

Sugar Creek Pre-Restoration Fact Sheet



Osage orange grove along with other invasive species such as Bush honeysuckle.

The IDNR is partnering with the USFWS and the IL Nature Preserves Commission to restore a floodplain forest along Sugar Creek in McLean County, Illinois. The goal of this project is to restore approximately 50 acres of bottomland forest habitat and enhance or restore wetlands. Restoration is set to begin fall 2014!

The restoration project will enhance the quality of the forest community. Activities to restore the property will include selective thinning; removal and control of invasive and exotic species such as Osage orange; planting of desirable timber species such as oaks; and restoring the natural hydrology to the site, which will help reduce nutrients in storm water from flowing into Sugar Creek. Restoration is anticipated to establish an oak community that will be able to regenerate naturally once the canopy is opened up. A higher quality forest community will improve habitat for wildlife including the Red-headed woodpecker and species that depend on water for part or all of their life cycle. Pre and post monitoring will take place, for example, a herpetology survey is being conducted to monitor the reptiles and amphibians utilizing the property and whether their abundance and diversity increases after restoration.



Bur oak tree, estimated to be 80 feet tall and 150 years old!



Significant depression/drainage pathway with woody debris from flooding events.

Partial funding for this restoration effort comes from a natural resources damage assessment case. In April 2001 a vehicle accident involving a tanker truck resulted in the release of approximately 8,800 gallons of gasoline into Sugar Creek in McLean County, IL. The spilled gasoline entered into a drainage way that carried it to Sugar Creek where it caused injury to fish and other aquatic life in a reach that extended 4 miles. Further information regarding the incident and the restoration can be found at,

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/programs/NRDA/Pages/McDaniels.aspx>.

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