



*Prairie Moraine Vegetation Management
Public Information Meeting*

Wednesday October 10, 2018 6:30pm

Verona Public Library 500 Silent St. Verona, WI 53593

- History of Prairie Moraine
- Vegetation Goals/Master Plan
- Volunteer restoration efforts supported by Dane County Parks
- Vegetation Plan

Lars Higdon

Botanist/Naturalist

Dane County Land and Water Resources,
Parks Division

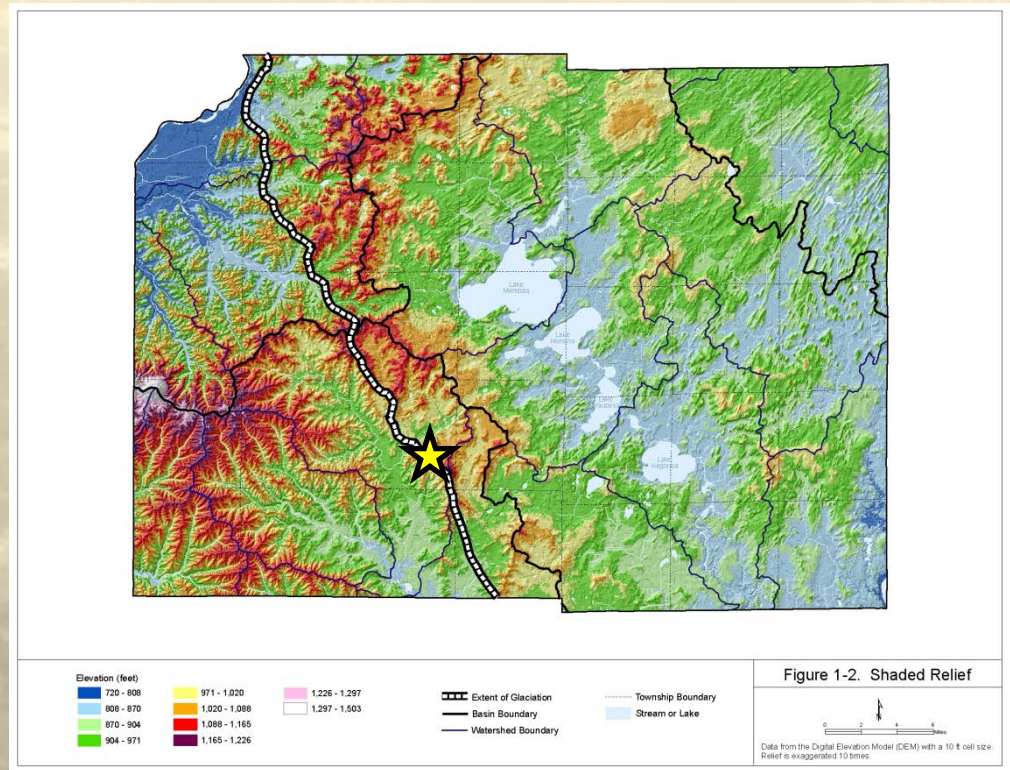
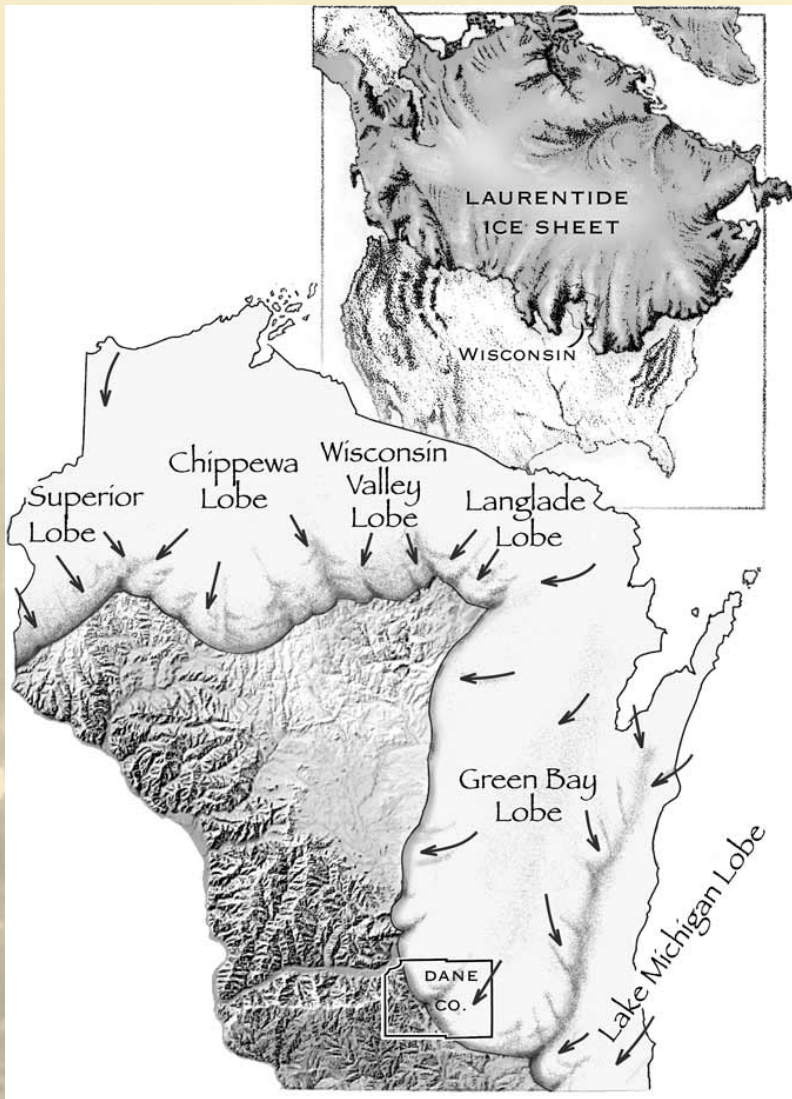
higdon.lars@countyofdane.com

