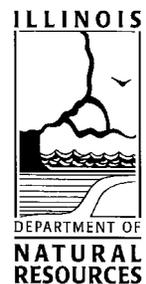


# Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie



**Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie  
September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- During this report period (September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996) volunteers donated over 1700 hours to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to conduct 72 tours and build 3,500 linear feet of prairie forb beds and other miscellaneous projects. (Section 1).
- New biological discoveries at Midewin include two new state listed plant species (false mallow and eared foxglove). During this field season 30 permanent vegetation monitoring plots were established and at the close of the field season over 600 species of vascular plants have been recorded with 270 of those associated with prairie habitats. (Section 2).
- Public and private support of the Prairie Parklands Macrosite and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie project has been strong. Since its beginning three years ago, funding from government, private foundations, corporations, conservation and environmental organizations has reached \$ 5,897,320. (Section 3).
- As of November 1996 the Forest Service has entered into 4 Challenge Cost Share agreements, 6 Participatory Agreements, and 8 Memoranda of Understanding with partners at Midewin. Two of the Challenge Cost Share agreements provides for administration and staffing for Midewin. (Section 4).
- Midewin continues to receive enormous press coverage, 366 articles were written during this report period appearing in 41 different news outlets ranging from the Chicago Tribune to the Honker. (Section 5).

Inquiries about this report may be directed to :

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# Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996

## SECTION 1.0 VOLUNTEER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Prepared by:** Shannon Horn and Chris Dinesen  
IDNR, Natural Heritage Biologist and Natural Heritage Resident

### *Tours*

During the period 1 September 1995 through 31 August 1996, 72 tours were conducted at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie with a total attendance of 1284 participants. Thirteen tours were offered to the general public and 55 were scheduled group tours, primarily for special interest groups. The 4 remaining tours were training sessions designed to recruit and train volunteers to assist with the Midewin tours. A total of 63 volunteers signed on to "Team Midewin" and agreed to participate in at least 2 tours annually (Table 1.1).

### *Workdays*

Volunteers constructed 3,500 linear feet of seed beds, of which 1400 linear feet were planted with nearly 20 species of prairie forb root stock whose seed will be harvested and used for future on-site restorations. Volunteers followed up these activities with mulching and watering of the seed beds. In total, 139 individuals donated more than 850 hours of their time to complete this project (Table 1.2).

### *Miscellaneous*

An additional 300+ hours were donated towards a number of other activities at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Table 1.2).

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**Table 1.1** Summary of tours<sup>a</sup> at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie from 1 September 1995 - 31 August 1996.

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Date	GROUP NAME	ATTENDANCE
October 7, 1995	Volunteer Training tour	15
October 21, 1995	Will County/Illinois Trail Riders	19
October 29, 1995	Will County/Illinois Trail Riders	13
November 4, 1995	Public tour	18
November 5, 1995	Public tour	28

**Table 1.1** Continued.

Date	GROUP NAME	ATTENDANCE
November 5, 1995	McHenry Co. College	13
November 18, 1995	Volunteer Training tour	13
November 19, 1995	Public tour	17
December 2, 1995	Public tour	34
December 3, 1995	Public tour	9
December 3, 1995	Will County/Illinois Trail Riders	10
December 16, 1995	Public tour	14
December 17, 1995	Public tour	18
January 13, 1996	MacArthur Foundation	8
January 27, 1996	Audubon	6
January 27, 1996	Audubon	8
January 28, 1996	Audubon	3
January 28, 1996	Audubon	6
February 10, 1996	OpenLands	15
February 23, 1996	OpenLands	6
March 5, 1996	Joliet Junior College	13
March 16, 1996	Volunteer Refresher Training	14
March 17, 1996	Pheasants Forever	9
March 23, 1996	Public tour	30
March 23, 1996	Public tour	29
March 30, 1996	Public tour	22
March 30, 1996	Public tour	26
April 2, 1996	Gardens of Am. Bulletin	2
April 9, 1996	ABC Youth Group	11
April 13, 1996	Savanna Group	30
April 20, 1996	Public tour	24
April 21, 1996	Public tour	34
April 27, 1996	Kankakee Valley Audubon	17
April 28, 1996	U of I (Champaign)	9
May 2, 1996	I & M Canal Commission	38
May 2, 1996	Joliet Jr College Faculty	15
May 5, 1996	Public tour	29
May 7, 1996	IL Natural History Survey	10
May 10, 1996	Argonne Nat'l Laboratory	10
May 11, 1996	Liberty Prairie Conservancy	22
May 12, 1996	Public tour	30
May 13, 1996	Mrs. Doris Sangmeister (Mokena Womens Club)	18
May 17, 1996	OpenLands Staff	10
May 18, 1996	McLean Cty. Audubon	2

