

**WINNETKA ENVIRONMENTAL AND FORESTRY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2021**

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Environmental and Forestry Commission of the Village of Winnetka, which was held virtually via Zoom, Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. ; Voting Members present: Chairperson Chuck Dowding, Commissioners Liz Kunkle, Rosann Park-Jones, Barry Sylvester, and Ted Wynnynchenko. Voting Members absent: Commissioner Chris Foley and David Varca. A quorum of presently appointed members was present. Village Council Representative present: Jack Coladarci. Student Representatives present: Marcus Buccellato and Scarlett Harper. Staff Representative present: Brendon Mendoza, Public Works Analyst. Public present: Five members of the public were present.

1) Introduction & Chair's Remarks:

Chairperson Dowding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all Commission members and the public. Staff Representative Mendoza took roll call for attendance.

Oral Declaration Regarding In-Person Meetings

Chairman Dowding stated pursuant to recently adopted amendments to the Illinois Open Meetings Act included in Public Act 101-0640, public bodies may, in certain circumstances, hold entirely virtual public meetings without a quorum physically present in any one location. On March 17, 2020, President Rintz issued a Declaration of Emergency pursuant to the authority granted by the Village Code, the Illinois Municipal Code, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act to address the health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 29, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued a Disaster Proclamation that declared in-person attendance at public meetings of more than ten people at the regular public meeting location to be infeasible, in accordance the Open Meetings Act, as amended by Public Act. 101-0640. On June 16, 2020, Village President Rintz executed a written determination that given the on-going emergency associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings of the Village's Village Council are not practical or prudent at this time and until further notice. In accordance with the Governor's Disaster Proclamation and the Village President's Declaration of Emergency and Determination regarding meetings of the Village Council, I, as Chair of the Environmental & Forestry Commission hereby determine that in-person meetings of the Environmental & Forestry Commission are not practical or prudent at this time and until further notice.

2) Public Comment: Please see agenda item 4) A. Parkway Usage.

3) Review and Approval of Minutes:

a) Approval of the December 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the December 9, 2020 minutes, which was moved by Commissioner Wynnnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Sylvester.

AYES: PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE, SYLVESTER
ABSENT: FOLEY, VARCA
NAYS: NONE

4) **New Business, Old Business/Updates:**

a) Parkway Usage

Chairperson Dowding provided a brief introduction regarding the Village Council's assignment to the Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission to prepare recommendations regarding plantings on the Village parkways.

Commissioner Kunkle provided an introduction and background of the parkway usage topic and introduced guest speaker Matt Evans, Chicago Botanic Garden Woodland Restoration Technician.

Matt Evans mentioned that he grew up in Winnetka, is an avid environmentalist, recently graduated from Northwestern University in plant biology and conservation and works at the Chicago Botanic Garden managing 100 acres of woods. Mr. Evans stated he would like to be a resource for the Commission and the Village Council in terms of how to make the parkway plantings work.

Mr. Evans presented regarding the Winnetka Parkway Plans and Plantings. Mr. Evans discussed the following reasons for wanting to plant native plants; stormwater and standing water, pollinators & wildlife, soil health, carbon sequestration, aesthetics, and the alternative-lawn movement. Mr. Evans mentioned the five first steps for residents to start with; plant diverse native plants that you like, control exotic invasive species, avoid using insecticides and fertilizers, practice benign neglect, and mow less.

Commissioner Kunkle mentioned that Mr. Evans' presentation is a great entry to understanding the recommendations and issues and as a resource. Commissioner Kunkle discussed the plant list attached to the agenda packet.

Chairperson Dowding asked the Commission for input or additional comments regarding the presentation and recommended plant list. Trustee Representative Coladarci stated he liked the presentation and the planting list but would modify the columns regarding a few of the specific terms. Mr. Evans stated that the document can be modified to include that

information in a future draft. Student Representative Harper stated the presentation was very interesting and provided a few considerations. Commissioner Park-Jones asked if the list of plants are good for the basic soils, Mr. Evans stated yes. Commissioner Park-Jones also mentioned considering recommendation for companion plantings. Commissioner Sylvester stated the presentation was excellent and asked if the plantings are planted from a seed or whole plant. Mr. Evans stated the recommended plantings can be planted in both ways, but can list a preferred method for each plant. Commissioner Wynnychenko stated shade, bloom time, and other factors could be included in the documents. Commissioner Wynnychenko also recommended reducing the restriction on height limits for plants (other than visibility and safety issues).

