

Maintenance Schedules vs. Budget Constraints

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What are you creating?



Low maintenance



High quality natural community



Landscaping with natives



Low maintenance Areas

- NOT no maintenance



Expectations Defined

◉ What level of maintenance required?



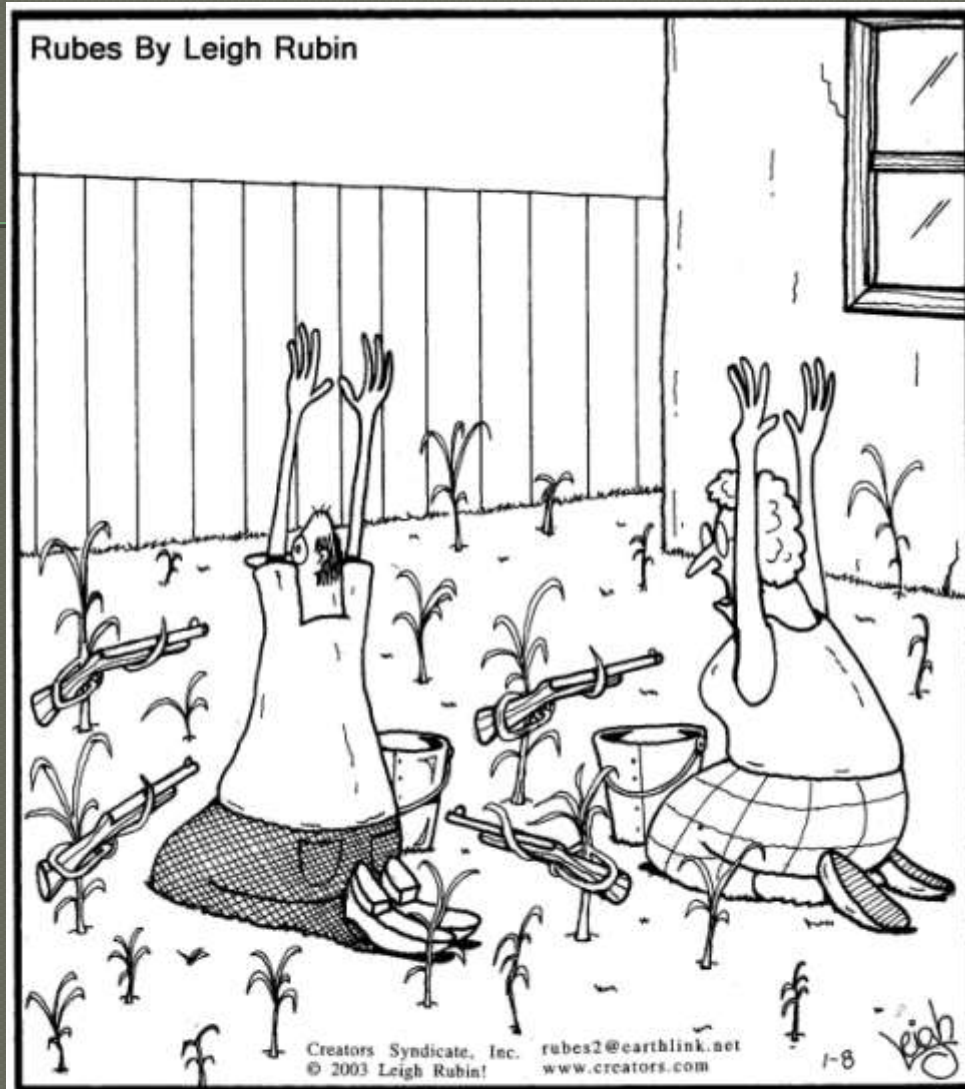
Some areas may need to be hand weeded and will have more labor intensive care due to their proximity to structures.



Annual or biennial mowing or will fire be an option, or a necessity.



This is a reality
on any scale,
planting bed up
to 100's of acres
of natural
communities



"We never should have waited this long ...
Now the weeds have *completely*
taken over."



