

PRAIRIES IN THE PARKS

Woods Park - Prairies in Progress

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



Woods Park

Woods Park is a community park located in central Lincoln. The park consists of a wide range of facilities covering almost 47 acres. 1 acre of this park is designated prairie areas.

Woods Park - Prairie Areas

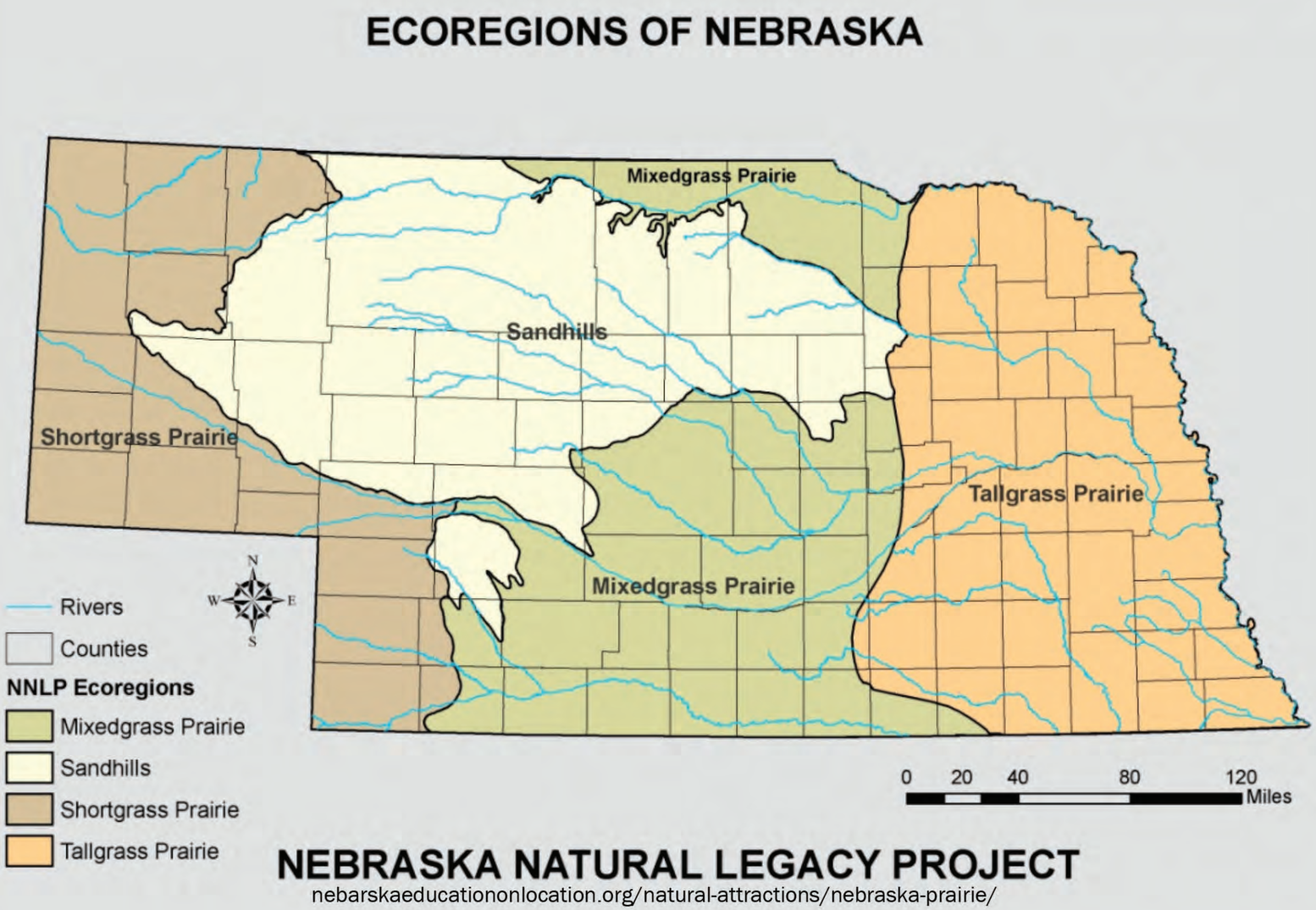
Lincoln Parks & Recreation



Why Create Prairies in the Parks?

