

Coyote Prairie

Fact Sheet

Improving the Science of Wetland Prairie Restoration



Research team



Coyote Prairie was in production for annual ryegrass seed prior to restoration

With funding assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Lane Council of Governments, City of Eugene, University of Oregon, and the Institute for Applied Ecology have been conducting a series of replicated field experiments at Coyote Prairie. The goal of the research is to improve the science and success of wetland prairie restoration efforts on large scale sites such as Coyote Prairie. The experiments look at all phases of the restoration process including site preparation, plant establishment, and long-term management. Researchers have been utilizing fifty 15-meter by 15-meter test plots located on the northern edge of Coyote Prairie since 2006 and will have compiled into a restoration guide by 2014.



Based on interpretation of Government Land Office survey notes from the 1850s, the area now known as Coyote Prairie was historically dominated by a wetland prairie plant community. Sometime during the late 1800s or early 1900s, the site, along with much of the surrounding landscape, was converted to agricultural uses, originally for hay field and pasture, and then in the early 1970s for grass seed production. In 2004, the 240-acre property was purchased by The Nature Conservancy for conservation purposes and then transferred to the City of Eugene to be restored by the wetland mitigation bank.

For more information on how you can visit Coyote Prairie, please contact the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division at 541-682-4800



www.eugene-or.gov/parks

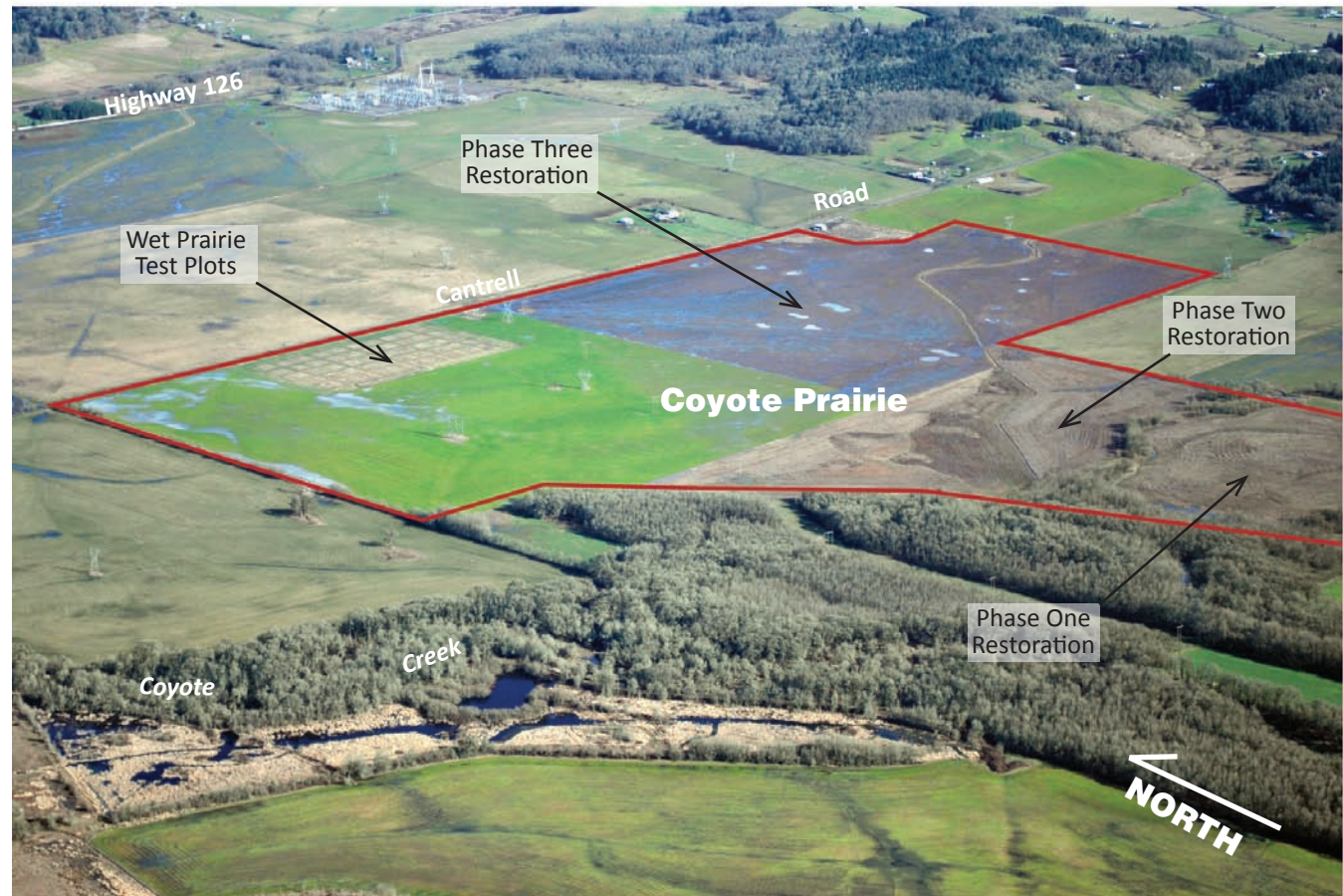


Diversity

Coyote Prairie Restoration

The 240-acre Coyote Prairie wetland mitigation site is located in the Coyote Creek watershed, approximately one and a half miles to the west of Eugene. The City owned property is bordered to the north by Cantrell Road and has been in agricultural production for grass seed since the 1970s. The property is now in the process of being restored to wetland prairie in phases by the City's wetland mitigation bank. The first phase of the project began in 2006, with the restoration of 23 acres of wetland prairie, plus an additional two acres of vernal pool and one acre of upland prairie. The following year, work was begun on 38 additional acres of wetland prairie, and in 2009, the most recent phase of wetland prairie restoration was begun on an additional 84 acres of land. The third phase also included the integration of several vernal pools and native tree and shrub patches to help increase habitat diversity.

Future phases of restoration, totaling approximately 80 acres, are currently being maintained under a temporary agricultural contract or are being utilized for the research test plots. Restoration on these areas will occur beginning in 2014 along with the enhancement of the agricultural ditch the runs through the property.



The site's native vegetation is establishing well, including in the vernal pools where native annual plant species thrive. Monitoring of the newly created vernal pools in the latest phase of the project also revealed that all pools supported aquatic invertebrates. Twelve of 16 vernal pools supported breeding Pacific chorus frogs in 2012 and at least two supported breeding long-toed salamanders. Short-eared owls, American kestrels, northern harriers, red shouldered hawks, and white-tailed kites are commonly seen hunting at Coyote Prairie and elk and coyote are occasionally spotted passing through the area.



Phase One Area in Spring 2011



Phase Three Area in Spring 2012