Wisdom Prairie Early Summer Wildflower Walk

Enjoy walking this trail, out and back 0.8 miles total, through a lush and vibrant restored prairie from Hilltop to Rocky Top. Use this simple guide to identify some of the summer’s best showy native flowers. Take your time, let your mind relax and enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of nature.

Caring for the earth

In 1953, the Benedictine sisters set down roots on a hill overlooking Lake Mendota and the skyline of Madison, Wisconsin. The original 40 acres consisted of farmland cleared in the early 1900s. Today, Holy Wisdom Monastery includes 130 acres with a 10,000-year-old glacial lake, one of the ‘greenest’ LEED-certified buildings in the country, wooded nature trails, restored prairie, gardens, orchards and the beginning of an oak savanna.

The Friends of Wisdom Prairie started in 2014 to help maintain and restore the land at Holy Wisdom Monastery through donations, volunteer activities and environmental education. In July 2017, the sisters received the international Assisi Award from the Society for Conservation Biology for the environmental efforts spanning more than 60 years at Holy Wisdom Monastery.

Mission

Caring for the earth is part of our mission, rooted in Benedictine values of stability and respect for all of creation. The sisters at Holy Wisdom Monastery have a long history of environmental stewardship and invite others to help with this work.

Holy Wisdom Monastery

Weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life

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Fires are necessary to maintain prairies.

A prairie is a community of flowers, grasses and sedges, with few trees or shrubs.

Deep root systems of prairie plants protect topsoil and prevent erosion.