Inventory of Roadside Prairies
Illinois Department of Transportation
District 1

Illinois Natural History Survey
Center for Biodiversity
Technical Report (3) 2004

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INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has been interested in mapping roadside prairie since 1992. A formal request was made in 1998 by Rich Nowack to map prairie while traveling to other IDOT project areas, and as time allowed. IDOT's justification for this project was to preserve prairie habitat, and limit accidental mowing and herbicide spraying of native prairie remnants. In 2000, IDOT made this project a priority. In the 2001 field season, a more detailed and systematic approach was taken to survey prairies in Illinois. This report and final GIS map is the result of the information gathered during the 2003 field season in IDOT District 1.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A significant amount of remaining prairie in Illinois is located in joint rights-of-way of railroads and roads. This is due to the protection from cultivation and other disturbances. Using the Geographic Information System (GIS), a map of IDOT District 1 was generated for field use. This map has all areas marked where a road and railroad were within 400 ft of each other. Using this map, these areas were systematically checked for native prairie and savanna remnants. For the majority of the remnants, a limited survey was warranted. This consisted of stopping at regular intervals to generate species lists and gather data needed to characterize each site. If a remnant was higher quality, more time was spent surveying the remnant; however, the large scale of this project made detailed surveys of each remnant impractical.

During 2001, IDOT District 5 was surveyed throughout the growing season (Handel 2002). Early surveys resulted in better recording of spring and early summer flora. The disadvantage of early sampling was that it was slower, and identification of warm-season grasses and forbs was more difficult. Warm-season grasses at this time often needed a close examination to identify species and abundance. Late surveys, especially September to October, allow for quick identification of remnants because the native grasses are the most visible at this time. The drawback of late surveys, is that spring and summer flora are overlooked because they have gone dormant or they are obscured by the taller fall

vegetation. A similar roadside survey conducted in Minnesota was conducted in late summer and fall (Bolin et al. 1988). To cover more area in 2003, surveying was done in two phases, April to July and then again in August to October. The first phase was to eliminate from further consideration areas of roadsides that were destroyed or were very low quality. This saved valuable time during the peek summer and fall survey period when attention was focused on surveying extant remnants.

The following data were recorded on each remnant. The evaluator(s), date, and county were recorded for each site. GPS readings for starting and ending points were taken at the majority sites. At a few small sites only a central point was taken. The location was relative to reference points such as local roads. A quality rating of 1, 2, or 3 was assigned to the remnants, with number 1 being the highest quality and 3 being the poorest quality. Some remnants included two or more quality classes. For example, there could be one small high-quality section (1) within a larger degraded remnant (3). I was very lenient with the class 3 (lowest quality) prairies, because it is my opinion with active management these prairies could vastly improve. Active management, such as controlled burning, probably has not occurred on these remnants for a long period. Vast improvement of similar degraded prairie habitat has been demonstrated after active management was implemented (Handel 2000). In other highway prairie studies after active management was implemented, prairie improved and some rare species were maintained or slightly increased in abundance (Bolin et al. 1988). The type of plant community or communities that were present was noted, for example dry-mesic prairie. Width, distance to edge of pavement, and length of each remnant were recorded. Evidence of management or signs indicating management of prairie vegetation were noted. The status of the railroad and presence of prairie habitat on the side away from the highway also were recorded. Threats to each remnant were recorded. This included exotics, woody invasion, or man-made disturbances such as mowing, cultivation, or spraying. Finally, a species list was generated for each remnant. Species were excluded if they occurred just in the roadside ditch or in the railroad ballast. Exotics were only counted if they were found in the remnant. Relative abundance was recorded for each

species observed on a 1 to 5 scale. Botanical nomenclature follows Mohlenbrock (1986). Community classification follows White (1978).

TERMS USED IN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Relative Abundance Values (RAV):

1. Rare
2. Occasional
3. Common
4. Abundant
5. Dominant

Quality Classes

1. This class was reserved for highest quality prairie remnants. These sites have a low abundance of exotic species. Forb diversity and density is high. In class 1, conservative prairie species are present. These sites roughly parallel a rating of Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) grade A or B (White 1978). A more detailed survey, including quantitative data, would be needed to determine if they truly qualify for INAI status.

2. These remnants still have a matrix of native forbs and grasses remaining. The prairie is somewhat degraded, however there is still some resemblance of a prairie community. Class 2 remnants are characterized by presence of the major warm-season grasses and disturbance-tolerant forbs. In some cases conservative species occur in low abundance. Class 2 prairie would roughly parallel an INAI rating of grade C.

