

Openlands Lakeshore Preserve

Highland Park, Illinois



In the summer of 2008 Conservation Land Stewardship (CLS) began restoration work on one of the last remaining ravine and bluff ecosystems in the Chicago region. In coordination with Conservation Design Forum (CDF) and Graef Inc., CLS was retained by Openlands to implement the Fort Sheridan Lakeshore Preserve Action Plan.

The preserve, which is home to more than 6 Illinois threatened and endangered species, has been impacted by concentrated stormwater discharge, upland development, and an influx of invasive species. To date, more than 40 acres of this unique habitat has been restored, and CLS' efforts are ongoing. Initial restoration activities have included:

- selective clearing of invasive woody species
- initial seeding of bluff and ravine communities
- installation of erosion and sediment control structures, including steep slope hydromulch
- slope stabilization, installation of gabion baskets
- site stewardship, monitoring, and invasive species control
- prescribed burn management
- Installation of signage, fencing, and public use facilities

Client: Corporation for Openlands

Project team: Conservation Land Stewardship
Conservation Design Forum
Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer, & Associates, Inc.

Status: Initial restoration 2008
Ongoing Restoration,
Stewardship, and Monitoring

Project budget: \$670,000