

**Contract No. 014-156**  
**Natural Resource Stewardship in ND's Parks, Preserves, and Natural Areas II**  
 Submitted by North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department  
 Primary Contact: Kathy Duttenhefner  
 Directives C, A, B, D

**PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Sponsor</b>		<b>Cost Share</b>
Special Funds-398 Mineral Royalties (Cash)	\$11,100	
Special Funds-Mineral Royalties (In-Kind)	\$11,500	
Special Funds-OHV Permit (In-Kind)	\$11,500	
NDFS Proposed Tree and Shrub Grant (Cash)	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	
Subtotal <b>Cash &amp; In-Kind</b> Cost Share		\$ 38,100
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$108,680</u>	
Subtotal <b>OHF</b> Funding		<u>\$108,680</u>
Total Project Cost		\$146,780

Project Schedule: 4 years  
 Start Date: 8/1/2019  
 Contract Date: 7/29/2019  
 Completion Date: 6/30/2023

**Project Deliverables**

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Status Report: November 30, 2019 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2020 ✓  
 Status Report: November 30, 2020 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2021 ✓  
 Status Report: November 30, 2021 ✓  
 Status Report: June 30, 2022 ✓  
 Status Report: November 30, 2022  
 Final Report: June 30, 2023

**OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:**

The objective of this project is to conserve and enhance existing native and restored prairies, woodlands, and tree and shrub plantings within parklands to provide healthy ecosystems.

**STATUS:**

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

**December 2019**

Deer fencing was installed at Cross Ranch and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Parks. The University of Mary assisted with installing deer fenced at FALSP. 530 feet was purchased and utilized at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Beaver Lake, Cross Ranch, and Lake Sakakawea State Parks. Bark protectors, mesh tree guards and stakes were also installed.

Work is underway to update 40 existing prairie restoration plans and identify 2020 management actions. A Level 1 limited visual tree risk assessments are ongoing. Tree planting assessment at Beaver Lake, Lake Sakakawea, Fort Abraham Lincoln, and Cross Ranch were either completed or initiated as well.

Additional details and photos available in the full report.

**June 2020**

Updated 40 prairie restoration plans and identified 2020 management actions. To date, site seeding, mowing, site visits and assessments have been completed at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Beaver Lake, and Fort Ransom State Parks, and Turtle Mountain Reactional Area.

Post Processing of tree planting began at Beaver Lake, Lake Sakakawea, Fort Abraham Lincoln, and Cross Ranch State Parks. Post processing GIS Collector data and mitigation reports generated for Fort Abraham Lincoln and Cross Ranch State Parks.

Tree risk assessments and data updates for 2020 were completed or initiated at Fort Lincoln State Park, Fort Mandan, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Ransom State Park. GIS collector is utilized to assess and map the high-risk trees. Additional details and photos available in the full report.

### **December 2020**

Summer – fall, prairie restoration maintenance strategies include noxious weed control by implementing mechanical and chemical strategies and inter-seeding native forbs and grasses. Site assessments are completed each growing season. Post field season, all restoration plans and budgets are updated, and 2021 management actions are identified.

May-June, park staff planted almost 750 trees and shrubs. Individual trees and tree and shrub complexes are mapped using an iPad, GNSS receiver, and ESRI GIS Collector mapping software. July-October, trees and shrubs are mulched, staked if needed, weed barrier installed, and weeds controlled both mechanically, manually, and with chemicals. In the fall of the year, bark protectors and deer fences are installed. Additional details and photos available in the full report.

### **July 2021**

Native Prairie Restoration and Enhancement Tasks Completed:

- Updated 40 prairie restoration management plans and identified 2021 management actions.
- Developed, bid out, and received 3 native seed mixes for interseeding to increase grass and forb densities within most parks with restoration sites.
- Conducted restoration site assessments at Fort Ransom, Beaver Lak, Cross Ranch, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Turtle River, and Grahams Island State Parks.

Tree and Shrub Planting Tasks Completed

- Level 1 Limited Visual Tree Risk Assessment data post-processing continued with reports generated and updated for Lake Sakakawea, Lewis and Clark, Turtle River, and Icelandic State Parks. Assessment data was reviewed for Lake Metigoshe, Fort Ransom, and Fort Abraham Lincoln State Parks.
- A total of 945 bare root and containerized trees and shrubs were ordered and planted in 13 state parks. Trees and shrubs were planted by the full-time and seasonal park and natural resources staff.
- Hazardous tree removal continued this spring at Turtle River State Park and Icelandic State Parks. A total of 20 trees were either removed or pruned.
- In addition to 946 bare root stock, funds were made available to each state park for larger containerized tree and shrub stock. A total of 119 containerized stock was purchased through a variety of greenhouses and nurseries across North Dakota.

### **December 2021**

Noxious weed control for native prairie restoration was completed by implementing mechanical and chemical strategies.

Trees and shrubs were mulched, staked if needed, watered, and weeds controlled mechanically, manually, and with chemicals. Most of the tree and shrub maintenance tasks are completed by seasonal park staff, including weeding, mulching, installing bark protectors, guards, and deer fences. Over 60 University of Mary students volunteered with deer fence installation at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

## June 2022

### Native Prairie Restoration and Enhancement Tasks Completed:

- Updated 40 plus prairie restoration management plans and identified 2022 management actions
- Site visit assessments and monitoring including recording the number of native grass, species and invasive and noxious weeds

### Tree and Shrub Planting Tasks Completed:

- Level 1 limited visual tree risk assessment data post-processing continued with Tree risk Mitigation reports generated and distributed to Beaver Lake, Fort Abraham Lincoln, Fort Ransom, Lake Sakakawea, and Sully Creek State Parks
- Bare root and small containerized tree and shrub orders were placed with Lincoln Oakes Nursery. **Six hundred eighty** bare-root trees and shrubs were ordered and planted in 13 state parks. **One hundred** containers (plug) of conifer stock was purchased through NDFS Towner State Nursery. Trees and shrubs were planted by the full-time and seasonal park and natural resources staff. In addition, **10** twelve-inch plus bareroot cottonwoods were purchased through Taylor Nursery and potted at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park to replace trees damaged by deer and beaver last year.
- In addition to the 790 bareroot/plug tree and shrub stock Outdoor Heritage Funds made it possible for parks to purchase the much larger containerized tree and shrub stock. **Over 100** large containerized tree and shrub stock was purchased through a variety of greenhouses and nurseries across North Dakota, including Handy Andy's Nursery in Williston, Plant Perfect in Bismarck, Lowes Garden Center in Minot, Cashman Nursery in Bismarck, Burgess's Greenhouse in Hallock, MN, All Seasons Garden center in Grand Forks, and Riverside Gardens in Valley City (\$15,798.89).
- The Department's Donate A Tree Program provided Other Project Sponsor's Share of \$1,266.16. **Nine** trees and or shrubs were planted in 2022.

Dated 8/3/2022