

## City of Blaine Open Spaces

Rebecca Haug & Whom it May Concern,

Over the last 6 years, Prairie Restorations, Inc. has been working on the improvement of some of the City of Blaine's Open Spaces and Parks. The areas of past and continued work are as follows;

- Aquatore Park (Now Aquatore Dog Park)
- Laddie Lake Park
- Oak Savanna (Naples Circ. NE)
- Hidden Ponds Park
- Kane Meadows Park (Coral Sea)

This document is meant to help identify and predict future restoration and management work that would be beneficial to these sites over the next 5 years. Like with all natural resources management, the flexibility to adjust and modify techniques as sites and conditions change, is a necessity for success. The below forecast represents the bare minimum of potential work to be accomplished on these sites. The correct management of natural areas are always "in progress" the nature of the work is long term success and in reality, never ends.

### **Aquatore Dog Park**

#### History:

PRI originally removed Buckthorn at this site around 5 years ago. Since then we have foliar sprayed for Regen buckthorn and edited twice for Boxelder, hazard trees and poor growth form tree's. The last edit took place after the park was re designated as a dog park in the winter of 2016. The only continued management at this site would be potential oak removal. The majority of the large oaks onsite look to have Oak Wilt. They may continue to thrive or some may start to die and become hazards for pedestrians and dogs who frequent the park.

### **Laddie Lake Park**

#### History:

PRI originally removed the Buckthorn onsite around 4 years ago. From the site photos and maps I have, it looks like the all boundaries of the actual Blaine Open Space have been cut. We have and continue to manage Buckthorn onsite. There are two prairie areas onsite that have had prescribed burns but no thorough prairie management completed. Both prairies do have remnant pieces that are still intact and quite special. I would suggest starting to manage noxious weeds through mowing and herbicide practices for more healthy prairies.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fall Foliar Spray Regen BT- \$2,100	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$1,650  -Monitor BT, let site rest.	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$1,650  -Prescribed burn both prairie areas; \$2,300  -Fall Foliar Spray Regen BT; \$1,750	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$1,300  -Monitor BT, let site rest.	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$1,100  -Monitor BT, Let site rest.

## Oak Savanna

### History:

PRI originally removed the Buckthorn onsite around 6 years ago. We have foliar sprayed Buckthorn onsite but have not the last 2 years. The control of Buckthorn onsite is very good and the natural succession of native trees, shrubs and plants is also very good. I believe PRI did some planting of trees and shrubs onsite around 4 years ago.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
-Fall Foliar Spray Regen BT; \$1,500	-Monitor BT, let site rest.	-Plant additional Native Plants & Trees; \$2,000	-Monitor BT	-Monitor BT

## Hidden Ponds Park

### History:

PRI originally removed the Buckthorn around the central pond and seeded around the pond with native prairie. During the prairie prep phase, during a prescribed burn, we discovered the underlying peat based soil and spent a week with the Blaine Fire Department putting out the peat fire. Without being able to burn the native seeded area it presents a problem for ongoing prairie management. The eastern edge looks to be doing best with less invasive species and good plant diversity. Mowing the other sides may be one option. We also continue to manage the Buckthorn through herbicide applications in the fall.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
-Fall Foliar Spray Regen BT; \$1,275	-Fall Foliar Spray Regen BT; \$1,100	-Monitor BT, let site rest.	-Monitor BT, let site rest.	-Monitor BT

## Kane Meadows Park

### History:

Prairie Restorations removed the Buckthorn in three main areas referenced by the map. The Furthest West piece was cut the winter of 2015 and sprayed the fall of 2016 as well as the other two areas. We are unsure who seeded the prairie edge that follows the walking trail on both sides going East and West. It should receive some Integrated Plant Management going forward.

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
-Fall Foliar Spray Regen BT; \$1,950	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$2,200	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$2,200  -Prescribed burn \$2,150	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$2,000	-Integrated Plant Management for Prairie areas; \$1,800

**Potential Yearly Totals**

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
\$6,825.00	\$4,950.00	\$12,050.00	\$3,300	\$2,900

*\*ALL TREE WORK IS SUBJECT TO MN STATE TAX.*

I hope the above outline helps clarify the possibilities for a few select sites going forward. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Ryan Mack  
Land Management Coordinator



