



***Weed Control Authority  
2017 Director Evaluation***

**Brent Meyer**

**Lancaster County Weed Superintendent**

09.04.2012 22:12



# Lancaster County / City of Lincoln Combined Weed Program

- Provide a coordinated program for control of Noxious Weeds County wide - and Weed Abatement within Lincoln's City limits.
- By Interlocal agreement in 1996 the City of Lincoln's Weed Abatement Program combined with Lancaster Counties Noxious Weed Program.
- Lancaster County Board of Commissioners are responsible to carry out the Combined Program.
- A merger that created a more efficient and stronger agency.
- More convenient for the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

# Customer Relations

- Working with landowners to better understand the benefits of controlling their noxious weeds.
  - Build relationships with landowners to see us as their resource for all weeds issues, instead of the enforcement agency.
  - Weed-free forage inspections are great landowner relations
  - Handle approximately 2,000 complaints from the public annually.
- 
- LANCASTER COUNTY –  
PROTECTIVE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

# Inspections & Enforcements

- The base of everything we do...
- 2016 Inspections
  - 9,588 inspections on 4,855 parcels
  - 1,802 complaints from the public
  - 1,124 legal notices issued
  - 274 enforcements performed by contractors





# Noxious Weed Inspections

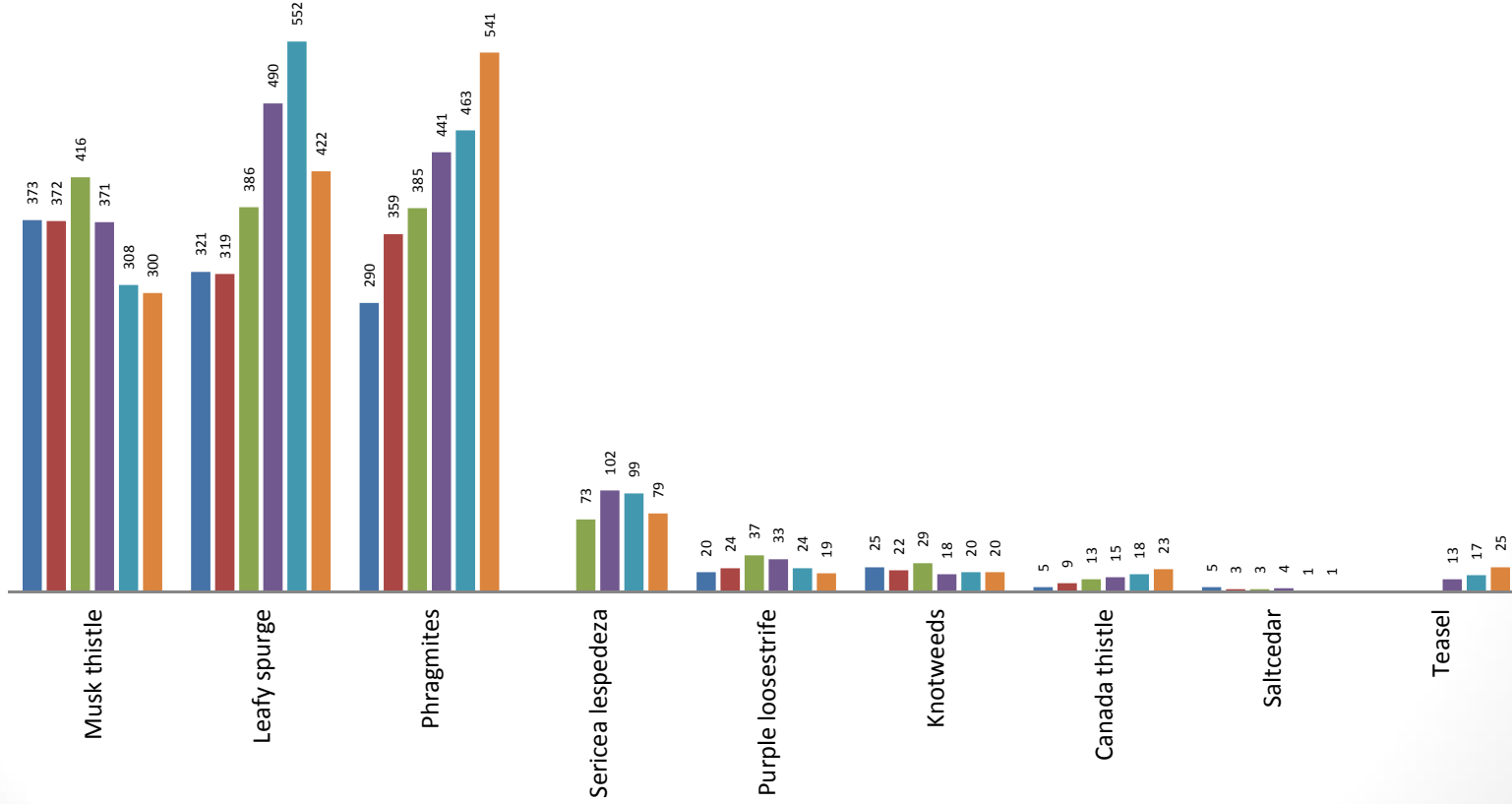
- Parcels inspected – 1,964
- Total inspections – 3,378
- Legal Notices sent - 204
- Force controls performed – 16
- Liens filed for non-payment – 2
- Court cases - 0



