

THE PAINTBRUSH PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1989

A Chronicle Of The Indian Boundary Prairies Of Markham, Illinois

VOL. 5 NO. 1

GENSBURG • PAINTBRUSH • SUNDROP • DROPSEED

TAX SALE PROGRESS

The first phase of legal work for the acquisition of Sundrop and Paintbrush Prairies and many lots adjacent to Gensburg has been completed. Soon the County will turn them over to the City of Markham for final disposition as a protected Illinois Nature Preserve.

This process will be completed smoothly with the continued support of Mayor Evans Miller, the City Council and the Citizens of Markham. It is their faith and willingness to help that makes possible the saving of the largest high quality true prairie east of the Mississippi. This is the last decade for saving the land.

By the year 2000 there will be no natural land left to save in Illinois, so the importance of the sale cannot be over emphasized. The acquisition includes 95% of Sundrop and 90% of Paintbrush Prairies. All told, 759 separate parcels are being processed making this an arduous project.

Besides reclaiming abandoned land, The Nature Conservancy is also receiving additional acreage from people wishing to donate property to the Preserve, about 30 acres so far. More on this in a later issue. At the successful conclusion of this work, The Nature Conservancy will have preserved 250 acres of Prairie Land. They are

underwriting the considerable legal cost, and providing support and technical assistance to the many volunteers working for the Prairies. Their help and encouragement are priceless.

Hundreds of hours are also being given by local people to make the Indian Boundary Prairies Nature Preserve a reality. They maintain the Prairies on workdays, cutting brush, collecting seeds and cleaning up. They conduct tours and present programs. They participate in community events such as The Say No To Drugs Parade this past August. They sell T-shirts and note cards and attend workshops to increase their skills. They network with neighbors and community representatives and even do para-legal work when called upon. They are terrific.

Ironically, most of the natural land left in Illinois is near urban areas. Agriculture has claimed the rest, so it is especially important that together, The Nature Conservancy, the volunteers and the City of Markham are building what is perhaps the most important urban preserve in the nation.

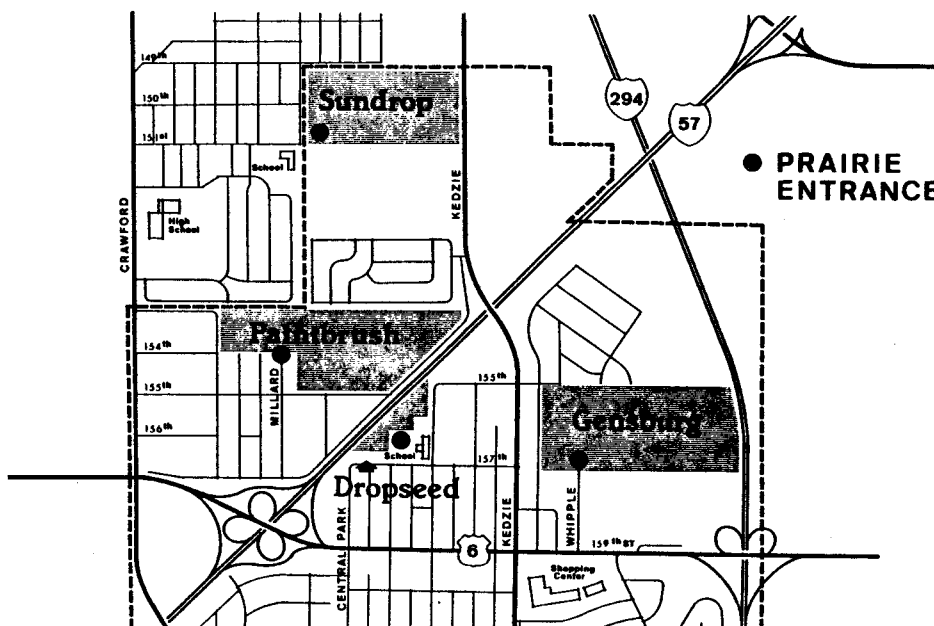
Sandy Mishur
President

THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

The Chicago Community Trust has made a \$50,000 grant to The Nature Conservancy for the Markham Prairie Project. This is especially welcome since legal costs are rising as The Conservancy perseveres in this arduous acquisition. The Trust is a remarkable organization, founded in 1915 by The Harris Trust and Savings Bank. Presently, nine Chicago Banks and Trust Companies administer this important community fund which has enriched countless lives in the Chicago Metropolitan area. The Trust has funded health, housing, and cultural enrichment programs. They display a fine dedication to the creative use of gifts.

Funds for grants come from individuals, families and organizations interested in providing resources for the charitable needs of the community. The Trust provides management and administration of gifts in accordance with the wishes of donors.

The Friends of The Indian Boundary Prairies would like to thank the Chicago Community Trust for its support. It means a great deal to us. We can only benefit by imitating their dedication in our effort to preserve and present the prairies as a priceless natural community resource.



THE INDIAN BOUNDARY PRAIRIES
MARKHAM, ILLINOIS

INSIDE:

- ANNUAL MIDLOTHIAN SPRING CLEANUP
- GAYFEATHER MOTH
- BLOOMING THINGS
- PRAIRIE PUZZLE
- PRESCRIBED BURNING RECOMMENDATIONS

