

TO: DEER PARK VILLAGE BOARD
FROM: PAT WINKELMAN/VEHE FARM FOUNDATION
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT
DATE: AUGUST 2008

Presentation—Information Only

Vehe Farm prairie plants

Presentation—Information Only

Leave No Child Inside Vehe Farm Foundation tri-community initiative.

Action Item—Tree Maintenance

The Foundation worked with Jim Connors to obtain vendor proposals that would assess the public safety of trees by the farm entrance, along Cuba Road, the wetlands, and the east side of the farm property (from Cuba Road to the homes across from Hamilton Park). Written assessments and quotes from five vendors are attached for Village review.

Action item: Village review of the assessments/quotes, and approval of whichever one the Village Board determines to be of the desired scope and cost.

Additional Information Items

Public Relations and Partnerships

Foundation members continue to donate time on a weekly basis to Citizens for Conservation's prairie restoration efforts in exchange for CFC's continued donations/partnership. Bottlebrush grass seeds have been donated by CFC and sown by the Foundation at the farm.

Citizens for Conservation also provided, at no cost, three interns each for a half-day to assist the Foundation in extensive prairie restoration on the southwest corner of the property, where buckthorn was the primary invasive plant removed. For one additional Saturday, the Foundation paid CFC interns for a total of five man-hours of work on Vehe Farm grounds.

Foundation members continue ongoing prairie restoration/maintenance efforts on Saturday afternoons. Once again, work expanded beyond the 12:00 to 2:00 periods. Invasive plants being focused on are: phragmites, white and yellow sweet clover, Canadian thistle, cattails, common teasel, buckthorn, wild rose, wild grape, and other vines. The following additional grounds work has been done:

- Continued watering of the new orchard trees and oak trees
- Butterfly garden maintenance
- Mulching
- Bottlebrush seed collected from the farm property and sown on site.

The Foundation has been invited to speak at a Prairie Woods Audubon Society meeting this fall. We will be discussing Vehe Farm and all of the amenities it provides to the public.

The Foundation's website continues to be updated and expanded. (vehefarmfoundation.org)

The Foundation's archived materials will be stored in the Barrington Area Library's temperature/humidity controlled archive facilities. Electronic copies of the materials are available on the library's website.

Community Service and Education Programs

Five local Boy Scouts and two of their parents provided over 41 conservation community service hours at Vehe Farm. They replaced mulch on the walking paths and spread mulch in the butterfly garden.

The Leave No Child Inside Eagle Scout project of footprint stands and birdhouses is expected to be completed this fall now.

The Foundation will be presenting the *Leave No Child Inside* tri-community initiative to the Barrington Village Board in September.

Local Scouts and the general public are interested in helping the Foundation with fall activities such as seed collecting, dispersing the seeds, and more.

Prairie and Butterfly Garden Update

August continues to be a beautiful month for both the prairie and the butterfly garden. Swallowtails, admirals, sulfurs, fritillaries, and even the hummingbird clearwing moth have been seen in the garden and prairie. Many prairie plant species are blooming and the grasses are in full growth. Showy plants include the compass plant, brown-eyed susans, prairie coneflowers, rattlesnake master, swamp milkweed, various species of sunflowers, wild bergamot, bull thistle, prairie dock, lead plant, clovers, blazing stars, big bluestem, and many more.

ADA Path from Barn Sidewalk to Butterfly Garden

The Foundation is working with Gewalt Hamilton, numerous recreational path installers, and the State of Illinois to accomplish the installation of the path, which currently is planned for September or October.

Informational Item to be provided at meeting.
