

SHRIKE PRAIRIE GARDEN



DESIGN MANUAL

8/14/2023



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1

NOT A BLANK SLATE

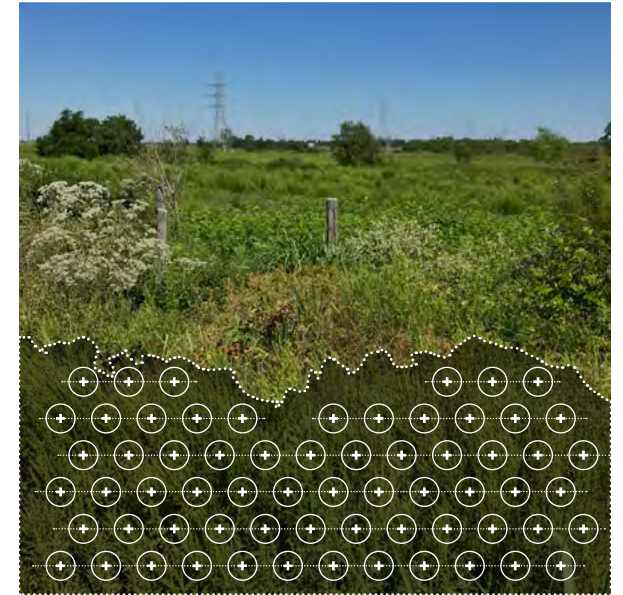
Planting has already begun and the garden is under way. What is needed is a unifying structure or pattern to help visitors understand and appreciate the beauty of the prairie landscape. Furthermore the native seed bank is not something to fight, but can be embraced as a resource to add diversity and spontaneity to the experience.



MOW SIX FOOT PATH



PLANT BETWEEN DESIRABLE SPECIES



PLANT WHERE INVASIVES ARE CLEARED

2

OK TO SWAP SPECIES

In the following pages specific plant species will be identified and called out for use, but the plan isn't dependent on any single species. Depending on availability, alternate species with similar characteristics can be substituted. It may also be found that alternate species are better adapted based on underlying site conditions.



Lanceleaf Coreopsis *Coreopsis lanceolata*

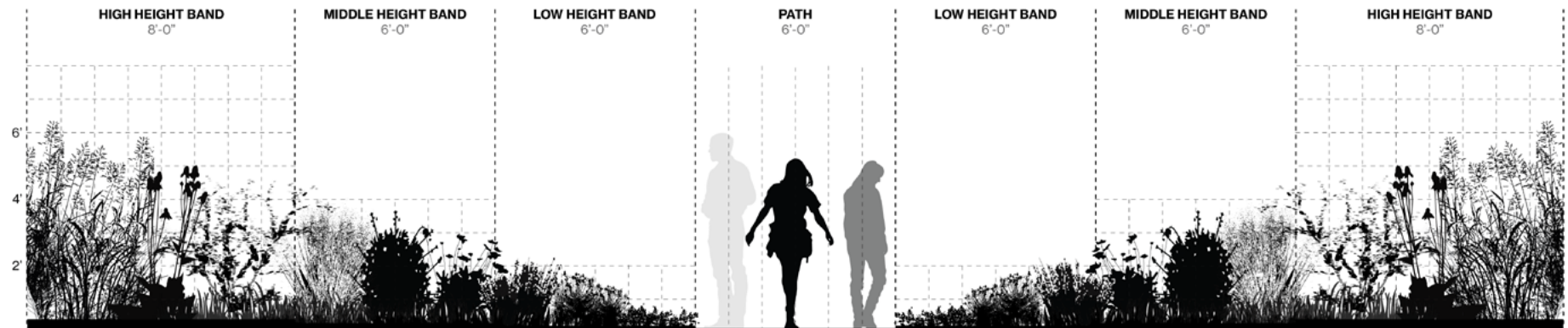


Plains Coreopsis *Coreopsis tinctoria*

3

PLANT BY HEIGHT

As a linear or border garden, the visitor's experience of the garden will be framed by the two sides. Plant species are selected and arranged to maximize the number of species the visitor can see. Three height bands- low, middle, and high- are conceptualized on either side of the trail. Groupings of plant species are assigned to each height band.