# Noxious Weed Infestations

## Noxious Weed Infestations

■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016





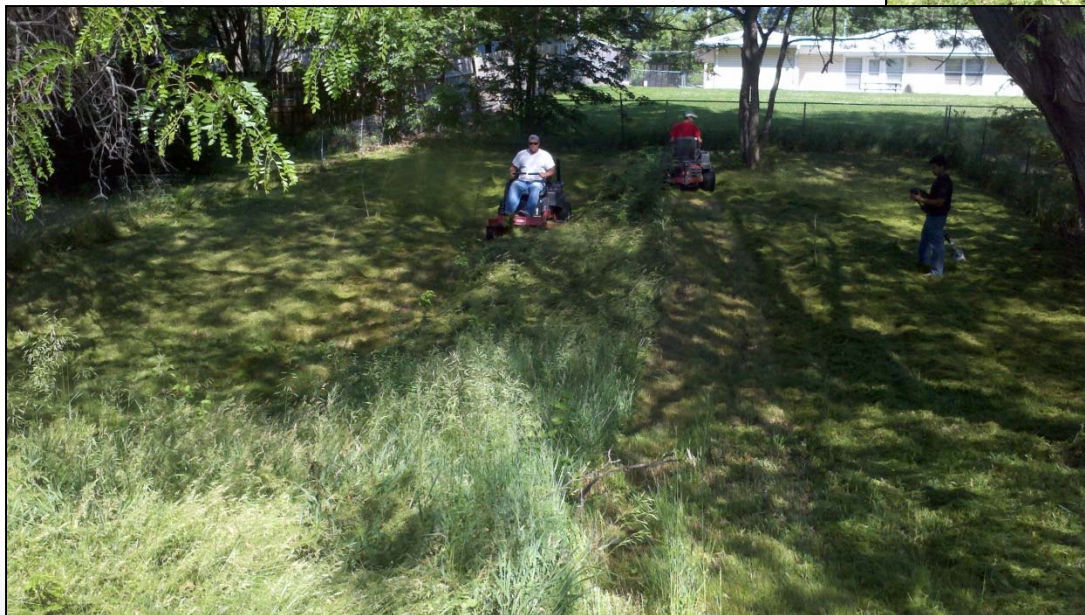
# Weed Abatement

- Parcels inspected - 2,891
- Total inspections – 6,210
- Legal notices sent - 920
- Force controls performed - 258
- 1,763 complaints from the public



# Weed Abatement Enforcements

- In 2016 our office performed 258 force controls
- 5 year average is 287





# PRT – Problem Resolution Team





# Education Opportunities – UNL Plant Pathology Class





# Outreach



**Lancaster County Weed Control**

**Lincoln Parks & Recreation**  
Landscaping

"Working together to control the spread of noxious and invasive plants in the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County."

**Become a Weed Watcher Volunteer** and learn how to detect and report these invasive plants before they get out of hand

These invasive plants are required by State law to be controlled.

For more information on becoming a Weed Watcher volunteer, or to report a sighting contact the Lancaster County Weed Control Office

<http://lancaster.ne.gov/weeds>  
402-441-7817

**Wetland Invaders**

**Phragmites**

**Purple loosestrife**

**Saltcedar**

**Knotweed**



# Weed Watcher Team

- Weed Watcher program trains and supports volunteers to look for and report harmful invasive plants.

*Join our "NEW" Weed Watcher Team*

*Can you help look for these pesky plants?*



*Become a Weed Watcher Volunteer and learn how to detect and Report these invasive plants before they get out of hand*

**What is the Weed Watcher Program?** The Lancaster County Weed Watcher Program trains and supports volunteers to look for and report harmful invasive plants.

**Why Become a Weed Watcher?** Weeds cause real problems by Disrupting ecosystems and Decreasing the value of our land. Weeds grow so prolifically that they displace native plants. You can help keep them out by looking for and reporting these plants.



