

**Inventory of Roadside Prairies
Illinois Department of Transportation
District 8**

**Illinois Natural History Survey
Center for Biodiversity
Technical Report (2) 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 8.

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 8 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 peak 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 8 in 1820 was approximately 1,492,100 acres. In 1976, the total acreage of high quality prairie (A or B) remaining in District 8 was 236.6 acres or 0.016% (White 1978). There are no specific

data on the amount of grade C - D prairie remaining in IDOT District 8. 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 virginianus*). 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 10) on the map. This number corresponds to a data sheet in the report. Information describing prairie remnants is summarized in Tables 1 - 3. Eleven additional sites were mapped but data were not collected. These eleven sites were mowed several times during the growing season. These areas are mapped on the District 8 Prairie Remnant Map in red with a letter **M**. Prairie was seen at some of these sites in past years during other survey work. In late fall, the characteristic golden color of the native grasses was evident at these sites even though they were mowed. Several trips were made to get data on these areas. Unfortunately, the mowing never allowed for a proper survey. If the roadside mowing was limited to three feet past the roadside ditch and at intersections exist, this prairie survey would have been more complete. Local municipalities and farmers may be mowing some of these remnants.

According to the GIS mapping, there were approximately 290.6 miles of joint roadway and railroad rights-of-way in District 8. Ten prairie remnants were located in these joint rights-of-ways in District 8 during the 2003-growing season, totaling 10.45 miles or (3.6%). The majority of the prairie remnants, 8 of 10 (80%), were class 3 (lowest quality prairie). Two of 10 (20%) were class 2 (medium quality) category. Only 1 of 10 (10%) prairie remnants were considered class 1 (highest quality) category. Four of 10 (40%) 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 rare with only 2 of 10 (20%) located in District 8. 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 8 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 community present.

Quality	# Sites (out of 10)	% of sites
Class 3	8	80%
Class 2	2	20%
Class 1	1	10%
Natural Communities		
Dry-mesic prairie	8	80%
Mesic prairie	4	40%
Wet-mesic prairie	2	20%
Signage or evidence of management (Burning)		
No	6	60%
Yes	4	40%
Railroad Activity		
Active	8	80%
Abandoned	2	20%
Presence of prairie on RR R-O-W opposite tracks		
No	6	60%
Yes	4	40%

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 virtually all the prairie remnants in District 8, effecting 9 of 10 (90%) remnants (Table 2). Five of 10 prairies (50%) were partially mowed, this does not include the eleven additional remnants that could not be surveyed because of continuous mowing. Woody invasion from both exotics and native species was a threat in 3 of 10 remnants (30%). 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 8.

Threats	# Sites (out of 10)	% of sites
Exotics	9	90%
Mowing	5	50%
Woody invasion	3	30%
Development	1	10%
Tree planting	1	10%

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 grass *Festuca pratensis* (meadow fescue) was the most common exotic encountered occurring in 7 of 10 (70%) of the prairie remnants (Table 3). Meadow fescue and smooth brome grass are often planted when seeding roadsides. They can also invade from adjoining pastures and hayfields.

Table 3. List of exotics that were a threat to prairie remnants in IDOT District 8.

Scientific Name	Common Name	# Sites (out of 10)	% of Occurrence
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	meadow fescue	7	70%
<i>Melilotus</i> spp.	sweet clovers	2	20%
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canary grass	2	20%
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	smooth brome grass	1	10%
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk bristle thistle	1	10%
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	crown vetch	1	10%
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	autumn olive	1	10%
<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle	1	10%
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	amur honeysuckle	1	10%
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	birdsfoot-trefoil	1	10%
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	hedge apple	1	10%
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	wild parsnip	1	10%
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	1	10%
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	egyptian millet	1	10%

Literature Cited

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Site: District 8

N# 1

Date: 7/06/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: US 67 north of Medora

County: Jersey

GPS Data: Starting UTM 15S 0744082- 4346406

GPS Data Ending UTM 15S 0744286- 4345943

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

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

Melilotus spp.

sweet clovers

Pastinaca sativa

wild parsnip

Prairie Width: 20 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m

Railroad Activity: Abandoned

Prairie Length: 0.3 miles

Prairie present on opposite side of track: Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: Woody vegetation is shading the majority of the prairie

