



***Lancaster County
Weed Control Authority
2018 Director Evaluation***

Brent Meyer

Lancaster County Weed Superintendent

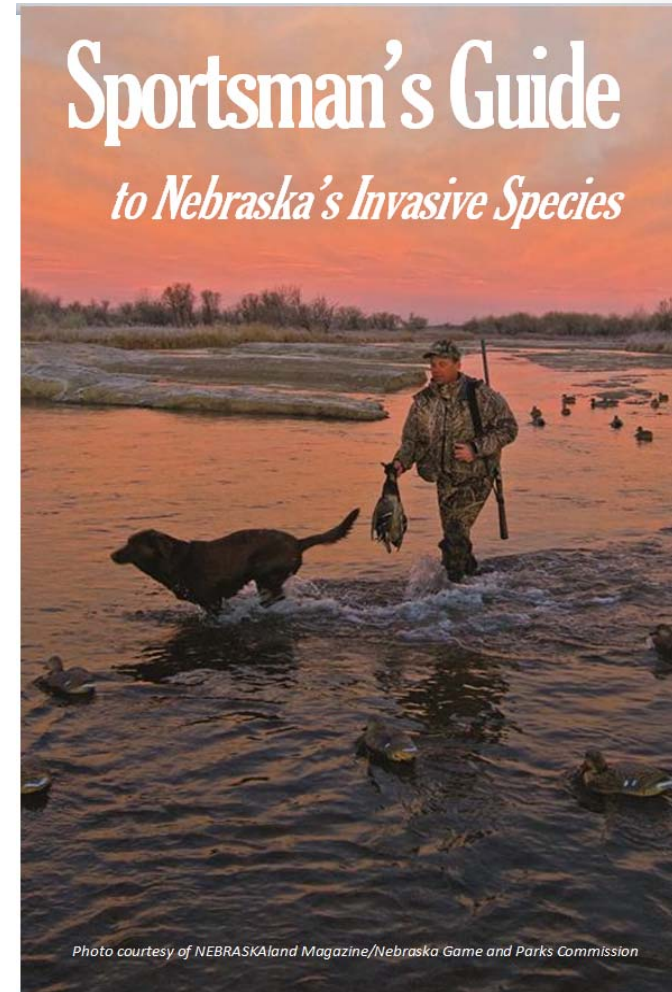
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Lancaster County / City of Lincoln Combined Weed Program

- 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 effective agency.
- More convenient for the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Accomplishments

- Creation of a separate entity for the Lower Platte WMA.
- Cost-share for private landowners along Salt Creek, Oak Creek and Middle Creek from NDA through the LPWMA. (LB1038 funding)
- Cost-share for private landowners on sericea lespedeza through 5 Rivers WMA. (Nebraska Environmental Trust funding)
- Tax Sale Certificates for Weed Abatement
- National PlayCleanGo Steering Committee
- LB 1038 funding – Working to protect this funding source.
- Serving as the chair for the Governor's Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force.
- Serving as the chair for the NWCA Legislative Committee.



Inspections & Enforcements

- The base of everything we do...
- All inspections are web-based applications and are live in the office as the inspector enters the data and photos.
- Total 2018 Inspections as of 9/28/18
 - 8,961 inspections on 4,855 parcels
 - 2,213 complaints from the public
 - 766 legal notices issued
 - 161 enforcements performed by contractors



Noxious Weed Inspections

- Parcels inspected – 2,052
- Total inspections – 3,447
- Legal Notices sent - 92
- Force controls performed – 11
- Liens filed for non-payment – 9
- Court cases - 0



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 was the first County to add both Common & Cutleaf Teasel. Pawnee County and Saline County added teasel in 2018.
- Always looking for something out of place



