



Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm Long Range Improvement / Operations Plan

Introduction:

This plan was created to set comprehensive goals and give direction to the future of Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm. This plan will be used as a guideline. It is meant to be flexible, to afford staff the opportunity to make adjustments for unexpected events.

Statement of Purpose:

Hidden Lakes is a safe and beautiful trout farm perfect for an afternoon of quality fishing. This tranquil setting in the DuPage River Valley has four ponds reachable by trails, with a modest but well-equipped bait shop that stocks live bait including works, minnows as well as other fishing tackle and supplies. All adults, age 16 and older are required to have a Hidden Lakes permit to fish. Permits are valid from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

Hidden Lakes Historic Trout Farm shall be maintained and operated in compliance with the standards established by the Board of the Bolingbrook Park District. The purpose of the operation is to provide a genuine recreation experience in the sport of fishing and enhance quality of family life. Because of the design of the facility, any age fisherperson can be successful in catching fish and having fun!

Long Range Plan:

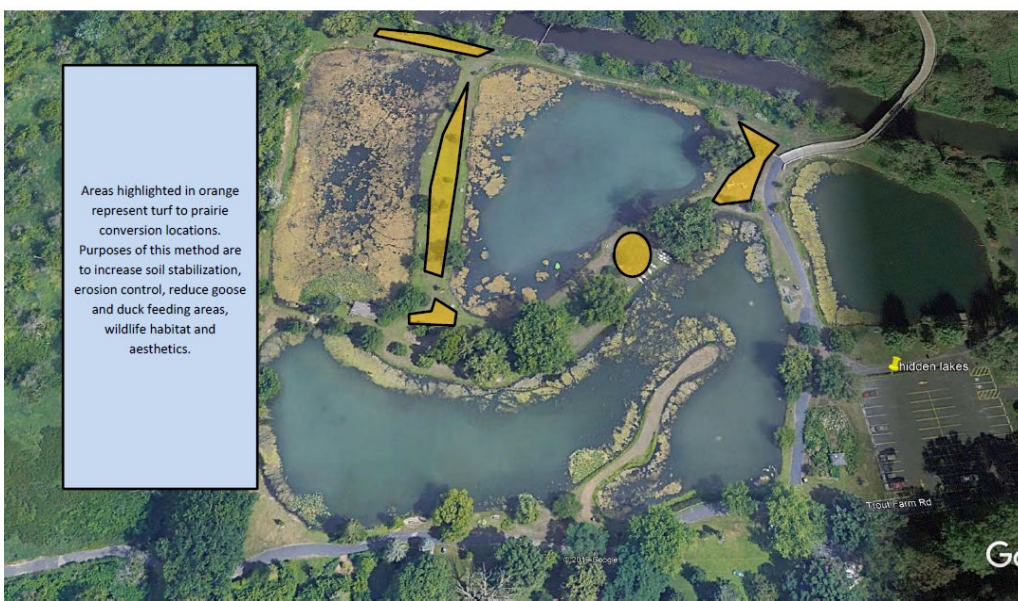
A plan of improvements and enhancements was developed for the Hidden Lakes operation. These recommendations consist of projects that will preserve the trout farm and enhance revenue. Each item on the list was reviewed and prioritized. Future viability of the trout farm and revenue generation were considered in these rankings.

Bank Stabilization

If left unattended, over time the banks of the ponds will continue to erode. It is imperative that this process be halted. The BPD Natural Resources Team has begun to implement a three-year bank stabilization plan to ensure the long-term viability of the ponds.

Shoreline Erosion and Bank stabilization: 2019 focus areas. Peninsula and southwest shore of pond #2. Work planned for summer	Coir log, SC120 erosion blanket, 6-8" granite cobble. Areas seeded with short stature native grass and peach leaf willow
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2020 Stabilization Project



Pond Vegetation Control

2019:

- Three applications of EarthTec applied to Hidden Lakes ponds through September. EarthTec is a suspension liquid that will remain active in the water column until algae breakouts are detected.
- EarthTec is a copper-based algaecide that reacts biologically rather than contact/direct application like most other Copper sulfate-based algaecides.
- Two applications of Cutrine Plus were applied to Hidden Lakes ponds through August 1st. Cutrine Plus is your standard copper algaecide that is utilized for spot applications.