Office: 608-245-6898

Cell: 608-286-9497

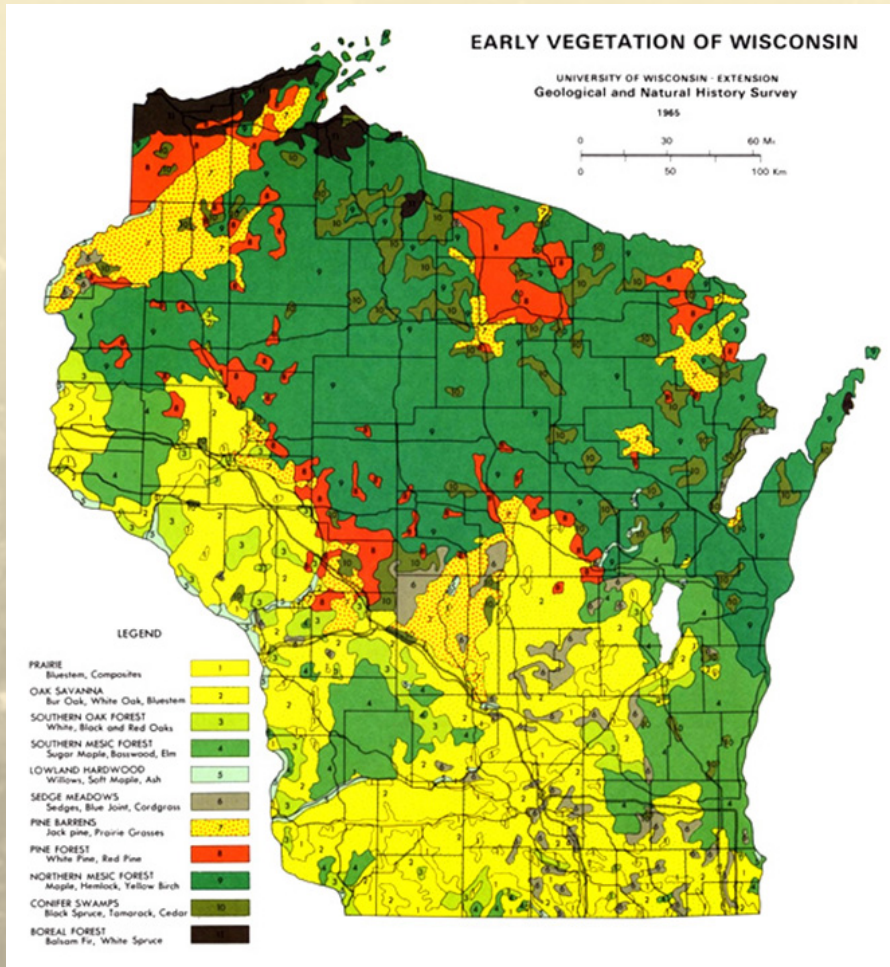


Natural History of Prairie Moraine





Natural History of Prairie Moraine





Prairie Moraine County Park

1995





Prairie Moraine County Park

1995





Prairie Moraine County Park

2006





Prairie Moraine Invasive Exotic Species

Eurasian bush honeysuckles Amur (*Lonicera maackii*), Bell's (*L. x bella*), Morrow's (*L. morrowii*), Tartarian (*L. tatarica*)

S-1

Wild parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*

F-24

Eurasian bush honeysuckles Amur (*Lonicera maackii*), Bell's (*L. x bella*), Morrow's (*L. morrowii*), Tartarian (*L. tatarica*)

Bush honeysuckles are dense, multi-stemmed shrubs, 6-12' tall. Older stems may have shaggy, peeling bark and are often hollow between the nodes.

Leaves: Opposite; oval or oblong; untoothed; hairless to downy; and green or blue-green. *L. maackii* leaves are dark green and glossy, narrowly oval to oblong and come to a sharp, long point.

Flowers: Fragrant; tubular; and arranged in pairs at leaf axils; reddish pink or white, turning yellow with age. All bloom mid to late spring.

Fruits & seeds: Red, orange, or yellow; in pairs at leaf axils; fruits contain many seeds which are readily dispersed by birds.

Roots: Fibrous and shallow.

Similar species: Native *Lonicera* spp. have shorter, sparser growth forms and white pith in stems. Native bush honeysuckles (*Diervilla* spp.) have yellow flowers and grow in dry or rocky sites. Native species develop leaves 1-2 weeks later and drop them earlier than the non-natives and often have solid stems.

Ecological threats:

- Bush honeysuckles invade forest edges, woodlands, fields, pastures, fens, bogs, lake shores, and roadsides.
- They alter habitats by depleting soil moisture and nutrients, and possibly releasing allelopathic chemicals that inhibit growth of other plants.
- It forms dense, even-aged thickets, reducing light availability for understory species and preventing native tree regeneration.
- They have been widely planted as ornamentals and for wildlife.

Control:

- **Manual/Mechanical:** Hand pull small plants. Dig or use a leverage tool on larger plants. Cutting without herbicide treatment will result in resprouting. Burn in spring to kill seedlings.
- **Chemical:** Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl, triclopyr, or glyphosate in early spring prior to leaf out of native species. Cut-stump treat with glyphosate or triclopyr ester.

PR

R

Wild parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*

Wild parsnip is an herbaceous, monocarpic perennial. It grows as a rosette with upright leaves, for at least 1 year. Flowering stems are stout, hollow, grooved, and up to 5' tall. The garden vegetable form is not restricted.

Leaves: Rosette leaves are pinnately compound with 5-15 broad, ovate to oblong leaflets. Stem leaves are alternate, with 2-5 pairs of sharply toothed leaflets. Leaf stalks wrap around the stem. Upper stem leaves are reduced to narrow bracts.

Flowers: Numerous; small; 5-petaled; yellow; in 2-6" wide, flat umbels. Blooms late spring to early summer.

Fruits & seeds: Yellowish; oval; 0.25" long; smooth on one side with four curved "ribs" on the other (see photo).

