

The Buffalo Hanover Montrose School District is looking for contractor bids to supply all materials, labor, machinery, and any other incidental items needed to establish native prairie plantings at Northwinds Elementary School, 1111 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Buffalo, MN 55313.

The attached map is an aerial view of the Northwinds Elementary property. It includes 5 sections that will be targeted for restoration. These areas were chosen specifically with consultation from Wright Soil and Water Conservation District.

Selective large tree removal for this project will be completed by the BHM School District. BHM Schools will also remove the sandbar willows and elm sprouts as necessary at the native planting areas.

Below is the recommendation from the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District:

The Green area in the NE corner is the stormwater pond and infiltration area. There is some "natural" vegetation there but it could certainly be improved to provide a more diverse and balanced ecosystem as well as shrinking the turf areas and including native upland. The blue is quite steep and is currently poor fine fescue turfgrass.

The next priority is the dark blue and pink areas. The blue is quite steep and is currently poor fine fescue turfgrass. The pink is a stormwater infiltration basin, with over grown trees and shrubs, including 10-20" cottonwood, buckthorn and sumac. The School District will take out the trees and then we could revegetate with natives. Most of the soils are gravelly so turf doesn't do well and gets beat up on the slopes.

Purple is the current outdoor classroom that's is a cottonwood grove in a stormwater infiltration area, we have planted trees and plan to thin about half of the current large trees. (No work in the purple area) Light blue is sloped areas that are maintained as turf currently

# CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

1. Seeding contractors must have at least three years of experience installing native seed and installing or maintaining prairie restoration projects or other similar types of projects.

### SEED SPECIFICATIONS

- Seed mixtures will be determined by the contractor and Wright Soil and Water Conservation District. District. The seed mix for the upland areas should be Mid Diversity Solar Array Dry Soil South and West 39-221 or similar. For infiltration areas and around the pond (~0.9 acres), the seed mix should be Wet Prairie 34-263 or similar.
- 2. All seed that is supplied for projects must be labeled according to the requirements of the Minnesota Seed Law, section 21.82, including limits on noxious weed seed.
- 3. The origin of seed is required to be listed on the seed tag for all species in a mix to provide verification of original (generation 0) seed source. The smallest known geographic area (township, county, ecotype region, etc.) shall be listed.

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- a. Information pertaining to purity, germination, and hard (dormant) seed of individual components in a mix is required on seed tags.
- 4. Seed must be cleaned to an extent sufficient to allow its passage through appropriate seeding equipment.

# SITE PREPARATION SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. 3 site preparation spays will need to be applied to reduce initial seed bank and first flush of weeds. 1 spray will be applied in the fall of 2023 and the remaining 2 sprays would be in the spring of 2024.
- 2. Avoid tilling wherever possible to minimize soil disturbance. A shallow disc may be used as needed.

### SEEDING SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. Seeding of prairie vegetation can be initiated once soil temperatures reach 50 degrees Fahrenheit in the spring (generally around May 15th) and all 3 preparation sprays have been completed.
- 2. The seeding contractor is responsible for distributing seed across the entire project area as specified in the project plan.
- 3. A native seed drill with boxes for different sized seed (such as a Truax or Trillion type seeder) or a broadcast seeder should be used for seed installation. If a broadcast seeder is used, the contractor must ensure an even distribution of seed across the entire site and follow the application by raking, rolling or other methods to ensure that there is sufficient seed to soil contact.
- 4. If hydro-mulching will be conducted for erosion control, seeding shall occur first by broadcasting or drilling. Seed shall not be mixed with the hydro-mulch.
- 5. Apply weed free straw mulch or hydro-mulch over the seeded areas that require erosion control. Straw shall be anchored into the soil with an anchor disk/ crimp disk or similar.

# MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. Include one year of planting management to ensure establishment, including mowing, in your proposal.
- 2. Any areas over 100 square feet with sparse establishment (less than one native plant every 1.5 feet on average) after the first full growing season will require re-seeding using the original seed mixes specified for the project.
- 3. The seeding will be successfully established when the area has a 90% aerial coverage of native plant species.
- 4. The remaining native planting management beyond 1 year will be completed or contracted by BHM Schools.



1.79 ac

0.84 ac

0.44 ac

175

350

Source: MGC & 2021 Aerial Data shown may differ from actual survey Map created by: Wright SWCD

0.23 ac

1.45 ac

0.64 ac

700

Feet