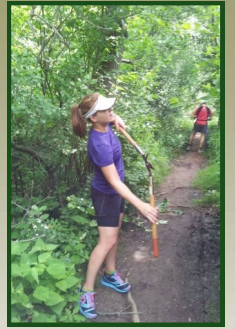


# Sterne's Fen Restoration Project

## What's Going On Here?

The Crystal Lake Park District and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission have started a project to restore how water flows through Sterne's Fen. Only 175 acres of high quality gramanoid fen still exist in Illinois—30 acres of those are right here! Moist conditions are necessary for fen plants to survive. Over the years, the fen has started to dry out, due to erosion, the development of stream channels, and groundwater being absorbed by trees and underbrush. Without plants, the insects, birds and animals that depend on them begin to disappear.



## Why Were Trees Removed?

Invasive and non-native trees remove a large amount of shallow groundwater out of the system, drying out the fen. This is especially true at the outer edges of the fen where the groundwater is discharged out of the gravel hillsides. The trees shade out the native herbaceous vegetation and contribute to bare ground and erosion.



## What Will Happen to the Woods?

The woodlands and savannahs to the south of the fen will not be impacted by the project. We are committed to saving and reforesting native oaks in our community. In the last three years, we have planted hundreds of oak seedlings at Veteran Acres, Sterne's Woods, Lippold Park, Main Beach and many of the 41 parks throughout the district.



## What is the Benefit?

Restoration of the fen will return biodiversity to the area, including rare and endangered plants, insects, birds and animals. These efforts will ensure that the fen is protected for decades to come.



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