

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES



David Jones, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist
129 Howell Drive
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
270-766-5214

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

City of Glenview
c/o Richard Breen
City of Glenview
Glenview, KY 40025

Examined By: David Jones

Date: July 17, 2007

Location: The city lies in northern Jefferson County along the Ohio River, bordering the city of Harrods Creek (to the north) and Hwy 42 to the east.

Landowner's Interests: The main objectives at this time for this city are improvements towards natural resources and overall conservation.

Plan Format: This plan covers the examination of some 1.4 square miles (~800 acres) of property within the City of Glenview. For the purpose of this report, the general conditions and natural features of the property will be discussed and then general recommendations will be provided to improve the existing conditions. A section of general recommendations for the property as a whole can be found at the end of the plan.

General Property

Description:

This property consists of large residential lots, scattered woodlots and wooded fencerows, idle grassy fields, and the riparian zone of Goose Creek. The topography ranges from flat to rolling with a few scattered bluff/cliff lines.

General Habitat

Conditions:

The overall conditions are fair to good for wildlife. The woodlots provide important travel and escape cover, and provide several den trees and snags. Quality grassland cover and foraging areas are lacking. The grassland fields presently have very limited value to wildlife because of the predominance of tall fescue. Nonnative invasive plants (e.g., bush honeysuckle, burning bush, tree-of-heaven, princess tree) are thriving throughout the wooded sections and are outcompeting more beneficial native flora.

Watershed

Conditions:

No serious erosion or other forms of watershed problems were observed.

Aesthetic

Features:

The property's rolling terrain contribute to a pastoral aesthetic with abundant vistas. The close proximity of the Ohio River is an especially attractive feature of the city.

Potential for

Recreation:

The property is well suited to walking & hiking, wildlife observation, outdoor education, and other such pursuits. Extant roads provide easy access to most of the city for management purposes.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species:

Rare, threatened, and endangered species location data was reviewed after my examination of your property. In Jefferson County, we have recorded occurrences of peregrine falcon, gray and Indiana bats, running buffalo clover, Jefferson cave beetle, Louisville crayfish, and the following endangered mussels: fanshell, orange-foot pimpleback, pink mucket, ring pink, clubshell, and fat pocketbook. None of the management that is proposed herein is expected to negatively impact these species, should any occur on or near the city.

Wetlands:

Wetlands are important habitats for a wide range of wildlife species, including waterfowl, amphibians, furbearers, and songbirds. Wetlands are defined as areas which have water at or near the surface for a portion of the growing season and which are typically characterized by a majority of trees and plants adapted to live under those conditions. We did observe what would appear to be federal-jurisdiction wetlands adjacent to River Road. Consult Kurt Mason with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office in Jefferson County at 502-499-1900 if you have questions about wetland regulations.

Archeological, Cultural and/or Historic Sites:

We did observe the former railroad bed that ran through the city, as well as an extensive

hand built stone fence.

Nonnative Invasive (Exotic) Species Control

Area Description: An abundance of the city's wooded tracts are flourishing with bush honeysuckle and burning bush, as well as amble occurrences of tree-of-heaven, princess tree, and multiflora rose. All of these exotic species thrive in the local environment and out-compete the native flora.

Recommendations for eradication:

Herbicide Application - Cut stump, hack n' squirt, and foliar herbicide applications are all effective control measures for the exotic species mentioned above. Crossbow, Garlon 3A and Garlon 4 are three woody specific herbicides of choice. Foliar applications should be applied after full leaf expansion during summer to fall (May to September) while cut stump and hack n' squirt treatments should be applied fall to winter (October – February). Always apply herbicide immediately after cutting and always follow label instructions. Contact me for more herbicide specific information and application rates.

Eradicating the exotic species will help to “release” and stimulate growth from the native understory containing spice bush, coral berry, dogwood, and redbud.

Fescue Eradication

Area Description: Most of the open space/fields are covered in tall fescue, a sod-forming, exotic grass that provides virtually no wildlife benefits.

Recommendations for these areas:

To optimize wildlife value of these open areas, permanently kill the tall fescue. Fescue is a non-native grass species that was introduced into the U.S. for cattle pasture and hay because of its hardiness and cool-season vigor. However, bobwhite quail and many other birds are dependent upon bare soil for feeding and movement purposes; fescue's thick sod is simply not conducive to their movement through it. Cottontails also prefer a more open, clumped type of grass rather than the matted fescue growth-form. Furthermore, most fescue in Kentucky is infected with an endophyte fungus that causes poor reproduction in cattle and horses, and possibly wildlife. This fungus also increases body temperatures in livestock, causing them to spend more time in ponds and creeks, which leads to greater soil erosion and water pollution. Numerous studies have documented fescue's negative impact on the livestock industry and upon wildlife. University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) research has shown that herbiciding with environmentally safe, EPA-approved herbicides is necessary to effectively kill tall fescue.

To kill the fescue, you need to allow it to reach approximately 6-8 inches of growth so that there is enough leaf area to absorb the herbicide. The first herbicide treatment can be applied during the fall followed up with the second herbicide application in the spring. Another option is to apply both herbicide treatments in the spring. It should be ready mid-September through October (depending on weather/temperatures) after a final hay cutting or bush hawging treatment and/or mid-April to mid-May (depending on weather/temperatures). Spraying should be done on a day that is dry, sunny or partly sunny, and over 65 degrees; this is to allow the herbicide to be taken into the plant effectively. The first herbicide treatment should be allowed to take effect for at least 10-14 days before the second herbicide application when both sprayings are applied in the spring.