Weed Abatement

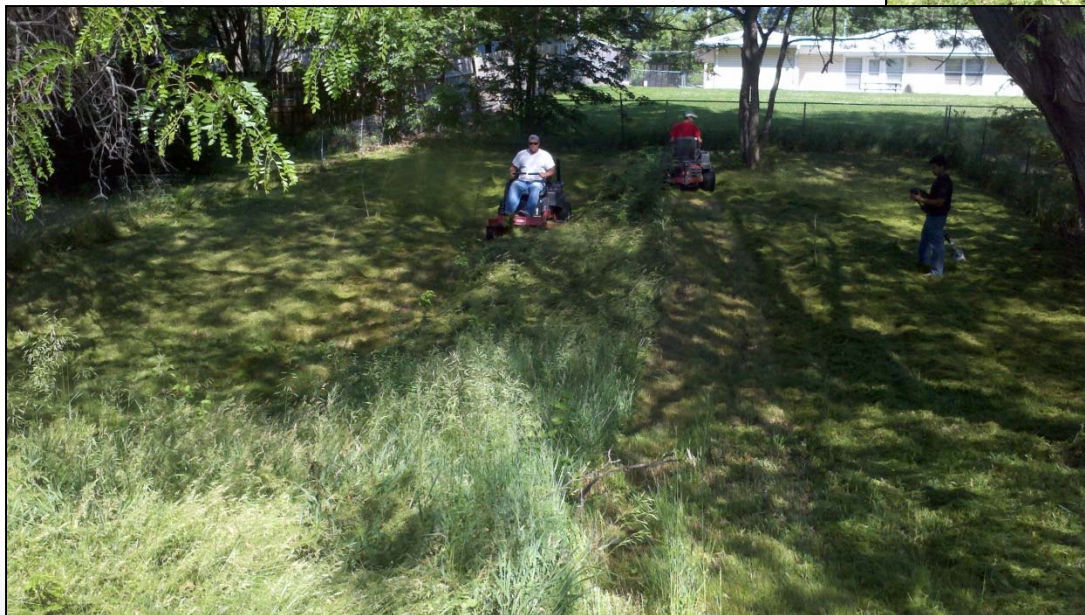
9/28/18

- Parcels inspected - 2,620
- Total inspections – 6,514
- Legal notices sent - 674
- Force controls performed - 150
- 2,166 complaints from the public



Weed Abatement Enforcements

- In 2018 our office performed 150 force controls



PRT – Problem Resolution Team



Equipment added



Kawasaki MULE



County Right of Way – Noxious Weed Control

- Currently in our 4th 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.
- Treating at the right time, instead of when outside contractors had time.
- 2018 is the first year we did NOT need to hire an outside contractor to help with ROW spraying.
- The new UTV and Sprayer have increased our productivity along the ROW's

City of Lincoln Landfills

- Our office oversees the noxious weed control at the landfills.
- New in 2018
 - Hired by the City to treat noxious weeds at both landfills.
 - Brought additional revenue into our Department instead of us paying a contractor to do the work.
 - Work was able to be done at the right time instead of when other contractors had time.
 - Much better results.

NAISMA Weed-free Forage

- North American Invasive Species Management Association
www.naisma.org - 27 States and 1 Province are involved
- Using Certified WFF on all roadside projects (State & Local)
- Provide WFF inspections for landowners



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. We are currently the only one certifying pits.
- 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.



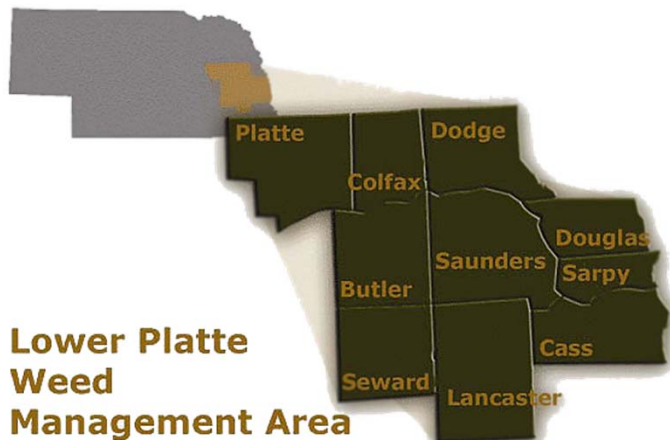
NO SPRAY ZONES

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



Weed Management Areas (WMA's)

- Belong to two WMA's because of the diversity of our County
- Lower Platte WMA 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.



WMA Grant Provides for Survey



Each location is GPS mapped and provided to the pilot doing applications.



Lancaster County areas included:
Salt Creek, Oak Creek,
Middle Creek, 48th Street
Landfill as well as NRD and
Game & Parks properties.



