



MEMORANDUM

TO: Natalie Finnie, Director

FROM: Ann Holtrop, Chief, Division of Natural Heritage

DATE: August 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Committee Recommendation

The Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Review Committee met on July 18 and 19, 2023, to review the IDNR grant proposals for funding from the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund for fiscal year 2024. This funding directed to conservation land trust partners supports stewardship projects exclusively located on Illinois Nature Preserves Commission-protected lands. There is an estimated \$750,000 available for projects, and there was a total of \$1,013,970.41 in requests.

The Review Committee recommends that \$747,387.14 in funds be encumbered for the following eleven (11) projects, listed below in priority order:

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING – Natural Areas Stewardship Grants

Applicant	INPC site(s)	Stewardship Action	Request
Parklands Foundation	Ridgetop Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Merwin Savanna Nature Preserve, Weston Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve, and Chiquapin Bluffs Land & Water Reserve	Enlist contractual services and support staff to perform ecological restoration through prescribed fire implementation and invasive species removal.	\$41,984.06
Prairie Hills RC&D	Nenawakwa Land & Water Reserve, Thistle Hills Land & Water Reserve, Stony Hills Nature Preserve/Jamar Haven Land & Water Reserve, and Short Fork Seep Nature Preserve	Purchase equipment and supplies and support staff time to perform ecological restoration through prescribed fire implementation and invasive species removal.	\$89,784.68
Grand Prairie Friends	Embarras Ridges Land & Water Reserve, Warbler Woods North Land & Water Reserve, Warbler Woods Nature Preserve, Warbler Bottoms North Land & Water Reserve, Warbler Bluff Land & Water Reserve, and Warbler Landing Land & Water Reserve	Purchase a truck and support staff time to perform ecological restoration through prescribed fire implementation and invasive species removal.	\$92,817.88
The Conservation Foundation	Dayton Bluffs Land & Water Reserve	Enlist contractual services, purchase equipment, and support staff to perform ecological restoration through prescribed fire implementation and invasive species removal.	\$51,282.00

