

No-Mow Policy

In an effort to maximize the aesthetics of our city's natural areas and trail corridors, the following policy was written in 2010 and revised in 2016.



POLICY

The City of Greeley Culture, Parks and Recreation Department, Parks Division, has a “No-Mow” policy for areas within the city that are designed native grass landscapes, designated natural areas and trails, and undeveloped city-owned properties. These are places of special interest and uses that are different from neighborhood park settings. These areas are much more passive and accommodate low-impact uses. Natural areas are managed to maintain and strengthen native grass species, with the primary goal being the health of native vegetation, which, in turn, helps to reduce the occurrence of weeds. The focus is on enriching habitats through improved cover of native species and control of noxious weeds, allowing access to trails by citizens when appropriate. Weeds will be managed and eradicated wherever possible by mechanical, chemical and natural means.

WHY “NO-MOW?”

A natural area is non-irrigated land that receives water only from rain and snow – it is an area that would exist in nature if left undisturbed. The No-Mow policy is similar to policies that nearby cities have enacted. With signage and education, these policies have gained public support.

We enjoy many benefits from healthy, native vegetation, and No-Mow maintenance is critical for the proper management of a natural area.

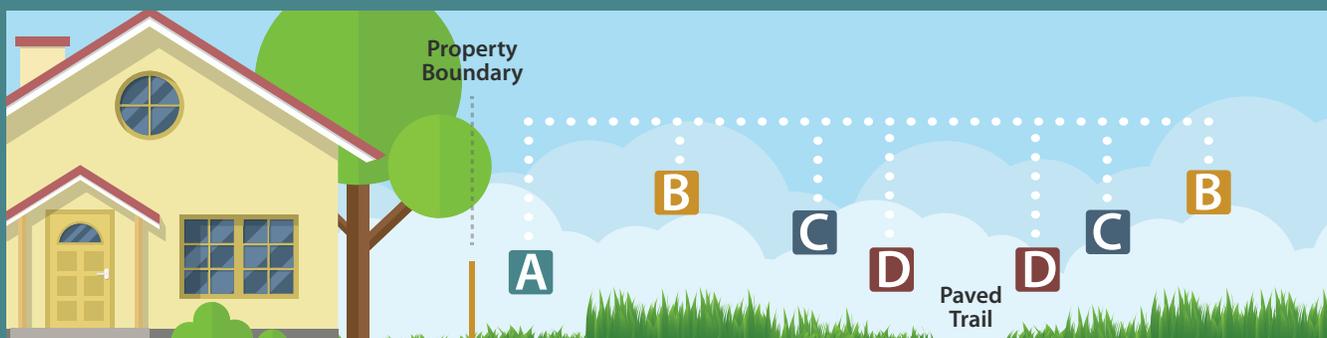
BENEFITS

- Native grasses regenerate naturally by propagating their own seed.
- Native grasses support wildlife by providing food and cover.
- Native grasses help promote the return of other native plant and animal species.
- Native grasses improve air quality through reduced spent-fuel emissions.
- Native grasses help filter storm water run-off and prevent soil erosion.
- With no fertilizers required, there is less chemical impact on the environment.
- When allowed to grow to natural height, native grasses reduce non-native weed growth

ADDITIONALLY

No-mow management will extend the life of equipment used in these areas, reduce demand for fuel usage and allow us to allocate staff hours for needed maintenance tasks that would otherwise be spent on mowing.

Maintenance Guidelines



A A courtesy cut may be warranted up to 3 times each year no shorter than 6-8” in height.

B No-mow area to preserve natural area

C Tiered trail cut to 8-12” high and roughly 3’ in width maximum

D Tiered trail cut to 6-8” high and roughly 3’ in width maximum

TARGETED MOWING

- One mower cut (6' maximum) maintained on either side of a concrete or soft-surface trail up to 3 times per growing season, May 15th through September 15th.
- One courtesy cut (15' maximum) maintained along the property line, if feasible and accessible, where a designated natural area abuts residential/commercial property up to 3 times per growing season, May 15th through September 15th.

WEED CONTROL

- Weed control will be on an as-needed basis to control noxious weeds designated on the Colorado Noxious Weed List A of "must control" weeds and Lists B & C for "watch list" weeds.
- Weed control will be warranted by the site and conditions and can consist of mechanical, biological, chemical and/or natural control methods.

ALL MOWING, MAINTENANCE AND WEED CONTROL ACTIONS WILL BE EVALUATED ON A SITE-BY-SITE BASIS AND INFLUENCED BY WEATHER CONDITIONS AND HEALTH OF THE VEGETATION.

TRAIL CORRIDORS

- Broadview Acres
- Larson
- Mountain Vista
- Owl Ridge
- Pebble Brook/Mountain Shadows
- Sheep Draw

DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS

- 1st Avenue Pond
- Cottonwood Bend
- Country Club West
- East Memorial
- Glenmere Urban Wildlife Sanctuary
- Greeley West
- Homestead Park and Gateway Lakes
- Hunters Cove
- JB Jones Park
- McCloskey
- Peakview Park
- Poudre Ponds Recreational Fishery
- Pumpkin Ridge
- Ramseier Farm Park
- Sheep Draw
- Signature Bluffs
- Triple Creek Conservation Easement

UNDESIGNATED CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

- 20th Street spillways between 71st Avenue and 77th Avenue
- Northridge Estates
- Youth Sports Complex undeveloped park land

For questions, contact:

**City of Greeley Forestry,
Natural Areas & Trails**

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Police Non-Emergency:

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