**What does a Weed Watcher Do?**

1. **Learn the weeds** 
2. **Look for weeds.** 
3. **Document weeds** 
4. **Report weeds.** 

**For more information about becoming a Weed Watcher Volunteer**  
Contact Lancaster County Weed Control: 402-441-7817  
weeds@lanaster.ne.gov <http://lanaster.ne.gov/weeds>



# NAISMA Weed-free Forage

- North American Invasive Species Management Association  
[www.naisma.org](http://www.naisma.org) - 26 States or Provinces are involved
- Using Certified WFF on all roadside projects (State & Local)



# NAISMA Weed-free Gravel

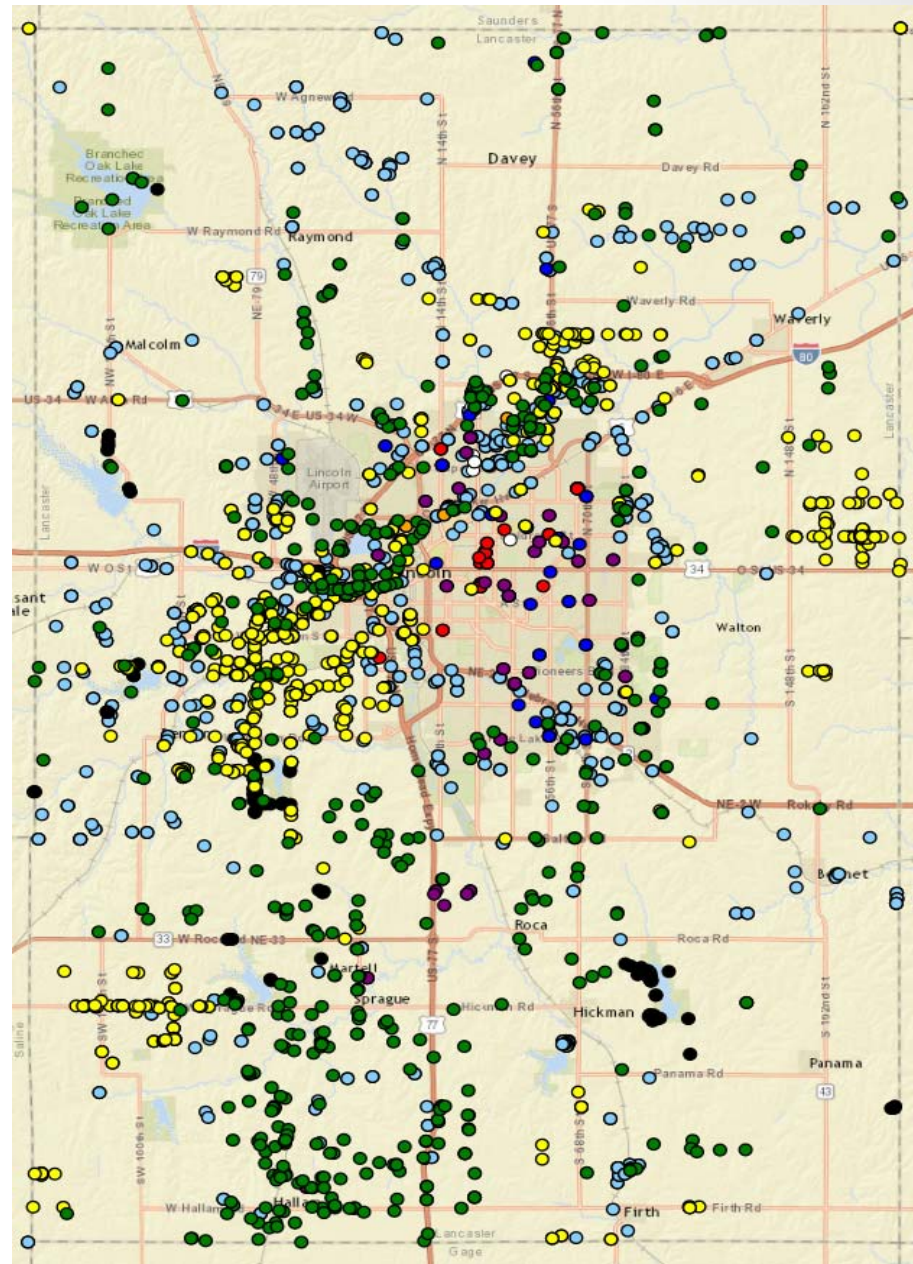
- Lancaster County was the first County in Nebraska to require the gravel pits to be inspected and certified Noxious Weed Free.
- Each pit is inspected twice a year to verify noxious weeds have not been allowed to produce seed.
- Any project having dirt moved into it also is required to have the borrow pit inspected prior to moving dirt.





# Mapping

- GPS locations of all noxious weed locations
- Use GIS / ESRI to create GPS locations
- Inspectors use tablets that have the GPS locations loaded.
- Color coded to match the plants file color.





