



Mallard Duck
Anas platyrhynchos



Monarch
Danaus plexippus

CRYSTAL CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

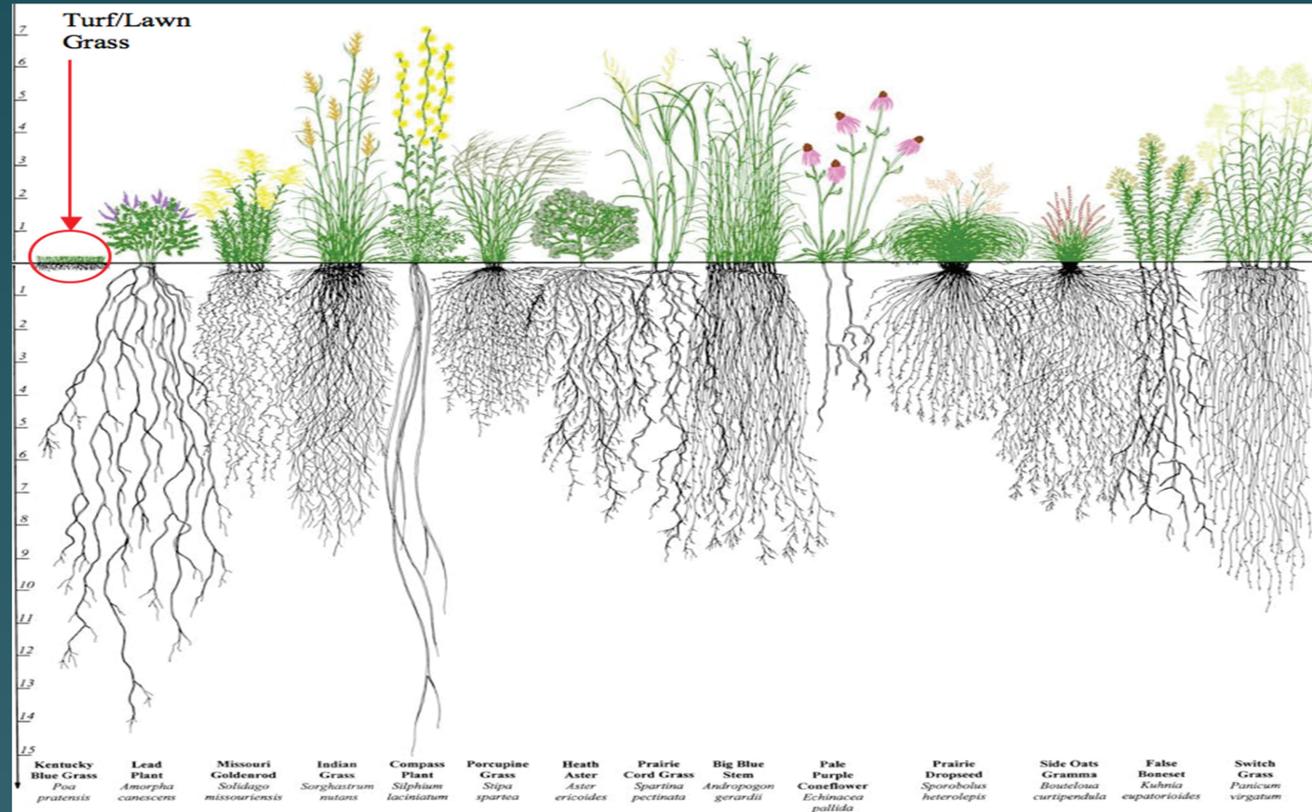
Restoring Ecological Health within Crystal Creek Watershed

RESTORING THE LAND

Ecological restoration is the process whereby ecologists investigate the historic native plant communities that once occupied a site and use this information to restore ecological health to the land. The area comprising Crystal Creek was historically nearly absent of trees and consisted primarily of prairie and meandering stream corridor.



Historical 1930s aerial of project site



Native plants have deep root systems which hold soil in place, promote water infiltration, protect water quality, provide pollinator habitat, and require little maintenance. Turf grass, on the other hand, has very shallow roots, needs to be mowed and fertilized, and does not benefit the ecosystem.

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POLLINATOR HABITAT

Each picture showcases a pollinator on a native flower you may see in this ecological restoration.

ATTRACTING POLLINATORS

Local pollinators such as bees, birds, butterflies, and moths evolved alongside native plants and have formed a symbiotic relationship. This means that the plants and pollinators benefit from each other. For example, milkweeds bloom in mid-summer at the time when adult monarchs are looking to lay their eggs. This is important because milkweeds are the only plants monarch caterpillars eat. In turn, the milkweeds get pollinated.

LONG TERM STEWARDSHIP

This restored ecosystem will be managed long term by selectively controlling invasive species, occasionally removing weedy trees and shrubs, and by implementing prescribed burns.