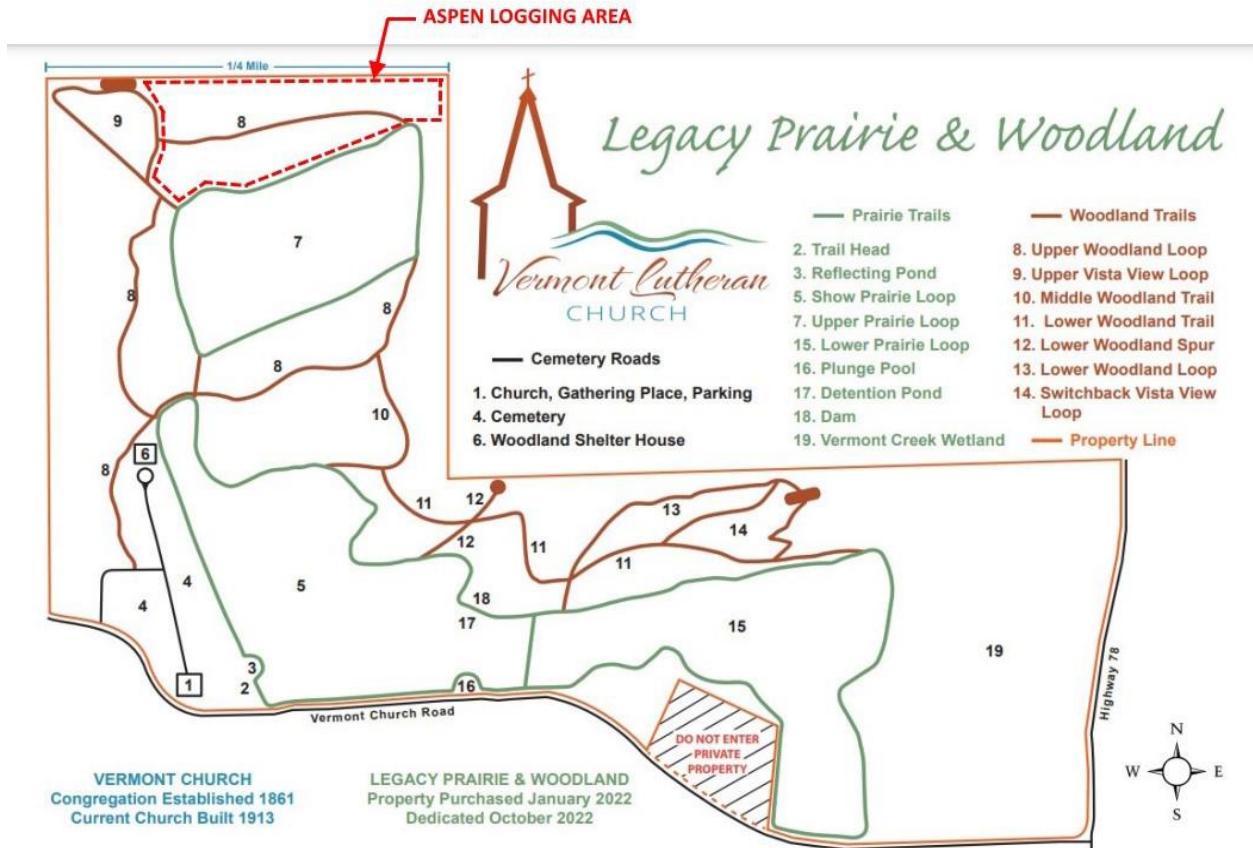


Legacy Prairie & Woodland Update, April 2026

By, Peter Antonie

This month's update will cover the tree removal project that was completed in the northwest portion of the woodland and give you a heads up about the first prairie burn that will take place this month.



Tree Removal Project

The Legacy Committee signed a timber selling contract with Grotegut Logging in May of 2025 to remove Aspen trees on the church property. This was in keeping with the Forestry Management Plan we received through an NRCS grant. These trees were near their active life span and subject to branches breaking off or the whole tree falling; both of which create a liability hazard for people using the woodland trail in that area.

Grotegut Logging began logging to remove the Aspen/Poplar trees on our property on February 23rd from the woodland area designated on the map. They used access through Dale Tollefson's property to remove the trees, so they didn't disturb the church's Prairie.



Careful felling of the Aspen/Poplar trees left good trees behind. Note the hollow trunks on the felled trees.



Moving the downed tree trunks to the collection area.



The collection area where the tree trunks were sawed into appropriate length. The farm field in the background is on the Tollefson property.



The finished product is ready for transport. Any hollow areas of a tree trunk were discarded.



This aerial photo was taken before we purchased the adjacent farm. You can see three distinct farm fields. These are the fields that were planted in prairie. The woods that stick out near the word "church" was where a ditch ran through the property. That area was remediated and is now where the plunge pool, retention pond and dam were built.

Prairie burn – We have approximately 35 total acres of prairie in those three distinct sections. The first section at the top of the hill, north of the cemetery, was planted primarily in prairie grasses with a scattering of forbs (flowers). The section near the church was planted with a seed mix of many forb varieties and grasses. The third section that runs down to the wetland was planted in a seed mix with more grass species than forbs. All sections of the prairie areas were planted in late 2022.

Prairies are commonly burned to discourage woody shrubs and weeds and encourage the prairie plants to flourish. As we reported last month, we plan to burn one section of the prairie this year and begin a rotation such that in three years each section will have been burned and the rotation will begin again. The section of prairie near the church will be the first section burned.

The prairie burn will take place in early-April so that we don't interfere with the Bluebirds who will be looking for nesting in the Bluebird houses later in the month. And a plan is already in place to protect the houses from the fire in the prairie.

Future updates and questions: We know there is a great deal of interest in the Prairie & Woodland, and we will continue to provide regular updates. To contact the Legacy Fund Committee (LFC) with questions or suggestions, email the church or speak with an LFC member: Peter Antonie, Greg Herrling, Larry Ziemer, Leonard Schaub, Karsten Haugen, Jim Herrling, or Gary Olsen.