

## ELK RIDGE CITY

# Wildflower Park

## Stewardship & Management Plan

### Vision

The Elk Ridge Wildflower Park shall be preserved as a natural foothill landscape celebrating Utah's native wildflowers, grasses, pollinators, birds, and wildlife. The park is intended to remain a natural preserve sustained through volunteer stewardship rather than intensive maintenance.

### Management Goals

- Preserve desirable vegetation, wildlife habitat, soils, and natural drainage.
- Promote appropriate wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees.
- Reduce routine irrigation, mowing, fertilization, and long-term maintenance costs.
- Maintain existing trails, benches, drainage facilities, and disc golf in safe condition.
- Support wildfire-resistant landscaping and responsible fuel management.
- Engage residents through volunteer projects, education, and donor programs.

### Management Philosophy

Preserve first. Restore where appropriate. Steward through volunteers. Educate the community. The park will remain a natural, low-water landscape that evolves through careful stewardship rather than intensive landscaping.

### Maintenance Standards

**Irrigation:** Temporary establishment watering is permitted for newly seeded areas and newly installed trees, shrubs, tubelings, plugs, bulbs, and other plant material. Once established, routine irrigation should be discontinued; supplemental water may be provided when plants show signs of stress or are struggling during drought, excessive heat, or unusually dry conditions.

**Limited Mowing and Seasonal Cutting:** Wildflower meadow areas shall not be routinely mowed during the active growing, flowering, and seed-development season. Mowing or cutting may be performed when necessary to establish or rejuvenate the planting, suppress invasive or noxious weeds, maintain paths and defined edges, control unwanted woody vegetation, and satisfy applicable fire-safety requirements. Following seasonal dormancy and approved seed dispersal, meadow areas may be cut back in accordance with the adopted maintenance schedule. Vegetation within required defensible-space areas around structures shall be maintained at the heights required by Elk Ridge City Code and as directed by the City Fire Marshal.

**Fertilization:** None, except a limited City-approved treatment needed to establish a specific planting.

### Fire-Resistant Landscape Management

Vegetation management will prioritize native and adapted species with relatively low flammability where practical while supporting the City's Community Wildfire Defense objectives.

### Wildlife Habitat

The park will preserve and enhance habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife through diverse native and well-adapted vegetation. The resulting plant community supports natural wildlife movement patterns and complements regional wildlife management efforts, including those addressing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

**Natural Regeneration:** Native vegetation shall be allowed to regenerate whenever practical. Volunteer restoration efforts should supplement—not replace—the existing plant community.

## Weed Management

Volunteer efforts will focus on controlling noxious and invasive weeds using hand removal and limited herbicide only when necessary.

## Wildflower Enhancement

Wildflower areas may be enhanced through periodic fall reseeding using City-approved seed mixes appropriate for Elk Ridge site conditions. The recommended palette includes Rocky Mountain bee plant, blue flax, desert bluebell, California poppy, western yarrow, globe gilia, prairie coneflower, firecracker penstemon, Rocky Mountain penstemon, Palmer's penstemon, and Utah sweetvetch. Seed should generally be broadcast and incorporated with a drag harrow or other approved method appropriate to site conditions. Final mixes and quantities may be adjusted based on availability, field conditions, and qualified professional or supplier recommendations. Naturalized, approved certified disease-free daffodils already occur in selected areas of the park; additional approved certified disease-free daffodils may be planted in conjunction with fall reseeding where appropriate.

## Native Grass Establishment

Where restoration of a native grass understory is appropriate, approved seed mixes may incorporate Indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, bluebunch wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, mountain brome, western wheatgrass, and Sandberg's bluegrass together with selected wildflowers. These plantings are intended to improve soil stability, habitat diversity, seasonal appearance, and long-term resilience.

## Native Tree and Shrub Enhancement

Native trees and shrubs may be introduced as tubelings or other appropriate nursery stock to increase plant diversity, improve wildlife habitat, stabilize soils, and strengthen long-term resilience. Species shall be selected from the approved plant palette in Appendix A based on site conditions and availability. Not every listed species is intended or required to be planted. Plantings should complement existing vegetation and preserve the park's open, natural character.

## Volunteer Stewardship

The Elk Ridge Beautification Committee and Parks & Trails Committee will coordinate volunteer stewardship efforts, including workdays, seasonal priorities, and approved maintenance and enhancement activities. The primary annual cleanup period is March through May and may include litter removal, fallen branches and dead plant material where appropriate, invasive weed control, trail cleanup, and preparation of planting or reseeding areas. Other seasonal efforts may include plant monitoring, seed collection, reseeding, habitat restoration, and educational activities.

