

Embarras River Bottoms State Habitat Area

Management-Monitoring-Restoration update
Spring 2017



Prescribed burning, in a wet savannah area took place in early spring. Burning has many benefits including **invasive species control** and **nutrient cycling**.



Before

After



Fire consumes old brush and leaf litter, making room for **new growth** and better wildlife habitat.



Interns **planted 1,800 trees**, along the eastern border of ERBSHA near Billet Road. These pecans, persimmons, and oaks will provide **food and habitat** for local wildlife.

A recent survey of the **giant cane** planted last fall shows almost **100% survival**. This is great news for restoring canebrake habitat in Illinois.



Pipe gates and cameras have been installed to prevent trespassing and unauthorized vehicle access.

For additional information: A site Management-Monitoring Plan and a Restoration Plan describing the terms of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlement and a phased approach to restoration are available at the Lawrence Public Library and <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/NRDA/Pages/ERBSHA.aspx>.

What's happening next

- Continued monitoring of plant and animal communities
- Brushing cutting and mowing activities
- Wetland, vernal pond, and timber stand enhancements
- Additional parking area on Billet Road

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