

Grand Prairie Friends

In December 2021, Apex Clean Energy distributed a \$70,000 conservation grant on behalf of Ford County Wind to Grand Prairie Friends (GPF) to support the Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve.

About the Prospect Cemetery Prairie Natural Reserve

Located in Paxton, Illinois, the Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve represents the tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once covered east-central Illinois. The remnant five-acre patch of tallgrass prairie and black oak serves as a habitat to a diverse mix of grassland birds, reptiles, insects, and plants. Nearly 80 species of native herbaceous flowering plants and grasses have been identified within the Prospect Cemetery Prairie, 21 of which are not found elsewhere in Ford County.

GPF leveraged the donation into matching funds that allowed for the purchase of Prospect Cemetery in May 2022 and the creation of a long-term management plan to ensure the nature preserve conservation easement is upheld for this imperiled habitat.

The leveraged grant will also:

- allow for a conservation endowment, land maintenance, and legal defense fund, providing long-term protection of the preserve
- fund advisory support from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to consult on prescribed burns, invasive plant management, and brush management



About the Apex Conservation Grant Program

As a company with a core value of sustainability, Apex Clean Energy endeavors to not only minimize our projects' impacts, but also promote an ecological balance. Through the Apex Conservation Grant Program, each renewable energy project commercialized by Apex will contribute a sum of money, proportional to the size of the project, to support local or regional wildlife conservation, reforestation and flora restoration, protection of sensitive habitats such as grassland or wetlands, and other environmental conservation initiatives in or near project communities.