Expectations Defined

- What can the client handle in-house?



What equipment do they have? If they want to do all maintenance in-house, and this is their only mower, discuss the limitations. Do they have the staff w/ expertise? Or just a weed ID guide?

St. Charles County Parks and Recreation

INVASIVE Plants

Guide to
Identification
and the
Impacts
and
Control
of Common
North American
Species

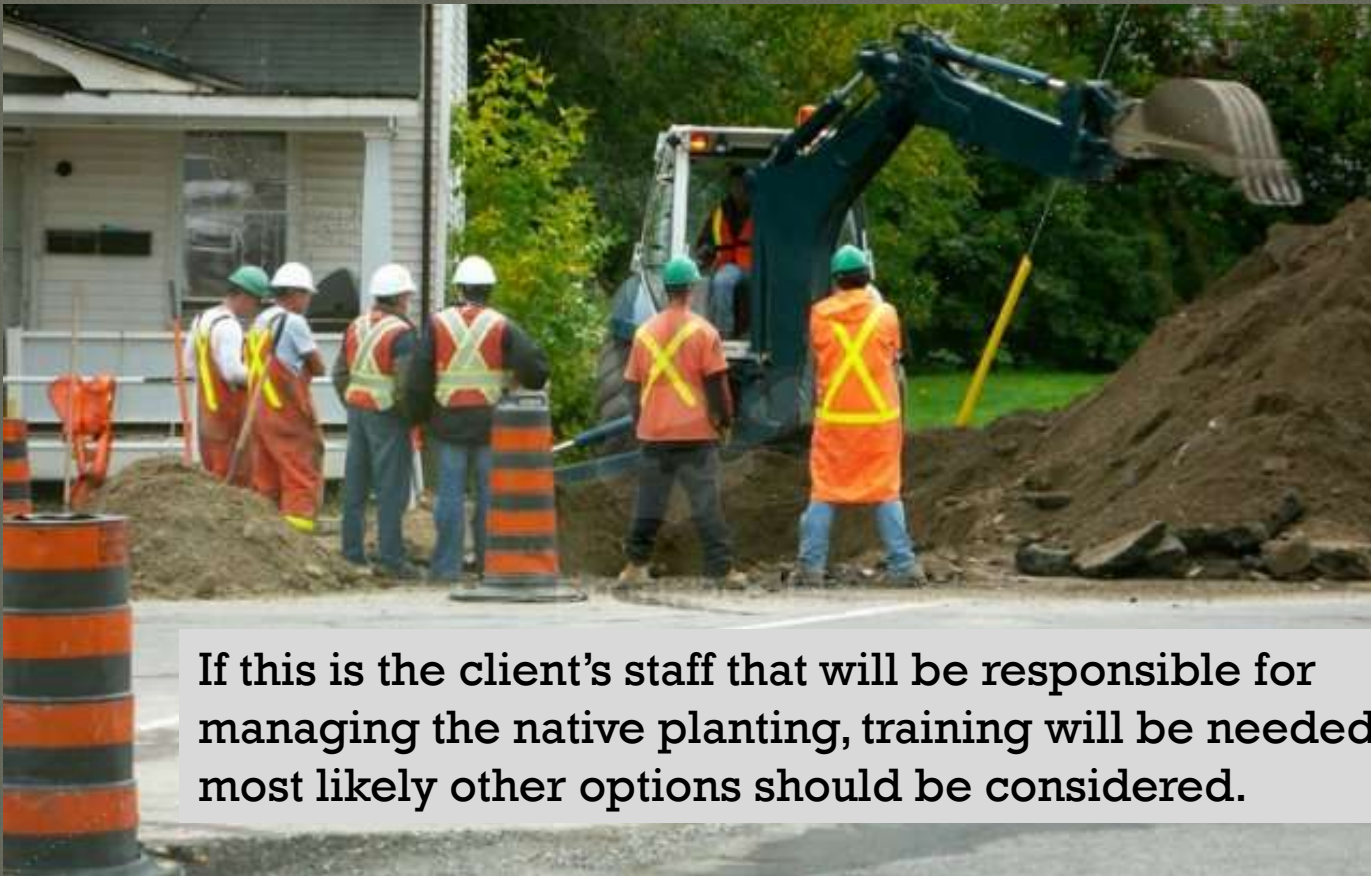


Sylvan Ramsey Kaufman
& Wallace Kaufman



Expectations Defined

- What can the client handle in-house?



