

Natural Resource Field Report

September 2020

Prepared by Damon Lubkeman

Afton: Planted wetland bank creek edge with second round of Pizzo ordered plugs. Organized seed at Afton shop. Damon planted out the last of the grown plants around Afton. Cole and Damon seeded the SE Afton access trail used by the wetland bank construction people. The webinar about climate change and seeds was watched while processing seed. September 17th was an Afton seed day, collecting a diverse short grass prairie mixes as well as some wetland stuff when Al came out a bit later. Spread some of collected seed to prairie south of shop along Crego road where we have been battling sweet clover and thistle.

Chambers: Big forested patch of Phragmites was sprayed out by Patrick and Damon. Follow up Reed Canary spraying was also continued north of the river by Josh and Al.

County Farm Woods: Resprouts of honeysuckle and buckthorn were sprayed out by restoration crew. Some of the sycamore ginger was dug up and brought to CFW.

Great Western Trail: Transplanted Iris and sedges and grasses that existed in the trail to an area of Phragmites that was sprayed out by a contractor. Collected some seed and distributed a little as well.

MacQueen: Restoration crew tackled some of the burning bush in the back of MacQueen where the MacQueen and Potawatomie trail meets on September 16th. Future herbicide applications as well as more cutting will be necessary in the future. September 21st the restoration crew tackled honeysuckle and buckthorn Resprouts in front of the "Lodge" at MacQueen and that hillside area.

Merritt: Patrick and Cole planted out some sedges and mystery sedges along 9 bark creek at Merritt. September 11th was a collect and distribute seed day at Merritt. There are tons of spots we have sprayed out and worked this previous winter and summer. Collecting and distributing seed on sight helps utilize time as well helps spread local diversity to areas of need.

Nelson Prairie: Restoration crew spread seed collected from the connecting strip to an area full of wild parsnip we have been working on.

P.A. Nehring: Resprouts were sprayed by front sign and down trail where Encap did Ash clearing a few years ago.

Prairie Oaks/Swanson: Seed collection (Sept. 3rd). We met Al on September 10th to collect a little bit of seed. We took seed east of the creek and filled in spots west of the creek in the front problem planting/creek edge to help fill in. Hit the honey suckle Resprouts on the 21st of September as well in the back area worked this past winter.

Riverwoods: Intern Cole and Restoration tech Damon boom sprayed 3 pollinator plots at Riverwoods. This was a follow up spraying. This is the start of the pollinator plots as we are working on a grant to secure funding for work and seed. Met Al on the 24th to look for old historic mill lumber and collected some remnant chairmakers rush.

Russel Woods: Cut and made river accessible by kayaks/canoes. There were 2 large trees down across the river early September.

South Branch: Cleaned up 3 tier stoned grass planting. More Resprouts were sprayed as well on the 21st along the northern forested edge all the way to the hill planting.

Sycamore: Removed ragweed from Terry's sister's prairie. Patrick brush mowed trail for connecting trail. Moved some ginger along the river. Cut out another tree across the river for river use. Trained the intern Cole on chainsaw use.

MISC: We prepped trucks and trailers for safety inspection. 2 Trucks passed inspection September 2nd. One day we got a webinar day so the crew had an office/continued education day. September 10th we met with Terry, Simon, Josh, Patrick and Dale to have a meeting. At the end Patrick gave Damon a yearly review because our tech has been employed for one whole year now since early September of 2019!