



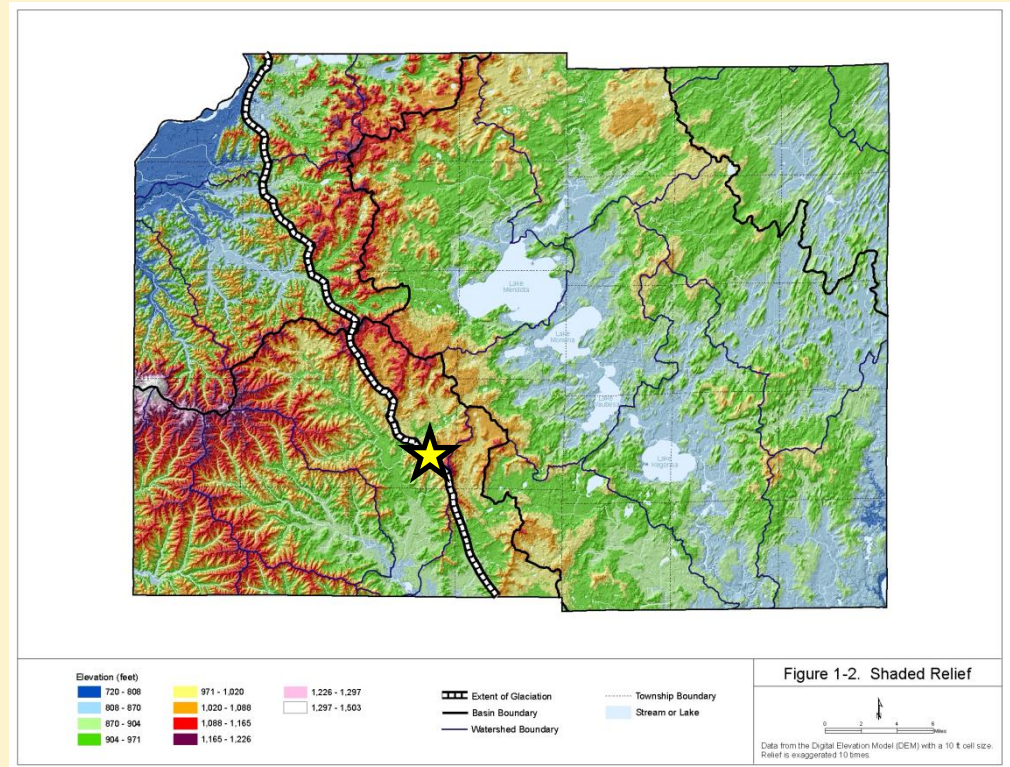
*Prairie Moraine Vegetation Management  
Public Information Meeting  
Wednesday October 10, 2018 6:30pm  
Verona Public Library 500 Silent St. Verona, WI 53593*

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

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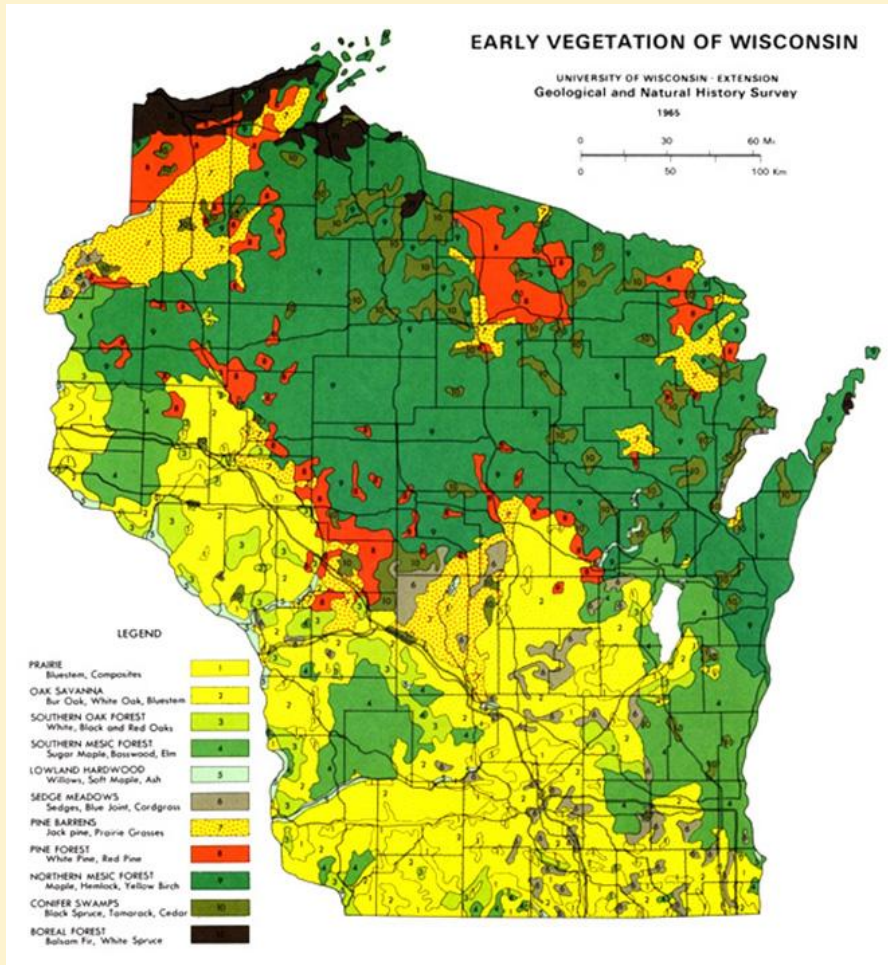


