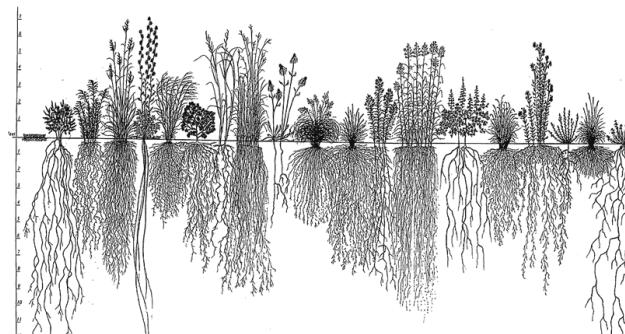


## Benefits of Prairies

The prairies at Lakeshore State Park provide excellent food sources and habitats for a variety of animals, aiding in overwintering for non-migratory species. Additionally, there are many other benefits to restoring native prairies:

- Deep and extensive root systems help stabilize the soil, increase groundwater infiltration and improve water quality.
- Having evolved as part of the natural community, native plants allow for greater biodiversity, increasing the variety of food and shelter available for wildlife. It is estimated that the establishment of a prairie can increase bird life in the area by 10 times!
- Designed to thrive in a specific climate, native plants have a greater ability to withstand varying weather conditions, allowing for reduced maintenance.
- Once covering over 2 million acres of Wisconsin, native prairies were lost when settlers cleared the land in order to grow crops on the fertile soil. These plants help to create a link to our natural heritage.



## Maintaining the Prairies

The crew at Lakeshore State Park spends over 4,000 hours between April and November working to maintain the prairies. This includes planting and mowing, as well as removing invasive species by a variety of methods. Additionally, the park welcomes volunteers to assist in this process, while educating the public about the prairies.

## Contact Us

If you are interested in volunteering, have any questions about your visit or if you would like to share your experience or photos with us, please feel free to contact us or visit our Facebook page.

Park Manager  
Angela Vickio

414-274-4281 office/414-750-1237 cell  
[Angela.Vickio@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Angela.Vickio@wisconsin.gov)

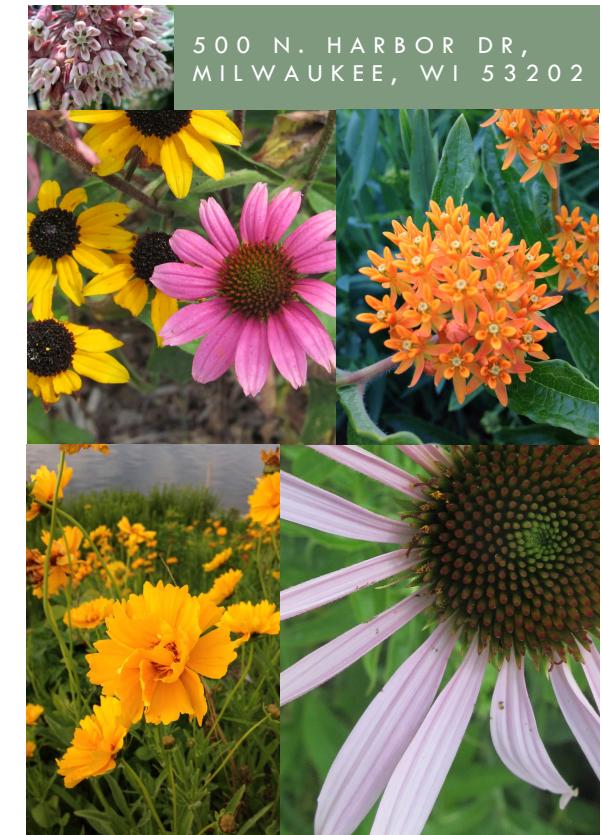
Facebook  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
LakeshoreStateParkMKE](https://www.facebook.com/LakeshoreStateParkMKE)

The Friends of Lakeshore State Park partners with the WDNR and the community to establish LSP as Milwaukee's premier urban oasis. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the park and its partners by raising funds for educational programming, events and infrastructure, as well as providing volunteers to enhance park services. To donate to this organization, please see the Friends website at [FriendsLSP.org](http://FriendsLSP.org)



500 N. HARBOR DR. MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

## Prairie Plants of Lakeshore State Park



The short-grass habitat at Lakeshore State Park provides vital food and shelter for migratory birds and other native animal and insect species. In addition, the prairie helps to enhance the feeling of space in a crowded urban area while allowing for spectacular open views of the surrounding city and lake. What's in bloom is always changing. See what's blooming today!



