

Greenway Technical Committee Staff

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Grand Forks Park District Office
1210 7th Ave. S. Grand Forks, ND
10:30 am- Noon

Steve Mullally, GF Park District
Dave Aker, EGF Parks & Rec
Steve Sagaser, NDSU Extention

Gladwin Lynne, RRSRA
Kim Greendahl, City of GF

Guests:

Scott Keil, All Seasons Garden
Dieter Hietmann, All Seasons Garden
Melissa Grafenauer, GF Park District

Roger Wagner, University of Crookston
Chris Warrkoetter, MN DNR

The topic of this meeting was how to handle weed control and tree disease issues within the Greenway.

Weed Control Issues

Chris from the MN DNR gave an overview of the noxious weed problems in northwestern MN state parks and the methods the MN DNR uses to manage the situation. The main types of weeds the agency sees in the parks are Tansy, Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed and Purple Loosestrife and smaller areas with other types of weeds. MN DNR believes that complete eradication of the weeds is not plausible so they put their efforts into trying to curb growth as much as possible, especially in public areas.

Along with chemical applications and controlled burns, the MN DNR has started educating their staff and contracted workers about the dangers of unintentionally spreading weed seeds. Trucks and atv's can spread the weed seeds under their carriage while working in areas where weeds are present. They are promoting the washing of undercarriages on a regular basis when working in off road areas. Sometimes the cheaper bids for plants can also contain noxious weeds. Dirt brought in from other sources is another way weed infiltrate the area.

Any attempt to eradicate weeds will require a multi-step plan using a variety of tools. The best way to have an impact on weed control is to develop a plan that maps the areas of concern, identifies the plants and ranks the high priority areas. That will make it easier to work out a strategy for dealing with the problem and chart progress. One piece of the plan should be to include the use of volunteers to clean up sites. It might be helpful to post an overview on the website for the public to reference.

The Greenway could be divided into two categories: frequent flooding and occasional flooding. These areas should be treated separately when considering vegetation and weed control.

Vegetation that should be considered should be able to withstand flooding because once a strong stand of desirable vegetation is established it is more difficult for weed seed to be dropped during high water times. Sedges and brome grasses are good choices in these areas.

Trees

Ash trees have been experiencing some trouble in the past few years. In some trees the buds come out but don't leaf out. Frost cracks have been found in some Green Ash and Black Ash, which could have come from the root grafting. They also turn color early then die after a few years.

Hackberry has been a proven long-term tree for this area. This is a good choice for flood plains because it likes being wet. One problem with this species is that by June it loses 20% of it's leaves.

Other trees to consider planting in the Greenway are:

Box Elder	Cathedral Elm
Manitoba Maple	Freedom Elm
Ohio Buckeye	Hawthorne
Bur Oak	Chokecherry
Discovery Elm	Wild Plum
	Willows

There is concern about the spread of tree disease in the area. The Rydell Wildlife Refuge has been experiencing needle cast with their Colorado Spruce yet but they keep selling it to the public as a fundraiser, which in turn brings the disease to neighborhoods.

Next Greenway Technical Committee meeting: September 9, 2008, 10:30 am at Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South.

Next Greenway Technical Committee STAFF meeting: October 14, 2008, 10:30 a;m at Grand Forks Park District, 1210 7th Avenue South.

Submitted by: Kim Greendahl, Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks