

**Contract No. 012-135**  
**Northern Plains Botanic Garden Edible Forest**  
 Submitted by Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society  
 Primary Contact: Vern Hunter  
 Directives D, B

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	
Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society	<u>\$46,060.00</u>	
Subtotal <b>Cash</b> Cost Share		\$46,060.00
Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society	<u>\$ 4,310.00</u>	
Subtotal <b>In-Kind</b> Cost Share		\$ 4,310.00
Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society	<u>\$ 830.00</u>	
Subtotal <b>Indirect</b> Cost Share		\$ 830.00
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$33,601.00</u>	
Subtotal <b>OHF</b> Funding		<u>\$33,601.00</u>
Total Project Cost		\$84,801.00

Project Schedule: 24 months  
 Contract Date: 10/24/2018  
 Start Date: 10/1/2018  
 Completion Date: 11/1/2020

<u>Project Deliverables</u>	
Status Report:	March 1, 2019 ✓
Status Report:	November 1, 2019 ✓
Status Report:	March 1, 2020
Final Report:	November 1, 2020 ✓

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

This project will create an edible forest, including trees, bushes, pollinator plots, walking path, and fencing. This will provide an attractive, educational, and productive area with public access in a presently non-productive vacant area. The 42,000 sf site for the edible forest is part of 15 acres of property which is owned by the Fargo Park District. Strategic partnerships and collaborations with additional community groups will be established to increase the reach of educational programming, and promote the planting of diverse edible species by private citizens and producers.

**STATUS:**

The contract has been approved and executed by all the parties.

**April 2019**

Prior to issuing the bidding documents, the NRCS performed a conductivity soil survey on October 18, and the samples were tested by the NDSU Soils Laboratory. The site topography and perimeter was surveyed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service Engineer. The bid proposals were reviewed on February 14, 2019. Four proposals were received for the Fence project. Five proposals were received for the Landscape project.

During the bidding process an addendum was sent as a requirement from the Landscape Architect to change the class 5 pathway material to a more suitable ADA-approved compacted aggregate and to increase it from 3" to 4".

After Board discussion several changes were made in the fence specifications. Without changing the original intent of the fence to provide access control to the edible forest, the perimeter fence layout was revised to include an existing Children's Garden to make it contiguous with the Edible Forest. This will facilitate enclosing the entire 6-acre botanic garden in the future with a fence. The fence description was also changed to a black vinyl-coated chain link fence rather than a picket fence, and this it was felt would perform better in keeping rabbits from entering the edible forest to damage plants. Also, in an effort to keep deer from entering the garden, the fence height was increased from 6' to 8'. The Board is anticipating a more-attractive gate at two 4' wide walk-in openings and the main 12' wide public entrance. Design studies for the gates are now being performed for Board approval in preparation of summer installation.

The project specifications suggest completion of this work by June 15, 2019. Because of the late spring, it is anticipated that this date will be revised, but there will be no problem in completing the work in time for the growing season. By the end of summer 2019 completed work will include grading and amending of the soil, grass planting with mulching, tree and shrub area edging, installation of irrigation, and fence installation. The pollinator gardens and a small amount of tree and shrub planting might occur late summer but depends upon weather conditions and plant material availability. The majority of the plant material will be ordered and planted for the summer of 2020.

#### **October 2019**

The late spring season delayed start of work, but the project is on schedule for total completion in summer 2020. Landscaping work has been successfully completed, including: grading, soil amendment, grass seeding, irrigation, and walkways. The fence work has been completed.

Twelve trees and shrubs were planted in mid-September. The following work will be done in spring 2020: majority of the tree planting, pollinator garden planting, signage.

Maintenance of the completed landscape work and planted trees has been ongoing. Several public activities have taken place and been well received.

#### **July 2020**

Project has been successfully completed. Additional details and pictures included in the full report. A one page summary of the project has also been posted online.

This project is now closed. All grant funds were expended.

Dated 7/28/2020