



**SUBJECT: Roberts Park – Habitat Restoration & Natural Areas Management  
3580 Butler Warren Road, Mason, Ohio 45040**

Dear Residents:

With a generous donation from Gale Roberts, Deerfield Township is undertaking a Habitat Restoration & Natural Areas Management project (herein the “Project”) located at 3580 Butler Warren Road in Deerfield Township, Warren County, Ohio. Deerfield Township has signed an Agreement with Stantec Consultants to offer ecological habitat restoration and natural areas management services – including native pollinator habitat establishment and integrated invasive species control services - to help the park achieve its highest ecological function, aesthetic appeal and value to the community.

Stantec has prepared the following proposal, proposed restoration plan and scope of work for the upcoming 2026 growing season. These activities are described in Part 1 (Tasks A-G) and correspond to the restoration zones described in the proposed restoration plan (see Attachment 1). We have also offered a description of the longer term (annualized) proposed maintenance of these natural areas following the 2026 growing season in Part 2 of this proposal.

## **ABOUT STANTEC**

Stantec is a local, regional and national leader in the provision of [nature-based solutions](#), including full service ecological restoration and habitat management. We provide holistic solutions for our clients which range from large-scale utilities and energy companies to federal and state natural resource agencies to local conservation groups and park districts where our staff live, work, and play. Stantec has a long history of restoring and installing native plant communities across the Midwest and we have been providing these services in southwest Ohio for over 25 years. The services we are offering you at Roberts Park are similar to those we currently provide for some of the largest parks and land managers in the region, including Great Parks of Hamilton County, Five Rivers Metroparks, The Nature Conservancy, Greene County Parks and Trails, and the Warren County Park District. Project or client references can be made available upon request.

## **PROJECT UNDERSTANDING**

Roberts Park contains approximately 55-acres of natural habitat, walking paths, playgrounds, and connected open space. The Project site has potential to provide high quality natural habitat as well as scenic viewsheds and public education and outreach opportunities. However, the Project site has its challenges when it comes to the “wild” spaces, i.e. native prairies and grassland communities. Approximately 10 years ago, these areas were seeded but the vegetation management strategy did not fully address invasive species control and has not resulted in long term high-quality natural area development. Based on a series of site meetings, Stantec is recommending that some of the prairie areas need to be reestablished due to excessive invasive species and exotic weed pressure(s) as well as an overall lack of establishment. Other prairie areas will need supplemental seeding/planting to enhance the original restoration efforts.

Stantec was requested to prepare a proposed restoration plan that breaks down each area of the Project site into designated restoration zones, provide narrative as to what the restoration objectives are for each zone, and describe what restoration activities will occur. These zones are

depicted in Attachment 1 and narratively described by work zone within each task described in Part 1 below.

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## **PART 1      PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK (2026)**

Stantec is proposing the following service(s) as recommended for the 2026 growing season in order to reestablish and/or maintain habitat function and meet the desired aesthetic appeal that have been discussed by project proponents. Each task described below corresponds to the proposed restoration plan provided in Attachment 1. The noted (color) corresponds to each zone as seen in Attachment 1.

### **Task 1.A:      Woody Removal Areas – 2026 (1.87 Acres)**

Woody clearing areas (Pink) are defined as the old property/tree line in the Triangle Prairie and the stream/ditch line that cuts east-west through the middle of the park. These two locations are infested with a majority of invasive tree and shrub species. Most prevalent are Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), and Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*). These species provide little to no wildlife value and are invaders into other restoration zones and open spaces, while often outcompeting more desirable native plants. Stantec will eliminate these populations within Roberts Park which will greatly assist in the restoration effort of other zones by eliminating the immediate seed source and pressures of invasive woody invasive species.

Stantec proposes to use a skid steer mounted forestry mulcher (or Fecon) to grind the woody material into a mulch layer and leave the mulch on the ground to decompose and add erosion control stabilization. In addition to the forestry mulching, some hand work with chainsaws may be necessary where the mulcher cannot access or safely reach. In those cases, the downed material will be pulled up to a safe area for the mulcher to process.

Upon completion of the woody clearing in a particular area, Stantec will follow up with oil-based herbicide to treat the stumps. This type of treatment is called basal application. Basal applications are very specific and targeted to only treat the stumps of cut material. Application will be completed using backpack sprayers and/or daubers. Along the stream/ditch line care will be taken to not impact any open water with the herbicide. If there is a threat to the water, Stantec will switch chemicals to one that is labeled and approved for aquatic use within open water areas.

This task is proposed to be completed in late winter / early spring of 2026.

### **TASK 1A. Woody Removal Services (2026) PINK on Attachment 1**

### **TASK 1.B:      Pond Enhancement – 2026 (+/- 0.1 Acre)**

An extant farm pond (Blue) is located immediately adjacent to the trail which connects the north side of the park to the south. This area has been identified as a concern and potential safety hazard to the public. This pond receives no direct inflow/outflow and is largely stagnant in summer months, leading to algae blooms and mosquito outbreaks. The pond is largely inaccessible and hidden by the trees and shrubs, which are proposed to be removed in Task 1.A. As part of our

restoration effort, Stantec recommends the pond's existing embankment is notched to allow it to drain into the existing creek/ditch. Once the pond is drained, Stantec proposes to install native wetland seed and wetland plant plugs into the exposed mudflat creating a more diverse and aesthetically appealing habitat for the park and its visitors. This area would be restored to something more akin to wet "rain garden" or bioretention area with much less standing water for mosquito breeding and be visible from the existing trail.

This task is proposed to be initiated in late winter / early spring of 2026 and seeded/planted in May-June 2026.



Wetland / Rain Garden at full establishment (Year 5)

**Task 1.B. Pond Enhancement Services (2026)  
BLUE on Attachment 1**

**TASK 1.C: Tallgrass Prairie Seeding – 2026 (16.65 Acres)**

Within the Park there are several internal fields (Orange) separated up by asphalt walking paths, mowed paths, bike trails, and tree lines. The proposed Tallgrass Prairie areas are in the center of the park and the area commonly referred to as "Triangle" prairie.

These two areas were observed to have suitable coverage of a variety of grass species, some of which are desirable native species. Stantec is proposing to oversee a native Warm Season Grass Mix. This seed mix contains 7-6 different native warm season grass species. Stantec will use a tractor and no-till drill to inter-seed desirable native grasses into the existing vegetation at the appropriate time of year.

This task is proposed to be completed in Spring of 2026.



Warm Season Grasses at full establishment (Year 5)

**Task 1.C. Tallgrass Prairie Seeding Services (2026)  
ORANGE on Attachment 1**

**TASK 1.E: Wildflower Prairie Treatments – 2026 (24.7 Acres)**

Wildflower prairies (Yellow) are found throughout the park and are adjacent to the some of the Tallgrass Prairie areas. Many of these are struggling to achieve full maturity and desirable native plant habitat. Stantec is proposing to reinstall native pollinator and prairie seeds in the Fall of 2026. This Task is for herbicide applications in all the designated Wildflower areas (Yellow). The reasoning for this task and need for treatment is to control invasive species and deplete the existing seed bank in all of the wildflower areas, prior to drill seeding operations in the fall. Stantec

will provide trained and licensed herbicide applicators and use a tractor and boom sprayer up to four (4) times throughout the 2026 growing season to eradicate existing vegetation and deplete the existing seed bank so that a more diverse prairie can be established.

This task is proposed to be completed up to four times: in early spring, late spring, mid-summer and late summer of 2026 prior to implementation of Task 1.G. Please note these areas will be mostly “brown” or appear to be dead in 2026.