Plant List for Site N#1

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow	1
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	2
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	butterflyweed	1
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	heath aster	1
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen-Anne's-lace	1
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	annual fleabane	1
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	flowering spurge	3
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	meadow fescue	3
<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	tall sunflower	3
<i>Melilotus</i> spp.	sweet clovers	3
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	wild parsnip	3
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	wild black cherry	1
<i>Psoralea onobrychis</i>	French grass	2
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	mountain mint	2
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	drooping coneflower	3
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	smooth sumac	3
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan	2
<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	rosinweed	2
<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	prairie dock	4
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	3
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	prairie cord grass	2
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	4
<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Missouri ironweed	2

Site: District 8

N# 2

Date: 7/29/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: Old Alton Road

County: Madison

GPS Data: Starting UTM 15S 0753262- 4296884

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

Lonicera japonica

Japanese honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii

amur honeysuckle

Maclura pomifera

Osage orange

Melilotus spp.

sweet clovers

Sorghum halepense

Johnson grass

Prairie Width: 20 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m

Railroad Activity: Active

Prairie Length: 0.65 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

Ampelopsis cordata

raccoon grape

4

Campanula americana

American bellflower

3

Cassia fasciculata

partridge pea

1

Conyza canadensis

horseweed

3

Cornus drummondii

rough-leaved dogwood

1

Cornus drummondii

rough-leaved dogwood

3

Desmodium paniculatum

panicked tick trefoil

3

Helianthus tuberosus

Jerusalem artichoke

2

Ipomoea pandurata

wild sweet potato vine

3

Lonicera japonica

Japanese honeysuckle

3

Lonicera maackii

amur honeysuckle

3

Maclura pomifera

Osage orange

3

Melilotus spp.

sweet clovers

3

Rhus glabra

smooth sumac

3

Solidago canadensis

Canada goldenrod

3

Sorghum halepense

Johnson grass

3

Spartina pectinata

prairie cord grass

4

Symphoricarpos orbiculatus

buckbrush

3

Site: District 8

N# 3

Date: 8/21/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: Poag Road

County: Madison

GPS Data: Starting UTM 15S 0756160- 4297484

GPS Data Ending UTM 15S 0754859- 4296326

Quality Class: 2

Natural Community Type(s): Mesic prairie

(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: woody invasion

Prairie Width: 30m

Signs or Evidence of Management: Yes
(Illinois Heritage Landmark)

Dist. from Pavement: 1 m

Railroad Activity: Active

Prairie Length: 1.3 miles

Prairie present on opposite side of track: Yes

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#3

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
<i>Acer negundo</i>	box elder	3
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	false indigo bush	2
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	4
<i>Apocynum sibiricum</i>	Indian hemp	2
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	swamp milkweed	1
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	false aster	2
<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	partridge pea	3
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	3
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	rough-leaved dogwood	3
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	showy tick trefoil	2
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	rattlesnake master	1
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	tall boneset	2
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	white ash	3
<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	tall sunflower	3
<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i>	hairy rose mallow	3
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	bush clover	1
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	prairie switch grass	3
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	water smartweed	3
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	smooth sumac	3
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	compass plant	2
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada goldenrod	3
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	1
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	burreed	1
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	prairie cord grass	5
<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Missouri ironweed	3

Site: District 8

N# 4

Date: 8/20/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: US 40 Smithboro to Greenville

County: Bond

GPS Data: Starting UTM 16S 0296407- 4307752

GPS Data Ending UTM 16S 0293865- 4306608

Quality Class: 2

Natural Community Type(s): Dry-mesic prairie to mesic prairie

(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, construction

Scientific Name

Common Name

Bromus inermis

smooth brome grass

Populus alba

white poplar

Prairie Width: 30m

Signs or Evidence of Management: Yes
(IDOT no mowing sign)

