

School Garden Report 2023

Wisconsin River Academy, SPASH Garden Report



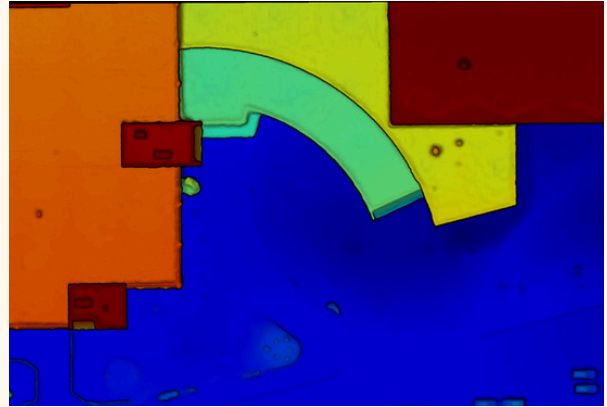
In 2023, a rain garden, using Wisconsin native plants, was installed at the Stevens Point Area Senior High (SPASH) by the Wisconsin River Academy (WRA), a charter school located within SPASH. The project was funded by the City of Stevens Point Public Utilities & Transportation Department and coordinated by the local non-profit, Recycling Connections. The project directly impacted approximately 67 students attending the WRA, and indirectly impacted 1,500 students attending SPASH. This report summarizes the outcomes of this garden installation.



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Site Selection

Aerial photos taken during a student lesson given on 5/5/2023 by guest speaker, Chris Radford, North Central Conservancy Trust. Students learned about slope and how to use modern technology, like drones, for natural resources management techniques. A common entrance was selected for high visibility of the garden.

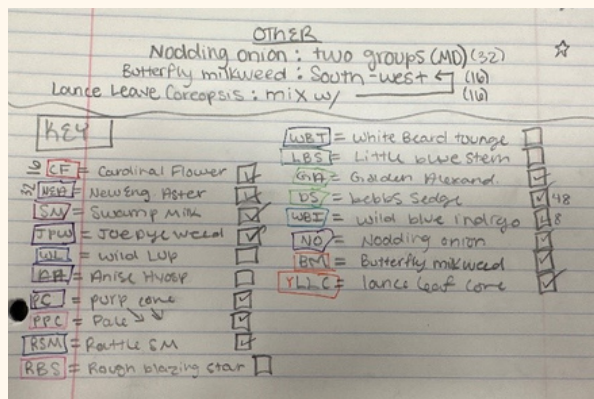


Plant Species

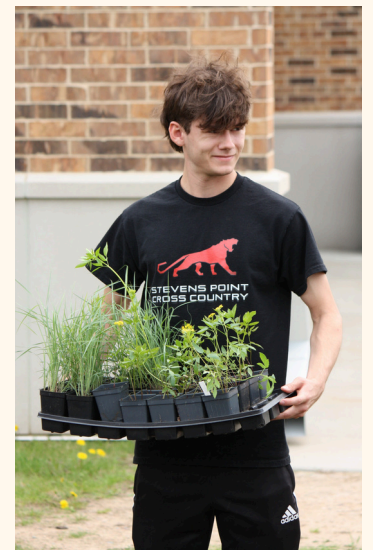
Students and teachers consulted with local partners from UWSP Extension Lakes and Central WI Wild Ones to select suitable plants for the soil type and conditions. The following plants were selected for the garden.

- Anise Hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*
- Bebb's Sedge, *Carex bebbii*
- Blue Wild Indigo, *Baptisia australis*
- Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
- Golden Alexanders, *Zizia aurea*
- Joe Pye Weed, *Eutrochium maculatum*
- Lance-leaf Coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*
- Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- New England Aster, *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*
- Nodding Onion, *Allium cernuum*
- Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*
- Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*
- Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*
- Rough Blazing Star, *Liatriis aspera*
- Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*
- White Beardtongue, *Penstemon digitalis*
- Wild Lupine, *Lupinus perennis*

Plan Drawings



Plan drawings by WRA, SPASH student Samuel Totzke



Stats

550

Plants

19

Students Planting

6

Cubic Yards of Compost

Progress: May Through September

May 18th, 2023

June 12, 2023



2023 was an exceptionally dry meteorological summer (June-August) in Wisconsin. Averaged across the state, only 8.14 inches of rain fell during those months, which makes this the 5th driest summer on record (to 1895). Despite the low rain fall and high temperatures, Portage County Master Gardeners helped water, maintain, and weed the garden during the summer months. By September the garden was well established and functioned extremely well as a rain garden.

July 16, 2023

September 26th, 2023





Certified as a Native Garden by the National Wildlife Federation

- 400 plants ordered and 150 plants donated from the Wild Ones
- Materials Purchased: edging, compost, deer/rabbit repel, 100 foot hose, handheld sprayer
- Compost bin installed
- Laminated plant identification cards printed

Special Thanks

Funding: City of Stevens Point, Public Utilities & Transportation Dept.

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

WRA Planning Team

- **Brian Swenson**, WRA Teacher
- **Glen Reindl**, WRA Teacher
- **Samuel Totzke**, WRA Student
- **Tahlia Moe**, WRA Student



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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