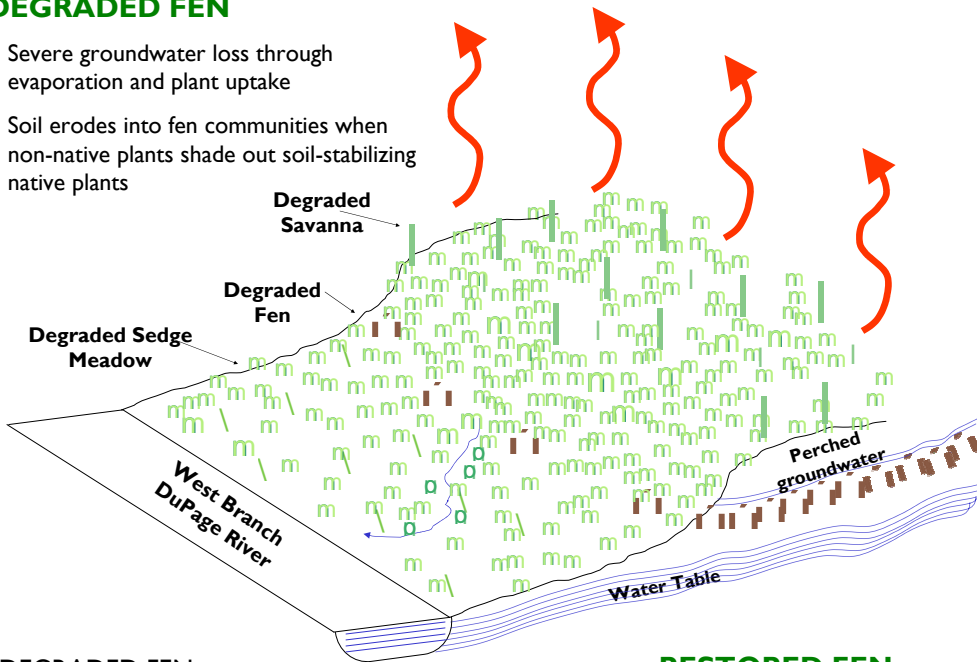


# Fen and Seep Community Restoration

## DEGRADED FEN

- Severe groundwater loss through evaporation and plant uptake
- Soil erodes into fen communities when non-native plants shade out soil-stabilizing native plants

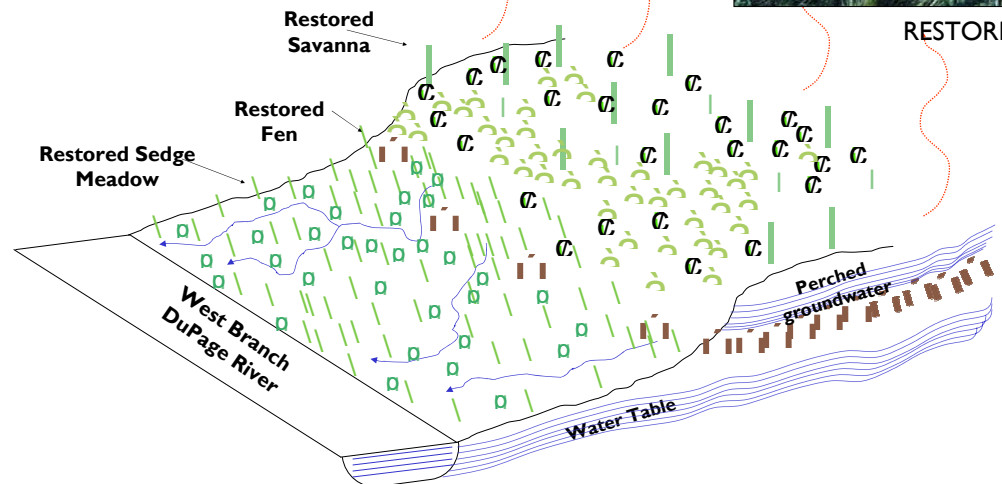


DEGRADED FEN



## RESTORED FEN

- Normal loss through evaporation and plant uptake
- Selective clearing allows light penetration for growth of native soil-stabilizing plants
- Greater infiltration recharges perched groundwater and re-hydrates fen at “toe” of slope
- Increased abundance of host and nectar plants attract fen-associated insects



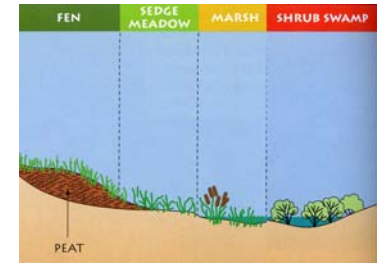
RESTORED FEN

## WHY RESTORE THESE FEN COMMUNITIES?

- Invasive / non-native plants choke out most native species that stabilize the soil
- Invasive plants use up much of the perched groundwater available to fen plants
- Water quality, quantity, and temperature are improved in the main channel of the West Branch of the DuPage River:
  - Fish habitat enhanced by the increase of colder water
  - Reduced sediment in overland flow increases oxygen available to fish

## WHAT IS A FEN?

1. Similar to a wet prairie but has underlying peat instead of mineral soil and is saturated by calcareous (Ca and Mg) groundwater seepage.
2. Usually inhabited by specific plants that require these conditions, such as marsh marigold, skunk cabbage, swamp thistle, and sedges.



Marsh Marigold



Skunk Cabbage



Baltimore Checkerspot

