FINAL REPORT

Grant Agreement# 06-016W (Bear Creek Restoration Project)

Hamilton County Unit 10 Schools
Hamilton County Senior/Junior High School
1 Fox Lane
McLeansboro, IL 62859

July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006

Frederic F. Vallowe
209 North Pearl Street
McLeansboro, IL 62859
fvallowe@roe25.com
1.618.643.4249 (home)

Project Objectives: To procure signage and appropriate forbs and grass seeds as a part of the on-going restoration of the riparian corridor located on the high school campus.

Project Description and Summary

Hamilton County Unit 10 Schools is developing a 5-acre natural community restoration along Bear Creek, an intermediate stream which drains approximately 500 acres in Hamilton County. This watershed is a part of the North Fork of the Saline River.

The area under restoration had been in crop rotation and/or pasture for as long as local residents remember. Our goal for this stage in the project is to restore the species in the riparian corridor to within an acceptable historic range of diversity by developing 3 acres of savanna, constructing a half-acre shallow water wetlands and by managing the invasive species currently encountered along our section of the creek.

The one thousand dollar grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund provided much needed signage to inform the public of the savanna and wetland areas. Before the signs were erected several members of the community were asking if they could help by mowing the "weed patch." Now, many more members of the community have commented on the attractive signs. (One sage commented, "Even the weeds look better behind those signs.")

The seed was used to begin reconstruction of the plant diversity in the newly created wetlands area. New species represented from the sowing are: Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus),* Fowl Bluegrass *(Poa palustris),* Fox Sedge *(Carex vulpinoidea),* Blue Vervain *(Verbena hastata),* Green Bulrush *(Scirpus atrovirens),* Giant Bur Reed *(Sparganium eurycarpum),* Soft Rush *(Juncus effusus),* Path Rush *(Juncus tenuis),* Wool Grass *(Scirpus cyperinus),* Many Leaved Bulrush *(Scirpus polyphyllus),* Blue Flag *(Iris versicolor),* Square Stemmed Monkey *(Mimulus ringens),* Common Sneezeweed *(Helenium autumnale),* and Blunt Broom Sedge *(Carex scoparia).*

Total Project Expenditures

20 pounds of seed (ERNMX-127)	**$472.00**
Shipping and handling	**$ 21.00**
Total paid to Ernst Conservation Seeds	**$493.00**

Ernst Conservation Seeds, LLP
9006 Mercer Pike
Meadville, PA 16335-9299
1.800.873.3321

