

Campus RainWorks Challenge Video Transcript for Kansas State Design Team

Narrator: The Flint Hills is the physiographic region that we're in, and it used to occupy everything that K State sits on. The campus I think would benefit from an educational standpoint from having, you know, a piece of native or native appearing landscape put in that payed some homage to what this place was before.

Professor Lee Skabelund: I think the site you have selected is superb in terms of addressing critical concern on campus; this design has the potential to really make a difference, slowing substantially the water that's coming through the campus green, and also helping purify that water.

Professor Tim Keane: The fact that we have developed somewhere in terms of how we've lost a lot of what they like to call now "ecological service" by putting in an artificial aesthetic or a non-native landscape, so that's where I think it would be important. Whether people appreciate the fact that this was once grass 8-10 feet tall and dense and it would have been right in here they can start to understand that by going back to what nature put in here in the first place. We can actually make things work better, increase the physiological function; increase the biological function, then I think that would be valued.

Professor William Winslow: It seems to me a neglected space; they're using indigenous materials, but they are not in the form that supports the typical style for prairie landscape.

Narrator: So you are stabilizing the bank by creating a wetland system with much more gentle transmissions rather than these steep banks that get undermined by speedy runoff, trying to hold that water for a longer amount of time by using evapotranspiration, using the biogeochemical processes, soils, root systems, all of those important functional structural attributes of wetland and wet meadow and prairie systems that began to really treat water, and degrade a number of the biological agents that are going to runoff as a part of stormwater.

Professor Tim Keane: Anytime you start trying to do prairie restoration, or wet prairie restoration, you are going to automatically increase that structural diversity and species diversity that will allow for more habitat opportunities. I think it would be an advantage not only for an educational standpoint, it would create an amenity that K State currently doesn't have on campus, and it would, as I said before, pay some homage to what this place was before we took it over and changed it. So we're seeing banks slumping, we're seeing meanders start to migrate laterally, as a result of changing the discharge. See now we've got everything covered up with turf so there's not a lot of sediment coming, but there's still more water coming.