

# Proposal to Create a Native Prairie at Alpine Park Ramsey, MN

**Prepared for:**  
Mark Riverblood

**Prepared by:**  
Brad Vierkant  
Site Manager  
763-631-9427  
[bvierkant@prairieresto.com](mailto:bvierkant@prairieresto.com)

**Project Area:**  
2.65 acres

**Prairie Restorations, Inc.** 

31646 128<sup>th</sup> St.  
Princeton, MN 55371  
[www.prairieresto.com](http://www.prairieresto.com)

**A. Company Background:** <http://www.prairieresto.com/mission.shtml> (Follow the blue links to learn more)

Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI) has been dedicated to the restoration and management of native plant communities for over 39 years. We are fortunate to have worked with thousands of clients on a wide variety of projects in both the public and private sectors throughout the Upper Midwest.

The PRI staff currently consists of 45 full-time professionals and about an equal number of seasonal employees which operate out of six Minnesota locations. Most of the staff has B.S. degrees in natural resource related fields such as biology, forestry, horticulture or wildlife. As a full service restoration company, PRI is able to provide our clients expertise and service in all facets of native landscape restoration. Along with consulting, design, installation and land management services, we also produce our own local ecotype seed and plant materials which are used on all of our projects.

The PRI Team is committed to and passionate about protecting and enhancing our valuable natural resources. It is this dedication that is brought to each and every one of our projects. We are proud to offer the best expertise, services and products available in the industry and appreciate the opportunity to provide you with this proposal.

**B. Site preparation:** [http://www.prairieresto.com/installation\\_preparation.shtml](http://www.prairieresto.com/installation_preparation.shtml)

1. Remove invasive woody species by flush cutting and stump treating with Triclopyr herbicide (Garlon 4® or equivalent). To be completed by City Employees.
2. Mow the existing vegetation, preferably with a sickle or flail type mower, to a height of 4" to 6". This will keep the non-native cool season (the target species) active and susceptible to herbicide application. To be completed by City Employees.
3. Later in fall, after the native grasses have gone dormant, apply a glyphosate herbicide (Roundup® or equivalent) with appropriate surfactants, as per manufacturer's directions, to the actively growing non-native vegetation in the project area. Site preparation will resume the following spring.
4. If needed, in spring of 2017 re-spray with a glyphosate herbicide (Roundup® or equivalent).
5. Remove the dead vegetation by implementing a controlled burn using appropriate procedures, equipment and permits.
6. Harrow the soil to create a smooth seedbed.

**C. Seed and Seeding:** [http://www.prairieresto.com/installation\\_seeding.shtml](http://www.prairieresto.com/installation_seeding.shtml)

1. Acceptable seeding dates for native species are in the spring or summer before August 10<sup>th</sup> or in the fall between September 20<sup>th</sup> and freeze-up. This project would likely be seeded in spring of 2017.
2. All grass seed will be interseeded with a no-till seed drill designed for native seeding (Truax® or equivalent).
3. All wildflower seed will be applied by broadcasting.
4. In areas too steep or small for equipment, the seed will be hand broadcast and raked into the soil.
5. The seed mixes will consist of the following species and amounts:

**Grass Seed** **lbs. /project area**

**PRI Short Dry Grass Mix:**

40% Little bluestem, 35% Side oats grama,  
 13% Blue grama, 4% Poverty oat grass,  
 4% June grass, 2% Sand dropseed,  
 2% Prairie dropseed, all by PLS weight. .... 27

<http://www.prairieresto.com/CategoryList.php?cID=12>

**Note:** A cover crop of oats will be sown along with the native grasses at a rate of approximately 25 lbs. per acre. Oats is an annual grass species that germinates quickly and will reduce the risk of soil erosion on the site.

**Wildflower Seed** **oz. /project area**

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)..... 6  
 Wild lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) ..... 8  
 Showy penstemon (*Penstemon grandiflorus*) ..... 4

**PRI Short Dry Wildflower Mix:**

20% Purple prairie clover, 18% Hoary vervain, 16% Black-eyed Susan,  
 14% Leadplant, 6% Showy Penstemon, 5% Bush clover,  
 5% Rough blazing star, 3% Stiff goldenrod,  
 2% Common milkweed, 2% Wild bergamot, 2% Prairie rose,  
 2% Western spiderwort, 2% Golden Alexander,  
 1% Yarrow, 1% White prairie clover,  
 1% Northern bedstraw, all by PLS weight. .... 115\*

<http://www.prairieresto.com/CategoryList.php?cID=13>

\*depending on budget the flower seeding rate can be reduced

**D. Optional Erosion Control:** [http://www.prairieresto.com/installation\\_erosion.shtml](http://www.prairieresto.com/installation_erosion.shtml)

1. The seeded areas will be mulched with clean straw at a rate of 1.5 tons per acre. The straw will be disk anchored immediately after mulching.