# NO SPRAY ZONES

- Working with Sensitive Crop producers
  - Grape vineyards
  - Vegetable
  - Organic growers
  - Bee's & Honey



# County Right of Way – Noxious Weed Control

- Currently in our 3<sup>rd</sup> season of using our own sprayer to treat the perennial noxious weeds in the County ROW.
- We are seeing a significant reduction in the acres infested and are spending much less time and money on applications.
- Still use contractors for areas too large for our equipment to handle.
- The new UTV and Sprayer will increase our productivity along the ROW's

# Early Detection - Rapid Response EDRR      What will be next?

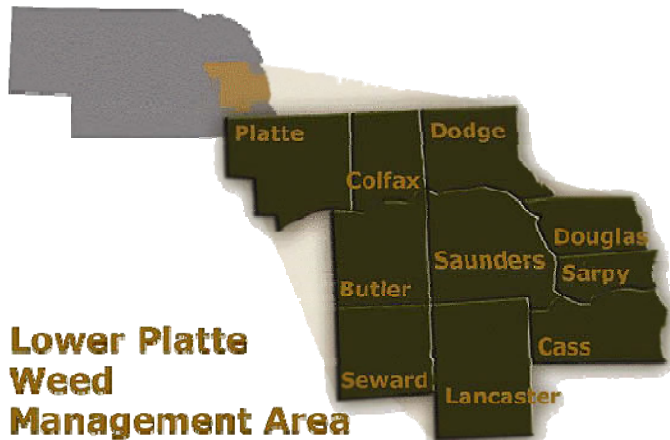
- 3 out of the last 5 noxious weeds added to Nebraska's Noxious Weed list were first sold as ornamentals.
- Lancaster County has added both Common & Cutleaf Teasel.
- Always looking for something out of place





# Weed Management Areas (WMA's)

- Belong to two WMA's because of the diversity of our County
- Lower Platte fits better with our northern part of the County with more creeks & streams.
- 5 Rivers WMA fits well with our southern part since that area has most of the sericea lespedeza.



# Helicopter Applications

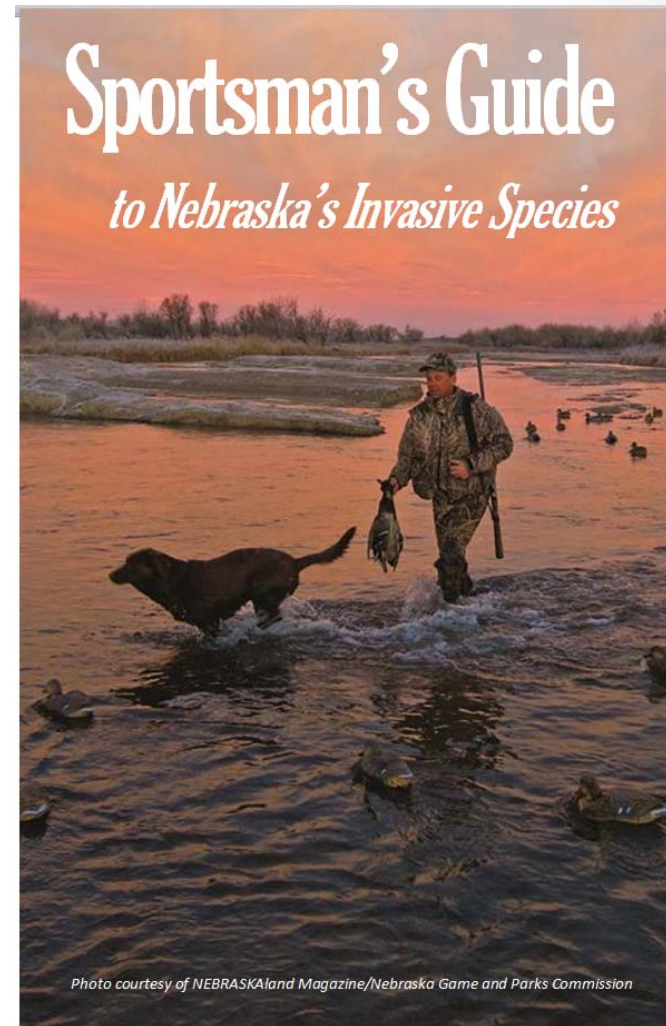
- Provide landowners the connection for helicopter applications
- Oversee the treatment of phragmites on Salt Creek and the 48<sup>th</sup> St landfill.
- Currently working with Rotor Wings Aviation out of Hebron to give landowners a local option.





