

## Allerton Park Pond Restoration Project



ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Report to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, for Illinois Wildlife  
Preservation Fund Contract Number 10-001 W.**

**Submitted by John D. Griesbaum  
Natural Areas Manager  
Robert Allerton Park and Retreat Center  
515 Old Timber Rd.  
Monticello, IL 61856**

**January 11, 2011**

## **Grantee**

Robert Allerton Park  
515 Old Timber Rd.  
Monticello, IL 61856  
217-333-3287  
217-762-3632 (fax)

## **Project Description**

The Robert Allerton Park Pond presents an ideal opportunity to restore populations of at least five rare and declining fish species to the Sangamon River Basin. The five fish species are: redbottom sunfish (*Lepomis miniatus*), starhead topminnow (*Fundulus dispar*), ironcolor shiner (*Notropis chalybaeus*), lake chubsucker (*Erimyzon sucetta*) and mud darter (*Etheostoma asperigene*).

Although small the Allerton pond is unique for an Illinois pond, it has a constant groundwater source maintaining an average water temperature closer to the cool temperatures favored by many declining native fish species. Currently all of the state fish hatcheries are being used to produce sport fish and right now they do not have room to take on non-game fish species. Additionally, the state production ponds do not have sufficient aquatic vegetation to maintain long-term breeding populations of these non-game fish. If this project were to be conducted at a state fish hatchery ample aquatic vegetation would need to be established for the perpetuation of these species. Currently these fish species are most abundant naturally in spring-fed bodies of water, the Allerton pond provides this habitat need as it is fed primarily by a natural spring.

Furthermore this site will lend itself to public awareness; Robert Allerton Park is visited by more than 100,000 people every year – including researchers, teachers, students, conference guests and the general public; signage around the pond describes the goal of restoring native non-game fish populations. This amount of visibility is ideal for improving the awareness of the comprehensive wildlife conservation plan.

In 2004 Allerton park received a state wildlife grant (50% federal/50% state) to implement the project. The project has made some fantastic progress, converting the pond into a unique wetland habitat. Although much progress has been made there is still work that needs done. Our specific goal for the coming years is to further the establishment of submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation. We will be buying plugs as well as seeds of ideal wetland plants and planting them in the pond.

## **Project Objectives**

1. Purchase wetland plants to be planted into Allerton pond.
2. Further improve the fish habitat through the establishment of plants.

## **Project Methods**

Allerton natural areas staff along with summer interns conducted the work for this project. First and foremost we purchased plants from a native nursery. The plants were in the form of plugs. The plants ordered were Prairie blazing star and Brown fox sedge. The plants were planted into areas with a water depth of approximately 1 foot. The soil under this water was extremely soft and mucky. This soft substrate made planting easy, as all that was needed was to shove the plants into the soil. No tools were needed, just man power.

## **Project Expenditures**

Plants (from Prairie Moon Nursery)	=	\$1954.00
University of Illinois F & A	=	\$182.00
Total	=	\$2136.00

## **Project Funding Sources**

IWPF	=	\$2000.00
Robert Allerton Park	=	\$136.00
Total	=	\$2136.00



Prairie Moon Nursery  
 32115 Prairie Lane  
 Winona, MN 55987  
 Phone: 507 452-1362  
 866 417-8156  
 Fax: 507 454-5238

Customer copy

Customer #: UNIVIL61856  
 Ship via: FED EX  
 Terms: NET 30  
 P.O. #:

Date: 4/29/2010 10-3215 M  
 Ship Date: 5/17/2010

Bill to: UNIVERSITY OF IL  
 ALLERTON PARK & RETREAT  
 ATTN BARBARA SCHLEICHER  
 515 OLD TIMBER RD  
 MONTICELLO, IL 61856  
 Day: 217 333-3287X204  
 Other:  
 Fax:

Ship to: UNIVERSITY OF IL  
 ALLERTON PARK & RETREAT  
 ATTN BARBARA SCHLEICHER  
 515 OLD TIMBER RD  
 MONTICELLO, IL 61856  
 217 333-3287X204

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BSCHLEIC@ILLINOIS.EDU

Lot #	Ordered	Shipped	Unit	Comment	Cat. #	Description	Price Each	
PM	4	4	TRAY		UA10F	Liatris pycnostachya (Prairie Blazing Star)	96.00	384.00
PM	15	15	TRAY		CAR34G	Carex vulpinoidea (Brown Fox Sedge)	96.00	1440.00

SPECIAL SHIPPING FEE.  
 THANK YOU!

*Handwritten initials/signature*

*Handwritten notes:*  
 5/17/2010 (Bands)  
 1818.00

*Handwritten phone number:*  
 1-595982-55000-124907-191200

PLANTS	SEEDS	SHIPPING & HANDLING	POSTPAID ITEMS	SALES TAX	TOTAL AMOUNT	PAYMENT RECEIVED	BALANCE DUE
3.00	1824.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	1954.00	0.00	1954.00

counts not paid in full within 30 days of the ship date will have monthly finance charges added at a rate of 1%

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FY10 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

**Grantee Information**

Grantee Name: The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois  
Grants and Contracts, PO Box 4610  
Springfield, IL 62708

Grant Agreement #: 10-001W      UI REF: D7400  
FUND: 595983

Amount of Reimbursement Requested: \$2,000.00

I certify that the goods or services specified on this request for payment were for the use of this agency and that the expenditure for such goods or services was authorized and lawfully incurred, that such goods or services meet all the required standards set forth in the grant agreement to which this request for payment relates, and that the amount shown below on this request is correct and approved for payment.

