

GREENWAY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

CITY ADMINISTRATOR DIRECTIVE 01-16

February 2, 2016

INTRODUCTION

Enforcement of this policy is delegated and issued to all departments and employees responsible for management of greenway areas and code enforcement within the City of North Mankato.

DIRECTIVE SECTIONS

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BACKGROUND

The City of North Mankato has 22 dedicated parks totaling 277 acres of land. The parks are classified as neighborhood, community, special use, open space or athletic complexes. Some, but not all, areas in the 277 acres include greenways. The City also maintains ditches, outlots, storm water holding ponds, ravines and other property as greenways. These areas are productive nesting sites for birds and animals that nest on the ground or in low vegetation and can be destroyed because of disturbance during spring and summer. Greenways are an important community amenity and advance the strategic goals of the City of North Mankato by providing outstanding recreational opportunities, vibrant neighborhoods, and an excellent quality of life.

For the purpose of this policy, a North Mankato Greenway is defined as areas highlighted on Exhibit A to this Directive.

DITCHES

1. Sunset Lane Ditch (from end of road to County Road 13)
2. Lor Ray Ditch (from White Oak Drive to Sunset Lane)

Management Directive: Staff will adopt Minnesota Statute 160.232. Staff will spray as necessary to control noxious weeds.

OUTLOTS NOT USED AS STORMWATER HOLDING PONDS

1. Corner of Timm Road & Lor-Ray Drive
2. Area West of Eagle Ridge North Storm Water Pond

Management Directive: Staff will adopt Minnesota Statute 160.232. Staff will spray as necessary to control noxious weeds.

STORM WATER HOLDING PONDS (excludes privately owned ponds)

1. Reserve
2. Eagle Ridge North
3. Eagle Ridge South
4. Arlington Lane
5. Coventry Pond West
6. Coventry Pond East
7. Coventry Court Pond
8. Walter S Farm Park Pond
9. Caswell Park Pond
10. Rockford Road West
11. Rockford Road East
12. Abbywood Lane Pond
13. Camden Court Ravine Pond
14. Aspen Lane Pond
15. Peregrine Lane Pond
16. Edgewood Court Pond
17. Otter Court Pond
18. Parks Edge Pond(s)
19. Pleasant View Park Pond
20. Wells Fargo Pond

Management Directive: From the breakline of the pond to the water, no mowing will occur until after August 1st unless spraying noxious weeds in the area does not successfully control noxious weeds. Staff will spray as necessary to control noxious weeds. Private property owners abutting city owned holding ponds who desire to mow or plant gardens in the 15 foot buffer prescribed in this policy may do so upon approval of the Community Development Director.

WETLANDS

1. 41 & County Road Six Wetland
2. Benson Park Wetland East (a) Benson Park Wetland West (b)
3. Haughton Avenue Wetland

Management Directive: For the Wetland on 41 & County Road Six, staff will continue to work under the directive of the local DNR agent. Typical maintenance includes burning, mowing and spraying noxious weeds. The Benson Park wetland will be spot sprayed as needed and burned

every 3-5 years. The Haughton Avenue Wetland will be maintained under the management practices utilized at the time of this directive. .

BAYS, LAKES, AND PONDS

1. Ladybug Lake
2. Little Bug Bay
3. Benson Park Regional Pond
4. Spring Lake

Management Directive:

Lady Bug Lake – An unmowed 15 foot buffer strip will be sprayed as needed. One - two access points will be cleared along the perimeter of the lake that are no wider than 30 feet.

Little Bug Bay - An unmowed 15 foot buffer strip will be sprayed as needed. One-two access points will be cleared along the perimeter of the lake that are no wider than 30 feet.

Benson Park Regional Pond - An unmowed 15 foot buffer strip will be sprayed as needed. Two – three access points will be cleared along the perimeter of the lake that are no wider than 30 feet.

Spring Lake – The perimeter of Spring Lake will continue to be maintained as it has been as of the date of this directive. When appropriate and feasible, appropriate greenway management practices identified in this policy should be used in the park.

PRAIRIES

1. Benson Prairie
2. Bluff Prairie

Management Directive: Benson Prairie will be maintained according to the Benson Prairie Plan. A Bluff Prairie Plan will be developed mirroring the efforts at Benson Park.

RAVINES

Management Directive:

- Maintenance roads and trails will be maintained with sand unless a pedestrian safety issue is present.
- Unpaved pedestrian trails will incorporate wood chips to prevent erosion.
- Trees in ravines will not be maintained unless safety is an issue.
- Invasive species such as sumac and buckthorn shall be removed and treated when they are observed to be colonizing

- Removed trees should be removed flush with the ground and pruning should be done by the best practices method established by the University of Minnesota and times of year to limit the chance of disease.

SCENIC OVERLOOKS

1. Bluff Park
2. Lookout Drive Overlook

Management Directive: Trees along scenic bluffs shall be maintained or removed to provide optimum aesthetics.

EMERALD ASH BORE THREAT & OTHER SPECIES AS NEED BE

Management Directive: Staff is directed to evaluate and remove Ash trees determined to be mismanaged or unhealthy. Trees that are removed can be replaced by a specie selected by the City Forester. Ash trees determined to be of high value are to be inoculated.

MOWING HEIGHT

Management Directive: Staff is directed to maintain parks and greenways that are regularly mowed at a height of 3 inches.

Questions regarding implementation of this directive should be directed to Brad Swanson, Public Works Director (507-625-4141) or Michael Fischer, Community Development Director (507-625-4141)

