



CITY OF MONTROSE
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Montrose Public Works Department Noxious Weed Management Program maintains aesthetically pleasing public spaces that support the growth of native vegetative species by reasonably managing the spread of noxious weeds through the use of new and innovative practices.

The program complies with requirements and restrictions identified in Chapter 6-5-1 of the City Municipal Code and the Colorado Noxious Weed Act.

Employees shall not enter any privately owned properties unless directed by a supervisor or administrative authority.

This program applies to all individuals, including City of Montrose employees and hired contractors, participating in weed control operations.

II. CITY MUNICIPAL CODE

Chapter 6-5

WEEDS

Sections:

- 6-5-1 WEED CONTROL
- 6-5-2 NUISANCE DECLARED
- 6-5-3 CONFLICTING STATUTES SUPERSEDED

6-5-1: WEED CONTROL

- (A) It shall be unlawful for the owner, lessee or occupant of any property to fail to control weeds on said property and upon that portion of abutting street and alley rights of way lying between said property and the center line of said rights of way in accordance with the requirements of this Section.
- (B) All weeds shall be removed or kept mowed or clipped reasonably close to the ground.
- (C) Steps shall be taken to eradicate plants commonly known as leafy spurge and diffuse, Russian and spotted knapweeds.

6-5-2: NUISANCE DECLARED

Weeds or plants in violation of the requirements of Section 6-5-1 are hereby declared to be a nuisance and the City may abate them in any lawful manner including the procedures specified in Chapter 4 of this Title.

6-5-3: CONFLICTING STATUTES SUPERSEDED

Any statute or regulation of the State in conflict with the requirements of this Chapter or the procedures of Chapter 4 of this Title are hereby declared to be superseded by the ordinances of the City. (Ord. 1449, 5-14-92)

III. COLORADO NOXIOUS WEED ACT

A. The Colorado Noxious Weed Act:

1. Several species of invasive non-native plants have become a threat to the economic and environmental land value in Montrose, Colorado. These plants occur mainly in areas where native soil and vegetation have been disturbed or removed. The noxious weeds are not normally indigenous to North America and have no natural predators or diseases to keep their populations in balance with the ecosystem. Invasive non-native plants may outcompete native vegetation, disrupt hydrologic processes, alter soil chemistry, and disturb the native ecosystem stability and diversity, while negatively affecting environmental and recreational resources. These plants often times have a selective advantage over native plants such as the ability to thrive in alkaline soils or grow in arid conditions. The Colorado State Department of Agriculture has mandated that “a countywide plan must be implemented by every county to prevent further damage by these noxious weed species” pursuant to The Colorado Noxious Weed Act, C.R.S. §35-5.5-101, et seq. (“**The ACT**”), and the Rules Pertaining to the Administration and Enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act, §§ 8 C.C.R. 1206-2 (“**The RULES**”). For more information visit <https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/olls/crs2016-title-35.pdf>

The noxious weeds are categorized into three lists as based on priority for management in Colorado:

2. List A noxious weeds are newly arrived and/or less common in Colorado and are designated for eradication from all lands in the State. It is a violation of the Act to allow any List A species to produce seed or develop other reproductive means such as roots, shoots, and runners. The RULES allow the local governing authority to file for a compliance waiver if it is determined that eradication is not a practical management objective for specific populations.

3. List B noxious weeds may be designated for eradication, containment, or suppression, depending on the extent of their presence. This plan is designed to stop the spread of List B species, making it a violation to allow any List B species to spread to un-infested areas.

4. List C noxious weeds are widespread or well-established noxious weeds for which local governments have authority to decide the management strategy. This plan recommends but does not require

control methods to stop the spread of list C species to un-infested areas.

5. Watch List - non-native plant species not known to exist in Colorado, but have been recognized as noxious or problematic by another state in the region, require careful observation. The Watch List is for advisory and educational purposes only to encourage identification and reporting, should these species appear on Colorado lands.

