

## Earth Partnership for Schools: Establishing Roots and Seeds for Multiple Generations

November 2011

By Brad Guhr  
Prairie Restoration/Education Coordinator  
Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

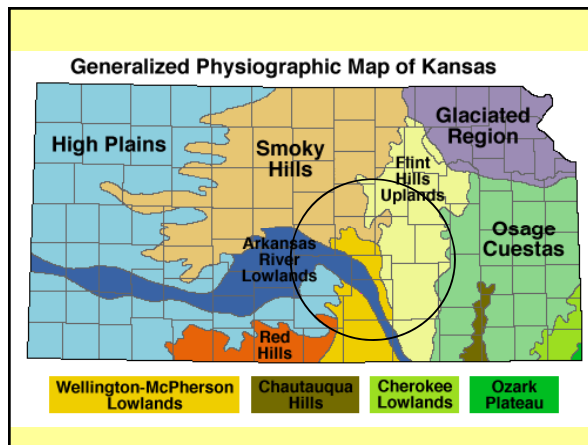
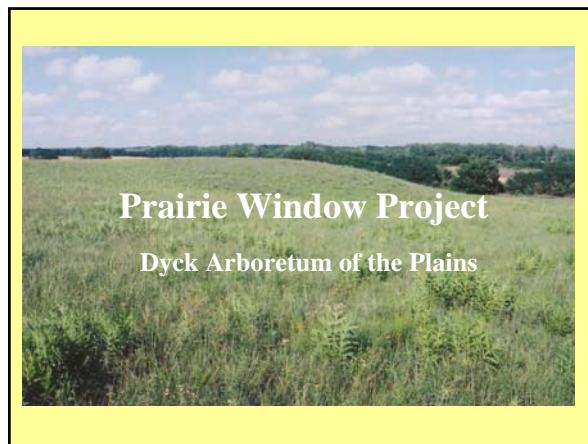
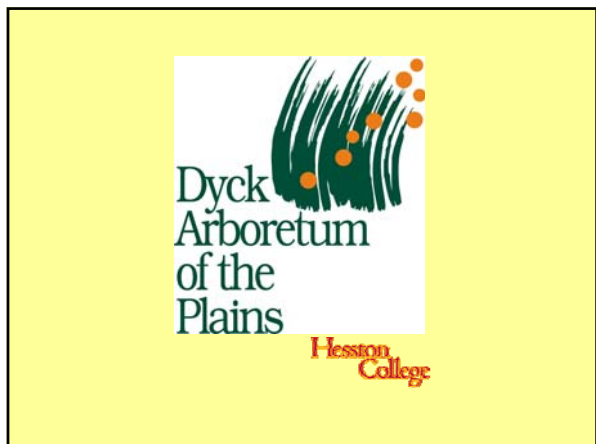
[www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org)



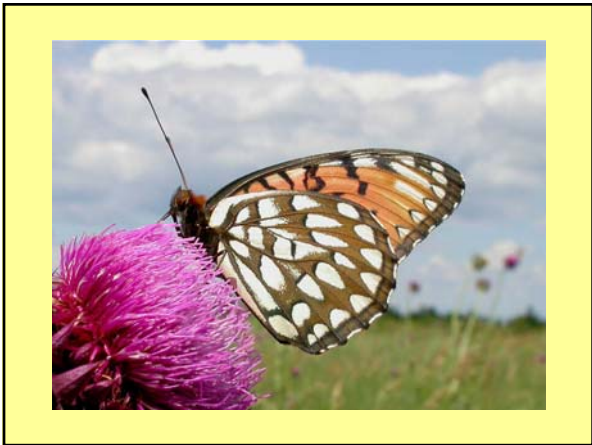
Dyck Arboretum's mission is to educate people about the benefits of appreciating, preserving and utilizing native and adaptable plants.

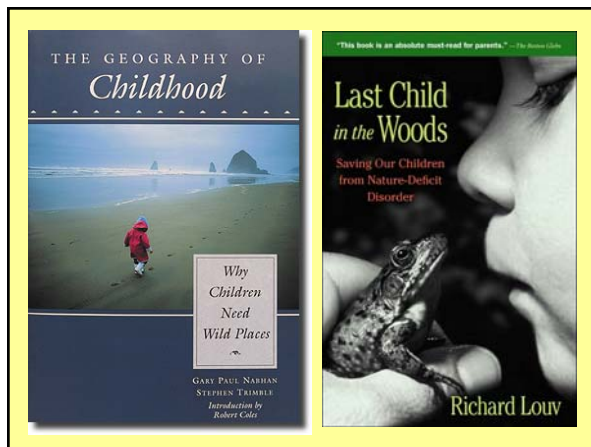


As Walt Whitman explained more than 100 years ago: "While I know the standard claim is that Yosemite, Niagara Falls, the Upper Yellowstone and the like afford the greatest natural shows, I am not so sure but the prairies and plains, while less stunning at first sight, last longer, fill the esthetic sense fuller, precede all the rest, and make North America's characteristic landscape."