3. Highly degraded prairie was ranked as Class 3. In class 3 remnants, prairie species were present but the community was highly disturbed. Exotic species usually dominate portions of the remnant. There can be some conservative species present, but the majority of the species are common prairie grasses and a few disturbance-tolerant forbs. Class 3 has also been reserved for areas that are solid stands of prairie grasses. This would be roughly parallel an INAI rating of grade D.

PRAIRIE COMMUNITIES IN ILLINOIS

Because of their rarity, species diversity, and vulnerability to habitat degradation, prairie communities are of special concern in Illinois. Prairie was the dominant community type in the state before 1820 (Iverson et al. 1989). After the invention of the steel plow, areas of prairie were quickly converted to agricultural crops. Of the estimated 22,000,000 acres of prairie that occurred in the state, only 2,352 acres of high-quality prairie remained by 1976, about 1/100th of 1% (White 1978). The amount of prairie in District 1 in 1820 was approximately 1,713,300 acres. In 1976, the total acreage of high quality prairie (A or B) remaining in District 1 was 1,289.9 acres or 0.075% (White 1978). There are no specific

data on the amount of grade C - D prairie remaining in IDOT District 1. It is known that there has been a significant decline in prairie throughout the state since the Natural Areas Inventory was completed in 1976. Encroachment by woody vegetation, conversion to agricultural crops in railroad rights-of-way, and lack of management all have contributed to the decline of prairie communities statewide. The remaining grade C or D quality prairie remnants are an extremely important biological and economic resource. They may not be as floristically diverse as grade A or B remnants, but they serve important functions in the Illinois landscape:

1. They provide cover and dispersal corridors for prairie flora and fauna.

2. With the decrease in prairie habitat and the increased need for habitat reconstruction and restoration, remnants provide an invaluable source of seed of local ecotypes.

3. They provide refugia for species that have been eliminated from the nearby landscape and they sometimes link areas of higher quality prairies, allowing for the dispersal of species and genetic exchange from one remnant to another.

4. Because they are often linear in shape, they may cross several soil types and moisture gradients, creating a community of high floristic and faunistic diversity throughout a given landscape.

5. Practical benefits to highway departments include the potential for a reduction in the cost of roadside maintenance, and increased erosion control when native vegetation communities are present (USDT 1975a).

6. Native prairie remnants that are managed correctly can also reduce the presence of exotic and noxious weeds along highway corridors.

7. Prairie remnants provide habitat for game species. Millions of dollars are spent each year on creating habitat for species such Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) and Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginanus*). Often this artificial habitat consists of one or two prairie grass species. These plantings may provide emergency cover from

harsh winter weather, but they are inferior to the native remnants that provide not only cover, but also high concentrations of food from plant seeds and insects that exist in these natural remnants.

8. In areas of the state where habitat has disappeared because of development or intensive agriculture these remnants are often the only natural communities of any type that remain on a regional scale.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

General Information and Quality

Prairies are marked in **yellow** and numbered (1 to 39) on the map. This number corresponds to a data sheet in the report. Information describing prairie remnants is summarized in Tables 1 - 3. No mowed prairies were identified in District 1. According to the GIS mapping, there were approximately 403.5 miles of joint roadway and railroad rights-of-way in District 1. Thirty-nine prairie and savanna remnants were located in these joint rights-of-ways in District 1 during the 2003-growing season, totaling 50.1miles or (12.4%). The general trend found during the statewide prairie survey was that there was significantly less prairie left on the opposite side of the railroad tracks. District 1 was similar to Districts 2 and 3 having substantially more prairies on the opposite side of the tracks. Twenty-nine of 39 (74%) of the prairie remnants in District 1 had significant prairie vegetation present on the far side of the tracks. Still, most of the prairie appeared to be lower quality than the prairie adjacent to the road. The majority of the prairie remnants, 30 of 39 (77%), were class 3 (the lowest quality prairie). Nine of 39 (23%) were in class 2 (medium quality) category. Only 3 of 39 (7%) prairie remnants were considered class 1 (highest quality) category. Eight of 39 (21%) of the remnants surveyed had signs indicating prairie management. Dry-mesic prairie and mesic prairie were the communities most frequently encountered. Wet-mesic prairie was uncommon with only 5 of 39 (13%) located in District 1. This trend occurs statewide, and is probably due to the intense effort to drain areas adjacent to roads and tiling throughout Illinois.

Table 1. General information on prairie remnants in joint Illinois Department of Transportation and railroad rights-of-way in District 1 including: quality, communities, evidence of management or signage, and railroad activity. The percentage in the quality class and natural communities may exceed 100%, because some sites had more than one quality class or natural commuinity present.

