Resolution 2013-238

Resolution Approving the Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the Upper Field of Bluff Street Park

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of the Minneapolis park system;

Whereas, The Bluff Street Task Force has requested establishment of a native bedrock bluff prairie for the upper field of Bluff Street Park as outlined in a report entitled Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the Upper Field of Bluff Street Park;

Whereas, The MPRB Planning and Environmental Stewardship staff have reviewed the proposed plan and find it sound;

Whereas, The Park is suitable for natural plantings and is an appropriate location for passive recreation of neighbors and visitors;

Whereas, The plan will provide the Bluff Street Task Force a tool to seek outside funding for the project;

Whereas, Prior to implementation, the Bluff Street Task Force will have raised necessary capital funds and a minimum six years of maintenance funds along with providing the MPRB a prairie-establishment guarantee within a three year timeframe; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007–2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions “dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve the Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the Upper Field of Bluff Street Park; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: July 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the Upper Field of Bluff Street Park

BACKGROUND

This Board action considers approving a plan entitled Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the Upper Field of Bluff Street Park. The restoration project envisioned with the plan is the initiative of the Bluff Street Task Force made up of interested neighbors to Bluff Street Park.

The Bluff Street Task Force has been working with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) staff for some time to develop the restoration plan and a six-year management strategy. The intent is to restore a portion of the 1.5 acre upper field area of the park with native bedrock bluff prairie vegetation. Bedrock bluff prairie was a common plant community along the Mississippi River Gorge prior to settlement and industrial expansion. This restoration project is a good example of reintroducing native plant communities to MPRB parkland.

Through a fundraising agreement brought to the Board in a separate action, the Bluff Street Task Force will seek outside funding to implement the restoration and management plan.

FUNDING / COST SUMMARY

No MPRB funds will be used to implement the project.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the Native Prairie Restoration Planting Plan for the Upper Field of Bluff Street Park.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statements in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Vision Theme 1:	Urban Forests, natural areas, and waters that endure and captivate
Goal:	Knowledgeable stewards and partners generously support the system's natural resources.
Goal:	Sound management techniques provide healthy, diverse, and sustainable natural resources.
Goal:	Residents and visitors enjoy and understand the natural environment.
Vision Theme 4:	A safe place to play, recreate contemplate and celebrate
Goal:	Positive recreation experiences and welcoming parks prevent crime.
Goal:	Parks are safe and welcoming by design.

HISTORY:

06/19/13	**Planning Committee**	**ADOPTED**

ATTACHMENTS:

- FINAL Bluff Street Park Planting Plan (PDF)

Prepared By: Cliff Swenson, Director of Planning, Design and Project Management
Review:
Cliff Swenson Completed 06/05/2013 2:57 PM
Bruce Chamberlain Completed 06/06/2013 9:52 PM
Jayne Miller Completed 06/11/2013 8:59 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pending
Planning Committee Completed 07/02/2013 3:40 PM