

# BAXTER & WOODMAN NEWS

Consulting Engineers

Making a positive difference through innovative engineering solutions

New Services Offered Through Baxter & Woodman Natural Resources, LLC

## NATIVE ECOSYSTEM MAINTENANCE

**B**axter & Woodman Natural Resources, LLC (BWNR) provides native ecological assessments and maintenance services. BWNR specializes in the design of native ecosystems for stormwater runoff and/or wildlife habitat enhancement. Once the native ecosystem is designed, BWNR assesses the quality of the ecosystem and creates a maintenance plan to ensure the ecosystem stays healthy and functions correctly.

Maintaining a healthy native ecosystem can require multiple years of maintenance. BWNR offers the expertise to know which type of maintenance service is needed and when. The following services are important to maintaining a healthy native area.

**Prescribed Burning.** Burning helps “clean up” an area by eliminating the past year’s materials. Less material build up allows the soils to warm more quickly in the spring resulting in quicker germination of native species and easier regrowth. Burning also helps the soils. During burning, all of the past material turn to ash. The carbon within this ash helps improve the soil composition for the next year. Burning is recommended on a 3-5 year cycle for any native ecosystem.

**Herbicide and Mowing.** Mowing and herbiciding keeps invasive vegetation in check. Mowing 8-12” high in the earlier part of the summer cuts all of the weed heads off prior to flowering, but does not impede the native plant growth. Selective herbiciding kills the invasive species, but gives room for native species to expand and grow.

**Brush Clearing.** Brush clearing keeps any invasive brush from taking over an area. Clearing unwanted brush helps prevent erosion that can occur when unwanted brush shades native species preventing their growth and expansion creating areas of bare soil. Native species have deep root structure to hold soils in place, whereas invasive brush has shallow

root zones and when shade keeps the soil bare gullyng can occur. Invasive brush roots can also get into drainage structures of a detention basin preventing proper drainage.



### DETENTION BASIN MAINTENANCE

BWNR can assist if a detention basin is not functioning correctly. BWNR will retrofit the detention basin with native plantings so the basin functions in a more efficient manner. Retrofit basins offer cost savings and environmental benefits. Less maintenance is required with native basins. Some native grasses and herbs are salt tolerant and can draw pollutants out of the soils and stormwater runoff. These type of basins help clean stormwater runoff before the runoff enters streams and creeks.

For more information, contact Coilin McConnell at [cmconnell@baxterwoodman.com](mailto:cmconnell@baxterwoodman.com).

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