

Proposal for name change - Lakeshore Nature Preserve – the area west of Picnic Point designated savanna in the future vegetation map layer

Proposers: Susan Will-Wolf (Preserve Committee, Botany Dept.)
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Current name: none

Proposed name: ideas: Big Savanna, Ridge Savanna, Central Savanna, etc.

Justification:

This area is clearly designated in the master plan to become savanna. Its current lack of an official name renders it much less visible and gives it less “standing/regard”, both for purposes of general planning and for possible fund-raising to support management, than the adjacent areas that all have official names. Several small projects to manage vegetation within or at the edges of this area are already underway. It would facilitate evaluation of similar projects in future to have the proposed savanna area designated as such by an official name with a brief description of savanna vegetation to compare with proposed vegetation management.

Location:

The area west of Picnic Point designated as savanna in the future vegetation map layer of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve online interactive map. The boundaries of this area are intended to be indistinct, with savanna grading into adjacent prairie and woods.

Comments:

The John T. Curtis definition of savanna can be summarized as “less than 50% tree canopy with savanna/prairie herbaceous ground layer.” This short vegetation summary should be included in the description of the area.

For this named area it should be stipulated that the development of indistinct boundaries for the savanna area is intended to be done without reducing either the total closed canopy area or the edge-to-area ratio of closed canopy of the adjacent named woods areas.

Also, on the current future vegetation layer, when savanna is chosen from the map layer legend, Eagle Heights Gardens lights up as part of this savanna area. This is clearly an error that should be corrected regardless of the fate of this proposal. When Eagle Heights Gardens is chosen from the map layer legend, it lights up correctly and the savanna area is displayed correctly.

Changes to web pages:

[[List all web pages that would need to be edited if the name change is adopted. For web pages requiring more than a simple substitution of the name, propose changes to text of web pages consistent with the name change.]]

Map:

A color map is below with the savanna area in light brown, and a B&W version.

