



June 13, 2018

### **Herbicide Preparation**

The key to a successful prairie restoration is adequate site preparation prior to the planting. Tallgrass Restoration will spray the project area three times this summer in preparation for a fall 2018 planting. The herbicide will prepare the planting area by killing off any competing vegetation. The first application was completed on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2018. The vegetation will begin to die within a couple of weeks. Additional sunlight will reach the ground and new weeds will germinate with the increased sunlight. The second application should occur in 4-6 weeks after the first application, or mid to late July. By this time the new weeds have grown to a height of a few inches. The third application should occur roughly after the same amount of time has passed, or late August / early September. Boundaries will be based on the discussion with the manager during the site visit. All sprayings will be done by trained, licensed staff.

### **Native Seed Installation**

Tallgrass Restoration will drill seed the prairie and detention basin this fall following the first hard freeze using a tractor and Truax no-till prairie drill seeder. The proposed seed mix is the bird and butterfly native prairie seed mix that is full of flowers that attract the birds and butterflies. A more wet tolerant mix will be installed in the detention basin. All seed is of local genotype as possible and is PLS rated to ensure that you receive pure seed and not stems and chaff. .

### **Stewardship**

Tallgrass Restoration will begin a three year stewardship program. We will visit the property three times during the 2019, 2020, and 2021 growing seasons to target any weeds that will come up. Activities may include hand pulling of weeds, spot herbicide treatments should we find any problematic weeds, and ecological mowing. Native plants spend most of their energy the first year building up their root systems, some which can be up to 14 feet deep. Since the native plants only grow a few inches in height the first growing season, it is vital to keep the weeds under control. This is mostly done by mowing the weeds at a set height of 6-10 inches. This practice removes the seed heads before the seeds can develop and also allows sunlight and rainwater down to the young native plants. Three mowings will be scheduled during the 2019 growing season. The rough timeline is once in May, July, and August, but will be determined on the weather patterns and the amount and variety of weeds present. Second and third year stewardship generally involves less large scale mowing and includes spot spraying, spot cutting, or spot hand pulling of problematic weeds that still remain.

Sincerely,

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