

FINAL REPORT

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE CONSERVATION CAMPUS CONCEPT PLAN WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT #03-047W

Introduction

The Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve offers an unequalled destination for conservation education, natural and human history awareness and enjoyment, scientific study and restoration ecology. Wolf Road Prairie also provides a location for teacher training, seminars, cultural programs, nature arts, a nature center and museum and Native American exhibits and interpretation. The preserve is easily accessible by major highways and expressways within highly populated Chicagoland and is drawing visitors from all over the world.

To better serve the conservation needs of the public and wildlife for now and the future, an inventory of the features and benefits of Wolf Road Prairie has been compiled in the Concept Plan for the development of a Conservation Campus. These multi-level features combine to create a broad spectrum of attractions and services all located at one of the richest and most diverse natural areas in Illinois. The Plan has been developed to appeal to visitors, protect rare natural resources and promote Wolf Road Prairie as a conservation destination and education hub.

Materials

The objective of the Campus Plan is to create wider awareness and appreciation of the features of Wolf Road Prairie for public education and natural resource protection. In order to accomplish this purpose, a 32-page, full color publication was developed and designed. The Plan features a front cover cutout revealing a close-up of beautiful wild bergamot blossoms. When the cover page is turned open, a full color diversity photograph of Wolf Road Prairie in summer covers the page as a mid-landscape view.

The following materials were used to develop the pages of the Plan:

1. Articles written by natural resource and environmental economic professionals.
2. A species list identifying the 360 native plants of Wolf Road Prairie with Latin and common names.
3. A bird species census list compiled from 1983 to 2003.
4. Seasonal, close-up and landscape photos.
5. An aerial photo of Wolf Road Prairie and buffer.
6. Photos of students and adults touring the preserve and visiting the Prairie House nature center.

7. Original artwork.
8. A c. 1808 map showing the tribal boundaries of the Potawatomi village of Sauganakka which included Wolf Road Prairie and bufferlands.
9. A site map identifying the features, locations and uses of Wolf Road Prairie, bufferlands and compatible structures.
10. Principles of ecological land management and bird habitat requirements.
11. Historic and philosophical quotes.
12. Descriptions of prairie and the ecosystem features of the preserve.
13. Original text describing Wolf Road Prairie and the Campus Plan and why Wolf Road Prairie is ideally suited to be the site of a Conservation Campus.
14. Lists of partners, including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, advisors, volunteers, artists, photographers and Save the Prairie Society board members and a direction map to Wolf Road Prairie.
15. A summary of how Wolf Road Prairie and the Campus Plan fulfill the goals and purposes of Chicago Wilderness.

Methods

Initially, a draft Campus Concept Plan was developed and circulated to partners and consultants for discussion and comment. Photos, images, species lists and original art were gathered, and information and text written and compiled. The plan was laid out page-by-page, integrating written material with photos and artwork reflective of the theme and topic of the page. Over 300 hours were devoted by volunteers to writing, typesetting, research and sizing and selection of graphics, followed by proofreading and contacting area printers to determine which printer would provide the best service and price. Subsequently, camera-ready pages of the Plan were delivered to Unique Printers along with original photos. Unique Printers agreed to print the Plan for \$1,000.00, the amount of the grant, and donate the remainder of the cost of printing for 1,000 copies of the 32-page full color Concept Plan valued at \$5,000.00.

Results

The Campus Plan was originally intended to be 16 pages long with only four full-color pages. But as the Plan evolved, additional critical and supportive information was added to create a more thorough, factual and comprehensive booklet, bringing the Plan to 32 pages. As a result, the expanded Plan contains many more features and photos and better lays out the concept for the development of a Conservation Campus at Wolf Road Prairie. The Plan will be distributed to elected officials, natural resource managers, conservation agencies and groups, educators, professionals, the media and the public for the purposes of promotion of conservation issues and values and education outreach. The Plan will be adapted to the Save the Prairie Society website (www.savetheprairiesociety.org) with links to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission websites when funding is

available to transfer the Conservation Campus Concept Plan to our site. We will publish information about the Plan in our newsletters and Annual Report to members and make copies available upon request.

Discussion

The Conservation Campus Concept Plan presents a blueprint to develop Wolf Road Prairie into a world-renowned conservation destination and educational resource. The Plan identifies the need for additional buffer acquisition to protect the watershed and biodiversity and enlarge the preserve as recommended by natural resource experts. The Plan serves as a guideline for potential uses of land and structures in order to offer a wide variety of programs, studies and events designed to appeal to a diverse conservation audience, create awareness of conservation, historic and cultural values and establish societal benefits which result from the preservation and protection of the original landscape features and human history of Illinois.

Summary

The Wolf Road Prairie preservation project has benefited from private and public collaborative partnerships for over 25 years, resulting in land acquisition, native ecosystem restoration, native plant propagation, cultural and historic programs and conservation education programs. Over 2,000 students participate in outdoor classroom activities and field trips at Wolf Road Prairie each year offered without charge and led by Society volunteers. Free programs scheduled for adults are held at the Prairie House Nature Center monthly. Special events such as National Public Lands Day, Settlers Day and Prairie Fest are held annually. These kinds of programs and services are expected to grow once the Concept Plan moves from the visionary phase to implementation and development.

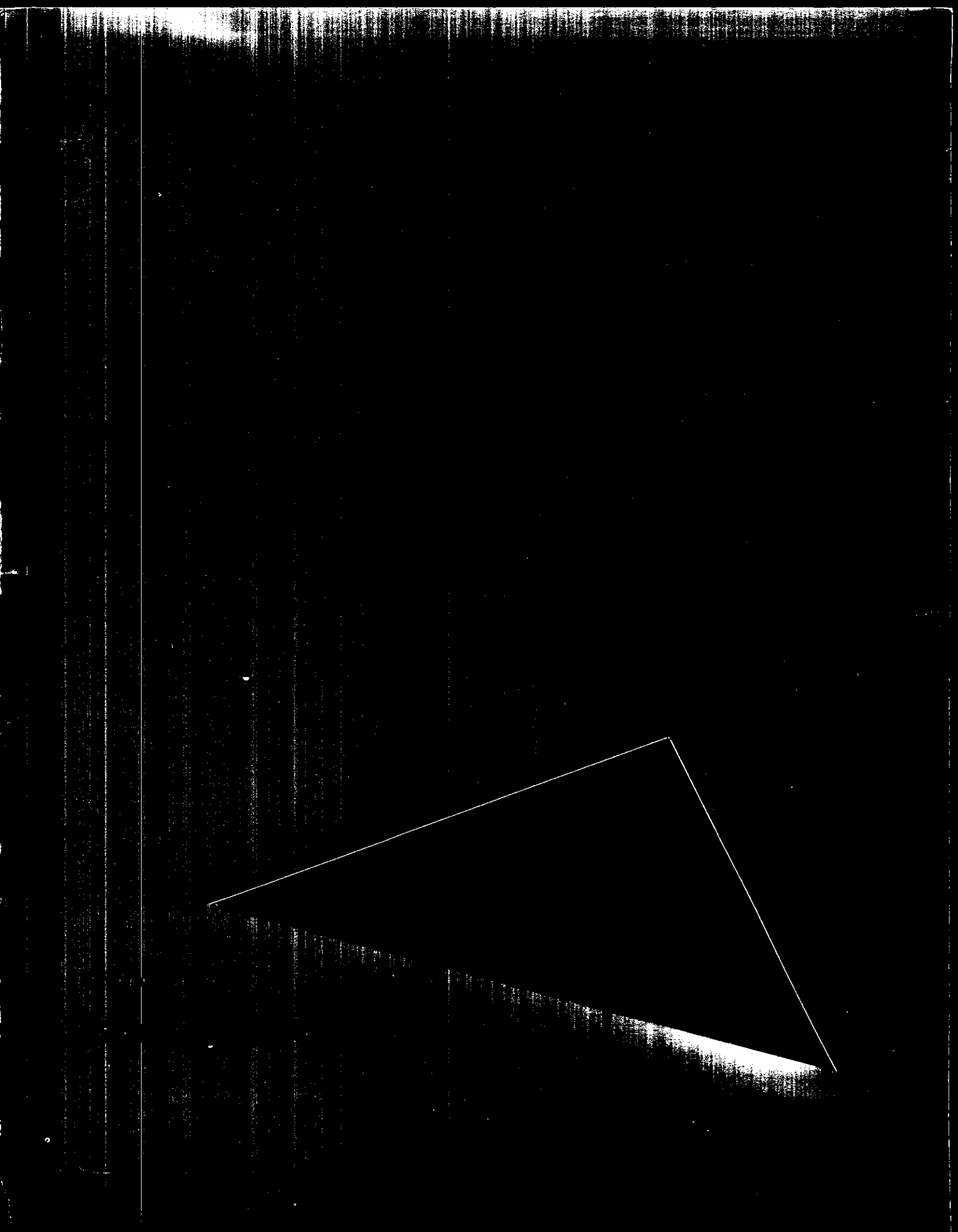
The nucleus of the Conservation Campus at Wolf Road Prairie is already in place and functioning with the Prairie House Nature Center serving as the gateway to the preserve. But it is the potential for growth and greater public outreach that excites the imagination. The Campus Plan lays the groundwork for this Wolf Road Prairie of the future.

Slides/Photos

There are no slides or photos of the Plan available, as the Plan itself is the product. We are providing IDNR with a dozen copies of the Plan at this time. More copies can be obtained at any time.

