MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

Meeting: Board of Managers
Meeting date: 2/13/2025
Agenda Item #: 11.2
Request for Board Action

Title:	Authorization to Release Request for Quote Packages for Vegetation Maintenance.
Resolution number:	25-014
Prepared by:	Name: James McDermond-Spies Phone: 952-641-4513 jmcdermondspies@minnehahacreek.org
Reviewed by:	Name/Title: Michael Hayman, Project Planning Director; Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners
Recommended action:	Authorization to seek competitive quotes from qualified contractors on four vegetation maintenance contracts
Schedule:	Date: February 18, 2025 – RFQ Released Date: March 11, 2025 – Quote Deadline Date: March 12 through March 19, 2025 Quote Review Process Date: March 27, 2025 – Staff Recommendations to the Board
Budget considerations:	Fund name and code: Project Maintenance & Land Management, 2003-4320 Fund budget: $215,200 Expenditures to date: N/A Requested amount of funding: N/A

Past Board action:

Res # 19-034	Authorization to Enter into Four Contracts for Vegetation Maintenance at 25 sites
Res # 21-026	Authorization to Execute a Contract for Six Mile Marsh Prairie and Laketown Wetland Vegetation Maintenance
Res # 22-019	Authorization to Extend Five Vegetation Maintenance Contracts through 2022
Res #23-019	Authorization to Amend Five Vegetation Maintenance Contracts to Extend Work Through 2023
Res #24-022	Authorization to Amend Five Vegetation Maintenance Contracts to Extend Work Through 2023

Summary:
In 2003, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) adopted a policy in which vegetation established as part of its land conservation and preservation, ecological restoration, and capital project implementation is actively maintained. This action was taken in response to discovering that project partners may not have the expertise, budget, or oversight needed for ongoing vegetation maintenance. MCWD is best equipped to ensure the maintenance undertaken is regular and consistent across its lands and projects. As more recent capital projects have reached the end of their warranty period, and maintenance and management goals have been refined for MCWD lands, the number of managed vegetation sites has increased to 29 sites.

In 2021, the Board authorized a two-year contract, through 2022, for vegetation maintenance grouping the sites(then numbering 27) into five contract scopes arranged by similar vegetation maintenance needs, project scale, and when construction was completed. These contracts were extended for one year at the April 27, 2023, Board Meeting and the scope of work for each of these five contracts was completed on December 31, 2023. Contract scopes were amended

and approved for an additional one-year extension at the April 11, 2024 Board Meeting with work being completed by December 31, 2024. Through 2024 and the beginning of 2025, MCWD Staff reconsidered the scope and geographic groupings of these existing contracts, determining a need for change in both. This also coincides with two projects, Wasserman Lake Preserve (Victoria, MN) and Arden Park (Edina, MN), coming off warranty in 2024, and requiring continued maintenance.

MCWD Staff have amended the geographic groupings to better allow for efficiency in mobilization and work between sites. This change also led to a reduction from five previous contracts down to four, reducing the oversight burden on MCWD staff. See Table below:

Minneapolis Ponds and Arden Park (7 Sites)	Minnehaha Greenway and Headwaters (7 Sites)	Northern Upper Watershed (9 sites)	Southern Upper Watershed (6 Sites)
Twin Lakes Pond	Minnehaha Preserve (Reach 20)	Long Lake Ponds & Shoreline	Six Mile Marsh
Cedar Meadows Pond	Minnehaha Preserve Enhancement (Japs Olson)	Long Lake Creek Wetland	Gould Property
SW Bde Maka Ska Ponds	Methodist Hospital Wetland	Independence Wetland	Gideon Glen
Nokomis - Knoll Pond	Cottageville Park	Rye Property	Steiger Wetland
Nokomis - Amelia Pond	MCWD Office	Chute Property	Laketown Wetland
Nokomis - Gateway Pond	Headwaters Shoreline	CR 26 Remeander (Waldera)	Wasserman Perserve
Arden Park	101 Causeway Shoreline	Johnson/Rolling Hills Restoration	
		Jennings Bay Wetland Resto	
		Our Lady of the Lake Raingarden	

Contract scopes for the four groups have been consolidated to remove portions of management that are no longer needed since vegetation has established, and to focus on maintaining, and improving, existing condition on each site. Staff, with assistance from Stantec, has assessed the needs at each site to target the scope of services based on current condition. The scope of service prepared for the present Request for Quotes (RFQ) process are intended to be a foundation as staff evaluates sites and contractor relationships through the growing season and observes where targeted additional management and enhancement activities can be incorporated into future vegetation management contracts. Part of this forward-looking approach is to include the addition of an early season management recommendation report to gather site information from our contractor partners earlier, allowing for better integration of proposed changes into the budget for the following year. The proposed contract term is two years, providing continuity and consistent management through the end of 2026. The scopes of service for the four site groupings are attached as supporting documents.

In summary, the proposed RFQ reflects a review and adjustment of the scope of services, a geographic regrouping of sites, and the addition of new sites. Staff recommends the release of the following to solicit competitive quotes:

- Request for Quote for the Minneapolis Ponds and Arden Park sites contract;
- Request for Quote for the Minnehaha Greenway and Headwater sites contract;
- Request for Quote for the Northern Upper Watershed sites contract;
- Request for Quote for the Southern Upper Watershed sites contract.

At the February 13, 2025, Board meeting, staff will present the revised scopes of work for vegetation maintenance and answer questions regarding ongoing efforts at the various sites the MCWD manages. It is staff's recommendation that the Board of Managers approve resolution 25-014, authorizing staff to release the Request for Quote (RFQ) packages for vegetation maintenance.

Supporting documents (list attachments):

- Attachment 1 - Vegetation Management Contract Map
- Attachment 2 - Scope of Services Minneapolis Ponds and Arden Park
- Attachment 3 - Scope of Services Minnehaha Greenway and Headwaters
- Attachment 4 - Scope of Services Northern Upper Watershed
- Attachment 5 - Scope of Services Southern Upper Watershed

MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
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RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 25-014

Title: Authorization to Release Request for Quote Packages for Vegetation Management

WHEREAS the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) engages in land conservation and preservation, ecological restoration, and regional capital improvement projects as described in its Water Resources Management Plan;

WHEREAS the MCWD Board of Managers ("Board") has a maintenance policy under which MCWD retains the responsibility for maintenance of vegetation planted in conjunction with its land conservation restoration and capital project implementation goals;

WHEREAS in 2021 and 2022, the Board approved MCWD to enter into contracts for vegetation maintenance on 27 of its real property locations, based on scope of work, project scale, and construction completion timing, designated as Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites (4), the Six Mile Marsh Prairie & Laketown sites(2), the Pond Buffers & Shoreline sites(11), the West & Southwest sites(8), and the CR 101 Shoreline & Jennings Bay Wetland sites(2); and

WHEREAS in 2023 and 2024, MCWD amended the five contracts for vegetation maintenance each with a scope of services for one year of vegetation maintenance and the work for these contracts was complete on December 31, 2024;

WHEREAS in 2024 and early 2025, staff reviewed MCWD's approach to vegetation and recommends a revised approach for 2025 and beyond;

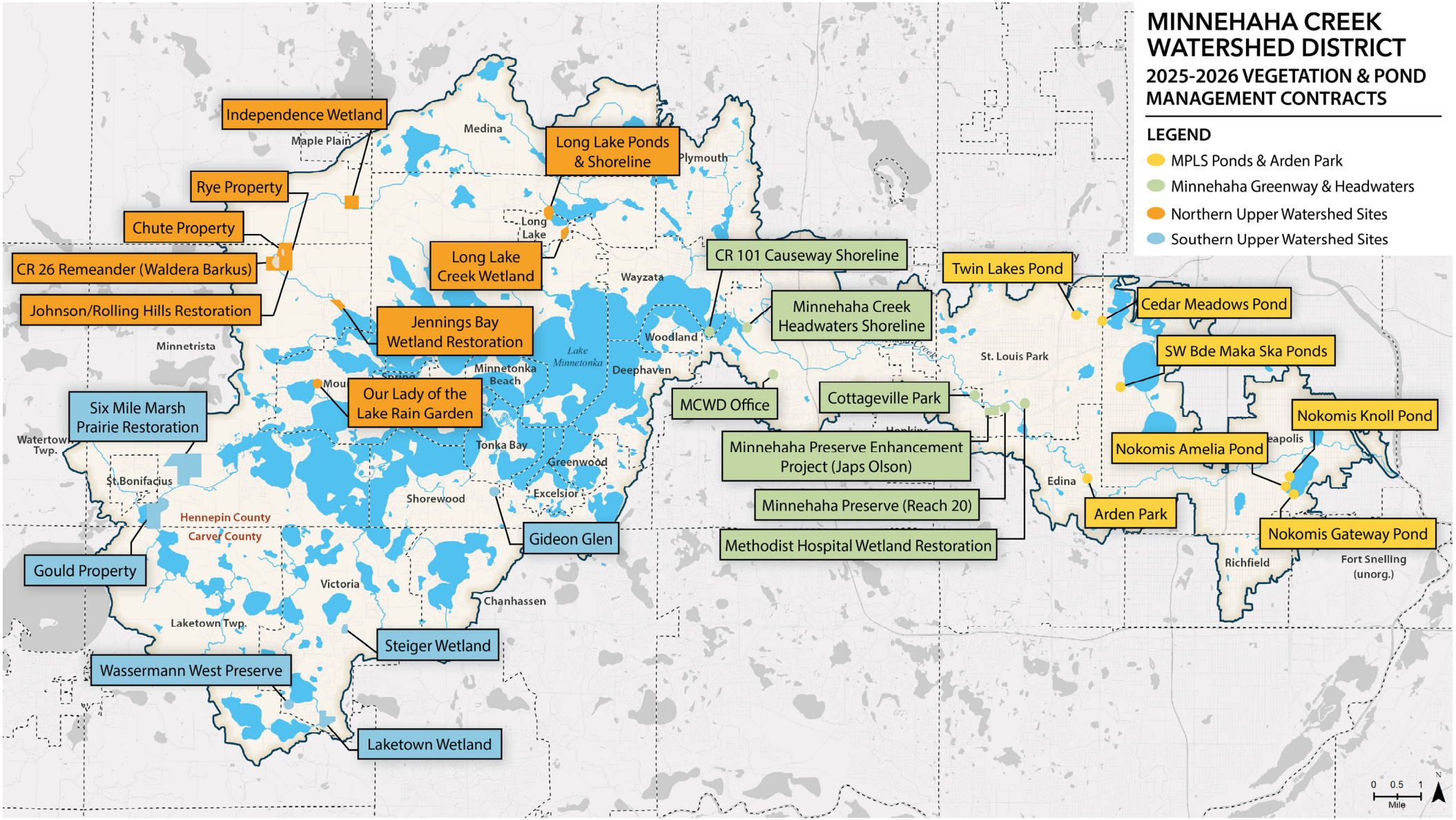
WHEREAS staff has examined MCWD's management needs for its real property locations, totaling 29, and has adjusted site grouping based on management plans and geography in order to allow services to be provided in a cost-efficient manner, based on proximity, scope of work, and project scale, designated as Minneapolis Ponds and Arden Park(7), Minnehaha Greenway and Headwaters sites(7), Northern Upper Watershed sites(9), and Southern Upper Watershed sites(6);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers authorizes the District Administrator, on advice of legal counsel, to release the Request for Quote packages for the Minneapolis Ponds and Arden Park Sites, Minnehaha Greenway and Headwaters sites, Northern Upper Watershed Sites, and Southern Upper Watershed sites.

