Salt Creek Greenway Association

10327 Elizabeth Street, Westchester, IL 60154
708-865-8736 or 630-833-8154
www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org

December l, 2013

Ms. Maggie Cole
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2050 W. Stearns
Bartlett, IL 60103

Re: Grant Agreement 13-021W
Eliminate Phragmites Campaign at
Wolf Road Prairie

Dear Maggie,

In accordance with the requirements of Agreement 13-021W, I am enclosing the following documentation to verify the completion and funding of this project.

1. **Copy of SCGA letter to you dated 10/18/12 showing cost of project completed in 2012 and cost of project to be completed in 2013 – total - $3,600.00 – and job specification proposal from Witness Tree Native Landscapes**

2. **Copy of payment request voucher for $1,800 paid to SCGA by IDNR representing grant funding for the project.**

3. **Bills and copies of SCGA checks paid to Witness Tree Native Landscapes representing the 50% SCGA matching grant requirement and IDNR grant.**

9/11/12	**$ 945.00**
10/8/12	**$ 1,608.75**
9/9/13	**$ 1,046.25**
Total grant amount	**$ 3,600.00**

4. **Phragmities and Invasive Control Report prepared by Witness Tree Native Landscapes for work completed in 2012.**

5. **Phragmites and Invasive Control Report provided by Witness Tree Native Landscapes for work completed in 2013.**

6. **Grant Attachment A showing map of Phragmites work area.**

7. **8/1/12 - Suburban Life publicity article about the grant**

8. **8/22/12 – Suburban Life publicity article with photos and article about the grant**

9. **Salt Creek Chronicles – Autumn 2013 issue with photos and article featuring the Phragmites project and also the 9 Hickory Lane Creek clearing project**

10. **Photo – 9/26/12 – Showing treatment of Phragmites in wetland**

11. **SCGA chronicles – 2011 issue – Page 4 – featuring wetland map and 1st Phase Phragmites Campaign funded by SCGA prior to the IDNR matching grant.**

I trust the above information and attachments provide what IDNR requires to verify the completion of the Eliminate Phragmites Campaign at Wolf Road Prairie.

If you have questions regarding the project report, please let me know.

Again, thank you for approving this project grant. The project has resulted in restoration of the Wolf Road Prairie wetland ecosystem and native species and improvement to the hydrology of the preserve.

It is a pleasure to work with you and IDNR at Wolf Road Prairie.

Regards,

Valerie

Valerie Spale
President

Salt Creek Greenway Association

10327 Elizabeth Street, Westchester, IL 60154
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www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org

October 18, 2012

Maggie Cole
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2050 W, Stearns
Bartlett, IL 60103

Re: Grant Agreement 13-021W

Dear Maggie,

I am enclosing the following items regarding the above referenced grant – The Eliminate Phragmites Campaign at Wolf Road Prairie.

1. **Payment Request Certification form in the amount of $1,800**	
2. **Witness Tree Native Landscapes Invoice dated 9/11/12 and copy of SCGA check #1054 dated 9/20/12 in the amount of $945.00**	**$ 945.00**
3. **Witness Tree Native Landscapes Invoice dated 10/8/12 and copy of SCGA check #1056 dated 10./12/12 in the amount of $1,608.75**	**$ 1,608.75**
Total projects costs completed – 2012	**$ 2,553.75**

Per your email of 7/8/12, you informed me that the WPF grant administrator confirmed that SCGA could bill IDNR for the first $1,800 after Witness Tree completed that part of the project (copy of email enclosed).

SCGA matching project amount	**$ 1,800.00**
SCGA paid in 2012	**$ 753.75**
To be paid by SCGA in 2013	**$ 1,046.25**

Please reimburse SCGA in the amount of $1,800 covering the IDNR portion of the project costs for work completed.

Thanks,
Valerie
Valerie

The following specifications shall be applied to the above named job:

2012 Wolf Road Prairie
Phragmites & Invasive Species Control

Date
June 1, 2012

Client
Salt Creek Greenway Assn.
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester, IL 60154

Consultant
Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc.
121 Ford Street
Geneva, Illinois 60134
(630) 262-1160 office & fax
(630) 267-2233 mobile
mjzaander@sbcglobal.net

Project
Wetland Phragmites and Invasive Species Control

Objectives
One objective of the work at Wolf Road Prairie is to further control Phragmites australis in the wetland. Other invasive species will be targeted including cattails and brush.

Scope of Services
Phase I - Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc will provide 40 hours of invasive species control targeting Phragmites in the wetland at a cost of $1,800.
Phase II - Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc will provide 40 hours of invasive species control targeting Phragmites, cattails and woody brush in and around the wetland at a cost of $1,800.
Total cost of Phase I and Phase II is $3,600.

Billing
Client will be billed monthly for work completed.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FY13 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

Grantee Information

Grantee Name: Salt Creek Greenway Association
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester, IL 60154

Grant Agreement #: 13-021W

Amount of
Reimbursement Requested: $ 1,800.00

I certify that the goods or services specified on this request for payment were for the use of this agency and that the expenditure for such goods or services was authorized and lawfully incurred, that such goods or services meet all the required standards set forth in the grant agreement to which this request for payment relates, and that the amount shown below on this request is correct and approved for payment.

