

School Garden Report 2024

Point of Discovery School



In 2024, a rain garden, using Wisconsin native plants, was installed at Point of Discovery School (PODS) Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The project was funded by the City of Stevens Point Public Utilities & Transportation Department and coordinated by Recycling Connections, a local non-profit organization. The project directly impacted approximately 30 students attending PODS, and indirectly impacted 142 students attending Point of Discovery School. This report summarizes the outcomes of this garden installation.



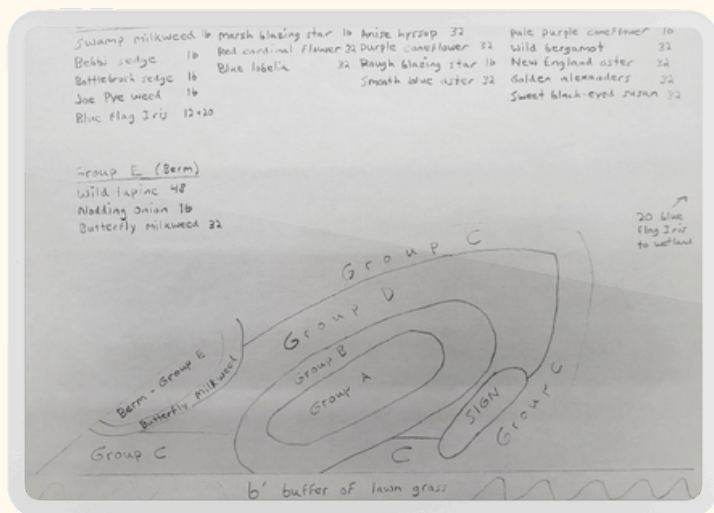
715.343.0722
Admin@RecyclingConnections.org
www.RecyclingConnections.org

Site Selection

Two sites were considered for this rain garden installation: a site by the Green Circle Trail at the back of the school and a site by the front sign. The front was selected for the visibility of the project and size being right sized for the scope of the grant. A sod cutter was used to remove the grass and donated to a local resident and a shallow swale (~12" deep) was dug to help capture stormwater from the site and keep it off the sidewalk. The excavated soil from this swale was used to create a berm on the S/SW-facing side of the garden.



Plan Drawings



Garden layout design by Paul Skawinski, Statewide Educator - Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

- Group A plants prefer the highest moisture levels & were planted at the bottom of the swale.
- Group B plants prefer moist soil and were planted on the edges of the swale.
- Group C plants have rigid stems and resist leaning/falling outside of the garden area. They help hold up other species that may lean from the interior of the garden.
- Group D plants include a variety of colors and heights to make up the rest of the interior of the garden.
- Group E plants are on the berm and will get the most sun. These are shorter prairie plants that grow no more than 2-3 feet.

Plant Species

The following plants were selected for the garden.

- Anise Hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*
- Aromatic Aster, *Symphotrichum oblongifolium*
- Bebb's Sedge, *Carex bebbii*
- Black Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Blue Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia siphilitica*
- Blue Flag Iris, *Iris versicolor*
- Bottle Brush Sedge, *Carex retrorsa*
- Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Golden Alexanders, *Zizia aurea*
- Joe Pye Weed, *Eutrochium maculatum*
- Meadow Blazing Star, *Liatri ligulistylis*
- New England Aster, *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*
- Nodding Onion, *Allium cernuum*
- Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*
- Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*
- Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*
- Rough Blazing Star, *Liatri aspera*
- Spiked Blazing Star, *Liatri spicata*
- Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*
- Sweet Black Eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*
- Wild Bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*
- Wild Lupine, *Lupinus perennis*

Stats

600

Plants

30

Students Planting

3

Cubic Yards of Compost

Installation Day



Progress Photos



5/15/2024 - After prepping



5/16/2024 - Installation Complete



8/14/2024 - Mulch added to help battle weed growth.



Certified as a Native Garden by the National Wildlife Federation

- ~600 native plants were planted
- Materials Purchased: edging, compost, deer/rabbit repellent
- Compost bin installed
- Laminated plant identification cards printed

More than 70 hours of time spent between volunteers, PODS educators, & community partners

Special Thanks

Funding: City of Stevens Point, Public Utilities & Transportation Dept. Stevens Point Area School Districts, Point of Discovery School

Community Partners

- **Joel Lemke**, Director of Public Utilities and Transportation, City of Stevens Point
- **Dan O'Connell**, Portage County Land & Water Conservation District
- **Amberle Schwartz**, Wild Ones Central WI
- **Susan Schuller**, Recycling Connections
- **Angie Hauer & Lesley Sheridan**, Portage County Master Gardeners
- **Chris Radford**, North Central Conservancy Trust
- **Paul Skawinski**, UWSP Lakes
- **Chris Budzinski**, Stevens Point Area School District

Point of Discovery School Planning team

- **Dan Lathrop**, Principal
- **Cathy Barbier**, Literacy Teacher
- **Katie Kollock**, Math Teacher
- **Camilla Freund**, AgSci Teacher
- **Gary Liebe**, Custodian



Supporters

This is a partnership project between the City of Stevens Point Public Utilities and Recycling Connections with the additional community partners listed here:



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