Condition of Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetland Easements in Illinois

Annual Progress Report
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30 September 2020
During the 2019 fiscal year (1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020), the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) conducted wetland monitoring and wetland quality evaluations for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on Agriculture Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE; \( n = 92 \)). We visited each wetland easement twice; once in autumn/winter (November–January) and again during spring (February–May) totaling 184 easement visits. Easements were located in Boone (\( n = 2 \)), Calhoun (\( n = 2 \)), Gallatin (\( n = 2 \)), Greene (\( n = 10 \)), Hardin (\( n = 4 \)), Jersey (\( n = 1 \)), Johnson (\( n = 8 \)), Macoupin (\( n = 1 \)), Massac (\( n = 2 \)), Monroe (\( n = 9 \)), Pope (\( n = 6 \)), Randolph (\( n = 7 \)), Rock Island (\( n = 6 \)), Stephenson (\( n = 2 \)), White (\( n = 13 \)), Whiteside (\( n = 11 \)), and Winnebago (\( n = 6 \)) Counties. Easements comprised 74 WRP easements, 12 Emergency Watershed Protection Program-Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE), 2 Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP) easements, and 4 ACEP-WRE easements. The WRP, EWPP-FPE, and EWRP easements were enrolled in NRCS programs prior to 2014 Farm Bill restructuring of wetland easements that now fall into the ACEP-WRE program. We previously submitted easement monitoring worksheets and detailed photographs of easement conditions, and this report contains a summary, descriptive management plans (Appendix 1) that detail conditions of the easements, and gives recommendations for improvements to vegetation communities and easement infrastructure for 92 visited easements.

**Easement Level Metrics**

We identified the proportion of five habitat types at each wetland easement based on vegetation structure and composition (Table 1), including: 1) forested – mature stands of trees (> 20 ft in height), 2) reforested – tree plantings and natural tree regeneration (< 20 ft in height), 3) prairie – mid-successional grasslands, 4) food plot – agricultural patches grown for the purpose
of attracting game animals, and 5) wetlands – including all areas with standing water or evidence of inundation at some point during the year. Overall, ACEP-WRE easements averaged (± SE) 29.6% ± 2.3% wetland habitats, 20.1% ± 2.2% forested, 12.5% ± 1.9% prairie, 30.4% ± 2.6% reforested, and 1.5% ± 0.3% food plots.

In addition to assessing habitat types, we ranked easements on an 8-point scale for three metrics (Table 2): waterfowl management intensity, wetland habitat complexity, and wetland connectivity to rivers and streams. Waterfowl management intensity was characterized by the presence of desirable vegetation for waterfowl, duck blinds, evidence of drawdowns, and vegetation manipulation within wetland cells. Wetland habitat complexity was characterized by the variety or lack of wetland cover types located on an easement. Lastly, wetland connectivity to rivers or streams was categorized by wetland’s proximity to the nearest river or stream, the probability that floodwaters from the river or stream could affect the wetland, and if the wetland drained into a river or stream. We found that easements ranked in the middle for wetland complexity and wetland connectivity, averaging (± SE) 3.6 ± 0.1, and 5.5 ± 0.1 respectively. These intermediate scores indicated that wetland habitats were variable in relation to heterogeneity, and wetland connectivity. We found that waterfowl management intensity ranked low, averaging (± SE) 2.4 ± 0.1. This low score indicated that many wetlands were not actively managed for waterfowl (e.g., water level manipulation, presence of hunting blinds or nesting structures).

**Wetland Level Metrics**

We classified each wetland within an easement based on wetland type and management intensity. For wetland type, we categorized each wetland according to Cowardin et al. (1979). All of the monitored wetlands were palustrine habitats; therefore, we used the following classes
to differentiate: 1) unconsolidated bottom – lacked stable substrates (i.e., mud or organic substrate) for plant attachment and contained < 30% vegetative cover, 2) emergent wetland – contained erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytic vegetation (i.e., moist-soil vegetation was considered an emergent wetland), 3) scrub-shrub wetland – dominated by woody vegetation < 20 ft in height, which may be in successional transition to a forested wetland (e.g., young oaks (Quercus spp.), or a relatively stable community (e.g., buttonbush [Cephalanthus occidentalis]), 4) forested wetland – dominated by woody vegetation ≥ 20 ft in height, or 5) aquatic bed – dominated by submerged or floating leaved aquatic vegetation. Further, we classified wetlands as actively or passively managed or unmanaged. We classified wetlands under active management when we observed signs of water-level manipulation, diskng, or mowing within the basin. Passively managed wetlands contained infrastructure (e.g., stoplogs, screwgate, or spillway) but lacked obvious indications that water levels or wetland vegetation were manipulated. Lastly, unmanaged wetlands were typified by oxbows, scours, or impounded wetlands that lacked infrastructure for water control. Among the 92 easements, we evaluated 244 distinct wetland basins. Easements averaged (± SE) 2.7 ± 0.3 basins with a range of 0–14 basins/easement (Table 3). We classified 153 (62.7%) wetland basins as emergent, 40 (16.4%) as forested, 30 (12.3%) as scrub-shrub, 20 (8.2%) as unconsolidated bottom, and 1 (0.4%) as aquatic bed (Table 4).

Passively managed wetland basins (n = 149; 61.1%) were most numerous (Table 5), followed by actively managed (n = 62; 25.4%), and unmanaged wetland basins (n = 33; 13.5%). Wetland impoundments with water control structures tended to be the most numerous wetland type. However, many of these wetland basins did not show signs of active wetland management.

In addition to classifying wetland type and management intensity, we measured wetland inundation during each site visit to compare seasonal wetland habitat availability for migratory
waterbirds (Table 6). During the autumn/winter site visit, wetlands averaged (± SE) 85.8% ± 6.1% capacity (Table 6). Overall 9 wetland basins were dry during autumn surveys. During spring surveys, inundation increased to 88.5% ± 1.6%. Overall, all counties had wet conditions during the winter, which lead to relatively high inundation in many wetland basins during the spring visits.

**Waterfowl/Waterbird Use of Easements**

Overall, waterfowl use averaged (± SE) 46.7 ± 19.8 ducks per easement and (± SE) 23.8 ± 21.1 geese per easement (Table 7). Waterfowl use during autumn was low due to easement visits occurring well after peak waterfowl migration. However, due to the delay in autumn visits, we documented several easements which contained large amounts of overwintering Canada geese (*Branta Canadensis*). Additionally, due to the Illinois Stay at Home Order, spring visits for easements located in the northern portion of the state (i.e., Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Rock Island Counties) were delayed until May. By this time, many of the migratory waterfowl had already passed through the area. However, this delay gave us the opportunity to document several waterfowl species (i.e., Canada goose, mallard [*Anas platyrhynchos*], wood duck [*Aix sponsa*]) utilizing many of the easements for nesting and brood rearing. In addition to waterfowl, other waterbirds, including sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), American coot (*Fulica americana*) and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were documented using wetland easements.

**Easement Improvements**
While conducting easement visits, we often conversed with landowners about their properties including: current and future management and comments and concerns relating to the easement program. Overall, feedback was positive and many landowners were satisfied with the success of their restoration and with local NRCS staff. Generally, landowners enjoyed the hunting opportunities the easements provided, as well as, wildlife viewing and land stewardship opportunities.

During site visits, we documented multiple stewardship issues, which, if corrected, could enhance the value of wetland easements for wildlife. The notable problems included: failing or compromised levees (Fig. 1, e.g., scours, breaks, burrowing mammal activity, and woody encroachment), inoperable water-control structures (Fig. 2) resulting from beaver (Castor canadensis) activity, sedimentation, or damage, woody encroachment in tree plantings and native prairie plantings due to a lack of disturbance (i.e., fire), and the presence of invasive plants including common reed (Phragmites australis), reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), and sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneate) that invades and outcompetes native vegetation, as well as, spreading to surrounding easements. Maintenance and management of easements can be costly and time consuming, but if maintained, could offer improved wetland communities for waterbirds and terrestrial wildlife.

**Notable Violations**

We encountered a few violations committed on easements surveyed during 2019–2020, which were generally minor in scale. Many landowners mowed trails, constructed food plots (Fig. 3), and built permanent hunting structures on their property without a Compatible Use Authorization (CUA). However, we were not aware of all existing CUAs on sampled easements; therefore, some of these developments may have been approved. Most food plots were small in
area and measured below the 5% threshold of total easement area specified under a CUA, but multiple easements had large food plots planted with agricultural crops (Fig. 4). Trash was dumped within several easements (Fig. 5) but in small quantities making clean up relatively easy. Despite these notable exceptions, all landowners we spoke with were aware of the rules and regulations associated with the stewardship of their easement and were in compliance of the ACEP-WRE terms of the easement.
Table 1. Composition (% ± SE) of common habitat types within ACEP-WRE easements in select Illinois counties during December 2019 – May 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wetland</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Reforested</th>
<th>Prairie</th>
<th>Food Plots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>22.6 ± 18.8</td>
<td>11.5 ± 11.5</td>
<td>16.3 ± 16.3</td>
<td>19.7 ± 19.7</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>68.5 ± 31.1</td>
<td>14.6 ± 4.4</td>
<td>19.5 ± 1.9</td>
<td>2.3 ± 2.3</td>
<td>0.1 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>16.5 ± 8.7</td>
<td>14.6 ± 7.9</td>
<td>28.2 ± 28.2</td>
<td>26.6 ± 26.6</td>
<td>4.9 ± 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>28.7 ± 6.4</td>
<td>17.8 ± 8.0</td>
<td>36.7 ± 8.0</td>
<td>1.9 ± 1.6</td>
<td>5.1 ± 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>8.3 ± 4.0</td>
<td>30.6 ± 5.1</td>
<td>39.0 ± 5.8</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>30.9 ± 4.8</td>
<td>20.2 ± 5.2</td>
<td>40.6 ± 6.6</td>
<td>2.2 ± 2.2</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>29.9 ± 0.8</td>
<td>5.6 ± 5.6</td>
<td>58.1 ± 2.8</td>
<td>4.3 ± 4.3</td>
<td>1.5 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>50.1 ± 9.5</td>
<td>1.9 ± 1.4</td>
<td>34.5 ± 9.4</td>
<td>2.9 ± 2.2</td>
<td>0.2 ± 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>18.7 ± 3.0</td>
<td>16.2 ± 5.7</td>
<td>40.3 ± 8.4</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>26.3 ± 7.6</td>
<td>33.9 ± 15.8</td>
<td>35.5 ± 13.6</td>
<td>13.2 ± 6.5</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>21.1 ± 3.7</td>
<td>27.8 ± 11.6</td>
<td>23.5 ± 12.0</td>
<td>41.0 ± 11.9</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>40.7 ± 4.0</td>
<td>9.0 ± 9.0</td>
<td>4.5 ± 0.9</td>
<td>14.6 ± 0.2</td>
<td>3.6 ± 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>13.0 ± 2.3</td>
<td>33.0 ± 5.7</td>
<td>29.0 ± 6.3</td>
<td>20.7 ± 5.5</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>42.0 ± 7.1</td>
<td>12.7 ± 4.3</td>
<td>19.0 ± 5.0</td>
<td>17.9 ± 5.5</td>
<td>0.4 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>35.8 ± 6.9</td>
<td>23.6 ± 6.2</td>
<td>13.5 ± 11.0</td>
<td>24.7 ± 8.2</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>29.6 ± 2.3</td>
<td>20.1 ± 2.2</td>
<td>30.4 ± 2.6</td>
<td>12.5 ± 1.9</td>
<td>1.5 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Average rank (± SE) on an 8-point scale of wetland characteristics within ACEP-WRE easements in select Illinois counties during December 2019 – May 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intensity of Waterfowl Management</th>
<th>Wetland Habitat Complexity</th>
<th>Wetland Connectivity to Rivers and Streams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>2.5 ± 0.2</td>
<td>6.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.2</td>
<td>4.8 ± 0.2</td>
<td>3.5 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>3.7 ± 0.2</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>2.3 ± 0.6</td>
<td>3.0 ± 0.3</td>
<td>3.5 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>3.6 ± 0.2</td>
<td>7.1 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>2.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>6.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>2.5 ± 0.2</td>
<td>3.5 ± 0.1</td>
<td>5.1 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>2.7 ± 1.7</td>
<td>4.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>2.3 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>5.5 ± 0.4</td>
<td>4.4 ± 0.3</td>
<td>5.6 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>4.1 ± 0.4</td>
<td>4.4 ± 0.3</td>
<td>6.0 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.5</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.3</td>
<td>6.2 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.1</td>
<td>5.4 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.2</td>
<td>4.4 ± 0.2</td>
<td>7.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1.8 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.4 ± 0.1</td>
<td>5.9 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>3.9 ± 0.3</td>
<td>4.9 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>2.9 ± 0.4</td>
<td>4.8 ± 0.3</td>
<td>7.6 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.4 ± 0.1</td>
<td>3.6 ± 0.1</td>
<td>5.5 ± 0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Total number of wetland basins and average number of wetland basins per easement (± SE) within ACEP-WRE easements in select Illinois counties during December 2019 – May 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Wetland Basins</th>
<th>Wetland Basins per Easement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.5 ± 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.7 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.5 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5.0 ± 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2.4 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3.5 ± 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.9 ± 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2.8 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0 ± 1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1.9 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1.5 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3.2 ± 1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4. Composition of wetland types within ACEP-WRE easements in select Illinois counties during December 2019 – May 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Unconsolidated Bottom</th>
<th>Emergent Wetland</th>
<th>Scrub-Shrub</th>
<th>Forested Wetland</th>
<th>Aquatic Bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>78.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5. Composition of wetland management intensities within ACEP-WRE easements in select Illinois counties during December 2019 – May 2020.

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<th>Actively Managed</th>
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<tr>
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<td>30.0%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
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<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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<td>Greene</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>69.2%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
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Table 6. Average (± SE) inundation of wetland basins within ACEP-WRE easements within select Illinois counties during December 2019 -May 2020.

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<tr>
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<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<td>Boone</td>
<td>90.0 ± 3.3</td>
<td>95.0 ± 1.7</td>
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<td>64.5 ± 10.9</td>
<td>68.5 ± 10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>80.0 ± 5.0</td>
<td>80.0 ± 5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>47.6 ± 10.4</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>33.3 ± 33.3</td>
<td>46.7 ± 26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>97.0 ± 2.4</td>
<td>88.4 ± 4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>80.0 ± 6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pope</td>
<td>97.1 ± 2.0</td>
<td>88.6 ± 5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>86.2 ± 9.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>64.7 ± 6.2</td>
<td>79.4 ± 7.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>88.0 ± 5.1</td>
<td>97.0 ± 3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>100.0 ± 0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>74.4 ± 5.6</td>
<td>93.8 ± 3.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>78.9 ± 3.5</td>
<td>84.2 ± 4.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>85.5 ± 1.6</td>
<td>88.5 ± 1.6</td>
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Table 7. Average (± SE) number of ducks and geese observed within ACEP-WRE easements within select Illinois counties during December 2019 – May 2020.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ducks</th>
<th>Geese</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>1.0 ± 1.0</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>35.0 ± 15.0</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallatin</td>
<td>10.0 ± 0.0</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>2.3 ± 1.0</td>
<td>0.6 ± 0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardin</td>
<td>3.0 ± 0.6</td>
<td>0.0 ± 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>50.4 ± 29.5</td>
<td>0.5 ± 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macoupin</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>70.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massac</td>
<td>23.5 ± 17.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>182.3 ± 164.8</td>
<td>19.2 ± 11.3</td>
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<td>Pope</td>
<td>219.5 ± 160.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>4.1 ± 1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Island</td>
<td>1.3 ± 0.7</td>
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<td>Stephenson</td>
<td>20.0 ±10.0</td>
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<td>White</td>
<td>18.8 ± 11.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whiteside</td>
<td>4.7 ± 1.6</td>
<td>1.8 ± 0.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnebago</td>
<td>61.8 ± 34.4</td>
<td>266.7 ± 160.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46.7 ± 19.8</td>
<td>23.8 ± 12.1</td>
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Fig. 1. Levee break located within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 2. Plugged water control structure within easement 65A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Food plot within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Food plot within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Dumped trash within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Appendix 1.

Detailed management plans for 92 conservation easements located in Boone, Calhoun, Gallatin, Greene, Hardin, Jersey, Johnson, Macoupin, Massac, Monroe, Pope, Randolph, Rock Island, Stephenson, White, Whiteside, and Winnebago Counties.
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Boone County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1297005Y2 – Garden Prairie Holdings LLC

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Brush Management – Remove, reduce, or manipulate woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plant species to achieve the desired plant community based on assessment of canopy cover.
(ii) Early Successional Habitat Development/Management – Mow strips or parts of field in accordance with Grassland Management of Wildlife Fact Sheet provided prior to implementation.
(iii) Herbaceous Weed Treatment – Remove or control herbaceous weeds, including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants from noncropland sites.
(iv) Conservation Cover – Establish and maintain permanent vegetative cover to accomplish one or more of the following: reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, improve air quality, enhance wildlife habitat and pollinator habitat, improve soil quality, or manage plant pests.
(v) Hedgerow Planting – plant shrubs and/or trees in a linear fashion to provide a conservation benefit, such as a wildlife corridor, screen, or boundary.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1297005Y2 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Boone County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 1 mile south of Garden Prairie, IL. The easement covers 145 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (60 ac.) and prairie (57 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/12/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several depressional scrape wetlands (Fig 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was predominately reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), but some cattail (Typha sp.), river bulrush (Scirpus fluviatilis), and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium) was also present. During both visits the wetland basins
were fully inundated. Several prairies were also present throughout the easement (Fig. 5). The vegetation community within the prairies was primarily composed big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

- The vegetation within and around the wetland basins was primarily composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 6). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Several patches of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 7). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Many of the wetland basins were overgrown with a dense stands of willow (*Salix sp.*). We recommend removing undesirable woody trees to promote the growth of desirable tree species.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Coon Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL.
Fig 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 6. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 7. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A1297005Y2 in Boone County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The goal of the Wetland Reserve Program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrology will be restored by constructing a low profile levee or dyke. Levees will be seeded according to Natural Resources Conservation Service critical area planting standards and specification.
(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods. Saplings (2 year old stock) will be planted in linear form at a rate of 300 trees per acre.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A129800618 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Boone County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 0.25 miles east of Garden Prairie, IL. The easement covers 52 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (2 ac.), forest (12 ac.), and tree planting (17 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/11/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several small depression scrape wetlands (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within and around the wetland basins was predominately reed canary grass (Fig. 5, *Phalaris arundinacea*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting. Some oaks (*Quercus spp.*) remained (Fig. 6), but the majority of planted trees consisted of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and dogwood (*Cornus sp.*). Much of the tree planting was overgrown with dense willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 7,
*Populus deltoids*. We recommend removal of these undesirable woody species to promote the growth of planted trees.

