Final Report

Grant Agreement #01-009W

Access and Educational Outreach at Wolf Road Prairie

The Access and Educational Outreach at Wolf Road Prairie grant was comprised of two components.

1. A portion of the footpath running along the eastern edge of the wetland is often wet during the spring and winter seasons. Trail users stray from the path for higher ground in order to traverse the preserve across its entire length—a north/south direction. This results in trampling and depression of plants and soil.

   To provide access across the entire length of Wolf Road Prairie via old pre-depression sidewalks and a narrow footpath in the north 40 acres, the grant provided funding to remedy off-trail usage along the eastern border of the wetland. Planked trex was installed over the narrow seasonally impassable section of the existing footpath on the platted street east of the wetland.

   The walkway consists of four-foot wide trex planking approximately 12 feet in length. The width is handicap accessible and can accommodate wheelchairs, walkers or strollers. The walkway also provides a scenic overlook of the wetland.

   Cost of planked walkway

12 units of 1 x 6 x 8 trex natural at $11.48 each	=	$136.80	
3 units of 2 x 6 x 12 trex natural at $25.42 each	=	$ 76.26	
		$213.06	$213.06
Labor to install walkway by Hinsbrook Landscaping, Inc.			$286.94
Total cost of walkway			$500.00

2. One of the objectives of the grant was to provide an educational resource identification program for native Illinois plants. Approximately 50 species are being featured within the gardens at the Prairie House Nature Center at the north end of Wolf Road Prairie. The garden functions as an outdoor classroom and introduction facility to prairie ecology. The garden also produces native seeds and promotes the beauty of landscaping with prairie wildflowers and grasses.

   The prairie beds within the garden are designed to be visually attractive and comprise a matrix of species whose blooming cycles, colors and textures complement some of the traditional plants in the garden as well as the prairie.

   The grant provided for the purchase of plant identification signs to be installed within the gardens. The signs selected were produced by Nameplate & Panel Technology, a division of Photo Techniques Corp. The signs are made for botanical gardens and arboreta. The plant identification labels are used to give the viewer quick, precise information. The signs are made from durable photosensitive aluminum that has been anodized on both sides. The image is permanently sealed into the anodic layer for maximum resistance to weathering.

   The signs selected for the Prairie Garden feature a mounting with hidden screw mount. No unsightly screws or rivets show with this assembly. Two anodized aluminum plates are permanently bonded with hidden screws protruding from the back of the tag. Total thickness is over 1/16" for resistance to bending. Signs are easily mounted by inserting hidden screws through matching holes in the stake and are held with a locknut.

Stakes are inserted into soup cans filled with concrete prior to installation in the ground to deter unauthorized removal of the signs from the garden.

Installation of the signs is phased as new plants are introduced. These plants are being grown from Wolf Road Prairie seed stock at the UIC greenhouse under the supervision of Dr. Darrel Murray. Some plants have returned on their own within the garden beds and some plants were introduced last season.

Hinsbrook Landscaping donated the garden design and materials for the garden pathways. Hinsbrook Landscaping is also assisting with the planting and some maintenance of the garden as in-kind services.

All the garden signs include the name—Wolf Road Prairie—and the common and scientific plant names and bloom time.

