

# Natural Areas Update – WildWing Metropolitan District

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# Status after 2022

- Re-seeding
  - Reseeding is on hold while we observe the progress of existing seeding work throughout the community
  - LOTS of winter moisture should help with establishment
- Weed Control
  - Timing of kochia herbicide treatments was better this year and less summer mowing was needed
  - Herbicide was used in some seeded areas because heavy weed cover was impeding grass growth. Will determine whether supplemental seeding is needed at the end of 2023 growing season.

# Status after 2022

- Mowing
  - Timing on beauty bands was better and cleaner edges were maintained through the season
  - High-traffic areas receiving annual mows in late fall
  - Annual weed control spot-mowing will continue as needed
- Existing vegetation
  - Cool-season monocultures are struggling throughout northern CO, including WildWing. Hot, dry conditions thin out cool-season grass (e.g. smooth brome) and weeds replace them.
  - Continuing to monitor listed woody noxious weed species (Russian olive and tamarisk) and removing when needed.

# Plan for 2023

- Weeds
  - At the community scale, weeds are better under control even with difficult dry, hot conditions in the past several years
  - Adjusting focus to key problematic areas
  - Mowing, herbicide as appropriate
- Mowing
  - Continue maintaining sidewalk edges and beauty bands as needed (growth and mowing needs are dependent on moisture and temperature)

# Plan for 2023

- Irrigation
  - Investigating irrigation in natural areas, both existing and above-ground temporary
  - Prioritize problematic areas (water budget)
  - Irrigation encourages weeds as well as grasses, so we will adjust weed management as needed
- First steps for the season
  - First edging and beauty band
  - Spraying for annual weeds (especially kochia)

# Revegetation Progress

- Weed control (chemical, mechanical) before and after seeding
- Modified seed mixes appear to be working – seeing native warm-season grasses in troublesome (hot and dry) areas
- Challenges
  - Remaining weed seeds in soil
  - Heat
  - Dry conditions
- Establishment time and site conditions (weeds, bare ground, desirable seed germination) are currently as expected for non-irrigated grass

# Revegetation Progress



August 2020 – Pre-seeding  
(weeds treated with herbicide)



May 2021 – 5 months post-seed  
(mostly cool-season grasses)



Seeing mature grasses along edges  
and developing grasses in middle

August 2022 – 21 months post-seed  
(warm-season grass from mix)

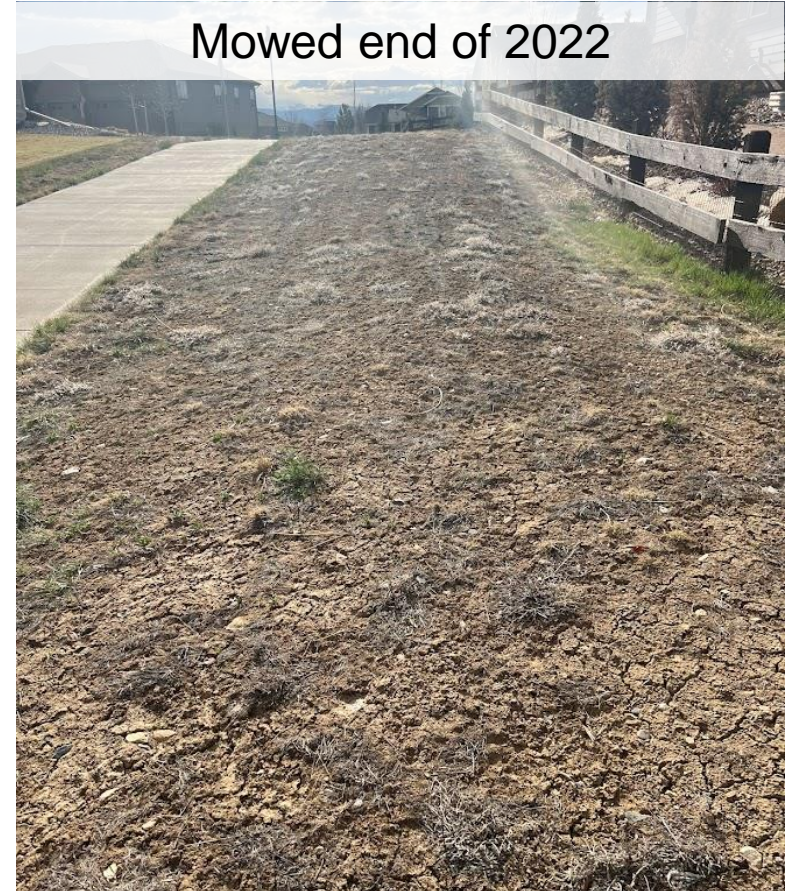
# Revegetation Progress

Seeing mature grasses along edges  
and developing grasses in middle



August 2022 – 21 months post-seed  
(warm-season grass from mix)

Mowed end of 2022



April 2023 – waiting for spring  
regrowth



# Reminders

- Still seeing mowing outside of homeowner property boundaries
  - Residential mowers cut too short for non-irrigated grasses
  - Fence lines and property lines will be kept mowed to an appropriate height
  - Too much mowing beyond the fence line encourages weeds, stresses desired grasses, and will kill grass cover over time
  - Seeing grasses dying and weeds encroaching in these areas (see next photo)

# Reminders



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- Please do not dump grass clippings or other yard waste in the natural areas
  - Smothers the grass underneath and encourages weeds
  - Grass clippings degrade very slowly and remain in the landscape for a long time
  - Dirt, gravel, etc. do not disperse or naturally revegetate easily

WildWing Natural Area Management Scope - 2022  
High Plains Environmental Center  
60 acres