**Table 1.1** Continued.

Date	GROUP NAME	ATTENDANCE
May 18, 1996	Friends of Ryerson Woods	42
May 18, 1996	Joe Suchecky - Audubon	12
May 19, 1996	Volunteer Training tour	33
May 19, 1996	Public tour	16
May 21, 1996	IL Pollution Control	17
May 22, 1996	Wilmington Garden Club	11
May 25, 1996	Public tour	10
May 30, 1996	METRA	10
June 1, 1996	IL Environmental Council	13
June 2, 1996	Chicago Ornith. Society	34
June 2, 1996	Decatur Classical School	31
June 8, 1996	DuPage Birding Club	26
June 9, 1996	Chicago Ornith. Society	14
June 9, 1996	Sierra Club	20
June 18, 1996	Joliet/Downer's Grove Teachers	5
June 20, 1996	Channahon Chamber of Commerce	16
June 23, 1996	Chicago Audubon	25
June 29, 1996	Champaign Co. Audubon	7
June 29, 1996	Chicago Geographical Society	44
July 11, 1996	Governor's State University	16
July 13, 1996	The Wildones	12
July 14, 1996	Public tour	33
July 16, 1996	Joliet Alternative School	5
August 3, 1996	Public tour	29
August 3, 1996	North Branch Prairie Project	21
August 15, 1996	Public tour	32
August 17, 1996	Indian Boundary/Kankakee VSN	17
August 18, 1996	EPOCH	6
	<b>72 Tours</b>	<b>1284 People</b>

<sup>a</sup> Tours lasted for 2 hours and required a donation of 3-4 hours by volunteer participants.

**Table 1.2.** Summary of projects accomplished by volunteers from 1 September 1995 - 31 August 1996.

Project	Date	Name	Number Of Participants	Hours Donated
<b>SEEDBED ACTIVITIES</b>				
Construction	5/18	Sierra Club+Individuals	33	164
Construction	6/1	Sierra Club+Individuals	73	292
Construction/Planting	6/29	Sierra Club+Individuals	36	144
Planting/Mulching	7/20	Sierra Club+Individuals	27	118
Planting/Mulching	8/7	Sierra Club+Individuals	20	80
Mulching	8/19	Amoco Employees	20	30
Mulching/Planting	8/28	Individuals	9	36
Watering	8/25-8/31	Individuals	2	6
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
Winter Bird Count	February	Will Co. Audubon	10	40
Front Step Construction	April	Ed Rutkowski	1	8
Oak Tree Planting	April	Team Midewin	13	52
Herptile Survey	August	Jeff Camper	1	8
Vegetation Sampling	July-August	Brad Robeck	2	16
Bluebird Monitoring	April-July	Bernie Twait	4	8
MBI <sup>a</sup>	June	IL Riverwatch	6	30
Sign painting	June	Heather Stritch	1	9
Historical research	June-August	Individuals	12	132
			<b>270 Vols</b>	<b>1173 Hours</b>

<sup>a</sup> Macroinvertebrate Biotic Index sampling done at 1 location on Prairie and Grant Creeks.

# **Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie**

**September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996**

## **SECTION 2.0 BIOLOGICAL INVENTORIES**

### **Section 2.1 Status of current research, inventories and biological assessments**

**Prepared by: Bill Glass & Shannon Horn, IDNR Natural Heritage Biologists  
Amy Ragusa & Chris Dinesen, IDNR Residents**

#### ***Review of Biological Inventories***

During the time period of 1 September 1995 through 31 August 1996, baseline data and inventories of both plants and animals were initiated and ongoing surveys continued. These inventories were initiated or continued to provide baseline data to describe the present state of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and for guiding and evaluating natural community restoration in the future. A research project by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board and Illinois Natural History Survey on grassland and shrubland birds, natural community utilization by these bird species and cowbird parasitism was continued for the second year.

#### ***Avian Inventories and Research***

Nesting, migrating and wintering birds were surveyed throughout the period. A winter bird count held in February provided wintering bird information. A spring bird count held in May provided migratory bird information. During the breeding season the 13th annual grassland bird survey, raptor nesting survey and heron rookery survey provided information on breeding birds of Midewin. The research project provided nesting success and estimates on population sizes of grassland birds. Table 2.1-1 summarizes status of some bird species that are considered species of special concern.

#### ***Anuran Surveys***

Frog and toad surveys were conducted on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie during the Spring and Summer 1996. Data was collected during 5 survey nights beginning in early April and ending in mid-June to best capture peak calling activity for Illinois frogs and toads. A total of 8 species were recorded for the 1996 survey (Table 2.1-2).