Since 2011, Lincoln Parks and Recreation made a commitment to increase the acres of “Long Grass Areas” in City parks in an effort to cut maintenance costs. This alternative practice of mowing less in these designated areas saves on maintenance time and labor, equipment use and carbon emissions from equipment use, and allows environmental benefits in an urban setting.

Over the past decade, many of these long grass areas have been converted into prairie areas and also many new prairie areas have been developed from scratch in parks across the City.



Why Create Prairies in the Parks?

Lancaster County is located in the Tallgrass Prairie Eco-region (as defined by the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project).

Only 2% of Nebraska's tallgrass prairie remains.



Carbon Sequestration

Simulations show that grasslands store more carbon than forests because they are impacted less by droughts and wildfires.

Grasslands sequester most of their carbon underground, while forests store it mostly in woody biomass and leaves. When wildfires cause trees to go up in flames, the burned carbon they formerly stored is released back to the atmosphere. When fire burns grasslands, however, the carbon fixed underground tends to stay in the roots and soil, making them more adaptive to climate change.



Significance of Prairies

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



Ⓐ PRAIRIE “A”
2018

Ⓑ PRAIRIE “B”
2017

Ⓒ PRAIRIE “C”
2012

Ⓓ PRAIRIE “D”
2019

Prairie Areas

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



A Glyphosate sprayed in Fall 2018, mowed short (about an inch), then power raked. Broadcast seeded in December 2018 with a short grass prairie mix. Plug planted in June 2019 as an internal staff planting event for pollinator week. December 2019 over-seeded with a wildflower mix.

B Glyphosate sprayed in Fall 2016, mowed short (about an inch), then power raked. Plug planted in June 2017 as an internal staff planting event for pollinator week.

