17. Loyola Academy Parcel (Map K)

Site number: K-7
Overall size: 59.89 acres
Ownership: Private (Loyola Academy)
Subwatershed: West Fork of North Branch of Chicago River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Unassociated Woody Growth (2.29 acres): Young woody growth, dominated by boxelder and buckthorn, line the slopes surrounding wetland restoration area.

Sedge Meadow/Wet and Prairie/Emergent/Marsh (2.43 acres): Wetland restoration area is a mix of wetland types depending on available water. Wet, but not inundated areas comprised of sedge meadow/wet prairie species; inundated areas have emergent species. Other areas are generally void of vegetation.

Wetland restoration project in depressional area adjacent to West Fork.

River/Stream/Ditch (1.12 acres): West Fork flows from north to south for approximately 1,800 linear feet along the eastern boundary of the Loyola Parcel. The West Fork is severely eroded through this area except along the wetland restoration area. The stream banks are dominated by unassociated woody growth.

Turf (42.87 acres): Majority of the site west and south west of the wetland restoration area and West Fork is upland dominated by multiuse turf grass fields used primarily as ball fields.

Turf/Ornamental (3.46 acres): Relatively small area on far west side of parcel is dominated by turf grass and small ornamental tree plantings in a horseshoe shape.

Developed (7.72 acres): Majority of developed areas on the site consist of roads and parking lots associated with the ball fields.

Existing Ecological Conditions:
The upland areas west of the wetland restoration project and West Fork are turf grass ball fields with relatively no ecological importance. However, they do provide extensive recreational opportunities.

The area comprising the wetland restoration is somewhat unique to the general riparian corridor along the West Fork. Most of the West Fork is bordered by steep eroded slopes dominated by young woody invasive growth including the low berm found between the

Streambank conditions along West Fork adjacent to Loyola Parcel.


Outlet to West Fork along wetland restoration area.

wetland restoration and the West Fork. Very few low-lying floodplain areas remain within the Village of Glenview. The wetland restoration area at the Loyola Parcel represents one of those floodplain areas. The importance of this area for flood storage and general ecological function was realized by the science teacher at the Academy who has implemented a restoration effort to improve its condition. The restoration includes some brushing of the young invasive growth along the slopes of the wetland, and the introduction of native emergent and wet prairie plant species.

Restoration and Management Recommendations: Although some restoration has been implemented on the site, several additional restoration options remain for the wetland and stream corridor:

- Continue to remove invasive trees and shrubs from the wetland and surrounding slopes and supplement existing planting.
- Selectively brush along the west bank of the West Fork. Note: All brushing work should be followed up with additional seeding and planting. Management of invasive trees and shrubs will need to continue.
- Explore possibilities to recontour and stabilize eroded streambanks along the wetland restoration area.
- Increase buffer width and reestablish floodplain wetland habitat by pulling back banks to create a floodplain shelf.
- Widen the opening between the West Fork and the wetland restoration area to allow free movement of water and aquatic fauna.
- Remove debris jams and root wads from West Fork that impede flow but leave some woody structure for habitat.
- Create artificial riffles and pools to increase oxygen and habitat for aquatic fauna.