Final Report for Grant #08-024W
Prairies and Woodlands: A Hands-on Environmental Education Project

Grantee name, address and telephone number:
Pilgrim Park Camp and Conference Center
James L. Jarvis
26449 1340 N. Ave.
Princeton, IL 61356
815-447-2390

Time Frame of the Grant: July 12, 2007 to July 31, 2008

Grantee Representative Completing the Report: James L. Jarvis—815-447-2390—jim@pilgrimparkcamp.org

Project Objective as Described in the Application and Grant Agreement
Educational Objectives with campers and youth groups:
1. To develop a general knowledge about the natural world—to learn to identify key prairie and woodland plants, to gain some understanding the role that these plants play in the eco-system, and to understand basic ecological principles.
2. To develop an appreciation and respect for the natural world—to give young people a personal reason to care about preserving the environment.
3. To learn that they can make a difference even in a huge, complex and over-whelming issues like the environment.
End Products:
An educational prairie will be created as well as a marked trail system. Learning packets and trail maps to be used in connection with the trail system will be distributed. A woodland and a prairie display will be created in our main meeting room that will highlight the plants and animals that our groups will be working with. Updates on the prairie and woodland projects will be posted on our website.

Completed Project Description/ Accomplishments:
The prairie has been burned, seeded, and some of the more difficult non-natives have been herbicided. Our campers have planted prairie plants into the prairie, and have learned about role that these plants play in the prairie ecosystem. They have built and installed blue bird houses and owl houses, again learning about the roles played by these birds. The young people have removed woody vegetation from the prairie and learned why that was necessary. Each week long camp has adopted a section of the prairie, and the returning children will have an opportunity to see the changes that they have helped to make.

IDNR posters now surround our main meeting space—highlighting the plants and animals that the campers could see at Pilgrim Park. We have a story telling session that is combined with activities that use the posters—these are designed to familiarize the campers with the plants and animals being highlighted that week, and to teach ecological concepts.