



Prairie Home Campus

Video Transcript

[Video: The words "IU" on crimson banner left]

[Video: The word "DAY" on red banner right]

[Video: Two banners come together to form IU DAY banner]

[Words appear and encircle top and bottom of IU Day banner: ALL IU. ALL DAY.]

[Words appear on black film strip with IU DAY banner at top: Prairie Home Campus]

[Music begins: Banjo plays]

[Video: Field of tall prairie grasses dotted with wildflowers gently swaying in the breeze.]

[Words appear: Tallgrass prairies once covered millions of acres in North America.]

[Video: Close-up of blades of prairie grass gently swaying with the breeze]

[Words appear: Now they've been reduced to about 4% of their original area.]

[Video: Grassy hill and field with wildflowers and mature trees in the background]

[Words appear: That makes this prairie at IU Northwest one of the rarest, most-endangered ecosystems in the world.]

[Video: Close up of a small white butterfly fluttering among wildflowers and grasses]

[Video: Close up of milkweed pod lying on a bed of compressed brown grasses.]

[Video: Professor Spencer Cortwright talking to another male while pointing toward the prairie.]

[Words appear: Thankfully, professor Spencer Cortwright has made it his mission to care for it.]

[Video: Professor Spencer Cortwright bent down examining something in the tallgrass prairie field dotted with wildflowers.]

[Video: Close up of a purple wildflower bud]

[Words appear: When he started on it in the 1990's, it was basically a weed patch.]

[Words appear: But these days the prairie is thriving with more than 200 native plant species.]

[Video: Close up of yellow blooms on a wildflower]

[Video: Close up of three white lacey blooms on a wildflower]

[Words appear: Maintaining the prairie is a lot of work. Pulling weeds, spreading seeds, clearing garbage ...]

[Video: Professor Spencer Cortwright walking along a path examining the prairie.]

[Video: Fire burning in the prairie]

[Words appear: And every spring Spencer and his crew burn the prairie.]

[Video: Man wearing yellow protective coat, hood, and a hardhat using a blow torch to set prairie grasses ablaze.]

[Words appear: They use rakes, flappers, and backpack water-sprayers to control it.]

[Video: Three men wearing yellow protective coats, hoods, and hardhats watching another man in the distance setting the prairie ablaze.]

[Words appear: The fire clears away dead vegetation and warms the soil to boost new growth.]

[Words appear: All the hard work hasn't gone unnoticed.]

[Video: Close up of a hand holding a seed pod from a wildflower.]

[Words appear: Spencer often hears thanks and praise shouted from cars as people drive by.]

[Video: Close up of a group of yellow wildflowers gently swaying in the breeze.]

[Words appear: If you're ever in Gary, stop by...]

[Video: Panoramic view of a of a tall grass prairie with yellow, white, and purple wildflowers blooming in the foreground and a mature stand of trees in the background.]

[Words appear: And enjoy one of the splendid restorations of America's rare tallgrass prairie.]

[Music: Banjo stops.]

[Words appear on black film strip with IU DAY banner at top: Prairie Home Campus]

[Transcript ends.]