TEXAS CONEFLOWER
Rudbeckia texana

GULF MUHLY
Muhlenbergia capillaris

INDIAN BLANKET
Gaillardia pulchella

MEXICAN HAT
Ratibida columnifera

PURPLETOP TRIDENS
Tridens flavus

SNOW ON THE PRAIRIE
Euphorbia bicolor

PARTRIDGE PEA
Chamaecrista fasciculata

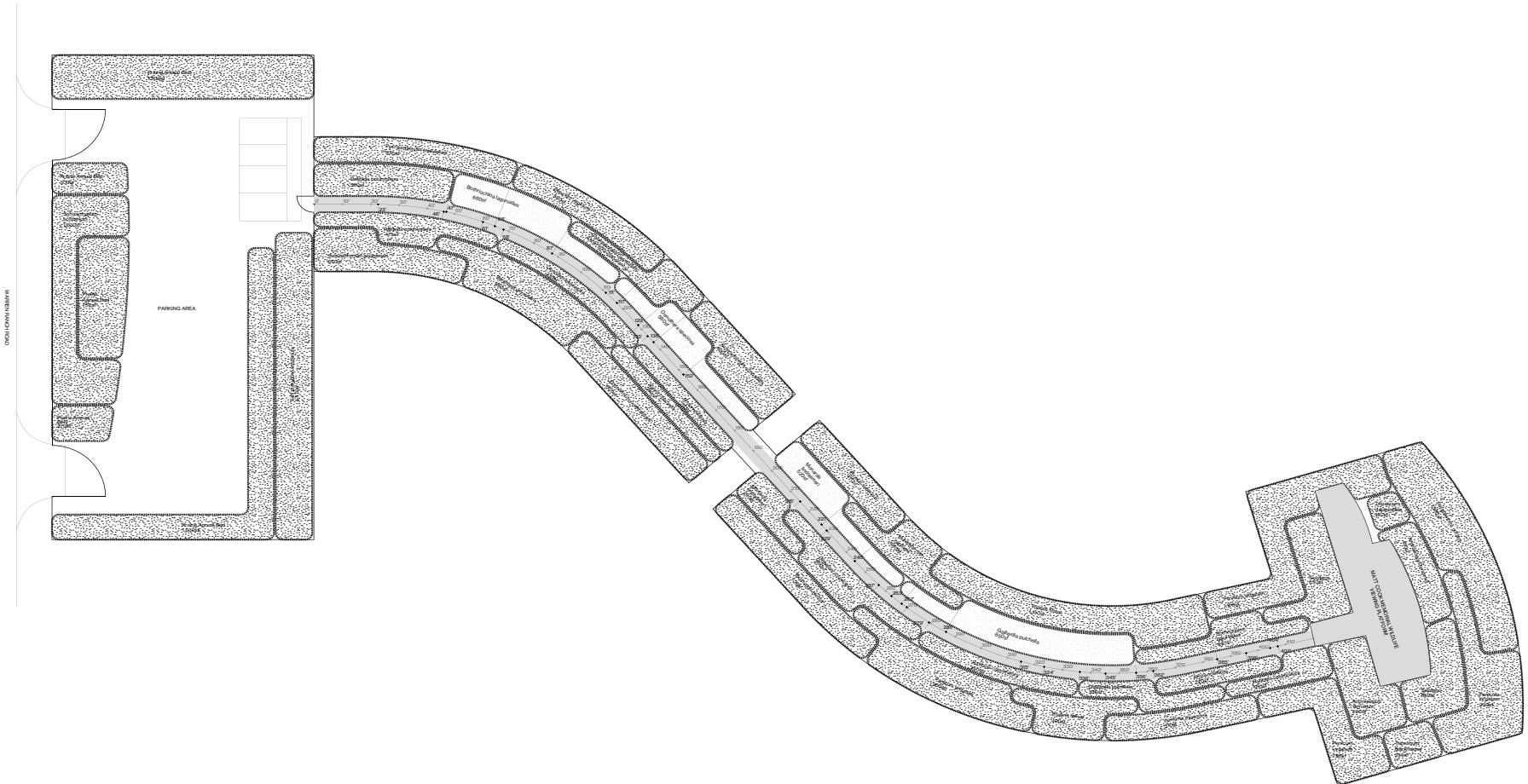
SILVER BLUESTEM
Bothriochloa laguraoides

FROGFRUIT
Phyla nodiflora

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PLANT BY ZONE

In a naturalized prairie landscape finding a specific plant or flower can be like a treasure hunt. Mass or block plantings in the prairie garden will help the visitor recognize and remember individual species by simplifying the complex patterns found in the larger landscape. Mass plantings are also easier to control and manage.

