

Otter Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank

St. Charles, Illinois



Located approximately 35 miles west of Chicago, the Otter Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank was the first privately owned and constructed wetland mitigation bank in the United States.

The site was designed as a passive recreation park by creating landscapes of prairies, wetlands, and riparian ecological systems. The park was keyed to use by school groups for outdoor and environmental education. Amenities such as viewing areas, a trail system, and a special access point to allow for school projects (including water quality sampling) were integrated into the project plan.



Project design included a comprehensive program of earth moving, planting, management, and monitoring to successfully accomplish ecological restoration goals. Over 100 native plant species were installed in emergent wetlands, prairies, wet prairies, deep water aquatic systems, and riparian zones. Monitoring and management continued for five years after construction.



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