

# TALL VEGETATION CONTROL

## GLOSSARY

### **Abate**

- Cutting, trimming, or otherwise destroying Noxious Weeds or uncontrolled vegetation to comply with the restrictions of this chapter.

### **Cultivated vegetation**

- Vegetation intentionally planted, grown and maintained in a lawn or garden, including but not limited to vegetable gardens, raised garden beds, flower beds, prairie pockets, and landscaping.

### **Hearing Officer**

- The City Manager or his/her designee.

### **Herbaceous plants**

- Plants with flexible, green stems with few to no woody parts.
- Herbaceous plants are also known as forbs or wildflowers.
- This broad category of plants includes many perennials, and nearly all annuals and biennials.

### **Invasive species**

- A plant that is both non-native and able to establish on many sites, grows quickly, and spreads to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems.
- An aggressive, rapidly reproducing, non-native plant whose presence causes or is likely to cause economic or environment harm, or harm to human health.
- Examples: Sump Weed, Horseweed, Poison Ivy, Ragweed.

### **Landscaping**

- Active involvement in the encouragement of selected plants to grow on a site.

### **Lawn (aka turf grass)**

- An area of short, mowed grass in a yard.

### **Managed Natural Landscape (MNL)**

- Means a planned, intentional, and well maintained planting of native and/or nonnative grasses, wildflowers, forbs, ferns, shrubs, or trees, including but not limited to rain gardens, meadows vegetation, and ornamental plants.
  - Managed natural landscapes may include plants that grow in excess of twelve (12) inches in height or that have gone to seed, but may not include any noxious weeds, and must be maintained to not include unintended vegetation.
  - Managed natural landscapes do not include turf-grass lawns left unattended for the purpose of returning to a natural state (aka "wilding").
  - Managed natural landscapes may not include any plants which due to location and manner of growth constitute a hazard to the public or may cause injury or damage to persons or property when such growth is in excess of twelve (12) inches.

### **Meadow vegetation**

- Means grasses and flowering broad-leaf plants that are native or adapted to the State of Kansas, and are commonly found in meadow, prairie plant communities, but not including noxious weeds.

### **Native plant**

- A plant occurring naturally within Kansas that existed in the area prior to European settlement.
- A plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem.
- This includes approximately 180 species of grass native to Kansas. Big Bluestem and Indian Grass are common in relatively moist soils. Little Bluestem and Side-Oats Grama are common in dryer areas.

### **Natural landscape**

- The use of groups of plants native to the area.
- A planned, intentional, and maintained planting of groups of native plants (grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs).
- Natural landscaping is **allowed to exceed the maximum height and maintenance requirements** of traditional turf landscapes (unless it becomes neglected).
- The City encourages native species in landscapes, but at a minimum, species used are required to be non-invasive and proven adaptable to the local climate.

### **Naturalistic landscape**

- The use of native and non-native plants.

### **Noxious weed**

- Noxious weeds shall have the meaning assigned by KSA 2-1314.

### **Nusances**

- Except as part of a managed natural landscape as defined in this section, any weeds or grasses growing upon any lot or parcel of land in the city to a greater height than twelve (12) inches, or that have gone or are about to go to seed, are prohibited.
- Any vegetation that is known to be injurious to the public health, welfare and safety. Example: Poison Ivy.

### **Ornamental plants**

- Mean grasses, perennials, annuals and groundcovers purposefully planted for aesthetic reasons.
  - Ornamental and native grasses, if incorporated in managed natural landscaping, shall be exempt from overgrowth unless growth is allowed to become dangerous with rodent habitation or heavy fire fuel load.

### **Owner**

- Any person or entity that has title or interest in real property including the interests of a tenant or lessee. For the purposes of this Article, this includes any person or entity acting as the agent for or on behalf of the Owner and has authority over the property or is responsible for the maintenance or management of the property.

or

- Any owner, agent, lessee, tenant, or other person occupying or having charge or control of any premises.

## **Prairie**

- A plant community dominated by a diversity of native perennial herbaceous plants and grasses.

## **Prairie Pocket**

- A pocket prairie is a small, pollinator-friendly planting or “pocket” of native plants. Any planted area under 1 acre can be considered a pocket prairie. (See “[How to Grow a Pocket Prairie](#)”)

## **Rain garden**

- Means a native plant garden that is designed not only to aesthetically improve properties, but also to reduce the amount of stormwater and accompanying pollutants from entering streams, lake and rivers.

## **Tall grass and weeds**

- In turf lawns and uncultivated areas, vegetation in excess of

## **Tallgrass Prairie**

- An ecosystem native to central North America. Historically, natural and anthropogenic fire, as well as grazing by large mammals (primarily bison) provided periodic disturbances to these ecosystems, limiting the encroachment of trees, recycling nutrients soil nutrients, and facilitating seed dispersal and germination. Prior to widespread use of the steel plow, which enabled large scale conversion to agricultural land use, tallgrass prairies extended throughout the American Midwest. Due to expansive agricultural land use, very little tallgrass prairie remains.

## **Traditional landscaping**

- The use of turf grasses and woody plants (shrubbery and trees) with defined areas for cultivation of annual and perennial plants.

## **Turf grasses**

- Means bluegrass, fescue, buffalo grass, and ryegrass blends, with non-woody vegetation interspersed with them, commonly used in cut lawns.

## **Turf grass lawn**

- Means a lawn comprised mostly of grasses commonly used in regularly cut lawns or play areas, including but not limited to bluegrass, fescue, buffalo grass, and ryegrass blends, intended to be maintained at a height of no more than twelve (12) inches.

## **Uncultivated vegetation**

- Means plants grown from seeds that are not intentionally planted, such as seeds blown in by the wind or dropped from the sky by birds.

## **Unmanaged plant growth**

- Any uncontrolled or uncultivated vegetation that is greater than 8” in height above the ground and many include grass, herbaceous plant, shrub or tree.

## **Vegetation**

- Plant life considered collectively including trees, shrubs, grasses, herbs, ferns, forbs, and mosses.

## Weed

1. Prohibited noxious weeds.
2. Invasive species.
3. **In lawns and uncultivated areas:** vegetation in excess of twelve inches (12") in height, and a stem diameter of less than two inches (2") on lots with structures, and a height in excess of eighteen inches (18") on vacant lots.
4. Any undesirable or troublesome plant that is horticulturally out of place.
5. For the purposes of this chapter, *Taraxacum officinale* (**common dandelion**) is not considered a weed.