

22. North Shore Country Club (Map R)

Site number: R-1

Ownership: Private

Overall size: 166.13 acres

Subwatershed: Western portion located within the West Fork of North Branch of Chicago River; eastern half located within the Main Stem

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Turf (11.64 acres): Turf grass dominated section of club and golf course fairways, roughs, and greens.

Turf/Oak Woodland-Savanna (63.66 acres): Section of golf course that contains large mature oaks and other native trees.

Turf/Ornamental Plantings (69.73 acres): Section of golf course that contains numerous planted native and non-native trees.

Prairie/Ornamental Plantings (6.20 acres): Wildlife and wildflower plantings are found in out-of-bounds areas in several locations.

Prairie/Old Field (0.98 acre): Wildlife and wildflower planting areas dominated by non-native grasses.

Emergent/Marsh (0.14 acre): Small ponded area with emergent/marsh vegetation north of wildlife and wildflower planting areas.

Wet-Bottom Detention Basin (2.46 acres): 3 naturalized wet-bottom detention basins.

Developed (11.32 acres): Club House, parking lots, and maintenance buildings.

Existing Ecological Conditions: North Shore Country Club is located on the west side of Wagner Road between East Lake Avenue and Glenview Road. The club contains an 18-hole golf course with a club house, maintenance buildings, and parking lots. The golf course is mostly mowed turf grass (roughs, fairways, and greens) and contains three ponds (wet detention basins) and several wildflower and wildlife gardens. These gardens are located in out-of-play areas and are unmowed and planted with native and non-native grasses and forbs. Planted shrub groupings and bluebird boxes also provide additional wildlife habitat. The western half of the course contains mature oaks and other native trees, which also provide habitat.

Chemical fertilizing has been reduced through controlled use (fertigation), and partially replaced with organic fertilizing (biosolid and yard compost mixture). The ecological health of the detention basins has been improved through a restoration project that stabilized an eroded shoreline, established a



Mature oaks and other native trees are found throughout western section of golf course.

vegetation buffer in some areas, and enhanced fish habitat. The basins support fish (*e.g.* rainbow trout) and other water-dependent species. The course has been recognized for its ecologically sensitive management practices as a certified member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.



Restoration and Management Recommendations: This course is a great model of green golf course management, and could build on its success to make other water quality and habitat improvements. Many of the wildflower and wildlife plantings contain a large amount of non-native weeds that need to be controlled and could be replaced with native forbs and grasses. These naturalized areas could be expanded where possible. This would be especially beneficial in drainageways to help treat stormwater before entering storm sewers.