

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE  
FORESTED NATURAL AREAS  
TREE AND HERBACEOUS PLANT REMOVAL POLICY**

The Village of Lincolnshire has over 200 acres of natural area and open space. This space can be divided into several categories:

1. Pedestrian bicycle path or green ways
2. Waterways
3. Conservation easements (residential and public properties)
4. High quality natural areas and/or Nature Preserves and Buffers
5. Other natural areas

Each natural area has a specific function and purpose and therefore requires a different level of care or intervention. The goal of the Village is to maintain these natural areas to maximize their natural potential while at the same time providing for public safety.

**I. Woody Plants to be Removed and Criteria**

In all areas, except certain portions of the pedestrian bicycle path or green way system, common and glossy buckthorn shall be removed. Other invasive woody plants which should be removed on a case by case basis (individual sites have differing criteria) are: Honeysuckle - *Lonicera tatarica*, Boxelder - *Acre negundo*, Cherry - *Prunus serotina*, Ash - *Fraxinus*, Silver maple - *Acer saccharinum*, Hawthorne - *Craegus sp.*, Elm - *Ulmus*.

It is particularly important to remove buckthorn and work to contain resprout once buckthorn is removed. Buckthorn is a non native aggressive weedy shrub. It is very prolific as the berries are eaten by birds and spread widely. Buckthorn is capable of growing in even very inhospitable areas. Buckthorn creates dense cover restricting sunlight to the forest floor and thereby prohibits the growth and development of native plants and trees.

A. Removal

Removal of non native or hazardous woody vegetation should be completed by qualified workmen. At least one of which shall be a certified arborist thoroughly familiar with this type of work and the materials used. This person, the site supervisor, shall be competent in identification of plant materials to be cut and to be preserved during the season work is to be completed. The site supervisor shall direct all work performed. Alternatively, woody vegetation control may be conducted by trained volunteers working in programs that are approved by the Village.

Prior to the commencement of any work, the site supervisor shall submit to the Village a written description of all mechanical equipment and its intended use during the execution of the work.

Removal of buckthorn or hazard trees should be conducted in such a manner as to leave no lasting effect on surrounding vegetation or soils. This would mean that removal should be done by hand, when possible. This would include but not be limited to hand tools, gas powdered chain saws, gas powered clearing saws, bow saws and loppers.

If hand removal is not possible permission must be obtained from the Village prior to initiation of any work. Soils should be solid (frozen or dry) where heavy equipment will not make ruts or damage surrounding plants or soils. Prior to use of any equipment, all equipment used must be reviewed and permitted by the Village.

A hazard tree is any tree or tree part that poses a high risk of failure or fracture resulting in damage or injury to people or property. Trees, of any species, which are deemed to be hazardous should be trimmed to remove any hazard. If felling the tree is required, it should be left in the natural area -- off of and away from any path.

Snags, dead or declining trees, a safe distance away from any path or public access, determined not a hazard to the public, not diseased or deemed to be of a condition of concern, should be left for habitat.

In areas adjacent to a pathway, stumps should be cut flush with the surrounding soils or ground out. In areas away from the pathway stumps may be left in the ground. All stumps of live trees or shrubs intended for elimination should be treated with herbicide mixed with a marking dye.

All cut brush, adjacent to the pathway shall be removed or chipped. Chips, at the discretion of the Village, may be used for the construction of pedestrian trails or removed and disposed of off site. No chips from diseased, weedy or non native trees shall be chipped and distributed in the woodland. If the tree or shrub which was removed is not diseased, weedy or non native, the chips, with prior approval of the Village, may be spread in the woodland at a depth not to exceed two inches.

## B. Pruning

Safety pruning is the removal of dead, diseased, decayed, and obviously weak branches, two inches in diameter or greater. The pruning of hazard limbs throughout the site and particularly near the trail is an important part of the management strategy. Limbs which are not deemed to be a hazard, but which might be dead or damaged in some way, away from areas where the public might venture, would not be removed.

Safety prune all trees with a minimum diameter of sixteen inches at breast height within twenty feet of either side of the trail 's centerline. Care should be taken not to damage any healthy trees adjacent to the work area. All debris with a minimum diameter of eight inches can be cut into 24 inch lengths. These lengths, with permission from the Village, may be left in the woodland or removed from the site. Debris less than eight inches can be chipped. With Village approval, these chips may be used on an existing path or spread in the woodland not to exceed two inches in depth.

Dead cavity-nesting trees should be pollarded, leaving random-length branch stubs. If solid, a branch stub should not exceed six feet in length, and if decayed, a branch stub should not exceed two feet in length. All debris must be handled as outlined above.

All pruning must comply with NAA Pruning Class Specifications.

