



ILLINOIS NATURAL  
HISTORY SURVEY  
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# Results from 2014 Vegetation Monitoring in Prairie and Old Field Habitats Following Shrub Removal at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois

John B. Taft; Hannah L. Grant; Connie C. Cunningham



INHS Technical Report 2015 (06)  
Prepared for Illinois Tollway Authority

Issue Date: 03/11/2015

Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign  
Brian D. Anderson, Acting Executive Director

Illinois Natural History Survey  
Geoff A. Levin, Acting Director  
1816 South Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217-333-6830



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION -----	1
METHODS -----	2
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION -----	6
<b>Ground Layer</b> -----	6
<u>Site Summary (all vegetation types combined)</u> -----	6
<u>2014 Habitat Differences</u> -----	8
<u>Time Series Differences (2009-2014)</u> -----	11
<u>Between Subjects &amp; Within Subjects Differences and Interactions</u> -----	14
<b>Shrub/Sapling Stratum</b> -----	15
<u>Site Summary</u> -----	15
<u>2014 Habitat Differences</u> -----	15
<b>Tree Stratum</b> -----	16
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b> -----	16
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS -----	17
REFERENCES -----	19
TABLES -----	22
FIGURES -----	32
APPENDICES -----	38

## INTRODUCTION

A vegetation monitoring program was established in 2009 at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site in Lake County, Illinois (Figure 1). The principal goals of the monitoring are to assess habitat quality in terrestrial plant communities including prairie and old field habitats throughout the site and to document and interpret vegetation changes resulting from habitat management. Prior to 2014 monitoring, habitat management has included removal of invasive shrubs and trees, control of invasive species in terrestrial and wetland communities, localized seeding of native prairie and wetland species, mowing, and applications of prescribed fire. Objectives for 2014 monitoring were to collect and analyze data on species composition, diversity, and structural characteristics from permanent vegetation sample plots and to evaluate trends among vegetation types since the 2009 baseline sample. The 2014 sample data represent the forth complete year following removal of invasive shrubs and saplings (shrub removal was ongoing in a few plots during 2011). Previous work at this site includes extensive botanical surveys (e.g., Taft 1996 and 2006), wetland mapping that identified 29 wetland acres (Olson et al. 1991; Plocher et al. 1996, Plocher and Ketzner 2006a, and Plocher and Ketzner 2006b), and monitoring results from the 2009 baseline and 2010-2013 sample data (Taft et al. 2010, Taft and Kron 2011, Taft and Kron 2012, Taft et al. 2013, Taft et al. 2014).

2014 Study Questions - This report focuses on results from vegetation monitoring in terrestrial plant communities during 2014 and compares trends among reference prairie, transect prairie, and old field habitats. There are four main questions:

1. What are the site-level comparative trends in species composition, total richness, and floristic quality and, for old field and prairie habitats (combining reference prairie and transect prairie habitats), what are the changes in species composition and abundance?
2. Based on 2014 sample data, are there significant between-subjects differences (vegetation types) with regard to ground layer and shrub/sapling parameters (e.g., composition, species richness, diversity, and cover - see Methods for full list and parameter definitions)?
3. Are there significant within-subjects differences (year) in these parameters since the 2009 baseline data for each vegetation type and when (what year) do the differences occur?
4. What are the between-subjects and within-subjects interactions (i.e., vegetation type x sample year) for selected vegetation parameters since 2009?

## METHODS

Sample Design - As previously reported (Taft et al. 2010), a stratified vegetation sampling design was utilized with 10 parallel transects running west to east, each separated by intervals of 500-ft (152 m). Five sample points were established on each transect separated by 250 ft (76 m) with the exception of the northern-most transect which had four sample points. This array provided 49 sampling stations including 37 in non-wetland terrestrial vegetation and 12 in areas previously determined to be wetland habitat (Plocher et al. 1996). In addition, eight reference plots were established in prairie remnants in the far southern portion of the study area and five plots were placed in selected wetland communities, mostly in the southern half of the study area (Figure 2). Specific plot locations for targeted sampling of reference habitats were determined randomly. It was determined following delineation of property boundary that one of the reference prairie plots (Prairie Plot 8) occurred outside of the property and treatment area and was dropped from further analysis (this plot, coincidentally, also was identified as an exceptional outlier in outlier analysis). This yields a total of 44 terrestrial vegetation sample plots examined in the current study.

Vegetation Sampling - Vegetation was sampled using 25-m<sup>2</sup> (5m x 5m) sampling plots with ground layer quadrats (1-m<sup>2</sup> [1 m x 1 m]) nested within. The baseline point for all sample plots is the southwest corner of the shrub/sapling plots, corresponding to the geographic coordinates associated with plot locations (Figure 2). Steel posts, 38.1 cm (15 inches) in length, were placed at the SW corner during 2010, replacing plastic posts established in 2009, to permanently mark each plot with fire-resistant markers. Plot sides were oriented along cardinal directions (the southern boundary runs W-E at 90°).

Composition and density of shrubs and saplings (all woody stems  $\geq$  1-m tall and  $<$  10 cm diameter-at-breast-height [dbh]) were recorded within the 25-m<sup>2</sup> plots. Stems and clumps of stems from root crowns when joined above soil level were treated as individuals. For terrestrial vegetation plots, percent shrub cover was determined using digital photography with a hemi-view lens oriented vertically in the plot center on a tripod (about 45 cm above the ground) to photograph the canopy of the plot area (narrowed to the approximate plot area with a lens tube). Percent visible sky and leaf area index (LAI) were calculated from these images using

HemiView Canopy Analysis Software, ver. 2.1. Percent canopy cover was calculated as 100 - % visible sky. Each image was classified to accurately depict canopy cover by adjusting the contrast threshold display in comparison to continuous tone images (this procedure avoids tabulating clouds, for example, as canopy). A horizontal habitat image also was taken of each plot oriented from the southwest to the northeast corners. Trees (woody stems  $\geq$  10 cm dbh) were sampled in 200-m<sup>2</sup> (14.14 m x 14.14 m) sample plots anchored at the SW corner of the shrub plot.

Ground layer vegetation in terrestrial plots was sampled with 3 quadrats nested within each shrub plot, with quadrats placed in the southwest and northeast corners and one in the plot center. Data collected from each quadrat include species presence and percent cover for individual species estimated with a modified Daubenmire cover-class scale (0-1%, 1-5%, 5-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, 75-95%, 95-100%). All species rooted within quadrat frames were recorded including woody species < 1-m tall. Sample dates during 2014 were from 18 June to 10 July and correspond to previous sample periods.

Data Preparation - Species abundance is measured by frequency, percent cover, and Importance Value (IV 200). IV 200 for ground-layer samples was calculated as the sum of relative frequency and relative cover. For the shrub/sapling stratum, IV is calculated as the sum of relative frequency and relative density. For trees, IV is calculated as the sum of relative density and relative basal area. Cluster analysis was utilized to produce a hierarchical classification of sites from the 2009 baseline quantitative ground-layer sample data, based on the Sørensen similarity distance measure and flexible Beta linkage method ( $\beta = -0.25$ ). This procedure yielded 29 plots classified as old field/shrubland (now “old field”, following shrub removal) and 15 plots classified as prairie, including eight from the stratified array of plots and seven from the targeted reference prairie sampling effort (Taft et al. 2010). This classification is used as a framework for 2014 between-group comparisons and within-group comparisons across time intervals.

Ground layer vegetation parameters were calculated at both quadrat and plot spatial scales. Quadrat means include the average among the 3 quadrats in each plot and the plot sum combines data from all 3 quadrats. Vegetation parameters include native and non-native species richness (termed species density at the quadrat scale), Shannon-Wiener Index of

diversity ( $H'$  [native species only]), Simpson's Index of Dominance (including all species), percent cover and percent bare ground, and metrics for Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) including calculations based on native and total species. FQA metrics include Mean Coefficient of Conservatism and the Floristic Quality Index (Taft et al. 1997). These parameters were calculated following Whittaker (1975) and Taft et al. (2006):

#### *Ground Layer Vegetation Diversity Measures*

**Native Species Density:** Mean number of native species/quadrat (1 m<sup>2</sup>)

**Non-Native Species Density:** Mean number of non-native species/quadrat (1 m<sup>2</sup>)

**Native Species Richness:** Total number of native species/plot (sum of three quadrats)

**Non-native Species Richness:** Total number of non-native species/plot (sum of three quadrats)

**Shannon-Wiener Index of Diversity (H'n):**  $-\sum [p_i \ln(p_i)]$ , where  $p_i$  is the relative abundance of each native species (based on importance values [IV200] calculated as the sum of relative cover and relative frequency),

**Simpson's Dominance Index:**  $\sum p_i^2$ , where  $p_i$  is the relative importance value for each species in the sample area (transect),

#### *Ground Layer Structure*

**Percent Cover:** Sum cover for each species in sample area

**Percent Bare Ground:** Estimate of bare ground for each quadrat

#### *Floristic Quality Assessment* (using ground-layer vegetation data)

**Mean Coefficient of Conservatism (Mean C):**  $\sum CC/S$ , where CC = Coefficient of Conservatism and S = total species richness

**Floristic Quality Index (FQI):** Mean C ( $\sqrt{N}$ ) where N = native species richness

**Mean Cn** and **FQIn** are calculated using only native species.

#### *Shrub-Sapling Layer*

**Shrub Density:** Total stem number per plot (sum of all species)

**Shrub Canopy Cover:** 100 - % visible sky, as determined from analysis of digital canopy photos with Hemi-View Canopy Analysis Software (ver. 2.1).

**Leaf Area Index (LAI):** The amount of leaf surface area per unit ground area as determined from analysis of digital canopy photos with Hemi-View Canopy Analysis Software (ver. 2.1).

Botanical nomenclature follows Mohlenbrock (2002). Non-native species in the report will be indicated with an asterisk (\*).

**Statistical Analysis** - Comparisons of vegetation parameters among old field, transect prairie, and reference prairie vegetation types were examined with means comparison tests.

Assumptions for means comparison tests, including repeated measures, are multivariate normality, equality of variance of the within-subjects factor (sphericity), and homogeneity of variance for two or more groups (homoscedasticity or homogeneity of variance). Data found to be non-normally distributed were square-root transformed; however, untransformed values are presented in tables. Tests of equality of variance of the within-subjects factor time (year) were made with Mauchly's test. Tests for homoscedasticity were made with Levene's test.

Statistical tests were performed with SPSS ver. 22 (IBM SPSS 2013).

Profile analysis (von Ende 1993) provides a framework for exploring patterns of change for the within-subjects factor (time [i.e., year]), between subjects factors (vegetation types), and the interaction. With profile analysis, the test of the within-subject factor examines the *flatness hypothesis* with the null expectation of no change over time. The between-subject factor is a test of the *levels hypothesis* with the null expectation of no difference among vegetation types. The test of interactions for each parameter, the major focus for profile analysis, is an examination of the *parallelism hypothesis*. The null expectation is a parallel response over time for vegetation types.

*Question 1* – Site-level data on vegetation parameters are shown (e.g., total richness, dominant species, increasing and decreasing species). No statistical analysis.

*Question 2* – Between-subject comparisons (vegetation types) for vegetation parameters (dependent variables) in 2014 were examined with one-way analysis of variance (1-way ANOVA). Homogeneity of variance, a required assumption for ANOVA, was examined with Levene's test statistic. With heteroscedasticity (when data lack homogeneity of variance),

Welch's test statistic (asymptotic F distribution) was used. The null expectation is no difference between subjects (vegetation types).

*Question 3* - Within-subject differences (year) for each vegetation parameter (dependent variable) and vegetation type (independent variable) from 2009 to 2014 (test of flatness hypothesis) were examined with one-way repeated measures analysis of variance (1-way RM ANOVA). Where sphericity is lacking (significant Mauchly's test), the Greenhouse-Geisser adjustment to the degrees of freedom was applied. The null expectation is no within-subject differences (no change over time).

*Question 4* - Between subjects differences (vegetation types, combining years), within subjects differences (year, combining vegetation type), and interactions (year x vegetation type [test of parallelism]) were examined with mixed model RM ANOVA using a 3 x 6 design (3 vegetation types and 6 years). With heteroscedasticity of variance across groups (significant Levene's test), the multivariate Pillai's Trace statistic was applied. The null expectation is no differences in the interaction profiles between years and vegetation types.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### **Ground-Layer**

#### Site Summary (all vegetation types combined)

##### *Species Richness*

About 241 taxa of vascular plants were recorded in 2014 from the combined ground-layer samples (44 plots, 132 quadrats) including 182 native species (about 75.5%), 48 non-native species, and 11 undetermined vegetative plants (Appendix 1). Combining results from general surveys and the 2009-2014 monitoring efforts, 449 vascular plant species have been recorded from the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site including two state threatened (*Amelanchier interior* and *Veronica scutellata*) and one state endangered (*Elymus trachycaulus*) species (Appendix 2). Recent changes in the Illinois list of threatened and endangered species list resulted in a delisting of *Oenothera perennis* (formerly State threatened) and a change in status for *Elymus trachycaulus* from state threatened to state endangered.

