

Final Report
The Illinois Audubon Society
Wildlife Preservation Fund Project #13-L11W
Restore the Loy Prairie(Phase II)
A Southern Till Plain Prairie Preserve

The loss of native prairies and the associated decline of prairie associated species in Illinois are well documented. In an effort to provide additional prairie habitats in Illinois, the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) recently purchased a 210 acre property with the intent to restore a Southern Till Plain Natural Division prairie in Marion County, Illinois called the Maxine Loy Prairie.

The Loy Prairie restoration is critically located within the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. Twelve Mile Prairie, a Illinois INAI site with several Illinois species of conservation concern is located along the east boundary of the tract and a Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (PRSNA) tract is located within ½ mile of this tract. Once restored, the Loy Prairie will provide critical habitat for species of conservation concern that occur both on 12 Mile Prairie and on PRSNA. This restoration project meets goals identified in: The Illinois Comprehensive State Wildlife Plan for additional grassland habitat in the Southern Till Plain Natural Division the Illinois Prairie Chicken Recovery Plan, The Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Habitat Plan, the tract lies in a Conservation Priority Area, and The 12 Mile Prairie management plan

In the spring of 2012, the IAS applied for a Wildlife Preservation Fund grant to purchase Illinois/Midwest ecotype native prairie plants, prairie forb seed, native prairie grasses and native shrubs that focus on Illinois species of conservation concern that are known to occur in the Southern Till Natural Division. In the summer of 2012, the Illinois Audubon Society was awarded a \$7000.00 Wildlife Preservation Fund grant called: Restore the Loy Prairie – A Southern Till Plain Prairie Preserve (Phase II). This grant funded the purchase of approximately \$1000.00 worth of native shrubs, prairie & wetland plants and \$6000.00 of native prairie forb seed.

To meet the objectives listed in the grant proposal, The Illinois Audubon Society purchased \$5997.20 worth of Illinois ecotype prairie forb seed from Earthskin Nursery (see attached bill). In addition, The Illinois Audubon Society purchased \$996.10 worth of native prairie shrubs, and prairie plants from Forrest Keeling Nursery (see attached bill). A total of \$6993.30 was spent out of the \$7000.00 awarded by the grant. The loss of native prairies and the associated decline of prairie associated species in Illinois are well documented. In an effort to provide additional prairie habitats in Illinois, the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) recently purchased a 210 acre property with the intent to restore a Southern Till Plain Natural Division prairie in Marion County, Illinois called the Maxine Loy Prairie.



Tractor used for planting native shrubs on Loy Prairie Restoration

All of the prairie forb seed was freeze and thawed onto the prairie restoration areas on the Loy Prairie during February 2013 by volunteers; this allowed the seed to freeze and thaw into the soil which will allow for germination in the spring of 2013. Many of these prairie forb species that were purchased were specific prairie forb seed and plants that are utilized by insect species of conservation concern and were planted in an effort to establish populations of these species on the Loy Prairie. Twelve Mile Prairie is located along the east boundary of the Loy Prairie restoration, which will provide a source population for plant and animal colonization. Several Illinois species of conservation concern are known from the 12 Mile prairie corridor.

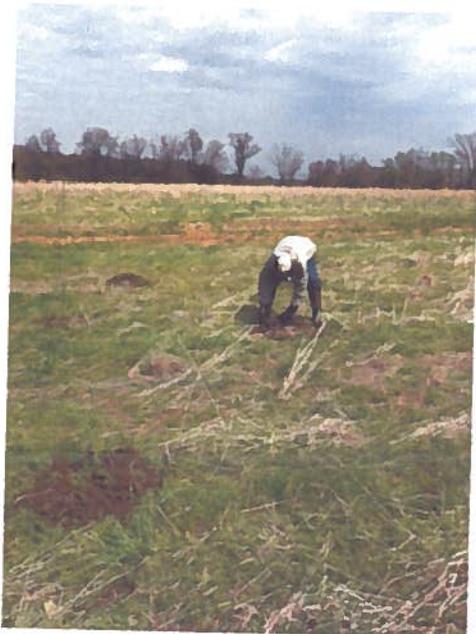


**Prairie Forb Seed purchased for the Loy Prairie Project
with the Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant**

