

Natural Areas Maintenance Policy



April 15, 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Frankfort Square Park District to provide accessible, non-discriminatory recreational services, facilities, and open space in an environmentally conscious, fiscally responsible manner.

NATURAL AREAS

The Frankfort Square Park District's natural areas consist of nearly 250 acres of protected open spaces. These natural areas are home to a wide diversity of life, including native plants and animal species whose habitats are constantly threatened due to development.

Natural areas increase biodiversity by creating greenways that provide a safe haven for mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and beneficial insects. They also sustain an environment where native Illinois plants can thrive, and if needed, be successfully reintroduced.

These unique areas also provide non-traditional recreational opportunities for the entire community, as well as a place for spiritual, scientific and educational study.

MANAGEMENT AND FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Consistent with the Park District's mission, management of all natural areas will be conducted in an environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible manner.

Standard care shall reflect *Integrated Pest Management (IPM)*, detailed in the "Chemical Applicators Guide" administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are employed to provide sustainable maintenance and enhancement of all natural areas within the district.

Periodic assessment by knowledgeable professionals of natural areas will focus actions for the overall development of natural areas as a community resource.

SELECTIVE CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS

Selective controls shall include mechanical removal, selective herbicide application, mowing, and controlled burns. This policy must be sustainable throughout the district.

BODIES OF WATER

Bodies of water with an average depth of less than 8 feet (basins, shallow water wetlands, and non-stockable ponds) will be maintained as naturalized basins that promote beneficial aquatic plant life, such as River Bull Rush, Arrowhead, White Water Lily, etc.

Invasive aquatic species that threaten the health and benefits of these basins will be selectively controlled.

BROOKSIDE GLEN DETENTION AREAS PURPOSE & DESIGN

All detention areas within the Brookside Glen Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) were designed, engineered, and constructed by the Brookside Glen developer, and permitted by the Village of Tinley Park for the purpose of providing open space and compensatory water storage required for residential construction within the P.U.D.

The developer of Brookside Glen submitted and received approval for all detention areas and required landscaping, as permitted and approved by the Village of Tinley Park, and with input from the Frankfort Square Park District.

It was the consensus of the village, developer, and park district that upon completion, the park district was best equipped to manage and maintain open space, including turf grass and natural areas throughout the P.U.D. Conversely, the Village of Tinley Park maintains all concrete structures and spillways within the Brookside Glen subdivision.

The end result of cooperation with the developer, village, and park district was the dedication and improvement of park properties far in excess of normal village requirements for park property and open space.

The park district accepted open space and natural areas upon completion of site work, initial planting of turf, landscaping, and native plantings at the varied sites throughout the development.

RESIDENTS REQUEST

Some residents have requested that the current stands of lily pads in the Brookside Glen basins be greatly reduced and/or eliminated completely. Actions to manage the current stands of lily pads in this manner have been determined to be problematic.

Chemical control could possibly eliminate existing plants, but due to the nature of the basin, is not practical. The action would create the need for recurring expensive treatments, potentially at greater frequency. In addition, chemical elimination of lily pads would create the opportunity for invasive, non-native species, fed by organic matter from lily pad herbicide treatment. Elimination of lily pads would remove habitat for natural predators of mosquitoes and mosquito larvae.

Adding depth in order to create ponds in place of existing shallow-bottom basins by excavating 6 feet of material would require design, engineering, permitting, and excavation. Conservative initial cost estimates are \$500,000-\$750,000, but could well exceed \$1,000,000. The Village of Tinley Park has offered village engineers to prepare cost estimates for this action.

Continuing maintenance and development of naturalized areas is consistent and in accordance with prescribed standards. The park district will periodically request reviews and recommendations from experts in the field and other available resources to ensure management is consistent with the park district's mission and continued maintenance and enhancement of all naturalized areas.