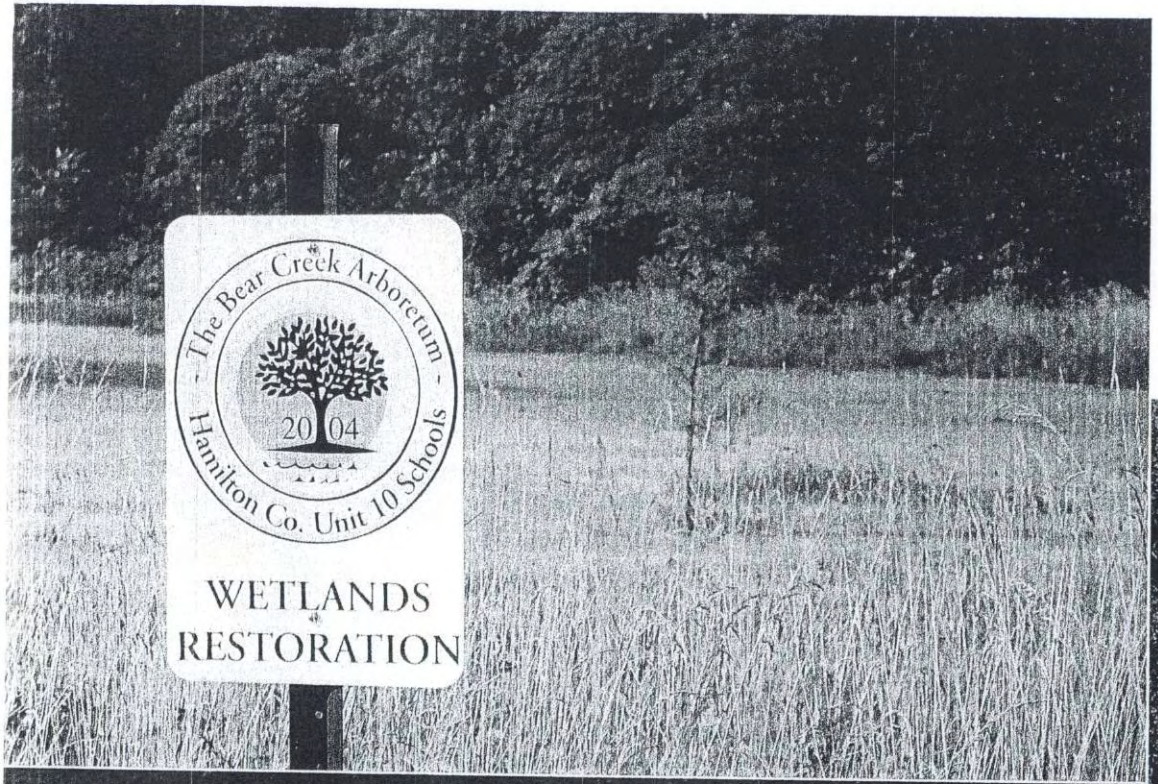
9 Signs	**$417.00**

Azusa Printing
1406 Salem Road
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
1.800.234.6591

9 posts and mounting bolts/nuts	**$ 48.47**

Reimbursement to Fred Vallowe
209 N Pearl Street
McLeansboro, IL 62859
1.643.4249
(Original purchase from The Home Depot,
3200 Banterra Drive
Marion, IL 62959)