### 3. Girdling

Girdling is the process of cutting a ring around a woody plant through the bark and cambium layer. This inhibits the movement of water and nutrients between the roots and the shoots and prevents the flow of carbohydrates through the stem. For most tree species, no herbicide is necessary when using this technique. Girdling is most effective during the summer months.

Girdling can be an effective way to reduce the amount of low quality trees on the site while providing for wildlife habitat. However, trees which are girdled, dead and decaying can pose a hazard to the public so care must be taken not to girdle trees which are adjacent to a pathway.

Girdling is recommended as a management tool in restoration of a natural area. This tool should only be used in specific locations with approval from the Village.

### D. Herbicide

All materials used during this removal shall meet or exceed applicable federal, state, county and local laws and regulations. The use of any herbicide shall follow directions given on the herbicide label and shall be applied only by a licensed applicator, licensed in Forestry, Right-of-Way and/or Aquatic application categories by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. All herbicides must be applied as per manufacturer=s instructions unless applicator receives, in writing, instructions from the Village which differ.

Suggested herbicide for basal application on woody plants would be triclopyr: 3, 5, 6-trichloro-2-pyridinyloxyacetic acid, butoxyethyl ester, trade name Garlon 4, glyphosate (Roundup) mixed one part chemical to one part water or equivalent as approved in writing by the Village. Suggested herbicide to be used for foliar applications shall be triclopyr: 3, 5, 6-trichloro-2-pyridinyloxyacetic acid, butoxyethyl ester, trade name Garlon 3, glyphosate (Roundup) mixed one part chemical to thirty-two parts water or equivalent as approved in writing by the Village.

Special care shall be taken not to allow drift to damage surrounding plant materials. The contractor should comply with recommendations from the Illinois Department of Agriculture as related to drift. Any damage sustained by surrounding plants shall be the responsibility of the applicator. The Village will require replacement or restitution for any damage sustained.

Special care shall be taken not to spill any chemicals in the project area. Any spills shall be properly cleaned up and reported to the Village. Areas where chemicals have been applied should be posted with warnings. Spills should be handled as outlined in the manufacturers instructions and as outlined by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

## 5. Site Conditions Prior to Start of Work

It is the contractor=s responsibility to visit the site prior to the initiation of any work. This visit will provide insight into site conditions and how best to complete the work assigned. Special consideration should be taken to protect all natural and manmade features on or adjacent to the site.

### F. Site Conditions Upon Completion

When work is completed, all trash, containers and debris shall be removed. No materials should be allowed to accumulate at the project site at any time. All tools shall be kept in appropriate carrying cases, tool boxes, etc. Parking areas, roads, sidewalks, paths and paved areas shall be kept free of mud and dirt. Trucks and equipment are to be parked in approved locations only - not on earthen areas or pathways.

Any damage caused during the course of the work shall be repaired, this would include but not be limited to tire ruts, damage to lawn areas, damage to trails, damage to vegetation or damage to any manmade features. All damage shall be reported immediately and repaired to Village satisfaction within thirty days. If the contractor does not make the necessary repairs within thirty days, the Village shall repair the damaged area and charge the contractor for all costs associated with that repair or any damage which may have been sustained to a site feature which may have long term implications.

## **II. Herbaceous Plants to be Removed and Criteria**

Herbaceous non native invasive weeds should be removed from all natural areas. These would include, but not be limited to, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife and reed canary grass. Weeds to be removed are site specific and will be determined by the Village.

Non native invasive weeds move into a natural area when bare soil is exposed. It is important after a disturbance in a natural area such as, removal of woody plants, to protect against invasion of non native invasive weeds. Where possible native seed should be planted if no native seed bank is present.

### A. Removal

In areas where non native invasive weeds have moved into a natural area care should be taken to remove them as quickly and efficiently as possible. When removal of a non native weed is warranted, the contractor should comply with removal instructions for each specific plant as outlined in *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook for Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands*, by Stephen Packard and Cornelia F. Mutel.

## B. Herbiciding

Herbicides should be applied as per the Illinois Department of Agriculture recommendations at a rate as indicated on the manufacturers instructions. Special care should be taken to protect against drift and damage to surrounding plant material.

All materials used during this removal shall meet or exceed applicable federal, state, county and local laws and regulations. The use of any herbicide shall follow directions given on the herbicide label and shall be applied only by a licensed applicator, licensed in Forestry, Right-of-Way and/or Aquatic application categories by the Illinois Department of Agriculture. All herbicides must be applied as per manufacturer=s instructions unless applicator receives different instructions, in writing, from the Village.

Special care shall be taken not to allow drift of herbicide onto other plants. Damage sustained by surrounding plants shall be the responsibility of the applicator. Replacements and/or restitution will be required by the Village. If restitution is not made to Village satisfaction within thirty days of notification, the Village shall make the necessary repairs and bill the contractor for all expenses incurred and any damage which might have long term implications.