Resolution Number 25-014 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___abstentions. Date: 2/13/2025

_____ Date: _____

Secretary


MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
2025-2026 VEGETATION & POND MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS
LEGEND
MPLS Ponds & Arden Park
Minnehaha Greenway & Headwaters
Northern Upper Watershed Sites
Southern Upper Watershed Sites
Independence Wetland
Rye Property
Chute Property
CR 26 Remeander (Waldera Barkus)
Johnson/Rolling Hills Restoration
Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration
Gould Property
Wassermann West Preserve
Laketown Wetland
Steiger Wetland
Gideon Glen
Our Lady of the Lake Rain Garden
Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration
Long Lake Creek Wetland
Long Lake Ponds & Shoreline
CR 101 Causeway Shoreline
Minnehaha Creek Headwaters Shoreline
MCWD Office
Minnehaha Preserve Enhancement Project (Japs Olson)
Minnehaha Preserve (Reach 20)
Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration
Cottageville Park
Twin Lakes Pond
Cedar Meadows Pond
SW Bde Maka Ska Ponds
Nokomis Knoll Pond
Nokomis Amelia Pond
Arden Park
Nokomis Gateway Pond
Medina
Maple Plain
Plymouth
Long Lake
Wayzata
Minnetrista
Lake Minnetonka
Minnetonka Beach
Deephaven
Woodland
St. Louis Park
Edina
Tonka Bay
Greenwood
Excelsior
Shorewood
St.Bonifacius
Watertown Twp.
Hennepin County
Carver County
Victoria
Chanhassen
Laketown Twp.
Richfield
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MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

QUALITY OF WATER QUALITY OF LIFE

Exhibit A: Scope of Services

Minneapolis Pond Buffers and Arden Park (7)

1. 1. PURPOSE**:** Implement maintenance of native vegetation at eleven sites throughout the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Sites are located in Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Long Lake, Mound, Shorewood, and Minnetonka. The contract period is for two years (2025-2026).

2. GENERAL BACKGROUND**:** To improve water quality in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the MCWD has implemented vegetation restoration around regional stormwater ponds and restored native vegetation along shorelines, bmps, and within wetlands.

   *Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) has herbicide use restrictions and "No pesticide Zones" please reference their Integrated Pest Management Policy and Operations Manual (Appendix D) for more information.

3. SITE DESCRIPTIONS:

   3.1 TWIN LAKES PARK POND

   Background: Twin Lakes Park Pond is a wet detention pond that treats local runoff before flowing into Twin Lakes. The location of the Twin Lakes Park Pond provides high visibility and therefore requires the buffer vegetation to be aesthetically attractive. The pond buffer was planted and seeded during 1996-1998 and is approximately 0.7 acres.

   Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 1996 but has been more intensely managed since 2009. Since 2009 the site received prescribed burns alternating prescribed burns and dormant mowing, hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot cutting as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024.

   Existing Conditions: Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are big bluestem, river bulrush, prairie cordgrass, and switch grass. Dominant forbs include wild bergamot, yellow coneflower, Maximillian sunflower, and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2018 growing season was 90%.

   Site Standards:
   - Minimum of 95% native species cover site-wide
   - Reduce reed canary grass, Canada thistle, and purple loosestrife populations each year
   - Control invasive species before flowering
   - Reduce woody invasive species populations

   3.1.1 TWIN LAKES PARK POND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

   MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete two full site mows:** Complete mowing (cutting height ~6") of the site shall be conducted during the spring of 2025 and 2026.
b) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.2 CEDAR MEADOWS POND

Background: Cedar Meadows Pond is a wet detention pond and wetland that treats local runoff and water flowing from Twin Lakes before it enters Cedar Lake. The location of the Cedar Meadows Pond provides high visibility and therefore requires the buffer vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The pond buffer was planted and seeded during 1996-1998 and is approximately 3.5 acres.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 1996 but has been more intensively managed since 2009. Since 2009 the site received alternating prescribed burns and dormant mows, hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing was conducted as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024. In the fall of 2013 over 1300 native plugs were installed along the western boundary of the buffer. Shrubs were renewal pruned in early spring 2015 to encourage new growth in a more compact form and to provide for safe sight lines along trails. Invasive woody species were cut and treated in early spring 2015.

Existing Conditions: The pond buffer in the north and west portions of the site are in poorer condition than the remainder of the site. Canada thistle, garlic mustard and cool season grasses are persistent invasive species. Reductions in hybrid cattail and reed canary grass have given way to foxtail grass. Purple loosestrife and ragweed species also require continued management. Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are big bluestem, Indian grass, river bulrush, prairie cordgrass, and Canada blue-joint. Dominant forbs include wild bergamot, spotted joe-pye weed, blue vervain, goldenrod and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 50% graminoids and 50% forbs.

Site Standards:

- Maximize native species cover site-wide
- Reduce invasive species cover site-wide every year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Decrease hybrid cattail cover every year

3.2.1 CEDAR MEADOWS POND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete two full site mows:** One complete mowing (cutting height minimum 6") of the site shall be conducted during the spring of 2025 and 2026.
b) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods.

These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

c) **Cattail treatment**: One complete mowing (cutting height 4-6") of the cattail dominated areas of the site shall be conducted during the winter or summer of each year if conditions allow. Ideal timing for mowing is a week before or after cattail staminate flowers emerge. Funds may be used for alternate cattail treatment (hand wicking) if conditions do not allow for mowing.

d) **Conduct one Seeding**: in the spring of 2025 seed bare and sparsely vegetated areas with mesic prairie mix, 35-642, with cover crop or similar with approval of OWNER. Measures should be taken to ensure improved seed to soil contact. Apply straw mulch to bare areas during seeding to mitigate erosion until vegetated. Cover crop will need to be mowed prior to seed set later in the growing season.

3.3 SOUTHWEST BDE MAKA SKA (formerly Calhoun) POND

Background: The Southwest Bde Maka Ska pond is a 3-cell stormwater pond designed to treat runoff from a 990-acre urban watershed. The location of the pond provides high visibility and therefore requires the buffer vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The pond buffer was planted and seeded in 2000 and is approximately 1.8 acres.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 2000 but has been more intensively managed since 2009. Since 2009 the site received alternating prescribed burns and dormant mows, hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing was conducted as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024. Invasive woody species were cut and treated in early spring 2015. Shrubs were renewal pruned in early spring 2015 and 2018 to encourage new growth in a more compact form and to provide for safe sight lines along trails.

Existing Conditions: High water throughout the 2017 growing season led to a resurgence of reed canary grass on the northeast corner of south pond Dense pockets of Canada thistle will require diligent management. Dominant graminoid species at the site are lake sedge, switch grass, prairie cordgrass, and Canada blue-joint. Dominant forbs include wild bergamot, spotted joe-pye weed, blue vervain, and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 80%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 85% native species cover site-wide
- Reduce Canada thistle, garlic mustard, and reed canary grass populations each year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Maintain a showy appearance and manage woody vegetation to provide for safe sight lines near trails and bridges
- ***Efforts should be made to complete management during times of lower public use: Weekdays between 9:30 AM – 3 PM***

3.3.1 SOUTHWEST BDE MAKA SKA POND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete one full site mows:** One complete mowing (cutting height ~6") of the site shall be conducted during the spring of 2026.

b) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4)

throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

c) **Shrub pruning**: Each year, prune *Viburnum* shrubs in the summer after flowering, and prune *Cornus* and *Cephalanthus* shrubs in the fall after flowering. Final shrub height to be field determined in coordination with CONTRACTOR and OWNER to provide for safety and sightlines near trails and bridges. Remove woody material from site.

3.4 KNOLL POND

Background: Knoll Pond is a wetland settling pond that was installed to treat runoff before it enters Lake Nokomis. The location of the Knoll Pond provides high visibility and therefore requires the buffer vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The pond buffer was planted and seeded in 2001 and is approximately 1.35 acres.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 2001 but has been more intensively managed since 2009. Since 2009 the site received alternating prescribed burns and dormant mows, hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing was conducted as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024.

Existing Conditions: Canada thistle and reed canary grass have been reduced but require continued management**.** Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are Canada blue-joint, lake sedge, and green bulrush. Dominant forbs include prairie spiderwort, swamp milkweed, blue vervain, and heath aster. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2018 growing season was 95%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 95% native species cover site-wide, outside cattail dominated areas.
- Reduce reed canary grass and Canada thistle populations each year
- Control invasive species before flowering

3.4.1 KNOLL POND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete two full site mows:** One complete mowing (cutting height ~6”) of the site shall be conducted during the spring of 2025 and the spring of 2026.

b) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.5 AMELIA POND

Background: Amelia Pond is a wetland settling pond that was installed to treat runoff before it enters Lake Nokomis. The location of the Amelia Pond provides high visibility and therefore requires the buffer vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The pond buffer was planted and seeded in 2001 and is approximately 6 acres.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 2001 but has been more intensively managed since 2009. Since 2009 the site received alternating prescribed burns and dormant mows, hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing was conducted as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024.

Existing Conditions: High water throughout the 2014-2018 growing seasons has led to persistent populations of hybrid cattail on the southern emergent areas and the western end of the pond buffer. Hand-wicking of the cattails was conducted during the growing season of 2015 to reduce the cattails and prevent off-target damage to the "understory" of high-quality emergent plants. The southern portion of the pond buffer is dominated by cup plant and green-headed coneflower and their height obstructs sight lines along the trail. Other areas of the buffer are dominated by Canada blue-joint, lake sedge, soft stem bulrush, and river bulrush. Dominant forbs include cup plant, joe-pye weed, blue vervain, and swamp milkweed. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2026 growing season was 75%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 85% native species cover site-wide, outside of cattail dominated areas
- Reduce reed canary grass, Canada thistle, and hybrid cattail cover each year
- Cup plant & green-headed coneflower are managed to allow for clear sight lines along trails
- Control invasive species before flowering

3.5.1 AMELIA POND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete two full site mows:** One complete mowing (cutting height ~6") of the site shall be conducted during the spring of 2025 and the spring of 2026.
b) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.6 GATEWAY POND

Background: Gateway Pond is a wetland settling pond that was installed to treat runoff before it enters Lake Nokomis. The location of the Gateway Pond provides high visibility and therefore requires the buffer vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The pond buffer was planted and seeded in 2001 and is approximately 1.85 acres.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 2001 but has been more intensively managed since 2009 Since 2009 the site received alternating prescribed burns and dormant mows, hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing was conducted as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024. In the fall of 2013, native seed and over 2500 native plugs were installed along the south side of the buffer. In the growing seasons through 2024 the site received a full mowing and spot spraying of perennial weeds.

Existing Conditions: High water throughout the 2014-2018 growing seasons has contributed to established populations of hybrid cattail on the southwest and east ends of the pond buffer and reed canary grass on the northeast corner of the site. Other areas of the buffer are dominated by native vegetation including Canada blue-joint, lake sedge, giant bur-reed, and river bulrush. Dominant forbs include blue vervain, swamp milkweed, blue lobelia, grass-leaved goldenrod, and stiff goldenrod. The native vegetation is roughly 65% graminoids and 35% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of the 2018 growing season was 90%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 95% native species cover site-wide, outside of cattail dominate areas
- Reduce hybrid cattail populations each year
- Control invasive species before flowering

3.6.1 GATEWAY POND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete two full site mows:** One complete mowing (cutting height ~6”) of the site shall be conducted during the spring of 2025 and the spring of 2026.
b) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.7 ARDEN PARK (EDINA)

Background: Arden Park was developed in partnership with the City of Edina. The park serves as a mixed-use green space for the community. This project daylighted this stretch of the creek and provides amenities while allowing for local water quality improvements.

Recent Management: Following the completion of construction was a vegetation establishment warranty period that ended in 2024. This consisted of full site mows, spot mowing, spot spraying, and hand pulling of undesirable vegetation to promote the establishment of diverse native species.

Existing Conditions: Much of the management area was mowed at the end of the 2024 growing season. Site consists of a mixture of open streambank and floodplains, upland shrubland, and lowland forest.

Site Standards

- Maintain and increase native cover each year
- Reduce invasive species cover each year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Inform OWNER of trees that cause concern; damaged, hazardous, diseased, down, etc.

3.7.1 ARDEN PARK DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES)

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete six Watercraft and Fishing Access maintenance treatments**: Along the stream channel there are four access points for recreation (See APPENDIX C: Site Plans). Inspect integrity of structural elements of accesses and inform OWNER of any issues immediately. Maintain vegetation around accesses through pruning and trimming to provide open access to the water and aesthetic value. Aggressively control any common irritating plant species; stinging nettle, poison ivy, blackberries, and wild parsnip, for example.

4. CONTRACT DELIVERABLES:

4.1 MONITORING AND REPORTING

a) **Early season management assessment:** CONTRACTOR will inspect all sites (Section 3, above) in the spring/summer (2025) to assess this years (2025) management actions and project management and enhancement needs for the following year (2026). This assessment should be distilled into a 1-2 page report to the OWNER. Report shall include a brief description and approximate timing of the intended management on each site for the year (2025). The rest of the report will list additional management and enhancements that are recommended on each site for the following year (2026). Each recommendation shall have a description of activity proposed and an explanation of why it is needed.

b) **End of year report:** CONTRACTOR shall compile and submit a summary report of the seasons management activities at all sites (Section 3, above), which includes site conditions, management actions taken, and any changes or additions to the recommended management for the following year (2026).

5. SPECIFICATIONS: Specifications for the contract services are attached in Appendix A.

6. APPENDIX:
   - APPENDIX A: Specifications
   - APPENDIX B: Suggested Calendar Summary of Work
   - APPENDIX C: Site Plans
   - APPENDIX D: MPRB Integrated Pest Management Policy

Minneapolis Ponds and Arden Park Sites (7)

Twin Lakes: 0.7 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.1.1a	Full Site Mow	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.1.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Cedar Meadows: 3.5 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.2.1a	Full site mow	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.2.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.2.1c	Cattail Treatment	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.2.1d	Seeding	Each	1	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Bde Maka Ska: 1.8 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.3.1a	Full site mow	Each	1	$ -	$ -
3.3.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.3.1c	Shrub Pruning	Each	2	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Nokomis Knoll: 1.35 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.4.1a	Full site mow	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.4.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Nokomis Amelia: 6 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.5.1a	Full site mow	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.5.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Nokomis Gateway: 1.85 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**

3.6.1a	Full site mow	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.6.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Arden Park (Edina)					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.7.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.7.1b	Watercraft and Fishing Access	Each	6	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Monitoring and Reporting					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
4.1a	Early Season Assessment	Each	2		
4.1b	End of Year Report	Each	2		
				Subtotal	**$ -**

TOTAL	**$ -**

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

QUALITY OF WATER QUALITY OF LIFE

Exhibit A: Scope of Services

Minnehaha Creek Greenway and Headwaters Sites (7)

1. PURPOSE**:** Implement maintenance of native vegetation at four Minnehaha Creek Greenway sites of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Sites are located in Hopkins and St. Louis Park. The contract period is for two years (2025-2026)

2. GENERAL BACKGROUND**:** To improve water quality in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the MCWD has implemented vegetation improvement around regional stormwater ponds and restored native vegetation within uplands, woodlands, and wetlands.

3. SITE DESCRIPTIONS:

3.1 MINNEHAHA CREEK PRESERVE (REACH 20)

Background: The Minnehaha Creek Preserve is a streambank and upland restoration project along a 3000' remeandered stretch of Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park. The project also provided new public access to the creek and transit connections with 2200' of boardwalk and 4600' of paved trail. The project includes a stormwater pond to the north of Excelsior Boulevard with a native plant buffer. The location of the Minnehaha Creek Preserve provides high visibility and therefore requires the vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive.

Recent Management: The streambank and focal areas of the wetland and upland have received vegetation management from 2014-2024 and specific areas of the woodlands have been managed by cutting and stump treating, and foliar treatments of buckthorn. Herbaceous vegetation management has included spot mowing by weed whip and flail mower, spot herbicide application, mowing annual weeds, cutting seed heads from persistent perennial weeds, hand-wicking of target wetland invasive plants, and enhancement planting. Hybrid cattail has been strategically managed in areas to decrease the overall abundance and cover; to promote the establishment of native wetland vegetation. After significant buckthorn removal was conducted and follow-up treated, hundreds of shrubs were planted to provide screening in target areas.

Existing Conditions: High water throughout the 2017 growing season and higher than average water during the late summer and fall of the 2016 growing season limited some management activities on floodplain and wetland areas of the site, and in particular, reduced the management of hybrid cattails. In the summer of 2018, moisture conditions allowed for a large stand of cattail to be mowed. Hybrid cattail is dominant on the site, and while it is targeted for reduction in focal areas, floodplain conditions are an impediment to widespread management of wetland invasives. Smartweed and stinging nettle also became abundant within the low-lying areas after flooding. These plants served as a cover crop to prevent weediness on site, but with a goal of increasing vegetative diversity, management has included reducing overall cover of smartweeds and stinging nettle. Reed canary grass and purple loosestrife are also present in the wetland areas, and a goal of management has been to continually reduce cover of these two species. In upland areas, Canada thistle, white and yellow sweet clover, leafy spurge, crown vetch, smooth brome, burdock, sow thistle and other weeds are present. A rotation of mowing and spraying the patches of these species has been used to limit spread and reduce the populations.

Reduction of buckthorn has also been completed in target areas. Other project areas are dominated by native vegetation including Canada blue-joint, lake sedge, giant bur-reed, and river bulrush. Dominant forbs include blue vervain, swamp milkweed, blue lobelia, grass-leaved goldenrod, and stiff goldenrod. The native vegetation is roughly 65% graminoids and 35% forbs. At the end of the growing season, the native species cover within the actively managed areas was approximately 65%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 75% native species cover within actively managed areas
- Reduce invasive species cover each year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Aggressively manage edge populations of cattail and reed canary grass to expand existing areas of native species

3.1.1 MINNEHAHA CREEK PRESERVE (REACH 20) SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete Cattail Treatments:** In late summer and/or early fall of 2025, treat small-medium populations of cattails in high visibility areas as accessible due to moisture conditions. Hand-wicking or backpack spraying is acceptable, but application technique must avoid off-target damage. Mowing cattail stands in targeted areas is also acceptable, however, treatment should be timed when cattails are accessible and plant material can be successfully cut low enough to allow inundation during the winter. A combination of spraying and/or mowing can be done as conditions allow.

c) **Complete evaluation and removal of hazard trees and tree limbs within bituminous trail and boardwalk corridor:** Once annually and after major storm events with winds over 25 mph, inspect trees along bituminous trail and boardwalk corridors. Remove tree limbs (within reach of pole saw) or trees (<8" dbh) deemed hazardous or capable of falling onto the trail or boardwalk. Trees and limbs deemed of a scale (>8" dbh) and complexity to require arborist or tree care services should be flagged and brought to the attention of the OWNER immediately. Tree removal requires approval of OWNER.

d) **Prune trees, shrubs, and herbaceous material from trail corridors/boardwalk:** In most areas, prune woody vegetation 4-feet back from sides of trails and boardwalk and provide an 8-foot vertical clearance above trails and boardwalk once in spring and once in summer 2025 and 2026. Specific areas may be designated to allow for lower clearance specifications. Cut herbaceous material away from boardwalk edges to keep boardwalk surface clear for park users. Clear herbaceous material, such as wild cucumber, that is vining and/or attached to boardwalk surfaces, railings, benches, and screen panels.

e) **Woody invasive treatment:** In the fall of 2025, conduct a treatment of woody invasives in the main trail corridors. Treatment methods may vary with tree/shrub size, location, and density. Treatments may include cut and stump treat, foliar herbicide, basal bark, frill cut, and others. Remove any cut material within 5ft of the trail. Any trees/shrubs to be treated and left standing shall be approved by the OWNER.

3.2 MINNEHAHA CREEK PRESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (JAPS OLSON)

Background: Site restoration began in August 2015 and included demolition of the former industrial complex, mitigation of contaminated soils, construction of a new surface parking lot, and construction of stormwater filtration basins. The site is approximately 6 acres and contains three stormwater basins (one pretreatment basin and two filtration basins), upland, and woodland areas which require management for native vegetation enhancement and invasive species control. Through a connector trail and parking area, this site extends the trail system previously established in the Minnehaha Creek Preserve.

Recent Management: In November 2015, the site was seeded with a native seed mix, cover crop of winter wheat, and mulched/blanketed. Due to the past disposition of the site (industrial facility) all vegetation management and maintenance activities began in 2016. During the years from 2016-2018 the site received shrub and tree plantings on the upland slopes of the basins. Emergent species were also planted along the lowest contour edge of the two filtration basins. The site also received a combination of mowing and spot spraying to control invasive species through 2024. In 2023, buckthorn and other woody invasive species were forestry mowed over a 1.5 acre area.

Existing Conditions: The pretreatment basin has established nicely**,** but the two filtration basin bottoms have lagged behind. Upland vegetation surrounding the basins is establishing, however the bottoms of the basins are quite weedy, dominated by smartweed and cottonwood seedlings. Buckthorn, exotic honeysuckle spp., and other woody invasive species will require continued management in the periphery woodland areas.

Site Standards:

- Manage invasive species populations and weeds in upland and wetland areas as well as in filtration basin bottoms
- Manage woody invasive species in east and north woodland areas; treat re-sprouts and seedlings
- Invasive species must be controlled prior to flowering

3.2.1 MINNEHAHA CREEK PRESERVE ENHANCEMENT (JAPS OLSON) PROJECT DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.
b) **Woody invasive treatment:** In the fall of 2025, conduct a treatment of woody invasives in the approximately 1.5 acre woodland to the North and East of the filtration basins. Treatment methods may vary with tree/shrub size, location, and density. Treatments may include cut and stump treat, foliar herbicide, basal bark, frill cut, and others. Any trees/shrubs to be treated and left standing shall be approved by the OWNER.

3.3 METHODIST HOSPITAL WETLAND RESTORATION

Background: The Methodist Hospital Wetland Restoration was constructed in 2005 in cooperation with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and included a remeander of this section of Minnehaha Creek, restoration of wetland vegetation, and the construction of a boardwalk throughout the western portion of the hospital campus. MCWD then coordinated with Methodist Hospital (Park Nicollet Health Systems) to undertake a

wetland and upland restoration project within the northern half of this area to serve as floodplain mitigation for their construction of a floodwall in 2017. The 2017 project will be maintained through a separate Park Nicollet contract. ***The work under this contract will be limited to the southern portion of the site that was not part of the 2017 construction.*** Refer to the Site Plan (Appendix C) for delineation of these areas.

Recent Management: Vegetation management resumed in 2018 and included a combination of mowing and spot spraying invasive species. Low water conditions in the late summer of 2018 allowed for a comprehensive herbicide treatment of cattail. Integrated pest management has been implemented onsite through 2024.

Existing Conditions: While some pockets of native vegetation persist, the site is currently dominated by hybrid cattail, and to a lesser extent, reed canary grass and purple loosestrife.

Site Standards:

- Reduce hybrid cattail cover by 10%
- Expand existing pockets of native vegetation by targeting adjacent periphery and edge populations of invasive species
- Manage reed canary grass and purple loosestrife prior to flowering and seed production within target areas

3.3.1 METHODIST HOSPITAL WETLAND RESTORATION SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete two hybrid cattail treatment:** Treatments of cattails shall be conducted mid-summer of 2025 and 2026 targeting hybrid cattail in all accessible areas. Hand-wicking or mechanical wick or boom applications are acceptable and may be selected based on moisture conditions and density of cattail. This task should be completed only if moisture conditions allow treatment without damage to desirable wetland vegetation.

c) **Complete four landscaping maintenance treatments:** At the intersection of Minnehaha Creek and Louisiana Ave S there is and approximately 3000sqft tiered slope, planted with native vegetation. Twice per growing season spot mow, foliar treat, and/or hand pull undesirable vegetation. This should be done to preserve the aesthetics of the planting and maintain the full use of infrastructure surrounding.

3.4 COTTAGEVILLE PARK

Background: The Cottageville Park project created nearly 5 acres of park land in an urbanized area, extending the Minnehaha Creek Greenway, a network of more than 50 acres of newly-accessible green space along Minnehaha Creek in Hopkins and St. Louis Park. An underground filtration system treats polluted runoff from 22 acres of land area that previously flowed untreated into Minnehaha Creek. Native plantings throughout the park and along 400 feet of streambank reduce erosion during high flow events and filter stormwater; the

plantings improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The location of the park provides high visibility and therefore requires the "formal" park and buffer vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive.

Recent Management: The park and streambank buffer vegetation was installed in 2016 and was managed under warranty through the 2018 growing season. Formal park plantings received a pre-emergent herbicide and were mulched each year; weeds were either hand pulled or spot treated with herbicide. After initial planting, the streambank buffer experienced high water during its establishment period. Invasive species have been spot mowed and spot treated with herbicide through 2024.

Existing Conditions: The formal planting beds are well established but have populations of Canada thistle and reed canary grass which continue to persist. The streambank vegetation has been slower to establish due to fluctuating water levels and less intensive weed management. The native vegetation is roughly 30% graminoids, 20% forbs, and 50% shrubs. The approximate native species cover is 90%. The park is irrigated with a whole-site irrigation system that operates on a set program with soil moisture sensing (City of Hopkins operated).

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 95% native species cover site-wide
- Reduce invasive species populations each year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Maintain a showy appearance and manage woody vegetation to provide for intended design concept
- Mulch should be 2-3" when installed, and spot filled if disturbed in rest years.

3.4.1 COTTAGEVILLE PARK SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete one mulching of formal planting beds:** In the spring of 2025, mulch all the formal planting beds in the designated management areas of the park. The City of Hopkins has mulch, the contractor will coordinate pick-up, loading, hauling, and distribution of mulch.
b) **Conduct two shrub trimming / pruning:** Complete one shrub trimming and/or pruning in the fall of 2025 and 2026, removing dead material and shaping as necessary to maintain aesthetics. Remove all cut material from site.
c) **Complete Six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.5 MCWD OFFICE WETLAND BUFFER AND POLLINATOR BED

Background: The MCWD Office buffer is an approximately 0.4 acre wetland buffer along Minnehaha Creek and a small planting bed along Minnetonka Blvd. The site undergoes light management including mowing and invasive species spot spraying. The site receives run-off from the office parking lot. Front planting bed was planted by staff a few years ago.

Recent Management: During the growing seasons of 2016-2024, the site was mowed fully each spring and then was spot mowed and/or spot sprayed during the remainder of each growing season. Woody re-sprouts

of buckthorn and poplar received a fall herbicide treatment each year.

Existing Conditions: There is a small stormwater pond just off the parking lot. Around the pond there is re-sprouting buckthorn, nearby silver poplar trees are suckering, and red cedars beginning to establish. There is early sunflower in the pond buffer, but the herbaceous vegetation is primarily weedy and includes reed canary grass, foxtail, leafy spurge, birds foot trefoil, crown vetch, and Canada thistle. Font bed has a similar invasive mix though more established pockets of native grasses.

Site Standards

- Reduce invasive species cover each year
- Control invasive species before flowering

3.5.1 MCWD OFFICE BUFFER AND POLLINATOR BED SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete four Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.6 MINNEHAHA CREEK HEADWATERS SHORELINE

Background: The Minnehaha Creek Headwaters Shoreline was installed as a public demonstration site to encourage more landowners to use natural shoreline restoration techniques. The location of the Headwaters Shoreline and the goal of it being a public demonstration site requires the vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The buffer was planted and seeded in 2005; the management area is approximately 0.75 acres. Vegetation includes aquatic, emergent, and upland species.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 2005 but has been more intensively managed since 2009. Since 2009 the site received prescribed burns in 2010, 2012, and 2014 and 2017; a complete site mowing in 2011, 2013, and 2015, 2016 and 2018. Hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing were conducted as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024.

Existing Conditions: Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are big bluestem, Indian grass, prairie cordgrass, and switch grass. Dominant forbs include wild bergamot, cup plant, culver's root, ironweed, and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 50% graminoids and 50% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 95%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 95% native species cover site-wide
- Reduce buckthorn population near lake gage
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Maintain paths for fishing access to lakeshore
- Remove invasive species and woody growth on emergency spillway

3.6.1 MINNEHAHA CREEK HEADWATERS SHORELINE SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete four Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.
b) **Complete shrub pruning and spillway cutting**: Trim back all shrubs along each angler access (total of 5 access points) in late winter or early spring annually and remove all branches and debris from the site. Cut all woody growth from the emergency spillway in late winter or early spring, remove all debris from site. Monitor spillway for additional growth in summer of each year and cut and treat woody species, including purple loosestrife as needed.

3.7 101 CAUSEWAY / BUSHAWAY ROAD

Background: In 2016, Hennepin County carried out road construction on Highway 101 / Bushaway Road. The District partnered with the County to construct, protect, and enhance the shorelines along the road as it crosses Lake Minnetonka. The project utilized a combination of plants, bioengineering, and hard-armoring techniques to stabilize the shoreline.

Recent Management: Three years of establishment period vegetation management were included in the original construction contract which ended May 2020. Post installation, site management included re-planting shrubs that did not establish due to the harsh site conditions. The initial tree planting was heavily browsed by beaver. Tree protection was installed and trees were pruned to promote growth. Invasive species, primarily wormwood, were spot mowed and spot sprayed as necessary throughout the establishment period.

Existing Conditions: Native plants account for 75% of the vegetation coverage throughout the restored areas. The soil lifts have begun to establish and are dominated by side oats grama. Certain shrub species have been more successful. Failed shrubs species were replaced with red osier dogwood, chokeberry, and bush honeysuckle. Persistent invasive plants in the upland areas include foxtail grasses, clover spp., Canada thistle, and wormwood.

Site Standards:

- 85% native species cover throughout the restoration areas
- Control all invasive species before flowering
- Reduce populations of invasive species each growing season

3.7.1 101 CAUSEWAY / BUSHAWAY ROAD SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete Four Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the

recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete two shrub pruning:** In the fall of 2025 and 2026, prune shrubs as necessary to promote growth and form. Prune shrubs to maintain viewsheds of Wayzata Bay. Cut material should be removed from site.

