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CAROL STREAM PARK DISTRCT NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN



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INTRODUCTION

Each of the native or naturalized Carol Stream Park District park sites listed below are addressed in this Native Areas Management Plan. Management recommendations and cost estimates are provided for the years 2023-2027. These recommendations are based on existing conditions observed in December of 2022. Plant communities are dynamic and change over time based on climatic factors, successional forces, and maintenance activities. Therefore, a review and update of the Management Plan Summary should be done annually to adjust for current conditions, new information about each site, and changing community input to appropriately address issues that may arise.

Bedrock Earthscapes, LLC has worked with Carol Stream Park District staff to identify the following sites containing natural areas:

- Armstrong Park
- Bark Park & Maintenance Garage
- Beirman & Kent Parks (Heritage Lake Perimeter)
- Carolshire Park
- Community Park
- Evergreen Lakes Park
- Fair Oaks Park (East, Central and West)
- Gerald Weeks Memorial Park
- Hampe Park
- Jan Smith Park

- Jirsa Park
- McCaslin Park & Coyote Crossing Swale
- Mitchell Lakes Park
- Murray's Meadow
- Red Hawk Park
- Shining Waters Park
- Slepicka Homestead Park
- Stonebridge Park
- Tedrahn Park
- Veterans Park & Fountain View Recreation Center

Native plant areas provide water quality, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic benefits within the Carol Stream Park District. Additional benefits include passive recreational use, flood storage, sediment trapping, soil stabilization, shoreline anchoring, floristic diversity, nutrient retention and removal, and groundwater recharge. To reap the most benefits from these areas, they must be maintained. One of the primary goals of a native vegetative maintenance program is to control the establishment and spread of non-native, non-desirable and invasive species. Non-native plants did not historically exist in northern Illinois. Therefore, they are not naturally kept in check by competition with other plant species and/or herbivores. Some non-desirable species may be native but are aggressive or not appropriate for use in for the built environment. They can outcompete more desirable native species under the right conditions and can be considered non-desirable or invasive. Non-native and invasive species often create monocultures of similar vegetation. This can lead to reduced water quality benefits, degraded wildlife habitat, and negatively impacted aesthetic value by reducing colors and textures in the landscape. Woody species such as sandbar willow, buckthorn and honeysuckle, and herbaceous species such as cattails and phragmites can eliminate vistas altogether by creating tall, dense stands.

Many Park Districts are finding that the public not only uses the parks for active recreation like sports, but also want more opportunities for passive recreation such as walking, watching birds, bees, and butterflies, and enjoying the diversity of habitat and flowering plant beauty that healthy native areas provide.

Each natural area is unique, and natural areas throughout the Carol Stream Park District vary in plant health and structural condition. Recommendations presented in this report are designed to maintain or improve current conditions, primarily through control of invasive plant species.

- In areas where good native stands exist, they can and should be maintained at a relatively low cost.
- Where native plantings exist but have been neglected, corrective work should be done before further degradation occurs that will require increased expense the longer they degrade.
- Where naturalized areas exist that are not native, primary consideration should be given to esthetics and poor public perception. Removing weed trees and controlling noxious weed growth is the first priority in those areas.
- Also noted in some areas, there are capital projects that should be considered.

Specific details regarding which maintenance practices are needed at each site is included in the **Natural Areas Management Techniques** section of this Plan.

Included in the Site Assessment section of the Plan is a prioritized site list based on:

- current plant health, and
- visibility to the public and/or recreational benefits provided by the site.

This simple rating provides a starting point to prioritize spending.

Anticipated costs for maintenance and improvements are shown in **Appendix B.** Budgeting will likely be done on a District-wide basis and totals by year are presented. Details by site are also included in those spreadsheets so District-wide and site-specific prioritization decisions can be made.

CAROL STREAM PARK DISTRCT NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN



NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Natural area management should be completed by environmental professionals trained in natural area assessment, proper management techniques, plant identification and invasive species control methods. Training and practical experience ensures that correct procedures are followed, providing an environmentally safe and ecologically efficient result. Both in-house personnel and contract professionals are currently being used by the Carol Stream Park District to provide efficient outcomes within budgetary constraints.

A combination of maintenance techniques should be utilized at each site to effectively manage vegetation. Management activities are based on ecological and economic factors. This management plan proposes a combination of mechanical removal (woody cutting and mowing), herbicide application, and prescribed burning to enhance the native ecosystems and vegetation quality. Repairs, improvements, or new plantings are also sometimes needed to prevent more expensive future intervention. Each of these management activities are briefly described below.

- Frequency of Site Visits: Current native areas maintenance Best Management Practices (BMPs) call for 4 to 7 site visits a year. Typically, new native seedings that take 3 to 5 years to establish will require more frequent visits to prevent aggressive weeds from taking over. Once established, healthy native areas can be maintained in 3 or 4 visits a year. Goals and available budget also impact the frequency of maintenance visits.
- Mechanical Control: Mechanical control includes woody plant cutting and removal, mowing and/or the digging up of individual plants by hand, with the intention of impeding a plant from reproducing by seed. Selective cutting or mowing is an effective means of control for annual weed species as well as woody plants. Woody plants should be cut as close to the ground as possible. Large woody plants should be treated with herbicide after cutting to kill the roots. Hand weeding is impractical in large native areas but is useful in small native plant bed areas such as around signs or in demonstration or educational beds (Butterfly Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, Rain Gardens). Annual mowing at 8 to 10" can be used in place of a burn where burning is not desirable or safe. Mowers should be set to a height of 8 to 12 inches which allows annual invasive seed heads to be cut off and minimizes impacts to native plants. Winter mowing provides similar benefits to prescribed burns, shredding standing vegetation and providing a thin layer of mulch. Winter mows can provide protection for new seed growth. They also cut woody seedlings or small saplings of woody species, preventing growth if the mows are conducted each year. There are no negative impacts to the native vegetation if the mowing is conducted when the vegetation is dormant, generally between November and early March.
- Controlled or Prescribed Burns: Prescribed burns are carried out as practical based upon the safe condition of site features, and as weather permits. Prescription fire is one tool in managing and restoring native areas. It is used to clear debris, recycle nutrients, create favorable conditions for native seed germination, control invasive plants, and to stimulate native plant and animal species. A prescribed burn is conducted to consume as much of the existing plant material as possible, but prescribed burns seldom burn all the native plant area and the percentage of the total area burned can vary greatly. Follow-up cutting of small woodies in burned areas is recommended. Proper site preparation, fire breaks, State IEPA burn plan approvals and notification of appropriate local authorities as needed, is required prior to a controlled burn. Notification of neighbors is also required. If not done annually, burns should be done two years in a row to effectively control some non-desirable species.
- Spot Herbicide Control: Herbicide application is a very effective means of controlling non-desirable species. The
 timing and type of herbicide used will depend upon the plant pest to be controlled. Annual and biennial weeds can be
 controlled through selective cutting or herbicide application. Perennial weeds will require targeted herbicide
 applications to control them. The application of herbicides should be performed only by personnel licensed or certified
 in the State of Illinois for pesticide/herbicide application.
- Enhancement: The Park District has been enhancing some parks with native plantings over the last few years to reduce problem areas, stop water edge erosion and increase plant and pollinator diversity in the Parks. In areas identified as natural areas in this Management Plan, the initial focus will be on stopping the degradation of exiting natural areas. Once the worst weeds are controlled and the resulting plant community can be effectively evaluated, overseeding with native plants, bank repairs or other structural improvements can be better evaluated. Improvements to some pond banks may be considered as capital projects rather than maintenance.

