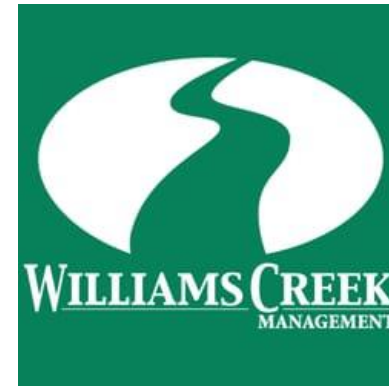




HOA & Church Conservation Workshop and Bus Tour

August 26, 2017



Special thanks to Mark' O'Brien from Cardno Native Plant Nursery

Welcome

- ▶ Claire Lane
- ▶ Mac Williams
- ▶ Nick Steadman
- ▶ Sue Fisher

- ▶ Agenda
 - ▶ Presentation
 - ▶ Tour



- ▶ What are these projects?
- ▶ How?
- ▶ Why?

What are the projects?

- ▶ **Prairie/native plantings**
 - ▶ Small landscape style plantings
 - ▶ Near signage, landscaping, pollinator gardens, memorial gardens
 - ▶ Larger areas
 - ▶ Converting underutilized, high maintenance areas to habitat
- ▶ **Pond edge projects**
 - ▶ Filter/buffer strips
 - ▶ Emergent plantings
- ▶ **Rain gardens**



Larger prairie plantings/ pond edge filter strips





Why Do This?



When You Can Have This?

Why?

- ▶ Unused turf grass areas
 - ▶ Expensive to maintain - high inputs (fertilizer, mowing weekly, air pollution, costs)
 - ▶ Little value unless being consistently utilized
 - ▶ Not pleasant to recreate in generally
- ▶ Pond issues
 - ▶ Algae, Canada Geese, erosion, unsightly, little habitat
- ▶ Aesthetics, property values, habitat, beauty!



Installation

- What's the budget?
- The site conditions should dictate what species to use (pH, compaction, clay/sand, etc.)
 - Soil test
- Determine a diverse mixture of natives with staggered bloom times (custom or standard seed mixes)
- Require pure live seed (PLS)
 - Quality seed that germinates vs filler
- Proper site preparation
- Optimal seeding window Oct. 1st to June 15th
 - Frost seeding is ideal
- Maintenance is critical
- Cover crop is recommended



Other considerations

- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ Hydrology/moisture
- ▶ Slope - Erosion potential
 - ▶ Cover Crop (oats, rye) to prevent erosion
- ▶ Current vegetative cover - Seed bank
INVASIVES
- ▶ Sunlight
- ▶ Predation potential
- ▶ Invasive sources
- ▶ Vantage points
- ▶ Surrounding land uses



When to plant

Seasonal Considerations

- ▶ Oct 15 through June 15
- ▶ May be altered if irrigation can be provided
- ▶ Fall and Winter- favors forbs and sedges
- ▶ Spring- favors warm season grasses

Install options

- ▶ Broadcast vs. Drill Seeding
 - ▶ Vegetated vs. Freshly Graded Sites?
 - ▶ Soil Condition

Need seed- soil contact!



No till drill

- ▶ No till drill into dead vegetation/cover crop (herbicide)
 - ▶ Equipment rentable from Pheasants Forever, several SWCD's, or contractor install
 - ▶ Calibrating equipment is critical- need qualified operator



Hand broadcast/ broadcast seeder

- ▶ Kill existing vegetation
 - ▶ Smother
 - ▶ Turf removal
 - ▶ Herbicide (apply, wait for new growth, reapply, wait 10 days to seed)
 - ▶ Repeated tillage through growing season
- ▶ Even distribution of seed
 - ▶ Mix with carrier
 - ▶ Half one direction, half the other direction
- ▶ Roll or rake seed for good contact



Maintenance

▶ Year 1

- ▶ Mowing is critical in controlling weeds the first few years.
- ▶ Most of your weed pressure comes from annuals. Keep them from re-seeding.
- ▶ Mow (to 6-8 inches) when the vegetation reaches 12 inches or before it goes to seed.

▶ Year 2

- ▶ Weeds will continue to be an issue in the second season.
- ▶ In year 2 mow vegetation to 8 inches and mow when vegetation reaches 12 to 18 inches or before it goes to seed.

