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"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively, the land... a land ethic changes the role of Homo Sapien from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it... it implies respect for his fellow members, and so also respect for the community as such."

- Aldo Leopold, "Sand County Almanac"

PLANT a Redbud Tree, NOT a Bradford Pear

Homeowners have often chosen the Bradford pear as an ornamental tree – favored for its lovely spring blooms and compact size. However, the Bradford pear has become an invasive species that harms Midwestern native plants and trees that support our native wildlife. You can see this tree in early spring throughout our area, having spread into the Kankakee River State Park. The pear cultivar is highly visible due to its early bloom of white blossoms appearing before trees leaf out.

blossoms appearing before trees leaf out. Bradford pears are quick growing, softwood trees native to China and Vietnam. It is a popular landscape tree due to its aesthetic appeal, low maintenance, and resistance to extreme environmental conditions, such as drought, soil compaction, and pollution in urban settings. They are adaptable to varying soil and shade conditions and they flower in the spring and have attractive red foliage in the fall. Though they lend beauty to our yards and urban settings and are remarkably resistant to disease or blight, they are not suitable trees for our area for a number of reasons.

Bradford Pear is Invasive

The Bradford Pear is listed as invasive in Tennessee, Illinois, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. concern is its escape to the wild, becoming an invasive species and an ecological challenge. Their popularity has led to overplanting in communities, setting the stage for pos-

sible invasion. Although each cultivar was bred to be sterile, when new varieties were introduced, cross pollination occurred, leading to fruit fertility. Combined with birds eating the fruits and dispersing the seeds and propagation by root sprouts, the once beautiful, genetically sterile pear has evolved into a hybrid of its callery pear parent, complete with thorns. These

Newsletter

of the Forest Preserve District

of the Kankakee

River Valley













Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. – John Muir

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accidental hybrids produce dense infestations of trees in fallow fields, right-of-ways, under utility lines, and other natural open areas. They pose a threat to native vegetation by displacing native plant communities. Left unchecked, they become susceptible to toppling. The larger they become, the more costly it is to remove these fast growing trees.

It Smells Bad

The Bradford Pear smell is frequently described as that of rotting fish, rotting flesh, chlorine, and other more unpleasant things. When planted en masse this smell is quite noticeable. Few other flowering trees have unpleasant odors, most being pleasing.

Bradford Pear is Short-Lived

Bradford Pears, although they are fast-growing, will only live for about 20 years. Bradford Pear is fast growing, which is an advantage when a homeowner is looking to quickly improve the appearance of their yard. However, the lifespan is shorter lived than many shrubs, and most home owners don't want to replace their main landscape tree with something new (and smaller) in just 20 years. This lack of longevity leads to frequent need for replacement and puts a strain on city tree management budgets.

Weak Structure, Prone to Storm Damage

Finally, the Bradford Pear is extremely prone to breaking in any inclement weather. Combined with its brittle wood, the main branches have a tendency to split during wind and ice storms, leaving ugly wounds or decimating the tree all together. Since this tree is commonly planted along streets and sidewalks, their splitting habits can be a hazard to vehicles parked along the road and to pedestrians on sidewalks. They also require aggressive pruning to combat poor branch development and can mean more maintenance than originally anticipated. As the Bradford Pear is almost always planted for its looks, a large segment missing from the tree after a few years is hardly ideal.

Plant a Native Redbud Tree Instead

The native redbud tree – *Cercis Canadensis* - is reliable, very adapted to the variable climate of the northern Midwest. It has a showy spring bloom followed by shiny heart-shaped leaves. Redbud are a good choice for urban areas; moderate in size, broad-spreading canopy and low maintenance. It will tolerate poor soils, hot temperatures, drying winds, full sun or partial shade, and will also tolerate moist conditions where the water table is high.

More Choices of Alternative Trees

The following examples of native trees make desirable alternatives to Callery pear cultivars. These species possess one or more of the following attributes: beautiful fall foliage, ornamental flowers and/or fruit. Your local nursery is a good source of information about the various seasonal attributes of these lovely native tree species.

