



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

ACM: Christine Taylor, Assistant City Manager

DATE: July 1, 2024

SUBJECT

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the establishment of a Wildflower Program, a.k.a. Low Mow Areas, for city-owned property and public ROWs.

BACKGROUND

On April 19, 2024, Council Member Meltzer requested information regarding “Low Mow” and “Wildflower Areas” within the city park system. In December 2020, Parks and Recreation presented a plan to reduce mowing and establishing wildflowers in select areas.

Staff attempted initial plantings at Robertson/Bell, Eagle/Elm, Windsor/Bonnie Brae and North Lakes Park, but Bermuda grass continues to compete with the wildflowers, thus reducing the success. Some of these areas are no longer being utilized as wildflower areas. Staff has re-seeded the Robertson/Bell area annually as well as attempted to eliminate the bermudagrass with minimal success.

Earlier this Spring, Parks and Recreation, along with Fire, conducted controlled burns at North Lakes Park and the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. Wildflower seed was spread across the impacted area to h

In the Spring of 2024, staff created an area along Cooper Creek/Old North Rd. as a “Low Mow” area. While this area has just recently stopped mowing to allow the grass to grow, staff will continue to monitor its success and feedback from the community.

Over the last few years, in cooperation with the Fire Department, Parks and Recreation have completed a number of controlled burns to help stimulate the growth of wildflowers. This Spring, controlled burns were conducted at both the Wildflower Trail in North Lakes Park and the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Area. The areas were overseeded with wildflower seed. Staff continues to monitor the success of these plantings.

With new leadership in Park Planning and Operations, staff will revisit the overall plan that was originally presented to City Council and Park Board and provide an update over the next few months to allow time for additional research and outreach to other municipalities.

OPTIONS

- Do not support the development of a Wildflower Program.
- Support staff efforts to pursue development of a Wildflower Program with a phased approach, beginning with 10-20 acres.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends support to pursue a Wildflower Program.

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF PROJECT

- Research: 2024/2025
- Implementation: Summer/Fall 2025
- Maintenance: Ongoing

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)

Dec. 14, 2020: Parks, Recreation, and Beautification Board Discussion

FISCAL INFORMATION

Based upon discussions with other cities in the DFW Metroplex who have developed a wildflower program, it is estimated that the cost to establish native planting areas is between \$1,000 and \$1,200 per acre.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1- Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2- Proposed Planting Areas

Respectfully submitted:

Gary Packan, Director of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:

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Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation