

Brush Piles



The NBPP Refrigerator Door Companion

Summer 1991

Plant of the Season

Author's excuses: The Plant of the Season column has expanded to include several plants this time. Blame the spring flora at Glenview Woods.

Anemone quinquefolia interior (Wood Anemone)
Buttercup Family: Ranunculaceae
Swink and Wilhelm Rating: 7

“Wood Anemone is certainly not a showy wildflower, but being one of the first to bloom, its delicate beauty is a quiet, and often unnoticed announcement of the start of spring.” *Donald Stokes*

The wood anemone is usually (but not always) found in mesic woods with plants like spring beauties, wild geranium, Virginia waterleaf, sweet cicely, mayapples, false Solomon's seal, and the trilliums. It also occurs in moister situations, with water loving plants like marsh marigold and blue flag iris, and strangely, according to Swink, even in prairie remnants with shooting stars, alumroot, and yellow star grass. (Maybe Swink means Savannas.)

The earliest (April 1 - May 30) and smallest of the anemones, about 6 to 9 inches tall, wood anemones grow in colonies, spreading below ground through rhizomes (underground stems). There are usually five but can be as many as nine petal-like white sepals in the single glistening flower which arises from a central leaflet crotch. The blossom is open by day and closes at night or when very cloudy, protecting the flower parts when pollinators are inactive. The veiny leaflike bracts have three parts, but the outer part is divided giving the appearance of a five-parted leaf (thus quinquefolia).

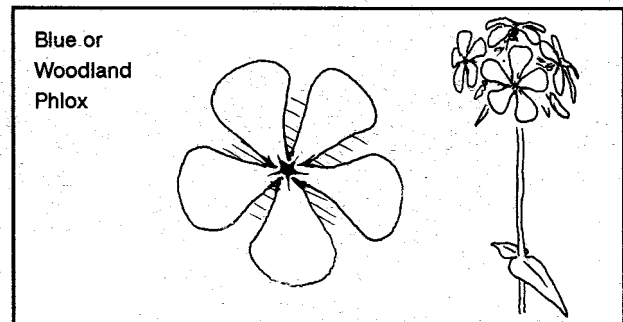
The genus name, Anemone, is from the Greek word for wind, perhaps referring to the wind distribution of the seeds, which appear in cottony heads.

Lore: Meswaki Indians made tea from the roots of anemone to cure dizziness, headaches, and crossed eyes. A beautiful legend has it that an anemone

appeared where each tear of Venus fell, when she mourned Adonis.

Join volunteers from NBPP in late spring when we collect seed for our restorations, but don't bother to look for wood anemones after June. Like many other spring ephemerals the leaves die back when the fruit ripens and they have completely vanished from sight, staying underground until the following spring.

Other anemones on North Branch sites are *Anemone canadensis* (Meadow anemone), *A. cylindrica* (thimbleweed), and *A. virginiana* (tall anemone).



Phlox divaricata (Blue or Woodland phlox)
Phlox family: Polemoniaceae
Swink and Wilhelm Rating: 5

The name *Phlox* is from Greek meaning flame, referring to the bright flower color which is stopping traffic in the savanna garden at North Park Village as I write this. In the wild Woodland phlox grows in partial shade in rich, moist woodlands like Glenview Woods where you can find it along the trail. Follow your nose, this is one of the more delightful fragrances of the spring woods. The range of flowering dates is April 13 through June 12.

Two other Phlox species which flower a little later are important on North Branch sites. *Phlox pilosa*, Prairie phlox, (May 5 until September 5) found on most North Branch prairies, and *Phlox glaberina interior*, Marsh phlox (June 13 - September 6) which is abundant at Sauganash.

Laurel Ross

NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT

Summer Workdays and Activities Schedule 1991

The NORTH BRANCH PRAIRIE PROJECT is working to restore and manage the few remaining prairie remnants along the North Branch of the Chicago River in the Cook County Forest Preserves. These areas, once part of a vast grassland ecosystem, are under tremendous pressure from urban development and non-native species. We are working to restore conditions that will allow these natural wild communities to flourish as a permanent part of the metropolitan area.

In the summer we work on weed and brush control and collect seeds for planting in areas being restored. Dress for the weather and bring some water, insect repellent and sun protection. Bring a lunch and join the group for lunch and great company whether or not you can stay for the afternoon work session. For more information call Joanne Softcheck at 312 878-3877.