## Adaptive Management

The Parks & Trails Committee and City staff may periodically adjust stewardship practices based on field observations, plant establishment, invasive species conditions, wildfire risk, and recommendations from qualified professionals. Plant selections, seed mixes, establishment methods, planting densities, and supplemental watering may be adjusted as conditions warrant while remaining true to the park's guiding principles.

## Permitted and Prohibited Activities

**Permitted:** Passive recreation including walking, hiking, wildlife observation, photography, and approved volunteer stewardship.

**Prohibited:** Unauthorized planting, permanent routine irrigation, fertilization, dumping, wildlife feeding, motorized vehicles, or activities that degrade habitat or increase wildfire risk. Approved establishment and stress-response watering is permitted.

## Annual Stewardship Calendar

Spring (March-May): Cleanup, weed removal, planting, establishment watering, and monitoring.

Summer: Plant and wildlife monitoring, trail maintenance, education, and supplemental watering only as needed for plant stress.

Fall: Seed collection, reseeding, tubeling/tree/shrub planting, approved daffodil planting, and establishment watering as needed.

Winter: Planning, volunteer recruitment, and adaptive management review.

## Appendix A

Recommended Native Plant Palette, including site-specific tree, shrub, grass, and wildflower recommendations.

## Appendix B

Planting & Stewardship Guide, including establishment, seasonal care, volunteer coordination, and fire-wise practices.

## Closing Vision

Through the combined efforts of volunteers, residents, and Elk Ridge City, the Wildflower Park will remain a place where native landscapes thrive, pollinators flourish, wildlife finds healthy habitat, and future generations can experience the beauty of Utah's foothills. By preserving the land's natural character while thoughtfully stewarding its resources, the City demonstrates its commitment to conservation, community service, and responsible land management.



## ELK RIDGE CITY WILDFLOWER PARK STEWARDSHIP & MANAGEMENT PLAN

# APPENDIX A RECOMMENDED NATIVE PLANT PALETTE

Based on recommendations from Matthew Madsen,  
BYU Plant & Wildlife Sciences



### RECOMMENDED VENDORS

- **Tubelings (native live plants):**  
Start with [EcoPoint](https://ecopoint-inc.com/native-live-plant-installation) –  
[ecopoint-inc.com/native-live-plant-installation](https://ecopoint-inc.com/native-live-plant-installation).  
Let us know if you need other vendors.
- **Wildflower seed:**  
[Granite Seed](#) and [Erosion Control](#).

### NOTES FROM DR. MATTHEW MADSEN (BYU)

Use locally adapted, drought-tolerant species that establish quickly and support pollinators and wildlife. A diverse mix of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees will create a resilient plant community that improves soil health, reduces erosion, and requires minimal long-term irrigation.



### TREES AND SHRUBS TO PLANT AS TUBELINGS

Select from these native species (you do not need all of them):

| COMMON NAME                | SCIENTIFIC NAME                    | TYPE             |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Two-needle pinyon          | <i>Pinus edulis</i>                | Tree             |
| Big sagebrush              | <i>Artemisia tridentata</i>        | Shrub            |
| Skunkbush sumac            | <i>Rhus trilobata</i>              | Shrub            |
| Smooth sumac               | <i>Rhus glabra</i>                 | Shrub            |
| Green ephedra / Mormon tea | <i>Ephedra viridis</i>             | Shrub            |
| Fourwing saltbush          | <i>Atriplex canescens</i>          | Shrub            |
| Apache plume               | <i>Fallugia paradoxa</i>           | Shrub            |
| Wax currant                | <i>Ribes cereum</i>                | Shrub            |
| Golden currant             | <i>Ribes aureum</i>                | Shrub            |
| Woods rose                 | <i>Rosa woodsii</i>                | Shrub            |
| Netleaf hackberry          | <i>Celtis reticulata</i>           | Tree             |
| Fembush                    | <i>Chamaebatiaria millefolium</i>  | Shrub            |
| Antelope bitterbrush       | <i>Purshia tridentata</i>          | Shrub            |
| Curleaf mountain mahogany  | <i>Cercocarpus ledifolius</i>      | Small tree/shrub |
| Utah serviceberry          | <i>Amelanchier utahensis</i>       | Shrub/small tree |
| Mountain snowberry         | <i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i>   | Shrub            |
| Blue elderberry            | <i>Sambucus caerulea</i>           | Shrub/small tree |
| Yellow rabbitbrush         | <i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i> | Shrub            |
| Rubber rabbitbrush         | <i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>         | Shrub            |
| Utah juniper               | <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>       | Tree             |
| Gambel oak                 | <i>Quercus gambelii</i>            | Small tree/shrub |

Not every listed species is intended or required to be planted.  
Select based on site conditions and availability.



