



Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc.

Civil Engineers • Structural Engineers • Land Surveyors • Environmental Specialists
www.hlrengineering.com

April 21, 2025

Mr. Bob VanGyseghem
Superintendent of Water and Wastewater
City of Geneva
22 South First Street
Geneva, Illinois 60134

RE: 2024 Geneva Water Treatment Plant Management Summary

Dear Mr. VanGyseghem,

Hampton, Lenzini, and Renwick, Inc. (HLR) managed the native areas located at the Geneva Water Treatment Plant since 2012. This site continues to show improvement in quality with each year of maintenance. The 2024 management season utilized a combination of invasive species removal methods and enhancements. Below is the yearly management summary for the Geneva Water Treatment Plant managed for the City of Geneva.

Maintenance during the 2024 growing season included monthly herbicide treatments during the growing season throughout the various sections of this site to target any invasive, weedy or undesirable species. The main species targeted within the upland buffers include sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*), crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), and giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*). Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) resprouts were treated in the northeast area where woody removal was conducted in December 2023. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and cattail (*Typha spp.*) were treated in the wetland areas throughout the site. Each season, the populations of these species decline and the population of high-quality native plants increases. Native species that can be found throughout the upland buffers include purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), yellow coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). Species such as swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), duck potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*), and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) are flourishing in the wetlands. In August 2024, live wetland plugs were installed in mud flats along the buffer of the west pond. The species installed can be found in table 1 below. These plugs will aid in the continued establishment of wetland species along this pond buffer. A prescribed burn was conducted throughout the entire site on March 12, 2025 to clear any built-up dormant vegetation, allowing more sunlight to reach the soil in the spring and aiding in native seed germination. A custom seed mix was installed within the islands where woody removal has taken place in previous years, along the slope bordering the south of the site, and along the front finger, following the burn. A list of species installed can be found in table 2 below.

TABLE 1: CUSTOM PLUG SPECIES	
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>IRIS VIRGINICA</i> VAR. <i>SHREVEI</i>	SOUTHERN BLUE FLAG
<i>SCIRPUS PENDULUS</i>	RUFOUS BULRUSH
<i>ASCLEPIAS INCARNATA</i>	SWAMP MILKWEED
<i>SCIRPUS CYPERINUS</i>	WOOL GRASS
<i>SPARGANIUM EURYCARPUM</i>	COMMON BUR WEED
<i>JUNCUS EFFUSUS</i>	COMMON RUSH
<i>CAREX COMOSA</i>	BRISTLY SEDGE
<i>HIBISCUS MOSCHEUTOS</i>	SWAMP ROSE MALLOW

1707 N. Randall Road
Suite 100
Elgin, IL 60123
Tel. 847.697.6700
Fax 847.697.6753

380 Shepard Drive
Elgin, Illinois 60123-7010
Tel. 847.697.6700
Fax 847.697.6753

380 N. Terra Cotta Road
Unit G
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60012
Tel. 847.697.6700
Fax 847.697.6753

3085 Stevenson Drive
Suite 201
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Tel. 217.546.3400
Fax 217.546.8116

323 West 3rd Street
P.O. Box 160
Mt Carmel, Illinois 62863
Tel. 618.262.8651
Fax 618.263.3327

TABLE 2: CUSTOM SEED SPECIES	
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>ANDROPOGON GERARDII</i>	BIG BLUESTEM
<i>RUDBECKIA HIRTA</i>	BLACK-EYED SUSAN
<i>ECHINACEA PURPUREA</i>	PURPLE CONEFLOWER
<i>BOUTELOUA CURTIPENDULA</i>	SIDE OATS GRAMA
<i>SORGHASTRUM NUTANS</i>	INDIAN GRASS
<i>ELYMUS VIRGINICUS</i>	VIRGINIA WILD RYE
<i>ASTER NOVAE-ANGLIAE</i>	NEW ENGLAND ASTER
<i>MONARDA FISTULOSA</i>	WILD BERGAMOT
<i>PANICUM VIRGATUM</i>	SWITCHGRASS
<i>HELIOPSIS HELIANTHOIDES</i>	EARLY SUNFLOWER
<i>RUDBECKIA LACINIATA</i>	WILD GOLDEN GLOW

For the 2025 season, HLR recommends the continuation of routine herbicide treatments to continue phasing out invasive and undesirable plant species. Persistently treating the invasive plant species will allow for a steady decline in population. The installation of live plugs in the wetland areas will aid in the establishment of high-quality wetland species on this site and increase biodiversity. A prescribed burn should be completed each winter to clear any built-up dormant vegetation. A custom seed mix should be installed following the prescribed burn to continue to establish the native ecosystem.

This site has shown increasing progress in each section of this site from the previous season of maintenance. With continued maintenance, this site will continue to improve in native species coverage and diversity. We have appreciated the opportunity to work with the City of Geneva in 2024. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments regarding this summary.

Sincerely,



HAMPTON, LENZINI AND RENWICK, INC.
Kristin Dumoulin
Environmental Scientist



Photo 1: False sunflower in bloom on site (06.18.2024)



Photo 2: North buffer, facing west (06.18.2024)



Photo 3: East buffer, facing south (06.18.2024)



Photo 4: Purple coneflower flourishing on site (06.18.2024)



Photo 5: A diverse array of native species on site (07.10.2024)



Photo 6: Northwest section, facing south (07.10.2024)



Photo 7: South buffer, facing northwest (07.10.2024)



Photo 8: Live plug installation (08.01.2024)



Photo 9: Live plug installation (08.01.2024)



Photo 10: Northwest section of site, facing north (09.10.2024)



Photo 11: Overview of site from north buffer (09.10.2024)



Photo 12: Northern section of the site along parking lot, during the prescribed burn (03.12.2025)



Photo 13: Overview photo of the northern section of the site after the prescribed burn (03.12.2025)



Photo 14: Overview photo of the site after the prescribe burn (03.12.2025)



Photo 15: Before photo of woody removal (03.18.2025)



Photo 16: After photo of woody removal. (03.18.2025)



Photo 17: Before photo of woody removal (03.18.2025)



Photo 18: After photo of woody removal. (03.18.2025)