Summer 1991

Morning workdays are from 9am to 12 noon; afternoon workdays are from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Workdays which are scheduled for days other than Sunday are in italics. All tours and other activities are in bold type.

<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>June 5</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Bunker Hill (Seed Collecting)*</i>
Saturday	June 8	1:30pm	Ecology Tour of Glenbrook HS NP
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>June 9</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Wayside Woods WD (Workday)</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>June 12</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Wayside (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>June 16</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami Woods WD (Father's Day)</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>June 16</i>	<i>1:30pm</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>June 19</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Harms Woods (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>June 22</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>June 23</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme Woods WD</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>June 23</i>	<i>1:30pm</i>	<i>Somme WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>June 26</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>June 30</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Harms Woods WD</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>July 4</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme WD</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 7</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Buffalo Grove WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>July 10</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Harms Woods (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 14</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>July 20</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 21</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>July 24</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Bunker Hill (Seed Collecting)*</i>
Saturday	July 27	1pm	Plant Identification Course at Miami Woods - See flyer
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 28</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Bunker Hill WD</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 28</i>	<i>1:30pm</i>	<i>Bunker Hill WD</i>
Saturday	August 3	9am	Ecology Tour of Miami Woods
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>August 4</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>August 4</i>	<i>1:30pm</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CUT BRUSH TO GET INVOLVED!

The North Branch needs volunteers eager to teach classes, conduct scientific studies, photograph or write, grow rare plants in their own gardens, or recruit volunteers. Pick your area of interest and phone one of the following committee chairpeople, to find out how you can help:

Ecological Management:

Jane Balaban - 708 679-4289

Robert Lonsdorf - 312 871-0003

Education:

Lee Hansen - 708 520-5822

Publications:

Karen Holland - 312 929-7658

Publicity:

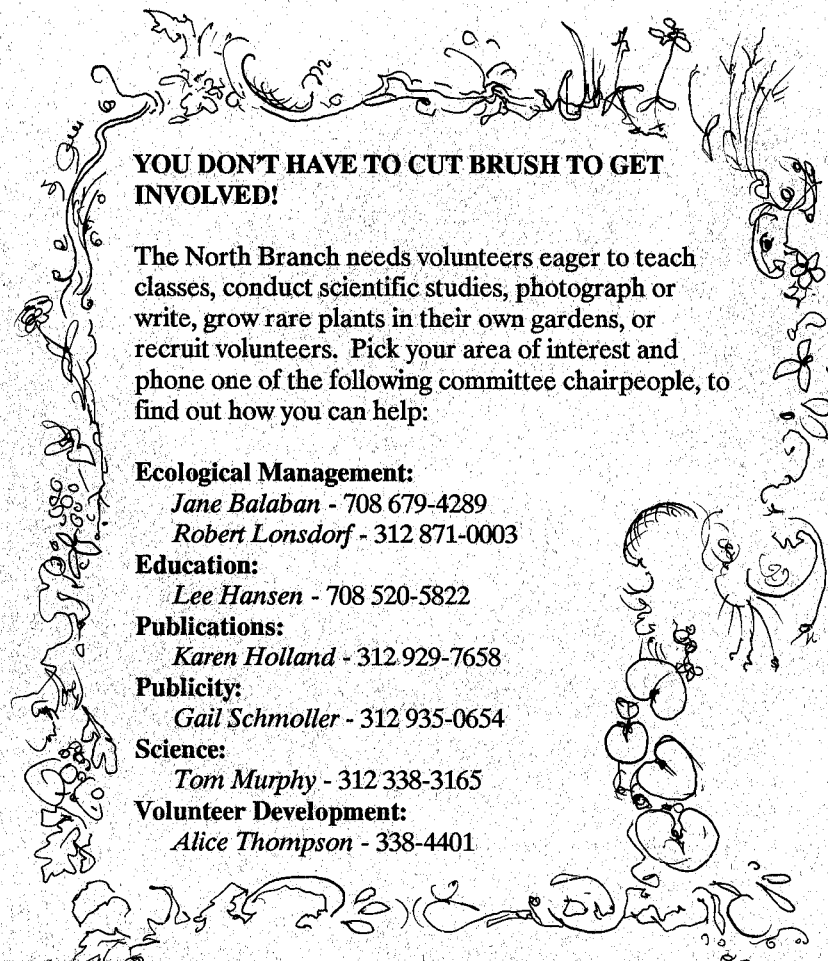
Gail Schmoller - 312 935-0654

Science:

