



PROJECT PROFILE

KERN - CONSERVATION EASEMENT



Ecological
Restoration

Project Summary

The Kern Conservation Easement is a 55-acre private property, which lies within a habitat corridor along Ford Brook, a tributary of the Rum River, and is protected by a conservation easement.

The property was monitored during the summer of 2016 to determine species composition within the wetlands, wetland fringes and upland prairies. Invasive species such as spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) were spot-sprayed with herbicide in the late summer 2016. Due to biomass accumulation and encroachment of shrubs within the prairie, wetlands and wetland fringes, a prescribed burn was conducted on 23 acres of upland prairie and wetland. Following the burn, native grass and forb seeds were sown within the upland prairies. An additional 10 acres will be burned in spring 2017 and native forb plugs will be planted following the burn. Invasive species control will continue. Funding for this project was provided from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as a part of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, and other local funds.



Project Specs

Acreage Treated.....23 acres
Date Treated.....2016

Project Expenses

ACD Staff Time \$3,161.46
Burn \$3,650.00
Seed \$1,594.58
Herbicide and other equip ..\$176.00
Total Project Cost.....\$8,582.04

Project Funding

Outdoor Heritage Funds . \$7,723.84
Other local funds.....\$858.20
Total Project Funding..... \$8,582.04

Restoration Process



In early fall, the site was prepared for a prescribed burn. Canada thistle and other invasive species were spot-sprayed, grass was cleared from around small oak trees so they would survive the burn, and common milkweed seed was collected.



In late fall, a prescribed burn was conducted by Minnesota Native Landscapes on 21 acres of upland prairie and 2 acres of wetland. The prescribed burn will be completed in spring 2017, when an additional 10 acres are burned.



Following the burn, the upland prairie was seeded with 15 lbs. of pure live seed that included 4 grass species and 23 forb species. Additionally, the collected milkweed seed from this property as well as nearby properties was spread.