

Updates from the Healing and Renewal Prairie Ministry Team!

08/28/2025



What we have done the past two weeks:

- Planted plugs of native species that can be tricky to get to grow from seed. This included Big Leafed Aster, Kitten Toes, Leadplant, Rough and Prairie Blazing Star, Wild Geranium, Wild Petunia, Cream Indigo, Joe Pye weed, Side Oats, and Anise Hyssop.
- Continued development of the walking path. Our Master Garden Interns are working on Wattle Fences along the path.
- Removed some larger buckthorn trees that were somehow missed this spring. Thanks Peter Roen for bringing your chainsaw.

We continue to discover native species already present on the property. Last week we found two small Lead Plants (<https://www.prairiemoon.com/amorpha-canescens-lead-plant>). In addition to gorgeous purple flower stalks and longevity (decades) lead plant is drought resistant due to its remarkable root length - up to 15 feet!! (Yes, this is my favorite).

Other species include:

- Big Bluestem
- Little Bluestem
- Bee Balm (Monarda)
- Fewanther Obscuregrass (love the name!)
- Spiderwort
- American Elms! Likely relatives of the St Croix elm which is just down the street. This elm was found to be resistant to Dutch Elm disease and has been propagated by Bailey nursery.
- Hackberry
- Black Cherry
- Catalpa
- Black Walnut

*Fence and timbers are gone!

Brush piles

*Gone!

-- Heidi Kassenborg

07/30/25

This week, we'll be:

- * Planting a couple of flats of native species to highlight the new gathering space
- * Beginning the development of a walking path through the restored area

These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to restoring native habitat, removing invasive species, and creating a peaceful space for reflection and community.

What We Accomplished Last Week

Thursday Group

- * Planted several large **Anise Hyssop** plants (dug up from my prairie, they seem to have taken so I will bring some more)
- * Removed invasive species from key areas
- * Mapped the preliminary layout of the future walking trail(s)

Plant Sourcing Trip

Bruce and I visited Kinnickinnic Natives, a native plant nursery in River Falls. The nursery was offering a half-price sale on flats (32 plants per flat), so it was a great time to invest in species that are difficult to grow from seed. Bruce started his own prairie back in 1993 and brings a wealth of experience—I hope he'll be able to join us soon and share his knowledge with the group.

Fence Removal

A huge thank you to Terry Bath, Gerry Engebretson, and Gary Palmer, who took down the old day care fence. Gary has been working tirelessly (even in the extreme heat) to dismantle the very sturdy timber and metal construction.

If you're interested in reusing some of the timbers, please contact Pastor Karen.

From Heidi Kassenborg, MLC member and Prairie Enthusiast