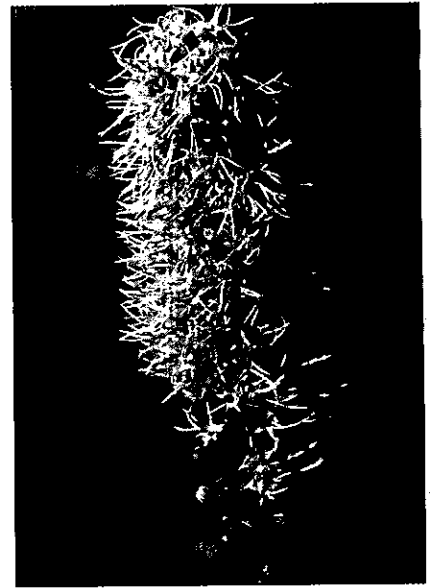
Expenditures

Cost of printing – funded by grant – 1,000 copies.....	\$1,000.00
Value of donated printing costs – Unique Printers	\$5,000.00
Value of hours donated by volunteers to write, design, lay out, obtain photos, artwork and supporting materials and finalize completion of the Plan 300 hours @ \$10.00 per hour	\$3,000.00
Total Cost of Project	\$9,000.00





Photos: Tim Burke



A SAMPLING OF NATIVE PLANTS AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

Photo: Mike McDonald

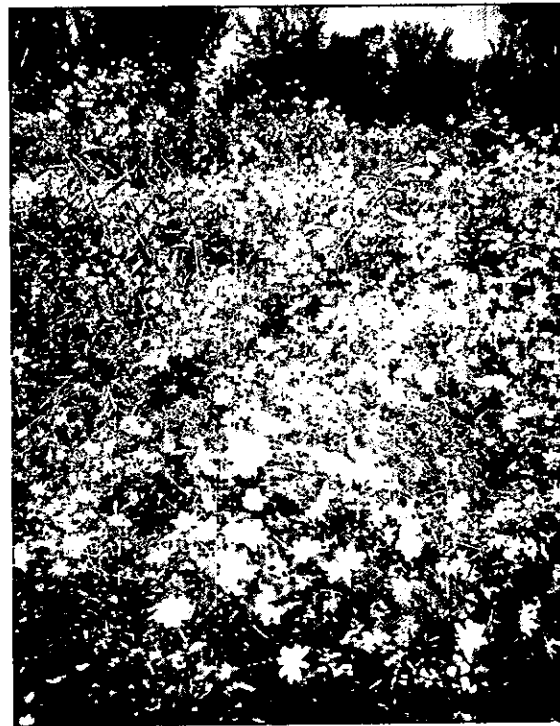


Photo: Phil Chlar

Contents

Save the Prairie Society

July, 2003

6	The Role of Save the Prairie Society
7-9	Wolf Road Prairie Conservation Campus
10-11	Features and Benefits of the Conservation Campus
12	Protecting Biodiversity at Wolf Road Prairie
13	Native American Peoples--Potawatomi Influence
14	Campus Plan Fulfills Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan Recommendations
<hr/>	
16-17	Special Feature -- Conservation Campus Concept Map Color-coded for ease of reference
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19	Valuing the Environment
20-21	Wolf Road Prairie Ecosystems
22	Managing Wolf Road Prairie for Biodiversity
23-26	Wolf Road Prairie Native Plant Species List
26	Bird Monitors' Goal
27	Wolf Road Prairie Bird Census
28	The Prairie
31	Save the Prairie Society, Partnerships and Travel Map

PHOTO GALLERY

3	Summer at Wolf Road Prairie
4	A Sampling of Native Plants at Wolf Road Prairie
15	Wolf Road Prairie -- The Place to Go for Nature Education
18	Hickory Lane--Pastoral Landscape in the Heart of Chicagoland
29	Aerial View of Wolf Road Prairie and Hickory Lane Buffer
30	Scenes of the Seasons at Wolf Road Prairie

Save the Prairie Society
10327 Elizabeth, Westchester, IL 60154

This Concept Plan was funded in part by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
from contributions to the Illinois Wildlife Conservation Fund and
the generosity of Unique Printers, Cicero, Illinois



THE ROLE OF SAVE THE PRAIRIE SOCIETY AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE IS . . .

- * To partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission as a not-for-profit support organization to benefit conservation.
- * To provide volunteers to assist with the management and restoration of Wolf Road Prairie and buffer.
- * To conduct educational programs, field trips, prairie tours and classroom visits at Wolf Road Prairie.
- * To seek funding through grants and private donations to enhance public ownership and protection of biodiversity of Wolf Road Prairie and buffer.
- * To conduct native plant propagation on buffer to the prairie and encourage scientific study.
- * To sponsor programs, activities and events as a public service, develop nature exhibits and promote conservation awareness values.

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE Conservation Campus

-- Microcosm of Illinois Landscapes

For over a quarter century, Save the Prairie Society has focused on preserving and restoring Wolf Road Prairie, protecting and enhancing biodiversity at the preserve and conducting conservation and outreach programs.

When we began our work, the prairie movement was in its infancy. Saving Wolf Road Prairie faced incredible odds, and in the beginning, few people thought it could be done. Then as land in the prairie began to be acquired and restoration was introduced, Wolf Road Prairie became an inspiration for other challenging preservation projects.

Now, Save the Prairie Society envisions Wolf Road Prairie assuming a new leadership role--one that takes conservation education and public outreach to a broader level of awareness and participation. As more and more visitors gravitate to the site seeking information on native ecosystems, natural resource protection and restoration, stewardship of the land and conservation education programs, Wolf Road Prairie is emerging as the ideal location for a Conservation Campus.

The original landscapes of Wolf Road Prairie set the backdrop for this rich nature learning experience at an easily accessible location close to major highways just 12 miles west of the Chicago Loop. Situated within the core suburbs of highly populated central Cook County, Wolf Road Prairie takes visitors back over 10,000 years to a time when the last glaciers had retreated and the famed grasslands and oak and hickory savannas of northeastern Illinois, abundant wildlife and first humans arrived to a warming and hospitable ancient world.

More recently, the French, English and Spanish left their marks upon the history of Illinois as they explored the territory and interacted with native peoples. By the early 1800's, a surge of European settlers moved into Illinois, and the displacement of frontiersmen and the tribes of the Great Lakes region began. The vast wilderness which had remained virtually unaltered by human presence for millennia was transformed within a short span of time into farms, towns and cities, and centuries' old cultures connected to living in harmony with the land vanished with the prairies, wetlands and forests.



Photo: Tim Burke



Today, Wolf Road Prairie, considered the largest and finest original black soil prairie east of the Mississippi River, remains a link to that rich natural and human history of our past. The Prairie House Nature Center located at the north end of the preserve, believed to be the oldest structure in Westchester, traces its origins to the German settlement of Franzosenbusch and contains within its walls the c. 1852 first Lutheran school in Proviso Township. It was here that those settlers also held their first community meetings and church services.

Now the Prairie House is taking on a new life. As the Gateway to Wolf Road Prairie and the Conservation Campus, the Prairie House is a welcoming center to thousands of visitors annually. It is a place where rich local history is interpreted enveloped by vistas of original tall grasses and colorful wildflowers unlike any other scene in Illinois.

The nucleus of the Conservation Campus at Wolf Road Prairie is already in place and functioning, but it is the potential for growth and greater public outreach that excites the imagination. It is here that a broad spectrum of opportunities for conservation learning and enjoyment come together to create a one-of-a-kind natural and human history educational hub. Nature studies and prairie tours, Native American studies and displays, teacher training programs, scientific research, historical research, international conservation collaboration, a natural history library, native plant propagation, ecosystem restoration, nature arts and much more provide a diverse yet fully compatible curriculum of programs, events, exhibits and outreach designed to attract visitors while promoting the value and importance of conservation.

A key component of the Wolf Road Prairie Conservation Campus Plan focuses upon the Hickory Lane bufferlands. Experts recommend that Wolf Road Prairie be enlarged to protect its watershed and biodiversity, and restoration already underway on several Hickory Lane bufferland properties is demonstrating how lands adjacent rich natural areas can serve as recovery sites and benefit native species and wildlife.

Although opportunities to acquire and restore sensitive sites are rapidly being lost to development sprawl and other urbanized uses throughout Illinois, the window is still open to acquire more bufferlands at Wolf Road Prairie and work with interested private landowners who may wish to preserve their large spacious properties before they are lost to high density development.

The investment in dollars and efforts to realize this vision may be challenging, but as Wolf Road Prairie gains greater recognition, prestige and acclaim as a world renowned conservation education center and hub, the rewards and benefits to the natural world and to the public in years to come will far outweigh the costs and commitments of the present.

The Campus Plan lays the groundwork for this Wolf Road Prairie of the future.



Photo: Larry Godson

FEATURES AND PUBLIC BENEFITS OF THE WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE CONSERVATION CAMPUS

1852 Prairie House Museum Nature Center . . . Gateway to Wolf Road Prairie Conservation Campus

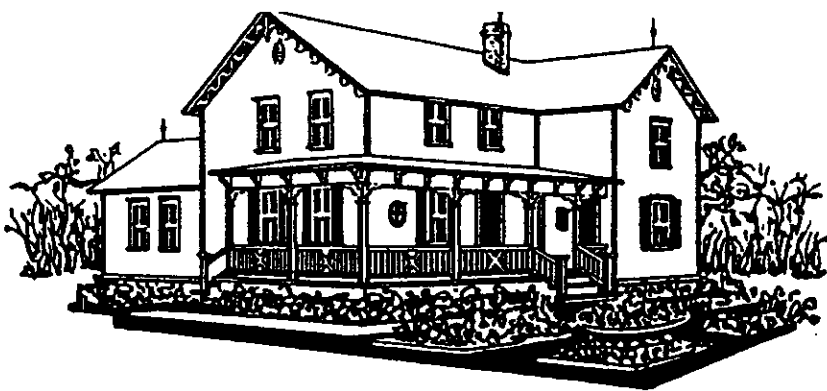
Wolf Road Prairie is drawing visitors from all over the world and has no equal in the Chicago Wilderness area or in the State of Illinois as a conservation hub. The multi-level attractions of natural resource preservation, conservation, education, native ecosystem restoration, Native American cultural interpretation, historic preservation and nature arts create a campus environment which appeals to a broad spectrum of visitor interests and showcases the incredible diversity and versatility of the Wolf Road Prairie Eco-Region.

