



Lake Itasca City Park



Monarch Trail Action Plan



Prepared for:

The City of Ramsey, MN

Prepared by:

John Riens

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Private Lands Office*

*434 Great Oak Drive
Waite Park, MN 56387*

Ph: 320-253-4682

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Background

This document was assembled by the Minnesota Private Lands Office (MNPLO) to guide the restoration and management of the Monarch Trail located on Lake Itasca City Park. This project came into existence as a result of the Mayor of Ramsey signing the Mayors for Monarchs Pledge and expressing a desire for the city to do more to help the iconic species. Through partnerships with the MNPLO and city park staff the trail was designated as an area to provide a native pollinator planting to help the species and other native pollinators while providing education and outreach opportunities to local residents. To accomplish this effort this plan was developed to assist in making this restoration a successful effort. The area to be converted is currently a fallow field and has a history of agricultural production. The tasks provided below are the efforts made by the aforementioned partners to most appropriately convert the existing condition of the area to the desired outcome of a native prairie.

Project Tasks and Timelines

Number	Task	Completed by:	Party
1	Order/Reserve Plant Plugs for Ceremony	5/12/2017	USFWS
2	Stake/Flag Restoration Area	5/19/2017	City
3	Remove Unwanted Trees in Buffer Area	5/26/2017	City
4	Herbicide Application to Restoration Area	5/26/2017	City
5	Mow Restoration Area	5/31/2017	City
6	Sign Landowner Agreement	5/31/2017	City
7	Purchase Native Seed	6/2/2017	USFWS
8	Trail Designation Ceremony	6/2/2017	City/USFWS
9	Disc Restoration Area	6/7/2017	City
10	Plant Seed on Restoration Area	6/9/2017	USFWS/City
11	Maintenance Mow of Restoration Area	6/15/2018	City

Figure 1



Ramsey Park Monarch Trail



0 55 110 220 330 440 Feet

Trail
(2,000 Feet)

Pollinator Buffer
(6.5 Acres)

Produced by:
USFWS MNPLD
434 Great Oak Drive
Waltz Park, MN 55387
(320) 253-4682
Current through 2017

Figure 2



Ramsey Park Un-Wanted Tree Removal



0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet

— Trail
(2,000 Feet)

□ Red Cedar and Prickly Ash Removal
(22.5 Acres)

Produced by:
USFWS MNPLD
434 Great Oak Drive
Waite Park, MN 56387
(320) 253-4682
Current through 2017

Project Task Descriptions

Task 1: Order/Reserve Plant Plugs for Ceremony

In order to ensure that adequate and appropriate native plant plugs will be available for the trail designation ceremony the Minnesota Private Lands Office (MNPLO) will be selecting and ordering the plugs by 05/12/2017. The plugs will be reserved and delivered on site for the ceremony on 06/2/2017 by the MNPLO. An estimated 288 plugs will be purchased by MNPLO at the rate of \$1.10 per plug. The list of anticipated species to be selected for the planting are listed below and are dependent on availability.

Grasses	
Common	Scientific
Prairie Brome	<i>Bromus kalmii</i>
Little bluestem	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>
Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
Canada wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>
Green needlegrass	<i>Stipa viridula</i>
Prairie Junegrass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>
Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>
Forbs	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Anise hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>
Wild garlic	<i>Allium canadense</i>
Lead plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>
Canada milkvetch	<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>
White Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia alba</i>
New Jersey tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Partridge pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>
Stiff tickseed	<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>
White prairie clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>
Purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>
Showy tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>
Narrow Leaf Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>
Rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>
Sawtooth sunflower	<i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i>
Maximilian's sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>
Stiff sunflower	<i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i>
Common ox-eye	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>
Meadow blazingstar	<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>
Wild Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>
Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>
Spotted beebalm	<i>Monarda Punctata</i>
Slender beardtongue	<i>Penstemon gracilis</i>
Large-flowered beardtounge	<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>
Prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Gray goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>
Ohio Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>
Hoary vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>

Task 2: Stake/Flag Restoration Area

To provide visualization for the ceremony and provide a work area for the restoration the boundary of the restoration area will be staked and flagged by the City of Ramsey park staff. This will be accomplished no later than 5/19/2017. In general the boundary of the restoration is approximately 100 feet from the paved trail edge except where designated. Please refer to Figure 1 for the above stated outline. A GIS shapefile can be made available for the City of Ramsey upon request. The estimated cost of this task is approximately \$300.00.

Task 3: Remove Unwanted Trees in Buffer Area

In order to ensure a protected investment of the restoration and provide sustainability to the habitat the City of Ramsey or contracted individuals will be conducting a tree removal effort of Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*). In general this removal zone will be approximately 300 feet from the paved trail edge except where designated. Please refer to Figure 2 for the removal area. A GIS shapefile can be made available for the City of Ramsey upon request. The City of Ramsey will use a combination of mechanical and chemical treatments to properly remove the above targeted species. Species are to be removed by 5/26/2017. The estimated cost of this task is approximately \$2,000.00

Task 4: Herbicide Application to Restoration Area

To prepare the restoration area for a planting effort the site must first have a herbicide application applied to it. This is necessary in order to eliminate any competitive non-desired species before planting. The city of Ramsey or contracted individuals will be applying a glyphosate based product to the targeted area designated in Figure 1. This herbicide application is due to be applied by 5/26/2017. The estimated cost of this task is approximately \$1,200.

