

Habitat Report April 2024, By John Hillmer

April's work demonstrates the areas we travel to within the park, and how the new UTV (*bus*) has been a huge help moving the average 12+ people and equipment that we have each day. See the attached maps to see the areas worked!

Friends of Lapham Peak
"Free the Oaks"



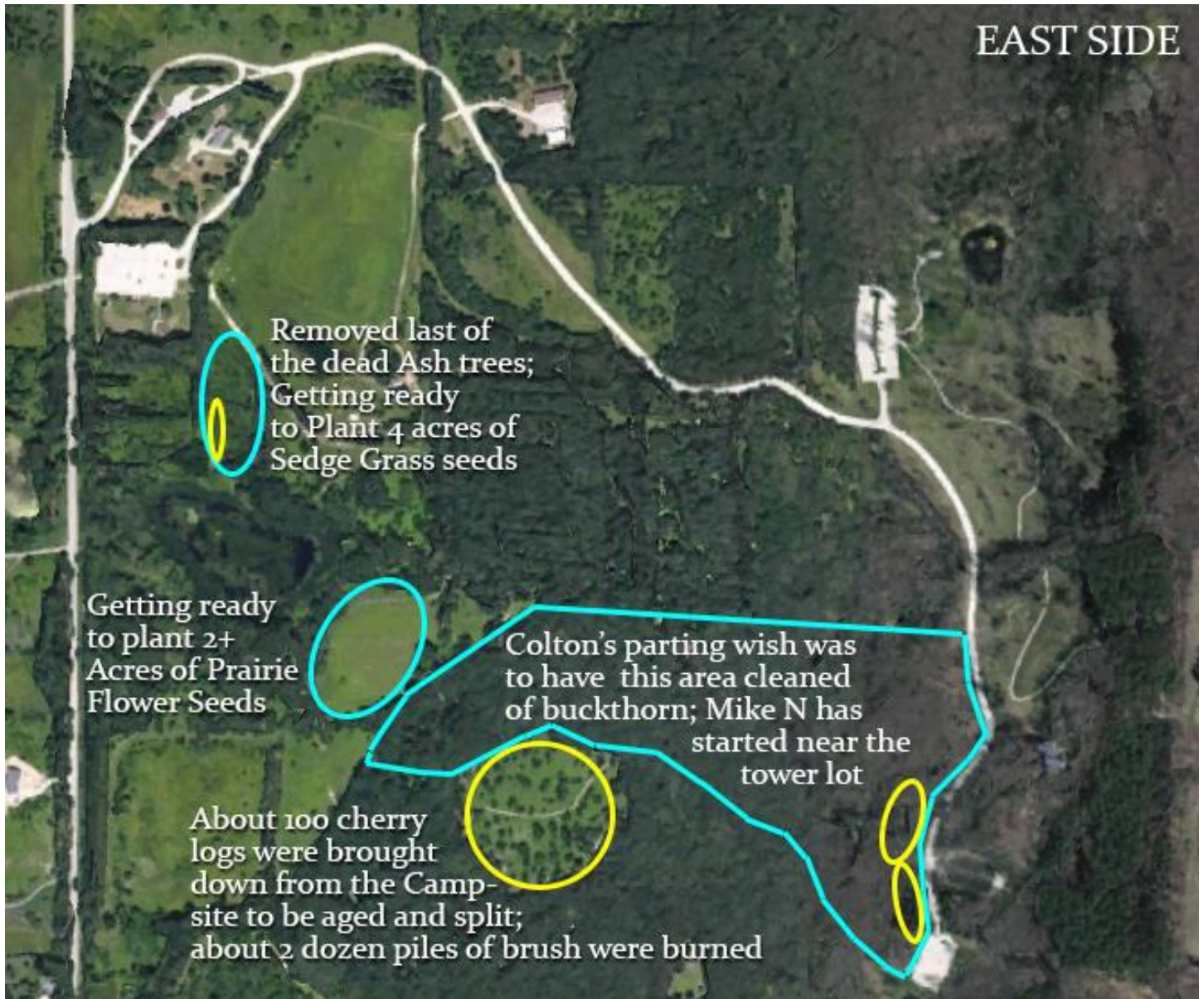
Buckthorn Busters

	Volunteer Hours	Piles Burned	Firewood Bins Used	Firewood Donations	IAT Hours Donated
October	620.00	193	34.00	\$ 161.00	379.25
November	603.25	208	32.00	\$ 182.50	190.00
December	961.75	218	22.00	\$ 132.00	155.00
January	462.75	51	35.00	\$ 127.00	69.50
February	666.00	56	34.50	\$ 288.66	87.00
March	698.00	41	51.00	\$ 300.00	212.75
April	720.75	122	27.00	\$ 265.00	219.50
Total Fiscal Year 2023-24	4,732.50	889	235.50	\$ 1,456.16	1,313.00
Total Project To-Date				\$ 2,413.16	

Jan-April 2024 do not yet include Mike Neimon's weekend work numbers yet

On the EAST SIDE of the Park (refer to the picture on Page 2):

1. Michael Neimon began clearing the area to the north of the Ice Age Trail and South of Two-Tier, with the Park Road serving as the east boundary. He has had a few groups come to help and is again hosting a few dozen KMHS kids on May 17th; this is where they will work.
2. We continued to clean the Campsite of cherry trees to provide the prairie grasses and flowers there with more sunlight. Seeds were planted here last year, and while lots of Autumn Olive and some buckthorn continues to try and grow here, we will continue to fight it back.
3. A new group, led by Nicole Diedrick, has asked to get involved with the Prairies and flowers; we will be hosting her and her team on May 1st to plant about 2 ½ acres of prairie seeds that were harvested last year from the west side. These will go in the Prairie where the Headless Horseman rides during Fright Hike.
