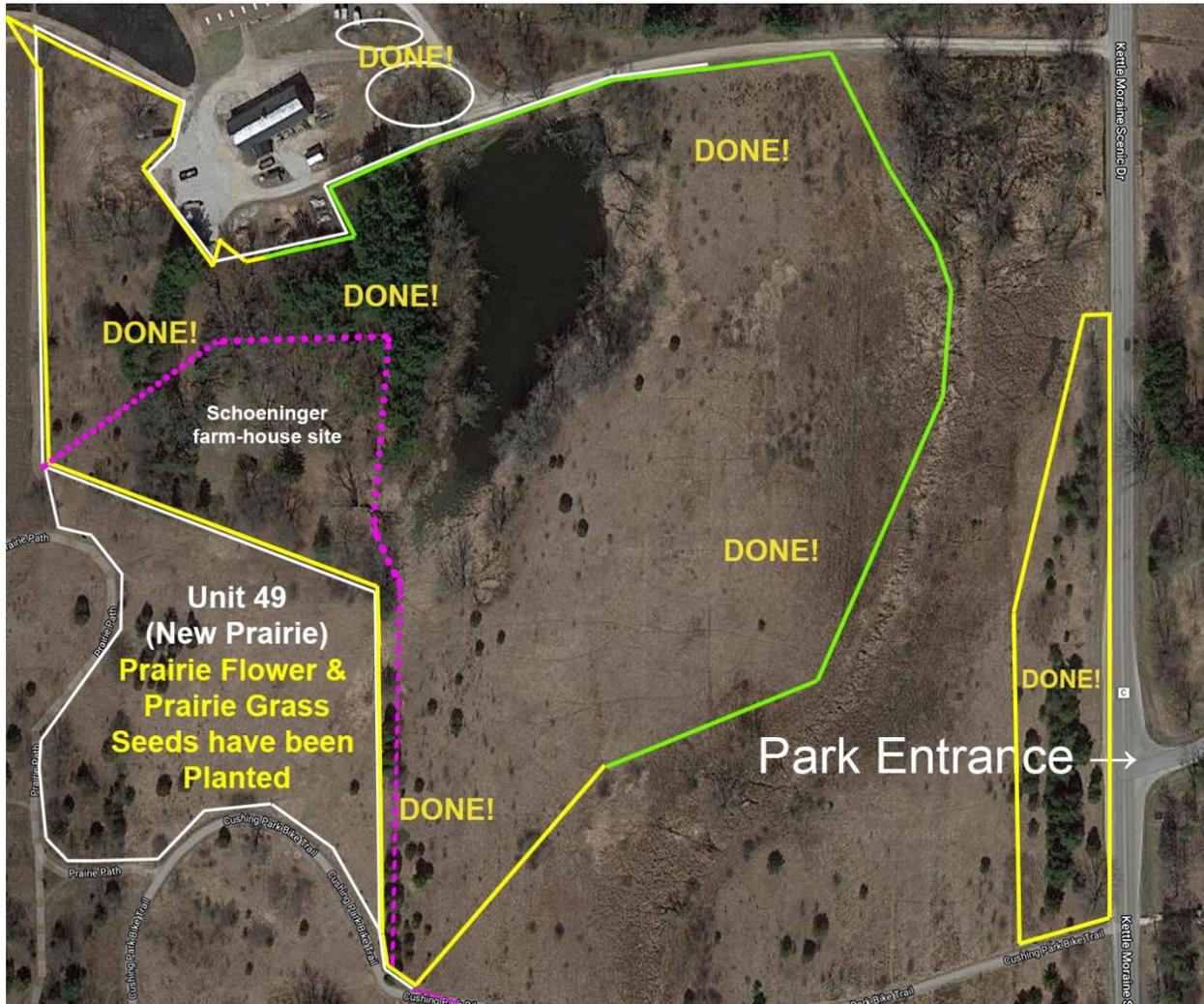


Habitat Report for December 2022 and early January 2023, John Hillmer

Even with the extreme December cold and snow, we've had 10-12 volunteers (out of an active group of about 18-20 people) come out each day (3 times a week)!!

After completing restoration of the Schoeninger farmhouse hill site, we moved around the pond that's to the east of the hill (between Hwy C and the Barns and the Hill Site) and completed restoration work around the pond. We then worked south to the recreational trail. This is all done now.



We have an idea that we will discuss with Colton in the spring/summer, about an informal hiking trail that would follow the proposed "pink" dotted line from the recreational trail and then north and east of the new prairie and then up into the woods a bit past the old homesite and then back west to the bike/horse trail and bench on the upper left corner of Unit 49. It's such a beautiful woods and once the prairie is developed it would be a nice quiet informal way to see some of that habitat.

We also cleaned up the west side of highway C along the front of the park, so driving by you can now see into the west side of the park, and hopefully see (and miss) deer that might be crossing there.

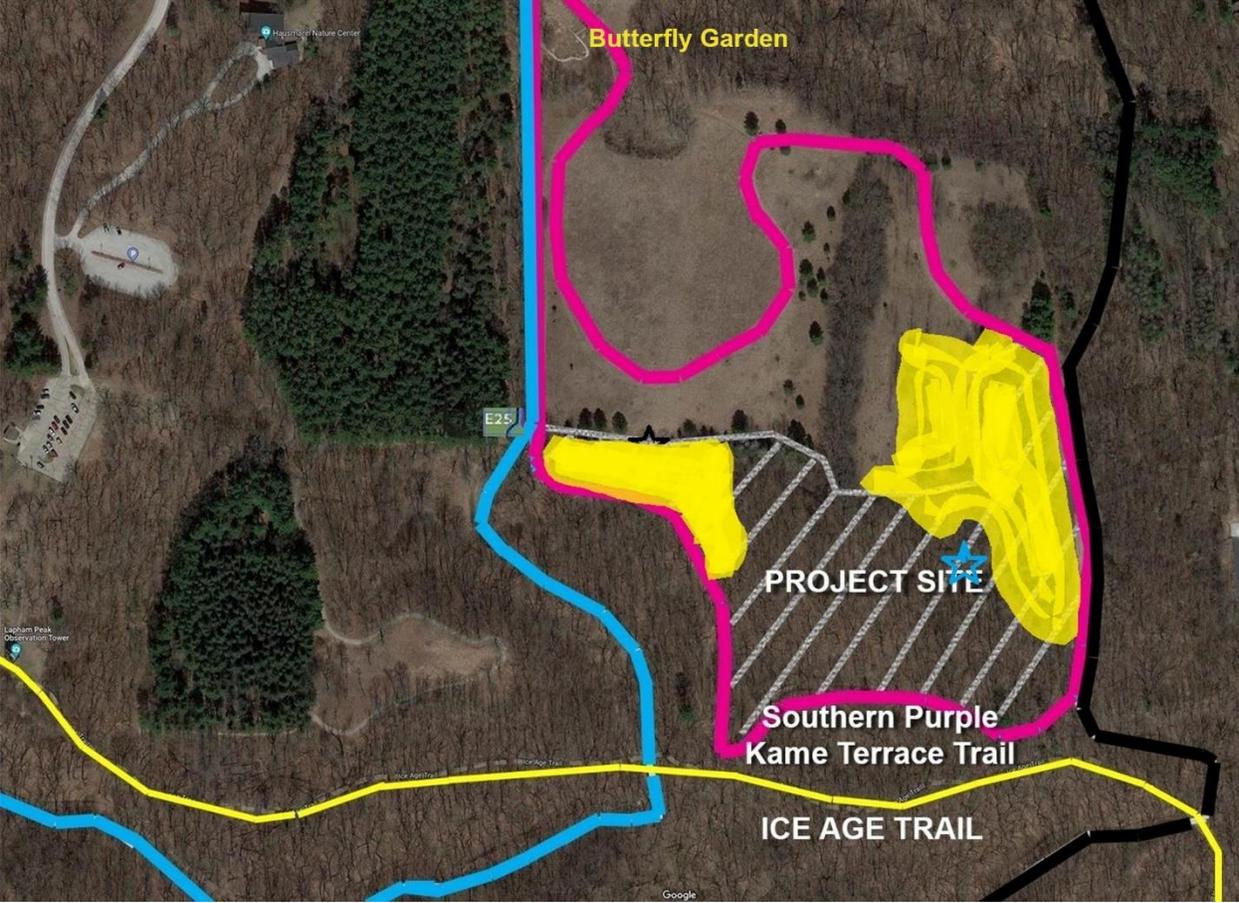
The Log Cabin is now 100% full of split hard wood! We're measuring moisture in the wood and it is drying out already. We're stacking split wood outside the building now on the south side for good sun exposure. The first wood rack at Evergreen is up and running, but no sales yet.

A 2nd rack has been made and we are waiting for the right day for the DNR staff to help us move that to the Camp Site.

We've begun working at Evergreen where the Ice Age Trail comes into the area, working along the boardwalk now, but have plans to restore much of the area over time here—



We have another team working weekends, led by Mike Neimon, south of the Butterfly Garden on a large area of woodlands – restoring it, and once this is completed it will be another candidate to burn it periodically to maintain the invasives – especially buckthorn, honeysuckle, and autumn olive. The yellow shaded areas below are mostly done already.



Butterfly Garden

E25

PROJECT SITE

Southern Purple
Kame Terrace Trail

ICE AGE TRAIL

Lapham Peak
Observation Tower

Hogback Nature Center

Google