

DEFINITION OF HABITATS FOR MO DIRT SURVEY SITES

This is a guide to determine the type of habitat you are using for your soil health surveys. Because there are variations on the definition of some habitats, here we provide general descriptions of the habitats for the MO DIRT surveys.

NATURAL HABITATS

FOREST: Is a natural habitat with great canopy cover and different layers of vegetation where leaves and branches often meet or interlock. Consequently, in forest there is lots of shade and rarely the sun light reaches the ground. Forest habitats can cover large extensions.



WOODLAND: Is a habitat with large spacing between trees and only low vegetation underneath. Thus, light easily penetrates through. This type of habitat tends to cover small areas and have fewer kinds of plants and animals than forest.



PRAIRIE (or natural grassland): Is a natural habitat with a mixed vegetation of perennial herbaceous plants growing between grasses. Some prairies are the result of a restoration process with native species.



ANTHROPOGENIC HABITATS

GRASSLAND: Is a habitat dominated by grasses (native and or no native). It could result from the seeding with grass species (e.g. hay fields) or from the abandonment of disturbed habitats (e.g. croplands, animal pasturelands, eroded or flooded areas, logged forest, etc.).



ANIMAL PASTURE: Is a habitat cover with grasses where domestic animals feed on this vegetation (e.g. cattle, horses, sheep, etc.).



CROPLAND: Is a habitat where crops are grown.



NOTE:

Orchards and vegetable gardens are not habitats of the MO DIRT project unless they are at least one acre in size.

