

Instructions on Plant Rescues at the Marathon County Landfill

[**Please note:** Only Wild Ones members may take part in these.]

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

For one thing, it's fun. For another, as Wild Ones Executive Director Donna VanBuecken points out, we Wild Ones participate in digs both to save the native plants and to share the plants or seeds in the future. You are welcome to transplant wildflowers and other plants you rescue to your own garden or prairie. Also plan to contribute some of the plants you dig to a good cause so that we can spread our love of natural landscaping to others in our communities.

HOW DO I FIND THE DIG SITE?

To get to the MARATHON COUNTY LANDFILL from Portage and Wood Counties, take Interstate 39 north to Highway 29 East. Take a right turn and drive east on 29 about 1.5 miles beyond the County Highway Q exit. Get in the left hand turning lane and look for the sign at the entrance to the landfill.

To get to the MARATHON COUNTY LANDFILL from Waupaca County, take Highway 49 north to Highway 29. Drive west on 29 for about 2.5 miles past County Highway Y. Get in the right hand turning lane, and go in the entrance to the landfill. (The sign is hard to see from this direction, so go slowly and keep an eye out for it! If you get to the County Q exit, you know you've gone too far.)

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Wear sturdy work boots or shoes, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, work gloves, and a hat. If you have an orange vest, wear it too. (It'll be easier to find one another that way!) If rain is a possibility, wear rubber boots and other rain gear.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Bring a sharp shovel, work gloves, plastic grocery bags, pruning shears, and a plastic toboggan or saucer sled with a heavy rope handle on which to drag out your plants. (Wagons tip over easily.) Bring plastic sheeting or an old shower curtain to protect your trunk or pickup bed. Also bring plenty of water and perhaps a few snacks.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE?

Before you go to the dig site, prepare a place in your prairie or garden to put the plants you plan to dig.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET TO THE DIG?

Please follow Eileen Guthrie's instructions carefully about where, when, and how to dig. We're conducting our plant rescues as guests on property owned by the Marathon County Landfill, Eileen's employer. Please keep that in mind throughout the dig.

WHAT PLANTS CAN I DIG?

You can dig anything that you'd like. In the past, Dr. Bob Freckmann's identified such plants as agrimony, asters (arrow-leaved, calico, flat-top white, and Lindley's), avens, baneberry (red and white), bedstraw (fragrant and lance-leaved), bee balm, bishop's cap, black snakeroot, bloodroot, Canada mayflower, crested shield fern, deflexed bottlebrush sedge, dissected grape fern, drooping sedge, enchanter's nightshade, evening primrose, false Solomon's seal, goldenrod (Canada, lance-leaved, late, and zigzag), hemp vervain, hepatica (round-lobed and sharp-lobed), hog peanut, honewort, indian pipe, interrupted fern, jack-in-the-pulpit, lady fern, leafy bulrush, long stalk sedge, lopseed, maiden hair fern, merrybells, northern blue flag iris, northern clustered sedge, pearly everlasting, Pennsylvania sedge, poke milkweed, rice cut grass, rose twisted stalk, rough-leaved rice grass, rue (early meadow), running pine club moss, slender marsh rush, smartweed (water pepper), shinleaf, spinulose wood fern, sunflower (rough-leaved), sweet cicely, sweet white violet, thimbleweed, tick trefoil, trillium (large-flowered), Tuckerman's sedge, vervain (blue), violet (downy yellow), Virginia grape fern, water parsnip, water horehound, wild basil, wild columbine, wild lettuce, will herb (fireweed), and wool grass.