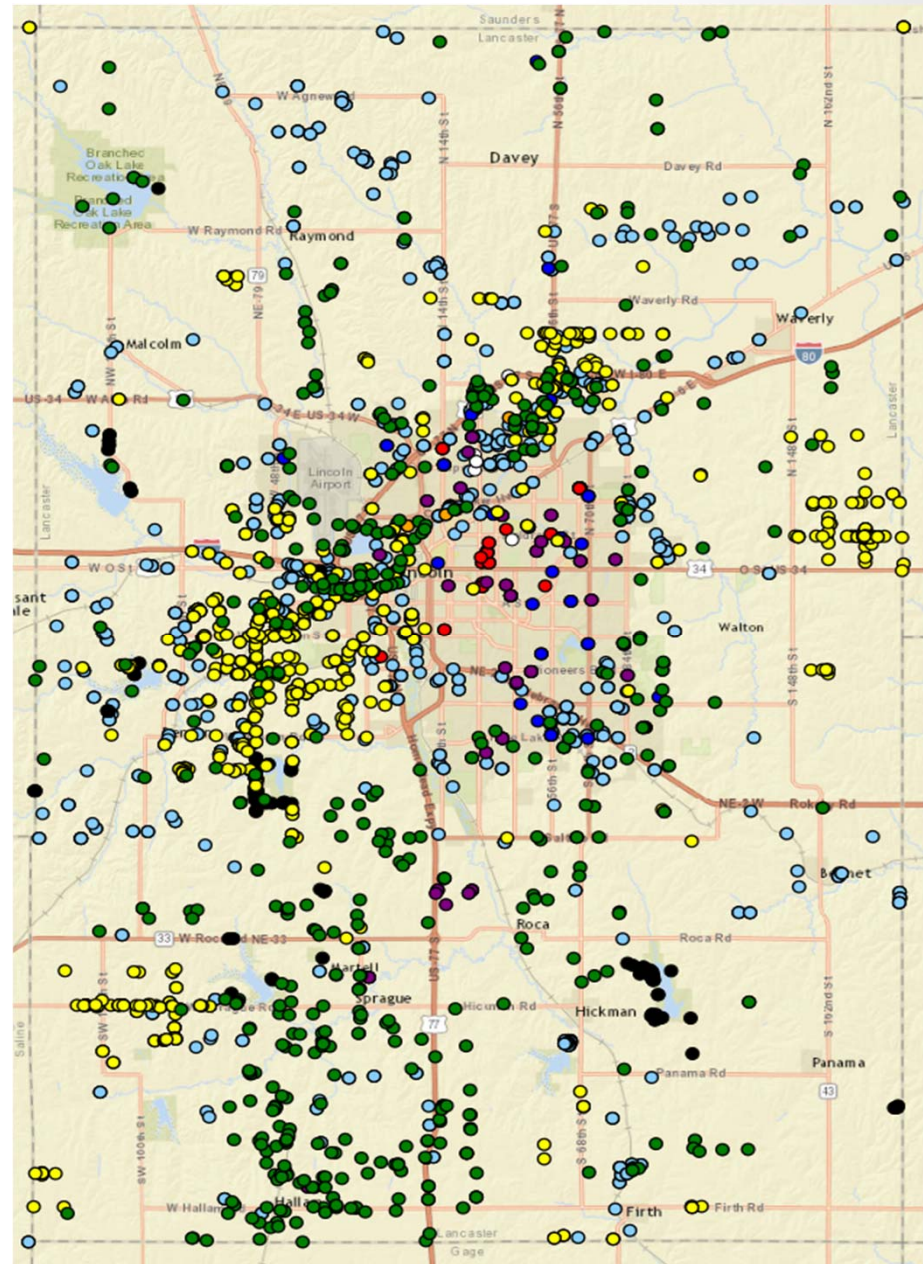
Helicopter Applications

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



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.



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

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>

Harassment Training

- Brent took the training provided and discussed with all staff at our weekly meeting.
- This is included each year in our Seasonal Staff training and all employees know and understand our Zero tolerance for any harassment in the work place. All employees sign off on the Harassment Policy.
- We are all signed up for the October 24th training.

Information Technology

- No way could we handle the work load we have today without the support we get from Information Services.
- Continue to build on our current programs.
- Drone use – Lower Platte WMA now owns one we can use because of our partnership.
- Continue to look at the newest technology to increase our efficiency.
 - Picture This – Plant Identification App
New in 2018.