River Birch, Red horse chestnut, Downy serviceberry, American hornbeam, Redbud, Yellowwood, Dogwood, Ironwood, Black gum, Chokecherry, Blackhaw viburnum or Pagoda Dogwood.

Native Plants for Shade

Create shade, depending on your location, with lowmaintenance, fast-growing tree species such as Birch, Aspen, Plum, Black Cherry, Pin Cherry, Serviceberry, Hawthorn, Red or White Cedar.

Good Choices in Native Shrubs

Hazelnut, Ninebark, Potentilla, Hypericum, Red or Silky Dogwood, Oldfield Juniper.

Resources for this article:

http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx

http://www.nature.org/

https://www.possibilityplace.com/



"I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of the sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes."

- EE Cummings

EDIBLE FOOD FOREST

What if you could expand your home landscape to include a wider variety of edible fruits, nuts and perennial food plants, as well as providing a richer habitat and food sources for birds, beneficial insects and wildlife? With a bit of research and planning, it is possible to cultivate an edible food forest right in the backyard. Edible food forests have been cultivated by humans for thousands of years; Morocco has a food forest over a thousand years old that is still thriving. Many urban areas are cultivating edible food forests, and proponents say that a small urban yard is a great place to create an edible food forest.

Recently, many modern communities have adapted the traditional techniques of cultivating an edible food forest to suit local urban settings. Large cities that have edible food forests include London, Edmonton, Alberta, Ashville, North Carolina, Boston, Massachusetts, Youngstown, Ohio, to name a few.

Masanobu Fukuoka, author and farmer, wrote One Straw Revolution and a second book, The Natural Way of Farming – The Theory and Practice of Green Philosophy, advocating a natural way of farming and gardening which sustains both the landscape and its caregivers. Another approach to natural agriculture is Permaculture, a natural system following the dynamics of a natural landscape. Many of the founders and developers of permaculture have read, studied with and been inspired by Masanobu Fukuoka, who devoted his life to writing and teaching how to cultivate an edible food forest designed according to local climate and the space available.

Robert Hart adapted forest gardening for the United Kingdom's temperate climate during the 1980s. His theories were later developed by Martin Crawford from the Agroforestry Research Trust and various permaculturalists such as Graham Bell, Patrick Whitefild, Dave Jacke and Geoff Lawton. A food forest is a gardening technique or land management system, which mimics the dynamics of a natural woodland ecosystem by planting edible trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals. Fruit and nut trees make up the upper level, while berry shrubs, edible perennials and annuals make up the lower levels.





Photo Credits for this article: http://lilliehouse.blogspot.com

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Layers of the Food Forest

A food forest differs from a conventional garden in several respects. The garden is largely perennial plants, with a wide diversity consisting of multiple layers as found in a wild forest. Abundant nitrogen fixers nourish the soil, with fruits, nuts, berries and perennial vegetables creating several canopies. Within the garden annuals such as tomatoes and greens are self-sown or broadcast.

- Canopy/Tall Tree Layer: This layer grows to a height of 30 feet or more, typically timber trees, the larger nut trees and nitrogen-fixing trees. These trees grow high and wide, forming a rich canopy of leaves to soak up the full light of the sun to support their massive growth.
- Sub-Canopy/Large Shrub Layer: those plants growing to heights of 10-30 feet. In smaller gardens, this layer may be the top layer, forming the highest leafy canopy of the edible forest garden. Most fruit trees are in this layer, as well as many of the larger berry shrubs.
- Shrub Layer: up to 10 feet in height, this layer includes most of the berry shrubs, as well as nut, flowering, medicinal herbs, and other beneficial plants. Many of these plants thrive best in the partial shade of the sub-canopy. This layer includes many native plants that are beneficial for bees and pollinators.
- Herbaceous Layer: these plants die back to the ground every winter and are not woody-stemmed. Many culinary and medicinal herbs are in this layer.
- Groundcover/Creeper Layer: there is overlap with the herbaceous layer; however the plants in this layer grow much closer to the ground, and are often shade tolerant. These have a thick growth habit, easily cover bare patches in the soil and often will tolerate some foot traffic.
- Underground Layer: root crops comprise this layer, offering a rich variety of edible roots. Many are also part of the herbaceous layer, vining/climbing layer or the groundcover/creeper layer.
- Vertical/Climber Layer: vining and climbing plants may span several layers, depending on how they are trained and what they have to climb on. Grapes may grow to 60 feet.