Chairperson Dowding stated he enjoyed the presentation and on a later draft that pictures could be included and information on the height and width. Chairperson Dowding asked if it would be possible to include recommended examples with photographs for residents to get started. Commissioner Kunkle stated that Go Green Wilmette has a native plant sale annually in May that has been taking place for many years and could direct residents to that event as it is well established and has starter kits. Student Representative Buccellato stated the presentation was good.

Chairperson Dowding opened the discussion for public comment.

Amanda Nugent, a Wilmette Resident, stated she is starting a landscaping business to encourage people to incorporate native plants in their landscaping projects. Mrs. Nugent stated the presentation was great. She stated it would be helpful to incorporate the height, width, shade, and bloom time in the recommendation list. Mrs. Nugent stated the c and w categories on the list were confusing. Mrs. Nugent stated the Go Green Wilmette plant sale typically sells out in about three hours and would encourage another community to have a native plant sale rather than just one community native plant sale.

Jack Riddle, stated it was interesting to hear the discussion and information.

Jeremy Marino, a Winnetka Resident, stated it is exciting to have this discussion. Mr. Marino agreed with Mr. Evans in the terms that there is no one solution, but there are many alternative solutions. Mr. Marino also agreed with Commissioner Wynnychenko in that the recommendations should not be too restrictive, so it does not limit plantings. Mr. Marino stated a vegetable garden could be an alternative option.

Nikki, of the Winnetka Garden Club, thanked the commission for allowing her to listen and all of her points were covered in the discussions. Her only other recommendation would be to add the shade information.

Student Representative Harper stated she is a part of Sunrise Northshore, which is a group of individuals around the country that has environmental groups. Student Representative Harper stated Sunrise Northshore could potentially coordinate a plant sale. Commissioner Kunkle appreciated Mrs. Nugent stating a second plant sale could be beneficial.

Chairperson Dowding stated to prepare for next month's EFC meeting would be to contact nearby towns regarding their experience with parkway plantings. Chairperson Dowding stated Steve Saunders recommended contacting Bannockburn, Kenilworth, and Highland Park. Chairperson Dowding asked for the Commission to volunteer to contact these communities and find out additional information. Commissioner Wynnychenko volunteered to follow-up with Kenilworth, Commissioner Sylvester volunteered to follow-up with Bannockburn, and Commissioner Park-Jones volunteered to follow-up Highland Park. Chairperson Dowding asked Commissioner Kunkle to review Wellesley (one of the Village's benchmark communities). The Commission will review these communities for the February EFC meeting.

b) Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Chairperson Dowding asked Staff Representative Mendoza to display the Commission's recommendations for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. Chairperson Dowding asked the group to review the recommendation list for the February EFC Meeting.

c) Pesticides Discussion

Commissioner Wynnychenko stated the Commission should review the potential options regarding pesticides applicators and if the Commission develops a recommendation to present it to the Village Council. Commissioner Wynnychenko stated he reached out to other communities on this topic. Commissioner Wynnychenko stated the Village of Glencoe also researched this topic and drafted a resolution regarding this but did not pursue this issue further as they are not a home-rule community. Chairperson Dowding asked Commissioner Wynnychenko to reach out to Lake Forest as they may have regulated landscapers and may be a good resource for information. Commissioner Wynnychenko will follow-up at the February EFC Meeting.

5) Communications:

a) Approval of February Communication Items

Student Representative Harper asked if she could draft a new article regarding mosquito abatement. Chairperson Dowding asked Student Representative Harper if she could create an article for the February EFC Meeting for consideration.

