

# Native Plant Buffer Restoration Operations & Maintenance Plan

**Prepared for:**  
Heifert Hills Development

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### **Shady Wetland Buffer Restoration**

1. This area will be planted with a diverse mix landscape plugs. Native woodland sedges, grasses, and wildflowers that are adapted to the moist, shadier conditions will be used. Planting for this site will be augmented with a native plant seed mix (MN DOT 34-261).
2. To establish this planting, buckthorn, select weedy/invasive shrubs and perennial weeds will be removed to clean up area and provide additional sunlight for the native seed and plants. Other existing weeds and grasses including, but not limited to, burdock, canary reed grass and stinging nettle should be treated with water-safe herbicide as specified by instructions. After weeds are under control the area will be seeded, planted and mulched with straw where needed.
3. Current native species will be left in place whenever possible and used in project area.
4. Straw wattles, wood fiber blankets, and/or Bio-logs will be placed in select areas of where there is rainwater runoff to promote growth of vegetation and protect the site from erosion.

### **Buffer Plant Management:**

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 (first full season of implementation), the project area should be mowed to control annual weed development. Mowing is necessary to prevent weeds from setting seed. Optimum cutting height is typically 6 inches. It is important that the clippings are finely mulched in order to prevent smothering.
3. In years following the first growing season, Integrated Plant Management (IPM) services should be 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.
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 helps to deter the presence of many non-native and/or woody species. Prescribed burning should only be performed by a professional restoration company.
5. In lieu of burning, or during years when the site is not burned, a Spring Dormant Mowing can be used to “clean up” growth from the previous year and prepare the site for the new growing season. This mowing should occur very early in the spring, as soon as conditions permit.

## **Anticipated Management:**

The following table conveys the anticipated management procedures for your project during the first 3 growing seasons.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Management Procedures</b>
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2022	
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|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete site mowing to control annual weed canopy (1 or 2 mowings as needed).</li><li>• Project monitoring</li></ul> |
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2023	
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete site mowing</li><li>• Integrated Plant Management (IPM) – includes spot spraying, spot mowing, herbicide wicking, hand weeding, and other techniques to control weeds and invasive species (3 visits are typical)</li><li>• Project monitoring</li></ul> |
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2024	
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integrated Plant Management (IPM) – includes spot spraying, spot mowing, wicking, hand weeding, and other techniques to control weeds and invasive species (3 visits are typical)</li><li>• Project monitoring</li></ul> |
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2025	
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spring burn to encourage native plant growth and to help deter the presence of non-native and woody species may be a feasible option for your site. Please consult with a professional restoration company that performs native planting prescribed burns.</li><li>• Integrated Plant Management (IPM) (3 visits are typical)</li><li>• Project monitoring</li></ul> |
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