Roots: Long, thick taproot.

Similar species: Wisconsin threatened species prairie parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*; native) has sparser umbels that are somewhat rounder; leaves have few teeth. Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*; native) has more condensed umbels and 3-7 leaflets.

CAUTION: When sap contacts skin in the presence of sunlight, it can cause severe rashes, blisters, and discoloration of the skin (phytophotodermatitis). Wear gloves, long sleeves, and long pants when handling.

Ecological threats:

- Wild parsnip invades oak savannas, prairies, fields, pastures, and roadsides.
- It has a broad habitat tolerance, growing in dry, mesic, or wet habitats, but it does not grow in dense shade.

Control:

- **Manual/Mechanical:** Hand pull or use a sharp shovel to cut root 1-2" below soil surface. Use a brush-cutter on large populations before seeds develop. If flowering or in seed, burn or bag and landfill the flower heads.
- **Chemical:** Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl (mid-May to mid-June), glyphosate, or 2,4-D.

R



Natural History of Prairie Moraine

Wild Lupine



Pasque Flower





Dane County Hospital - Home

- Land in Dane County ownership since 1880
- 1880s-1930s: leper colony and poor farm
- 1930s-1970s: leased for grazing, too rocky to plow
- 1987: Dane County incorporates IAT as principal element of Parks and Open Space Plan.
- 1993: Transferred to Dane County Parks for Ice Age Trail