**TASK 1.E. Wildflower Prairie Treatments (2026)**  
**YELLOW on Attachment 1**

**TASK 1.F: Tallgrass Prairie Maintenance – 2026 (16.65 Acres)**

Tallgrass Prairie (Orange) will be managed throughout the growing season to eliminate broadleaf species and woody species. Stantec will use both selective mowing and boom spraying equipment with selective herbicides. The herbicide will be formulated to limit the growth and development of broadleaf plants, while promoting native warm season grass species. Stantec believes this management strategy will develop the native plant community as quickly as possible. The benefit of this management strategy is to reduce costs by being effective and efficient with our herbicide applications. Stantec will provide trained and licensed herbicide applicators and use a tractor and boom sprayer up to four (4) times throughout the 2026 growing season to deplete the existing broadleaf weeds so that a robust grassland can be established.

This task is proposed to be completed throughout the Growing Season (April – Sept) of 2026.

**TASK 1.F. Tallgrass Prairie Maintenance Services (2026)**  
**ORANGE on Attachment 1**

**TASK 1.G: Wildflower Prairie Seeding – Fall 2026 (24.7 Acres)**

Wildflower Prairie (Yellow) installation will occur during Fall 2026, following the completion of all work described in Task 1.E. Stantec recommends installing the native prairie seed during this time of year to mimic natural seed production and get the ground prepared for seeding prior to the dormant season. Throughout the growing season, Stantec will be applying herbicides to these (Yellow) areas to eliminate and suppress unwanted vegetation. In mid to late Fall, Stantec will use a tractor and no-till drill to install a Low Profile Prairie Seed Mix to the appropriate depth. Proper installation is critical to the success of the planting as native seeds buried too deep or shallow will struggle to germinate. Proper installation of native seed is the first step to achieving a healthy and successful prairie. Stantec’s skilled and trained restoration professionals will provide drill seeding services in these areas once we feel the seed bed is adequately depleted of undesirable species and sufficiently ready to be seeded, mostly likely in the fall.

This task is proposed to be completed in Fall 2026.

**TASK 1.G. WILDFLOWER PRAIRIE SEEDING SERVICES (2026)**  
**YELLOW on Attachment 1**

## PART 1. WORK SUMMARY – 2026

The following table has been prepared to outline Stantec’s proposal for each of the respective restoration zones.

Part 1 (Task)	Activity Description	Schedule	
Task 1.A	Woody Removal (Pink)	March-April 2026	
Task 1.B	Pond Enhancement (Blue)	March-April 2026	
Task 1.C	Tallgrass Prairie Seeding (Orange)	April-May 2026	
Task 1.D	Wildflower Prairie Enhancement (Green)	April-May 2026	
Task 1.E	Wildflower Prairie Treatments (Yellow)	April-Sept 2026	
Task 1.F	Tallgrass Prairie Maintenance (Orange)	April-Sept 2026	
Task 1.G	Wildflower Prairie Seeding (Yellow)	Sept-Oct 2026	

## PART 2. PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK (2027-2031)

Native plants and newly established natural areas require continued maintenance for up to five (5) years to reach full maturity and functionality. Stantec is proposing the following service(s) to complete long-term, post-installation vegetation management and maintenance services for up to five (5) years following installation in the 2026 growing season.

Please note that this Part 2 scope of work is being offered to outline the future maintenance efforts and projected costs. This scope and fee estimate is being offered as information only, aka an “if-authorized” task, which you may or may not elect to authorize at this time. Alternatively, individual years may also be chosen to manage costs over time. Most of our clients budget and encumber these funds in an annual allowance, as a way to spread out costs over time.

### Annual Adaptive Vegetation Management Services (+/- 43 Acres) – 2027 ('28, '29, '30, '31)

Beginning in early spring through fall 2027, Stantec proposes bi-monthly visits throughout the 2027 growing season with the goal of functionally eradicating invasive, non-native and undesirable species in the newly established +/- 43-acre prairies. Stantec proposes a vegetation management program using trained restoration ecologists and Ohio-licensed Pesticide Applicators to reduce the populations of undesirable species over time. Target species are expected to include: various early succession and annual weeds, teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*),

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) multiple ragweed species (*Ambrosia sp.*), honeysuckle species (*Lonicera sp.*), winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Autumn-olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). As each species has different growth cycles and different treatment/application requirements, Stantec proposes to provide bi-monthly site visits throughout the active growing season to target each invasive species as it becomes available for treatment.

