

2019 Town of Middleton Budget Estimate for Natural Areas Management

Conservancy Work Area and Activity

Estimated Cost

Comments

Maintenance Development

Goth Park

Restoration of prairie, oak savanna and woodland areas. Restoration activities include establishment of native flora, management of invasive species, interseeding as appropriate to increase diversity, improve resilience of native plantings, prescribed burning of prairies and woodlands to stimulate native ground layer establishment and facilitate invasive plant control. Restoration-related activities include monitoring, coordinating with Town staff (firebreaks, management of woody material, mowing), updates to Park Commission and Town Board, pursuit of grant funds, and conducting public programs and/or developing interpretive media.

\$9,000

Woodland areas have not been burned since 2016 and should be burned in 2019. Management of prairie and woodland areas includes removal of invasive species (garlic mustard, Dame's rocket, Japanese hedge parsley, reed canary grass and burdock) and removal of undesirable brush (buckthorn, honeysuckle, black locust) to promote growth of seeded species. Public programs include 2-3 volunteer sessions during the growing season. The south grassland is not managed by the Town crew nor Adaptive Restoration currently. Management of this grassland would improve effectiveness of management activities elsewhere throughout the park, as it would eliminate a weed source. Management activities would include prescribed burning, followed by seeding using seed donated by Dane County Parks, and mowing to promote establishment of native plants.

Restoration and management of 4-acre south grassland area, not previously seeded to native species.

\$3,000

Goth Conservancy Total

\$9,000

\$3,000

\$12,000

% change from prior year

0%

67%

Settlers Prairie Park

Restore former fence-line to prairie/savanna – Year 2

\$2,000

Restoration and management of established prairie and north woodland. Restoration activities include management of invasive species, interseeding as appropriate to increase diversity, improve resilience of native plantings, prescribed burning of prairie and woodland to stimulate native ground layer establishment and facilitate invasive plant control. Restoration-related activities include monitoring, coordinating with Town staff, updates to Park Commission and Town Board, pursuit of grant funds, and conducting public programs and/or developing interpretive media.

\$3,000

Controlled burns in north woodland and prairie were conducted in 2018. Expected management activities include removal of invasive species (garlic mustard, reed canary grass, leafy spurge), and removal of invasive brush (buckthorn and honeysuckle). Public programs include volunteer sessions during the growing season.

Settlers Prairie Total	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$5,000
% change from prior year	7%	186%	

Noll Valley Savanna

Management of remnant and restored oak savanna. Main restoration activities include management of invasive woody and herbaceous species, monitoring, coordination with Town staff, Ice Age Trail Alliance and The Prairie Enthusiasts, and updates to the Park Commission. Prescribed burn planned for 2019 if fuel and weather conditions are appropriate.

This site requires ongoing maintenance to prevent introduction and encroachment of undesirable invasive species. Specific targets include reed canary grass, garlic mustard, Dame's rocket, and brush resprouts while protecting present desirable species.

Noll Valley Total	\$3,900	\$0	\$3,900
% change from prior year	0%	n/a	

Cherrywood Forest

Restoration of prairie, oak savanna and woodland areas. Restoration activities include establishment of native flora, management of invasive species, interseeding as appropriate to increase diversity improve resilience of native plantings, prescribed burning of prairies and woodlands to stimulate native ground layer establishment and facilitate invasive plant control. Restoration-related activities include monitoring, coordinating with Town staff (firebreaks, management of woody material mowing), updates to Park Commission and Town Board, pursuit of grant funds, and conducting public programs and/or developing interpretive media.

Maintenance efforts in 2018 are critical to protect the investment made in restoration since 2013. Main restoration activities include reduced of invasive garlic mustard, Canada thistle, burdock and reed canary grass. A prescribed burn followed by interseeding using seed donated by Dane County Parks should be performed in 2019 if not conducted in fall 2018. (All budget request moved to Maintenance)

Cherrywood Forest Total	\$5,300	\$0	\$5,300
% change from prior year	34%	n/a	

Pope Farm Conservation

Management of South Prairie, North Prairie, and Ravine, coordination with Town staff and FOPFC.

See detailed budget for Pope Farm (attached).

Pope Farm Total	\$13,050	\$0	\$13,050
% change from prior year	24%	n/a	

Total for all areas	\$34,250	\$5,000	\$39,250
change from previous year (all areas)			24%

2019 proposed budget (\$39,250) is consistent with our 2017 granted budget, and 2018 requested budget. This budget includes additional maintenance of non-planted areas at Goth Park and Pope Farm not managed by Town staff, and includes extension of native planting areas at Settlers Prairie Park and Goth Park.