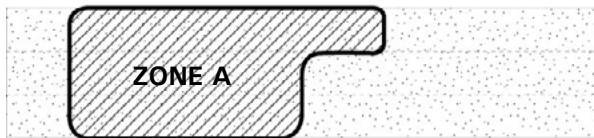


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ZONES WILL SHIFT

Prairie landscapes are dynamic systems and over time the boundaries of the zones will shift as individual plants spread through growth or by seed. Movement of the zones should be embraced as part of the life and evolution of the garden. Control can be re-asserted when height zones are compromised or to increase species diversity as necessary.

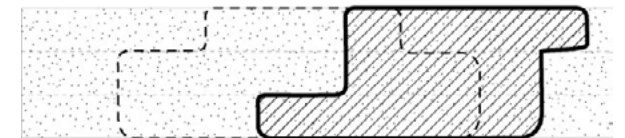
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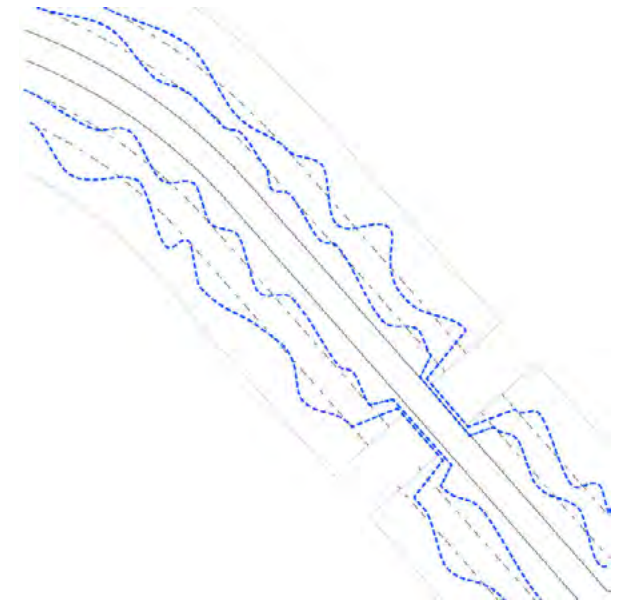
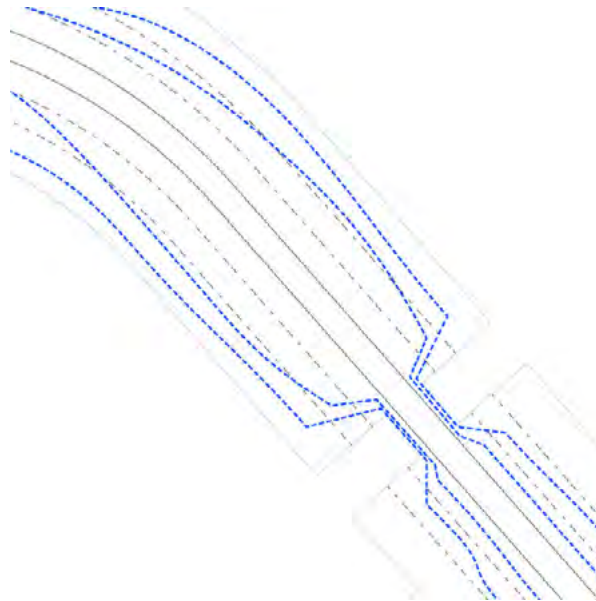
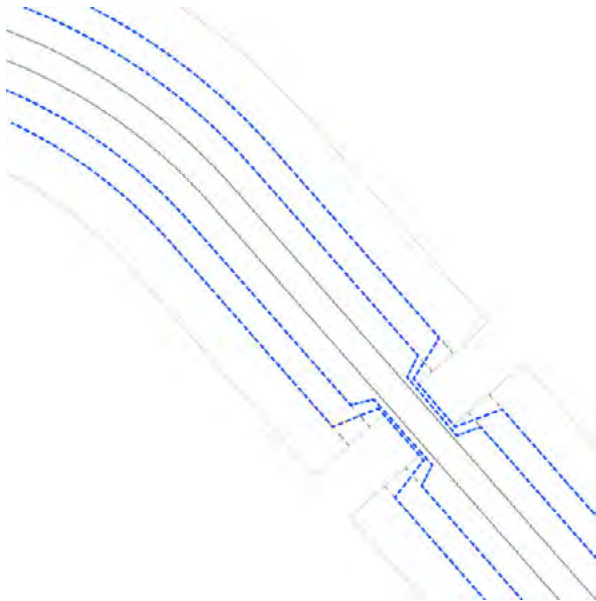
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6

FLEXIBLE IRRIGATION

Eventually irrigation should only be needed in extreme drought conditions. However, to start four flexible drip lines are called for to allow for periodic watering to help the new planting zones establish. Flexible drip lines are preferred because they are easily replaced and maintained and can be moved as needed to particular locations.