If this is the client's staff that will be responsible for managing the native planting, training will be needed and most likely other options should be considered.



Expectations Defined

Contracted maintenance?



.... but they had
'eco' in their
company brochure

If maintenance will be contracted, ensure the contractors know what they are doing. Just because they have the word eco, or earth, or whatever in their company name, does not make them an expert, it may however. Get references.



Expectations Defined

- **All projects should come with a maintenance program in mind before any decisions are made!**

If your designer or architect cannot tell you how to maintain the area after it is installed, then they probably don't know and that should be addressed up front. Find out how to take care of it after installed, **BEFORE** it is accepted or installed.



Budget (or lack thereof)



Budget

◉ Who Drives the Bus?

Money will drive the project, how much to spend up front, but also how much is available for maintenance in year 1, 3, 5, 10 and so on.



Case Studies

◉ Quail Ridge Park



Quail Ridge is our most developed park, meaning we have more turf than any other park, but we do have several prairies. Some with greater diversity, some for low maintenance, i.e. all grass.



Case Studies

◉ Quail Ridge Park Prairie Demonstration Garden

Demo. Garden was designed to showcase species one could find in the prairie. Species are in groups and labeled accordingly.



Case Studies

◉ Quail Ridge Park Prairie Demonstration Garden

Even w/simply groupings of individual species, we could not keep up with the weeds, so we enlisted an incredibly diligent group of Master Naturalist Volunteers led by Carmen Santos (left)



Case Studies

● Quail Ridge Park Grassland

- Prairie recently installed across the road
- Low maintenance area
- Low diversity grassland
- Erosion was an issue
- Slides depict installation, storm event, after first season, during second season and after a burn.
- I would recommend rock check dams and soil filling the mats, they do burn and then tend to fail.













Case Studies

◉ Indian Camp Creek Park

Park is mostly in natural habitat, around 90%. Low maintenance prairies, low diversity bottomland prairie, mown meadow road edges.



Case Studies

● Indian Camp Creek Park

Mostly Indian grass and big bluestem. Some forbs were in the mix, but they rarely show up.



Case Studies

5-10 feet
along roads
are fescue,
then about
20' strip in
prairie mown
once a
growing
season then
bottomland
prairie



Case Studies

● Indian Camp Creek Park

Just because it is low maintenance and mostly grass, does not mean you can't get forbs to grow. There are some aggressive and prolific seeding forbs you can include. Sunflowers, heliopsis, coreopsis



Case Studies

● Indian Camp Creek Park

We also try and include permanent fire lines which make installing and utilizing much easier.



Case Studies

◉ Indian Camp Creek Park

We really like to incorporate trails as fire lines, they are already mown, stay green and make burning much easier.



Case Studies

Indian Camp Creek Park

Rain garden has been described as wild and wooly by some. It's intention it to capture storm runoff, it is wild and wooly, like many of our wetlands.



Case Studies

● Broemmelsiek Park

Was an old cattle farm, all fescue pasture. Which is actually easy to convert. All open areas are planned for conversion



