

## Ferson Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank Kane County, Illinois

Developed by: Land and Water Resources, Inc. (LAWR)

Land Owner: Kane County Development Corporation

Long Term Manager: Kane County Forest Preserve District

LAWR Design Team: Land and Water Resources, Inc., Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES), Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL), Huddleston- McBride

In 1995 LAWR and Kane County Development Corporation signed and agreement to establish LAWR's second wetland bank only 1-½ miles from Otter Creek Wetland Bank. Utilizing the same Design Team and adding a drain tile expert, Huddleston- McBride, we began to start the permitting of our second bank. This site also had certain obstacles. It had Ferson Creek bisecting the property. This stretch of Ferson had been straighten and channalized to allow for farming activities. The design team designed the site to re-establish the original meanders in the creek and fill in the existing creek. The site is 92 acres in size, nearly twice the size of Otter Creek.

By filling the old creek, all of the existing field tiles became dysfunctional because they had nowhere to release the water. We had to create the new meandering creek and get the vegetation established prior to abandoning the old creek. Another challenge was that houses lined the east side of the bank. We met with the homeowners to educate them of the values and functions of wetlands. Since the time the bank began growing in, the residents have praised the project and they now enjoy a sanctuary in their back yards.



The site was permitted, constructed and planted in 1996. LAWR and AES have been maintaining and monitoring the site since 1996. We have requested that 80 % of the site has now be certified since we have met or exceeded all of the required performance standards agreed on in the permit on that portion. We had experienced some problems achieving hydrology on a portion of the site. Therefore, in the winter of 1999-2000 we went back into the site and lowered a portion to achieve the hydrology. The areas re-graded are responding, we will need to continue to maintain and monitoring those re-graded areas until they achieve certification.

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