PARK DISTRICT ACTIONS

The park district will continue to maintain the basins as they were originally designed:

1. Promote diversity of aquatic plants by adding or reintroducing additional beneficial plants such as River Bull Rush, Arrowhead, Pickerel Weed, etc. No extensive chemical applications, but rather Integrated Pest Management (IPM) will be employed.
2. Continue BMPs for the maintenance and improvement of native buffers. Selectively control invasives, and employ mechanical selective herbicide control, mowing, and/or prescribed burns, as required.

Residents can pursue additional funding proposals from outside sources for a more rapid implementation of these actions. Any proposals must have prior approval from the Park Board.

RESIDENT OPTIONS

Residents have the option to develop a variety of barriers within their property limits, including landscaping or fencing, to limit exposure if basins appear aesthetically displeasing to individual property owners.

If residents deem the management of the naturalized basins unacceptable, the park district would be willing to:

1. Dedicate basin(s) to homeowners, allowing residents to become owners of the area(s). Dedication would require acceptance by the incorporated group, with the understanding that all liability, maintenance, and development would be their sole responsibility.
2. The park district would similarly be prepared to dedicate basin(s) to another incorporated entity that would have willingness and wherewithal to accept, maintain, and manage the area in question.
3. An advisory referendum may be required if either option #1 or #2 are directed by residents.

ACTIONS AND CONTROLS COMPLETED IN NATURAL AREAS - 2009

Arbor Park

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*)

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*), Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*).

Seeding of cosmos and marigolds to rock outcropping.

Island Prairie Park

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*), Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*)

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Selective mowing, 2008/2009

Prescribed burn 2009

Planting of demonstration gardens

Seed collection

Community Park

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*), Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) cutting of seed heads.

Annual planting at sign

Candle Creek Park

N/A

Crystal Lake Park

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*)

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Crown Vetch (*Coronilla varia*)

Lake of the Glens

Northeast large basin

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*), Ragweed (*Ambrosia*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) cutting of seed heads.

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), Cattail (*Typha spp*), Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*).

Prescribed burn spring 2008

Selective mowing spring 2009

Plug planting and over seeding after removal of Ragweed in area where dumping had occurred. Fall 2009

Seed collection and distribution

Northeast small basin

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) cutting of seed heads.

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), Cattail (*Typha spp*), Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*).

Prescribed burn spring 2008

Selective mowing spring 2009

Planting of yellow iris June 2009

Seed collection and distribution

Planting of yellow iris May 2009

Northwest basin

Killed existing turf and plant growth for seeding with herbicide spring 2009

Seeding of created buffer area around basin spring 2009

LaPorte Meadows

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cattail (*Typha spp*).

Lighthouse Pointe

Manual control - Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*) cut flower heads.

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Cattail (*Typha spp*), Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*).

Plank Trail Park

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*),

Selective Herbicide control - Cattail (*Typha spp*), Algae.

Ridgefield Park

Selective Herbicide control - Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*). August 2009.

Union Creek Park

Southwest basin

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*),

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cattail (*Typha spp*), Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Prescribed burn spring 2008

Selective mowing spring 2009

Prescribed burn fall 2009

Southeast basin

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*),

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cattail (*Typha spp*), Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*), Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*).

Prescribed burn spring 2008

Selective mowing spring 2009

Seeding of basin spring 2009

White Oak Park

South Basin by Park

Manual control - White and Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis*), Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) cutting of seed heads, Ragweed (*Ambrosia*).

Selective Herbicide control - Canadian Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Cattail (*Typha spp*), Sandbar Willow (*Salix interior*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Common Reed Grass (*Phragmites australis*), Algae.

Prescribed burn spring 2008

Seed collection and distribution

North East Basin behind homes

Manual control - Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) cutting of seed heads.

Selective Herbicide control - Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

North West Basin off of 82nd Ave

Selective Herbicide control - Cattail (*Typha spp*).