Quality	**# Sites (out of 39)**	**% of sites**
Class 3	30	77%
Class 2	9	23%
Class 1	3	7%
Natural Communities		
Dry-mesic prairie	22	56%
Mesic prairie	19	49%
Wet-mesic prairie	5	13%
Dry-mesic savanna	2	5%
Dry-mesic sand prairie	1	3%
Mesic sand prairie	1	3%
Wet-mesic sand prairie	1	3%
Dry-gravel prairie	1	3%
Signage or evidence of management (Burning)		
No	31	79%
Yes	8	21%
Railroad Activity		
Active	30	77%
Abandoned	9	23%
Presence of prairie on RR R-O-W opposite tracks		
Yes	29	74%
No	10	26%

Threats to Remnants

Roadside rights-of-way are affected by a multitude of human disturbances: mowing, salt, car emissions, ditch maintenance, herbicide application from both the roadside and railways, and the installation of communication and utility lines. These disturbances keep the structure and composition of these remnants in a constant state of fluctuation. The remnants that were found during this survey all show some form of disturbance. Exotic species threatened all the prairie remnants in District 1 effecting 39 of 39 (100%) remnants (Table 2). Eighteen of 39 prairies (46%) were partially mowed. Woody invasion from both exotics and native species was a threat in 13 of 39 remnants (41%). Digging of plants might be a greater problem than indicated in this report, because evidence of digging easily could be overlooked during the assessment.

Table 2. Type of threat and frequency among prairie remnants in IDOT District 1.

Threats	**# Sites (out of 39)**	**% of sites**
Exotics	39	100%
Mowing	18	49%
Woody invasion	16	41%
Development	3	8%
Tree or ornamental plantings	2	5%
Dumping	1	3%

Exotics

If exotics were limited to the railroad ballast or roadside ditch they were not considered a threat. Generally, if an exotic species occurred in the remnant and had an abundance rating of 3 or above it was considered a threat. The cool season grasses *Bromus inermis* (smooth brome grass) and *Paladins arundinacea* (reed canary grass) were the most abundant of exotic species in prairie remnants in District 1 (Table 3). Each occurred in 56% of the remnants surveyed. *Rhamnus cathartica* (common buckthorn), *Phragmites australis* (common red reed), and *Festuca pratensis* (meadow fescue) were also prevalent in remnants. Meadow fescue and smooth brome grass are often planted when seeding roadsides. They can also invade from adjoining pastures and hayfields. District 1 prairies

had the highest prevalence and greatest variety of exotics occurring in remnants than any other district surveyed to date.

Table 3. List of exotics that were a threat to prairie remnants in IDOT District 1.

Scientific Name	Common Name	# Sites (out of 39)	% of Occurrence
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	22	56%
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	22	56%
Phragmites australis	common red reed	12	31%
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	12	31%
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	10	26%
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	9	23%
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	7	18%
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	5	13%
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle	5	13%
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers	4	10%
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	4	10%
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	4	10%
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace	4	10%
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	3	8%
Morus alba	white mulberry	1	3%
Populus alba	white poplar	1	3%
Rosa multiflora	multiflora rose	1	3%
Alliaria petiolata	garlic mustard	1	3%
Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-heaven	1	3%
Morus alba	white mulberry	1	3%
Carduus nutans	nodding thistle	1	3%

Literature Cited

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Site: District 1 **N#** 1

Date: 10/21/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: Ramer Road starts 0.2 mile from Oak Grove Road and extends to Harvard city limits.

County: McHenry **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0363983- 4697973
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0365807- 4697927

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing, dumping

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes
(McHenry County Conservation District)

Dist. from Pavement: 4 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.4 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#1

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Apocynum cannabinum	dogbane	2
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	4
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster praealtus	willow-leaved aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	4
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	4
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	4
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Salix exigua	sandbar willow	2
Silphium integrifolium	rosinweed	3
Silphium perfoliatum	cup plant	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	1
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	3
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 2

Date: 10/21/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: On the west side of Marengo, 300 m from Ritz Road

County: McHenry **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0366088- 4679317
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0366307- 4679290

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing (near city limits)

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 4 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#2

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	4
Antennaria plantaginifolia	everlasting	2
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Asclepias verticillata	whorled milkweed	1
Aster ericoides	heath aster	4
Aster laevis	smooth aster	1
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	1
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Coreopsis palmata	prairie coreopsis	3
Echinacea pallida	pale purple coneflower	3
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	3
Helianthus rigidus	prairie sunflower	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	3
Silphium integrifolium	rosinweed	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	1
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	4
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	1
Tridens flavus	false red top	3

Site: District 1 **N#** 3

Date: 11/04/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: South side of Hemmingsen Road, starting at Olson Road

County: McHenry **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0373707- 4676529
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0374729- 4675982

Quality Class: 1-3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing (near city limits)

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 19 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes
(Conservation Boundary McHenry County)

Dist. from Pavement: 4 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.7 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: High quality prairie with conservative species.