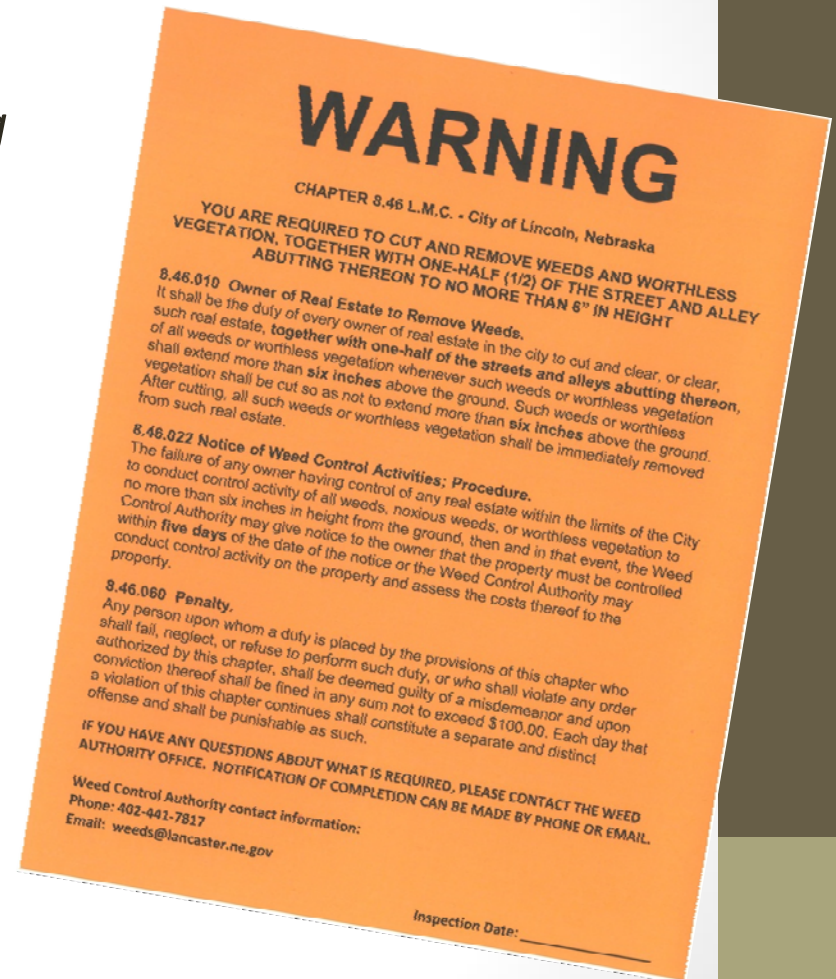
# Accomplishments

- NET grant - \$3,000 Public Information and Education Grant (PIE)
- Funding for private landowners from NDA through the LPWMA
- Funding for private landowners on sericea lespedeza through 5 Rivers WMA.
- Tax Sale Certificates for Weed Abatement
- PlayCleanGo Steering Committee
- LB 1038 funding
- Serving as the chair for the Governor's Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force.
- Change in Weed Abatement with posting the properties.



# Warning Sign \$avings!

- In 2016 we closed 469 files by only posting the property without sending a letter.
- An additional 427 files were closed on known rentals where we posted the property as well as sent a letter to the owner
- 31% of our files were closed this way
- Reduced our inspections per parcel from 2.35 to 2.15 (-.20)
- Reduced the number of letters sent by 34.5% and legal notices by 31.9% saving approximately \$3,265 in postal cost





