July 28, 2004

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SEP 20 2004
FEDERAL AID

Dean Corgiat
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Route 106 West
Pittsfield IL 62363

Dear Dean:

Following, you will find the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Association's final report regarding the Site Inventory of the Species, Taxa, Vegetation, and Habitats of the Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum (Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #04-033W). The John Wood Community College Foundation serves as the fiscal agent for the SVTA.

In addition to the three hard copies of the report is a CD containing the report (Word format) and an several photos representing the work done as part of this project.

We truly believe members of our community will benefit for countless years to come from the research that was funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Thank you for this opportunity. Your support of this project and concern for our community is most appreciated. Please don't hesitate to call me at 217 641-4104 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Holthaus
JWCC Foundation Director

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund has provided funding in the amount of $1,000 of matching funds to support the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Associations efforts to accomplish a site inventory of the species, taxa, vegetation, and habitats of the Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum. This report will summarize the accomplishments made thus far on this project.

History of the area being developed.

John Wood Community College purchased a 150-acre farm on the edge of Quincy, IL, in Adams County, in 1995 to build a new college campus. Part of the farm is unusable by the campus, as it is a series of deep valleys in a wooded area. The college felt this area should be developed into an educational resource for the college and the community. It was felt the best way to accomplish this was to get the community involved in the development so it would become a community resource as well as be useful as a natural laboratory for college science classes. The college spearheaded the development of what has now evolved into the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Association.

Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Association - its accomplishments and its relationship to the college

The Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Association has about 20 members. The SVTAA, a non-profit association, was created to conserve and restore the natural resources of the donated area, which includes the forests, wetlands, grasslands, fish, wildlife, soil, air, minerals, and water, while preserving the heritage of the site. The association is also responsible for creating a high quality community educational and recreational environment for present and future generations, while preserving the integrity of the ecosystem. The Association solicits help for its work projects from throughout the community. Several Eagle Scout projects have been accomplished for the Arboretum: two wooden bridges; an informational sign at the entrance; and several bluebird houses installed throughout the Arboretum. Science classes from the area high schools and grade schools have assisted in work projects to lay wood chips to existing trails. A prairie area is in its second year of development, thanks to funds provided by the Quincy Rotary Club. The Gem City Kiwanis club has provided workers to lay rails to a wood chip trail which runs from the entrance to a natural pond area deep in the Arboretum. Several memorial trees have been donated and a wild flower area is being established along the existing trail. The Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Association is a community based non-profit association. At this point in its development it has not acquired 501 C3 status. Based on the relationship with the college, the John Wood Community College Foundation has agreed to be the fiscal agent for the Association. This has allowed the Association to apply for grants using the Foundations 501 C 3 status since the work of both Foundation and the Association ultimately benefits John Wood Community College as a community educational resource.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The goals of this project was to accomplish a site inventory of the species, taxa, vegetation, and habitats of the Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum to identify what is already in the area and provide guidance as to what needs to be added or removed. Aerial photos were to be acquired of the area and a grid was to be over laid using GIS technology. Identification markers were to be placed in various locations throughout the Arboretum using GIS technology to allow for more accurate locating of identified items within the Arboretum.

Project Methodology:

1. Acquire aerial photos of the area when the leaves are off the trees so specific areas can be better identified.
2. Develop a site map from aerial photos and conservation maps.
3. Hire local and/or area specialists to locate and identify the species, taxa, vegetation, and habitats located within the area.
4. Hire a local photographer to document the entire trail and photograph taxa, vegetation, and habitats of the area.
5. Compile the site maps, photos and related documents together in an archival form for use in site development plus make copies available in the John Wood Community College Library for use by students and the general public interested in the area.

RESULTS

1. Aerial photos have been acquired of the area and additional ones will be acquired from a recent aerial documentation of the area by Adams County based on the GIS technology. This will allow for exact matching of aerial views with ground level surveys and markers for ease of locating exactly where things are in the Arboretum.

2. John Wood Agriculture Instructor Mr. Gary Shupe and his class accomplished a GIS survey of the area and placed some markers in strategic locations. Additional markers have been purchased and will be installed when the vegetation has died back for winter. Mr. Shupe has overlaid an aerial photo with the GIS grid for use in planning future development of the Arboretum.

3. A tree survey was accomplished by Mr. Bill Bergman a noted tree nursery person in the area.

4. Wildflower identification has been accomplished by Mark and Deb Damhorst from various visits to the Arboretum throughout the year as various species grow and die back.