Our bi-monthly site visits will generally follow an Adaptive Mangement Strategy:

Adaptive management strategy – An adaptive management strategy is necessary to ensure the diversity and establishment of native plant communities over time. Adaptive management uses many different approaches, which include: mowing, spot herbicide applications, boom spraying applications and prescribed fire (if or when appropriate). Mowing/weed whacking helps to control annual species or to limit spread before going to seed, while herbicide applications help eliminate unwanted species quickly, but require licensed applicators. Additionally, having knowledge of native plant communities is crucial to the adaptive management, development, and establishment of native plant communities. Experienced applicators can recognize problem species and appropriately spray the correct chemical to the target species while limiting the impact to the native plants. This knowledge is important for both spot and boom spraying activities. Costs for the entire cumulative management acreage includes three (3) visits during the growing season and would generally decrease in effort and cost over time.



**Healthy Prairie / Pollinator Habitat Establishment at Year 5 following 5 years of adaptive management.**

A typical maintenance visit involves technicians canvassing the Project site and implementing a management strategy based on the observed conditions, rather than based on a particular schedule. This allows us to more efficiently and effectively take the best course of action. Our proposed adaptive management strategy for this Park includes:

- Intensive site-wide selective applications- Selective herbicide applications shall be scheduled to coincide with targeted weed/exotic species development during the growing season. These treatments will consist of a crew of licensed applicators canvassing the entire area, assessing and treating weeds as they are encountered by either selective herbicide application or by mechanical means, i.e. cutting or pulling.
- Jackpot and selective applications- Jackpot applications are similar to the intensive site-wide applications, but are targeted to specific areas with greater degrees of infestation. The applications can be selective, semi-selective, or broadcast, depending on the species present and degree of infestation.
- Mowing / Weed Whacking - The need for mowing or weed whacking, the timing of such events, and the mowing height will be determined by Stantec staff based on frequent assessments. Mowing will be performed at a height that allows the undesirable species to be cut without impacting the desirable natives. This is typically done to control problematic

