

2025 Cummings Park Planting Plan

Submitted by: Kerri Seemann of Arden Hills Greening

Location: the northwest edge of Cummings Park, between the property line and the trail

Goals

- Reduce invasive plant species to <5% of the total population within 5 years. This includes the following species:
 - common buckthorn (trees - **noxious weed**)
 - white mulberry (tree)
 - white poplar (tree)
 - garlic mustard (**noxious weed**)
 - poison ivy (**noxious weed**)
 - lamium
 - vinca
 - creeping Charlie
 - creeping bellflower
 - celandine
 - dame's rocket
 - motherwort
 - burdock
- Increase native plant diversity (to at least 30 species), with a focus on keystone species (at least 15 species) by 2028.
- Support pollinators by having something blooming at least 90% of the growing season by 2028.

Existing Vegetation

In addition to the invasive species listed above,

- the canopy consists largely of unknown (*to me*) species of elm and pine,
- the subcanopy is predominantly boxelder (a weedy native),
- and red baneberry and Jack-in-the-pulpit have been found in the understory.

Plant List

Actaea rubra

Agastache foeniculum

Agastache scrophulariifolia

Ageratina altissima

Anemone canadensis

Anemone quinquefolia

Antennaria neglecta

Apocynum cannabinum

Aquilegia canadensis

Aralia racemosa

Arisaema triphyllum

Arnoglossum reniforme

Baptisia bracteata

Bouteloua curtipendula

Bromus kalmii

Bromus latiglumis

Campanula americana

Campanula rotundifolia

Carex blanda

Carex pensylvanica

Carex rosea

Carex sprengei
Chamaecrista fasciculata
Conoclinium coelestinum
Danthonia spicata
Diervilla lonicera
Elymus hystrix
Erigeron annuus
Eupatorium altissimum
Euphorbia corollata
Eurybia macrophylla
Eutrochium purpureum
Festuca subverticillata
Fragaria virginiana
Galium boreale
Geranium maculatum
Heliopsis helianthoides

Heuchera richardsonii *
Hydrophyllum virginianum
Liatris ligulistylis
Maianthemum canadense
Maianthemum racemosum
Monarda fistulosa
Oryzopsis asperifolia
Oryzopsis pungens
Penstemon digitalis **
Prunus virginiana
Pycnanthemum virginianum
Ratibida pinnata
Rudbeckia hirta
Rudbeckia triloba
Sambucus racemosa
Scrophularia lanceolata

Silene stellata
Solidago flexicaulis
Solidago uliginosa
Solidago ulmifolia
Symphoricarpos albus
Symphytotrichum laeve
Symph. lateriflorum
Symph. novae-angliae
Symphytotrichum shortii
Taenidia integerrima
Thalictrum dasycarpum
Verbena hastata ***
Veronicastrum virginicum
Viburnum lentago
Zizia aptera

All species listed above are native to MN, with the exception of *Penstemon digitalis*, which has a range extending to the northern Iowa border.

The highlighted species are keystone species.

* The pollen specialist bee that depends on *Heuchera*–*Colletes andrewsi*–is found in NW Hennepin County, but not Ramsey.

** The pollen specialist bee that depends on *Penstemon*–*Osmia distincta*–has not yet been spotted any closer than Andover.

*** The pollen specialist bee that depends on *Verbena*–*Calliopsis nebraskensis*–has been found near Minnetonka and Cottage Grove, but not closer.

The quantities of what we currently have available for planting in 2025 is on pages 4 & 5.

Timeline

If approved, the first priorities for the remainder of **2025** would be:

1. Plant available vegetation under the pines and along the northern edge (*snowberry & dogbane in the pale green area* →),
2. Work along the property line (*medium green* ↗):
 - a. Cut buckthorn,
 - b. Dig the lamium & creeping Charlie underneath,
 - c. Replace with native vegetation (particularly the taller species)
3. Work along the back of the sunnier middle section:
 - a. Remove nettles & vinca to prepare for planting



- b. Replace with native vegetation (particularly the taller species)
- 4. Work along the front of the middle and northern sections (*shown in pink and yellow 1*)
 - a. Site prep of these sections will depend in part on the spraying of poison ivy and creeping bellflower by Public Works. The spraying of the remaining burdock would also speed up the process.
 - b. Though it would be nice to start planting in these areas this fall, spring of 2026 is more likely.

2026:

- 1. Continue removing invasives as necessary,
- 2. Continue to fill in gaps with more plants as they become available, whether growing by seed or seeking donations,
- 3. If we can't plant within 6' of the trail, then I would ideally like to acquire some edging to clearly mark the planting boundary (if funding can be found).

