

Weekly Wild Wednesday

September 2nd, 2020

Hi Everyone,

It has been such a fun and productive week! Everything is moving along much quicker than anyone anticipated. There is an abundance of interest and enthusiasm. It seems that an outdoor project with home members or small groups just feels so 'right' in our current situation. Conversations about butterflies, flowers, bees, and birds seem to be easily sustained-- independent of any 'hot topic' issues in our small community.

Updates:



PILOT PROJECT:

"The Flower House"

Committee Includes:

Contact: Ruth and Mercedes

Plant Selection, Installation, Maintenance, and Design:

Dianne

Dotty

Elisa

Jeanne

Hoping for several other Enthusiastic Members

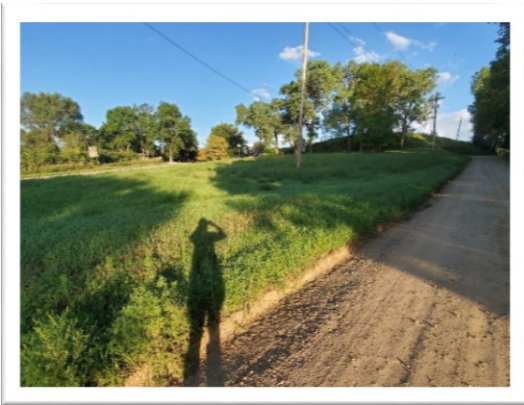
Wish List This Fall:

- Ideas and builders to help with trellis structures. Edging Idea -for back yard- to collect and hold leaves and debris neatly under trees
- Master, Maintenance plan complete. Ongoing a Work In Progress.

Citizen Science: Steve, who lives a few blocks away with a huge garden, has many Natives, Cultivars of Natives, and Ornamentals. He loves the idea of comparing the insect and bird activity between his own plants, and then as a comparison also to the Natives at *The Flower House*. He has invited us all for a garden tour to help us pick Native plants matching his cultivars.

Partner Project #1

“The Friends Prairie Pocket”



Oh my goodness, this took off. The City Engineer, Parks Manager, Stone State Park Ranger, and the Friends of Stone Park are all aligned and all paperwork is complete. It took only three days. WOW!! The Parks and Rec. Manager brought the paperwork out, picked it up, delivered it personally to the City Engineer who signed the same day. Who says the City is not cooperative!

Friends called a special meeting in addition to their Monthly meeting to meet on site Tuesday September 1st. LHWO presented a “Native Plant” sign at this meeting as a token of appreciation for their care of this tiny remnant/restoration. The sign was pre-approved by the Friends President and Secretary as ‘to their taste’.

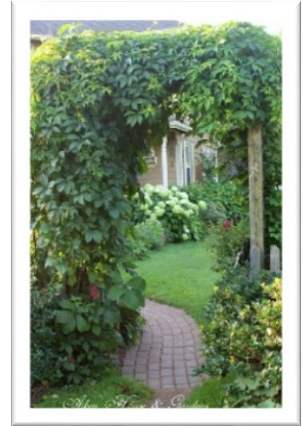
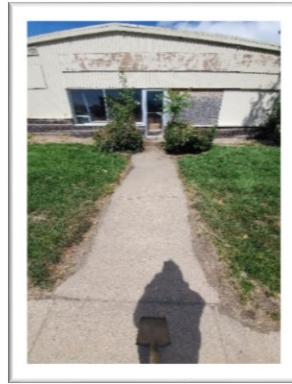
- Master, Maintenance, and ongoing plan-- guidance rough outline
- Ongoing current and potential future Volunteer positions for this project.
- Friends are committed -in writing- to re-file all City paperwork yearly

Citizen Scientists: Unlimited potential:

- Accessible Site
- Prairie Education
- Plant ID
- Wildlife ID
- (Very Safe) Burns vs Mowing comparisons
- Building neighboring Buffer Zones for Park Properties and Nature Preserves

Partner Project #2

“The Guarantee Roofing Project” (to be named by Charese)



Charese literally heard the word “Garden” and said “Yes”. I said “Publicity” and she said “Awesome!” We looked over the site, and it is MUCH different than the “flower pot” rough idea I had described to all of you as follows:

- There is already much garden infrastructure in place, installed by Charese’s mother.
- There is a Native Virginia Creeper (near the glass door) identified by Dianne.
- Charese said she has a builder who will make a trellis to start the Virginia Creeper (Plant of the Week) climbing, **so we can train them in the future as outlined in the photo far right.**
- There are several Common Milkweeds.
- Sara photographed for the ‘before’ pictures on Monday.
- 4 hours of volunteer work completed for clean up this week
- Charese said she would cover costs for this project—without any ‘ask’ whatsoever.

Master, Maintenance, and Ongoing Plan all a work in progress. Charese will be the Site Contact, and we are gently asking around the entire company (lots of employees) to ‘feel out’ interest.

When I have a good sign board and descriptions, I will put a sign-up sheet at the Main Office and go from there!

Citizen Scientists:

- Concrete Jungle area habitat test project
- Insect ID
- Bird ID
- Natural Japanese Beetle control on the vine
- Near Floyd River Corridor--potential to build/showcase connectivity over next several years

Looking forward to the next Weekly Wild Wednesday!