



## Prior Lake Maintenance Mowing Program

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The city of Prior Lake operates many parks, trails, and natural areas for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. To keep these facilities functioning properly, city maintenance crews focus on critical areas for mowing and other vegetation removal. While many natural areas can be left untouched, some require periodic maintenance. [View this map](#) to see which stormwater basins the city mows on a 3-4 year cycle. Schedules are based on a variety of factors; therefore, the city is unable to provide a specific schedule for each individual basin.

City maintenance crews perform maintenance mowing on a regular basis in these areas:

- Trail corridors and intersections to enhance visibility, access, and safety
- Prairie restoration sites to remove weeds and woody species and enhance native prairie plants
- Around stormwater infrastructure (pond slopes, pond inlets and outlets) to ensure these critical areas continue to provide water quality treatment and prevent flooding

Additional benefits of maintenance mowing include:

- Promotes long-term growth of perennial grasses and flowers instead of weeds and nuisance woody species such as willows, sumac, cottonwood, and buckthorn
- Regular maintenance reduces the need to perform more costly large-scale maintenance projects in the future

Timing of maintenance mowing:

- Crews avoid mowing during active bird nesting season
- Late June through September typically provides ideal conditions for mowing, but mowing may also be done at other times throughout the year if conditions allow
- Mowing may temporarily remove flowering plants but this practice, overall, is good for long-term maintenance and enhancement of desirable plant species including native flowers

City staff works hard to balance the desire for undisturbed natural areas with the maintenance needs of our infrastructure. Please reach out to our Public Works Department at 952-447-9896 or [pwadmin@priorlakemn.gov](mailto:pwadmin@priorlakemn.gov) if you have any questions.



Day of mowing



One year later