

Elkhorn Biodiversity Preserve Species List

Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance

* Indicates a non-native species

Updated 2/24/2025

Sedges (14) 13 Native

Carex bebbii – Bebb's Oval Sedge
Carex brevior – Plains Oval Sedge
Carex brunnescens – Green Bog Sedge
Carex diandra – Bog Panicked Sedge
Carex stipata – Common Fox Sedge
Carex stricta – Common Tussock Sedge
Carex trichocarpa – Hairy-Fruited Lake Sedge
Carex vulpinoidea – Fox Sedge
Cyperus acuminatus – Short-Pointed Flat Sedge
Cyperus echinatus – Globe Sedge *
Cyperus esculentus – Field Nut Sedge
Cyperus filiculmis – Slender Sand Sedge
Cyperus rivularis – Brook Nut Sedge
Scirpus atrovirens – Dark Green Rush

Ferns (2)

Athyrium filix-femina – Lady Fern
Onoclea sensibilis – Sensitive Fern

Horsetails (2)

Equisetum arvense – Common Horsetail
Equisetum hyemale – Scouring Rush

Grasses (24) 13 Native

Andropogon gerardii – Big Bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium – Little Bluestem
Agropyron repens – Quack Grass *
Agrostis alba – Redtop *
Bouteloua curtipendula – Side-Oats Grama
Bromus inermis – Smooth Brome *
Dactylis glomerata – Orchard-grass *
Digitaria filiformis – Slender Crab Grass
Enchinochloa microstachya – Barnyard Grass *
Elymus canadensis – Canada Wild Rye
Eragrotis spectabilis – Purple Love Grass
Festuca sp. – Tall Fescue *
Leptoloma cognatum – Fall Witch Grass
Oryzopsis asperifolia – Rough-Leaved Rice Grass
Panicum oligosanthes var. scribnerianum – Scribner's Panic Grass
Panicum villosissimum – White-Haired Panic Grass
Panicum virgatum – Switch Grass
Paspalum setaceum ver. ciliatifolium – Lens Grass
Phalaris arundinacea – Reed-Canary Grass *
Phleum pratense – Timothy *
Poa compressa – Canada Blue Grass *
Poa pratensis – Kentucky Blue Grass *
Setaria glauca – Yellow Fox Tail *
Sorghastrum nutans – Indian Grass

Rushes (2)

Eleocharis erythropoda – Red-Rooted Spike Rush
Juncus tenuis – Path Rush

Forbs (154) 116 Native

Abutilon theophrasti – Velvetleaf *
Achillea millefolium – Yarrow *
Agastache nepetoides – Yellow Giant Hyssop
Ageratina altissima – White Snakeroot
Agrimonia gryposepala – Tall Agrimony
Alliaria petiolata – Garlic Mustard *
Ambrosia artemisiifolia – Common Ragweed
Ambrosia trifida – Giant Ragweed
Amorpha canescens – Lead Plant
Amphicarpa bracteata – Upland Hog Peanut
Anemone canadensis – Meadow Anemone
Anemone cylindrica – Thimbleweed
Anemone virginiana – Tall Anemone
Angelica atropurpurea – Great Angelica
Antennaria plantaginifolia – Pussy Toes
Apocynum cannabinum – Hairy Dogbane
Arctium minus – Common Burdock *
Arctium tomentosum – Cotton Burdock *
Arisaema triphyllum – Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Asclepias amplexicaulis – Blunt-Leaved or Sand Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata – Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca – Common Milkweed
Asclepias verticillata – Whorled Milkweed
Baptisia lactea – Cream Wild Indigo
Barbarea vulgaris – Yellow Rocket (Winter Cress) *
Bidens cernua – Nodding Bur Marigold
Brickellia eupatorioides – False Boneset
Calystegia sepium – Hedge Bindweed
Campanula aparinoides – Lesser Marsh Bellflower
Cardamine bulbosa – Bulbous Cress
Centaurea maculosa – Spotted Knapweed *
Cerastium vulgatum – Mouse-Ear Chickweed *
Chamerion augustifolium – Fireweed
Chenopodium album – Lamb's Quarter *
Cicuta maculata – Water Hemlock
Circaea canadensis – Enchanter's Nightshade
Cirsium arvense – Field Thistle *
Cirsium discolor – Pasture Thistle
Cirsium vulgare – Bull Thistle *
Clematis virginiana – Virgin's Bower
Conium maculatum – Poison Hemlock *
Conuza canadensis – Tall Horseweed
Crocanthemum canadense – Canada Rockrose
Cryptotaenia canadensis – Canadian Henowort
Daucus carota – Queen-Anne's Lace *
Dianthus armeria – Deptford Pink *
Drymocallis – Prairie Cinquefoil
Echinocystis lobata – Wild Cucumber
Epilobium coloratum – Cinnamon Willowherb
Erigeron philadelphicus – Marsh Fleabane
Erigeron strigosus – Daisy Fleabane
Euphorbia corollata – Flowering Spurge
Eutrochium maculatum – Spotted Joe Pye Weed
Fallopia scandens – Climbing False Buckwheat