Dist. from Pavement: 3 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#4

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
<i>Agrimonia pubescens</i>	soft agrimony	2
<i>Agrostis alba</i>	red top	1
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	4
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	dogbane	2
<i>Asclepias hirtella</i>	tall green milkweed	2
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	common milkweed	1
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	smooth brome grass	3
<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	partridge pea	2
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	showy tick trefoil	1
<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	Illinois tick trefoil	2
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	rattlesnake master	2
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	late boneset	2
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	flowering spurge	2
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	grassleaf goldenrod	2
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	wild strawberry	3
<i>Gaura biennis</i>	gaura	1
<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	tall sunflower	3
<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	hairy sunflower	2
<i>Helianthus rigidus</i>	prairie sunflower	1
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	3
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	slender mountain mint	1
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	mountain mint	1
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	dark green rush	2
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	compass plant	2
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada goldenrod	3
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	Missouri goldenrod	2
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	dyersweed goldenrod	2

<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	3
<i>Sporobolus asper</i>	drop seed	2
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	false red top	2
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	blue vervain	2
<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Missouri ironweed	5

Site: District 8

N# 5

Date: 8/20/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: US 40 from 1 mile west of Mulberry Grove to Smithboro

County: Bond

GPS Data: Starting UTM 16S 0301610- 4310085

GPS Data Ending UTM 16S 0297277- 4308144

Quality Class: 1

Natural Community Type(s): Mesic to wet-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: 45m

Signs or Evidence of Management: Yes
(IDOT no mowing sign)

Dist. from Pavement: 4 m

Railroad Activity: Active

Prairie Length: 2.8 miles

Prairie present on opposite side of track: No

Significant or Exceptional Features: Some good quality wet mesic prairie exists in this remnant. The best quality is the first 1.6 miles from Mulberry Grove to King Road 1675N.

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#5

Scientific Name

Common Name

RAV

Agrostis alba

red top

1

Andropogon gerardii

big bluestem

4

Apocynum cannabinum

dogbane

2

Apocynum sibiricum

Indian hemp

1

Asclepias hirtella

tall green milkweed

3

Asclepias incarnata

swamp milkweed

4

Asclepias sullivantii

prairie milkweed

3

Asclepias syriaca

common milkweed

2

Asclepias tuberosa

butterflyweed

2

Asclepias verticillata

whorled milkweed

3

Aster novae-angliae

New England aster

2

Aster turbinellus

prairie aster

3

Baptisia lactea

white wild indigo

1

Bidens aristosa

swamp marigold

3

Cassia fasciculata

partridge pea

4

Cirsium discolor

field thistle

1

Cornus drummondii

rough-leaved dogwood

2

Desmodium canadense

showy tick trefoil

2

Desmodium sessilifolium

sessile-leaved tick trefoil

2

Eupatorium altissimum

tall boneset

2

Eupatorium serotinum

late boneset

2

Euphorbia corollata

flowering spurge

4

Euthamia graminifolia

grassleaf goldenrod

3

Euthamia gymnospermoides

grassleaf goldenrod

2

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

3

Gaura biennis

gaura

2

<i>Helianthus mollis</i>	hairy sunflower	2
<i>Helianthus strumosus</i>	pale-leaved sunflower	2
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	false sunflower	2
<i>Hieracium longipilum</i>	hairy hawkweed	2
<i>Juncus biflorus</i>	two-flowered rush	2

Plant List for Site N#5 cont.

Scientific Name	Common Name	RAV
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	torrey rush	2
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	crested hair grass	2
<i>Lactuca canadensis</i>	Canada lettuce	2
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	bush clover	1
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	rough blazing star	3
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	gayfeather	2
<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	hoary puccoon	2
<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	common water horehound	2
<i>Lythrum alatum</i>	winged loosestrife	2
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wild bergamot	2
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	evening primrose	1
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	foxglove beard-tongue	2
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	reed canary grass	3
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	slender mountain mint	4
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	mountain mint	2
<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>	common blackberry	2
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	black-eyed susan	1
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	brown-eyed susan	2
<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	hairy ruellia	2
<i>Salix humilis</i>	prairie willow	1
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	dark green rush	3
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	dark green rush	3
<i>Setaria geniculata</i>	perennial foxtail	2
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	compass plant	4
<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	prairie dock	2
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada goldenrod	3
<i>Solidago juncea</i>	early goldenrod	2
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	Missouri goldenrod	1
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	dyersweed goldenrod	2
<i>Solidago rigida</i>	rigid goldenrod	4
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	2
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	prairie cord grass	1
<i>Sporobolus asper</i>	drop seed	4
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	northern drop seed	2
<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	posion ivy	2
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Ohio spiderwort	1
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	false red top	2
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm	2
<i>Vernonia baldwinii</i>	Baldwin's ironweed	2
<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Missouri ironweed	2

