
URBAN WOODS AND PRAIRIES INITIATIVE

Minot, ND



What is the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative?

In 2014, Audubon Dakota launched the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative (UWP), seeking to restore natural areas along the Red River to improve the region's flood resiliency. The continued success of UWP across Fargo-Moorhead led to the growth of UWP across cities in North Dakota. Today, UWP has enrolled over 30 sites throughout the state, totaling over 2,000 acres. Restoration of sites on Minot began in 2019 and continue today.

These areas, when managed properly and planted with native vegetation, will restore important ecological functions, provide excellent habitat for birds and wildlife species, and provide natural areas for the residents of Minot.

Ecological Services

- Increased Water Quality
- Flood Mitigation
- Bank Stabilization
- Carbon Sequestration

Habitat Restoration Methods

- Planting Native Species
- Invasive Species Removal
- Maintenance

Questions?

Visit minotparks.com for more information.



What is an Invasive Species?

Invasive species are defined as a species that is non-native to the ecosystem, and in this case, is a plant which grows aggressively, spreads, and displaces other native plants, resulting in decreased plant diversity and the loss of habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Why remove invasive woody species?

Removing invasive shrubs and trees allows for enough sunlight to reach the ground to encourage the growth of young native tree seedlings and other native vegetation.

Ecosystem Benefits include improved diversity of native vegetation, erosion control through native plant establishment, and habitat for birds and wildlife.



How will the woody invasive species be removed?

Removal will be completed by professionals, throughout the months of September to March. Clearing of these invasive species will be completed through the use of hand tools and mechanical equipment. This is followed by spot spraying directly onto any visible stumps, which limits disturbance to native plants and wildlife.

Which invasive species do we plan on removing?

Common, or European Buckthorn is native to Eurasia and was introduced to North America in the 1880s as an ornamental plant. Common Buckthorn is a tall understory shrub or small tree. Which can be identified by a few common traits:

- Leaves are smooth, small toothed and stay green late into fall.
- Branches often end in thorns.
- Clusters of black fruit on female plants; only in August to September.

This invasive species will be the focus of the invasive woody species removal at Oak Park.