The Seven Layers of Every Forest



- Aquatic/Wetland Layer: In our water-rich Midwestern landscape, wetlands form a vital part of the landscape. While not one of the seven categories proposed by Robert Hart, John Kitsteiner, author of the website Temperate Climate Permaculture has added this layer as well as the next, the mycelial/ fungal layer. Woodlands often have areas that are permanently or seasonally wet. The plants that flourish in these wetlands provide food, fiber, compost and biomass, many important medicinal plants, livestock forage as well as food and habitat for wildlife. Perhaps one of the most important functions of a wetland is water filtration through bioremediation. A raingarden is an example of a landscape feature that can be incorporated into an edible forest garden landscape.
- Mycelial/Fungal Layer: the second of John Kitsteiner's additions to the classic 7 layers proposed by Bob Hart, this layer is essential to healthy soil. Fungal networks live on and within the roots of plants in the forest garden, essential to developing and maintaining the forest. This layer will even occasionally provide mushrooms for food and medicine. This essential network transports nutrients and moisture across the forest, depending on the needs of the plants. The world of mycelium is only just beginning to be understood, and the preservation and nourishment of this system is one of the main reasons to use organic methods, as chemical treatments destroy the mycelium in the soil, much as antibiotics destroy the intestinal flora in humans and animals.

"The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."

– Masanobu Fukuoka



Photo Credit: http://lilliehouse.blogspot.com

AVOIDING PROBLEMS WITH CITY ORDINANCES

Here are several suggestions for avoiding problems with those people that think only a well-manicured lawn is acceptable. Actually, you are trying to defend yourself from the authorities that will be responding to the complaints of the lawn crowd.

- Do not have any plants that are noxious or allergenic.
- Do not violate any height restrictions near roads.
- Take care not to violate any easement requirements.
- Make the area look like a garden including hardscape.
- Keep records of what is present and their care.
- Keep records of all interactions with authorities.
- Keep a picture record of what your garden looks like through the seasons.

Read about 20 urban food forests on this link:

http://www.resilience.org/stories/2014-08-01/20-urban-food-forests-from-around-the-world/

Resources for creating a food forest in your own yard or in your community:

http://permaculturenews.org/2014/07/15/fukuokas-food-forest/ http://www.permaculture.org/demonstration-site/food-forest/ http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/plant-anedible-forest-garden-zmaz07aszgoe

Some good books on edible forest gardens:

"Forest Gardening" by Robert A. de J. Hart "Edible Forest Gardens" by Dave Jacke with Eric Toensmeier http://www.edibleforestgardens.com/about_gardening

On Trail at the Forest Preserve

Why Natives? Local is Better.... Naturally April 8, 2017 • 9:00 a.m.

Are you curious about native plants? Are you interested in a beautiful low maintenance landscape? Michelle Pearion and Janine Catchpole, members of the Kankakee Torrent Chapter of the Native Plant Society, will discuss pollinatorattracting plants and garden design layouts. With years of gardening experience, they are ready to answer your questions, including "Why is gardening with natives the best?" Come out to Shannon Bayou to enjoy this FREE event. Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District

> Shannon Bayou 3301 Waldron Rd Aroma Park, IL 60910

This walk is co-sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, Kankakee County, and Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District

Look at the trees, look at the birds, look at the clouds, look at the stars... and if you have eyes you will be able to see that the whole existence is joyful. Everything is simply happy. Trees are happy for no reason; they are not going to become prime ministers or presidents and they are not going to become rich and they will never have any bank balance. Look at the flowers - for no reason. It is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are.