Chairperson Dowding asked Staff Representative Mendoza about textile recycling in the Public Works Lobby. Staff Representative Mendoza stated the Village does not currently accept textiles in USAgain's program, but it is a program offered by USAgain. Commissioner Wynnychenko mentioned that the Village of Glencoe works with Lakeshore Recycling and another company to offer a form of curbside textile recycling. Commissioner Kunkle stated she would like to later follow-up regarding a more comprehensive drop off recycling program at the Public Works Yards.

The Commission reviewed the February Communication Items. Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to approve the February Communications Items which was moved by Commissioner Wynnychenko and seconded by Commissioner Kunkle.

AYES: PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE, SYLVESTER
ABSENT: FOLEY, VARCA
NAYS: NONE

b) Discussion of March Communications Items

The Commission reviewed the upcoming March Communication items.

6) **Commission/Staff Reports:** None.

7) **Open Forum:**

Commissioner Kunkle stated that as the Commission is working on new initiatives, they can be turned into communication items as the Commission could use new content for the Village's communications.

8) **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Chairperson Dowding asked for a motion to adjourn which was moved by Commissioner Kunkle and seconded by Commissioner Wynnychenko. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

AYES: PARK-JONES, WYNNYCHENKO, KUNKLE, SYLVESTER
ABSENT: FOLEY, VARCA
NAYS: NONE

Winnetka Parkway Plans and Plantings

Marcus Buccellato, Matt Evans, and Liz Kunkle
Winnetka Environmental and Forestry Commission

January 13, 2021

Session One: Preferred Plantings



Why do we want native plants in our yards?*

- Stormwater and Standing Water
- Pollinators & Wildlife (Biodiversity)
- Soil Health (Biodiversity)
- Carbon Sequestration
- Aesthetics
- Alternative-Lawn Movement



*Generally, although this presentation focuses on native plants in parkway spaces specifically

