

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR SHAW
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: BONNIE HUGHES

SUBJECT: WEED PROGRAM

DATE: APRIL 25, 2001

Mayor Shaw asked that I facilitate the development of a program for abatement of weeds using the funding that was included in the Parks Department and Ordinance Enforcement budgets for FY2001. (\$25,000 in Parks Budget, \$6,000 in Ordinance Enforcement budget).

Lon Van Deusen, Gary Garner, Umit Spencer and I have met with Scott Guffey, Pennington County Weed and Pest Board to discuss the locations of “noxious” weeds and the requirements of working to eradicate Canada thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, and leafy spurge.

The city must begin controlling the noxious matter on their properties if we are to work with private property owners in abating the noxious matter on private lands. The program that has been put together will address public lands, concrete islands, and concrete weeds adjoining residential and commercial properties.

PUBLIC LANDS:

Pennington County Weed and Pest will spray the following areas of City owned property where noxious weeds have been identified:

Park Drive, Sheridan Lake Road, Dyess Avenue and Haines Avenue rights of ways—Canada thistle
St. Patrick Street, east of Lombardy Industrial Park—Canada thistle and others
Hwy 44 West by Fish Hatchery, hockey rink, and along Rapid Creek—Canada thistle
Lemmon Avenue drainage ditch and Meade Street drainage ditch—Canada thistle and others
Minnesota Street @ S.Hwy 79 and Minnesota Street @ 5th Street Intersections—Canada thistle (publicly owned property)
Rapid Creek at Sioux Park—Purple loosestrife
Skyline Drive Preservation land – Dalmatian toadflax (billing for This area will be sent to foundation holding the land)

CONCRETE ISLANDS:

Pennington County Weed and Pest will spray sterilization on all concrete islands located in the City. The locations are as follows:

E. North and Cambell Street
 Disk Drive and Haines
 North Street and Haines
 5th Street and Omaha
 Fairmont Blvd and Highway 79
 Minnesota Street and Highway 79
 Third Street at Fairmont Blvd.
 West Blvd at St. Joe, West Blvd. at Omaha Street
 Jackson Blvd. at West Main Street
 West Main and Sturgis Road
 Sturgis Road and W. Chicago Street
 South Canyon Road and West Chicago
 South Canyon Road and West Main
 South Canyon Road and 44th Street
 44th Street and Raider Road
 Mt. View and Canyon Lake Drive
 Steele Avenue and E. St. Joe
 Mt. View and West Main
 Jackson Blvd and Mt View Road

The costs for Pennington County Weed and Pest to spray these areas is estimated at \$10,000. The rate is Equipment and one person @ \$40.00/hour plus chemical; additional person (when needed) \$15/hour.

OTHER CITY LANDS:

The Parks Department crews will handle all noxious weeds located on city parkland and smaller tracts of city owned land where noxious weeds may be growing. The Parks Department will also work to eradicate the (concrete) weeds growing through expansion joints in the bike path.

PRIVATE LANDS:

Scott Guffey, Pennington County Weed and Pest, has identified some areas of private land ownership with noxious weeds that Ordinance Enforcement will follow through with notice to the property owners. Should the property owners fail to complete the required control of noxious weeds, the City will abate the weeds by whatever method is appropriate. Scott Guffey has educated city staff on the issues of the right time to spray, and even though a landowner may cut the cover, spraying is still required to eradicate the noxious weeds.

CONCRETE WEEDS:

These are the weeds growing through the concrete joints along sidewalks and the curb. We will develop a postcard for mailing to property owners asking them to join the City in eradicating unsightly weeds along their property. Information on the card will explain options they have for handling the weeds. Those properties will be identified with the help of City employees who are in the field on a daily basis (inspectors, ordinance enforcement), and residents of the community will be encouraged to notify Code Enforcement of addresses with these type of weeds. There will not be any abatement done on the concrete weeds, just an outreach effort to encourage residents' participation in making our city look better.