Throughout the study area there was an average species density per quadrat (1-m<sup>2</sup>) of

17.5 native and 5.8 non-native species. Total plot richness averaged 31.1 native and 9.6 non-native species. Average percent ground cover was 176.4% and bare ground averaged 11.2%.

### *Dominant Species*

The top-10 dominant species in descending rank order, accounting for 32.2% of the total importance, were *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Fragaria virginiana*, *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Solidago canadensis*, *Ratibida pinnata*, *Poa pratensis*\*, *Poa compressa*\*, *Cirsium arvense*\*, and *Schizachyrium scoparium*. This list suggests some ongoing changes among dominants. Although 8 of 10 are similar to 2013, the rank order has changed and the native warm-season grass *Sorghastrum nutans* now ranks first as the overall most dominant species. With the addition of *Schizachyrium scoparium* among the top-ranking species, three warm-season prairie grasses now rank in the top 10. *Rhamnus cathartica*\* has fallen to the third most important species and ranks as the most frequent species occurring in 71% of sample quadrats. *Lolium multiflorum*\*, an annual species planted at the site as a cover crop, was the top-ranking species in 2012 (Taft et al. 2013) but has continued to decline from 68% plot frequency in 2012, to 37% in 2013 and 31% in 2014. *Cirsium arvense*\* remains 9<sup>th</sup> in rank-order of abundance in 2014 occurring in 52% of the plots with about 4.7% total cover, similar to 2013 totals. This adventive thistle is classified as a noxious species in Illinois (Illinois Department of Agriculture 2003).

### *Overall Trends in Species Richness, Diversity, and Percent Cover*

Total species richness in sample quadrats has increased since the baseline sample (Figure 3) from 215 in 2009 (79.5% native) to 248 in 2011-2012 and 241 in 2014 (75.5% native). Average native species density initially declined from  $17.3 \pm 1.2$  SE to  $15.5 \pm 1.4$  SE in 2011; since that time it has increased to  $17.5 \pm 1.13$  SE but the overall differences are not significant (RM-ANOVA  $F = 2.44$ ,  $df = 2.48$ ,  $106.4$ ,  $P = 0.08$ ). Mean plot species richness initially declined from  $29.4 \pm 1.8$  SE species per plot (combing species from three nested quadrat samples in each plot) to  $25.3 \pm 2.2$  SE in 2011 but since has increased to  $31.1 \pm 1.7$  SE in 2014. Native species richness in 2014, as in previous years, is highly correlated to native species density (Pearson Correlation Coefficient  $r = 0.974$ ). Non-native species density increased since the baseline sample from  $4.7 \pm 0.34$  SE to  $5.8 \pm 0.25$  and the trend is significant (RM-

ANOVA  $F = 4.5$ ,  $df = 3.3, 142.4$ ,  $P = 0.004$ ). The mean declined slightly in 2014 compared to 2013 but generally has increased since the baseline sample. Overall, the Shannon-Wiener index of diversity was similar to 2013 and the overall trend is not significant (RM-ANOVA  $F = 2.51$ ,  $df = 2.7, 116.7$ ,  $P = 0.068$ ). Total percent ground cover has increased from the baseline total of  $131\% \pm 12.8$  SE to  $176\% \pm 6.5$  SE in 2014 and the difference is significant (RM-ANOVA  $F = 12.96$ ,  $df = 2.6, 112.5$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Percent bare ground has declined from the maximum of  $34\% \pm 3.92$  SE in 2010 to  $11.2\% \pm 1.23$  SE in 2014 and the difference is significant (RM-ANOVA  $F = 16.3$ ,  $df = 2.26, 97.2$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ).

### *Trends with Floristic Quality Assessment*

The overall Mean Coefficient of Conservatism (Mean C) for the site based on total 2014 plot sample data was 3.2 and Mean Cn was 3.96. The overall Floristic Quality Index (FQI) was 44.6 and native floristic quality (FQIn) was 55.2. Average plot Mean C initially declined from  $2.33 \pm 0.1$  SE (2009); however, since reaching a minimum of  $1.89 \pm 0.13$  SE in 2011 Mean C has increased. Overall Mean C in 2014 was  $2.23 \pm 0.12$  SE and the differences over time are significant (RM-ANOVA  $F = 12.2$ ,  $df = 3.2, 136.9$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). Similar to Mean C, average plot FQI initially declined but since 2011 has increased. Overall FQI in 2014 was  $9.7 \pm 0.76$  SE and the differences over time are significant (RM-ANOVA  $F = 8.4$ ,  $df = 2.6, 112.9$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ).

### 2014 Habitat Characteristics

#### *Dominant Species*

OLD FIELD HABITAT. The top ten most abundant species from the old field habitat, accounting for 36.1% of the total importance value (IV 200), were *Solidago canadensis*, *Fragaria virginiana*, *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Ratibida pinnata*, *Cirsium arvense*\*, *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Dactylis glomerata*\*, *Helianthus grosseserratus*, and *Poa compressa*\*. Eight of these species (underlined) also were among the ten dominants in 2013. The establishment of two native warm-season prairie grasses, *A. gerardii* and *S. nutans*, into the top-ranking species observed in 2013 was strengthened as both species increased in percent frequency and cover (*S. nutans* from 47% frequency and 5% cover to 52% frequency and 8.9% cover; *A. gerardii* increased from 40% frequency and 5.9% cover to 47% frequency and 7.9%

cover).

PRAIRIE HABITAT (combining transect and reference prairie plots). The top ten ranking species from the prairie habitat accounted for 32.4% of the total importance and included: *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Poa pratensis*\*, *Fragaria virginiana*, *Parthenium integrifolium*, *Ratibida pinnata*, *Poa compressa*\*, and *Solidago juncea*. Only *P. compressa*\* is new to this top-ranking group compared to 2013. Three warm-season prairie grasses now rank among the top-four ranking species. *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, formerly the most dominant species, now ranks third in the ground layer in prairie habitat. It has the same frequency as in 2013 (84.4%) but percent cover declined 40.5%, possibly due to fire management.

#### *Changes in Species Composition and Abundance*

Thirty-six species recorded in the 2009 baseline sample were absent during the 2014 sample while 62 species recorded in 2014 were not recorded in 2009. About 65 other species were recorded sometime during the 2010 to 2013 period but were absent in the baseline and 2014 samples. Much of this fluctuation in the species pool is among low frequency taxa. Species increasing and decreasing greatest in frequency and percent cover since the 2009 baseline differ between the old field and prairie habitats (Tables 1a and 1b). In general, there has been a greater net increase in frequency and percent cover among species in old field habitat compared with prairie habitat.

OLD FIELD HABITAT. Twenty-one species increased in frequency greater than 15% since the 2009 baseline sample (Table 1a). The greatest increase was 65.6% by *Cirsium arvense*\*. Other species with prominent increase in frequency (> 40%) include *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Ratibida pinnata*, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Lolium multiflorum*\*, and *Bidens frondosa*. Twenty-nine species increased in percent cover greater than 1%, most notably *Solidago canadensis*, *Dactylis glomerata*\*, *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Fragaria virginiana*, *Andropogon gerardii* and *Cirsium arvense*\*

Nine species have decreased in frequency by more than 15% (Table 1a). The greatest decreasing species ( $\geq 30\%$ ) were *Cornus racemosa*, *Vitis riparia*, *Aster drummondii*, and

*Rhamnus cathartica*\*. Five species have declined in cover more than 1%, most notably *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, *Cornus racemosa*, and *Allium canadense* (Table 1a). Prescribed burning may account for the changes among woody plants.

Invasive species identified previously that can be management concerns still remain in old field habitat, most notably *Cirsium arvense*\*. Originally scarce in the baseline sample (3.5% frequency), this adventive species increased in frequency to 68% and 67% in old field plots during 2013 and 2014, respectively; percent cover declined slightly in 2014 from 8% to 7% (Figures 4a, 4b). *Cirsium vulgare*\*, another invasive adventive thistle, also listed as a noxious plant in Illinois, was absent in the baseline sample but increased dramatically in old field plots in 2010 but has declined since to 3.4% frequency in 2014 when it had 0.2% cover. *Dactylis glomerata*\* evidently was introduced either as a cover crop or unintentionally from seed in straw layered throughout most of the study area after shrub clearance. It occurred in 25% of the 87 old field sample plots in 2014 and had 9.5% cover. The annual grass *Lolium multiflorum*\* was planted as a cover crop in 2010-2011 and became widely established; it has declined since 2011 to 42.5% frequency and 1.6% cover in old field plots during 2014. *Rhamnus cathartica*\* remains among the most dominant species in the ground layer in old field habitat, though it has declined from the first to sixth ranking species. There has been a 30% decline in frequency and 25.6% decline in cover since the 2009 baseline sample.

PRAIRIE HABITAT. Ten species increased in frequency by more than 15%. Major increasers (> 20%) were *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Poa pratensis*\*, *Zizia aurea*, *Andropogon gerardii*, and *Cirsium arvense*\* (Table 1b). Seventeen species have increased in cover more than 1%; the largest increasers (>3%) were *Poa compressa*\*, *Spartina pectinata*, *Poa pratensis*\*, *Melilotus albus/officinalis*\*, and *Sorghastrum nutans*.

Twelve species declined in frequency > 15%. Species declining greatest (> 20%) were *Cerastium vulgatum*\*, *Solidago juncea*, *Dichanthelium acuminatum* var. *implicatum*, *Hieracium caespitosum*\*, *Vitis riparia*, and *Cornus racemosa* (Table 1b). Nineteen species declined in cover more than 1%, most notably (> 3% cover) *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, *Solidago juncea*, *Cornus racemosa*, *Carex pellita*, *Agrostis alba*, *Antennaria neglecta*, *Agrostis alba* var. *palustris*, and *Schizachyrium scoparium*.

Problem invasive species generally are less common in prairie habitats compared to old

field (Figures 4a, 4b). Nevertheless, frequency of *Cirsium arvense*\* continued a trend of increasing frequency in transect prairie plots reaching 33% in 2014 although percent cover declined from 1% to 0.27%. The increase in frequency likely is attributable to seedling establishment (60% of occurrences had less than 5% cover in quadrats) which may lead to future increases in percent cover. Percent frequency and cover remained 9.5% and 0.05%, respectively, in reference prairie plots. *Cirsium vulgare*\* was absent in transect prairie plots in 2014. *Dactylis glomerata* increased from 4% in 2013 to 8% frequency in 2014; however, percent cover remained low (0.15%) in contrast to old field plots (Figure 3b). Similar to old field plots, *Lolium multiflorum* in transect prairie plots has steadily declined in frequency and occurred in 16.7% of plots in 2014 with only 0.08% cover. As in 2013, during 2014 there were no recorded occurrences of *C. vulgare*\*, *Dactylis glomerata*\*, or *Lolium multiflorum*\* in reference prairie plots (Figure 3a, 3b). *Rhamnus cathartica* declined 7.6% in frequency since the 2009 baseline from 92% to 84.4% and percent cover declined 14.4% from 23% in 2009 to 8.8% in 2014. As a proportion of the original amount, this is a 62% reduction in cover and possibly is attributable to fire management.

#### *Species Diversity, Structure, and Floristic Quality*

There were significant between-group differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) among reference prairie, transect prairie, and old field habitats for native species density, native and non-native species richness, and the Shannon-Wiener index of diversity (Table 2). Post hoc pairwise test results indicate the main differences were due to higher values in reference prairie habitat for native species density and native species richness and lower values in reference prairie for non-native species richness. Species density in reference prairie was about 38% greater than transect prairie and 46% greater than in old field habitats. Although reference prairie had greater percent cover compared to transect prairie and old field plots, the differences were not statistically significant. Percent bare ground was lower in reference prairie compared to transect prairie and old field habitats; however, the differences were only marginally significant ( $P = 0.058$ ). FQA values (Mean C, Mean Cn, FQI, and FQIn) were significantly greater in reference prairie compared to transect prairie and old field habitats; however, transect prairie and old field habitats were not different (Table 2).

### Time Series Differences for Vegetation Types (2009-2014)

Mean values ( $\pm 1$  SE) for all parameters from 2009 to 2014 for each vegetation type (reference prairie, transect prairie, combined prairie plots, old field) and overall are shown in Table 3. The results for test of time differences (repeated measures analysis of variance within subjects tests [years – flatness hypothesis]) for each vegetation type (reference prairie, transect prairie, and old field) and parameter indicate significant within-subject differences for several metrics and vegetation types (Table 4), although the number of non-significant trends is increasing compared to past years as some parameters return to approximately baseline levels. Pairwise between-year comparisons indicate the greatest differences often occur between the baseline year (2009) or 2010 and remaining years; in some cases, trends are non-linear and some parameters return to baseline levels by year 2014 (Table 4). In general, habitat types demonstrate somewhat individualistic trajectories since the baseline sample with some evidence of convergence with parameters of percent cover and bare ground; for parameters of native species density, diversity, and floristic integrity (Mean C and FQI) transect prairie and old field vegetation types show trends towards convergence (Figure 5). See the following section Between-Subjects & Within-Subjects Differences and Interactions for further accounts of the test of the parallelism hypothesis (i.e., interaction between vegetation type and time [year]).