Some Parks have no native plantings and either a native garden at the base of the sign or conversion of unusable turf to natives is recommended for educational awareness and to increase plant biodiversity and pollinator habitat throughout the community. The Village is actively converting turf detention areas throughout Carol Stream to native plantings as a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) to help improve the water quality of adjacent streams and is interested in working with the Park District to expand this initiative.

Annual Review and Update: A review and update of the Management Plan Summary should be done annually to
adjust for current conditions, new information about each site, and changing community input to appropriately address
issues that may arise, to adjust priorities and to assist with annual budget planning.

	Su	ummary	by Ma	intenanc	e Category	
				Maint	enance Needed	
		Woody		# of Herbicide		Combined Priority
Location	Mowing	Cutting	Burn	Visits	Bank Repair or Seeding	Score
Evergreen Lakes Park	x	X	х	4	Done in 2022.	1
McCaslin Park & Coyote	x	x	х	4	Done in 2022.	
Crossing						1
Veterans Park & Fountain	x		х	4	Long term, about 3,000 LF of the pond edges	
View Recreation Center					will need to be re-planted.	
						1
Bark Park & Maintenance	x	x	х	4	Possibly around the Maintenance Garage in	
Garage					2025.	1.5
Hampe Park	x	х	х	4	Possibly north end in 2026.	1.5
Jan Smith Park	x		х	4		1.5
Red Hawk Park	x	x	х	3	Creek banks should be addressed once the	
					upland and flood plain areas are improved.	1.5
Slepicka Homestead Park	x		х	4	Overseed areas in 2024 as Phragmites and	
					Burdock are controlled.	1.5
Armstrong Park	x	x	х	3	Possibly in some areas in 2026.	2
Tedrahn Park	x	x	х	3	Overseeding will be needed in 2025 once non-	
					desirable growth is controlled.	2.5
Bierman & Kent Parks	x	x	х	3	Overseed where needed and convert turf	
(Heritage Lake perimeter)					between the path and pond in 2027.	
						3
Fair Oaks Park - West	x		х	2		3
Murray's Meadow	x	х	х	3		3
Carolshire Park	x			4		4
Fair Oaks Park - Cenrtal		х		3	Pond banks may need supplemental	
					overseeding in 2025.	4
Shining Waters park	x		х	3	Consider converting the north pond area	
					perimeter to natives. The Village may want	
					to partner on this one.	4
Mitchell Lakes Park		x		3	Approximately 2,200 LF of banks will need	
					significant work weeds are controlled.	4.5
Community Park Berm	x	x		3		5
Fair Oaks Park - East	x	x	х	2		6
Gerald Weeks Memorial Pa	x	х	х	2	Pond bank regrading and planting to natives	
					may be needed in the future.	6
Jirsa Park	x	x	х	3	Overseeding the perimeters may be needed	
					once the worst weeds are controlled.	6
Stonebridge Park Creek	x	x	1	2	Regrading and stream bank work will be	-
					needed.	6



SITE ASSESSMENTS

Bedrock Earthscapes, LLC has visited each Park and based maintenance needs on the conditions of each site. In the following pages, we have detailed current conditions, maintenance strategies, and estimated costs for each site. The goal of site management is to improve appearances for the community and to enhance native floristic quality and diversity leading to improved ecological and functional benefits.

				Priority:	1 high, 5 low	
					Visibility or	
		Native area		Existing		Combined
Location	Address	in Acres	Condition of "Natives"	Natives	Perception	Score
Evergreen Lakes Park	1041 Birchbark Trail	4.50	Mostly weed growth	0.5	0.5	1
McCaslin Park & Coyote	27W650 North	2.10	Degrading native pond banks had woodies cut and	0.5	0.5	1
Crossing	Avenue		maintenance begun in 2022. Clean up of the North Ave			
			swale of Coyote Crossing was also begun in 2022.			
Veterans Park & Fountain	200 E. Lies Road	1.50	Good natives at the west end of the building, in new	0.5	0.5	1
View Recreation Center	910 N. Gary Avenue		prairie and along the restored creek bank. The rest of the			
			water edge is degraded turf.			
Bark Park & Maintenance	280 Kuhn Road	1.30	Good natives in the Bark Park enclosure. Fair to poor	1	0.5	1.5
Garage			natives around the Maintenance Garage.			
Hampe Park	297 W. Lies Road	1.50	Fair/Poor but better than three years ago as natives are	1	0.5	1.5
			beginning to dominate in the south section.			
Jan Smith Park	925 Kuhn Road	1.65	The beds areas have good natives. The basin is slowly	1	0.5	1.5
			improving in diversity and native cover.			
Red Hawk Park	651 W. St. Charles	9.25	Fair quality meadows. Degraded creek banks & flood plai	0.5	1	1.5
	Road					
Slepicka Homestead Park	1301 Lily Lane	2.10	Fair and improving.	0.5	1	1.5
Armstrong Park	391 Illini Drive	5.50	The new County areas are good. Older north areas are	1	1	2
			fair/poor.			
Tedrahn Park	1286 New Britton	1.50	Degraded no-mow	2	0.5	2.5
	Drive					
Bierman & Kent Parks	1253 Woodlake Drive	6.00	Degraded natives or no-mow on pond banks. Patch of	2	1	3
(Heritage Lake perimeter)			woodies taking over on west side.			
Fair Oaks Park - West	700 Fair Oaks Road	1.25	The natives are in fair and improving condition.	1	2	3
Murray's Meadow	1235 Adler Lane	3.00	Rapidly degrading. Natives are present and will return	1	2	3
			with focused maintenance.			
Carolshire Park	840 N. Gary Avenue	0.01	Fair/poor.	1	3	4
Fair Oaks Park - Cenrtal	1320 Birchbark Trail	1.25	Degraded	2	2	4
Shining Waters park	874 Oswego Drive	0.25	Good in the south upland area.	2	2	4
Mitchell Lakes Park	200 Elk Trail	1.00	Poor.	4	0.5	4.5
Community Park Berm	725 Thornhill Drive	0.75	Poor/no-mow turf.	3	2	5
Fair Oaks Park - East	1284 Birchbark Trail		Degraded no-mow	4	2	6
Gerald Weeks Memorial	1N170 Morse Street	0.60	Degraded no-mow pond edge and wooded hill	3	3	6
Park						
Jirsa Park	1363 Rose Avenue	2.65	Degraded no-mow	3	3	6
Stonebridge Park Creek	1016 Birchbark Trail	0.60	Poor/not native	4	2	6