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REMOVE INVASIVES

Ongoing removal of invasive or undesirable plants will be required as the garden is established. This work is currently in progress and can be continued as needed. Specific species for removal are listed below. Removal creates new cleared areas that are ideal for mass plantings according to the zone plan.



Common Ragweed *Ambrosia psilostachya*

OTHER SPECIES TO REMOVE:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

WELCOME NATIVE BLOOM CYCLES

Annuals and perennials within the native seedbank add seasonal interest and should be allowed to continue to thrive. Annuals will be especially prevalent where soils are disturbed. The planting plan includes areas designated for annuals which can be maintained through periodic disturbance and reseeding as needed.



Gaura *Gaura lindheimeri*



Swamp Sunflower *Helianthus angustifolius*



American Basketflower *Centaurea americana*

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TALLGRASS AT BACK

Existing and newly planted tallgrasses have a place in the garden, but should be relocated or planted at the back along the fence line. These grasses can frame the edges and also work around the viewing platform where the visitor experience is elevated above ground level.



Indian Grass *Sorghastrum nutans*



Switchgrass *Panicum virgatum*



Eastern Gamagrass *Tripsacum dactyloides*

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HIGH HEIGHT BAND

Species for potential use at the Shrike Prairie Garden in the band furthest from the path are generally four feet tall or more and are listed below.

Scientific	Common	Height	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Silphium gracile</i>	Rosinweed	1-4'						X	X	X				
<i>Euphorbia bicolor</i>	Snow On the Prairie	1-4'							X	X	X	X		
<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>	Splitbeard Bluestem	1.5-4'								X	X	X	X	
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	2-4'			X	X	X							
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod	2-5'								X	X	X	X	
<i>Vernonia missurica</i>	Missouri Ironweed	3-5'							X	X	X			
<i>Rudbeckia texana</i>	Texas Coneflower	4-5'									X	X	X	
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late Boneset	3-6'									X	X	X	
<i>Salvia azurea</i>	Blue Pitcher Sage	3-6'									X	X	X	
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	4-6'					X	X	X	X				
<i>Tridens flavus</i>	Purpletop Tridens	2.5-7'								X	X	X	X	

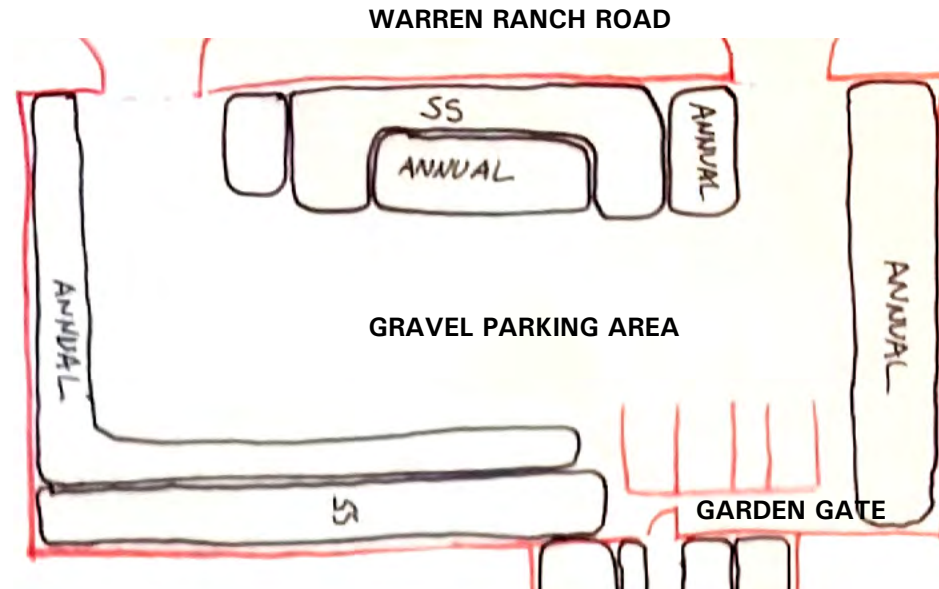
13

CREATE A GATEWAY EXPERIENCE

The road frontage and parking area are key opportunities to invite visitors into the prairie garden and to frame the experience. Informal yet striking, the parking area will use a single grass species as a backdrop for a rotating display of eye-catching native annuals. The mix of structure and spontaneity sets the tone for the prairie garden experience



Prairie Annuals



Concept Plan



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