2020:

- Aquatic treatments scheduled to begin mid-June.
- ¼ of each pond will be treated at a time. The duration between applications will be based off of aquacide label recommendations.
- Precautions will be taken to avoid rapid drop of pond dissolved oxygen levels due to dying vegetation.

Overall Park Improvement Plan:

2019

- Repaired the canoe launches at both Hidden Lakes and Royce Road
- Repaired – rebuilt the peninsula on Pond #3
- Shoreline restoration of Pond #3 – west side
- Pruning of trees/shrubs
- Restoration of pump house in progress (herbicide applied, removal of invasive species – planting to occur in the fall)
- Provided a larger water tank for Bait Shop
- Treated ponds for aquatic algae
- More clearing to be completed along trail (wooded area) heading west from Hidden Lakes

2020

- Plantings Maintenance (trimming and removal) along all trails connecting to Hidden Lakes.
- Mowing and cutback of vegetation impeding upon trail (DRG)
- Poison Ivy control near DRG trail.
- Hidden Lakes turf to native vegetation conversions.
- Begin work on the 2020 American Water Grant. Hidden Lakes Pond #4 area and adjacent DuPage River terrestrial shoreline.
- General Landscaping e.g. Hidden Lakes (pump house bed), Hidden Oaks- Rain water Garden, community gardens, and general grounds.

2021

- Research and implement pre-emergent aquatic vegetation products that are new to the market. In addition: obtain quotes from pond and lake management companies on aquatic weed control options and services for Hidden Lakes.
- Select 3 additional areas to convert to shortgrass native vegetation. The areas selected will be locations that are heavily utilized by Canada Geese and always display poor turf performance.
- Select additional shoreline areas that display the greatest amount of erosion and continue with coir log bank stabilization methods. Coir log repair areas installed in 2019 have now withstood through three major flood events and are currently beginning to vegetate.
- With the reduction of turf throughout Hidden lakes open turf areas. Re- landscape one of the vegetated shaded areas in the middle of the property. The re-landscaped area will favor passive recreation for sitting and picnicking in a shaded environment.
- Implement a creel survey form to anglers. This document will have a series of questions isolating on the fishing aspect of Hidden Lakes visitors. The data collected over a period of a few months will give us a greater understanding of not only angler harvest but also expectations from a varied pool of individuals
- Increase the amount emergent shoreline vegetation in ponds. This vegetation not only provides habitat for fish, but also reduces the impact of wave action and water flow on unprotected shorelines. In addition

New Water Source to Hidden Lakes:

- Currently the lakes are filled through water discharge from the Quarry. This has been in place since before Bolingbrook Park District obtained the property in 1988.
- In 2019 and again in early 2020 we worked with Well and Septic company to study the two wells. They need to produce 300gpm. Neither of them currently do this.
- (Update) We are meeting with an engineer in June to study the water levels to determine what level we need to maintain or potentially increase.
- The Village of Bolingbrook is also working with Illinois American Water to bring in Village water to the Trout Farm property. This should be completed sometime in the summer of 2020.

Bait Shop Improvements:

- The Bait shop is in desperate need of renovation.
- BPD Project Team submitted an application for a Museum Grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for a complete tear down and re-build of the Bait Shop
- This project will include a new shop, event pavilion, and flush toilets.
- If not successful, Bolingbrook Park District has budgeted \$250,000 for this project in 2021.

Programming Improvements:

Aside from regular fishing, Hidden Lakes only offered three fishing derbies in 2019. Management is committed to add additional fishing derby opportunities.

2020 Fishing Derby Schedule:*

Saturday, April 18, 2020 (Trout)	Noon-3:00 pm
Saturday, May 16, 2020	3:00-6:00 pm
Saturday, June 13, 2020	3:00-6:00 pm
Saturday, September 19, 2020	3:00-6:00 pm

***Update (COVID-19): Since the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine, staff was forced to cancel these events**

2020 Revised Fishing EVENT / Derby Schedule:

Saturday, July 11 Free Fishing Day for everyone.	8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday, August 15 (Night Derby)	6:00-10:00 pm
Saturday, September 19, 2020 (Catfish Derby)	3:00-6:00 pm

Bolingbrook Park District Board, Administration, and Staff are committed to our Mission. Hidden Lakes Trout Farm is one of many business units within our District and one that we all very much enjoy.