



Village of Homer Glen 319 Grant Area at Heritage Park

- The Village has a three-year maintenance contract for the 319 Grant areas. The contract is with the general contractor Alessio. However, their subcontractor that did the seeding, planting and restoration work, and who is also performing the maintenance work, is Natural Creations.
- The purpose of the mowing at this time is to prevent the invasive species from growing any further and from going to seed. Some species, however, require a herbicide application. This was done prior to the mowing. The mowing is generally a mid-level cut of around 8-inches. Typically, in the 3rd year of the program, the plants will be mature enough to handle a burn, which will be done in the spring.
- The level and type of growth that has been observed on site has been determined to be typical of the 2nd year of the growth cycle. Multiple flowering species have been observed onsite, which is very good.
- Around this time and into the fall, the various grasses will be going to seed, which will help to further expand the desired vegetation.
- Natural Creations will be back onsite in the next few weeks to do a follow up spot spray to make sure that the cat tails around the ponds are dying down. They also have a selective herbicide planned for a few areas. Their opinion of the site is that it will definitely be ready to burn next spring. A burn will greatly help the native vegetation thrive and will control the weeds.
- Below is the Monitoring and Maintenance specs for the site.

MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the native vegetation is vital to the success of the project. The items outlined in this specification are recommendations for achieving a successful establishment and management of the native vegetation. Twice annual monitoring of all native plant communities shall be conducted for three full growing seasons following initial implementation; one season for the stone rip rap streambank areas. This work falls under the category of landscaping and therefore the prevailing wage requirements are not applicable to this work.

The site visits each year shall be conducted between June 1 and September 30. Each visit shall be conducted by a qualified professional with adequate plant identification skills and who is also able to make recommendations regarding management of native plant communities and stream structure maintenance. The site inspector shall collaborate over the needed maintenance requirements for a given year with the Village of Homer Glen and the Engineer.

The preferred management schedule and performance standards for all native plant communities following initial installation is as follows:

Herbicide application:

Contractor shall eradicate herbaceous noxious weed species. It is the responsibility of the contractor to protect native species and areas outside of the project area during execution of the work described in this section. The contractor shall restore all areas affected or disturbed by the work according to the approved plans and specifications at no additional cost to the owner. The contractor shall maintain copies at the project site of all current pesticide applicator's licenses, herbicide labels, and SDS's (safety data sheets) for all chemicals utilized during completion of the work. Herbicide shall be mixed and placed in containers away from any natural area, trees, shrubs, herbaceous or woody growth, or body of water. Herbicides shall not be transported to the work area in any container other than that used for application. Wick or spot application with Rodeo or Aqua Neat including but not limited to: reed canary grass, teasel, buckthorn, thistles, sweet clover, and purple loosestrife present in the project vicinity should be treated directly with a 2.5% solution of rodeo or aqua neat. Best application period is just before or during the very earliest stages of flowering. Where large patches of target weeds are present it may be necessary to use a larger wick or broadcast unit. Buckthorne and purple loosestrife are best treated with 5% or 2.5% Garlon 3A foliar spray or equivalent, respectively. Phragmites are best treated through a wicking treatment of 33% Rodeo or equivalent solution. Several back-to-back treatments may be useful in greatly reducing these plants.

Mowing:

The contractor shall mow native plant communities to a height of 8"-10" after vegetation in said areas reaches a height of 24" and before non-native species go to seed two times during first growing season. The contractor shall also mow to a height of 12" up to two times during the second growing season (approximately mid-June and mid-August) and possibly one time during the third growing season (approximately mid-June) unless the Engineer determines that mowing is not needed. Mowing should be done with a rotary bush hog style mower to ensure clippings are dispersed rather than deposited in dense mats, which smother vegetation, or the clippings/branches should be removed from the mowed area.

Prescribed Burning:

Prescribed burning shall be the primary method for long-term ecological management and weed control on the site. Burning shall begin following the third growing season and conducted in spring (mid-March-April) or fall (November-December). Burning should be conducted by a licensed contractor experienced in burn planning and permit application as well as prescribed burn management. Prior to the commencement of prescribed burning, the contractor shall compile a burn plan that outlines a plan of action, identifies contingencies, and lists the names and phone numbers of emergency agencies (fire department, police department, etc.). Proper notice of intent to burn shall be given. The contractor shall apply for and receive all required permits prior to the commencement of prescribed burning.