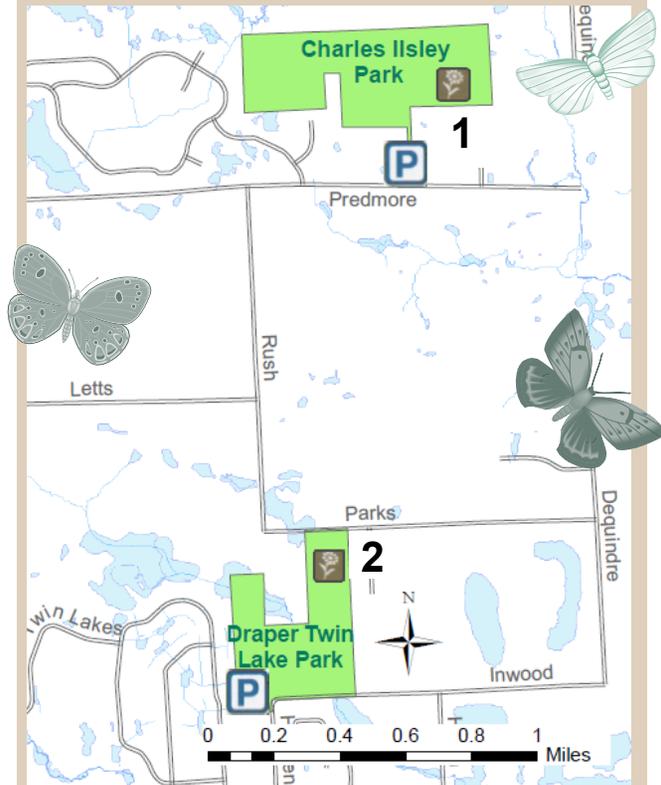


# Prairie Restoration Overview Map



## Prairie Restoration

1 Charles Ilsley Park, 1479 E Predmore Rd.

2 Draper Twin Lake Park, 1015 Inwood Rd.

 Parking

# Restoration Snapshots



Left to Right: 1) Controlled Burn; 2) Piles of cleared brush; 3) Black-eyed Susans in an area recently seeded with native plants

## Natural Areas Notebook

*News, observations, and volunteer opportunities in the natural areas of Oakland Township Parks*

Visit our blog, the Natural Areas Notebook, to learn more about grassland restoration in Oakland Township Parks

[www.oaklandnaturalareas.com](http://www.oaklandnaturalareas.com)



## Get Involved!

Help restore your prairie! We need help with invasive shrub removal, seed collection, planting, and monitoring. The schedule of regular workdays is on our blog, but you can help out at any time! If you'd like to get involved, please visit the Parks office on the 2nd floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill, or call us at 248-651-7810.

# Prairie Restoration

*Bringing grasslands back to Oakland Township*



**Oakland Township Parks and Recreation is actively restoring prairie and oak barrens plant species to old farm fields at Draper Twin Lake Park and Charles Ilsley Park.**

## Oakland Township Parks and Recreation

Offices located on 2nd Floor of the Paint Creek Cider Mill

Mailing Address: 4393 Collins Road

Rochester, MI 48306

248.651.7810

[www.oaklandtownship.org](http://www.oaklandtownship.org)

# Our US Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership



Here at Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, we strive to protect and restore habitat for native plants and wildlife for the benefit of the citizens of our township.

Our partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was a natural fit. Through their Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, they explain that “Our mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.” This sounds a lot like our goals!



Through the Partners program, the FWS will provide technical advice and funds for seed and planting. Oakland Township Parks and Recreation will match their contributions by providing labor and supplies for site preparation and continued maintenance. Through this program we have already begun site preparation on 38 acres of old farm fields at Charles Ilsley Park and Draper Twin Lake Park.

# Why Prairie in Michigan?

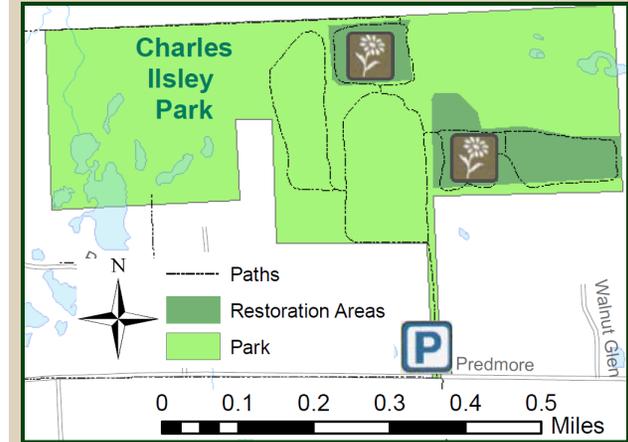
Before European settlement in the 1800s, prairie and oak barrens covered about 67% of Oakland Township, making our township a special area in Michigan! Oak barrens have widely spaced black and white oaks with prairie plants in open, sunny areas and woodland plants in partially shaded areas.

Prairie and oak barrens are *fire-dependent*, which means that they need to be maintained by frequent, low-intensity fire to keep trees from establishing and shading out the sun-loving prairie plants. As Oakland Township was developed, nearly all of our oak barrens and prairies were lost. Some prairies were plowed because they didn't have many trees, and others disappeared because the fire they needed to survive never came.

A few prairie remnants survive in the township, mostly along the Paint Creek Trail. The sparks from the railroad lit fires that maintained the prairie. We find many sun-loving prairie plants and insects in these areas, but most are just barely hanging on as trees and invasive shrubs slowly shade them out. We will be using these remnant prairies as models for our new prairie restoration areas.



# Restoration Sites



The initial prairie restoration work at Charles Ilsley Park will occur in the 5 acre north-central field and the 13 acre eastern field.



The initial prairie restoration work at Draper Twin Lake Park will occur in the 20 acre northeast field.