

Community Restoration Network

Project Profile: Cranberry Lake

Project Location:

Cranberry Lake - Lake County, Illinois, USA

Project Manager/Coordinator:

David Coulter, President, Native Restoration Services

Project Duration:

5 years



Ecosystem to be Restored:

woodlands and wetlands surrounding the lake

Area to be Restored:

80 acres are targeted for restoration. A footpath around the lake will be widened to 6 feet.

Primary Cause of Degradation:

invasion by non-native species including buckthorn and honeysuckle

Project Goal:

To eliminate and control invasive plant species and introduce native wildflowers

To restore the walking path surrounding the lake and maintain and preserve the area for the benefit of all

Restoration Treatments Used:

Removal of invasive species began in March 2008. Treated areas are now being revegetated with native seed mixes containing wildflowers, grasses and prairie plants.

Community Involvement:

Local residents researched options for restoring the lake and then assembled a bid package that was used to guide contract negotiations with restoration companies. Native Restoration Services was ultimately selected to perform the work.

Benefits to Local Ecology:

The lake was once almost completely obscured by the dense cover of non-native species, but it is now visible to residents and passing motorists. Although the establishment of native species has been slow thus far, it is hoped that by 2010, the area will exhibit dense native plant cover and a high rate of natural succession. If managed properly, the lake will eventually become a viable recreation area and valued green space for the community.

Directions for the Future:

Restoration efforts at Cranberry Lake will be ongoing until 2013, during which time invasive species will be continually monitored and removed, and native seed will be broadcast in hopes of fully establishing a native plant community.

In order to ensure the lake's long-term maintenance and protection, the village of Hainesville has established a special service area that provides for the collection of an annual contribution from homeowners to be used for conservation-related activities.

Funding/Support:

Funds to negotiate the contract with Native Restoration Services were raised through village budget allocations and contributions paid by more than 500 homeowners living within the special service area.

Volunteers from local neighborhood groups and villages have been instrumental in making this project a success.

References/Contacts: