BSC GROUP

803 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02127 - www.bscgroup.com
TEL 617-896-4300 - 800-288-8123

Nature-Based Solutions Implementation Resource Guide

Nature-based Solution (NbS): Grassland Meadow Management or Restoration

Project Number per matrix: **(2)**

PREREQUISITES

- Engage licensed herbicide applicator.
- Obtain Town or City Conservation Commission/landowner approval.
- Obtain appropriate permits.

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- **Project Planning and Administration**
  - Assess opportunities for coordinated habitat enhancement and educational resources. Site plans should include mowed turf borders and signage for control of encroaching woody vegetation, clear boundary of intentional meadow, visibility, and value as a passive recreation feature.
  - Identify stakeholders and partners for ongoing maintenance. Ensure clear communication and understanding of maintenance personnel.
  - Evaluate existing turf species for effective naturalization with soil test and amendment.
  - Complete soil assessment and amendment.
  - Assess bordering threats such as the proximity of established invasive seed sources.
- **NbS Installation**
  - Conduct site preparation to include selective invasive vegetation removal, assessment of solar aspect, & threats.
  - Install erosion control measures, if required.
  - Plant key meadow species through volunteer efforts or private contractors. Methods may include but are not limited to the following: compost top-dressing, conservation seeding, plug/container planting of forbes.
  - Do not intentionally disrupt soil or conduct significant excavation beyond that necessary to install restoration plantings.
- **Maintenance**
  - Reduce mowing to twice annually. Modify mowing practice to allow meadow species (10” mow height).
  - Maintain stability through critical mass, solar exposure, soil assessment, amendment, and coordinated invasive control.
  - Support 2-year establishment period to include biannual removal of invasive plants and weeds, annual replacement of failed plantings, and watering as needed to naturalize plantings.
  - Conduct perpetual maintenance program, as coordinated, with managing stakeholders.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTION SPECS

- Typical project size 300x 300 ft.
- Minimum size 1500 sq. ft.

BUDGET ESTIMATE

- Typical project Budget Order of Magnitude: $15,000-$30,000 (lawn conversion)
- Use the BSC Group Nature-based Solutions budget tool to develop more detailed concept budgets.

SCHEDULE ESTIMATE

- 1 day of construction per minimum size unit

- 2-year establishment period to naturalize plantings
- Twice-annual maintenance (mowing) during establishment
- Change to maintenance methods (1 day per year).
- Annual assessment