## E. Plants and Planting:

1. Optionally, the planting can be further diversified with wildflower and/or grass plants. These will be planted individually in appropriate microhabitats throughout, or in designated areas of the project.
2. From the following list a minimum of 15 species will be used.
3. Depending on budget, plant a total of 500-2,500 plugs.

### Wildflowers

<http://www.prairieresto.com/CategoryList.php?cID=10>

Fragrant giant hyssop ( <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> )	Rough blazing star ( <i>Liatris aspera</i> )
Prairie onion ( <i>Allium stellatum</i> )	Cylindric blazing star ( <i>Liatris cylindracea</i> )
Leadplant ( <i>Amorpha canescens</i> )	Meadow blazing star ( <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i> )
Pasque flower ( <i>Anemone patens</i> )	Dotted blazing star ( <i>Liatris punctata</i> )
Pussytoes ( <i>Antennaria neglecta</i> )	Prairie phlox ( <i>Phlox pilosa</i> )
Butterfly weed ( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> )	Prairie cinquefoil ( <i>Potentilla arguta</i> )
Whorled milkweed ( <i>Asclepias verticillata</i> )	Prairie rose ( <i>Rosa arkansana</i> )
Tooth-leaved primrose ( <i>Calylophus serrulatus</i> )	Gray goldenrod ( <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> )
Harebell ( <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> )	Upland goldenrod ( <i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i> )
New Jersey tea ( <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> )	Stiff goldenrod ( <i>Solidago rigida</i> )
Stiff tickseed ( <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> )	Showy goldenrod ( <i>Solidago speciosa</i> )
Slender penstemon ( <i>Penstemon gracilis</i> )	Lindley's aster ( <i>Symphotrichum ciliolatum</i> )
Showy penstemon ( <i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i> )	Heath aster ( <i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i> )
White prairie clover ( <i>Dalea candida</i> )	Smooth aster ( <i>Symphotrichum laeve</i> )
Purple prairie clover ( <i>Dalea purpurea</i> )	Panicled aster ( <i>Symphotrichum lanceolatum</i> )
Silky prairie clover ( <i>Dalea villosa</i> )	Calico aster ( <i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i> )
Prairie larkspur ( <i>Delphinium virescens</i> )	New England aster ( <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> )
Northern bedstraw ( <i>Galium boreale</i> )	Aromatic aster ( <i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i> )
Prairie smoke ( <i>Geum triflorum</i> )	Azure aster ( <i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i> )
Common ox-eye ( <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> )	Silky aster ( <i>Symphotrichum sericeum</i> )
Golden aster ( <i>Heterotheca villosa</i> )	Western spiderwort ( <i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i> )
Alum-root ( <i>Heuchera richardsonii</i> )	Hoary vervain ( <i>Verbena stricta</i> )
Bush clover ( <i>Lespedeza capitata</i> )	Golden alexanders ( <i>Zizia aurea</i> )

## F. Management: [http://www.prairieresto.com/management\\_overview.shtml](http://www.prairieresto.com/management_overview.shtml)

1. Management (maintenance) plays a vital role in the eventual success of any native landscape installation, especially during the establishment period. Active management of your native landscape is highly recommended to give the project the best opportunity for long term success.
2. During the germination year, the project area may need to be mowed to control annual weed development. If a “closed” canopy of weed cover develops, it should be mowed to aid in the growth of the prairie seedlings by reducing competition. Mowing may also be necessary if the weeds are about to set seed. Optimum cutting height, depending on the wildflower species present, is typically 4 to 6 inches. It is important that the clippings are finely mulched in order to prevent smothering. PRI can provide the mowing services if desired.

