Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund
Illinois Environmental Education Project
(Army Trail Nature Center)
Grant #04-034W
Final Report

Introduction

The Army Trail Nature Center has a representation of a variety of habitats that are unique to Illinois. The Army Trail Nature Center is within walking distance of five public and private schools and is a resource that is available to the community of Addison. It offers a representation of prairie, wetland, woodland and pond habitats. This includes many species that are indigenous to Illinois, including endangered species, like the Great Blue Heron. By providing information about the wildlife present a t the Army Trail Nature Center the community will become better educated about the Illinois wildlife.

Material and Methods

A meeting was held with community members and the President of the local homeowners' assoc. The President gave the history of the Army Trail Nature Center and promised the support of the homeowners association in conjunction with the I.W.P.F. Kiosk project.

The contractor who volunteered his services met in the fall. Due to his schedule, it was determined that construction would take place in the spring, before the end of the school year. Construction began on June 2, 2004 and was completed on June 4, 2004. Due to inclement weather, the structure was built in his garage.

The contractor strongly recommended cedar as the base construction material in place of pressure-treated lumber. After surveying the site for the kiosk, it was found that the original

design would impede service by Park District vehicles. Both considerations required an alteration in the design of the kiosk. The kiosk is approximately a 9x5 structure, with a roof and two display surfaces. Its main posts are 6x6x12 cedar posts that were placed 36 inches into the ground in postholes that were back-filled with cement. The roof was made from six 2x6-cedar boards and the roofing materials were tarpaper and asphalt shingles. The roof was attached with recessed hex lag screws. The display surface was comprised of 4x8x3/4 cedar boards. Display cases 36' x 48" are attached to both display surfaces of the kiosk. I.W.P.F. grant monies purchased one and a private contributor donated monies for the other display case. The display case has an aluminum frame, two doors with a security lock, and a fabric enclosed bulletin board. The Addison Park District has promised a trail map that will be placed in one of the display cases.

Results

The kiosk structure will be a permanent feature at the Army Trail Nature Center and will be used to display information about wildlife that is present there. One of the goals of the Stone School Nature Club is to update information in the Army Trail Nature Center Kiosk. Students from Stone Elementary School and Addison Trail High School will also be encouraged to contribute to the information in the kiosk.

Discussion and Summary

A Nature Club began at Stone Elementary, headed by an Outdoor Education Instructor, Laurie Meyers. The club met weekly and had approximately 40 members. Identification of trees, birds, and orienteering were taught. In addition, Nature Club members participated in the care of benches and removing trash from the Nature Center. Nature Club members also uncovered original trail

markers that were hidden by overgrowth. This eliminated the need to establish trail markers.

A small unveiling ceremony took place on June 4, 2004. In attendance were community members, Addison Park District employees, homeowner assoc. members and administrators and students from Stone Elementary School. Pictures were taken and a small article appeared in the Addi-scene, a community paper that is mailed to all Addison residents.

In the fall there are plans for a larger ceremony that will include all the students from Stone Elementary, members of the Addison Board, Addison Park District Administrators, as well as administrators from Addison District 4. The Addison Cable Company has expressed interest in taping this event. Local and area media outlets will be contacted about the event.

Addison School District 4
Army Trail Nature Center Kiosk

Grant #04-034W Expenditures

Materials & Construction Supplies	$ 486.19
Display	$ 379.97
Total	$ 866.16