- The dominant vegetation throughout the wetland basins and tree planting was reed canary grass. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

No waterbirds were observed during visits to the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement included eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) and sign of American beaver (*Castor Canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Kishwaukee Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 5. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A129800618 in Boone County, IL.
Calhoun County
**WRP Easement Management Plan 2020**

665A121000XW0 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources / Heartland Trophy Properties LLC

**ACEP-WRE Objectives:**

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

**Conservation Plan Objectives:**

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland. Wetland restoration is the rehabilitation of a wetland or hydric soil area that was previously a wetland.

(ii) Wetland Enhancement – Modify an existing wetland to enhance specific functions and meet specific project objectives.

(iii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – To set tree seedlings or cutting in the soil.

(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retaining, creating, or managing wetland habitat for wildlife.

**Site Description and Management Recommendations:**

Easement 665A121000XW0 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Calhoun County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 4.5 miles south of Pleasant Hill, IL. The easement covers 765 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (286 ac.), forest (78 ac.), tree planning (135 ac.), prairie (35 ac.), and food plots (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/7/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was divided into two parcels. Both parcels had several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 3–17). The vegetation community within many of the wetland basins was primarily composed of cattail (*Typha sp.*) and moist soil vegetation including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). Several impounded wetland basins contained American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*). During both visits the wetland basins ranged from 30–100% inundated. The vegetation communities suggest that many of the wetland basins contain some water throughout the year. A prairie was also present within southern parcel (Fig. 18). The vegetation community
within the prairie was primarily composed of switchgrass (Panicum virgatum), foxtail (Setaria sp.), and some reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea).

- All water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 19, 20, 21, 22). However, the water control structure of the northern most wetland basin of the north parcel was located on the high side of the easement and could not full dewater the impoundment (Fig. 23). We recommend installing an additional water control structure on the north side of the impoundment so water levels can be better managed. Additionally, no water control structures could be found for any of the impoundments of the southern parcel. We recommend installing water control structures so water levels can be managed.

- The trees in the tree planting of both parcels were in good condition (Fig. 24, 25). However, some maple (Acer sp.) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) were beginning to overcrowd the planted trees. We recommend thinning these tree species to promote the growth of planted trees.

- The southern parcel had several patches of dense willow and eastern cottonwood along levees and within wetland basins (Fig. 26). American beavers had also cleared a large area of young woody vegetation (Fig. 27). We recommend removal of undesirable wood vegetation to help prevent future wetland damage.

- Several locations within both parcels had areas of sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneate) and reed canary grass (Fig. 28, 29). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a native vegetation species.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 50 dabbling ducks using the easement. Additionally, Canada geese (Branta canadensis), greater white-fronted geese (Anser albifrons), snow geese (Chen caerulescens), and trumpeter swan (Cygnus buccinator) were observed flying over the easement. Other, avian species observed within the easement included bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), belted kingfisher (Megacyryle alcyon), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), American tree sparrow (Spizella arborea), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), white-throated sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis), eastern meadowlark (Sturnella magna), and brown creeper (Certhia Americana). Mammalian species observed within the easement included white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), coyote (Canis latrans), and sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Map of the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 10. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 11. Wetland basin within the northern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 12. Wetland basin within the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 13. Wetland basin within the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 14. Wetland basin within the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 16. Wetland basin within the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 17. Wetland basin within the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 18. Prairie within the southern parcel of easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 19. Water control structure within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 20. Water control structure within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 21. Water control structure within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 22. Water control structure within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 23. Water control structure within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 24. Tree planting within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 25. Tree planting within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 26. Woody encroachment within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 27. Woody encroachment within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 28. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 29. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A121000XW0 in Calhoun County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1201005P0 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Shallow Water Wetland Areas – These areas will provide moist soil units and open water areas for waterfowl to rest and feed.
(ii) Tree Establishment – Bottomland species of trees will be planted to support wildlife benefits and improve water quality.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1201005P0 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Calhoun County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 0.1 miles west of Mozier, IL. The easement covers 793 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (790 ac.), forest (150 ac.), and tree planning (170 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 1/7/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a network of depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3) along the Mississippi River. Due to the proximity to the river, the easement is subjected to regular flooding. The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of rough cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium) and lesser amounts of nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium) and foxtail (Setaria sp.). A large portion of the easement contained woody vegetation that was primarily composed of willow (Salix sp.) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoides) of a variety of age classes. During visits to the easement the wetland basins ranged from 30–80% inundated.

- Much of the woody vegetation within the easement was composed of dense patches of willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 4). We recommend thinning of undesirable tree species to help prevent future wetland damage. However, planting of desirable tree species may be difficult due to regular deep flooding from the Mississippi River.
During visits to the easement we documented approximately 20 dabbling ducks using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement included sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1201005P0 in Calhoun County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005P0 in Calhoun County, IL.
Gallatin County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A121000X4L – Golden

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A121000X4L is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Gallatin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of Shawneetown, IL. The easement covers 179 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (45 ac.), forest (12 ac.), prairie (95 ac.), and food plots (5 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats.

The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–5). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of cattail (Typha sp.) and other moist soil vegetation. Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition and were holding water in the wetland basins (Fig. 6, 7). During both visits the wetland basins were approximately 70% inundated. A prairie with scattered young oaks (Quercus spp.) was also present within the easement (Fig. 8). The vegetation community of the prairie was primarily composed of switchgrass (Panicum virgatum) and little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium).

- Some woody encroachment was present within the wetland basins and along levees (Fig. 9). We recommend removal of woody encroachment from wetland basins and levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata) and common reed (Phragmites australis) were present within the easement (Fig. 10, 11). We recommend spraying until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
Woody encroachment of black locust was present within the prairie/tree planting (Fig. 12). We recommend removal of woody encroachment within the prairie/tree planting.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), northern bobwhite (Colinus virginianus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 6. Water control structure within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 7. Water control structure within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 8. Prairie within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 9. Woody encroachment within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 10. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 11. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 12. Woody encroachment within easement 665A121000X4L in Gallatin County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

755A121000RNR – Raben

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operations is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Saline River Watershed – Lower Ohio River Basin. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by construction earthen dikes with incremental water control and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 755A121000RNR is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Gallatin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Equality, IL. The easement covers 142 acres (Fig. 1, 2), primarily consisting of wetland (11 ac.), forest (32 ac.), tree planning (80 ac.), and food plots (10 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/18/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 3–5). The wetland basins were primarily open water habitats, but the vegetation community around the perimeter was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation. Water control structures appeared to be in good working
condition and were holding water in the wetland basins (Fig. 6, 7). During both visits the
wetland basins were fully inundated. A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig.
8). Planted trees observed within the tree planting included oaks (Quercus spp.).

- Water control structures do not appear to be used. Open water conditions suggest
  that the wetland basins are inundated for much of the year. Each wetland basin
  also contained a scour at the end of each levee where high water had drained out
  of the wetland basin (Fig. 9, 10).
- Woody encroachment was beginning to establish along the levees (Fig. 11). We
  recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future
  wetland damage.
- A small patch of common reed (Phragmites australis) was present near the water
  control structure of the southern wetland basin (Fig. 12). We recommend
  spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 ducks, including green-winged
teal (Anas crecca), blue-winged teal (Spatula discors), and wood duck (Aix sponsa), using the
easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk
(Buteo lineatus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), northern cardinal (Cardinalis
cardinalis), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), eastern bluebird (Sialia sialis), song
sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and field sparrow (Spizella pusilla). Mammalian species observed
within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-
WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during
spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Saline River and its tributaries from
agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Map of the southern parcel of easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 6. Water control structure within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 7. Water control structure within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 8. Tree planting within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 9. Levee damage within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 10. Levee damage within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 11. Woody encroachment within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Fig. 12. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 755A121000RNR in Gallatin County, IL.
Greene County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

1. Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
2. Protection and improvement of water quality.
3. Attenuation of floodwater.
4. Recharge of ground water.
5. Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
6. Carbon sequestration.
7. Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
8. Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

1. Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 545A121701MCB is an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2017. The easement is located approximately 5.5 miles southeast of Carrollton, IL. The easement covers 69 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (1 ac.), forest (8 ac.), natural tree regeneration (35 ac.), prairie (2 ac.), and food plots (8 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2019 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a small depressional wetland basin (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli) and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During visits the wetland basin was fully inundated. Most of the easement was composed of prairie and natural regeneration of woody vegetation (Fig. 3, 4). The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans) and a large patch of young eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). The wetland restoration for this easement does not appear to have been conducted yet (Fig. 5, 6).

During visits to the easement no waterfowl was observed using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), mourning dove (Zenaida macroura), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), American robin (Turdus migratorius), and song sparrow
(Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Apple Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 545A121701MCB in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 545A121701MCB in Greene County, IL.
Lat: 39° 21' 52.0146" N  
Lon: 90° 29' 20.8164" W  
PHOTO_0039

Fig. 3. Prairie within easement 545A121701MCB in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Woody encroachment within easement 545A121701MCB in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Agricultural field within easement 545A121701MCB in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Agricultural field within easement 545A121701MCB in Greene County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
Land enrolled in the WRP program suitable for restoration will be developed, returning it to previously existing wetland conditions. Restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been developed to agricultural use and are within the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river or stream.

(i) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife. Wetland areas planted to trees should be maintained eliminating competitive species particularly if cool season grass is present prior to tree planting. Natural regeneration is encouraged to a point. As always, noxious and invasive species should be controlled. Spray, cultivate, or mulching around the area as needed to control competing vegetation, especially during the first 3 years.

(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrubs to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify and area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.

(iii) Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat – Restore the functions and values of critically endangered, endangered, and threatened habitats. Tall Grass Prairie. Warm Season Grasses.

(iv) Critical Area Planting – Plant vegetation on highly erodible or critically eroding areas to stabilize the soil, reduce damage form sedimentation and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A121000NC3 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 3 miles north of Eldred, IL. The easement covers 89 acres (Fig. 1), primarily
consisting of wetland (42 ac.), tree planning (20 ac.), prairie (14 ac.), and food plots (8 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of forested and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), fall panicgrass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*), and foxtail (*Setaria sp.*). During both visits the wetland basin ranged between 30-100% inundated. The water control structure appeared in good condition (Fig. 4). Additionally, a pump was also present within the easement for flooding the wetland basin. The eastern portion of the easement was primarily composed of a prairie (Fig. 5). The vegetation community of the prairie was primarily composed of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*).

- Much of the wetland basin was planted in corn. We recommend not planting corn in the wetland basin and letting native moist soil vegetation grow.
- Much of the wetland basin had been drained during the first visit. We recommend waiting to draw down the wetland basin until after spring migration to provide habitat for migratory waterbirds.
- Dumped material was located within the easement (Fig. 6). We recommend removal of this dumped material.
- Several patches of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 7). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a native vegetation species.
- The tree planting appears to have failed (Fig. 8). The only trees within the tree planting were young willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). We recommend removal of these undesirable woody vegetation and replanting of trees.

No waterfowl were observed within the easement during visits. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Water control structure within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Dumped material within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 8. Woody encroachment within easement 665A121000NC3 in Greene County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1201005P8 – Dennis L Vetter Trust 1-99

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(iii) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Wildlife Food Plot – Establish annual or perennial food plots. Food plots will not exceed 20% of the offered acres and no single food plot will exceed 5 acres. Plots should be at least 30 feet wide. Its recommend to have one grain plot for every 40 acres of land. Food plots must be separated by sufficient distance to maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility.
(iv) Tree/Shrub Establish – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(v) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1201005P8 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 5 miles north of Eldred, IL. The easement covers 50 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (5 ac.), forest (2 ac.), and tree planning (30 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of foxtail (Setaria sp.) and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During the first visit the wetland basin was dry. However, the wetland basin was fully inundated during the second visit due to flooding from Apple Creek. Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting (Fig. 4). Planted oaks (Quercus spp.) appeared to be in good condition.

- The water control structure was not holding water within the wetland basin. We recommend installing boards into the water control structure to hold water within the wetland basin.
- Much of the tree planting was becoming overgrown (Fig. 5, 6, 7) with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). We recommend thinning of eastern cottonwoods to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) were observed using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Illinois River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 550 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005P8 in Greene County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1201005P9 – Armour

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(iii) Upland Wildlife habitat management – Wildlife Food Plot – Establish annual or perennial food plots. Food plots will not exceed 20% of the offered acres and no single food plot will exceed 5 acres. Plots should be at least 30 feet wide. Its recommend to have one grain plot for every 40 acres of land. Food plots must be separated by sufficient distance to maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility.
(iv) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(v) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1201005P9 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 5 miles north of Eldred, IL. The easement covers 49 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (20 ac.), forest (20 ac.), tree planning (2 ac.), and food plots (12 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was composed of barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli), foxtail (Setaria sp.), and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During the first visit the wetland basin was approximately 50% inundated. However, due to flooding from Apple Creek, the wetland basin was fully inundated during the second visit.

- Much of the wetland basin was planted in corn. We recommend not planting the wetland basin in corn and allowing moist soil vegetation to grow.
- Water levels within the easement appeared to have been drawn down (Fig. 5). We recommend waiting to draw down the wetland basin until after spring migration to provide habitat for migratory waterbirds.
- Dense patches of willow (Salix sp.) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 6). We recommend removing undesirable woody vegetation to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Dumped material was located within the easement (Fig. 7). We recommend removal of this dumped material.

During visits we documented 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Illinois River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 550 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Water control structure within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Dumped material within easement 665A1201005P9 in Greene County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(iii) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Wildlife Food Plot – Establish annual or perennial food plots. Food plots will not exceed 20% of the offered acres and no single food plot will exceed 5 acres. Plots should be at least 30 feet wide. Its recommend to have one grain plot for every 40 acres of land. Food plots must be separated by sufficient distance to maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility.
(iv) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(v) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1201005PB is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 5 miles north of Eldred, IL. The easement covers 105 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (10 ac.) and tree planning (60 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), and nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). During the first visit the wetland basin was dry. However, due to flooding from Apple Creek, the wetland basin was fully inundated during the second visit. Much of the easement was forested and was composed of eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*).

- The water control structure (Fig. 3) was not holding water within the wetland basin. We recommend installing boards into the water control structure to hold water within the wetland basin.
- The tree planting appeared to have failed. No planted trees could be located and the trees within the tree planting were primarily composed of eastern cottonwood (Fig. 4, 5). We recommend thinning of eastern cottonwood and replanting the tree planting.
- Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

During both visits no waterfowl were observed within the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Illinois River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 550 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1201005PB in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005PB in Greene County, IL.

Lat: 39° 22' 17.8488" N
Lon: 90° 33' 15.0330" W
PHOTO_0023
Fig. 3. Water control structure within easement 665A1201005PB in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005PB in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005PB in Greene County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(iii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1201005PC is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 5 miles north of Eldred, IL. The easement covers 216 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (47 ac.), forest (15 ac.), tree planning (110 ac.), and food plots (5 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basins were primarily composed of rough cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium), barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli), and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During the first visit the wetland basins were nearly dry. However, due to flooding from Apple Creek, the wetland basins were fully inundated during the second visit. Much of the easement was a tree planting and was primarily composed of eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids).
• Water control structures (Fig. 5) were not holding water within the wetland basins. We recommend installing boards into the water control structures to hold water within the wetland basin.

• Corn was planted in some wetland basins. We recommend not planting corn and allowing moist soil vegetation to grow.

• The tree planting appeared to have failed. No planted trees could be located and the trees within the tree planting were primarily composed of eastern cottonwood (Fig. 6, 7). We recommend removal of eastern cottonwood and replanting the tree planting.

• Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 8). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

During both visits no waterfowl were observed within the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Illinois River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 550 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Water control structure within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 8. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1201005PC in Greene County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1203005Q3 – Darr

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(iii) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Wildlife Food Plot – Establish annual or perennial food plots. Food plots will not exceed 20% of the offered acres and no single food plot will exceed 5 acres. Plots should be at least 30 feet wide. Its recommend to have one grain plot for every 40 acres of land. Food plots must be separated by sufficient distance to maximize wildlife benefits and accessibility.
(iv) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(v) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1203005Q3 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2003. The easement is located approximately 5 miles north of Eldred, IL. The easement covers 130 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (24 ac.), forest (27 ac.), and tree planning (80 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained several wetland basins. The two eastern wetland basins appear to hold water year round and contained moist soil vegetation and trees around the perimeter (Fig 2, 3). The western impounded wetland basin was sparsely vegetated with moist soil vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and was nearly dry during the first visit (Fig. 4). However, due to flooding from Apple Creek, the western wetland basin was fully inundated during the second visit. Much of the easement was forested and was composed of eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*).

- The water control structure of the western wetland basin was not holding water within the wetland basin (Fig. 5). We recommend installing boards into the water control structure to hold water within the wetland basin.
- The tree planting appeared to have failed. Very few planted trees could be located and the trees within the tree planting were primarily composed of eastern cottonwood (Fig. 6, 7). We recommend thinning of eastern cottonwood and replanting the tree planting.
- Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits we documented 4 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Illinois River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 550 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Water control structure within easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A1203005Q3 in Greene County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The primary purpose of this easement is the restoration and protection of wetlands for wildlife, flood storage, water quality, and to establish permanent cover for aesthetic quality.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Diversion – The purpose of this practice is to divert excess water from one area for the use or safe disposal in other areas.
(iii) Grade Stabilization Structure – The purpose of this practice is to stabilize the grade and control erosion in natural and artificial channels and to prevent the formation or advance of gullies.
(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(v) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(vi) Wildlife Upland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to create, maintain or enhance areas, including wetland, for food and cover for upland wildlife. Native trees, shrubs and food plots will be planted to provide additional food and cover for upland wildlife.
(vii) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1296005RT is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 2 miles northeast of East Hardin, IL. The easement covers 119 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (57 ac.), forest (16 ac.), tree planning (6 ac.), and food plots (4 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/9/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2–7). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli), nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), and rough cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium). Patches of buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) were also present on the western portion of the wetland basin. The water control structure on outer levee appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 8). During both visits the wetland basin ranged from 70–100% inundated.

- A system of inner levees and water control structures was present within the wetland basin. Many of the internal levees were very damaged. We recommend repairing levees to better control water levels.
- A large break was present in the main outer levee (Fig. 9). We recommend repairing the levee to better control water levels.
- The levees were very overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

While visiting the easement we documented approximately 5 gadwall (Mareca strepera) and 4 mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), great blue heron (Ardea herodias), ring-billed gull (Larus delawarensis), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and raccoon (Procyon lotor).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Illinois River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 8. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 9. Levee damage within easement 665A1296005RT in Greene County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1296005XC – Telzrow

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of this easement is to remove 75 acres of marginal agricultural lands and 5 acres of existing wetlands from production to restore approximately 70 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands and 10 acres of wetlands within the Illinois River Watershed. Its functions will include improved water quality, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration - The easement area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production.