Comments: The first 0.5 mile from Olson Road is the best quality.

Plant List for Site N#3

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Allium cernuum	nodding wild onion	1
Amorpha canescens	lead plant	2
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	4
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	3
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	3
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Coreopsis palmata	prairie coreopsis	2
Dalea purpurea	purple prairie clover	2
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace	1
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Galium boreale	northern bedstraw	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Helianthus rigidus	prairie sunflower	3
Lilium philadelphicum	wood lily	1
Lysimachia quadrifolia	whorled loosestrife	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	4
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Potentilla arguta	prairie cinquefoil	2
Prunus americana	American plum	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2

Rubus occidentalis	black raspberry	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	4
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Spiraea alba	meadow-sweet	3
Sporobolus heterolepis	northern drop seed	2
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 4

Date: 11/04/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: US 14 from Crystal Manor to Cary Railroad Station

County: McHenry **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0394975- 4675396
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0397405- 4673841

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing, tree and ornamental plantings

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes
(IDOT do not mow sign)

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.8 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: There are some areas with high concentration of prairie plants. Some areas may have been planted with a mixture of native prairie and non-native plants.

Plant List for Site N#4

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Echinacea purpurea	broad-leaved purple coneflower	3
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	1
Liatris pycnostachya	gayfeather	1
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	3
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	3
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	4
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	3

Site: District 1 **N#** 5

Date: 11/04/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Lake County line to Barrington (Old Northwest Highway)

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0400933- 4671353
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0404811- 4668582

Quality Class: 2-3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry to wet-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing, woody invasion

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Carduus nutans	nodding thistle
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 30 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes
(IDOT do not mow sign)

Dist. from Pavement: 4 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 2.2 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: There are some areas with good concentration of prairie plants.

Plant List for Site N#5

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	1
Aster ericoides	heath aster	3
Aster laevis	smooth aster	3
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Carduus nutans	nodding thistle	3
Conyza canadensis	horseweed	2
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	1
Coronilla varia	crown vetch	3
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace	3
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Echinacea pallida	pale purple coneflower	2
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	1
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Helianthus rigidus	prairie sunflower	2
Liatris aspera	rough blazing star	2
Linaria vulgaris	butter-and-eggs	1
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Panicum oligosanthes var. *scribnerianum*	panic grass	2
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	2

Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Physocarpus opulifolius	common ninebark	3
Prunus americana	American plum	2
Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	1
Quercus imbricaria	shingle oak	1
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	4
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	2

Plant List for Site N#5 cont.

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	1
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	4
Silphium integrifolium	rosinweed	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	4
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Typha latifolia	cattail	3
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	1
Vitis riparia	river grape	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 6

Date: 10/31/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: On Long Lake Road, starts just east of Hart Road

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0409466- 4690003
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0407299- 4691154

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing, development

Scientific Name	Common Name
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 10-20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 1 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.7 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#6

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Bouteloua curtipendula	sideoats grama	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Juncus torreyi	Torrey's rush	2
Juniperus virginiana	eastern red cedar	2
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	4
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	5
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Typha latifolia	cattail	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 7

Date: 10/31/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: US 45 south of Winchester Road to where the railroad goes over US 45

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0417207- 4682773
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0417200- 4683891

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing, tree plantings

Scientific Name	Common Name
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.8 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: Large sections of this remnant are dominated by *Phalaris arundinacea* (reed canary grass)

Plant List for Site N#7

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	2
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace	3
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	3
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Helianthus strumosus	pale-leaved sunflower	2
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers	3
Oenothera biennis	evening primrose	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	5 (local)
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	2
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Typha latifolia	cattail	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 8

Date: 10/30/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: On Old Skokie/US 41 start 0.4 mile south of IL 137 to IL 120 overpass

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0427823- 4684076
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0426767- 4688885

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 22 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 3 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#8

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Achillea millefolium	yarrow	1
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	3
Aster drummondii	Drummond's aster	3
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	2
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	3
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Eragrostis spectabilis	purple love grass	2
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	3
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	2
Solidago riddellii	Riddell's goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	4
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Typha latifolia	cattail	1

Site: District 1 **N#** 9

Date: 10/30/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: US 41 at the intersection of IL 132 just north to Grandville Avenue

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0426193- 4691525
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0426118- 4691791

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife

Prairie Width: 23 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.15 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#9

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Aster ericoides	heath aster	3
Fragaria virginiana	wild strawberry	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Helianthus rigidus	prairie sunflower	3
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	4

Site: District 1 **N#** 10

Date: 10/30/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Junction of US 41 and IL 60

