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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Grand Prairie Friends on the 50th anniversary of
4 the dedication of Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act
7 created a system for preserving and protecting areas of the
8 State as a part of the heritage of the people of Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois Nature Preserves are of value for
10 scientific research, for teaching, as reservoirs of natural
11 materials not all of the potential uses of which are now known,
12 as habitats for rare and vanishing species, as places of
13 historic and natural interest and scenic beauty, and as living
14 museums of the native landscape wherein one may envision and
15 experience primeval conditions in a wilderness-like
16 environment; and

17 WHEREAS, Illinois Nature Preserves contribute generally to
18 the public health and welfare and the environmental quality of
19 the State; and

20 WHEREAS, Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve,
21 located in Ford County, was officially established in 1976 to

1 protect and conserve the remnant mesic black soil tallgrass
2 prairie of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie
3 Natural Division; and

4 WHEREAS, Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve is
5 recognized as a high-quality pre-settlement prairie remnant
6 situated within Ford County's oldest cemetery, established in
7 1859, and the southern third of the site retains intact
8 prairie reflecting pre-European settlement conditions, making
9 it an important natural area within east-central Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve
11 provides critical habitat for a diverse array of plant and
12 animal species, including at least 131 species of native
13 herbaceous forbs and grasses, of which 21 are found nowhere
14 else in Ford County, including prairie blazing star, prairie
15 gentian, cream wild indigo, and green milkweed; it also hosts
16 characteristic tallgrass prairie species, such as big
17 bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem, and prairie dropseed;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Prospect Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve offers
20 opportunities for walking, birding, and nature photography,
21 allowing residents and visitors to experience a living remnant
22 of the Grand Prairie that once covered east-central Illinois
23 preserved within a historic 19th-century landmark; and

1 WHEREAS, The stewardship of Prospect Cemetery Prairie
2 Nature Preserve has been supported by Grand Prairie Friends
3 and dedicated local partners, community members, and
4 conservation advocates with additional support from
5 organizations such as the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
6 and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the past 50 years, Prospect Cemetery Prairie
8 Nature Preserve has contributed to the protection of Illinois'
9 natural heritage and serves as a valuable natural resource for
10 the residents of Ford County; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Grand
13 Prairie Friends on the 50th anniversary of Prospect Cemetery
14 Prairie Nature Preserve and commend its ongoing commitment to
15 conservation, education, and stewardship; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Grand Prairie Friends as a symbol of our respect
18 and esteem.