Site: District 8

N# 6

Date: 7/19/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: Village of Boulder on Lake Carlyle

County: Clinton

GPS Data: Starting UTM 16S 0306605- 4284909

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

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

Prairie Width: 38 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: No

Dist. from Pavement: 7 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#6

Scientific Name

Common Name

RAV

Andropogon gerardii

big bluestem

2

Apocynum cannabinum

dogbane

3

Asclepias syriaca

common milkweed

3

Asclepias tuberosa

butterflyweed

1

Aster pilosus

hairy aster

2

Campsis radicans

trumpet creeper

3

Euphorbia corollata

flowering spurge

3

Gaura biennis

gaura

2

Helianthus mollis

hairy sunflower

2

Polygonatum commutatum

great solomon seal

2

Pycnanthemum tenuifolium

slender mountain mint

3

Rudbeckia hirta

black-eyed susan

1

Silphium integrifolium

rosinweed

3

Silphium terebinthinaceum

prairie dock

4

Solidago missouriensis

Missouri goldenrod

3

Sorghastrum nutans

Indian grass

3

Site: District 8

N# 7

Date: 8/19/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: 1950N extending to the town of Posey

County: Clinton

GPS Data: Starting UTM 16S 0296141- 4267993
UTM 16S 0295453- 4268004

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

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

Prairie Width: 15 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: No

Dist. from Pavement: 1 m

Railroad Activity: Active

Prairie Length: 0.4 miles

Prairie present on opposite side of track: No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#7

Scientific Name

Common Name

RAV

Apocynum cannabinum

dogbane

3

Asclepias syriaca

common milkweed

3

Baptisia lactea

white wild indigo

2

Campsis radicans

trumpet creeper

3

Desmodium canadense

showy tick trefoil

2

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

3

Fragaria virginiana

wild strawberry

1

Helianthus grosseserratus

tall sunflower

3

Silphium terebinthinaceum

prairie dock

2

Solidago rigida

rigid goldenrod

2

Spartina pectinata

prairie cord grass

3

Tripsacum dactyloides

gama grass

2

Verbesina helianthoides

yellow crownbeard

2

Site: District 8

N# 8

Date: 8/19/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: 177 Cattle Pen Road to Nightingale Road 6850E

County: Washington

GPS Data: Starting UTM 16S 0273280- 4257633

GPS Data Ending UTM 16S 0275344- 4256686

Quality Class: 3

Natural Community Type(s): Wet-mesic to mesic prairie

(Quality Classes: 1=Grades A or B, 2 = C, 3=D)

Threats: exotics, mowing, tree plantings

Scientific Name

Common Name

Elaeagnus umbellata

autumn olive

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

Phalaris arundinacea

reed canary grass

Prairie Width: 25 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: Yes

(IDOT wetland restoration)

Dist. from Pavement: 5 m

Railroad Activity: Abandoned

Prairie Length: 1.4 miles

Prairie present on opposite side of track: No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: Small wetland inclusions occur along this remnant. It might have been planted in areas with a wetland seed mix.

Plant List for Site N#8

Scientific Name

Common Name

RAV

Alisma plantago-aquatica

common water plantain

2

Andropogon gerardii

big bluestem

2

Cassia fasciculata

partridge pea

2

Elaeagnus umbellata

autumn olive

4

Euphorbia corollata

flowering spurge

4

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

5

Helianthus mollis

hairy sunflower

2

Hibiscus lasiocarpus

hairy rose mallow

2

Lactuca canadensis

Canada lettuce

1

Lythrum alatum

winged loosestrife

2

Phalaris arundinacea

reed canary grass

3

Phyla lanceolata

fog-fruit

2

Salix exigua

sandbar willow

2

Saururus cernuus

lizard's tail

2

Scirpus pendulus

red bulrush

4

Silphium laciniatum

compass plant

3

Silphium terebinthinaceum

prairie dock

2

Solidago juncea

early goldenrod

3

Spartina pectinata

prairie cord grass

3

Vernonia missurica

Missouri ironweed

2

Site: District 8

N# 9

Date: 7/29/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: Nashville Road to the town of Oakdale