On the following pages, each site has a page with information describing general characteristics of that site with pictures, a map, and 5-year management recommendations. Several anticipated capital projects are also noted. The Parks are presented in alphabetical order.

Anticipated costs for maintenance and improvements are shown in **Appendix B**. Budgeting will likely be done on a District-wide basis and totals by year are presented. Details by site and by year are also included in those spreadsheets so District-wide and site-specific prioritization decisions can be made.

Armstrong Park

The native plantings installed by the County in the south half of the park are maintained by the County and are in good condition. Older pond bank, swale, and woodland areas in the west and north half of the park are in fair condition and are the Park District's responsibility for maintenance. The west pond, center pond and swale should have small woodies cut and herbaceous weeds treated as part of planned maintenance. The east wooded area has been taken out of regular mowing and allowed to naturalize. Small, non-desirable woody weeds in the woodland understory should be cut and the understory kept open so walkers on the adjacent path will have an open line of sight for safety and enjoyment. Areas around the ponds and swale may need some supplemental native seeding in 2026. There is sufficient open space adjacent to the ponds and swale area that can be considered for additional turf to native conversion if any of those areas are wet for long periods of the year or unusable for active use (sports).





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2025	\$2,500
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2024	\$7,950
Burns beginning 2025	\$1,800
Project Work: Possible selective overseeding in 2026	\$3,000



Bark Park & Maintenance Garage Perimeter

The open spaces around the Bark Park are native areas mowed once a year by the Park District but not owned by the Park District. There is a quarter acre patch of high-quality natives within the Bark Park that is defined with a post and rail fence. The area should be maintained with an annual burn or mowing, and spot herbicide treatments to keep the area in high quality natives.

The natives around the Maintenance Garage are in fair to poor condition. The area to the north of the Garage parking lot is mowed annually and should be spot treated through the season for weeds. Areas to the west and south of the garage need to have woody weeds removed and phragmites in the detention basin controlled.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting around the garage 2025	\$2,400
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2023	\$1,800
Burns beginning 2023 in Bark Park and 2025 around the Garage	\$800 & \$1,200
Project Work: Possibly around the Garage in 2025	\$3,000



Bierman & Kent Parks (Heritage Lake Perimeter)

The perimeter of Heritage Lake is mostly contained in Bierman Park, but the southeast section of the lake is in Kent Park. The pond bank is steep in most areas and has a concrete block wall on the south part of the east side. The un-mowed pond banks range in width from 10 to 30 feet. There appears to be some natives growing on the banks, but they are pretty degraded. While woody weeds are not a major issue in most areas, there are woody weeds on the banks spotted around the pond that need to be cut and removed before they get bigger. In the center of the west side, there is a 1-acre meadow area that has degraded into a small woody thicket that should be cleared and then restored to a native meadow.

Once the existing pond edge vegetation has been improved, open turf between the pond edge and the walking path on the east side should be converted to natives, leaving a 5' mowed turf edge between the natives and the walking path.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2026	\$7,500
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2026	\$9,029
Burns beginning 2027	\$1,600
Project Work: Reclaim the west side meadow area. Overseed the banks. 2027	\$6,500



Carolshire Park

There is a .1-acre section of natives along the south edge of this park that was installed about 4 years ago. Regular maintenance was initiated in 2022 resulting in a significant improvement in quality that likely will continue with ongoing care. Trash and dumping to this swale should be addressed.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting	Not Needed
Annual Maintenance began in 2022. Continue in 2023	\$500
Burns: mow instead.	N/A
Project Work:	\$0



Community Park (Hillside off Gunderson)

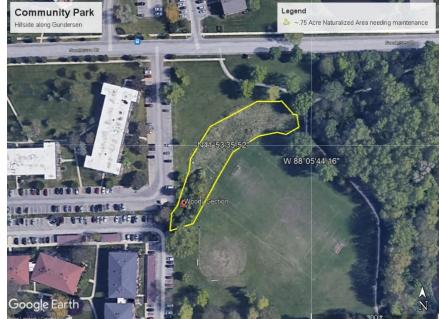
The northwest corner of Community Park has a .75 acre hillside that appears to be a nauralized no-mow area being taken over by small woody weeds. The west end of the area is degraded woods next to an apartment building dumpster that releases lots of trash. The wooded area should have the understory cleared for improved visibility. The grassy hillside area needs to have the small woody weeds removed and herbicide treatments started to control herbaceous weeds.

The wooded areas east of the walking path shown on the map below are highly degraded and are dominated by heavy buckthorn growth. The Village of Carol Stream is responsible for that area and is slowly working to clear the buckthorn. The far southeast side was cleared and seeded two years ago, and some clearing activity was carried along the walking path in late 2022. Opening a line of sight from the existing open turf area to the lake to the east would give this park a much more expansive look.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2027 or with renovation	\$2,500
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2026	\$1,040
Burns: Mow instead	N/A
Project Work: Possible screening near dumpster	\$3,000



Evergreen Lakes Park

After some active listening by Park District staff and public comment, the banks all the way around both lakes in this park were dramatically improved in 2022. All non-desirable woody growth on the banks were cut, removed, and regrowth treated. Herbaceous weeds were also treated twice, and the north end was mowed twice to begin controlling teasel that dominated that area. Native re-seeding was also done along the southwest bank of the south pond where neighbors had mowed the banks to the water edge.