The native shrubs, prairie and wetland plants were planted on the Loy Prairie Restoration during March 2013 also by volunteers and IDNR staff. A tractor mounted auger was used to dig holes for the RPM potted shrubs and for the potted prairie and wetland plants. The plants were placed in the holes and covered with soil. These species were planted during the dormant season which should allow for the plants to have good soil compaction around the plant prior to the spring growing season. The shrubs were planted in seven different locations in three groups of 59 shrubs, these groupings allow for shrub communities to be established and higher survivability. These shrub colonies should provide habitat for shrubland dependent wildlife. See attached map for locations of the shrub plantings.



Planting native shrubs on the Loy Prairie Restoration



Planting a row of native shrubs and a planted shrub on the Loy Prairie Restoration

The following is a list and amounts of the prairie forb seed purchased with \$5,977.20 worth of grant funds. 1 lb Aster azureus, 1 lb. Aster laevis Smooth Aster, 1 lb Aster novae-angliae, 1 lb. Astragalus canadensis Canada Milkvetch, 2 lb Baptisia leucantha, 2 lb. Cassia fasciculata Partridge Pea. 1 lb. Coreopsis tripteris Tall Coreopsis, 2 lb Dalea candida, 2 lb Dalea purpurea, 1 lb. Desmanthus illinoensis Illinois Bundle Flower, 1 lb. Desmodium canadensis Showy Tick Trefoil, 1 lb. Desmodium illinoense Illinois Tick Trefoil, 1 lb. Echinacea pallida Pale Purple Coneflower, 8 lb. Eryngium yuccifolium Rattlesnake Master, 1 lb. Heliopsis helianthoides, Early (False) Sunflower, 4 lb. Lespedeza capitata Round-headed Bush Clover, 1 lb. Liatris pycnostachya Prairie Blazing Star, 3 lb. Monarda fistulosa Wild Bergamot, 1 lb. Parthenium integrifolium Wild Quinine, 3 lb Penstemon digitalis, 1 lb. Penstemon pallidus Pale Beardtongue, 2 lb. Ratibida pinnata Yellow Coneflower, 1 lb. Silphium integrifolium Rosinweed, 3 lb Silphium terebinthinaceum, 3 lb. Silphium laciniatum Compassplant, 2 lb. Solidago rigida Stiff Goldenrod and 2 lb. Zizia aurea Golden Alexanders.



Spreading Forb Seed on the Loy Prairie Restoration

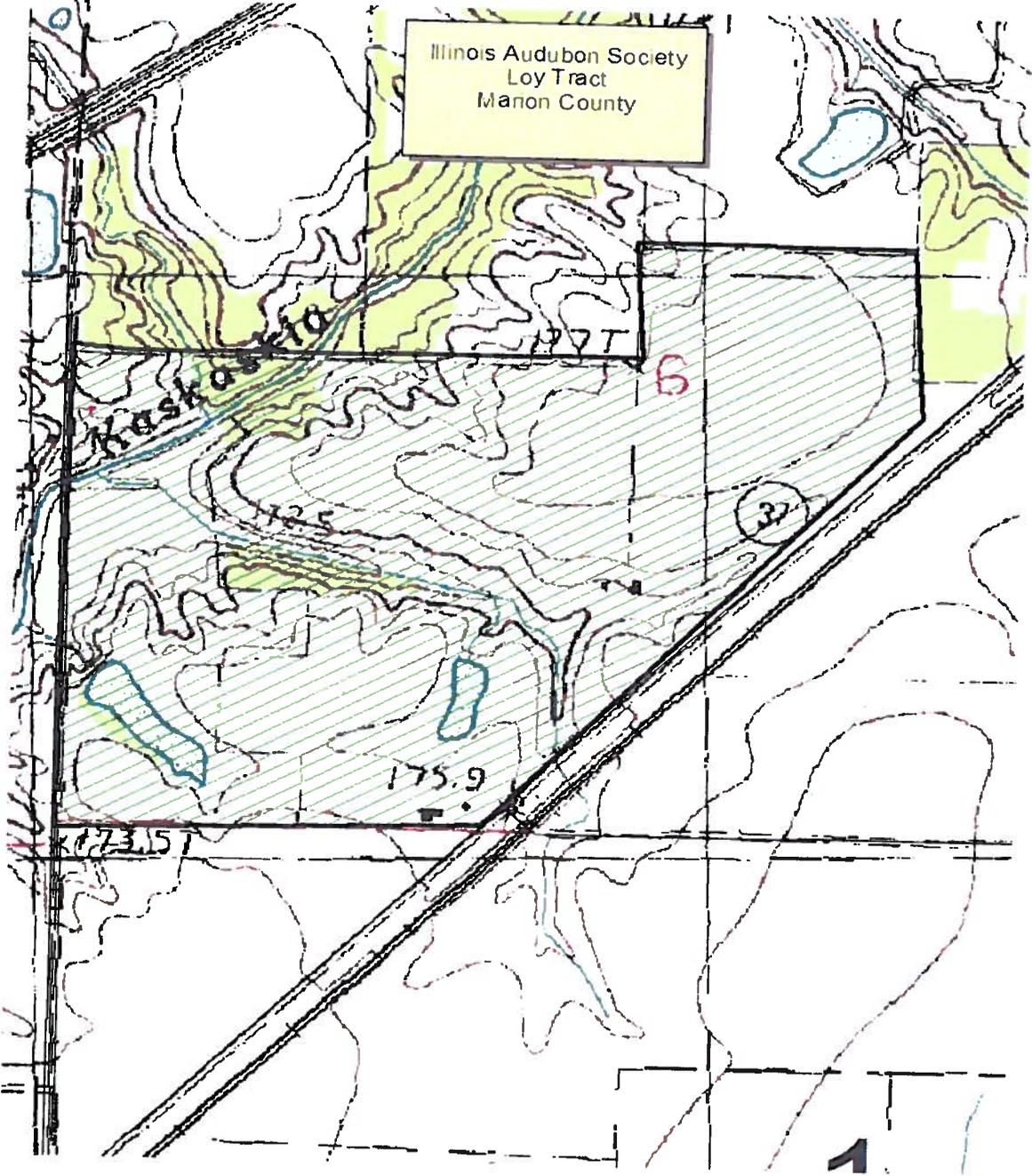
The following is a list of native shrubs, prairie and wetland plants that were purchased with \$996.10 worth of grant funds. American Filbert -10, American Plum - 10, Butterfly milkweed - 10, Carolina Rose - 10, Cockspur Hawthorn - 10, Elderberry - 50, New Jersey Tea- 10, and Pasture Rose - 10.

