

SOUND WALL COVERAGE - The PMC has planted three Nannyberry *Viburnum (Viburnum lentago)* shrubs along the sound wall at pillars 9, 14, and 22. The Nannyberry's are expected to reach a height of 15-18' and a width of 8-12'. They have beautiful white flowers in May, and the birds love its fruit in the fall. The fall color is a fabulous maroon red.

Three American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*) shrubs have also been planted along the sound wall from pillars 23-25. They are expected to grow at least 8-10' tall and 8-10' wide. The American Hazelnut has excellent red, yellow and orange fall color. The fuzzy clusters of nuts are eagerly gathered by wildlife.

The PMC has also ordered three Blue-fruited Dogwood (*Cornus obliqua*) shrubs, that will be available in the fall. They grow 8-12' tall and 8-12' wide. Their fall color is a reddish purple and the birds greedily consume its shining blue fruit.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) shrubs are growing in the southwest corner from pillars 3-6, and we have started to transplant Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) vines along the sound wall. The Wild Grape (*Vitis riparia*) vines do not seem to be able to support their weight on the sound wall.

Additional prairie information is available at www.golfviewhills.org under Park District Links or contact:

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Prairie Management Committee:

Co-Chairs: A. Green, Commissioner
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Committee Mission Statement: Preserve and enhance the Golfview Hills Prairie, using established principals of prairie management and develop long range plans to improve community awareness and enjoyment of its unique habitats.

**GOLFVIEW HILLS PRAIRIE
SELF-GUIDED TOUR INFORMATION
SUMMER 2003**

The Prairie Management Committee (PMC) is pleased to invite you to visit your living museum, the Golfview Hills Prairie. Your remnant prairie includes wetland to upland habitats, which provides environments for a great variety of plants. The labeled plant markers in the prairie along with the enclosed plant information taken from Dick Young's book, Kane County Wild Plants & Natural Areas, 2nd Edition, will allow you to enjoy a self-guided tour of the prairie. The number in parenthesis after the common name is a coefficient of conservatism. A coefficient of 10 indicates the best quality plant. A coefficient of -3 indicates the worst weed. We have added the labeled plant location in parenthesis at the end of each description. The map enclosed uses a grid system with the sound wall pillars numbered 1-33, and 10' intervals from the sound wall to the east end of the prairie given the letters A-P.

The PMC wishes to thank the following people who have generously shared their time to advise us in the prairie: John Banaszak (May 2001, Sept. 2002, and June 2003. We have been fortunate to have John as an advisory member of the PMC since June of 2002.), Dr. Robert Betz (Nov. 2000), Barbara Birmingham (July 2001 and June 2003), George Birmingham (June 2003), Bob Claus (Aug. 2000), Ken Dritz (June 2003), Conrad Fialkowski (March 2000), Judy Grey (Aug. 2000), David Kropp (Sept. 2000), Wayne Lampa (Sept. 2000 and June 2002), Barbara Peterson Marseille (June 2000), Bonnie Pothoff (May 2000), and Ray Schulenburg (Sept. 2000).

The native FLORISTIC QUALITY INDEX (FQI) of the Golfview Hills Prairie, now at 53.3, continues to climb as we discover additional prairie plant species growing in the prairie. According to Gerould Wilhelm co-author of Plants of the Chicago Region, "Areas registering in the 50's and higher are extremely rare and of paramount importance; they represent less than 0.5% of the land area in the Chicago region."

These two pages may be folded in half to form a convenient booklet to use in the prairie for your self-guided tour.

BIG BLUE STEM (4) *Andropogon gerardi* -uncommon- Aug. and Sept. brings on the glory of the prairie. The tall "turkey feet" of this grass reach up to 4-7' over reddish blue stems as we progress into autumn. Today, this "prairie" is found along railroad rights-of-way and scattered ditches along side roads, and we only have a little sample of the former glory of this grand species. (29-30/C-D)

INDIAN HEMP (DOGBANE) (3) *Apocynum cannabinum* (including *A. sibiricum*) - common- along railroads and trails. These milky plants, cousins to the Milkweeds, also resemble Spreading Dogbane with pink flowers. They are tough survivors in many places where most native vegetation has been destroyed. *Sibiricum* has an abutting or clasping stem leaf and *cannabinum* has a short leaf stalk. The narrow stick-like pods of both hold fluffy parachutes like milkweeds. (13/K-L)