Attractions of the Wolf Road Prairie Conservation Campus include:

- * Preservation and restoration of rare and imperiled prairie, savanna, wetland, stream corridor and pond ecosystems at one easily accessible location
- * Prairie House Nature Center featuring rotating natural history exhibits, programs, demonstrations and special events
- * Rare native genotype seed bank and seed gardens
- * Native plant propagation demonstration site with greenhouse and seed processing facility
- * Scientific and restoration research facilities
- * Internship programs
- * Watershed recovery and demonstration site in the West Cook Salt Creek Basin
- * Senior citizen programs and tours
- * Teacher training, outreach programs and Chicago Wilderness West Cook Hub training site
- * Collaborative educational programs with regional institutions — i.e. Triton College, University of Illinois at Chicago, College of DuPage, Northeastern Illinois University, Robert Morris College, Brookfield Zoo, Riverside-Brookfield High School, Proviso East and West High Schools, local grade schools, special adult education programs and Chicago area underserved schools such as Jackie Robinson, O'Toole and Elvalor
- * Natural history library collection
- * Student ecology and group tours and orientations
- * Facilities for workshops and seminars for resource managers, conservation organizations, officials, media and educators



Photo: Tim Burke



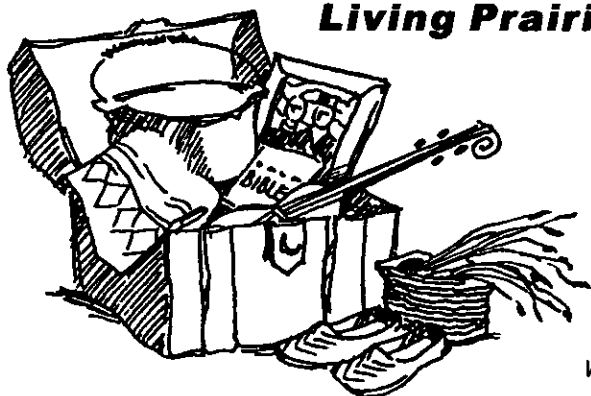
Franzosenbusch Prairie House Museum/Nature Center

- * Native American cultural programs and interpretive exhibits and facilities
- * Adaptive re-use of existing publicly owned structures on bufferlands for educational programs, classes, presentations, learning opportunities and teacher training
- * Cultural programs, including nature art, writing, photography, videodocumentation and early settler and Native American crafts, exhibits and interpretation
- * Native plant heritage and heirloom gardens
- * Native American food, spiritual and medicinal gardens
- * A trail system linking to the Salt Creek Greenway
- * Restoration and furnishing of the c. 1852 Franzosenbusch schoolroom and teacherage as a museum within the Prairie House Nature Center
- * Early settler genealogical study programs and research library
- * Connection to the underground railroad and Civil War period
- * Historic re-enactments and free public programs, tours, presentations and events
- * Tourism destination attracting local, statewide, national and international visitors and cultural exchange programs

Note: The Campus Plan includes Wolf Road Prairie, 60 acres of Hickory Lane Bufferlands, The Prairie House Museum/Nature Center with links to the Salt Creek Greenway and Bemis Woods Forest Preserve.



Living Prairie League



Midwest SOARRING Foundation

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

Photo: Tim Burke



Photos: Antony Scariati



Wolf Road Prairie should be maintained as high quality prairie, wetland and savanna ecosystems by protecting, managing, and restoring pre-settlement vegetation and ecosystem processes, maintaining natural communities and species diversity, and restoring native plant and animal species to the extent possible within the constraints of the preserve's size and urban contexts. Planning is needed for buffering or enhancing the interaction between Wolf Road Prairie and its surrounding environment and providing a high quality educational research resource that does not compromise the integrity of the natural area.

The importance of maintaining adequate buffer for Wolf Road Prairie has been recognized by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Forest Preserve District of Cook County and Save the Prairie Society. The communities present in Wolf Road Prairie and the associated neighboring lands are a complex assemblage of living things co-existing in communities, and it is more important to examine these systems from the viewpoint of biodiversity.

The present environmental conditions of sites like the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve continue to include many of the requisite factors such as fertility, stability of climate and adequate moisture. The Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve today, however, is a small island of natural area compared to that which existed in the area now called Westchester prior to settlement.

In order to adequately insure the future of this preserve and its attendant biodiversity, it is necessary to continue ecosystem restoration and management and most importantly to include as much land surface as possible from an ecological perspective and include the greatest possible diversity.

** Excerpt from the Wolf Road Prairie Management Plan by Martin Bowles, The Morton Arboretum*

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE CAMPUS PLAN FULFILLS CHICAGO WILDERNESS BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

"Chicago Wilderness refers to nature and to the people and institutions that protect it. Many of the surviving natural communities of the Chicago region are of national and global significance for conservation. The region is blessed with both richness and opportunity for conservation."

Biodiversity Recovery Plan -- 1999

The Wolf Road Prairie Conservation Campus addresses these selected goals of the Chicago Wilderness Recovery Plan:

1. Involves the citizens, organizations and agencies of the region in efforts to conserve biodiversity
2. Improves the scientific basis of ecological management
3. Protects globally and regionally important natural communities
4. Restores natural communities to ecological health
5. Manages natural communities to sustain natural biodiversity
6. Develops citizen awareness and understanding of local biodiversity to ensure support and participation
7. Fosters a sustainable relationship between society and nature in the region
8. Enriches the quality of lives of the region's citizens

The Campus Plan implements these selected goals at Wolf Road Prairie by:

1. Creating and managing a larger preserve and working with public agencies to acquire and restore bufferlands
2. Understanding and mitigating urban threats
3. Protecting priority areas and endangered species
4. Expanding ecological management research and monitoring
5. Including watershed management in the preserve design
6. Developing educational and communication programs and outreach
7. Creating a long-term vision and recovery goal for rare terrestrial communities
8. Recording human history on the land
9. Developing a research station for the preservation and propagation of native genotypes



Photo: Tim Burke



WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

--THE PLACE TO GO FOR NATURE EDUCATION



Photos: Phil Cihlar





CONSERVATION CAMPUS

CONCEPT PLAN MAP

The Wolf Road Prairie Campus Plan Map identifies native plant and ecosystem landscape recovery sites and adaptive re-uses of existing structures for seminars, scientific study sessions, conservation workshops, teacher training, cultural interpretive programs, historic archives, Native American exhibits and many more public purposes and benefits.

Harrier Marsh Lookout/Study Site --
Elevated permanent observation platform overlooking wetlands -- #9 Hickory Lane

Greenhouse/Propagation Plots --
Seed processing and plant propagation facilities -- #9 Hickory Lane

Heritage Center --
Exhibits and programs highlighting early settlement history and the Civil War period of the area -- #8 Hickory Lane

Nature Arts Center --
Painting, photography, music, crafts, classes exhibits and journal writing -- #5 Hickory Lane

Savanna Restoration --
An open grown savanna recovery and scientific study site on 10 acres of original savanna soil -- #1 Shagbark Lane & #6 Hickory Lane

IDNR/FPDCC Security/Admin. Office --
Satellite educational facility and work site for environmental studies -- #2 Hickory Lane

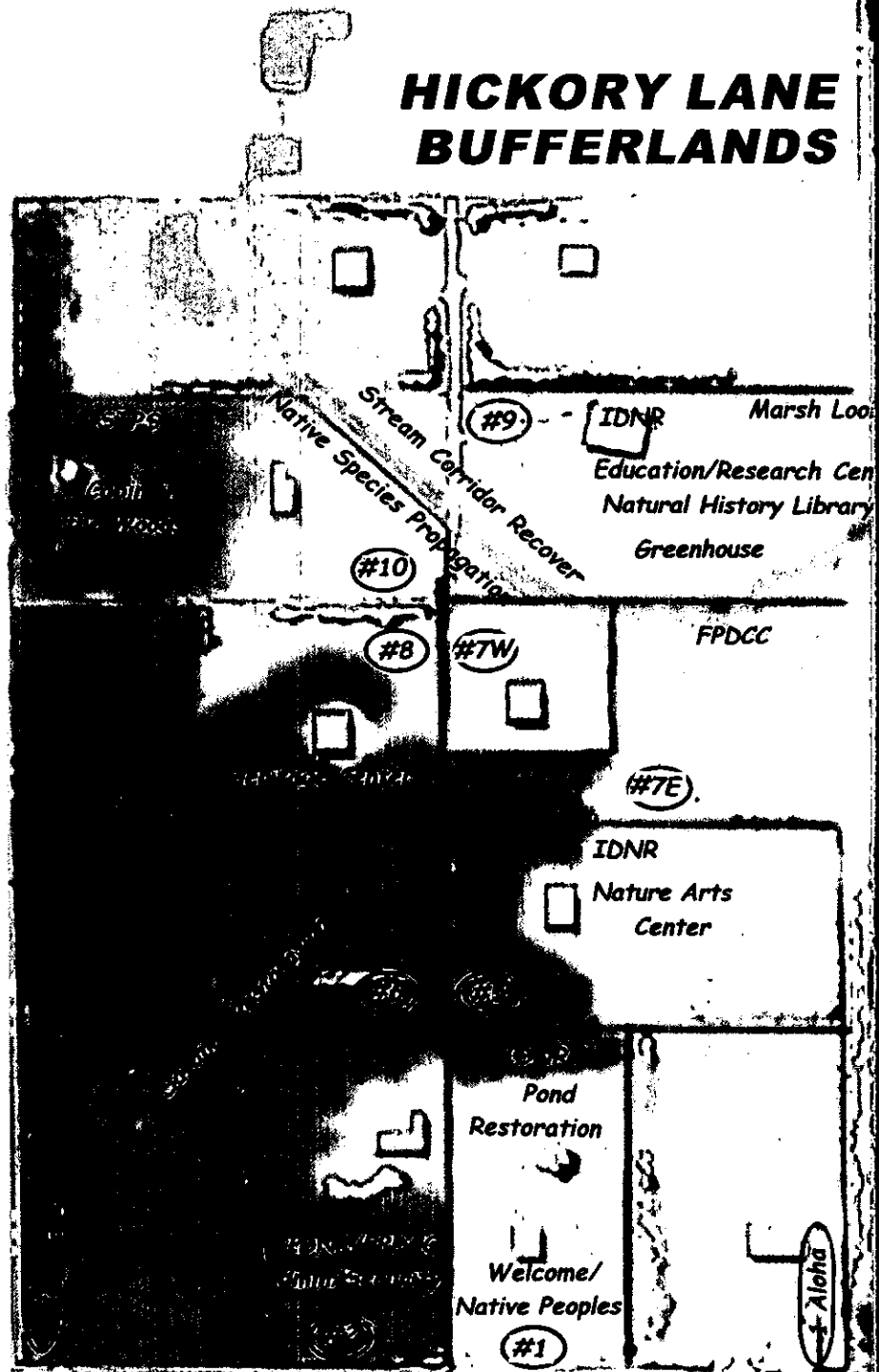
Welcome/Native American Lodge --
Informal greeting area and program site for visitors -- Midwest SOARRING Native American museum and exhibits -- #1 Hickory Lane

