



Arts & Beautification Commission Meeting Agenda
March 20, 2024 - 5:30 PM
Community Room, Police Department, 1st Floor
1212 5th Avenue, Rock Island, IL

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Amber Williams, Chris Conwell, Jodie Kavensky, Meghan Hollister, Mollie Owens, Michael Beale, Tara Malnar, Dionna Reed

3. Public Comment

4. Minutes

- a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2024.

5. Old Business

6. Other Business/New Business

- a. Presentation by Quad City Botanical Center on Riverfront Prairie Project
- b. Selection of first and second choices for four sculpture locations as part of the Public Sculpture Program by Quad City Arts.
 - Motion: Move to select 1st & 2nd choices for four sculpture locations.
 - VV Voice vote is needed.

7. Adjourn

This agenda may be obtained in accessible formats by qualified persons with a disability by making appropriate arrangements from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (309) 732-2010 or visiting in person at: 1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Rock Island Arts & Beautification Commission Minutes

Rock Island City Council Chambers, third floor

1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

February 28, 2024

5:30 PM



Voting Members Present	Chris Conwell Jodie Kavensky Amber Williams Meghan Hollister Mollie Owens Michael Beale Tara Malnar Dionna Reed
Voting Members Absent	
Staff Present	Kathryn Douglass
Guests	Kevin Maynard

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Amber Williams called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and read the roll call.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Approval of the January 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Michael Beale moved to approve the minutes for January 24, 2024 Arts & Beautification Commission. Meghan Hollister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 8 to 0.

Old Business

None

Other Business/New Business

Approval of the 2024 Annual Arts Action Plan

Michael Beale moved to approve the 2024 Annual Arts Action Plan. Meghan Hollister seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 8 to 0.

Adjourn

Chair Amber Williams asked for a motion to adjourn. Jodie Kavensky moved to adjourn. Michael Beale seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a vote of 8 to 0 at 6:00 PM.

Memorandum**Community and Economic Development Department****To:** Arts & Beautification Commission**Subject:** Botanical Center Proposal for Riverfront Properties**Date:** March 18, 2024

In August 2023, the City Council approved a landowner agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to convert approximately 5.3 acres of City-owned riverfront property into a prairie planting area. The land is just north of Quad City Botanical Center (QCBC) and the Quad City Conservation Alliance (QCCA) Expo Center along the Great River Trail. Staff met with both groups and the USFWS to discuss how the project fits their long term vision for the area. The QCBC, in particular, expressed interest in programming the space as a “north garden.” This concept has long been part of their strategic plan, and is also mentioned in City planning documents as a development opportunity.

Upon staff’s request, the QCBC created a preliminary concept for the area that involves pockets of selected plantings designed to showcase homeowner friendly native landscaping techniques. The pockets would be accessed via mowed paths and surrounded by the prairie planting areas that are included as part of the agreement with USFWS. This concept allows for public access and also provides the QCBC with programmable garden space. Additionally, staff would like to explore potential improvements at the 24th Street trailhead to the bike path. This may include an improved parking area, bicycle amenities, and public art. A more detailed description of the north gardens concept from the QCBC is attached.

Overall, staff believe the concept fits community plans for the area and would provide an enhanced nature space to complement the Great River Trail and other parks spaces along its route. The project is still in the earlier planning stages, and staff and the QCBC are asking the Arts & Beautification Commission for feedback before more formal plans are made.

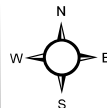
Submitted by: Tanner Osing, Planning & Zoning Manager

Disclaimer: This map is not a substitute for an actual field survey or online investigation. The accuracy of the map is limited to the quality of the records from which it was assembled. The City of Rock Island makes no warranty concerning this information.



