St. Louis County’s Native Landscaping Story

- Our Role Supporting Subdivision Trustees
- Native Landscaping Initiatives
  - Parks Department Leading the Way
  - Native Landscaping Guidebook
  - Native Commons
  - Lots of Beauty
Supporting Subdivision Trustees
Subdivision Support

- Resource Website
- Workshops
- Publications
- Trustee Roster
- Speaker’s Bureau
- Neighborhood Walks
- Problem Solving & Support
It’s All About The Common Ground
Native Landscaping Initiatives
Parks Department Leads the Way

Welcome to the Native Grassland and Wildflowers of Bon Oak Park

St. Louis County Parks has planted more than 20 species of wildflowers and grasses in 2 acres to provide for wildlife, add the color of native flowers, and reduce the overall mowing of the park.

We hope you enjoy this new feature. Enjoy all your St. Louis County Parks!

For additional information, visit “www.nrownative.org”
Parks & Native Landscaping

- Policy of planting natives to reduce maintenance costs
- 330+ acres in 13 parks
Bon Oak Park

Saint Louis COUNTY
BON OAK PARK

PARK OPENS AT 7 A.M.
AND CLOSES 1/2 HOUR
AFTER SUNSET
Charrette at Lemasters Elem.
Bon Oak Master Plan

Conceptual Master Plan

Phase 1
A. New Main Walk (1st Half)
B. New Pedestrian Node
C. New Children's Playground (Ages 5-12)

Phase 2
D. New Tot Playground (Ages 2-5)
E. New MainWalk (2nd Half)
F. New Comfort Station
G. New Walk/Car Comfort Station
H. Improved Parking Area
I. New Entry Plaza

Phase 3
J. New Picnic Shelter
K. New Signage
L. New Swings
M. New Walk Trail System
N. Improved Baseball Field
O. New Outdoor Classroom
P. Improved Maintenance Buildings
Q. New Spray Features
R. New North Connection
11,000 acres of common ground = 8.5 Forest Parks
POSTED
PRIVATE
LAKE
NO SWIMMING
NO BOATING
FISHING FOR
RESIDENTS ONLY

NO
TRESPASSING
RESIDENTS
ONLY.
ORD. 716.150

CURFEW HOURS
SUNDAY - THURS.
11:00 P.M. - 6:00 A.M.
FRI. - SAT.
12:00 P.M. - 6:00 A.M.
ORD. NO. 705.010
POLICE WILL TAKE
VIOLATORS IN
CUSTODY
Native Landscaping Guidebook

- Goal: reduce maintenance costs
- Our Approach
  - Planning, not technical
  - Customized for subdivision associations
Native Landscaping Guidebook

- Partners
  - Other St. Louis County departments
  - Missouri Department of Conservation
  - Contractors
  - Local Native Landscaping Advocates
  - Subdivision trustees
Native Landscaping Guidebook

- Format
  - Education
  - Step-by-step process
  - Resources
- Graphically compelling
  - Graphs, diagrams, case studies, timelines and lots of pictures
GOING NATIVE SAVES MONEY

Replacing turf with native prairie plants makes financial sense for one reason—it costs half as much to maintain a prairie. Although prairie installation takes initial up-front costs, the return on investment is usually met within three to five years.

Total savings in maintenance costs can range between 10 and 30 percent over a ten-year period. A larger prairie will require a larger initial investment but will increase savings in the long run.

Note: costs are calculated assuming 50 percent cost-share from the Missouri Department of Conservation. See page 21 for more information.

AVERAGE FIXED COSTS PER ACRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual turf maintenance</td>
<td>$1,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New prairie installation</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-year prairie maintenance</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual prairie maintenance</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled burning</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DJM Ecological services

RETURN ON INVESTMENT—1 ACRE PRAIRIE

Cost

Year

COST BREAKDOWN—1 ACRE PRAIRIE

After the initial investment in year one to install the new prairie, annual maintenance costs are much lower than the previous turf maintenance costs.
# Sample Project Schedule

## Planning Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluate the site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimate your budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research financing</td>
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<td>Get resident input</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a conceptual plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sell the plan</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select a contractor</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Project Execution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply herbicide to kill unwanted vegetation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mix and sow seed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed germinates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mow weeds</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spot spray herbicide if needed</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reseed to ensure thick growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduct a controlled burn*</td>
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<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Native Landscaping Guidebook

• Getting the word out
  • tinyurl.com/NativeLandscapingGuide
  • Distributed to project stakeholders
  • Direct mailing, distributed at town halls, vendor fairs, community meetings
  • Brown bag lunch
Implementation
The Native Commons

- $10,000 demonstration project
- Partnership with MDC

Purpose
- Success on the ground
- Learning experience
- Generate interest, get partners on board
- Success to point other subdivisions to
The Native Commons

- Applications
- Selection process
  - Financial capacity
  - Potential environmental impact
  - Volunteer support/partnerships
  - Visibility/outreach potential
## The Native Commons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Select subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Initial meeting with trustees and subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Pre-installation BioBlitz and site analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Presentation of native landscaping plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Site preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 &amp; 2014</td>
<td>Monitoring, meetings as needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Post-installation BioBlitz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Follow our progress
  - tinyurl.com/NativeCommons
Lots of Beauty

- The need
  - Public Works demolishes dilapidated structures and maintains county-owned land
  - Maintenance is an ongoing issue
  - Goal to cut spending by mowing less
Lots of Beauty

- The project
  - Demolition of 5 vacant properties
  - Integrated native planting into demolition bids
  - Seeds sown in February, 2012
  - Education/outreach
- Potential for future projects
Thank You

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