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 04288057- 4676811

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic savanna
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife

Prairie Width: 60 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: none

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#10

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	1
Aster drummondii	Drummond's aster	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	2
Carex spp.	sedges	2
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	2
Helianthus strumosus	pale-leaved sunflower	3
Juniperus virginiana	eastern red cedar	2
Liatris pycnostachya	gayfeather	4
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Physocarpus opulifolius	common ninebark	2
Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	2
Quercus macrocarpa	burr oak	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Salix humilis	prairie willow	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	2
Solidago nemoralis	dyersweed goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 11

Date: 10/30/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Old Elm Street north of to Sheriden (where the railroad goes over West Leigh Road)

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0431361- 4675854
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0432183- 4674392

Quality Class: 1 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie/savanna
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Lonicera maakii	bush honeysuckle
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust

Prairie Width: 40 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes

Dist. from Pavement: 1 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 1.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes
(Lake County Prairie Management Natural Area)

Significant or Exceptional Features: High quality prairie with some conservative species.

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#11

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Allium cernuum	nodding wild onion	1
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	ragweed	1
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	5
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster drummondii	Drummond's aster	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	3
Aster laevis	smooth aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Carya ovata	shagbark hickory	2
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace	1
Desmodium canadense	showy tick trefoil	2
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Fragaria virginiana	wild strawberry	2
Gentiana andrewsii	closed gentian	2
Helianthus strumosus	pale-leaved sunflower	3
Juncus torreyi	torrey rush	2
Liatris aspera	rough blazing star	2
Lonicera maakii	bush honeysuckle	5
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Muhlenbergia mexicana	leafy satin grass	2
Oenothera biennis	evening primrose	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2

Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	2
Populus deltoides	cottonwood	2
Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	2
Quercus alba	white oak	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac	2

Plant List for Site N#11 cont.

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	3
Rubus occidentalis	black raspberry	3
Rudbeckia hirta	black-eyed susan	2
Salix humilis	prairie willow	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	3
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Solidago speciosa	showy goldenrod	3
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3
Vitis riparia	river grape	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 12

Date: 10/31/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: IL 176 (bike trail between Rockland & Scranton Avenues)

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0429891 - 4681161

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers
Phragmites australis	common red reed
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust

Prairie Width: 18 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#12

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Aster laevis	smooth aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	2
Dalea purpurea	purple prairie clover	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	2
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	3
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	1
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	1
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3

Site: District 1 **N#** 13

Date: 10/30/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: North end of the village of Lake Bluff (Sheridan Avenue)

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0430267- 4683847
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0430252- 4681512

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion

Scientific Name	Common Name
Alliaria petiolata	garlic mustard
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 1.4 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#13

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Acer saccharum	hard maple	3
Agrostis alba	red top	2
Alliaria petiolata	garlic mustard	3
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	4
Anemone virginiana	tall anemone	2
Aristida longespica	three awn	2
Aster drummondii	Drummond's aster	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster laevis	smooth aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	4
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Fraxinus americana	white ash	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	3
Solidago riddellii	Riddell's goldenrod	1
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	2
Ulmus americana	American elm	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 14

Date: 10/30/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Route 43, Everett Road to North Avenue

County: Lake **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0428075- 4674318
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0429451- 4670251

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Phragmites australis	common red reed

Prairie Width: 15 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 1.5 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#14

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Conyza canadensis	horseweed	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	2
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Muhlenbergia mexicana	leafy satin grass	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	4
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	1
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	3
Typha latifolia	cattail	3

Site: District 1 **N#** 15

Date: 11/04/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Cook County line to junction of IL 14 and IL 68

County: Cook **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0407108- 4666933
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0409312- 4665381

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Phragmites australis	common red reed
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.7 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: The prairie plants occur in a narrow strip next to railroad tracks. The prairie vegetation probably occurs next to road but was mowed.

Plant List for Site N#15

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Apocynum cannabinum	dogbane	2
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster laevis	smooth aster	2
Daucus carota	Queen-Anne's-lace	3
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	3
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	3

Site: District 1 **N#** 16

Date: 11/04/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Junction of Northwest Highway (IL- 14) and Palos Avenue

County: Cook **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0410805- 4664420
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0410958- 4664320

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 15 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.15 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None
Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#16

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Asparagus officinalis	garden asparagus	1
Aster ericoides	heath aster	3
Aster laevis	smooth aster	1
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	1
Bouteloua curtipendula	sideoats grama	1
Celastrus scandens	bittersweet	1
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	1
Corylus americana	hazelnut	4
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Gaura biennis	gaura	1
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Juniperus virginiana	eastern red cedar	1
Liatris aspera	rough blazing star	1
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Oenothera biennis	evening primrose	1
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Rudbeckia hirta	black-eyed susan	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	3
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	3
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3

Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	2
Solidago riddellii	Riddell's goldenrod	3
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Tridens flavus	false red top	1
Typha latifolia	cattail	1

Site: District 1 **N#** 17

Date: 11/17/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Sue Dees

Location: Brainard Avenue at 130th Street

County: Cook **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0459165- 4611268

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-heaven
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers

Prairie Width: 40 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.2 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#17

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Ailanthus altissima	tree-of-heaven	3
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	3
Bouteloua curtipendula	sideoats grama	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Echinacea pallida	pale purple coneflower	2
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	1
Melilotus spp.	sweet clovers	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	4
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Verbena stricta	hoary vervain	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 18

Date: 11/17/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Sue Dees

Location: Route 1 north of Sauk Trail Road

County: Cook **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0447045- 4592962
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0447069- 4592628

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Rosa multiflora	multiflora rose

Prairie Width: 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.3 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#18

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Asclepias verticillata	whorled milkweed	2
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Rosa multiflora	Japanese rose	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	4
Typha latifolia	cattail	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 19

Date: 11/04/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: York Road, west of O'Hare Airport.

County: Du Page **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0422163- 4649165
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0422138- 4643221

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Phragmites australis	common red reed
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 15 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.7 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#19

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Acer negundo	box elder	2
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	1
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	3
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	4
Salix exigua	sandbar willow	3
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	4
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 20

Date: 10/29/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Along Pows Road from IL 64 to Smith Road

County: DuPage **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0397357- 4642303
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0397136- 4642963

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Wet-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 30 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes
(Fox Valley Management)

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.4 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#20

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Acer saccharinum	silver maple	2
Amorpha fruticosa	false indigo bush	2
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	1
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster praealtus	willow-leaved aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Cornus obliqua	pale dogwood	1
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	2
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	5
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	1
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	5
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Smilacina stellata	starry false solomon seal	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	4
Typha latifolia	cattail	3

Site: District 1 **N#** 21

Date: 10/29/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 64 from Hidden Oak Road to La Fox Road

County: Kane **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0385428 - 4643223
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0384152 - 4643781

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust

Prairie Width: 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** Yes
(Fox Valley Management)

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.9 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#21

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Brickellia eupatorioides	false boneset	3
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Echinacea purpurea	broad-leaved purple coneflower	2
Lespedeza capitata	bush clover	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	3
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	4

Site: District 1 **N#** 22

Date: 10/29/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Knootz

Location: Duncan Avenue 0.2 mile from Covey Street.

County: Kane **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0394790 - 4659037
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0394918 - 4658414

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Wet-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife

Prairie Width: 15-20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.35 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#22

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster praealtus	willow-leaved aster	2
Aster umbellatus	flat-top aster	1
Epilobium coloratum	willow herb	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	3
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife	3
Scirpus fluviatilis	river bulrush	2
Silphium perfoliatum	cup plant	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	1
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	3
Typha latifolia	cattail	2
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 23

Date: 11/13/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 72 west of IL 47

County: Kane **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0378656 - 4660617

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 60 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#23

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis	3
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	5
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Populus deltoides	cottonwood	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	1
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	4
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	3
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	4

Site: District 1 **N#** 24

Date: 10/08/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 64 (Virgil to IC Bike Trail)

County: Kane **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0376720 - 4644689
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0372122 - 4646185

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 10 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.7 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#24

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Acer negundo	box elder	3
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster laevis	smooth aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	2
Aster praealtus	willow-leaved aster	4
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	5
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	4
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle	3
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	3
Polygonatum commutatum	great solomon seal	2
Prunus serotina	wild black cherry	2
Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	2
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	4
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	1
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	2

Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	4

Site: District 1 **N#** 25

Date: 10/08/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 64 McCough Rd to DeKalb County line

County: Kane **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0368116 - 4647493
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0367323 - 4647748

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 10 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.5 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: The majority of the remnant was mowed.

Plant List for Site N#25

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Acer negundo	box elder	4
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	5
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	4
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Salix exigua	sandbar willow	3
Smilacina stellata	starry false solomon seal	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 26

Date: 11/13/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 30 from Kane County line to Big Rock

County: Kane **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0366850 - 4625166
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0371028 - 4624784

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing, development

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue

Prairie Width: 18 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 2.6 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: This remnant appeared to be higher quality when it was visited earlier in the year. The soil has recently been scraped.