(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage, vegetation, food plots, hydrology, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

(iii) Tree Planting – the purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrubs typical to the area prior to crop production. This area will be enhanced by the planting of suitable trees and shrubs.

(iv) Conservation Cover – A mixture of warm season grasses and a wet prairie seed mix will be planted to establish emergent wetland vegetation that will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance grassland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1296005XC is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 5 miles northwest of Carrollton, IL. The easement covers 300 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (190 ac.), forest (240 ac.), and tree planning (15 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/8/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained a single large impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2–8). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of maple (Acer sp.), willow (Salix sp.), and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). Bald cypress (Taxodium distichum) and buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) were also present in lower members. Some moist soil vegetation, including reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli), and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), were present in locations throughout the wetland basin. During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated. A tree planting was located along the northeast portion of the easement (Fig. 9). The oaks in the tree planting appeared to be in good condition.

- Much of the woody vegetation within the wetland basin was willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 10). We recommend thinning these species to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Reed canary grass was present throughout the wetland basin. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable vegetation species.
- Water control structures appeared to be in good condition (Fig. 11). Each water control structure had large beaver guards. However, the western structure had been plugged (Fig. 12) by American beavers (Castor canadensis). We recommend clearing the structure so that water levels can better be managed within the wetland basin.
- The levee was overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 13). We recommend removing woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Portions of levee were heavily damaged and scoured from high water events (Fig. 14, 15). We recommend repairing the levee to help prevent future wetland damage.

While visiting the easement we documented approximately 6 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 2 mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included great blue heron (Ardea herodias), northern bobwhite (Colinus virginianus), bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), hairy woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and white-throated sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and sign of American beaver.

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Apple Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 9. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 10. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Lat: 39° 21’ 17.6838” N
Lon: 90° 28’ 34.9932” W
PHOTO_0053

Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 12. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 13. Levee within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 14. Levee damage within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 15. Levee damage within easement 665A1296005XC in Greene County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.
(iii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(iv) Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat – Restore the functions and values of critically endangered, endangered, and threatened habitats. Tall Grass Prairie. Warm Season Grasses.
(v) Critical Area Planting – Plant vegetation on highly erodible or critically eroding areas to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sedimentation and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 755A121000PX is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan–Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Greene County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of Hardin, IL. The easement covers 372 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (100 ac.) and tree planning (240 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/9/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2–11). The vegetation community within the wetland was primarily composed of young eastern cottonwood (Populus
*deltoids* with some moist soil vegetation within the understory. During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated. The water control structure appeared in good working condition (Fig. 12). Additionally a pump was present to fill the wetland basin from Macoupin Creek.

- The tree planting appears to have failed (Fig. 13, 14). The only trees within the tree planting were young willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). We recommend thinning of these species and replanting of trees.
- Portions of the levee were overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

No waterfowl were observed within the easement during both visits. Other avian species observed within the easement include belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Macoupin Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PXMM in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PXM in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 10. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 11. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000PXM in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 12. Water control structure within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 13. Tree planting within easement 755A121000PXM in Greene County, IL.
Fig. 14. Tree planting within easement 755A121000PX in Greene County, IL.
Hardin County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

655A12980060N – Jones

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production and to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the floodplain.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Three separate shallow water wetland areas will be constructed according to NRCS standards and specs to improve wetland/wildlife habitat.
(ii) Critical Area Planting – The berms of all three wetland structures and diversions will be seeded, fertilized, and mulched according to NRCS standards and specs.
(iii) Tree Planting – Trees will be planted to restore areas back to natural vegetative cover, and wetland characteristics.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 655A12980060N is an Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP) easement in Hardin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 5 miles northeast of Cave In Rock, IL. The easement covers 278 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (10 ac.), forest (112 ac.), tree planning (75 ac.), and food plots (3 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/18/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins. The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), and woody vegetation, including willow (Salix sp.). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated. Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting. Planted trees observed include oaks (Quercus spp.) and river birch (Betula nigra).
• Much of the wetland basins was overgrown in woody vegetation including willow. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

• Much of the tree planting was overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). We recommend thinning these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

• Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) was present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), Carolina wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 8 wetland easements that provides 1,196 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 655A12980060N in Hardin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The Purpose and function of this easement is to remove 546 acres of agricultural land from production to restore 172 acres to woodland, 90 acres to shallow water wetland, and 90 acres to open land for wildlife habitat. The function of the easement include: water quality, sediment removal, floodwater retention, erosion control, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – To install shallow water wetlands from existing drainage patterns to improve water quality, control erosion, and enhance waterfowl habitat.
(ii) Tree Planting – The purpose of this practice is to establish a stand of trees typical to the area prior to crop production.
(iii) Natural Regeneration – To restore native woodlands vegetation from existing seed source on fields with lowest elevations or existing wooded uplands.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A12980060S is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Hardin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 4 miles northeast of Cave In Rock, IL. The easement covers 546 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (7 ac.), forest (154 ac.), tree planning (300 ac.), and food plots (4 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/18/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single depressional wetland basin within a bottomland hardwood forest (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated. Much of the easement was a tree planting. Planted trees observed include oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*).
Much of the wetland basins was overgrown in woody vegetation including willow. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

Much of the tree planting (Fig. 3) was overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). We recommend thinning these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) was present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 8 wetland easements that provides 1,196 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980060S in Hardin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060S in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 3. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060S in Hardin County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The Purpose and function of this easement is to remove 172 acres of agricultural land from production to restore 135 acres to woodland and 13 acres to shallow water wetlands, within the Ohio River Watershed. The remaining 26 acres is in natural sloughs and wetlands. Its functions will include improved water quality, sediment removal, flood water retention, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – To install shallow water wetlands from existing drainage patterns to improve water quality, control erosion, and enhance waterfowl habitat.
(ii) Tree Planting – The purpose of this practice is to establish a stand of trees, typical to the area prior to crop production.
(iii) Natural Regeneration – To restore native woodlands vegetation from existing seed source on fields with lowest elevations or existing wooded uplands.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A129900626 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Hardin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1999. The easement is located approximately 3 miles east of Cave In Rock, IL. The easement covers 172 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (33 ac.), forest (30 ac.), tree planning (62 ac.), and food plots (4 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/18/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated. Much of the easement was a tree planting. Planted trees observed include oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*).
Much of the wetland basins was overgrown in woody vegetation including willow. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

Many of the levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 3). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

Much of the tree planting (Fig. 4) was overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). We recommend thinning these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) was present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), pileated woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 8 wetland easements that provides 1,196 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A129900626 in Hardin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.

Legend

- Water Control Structure
- Levee
- River/Ditch
- Food Plot
- Wetland
- Easement Boundary

0 0.1 0.2 Miles
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900626 in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900626 in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A129900626 in Hardin County, IL.
Easement 755A120000HYV is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Hardin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 4 miles northeast of Cave In Rock, IL. The easement covers 200 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (18 ac.), forest (73 ac.), and tree planting (76 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/18/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (fig. 2–5). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated. Much of the easement was a tree planting (Fig. 6). Planted trees observed include oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*).
• Much of the wetland basins were overgrown in woody vegetation including willow. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
• A large break was present in the levee of the northern wetland basin (Fig. 7). We recommend repairing the levee so that water levels can better be managed.
• Water control structures were overgrown and did not appear to be used (Fig. 8). We recommend using water control structures to manage water levels within the wetland basins.
• Much of the tree planting (Fig. 9) was overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). We recommend thinning these species to promote the growth of planted trees.
• Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) was present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) and 2 mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), Carolina wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus), winter wren (Troglodytes hiemalis), ruby-crowned kinglet (Regulus calendula), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 8 wetland easements that provides 1,196 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 755A12000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 7. Levee damage within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 8. Water control structure within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Fig. 9. Tree planting within easement 755A120000HYV in Hardin County, IL.
Jersey County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.

(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve wetland habitat for wildlife.

(iii) Tree/Shrub Establish – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 755A121000QL0 is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Jersey County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 0.1 miles south of Nutwood, IL. The easement covers 191 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (14 ac.), forest (12 ac.), tree planning (160 ac.), and food plots (4 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/9/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several depressional wetland basins. One wetland basin was inundated during both visits (Fig. 2), and the vegetation community within that wetland basin was primarily composed of barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*) and nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). The other wetland basins were dry (Fig. 3, 4), and the vegetation communities within those wetland basins was primarily composed of very sparse rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*) and nodding smartweed.

- One of the dry wetland basins had a cut in the side that drained to Otter Creek (Fig. 5). We recommend repairing this cut so the wetland basin can retain water.
Some of the planted oaks (*Quercus spp.*) were still present, but much of the easement was overgrown (Fig. 6) in a dense stand of young eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). We recommend thinning of undesirable tree species to promote the growth of planted trees. Additionally, we recommend replanting of trees in locations of the previous tree planting that no longer contain trees.

During visits to the easement no waterfowl were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Otter Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A121000QL0 in Jersey County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000QL0 in Jersey County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000QL0 in Jersey County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A121000QL0 in Jersey County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland damage within easement 755A121000QL0 in Jersey County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 755A121000QL0 in Jersey County, IL.
Johnson County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operations is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Cache River Watershed. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by excavating shallow wetland areas, constructing low-level dikes and installing water control structures. Borrow material for dikes will be excavated from within impounded areas as identified in the field prior to construction.
(ii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwood trees will be planted using bare root seedling stock at the rate of 435 trees per acre.
(iii) Shrub Establishment – Giant Cane (Arundinaria gigantean) will be planted using rooted rhizome stock.
(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1205005R2 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2005. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Belknap, IL. The easement covers 473 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (86 ac.), forest (25 ac.), and tree planning (340 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/31/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained three impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation including nodding smartweed (\textit{Polygonum lapathifolium}). During both visits to the easement the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting (Fig. 4, 5, 6). Some planted oaks (\textit{Quercus spp.}) remained and appeared to be in good condition.

- Many water control structures were plugged by sedimentation. We recommend repairing water control structures so that water levels can be better managed.
- Many levees were overgrown and were had scour from high water. We recommend clearing and repairing levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Many areas within the tree planting were overgrown with eastern cottonwood (\textit{Populus deltoids}), American sycamore (\textit{Platanus occidentalis}), willow (\textit{Salix sp.}), and red cedar (\textit{Juniperus virginiana}). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Areas of Japanese honeysuckle (\textit{Lonicera japonica}) and sericea lespedeza (\textit{Lespedeza cuneata}) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 7). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 wood ducks (\textit{Aix sponsa}) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (\textit{Ardea herodias}), red-shouldered hawk (\textit{Buteo lineatus}), mourning dove (\textit{Zenaida macroura}), American crow (\textit{Corvus brachyrhynchos}), downy woodpecker (\textit{Picoides pubescens}), hairy woodpecker (\textit{Leuconotopicus villosus}), American robin (\textit{Turdus migratorius}), northern cardinal (\textit{Cardinalis cardinalis}), tufted titmouse (\textit{Baeolophus bicolor}), Carolina chickadee (\textit{Poecile carolinensis}), and song sparrow (\textit{Melospiza melodia}). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (\textit{Odocoileus virginianus}), American beaver (\textit{Castor canadensis}), and muskrat (\textit{Ondatra zibethicus}).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Cache River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 2,741 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A1205005R2 in Johnson County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of this easement is to remove 50 acres of marginal land and 48 acres of agricultural land in addition to 13 acres of existing wetland and 17 acres of wetland from production to restore approximately 64 acres of bottomland hardwood wetlands and 34 acres of wetlands within the Cache River Watershed. Its function will include improved water quality, sediment removal, flood water retention and improved habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production. Three water control structures and an earthen dike will provide the necessary hydrology to create the desired wetland functions stated in the “Purpose and Functions”.
(ii) Tree Planting – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrubs typical to the area prior to crop production.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, hydrology, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1296005RB is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 2 miles northwest of West Vienna, IL. The easement covers 130 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (50 ac.), forest (10 ac.), tree planning (43 ac.), and food plots (6 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–8). The vegetation community within the wetland basins primarily consisted of nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium)
and barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*). Additionally, a portion of the eastern wetland basin was also composed of woody vegetation including buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), willow (*Salix sp.*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), and maple (*Acer sp.*). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 9–12). A tree planting (Fig. 13–15) was also present within the easement which contained planted river birch (*Betula nigra*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). During the first visit much of the easement was inundated from a recent rain event. However, floodwater had receded prior to the second visit and the wetland basins ranged from 10–50% inundated.

- Water control structures had stop logs removed and water was flowing out of the impoundments during the second visit. We recommend delaying drawdown until after spring migration to provide habitat for migratory birds.
- Scours were present along the levee in a few locations. We recommend repairing damage to levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) was present in locations throughout the easement (Fig. 16). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Area of the tree planting were becoming overgrown with willow (*Salix sp.*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), and maple (*Acer sp.*). We recommend thinning of these species to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Some willow were present within the wetland basins. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 2 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and 250 dabbling ducks, including green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*), blue-winged teal (*Spatula discors*), northern shoveler (*S. clypeata*), gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), and wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American coot (*Fulica americana*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), fish crow (*C. ossifragus*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), piliated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), hairy woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), brown creeper (*Certhia americana*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*M. georgiana*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Cache River and its tributaries from
agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 835 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 12. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 13. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 14. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 15. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 16. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1296005RB in Johnson County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12980060K – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operations is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Cache River Watershed. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production. A combination of water control structures, dikes, and/or ditch plugs will provide the necessary hydrology to create the desired wetland functions stated in the “Purpose and Functions”.
(ii) Tree Planting – Cypress and Tupelo trees will be planted according to the plan developed by the NRCS biologist for Area 1.
(iii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwood trees will be planed using bare root seedling stock at the rate of 435 trees per acre.
(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife.
(v) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Create, maintain or enhance areas to provide upland wildlife food and cover.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A12980060K is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located near Belknap, IL. The easement covers 2,268 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (460 ac.), forest (165 ac.), and tree planting (1,350 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/31/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained many impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–6). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). Some wetland basins also contained areas of buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and rush (*Juncus spp.*). During both visits to the easement the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting (Fig. 7–9). Some planted oaks (*Quercus spp.*) remained and appeared to be in good condition.

- Many water control structures were plugged by sedimentation (Fig. 10). We recommend repairing water control structures so that water levels can be better managed.
- Many levees were overgrown and were had scours from high water. We recommend clearing and repairing levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- An area along Post Creek Cuttoff had a large log jam which was causing the bank and an access road to erode (Fig. 11, 12). We recommend removal of the log jam and adding rip-rap to the eroded area to prevent future damage.
- Many areas within the tree planting were overgrown (Fig. 13) with eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), willow (*Salix sp.*), and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Areas of Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 14–17). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 15 wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) and 5 mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), hairy woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), winter wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), song sparrow, (*Melospiza melodia*), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), and dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), and eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Cache River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland
easements that provides 2,741 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Lat: 37° 19' 25.0608" N
Lon: 88° 55' 38.8758" W
PHOTO_0003

Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Lat: 37° 19' 50.5500" N
Lon: 88° 55' 43.7706" W
PHOTO_0011

Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 11. Erosion within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 12. Erosion within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 13. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 14. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 15. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 16. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 17. Autumn olive (Elaeagnus umbellata) within easement 665A12980060K in Johnson County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12980060W – Schaefer

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.

(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or restore a stand of trees or shrubs typical to the area prior to crop production.

(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage water levels, vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A12980060W is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson and Union Counties, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 1 mile northwest of Cypress, IL. The easement covers 608 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (144 ac.), forest (85 ac.), tree planning (200 ac.), prairie (107 ac.), and food plots (35 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/10/2020 and 3/10/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–7). The vegetation community across many of the wetland basins was primarily composed of woody vegetation including willow (Salix sp.), buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis), and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). Some wetland basins also contained smaller amounts of moist soil and persistent emergent vegetation, including nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli), and cattail (Typha sp.). A tree planting (Fig. 8) was also present within the easement which contained planted oaks (Quercus spp.) and bald cypress (Taxodium distichum). The easement also contained a prairie (Fig. 9) which was primarily composed of switchgrass (Panicum virgatum). A large area of the prairie had appeared to have been mowed to control woody encroachment and large piles of woody material were still present...
(Fig. 10). During both visits to the easement all but one of the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Many of the water control structures (Fig. 11) appeared to be plugged by sedimentation or by American beavers (*Castor canadensis*). We recommend clearing water control structures so that water levels can be better managed.
- Many of the levees were overgrown with woody vegetation and badly damaged by scours from high water events (Fig. 6, 7, 12, 13, 14). We recommend clearing woody vegetation from levees and repairing damage to levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- The levee of one of the wetland basins appeared to have been intentionally broke to drain the wetland (Fig. 15, 16, 17). We recommend repairing the levee and clearing the water control structure so that water levels can better be managed within the wetland basin.
- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 18, 19) with American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), willow (*Salix sp.*), and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). We recommend thinning of these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 20, 21). We recommend spraying until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Many large food plots were present throughout the easement (Fig. 22–25). We recommend reducing the size of food plots and replanting in native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), 10 ring-necked ducks (*Aythya collaris*), and 10 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), eastern towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), white-crowned sparrow (*Z. leucophrys*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Cypress Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 819 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Prairie within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Prairie within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 12. Levee damage within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 13. Levee within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 14. Levee damage within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 15. Levee damage within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 16. Water control structure within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 17. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Lat: 37° 23' 19.5978" N
Lon: 89° 2' 27.6942" W
PHOTO_0037

Fig. 18. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 19. Tree planting within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 20. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 21. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 22. Food plot within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 23. Food plot within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 24. Food plot within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 25. Food plot within easement 665A12980060W in Johnson County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12980061B – Anderson

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or restore a stand of trees or shrubs typical to the area prior to crop production.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage water levels, vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A12980061B is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles south of West Vienna, IL. The easement covers 170 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (102 ac.), forest (35 ac.), and tree planting (85 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/10/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–9). The vegetation community of the wetland basins primarily consisted of woody vegetation, including willow (Salix sp.), eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids), American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis), bald cypress (Taxodium distichum), and buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis). A tree planting was also present within the easement which contained planted bald cypress. During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Water control structures (Fig. 10) appeared to be plugged by sedimentation or American beaver (Castor canadensis). We recommend clearing water control structures so that water levels can better be managed within the wetland basins.
The levees of the wetland basins were overgrown with woody vegetation and badly damaged with scours and breaks (Fig. 11–15). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees and repairing levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

Much of the tree planting was overgrown with dense patches of willow, eastern cottonwood, and American sycamore (Fig. 16, 17). We recommend thinning of these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

Much of the woody vegetation within the wetland basin was composed of willow, eastern cottonwood, and American sycamore. We recommend thinning of these species from wetland basins to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) and 6 mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), turkey vulture (Cathartes aura), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), pileated woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), hairy woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), eastern phoebe (Sayornis phoebe), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), white-breasted nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis), winter wren (Troglodytes hiemalis), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and swamp sparrow (M. georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), fox squirrel (Sciurus niger), and gray squirrel (S. carolinensis) and sign of American beaver and raccoon (Procyon lotor).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Cache River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 11. Levee within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 12. Levee damage within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 13. Levee damage within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 14. Levee damage within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 15. Levee damage within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 16. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 17. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061B in Johnson County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12980061F – Cunningham

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A12980061F is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 2 miles northwest of West Vienna, IL. The easement covers 75 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (18 ac.), forest (31 ac.), tree planning (10 ac.), and food plots (1 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–5). The vegetation community within the wetland basin primarily consisted of moist soil vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), and woody vegetation, including bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and willow (*Salix sp.*). During the first visit the wetland basin was fully indurated due to a recent precipitation event. Floodwater had receded prior to the second visit, and the wetland basin was approximately 10% inundated.