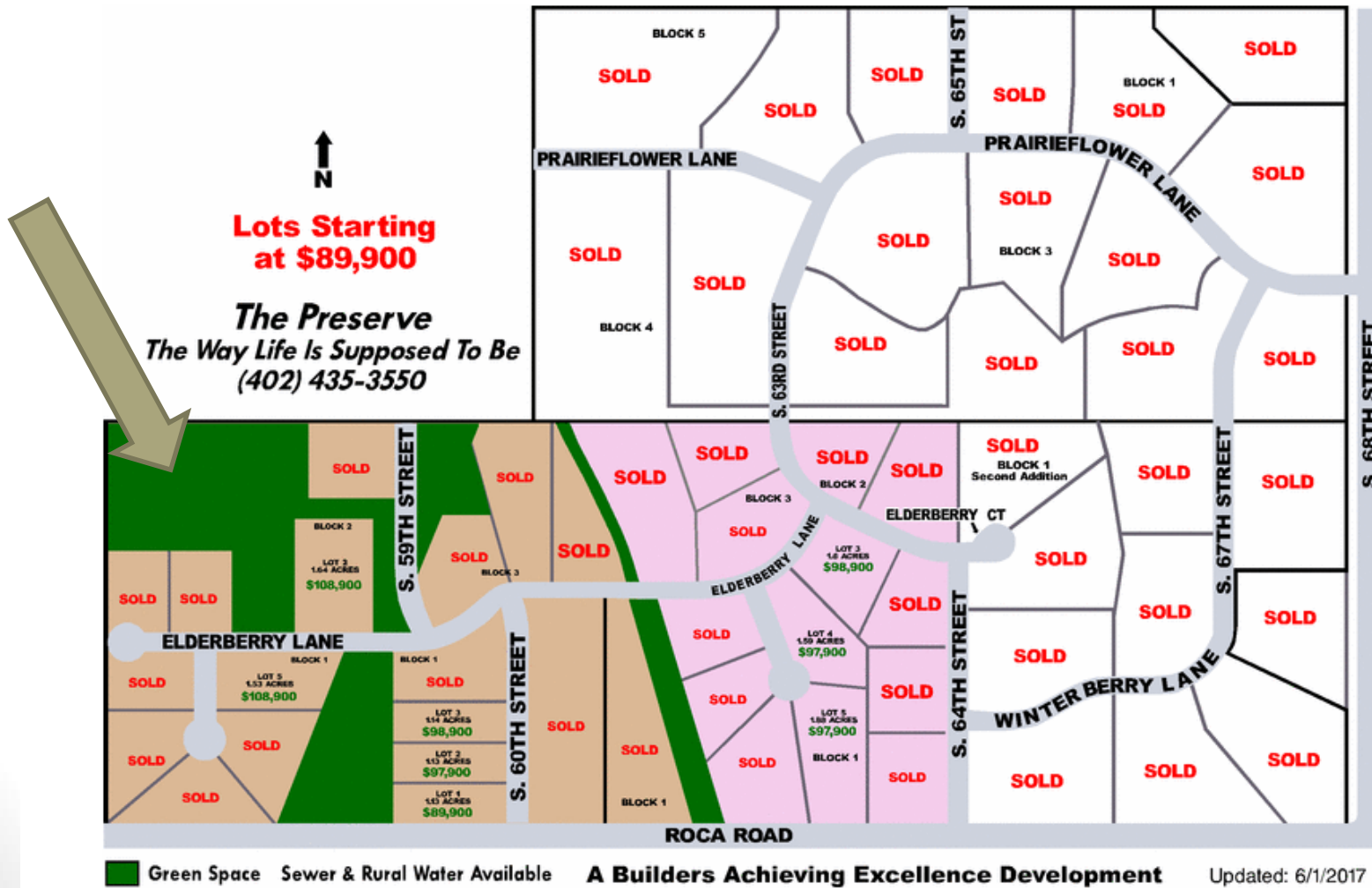
Goals

- 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
- Continue to work with the 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.
- Be efficient and effective in every part of our operation

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
- Staffing
- Facilities
- Vehicles and equipment

