

River Park Maintenance Guide for 2017

The Board has established a formal River Park Maintenance Policy that is premised on accomplishing the specified goals related to: environmental sensitivity, safety, accessibility, beauty, and being neighborly. And perhaps some common sense. This is a broad policy, knowing that specific application of these goals and how park maintenance is performed can vary, depending on a variety of factors. These include the need for some conformity, balancing of "manicured" vs "natural", differing terrain along the Park, changing circumstances, consideration of property owners' wishes, etc.

For 2017 some of these specific guidelines include the following:

Aesthetics - Manicured vs Natural - "Beauty" of course is in the eye of the beholder, but an effort will be made to monitor a reasonable balance of manicured vs natural maintenance.

Access – The Park is for the benefit of approximately 150 property owners of the Associations. Therefore, the Park should be maintained in such a way to create reasonable access for all users.

Mowing - To improve the health of the riverbank, including reduced soil erosion and increased water absorption, it is recommended to use a high mowing height for mowed areas. "Scalping" of grass is never healthy, particularly without adequate irrigation.

Bunch Grasses - With a small amount of attention, there are some beautiful native "bunch grasses" that can highlight the Park landscape if left to grow in select spots. These include gamagrass, bluestem and switch grasses. In addition to their beauty, they are beneficial with their deep roots (up to 15 feet) to enrich the soil and absorb water.

River Bank - The critical river bank area suffered significant damage in the Memorial flood. This is the most sensitive area for the health of the park and the river. Therefore, please consider this in the maintenance in this area. For example, the various sedge grasses (which are not very tall) are important because they have a dense root mass and stabilize the bank - plus they are pretty. And of course trees along the bank perform the same function.

Trees - We encourage tree planting in the park area, even though that includes some initial maintenance requirements. Please check with the Park Committee (and your neighbor) about tree selection and placement before you plant.

Tree Folks Trees - 2017 includes the planting of trees along the bank for the length of the Park. These may require some special attention.

River Park Committee Responsibilities

The River Park Committee has been delegated the task of monitoring of River Park maintenance. The Board asks you work with the Committee (as well as your neighbor) in accomplishing the collective goals of our members. If issues are not satisfactorily resolved, such matters can be brought to the Board level for resolution.