By: Valerie Spale (Signature) Date: 10/18/12 ✓ paid 2012

Name: Valerie Spale Title: President

Grantee F.E.I.N. / TIN: 36 3596717

Attach copies of vendor billings, proof of payment, and other necessary documentation and send the Request for Payment Certification to:

Maggie Cole
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
2050 W. Stearns
Bartlett, IL 60103
Telephone #: (847)608-3100 x2049
E-Mail Address: Maggie.Cole@Illinois.gov

For DNR Use Only

Approved
for Payment: _____
Signature

Name:

Date: _____

Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc
Ecosystem Restoration Services
121 Ford Street, Geneva, IL 60134 • witnesstreenative.com • 630.262.1160

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
09/11/2012	2016
	Due Date
	10/11/2012

Bill To

Salt Creek Greenway Association
Attn: Valerie Spale
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester, IL 60154

Activity	Quantity	Rate	Amount
2012 - 13 Phragmites & Invasive Control			
08/02/2012			
• Physical Removal - Mechanical Brush Cutter	3:00	45.00	135.00
Subtotal: 08/02/2012 = $135.00			
08/10/2012			
• Herbicide Ap - Cattails (Typha sp)	1:30	45.00	67.50
• Herbicide Ap - Common Reed (Phragmites australis)	15:00	45.00	675.00
Subtotal: 08/10/2012 = $742.50			
08/31/2012			
• Physical Removal - Mechanical Brush Cutter	1:30	45.00	67.50
Subtotal: 08/31/2012 = $67.50			
SUBTOTAL - 2012 - 13 Phragmites & Invasive Control = $945.00			

SubTotal	$945.00
Tax (7.5%)	$0.00
Total	**$945.00**

SALT CREEK GREENWAY ASSOCIATION
10327 ELIZABETH
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

70-2540/719
0250001314

1059

DATE 11-15-12

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Witness Tree Native Landscapes $ 945.00

Nine hundred forty five and xx/100 DOLLARS

Security features included. Details on back.

HINSDALE BANK
& TRUST COMPANY
25 EAST FIRST STREET
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521
630 / 323-4404

MEMO 2016 Kenneth F. Spale

⑆071925402⑆ ⑈0250001314⑈ 1059

SAFETY PAPER

Invoice

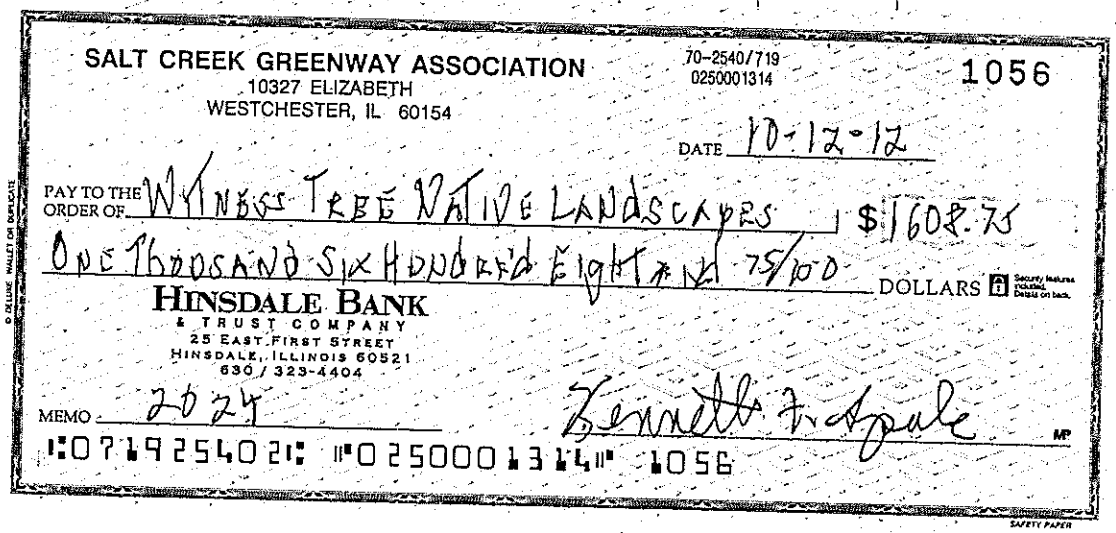
Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc
Ecosystem Restoration Services
121 Ford Street, Geneva, IL 60134 • witnesstreenative.com • 630.262.1160

Date	Invoice #
10/08/2012	2024
	Due Date
	11/07/2012

Bill To

Salt Creek Greenway Association
Attn: Valerie Spale
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester, IL 60154

Activity	Quantity	Rate	Amount
2012 - 13 Phragmites & Invasive Control			
09/20/2012			
• Herbicide Ap - Common Reed (Phragmites australis)	20:00	45.00	900.00
Subtotal: 09/20/2012 = $900.00			
09/26/2012			
• Herbicide Ap - Common Reed (Phragmites australis)	15:45	45.00	708.75
Subtotal: 09/26/2012 = $708.75			
SUBTOTAL - 2012 - 13 Phragmites & Invasive Control = $1,608.75			



SubTotal	$1,608.75
Tax (7.5%)	$0.00
Total	**$1,608.75**

Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc
Ecosystem Restoration Services
121 Ford Street, Geneva, IL 60134 • witnesstreenative.com • 630.262.1160

Invoice

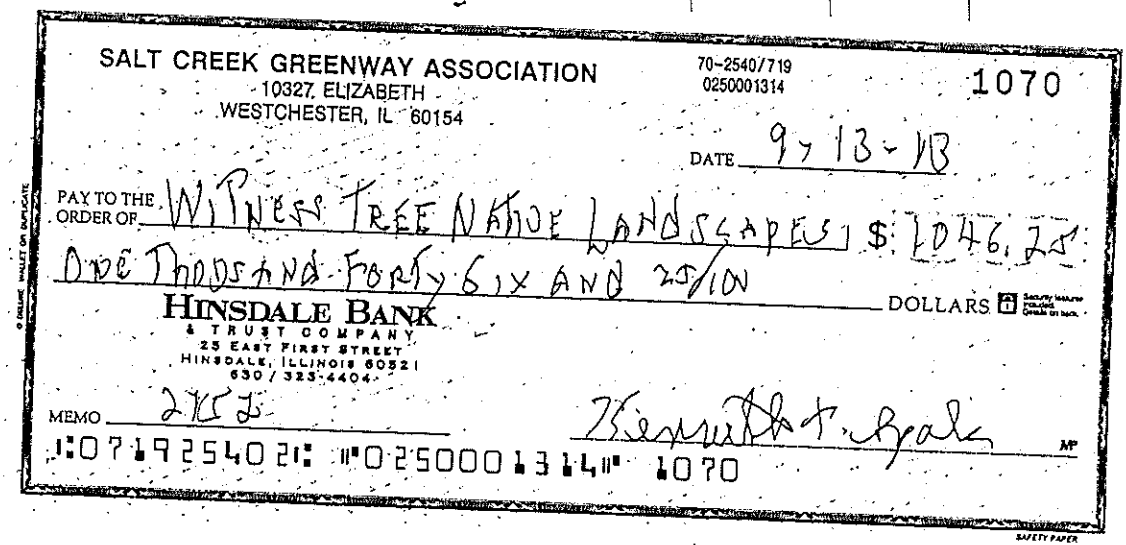
Date	Invoice No.
09/09/2013	2152
	Due Date
	10/09/2013