#### ***Aquatic Assessments and Inventories***

Aquatic sampling to create a Macroinvertebrate Biotic Index (MBI) was conducted on 6/15/96 for both Prairie Creek and Grant Creek, Table 2.1-3. The MBI provided the necessary baseline data which will help personnel in the upcoming land and resource management planning process (LMP). In addition, a fish survey and habitat assessment were conducted at two sites on Prairie Creek on 9/16/96, Tables 2.1-4--2.1-6. Amy Ragusa, a Natural Heritage Resident, is currently examining these collections. The results of this survey will be compared to the 1960-1964 surveys conducted by Dr. R.W. Larimore. The three objectives of the Prairie Creek survey are: 1) comment on differences in fish species diversity with reference to Dr. Larimore's study; 2) provide the U.S. Forest Service with a

quantitative habitat assessment and 3) supply the U.S. Forest Service with an accurate baseline “health” status of this stream which may also be of use in the LMP process.

***New Discoveries***

Several new discoveries were noted during the reporting period. Two state listed plant species (false mallow and eared foxglove) were newly discovered at Midewin. Table 2.1-1 summarizes population estimates of these species at Midewin.

**Table 2.1-1. Species of Special Concern**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Population<sup>2</sup></b>
Upland Sandpiper	Grassland Bird/Endangered	57 individuals/17 nests
Bobolink	Grassland Bird/Area Sensitive	1025 individuals/36 nests
Eastern Meadowlark	Grassland Bird	1340 individuals/111 nests
Grasshopper Sparrow	Grassland Bird	1650 individuals/39 nests
Dickcissel	Grassland Bird	545 individuals/43 nests
Loggerhead Shrike	Grassland Bird/Threatened	20 individuals/10 nests
Henslow’s Sparrow	Grassland Bird/Endangered	15 individuals
Great Blue Heron	Colonial Nesting Bird	14 individuals/7 nests
Pied-billed Grebe	Wetland Bird/Threatened	2 individuals
Common Moorhen	Wetland Bird/Threatened	2 individuals
Red-tailed Hawk	Nesting Raptor	40 individuals/20 nests
Eared Foxglove Tomenthera auriculata	Threatened Plant	60 individuals
False Mallow Sphaeralcea angusta	Endangered Plant	>10,000 individuals

<sup>1</sup>---listed species are state listed

<sup>2</sup>---estimated population size for birds/known nests

**Table 2.1-2. Anuran species heard calling during 1996 Frog and Toad Survey<sup>a</sup>**

Species	-----Survey Dates-----			
	April 10th	May 1st	May 21st	June 18th & June 19th
W. Chorus Frog ( <i>Pseudacris triseriata</i> )	X	X	X	X
American Toad ( <i>Bufo americanus</i> )			X	X
Northern Leopard Frog ( <i>Rana pipiens</i> )	X	X	X	
Spring Peeper ( <i>Hyla crucifer</i> )			X	
Cricket Frog ( <i>Acris blanchardi</i> )			X	X
Bullfrog ( <i>Rana catesbeiana</i> )				X
Green Frog ( <i>Rana melanota</i> )				X
Gray Treefrog ( <i>Hyla versicolor</i> )				X

<sup>a</sup>Two survey routes were established totaling 34 miles. Each route contained 18 stops spaced at ½ mile to 1 mile intervals. Counts began 1 hour after sunset and continued until all stops were surveyed. Anuran species heard calling during a 5-10 minute period were recorded for each stop using an index of calling activity (1=an individual calling; 2=more than 1 individual, calls did not overlap; and 3=several individuals, calls overlapping).

**Table 2.1-3. Macroinvertebrate Biotic Index (MBI)**

Stream	Study Site	MBI
Grant Creek	T 33N, R 9E, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 2	* 5.00
Prairie Creek	T 33N, R 9E, NW 1/4, NE 1/4, Sec. 11	* 5.55

**MBI based on the Illinois Riverwatch Network - Citizen Scientist Level**

**\* < 6 = Good H<sub>2</sub>O quality, 6.1-7.5 = Fair H<sub>2</sub>O quality, 7.6-8.9 = Poor H<sub>2</sub>O quality, and > or = 9.0 = Very Poor H<sub>2</sub>O quality**

**Table 2.1-4. Prairie Creek Fish Inventories**

<b>Year (s)</b>	<b># of species collected</b>	<b># of sampling sites</b>
1960-1964 (includes sampling at stream mouth)	42	43
1960-1964 (excludes sampling at stream mouth)	27	41
1993	34	3
1996	22	2