LOCATION MAP
North Gardens Concept
Rock Island, Illinois

 Subject Property for North Gardens Concept



City of Rock Island,
Community and Economic Development Department

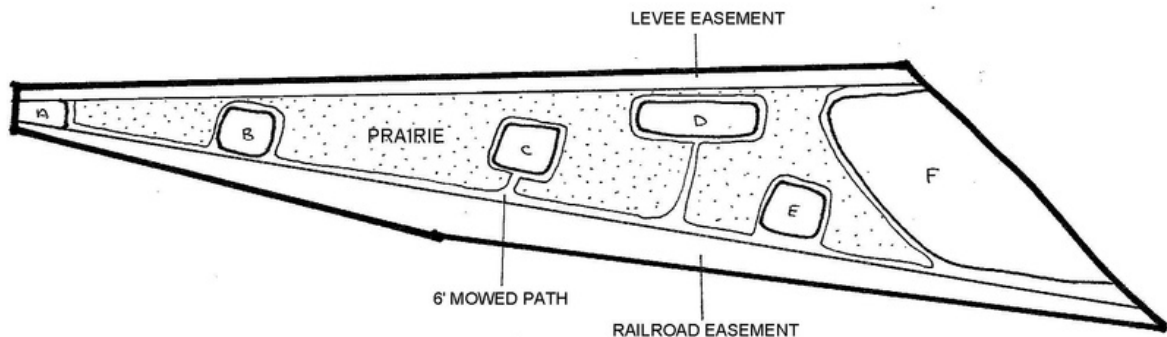
Drawn By: K. Douglass

Date Created: October 2023
Aerial Flown: April 2019

0 25 50 100 150 200 250
feet

NORTH GARDEN PRAIRIE PODS

Draft



KEY:

- A: LANDSCAPE W/ SIGNAGE & KEY SPECIES HIGHLIGHTED (ABOUT 30'X50')
- B: WILDLIFE/HABITAT (ABOUT 60'X60')
- C: LANDSCAPE (ABOUT 60'X60')
- D: BIOSWALE (ABOUT 40'X130')
- E: POLLINATOR (ABOUT 60'X60')
- F: TREES/ARBORETUM (ABOUT 200'X300')

Nestled within the seeded prairie, the prairie pods demonstrate urban yard-friendly examples of plantings featuring native flora. Focuses of the pods include an introduction to the different species of the North Garden Prairie (A), how to incorporate areas of wildlife habitat into urban yards (B), creating a pollinator paradise (E), planting a more formal landscape with natives (C), using native plantings to help control stormwater runoff (D), and an area to showcase local tree species (F). A mowed path will take visitors on a journey through the seeded prairie as they explore the various pods and discover how native plants can be integrated in an urban environment.

QCBC NORTH LOT
PROPOSED PRAIRIE PLANTING AREAS 2023

SCALE: 1/16"=10'



Focal Areas Within Seeded Prairie



Educational Signage



Urban Yard Examples



QUAD CITY
BOTANICAL
CENTER

NORTH GARDEN PRAIRIE PODS

Draft



Very loose inspiration can be drawn from The Prairie at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, MN. Examples of their education signage is also featured as a potential model.



QUAD CITY
BOTANICAL
CENTER

North Lot Prairie Garden Concept

The proposed North Lot Prairie Garden contains a mix of prairie planted via seed purchased with assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, mowed pathways, and pockets of selected plantings showcasing homeowner friendly examples of planting techniques utilizing native plants. Pockets will include one or two signs to explain the theme for each of the pockets, plant usage, etc. A map of the proposed planting concept is also attached.

Pocket A: Landscape w/ signage & key species highlighted

Pocket A's goal will be to introduce the visitor to the plants that will be seen throughout the prairie and pockets. While appearance (landscape) will be taken into consideration in this area, the goal will be to help the visitors be able to key species and start the journey knowing what to look for. Signage will help introduce these plants with seasonal bloom time in mind.

Pocket B: Wildlife habit

This pocket will focus on ways that visitors can encourage more wildlife in their yard. From food sources to creating comfortable habitat for wildlife to rest, this pocket will take a multi-season approach to creating wildlife homes in urban areas.

Pocket C: Landscape

Pocket C showcases native plants in a more formal planting style that is usually reserved for non-native plants. This may include some mulching to separate the species as needed to create the desired appearance. This will help appeal to the homeowner that desires a cleaner appearance to their landscape while still wanting the benefits of native plantings.

