



Friends of the
Sangamon Valley

The Wolf Preserve



Near the entrance of the Wolf Preserve, two stately oaks



Students and faculty from the University of Illinois help out at the Wolf Preserve, November 2005.

June 2008

Name: The Wolf Preserve. The name comes from 19th century local references to the area as “The Wolves” because of its high occurrence of wolves.

Location: Menard County, near Petersburg, off Boy Scout Trail Road.

Access: Restricted. No public access. Hazards (e.g., open wells) are still present. Escorted visits can be arranged by appointment. Several work days per season are held here.

Acres: 68

When Acquired: October 2005

How Acquired: Anonymous donation

Natural Communities: Mesic upland woodland (red oak-white oak), intermittent stream and seeps; north slopes with sugar maple, red oak; prairie restoration (eight acres); hardwood tree planting (CRP field, nine acres).

Notable Features: Sandstone outcroppings, with small waterfalls; large white and red oaks

Notable Species: Pileated woodpecker, Northern flicker, Woodcock

Current Threats: Trespassing & poaching, exotic species including honeysuckle, garlic mustard

Accomplishments: Several workdays are held throughout the year. Activities focus on control of exotic species like honeysuckle and conducting controlled burns. Successful burns were conducted in Fall 2006 and Spring 2008.

Baseline Surveys of vegetation have been conducted and will be done so periodically to help track changes in the preserve from ongoing management. An understory species list and tree species list have been developed. Large trees had their ages determined by extracting cores with an increment borer.

Restoration activities have included planting hardwood trees and planting prairie seeds in the old field. The property has been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Management Plans: In addition to continuing controlled burns and controlling exotic species, the preserve boundary will be marked.

Funding Needed: FOSV requires minor funding to pay property taxes. Stewardship costs are valued at approximately \$3,000 – \$5,000 per year.

Government Programs: The field planted in hardwood trees has been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This is a federal program, administered through local Natural Resource Conservation Service offices and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Property enrolled in CRP can receive annual rental payments and cost-share payments for up to 50% of the landowner’s cost in establishing conservation practices on the property. The property is enrolled with a 15-year commitment that may be extended. The CRP field at the Wolf will generate approximately \$900/year until 2021.

FOSV is also participating in the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Over the next two years, FOSV will conduct restoration of the woodland by removing non-native invasive species on 53 acres of woodland. The total project cost will be \$30,000 with FOSV providing a 25% match in the form of in-kind labor.

Other information: The donor family retains certain rights to the property, including access to the property for hiking and gathering firewood.



The Friends of the Sangamon Valley is a charitable organization dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage by acquiring, restoring and protecting ecologically significant lands in the Sangamon River Watershed.

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