**REFERENCE PRAIRIE.** Native species density and richness reached their maximum values in 2011 following shrub removal, declined during 2012-2013 (drought years), and returned to near or slightly above baseline levels, respectively, during 2014 (Table 3, Figure 5). The trends for native species density over time indicate significant differences; however, trends for species richness are only marginally significant (Table 4). Fire increases species diversity in Illinois prairies (Bowles and Jones 2013) and fire management has occurred in non-wetland habitats during dormant and early spring periods from 2012-2014. However, the burns appear to have been somewhat patchy in the area of the reference prairie (wooden stakes placed in the vicinity of plots by restoration crews lack fire scares, but some plastic ribbon marking metal plot stakes were partially burned).

Trends for non-native species density and richness since the baseline measure have varied with increases and decreases (Table 3, Figure 5) and the overall trends are significant for non-native species density but only marginally significant for non-native richness (Table 4).

Percent cover has fluctuated greatly since the baseline measure and the overall trend is significant; however, percent bare ground has not changed (Table 4). Reduced cover during 2012 to nearly half the baseline level may have been a drought effect; however, percent cover actually increased for other vegetation types, perhaps recovering from past disturbances related to intensive shrub removal activities. Percent cover in reference prairie increased during 2013 and that increase was maintained in 2014 (Table 3, Figure 5), possibly indicating recovery from the 2012 drought. Diversity, dominance, and FQA metrics have not changed (Table 4).

**TRANSECT PRAIRIE.** Native species density and richness initially declined in transect prairie plots but since 2011 these parameters have increased but have yet to match baseline levels (Table 3, Figure 5). Nevertheless, the differences among years is significant and the null expectation of no change over time is rejected (Table 4). The prominent decline in native species density and richness during 2011 for transect prairie may be the result of disturbance related to mechanized shrub removal. This decline was not observed in reference prairie plots where shrub removal was performed manually, or in old field plots dominated by ruderal species with perhaps relatively greater adaptation to soil disturbances from mechanized shrub removal.

Mean non-native species density and richness have fluctuated since the baseline measure and after declining in 2012 have returned to levels similar to baseline in 2014 (Table 3, Figure 5). The overall difference among years for both non-native species density and richness is not statistically significant (Table 4). Percent cover initially declined but has increased since 2011 and the trends are significant; percent bare ground increased to 31% in 2011, presumably a result of shrub-removal activities, but by 2014 returned to approximate baseline conditions; however, the trends for percent bare ground are not significant (Table 4). Dominance and diversity have fluctuated and the overall trend for diversity is significant. Floristic quality indices initially declined in Transect Prairie plots reaching minimum levels in 2011 but since have gradually increased and the differences are significant (Table 4); however floristic quality has yet to reach levels recorded in the 2009 baseline (Figure 5).

**OLD FIELD PLOTS.** Native species density has been constant while native species richness has fluctuated slightly, first declining and gradually increasing since 2011 to the maximum level in

2014 (Table 3, Figure 5) and the differences for native species richness are significant (Table 4). Non-native species density and richness initially increased but have remained relatively unchanged since 2011 (Table 3, Figure 5) and the trends are significant (Table 4). Native species diversity has increased slightly but the trends are not significant; in contrast, dominance sharply declined since 2011 (Table 3, Figure 5) and the overall difference is significant (Table 4). Percent cover and percent bare ground have fluctuated since 2009 with cover generally increasing and bare ground decreasing (Table 3, Figure 5) and the overall trends are significant (Table 4). Mean C and FQI fluctuated with an initial declines followed by recovery to approximate baseline levels (Table 3, Figure 5) and the differences are significant (Table 4).

#### Between-Subjects & Within-Subjects Differences and Interactions

The null parallelism hypothesis suggests that the interaction of the between-subjects factor and within-subjects factor does not differ and that slopes remain parallel over time. The null parallelism hypothesis can be rejected at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site for most of the measured parameters. Interactions between vegetation type and year indicate significant differences for all vegetation parameters except Mean C, dominance, and diversity (Table 5). There are significant differences in between-subject (vegetation type) comparisons (i.e., examining dissimilarity in vegetation type by combining within-subject [year] differences) for all ground layer vegetative parameters (Table 5). Within-subjects differences (years, combining vegetation types and examining effect of year alone) are significant for most parameters and the exceptions, for non-native species density and native species richness, are marginally significant (Table 5). In general, reference prairie plots have the highest values through time for native species density, richness, percent cover, and floristic integrity (Figure 5). Transect prairie plots in the baseline sample year were intermediate between reference prairie and old field plots, declined in several parameters until 2011 converging with old field plots, and then for several parameters (e.g., native species density, richness, percent cover, bare ground, dominance, diversity, Mean C, and FQI) there has been a trend of recovery to approximate baseline levels (Figure 5).

A comparative study carried out at this site based on observed patterns of the baseline vegetation suggests that woody encroachment can lead to attrition of native species and plant functional groups in the ground-layer (Taft and Kron 2014). One measure of restoration

success at this site would be a prevention of further decline for parameters of conservation interest (e.g., species richness, diversity, and floristic quality). A more promising indication of restoration progress would be convergence with reference prairie for these parameters. Establishment of prairie seedlings can be hindered where woody encroachment is pronounced. Removal of the shrub layer reduces one limiting factor for propagule establishment; however, the response appears to have been forestalled in portions of the site by disturbances related to mechanical shrub removal. Nevertheless, there is evidence of gradual recovery since 2011. With one more year of data in the current monitoring program, it will be insightful to evaluate whether this progress continues.

## **Shrub/Sapling Stratum**

### Site Summary

Overall density of woody stems has greatly declined from 22,898/ha to 1,164/ha in 2014, a reduction of about 95%. (Table 6) Mean shrub density throughout the study area initially declined from an average of 58 stems/25-m<sup>2</sup> plot to less than 1 stem/plot in 2011; subsequently, overall shrub density has increased to 2.91 stems/plot in 2014 (Table 3). Mean percent canopy cover in 2014 was 13.1%, an increase from 8.8% in 2013 and mean leaf area index was 0.145, a slight increase from 0.1 in 2013. The overall test of time (within-subjects differences combining vegetation types) indicate significant differences (Friedman's test results,  $P < 0.0001$ ) for shrub density, percent canopy cover, and leaf area index (Table 5).

Nine species were recorded in 2014 compared to 24 in the 2009 baseline sample and 33 taxa overall (some taxa were only present from 2010 to 2013). Dominant species in the combined old field and prairie plots were *Rhamnus cathartica*\*, *Viburnum lentago*, and *Lonicera x bella*\* accounting for about 87% of the total stem counts. *Rhamnus cathartica*\* remains the dominant species with 42% of the IV and 53% of total stems.

### 2014 Habitat Differences

There was no difference in shrub density, canopy cover, or LAI among the vegetation types for 2014 (Table 2). Time series differences (from 2009 to 2014) were found with all vegetation types for shrub density, percent canopy cover, and LAI (Table 4). Primarily, differences were found between 2009 and 2010 and in some cases between 2010 and 2011 and

overall there has been a dramatic decline since the 2009 baseline sample for each vegetation type in stem density, percent canopy cover, and LAI (Figure 6). The vegetation type x year interactions were all significantly different (Table 5). The between-subjects differences (i.e., comparisons among vegetation types, averaging all years) were found for percent canopy cover and LAI; the between-subjects difference for stem density was marginally significant (Table 5). Within-subject differences (comparison among years, averaging vegetation types) were highly significant.

Stem density for *Rhamnus cathartica*\* has been reduced 95% from the baseline total, yet this invasive shrub remains the most dominant species in the shrub-sapling stratum even though it is limited to 13.6% of sample plots (Table 6). *Rhamnus cathartica*\* was recorded in 71% of all ground-layer sample quadrats, including 100% of reference prairie quadrats, 71% of transect prairie quadrats, and 64% of old field quadrats (Appendix 1). Similar frequencies were observed in the 2013 ground layer samples. Continued management with prescribed fire will be required to prevent re-establishment of *R. cathartica*\* into the shrub-sapling stratum.

### **Tree Stratum**

Trees (woody stems  $\geq 10$  cm dbh) were recorded in 20 plots during 2014. In 2014, tree density was 34.3/ha and basal area was 4.51 m<sup>2</sup>/ha. Seven species were recorded in the tree sample plots with *Crataegus coccinea* the dominant with about 33% of the IV for all species (Table 7). Other species present include *Ulmus americana* and *Prunus serotina* both with about 24% of the importance value. Most trees occur outside the 25-m<sup>2</sup> shrub-sapling plots and in many cases near the outer margins of the tree plots.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

Previously, four state threatened species (*Elymus trachycaulus*, *Oenothera perennis*, *Veronica scutellata*, and *Amelanchier interior*) have been reported from the study site, with all but *V. scutellata* found in sample plots. However, during 2014 the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board delisted *Oenothera perennis* after determining it was more common than previously believed (this study site is believed to support the state's largest population). Population size for *O. perennis* has fluctuated widely at this site over many years of observation; it was locally occasional during 2014, occurring just outside some sample quadrats.

*Amelanchier interior* formerly had three stems but in 2011 only a single small tree was found with two stems. In the baseline sample, 33 *Amelanchier* seedlings were recorded; however, none were recorded in 2014. A determination to species can be difficult with flowering and fruiting material of *Amelanchier* and typically is not possible with sterile seedlings; when present seedlings may represent one of three species: *A. interior*, *A. arborea*, and possibly *A. laevis*. *Elymus trachycaulus*, recently changed from state threatened to state endangered, remains locally occasional in the southern quarter of the site. It was recorded in 8 quadrats in 2014, double the count recorded in 2013. *Veronica scutellata* is a marsh species, has always been scarce at this site, and has not been recorded in vegetation sample plots.

Basal leaves of an orchid were observed in two reference prairie sample quadrats (reference prairie plot 1). Previously, this sterile material was believed to be a species of either *Platanthera* or *Spiranthes*. A late summer site visit during 2014 determined this material to be *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (Great Plaines ladies' tresses) an orchid previously unrecorded for the site. *Platanthera leucophaea* (Eastern prairie fringed orchid), a state endangered and federally threatened species, is known from several Lake County stations including localities nearby this study site; habitat is present in the North Chicago mitigation site that is similar to nearby populations.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Total species richness from vegetation sample plots remained somewhat steady in 2014 at 241 taxa. Species increasing in percent frequency and cover exceeded declining species in the old field vegetation type while decreasing species slightly exceeded increasing species in the prairie vegetation type. The warm-season prairie grass *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass) emerged as the overall dominant species, replacing the adventive shrub *Rhamnus cathartica*\* which, while still among the most dominant species, moved to third rank following *Fragaria virginiana* (wild strawberry). Other non-native species that are abundant include the noxious thistle species *Cirsium arvense*\* and the cool-season grass *Dactylis glomerata*\*. The non-native cool season grasses *Poa pratensis*\* and *P. compressa*\* also have had notable increases throughout the study site.

Tests of the parallelism hypothesis, the null expectation being no difference in the interaction between vegetation type (between-subjects factor) and year (within-subjects factor),

indicate significant differences in the profiles for all three vegetation types for all parameters except Mean C (the average coefficient of conservatism). Between-subjects differences were found for all parameters indicating that the averages for vegetation types over time differ and the differences are statistically significant. Furthermore, within-subjects differences were found for all parameters except non-native species density and native species richness (both marginally significant [ $P = 0.064$  and  $0.056$ , respectively]) indicating that significant time differences were found when combining vegetation types.

Reference prairie plots, although showing yearly fluctuation, continue to have the highest values for native species density and richness, percent ground cover, and FQA indices and in 2014 had the lowest non-native species richness. Declines observed in native species density and richness in 2012 to 2013 were reversed in 2014 with the highest levels recorded for native richness with an average of 45 species recorded in each sample plot (combined data from 3 quadrats [ $1\text{-m}^2$ ]). Formerly, transect prairie plots had intermediate species richness, diversity, and floristic quality values between reference prairie and old field vegetation types. During 2010 and 2011, these parameters declined and transect prairie converged with the old field vegetation type, evidently a response to disturbances related to mechanized shrub removal. From 2012 to 2014, these transect prairie parameters began a gradually improved trajectory but remain below levels for reference prairie plots. Additional monitoring may determine whether this trend continues. Ongoing management with prescribed fire is needed to promote native species and to control invasive plants including woody species (Bowles and Jones 2013).

Among the most dynamic ground layer parameters have been percent ground cover and percent bare ground with each vegetation type showing increases and decreases, but not always parallel. There was a sharp decline in percent ground cover in reference prairie plots in 2012, possibly a result of the widespread drought conditions, but evidence of recovery in 2013 that was maintained in 2014. Percent ground cover declined for transect prairie vegetation type in 2012 but since has increased; in contrast, percent ground cover has increased relatively steadily in the old field vegetation type. Percent bare ground has declined greatly among old field plots, initially as a response of cover crop establishment and more recently with increases among prairie species (presumably from added seed) and *Solidago canadensis* (Canada goldenrod).