4. We are also getting ready to plant Sedge Grasses to the east of Evergreen in the large 4-acre area that was recently cleared of buckthorn and dense ash trees, both young tall green ash and mature large dead ash (about 27 of them). We harvested the large dead ash for firewood. Some soil preparation may still be needed here before we plant the Sedge Grasses. These seeds will hopefully be co-funded with some grant money that we are still waiting to hear about.
5. And, we continue to make more firewood, re-stock the firewood racks (at least weekly), and encourage people to take some home.



On the WEST SIDE (refer to the picture on Page 3):

1. Starting on the north side of the Park at Nemahbin Springs, we removed a large box-elder that was leaning over the new deck. On one of Jay's last days, he went into the pool and cleaned out many of the rocks that did not belong there! The DNR planted about 50 bushes here, and we helped get fencing around them all so deer won't bother them. Sedge Grasses were planted on these 3-acres.
2. Several large oaks recently fell; so, we harvested the good wood from them and cleaned up the rest.
3. Black Locust near Cushing Park Road have been creating little trees that we keep removing so we finally started removing some of the parent trees and cleaning up buckthorn in the areas there too.
4. Several tree lines were cleaned of honey-suckle and buckthorn while being careful to work around a large number of small oaks that have started growing from seeds around these same tree lines. We will be fencing off some of these trees (about 20 of them) to protect them from deer grazing (we are making 4-foot diameter by 6-foot-high fences).
5. We also planted about 50 red and white oak trees (the small 12-15-inch-tall ones without any dirt on their roots; the kind the DNR gets). And most of these were protected with a 4-foot-high fence that we and the DNR made.

Harvested
Fallen
Oak

Planted 3 Acres
of Sedge Grass
Seeds & ~50 Bushes

Cleaned up
Brush

Cleaned Tree Line

Removed
Black
Locust

Cleaned Tree Line

Getting
Ready to
Cage
20 Oak
Trees

Planted
~50
Oaks

Burned
Buckthorn
& Honeysuckle

WEST SIDE