

16. Baxter Parcel (Map K)

Site number: K-6

Overall size: 4.29 acres

Ownership: Village of Glenview

Subwatershed: West Fork of North Branch of Chicago River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Old Field (4.19 acres): Majority of site is dominated by non-native, cool-season grasses.

Unassociated Woody Growth (0.10 acre):

Strip of degraded second growth woody vegetation dominated by non-native and weedy native trees and shrub along the riverbanks.



Old field vegetation with scattered young cottonwood trees in background. Photo looking northwest.

Existing Ecological Conditions: Open space parcel along approximately 250 linear feet of the west bank of the West Fork. The site has been covered with fill material and has a mounded appearance, rising steeply from the river. Old field vegetation is dominated by cool-season grasses. Young cottonwood trees mixed with the grassland are scattered on the northern portion of the site. The river banks are heavily invaded by buckthorn and other weedy woody species. The shoreline exhibits severe erosion.



Unassociated woody trees and shrubs along west bank of West Fork.

Restoration and Management

Recommendations:

This site is an excellent candidate for streambank, woodland, and prairie restoration. The site may also be a good location to re-meander the West Fork and reconnect the river to its floodplain. At minimum, the streambanks should be pulled back and the slope reduced, non-native trees and shrubs removed, and weedy native trees thinned. Reestablish a wetland area in the floodplain that would be revitalized during flood events. Plant and seed the area with a riparian floodplain mix.

To restore the old field area to native prairie habitat, herbicide the entire area twice, disk the ground, and apply one more round of herbicide before seeding with a native prairie mix. This site, restored to prairie, would offer suitable habitat for grassland birds in particular including meadowlarks, woodcocks, and bobolinks. Restoring the site for wildlife habitat creation and improvement should be a priority.

Additional recommendations include extending the pedestrian trail along the West Fork across Baxter parcel and possibly connect it to Chestnut Avenue.



Old field vegetation to be restored to prairie.