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Managed Natural Landscape Packet

This application packet includes the basic standards and regulations for establishing and maintaining a Managed Natural Landscape on your property. Please make sure to provide detailed responses on the application itself.

A Managed Natural Landscape is a planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native or non-native grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadow vegetation, and ornamental plantings. Converting your yard, or a portion thereof, into a Managed Natural Landscape can provide a number of benefits both for you and the environment. Native plants are adapted to our local climate and soil. Thus, once native plants are established, they seldom require watering, mulching, protection from frost, or routine mowing. Native plants also benefit animals, birds, insects, and butterflies by providing food in the form of nectar, pollen, and seeds, as well as habitat.

Managed Natural Landscapes typically result in less stormwater runoff due to their deep root systems. Certain native plant species have roots that get as deep as fifteen (15) feet, while standard turfgrass has roots that only penetrate about one to two inches (1-2") beneath the surface. The deeper root systems aid with rainwater infiltration (rather than runoff) and in replenishing groundwater aquifers while also providing protection against erosion.

If you plan to establish a natural landscape, you must complete and submit the enclosed Managed Natural Landscape Application to the Planning Division for review and approval. City Staff will contact you if additional information or clarifications are needed. Review time is typically two (2) weeks.

Managed Natural Landscape Standards

- Planting or replanting shall be by transplanting or seeding by human or mechanical means (e.g., cannot rely on wind, insects, or other natural means for establishment).
- If the Managed Natural Landscape will be in a location likely to be seen by the public, a small sign (not larger than 12" x 12" and not taller than 48") shall be installed to inform the public that a Managed Natural Landscape is being established. The sign must remain until the Managed Natural Landscape consists of less than 25% weeds.
- Until such time as there are fewer than 25% weeds in a Managed Natural Landscape, the area shall be mowed twice per year, once in June and once in August. This is intended to prevent weeds from developing and spreading seeds.
- The Managed Natural Landscape area shall be maintained at least once per year by way of mowing to a height not more than eight inches (8") or by burning, but only after securing the necessary burn permit from the Ramsey Fire Department.
- Within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA), a setback of three (3) feet (essentially enough space for one pass with a lawn mower) from all property lines, roads, sidewalks and trails shall be maintained unless one of the following exemptions applies:
 - The Managed Natural Landscape area abuts another similar private or public Managed Natural Landscape area, a wetland, pond, lake, stream, or river.
 - A fully opaque fence (e.g. a privacy fence), with a minimum height of at least four (4) feet, either exists or is installed along the lot line adjacent to the Managed Natural Landscape area.
- If, after the initial 3-year establishment period, less than 75% of the Managed Natural Landscape consists of native or intentionally planted plants per the City-approved management plan, it shall be deemed failed and the shall require either a new management plan subject to City approval or the area(s) shall be returned to an acceptable groundcover subject to the nuisance standards outlined in Chapter 30 of City Code.

I have reviewed the Managed Natural Landscape standards and hereby confirm that my proposed landscaping project will be comply with them.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant Printed Name _____

Application

Please note: All official communication will be routed through this contact.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please provide a general description of the proposed vegetation types, plants, and plant succession to be used.

Describe the estimated transition period and timeframe to establish the Managed Natural Landscape. Please note that if the Managed Natural Landscape is to be established in phases, specify the duration and estimated completion date for each phase.

Provide a description of how existing vegetation will be eliminated as part of the process of establishing a Managed Natural Landscape.

Application continued

Describe how you will control invasive and/or other undesirable vegetation, including timing and frequency.

Describe how the Managed Natural Landscape will be installed (e.g., this must be accomplished through transplanting or seeding by human or mechanical means).

If the Managed Natural Landscape will be located such that it will likely be seen by the public, a small sign (not more than 12" x 12" and not taller than 48") informing the public that a natural landscape is being established must be installed and maintained until less than 25% of the Managed Natural Landscape area consists of weeds or non-desirable vegetation. If applicable, please include an image of the proposed signage to be used.

Until such time that less than 25% of the Managed Natural Landscape area consists of weeds or non-desirable vegetation, the area shall be mowed to a height not more than eight (8) inches at least twice per year. Mowing shall be completed once in June and once in August to prevent weeds from developing and spreading.

A detailed, scaled Site Plan must be included with the application. The Site Plan shall identify the property boundaries and all existing improvements, such as structures, driveway(s), septic system and well (if applicable), and existing or proposed fencing (if applicable). The Site Plan shall also identify the location(s) and dimensions of the proposed Managed Natural Landscape area(s).

Managed Natural Landscape Management Plan Checklist

(For Office Use Only)

- ☐ Name, phone number, and email address of the property owner, and the address of the property where the managed natural landscape is proposed.
- ☐ Scaled Site Plan of the property. The Site Plan must include all existing improvements, such as structures, driveway(s), septic systems, wells, etc.; property boundaries; wetlands (if present on the property); and the area(s) where the managed natural landscape will be established.
Please note that establishing a managed natural landscape must be done via transplanting plants or seeding by human or mechanical means (cannot rely on wind, insects, or other natural means of establishing the managed natural landscape).
- ☐ Provide a general description of proposed vegetation types, plants, and plant succession (if applicable) to be used.
If using a seed mix, please specify the mix name/type and include the species names in the mix
- ☐ Provide an estimated transition period and timeframe for the establishment of the managed natural landscape. If the project is proposed to be conducted in phases, the duration of each phase and the estimated completion date must be specified.
Please note that plant cover, with not more than 25% weeds, shall be established within three (3) years of project commencement.
- ☐ Provide a description of the method(s) to be used to eliminate existing vegetation in preparation for establishing the managed natural landscape.
- ☐ Provide a description of the method(s) to be used for controlling invasive vegetation and other non-desirable vegetation that is found in the managed natural landscape. Please make sure to specify not only how this will be accomplished, but also when it will occur and how often it will be done.
- ☐ Provide a general description of how the natural landscape plants will be installed (it must be through transplanting or seeding by human or mechanical means (cannot just let the yard 'go wild').