

# CONSTITUTION OF GRAND PRAIRIE FRIENDS

## CONSTITUTION

### Article I: Name, Location, and Definitions

Sec. 1. This organization shall be called the Grand Prairie Friends, a not-for-profit corporation, and shall be located in the Champaign County area of Illinois.

Sec. 2. Grand Prairie Friends-Prairie Grove Volunteers will define native community as a group of naturally occurring organisms native to the region that are interrelated with each other and their environment.

Native refers to the indigenous flora and fauna that exist in the landscape of east central Illinois as opposed to species of recent introduction from other regions. This community of native organisms has had little or no disturbance or changes made by humans (at least since Euro-American settlement) *in situ* and remains in what is considered its original condition. This does not preclude further human intervention to maintain the site in its natural condition. Much of our ideal of natural areas and native communities is based on our perception of the Illinois landscape before large-scale Euro-American settlement and conversion of land from its original state to other uses such as agricultural. While we may use this knowledge as a reference, ecologically harmonious management should be based on the current condition of the site, current species composition, and stated goals for the site.

### Article II: Purpose

Sec. 1. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational activities in the fields of native community conservation and environmental quality protection, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The purpose of the corporation shall be to:

- 1) Facilitate preservation of sites with desirable native habitats and/or species;
- 2) Facilitate maintenance and management of native communities, or native community plantings, for education of the public, sources of seed, increase of species diversity and density, research, and study of native plant and animal communities;
- 3) Own, or facilitate ownership of, property which can be used to fulfill the purposes of this corporation;
- 4) Facilitate the preservation of genetic strains of native plants characteristic of the area;
- 5) Facilitate the establishment of seed sources;
- 6) Facilitate an information exchange and base of support among groups;
- 7) Identify and inventory native community remnants in East Central Illinois, which may be of value as sites for preservation, protection, restoration, and/or seed sources;
- 8) Promote suitable education and interpretation programs;
- 9) Obtain funding to fulfill the purposes of this corporation; and
- 10) Any and all other things that might be consistent with the above purposes.

Sec. 2. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Sec. 3. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of proper jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.