Woodlawn Park

N/A

ACTIONS AND CONTROLS PLANNED FOR 2010

Arbor Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring prescribed burn or mowing

West buffer area where equipment accessed the site - kill existing cool season grass and reseed with native buffer

Repair erosion by both culverts and add rip rap stone to backfill

Planting of native plugs at rock outcropping

Spring clean up

Annual planting at sign

Mulching of trees and entrance area

Champions Park

Planting of new sign area

Community Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring clean up

Annual planting of sign areas

Future plan as monies become available: Complete renovation to native buffer

Candle Creek Park

Future plan as monies become available: Complete renovation to native buffer

Crystal Lake Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring prescribed burn or mowing

Spring clean up

Annual planting of sign areas

Seed collection

Mulching of berm area

Golf Course

Spring clean up

Mulching of retaining wall and selected areas

Annual planting and general maintenance of selected areas

Hawthorn Lakes

Spring clean up
Annual planting and sign maintenance

Hoffmann Park

Spring clean up
Annual planting and sign maintenance

Hunter Prairie Park

Spring clean up
Annual planting and sign maintenance

Indian Boundary South

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Prescribed burn
Spring clean up
Annual planting and sign maintenance

Island Prairie Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Selective mowing
Prescribed burn
Continued planting of demonstration gardens
Seed collection

Kingston Park

Spring clean up
Annual planting and sign maintenance

Kiwanis Park

Spring clean up
Sign maintenance

Lake of the Glens

Northeast large basin

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Spring prescribed burn or mowing
Bank erosion repair on northeast side of basin
Additions of emergent plants to shoreline planting
Continued follow-up of encroachment by residents
Seed collection and distribution

Northeast small basin

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring prescribed burn or mowing

Additions of emergent plants to shoreline planting

Seed collection and distribution

Northwest basin

Planting of new sign area

Continue to establish native buffer around basin by overseeding, mowing, and selective herbicide control.

Willow removal

LaPorte Meadows

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring mowing of accessible areas around basin

Planting of new sign area

Lighthouse Pointe

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring burn of areas east of Pfeiffer Road

Seed redistribution

Erosion repair

Planting of new sign area

Lincolnway North Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Spring clean up

Annual planting and maintenance of sign area and mulched areas

Mulching of entire site

Odyssey Park

Spring clean up

Annual planting and maintenance of sign area

Plank Trail Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Bank planting on north side of basin

Spring clean up

Annual planting and maintenance of sign area

Ridgefield Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

As monies become available, reestablishment of northeast side of bank and buffer area

Union Creek Park

Southwest basin

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Seed collection

Southeast basin

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Spring prescribed burn or mowing
Additions of emergent plants to shore line planting

Dog Park

Spring clean up
Planting of annuals
General maintenance of landscaped areas

Sled Hill

Spring clean up
Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Seed collection

White Oak Park

South Basin by Park

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species
Spring prescribed burn or mowing
Seed collection and distribution
Spring clean up
Annual planting and maintenance of sign area

North East Basin behind homes

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

North West Basin off of 82nd Avenue

Manual and selective Herbicide control of non-native invasive species

Woodlawn Park

Spring clean up
Annual planting and maintenance of sign area
As monies allow total renovation of basin buffer

DEFINITION:

POND

A “Park District Pond” (pond) is any body of water that is a stockable location as defined by the physical criteria for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources fish stocking program, as defined below:

1. There must be no fish life present in the water area prior to the stocking of state fish.
2. The water area must be an impoundment (pond or lake) with a surface area of 1/2 acre or larger.
3. As a minimum depth requirement (dependent on latitude), the impoundment must be 7 to 10 feet deep in 1/4 of the water area.
 - Southern Illinois - 7 feet
 - Central Illinois - 8 feet
 - Northern Illinois - 10 feet
4. Fisheries management practices, as outlined by the District Fisheries Biologist, must be followed.
5. There must be no pollution of any kind entering the water area.
6. Livestock must be excluded (fenced) from the water area.
7. There must be no usage fees charged to fishermen using the state stocked impoundment. (1)

The following Frankfort Square Park District locations are ponds that meet IDNR stockable criteria as fishable locations:

