

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED PLANT SPECIES
AT ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK
2003-2004

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program
Contract Number RC04L32W

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INTRODUCTION

Because Illinois Beach State Park is well known as a habitat with unprecedented diversity in our current landscape and as a repository of many plant and animal species that have disappeared from surrounding or historically similar lands, there was a need to organize the information in the IDNR's files about endangered and threatened plant species at the park. Additionally, there was an expressed need to relocate historic locations of E&T species, both to evaluate current status and to GPS the location, if not done previously. Finally, ongoing searches were needed to further explore the park for hitherto undiscovered populations of E&T and rare plants, especially in situations where management could be creating conditions that would be favorable to their growth and survival. The resulting central reference file would serve to guide staff and scientists who are working on restoration and management plans both at the park ecosystem level and species level, and allow a comprehensive GIS mapping of the known locales of these species at the park.

METHODS

The various maps and papers at the IDNR were organized into files according to plant species, and a compendium was compiled to provide a central information document for these species. The compendium includes basic information about the plant's habitat and common associates, as well as site-specific data from Illinois Beach sightings, such as persons involved, number of plants seen, habitat, and GPS coordinates. This compendium is in hard-copy format, updated through the consultant's 2004 field season; it also has been made available as a computer file to which the IDNR can add data for 2004 and ensuing field seasons.

Field visits to the park were made 1) with IDNR staff to work on plant identification and population mapping at sites previously targeted, 2) to take GPS readings at areas known to the consultant but not elsewhere documented, and 3) to explore areas that had not been heavily botanized or that had been recently cleared of brush.

It was decided in conjunction with IDNR staff that, rather than produce a separate map for this project, the GPS data that had been compiled from historic records or taken during the growing seasons of 2003 and 2004 would be fed to the central GIS office of the IDNR. GPS data from the compendium were reorganized in an Excel file that can be fed directly into that system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The full compendium is presented here. This represents a compilation of all historic data that was in the IDNR office as of the fall of 2003, with the addition of the consultant's data from 2004. Data were added to 15 of the 39 species in the compendium as a result of the field activities in which the consultant participated. The map that will be produced from the GPS data will identify portions of the park that are "hot spots" for clusters of E&T plant species.

In some cases, exciting new territories that had been found recently by IDNR staff were explored. These not only yielded a number of new sightings for E&T species (both small and large populations), but contained other very interesting species as well. Return visits earlier in the growing season to some of these rich areas will confirm the presence of species identified from sometimes quite withered remains, and may yield other E&T species or species new to the park list as well.

ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK
Endangered & Threatened Species
2003–2004

Agalinis skinneriana	pale false foxglove	Scrophulariaceae	T
Amelanchier interior	inland shadblow	Rosaceae	E
Ammophila breviligulata	marram grass, beach grass	Gramineae	E
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	bearberry, kinnikinnick	Ericaceae	E
Aster furcatus	forked aster	Compositae	T
Cakile edentula	sea rocket	Cruciferae	T
Calopogon tuberosus	grass pink	Orchidaceae	E
Carex aurea	golden sedge	Cyperaceae	E
Carex garberi	false golden sedge, Garber's sedge, elk sedge	Cyperaceae	E
Carex viridula	green yellow sedge, little green sedge	Cyperaceae	T
Castilleja sessiliflora	downy yellow painted cup	Scrophulariaceae	E
Ceanothus ovatus (Ceanothus herbaceus)	inland New Jersey tea, redroot	Rhamnaceae	E
Chamaesyce polygonifolia (Euphorbia polygonifolia)	seaside spurge	Euphorbiaceae	E
Drosera rotundifolia	round-leaved sundew	Droseraceae	E
Eleocharis olivacea	wrinkle-sheathed spikerush, capitate spikerush	Cyperaceae	E
Elymus trachycaulus (Agropyron subsecundum) (Agropyron trachycaulum unilaterale)	bearded wheat grass	Gramineae	E
Hypericum kalmianum	Kalm's St. John's wort	Hypericaceae	E
Juncus alpinus	Richardson's rush	Juncaceae	E
Juniperus communis	common juniper, ground juniper	Pinaceae	T
Juniperus horizontalis	trailing juniper, creeping cedar	Pinaceae	E
Lechea intermedia	savanna pinweed	Cistaceae	T
Orobanche fasciculata	clustered broomrape	Orobanchaceae	E
Pinus banksiana	jack pine	Pinaceae	E
Platanthera clavellata (Habenaria clavellata)	club-spur orchid, wood orchid, green orchid	Orchidaceae	E
Platanthera flava herbiola (Habenaria flava herbiola)	tubercled orchid	Orchidaceae	E
Platanthera leucophaea (Habenaria leucophaea)	eastern prairie fringed orchid, prairie white fringed orchid	Orchidaceae	E
Platanthera psycodes (Habenaria psycodes)	purple fringed orchid	Orchidaceae	E
Populus balsamifera	balsam poplar	Salicaceae	E
Rhynchospora alba	white beak rush, beaked rush	Cyperaceae	T
Salix syrticola	dune willow	Salicaceae	E
Tofieldia glutinosa	false asphodel	Liliaceae	T
Triadenum virginicum (Hypericum virginicum virginicum)	marsh St. John's wort	Hypericaceae	E
Triglochin maritima	common bog arrow grass	Juncaginaceae	T
Triglochin palustris	slender bog arrow grass	Juncaginaceae	T
Utricularia cornuta	horned bladderwort	Lentibulariaceae	E
Utricularia intermedia	flat-leaved bladderwort	Lentibulariaceae	E
Utricularia minor	small bladderwort	Lentibulariaceae	E
also:			
Carex crawei	early fen sedge, Crawe's sedge	Cyperaceae	–
Scirpus microcarpus (Scirpus rubrotinctus)	reddish bulrush	Cyperaceae	–