Bill To

Salt Creek Greenway Association
Attn: Valerie Spale
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester, IL 60154

Match

Activity	Quantity	Rate	Amount
2012 - 13 Phragmites & Invasive Control			
08/01/2013			
• Over Contract Amount	-1	101.25	-101.25
• Herbicide Ap - Woody Basal Bark and/or Stumps	5:30	45.00	247.50
• Herbicide Ap - Common Reed (Phragmites australis)	20:00	45.00	900.00
Subtotal: 08/01/2013 = $1,046.25			
SUBTOTAL - 2012 - 13 Phragmites & Invasive Control = $1,046.25			



SALT CREEK GREENWAY ASSOCIATION
10327 ELIZABETH
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

70-2540/719
0250001314

1070

DATE 9-13-13

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Witness Tree Native Landscapes $ 1046.25

One Thousand Forty Six and 25/100 DOLLARS

HINSDALE BANK
& TRUST COMPANY
25 EAST FIRST STREET
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS 60521
630 / 323-4404

MEMO 2152

Kenneth T. Spale

⑆071925402⑆ ⑈0250001314⑈ 1070

SAFETY PAPER

Total $1,046.25

2012 Wolf Road Prairie
Phragmites & Invasive Species Control
2012 Work Report

Date

October 14, 2012

Client

Salt Creek Greenway Assn.
10327 Elizabeth Street
Westchester, IL 60154

Consultant

Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc.
121 Ford Street
Geneva, Illinois 60134
(630) 262-1160 office & fax
(630) 267-2233 mobile
mjzaander@sbcglobal.net

Project

Wetland Phragmites and Invasive Species Control

Report

The area covered be Phragmites australis forms an "L" shaped patch that runs from the IDNR garage generally northeast toward the prairie bridge south of the Franzosenbusch House. In 2011 Witness Tree Native Landscapes (WTNL) worked along the eastern edge of the Phragmites patch spraying both the concentrated areas and the outliers. Some outlier patches were also sprayed on the southwestern side of the patch in 2011.

In 2012 WTNL connected the areas between the eastern and southwestern edges. The spraying began with areas that had already been sprayed in 2011 in order to control any individuals that remained. The 2012 spraying progressed toward the center of the patch. Applications were made on August 10, September 20 and September 26. There was no precipitation on the application

days. A 5% aquatic approved Gyphosate (Aquaneat: 53.8% Glyphosate by volume) was sprayed using primarily backpack sprayers. Hand sprayers were used where Phragmites was mixed in with good vegetation.

The Phragmites area was dryer than usual due to the summer drought. This allowed for somewhat easier access. The dead vegetation was very thick and this inhibited movement. Therefore WTNL used a mechanical bladed trimmer to cut a path into and around much of the Phragmites patch.

The central and southwestern portion of the Phragmites patch showed some yellowing in the early summer. In late summer some of the Phragmites culms did sprout new growth. For some of the plants this did focus the green, growing portion of the plants high on the stem. At least half of the plants, though, were green along the entire stem. There may be some reduced effectiveness on the plants where the amount of growing tissue was reduced and concentrated at the top. Perhaps, though, the plants are already under stress and more susceptible to control methods. As all invasive species control require multiple follow up control measures, WTNL proceeded to apply herbicide to as much of the plants as were green at the time of our applications. A burn in the Phragmites area will facilitate follow up work in 2013.

Much of the Phragmites grows with narrow leaved cattails. Where possible the cattails were sprayed along with the Phragmites. Further control of the narrow leaved cattails is recommended. This will be done along with Phragmites control in 2013 but there are likely areas outside the Phragmites patch where the cattails will need to be sprayed.

The somewhat linear patch of Phragmites follows what appears to be a dredged ditch with spoil material alongside. The affect of this ditch on the presence of Phragmites should be considered in solving the longterm issue of invasive species in this area.

July 2 and August 31 – Mechanically weed wack path around Phragmites patch

August 10, 2012
1.5 hours of cattail control in previously covered areas
2.5 hours of Phragmites follow-up in patches sprayed in 2011
2.5 hours of Phragmites control of outliers
10 hours of Phragmites control on eastern portion of linear patch

September 20, 2012
9 hours of Phragmites control in center section of linear patch
6.75 hours of Phragmites control on southwestern portion of linear patch

September 26, 2012
15.75 hours on southwestern portion of linear patch

Phragmites and Invasive Control
Wolf Road Prairie Wetland
August l, 2013

The following work was performed by Witness Tree Native Landscapes at the Wolf Road Prairie wetland on August l, 2013.

Herbicide Application - Woody Basal Bark and/or Stumps

Herbicide Application – Common Reed (Phragmites australis)

This completes the 2013 Phase 2 of this project for a total cost of $ l,046.25 and 25 hours and 30 minutes of contract work time.

