



# Prairies of Ohio

## What is a prairie?

- Prairies are composed of plants that are seldom found in other habitats. They are defined by unique soil characteristics, grasses, and wildflowers.
- Examples of prairie grasses include big bluestem, indi-grass, and switchgrass.
- Prairies have unique wildflowers such as coneflower, dense blazingstar, sawtooth sunflower, prairie dock, and spiderwort.



Yellow Coneflower



Blazing Star



Spiderwort

## Why are prairies important?

- They provide rare native habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, and other small wildlife.
- They require little maintenance, are long lasting, and do not need fertilizers or pesticides.
- They are perfectly adapted to our climate. Prairie root systems are drought resistant, hold soils in place, and absorb water.

## Prairies on the Wayne National Forest

- The Wayne contains one of the most eastern remnant prairies in the US.
- Prairie grasses and wildflowers are found near known Native American sites.
- It is believed that Native Americans maintained these prairies with fire.
- This prairie was planted with seeds collected from nearby sites on the Forest.



Butterfly weed

About 4 percent of Ohio, or just over 1 million acres, was prairie prior to settlement. Today, less than 100 acres of original, unturned prairie remain!



# Prairies of Ohio

## What is a prairie?

- ✿ Prairies are composed of plants that are seldom found in other habitats. They are defined by unique soil characteristics, grasses, and wildflowers.
- ✿ Examples of prairie grasses includes big bluestem, indiagrass, and switchgrass.
- ✿ Prairies have unique wildflowers such as coneflower, dense blazingstar ,sawtooth sunflower, prairie dock, and spiderwort.



Yellow Coneflower



Butterfly weed

## Prairies on the Wayne National Forest

- ✿ The Wayne contains one of the easternmost remnant prairies in the US.
- ✿ Prairie grasses and wildflowers are found near known Native American sites.
- ✿ It is believed that Native Americans maintained these prairies with fire.
- ✿ This prairie was planted with seeds collected from nearby sites on the forest.

About 4 percent of Ohio, or just over 1 million acres, was prairie prior to settlement. Today, less than 100 acres of original, unturned prairie remains!

## Why are prairies important?

- ✿ They provide rare native habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, and other small wildlife.
- ✿ They require little maintenance, are long lasting, and do not need fertilizers or pesticides.
- ✿ They are perfectly adapted to our climate. Prairie root systems are drought resistant, hold soils in place, and absorb water.



Blazing Star

