

EDGE MANAGEMENT MONITORING PLAN – 180 MOUNTAIN ROAD

Objective

To monitor and ensure the successful establishment of edge plantings and mitigate the establishment of invasive species.

Long-Term Goal

To establish a self-sustaining native planting system with a mortality rate below 5%, negligible invasive species presence, and successful integration into the surrounding landscape.

a. Timing of Monitoring and Frequency

- **Initial Planting:**
 - Fall (September): Initial baseline survey to assess planting success and certification to support initial security release.
 - **Warranty Period Year 1:**
 - Spring (May-June): Assess winter survival, re-plant as necessary, and check for invasive species emergence.
 - Fall (October): Monitoring to assess growth, survival rates, signs of stress, pest issues, early mortality, and invasive species presence.
 - **Warranty Period Year 2:**
 - Spring (May-June): Assess winter survival, re-plant as necessary, and check for invasive species emergence.
 - Fall (October): Final assessment of plant health and survival and certification to support final security release.
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b. Style of Monitoring

1. Visual Assessments:

- Walk-through surveys to observe overall plant health (color, vigor, pest/disease presence).

- Documentation using photographs at select locations for comparison over time, as necessary.

2. Quantitative Measurements:

- Selective measurement of plant height, canopy width, and stem diameter for growth tracking.
- Record survival rates (live vs. dead plants).

3. Establishment Comparison:

- Compare against original planting specifications (e.g., size at planting) and species-specific growth benchmarks.
- Evaluate plants' performance relative to reference plantings or similar sites with established vegetation.

c. Mortality Threshold

- A 10-15% mortality rate in Year 1, allowing for initial transplant shock.
- If mortality exceeds 20% in Year 1 or 15% in Year 2, additional plants will be introduced to replace the lost vegetation.

d. Recommendations if Plants are Failing

1. Immediate Actions:

- Identify the primary cause of failure (e.g., insufficient water, pest damage, soil quality, or competition).
- Increase or adjust watering techniques, especially during dry periods, as required.
- Apply fertilizers or soil amendments as needed to improve soil quality.

2. Replacement Strategy:

- Replace dead or failing plants with hardier or more site-suitable species, as may be recommended by the Landscape Architect of Record.
- Time replacements during optimal planting seasons (spring or fall) for better survival.

3. Pest/Disease Management:

- Use organic or chemical treatments as appropriate, following integrated pest management (IPM) practices.
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e. Invasive Species Management

1. Early Detection:

- Monitor for invasive species during all scheduled assessments.
- Document locations and extent of invasive species presence.

2. Management Techniques:

- Manual Removal: Hand-pull or cut invasive plants to prevent seed dispersal.
- Mechanical Control: Use tools for larger infestations while minimizing soil disturbance.
- Chemical Control: Apply herbicides selectively where manual/mechanical control is insufficient, ensuring minimal impact on native plants.

3. Prevention Strategies:

- Mulch exposed soil areas to suppress weed growth.
 - Establish a dense ground cover of native plants to reduce invasive colonization.
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Documentation and Reporting

- **Create a summary report after each monitoring session, including:**
 - Survival rates and growth data.
 - Photos for visual comparison, as necessary.
 - Actions taken (e.g., replacements, soil amendments, invasive species removal).
 - Recommendations for the next monitoring period.