

LCMR Work Program
January 1, 1996 FINAL WORK PROGRAM UPDATE REPORT

I. Program Title: WFP4-7 Prairie Ecosystem Restoration in the Minneapolis Park System

Program Manager: Jeffrey T. Lee
Agency Affiliation: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Address: 3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409
Phone: (612) 370-4900

A. Legal Citation: M.L.93 Chpt 172, Sect 14, Subd.12(j)

The project was extended to December 31, 1995; on that date the appropriations cancel and no further payment is authorized, Minnesota Laws 1995, Chap. 220, Sec. 19, Subd. 19.

Total Biennial Budget:	\$ 60,000.00	Local match	LCMR funds
Total project budget:	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Expenditures :	\$ 136,650.62	\$ 76,650.62	\$ 60,000.00
Total project balance:	\$ (16,650.62)	\$ (16,650.62)	\$ 0

This appropriation is from the Future Resources Fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for a contract to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to restore and rehabilitate the remnant, secondary and introduced prairie tracts which are in the Minneapolis Park system. This appropriation must be matched by \$60,000 from non-state funds.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: Not applicable

C. Status of Match Requirement:

Match required: \$ 60,000
Funds raised to date: \$ 76,650.62

Work plan changes reflect lack of volunteer commitment to the project and substitution of MPRB funds for the match dollars originally expected to be volunteer time. Objective budget changed to reflect reallocation of project costs for increased plantings and additional work to be completed due to extension of project by law.

II. Narrative: Within the Minneapolis park system are tracts of remnant, planted, or secondary successional prairie. These locations are accessible to urban populations for recreational and educational purposes. These prairie tracts are in need of restoration and intensive management efforts to restore the prairie plant communities. Restoration of remnant and secondary prairie plant communities will be accomplished through soil amendment, reintroduction of indigenous plants and subsequent long term management. Trail systems and overlooks will be designed and installed to allow for visitor access.

III. Objectives: Restoration of existing remnant/secondary prairie ecosystems. Replanting of degraded existing prairies and development of new prairie ecosystems. Floristic survey of prairie communities and develop educational/interpretive material.

IV. Objectives:

A. Restoration of existing remnant/secondary prairie ecosystems.

A. Narrative: Intensive restoration of existing remnant, secondary planted prairie ecosystems through prescribed burns, removal of woody vegetation and yearly mowing.

A.2. Budget:	Total	Match	LCMR
	\$ 23,000	\$ 8,000	\$15,000
Expended:	\$ 23,276.16	\$ 8,276.16	\$15,000
Balance:	\$ (276.16)	\$ (276.16)	\$ 0

A.3. Time line:	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95	12/95
Prescribed Burns			X-----X			X-X
Mowing of Vegetation	X---X	X-----X	X-----X	X-----X	X-----X	X-----X
Removal of Woody Vegetation		X---X	X---X	X---X		

A.5. Status: Mowing completed in 1993 as planned. Prescribed burns completed on the Minnehaha Annex, West River Road and 36th Street, Cedar Lake north shore, Wirth Back 40, and Wirth nursery sites in April 1994. First of two 1994 vegetation mowing and brush removal completed on the Minnehaha Annex, Golden Valley Road/Wirth Parkway, Wirth Back 40, and Wirth nursery sites in June. Trees removed with tree spade from parts of the Wirth Parkway/I-394 location and transplanted to boulevard area on site by MPRB Forestry Division (no cost to project). Second (fall) mowing of vegetation completed on the Minnehaha Annex, Golden Valley Road/Wirth Parkway, Wirth Back 40, and Wirth nursery sites in August. Volunteer groups worked on brush removal at three sites in July and August (178.5 hours). Conducted site assessments for spring 1995 interplanting with Ron Bowen of Prairie Restoration, Inc. on August 30. Site assessment reports prepared for each site based upon August site visits. Two sites had prescribed burns spring 1995 - Boom Island and Powderhorn Park. Mowing completed at Minnehaha Falls, Brownie Lake and Powderhorn Park. Tree removal completed on part of Powderhorn Park by MPRB Forestry (no cost to project). Late summer and fall 1995 mowings completed on all sites.

A.6. Benefits: Management efforts will restore existing viable prairie ecosystems to a natural condition. Restoration efforts will allow continued survival of prairie ecosystem through the elimination of woody vegetation and exotics.

B. Replanting of degraded existing prairies and development of new prairie ecosystems.

B.1. Narrative: Severely degraded prairie areas will be either interplanted with native species or prairie communities will be reestablished following complete removal of existing plants. Native prairie plants will be introduced into suitable locations as a replacement for high maintenance turf grass areas.

B.2. Budget:	Total	Match	LCMR
	\$ 87,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 40,000
Expended:	\$102,158.03	\$ 62,158.03	\$ 40,000.00
Balance:	\$(15,158.03)	\$ (15,158.03)	\$ 0

B.3. Time line:	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95	12/95
Assess Locations	X--X					
Site Preparation				X-----X		
Seed & Plant Site				X-----X	X-----X	X-----X
Mowing Sites		X---X		X--X		X-----X
Prescribed Burns		X---X		X---X		X---X

B.5. Status: Assessment work completed as planned. Project plans and plantings completed for the Cedar Lake trail planting and the East Sand Flats projects. Both projects on schedule. Lake of the

Isles site surveyed and mapped for replanting. Two acres n. . . and rototilled in preparation for planting. Wet mesic prairie seed ordered and site planted by MPRB Maintenance Division and Teen Teamworks crews in June 1994. Conducted site assessments for spring 1995 interplanting with Ron Bowen of Prairie Restoration, Inc. on August 30. Site assessment reports prepared for each site based upon August site visits. Powderhorn hillside site sprayed with herbicide in preparation for spring 1995 planting. Assessment carried out on B.F. Nelson site, Sibley Field and Minnehaha Park sites. East Sand Flats soil/site preparation by Minneapolis Public Works and planting completed by Prairie Restoration Inc. in October 1994. Bids solicited and accepted for Cedar Park trail plantings in spring 1995.Planting bid for new and existing sites awarded to Prairie Restoration, Inc. In April. Interseed plantings completed at Minnehaha Annex, Wirth Back Forty and Wirth Lake sites. New plantings completed at Bryn Mawr, Deming Heights, Golden Valley Road, B.F. Nelson-Boom Island, Minnehaha Falls, Brownie Lake and Powderhorn Park. Final assessment made of all plantings in October with prairie Restoration, Inc. Spot seeding locations marked for replanting in spring 1996.

B.6. Benefits: Management efforts will return existing non-viable prairie ecosystems to a natural condition. Sites will be intensively managed in the first two years to ensure proper development of the prairie community.

C. Floristic survey of prairie communities and develop educational/interpretive material.

C.1. Narrative: All prairie ecosystems will be surveyed using the Releve method to determine community integrity, species composition, and level of rehabilitation work needed. Two surveys will be undertaken; one to evaluate the existing ecosystems and a second to evaluate the effectiveness of the management program. The floristic information will be used to develop interpretive signage and educational materials for park visitors.

C.2. Budget:	Total	Match	LCMR
	\$10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
	Expended:	\$11,216.43	\$ 6,216.43
	Balance:	\$ (1,216.43)	\$ (1,216.43)

C.3: Time line:	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95	12/95
Releve Surveys	X---X				X---X	
Management Plans	X---X					
Educational Materials			X-----X		X-----X	
Interpretive Signage			X-----X			

C.5: Status 1993 survey work and management plans completed as planned. Additional surveys of sites completed in spring of 1994 with DNR and MPRB personnel. Information requests completed from DNR Natural Heritage program for all sites. Preliminary maps completed. Signage placed on each site describing the restoration activities. Site surveys completed and plant lists prepared for all existing sites. Sign language prepared and art work purchase order completed. Substantial completion payment made for art work. Work started on Minneapolis Park system prairie informational brochure. Artwork completed for brochure and signs. Signs completed and erected at prairie restoration locations. Plant lists completed for brochures. Volunteers signed up for resurvey work on selected sites. Art work digitized and final layout completed. Management plans completed for all sites through 2000.

C.6: Benefits: Survey results will be used to develop long-term management schemes for each site. Educational/interpretive materials will allow park visitors and school-based environmental education groups to understand and appreciate the prairie communities found in the City

of Minneapolis.

V. Evaluation: Prairie plant communities will be surveyed at the beginning of the project and again at the project completion. Changes in plant communities will be evaluated to determine the success of various management schemes. Visitor use of the sites will also be measured.

III. Context:

- A. The maintenance of the prairie ecosystems is a long-term commitment on the part of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Current management efforts are presently limited to prescribed burns and occasional removal of vegetation by hand cutting due to budget restrictions.
- B: The work carried out under this project will allow for an intensive renovation of the sites so that minor maintenance is all that will be needed each year. The renovation work will return the prairie communities to a viable state, making the follow-up yearly maintenance less intensive in nature.
- C: The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has planted three suitable sites into prairie as part of previous site rehabilitation projects. Previous LCMR funding has been used for the rehabilitation of Roberts Bird Sanctuary and development of the Urban P.L.A.C.E. (Rangers) program. Once the proposed intensive efforts are completed, the long-term cost will be funded by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

VII. Qualifications:

- Program Manager:**
Jeffrey T. Lee
Manager, Environmental Programs
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
 - B.S. Biology, University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse, 1977
 - M.E. Secondary Education (Aquatic Biology), U.W. - LaCrosse, 1987
- Cooperators:**
Mary Maguire Lerman
Coordinator of Horticulture Programs
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
 - B.S. Horticulture, University of Minnesota - St. Paul, 1974

Lisa Brockberg
Environmental Aide
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Save Cedar Lake Park Volunteers - Park preservation and design, Laurie Lundy;
The Sierra Club - Natural area management and protection, Ted Tookinson;
Minneapolis Public Schools - Student volunteers for park projects, Lyle Baker.

VIII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, January 1, 1995, and June 30, 1995; a final status report by December 31, 1995.