



Beautiful Plaines Park conceptual site plan



A work in progress



The completed Beautiful Plaines Prairie Park features a shelter and interpretive signage.



Students harvest seeds from the native vegetation in the park



Belle Plaine residents are proud of their native prairie heritage, so when the town participated in the Community Visioning Program in 2008, the visioning committee decided that one of the projects should be the development of a prairie park with a trail. The design team proposed a park that would be an interactive learning center for students, residents, and visitors. The design also featured a mowed walking trail, woodland buffer, and a welcome center.

In 2010, the Belle Plaines Partners for Beautification (BPPB) received a 5,000 REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant to purchase a 7.75-acre tract of farmland along Highway 21 south of the city to develop Beautiful Plaines Prairie Park. Donations from the city, local civic groups and others bolstered the effort. An Iowa's Living Roadways Projects grant in excess of \$18,000 purchased trees, shrubs and native prairie seed and plants. A \$2,551 Mansfield Trust grant funded a split-rail fence, installed in 2011.

# Beautiful Plaines Prairie Park

Belle Plaine, Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation

Trees Forever

ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

ISU Extension Community and Economic Development

IOWA'S  
LIVING  
ROADWAYS

IMPLEMENTATION