

24. Syms/Utility Parcel (Map T)

Site number: T-1

Overall size: 7.17 acres

Ownership: Private

Subwatershed: Des Plaines River

Mapped Land Cover on Site:

Prairie (5.40 acres): Degraded remnant prairie along utility corridor dominated by native grasses and forbs; old field species also present.

Turf (0.48 acre): Small mowed turf grass area behind retail development; located in a depressional area.

Old Field (0.47 acre): Successional area between turf and unassociated woody growth; dominated by teasel and other old field non-native species.

Unassociated Woody Growth (0.83 acre): Young successional woody growth west of old field; dominated by young cottonwood.



Transition between turf, old field, and unassociated woody growth.

Existing Ecological Conditions: A portion of the Syms/Utility Corridor is located in a highly developed portion of Glenview's far southwest side. It is bordered by retail development to the north and apartment complexes to the south. The portion of the corridor located directly beneath the utility lines is degraded remnant mesic prairie that is dominated by a variety of native grasses and forbs such as big bluestem, switch grass, little bluestem, Canada wildrye, purple prairie clover, stiff goldenrod, black-eyed Susan, Illinois sensitive plant, and sawtooth sunflower. The far northwest portion of the parcel is directly behind retail buildings and is a transitional area between turf, old field, and unassociated woody growth.



Remnant prairie in utility corridor.

Restoration and Management Recommendations: Utility corridors, such as the Syms/Utility Corridor, are often excellent greenways in highly urban areas. The site is considered high priority for restoration and management because it retains remnant prairie. Enhancement of the degraded prairie could be completed by burning the site in spring, followed by supplemental seeding with a diverse prairie seed mixture. Mowing the site at a height of one foot up to four times the first two years and spot herbiciding weedy species, including thistle and reed canary grass, would help improve the quality of the prairie within a few years. The Village may want to consider applying the Environmentally Significant Area zoning ordinance to this site to restrict development.

The small old field and turf grass areas located outside the utility line at the northwest corner of the site presents a potential stormwater storage/water quality treatment area. The existing turf grass area is in a depression area and shows obvious signs of retaining water following rain events. An excavated retention area naturalized with native plants is a good option for this location.