

# No-Mow Policy



*In an effort to maximize the aesthetics of our city's detention ponds and right-of-ways, the following*

## POLICY

The City of Greeley Public Works Department, Streets and Stormwater Division, has a “No-Mow” policy for areas within the city that are designed native grass landscapes, designated natural areas, detention ponds, right-of-ways, trails, and undeveloped city-owned properties. These are places of special interest and uses that are much 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 and wildflower 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 diverse cover of native species and management of designated noxious weeds. Noxious 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 by human activities. We enjoy many benefits from healthy, native vegetation, and no-mow maintenance is critical for the proper management of a natural area. Native grasses will increase in height and health and ultimately suppress weed growth if left unmown or mowed at a taller height when mowing cannot be avoided.

Greeley’s No-Mow Policy is similar to policies that nearby cities have enacted. Through public education, these policies have gained support by local citizens.

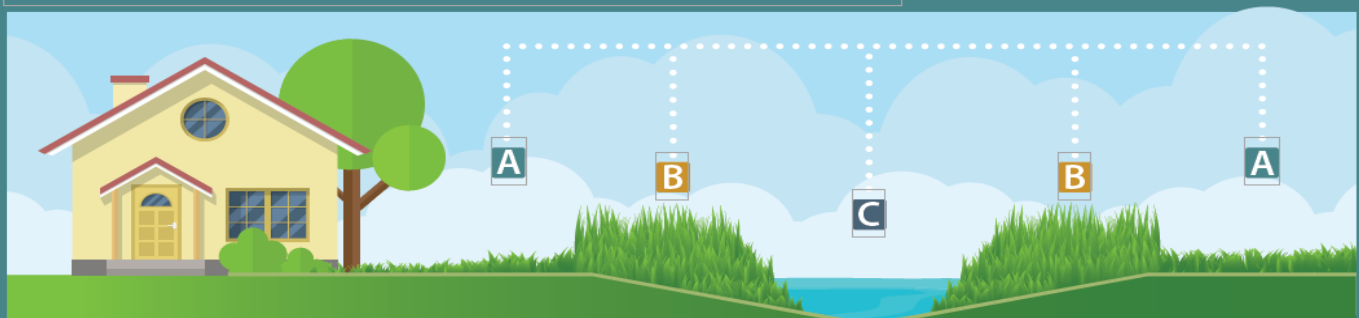
## BENEFITS

- 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 help filter storm water run-off.
- No-Mow management improves air quality through reduced spent-fuel emissions.
- When allowed to grow to natural height, native grasses reduce non-native weed growth.
- There is reduced chemical impact on the environment due to elimination of fertilizer use and fewer weeds.

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

No-mow management is an effective use of tax funds as it extends the life of equipment used in these areas, reduces fuel usage and allows staff hours to be allocated for other necessary maintenance tasks that would otherwise be spent on mowing.

## Detention Pond Maintenance Guidelines



- A A courtesy cut may be warranted up to 3 times a year at 15' width and 6" height
- B No-mow area to promote desirable vegetation
- C A cut at the bottom of the detention along the drainage swale may be warranted up to 3 times a year at 15' width and 6" height

## TARGETED MOWING

- 6' maximum width, 6-12" high on each side of a concrete or soft-surface trail up to 3 times per growing season, May 15th through September 15th.
- 15' maximum width, 6-8" high, 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 management will be on an as-needed basis to control noxious weeds designated on the Colorado Noxious Weed List A of "must eradicate" weeds, Lists B & C for "designated management," as well as the "watch list" weeds.
- Weed management strategies will be determined by the site and conditions and may consist of mechanical, biological and/or chemical control methods, based on State requirements.

MOWING, MAINTENANCE AND WEED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WILL BE EVALUATED ON A SITE-BY-SITE BASIS AND ARE INFLUENCED BY WEATHER CONDITIONS AND HEALTH OF THE NATIVE VEGETATION.