(See bill provided)

ATTACHMENT A (June 6, 2012)

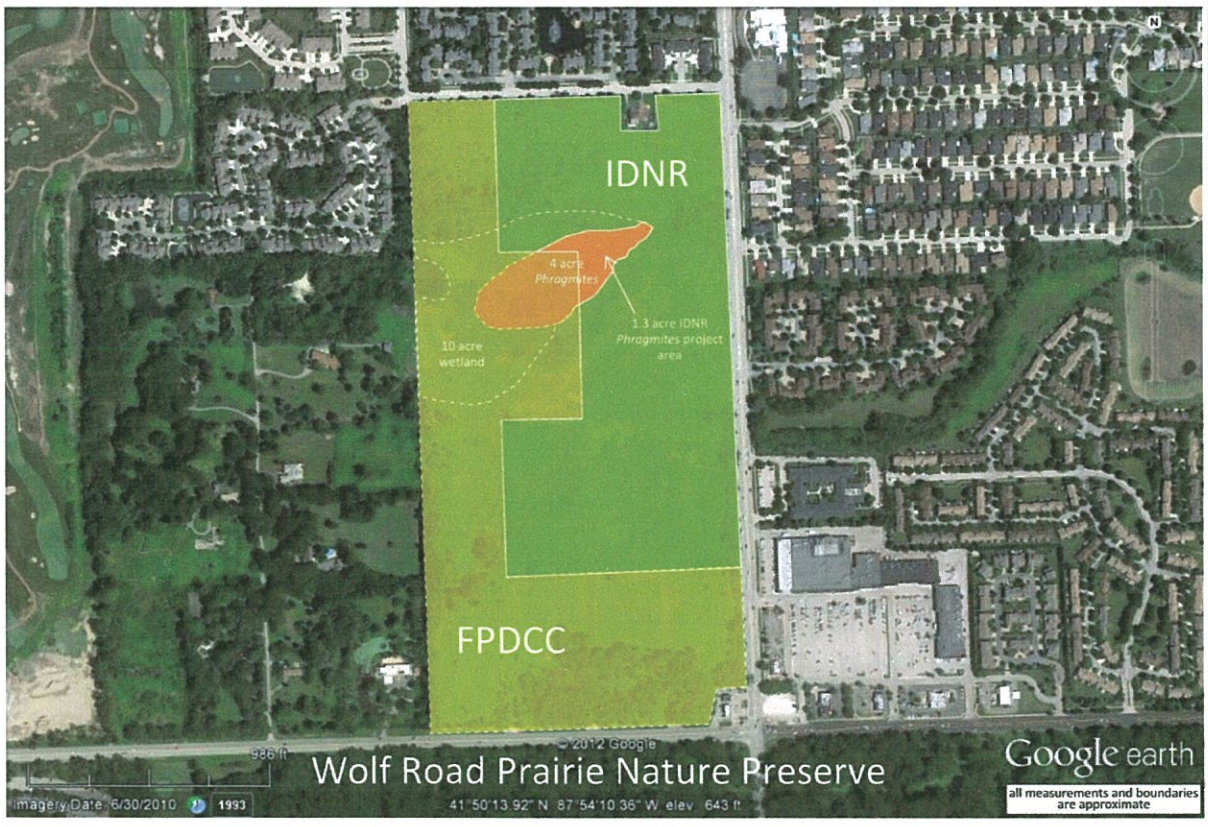
Salt Creek Greenway Association – Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve Project Name: Salt Creek Greenway Association (SCGW) Eliminate Phragmites Campaign Stewardship Project 2012

Project Site Name and County: Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve; Cook County, Illinois. The site is owned in part by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

DNR Site Name and County: Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Cook County

The following specifications shall be applied to the above named job.

Job Site Location (insert map below or attach a map of project location and management units:



The total area of Phragmites on DNR land measures approximately 1.3 acres.

NEWS BRIEFS

Nature preserve gets grant

The Salt Creek Greenway Association has received an Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund award, a matching grant in the amount of $1,800.

The grant will be used to fund the "Eliminate Phragmites Campaign" at the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve.

Phragmites australis, or common reeds, can quickly take over a high quality wetland and result in the loss of native plants and wildlife if left unchecked by altering hydrology and blocking sunlight to the vegetation in aquatic communities.

The invasion of reeds into the Wolf Road Prairie wetland poses a grave environmental threat to one of the most recognized and visited natural areas in Cook County and Illinois.

Wolf Road Prairie is an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site, categorized as a high-quality natural community with suitable habitat for state-listed species and is considered one of the finest natural areas within the Salt Creek Greenway.

The purpose of the grant is to eradicate reeds and other associated invasive species from the preserve in order to return the wetland ecosystem to its natural function and encourage the return of native plants and wildlife to the area.

It is expected that by the end of 2013, all reeds will be permanently eliminated from the Wolf Road Prairie wetland.

SALT CREEK CHRONICLES

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE SPECIAL EDITION

A Newsletter of the Salt Creek Greenway Association (SCGA) Fall 2013

Salt Creek Greenway - Gateway to Discovery

Natural areas, historic sites, cultural attractions, land and water recreational trails, shopping centers, theatre and gourmet dining beckon visitors to one of the richest and most scenic and diverse open space corridors in Illinois.

Located within the densely populated suburbs of western Cook and eastern DuPage counties, the Salt Creek Greenway trail is designated a priority Greenway in the Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan and extends through 9 communities with a combined population exceeding 300,000 residents and includes:

- 15 forest preserves in two counties
- 8 local parks and recreational facilities in 5 communities
- 5 National Historic Register sites and other historic attractions
- 3 dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves
- The Brookfield Zoo
- The historic Fullersburg area
- Graue Mill and Dam
- Mayslake/Peabody Estate
- Shopping malls, theaters, restaurants, employment and economic centers, mass transit services, historic homes, vintage communities and spacious subdivisions

SCGA is a tax exempt (501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

SCGA is a member of Chicago Wilderness, Partners for Parks and Wildlife and the Lower DesPlaines Ecosystem Partnership.

ABOUT US

Identifying, preserving and promoting the natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the 30 mile Salt Creek Greenway.

PRIORITY PROJECT IN THE GREENWAY FOR SCGA

Protecting and restoring the 80 acre Wolf Road Prairie and supporting the acquisition and restoration of Hickory Lane bufferlands.

In 1833, when the Illinois territory opened to European settlement, 70% of the state's original landscape was prairie. Today, only 1/100th of 1% high quality black soil prairie remains. This includes Wolf Road Prairie recognized as the finest and largest example of black soil prairie east of the Mississippi River. Natural areas like Wolf Road Prairie are often isolated and vulnerable to invasion by non-native species. As degradation occurs, biodiversity is diminished and the site loses its ability to sustain rare native plant, insect, bird and animal populations indigenous to its origins. To reverse this decline and to ensure that the last of our priceless natural areas like Wolf Road Prairie survive, diligent ecosystem restoration is necessary, including aggressive removal of invasive species, restocking areas undergoing restoration with native seed sources and introducing seasonal prescribed burns.