- The levee of the wetland basin was overgrown with woody vegetation and badly damaged from high water events with scours and a break (Fig. 6–8). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees and repairing the levee to help prevent against future wetland damage.
- Willow was present within the wetland basin. We recommend removal of willow from the wetland basin to help prevent future wetland damage.
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) was present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and 2 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Cache River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 835 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Levee within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Levee damage within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Levee damage within easement 665A12980061F in Johnson County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of this easement is to remove from production marginal wet agricultural land, restoring it to its native wetland type. Existing wetland types will be enhanced or protected. Its functions will include improved water quality, sediment removal, flood water retention and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub typical to the area prior to crop production. This area will be enhanced by the planting of suitable trees and/or shrubs.
(ii) Wetland Development or Restoration – The easement area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production. A combination of water control structures, dikes, and/or ditch plugs will provide the necessary hydrology to create the desired wetland functions stated in the “Purpose and Functions”.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, hydrology, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A129800606 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Grantsburg, IL. The easement covers 130 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (46 ac.), forest (31 ac.), tree planning (47 ac.), and food plots (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland and forested habitats. The easement was visited on 2/10/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained two impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–4). The vegetation community of the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and cattail (*Typha sp.*), and woody vegetation, including buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), willow (*Salix sp.*), and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Water control structures (Fig. 5) appeared to be plugged by sedimentation or by American beavers (*Castor canadensis*). Floodwater was flowing over the levees and creating scours (Fig. 6–8). We recommend clearing water control structures so that water levels can be better managed.
- Woody vegetation was present on the sides of the levee (Fig. 9). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Willow was present within the wetland basin. We recommend removal of willow from the wetland basin to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Reed canary grass was present throughout the easement (Fig. 10). We recommend spraying until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 2 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and 1 wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), barred owl (*Strix varia*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*M. georgiana*), and white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Lat: 37° 22' 4.6158" N
Lon: 88° 45' 22.1340" W
PHOTO_0046

Fig. 5. Water control structure within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Levee damage within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Levee damage within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Levee damage within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Levee within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A129800606 in Johnson County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A129800619 – White

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production. A combination of water control structures, dikes, and/or ditch plugs will provide the necessary hydrology to create the desired wetland functions stated in the “Purpose and Functions”.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A129800619 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Johnson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 3 miles northwest of West Vienna, IL. The easement covers 630 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (170 ac.), forest (262 ac.), and tree planning (175 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/9/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded and depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2–6). The vegetation community of the impounded wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). The vegetation community of the depressional wetland was primarily composed of bald cypress and black tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*). A tree planting (Fig. 7, 8) was also present within the easement which contained bald cypress and river birch (*Betula nigra*). During both visits all but one wetland basin was fully inundated.

- Many water control structures were plugged by sedimentation or American beavers (*Castor canadensis*). We recommend clearing water control structures so that water levels can be better managed within the wetland basins.
The water control structure on the northwest wetland basin (Fig. 9) had its stop logs removed and the wetland basin was almost fully dewatered (Fig. 10). We recommend delaying drawdowns until after spring migration to provide habitat for migratory waterbirds.

Many levees were overgrown with woody vegetation and badly damaged with scours (Fig. 11–13). We recommend removing woody vegetation from levees and repairing damaged levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

Willow was present in several wetland basins (Fig. 14). We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

Reed canary grass, sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata), common reed (Phragmites australis), and Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 15–18). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

The tree planting was becoming overgrown with American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). We recommend thinning of these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and approximately 70 dabbling ducks, including mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), green-winged teal (A. crecca), gadwall (Mareca strepera), northern shoveler (Spatula clypeata), blue-winged teal (S. discors), and wood duck (Aix sponsa), using the easement. Other waterbirds observed within the easement include American coot (Fulica americana), pied-billed grebe (Podilymbus podiceps), ring-billed gull (Larus delawarensis), killdeer (Charadrius vociferous), Wilson’s snipe (Gallinago delicata), and belted kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon). Other avian species observed within the easement include red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), red-shouldered hawk (B. lineatus), northern harrier (Circus hudsonius), barred owl (Strix varia), turkey vulture (Cathartes aura), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), fish crow (C. ossifragus), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), hairy woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus), eastern bluebird (Sialia sialis), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), Carolina wren (Thryothorus ludovicianus), winter wren (Troglodytes hiemalis), eastern phoebe (Sayornis phoebe), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), swamp sparrow (M. georgiana), white-throated sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis), field sparrow (Spizella pusilla), savannah sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis), and eastern towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), American beaver, and raccoon (Procyon lotor).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Cache River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 835 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Tree planting within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Wetland basin within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 11. Levee within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 12. Levee within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 13. Levee within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 14. Willow (*Salix sp.*) within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 15. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 16. Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica) within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 17. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Fig. 18. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A129800619 in Johnson County, IL.
Macoupin County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The primary purpose of this easement is the restoration and protection of wetlands for wildlife habitat, food storage, water quality protection, and aesthetic enjoyment.

(i) Install a variable water level control structure on the ditch in field #7, near the southeast corner of the easement.
(ii) Construct a low berm along the east edge of the easement in connection with the water control structure.
(iii) Plant approximately 6.3 acres along the base of the hill and north end of easement to native timber.
(iv) Allow for the natural regeneration of bottomland tree species to occur on the remaining land in field #7.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1296005WY is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Macoupin County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 3.6 miles southeast of Chesterfield, IL. The easement covers 33 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (23 ac.) and forest (13 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/9/2020 and 3/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of a dense patch of shallowly flooded nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). Additionally, buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) was present around the edges of the wetland basin. During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated.
• The easement was nearly fully inundated, but the area around the water control structure was dry (Fig. 5). We recommend excavating the ditch around the water control structure so that water levels can be managed.
• The levee was overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 6). We recommend the removal of woody vegetation from the levee to help prevent future wetland damage.
• Dense willow (Salix sp.) was present around the edges of the easement (Fig. 7). We recommend the removal of undesirable woody vegetation to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we did not documented any waterbirds using the easement, but we observed approximately 10 Canada geese (Branta canadensis), 20 greater white-fronted geese (Anser albifrons), and 50 snow geese (Chen caerulescens) fly over the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), and song sparrow (Melospiza melodia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Honey Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL.
Fig. 5. Water control structure within easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL.
Fig. 6. Levee within easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL.
Fig. 7. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1296005WY in Macoupin County, IL.
Massac County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds and all wetland associated species including threatened and endangered species. Through the various stages of vegetative succession this wetland restoration will have potential to provide habitat for Illinois listed species such as: common moorhen, eastern ribbon snake, least bittern, marsh rice rat, reniform sedge, and large sedge. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing low-level dikes and by installing water control structures.
(ii) Tree and Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwood trees will be planted using bare root seedling stock. Native wetland shrubs will be planted in two rows bordering both sides of the food plots on the eastern side of Tract 433.
(iii) Conservation Cover – Warm season grasses will be established in a strip around the perimeter of the full pool level of the shallow water wetland to increase the habitat diversity of the site. Cool season grasses will be established in a 20 ft. strip to be used as a firebreak between the warm season grasses and tree planting.
(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1202005PM is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Massac County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2002. The easement is located approximately 1 miles south of Reeseville, IL. The easement covers 151 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (44 ac.), forest (17 ac.), tree planning (92 ac.), prairie (13 ac.), and food plots (1 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and
agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/10/2020 and 3/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2–5). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). The water control structure appeared to be in good condition and was holding water in the wetland basin (Fig. 6). During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated. A tree planting (Fig. 7) was also present within the easement which contained oaks (*Quercus spp.*).

- Much of the woody vegetation within the wetland basin was composed of willow. We recommend removal of willow from the wetland basin to promote the growth of the planted bald cypress and to help prevent future wetland damage.
- A small prairie was present along the southern portion of the easement (Fig. 8). Woody encroachment was beginning to establish within the prairie. We recommend implementing a controlled burn plan with burns scheduled every three years to promote growth of prairie grasses and discourage woody encroachment.
- Some areas of reed canary grass and sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 9). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Many of the planted trees in the tree planting were in good condition, but some areas of the tree planting were becoming overgrown with willow, and red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). We recommend thinning of these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 50 dabbling ducks, including mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included barred owl (*Strix varia*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and swamp sparrow (*M. georgiana*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*). This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 6. Water control structure within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 8. Prairie within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
Fig. 9. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A1202005PM in Massac County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1208005WX – Minaros Farms LLC

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Lower Ohio River Basin. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes with incremental water control and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwoods and cypress will be planted using bare root seedling stock.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1208005WX is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Massac and Pope Counties, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2008. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles east of Unionville, IL. The easement covers 130 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (40 ac.), tree planting (72 ac.), and food plots (3 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/10/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–8). The vegetation community of the wetland basins was primarily composed of aquatic vegetation, including cattail (Typha sp.) and American lotus (Nelumbo lutea). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.
A tree planting was also present within the easement which contained planted oaks (*Quercus spp.*).

- Water control structures (Fig. 9) appeared to be plugged by sedimentation or American beavers (*Castor canadensis*). We recommend clearing water control structures so water levels can be better managed.
- The levees were badly damaged with scours and breaks from water flowing over the levees during high water events (Fig. 10, 11). We recommend repairing the levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Woody vegetation was beginning to establish along the levees (Fig. 12). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Large patches of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement (Fig 13, 14). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- *Sericea lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) was present in locations throughout the easement (Fig. 15). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 16, 17) with eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and willow (*Salix sp.*). We recommend thinning these species to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and approximately 15 ducks, including blue-winged teal (*Spatula discors*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), and bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), barred owl (*Strix varia*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and swamp sparrow (*M. georgiana*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and sign of American beaver.

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 189 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 10. Levee damage within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 11. Levee damage within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 12. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 13. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 14. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 15. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 16. Tree planting within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Fig. 17. Tree planting within easement 665A1208005WX in Massac and Pope Counties, IL.
Monroe County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A121100XSB is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2011. The easement is located approximately 2 miles southwest of Renault, IL. The easement covers 30 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (24 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin. The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation including nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During both visits to the easement the wetland basin was fully inundated.

- Levees showed signs of damage and scouring from high water events. We recommend repairing damaged areas of the levee to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 2 Canada geese (Branta canadensis), 20 green-winged teal (Anas crecca), and 4 mallards (A. platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (Ardea herodias), American white pelican (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos), and ring-billed gull (Larus delawarensis).
This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121100XSB in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121100XSB in Monroe County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The main objective of this plan is to remove wet cropland from production by restoring the preexisting hydrology. This plan identifies required practices to restore hydrology and improve emergent and forested wetland ecosystems to Monroe County, Illinois.

(i) Wetland Restoration - Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrub to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify an area, or produce wood crops. The natural vegetation in this restored wetland was woody shrubs and/or trees prior to crop production. This area will be restored to similar trees and shrubs.
(iii) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. The buffer area will be seeded and maintained to perennial vegetative cover as specified in an approved seeding plan.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1201005NX is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 3 miles west of Maeystown, IL. The easement covers 68 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (54 ac.) and tree planning (6 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation including barnyardgrass (Echinochloa crus-galli) and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium).
Water control structures appeared to be in good condition and were holding water within the wetland basins (Fig. 4). The easement also contained a tree planting of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) that were in good condition (Fig. 4, 5). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Willow (*Salix sp.*) was present in several locations throughout the easement (Fig. 6). We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 1,500 ducks, including mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), northern pintail (*A. acuta*), green-winged teal (*A. crecca*), gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), blue-winged teal (*S. discors*), and bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1201005NX in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005NX in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005NX in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1201005NX in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1201005NX in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 6. Willow (*Salix sp.*) within easement 665A1201005NX in Monroe County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The main objective of this plan is to remove wet cropland from production by restoring the preexisting conditions. This plan identifies required practices to restore hydrology and improve emergent and forested wetland ecosystems to Monroe County in Illinois.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Rehabilitates drained or degraded wetland where the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to the natural condition to the extent practicable. The purpose is to restore hydric soil conditions, hydrologic soil conditions, hydrophytic plant communities, and wetland functions that occurred on the disturbed wetland site prior to modification.

(ii) Tree Planting – Plant or maintain existing bare root or root pruned tree seedlings suited for wetland sites for the purpose of enhancing wildlife diversity and beautify and area.

(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose is to retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1202005NP is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2002. The easement is located approximately 3 miles west of Maestown, IL. The easement covers 216 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (67 ac.), forest (10 ac.), tree planning (100 ac.), and food plots (3 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–7). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of cattail (*Typha sp.*), river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*), nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and foxtail (*Setaria sp.*). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 8, 9). Pumps were also present within the easement for flooding the wetland basins (Fig. 10). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting (Fig. 11, 12, 13). The planted trees appeared to be in good condition.

- Several sections of levee were damaged (Fig. 14). We recommend repairing the levee to help prevent future wetland damage. If damage to the levee continues, we recommend adding rip rap to the side of the levee.
- Willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) were present in locations within the wetland basins and tree planting (Fig. 13). We recommend thinning of these undesirable woody species to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of planted trees.
- A patch of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) was present within the easement (Fig. 3). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a native vegetation species.
- Several NRCS boundary signs were missing. We recommend adding additional boundary signs to the perimeter of the easement.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 8. Water control structure within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 10. Pump within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 11. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 12 Tree planting within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 13. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 14. Levee damage within easement 665A1202005NP in Monroe County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The main objective of this plan is to remove wet cropland from production by restoring the preexisting conditions. This plan identifies required practices to restore hydrology and improve emergent and forested wetland ecosystems to Monroe County in Illinois.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Rehabilitates drained or degraded wetland where the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to the natural condition to the extent practicable. The purpose is to restore hydric soil conditions, hydrologic soil conditions, hydrophytic plant communities, and wetland functions that occurred on the disturbed wetland site prior to modification.

(ii) Tree Planting – Plant or maintain existing bare root or root pruned tree seedlings suited for wetland sites for the purpose of enhancing wildlife diversity and beautify and area.

(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose is to retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1202005PK is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2002. The easement is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Maeystown, IL. The easement covers 165 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (89 ac.), tree planning (64 ac.), and prairie (11 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of river bulrush (Scirpus
fluviatilis) and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition. A pump was also present for flooding the wetland basin (Fig 4). During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated. A large portion of the easement was composed of a tree planting (Fig. 5). Planted trees appeared to be in good condition. Much of the understory vegetation within the tree planting was composed of river bulrush (Fig. 6, 7), which suggests that the tree planting is also regularly flooded.

- Several areas within the wetland basin contained willow (Salix sp.; Fig. 8). We recommend the removal of willows from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 100 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 50 dabbling ducks, including mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), northern pintail (Anas acuta), and green-winged teal (Anas crecca), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (Ardea herodias), red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), hairy woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus), northern flicker (Colaptes auratus), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), American tree sparrow (Spizella arborea), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 4. Pump within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 8. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1202005PK in Monroe County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operations is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Middle Mississippi River Corridor. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwoods and cypress will be planted using bare root seedling stock.
(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1208005YS is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2008. The easement is located approximately 1.5 miles east of Festus, MO. The easement covers 47 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (16 ac.), forest (6 ac.), and tree planning (17 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two wetland basins. The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily forested and scrub-shrub including willow (Slaix sp.) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). During both visits to the easement the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Many of the planted bald cypress (Taxodium distichum) appeared to have failed.
  We recommend replanting bald cypress.
Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow. We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 7 gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), 5 mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 1 American wigeon (*Mareca Americana*), and 1 hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), and brown creeper (*Certhia Americana*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1208005YS in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005YS in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1208005YS in Monroe County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1213019VG – Henke Excavating INC

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1213019VG is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2013. The easement is located approximately 2 miles south of Renault, IL. The easement covers 65 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (47 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins. The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Several locations along the levee were overgrown with willow (Salix sp.). We recommend the removal of willow from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Two breaks were present along the levee. We recommend repairing the levee so water levels can be better managed.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 30 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), 10 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 5 green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), and 1 ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the
easement include ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), and great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1213019VG in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1213019VG in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1213019VG in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1213019VG in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 5. Levee damage within easement 665A1213019VG in Monroe County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1296005W1 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1296005W1 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 2 miles west of Valmeyer, IL. The easement covers 67 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (10 ac.), tree planting (35 ac.), and prairie (13 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of woody vegetation, including willow (Salix sp.) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). During both visits to the easement the wetland basin was fully inundated.

- Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 2–5). We recommend thinning of these species to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.
- Much of the tree planting was composed of willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 6). We recommend thinning these woody species to promote the growth of planted trees.
During visits to the easement we documented approximately 4 hooded mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), white-throated sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), brown creeper (*Certhia americana*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), and American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005W1 in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005W1 in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005W1 in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005W1 in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 5. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1296005W1 in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005W1 in Monroe County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1296005W2 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1296005W2 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 2 miles west of Valmeyer, IL. The easement covers 12 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (1 ac.) and tree planting (10 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single wetland basin (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of woody vegetation, including willow (Salix sp.) and eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). During both visits to the easement the wetland basin was fully inundated.

- Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 2). We recommend thinning of these species to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.
- Much of the tree planting was composed of willow and eastern cottonwood. We recommend thinning these woody species to promote the growth of planted trees.
During visits to the easement we documented approximately 4 hooded mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005W2 in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005W2 in Monroe County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A12980061N is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Monroe County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 3 miles northwest of Prairie Du Rocher, IL. The easement covers 341 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (260 ac.) and tree planning (140 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–6). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*), and nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). Several water control structures were present throughout the easement and all appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 7–12). Several pumps were also present throughout the easement for flooding the wetland basins. During visits the water levels within the wetland basins ranged from 70–30% inundated. Areas of tree planting were also present within the easement (Fig. 13–16). Planted trees, including bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and oaks (*Quercus spp.*), appeared to be in good condition.

- During both visits many of the water control structures were open and allowing water to flow out of the wetland basins (Fig. 7, 8, 9, 12). We recommend leaving
water within the wetland basins throughout spring to provide habitat for migrating waterbirds.