First Spraying Mixture (Fall or Spring)

2 quarts glyphosate (41%) herbicide (Roundup Pro, Roundup Ultramax or generic equivalent)
2 pints ammonium sulfate
2 pints methylated seed oil (sticker)
in 15-20 gallons water PER ACRE

Second Spraying Mixture (Spring only)

1.5 quarts glyphosate (41%) herbicide (Roundup Pro, Roundup Ultramax or generic equivalent)
6 oz Plateau
2 pints ammonium sulfate
2 pints methylated seed oil (sticker)
in 15-20 gallons water PER ACRE

Native Grass and Wildflower Plantings

A mixture (3 lb PLS/acre) of native grasses (switchgrass, little bluestem & big bluestem) could be planted on part or a portion of these areas to provide aesthetic prairie plantings and excellent wildlife habitat. Wildflowers (partridge pea, purple coneflower, Illinois bundleflower and black-eyed susan) can be interseeded (2 lb/ac) with native grasses to provide additional seeds for animals and to beautify the planting.

Planting of native grasses is best done April-June via broadcasting seed onto a prepared seedbed or through the use of a no-till drill. A list of seed vendors is included in the native grass Habitat How-To that was provided during the on-site visit. My drill can also be reserved ahead of time for this type of planting if you are interested.

Manage these stands during the first year with high clipping (8-12") to control the 'weedy' competition. Native warm season grasses are slow to establish. They put most of their resources into root growth during the first growing season. More above-ground growth will be noticeable during the second and third year until they are fully established. By the end of the third summer, the native grasses should be fully established. Management can then begin by strip disking on a rotation to minimize thatch buildup, rejuvenate new growth, and maintain the forb component within the stand.

Consider the following local vendors for local seed and/or custom planting services:

Roundstone Native Seed, LLC (c/o Randy and John Seymour)
9764 Raider Hollow Road
Upton, KY 42784
(270) 531-2353
<http://www.roundstoneseed.com/>

Prairie Dropseed Nursery (c/o Margaret Shea)
13930 Brush Run Road
Louisville, KY 40299

(502) 762-1080

<http://dropseednursery.org/index.html>

EcoGrow (c/o Russ Turpin)

PO Box 22273

Lexington, KY 40522

(859) 231-0500

www.ecogrow.org

Tree and Shrub Plantings

Consider native trees & shrubs during future landscaping/planting projects. They are adapted to the local soil types, offer benefits to numerous wildlife species, and can also be aesthetically pleasing. Numerous oak species make excellent shade & ornamental trees, while shrubs such as crabapple, dogwood, hawthorne, and viburnum produce beautiful blooms during spring and fruit for the wildlife. A list of tree vendors is located within the tree and shrub Habitat How-To.

Natural Revegetation

There are some areas/plant species that you may want to eliminate with chemical application and thus promote the native seed bank. An example of this may be along the Ohio River and adjacent to River Road. There are numerous exotic tree/shrub species located within the riparian buffer. Proper cutting/herbicide treatment can eliminate the exotic species and promote the native tree/shrubs in this area. Another example may be in some of the open field areas. Eliminating the fescue and johnsongrass will release numerous beneficial “weeds” (i.e., ragweed, goldenrod, ironweed, desmodium, butterflyweed) that will provide excellent cover, as well as insects and seed for forage by numerous wildlife species.

Construction and Placement of Nesting Structures

Nesting structures scattered around the city will provide additional nesting opportunities for cavity nesting wildlife. Woodduck boxes could be erected on the pond close to Harrod’s Creek Fire Department. Bluebird boxes and bat boxes could also be erected within any of the open areas. Nest box designs and instructions are located within the nesting structure Habitat How-To.

Timber Stand Improvement

Contact the Kentucky Division of Forestry for a site visit by the Service Forester for Jefferson County, Lisa Armstrong. She can be reached in Elizabethtown at 270-766-5010. She can evaluate the wooded tracts in more detail and possibly assist with the management of your forested tracts via timber stand improvement and additional forest recommendations via the completion of a Forest Stewardship Plan.

Backyard Habitat Kit

This is an excellent option for the “urban” sections of the city. This kit contains in-depth fact sheets on the following:

- Urban landscape plans for wildlife (including sample landscape & garden plans)
- Native Kentucky plants for backyard wildlife (i.e., songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, etc.)

- How to establish wildflowers from seed
- Nest box plans & water sources for backyard wildlife

This kit can be purchased through the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) for \$12 (plus \$2 shipping & handling). I have provided the appropriate order form in this mailing.

General Recommendations:

1. Consider a conservation easement for certain portions of the city. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or conservancy group to protect the natural resources of a particular property from specific alterations or changes in use – and the agreement is permanent. The development potential is thus eliminated on the section of property that is under a conservation easement, thus lowering the value of the land for tax assessments (i.e., estate and property taxes). More information can be obtained about conservation easements via the following contacts:

River Fields, Inc.
 643 West Main Street
 Suite 200
 Louisville, KY 40202-2921
 (502) 583-3060
www.riverfields.org

Land Trust Alliance (www.lta.org)

2. Visit the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources on the internet for additional information at <http://www.kdfwr.state.ky.us/> and/or contact me, David Jones (private lands wildlife biologist) with any questions at 270-766-5214 or at davidd.jones@ky.gov
3. I encourage you to consider implementing some type of managed hunting system for deer within your city to maintain as much habitat diversity as possible. Given the encroaching urban development within and around Glenview, you will probably have an ever-increasing deer herd in the absence of some reasonable management of the deer population. Some of our state parks, which have historically excluded hunting, have recently called upon us to help them reduce their deer populations with managed hunting because of a) deer overabundance, b) the poor physical condition of the deer, and c) the lack of effective alternatives to hunting. In addition to contributing to vehicle collisions, overabundant deer can utterly denude a forest understory. You may want to consider using a managed deer harvest as part of your conservation and stewardship goals, because hunting by humans is a part of our cultural heritage.