(photo: Edee Daniel- A Wealth of Nature)

Hopkins Hollow Land Restoration & Management Plan

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Section A

Vision Statement

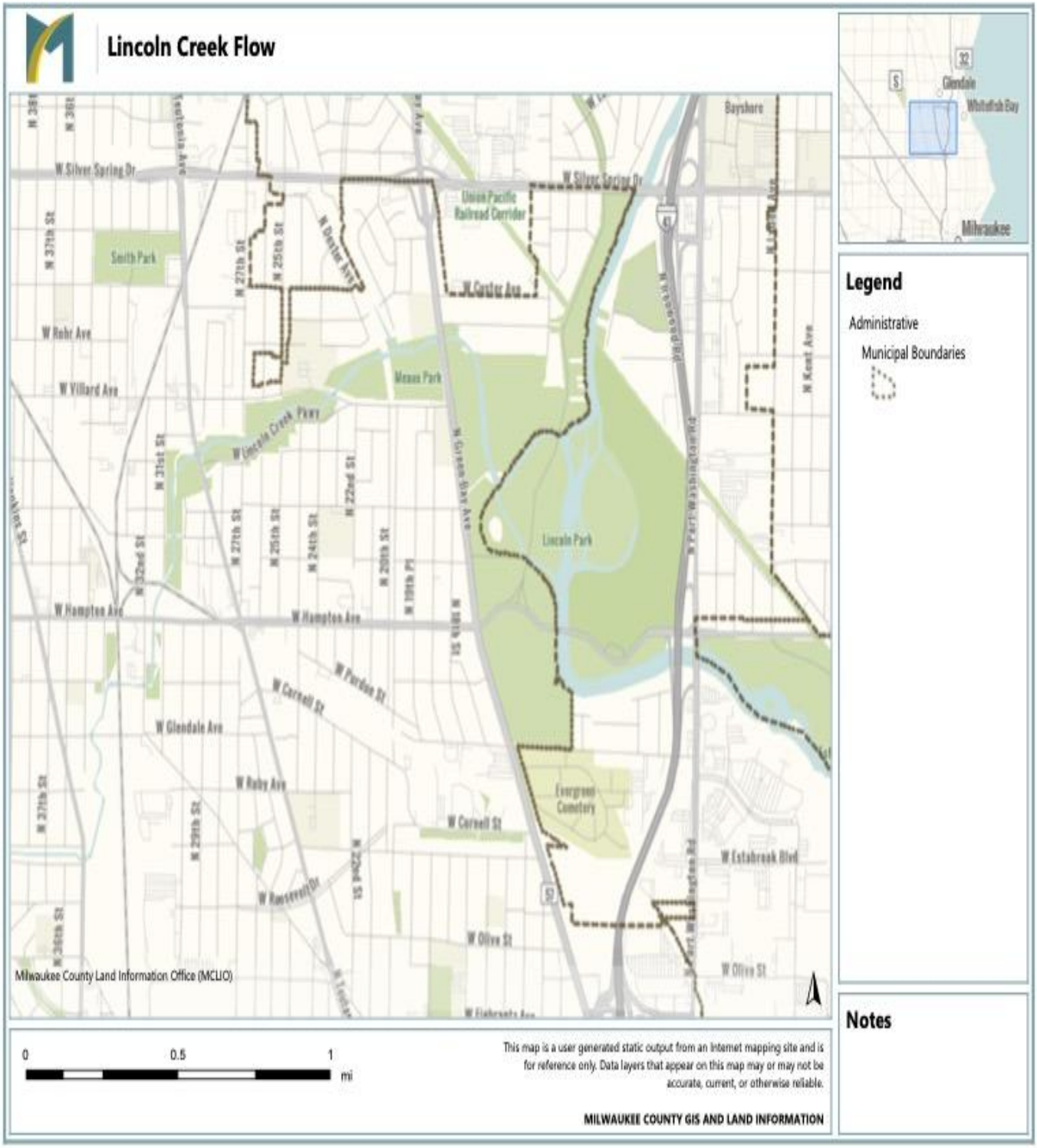
The vision for this portion of the greenway is a living classroom; an educational foundation that will foster Society for Ecological Restoration guidelines in an effort to reconnect community and collaborating stakeholders and restore ecosystems located in the inner city to their full thriving potential. This is a great opportunity to partner with fellow BIPOC ecologists, environmental educators, and Nature appreciators. Nurturing knowledge and skills to help community members better understand, connect, and envision a thriving ecosystem and community is pertinent to the success of this restoration.

