

August 2017. Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, drinking water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching school groups / Summer Camps at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety in progress for 2016 compliance.

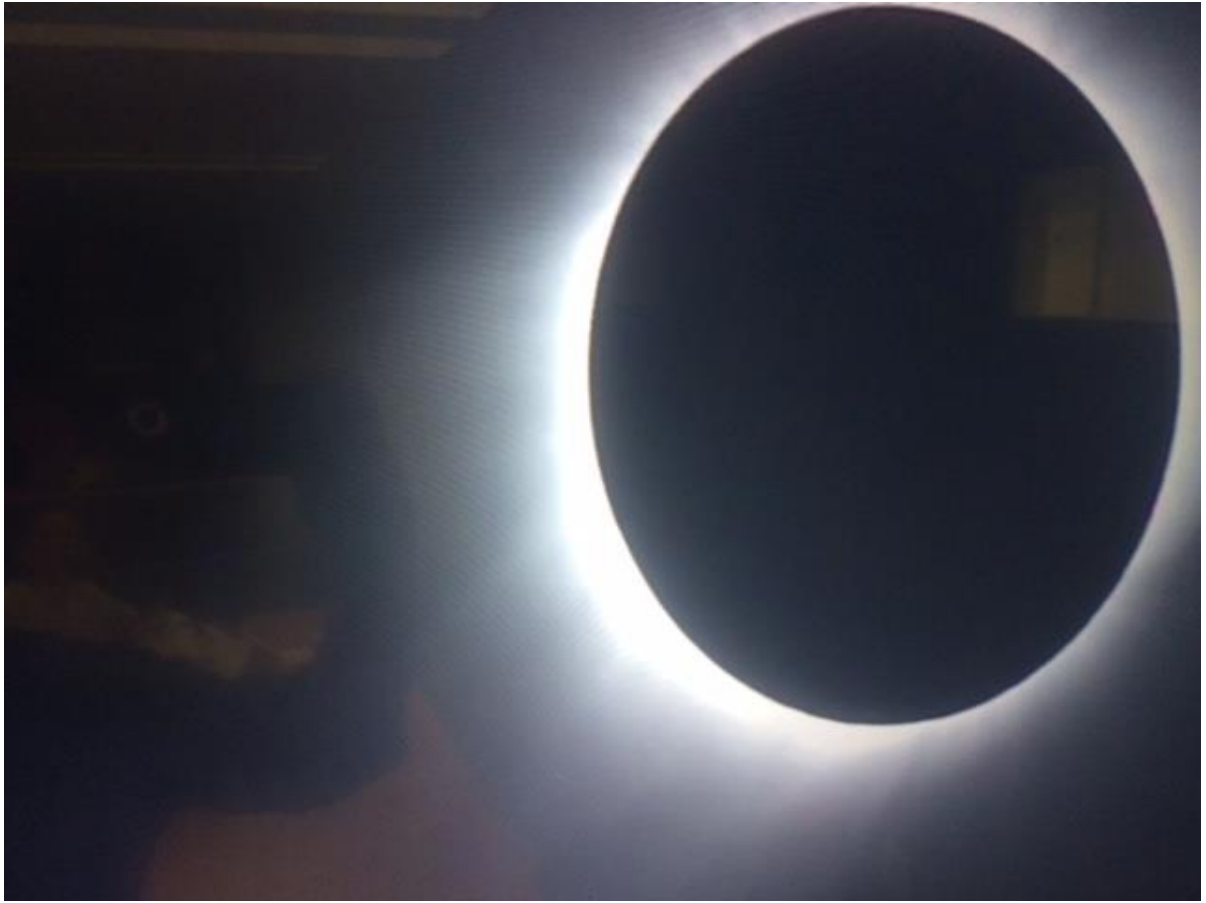


Annual Sycamore High School Cross County Invitational Meet at Afton Forest Preserve.
Sycamore High School teams practice at Afton, DeKalb/Sycamore and Great Western Trails





Guess what happened on August 21st ?





Illinois Dept of Natural Resources and Forest Preserve staff conducted a fish survey at Sannauk Forest Preserve.speaking of fish, Northern Pike are caught (and released) in the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River in Forest Preserves and other places along "The Kish " in northern DeKalb County



Forest Preserve Committee met at the Hoppe Heritage Farmstead, 1835 Miller Ellwood Cabin and South Branch Prairie for cabin history information and prairie restoration talk and tour.





July floods washed away creek crossing trails along Haines Creek at Prairie Oaks and Swanson Grove.

Trails were repaired using larger limestone boulders to hold gravel and help withstand flooding.

