

A Landscape Unchanged

Native fescue grasslands need space to thrive.

The early 1900's saw many settlers arrive to the Hanna area in search of land to cultivate. Yet the hills in front of you are almost untouched by human activity. It was the wish of Gottlob Schmidt, the steward of this property, that the productive and highly sensitive landscape before you be left natural for wildlife. This dedication to conservation has helped protect a variety of unique, specialized and threatened plant and animal species.

Deer, moose and the occasional pronghorn antelope browse and graze these hills, seeking shelter among the stands of aspen poplar. Coyotes and red fox hunt for thirteen-lined ground squirrels and berries in low-lying areas. The prairie cone-flower, the prairie crocus and the rare plains rough fescue grass are all iconic to this landscape and can be seen flowering at different times of year.



Sprague's Pipit

This elusive sparrow-sized bird is often heard rather than seen. Listed as a species at risk in Canada, the pipit breeds exclusively in the ever-shrinking native grasslands. Listen for their high-pitched song from the sky above - a descending scale of *tsew-tsew-tsew*'s.



Prairie
cone-flower



Thirteen-lined
ground squirrel



Prairie
crocus