By: Sandra S. Moulton      Date: 7/23/2010  
(signature)

Name: Sandra S. Moulton      Title: Director, Post-Award Admin

Grantee F.E.I.N. / TIN: 37-6000511

**For additional information, please call Brian Keyes (217) 244-7034**

Attach copies of vendor billings, proof of payment, and other necessary documentation and send the Request for Payment Certification to:

Eric Smith  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
301 S. Date Street  
Gibson City, IL 60936

Telephone #: (217)-784-4730 ext. 225  
E-Mail Address: Eric.L.Smith@illinois.gov

**For DNR Use Only**

Approved for Payment: Eric L. Smith

Name: ERIC L. SMITH

Date: 7/29/10

RECEIVED  
JUL 30 2010  
FEDERAL AID

2010 TRANSIT RECAP

FUND: 1-595983  
 U of I Ref (grant code): D7400  
 GRANT TITLE: IDNR 10-001W  
 PROJECT PERIOD: 11/19/09

PI: Becker, Drew N

06/30/10

Transactions:						
item #	Vendor/Voucher	Date	Acct code	Amount	Voucher/Obl	
01)	Prairie Moon Nursery	5/17/2010 6/30/2010	124907	1,818.00	PCA1CX5X, J1369753	
02)	ICR adjustment	6/30/2010	198120	0.18		
03)						
04)						
05)						
06)						
07)						
08)						
09)						
10)						
11)						
12)						
13)						
14)						
15)						
16)						
17)						
18)						
19)						
20)						

Total Direct Cost:		1,818.18
Fac/Admin Cost; calc at rate:	10.00%	181.82
<b>TOTAL TRANSIT COSTS</b>		<b>2,000.00</b>
Period 12 (June) transactions		0.00
<b>TOTAL FINAL BILL</b>		<b>2,000.00</b>
PREVIOUS BILLINGS		0.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>2,000.00</b>
TOTAL AWARD BUDGET		2,000.00
AMOUNT DE-OBLIGATED		0.00

PREPARED BY:	Mona Knight
PHONE:	217-333-1462

It will also be closed on Jan. 1, 2010 for New Year's Day. The office will be closed on Monday, Jan. 4, and on Tuesday, Jan. 5. The office will be closed for the Jan. 6 holiday on Monday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**DAY HARBORWOOD**



# Alerton receiving state funded updates and maintenance

By MICHELLE HANSEN  
Journal/Republican editor

Some natural areas at Alerton Park in Monticello are receiving a face lift thanks to grant money.

Natural Areas Manager Drew Becker said the park recently received three grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to maintain and improve the natural areas. The park also received a large grant from the Platt County Soil and Water Conservation District.

"This helps out greatly. I usually don't have a budget so I only spend money if we have to. It's things like these (grants) that help me do my job," said Becker.

The park consists of nearly 1,600 acres of natural areas. These natural areas include examples of old growth forest, plain and upland forests, as well as recently established wetland and prairie restorations. In addition, the park is positioned along an unroadified stretch of the Sangamon River.

One grant was worth \$2,000 to restore 15 acres of land to tall grass prairie. The money will be used to purchase wildflowers that will be planted this winter. In addition, a seed donation from Plantnants Ferrer will allow even more

variety to the area. The 15 acres is currently just mowed, Becker said, so converting this area to prairie will cut down on maintenance and increase the wildlife value. The new prairie area is on the south side of the main entrance to Alerton so it will be visible to people visiting the park.

"When people come to the museum, they will see something beautiful," Becker said. Another \$1,500 grant will be used to purchase equipment necessary to control invasive species in the park. The money will be used to buy chain saws, brush cutters and overall make "my job easier," Becker said.

"This will be equipment dedicated just to the natural areas. With limited staff we will be able to get more done," Becker said. The final IDNR grant totals \$9,000 to allow staff to continue restoration efforts in the museum pond.

Becker said the pond, which is a rare spring-fed pond, has received a lot of attention in the past. Now that it is almost fully restored, the pond is being used by the IDNR as a seed pond for four species of rare fish.

To keep the pond clear and the habitat healthy for the fish, Becker is going to use the



Alerton Park in Monticello is receiving three grants from Illinois state departments for the purpose of improving and upgrading the sight.

grant money to purchase wetland plants for the pond. All of the projects funded by the IDNR will be completed this year, Becker said.

The park has also received a \$10,000 grant from the Platt County Soil and Water

Conservation District. The park will add \$4,000 to that grant to help create an emergency spillway because a dam in the park has serious problems with erosion, Becker said.

The money will be used to plant vegetation on top of the dam and to put more plants along the shoreline. "The spillway is a huge deal," Becker said. "If the dam leaks, the pond has to be drained. It (the spillway) should look good too."