Link: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-species>

B. Local Advisory Board:

- 1.** The City of Montrose City Council shall appoint a local advisory board. Board members shall be residents of the City of Montrose. The board shall annually elect a chairman and secretary.
- 2.** The board shall develop a recommended management plan and recommend management criteria for noxious weeds within the area governed by the City of Montrose. The management plan shall be reviewed at regular intervals but not less often than once every three years by the local advisory board. The management plan and any amendments made thereto shall be transmitted to the City of Montrose for approval, modification, or rejection.
- 3.** Declare noxious weeds and any state noxious weeds designated by rule to be subject to integrated management;
- 4.** Recommend to the local governing body that identified landowners be required to submit an individual integrated management plan to manage noxious weeds on their property.
- 5.** The City of Montrose shall have the sole and final authority to approve, modify, or reject the management plan, management criteria, management practice, and any other decision or recommendation of the local advisory board.
- 6.** The state weed coordinator shall review any recommendations of a local advisory board appointed pursuant to article 5 of this title and note any inconsistencies between the recommendations of the state weed coordinator or the commissioner and any such local advisory board.

IV. OBJECTIVES

(A) Objectives of the Public Works Department Noxious Weed Management Program are:

- 1.** Provide trained and state licensed personnel to implement the noxious weed management program.
- 2.** Provide and maintain a high level of noxious weed control along street and alley right of ways, trails, bike paths, flood control and water quality ponds, city-maintained ditches, city parks, open space areas, and other areas maintained by the city through legal agreements;
- 3.** Comply with requirements and restrictions identified in Chapter 6-5-1 of the City Municipal Code
- 4.** Implementation of strategic and consistent treatments of noxious weeds and invasive species so that over time these plants become less numerous and require fewer resources (labor, herbicide, equipment etc.) to control.
- 5.** Meeting or exceeding these objectives provides for an attractive city, as well as arterial gateways leading into the city, and supports the growth of native vegetative species. Active management of invasive species on City Property also ensures the ecological stability and aesthetics of those properties for years to come.
- 6.** The program is implemented using an integrated weed management philosophy. This involves a combination of spraying, mowing, management using livestock, and string trimming. The timing and combined effect of these operations (e.g. mowing weeds before they go to seed, spraying weeds in the fall when they take foliar nutrients into their root systems) maximize the impact on noxious weed species while encouraging the growth of native vegetative species to compete with noxious weed species. Focused noxious weed control practices in developed areas (right of way, trails, alley ways) are completed a minimum of three (3) times throughout the growing season (typically May – October), and more frequently as necessary. Control methods within undeveloped areas and wildlands vary depending upon the invasive plant species present and goals of the treatment plan for the area.
- 7.** The Public Works Department Streets Division maintains approximately 180 centerline miles of City street rights-of-way, 15

acres of public parking lots, and 7 centerline miles of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) rights-of-way within the City limits. The Division also maintains the City's storm water conveyance system, consisting of approximately 21 miles of open, grass-lined ditches. The Public Works Department Parks & Special Projects Division maintains approximately 140 acres of developed area (City parks, sport turf facilities, and public open spaces), and 40 miles of recreation trails and 1005 acres of undeveloped park lands (110 acres at Cerro Summit, 435 acres of Riparian Lands along the Uncompahgre River, 460 acres at Buckhorn Lakes Park). The Division also maintains decorative landscapes throughout the City.

8. The specific type of noxious weed management operation employed is tailored to unique conditions in each district. In addition to cost, other factors are considered when selecting appropriate weed management techniques. These include, but are not limited to, acceptable level of service (spraying, mowing, mowing and spraying, etc.), environmental impacts, employee and citizen safety, and topography. Employees are trained to identify the most appropriate weed management technique for various situations. Employees work diligently to control the growth and spread of noxious weeds throughout the year.

9. A full list of noxious weed species are available at the end of this document as Exhibit A.

V. OPERATIONS

This program provides guidelines for the management of all noxious weeds along street and alley right-of-ways, public parking lots, trails, bike paths, flood control and water quality ponds, city-maintained ditches, public parks and open space areas, and other areas maintained by the city through legal agreements.

(A) Treatment:

1. The options available to the City are herbicide application, mowing, trimming, biological control, and livestock grazing.

(B) Right of Way:

1. Roadway within the City owned right of way of all street types shall be maintained by the City three times per year. These locations can be treated using any of the methods as outlined in the program.

2. Right of way adjacent to street types urban collectors and urban locals (there are some exceptions, see Exhibit B) that is not a roadway or a trail shall be maintained by the adjacent owner. City Code Chapter 6-5, Section 6-5-1, Item A.

