FINAL REPORT

Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #07-024W
Interpretive Signage at Springdale Cemetery Savanna

July 7, 2007

GRANTEE:
Peoria Wilds, not-for-profit
5809 Forest Park Drive
Peoria Heights, IL 61614

APPLICANT:
Michael Brown
309-637-6276
michaelpaulbrown@gmail.com

PROJECT EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:
Through installation of three full color interpretive signs and brochure boxes at Springdale Cemetery Savanna, visitors to the Savanna will gain:

- Awareness of Springdale Cemetery Savanna – what it is, why it is there
- Understanding that the prehistoric Springdale Cemetery Savanna is the context for the current Historic Springdale Cemetery
- Recognition of the importance of protection of Springdale Cemetery Savanna for future generations
- Appreciation of native ecological communities in Peoria

COMPLETED PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Three 3'x4' full color interpretive signs were designed using donated labor and background images taken at Springdale Cemetery Savanna. These signs cover multiple topics including savanna definition, native savanna species, and storm water infiltration. Signs were manufactured locally and installed by Peoria Wilds volunteers at each of three main access points to the savanna. In addition, a weather-proof brochure box was mounted at each interpretive sign to make more information about the savanna available.

The finished project has been well received with accolades from members of the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority. Instead of driving right by, cemetery visitors passing by the tallgrass oak savanna now linger and gain a better appreciation for the native natural community. Specific audiences that will benefit from this completed project include families and friends of the deceased, who will now recognize this as a long-established and intentionally managed natural area instead of an overgrown area of the cemetery. School groups and college students studying biology will benefit from the additional information on site about the tallgrass oak savanna. Tourists and residents visiting Historic Springdale Cemetery to enjoy the

natural beauty and learn about the history of Peoria will gain from increased understanding of Peoria's natural history.

TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURES

date	***vendor***	***address***	***item***	***quantity***	***price***	***amount***
5/23/2007	Innovative Plastics	5502 Buckingham Drive,	tri-fold outdoor flyer box	3	$ 14.95	$ 44.85
5/23/2007	Innovative Plastics	5502 Buckingham Drive,	less than $50.00 minimum service	1	$ 5.00	$ 5.00
5/23/2007	Innovative Plastics	5502 Buckingham Drive,	Packaging	1	$ 2.24	$ 2.24
5/23/2007	Innovative Plastics	5502 Buckingham Drive,	shipping	1	$ 9.16	$ 9.16
6/13/2007	Lowe's	5001 N Big Hollow Road, Peoria, IL	pressure treated plywood	2	$ 21.84	$ 43.68
6/13/2007	Lowe's	5001 N Big Hollow Road, Peoria, IL	4x4x8 posts	5	$ 4.97	$ 24.85
6/13/2007	Lowe's	5001 N Big Hollow Road, Peoria, IL	sales tax	1	$ 5.48	$ 5.48
6/13/2007	Lowe's	5001 N Big Hollow Road, Peoria, IL	5/16 hex lag screws	16	$ 0.29	$ 4.64
6/13/2007	Lowe's	5001 N Big Hollow Road, Peoria, IL	sales tax	1	$ 0.37	$ 0.37
6/14/2007	Premier Signs	710 Fayette St, Peoria, IL 61603	4'x3' signs	3	$ 200.00	$ 600.00
6/30/2007	Ace Hardware	2504 W Rohmann Ave, West Peoria, IL	5/16 bolts, nuts, washers	3	$ 2.00	$ 6.00
6/30/2007	Ace Hardware	2504 W Rohmann Ave, West Peoria, IL	sales tax	1	$ 0.39	$ 0.39
					TOTAL	**$ 746.66**

Springdale Cemetery Savanna
Savanna Habitat
Savanna:
A savanna is the transition zone between the prairie and the forest that contains scattered trees and many prairie wildflowers and grasses. Only the hardiest of trees can survive the fires that are found on the savanna. Some of these trees include the Black and White Oaks.
Black Oak
White Oak
"Unfortunately, the march of improvement, divorced as it ordinarily is in the West from fine taste and culture, is making sad havoc with our flora. It never seems to enter the minds of those owning hundreds of acres of lands to inclose a few rods for the protection of our indigenous plants. I can now call to mind but one exception, and that is worthy of honorable mention. The superintendent of Springdale Cemetery, Capt. John H. Hall, has set apart a portion of that lovely place, which associates so much sadness and beauty, for the preservation of Nature's own flora."
Charles Ballance, 1870 The History of Peoria, Illinois
Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

