

MCB Project Summary Outline

Community: Shelbina

Name of Project: ***Shelbina Library Park Beautification***

Project Coordinator: Prairie 4-H

Type of Project: x Long-term

Time Frame: Date begun – February 1, 2006

Date completed – June 30, 2008

Number of volunteers for 2008: 28

Age range of volunteers: 5- 50

Cost of Project:	Materials donated	\$75.00
	Volunteer labor hours for 2008	95

Other organizations participating:

City of Shelbina

Shelbina Carnegie Library Board

South Shelby High School

Better Homes and Gardens Club

Narrative summary follows.

Shelbina Library Park Beautification By Prairie 4-H

For several years the Prairie 4-H Club has assumed the responsibility of picking up trash monthly from the Library Park, and decorating the park and gazebo at Christmas.

At their February, 2006 meeting, club members discussed different community service projects and voted to spruce up the Library Park. Planting flowers, bushes and trees, trimming shrubs, and painting the trim on the gazebo were ideas that could be done by all the members and families of Prairie 4-H. The club discussed how the community of Shelbina could enjoy these improvements in the park.

Representatives met with the Library Board to ask permission to make the improvements, and the board agreed to pay for landscaping materials and water. At the March City Council meeting, the club asked the city to tear out overgrown shrubs so that new flower beds could be constructed in their place. The city agreed to help. A landscaping plan was drawn up with the volunteer help of a professional landscaper.

Work began in mid-April. City employees bladed out the old shrubs, and added a load of dirt to each bed. After this preliminary work, club members trenched around the beds and planted new trees and shrubs under the landscapers direction. The mayor of Shelbina even came to help! While some members were building beds, others were painting trim on the gazebo. Paint and brushes were donated by the city of Shelbina. Other members trimmed remaining shrubs and hauled off clippings.

In May, the soil in the flower beds was tilled and amended. In June, about 100 flowering bedding plants were set out in the new beds and in the library's

planters. The bedding plants were donated by the horticulture class at South Shelby High School, and financial contributions were made by the Better Homes and Gardens Club and individual citizens. Member families took turns all summer watering, weeding, and tending the new plants.

In the spring of 2007 new annual plants were set out, and families again tended the beds all summer.

In the spring of 2008, further amendments and mulching were done, and annual plants replaced. The library board donated the bedding plants this year. The beds will once again be maintained on a rotating schedule by member families.

Our goal for this project was to add improvements to the library park, so people of Shelbina can enjoy the beauty added to the city environment. The members of Prairie 4H have learned some good skills from this project, such as landscaping, trimming bushes, and painting. One of the most important things we learned was how to make a plan, work together, and work with other members of the community. Doing this service project has shown us how to be better citizens and workers for our club and our community.