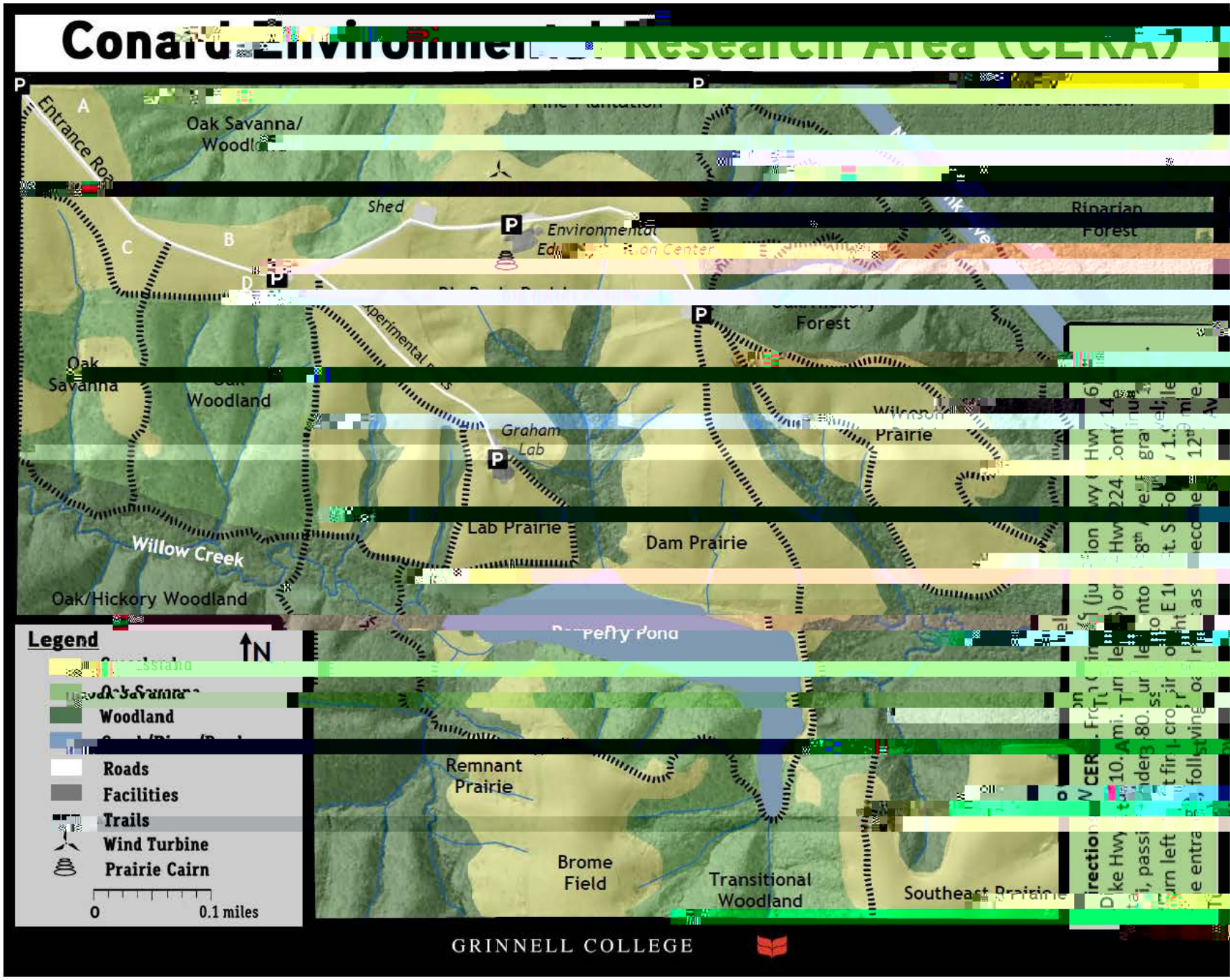
Conard Environmental Research Area (CERA)
A
B
C
D
Entrance Road
Oak Savanna/
Woodland
Shed
Environmental
Education Center
Riparian
Forest
Pine Plantation
Experimental Prairies
Oak
Savanna
Oak
Woodland
Graham
Lab
Wilson
Prairie
Lab Prairie
Dam Prairie
Willow Creek
Oak/Hickory Woodland
Peppery Pond
Remnant
Prairie
Brome
Field
Transitional
Woodland
Southeast Prairie
Legend
N
Woodland
Roads
Facilities
Trails
Wind Turbine
Prairie Cairn
0
0.1 miles
GRINNELL COLLEGE

Conard Environmental Res[illegible] (CERA)

The [illegible] Research Area (C[illegible] named to honor Grinnell College faculty member and botanist He[illegible] used for teac[illegible] research, and quiet enjoyment by the Grinnell College community and the public.