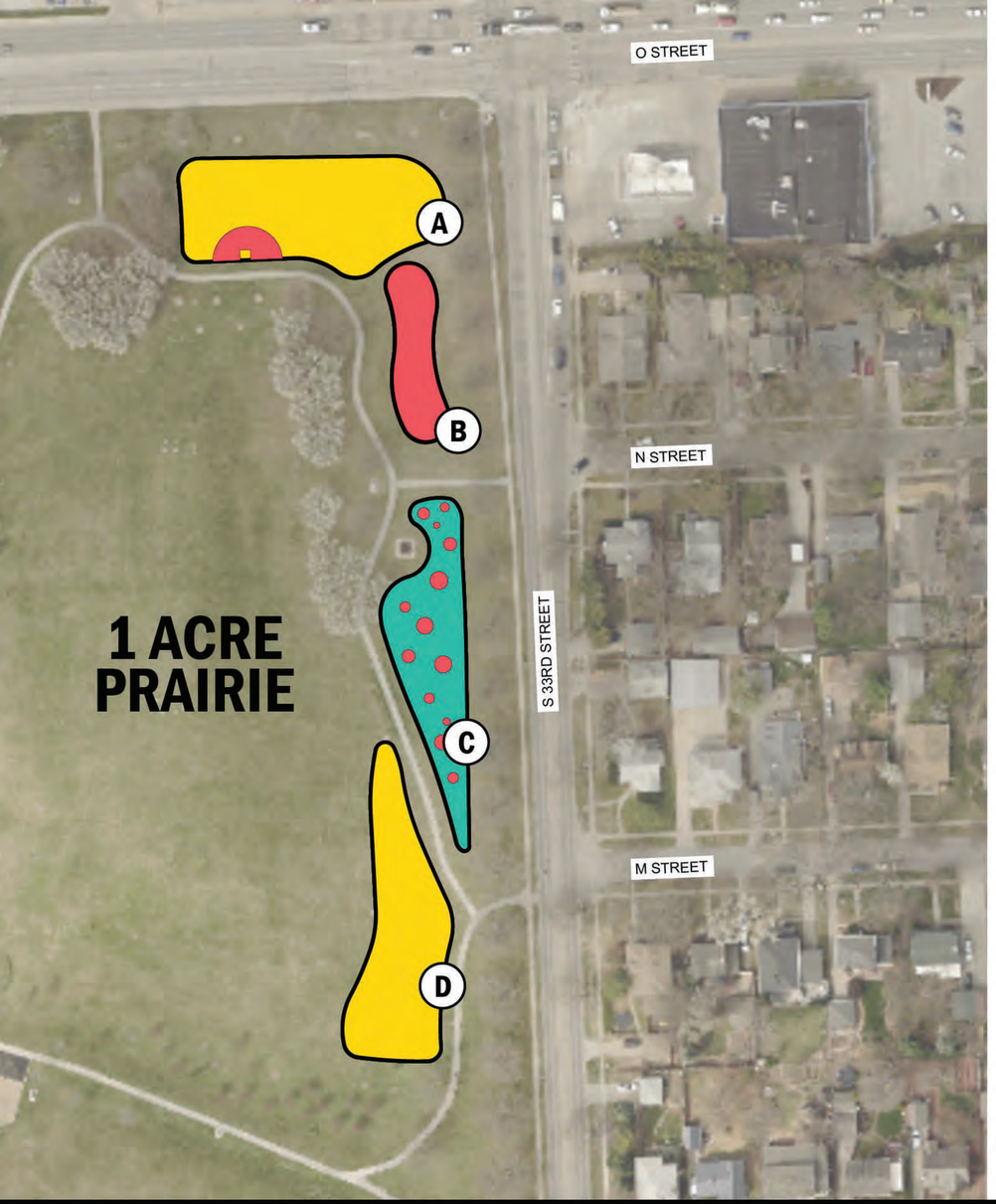
C **No chemical treatments for bed preparation.** Drill seeded in August 2012 into existing turf grass. Plug planted in June 2017 as an internal staff planting event for pollinator week.

D Glyphosate sprayed in Fall 2019 and broadcast seeded in December 2019 with a short grass prairie mix.

All beds have been treated with Plateau during establishment. Plugged areas were watered 2-3 times a week in the summer months and seeded areas were not watered.