Description

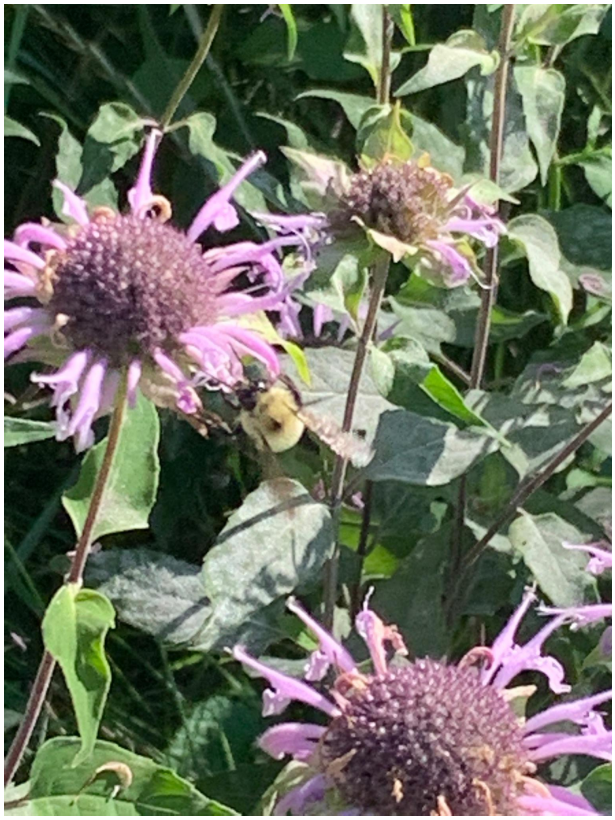
Project Geographical Focus: *Hopkins Hollow*; Lincoln Creek Greenway: 3353 W. Glendale

Hopkins Hollow is a beautiful pocket paradise with the 30th street corridor bordered by Glendale on the North, Ruby Street on the South, 30th St railroad corridor on the East, and 35th Street as a dead end on the West. A 500 foot demonstration trail built with community volunteers on the boundary of the Eastern perimeter of a southern mesic forest welcoming hikers to begin near the intersection of Congress and Hopkins. The path curves around the deciduous dense woodland inviting hikers to continue. Open ground cover of Spring ephemerals like native Trout lily, Virginia Waterleaf, and Wood Violets guide footsteps human and nonhuman towards the end of the trail where the traffic noise dissipates. A Red Winged Black birds sing out warnings to stay clear of their nests while the rhythm of the waterfall directs attention to Lincoln Creek where Salmon gently swim. The creek is bordered by an ancient limestone cliff with a community of Box Elder, Walnut, Elm, Hackberry, and invasive Buckthorn. A Red Tail Hawk soars overhead sending reminders of connection to Nature, to Land, to this space and the beautiful intersection of energy within. Ten Oak trees border the Western side of the space as Queen Anne's Lace and Grey Headed ConeFlower invite you down a gentle hillside where abundant Gramanoids, Common Milkweed, Maximilian Sunflower, Goldenrod, and Bee Balm paint the hillside with beautiful contrasting yellows and purples. Exposed bedrock and invasive vegetation is sprinkled throughout. Teasel, Wild Parsnip, and Giant Ragweed skirt the Western perimeter. Poison Hemlock, Bedstraw, Stinging Nettle, and Wild Onion dance along the riparian buffer next to Mama Willow and a CottonWood tree. Lincoln Creek reflects the slither of the resident Butler Garter Snake through the center of the 18-acre site making a turn and flowing under the RailRoad crossing that borders Hopkins Hollow on the East before it moves North and empties into the Milwaukee River.

