

Land Steward Report – December, 2020 (Covers June, 2020 – December, 2020)

Color key: Black = Work performed in period. Red = Future plans.

Prairie: The area cleared for the water line project, which was in its 2nd growing season, was mowed in June to stop seed development of the annual weeds – this should be the last summer this is needed. Several natives flowered after this, including a large number of black-eyed Susans. Sowed more prairie plant seeds in the bare, gravelly spots in Oct-Dec, as they became available. A large TNC sign to replace the Prairie sign destroyed during the water line project will be made this winter.

North Prairie: Some native seeds were sowed in December in bare spots along the northern edge, near Prairie Court Trail.

South Entrance of Conboy Trail: Seeds from New Jersey Tea and Shrubby St. John's Wort, both shrubs, and Golden Alexanders and Ohio Spiderwort, were sowed in December. Plan is to extend the planted area further to the east and west in Fall 2021.

Hummingbird Rain Garden: An extensive addition was added over the summer, from the trellis towards the north and west. See <https://thurstonnaturecenter.info/news-and-events/>.

Oak Savanna (South): Removed several purple loosestrife plants in August. Our planned Spring burn was shut down so will try to get in a burn in Spring 2021.

Oak Savanna (North): Area had its 2nd growing season this year. We started seeing more of the native plants this year, but it was overwhelmed by Queen Anne's lace, so we mowed those plants in August to minimize reseeding. More flower seeds were added along the northwest edge.

OHAC: OHAC members weeded the new pond buffer strip area this Summer. A small amount of wetland plant seeds was sowed along the shoreline in November. We may need to add more Shrubby Cinquefoil to get a better hedge against the geese.

NE of Pond: Killed phragmites near the Antietam entrance picnic table and another group further east.

Oak/Hickory Woods Rain Gardens: The berm of the RG nearest the Antietam entrance was raised and thickened with clay, to prevent overtopping and seepage. An overflow was also added, using flexible drain pipe buried under Pond Circle Trail.

Oak/Hickory Woods: We had a dry enough period in Nov to get in a rare Fall burn, done by Plantwise. Another burn will not be needed until spring 2022. We have quotes for dealing with the winter creeper, vinca major and minor, and English ivy on the east end but have not gone forward yet. Plan is to do this in Spring 2021, before the natives emerge.

NE of Bridge: Sowed some swamp milkweed seeds in December.

SE of Bridge: Removed some invasives. New redbuds were getting too numerous, so a few were removed.

The Hollow (low area west and south of the berm): Lots of buckthorn and honeysuckle are growing back, as we were not able to burn this past Spring (business shutdowns) or in 2019 (too wet). We will try to burn this area in Spring 2021, though it is often too damp to get a good burn.

Peninsula: Many phragmites and purple loosestrife were removed along the entire eastern edge of the peninsula, and east of the outlet settling pool.

Amphitheater: Remove a lot of Dame's rocket and purple loosestrife during the summer. We rented ten goats for ten days in September to eat foliage off the buckthorn, honeysuckle and European spindle tree in the area between the Amphitheater and OHAC. See <https://thurstonnaturecenter.info/goats/>. We followed up in October by removing the remainder of these invasives. Also removed phragmites by the bench near the middle of this portion of Pond Circle Trail. Some native seeds were sowed along the shore near this bench and in front of the amphitheater benches. **Plan is to burn the leaves, pine needles and brush piles in Spring 2021 to allow sowing of native plant seeds, primarily grasses. Replacement DNR and BoE dedication signs are being (slowly) worked on.**

List of native plant seeds sown during this period:

Germination Code	Sun: Full, Part, Shade	Moisture: Wet, Medium, Dry	Common	Latin	Prairie	Savanna (North)	North Prairie	Conboy Trail S. Entrance	Pond Edge (various open areas)	Butterfly RG
C(60)	F-P	W-MD	New England Aster	Symphotrichum novae-angliae	x					
A,D	F-P	MW-MD	Culver's Root	Veronicastrum virginicum	x					
C(30),D	F-P	W-M	Blue Vervain	Verbena hastata	x					
C(60)	F-P	WM-M	Cup Plant	Silphium perfoliatum	x					
C(60)	F-P	WM-DM	Prairie Dock	Silphium terebinthinaceum	x					
A	F-P	WM-D	Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	x					
A	F-P	M-D	Indian Grass	Sorghastrum nutans	x					
C(60)	F	MW-MD	Missouri Ironweed	Vernonia missurica	x					
A	F-P	MW-MD	Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea	x					
C(10),H,I	F-P	MW-M	Blue Wild Indigo	Baptisia australis	x	x		x		
C(10),H,I	F-S	MW-M	Wild Senna	Senna hebecarpa	x	x		x		
C(60),D	F-P	MW-M	Bottle Gentian	Gentiana andrewsii		x	x	x		
C(30)	F-P	W-M	Swamp Milkweed	Asclepias incarnata		x			x	
C(30)	F-P	M-D	Butterfly Weed	Asclepias tuberosa		x				
C(90)	F	W-MW	Queen of the Prairie	Filipendula rubra		x				
C(60)	F-P	MW-MD	Stout Blue-Eyed Grass	Sisyrinchium angustifolium			x	x		
A	F-P-S	MW-MD	Palm Sedge	Carex muskingumensis			x			
A	P-S	M-MD	Bottlebrush Grass	Elymus hystrix			x			
C(60)	P-S	M-MD	Heart-Leaved Aster	Symphotrichum cordifolium			x			
C(60),D	P-S	M-MD	Blue-Stem Goldenrod	Solidago caesia			x			
C(60),M	P-S	WM-DM	Spikenard	Aralia racemosa			x			
M or C(60),G	F-P	MW-MD	Golden Alexanders	Zizia aurea				x		
C(120)/M,G	F-P	MW-D	Ohio Spiderwort	Tradescantia ohiensis				x		
B,C(60),H	F-P	M-D	New Jersey Tea	Ceanothus americanus				x		
A,D	F-P	W-MW	Sneezeweed	Helenium autumnale					x	
M or C(120)	F-P	W-M	Blue Flag Iris	Iris virginica var. shrevei					x	
E	F-P	W-M	Michigan Lily	Lilium michiganense					x	
C(60),D	F-P	W-M	Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica					x	
C(60),D	F-P	W-MW	Cardinal Flower	Lobelia cardinalis					x	x