

Old Tjikko LLC
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Sunfish Lake, Minnesota 55077
612-803-9033

Musser Park Restoration Project

Overview

The journey to this point has taken more than five years of dreaming, discussion, research, and planning. The MN Land Trust has committed more than \$100,000 of grant funding to restore Musser Park to the version that existed more than 50 years ago when it was most likely an oak savanna and prairie with diverse native wildflowers and grasses. They are so committed to restoring this beautiful park that they have already done all the preplanning to get ready for contractor bids for the restoration work needed. They will coordinate the actual restoration process for the 2-3 years it will take to remove invasive species like buckthorn, Amur maple and Asian honeysuckles. Seeding native species and planting native trees occurs once the invasive species are under control.

Once the Musser Park Restoration Project (MPRP) is approved by the City Council, the MN Land Trust will begin the contractor bidding process leading to a start of woody invasive removal as early as January/February 2027.

After the 2-3 years of restoration project action by MN Land Trust contractors, the project process then continues with residents of Sunfish Lake to stepping up to volunteer support for the MPRP. It is my hope that we all will support a future Musser Park Committee as they communicate the vision, scope and beauty of a Musser Park restored to the beautiful native prairie and oak savanna that was here before being aggressively invaded by foreign plants and trees.

For additional information or to volunteer your support please contact the City Forester at 612-803-9033 or jim_nayes@mac.com Or Liz Lee at 651-592-1014 or liz@wallacq.com.

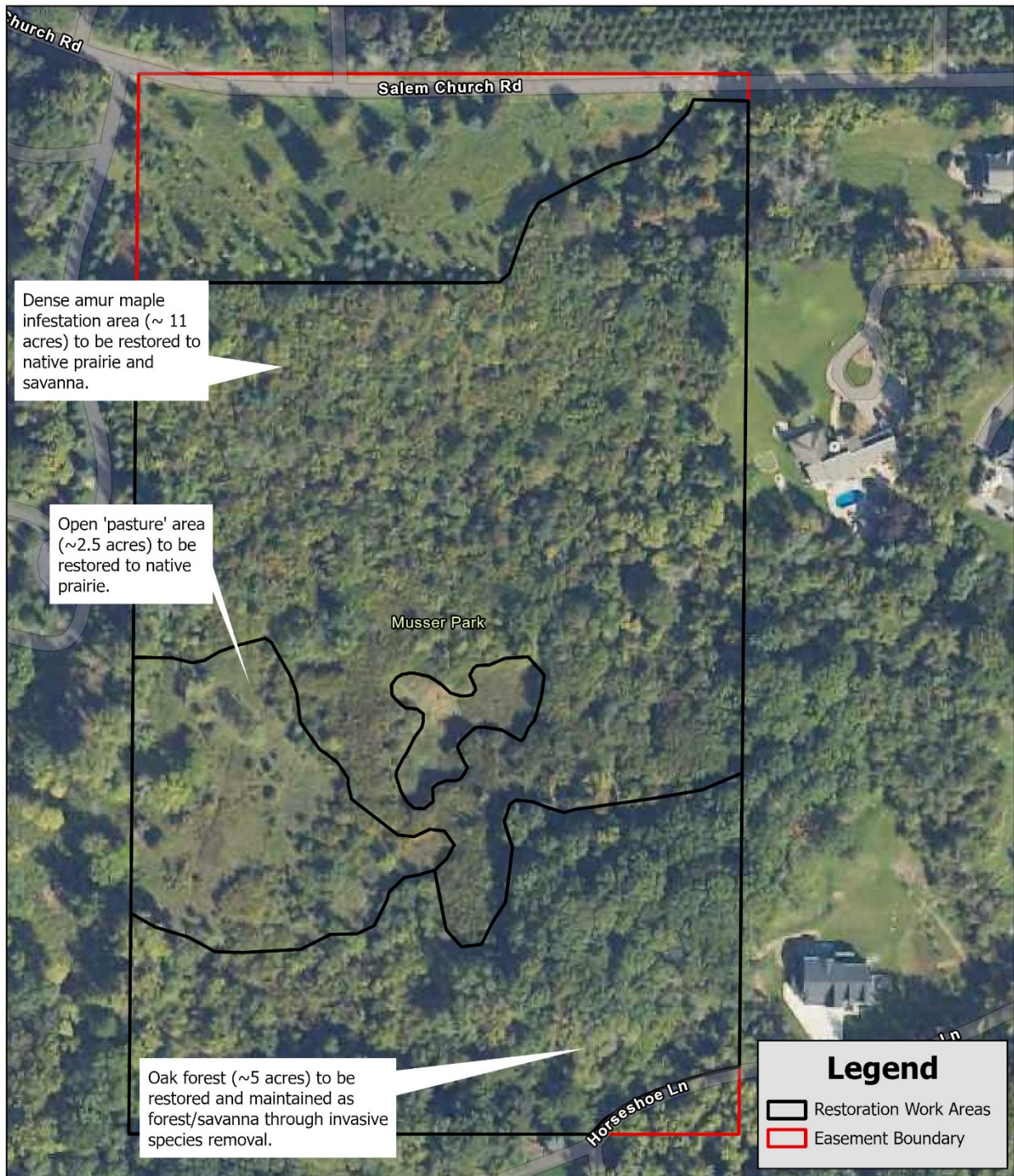
Musser Park, City of Sunfish Lake Restoration Plan and Timeline

