City Engineering- Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer Section

Pond and greenway invasive plant management

Background:

- Engineering owns and maintains approximately 1,200 acres of storm water drainage ponds and greenway corridors
- Vegetation varies- approx. 60% are prairie, many are mowed grass, some wooded, some wetland, etc
- Engineering must ensure these systems perform their primary function as storm water drainage and conveyance
- We follow **Pollinator Taskforce** recommendations to promote wildlife habitat- especially bee pollinator by **reduced mowing and preventing invasive plants from spreading.**

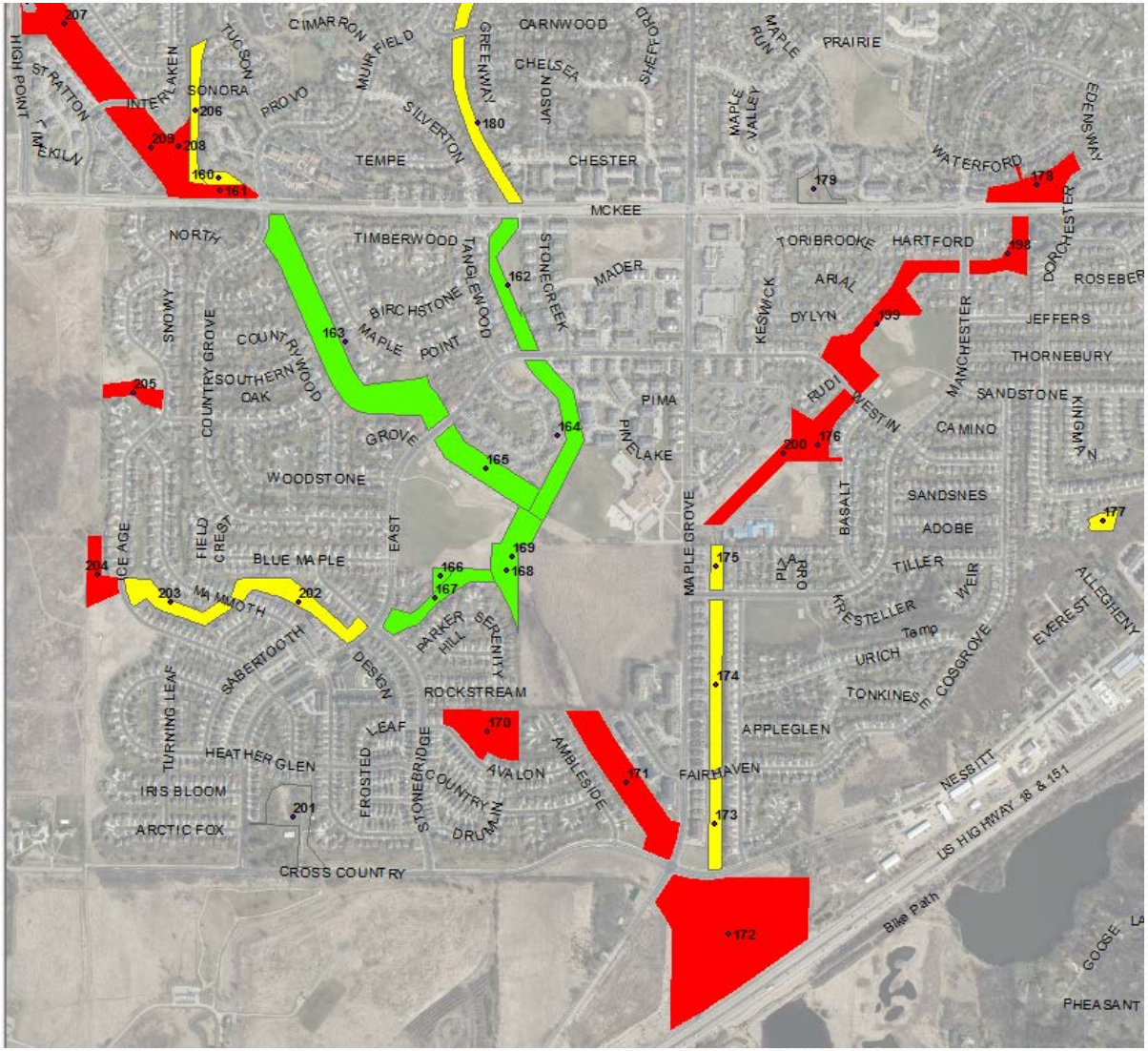
Pond and greenway map example

Legend:

Red= Prairie no mow unless work order

Yellow= Turf Mow 2x year

Green= Turf, weeds Mow 1x in June



Stormwater Ponds and Greenways for Pollinators

Process to determine how to manage:

1. Inventory all 1,200 acres. What is growing where?

2. Now we know what is growing. What is good and what is bad?

3. Define which invasive species to target & remove as much as possible and which areas are a priority.

4. Timing of invasive removal.

5. Communication.

Existing Prairie and Grass Meadow

Newly Seeded Prairie

Mowed grass

Unmowed (managed meadows)

Woodland greenways

Wetland Channels and Basins

Concrete and Riprap Channeled Greenways

How we do this…

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.

Stormwater area native planting management

- Volunteers, hired crews (Operation Fresh Start and other licensed contractors) or Engineering Operations crews

Herbicide

- Use minimal amounts of herbicide only when other manual / mechanical methods do not work- example willows at outfall structures and Japanese knotweed
- Use a small amount of herbicide by cutting and treating rather than foliar application when possible
- Herbicide after mowing or prescribed burn is preferable

IPM Reporting

- Engineering tracks and records all herbicide use from contractors, volunteers, employees annually and submits an Integrated Pest Management report to Public Health

Why this is important?

It's important to keep a diversity of flowering plants for pollinator food and habitat.

Questions?

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