Pond/Wetland Restoration --
Adding an additional ecosystem feature to preserve -- #1 Hickory Lane

Education/Training Center --
Teacher training classrooms with site for pond and wet prairie restoration -- #1 Aloha Lane

31st Street Information Kiosk --
Twin Wolf Road Prairie exhibit cases holding revolving displays, data and Calendar of Events at Wolf Road Prairie

HICKORY LANE BUFFERLANDS



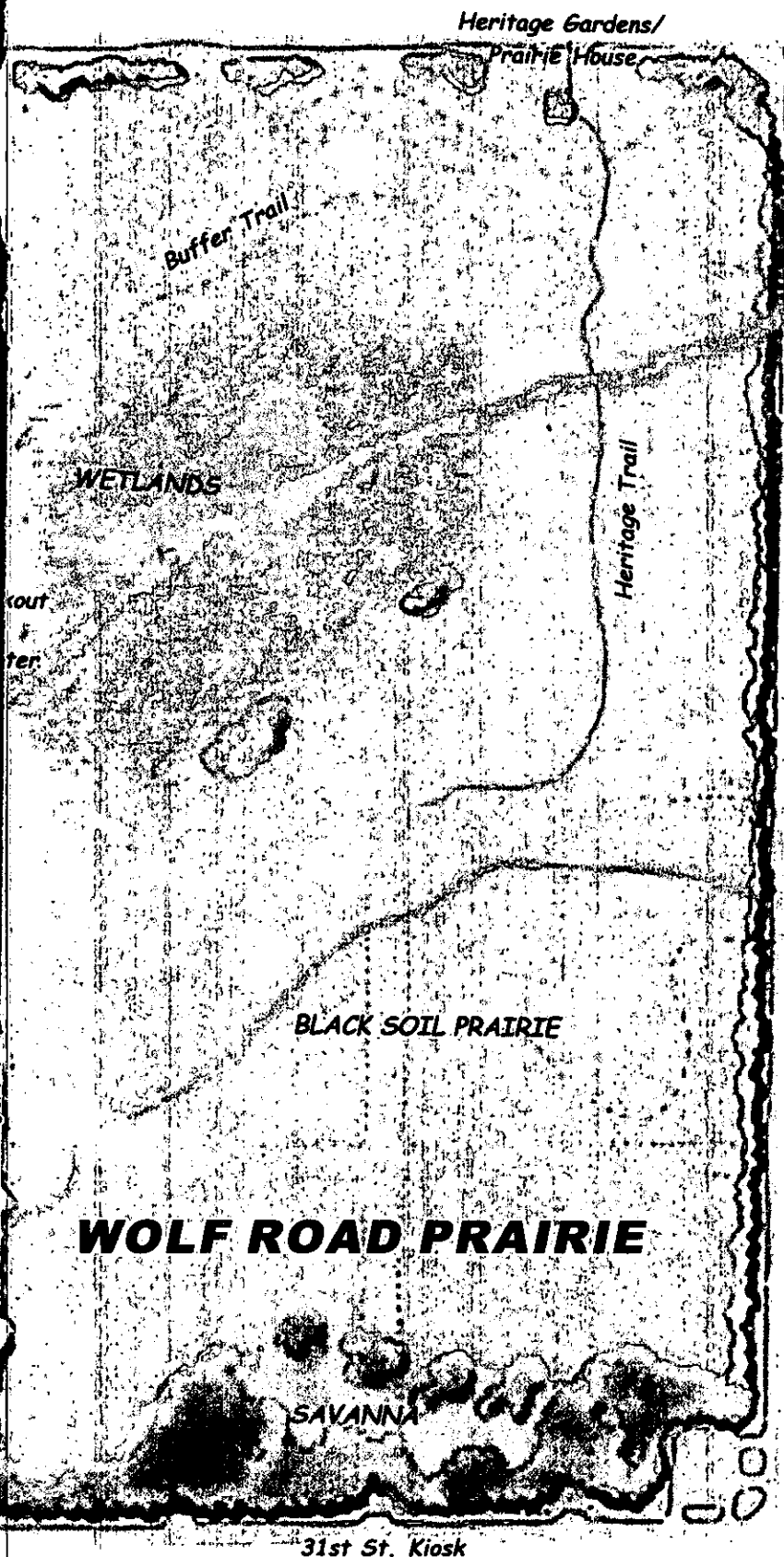
PRAIRIE

STREAM RECOVERY

MARSH

MESIC SAVANNA

SEDGE MEADOW
AND WET PRAIRIE



**Franzosenbusch Prairie House
Museum/Nature Center --**

Gateway to Wolf Road Prairie featuring natural,
cultural and historical exhibits and programs

Heritage Gardens --

A series of colorful theme gardens spanning the
150 year history of the Franzosenbusch Prairie
House including Native American, German immigrant,
WW II "Victory" and a dozen other floral displays

Heritage Trail --

A 1/2 mile north/south pathway leading from the
Prairie House to the 31st Street savanna

Buffer Trail --

Leads westward from the Prairie House to Hickory
Lane Campus Complex, then south to 31st Street

STPS Education/Research Center --

Training facility for professional and public study
and research -- #9 Hickory Lane

Natural History Library --

Over 5,000 volume collection of nature books plus
thousands of natural history magazines --
#9 Hickory Lane

Stream Corridor Recovery --

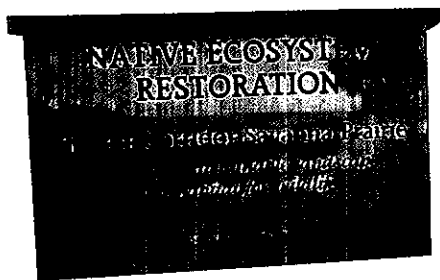
Water flow and stream bank restoration to enhance
water quality and prevent erosion through plantings
of native genotypes -- #9 & #10 Hickory Lane

Native Species Propagation Beds --

Plantings of approximately 40 species of grasses
and forbs from original Wolf Road Prairie seed --
#9 and #10 Hickory Lane

Learning "Cabin in the Woods" --

Nature programs and activities in an open area
especially suited for scout groups and students --
#10 Hickory Lane



Photos: Phil Cihlar



HICKORY LANE --

PASTORAL LANDSCAPE IN THE HEART OF CHICAGOLAND



VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT

by Jeff Swano

SALT CREEK WATERSHED NETWORK

Studies show that for each dollar spent by IDNR for outdoor recreation, another \$25 is generated for Illinois' economy.

—Outdoor Illinois, April 2002

The exact value of a tract of open space is generally difficult to estimate. The primary reason for this is because its value in environmental economic terms is the sum of each individual's demand curves (values that individuals place on the specific tract) plus the environmental services the tract provides for society (e.g. cleaning water if it is a wetland, providing oxygen if it is a forest, etc.).

Essentially, economics is the study of human behaviors and the changes in behaviors based on information and individual preferences and values. Environmental economics is the way individuals behave given the state of the environment. In order for biodiversity to be valued as a benefit to humans, the value that humans apply to biodiversity must be measured.

Values can be obtained through observation of behaviors, surveys to individuals and reasonable comparisons with known market values. Some values are intrinsic, and society agrees that they are important but cannot put an exact value on it. In these cases, it is easier to measure the damages or losses to that unknown intrinsic value.

General environmental concepts such as environmental services, biodiversity and eco-tourism can be explained. At a minimum, all these concepts can come together to form an acceptable model that can be used to communicate intrinsic and extrinsic values.