▶ Year 3

- ▶ Use mowing as a weed control and establishment tool when needed.

▶ Mow / remove thatch late winter each year (if desired)

▶ Spot treat weeds with herbicide

▶ Burning is a great option if possible

- ▶ Burn 1/3 every year
- ▶ Check local policies



Cost

1 acre planting

- ▶ 1 application of herbicide \$ 350 - \$ 450
 - ▶ Price includes herbicide and labor.
- ▶ Native seed mix ----- -\$ 400 - \$ 600
 - ▶ Diverse native mix customized for Monarchs and pollinators
- ▶ Drill seeded ----- \$ 300 - \$ 500
- ▶ Mowing for 2 seasons -- \$ 500 - \$ 750
 - ▶ Priced at 5 mows, 3 the first season and 2 the second.
Critical maintenance factor needed the first few seasons.

Price range per acre -----\$ 1,550 - \$ 2,300

General estimate for contractor to install and maintain a 1 acre planting.

If entity has the ability to broadcast their own seed and cover the mowing, the out of pocket cost would be reduced.

SWCD estimates at ~\$1,200/acre (\$700-\$1,600)

Common problems:

Manage expectations - patience needed!

3 years for full establishment

Common causes of failure

- ▶ Planting too deep. Native seed should never be covered by more than 1/4" soil
- ▶ Hydroseeding or applying native seed mixed with hydromulch
- ▶ Poor quality seed: Always specify PLS
- ▶ Failure to maintain the planting
- ▶ *Failure is perceived* due to the slow germination and growth of natives





April 2006



May 2006



August 2006



June 2008

Pond buffer

- ▶ Install via drill or broadcast
 - ▶ May need erosion control fabric to secure seed
 - ▶ May require temporary goose fencing to exclude geese
- ▶ Emergent plantings
 - ▶ Native water loving plants planted in the water
 - ▶ Create habitat for fish, filter water
 - ▶ Protect shorelines
- ▶ Coir logs or other products might be necessary to remediate erosion. Can be vegetated





July 2015 (planted in May)



June 2017



Rain gardens

- ▶ Small, vegetated basins that capture and hold runoff from impervious surfaces, allowing it to filter down through the ground instead of running off.
- ▶ Benefits: Less runoff, filters stormwater, groundwater recharge, habitat, less grass, flood control potential.
- ▶ Large or small scale (commercial/parking lot or off of home, community building, or shelter house)
- ▶ Installation- determine size and percolation, excavation, planting, mulch.
- ▶ Maintenance - weeding, watering till established, remove trash, touch ups and sediment removal



HOA and Church Projects

- ▶ Getting stakeholders/neighbors on board
- ▶ No one size fits all success plan
- ▶ Prepare a plan including potential cost savings and budget if possible
- ▶ Introduce to HOA/Church leadership and community
- ▶ Be prepared for questions and a few negative people
 - ▶ Reworking what is expected in suburban communities
 - ▶ Everything doesn't have to be a turf golf course
 - ▶ Explain benefits (erosion, algae, recreation, habitat, COST SAVINGS)
- ▶ Info/education sessions
 - ▶ Clarifying timeline, visual expectations, address fears - adjust plans accordingly. Help parties feel integrated into planning.
 - ▶ Implement in stages - small success leads to larger adaptation

Other thoughts:

- ▶ Elements of care
 - ▶ Mowed edges
 - ▶ Signs
 - ▶ Bird houses
 - ▶ Edges
 - ▶ Walking paths
 - ▶ EDUCATION



Before and after...

- ▶ Facebook, NextDoor, HOA meetings, work days, signage on site, more education and signage during maintenance periods
- ▶ Monthly or quarterly updates
- ▶ Tours

- ▶ Clear communication with landscaping crews “no mow” areas



NATIVE PLANTS AT WORK!

My native plants soak up rainwater runoff from the roof, driveway and other hard surfaces on my property. Native plants are a great way to add beautiful landscaping to your yard and provide habitat for pollinators like birds, bees, and butterflies.

I'm making a difference! Join me!