**Table 2.1-5. Stream Habitat Assessment Procedure (SHAP)**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Study Site</b>	<b>SHAP</b>
Prairie Creek	1996	A	* 119
Prairie Creek	1996	9	* 98

**SHAP is utilized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

**\* (> = 142) = Excellent, (< 142 & > = 100) = Good, (< 100 & > = 59) = Fair, (<59) = Poor**

**Table 2.1-6. Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Study Site</b>	<b>IBI</b>
Prairie Creek	A	* 50
Prairie Creek	9	* 44

**IBI according to James R. Karr (1981)**

**\* 51-60 = Class A stream, 41-50 = Class B stream, 31-40 = Class C stream, 21-30 = Class D stream & an IBI < 20 = Class E stream**

## **Section 2.2      Assessment of current condition**

**Prepared by:      Eric F. Ulaszek  
                         Botanist, USFS**

### ***Vegetation Description and Monitoring***

Thirty permanent monitoring plots were established in representative vegetation types between June 25, 1996 and August 31, 1996 at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (MNTP). These are 0.1 hectare circular plots; location was determined randomly within sites that were relatively homogenous with regards to vegetation, soils, topography, and disturbance history. Data was collected on trees, saplings, shrubs and seedlings, and herbaceous cover. Species, number and diameter breast height (DBH) were recorded for all trees (woody stems >10cm DBH) within the plot. Species, number, and DBH were recorded for all saplings (woody stems  $\leq$ 10 cm DBH, but >1cm DBH) within a 0.4 hectare subplot. Species and number were recorded for all shrubs and seedlings (woody stems  $\leq$ 1cm DBH) within a 0.1 hectare subplot. Herbaceous cover was recorded, by species, within 32 one-quarter square meter quadrats that were located in a stratified random pattern within each plot. Canopy cover was recorded for each plot. Finally, vascular plant species were listed for each plot. Additional plots were established after August 31, 1996, and tree and sapling data will be collected through the winter, weather permitting.

### ***Inventory of Vascular Flora***

Three hundred ninety-seven vascular plant specimens were collected between April 19, 1996 and August 31, 1996 at MNTP. Approximately three-quarters of these specimens are vouchers, documenting the presence of native or exotic plant species on site. The remainder were collected within the permanent plots, to verify identification of plant species encountered during sampling.

### ***Exotic Plant Species***

During the 1996 field season, approximately 160 exotic plant species were identified at MNTP. A majority of these species are restricted to roadsides, row crop fields, successional fields, and other disturbed sites; these plants will probably have minimal impact on restoration and management of natural communities at MNTP. However, at least fifty-eight of the exotic species present pose threats to restoration and management of natural communities at MNTP, or are known invaders of natural communities elsewhere in the Midwest (Table 2.2-1).

**Table 2.2-1. Exotic Plant Species of Management Concern at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (1 of 4).**

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Location, Habitat, and Abundance</b>
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	Persisting where planted at abandoned homesites; locally common in mesic forest at Brown Circle.
<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Quackgrass	Locally common in pastures, roadsides, and successional fields, including areas formerly supporting sand, gravel, and dolomite prairies.
<i>Agrostis alba</i>	Redtop	Very common in pastures, successional fields, and roadsides; also present in degraded sedge meadows, dolomite prairies, wet prairies, and seeps.
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of Heaven	Persisting at a few homesites; some limited spread into roadsides and successional fields.
<i>Alliaria petiolar</i>	Garlic Mustard	Locally common to abundant in prairie groves and successional woodlands along Prairie and Jackson Creeks.
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Common Burdock	Locally common in shaded areas in pastures, especially around corrals and abandoned homesites.
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry	Rare; in degraded oak savannas and successional forests.
<i>Bromus inermis</i>	Smooth Brome Grass	Ubiquitous in pastures, successional fields, road-sides, and degraded prairies.
<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>	Plumeless Thistle	Locally common in heavily grazed areas; occasional elsewhere in pastures, especially west of IL 53.
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle, Nodding T.	Rare in pastures.
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Western Catalpa	Conspicuous tree present at several abandoned homesites; locally spreading into adjacent roadsides and successional fields (nearest native populations approximately 75 miles south of MNTP).
<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Spotted Knapweed	Several (<10?) populations in roadsides and along railroad embankments.
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Field Thistle	Locally common in pastures, successional fields, and roadsides; spreading into hayfields, cropfields, degraded prairies, and wetlands.
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	Common and conspicuous in pastures, degraded oak savannas), roadsides, and successional fields.
<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	Rough-leaved Dogwood	Wildlife plantings on site, east of IL 53; spreading into fencerows, thickets, and successional fields (nearest native populations are approximately 50 miles west of MNTP).

