

**Park Advisory Board
Park Advisory Board
Government Services Center & Zoom Id 267-094-2170 password 56587
3:00 PM on Thursday, August 22, 2024**

1. Call to order

Members Present

Others Present

2. Additions and Deletions

3. Minutes

June 27, 2024

4. Pickleball

5. Baseball Committee

6. Long Lake Park Master Plan

1. Looney Days

2. Raffle Sales

7. City Worker Update

A. Trail Repair

B. EOT Native Planting Site on Long Lake (between Tin Can Alley and Boardwalk)

8. Budget

9. Other Business

10. Next Meeting Date/Time

Sept. 26, 2024 at 3 pm

11. Adjournment

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3. Minutes

June 27, 2024

Files Attached

- 7 25 2024 Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT.pdf

Vergas Parks Advisory Board

7.25.2024 Minutes

3:00 p.m.

Government Services Center

1. **Members Present:** Maggie Puetz, Steph Hogan, Sherri Hanson, Tony Sailer, Chuck Hanson, Dean Haarstick.
2. **Others Present:** Shannon Charpentier, Julie Lammers, Mike DuFrane
3. **Additions or Deletions to Agenda**
Permitting at Beach
Painting of the Loon
4. **June Minutes** were approved with a motion by C. Hanson/Second by Sailer. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Status of Recommendation of City Council:**
 - A. Stay totally off in field due to reseeding.
 - B. No decision has been made to name the field. Sailer suggests multiple name recognition boards.
 - C. S. Hanson to contact Joe & Tami Seifert regarding stage setup for Hairyman.
6. **Pickleball Committee:** The maintenance is done and the repairs are working. Busy Summer. Raffle is underway. 1st Annual Pickleball Tournament is during Looney Days. Thursday 1 – 3 and 3 – 9. Sign up August 1st.
7. **Baseball Committee:** Waterlines are broken
 - A. The field & 30 feet have already been replaced by DuFrane & Engebretson. Outfield assumed to be ok.
8. **Water Ski Team:** No updates. They are happy with the space.
9. **Long lake Park Master Plan:** Raffle under way. \$20,00.00 of \$180,000.00 raised.
 - A. Dufrane & Puetz to sell 50/50 tickets at Long Lake Park Friday of Looney Days.
10. **Swim Lessons:** Looking for new certified instructors. People are not happy with instructor or assistant. New next year.
11. **Budget:** \$1,500.00 for new ag line and \$1,500.00 for mulch at playground. Proposed budget from Park Board to be taken to City Council by Lammers.
12. **Buoys:** Need to be 150' out and 150' wide, 3 Beach, 3 Pontoon side, 2 Pier side. S. Hanson to contact Howard Elijah for Loon repainting
13. Next meeting is August 22nd at 3 pm at the Government Services Center.
14. Adjournment 4:05 pm. with a motion by C. Hanson 1st, Hogan 2nd.

Written and submitted by Maggie Puetz
Typed by Ronola Richards

Follow-Up Actions:

1. S. Hanson to contact Joe & Tami Seifert regarding Hairyman setup.
2. S. Hanson to contact Howard Elijah to paint Loon.
3. Research swimming instructors for 2025.

Council Recommendations:

1. Present proposed budget to Council.

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6. Long Lake Park Master Plan

1. Looney Days
2. Raffle Sales

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7. City Worker Update

- A. Trail Repair
- B. EOT Native Planting Site on Long Lake (between Tin Can Alley and Boardwalk)

Files Attached

- 2024 Site Inspection.pdf
- Canada Thistle MnDOT.pdf
- Crown Vetch MnDOT.pdf
- Spotted Knapweed.pdf

2024 Site Inspection – City of Vergas

July 31, 2024

The native planting has excellent native establishment and diversity. However, maintenance is necessary to control weeds. This document will include photos, names, and control methods for each weed species.





We observed a mowed area within the native planting, outlined above and identified by the dark green erosion matting visible in the photo. It's important to note that mowing, as shown here, can disrupt the establishment of native plants, potentially leading to their eradication. This mowing practice would not align with the terms of the cost-share contract.

Mowing can be a management technique for weed control on native plantings; however, this area is cut too short for weed management. We recommend maintaining 8" on weedy areas, *if necessary*, so that the establishing native seeds and plugs are not killed. The native planting area should not otherwise be regularly mowed as lawn grass.

Maintenance suggestions:

Many of the weeds present are beginning to produce seed, addressing their removal as soon as possible is recommended to contain their spread. It's always best to remove weeds and their roots. Cutting at the base and removing them from the area can also prevent seed distribution.

Crown vetch spreads underground via rhizomes, making it nearly impossible to pull out with the roots. It may be effective to find where the plant is rooted and spot treat with an aquatic friendly herbicide, careful to avoid herbicide drifting onto native species in the planting. Vetch is very aggressive and will require ongoing observation and maintenance to contain.



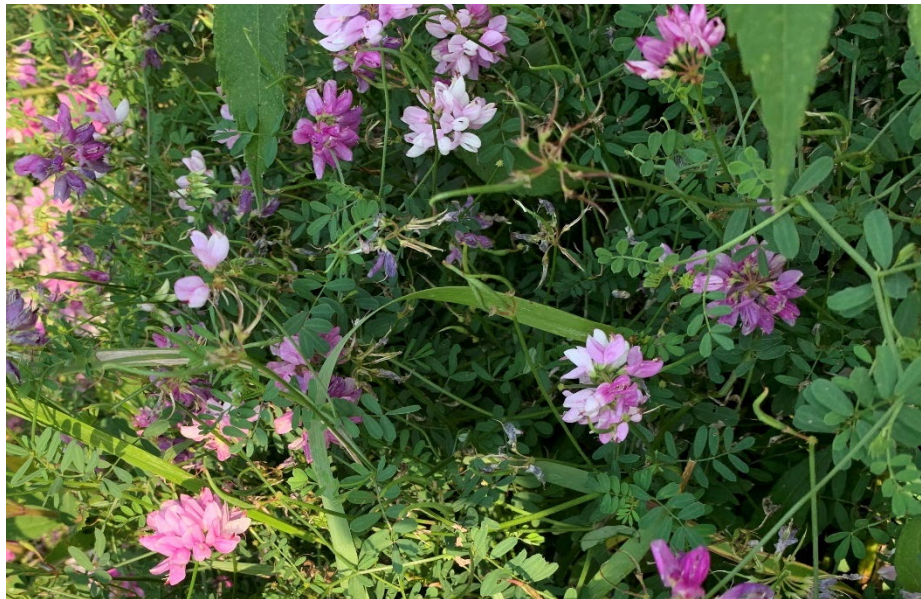
Spotted Knapweed – Noxious weed, should be eradicated. Can be pulled by hand



Thistles – various species, should be eradicated. Pull or cut and remove



Common mullen - Easy to hand pull



Crown vetch

Can be very invasive. We have seen several plantings choked out by vetch. It spreads via rhizomes so is challenging to pull out roots. Likely needs spot treatment with herbicide.



Sweet clover - Yellow and white flowers. Easy to hand pull



Absinthe Wormwood – White/green/ashy sage colored, very aromatic leaves. Pull by hand



Prickly lettuce – Easy to pull by hand

CANADA THISTLE

Cirsium arvense (L.) Scop.

Prohibited - Control

Common Names

Creeping Thistle, California Thistle, Corn Thistle

Life Cycle

Herbaceous perennial

Native Range

Europe

Look-a-Likes

[Alfalfa \(pg 60\)](#)

[Knapweeds \(pg 101\)](#)

[Musk Thistle \(pg 68\)](#)

[Native Thistles](#)

[Plumeless Thistle \(pg 33\)](#)

[Swamp Thistle \(pg 97\)](#)

Habitat

A successful inhabitant of disturbed areas such as roadsides and old fields but will also move into open wood-lands and prairies.

This species is also found where water levels fluctuate such as in wet meadows, along stream banks and ditches.

Means of Spread

Spreads primarily by rhizomes and seeds. 80% of seed falls within 3 feet of the parent plant. Clonal stands are common and spread significant from roots that can grow horizontally 10 to 12 feet per year.



Identification

Plant - Herbaceous, perennial with grooved, non-spiny, hairy and typically upright stems to a height of 2 to 6 feet tall.

Leaves - Alternate, simple, pinnately lobed leaves that are generally lance-shaped. The leaves are irregularly lobed, with toothed, spiny edges. The leaves are stalkless (sessile) and at maturity are downy or hairy on the underside.

Flower - Male and female (dioecious) ¼ inch flowers occur singly on the end of branches. The disk or composite inflorescence is comprised of many purple to pinkish (may also be white) small florets. Bracts below the inflorescence do not have spines on the tips.