– Osho

"Fertile womb, my world. Such burgeoning. Pulsing. Opening. Pouring forth miracles, a million right around my feet." –Mel Ellis

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Floor - Boxes that I have built or plans that I have seen all had floor plans of at least 8X8 to 12X12 inches. In my opinion, 8X8 in. is too small, so I recommend at least 8X10 in, but there is no need to be larger than 12X12 inches.

Hole Size - The recommended hole size for the American Kestrel nest box is 3 inches. Kestrels use natural cavities made by woodpeckers (mainly Flickers). Recommended holes for Flicker nest boxes range from 2 to 3 inches. Couldn't a Kestrel use a 2? inch hole? Probably, but seems like everyone recommends a 3 inch hole, so why reinvent the wheel. There has also been some discussion about using slots instead of holes or that holes should be elongated instead of round.

Height - The recommended heights of the nest boxes range from 12 to 20 inches. The critical part of this measurement is the depth of the box below the hole. Nine to 12 inches seems to be the most preferred.

Since the size of the hole is 3 inches, that makes the top of the hole 12-15 inches. The birds need a couple of inches for "wiggle room" as they go in the hole, so the box height should be 14-18 inches tall. A taller box is probably not a bad thing, but it's just a waste of lumber that could be used on another nest box.

Roof - The box now needs a roof. Our choices are fairly simple. Flat or a sloping & overhang or flush.

A slopped roof should help shed rain better than a flat roof. An overhanging roof will prevent water from getting into the box better than a flush roof. The overhang may also provide some shade depending upon the orientation of the nest box. A kerf or grove can also be cut across the roof to act as a gutter and let water drain to the sides of the box instead of drip off the front.

Back - The back of the box just needs to be long enough to attach the box to something. The nest box plans above has the back between 22-28 inches. There is no need for the back to extend more than 3 or 4 inches above or below the box. I have seen other plans refer to



the left over 6 or 8 inches, "scrap", but that is enough for part of a bluebird or chickadee box.

Nest Box Construction Material

1st choice - untreated, solid stock. 2nd choice - exterior grade plywood

Thickness of stock - The thickness of the stock determines the thermal insulation of the nest box. It can get cold in the Spring and always gets hot in the Summer sun.

A one inch thick box will protect eggs and young from temperature extremes more than a half-inch thick box. This doesn't mean that a half-inch box is useless (I have a half-inch thick blue-bird box that fledged 3 tree swallows last summer, but the box is on my front porch and is shaded in the afternoon).

Thicker stock is also heavier and more expensive than thinner stock, but it will also create a sturdier box if constructed properly.

Any stock thickness between one-half inch up to one inch should be acceptable for a nest box. If your area is notorious for cold nights in the Spring or if your nest box is to be placed in full sun (with no shade), you may want to go with thicker stock or build a double roof with an airspace between the layers.

Smooth or rough? We all like the feel of a smooth sanded wood, but the truth is, the birds benefit from a rough surface. A rough surface helps the adults to cling to the side of the box when bringing the nesting material and when feeding the young. It also helps the young scramble out of the box when it is time to go. We should even score or kerf the wood inside the box under the hole.

Perch or no perch? If rough wood helps the birds to "hang on", wouldn't it help to add a perch? It probably would... but it also helps cats, raccoons, snakes and other nest predators to hang on to the perch while they fish around inside for something to eat. So no perch.

Painted or unpainted? If kept dry, unpainted wood will last a long time and looks more natural.

White paint will keep the box cooler, but may look out of place or draw attention to the nest box.

Spar varnish has also been recommended to preserve the wood.

If painting or varnishing, do not paint the inside of the box and don't paint inside the entry hole. Also, be sure to use a non-toxic paint.