- Several patches of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 17). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a native vegetation species.
- Several areas of willow (*Salix sp.*) were present throughout the wetland basins (Fig. 3). We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Many eastern cottonwoods (*Populus deltoids*) were present throughout the tree planting. We recommend thinning of eastern cottonwood to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 25 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), 12 snow geese (*Chen caerulescens*), 4 greater white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*), and 20 dabbling ducks using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 7. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 8. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 12. Water control structure within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 13. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 14. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Lat: 38° 6' 33.3504" N
Lon: 90° 8' 45.1686" W
PHOTO_0062

Fig. 15. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 16. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Fig. 17. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A12980061N in Monroe County, IL.
Pope County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

545A121701MG2 – Duncan

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Develop and/or manage shallow water areas for wildlife.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish and area of predominately trees and/or shrubs
(iii) Critical Area Planting – Establish perennial vegetation on highly erodible or critically eroding areas to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 545A121701MG2 is an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) in Pope County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2017. The easement is located approximately 2 miles west of Hamletsburg, IL. The easement covers 59 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (4 ac.) and agricultural land (50 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/10/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was currently under restoration during both visits. An existing wetland impoundment was present and another had recently been constructed (Fig. 2, 3, 4). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 5). Due to the current restoration the easement was primarily composed of harvested agricultural and mudflats (Fig. 6). A small area of moist soil vegetation was present within the existing wetland impoundment. Wetland basins were approximately 20–70% inundated due to recent precipitation events.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 15 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 20 ducks, including mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), American black duck (A. rubripes), blue-winged teal (Spatula discors), and hooded merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered
hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers The Ohio River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 189 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 545A121701MG2 in Pope County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Lat: 37° 8' 7.2198'' N
Lon: 88° 28' 58.1256'' W
PHOTO_0033

Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 545A121701MG2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 545A121701MG2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 545A121701MG2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 5. Water control structure within easement 545A121701MG2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 6. Agricultural field within easement 545A121701MG2 in Pope County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Bay Creek Watershed. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes with incremental water control and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwoods and cypress will be planted using bare root seedling stock. Bald cypress trees will be planted using bare root seedling stock.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1204005SF is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Pope County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2004. The easement is located approximately 2 miles south of Dixon Springs, IL. The easement covers 264 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (57 ac.), tree planning (140 ac.), and food plots (13 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–8). The vegetation community of the wetland basins was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*). The
vegetation community of two of the wetland basins also included large amounts of woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*). Many of the water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 9–11). During both visits all but one of the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 12), which contained oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*).

- The water control structure on the large southern wetland basin had the stop logs removed and water was flowing out of the easement. During the second visit the wetland basin was only approximately 50 inundated. We recommend delaying drawdown until after spring migration to provide habitat for migrating waterbirds.
- The water control structure of the northern wetland basin appeared to be plugged by sedimentation or American beaver (*Castor canadensis*). We recommend clearing the water control structure so that water levels can be better managed.
- Much of the woody vegetation within the wetland basins was composed of willow. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Woody vegetation was beginning to establish on the levees (Fig. 13). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Much of the tree planting was becoming overgrown (Fig. 14) with willow, red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). We recommend thinning of these species to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) were present in locations throughout the easement (Fig. 15, 16). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 1000 ducks, including green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*), American black duck (*A. rubripes*), northern pintail (*A. acuta*), gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), blue-winged teal (*S. discors*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), and hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), fish crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*M. georgiana*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), American beaver, and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during
spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,332 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 12. Tree planting within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 13. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 14. Tree planting within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 15. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 16. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1204005SF in Pope County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Bay Creek Watershed. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes with incremental water control and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwoods and cypress will be planted using bare root seedling stock. Bald cypress trees will be planted using bare root seedling stock.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1205005T2 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Pope County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2005. The easement is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Dixon Springs, IL. The easement covers 388 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (78 ac.), forest (50 ac.), tree planting (200 ac.), and food plots (10 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–8). The vegetation community within the wetland basin primarily consisted of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix*...
sp.) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition and were holding water in the wetland basins (Fig. 9). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A tree planting was also present within the easement, which contained river birch (*Betula nigra*), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and bald cypress (Fig. 10).

- Much of the woody vegetation within the wetland basins was composed of willow. Woody vegetation had been recently removed from one wetland basin (Fig. 11), but we recommend removal of willow from all wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Much of the tree planting was becoming overgrown with eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and willow (Fig. 12). We recommend the thinning of these species to promote the growth of planted trees.
- The property appeared to be enrolled in the Illinois Recreational Access Program (Fig. 13). This program will help the landowner with restoration projects on the property, but it should be confirmed that the program does not interfere with ACEP-WRE Objectives.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 250 ducks, including green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), blue-winged teal (*Spatula discors*), and hooded merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American coot (*Fulica americana*), pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*A. alba*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), barred owl (*Strix varia*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), eastern phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*M. georgiana*), and field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 10. Tree planting within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 11. Woody encroachment removal within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 12. Tree planting within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 13. IRAP sign within easement 665A1205005T2 in Pope County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Bay Creek Watershed. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes with incremental water control and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwoods and cypress will be planted using bare root seedling stock.
(iii) Natural Regeneration Trees – Forest succession is well underway in the north field and will be allowed to continue naturally as many light seeded tree species have already attained a large size. The transitional herbaceous layer of vegetation will soon be shaded out, converted to a typical forest floor.
(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1205005T3 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Pope County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2005. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Reevesville, IL. The easement covers 99 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (19 ac.), forest (30 ac.), and tree planning (37 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation, including barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*). The water control structure appeared to be in good working condition. During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated.

- Willow was present within the wetland basin. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- The tree planting was becoming overgrown with eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) and willow (Fig. 3, 4). We recommend thinning these species to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Patches of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), eastern phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), and eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,332 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1205005T3 in Pope County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T3 in Pope County, IL.

Lat: 37° 20' 52.8600" N
Lon: 88° 41' 12.7230" W
PHOTO_0010
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1205005T3 in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1205005T3 in Pope County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1297005ZJ – Spann

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Bay Creek Watershed. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes with incremental water control and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrubs typical of the area prior to crop production. This area will be enhanced by the planting of suitable trees and/or shrubs.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1297005ZJ is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Pope County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Reevesville, IL. The easement covers 911 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (140 ac.), forest (228 ac.), tree planning (440 ac.), and food plots (27 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded and depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2–7). The vegetation community within the wetland basins were primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed *(Polygonum lapathifolium)* and barnyardgrass
(Echinochloa crus-galli), and woody vegetation, including willow (Salix sp.) and bald cypress (Taxodium distichum). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig 8–10). A pump was also present for flooding wetland basins (Fig. 11). During both visits wetland basins were fully inundated. A tree planting was also present within the easement, which contained oaks (Quercus spp.) and river birch (Betula nigra).

- Willow was present throughout the wetland basins. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Stop logs had been removed of the southeast water control structure and water was flowing out of the wetland basin. We recommend delaying drawdowns until after spring migration to provide habitat for migratory waterbirds.
- The tree planting was becoming overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and willow (Fig. 12). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata), Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica), and autumn olive (Elaeagnus umbellata) were present within the easement (Fig. 13). We recommend spraying until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- A large food plot planted in corn was present within the easement (Fig. 14). We recommend reducing the size of the food plot and replanting in native vegetation.
- Parked equipment was present in several locations within the easement (Fig. 15). We recommend removal of parked equipment from the easement.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 20 ducks, including mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) and wood duck (Aix sponsa), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (Ardea herodias), red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), turkey vulture (Cathartes aura), brown thrasher (Toxostoma rufum), eastern phoebe (Sayornis phoebe), tree swallow (Tachycineta bicolor), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and swamp sparrow (M. georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and raccoon (Procyon lotor).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,332 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 8. Water control structure within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 11. Pump within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 12. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 13. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 14. Food plot within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 15. Parked equipment within easement 665A1297005ZJ in Pope County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

755A120900RND – Bush

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production. A combination of water control structures, dikes, and/or ditch plugs will provide the necessary hydrology to create the desired wetland functions.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrubs typical to the area prior to crop production. This area will be enhanced by the planting of suitable trees and/or shrubs.
(iii) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Retain, create, manage, or improve upland habitat for wildlife.
(iv) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, hydrology, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 755A120900RND is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Pope County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2009. The easement is located approximately 2 miles south of Dixon Springs, IL. The easement covers 58 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (17 ac.), forest (17 ac.), and tree planting (30 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded and depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2–6). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and woody vegetation, including willow (*Salix sp.*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated. A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 7), which contained oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and river birch (*Betula nigra*).
• The water control structure on the western wetland basin had recently been removed (Fig. 8). We recommend reinstalling the water control structure so that water levels can be better managed.

• Much of the woody vegetation within the wetland basins was composed of willow. We recommend removal of willow from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

• *Sericea lespedeza* (*Lespedeza cuneata*) and *Japanese honeysuckle* (*Lonicera japonica*) were present within the easement (Fig. 9). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

• Much of the tree planting was becoming overgrown with *eastern cottonwood* (*Populus deltoids*), *American sycamore* (*Platanus occidentalis*), and willow (Fig. 10). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 25 ducks, including *mallard* (*Anas platyrhynchos*), *green-winged teal* (*A. crecca*), and *wood duck* (*Aix sponsa*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include *American crow* (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), *blue jay* (*Cyanocitta cristata*), *northern cardinal* (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), and *song sparrow* (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and *American beaver* (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Bay Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,332 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 8. Water control structure within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 9. Sericea lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*) within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Fig. 10. Tree planting within easement 755A120900RND in Pope County, IL.
Randolph County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct an embankment to protect land against overflow and/or regulate water. Install a structure to control direction, rate, and/or level of water in the system.
(ii) Conservation Cover – Establish perennial vegetative cover on land temporarily removed from agricultural production.
(iii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A121301C54 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2013. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles west of Kaskaskia, IL. The easement covers 64 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (7 ac.), tree planning (39 ac.), and wet prairie (30 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/16/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3, 4). One wetland basin was impounded. The vegetation community of this wetland basin was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation. The other wetland basin was wooded. The vegetation community of this wetland basin was primarily composed of woody vegetation, including willow (Salix sp.). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated.

- Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow (Fig. 2, 3, 4). We recommend thinning willow to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (Ardea herodias),
American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121301C54 in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121301C54 in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121301C54 in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A121301C54 in Randolph County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020
665A1202005NV – Frederick & Durbin

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct an embankment to protect land against overflow and/or regulate water. Install a structure to control direction, rate, and/or level of water in the system.
(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife to increase carrying capacity.
(iii) Conservation Cover – Establish perennial vegetative cover on land temporally removed from agricultural production.
(iv) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1202005NV is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2002. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Prairie Du Rocher, IL. The easement covers 116 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (40 ac.), forest (10 ac.), and tree planning (40 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/15/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–10). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), river bulrush (Scirpus fluviatilis), and cattail (Typha sp.). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 11, 12). A pump was present for flooding the wetland basins (Fig. 13). During the first visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. However, during the second visit the wetland basins had been drained. The tree planning within the easement appeared to be in good condition (Fig. 14, 15) and was primarily composed of oaks (Quercus spp.) and dogwood (Cornus sp.).
Several patches of common reed (Phragmites australis) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 16, 17). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable vegetation species.

Several patches of willow (Salix sp.) were present throughout the wetland basins (Fig. 10, 17, 18). We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage.

Several levees were becoming overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 19). We recommend removal of woody vegetation form levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

Eastern red cedar (Juniperus virginiana) and other undesirable woody vegetation was present in areas throughout the tree planting (Fig. 14, 15). We recommend thinning of undesirable woody vegetation from the tree palming to promote the growth of planted trees.

The water had been drained from the wetland basins prior to the spring site visit (Fig. 20). We recommend delaying dewatering the wetland impoundments until after spring migration to provide habitat for migrating waterbirds.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 mallards (Anas platyrhynchos) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), northern flicker (Colaptes auratus), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), common grackle (Quiscalus quiscula), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), sedge wren (Cistothorus stellaris), dark-eyed junco (Junco hyemalis), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Lat: 38° 6' 18.5190" N  
Lon: 90° 8' 31.9134" W  
PHOTO_0050

Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 10. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 12. Water control structure within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 13. Pump within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 14. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 15. Tree planting within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 16. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 17. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 18. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 19. Levee within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 20. Wetland basin within easement 665A1202005NV in Randolph County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1203005R3 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operations is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Middle Mississippi River Corridor. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing low-level dikes.
(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.
(iii) Tree Planting – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1203005R3 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2003. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles south of Kaskaskia, IL. The easement covers 2,110 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (533 ac.), forest (1,096 ac.), tree planing (74 ac.), and prairie (240 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/16/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was composed of lowland forest along the Mississippi River (Fig. 2, 3). The primary vegetation community across the easement was woody, including willow (Salix sp.) and other wetland tolerant woody vegetation. During both visits to the easement, much of the easement was inundated and many areas within the easement were inaccessible.
Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow (Fig. 2, 3). We recommend thinning of willow to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (Ardea herodias), double-crested cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus), belted kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon), red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), and American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and American beaver (Castor canadensis).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1203005R3 in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005R3 in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005R3 in Randolph County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operations is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Middle Mississippi River Floodplain. The completed work will support the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the restoration functions will include: improved water quality, flood water retention, sediment removal, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The hydrology of this site is strongly tied to the river stage of the adjacent Mississippi River. Herbaceous wetland vegetation will naturally regenerate in the lower areas, with the aid of the seasonal water fluctuation.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bald cypress will be planted in these lowest areas to complement the wetland restoration. The establishment of bottomland hardwood trees will complete the restoration of native vegetation on the remainder of the easement area.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1206005SS is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2006. The easement is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Kaskaskia, IL. The easement covers 173 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (93 ac.), tree planning (70 ac.), prairie (16 ac.), and food plots (3 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/16/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained several depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2–6). The vegetation community within the wetland basins primarily consisted of moist soil vegetation including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully flooded. The easement also contained a tree planting (Fig. 7). The planted trees that remained primarily consisted of oaks (*Quercus spp.*).

- Much of the wetland basins and tree planting were becoming to become overgrown with undesirable woody vegetation such as willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). We recommend the thinning of undesirable woody vegetation to help prevent damage to wetlands and promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), 5 gadwall (*Mareca strepera*), and 4 hooded mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), and Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*). Additionally, 2 whooping cranes (*Grus americana*) were observed on a nearby property. Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A1206005SS in Randolph County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.
(iii) Conservation cover – Establish perennial vegetative cover on land temporarily removed from agricultural production.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1212017SS is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2012. The easement is located approximately 4 miles west of Prairie Du Rocher, IL. The easement covers 40 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (19 ac.), forest (32 ac.), tree planting (4 ac.), prairie (10 ac.), and food plots (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 1/16/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was primarily composed of bottomland forest along the Mississippi River. The primary vegetation community across the easement was woody, including willow (*Salix sp.*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), and other wetland tolerant woody species. In nonforested areas, the vegetation community was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation which included rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*). During both visits to the easement large portions of the easement were inundated.

- Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 2, 3). We recommend thinning of willow and eastern cottonwood to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.
During visits to the easement we documented approximately 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1212017SS in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1212017SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1212017SS in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1212017SS in Randolph County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1297005ZK – The Bank of Edwardsville

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of this easement is to remove 33.6 acres of marginal agricultural land from production and restore 30 acres to bottomland hardwood wetlands and 3.6 acres to wetlands. Its functions will include improved water quality, sediment removal, improved habitat, and recreation.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement area will be restored by maintaining the existing water control structures that create hydrologic conditions which existed prior to crop production. Bottomland hardwood tree species and herbaceous wetland plant communities will naturally regenerate.

(ii) Tree Planting – The purpose of this practice is to establish trees that are typical to the area prior to crop production. A stand of trees will be established by natural regeneration.

(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, hydrology, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1297005ZK is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles west of Prairie Du Rocher, IL. The easement covers 34 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of tree planting (34 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of forested and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 1/16/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was primarily composed of a tree planting (Fig. 2, 3, 4). A few small levees were present that held water along the center of the easement. During the first visit much of the
easement was inundated from a recent rain event. However, during the spring visit, much of the flood water had receded and the wetland basins was only 20% inundated.

- Much of the woody vegetation within the tree planting was composed of eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) and maple (*Acer sp.*). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we did not document any waterfowl using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), and dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005ZK in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005ZK in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005ZK in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005ZK in Randolph County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12000061T – Gibbar & May

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of this easement is to remove 219.7 acres of marginal agricultural land from production and restore 198.7 acres to bottomland hardwood wetlands and 21.2 acres to wetlands. Its functions will include improved water quality, sediment removal, improved habitat, and recreation.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement will be restored by shallow excavations, surface drain filling, and two ditch plug structures, which will restore the hydrologic conditions that existed prior to crop production.
(ii) Tree Planting – The purpose of this practice is to establish trees that are typical to the area prior to crop production. A stand of trees will be established by natural regeneration and tree planting.
(iii) Conservation Cover – A mixture of warm season grasses and/or wet prairie mix will be planted as a buffer around each excavated wetland cell to improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.
(iv) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, hydrology, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A12000061T is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Randolph County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 3.5 miles east of Ste. Genevieve, MO. The easement covers 362 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (44 ac.) and forest (350 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 1/16/2020 and 3/19/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement was primarily composed of bottomland forest along the Mississippi River (Fig. 2, 3). The primary vegetation community across the easement was woody, including willow (*Salix sp.*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), and other wetland tolerant woody vegetation. In nonforested areas, the vegetation community was primarily composed of moist soil vegetation. During both visits to the easement large portions of the easement were inundated, and many areas were inaccessible.

- Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig, 2, 3). We recommend thinning of willow and eastern cottonwood to help prevent future wetland damage and promote the growth of more desirable woody vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*), and Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12000061T in Randolph County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12000061T in Randolph County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12000061T in Randolph County, IL.
Rock Island County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A121000XSD – Russell Rosenboom Living Trust

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Savanna Establishment – The savanna will be comprised of two components: native grasses and forbs, and scattered oak trees. Native grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie portion of the savanna habitat that existed before agricultural land use.
(iii) Prairie Establishment – Native warm season grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie that existed before agricultural.
(iv) Tree Planting – Container trees planting stock will be used for the tree planting.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A121000XSD is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Rock Island County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Joslin, IL. The easement covers 243 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (32 ac.), forest (35 ac.), tree planning (32 ac.), savanna (48 ac.), and prairie (76 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was predominately reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and dense patches of young willow (*Salix sp.*). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A large portion of the easement was restored as a prairie (Fig. 5) and oak (*Quercus spp.*) savanna. The vegetation community of the prairie and savanna was primarily composed of indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), milkweed (*Asclepias sp.*), and other forbs. A tree planting was also present within the western portion of the easement (Fig. 6).
Planted trees observed in both the tree planting and savanna consisted of oaks (*Quercus spp.*) and planted trees appeared to be in good condition.

- The herbaceous vegetation within many of the wetland basins and portions of the tree planting was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 3, 4). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Several of the wetland basins were overgrown with young willow (Fig. 2, 3). We recommend removal of these undesirable woody species to help promote the growth of more desirable vegetation.
- Several patches of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 7, 8). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable grass species.
- Portions of the prairie were becoming overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend implementing a controlled burn plan with burns scheduled every three years to promote growth of prairie grasses and discourage woody encroachment.
- A grain bin was located on the easement (Fig. 9). We recommend removing this structure from the easement.

During visits to the easement no waterbirds were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 348 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 3.  Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 7. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 8. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 9. Grain bin within easement 665A121000XSD in Rock Island County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Savanna Establishment – The savanna will be comprised of two components: native grasses and forbs, and scattered oak trees. Native grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie portion of the savanna habitat that existed before agricultural land use.
(iii) Prairie Establishment – native warm season grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie that existed before agricultural.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A121000XXV is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Rock Island County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 2 miles southwest of Joslin, IL. The easement covers 69 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (11 ac.) and prairie (58 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several moist soil depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2–5). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was predominately reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) with smaller amounts of cattail (*typha sp.*), nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and other moist soil plants. A large portion the wetland basins were also covered in a dense stand of young woody vegetation which included willow (*Salix sp.*). Other portions of the easement consisted of a prairie that contained a tree planting (Fig. 6, 7) of oaks (*Quercus spp.*). The vegetation community within the prairie/tree planting was primarily composed of reed canary grass, but smaller amounts of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), and other forbs were present.
The herbaceous vegetation within many of the wetland basins and portions of the tree planting was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 8). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

Several of the wetland basins were overgrown with young willow (Fig. 2–5). We recommend removal of these undesirable woody species to help promote the growth of more desirable vegetation.

It appears that many of the oaks that had been planted in the tree planting have died. We recommend replanting of trees within the tree planting.

Several NRCS boundary signs were missing. We recommend adding additional boundary signs to the perimeter of the easement.

During visits to the easement no waterbirds were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), common grackle (Quiscalus quiscula), eastern meadowlark (Sturnella magna), and common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Lat: 41° 32' 16.2576" N
Lon: 90° 15' 23.7642" W
PHOTO_0013

Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 8. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A121000XXV in Rock Island County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Savanna Establishment – The savanna will be comprised of two components: native grasses and forbs, and scattered oak trees. Native grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie portion of the savanna habitat that existed before agricultural land use.
(iii) Prairie Establishment – native warm season grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie that existed before agricultural.
(iv) Tree Planting – Container trees planting stock will be used for the tree planting.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A121100ZVC is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Rock Island County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2011. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Joslin, IL. The easement covers 105 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (31 ac.), forest (29 ac.), and prairie (62 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a variety of wetland basins including impoundments, ditches, and excavated depressional wetlands (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of moist soil plants including reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), foxtail (*Setaria sp.*), and nodding beggarticks (*Bidens cernua*). One water control structure was observed and it appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 4). Several areas of prairie were also present throughout the easement (Fig. 5.). The vegetation community within the prairies was primarily composed of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and reed canary grass.
During both visits most wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. However, the southernmost wetland basin was dry during both visits.

- The herbaceous vegetation within many of the wetland basins and prairie contained reed canary grass (Fig. 6). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable grass species.
- A large section of prairie had been mowed (Fig. 7). We recommend retaining this vegetation to provide habitat for wildlife.
- Several small and damaged oaks (*Quercus* spp.) were present throughout the proposed savanna area. Additionally, stumps of other young oaks were observed that had appeared to have been mowed. We recommend replanting trees.
- Several patches of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 6). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable grass species.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 348 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 4. Water control structure within easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 6. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 7. Mowed prairie within easement 665A121100ZVC in Rock Island County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree Planting – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1296005X5 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Rock Island County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 1 mile west of Rock Island, IL. The easement covers 28 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (4 ac.), forest (2 ac.), tree planting (20 ac.), and prairie (7 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single depressional wetland basin (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily moist soil vegetation including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). The wetland basin also contained good amounts of woody vegetation including buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and willow (*Salix sp.*). During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated. The easement also contained a prairie. The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of reed canary grass, but also contained smaller amounts of other herbaceous plants.

- The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 3, 4). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
The wetland basin and other areas throughout the easement had dense patches of willow (Fig. 5). We recommend removal of these undesirable tree species to help prevent future wetland damage.

- Dumped trash was found at several location throughout the easement (Fig. 6). We recommend the removal of dumped trash from the easement.
- Many NRCS boundary signs were missing. We recommend adding additional boundary signs to the perimeter of the easement.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include ring-billed gull (Larus delawarensis), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), hairy woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana), dark-eyed junco (Junco hyemalis), and yellow warbler (Setophaga petechia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of coyote (Canis latrans).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi and Rock Rivers and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005X5 in Rock Island County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005X5 in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 3. Prairie within easement 665A1296005X5 in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005X5 in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 5. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1296005X5 in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 6. Dumped material within easement 665A1296005X5 in Rock Island County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1297005ZS – Huettman

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Shallow Water Management For Wildlife – Construct shallow water pond to enhance wildlife habitat. Plant buffer of native grasses surrounding shallow water pond.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Set tree seedlings or cuttings in the soil to establish or reinforce a stand of trees to conserve soil moisture, beautify an area, protect a watershed, or to produce wood crops.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – Retain, create, or manage wetland habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1297005ZS is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Rock Island County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 0.1 miles east of Hillsdale, IL. The easement covers 57 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (20 ac.), forest (44 ac.), and tree planting (20 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, residential, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two flooded forest wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3). The understory vegetation of the wetland basins was predominately reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea). The woody vegetation within the wetland basins was predominantly composed of eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and maple (Acer sp.). During both visits the wetlands basins were nearly fully inundated. A large portion of the easement was composed of a tree planting. Some larger oaks (Quercus spp.) and river birch (Betula nigra) are still present, but are being overgrown by very dense patches of undesirable woody vegetation including willow (Salix sp.). The understory of the tree planting was primarily composed of reed canary grass.
• The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 4). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

• The tree planting and other areas throughout the easement had dense patches of willow and other undesirable woody species (Fig. 5, 6). We recommend removal of these undesirable tree species to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include northern flicker (Colaptes auratus), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), barn swallow (Hirundo rustica), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana), and common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and American beaver (Castor canadensis).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005ZS in Rock Island County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZS in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZS in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005ZS in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005ZS in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 6. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1297005ZS in Rock Island County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12120180Y – Coder

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Prairie Establishment – Native warm season grasses and forbs will be established to restore the prairie that existed before agricultural.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A12120180Y is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Rock Island County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2012. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles east of Barstow, IL. The easement covers 87 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (16 ac.), forest (35 ac.), and prairie (40 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several depressional moist soil wetland basins (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was predominately composed of a variety of moist soil plants including reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), fall panicgrass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*), and pigweed (*amaranthus albus*) surrounded by cattail (*Typha sp.*). During both visits the wetland basins were fully inundated. Areas surrounding the wetland basin appear to be flooded frequently from the Rock River and contained much of the same moist soil vegetation as the wetland basins (Fig. 3). Flooded areas along the Rock River were forested with primarily maple (*Acer sp.*; Fig. 4, 5).

- Large amounts of reed canary grass was present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
Several NRCS boundary signs were missing. We recommend adding additional boundary signs to the perimeter of the easement.

During visits to the easement no waterfowl were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include belted kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon), red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), hairy woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), American tree sparrow (Spizella arborea), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and yellow warbler (Setophaga petechia). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis) and muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12120180Y in Rock Island County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12120180Y in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12120180Y in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12120180Y in Rock Island County, IL.
Fig. 5. Bottomland forest within easement 665A12120180Y in Rock Island County, IL.
Stephenson County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Conservation Cover – Establish and maintain permanent vegetation cover to accomplish one or more of the following: reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, improve air quality, enhance wildlife habitat and pollinator habitat, improve soil quality, or manage plant pests.

(ii) Critical Area Planting – Establish perennial vegetation on highly erodible or critically eroding areas to stabilize soil, reduce damage from sediment runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources.

(iii) Early Successional Habitat Development/Management – Mow fields that were planted to native prairie plants last fall (2019), in June of this year to help with weed competition.

(iv) Herbaceous Weed Treatment – Remove or control herbaceous weeds, including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants from noncropland sites.

(v) Dike – Construct an embankment to protect lands from overflow and/or to support a wetland system.

(vi) Structure for Water Control – Install a structure to control the rate of flow or maintain a desired water surface in a wetland impoundment.

(vii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establish an area of predominantly trees and/or shrubs. Establishment methods may include natural regeneration, direct seeding, seedling planting, or a combination of methods to best suit the purpose and planting location.

(viii) Wetland Restoration – Restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use and are within the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river or stream.

(ix) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – These fields will be excluded from livestock to improve habitat for waterfowl, furbearers or other wildlife.
Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A121000XXQ is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Stephenson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2010. The easement is located approximately 1.5 miles East of Freeport, IL. The easement covers 170 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (76 ac.), tree planting (6 ac.), and prairie (25 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/11/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a variety of impounded and depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3, 4, 5). Water control structures were in good condition and were holding water in the impoundments (Fig. 6). The vegetation community with the wetland basins was primarily composed of reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), but some wetland basins also contained good amounts of nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully flooded.

- Much of the herbaceous vegetation throughout the easement was composed of reed canary grass. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Two large prairie units in the western portion of the unit were mowed (Fig. 7, 8). This appeared to be part of reed canary grass control.
- Much of the tree planting was devoid of trees (Fig. 9). Some oaks (Quercus spp.) remained, but many appeared to have died from the many flooding events on the easement. We recommend replanting flood tolerant trees such as swamp white oak (Quercus bicolor) or river birch (Betula nigra) in areas of the tree planting that are devoid of trees.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 100 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 30 dabbling ducks, primarily consisting or mallard (Anas platyrhynchos), American black duck (Anas rubripes), northern shoveler (Spatula clypeata), and green-winged teal (Anas crecca), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), barn swallow (Hirundo rustica), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), field sparrow (Spizella pusilla), and common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Pecatonica River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Water control structure within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Prairie within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Prairie within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig 9. Tree planting within easement 665A121000XXQ in Stephenson County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The goal of the Wetland Reserve Program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Hydrology Restoration – Hydrology will be restored by removal of existing pipe and structure. A stop-log type water control structure will be installed to provide wetland hydrology and water level management capability.
(ii) Hydrology Restoration – A berm will be constructed to provide additional protection to the neighboring land owner and access to the WCS.
(iii) Tree Planting – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods.
(iv) Critical Area Planting – Fields will be established to a very wet herbaceous mix.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1203005QS is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Stephenson County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2003. The easement is located approximately 2 miles north of Freeport, IL. The easement covers 278 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (102 ac.), forest (50 ac.), tree planning (15 ac.), prairie (40 ac.), and food plots (20 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/11/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several oxbow wetland basins (Fig. 2–7). The wetland basins were primarily moist soil or open water wetlands that were surrounded by woody vegetation (Fig. 8). Water control structure were in good condition and were holding water in the wetland basins (Fig. 9). During both visits all wetland basins were fully inundated. Several prairies were also present throughout the easement (Fig. 10, 11). The vegetation community within the prairies was primarily composed big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), foxtail (*Setaria sp.*), and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).
Many of the levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 12). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to prevent future levee damage.

Much of the herbaceous vegetation within and around the wetland basins was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 13). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

The woody vegetation around the edges of wetland was primarily composed of willow (Salix sp, Fig. 8). We recommend removal of willow to promote the growth of more desirable woody species.

Many of the tree plantings were becoming overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids, Fig. 14). We recommend the removal of undesirable tree species to promote the growth of planted trees.

The easement contained several large food plots (Fig. 15). We recommend reducing the size of food plots and replanting in native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 200 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 10 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. During the spring visit we documented several Canada goose broods. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (Ardea herodias), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), tree swallow (Tachycineta bicolor), dark-eyed junco (Junco hyemalis), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), white-breasted nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis), brown creeper (Certhia Americana), yellow warbler (Setophaga petechia), and common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Pecatonica River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 10. Prairie within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 11. Prairie within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 12. Levee within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 13. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 14. Tree planting within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
Fig. 15. Food plot within easement 665A1203005QS in Stephenson County, IL.
White County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the vegetation and hydrology of the site to reflect the site’s historic wetland functions.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Trees will be planted to restore areas back to natural vegetative cover, and wetland characteristics.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 545A121401GMC is an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2014. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 20 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (4 ac.), forest (10 ac.), prairie (8 ac.), and food plots (1.5 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 3/17/2020 and 2/11/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and other moist soil vegetation. During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated. A portion of the easement was forested, and lower areas appear become inundated during high water events (Fig. 4). A prairie was also present within the easement (Fig. 5) and the vegetation community was primarily composed of ragweed and lesser amounts of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*).
The restoration of the wetland impoundment appears to have been conducted recently. The levees were covered in erosion control mats and little vegetation appears to have sprouted on the levee.

During visits to the easement the tree planting appeared to have not yet been completed.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 blue-winged teal (Spatula discors) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Little Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 584 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 545A121401GMC in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 545A121401GMC in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 545A121401GMC in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 545A121401GMC in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 545A121401GMC in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

545A121601J8Z – Strupp

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Excavate a shallow scrape to mimic a shallow swale or depression to provide macrotophic features on floodplain. The scrape will provide for a longer duration of inundation following a flood event. This will provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory bird species in the spring and fall. It is expected that through natural evapotranspiration the shallow scrape will be dry during the summer months providing a fish free habitat that will also be utilized by spring breeding herpetological species. The scrape will have a relatively uniform bottom which will provide for moist soil vegetation and mudflat conditions that are particularly suited to migratory shorebirds in late spring and early summer. The scrape will be allowed to naturally regenerate from adjacent seed sources on existing conservation easements as well as existing wetland habitats from overland flow.

(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The remaining cropland acres will be established to bottomland hardwood trees. The areas will be planted with bottomland hardwood species that are adapted to the soils, frequency and duration of flooding and their historical presence in the Wabash River floodplain.

(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 545A121601J8Z is an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2016. The easement is located approximately 3.5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 78 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of forest (21 ac.) and prairie (56 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement did not contain any wetland basins. Restoration of this easement does not appear to have been completed. The easement was primarily composed of agricultural fields which appear to be planted in a cover crop (Fig. 1, 2).

During visits to the easement no waterfowl were documented using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) and swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands will provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 1,278 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 545A121601J8Z in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Prairie within easement 545A121601J8Z in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Prairie within easement 545A121601J8Z in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A120900MXD – Ervin Buck & Duck LLC & Cross

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A120900MXD is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2009. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 412 acres (Fig. 1, 2, 3), primarily consisting of wetland (46 ac.), forest (134 ac.), tree planning (47 ac.), prairie (150 ac.), and food plots (16 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was divided into three parcels, each of which contained depressional wetland basins (Fig. 4, 5, 6). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (Ambrosia artemisiifolia). During both visits to the easement the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A portion of the easement was forested, and lower elevation areas appear become inundated during high water events. The easement also contained areas of prairie (Fig. 7, 8), which was primarily composed of ragweed, and tree plantings (Fig. 9).

- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 9, 10) with dense eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids), black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), and willow (Salix sp.). We recommend thinning of these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
• Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 9 wetland easements that provides 2,340 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of the western parcel of easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Map of the central parcel of easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 3. Map of the eastern parcel of easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
Fig. 7. Prairie within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
Fig. 8. Prairie within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
Fig. 9. Tree planting within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
Fig. 10. Willow (*Salix* sp.) within easement 665A120900MXD in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A120900XDD is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2009. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 397 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (65 ac.), forest (122 ac.), tree planning (40 ac.), prairie (130 ac.), and food plots (4 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement was divided into two parcels, which contained impounded and depressional wetland basins. The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (Ambrosia artemisiifolia). During both visits to the easement the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A portion of the easement was forested, and lower elevation areas appear become inundated during high water events (Fig. 2). The easement also contained areas of prairie, which was primarily composed of ragweed, and tree plantings.

- Much of the tree planting was overgrown with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids), black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), and willow (Salix sp.). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.
During visits to the easement we documented approximately 6 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 584 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A120900XDD in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A120900XDD in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A121200MJX – Thomas

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
(i) Wetland Restoration – Restore the vegetation and hydrology of the site to reflect the site’s historic wetland functions.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Trees will be planted to restore areas back to natural vegetative cover, and wetland characteristics.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, shallow water areas, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.
(iv) Conservation Crop Rotation – Grow crops in a planned rotation for biodiversity and to provide adequate amounts of organic material for erosion reduction, nutrient balance, and sustained soil organic matter.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A121200MJX is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2012. The easement is located approximately 3.5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 100 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (17 ac.), forest (20 ac.), tree planting (10 ac.), prairie (53 ac.), and food plots (5 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single depressional wetland (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (Ambrosia artemisiifolia). During both visits to the easement the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated. The easement also contained a prairie (Fig. 5), which was primarily composed of ragweed, and a relatively recent tree planting (Fig. 6).
• The easement contained a relatively large food plot (Fig. 7). We recommend reducing the size of the food plot and replanting in native vegetation.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 50 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 1,278 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
Fig. 7. Food plot within easement 665A121200MJX in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1200005N0 – Ervin Buck & Duck LLC

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1200005N0 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 4 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 252 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (40 ac.), forest (25 ac.), tree planting (84 ac.), prairie (110 ac.), and food plots (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and other moist soil vegetation. One wetland basin was primarily composed of woody vegetation, which included eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition and were holding water within the wetland basins (Fig. 2). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. The easement also contained areas of prairie, which was primarily composed of ragweed, and tree plantings.

- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 3–6) with eastern cottonwood, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), and willow (*Salix sp.*). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.
- Several oil wells were present within the easement (Fig. 7, 8). We recommend obtaining Compatible Use Agreements for these wells.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include killdeer (Charadrius vociferous), red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus), turkey vulture (Cathartes aura), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), northern flicker (Colaptes auratus), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), and swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers The Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 492 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
Fig. 7. Oil well within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
Fig. 8. Oil well within easement 665A1200005N0 in White County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1200005N1 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 117 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (28 ac.), forest (10 ac.), tree planting (24 ac.), and prairie (39 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin. The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (Ambrosia artemisiifolia) and other moist soil vegetation. During both visits the wetland basin ranged from 20–30% inundated. The easement also contained areas of prairie (Fig. 2, 3), which was primarily composed of ragweed, and tree plantings.

- A break was present in the levee. We recommend repairing the levee so that water levels can be better managed.
- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 4, 5) with eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids), black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), and willow (Salix sp.). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.
During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 1,278 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1200005N1 in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Prairie within easement 665A1200005N1 in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Prairie within easement 665A1200005N1 in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N1 in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N1 in White County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production, to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Wabash River watershed.

(i) Tree Planting – Plant 40 air-root pruned containerized trees per acre.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1200005N2 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 5 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 69 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of forest (6 ac.), tree planting (61 ac.), and food plots (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement did not contain any wetland basins. The easement was primarily composed of a tree planting. Planted trees observed include oaks \( (Quercus \text{spp.}) \).

- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 2, 3) with eastern cottonwood \( (Populus deltoids) \), black locust \( (Robinia pseudoacacia) \), and willow \( (Salix \text{sp.}) \).
  We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we did not document any waterfowl using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow \( (Corvus brachyrhynchos) \), brown thrasher \( (Toxostoma rufum) \), eastern bluebird \( (Sialia sialis) \), Carolina chickadee \( (Poecile carolinensis) \), tufted titmouse \( (Baeolophus bicolor) \), and song sparrow \( (Melospiza melodia) \). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer \( (Odocoileus virginianus) \).
This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The easement buffers The Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 492 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1200005N2 in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N2 in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005N2 in White County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrologic restoration will be accomplished by constructing earthen dikes and by excavating shallow wetland areas.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwoods will be planted using bare root seedling stock.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1200005NG is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 3 miles east of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 867 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (95 ac.), forest (150 ac.), tree planning (387 ac.), prairie (192 ac.), and food plots (8 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–9). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*) and rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), and woody vegetation. Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition and were holding water within the wetland basins (Fig. 10–14). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. The easement also contained areas of prairie, which was primarily composed of ragweed, and tree plantings.

- Several of the wetland basins were becoming overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 7), including eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) and willow (*Salix sp.*). We recommend removal this woody vegetation from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 15–17) with eastern cottonwood, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), and willow. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.
- Several oil wells were present within the easement (Fig. 18–20). We recommend obtaining Compatible Use Agreements for these wells.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 150 ducks, including ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), and wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 5 wetland easements that provides 1,278 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 11. Water control structure within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 12. Water control structure within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 13. Water control structure within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 14. Water control structure within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 15. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 16. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 17. Tree planting within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 18. Oil well within easement 665A120005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 19. Oil well within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
Fig. 20. Oil well within easement 665A1200005NG in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

755A120000HYN – Wabash Properties LLC

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production and to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Wabash River Watershed.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland. Restore two wetlands by constructing low-level dikes.
(ii) Tree Planting – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose. 40 air-root pruned containerized trees per acre.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 755A120000HYN is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 4 miles northeast of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 193 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (50 ac.), forest (115 ac.), and tree planning (95 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of woody vegetation, including eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids), black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia), and willow (Salix sp.). A portion of the easement was forested, and lower areas appear become inundated during high water events (Fig. 3). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated.
• The wetland basins were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 2), including eastern cottonwood and willow. We recommend removal of undesirable woody vegetation from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.

• Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 4). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.

• Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 5) with eastern cottonwood, black locust, and willow. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.

• Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), and tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 513 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120000HYN in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYN in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYN in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Levee within easement 755A120000HYN in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 755A120000HYN in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020
755A120000HYQ – Williams, Glaser, and Matheny

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production and to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Wabash River Watershed.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland. Restore two wetlands by constructing low-level dikes.
(ii) Tree Planting – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose. 40 air-root pruned containerized trees per acre.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 755A120000HYQ is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan–Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 138 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (17 ac.), forest (75 ac.), tree planning (15 ac.), and food plots (1 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*) and other moist soil vegetation, and woody vegetation, including eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) and willow (*Salix sp.*). A portion of
the easement was forested, and lower areas appear become inundated during high water events. During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated.

- The wetland basin was overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 2, 3), including eastern cottonwood and willow. We recommend removal of undesirable woody vegetation from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 4). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Levees did not contain any herbaceous vegetation and had several scours from high water events (Fig. 4, 5). We recommend repairing the levee and planting with herbaceous vegetation to prevent erosion of the levee and help prevent future wetland damage.
- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 6) with eastern cottonwood, black locust, and willow. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), and tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis) and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 513 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120000HYQ in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYQ in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A120000HYQ in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Levee within easement 755A120000HYQ in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Levee damage within easement 755A120000HYQ in White County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 755A120000HYQ in White County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

755A120100HYL – Miller

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production and to restore bottomland hardwoods within the Wabash River watershed.

(i) Tree Planting – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose. 40 air-root pruned containerized trees per acre.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 755A120100HYL is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of New Haven, IL. The easement covers 182 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (4 ac.), forest (90 ac.), tree planting (58 ac.), prairie (10 ac.), and food plots (1 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a small depressional wetland basins. The wetland basin wwas primarily an open water habitat and only contained herbaceous and woody vegetation around the perimeter. The wetland basin was fully inundated during both visits. A portion of the easement was forested, and lower areas appear become inundated during high water events (Fig. 2). Much of the easement was composed of a tree planting.

- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 3, 4) with eastern cottonwood, black locust, and willow. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.
During visits to the easement we did not document any waterfowl using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), northern cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis), Carolina chickadee (Poecile carolinensis), and tufted titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetland provides feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 513 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120100HYL in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HYL in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HYL in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HYL in White County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of the Plan of Operation is to remove frequently flooded agricultural land from production and to restore wetlands and create habitat for migratory birds within the Wabash River Watershed.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Construct or restore the necessary facilities to provide the biological benefits of a wetland.
(ii) Tree Planting – Establish woody plants for the planned purpose.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 755A120100HYW is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in White County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles southeast of Maunie, IL. The easement covers 388 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (55 ac.), forest (250 ac.), tree planning (75 ac.), and prairie (13 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, agricultural, and riverine habitats. The easement was visited on 2/11/2020 and 3/17/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins. The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including rough cocklebur (Xanthium strumarium) and other moist soil vegetation, and woody vegetation, including eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and willow (Salix sp.). During both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A portion of the easement was forested, and lower areas appear become inundated during high water events (Fig. 2, 3, 4).
- The wetland basin was overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 5), including eastern cottonwood and willow. We recommend removal of undesirable woody vegetation from wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Much of the tree planting was overgrown (Fig. 6, 7) with eastern cottonwood, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), and willow. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.
- Very few planted trees were located. We recommend replanting trees in areas where they are no longer present.
- Large amounts of river trash were present throughout the easement (Fig. 8). We recommend the removal of trash from the easement.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 10 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and 2 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), and tufted titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Wabash River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Bottomland forest within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Fig. 3. Bottomland forest within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Fig. 4. Bottomland forest within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Fig. 8. Trash within easement 755A120100HYW in White County, IL.
Whiteside County
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1295005R8 – Klahn

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The primary purpose of this easement is the restoration and protection of wetlands for wildlife, flood storage, water quality protection, and the establish permanent cover for aesthetic quality

(i) Wetland Restoration – A shallow water area will be developed by building a low earth structure with a pipe outlet on the north end of the easement area.
(ii) Conservation Cover – The sloping area on the east side of the easement area will be seeded with perennial vegetation and may have trees and/or shrubs planted to reduce erosion and provide wildlife for habitat.
(iii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – The purpose of this practice is to establish or reinforce a stand of trees or shrubs to restore wetland vegetation, conserve soil and moisture, provide wildlife habitat, beautify and area, or produce wood crops. Trees and/or shrubs will be planted on the south end to enhance wetland values.
(iv) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and wooded acreage for the benefit of wetland wildlife.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1295005R8 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1995. The easement is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Fulton, IL. The easement covers 13 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (4 ac.), tree planning (4 ac.), and prairie (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/19/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and other moist soil vegetation. During both visits the wetland basin was
approximately 25% inundated. A wet prairie, primarily consisting of reed canary grass, was also present within the wetland impoundment.

- Much of the vegetation within the wetland basin was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 4). We recommend spraying until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- The levee was badly damaged and overgrown with herbaceous and woody vegetation. We recommend repairing the levee to help prevent future levee damage.
- Woody encroachment was starting to establish within the wetland basin (Fig. 5). We recommend the removal of the woody vegetation from the wetland basin to help prevent future wetland damage.
- The tree planting appears to have failed and was replanted in white pine (Fig. 6; *Pinus strobus*).

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 4 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), 10 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 1 mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. During the spring visit we documented a wood duck brood within the wetland basin. Other avian species observed within the easement include black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Cattail Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 122 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1295005R8 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1295005R8 in Whiteside County, IL.

Lat: 41° 50' 9.8838" N
Lon: 90° 9' 7.7502" W
PHOTO_0059
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1295005R8 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1295005R8 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1295005R8 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1295005R8 in Whiteside County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1296005TJ – Matthews

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The primary purpose of this easement is the restoration and protection of wetlands for wildlife, flood storage, water quality protection, and to establish permanent cover for aesthetic quality.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The existing farmed wetland will be restored to a wetland by discontinuing annual cropping activities. Native wetland vegetation will be allowed to reestablish. The restored wetland will be maintained in its natural condition for the duration of the easement.
(ii) Tree Planting – This area will be restored to native trees and shrubs.
(iii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage water levels, vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1296005TJ is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Fulton, IL. The easement covers 23 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (11 ac.), and tree planting (9 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/19/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2–6). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), but smaller amounts of other herbaceous vegetation including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) and river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*) was present. During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated and the water within the wetland basin appears to be semi-permanent. No water control structure could be found.
• The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 6). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.

• Several patches of willow (Salix sp.) were present throughout the easement (Fig. 4). We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage.

• A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 7, 8). Some oaks (Quercus spp.) and river birch (Betula nigra) remain, but were overgrown with a dense stand of young eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids). We recommend removing undesirable tree species to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 6 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 5 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great egret (Ardea alba), double-crested cormorant (Phalacrocorax auritus), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), brown creeper (Certhia Americana), and swamp sparrow (Melospiza georgiana). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis), muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus), white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), coyote (Canis latrans), and eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 33 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 8. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005TJ in Whiteside County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The primary purpose of this easement is the restoration and protection of wetlands for wildlife, flood storage, water quality protection, and the establishment of permanent cover for aesthetic quality.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The existing farmed wetland will be restored to a wetland by discontinuing annual cropping activities. Native wetland vegetation will be allowed to reestablish. The restored wetland will be maintained in its natural condition for the duration of the easement.

(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

(iii) Control of Non-Native Aggressive Species – Reed canary grass is the only grass species that exists. It has choked out all native vegetation. Spray in the spring of 1997 with maximum labeled Round-up rate, burn during August 1997, and fall spray regrowth with maximum labeled Round-up rate between September 15 and September 30. This will allow the natural regeneration of native wetland species.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1296005X9 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles south of Fulton, IL. The easement covers 10 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (6 ac.), and forest (3 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/19/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of reed canary grass (Phalaris
arundinacea), but smaller amounts of other herbaceous vegetation including nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium) and river bulrush (Scirpus fluviatilis) was present. During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated and the water within the wetland basin appears to be semi-permanent. A tree planting was present and appeared to be in good condition (Fig. 4).

- The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable grass species.
- Several patches of willow (Salix sp.) were present throughout the easement. We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 Canada geese (Branta canadensis) and 2 wood ducks (Aix sponsa) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great egret (Ardea alba), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), brown creeper (Certhia Americana), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and ), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis), muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus), and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Mississippi River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 2 wetland easements that provides 33 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005X9 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005X9 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005X9 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Tree planting within easement 665A1296005X9 in Whiteside County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The primary purpose of this easement is the restoration and protection of wetlands for wildlife, flood storage, water quality protection, and the establishment of permanent cover for aesthetic quality

(i) Wetland Restoration – The existing farmed wetland will be restored to a wetland by discontinuing annual cropping activities. Native wetland vegetation will be allowed to reestablish. The restored wetland will have a small earth fill dike less than 3 foot high constructed in the southeast corner of this field. Emergency overflow spillways will be designed on both ends of the fill.

(ii) Tree Planting – This area will be restored to native trees and shrubs.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1297005Y3 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles east of Hillsdale, IL. The easement covers 37 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (19 ac.), forest (13 ac.), tree planning (3 ac.), and prairie (2 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/17/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single depressional wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea) and nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium). During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated.

- The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 4). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
Several patches of willow (*Salix sp.*) were present throughout the wetland basin (Fig. 5). We recommend removal of willow to help prevent future wetland damage.

- A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 6). The oaks (*Quercus spp.*) appeared in good condition, but were becoming overgrown with a dense stand of young eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) and willows. We recommend removing undesirable tree species to promote the growth of planted trees.

- Several NRCS boundary signs were missing. We recommend adding additional boundary signs to the perimeter of the easement.

During visits to the easement no waterfowl were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), and northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005Y3 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005Y3 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005Y3 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1297005Y3 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1297005Y3 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A1297005Y3 in Whiteside County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A1297005ZP – Readel

ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

All land within the easement area will be restored to the hydrology and vegetation that existed before agricultural development.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The existing area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production. 1000 feet of earthen berm and 4 shallow water areas will provide the necessary hydrology to create the desired wetland functions.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage water levels, vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.
(iii) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat. This area will be seeded and maintained to perennial native vegetation.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1297005ZP is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 3 miles west of Coleta, IL. The easement covers 85 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (62 ac.) and prairie (9 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/19/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained two impounded wetland basins. The vegetation community of the larger wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3, 4) was primarily composed of a dense stand of emergent vegetation including cattail (Typha sp.), common reed (Phragmites australis), and reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea). The vegetation community of the smaller wetland basin (Fig. 5, 6) was predominantly American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) with reed canary grass around the edges. During
both visits the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A prairie was also present within the easement (Fig. 7). The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of reed canary grass and indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*).

- The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass and common reed (Fig. 8). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Levees were very overgrown with woody vegetation and had many scours and breaks due to high water (Fig. 9–12). Additionally, water control structures could not be located for the impoundments. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from the levees and repairing levee damage. Additionally, if water control structures are not present, we recommend installing water control structures to better control water levels within the easement.

During visits to the easement no waterfowl were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 7. Prairie within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 8. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 9. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 10. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 11. Levee damage within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 12. Levee damage within easement 665A1297005ZP in Whiteside County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

665A12980061P – Klahn

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.

(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.

(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.

(iv) Recharge of ground water.

(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.

(vi) Carbon sequestration.

(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.

(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
All land within the permanent easement area will be restored to the hydrology and vegetation that existed before agricultural development.

(i) Conservation Cover – The purpose of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.

(ii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage water levels, woody and herbaceous vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A12980061P is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Fulton, IL. The easement covers 4 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (3.5 ac.) and prairie (0.5 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/19/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The wetland contained a single impounded wetland basin. The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), but lesser amounts of river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*) and nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) were present. The easement also contained a wet prairie. The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of reed canary grass, but also contained smaller amounts of other herbaceous plants. During both visits the wetland basin was nearly fully inundated. The inundation of the easement is greatly tied to the level of Cattail Creek, as a break in a levee on a nearby property allows floodwater to enter the easement. During the second visit the levee break was repaired and a culvert was installed into the levee. The easement appears to flood regularly due to the large amount of muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) huts throughout the prairie.
- The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Woody encroachment was starting to establish within the wetland basin. We recommend the removal of the woody vegetation from the wetland basin to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement no waterfowl were observed. Other avian species observed within the easement include black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), song sparrow (Melospiza melodia), and common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis), muskrat, and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Cattail Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 122 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980061P in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

All land within the easement area will be restored to the hydrology and vegetation that existed before agricultural development.

(i) Wetland Restoration – The easement area will be restored to the hydrological conditions that existed prior to crop production.
(ii) Tree/Shrub Establishment – Bottomland hardwood tree species and herbaceous wetland plant community will be maintained through natural regeneration.
(iii) Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage water levels, woody and herbaceous vegetation, food plots, and nesting structures to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A12980061Q is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1998. The easement is located approximately 1 mile south of Fulton, IL. The easement covers 105 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (38 ac.), forest (5 ac.), tree planting (3 ac.), and prairie (40 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/19/2019 and 5/21/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The wetland contained a single impounded wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basin was primarily composed of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), but lesser amounts of river bulrush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*) and nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*) were present. The easement also contained a wet prairie. The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of reed canary grass, but also contained smaller amounts of other herbaceous plants. During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated. The easement appears to flood regularly due to the large amount of muskrat.
(Ondatra zibethicus) huts throughout the prairie. Several oaks (Quercus spp.) and river birch (Betula nigra) were present throughout the wet prairie (Fig. 3), but the majority of trees were eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids; Fig. 5, 6).

- The herbaceous vegetation across much of the easement was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 7). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with a more desirable grass species.
- A large break in the levee was present in the southern portion of the easement and allowed Cattail Creek to flow into the easement. During the second visit the levee break had been repaired and a culvert had been installed into the levee (Fig. 8). We recommend reinstalling the water control structure to better control water levels within the wetland basin.

During visits to the easement we documented 1 trumpeter swan (Cygnus buccinator), 8 Canada geese (Branta canadensis), 6 wood ducks (Aix sponsa), and 1 hooded merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus), downy woodpecker (Picoides pubescens), red-bellied woodpecker (Melanerpes carolinus), blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata), tree swallow (Tachycineta bicolor), barn swallow (Hirundo rustica), red-winged blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus), and common yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of American beaver (Castor canadensis), muskrat, white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and coyote (Canis latrans).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Cattail Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 3 wetland easements that provides 122 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Tree planting within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 7. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 8. Culvert within easement 665A12980061Q in Whiteside County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The goal of the EWP Floodplain Easement program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Wetland Restoration – To maintain a minimum water level, a drop pipe water control structure will be installed. A stop-log type water control structure will be installed to provide wetland hydrology and water level management.

(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods. Saplings (2 year old stock) will be planted in linear form at a rate of 40 trees per acre. Bare root seedlings will be planted in linear form at a rate of 350 trees per acre. Fields will be planted to a mixture of native grasses and forbs to provide a diverse plant community.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 755A120100HZ0 is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 2 miles east of Erie, IL. The easement covers 280 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (50 ac.), forest (10 ac.), tree planning (93 ac.), and prairie (138 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/18/2019 and 5/29/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several depressional and impounded wetland basins (Fig. 1, 2). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including cattail (Typha sp.), reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), fall panicgrass (Panicum dichotomiflorum), and pigweed (amaranthus albus). During the spring visit submerged aquatic vegetation was observed in many of the wetland basins. During the autumn visit the wetland basins were approximately 70%
inundated. However, due to precipitation and flooding from the Rock River, the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated during the spring visit. Several wet and upland prairies were present throughout the easement (Fig. 3, 4). The vegetation community of the prairies was primarily composed of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and reed canary grass. A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 5). Planted trees observed included oaks (*Quercus spp.*.) and ash (*Fraxinus sp.*).

