

40 Feet at the Southview Prairie



Wonder what all the flags behind Southview High School along the bike trail represent? A new pipe line? A sprinkler system?

Actually... Rare plants found in the Oak Openings Region. The Olander Park System, in cooperation with the Sylvania School District and a regional collaboration involving The University of Toledo, The Nature Conservancy and the Metroparks of the Toledo Area, is restoring this endangered plant community and recently initiated a plant monitoring project to gauge the success of our work. We've singled out 40 feet of this site to demonstrate how critical this habitat is for the survival of certain species in our region. This gradient of rare plants continues the full length of the tract, and is emerging upland with the removal of the forest that has grown up during the last 150 years of fire suppression. It is representative of the plant community that was historically found in the Sylvania area.



The red flags represent the globally rare State Endangered **Missouri Rock-Cress**. The plant was "rediscovered" in the Oak Openings Region in 2000 at the Kitty Todd Preserve. Also found at the Southview Prairie is the State Endangered **Sessile-Leaved Tick Trefoil**.



The yellow flags represent State Threatened species found in this section. Other threatened plants found on the site include the stark yellow **Hairy Puccoon**, the diminutive **Dwarf Dandelion**, **Racemed Milkwort** and **Rough Pennyroyal**, the fragrant **Sweet Fern**, the delicate white **Sand Cherry**, and the ephemeral **Canada Frostweed**. At the eastern corner, the interesting **Porcupine Grass** works its seed into the ground in a corkscrew fashion.



The blue flags represent the State Potentially Threatened **Wild Blue Lupine**. The Wild Lupine is of particular importance to the Federally and State Endangered **Karner Blue Butterfly**, as this is the only plant the larvae of the butterfly eat. Other State Endangered animals that live in similar habitat are a bird, the **Lark Sparrow**, and a large and charismatic mammal, the **Badger**.

For more information or how you can become involved, please contact Erika Buri at 419-882-8313 ext. 29 or via email at OlanderPk@sev.org