Measurable Traits of Environmental Services

- * Potential for drinking water usage
- * Cleaning water (wetlands and phytoremediation) and pollutant assimilation/absorption
- * Air to breath (oxygen production)
- * Purifying air (carbon sequestration)
- * Flood control and rainfall storage

Measurable Traits of Biodiversity

- * Number of species (with rarity implying higher values)
- * Population numbers within each species
- * Interconnectedness among species (value of food chain)
- * Aesthetic values and human enjoyment of biodiversity (eco-tourism)

Measurable Traits of Eco-Tourism

- * Aggregate (round trip) travel costs including time, distance, gas, and prorated transportation (equipment and insurance)
- * Time spent at the site
- * The actual recreational activities participated in
- * Availability of nearby similar attractions
- * Labor hours provided by volunteers to enhance the site which leads to an increased asset value
- * Amenities at the site

Environmental Services

Estimating environmental services is based on logical comparisons to known market variables combined with scientific observations. For example, 5,000 gallons of water entering a wetland contain 65 parts per million (ppm) of total suspended solids (TSS) and water exiting the wetland contains 25 ppm TSS. The wetland provides filtration services removing 40 ppm per 5,000 gallons per day. The results can be compared to mechanical filtration systems, assimilated and presented in a unified manner.

In order to create and manage large preserves, land holdings in public ownership and potential acquisition sites should be assessed. Investment in land acquisition calls for determining which sites provide the biggest return for the investment based upon environmental services, valuing biodiversity, eco-tourism and the presence of threatened and endangered species. Greater emphasis should be placed on land acquisition as a means of protecting rare species because of the inherent higher values (due to rarity) and the potential for a higher return on investment. Priority should be given to creating complexes of communities since many animal species are dependent upon a variety of habitats which also creates value.

More research is needed to determine the value of a single plant species based on its relationship to or dependence on specialized biological or environmental factors such as specific pollinators, soil microorganisms, hydrological conditions, soil chemistry or soil parent materials. Models can be developed to lay out the relative values that the environment confers onto the plant species, the plant species onto the general health of an ecosystem and that ecosystem's general value to humans in numerous ways. Public recognition of the value of biodiversity is important to achieving conservation goals.

The easy part of valuing ecosystems is that it is merely the sum of all individuals' demand curves. The problem with valuing ecosystems is that everyone values the environment differently which is heavily based on levels of education. Understanding that educating the public results in an increased value of the environment without any physical alteration to the environment has a profound meaning, and places emphasis on education as a means for increasing environmental values.

Jeff Swano, environmental economist and founding Executive Director of the Salt Creek Watershed Network, has 15 years experience in environmental economic analysis, contaminated property assessment, solid waste management and watershed protection.

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE Ecosystems

The 80 acre Wolf Road Prairie is considered the largest remaining tract of typic silt loam prairie east of the Mississippi River. Over 360 native plant species have been recorded, including state and federally listed threatened and endangered species such as the prairie fringed orchid, bearded wheat grass and white lady slipper orchid. More than 300 insect species and 28 remnant dependant butterflies and moths, including three found nowhere else in Illinois, have been recorded. The natural area also contains a large wetland and a globally imperiled black soil savanna, one of the rarest ecosystems on earth.



PRINCIPLES OF ECOLOGY

It is essential to develop a landscape-level preserve design for Wolf Road Prairie. The existing landscape characteristics should be interpreted in a hierarchical scale that relates to landscape preserve design theory, and the planning process should anticipate the need for more public open space and expanded conservation education, professional study, heritage programming and events in the decades ahead. The principles of ecology that result in high biodiversity can be grouped into two categories; those relating to spatial aspects of communities; and those relating to biological aspects. The following list is not inclusive of all possible principles but contains those that pertain to the need to acquire additional acreage or provide adequate buffer that is maintained according to sound ecological concepts. These ecological principles are more fully described in the text *Landscape Restoration Handbook* by Harker, Evans, Evans and Harker, 1993.

PRAIRIE



SAVANNA

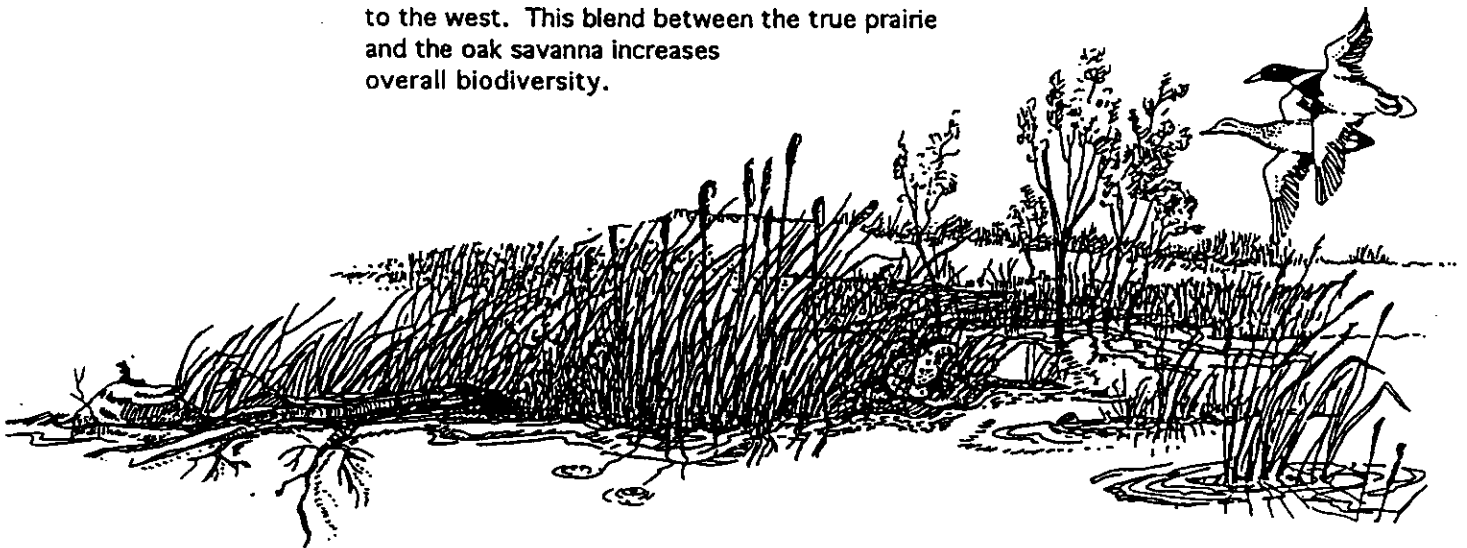
Spatial Principles--

Large areas of natural communities sustain more species than small areas. It is absolutely essential to preserve as many large natural areas as is possible in single tracts and expand the size of smaller tracts to maintain biodiversity.

Fragmentation of habitats, communities and ecosystems reduces diversity. The reduction in size of natural areas reduces diversity. It is essential to maintain the size of natural areas especially those that have been reduced to islands surrounded by development or dissimilar habitat types. In the case of Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve there is development on the north and east. In addition fragmentation is also present on the south side in the form of 31st Street. Even this narrow corridor interferes with species migration and ultimately reduces diversity.

Isolated patches of natural communities sustain fewer species than closely associated patches. The area known as Hickory Lane located to the west of the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve contains remnants of oak savanna, a closely associated community to the prairie. The communities should continue to coexist in close association in order to maintain diversity.

Ecotones between natural communities are natural and support a variety of species from both communities as well as ecotone specific species. Ecotones, or transition zones between communities, are an inherent part of the Wolf Road Prairie complex. The prairie blends into the remnant oak savanna area to the west. This blend between the true prairie and the oak savanna increases overall biodiversity.



WETLANDS

Biological Principles--

Full restoration of native plant communities sustains diverse populations. Introducing or preserving as many components of the natural ecosystem as possible is essential to maintaining biodiversity.

An increase in the structural diversity of vegetation increases species diversity. The Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve is under an ecosystem management plan designed to increase the structural diversity of the prairie. The remnant oak savanna and bufferlands to the west should be managed, restored and enhanced to increase structural diversity as well.

* Excerpts from *Biodiversity and the Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve*, Ralph Thornton, FPDCC--9/2/93



MANAGING WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE FOR BIODIVERSITY

The management goal is to develop a balanced restoration and ecosystem plan which will stimulate native plant populations and preserve and sustain wildlife habitat. Management decisions also take into consideration that visitors to Wolf Road Prairie enjoy birding, hiking, observation of wildlife, photography and related nature appreciation and that nature tours and outdoor classroom field trips provide a basic public expectation at the site.

MANAGEMENT TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

- * Open the core interior of the preserve by removing invasive brush and compensate for shrub loss with native species on buffer edges for bird and wildlife needs.
- * Employ prescribed burns, seasonal mowing, herbicide treatment of invasive species, weed removal, seed collection and seed dispersal. Mowing reduces invasive shrub biomass and is beneficial to prairie vegetation as it allows grasses and forbs the opportunity to become more aggressive and revitalized. The combined method of mowing and burning is a successful strategy at Wolf Road Prairie.
- * Remove all buckthorn and dogwood. Removal of trees requires approval of landowners based on species and size.
- * Implement mechanization/heavy equipment without resulting in soil and vegetation damage.
- * Consider adjacent property owners privacy. Maintain brush screens and eventually replace exotics with native species.
- * Maintain transition zone of flowering crabs and other fruit trees for bird habitat and for spring scenic beauty at the northwest section of the preserve until native shrubs and trees can be selected and introduced.
- * Propagate and relocate native genotype plants to bufferland to preserve rare species and to expedite ecosystem recovery and enhancement.
- * Mitigate sedimentation and erosion impacts to the hydrology and biodiversity of the preserve and improve water quality through aquatic enhancement projects resulting in the overall enrichment of the preserve.
- * Maximize plant biodiversity. Integrate bufferland for

use by migratory and nesting birds. Consider habitat requirements of raptors. Maintain as wide a variety of bird species known to Wolf Road Prairie as possible.