Drainage - Holes or cut corners of floor? It probably doesn't matter too much, just make sure that if any water gets into the box, it can drip out. If nestlings get wet they can become hypothermic and die. I prefer to cut 1/4 -1/3 inches off each of the 4 corners of the floor.

Ventilation - Holes, Gaps or none? Much of the information I have seen recommends that some kind of ventilation be used to help keep the nest box cool. Either drill some 1/4 inch holes near the top of both sides, or leave a small gap.

Some recent information from Wisconsin on Bluebird nest boxes has shown that boxes without ventilation holes are more successful, because of black flies (presumably, black flies need more light). So ventilation holes for Bluebird nest boxes in Wisconsin may not be necessary.

Access to the American Kestrel nest box for nest checks and cleaning. If we nail everything shut when we build the nest box, we will not be able to check on the eggs or young or clean the nest box out. So, we must have some kind of access panel. I have seen boxes that open from the top, the sides or the front. (Never saw a box open from the bottom). I recommend either a side or front opening box, because it is too hard to get to the top of a nest box that is high off the ground. This is easily done by using only 2 nails near the top of the box on one side or the front. These nails will act as pivots and the side (or front) will rotate up. Secure the side or front with a single screw at the bottom.

Hardware - I prefer to keep things simple. No hinges, no latches, just galvanized or stainless nails and screws. You can add hinges or latches as you see fit, but use hardware that will not rust, so the nest box will last longer.

Nesting Material - American Kestrels (as with all falcons) do not build a nest other than to scrape together wood chips or gravel to use as a nest. To mimic the inside of a natural cavity, we should put some wood chips, maybe an inch deep, but not too much, and do not use sawdust.

Your American Kestrel Nest Box is now ready to be put somewhere so the kestrels can use it, but we do need to put the nest box near the proper habitat to have a chance to attract the kestrels and for them to nest successfully.

For more information about nest box construction, attachment methods, nest checks and tips on increasing nesting success and reducing nest box predation:

http://www.birdwatching-bliss.com/american-kestrels.html http://www.birdwatching-bliss.com/making-bird-houses.html *Resource: an article on the birdwatching bliss site:*

http://www.birdwatching-bliss.com/american-kestrel-nest-box.html

Learn more about the American Kestrel:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Kestrel/id http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/american-kestrel



NATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE

The American Woodland Garden: Capturing the Spirit of the Deciduous Forest, by Rick Darke

Growing and Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants, by Richard E. Bir

Growing Woodland Plants, by Clarence and Eleanor Birdseye

Landscaping With Native Trees: The Northeast, Midwest, Midsouth and Southeastern Edition, by Guy Sternberg

Native Trees for North American Landscapes, by Guy Sternberg and Jim Wilson

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines: A Guide to Using, Growing, and Propagating North

American Woody Plants, by William Cullina

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Urban and Rural America, by Gary L. Hightshoe

The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada, by William Cullina

100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for American Gardens in Temperate Zones, by Lorraine Johnson

The Book of Field and Roadside, by John Eastman

The Book of Forest and Thicket, by John Eastman

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The Book of Swamp and Bog, by John Eastman

A Classification of North American Biotic Communities, by D. Brown, F. Reichenbacher, S. Franson

Freshwater Wetlands: Guide to Common Indicator Plants of Northeast, by Dennis Magee

A Great Lakes Wetland Flora, by Steve Chadde

Hortus Third V1&2 Dictionary of plants cultivated in the U.S. and Canada, by L.L.H. Bailey Hortatorium, Cornell University

The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist, by Noel Holmgren

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control, by Elizabeth J. Czarapata

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, by L Newcomb

Plant Identification and Terminology: Illustrated glossary, by J.G. Harris, M.W. Harris

Weeds of the Northern U.S. and Canada, by France Royer, Richard Dickinson

PLANT SELECTION & LANDSCAPE DESIGN

American Plants for American Gardens, by E.A. Roberts, E. Rehmann

100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for American Gardens in Temperate Zones, by Lorraine Johnson

