

October 2015 . Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, drinking water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching school groups at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2014 /2015 compliance.

Bald Eagle along the Kishwaukee River at Knute Olson Forest



Green Winged Teal and other waterfowl use forest preserve prairie, wetland, stream and river habitat for food, breeding, nesting and resting places during spring and fall migrations



October Maintenance and Natural Resource Management work report from Josh Clark

- Clean up at Afton. Cutting branches hanging over trails, clearing sight lines from shelter to playground area, removing invasive species (mostly honeysuckle), removing brush growing into pine trees and planted trees.
- Built work bench in machine shed. Dug trench from shop to machine shed for electric service.
- Large barn at Afton- Cleaned out lower barn area.
- Shop at Afton- Removed old shelves and garbage in preparation for new storage shelves and office. Cleaned and organized attic area. Repaired steps leading to deck.
- Collected seed for plantings and over seeding.
- Assisted AI with Volunteer Land Stewardship work days.
- Led 3 Saturday volunteer seed collecting work days. Total of 15 volunteers.
- Led Sunday workday with group from NIU. Planted 30 trees (Oaks and Sycamores) at Afton where 7 dead Ash trees were removed. AI and I discussed that this area may revert to no mow and forested wetland component.
- Evaluated mowed areas at Afton to determine what we can remove to spend less time mowing and more time on other maintenance.
- Coordinated with contracted tree service on removal of dead Ash trees at Afton.
- Mowed grass areas at Sycamore Forest Preserve (former Evergreen Village) .

October maintenance report from Bill Prain

- Gooseneck trailer retrofit for deck over wheel well
- Safety report redo for new tablet - pending
- McQueen- Potawatomi Bridge deck replacement – in process
- New steel roof for shelter #1 Russell and Nehring open air shelter
- Winterize equipment
- Prepare sledding hill: clear walkup areas along edge, No parking fence and signage – in process
- Gather wood for sledding hill firepit
- Restock shelter firewood supply – in process
- Check stovepipes and chimneys for safety at Russell and McQueen – Stove pipes done – chimney work pending
- Water sampling
- Safety training- New personnel training- Safety investigation and reporting
- Contractor assistance



Forest Preserve staff and volunteers plant a variety of native Illinois Oaks. Given the space to grow, the bur oak grows as wide as it is tall.



**35 year old play equipment removed and new “ natural looking “ log and rock climbers installed at Afton.
More removal and replacement of old play equipment planned at Afton and other forest preserves**



Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation provided a 50% grant for \$200,000 in 2011 towards the purchase of Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve and recently \$122,000 for the Prairie Oaks Addition (Conro property sale)

Pictured at Prairie Oaks forest preserve appreciation picnic is ICECF board members and grant staff

Good fall burn conditions for prairie burn management. Pictured is Afton controlled prairie burn.