Native growth quickly began to recover in areas where weeds were controlled. Healthy native plant diversity was observed and density will continue to improve with each year of ongoing maintenance. Some small patches of willows still remain at the far north end of the north pond, and those will be cleared in 2023.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting: Completed in 2022	\$0
Annual Maintenance began in 2022. 2023 cost	\$4,200
Burns beginning 2023	\$2,200
Project Work: Reseeding south section completed in 2022	N/A



Fair Oaks Park - Central

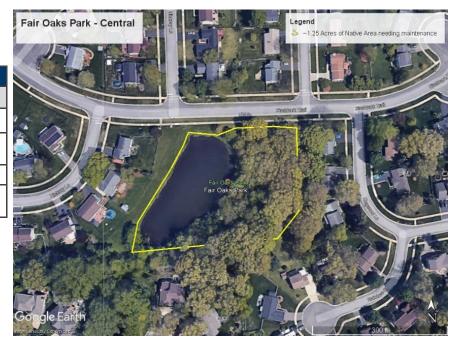
Fair Oaks Park – Central has a beautiful oak grove and small pond that creates the potential for a very nice mini-park. The oak grove is open on the east side, but needs to have the understory cleared of non-desirable trees and shrubs on the south side. The pond banks appear to be degraded no-mow areas that also need to have woody weeds removed and herbaceous weeds treated. The initial clearing under qualified supervision would be a good community service project for an interested group.

Once cleared, a year or two of follow-up mowing/cutting and spot hearbicde treatments will be needed. At that point a decision can be made if any overseeding will be needed. Based upon the oaks present, the wooded area will likely have some natives begin to express themselves once adequate light levels are restored. The pond edge is also in need of repair and seeding.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2026	\$2,500
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2026	\$2,200
Burns: Mow instead	N/A
Project Work: Possible selective overseeding in 2026	\$3,000



Fair Oaks Park - East

It appears that this was once a turf basin that was taken out of mowing and then has degraded over time. It is now dominated by phragmites and cattails in the bottom and woody weeds are taking over on the upper edges. Short term efforts should focus on visual improvement. Long-term effort should be made to convert this to a native stormwater basin.

In the short-term, woody weeds should be removed and the basin burned to reduce built up biomass. Either annual mowing or annual burns can be used to control re-growth. Herbicide treatments at least two times a year will need to be made for several years before a conversion to native plants is attempted.

In the long-term this basin should be converted to natives. The Village may want to partner on a turf-to-native conversion of this basin as part of the overall Village stormwater management plan. Grant funding for this type of project may also be available and would be a multiple year process to pursue.





Legend

Fair	r Oaks Park - East		(Selains)	Legend	
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Fair Oaka Dark Faat

Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2027	\$2,400
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2027	\$3,600
Burns beginning 2026	\$1,400
Project Work: Possible site for shared Village improvement after 2027	TBD

Fair Oaks Park - West

This is a swale and detention area once planted to natives that degraded over time. In 2021, Park District Staff cleared the basin of woody weeds, and two herbicide treatments were made in 2022 to control the worst of the herbaceous weed growth. Native growth has recovered well after one year of cutting and herbicide treatments. The north end of the swale along Fair Oaks Road was not cleared or treated. Work to the north end of the swale along Fair Oaks Road should be done as resources permit.

This basin should be mowed or burned annually, followed by small woody cutting if burned, and then at least two herbicide visits to control herbaceous weeds.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting done in 2021	Completed
Annual Maintenance began in 2022. 2023 cost	\$1,300
Burns beginning 2025	\$1,800
Project Work: Not needed.	N/A



Gerald Weeks Memorial Park

Woodies on the pond banks of Gerald Weeks Memorial Park - West should be removed so they don't get worse, and then herbicide visit initiated. Regrading and planting to natives may be needed in the future. The degraded sled hill woodland needs to be cleared of all non-desirable woody weeds.

In the north section of Gerald Weeks Memorial Park - East there is a basin and wooded hill that would convert to a beautiful native area with a walking path. Woody weeds around parking area need to be removed.





Legend

Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2027	\$2,400
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2027	\$1,450
Burns: Mow/cut instead	N/A
Project Work: Possible bank seeding after 2028	\$3,500



CAROL STREAM PARK DISTRCT NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Hampe Park

The native plant areas at the south end of this park (near Lies Road) are visibly better than three years ago as natives are beginning to dominate in this south section. Some small woody and herbaceous weed control is needed. This area should be mowed or burned annually and spot herbicide treatements made during the growing season.

From the skate park north, the east hillside wooded area is dominated by non-desirable growth. The understory should be cleared of weed trees and bushes. Sections of the northeast hillside may need to be overseeded in 2026.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2024	\$2,500
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2024	\$2,400
Burns beginning 2024	\$1,400
Project Work: North end overseeding in 2026	\$3,500



Jan Smith Park

The basin at this corner park was once mowed turf that was converted to no-mow and then seeded to natives. The natives are now spreading throughout the basin, though herbaceous weeds are still a significant problem. Oak tree saplings are growing in this basin from acorns dropped by nearby oak trees, and are selectively being encouraged to grow in. The basin is slowly improving in diversity and native cover. Weed issues should be controlled through annual mowing or burns, followed up with seasonal spot herbicide visits.

Bed areas along the street are cared for by Jan Smith and volunteers under her supervision. The beds areas are of good native quality with some grassy weed issues.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting	N/A
Annual Maintenance began in 2021. 2023 cost	\$7,950
Burns beginning 2025	\$ 900
Project Work: TBD	N/A



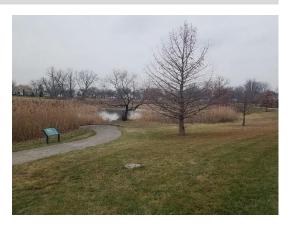
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CAROL STREAM PARK DISTRCT NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jirsa Park

The center of Jirsa Park has a detention area that includes an open water area at the west end and what was probably a sloping turf basin east of the open water. The low areas are all now naturalized and covered with non-desirable growth including willows, phragmites, cattails and reed canary grass.