**Table 2.2-1. Exotic Plant Species of Management Concern at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (2 of 4).**

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Location, Habitat, and Abundance</b>
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crownvetch	Locally common in a few roadsides, where spreading from plantings.
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Ubiquitous in successional fields, pastures, roadsides, and degraded prairies.
<i>Dipsacus lacinatus</i>	Cut-leaved Teasel	Common at a few localities both east and west of IL 53; in successional fields and forest edges adjacent to roadsides.
<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Common Teasel	Present throughout site in pastures, roadsides, successional fields, prairie, sedge meadows; population density often (but not always) low.
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn-Olive	Present in wildlife plantings; now widespread and often abundant in roadsides, pastures, prairie remnants, forest edges, and successional fields.
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Helleborine Orchid	Low density population in mesic forest at Star Grove; possibly elsewhere.
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged Euonymus	Planted specimens persisting around buildings; no spontaneous specimens present, but known as an invader of native forests elsewhere in NE Illinois.
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy Spurge	One population (ca. 2 ha.) in roadside and adjacent grassland along West Perimeter Road.
<i>Festuca arundinacea, F. pratensis</i>	Tall Fescue	Locally common throughout, in pastures and roadsides.
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	Locally common in floodplain forests and shaded areas around abandoned homesites.
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Orange Daylily	Locally common at abandoned homesites and in roadsides.
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Motherwort	Local in distribution; in thickets, abandoned homesites, degraded savannas, and prairie groves.
<i>Leonurus marrubiastrum</i>	Lion's-tail	Local; usually in pastures and thickets where dolomite or gravel is near or at the surface.
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common Privet	Planted specimens persisting around buildings; escaping into successional thickets and forest edges.
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur Honeysuckle	Extensive plantings on site, especially east of IL 53; now common, often locally abundant in forests, thickets, fields, fencerows, roadsides, and abandoned homesites.

**Table 2.2-1. Exotic Plant Species of Management Concern at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (3 of 4)**

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Location, Habitat, and Abundance</b>
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> , <i>L. x bella</i> , <i>L. x muendeniense</i>	Asiatic Shrub Honeysuckles	Planted specimens persisting around buildings; occasional to locally common in forests, thickets, pastures, roadsides, and along abandoned railroads.
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Locally common in roadsides, successional fields, and pastures (including highly degraded dolomite prairies).
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort	Locally common in seeps, floodplain forests, moist thickets, pastured sedge meadows, and ditches.
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	Rare; small (<5 plants) populations at four localities, including Drummond Dolomite Prairie.
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	Osage Orange	Common in pastures, successional fields, fencerows, roadsides, and successional forests; occasional understory (rarely canopy) tree in prairie groves.
<i>Malus pumila</i> , <i>M. prunifolia</i>	Domestic and Ornamental Apples and Crabapples	Present and persisting at abandoned homesites and orchards; occasional spontaneous trees present in fencerows, pastures, degraded prairies, successional fields, and along abandoned railroads.
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White Sweet-Clover	Locally abundant in roadsides, pastures, prairie remnants, successional fields, and along abandoned railroads.
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow Sweet-Clover	Locally common in roadsides, pastures, successional fields, and along abandoned railroads; also present in degraded dolomite prairies.
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Common in fencerows, successional forests, thickets, abandoned homesites, and pastures; occasional understory tree in prairie groves.
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	Locally abundant along abandoned railroads; common in roadsides, pastures, successional fields, and prairie remnants.
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-Grass	Locally common in wet meadows, often at sites that were formerly wet prairie or sedge meadow; also in roadside and agricultural ditches. Common along Prairie and Jackson creeks, forming dense stands on stream banks and natural levees, but also on gravel wash and bedrock outcrops in stream channels.

**Table 2.2-1. Exotic Plant Species of Management Concern at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (4 of 4)**