Prairie Areas - Bed Preparation

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





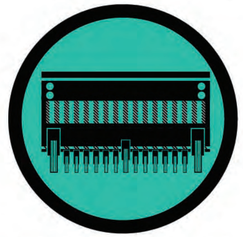
Plugs





Broadcasting



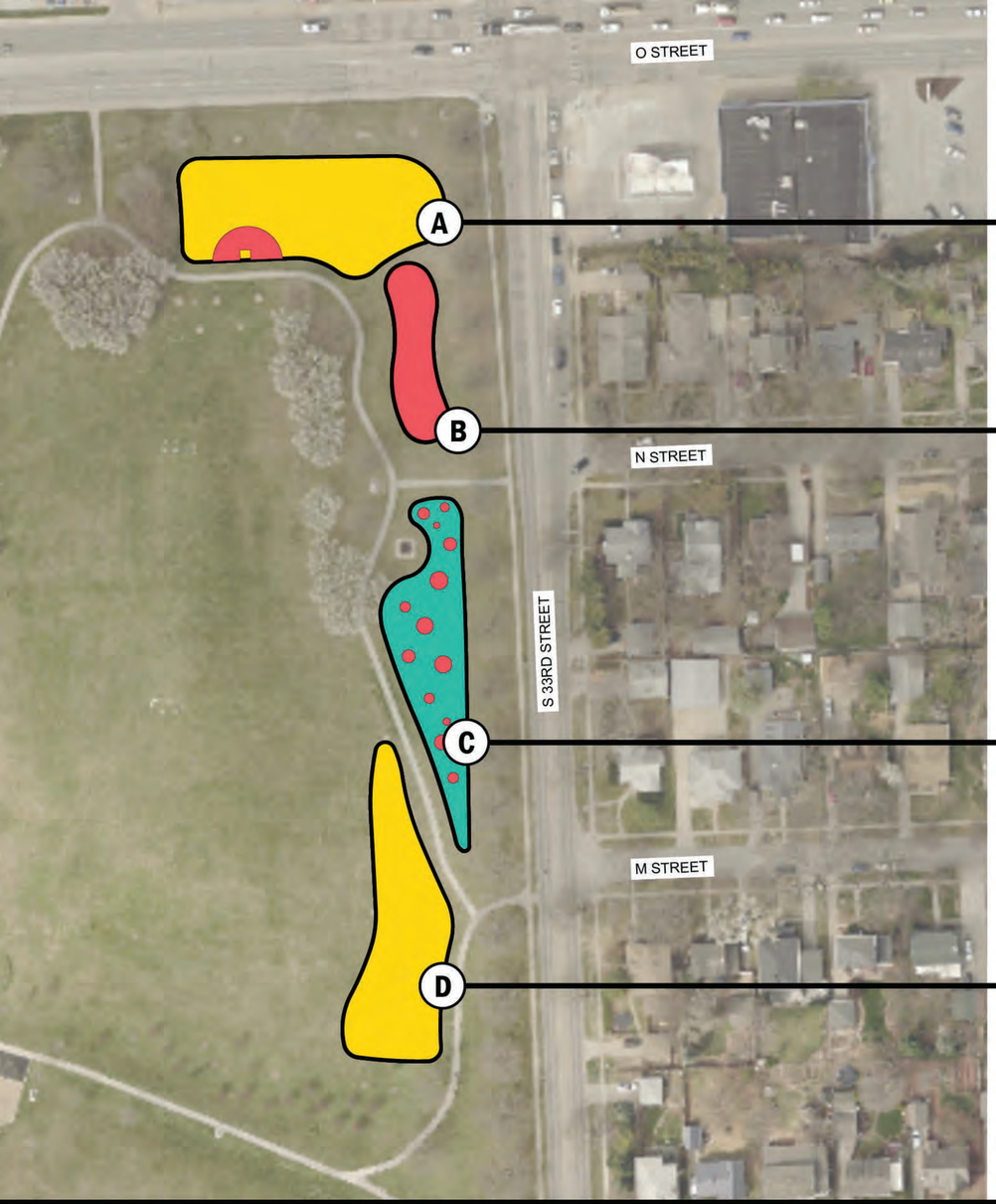


Drill Seeding



Prairie Areas - Planting Styles

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



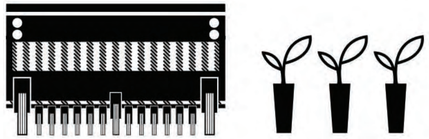
Hand seeded with grasses, over-seeded with forbes, centralized area with plugs



All plugs



Drill seeded with grasses, plugged with forbes



Hand Seeded with grasses



Prairie Areas - Planting Styles

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





PRAIRIE “A”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE "A"

May 24th, 2019

MILLER SINCE 1939 SEED

NATIVE MIX 2

Short Native Grass Mix

This mix creates a beautiful short to medium grass prairie. These native grasses are deeply rooted, low maintenance and hardy. This mix does best in full sun and drier soil. During the fall and winter these grasses will be a mix of red, gold and purple.

Native Mix 2 *PLUS* includes 2.5 bulk lbs./Acre of our Knee Hi Wildflower mix

Native #2	
PLS lbs./Acre	Item
3.0	Little Bluestem
3.0	Sideoats Grama
1.0	Blue Grama
1.0	Buffalograss

The functionality of the mix will remain unchanged, however the mix composition and percentages of individual species may vary depending upon seed availability.

