Illinois Department of Natural Resources
FY04 Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Report

Grantee Information

Grantee Name: Round Lake Area Park District
814 Hart Road
Round Lake, IL 60073

Grant Agreement #: 08-029W

Project Title: Hart's Woods Nature Trail

Project Summary:

The project was the design and installation of a trailhead sign at the entrance of the already established nature trail adjacent to the Round Lake Area Park District's Prairie Grass Nature Museum. The project also included the development of a trail map/brochure and field book available to trail users. These guides provide additional information to the interpretive signs already on the trail as well as information on local ecology and conservation.

The original concept for the project began in 2006 with the development of the Hart's Woods Interpretive Nature Trail. This trail was the culmination of making an already existing trail more user friendly and incorporating interpretive panels to educate trail users on the local ecosystem and surrounding environment. Park District staff worked with the design company to develop the trailhead sign in spring of 2007 with their completion and delivery in fall of 2007. The newly developed trail guide and field book were made available in March of 2008, and the installation of the trailhead sign occurred the following month.

Since the completion of the project, the trail and its corresponding guide and field book have been utilized by classrooms, day care, scouts, families, special recreation groups, our agency's Child Development Center, and countless other members of the community. A once small trail has transformed into an educational and recreational trail for people of all ages, allowing them the freedom to explore and learn at their own pace about the environment around them.

This project was done in conjuncture with the continued development of other Park District nature trails which fits into the agency's master plan that was adopted in 2003. The Park District has been able to utilize the benefits of this project to aide in the further development of an additional interpretive trail, trailhead sign, and companion guide and field book for another nature trail adjacent to a local school.

Budget Summary:

Budget Summary Category	Project Total	Grant Funds	Cost Share
Personnel	$476		$476
Contractual Services	$4960*	$2000	$2960
Brochure/map/guide Printing and designs	$700		$700
Total	$6136	$2000	$4136

* Please see below for detailed breakdown of Contractual Services

Service Description	**Amount**
Design trailhead which incorporates completed map for Hart's Woods	$1725
Design trailhead structure and coordinate details with fabricator	$690
Color proofs and shipping	$230
Fabrication of trailhead structure and sign	$2315
Total	$4960

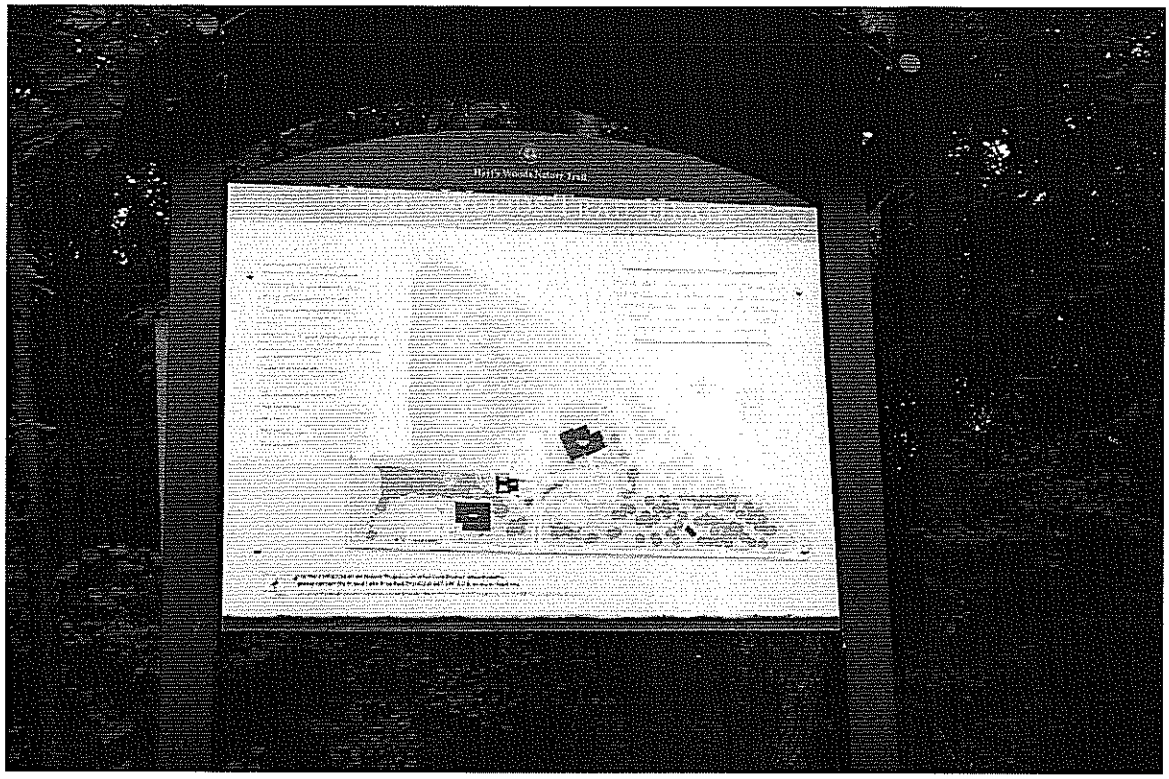
I hereby certify that the information in this report is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

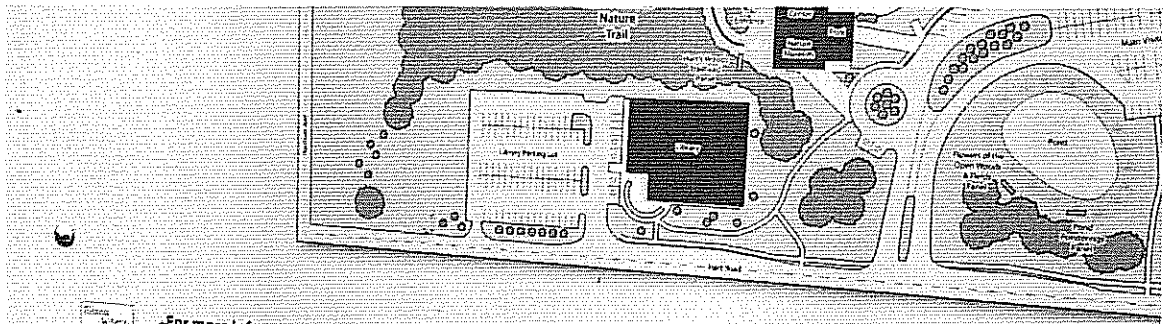
Name: Frank W. Palmisano, Jr.
(printed)

Title: Assistant Superintendent of Recreation

Signature: _____

Date: 10/17/08





For more information on Nature Programs or other Park District related events, please contact the Round Lake Area Park District at 847-546-8558, or www.rlapd.org

This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant

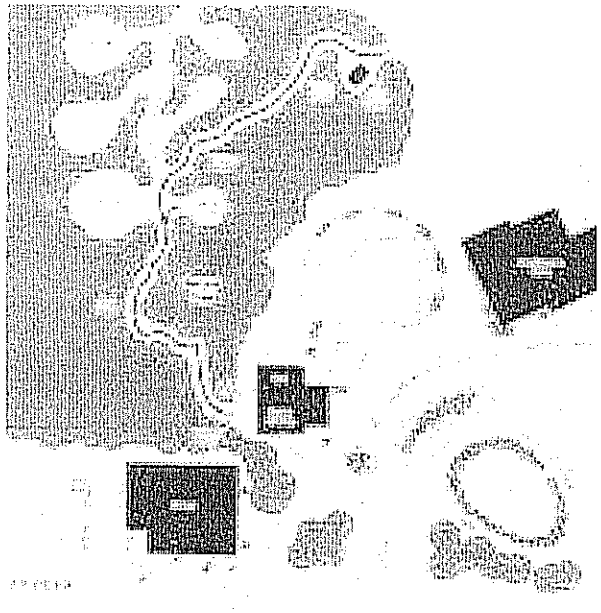
Harts Woods Nature Trail Field Book

Round Lake Area
Park District

Welcome to our trail!
We hope that you enjoy your visit.

Please remember the following:

- ***NO bicycles or motorized vehicles***
- ***NO alcohol***
- ***NO fires of any kind***
- ***Please stay on the marked nature trail***
- ***Please leave nothing of yours behind.***
- ***Please do not pick or collect anything. Leave nature for others to enjoy!***



Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

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This field book belongs to: _____

_____

Tips for Keeping a Field Book

You are a scientist using drawings and words to record what you are observing. Spend time looking! Observe first, then draw and write.

Sit quietly, by yourself. Keep your mind clear of distractions. Label each sketch with the time, location, date and weather conditions.

Landscape: *Draw an answer to the questions: What is this place? What kind of day is it?*

Detail: *Choose one thing in the environment, living or dead, to draw in detail. Trust your eyes. Don't draw what you know about the object- draw what you see! Draw as much detail as you can in your close-up.*

Write down: *"Who, what, where, when, why and how" about the object. What is its connection to this place? What about it caught your eye? Tune into your other senses. Write down what you see, hear, smell and feel.*

I wonder: *Write down any puzzles or questions that cross your mind. I wonder what is eating these leaves? What made those tracks?*

Visit each of the six wayside exhibits and do the work for each on its page.

1. A Diverse Woodland

We are in an upland Oak-Hickory forest remnant, just a small part of the vast woods that used to be in this area of Northern Illinois. This type of forest has a diversity of species besides the White Oak and Shagbark Hickory that can include Black Cherry, other kinds of Oaks and White Ash trees. The dominant trees are excellent nut producers, making this type of woods an excellent wildlife habitat. The soil in this type of forest has very little moisture.

Pick one of the four trees listed and draw it's leaf and fruit in the space below:

Leaf Fruit

Which trees have edible fruit? _____

Which trees have a compound leaf? _____

_____

Which tree grows the tallest? _____

Which tree has the most valuable wood? _____

Butterflies and moths eat which trees leaves?

_____

Which trees produce a nut highly valued by humans?

_____

2. Stop, Look & Listen

Very often, we miss seeing and hearing the animals around us because of our own noises and scent as we walk in the woods. If you stop and remain quiet for a while, the animals will return to their normal activities for us to observe. Listen for the sounds of birds calling to each other, the buzzing of insects, the crunch of leaves and twigs on the ground and rustling in the trees. Watch for the flash of small animals as they scurry underfoot or overhead, and birds as they fly through the trees.

Stop awhile and listen to the woods. Write down what you hear: _____

_____

_____

_____

What is the call of the wood frog? _____

How many songs does a male Cardinal have? _____

What is the Cardinal's favorite food? _____

What is the scientific name of the raccoon?

_____

Draw something from nature that you found near this sign in the space below:

3. Waves of Wild Flowers

Shade loving flowers are a delightful contribution to the woodland ecosystem. Their beauty is witnessed in a variety of colors, shapes, textures and sizes. Most bloom in the early to late spring. The majority of them have bulbous roots that store plant food for quick growth in the spring. They must finish their full growing season in the short time before the tree leaves cut off the needed sunlight.
Look carefully at their leaf shapes, sizes and fruit in order to recognize the plants even when they are not in bloom.

Pick a flower from the sign and draw it in the space provided below.

What flower gave Chicago its name? _____
What flower is pollinated by ants? _____
What flower's root is a laxative? _____
List four flowers from the sign that have edible parts:
*1)*_____ *2)*_____
*3)*_____ *4)*_____

4. Wildlife Detectives

Most animal life goes on out of sight and we only have their tracks and signs to tell us about them. Look for tracks in soft mud, wet sand or snow. Look at the ground around this marker. Find anything? Look carefully at the features of the tracks. What can you tell about the animals? Does the animal place its whole pad down, or does it walk on its toes? Are the front and back tracks the same?
In addition to tracks, watch for chewed or bruised vegetations, droppings (called ***scat***), hairs snagged on branches or in bark, gnawed bones, feathers, open and chewed nuts, dens, burrows and nests.
You may also find well-worn trails and runways through the grass that the animals use regularly. These signs may not be obvious at first, but with practice, you will see them.

Name the animals below:

_____ _____ _____

What does coyote scat contain? _____
*What is **Malacosoma americanum?*** _____
How do they live? _____
What is an owl pellet? _____
What do the pellets contain? _____
When do white-tailed deer lose their antlers? _____
When are raccoons most active? _____
Look around the area near this sign. Do you find any "signs" of animals? Write about or draw them: _____

_____

5. Flowers of the Open Woods and Fields (Prairies)

Flowers of the open woods and prairies lend bright colors to the late spring through summer. Those of the prairies are mostly full sun loving plants, while those of the open woods enjoy a little shade. Many of the flowers provide nectar and pollen for insects and butterflies, as well as tasty seeds for many birds. Watch for butterflies like the Monarch and its ***mimic*** the Viceroy enjoying a meal.

Monarch **Viceroy**

Pick one of the wildflowers on the sign and draw it in the space below:

What is the scientific name of the flower that has an edible, starchy root? _____

What flower provided Native Americans with a styptic for sores? _____

What flower makes a good herbal "tea"? _____

What is a "mimic"? _____

_____

Why is a Viceroy butterfly one? _____

_____

_____

6. Pond Ponderings

The following rhyme is a good way to distinguish between the major plant types found in the prairie and wetlands. Sedges, which have a triangular base, are found on the transition zone between wetlands and prairie, rushes are found in the wetlands, and grasses are found on the dry prairie.

Sedges have edges. Rushes are round.
Grasses are hollow. What have YOU found?

Pond plants provide habitats for many invertebrates that are used as food by fish and other wildlife. After the aquatic plants die, they provide food for the invertebrates. Ducks and other birds eat the seeds of the rushes, while geese, and muskrats eat the rhizomes and early shoots.
The caterpillars of various moths eat many parts of the cattail. Their starchy rootstocks are an important food source for muskrats and even geese. Dense stands of cattails provide cover and nesting areas for some wetland birds.

Draw an insect that you saw around the pond in the space below:

What are the differences between a damselfly and a dragonfly? _____

_____

Where do Red winged black birds often build their nests? _____

What is the call of the western chorus frog?

