

Oak Ridge Prairie

Lake County Parks

Eco Logic, LLC

Project Profile
Savannah, Wetland,
Oak Woodland
Restoration

Lake County, IN - 252 acres

Acquired by the Lakes County Park Board in several parcels between 1979 and 1987, the Oak Ridge Prairie County Park was once a vegetable farm. Before the acres in the west of the park were tilled, the land was part of an oak savannah ecosystem, with significant areas remaining as what could be classified as pristine prairie. The Oak Savannah Trail, eventually linking with the Prairie-Duneland Trail, starts its' west end in Oak Ridge Prairie Park.

Oak savannah ecosystems are transitions between open prairie and oak woodland. The transition area receives enough sunlight to support species of bordering ecosystems, creating unique wildlife habitat and supporting interesting flora. These oak savannahs were once common in northern Indiana, but due to fire suppression, development, and omitting of grazing they have not been able to be sustained.



Eco Logic's project involved 45 acres of invasive species removal and forestry mowing in order to open up Savannah and Oak woodlands. These high quality acres had become dominated by Buckthorn and native seedlings mainly due to fire suppression. In December 2007 to January 2008, we utilized our Fecon forestry mower to clear trees and shrubs, along with hand cutting with chainsaws and brushcutters. We followed up with two highly selective foliar re-sprout treatments using broadleaf specific herbicide in late spring to early summer.



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