- Indian Boundary South
- Woodlawn Park
- Island Prairie Park
- Crystal Lake
- Lake of the Glens (northwest pond only)
- Plank Trail Park (pond adjacent to playground only)

The following Frankfort Square Park District locations, while often referred to as ponds, do not meet IDNR stockable criteria as fishable locations:

- Community Park
- Lighthouse Pointe (west of Pfeiffer Road only)
- Ridgefield Park
- White Oak Park (behind homes north of Duane Avenue only)

DEFINITION:

BASINS

Retention Basins and / or Shallow Water Wetlands are locations that do not meet the IDNR criteria for fish stocking, and typically have a depth of 3 feet or less.

The following Frankfort Square Park District locations meet these criteria:

- Arbor Park
- Candle Creek Park
- Lake of the Glens (all remaining basins)
- LaPorte Meadows
- Lighthouse Pointe (all remaining basins)
- Plank Trail Park (remaining basin)
- White Oak Park (all remaining basins)

MAINTENANCE OF PONDS

Why do we control aquatic vegetation?

Aquatic vegetation may restrict or prevent recreational activities such as fishing and boating.

Stockable locations in the Frankfort Square Park District are limited to Indian Boundary South, Woodlawn, Crystal Lake, Plank Trail (pond adjacent to playground only), and Lake of the Glens Parks (Northwest only). Island Prairie is a stockable location, as well as the only site where boating is allowed (non-motorized, such as canoes and kayaks). These are areas within the park district that meet the IDNR standards.

Fish are affected adversely by excessive aquatic vegetative growth. An overabundance of plants can lead to overpopulation and stunting of fish, and death and decomposition of vegetation can cause fish kills.

Exotic, invasive species of aquatic plants disrupt the natural functioning of aquatic and wetland ecosystems. They outcompete native species of aquatic vegetation and eventually replace them. Consequently, all of the beneficial attributes of native vegetation, including the organisms that depend on it for habitat or food, can be adversely affected.

Where there is a lack of rooted submersed plants and excess nutrient level, algae blooms can cause foul odors and cover the entire water body.

In natural bodies of water, most of the native aquatic vegetation should be left untouched to provide the following benefits: oxygen production, and food and cover for fish and other aquatic organisms. Shoreline plants reduce wave erosion, remove nutrients, and can provide brood-rearing cover for fish and breeding waterfowl. A diverse community of native aquatic plants is essential to maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Effects include improved water quality and more desirable fish community. (9)

What if invasive aquatic plants threaten the habitat and overall health of the pond or basin? How do I know if there really is a problem?

The presence of aquatic plants does not necessarily indicate a problem needing corrective measures. A problem arises for homeowners when plants interfere with recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Exotic plants have the additional effect of displacing native plant species, interfering with the food chain, and reducing fish populations. Proper identification of aquatic plants is the first step in understanding how to manage problem plants in a body of water.

Controlling the vegetation of a body of water can create unexpected management issues. Manipulating one component of a water ecosystem has consequences for other components of the system. For example, population growth of microscopic small green algae and macrophytes (large leafy plants and large plant-like algae) are inversely related. Bodies of water with abundant algae and poor water clarity generally have fewer submersed macrophytes. However, management efforts that reduce algae often result in increased growth of the remaining macrophytes. Removing the remaining macrophytes increases the effects of wind turbulence and redissolves nutrients in the sediments into the water. This results in an algal bloom, which turns the water green and has the opposite of the desired effect. The trade-off is clear, water with abundant submersed macrophytes versus an algae bloom with low water clarity and few macrophytes.