# Goals

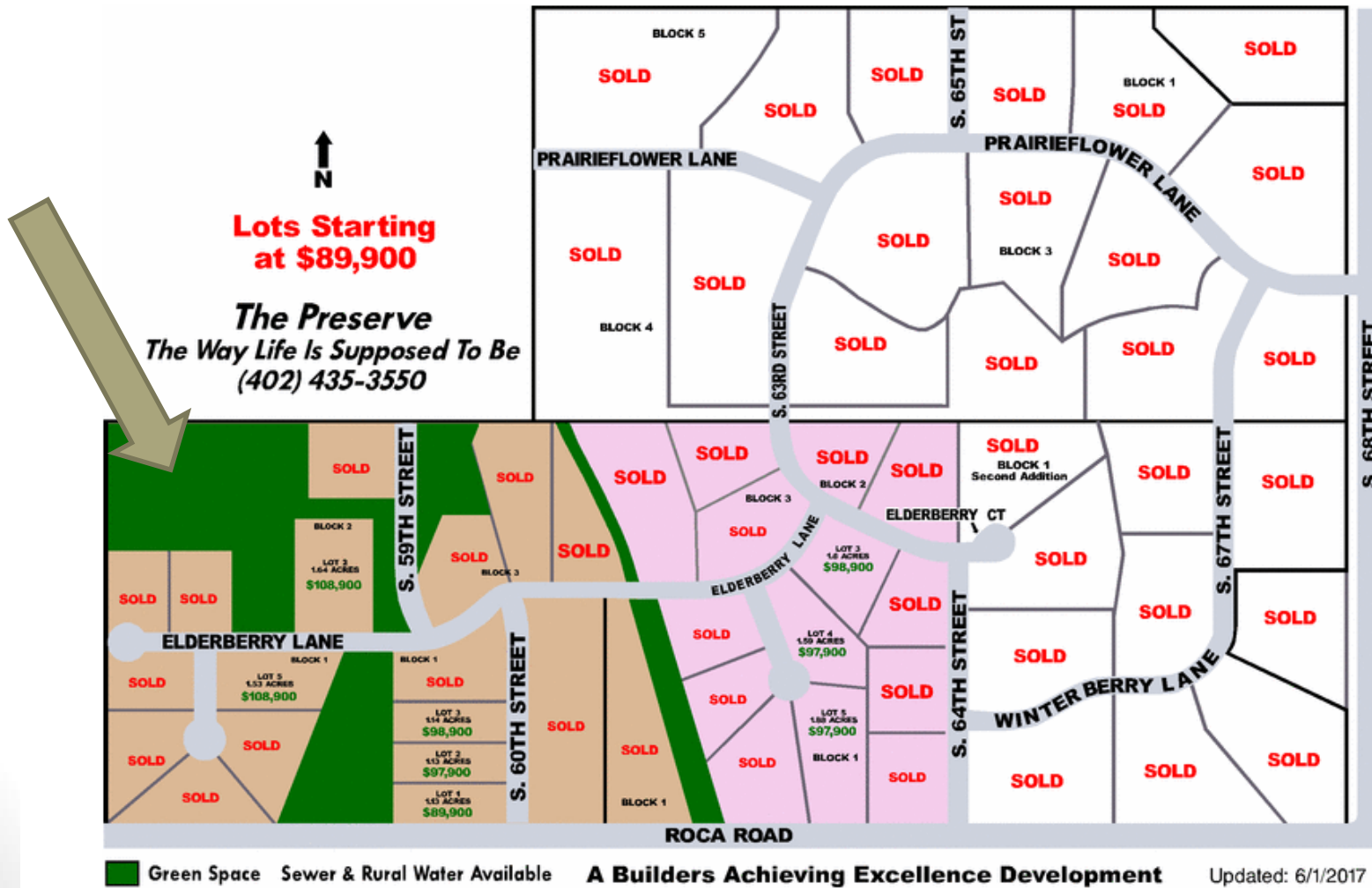
- Prevent the development of new weed infestations
- Provide education and public outreach on noxious and invasive weed control
  - Change the perception of the program to the public from enforcement to a department they look to for information.
- Provide for ongoing management of State of Nebraska – mandated noxious weeds
- Work with Planning Department and Attorneys Office to close the loop-hole in Outlots being re-platted without a final check for Special Assessments.
- Use the UTV to increase our productivity on inspections and do more of our own noxious weed herbicide applications.
- Finalize interlocal with Denton to provide Weed Abatement.

# Future Challenges

- Phragmites
- Identifying new invasives moving into the area before they become a serious economic threat.
- Finding ways to educate the public about the newer invasives.
- Continue to educate the public on Noxious Weed issues
- Railroads
- Absentee landowners
- Noxious Weeds in Urban Areas
- \$0 Value Properties
- Rural developments creating outlots with no value.
- New developments as the city continues to grow.
- Ornamental Yards & Front yard gardens



# The Preserve at Cross Creek



# \$0 Value / Tax Properties



Lancaster County  
Nebraska, USA



County Treasurer » Property Information Search » Property Tax Information

## Andy Stebbing Lancaster County Treasurer Property Tax Information

- Make Tax Payment
- Payment History
- View Taxbill
- Tax Sale
- Special Assessment
- Special Sale
- Assessor's Information
- Property Map

Tax Year: 2016 Roll: Real Estate Parcel: 15-16-422-005-000

Owner: LAND II LLC  
 Owner Address: 1901 SW 5 ST Apt: 100 City: LINCOLN, NE 68522  
 Situs Address: 999999 \*\*NO SITUS\*\* ST City: LINCOLN

Tax District: 0068 RURAL Tax Rate: 1.6539880 %  
 Property Class: A2 AGUNIMPROVED

Legal Description: THE PRESERVE AT CROSS CREEK 8TH ADDITION, OUTLOT D

Tax Sale: No  
 Assignment: No Special Assessment History: No Special Sale: No

### Property Payment Calculator

Payment Date:

No Payment is Due.

