

McHenry County Conservation District Habitat Restoration Project Lake in the Hills Fen

Over the course of the next few months this 12-acre area of the fen, known as the Rothschild property, will undergo noticeable visual changes to the passer-by as invasive brush is removed and roughly 2-acres of artificially berms and eroding slopes from former gravel mining days are re-graded to historic topography.

The area will be reseeded and planted with a mix of native grasses and wildflowers. The Project timeline is anticipated as late January through May 2008. The entire project area will then be managed with the rest of the site through controlled burning and invasive species control.

The end result will be the restoration of a stunning, high-quality, dry gravel hill prairie community where big bluestem, sky blue aster, nodding rye and blazing star will bloom and provide the ideal habitat for kingbirds, meadowlarks, bobolinks and various other grassland birds.

Lake-in-the-Hills Fen is an approximately 527-acre site owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Village of Lake-in-the-Hills and the McHenry County Conservation District. Much of the site is a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve. Through memorandum of understanding and intergovernmental agreements, the Conservation District is responsible of ecological management and restoration on the entire site.

If you have any questions or concerns please call (815) 338-6223.