HEATH ASTER (5) *Aster ericoides* -uncommon- in remnants of dry prairie and railroad banks. It is a small, leafy perennial to 2-1/2', with many tiny, narrow leaves less than 2" long, and crowded, elongated clusters of bright, alluring blossoms from mid-Aug. to early Oct. It is a compact, beautiful plant that covers patches of the fall prairie with billowing drifts of white, whence its' other name - Frostweed Aster. (29-30/C-D)

SMOOTH BLUE ASTER (8) *Aster laevis* -uncommon- in prairie remnants and woodland edges. It is a smooth, erect perennial, 1-3', with variable stem-clasping leaves and open clusters of beautiful blue blossoms from early Aug. to early Oct. (28-29/J-K)

NEW ENGLAND ASTER (4) *Aster novae-angliae* -common- in moist prairies, meadows, and waysides. It is an erect, multi-stemmed perennial from 2-4', with crowded, lance-shaped, stem-clasping leaves and captivating clusters of rich soft purple blossoms from Aug. to late Oct. The traditional elegance of New England Aster still gloriously adorns our autumn rural landscapes. (28-29/N-O)

BROAD-LEAVED WOOLLY SEDGE (5) *Carex lanuginosa (pellita)* -common- in marshes - a small colony forming tuft with scratchy leaves, rolled under on the margins, smooth stems under 2', and short-stalked male spikes above female spikes of furry, plump seed sacs. (3/H)

BROWN FOX SEDGE (2) *Carex vulpinoidea* -common- in moist open areas, - a robust, plant to 3', leaves longer than stems, and compact, yellow brown seed sacs with beaks as long as the sac body. (21/D)

PASTURE THISTLE (2) *Cirsium discolor* -common- in old prairie remnants and trail sides. It is an erect, hairy perennial to 8', with incised, spiny-edged leaves, whitened underneath; and several heads of soft lavender blossoms from Aug. to late Oct. It is a gracious, shaggy survivor that still brightens many of our meadows and waysides. (33/A)

STIFF GOLDENROD (4) *Solidago rigida* -common- in dry prairie remnants, where it often survives considerable disturbances. It has an erect, hairy stem from 1-4', with small, rigid, oval stem leaves and large, rough, long-stemmed, basal leaves. The elegant, golden flowers are arranged in tufted, flat clusters blooming from late July to early Oct. (27-28/B-C)

INDIAN GRASS (5) *Sorghastrum nutans* -uncommon- Indian Grass, along with Big Blue Stem, were the backbone of the Illinois prairie. These two species sent their roots deep into the glacial till and formed the rich soil of the Midwest. Once the steel bottom plow was developed, the prairie was doomed; the soil it built was too rich to leave unused. Today, Indian Grass is found along railroad rights-of-way and gravelly roadsides. (24/B-C)

PRAIRIE CORD GRASS (5) *Spartina pectinata* -uncommon- Pure stands of this hardy grass are found in ditches and fencerows throughout the County. Cord Grass can grow in moist soils and along the edges of temporary ponds. They send up stems in tight formation, excluding other plants, eventually forming solid stands. *Spartina* can be used for erosion control because of its ability to grow near water and to form thick mats. (9/M)

WOUNDWORT (5) *Stachys palustris* -common- in moist prairies. It is a fuzzy, erect, square-stemmed perennial from 18-36", with lance-shaped, opposite leaves and attractive, interrupted terminal spikes of pink and cream, 2-lipped, tubular blossoms from mid-June to early Sept. (7-8/M)

BLUE VERVAIN (4) *Verbena hastata* -common- in marshes, shorelines, and wetlands. It is a rough, square-stemmed, branching, fuzzy perennial from 2-4', with opposite, lance-shaped leaves and handsome, slender, terminal spikes of tiny, ascending rings of 5-lobed, tubular blossoms from early July to mid-Sept. It withstands considerable disturbance, and the clean, dark blue spikes provide a splendid color accent in late summer wetlands. (19-20/N-O)