Pollinator-Friendly Plants*

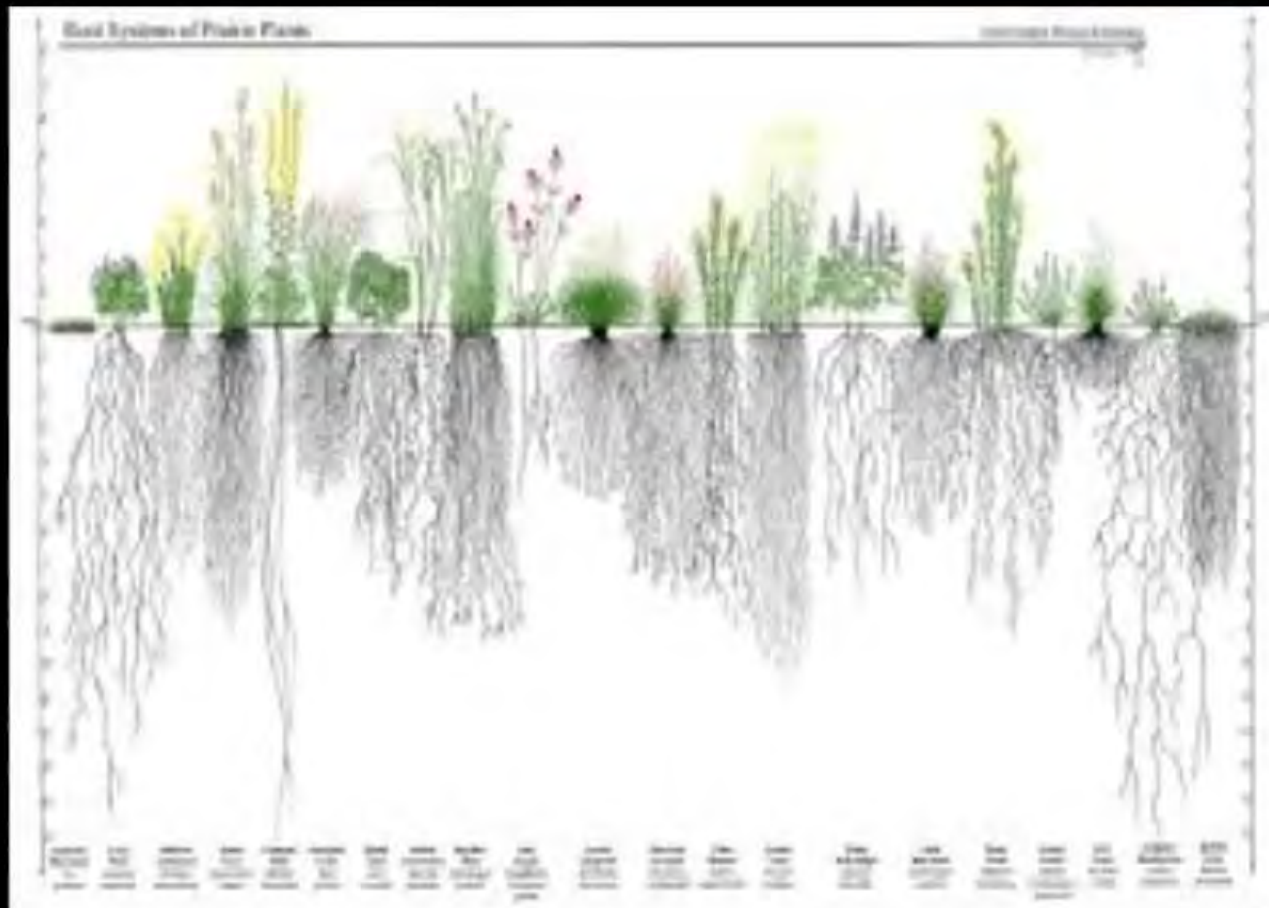
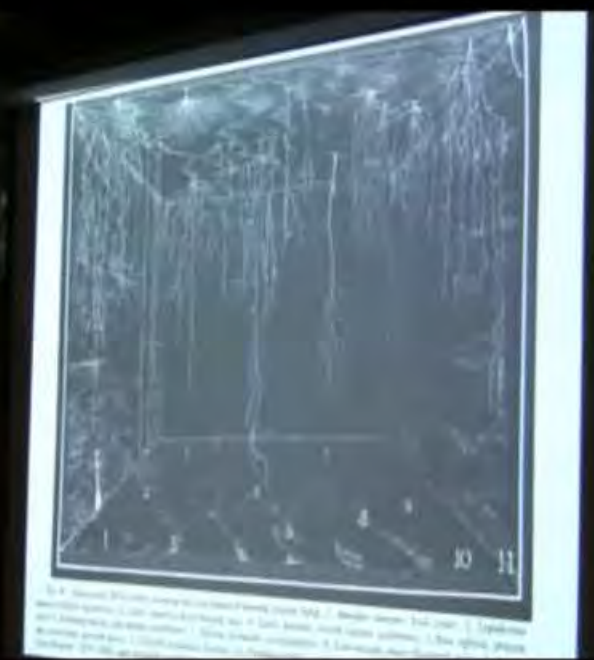
- Mountain Mint
- Blazing Star
- Goldenrod (not Tall Goldenrod!)
- Joe Pye Weed
- Aster
- Milkweed** (Butterfly, Purple, Swamp)
- Black-eyed Susan
- Ironweed
- Lobelia