# About Our Prairies

Our prairies have a mixture of forbs (flowering plants), sedges and warm-weather native grasses. In late April Prairie Smoke is our first wildflower of the year. Shortly after, the prairies are spotted with Golden Alexander, Penstemon and Spiderwort. The Coreopsis species brighten up the park in June, along with the first blooms of Butterfly Weed. The month of July really shines here, with nearly all of the forbs in some stage of their bloom cycle. By the first week of September, the forbs begin to drop their petals, and the Big and Little Bluestem, Indian Grass and Side Oats Grama take over. Between the grasses, sprigs of Goldenrod and Asters pop up, providing some of the last pollen of the year for the insects. During the winter months, sun reflects beautifully off the ice and snow built up on the dried plants. Visit us often to see the prairies make their transitions between each of these stages!

In this brochure, you will find a listing of various prairie plants organized by their plant Family. While the big prairies contain several of the species listed, most of the plants will be better viewed up close in our demonstration gardens (north entrance), kid's prairie (center of the island) and wetland garden (near the fishing dock). Look for white signs throughout the park to help you identify the plants you see!



## Plant Checklist by Family

### Aster Family

- Pussytoes (White, April-June)
- Pale Purple Coneflower (Purple, June-Aug \*Threatened)
- Yellow Coneflower (Yellow, June-Aug)
- Prairie Coreopsis (Yellow, June-Sept)
- Lance Leaf Coreopsis (Yellow, June-Sept.)
- Black Eyed Susan (Yellow, July-Aug)
- Brown Eyed Susan (Yellow, July-Aug)
- Purple Coneflower (Purple, July-Aug)
- Ironweed (Magenta, July-Aug)
- Spotted Joe Pye Weed (Reddish Pink, July-Aug)
- Marsh Blazing Star (Magenta, July-Sept \*Special Concern)
- Prairie Blazing Star (Magenta, July-Sept)
- Dwarf Blazing Star (Purple, July-Sept)
- Compass Plant (Yellow, July-Sept)
- Western Sunflower (Yellow, July-Sept)
- Wild Quinine (White, July-Sept \*Special Concern)
- Late Boneset (White, July-Oct)
- Common Yarrow (White, July-Oct)
- Rough Blazing Star (Magenta, Aug-Sept)
- Showy Goldenrod (Yellow, Aug-Sept)
- Stiff Goldenrod (Yellow, Aug-Sept)
- Canada Goldenrod (Yellow, Aug-Oct)
- New England Aster (Bluish Purple, Aug-Oct)
- Smooth Aster (Light Blue/Purple, Aug-Oct)
- Sky Blue Aster (Light Blue/Purple, Aug-Oct)
- Rush Aster (White, Aug-Oct)



### Bean Family

- Blue False Indigo (Bluish Purple, May-June)
- White Wild Indigo (White, June-July)
- Purple Prairie Clover (Purple, June-Aug)
- White Prairie Clover (White, June-Aug)

### Evening Primrose Family

- Cinnamon Willowherb (Light Pink, June-Aug)
- Evening Primrose (Yellow, July-Oct)

### Grass Family

- Bottlebrush Grass (Cylinder Shaped Seed Head, July-Aug)
- Sideoats Grama (Single Sided Seed Head, Aug-Sept)
- Prairie Dropseed (Tall Seed Head, Aug-Sept)
- Little Bluestem (Blue-Green Blades, Aug-Oct)
- Big Bluestem ('Turkeyfoot' Shaped Seed Head, Aug-Oct)



### Milkweed Family

- Butterfly Weed (Orange, June-Aug)
- Common Milkweed (Faded Pink/Purple, June-Aug)
- Whorled Milkweed (White, June-Aug)
- Swamp Milkweed (Reddish Pink, June-Aug)



### Mint Family

- Obedient Plant (Pale Pink, July-Sept)
- Wild Bergamot/Bee Balm (Purple, July-Sept)
- Virginia Mountain Mint (White, July-Sept)
- Dotted Mint (Lavender, July-Sept)
- Lavender Hyssop (Purple, July-Sept)



### Rose Family

- Prairie Smoke (Reddish Pink, April-June)
- Prairie Cinquefoil (White, June-Sept)
- Serviceberry (White, March-Apr)

### Snapdragon Family

- Showy Penstemon (White, May-July)
- Culver's Root (White, July-Aug)

### Verbena Family

- Hoary Vervain (Lavender/Purple, July-Sept)
- Blue Vervain (Blueish Purple, July-Sept)

### Other Families

- Carrot Family-Golden Alexander (Yellow, May-June)
- Cattail Family-Hybrid Cattail (Brown, May-July)
- Dogwood Family-Redosier Dogwood (White, May-June)
- Holly Family-Winterberry (Greenish White, June-July)
- Iris Family-Blue Flag Iris (Blue, May-July)
- Lily Family-Nodding Wild Onion (White, July-Aug)
- Moschatel Family-Bailey's Compact Cranberry Bush (White, May-June)
- Phlox Family-Prairie Phlox (Light Purple, May-June)
- Sedge Family-Yellow Nutsedge (Yellow, June-Sept)
- Spiderwort Family-Spiderwort (Vivid Purple, July-Sept)
- Balsam Family-Spotted Jewelweed (Orange, July-Oct)



Months in parenthesis indicate the typical time the plant is in bloom.