

# THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE

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GENSBURG • PAINTBRUSH • SUNDROP • DROPSEED

## GENSBURG DEDICATED !

### Markham Prairie A National Natural Landmark

On the first rainy day in weeks we dedicated Gensburg Prairie. A hundred prairie faithful came out to celebrate as the U.S. Department of the Interior named it a National Natural Landmark. This is a special honor reserved for very rare national treasures. A bronze plaque was presented to the University which owns the land and certificates of appreciation were given to the Natural Land Institute which also own part of the prairie, and have worked hard for preservation. The Nature Conservancy presented a beamed resolution of commendation to Mayor Miller.

We are all grateful for the indispensable support and leadership provided by the Mayor, the City Council and the citizens of Markham. Many good friends and dignitaries attended, a group of children from Markham Park school came. Speakers included Mayor Miller, Al Pyott Director of the Illinois Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Dr. Gordon Lamb President of Northeastern Illinois University, Mr. Gentry Davis from the National Park Service, Dr. Bob Betz Professor of Northeastern, and Sandy Mishur President of the Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairies. It was impossible to name all those who have loved and cared for this prairie for generations. They have dedicated it many times over by their good will. This formal designation thanks and honors them for all their work. As Mayor Miller said, "the University may own the land, "but it's our Prairie". It belongs to every one of you. You have conferred ownership upon yourselves by your intent. I tried to express this as I looked out at a sea of umbrellas. The rain added a special flavor to this wonderful day. Everywhere you looked, people just beamed at each other damply in a real community of affirmation.

Alderman Jack Miller brought his van and coffee so that people could come inside to enjoy the homemade pastries the Friends had brought. After the ceremony, 15 people went on a tour with Ron Panzer. I hope some photographers got a shot of the line of umbrellas floating across the prairie in the mist like a Japanese print. Just look at what people can do!

Congratulations to all of you.

Sandy Mishur  
President of the Friends of the Indian Boundary Prairie