The shrub/sapling stratum control efforts greatly reduced the canopy and stem density of woody species throughout the study area. However, *Rhamnus cathartica*\* in particular

remains among the dominant species in the ground layer samples suggesting it has great potential to become re-established in the woody overstory leading to a further suppression of native grassland species diversity.

## REFERENCES

- Bowles, M. L. and M. D. Jones. 2013. Repeated burning of eastern tallgrass prairie increases richness and diversity, stabilizing late successional vegetation. *Ecol. Appl.* 23: 464-478.
- IBM SPSS. 2012. Statistics. Version 21.
- Illinois Department of Agriculture. 2003. Illinois noxious weed law. Title 8, Illinois administrative code 220.
- Mohlenbrock, R. H. 2002. Vascular Flora of Illinois. xi + 491 pp. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale.
- Olson, J., A. Nugteren, M. Morris, and T. Brooks. 1991. Wetland report and description of notable ecological features with Addendum for FAP 120 (US 41), Lake County, near Skokie, Illinois. 52 pp.
- Plocher, A., P. Tessene, and J. Olson. 1996. Wetland mitigation site assessment of the US 41/IL 137 Illinois Department of Transportation project area. Technical report submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Design and Environment, Springfield.
- Plocher, A., and D. Ketzner. 2006a. North Chicago Site - mitigation site assessment. Report to the IDOT. 11 pp.
- Plocher, A., and D. Ketzner. 2006b. North Chicago Site - mitigation site assessment, Add. 1. Report to the IDOT. 60 pp.
- Taft, J. 1996. Floristic survey and assessment of the Illinois Department of Transportation North Chicago (US Route 41/IL Route 137) Wetland Mitigation Site in Lake County. Technical Report 1996(29) submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Springfield.
- Taft, J. B. 2003. Fire effects on community structure, composition, and diversity in a dry sandstone barrens. *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society* 130:170-192.
- Taft, J. B. 2006. Floristic Survey and Assessment of the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation

- Site, Lake County, Illinois. Center for Wildlife and Plant Ecology. Illinois Natural History Survey Technical Report. Submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Location and Environment, 28 September 2006.
- Taft, J. B., G. S. Wilhelm, D. M. Ladd, and L. A. Masters. 1997. Floristic Quality Assessment for vegetation in Illinois, a method for assessing vegetation integrity. *Erigenia* 15: 3-95.
- Taft, J. B., C. Hauser, and K. R. Robertson. 2006. Estimating floristic integrity in tallgrass prairie. *Biological Conservation* 131:42-51.
- Taft, J. B., Z. Kron,, and A. Plocher. 2010. Baseline Quantitative Vegetation Monitoring in Terrestrial and Wetland Communities in the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois. INHS Technical Report 2010(07). Report submitted to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Downers Grove, Illinois. 2 February 2010.
- Taft, J. B., and Z. Kron. 2011. Results from Vegetation Monitoring during 2010 in Terrestrial Communities at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois. INHS Technical Report 2011(12). Report submitted to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Downers Grove, Illinois. 7 February 2011.
- Taft, J. B., and Z. Kron. 2012. Results from Vegetation Monitoring during 2011 in Terrestrial Communities at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois. INHS Technical Report 2012(03). Report submitted to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Downers Grove, Illinois. 20 January 2012.
- Taft, J. B., C. Carroll-Cunningham, D. Ruffatto. 2013. Results from 2012 vegetation monitoring in prairie and old field habitats following shrub removal at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois. INHS Technical Report 2013 (16).
- Taft, J. B., C. Carroll-Cunningham, H. L. Grant. 2014. Results from 2013 vegetation monitoring in prairie and old field habitats following shrub removal at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois. INHS Technical Report 2014 (13). Report submitted to Illinois Tollways, Downers Grover, IL, on 28 March 2014. 48 pp.
- Taft, J.B., and Z.P. Kron. 2014. Evidence of species and functional group attrition in

- shrub-encroached prairie: implications for restoration. *American Midland Naturalist* 172: 252-265.
- von Ende, C. N. 1993. Repeated-measures analysis: growth and other time-dependent measures, p. 113-137 *in:* S.M. Scheiner and J. Gurevitch (eds.). *Design and Analysis of Ecological Experiments.* Chapman and Hall, N.Y.
- Whittaker, R.H. 1975. *Communities and Ecosystems*, second edition Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York, New York.

Table 1a. Species from old field habitat that in 2014 increased and decreased in frequency (> 15%) and in % cover (> 1%), compared to baseline (2009) levels at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois.

-----OLD FIELD INCREASERS-----				-----OLD FIELD DECREASES-----			
SPP INCREASING BY > 15% Frequency	Increase % Frequenc	SPP INCREASING BY > 1.0% COVER	Increase % Cover	SPP DECREASING BY > 15% Frequency	Decrease % Frequenc	SPP DECREASING BY > 1.0% COVER	Decreas e % Cover
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> *	65.6	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	9.7	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	-52.7	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> *	-25.6
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	51.7	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> *	9.5	<i>Vitis riparia</i>	-48.7	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	-4.5
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	47.9	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	8.9	<i>Aster drummondii</i>	-34.8	<i>Allium canadense</i>	-3.8
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	46.1	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	8.1	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> *	-30.4	<i>Circaeа lutetiana</i>	-1.1
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> *	42.5	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	7.8	<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	-28.3	<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	-1.0
<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	40.2	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> *	7.0	<i>Lonicera × bella</i> *	-20.1		
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	35.8	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	6.7	<i>Circaeа lutetiana</i>	-20.0		
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	32.3	<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	6.4	<i>Hypericum punctatum</i> *	-20.0		
<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>	31.7	<i>Poa pratensis</i> *	5.1	<i>Aster simplex</i>	-16.6		
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	28.2	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	3.3				
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	28.2	<i>Poa compressa</i> *	3.2				
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	26.9	<i>Dichanthelium praecocius</i>	3.1				
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> *	25.3	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp	2.7				
<i>Dichanthelium praecocius</i>	24.1	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	2.5				
<i>Lactuca canadensis</i>	20.7	<i>Lactuca canadensis</i>	2.5				
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	19.5	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	2.4				
<i>Aster pilosus</i>	18.7	<i>Daucus carota</i> *	2.0				
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	16.5	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	1.9				
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	16.1	<i>Setaria glauca</i> *	1.9				
<i>Poa compressa</i> *	15.8	<i>Aster praealtus</i>	1.8				
<i>Melilotus albus/officinalis</i> *	15.4	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> *	1.8				
		<i>Melilotus albus/officinalis</i> *	1.7				
		<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	1.6				
		<i>Lolium multiflorum</i> *	1.6				
		<i>Zizia aurea</i>	1.5				
		<i>Prunella vulgaris v. elongata</i>	1.3				
		<i>Viola pratincola</i>	1.2				
		<i>Oxalis stricta/dillenii</i>	1.0				
		<i>Rubus pensylvanicus</i>	1.0				

Table 1b. Species from prairie habitat that in 2014 increased and decreased in frequency (> 15%) and in % cover (> 1%), compared to baseline (2009) levels at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, Illinois.

-----PRAIRIE INCREASERS-----				-----PRAIRIE DECREASERS-----			
SPP INCREASING BY > 15% Frequency	Increase % Freq.	SPP INCREASING BY > 1.0% COVER	Increase % Cover	SPP DECREASING BY > 15% Frequency	Decrease % Freq.	SPP DECREASING BY > 1.0% COVER	Decrease % Cover
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	42.7	<i>Poa compressa</i> *	5.1	<i>Cerastium vulgatum</i> *	-35.8	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> *	-14.3
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	28.2	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	3.9	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	-28.2	<i>Solidago juncea</i>	-13.3
<i>Poa pratensis</i> *	26.9	<i>Poa pratensis</i> *	3.5	<i>Dichanthelium implicatum</i>	-25.8	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	-8.3
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	23.1	<i>Melilotus alba/officinalis</i> *	3.4	<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> *	-25.8	<i>Carex pellita</i>	-3.7
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	22.9	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	3.0	<i>Vitis riparia</i>	-22.2	<i>Agrostis alba</i>	-3.4
<i>Cirsium arvense</i> *	22.2	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> *	2.8	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	-21.6	<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	-3.3
<i>Krigia biflora</i>	17.8	<i>Dichanthelium praecocius</i>	2.6	<i>Aster ericoides</i>	-17.8	<i>Agrostis alba</i> var. <i>palustris</i>	-3.2
<i>Achillea millefolium</i> *	16.4	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	2.5	<i>Aster simplex</i>	-16.0	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	-3.0
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	15.8	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	2.3	<i>Hypericum punctatum</i> *	-16.0	<i>Daucus carota</i> *	-2.9
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> *	15.6	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	2.2	<i>Prenanthes aspera/racemosa</i>	-16.0	<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	-2.5
		<i>Achillea millefolium</i> *	2.2	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	-15.6	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	-2.3
		<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	2.1	<i>Crataegus</i> sp. (seedling)	-15.3	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	-2.2
		<i>Vicia americana</i>	2.0			<i>Aster drummondii</i>	-1.7
		<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	1.8			<i>Hieracium caespitosum</i> *	-1.6
		<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	1.6			<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	-1.6
		<i>Aster praealtus</i>	1.5			<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	-1.5
		<i>Lonicera × bella</i> *	1.4			<i>Rosa carolina</i>	-1.5
						<i>Solidago rigida</i>	-1.1
						<i>Carex hirsutella</i>	-1.0

Table 2. One way analysis of variance results for test of between subjects differences (vegetation types) for vegetation parameters (dependent variables) based on 2014 sample data from the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site. Post-hoc test results examine individual paired comparisons to identify where differences among independent variables occur. Different letters indicate significant pairwise comparisons. Tukey post hoc test applied except to the Welch ANOVA tests where Dunnnett T3 post hoc test was applied.

PARAMETERS	2012 SAMPLE DATA		Reference Prairie		Transect Prairie		Old Field		1-Way Analysis of Variance			Post-Hoc Test Results	
									df 1, df2	F stat	Prob.		
	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE							
<b>Grd-Layer Spp Diversity</b>													
Native Spp. Density/Quadrat	27.95	1.65	17.29	1.83	15.08	1.20		2, 41	13.0	<0.001	a	b	b
Non-Native Sp Density/Quadrat	5.33	0.48	6.99	0.47	5.61	0.32		2, 41	2.75	0.076	-	-	-
Native Richness/Plot	45.14	2.31	30.88	2.36	27.76	1.92		2, 15.8	16.99*	<0.001	a	b	b
Non-Native Richness/Plot	7.57	0.57	11.13	0.83	9.62	0.50		2, 41	3.77	0.031	a	b	ab
Shannon-Wiener Diversity (natives)	2.80	0.11	2.37	0.08	2.49	0.08		2, 41	2.26	0.118	-	-	-
Simpson's Dominance (all spp.)	0.09	0.02	0.16	0.05	0.11	0.01		2, 41	1.87	0.167	-	-	-
<b>Vegetation Structure</b>													
% Vegetation Cover	208.12	21.01	173.63	13.32	169.55	6.50		2, 41	2.41	0.103	-	-	-
% Bare Ground	4.81	1.37	14.25	3.74	11.85	1.42		2, 41	3.06	0.058	-	-	-
<b>Florisitic Quality Assessment</b>													
Mean C /quadrat (1-m <sup>2</sup> )	3.54	0.14	2.06	0.09	1.96	0.11		2, 16.8	46.97*	<0.001	a	b	b
Mean Cn/quadrat	4.21	0.16	2.92	0.08	2.70	0.13		2, 16.5	31.05*	<0.001	a	b	b
FQI /quadrat	18.68	1.08	8.57	0.73	7.89	0.66		2, 41	32.10	<0.001	a	b	b
FQIn /quadrat	22.22	1.27	12.02	0.73	10.63	0.77		2, 41	26.74	<0.001	a	b	b
<b>Shrub Stratum</b>													
Shrub Density/ 25-m <sup>2</sup> plot	0.86	0.59	4.13	2.41	3.70	1.72		2	1.28**	0.528	-	-	-
% Canopy Cover	3.69	0.80	10.01	2.33	16.20	3.52		2	4.05**	0.132	-	-	-
Leaf Area Index (LAI)	0.02	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.07		2	3.84**	0.147	-	-	-

\* Welch's test applied (asymptotically F distributed, used when equality of means test fails [Levene's test]).

\*\* Kruskal-Wallis test (data do not meet normality requirements of ANOVA)

Table 3. Summary variables for the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site from terrestrial (non-wetland) communities presenting data from the 2009 baseline samples to 2014. See Methods section for detailed description of metrics and parameters. COMBINED PRAIRIE combines data from transects and reference prairie samples. n = sample size (quadrat #); quadrats are 1-m<sup>2</sup>. SE = standard error.

