Prairie Warbler

There’s a tiny little prairie over at Rice U,
That provides a treat for me and you,
It’s preserved due to efforts by two men,
Who were determined that restoration must begin.

Harris Gully used to flow through the campus,
It was dug up and covered and left cattywampus,
Out of sight out of mind was the attitude,
But that old gully defied the platitude.

The water still managed to flow overland,
Where Harris Gully used to stand,
And a detention area eventually developed,
And by grass and brush it became enveloped.

From this chaos was born the little Rice prairie,
A gift dropped upon us by the good prairie fairy,
A small bit of nature began to push through,
And the birds and bunnies showed up on cue.

A few days ago we were in this grassland,
When along came a man who was a birding fan,
He had a camera with a huge, long lens,
Seeking the prairie warbler rather than wrens.

Now a prairie warbler is a relatively rare bird,
Not often seen and seldom heard,
Yet here in the city in a tiny reserve,
The prairie warbler had found a preserve.
Even though small, this prairie’s a temple,
Just give nature a chance – just keep it simple,
Allow seeds to germinate and grass to sprout,
And soon you’ll have critters all about.

There’s a moral to this story about Earth Church,
You don’t need huge acreage to have worth,
And the prairie warbler found a spot here at Rice,
What a happy ending – isn’t it nice?

So welcome to Earth Church,
Pull yourself up a pew,
Pray that small natural treasures
Bring you something new.