Photo by: Dan Kirk, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

THE ROLE OF SCGA AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

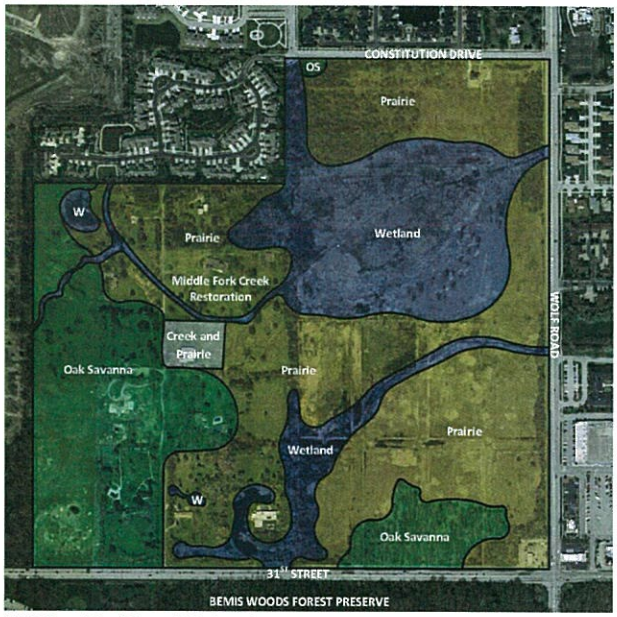
Our purpose is to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), owners of Wolf Road Prairie, and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), who oversees management and protection of the site, by recruiting volunteers, scheduling workdays, organizing special educational programs and nature tours and funding special ecosystem projects at the preserve such as the Eliminate *Phragmites* Campaign and the restoration of the Middle Fork Creek on 9 Hickory Lane buffer owned by IDNR.

PHRAGMITES CAMPAIGN AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE AND RESTORING THE MIDDLE FORK CREEK BUFFER ZONE

Treating Phragmites in the wetland. Photo: Mary Zaander

Phragmites australis (Common reed) is an invasive species which rapidly reproduces through the spread of seed and by root system cloning. It can quickly take over a high quality wetland in a matter of a few years if left unchecked.

This was the case at Wolf Road Prairie and was the reason why SCGA launched the Eliminate *Phragmites* Campaign. We retained Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc. to tackle this aggressive invasive species and remove it from the wetland in partnership with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), the Illinois Department of Natural Resource (IDNR) and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC).



Wolf Road Prairie and Hickory Lane Buffer. Map: Pizzo & Associates

Phragmites is a tall perennial grass which grows to heights of 15 feet or more and is found in or near shallow water. *Phragmites* thickets displace native wetland plants, alter hydrology and block sunlight to the aquatic community.

SCGA raised contributions to fund the first phase *Phragmites* Campaign initiating the wetland restoration in 2011. The second and third phases of the *Phragmites* Campaign are funded in part by an IDNR matching $1,800.00 Wildlife Preservation Fund grant with private matching funds raised by SCGA. 2013 marks the third phase of the *Phragmites* Campaign and concludes this year with the treatment of the remaining clumps of *Phragmites* in the wetland.

We are now beginning a new restoration project this season funded by SCGA. This involves restoring the Middle Fork Creek on 9 Hickory Lane buffer owned by IDNR. The creek drains into and connects to the Wolf Road Prairie wetland. The Middle Fork Creek has become overgrown with buckthorn and other invasive species over the past several years. This degrades the waterway and adversely impacts the hydrology and biodiversity of the creek and interferes with the recovery of the wetland. Restoring the Middle Fork Creek also plays an integral role in the recovery of Hickory Lane bufferlands.

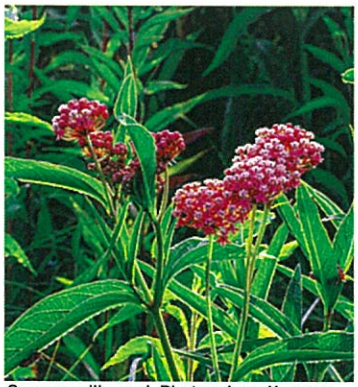
Buckthorn thicket at 9 Hickory Lane creek

Clearing begins

Following buckthorn clearing

Creek area following initial buckthorn clearing. Photos: Mary Zaander

Broad-leaved arrowhead



Swamp milkweed Photos: Jerry Kumery

Restoration of the wetland and buffer area will result in greater numbers of native plants repopulating the site and encouraging the return of more birds, butterflies and wildlife to the preserve.

Monitoring the Wolf Road Prairie wetland and the Middle Fork Creek will be ongoing annually in order to maintain a *Phragmites* free preserve and continue the recovery of Hickory Lane bufferlands.

THE EASTERN PRAIRIE FRINGED ORCHID AND WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

The Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) is a rare plant species listed as both state endangered and federally threatened. This orchid has specific life history requirements that may make it more challenging to recover.

Loss of habitat, conversion of wetlands and prairies to cropland and pasture and a 70% decline in drainage due to development has resulted in the decline and loss of this exquisite native plant.

In the past, Wolf Road Prairie supported a population of the Eastern prairie fringed orchid (EPFO), but it has not been seen at the site since 1983. In 2012, Eastern prairie fringed orchid seed was introduced to WRP in an effort to re-establish the population. Seed was donated from the Nachusa Grasslands population. Seeds are microscopic, delicate and powdery. Seed was introduced by hand into the soil at Wolf Road Prairie by Cathy Pollack, Service Biologist and Nationwide Lead in the Recovery of the EPFO, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Orchid Team volunteers. Another method of introduction is to let the wind scatter the seeds as pods turn ripe.

