

Won't there be erosion on the hillside?

The mowing itself creates a mulch carpet that will minimize erosion, and the area to be mowed does not include the steeper slopes in the park. The work will involve seeding the area with a cover crop of oats to help establish vegetation on the site to hold the soil.

Will there be drift from the use of herbicides?

Systemic herbicides will be used, but not broadcast. The approach is to treat sprouts, so that as little is used as possible and the herbicide is localized to only the areas that require it.

Who will pay for this?

The City received a grant from the MnDNR for \$40,700. That will cover 90% costs of the project with the city funding the planting of native hardwood seedlings for reforestation.

Does the contractor selected to do the mowing have expertise in this kind of work?

All contractors that bid for the project have worked with the MN DNR on forestry mowing projects.

Will all the large trees be taken down too?

No, the large native hardwood trees in the mowing area will be marked and preserved.

What is the timeline for the work and subsequent restoration work?

Year & Season	What will be done?
Fall 2024	Forestry mowing, hand-cutting (if needed)
Spring & Fall 2025/26	Hand-cutting and herbicide treatment
Spring 2026	Native hardwood tree plantings

This timeline is subject to change based on equipment availability, weather, and other environmental factors.

What will it look like when it's done?

After forestry mowing the site will appear more open for some time (see reference image below). The native hardwood seedlings will return the site to a full forest over time.



What if we don't do anything?

The exotic invasives that are in this area will continue to spread and crowd out native plants and desirable hardwood trees.