

The Nature Quilt Project is a grassroots project inspired by the Nature Quilt Project in Macomb, Illinois. Our local version of the project builds on recommendations of the recent Aux Sable Creek Watershed Plan that recommends introducing the concepts of watersheds and stormwater in the classroom as well as working on programs with children such as precipitation monitoring, runoff tracing, stream monitoring and analysis, and habitat assessments.

Project Mission: *Raising awareness of the assets, opportunities and challenges in our local natural areas to gain a better understanding of the interconnectedness between people and the natural world around them through children's education. We do this through promoting outdoor **environmental education, environmental literacy, the arts, cultural discovery and activism** demonstrating the ability of children to make a positive difference in addressing global environmental challenges.*

Get on TRACK with Illinois Prairies

Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Check the boxes of interest to you. We'll collaborate to support your interests! Completed forms (front & back) can be returned to: Joan K. Soltwisch, 16191 Hare Road, Minooka, IL 60447 • (815) 690-3658 • jksoltwischblue@yahoo.com

Teach

My class/group would like to take an outdoor environmental education field trip to the: (Fall 2010/Spring 2011)

Aux Sable Creek.

Mazon River.

I would like a speaker to visit my class/group to talk about prairies, particularly in the areas of the Aux Sable and Mazon. (Fall/Winter 2010)

My class/group would like to attend an environmental education program.

I am interested in attending workshops on outdoor environmental education. (For adult educators.)

Read

I would like to engage my class/group in an area-wide competitive read-a-thon. (Fall 2010/Spring 2011)

I am interested in borrowing a "mobile library" with books on rivers and streams. (Fall 2010/Spring 2011)

Arts

My class/group would like to participate in visual arts related to prairies (such as painting a quilt square). (Fall/Winter 2010)

My class/group would like to perform a water-related song, poem, play, etc. at the Spring 2011: Grundy County Environmental Fair. Yorkville Go Green.

I would like to borrow the completed Watershed Quilt to hang in my classroom, library, school or other public location. (2010/2011)

Culture

My class/group would like to have someone visit to speak about native cultures associated with the Aux Sable and Mazon watersheds. (Spring 2011)

My class/group would like to have someone visit to speak about the agricultural history of the Aux Sable and Mazon watersheds. (Spring 2011)

Kids can do it!

My class/group would like to volunteer at a "work day" to help restore a natural property prairie. My class/group would like to participate in a service and/or learning project related to prairies. (Spring 2011)

My class/group would like to display their prairie-based nature project at the Spring 2011: Grundy County Environmental Fair. Kendall County Environmental Fair.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Position/Title _____

TRACK Resource Ideas

Teach

- [Midwest Environmental Education Conference \(MEEC\) "Get CURRENT With EEAI" - April 14-16, 2011 \(Pere Marquette State Park, Grafton, IL\)](#)
- [Earth Science Week 2011 - October 9-15, 2011](#)
- [Project WET www.watercampws.org/ or www.projectwet.org/hwhp/](#)
- [The Rivers Project www.siu.edu/OSME/river/](#)

Read

- A short list of prairie-related books and their availability in several libraries is noted on the following page.
- A full list of potential books to read is posted on the project website: www.auxsablecreekwatershed.org/quiltproject (of course, you may read any river, stream, wetland, environment-related book you would like!)

Arts

Duck Stamp Design Contest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – entries due March 15, 2011 (also includes curriculum materials) www.fws.gov/juniorduck/ArtContest.htm

Culture

- Kendall County Forest Preserve District's Laws of Nature Center and Environmental Education includes exhibits on prairies, insects, Native Americans and more. Call (630) 553-4111 for more information.
- Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area, Morris, IL. Call (815) 942-2899 for more information.
- Baker Woods Forest Preserve (Aux Sable Creek watershed), located on Route 52, about 2 miles west of Ridge Road, Minooka, IL
- Little White School Museum, Oswego, IL. Call (630) 554-2999 for more information.
- Grundy County Historical Society, Morris, IL. Call (815)942-4880 for more information.
- Hoover Forest Preserve, Yorkville, IL. Call (630) 553-4025 for more information.
- Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, IL. Call (815) 423-6370 for more information.



Kids can do it!

- Volunteer, as a group, at a "work day" to help restore a natural property. Call Joan Soltwisch.
- Adopt-A-Stream Program www.illinoismallmouthalliance.com/html/conservation/adopt-a-stream.html
- Water use "footprint" calculator <http://www.h2oconserve.org/home.php?pd=index>
- Water Drop Patch Program <http://www.epa.gov/adopt/patch/>

Resources & Grants: Aquatics Trunk from IL Dept. of Natural Resources <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/aquatictrunk.htm> • Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education workshop schedule <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/entice/index.htm> • North American Association for Environmental Education www.naaee.org • The Children & Nature Network www.childrenandnature.org • Environmental Education Association of Illinois (includes links to workshops and mini-grants for projects/activities that help to educate students about natural resources or the environment, due September 30 www.eeai.net • National Great Rivers Research and Education Center www.ngrrec.org • Earth Day Network www.earthday.net • Melinda Gray Ardia Environmental Foundation Grants www.mgaef.org • Target Field Trip Grants <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031880> • Seeds for Education Grant Program – Wild Ones, Applications due November 15 www.for-wild.org

Reading List *

** A longer reading list will be available on the project website soon.*

BOOKS
<u>Adventure to the Pioneer Prairie</u> by Carol Marsh
<u>Across the Wild and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell</u> by Kristiana Gregory
<u>America's Prairies and Grasslands</u> by Marianne D. Wall
<u>Blackfoot Lodge Tales/The Story of a Prairie People</u> by George Bird Grinnell
<u>Butterfly Count</u> by Sneed B. Collard
<u>If You Were a Pioneer on the Prairie</u> by Anne Kamma
<u>If You're Not From the Prairie</u> by David Bouchard
<u>On the Banks of Plum Creek</u> by Laura Ingalls Wilder
<u>Little House on the Prairie</u> by Laura Ingalls Wilder
<u>Living in a Prairie</u> by Carol Baldwin
<u>The North American Prairie</u> by Peterson Field Guides
<u>One Day in the Prairie</u> by Jean Craighead George
<u>A Prairie Boy's Winter</u> by William Kurelek
<u>Prairie School</u> by AVI
<u>A Tallgrass Prairie Alphabet</u> by Claudia McGehee
<u>A Walk in the Prairie</u> by Rebecca L. Johnson

Calling all Educators!

Educators, we need you! We would like to involve art, English and science teachers. This is a multisensorial environmental project and therefore requires an interdisciplinary approach. While we have named this the Nature Quilt Project, there are opportunities appealing to more than simply artistic interests of painting quilt squares. Kids are encouraged to be involved in cultural, literary, and volunteerism aspects of watersheds.

We would like to collaborate with local educators to integrate part or all of this environmental project into classroom curriculum and outside group activities. We encourage all educators in Grundy and Kendall Counties to consider how any of the TEACH components could be held in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, boy/girl scout activities and more. Painting a square for the quilt is only one activity. We would like kids to be involved in a couple of the activities identified in the TEACH outline on page 1. There is something here for everyone!

All activities are intended to focus on our local prairies in the Aux Sable Creek (Grundy & Kendall Counties) and Mazon River (Grundy County, mostly) areas. We can work with you to bring local resources and information into your classroom or group education activities.

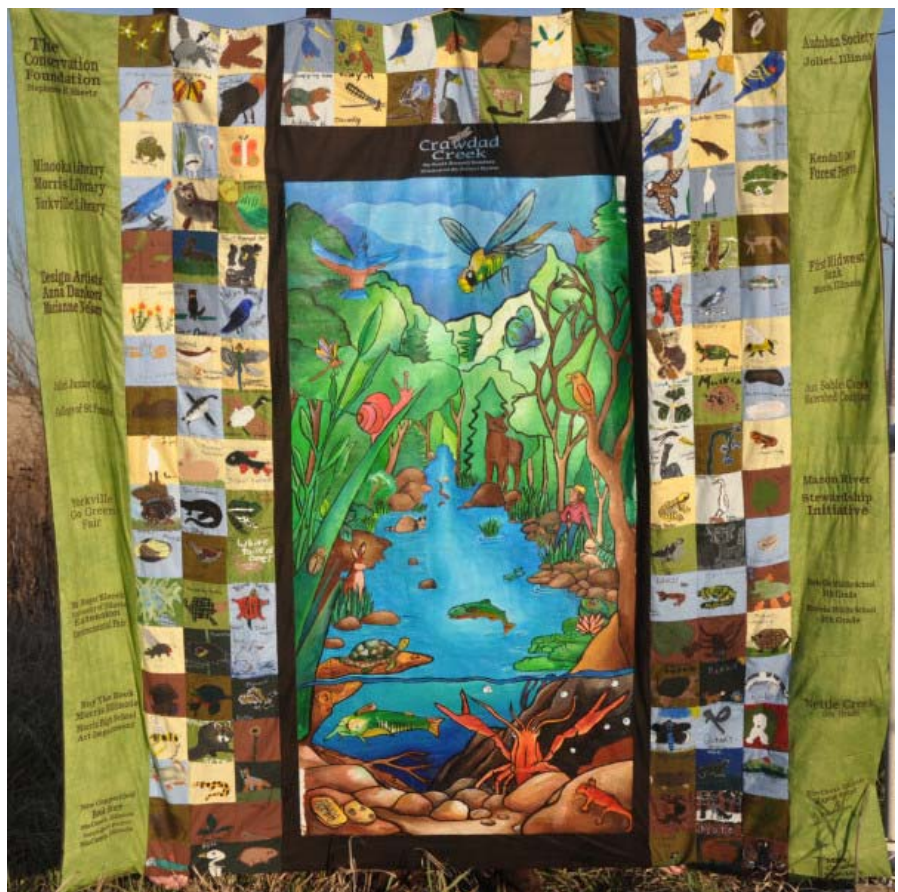
The Quilt

The Nature Quilt will be completed in Spring 2011. We anticipate displaying the finished quilt at the Grundy Eco Fair and the Yorkville Go Green Fair during March 2011. Other display opportunities will also be encouraged. The quilt will include approximately 144 squares designed by kids. All painted squares will be prairie related – whether it be animals or plants commonly found in our local prairies.

The center of the quilt will be designed by a local artists.

The outside squares will recognize our generous sponsors who have made this project possible.

If you are interested in supporting the project or getting involved, please contact Joan K. Soltwisch at (815) 690-3658 or jksoltwischblue@yahoo.com.



Picture of the Watershed Quilt, the inspiration for our local Nature Quilt Project.