

Land Steward Report – January - December, 2023

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

Seed sowing locations are covered in a table at the end, not in the text.

Our Land Stewards are Jim Vallem and Michael Tucker. Our Water Steward is Rachel Oram.

Woodlands between the Pond Outlet and Thurston-Clague Trail Catch Basin: This is the area cleared in 2021 to repair the collapsed drainage line between the two catch basins. It was partially flooded from Fall 2021 to late July 2022, and again in spring and summer 2023. The school district had the berm near the outlet replaced in summer 2023, so hopefully the flooding will no longer occur.

Prairie and North Prairie: We conducted a controlled burn in spring 2023 to control the buckthorn that had grown to 6-8 feet tall. The crew repairing the berm again used the prairie for staging of their equipment and materials, but with less damage than in the two prior pipeline projects. Some rattlesnake master was added to the prairie in October.

South Entrance of Conboy Trail: Some rattlesnake master was added east and west of the trail entrance in October.

Hummingbird Rain Garden: The area has been kept weeded and mulched. Most of the plants added in the extension have filled in very nicely. Thanks to Sandy Breck, Elizabeth Morehead, Lynn Olson and Sheryl Wytychak.

Oak Savanna: We conducted a controlled burn in spring to clear away many years of accumulated plant material, followed by sowing of little bluestem and side oats grama seed. Some rattlesnake master was added to the northern section in October.

OHAC Pond Buffer Strip: Did some weeding and removal of some purple loosestrife. **Propose to add Shrubby St. John's Wort to get a better hedge against the geese, as the shrubby cinquefoil shrubs are not doing as well as expected.**

Clearing at NE of Pond: No activity. **There is a long-term plan to replace the illegally-planted bulbs with native plants.**

Oak/Hickory Woods: No activity. **We were unable to burn the area this year, so will try again in Spring 2024.**

The Hollow (low area west and south of the berm): Despite a second year with flooding, many of the trees, shrubs and other plants in the flooded area survived. Lots of buckthorn and honeysuckle are now at mature sizes and are producing seed. **We will try to burn this area whenever it is possible to get a good burn, but because of usual dampness, we do not anticipate that this will be any time soon. Absent a burn in spring 2024, we will need to do a cut and daub process on the invasives. Seeding of native grasses whenever we are able to burn off the leaf litter will provide better (drier) fuel for future burns.**

Peninsula: Some invasives removal.

Amphitheater to OHAC: Removed some Norway maple, forsythia, multiflora rose, glossy buckthorn, black alder and purple loosestrife between the Amphitheater and the OHAC pond buffer strip. **The goat area and the area between it and the pond should be burned in Spring 2024 to kill the remaining buckthorn.**

Berms: The berm near the pond outlet was repaired by a contractor to the school district. At the western berm, some large non-native black alder trees were felled into the pond to provide more aquatic habitat and places for turtles to sun themselves.

Jim Vallem, 12/4/2023

SEEDS SOWED IN 2023

Germination Code *	Sun: Full, Part, Shade	Moisture: Wet, Mesic or Dry	Latin Name	Common Name	Pine Woods Amph to OHAC	Pond Edge - Amphitheater	Pond Edge - Near Goat Area	Pond Edge - OHAC	Prairie	Oak/Hickory	Conboy Trail S. Entrance	Outlet Pipe Clearing
C(60),M	F-P-S	M-DM	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	x							x
A	F-P	M-D	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side Oats Grama	x							
A	F-P	WM-D	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed	x							
E	F-P	W-M	<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Michigan Lily			x	x				
A,D	F-P	WM-DM	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root		x						
A,D	F-P	W-WM	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed **				x				
C(60)	F-P	W-DM	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster					x		x	
C(60)	F	WM-DM	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master					x			
A	F-P-S	WM-DM	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm Sedge						x		
C(10),H,I	F-P	WM-M	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue Wild Indigo		x					x	
C(60)	F-P-S	DM-D	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Tall Thimbleweed							x	
M or C(60),G	F-P	WM-DM	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders							x	
C(120)/M,G	F-P	WM-D	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort							x	
C(60)	F-P	W-M	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Marsh Blazing Star							x	
C(60)	P-S	M-DM	<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	Heart-Leaved Aster								x
C(60),D	P-S	M-DM	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Blue-Stem Goldenrod								x

* Germination Codes:

- A: Seed should germinate upon sowing in a warm location
- C (Number of stratifying days): Seeds germinate after a period of cold, moist stratification
- D: Seeds are very small or need light to naturally break dormancy and germinate
- E: Seeds need a warm, moist period followed by a cold, moist period
- G: Seeds germinate most successfully in cool soil
- H: Seeds need scarification
- I: Legume, Rhizobium Inoculum
- M: Best planted outdoors in the fall

** A misleading, historical (hysterical?) name: It is neither a weed, nor does it cause sneezing