

Noxious Weeds

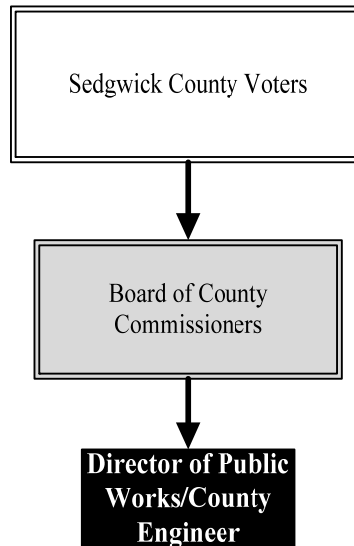
Mission: To control and eradicate noxious weeds on all property within Sedgwick County.

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Overview

Noxious Weeds controls and eradicates noxious weeds in Sedgwick County, as required by K.S.A. 2-1318. Control of noxious weeds on County property and rights of way is the Department's primary responsibility. The Department also operates a vegetation management program, suppressing perennial grasses and undesirable vegetation infesting shoulders and ditches. Each staff member holds a Commercial Applicator license from the Kansas Department of Agriculture and enforces State noxious weed laws and helps citizens fulfill their responsibilities through education on effective techniques and products. A variety of equipment, including truck and ATV mounted spray units, is used for efficient and environmentally responsible treatment of infestations.



Strategic Goals:

- Fully treat all noxious weed infestations on all County properties and right of way
- Control, with the objective of eradication, all *Sericea Lespedeza* in Sedgwick County
- To increase public awareness of noxious weeds

Highlights

- Habitat restoration along Dry Creek and Cowskin Creek for endangered species
- Vegetation management along approximately 25 miles of bike paths in the County
- Erosion control planting along bridges after repair and replacement



Accomplishments and Priorities

Accomplishments

The Noxious Weeds Department puts much thought into the purchase of herbicides and equipment each year as the Department reviews existing programs to evaluate the need, desired results and costs involved. Noxious Weeds also works to improve efficiencies and mitigate environmental impact by constantly looking at potential application techniques, improved equipment, and materials that work better, faster, are safe to the environment and more cost effective. The Noxious Weeds Department also provides vegetation management for Public Works projects. This includes planting and treatment after road and bridge project completion to maximize a weed free environment; planting native grasses along revitalized stream banks to help control erosion; and mowing, treatment and planting along County maintained bike paths to ensure public safety and enjoyment.

Priorities

A priority for the Noxious Weeds Department is to increase crop production by reducing weed competition thus increasing the profit and sustainability of the County's agriculture partners. As an example, surveys in the early 1900's indicated that the bindweed acreage in Kansas was doubling about every five years. At that rate, bindweed would have covered seven million acres of cropland by 1964 had there been no organized control program. The initial Kansas Noxious Weed law, passed in 1937, and follow-on legislation has helped protect Kansas and Sedgwick County cropland and rangeland from such invasive noxious weeds as the field bindweed, musk thistle and the newest threat, Sericea Lespedeza. Another priority is to continue the sale of discounted herbicides for noxious weeds. This program allows landowners to purchase herbicides at a reduced rate to treat their own property and is important to the control of noxious weeds on private lands. Additional priorities include working with landowners on custom prescribed vegetation management plans and public educational messages.



Significant Budget Adjustments

The 2014 Noxious Weeds budget includes no significant adjustments.

Personnel Summary by Fund

Position Title(s)	Fund	Band	Budgeted Personnel Costs			Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)		
			2013 Adopted	2013 Revised	2014 Budget	2013 Adopted	2013 Revised	2014 Budget
HHW/Noxious Weed Director	207	B428	43,576	-	-	0.50	-	-
Noxious Weed Director	207	B325	-	47,258	47,258	-	1.00	1.00
Senior Herbicide Applicator	207	B321	49,812	51,665	51,665	1.00	1.00	1.00
Administrative Specialist	207	B219	15,670	16,266	16,266	0.50	0.50	0.50
Herbicide Applicator	207	B216	88,043	90,104	90,104	3.00	3.00	3.00
Subtotal					205,293	5.00	5.50	5.50
Add:								
Budgeted Personnel Savings (Turnover)					-			
Compensation Adjustments					5,132			
Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay					2,217			
Benefits					104,400			
Total Personnel Budget					317,042			