### ESTABLISHMENT NOTES

All seed mixes are recommended to be broadcast and then incorporated with a drag harrow for best soil contact and germination.



Seed mixes may be adjusted based on site conditions, availability, and professional recommendations.



Tubelings and seeds are most successful when chosen according to micro-site conditions, soil type, moisture availability, and sunlight.



### ELKRIDGE CUSTOM WILDFLOWER SEED MIX

Area: 4 acres.

Broadcast seed, then incorporate with a drag harrow.

| COMMON NAME                  | SEEDS/LB  | PLS LBS/AC  | PLS SEEDS/FT² | % OF SEEDS | TOTAL PLS LBS |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Rocky Mountain bee plant     | 200,000   | 1.2         | 5.5           | 9.8%       | 4.8           |
| Blue flax                    | 285,000   | 1.2         | 7.9           | 14.0%      | 4.8           |
| Desert bluebell              | 81,300    | 2.0         | 3.7           | 6.7%       | 8.0           |
| California poppy             | 260,000   | 1.0         | 6.0           | 10.7%      | 4.0           |
| Western yarrow               | 2,790,000 | 0.2         | 12.8          | 22.9%      | 0.8           |
| Globe gilia                  | 986,000   | 0.2         | 4.5           | 8.1%       | 0.8           |
| Prairie coneflower           | 120,000   | 0.8         | 2.2           | 3.9%       | 3.2           |
| Firecracker penstemon        | 356,558   | 1.0         | 8.2           | 14.6%      | 4.0           |
| Rocky Mountain penstemon     | 500,000   | 0.8         | 9.2           | 16.4%      | 3.2           |
| Palmer's penstemon           | 610,000   | 0.8         | 11.2          | 20.0%      | 3.2           |
| Utah Sweetvetch              | 47,810    | 2.0         | 2.2           | 3.9%       | 8.0           |
| <b>Forb Subtotal / Total</b> |           | <b>9.4*</b> | <b>56.0*</b>  |            | <b>37.6*</b>  |

\* Minor differences in original mix totals;  
adjust final quantities with the supplier as needed.



### ELKRIDGE CUSTOM GRASS AND WILDFLOWER SEED MIX

Project Size: 2 acres.

Broadcast seed, then incorporate with a drag harrow.

#### GRASSES

| COMMON NAME              | SEEDS/LB  | PLS LBS/AC  | PLS SEEDS/FT² | % OF SEEDS   | TOTAL PLS LBS |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Indian ricegrass         | 120,000   | 2.0         | 5.5           | 7.3%         | 4.0           |
| Bottlebrush squirreltail | 192,000   | 1.0         | 4.4           | 5.8%         | 2.0           |
| Bluebunch wheatgrass     | 140,000   | 3.0         | 9.6           | 12.8%        | 2.0           |
| Slender wheatgrass       | 159,000   | 1.6         | 5.8           | 7.8%         | 3.2           |
| Mountain brome           | 64,000    | 1.0         | 1.5           | 2.0%         | 2.0           |
| Western wheatgrass       | 130,000   | 1.0         | 3.0           | 4.0%         | 2.0           |
| Sandberg's bluegrass     | 1,047,000 | 0.5         | 12.0          | 15.9%        | 1.0           |
| <b>Grass Subtotal</b>    |           | <b>10.1</b> | <b>41.9</b>   | <b>63.0%</b> | <b>20.2</b>   |

#### FORBS (WILDFLOWERS)

| COMMON NAME              | SEEDS/LB  | PLS LBS/AC | PLS SEEDS/FT² | % OF SEEDS   | TOTAL PLS LBS |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Rocky Mountain bee plant | 200,000   | 0.6        | 2.8           | 3.7%         | 1.2           |
| Blue flax                | 285,000   | 0.6        | 3.9           | 5.2%         | 1.2           |
| Desert bluebell          | 81,300    | 1.0        | 1.9           | 2.5%         | 2.0           |
| California poppy         | 260,000   | 0.5        | 3.0           | 4.0%         | 1.0           |
| Western yarrow           | 2,790,000 | 0.1        | 3.2           | 4.2%         | 0.1           |
| Globe gilia              | 986,000   | 0.1        | 2.3           | 3.0%         | 0.2           |
| Prairie coneflower       | 120,000   | 0.4        | 1.1           | 1.5%         | 0.8           |
| Firecracker penstemon    | 356,558   | 0.5        | 4.1           | 5.4%         | 1.0           |
| Rocky Mountain penstemon | 500,000   | 0.4        | 4.6           | 6.1%         | 0.8           |
| Palmer's penstemon       | 610,000   | 0.4        | 5.6           | 7.4%         | 0.8           |
| Utah Sweetvetch          | 47,810    | 1.0        | 1.1           | 1.5%         | 2.0           |
| <b>Forb Subtotal</b>     |           | <b>5.6</b> | <b>33.5</b>   | <b>44.4%</b> | <b>11.1</b>   |

|                                |             |             |             |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>TOTAL (GRASSES + FORBS)</b> | <b>15.7</b> | <b>75.4</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>31.3</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|



**FOCUS:** Native, drought-tolerant plants • Habitat • Pollinators • Soil Health • Resilience





## ELK RIDGE CITY WILDFLOWER PARK STEWARDSHIP & MANAGEMENT PLAN

# APPENDIX B PLANTING & STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

*A Companion to Appendix A – Recommended Native Plant Palette*



### 1. SITE PREPARATION

- Remove litter and debris.
- Control invasive weeds before planting.
- Lightly scarify compacted soil if needed.
- Plan for seeding in fall (Sept–Nov) or early spring (Mar–Apr).



### 2. PLANTING & SEEDING

- Install tubelings in fall (Sept–Nov) or early spring (Mar–May).
- Plant on contour when possible to reduce erosion.
- Broadcast seed using the mixes in Appendix A.
- Incorporate seed using a drag harrow.



### 3. ESTABLISHMENT CARE

- Water tubelings at planting and as needed during dry periods (first season).
- Initial irrigation is essential for successful establishment.
- Avoid irrigation after establishment except when plants are stressed.
- Monitor for weed competition and water only if plants are stressed.



### 4. HABITAT BENEFITS

- Provides food and shelter for pollinators, birds, and wildlife.
- Deep-rooted natives improve soil health and reduce erosion.
- Diverse plant community increases ecological resilience.



### 5. FIRE-WISE LANDSCAPING

- Use native plants that are low-growing and well-spaced.
- Maintain open areas along trails and access points.
- Keep vegetation healthy to reduce wildfire risk.



### 6. VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP & MAINTENANCE

The Elk Ridge Beautification Committee and Parks & Trails Committee will be responsible for coordinating volunteer stewardship efforts for Wildflower Park, including organizing volunteer workdays, communicating seasonal priorities, and helping direct approved maintenance and enhancement activities.

- Volunteer cleanups, plantings, and monitoring support a thriving park.
- Committees coordinate volunteer efforts and seasonal priorities.
- Many hands keep the park beautiful!

#### SEASONAL VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES



#### SPRING CLEANUP March – May

Primary annual cleanup activities. May include litter removal, removal of fallen branches and dead plant material (where appropriate), invasive weed control, trail cleanup, and preparation of planting or reseeding areas.



#### SUMMER MONITORING June – August

Monitor plant and wildlife health. Water newly established plants as needed. Check for invasive species and trail conditions.



#### FALL RESEEDING & PLANTING September – November

Collect native seed where appropriate. Reseed meadows and habitat areas. Plant tubelings, trees, and shrubs. Enhance habitat for the coming spring.



#### WINTER PLANNING December – February

Plan and evaluate stewardship goals. Schedule workdays and trainings. Promote volunteer opportunities. Maintain equipment.



#### ONGOING DOCUMENTATION Year-Round

Take photos, record observations, and report issues to the City.

### 7. SEASONAL STEWARDSHIP CALENDAR



#### SPRING Mar – May

- Cleanup & weed removal
- Plant trees & shrubs
- Plant bulbs
- Monitor & water



#### SUMMER Jun – Aug

- Monitor plant & wildlife health
- Trail maintenance
- Water new plants
- Education & outreach



#### FALL Sep – Nov

- Seed collection
- Reseed meadows
- Plant bulbs & shrubs
- Remove invasives



#### WINTER Dec – Feb

- Plan & evaluate
- Volunteer recruitment
- Equipment maintenance
- Enjoy the beauty!



#### VOLUNTEER TIP

Nature has seasons—and so do we. Each season is an opportunity to care for the park and plan for the future. Thank you for your stewardship!



### 8. STEWARDSHIP PHILOSOPHY

The Elk Ridge Wildflower Park is more than a park—it is a living landscape that connects us to the beauty of our foothills, supports wildlife and pollinators, and strengthens our community.

#### PLANT NATIVE • PRESERVE BEAUTY • PROTECT TOMORROW



Choose plants that belong here and support local ecosystems. Care for the land so future generations can enjoy it. Every action today builds a stronger, healthier community.



TOGETHER, WE GROW BEAUTY, RESILIENCE, AND PRIDE.

*Thank you to all volunteers who make Elk Ridge Wildflower Park possible!*