



Prairie Grasses & Wildflowers in the Gere Branch Library Landscape



CONTINUING THE PRAIRIE ATMOSPHERE that was initiated with the "Prairie Plot", the grounds have been planted with a variety of native species. These hardy grasses and flowers were chosen for their growth characteristics, natural beauty and water conserving nature. When fully established, in 3 to 5 years, they will provide a low maintenance landscape that is resistant to insects and disease while providing significant visual impact.

Buffalograss was selected for the 'groomed' areas of the landscape. This is a native Nebraska grass which grows to a height of 4 to 6 inches. As this area becomes fully established it will form a dense sod capable of choking out weeds and withstanding the inevitable foot traffic.

The Buffalograss area is set off by a corridor of color which sweeps around the building. This taller area contains a mixture of three native grasses; Blue Gramma (6-8 inches), Sideoats Gramma (12-18 inches) and Little Bluestem (1-3 inches) and twenty-five varieties of wildflowers that will provide an everchanging array of color from early spring through fall. Among the spring blooming wildflowers you will find are Dames Rocket, Blue Flax and Cornflower. These will be followed by Purple Prairieclover, Shasta Daisy and Thickspike Gayfeather during the summer months and Blackeyed Susans, Blanket Flower, Rosy Red Yarrow and Purple Coneflower as we move into the fall season.

The landscape provides a slice of the appearance of the Great Plains as our ancestors found it. As one sits in the library gazing out across the grounds you can almost imagine yourself in the setting of Willa Cather's *O' Pioneers!*