Springdale Cemetery Savanna
Prairie Roots and Stormwater Infiltration
Peoria Wilds
Prairie Roots and Stormwater Infiltration:
Prairie plants are very good at infiltrating rain and snow.
Prairies help prevent erosion in two ways:
1. The density of prairie vegetation helps dissipate the force of falling raindrops. Instead of splashing directly on the soil, the drops instead hit the plants and slowly run down to the ground to be absorbed.
2. The fibrous and deep roots of prairie plants hold soil in place and provide a rich organic mat with a high capacity to absorb surface water.
The roots of some prairie plants can extend as deep as 16 feet into the soil!
Compare that to the roots of the typical Kentucky Bluegrass lawn found in most yards.
Which do you think is better adapted to the wet Springs and dry Summers we see in Illinois?
Kentucky Blue Grass
June Grass
Pale Purple Coneflower
White Wild Indigo
Little Bluestem
Prairie Dropseed
Side-Oats Grama
Indian Grass
Big Bluestem
Compass Plant
Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund

Springdale Cemetery Savanna
Savanna Plants
Savanna Plants:
A savanna contains both grasses and flowering plants called forbs. Here are a few common savanna plants you may see on your walk today.
Common Ironweed
(Vernonia fasciculata)
2-4 feet tall
Blooms late August- September
Flowers are magenta
Big Bluestem
(Andropogon gerardii)
4-9 feet tall
Sets seed in August
Leaves turn reddish bronze after frost
Yellow Coneflower
(Ratibida pinnata)
2-4 feet tall
Blooms June - August
Flowers are yellow
Purple Coneflower
(Echinacea purpurea)
2-4 feet tall
Blooms June - July
Flowers are bright purple
Horse Gentian
(Triosteum perfoliatum)
1-3 feet tall
Blooms May - July
Flowers are reddish purple and found at the base of the leaves
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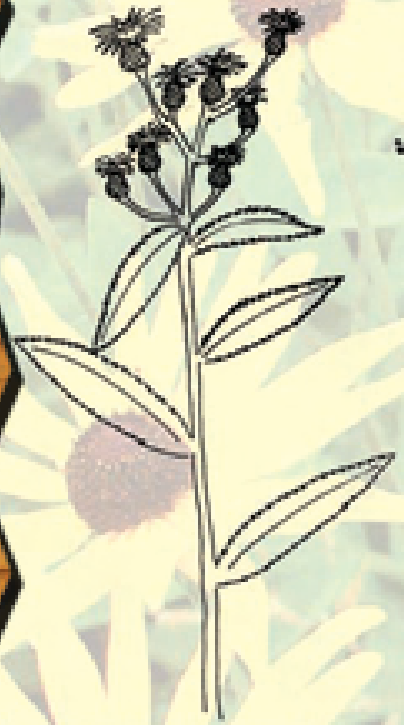
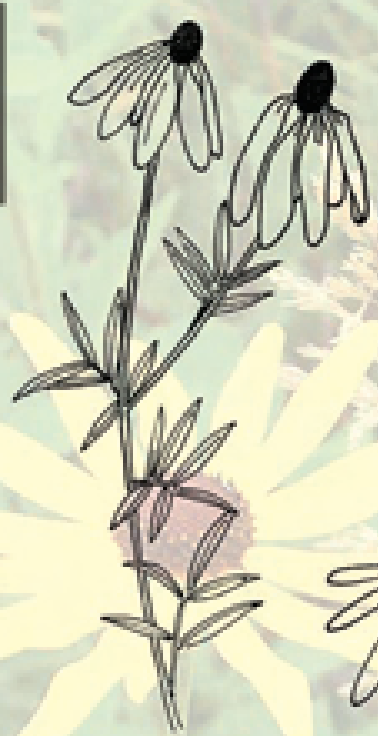


Smooth Ironweed
(Vernonia fasciculata)

2-4 feet tall
Blooms late August- September
Flowers are magenta

Big Bluestem
(Andropogon gerardii)

4-9 feet tall
Sets seed in August
Leaves turn reddish bronze after frost



Gray-Headed Coneflower
(Ratibida pinnata)

2-4 feet tall
Blooms June - August
Flowers are yellow

Purple Coneflower
(Echinacea purpurea)

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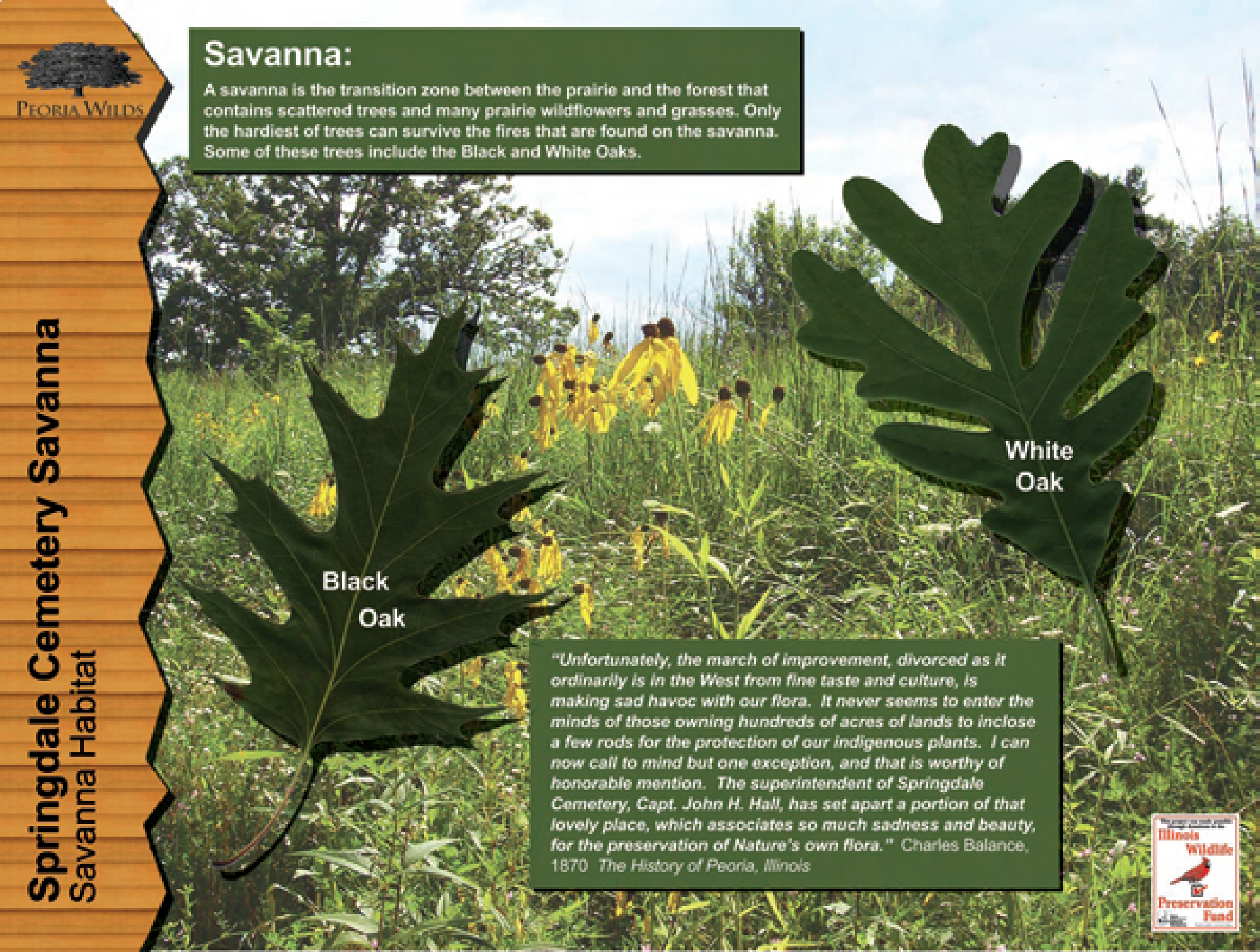

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