# **Noxious Weeds**

<u>Mission</u>: To control and eradicate noxious weeds on all property within Sedgwick County.

Jim Springer Interim Director of Noxious Weeds

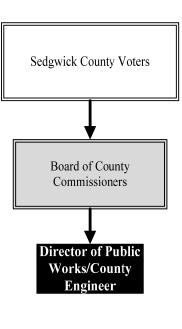
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## Overview

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.

## Highlights

- Habitat restoration along Dry Creek and Cowskin Creek for endangered species
- Erosion control planting along bridges after repair and replacement



### 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

Vegetation management along approximately 25 miles of bike paths in the County





# **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.

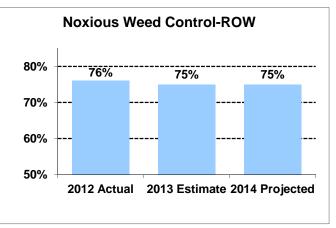


#### PERFORMANCE MEASURE HIGHLIGHTS

The following chart illustrates the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of the Noxious Weeds Department.

#### Noxious Weed Control – Right of Way

• Percent of total treated acreage eliminating noxious weeds in compliance with state law.



Department Performance Measures	2012 Actual	2013 Est.	2014 Proj.
Goal: Fully treat all noxious weed infestations on county properties	and rights of way		
Percent of total treated acreage eliminating noxious weeds in compliance with state law (KPI)	76%	75%	75%
Acres treated by department (in-house & herbicide sales)	9,160	8,900	8,900
Acres of noxious weeds eliminated	6,925	6,675	6,675
Acres of common weeds eliminated	2,235	2,225	2,225
Percentage of timely treatments made during the optimum control period	50%	50%	50%



#### Significant Adjustments From Previous Budget Year

Expenditures Revenue FTEs

						Total -	-	-
Budget Summary by Categ	Budget Summary by Fund							
<b>F</b>	2012	2013	2013 Davis d	2014	% Chg.	Farra and the second	2013	2014 Durdenst
Expenditures	Actual	Adopted	Revised	Budget	'13-'14	Expenditures	Revised	Budget
Personnel	293,905	295,435	301,262	317,042	5.2%	Noxious Weeds-207	515,535	521,087
Contractual Services	93,309	114,111	114,111	103,883	-9.0%			
Debt Service	-	-	-	-				
Commodities	97,140	100,162	100,162	100,162	0.0%			
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-				
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-				
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-				
Total Expenditures	484,355	509,708	515,535	521,087	1.1%	Total Expenditures	515,535	521,087
Revenue								
Taxes	430,772	490,697	490,697	411,134	-16.2%			
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-				
Charges For Service	74,672	51,415	51,415	78,444	52.6%			
Other Revenue	(0)	-	-	-				
Total Revenue	505,444	542,112	542,112	489,578	-9.7%			
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	5.00	5.00	5.50	5.50	0.0%			
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#### Budget Summary by Program

		Expenditures					Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)		
Program	Fund	2012 Actual	2013 Adopted	2013 Revised	2014 Budget	% Chg. '13-'14	2013 Adopted	2013 Revised	2014 Budget
loxious Weeds	207	484,355	509,708	515,535	521,087	1.1%	5.00	5.50	5.50
	Total	484,355	509,708	515,535	521,087	1.1%	5.00	5.50	5.50



#### Personnel Summary by Fund **Budgeted Personnel Costs** Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) 2014 2013 2013 2013 2013 2014 Position Title(s) Band Adopted Revised Budget Adopted Revised Budget Fund HHW/Noxious Weed Director B428 43,576 0.50 207 Noxious Weed Director 207 B325 47,258 47,258 1.00 1.00 --49,812 51,665 51,665 1.00 1.00 1.00 Senior Herbicide Applicator 207 B321 Administrative Specialist 15,670 16,266 16,266 0.50 0.50 0.50 207 B219 Herbicide Applicator 207 B216 88,043 90,104 90,104 3.00 3.00 3.00

Subtotal Add:	205,293		5.00	5.50	5.50
Budgeted Personnel Savings (Turnover) Compensation Adjustments Overtime/On Call/Holiday Pay Benefits <b>Total Personnel Budget</b>	5,132 2,217 104,400 <b>317,042</b>				

