


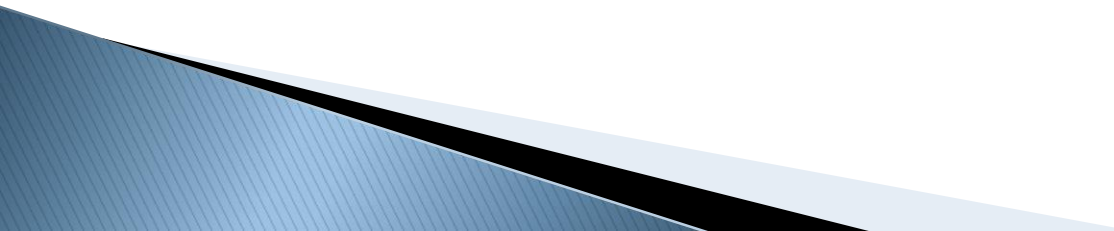
City Engineering Land Management Policy

Brief history, current practices, what Engineering is proposing going forward & plan of action in 2016

Brief History of City Greenway and Pond Maintenance

- ▶ Engineering has been running a pilot project since 2012 in which Greenways and Ponds went from being mowed entirely twice a year, to only mowing invasive weed patches as needed in order to give native plants a chance to establish.
 - ▶ Previously, we presented the results of the greenway & pond mowing pilot. Those results indicated that crew labor was reduced with the spot mowing method.
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Current City Greenway and Pond Maintenance

- ▶ Engineering Department maintains approximately 1,100 acres of greenways and ponds.
 - ▶ Approximately 10% of these 1,100 acres were managed in the Selective Prairie Management program for the past 3 years.
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Since the last presentation in Dec 2015...

- ▶ Engineering has created a Greenway and Pond Management Policy to identify the importance of what we are doing and why.

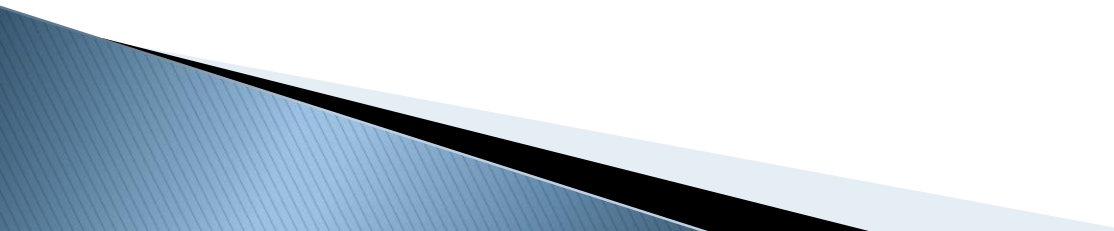
Purpose of the Land Management Policy

- ▶ Define the different types of land cover present in City storm water drainage and environmental corridors.
 - ▶ Create a framework of management practices and goals for each land cover type.
 - ▶ Ensure these systems perform their primary function as storm water drainage and conveyance.
 - ▶ Promote wildlife habitat– especially bee pollinator, reduce mowing, create sense of place, improve soil and water quality, prevent invasive plants from spreading.
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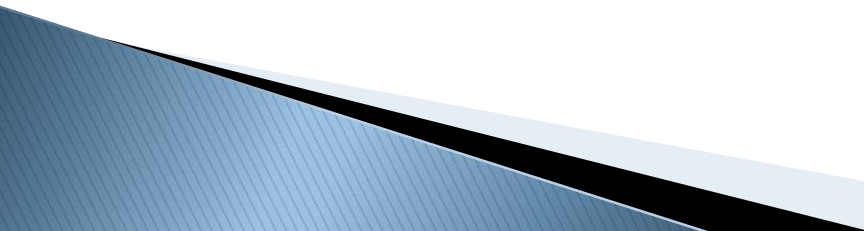
2016 Goal and Plan of Action

- ▶ Engineering has had continued requests to expand this project. This, combined with the recommendations of the Pollinator Task Force to provide additional bee habitat and our own goals to increase water quality, has led us to propose a goal of increasing acres managed to 30% in the next 5 years.
- ▶ In order meet this goal to increase actively managed land, we need to inventory what is growing there, place it in the appropriate land category, and manage accordingly in 2017.
- ▶ To find out what is growing, we will temporarily pause mowing on 20 ponds and greenways (totaling approx 75 acres) in order to inventory vegetation.

2016 Plan of Action , continued

- ▶ Volunteers will continue to be an integral part of monitoring sites, removing, and treating invasive plants.
 - ▶ Operation Fresh Start will work with Engineering staff to remove invasive trees and plants , and treat with herbicide as needed.
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Next Slides will Briefly go Over the 7 Land Cover Categories

- ▶ 1. Existing prairie and grass meadows
 - ▶ 2. Newly seeded prairie
 - ▶ 3. Mowed meadows
 - ▶ 4. Unmowed (managed) meadows
 - ▶ 5. Woodland greenways
 - ▶ 6. Wetland channels and basins
 - ▶ 7. Concrete and riprap channeled greenways
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1. Existing Prairie and Grass Meadow



2. Newly seeded prairie



3. Mowed meadows



4. Unmowed (managed meadows)



5. Woodland Greenways



6. Wetland Channels and Basins



7. Concrete and Riprap Channeled Greenways



In Summary...

- ▶ 2016 is a year of both inventory and transition to appropriate land management based on what category the vegetation falls in.
 - ▶ By winter, we will know the acreage of each type of land category to be maintained.
 - ▶ We will plan the 2017 maintenance strategy to reflect what we find.
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