HAMILTON COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District Contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District to see how you can make a difference! Support Our Greenways

Learn more at: www.hamiltonswcd.org

Restoration Maintenance in Progress

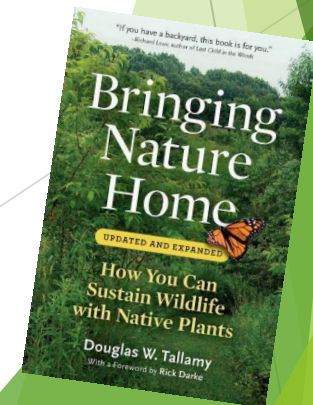
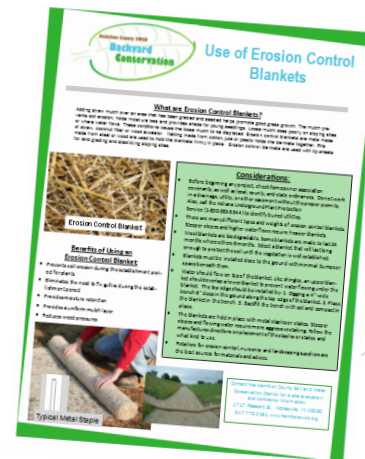
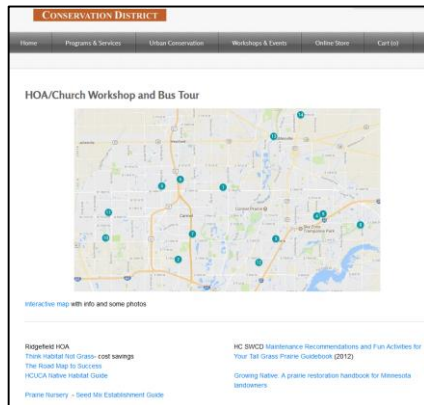
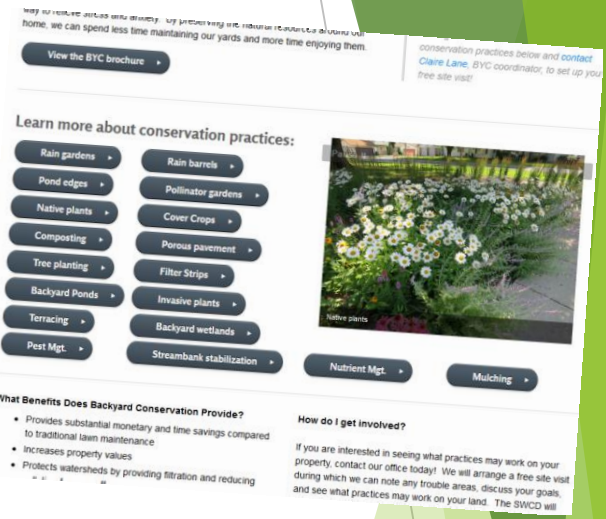
This planting of native prairie flowers and grasses is undergoing seasonal maintenance. Periodically cutting the vegetation helps manage weeds and encourage new growth. With proper care, this planting supports pollinators and enhances our community.



Learn more at www.hamiltonswcd.org

Resources

- ▶ Hamilton County Urban Conservation Association
 - ▶ www.hamiltoncountyuca.org/
- ▶ Hamilton County SWCD
 - ▶ Tip sheets
 - ▶ Identify sources of seed and contractors
 - ▶ Contractor/retailer lists
 - ▶ Where to Find Native Plants webpage
 - ▶ Event webpage
 - ▶ <https://www.hamiltonswcd.org/hoachurchtour.html>