The first priority here it to prevent further degradation that will increase expense of recovery if left unchecked. Willows around water edge need to be killed and cut, as do woody weeds throughout the 2.6-acre area. Phragmites and cattails need to be killed and burned. Once the worst weed growth is controlled, overseeding with natives will be need from water edge at least 60', and possibly the whole field. Overseeding the perimeters may be needed in 2026 once the worst weeds are controlled.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2028	\$7,800
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2028	\$4,400
Burns beginning 2028	\$1,800
Project Work: overseeding in 2028	\$6,000



McCaslin Park & Coyote Crossing Road Swale

McCaslin Park has a detention basin in the SW corner that had its banks planted in natives as part of the park expansion about 5 years ago. Woody weeds were cut in the Fall of 2021 and treatment of woody regrowth and herbaceous weeds was initiated in 2022. The south banks were overseeded in early 2022. It will likely take at least one more year of maintenance to get this basin to acceptable establishment standards.

There is also a small triangular section of natives at the SE corner of the baseball complex that has good native plant cover and diversity which will continue to improve with regular maintenance.

The North Avenue road swale south of Coyote Crossing Mini Golf was filled with phragmites at the west end and woody weeds at the east end. In 2022 the phragmites and woody weeds were treated and cut, improving entry and exit visibility to Coyote Crossing and expanding the open south end of the cricket field. This effort will need to be continued for one more year until weed growth in the swale is controlled.







Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting completed in 2022.	N/A
Annual Maintenance began in 2022. 2023 cost	\$3,800
Burns beginning 2023	\$1,200
Project Work: Continue clearing North Avenue swale south of Cricket Field as part of maintenance.	\$0

Mitchell Lakes Park

The banks of south Mitchell Lake were never planted to natives. The banks were likely smooth turf at one time that began to erode to where mowing was no longer safe. The banks were then left as no-mow areas and degraded over time. Woodies on the pond banks both north and south of Elk Trail have been cut in the past and need to be cut down again for immediate visual improvement. Intervention now will also help prevent the pond edges from further degradation.

The areas cleared of woodies will need to be treated for two years to ensure control of woody regrowth and herbaceous weedy growth While the banks can be maintained at an improved visual quality with regular mainteance, eventually, the banks will needed to be killed, regraded and planted with a 20' native buffer around the pond edge to prevent future deterioration. A native border will also help to control geese.

Approximately 2,200 LF of banks, shown in yellow on the map, will need significant work after 2026 once woodies and herbaceous weeds are controlled.

The remaining 4,925 LF of the south Mitchell Lake pond edges will also need to be regraded and planted to natives at some point, possibly in phases.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2027	\$5,200
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2027	\$1,450
Burns: Not until conversion to natives. Mow instead.	\$O
Project Work: Regrade, seed and blanket slopes on either side of Elk Trail. TBD. Regrade, seed and blanket remaining pond banks. TBD. Possibly with Village project.	\$52,000 \$98,000

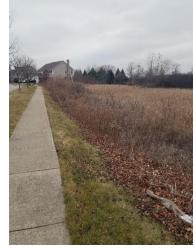


Murray's Meadow

This area is a stormwater detention area with a berm down the center. The east half is a higher meadow area. The west half is a low wetbottom basin filled with phragmites and cattails. It has significantly degraded in the last 4 years. Natives are present and will return with focused maintenance.

Woody clearing should be done as soon as possible along the street and outer edges for immediate visual impact and access for maintenance. The east part/basin is in fair condition with neighbors doing a lot of dumping on the banks. As long as it looks like a weed patch, they will treat it like dump area. The west basin is very degraded in the bottom and will be the last area for attention. The west basin banks should recover with regular maintenance. Both basins need attention to restore them and to prevent their total degradation.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2025	\$3,600
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2025	\$4,350
Burns beginning 2025	\$2,200
Project Work: N/A improve through maintenance	N/A



Red Hawk Park

Red Hawk Park has one of the largest native areas in the District. It is split into east and west sections by Klein Creek. The natives are attractive, fair quality meadows with some woody weeds that need to be controlled. Once woody weeds are controlled, the Red Hawk native areas will provide a significantly improved outdoor experience. Degraded creek bank and flood plain areas line the creek. The creek banks should be addressed once the upland and flood plain areas are improved. Creek bank improvement is an expensive interagency project.

On the east side of the creek, woody weeds need to be removed before they get bigger, and all areas along paths need to be opened up for visibility and safety. The pond banks at the south end by the parking lot also needs attention to stop vegetative cover from degrading and allowing wash out on the banks. The areas along the creek are highly degraded and can be slowly pushed back over time once the upper and better native areas are improved.

On the west side of creek, the basin along North Ave and areas west of the creek were seeded to natives but do not appear to be as actively maintained as the east side of the creek. Woodies are taking over and must be stopped before they get more expensive to control.

South of the restrooms building, shown in brown on the map, the Forest Preserve has signs denoting their care of the native areas. No Forest Preserve signs were observed north of the east-west path on the west side of the creek.

Annual mowing should be done in all District native areas in this park, cutting down as many of the small woodies as possible. Larger woody cutting should be done as soon as the District budget allows.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2023-2024	\$8,400
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2024	\$11,000
Burns beginning 2024	\$3,200
Project Work: Possible bank repair on pond TBD	TBD



Shining Waters Park

The upland southern section of this park has .25 acres of fair quality natives in small patches surrounded by mowed turf. Annual mowing or burning followed by 3 herbicide visits will keep this area in good condition.

The pond on the north side of Oswego Drive should have natives planted around the pond banks and over as much of the turf areas as possible to reduce mowing of this low, wet area, and to help with stormwater filtration.



Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting: Mow.	N/A
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2025	\$700
Burns beginning 2025	\$800
Project Work: Consider north pond area for conversion from turf to natives in 2028	\$11,000



Slepicka Homestead Park

2022 was the first year of focused native areas improvement at Slepica. After the woodland areas had small woodies cut and weeds treated, they have cleaned up nicely with many natives blooming throughout the summer. Two areas in the north central section will need to be overseeded once phragmites, reed canary grass and burdock are controlled. The basin on the west side is infested with phragmites which will take two more years to control.

