

FREEMAN PARK BUCKTHORN REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE

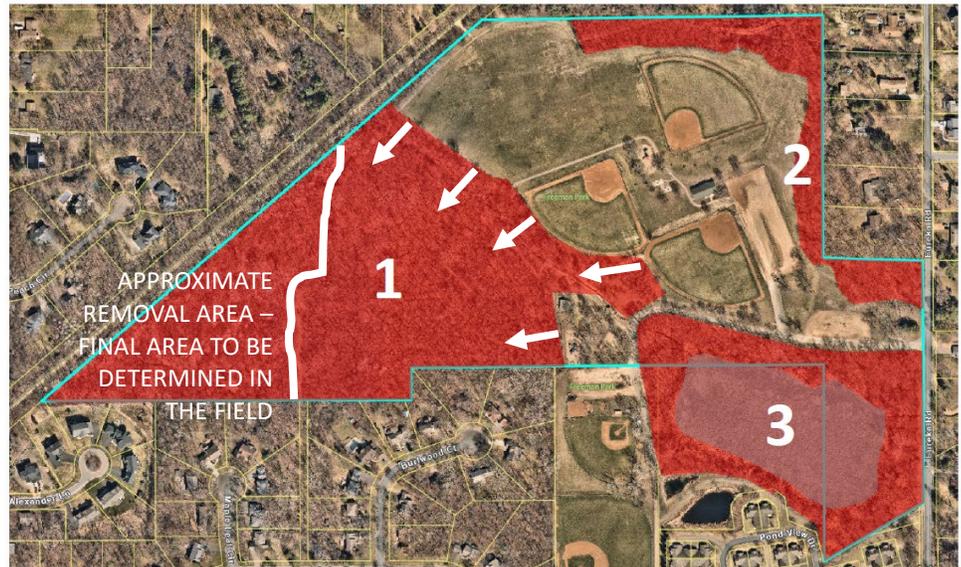
Background:

Buckthorn is an invasive non-native plant that kills off native vegetation. Freeman Park along with other public areas around Shorewood have significant areas where buckthorn is prevalent. In 2021, the City of Shorewood received a \$50,000 MnDNR grant with a \$20,000 city match for buckthorn removal in Freeman Park. The grant deadline to complete buckthorn removal is June 30, 2024.

AREA 1 – 19.55 ACRES

AREA 2 – 3.93 ACRES

AREA 3 – 6.32 ACRES



Project Details:

Buckthorn removal in areas 1 and 3 will be done using a track loader with mulching attachment. Some manual removal (chainsaws, etc.) will be done in areas 1 and 3 where the mower cannot access. Removal in area 1 will begin on the east side of the area and go as far west as budget allows (approximately 10 acres of area 1). In area 2, buckthorn removal will be done manually with treatments. No treatments will be made to the buckthorn removal areas.

Timeline:

- 2021 – City staff applied for and received grant from MnDNR.
- 2021-2023 – Project delayed
- April 2023 – Buckthorn removal included in 2023 IPM workplan and presented to council.
- Late summer/Early Fall, 2023 – Staff solicited quotes from multiple vendors.
- October 14, 2023 – Staff solicited feedback from residents and park users.
- Late October/November 2023 – Review feedback, vendor quotes and work methods.
- November, 2023 – Provide recommendation to council.
- January/February – Contractor to perform buckthorn removal.
- 2024 – Consider next steps to maintain removal area in Freeman Park and expand removal in other public areas.

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