Pocket D: Bioswale

Native plants can be used to help mitigate stormwater runoff. A bioswale is one tool that can be used to collect stormwater runoff. Sitting on the banks of the Mississippi River, a strong story between stormwater management and river health can be shared with visitors. Bioswales using native plants is just one of the tools that homeowners can utilize to control stormwater runoff.

Pocket E: Pollinator

Creating pollinator habitats is a key passion for many people. Showcasing a habitat that has a healthy mix of key plants of importance – host plants and nectar plants – will educate the public about the role these key plants play in the lifecycle of the pollinators and demonstrate ways they can recreate at home.

Pocket F: Arboretum

Surrounded by prairie, Pocket F will showcase a curated collection of native trees.

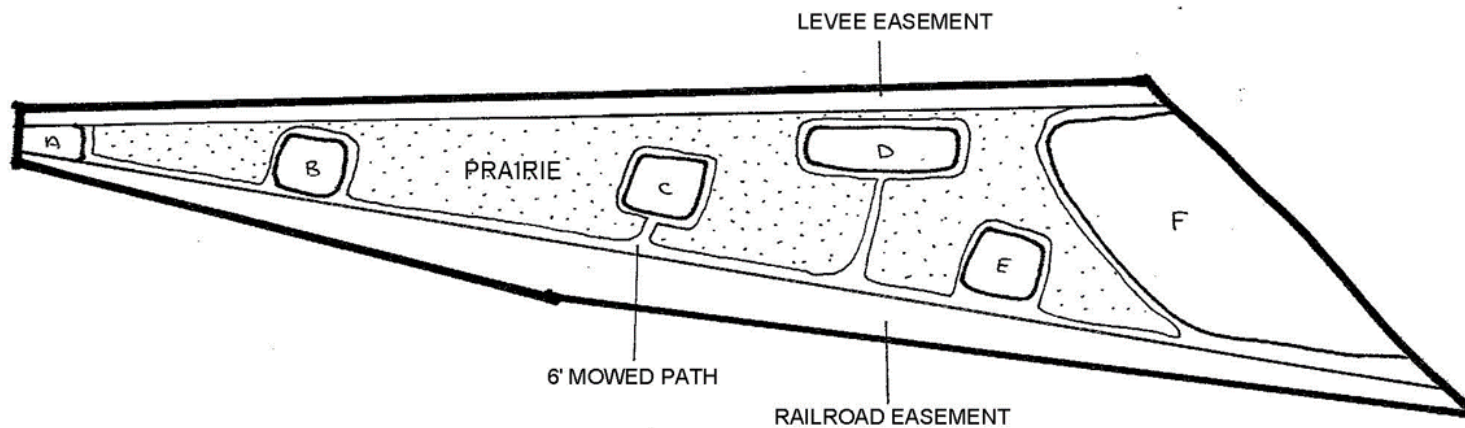
Conclusion

Currently the area is being prepped for seeding with prairie mix. Following approval of this concept by desired parties, further design work will be needed to finalize the design, concepts, and plant selection. After installation, long-term key maintenance of all areas – prairie and pockets – will be needed. This includes removal of unwanted species, replanting/reseeding/remulching as necessary, prescribed burn at recommended intervals for plant and overall prairie health, litter removal & path maintenance, and other upkeep as required, for example. A maintenance plan would need to be put into place upon final plant selection.

Reference

Prairie Restoration Handbook for Minnesota Landowners

- <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/prairierestoration/goingnative.pdf>



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QCBC NORTH LOT
PROPOSED PRAIRIE PLANTING AREAS 2023

SCALE: 1/16"=10'

Memorandum

To: Rock Island Arts & Beautification Commission
From:
Subject: Selection of first and second choices for four sculpture locations as part of the Public Sculpture Program by Quad City Arts.
Motion: Move to select 1st & 2nd choices for four sculpture locations.
VV Voice vote is needed.



Date: March 20, 2024

Introduction and Background Information:

Previous Council Action (if any):

Budget Impact:

Additional Information as applicable (i.e. provide alternative options, community or staff input, staffing impact; resident impact; etc.):

Council Goal (if applicable):

Recommendation:

Submitted by: Kathryn Douglass, GIS Specialist

Approved by: