**Introduction**

The prairie and grassland ecosystems are severely unprotected across the globe. Only four percent of the planet’s prairie grasslands are protected. The objective of this project is to demonstrate the ecosystem benefits of a small native plants landscape while also educating the local community of the significance of the prairie. The Meadow’s overall goal is to educate the community on the importance of green infrastructure and protection of grasslands worldwide. The Meadow also provides research opportunities and experimental ground for faculty and students and serves as an example of a low energy, low water, and chemical free campus landscape. A small section of the Kansas State University campus grounds, which consisted of common turf grass, was converted into a one-half acre meadow. Multiple species of native plants were selected and planted on site.

**Native Grasses and Flowers**

All grasses and flowers in the Meadow are native to the Kansas prairie and were manually selected and will be monitored each growing season. Sketches of these species will be part of interpretive materials for outreach and informal learning.

(Above) Schematic Seeding Plan, 2013: The site has been reconstructed as a designed meadow environment, using native vegetation and existing vegetation.

- **Biodiversity**
  Random samples will be taken in the upcoming growing season (April - September 2016). A baseline will be located by existing, man-made reference points adjacent to the site. From this baseline, random transects will be located and laid out using steel pins. Along each transect, locations for sampling will be selected using random number increments. The Daubenmire frame method will then be used to identify species and evaluate biomass.

- **Pollinator Diversity**
  Pollinators will be collected by pan traps and net methods along selected transects within a 24 hour period. Entomologists and entomology students at K-State will provide assistance with identification of samples.

- **Stormwater Runoff Analysis**
  Infiltration will be monitored using several double-ring infiltrometers within the Meadow. The rate and volume of runoff may also be monitored at an outlet within the site using an automated water sampler. Water quality will only be available for assessment and potential laboratory testing if there is sufficient runoff allowing for collection of samples (and this is dependent upon the magnitude of storm events and when these events occur in 2016).

**Anticipated Findings**

It is anticipated that compared to the turf grass, the native vegetation in the Meadow will show improved local soil and water quality, reduced flooding and erosion from stormwater runoff, and increased biodiversity.

View of the Meadow site (Summer 2015). The Meadow provides visual learning in addition to its research purposes.