5. Reptiles of the area have been identified and counted by John Wood's Biology Instructor Mr. Chuck DeVerger and also a Biology class has done a study of the animals of the area as a class project.

6. Bird identification and documentation has also been a continuous process conducted by various by various individuals in addition to comments left in the Arboretum Visitor's Guest Book.

7. Mr. John Gebhardt accomplished a complete ground level photo documentation of the trail in early December when the vegetation was dormant. These documentary photos along with other documentation acquired from others who have documented the species, taxa, vegetation and habitats have been consolidated into 3 – 3 ring binders which have been placed in the reference area of the John Wood Community College Library. There is a binder for Arboretum and Trails Documentation, one for Animals, Birds and Habitats and one for Wildflowers. All of these materials have also been archived on CDs. All of these reference materials will be available for review and study by students, teachers from John Wood Community College, other area colleges, and the K-12 schools in the region plus the general public.

DISCUSSION

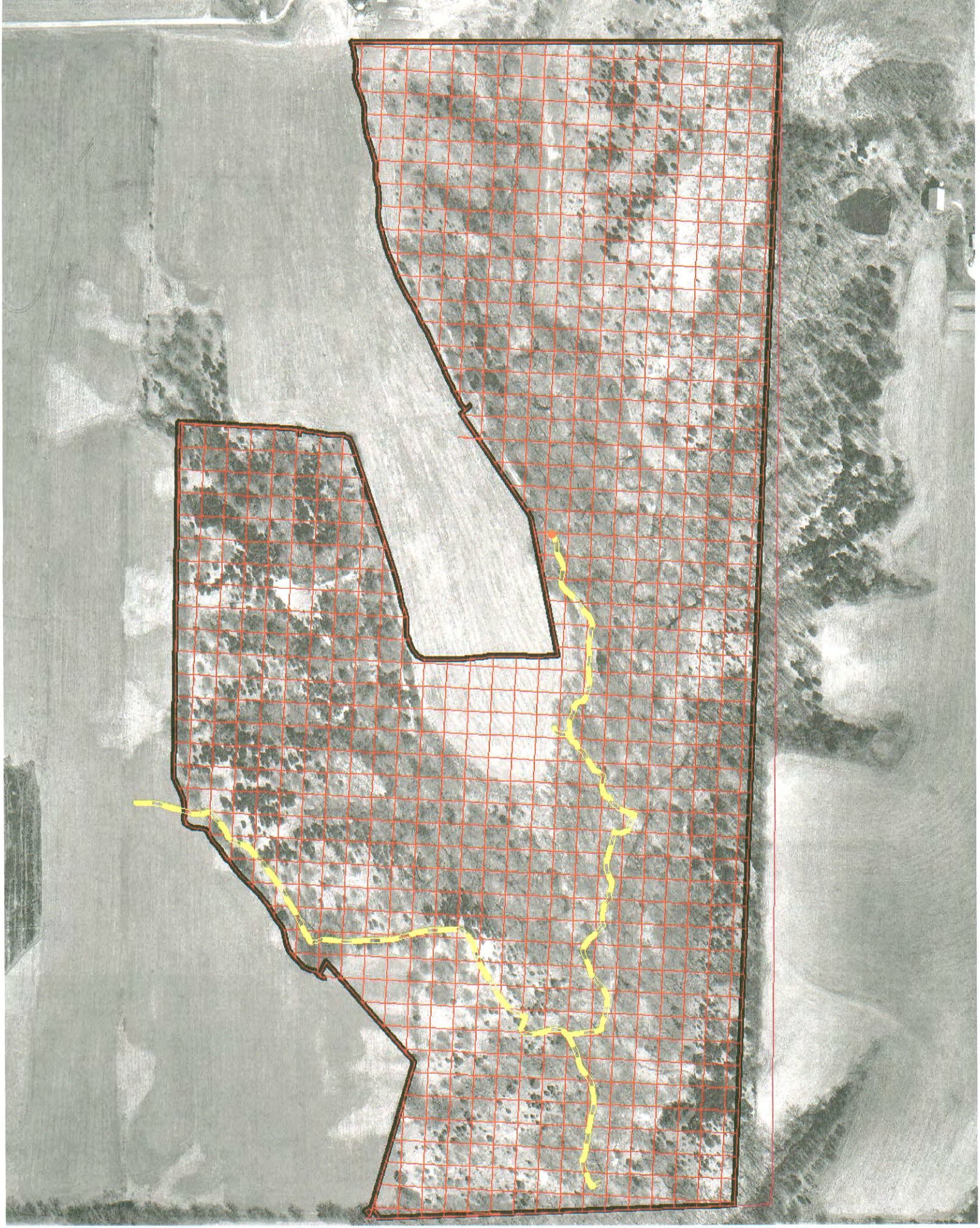
There is now in place in archival form: site maps, photos, and related documents showing both visually and in writing the locations of what species, taxa, vegetation, and habitats are currently in the Arboretum. The site has been mapped out and makers will be in place using GIS technology. This will greatly aid in the development of the Arboretum allowing for better identifying and locating of items to be added to the existing Arboretum. This documentation of what is already in the Arboretum will go a long way in assisting in the planning of what items are missing and should be added and what items are not native and should be removed. Created reference materials, in addition to being used by the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum Association, will be made available in the John Wood Community College library. Additionally, CD copies will be available for check out for those who wish to accomplish their research via the "electronic" method vs. looking up items in the three ring binders maintained in the reference area of the John Wood Community College Library.