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Location, Habitat, and Abundance</b>
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada Bluegrass	Common in pastures, roadsides, and along abandoned railroads; often locally abundant in remnants of gravel and dolomite prairie.
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky Bluegrass	Ubiquitous in pastures, successional fields, and roadsides; often common in prairie remnants.
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	Persisting and spreading at abandoned homesites.
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	European Buckthorn	Very local in distribution; generally uncommon, but locally common in successional thickets, prairie groves, and along abandoned railroads near the western periphery of MNTP and in the vicinity of Prairie Creek east of IL 53.
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust	A few plantations, with the largest at Star Grove; some local spread (mostly vegetative) into adjacent successional fields, young forests, and fencerows.
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose	Common in pastures, fencerows, roadsides, successional fields, and along abandoned railroads.
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Bouncing-Bet	Locally common in roadsides, pastures, and along abandoned railroads; also in areas formerly supporting sand and gravel prairies.
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet Nightshade	Locally common in brushpiles in pastures; otherwise, occasional in floodplain forests, moist thickets, fencerows, degraded wet prairies, and grazed seeps.
<i>Sorghum halapense</i>	Johnson Grass	Locally common in row crop fields; mostly east of IL 53 and north of Prairie Creek.
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian Elm	Persisting at abandoned homesites; spreading into roadsides, successional fields, and along railroads.
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common Mullein	Locally common in pastures and roadsides; also in degraded dolomite and gravel prairie.
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	European Highbush Cranberry	Occasional in successional thickets and moist successional forests.
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle	Persisting at cemeteries and abandoned homesites; some local spread into adjacent prairie groves.

# Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

**September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996**

## SECTION 3.0 FINANCIAL INVESTORS IN MIDEWIN

**Prepared by:** Fran Harty, IDNR and  
 Dr. Lawrence R. Stritch, Macrosite Coordinator, USFS

Table 3.1 presents the financial investors in the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Project and the Prairie Parklands Macrosite from the beginning of the project in 1993 through November 1996.

Total investments equal **\$5,892,320.00**. Contributions can be profiled into the following six categories:

Federal Government . . . . .	\$4,680,500
State Government . . . . .	\$593,000
Private Foundations . . . . .	\$331,000
Corporations . . . . .	\$183,000
Conservation & Environmental Groups . . . .	\$83,300
Local Government . . . . .	\$21,500

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**Table 3.1.** Investors in the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and Prairie Parklands Macrosite from 1993 through November 1996.

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U.S. Army	\$35,000
The Conservation Fund	\$20,000
OpenLands Project	\$50,000
U.S. Forest Service	\$4,349,000
(FY95: \$350.0; FY96: \$799.0; FY97: \$3,200.0)	
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$100,000
MacArthur Foundation Grant	\$250,000
U.S. EPA Wetlands Grant	\$12,000
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$432,000
(FY96: \$10.0 and \$202.0)	
Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance	\$2,320
Economic Development Grant (EDA)	\$86,000
Natural Heritage Endowment Fund	\$50,000
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$31,000
Audubon Council of Illinois	\$6,000
Wildlife Preservation Fund	\$6,000
The Nature Conservancy	\$5,000

IL EPA (319 Clean Water Act)	\$65,000
Governor Edgar's Conservation 2000 Program	\$40,000
U.S. EPA (104 Clean Water Act)	\$120,000
AMOCO	\$75,000
Donnelley Foundation	\$25,000
Commonwealth Edison	\$10,000
Turner Foundation	\$10,000
DOW Chemical	\$10,000
Stepan	\$10,000
National Forest Foundation	\$15,000
Mobil	\$75,000
Safari Club International	\$3,000

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,892,320</b>
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# Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

## SECTION 4.0 STATUS OF GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS

**Prepared by:** Dr. Lawrence Stritch, Project Director, USFS and Fran Harty, IDNR

As of November 1996 the Forest Service has entered into 4 Challenge Cost Share Agreements, 6 Participatory Agreements, and 8 Memoranda of Understanding with partners at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. A list of these agreements is presented in Table 4.1.

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**Table 4.1** List of agreements and memoranda of understanding for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

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Reference No.	Partners*	Synopsis
CCA No. 96-090806028	IDNR/USFS	Assist in the development of an ecological classification system for Midewin.
CCA No. 96-090806016	IDNR\USFS	Assist with staffing and Administration of the field office at Midewin.
CCA No. 96-090806036	IDNR\USFS	Assist with developing a prairie nursery and management of prairie communities.
CCA No. 97-090115-001	WCFPD\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan, outdoor recreation planning & environmental education planning.

MOU No. 97-091601-01	USFWS\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
MOU No. 96-090806010	OPL\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
MOU No. 96-090806006	College of St. Francis \USFS	Assist with the biological inventory, research, monitoring and educational activities.
MOU No. 96-090806015	IDNR\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
MOU No. 96-090806029	TNC\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
MOU No. 96-090806017	NRCS\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
MOU No. 96-090806009	TCF\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
MOU No. 96-090806008	WCFPD/UFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, For recreation and cultural resources.
PA No. 96-090806007	II. Audubon Society \USFS	Assist in the development of educational & interpretive materials for Midewin.
PA No. 96-090806014	NAA\USFS	Support of the 1996 Natural Areas Association Conference, North American Prairie Conference & Indiana Dunes Ecosystem Conference

PA No. 96-090806011	TCF\OPL\USFS	Assist with the Land and Resource Management Plan development, implementation and monitoring.
PA No. 96-0908060112	OPL\USFS	Assist with stream restoration planning.
PA No. 96-090806013	OPL\USFS	Assist with the development of a trails plan.
PA No. 96-090806-022	OPL\USFS	Provide baseline photo documentation of Midewin.

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\* IDNR-----Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
 USFS-----United States Forest Service  
 CFPD-----Will County Forest Preserve District  
 OPL-----OpenLands Project  
 NRCS-----Natural Resource and Conservation Service  
 TCF-----The Conservation Fund

# Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996

## SECTION 5.0 MEDIA COVERAGE

**Prepared by: Amy Ragusa and Chris Dinesen  
Natural Heritage Residents IDNR**

Articles which have highlighted the progress of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie over the past year.

- 1) Arsenal victory: smiles, expectations - September 1995  
David Hass (Herald-News)
- 2) Arsenal may sprout U.S. treasure - October 1995  
LeAnn Spencer (Chicago Tribune)
- 3) Returning to a prairie state - November 1995  
Kathy Bergen (Boston Globe)
- 4) Clinton vetoes Arsenal Spending - December 1995  
Patrick Howe (Daily Journal)
- 5) Clinton veto: Arsenal plan falls victim - December 1995  
Bob Estill (Herald-News)
- 6) Sounds of nature return to land during arsenal's transformation - December 1995  
Peggy Shaw (The Star)
- 7) Negotiations Approve Defense Bill in Compromise with President - January 1996  
(New York Times)
- 8) Arsenal OK near - January 1996  
William Presecky (Chicago Tribune)
- 9) Peace set to bloom in Joliet - February 1996  
LeAnn Spencer & William Presecky (Chicago Tribune)
- 10) Forestry officials put arsenal site in sights - February 1996  
Photos by Karen Engstrom (Chicago Tribune)
- 11) Officials celebrate arsenal's future - February 1996  
Eric Fisher (The Free Press)
- 12) Upfront - March 1996  
Brent Manning (Outdoor Illinois)
- 13) Taking Root - March 1996  
Sean Callahan (Daily Southtown)
- 14) Get a free peek at our Midewin prairie - April 1996  
David Hass (Herald-News)

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- 15) Help Restore the Tallgrass Prairie at the Joliet Arsenal - May 1996  
Jerry Heinrich (Sierra Club)
- 16) Planting seed beds for Midewin Prairie - June 1996  
(Wilmington Free Press)
- 17) House panel backs Joliet prairie funding - June 1996  
William Presecky (Chicago Tribune)
- 18) Tallgrass Prairie set for dedication - June 1996  
William Presecky (Chicago Tribune)
- 19) Midewin plantings begin prairie restoration - June 1996  
Ann Gill (Braidwood Journal)
- 20) Volunteers help Midewin Prairie remember its roots - July 1996  
Pam Monson (Braidwood Index)
- 21) Finding Roots - July 1996  
Karen Engstrom
- 22) Touring the Tallgrass - August 1996  
photos (Chicago Tribune)
- 23) Healing Grassland - August 1996  
Jill Riddell (Chicago Tribune)
- 24) Prairie Pickers - August 1996  
Karen Engstrom
- 25) Amoco presents \$75,000 grant to Midewin Tallgrass Prairie - August 1996  
No author (Wilmington Free Press)

There were approximately 366 articles written on different aspects of the Joliet Arsenal/Midewin coverage from September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996. Publications that were involved with the coverage included:

- 1) Beecher Herald
- 2) Boston Globe
- 3) Braidwood Index
- 4) Braidwood Journal
- 5) Champaign - Urbana News/Gazette
- 6) Chicago Heights Star
- 7) Chicago Tribune Magazine
- 8) Chicago Tribune
- 9) Chicago Sun-Times
- 10) Daily Egyptian
- 11) Daily Southtown
- 12) Environmental Update - A quarterly publication of Army Environmental News
- 13) Farm Week

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| 14) GCA Conservation Watch          | 28) The Daily Journal                                |
| 15) Herald-News                     | 29) The Daily Register                               |
| 16) Kankakee Sunday Journal         | 30) The Free Lance Star                              |
| 17) Life Times                      | 31) The Honker                                       |
| 18) Minneapolis Star Tribune        | 32) The Nature Conservancy of Illinois               |
| 19) Morris Daily Herald             | 33) The Outdoor Times                                |
| 20) Natural Areas Journal           | 34) The Paintbrush Prairie Newsletter                |
| 21) New York Times                  | 35) The Southern Illinoisan                          |
| 22) Outdoor Illinois Magazine       | 36) The Star   |
| 23) Sierra Club Newsletter          | 37) Thorn Creek Audubon Society                      |
| 24) Sierra Club / Sauk Calumet-News | 38) U.S. Representative Jerry Weller -<br>Newsletter |
| 25) State Journal-Register          | 39) Wilmington Advocate                              |
| 26) The Cardinal News               | 40) Wilmington Free Press                            |
| 27) The Compass                     | 41) Will County Audubon Society Newsletter           |

Editorials and Letters to the editor for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1996.

