

Wildwing Natural Areas Management Plan

Please click [here](#) to view the WildWing Natural Areas Management Plan prepared by High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC).

Please click [here](#) to view the May 19, 2020 WildWing Natural Areas Management Plan Update prepared by High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC).

Please click [here](#) to view an article from Colorado State University regarding Native Area Grass Areas.

The District has heard the comments and concerns of community members relative to the overall aesthetic condition of the natural areas and landscaping. The District is working with its landscape maintenance contractor, Zach George Landscaping (ZGL), to improve the appearance and maintenance of the community entrances and common manicured landscape areas throughout the community. The District has also contracted with High Plains Environmental Center (HPEC), a local expert in the establishment, restoration and management of natural grasses and habitats, to assist the District in the rehabilitation and maintenance of its natural open spaces. As part of their efforts, HPEC prepared the WildWing Natural Areas Management Plan which highlights the goals of the management plan, the current conditions, and a multi-year rehabilitation strategy. The District is currently implementing the plan that consists of a variety of strategies to include mowing, spraying for weeds and re-seeding/over-seeding to restore the stands of dry-land grasses originally planted.

The grass mixtures used to seed WildWing's natural open spaces were developed for elevations of 3,000 to 8,000 feet to provide natural cover under dryland conditions. The mixtures contains both cool and warm season grasses adapted to the Western Great Plains and has excellent cold and drought tolerance and can be used in poor soils. The District currently uses two different seed mixtures. The primary "diverse mix" (DM) contains 11 different dryland grass species and is used in the majority of the community's opens space. A "short mix" (SM) containing 4 species is now being used in those narrow bands (< 6 ft) of open space that occur between some of the community paths and home side lot lines. Please note that some of the grasses used in the diverse mix grow to a mature height of 30 to 60 inches with average rainfall. Additional information on each grass specie found in the mixes used can be found by clicking on the grass name in the list below:

Mountain Brome (DM - 25%) – A cool-season bunchgrass that survives on thin, dry or coarse soils, and displays strong winter hardiness.

Slender Wheatgrass (DM – 20%; SM - 30%) – Cool season bunchgrass native to the mountain and inter-mountain areas of the western United States and the northern Great Plains.

Crested Wheatgrass (DM - 10%) – Cool season bunchgrass that is drought tolerant, and winter hardy with a deep rooted system making an excellent soil binder.

Buffalograss (DM - 10%; SM – 40%) – Warm season turf grass for use in low traffic areas that grows 4 to 6 inches and forms a dense sod that impedes soil erosion

Hard Fescue (DM - 8%) – Cool season bunchgrass well adapted to many soil types and often used for erosion control.

Sideoats Grama (DM - 6%; SM - 15%) – Warm season bunch/sod forming perennial grass 15 – 30” tall that is adapted to most soil conditions.

Big Bluestem (DM - 6%) – Warm season sod-former that is a tall grass, reaching a height of 6 to 8 feet on most sites when left uncut.

Blue Grama Coated (DM - 6%; SM - 15%) – Warm season bunch/sod forming grass that demonstrates good drought, fair salinity, and moderate alkalinity tolerances.

Annual Ryegrass (DM - 5%) – Cool season bunchgrass that provides fast green up and root structure to stabilize soil.

Switchgrass (DM - 3%) – Warm season sod-former very tolerant of poor soils, flooding and drought. Often used in reclamation of sand dunes and dikes.

Sand Dropseed (DM - 1%) Warm Season bunchgrass commonly grows on sandy soils but is adapted to medium textured soils.