COMMON IRONWEED (5) *Vernonia fasciculata* -common- in moist prairies and fens. It is recognized by the hairless stems and leaf undersides - Our most abundant species, holding its' tighter, tufted seed heads well into winter as a bird food supply when snow blankets the landscape. (10/M)

WILD GRAPE (4) *Vitis riparia* -abundant- growing in woodlands and along fencerows, streams, and watercourses. It climbs to 30' hanging out over open areas from whatever it can cling to. Its drooping vines, light green leaves turning pale yellow in the fall, and general appearance lend a soft accent to the landscape. One has to eat at least five of the pea-sized, navy blue, ripe fruit in the fall before they start tasting sweet. If you can use a vigorous vine for a quiet location, try this one. (33/wall)

PASTURE ROSE (5) *Rosa carolina* -common- along trails and in prairie remnants. It is a choice, suckering, prickly, generally red-stemmed shrub from 3-5' with usually 5-serrated leaflets that turn a rich orange to purple in autumn and lovely, 2", soft pink blossoms in July and Aug. The shiny red, urn-shaped hips are supported by a short stem with tiny, glandular hairs. And they persist into winter as an excellent wildlife food. (5-6/K-L)

ELDERBERRY (3) *Sambucus canadensis* -common- on wooded flood-plains, drainage ways, and fencerows. It is a multi-stemmed, coarse shrub to 8', with warty, light brown bark covering pithy stems and compound, light green leaves that turn a weak yellow fall color. It has luxuriant creamy white panicles of lacy mid-June to late Aug. flowers, followed by lustrous, purple-black, BB-sized berries that are eagerly gathered by birds and scavenger pie or winemakers. (4-5/C-D)

ROSINWEED (5) *Silphium integrifolium* -common- in prairie remnants along our railroads. It is a coarse erect perennial from 2-4', with rough, stalk less, opposite leaves and clusters of sunflower-like blossoms. It blooms from early July to early Oct., smells like rosin, and is a fine prairie stalwart. It has more obtuse green flower bracts than sunflowers or the False Sunflower. (5/K-L)

COMPASS PLANT (5) *Silphium laciniatum* -uncommon- in dry prairie remnants. It is a rough, hairy perennial from 3-9', with ornate, alternate, lower leaves that point north and south, and crowded leafy heads of magnificent, golden yellow blossoms climb the central stalk from early June to early Sept. This fascinating sentinel of dry prairie is a gift worth preserving. (28/D-E)

PRAIRIE DOCK (5) *Silphium terebinthinaceum* -common- in prairie remnants. It is a smooth perennial with a nearly leafless central stalk from 3-8', surrounded at the base by large, rough, long-stemmed sandpapery leaves. The branching blossom clusters bloom from late June to late Sept. with hand-some sunflowers. This noble relic is a hallmark of our once vast prairies. (7/K-L)

GRASS-LEAVED GOLDENROD (4) *Solidago graminifolia* -common- in marshes, fens and wetlands. It is a smooth, erect, branching, busy plant from 2-4', with numerous, narrow, grass-like leaves throughout and crowded, flat-topped clusters of lemon yellow blossoms from late July to early Oct. (17/O-P)

OLD-FIELD GOLDENROD (4) *Solidago nemoralis* -common- in old fields and dry prairie remnants. It is a charming vagabond with grayish stems from 1-3', covered with numerous, variable ascendingly reduced leaves and generally a single, relaxed, one-sided plume of rich yellow blossoms from early Aug. to Nov.

GOLDEN GLOW (TALL COREOPSIS) (5) *Coreopsis tripteris* -uncommon- in prairie remnants. It is a smooth, soft green perennial from 3-8', with variable, mostly 3-parted, lance-shaped leaves and flowers with canary yellow petals and purple-brown discs, blooming from late July to early Oct. It is an aristocratic plant with a mellow, waxy sheen and graceful flowering heads. (3-4/F)

PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER (8) *Echinacea pallida* -uncommon- in dry prairie remnants. This graceful, prairie classic resembles Purple Coneflower, but the hairy, long-stemmed leaves are untoothed and much narrower. The light pink, terminal blossom heads in June and July still softly accent a few of our open, dry prairie remnants as jewels from the primordial crown of balanced prairie splendor. (6/L)