9/7/95	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Arsenal victory: smiles, expectations</u>	David Hass
9/19/95	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Help name Joliet National Cemetery</u>	David Hass
10/6/95	Chicago Tribune <u>At last, a Fort Sheridan solution</u>	Editorial
10/6/95	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Joliet name best for the cemetery</u>	David Hass
10/26/95	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Arsenal is "ultimate in recycling"</u>	David Hass
10/31/95	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Midewin could be name for veterans' cemetery</u>	Letter to editor
11/7/95	Chicago Tribune <u>A GOP environmental conscience</u>	Editorial

continued...

11/15/95	The New York Times <u>The Congressional land grab</u>	Editorial
1/2/96	Daily Southtown <u>Arsenal plan fizzles</u>	Editorial
1/19/96	Chicago Tribune <u>Rescue the Joliet Arsenal plan</u>	Editorial
1/28/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Take great pride in arsenal conversion; we'll see the wisdom of this in the future</u>	David Hass
1/31/96	Chicago Tribune <u>Elk likely to roam Joliet Arsenal prairie</u>	John Husar
2/8/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Arsenal approval will be quiet event</u>	David Hass
2/12/96	Chicago Tribune <u>The shifting environmental wind</u>	Editorial
2/12/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Keep suggesting names for cemetery</u>	David Hass
2/13/96	Chicago Tribune <u>Time for the prairie to bloom</u>	Editorial
2/28/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Herald-News, Hass thanked for their Arsenal support</u>	Letter to editor
2/28/96	The Free Press <u>Free Press thanked for their Arsenal support</u>	Letter to editor
3/19/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Tours planned at tallgrass prairie</u>	David Hass
4/11/96	Chicago Tribune <u>To preserve the Chicago Wilderness</u>	Editorial

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4/13/96	Chicago Tribune <u>Emulate Arsenal</u>	Letter to editor
4/15/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Former Arsenal is fitting for final resting place</u>	Letter to editor
4/15/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Get a free peek at our Midewin prairie</u>	David Hass
4/21/96	Chicago Heights Star <u>Everything but sex</u>	Myra Eder
4/28/96	Chicago Heights Star <u>Landfill selection on hold</u>	Myra Eder
5/19/96	Chicago Heights Star <u>Landfill update</u>	Myra Eder
5/19/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Learn about veterans' cemetery on Friday</u>	David Hass
5/30/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>You can hear nature at the Arsenal</u>	David Hass
6/23/96	Daily Southtown <u>More landfill reversals</u>	Editorial
6/23/96	Daily Southtown <u>A chance to start anew on landfill</u>	Editorial
7/3/96	Chicago Tribune <u>No Yellowstone</u>	Letter to editor
7/4/96	Chicago Tribune <u>Believe it: hunting useful in saving wildlife</u>	John Husar
7/14/96	Chicago Tribune Magazine <u>Prairie parks</u>	Letters to editor
8/12/96	Herald-News, Joliet <u>Arsenal keeps offering more opportunities</u>	Editorial

# Accomplishment Report for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

September 1, 1995 - August 31, 1996

## SECTION 6.0 TEAM MIDEWIN STAFF

**Prepared by:** **Chris Dinesen**  
**Natural Heritage Residents IDNR**

Kent Austin	Prairie Supervisor	U.S. Forest Service
Jeanne Cooper	Office Associate	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Chris Dinesen	Natural Heritage Resident	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Tom Gargrave	District Forester	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Bill Glass	District Heritage Biologist	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Fran Harty	Regional Administrator	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Shannon Horn	District Heritage Biologist	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Fran Hundt	Business Management Assistant	U.S. Forest Service
Jerry Larson	Recreational Forester	U.S. Forest Service
Amy Ragusa	Natural Heritage Resident	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Bonnie Ragusa	Receptionist	U.S. Forest Service
Brian Reilly	Natural Area Preservation Specialist	Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Pat Schultz	Landscape Architect	Will County Forest Preserve District
Larry Stritch	Macrosite Coordinator	U.S. Forest Service
Pat Thrasher	Public Affairs Specialist	U.S. Forest Service
Eric Ulaszek	Botanist	U.S. Forest Service