- * Expand nursery beds for native plant propagation and seed production. Collect seed throughout the year as crops become available. Develop and expand partnerships for the propagation and production of local genotypes to be returned as plants or seed to Wolf Road Prairie buffer and restoration locations. Example: Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, UIC, Salt Creek Nursery, Save the Prairie Society buffer beds, etc. Monoculture beds produce mass quantities of seed but eventually will begin the transition "to the wild". Begin propagation of native hazel shrubs.

* * * * *

Begin aggressive buffer acquisition on unprotected Hickory Lane properties to:

- * Maintain sensitive open space and buffer ecosystem features for restoration.
- * Prevent edge effects and encroachment by invasive species.
- * Prevent mitigation of contaminants such as lawn chemicals and parking lot run-off from incompatible dense development and prevent intrusion into the preserve by light and sound pollution.
- * Mitigate altered hydrology by restoring aquatic ecosystems on Hickory Lane Buffer.
- * Prevent impacts on sensitive breeding areas for birds, insects, and wildlife by unregulated human activities, poaching and domestic pets.
- * Develop a long range conservation plan to protect the integrity and character of Wolf Road Prairie and the priceless value and enjoyment of the preserve by the public.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Dan Kirk, IDNR
Steve Byers, INPC
Bill Koenig, FPDCC
John Raudebush, FPDCC,
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STPS Volunteers

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Midwest SOARRING Foundation

Joseph Standing Bear, Gregg,
Bill Gramm, Nick Roach

WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

PLANT SPECIES LIST

Compiled by Jack Shouba and Dr. Darrel Murray -- 2000

Illustrations: Jill Jarom, Terryl Shouba



Scientific Name

Acer negundo
Acer saccharinum
Acnida altissima
Agalinis tenuifolia
Agrimonia gryposepala
Agropyron trachycaulum unilaterale
Agrostis hyemalis
Agrostis perennans
Agrostis scabra
Alisma subcordatum
Allium canadense
Allium cernuum
Ambrosia artemisiifolia elatior
Ambrosia trifida
Amorpha canescens
Andropogon gerardii
Andropogon scoparius
Anemone canadensis
Anemone cylindrica
Anemone virginiana
Anemonella thalictroides
Antennaria neglecta
Antennaria plantaginifolia
Apios americana
Apovynum androsaemifolium
Apocymum sibiricum
Arabis glabra
Arenaria lateriflora
Arisaema dracontium
Arisaema triphyllum
Asclepius exaltata
Asclepias incarnata
Asclepias purpurascens
Asclepias sullivantii
Asclepias syriaca
Asclepias tuberosa
Asclepias verticillata
Aster azureus
Aster ericoides
Aster laevis
Aster lateriflorus
Aster novae-angliae
Aster pilosus
Aster praealtus

Common Name

Box Elder
Silver Maple
Water Hemp
Slender False Foxglove
Tall Agrimony
Bearded Wheat Grass
Tickle Grass
Thin Grass
Fly-away Grass
Water Plantain
Wild Onion, Wild Garlic
Nodding Wild Onion
Common Ragweed
Giant Ragweed
Lead Plant
Big Bluestem Grass
Little Bluestem Grass
Meadow Anemone
Thimbleweed
Tall Anemone
Rue Anemone
Cat's Foot
Pussy Toes
Ground Nut
Spreading Dog Bane
Prairie Indian Hemp
Tower Mustard
Wood Sandwort
Green Dragon
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Poke Milkweed
Swamp Milkweed
Purple Milkweed
Prairie Milkweed
Common Milkweed
Butterfly Weed
Whorled Milkweed
Sky-blue Aster
Heath Aster
Smooth Blue Aster
Side-flowering Aster
New England Aster
Hairy Aster
Willow Aster

Scientific Name

Aster puniceus firmus
Aster sagittifolius drummondii
Aster sagittifolius sagittifolius
Aster simplex
Astragalus canadensis
Baptisia leucantha
Bidens cernua
Bidens frondosa
Bidens vulgata
Boehmeria cylindrica
Boltonia latisquama
Bromus kalmii
Cacalia plantaginea
Calamagrostis canadensis
Camassia scilloides
Cardamine bulbosa
Carex annectans
Carex atherodes
Carex bicknellii
Carex blanda
Carex brevior
Carex buxbaumii
Carex cristatella
Carex lacustris
Carex pellita
Carex pensylvanica
Carex rosea
Carex sartwellii
Carex stricta
Carex tenera
Carex tricocarpa
Carex vulpinoidea
Carya cordiformis
Carya ovata
Castilleja coccinea
Ceanothus americanus
Celtis occidentalis
Cicuta maculata
Circaea lutetiana
Cirsium discolor
Cirsium muticum
Claytonia virginica
Comandra umbellata
Convolvulus sepium

Common Name

Shining Aster
Drummond's Aster
Arrow-leaved Aster
Panicked Aster
Canadian Milk Vetch
White Wild Indigo
Nodding Bur Marigold
Common Beggar's Ticks
Tall Beggar's Ticks
False Nettle
False Aster
Prairie Brome
Prairie Indian Plantain
Blue Joint Grass
Wild Hyacinth
Bulbous Cress
Small Yellow Fox Sedge
Hairy-leaved Lake Sedge
Copper-shouldered Oval Sedge
Common Wood Sedge
Plains Oval Sedge
Dark-scaled Sedge
Crested Oval Sedge
Common Lake Sedge
Broad-leaved Woody Sedge
Common Oak Sedge
Curly-styled Woody Sedge
Running Marsh Sedge
Common Tussock Sedge
Narrow-leaved Oval Sedge
Hairy-fruited Lake Sedge
Brown Fox Sedge
Bitternut Hickory
Shagbark Hickory
Indian Paintbrush
New Jersey Tea
Hackberry
Water Hemlock
Enchanter's Nightshade
Pasture Thistle
Swamp Thistle
Spring Beauty
False Toadflax
Hedge Bindweed



Scientific Name

Coreopsis palmata
Coreopsis tripteris
Cornus obliqua
Cornus racemosa
Cornus stolonifera
Corylus americana
Crataegus crus-galli
Crataegus mollis
Crataegus punctata
Cryptotaenia canadensis
Cuscuta glomerata
Cuscuta polygonum
Cyperus strigosus
Cypripedium candidum

Danthonia spicata
Desmodium canadense
Dodecatheon meadia

Echinacea pallida
Echinochloa crusgalli
Echinocystis lobata
Egrostis frankii
Eleocharis acicularis
Eleocharis compressa
Eleocharis elliptica
Ellisia nyctelea

Elymus canadensis
Elymus villosus
Elymus virginicus
Epilobium coloratum
Equisetum arvense
Equisetum hyemale

Eragrostis frankii
Erechtites hieracifolia
Erigeron annuus
Erigeron canadensis
Erigeron philadelphicus
Erigeron strigosus

Eryngium yuccifolium
Erythronium albidum
Euonymus atropurpureus
Eupatorium altissimum
Eupatorium maculatum
Eupatorium purpureum
Eupatorium rugosum
Eupatorium serotinum
Euphorbia corollata
Euphorbia maculata

Fragaria virginiana
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Fraxinus pennsylvanica subintegerrima

Galium aparine
Galium asprellum

Common Name

Prairie Coreopsis
Tall Coreopsis
Blue-fruited Dogwood
Gray Dogwood
Red-osier Dogwood
American Hazelnut
Cockspur Hawthorn
Downy Hawthorn
Dotted Hawthorn
Honeysuckle
Rope Dodder
Knotweed Dodder
Long-scaled Nut Sedge
White Lady's Slipper

Poverty Oat Grass
Showy Tick Trefoil
Shooting Star

Purple Coneflower
Barnyard Grass
Wild Cucumber

Sandbar Love Grass
Needle Spike Rush
Flat-stemmed Spike Rush
Golden-seeded Spike Rush
Aunt Lucy

Canada Wild Rye
Silky Wild Rye
Virginia Wild Rye
Cinnamon Willow Herb
Horsetail

Tall Scouring Rush
Sandbar Love Grass
Fireweed

Annual Fleabane
Horseweed
Marsh Fleabane
Daisy Fleabane

Rattlesnake Master
White Trout Lily

Wahoo
Tall Boneset
Spotted Joe Pye Weed
Purple Joe Pye Weed
White Snakeroot
Late Boneset
Flowering Spurge
Eyebane

Wild Strawberry
Red Ash
Green Ash

Annual Bedstraw
Rough Bedstraw

Scientific Name

Galium boreale
Galium concinnum
Galium obtusum
Galium tinctorium
Galium triflorum
Gaura biennis
Gentiana andrewsii
Gentiana flavida
Gentiana puberulenta
Geranium maculatum
Geum aleppicum
Geum canadense
Geum laciniatum trichocarpum
Gleditsia triacanthos
Glyceria striata

Habenaria leucophaea
Hackelia virginiana
Helenium autumnale
Helianthus grosseserratus
Helianthus rigidus (H. laetiflorus)
Helianthus strumosus
Heuchera richardsonii
Hieracium canadense
Hydrophyllum virginianum
Hypericum majus
Hypericum punctatum
Hypericum pyramidatum
Hypoxis hirsuta
Hystrix patula

Iris virginica shrevei
Isopyrum bitematum

Juglans nigra
Juncus dudleyi
Juncus greenei
Juncus interior
Juncus tenuis
Juniperus virginiana crebra

Krigia biflora
Lactuca canadensis
Lathyrus palustris
Lathyrus venosus
Leersia oryzoides
Lemna minor
Lepidium virginicum
Lespedeza capitata
Liatris aspera
Liatris pycnostachya