4. CONTRACT DELIVERABLES:

4.1 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Early season management assessment: CONTRACTOR will inspect all sites (Section 3, above) in the spring/summer (2025) to assess this years (2025) management actions and project management and enhancement needs for the following year (2026). This assessment should be distilled into a 1-2 page report to the OWNER. Report shall include a brief description and approximate timing of the intended management on each site for the year (2025). The rest of the report will list additional management and enhancements that are recommended on each site for the following year (2026). Each recommendation shall have a description of activity proposed and an explanation of why it is needed.

End of year report: CONTRACTOR shall compile and submit a summary report of the seasons management activities at all sites (Section 3, above), which includes site conditions, management actions taken, and any changes or additions to the recommended management for the following year (2026).

5. SPECIFICATIONS: Specifications for the contract services are attached in Appendix A.

6. APPENDIX:
   - APPENDIX A: Specifications
   - APPENDIX B: Suggested Calendar Summary of Work
   - APPENDIX C: Site Plans

Minnehaha Creek Greenway and Headwaters Sites (7)

Minnehaha Creek Preserve (20 acres): 12 acres mgmt. area, 5 acres targeted wetland mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.1.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.1.1b	Cattail Treatment (5 ac.)	Each	1	$ -	$ -
3.1.1c	Hazard Tree Eval.	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.1.1d	Boardwalk Pruning	Each	4	$ -	$ -
3.1.1e	Woody Invasive Treatment	Each	1	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Minnehaha Creek Preserve Enhancement / Japs Olson (6 acres): 4.5 acres infiltration basin mgmt., 1.5 acres woody mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.2.1a	Vegetaion Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.2.1b	Woody Invasive Treatment	Each	1		
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Methodist Hospital Wetland (16 acres): 12 acres wetland mgmt., 4 acres upland and floodplain forest					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.3.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.3.1b	Cattail Treatments	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.3.1c	Landscaping Maintenance	Each	4	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Cottageville Park (4.5 acres): 1.5 acres upland mgmt., 400 linear ft streambank mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.4.1a	Mulch formal planting beds (2 inch depth over 0.75 acres)	Each	1	$ -	$ -
3.4.1b	Shrub maintenance	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.4.1c	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

MCWD Office : 0.4 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.5.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	4	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Minnehaha Creek Headwaters Shoreline: 0.75 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.6.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	4	$ -	$ -
3.6.1b	Shrub pruning / Spillway woody plant cutting	Each	2	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

101 Causeway / Bushaway Road Shoreline Restoration (0.5 acres)					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.7.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	4		$
3.7.1b	Shrub Pruning	Each	2		$
				Subtotal	**$**

Monitoring and Reporting					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
4.1a	Early Season Assessment	Each	2		
4.1b	End of Year Report	Each	2		
				Subtotal	**$ -**

TOTAL	

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

QUALITY OF WATER QUALITY OF LIFE

Exhibit A: Scope of Services

Northern Upper Watershed Sites (9)

1. PURPOSE**:** Implement maintenance of native vegetation at eight sites throughout the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Sites are located in the upper watershed generally North of Mound and West of Wayzata. The contract period is for two years (2025-2026).

2. GENERAL BACKGROUND**:** To improve water quality in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the MCWD has implemented vegetation restoration around regional ponds, restored native shorelines, and restored native vegetation within wetlands and upland areas.

3. SITE DESCRIPTIONS:

3.1 LONG LAKE CREEK WETLAND RESTORATION

Background: The Long Lake Creek Wetland Restoration converted a former wastewater treatment pond next to Long Lake Creek into a wetland with Long Lake Creek flowing through the site. The project was a cooperative venture between MCWD, the City of Long Lake, and Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, Construction complete in 2015. The adjacent site boundaries include private residential properties where buckthorn management has been conducted. The private landowners have been engaged in the development of the project and value its long-term success. On the southern portion of the project site, a small stormwater pond treats drainage from the neighboring residential development. The site's moisture levels are affected by flows from Long Lake Creek and the surrounding drainage area. The site was also prepared with a winter-time prescribed burn and buckthorn removal. The site was planted with 3 native seed mixes according to moisture regime, and 29,600 wetland plugs and 380 shrubs were planted within the site to add structural diversity and screening. A pilot seeding of wild rice was installed in the fall of 2015 in areas where the water depth is roughly 0.5-3 feet deep, however, no germination has been observed to date.

Recent Management: The three-year warranty vegetation management included mowing to reduce annual weeds and reed canary grass cover, hand-wicking of cattails, and spot spraying perennial invasive weeds. Buckthorn re-sprouts have been treated in the woodland areas and tree lines. During the following growing seasons the site was mowed, spot sprayed and cattail was treated. Integrated pest management has been completed onsite through 2024. The turf access paths within the site are maintained by the City of Long Lake as they have existing equipment on site.

Existing Conditions: Vegetation management has been successful throughout the site, reducing hybrid cattail to small patches. Reed canary grass is plentiful, but heavily mixed with native species. Small populations of purple loosestrife, thistles, bird's foot trefoil, and crown vetch are present. Buckthorn and garlic mustard continue to germinate in the woodland areas in the north and northeast of the site. The shrub planting undertaken with construction activities resulted in only 50% success due to initial weed pressure within fences installed for

browse protection. Failed shrubs were replaced by the original vegetation contractor. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 85%.

Site Standards:

- 90% or greater native species cover site-wide
- Reduce populations of cattail and reed canary grass each growing season
- All invasive species controlled before flowering

3.1.1 LONG LAKE CREEK WETLAND RESTORATION SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Monitor and complete two hybrid cattail treatments:** Monitor hybrid cattail populations and treat if necessary. Conduct one herbicide treatment in the summer of each growing season; hand-wicking is preferred as populations are interspersed with good native vegetation. Other options may be selected based on moisture conditions and density of cattail with approval of OWNER. This task should be completed only if moisture conditions allow treatment without damage to desirable wetland vegetation.

c) **Complete two woody invasive follow-up foliar treatments**: In the fall of 2025 and 2026, foliar treat woody invasive seedlings and re-spouts. Cut, stump treat, and slash, and Basal treatment are options for sparse individuals over 4ft in height.

3.2 LONG LAKE PONDS AND SHORELINE

Background: The Long Lake Ponds are wet detention ponds that treat local runoff before flowing into Long Lake. The Long Lake Shoreline project focused on restoring native shoreline vegetation to filter runoff and prevent erosion. The location of the ponds and shoreline within a city park requires the vegetation to be functional as well as aesthetically attractive. The pond buffers were installed in 1996 and the shoreline vegetation was installed in 1999. The total area of the features is 0.70 acre.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 1996 and 1999 but has been more intensively managed since 2009. Since 2009, the site received a rotation of prescribed burns and full site mows since 2009. Management during the 2016-2024 growing seasons included spot spraying, spot mowing, and cattail treatments.

Existing Conditions: Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are big bluestem, Canada blue-joint, prairie cordgrass, and switch grass. Dominant forbs include wild bergamot, cup plant, brown-eyed Susan, goldenrod, hemp dogbane, and aster species. Wild raspberry, sumac, sandbar willow and buckthorn are also present. The native vegetation is roughly 35% graminoids and 55% forbs and 10% shrubs and small trees. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 95%.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 95% native species cover site-wide
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Decrease cattail cover within ponds
- Mow cup plant early summer to flower shorter and increase view sheds
- Maintain clear walking paths by mowing herbaceous vegetation between bituminous trails and split rail fence (along the shoreline restoration)

3.2.1 LONG LAKE PONDS AND SHORELINE SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Monitor and complete two hybrid cattail treatments:** Monitor hybrid cattail populations and treat if necessary. Conduct one herbicide treatment in the summer of each growing season; hand-wicking is preferred as populations are interspersed with good native vegetation. Other options may be selected based on moisture conditions and density of cattail with approval of OWNER. This task should be completed only if moisture conditions allow treatment without damage to desirable wetland vegetation.

c) **Complete one woody foliar follow-up treatments:** Conduct one foliar follow-up in the fall of 2025, targeting woody invasive re-sprouts and seedlings. Also treat re-sprouts of sandbar willow and raspberry so as to contain their footprint. Cut, stump treat, and slash (preferred), and Basal treatment are options for sparse individuals over 4ft in height.

3.3 INDEPENDENCE WETLAND

Background: The wetland was restored in 2001 and the project included vegetation restoration of lowland hardwood forest, oak savanna, tamarack swamp, sedge meadow, and emergent marsh. The site is approximately 38.5 acres. MCWD holds a conservation easement over this property.

Recent Management: The wetland vegetation has been managed at varying levels since 2001 but has been more intensively managed since 2006. The site received prescribed burns, the last being in 2021; a complete site mowing has been conducted staggered with burning last being done in 2023; and hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot cutting as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2009-2024. Full-site spot spraying and spot mowing of invasive species occurred annually through 2024. Buckthorn was cut and treated in the fall/winter of 2016/17.

Existing Conditions: The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 75% with invasive species cover at 25%. Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are big bluestem, Canada blue-

joint, lake sedge, tall mannagrass, and three-square bulrush. Dominant forbs include broad-leaf arrowhead, blue vervain, swamp milkweed, prairie spiderwort, and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. Dominant invasive species include reed canary grass, hybrid cattail, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and bird's-foot trefoil with the majority of the invasive cover being comprised of hybrid cattail and reed canary grass.

Site Standards:

- Support the expansion of existing pockets of native vegetation in the northeast, north upper slope, west central, and southeast restored emergent areas by aggressively managing hybrid cattail and reed canary grass adjacent to these native plant pockets
- Reed canary grass and invasive cattail cover must decrease each year, and populations of native emergent vegetation must expand each year
- Invasive species must be controlled before flowering
- Eliminate existing common and glossy buckthorn in northeast and southwest area of site. Manage re-sprouts

3.3.1 INDEPENDENCE WETLAND SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete four Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and/or fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete two treatments of reed canary grass and hybrid cattail dominated areas of the site:** One treatment of the cattail and reed canary grass dominated areas (greater than 70% cover) throughout the site. Options for treatments include herbicide wicking and foliar herbicide spraying. Spot mowing will be considered a secondary option if site conditions do not allow target use of herbicide. Other options may be considered but require approval from the OWNER Treatments shall be conducted during the spring/summer of 2025 and 2026 as moisture conditions allow, will likely require low ground pressure tracked equipment. Ideal timing for treatment is during the active growth stage prior to seed set.

c) **Complete two woody invasive foliar treatments:** Foliar treat buckthorn and all other woody invasive re-sprouts and seedlings in the fall of 2025 and 2026. Individuals larger then 4ft can be cut, slash, and stump treated or basal bark treated.

3.4 JOHNSON / ROLLING HILLS RESTORATION

Background: In 2005 the site was identified by MCWD as a priority parcel for acquisition due to its location within the Painter Creek watershed, its restoration potential, and existing water quality concerns arising from adjacent, off-site land uses. The site was purchased by MCWD in 2006 with the intent of restoring most of the site to native plant communities and potentially reselling approximately 6-9 acres in the southeast corner for residential development. Painter Creek, which runs near the site's western boundary, flows southeast and into Jennings Bay. Since 2008, the MCWD has been working on restoring this segment of Painter Creek through re-

establishment of the creek's meanders and installation of a grade control structure. Restoration on this property began in the fall of 2008 and began with grading activities to form the wetlands along the northern border, which was then followed by native seeding and plantings. Ongoing vegetation management has occurred since the initial restoration in 2008.

Recent Management: Invasive plant management and native plant community restoration has been conducted on the site over the past 11 years (with the exception of the south side). A complete site burn was conducted in April 2012 and the spring of 2017. Other management activities through 2018 included upland mowing, inter-seeding areas where reed canary grass has been controlled and spot spraying perennial weeds and cool season grasses.

Existing Conditions: The upland areas of the site (8.5 acres) have a fairly stable native plant community with isolated patches of Canada thistle and bird's-foot trefoil. The wetland areas (9.5 acres) have some native plant communities but require continued invasive species control for reed canary grass and some hybrid cattail. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2018 growing season was 75%.

Site Standards:

- Support and expand native plant communities in managed units of the site through reduction and elimination of invasive species
- Reduce reed canary grass and hybrid cattail in emergent wetlands each year
- Reduce populations of Canada thistle and perennial weeds each growing season
- Invasive species must be controlled before flowering
- Minimum of 85% native species cover site-wide

3.4.1 JOHNSON / ROLLING HILLS SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete Two Cattail Treatments**: Annually conduct target treatment of invasive cattails to reduce population by 95% in the wetlands at the corner of County Rd 26 and Rolling Hills drive, the NE corner of the easement. Treatment methods include herbicide wicking and spot spraying but should be as selective as possible.

3.5 COUNTY ROAD 26 REMEANDER (WALDERA BARKUS)

Background: In 2008, MCWD completed a wetland restoration on the 33-acre site, constructed a new, remeandered channel, removed an old ditch channel, lowered an existing downstream weir, and constructed a new weir at County Road 26 to direct low flows though the new creek remeander. Follow up vegetation management and restoration has continued within adjoining wetland and upland areas.

Recent Management: Invasive plant management and native plant community restoration over the last 9 years has included removal of buckthorn, reed canary grass management, and planting and seeding of wet meadow and woodland species. Recent management has focused on supporting and expanding native plant populations through the further reduction of invasive species. Management was limited to spot mowing and spot spraying in 2014 due to high water, but lower water conditions in 2015 allowed for greater access and site-wide management. In 2016 reed canary grass was sprayed with grass specific herbicide; perennial weeds including hybrid cattail and Canada thistle were also spot sprayed in the wetland restoration area. Through a grant with Great River Greening, 9 acres of woody invasive species were forestry mowed and stump treated in the winter of 2018. Species targeted included buckthorn, honeysuckle spp., prickly ash, and gooseberry. A follow-up herbicide of woody invasive re-sprouts and seedlings was conducted in the late fall. In June of 2018, reed canary grass was targeted with a grass specific herbicide and hybrid cattail was treated with glyphosate.

Existing Conditions: Reed canary grass and hybrid cattail persist on the site due to fluctuating water levels. Buckthorn and garlic mustard are present in the woodlands on the western portion of the site. Pockets of desirable native vegetation have a foothold and are expanding. Woody invasive re-sprouts are prolific and will require ongoing control.

Site Standards:

- Limit the encroachment of invasive cattails from the creek corridor to the east
- Reduce invasive wetland species cover each growing season
- Invasive species must be controlled before flowering
- Aggressively manage woody invasive re-sprouts and seedlings

3.5.1 COUNTY ROAD 26 REMEANDER SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.6 RYE

Background: The MCWD acquired this 23 acre property in 2009. The upland area located in the southern 4 acres of the site (along Highway 26), was historically row cropped for agriculture. This area was planted in upland native grasses in spring 2010 primarily as an erosion prevention measure. Approximately 6 acres of degraded lowland and upland open woods lie just north of this area. The northwest edge of the property borders the Painter's Marsh water quality improvement pond which was constructed in the mid-1980s.

Recent Management: Through a grant with Great River Greening, management activities on this site resumed in 2018. Approximately 6 acres of the property, received woody invasive species management. Invasive species including buckthorn, honeysuckle spp, prickly ash, and gooseberry were cut and stump treated in the winter of 2018. Follow-up herbicide treatment was conducted in the fall. In the late summer of 2018 the 4 acres of

upland prairie in the southern portion of the site received a haying treatment. The site was mowed, hay was baled and then removed from the property. Integrated pest management has been completed on site as recently as 2024.

Existing Conditions: The approximate native species cover in the 4 acre prairie at the end of 2024 growing season was 95%. Dominant graminoid species at the site are fescue, little bluestem, and big bluestem. Dominant forbs include goldenrod, grey-headed coneflower, common milkweed, wild bergamot, and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 70% graminoids, and 30% forbs. Dominant invasive species include Canada thistle, cool season grasses, and bird's-foot trefoil. The 6 acres of woodland to the north are a mix of native and non-native deciduous species, dominated by and understory of willow, buckthorn, and reed canary grass.

Site Standards:

- Minimum 90% native species cover in the prairie management area
- Invasive species must be controlled before flowering
- Manage woody invasive re-sprouts and seedlings in the woody invasive management area

3.6.1 RYE PROPERTY SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete five Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete one Fall woody and Cool season grass treatment:** During the Fall following dormancy the majority of native species conduct a foliar spray of woody invasive species and cool season grasses.

3.7 CHUTE

Background: The Chute property consists of 17 acres of lowland hardwood forest, oak savanna, tamarack swamp, sedge meadow and emergent marsh. The eastern edge of the property borders the Painter's Marsh water quality pond established in the mid 1980's. The site was formerly a horse boarding facility and prior to restoration efforts was horse pasture comprised of non-native pasture grasses including numerous weedy species such as reed canary grass, orchard grass, clover spp., and mustard spp. Along the woodland streambank, plant survey data from 2012 included native species such as, wild geranium, Virginia creeper, aster spp, hog peanut, and poison ivy. The most abundant invasive species in this area were buckthorn and garlic mustard.

Recent Management Through a grant with Great River Greening new restoration efforts began in the winter of 2018 on an approximately 8 acre section of the property which was formerly horse pasture. In addition, approximately 1.5 acres of adjacent woodland streambank were targeted for woody invasive removal. Woody invasive species were cut and stump treated in the winter of 2018. Species controlled included buckthorn, honeysuckle spp., prickly ash, and gooseberry. After herbicide treatments the site was burned in mid-summer.

Post burn, a follow-up herbicide treatment was conducted. In September 2018 the site was drill-seeded with state mix 35-241 mesic prairie general, and a woody invasive follow-up treatment was conducted in October 2018.

Existing Conditions: Ongoing maintenance has occurred on site through Fall 2024. Reed canary grass, bird's-foot trefoil, thistle, smooth brome, and woody encroachment need to be managed.

Site Standards:

- Support the establishment of previously seeded restoration
- Control invasive species prior to flowering
- Reduce populations of weedy species each growing season
- Aggressively manage reed canary grass and invasive cattail at edges of restored area
- Manage re-sprouts and seedlings of woody invasive species

3.7.1 CHUTE SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.
b) **Conduct one Cool Season Grass treatment**: Conduct grass specific herbicide treatment to reduce the cover of dense cool season grasses. Treatment should be target to cool season grasses and done in the fall 2025.

3.8 OUR LADY OF THE LAKE RAINGARDEN

Background: Our Lady of the Lake Raingarden is a drainage trench raingarden installed in cooperation with the City of Mound in 2006. Following warranty period maintenance, the raingarden received periodic maintenance until 2013 when regular seasonal maintenance including mowing, debris removal, and spot herbicide application was completed.

Recent Management: During the growing seasons of 2013-2024, the site was managed with mowing to remove accumulated vegetative debris and spot spraying to manage Canada thistle, common burdock, crown vetch, and buckthorn seedlings.

Existing Conditions: The rain garden is dominated by native species. However, due to its location, the site receives considerable runoff and has significant weed pressure.

Site Standards

- Maintain 90% or more native species cover
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Expand native plant communities through invasive species control
- **CONTRACTOR must notify MCWD at least 24 hours prior to site visits so that MCWD may notify property owner.**

3.8.1 OUR LADY OF THE LAKE RAINGARDEN SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete two full site mows:** One complete mowing (cutting height ~6") of the site shall be conducted during the Fall or early winter (dormant season) of 2025 and 2026. Cut Material should be mulched as much as possible and thus will not need to be removed from site.
b) **Complete four Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.9 JENNINGS BAY WETLAND RESTORATION

Background: The Jennings Bay Wetland Restoration is a project cooperatively built between the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the City of Minnetrista. As part of compensatory floodplain storage requirements for separate District and City of Minnetrista projects, the entities partnered to complete a wetland restoration adjacent to Jennings Bay in Lake Minnetonka. The wetland restoration created flood volume replacement by excavating and re-grading the land to reestablish wetland fringe hydrology and restored wetland conditions. The wetland restoration project comprises 1.9 acres of the 3.26 acre parcel and includes 0.75 acres of wetland restoration and approximately 1.15 acres of surrounding buffer and upland enhancement.

Recent Management: Initial construction of the wetland mitigation and restoration of the upland areas occurred in 2016-2017 and a three year, vegetation maintenance warranty period followed. Throughout the establishment period the site received a combination of spot mowing and herbicide applications. Trees and shrubs which failed after the initial planting were replaced, tree guards were installed to prevent browse, and the upland areas were re-seeded with shade tolerant grasses. Integrated pest management has been completed on site through 2024.