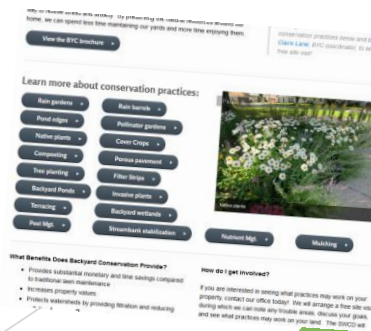


Resources



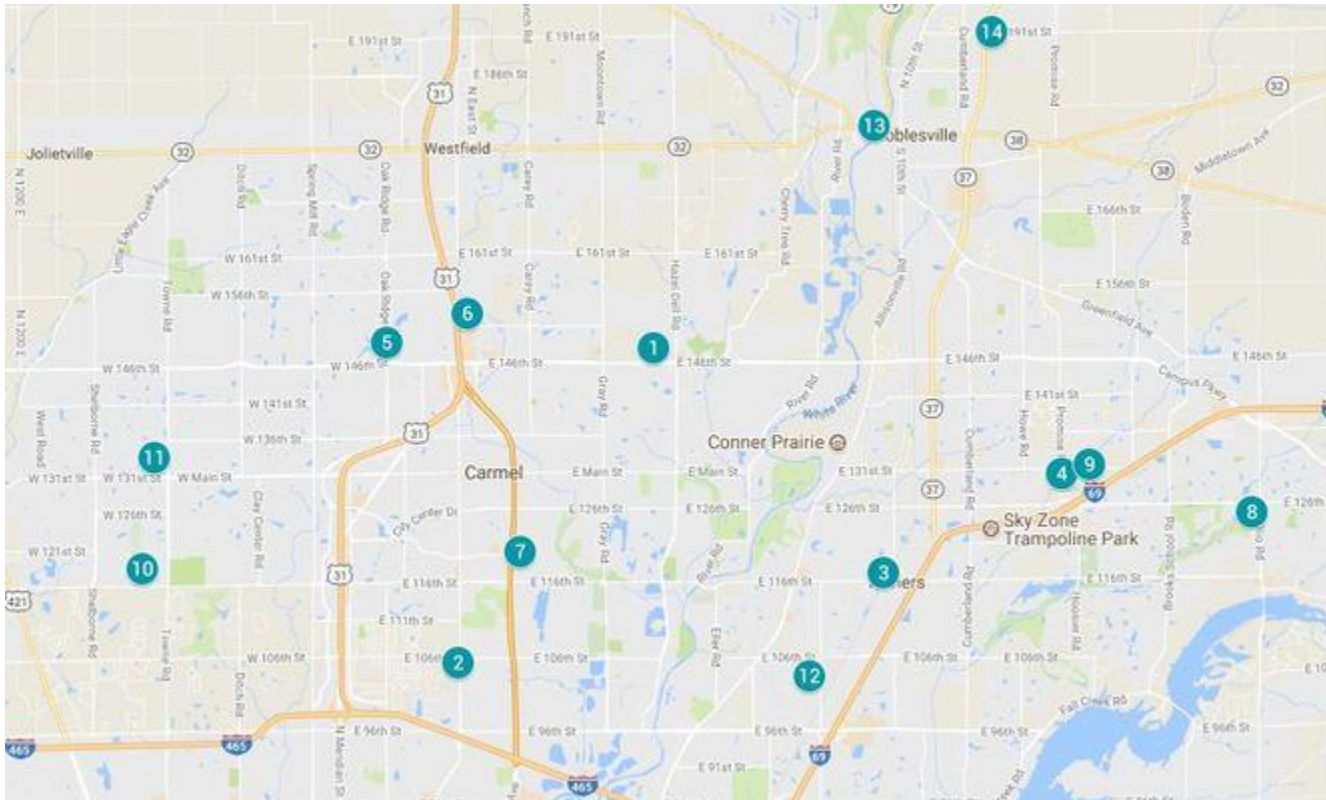
**Heartland Backyard
Conservation Program**

- ▶ Free site visits and personalized conservation plans
- ▶ Cost share- small grants to offset costs (\$1,000-2,000)
 - ▶ Deadlines in April and August
 - ▶ www.hamiltonswcd.org/cost-share-programs
- ▶ Options for privately owned land that is being used for agriculture - NRCS
- ▶ Workshops, speak at HOA meetings, articles for newsletters
- ▶ Soil testing
- ▶ Spring native plant sale
- ▶ Fall native tree sale
- ▶ Much more!



Event webpage

- ▶ www.hamiltonswcd.org/hoachurchtour
- ▶ Links, pdf's, slideshow, etc.



Seeing is believing...

- ▶ Tour 4 sites
 - ▶ 2 churches, 1 HOA, 1 municipal property
 - ▶ Other sites to look at are listed online and on your sheet
- ▶ On and off the bus multiple times, lunch on the bus between sites
- ▶ Time for questions when we return or on site

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