

ROTARY PARK MANAGEMENT UPDATES



PARK PHOTOS



Prairie Restorations, Inc. 

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“FIELD OF SEEDS”

Project: Restore 10 acres of degraded habitat to a diverse mesic prairie

Management Steps:

2017: Private contractor treated area with herbicide to control competing weed competition. The site was burned in July using the local fire department. Following the burn, the site was tilled and seeded.

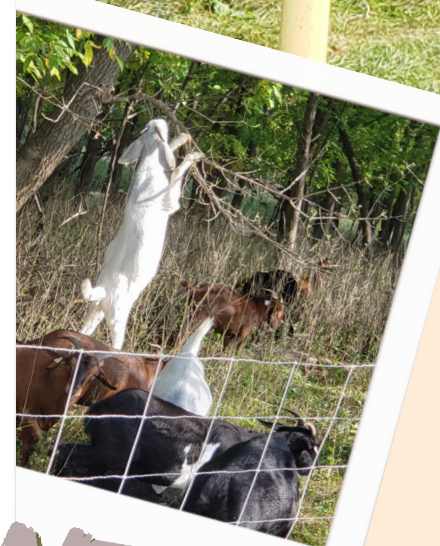
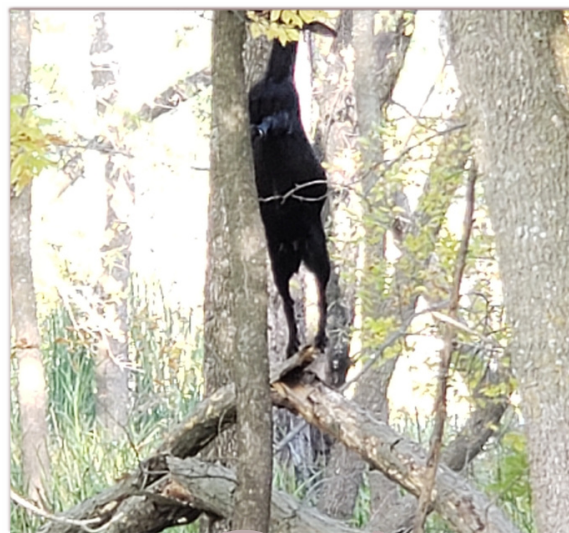
2018: A sheet of plastic was laid and buried on 1 acre of the restoration area.

Solarization: the process of using solar energy to heat up the soil to high temperatures, killing the vegetation underneath.

2019: Planted 11,000 4 inch plugs into the solarized project area.

2020-2022: Monitoring of vegetation establishment.

2023: A private contractor conducted a prescribed burn in the fall, followed by a dormant seeding of native seeds.



BUCKTHORN CONTROL

Project: Control 20 acres of large seed producing Common Buckthorn

Management Steps:

2020: 150 Spanish Goats were released to graze and girdle 5.3 acres of Common Buckthorn.

Girdling: the process of stripping bark completely around a tree or branch to remove the transportation of nutrients and water. In addition, the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) stump cut 6.5 acres of 2-5 inch diameter buckthorn.

2021: 150 Spanish Goats were released to graze 8.5 acres of re-sprouts from 2020 and additional areas. A buckthorn replacement seed mix was broadcasted across the site and trampled in using hoof traffic. The CCMI continued stump cutting on an additional 3.5 acres.

2022: Goats followed up for a third year of treatment. 10 acres of Common Buckthorn was managed.

PROJECT PHOTOS





NEWS STORIES

Field of Seeds (Lakeland News)

<https://youtu.be/UM6v4MU-1vs>

Field of Seeds (Brainerd Dispatch)

<https://www.brainerddispatch.com/sports/outdoors/4630832-planting-legacy>

Field of Seeds (Brainerd Dispatch)

<https://www.brainerddispatch.com/videos/3831047-Field-Of-Seeds-Brainerd-Rotary-Park-Project>

Goat Grazing (Brainerd Dispatch)

<https://www.brainerddispatch.com/news/goats-return-to-chew-on-buckthorn-at-brainerd-park#:~:text=A%20herd%20of%20more%20than,buckthorn%20species%20by%20eating%20it>

Goat Grazing (InForum)

<https://www.inforum.com/news/goats-take-a-bite-out-of-brainerd-park-invasive-species>

Goat Grazing (KAXE)

<https://www.kaxe.org/2022-08-28/goats-lead-the-charge-against-invasive-buckthorn-in-brainerd>