Existing Conditions: Management of invasive species in the wetland has been successful. Native wetland species such as blue vervain are prevalent with patches of reed canary grass, hybrid cattail, and some miscellaneous purple loosestrife. The upland understory is however dominated by invasive grasses, creeping Charlie, garlic mustard, and buckthorn seedlings/re-sprouts which will require ongoing management. Upland enhancement included the planting of trees and shrubs, which despite moderate deer browse, has been mostly successful. Understory in the upland area lags behind in native vegetation establishment primarily due to shady conditions, creeping Charlie, and fox activity.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 80% native species cover site-wide

- Reduce populations of wetland invasive species each year
- Reduce populations of upland invasive species each year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Maintain control of garlic mustard and buckthorn in upland areas & woodland fringe

3.9.1 JENNINGS BAY SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

d) **Complete four Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

3.9.2 JENNINGS BAY SITE ACCESS:

a) The site is accessed through a maintenance easement over the adjacent parcel. Site access will be coordinated between OWNER and CONTRACTOR.

4. CONTRACT DELIVERABLES:

4.1 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Early season management assessment: CONTRACTOR will inspect all sites (Section 3, above) in the spring/summer (2025) to assess this years (2025) management actions and project management and enhancement needs for the following year (2026). This assessment should be distilled into a 1-2 page report to the OWNER. Report shall include a brief description and approximate timing of the intended management on each site for the year (2025). The rest of the report will list additional management and enhancements that are recommended on each site for the following year (2026). Each recommendation shall have a description of activity proposed and an explanation of why it is needed.

End of year report: CONTRACTOR shall compile and submit a summary report of the seasons management activities at all sites (Section 3, above), which includes site conditions, management actions taken, and any changes or additions to the recommended management for the following year (2026).

5. SPECIFICATIONS: Specifications for the contract services are attached in Appendix A.

6. APPENDIX:
   - APPENDIX A: Specifications
   - APPENDIX B: Suggested Calendar Summary of Work
   - APPENDIX C: Site Plans

Northern Upper Watershed Sites (9)

Long Lake Creek Wetland Restoration (9 acres): 5.2 acres wetland mgmt., 1 acre woody invasive mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.1.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$0.00	$0.00
3.1.1b	Cattail Treatment	Each	2	$0.00	$0.00
3.1.1c	Woody Invasive Treatment	Each	2	$0.00	$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Long Lake Ponds and Shoreline: 0.7 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.2.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$ -	$ -
3.2.1b	Cattail Treatment	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.2.1c	Woody invasive treatment	Each	1	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Independence Wetland (38.5 acres): 36 acres wetland mgmt., 2.5 acres woodland mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.3.1a	Vegetation Mangement	Each	4	$0.00	$0.00
3.3.1b	Cattail and RCG Treatments	Each	2	$0.00	$0.00
3.3.1c	Woody Invasive Treatments	Each	2		
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Johnson/Rolling Hills Restoration (35 acres): 13 acres wetland mgmt., 18 acres upland prairie mgmt., 8 acres restore prairie					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.4.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6		
3.4.1b	Cattail Treatments	Each	2	$0.00	$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

County Road 26 Remeander / Waldera Barkus (33 acres): 15 acres wetland mgmt., 9 acres woody mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.5.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$0.00	$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Rye Property (24 acres): 4 acres prairie mgmt., 6 acres. woodland invasive mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.6.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	5	$0.00	$0.00
3.6.1b	Fall Woody and Grass Treatment	Each	1	$0.00	$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Chute Property (17 acres): 8 acres prairie/meadow mgmt., 1.5 acres woodland invasive mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.7.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6	$0.00	$0.00
3.7.1b	Cool Season Grass Treatment	Each	1	$0.00	$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Our Lady of the Lake Raingarden: 275-linear feet mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.8.1a	Full Site Mow	Each	2	$ -	$ -
3.8.1b	Vegetation Management	Each	4	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Jennings Bay Wetland (1.9 acres): 0.75 acres wetland mgmt. 1.15 acres upland mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.9.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	4		$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Monitoring and Reporting					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
4.1a	Early Season Assessment	Each	2		
4.1b	End of Year Report	Each	2		
				Subtotal	**$ -**

TOTAL	

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

QUALITY OF WATER QUALITY OF LIFE

Exhibit A: Scope of Services

Southern Upper Watershed (6)

1. PURPOSE**:** Implement maintenance of native vegetation at two sites in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Sites are located South of Mound and West of Excelsior. The contract period is for two years (2025-2026).

2. GENERAL BACKGROUND**:** To improve water quality in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the MCWD has implemented vegetation improvement around regional stormwater ponds and restored native vegetation within uplands, woodlands, and wetlands.

3. SITE DESCRIPTIONS:

3.1 SIX MILE MARSH PRAIRIE RESTORATION

Background: The Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration began in May 2013 and included converting approximately 130 acres of former farmland to 110 acres of native prairie, 10 acres of wetland, and 10 acres of oak savanna.

Recent Management: Three years of establishment period vegetation management were included in the original construction contract which ended in 2015. A prescribed burn was completed over the majority of the site (excluding the woodlands) in November 2015. In 2018, Great River Greening implemented work on a research grant which involved two different treatments for weed control in upland areas: haying and burning. Two control units did not receive these treatments and are being monitored. Haying occurred in the summer of 2018, but the burn did not occur due to unfavorable weather conditions. The woodland areas have received fall spot sprays for garlic mustard and follow-up buckthorn control. Foliar applications and mowing occurred onsite in 2023 and 2024.

Existing Conditions: Native plants account for 85-95% of the vegetation coverage in the mesic prairie and wet prairie areas. Native plants account for approximately 90% of the vegetation coverage in the wet meadow areas. Persistent invasive plants in the wet prairie areas include barnyard grass, yellow foxtail, red clover, Canada thistle, reed canary grass, and narrow-leaf cattail. Persistent invasive plants in the wet meadow areas include reed canary grass, narrow-leaf cattail and purple loosestrife.

Site Standards:

- 95% native species cover in wetland buffers and woodland areas
- Control all invasive species before flowering
- Reduce populations of invasive species each growing season

3.1.1 SIX MILE MARSH PRAIRIE RESTORATION SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4)

throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

b) **Complete eight trail mows:** In mid-May, mid-June, mid-July, and mid-August of each growing season mow existing foot trail (2250' in length).

c) **Complete trail Edge seeding:** Foliar treat non-native species aggressively along the Six Mile Marsh Prairie Trail. Seed with a low diversity short grass mix, approved by Owner, and drag or roll seed to encourage seed to soil contact.

3.1.2 SIX MILE MARSH PRAIRE RESTORATION SITE ASSUMPTIONS:

a) In coordination with Three Rivers Parks District, MCWD may install a bituminous spur trail in the western portion of the site near or at the location of the existing mowed trail. OWNER will coordinate with CONTRACTOR to mow foot trails in preparation for trail installation and mow temporary trails that may serve as future fire breaks.

b) Management undertaken on Burroughs, Eder-Hennen, and Siefker properties requires notification of homeowners at least 24 hours in advance. Private access drive at 7475 Farmhill Drive (Burroughs property) may be used by CONTRACTOR for light-duty equipment only. Equipment may be parked on the mowed path at the base of the driveway. Access from the west (OWNER property) is also acceptable.

3.2 GOULD

Background: The MCWD acquired the Gould property in 2005 and has performed restoration work in the southern portion of the property. The southern prairie was seeded in 2012 and contains a Hennepin County Mesonet (weather) station. The northern restoration area was formerly a barn surrounded by field and dominated by brome grass. The barn was removed in 2014 and the site stabilized prior to recent management. Restoration efforts began in 2018 on a 3 acre segment of the northern portion of the property, adjacent to Hwy 7. Two acres of upland were restored; bordered by 1.5 acres of woodland which received invasive species management.

Recent Management: Through a grant with Great River Greening, management activities began in winter of 2018. Invasive woody species, including buckthorn, Russian olive, honeysuckle spp., prickly ash and cedars were cut and stump treated in a 1.5 acre wooded area in the northwest of the site. The 2 acres of old field was prepped with an herbicide treatment and burned mid-summer 2018. Post-burn, a follow-up herbicide treatment was performed in the fall, prior to drill-seeding state seed mix 35-241 mesic prairie general. The 1.5-acre woodland area also received follow-up foliar treatments in the fall. Integrated pest management has been implemented on the site through 2024

Existing Conditions: The grassland areas are in good condition with less ongoing maintenance needed when compared to other sites. Typical herbaceous invasives and woody resprouts are present but not overly abundant.

Site Standards:

- Support native diversity in restored area (northern prairie)
- Reduce invasive species in a previously restored prairie (southern portion)

- Control invasive species prior to flowering
- Manage woody re-sprouts and seedlings in the woody invasive management area

3.2.1 GOULD SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete five Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two and three separate visits, each year respectively, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.
b) **Conduct one Prescribed Burn**: One complete prescribed burn of the two prairie areas shall be conducted during the contract period, targeting 2025. If conditions are unfavorable to complete a burn in 2025 the burn may be completed in 2026. Timing of the burn should be coordinated with the OWNER and should target a phenology when control of woody and cool season species will be maximized and damage to native vegetation will be minimized.

3.3 GIDEON GLEN

Background: This project was initiated in 2005 and included restoration of a black ash swamp, installation of a stormwater pond, and restoration of upland prairie and forest. The total area of the site is approximately 2.80 acres. The Gideon Glen site is a dedicated park within the City of Shorewood and therefore requires that the vegetation be aesthetically attractive.

Recent Management: The buffer vegetation has been managed since 2005. The site received alternating prescribed burns and site mows. Hand pulling, spot spraying, and spot mowing as needed throughout the growing seasons of 2005-2024.

Existing Conditions: Overall, this site is in good condition. Small populations of garlic mustard, bird's foot trefoil, crown vetch and Canada thistle still require management. Dominant graminoid and sedge species at the site are big bluestem, Indian grass, soft stem bulrush, and switch grass. Dominant forbs include wild bergamot, spotted Joe-pye weed, swamp milkweed, and aster species. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 85%.

Site Standards

- Minimum of 90% native species cover site-wide
- Reduce populations of invasive species each year
- Control invasive species before flowering
- Maintain control of buckthorn in woodland
- Maintain control of cattail within wetland
- Maintain control of garlic mustard south of trail and along north and east woodland

3.3.1 GIDEON GLEN SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the

task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete five Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two and three separate visits, each year respectively, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment. This is to include maintaining an area of about 5ft mowed to a height 1-4 inches around the bench.
b) **Conduct one Prescribed Burn**: One complete prescribed burn of the whole management area shall be conducted during the contract period, targeting 2025. If conditions are unfavorable to complete a burn in 2025 the burn may be completed in 2026. Timing of the burn should be coordinated with the OWNER and should target a phenology when control of woody and cool season species will be maximized and damage to native vegetation will be minimized.