Grow Wild! Low Maintenance, Sure-Success, Distinctive Gardening with Native Plants, by Lorraine Johnson *The Native Plant Primer,* by Carole Ottesen

Native Gardens For Dry Climates, by Andy and Sally Wasowski

The Natural Habitat Garden, by Ken Druse

Reflecting Nature: Garden Designs from Wild Landscapes, by J. Malitz, S. Malitz

PROPAGATION

The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating

Wildflowers of the United States and Canada, by William Cullina

WILDLIFE & HABITAT

American Wildlife and Plants: Guide to Wildlife Food Habits, by A.C. Martin, H. Zim, A. Nelson

Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife, by staff of National Wildlife Federation

Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality, by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Wild Neighbors: The Humane Approach to Living with Wildlife, by the Humane Society of the United States

GENERAL PHILOSOPHY

Building Inside Nature's Envelope: How New Construction and Land

Preservation Can Work Together, by Andy and Sally Wasowski

Ecoregion-Based Design for Sustainability, by Robert Bailey Farming with the Wild: Enhancing the Biodiversity on Farms and Ranches, by Dan Imhoff

How to Get Your Lawn and Garden off Drugs: Pesticide-Free Gardening for a Healthier Environment, by Carol Rubin

How to Get Your Lawn off Grass: A North American Guide to Turning off the Water Tap & Going Native, by Carol Rubin

The Landscaping Revolution: Garden With Mother Nature, Not Against Her, by Andy and Sally Wasowski

My Weeds: A Gardener's Botany, by Sara Stein

Nature's Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems, by Gretchen Daily

Noah's Children: Restoring the Ecology of Childhood, by Sara Stein

Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of our own Backyards, by Sara Stein

Reading the Landscape of America, by May T Watts

Requiem for a Lawnmower, by Andy and Sally Wasowski

Restoring the Tallgrass Prairie for Iowa and Upper Midwest, by Shirley Shirley

Resource:

Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscape; Landscaping with Native Plants.

2004 Wild Ones

https://archive.epa.gov/greenacres/ web/pdf/wo_2004b.pdf

"We need natural areas to bring people and Nature together. We need a place for youth to be wowed by 10- foot-tall prairie grasses."

– Marlin Johnson

FOREST PRESERVE SITES

Shannon Bayou Environmental Education Center and Administrative Office

This 46-acre preserve is located at 3301 Waldron Road in Aroma Park, along the Kankakee River. The Center provides space for programs about natural history, ecology and preservation of open space in the Kankakee River Valley. The walking trail area features plantings of many native trees and plants, including native tallgrass prairie species, a butterfly garden of native plants. The site includes ³/₄ mile asphalt and fine gravel walking trail, a picnic shelter, and picnic tables.

> 3301 Waldron Road Aroma Park, IL 60910 41°04'47.61N 87°48'44.31"W

Aroma Land and Water Reserve

One of the best sites in the area for woodland wildflowers, this 140 acre site is located on Hieland Road, 1.4 miles south of Highway 17 East. A 1.2 mile walking trail winds through several different types of natural areas, including high quality forest, prairie, and wetland ecosystems. It also has nearly ¼ mile of Kankakee River frontage, and the associated floodplain forest.

The Forest Preserve mows a loop trail that branches off the existing 1 ¼ mile trail that meanders through the main body of the Aroma LWR. In the summer of 2011, 49.5 acres of mixed pine and hardwood forest was added.

Approximately 40 percent of the Aroma Preserve is a wetland and lies within the flood plain of the Kankakee River. In the spring, the wet oak forest gives a spectacular wildflower display while the wetland and sand prairie are the most colorful in the summer. There is ample parking in the parking lot on Hieland Road, and a playground, maintained by the Kankakee River Valley Park District, for children.

