

9. Open Space West of Glenbrook Hospital (Map H)

Site number: H-1

Ownership: Private

Overall size: 16.95 acres

Subwatershed: West Fork of North Branch of Chicago River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Sedge Meadow/Wet Prairie (6.76 acres): Wet field dominated by reed canary grass on north and east side of site with pockets of sedges.

Old Field (10.19 acres): Field dominated by non-native cool-season grasses.



Looking southwest across part of site dominated by reed canary grass.

Existing Ecological Conditions: Most of this site is an old field dominated by non-native cool-season grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, quack grass, and red top. The northern and eastern portion is wetter and contains some of the same species but is dominated by reed canary grass, an invasive non-native wetland grass. The wetter area also contains pockets of sedges indicating that historically it may have been a sedge meadow or wet prairie.



Looking north across old field portion of the site.

Restoration and Management

Recommendations:

This is a large, privately owned parcel adjacent to Glenbrook Hospital, Glenbrook High School, and residential areas, and thus has great potential natural resource value to the Village. This site is one of the largest privately owned undeveloped parcels in the Village. Thus, it may be a priority for the Village to acquire and maintain as open space, either as a natural area for passive recreation, or a mixed use site for both active and passive recreation. The site or portions of it could be restored to prairie, savanna, and wet prairie. The success of restoration efforts on this

site will depend largely on thorough site preparation that reduces reed canary grass and the other non-native cool-season grasses as much as possible prior to the installation of native species.