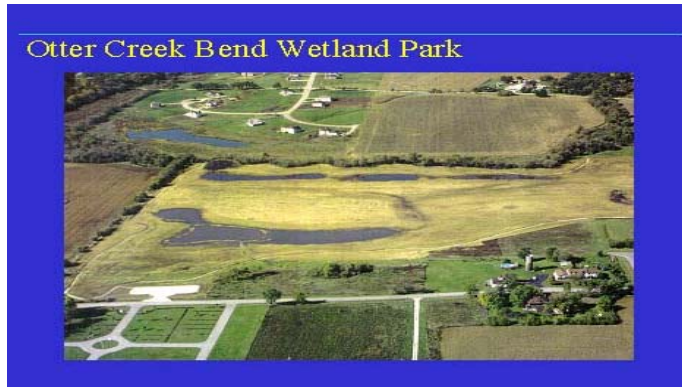


# Otter Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank Kane County, Illinois

Developed by: Land and Water Resources, Inc. (LAWR)  
Land Owner and Long Term Manager: St. Charles Park District  
LAWR Design Team: Land and Water Resources, Inc., Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES),  
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL)



Otter Creek Wetland Bank is the first fully constructed, entrepreneurial wetland mitigation bank in the country. Land and Water Resources, Inc. began meeting with the St. Charles Park District in the spring of 1992 to begin discussions on the formation of this project. Several obstacles needed to be overcome before the project could proceed. They are as follows:

1. The Park District had insufficient funds to purchase the property
2. Northern Illinois Gas (NIGAS) owns a strip of property that bisected the property
3. No rules existed for the establishment or operations of wetland banks
4. The Park District needed the site to have ADA approved access around the wetlands

Even with these obstacles, LAWR, AES and CBBEL continued to attempt to make this project work. LAWR came up with the money needed for the Park District to close on the property. LAWR Design Team addressed numerous questions and concerns brought up by NIGAS to assure that the 36-inch gas main bisecting the property would not be impacted by the development of this project. LAWR Design Team developed a plan to integrate the wetland and prairie complex with a parking lot and an ADA approved path network on the site. LAWR Design Team had a multitude of meetings with the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USEPA, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in which all parties developed the Interagency Coordination Agreement on wetland Mitigation Banks for the Chicago District (ICA). These were the rules we needed to proceed. In March of 1994, the ICA was finally signed and the following day LAWR was granted the permit needed to proceed with the project.

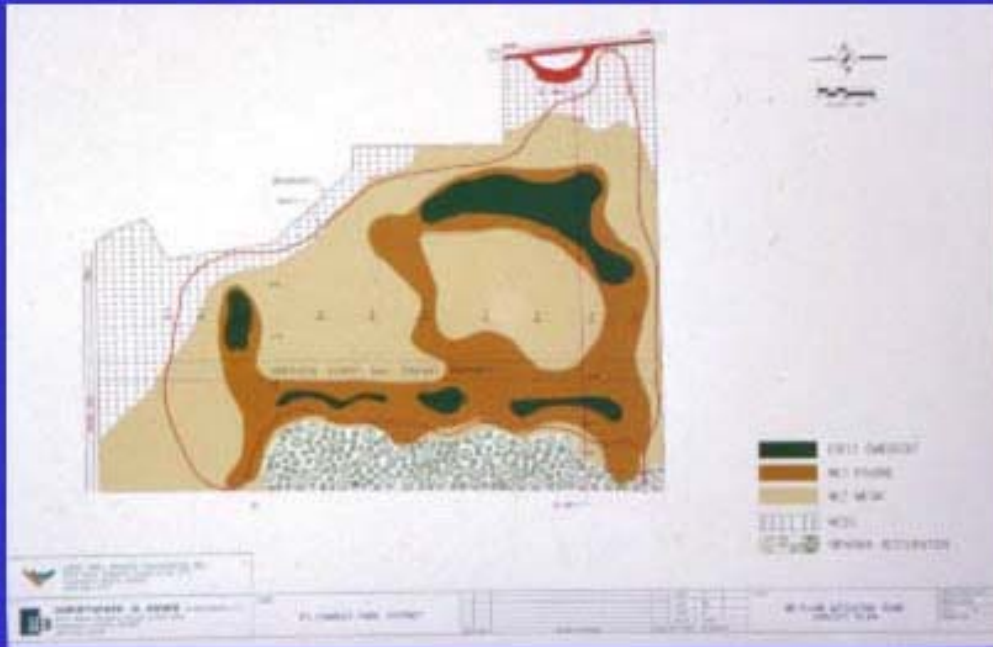
Construction began within one week of obtaining the permit. By May of 1994 the site-work and planting were completed. LAWR and AES have been maintaining and monitoring the site since 1994. The site has now been completely certified and we have met or exceeded all of the required performance standards agreed on in the permit.

Prior to the restoration work, this site was a well-drained cornfield. Field tiles were abundant throughout the site. On the 52-acre site, only 0.3 acres of wetland existed. In the fall of 1993, dust was rolling off the site and the ground was dry and cracked. Now the wetlands are flourishing and wildlife and the public can share the site in harmony.

This project has received a lot of attention, both locally and nationally. It has been used as a model for a successful wetland bank and an excellent example of a public – private venture where both sides win.

Portions of the sales proceeds according to by contract have been given to the St. Charles Park for long term management of the site. The Park District was able to achieve their goal of having the site restored, along with several amenities, at no cost to the public.

## CONCEPTUAL PLANS





Land and Water Resources, Inc.  
9575 W. Higgins Road, Suite 470  
Rosemont, IL 60018  
Phone: 847-692-7170  
Fax: 847-318-9793  
[jryan@lawrinc.com](mailto:jryan@lawrinc.com)  
[www.lawrinc.com](http://www.lawrinc.com)