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Hawkeye Area Trail

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Field Problems in Planning
Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Department
May 3, 2004

Prepared for Larry Wilson
University of Iowa Campus Planning

Property of Urban and Regional Planning
University of Iowa
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Executive Summary

I. Purpose and Scope

The Hawkeye Area Trail is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Mormon Trek Boulevard and Melrose Avenue. Key features in the area around the trail include the Hall of Fame, a soccer field, and the future site for new field hockey and soccer fields. The purpose of this project was to increase the use of the Hawkeye Area Trail by identifying key problems with the trail and recommending responses to those problems.

II. Methodology

Two key methods were used. First, a literature review provided background information on trail features and prairie plants. In addition, we conducted interviews with key informants who have intimate knowledge of the Hawkeye Area Trail or who are experts on prairie plants and trail creation.

III. Findings

The Hawkeye Area Trail has the potential to be a significant campus site once some key issues are addressed. The four key problems that were identified include:

- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- A negative public perception of the prairie plants
- Educational opportunities not being pursued
- No theme or purpose for the area.

IV. Policy Recommendations

Finally, we present recommendations for the Hawkeye Area Trail. We suggest:

- Paving an overlook area with a summary sign,
- Keeping the area free of stray trash,
- Establishing a buffer between the general public and the prairie plantings,
- Creating a self-guided tour with prairie plant information,
- Placing additional signs with sports facts throughout the space.
Introduction

The Hawkeye Area is located west of Mormon Trek Boulevard and north of Melrose Avenue. Key features in this area include the Hawkeye Hall of Fame, a future site for field hockey and soccer fields, and a prairie meadow trail. The Hawkeye Area has been criticized for the “prairie restoration” style of landscaping and for the lack of use it gets from students, local residents, and visitors. In addition, there seems to be little sense of connection between the different uses in the area. Finally, the natural design of the trail could prove to be difficult to navigate for those with mobility restrictions.

Our over-arching purpose for this project is to create a location of interest, making the Hawkeye Area Trail a destination point for students, community residents, and visitors to the University. The only way the Hawkeye Area Trail will become an area of interest is if the current problems associated with the area are addressed. In this study, we highlight current problems associated with the Hawkeye Area Trail and provide recommendations that address these issues.

The four main issues associated with the Hawkeye Area Trail are as follows:

(1) Accessibility to the trail for people with disabilities,

(2) Negative public perceptions of the prairie plantings,

(3) Few existing educational opportunities,

(4) Lack of a theme.

Accessibility

Trail Surface

One of the main problems with the Hawkeye Area Trail is its accessibility for anyone who would like to enjoy it because it is simply a mowed grass path. Weighing cost, accessibility, and appropriateness for the trail design was a big challenge. While it is very important to provide the highest

Figure 1. The mowed grass path (Photo: Jessica Hlubek)
an important consideration. Font size should be appropriate for the distance users will be from the signs. Using a font size to small seems to be a common mistake with signs used on campus, and should be corrected in the signs in the Hawkeye Area. Also, the font style should be easy to read.

Incorporating Braille into the design of the signs would also improve accessibility. Blind people will also experience the Hawkeye Area Trail through the senses of touch, hearing, and smell. The design of the trail allows visitors to interact with the plants that are near the trail. Therefore, any text written in Braille should emphasize specific smells, textures, and sounds likely to be experienced.

An example of a sign that meets a majority of the criteria we have suggested is located at the intersection of Clinton Street and Iowa Avenue. The sign, which shows the location of University of Iowa buildings, is at an accessible height and set at an angle for most users to view. This sign would be improved, though, if the angle were closer to 45 degrees. Other examples are illustrated below:

- Dinosaur Ridge Trail (outside Denver, Colorado)

![Figure 2. Sign at Clinton and Iowa](Photo: Erin Welsch)

- Weatherdance Fountain (Downtown Iowa City)

![Figure 3.](Photo: Erin Welsch)

![Figure 4.](Photo: Erin Welsch)
**Recommendations**

- Over-look area with solid surface and informational sign
- Trail signs placed at a front height of 24 inches and at a 45 degree angle
- Sign text should be in Arial font, ½ inch lettering

It is important to consider both cost and the trail’s design when making this recommendation. Creating a trail that is easily accessible to those with disabilities would mean paving the trail or creating a boardwalk. Neither of these options are very viable in this location for cost and design reasons. Rather, we suggest that an over-look area be created at the beginning of the trail at a location that has a slightly higher elevation. The overlook would be made of a solid surface so that even if the ground is wet it is still easy to navigate by those with disabilities. We recommend that this area be paved because low maintenance costs and high accessibility. In addition, we feel that this strikes a balance between accessibility and preservation of the natural design of the trail.

The outlook area should include one larger informational sign positioned so that the reader is looking out onto the trail. This sign should be set 24 inches off the ground and be placed at a 45 degree angle. The summary sign should include information on the history of prairie plants in Iowa, the types of plants that are included in the Hawkeye Trail, the water drainage system in this area, and discussion of the surrounding athletic uses. In addition to the larger informational sign at the over-look, signs located throughout the trail should be placed at the same height and angle as already recommended.

**Public Perception**

Another issue with the Hawkeye Area Trail is the negative public perception of the landscape. Since its inception, the Hawkeye Area has generated many complaints by people who believe the area is a forgotten wasteland of weeds. We believe that this perception is rooted in Midwestern culture and even more so in older generations. Midwesterners, especially those coming from a farming culture, see native prairie as the “weeds” that they have been trying to get rid of for years. They can’t understand why the university would landscape with them (Thorn 2004).
First, it is necessary that an area landscaped with prairie plants still be viewed as cared for and maintained. This can be done by creating different types of borders that signal to the public that the space is intended to look wild. Borders also create distance between the space and people who do not wish to interact with it. There are a variety of alternatives that establish a distinct boundary between the prairie plantings and more traditional landscaping. The easiest way to establish this boundary is to use mowed grass directly to the edge of the prairie plantings. In addition, ensuring that the area is free of trash would improve the negative public perception of the area and show that the area is maintained.

Secondly, as with any prairie, the predominant plants are the prairie grasses. While these grasses have beauty of their own, there are periods during the season where they look like dead stalks. The prairie plantings in the Hawkeye Area Trail include more flowers than would be found in a natural prairie, but incorporating additional flowers that are linked by blooming season would minimize the times where the prairie is composed only of dry, brown stalks. As this is not meant to be a restored prairie, adding more flowering plants would not undermine the area’s purpose.

Because few of the original prairie plants are established in the trail area, there are many times when no plants are in bloom. To cure this, plants have been identified using a phenology chart to ensure that plants are blooming throughout the year. The plants we have suggested are very colorful while blooming, hearty, and readily available from seed or as potted plants. Many of these plants are short and should, therefore, be placed on the edges of the area. Doing this will allow their colors to be viewed easily, and will provide an attractive buffer for the larger prairie grasses in the area. By ensuring that the Hawkeye Area Trail has plants blooming with vibrant colors throughout the year, complaints about dead stalks should be eliminated.
Early Blooming Time

Wild Columbine – These plants usually grow between 1 to 2 feet tall, but may reach as tall as 3 feet. The blooms are approximately 2 inches long and are pinkish red. These plants prefer certain types of soil, but will do well in a variety of soil conditions. Also, wild columbine can do well in a variety of different light conditions, but does best in light shade. These plants are also known to attract hummingbirds, which may be a nice addition to the area.

Prairie Phlox – Prairie Phlox is a perennial which grows approximately one foot tall. Because of their height, these plants would best be used close to the trail or road, where they will be easily visible. Blooms are usually pink or purple and clustered on the top of the stem.

Blue False Indigo – These plants grow in bush-like clusters, and reach a height of three feet. They will also spread well, and should reach a width of between three to four feet. They do well with average moisture levels and like full sunlight. There are multiple blooms on each stem and would therefore be a good plant to supply color throughout the Hawkeye Area Trail.

Butterfly Weed – Butterfly weed is a very hardy plant which does best when planted in areas with excellent drainage in full sun. The flowers bloom in large clusters, which produce large quantities of nectar, thus attracting butterflies. The plants typically grow between one to two feet high, and are very dependable once
established. These plants may take up to two years to become established after planting.

**Middle Blooming Time**

Partridge Pea – These plants are slender and usually grow between one to two feet high, but can reach heights of four feet. Preferring rocky or sandy soils, partridge pea blooms in a spectacular shade of yellow. The plants are known to attract game and song birds, as the plant’s seeds are edible.

Yellow or Pink Cone Flower – These plants do best in full sun, and grow to heights of three to four feet. The flowers are very similar to those of the Black Eyed Susan. They are known to be easy to grow, and are very tolerant to a variety of harsh weather conditions including heat and drought and are long lived and low-maintenance. Yellow cone flowers are also known to attract butterflies and birds, specifically goldfinches.

Prairie Blazing Star – The prairie blazing star is a single stalk with vibrant purple blooms coming down from the top. Growing to over four feet tall, these plants would be a good addition of color and height into the area. These plants are known to attract a variety of birds, butterflies, and honeybees, and do best in moist conditions with full sunlight.

Michigan Lily - These plants have spectacular orange blooms which are quite different from many of the other plants we have recommended. Known to do well
in marshy areas with direct sunlight, these plants need would need to be planted in areas where they would not be disturbed. These plants are known to grow between two to six feet tall, and would provide a focal point during their blooming period.

*Late Blooming Time*

New England Aster – These plants are very hardy and produce beautiful pink to purple flowers. Varying between two to six feet tall, these plants would need to be placed where they could be enjoyed based on their range of heights. The New England aster prefers moist soils in direct sunlight, and would bloom between September and October. The flowers, which are approximately 1 to 2 inches in diameter, are known to attract a variety of different butterflies.

![New England Aster](Photo: Connecticut Botanical Society 2004)

Iron Weed – Growing between three and six feet tall, iron weed plants are known to attract a variety of butterflies. Multiple purple flowers bloom on each plant between August and October. These plants do well in a variety of different soil conditions and light conditions.

![Compass Plant](Photo: Easy Living Wildflowers 2004)

Compass Plant – These are the largest plants that we are recommending, and can reach as high as 10 feet tall. The large yellow flowers can reach up to five inches in diameter, and are often confused with sunflowers. The plants bloom from July to September and would be an impressive addition to the Hawkeye Area Trail. The plant are resistant to drought and are often used by butterflies and song birds.
Jerusalem Artichoke – The Jerusalem artichoke, which is closely related to the sunflower, grows almost as tall as the compass plant and looks fairly similar. These plants work in a variety of different soil conditions, and grow best in the cooler climates of the northern United States.

![Jerusalem Artichoke](image)

**Figure 11.** Jerusalem Artichoke  
(Photo: Gunther 2004)

Finally, it is important that people know what the area is intended to be. There are no signs or indications that this is a landscaped trail that uses prairie plants. Public education can be very effective if properly conducted. The plants used in the Hawkeye Area may take as long as 25 years to become mature. During these first years, the Hawkeye Area is undergoing a series of changes as plants mature and develop. It is most important that the public understands why the Hawkeye Area is intended to look as it does and the time frame necessary for the area to become mature.

**Recommendations**

- Ensure that the trail is free of stray trash
- Create a buffer around the prairie meadow
- Install a fence to serve as a cue to the public
- Add plants linked by blooming seasons

As we have already noted, not everyone enjoys the Hawkeye Area Trail and landscape. To help reduce the negative perception of the area, we have two main suggestions that could easily be implemented. First, since the taller grasses and prairie
plants easily catch stray blowing trash, routinely combing the space for trash and debris is key to keeping this area from looking like an abandoned space.

In addition, prairie style landscaping is more appealing to the eye of many if there is some sort of space or buffer between them and the prairie plants. If the plantings can be viewed from the roadway at a distance, complaints against the area may decline. Using a portion of the distance between the vehicles and the plantings for either a traditional grass strip or split rail fencing might better allow residents to not have the prairie plantings "forced" upon them. We suggest that this buffer be located along Mormon Trek Boulevard and Melrose Avenue. This would provide the visual cues necessary to distinguish the area.

Incorporating a small fence around the space could cue to people "that this is a space that is maintained and cared for" (Schabilion, 2004). The fence line wouldn’t necessarily need to be continuous, but rather just make an indication that the space behind it is different. Placing the fence around the perimeter of the Hawkeye Area creates a distinction between the traditional and non-traditional landscapes.

Figure 12. Example of a fence around prairie plantings
Longfellow Neighborhood Trail, Iowa City
(Photo: Erin Welsch)

Finally, we recommend adding the plants listed above to portions of the Hawkeye Trail. Making sure to use a variety of plants from each of the three blooming periods will ensure that flowers are present throughout the season. Flower color and plant height should also be considered when choosing which of the suggested plants should be incorporated. The selected flowers should also be added to the Mormon Trek medians.
Educational Opportunities

While this area could be a good resource for educational purposes, it is not being used as such. Increasing educational opportunities in the Hawkeye Area Trail will ensure that this area is better used. If the educational value of the area is highlighted, schools and University classes could use it as an outdoor classroom or field trip location. Students might then encourage parents and others to experience the area. One limitation to the educational value is that the Hawkeye Area was not built to recreate a natural Iowa prairie.

Nevertheless, several features make the area a valuable asset for education. Over time prairie plantings constantly change. One major change is the constant establishment of new plantings, which may take many years, if not decades, to become mature species within the landscape. Also, many of the plants in the Hawkeye Area bloom at different times of year. One example of an educational opportunity would be to have students track changes with annual or seasonal trips to the trail.

The Hawkeye Area could also be a good educational tool for environmental issues. It has been designed to incorporate various features that retain and filter storm water runoff. Explaining these features would provide students and other users with a better understanding of natural water filters and the environmental value of the area. Another important educational topic is the environmental benefits of using natural landscaping rather than the water- and fertilizer-intensive traditional landscaping styles.

Finally, people should be reminded that these plants have acclimated to the harsh Iowa weather conditions. Over thousands of years, the process of natural selection has made these prairie plantings resistant to Iowa summer conditions such as extreme heat and drought. The plants are also resistant to the pattern of rainfall in Iowa, which is usually a large precipitation event followed by a long period of little precipitation. The process of natural selection is an important part of understanding that these plants should not need a lot of human help to thrive in the Hawkeye Area (Schabilion, 2004).

Recommendations

- Use of a self-guided tour & brochure
- Advertise to University professors and community school teachers about the area
We suggest that a self guided tour be implemented for the trail to highlight certain aspects such as interesting plants or the water filtration system. Numbered signs would be placed throughout the trail that would correspond to a brochure the visitor would carry along with them. Using numbered signs and a brochure would lower up-front cost, would be easy to change or update, and would be less subject to vandalism. The goal with this brochure is not to provide as much information as possible but to create an interest rather than give too much information.

As stated earlier, not every plant that was originally included has emerged or is identifiable yet. As time goes on, reviewing and adding to the brochure and numbered signs would be necessary. Right now, we suggest that the tall native grasses be highlighted in the self guided tour. These grasses include Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, and Switchgrass. We also feel that Black Eyed Susans and Evening Primrose are flowers that should be pointed out in the brochure, along with the additional plants we have suggested should also be included in this brochure.

Creating a Theme

Currently, it is not clear why Hawkeye Area Trail exists. Because of this, passersby have no understanding of why the plants used in the Hawkeye Area were chosen. This only exacerbates the public’s negative perceptions of the area. While the Hawkeye Area Trail has been skillfully designed, no theme was created to entice people to visit the trail. Our final recommendations seek to create a theme to give residents and visitors a clear understanding of why the area was designed as it was. Our recommended theme is based on characteristics of the State of Iowa. An “Iowa theme” will allow users to establish a connection to the trail and provide a reason for people to visit. Since few out-of-state visitors will come to Iowa City specifically for the Hawkeye Area, most visitors will be Iowans. People tend to have strong feelings of pride about where they are from and therefore, we believe, potential visitors will be interested in an area that highlights on characteristics of Iowa.
Recommendations

- Incorporate a grove of oak trees, Iowa’s State Tree
- Plant Wild Rose, Iowa’s State Flower
- Use a variety of flowers to attract Eastern Goldfinch, Iowa’s State Bird
- Add the Wild Prairie Crabapple to the area’s landscape

First, incorporating a grove of various types of oak trees would provide an additional point of interest as well as serve as an additional educational element by illustrating the various types of oak trees. In addition, we recommend that Iowa’s state flower, the wild rose, be planted along the Hawkeye Area Trail. Again, this will contribute to the Iowa theme we hope to establish as well as fit in nicely with the prairie plants. Finally, incorporating flowers that are known to draw the Eastern Goldfinch, Iowa’s state bird, will increase the opportunities that visitors may see the bird in the prairie meadow. Such plants include Compass Plant, Evening Primrose, and Jerusalem Artichoke.

In addition to this, we also recommend incorporating the Wild Prairie Crabapple (Malus ioensis), which is sometimes referred to as the Iowa Crabapple. This is a flowering tree that could be used around the trail area and as a transition plant from the Hawkeye Hall of Fame building and the prairie meadow trail. Finally, we recommend making the Iowa connection even stronger by pointing out that the prairie plants used throughout the prairie meadow trail are native to Iowa. It would also be important to note that while the Hawkeye Area Trail isn’t a true prairie reconstruction, it does provide a sense of what Iowa once looked like.

Conclusion

We believe that the Hawkeye Area has the potential to be visited by many different people. Whether these groups are elementary or college students, University of Iowa visitors, or anyone else, we believe that our recommendations can help stimulate for increased use. Providing greater educational applications for the area allows students to better use the resource. By addressing such issues as the current negative public perception of the area and handicapped accessibility, the Hawkeye Area should be able to overcome these current problems, and in the long run benefit from increased usage.
Finally, creating a theme will provide a sense of purpose to the Hawkeye Area Trail and entice people to visit the trail. We believe that by incorporating the recommendations above the Hawkeye Area can become a more used and better understood resource and feature of the University of Iowa campus.
Appendix - Brochure Text

This is a sample of what forsee the text in the self-guided brochure to be. Since we are unsure which of the recommended plants will be incorporated into the Hawkeye Area Trail, we have chosen a few of the recommended plants as well as the interesting plants that already exist. As the Hawkeye Area Trail, grows and develops over time, more of the prairie plants will continue to mature and become visible and a revision of the self-guided tour may be necessary to highlight those plants as well.

Jerusalem Artichoke

The Jerusalem Artichoke, also known as the sunchoke, is neither from Jerusalem or an artichoke but rather is a relative of the sunflower. These tubers are edible, and have been grown for food dating back to at least the 1600’s. While popular as a food source in the early 1600’s in Europe, the Jerusalem Artichoke eventually became replaced as a food by potatoes. Still, Jerusalem Artichokes were known to be eaten as a major food source in area in Europe during World War II and by explorers Lewis and Clark.

Compass Plant

This plant, which closely resembles a common sunflower, is actually not in the same family as the sunflower. The compass plant is a member of the rosinweed family of plants, and if you were to break the stem of a compass plant a sap, or “rosin”. The plant got its name because its large leaves align themselves north south, always! While the plant is doing this to have as much direct sunlight as possible, it helped point early settlers in the United States in the correct direction. The seeds of the compass plant are food for birds, so keep your eyes peeled and look for the Iowa State Bird, the Eastern Goldfinch.

Wild Rose

Although no specific species of Wild Rose was designated as the official flower of Iowa, Wild Prairie Rose (Rosa Pratincola) is most often cited as the official flower of Iowa. Known to bloom throughout Iowa from June to late summer, the Iowa State Legislature dedicated the Wild Rose as Iowa’s state flower in 1897. The Wild Rose was chosen because it adorned the silver table service which the State of Iowa presented to the U.S.S. Iowa battleship during 1897.
Oak Tree

The oak tree was chosen as the Iowa State Tree due to its abundance in Iowa and its importance as a source of food for animals. Designated as the state tree in 1961, oak trees supply acorns for numerous animals including wild turkeys, chipmunks, squirrels, and many others.

Wild Prairie Crabapple (Malus ioensis)

While many different varieties of crabapple trees exist, this specific tree is named after the state of Iowa. Its scientific name is Malus ioensis, with Malus referring to the word apple and ioensis to Iowa. The trees, which have bright pink fragrant flowers, bloom from April to May. The fruit are hard and sour, and are only occasionally used for jel lies, cider, and vinegar. While not usually eaten by humans, the apples are eaten by a variety of birds and mammals.

Switchgrass

Switchgrass is a dominant species of tall grass prairies and begins growing in late April or mid May. Mature plants can reach between three and five feet in height with some varieties growing as large as 7 to ten feet. Currently, Switchgrass is being tested as an alternative energy source by firing it with coal in the production of electricity.

Little Bluestem

Little bluestem is a bunch grass that grows to a height of one to four feet. Once this plant reaches maturity, its leaves turn bluish-green to reddish-brown. Like many other prairie grasses, little bluestem has a complex, fibrous root system that allows it to easily adapt to changes in soil conditions. In fact, it is the fibrous root systems of prairie grasses that created the rich soil throughout the Midwest.

Big Bluestem

Also called “Turkey foot” by the settlers because of its three pronged seed head, Big Bluestem is another prominent species once found in the prairies across the Midwest. It normally grows four to six feet in height and can reproduce by spreading see or through underground rhizomes. Today, Big Bluestem is often used as an ornamental grass in various types of landscapes.
Evening Primrose

Evening primrose’s startling yellow flowers can be seen in May and June with the peak in mid-May. The individual flowers open in the evening and are only around for a day or so before withering away. For centuries, some Native American tribes at evening primrose leave and root as food as well as used them as them for medicinal reasons.

Black-Eyed Susan

Black-eyed Susan has yellow flowers that bloom from June to October and is a member of the sunflower family. The flowers of this plant attract butterflies, honey-bees, rabbits. Black-eyed Susan is a pioneer plant. This means that if this area is burned, Black-eyed Susan will be one of the first plants to start growing.

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(for brochure text)


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Annotated Bibliography


This article announces that a new pamphlet of materials is available to help schools establish outdoor classrooms. Their relatively cheap cost and immediate impact make outdoor classrooms a valuable addition to any school. The idea of resource conservations is also presented within the article.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Mormon Handcart Historical Site [Brochure].

The Mormon Handcart Historical Site marks the location of a Mormon outfitting encampment. In 1856 and 1857, approximately 2,400 Mormon converts used this site to prepare and load their hand carts for a 1400-mile walking trip to Utah. This site is now owned by the University of Iowa, but funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The historical significance of this site has been maintained through a prairie preserve and a pathway incorporating information markers.


This article discusses the psychological, social, spiritual, and aesthetic benefits of well designed spaces. The author connects the notion of "sense of place" with the atmosphere of a given location. He argues that a place is a social construction that can impact a person in many ways and invoke different emotions and feelings. Changes in technology have affected the built environment by allowing different building techniques and reducing some of the health risks once associated with indoor spaces. In addition, our highly mobile society has changed traditional links of places. Finally, regulations impact the design, construction, and use of certain places more than in the past. All of these things are considerations when looking at ways of increasing a sense of place. Finally, the author discusses the connection between health and a sense of place by suggesting four topics of research- nature contact, buildings, public spaces, and urban form.


Jordan explores two ecological tenets as applied in the history of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum - the primacy of relationships between living things and
their environment, and the ongoing and inevitable process of change. The social, political, and environmental circumstances in which the arboretum restoration project developed are key in recreating the historic landscape. Jordan comments on this restoration’s significance and its implications for the landscape and our relationship with it. His thoughts on the arboretum’s history can have applications for the University of Iowa’s outdoor spaces.


In response to educators’ ideas that school design should complement and enhance student learning, Kennedy provides ten examples of how the way a school is built can help the way a student learns. One of these examples focuses on how outdoor spaces surrounding a school can be seen as learning opportunities. Although some of the ideas presented in this article are intended for grades K-12, all of the concepts discussed can be applied to college campuses as well.


This article discusses the plans to construct a nature park that includes trails and an outdoor classroom. Included in this project are trails, an arboretum, woodland and wetland areas to provide areas for teaching and study, and eventually an outdoor amphitheater. The goal is to make this area of campus a “destination place” for students, faculty, staff, and the public.


Layton explains how good design and creative programming can transform outdoor spaces into effective learning environments. The focus of this article is primarily on grades K-12 campuses, although college campuses are mentioned as well. Layton addresses examples of spaces that can be used as outdoor classrooms, ways these spaces can be incorporated into the surrounding community, and methods of funding. He concludes with a helpful list of outdoor learning environment resources.


University of Iowa land surrounding the Hawkeye Hall of Fame may look like unsightly vegetation to some, but the area is actually a project to incorporate sustainable landscaping into the urban environment. Sustainable landscaping using uses self-sustaining native plants that control weeds and erosion, attract wildlife, and require less maintenance than traditional landscaping. The prairie surrounding
the Hall of Fame is unique in that it is a working landscape as well, incorporating natural wetlands as water filters.


This CD-ROM is a collection of photographs of the prairie restoration on the Bandag Corporate Campus. It is a good example of a transition from building to landscaped lawn to sculpted prairie plants to a natural prairie environment.


This article describes the efforts taken to try to create a sense of place for college students that commute. This program is called the Collegia Program, and was developed on the campus of Seattle University. The article describes the contest that in which this programs was deemed necessary and the vision of what the program would accomplish.


The Soil Conservation Service recently got a new partner in their effort to create outdoor classrooms across the country. The Earth Team, working with the SCS, now has the goal of creating an outdoor classroom at every school in the country. They offer opportunities to learn about ecosystems and many other areas also. The article talks about organizations which help in setting up outdoor classrooms as well as other benefits of doing so.


A series of trails run throughout the University of Michigan's Twin Cities Campus, highlighting campus features throughout the University's 150-year history. The Heritage Trail system is broken into four smaller trails, and is designed for a trail user to take as much as they have time for. Trail markers and a comprehensive trail guide point out key locations connected to the people, ideas and accomplishments that have contributed to the University of Michigan's history. This brochure is easy to comprehend and will serve as an example when designing a trail guide for the Hawkeye Area prairie meadow.