County: Washington

GPS Data: Starting UTM 16S 0283242- 4240302

GPS Data Ending UTM 16S 0281933- 4238457

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

Coronilla varia

crown vetch

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

Prairie Width: 10-30 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m

Railroad Activity: Active

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#9

Scientific Name

Common Name

RAV

Andropogon gerardii

big bluestem

2

Apocynum cannabinum

dogbane

2

Asclepias syriaca

common milkweed

2

Cirsium discolor

field thistle

2

Coronilla varia

crown vetch

3

Erigeron annuus

annual fleabane

2

Euphorbia corollata

flowering spurge

2

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

4

Helianthus grosseserratus

tall sunflower

2

Helianthus mollis

hairy sunflower

2

Monarda fistulosa

wild bergamot

1

Quercus imbricaria

shingle oak

2

Quercus palustris

pin oak

2

Silphium laciniatum

compass plant

3

Silphium terebinthinaceum

prairie dock

3

Solidago canadensis

Canada goldenrod

1

Solidago juncea

early goldenrod

2

Sporobolus asper

drop seed

2

Urtica dioica

stinging nettle

3

Site: District 8

N# 10

Date: 7/9/03

Evaluator(s): William C. Handel

Location: 125 m from the IL 157 overpass along IL 161

County: Washington

GPS Data: Starting UTM 15S 0756810- 4276255

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

Carduus nutans

nodding thistle

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

Lotus corniculatus

birdsfoot trefoil

Melilotus spp.

sweet clovers

Prairie Width: 25 m

Signs or Evidence of Management: No

Dist. from Pavement: 3 m

Railroad Activity: Active

Prairie Length: 0.2 miles

Prairie present on opposite side of track: No

Significant or Exceptional Features: None

Comments: None

Plant List for Site N#10

Scientific Name

Common Name

RAV

Agrostis alba

red top

3

Andropogon gerardii

big bluestem

1

Aster pilosus

hairy aster

2

Aster praealtus

willow-leaved aster

1

Carduus nutans

nodding thistle

3

Conyza canadensis

horseweed

3

Dalea purpurea

purple prairie clover

1

Desmodium illinoense

Illinois tick trefoil

2

Echinacea purpurea

broad-leaved purple coneflower

1

Eupatorium altissimum

tall boneset

1

Festuca pratensis

meadow fescue

3

Lotus corniculatus

birdsfoot trefoil

3

Melilotus spp.

sweet clovers

3

Panicum virgatum

prairie switch grass

4

Ratibida pinnata

drooping coneflower

3

Rudbeckia hirta

black-eyed susan

1

Solidago canadensis

Canada goldenrod

3

Sorghastrum nutans

Indian grass

2

Mowned Areas

1. Jersey County

IL -67 North of Site 1

This remnant appears to have potential if mowing is stopped. One section next to Macoupin Creek is far off the road and down in the ditch. This site appeared to be good quality wet-mesic prairie during the spring survey.

2. Jersey County

IL -67 South of Site 1

This area was similar in species composition of Site 1. It was mowed before the fall survey could be done.

3. Jersey County

This remnant is between the towns of Brighton and Godfrey on US 67.

This area had some conservative species that were still present where the mower could not reach.

4. Madison County

Old Carpenter Road

This remnant appears to have some quality prairie remaining.

5. Madison County

Brakhane Road south of Worden

This area had some good quality prairie in the spring. Early in the fall the remnant was mowed even beyond the usually mowing distance from the pavement.

6. Madison County

West of Highland on IL 40

This area has some grasses and forbs but was mowed just before the fall survey. Most of this area was wet and was dominated by wetland species.

7. Clinton County

This remnant is east of Ablers on US 161.

This area had some forbs in the spring but was mowed just before the fall survey.

8. Clinton County

This remnant is on US 161 near the Kaskaskia River

This area has some forbs but was mowed just before the fall survey.

Most of this area was wet and had wetland species were dominant.

9. Washington County

This remnant is between Okawville and Addieville on IL 177.

This area has some forbs and native grasses but was mowed before the fall survey.

10. St Clair County

This remnant is south east of Marissa on White Oak Mine road.

This area has some forbs but was mowed just before the fall survey.

11. St Clair County

The Railroad between the towns of Baldwin and Sparta

This area has some forbs and grasses but was mowed just before the fall survey.