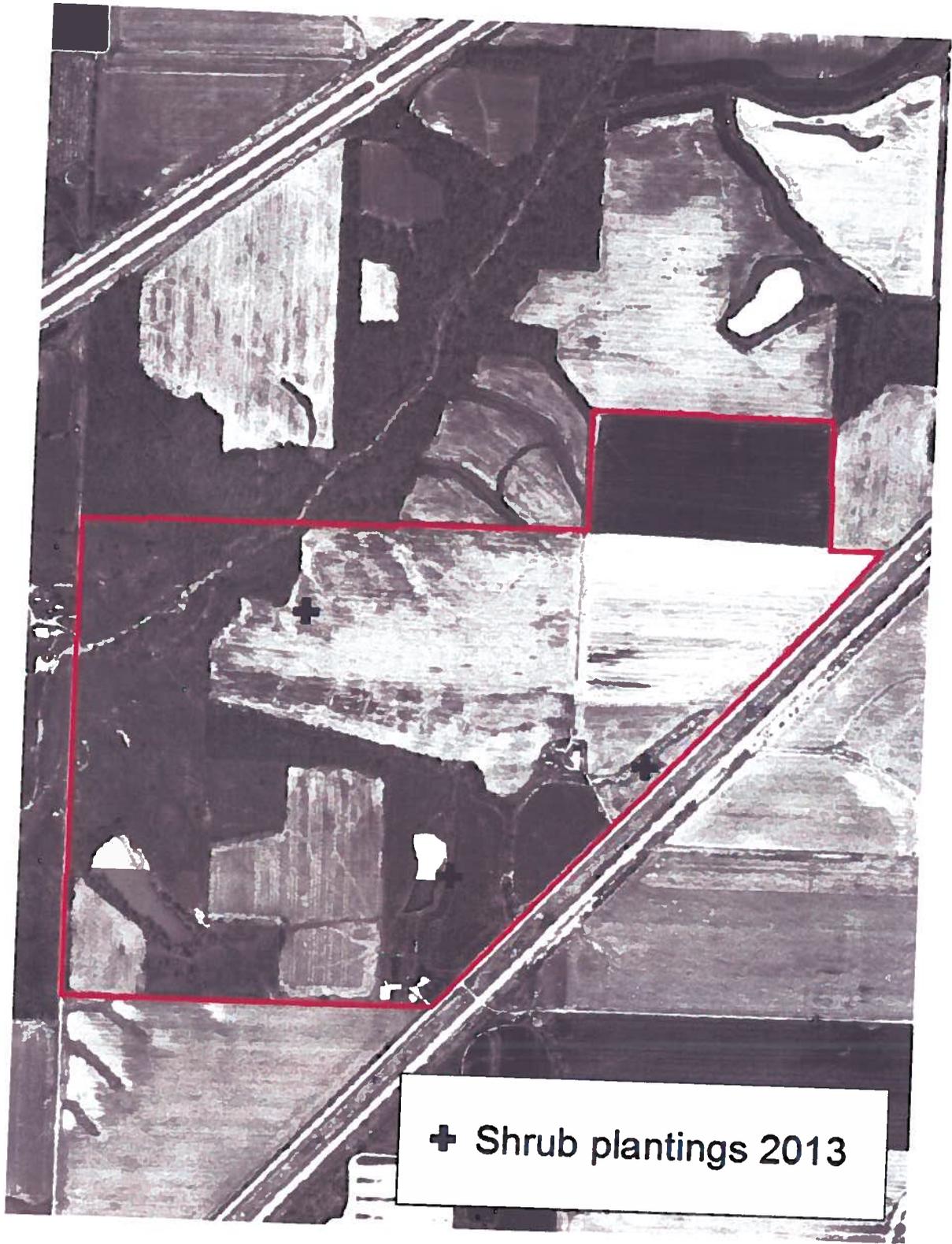
The Illinois Audubon Society would like to thank the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Wildlife Preservation Fund for supporting the Illinois Audubon Society and the restoration of the Maxine Loy Prairie in Marion County.

Illinois Audubon Society
Loy Tract
Manon County



Illinois Audubon Society
Loy Tract
Marion County





+ Shrub plantings 2013



Helping Preserve Illinois Flora and Fauna Since 1897

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wildlife Preservation Grant Project Completed at Loy Prairie

SPRINGFIELD, IL The Illinois Audubon Society announces the completion of Phase 2 of a 2 part Wildlife Preservation Fund (WPF) grant in Marion County. The 215-acre Loy Prairie is being restored to its pre-settlement Southern Till Plain prairie condition. The Loy Prairie restoration is critically located within the Southern Till Plain Natural Division, near Farina, Illinois and adjacent to Twelve Mile Prairie, an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site.

Administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the \$7,000 WPF Grant, "*Restore the Loy Prairie – A Southern Till Plain Prairie Preserve (Phase II)*" funded the purchase of native shrubs, prairie & wetland plants and native prairie forb seed that will provide critical habitat for species of conservation concern. The shrubs, plants and seeds were planted with the help of volunteers.

The Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program is designed to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of Illinois through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Projects proposed for grant funding must focus on management, site inventories or education. The Fund is financed through a voluntary check-off designation on Illinois State income tax return forms. All donations to the fund must be used to assist non-game wildlife and native plants. The Illinois Audubon Society extends its thanks to all Illinois citizens who contribute so generously to the Wildlife Preservation Fund and the IDNR for its administration of the grant program.

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them. The Illinois Audubon Society is an independent, member supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. Founded in 1897, the Society is Illinois' oldest private conservation organization with over 2300 members, 21 chapters and 15 affiliate groups. The Illinois Audubon Society has protected over 3000 acres by investing more than \$6 million to protect land and water throughout Illinois.

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