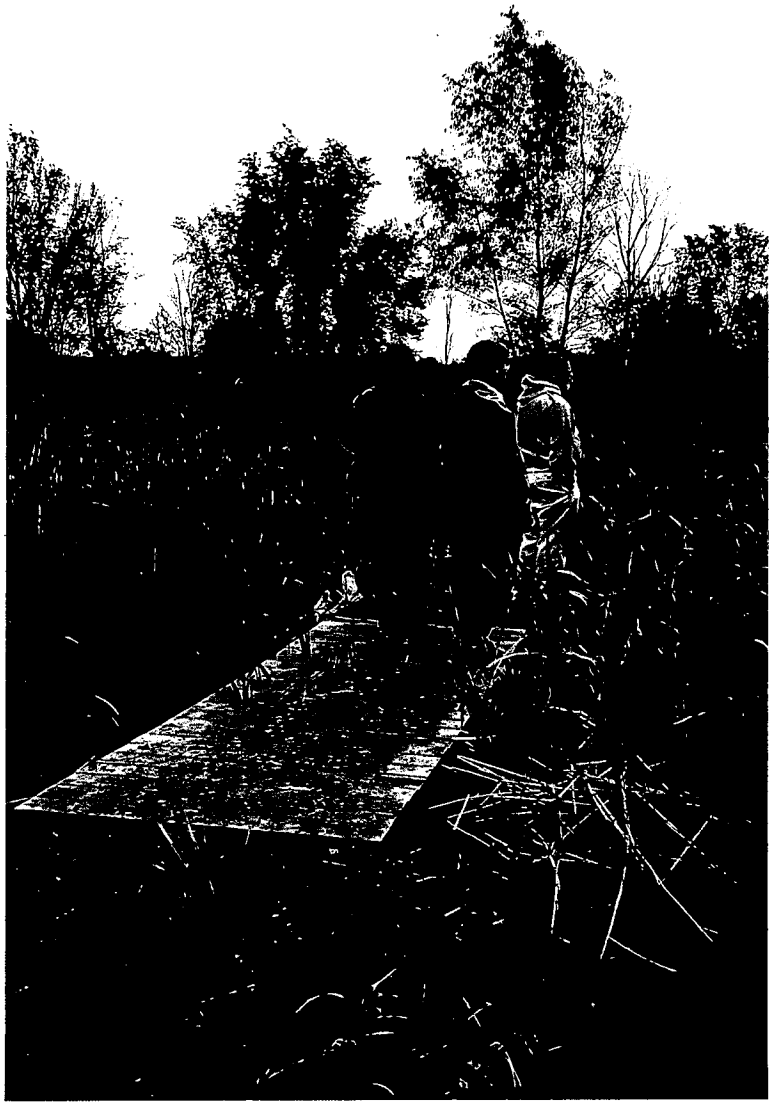
Cost of garden signs

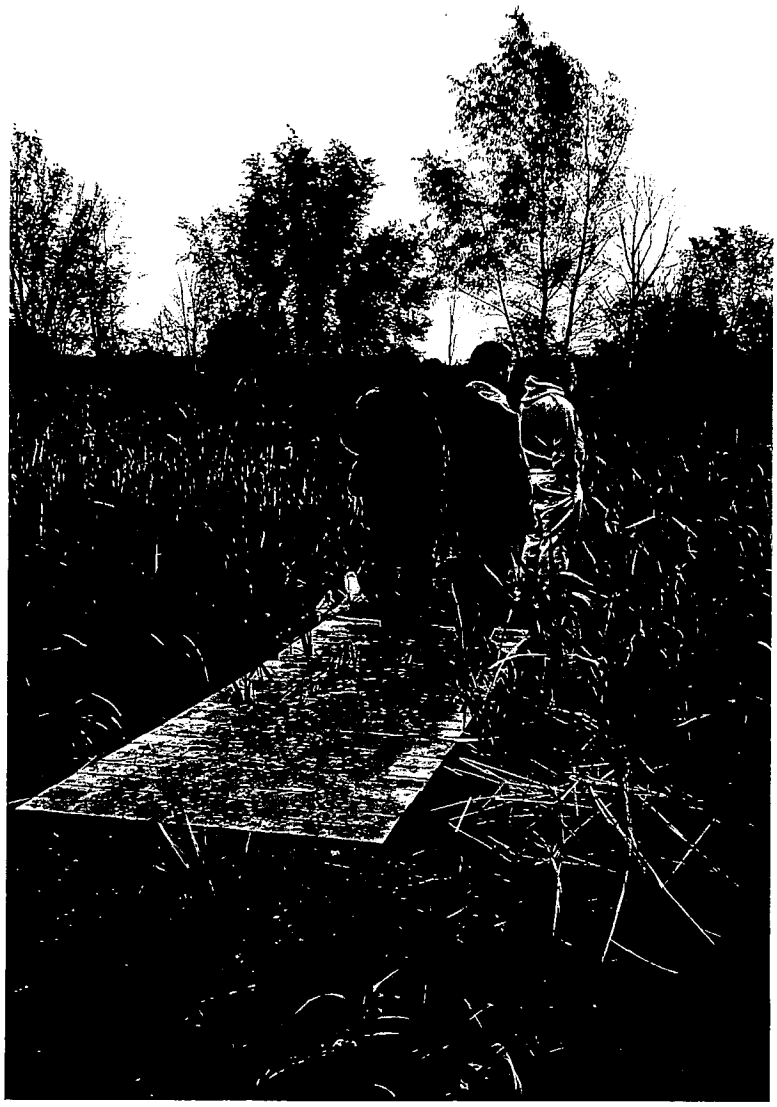
51 – 3" x 5" plant label style III	@	$ 9.25 each	$ 471.75
51 – 24" x 3/4" stakes	@	$ 3.75 each	$ 191.25
2 – 5" 8" plant label style III	@	$16.00 each	$ 32.00
1 – 36" channel stake	@	$ 8.00 each	$ 8.00
1 – 48" channel stake	@	$12.00 each	$ 12.00
Total cost of garden signs and stakes			$ 715.00
Total cost of project			$1,215.00
Amount of grant			$1,000.00
Costs paid by Save the Prairie Society			$ 215.00

