

## Instructions

Please download this Word document (available on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund Program website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> ) to your computer and provide the information as requested. You are not limited to the spacing provided. After completing the report, save it and attach it to an e-mail and send it to [outdoorheritage@nd.gov](mailto:outdoorheritage@nd.gov) AND print it and mail it to: North Dakota Industrial Commission, ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program, State Capitol – Fourteenth Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405, Bismarck, ND 58505. If you are unable to scan attachments, mail them with your paper copy of the report. You will be sent a confirmation by e-mail of receipt of your report and attachments. The project reports shall be provided to the Commission in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for posting on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Commission website.

### Outdoor Heritage Fund Status and Final Report Form/Guidelines

This report is used to show progress of grant projects funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Status Reports and the Final Report must be submitted as required in Contract.

Contract Number 011-130	Report Date 10/30/2020	Period Covered by Report 1/1/2020-9/30/2020
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Project Name  
Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative Expansion

Project Sponsor Name  
Audubon Dakota

Responsible Official (Last, First Middle) Johnson, Marshall	Responsible Official's Title V.P., Executive Director
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Project Sponsor Address  
2315 University Drive North Suite 15

City Fargo	State ND	Zip Code 58102	Telephone Number 701-298-3373
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#### Financial Update

Please provide the following information regarding the funding for your project based on the contract award:

	Funds Spent THIS Reporting Period*	Total Funds Spent to Date	Balance of Remaining Funds
Match Funding	\$2,250.00	\$17,262.47	\$72,737.53
In-kind Funding	\$4,404.39	\$30,741.47	\$136,171.53
OHF Funding	\$10,875.00	\$120,945.76	\$409,054.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,529.39</b>	<b>\$168,949.70</b>	<b>\$617,963.30</b>

Do you anticipate needing to request a grant extension? // Yes /x/ No

If yes, please explain:

\*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

**Work Completed during Period Covered by Report:**

(This information will be posted on the Outdoor Heritage Fund/Industrial Commission website)

Over the last year, Audubon Dakota's Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative continued to find success in project growth and the establishment of healthy, diverse native plant communities. While we have yet to be invoiced for most of the work completed this season, below are the accomplishments delivered in each North Dakota UWP city, including Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot.

**Bismarck** – Throughout the 2020 growing season, Audubon Dakota's contractor, Prairie Restorations Inc. (PRI), began the annual management of both Bismarck based UWP sites - Atkinson Nature Park and Zonta Park. At Atkinson Nature Park, the small prairie restoration (3 acres) was mowed and spot-sprayed to control invasive species such as leafy spurge and thistle. In 2019, 4,000 native trees were planted at Atkinson Nature Park (across 80 acres) after Russian Olive trees were removed throughout the park. PRI monitored the survival of the planted trees in spring 2020 and found a satisfactory number tolerated the winter temperatures and thrived throughout the summer of 2020. At Zonta Park, after its initial seeding in 2019, the park experienced an extreme flood event that was expected to minimize the success of the restoration. Fortunately, the native plants deemed resilient to the 2019 flood and the site had great diversity for a first year seeding. Audubon Dakota will continue collaborating with the Bismarck Park District and local entities to identify additional sites throughout winter 2020-21.



*Native Tree Plantings at Atkinson Nature Park.  
Bismarck, ND. NAS 2019*

**Grand Forks** – The first UWP site in Grand Forks, the English Coulee, has proven to be a challenging site due to the consistent seasonal flooding that jeopardizes restoration success. The 2020 growing season was dedicated to controlling weedy species such as cocklebur, thistle, and burdock within the planted area. Despite these challenges, native species were recorded and their success will be monitored into the 2021 growing season. The City of Grand Forks sent English Coulee residents a postcard to provide a short update



*Native pollinator garden planting with GF Audubon Chapter.  
Sertoma Park, Grand Forks, ND. 2020.*

on the project activity and a link to a webpage that details the project and plants, <http://bit.ly/2YtW6GL>. 347 postcards were mailed. Additionally, project signs were installed to help explain the project to trail and park users.

In the early summer of 2020, Audubon Dakota assisted the local Audubon Grand Forks Chapter in establishing a pollinator garden at Sertoma Park, a popular public park with amenities such as playgrounds, pavilions and a Japanese reflection pond. The Grand Forks Park District received enthusiastic responses from the public regarding the pollinator garden, which encouraged the Grand Forks Park District and Audubon Dakota to plan a larger native planting plan for Sertoma Park. In spring 2021, two planting plots of 23,000 total square feet will be prepped and seeded, while invasive tree removal (such as a common buckthorn) needs at Sertoma Park will be explored and addressed.





*Native wildflowers at Lions Conservancy Nature Park, Fargo, ND. Second year seeding. NAS 2020.*

**Fargo** – In May 2020, Pontes Prairie (19 acres) received a prescribed fire to reduce the plant litter build up and prepare the site for supplemental forb seeding. In July, two project sites, Iwen Park (20 acres) and Bison Meadows (10 acres), were seeded with a high diversity native seed mix (10 grasses, 23 forbs). Lions Conservancy, planted in summer 2019, displayed immense success for a first year seeding with plant species such as hoary vervain, black-eyed susan, long-headed coneflower, indiangrass, side-oats grama, bluegrama, and milkweed flourishing (picture included). Audubon Dakota continues to collaborate with the Fargo Park District and the Fargo Lions Club to identify actions to improve the accessibility, quality, and public engagement of the Lions Conservancy Nature Park. Additionally, Audubon Dakota assisted Fargo Park District with the planting of pollinator garden plots at Legacy Park to achieve a number of goals including minimizing park garden maintenance, improve pollinator

habitat in an urban park, and educate park-goers on the importance of native plantings. The prairie restoration at Forest River Nature Park was enhanced through a pollinator planting event in July and August 2020, in partnership with local Microsoft employee volunteers. More than 3,000 wildflower live plant plugs were planted including diverse native species such as prairie milkweed, rough blazing star, and purple prairie clover

