



City of LaCrosse Parks, Recreation & Forestry

400 La Crosse Street. La Crosse WI 608-789-7533 www.cityoflacrosse.org/parks

Request to remove invasive and undesirable species from the southern public amenity portion of the property in order to improve diverse native flora and habitat.

Goal:

Reestablish the sites natural areas as a refuge that includes a mature tree canopy and low ground cover native plant species.

Project area overview – Charrette Master Plan Report

“The site’s floodplain forest is dominated by cottonwood trees (30-79 years of age), silver maple, and river birch. The large emergent wetland has transitional vegetation adjoining the uplands and includes native wetland species such as wool grass, sedges, and shrubs such as sandbar willow and buttonbush.

This transitional zone also contains invasive plants, such as giant reed and reed canary grass. The large wetland’s vegetation of emergent and submerged rooted aquatic plants is dominated by cattails but contains other species such as giant bur reed.

Controlling invasive plant species is essential for ecological restoration to succeed. In addition, market premiums and price points will be improved with these investments in the amenity value, especially if the development is targeting informed, educated homebuyers and tenants. The Riverside North Redevelopment site is a very unusual piece of property. Even during the peak of its industrial use, it supported state and federal special status wildlife species Bell’s Vireo, Henslow Sparrows, Bald Eagle, among many others. Some of the habitats that attracted and supported other wildlife species are still present and can be enhanced as a part of site redevelopment.”

Description of work:

- Remove all shrubs (buckthorn, honeysuckle).
- Remove all trees less than 6” diameter
- Apply herbicide to all cut stumps
- Avoid leaving large areas of bare ground – bare ground will be seeded with native grasses, sedges, and forbs at the earliest opportunity
- Trees and shrubs will be cut low to the ground so that stump removal is not necessary



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