

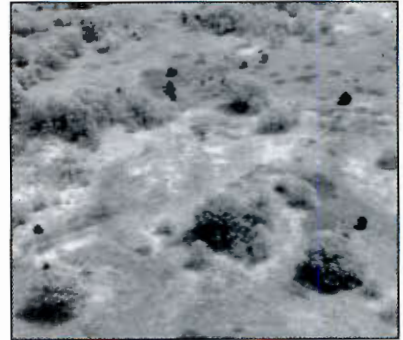


*View across prairie dominated by little bluestem and sand dropseed east toward the hill prairies and forests of Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve.*



*View from plant level of a blowout, a wind-sculpted sand formation.*

the level of the floodplain. Two such sand terraces were formed in northwestern Illinois along the Mississippi River. One stretches 2-3 miles wide and 15 miles long between Bellvue, Iowa and a few miles north of Savanna, Illinois. The second, broader sand terrace stretches from south of Savanna to Fulton. Most of the second terrace is now irrigated cropland while about half of the first is home to the largest remnant prairie in Illinois. This prairie ranges from open sand deposits sculpted by the wind to sparsely vegetated areas of cacti, grasses, and forbs to denser areas of taller grasses and aromatic sumac shrubs. At the south end of Lost Mound the sand terrace is 50-70 feet above the floodplain. The elevation decreases to the north and the vegetation grades from prairie to



*Bird's-eye view of sand prairie and savanna at Lost Mound. Note open sand areas, black oaks (both live and dead), eastern red cedar (dark shorter trees) and aromatic sumac (gray circles near top).*



*The overlook gives a view of the Mississippi River and steep edge of sand terrace capped by black oaks.*



*Typical view of sand prairie in spring with prickly-pear cactus, june grass and spaces between plants.*