As phragmites and burdock are controlled, those areas will need to be overseeded in 2024.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting	N/A
Annual Maintenance began in 2022. 2023 cost	\$3,200
Burns beginning 2025	\$2,400
Project Work: selective overseeding in 2024	\$2,400



Stonebridge Park

The creek banks at Stonebridge are too steep to mow and have become overgrown with woody plants over the years. The stream banks were cleared several years ago but woody weeds have grown back again on the creek banks.

The creek bank woody weeds should be removed before they get bigger. Once cleared and then treated for regrowth, the creek banks should be regraded and seeded with natives. Hard armor or meandering may also be needed, so an engineering study will have to be done to determine the proper treatment for these creek banks before repair work is initiated. This may be a project to work with the Village on as part of their overall stormwater management improvement plan.

The turf swale along the south edge of the Park would be a good candidate for conversion to a bioswale using native plant cover. This could possibly be done at the same time as the creek bank improvement under some type of clean water grant.





Priorities	
Year	Costs
Woody Cutting 2028	\$6,000
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2024	\$7,950
Burns beginning 2025	\$1,800
Project Work: Possible selective overseeding in 2026	\$3,000



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Tedrahn Park

The slopes of the pond at Tedrahn Park are of low quality and it is hard to tell if they were ever seeded to natives. Short-term, the banks should be cleared of woody and herbaceous weeds through woody cutting, mowing and herbicide treatments to improve appearances. A burn should also be considered to reduce the built-up biomass from heavy weed growth.

Once the intial clean-up is done and the existence of natives can be observed, overseeding can be done if that is sufficient to produce desired results. If no natives exist, then the entire pond perimeter can be converted to natives 20-80 feet wide. The water edge will need to be repaired or regraded in some areas.

Native overseeding can be scheduled for 2025 once non-desirable growth is controlled. If more significant work is needed, that can be added to the rolling annual update of this Management Plan as a projected capital project.





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Priorities							
Year	Costs						
Woody Cutting 2024	\$3,200						
Annual Maintenance beginning in 2024	\$2,350						
Burns beginning 2023	\$1,400						
Project Work: overseeding in 2025	\$4,200						

Veterans Park & Fountain View Recreation Center (west end)

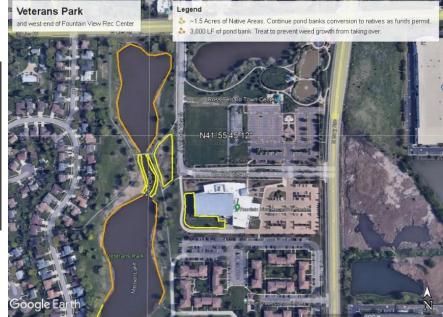
The Fountain View Recreation Center landscape provides excellent examples of native BMPs. These areas, outlined in yellow on the map, and surrounding the parking lots are a high priority for maintenance due to their public education aspect. There is a nice native prairie area at the west end of the building, a two year old half-acre prairie on the hillside between the west end of the building and the lake, and high quality wetland natives on both sides of the straight connecting the north and south parts of the lake. These high quality and high visibility areas must receive ongoing routine annual maintenance to keep them in good condition. Native plantings around the building and parking lots are maintained as part of the structured landscape.

Attention will need to be given to the remaining pond edges, marked in brown on the map, before they degrade further. In the short-term, woody weeds should be cut and 2 herbicide traetmensta year should be made to control weedy growth. In the long run, pond edges will need to be re-graded and planted with a 20' native buffer around the pond edge to prevent it from deteriorating after the repair, and to control geese. About 3,000 LF of the pond edges will need to be re-graded and planted with a 20' native buffer.





Priorities							
Year	Costs						
Woody Cutting	N/A						
Annual Maintenance since 2019. 2023 cost	\$1,800						
Burns beginning 2024	\$1,200						
Project Work: Regrade, seed and blanket degraded banks. TBD.	\$65,000						



MANAGEMENT PRIORITIZATION

Recommended site prioritization shown below is based upon two factors: protecting the capital investment already made, and visibility or public perception. The total costs presented in this assessment and shown in **Appendix B** are considerably higher than current expenditures. Cost breakouts in **Appendix B** are included at 2023 costs by year and by site to assist in deciding where and when to allocate funds.

Carol Stream	Park District Native	Areas Eva	luation		
	Priority Ranking	5			
			Priority: 1	high, 5 low	
		Native area	Protect Existing	Visibility or Public	Combined
Location	Address	in Acres	Natives	Perception	Score
Evergreen Lakes Park	1041 Birchbark Trail	4.50	0.5	0.5	1
McCaslin Park & Coyote Crossing	27W650 North Avenue	2.10	0.5	0.5	1
Veterans Park & Fountain View Recreation Center	200 E. Lies Road 910 N. Gary Avenue	1.50	0.5	0.5	1
Bark Park & Maintenance Garage	280 Kuhn Road	1.30	1	0.5	1.5
Hampe Park	297 W. Lies Road	1.50	1		1.5
Jan Smith Park	925 Kuhn Road	1.65	1		1.5
Red Hawk Park	651 W. St. Charles Road	9.25	0.5		1.5
Slepicka Homestead Park	1301 Lily Lane	2.10	0.5	1	1.5
Armstrong Park	391 Illini Drive	5.50	1	1	2
Tedrahn Park	1286 New Britton Drive	1.50	2	0.5	2.5
Bierman & Kent Parks (Heritage Lake perimeter)	1253 Woodlake Drive	6.00	2	1	3
Fair Oaks Park - West	700 Fair Oaks Road	1.25	1	2	3
Murray's Meadow	1235 Adler Lane	3.00	1	2	3
Carolshire Park	840 N. Gary Avenue	0.01	1	3	4
Fair Oaks Park - Central	1320 Birchbark Trail	1.25	2	2	4
Shining Waters park	874 Oswego Drive	0.25	2	2	4
Mitchell Lakes Park	200 Elk Trail	1.00	4	0.5	4.5
Community Park Berm	725 Thornhill Drive	0.75	3	2	5
Fair Oaks Park - East	1284 Birchbark Trail	2.00	4	2	6
Gerald Weeks Memorial Park	1N170 Morse Street	0.60	3	3	6
Jirsa Park	1363 Rose Avenue	2.65	3	3	6
Stonebridge Park Creek	1016 Birchbark Trail	0.60	4	2	6



Map files were sent electronically due to large size and cost to print

Appendix B Management Cost Tables

Working spreadsheet files were sent separately for use in annual planning purposes

