

Tallgrass Prairie in Waterloo Region



Waynco Prairie

Special habitat in our backyard

www.ontariostewardship.org/waterloo

Management of Waynco Prairie

Partner groups like the Waterloo Stewardship Network, Brant Resources Stewardship Network, Tallgrass Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Stewardship Fund and local universities have worked together to help the significant plant communities found at the Waynco Prairie. Planting, prescribed burning and invasive species control are helping species like Upland White Aster, Butterfly Milkweed, Whorled Milkwort, Round-headed Bush-clover and Tick Tre-foil. With its size and diversity created by the rolling hills this may be a prime site to reintroduce endangered species like the Northern Bobwhite Quail to this beautiful prairie remnant in the shadow of the City of Cambridge.

For More Information

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Located on the Galt Moraine south of Cambridge is one of Ontario's largest prairie remnants. This area was described as a prairie and oak opening by surveyor Adrian Marlett in 1817. Many partners have worked with the principal landowner, Waynco Gravel, over the past few years resulting in improvements to the size and quality of this tallgrass prairie site.

Making a difference at Waynco...

Prescribed Burning

Regular fires were historically part of these ecosystems and help rejuvenate grasslands and reduce competition from competing woody vegetation or cool season grass. Four prescribed burns have been completed here between 2006 and 2010. These were likely the first deliberately set fires since Anisnabek peoples left the area over two centuries ago. Occasional wildfires from the nearby railway probably helped maintain this prairie remnant over the past two centuries.

Planting and Seed Collection

The Waynco prairie complex is an area where seed from a variety of prairie plants has been collected by and used to help enhance, restore and create tallgrass prairie remnants in the Waterloo/Paris/Galt Moraine complex and to improve the Waynco prairie. Prairie plants are desirable because of their drought tolerance, wild-life habitat values, rarity and beauty.

Education and Outreach

This site has been used as an education resource for local universities and MNR Youth programs. Students have helped collect and plant seed and research prescribed burning at the site. The site has also been shown as an example of tallgrass prairie habitat to various student, research, volunteer and local naturalist groups.



Envirothon students collecting prairie seed in 2009.



Prescribed burns help restore prairie plants