

# Prairies of Ohio

## What is a prairie?

- Prairies are composed of plants that are seldom found in other habitats. They are defined by unique soil characteristics, grasses, and wildflowers.
- Examples of prairie grasses include big bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass.
- Prairies have unique wildflowers such as coneflower, dense blazingstar, sawtooth sunflower, prairie dock, and spiderwort.



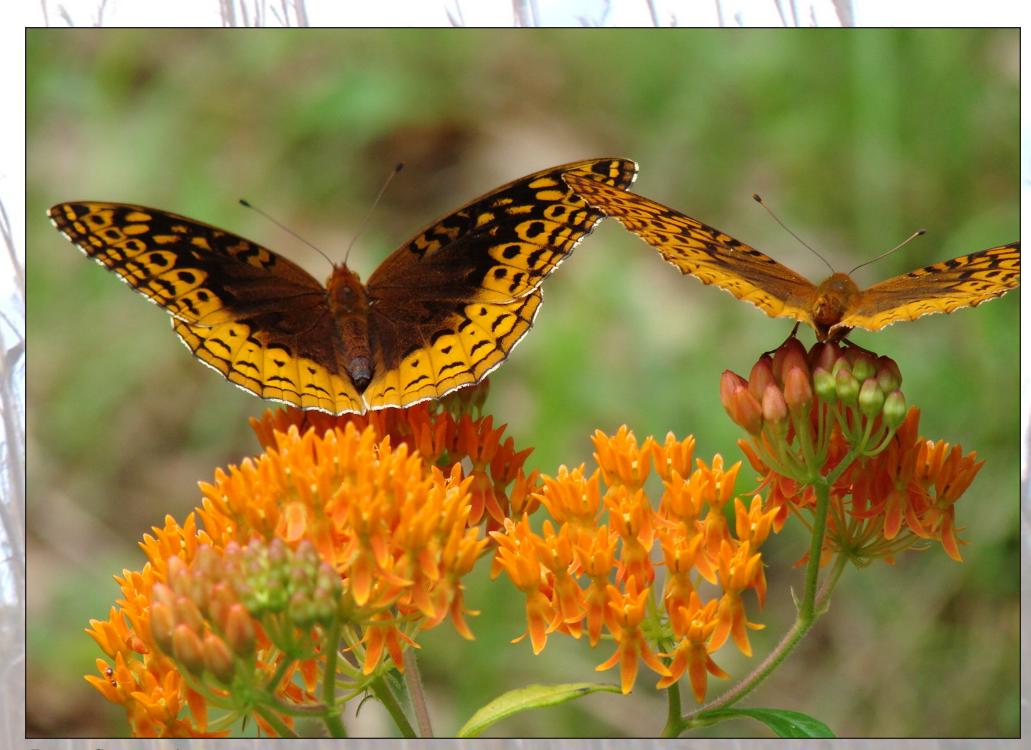
Spiderwort

## Why are prairies important?

- They provide rare native habitat for birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, and other small wildlife.
- They require little maintenance, are long lasting, and do not need fertilizers or pesticides.
- They are perfectly adapted to our climate. Prairie root systems are drought resistant, hold soils in place, and absorb water.

### Prairies on the Wayne National Forest

- The Wayne contains one of the most eastern remnant prairies in the US.
- Prairie grasses and wildflowers are found near known Native American sites.
- It is believed that Native Americans maintained these prairies with fire.
- This prairie was planted with seeds collected from nearby sites on the Forest.



Butterfly weed



Blazing Star



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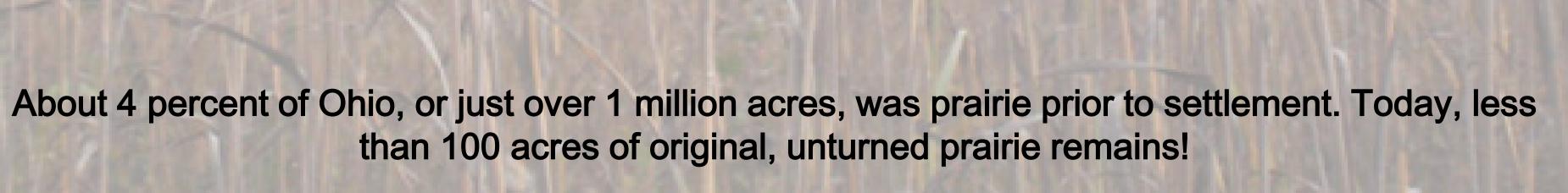


Yellow Coneflower

Butterfly weed

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