Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc.
Civil Engineers • Structural Engineers • Land Surveyors • Environmental Specialists
www.hlrengineering.com

April 23, 2025

Mr. Rich Babica
Public Works Director
City of Geneva
1800 South Street
Geneva, Illinois 60134

RE: 2024 Geneva Miller Road SSA Native Management Summary

Dear Mr. Babica,

Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick, Inc. (HLR) has managed the Miller Road SSA 4 natural area for the City of Geneva for many seasons. This site continues to improve in quality after each year of maintenance. Management during the 2024 growing season consisted of a combination of removal techniques and enhancements. Below is the summary for the Miller Road SSA 4 native area managed by HLR for the City of Geneva.

Maintenance on this site included multiple herbicide treatments throughout the growing season. These treatments mainly targeted horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), and crown vetch (*Securigera varia*). It was observed in June 2024, that a vegetable garden was planted in the center of the site. A large area of native plants had been removed to accommodate the garden. The garden was removed, however, it impacted the natural area by decreasing native plant abundance and leaving large bare spots.

The site contains a diverse community of native plants. Some of the plants that can be found on site are hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*), false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*), and side oats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). A custom seed mix was installed in March 2024 to fill in any bare areas found on site, including the area with the vegetable garden. A list of species installed can be found on the table below.

CUSTOM SEED SPECIES	
SCIENTIFIC NAME	**COMMON NAME**
BOUTELOUA CURTIPENDULA	SIDE OATS GRAMA
RUDBECKIA HIRTA	BLACK EYED SUSAN
COREOPSIS LANCEOLATA	SAND COREOPSIS
ELMUS CANADENSIS	CANADA WILD RYE
ELYMUS VIRGINICIS	VIRGINIA WILD RYE
RUDBECKIA SUBTOMENTOSA	SWEET BLACK-EYED SUSAN
PENSTEMON DIGITALIS	FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE
MONARDA FISTULOSA	WILD BERGAMOT
RATIBIDA PINNATA	YELLOW CONEFLOWER
EUPATORIUM ALTISSIMUM	TALL BONESET
DESMANTHUS ILLINOENSIS	ILLINOIS BUNDLEFLOWER

For the 2025 season, HLR recommends the continuation of monthly herbicide treatments during the growing season. Persistent treatment will continue to remove the undesirable species, creating space for the native species to flourish. Spot seeding will continue to fill in any bare areas, especially in the middle where the vegetable garden is located. The vegetable garden should be should be addressed if it reappears in 2025. The site would benefit from a dormant mow to remove built up vegetation. It is essential that early emerging invasive species such as winter cress (*Barbarea verna*) be treated in the spring so native plants have the best chance of development.

The site has shown a substantial amount of growth from previous years of maintenance. Invasive, undesirable, and weedy species have all seen a steady decline in population. As a result, this site contains a diverse native population. We have appreciated the opportunity to work with the City of Geneva in 2024. Please feel free to reach out at kdumoulin@hlreng.com with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Kristin Dumoulin

HAMPTON, LENZINI AND RENWICK, INC.
Kristin Dumoulin
Environmental Scientist

Photo 1: Species such as butterfly weed flourishing on site (06.19.2024)

Photo 2: South end of site, facing south. (06.19.2024)

Photo 3: Vegetable garden at center of site. (06.19.2024)

Photo 4: A wide variety of native species can be found on site (06.19.2024)

Photo 5: North end of site, facing south (06.19.2024)

Photo 6: Center of site, facing south (06.19.2024)