Lincoln Creek map



(photo: Anwar Floyd-Pruitt - Hopkins Hollow Dry Mesic Prairie)


(photo: Anwar Floyd-Pruitt - Bee Balm)


(photo: martina patterson - Hopkins Hollow Lincoln Creek WaterFall

Section B

Site History

In the 1950's, the Sewerage District lined many small creeks with concrete to speed the runoff and presumably prevent flooding. Lincoln Creek came to resemble part of the city's sewer system, which led to abundant dumping. Red-lining and the loss of manufacturing jobs in the 30th Street Corridor neighborhoods drastically reduced the rate of home ownership. The high level of rental property in the neighborhood may be a contributing factor to a chronic problem with illegal dumping and what looks like a lack of ownership for this parcel. Between 2000 and 2005, MMSD (Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District) removed concrete banks along Lincoln Creek to renaturalize them. The Northern section of the creek was re-meandered towards the east. Since that time, MMSD has engaged in an effort to control invasive plants, engage community stakeholders, and remediate urban ecosystems connected to waterways. Kevin Shafer, Executive Director of MMSD, has supported some level of community engagement by having approved the creation of a 500ft demonstration trail. With the help of neighborhood volunteers and community partners the trail was completed in Fall of 2021. The current ecological dysfunction is readily apparent through the hydrology, and variability in the urban soils present. It can also be seen in the lack of variety of pollinators and bird species. Other contributing factors that may alter successional processes are invasive species control, riparian buffer repair including the current chain link fence used for erosion control. Outside contributing factors in the future may be DOT (Department of Transportation) construction and future renovation of the West Basin.

(1938)


W COURTLAND AVE
W GLENDALE AVE
W RUBY AVE
W CONGRESS ST
N HOPKINS ST
N 42ND ST
N 31ST ST
WATKINS AVE
N 20TH ST
CITY OF MILWAUKEE
(1951)


W GLENDALE AVE
W RUBY AVE
W CONGRESS ST
N HOPKINS ST
N 42ND ST
N 31ST ST
WATKINS AVE
N 20TH ST
CITY OF MILWAUKEE
(2000)

(2020)

Section C

Goals

Utilizing the SER Guidelines this restorative process will:

1) Support and sustain the land space towards her full potential

1a) maintain thriving ecosystems and model communities on aspects that are achievable in this setting. (see spreadsheet list of plants)

a) *Southern Mesic Forest:* as described by the DNR website: an upland forest dominated by Sugar maple and Basswood with an open understory of Native Spring ephemerals such as Trout Lilies, Trilliums, and Violet.

b) *A locally appropriate Hillside Prairie/Cliff plant community and surrounding space that supports a wild food growth (Eastern side of the designated acreage):*this limestone cliff will support coniferous trees such as Pines and Cedars as well as Bryophyte communities due to its ability to hold and slowly transport water; (DNR website) The surrounding area with full sun will support berries, hazelnuts, and herbaceous edible and medicinal natives.

c) *Dry Mesic Prairie:* a rare tall grass prairie with sandy to sandy loam soils that supports a diverse array of herbaceous plants. Some graminoids present are Big Blue Stem and Prairie DropSeed.

d) *Riparian Community along Lincoln Creek:* land space adjacent to waterway that supports cooler water temperature, habitat for aquatic life, and preventative soil erosion.This will include shrubs that root from the node such as Dog Wood and Willows to persist in flashy conditions along Lincoln Creek.

