

11. Portage Run Estates (Map H)

Site number: H-4

Ownership: Private

Overall size: 58.58 acres

Subwatershed: West Fork of North Branch Chicago River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Oak Woodland/Savanna (43.40 acres):

Varying successional stages of oak woodland/savanna depending on individual residential lot; some lots brushed/managed, others dominated by buckthorn in understory; dominant trees are similar to those observed at The Grove, including oaks, black cherry, and hickories.

Wet/Wet-Mesic Forest (7.39 acres):

Depressional areas located among oak woodland; dominated by cottonwood, green ash, and American elm; similar in species composition to wet/wet-mesic forest located in The Grove.



Partially brushed understory in oak woodland/savanna.

Developed (7.79 acres): Large lot residential comprised primarily of houses and driveways; surrounded by oak woodland.

Existing Ecological Conditions: Portage Run Estates is comprised of several residential large lots in a mostly oak woodland/savanna setting. The dominant trees include oaks, hickories, and black cherry. This species composition is very similar to that observed at The Grove to the south and west.



Managed oak woodland/savanna.



Wet/wet-mesic forest near developed woodlot.

The understory of each individual lot varies greatly. Some lots are completely overrun by buckthorn, while others have been brushed. Other lots feature mowed turf. The lots on the north side of the Estates are for sale by the developer, but appear to be managed woodland with a diverse understory of

native grasses and forbs. In addition, wet/wet-mesic forest is found in depressional areas scattered among the oak woodland, similar to that observed in The Grove. These depressions are dominated by cottonwood, American elm, and green ash.

Because of this sites proximity to the historic and protected Grove, it is locally protected and designated as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Thus, there are development restrictions on the private lots.

Restoration and Management Recommendations: The private status of the lots at Portage Run Estates limits potential restoration and management opportunities. However, because the area is an ESA, there are development restrictions in place to help protect the land and limit habitat degradation and loss. The ESA ordinance should be rigorously enforced. Educating new home owners located in Portage Run Estates on the benefits of habitat and woodland restoration and native landscaping should be a priority in order to encourage active public involvement. The Village of Glenview could hold public restoration workshops and offer residents cost-sharing options so they could implement restoration efforts.

The majority of the lots on the southern portion of the subdivision would benefit from brushing of the buckthorn dominated understory and supplemental seeding with a diverse native herbaceous seed mixture. Any impacts to the wet/wet-mesic forests should be avoided by residents as these areas are likely considered wetlands and protected by local ordinances and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Brushing and opening up the canopy around the wet/wet-mesic woodlands would likely increase species diversity and overall ecological quality.