Carol Stream Park D	District Native Areas Ev	aluation			
Woody Cutting C	ost Estimates (2023 do	ollars)			
Location	Address		Woody Cutting Cost		
Red Hawk Park - East Side	651 W. St. Charles Road	2024	\$ 4,800		
Red Hawk Park - West Side	651 W. St. Charles Road	2024	\$ 3,600		
Hampe Park	297 W. Lies Road	2024	\$ 2,500	\$10,900	2024
Maintenance Garage Building perimeter	280 Kuhn Road	2025	\$ 2,400		
Armstrong Park	391 Illini Drive	2025	\$ 2,500		
Tedrahn Park	1286 New Britton Drive	2025	\$ 3,200	\$ 8,100	2025
Bierman & Kent Parks (Heritage Lake perimeter)	1253 Woodlake Drive 955 Woodhill Drive	2026	\$ 7,500		
Murray's Meadow	1235 Adler Lane	2026	\$ 3,600		
Fair Oaks Central Park	1320 Birchbark Trail	2026	\$ 2,500	\$13,600	2026
Mitchell Lakes Park along Elk Trail	200 Elk Trail	2027	\$ 5,200		
Community Park Berm off Gunderson	725 Thornhill Drive	2027	\$ 2,500		
Fair Oaks Park - East	1284 Birchbark Trail	2027	\$ 2,400		
Gerald Weeks Memorial Park	1N170 Morse Street	2027	\$ 2,400	\$12,500	2027
Jirsa Park	1363 Rose Avenue	2028	\$ 7,800		
Stonebridge Park Creek Banks	1016 Birchbark Trail	2028	\$ 6,000 \$58,900.00	\$13,800	2028

Carol Stream Park	District Native Areas E	valuation	
Burn C	ost Estimates. 2023		
Location	Address	Burn	
Evergreen Lakes Park	1041 Birchbark Trail	\$ 2,600	
Tedrahn Park	1286 New Britton Drive	\$ 1,400	
McCaslin Park & Coyote Crossing	27W650 North Avenue	\$ 1,200	
Bark Park	280 Kuhn Road	\$ 800	
Veterans Park & Fountain View	200 E. Lies Road	\$ 1,200	
Recreation Center	910 N Gary Ave		
Hampe Park	297 W. Lies Road	\$ 1,400	
Slepicka Homestead Park	1301 Lily Lane	\$ 2,400	
Jan Smith Park	925 Kuhn Road	\$ 1,000	
Red Hawk Park	651 W. St. Charles Road	\$ 3,200	
Armstrong Park	391 Illini Drive	\$ 1,800	
Fair Oaks Park - West	700 Fair Oaks Road	\$ 1,200	
Murray's Meadow	1235 Adler Lane	\$ 2,200	
Shining Waters park	874 Oswego Drive	\$ 800	
Bierman & Kent Parks (Heritage Lake perimeter)	1253 Woodlake Drive	\$ 1,600	
Fair Oaks Park - East	1284 Birchbark Trail	\$ 1,400	
Jirsa Park	1363 Rose Avenue	\$ 1,500	
	All Sites	\$25,700.00	
Burn each site 2 years on, 1 off	2/3	\$16,962.00 2023 Annual co	st

	Carol Stream Park Di	strict Nativ	/e /	Areas Ev	alı	uation				
	Annual Herbicide	Maintenan	ce	Cost Esti	m	ates				
		# of								
		Herbicide		23 budget						 _
Location	Address	Visits		\$17,500		24 cost	20	25 cost	26 cost	7 cost
Evergreen Lakes Park	1041 Birchbark Trail	4	\$	4,200	\$		\$	4,675	\$ 4,862	\$ 5,056
McCaslin Park & Coyote Crossing	27W650 North Avenue	4	\$	3,800	_	4,028	\$	4,229	\$ 4,399	\$ 4,575
Veterans Park & Fountain View	200 E. Lies Road	4	\$	1,800	\$	1,908	\$	2,003	\$ 2,084	\$ 2,167
Recreation Center	910 N Gary Avenue									
Slepicka Homestead Park	1301 Lily Lane	4	\$	3,200	\$	3,392	\$	3,562	\$ 3,704	\$ 3,852
Bark Park & Maintenance Garage	280 Kuhn Road	4	\$	1,800	\$	1,908	\$	2,003	\$ 2,084	\$ 2,167
Jan Smith Park	925 Kuhn Road	4	\$	900	\$	954	\$	1,002	\$ 1,042	\$ 1,083
Fair Oaks Park -West	700 Fair Oaks Road	2	\$	1,300	\$	1,378	\$	1,447	\$ 1,505	\$ 1,565
Carolshire Park	840 N. Gary Avenue	4	\$	500	\$	530	\$	557	\$ 579	\$ 602
Hampe Park	297 W. Lies Road	4	\$	2,400	\$	2,544	\$	2,671	\$ 2,778	\$ 2,889
Red Hawk Park	651 W. St. Charles Road	3	\$	10,500	\$	11,130	\$	11,687	\$ 12,154	\$ 12,640
Armstrong Park	391 Illini Drive	3	\$	7,500	\$	7,950	\$	8,348	\$ 8,681	\$ 9,029
Tedrahn Park	1286 New Britton Drive	3	\$	2,200	\$	2,332	\$	2,449	\$ 2,547	\$ 2,648
Bierman & Kent Parks (Heritage	1253 Woodlake Drive	3	\$	7,800	\$	8,268	\$	8,681	\$ 9,029	\$ 9,390
Lake perimeter)	955 Woodhill Drive									
Murray's Meadow	1235 Adler Lane	3	\$	3,900	\$	4,134	\$	4,341	\$ 4,514	\$ 4,695
Fair Oaks Central Park	1320 Birchbark Trail	3	\$	1,920	\$	2,035	\$	2,137	\$ 2,222	\$ 2,311
Shining Waters park	874 Oswego Drive	3	\$	600	\$	636	\$	668	\$ 695	\$ 722
Mitchell Lakes Park along Elk Trail	200 Elk Trail	3	\$	1,200	\$	1,272	\$	1,336	\$ 1,389	\$ 1,445
Community Park Berm off	725 Thornhill Drive	3	\$	900	\$	954	\$	1,002	\$ 1,042	\$ 1,083
Gunderson										
Fair Oaks Park - East	1284 Birchbark Trail	2	\$	3,000	\$	3,180	\$	3,339	\$ 3,473	\$ 3,611
Gerald Weeks Memorial Park	1N170 Morse Street	2	\$	1,200	\$	1,272	\$	1,336	\$ 1,389	\$ 1,445
Jirsa Park	1363 Rose Avenue	3	\$	3,600	\$	3,816	\$	4,007	\$ 4,167	\$ 4,334
Stonebridge Park Creek Banks	1016 Birchbark Trail	2	\$	1,600	\$	1,696	\$	1,781	\$ 1,852	\$ 1,926
-			\$	65,820	\$	69,769	\$	73,258	\$ 76,188	\$ 79,235

