Beautifying Blackhawk Meadow Park

Before skyscrapers, malls, and amusement parks, there was land and open space everywhere. Due to the evolution of life, buildings have increased which means wide open ranges and parks are decreasing. The green spaces that still exist could use some maintenance and beautification. Green space is very beneficial for a community because it offers people a place for recreation, fitness, and fun. What a great opportunity to escape from the stress, noise, chaos, and strains of the modern city. Having green space allows citizens to walk in the local park, enjoy the fresh air and nature that surrounds them, to participate in sports, take a family trip to the playground, and to reconnect with old friends and loved ones. Research has shown that the communities that use their local space, have better connections and relationships with the people they share their community with, and they take pride in the area that they live in.

Some communities around the world are starting to realize how truly important green space is to have in their local environment and are making an effort to improve and save these areas. If a green space is well kept, more citizens are more likely to use and enjoy it. There are numerous parks and green spaces that exist, but are not maintained and are being unoccupied. Communities are coming together and finding ways to bring these areas back to life again. Some of the simple, tremendous things that these communities are doing is, picking up trash, putting plants in areas that could use some sprucing up, and recycling; the little things make a
big difference. Not only does this help the green space and environment they live in, but it also helps bring the community together as one.

Blackhawk Meadow Park is a local park in the town I live in, Byron, Illinois. Blackhawk Meadow Park is a place where the citizens of Byron go to spend time with their families and loved ones. There is a very large amount of activities you can do at Blackhawk Meadow Park. Some examples are walking around the bike bath, playing on the playground, playing baseball, shooting hoops on the basketball courts, and getting fit on the work-out equipment. As you can see, Blackhawk Meadow Park is great place to go spend time with family, friends, and do all sorts of fun activities.

Blackhawk Meadow Park is an absolute beautiful place, for the citizens of Byron to go and spend the day. Blackhawk Meadow has plenty of open space, trees, and recreational activities. What Blackhawk Meadow Park could benefit from is landscaping. Blackhawk Meadow Park just recently installed workout equipment that surrounds the bike-path that goes around the whole park. These workout stations are very beneficial to the park and will help encourage health and fitness in the community. Now that the park has these stations set up around the park, they just need some beautification. What I would do to beautify these stations is add shrubs, ornamental grasses, and flowers that would surround the stations. Using a prairie-like feel to the landscape would complement the nature that surrounds Blackhawk Meadow Park. Some examples of shrubs I’d use, Forsythia, Spirea, and Viburnums. For ornamental grasses I’d install Fountain Grass and also blue fescue. And some examples of flowers, I’d plant Shasta Daisy, Common Purple Coneflower, Gay-Feather, and Black-Eyed Susan.
Like I stated earlier the park has plenty of trees, oaks and pines. What the park is lacking in this part is ornamental trees that I’d place around certain parts of the park that would suit that area of the park. Placing ornamental trees in Blackhawk Meadow Park would enhance the park’s natural beauty. The two ornamental trees that I’d plant are Flowering Dogwood, Bradford Pear and Magnolia. With all of these beautifications, Blackhawk Meadow Park is still missing something. Blackhawk Meadow Park is lacking something that makes the park special. A special feature that I’d add to the park is an eco-friendly pond. Along with this pond I’d surround it with aquatic plants that would cooperate and complement it well. An eco-friendly pond would provide food, shelter, and safety to the wildlife around it. The pond along with the prairie plants I’ve selected would help restore some of Illinois’ original habitat, which has been decreasing over the past decades. Citizens could stroll by and enjoy the water feature, and native plants making it a great spot to sit down and relax. Adding a pond is a terrific opportunity to give back to the environment and a great way to show the community that the park district cares about taking care of the environment.

Blackhawk Meadow Park is owned by the local park district. Earlier this year I was approached by Byron Park District’s executive director and was asked to come up with a landscape design for Blackhawk Meadow Park. I’m hoping the Byron Park District takes my landscape design into consideration and uses some of my ideas. Blackhawk Meadow Park is attached to the neighborhood, Fawn Ridge, that I’ve grown up in for the past 9 years. I remember the day that Blackhawk Meadow was first built. I have lots of memories at this park that I’ll never forget, spending quality time with friends and loved ones. Blackhawk Meadow Park has played a major part in my childhood memories and growing up; it’s always going to
have a special place in my heart. It’d be great coming back to Blackhawk Meadow Park years from now, with my own family, and seeing all of the beautifications that I’ve helped contribute to.