# Natural History of Prairie Moraine





# Natural History of Prairie Moraine





# Prairie Moraine County Park

1995





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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*)

Amur Honeysuckle

Left to Right: Morrow's, Bell's, Tartarian

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 (*Desmodium* 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.

L. maackii

L. morrowii, L. bella

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.

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# Natural History of Prairie Moraine

Wild Lupine



Pasque Flower





# Dane County Hospital - Home

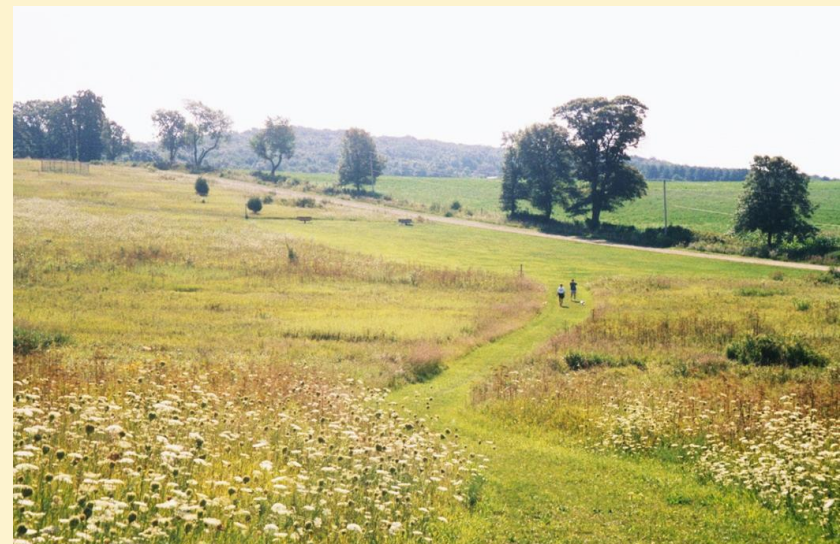
- Land in Dane County ownership since 1880
- 1880s-1930s: leper colony and poor farm
- 1930s-1970s: leased for grazing, too rocky to plow
- 1987: Dane County incorporates IAT as principal element of Parks and Open Space Plan.
- 1993: Transferred to Dane County Parks for Ice Age Trail