Forbs (continued)

Fragaria virginiana – Wild Strawberry
Galium aparine – Cleavers, Catchweed Bedstraw
Galium obtusum – Bluntleaved Bedstraw
Gentiana puberulenta – Downy Prairie Gentian
Hackelia virginiana – Stickweed
Helenium autumnale – Sneezeweed
Helianthus grosseserratus – Sawtooth Sunflower
Helianthus pauciflorus – Prairie Sunflower
Helianthus tuberosus – Jerusalem Artichoke
Heliopsis helianthoides – Early Sunflower
Heracleum maximum – Cow Parsnip
Heuchera richardsonii – Prairie Alum Root
Hieracium longipilum – Long-bearded Hawkweed
Hypericum ascyron – Great St. Johnswort
Impatiens capensis – Orange Jewelweed
Ionactis linariifolia – Flax-Leaved Aster
Lactuca canadensis – Wild Lettuce
Lechea stricta – Bushy Pinweed
Lemna minor – Small Duckweed
Leonurus cardiaca – Motherwort *
Lespedeza capitata – Round-Headed Bushclover
Liatris aspera – Rough Blazingstar
Lithospermum incisum – Fringed Puccoon
Lobelia siphilitica – Great Blue Lobelia
Lobelia spicata – Pale Spiked Lobelia
Lycopus americanus – Common Water Horehound
Lycopus rubellus – Stalked Water Horehound
Lysimachia nummularia – Moneywort *
Maianthemum stellata – Starry False Solomon's Seal
Medicago lupulina – Black Medick *
Melilotus alba – White Sweet Clover *
Melilotus officinalis – Yellow Sweet Clover *
Mentha arvensis – Wild Mint
Mimulus ringens – Monkey Flower
Monarda fistulosa – Wild Bergamot
Nepeta cataria – Catnip *
Oxalis stricta – Common Wood-sorrel
Oxalis violacea – Violet Wood-sorrel
Packera pauperculus – Balsam Ragwort
Pastinaca sativa – Wild Parsnip *
Persicaria hydropiper – Marsh Waterpepper *
Persicaria maculosa – Lady's Thumb *
Physalis heterophylla – Clammy Groundcherry
Physalis longifolia – Tall Groundcherry
Phytolacca americana – American Pokeweed
Plantago aristata – Large-bracted Plantain
Plantago lanceolata – English Plantain *
Plantago major – Common Plantain *
Polygala sanguinea – Field Milkwort
Polygonatum biflorum – Solomon's Seal
Potentilla recta – Rough-Fruited Cinquefoil *
Potentilla simplex – Common Cinquefoil
Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium – Old Field Balsam
Pycnanthemum virginianum – Common Mountain Mint
Ranunculus abortivus – Small-flowered Buttercup
Ranunculus fascicularis – Early Buttercup
Ranunculus sceleratus – Cursed Buttercup
Ratibida pinnata – Yellow Coneflower
Rudbeckia hirta – Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia laciniata – Wild Golden Glow
Rudbeckia triloba – Brown-Eyed Susan

Forbs (continued)

Rumex acetosella – Sheep Sorrel *
Rumex crispus – Curly Dock *
Scrophularia marilandica – Late Figwort
Silphium integrifolium – Rosinweed
Silphium perfoliatum – Cup Plant
Smilax hispida – Bristly Cat Brier
Solanum carolinense – Horse Nettle
Solanum dulcamara – Deadly Nightshade *
Solidago altissima – Tall Goldenrod
Solidago nemoralis – Old Field Goldenrod
Stachys hispida – Marsh Hedge Nettle
Stellaria aquatica – Water Chickweed
Symphotrichum ericoides – Heath Aster
Symphotrichum lateriflorus – Calico Aster
Symphotrichum novae-angliae – New England Aster
Symphotrichum pilosus – Hairy Aster
Symphotrichum praealtum – Willow Aster
Tanacetum vulgare – Common Tansy *
Taraxacum officinale – Dandelion *
Teucrium canadense – Canadian Germander or Wood Sage
Teucrium canadense var. occidentale – Western Germander
Thalictrum dasycarpum – Purple Meadow-Rue
Tradescantia ohiensis – Ohio Spiderwort
Tragopogon hybrid – Common Goat's Beard x Salsify *
Tragopogon pratense – Common Goat's Beard *
Trifolium pratense – Red Clover *
Triodanis perfoliata – Venus's Looking Glass
Urtica dioica – Stinging Nettle *
Urtica gracilis – Tall Nettle
Verbascum blattaria – Moth Mullein *
Verbascum thapsus – Common Mullein *
Verbena hastata – Blue Vervain
Verbena urticifolia – White Vervain
Veronica catenata glandulosa – Water Speedwell
Veronicastrum virginicum – Culver's Root
Vicia cracca – Cow Vetch *
Viola pedata – Bird's Foot Violet
Viola sagittata – Arrow-Leaved Violet
Viola sororia – Common Blue Violet

Shrubs (19) 15 Native

Celastrus scandens – Climbing Bittersweet
Cornus racemosa – Gray Dogwood
Cornus stolonifera – Red Osier Dogwood
Corylus americana – American Hazelnut
Lonicera – Honeysuckle *
Malus ioensis – Iowa Crab
Parthenocissus quinquefolia – Virginia Creeper
Rhamnus cathartica – Common Buckthorn *
Rhus radicans – Poison Ivy
Ribes missouriense – Missouri Gooseberry
Rosa carolina – Pasture Rose
Rosa multiflora – Multiflora Rose *
Rubus allegheniensis – Common Blackberry
Rubus flagellaris – Common Dewberry
Rubus occidentalis – Black Raspberry
Sambucus canadensis – Elderberry
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus – Coralberry
Viburnum opulus – European Highbush Cranberry *

Shrubs (continued)

Vitis riparia – Riverbank Grape

Trees (16) 13 Native

Acer negundo – Box Elder
Acer saccharinum – Silver Maple
Catalpa speciosa – Hardy Catalpa
Celtis occidentalis – Hackberry
Juglans nigra – Black Walnut
Maclura pomifera – Osage Orange *
Morus alba – White Mulberry *
Populus deltoides – Cottonwood
Prunus serotina – Black Cherry
Prunus virginiana – Choke Cherry
Pyrus malus – Apple *
Quercus macrocarpa – Bur Oak
Quercus velutina – Black Oak
Salix nigra – Black Willow
Tilia americana – Basswood
Ulmus rubra – Red (Slippery) Elm

Fish (8)

Camptostoma anomalum – Stoneroller
Catostomus commersoni – White Sucker
Etheostoma nigrum – Johnny Darter
Moxostoma aureolum – Northern Redhorse
Notropis cornutus – Common Shiner
Phoxinus eos – Red-Bellied Dace
Pimephales notatus – Blunt-Nose Minnow
Semotilus atromaculatus – Creek Chub

Reptiles (3)

Chelydra serpentina – Snapping Turtle
Storeria dekayi dekayi – Northern Brown Snake
Pituophis melanoleucus – Bull Snake

Amphibians (6)

Bufo americana – American Toad
Hyla cf. versicolor – Gray Treefrog
Hyla crucifera – Spring Peeper
Pseudacris t. triseriata – W. Chorus Frog
Rana clamitans melanota – Green Frog
Rana p. pipiens – N. Leopard Frog