SUMMARY

The documentation of the area will greatly assist current and future planners as to the development of the area. The documentation will also be readily available for students of the college to study what is currently in the Arboretum and for faculty to assign various projects for study by students. The information assembled, will also be useful to area K-12 schools who may want to plan a visit to the Arboretum to study the native plant life and animals in the area. This grant has allowed the Association to move one step closer to making the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum a noted place to visit by area schools and the general public. The Association now has in place the foundation materials which can be continuously updated as more research is accomplished and additional items have been added and/or deleted from the Arboretum. This documentation of the species, taxa, vegetation, and habitats contained within the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum will be used to inform area educators of the great resource "right in their own back yard". It is hope it will entice them to bring their students to visit and study "first hand" the species, taxa, vegetation, and habitats unique to West central Illinois. It is also hoped that this documentation will encourage others to join the Association and get involved in further developing the Arboretum.

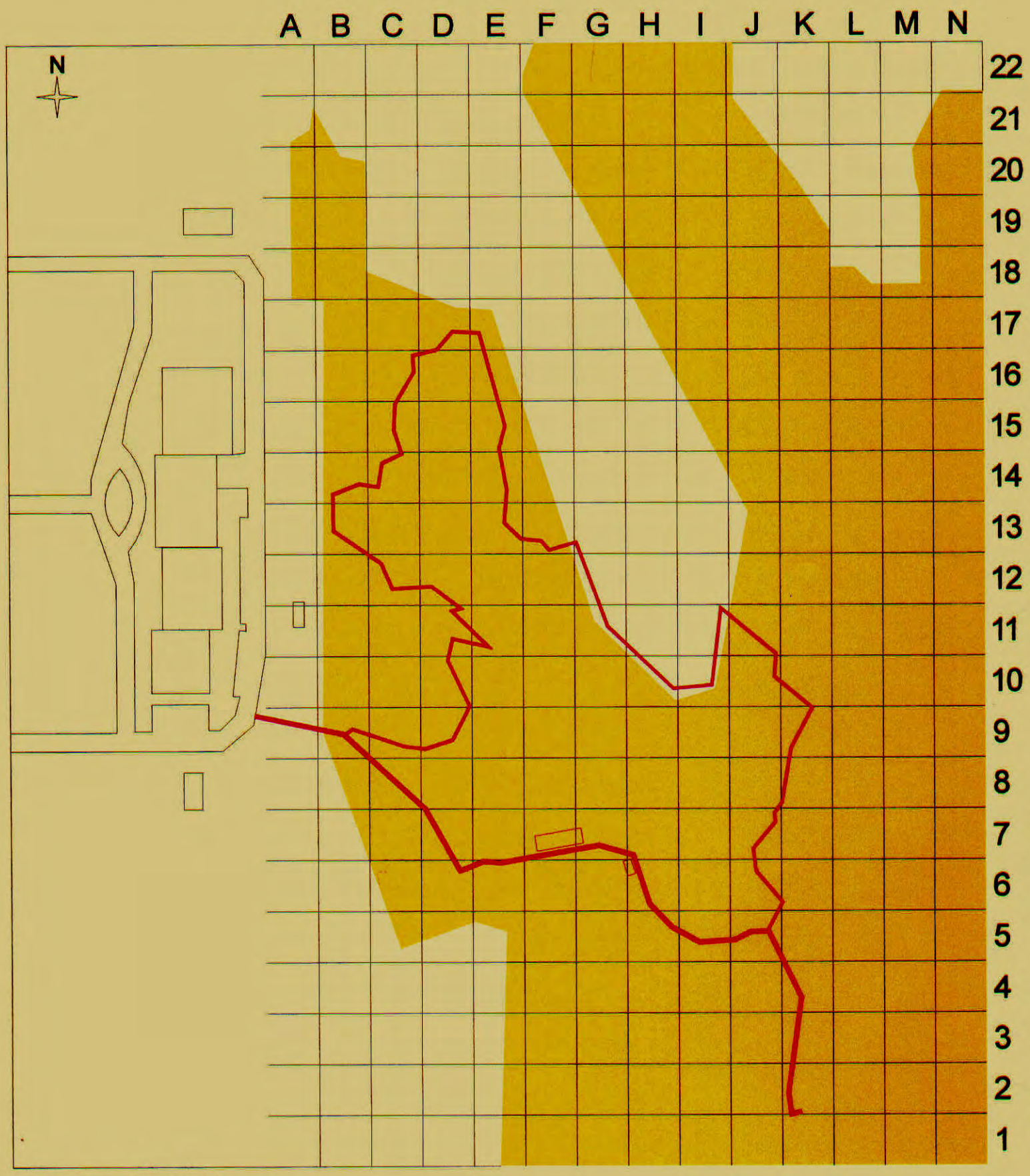
Project Budget/Expenditures:

BUDGET		ACTUAL
Labor $200	Photographer to take photos of area from air and on ground	$ 300
$100	Landscape Architect to assist in compilation of Site Plan	$
	(Photographer became compiler as well)	
Travel	All local people so no travel costs anticipated	$ 0
Equipment $1,000	Camera Equipment for Photography - Grantee provided	$ 1,000
	(Photographer loaned equipment for Photography and compilation of materials using Digital cameras, computers and printers)	
Commodities $200	Copying of Documents, Printing of Photos, etc.	$ 200
Contractual $450	Subject Specialists Stipends	
	- Vegetation Specialist $150	$ 150
	- Tree Identification Specialist $150	$ 150
	- Wildlife & Habitat Identification Specialist $150	$ 100
Other $150	Rental of Plane for Aerial Photography	
	(Did not need to rent plane so used monies to purchase markers for use in the Arboretum with approval from Grantor)	$ 185.28
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT		$2,085.28
Less:	Funds You (Grantee) Will Provide:	- $1,100.00
	Grant Funds Requested	**$ 985.28**



Scale: 1"=250'

Note: The corresponding section marker is located in the southwest corner of section.



Scale: 1"=250'

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Arboretum & Trail Documentation
Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Wildflowers
Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Wildflowers

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats

Note: The corresponding section marker is located in the southwest corner of section.

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N

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Scale: 1"=250'

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Wildflowers

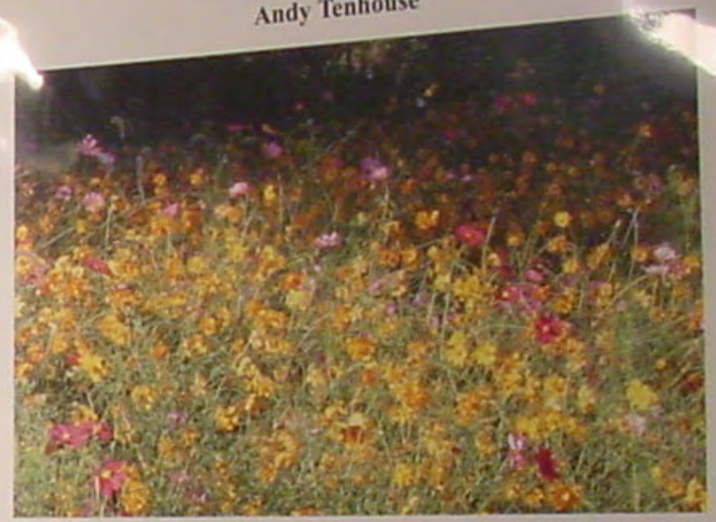
Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats

A Visual Tour of the Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum on December 1, 2003

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Wildflowers

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats

Wildflower Garden
developed by
Andy Tenhouse



Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Wildflowers

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats

Spring Valley Trails and Arboretum

Butterfly Garden

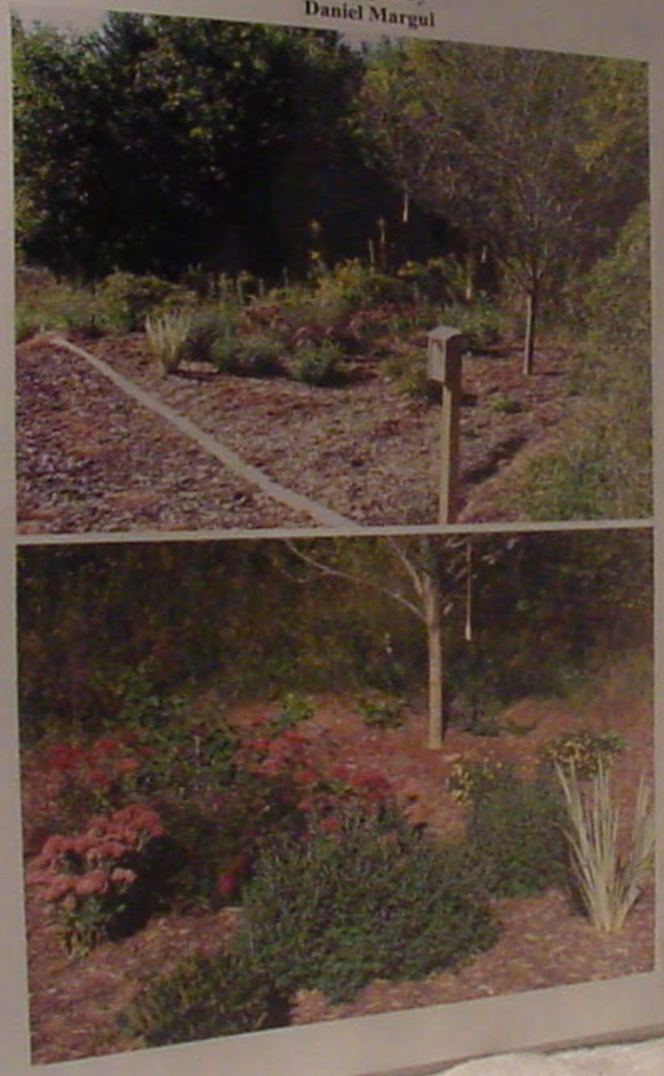
An Eagle Project By:
Daniel Margul and Troop 136

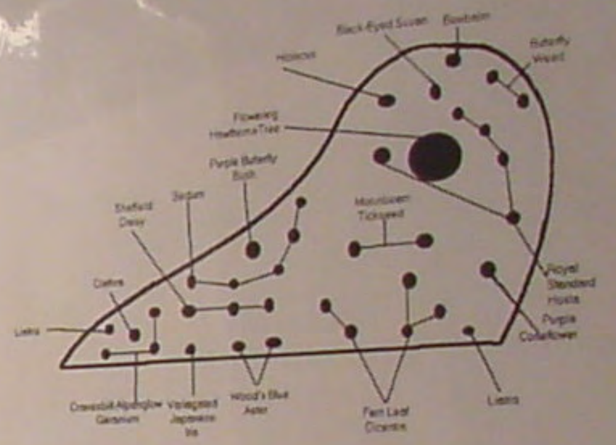
Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
Wildflowers

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
Animals, Birds, & Habitats

Butterfly Garden

developed by
Daniel Margul





1. Liatris- Sun, midsummer, mauve flowers
2. Geranium- Sun/Partial Sun, B May in September, vibrant pink flowers
3. Variegated Japanese Iris- Sun, spring to summer, blue flowers
4. Wood's Blue Aster- Sun, late summer to early fall, daisy-like blue flowers
5. Fern Leaf Dicentra- Partial shade, spring, bright red flowers & fernlike foliage
6. Purple Coneflower- Sun, midsummer to early fall, purple flowers
7. Royal Standard Hosta- Shade/Partial Shade, late summer, bold green leaves & white flowers
8. Butterfly Weed- Sun, mid summer, showy bright orange flowers
9. Bowbells- Sun/Partial sun, summer, tall whright pink flowers
10. Black-Eyed Susan- mid summer to mid fall, golden yellow flowers with dark centers
11. Pink Hibiscus- Sun/Partial Sun, summer, huge pink flat flowers
12. Flowering Hawthorn Tree- spring, small white flowers
13. Moonbeam Tickled (Coreopsis)- sun, summer, soft yellow flowers
14. Purple Butterfly Bush- Sun, summer, purple spike flowers on tall plant
15. Sedum- Sun, later summer to frost, reddish pink flower clusters
16. Sheffield Daisy (mum)- sun, fall, pastel apricot pink daisy
17. Cleftra- Sun, summer, yellow or pink spires of small flower clusters

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Wildflowers
Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats

7

Spring Valley Trails & Arboretum
- Animals, Birds, & Habitats