3. Right of way adjacent to street types major arterials and minor arterials (there are some exceptions, see Exhibit B) shall be maintained by the City three times per year. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the adjacent right of way if the adjacent right of way has been improved and/or modified with fences, irrigation or any other type of landscape. The City will maintain the right of way outside of the Roadway three times per year, if a higher level of maintenance is required it will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to provide this level of service.

4. Alleys within the City owned right of way shall be maintained by the City three times per year. These locations can be treated using any of the methods as outlined in the program. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain the right of way if it's been improved and/or modified by the property owner.

5. City owned and maintained right of ways will be cleared of noxious weeds which may not include clearing of all vegetation in that right of way. In some situations vegetation will be cleared if it's causing visibility and/or drainage issues.

6. An area map is listed as Exhibit B to reflect the level of maintenance provided. These maps may be updated as needed.

(C) Montrose Arroyos:

1. Cedar Creek and Dry Cedar Creek are two arroyos which flow thru the City of Montrose. These creeks are also conduits for irrigation water and storm runoff. They pass thru both developed and undeveloped areas of the City and their bank characters are generally a mix of native trees, shrubs and grasses as well as some invasive plant species. In most cases the bank vegetation within the arroyo adds to bank stability. These diverse stands of vegetation also provide habitat for riparian wildlife.

2. In areas of these arroyos where invasive plants are present the City will work to remove these undesirable plants to achieve a more balanced native community of plants.

3. Irrigation ditches shall be maintained by the water provider and shareholders on the ditch.

(D) City Owned Properties and Open Space:

1. The City of Montrose owns several parcels of “developed” property; property that is currently or has been developed. On the ground the property may be cleared of native vegetation. It may be open field, irrigated or not, and may contain right of way area. In most cases these developed properties will harbor noxious weeds. The City has the ability to spray these weeds in a manner that limits their growth and spread. In most cases this involves spraying the properties with a broad leaf targeted herbicide when the weeds are smaller than 12” in height. Spraying may occur 2 times each season. Once in spring and once in the mid-summer.

3. If weeds grow taller than 12” in height and mechanical mowing is necessary the City will mow these areas 2 times each season.

4. The City also owns acres of undeveloped property within City limits. These areas include sections of the river corridor, parts of Cerise Park, and the Marine Road Conservation area to name a few. The presence of native vegetation in these areas limits the use of spray herbicide as well as wide scale mowing of the property. Instead, these areas should be targeted by specific methods of invasive plant treatment. This includes physical removal of the plants; for example cutting and removal of Russian Olive plants. Treatment of cut stumps to limit re-growth. And then future follow up in treatment areas to remove and re-treat re-growth from previously cut plants.

6. Wild areas contain several invasive plants which allow the city to utilize a variety of control methods to eradicate invasive plants which is the best way to make progress on restoring these areas to a stable ecological condition appropriate for each specific area.

(F) Native Vegetation:

1. This section is managed through the coordination between Code Enforcement and Public Works. Removal of native vegetation on right of way, public property, arroyos and ditches is not an acceptable practice. These plants are adapted to the local soils and climate and grow in a “climax” community which is generally stable, low maintenance, and free of weeds. Disturbance to these areas by removal of native vegetation may cause weeds to grow in these areas. This then requires additional maintenance and cost.

(G) Mowing:

1. A brush hog mower is generally used to mow rural right-of-ways, areas, and large acreage open space areas. This mower minimizes debris scattering into vehicle and pedestrian travel lanes.

(H) Herbicide Spraying:

1. The City of Montrose uses non-restricted, broadleaf and non-target herbicides depending upon the application area and target species. These types of chemicals are the least hazardous, readily available commercial products capable of meeting noxious weed management goals efficiently and cost-effectively. Foliar herbicides are applied using a sprayer in a low wind environment to help reduce material drift. In some Right of Way areas granular herbicides are applied to maintain clear road shoulders and Right of Way easements.

2. All applications are performed and/or supervised by a Colorado licensed pesticide applicator. When applications are made in specific areas, such as parks, the public is notified prior to pesticide application using informational signage. Applications on City streets and alley ways are flagged with yellow "pesticide application" flags following any application of herbicide in the area. The City adheres to state and federal regulations governing pesticide application. The City also maintains a log of all pesticide applications to document the time, date, description of application, and quantity of the chemical used.

(I) Line Trimming:

1. The use of string trimmers, is an important part of the City's integrated weed management approach. They are used in areas that mowers cannot reach and where spraying is ineffective or not practical. These areas include along fence lines, property lines, around bushes, shrubs, trees, around sign posts, and along curbs, gutters, and sidewalks.

(J) Livestock:

1. Grazing is a useful and cost effective tool used to manage the growth of noxious weeds. This treatment type can be used along fence lines, right of way and open spaces.

VI. NO SPRAY LIST:

- (A)** Annually property owners may request to be added to the No Spray List (Agreement for Noxious Weed Control on City Property) at the City of Montrose Public Works Department at any time during operating hours. Every case is different and every agreement can be either approved, denied or cancelled at any time. All agreements must be filled out by city staff and such agreement will expire on January 1 of each year.

VII. CONCLUSION

- (A)** This program should be a useful tool for providing feedback to City staff regarding the use of resources available for program management. Additionally, a formal Noxious Weed Management Program demonstrates the City's commitment to providing cost-effective services for Montrose citizens. The Public Works Department continually investigates new and innovative ways to improve levels of service provided to the community.
- (B)** This program document is available for review and download on the Public Works Department webpage at www.CityofMontrose.org. Specific noxious weed management operations, districts, and frequencies will be reviewed and updated, as necessary.

EXHIBIT A

Colorado Noxious Weeds (including Watch List), effective June, 2020

List A Species (25)

<i>Common</i>	<i>Scientific</i>
African rue	(<i>Peganum harmala</i>)
Bohemian knotweed	(<i>Fallopia x bohemicum</i>)
Camelthorn	(<i>Alhagi maurorum</i>)
Common crupina	(<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>)
Cypress spurge	(<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>)
Dyer's woad	(<i>Isatis tinctoria</i>)
Elongated mustard	(<i>Brassica elongata</i>)
Flowering rush	(<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>)
Giant knotweed	(<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>)
Giant reed	(<i>Arundo donax</i>)
Giant salvinia	(<i>Salvinia molesta</i>)
Hairy willow-herb	(<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>)
Hydrilla	(<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>)
Japanese knotweed	(<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)
Meadow knapweed	(<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>)
Mediterranean sage	(<i>Salvia aethiopsis</i>)
Medusahead	(<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>)
Myrtle spurge	(<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>)
Orange hawkweed	(<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)
Parrotfeather	(<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>)
Purple loosestrife	(<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>)
Rush skeletonweed	(<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>)
Squarrose knapweed	(<i>Centaurea virgata</i>)
Tansy ragwort	(<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)
Yellow starthistle	(<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)
Kochia	(<i>Bassia scoparia</i>)

List B Species (40)

<i>Common</i>	<i>Scientific</i>
Absinth wormwood	(<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>)
Black henbane	(<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>)
Bull thistle	(<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>)
Bouncingbet	(<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>)
Canada thistle	(<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)
Chinese clematis	(<i>Clematis orientalis</i>)
Common tansy	(<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>)
Common teasel	(<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>)
Corn chamomile	(<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>)
Cutleaf teasel	(<i>Dipsacus laciniatus</i>)
Dalmatian toadflax, broad-leaved	(<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>)
Dalmatian toadflax, narrow-leaved	(<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>)
Dame's rocket	(<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)
Diffuse knapweed	(<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>)