In a typical year, Audubon Dakota would have hired a seasonal technician to complete avian surveys at each Fargo UWP site. Unfortunately, no avian data is available for the 2020 field season due to hiring restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Minot** – Nubbin Park (4 acres) was restored in September 2020 with a high diversity native seed mix (10 grasses, 23 forbs). Follow-up management such as mowing and spot-spraying will begin during the 2021 growing season to ensure invasive species control. At Woodland Trail Park (33 acres), the prairie restoration area (3 acres) was managed by PRI through mowing to prevent the establishment of invasive species such as thistle. Oak Park, a high use UWP park, will receive invasive tree species removal in the winter of 2020-21. This work was delayed so that Audubon Dakota and the Minot Park District could create a public outreach campaign to educate community members on the importance of invasive species removal within a woodland setting. Audubon Dakota created an educational video which the Minot Park District plans to share on their website and other social media platforms. Video link:

<https://vimeo.com/user95094793/review/462696180/3480047614>

Additionally, Minot-focused Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative brochures were provided to the Minot Park District to assist in familiarizing residents with these projects in their community.

Photos of work completed are welcome (If appropriate, please submit photos of key elements of the project completed or in progress during reporting period) Do not exceed five photos per project report.

*This report was prepared pursuant to an agreement with the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, which partially funded the project through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Project participants, its subcontractors, and the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, or any person acting on its behalf, do not:*

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\*As appropriate please provide copies of receipts for purchases.

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Signature of Responsible Official

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael J. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

## THREE AMAZING NATURE PARKS NEAR YOU

### Woodland Trail Park

A beautiful mix of restored forest and prairie. At over 33 acres, Woodland Trail Park has extensive trails through native trees and pollinator-favorite plant species like blazingstar, gray-headed coneflower, and purple-prairie clover.

### Nubbin Park

When restoration has been completed, Nubbin Park will be four acres of beautiful oak savanna, characterized by large burr oaks providing overhead cover, but an open landscape underneath, covered in native grasses and flowers and perfect for exploring!

### Oak Park

Winding along the Souris River, Oak Park is an Important Bird Area, with such species as Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Song Sparrow frequently seen. After the removal of 10 acres of European buckthorn and other non-native plants is completed, Oak Park will be a favored spot for all wildlife watchers.



Photo Credit: Audubon

In 2014, Audubon Dakota and partners began developing an urban initiative which sought to integrate native landscapes back into urban landscapes. With the help of city and park partners, the UWP Initiative has seen great success!

Today, the UWP Initiative has enrolled over 30 sites throughout North Dakota, totalling over 2,000 acres. Restoration of sites in Minot began in 2019 and continue today. It can take 2-5 years for native vegetation to grow. While sites may look disturbed, every passing day has new growth from dozens of native flowers and grasses!

## THANK YOU! Partners and sponsors



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## Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative

*Minot*



Photo Credit: Dan Mason



# URBAN WOODS AND PRAIRIES INITIATIVE



Northern Saw-whet  
Photo: Dan Mason

## For the Birds

North America's birds are in trouble. Results from recent studies indicate that our bird populations have declined by about 30% since 1970. Fortunately, conservation doesn't just take place in national parks and wilderness areas. Urban green spaces provide homes for hundreds of species of birds in North America, both as nesting habitat and as places to refuel and rest during migration. Nature parks in the UWP Initiative provide birds with those important places throughout the cities of North Dakota. When you walk down a trail in a UWP nature park in Minot, you might see bird-feeder favorites like Dark-eyed Juncos and American Goldfinches, or something rare like a Magnolia Warbler!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Restoring native habitat revives a wide range of ecological services, including:

Increased Water Quality  
Flood Mitigation  
Bank Stabilization  
Carbon Sequestration

## For the Community

By providing access to urban green spaces, Urban Woods and Prairies nature parks encourages community members to explore and learn about our local ecosystems.

The Minot area can enjoy hiking, biking, and birding throughout the city while immersed in nature. People can even help with park management, with no shortage of community science activities available!

## UWP NATURE PARK FEATURES

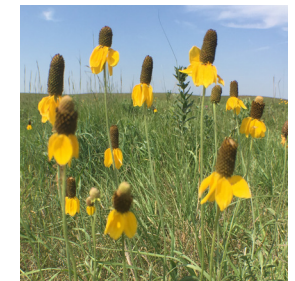
- Excellent wildlife-watching opportunities, with almost 200 species of birds spotted
- Miles of trails along the beautiful Souris River
- Acres of prairies and forests restored with dozens of species of native vegetation, providing excellent wildlife watching opportunities no matter where you are!



Photo: Lucy Britton

## For the Pollinators

Urban Woods and Prairies nature parks provide critical habitat for pollinating insects and the plants they need. By planting over two dozen species of native flowers, the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative's nature parks are providing habitat for imperiled pollinators throughout North Dakota's urban green spaces.



Photos: Lucy Britton

## JOIN US!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with Audubon Dakota, please visit our website to sign up, [dakota.audubon.org](http://dakota.audubon.org)

