

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

JANUARY 19, 2021



NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND

TOWN INQUIRY

August 2020 – Notification regarding noxious weed inquiries in Town of Castle Rock

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Colorado Noxious Weed Act:

- Local Weed Advisory Board
- Noxious Weed Management Plan
- Treatment of public lands, including rights-of-way, to slow the spread of noxious weeds

NOXIOUS WEED INFORMATION

- Noxious weeds are non-native plants that displace or out-compete native plants – degrading the natural habitat
- Can be undesirable, or even toxic, to cattle and wildlife
- Noxious weeds can establish quickly and be difficult to eradicate
- Disturbed areas – such as roadsides, overgrazed pastures and construction areas – are prone to noxious weed infestations
- Three categories of noxious weeds:
 - List A: Must be completely eradicated
 - List B: Stop the spread of existing plants
 - List C: Local government determination on best action
 - State listing of weeds in each category found at <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds>

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CURRENT STATUS

WEED MANAGEMENT

Parks Department, with volunteer assistance, manages noxious weeds in Castle Rock using an integrated approach including:

- Mowing
- Spraying
- Pulling
- Utilization of Native Landscaping
- Biological Controls



TOWN CODE

Weed height is limited to 12 inches and weed control is the responsibility of the property owner (§8.12)

No specific mention of noxious weeds or the Colorado Noxious Weed Act

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NEXT STEPS

WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Development of Noxious Weed Management Plan for Castle Rock to include:

- Overview of Colorado Noxious Weed Act
- Management options/approaches
- Implementation of the plan
- Public education
- Ongoing program evaluation

PUBLIC INPUT

The Noxious Weed Management Plan will be made available at CRgov.com for public input for 30 days

WEED ADVISORY BOARD

Exploring the option to expand the Parks & Recreation Commission to also serve as the Town's Weed Advisory Board

Will approve the Noxious Weed Management Plan and address issues as needed

TOWN COUNCIL ACTION

Future Town Council action will be required to approve the Noxious Weed Management Plan and changes to the Town Code



QUESTIONS?