	YEAR	TOTAL (n = 132)		OLD FIELD (n = 87)		COMBINED PRAIRIE (n = 45)		TRANSECT PRAIRIE (n = 24)		REFERENCE PRAIRIE (n = 21)	
		Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
<b>Species Diversity and Structure Parameters</b>											
Native Species Density	2009	17.28	1.23	13.66	1.31	24.27	1.32	20.18	1.07	28.95	0.58
	2010	16.97	1.20	13.61	1.32	23.47	1.30	19.50	0.94	28.00	0.94
	2011	15.53	1.41	12.77	1.31	20.86	2.88	12.10	2.48	30.86	1.43
	2012	15.72	1.14	13.92	1.35	19.20	1.83	13.46	1.46	25.76	0.67
	2013	15.70	1.05	13.26	1.17	20.40	1.52	16.79	1.74	24.52	1.46
	2014	17.53	1.13	15.08	1.20	22.27	1.86	17.29	1.83	27.95	1.65
Non-Native Spp.	2009	4.75	0.34	3.93	0.34	6.33	0.55	6.88	0.80	5.71	0.74
	2010	5.42	0.37	4.67	0.44	6.89	0.51	8.21	0.45	5.38	0.58
	2011	5.97	0.32	5.56	0.32	6.76	0.69	7.33	1.05	6.10	0.86
	2012	5.36	0.25	5.40	0.33	5.29	0.37	5.96	0.48	4.52	0.44
	2013	5.89	0.27	5.78	0.33	6.11	0.47	7.13	0.48	6.11	0.47
	2014	5.82	0.25	5.61	0.32	6.22	0.39	7.00	0.47	6.22	0.39
Native Richness	2009	29.39	1.82	24.69	2.13	38.47	1.79	33.25	1.47	44.43	1.45
	2010	27.18	1.79	22.59	1.94	36.07	2.40	28.63	1.46	44.57	1.80
	2011	25.32	2.18	21.00	2.18	33.67	4.13	20.88	3.50	48.29	1.46
	2012	28.66	1.85	26.21	2.38	33.40	2.56	26.13	2.60	41.71	1.44
	2013	28.48	1.65	24.97	1.95	35.27	2.18	30.50	2.39	40.71	2.61
	2014	31.09	1.67	27.76	1.92	37.53	2.49	30.88	2.36	45.14	2.31
Non-Native Richness	2009	6.86	0.54	5.72	0.58	9.07	0.88	10.88	0.90	7.00	1.21
	2010	8.11	0.51	7.17	0.60	9.93	0.78	12.00	0.42	7.57	1.02
	2011	10.25	0.50	10.17	0.53	10.40	1.10	12.13	1.61	8.43	1.17
	2012	8.84	0.45	9.17	0.58	8.20	0.68	9.63	0.98	6.57	0.48
	2013	9.39	0.42	9.48	0.49	9.20	0.82	11.13	0.93	7.00	0.82
	2014	9.57	0.40	9.62	0.50	9.47	0.69	11.13	0.83	7.57	0.57
C dom 45 (allspp)	2009	0.21	0.03	0.27	0.03	0.10	0.01	0.11	0.02	0.09	0.00
	2010	0.16	0.02	0.20	0.02	0.09	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.10	0.00
	2011	0.25	0.03	0.29	0.04	0.18	0.04	0.25	0.07	0.09	0.01
	2012	0.18	0.02	0.20	0.03	0.13	0.01	0.15	0.02	0.11	0.01
	2013	0.11	0.01	0.12	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.01	0.09	0.01
	2014	0.12	0.01	0.11	0.01	0.13	0.03	0.16	0.05	0.09	0.02
Hn 45	2009	2.43	0.09	2.30	0.12	2.66	0.06	2.56	0.09	2.78	0.06



	TOTAL (n = 132)		OLD FIELD (n = 87)		COMBINED PRAIRIE (n = 45)		TRANSECT PRAIRIE (n = 24)		REFERENCE PRAIRIE (n = 21)		
YEAR	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	
2011	8.05	0.86	6.23	0.65	11.56	1.91	5.24	1.06	18.79	0.66	
2012	8.81	0.77	7.12	0.68	12.06	1.56	7.05	0.86	17.78	0.95	
2013	8.93	0.73	7.11	0.65	12.46	1.33	8.32	0.82	17.19	0.95	
2014	9.73	0.76	7.89	0.66	13.29	1.48	8.57	0.73	18.68	1.08	
<b>Shrub Density and Percent Cover Parameters</b>											
Shrub Density	2009	58.48	5.05	55.55	6.03	64.13	9.25	90.00	8.18	34.57	8.09
	2010	14.50	3.64	11.62	3.51	20.07	8.25	1.38	0.63	41.43	14.04
	2011	0.84	0.26	0.69	0.30	1.13	0.49	1.00	0.87	1.29	0.42
	2012	2.70	0.80	2.72	1.08	2.67	1.16	1.50	1.24	2.72	1.08
	2013	2.84	0.88	2.79	1.19	2.93	1.21	0.88	0.64	5.29	2.24
	2014	2.91	1.22	3.07	1.72	2.60	1.34	4.13	2.41	0.86	0.59
% Canopy Cover	2009	67.63	3.08	76.03	1.78	51.38	6.67	69.05	6.40	31.19	6.38
	2010	33.04	3.79	38.41	4.97	22.66	4.76	12.09	2.90	34.74	7.50
	2011	15.95	2.71	15.59	3.44	16.64	4.52	17.28	7.20	15.91	5.72
	2012	12.09	2.25	15.63	3.19	5.25	1.10	7.60	1.62	15.63	3.19
	2013	8.76	2.01	10.76	2.91	4.91	1.41	7.94	2.10	1.45	0.62
	2014	13.09	2.45	16.20	3.52	7.07	1.51	10.01	2.33	3.69	0.80
Leaf Area Index (LAI)	2009	1.24	0.09	1.46	0.07	0.81	0.17	1.24	0.20	0.31	0.09
	2010	0.49	0.09	0.63	0.13	0.24	0.07	0.11	0.04	0.40	0.12
	2011	0.20	0.05	0.20	0.07	0.20	0.06	0.21	0.10	0.18	0.07
	2012	0.13	0.04	0.18	0.05	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.02	0.18	0.05
	2013	0.10	0.04	0.13	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.00
	2014	0.15	0.04	0.19	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.01

Table 4. One-way repeat measures analysis of variance results and pairwise comparisons examining within subject (year [2014]) differences for each vegetation type among ground layer and shrub/sapling parameters at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site. Different letters in post-hoc comparisons indicate significant pairwise differences. Woody stratum data were non-normal and analyzed with Friedman's test.

PARAMETER	Veg. Type	sphericity	Within Subject (Year)			Pairwise Comparisons <sup>1</sup>					
			F	df	P	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Ground Layer</b>											
Native Spp. Density	Prairie	*	4.55	5, 30	.003	a	abc	ab	c	c	ac
	Trans Prairie	**	7.55	1.6, 11.2	.011	a	a	b	b	a	a
	Old Field	**	1.21	2.2, 60.9	.309	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Native Spp. Density	Prairie	*	3.60	5, 30	.011	ac	ac	a	b	bc	ac
	Trans Prairie	*	2.30	5, 35	.066	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Old Field	**	6.89	3.2, 88.9	< 0.001	a	b	bc	bc	c	c
Native Spp. Richness	Prairie	*	2.49	5, 30	.053	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	**	5.86	1.4, 9.8	.029	ae	bce	c	abd	e	e
	Old Field	**	4.70	2.7, 74.6	.006	abcd	ab	b	ac	ac	d
Non-Native Spp. Richness	Prairie	*	2.44	5, 30	.057	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	*	1.51	5, 35	.212	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Old Field	**	15.65	3.1, 85.8	< 0.001	a	b	c	d	cd	cd
Diversity	Prairie	*	0.51	5, 30	.765	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	*	4.44	5, 35	.003	ab	a	b	b	ac	bc
	Old Field	**	1.75	2.7, 74.9	.169	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominance	Prairie	*	1.15	5, 30	.355	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	**	2.97	1.7, 12.1	.094	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Old Field	**	9.55	2.9, 82.5	< 0.001	ac	bd	ab	cd	e	e
% Ground Cover	Prairie	*	12.96	5, 30	< 0.001	a	bd	b	c	b	cd
	Trans Prairie	*	5.06	5, 35	.001	ae	ab	bc	a	ad	e
	Old Field	**	40.36	3.6, 102	< 0.001	a	b	c	de	d	e
% Bare Ground	Prairie	**	1.47	2.4, 14.6	.263	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	**	2.62	2.1, 14.6	.105	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Old Field	**	24.53	2.5, 69.8	< 0.001	a	b	c	d	cd	d
Mean C	Prairie	*	0.59	5, 30	.705	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	**	6.21	1.6, 11.5	.018	a	a	b	a	a	a
	Old Field	**	7.05	3.1, 87.4	< 0.001	a	ac	b	c	cd	ad
FQI	Prairie	*	1.40	5, 30	.249	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	**	8.44	1.4, 10.1	.010	a	a	b	c	a	a
	Old Field	**	4.46	2.5, 70.8	.009	ac	ac	b	a	a	c
<b>Shrub/Sapling Stratum</b>											
Shrub Density	Prairie	***	29.30	5.00	< 0.0001	a	a	b	b	b	b
	Trans Prairie	***	29.12	5.00	< 0.0001	a	b	b	b	b	b
	Old Field	***	90.32	5.00	< 0.0001	a	b	c	bd	cd	cd
% Canopy Cover	Prairie	***	28.55	5.00	0.0001	ab	b	ac	cd	d	cd
	Trans Prairie	***	18.93	5.00	0.002	a	bc	bc	bc	b	c
	Old Field	***	77.16	5.00	< 0.0001	a	b	cd	c	d	c
LAI	Prairie	***	24.82	5.00	0.0001	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Trans Prairie	***	16.47	5.00	0.006	a	b	b	b	b	b
	Old Field	***	72.58	5.00	< 0.0001	a	b	bcd	cd	c	bcd

\* = sphericity assumed, \*\* = Greenhouse-Geisser adjustment when sphericity not found; \*\*\* non-normal, uncorrected with transformation (Chi-square and pairwise comparison results from Friedman's test)

1 = adjustment for multiple comparisons: Sidak.

Table 5. Mixed model repeat measures analysis of variance comparing trends among vegetation parameters (dependent variables) and vegetation type (independent variables) from the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site from 2009 to 2014. Design is 3 x 6 mixed model analysis (3 vegetation types, 6 years) for each dependent variable.

<b>PARAMETER</b>	Between Subjects (Vegetation Types)		Within Subject (Year)		Vegetation Type x Year	
	F	P	F	P	F	P
<b>Ground Layer</b>						
Native Spp. Density	20.49	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	4.01	<b>0.015*</b>	3.88	<b>0.003*</b>
Non-Native Spp. Density	6.30	<b>.004</b>	2.35	0.064*	3.19	<b>0.003*</b>
Native Spp. Richness	15.26	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	2.70	0.056*	3.18	<b>0.009*</b>
Non-Native Spp. Richness	6.98	<b>.002</b>	4.27	<b>0.005*</b>	3.43	<b>0.002*</b>
Mean C	31.97	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	9.03	<b>&lt;0.0001*</b>	1.65	0.134*
FQI	44.26	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	7.57	<b>0.0003*</b>	2.73	<b>0.022*</b>
% Cover	46.69	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	7.07	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	17.48	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
% BG	14.40	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	3.35	<b>0.014^</b>	3.77	<b>0.0004^</b>

\*data lacking sphericity (variances not equal across within-subject variables; df adjusted with Greenhouse-Geisser adjustment.

<sup>^</sup>Pillai's Trace multivariate test (covariance matrices are not equal across groups)

	Between Subjects (Vegetation Types) <sup>1</sup>				Vegetation Type x Year <sup>3</sup>	
	K-W test	P	Chi-square	P	F <sup>^</sup>	P <sup>^</sup>
<b>Ground Layer</b>						
Dominance	22.47	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	50.55	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	1.68	.102
Diversity	28.61	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	11.52	<b>0.042</b>	0.85	.582
<b>Shrub/Sapling Stratum</b>						
Stem Density	5.95	0.051	134.45	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	2.61	<b>.009</b>
% Canopy Cover	7.15	<b>0.028</b>	115.34	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	4.36	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
LAI	8.74	<b>0.013</b>	103.86	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>	3.35	<b>0.001</b>

<sup>1</sup> Kruskal-Wallis test (non-parametric 1-way anova)

<sup>2</sup> Friedman test (non-parametric alternative to the 1-way rm-anova)

<sup>3</sup> assumptions of normality for rm-anova not met; this statistic may be unreliable (no non-parametric statistic for mixed model interactions)

<sup>^</sup>Pillai's Trace multivariate test (covariance matrices are not equal across groups)

Table 6. Summary from 2014 sample data in shrub/sapling plots ( $25\text{-m}^2$ ) with comparison to 2009 baseline data at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation site, Lake County, Illinois. \* indicates non-native species. Species with 0 values were present between 2010 and 2013.