Shorelines with muddy substrates need aquatic vegetation to prevent suspension of the soil into the water. goals of a management plan should be clearly identified in advance. The expectation of a perfectly clear, vegetation and algae-free lake, pond, or basin is unrealistic, and leads to disappointing results. (10)

**SAMPLE OF
INVASIVE PLANTS TREATED BY THE
FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT**

Canadian Thistle
Common Goldenrod
Common Reed Grass
Crown Vetch
Filamentous Algae
Garlic Mustard
Multiflora Rose
Purple Loosestrife
Reed Canary Grass
Sandbar Willow
Teasel
White Sweet Clover
Yellow Sweet Clover

**EXAMPLE OF
NATIVE PLANTS
EMERGENT SPECIES FOR BASIN PLANTINGS**

Sweet Flag
Common Water Plantain
Swamp Milkweed
New England Aster
Dark-Scaled Sedge
Bristly Sedge
Crested Oval Sedge
Common Lake Sedge
Broad-Leaved Woolly Sedge
Running Marsh Sedge
Lance-Fruited Oval Sedge
Awl-Fruited Sedge
Fox Sedge
Blunt Spike Rush
Creeping Spike Rush
Spotted Joe Pye Weed
Fowl Manna Grass
Sneezeweed
Blue Flag Iris
Common Rush
Torrey's Rush
Rice Cut Grass
White Water Lily
Pickerel Weed
Common Arrowhead
Hardstem Bulrush
Chairmaker's Rush
Soft-Stem Bulrush
Common Burreed
Prairie Cordgrass
Blue Vervain



Common Pondweed



Long-Leaved Pondweed



Sago Pondweed

DEFINITION:

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

BMPs are techniques used to control stormwater runoff, sediment control, and soil stabilization, as well as management decisions to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution. The EPA defines a BMP as a “technique, measure, or structural control that is used for a given set of conditions to manage the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff in the most cost-effective manner.” (3)

Stormwater management BMPs are control measures taken to mitigate changes to both quantity and quality of urban runoff caused through changes to land use. Generally, BMPs focus on water quality problems caused by increased impervious surfaces from land development. BMPs are designed to reduce stormwater volume, peak flows, and/or nonpoint source pollution through evapotranspiration, infiltration, detention, and filtration or biological and chemical actions.

Stormwater BMPs can be classified as “structural” or “non-structural.” There are a variety of BMPs available, depending on pollutant removal capabilities. A list of BMPs available can be found at the Stormwater Authority Guide to BMPs. (4)

DEFINITION:

SUSTAINABILITY

The traditional definition of sustainability calls for policies and strategies that meet society’s present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The 1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) formally established as a national goal the creation and maintenance of conditions under which humans and nature “can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans ” [emphasis added]. (5)

According to the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council, sustainability may be described as our responsibility to proceed in a way that will sustain life that will allow our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to live comfortably in a friendly, clean, and healthy world that people:

- Take responsibility for life in all its forms as well as respect human work and aspirations;
- Respect individual rights and community responsibilities;
- Recognize social, environmental, economic, and political systems to be inter-dependent;
- Weigh costs and benefits of decisions fully, including long-term costs and benefits to future generations;
- Acknowledge that resources are finite and that there are limits to growth;
- Assume control of their destinies;
- Recognize that our ability to see the needs of the future is limited, and any attempt to define sustainability should remain as open and flexible as possible. (6)

At the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 (the Brundtland Commission), sustainability was defined as:

Development that meets the needs of the present with out compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

It is enshrined in the Swiss federal constitution. It is similar to the "seventh generation" philosophy of the Native American Iroquois Confederacy, mandating that chiefs always consider the effects of their actions on their descendants seven generations in the future. (7)

Sources

1. *I Fish Illinois* “The fishing website for Illinois Waters” Frequently asked questions.

<http://www.ifishillinois.org/gofish/FAQ.html#mybiologist>

2. Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/publications/pdf/sustainable_forestry_initiative/SFI_BMP_Brochure.pdf.pdf

<http://www.stormwatercenter.net/>

3. “The most effective BMP will protect the environment and your business”

<http://www.stormwaterauthority.org/bmp/>

4. Stormwater Management BMPs

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Best_management_practice_for_water_pollution

5. What is Sustainability?

<http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/basicinfo.htm#sustainability>

6. <http://www.sustainablemeasures.com/Sustainability/DefinitionsDevelopment.html>

7. <http://www.sustainabilitydictionary.com/s/sustainability.php>

8. <http://www.naturalarea.org/>

9. Wiesbrook, Michelle, Illinois Pesticide Applicator Training Manual 39-6 Aquatics
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science Urbana , Illinois. 2005.

