



Natural Areas Management in the Milwaukee County Parks

**A Cooperative Effort Between the Milwaukee
County Department of Parks, Recreation and
Culture and the University of Wisconsin
Cooperative Extension**



Mission Statement:

Blending Milwaukee County's Diverse and Unique Natural Areas With Its Culturally Rich Communities to Preserve and Nurture Its Natural Heritage for Current and Future Generations

Natural Areas of the Milwaukee County Park System



- ❖ 10,000 Acres
- ❖ 7% of the Entire County
- ❖ 3 State Natural Areas
- ❖ 2 “Wetland Gems”
- ❖ 10.6 Miles of LM Shoreline
- ❖ 85 miles of waterways
- ❖ Major Migration Corridor
- ❖ WI Ecological Tension Zone

Natural Resource Surveys

Plant & Wildlife Diversity

❖ Plants

684 species

❖ Herps

19 species

❖ Birds Breeding

80+ species

❖ Migratory Birds

200+ species



AIS Results for Grant Park

Pond	Usage	Size	Notes	AIS
Grant 1	Tennis courts	0.7 ac	Algal bloom	None
Grant 2	Disc golf course	1.0 ac	Duckweed	PL
Grant 3	Golf course	0.2 ac	Duckweed; watermeal	None
Mill Pond	Fishing	4.8 ac	Algal bloom	CMS, CPW, EWM, PL, RC
Shoreline	Beach	1.8 mi	Clear	PL, Ph, LG



Start of our first comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Species surveys within the Park System's 51 lagoons and along its 10.6 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline.

Citizen Science

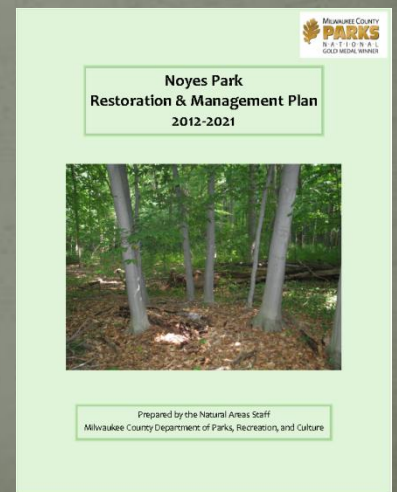
Began a Citizen-based science program that provides opportunities for citizens to collect wildlife data that can be used by staff to better manage the Park System's natural areas.



Developing Natural Areas Restoration & Management Plans

- ❖ Vision, goals, objectives
- ❖ Inventories of existing resources
- ❖ Project layout, timelines, budgets
- ❖ Materials and methods
- ❖ Evaluations and modifications

Parks completed or updated in 2013 were Cudahy Nature Preserve, Doctors, Falk, Franklin Savanna, Jacobus, and Warnimont.

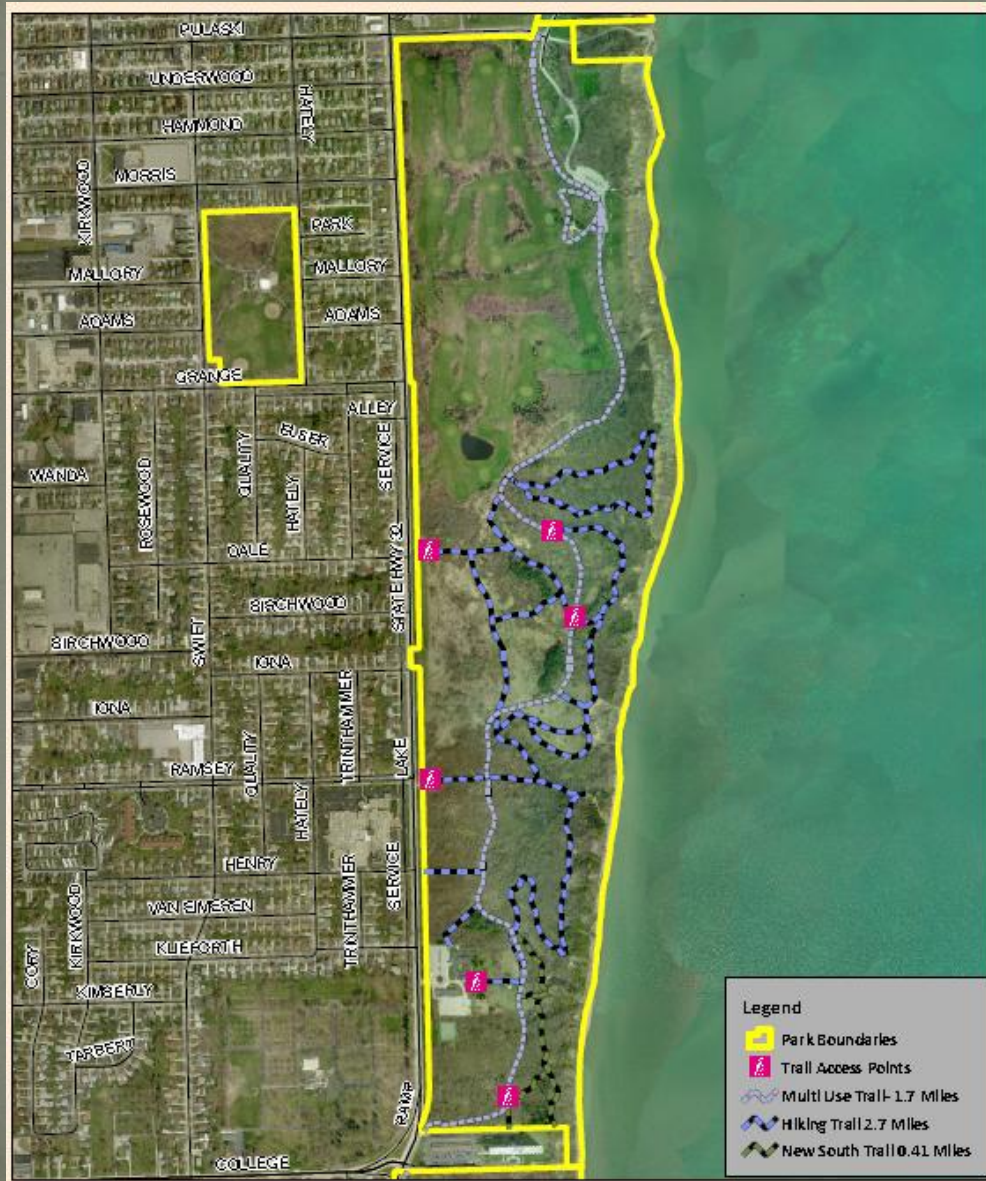


Ecological Restoration Projects



Staff, volunteers, and partner organizations undertook restoration projects that enhanced the ecology of 1,200 acres of natural areas within 54 parks and parkways in 2013.

Forked Aster Hiking Trail System



**Maintenance and stabilization
of 13.9 miles of hiking trails.**

Community Outreach



Presentations at community events, workshops, schools, and conferences reached over 1,291 citizens this past year.

Community-Based Restoration



Through staff efforts and the substantial efforts of our partner organizations, we engaged 1,097 volunteers who donated 15,708 hours assisting in natural resource management projects throughout 2013.

Developing the Next Generation of Conservationists



The Natural Areas Internship Program (10 Interns in 2013) had another great year with our interns gaining important natural resource career skills while donating 1026 hours to the Natural Areas Program.

2009-2013 Partnership Totals



- ❖ 9,100 Volunteers Trained
- ❖ 76,000 Hours Donated
- ❖ 75 Partnership Organizations
- ❖ \$2,066,000 Value

“To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.”

Aldo Leopold