Species	2014 Shrub/Sapling Data			Change in Stem Density from 2009	
	% Freq.	Total uency	Total Density	Total IV 200	% Change
<i>Acer negundo</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Amelanchier interior</i>	2.3	2.0	6.8	-1	-33.3
<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5	-100.0
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	6.8	6.0	20.5	-730	-99.2
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-20	-100.0
<i>Crataegus calpodendron</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-6	-100.0
<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1	-100.0
<i>Crataegus coccinea</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-32	-100.0
<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2	-100.0
<i>Crataegus</i> sp.	0.0	0.0	0.0	-5	-100.0
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> *	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Fraxinus lanceolata</i>	2.3	1.0	6.0	0	0.0
<i>Lonicera × bella</i> *	4.5	13.0	20.7	-151	-92.1
<i>Malus ioensis</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4	-100.0
<i>Malus pumila</i> *	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1	-100.0
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	2.3	1.0	6.0	1	0.0
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-13	-100.0
<i>Prunus americana</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1	-100.0
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-9	-100.0
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> *	13.6	68.0	84.7	-1291	-95.0
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i> *	0.0	0.0	0.0	-25	-100.0
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2	-100.0
<i>Rosa multiflora</i> *	2.3	3.0	7.6	3	0.0
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	6.8	30.0	39.2	-107	-78.1
<i>Viburnum opulus</i> *	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3	-100.0
<i>Viburnum recognitum</i>	2.3	4.0	8.4	3	300.0
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-7	-100.0
<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-39	-100.0
TOTALS	N = 9	128.0	200.0	-2,448.0	-95.0
Avg. Density/plot		2.9		-54.3	
Density/ha		1,163.5		-21,734.3	

Table 7. Summary of tree plot sample data from the 2009 baseline to 2014 at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site, Lake County, IL. These data are corrected for site-wide reference (previous estimates focused only on plots containing trees). \* In 2010, *Ulmus americana*, unseen during 2009, was discovered to be in a plot following removal of the dense shrub/sapling stratum. Additional *Crataegus* and *Prunus serotina* also have been discovered (2010 and 2011) that formerly were obscured by the dense shrub layer.

	TREE PLOT SAMPLE DATA																		Change in Stem Density from 2009*					
	2009			2010			2011			2012			2013			2014								
	Basal Area		Density/ (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)		ha		IV200		Basal Area		Density/ (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)		ha		IV200		Basal Area		Density/ (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)		ha		IV200	
																			Total Decline/I	% Change				
<i>Acer negundo</i>	0.07	3.41	21.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.41	-100.00				
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.88	5.18	0.06	0.88	3.80	0.88	100.00			
<i>Crataegus coccinea</i>	0.05	4.55	24.27	0.10	10.23	45.25	0.17	14.77	108.71	0.12	10.23	95.65	0.74	10.56	65.89	0.98	14.96	65.42	10.41	69.62				
<i>Malus cf. baccata</i> *	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.88	11.72	0.88	100.00			
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	0.68	4.55	81.66	0.73	4.55	70.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4.55	-100.00			
<i>Prunus americana</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.88	4.97	0.05	0.88	3.65	0.88	100.00			
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	0.06	1.14	10.40	0.16	6.82	37.19	0.08	2.27	26.31	0.08	2.27	31.87	1.31	7.04	67.43	1.10	7.92	47.41	6.78	85.65				
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	0.15	2.27	23.84	0.15	1.14	15.49	0.16	1.14	36.27	0.15	1.14	38.99	0.66	1.76	26.51	0.68	1.76	20.11	-0.51	-29.13				
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> *	0.09	6.82	38.22	0.09	3.41	19.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6.82	-100.00				
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	1.14	12.36	0.12	1.14	28.70	0.12	1.14	33.48	0.66	2.64	30.02	1.23	7.04	47.89	7.04	100.00				
	1.11	22.73	200.00	1.35	27.27	200.00	0.52	19.32	200.00	0.46	14.77	200.00	3.47	23.76	200.00	4.51	34.32	200.00	11.59					

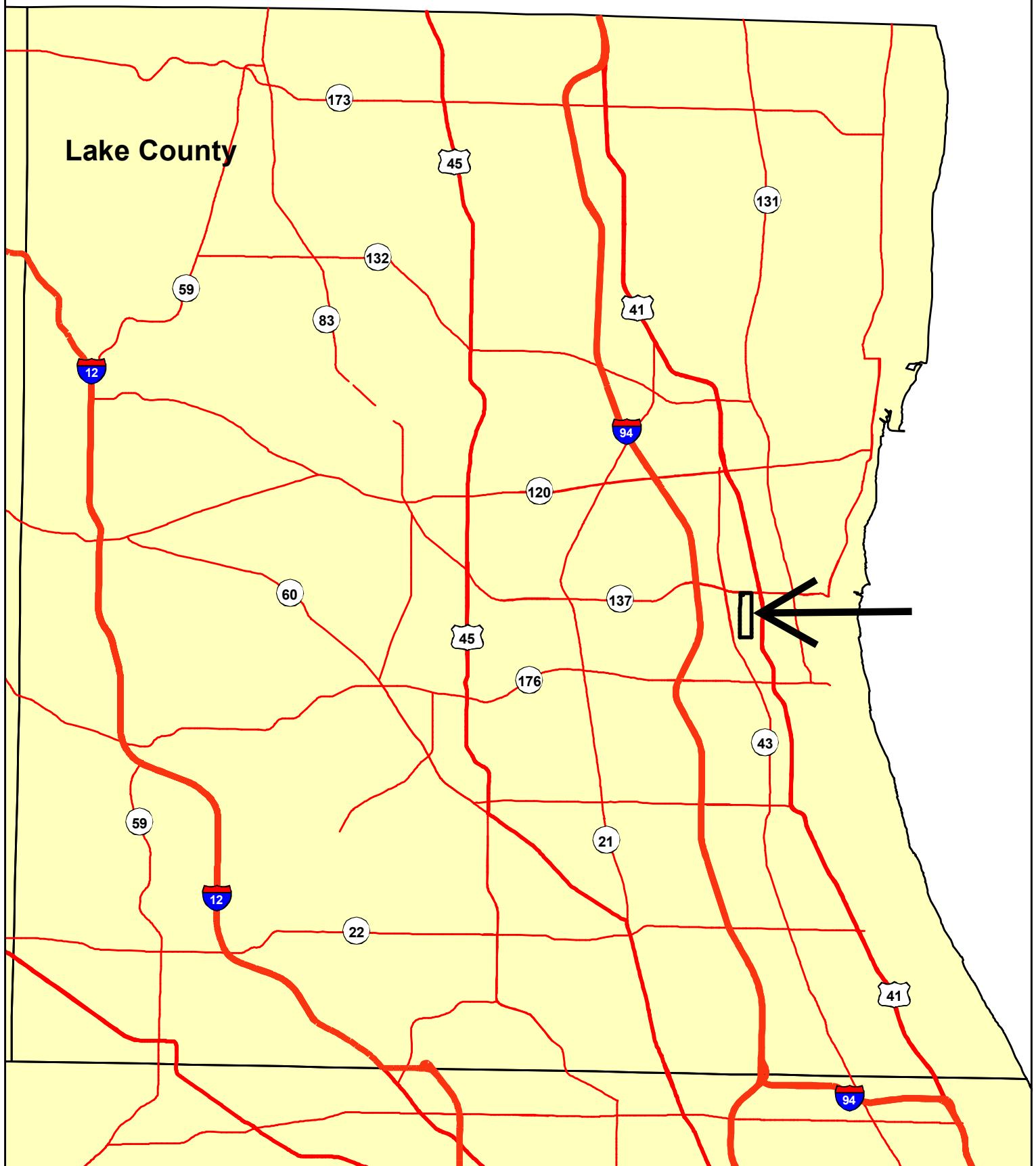
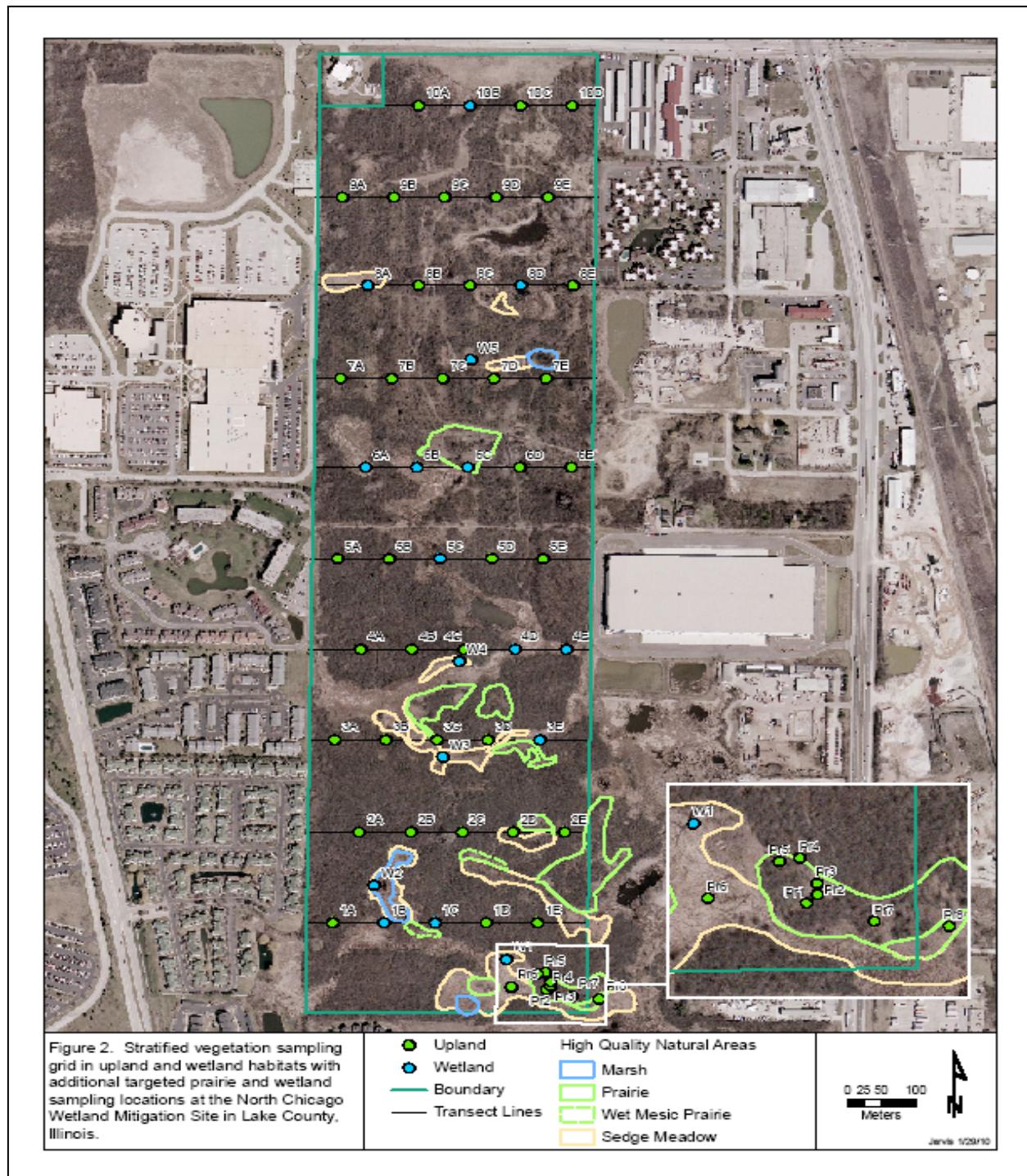


Figure 1. Location of the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site in Lake County, Illinois.

— North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site  
— State Route Highway  
— US Route Highway  
— US Interstate

0 25 50 100  
Meters





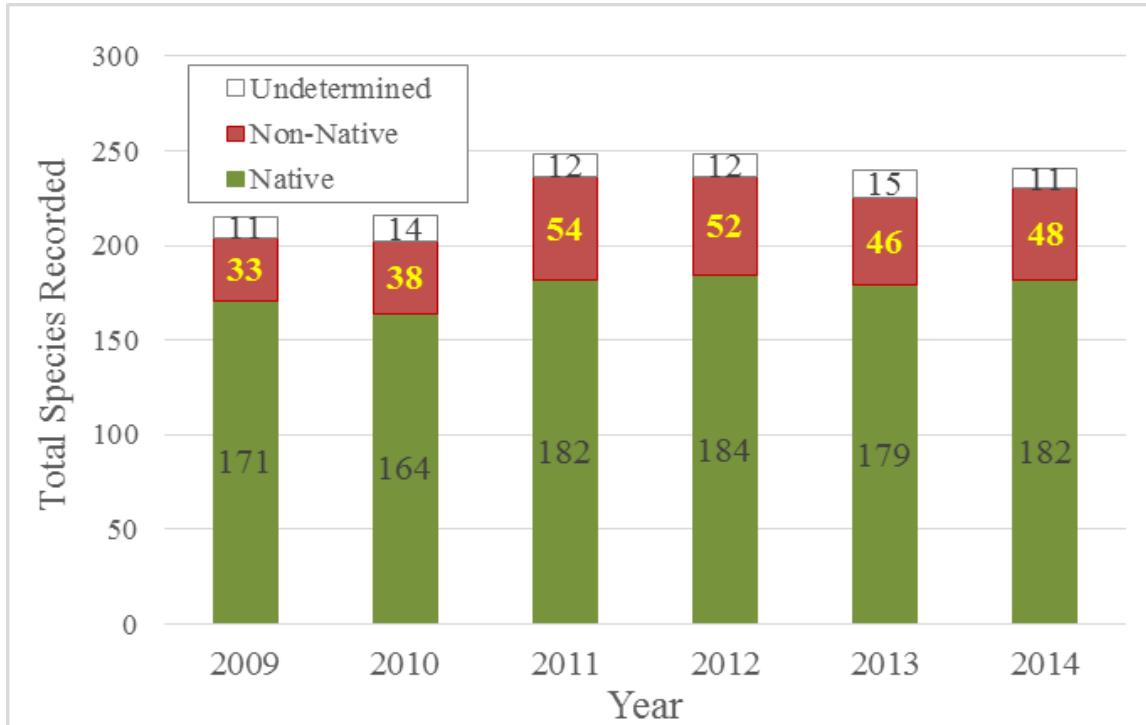


Figure 3. Total species richness recorded in sample plots at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site including native, non-native, and undetermined species. Undetermined species generally are seedlings or sterile sedges (*Carex* sp.).