Tom Murphy - 312 338-3165

Volunteer Development:

Alice Thompson - 338-4401



<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>August 8</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>August 11</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>August 14</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>August 18</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Miami WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>August 21</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Harms Woods (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>August 25</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme WD</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>August 28</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme (Seed Collecting)*</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Sept. 1</i>	<i>9am</i>	<i>Somme WD (Labor Day Weekend)</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Sept. 1</i>	<i>1:30pm</i>	<i>Somme WD</i>

Directions

BUFFALO GROVE PRAIRIE (Buffalo Grove) - Turn north on Johnson Dr., which is the first light west of Milwaukee on Lake-Cook Rd. Meet in Cryovac lot, the first driveway on the west side of Johnson Dr. The prairie is under the Com Ed power lines.

BUNKER HILL (Chicago) - Meet at Bunker Hill Forest Preserve parking lot on west side of Caldwell Ave., about 3/4 mile north of Devon Ave.

GLENBROOK H.S. (Northbrook) - The high school is north of Willow Rd. on the west side of Shermer Rd. Enter the parking lot at the north driveway and park by the tennis courts.

HARMS WOODS (formerly called Glenview Woods) - Meet at Forest Preserve Grove parking lot on west side of Harms Rd. just south of Glenview Rd.

MIAMI WOODS PRAIRIE (Morton Grove-Niles) - Meet at Miami Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on east side of Caldwell Ave., two blocks north of Oakton Ave.

SOMME WOODS PRAIRIE (Northbrook) - Take Dundee Rd. 2 miles west from Edens Expwy. to Waukegan Rd. Go north a few hundred feet on Waukegan and meet at the unpaved parking area on the west side of the road.

WAYSIDE WOODS PRAIRIE (Morton Grove) - Meet at Wayside Woods Prairie Forest Preserve parking lot on Lehigh Ave. (a few blocks east of Waukegan Rd. and just north of Dempster Ave.)

Piles Crew-
Layout: Joel Spears
Editing: Barbara Rose

***A NOTE ON SEED COLLECTING**

Remember that all seed collecting dates are tentative. If you have questions, or would like to lead a seed collecting workday, call 312 878-3877.

MONDAY EVENINGS IN THE GARDEN

If you are interested in the North Branch's Wild Garden Project, and would like to weed, learn and socialize with wild gardeners, join us on Monday evenings between 6 and 8 pm at North Park Village Nature Center (Nature Center Building), 5801 N. Pulaski. The Evenings in the Garden will be cancelled if it rains or on holidays like Memorial Day.

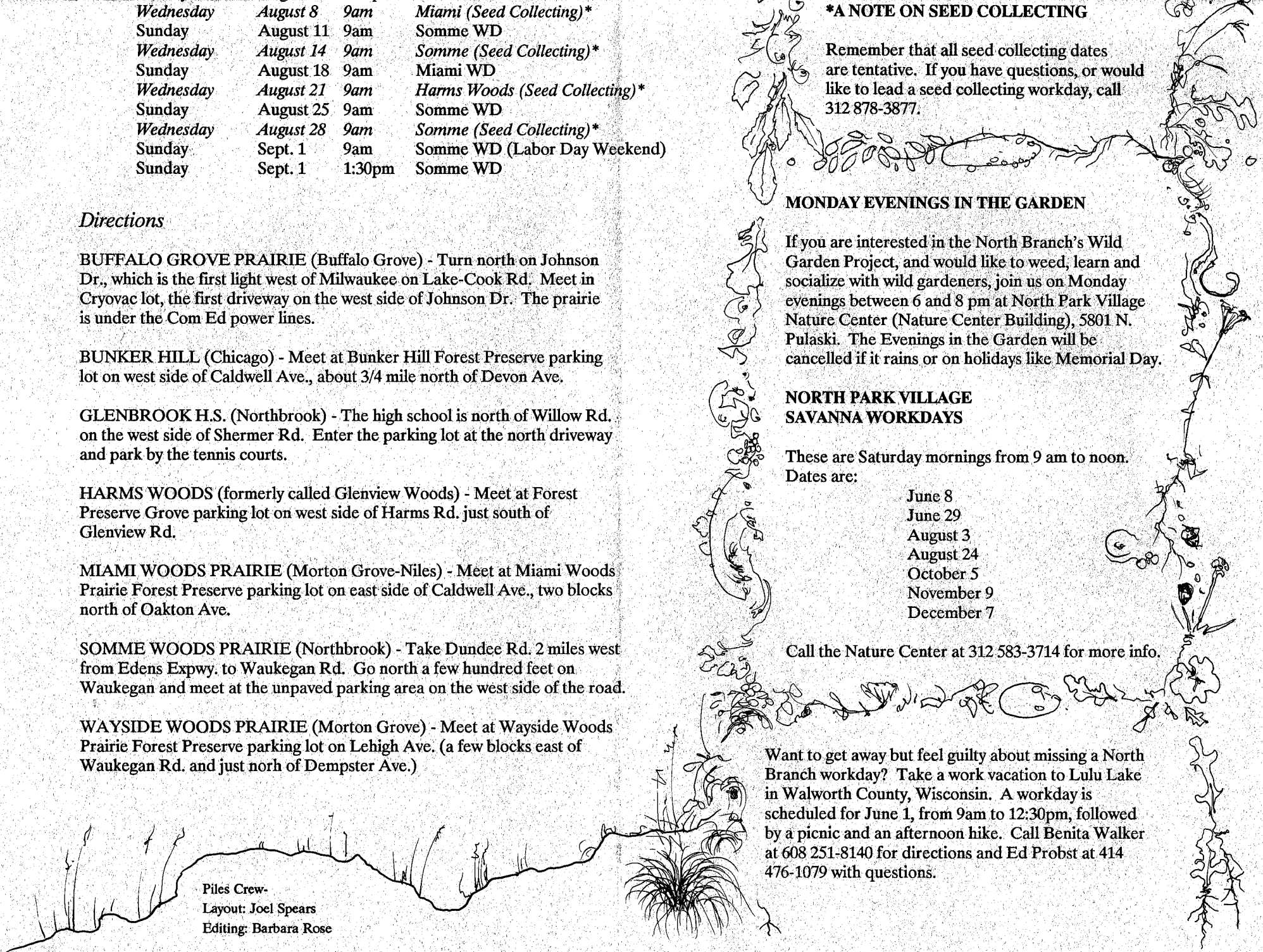
NORTH PARK VILLAGE SAVANNA WORKDAYS

These are Saturday mornings from 9 am to noon. Dates are:

- June 8
- June 29
- August 3
- August 24
- October 5
- November 9
- December 7

Call the Nature Center at 312 583-3714 for more info.

Want to get away but feel guilty about missing a North Branch workday? Take a work vacation to Lulu Lake in Walworth County, Wisconsin. A workday is scheduled for June 1, from 9am to 12:30pm, followed by a picnic and an afternoon hike. Call Benita Walker at 608 251-8140 for directions and Ed Probst at 414 476-1079 with questions.



FIELD PLANT IDENTIFICATION CLASS

**For the Serious Plant Identification Student
with some previous experience**

A series of two field classes conducted by Laurel Ross.
Registration can be for one or both of the dates.

Saturday, July 27	10am-noon	Miami Woods with Co-Leader Susanne Masi
Saturday, Sept. 28	1:30-3:30pm	Somme Prairie Grove Co-Leader to be announced

FEE: \$2.00 per class

MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE: 15

BRING: your favorite Field Guide, Swink & Wilhelm (if you have it), pencil, notebook and hand lens.

CLASS WILL INCLUDE:

- Identifying wildflowers and grasses in the field during two different seasons.
- Learning how to identify plants by flowers as well as by other distinguishing characteristics.
- Participants will also key out at least one plant during each session.
- Worksheets and other appropriate materials will be provided.

For directions see the inside of Brush Piles.

To register, fill out the form below and enclose a check (Payable to the North Branch Prairie Project), and mail to **Joanne Softcheck, 4537 N. Hamilton, Chicago, IL 60625.**

Name _____ Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Registering for July _____ and/or Sept. _____ Amount enclosed _____

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid at Chicago, IL
Permit No. 535

North Branch Prairie Project

The Sierra Club
Suite 525
506 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60605

The North Branch
Prairie Project is a
cooperative effort
involving The
Nature Conservancy,
the Chicago Audubon
Society, and the Sierra
Club, Chicago group.

We manage these sites
as volunteers for the
Forest Preserve District
of Cook County.