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*Green County Leaders 2023 - 2024*

## **Highway Beautification & Habitat Restoration**



### **Project Partners**

*Chris Narveson & John Schumacher - Green County Highway Dept.*

*Ari Voegeli - Green County Clerk*

*Kieth & Tina Ritschard - RBS Activewear*

### **Team Members**

*Ali Grunder  
Brent Ackerman  
Brianne Rindy  
Katy Lambert  
Tonna Winkers*

Chris Narveson, Green County Highway Commissioner, presented this Highway Beautification project to the Green County Leader group as we chose our community project groups. This project is a pilot program that plants native prairies within on-ramps, off-ramps, and other highway land that is currently being mowed. Benefits of the Highway Beautification project include improved biodiversity, soil health, pollinator habitat, a reduced number of non-native invasive grasses, and aesthetic value.

In addition to the ecological benefits, the Highway Department will save time and money due to less mowing and maintenance costs. As the prairie continues to establish itself and expand, the benefits will multiply. This project is a pilot in the hopes that it can be expanded to other ramps and counties across the state and beyond to increase the aesthetic and ecological value of land along our state's highways.



“This test program could become a state-wide model for future projects. The biggest benefit of the program would be the reduction of mowing costs for our county. If we can get more counties to work with private groups to beautify our highways, expand habitat for pollinators, and reduce maintenance costs it is a win-win for all!”

– **Chris Narveson**  
*Green County Highway Commissioner*

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