

## Paula Vandehey

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**From:** Cafe - Atlas Coffee Mill <cafe@atlascoffeemill.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2016 10:50 PM  
**To:** Paula Vandehey  
**Cc:** 'Joe Martin'; renee.waterman@thrivent.com  
**Subject:** RE: Water Street gardens in front of Atlas Mill  
**Attachments:** Water Street - CNRR - City of Appleton - PROPOSED GARDEN - PRAIRIE RESTORATION.png; Water Street - CNRR - City of Appleton - PROPOSED GARDEN - PRAIRIE RESTORATION - DETAIL.png

Paula, thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to meet with me last Monday to discuss the possibility of gardens along Water Street in front of the Atlas Mill. Your map was a great help as we worked on the attached layout for the proposed Ecosystem Restoration and Beautification project. Please review the following and then contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions.

### **Ecosystem Prairie Restoration & Beautification Project ...**

At the time of settlement, Wisconsin's ecosystem had been tended by Native Americans for thousands of years. Our prairies, savannas, wetlands and woodlands combined to make a land rich, bountiful, beautiful and infinitely varied. Much of this was lost over time as the population began its westward movement. The land was drained, logged and plowed to support agriculture, the development of towns, and the industrial revolution.

As reported by Midwest Prairies, after years of study, we now know that a healthy ecosystem does not happen on its own. We also know that it does not result from good intentions; it does not benefit particularly from nostalgic impulses; and it does not depend on human disengagement. On the contrary, it depends on its human caretakers to find a balance between the needs of the natural community and their own needs. As the great philosopher, writer and naturalist Aldo Leopold said, "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

It is with this understanding that we at Atlas Waterfront Café & Gathering Room propose a Water Street Prairie Restoration Project.\* The initial proposal includes two areas: 1) the small tear-drop shaped plat on the east side of the driveway leading into the Fratello / Atlas property. The second and larger area forms an irregular triangle beginning east and south of the sidewalk at the Jackman / Water Street intersection, extending south to the railroad right-of-way and eastward for approximately 100' to the next telephone pole. The entire project will be on city property and will not encroach on the CN RR right-of-way.

Subject to approval by Committee, Appleton's Department of Public Works, the city's horticulturist, and the Common Council, our plan is to include a minimum of 22 different native flowers and grasses including but not limited to: 1) Columbine, 2) Butterflyweed, 3) Sky Blue Aster, 4) Cream False Indigo, 5) Harebell, 6) Ozark Coneflower, 7) Purple Coneflower, 8) Prairie Smoke, 9) Rough Blazingstar, 10) Beardtongue Seed Penstemon, 11) Showy Goldenrod, 12) Ohio Spiderwort, 13) Little Bluestem, 14) Prairie Dropseed, 15) Bicknell's Sedge, 16) Prairie Violet, 17) Purple Prairie Clover, 18) Side Oats Grama Grass, 19) Wild Petunia, 20) Whorled Milkweed, 21) Lavender Hyssop, and 22) Prairie Onion.

This mix features short grasses and plants that will thrive and root or seed themselves in this sunny area of rocky to poor, well-drained soil. The selection will provide color accents throughout the growing season from Prairie Smoke in the spring, to Purple Prairie Clover and Harebell in mid-season to golden grasses in the fall. The prairie itself will benefit the ecosystem by attracting butterflies, pollinators, and a variety of birds including hummingbirds. In addition, most are deer and / or rabbit resistant. Though no boulder-sized rocks will be used, still to be determined is whether this will be a dry rock or mulch bed. Hopefully the horticulturist will have the answer to that question.

Thanks to much work by the City, Appleton's Historic Waterfront is alive and flourishing! With the completion of the Jackman Street / Prospect Avenue bridge project and the addition of the new Water Street Art Mural, the timing is seemingly perfect for the Water Street Prairie Project. The Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club is considering this as a possible service project, providing the necessary "people power." Our Atlas' tip program will provide the funding for all plantings with the understanding that

- 1) All materials will become the property of the City of Appleton;
- 2) All plants and grasses will be determined by the City Forester or Horticulturist;
- 3) Specific location shall be by mutual agreement between the donor and the City Forester or Horticulturist;
- 4) General site location will be determined by the Facilities Department.

\*Although we have had preliminary discussions with Joe Sturm from Fox Valley Nursery regarding dry bed landscaping, from everything I have read and understand, the proposed prairie restoration may be more suitable. Indeed, we believe this project will preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community.

Paula, it is our hope that this will be one of many restoration and beautification projects along the waterfront, with perhaps an extension of the prairie restoration extending into the Ellen Kort Peace Park in 2017.

Finally, lamppost banners like those delineating the Downtown District and signage similar to that which is found in Vulcan Park could be a project for a Waterfront Coalition of businesses and industry, local service clubs, charitable foundations, private individuals and tourism and governmental agencies all working together in an effort to raise funds in support of Appleton's Historic Waterfront. The Marigold Mile, a local 501(c)3 corporation, has agreed to be the agent overseeing any and all fundraising efforts on behalf of waterfront projects.

On another note, last Wednesday The Marigold Mile volunteers under the direction of Fox Valley Nursery began planting marigolds bordering the parking lot at the intersection of Jackman and Water Streets. With temperatures reaching near 90 degrees, Atlas Waterfront Café immediately began watering the new plants by stretching 300 feet of garden hose north from the Atlas Mill across the railroad tracks to the parking lot. This in spite of the risk of the train approaching before we are able to retreat with hose in hand to the mill parking lot south of the tracks! Thank goodness it rained Thursday night and again on Sunday morning, minimizing the need to manually water the new plants. As the City is now watering the planters located along Water Street, would it be possible that you might be able to include the Jackman / Water Street Parking Lot marigolds in your watering schedule? Any help you can give us would be most appreciated.

Paula, thanks again, for your kind and courteous assistance with these proposals. Looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Love, Hugs, and God Bless!

Sue Bogenschutz, Proprietor  
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