RATTLESNAKE MASTER (9) *Eryngium yuccifolium* -uncommon- in prairie remnants. It is a rough, erect perennial with prickly edged, parallel-veined, sword-like leaves and compact, globular heads of greenish white flowers from early July to early Sept. This interesting, singular prairie stalwart was once abundant in our vast prairies - truly a storybook plant. (6-7/L)

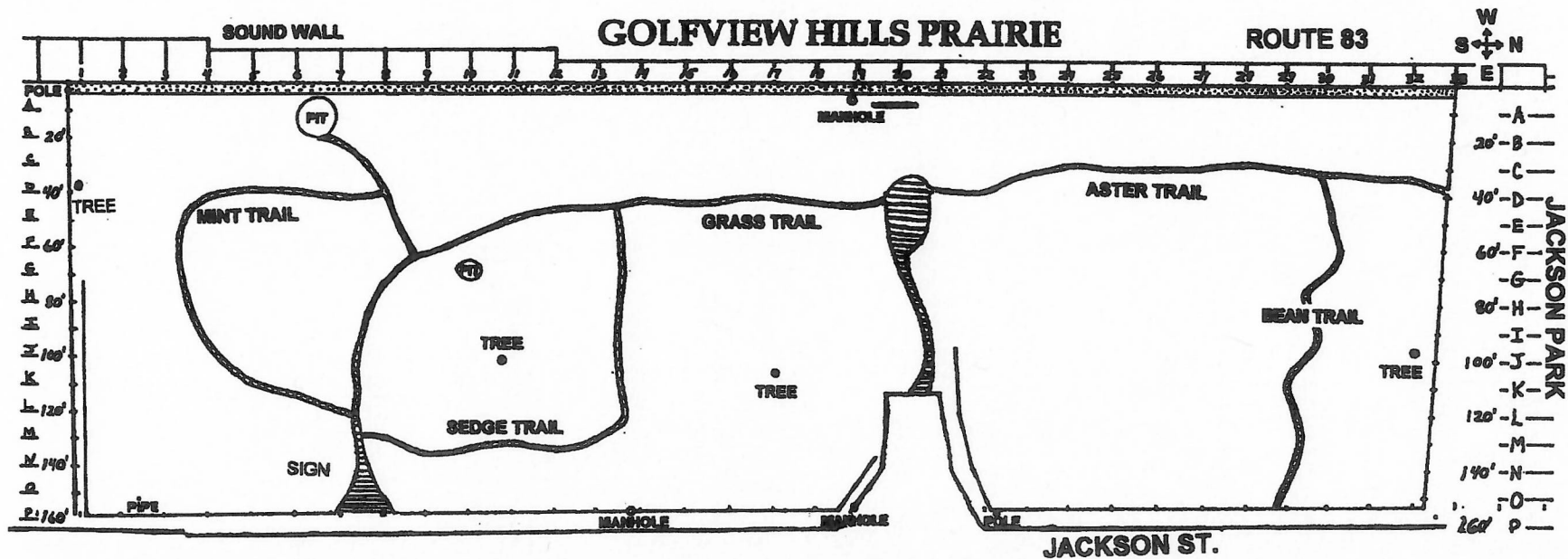
SAWTOOTH SUNFLOWER (2) *Helianthus grosseserratus* -common- in moist meadows and wayside ditches. It is a fine, vigorous, smooth-stemmed perennial from 4-10', with numerous, large, lance-shaped, serrated leaves and many bright yellow blossoms from early July to early Oct. It is our most abundant wild sunflower that adorns so many of our fencerows and ditches in late summer with elegant splashes of yellow. (11-12/M-N)

ROUND-HEADED BUSH CLOVER (4) *Lespedeza capitata* -common- in dry prairie remnants. It is a leafy, wand-like perennial from 2-3', with fuzzy, 3-parted, elongated, oval leaflets and obscure white flowers in a globular greenish head from Aug. to mid-Sept. These turn a rusty brown and hang on through winter as a charming dried bouquet. (28/K)

