

Native Prairie Restoration - Plant Mix Details

Shields Lake Stormwater Harvest, Reuse, & Alum Treatment Landowner Meeting - May 2018

Upland Areas - 'Mesic Prairie General Mix'



This native grass and wildflower mix will cover most of the area surrounding the stormwater harvest basin and will be the most visible to surrounding homes, especially the southeast corner of the project area. The top two photos to the left are indicative of this seed mix, and the bottom photo is Black-eyed Susan (as seen outside the CLFLWD office in Forest Lake).



The term mesic refers to the normal moisture content of the prairie soil, which in this case is somewhere between wet and dry. Mesic prairies were once the dominant vegetation type in southern and western Minnesota, but since the time of European settlement they have been largely replaced by agriculture. Mesic prairies can be very luxuriant habitats, with an almost garden-like profusion of flowering plants and grasses. Individual species may reach 6 feet in height, but they are usually mixed in among shorter plants so the overall effect is that of a layered environment with visual appeal.



Specific plant species in this mix include: Blue Giant Hyssop, Lead Plant, Common Milkweed, Butterfly Milkweed, Stiff Sunflower, Ox-eye, Rough Blazing Star, Great Blazing Star, Wild Bergamot, Stiff Goldenrod, Black-eyed Susan, Heath Aster, Smooth Aster, Blue Vervain, Hoary Vervain, Golden Alexanders, Big Bluestem, Side-oats Grama, Kalm's Brome, Canada Wild Rye, Slender Wheatgrass, Switchgrass, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, Prairie Dropseed, Canada Tick Trefoil, Canada Milk Vetch, White Prairie Clover, Purple Prairie Clover, Oats (cover crop)

Pond Perimeter - 'Stormwater South and West'



This wet pond edge mix will cover the area immediately surrounding the stormwater pond. Like the prairie mix, it will contain many common Minnesota native forbs and grasses, as listed below. To the left is a photo depicting what this seed mix will resemble.

Specific plant species in this mix include: Big Bluestem, Fringed Brome, Virginia Wild Rye, Fowl Bluegrass, Slender Wheatgrass, Switchgrass, Prairie Cordgrass, Indian Grass, Bluejoint, Awl-Fruited Sedge, Dark Green Bulrush, Woolgrass, Golden Alexanders, Autumn Sneezeweed, Marsh Milkweed, Leafy Beggarticks, Canada Anemone, Obedient Plant, Tall Coneflower, New England Aster, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Blue Vervain, Oats (cover crop).

Post Construction Establishment Period



While some flowers will likely be present in the first year after construction, the full establishment will take about three years. Establishing a native plant community is a multi-year process and it is critical to leave the planting undisturbed by equipment, people, and pets. Since the process will involve applications of pesticide by licensed contractors, it is very important to avoid the area even when it appears the site is not active. Pictured to the right is what the straw mulch will resemble prior to seeds sprouting.