

Seed Packet

Eventually

The prairies were
not always here. They
were ice. Glaciers ground
away, picked up earth and took it

elsewhere.

Grew and

shrank with the seasons. It all went
away, it will all come

back;

wearing down

the stone.

One day, moss

joins the lichen clinging

for life on the rocks.

Dead matter

makes soil, just enough for a

million

tiny

events

to take root.

They sprout, bud, bloom, wither, bud, bloom

But not now.

Change did not happen quickly.

It is anticipatory.
Slow.

It will come

with the un

bearable weight

of ice

moving

across the land.

Excavation

Selection from the 2004 Soil Survey of Kane County

the Fox, Kickapoo, Mascouten, Illinois,
and Potawatomi tribes inhabit
along the River and establish
along the hills and prairies to the west.

In the River
valley, abundant
forests, a river
, fertile land, and stone outcroppings

The original boundaries

The historical pattern

is made possible by
the river .

The major streams flow south and east into
the River, which eventually empties
drains

private and public

market value

products
products

dollar producer

producing

owned

owned

increase

average

connections between
incorporated and unincorporated areas.
are available

special services
disabilities.

serve local
needs; however, they do not support
commercial

service

service

service

employment opportunities. office and
research facilities along the tollway
corridors. Industrial land uses

Major
industrial development areas in Aurora, Elgin,
Montgomery, Geneva, and St. Charles.

the first freeze in fall and the last freeze in spring.

the last freeze in spring
and the first freeze in fall.

The growing
season for most crops falls within this period.

The sun shines
of the time possible
prevailing

The Prairie

The history of settling in neat Christian houses
of parceling land in homesteads for development
(~~when the land was already lived on~~)

That noble inheritance from the French, later, the English:
the goddamn simple life.

Next door neighbor to plain, to suburb
spirals of houses,
square, barren lawns, and a pit
for the water, since the wetlands are gone.

Empty.

And the basement floods.

How To Play With Fire

1. wind
2. burning low, low
 smoke on the air
 blotting the orange orb of dawn
3. a million tiny hungry embers eat
 the straw of winter's fare
 watered down by morning dew
4. chewing uphill past the dirt firebreaks
 sticking to clothes and hair
5. keep it hot, fed, corralled
 watch your cotton jeans

When I say (shout) BURN IT DOWN!!!!!!
 I'm not thinking about a wildfire
 burning high and fast, skimming tops off grass and leaving
 stems behind.
 I'm thinking of a low, smoldering wall
 of heat moving uphill, against the wind.

It's not sexy.

But it's the only way to clear the overgrowth
 for thistles, asters, indigo, pitcher sage