

Stoney Point Forestry Restoration Project

UPDATE Spring 2025

The Stoney Point Forest Restoration Project is well underway. Phase one of the project was completed from October 2024 through February 2025. This included marking native hardwood tree species that were to be kept, mowing invasive and undesirable species, and hand-cutting those that were too large to mow.

The next phase, foliar herbicide treatment on invasive species that resprout, will begin in late spring, 2025. **During this time, it is important to stay on trails—walking across the mowed area can cause unwanted spread of herbicide. This can be harmful to humans and pets.** Access to Stoney Point across the mowed area will be marked with reflective poles to prevent any confusion.

The spot herbicide treatment will continue as needed until spring of 2026. The final step will be planting native hardwood trees to begin re establishing the native hardwood forest.

PLEASE STAY ON THE DESIGNATED TRAIL ACROSS THE PROJECT AREA!

The expanded project overview begins on the next page. Please reach out to Jason Ludwigson at jludwigson@cityoflacscent-mn.gov if you would like to learn more, get involved, or ask a question.

Stoney Point Forestry Restoration Project Overview

History of Stoney Point

The lower Stoney Point bluff was an apple orchard in the 1950s, as seen in historical imagery. At some point, these orchards were removed and the area became overgrown with woody invasive species such as buckthorn and honeysuckle. Since 2014, when the City of La Crescent obtained the Stoney Point property, the city has been working to get rid of these invasive species in small patches, while also putting in a large network of public hiking trails. This project is the next step in eradicating the woody invasive species that have overtaken Stoney Point and restoring the natural hardwood forest that existed before the orchards.



An aerial comparison of the Stoney Point property in the years 1952 and 2011. The 1952 image is a non-referenced black-and-white view, with two separate orchards circled. The 2011 is a color infrared image from the MN DNR and USGS and shows the city development around the property as well as the invasive species overtaking the orchards.

Project Timeline (subject to change due to weather, availability of equipment, and other factors)

During the Stoney Point forest restoration project, the target invasive species are common and glossy buckthorn, amur honeysuckle, and round-leaf bittersweet. The goal is to reestablish the native hardwood forest of Stoney Point by planting native hardwood species such as hackberry, hickory, sugar maple, and red and white oak.

In **Fall 2024**, the Stoney Point property will undergo forestry mowing, which will mow and mulch the invasive species and other woody debris. Doing this process in the fall minimizes disruption and displacement of native

animal and plant species since many will be migrating or going dormant. There will be a possible need for hand-cutting during this period in places where the bluff is too steep for the forestry mower.

In **Spring and Fall 2025/26**, follow-up work will be done. This will involve more hand-cutting and localized herbicide treatment after monitoring the site to decide the best time for application. Applying the herbicide to small patches of the sprouted invasive woody plants minimizes environmental damage to surrounding native plant life. The herbicide would be applied using a foliar spray.

In **Spring 2026**, the native hardwood tree plantings will occur based on the previous fall's follow-up work and will be completed by the city with the help of volunteers. Each tree sapling will be protected by a rigid tree protector tube to ensure successful rooting and growth.



Examples of restoration work that will be similar to the efforts on the Stoney Point property. The images show before, during, and after the forestry mowing, hand-cutting and herbicide treatment, and native hardwood forest tree plantings.

Want to get involved? Volunteers may be needed for tree planting. If you're interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Jason Ludwigson at jludwigson@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov.

This project is made possible through the MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant.



Growing from River to Ridge

The practices above are best practices chosen after consultation
with MN DNR forester Val Green.

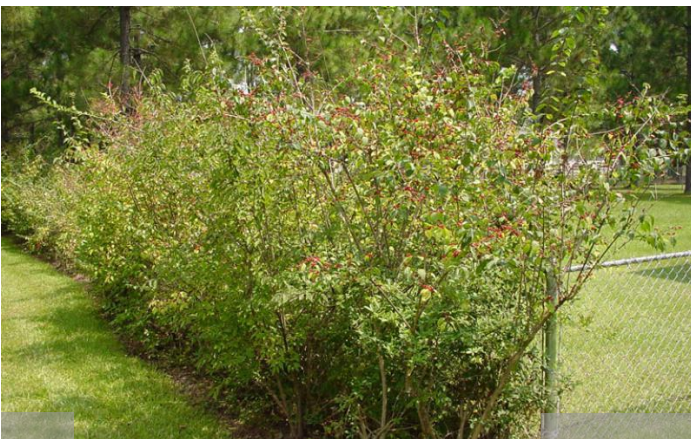
EXOTIC INVASIVE SPECIES FOUND IN STONEY POINT



Round Leaf Bittersweet - An invasive vine



Buckthorn - An invasive small tree



Amur Honeysuckle - An invasive shrub

NATIVE HARDWOOD TREES TO BE PLANTED FOR FORESTRY RESTORATION



Hackberry



Hickory



Red Oak



White Oak



Sugar Maple