Colorado Noxious Weeds (including Watch List), effective June, 2020

List B Species (40) continued

<i>Common</i>	<i>Scientific</i>
Eurasian watermilfoil	<i>(Myriophyllum spicatum)</i>
Hoary cress	<i>(Rhaponticum repens)</i>
Houndstongue	<i>(Cynoglossum officinale)</i>
Jointed goatgrass	<i>(Aegilops cylindrica)</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>(Euphorbia esula)</i>
Mayweed chamomile	<i>(Anthemis cotula)</i>
Moth mullein	<i>(Verbascum blattaria)</i>
Musk thistle	<i>(Carduus nutans)</i>
Oxeye daisy	<i>(Leucanthemum vulgare)</i>
Perennial pepperweed	<i>(Lepidium latifolium)</i>
Plumeless thistle	<i>(Carduus acanthoides)</i>
Russian knapweed	<i>(Acroptilon repens)</i>
Russian-olive	<i>(Elaeagnus angustifolia)</i>
Salt cedar	<i>(Tamarix chinensis, T. parviflora, and T. ramosissima)</i>
Scentless chamomile	<i>(Tripleurospermum perforata)</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>(Onopordum acanthium, O. tauricum)</i>
Spotted knapweed	<i>(Centaurea stoebe L. ssp. micranthos)</i>
Spotted x diffuse knapweed hybrid	<i>(Centaurea x psammogena)</i>
Sulfur cinquefoil	<i>(Potentilla recta)</i>
Wild caraway	<i>(Carum carvi)</i>
Yellow nutsedge	<i>(Cyperus esculentus)</i>
Yellow toadflax	<i>(Linaria vulgaris)</i>
Yellow x Dalmatian toadflax hybrid	<i>(Linaria vulgaris x L. dalmatica)</i>

List C Species (16)

<i>Common</i>	<i>Scientific</i>
Bulbous bluegrass	<i>(Poa bulbosa)</i>
Chicory	<i>(Cichorium intybus)</i>
Common burdock	<i>(Arctium minus)</i>
Common mullein	<i>(Verbascum thapsus)</i>
Common St. Johnswort	<i>(Hypericum perforatum)</i>
Downy brome	<i>(Bromus tectorum)</i>
Field bindweed	<i>(Convolvulus arvensis)</i>
Halogeton	<i>(Halogeton glomeratus)</i>
Johnsongrass	<i>(Sorghum halepense)</i>
Perennial sowthistle	<i>(Sonchus arvensis)</i>
Poison hemlock	<i>(Conium maculatum)</i>
Puncturevine	<i>(Tribulus terrestris)</i>
Quackgrass	<i>(Elymus repens)</i>
Redstem filaree	<i>(Erodium cicutarium)</i>
Velvetleaf	<i>(Abutilon theophrasti)</i>
Wild proso millet	<i>(Panicum miliaceum)</i>

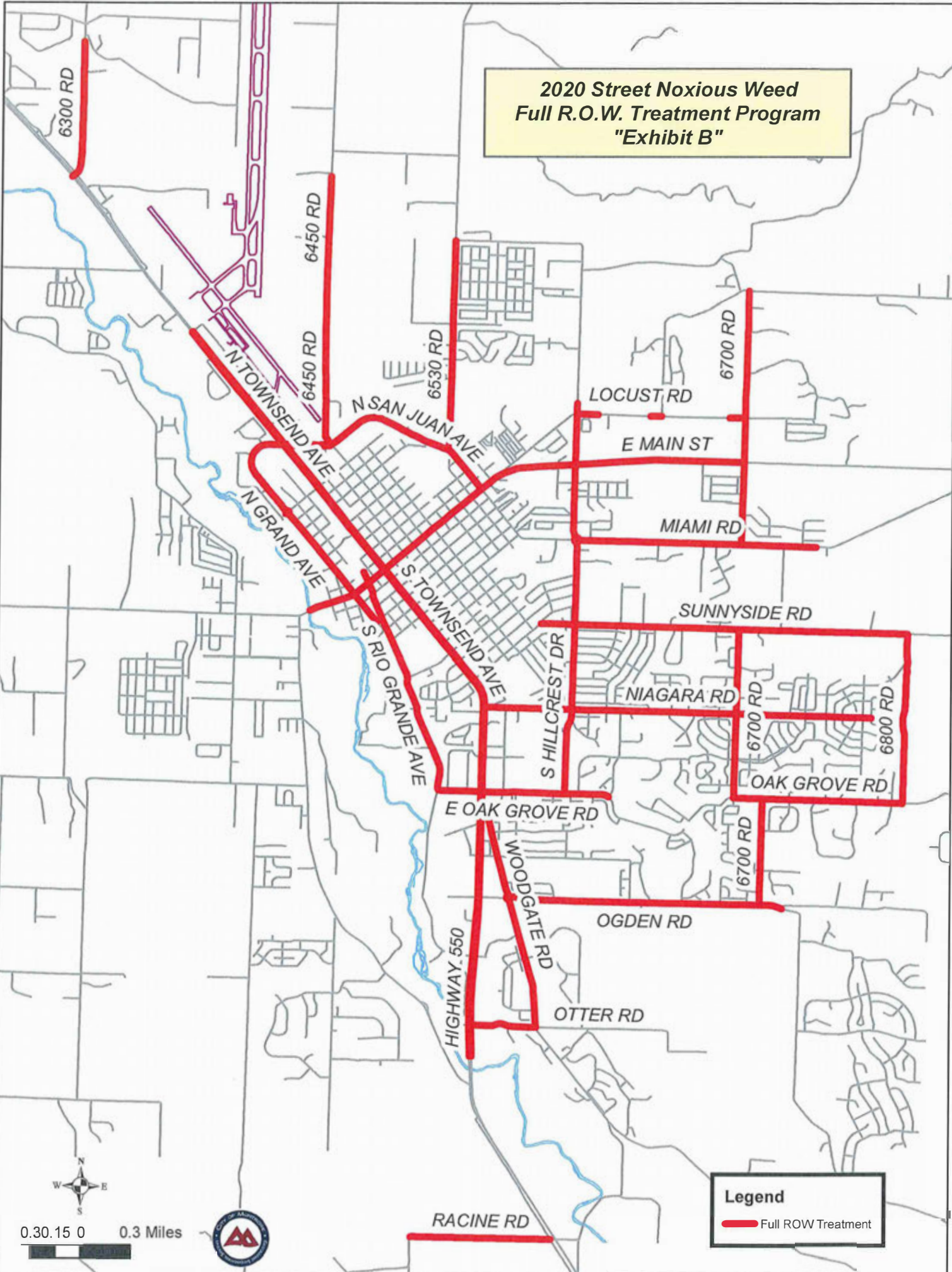
Colorado Noxious Weeds (including Watch List), effective June, 2020

Watch List Species (19)

<i>Common</i>	<i>Scientific</i>
Baby's breath	<i>(Gypsophila paniculata)</i>
Caucasian bluestem	<i>(Bothriochloa bladhii)</i>
Common bugloss	<i>(Anchusa officinalis)</i>
Common reed	<i>(Phragmites australis)</i>
Garden loosestrife	<i>(Lysimachia vulgaris)</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>(Alliaria petiolata)</i>
Himalayan blackberry	<i>(Rubus armeniacus)</i>
Hoary alyssum	<i>(Berteroa incana L.)</i>
Meadow hawkweed	<i>(Hieracium caespitosum)</i>
Onionweed	<i>(Asphodelus fistulosus)</i>
Siberian elm	<i>(Ulmus pumila)</i>
Scotch broom	<i>(Cytisus scoparius)</i>
Swainsonpea	<i>(Sphaerophysa salsula)</i>
Syrian beancaper	<i>(Zygophyllum fabago)</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>(Ailanthus altissima)</i>
Ventenata grass	<i>(Ventenata dubia)</i>
White bryony	<i>(Bryonia alba)</i>
Yellow bluestem	<i>(Bothriochloa ischaemum)</i>
Yellow flag iris	<i>(Iris pseudacorus)</i>

EXHIBIT B

**2020 Street Noxious Weed
Full R.O.W. Treatment Program
"Exhibit B"**



0.30.15 0 0.3 Miles



Legend

- Full ROW Treatment

EXHIBIT C



Agreement for Noxious Weed Control on City Property

I, the undersigned Owner of property located at _____, abutting _____ is requesting that the City of Montrose cease all herbicide application as described below and agree:

To follow the guidelines of this agreement for a term of 1 calendar year and to file a new agreement by January 1 of each year.

Detailed description of no spray area:

See sketch pad on reverse side.

The City of Montrose agrees to take all reasonable precautions to avoid spraying herbicides within 10' of the described property. Montrose Public Works Department maintains the authority to spray herbicides along all City roadsides and parks in conjunction with maintenance activities but as a courtesy to the undersigned, will reasonably avoid spraying roadsides and parks as stated above so long as noxious weeds are controlled by alternate methods to the satisfaction of the Streets Division Superintendent and/or Parks Division Superintendent.

This agreement will expire each year on January 1. If the Agreement expires, the applicant understands that the City will maintain the right of way using the same measures it uses throughout the city, including spraying with herbicides, mowing and/or trimming.

Applicant Name

Date

Signature

Telephone Number

Property Address

Mailing Address (if different than street)

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Authorized by – City Staff

Date

