

Oak Savannah



While it is hard to know for certain, at the time of European settlement, around 1830, the area of Bristol Woods was part of a mixed habitat which included elements of what we now call Oak Savanna, Tall Grass Prairie and Upland Woods. Early descriptions of the area refer to large tracts of open ground and to fires, set by Indians, moving across the prairies West of the settled areas along the lake. Oak Savannas are transitional areas between open tall grass prairies and woodlands. Because of the lack of fire and agriculture, less than 1% of Wisconsin's Oak Savannas remains today. The burr oaks on the edge of the woods and in the middle of our restored prairie gives testimony to this history.