## Detention Ponds

20th Street & Basswood - BALSAM VILLAGE  
1900 block 1st Avenue - CITY OWNED  
500 block East 20th Street - SOMMERSETT  
300 block East 20th Street - SOMMERSETT  
24th Street & Alpine - PARKVIEW  
26th Street & Ash Avenue - PARKVIEW  
26th Street & Balsam - PARKVIEW  
22nd Street & Balsam - BALSAM  
29th Street Rd & 13th Avenue - CRESTVIEW  
3rd Street & 17th Avenue - GURA  
13th Street & 16th Avenue Ct MAPPLEWOOD  
4th Street & 21st Avenue - CRAWFORD  
1st Street & 21st Avenue - TRIANGLE  
"B" Street & 23rd Avenue Ct - ROYBEC  
2400 block 29th Street - AMACO  
"C" Street & 30th Avenue NORTHVIEW  
100 block 23rd Avenue - PRAIRIE VIEW  
2800 block 10th Street - POLICE DEPT  
3700 block 16th Street - BITTERSWEET  
"B" Street 43rd Avenue Ct - EAGLEVIEW  
29th Street & 41st Avenue - GATEWAY  
4600 block 32nd Street - GATEWAY  
300 block 42nd Avenue - LARSON  
"C" Street 47th Avenue - WEBER WEST  
25th Street & 53rd Avenue - HIGHLAND  
5600 block 4th Street - WEST POINT  
5870 4th Street - WEST POINT  
27th Street & 56th Avenue - JOSEPHINE JONES  
18th Street & 59th Avenue - HILAND KNOLLS  
1700 block 59th Avenue - COUNTRY CLUB  
20th Street & 59th Avenue - HIGHLAND HILLS  
15th Street & 51st Avenue - COUNTRY CLUB

32nd Street & 56th Avenue - T-BONE  
Drakes East property line - DRAKES CROSSING  
23rd Street & 68th Avenue - DRAKES CROSSING  
20th Street & 68th Avenue - DRAKES CROSSING  
3rd Street Road & 63rd Avenue - HUNTERS COVE  
12th Street & 77th Avenue - BOOMARANG RANCH  
20th Street & 71st Avenue - HOMESTEAD HEIGHTS  
20th Street & 74th Avenue - HOMESTEAD HEIGHTS  
18th Street Road & 85th Avenue - MOUNTIAN SHADOWS  
10th Street & 83rd Avenue - CDOT  
10th Street & 8500 block - CDOT  
10th Street & 95th Avenue - CDOT  
10th street & 101st Avenue - CDOT

# MYTH OR FACT

## **Tall grasses in drainage areas prevent water from flowing downstream.**

*In actuality, these grasses do slow down water movement. But, that is a good thing. Slowing the movement of water reduces erosion and, thereby, sedimentation of streams, ponds, and rivers. Slowing the runoff allows the moisture to seep into the ground for the benefit of the vegetation and helps to recharge groundwater. This process also allows potential pollutants to be filtered out before the storm water reaches the stream, creek, river, or pond.*

## **Tall grasses are a fire hazard. They need to be mowed to prevent a fire.**

*While these grasses, when dry, could be subject to a wildland fire, mowing them does not remove the fuel load. Instead of being tall, they are concentrated on the ground which may result in a hotter fire. Dale Lyman, formerly Greeley's Fire Marshall and now, Fire Chief, stated, "Mowing the grass alone wouldn't make a significant risk reduction, in that the fuel would still be there. I recommend that homeowners ensure that they maintain a "defensible space" between the fuel load in the field and their homes. This will most likely already be there if they have a bluegrass lawn in that area." If you are concerned about the potential for damage to your property, your best defense is to maintain your lawn. If there are trees or shrubs adjacent to the natural area and close to structures you might consider removing them. It should also be noted that tall, non-dormant native grasses act as a "water reservoir" and actually provide a level of defense against a stronger-intensity wildfire.*

For questions, contact:

**City of Greeley Street Division**

**Vegetation Management**

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[GreeleyGov.com/StreetMaintenance](http://GreeleyGov.com/StreetMaintenance)