Car	ol Stream Park Disti	rict Native Areas Evaluation					
Repai	rs and Improvement	t Cost Estimates (2023 dollars)					
		Repairs/Improveme	ents				
Location	Address	Bank Repair or Seeding	Estimated Repair Costs		Year	Annual Budget	
Slepicka Homestead Park	1301 Lily Lane	Overseed areas in 2024 as Phragmites and Burdock are controlled.	\$	2,400	2024	\$ 2,400	2024
Bark Park & Maintenance Garage	280 Kuhn Road	Possibly around the Maintenance Garage in 2025.	\$	3,000	2025		
Fair Oaks Park - Central	1320 Birchbark Trail	Pond banks may need supplemental overseeding in 2025.	\$	3,000	2025		
Tedrahn Park	1286 New Britton Drive	Overseeding will be needed in 2025 once non-desirable growth is controlled.	\$	4,200	2025	\$ 10,200	2025
Hampe Park	297 W. Lies Road	Possibly north end in 2026.	\$	3,500	2026		
Armstrong Park	391 Illini Drive	Possibly in some areas in 2026.	\$	3,000	2026		
Jirsa Park	1363 Rose Avenue	Overseeding the perimeters may be needed in 2026 once the worst weeds are controlled.	\$	6,000	2026	\$ 12,500	2026
Bierman & Kent Parks (Heritage	1253 Woodlake Drive	Overseed where needed and convert turf					
Lake perimeter)	955 Woodhill Drive	between the path and pond in 2027.	\$	6,500	2027	\$ 6,500	2027
Shining Waters park	874 Oswego Drive	Convert pond banks and open turf to natives.	\$	11,000	2028	\$ 11,000	2028
Veterans Park & Fountain View	200 E. Lies Road	Long term, about 3,000 LF of the pond edges					
Recreation Center	910 N. Gary Avenue	will need to be re-graded and planted with a 20' native buffer.	\$	65,000	Capital		
Mitchell Lakes Park along Elk Trail	200 Elk Trail	Approximately 2,200 LF of banks will need significant work in 2026 after woodies and herbaceous weeds are controlled.	ş	52 000	Capital		
Mitchell Lakes Park: Remainder of pond banks	200 Elk Trail	Approximately 4,900 LF of banks will need regrading and seeding work.	\$		Capital		
Stonebridge Park Creek Banks	1016 Birchbark Trail	Regrading and stream bank work is likely needed. This may be a project to work on with the Village as part of their overall stormwater management improvement					
		plan.	\$	22,000	Capital		
			\$	279,600			

		Parks Without Natives						
				1 high t	o 5 low			
Location	Address		Ease of adding native areas	Potential new native areas	Priority for Attention	Estimated Co	ost	
Coral Cove Water Park & Simkus Recreation Center	849 W Lies Road		5	Pond edge repair and planting with natives	1 or 2	\$ 60,0	\$	558,000 to 62,000 spread wer 3 phases
Appomattox Tot Lot	181 Appomattox Trail	All Tot Lots could have a "Butterfly Garden" as part of the sign plantings or elsewhere.	1	Butterfly Garden	2	\$ 50	00	'
Barbara O'Rahilly Volunteer Park	302 Kuhn Road		1	Butterfly Garden	2	\$ 50	00	
Charger Court Tot Lot	1351 Charger Court			Butterfly Garden		-	00	
Friendship Park (Playground)	797 Allison Lane			Butterfly Garden			00	
Memorial Park	342 Thunderbird Trail	The small park is being eaten away by the creek. This is likely an expensive and involved project to correct the problem.		Butterfly Garden	2	\$ 50	00	
Papoose Tot Lot	887 Papoose Court		1	Butterfly Garden	2	\$ 50	00	
Park on the Green	1N547 Bob O' Link	In Klein Creek off Pleasant Hill	1	Butterfly Garden	2	\$ 50	00	
Tokarski Park/Tot Lot	450 Blackhawk Drive		1	Butterfly Garden	2	\$ 50	00	\$ 4,000
Pleasant Hill Park	1N251 Harriet Street	Convert a .25 acre turf area to natives as an "Educational Native Area" for Pleasant Hill School if wanted by the School	1	25 acre educational prairie	3	\$ 2,50	00	
Sundance Park	538 Yardley Drive	Convert the turf basin area to natives.	1	. Convert 2 acres of open turf to prairie	3	\$ 7,50		\$ 10,000
Blue Heron Park	745 Castleton Court	Cambridge Walk Playground. Village maintains native banks on two sides.	1	Butterfly Garden	4	\$ 50	00	
Cambridge Park	760 Woodhill Drive	All turf and athletic fields. Southern slopes could be converted to natives. ~2 A.	1	2 acres of turf	4			
Walters Park	970 High Ridge Pass	Athletic Fields and open turf. Consider natives by the parking lot and NE side.	1	1.5 acres of turf to prairie	4	\$ 5,8	00	\$ 6,300
Gerald Weeks Memorial Park East	: 25W149 Doris	North section of Park with basin and hill would convert to a beautiful native area with a walking path. Remove woody weeds around parking area.	1	4 acres of turf	5	\$ 12,0	00	
Spring Valley Park	1370 Spring Valley Drive	Convert NE low degraded area off the basketball court as a small (1 acre?) wetland area as an "Educational Native Area" for Spring Valley School	4	1 acre detention area	5	\$ 9,50		\$ 21,500
Birchbark Sports Fields		Village owned turf basin						
Glenbard North Football Field	990 Kuhn Road							
Horizon Park (disc golf)	2N540 Kuhn Road							
Jay Stream Sports Field								
Post Office baseball Field	450 Fullerton Avenue							
St. Lukes Sport Field						A		
Notes:						\$ 101,80	00	
	I Deale and Dealetter down as	ortions of the Park, may be not be CSPD issues.					_	