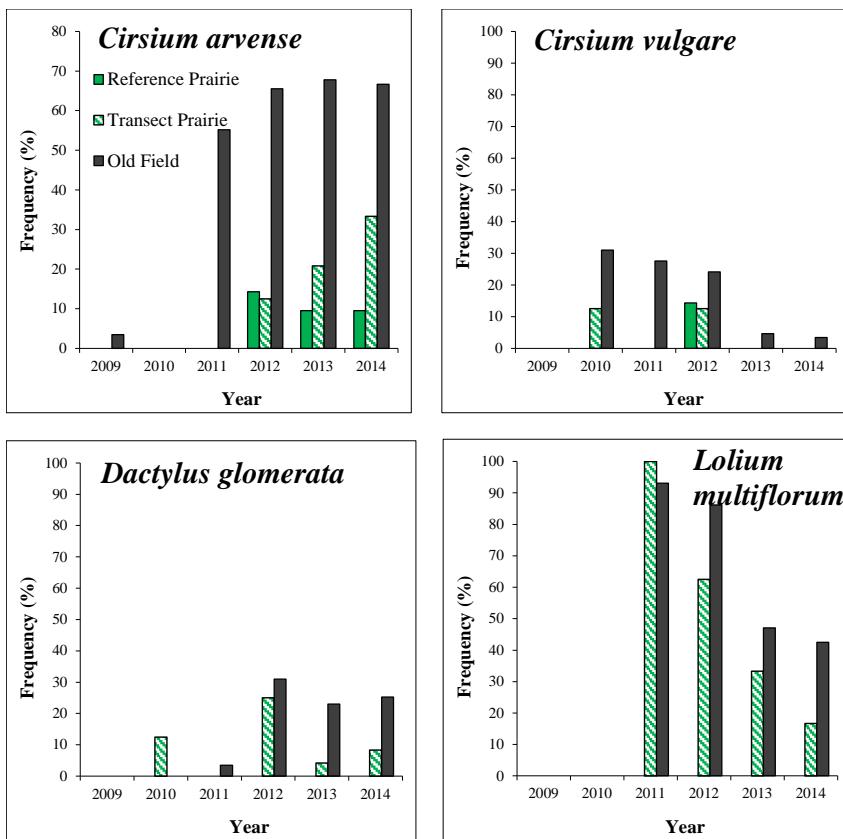


Figure 4a. Frequency trends for selected invasive species by vegetation types at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation site, Lake County, Illinois.

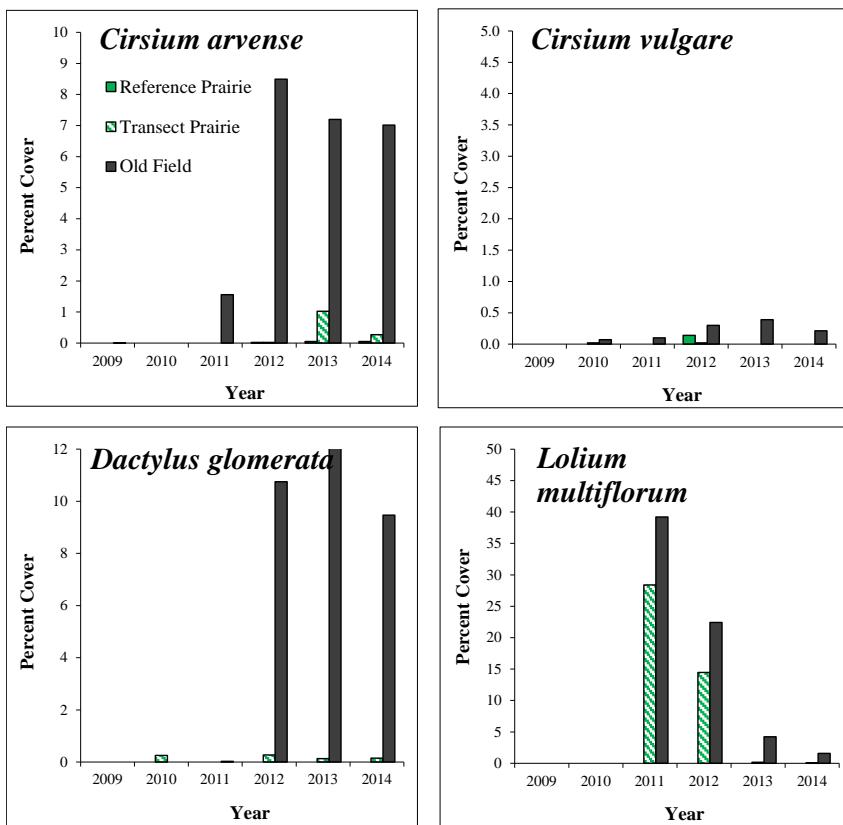


Figure 4b. Percent cover trends by vegetation type for selected invasive species at the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation site in Lake County, Illinois.

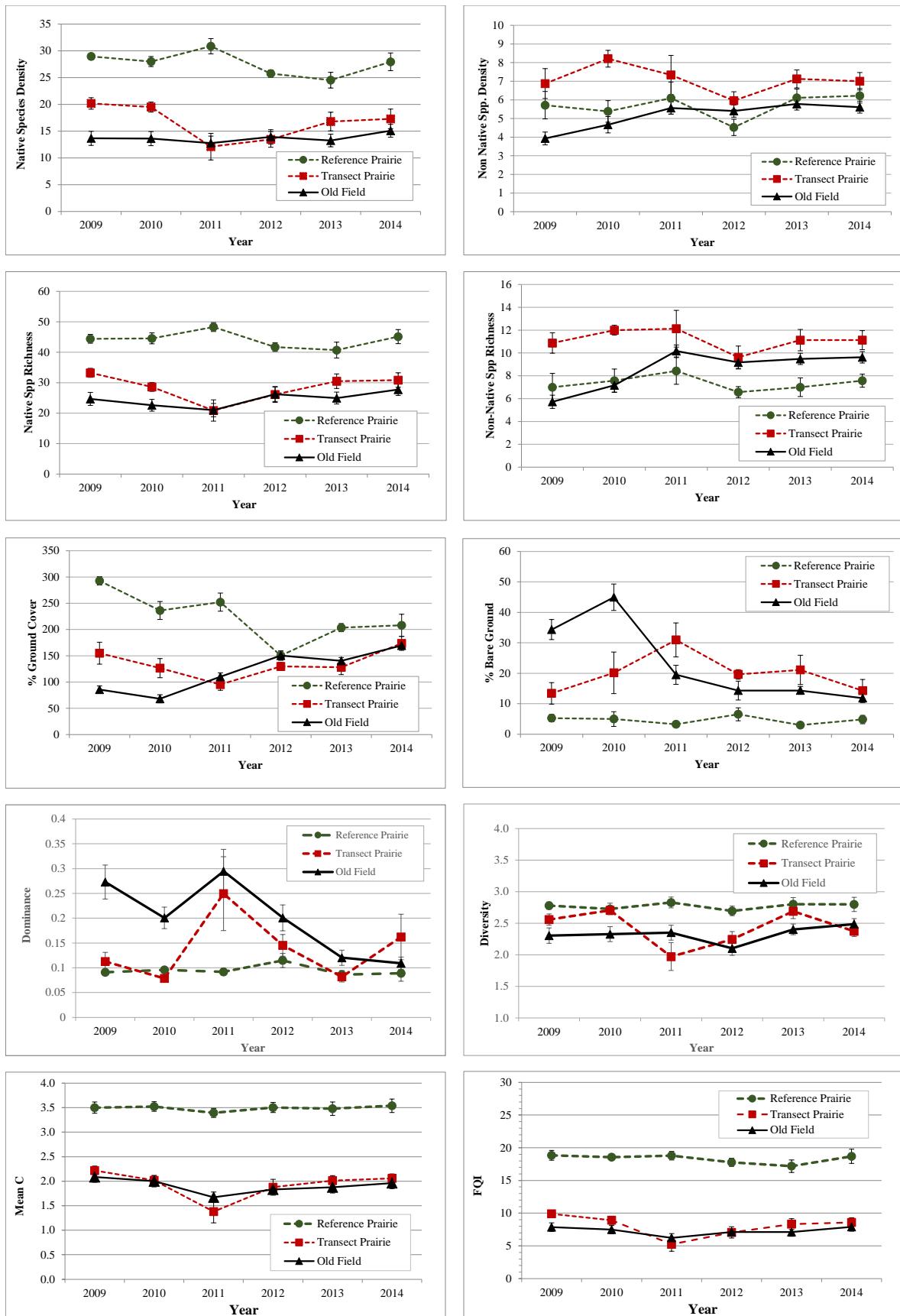


Figure 5. Trends for vegetation types from 2009 to 2014 for ground layer parameters. Test of time differences (within subject effect [flatness hypothesis]) for each vegetation type (flatness hypothesis) were made with repeated measures analysis of variance (see Table 4). The between subject x within subject interaction (vegetation type x year [parallelism hypothesis]) was tested with a mixed repeated measures analysis of variance design (see Table 5).

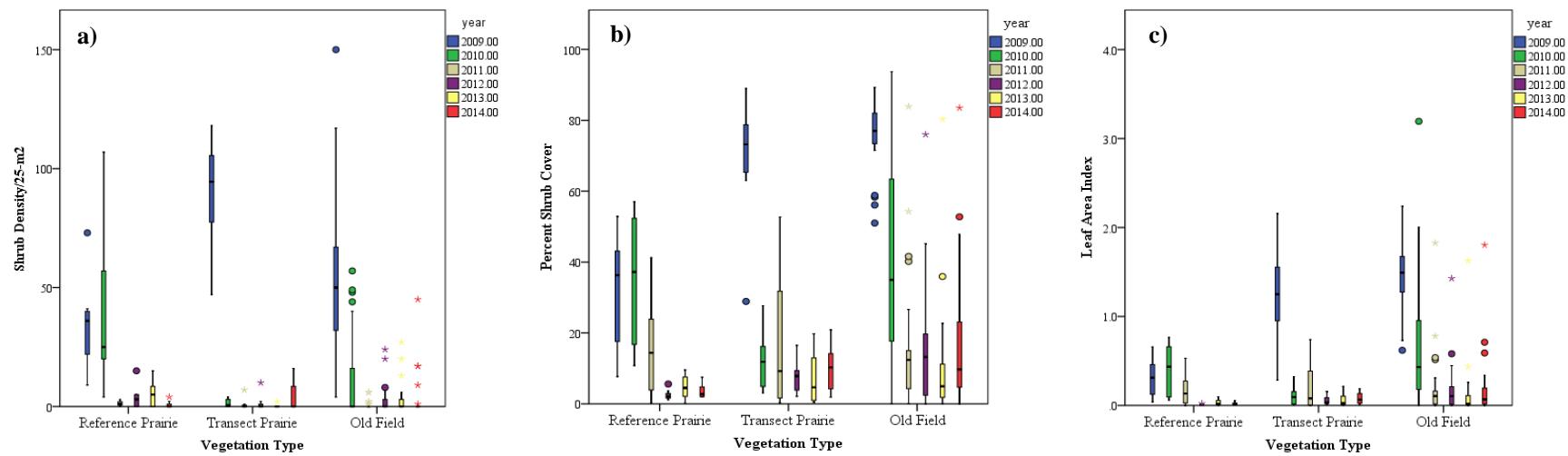


Figure 6. Box plots illustrating trends among vegetation types from 2009 to 2014 for a) shrub density, b) percent canopy cover, and c) leaf area index (LAI) across monitoring years.