*See full list of Preferred Plantings in the Agenda materials

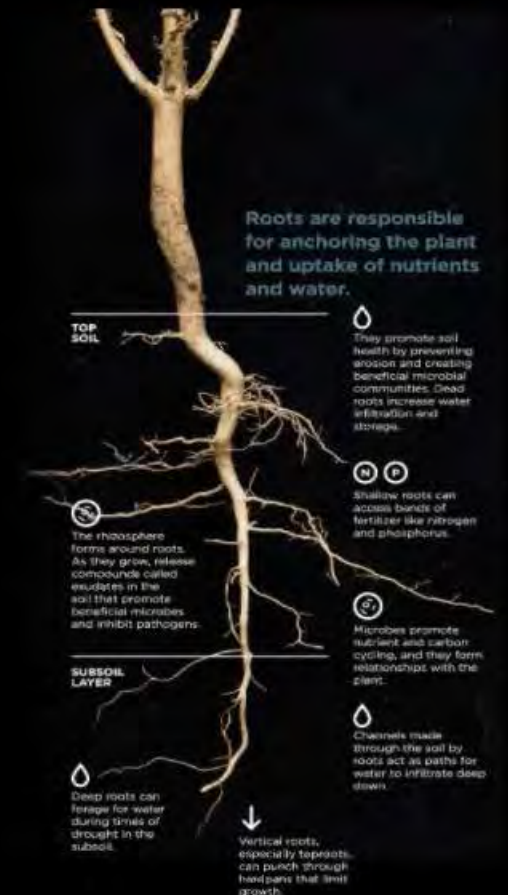
**Not a weed



Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration



- Roots absorb water
- Roots reduce erosion
- Roots redistribute nutrients
- Roots store carbon
- **NATIVE PLANTS HAVE THE DEEPEST ROOTS**



Alternative-Lawn Movement

History of lawns =

Fertilizers &
Weed Killers &
Fuel for and
emissions from
lawn mowers
(including electric
ones)





**This is that
common native
violet people kill
in their lawn.
Just a regular
native plant
doing its part.**



Coneflower

Smooth Blue Aster



Goldenrod



Jacob's Ladder



**Yellow Prairie Sundrop
(foreground)**

**Pink Prairie Phlox
(background)**



Black-Eyed Susan



5 First Steps

- Plant diverse native plants that you like!
- Control exotic invasive species
- Avoid using insecticides and fertilizers
- Practice benign neglect
 - Leave the leaves in fall and through spring – at least somewhere in the yard, pile brush – many birds will use it.
- Mow less!
 - Once a year
 - Add layers, create hedges, connect corners
 - Again, leave the leaves!



**One of the best
actions you can
take is to plant
an oak tree**



Parkway Plant Spreadsheet

Light Level	Height	Width	Common Name	Scientific Name	C	W	Physiognomy	Duration
Both	Tallest	Wider	common bur sedge	Carex grayi	7	-1	sedge	perennial
Both	Medium	Narrower	wild hyacinth	Camassia scilloides	7	0	forb	perennial
Both	Tallest	Narrower	foxglove beard tongue	Penstemon digitalis	4	0	forb	perennial
Both	Short	Narrower	stout blue-eyed grass	Sisyrinchium angustifolium	5	0	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Wider	starry false solomons seal	Smilacina stellata	5	0	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Narrower	shooting star	Dodecatheon meadia	6	1	forb	perennial
Both	Short	Narrower	robins plantain	Erigeron pulchellus	8	1	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Wider	smooth solomons seal	Polygonatum biflorum	4	1	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Wider	black-eyed susan	Rudbeckia hirta	1	1	forb	perennial
Both	Short	Narrower	prairie trillium	Trillium recurvatum	5	1	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Wider	broad-leaved panic grass	Dichanthelium latifolium	8	2	grass	perennial
Both	Short	Narrower	violet bush clover	Lespedeza frutescens	10	2	forb	perennial
Both	Short	Narrower	wood betony	Pedicularis canadensis	9	2	forb	perennial
Both	Tallest	Narrower	starry campion	Silene stellata	6	2	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Narrower	fire pink	Silene virginica	10	2	forb	perennial
Both	Medium	Wider	early meadow rue	Thalictrum dioicum	7	2	forb	perennial
Both	Short	Wider	bellwort	Uvularia grandiflora	7	2	forb	perennial
Both	Short	Narrower	downy yellow violet	Viola pubescens	5	2	forb	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	bulbous cress	Cardamine bulbosa	7	-2	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Wider	green dragon	Arisaema dracontium	6	-1	forb	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	purple cress	Cardamine douglassii	7	-1	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Wider	jack-in-the-pulpit	Arisaema triphyllum	5	0	forb	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	common wood sedge	Carex blanda	1	0	sedge	perennial
Shade	Medium	Wider	pale sedge	Carex granularis	3	0	sedge	perennial
Shade	Medium	Wider	virginia waterleaf	Hydrophyllum virginianum	5	0	forb	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	jacobs ladder	Polemonium reptans	8	0	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Narrower	thin grass	Agrostis perennans	5	1	grass	perennial
Shade	Short	Wider	running strawberry bush	Euonymus obovatus	8	1	shrub	perennial
Shade	Medium	Narrower	blue-stemmed goldenrod	Solidago caesia	8	1	forb	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	common blue violet	Viola sororia	3	1	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Wider	fuzzy wuzzy sedge	Carex hirsutella	5	2	sedge	perennial
Shade	Short	Wider	common oak sedge	Carex pensylvanica	5	2	sedge	perennial
Shade	Medium	Wider	curly-styled wood sedge	Carex rosea	5	2	sedge	perennial
Shade	Short	Wider	woods stiff sedge	Carex woodii	10	2	sedge	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	spring beauty	Claytonia virginica	4	2	forb	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	american pennyroyal	Hedeoma pulegioides	4	2	forb	annual
Shade	Short	Narrower	sharp-lobed hepatica	Hepatica acutiloba	8	2	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Narrower	woodland phlox	Phlox divaricata	5	2	forb	perennial

