Kinnikinnick Fields- Protecting 70 Acres in Northern Illinois

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Angelic Organics Learning Center (AOLC)

- Non-profit educational organization and partner of Angelic Organics farm
- Established in 1999
- Offers education about organic and biodynamic farming to:
  - Children and adults through on-farm and urban programs
  - Farmers through training programs and partnerships

2012- Created using Arc GIS Explorer.

Kinnikinnick Fields

- Purchased in the spring of 2012 by AOLC
- 70 acre parcel along the north branch of Kinnikinnick Creek
  - 42 acres of old pasture
  - 12 acres of farmland
  - 8 acres of wetland
  - 8 acres of hardwood forest

2012- Created using Arc GIS Explorer and Boone County GIS Data.

Conserving the Land for Generations to Come

- Kinnikinnick Fields will be protected with a conservation easement
- Conservations easements protect conservation values and prohibit actions that harm them
- Conservation values can be:
  - Natural (water resources, geologic features, rare plants, ect…)
  - Scenic (vegetation, water bodies, topography, ect…)
  - Recreational
  - Educational
  - Open Space (linked with other property to form continuous habitat)
  - Historical
- Land owners still own and manage the land
- A conservation organization such as a land trust, conservation district, or other approved organization will monitor the land perpetually

Pictures taken in May and June 2012 at Kinnikinnick Fields.

Developing a Conservation Easement

- The first step is the creation of baseline documentation
  - A "snapshot" of a property's status for future comparison
  - Consists of maps, species inventories, and legal descriptions
- A conservation organization and the property owner then create a land management plan
  - Outlines future conservation plans
  - Aims to conserve and enhance the conservation values
- Once agreed to, the easement and management plan it is attached to the property in perpetuity, thus ensuring the land will be protected and monitored forever

History of Kinnikinnick Fields

- Historic pictures show the previous use of the land
- Most of the property used to be grazing ground for livestock
- Only the field has stayed the same
- Growth we see today has occurred within the last 70 years
- Most of the land is therefore considered "old pasture"
  - The impact of grazing can still be seen today
  - Very few native species still exist
  - Apple trees planted for farmer use can still be found

August 1941- Courtesy of Illinois Natural Resources Geospatial Data Clearinghouse at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Taken by the United States Army.

Future Use

- Future plans include:
  - A learning center with residential facilities for overnight, year-round programs
  - Campsite
  - Hiking trails
  - Agricultural grounds
- The new center will allow additional programming to 2,500 people annually

My Work at the Natural Land Institute (NLI)

- I primarily worked with NLI and AOLC this summer by helping document and protect Kinnikinnick Fields
- I also monitored the *The Agricultural Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012* (Farm Bill) as it passed through Congress to analyze its impact on local conservation efforts
- Finally, I met with various conservation organizations to learn about different conservation programs available to land owners

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