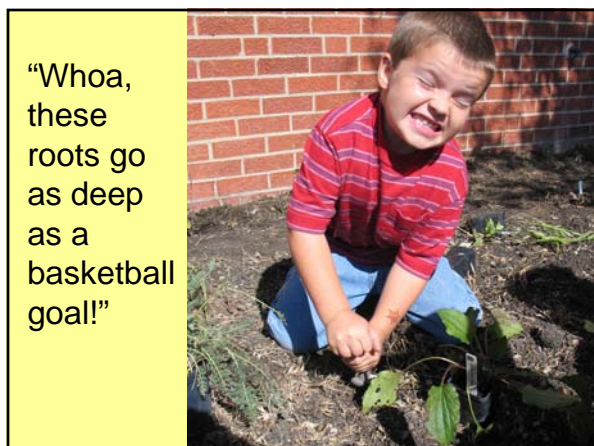




**Earth Partnership for Schools—  
Teacher Professional Development Model**

- Interdisciplinary School Teams
- 40-hour Summer Institute Series (June 4-8, 2012)
- 3 Hours Graduate Credit (tuition discount)
- Program Materials & Curricular Activities
- On-going Support



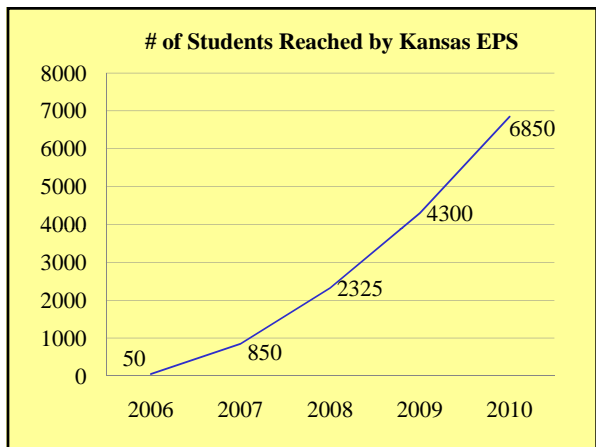


### EPS Impact in 2007-2008

2007 EPS Summer Institute & Follow-up Winter Institute

31 Teachers

800 kids




### On-going School Support

- Curricular Support
- Inquiry in the Classroom
- Access to Field Equipment
- Networking Opportunities
- Free School In-services
- Site Visit Consultations


### Steps in the Institute— Developing a Native Site

### Investigate Site History

### Study the Model



### Perform Site Analysis



### Choose a Native Site to Plant



- Rain garden
- Butterfly or Bird garden
- Sensory garden
- Prairie garden
- Shade garden
- Ethno-botanical garden



- Large scale ecological restoration:
  - Woodland
  - Savanna
  - Wetland
  - Prairie

Use your imagination!

### Plan the Site



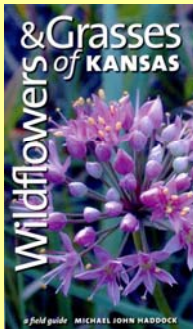

#### Create a Design



#### Layout the Design



### Choose the Native Plants

(from Prairie Moon Nursery catalog)  
[SunsetGardensNotes.v2.pdf](http://SunsetGardensNotes.v2.pdf)

EPS PLANTING TEMPLATE		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Sia bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	grass
aromatic aster	Aster oblongifolius	sunflower
lutescent grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	grass
blue grama	Bouteloua gracilis	grass
round-headed bushclover	Lespedeza capitata	legume
blazingstar	Liatris punctata	sunflower
Kansas gayfeather	Liatris pycnostachya	sunflower
switchgrass	Panicum virgatum	grass
pitcher's sage	Salvia azurea	mint
little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	grass
compassplant	Silphium laciniatum	sunflower
cup plant	Silphium perfoliatum	sunflower
prairie dock	Silphium terebinthaceum	sunflower
grey goldenrod	Solidago nemoralis	sunflower
rigid goldenrod	Solidago rigida	sunflower
indiangrass	Sorghastrum nutans	grass
orange garlic	Allium stellatum	lily
wild onion	Allium canadense	lily
common milkweed	Asclepias syriaca	milkweed
butterfly milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	milkweed
hurlock milkweed	Asclepias verticillata	milkweed
blue false indigo	Baptisia australis var. minor	legume
purple poppy mallow	Callirhoe involucrata	mallow
coreopsis	Coreopsis palmata	sunflower
Canada wildrye	Elymus canadensis	grass
Junegrass	Koeleria cristata	grass
Missouri evening primrose	Oenothera macrocarpa	primrose
penstemon	Penstemon digitalis	figwort
blue penstemon	Penstemon tuberosus	figwort
grey-headed coneflower	Ratibida pinnata	sunflower
black-eyed susan	Rudbeckia hirta	sunflower
spiderwort	Tradescantia ohiensis	spiderwort
golden alexander	Zizia aurea	camely

### Prepare the Plot



Mulch the site with wood chips



Remove weed barrier

### Plant the Site

Northside Elementary,  
Middleton, WI

Sunset Elementary,  
Newton, KS



Gaenslen School,  
Milwaukee, WI



### Prairie Planting Day



### Prairie Planting Celebration



### Learn How to Manage the Site



### Mulching





Imagine the Endless Possibilities:



To Make School Grounds Welcoming!



Before ...



...and After

Invite Butterflies and Birds!



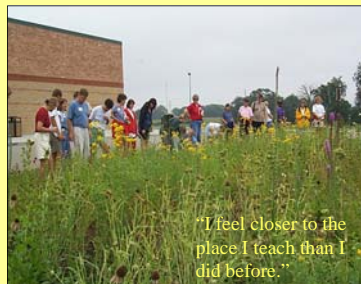
Add Life to a Hard Place!



### Create Plantings in Small Spaces



### Sense of Place: Teachers



"[School] is pretty cold and sprawling, pretty sparse...the prairie brings a little humanity."

"I feel closer to the place I teach than I did before."

### Sense of Place: Students

In September I choose a place on the prairie. In this place in the prairie I felt totally at ease with nature and insects. I felt like I could stay there forever. I felt I could let nature take over. I felt content and happy, and even though I was far from everyone else I felt like I wasn't alone.

(5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student)



"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."  
-- Aldo Leopold

