Veteran’s Memorial Park Display Garden

An Educational and Display Lawn Alternative Project
Location

Veteran’s Memorial Park
Former Garden Bed
~60x15ft Plot
Divided into 3 sections
Timeline

2023
- May
  - Pretreatment
- September
  - Remove remaining plants
- October
  - Plant

2024
- March
  - Develop and install signage
- May/June
  - Maintenance event
  - Recruit for Adopter
  - Photo monitoring
- October
  - Maintenance event
Pre-treatment

Steps
Weed-whip vegetation
Lay fine mulch around outermost 12” at a depth of ~6”
Lay arborist chips to interior of bed at a depth of 12”

Why
Facilitate mulch application
Reduce washout from edge of beds
Stimulate microbial growth to deplete soil nitrogen
Too deep for plants to access light with sufficient gas exchange to stimulate growth
Planting Process

• Apply mulch and Arborist chips in early June
• Weed remaining plants end of September
• Mark out sections (3 plots and center path) for volunteers
• Planting
  • Two workdays for volunteers to plant both sections
  • Plants are clustered together in 2-3 of a kind, with clusters intermixed throughout the plots
  • Watered in at the time of planting; plenty of October rain so no follow-up waterings required
Reflections on Installation

• Mulching process was more effective than anticipated
  • ~ 75% of vegetation died back, and only 11 total hours (2/3 of which were volunteer) were required

• Pricing for plug plants fell into expected range, and survival in the first month was high (>90% of plugs were still alive)

• Sourcing for the desired diversity was difficult
  • Some original species which might be good competitors were unavailable (*Sorghastrum Nutans*, *Ratibida Pinnata*, *Carex Bromoides* and *Carex Rosea*)
Plot 1: Short Grasses & Forbs (Flowering Perennials)

Includes a mix of: *Carex Eburna*, *Carex Brevior*, *Carex Radiata*, *Waldsteinia fragaroides*, *Geum Triflorum*
Plot 2: Knee-to-Waist Mixed Prairie

- Includes a mix of: *Panicum virgatum*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Sporobolus heterolepsis*, *Liatris aspera*, *Baptisia Lactea*, *Asclepias sullivantii*
Plot 3: Waist-to-Head Mixed Prairie

- *Andropogon gerardii*, *Panicum virgatum*, *Schizachyrium Scoparium*, *Asclepias Sullivanti*, *Baptisia Australis*
Before (May 2023)
Planted (October 2023)