

Remnant Sedge Meadow Ecological Management Schedule

Site Description The Remnant Sedge Meadow is a 5 acre parcel of land in Wheeling that is owned by Com Ed, with a lease agreement with the Prospect Heights Park District. The lease agreement was amended in 2015 to allow for ecological restoration of the site. Historically, the land was wet prairie based on the original pre-settlement land survey maps. It was converted to agricultural use in the late 1800's and later became ComEd right of way sometime between 1938 to 1960 when the high tension power lines were installed. For some reason, a community of native wet prairie plants survived, likely due to the railroad and right of way that was installed prior to agricultural conversion.

This site is in very good condition and hosts dozens of species of wet prairie sedges, rushes and grasses, as well as several very conservative plants, ie.,the narrow leaved loosestrife and native orchids. A very large section has been invaded by cattails, notably there before any restoration activity. The area is an important site for seed collection.

The PHNRC has spent very little time managing the site, mostly by removing teasel and purple loosestrife. Even with limited management, the plant community has responded very positively and several new species have been found since management started. The threatened narrow loosestrife has expanded its range from a single plant to almost a dozen. PHNRC will continue to manage the site on a limited basis and collect seed.

Status:

In the second year of limited management by PHNRC.

Area has a STOP MOW order since 2015.

Contains many different species of wet prairie and sedge meadow plants and is an important seed source.

Scarcely infested with invasive species.

Limited management has improved quality and number of species of plants

Work Done:

Limited invasive plant removal, mainly teasel and purple loosestrife

Almost 20 pounds of seed has been collected by volunteers.

Future Work:

Increase invasive management of teasel.

Seed into drier areas with seed from adjacent areas (remnant prairie)

Continue seed collection

FQI analysis (monitoring). To date, several new species have been identified even with limited management.

<p>Entire Site</p>	<p>Remove reed canary grass (RCG)</p> <p>Remove RCG (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>); Cut flower heads of RCG where necessary to prevent seed set; apply herbicide, several treatments may be appropriate depending on conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply 3% glyphosate (Roundup, Rodeo, Aqua Neat) plus surfactant to leaves during the growing season <p>Remove reed canary grass (RCG) continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Apply 1-2% sethoxydim (Poast, a grass-specific UV-sensitive herbicide) plus surfactant to leaves when overcast but rain not forecasted 3. Cut flower heads where necessary to prevent seed set 	<p>Sp, Su, Fa</p> <p>Preferred timing is in spring and fall</p>	<p>Volunteers, Interns</p>	<p>Use appropriate herbicide</p> <p>RCG near water should be treated with an aquatic-approved herbicide and surfactant.</p>
<p>Entire Site</p>	<p>Remove purple loosestrife</p> <p>Remove purple loosestrife (<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>); Cut flower heads of loosestrife where necessary to prevent seed set; apply herbicide, several treatments may be appropriate depending on conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply 3% glyphosate (Roundup, Rodeo, Aqua Neat) plus surfactant to leaves during the growing season 2. Cut flower heads where necessary to prevent seed set 	<p>Sp, Su, Fa</p> <p>Preferred timing is in spring and summer</p>	<p>Volunteers, Interns</p>	<p>Use appropriate herbicide</p> <p>Purple loosestrife near water should be treated with an aquatic-approved herbicide and surfactant.</p>
	<p>Remove sweet clover</p> <p>Apply 3-5% glyphosate (Roundup) plus surfactant to leaves of lily-of-the-valley (<i>Convallaria majalis</i>, flowers in May) and orange day lily (<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>, flowers in June and July)</p>	<p>Sp, Su, Fa</p> <p>Treatment most effective during flowering</p>	<p>Volunteers, Interns</p>	<p>Surfactant helps herbicide penetrate the waxy leaf cuticle</p>
	<p>Remove teasel</p>	<p>Sp, Su, Fa</p>	<p>Volunteers,</p>	

Interns

Cut stalks of bolting teasel plants (*Dipsacus spp.*, a biennial or monocarpic perennial) just before flowering (typically beginning July); cut, bag, and dispose of flower heads in bloom to prevent seed set. Where appropriate, apply herbicide to first year rosettes of teasel; several treatments are appropriate:

1. Apply 0.25-0.5% clopyralid (Transline) plus surfactant
2. Apply 2.5-5% triclopyr (Garlon 3A, etc.) plus surfactant
3. Apply 0.25% aminopyralid (Milestone) plus surfactant

Apply 2-4% glyphosate (Roundup) plus surfactant

Entire site	Collect and hand broadcast extant native seed Collect and distribute seeds of native plants near and within the site to improve colonization of cleared areas and bolster native populations; seed dispersal may be immediate, after a fall prescribed burn, or during the dormant season	Su, Fa	Volunteers	Seed source Try collecting in the nearby collections familiar to the comission
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Conduct prescribed burn The entire site should be burned infrequently with several growing seasons in between fires. The sedge meadow will be burned after it accomplishes a certain quality and good coverage of grasses that will carry a fire. No tentative plan for prescribed burn is currently in place.	Late Fa, early Sp	ComEd Contractors	Volunteer assistance Trained volunteers are welcome to help
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Note: All ecological management schedule activities are subject to monitoring and supervision by the Prospect Heights Natural Areas Commission. Timing of treatments may change slightly depending on weather and phenology. All ecological management activities should follow best management practices and be acknowledged and approved by PHNRC