



**DUBUQUE
ARBORETUM**
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

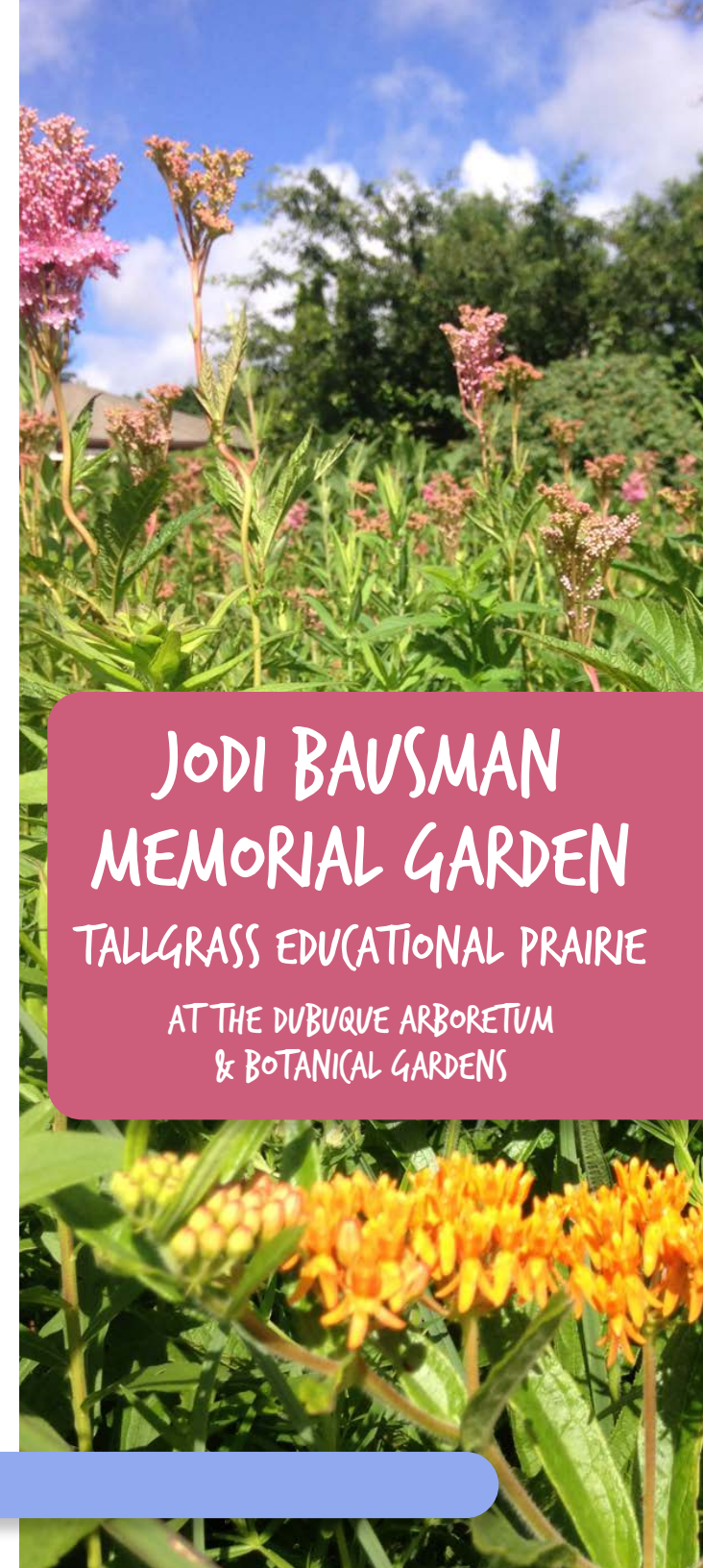
MISSION STATEMENT

To establish and maintain an arboretum and botanical garden that is a source of information, education, culture and beauty for all to know.



**DUBUQUE
ARBORETUM**
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

3800 Arboretum Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
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**JODI BAUSMAN
MEMORIAL GARDEN**
TALLGRASS EDUCATIONAL PRAIRIE
AT THE DUBUQUE ARBORETUM
& BOTANICAL GARDENS

THE HISTORY OF IOWA PRAIRIES?

Iowa's first prairies appeared at the end of the last ice age, after the last of the massive glaciers retreated. When the first explorers and settler arrived in what would eventually become Iowa, they encountered a unique ecosystem perfectly adapted to the area and the climate. In fact, 85% of our future state, over 30 million acres, was covered in grasses. This ecosystem consisted of communities of grasses, forbs, insects, and other animals. Prairie communities vary depending on the environment. Plants and animals in these communities adapted and evolved to survive a range of conditions from hot and dry to moist and boggy.

Between 1800 and 1930, the vast majority of prairies disappeared. Settlers transformed what they name "the Great American Desert" into farmland. Factors that led to the prairie's demise were the change in grazing patterns of confined cattle (vs. bison), the near-elimination of prairie dogs, and the

cultivation/tiling of the land for agricultural purposes that breached tallgrass root systems and interrupted reproduction. Estimates of how many original tallgrass prairies survived range from 1% - 4%.

WHY IS THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM IMPORTANT?

Because native prairies are of an adaptable nature, they have developed deep and extensive root systems to accommodate dry conditions and fire. These deep roots help the grasses to utilize water deep underground or take quick advantage of sudden storms. These deep root systems hold our soil in place and, in fact, the loss of our prairies was a major factor in causing the dust bowl during the 1930's. Other benefits of prairies is its ability to absorb and hold excess rain, thereby reducing flooding. It's ecosystem also provides vital habitat for countless pollinator species, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

Efforts are underway throughout Iowa and the Midwest to restore prairie vegetation wherever we can. Over the past 30 years, numerous roadways have been converted to native grasses and wildflowers, providing not only beauty for travelers, but also valuable wildlife habitat. These roadsides also provide essential wildlife corridors between fragmented areas. But, we all can help out by planting native plants wherever possible, even if it's just in a small area. Every little bit of prairie helps!

PLANTS TO LOOK FOR IN THE JODI BAUSMAN MEMORIAL PRAIRIE

This little prairie is a mesic (medium moisture levels) to mesic-wet plot showcasing tallgrass prairie plants in general, with species that favor wetter locations (cup plant, queen-of-the prairie), mesic conditions (white indigo) and some that also like drier conditions like butterfly weed.

SEE IF YOU CAN DISCOVER ANY OF THESE PLANTS:

BUTTERFLY WEED



RATTLESNAKE MASTER



COMPASS PLANT



CUP PLANT



PURPLE CONEFLOWER



QUEEN OF THE PRAIRIE

