

Site Planning + Design for Meadow Projects Large and Small

I. Site Planning

A. Inventory and Analyze the proposed meadow site.

1. Collect Ecological data [aspect, topography, canopy cover, existing vegetation, rare +/- invasive weeds, soil characteristics, water quality and surface + groundwater hydrology, and wildlife use]
2. Determine Cultural information [historical use, utilities, easements, covenants, conditions and restrictions]
3. Analyze Human Needs [project budget, access + use, aesthetics, plant harvest, maintenance + management capability]

B. Identify preliminary project goals.

1. Using data and information from **A.** above, identify opportunities and constraints.
2. Determine project scope
[Parking strip ↔ Meadow garden ↔ prairie restoration project]

II. Project Design

A. Determine the desired future conditions of the site.

1. Design optional structures, walls, paths, etc.
2. Prepare optional site map, grading plan, and/or restoration plan

B. Finalize project goals and objectives.

1. Lawn Alternative? Temporary Meadow? Prairie Garden? Other?
2. Pollinator and/or Wildlife habitat?

C. Determine the meadow plant communities & their locations

1. Prepare a site/scale appropriate planting concept/plan to meet project goals
2. Compose a plant list of genetically appropriate plants/seed [for purchase, salvage, and/or collection + propagation].
3. Design Options: Simple plant palette for small spaces, Contrast textures, Views and Edges, Mass forbs + grasses, Seed vs. Plug, Non-colonizing shrubs.

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III. Meadow Planting & Management

- A.** Compose a work sequencing schedule.
 - 1. Procure plants/seed [submit deposits for seed/plant purchase; initiate seed collection and/or contract growing].
 - 2. Control Erosion and/or Seed temporary cover
 - 3. Construct optional structures, walls, paths, etc.
 - 4. Prepare Site/Soil: solarization, herbicides, soil amendments, and tillage
 - 5. Plant + Seed / Re-plant

- B.** Develop/Implement plans for adaptive management + monitoring.
 - 1. Control invasive species + colonizing woody plants
 - 2. Manage grassland/prairie reproduction to favor grass or flower dominance
 - 3. Use disturbance to control succession.
[rake, mow. etc. (fire analogs) or prescribe burns]
 - 4. Monitor to determine achievement of goals and/or project success