2) Reconnect community to Green and Blue spaces

a) Education
b) Trash remediation
c) Wild Food
d) Trail Building
e) Volunteering Opportunities

Extending the current trail North and adding a safe bridge constructed according to DNR (Department of Natural Resources) standards so as not to interfere with the Natural flow of Lincoln Creek at high water levels that connects the Western and Eastern side of the parcel will allow the community to safely explore while protecting habitats and the restoration process. It will also allow varying views of the transects of plant communities. MMSD's approval highlights and supports the ecological value of the space and increases access to green and blue spaces for the community.

Reference Communities

1. Menomonee Valley - for its use of native species that are adapted to the specialized conditions found in urban soils and waterways.
   https://www.landscapesofplace.com/menomonee-valley-plans
2. Minnesota Oak Savanna Restoration along Urban River
   -https://www.ser-rrc.org/project/usa-minnesota-oak-savanna-restoration-along-an-urban-river/

Section D

Implementation Values

Revitalization and remediation of the Hopkins Hollow land space will support cleaner water and community engagement by remediation of trash dumping and helping to deepen connections to the land space; encouraging a sense of ownership through inclusive engaging volunteer opportunities. This restoration process will be a collaborative effort with current land contractors and existing stakeholders; human and nonhuman. Eco monitoring (vegetation, water, insects, birds), trash removal, invasive species control, plug plants, and seed dispersal methods will be used to assess and encourage the progression of the restoration process. The implementation of this plan will provide safer access to green and blue spaces and support education around conservation, mindfulness and Natural healing. Nature will support our goals, and in kind, we will flow with her requests; flowing with process and change as we grow.

Implementation Through Engagement

Community members will be able to safely access, utilize, and enjoy the Hopkins Hollow Lincoln Creek Greenway. Visitors will have access to a gorgeous 18+ acre neighborhood respite land space that compliments Lincoln Creek via our demonstration trail near the intersection of 35th Street and Hopkins Street. Strategic plans that engage the community through hands-on workshops, paid apprenticeships for youth, and conservation activities will be implemented to support measurable outcomes. We will offer volunteer opportunities that include plug plantings, engaging workshops to educate how to identify native plants and their medicinal uses, as well as having access to a calm space for respite amidst the pulse of the city. Stakeholders in the form of trust and funding are an integral part to the actualization of this plan. The levels of control and funding provided by stakeholders will support healing of the land and connect the community.

Section D (cont.)

Land Description and Plant Communities

A. Biome descriptions and restoration strategies
Restoration strategies and site objectives for the 4 plant communities listed will focus on maintaining current native species, planting native species (from both seed and plugs), invasive species control, trash remediation, soil rehabilitation, and overall monitoring.

Biome A- Southern Mesic Forest
1. Area/location GPS
    - Southern triangle of 18 acres
2. Restoration strategy/methods
    - Plug planting, monitoring, invasive removal, wild-life camera

Biome B- Dry Mesic Savanna
1. Area/location GPS
    - Western side; 35th dead end Street extending South towards Woodland
2. restoration strategy/methods
    - Smothering, alternative herbicide methods - essential oil, plug planting, hand seeding, intensive invasive hand removal, and monitoring

Biome C- Riparian Community
1. Area/location GPS
    - Western slope along creek; buffer edge of creek
2. Restoration strategy/methods
    - Plug planting, hand seeding, alternative erosion support to current fencing

Biome D- Cliff/Hillside Prairie; Wild Food Area
1. Area/location GPS
    - Eastern most area of space bordered by the RailRoad
2. Restoration strategy/methods
    - Planting, plug and tree, monitoring and volunteer support

My Map

SWRPC, Maxar | Esri Community Maps Contributors, City of Milwaukee, WI, Milwaukee County Land Info, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

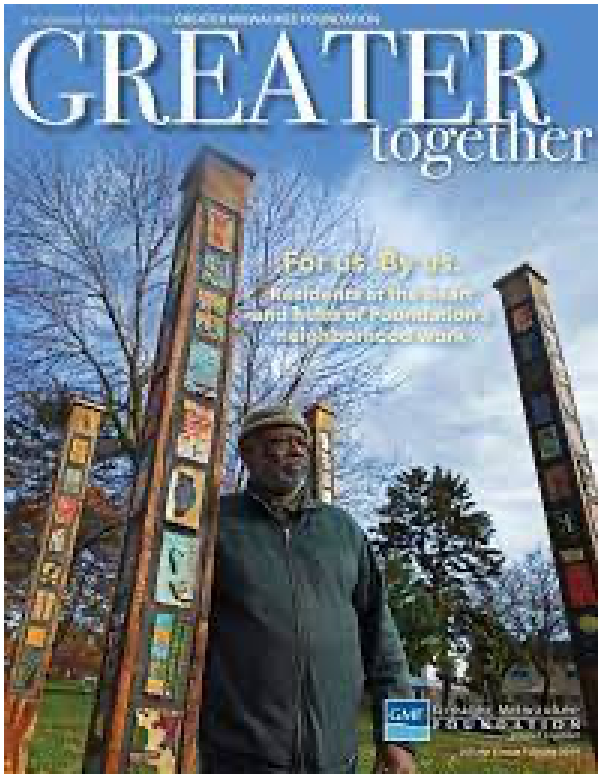
(photo: Nearby Nature MKE - Trail Building)

(photo: martina patterson Hopkins Hollow Lincoln Creek Cliff Community)

(photo: WUWM NPR- mars in the Prairie)

B. Art, Trail, Respite

The Intersections of land spaces on this plan highlight the potential to observe and reflect cohesion and the beauty within diversity. Hopkins Hollow currently tells a visual story through its plant communities, topography, and animal inhabitants; human and non human. The hope with this restoration process is to convey visual intersectionality of people, place, and plants in an ongoing story that reconnects oral tradition and skill building in Nature. Incorporating an artistic lens on this plan and project will provide outside collaboration; expanding the intersectionality of art, ecology, and the integral part that humans play. Temporary or permanent installments of ecoart at Hopkins Hollow will be used for education and re-connectivity to land through community activities and skill building; possible animal habitat. Examples include constructing bird and bee boxes, and/or creation and installation of Peace Posts by Artist/Elder community leader Muneer Bahauddeen as seen in example.



(photo: Greater Milwaukee Foundation - Muneer Bahauddeen Peace Posts)

Section E
Monitoring and Management

An integral part of carrying out this plan is community participation and monitoring. Invasive species removal, monitoring via before and after photography, as well as flagged quadrants to monitor plant communities will be supported through volunteer efforts. A wildlife camera will be placed in the woodland areas to monitor nonhuman stakeholders. Recording animal species will help determine the quality of the habitat and the progression of the restoration process. It will also help to deter trash dumping for fear of being caught on camera. Currently a Species of Local Conservation Interests, the Butler Garter snake, resides in what will be restored into the Dry Mesic Prairie. (see map Biome B). Knowing our friend the Butler Garter calls this space home is an encouraging observation. Care will be taken to ensure the habitat for this species is retained and enhanced if feasible. Herpetologist, Gary Casper, who has previously surveyed this area collecting data on the Butler Garter Snake, will continue to share and guide field assessments.

(photo: martina patterson- Hopkins Hollow Stakeholders Unite)

(photo: Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District - West Basin Project)

Although this plan does not address the west basin project, ecological benefits and social function should be considered now and in future plans. This includes growing this plan to extend into the Northernmost portion of land beyond Lincoln Creek which is owned by Milwaukee County and a small parcel of land in the Northwestern area of Lincoln Creek owned by County Parks.

Appendix A (ref. For Section D)

Community Engagement and Green Career Pathways

Summer Apprenticeship Program:

Nearby Nature Milwaukee (NNMKE) led a Hopkins Hollow Land Stewardship team; a Summer Internship in 2022.

Current Internship Guidelines:

MMSD (Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District) will provide a sponsorship of $11,222 for the 2022 Lincoln Creek Greenway Internship Program. NNMKE will provide MMSD with an invoice for the $11,222 sponsorship. MMSD will pay the invoice within thirty days of issuance of a purchase order. NNMKE will provide a final report summarizing the outcomes and community impacts of the 2022 internship program.