3.4 STIEGER WETLAND RESTORATION

Background: The Stieger Wetland Restoration covers 11 acres in Victoria south of Highway 5 and filters stormwater from a 250-acre drainage area eventually draining to Stieger Lake. Construction activities were completed in 2013, followed by a three-year vegetation warranty. The adjacent site boundaries include private residential and commercial properties to the east, a stormwater pond with a small island in the middle to the southeast, a large, cattail-dominated wetland complex to the south, City of Victoria property to the west, and the north property line is MN-5/Arboretum Boulevard. The site's moisture levels are partially controlled by a fixed weir on the north end of the site. The site drains from south to north. The site had been dominated by reed canary grass and hybrid cattail prior to construction activities, but the excavation associated with the construction allowed for the removal of some invasive species biomass and exposed a latent wetland seedbank. The site was also prepared with two pre-planting herbicide treatments. The site was planted with 4 native seed mixes according to moisture regime, and 47 trees and 338 shrubs were planted within the site to add structural diversity.

Recent Management: The last 10 years of vegetation management included mowing to reduce annual weeds and reed canary grass cover, hand-wicking of cattails, and spot spraying invasive perennial weeds and cool season grasses.

Existing Conditions: High water during the 2014 and 2017 growing seasons limited management of the central, wetter areas of the site, but the periphery cattails, reed canary grass, and upland invasives received treatment. A goal has been to reduce overall cattail cover on the site, but because of its abundance in the surrounding landscape and the challenge to treat this plant in short windows of phenology and moisture conditions, cattail control has been limited. Despite the cattail density, the site contains a large diversity of wetland sedges and rushes and large stands of arrowhead, rice cut grass, and blue vervain. The native vegetation is roughly 40% graminoids and 60% forbs. The approximate native species cover at the end of 2024 growing season was 80% excluding areas of dense cattails. Invasive species include: Canada thistle, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, smooth brome, and hybrid cattail.

Site Standards:

- Minimum of 90% native species cover
- Reduce invasive species populations each year

- Control invasive species before flowering
- Reduce existing cattail cover each year

3.4.1 STIEGER WETLAND RESTORATION SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete five Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct two and three separate visits, each year respectively, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.
b) **Complete two hybrid cattail treatments:** Herbicide treatments, one in mid- to late-summer of each year 2025 and 2026 targeting hybrid cattail. Hand-wicking or mechanical wick or boom applications are acceptable and may be selected based on moisture conditions. This task should be completed only if moisture conditions allow treatment without damage to desirable wetland vegetation. Treatments should be targeted to most aggressively treat areas where control has been more successful, the North portion of the property, and mitigating large populations, in the South portion, from expanding.
c) **Conduct one Prescribed Burn**: One complete prescribed burn of the whole management area shall be conducted during the contract period, targeting 2025. If conditions are unfavorable to complete a burn in 2025 the burn may be completed in 2026. Timing of the burn should be coordinated with the OWNER and should target a phenology when control of woody and cool season species will be maximized and damage to native vegetation will be minimized.

3.5 LAKETOWN WETLAND MITIGATION

Background: The Laketown Wetland Mitigation is a project cooperatively built between Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the City of Victoria, and Lennar Corporation. Lennar was required to mitigate for 0.87 acre wetland loss resulting from adjacent construction of a residential road connection but coordinated with MCWD to restore a larger area of wetland and adjacent upland totaling 25 acres. The site is comprised of 3.97 acres of fresh meadow, 4.8 acres of shallow marsh, 1.7 acres of hardwood swamp, 0.61 acre of shrub swamp, 2.29 acres of upland woodland and 2.43 acres of mesic prairie that had been degraded by invasive species including reed canary grass, hybrid cattail, common, and glossy buckthorn among other invasive species.

Recent Management: Initial construction of the wetland mitigation and restoration of the upland areas included mowing, scarification, herbicide treatment, and seeding of the shallow marsh and fresh meadow areas; burning, mowing, herbicide application, and seeding in the cattail dominated areas; spot mowing, spot herbicide, and seeding in the hardwood swamp areas; herbicide application and shrub planting in the shrub swamp areas; and mowing, herbicide application, burning, and seeding in the mesic prairie area. This restoration work was completed in spring of 2018. In the early fall, the site has received upland and wetland spot spraying which focused primarily on reed canary grass, cattail, and Canada thistle. Also in the fall, woodland perimeters received a follow-up spot spray of buckthorn and honeysuckle. Spot mowing and herbicide treatments have been completed through 2024.

Existing Conditions: Management of invasive species on site has been successful. Native wetland species are prevalent with patches of reed canary grass and other perennial weeds remaining. Hybrid cattail is present

however, and has become a monoculture where not actively managed. Buckthorn populations will require continued control and follow-up treatment to manage re-sprouts and new germination from the seedbank.

Site Standards: ***Specific site standards and performance measures must be reached for this site due to regulatory requirements associated with its use as a mitigation for wetland impacts.***

- Shallow marsh: reduce narrow leaf cattail to less than 40%; establish native cover of at least 50%
- Fresh wet meadow: decrease cover of reed canary grass to less than 25%; establish native cover of at least 70%
- Floodplain forest: reduce invasive/exotic species cover to 25% or less; establish native cover of at least 60%
- Shrub swamp: reduce invasive/exotic species cover to 25% or less; establish native cover of at least 60%
- Seasonally flooded basin: reduce invasive/exotic cover to 25% or less; establish native cover of at least 60%
- Mesic prairie: reduce cover of invasive/exotic species to 20% or less; establish native cover of at least 70%
- Woodland: reduce cover of invasive/exotic species to 15% or less

3.5.1 LAKETOWN WETLAND MITIGATION SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026.

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.
b) **Complete two woody invasive foliar follow-up:** In the fall of 2025 and 2026, complete herbicide application of woody invasive re-sprouts and seedlings, primarily buckthorn, in the previously treated woodlands. Trees larger the 4ft can be basal treated or cut, slashed and treated, depending on density.

3.6 WASSERMAN WEST PRESERVE (VICTORIA)

Background: MCWD acquired the land west of Wasserman Lake in 2017 as part of a water quality improvement partnership with the City of Victoria. A lakeside public park with native restoration areas and buffer improvements. Construction of the site was completed in 2020. Much of the park infrastructure is managed by the City of Victoria, while MCWD maintains management responsibilities for the restoration and buffer areas.

Recent Management: Following the completion of construction was a vegetation establishment warranty period that ended in 2024. This consisted of full site mows, spot mowing, spot spraying, and hand pulling of undesirable vegetation to promote the establishment of diverse native species.

Existing Conditions: Much of the site has become well established with dominant grasses being Canada wild rye and big bluestem and a diverse mix of native forb species. The Western edge of the buffer bordering the parking lot and trail were dominated by annual and biennial weeds, mostly foxtail and sweet clover.

Site Standards:

- Maintain and increase native cover each year
- Reduce invasive species cover each year
- Control invasive species before flowering

3.6.1 WASSERMAN WEST PRESERVE SITE DELIVERABLES (CONTRACT SERVICES):

MCWD will contract the services of a CONTRACTOR to complete on a recommended schedule (Appendix B) the task items detailed below through 2026

a) **Complete six Vegetation Management treatments**: During the growing seasons of 2025 and 2026 conduct three separate visits, each year, to control invasive and undesirable vegetation (Specifications 3.4) throughout. Management visits should generally be timed in the spring, summer, and fall as outlined in the recommended calendar (Appendix B). These treatments can be any combination of spot herbicide, spot mowing, hand pulling, herbicide wicking, cut stump herbicide, basal bark herbicide and/or other methods. These treatments need to meet the site standards listed above and be generally considered effective control methods, for the species being controlled and timing of treatments. Treatment methods should be selected to minimize off target disturbance. If treatments are in question seek approval from the OWNER before applying treatment.

4. CONTRACT DELIVERABLES:

4.1 MONITORING AND REPORTING

Early season management assessment: CONTRACTOR will inspect all sites (Section 3, above) in the spring/summer (2025) to assess this years (2025) management actions and project management and enhancement needs for the following year (2026). This assessment should be distilled into a 1-2 page report to the OWNER. Report shall include a brief description and approximate timing of the intended management on each site for the year (2025). The rest of the report will list additional management and enhancements that are recommended on each site for the following year (2026). Each recommendation shall have a description of activity proposed and an explanation of why it is needed.

End of year report: CONTRACTOR shall compile and submit a summary report of the seasons management activities at all sites (Section 3, above), which includes site conditions, management actions taken, and any changes or additions to the recommended management for the following year (2026).

5. SPECIFICATIONS: Specifications for the contract services are attached in Appendix A.

6. APPENDIX:
   - APPENDIX A: Specifications
   - APPENDIX B: Suggested Calendar Summary of Work
   - APPENDIX C: Site Plans

Southern Upper Watershed Sites (6)

Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration (200 acres): 8 acres wetland buffer mgmt., 14 acres woody invasive mgmt., 1.5 acres easement/license prairie mgmt., 110 acres upland prairie					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.1.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6		$
3.1.1b	Trail Mowing	Each	8		$
3.1.1c	Trail Edge Seeding	Each	1		$
				Subtotal	**$**

Gould (33 acres): 4 acres prairie mgmt., 1 acre woodland invasive mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.2.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	5		$0.00
3.2.1b	Prescribed Burn	Each	1		$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Gideon Glen: 2 acres mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.3.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	5	$ -	$ -
3.3.1b	Prescribed burn	Each	1	$ -	$ -
				Subtotal	**$ -**

Stieger Wetland Restoration (11 acres): 10 acres wetland mgmt.					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.4.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	5		$0.00
3.4.1b	Cattail Treatment	Each	2		$0.00
3.4.1c	Prescribed Burn	Each	1		$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Laketown Wetland					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.5.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6		$
3.5.1b	Woody Invasive Treatment	Each	2		$
				Subtotal	**$**

Wasserman West Preserve					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
3.6.1a	Vegetation Management	Each	6		$0.00
				Subtotal	**$0.00**

Monitoring and Reporting					
Item #	**Item**	**Unit**	**Quantity**	**Unit Price**	**Total Price**
4.1a	Early Season Assessment	Each	2		
4.1b	End of Year Report	Each	2		
				Subtotal	**$ -**

TOTAL	