

Executive Summary

Jackson-Frazier wetland is a valuable natural resource for Benton County; it has become a popular natural site for Benton County residents, and if efforts are made to increase on-site water storage capacity and restore the natural hydrology and habitat of the site, its ability to function in moderating flooding will be enhanced.



Jackson-Frazier Wetland south wetland prairie (May 17th, 2017)

Prior to Benton County ownership of the wetland, significant impacts were made to the resource in an effort to improve farming/development at the site. Since Benton County began managing the site, public access to the site has been enhanced. Efforts have been made to encourage natural vegetation growth (including several endangered species), surveys have been conducted to assess plant and animal diversity, specific priority conservation areas have been identified and designated, and routine monitoring has been conducted to inform management. This technical report sets forth the plans for the next phases of site management while addressing the major historic issues at the site.

The report lists future management goals and objectives, describes specific actions and the rationale for those actions, and establishes metrics of success to be used in future monitoring and adaptive management efforts. The three primary goals for ongoing site restoration are:

1. Restore wetland hydrology through surface contouring, upland feature reduction, and increased soil saturation;
2. Restore vegetation diversity through woody plant reduction, invasive weed control, and native vegetation seeding;
3. Increase environmental education and outreach opportunities through habitat restoration through demonstration areas, educational signage, and volunteer group stewardship work.

The specific objectives and actions to be used in achieving these goals are outlined for implementation during Phase 2, and the rationale behind each of these actions is presented. Notes and considerations for each action for Phase 2 are also provided. A timetable for completion of the Phase 2 actions is set forth, and metrics for measuring and monitoring project success are presented.