

Friends of Ryerson Woods program: How did prairies influence Frank Lloyd Wright?

- FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT ARCHITECTURE
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We in the Chicago Region owe much to [prairies](#), including rich soils that became the foundation of Illinois agriculture. Midwestern prairie expanses also shaped architecture—specifically the uniquely [American Prairie School of architecture](#). On Thursday July 19, David

Bagnall, curator and director of interpretation for the [Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust](#), will present a [program, hosted by Friends of Ryerson Woods](#), describing some ways in which prairie landscapes influenced [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) and other architects. Bagnall will talk about how the prairies of our region inspired the strong horizontal lines, open interiors, and other design elements that came to be known as the Prairie School of architecture.

Tallgrass [prairies](#), home to a wide [diversity of grasses, wildflowers](#), and animals, once were common throughout Illinois and the Midwest. The region's original prairies were plowed to make way for development and farms; [less than 0.1% remains](#). Ecological research and [restoration activities](#) throughout the Midwest strive to save and improve the health of remaining prairie remnants.

The Prairie School architecture talk is part of "[Lessons from the Prairie](#)," a year of programming organized by Friends of Ryerson Woods, that explores lessons we can learn from the prairie ecosystem, as well as what human society can learn from natural systems more broadly.

[Friends of Ryerson Woods](#) is a not-for-profit organization headquartered in the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area near Deerfield, IL. Their innovative programs are presented against a backdrop of stately woods where native animals and plants find refuge. Friends of Ryerson Woods seeks to build an environmental ethic in the Chicago region by offering multiple points of entry for the public to connect with nature. To accomplish its mission, many Friends of Ryerson Woods' programs blend nature and culture, and engage visitors through the arts.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/friends-of-ryerson-woods-program-how-did-prairies-influence-frank-lloyd-wright>