

Kankakee Sands

September 2007

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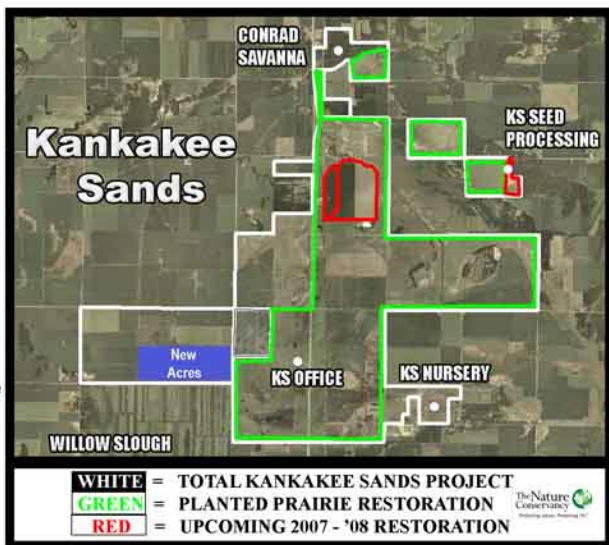
Kankakee Sands has grown to 7,600 acres with the recent addition of a 400 acre tract. The new parcel, like the rest of the emerging prairie, has most recently been farmed. The goal for the new acreage is to restore it to a large, open water wetland, creating a haven for waterfowl, shorebirds and marsh birds. The latest land acquisition will also help reconnect the habitat for many plants and animals between Kankakee Sands and Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area.

Since 1998, the Kankakee Sands restoration project has created a prairie out of farmland. About 125 years before that, the farmland had been a lake. Beaver Lake, the largest natural lake in the state, was drained around the turn of the 20th century to provide more land for grazing and farming in northwest Indiana.

The Kankakee Sands restoration is now at 5,000 acres. Seven hundred more acres were returned to native prairie plants this past winter.

This map illustrates what we've restored to this point and where we'll plant this fall.

The plan is to plant an additional 355 acres. Hundreds of pounds of grass and wildflower seed are being collected from our native seed nursery and from grassland remnants. The seed is stored in our climate-controlled cool room to ensure it remains viable until planting time in December.



Kankakee Sands trip to Goose Pond

Kankakee Sands Project Manager Chip O'Leary, Steward Andrea Locke and Restoration Management Assistants Laura Mueller and Kim Bahr traveled to the Indiana DNR Greene County Goose Pond site recently to exchange information and tackle some invasive plant species. Pictured are Mueller, O'Leary, Locke and the DNR's Dennis Workman. Photo by Kim Bahr.



Upcoming KSands Workdays

Call the Kankakee Sands office for information 219-285-2184 or email the contact person listed below.

Saturday, September 15th, 2007, 9am to 12pm, CDT
Seed Collecting at the Native Plant Nursery - CR 250 N across from N. Newton H.S.
Contact: Alyssa Nyberg (anyberg@tnc.org)

Saturday, October 13, 2007, 9am to 12pm, CDT
Seed Cleaning at the Seed Barn - 417 W 600 N
Contact: Stephanie Frischie (sfrischie@tnc.org)

Saturday, November 10th, 2007, 9am to 1pm, CDT
Seed Cleaning and Sorting at the Seed Barn
Contact: Stephanie Frischie (sfrischie@tnc.org)