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

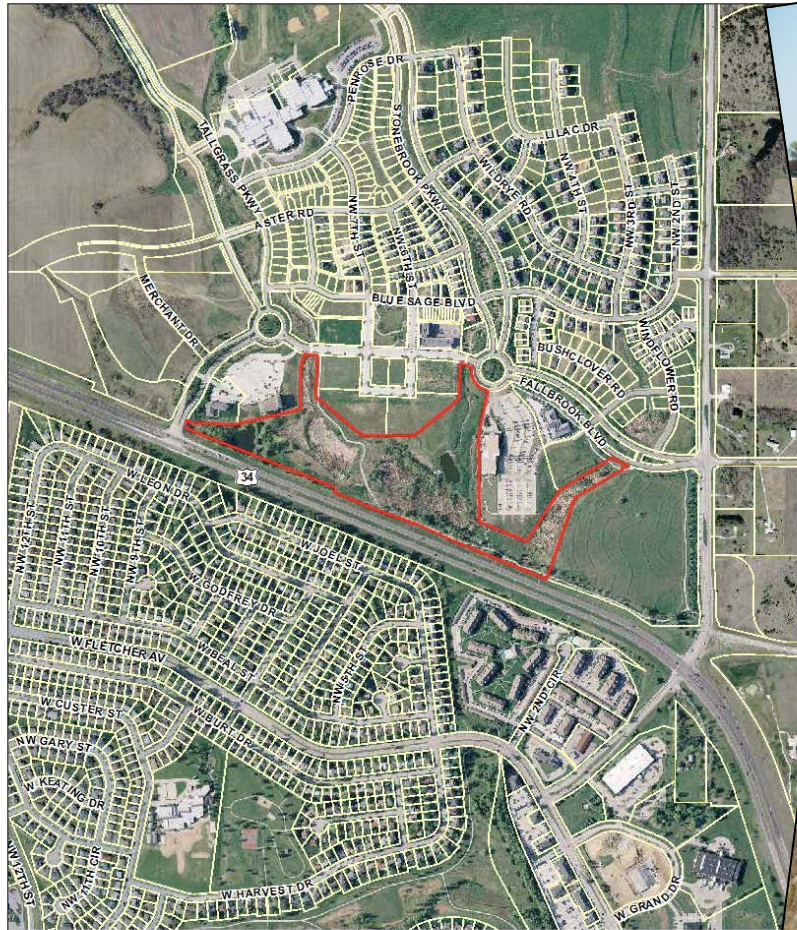
Year	Owner	Tax Value	Tax Amount	Paid Tax	Paid Int	Paid Fee	Owed Tax+Fee	Tax Sale
2016	LAND II LLC	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	No

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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

