

Combined Weed Program

City of Lincoln

August 2011 Monthly Report

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds

Proposed changes to Weed Abatement and Interlocal Agreement

Lancaster County Weed Control along with Chris Connolly at the City Attorneys office and Brittany Behrens at the County Attorneys office have been working the last few months on some changes to the Weed Abatement Ordinance and the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the County.

The first is the "Notice of Potential Lien" in the Ordinance. Presently when we do a force control the landowner receives a bill and we post it on our website as a possible weed special assessment. <http://lincoln.ne.gov/asp/cnty/weeds/assess.aspx>

This allows Title Companies to go and check to see if there are any possible assessments against a certain property. The problem is that this does not always happen; some properties are sold between the time we do enforcement and the time it is filed against the property at the Councils December meeting.

The new process follows closely what State Law requires by having us file a "Possible Notice of Unpaid Assessment" with the Register of Deeds office within 5 days of doing the enforcement. This will put a red flag on each property we have enforced on. All title companies check with Register of Deeds, so this will eliminate any properties being sold in that time period without clearing the lien. We will still present the unpaid enforcements to the Council at the December meeting to officially make it a lien against the property, but at least it will close the 5 to 6 month period loop hole that is there now.

Another positive change is in the interlocal agreement on the mowing of large properties. This will allow large properties to follow more closely what Parks and Recreation are doing in the city parks. It would allow us to not conduct control activities on lots of one acre or more if such lots meet the following conditions:

- Grassy areas are kept free of weeds
- Mowed when vegetation is mature in the fall
- The lot is mowed back no less than 50 feet from streets, residences, or businesses at all times

One other notable change is the "posting" of sites. This will allow the Authority to post the notice in a conspicuous location on the property. This will be a valuable tool in notifying landowners that choose not to pick up their certified mail. It will also be a visible sign to let the neighbors know that something is being done about the problem.

Inspection Activity

It was my understanding that about the time schools started the weed complaints would slow down.... but with all the rain we are still receiving between 20 and 30 complaints a day. This with our regular workload is keeping us very busy.



Our inspectors have completed 4,209 inspections within the City of Lincoln. Weed Abatement accounted for 3,537 inspections and another 672 on Noxious Weeds in the city.

We've sent 945 legal notices and had to do 239 force controls for a total of \$34,199.01 paid out to contractors.

September Planned Activities

- 2 NWCA booth at State Fair
- 5 Labor Day
- 8 Management Team
- 9 NE Invasive Species Council
- 13 UNL invasive species class
- 20 Lower Platte WMA
- 22 SE NACO at Mahoney
- 29 Problem Resolution Team