

Kohn Park walk – July 13, 2021

Bill Welch, Charlie Luthin

Since there has been no mowing this year the eastern (creekside) portion of the park, about one third of the total four acre field, has shown good growth and regeneration of a number of wet prairie sedges. The western two thirds of the field are drier because of the gradual upslope and remain as a grassy area with a few prairie plants, i.e. fleabane, visible. Plans remain intact for an October prescribed burn.

Prior to the burn a few things need to take place (in no particular order):

- _determine if drains are still working
- _determine seed variety mix and obtain (within budget...city, donations)
- _mow an 8' fire break all around the field, large enough for a pick-up truck, maintaining brushy border along creek
- _contact all neighbors via emails collected in the past and door-to-door circulars
- _conduct a neighborhood meeting of interested folks to share plan and collect comments
- _reach out to the Lodi Fire Department and Prairie Enthusiasts re burn

Soon after the burn:

- _flag off the one third of field hosting sedges; interseed with wet prairie mix
- _interseed remaining two thirds with appropriate mesic prairie mix; involve citizen volunteers, OSC charter school, and high school students

Following year:

- _mow entire field and fire break only once mid- season, let field grow later
- _continue interseeding in the fall; involve citizen volunteers, OSC charter school, and high school students
- _remove invasive species, if any

Third year:

- _mow entire field and fire break only once mid- season, let grow later
- _continue interseeding in the fall; involve citizen volunteers, OSC charter school, and high school students
- _remove invasive species, if any
- _determine potential for interpretive signage, pathway, etc.