



# Ford Park Habitat Restoration and Maintenance

Project website: [minnetonkamn.gov/ford-park-restoration](http://minnetonkamn.gov/ford-park-restoration)

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### Work begins for habitat restoration in Ford Park

The City of Minnetonka is conducting habitat restoration work in Ford Park to reduce invasive species and increase biodiversity (see map on reverse side).

### Why is this important?

The purpose of the project is to remove invasive species, such as buckthorn, and promote the growth of native plants and oak trees in the park. While you will notice some initial disturbance, over time this work will increase biodiversity and forest resilience and ensure future generations can enjoy a healthy oak forest.

Activities in the park will help achieve community goals outlined in the city's Natural Resources Master Plan. Further, the City is collaborating with Hennepin County who will be providing labor via a job training program and purchasing tree stock.

### Project details

Activities will include invasive species removal, thinning of less desirable trees, laying native seed for ground cover and a tree planting event in 2024.

Small-scale buckthorn and tree removal has been taking place since January. Larger-scale forestry mowing will begin in July or August. This will include machinery that clears and mulches most of the buckthorn within the park.

### Access to Park

Access to adjacent properties and the park will be maintained throughout restoration activities.

If you have concerns about buckthorn being cleared adjacent to your property, please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss further.

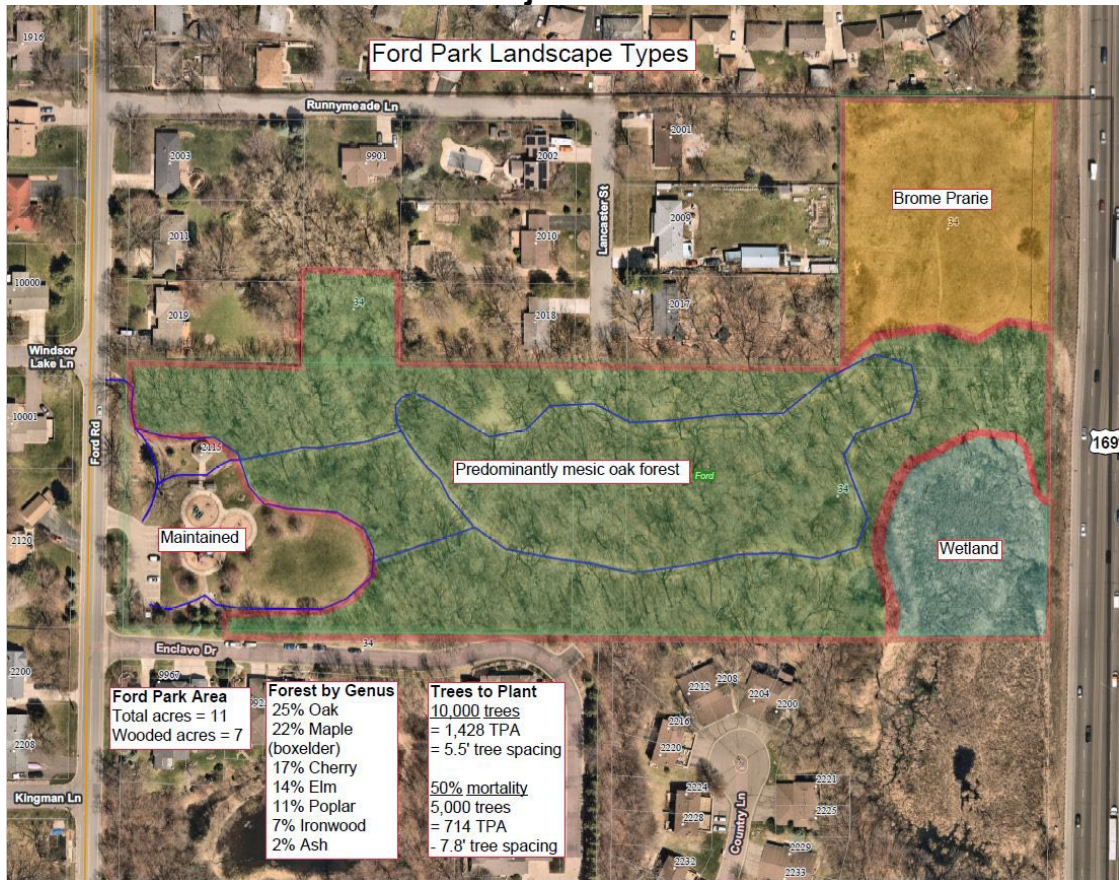
### Project schedule

The project is currently underway and the majority of activities will be completed in the spring of 2024. Ongoing maintenance will continue for years ahead in order to control invasive species. Periodic updates will be provided on the project website.

### Learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/ford-park-restoration](http://minnetonkamn.gov/ford-park-restoration) for more information or to sign up for email and text updates. Contact city staff with questions or to learn more about the project.

## Project area



## Timeline of anticipated work at Ford Park

Activity	Estimated Date	Entity providing labor
Tree Marking	Winter-Summer 2023	Minnetonka
Tree and Buckthorn Removal	Winter-Fall 2023	Hennepin County
Forestry Mow Buckthorn + Seed Forest Floor	Summer-Fall 2023	Minnetonka, Hennepin County
Additional Site Preparation (herbicide, debris clean-up, tree removals)	Fall 2023 - Spring 2024	Minnetonka, Hennepin County
Tree Planting with Volunteers	Spring 2024	Minnetonka, Hennepin County
Annual Maintenance, (herbicide spot spray, potential seeding)	2024 - 2026	Minnetonka, Hennepin County