

## Loess Hills 'Hidden Wild' Project

By Ruth M. Rose

Chris Helzer has been a great inspiration and guide in preserving and restoring the Wild! When I first read his book *Hidden Prairie*, I was so excited about starting a Hidden Wild Citizen Science Project of my OWN size, in my OWN space! You can do this, too! From a Planter to a Prairie, find YOUR Hidden Wild!

# HIDDEN PRAIRIE

PHOTOGRAPHING LIFE IN ONE SQUARE METER  
CHRIS HELZER

## Hidden Prairie



Chris Helzer

Director of Science

The Nature Conservancy - Nebraska

I watched a *Hidden Prairie* Video to see Chris' incredible photos and get an overview of his project, and then headed

out to mark a spot of remnant prairie next to Stone State Park that is easily accessed by Talbot Road, March 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023.

I put an old mailbox on a post, and included a notebook, pencils, a copy of *Hidden Prairie*, and two old sling chairs. I invited anyone who I saw and our Members from Loess Hills Wild Ones to stop by any time and contribute by observing the plants and wildlife they saw! I asked that they record them with photographs and notes. The photographs are sent by text or email. I am keeping them in a file to put on the Loess Hills Wild Ones website at the end of four complete seasons of observation!

Recently, four Loess Hills Wild Ones members measured and set up Site # 2 of three planned sites.

This site, called 'The Flower House', is located in a residential area and was planted from Lawn to Life with Native plants in spring of 2021. Dotty, Ruth, Lilly, and Dawn Left to Right. Selfie by Lilly, 8 years old!





[illegible]

Three spiral-bound notebooks are shown, each featuring a different butterfly-themed project. The left notebook is titled "The flower House" and displays three colorful butterflies. The middle notebook is titled "Wild Mess in Progress" and also displays three colorful butterflies. The right notebook is titled "Friends Pocket Prairie" and displays three colorful butterflies. All three notebooks have the text "Hidden Wild Project" written at the bottom.

## One Space at a Time!