Prairie Moraine Dog Park and Ice Age Trail Segment Open - 1995

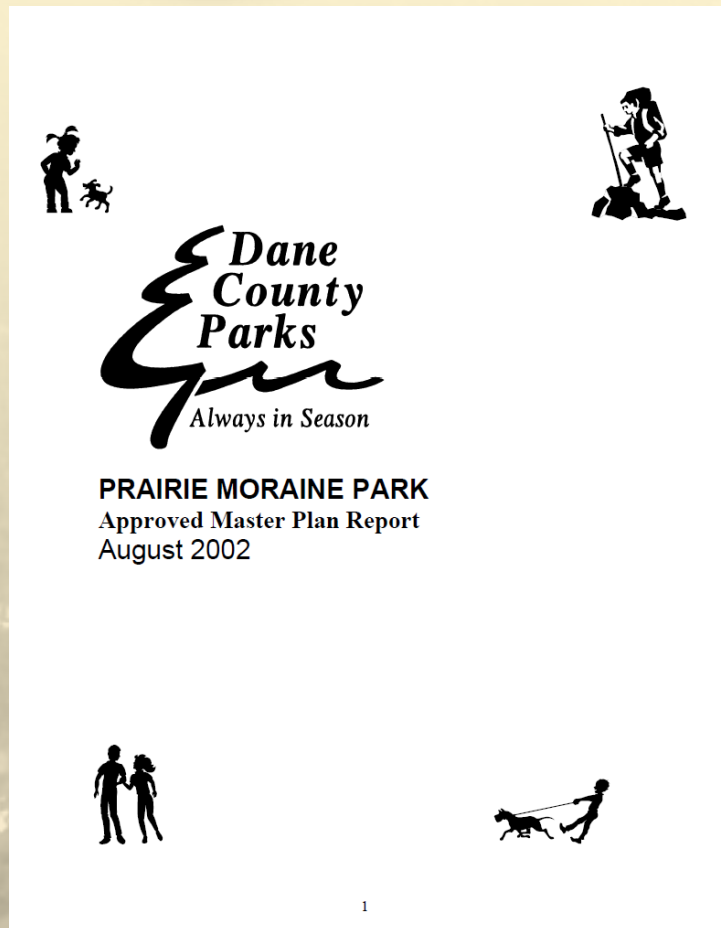
Immediate Management Challenges





Master Plan Process

5 Guiding Objectives

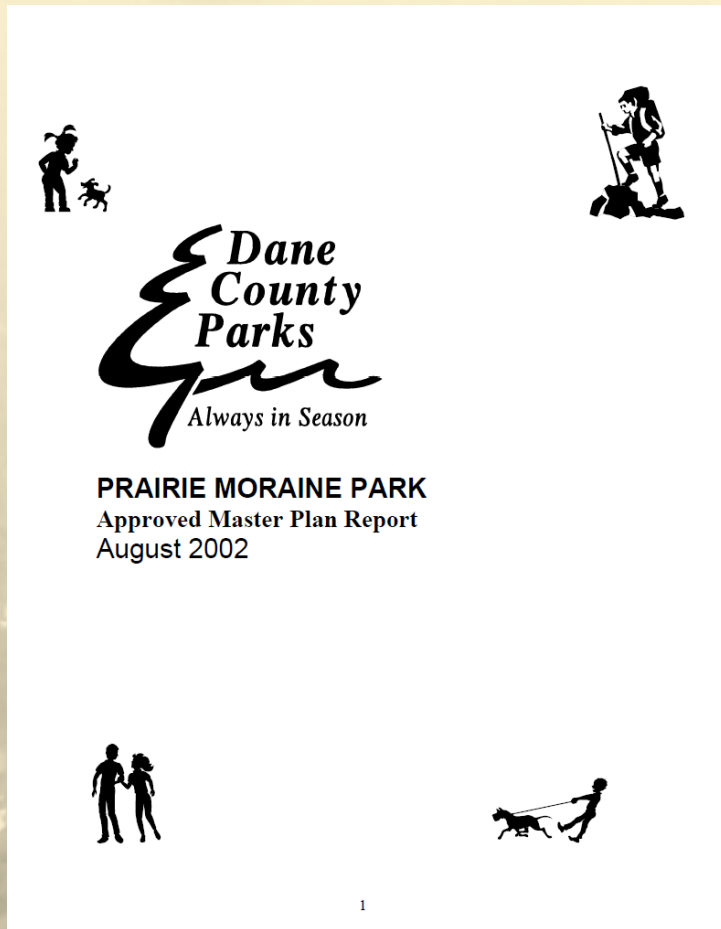


- Create additional off leash areas in park and region to lessen impacts on park.
- Protect natural and geologic resources, including viewsheds.
- Provide sufficient parking
- Maintain positive relationships with neighboring landowners
- Create park environment that allows co-existence of off-leash area, IAT corridor, and vegetation restoration.

2 year process, 4 Public info meetings, many meetings with stakeholders, staff, landowners, volunteers, and special interest groups



2002 Master Plan



- Vegetation Management
 - Restoration of natural communities
 - Exotic species control



Natural Areas Program

Mission

Restore and sustain the natural communities of Dane County Park lands to the highest standard while helping to foster within people a deeper connection to our natural resources and an understanding for the principles and practices of land stewardship.

Core values:

- Ecosystem Recovery
 - Restoration of ecosystem integrity, resiliency, and functionality.
 - Sensitive and declining species restoration.
 - Invasive species control.
- Land Stewardship Education
 - Training the next generation of land stewards.
 - Connecting people to the land and waters of Dane County.
 - Instilling a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world.



Natural Areas Program

- **Fall:** Seed Collection, Processing, Planting
- **Winter:** Invasive Tree and Brush Removal
- **Spring:** Prescribed Burning
- **Summer:** Invasive Weed Control





Natural Areas Program

Empowering Volunteers

- Annual Volunteer Work Plans
- Training/Enrichment Opportunities
- Guidance and Direction
- Tools and Supplies
- Natural Area Vegetation Plans





Natural Areas Program

Vegetation Plans

- Broad vision/goals
- Specific objectives
- Map of natural communities
- Noteworthy resources and unique opportunities.
- Threats/concerns
- Management recommendations
- Maintenance plan
- Volunteer opportunities

Provide Your Input



Comments and Questions

Lars Higdon
Botanist/Naturalist
Dane County Land and Water Resources,
Parks Division
higdon.lars@countyofdane.com
Office: 608-245-6898
Cell: 608-286-9497