3. In years following the first growing season, Integrated Plant Management (IPM) services are utilized to control annual, biennial and perennial weed species within the developing native landscape. Typical IPM services include spot herbicide spraying, spot mowing, herbicide wicking or hand weeding. These services are billed on a per trip cost agreed upon prior to the growing season.
4. Prescribed burning is a highly effective management tool and may be recommended for your project as it matures. Burning stimulates native species to grow more robustly and also help to deter the presence of many non-native and/or woody species. Prescribed burning, when recommended, will be provided as a separate lump sum cost.
5. In lieu of burning, or during years when the site is not burned, a Spring Dormant Mowing can be used to “clean up” previous year’s growth and set the table for the new growing season. This mowing would occur early in the spring, as soon as conditions permit. Spring Dormant Mowing, when recommended, will be provided as a separate lump sum cost.
6. Management is not included in the below quote.

**G. Anticipated Management:**

The following table conveys the anticipated management procedures for your project during the first 3 growing seasons. Estimates for these procedures are provided in the cost section of this proposal.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Management Procedures</b>
1	Complete site mowings to control annual weed canopy (mowings as needed). Project monitoring
2	Complete site mowing Integrated Plant Management (IPM) – includes spot spraying, spot mowing, wicking, hand weeding, and other techniques to control weeds and invasive species Project monitoring
3	Spring burn to encourage native plant growth and to help deter the presence of non-native and woody species. Integrated Plant Management (IPM) Project monitoring

**H. Costs:**

**Base Project Installation:**

<b>Project set up and mobilization</b> .....	\$550
<b>Site preparation</b>	
Mowing .....	to be completed by city staff
Spraying .....	\$750
Burning .....	\$950
<b>Seed and seeding as specified</b> .....	\$4,635*

\*depending on budget flower seed rate can be reduced

**Options:**

<b>Mulching as specified</b> .....	\$850/acre
<b>Optional native seedling plugs:</b>	
500-999 @ \$2.25 each delivered and installed	
1,000-1,499 @ \$2.15 delivered and each installed	
1,500+ @ \$2.00 each delivered and installed	

**Vegetation Management:**

**Future Management Estimates for slope area and parking lot medians:**

Growing season 2017 .....	<b>\$1,700</b>
Growing season 2018 .....	<b>\$1,600</b>
Growing season 2019 .....	<b>\$1,600</b>

**Future Management Estimates for parking lot medians only:**

Growing season 2017 (3 visits) .....	<b>\$800</b>
Growing season 2018 (2 visits) .....	<b>\$600</b>
Growing season 2019 (2 visits) .....	<b>\$600</b>

**Please note:** The *Future Management Estimates* are meant to convey typical management costs for projects of similar size and characteristics. Prior to each growing season, you will receive a specified quote from your project manager detailing the recommended management strategies and associated costs for your project.

*PRI will provide a follow-up consultation approximately 1 month after the completion of the project (if the project was seeded in the fall, the consultation will occur the following spring). The Restorationist (or salesperson) will meet with the project owner to assess the status of the project, answer any questions, and provide any necessary recommendations. This follow-up consultation will be provided at no additional cost.*

- I. **Guarantee:** Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI) has a great tradition of successfully installing native landscapes throughout the Upper Midwest. We feel our expertise in this industry is second to none and we stand behind every one of our projects. Because we are confident in our abilities to provide you with the best possible materials and services, we are proud to offer the following guarantee:

*On projects installed by PRI crews within the specified dates, we will guarantee successful establishment within three full growing seasons, given the following conditions:*

- 1. That PRI materials and PRI installation services are used on the project.*
- 2. That the failure of the project is not due to the actions of others.*
- 3. That PRI staff has been consistently involved with the maintenance of the project (consultation with the client or direct utilization of PRI management services) from the time of germination until the end of the third growing season (i.e. mowing, spot spraying, and controlled burning).*

*This outline provides a step-by-step plan for accomplishing the restoration of this site. If successful establishment does not occur within three full growing seasons, all necessary steps will be taken to ensure the eventual success of the project, at no additional charge. For purposes of this guarantee, successful establishment is defined as follows: That the presence of at least 75% of the original seeded or planted species can be found on site, and that the overall density of vegetation is comprised of no less than 75% native species.*

J. **Contract:**

If you accept the proposal as written and want to proceed with the project, please sign the contract below.

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contract Value:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Contractor:** *Prairie Restorations, Inc.*

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brad Vierkant–Site Manager/ Restorationist**

Prairie Restorations, Inc.

31646 128<sup>th</sup> Street

Princeton, MN 55371

Restoration outline prepared by Prairie Restorations, Inc. (PRI), Princeton, Minnesota