

# North Oaks Conservation Award

## Prairie Conservation Best Practices

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Prior to European settlement, more than 18 million acres of prairie covered Minnesota. A wealth of diverse species, habitats and cultures thrived here. With its fertile soil and nutritious grasses, prairie became the basis for an agricultural empire. Today, less than two percent of Minnesota's native prairie remains. It is North America's most endangered habitat type. The near elimination of native prairie has inspired many efforts to protect remaining parcels.

### Prairie Benefits:

- Improve water quality
  - Anchor soil
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Sequester carbon
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## Best Practices for Prairies - Ideas

- Plant so that some native species are blooming throughout the growing season to provide nectar, pollen, and seeds.
- Provide a small pond or low shallow bird bath for the birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
- Don't burn the entire planting in a single year **and follow the City's burning restrictions and permit process.**
- Mow or burn your prairie in sections and vary the timing from early spring to late fall. This promotes diversity and leaves winter cover, provides refuge for wildlife and allows seed development for food and plant propagation.
- Minimize or eliminate herbicide and pesticide use.

For more information on prairie protection programs and restoration:  
[www.mndnr.gov/prairierestoration](http://www.mndnr.gov/prairierestoration)



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more information about the North Oaks Conservation Award or Prairie Conservation Best Practices, please call the City of North Oaks at 651-792-7750.