Liatris spicata
Lilium michiganense
Lilium philadelphicum
Lithospermum canescens

Common Name

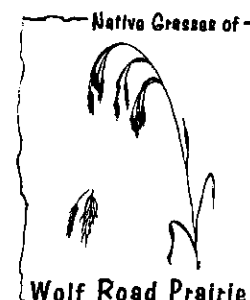
Northern Bedstraw
Shiny Bedstraw
Wild Madder
Stiff Bedstraw
Sweet-scented Bedstraw
Biennial Gaura
Closed Gentian
Yellowish Gentian
Downy Gentian
Wild Geranium
Yellow Avens
White Avens
Rough Avens
Honey Locust
Fowl Manna Grass

Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid
Stickseed
Sneezeweed
Sawtooth Sunflower
Prairie Sunflower
Pale-leaved Sunflower
Prairie Alum Root
Canada Hawkweed
Virginia Waterleaf
Sand St. John's Wort
Spotted St. John's Wort
Great St. John's Wort
Yellow Star-Grass
Bottlebrush Grass

Blue Flag
False Rue Anemone

Black Walnut
Dudley's Rush
Greene's Rush
Inland Rush
Path Rush
Red Cedar

False Dandelion
Wild Lettuce
Marsh Vetchling
Veiny Pea
Rice Cut Grass
Small Duckweed
Common Peppergrass
Round-headed Bush Clover
Rough Blazing Star
Prairie Blazing Star
Marsh Blazing Star
Michigan Lily
Prairie Lily
Hoary Puccoon



Scientific Name

Lobelia spicata
Ludwigia alternifolia
Ludwigia palustris
Ludwigia polycarpa
Lycopus americanus
Lycopus uniflorus
Lysimachia ciliata
Lysimachia hybrida
Lysimachia lanceolata
Lythrum alatum

Malus ioensis
Mentha arvensis
Mimulus ringens
Monarda fistulosa

Oenothera biennis
Oenothera pilosella
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmorhiza claytonii
Osmorhiza longistylus
Oxalis stricta
Oxalis violacea
Oxyopsis rigidior

Panicum implicatum
Panicum oligosanthos
Panicum virgatum
Parthenium integrifolium
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Pedicularis canadensis
Penstemon calycosus
Penthorum sedoides
Petalostemum purpureum
Phlox glaberrima
Phlox pilosa
Phragmites australis
Physalis heterophylla
Physalis subglabrata
Physostegia virginiana
Phytolacca americana
Pilea pumila
Plantago rugelii
Platanus occidentalis
Podophyllum peltatum
Polygala sanguinea
Polygonatum senega
Polygonum amphibium
Polygonum coccineum
Polygonum hydropiper
Polygonum lapathifolium
Polygonum pennsylvanicum
Polygonum punctatum
Polygonum ramosissimum
Polygonum sagittatum

Common Name

Pale Spiked Lobelia
 Seedbox
 Marsh Purslane
 False Loosestrife
 Common Water Hoarhound
 Northern Bugle Weed
 Fringed Loosestrife
 River Loosestrife
 Lance-leaved Loosestrife
 Winged Loosestrife

 Iowa Crab
 Wild Mint
 Monkey Flower
 Wild Bergamont

 Common Evening Primrose
 Prairie Sundrops
 Sensitive Fern
 Hairy Sweet Cicely
 Smooth Sweet Cicely
 Common Sorrel
 Violet Wood Sorrel
 Cowbane

 Old-field Panic Grass
 Scribner's Panic Grass
 Switch Grass
 Wild Quinine
 Virginia Creeper
 Wood Betony
 Smooth Beard Tongue
 Ditch Stonecrop
 Purple Prairie Clover
 Marsh Phlox
 Prairie Phlox
 Common Reed
 Clammy Ground Cherry
 Tall Ground Cherry
 Prairie Obedient Plant
 Pokeweed
 Clearweed
 Red-stalked Plantain
 Sycamore
 May Apple
 Field Milkwort
 Seneca Snakeroot
 Water Knotweed
 Water Heartsease
 Water Pepper
 Heartsease
 Pinkweed
 Smartweed
 Bushy Knotweed
 Arrow-leaved Tear Thumb

Scientific Name

Polygonum scandens
Polygonum virginianum
Populus deltoides
Populus grandidentata
Populus tremuloides
Potamogeton amplifolius
Potentilla simplex
Prenanthes alba
Prenanthes aspera
Prenanthes racemosa
Prunella vulgaris
Prunus americana
Prunus serotina
Prunus virginianum
Pycnanthemum virginianum

Quercus bicolor
Quercus coccinea
Quercus macrocarpa
Quercus rubra
Quercus velutina

Ratibida pinnata
Rhus glabra
Rhus radicans
Rhus typhina
Ribes missouriense
Rorippa palustris
Rosa arkasana
Rosa blanda
Rosa carolina
Rosa setigera
Rubus allegheniensis
Rubus flagellaris
Rubus occidentalis
RuRubus pensilvanicus
Rudbeckia hirta
Rudbeckia subtomentosa
Rumex altissimus

Sagittaria latifolia
Salix amygdaloides
Salix discolor
Salix glaucophylloides
Salix humilis
Salix interior
Sambucus canadensis
Sanicula gregaria
Scirpus acutus
Scirpus atrovirens
Scirpus fluviatilis
Scirpus pendulus
Scirpus validus
Scutellaria epilobiifolia
Scutellaria lateriflora

Common Name

Climbing False Buckwheat
 Woodland Knotweed
 Eastern Cottonwood
 Large-toothed Aspen
 Quaking Aspen
 Large-leaved Pond Weed
 Common Cinquefoil
 White Lettuce
 Rough White Lettuce
 Glaucous White Lettuce
 Selfheal
 Wild Plum
 Wild Black Cherry
 Choke Cherry
 Common Mountain Mint

 Swamp White Oak
 Scarlet Oak
 Bur Oak
 Red Oak
 Black Oak

 Yellow Coneflower
 Smooth Sumac
 Poison Ivy
 Staghorn Sumac
 Wild Gooseberry
 Marsh Cress
 Sunshine Rose
 Early Wild Rose
 Pasture Rose
 Illinois Rose
 Common Blackberry
 Common Dewberry
 Black Raspberry
 Yankee Blackberry
 Black-eyed Susan
 Sweet Black-eyed Susan
 Pale Dock

 Common Arrowhead
 Peach-leaved Willow
 Pussy Willow
 Blue-leaved Willow
 Prairie Willow
 Sandbar Willow
 Elderberry
 Clustered Black Snakeroot
 Hard-stemmed Bulrush
 Dark Green Rush
 River Bulrush
 Red Bulrush
 Great Bulrush
 Marsh Skullcap
 Mad-dog Skullcap

Scientific Name

Scutellaria parvula
Senecio pauperculus
Silene stellata
Silphium integrifolium
Silphium laciniatum
Silphium terebinthinaceum
Sisyrinchium albidum
Sium suave
Smilacina racemosa
Smilacina stellata
Smilax lasioneura
Solanum americanum
Solidago altissima
Solidago canadensis
Solidago gigantea
Solidago graminifolia
Solidago graminifolia nuttallii
Solidago gymnospermoides
Solidago juncea
Solidago missouriensis
Solidago nemoralis
Solidago riddellii
Solidago rigida
Solidago ulmifolia
Sorghastrum nutans
Sparganium eurycarpum
Spartina pectinata
Sphenopholis obtusata
Spiraea alba
Spiranthes cernua
Sporobolus heterolepis
Stachys palustris
Stachys tenuifolia
Stellaria longifolia

Teucrium canadense
Thalictrum dasycarpum
Thalictrum dioicum
Thalictrum revolutum
Tilia americana
Tradescantia ohimensis
Trillium recurvatum
Triosteum aurantiacum
Typha angustifolia
Typha latifolia

Ulmus americana
Ulmus rubra
Urtica procera

Verbena bracteata
Verbena hastata
Verbena urticifolia
Vernonia altissima
Vernonia fasciculata
Veronicastrum virginicum
Vicia americana
Viola affinis
Viola pedatifida
Viola pubescens
Viola sagittata
Viola sororia
Vitis riparia
Zizia aurea

Common Name

Small Skullcap
Balsam Ragwort
Starry Campion
Rosin Weed
Compass Plant
Prairie Dock
Common Blue-eyed Grass
Tall Water Parsnip
Feathery False Solomon's Seal
Starry False Solomon's Seal
Common Carrion Flower
Black Nightshade
Tall Goldenrod
Canada Goldenrod
Late Goldenrod
Common Grass-leaved Goldenrod
Hairy Grass-leaved Goldenrod
Viscid Grass-leaved Goldenrod
Early Goldenrod
Missouri Goldenrod
Old-field Goldenrod
Riddell's Goldenrod
Stiff Goldenrod
Elm-leaved Goldenrod
Indian Grass
Common Bur Reed
Prairie Cord Grass
Prairie Wedge Grass
Meadowsweet
Nodding Ladies' Tresses
Prairie Dropseed
Woundwort
Marsh Hedge Nettle
Stitchwort

Germander
Purple Meadow Rue
Early Meadow Rue
Waxy Meadow Rue
Basswood
Common Spiderwort
Red Trillium
Early Horse Gentian
Narrow-leaved Cattail
Common Cattail

American Elm
Slippery Elm
Tall Nettle

Creeping Vervain
Blue Vervain
Hairy White Vervain
Tall Ironweed
Common Ironweed
Culver's Root
American Vetch
LeConte's Violet
Prairie Violet
Yellow Violet
Arrow-leaved Violet
Common Blue Violet
Riverbank Grape
Golden Alexanders



BIRD MONITORS' GOAL

The Wolf Road Prairie landscape recovery plan should ensure the survival of native plant species, provide habitat for area sensitive birds and other wildlife in stress caused by loss of open space and developmental sprawl and create a sustainable ecosystem for greater migration stopovers.