Special care shall be taken not to spill any chemicals in the project area. Any spills shall be properly cleaned up and reported to the Village. Areas where chemicals have been applied should be posted with warnings. Compliance with the Illinois Department of Agriculture regulations shall be expected.

## 3. Site Conditions Prior to Work

It is the contractor=s responsibility to visit the site prior to the initiation of any work. This visit will provide insight into site conditions and how best to complete the work assigned. Special consideration should be taken to protect all natural and manmade features on or adjacent to the site.

## D. Site Conditions Upon Completion

When work is completed, all trash, containers and debris shall be removed. No materials should be allowed to accumulate at the project site at any time. All tools shall be kept in appropriate carrying cases, tool boxes, etc. Parking areas, roads, sidewalks, paths and paved areas shall be kept free of mud and dirt. Trucks and equipment are to be parked in approved locations only - not on earthen areas or pathways.

Any damage caused during the course of the work shall be repaired, this would include but not be limited to tire ruts, damage to lawn areas, damage to trails, damage to vegetation or damage to any manmade features. All damage shall be reported immediately and repaired to Village satisfaction within thirty days. If the contractor does not make the necessary repairs within thirty days, the Village shall repair the damaged area and charge the contractor for all costs associated with that repair or any damage which may have been sustained to a site feature which may have long term implications.

### **III. Village Parks, Paths, Natural Areas and Open Space**

#### **1. Pedestrian bicycle path or green ways**

The main purpose of these areas is the safe conveyance of pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the Village. For this reason an aggressive trimming and pruning practice is implemented.

##### **A. Woody Plants Criteria**

Woody plants along Village paths and greenways provide screening between Village roadways and residential development. For this reason buckthorn may be left standing along Village paths and greenways. However, wherever possible, buckthorn should be removed to eliminate its continued threat to residential properties and Village natural areas and high quality shrubs planted in replacement as a buffer.

Trees and shrubs which are impeding the pathway will be trimmed or removed to eliminate any possible hazard to the public. This would include any trees observed to be leaning or declining which may fall onto the pathway. Trees and shrubs will be trimmed up to a height of ten feet and shall not cross over the path up to the ten foot level. All branches shall be cleared to allow for the safe passage of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Any work completed in or along the Village greenways, bikepath and/or pedestrian system shall meet or exceed specifications required in Section I of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy.

##### **B. Herbaceous Plants Criteria**

Special care should be taken to eliminate invasive weeds from the Village greenways, bikepath and/or pedestrian system. Any work completed in these areas must meet or exceed specifications required in Section II of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy.

In addition to invasive weeds, care should be taken to eliminate plants which might be of a hazard or concern to path users. This would include poison ivy. Poison ivy identified to be within twenty feet of a bikepath and/or pedestrian system should be herbicided according to Section II,B of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy.

#### **2. Waterways**

The Village of Lincolnshire is in the watershed of the Des Plaines River and includes contributors such as Indian Creek and Lincolnshire Creek. In addition, the Village is also in the watershed of the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. Each of these waterways have issues specific to them. The Village has taken an active position on restoration and care for each of these waterways.

Many of the properties adjacent to these waterways are privately owned. The Village should provide educational materials to landowners for the care and maintenance of these waterways. Information on work completed on public lands should be provided to private landowners to help in their maintenance and management of the waterways.

Additionally, contractors and the public should be advised that there is no dumping of any materials into the Village storm sewers. These storm sewers drain into waterways and can cause damage.

#### 1. Woody Plants Criteria

Care should be taken to remove downed logs or snags which may inhibit the flow of the waterway. No materials should be stored along the waterways which might be flooded into the system and create a jam further downstream which would back up the water and cause flooding. This would include, but not be limited to stacks of wood or brush.

Waterways provide habitat for a tremendous number and variety of wildlife. Special care should be taken to protect this wildlife. When proper maintenance and management of the waterway is conducted wildlife will flourish. When the waterway is left to overgrow with buckthorn or other weedy plants, wildlife and the waterway is compromised.

Overgrowth of weedy woody plant species create shade which prohibits growth of native plants and trees. When this happens erosion along the banks of the waterway occurs. Care should be taken to address areas of concern before they get out of control and require extensive work and impact on the area.

Work to be completed along the waterways should meet or exceed specifications in Section I of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy. Herbicides used must meet the requirements for aquatic applications.

#### 2. Herbaceous Plants Criteria

Overgrowth of invasive non-native weeds will create a shallow root system and compromise the stability of the waterway. Because seeds of these noxious weeds are often carried through the waterway special care and concern should be exercised to control them and encourage the growth of native plants.

