

# The Meadow

Prairie Studies Initiative

Designing and Disseminating Better Health and Nutrition Practices

Enhancing Well-Being

Enabling Impactful Technologies

Building and Protecting Global Food Systems

**DECODING NATURE**

Kansas State University Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities and Discovery Strengths

## Overview

Students like Troy Britt and Richard Prudenti have helped faculty, staff, and volunteers create **the Meadow**, a one-half acre learning landscape of native plants on campus. Troy, who graduated in May 2015 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in printmaking, has a strong interest in ecological art that attracted him to work on the Meadow. Richard was seven years old when his mother helped him plant sunflowers he had started from seeds in school. They grew to a towering height and produced a bounty of seeds. Now pursuing a master's degree in landscape architecture, Richard never thought he would be living in Kansas. Like sunflowers, he has succeeded here as he learns how plants and trees create a sense of place, define space, and maintain the ecological health of the landscape.



Everyone has a different perspective on the power of a place to define who we are and how we see the world. The Meadow **enhances well-being** by providing a contemplative educational space on campus. Science and art find common ground in modes of inquiry such as careful observation, evidence-based reasoning, and critical thinking.

## Impact

The Meadow extends the work of the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art's educators and is a featured project of the interdisciplinary **Prairie Studies Initiative** based at the museum. The native prairie plants along its paths provide an **experiential learning** resource for teaching plant identification and native plant establishment, allowing visitors to examine, touch, and smell some of the plants depicted in the regionally focused art displayed in the museum's galleries. This small park promotes enjoyment of the natural world for all who visit the campus or the museum.



The Meadow also demonstrates sustainable landscaping that requires less water and pesticide use than conventional lawns. It's a **natural laboratory** for graduate and undergraduate research projects and offers a collaboration space for faculty from the sciences, arts, and landscape architecture. Faculty from landscape architecture and biological and agricultural engineering recently received an Environmental Protection Agency grant to involve their students in monitoring the ecological services provided by the Meadow.

Most of all, the Meadow **models the resilience of the prairie** and helps visitors and campus residents connect with the land of Kansas and understand the natural forces that influence its history and its challenges.

## About Kansas State University

Kansas State University was established in 1863 as the nation's first operational land-grant university. We've held firmly to the land-grant philosophy of serving our world through discovery and innovation. Today, the university is on its way to becoming a Top 50 public research university by 2025 through supporting, encouraging, and growing our research efforts.

Important points in time for K-State Research



**1887** Agricultural Experiment Station built to analyze horticultural and entomological subjects



**1967** Alf Landon Lecture Series on Public Issues established



**2015** National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility groundbreaking

**1863** Kansas State University founded



**1944** First U.S. patent application filed for a plastic container for frozen foods



**1997** Hale Library expansion completed



RECENT SUCCESSES:

- \$184.9 million** in FY2014 research expenditures
- 4 USAID** Feed the Future Innovation Labs
- 14 patents** granted in 2014
- 1,000** research grants in FY2014
- \$473.9 million** in FY2014 endowment
- more than **4,300** graduate students