> 1578 South Hieland Road St. Anne, IL 60964 41°06'02.90"N 87°45'24.08"W

Gar Creek Trail and Prairie Restoration

Approximately 85 acres, this site is located about one-half mile east of Route 45 on River Road adjacent to Kankakee Community College. The 16-acre restored tall grass prairie was planted in 1992. A 2.5 mile trail, suitable for hiking, bicycling, and cross country skiing, is a cooperative project with the Kankakee Valley Park District. The trail begins at the prairie, winds along Gar Creek, through oak woodland, and down to the banks of the Kankakee River.

At river's edge, the trail connects with the Kankakee Riverfront Trail Project, which starts at the Aqua Illinois property at Hawkins and Water Streets, goes through Shapiro Developmental Center, Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve, Kankakee Community College, and connects with River Road Park and Splash Valley, of the Kankakee Valley Park District.

> 501 River Road Kankakee, IL 60901 41°05'30.84"N 87°51'32.78"W

Waldron Arboretum

Located 1.1 miles south of I-57, this site was once a landscape nursery. On this 90 acre site there is a fine gravel hiking trail suitable for bicycling and cross country skiing. The trail winds through 30 acres of woods, including a small prairie restoration area.

In the winter of 2008, the District acquired an additional 60 acre parcel which had been primarily in agriculture. Future development plans are pending based on the districts needs and funds available through federal and state grants.

> 2755 Waldron Road Aroma Park, IL 60910 41°05'36.28"N 87°49'26.51"W

Hieland Lakes Nature Preserve

The Forest Preserve has a new site located about three miles east of Kankakee on Route 17. The new site is 64 acres, including two connected lakes. An aquatic survey will be conducted to determine the fish population; meanwhile, limited fishing is allowed. Bluegill may be kept by anglers - all other fish are catch-and-release.

Plans for the site include planting native wildflowers, prairie restoration and creation of a walking path. At this time, there is a mowed walking path, a parking lot, fencing, and a bridge at the point where the two lakes connect.

The site is a former sand gravel quarry, and while at this time, before restoration gets underway, there is not much in the way of native ecosystem remaining, the site offers a sparse population of native plant life, the area is abundant with wildlife such as deer, fox, coyote, and waterfowl including wood ducks, great blue heron and egret.

6692 Route 17 East St. Anne, IL 60964 41°7'02.23"N 87°44'24.82"W

Strasma Grove

Nestled in a neighborhood in Kankakee, this site is 2 acres of mature native trees.

Duane Boulevard Kankakee, Illinois 60901 41°06'28.33"N 87°50'43.56"W

Limestone Reforestation Site

This site is a 30 acre preserve and reforestation site, with mixed trees and grasses.

County Road 3750 West Kankakee, Illinois 60901 41°08'38.96"N 87°56'51.08"W

Zeedyk Meadows

Four acres of trees and grasses. Warren Street St. Anne, Illinois 60964 41° 06' 24.92" N 87° 44' 35.77" W

Snake Creek Preserve

5800 Darline Dr St Anne, IL 60964 41.109752, 87.756308

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Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District

3301 Waldron Road • P.O. Box 13 Aroma Park, Illinois 60910 815-935-5630

Web address: www.krvfpd.org E-mail: forest@krvfpd.org Facebook https://www.facebook.com/KRVFPD/

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ON TRAIL... at the Forest Preserve

For information on times and dates for current programs at your forest preserve, call Jean Hurrle at 815-549-9072. Our programs include moonlight hikes, wildflower and native prairie walks, and local natural history. You can also find our programs advertised in the Outdoor section of The Daily Journal, or check out "programs" on our website: http://www.krvfpd.org

But when I consider that the nobler animals have been exterminated here - the cougar, panther, lynx, wolverine, wolf, bear, moose, deer, the beaver, the turkey, etc., etc. - I cannot but feel as if I live in a tamed, and as it were, emasculated country... I listen to a concert in which so many parts are wanting... for instance, thinking that I have here the entire poem, and then, to my chagrin, I hear that it is but an imperfect copy that I possess and have read, that my ancestors have torn out many of the first leaves and grandest passages.

- Henry David Thoreau, Journal, 1856

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