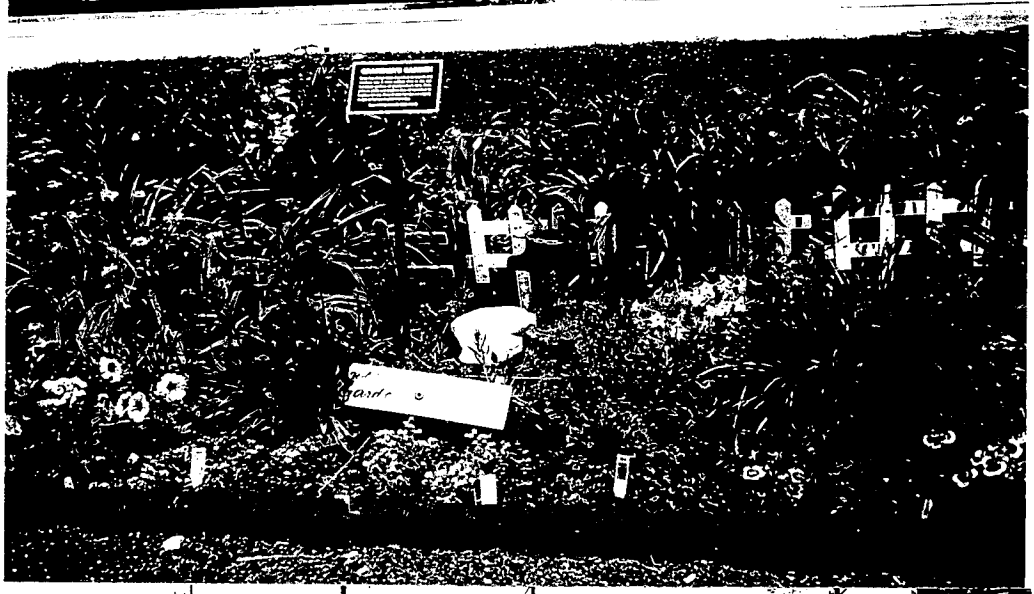
Midwest SOARRING Foundation is a partner in the project and has established a Native American Native Plant Garden at the Prairie House as an educational resource. Members of Midwest SOARRING contribute to weeding, watering and other tasks at the prairie House Nature Center gardens and also participate in prairie workdays.

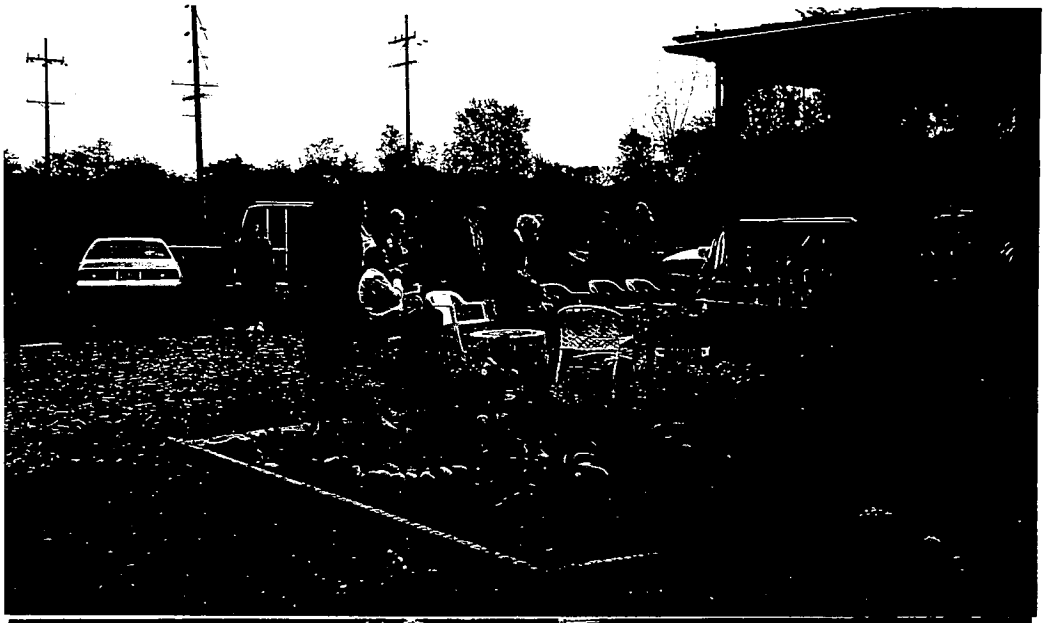
A brochure was published jointly by Save the Prairie Society and Westchester Historical Society for distribution to the public on the native wildflowers and grasses at the gardens.

