W. Ben Hunt Prairie Learning Garden

Final Report - Ideas to Action 2023

By Stephanie Lewin-Lane, Hales Corners Library, May 2025

Number of people involved in or impacted by the project since Ideas to Action funding: 30

Do you anticipate that your project will continue after Ideas to Action funding? Yes

Did your project encourage partnerships and collaborations with any community partners or other WiLS members? Who did you connect with during this process and how might you sustain those connections?

Yes. We collaborated with Native Plants, LLC. on the prairie health and upkeep. There was a day of weeding with 2 local Scouts groups that was led by Native Plants owner, Danielle Bell. We also created a new partnership with WI Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, who helped design signage around watershed and pollinator information.

We are continuing to work with Native Plants in the prairie and Root-Pike group offers an outside program during the summer in our prairie area.

Thinking about your project, what was the most innovative part? What can you, or your community, do now that it couldn't before?

As this is a multi-year project, some of our most innovative pieces are still in progress. However, integrating the audio tour into our programs is a very exciting piece and one that has evolved from the original idea.

How do you think other WiLS members could use what you learned and accomplished at their own organizations?

I believe our project is a good example of how working with outside organizations can be both a great help AND throw your timeline and budget off. Don't assume that everyone is going to be as excited as you are and make your project a priority. A lot of factors can change quickly, so have tasks that need to happen first in place and ready to go before you submit your project (or at least have a back-up plan). Don't wait until you are awarded to reach out to others.

Project product(s):

[Canva](): Software used to create graphics

[Actionbound](): Software used to create the audio tour

[Prairie Learning Garden Grant](): W. Ben Hunt Prairie Learning Garden library blog post