



CONTENTS:

- Final Master Plan
- Architectural Plans
- New Horticulturist
- New Maintenance Building
- Birdwalk
- Wildflower Walk
- Upcoming Butterfly Walk
- Visitors

MASTER PLAN COMPLETE

It's official! Terra Design Studios completed the PGT Master Plan in early 2013. Along with maps and drawings, the plan includes detailed cost-phasing to give us a road map for the next 20 years or so as we develop this unique nature garden. We hope to put Phase I into action in 2014 with the creation of an expanded visitor center, paved trails to Beaver Lake and the Lotus Ponds, and a more clearly defined mile-loop mowed trail.



ARCHITECTURAL PLANS

After receiving a variety of thoughtful bids from architecture firms throughout the country, we selected Brad Wright of PW Architects to design the expanded visitor center and two viewing platforms. Brad developed conceptual drawings that will guide construction. The largest will be an initial phase of an expanded visitor center that will include 6 toilets and a large entrance area which can also be used for meetings. (The design includes a potential later addition of a much larger meeting room.)



Other structures in Phase I will be a raised walking platform so people can enjoy the savanna bluff overlook without destroying the fragile moss and lichen on the bluff top there. Another platform with benches will be nestled on a rise above Hillers Creek across from the heron rookery to give those who walk down there a place to pause.

NEW MAINTENANCE BUILDING

In April, Jen and Matt move equipment into the office/storage building constructed by Tom Mudd (who also built the current visitor center). After working out of a shed and an old open barn year 'round, this is quite an improvement!



FIRST HORTICULTURIST

Jen Sieradzki became our new horticulturist in October 2012 after working with Columbia Parks & Rec and Powell Gardens. Growing up in the Ozarks gave her an appreciation for Missouri plants and landscapes that she is putting to great use.

Jen and groundskeeper Matt Barnes make up the small but incredibly productive staff that creates plantings, does invasive control, trail enhancement, and the multitude of efforts that helps keep beauty in nature at the PGT.



SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

George Yatskievych, author of the revised Flora of Missouri, led a group of about 18 people on June 1, 2013. Although we'd had four inches of rain in the previous 24 hours, the weather was fine for walking. George is a storyteller as well as a walking encyclopedia. So he made the walk great fun for everyone—whether they had a little or a lot of plant knowledge. And he agreed to lead a walk next year. So be sure to join us in 2014!



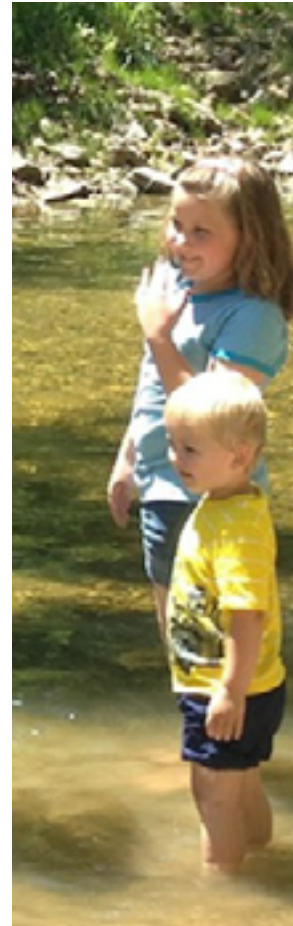
SPRING BIRDWALK

Although it drizzled on and off, about 20 people showed up for the birdwalk held on April 27, 2013. Ornithologist Jim D. Wilson led us past the prairie, ponds and down to Hillers Creek to find about 48 species.



VISITORS

College biology students, individuals, families, home schoolers, youth groups, and garden/birding/nature groups explored the PGT this spring. For many it was a first visit, but won't be the last if this response is typical: "We loved the hike. You have the nicest spot this side of the Mississippi!"



UPCOMING BUTTERFLY WALK

Donna Brunet will lead the butterfly walk on July 20, 2013 at 10 a.m. If this spring's weather continues, we won't have to worry about drought like last year—just hope more butterflies are back!



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SUPPORTING THE PGT

We have lots to do to ensure that people will be able to experience the magic of nature here for years to come. Your tax-deductible support can help immediately to fund the new trails, building and overlooks, as well as enhanced plantings that we expect to create in 2014.