

STATE WILDLIFE GRANT

State of Illinois

Grant Agreement for the period of June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2008

PROJECT NUMBER: T-27 D-1

PROJECT TITLE: Robert Allerton Park Pond, a State Listed Fish Refuge

OBJECTIVES:

1. Summer 2006 : Eradicate exotic curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) from the Allerton Pond.
2. Summer 2006 : Create native fish habitat through the restoration of native aquatic vegetation.
3. Summer 2006 : Establish habitat for the long-term maintenance of four native fish species of the Sangamon River, introduce starhead topminnow, ironcolor shiner, lake chubsucker and mud darter.
4. Summer 2006 : Improve public awareness of the comprehensive wildlife conservation plan and of native non-game fish species.
5. Summer 2007 : Carry on improvements in aquatic habitat with continued aquatic vegetation plantings.
6. Summer 2007 : Introduce red spotted sunfish to the Allerton pond.
7. Summer 2007 : Monitor breeding success of starhead topminnow, ironcolor shiner, lake chubsucker and mud darter.

APPROACH AND EXPECTED RESULTS:

Job 1.1 : In the spring of year one the Allerton pond will be treated with SONAR to control curly leaf pondweed, such an application will be repeated in spring of year one if needed.

Result 1.1 : Exotic curly leaf pondweed will be eradicated from the Allerton pond.

Job 2.1 : Throughout year one native plants will be introduced to the pond, these plants will be either collected from a pond on site, from an area pond with the permission of the IDNR, or purchased from an aquatic nursery. Arrowhead (*Sagittaria* spp.) will be collected from wetlands at Allerton. Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*), sweet flag (*Acorus*

americanus), and water star grass (*Heteranthera dubia*) will be collected from area ponds with the help of the IDNR. Pickerel weed (*Pontederia cordata*) and Vallisneria (*Vallisneria spiralis*) will be purchased from aquatic nurseries.

Result 2.1 : Established native vegetation will provide ideal habitat for the reproduction and long-term success of five native species of non-game fish.

Job 3.1 : Individual fish will be collected under the supervision of IDNR biologists from known populations located within the Sangamon River Basin and released into the Allerton pond the same day that they are collected. In year one starhead topminnow, ironcolor shiner, lake chubsucker and mud darter will be introduced.

Result 3.1 : Introduced fish will become the breeding stock for the first four species introduced into the Allerton pond.

Job 3.2 : The Allerton fish populations will be monitored to confirm successful reproduction, and subsequent genetic analyses will be utilized to determine maintenance of genetic integrity. The population will be monitored by using dip-nets to capture fry, setting baited minnow traps, and electro fishing.

Result 3.2 : Once breeding populations are established individuals will be collected and utilized for reintroduction efforts in the Sangamon River Basin and other areas within the species' historic natural range. These future reintroductions will be instrumental in the ongoing efforts of the CWCP.

Job 4.1 : Two informational signs will be designed and placed around the Allerton pond, the signs will highlight the use of native plants, the need for conservation of non-game fish species and the threats to aquatic ecosystems.

Result 4.1 : We expect the Allerton pond to benefit the CWCP by making more people aware of the need for non-game wildlife conservation in Illinois. The Allerton Park Conference Center is utilized by landscape designers, city planners, businesses, and private landowners; we expect the Allerton pond to be an example for any such group or individual that may have a farm pond, detention basin or other land in need of attention.

Job 5.1 : Throughout year one native plants will be introduced to the pond, these plants will be either collected from a pond on site, from an area pond with the permission of the IDNR, or purchased from an aquatic nursery.

Result 5.1 : Established native vegetation will provide ideal habitat for the reproduction and long-term success of five native species of non-game fish.

Job 6.1 : Individual fish will be collected under the supervision of IDNR biologists from known populations located within the Sangamon River Basin and released into the Allerton pond the same day that they are collected. In year two red spotted sunfish will be introduced.

Result 6.1 : Introduced fish will become breeding stock for future introductions of the red spotted sunfish.

Job 7.1 : Monitor breeding success of starhead topminnow, ironcolor shiner, lake chubsucker and mud darter. Using backpack shocking equipment, dip nets and seines the shallow and vegetated areas of Allerton pond will be sampled for the 4 species of fish introduced in 2006.

Result 7.1 : Sampling will conclude that introduced fish are successfully breeding and IDNR biologists will determine if the populations are ready to be used as a sources for subsequent introductions.