Plant List for Site N#26

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Aster laevis	smooth aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Juniperus virginiana	eastern red cedar	3
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	5
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	3
Typha latifolia	cattail	2
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	1

Site: District 1 **N#** 27

Date: 11/05/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: IL 30 (Rance Road to Scotch Road)

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0395312 - 4616241
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0393966 - 4614990

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 30 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.9 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#27

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Acer negundo	box elder	4
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Salix exigua	sandbar willow	2
Salix nigra	black willow	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 28

Date: 11/05/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: Norman Town Road just north of IL 30

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0397333 - 4612787

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 10 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 1 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#28

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Achillea millefolium	yarrow	1
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Asparagus officinalis	asparagus	1
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	1
Brickellia eupatorioides	false boneset	2
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	4
Helianthus rigidus	prairie sunflower	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	1
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	3
Sambucus canadensis	elderberry	1
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	4
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	1
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 29

Date: 11/05/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Jason Koontz

Location: IL 30 starts 0.1 mile 135th Street to 127th Street

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0398127 - 4610635
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0397535 - 4611827

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip
Populus alba	white poplar

Prairie Width: 20-30 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.9 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#29

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Equisetum hyemale	scouring rush	3
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	3
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	3
Populus alba	white poplar	3
Prunus americana	American plum	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Salix exigua	sandbar willow	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 30

Date: 11/13/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: East of the town of Minooka along Wapella Road

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0396523 - 4590854
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0395650 – 4590136

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry gravel prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass

Prairie Width: 15 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 0.9 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: The last mile near Wapella is very degraded.

Plant List for Site N#30

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Aristida longespica	three awn	4
Aster ericoides	heath aster	1
Carex spp.	sedges	3
Corylus americana	hazelnut	2
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	3
Elymus virginicus	wild rye	2
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago nemoralis	dyersweed goldenrod	3
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	4

Site: District 1 **N#** 31

Date: 11/12/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 53 south of the town of Elwood

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0406923 - 4583430
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0405126 – 4579750

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Phragmites australis	common red reed

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 2.6 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#31

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Agastache nepetoides	yellow giant hyssop	2
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	2
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis	1
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle	3
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Prunus americana	American plum	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 32

Date: 11/12/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 53 from Wilmington to Braidwood

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0402856 - 4573225
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0398839 – 4569113

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust
Phragmites australis	common red reed

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 3.5 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#32

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Asclepias incarnata	swamp milkweed	1
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Brickellia eupatorioides	false boneset	2
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	3
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis	3
Cornus stolonifera	red osier dogwood	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	3
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	3
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	2
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Lespedeza capitata	bush clover	2
Liatris aspera	rough blazing star	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Muhlenbergia mexicana	leafy satin grass	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfe	2
Penstemon digitalis	foxglove beard-tongue	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Prenanthes racemosa	glaucous white lettuce	2

Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	2
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	3
Rubus occidentalis	black raspberry	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	1
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	3
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	2
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Tridens flavus	false red top	2
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 33

Date: 11/12/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 129 starts 0.4 mile north of IL 113

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0398945 - 4569295
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0400303 – 4570722

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle
Phragmites australis	common red reed

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.6 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#33

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Achillea millefolium	yarrow	1
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	2
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis	2
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	3
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	1
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	2
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle	3
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	2
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rubus occidentalis	black raspberry	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	2
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 34

Date: 11/03/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 53 Braidwood to Godley

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0398017 - 4568262
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0396456 – 4566697

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic sand prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm

Prairie Width: 20 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.35 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#34

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Agastache nepetoides	yellow giant hyssop	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	3
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	3
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	2
Eupatorium altissimum	tall boneset	2
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Scrophularia marilandica	late figwort	1
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	3
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	3
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 35

Date: 11/12/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: US 129 Godley west to Reed Street in Braidwood

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0396491 - 4565943
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0398017 – 4568611

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic sand prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive
Phragmites australis	common red reed
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm

Prairie Width: 20 - 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 5 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 2.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: Some conservative species occur in the remnant.

Comments: This site would probably improve with active management.

Plant List for Site N#35

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Amorpha canescens	lead plant	2
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	2
Corylus americana	hazelnut	2
Elaeagnus umbellata	autumn olive	3
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	3
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Euthamia graminifolia	grassleaf goldenrod	2
Helianthus occidentalis	western sunflower	2
Lespedeza capitata	bush clover	2
Lithospermum caroliniense	hairy puccoon	1
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	2
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Rhus glabra	smooth sumac	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	little bluestem	2
Silphium integrifolium	rosinweed	2
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	4
Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	2
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	2
Sporobolus heterolepis	northern drop seed	1
Tridens flavus	false red top	5
Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm	3

Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 36

Date: 11/18/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel

Location: IL 50 south of Richton Park

County: Cook/Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0440483- 4592278
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0438789 - 4588099

Quality Class: 3 **Natural Community Type(s):** Dry-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, development

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 10-40 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 2.9 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: Half the remnant mowed at the time of the survey.

