

Vegetation and Weed Control for the City of Grand Forks Greenway

Summary: The primary function of the Greenway is to serve as a floodplain to allow the flow of high water through Greater Grand Forks. Fortunately, this occurs on an infrequent basis. During times of normal water flow, the Greenway provides seemingly endless opportunities for recreation and outdoor enjoyment.

Managing the Greenway requires a balance of preserving and restoring the natural setting while providing recreational opportunities for park users. The best practices for vegetation management are not always compatible with visitor services or access but are necessary for long-range planning. The main criteria for deciding vegetation maintenance plans is how it will affect flood control.

Goals and objectives: The goals of vegetation restoration and management are:

- Maintain a functional flood protection system to protect the community
- Provide both natural and manicured areas for the enjoyment of greenway visitors and wildlife
- Restore and build natural bank stabilization through vegetation
- Administer vegetation control methods that control weed population and encourage healthy vegetation growth

Types of weeds:

Noxious weeds: any species of plants "which when established is or may become destructive and difficult to control by ordinary means of cultivation or other farm practices." Noxious weeds have a high capacity for destruction and can be difficult to control or remove.

Troublesome weeds: any plant considered undesirable, unattractive, or troublesome, especially one growing where it is not wanted.

Methods: Mowing, burning and herbicides have been used to maintain and restore areas in the Greenway.

Riparian Restoration

A riverbank stabilization and wildflower restoration project was started in 2005 in several areas along the Red River in the Greenway. Funding for the project was received by from Red River Regional Council-Red River Basin Riparian Project. This included North Dakota Forest Service and the Energy & Environmental Research Center as well as North Dakota Game & Fish Department. Funds from the City of Grand Forks were also used for the project.