Mammals (14)

Beaver
 Eastern Chipmunk
 Cottontail Rabbit
 Coyote
 Mink
 Woodland Jumping Mouse
 Opossum
 Plains Pocket Gopher
 Raccoon
 Short-Tailed Shrew
 Skunk
 Thirteen-Lined Ground Squirrel
 White-Tailed Deer
 Woodchuck

Insects (105) 99 Native**Butterflies (32)****Insects, Butterflies (continued)**

Asterocampa celtis – Hackberry Butterfly
Asterocampa clyton – Tawny Emperor
Bolaria bellona – Meadow Fritillary
Celastrina neglecta – Summer Azure
Colias eurytheme – Alfalfa Butterfly
Colias philodice – Clouded Sulphur
Danaus plexippus – Monarch
Eucrea comyntas – Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly
Euptoieta claudia – Variegated Fritillary
Euptychia cymela – Little Wood Satyr
Junonia coenia – Buckeye
Libytheana carinenta bachmanii – Amerian Snout
Limenitis archippus – Viceroy
Limenitis arthemis astyanax – Red-Spotted Purple
Lycaena helloides – Purplish Copper
Lycaena phlaeas americana – American Copper
Nymphalis antiopa – Mourning Cloak
Nymphalis milberti – Milbert's Tortoiseshell
Papilio cresphontes – Giant Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus – Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes asterius – Black Swallowtail
Papilio troilus – Spicebush Swallowtail
Phyciodes tharos – Pearl Crescent
Pieris rapae – European Cabbage Butterfly *
Polygonia comma – Comma
Polygonia interrogationis – Question Mark
Satyrus liparops strigosa – Striped Hairstreak
Satyrus titus – Coral Hairstreak
Speyeria cybele – Great Spangled Fritillary
Vanessa atalanta – Red Admiral
Vanessa cardui – Painted Lady
Vanessa virginiensis – American Painted Lady

Damselflies (7)

Amphiagrion saucium – Eastern Red Damsel
Argia apicalis – Blue-Fronted Dancer
Argia plana – Springwater Dancer
Calopteryx maculata – Ebony Jewelwing
Ischnura hastata – Citrine Forktail
Lestes rectangularis – Slender Spreadwing
Ischnura verticalis – Eastern Forktail

Dragonflies (11)

Anax junius – Common Green Darner
Celithemis eponina – Halloween Pennant
Erythemis simplicicollis – Common Pondhawk
Libellula luctuosa – Widow Skimmer
Libellula pulchella – Twelve-Spotted Skimmer
Pachydiplax longipennis – Blue Dasher
Perithemis tenera – Eastern Amberwing
Plathemis (Libellula) lydia – Common Whitetail
Sympetrum semicinctum – Band-Winged Meadowhawk
Sympetrum rubicundulum – Ruby Meadowhawk
Tramea lacerata – Black Saddlebags

Moths (16)

Ayles lineata – White-Lined Sphinx Moth
Alypia octomaculata – Eight-Spotted Forester
Caeunurgina crassiuscula – Clover Looper
Cucullia asteroides – Goldenrod Hooded Owlet
Deidamia inscripta – Lettered Sphinx
Depressaria pastinacella – Parsnip Webworm *
Euchaetes egle – Milkweed Tussock Moth
Grammia virgo – Virgin Tiger Moth

Moths (continued)

Haematopis grataria – Chickweed Geometer
Haploa reversa – Reversed Haploa
Pyrrharctia isabella – Woolly Bear Isabella Tiger Moth
Microcrambus elegans – Elegant Grass-Veneer
Pyrausta ochosalis – Pyrausta Moth
Schinia arcigera – Arcigera Flower Moth
Simyra insularis – Henry’s Marsh Moth
Sitochroa palealis – Carrot Seed Moth

Skippers (6)

Ancyloxyphia numitor – Least Skipper
Epargyreus clarus – Silver-Spotted Skipper
Hylephila phyleus – Fiery Skipper
Pholisora catullus – Common Sootywing
Polites coras – Peck’s Skipper
Thymelicus lineola – European Skipper

Other (33)

Apion rostrum – Baptisia Seed Pod Weevil
Archytas apicifer – Tachinid Fly
Asilus prairiensis – Robber Fly
Baetidae – Mayfly
Bombus auricomus – Black and Gold Bumblebee
Carmelionidae – Negro Bug
Chironomus sp. – Midge Fly
Chrysochus auratos – Dogbane Beetle
Chrysopidae – Green Lacewing
Chrysops sp. – Deerfly
Ctenicera noxia – Click Beetle
Gerris remigis – Waterstrider
Hydropsyche simulans – Caddisfly
Labidomera clivicollis – Milkweed Leaf Beetle
Mantis religiosa – European Mantis *
Microcentrum retinerve – Angular-winged Katydid
Oecanthus fultoni – Snowy Tree Cricket
Oncopeltus fasciatus – Large Milkweed Bug
Ostrinia nubilalis – European Corn Borer *
Panorpa sp. – Scorpionfly
Pelecinus polyturator – American Pelecinid
Philaenus spumarius – Spittle-Bug
Popilla japonica – Japanese Beetle *
Sepedon fuscipennis – Marsh Fly
Simulium sp. – Blackflies
Stenelmis sp. – Elmid Beetle
Tabanus sp. – Greenhead Fly
Tenodera aridifolia sinensis – Chinese Praying Mantis *
Tetraopes tetrophthalmus – Red Milkweed Beetle
Tremex columba – Pigeon Tremex (Hornail)
Trichodes nutalli – Red-Blue Checked Beetle
Trirhabda canadensis – Goldenrod Leaf Beetle
Vespula maculata – Bald-faced Hornet

Birds (141) 136 Native

Double-Crested Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Green Heron
Turkey Vulture
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Wood Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Mallard
Bald Eagle

Birds (continued)

Osprey
Northern Harrier
Sharp-Shinned Hawk
Broad-Winged Hawk
Red-Tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
American Kestrel
Ring-Necked Pheasant *
Northern Bobwhite
Wild Turkey
Sora
Sandhill Crane
Killdeer
American Woodcock
Wilson’s Snipe
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs
Spotted Sandpiper
Rock Pigeon *
Mourning Dove
Black-Billed Cuckoo
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Common Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-Headed Woodpecker
Red-Bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Olive-Sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Yellow-Throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-Eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-Winged Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Bank Swallow
Barn Swallow
Black-Capped Chickadee
White-Breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Winter Wren
Marsh Wren
Sedge Wren

Birds (continued)

Golden-Crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
 Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 Gray-Cheeked Thrush
 Swainson's Thrush
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 European Starling *
 Cedar Waxwing
 Golden-Winged Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Orange-Crowned Warbler
 Nashville Warbler
 Northern Parula Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-Sided Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler
 Cape May Warbler
 Yellow-Rumped Warbler
 Black-Throated Green Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Yellow-Throated Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Bay-Breasted Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Black-and-White Warbler
 American Redstart
 Prothonotary Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Ovenbird
 Kentucky Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Wilson's Warbler
 Yellow-Breasted Chat
 Eastern Towhee
 Scarlet Tanager
 American Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Lincoln's Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow
 White-Throated Sparrow
 White-Crowned Sparrow
 Dark-Eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Dickcissel
 Bobolink
 Red-Winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Western Meadowlark
 Rusty Blackbird

Birds (continued)

Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Orchard Oriole
 Baltimore Oriole
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow *
 Eurasian Tree Sparrow *

Miscellaneous (14)

Argiope aurantia – Black and Yellow Garden Spider
Argiope trifasciata – Banded Garden Spider
Dermacentor variabilis – Wood Tick
Dugesia tigrina – Planarian
Gammarus lacustris – Scud
Hyalla azteca – Sideswimmer
Hydrachnidae – Water Mite
Limax – Slug
Lumbricus terrestris – Night Crawler *
Naididae – Aquatic Worm
Opilio sp. – Harvestman
Physa – Pond Snail
Spharium sp. – Fingernail Clam
cf. Trombicula alfreddugesi – Red Mite

*Botanic and common names as noted in Wilhelm & Rericha, **Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis***