University of Illinois Allerton Park and Retreat Center
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Grant #: 10-002W—Allerton Park Entrance Prairie Restoration—Final Report

---

Grant Number: #10-002W;
Classification: Management
Grantee Name: University of Illinois Allerton Park and Retreat Center
Address: 515 Old Timber Road
Monticello, Illinois 61856
Phone: (217) 333-3287
Time Frame: Project completed March 29, 2010; Report sent April 5, 2010
Email of report preparer: Barbara Schleicher, grant writer bschleic@illinois.edu or James W Gortner gortner@illinois.edu, the Associate Director

Project Objectives:

- To restore the Park's entrance fields to prairie
- To provide a wildflower rich prairie that will wow visitors as they enter the Park
- To obtain a variety of plant species, in particular rare native species
- To keep out all exotic/non-native plants
- To advertise the area to University researchers for a possible new study site
- To provide habitat to upland game birds such as pheasants and grouse
- To provide habitat for numerous other wildlife species including deer and turkey
- To use the area as an educational tool: nature hikes with kids, teaching interns about the process of prairie restoration
- To add the approximately 1500 acres of natural areas owned by the University at the Park

Project Description:

This project entails restoring 12 acres of land into prairie /savanna. The majority of the area is either an old pumpkin field or in turf grass. Part of this area has multiple large oak trees. Park staff will be preparing the site for seed planting with internal funds. This grant money will be used to purchase the seed necessary to these acres near the entrance of the Park.

Summary of the Project Accomplishments:

With the funds provided from this grant we were able to accomplish the goals of this project. Seed was bought from a local seed vendor and sewn onto the project site. Other funds were used to prepare the site and to purchase additional seed. The IWPF grant allowed us to obtain a more diverse mixture of seed than would not have been possible otherwise. The years to come will allow us to truly observe the fruit of this grant money as the prairie matures.

Introduction, Materials and Methods:

Materials and Methods

The site was prepared for planting. This involved spraying herbicide (Round-up) on the project area twice to eliminate noxious weeds such as Canada thistle. It is hoped that by spraying multiple times, the weed seed bank in the soil will be minimized. Spraying will be conducted by using a boom sprayer attached to an ATV.

Once the site was prepared, the staff was ready to plant. Planting took place in January and February, 2010. Originally a seed drill was to be used but was not available at the time seeding needed to take place. All seed was hand sewn. Hand sowing was practical due to the relatively small size of the restoration. The seed was sown when there was some snow cover and was mixed with peat moss to ensure adequate distribution of seed. Saw dust is more often used however peat moss was readily available at the park and worked as well as sawdust. Seed was sown before a snow event in deterrence of bird feeding.

Additionally, once the seed grows and the plants reach about 12" tall, the area will be mowed. This would be done several times within the first year. In subsequent years, the site will be burned when there is sufficient dried plant material to maintain its plant composition. Woody vegetation would be removed. Additional seed should be spread in subsequent years in order to give the prairie a fresh supply of plant varieties.

Digital images:

The below picture may look like a bunch of dead grass, and that is because that is exactly what it is. However, this area seemingly devoid of life will soon be turned into a lush prairie ecosystem as the seed begins to germinate. When you look at it this way, dead grass is pretty exciting!!

Northwest view

Northeast view

Southwest view

Sewing seed

Sewing seed

Gray-headed Coneflower sprouting (3-26-10)

Benefit to wildlife and/or native plant resources:

Wildlife will benefit from this project in many ways. Care was taken to purchase seed that is also wildlife food crop plants such as bundle flowers and partridge pea. Game species such as deer, wild turkey, and pheasants will all benefit from these types of plants. The 12 acres will also serve as a bedding area for deer. Non game species will benefit as well. The state listed Kirtland's snake was found just adjacent to this restoration. The restoration is ideal habitat for this struggling reptile. Insects will benefit from the diversity of forbs planted. Butterfly milkweed was planted in abundance and Monarch butterflies are bound to utilize these plants. The benefits

of this project are hard to measure as all the wildlife in the area will benefit. Additionally, the prairie is a visible example of prairie restoration work for every person that enters the park.

Project Expenditures, detailed:

The following table lists the expenditures that were incurred for this project. These expenses represent the entire cost of the project minus the labor costs. The Wildlife Preservation Fund grant ($1,818) covered the majority of the cost for the Forbs seed that was planted on the site. Copies of the receipts can be found in Appendix A. These receipts show the vendors name and address, description of the items purchased, quantity purchased and date of purchase.

Expenses (Detailed)	**Amount**
Forbs Seed 25 oz per acre (listing of the forbs can be found in Appendix A)	$2,144.50
Grass Seed 75 pounds (Little bluestem, bid bluestem, Canada Wild rye)	783.75
Herbicide 10 gallons (Round-up pro concentrate)	673.50
Labor (Natural Areas Manager and volunteers-site preparation and seeding)	847.00
University of Illinois-Grants and Contract Admin. fee	182.00
Total Project Costs	**$4,630.75**

Project Funding Sources:

The following table lists the funding sources and the amount (cash or in-kind services) that each sources provided.

Sources	**Amount**
Illinois Preservation Fund Grant	$2,000.00*
Pheasants Forever	783.75
Allerton Park and Retreat Center**	1,847.00
Total	**$4,630.75**

*Of this amount, $182 was required for the University's grant review and administration

**Allerton Park provided $1000 cash for materials and $847 in in-kind labor.

Appendix A

Project Expenses-Receipts (copies)

Appendix B
Payment Request Certification form

EARTHSKIN NURSERY
Lou Nelms
9331 NCR 3800E
Mason City, IL 62664
Phone: 217-482-3524
Cell: 217-737-6783
Lrnelms@cassblue.com
www.earthskinnursery.com
FEIN: 37-1151482

INVOICE

DATE: Dec. 23, 2009

BILL TO:
Allerton Park C/O Drew Becker
515 Old Timber Road
Monticello, IL 61856

SHIP TO:seed picked up

ORDERED	UNIT	SHIPPED	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
13	acre		Custom Prairie Forb Seed Mixture	$ 163.19	$ 2,121.47
0.82	oz.		Culver's Root, Veronicastrum virginicum seed	$ 28.09	$ 23.03
					$ -
			SUBTOTAL		$ 2,144.50
			ILL. SALES TAX: 6.25%		exempt
			SHIPPING AND HANDLING		
			TOTAL		$ 2,144.50

NOTE: MOW FIELDS TO 12" – SEVERAL TIMES IN SUMMER. – ✓ W/ DEREK.
DREW SAID IDNR WOULD HELP W/ THIS.

Proposed Forb Mix for Allerton Park from Earthskin Nursery

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME		$/LB	$/oz	oz/A	sds/ft2	$/A
Aster azureus	*Sky Blue Aster*	81,000	$ 198.00	12.38	0	0.00	0.00
Aster laevis	*Smooth Aster*	52,000	$ 198.00	12.38	1	1.19	12.38
Aster novae-angliae	*New England Aster*	68,000	$ 198.00	12.38	0	0.00	0.00
Astragalus canadensis	*Canada Milkvetch*	16,000	$ 88.00	5.50	0	0.00	0.00
Baptisia leucantha	*White Wild Indigo*	1,700	$ 165.00	10.31	2	0.08	20.63
Baptisia leucophaea	*Cream Indigo*	1,400	$ 600.00	37.50	0	0.00	0.00
Cassia fasciculata	*Partridge Pea*	2,700	$ 22.00	1.38	0	0.00	0.00
Coreopsis lanceolata	*Sand Coreopsis*	20,000	$ 83.00	5.19	0	0.00	0.00
Coreopsis palmata	*Prairie Coreopsis*	11,000	$ -	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Coreopsis tripteris	*Tall Coreopsis*	14,000	$ 165.00	10.31	1	0.32	10.31
Dalea candida	*White Praire Clover*	19,000	$ -	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Dalea purpurea	*Purple Prairie Clover*	18,000	$ 44.00	2.75	3	1.24	8.25
Desmanthus illinoensis	*Illinois Bundle Flower*	4,000	$ 35.00	2.19	2	0.18	4.38
Desmodium canadense	*Showy Tick Trefoil*	5,000	$ 110.00	6.88	1	0.11	6.88
Desmodium illinoense	*Illinois Tick Trefoil*	4,000	$ 165.00	10.31	0	0.00	0.00
Echinacea pallida	*Pale Purple Coneflower*	5,000	$ 99.00	6.19	0	0.00	0.00
Echinacea purpurea	*Purple Coneflower*	6,000	$ 88.00	5.50	0	0.00	0.00
Eryngium yuccifolium	*Rattlesnake Master*	7,000	$ 77.00	4.81	2	0.32	9.63
Heliopsis helianthoides	*Early (False) Sunflower*	6,400	$ 44.00	2.75	2	0.29	5.50
Lespedeza capitata	*Round-headed Bush Clo*	9,000	$ 132.00	8.25	0	0.00	0.00
Liatris aspera	*Button Blazing Star*	15,000	$ 198.00	12.38	0	0.00	0.00
Liatris pycnostachya	*Prairie Blazing Star*	11,500	$ 165.00	10.31	3	0.79	30.94
Monarda fistulosa	*Wild Bergamot*	74,000	$ 154.00	9.63	1	1.70	9.63
Parthenium integrifolium	*Wild Quinine*	7,000	$ 143.00	8.94	0	0.00	0.00
Penstemon pallidus	*Pale Beardtongue*	180,000	$ 110.00	6.88	0	0.00	0.00
Penstemon digitalis	*Fox Glove Beardtongue*	130,000	$ 165.00	10.31	1	2.98	10.31
Ratibida pinnata	*Yellow Coneflower*	28,000	$ 55.00	3.44	1	0.64	3.44
Rudbeckia hirta	*Black-eyed Susan*	96,000	$ 33.00	2.06	1	2.20	2.06
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	*Sweet Black-eyed Susan*	45,000	$ 88.00	5.50	1	1.03	5.50
Rudbeckia triloba	*Brown-eyed Susan*	35,000	$ 77.00	4.81	0	0.00	0.00
Silphium integrifolium	*Rosinweed*	4,000	$ 132.00	8.25	2	0.18	16.50
Silphium lacinatum	*Compassplant*	650	$ 132.00	8.25	0	0.00	0.00
Silphium perfoliatum	*Cup Plant*	1,400	$ 88.00	5.50	0	0.00	0.00
Silphium terebinthinaceum	*Prairie Dock*	1,100	$ 132.00	8.25	0	0.00	0.00
Solidago rigida	*Stiff Goldenrod*	45,000	$ 110.00	6.88	1	1.03	6.88
Solidago speciosa	*Showy Goldenrod*	100,000	$ 319.00	19.94	0	0.00	0.00
Veronicastrum virginicum	*Culver's Root*	750,000	$ 450.00	28.13	0	0.00	0.00
Zizea aurea	*Golden Alexanders*	11,500	$ 88.00	5.50	0	0.00	0.00
Acre					25	14.32	**163.19**

