

Planting 41 – The Two Re-sculpted Gravel Pits/Hook Larson Prairie Unit – 1999

In the early summer of 1999 we had large equipment (Hardesty Excavating) re-sculpt the steep sides and spoil piles of the two gravel pits, this included knocking over trees (box elder, cedar, osage, honey locust, elm) and pushing them in piles to burn later. It also included burying some garbage in the west pit. They found the piles of top soil that had been set aside so they covered the re-sculpted gravel with the darker soil.

We then planted a mix of seed from Genesis nursery (All cer, Amo can, Ane cyl, Art cau, Ast obl, Ast pta, Ast ser, Geu tri, Mon fis, Ono his (marble seed), Pet fol (leafy prairie clover), Pet pur, Sti spa, Ziz aur, and Nachusa Grasslands little bluestem.

Later we added some upland sedges (*Carex muhlenbergii*, *Carex bicknellii*) and some upland rush from Dot's Knob (*Juncus dudleyi* ?).

We mowed these sloped plantings the second week of August 1999 (mostly annual weeds like fox tail and velvet leaf) and then on August 20, 1999 we planted more species harvested nearby or on other areas of Nachusa: Bou cur, Dod mea, Pen pal, Scr lan or mar, Wul bul, Heu ric, Koe cri, Bap leucophea, Hou lon, Tep vir.

Not all of the pits were re-sculpted in 1999 (ran out of funds). In other years more will be re-sculpted.

Plants that were noted sprouted and growing in the gravel pits in the summer and fall of 1999 were: in east pit... side oats grama, little bluestem, Ratibida, bergamot, black eyed Susan and in west pit...side oats grama, little bluestem, Ratibida, bergamot, black eyed Susan, Petalostemum, Artemesia, and others that could be the natives such as Astragalus or Lespedeza virginica or leadplant.