

Ecological Restoration: Kurtz Woods

Aleighta Fandre

Land Restoration School,
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Land Acknowledgement

It is essential to recognize the area now known as Kurtz Woods was originally part of the homelands of the Peoria, Bodwéwadmí (Potawatomi), Menominee, Myaamia, Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk), Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) peoples.



Kurtz Woods:



Site: Old Field at Kurtz Woods

Total site area: 45 acres

Woods



History of Kurtz Woods



1937



2007



Photo above: The south edge has a 15-foot incline creating the divide from field to forest

Restoration Goals:



Restore to Forest

Returning this site to its original vegetation pattern



Enable Succession

Letting natural processes “lead the way”



Connect the Landscape

The old field is surrounded by forest, reforesting this area will create a cohesive landscape



Stage 01 - Shrubs

Importance of Shrubs:

Necessary for natural successional processes

Create ground cover

Species habitat

Suggested Species: Round-leaved dogwood, pagoda dogwood (photo), American Hazelnut, Witch Hazel



Stage 02 - Trees

Suggested Species: Quaking aspens
Bigtooth Aspen, and Black Cherry



Bare Root

Tree saplings to be planted directly into the ground



Direct Seeding

Native seeds planted under shrubs- shrubs break up fibrous grass roots, allowing trees to establish



Methods



Cardboard

Weed suppression



Mulch

Weed suppression
and moisture retainer



Tree tubes

Protect trees from
herbivory

Stage 03 - Natural Succession



In 02 Years

Planted shrubs and trees continue to establish

In 10 Years

Tree cover is increasing, forest plant species moving into the area

In 50 Years

Area is now considered a young forest

Stage 04 - Trail Expansio





Management



Invasives:

Now: sweet clover and Canada Thistle

Possible future: Garlic Mustard and invasive buckthorn



Continued Management

Current invasives shaded out, future invasives can be managed with the rest of the forest

Thank You