Mission

CERA pre-serves and, through [illegible] recreates a part of Iowa's vanishing natural heritage, provid-ing a resource for the entire college, local schools, environmental groups, clubs, and the general public.

Regulations

1) CERA is open to the public for **quiet enjoy[illegible] during daylight hours**
2) The EEC is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays.
3) **Motorized vehicles/ATVs are only allowed on the roads, not trails.** Please park in designated areas.
4) B[illegible] not on the woodland trails. Horses are prohibited.
5) **Dogs on leash** may accompany hikers.
6) **W[illegible] the marked tra[illegible]** mowed firebreaks. You may leave the trails, but please do not enter the experimental plots. **Do n[illegible] research equipment,** flags, stakes, or markers.
7) **Ke[illegible]** pick flowers or disturb plants, fungi, or animals. **Fishing and hunting are prohibited.**

Contact

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equipment for aquatic studies, and serves as a caretaker [illegible] 2005 and constructed using environmentally-friendly systems and materials: geothermal heating/cooling, gray water recycling, and renewable local building materials. It contains two classrooms, resto[illegible] lab, office, kitchen, potting room, and greenhouse. The EEC is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Wind Turbine (50 k[illegible] over 90% of the energy needs for the EEC, reducing CERA's carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use by 200,000 [illegible] per year.

Prairie Cairn, a sculpture by Andy Goldsworthy, w[illegible] built in 2005, as part of a larger cairn series with additional installations on the east and west coasts.

A: Fall Burn Prairie is burned each fall to demonstrate the effect of [illegible] and rapid warming of [illegible] soil and growth of plants in the spring.

B: Deaner Prairie [illegible] is burned every 2-3 years.

(ty[illegible] ice plants: thimbleweed, [illegible] and false boneset are abundant.

[illegible] **Burn Prairie** has not been burned since 1992. A[illegible] organic material accumulates and decays naturally. The grasses are much less vigorous [illegible] this prairie, making forbs' and w[illegible] more visible throughout the summer.

Experimental prairie plots are burned each spring, [illegible] fall or left unburned and are mowed or not mowed (to simulate grazing), allowing students to study and [illegible] effects of fire on prairie organisms.

Experimental forest plots are b[illegible] allowing students to study and document the effects of fire on [illegible] organisms.

wide range of species: little bluestem, side-oats grama, and leadpla[illegible] along moist seeps.

Oak Savannas once formed the boundary between prairie and forest, and are now one of Iowa's rarest plant communities. Ongoing [illegible] restoration at CERA helps to support populations of prairie violet, bead grass, purple oxalis, New Jersey tea, cream gentian, and other plants that [illegible] partial sunlight.

Oak Woodlands develop more diverse groundcover when fire-intolerant trees are [illegible] and sunlight penetrates the canopy. Bottle-brush [illegible] virginia wild rye, bent grass, Pennsylvania and [illegible] sedges, and numerous forbs carpet the ground.

Oak-Hickory Forest was probably forested for 1000 years until a railroad company logged [illegible] 1860's. Over the [illegible] shagbark hick[illegible] migratory song-birds.

[illegible] River consist of green ash, walnut, silver maple, [illegible] Skunk River once meandered are spring-time breeding grounds for amphibians.

Walnut Plantation was planted in 1970 to black walnuts. [illegible] found beneath and adjacent to the tree canopy provided by the plantation, along with reed canary grass.

Perry Pond was constructed in 1972 to provide a site for [illegible] aquatic hab[illegible] feet deep and supports largemouth bass, bluegill, golden [illegible] intermittent streams, including Willow Creek.