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FY04 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

Grantee Information

Grantee Name: The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois
1901 S. First Street, Ste. A
Champaign, IL 61820

Grant Agreement #: 10-002W

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: Barbara A. Schleicher (Signature) Date: 4-14-10

Name: BARBARA A. SCHLEICHER Title: LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

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

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: _____
Signature

Name:

Date: _____

al-Republican
so be closed
2010 for New
he office will
nday, Jan. 4.
deadline and
for the Jan. 6
) a.m. Monday,

RDWOOD

Allerton receiving state funded updates and maintenance

By MICHELLE HANSEN
Journal-Republican editor

Some natural areas at Allerton 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 Piatt County Soil and Water Conservation District.

"This helps out greatly. I basically 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 1,500 acres of natural areas. These natural areas include examples of old growth floodplain and upland forests, as well as recently established wetland and prairie restorations. In addition, the park is positioned along an unmodified 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 Pheasants Forever 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 Allerton so it will be visible to people visiting the park.

"When people come in the summer, they will see everything blooming," 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 $2,000 to allow staff to continue restoration efforts in the mansion 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.

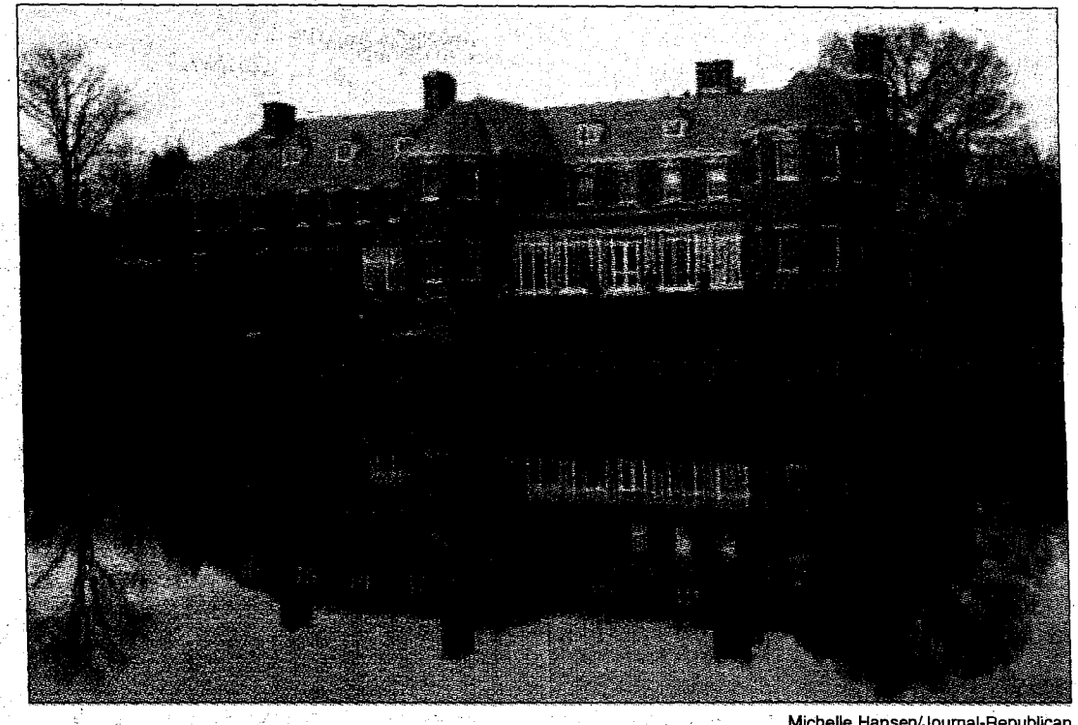
To keep the pond clear and the habitat healthy for the fish, Becker is going to use the grant money to purchase wetland plants for the pond.

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 Piatt 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."



Michelle Hansen/Journal-Republican

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

SOURCE: PIATT CO. JOURNAL-REPUBLIC, DEC. 30, 2009

Year in Review

Autopsy