

Restoration of Valhalla Park – Planting of Native Trees, Shrubs, Grasses, Forbs, and appropriate Seed Mixes

Valhalla Park is a 22-acre parkland consisting of a diverse topography including steep slopes, plateaus, and level woodland and savanna areas situated on the terrace of Lake Pepin and provides a critical habitat for birds and mammals. Areas of Valhalla Park have undergone restoration in the last 3 1/2 years with the help of funding through the CPL Grants for Phases 1 & 2 of the restoration. Phase 3, the final phase, also possible through a CLP Grant will expand the contiguous restored habitat to complete the Valhalla Park Restoration and prepare for ongoing maintenance. Over the past 26 years, Florence Township and Old Frontenac residents have attempted to remove and keep the invasives species under control in various areas of Valhalla Park. These efforts were in areas less than one acre, and quickly regrew with buckthorn and other invasives, turning the park into an impenetrable thicket

CLP Grants – Phase 1 & 2 of Valhalla Park Restoration (Started 2019 & 2020)

Phase 1 (2019) a 4-acre parcel and Phase 2 (2020) a 7-acre parcel, included site preparation, with woody and herbaceous invasive removal and prescribed burns, seeding of native grasses, sedges & forbs, and a maintenance plan.

CLP Grant – Phase 3 of Valhalla Park Restoration (Started 2022)

The overall goal of the project is to restore 22-acres of degraded woodland and savannah to a native state of hardwood woodlands with native fruit producing shrubs, trees and plants, and a savannah habitat filled with native grasses, sedges, and forbs.

Planting (Summer & Fall 2022) of dry mesic prairie, woodland, and savanna & woodland edge native seed mixes have been applied in appropriate areas in the park as well as plugs. Native fruit producing shrubs and trees such as serviceberry, high-bush cranberry, nannyberry, wild plum, pagoda dogwood, gray dogwood, elderberry, and American hazelnut, have also been planted to restore the native plant communities in the Valhalla Park woodland and restore wildlife habitat.

Area 1 - Dry mesic prairie seed mix after prescribed burn Late Fall 2022

Area 2 - Planted 30 Native, fruit-producing shrubs. Gray & Pagoda Dogwoods, Cranberry, Serviceberry. Early Summer 2022

– Plant 300 Forb Plugs Early Summer 2022

Area 3 - Seeding & racking of Savannah & Woodland edge seed mix. Early Summer 2022

– Planted trees & shrubs on south end lower plateau, 15 trees & shrubs mix of Hazelnut & Cranberry. Early Summer 2022

Area 4- This area was seeded with Forbs and grasses Summer 2021, Grant 2.

-Planted 100 Native Fruit-producing Shrubs and trees to replace the invasives. Gray (Red Osier) Dogwood, Nannyberry, Serviceberry, Elderberry, Highbush Cranberry, Wild Plum. Early Summer 2022

Area 5—Seeded with stabilization mix & Dogbane plugs on the steep slope. Early Summer 2022

– Woodland edge seed mix on outer 2 acres of Sothern end, after prescribed burn Late Fall 2022