

2025 Maywood Prairie Walk Locations

Ralph's Prairie, W3143 County Rd FF, Howards Grove

Randy Powers, founder of Prairie Future Seed Company, hand seeded this two-acre mesic prairie in 1995. Historically agricultural land, by 1995 a mix of volunteer grasses had taken over the disturbed area. Now well established, the prairie is cut back in late fall every year using a rotary cutter and periodically benefits from a controlled burn.

Ralph's Prairie is a rich mix of natives, including some particularly beneficial and rare. Graminoids include Big Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Prairie Cordgrass (*Spartina pectinate*), and Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). Big Bluestem and Indian Grass are the most abundant. Nearly fifty species of flowering forbs are found in the prairie, with Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) being the most widespread.

Birds, bees, butterflies, and other insects are present throughout the season in an ever-changing progression of blooms. Of special merit is the presence of Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*). It is the only North American *Veronicastrum*, and is threatened or endangered through parts of its range. Another rarity in Ralph's Prairie is the delightful end-of-season blooming Blue Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*). Habitat loss has forced numerous Gentian species into protected status, and Blue Bottle holds state-level conservation status ranging from threatened to critically imperiled.

Sheboygan Water Utility Site, 4015 Erie Ave, Sheboygan

Celebrating its sweet-sixteen this year, Sheboygan Water Utility's one-acre prairie is an example of public services using native plantings for practical and environmental benefit. Established by seed in 2009, the prairie reduces maintenance expenses at the site and discourages unauthorized access. View a classic mix of Big Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon gerardii*), Stiff Goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), and Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) with specimen species such as Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), and Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*), among others. Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation's plant beds in the neighboring parking lot is another example of local municipalities working to establish native plants to increase biodiversity and benefit constituents. Sheboygan River Basin Partnership and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership coordinated volunteers to plant native prairie species in 2024 and have continued to maintain the plant beds. Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), and Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) are each present and worthy of considering for the home landscape. In addition to the advantages of reducing maintenance and increasing biodiversity, the deep-rooted resilient native prairie plants help filter air pollution and aid in stormwater management by increasing infiltration.

Maywood Prairie

Maywood's 21-acre prairie was hand seeded by many volunteers in 1984 and is well established. Prior to becoming a prairie, the area was manicured lawn for the May home, and it was used for agriculture under Martin Juckem before that. This mesic prairie contains over 50 different species and is maintained with controlled burns every 3 years. The prairie overlook, a project funded by the Rotary Foundation of Sheboygan, offers a beautiful view of Big Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon gerardii*), Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*), White False Indigo (*Baptisia alba*), Prairie Dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), Spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*), and many more native plant species. Prairies are one of the rarest and most biodiverse ecosystems in the world and development of this rich prairie habitat has resulted in a significant increase in bird sightings and other wildlife over the years.

Community Partner Tables & Displays at Maywood 11am-3pm

Friends of the Gottfried Prairie and Arboretum

Sheboygan River Basin Partnership

Friends of North Point

Wisconsin Garden Club Federation Environmental School

Thank You Event Sponsors

Johnson's Nursery

LaValley Home, Garden & Natural Habitat

Marine Credit Union

Stantec

Walmart Spark Good Grant

Thank You Event Supporters

The Belle Weather

City of Sheboygan

DRAMM

Prairie Moon Nursery

Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund

Trilling True Value Hardware

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation



maywood *Fall Native Plant Sale*

through Johnson's Nursery
15% of each sale to benefit Maywood's prairie

Fall is a wonderful time to plant native perennials!

To order, visit gomaywood.org/plantsale/ or scan the QR code



My Prairie Plant Wish List

Use this list of common prairie plants to track which ones you might want to add to your yard

Forbs and Shrubs

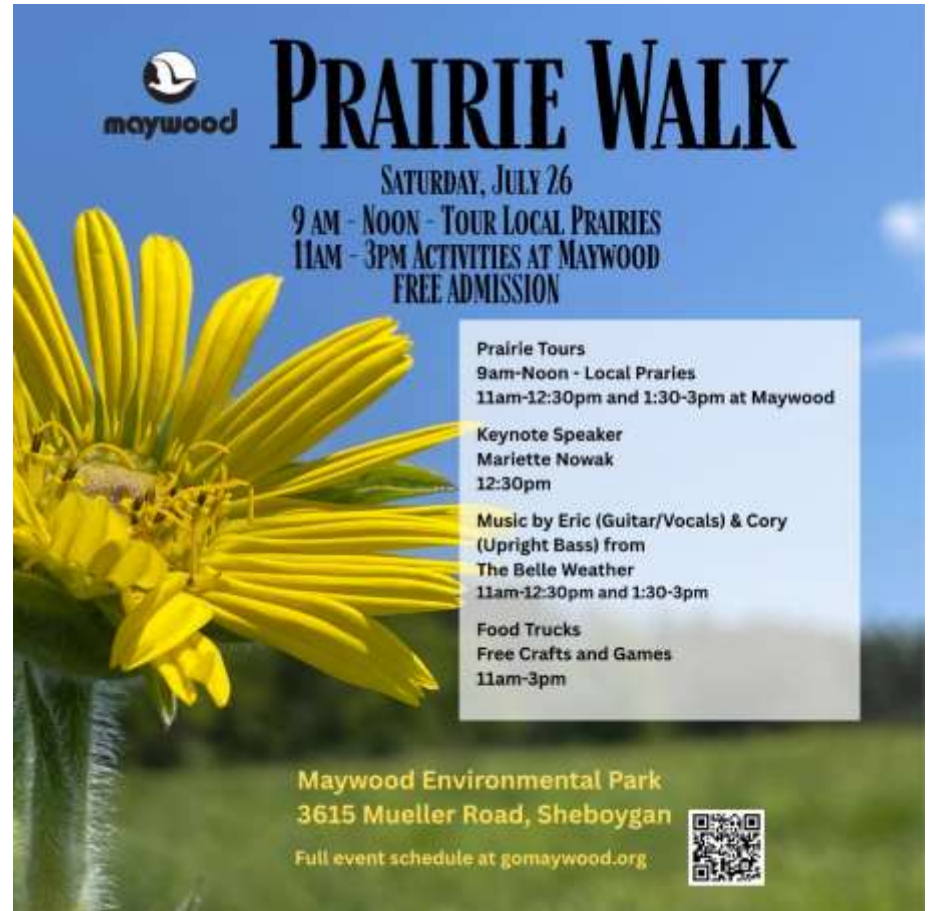
Aster, New England
Aster, Silky
Aster, Smooth
Bergamot
Black-eyed Susan
Boneset
Compass Plant
Coneflower, Pale Purple
Coneflower, Purple
Coneflower, Yellow
Culversroot
Cup Plant
Goldenrod, Showy
Goldenrod, Stiff
Leadplant

Milkweed, Common
Milkweed, Whorled
Prairie Blazingstar
Prairie Dock
Prairie Smoke
Purple Prairie Clover
Rattlesnake Master
Rosinweed
Shootingstar
Spiderwort
Thimbleweed
Wild Indigo

Grasses

Big Bluestem
Cordgrass
Indiangrass
Little Bluestem
Prairie Dropseed
Sideoats Gramma
Switchgrass

This is not a comprehensive list of Wisconsin's native prairie plants.



maywood **PRAIRIE WALK**

SATURDAY, JULY 26
9 AM - NOON - TOUR LOCAL PRAIRIES
11AM - 3PM ACTIVITIES AT MAYWOOD
FREE ADMISSION

Prairie Tours
9am-Noon - Local Prairies
11am-12:30pm and 1:30-3pm at Maywood


Keynote Speaker
Mariette Nowak
12:30pm

Music by Eric (Guitar/Vocals) & Cory (Upright Bass) from The Belle Weather
11am-12:30pm and 1:30-3pm

Food Trucks
Free Crafts and Games
11am-3pm

Maywood Environmental Park
3615 Mueller Road, Sheboygan

Full event schedule at gomaywood.org




maywood **PRAIRIE BENEFIT RAFFLE**

Enter for your chance to win....

Native Plant Package from Johnson's Nursery (\$900 value)
Charbroil 4 Burner Gas Grill from Tilling True Value Hardware
Garden Tool and Decor Package from DRAMM and LaValley Home, Garden & Habitat

Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$20 (cash only)

Drawing held on September 18, 2025 at 6:30pm at our Fall Native Plant Sale Pick-up