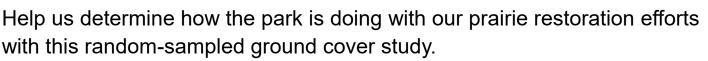


How much biodiversity is within

our mixed-grass prairie?



Your help is appreciated! No prior science or botany knowledge is needed.

Materials:

- 1. Clipboard with this paper and a pencil
- 2. Round, metal hoop
- 3. Adventure pack with field guides and a magnifying glass (optional)

Directions:

1. Choose a location. (See location section below.)



- 2. Drop the hoop in the vegetation near the trail. You will be kneeling on the ground so choose a spot wisely.
- 3. Look in and around your hoop. Make sure there are no animals (ie: snakes) or plants (ie: thistles) that can harm you.
- 4. Answer the questions on the back of this page as well as you can. Feel free to use the field guides, iNaturalist app, or a park ranger to help you.
- 5. Bring all materials back to the visitor center. Turn in your completed ground cover questionnaire to a ranger. Please leave artifacts and plants where you found them.

Location (pick one then describe where on that trail):

Sample: Knife River Trail WHERE? West side of trail, 10 steps north of bench

Prairie Trail just north of visitor center WHERE?

Lower Hidatsa/Sakakawea Village Trail WHERE?

North Forest Trail (prairie area) WHERE?







Preliminary Observations:

- 1. Is your spot in the sun or shade?
- 2. Are there trees or buildings around your spot? If so, where?
- 3. Has your spot been disturbed? (le: mowed grass)
- 4. Are there any bugs or insects in your spot? If so, how many different kinds? (Identify them if you can.)
- 5. What day and time are you making this observation?

What's in your Hoop?

Look closely at the plants in your hoop.

- 1. How many different kinds of flowers do you see?
- 2. How many different kinds of green plants do you see?
- 3. How many different kinds of grasses do you see?
- 4. What is most common in your hoop: grass, flower, or shrub?
- 5. Describe the most common plant to the best of your ability. Use field guides to help you identify it (optional).
- 6. Use the rest of the page to describe and identify as many plants in your hoop as possible.