Left: Cathy Pollack, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dr. Darrel Murray and Greg Jerzyk, Orchid Team Volunteers, select area for re-introduction of orchid seeds. Photo: Valerie Spale

Right: Cathy Pollack and Greg Jerzyk place orchid seeds in ground among companion plants. Photo: Valerie Spale

Left: EPFO in full bloom at one of the sites in Illinois where the population flourishes. Photo: Kim Roman

A successful germination of introduced seeds cannot be predicted. It sometimes takes years before young plants can be identified and much longer for a plant to mature enough to blossom, be pollinated and set seed. Volunteers are trained to cross pollinate plants by hand to assist in the setting of seed. Seed pods are monitored following pollination to record the status of seed production. When seeds ripen, pods are collected and seeds are introduced into selected orchid habitat sites.

The orchid plant grows between 8 to 40 inches tall with upright leaves. Its white flowers are clustered on spiked stems. The blossoms are fragrant at night and flower for about two weeks. The Hawk moth is the known primary pollinator. Preferred orchid habitat is mesic prairie and sedge meadow with full sunlight, high quality native companion plants and specific soil composition and hydrological conditions. It is believed that the orchid also requires the presence of mycorrhizae in the soil as a food source for germinating seeds and for plants to survive and reproduce.

The re-establishment of the (EPFO) at Wolf Road Prairie is a team project involving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and SCGA.

Conclusion The re-introduction of orchid seeds at Wolf Road Prairie is scheduled to be a five year project. The hope is that as time passes, orchids will once again populate, thrive and bloom at Wolf Road Prairie.

Right: A volunteer hand pollinates orchid blossoms to encourage the setting of seeds. Photo: Cathy Bloome

Scenic Drive - 31st Street Corridor in the Greenway

The 31st Street Corridor begins at LaGrange Road and continues west to Highland Avenue. This scenic stretch passes forests and lands owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and crosses over Salt Creek in a few places. The corridor is a gateway to nature and history along its route. One of the highlights of the Corridor is the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve. Visitors stopping here can experience the centuries' old savanna and prairie of pre-settlement times like nowhere else in Cook County, Illinois and beyond.

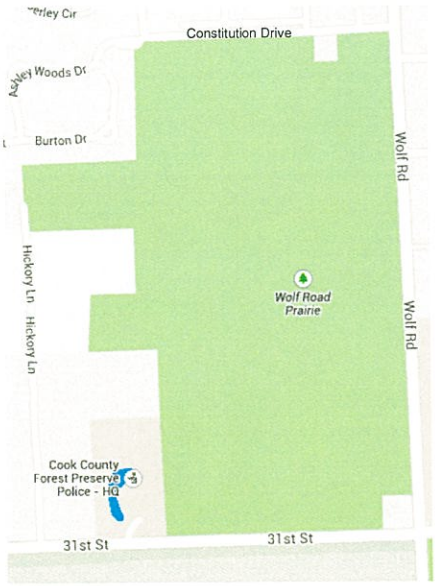
To visit, pull into one of the parking inlets west of Wolf Road and north of 31st Street. You will find yourself at the core of the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve where its origins still remain. Take a walk along the old pre-1929 Great Depression sidewalks serving as modern day trails. You will pass through the globally endangered savanna and see the prairie landscape revealed beyond as the wooded canopy thins. Stop by year around and enjoy the colors and textures of the prairie throughout the seasons.

ABOUT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

Wolf Road Prairie is owned by The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. It is a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve.

Wolf Road Prairie is considered the finest and largest black soil (mesic) prairie west of the Mississippi River. Countless plants, birds, animals, butterflies and insects live here, including some threatened and endangered species.

SCGA works to conduct ecological restoration at Wolf Road Prairie and provides nature tours and programs as a public service in partnership with the landowners and the Nature Preserves Commission.



WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE HAPPENINGS

Birders on spring walk led by Phyllis Mertz, The Morton Arboretum

Orchid team surveys viable locations for seed introduction

Doug Taron, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum of Chicago, leads butterfly tour

Melina Peters, Naturalist, Little Red Schoolhouse, and Great horned owl visit Hickory Lane buffer

National Public Lands Day Chicago Wilderness volunteers gather for group shot.

Students from St. Xavier University study the History of the Great Lakes and learn how to identify prairie plants.

Owl photo: Tom Lovestrand; Other photos: Valerie Spale

New Hickory Lane Buffer Acquisition

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County acquired a strategic two acre buffer property on Hickory Lane on May 29, 2013. This property contains a portion of the Middle Fork Creek which provides drainage to the Wolf Road Prairie wetland, increases wildlife habitat and protects the preserve watershed.

Salt Creek Greenway Association
10327 Elizabeth Street, Westchester, IL 60154
Phone: 708-865-8736
www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org

2012 WRP – Phragmites & Invasive Control
Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc.
PHOTOGRAPHS

Spraying Phragmites: 9-26-2012

SALT CREEK CHRONICLES

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE SPECIAL EDITION

A Newsletter of the Salt Creek Greenway Association

Winter 2011

Salt Creek Greenway - Gateway to Discovery

Natural areas, historic sites, cultural attractions, land and water recreational trails, shopping centers, theatre and gourmet dining beckon visitors to experience one of the richest and most scenic and diverse open space corridors in Illinois.

Located within the densely populated suburbs of western Cook and eastern DuPage Counties, the Salt Creek Greenway trail is designated a priority Greenway in the Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan and extends through 9 communities with a combined population exceeding 300,000 residents and includes:

- 15 forest preserves in two counties
- 8 local parks and recreational facilities in 5 communities
- 5 National Historic Register sites and other historic attractions
- 3 dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves
- The Brookfield Zoo
- The historic Fullersburg area
- Graue Mill and Dam
- Mayslake/Peabody Estate
- Shopping malls, theaters restaurants, employment and economic centers, mass transit services, historic homes, vintage communities and spacious subdivisions.

SCGA is tax exempt (501)(c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

SCGA is a member of Chicago Wilderness, Partners for Parks and Wildlife and the Lower DesPlaines Ecosystem Partnership.

