

**MS-661: David Nolin Huffman Prairie Research Collection**

**Collection Number:** MS-661

**Title:** David Nolin Huffman Prairie Research Collection

**Dates:** 1981-2018

**Creator:** Nolin, David, 1958-

**Summary/Abstract:**

David Nolin was the director of conservation for Five Rivers MetroParks in the Dayton region. In this position he led land acquisition and habitat management programs. After actively working on the restoration of Huffman Prairie State Natural Landmark, he decided to write a book about the history and importance of Huffman Prairie. This collection contains the materials and documents used by Nolin in his job and research of Huffman Prairie. Materials primarily include photographs, maps, correspondence, and news clippings.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 2.03 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092, [library-archives@wright.edu](mailto:library-archives@wright.edu)

**Restrictions on Access:**

There are no restrictions on accessing most material in this collection. Oversized materials in this collection are stored off site. Please contact us at least two days in advance if you would like to research this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-661, David Nolin Huffman Prairie Research Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:**

The David Nolin Huffman Prairie Research Collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by David Nolin in September 2019.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Separated Material:**

There are some maps in this collection that have been separated to oversize storage due their size. The oversize items consist of 4 maps and 1 poster.

**Other Finding Aid:**

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms661.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

**Related Material:**

MS-369: Beaver creek Wetlands Association Records  
MS-45: Five Rivers Metro Park Records  
MS-639: Explorer Post 72 Records  
MS-128: Miami Conservancy District Records  
MS-652: Archives of the Upper River Fund

**Publication Note:**

Nolin, David. *Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie*. Kent: The Kent State University Press, 2018. (Available in the reading room at call number TL506.U6 N65 2018.)

**Processed by:**

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Allison Gibbs, April 2021.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in two series:  
Series I: Subject Files, 1981-2018  
Series II: Photos and Negatives, 1984-2003

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

David Nolin was born in 1958 and grew up in Fairborn, Ohio. He was active in Explorer Post 72 and graduated from Fairborn Baker High School in 1976. He enrolled at Wright State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in biology in 1980 and a master's degree in biology in 1984. In 1985 Nolin took a job with the Park District of Dayton – Montgomery County (now called Five Rivers Metroparks). Nolin became the district's first land steward specialist and served as director of conservation for the next 30 years (1985-2015). Nolin was responsible for habitat management and land acquisition. During his time as director, he helped procure and protect thousands of acres of land vital to Dayton's history and wildlife. Nolin was also involved with many projects to help restore Huffman Prairie. Nolin has also been active in the Beaver creek Wetlands Association.

Nolin began to write his book *Discovery and Renewal on Huffman Prairie*, after his retirement in 2015. Nolin's book was published in 2018 and was the winner of the Regional Non- Fiction Award by the Independent Book Publishers Professional Group.

## **Scope and Content Note:**

Series I, Subject Files, includes primarily paper documents broken down into research categories by creator David Nolin, with original folder titles and arrangement retained. Document types include maps, newspaper clippings, correspondence, flyers /brochures, and scholarly articles. Topics include various prairies, soil, vegetation, and wildlife, as well as historic individuals with ties to Huffman Prairie, such as Israel Ludlow, William B. Werthner, and John W. Van Cleve. Dates of the materials span from approximately 1981-2018. Also included in Series I are the subject files that were collected by Terri Lucas and given David Nolin. These files have been kept together. Materials in the Terri Lucas files include plant surveys, information on John Van Cleve, and newspaper clippings / articles.

Series II, Photographs and Negatives, primarily cover different events and projects at Huffman Prairie. Some are photos of native plants and wildlife, while others document the restoration process and projects such as controlled burning and seeding. Notable pictures not of the prairie include volunteer gathering and celebrations of The Nature Conservancy. Dates of the photos and slides span from approximately 1984-2003.

## **Subject Terms**

### **Persons/Families**

Nolin, David, 1958-  
Ludlow, Israel, 1765-1804  
Van Cleve, John W., 1801-1858  
Werthner, William Benjamin, 1855-1929

### **Organizations/Corporate Names**

Five Rivers Metroparks

### **Places**

Huffman Prairie Flying Field (Ohio)—History  
Huffman Prairie State Natural Landmark (Ohio)  
Dayton (Ohio)

### **Subjects (General)**

Prairies  
Land conservation

### **Material Types**

Photographs

### **Occupations**

## Collection Inventory

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series I: Subject Files</b>			<b>1981-2018</b>
1	1	Press	1984-2002
1	2	Moths	1996-2000
1	3	Aerial Photos	Undated
1	4	Photos	Undated
1	5	Ron and Liz Cramer	1996-2000
1	6	Draft A of Huffman Prairie book	2016-2017
1	7	Draft B of Huffman Prairie book	2017- 2018
1	8	HPCA Deeds	Undated
1	9	TNC Restore Ohio	1991-1996
1	10	Prairies – General	1984-1986
1	11	Prairies-Ohio	1982-2016
1	12	Prairies – Sandusky Plains Book	2015
1	13	Prairies- Tennessee	1981
1	14	Soils and Geology Survey	1991
1	15	Pearl’s Fen	1985
1	16	Ludlow Notes [Israel Ludlow]	2017
2	1	Ludlow Bio and Information [Israel Ludlow]	Undated
2	2	Frick Ditch	Undated
2	3	Prairie Garden	1985-1997
2	4	Ohio Journal of Science Article	1985
2	5	Flying Field	1985-2001
2	6	Werthner [William B. Werthner]	2003-2015
2	7	Letters	1982-2008
2	8	Landmark Designation	1986-1989
2	9	TNC Correspondence	1994-2002
2	10	Restoration	1990-2002
2	11	Surveys of Plant and Animal Species found at Huffman Prairie	1988-2014
2	12	Maps	1981-2015
2	13	Aerial Maps	Undated
2	14	Articles and Publications	1985-2002
2	15	Native Americans and Early Prairies	2011-2015
3	1	Huffman Vegetation Data Sheets	2014
3	2	Massasaugas Rattlesnake	1993
3	3	Jonathan Van Cleeve and Flora [John W. Van Cleeve]	1988
OS		Oversize maps	
OS		Poster	
3	4	Terri Lucas Part 1	1984-2003
3	5	Terri Lucas Part 2	1984-2003

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series II: Photos and Negatives</b>			<b>1984-2003</b>
4	1	Photos 1992	1992
4	2	Photos 1993	1993
4	3	Photos 1994	1994
4	4	Photos 1996	1996
4	5	Photos 2000	2000
4	6	Photos 2001	2001
4	7	Photos 2003	2003
4	8	Military Photos	Undated
4	9	Prairie Burning	Undated
4	10	Prairie Planting	Undated
4	11	Prairie Harvest	1993, undated
5	1	General Prairie Photos	Undated
5	2	Negatives	Undated
5	3	Slides	1984-1986, undated