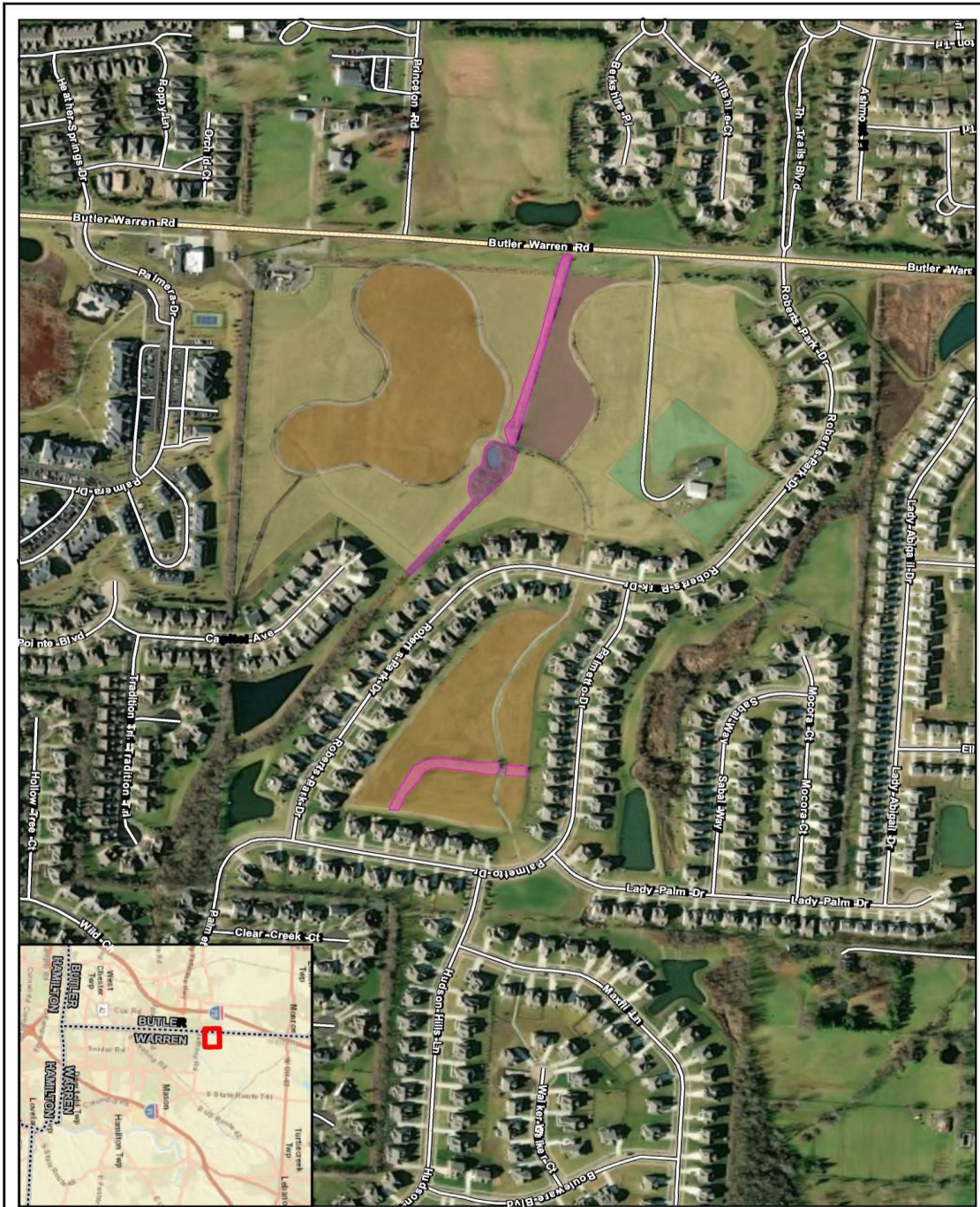
annual species (such as ragweed) or biennial species (such as teasel) before setting seed. One mowing is also completed at the end of each growing season (Oct-Nov).

- Girdling / Cut-Stump - For any cut-stump and girdling treatment techniques of woody invasive species along the Project buffer, a 5-10% solution of aquatic approved glyphosate will be used directly on the stumps of all woody vegetation that is cleared. Additionally, based on Stantec's experience, a triclopyr solution (Garlon-3A or equivalent) may be required to stump treat winter creeper, autumn olive and/or glossy buckthorn for maximum effectiveness. All cut-stump trees and shrubs will be left on site following mechanical removal. All woody material is expected to be left for natural decay and will NOT be chipped and/or hauled offsite under this scope of work.

The timing and method of these herbicide application treatments will be performed in accordance with industry standard methods to maximize the effectiveness and protect native species. Stantec will provide up to three experienced and Ohio-licensed Pesticide Applicators as well as staff cross-trained to use chainsaws and mowing equipment. Every effort will be made to minimize soil disturbance. Stantec will be responsible for providing all labor, equipment and chemicals for proper dilution based on application conditions and ensuring safe application around water features. Stantec will establish a path – which can also serve as a walking trail - to be utilized through and around the Project area for equipment access.

Thank you for your patience while we improve the habitat and natural areas at Roberts Park.

If you have any questions, Please email Joel Smiddy, Park Director Deerfield Township at [jsmiddy@deerfieldtwp.com](mailto:jsmiddy@deerfieldtwp.com)



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ATTACHMENT 1



ATTACHMENT 1 ENLARGED