Work to be completed along the waterways should meet or exceed specifications in Section II of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy. Herbicides used must meet the requirements for aquatic applications.

### 3. Conservation Easements (Residential and Public Properties)

These little pockets of natural area are important to creating a network for wildlife, stormwater control and air quality. Care should be taken to protect and manage these areas as we would any of the larger natural areas in the Village. In many instances these areas are protected conservation areas and are afforded protection from encroachment or development.

#### 1. Woody Plants Criteria

Work completed in these areas should meet or exceed specifications as outlined in Section I of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy. In any of these areas adjacent to a waterway care should be taken to use herbicides which are specifically designed for an aquatic application.

#### 2. Herbaceous Plant Criteria

Work completed in these areas should meet or exceed specifications as outlined in Section II of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy. In any of these areas adjacent to a waterway, or which drain into a waterway, care should be taken to use herbicides which are specifically designed for an aquatic application.

#### 4. High Quality Natural Areas

Village high quality natural areas are cared for and maintained with the goal of increased biological diversity. Most of the high quality natural areas have paths or trails and will require greater intervention in those areas due to public access and increased opportunity for non native plant growth.

Current Village high quality natural areas would include Florsheim Park Nature Preserve and North Park Preserve. These areas are dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves or Preserve Buffer. They are under strict regulation. Nothing is to be taken from these sites and no materials are to be brought into these sites.

#### 1. Florsheim Park Nature Preserve

See the Florsheim Park and Outlots Natural Area Assessment Plan for specific instructions on the care and intervention of this site.

#### 1. Woody Plants Criteria

Any work to be completed in these areas is under control and permit from the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission and the Village of Lincolnshire. All work conducted must meet or exceed the specifications as outlined in Section I of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy unless otherwise directed in the specific site management plan.

ii. Herbaceous Plants Criteria

Any work to be completed in these areas is under control and permit from the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission and the Village of Lincolnshire. All work conducted must meet or exceed the specifications as outlined in Section II of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy unless otherwise directed in the specific site management plan.

2. North Park Nature Preserve

See the North Park Nature Preserve Management Plan for specific instructions on the care and intervention of this site.

1. Woody Plants Criteria

Any work to be completed in these areas is under control and permit from the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission and the Village of Lincolnshire. All work conducted must meet or exceed the specifications as outlined in Section I of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy unless otherwise directed in the specific site management plan.

ii. Herbaceous Plants Criteria

Any work to be completed in these areas is under control and permit from the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission and the Village of Lincolnshire. All work conducted must meet or exceed the specifications as outlined in Section II of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy unless otherwise directed in the specific site management plan.

5. Other Natural Areas

Other Village natural areas are cared for and maintained with the goal of increased biological diversity and, depending upon the site, at different levels of quality. Each of the other Village natural areas is serving a specific purpose. Many of these locations will never be high quality natural areas and it is not the Village's intention that they be. Restoration in some areas will require complete removal of invasive non-native or weedy native plants. Other areas will require removal of non-native plants only, with the gradual replacement of weedy native plants by higher quality native plants. Other Village natural areas include easements, rights-of-way or parks.

1. Rivershire Park

Rivershire Park is a floodplain forest. Because of extreme fluctuations in the water table, years of fly dumping, active use as a settling pond and storage area, this area will require slow, methodical care and intervention.

The majority of the floodplain forest at Rivershire Park consists of silver maple, box elder, cherry, buckthorn, hawthorn, ash, elm and some oak. Shrubs are few but do exist. Honeysuckle and multiflora rose are common. Herbaceous plants are also few and of low quality.

Restoration of this property is on-going. A management plan has been prepared for the upland areas which does not include the waterway. (For specific instructions on bank stabilization or river channel restoration see Section 2, Waterways, of this policy.) See the Restoration and Management Plan for the Rivershire Park Natural Areas for site specific details.

i. Woody Plants Criteria

In all areas of the park buckthorn and honeysuckle should be removed. These tree species should be removed to eliminate their continued dominance on the site, eliminate exposure to adjacent residential properties and other natural areas along the Des Plaines River.

Work completed in these areas should meet or exceed specifications as outlined in Section I of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy. In any of these areas adjacent to a waterway care should be taken to use herbicides which are specifically designed for an aquatic application.

ii. Herbaceous Plants Criteria

Work completed in these areas should meet or exceed specifications as outlined in Section II of the Village of Lincolnshire Forested Natural Areas Management Policy. In any of these areas adjacent to a waterway care should be taken to use herbicides which are specifically designed for an aquatic application.

**ADOPTED** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2002, on a roll call vote as follows:

**AYES:** Angonese, Blomberg, Brandt, Calef, Conatser, Maine

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**APPROVED** by me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2002.

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Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Village Clerk