



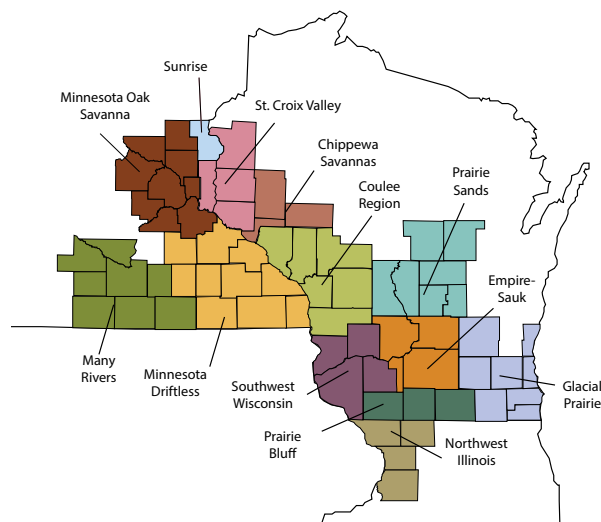
Our Focus

For thousands of years, the Upper Midwest was abundant with prairies and oak savannas that evolved to depend on fires, most of which were ignited by Indigenous Peoples. With the arrival of Europeans, this once vast landscape was almost entirely lost to the plow, lack of fire, introduction of nonnative species and development pressures. Today, only a tiny fraction remains.

Threats to biodiversity globally have made these imperiled places, with the rare plants and wildlife they sustain, even more vital for our future. Yet few prairie remnants have been protected and more continue to slip away.

The Prairie Enthusiasts seek out, protect and restore fire-dependent ecosystems across the Upper Midwest. We celebrate their beauty and complexity and actively steward them by returning fire to the land. Our regional chapters are reconstructing the prairie and contributing to landscape-scale conservation by working with landowners and collaborating with partners.

St. Croix Valley Chapter burn volunteers, Evanne Hunt, Harvey Halvorsen and Carl Nelson. Photo by Ginny Gaynor.



Get Involved!

Visit our website to find your local chapter, and learn how you can help threatened habitats near you.



ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

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The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

Cover photo of Michaela Rosenthal with the Glacial Prairie Chapter on a prescribed burn. Unknown photographer.



The
Prairie Enthusiasts

Protecting Nature Near You

Igniting Relationships



Every member of our community has a story to tell about how they developed their relationship with the land. For most, it began as an appreciation for nature that made them curious about native ecosystems. The Prairie Enthusiasts grow these sparks of curiosity through learning together and service to your local ecosystems, igniting lifelong relationships with the land and our community.

Young member using a sweeping net to gather insects. Unknown photographer.

Stewardship



Protecting rare and threatened native ecosystems means that you are restoring their health and biodiversity. You can join a network of volunteers who care deeply about stewarding remnants and fostering supportive communities of native habitat on the surrounding landscape.

Volunteers collecting seed at Moely Prairie. Photo by Amy Chamberlin.

Protection



More than 4,000 acres of rare and threatened native ecosystems have been protected by The Prairie Enthusiasts to date, but this is only a small fraction of known remnants in the Upper Midwest. You can help us protect and steward remnant fire-dependent ecosystems and other high-quality, restorable sites.

Prairie Enthusiasts at a protection celebration for Hanley Farm. Photo by RS Baller.

Grassroots Community

The Prairie Enthusiasts are committed people taking action locally. We have 13 regional chapters across three states. Our volunteers engage in land stewardship, educational field trips and workshops, social events and more.

Dower Prairie. Photo by Steve Hubner and Mary Zimmerman.