Becker Soil & Water Conservation District

Site Preparation & Follow Up Care

Site Preparation:

1. Flag area to facilitate site preparation and installation.
2. Treat area flagged with Aqua Star (purchase at local elevator) or other water approved herbicide plus surfactant as per manufacturer's direction twice, to actively growing vegetation. Second treatment 10 days after first treatment. Avoid any valuable native plants you wish to retain.
3. Rake the area several days after first treatment; this will enhance the germination of weed seeds, which will be killed by the second herbicide treatment.
4. Landowner will treat area again with herbicide to kill any growth. Wait 10 days after last treatment before any planting may be done.
5. Rake area treated with herbicide and remove debris.
6. Spread oats for a nurse grass.
7. Place biodegradable matting with hemp netting over treated area and stake.
8. The plants will be laid out and installed.
9. The site will be immediately and thoroughly watered to settle in the plantings.

Post planting: First Year

A. _____ **Watering -** New plantings need 1 inch of water per week so if there is a lack of rain, watering your project site will be necessary. If weather consists of hot dry winds, then watering practices need to be adjusted to more frequent watering. The site will be watered twice a week, 0.5 inches per watering, unless at least one inch of rain falls during that week.

B. _____ **Weeding-** hand pulling or spot treat them with herbicide if necessary. Watch for weeds especially along the edge of projects or paths.

C. _____ **Mowing** - On sites where seeding was the primary planting method, the site will need mowing to control weeds. Mowing should occur when weed growth reaches 10 inches and most importantly before the weeds begin to set seed. The cutting height should be set at 4 to 5 inches.

D. _____ **Plant Identification** - Become familiar with all new native plants on your project site. Also become familiar with weeds by obtaining a good weed identification handbook.

E. _____ **Mulch -** Mulch your plants as necessary throughout the season to prevent soil erosion and weed growth and to hold moisture in the soil.

F. _____ **Wave Breaks** - If an aquatic planting has been done in conjunction with your project make sure you maintain your wave break and fence to keep out predators to help your new aquatic plants become established.

G. _____ **Rain Garden/Drainage Area –** Check for sediment buildup, debris buildup and mulch flotation. Clean area to restore proper filtration.

H. _____

Post Planting: Second Year

A. _____ **Dead Vegetation** – In the spring if desired, the dead vegetation may be cut back or raked. This is only necessary if the appearance of the project is a concern. Leave dead vegetation standing in the fall to act as a buffer to keep leaves from blowing in the lake. The standing dried vegetation also provides winter interest, food and cover for birds and other wildlife.

B. _____**Weeding** - Conduct a thorough weeding of the site after green-up and check for weed growth at least once every three weeks. Hand pull or spot treat any weeds with herbicide if necessary.

C. _____ **Mowing** – If mowing is your primary weed control option raise the cutting height to 6 to 12 inches during the second year and again mow prior to any weeds setting seed.

D. _____ **Water** - as needed during periods of drought, making sure to provide the plants 1 inch of water per week.

E. _____ **Supplemental planting** can be conducted in areas with low native plant survival.

F. _____ **Rain Garden/Drainage Area –** Check for sediment buildup, debris buildup and mulch flotation. Clean area to restore proper filtration.

G. _____

Third Year and Beyond

A. _____ **Spring Weeding and Standing Vegetation** - Again and every spring following, conduct a thorough weeding and cut back or rake the vegetation as desired.

B. _____ **Weeding** - Once a month check for weed growth and hand pull or spot treat weeds.

C. _____ **Supplemental planting** as necessary, continuous vegetation cover is the goal.

D. _____ **Project Expansion** - Consider expanding the project into new areas of the shoreline.

E. _____ **Dead Vegetation** - Leave dead vegetation standing in the fall.

F. _____ **Prescribed Burn** - After approximately 3 years or when the vegetation becomes thick enough to carry a fire you may consider burning the project. Prescribed burning is a tool that can be used for weed control, it will also help to increase flowering, seed production and germination of native plants and can reduce invasion by potentially unwanted woody vegetation. Prescribed burns may be conducted on a 3 or 4-year rotation. Please obtain the necessary permits before conducting a prescribed burn.

G. _____ **Rain Garden/Drainage Area –** Check for sediment buildup, debris buildup and mulch flotation. Clean area to restore proper filtration.

10. **Monitoring:** As you are enjoying your native planting take the opportunity to take photos of your planting, what plants you are seeing, and note any weed issues or concerns you might have with your planting.