



## Urban Ecosystems

A new nation-wide trend is evolving in landscaping known as “natural” or “native” landscaping. This trend creates sustainable native ecosystems in urban and suburban developments by merging indigenous plant communities with existing site conditions and human needs. Natural landscapes can minimize human impact on the environment. Homeowners and developers alike are beginning to appreciate the environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits of natural landscaping.



## Prairies and Savannas

Native prairie plantings bring the beauty of nature to your own backyard. Beautiful flowers and dramatic tall grasses create wildlife habitat attracting birds, butterflies, and small mammals. Prairies provide a natural playground for you, your pets, and young children to explore.



Prairie plantings can be large or small. Each site should be evaluated to maximize installation success. Live plants provide immediate results while seed installation requires some patience and management.



Walking trails through prairies and savannas provide great opportunity for exercise. Summer months are great for biking and walking. Cross-country skiers can use trails in winter.

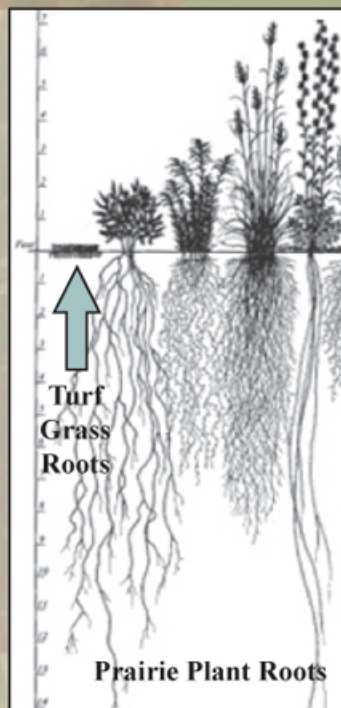
## Woodland Restoration

Removing exotic species like buckthorn and garlic mustard will allow attractive native plants to flourish in your woodland. Native shrubs and trees will improve your landscape and provide year-round wildlife habitat.



## The Benefits of Native Plants

- Enhanced wildlife viewing
- Natural beauty in summer and winter
- Water quality protection
- Reduced soil erosion
- Less labor for maintenance and mowing
- Less fertilizer and herbicide required
- Fewer insecticide and fungicide applications
- Less watering needed



*Prairie plants have roots that reach 5-15 feet underground. These deep roots stabilize the soil better than any turf grass.*

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