

Hybernia Nature Preserve

Highland Park, Illinois



AES has worked closely for many years with the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission (Dr. Brian Anderson and Ms. Carolyn Grostall) to identify opportunities for nature preserve dedications. Over the years, we have been successful in preparing the enabling documentation and required management plans for several sites that have become dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves.

One such site, the Hybernia Nature Preserve in Highland Park, Illinois, was a highly acclaimed conservation development project initiated as a part of a master planned residential development. The Hybernia Nature Preserve stands as a landmark example of private developer involvement in implementing preservation and protection strategies for significant natural resources.

Of the 134 acres in the luxury housing development, almost 90 percent is protected as open space with 37 acres managed as an Illinois Nature Preserve. Acting as ecological consultants AES designed the restoration

management plan and implementation restoration techniques to protect, maintain and enhance the quality of the natural resources on the site.

Acting as steward of the preserve, AES has conducted management activities, such as removal of invasive exotic species, to bring back conditions favorable to the federally-endangered white-fringe orchid as well as estimated 250-270 native and indigenous species that have been restored in the development. Prior to restoration, only 3 white-fringed orchids were found on the entire property. Five years after restoration 30-40 orchids were blooming in one of the few areas in the state where white-fringed orchids are being pollinated.

**Applied
Ecological
Services, Inc.**