_____Did you hear it? _____

How far can a grasshopper jump? _____

What is the life span of *Chrysmys picta*? _____

Which frog hibernates in the muddy bottoms of ponds?

_____

Field observations of: _____

Place: _____

Date and Time: _____

I wonder..... _____

A drawing of what I observed:

Detail

Field observations of: _____

Place: _____

Date and Time: _____

I wonder..... _____

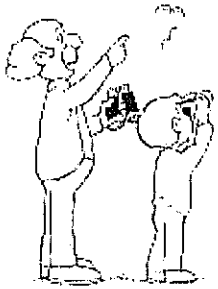
A drawing of what I observed:

Detail

Prairie Grass Nature Museum

Be sure to visit us!
There is ***FREE*** admission
during open hours.

Come in to borrow one of our **Discovery Day Packs** for your hike. They contain binoculars, field guides, a magnifying glass and other neat stuff with which to explore nature!



Round Lake Area
Park District

For more information contact:
Prairie Grass Nature Museum
860 Hart Road, Round Lake, IL 60073
847-740-9823 www.rlapd.org

What did you find in Hart's Woods?

Check the things that you found below.
You can add your own as well.
When you have finished the list, bring it to the **Prairie Grass Nature Museum** for a special nature prize!

Shagbark hickory tree_____
White oak tree_____
Black cherry tree_____
White tailed deer_____
Chipmunk_____
Gray squirrel_____
Hornet's nest_____
Toad_____
Butterfly_____
Moth_____
Other Insects_____
Spider_____
Spider web_____
Lichen_____
Moss_____
Wild onion_____
Sedges_____
Grasses_____
Wild flowers_____
Mushroom/fungus_____
Owl_____
Sparrow_____
Robin_____
Bird nest_____
Cattails_____
Dragonfly_____
Frog_____
Turtle_____
Earthworm_____
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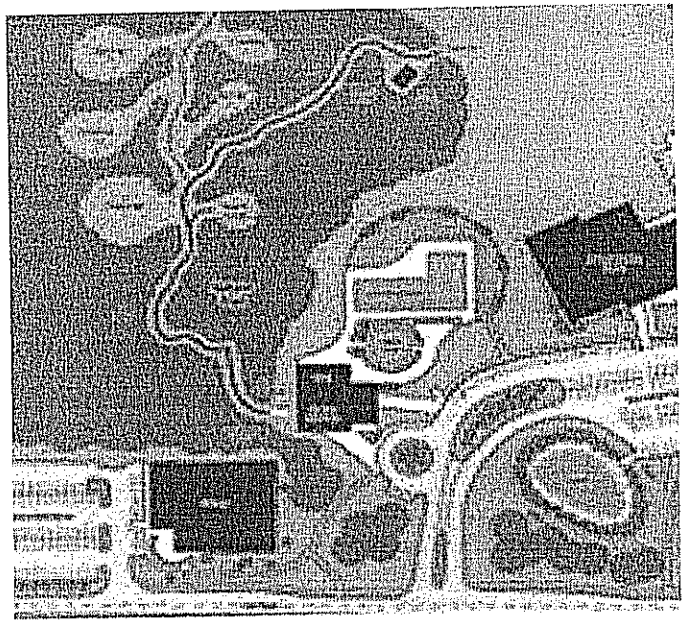
Name_____
Street_____
City_____State__Zip_____
Email_____
Phone_____



Prairie Grass Nature Museum

Be sure to visit us! There is ***FREE*** admission during open hours. Camps, crafts, programs and special events change seasonally.
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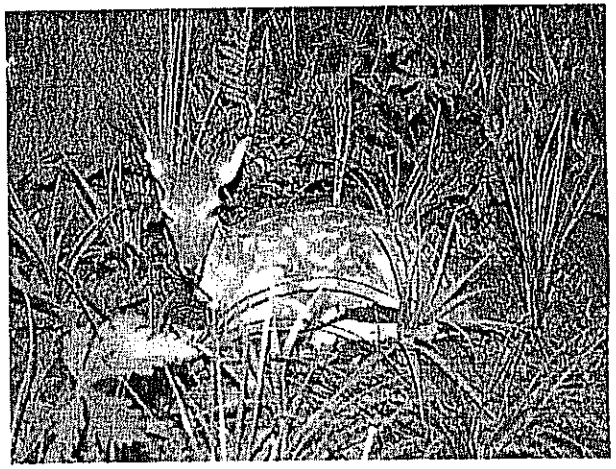
HART'S WOODS Trail Guide



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White Oak Black Cherry Shagbark Hickory

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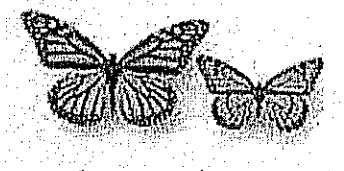
Monarch Viceroy



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