

Prairie Ecosystem

Prairies are temperate grasslands made up of mostly native grasses, sedges, and flowering plants. Tallgrass prairies are among the most decimated and threatened natural communities in the Midwest and the world. Most native prairies found today in Wisconsin are small remnants that are less than 10 acres in size.

Prairies are made up of native plants with deep root systems that can capture and store 1/2 to 1 ton of carbon per acre per year which is comparable to forests. They also help soak up rain water which can help reduce flooding and recharge groundwater supplies.

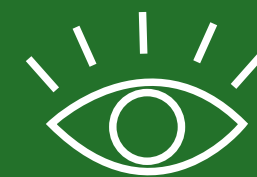
Invasive plants can spread quickly and crowd out beneficial native plant species. Volunteers and staff help keep invasive plants under control through mowing, prescribed fire, herbicide application, or manual removal.

DON'T TOUCH: Wild parsnip contains toxic chemicals that are activated by sunlight and can cause serious burns and blisters to human skin after contact.

Native plants provide food and habitat for a variety of birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

1. Soil Biology
2. Bumblebee
3. Wood Mint
4. White Wild Indigo
5. Lead Plant
6. Stiff Gentian
7. Common Milkweed
8. Little Bluestem
9. Goldfinch
10. Bobolink
11. Grasshopper Sparrow
12. Cup Plant
13. Wild Parsnip*
14. Burdock*
15. Dickcissel

*Invasive plant



Can you spot a bird nesting box in the prairie? These support a number of species, including Kestrel, Blue Bird, Chickadee, House Wrens and Tree Swallows.



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