Total payment requested	**$958.47**


The Bear Creek Arboretum
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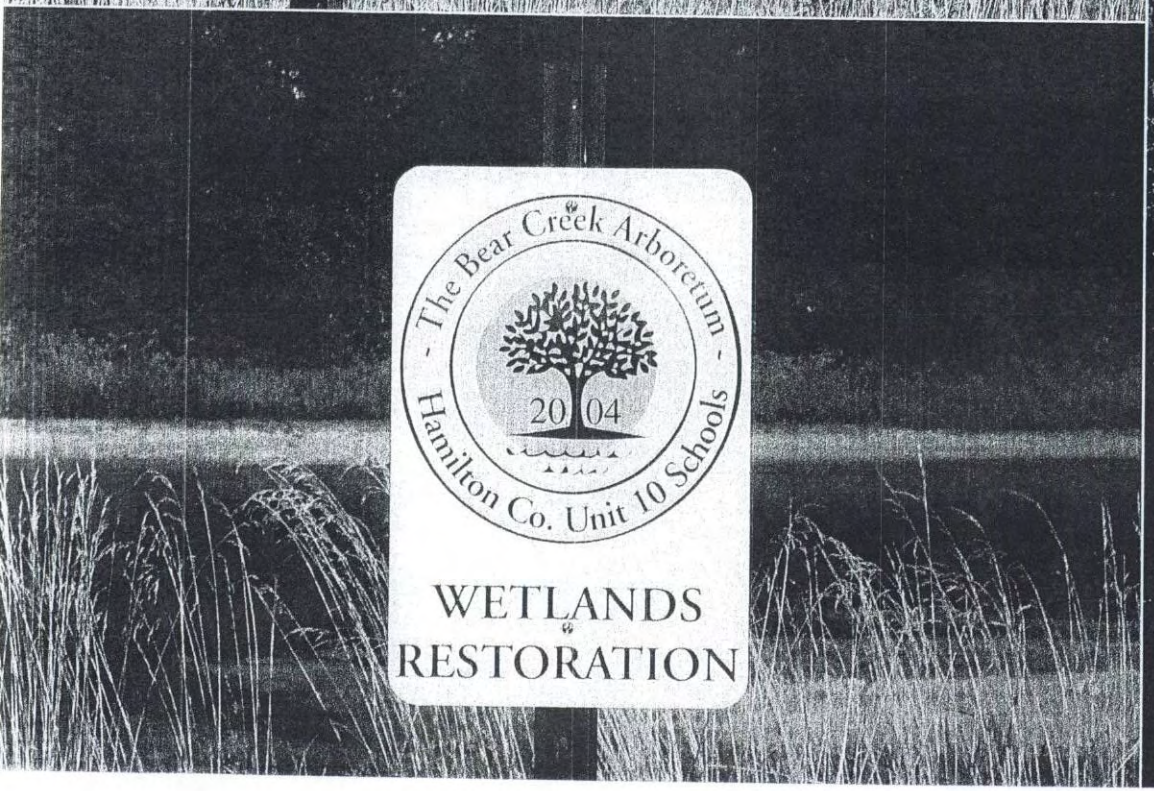
Hamilton Co. Unit 10 Schools
WETLANDS
RESTORATION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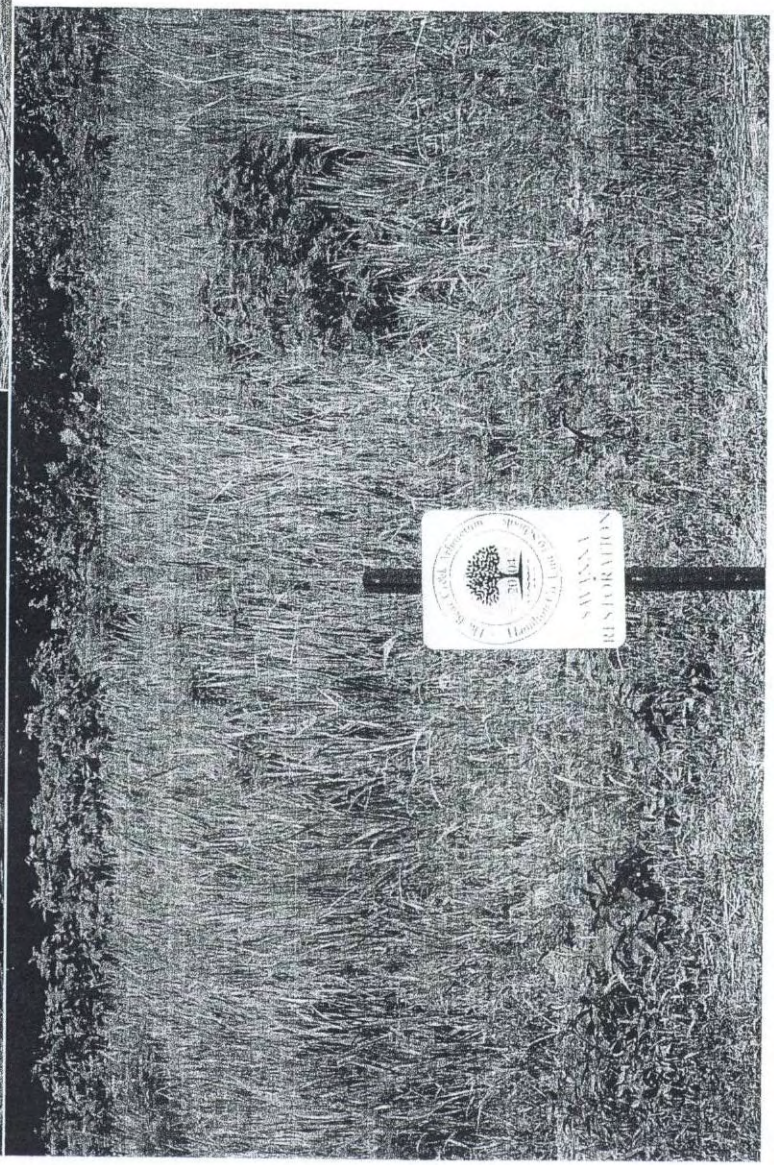

