

Developing a Management Plan

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I. Know the site – Develop a baseline

A. History

1. Presettlement habitats
2. Historic land use (farmed, range land, homestead, etc.)

B. Soils & Hydrology (the foundation)

1. How does the current system function?
2. Alterations in past that affect present

C. What lives there now?

1. Plants
2. Animals

D. What are the current uses of the property?

1. Active/Passive Recreation
2. What are the uses of neighboring lands?
3. Are there any plans for changes in the neighboring lands?

II. What is the future of the site – Develop a vision

A. Ecological

1. What are the restoration goals?
2. What habitats do you want to promote
 - i. prioritize habitats/species

B. Human

1. What are the goals for human use?
 - i. passive recreation (hiking, birdwatching, fishing, bicycling)
 - ii. active recreation (Frisbee golf, soccer fields, horse stalls)
 - iii. education (interpretive signs, interactive displays)
 - iv. any infrastructure needs?
 - v. prioritize uses

C. Blend the goals

1. What uses are compatible? (hiking trails and fire breaks)
2. Any incompatible uses? (soccer fields and prairie restoration)
3. Plan the visitor's experience and direct accordingly

III. How to achieve the vision – Develop a strategy

A. Resources

1. What moneys are available?
2. What human resources are available?
3. What is the level of community support?

B. Consider professional planners

1. Ecological consultants/planners
2. Landscape architects

C. Prioritize the overall goals and make a schedule