In return for MMSD's intern sponsorship, MMSD will receive the following benefits:

- Opportunity to expose youth to career opportunities in the water industry (e.g., design, strategy, and construction of watercourse management, careers in the construction and engineering industry, green infrastructure, laboratory, and water quality monitoring)
- MMSD logo included in any brochures/flyers if developed
- MMSD featured on Nearby Nature Milwaukee's social media platforms and newsletters if applicable
- MMSD featured in Nearby Nature Milwaukee signage if applicable

This workforce development opportunity will allow under-represented students to gain experience in the environmental sector through education, exposure, and utilizing hands-on conservation methods within the Milwaukee River Basin; specifically Lincoln Creek: 35th and Congress Greenway.

INSERT WORK ACTIVITIES & THE INTERNS EXPECTED EXPERIENCE (I.E. ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES)

Education: Interns will assist with facilitation of community events; teaching others what they have learned. Interns will participate in restorative tasks and gathering data from vegetation, water, and insect surveys.

Exposure: Representation matters. "How do you know what you want to be until you see an example of it" - UW Oshkosh Department of Engineering &Engineering Technology. Students will apprentice under BIPOC environmental educators, land stewards, and conservationists; gaining methods to practice sustainable personal choices to become great stewards of their water and space.

The Hopkins Hollow Internship aligns with MMSD's ongoing commitment to growing the next generation of land restorationists and water workforce. By leveraging partnerships with stakeholders, MMSD can support the creation and expansion of meaningful employment and job training opportunities that will make a positive impact on MMSD's long-term workforce needs.

REFERENCES:

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Plant Communities
dnr.wi.gov

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https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/list

https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/wisconsin/wi-prehistoric-reefs/

Soldiers'_Home_Reef

https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Administrative-Services/Land-Information-Office

https://worldmap.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html

Common Name	Science Name	Status	CValue
Sugar Maple			
BassWood			
Iron Wood			
Slipery Elm			
Trout lilly			
bloodroot			
trillium			
*violet			
virginia waterleaf			
Cinnamon Fern			
Leadplant			
American Beech			
*Hackberry			
*Black Cherry			
Canada Columbine			
Jack in the Pulpit			
Wild Ginger			
*virginia creeper			
*garlic mustard			
*Box Elder			
*Grapevines			
*Buckthorn			
*Giant ragweed			
*nightshade			
*Ash			

Common Name	Science Name	Status	CValue
*Smooth Sumac			
lead plant			
*Butterfly Milkweed			
Prairie Milk Vetch			
*New England Aster			
White Wild Indigo			
Purple Praire Clover			
Indian Grass			
Prairie Drop Seed			
Sweet Grass			
*Virginia Wild Rye			
Canada Wild Rye			
Big Blue Stem			
Side Oats Gramma			
Nodding Wild Rye			
Blazing Star			
Lupine			
*Prairie Dock			
*Maximillian Sunflower			
*Burr Oak			
*Goldenrod			
*false sunflower			
*purple cone flower			
*Wild parsnip			
*birdsfoot trefoil			
*grey headed cone flower			

Common Name	Science Name	Status	CValue
Oak Fern			
Ostrich Fern			
Juniper			
River Birch			
Canada Anemone			
Virginia Spring Beauty			
Tuft hair Grass			
*Ash			
*Elm			
*cotton wood			
*willow			
*ash			
*box elder			
*jeruselem artichoke			
*Sumac			

Common Name	Science Name	Status	C Value
Service berry			
Hazelnut			
*Red Elderberry			
Low Bluberry			
Wild Plum			
*Raspberry			
Strawberry			
Thimbleberry			
Wild Onion			
Blackberry			
Bublet Fern			
Lady Fern			
White Spruce			
White Cedar			
*Honeysuckle			
*Buckthorn			
*Elm			
*Silver maple			
*Honey locust			
*black walnut			
*grey headed coneflower			