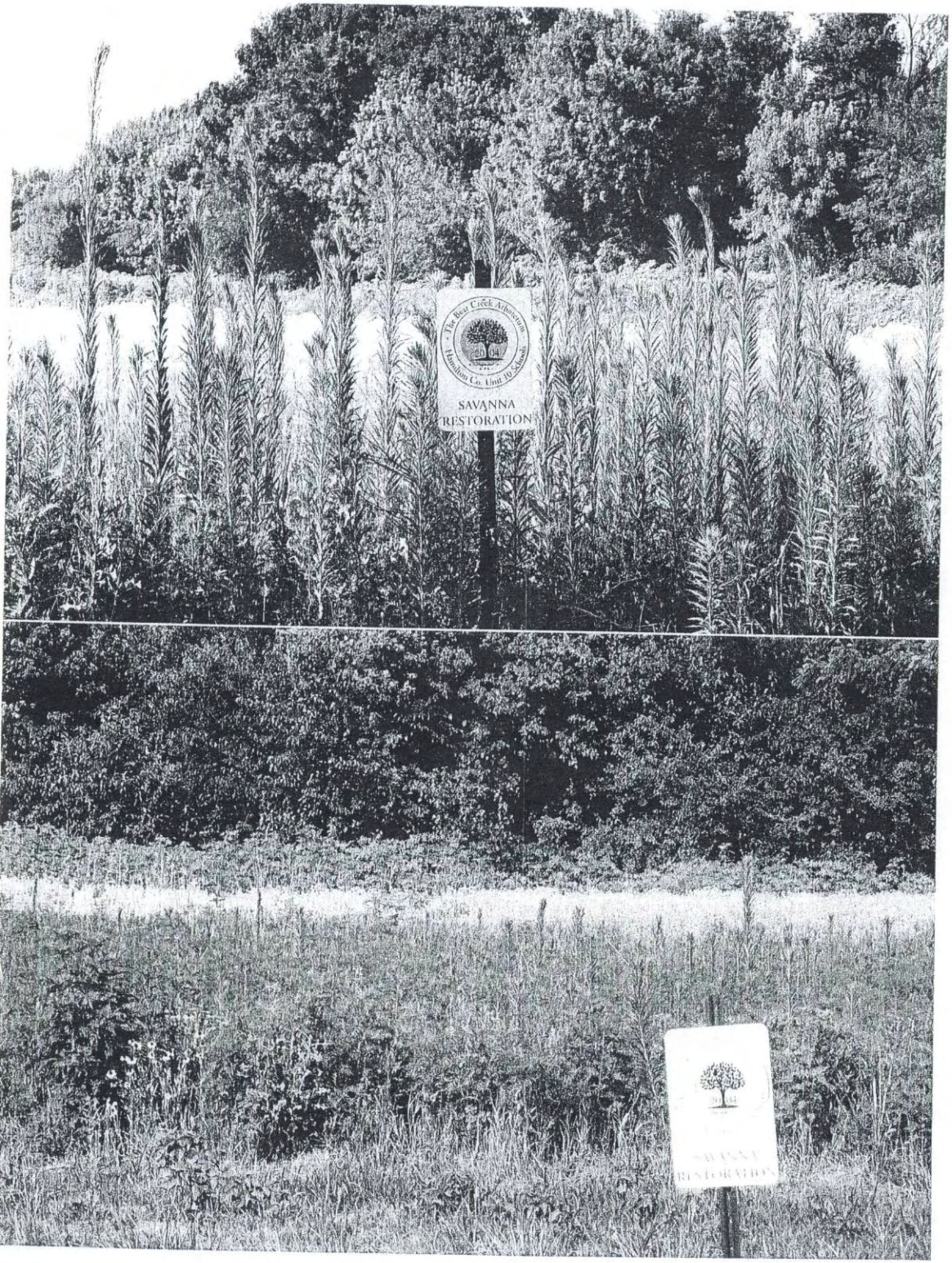
The Bear Creek Arboretum
Hamilton Co. Unit 10 Schools
SAVANNA
RESTORATION