### Property Tax History

Year	Owner	Tax Value	Tax Amount	Paid Tax	Paid Int	Paid Fee	Owed Tax+Fee	Tax Sale
2016	LAND II LLC	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	No

[Back to Search List](#) • [New Search](#)

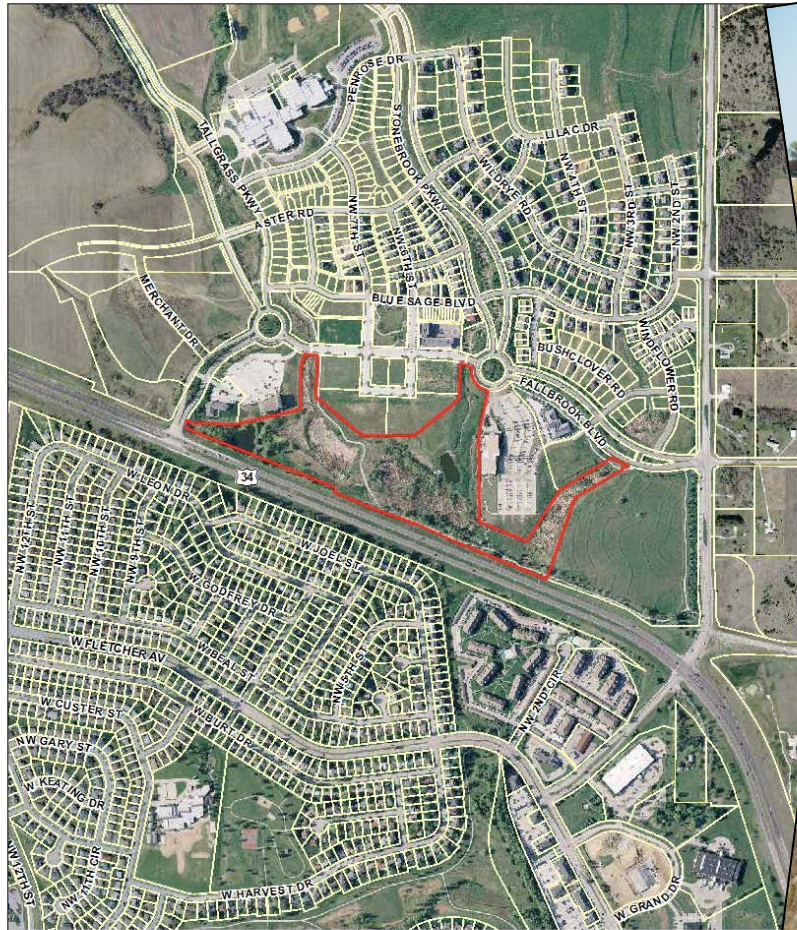


# Challenges





# Phragmites @ Fallbrook



**Lancaster County/City of Lincoln GIS Map**  
Parcel ID: 12-34-202-005-000  
Owner: NEBCO  
Address: No Data  
Legal: FALLBROOK ADDITION, OUTLOT L