Plant List for Site N#36

Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**RAV**
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Anemone virginiana	tall anemone	2
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis	2
Cornus racemosa	gray dogwood	4
Corylus americana	hazelnut	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	2
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Panicum oligosanthes var. *scribnerianum*	panic grass	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	2
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Silphium integrifolium	rosinweed	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago missouriensis	Missouri goldenrod	3
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Ulmus americana	American elm	4

Site: District 1 **N#** 37

Date: 11/18/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Sue Dees

Location: US 50 Monee north to Dralle Road

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0438051 - 4586314
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0438754 – 4588021

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 22 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 5 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.1 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#37

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	3
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	2
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Calamagrostis canadensis	bluejoint grass	2
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Coreopsis tripteris	tall coreopsis	2
Crataegus mollis	red haw	2
Desmodium canadense	showy tick trefoil	2
Dipsacus laciniatus	cut-leaved teasel	3
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue	3
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Helianthus rigidus	prairie sunflower	2
Juniperus virginiana	eastern red cedar	2
Lespedeza capitata	bush clover	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Pastinaca sativa	wild parsnip	3
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Phragmites australis	common red reed	3
Prunus americana	American plum	1
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Sambucus canadensis	elderberry	2

Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	3
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian grass	1
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2
Typha latifolia	cattail	2
Ulmus americana	American elm	3
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culver's root	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 38

Date: 11/18/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Sue Dees

Location: IL 50 Peotone to Monee

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0434331- 4577090
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0437503 - 4584670

Quality Class: 1- 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic to wet-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Festuca pratensis	meadow fescue
Lonicera maackii	amur honeysuckle

Prairie Width: 20-80 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 2 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 4.7 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: High species diversity in some areas.
Comments: Half the remnant was mowed at the time of the survey. Additional species might have been located if mowing had not been extensive.

Plant List for Site N#38

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Amorpha canescens	lead plant	3
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	4
Asclepias sullivantii	prairie milkweed	1
Asclepias syriaca	common milkweed	2
Aster ericoides	heath aster	3
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	3
Cirsium discolor	field thistle	2
Desmodium illinoense	Illinois tick trefoil	2
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	2
Gentiana andrewsii	closed gentian	2
Helianthus grosseserratus	tall sunflower	3
Lespedeza capitata	bush clover	2
Liatris aspera	rough blazing star	2
Liatris pycnostachya	gayfeather	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	4
Physostegia virginiana	false dragonhead	2
Populus deltoides	cottonwood	2
Potentilla arguta	prairie cinquefoil	2
Pycnanthemum virginianum	mountain mint	2
Quercus velutina	black oak	2
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	2
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	3
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	4

Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	3
Solidago nemoralis	dyersweed goldenrod	3
Solidago speciosa	showy goldenrod	1
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus heterolepis	northern drop seed	2
Typha latifolia	cattail	3
Ulmus americana	American elm	2

Site: District 1 **N#** 39

Date: 11/18/03 **Evaluator(s):** William C. Handel & Sue Dees

Location: IL 50 Peotone to Will County line.

County: Will **GPS Data: Starting UTM** 16T 0433691 - 4574707
GPS Data Ending UTM 16T 0432212 - 4571906

Quality Class: 2 **Natural Community Type(s):** Mesic to wet-mesic prairie
(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, woody invasion, mowing

Scientific Name	Common Name
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass
Morus alba	white mulberry
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn

Prairie Width: 25 m **Signs or Evidence of Management:** No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m **Railroad Activity:** Active

Prairie Length: 1.8 miles **Prairie present on opposite side of track:** Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#39

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
Andropogon gerardii	big bluestem	2
Aster pilosus	hairy aster	3
Bromus inermis	smooth brome grass	3
Eryngium yuccifolium	rattlesnake master	1
Euphorbia corollata	flowering spurge	2
Gentiana andrewsii	closed gentian	2
Monarda fistulosa	wild bergamot	2
Morus alba	white mulberry	3
Panicum virgatum	prairie switch grass	3
Parthenium integrifolium	American feverfew	2
Phalaris arundinacea	reed canary grass	3
Prunus americana	American plum	3
Ratibida pinnata	drooping coneflower	3
Rhamnus cathartica	common buckthorn	3
Rhus typhina	staghorn sumac	3
Rosa carolina	pasture rose	2
Salix exigua	sandbar willow	2
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	2
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	3
Solidago canadensis	Canada goldenrod	2
Solidago rigida	rigid goldenrod	2
Spartina pectinata	prairie cord grass	2
Sporobolus asper	drop seed	2