10. Do I have a problem?

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG6955.html>

ORDINANCE NO. 10-04-236

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR UNIFORMITY IN MANAGEMENT STANDARDS OF ALL NATURAL AREAS OWNED BY THE FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT

Whereas, the FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT owns properties in unincorporated Frankfort Township, the Village of Frankfort, and the Village of Tinley Park, Will and Cook Counties, the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS has determined it to be in the best interest to set uniform practices in the management, future development, and maintenance of native landscapes throughout the district.

Whereas, the mission of the Frankfort Square Park District states:

It is the mission of the Frankfort Square Park District to provide accessible, non-discriminatory recreational services, facilities, and open space in an environmentally conscious, fiscally responsible manner.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS of the FRANKFORT SQUARE PARK DISTRICT, Will County, Illinois, and Cook County, Illinois, that:

1. The Frankfort Square Park District (Park District) owns and maintains unique and diverse natural areas throughout incorporated boundaries of the Park District, including, but not limited to, mesic and wet mesic prairies, upland and lowland prairies, woodlands, ponds, basins, and retention/detention areas.
2. Natural areas owned and maintained by the Park District provide a myriad of benefits that include, but are not limited to, improved water quality, compensatory water storage, erosion control, elimination of nitrogen-based fertilizers, reduction of chemical herbicide usage, proliferation of wildlife habitat and the creation of sustainable landscapes.
3. The Park District shall maintain, develop, and promote environmental stewardship, providing its natural areas as community resources for the education and enjoyment of Park District residents, and will promote community awareness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as herein defined:

Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development.

4. The Park District's management standard for methods of care in providing overall enhancement of natural areas shall include, but not be limited to, mowing, prescribed burns, mechanical removal, selective herbicide control, over-seeding, and installation of plugs and plants within the limitations of staff and budget.
5. The Park District will only employ removal of invasive, non-native plants that would detract from the Park District's mission, limit recreational use in defined locations, or threaten the overall health and success of plant and animal life.

6. The management standard shall only allow chemical herbicide control by licensed chemical operators overseen by licensed chemical applicators, as permitted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Chemical herbicides will be applied in strict adherence to the manufacturer's label for effective control of listed species. Its use, at approved levels of application, will be for non-natives that threaten the success of native landscapes, the overall viability of natural areas, or to facilitate recreational usage of specified locations. Recreational usage is defined as:

A Park District fishable location that meets the IDNR criteria for fish stocking, comprising an average depth greater than 8 feet for the total surface area of the body of water. The only approved location for recreational boating within the Park District is at Island Prairie Park.

7. The management standard shall not incorporate controls of natural areas exclusively for aesthetic purposes. Natural areas provide a specific purpose, and "appearance", a non-quantified measure, shall not provide the basis for herbicide control of native plant life.
8. The Park District shall periodically evaluate and solicit an independent third-party review by non-Park District personnel with expertise in natural and native landscapes to create a summary of property and define objectives for future management and enhancement.
9. Advanced training shall be provided for Park District staff in the form of applicable workshops/seminars and classes, related to natural areas management.

ENACTED by the Frankfort Square Park District on the 15th day of April, 2010, on the Motion of Park Commissioner _____ and the second of Park Commissioner _____ and the following roll call vote:

_____ Ayes
_____ Nays
_____ Abstain
_____ Absent

APPROVED by me this 15th day of April, 2010.

By: _____
Pamela Kohlbacher, President
Park Board of Commissioners

ATTEST

J.J. Randall, Secretary
Park Board of Commissioners

SEAL