

Wilson's Creek NP Featured

Two stories about Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Missouri – one dealing with eradication of non-native plant species that now cover the battlefield and the other describing the study of the endangered "bladderpod" (*Lesquerella filiformis* Rollins), appeared in the November 1984 *Courier*.

The prairie restoration program now in its third year is described by Hayward Barnett, seasonal park technician at Wilson's Creek. The fescue, red cedar, and Osage orange are being replaced with native prairie grasses and forbs, a few tracts at a time. The restoration program is now in its third year, with management proceeding according to standard prairie practices. The story describes the series of steps the fields must go through to bring them into native prairie – annual hay harvest, fertilization, and alternate seeding in summer and fall with wheat and sorghum/sudan/crossgrass mixture. Following the third year of this cycle, the fields will be seeded with a mixture of typical prairie grasses and forbs such as big and little bluestem, Indian grass, switch grass, coneflower, purple prairie clover, and sunflower.

The bladderpod is on the Missouri endangered species list and is a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A population of bladderpod was found along the walking trail on historic Bloody Hill in the park and a special use permit was issued to the Missouri Conservation Department for a three-year study. The field work in 1984 is described by Lori Leitle, park technician at Wilson's Creek. According to Leitle, cooperation between NPS and Missouri Conservation Department personnel on this effort to ensure survival of the bladderpod has been so successful that future projects now are planned.