ROUGH BLAZING STAR (6) *Liatris aspera* -uncommon- in dry prairie. A stiff, erect perennial from 1-2', with ascendingly reduced elliptical leaves and open spikes of button-like blossoms from July to late Oct. This frugal scepter has a soft appealing iridescence that "sure beats paper roses". (26/E)

COMMON WATER HOREHOUND (5) *Lycopus americanus* -common- in wetlands and fens. It is a small, high-quality perennial with square stems, deeply-toothed, opposite leaves and clusters of tiny mint blossoms in the leaf-axils from mid-July to mid-Sept. It survives considerable disturbance and degradation and is sometimes found in ruts and holes where most other native vegetation has been destroyed. (13-14/H-I)

FRINGED LOOSESTRIFE (4) *Lysimachia ciliata* -uncommon- on stream banks and shady floodplains. It is an erect, branching perennial to 3', with variable leaf sizes and beautiful, nodding blossoms from mid-June to early Aug. It is a pleasant, durable plant taking its' name from the hairy fringe on the leaf stems. (7/D)



WILD BERGAMOT (4) *Monarda fistulosa* -common- in prairie remnants and waysides. It is a handsome, erect perennial from 2-3', with serrated, lance-shaped leaves and regal, terminal heads of tubular, feathery, lavender blossoms from July to early Oct. This beautiful, aromatic mint is a durable tie with our prairie heritage and pioneer history that enriches prairie remnants along our trails and should be used in our suburban meadow landscapes where it competes well with Eurasian plants. (28/B-C)

SWITCH GRASS (5) *Panicum virgatum* -common- Edges of prairie marshes and other low places on the prairie is (or was) the home of this species. Switch Grass becomes very obvious in Sept. with its 30" plume of seeds turning orange-yellow as fall begins. (19-20/N)

WILD QUININE (7) *Parthenium integrifolium* -uncommon- in prairie remnants. It is a husky prairie perennial to 3', with large, dark green, rough, basal leaves and clusters of shiny, white flower heads with abbreviated ray flowers. It blooms all summer and is a sign that good prairie is probably here, only awaiting a fire to emerge again. (4-5/N-O)

WOODBINE (VIRGINIA CREEPER) (4) *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* -common- in woodlands and waysides climbing to 35' on tall trees in the deep woods or running along the ground and forming small colonies of low-growing, umbrella-like leaf clusters. It is an elegant plant for the home grounds, limited only by one's imagination as to location. To be sure, it climbs over window screens and secretes adhesive spots from its climbing discs, but its attractive fruit clusters, luxuriant leaves, and magnificent fall color make it one of the finest vines available. (1/wall)

OBEDIENT PLANT (7) *Physostegia virginiana* -uncommon- in wet or dry prairie remnants. It is a charming, smooth, square-stemmed, erect perennial from 18-32", with serrated, opposite, lance-shaped leaves and light pink, tubular, 3/4" flowers in an ascending terminal spike. It blooms from late July to Oct., and the curious turtlehead blossoms obediently remain wherever they are positioned if you move them. (7-8/K-L)

WATER SMARTWEED (5) *Polygonum amphibium* -common- in fine marshes and wetlands. It is similar to Water Heartsease in appearance behavior, and habitat, and is distinguished by the flower spikes which are shorter than 1". Both plants have very soft, appealing blossoms and contribute much to habitat stability and quality. (21-22/L)

COMMON MOUNTAIN MINT (5) *Pycnanthemum virginianum* -common- in wetlands and prairie remnants. This grand stalwart of the prairie with hairy stem angles grows to 3', with stems and leaves topped by clusters of little mint buttons from July to Oct. The leaves and stems have a strong mint fragrance when crushed, and this choice native can survive in the home meadow, if given a chance. (6-7/K)

YELLOW CONEFLOWER (4) *Ratibida pinnata* -common- along railroads and in dry prairie remnants. It is a branching, light-hairy perennial from 2-3', with open, compound leaflets and sagging, pale yellow petals surrounding a brown, cone-like disc, blooming from early July to late Oct. The crushed cone has a sweet, slightly pungent, rosinny smell, and it is a pleasing, relaxed plant that does well in a dry, open meadow. (27-28/C-D)