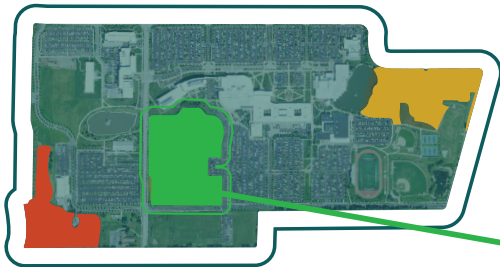


Russell R. Kirt Prairie

College of DuPage Campus



About the Russell R. Kirt Prairie

Most of the area known as the RRPK was formerly prairie or savanna, with marsh habitat interspersed. Farming provided initial disturbance as the Lambert Family was one of at least a few American settlers to reside in the areas. A secondary disturbance occurred in 1965 when the college dug the site out to construct a building. The resulting depression soon filled with water. Also, the northern portion was entirely a gravel parking lot. The same year, fill from the construction on campus was spread over the gravel and seven to ten inches of black topsoil. In 1984, Mr. Kirt began taking volunteers to clear debris and commence restoration efforts.

In 1991, Mr. Kirt expanded the preserve, recreating a savanna habitat on the southern portion by planting ten bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and white oak (*Quercus alba*) trees the first year and 20 the second year, 100 yards apart. He then disked and plowed the area between the trees, planted prairie grass and flower seedlings, and spread native seeds. Mr. Kirt also utilized a tractor to move earth into a pile in the southwest portion of the preserve to create a hill prairie habitat.

Trails

- Full Trail
- Handicap Trail

Featured Habitats

- HSC Woodland
- Shallow Water
- Retention Pond
- Swale
- Mesic Prairie
- Marsh
- Hill Prairie
- Oak Savanna

Points of Interest

- Trail Head/Entrance
- Local Amphibians
- Local Birds
- Parking
- Informational Sign
- Seating Area
- Green House