

DuPage Natural Area Resource Management Planning

Forest Preserve District, DuPage County, Illinois

Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES) was retained to assist the DuPage County Forest Preserve District in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, in designing future restoration and management plans for 70 natural areas covering 9,000 acres within the DuPage County Forest Preserve District. This two-year project involved substantial ecological analysis to document existing conditions and design for restoration and management programs necessary to maintain ecological integrity in the natural areas. Addressing many issues, AES was also required to focus on offsite impacts associated with the adjacent developments and other land uses. In addition, the project included considerations for recreational park trail use and more active recreational development interests associated with or adjacent to the natural areas.



A lengthy educational process was presented to the community and the staff of the Forest Preserve District to communicate the ecological findings. This series of events also introduced the framework for restoration and management to the district staff. Example forest preserve sites which had experienced substantial change, particularly associated with offsite and recreational park uses, were highlighted in case study reports. These reports documented the nature of the ecological changes occurring from these types of uses, and illustrated the future directions necessary for ecologically healthy management of the developed and natural areas within the parks.