Appendix 2. Complete list of species recorded from the North Chicago Wetland Mitigation site since intensive botanical surveys began in 1996 including data from vegetation monitoring plots (2009-2014) and wetland habitats. CC = coefficient of conservatism (\* = non-native species), CW = coefficient of wetness, A = annual, B = biennial, P = perennial. Botanical nomenclature follows Mohlenbrock (2002).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	CC	CW	Wetness	Physiognomy
<i>Acalypha rhomboidea</i>	Three-seeded Mercury	Euphorbiaceae	0	3	FACU	A-FORB
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur Maple	Aceraceae	*	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder	Aceraceae	1	-2	FACW-	TREE
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	Aceraceae	1	-3	FACW	TREE
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Asteraceae	*	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	White Snakeroot	Asteraceae	2	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Agrimonia gryposepala</i>	Tall Agrimony	Rosaceae	3	2	FACU+	P-FORB
<i>Agrimonia parviflora</i>	Swamp Agrimony	Rosaceae	5	-1	FAC+	P-FORB
<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	Red Top	Poaceae	0	-3	FACW	P-GRASS
<i>Agrostis hyemalis</i>	Hair Grass	Poaceae	2	1	FAC-	P-GRASS
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> var. <i>palustris</i>	Creeping Bent Grass	Poaceae	8	-3	FACW	P-GRASS
<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>	Common Water Plantain	Alismataceae	2	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	Brassicaceae	*	0	FAC	B-FORB
<i>Allium canadense</i>	Wild Garlic	Liliaceae	2	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding Wild Onion	Liliaceae	7	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black Alder	Betulaceae	*	-2	FACW-	TREE
<i>Amaranthus</i> sp.	Amaranth	Amaranthaceae	~	~	~	FORB
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common Ragweed	Asteraceae	0	3	FACU	A-FORB
<i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Giant Ragweed	Asteraceae	0	-1	FAC+	A-FORB
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Shadbush	Rosaceae	7	3	FACU	TREE
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Round-leaved Serviceberry	Rosaceae	10	5	UPL	SHRUB
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	Poaceae	5	1	FAC-	P-GRASS
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	Thimbleweed	Ranunculaceae	8	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Tall Anemone	Ranunculaceae	4	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	Cat's Foot	Asteraceae	4	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Spreading Dogbane	Apocynaceae	6	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	Dogbane	Apocynaceae	2	0	FAC	P-FORB
<i>Apocynum sibiricum</i>	Indian Hemp	Apocynaceae	2	-1	FAC+	P-FORB
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine	Ranunculaceae	5	1	FAC-	P-FORB
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common Burdock	Asteraceae	*	5	UPL	B-FORB
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	Araceae	4	-2	FACW-	P-FORB
<i>Arnoglossum plantaginea</i>	Prairie Indian Plantain	Asteraceae	10	0	FAC	P-FORB
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Asclepiadaceae	4	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed	Asclepiadaceae	7	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Asclepias sullivantii</i>	Prairie Milkweed	Asclepiadaceae	7	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	Asclepiadaceae	0	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ssp. <i>interior</i>	Butterflyweed	Asclepiadaceae	5	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled Milkweed	Asclepiadaceae	1	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	Heart-leaved Aster	Asteraceae	6	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Aster drummondii</i>	Drummond's Aster	Asteraceae	3	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	Heath Aster	Asteraceae	4	4	FACU-	P-FORB
<i>Aster firmus</i>	Shining Aster	Asteraceae	5	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Aster lanceolatus</i>	Panicled Aster	Asteraceae	3	-3	FACW	P-FORB
<i>Aster lateriflorus</i>	Side-flowering Aster	Asteraceae	2	-2	FACW-	P-FORB
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Asteraceae	4	-3	FACW	P-FORB
<i>Aster ontarionis</i>	Ontario Aster	Asteraceae	4	0	FAC	P-FORB
<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>	Sky-blue Aster	Asteraceae	7	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Aster pilosus</i>	Hairy Aster	Asteraceae	0	3	FACU+	P-FORB
<i>Aster praealtus</i>	Willow Aster	Asteraceae	4	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Aster puniceus</i>	Swamp Aster	Asteraceae	7	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Aster sagittifolius</i>	Arrow-leaved Aster	Asteraceae	4	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Spear Scale	Chenopodiaceae	*	2	FACU+	A-FORB
<i>Avena sativa</i>	Oats	Poaceae	*	5	UPL	A-GRASS
<i>Baptisia alba</i>	White Wild Indigo	Fabaceae	6	3	FACU	P-FORB

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	CC	CW	Wetness	Physiognomy
<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	Cream Wild-indigo	Fabaceae	0	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter Cress	Brassicaceae	*	0	FAC	B-FORB
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	Nodding Bur Marigold	Asteraceae	2	-5	OBL	A-FORB
<i>Bidens connata</i>	Purple-stemmed Tickseed	Asteraceae	2	-5	OBL	A-FORB
<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	Common Beggar's Ticks	Asteraceae	1	-3	FACW	A-FORB
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	False Nettle	Urticaceae	3	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Bolboschoenus fluvialis</i>	River Bulrush	Cyperaceae	3	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Botrychium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Grape Fern	Ophioglossaceae	6	0	FAC	FERN
<i>Botrychium virginianum</i>	Rattlesnake Fern	Ophioglossaceae	4	3	FACU	FERN
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	Brassica	Brassicaceae	*	5	UPL	A-FORB
<i>Bromus commutatus</i>	Brome	Poaceae	*	5	UPL	A-GRASS
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Awnless Brome Grass	Poaceae	*	5	UPL	P-GRASS
<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Japanese chess	Poaceae	*	3	FACU	A-GRASS
<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	Prairie Brome	Poaceae	10	0	FAC	P-GRASS
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint Grass	Poaceae	3	-5	OBL	P-GRASS
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Ranunculaceae	7	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	Convolvulaceae	1	0	FAC	P-FORB
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Nodding Thistle	Asteraceae	*	5	UPL	B-FORB
<i>Carex atherodes</i>	Hairy-leaved Lake Sedge	Cyperaceae	6	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex blanda</i>	Common Wood Sedge	Cyperaceae	2	0	FAC	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex brachyglossa</i>	Small Yellow Fox Sedge	Cyperaceae	3	-3	FACW	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex brevior</i>	Plains Oval Sedge	Cyperaceae	4	0	FAC	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Buxbaum's Sedge	Cyperaceae	9	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex comosa</i>	Bristly Sedge	Cyperaceae	6	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex cristatella</i>	Crested Oval Sedge	Cyperaceae	3	-4	FACW+	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex granularis</i>	Pale Sedge	Cyperaceae	2	-4	FACW+	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex grisea</i>	Wood Gray Sedge	Cyperaceae	3	5	UPL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex haydenii</i>	Long-scaled Tussock Sedge	Cyperaceae	7	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex hirsutella</i>	Hairy Green Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	4	FACU-	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex lacustris</i>	Common Lake Sedge	Cyperaceae	6	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>americana</i>	Narrow-leaved Woolly Sedge	Cyperaceae	10	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex laxiflora</i>	Beech Wood Sedge	Cyperaceae	10	0	FAC	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex molesta</i>	Field Oval Sedge	Cyperaceae	2	0	FAC	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex normalis</i>	Spreading Oval Sedge	Cyperaceae				
<i>Carex pellita</i>	Wooly Sedge	Cyperaceae	4	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	Pennsylvania Oak Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	5	UPL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex radiata</i>	Star Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	5	UPL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex sartwellii</i>	Running Marsh Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex stipata</i>	Common Fox Sedge	Cyperaceae	2	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Common Tussock Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex tenera</i>	Narrow-leaved Oval Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	-1	FAC+	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex tetanica</i>	Common Stiff Sedge	Cyperaceae	5	-3	FACW	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex umbellata</i>	Early Oak Sedge	Cyperaceae	6	5	UPL	P-SEDGE
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Brown Fox Sedge	Cyperaceae				
<i>Castilleja coccinea</i>	Indian Paintbrush	Scrophulariaceae	8	0	FAC	A-FORB
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	Ulmaceae	3	1	FAC	TREE
<i>Centaurium pulchellum</i>	Showy Centaury	Gentianaceae	*	4	FACU-	A-FORB
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Rubiaceae	4	-5	OBL	SHRUB
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear Chickweed	Caryophyllaceae	*	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coontail	Ceratophyllaceae	3	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's Quarters	Chenopodiaceae	*	1	FAC-	A-FORB
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chickory	Asteraceae	*	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Water Hemlock	Apiaceae	4	-5	OBL	B-FORB
<i>Cinna arundinacea</i>	Common Wood Reed	Poaceae	5	-3	FACW	P-GRASS
<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's Nightshade	Onagraceae	2	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Field Thistle	Asteraceae	*	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	Pasture Thistle	Asteraceae	3	5	UPL	B-FORB
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	Asteraceae	*	4	FACU-	B-FORB

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	CC	CW	Wetness	Physiognomy
<i>Comandra umbellata</i>	Bastard Toad-flax	Santalaceae	6	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	Convolvulaceae	*	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Horseweed	Asteraceae	0	1	FAC-	A-FORB
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Prairie Coreopsis	Asteraceae	6	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Alternate-leaved Dogwood	Cornaceae	7	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	Pale Dogwood	Cornaceae	4	-4	FACW+	SHRUB
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Cornaceae	2	-2	FACW-	SHRUB
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	Cornaceae	4	-3	FACW	SHRUB
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut	Corylaceae	4	4	FACU-	SHRUB
<i>Crataegus calpodendron</i>	Sugar Hawthorn	Rosaceae	5	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Crataegus coccinea</i>	scarlet hawthorn	Rosaceae	5	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Crataegus coccinoides</i>	False Scarlet Hawthorn	Rosaceae	5	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	Cock-spur Hawthorn	Rosaceae	2	0	FAC	TREE
<i>Crataegus flabellata</i>	Hawthorn	Rosaceae	5	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	Downy Hawthorn	Rosaceae	2	-2	FACW-	TREE
<i>Crataegus pruinosa</i>	Frosted Hawthorn	Rosaceae	3	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	Dotted Hawthorn	Rosaceae	2	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Crataegus succulenta</i>	Fleshy Hawthorn	Rosaceae	5	5	UPL	TREE
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	Dodder	Cuscutaceae	~	-3	FACW	A-FORB
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard Grass	Poaceae	*	3	FACU	P-GRASS
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	Fabaceae	8	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Poverty Oat Grass	Poaceae	3	5	UPL	P-GRASS
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace	Apiaceae	*	5	UPL	B-FORB
<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Showy Tick Trefoil	Fabaceae	5	1	FAC-	P-FORB
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink	Caryophyllaceae	*	5	UPL	A-FORB
<i>Dichanthelium acuminatum</i>	Panic Grass	Poaceae	2	0	FAC	P-GRASS
<i>Dichanthelium acuminatum</i> var. <i>implicatum</i>	Panic Grass	Poaceae	2	0	FAC	P-GRASS
<i>Dichanthelium leibergii</i>	Leiberg's Panic Grass	Poaceae	7	2	FACU+	P-GRASS
<i>Dichanthelium oligosanthes</i>	Panic Grass	Poaceae	3	3	FACU	P-GRASS
<i>Dichanthelium praecocius</i>	Early White-haired Panic Grass	Poaceae	5	5	UPL	P-GRASS
<i>Digitaria ischaemum</i>	Smooth Crab Grass	Poaceae	*	3	FACU	A-GRASS
<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>	Cut-leaved Teasel	Dipsacaceae	*	5	UPL	B-FORB
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Shooting Star	Primulaceae	6	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale Purple Coneflower	Asteraceae	7	5	UPL	P-FORB
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	Barnyard Grass	Poaceae	*	-3	FACW	A-GRASS
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive	Elaeagnaceae	*	4	FACU-	SHRUB
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive	Elaeagnaceae	*	5	UPL	SHRUB
<i>Eleocharis erythropoda</i>	Red-rooted Spike Rush	Cyperaceae	3	-5	OBL	P-SEDGE
<i>Eleusine indica</i>	Crowfoot Grass	Poaceae	*	3	FACU	A-GRASS
<i>Elymus trachycaulis</i>	Bearded Wheat Grass	Poaceae	8	0	FAC	P-GRASS
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	Poaceae	4	-2	FACW-	P-GRASS
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Quack Grass	Poaceae	*	3	FACU	P-GRASS
<i>Epilobium coloratum</i>	Cinnamon Willow Herb	Onagraceae	3	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Epilobium leptophyllum</i>	Fen Willow Herb	Onagraceae	9	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Common Horsetail	Equisetaceae	0	0	FAC	FERN
<i>Equisetum x ferrissii</i>	Joliet Horsetail	Equisetaceae	2	-3	FACW	FERN
<i>Eragrostis pectinacea</i>	Small Love Grass	Poaceae	0	0	FAC	A-GRASS
<i>Erechtites hieracifolia</i>	Fireweed	Asteraceae	2	3	FACU	A-FORB
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Annual Fleabane	Asteraceae	1	1	FAC-	B-FORB
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Marsh Fleabane	Asteraceae	3	-3	FACW	P-FORB
<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	Daisy Fleabane	Asteraceae	2	1	FAC-	P-FORB
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	Apiaceae	7	-1	FAC+	P-FORB
<i>Eupatoriadelphus maculatus</i>	Spotted Joe Pye Weed	Asteraceae	5	-5	OBL	P-FORB
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	Tall Boneset	Asteraceae	2	3	FACU	P-FORB
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common Boneset	Asteraceae	4	-4	FACW+	P-FORB
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late Boneset	Asteraceae	1	-1	FAC+	P-FORB
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge	Euphorbiaceae	0	5	UPL	P-FORB