Photo: IDNR Director Marc Miller, Valerie Spale and Jack Pizzo from SCGA, Don McFall of IDNR and Randy Heidorn, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE – A SALT CREEK GREENWAY TREASURE

Protecting and restoring the 80 acre Wolf Road Prairie and Hickory Lane bufferlands is a priority project in the Greenway for SCGA.

Our purpose is to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), owners of the preserve, and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), who oversees management and protection of the site, by recruiting volunteers, scheduling workdays and sponsoring special educational programs and nature tours.

We are proud and honored to announce that SCGA received an Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award from IDNR for our work at Wolf Road Prairie. The award was presented at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield on August 20, 2011 by IDNR Director, Marc Miller.

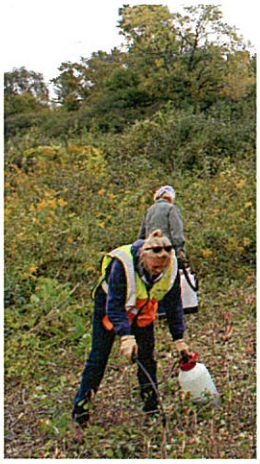
"The Salt Creek Greenway Association of Westchester is a watershed-focused organization that has taken an active role in restoring Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve which is located within the Greenway. The group completed 375 hours in 2010 by sponsoring a Restoration Blitz, two Pump Up the Prairie workdays, an Exelon Employee Workday and a National Public Lands Day event. They have already completed two Pump Up the Prairie days in 2011 and have made preparations to chip and haul away invasive brush during a winter workday. The outlook for Wolf Road Prairie has become very positive from this active and passionate volunteer group. The Salt Creek Greenway Association stands out for its accomplishments and is deserving of the IDNR Volunteer of the Year Award."

SCGA WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

In 1833, when the Illinois territory opened to European settlement, 70% of the state's original landscape was prairie. Today, only 1/100th of 1% high quality black soil prairie remains. This includes Wolf Road Prairie recognized as the finest and largest example of black soil prairie east of the Mississippi River. Natural areas like Wolf Road Prairie are often isolated and vulnerable to invasion by non-native species. As degradation occurs, biodiversity is diminished and the site loses its ability to sustain rare native plant, insect, bird and animal populations indigenous to its origins. To reverse this decline and to ensure that the last of our priceless natural areas like Wolf Road Prairie survive, ecosystem restoration and aggressive removal of invasive species is critical.

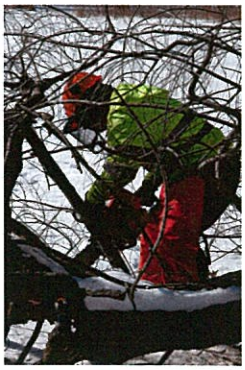
For more details or to volunteer please visit our website
www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org

WORKDAY HIGHLIGHTS



SCGA volunteers are proud to play a restoration role at Wolf Road Prairie working hand in hand with Steve Byers and INPC staff, FPDCC staff and IDNR staff. As invasive species are removed and scenic vistas open, an array of prairie plants extend their range into newly restored ground. This results in more native plant seed production and expands favorable habitat for migrating and nesting birds and other wildlife.

One of the long term goals is to encourage the return of rare grassland birds such as Dickcissels, Meadowlarks, Field Sparrows, Brown Thrashers and Bobolinks who require tall grasses for perching and larger nesting territories. They were recorded in the vicinity of the preserve not too long ago before changes in land use to the west altered the open space character of the area. Converting those parcels of Hickory Lane bufferland still maintained as mowed turfgrass to original ecosystem function and thriving native plant communities might be all that is needed to bring them back.



PHRAGMITES CAMPAIGN AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

This summer, SCGA launched the "Eliminate *Phragmites* Campaign" to begin the battle to rid this aggressive invasive species from the Wolf Road Prairie wetland.

Phragmites australis (Common reed) is a tall perennial grass that grows to heights of 15 feet or more and is found in or near shallow water. *Phragmites* thickets displace native wetland plants, alter hydrology and block sunlight to the aquatic community.

Phragmites, the scourge of Illinois wetlands, rapidly reproduces through the spread of seed and by root system cloning. It can quickly take over a high quality wetland in a matter of a few years if left unchecked.

This is the case at the Wolf Road Prairie wetland. Where there were some isolated clumps of *Phragmites* only a few years ago, today they have expanded their range exponentially and are posing a grave environmental threat to the integrity of the wetland as shown in red in the map above.

The goal of SCGA is to raise funds to help eliminate this threat. Nearly $2,500 has been raised to date for phase one of the $5,000 "Eliminate *Phragmites* Campaign." SCGA has retained Witness Tree Native Landscapes, Inc. to conduct herbicide treatment of *Phragmites* under the supervision of Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, with approval by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Now the insidious *Phragmites* is being stopped in its tracks. But the battle is far from won. Another $2,500 is needed for additional phase one herbicide treatments and follow-up treatments as necessary.

Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the "Eliminate *Phragmites* Campaign". We invite those natural area advocates who believe it is crucial to maintain a high quality wetland ecosystem at Wolf Road Prairie to join us as we move ahead to eradicate *Phragmites*. 100% of all contributions go directly to the "Eliminate *Phragmites* Campaign".

Herbicide Application

Herbicide Application

Before Treatment

After Treatment

Photos: Irene Hogstrom; Map: Jack Pizzo

TREKKING WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

A Nature Trek at Wolf Road Prairie is like going back in time to the origins of Wild America. Here the savanna, prairie and wetland respond to the rhythms of nature and the cycles of the seasons much as they have done for thousands of years. Just moments away from shopping centers and housing developments, Wolf Road Prairie invites visitors to experience the connection between humans and the natural world at one of the rarest places on Earth.

Photo Credits and Nature Trek Leaders (See Page 8)

PRAIRIE

Enjoy these photos taken at Wolf Road Prairie and shared with SCGA by internationally published nature photographer, Mike MacDonald. Mike is renowned for capturing the beauty and majesty of Chicago Wilderness natural areas and beyond. He constantly explores, photographs, writes and teaches about the prairie. You can see more of his photography and find out about his photo workshops by visiting his web site at www.chicagonature.com. Mike was recently featured in *Outdoor Photographer – Land and Sky*. His photo seen below of Culver's root glowing in the morning sun at Wolf Road Prairie was selected as the banner image for the magazine article.