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

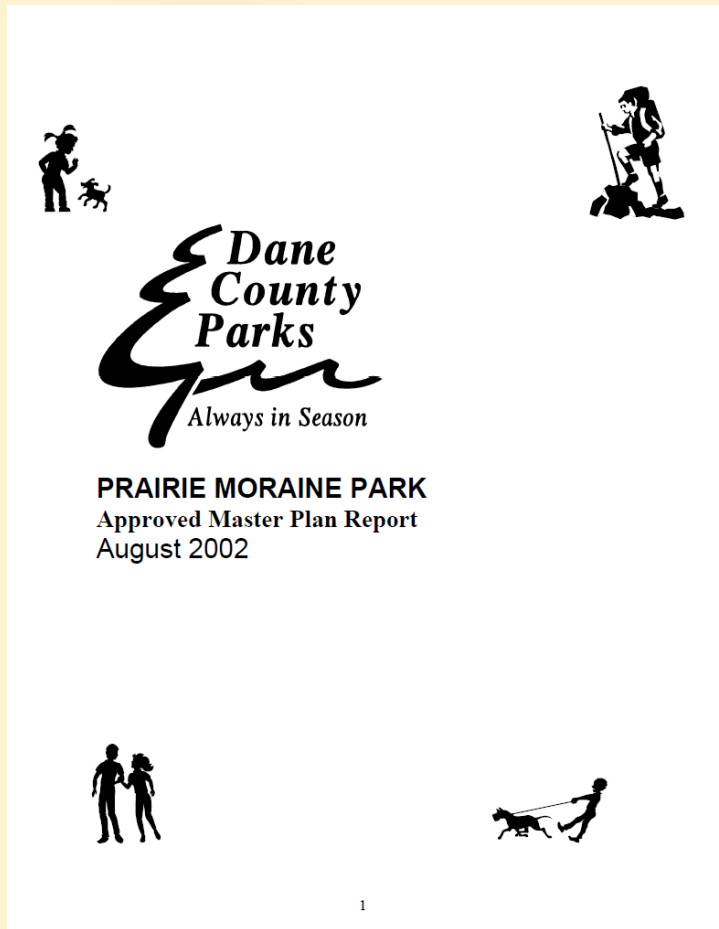
## Immediate Management Challenges





# Master Plan Process

## 5 Guiding Objectives

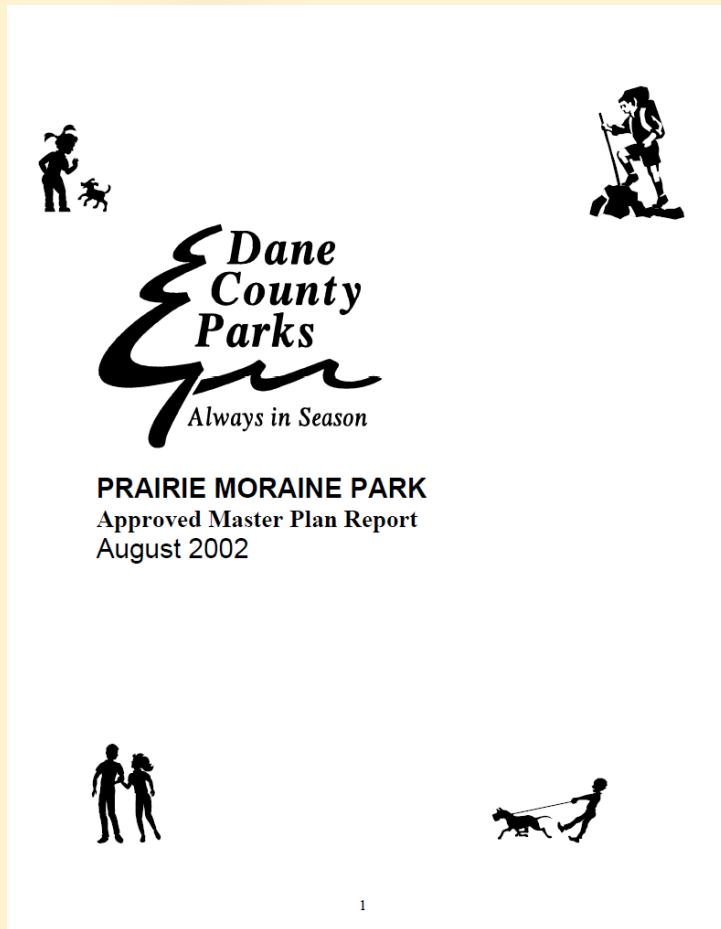


- Create additional off leash areas in park and region to lessen impacts on park.
- Protect natural and geologic resources, including viewsheds.
- Provide sufficient parking
- Maintain positive relationships with neighboring landowners
- Create park environment that allows co-existence of off-leash area,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

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