



# Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Habitat Project





# PROJECT PROPOSAL

## Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Habitat Project

We have a 3-year plan to control invasive species at four different sites in the Baird Creek Greenway over 44+ acres with the focus to restore the areas back to prime habitat for the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.





The foundation has been addressing the need to get on top of the hundreds of acres of invasive species that we are battling in the 500+ acre Baird Creek Greenway. The goal is to remove large areas of invasives so that native species can be planted, and ideal habitat can be created for key species, such as the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and other pollinators.



According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's survey assessment for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee conservation, the Baird Creek Greenway is in a number one priority area for conservation work targeted toward this species. We have been able to keep on top of removing invasive species and restoring native habitat through volunteers for many years, but in 2017 we identified that the invasives were outgrowing the helping hands that we have. Invasive species were addressed in order of prevalence, buckthorn, honeysuckle and autumn olive.

That initial large scale removal was so successful we then started on two additional areas. In the last year we've been able to stay on top of treating re-sprouts, plant native species (that are geared toward pollinators like the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee) into the treated areas, and start cutting in new areas.



The areas that we are focusing on is making a huge impact to the understory in our wooded areas. Recurrence and regrowth of natives along with planting additional native species is impacting the quality of habitat in restored areas for wildlife, as well as improving recreational and educational access for humans. Having these natural areas for folks to get outside and help their mental and physical health is immensely important.

We have been working with a local company to remove invasive species before moving on to prescribed burns and planting native species. Because they are trained in what they do, they cut and treat invasives faster than volunteers. That being said, our volunteers are a critical piece of the puzzle as they haul the cut material and help cut and treat areas during volunteer events.



The Greenway is important to Green Bay and surrounding areas, as we know from tracking trail cameras, that during a two-hour period we have counted over 200 people using one area of trail. The Baird Creek Greenway is unlike other city, county, and state parks as it is an urban ecologically rich greenspace that is accessible, free, and appeals to all ages, races, and abilities. It provides recreational and educational opportunities, which are limited by the invasive species that exist in the greenway. Buckthorn and honeysuckle hinder our education offerings as well as recreation – biking, hiking, and skiing populations, as well as our plant and wildlife species, because of the ripping thorns and the thickness of the understory making it hard to navigate.

<b>Expenses</b>	
Prep Ball Field/Sprays	\$ 33,500.00
Cut and Treat Invasives Initial	\$ 34,480.00
Retreatment Invasives	\$ 17,240.00
Burns	\$ 25,000.00
Native Planting	\$ 22,200.00
Scrub Tree Removal	\$ 17,000.00
Mowing/Maintenance	\$ 19,556.00
Project Management	\$ 19,000.00
	<b>\$187,976.00</b>

<b>Rusty Patched Funds So Far</b>	
Partners for Fish & Wildlife - Initial Cut Stump and	\$ 30,000.00
Retreatment	\$ 17,240.00
Ecological Services	\$ 16,000.00
Private Foundation	\$ 49,768.00
Greater Green Bay Community Foundation	\$ 10,000.00
Byron L. Walter Family Trust	\$ 30,000.00
	<b>\$153,008.00</b>

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