

Kickapoo Edge Prairie

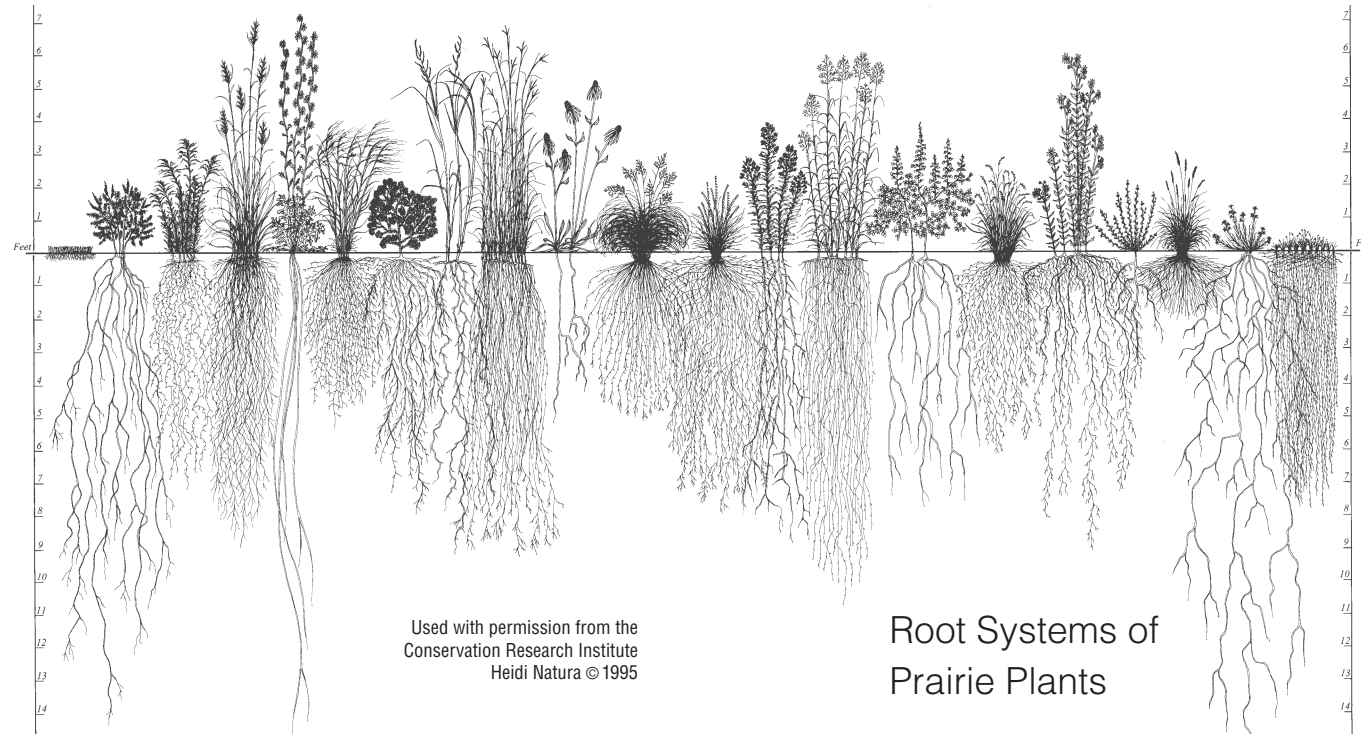
Nature's Subtle Garden

Cylindric Blazing Star *Liatris cylindracea*

It is no accident that the Gray-Campbell Farmstead is adjacent to the prairie. John Campbell found good soil where he found prairie. Many prairie species develop roots as deep as fifteen feet. These roots can penetrate dense and compacted soils and actually mine the subsoil for nutrients and minerals. Roots which prosper and die are replaced by new roots. The old roots become organic matter, improving soil structure and porosity.

Besides being a cornucopia of medicinal herbs, the prairie makes good grazing and hay just as it did for the Campbells 150 some odd years ago.

Friends of the Garden
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Root Systems of
Prairie Plants



Get Involved by becoming a member of Friends of the Garden [friendsofthegarden.org] and The Missouri Prairie Foundation [moprairie.org]. Volunteer opportunities are listed in the quarterly newsletter of the Friends of the Garden as well as *The Missouri Prairie Journal*.

Imagine a sea of grass spreading out before you. No trees, only sky... on the horizon. This is what being on the edge of the tallgrass prairie was like. The Kickapoo Edge Prairie Reconstruction Garden is situated where the Ozark woodlands met Kickapoo Prairie, and all the rest of the prairies spreading west.

The Kickapoo Edge Prairie Reconstruction Garden

Under the sponsorship of Friends of the Garden, the Missouri Department of Conservation planted and initially managed this little prairie. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the Missouri Prairie Foundation cooperate in developing and managing the garden.

From Compass Plant to Big Bluestem, more than 40 species of native wildflowers and grasses make this garden a miniature version of native prairie.

It is managed so that it mimics the processes that shaped prairies historically. Instead of native grazers, we have volunteer weed pullers and mowing machines. It is a xeriscape and so undergoes the flow and flux of interim droughts. Originally burned by lightning and/or Native Americans, we now use prescribed fire to emulate that historic process.

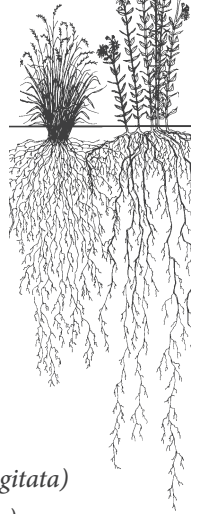
You may notice something different about this garden. Of the 26 gardens in the park, it is the most wild. From butterflies to deer, groundhogs to grasshoppers, prairie voles to hawks all are welcome and have their niche to fill at this site.



Presettlement prairie once covered about one third of Missouri, almost 13 million acres. Less than one percent remains. Even a shadow reflects the form and beauty of the original. Kickapoo Edge Prairie is a precious jewel reflecting our natural heritage.

Rosin Weed
Silphium integrifolium

Little Blue Stem
Andropogon scoparius



Native and Introduced Species

Grasses

Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
Eastern Gammagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)
Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Forbes = Flowers

Ashy Sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*)
Bergamot, Wild (*Monarda fistulosa*)
Bee Balm, Horsemint (*Monarda bradburiana*)
Blazing Star, Prairie (*Liatris pycnostachya*)
Blue Sage (*Salvia azura*)
Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
Boneset, Common (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
* Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
Cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*)
Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*)
Dittany (*Cunila origanoides*)
Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*)
Evening Primrose, Common (*Oenothera biennis*)
Four O'Clock (*Mirabilis nyctaginea*)

Fringed Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe digitata*)
Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
Germander (*Teucrium canadense*)
* Goat's Beard (*Tragopogon dubius*)
Gray-Headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*)
* Hedge Parsley (*Torilis arvensis/japonica*)
Horse Nettle (*Solanum carolinense*)
Horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*)
Ironweed, Common (*Vernonia baldwinii*)
Lanceleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Purple Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*)
Passion Flower (*Passiflora incarnata*)
New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
* Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*)
Rosin Weed (*Silphium integrifolium*)
* St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
White Heath Aster (*Aster pilosus*)
White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*)
Willow-Leaved Sunflower (*Helianthus salicifolius*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

* indicates introduced species