>



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