

Annual Board Report- May 10, 2021

Natural Resources Specialist – Brandon Clough

Natural Resources Program Updates:

- Created Natural Resources Program Priorities Document ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}
 - Prioritized parks/areas by ecosystem quality, restoration potential, and public use
- Started the process of creating individual, exhaustive management plans for parks/areas ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}
- GIS database implementation – effective and efficient record keeping and data collection for both natural resources and trails programs ^{1,2,3,6,7}
 - Burn records, spray records, rare flora and fauna tracking, invasive species tracking
 - GIS Field Maps app – allows staff to collect data on their personal cell phones which automatically uploads to our database
- GIS Natural Resources Layer – Story County Planning & Zoning ^{1,2,3,4,5,7}
- Izaak Walton League Wildlife Habitat Improvement Award – 1st Place ^{1,2,4,7}

Natural Resources Restoration:

- CCI projects: ^{1,2,4,7}
 - Savanna restoration at Christiansen Forest Preserve
 - Shrub removal at Doolittle Prairie
 - Tree removal at Praeri Rail Trail
 - Tree removal at Carroll Prairie
 - Tree/shrub removal at Jennett Heritage Area
 - Shrub removal along Hickory Grove Park Lakeshore
 - Honeysuckle removal at Wicks (INHF funded)
- Spring/Fall controlled burn programs – prioritized list to maximize efforts for stretched out staffing/timing ^{1,2}
 - Purchased new radios for safer, improved communication
- Goat grazing – Christiansen Forest Preserve, McFarland Park ^{1,2,3,4,7}
- Prairie seedings – Hickory Grove Park, Milwaukee Remnant, Tedesco Connector Trail, Wicks WA, Dakins Lake ^{1,2}
 - Combined seed professionally tested so that we could accurately build a high quality seed mix
- Prairie seed collection ^{1,3,4,7}
- Tree Plantings – Hickory Grove Park, Tedesco Connector Trail, Sleepy Hollow (DNR Trees for Kids Grant) ^{1,2,3,4,6,7}
- Invasive species removal ^{1,2,3,4}
- Inventories – BBS @ Robison (Volunteer) / BBS (Volunteer), small mammals (ISU), and herps (ISU) at Dotson ^{1,4,7}
- Awarded Iowa Native Plant Society grant (\$1250) to restore the West Peterson Remnant (CCI) ^{1,4,7}
- Derecho clean-up ⁶
- City of Ames Partnership – West Moore Memorial Park ^{1,2,4,5}
- Assisted Erica with Bird Friendly County application ^{1,3,4,7}
- EAB treatments at Hickory Grove Park ^{1, 6}

Public Outreach:

- Assisted private landowners via phone, email and in-person correspondence ^{1,2,4,5}
- Updated website park maps to improve public awareness of our parks, amenities and boundaries ^{3,5,6,7}
- Working with Matt Boeck and Erica Place to create an interactive map of parks and trails for our website ^{3,5,6,7}
- Working with Erica Place to improve volunteer program ^{1,2,3,4,5}
 - Creation of Natural Resources Steward position
 - Allows volunteers to obtain their commercial pesticide applicator's license under us
 - Cedar Removal Day at Dotson Prairie
 - Hagie Heritage Award – Rick Dietz

Footnotes: Select Strategic Plan Correlations

1. *Stewardship of Natural Resources: 1- Improve natural resources*
2. *Stewardship of Natural Resources: 2- Improve, protect water quality*
3. *Community Engagement: 1 -Connect people with SCC and Nature*
4. *Community Engagement: 2- SCC Partnerships and Volunteers*
5. *Community Engagement:3- Increase Diversity of SCC users and supporters*
6. *Partnerships: 1- Facilities*
7. *Partnerships: 2- Staff, resources, funding*