Case Studies

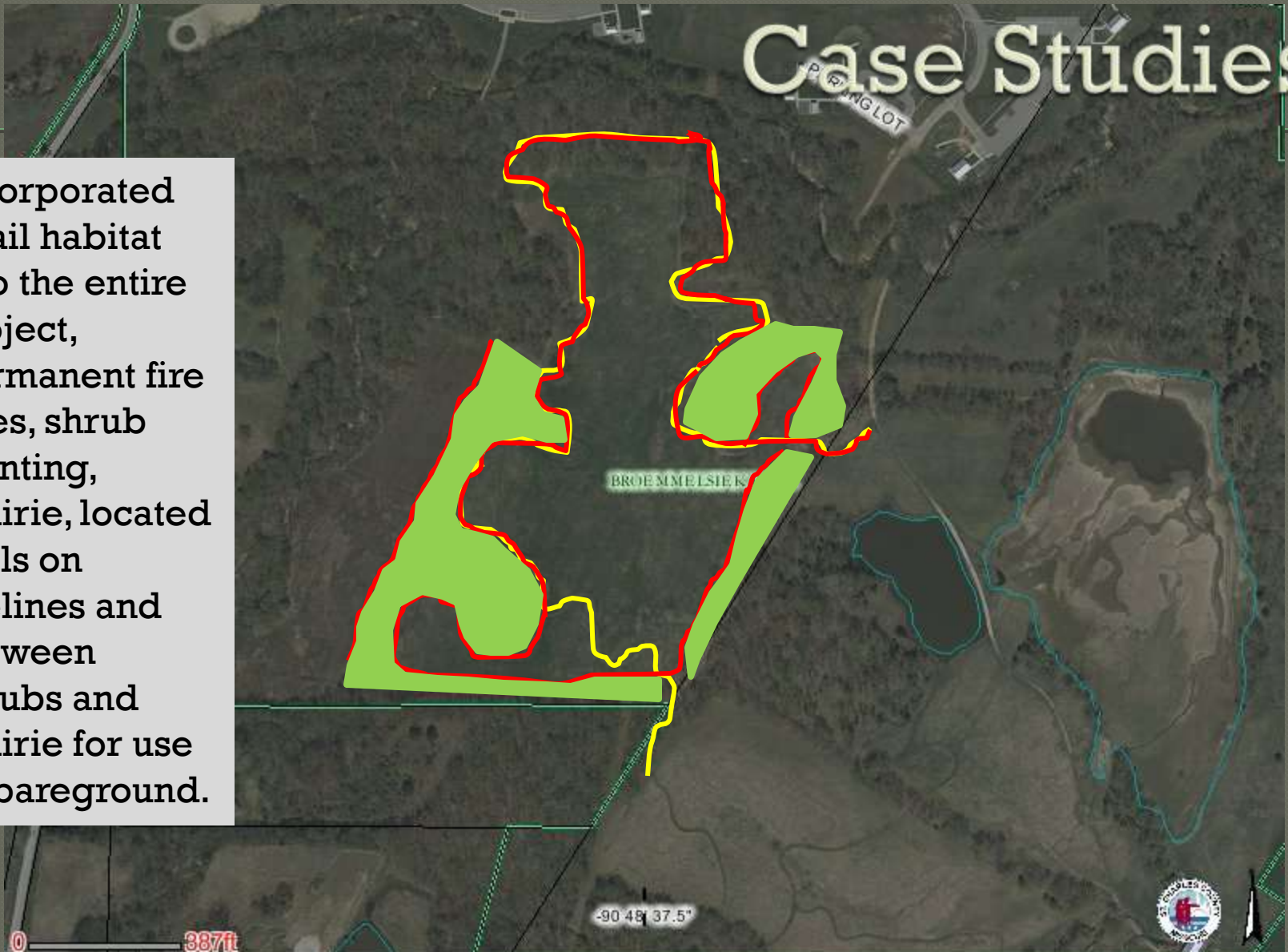
● Broemmelsiek Park

Consulted with MDC private lands for cost-share assistance.



Case Studies

Incorporated quail habitat into the entire project, permanent fire lines, shrub planting, prairie, located trails on firelines and between shrubs and prairie for use as bareground.



Case Studies

● Broemmelsiek Park



Trails/fire lines in prairie during first season. Shrub planting along back edge, under tree canopy



Case Studies

● Broemmelsiek Park



Questions or Comment?

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