2027:

- 1. Continue removing invasives as necessary,
- 2. Continue to fill in gaps with more plants as they become available, whether growing by seed or seeking donations,
- 3. Collect data on flower bloom periods,
- 4. Conduct a plant survey to count the number of plant species and estimate % of cover of invasive species

This project is being organized by Arden Hills Greening in partnership with Boston Scientific volunteers. If approved, we will try to recruit additional volunteers from the neighborhood.

The following is a spreadsheet with details on the desired vegetation.

- It is split into three zones, based on light and canopy cover.
- Within those sections, plants are sorted by height.
 - Shrubs are marked with a darker green.
 - Graminoids (grasses & sedges) are marked with a lighter green.
 - The species not native to MN is in grey.
- Existing species are in bold.
- Details for each species include light and moisture tolerances, bloom time and color, and miscellaneous notes about growth and habitat value.
- The column on the left indicates how many of each species are **currently** available for planting.

Part-Shade NW Border													
Quantity	Common Name	Latin Name	Light	Height	Moisture	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Notes
	Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	S,PS	25'	MD M MW								* buckthorn replacement
	Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	S,PS	20'	? M MW ?								* buckthorn replacement
-	Red-berried Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	PS,Sh	12'	MD M								fruit mildly poisonous
	Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	S,PS	10'	MD M MW								fruit edible
40	Sweet Joe-pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	PS,Sh	7'	MD M MW								attracts 40 larval insects
20	Tall Meadow Rue	<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	S,PS	6'	M MW								
40	Tall Bellflower	<i>Campanula americana</i>	PS,Sh	5'	MD M MW								BIENNIAL
	Early Figwort	<i>Scrophularia lanceolata</i>	S,PS,Sh	5'	D MD M MW								rich in nectar
	Ear-Leaved Brome	<i>Bromus latiglumis</i>	PS,Sh	4'	MD M								
20	Spikenard	<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	PS,Sh	4'	M MW								
15	Bog Goldenrod	<i>Solidago uliginosa</i>	S,PS,Sh	4'	M MW W								showy red stems
	Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	PS,Sh	3'	MD M								host plant for Northern Pearly-Eye
5	Red Baneberry	<i>Actaea rubra</i>	PS,Sh	3'	M MW W								bushy, showy plant, birds love the berries (but poisonous to humans), prefers full shade
40	Zig Zag Goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	PS,Sh	3'	MD M MW								can be aggressive, host plant for Baltimore Checkerspot, attracts 112 larval insects
?	Short's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum shortii</i>	PS,Sh	3'	MD M								
2?	Yellow Pimpernel	<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	S,PS,Sh	3'	MD M								host plant for Black & Ozark Swallowtails
	Elm-Leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>	PS,Sh	3'	MD M								susceptible to rust and powdery mildew
100	Nodding Fescue	<i>Festuca subverticillata</i>	PS,Sh	2'	MD M MW								often near Sugar Maples, host plant for Indian Skipper
30	Common Wood Sedge	<i>Carex blanda</i>	S,PS,Sh	2'	MD M MW W								
	Long-Beaked Sedge	<i>Carex sprengeii</i>	PS,Sh	2'	MD M MW								
9	Solomon's Plume	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	S,PS,Sh	2'	D MD M MW								rhizomatous, but not aggressive
50	Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	S,PS,Sh	2'	D MD M								host plant for Spring Azure. attracts 12 larval insects
15	Virginia Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i>	PS,Sh	2'	M MW								rhizomatous and may be aggressive
	Sweet Cicely	<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i>	Sh	2'	MD M MW								host plant of the Black Swallowtail
	Aniseroot	<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i>	PS,Sh	2'	M MW								
	White Snakeroot	<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	PS,Sh	2'	MD M MW								
	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	PS,Sh	2'	MD M MW								
	Calico Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i>	S,PS,Sh	2'	MD M MW								
	Curly-Styled Wood Sedge	<i>Carex rosea</i>	PS,Sh	1'	D MD M MW								
2	Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	S,PS,Sh	1'	MD M								
20	Canada Anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	S,PS	1'	M MW								spreads by rhizomes and can overwhelm smaller plants
50	Big Leaved Aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	PS,Sh	1'	D MD M MW								host plant for Pearl Crescent, rhizomatous
	Sunny Middle Section												
Quantity	Common Name	Latin Name	Light	Height	Moisture	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Notes
	Great Indian Plantain	<i>Arnoglossum reniforme</i>	S,PS	8'	M MW								"threatened" in MN
	Purple Giant Hyssop	<i>Agastache scrophulariifolia</i>	S,PS	6'	MD M MW								prefers rich woodlands, abundant nectar
40	New England Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	S,PS	5'	MD M MW W								reseeds readily, host plant for Pearl Crescent
5	Early Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	S,PS	5'	MD M MW								
	Grey Headed Coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	S,PS	5'	MD M								
	Culversroot	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	S,PS	5'	MD M MW								
	Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	S,PS	5'	M MW W								host plant for the Common Buckeye
	Meadow Blazing Star	<i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	S,PS	5'	MD M MW								Monarch's favorite nectar plant
	Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	S,PS	4'	D MD M MW								host plant of the Raspberry Pyrausta, goldfinches LOVE the seeds
	Smooth Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	S,PS	4'	M								
	Tall Boneset	<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	S,PS	4'	MD M MW								

	Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	S,PS	4'	MD M MW										spreads slowly, host plant for Pearl Crescent and Silvery Checkerspot
200	Prairie Brome	<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	S,PS	3'	MD M MW										can be used as cover crop on slopes while other plants get established
30	Starry Campion	<i>Silene stellata</i>	S,PS	3'	MD M MW										
	Virginia Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	S,PS	3'	MD M MW W										spreads rhizomatously
	Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	S,PS	3'	MD M										self-sows readily
	Annual Fleabane	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	S,PS	3'	MD M MW										ANNUAL
	Elm-Leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>	PS,Sh	3'	MD M										susceptible to rust and powdery mildew
	Flowering Spurge	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	S,PS	3'	D MD M										
200	Side-Oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	S,PS	2'	D MD M										host plant for 5 Skippers
seed	Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	S,PS	2'	D MD M										ANNUAL, host plant for Little Yellow, Sleepy Orange, and Orange Sulphur
	Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	S,PS	2'	MD M MW										BIENNIAL, host plant for Silvery Checkerspot
	Mistflower	<i>Conoclinium coelestinum</i>	PS	2'	MD M MW										late to emerge in spring, spreads
	Heart-Leaf Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aptera</i>	S,PS	2'	MD M										host plant for Black Swallowtail
	Alumroot	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	S,PS	2'	D MD M MW										
?	Cream Wild Indigo	<i>Baptisia bracteata</i>	S,PS	2'	D MD M										important for queen bumblebees, host plant for many species including Wild Indigo Duskywing
	Dry Pine Woodland														
Quantity	Common Name	Latin Name	Light	Height	Moisture	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.			Notes
-	Red-berried Elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	PS,Sh	12'	MD M										fruit mildly poisonous
1	Northern Bush Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	PS,Sh	4'	D MD M										
15	Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	S,PS	4'	MD M										rhizomatous, host plant for Vashti Sphinx and Snowberry Clearwing moths
10	Dogbane	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	S,PS	4'	MD M MW										"very high" in importance to pollinators, can be aggressive, host plant for the Hummingbird Clearwing moth
10	Flowering Spurge	<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	S,PS	3'	D MD M										
	Elm-Leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago ulmifolia</i>	PS,Sh	3'	MD M										susceptible to rust and powdery mildew
	Rough-leaved Rice Grass	<i>Oryzopsis asperifolia</i>	S,PS	2'	D MD M										
	Mountain Rice Grass	<i>Oryzopsis pungens</i>													
10	Solomon's Plume	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i>	S,PS,Sh	2'	D MD M MW										rhizomatous, but not aggressive
50	Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	S,PS,Sh	2'	D MD M										host plant for Spring Azure, attracts 12 larval insects
	Northern Bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>	S,PS	2'	MD M MW W										rhizomatous; can be aggressive, host plant for Elephant Hawk Moths and other species
20	Poverty Oat Grass	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	S,PS	1'	D MD										good for erosion control
50	Big Leaved Aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	PS,Sh	1'	D MD M MW										host plant for Pearl Crescent, rhizomatous
10	Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	S,PS,Sh	1'	MD M										
	Harebells	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	S,PS	1'	D MD										can self-seed in retaining walls
*	Pennsylvania Sedge	<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	S,PS,Sh	0.7'	D MD M										
5?	Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	S,PS	0.5'	D MD M MW										host plant for Gray Hairstreak, attracts 75 larval insects, groundcover
2	Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>	PS,Sh	0.5'	MD M MW										spring ephemeral, common in healthy woodlands
20	Canada Mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>	PS,Sh	0.5'											
	Prairie Pussetoes	<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	S,PS	0.4'	D MD M										host plant for American Painted Lady, grown for velvety leaves

* Pennsylvania sedge spreads by rhizomes and is difficult to start from seed. The simplest, most cost-effective solution would be to take a small quantity of divisions (~20) from the populations at Hazelnut Park.

(Correction: remove mistflower (not native in MN) from the sunny section and add brown-eyed Susan in the Part-shade NW section.)