Shade	Medium	Wider	christmas fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	8	2	fern	perennial
Shade	Short	Narrower	bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	5	2	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Narrower	heart-leaved skullcap	<i>Scutellaria ovata</i>	9	2	forb	perennial
Shade	Medium	Narrower	elm-leaved goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>	5	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	fen loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>	10	-2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	closed gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	9	-1	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	fringed gentian	<i>Gentianopsis crinita</i>	9	-1	forb	annual
Sun	Short	Narrower	nodding ladys tresses	<i>Spiranthes cernua</i>	4	-1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	prairie brome	<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	10	0	grass	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	common panic grass	<i>Dichanthelium implicatum</i>	4	0	grass	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	yellow star grass	<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	8	0	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Wider	prairie sundrops	<i>Oenothera pilosella</i>	10	0	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Narrower	balsam ragwort	<i>Packera paupercula</i>	4	0	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	nodding wild onion	<i>Allium cernuum</i>	7	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Wider	cream wild indigo	<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	10	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	common partridge pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	4	1	forb	annual
Sun	Medium	Narrower	prairie cinquefoil	<i>Drymocallis arguta</i>	10	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	yellowish gentian	<i>Gentiana alba</i>	9	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	prairie smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	10	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	prairie alum root	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	10	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	false dandelion	<i>Krigia biflora</i>	9	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	sand prairie phlox	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	8	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	seneca snakeroot	<i>Polygala senega</i>	10	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Wider	little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	5	1	grass	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	common blue-eyed grass	<i>Sisyrinchium albidum</i>	6	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Wider	prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	10	1	grass	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	heath aster	<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i>	6	1	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Wider	lead plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	10	2	shrub	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Narrower	thimbleweed	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	8	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	pussytoes	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	4	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Wider	butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	8	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	whorled milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	1	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	prairie coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	10	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	white prairie clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	10	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	9	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	prairie panic grass	<i>Dichanthelium leibergii</i>	10	2	grass	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	purple love grass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	3	2	grass	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	prairie gentian	<i>Gentiana puberulenta</i>	10	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	stiff gentian	<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i> subsp.	8	2	forb	biennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	june grass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	8	2	grass	perennial

Sun	Medium	Narrower	rough blazing star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>	8	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	cylindrical blazing star	<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	10	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	hoary puccoon	<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	8	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	pale-spiked lobelia	<i>Lobelia spicata</i>	4	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Wider	horse mint	<i>Monarda punctata</i>	4	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Wider	showy black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia speciosa</i>	6	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	prairie petunia	<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	8	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Short	Narrower	prairie skullcap	<i>Scutellaria leonardii</i>	7	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	royal catchfly	<i>Silene regia</i>	10	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Narrower	early goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	3	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Narrower	old-field goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	3	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	smooth blue aster	<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	9	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Tallest	Narrower	aromatic aster	<i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i>	9	2	forb	perennial
Sun	Medium	Narrower	sky-blue aster	<i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i>	8	2	forb	perennial