Restoration Plan and Timeline for City of Sunfish Lake Review

Activity	Timing	Notes
Initial clearing of all amur maple and other invasive shrubs and trees across site	January- March 2027	All trees will be cut using a feller buncher and piled. Piles will be burned and limited in number to create as few burn scars as possible. Stumps will be directly treated with an appropriate herbicide to ensure good kill and limit resprouting. Eastern red cedars, while native, can become extremely invasive in restored prairies and savannas. These trees will also be removed within the work area. Native tree diversity, including oaks and black cherry, among others, will be maintained.
Hand clearing in oak woodlands	January- April 2027	Within oak woodlands on southern edge of the property, smaller invasive species will be hand-cleared. Plants will be cut and stumps will be treated.
Follow-up forestry mow on any regrowth/new sprouts	June- July 2027	Once the initial overstory has been cut and treated, it is likely a lot of regrowth will occur from seeds in the seedbank. Once seedlings have started to grow, a forestry mower will be used to knock them down. This forestry mowing will also help smooth out the site and some of the stumps leftover from the feller buncher.
Spray amur maple regrowth	Late August to September 2027	Following the forestry mowing, amur maple seedlings will resprout and grow again. Later in the season, an herbicide application will be made to further control resprouts and seedlings. The herbicide will be selective for amur maple and applied low to the ground to avoid drift. Additionally, these herbicides will move down to the roots, actually killing the plants, whereas mowing only top kills the plants allowing them to regrow.
Spray non-native smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass	October – early Nov 2027	Kentucky bluegrass and smooth brome can be extremely dominate in prairie sites. Applying herbicide at this time of year will allow the Kentucky bluegrass to move the herbicides to the root system, killing it, while not impacting most native species, which go dormant in the fall. Areas that were previously seeded to native prairie will be marked and avoided in these herbicide applications.
Seed understory (amur maple infested acres only- not pasture)	September- November 2027	A seed mix of native grasses will be seeded. The goal of this seed mix is to establish plants that will directly compete and shade out any amur maple regrowth.
Second spray smooth brome and Kentucky	Late April/early May 2028	Once the grass greens up, a second herbicide application will be done at this time to ensure it is being suppressed

bluegrass in pasture area		sufficiently. Again, during this time of year most native species have not emerged yet and are not at risk of being impacted by herbicide.
Spray amur maple regrowth #2 and spot spray any other invasive species	June/July 2028	Once amur maple has time to regrow, plants will be spot sprayed with a selective herbicide as needed. If any other invasive species are present on site, these will also be spot sprayed with a selective herbicide at the appropriate timing.
Third spray KBG in pasture area (only if needed)	October 2028	If Kentucky bluegrass or other weedy, invasive species persist, a third round of herbicides may be applied prior to seeding the site. Will only be completed if deemed necessary.
Graze sheep	September-November 2028	Graze a herd of sheep on the site to eat down the grasses previously seeded. This will open the site up better for seeding a diverse, native, wildflower seed mix. We will assess the site conditions to confirm that this step is necessary and may also be subject to funding availability.
Frost seeding/diversity seeding	November 2028-March 2029	A native, wildflower seed mix will be seeded on site to increase diversity and improve pollinator habitat.
Establishment Mowing #1	June 2029	Areas seeded will be mowed during the summer once they are 12-18 tall. This will help control annual weeds and allow more sunlight to hit the new seedlings.
Spot spraying invasive species (if applicable)	June 2029	If amur maple or other invasive species persist, spot spray with most selective herbicide available.
Establishment Mowing #2	June 2030	Again, the seeded areas will be mowed to increase establishment success.

Project Map



Musser Park Restoration ~ 20 acres



The goal of this restoration is to restore the site to a mix of oak savanna and native prairie with a small section of oak forest. See plan for specific restoration details and steps.

0 0.03 0.05 Miles

Created by: Erin Boettcher on 8/21/26
MNGeo WMS 2025 Color FSA
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15