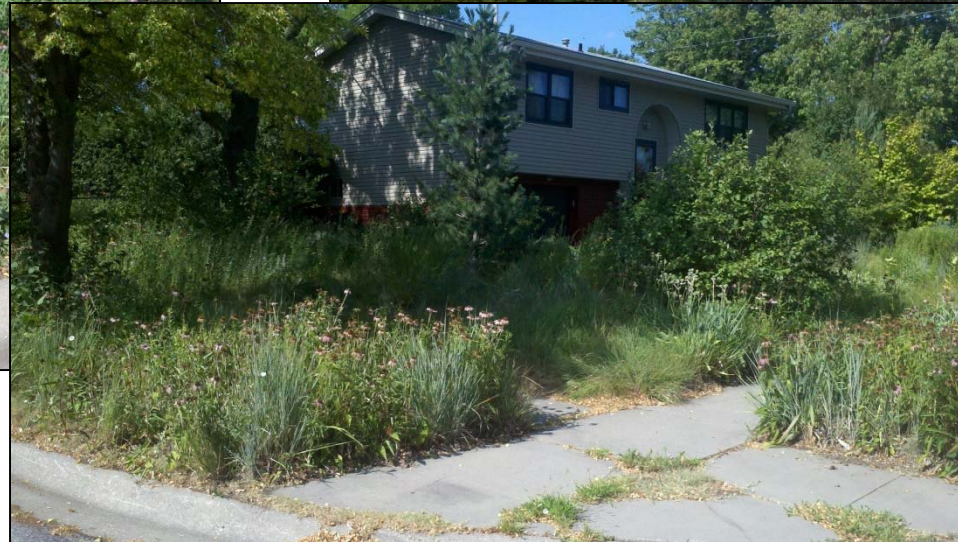
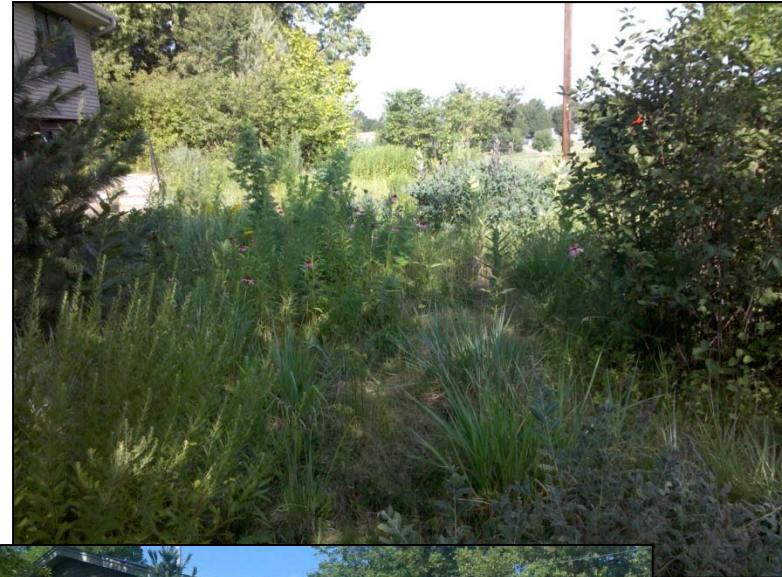
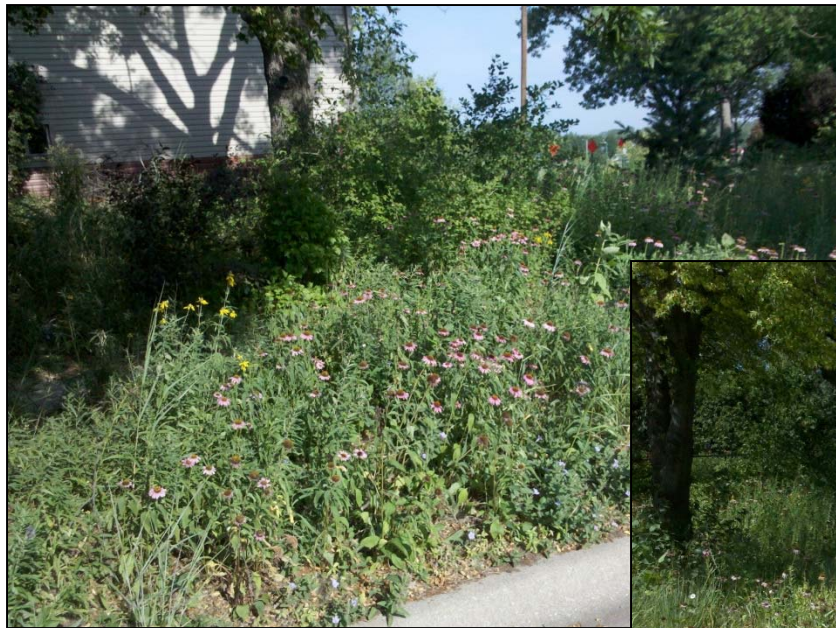
Printed: Oct 04, 2012  
DISCLAIMER: The information is presented on an "as-is" basis, and should not be relied upon for making financial, survey, legal or other commitments. If you have questions or comments regarding the data displayed on this map, please email [assessor@lanasterne.gov](mailto:assessor@lanasterne.gov) and you will be directed to the appropriate department.





# Ornamental Yards?

- Is a property that claims to be wildflowers and ornamental grasses ok?



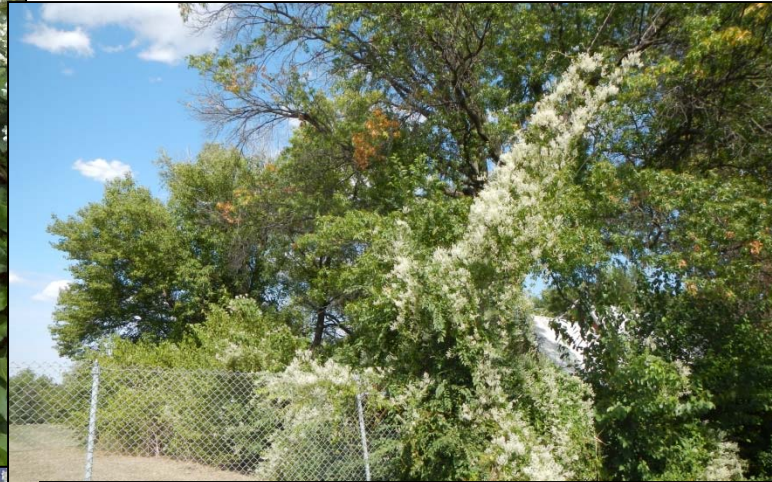


# Giant reed / *Arundo donax*





Chinese fleece vine, *Fallopia aubertii*  
aka: Lemon lace / silver lace vine





# Yellow floating-heart Benson Park, Omaha



# Information Technology

- Continue to build on our current programs.
- Drone use.
- Continue to look at the newest technology to increase our efficiency.



# Discussion

Brent Meyer, Superintendent  
Lancaster County Weed Control  
444 Cherrycreek Rd., Building B  
Lincoln, NE. 68528  
402-441-7817  
[bmeyer@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:bmeyer@lancaster.ne.gov)  
[www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds)



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.®**

[PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org)