Bloom Time - June to October

Seed and Fruit - Tufted, oblong, light brown seeds can be dispersed by wind.

Root - Develops a widespread root and rhizome system quickly taking over an area.

Management

Mechanical - Cutting or mowing should target plants that are approximately 3 inches tall and the process must be repeated throughout the season to maintain the plants at 3 inches or less in height. Continuing this approach for several years can drain the plants of reserves.

Chemical - Foliar applications should be made as the plants bolt, prior to flower set, or in late summer/early autumn to rosettes.

Fire - Repeated prescribed fire can be used to encourage stands of native grasses that will outcompete thistle. However, monitoring is needed to check for thistle that germinates in bare soil soon after burns are completed.



Treatment Timing



Canada Thistle

Effective herbicide formulations: aminopyralid, clopyralid, metsulfuron.

CROWN VETCH

Securigera varia (L.) Lassen

Restricted

Common Names

Crownvetch, Purple Crown Vetch

Life Cycle

Herbaceous perennial

Native Range

Eurasia

Look-a-Likes

Alfalfa (pg 60)

American Vetch (pg 73)

Canadian Milkvetch (pg 76)

Hairy Vetch (pg 67)

Habitat

Old fields, pastures and roadsides. Crown vetch has been planted extensively for forage products and along roadsides and steep embankments for erosion control.

Means of Spread

Spreads through seeds and vegetatively through rhizomes. It can be introduced to new areas by moving soil infested with rhizome fragments.

Identification

Plant - Erect, perennial plant at 1 to 2 feet tall that forms dense tangled masses of reclining 2 to 6 feet long stems.

Leaves - Alternate, compound leaves, odd-pinnate with 11 to 25 oval, smooth-edged leaflets often with a minutely pointed tip. Leaves are stalkless.

Flower - Up to 6 inch long, erect flower stalks support dense umbels or crown-like clusters of 10 to 25, 5-parted, $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long pinkish flowers.

Bloom Time - May to September

Seed and Fruit - Erect, narrow, multi-segmented, pointy-tipped, angular pods containing up to 12 seeds are clustered at ends of upright stalks.

Root - Aggressive rhizomes, growing horizontally up to 10 feet and vegetatively producing new plants.

Management

Mechanical - Cutting or mowing will reduce vigor but not eliminate an infestation. Plan to mow several times a season and monitor to time operations with a goal to prevent seed set. Mow cautiously as large infestations often conceal erosion.

Chemical - Foliar application during active growing periods.

Fire - Prescribed fire can be used with other management tactics to encourage stands of native grasses that will compete for resources. However, monitoring is necessary as crown vetch will resprout after burns.



Treatment Timing

Crown Vetch

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec-Mar	
Prescribed Fire										
Foliar Spray										
Mow										
Do Not Mow										
If seed present										

Effective herbicide formulations: 2,4-D, aminopyralid, clopyralid, dicamba, glyphosate, metsulfuron, picloram, sulfometuron, triclopyr.

SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Centaurea stoebe L. subsp. *micranthos* (Gugler) Hayek

Prohibited - Control

Go to [Knapweed Comparison \(pg 101\)](#) for key differences.

Common Names

Busby Knapweed

Life Cycle

Herbaceous biennial or short lived perennial

Native Range

Eurasia

Look-a-Likes

Brown Knapweed (pg 10)

Canada Thistle (pg 25)

Diffuse Knapweed (pg 14)

Meadow Knapweed (pg 30)

Yellow Starthistle (pg 24)

Habitat

Prefers disturbed sites with gravelly or sandy dry soils. Roadsides, abandoned lots, old fields and gravel pits are habitat that support infestations.

Means of Spread

Seeds are the primary means of reproduction and a mature plant produces thousands of seeds that may remain viable. Allelopathic properties (chemicals exuded by the plant) can suppress the germination of seeds of other plants nearby.

Identification

Plant - Herbaceous, short-lived perennial living 1 to 4 years. Initial stage is a rosette before the plant produces 1 to 6 stems ranging from 1 to 4 feet tall.

Leaves - Simple, alternate, greyish-green basal rosette leaves up to 6 inches long have deep sinuses. Alternate leaves on mature stems vary from smaller, 1 to 3 inch, versions of the basal leaves to very small linear leaves near the top.

Flower - Pink to purple color (rarely white) and multi-parted texture. Below the petals, flowers are held together by bracts that are stiff and tipped with darkened hairs.

Bloom Time - July to September

Seed and Fruit - ½ inch long, brownish, tufted seeds.

Root - Stout taproot with secondary roots.

Management

Appropriate protective clothing including gloves and long sleeves should be worn.

Mechanical - Cutting or mowing will not kill populations. Hand pulling small populations can be effective but will leave bare disturbed soil.

Chemical - Foliar spraying in early spring and late fall, targeting rosettes, can be effective.

Biological - Approved biological control agents used in Minnesota are seedhead weevils (*Larinus minutus* and *L. obtusus*) and a root-boring weevil (*Cyphocleonus acutus*). Weevils are collected July through September and released. A combination of seedhead and root boring weevils work together, infestations can be reduced over years.



Above: *Larinus minutus*.
Below: *Cyphocleonus acutus*.



Treatment Timing

Spotted Knapweed

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec-Mar	
Biological Control										
Hand Pull										
Foliar Spray										
Mow										
Do Not Mow										
If seed present										

Fire - Fire will not kill spotted knapweed, but improve surrounding plant communities. Spring burns are compatible with biological control efforts.

Effective herbicide formulations: aminocyclopyrachlor, aminopyralid, clopyralid, glyphosate, imazapyr, picloram.

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8. Budget

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- 08.2024 Park Income and Expense Report.pdf

		Income & Expenses	Income & Expenses		
		2023 Budget	12/31/23	2024 Budget	08/19/24
					2025 Proposed Budget
Income:	City Taxes (Approved by Council)		91,135.00	86,345.00	86,345.00
	Miscellaneous Donations		20.00	0.00	0.00
	Marion Dahlgren Memorial	moved to 2024	2,520.00	2,520.00	0.00
	Greg Dahlgren Memorial	moved to 2024	250.00	250.00	0.00
	Swing Set Donation	moved to 2024	289.86	289.86	0.00
	Land Dedication Fee		0.00	0.00	0.00
	Swimming Lesson Donation (Lion's)			0.00	240.00 *used for swimming lessons
	Loon Art for the Park Event	moved to 2024	4,035.14	4,035.14	0.00
	Baseball Field mound covers (VCC)				1,500.00 *used for ballfield
	Baseball Field Upkeep (VCC)	moved to 2024	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00 *used for ballfield
	Total Income		\$99,750.00	\$94,940.00	\$89,585.00
Expenses:	Wages and Salaries (100)	22,760.00	21,183.07	25,530.00	15,411.44
	Employer Cont./Soc.Sec/PERA. (122)	12,465.00	9,616.31	12,465.00	6,351.34
	Employee Insurance (131)	6,000.00	4,125.72	6,000.00	2,179.95
	Workers Compensation	900.00	2,326.00	900.00	0.00
	Office Supplies (200)	100.00	68.22	100.00	488.41
	Operating Supplies (210)	7,500.00	4,579.53	7,000.00	4,547.10
	Repair & Maint. Supplies (220)	5,000.00	1,382.72	2,000.00	392.82
	Engineering	2,500.00	6,830.00	5,000.00	240.00
	Telephone	375.00	375.00	375.00	268.75
	Travel, Mtgs, & Schools	300.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
	Employee Clothing Allowance(245)	250.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
	Licenses/Permits	360.00	35.00	360.00	35.00
	Insurance (360)	5,000.00	2,371.00	5,000.00	2,719.00
	Utility Services (380)	3,000.00	2,839.29	3,500.00	2,847.45
	Rubbish Service (384)	2,400.00	2,651.90	2,600.00	2,264.88
	Repair & Maintenance Service(400)	3,000.00	4,604.61	3,000.00	3,031.67
	City Share/Assessments (440)	975.00	927.96	990.00	350.58
	Improvements (530)	18,000.00	27,334.96	20,000.00	0.00
	Refunds & Reimbursements	250.00	19,490.86	0.00	3,381.96
	Total Expenses	\$91,135.00	\$110,762.15	\$94,940.00	\$44,530.35
Total for Parks			(\$19,607.15)	\$0.00	\$45,054.65
Savings Accounts for the Park (need Council Approval to spend)					
	Money Market Account	\$20,788.76			
	West Central Initiative (bathhouse funds)	21,436.21			
	Total		\$42,224.97		

We have received the \$1,595.00 from the 50/50 raffle since the last meeting.

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10. Next Meeting Date/Time

Sept. 26, 2024 at 3 pm