- Reed canary grass was present within the easement (Fig. 6). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Levees and wetland basins were becoming overgrown with woody vegetation. We recommend the removal of woody vegetation from levees and wetland basins to help prevent against future wetland damage.
- Many proposed water control structures were not present or were unable to be found. This caused water within the wetland basins to become semi-permanent. In several places water was flowing around levees and causing damage (Fig. 7).
- The tree planting was becoming overgrown (Fig. 8) with woody vegetation including willow (*Salix sp.*.) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*). We recommend thinning of these species to help promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 4 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), sedge wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,461 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 1. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Prairie within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Prairie within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 7. Levee damage within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 8. Woody encroachment within easement 755A120100HZ0 in Whiteside County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The goal of the EWP Floodplain Easement program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Wetland Restoration – To maintain a minimum water level, a drop pipe water control structure will be installed. A stop-log type water control structure will be installed to provide wetland hydrology and water level management.
(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods. Saplings (2 year old stock) will be planted in linear form at a rate of 40 trees per acre. Bare root seedlings will be planted in linear form at a rate of 350 trees per acre. Fields will be planted to a mixture of native grasses and forbs to provide a diverse plant community.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 755A120100HZ2 is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2001. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Erie, IL. The easement covers 665 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (150 ac.), forest (80 ac.), tree planting (180 ac.), prairie (125 ac.), and food plots (30 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/18/2019 and 5/29/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded and depressional wetland basins (Fig. 2–10). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), cattail (Typha sp.), nodding smartweed (Polygonum lapathifolium), and fall panicgrass (Panicum dichotomiflorum), and woody vegetation, including eastern cottonwood (Populus deltoids) and willow (Salix sp.). During the spring visit submerged aquatic vegetation was observed in many of the wetland
basins. During the autumn visit the wetland basins were approximately 70% inundated. However, during the spring visit, due to precipitation and flooding of the Rock River, the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. Several wet and upland prairies were present within the easement. The vegetation communities of the prairies was primarily composed of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and reed canary grass. A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 11–13).

- Reed canary grass and common reed (*Phragmites australis*) was present within the easement (Fig. 14). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Many of the water control structures appeared to be in good working condition. However, the water within the wetland basins appears to be semi-permanent and water control structures (Fig. 15–18) do not appear to be used. In several locations water was flowing around levees and causing damage (Fig 19, 20).
- Levees and wetland basins were becoming overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 21). We recommend the removal of undesirable woody vegetation from levees and wetland basins to help prevent against future wetland damage.
- The prairie was becoming overgrown with woody vegetation including willow and eastern cottonwood.
- The tree planting was becoming overgrown with eastern cottonwood and other undesirable woody species. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we documented 15 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and 2 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,461 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 10. Wetland basin within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 11. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 12. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 13. Tree planting within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 14. Common reed (*Phragmites australis*) within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 15. Water control structure within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 16. Water control structure within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 17. Water control structure within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 18. Water control structure within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 19. Levee damage within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 20. Levee damage within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 21. Woody encroachment within easement 755A120100HZ2 in Whiteside County, IL.
WRP Easement Management Plan 2020

755A120200HZ1 – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The goal of the EWP Floodplain Easement program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Wetland Restoration – For the purpose of creating a diversity of water regimes and enhance the development of a more diverse vegetative community, macrotopographic features will be developed. Undulating landscape features will include swales, ridges, oxbows, potholes, and habitat mounds.
(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods. Saplings (2 year old stock) will be planted in linear form at a rate of 40 trees per acre. Bare root seedlings will be planted in linear form at a rate of 350 trees per acre. Fields will be planted to a mixture of native grasses and forbs to provide a diverse plant community.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 755A120200HZ1 is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2002. The easement is located approximately 1.5 miles east of Erie, IL. The easement covers 406 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (132 ac.), forest (50 ac.), tree planning (82 ac.), and prairie (190 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/18/2019 and 5/29/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2, 3, 4). The vegetation community within the wetland basins was primarily composed of herbaceous vegetation, including reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and fall panicgrass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*), and woody vegetation, including eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*) and willow (*Salix sp.*). During the autumn visit the
wetland basins were approximately 40% inundated. However, during the spring visit, due to precipitation and flooding from the Rock River, the wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A large prairie, which was composed of a mosaic of upland and wetland grasses and forbs, was present within the easement (Fig. 5, 6). The vegetation community of the prairie was primarily composed of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and reed canary grass. A tree planting was also present within the easement (Fig. 7, 8).

- Reed canary grass was present within the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 9). We recommend the removal of woody vegetation from levees to help prevent against future wetland damage.
- The prairie was becoming overgrown with woody vegetation including willow and eastern cottonwood (Fig. 6).
- Much of the tree planting was composed of eastern cottonwood (Fig. 8). We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of planted trees.

During visits to the easement we observed 4 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), and American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,461 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Lat: 41° 39' 9.3732" N
Lon: 90° 1' 27.2388" W
PHOTO_0011

Fig. 5. Prairie within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 6. Prairie within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 7. Tree planting within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 8. Tree planting within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
Fig. 9. Levee within easement 755A120200HZ1 in Whiteside County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The goal of the EWP Floodplain Easement program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Existing bottomland hardwoods and shrubs will be maintained. The areas that were previously cropland were left to revert back to natural vegetation.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 755A120200HZ4 is an Emergency Watershed Protection Plan-Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) in Whiteside County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2002. The easement is located approximately 1 mile east of Erie, IL. The easement covers 110 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of forest (95 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, riverine, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/18/2019 and 5/29/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement did not contain any wetland basins and was primarily composed of bottomland forested. However, due to flooding of the Rock River, much of the easement was shallowly inundated during the spring visit (Fig 2).

- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) was present within the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- The bottomland forest was becoming overgrown with eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), willow (*Salix sp.*), and other undesirable woody species. We recommend thinning these trees to promote the growth of more desirable woody species.
During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), eastern phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), and prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Rock River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters. The easement is part of a group of 4 wetland easements that provides 1,461 acres of contiguous native vegetation in a highly fragmented landscape.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 755A120200HZ4 in Whiteside County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Bottomland forest within easement 755A120200HZ4 in Whiteside County, IL.
Winnebago County
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The goal of the Wetland Reserve Program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Hydrology Restoration – Hydrology will be restored by constructing earthen ditch plugs, low profile levees, and stop-log type water control structures.
(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods and a mixture of native grasses and forbs to provide a diverse plant community.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1200005N3 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Winnebago County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2000. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of Harrison, IL. The easement covers 343 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (90 ac.), forest (70 ac.), tree planning (14 ac.), and prairie (145 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/12/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded oxbow wetland basins (Fig. 2–6). The wetland basins were primarily composed of moist soil or open water habitats. Several of the wetland basins were surrounded by woody vegetation. During both visits all wetland basins were fully inundated. Much of the easement was composed of wet and tall-grass prairie (Fig. 7, 8). The vegetation community within the prairies was primarily composed big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii), indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans), switchgrass (Panicum virgatum), goldenrod (Solidago sp.), and reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea).

- Many of the water control structures were plugged with sedimentation. High water due to lack of water control had caused many of the levees to scour and fail
(Fig. 9, 10, 11). We recommend clearing water control structures and fixing levees so that water levels can be better controlled within the wetland basins.

- The herbaceous vegetation within many of the wetland basins and wet prairie was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 12). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Several of the wetland basins were overgrown with young willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*, Fig. 13, 14). We recommend removal of these undesirable woody species to help promote the growth of more desirable vegetation.
- Much of the tree planting appears to have failed. We recommend replanting in areas that were previously planted.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 200 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), 25 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and 6 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement include bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Pecatonica River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 7. Prairie within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 8. Prairie within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 9. Levee damage within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 10. Levee damage within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 11. Levee damage within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 12. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 13. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 14. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1200005N3 in Winnebago County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The goal of the Wetland Reserve Program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Hydrology Restoration – Hydrology will be restored by removal of two sections of the existing levee adjacent to the Sugar River and installing a stop-log type water control structure.
(ii) Macrotopography Hydrology Restoration – Low spots within the pool area will be enhanced by the removal of accumulated sediment and placed on higher elevations within the pool area to create small island features intermittently throughout the pool area.
(iii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Areas will be planted in a mixture of native grasses and forbs to provide a diverse plant community.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1203005QH is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Winnebago County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 2003. The easement is located approximately 0.25 miles southwest of Shirland, IL. The easement covers 457 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (245 ac.), forest (60 ac.), tree planning (12 ac.), and prairie (210 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/10/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a large impounded moist soil wetland basin (Fig. 2–8). Water control structures were in good condition and were holding water within the impoundment (Fig 9, 10). Wetland areas outside of the impoundment were primarily composed of bottomland hardwood forest along the Pecatonica River (Fig. 11, 12). During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated. A large portion of the easement was composed of wet and tall-grass prairie (Fig. 13,
The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

- The predominant vegetation within the wetland basin was reed canary grass. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Sections of the levee were eroding due to high water (Fig. 15, 16). We recommend repairing the levee to prevent future wetland damage. If damage from high water continues, we recommend adding rip-rap to damaged areas to prevent erosion of the levee.
- Sections of the levee and wetland basin were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 17, 18, 19). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from the levee and wetland impoundment to help prevent future wetland damage.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 400 Canada geese (Fig. 20; *Branta canadensis*), 50 mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 6 blue-winged teal (*Spatula discors*), 4 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 6 trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), hairy woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement included sign from American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Pecatonica River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 9. Water control structure within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 10. Water control structure within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 11. Bottomland hardwood forest within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig 12. Bottomland hardwood forest within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 13. Prairie within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 14. Prairie within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 15. Levee damage within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 16. Levee damage within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 17. Levee within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 18. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 19. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 20. Waterfowl within easement 665A1203005QH in Winnebago County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The purpose of this easement is to remove 3.25 acres of prior converted wetlands from production and restore 33.32 acres of existing wetlands. The wetland acres are in the Sugar River watershed. Its function will include improved water quality, sediment removal, flood water retention, woodland production, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wildlife Watering Facility – The old creek channel will be improved where oxbows can be cleaned out of accumulated sediment and increase the number of days water is maintained.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and hydrology to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.
(iii) Tree Planting – 18 acres of tree planting will be performed.
(iv) Conservation Cover – A conservation cover of native prairie species with pollinator forbs will be planted to provide nectar and pollen to bees and other pollinators throughout the growing season.
(v) Herbaceous Weed Control – Remove or control herbaceous invasive reed canary grass.
(vi) Brush Management – Remove, reduce or manipulate woody plant species to achieve the desired plant community based on assessment of canopy cover.
(vii) Forest Stand Improvement – Manipulate species composition, stand structure and/or stocking of forestland.
(viii) Streambank and Shoreline Protection – Stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, and shorelines of lakes or reservoirs.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A1296005XD is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Winnebago County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Durand, IL. The easement covers 37 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (11 ac.), forest (19 ac.), tree planting (2 ac.), and prairie (3 ac.).
Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/10/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–5). Many of the wetland basins consisted of impounded oxbows along Otter Creek. Vegetation communities within the wetland basins included forested and moist soil vegetation. During both visits all wetland basins were nearly fully inundated.

- Large areas of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) were present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Several areas along Otter Creek and the levees of the wetland basins showed sign of erosion from high water (Fig. 6, 7). We recommend repairing the levee to prevent future wetland damage. If damage from high water continues, we recommend adding rip-rap to damaged areas to prevent erosion of the levees or river bank.

During visits to the easement we documented 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement included white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Otter Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 6. Erosion within easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 7. Erosion within easement 665A1296005XD in Winnebago County, IL.
ACEP-WR Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The purpose of this easement is to remove 3.3 acres of prior converted wetlands from production and restore 29.92 acres of existing wetlands. The wetland acres are in the Sugar River watershed. Its function will include improved water quality, sediment removal, flood water retention, woodland production, and improved wildlife habitat.

(i) Wildlife Watering Facility – The old creek channel will be improved where oxbows can be cleaned out of accumulated sediment and increase the number of days water is maintained.
(ii) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – The purpose of this practice is to manage vegetation, food plots, and hydrology to enhance wetland wildlife habitat.
(iii) Conservation Cover – A mixture of warm season grasses and a wet prairie seed mix will be planted to establish emergent wetland vegetation that will reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance grassland wildlife habitat.
(iv) Woodland Improvement – The natural vegetation of this area was a mixture of bottomland hardwoods. Presently there are in excess of 45 mature trees, made up of oak, ash, hickory, and walnut. These trees will be the seed source for the natural reforestation of the field.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1296005XF is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Winnebago County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1996. The easement is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Durand, IL. The easement covers 33 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (14 ac.), forest (9 ac.), and prairie (4 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/10/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.
The easement contained several oxbow and excavated moist soil wetland basins (Fig. 2). During both visits all wetland basins were nearly fully inundated. A prairie was also present along the northern portion of the easement (Fig. 3). The vegetation community within the prairie was primarily composed of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*).

- Large areas of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) were present throughout the easement. We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Several areas along otter creek showed sign of erosion from high water. We recommend stabilizing the streambank by adding rip-rap to damaged areas to prevent erosion.
- Much of the woody vegetation throughout the easement was composed of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and boxelder (*Acer negundo*). We recommend removal of undesirable tree species to promote the growth of planted trees.
- A large portion of the easement had been sold. Philip Walsh now owns all of the easement except for the prairie on the northern side of the easement.

No waterfowl was observed within the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement included dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement included white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and sign of American beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Otter Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1296005XF in Winnebago County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1296005XF in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 3. Prairie within easement 665A1296005XF in Winnebago County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:

Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:

The goal of the Wetland Reserve Program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Hydrology Restoration – Hydrology will be restored by blocking the drainage channels outlets to the creek.
(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Existing vegetation meets cover type and will provide excellent filtering and erosion control to the entire area. The existing vegetation will be too costly to remove and NRCS practice standard Conservation Cover is effectively being bet.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:

Easement 665A1297005XZ is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Winnebago County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1997. The easement is located approximately 3.5 miles west of South Beloit, IL. The easement covers 100 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (10 ac.), forest (20 ac.), and scrub-shrub (68 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/10/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained a single impounded moist soil wetland basin (Fig. 2, 3, 4). Several large ditches were also present throughout the easement (Fig. 5). During both visits the wetland basin was fully inundated.

- Much of the easement was covered with large patches of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*; Fig. 2, 4). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
• Large portions of the easement were overgrown with dense woody vegetation (Fig. 6, 7) including willow (*Salix sp.*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). We recommend the removal of undesirable woody species.

• The levee was overgrown with woody vegetation and very damaged by erosion. The levee was broken in several places and Raccoon Creek now flows through the wetland impoundment. We recommend removal of woody vegetation from the levee and to repair levee damage so water levels can be controlled within the wetland.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 50 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and 2 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) using the easement. Other avian species observed within the easement northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), American tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement include sign of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers Raccoon Creek and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig. 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 6. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 7. Woody encroachment within easement 665A1297005XZ in Winnebago County, IL.
ACEP-WRE Objectives:
Protect, restore, and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems to attain:

(i) Habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent wildlife, including endangered or threatened species and species of concern.
(ii) Protection and improvement of water quality.
(iii) Attenuation of floodwater.
(iv) Recharge of ground water.
(v) Protection and enhancement of open space and aesthetic quality.
(vi) Carbon sequestration.
(vii) Protection of native flora and fauna contributing to the Nation’s natural heritage.
(viii) Contribution to educational and scientific scholarship.

Conservation Plan Objectives:
The goal of the Wetland Reserve Program is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.

(i) Wetland Restoration – Hydrology will be restored by installing flap-gate and stop-log water control structures.
(ii) Vegetative Cover Establishment – Fields will be established to bottomland hardwoods. Fields will be planted to a mixture of grasses and legumes to provide a diverse plant community.

Site Description and Management Recommendations:
Easement 665A129900624 is a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement in Winnebago County, Illinois. The easement was enrolled in the program in 1999. The easement is located approximately 0.5 miles west of Rockton, IL. The easement covers 655 acres (Fig. 1), primarily consisting of wetland (344 ac.), forest (60 ac.), tree planting (5 ac.), and prairie (261 ac.). Surrounding land use was primarily composed of wetland, forested, and agricultural habitats. The easement was visited on 12/10/2019 and 5/20/2020 and was assessed for conditions relative to program objectives, extent of inundation, and management practices consistent with compatible use authorizations.

The easement contained several impounded wetland basins (Fig. 2–12). Several of the wetland basins were oxbows of the Pecatonica River. The vegetation community within the wetland basins was predominately moist soil vegetation composed primarily of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and smaller amounts of native moist soil plants including nodding smartweed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*). During both visits all wetland basins were fully inundated. Water control structures appeared to be in good working condition (Fig. 13). Much of the other areas within the easement consisted of either wet or tall-grass prairie (Fig. 14–18). The vegetation community of the prairies was primarily composed of reed canary grass, big
bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*).

- Much of the herbaceous vegetation in and around the wetland basins was composed of reed canary grass (Fig. 19). We recommend spraying with herbicide until eradication and replanting with native vegetation.
- Many of the levees were overgrown with woody vegetation (Fig. 20). We recommend removal of woody vegetation from levees to prevent future levee damage.
- Levee damage and breaks were present in several locations (Fig. 21). We recommend repairing damage to levees so that water levels in the wetland basins can be managed.
- Patches of willow (*Salix sp.*) were present within the wetland basins. We recommend the removal of willow from the wetland basins to help prevent future wetland damage.
- Much of the tree planting appeared to have failed. Only a small area of tree planting remains (Fig. 22). We recommend replanting bottomland hardwood trees.

During visits to the easement we documented approximately 1000 Canada geese (Fig. 23; *Branta canadensis*), 200 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 10 American black ducks (*Anas rubripes*), 10 northern shovelers (*Spatula clypeata*), 6 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 50 sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis*) using the easement. During the spring visit we documented a mallard brood. Other avian species observed within the easement included bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Mammalian species observed within the easement included American beaver (*Castor canadensis*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*).

This easement serves multiple ecological purposes and achieves many objectives of the ACEP-WRE program. The wetlands provide feeding and loafing areas for migratory waterbirds during spring and fall migration. The easement buffers the Pecatonica River and its tributaries from agricultural runoff, and attenuates floodwaters.
Fig. 1. Map of easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL including habitat types and installed management infrastructure.
Fig 2. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 3. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 4. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 5. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 6. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig 7. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 8. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 9. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 10. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 11. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 12. Wetland basin within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 13. Water control structure within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 14. Prairie within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 15. Prairie within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 16. Prairie within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 17. Prairie within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 18. Prairie within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 19. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 20. Levee within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 21. Levee damage within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 22. Tree planting within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.
Fig. 23. Waterfowl within easement 665A129900624 in Winnebago County, IL.