Task 5: Mow Restoration Area

Following a minimum of 5 days of the herbicide application a mowing of the restoration area will be conducted by the City of Ramsey or contracted individuals. This is necessary in order to prepare the restoration area for disking. This task is to be accomplished no later than 5/31/2017. The estimated cost of this task is approximately \$200.00.

Task 6: Sign Landowner Agreement

During this process and following the scheduled city board meeting it is imperative that the Landowner Agreement which is attached in a separate document is signed, dated, and returned with associated documents to MNPLO staff for processing. The agreement is necessary in order to purchase the seed for the restoration planting. The agreement must be returned no later than 5/31/2017 by close of business day. The details of the agreement are labeled in the agreement itself. Do not hesitate to contact the MNPLO staff for further details.

Task 7: Purchase Native Seed

Following the receipt of the Landowner Agreement and Associated documents the MNPLO will be selecting and ordering the appropriate native seeds by 6/2/2017. The seeds will be reserved and delivered on site for the day of the planting on 6/9/2017 by the MNPLO. An estimated \$650.00 an acre will be used to purchase the appropriate amount of seed for the 6.5 acres with the addition of seed oats for a nursery crop. The total anticipated investment by the MNPLO will be \$4,225.00 and is dependent on seed availability. Listed below is a list of potential species to be selected.

Grasses	
Common	Scientific
Prairie Brome	<i>Bromus kalmii</i>
Little bluestem	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>
Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
Canada wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>
Green needlegrass	<i>Stipa viridula</i>
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Ohio Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>
Hoary vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>

Task 8: Trail Designation Ceremony

On 6/2/2017 the City of Ramsey, MNPLO, and associated partners will be participating in a designation ceremony for the Monarch Trail. All events to be included are yet to be determined. However, there will be an educational native plug planting exercise conducted with local youth volunteers. Other activities/events to be conducted will be communicated once finalized.

Task 9: Disc Restoration Area

Following the ceremony a disking of the restoration area will be conducted by the City of Ramsey or contracted individuals. This is necessary in order to prepare the restoration zone for seeding. A chisel plow and disking may be necessary in order to properly prepare the site. Please contact MNPLO for further guidance as to what will be expected for this preparation. This task is due to be accomplished no later than 6/7/2017. The estimated cost of this task is approximately \$350.00.

Task 10: Plant Seed on Restoration Area

After disking and appropriate settlement the restoration area will be seeded with the aforementioned mix of diverse native seeds. The MNPLO in cooperation with staff from the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge will be conducting the planting with a Trillion Seeder on 6/9/2017 if weather permits. The estimated cost to the MNPLO for this task is approximately \$250.00

Task 11: Maintenance Mow of the Restoration Area

In 2018, it is anticipated that a maintenance mowing will be required to limit the proliferation of any unwanted plants over the restoration area. This will be conducted by the City of Ramsey or contracted individuals. This task is due to be accomplished no later than 5/31/2017 and would be preferred much earlier as to not disrupt any nesting bird species. This mowing may or may not be needed. It is advised that the City of Ramsey contact the MNPLO for guidance prior to accomplishing this task. The estimated cost of this task would be approximately \$200.00.

Estimated Budget

Object Class Categories ^a	Partners				
	Landowner	USFWS Partners Program	USFWS Other Programs	Other Non-USFWS	Totals
Personnel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fringe benefits	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Travel	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Equipment	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Supplies	\$50.00	\$4,541.80	\$	\$	\$4591.80
Contractual	\$3,550.00	\$	\$	\$	\$3,550.00
Other - In-Kind	\$1,650.00	\$250.00	\$	\$	\$2,000.00
Other	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Totals	\$5,250.00	\$4,791.80	\$	\$	\$10,041.80

^a The total cost-share by the Cooperator, Service and Landowner must remain the same, however allocations by category may be redistributed upon prior approval by the Service

Any work to be completed may be modified with the mutual agreement of the aforementioned parties.

Budget Narrative:

Supplies:

Prairie Plugs - \$316.80 (USFWS)
 Prairie Seed - \$4,225.00 (USFWS)
 Stakes/Flagging - \$50.00 (City of Ramsey)

Services:

Staking/Flagging - \$250.00 (City of Ramsey) "In-Kind"
 Tree/Shrub Removal - \$2,000.00 (City of Ramsey)
 Herbicide Application - \$1,200.00 (City of Ramsey)
 Site Preparation Mowing - \$200.00 (City of Ramsey) "In-Kind"
 Site Preparation Disking - \$350.00 (City of Ramsey)
 Prairie Planting - \$250.00 (MNPLO) "In-Kind"

Maintenance

Maintenance Mow – \$200.00 (City of Ramsey) "In-Kind"
 Anticipated Additional Maintenance throughout the Contract - \$1,000.00 (City of Ramsey) "In-Kind"

Total Project Cost: \$10,041.80