FEATURES

- Height range Up to 3 feet
- Warm natives grasses
- Provides erosion control
- Drought tolerant
- Deeply rooted

USES

- Wildlife habitats
- Erosion control
- Prairie landscapes

SEEDING RATE

Native 1 & 2

- Drilled
  8 PLS lbs. /acre
- Broadcast
  16 PLS lbs. /acre

AVAILBILITY

- 1 acre bag
- 1/2 acre bag

1600 Cornhusker Hwy ~ Lincoln, NE 68521 ~ P. (402) 438-1232 F. (402) 438-1068 ~ www.MillerSeed.com

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “A”

August 27th, 2020

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



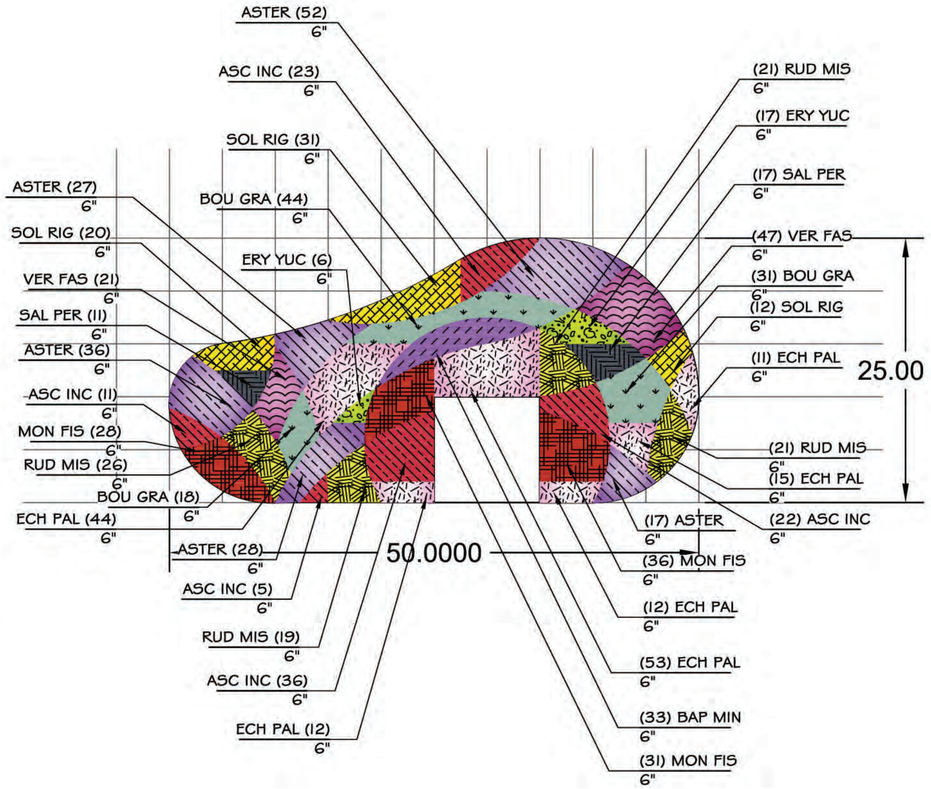


PRAIRIE “A”

August 27th, 2020

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





PRAIRIE "A"

June 21st, 2019

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “A”

June 22nd, 2019

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “A”

August 27th, 2019

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “A”

August 27th, 2020

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





PRAIRIE “B”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





PRAIRIE “B”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “B”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





PRAIRIE “C”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “C”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “C”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation





PRAIRIE “D”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



PRAIRIE “D”

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



Prairies in Residential Settings

Lincoln Parks & Recreation



1. Budget
2. Chose an Area
3. Pick Native Plants
4. Patience is KEY!



"All things green"

Join us for First Thursdays online at noon
Sept 3 / Oct. 1 / Nov. 5 / Dec. 3

facebook.com/NeArb/
plantnebraska.org

THANK YOU!

Kaylyn Neverve, ASLA
402.441.8248
kneverve@lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln Parks & Recreation