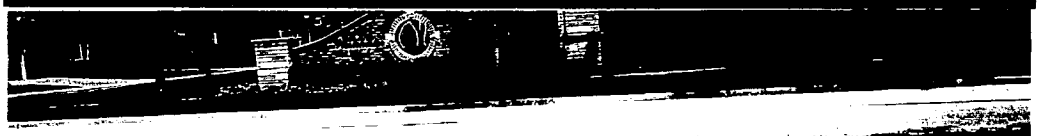
The garden is attracting local and regional visitors to Wolf Road Prairie. Some visitors are content to learn about options of using native plants in their home gardens. Others take the nature trail through Wolf Road Prairie after visiting the garden and become interested in restoration of natural areas. Several visitors have volunteered for prairie workdays since the installation of the planked walkway and the phasing in of the prairie gardens.











Wolf Road Prairie

Common Milkweed

Asclepias syriaca

Bloom time: June/July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Pasture Rose

Rosa carolina

Bloom time: June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Bloom time: June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Compass Plant

Silphium laciniatum

Bloom time: June/July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Purple Coneflower

Echinacea pallida

Bloom time: June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Compass Plant

Silphium laciniatum

Bloom time: June/July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Bottlebrush Grass

Hystrix patula

Bloom time: June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Nodding Wild Onion

Allium cernuum

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Swamp Milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Broad-leaved Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Canadian Milk Vetch

Astragalus canadensis

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Indian Grass

Sorghastrum nutans

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Broad-leaved Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Great St. John's Wort

Hypericum pyramidatum

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Blazing Star

Liatris pycnostachya

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Wild Quinine

Parthenium integrifolium

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Blazing Star

Liatris pycnostachya

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Yellow Coneflower

Ratibida pinnata

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Yellow Coneflower

Ratibida pinnata

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Common Spiderwort

Tradescantia ohiensis

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Deam's Rosin Weed

Silphium integrifolium deamii

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Common Ironweed

Vernonia fasciculata

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Dock

Silphium terebinthinaceum

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Culver's Root

Veronicastrum virginicum

Bloom time: July/Aug

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Dock

Silphium terebinthinaceum

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Little Bluestem Grass

Andropogon scoparius

Bloom time: Aug/Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

New England Aster

Aster novae-angliae

Bloom time: Aug/Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis

Bloom time: Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Rough Blazing Star

Liatris aspera

Bloom time: Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Big Bluestem Grass

Andropogon gerardii

Bloom time: Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Sweet Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia subtomentosa

Bloom time: Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Sky-blue Aster

Aster azureus

Bloom time: Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus heterolepis

Bloom time: Aug/Sept

Wolf Road Prairie

Drummond's Aster

Aster sagittifolius drummondii

Bloom time: Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Wild Hyacinth

Camassia scilloides

Bloom time: April/May

Wolf Road Prairie

White Wild Indigo

Baptisia leucantha

Bloom time: May

Wolf Road Prairie

Wild Hyacinth

Camassia scilloides

Bloom time: April/May

Wolf Road Prairie

Blue Flag

Iris virginica shrevei

Bloom time: May/June

Wolf Road Prairie

Wild Geranium

Geranium maculatum

Bloom time: April/May/June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Prairie Lily

Lilium philadelphicum andinum

Bloom time: May/June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Red Trillium

Trillium recurvatum

Bloom time: April/May

Wolf Road Prairie

Foxglove Beard Tongue

Penstemon digitalis

Bloom time: May/June/July

Wolf Road Prairie

Riddell's Goldenrod

Solidago riddelli

Bloom time: Sept/Oct

corrected

Wolf Road Prairie

Stiff Goldenrod

Solidago rigida

Bloom time: Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Switch Grass

Panicum virgatum

Bloom time: Aug/Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Riddell's Goldenrod

Solidago riddellii

Bloom time: Sept/Oct

Wolf Road Prairie

Golden Alexanders

Zizia aurea

Bloom time: April/May/June

Wolf Road Prairie

Broad-leaved Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea

Bloom time: July/Aug/Sept

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GRANDMA'S GARDEN

Color has always been important to women and nowhere was it more evident than in the old-fashioned gardens of grandmother's time. Reds, yellows, pinks and purples: they all combined to brighten her day. Many of their favorites are eagerly sought as 'heirloom' specimens today.

Sponsored by the Julia Cihlar Family

NATIVE AMERICAN
Native Plant Program

The plants chosen are used for food, medicine and cultural purposes. Some will be reintroduced in selected areas throughout Illinois and beyond. Native Americans have historically relied on these plants for their survival.

Rattlesnake Master