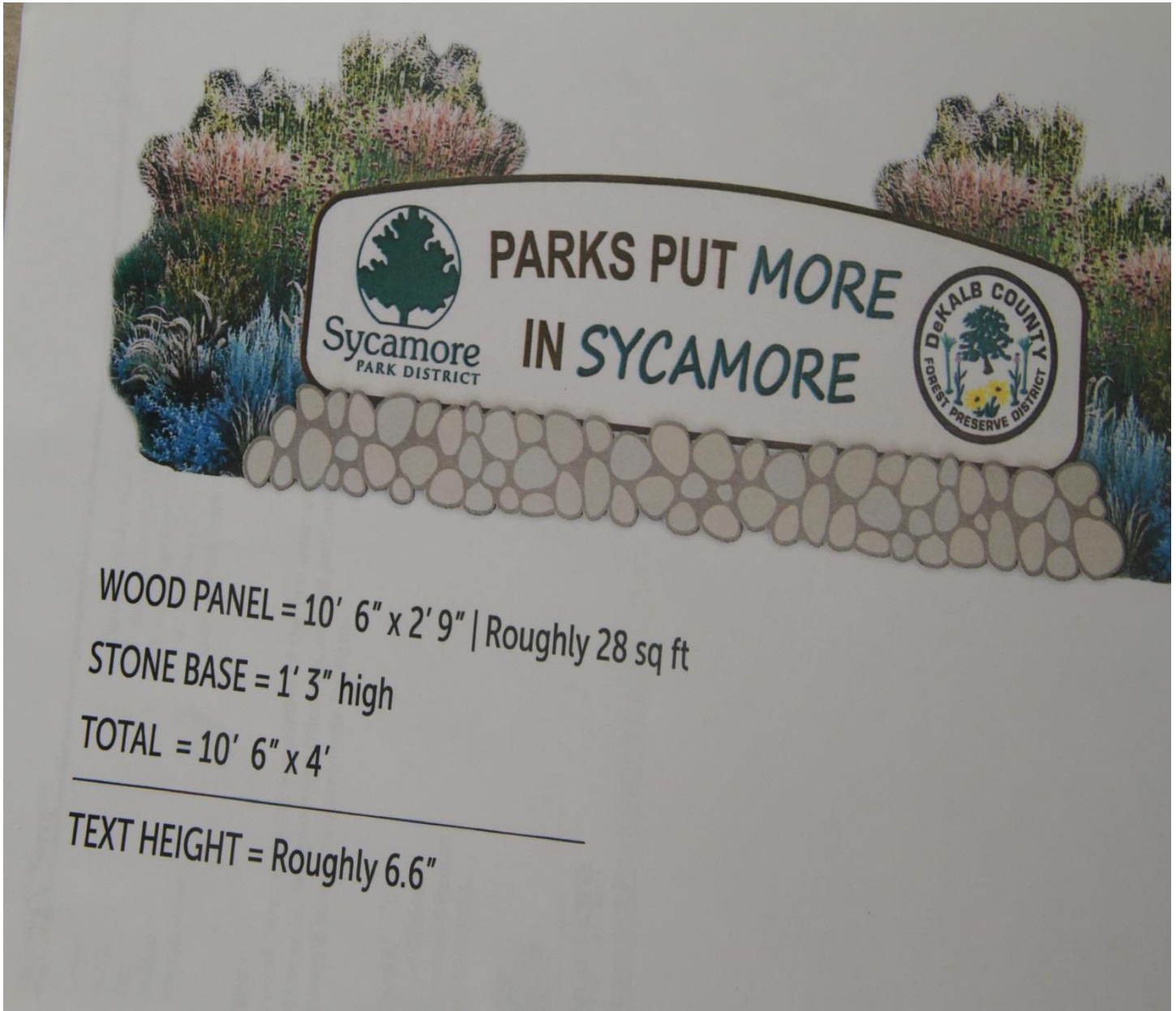


Sannauk Forest Preserve Manager Scott Siuda has been placing mulch (from dead ash trees) along trails at Sannauk.

Especaicially nice in muddy areas along trails. Hikers appreciate the work !!



This sign will be placed on Sycamore Park District property at the west end of the Great Western Trail. A nice welcome on the East entrance to Sycamore along Rt 64.



Forest Preserve maintenance staff Bob Knuuttila continues his “chainsaw art” with Welcome Logs at Afton (pictured), Sycamore Forest Preserve and the South Branch Prairie.



August 2017- Southern Preserves & Natural Resource Completed Project List- Josh Clark and staff

Maintenance

1. Began preparing Afton for the annual Sycamore High School cross country meet. We trim back several of the trails that the course follows in order to make them more accommodating to the runners.
2. Continued cleanup of park areas at Afton. This was started last year as an ongoing project as time allows.
3. Cut back overhanging vegetation along trails at Merritt Prairie.
4. Graded roads at Sanauk Forset Preserve.
5. Added ADA access to Shelter #1 at Sanauk Forest Preserve.

Natural Resources

1. Daily checks and removals of beaver dams. We remove the dams in order to keep the water levels in the wetland banks at the proper levels.
2. Planting of native plant plugs throughout the district.
3. Seed collection throughout the district.
4. Continue to work on the plant propagation garden at Afton. Installed and planted 9 seed/propagation beds. These beds will allow us to collect hard to find seed and also allow us to divide rare plants to be planted in the preserves. **See photos below**
5. Sprayed areas for weeds that were mowed earlier in the season.
6. Cattail and phragmites control in the wetlands at Afton and South Branch Prairie.

At Afton : Josh Clark and staff , including student interns made seed propagation beds for collected prairie, wetland and tree seed for forest preserve restoration projects. Al Roloff donated a greenhouse for future plant production from seed. Thank You !



Projects July – August 2017 Bill Prain and Northern FP staff

- Hazard tree removal along trails, lanes and open areas at Potawatomi Woods
- road, shoulder and parking area stabilization, repair at Prairie Oaks, Potawatomi Woods, Russell / Nehring
- Erosion repairs Prairie Oaks
- Sign board repairs at Prairie overlook – Hoppe
- Vehicle and trailer upgrades for insurance compliance
- Mowing
- Pruning along trails and roads at Prairie Oaks, Potawatomi Woods and Wilkinson Marsh
- Sycamore FP debris pick up and boulder placement
- General supply and equipment organization
- Construction assistance for gate supports, signage and bike rack at Sycamore FP
- Administrative Priorities as called for (materials and supply ordering, pick up and delivery)
- Safety investigation reporting and training
- Construction assistance for new open air picnic shelter – Russell Woods
- Welding Contractor consultation for observation deck at Russell Woods
- Eagle project assistance for new bridge stairway at Russell Woods
- Construct new roof for outhouse at Macqueen
- Safety lane compliance for equipment trailer
- Potable /safe water testing for IDPH compliance