A driving principle should be the development of a bird network to monitor bird populations and species at Wolf Road Prairie.

Birdwatching is a popular outdoor activity for Wolf Road Prairie visitors. Attracting birds to the site is a key goal for education and enjoyment.

CONCLUSIONS OF BIRD MONITOR TEAM

- * Clear the core area of the preserve to open a vista from end to end, but leave existing cottonwoods and some hedgerows on the western edge of the prairie and the eastern edge of buffer for bird habitat.
- * Focus on savanna birds such as the Baltimore and orchard orioles, red-headed woodpecker, warblers and buntings. Restoration, enhancement and enlargement of the savanna ecosystem is crucial to these bird species under threat.
- * Maintain a 15-foot wide privacy hedge along Wolf Road, Constitution Drive, Ashley Woods and Hickory Lane. Phase in replacement of non-native brush with native shrubs such as hazelnut, American plum, Hawthorn, etc. Consider propagation of hazelnut from site genotypes to replace non-native shrubs.
- * Preserve pine trees on Hickory Lane being used for nesting by red-tailed hawks. Preserve some snags and clusters of trees for perching by hawks and other birds. Maintain other required raptor habitats for kestrels, Cooper's hawk, Northern Harrier and owls known to the preserve.
- * Work to attract shrubland birds such as chats, rufous-sided towhees, willow flycatcher, field sparrow and breeders such as yellow warbler, common yellowthroat, kingbirds, Cooper's hawk, downy woodpecker, flicker and red-bellied woodpecker. Establish small stands of native brush in the buffer areas to compensate for the removal of brush in the preserve core to attract field sparrows and other birds requiring brushy habitat.
- * Wetland birds known to Wolf Road Prairie may be in decline such as the sora rail, swamp sparrow, sedge wren, Virginia rail, etc. Improve habitat in the wetland to attract these birds by aggressively removing Common reed, *phragmites australis*. Add some hackberries.
- * Consider adding some bluebird houses, re-positioning some unsuccessful bluebird houses to new locations and continue monitoring. Address issues of nest predation.



WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE BIRD CENSUS

Compiled by Vivian McDermott -- 1983-2003



Double-crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Green-backed Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Turkey Vulture
Osprey (one time)
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
Peregrine Falcon (one time)
Ring-necked Pheasant
Virginia Rail
Sora
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Common Snipe
American Woodcock
Ring-billed Gull
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Blue Jay
American Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Winter Wren
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
Cedar Waxwing
Northern Shrike
European Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo (Solitary)
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Tennessee Warbler

Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Palm Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black and White Warbler
American Redstart
Northern Water Thrush
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Rufous-sided Towhee
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Harris' Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Northern Oriole
House Finch
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
House Sparrow

BIRD MONITOR TEAM

Jeff Braun, Illinois Natural History Survey
Carol Fialkowski, The Field Museum
Conrad Fialkowski, Chicago Audubon Society
Douglas Stotz, The Field Museum

Francie Stotz, The Field Museum
John Skach, bluebird monitor at WRP
Vivian McDermott, Chicago Audubon Society
Valerie Spale, Save the Prairie Society
Phil Cihlar, Save the Prairie Society

THE PRAIRIE

***"It was not until after
crossing the river DesPlaines
that I became fully sensible
of the beauty and sublimity
of the prairie. They embrace
every texture of soil and
outline of surface . . ."***

The splendor of the Illinois prairie inspired Patrick Shieriff, a Scottish farmer, to write these words in 1833. In those days, early settlers found a vast landscape of waving grasses and scattered hardwood groves.

Often growing to the legendary height of a man on horseback, the prairie was well adapted to the high winds, varying rainfall, hot summers and frigid winters of the Midwest.

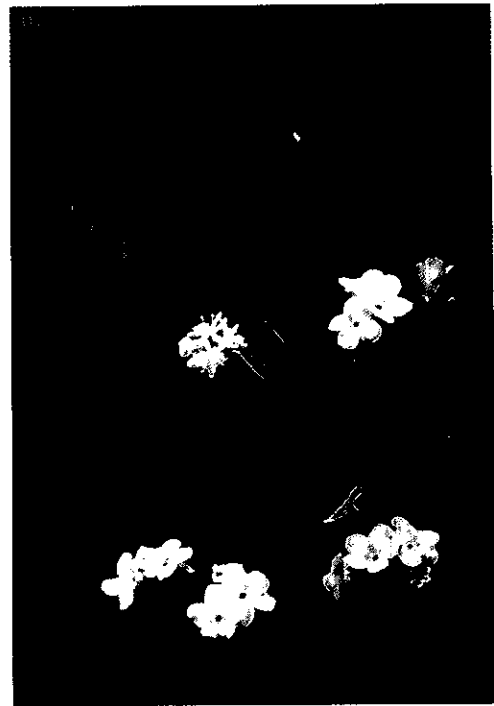
15,000 years ago, what is now Illinois was covered by mile-high glaciers. After the glaciers receded, boreal forests replaced the ice. As the climate became warmer and drier, oaks and hickories infiltrated the pines and spruces, and prairie began its steady expansion into Illinois. About 8,000 years ago--the origins of Wolf Road Prairie date back to these ancient times--tall grass prairie covered over 70% of the state. Today, less than one one-hundreth of one percent of the original prairie remains.



Photo: Phil Cihlar



Photo: Tim Burke



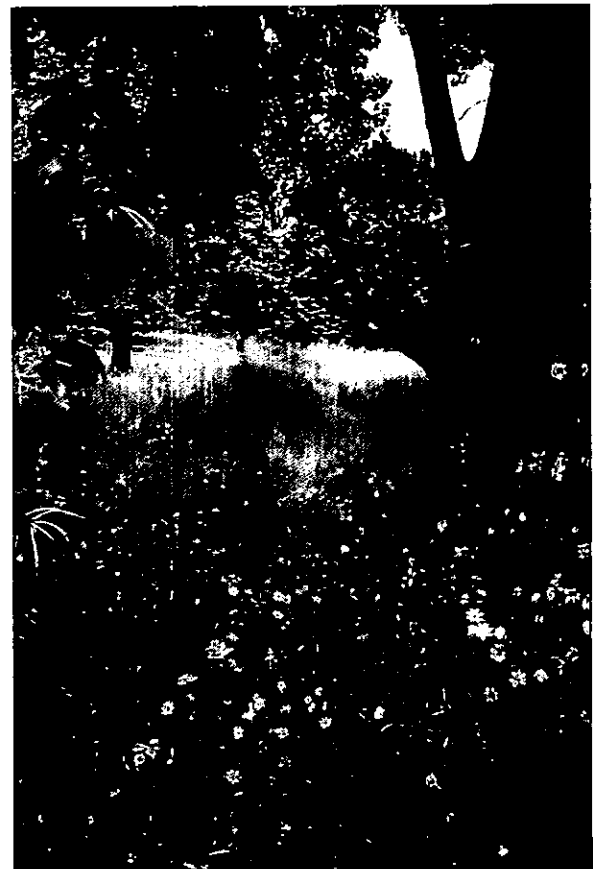
SCENES OF THE SEASONS

AT WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

Photo: Tim Burke



Photo: Phil Cihlar



Save the Prairie Society

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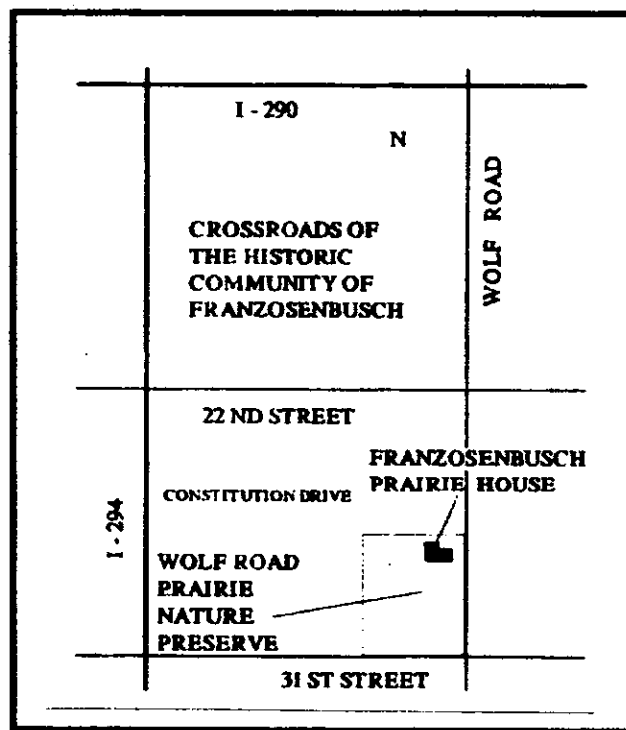
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WOLF ROAD PRAIRIE

... a dedicated

Illinois Nature Preserve

--just 12 miles west of downtown Chicago--
is located at the NW corner of Wolf Road
and 31st Street in Westchester, Illinois



Save the Prairie Society

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Wolf Road Prairie

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Midwest SOARRING Foundation
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
Oak Park Conservatory Junior Naturalist Program
Salt Creek Greenway Association
Salt Creek Watershed Network
Save the Prairie Society
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Easily reached from

EISENHOWER EXPRESSWAY

Exit southbound on Wolf Road

... go 3 miles

or

TRI-STATE TOLLWAY

Exit East on Ogden or 22nd St.

to Wolf Road

FREE PARKING

along 31st Street bays on north side
or Prairie House parking lot