Photo opportunities at Wolf Road Prairie change almost daily. A new flower blooms, the textures and colors of grasses and leaves turn with the seasons and winter brings its own beautiful scenes of snow cover over the dormant prairie.

Experience the prairie through the lens or just by wandering around this ancient place miraculously saved.

Culver's Flame - An endless display of Culver's root burns white in the morning light of the prairie.

Bathe in the Light - Wild hyacinth bathe in fresh morning light as it streams into the open oak savanna.

Glorious Entanglement - Sawtooth sunflower and obedient plant grow in a gloriously chaotic and entangled embrace.

GALLERY

Diversity - The summer prairie blooms in a rich display of biodiversity.

Fireworks - July prairie wildflowers combine to resemble a fireworks display.

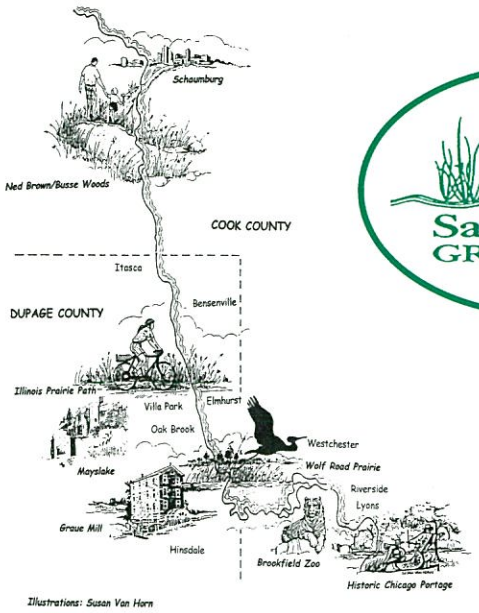
Late Bloomer - Sawtooth sunflowers bloom in fields of towering endless yellow in one of the last dramatic displays of the summer season.

SALT CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL

Trail System	Miles
Salt Creek Greenway Trail	30
Illinois Prairie Path	66
Fox River Trail	50
Great Western Trail	12
Centennial Trail	20
DesPlaines River Trail beginning at the Wisconsin State Line	

THE SALT CREEK GREENWAY and its spheres of influence contain remnants of the original landscapes of pre-settlement northeastern Illinois and the history and traditions of its people

- Ancient oak groves, savannas and prairie vistas...
- Archaeological sites dating back to 8,000 B.C....
- More recent Native American influences...
- Early settlement communities...
- Pioneer cemeteries...
- Impressive architectural structures listed in The National Register of Historic Places...
- Historic Homes and Museums...
- Recreational land and water trails...
- Vital reminders of our region's fascinating past which co-exist with modern-day communities and economic corridors



Illustrations: Susan Van Horn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Mike MacDonald, Nature Photographer and Teacher – Wolf Road Prairie Gallery Photos
- Cynthia Gehrie, Ph.D, Volunteer SCGA web site designer
- Dave Waycie, Volunteer SCGA Wolf Road Prairie photographer
- Jack Pizzo, Pump Up the Prairie photos and *Phragmites* map
- Irene Hogstrom, *Phragmites* campaign photos
- Greg Jerzyk, Special SCGA restoration volunteer at Wolf Road Prairie
- The Nature Conservancy/Illinois Nature Preserves Commission – grant for 2 backpack sprayers
- Whole Foods Market – Hinsdale – Donation of snack bars for National Public Lands Day – September 24, 2011
- Andy Slovick, Edmark Press, Chronicles Design

THANKS TO SCGA WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE NATURE TREK LEADERS

- April 20, 2011 – John Elliott, FPDCC – Birding on the Wolf Road Prairie Trail
- May 21, 2011 – Jack Pizzo, SCGA Board Member, Pizzo & Associates – Savanna Spring
- June 5, 2011 – Rich Hyerczyk, Chicago Lichenological Society – The Colorful World of Lichens
- July 26, 2011 – John Elliott, FPDCC – Roosevelt University Students Field Trip
- July 30, 2011 – Dr. John Wagner, The Field Museum - Discovering the World of Insects
- Aug. 27, 2011 – Dr. Gerould Wilhelm, Conservation Research Institute - A Late Summer Walk at Wolf Road Prairie
- Oct. 8, 2011 – Phyllis Mertz, The Morton Arboretum -Oaks of the Prairie
- Nov. 12, 2011 – Rich Hyerczyk, Chicago Lichenological Society – Natural History Lichen Class
- Dec. 3, 2011 – Yvonne Woulfe, Little Red Schoolhouse, FPDCC, Winter Survival

We're on the Web!

www.saltcreekgreenwayassociation.org
Phone: 708-865-8736 / 630-833-8154

VENDOR PAYMENT

COPY

AIS CONTROL NUMBER:

FY	FUND	DIV	LINE	SQ/TYPE	SUBA
2013		20	-	-	3500

FEIN: 36-3596717 DOC: AMOUNT: GOODS ACCEPT DATE: 10/18/2012

VENDOR INV#: grant 13-021W INVOICE RECEIPT DATE: 10/18/2012

NAME Salt Creek Greenway Association

ADDRESS: 10327 Elizabeth Street AMOUNT $1,800.00 INVOICE DATE: 10/18/2012

CITY: Westchester

STATE: IL ZIP: 60154

DNR #:

OBLIGATION #:

SERVICE DATES 8/2/2012 THR 9/26/2012 GAAP CODE: 5300

DESCRIPTION:

Phragmites control at Wolf Road Prairie - GRANT AGREEMENT 13-021W FUNNDED FROM WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND

EQUIPMENT LOCATION CODE, if different than Cost Center:

Cost Center		Program Code:	
3524	$1,800.00	-	$1,800.00

RECEIVING OFFICER SIGNATURE DATE: 10/23/2012

HEAD OF UNIT SIGNATURE: DATE:

Region Posting #: Site Posting #: 2757