

PRAIRIE AREA

The prairie area surrounding Osprey Lake was planted in 2002 using seeds obtained from the Shaker Trace Nursery operated by Great Parks of Hamilton County. The nursery specializes in local genotypes of native plants and is the premier source of native seeds for this area. We obtained a prairie mix and seeded the entire portion of the property surrounding Osprey Lake.

The first couple of years of growth were typical prairie mix including varieties of coneflower and monarda. As successive years passed the plants best suited for intermittent flooding became dominant with Illinois Mimosa and prairie grasses (Little and Big Bluestem) became dominant and the Coneflower and Monarda faded out.

Invasives began to move in, particularly Teasle and Callery Pear. Control of the plant fauna is done by supervised burns whenever possible and by mowing and individual invasive plant removal as required. It is difficult to stay ahead of aggressive invasive plants on such a large area.

While control of invasives is best achieved by burning the prairie, it turns out to be very difficult with the conditions found in the Oxbow floodplain. Frequent flooding removes thatch from the ground around the plants stems, which makes it very hard for a fire to move along the ground, and consume the plants, and sustain itself.

For more information, visit www.oxbowinc.org or call 812-290-2941.

For assistance in the event of an emergency, please call 911 (make sure you advise you are in Indiana) or the Dearborn County Sheriff's Dispatch at (812) 537-3431.