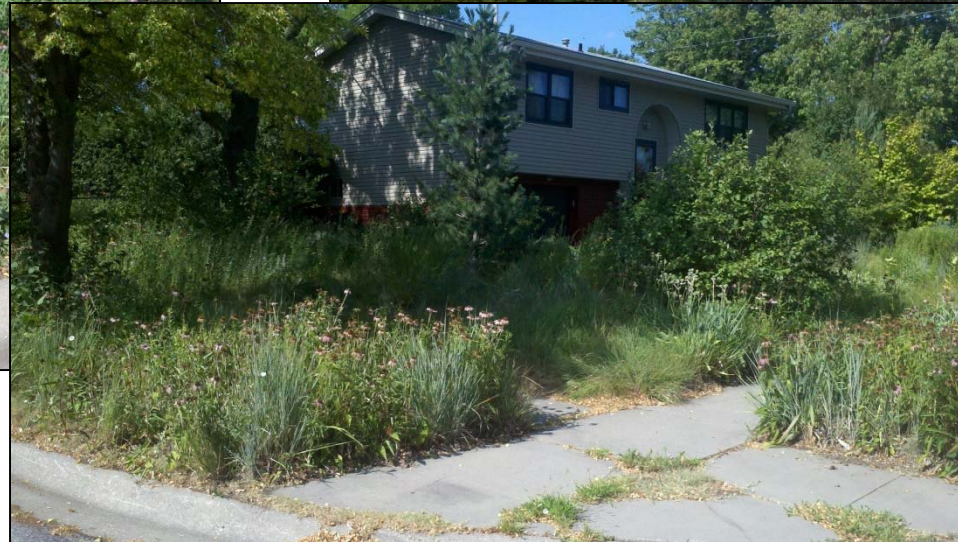
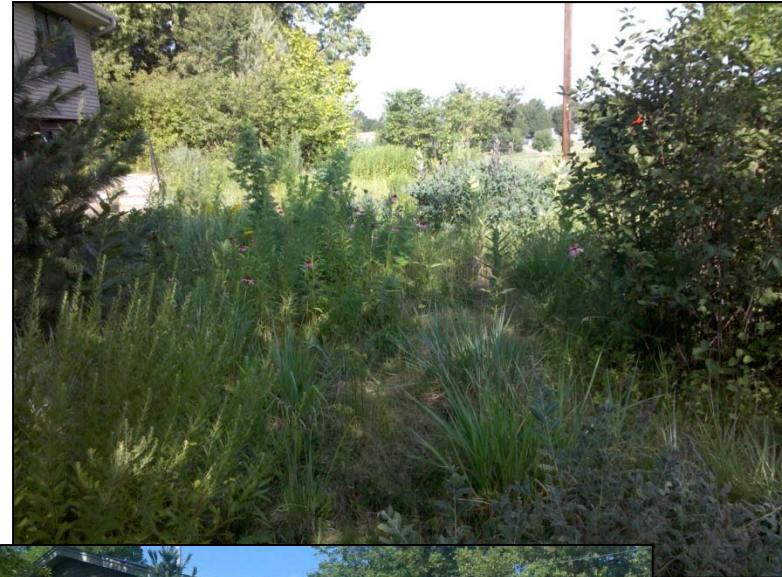
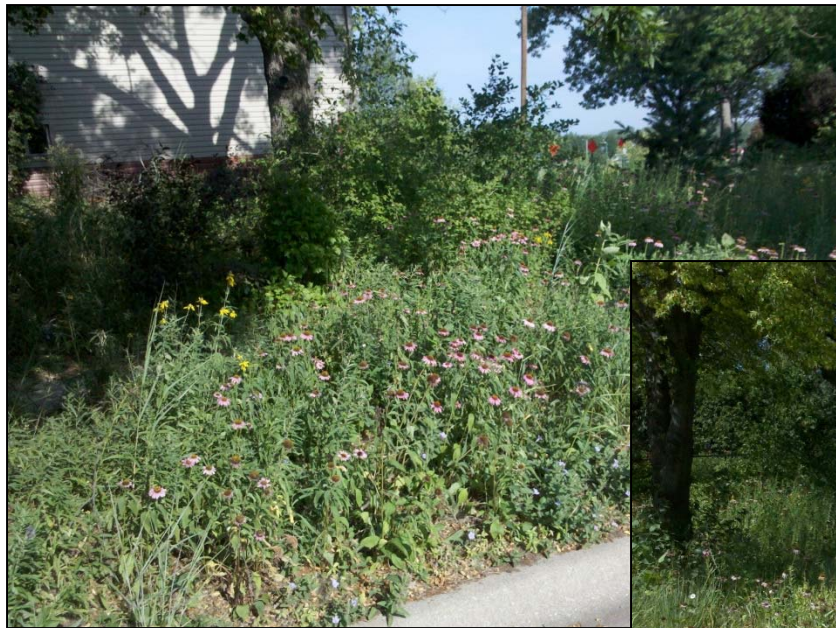
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DISCLAIMER: The information is presented on an "as-is" basis, and should not be relied upon for making financial, survey, legal or other commitments. If you have questions or comments regarding the data displayed on this map, please email assessor@lancasterne.gov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



Ornamental Yards?

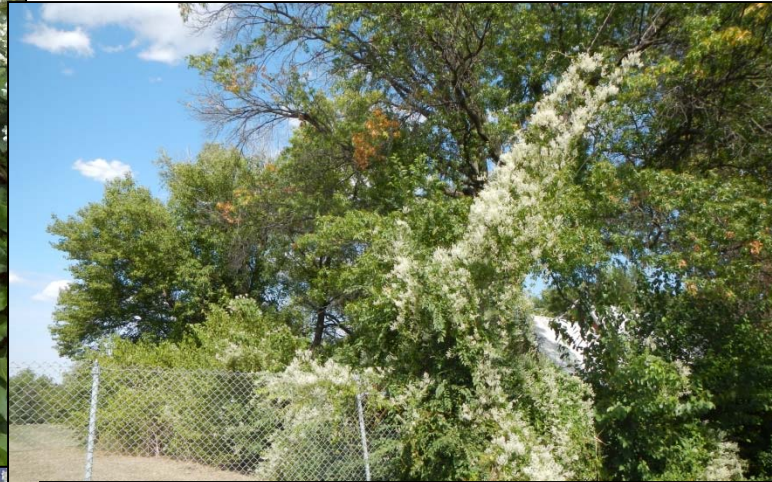
- Is a property that claims to be wildflowers and ornamental grasses ok?



Giant reed / *Arundo donax*



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



Yellow floating-heart Benson Park, Omaha



Discussion

Brent Meyer, Superintendent
Lancaster County Weed Control
444 Cherrycreek Rd., Building B
Lincoln, NE. 68528

402-441-7817

bmeyer@lancaster.ne.gov

www.lancaster.ne.gov/weeds



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

PlayCleanGo.org