These small patches (remnants) will not persist into the future without some management action. Because the prairies are defined as treeless areas, the invasion of trees and brush is the most common threat. In addition, there are non-native flowers and grasses that can outcompete our native prairie flora.

Here are some common management actions:

**Fire**
- Removes thatch
- Promotes soil warming
- Favors warm season grasses
- Kills some trees and brush

Only trained individuals should attempt prairie burns!

**Removing woody species**
Some woody species are tolerant of fire and must be killed by other methods. Herbicides can be used on cut stumps. Another method is the removal of the outer bark (girdling), which will kill trees over a year or two. Cutting alone will not kill some trees, and will only offer short-term benefits.

**Removing non-native plants**
Some non-native plants can be controlled with fire and herbicides. Some require removal by hand.

Hill prairies are island-like patches of prairie vegetation occurring on otherwise wooded steep slopes. This prairie vegetation usually occurs on the slopes, where a combination of factors such as the south to west-facing slope aspect, steep slope angle, dry prevailing winds, and well-drained soil result in droughty conditions. Other common names for hill prairies include bluff prairies, goat prairies, and prairie openings. Hill prairies likely never formed large continuous belts, but were fragmented by forested ravines that dissect the uplands.

**What's found there?**

**Common Flora**

- Pasque flower and Bird's-foot violet
- Leadplant, Purple prairie clover, and Coreopsis
- Silky aster, Cylindric blazingstar, and Grey goldenrod
- Little bluestem and Side-oats grama

**Interesting Fauna**

- Lizards, such as the prairie racerunner pictured above, are found on hill prairies.