

**ATTACHMENT D: NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEASURES**

## **NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL MEASURES**

Practices for minimizing noxious weeds are also outlined in the *erosion control best practices* described in the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). This list summarizes weed control practices that will be implemented for this project.

- Weed control for Pathway will address only areas disturbed by Pathway construction and not weed infestations outside of the disturbance area even if they are within Xcel Energy's right-of-way.
- Prior to construction, areas of potential concern related noxious weed spread will be identified and avoided. Clearing or blading will occur in the minimum area needed for safe and efficient construction
- Unnecessary surface disturbance will be limited. Bare ground represents an open ecological niche that allows for the establishment of undesirable species, such as noxious weeds. Disturbance footprints associated with construction activities will be limited to the extent practicable to minimize opportunities for noxious weeds.
- Topsoil will be stockpiled in the area of the disturbance, as practicable or as required by the SWMP, for use during revegetation activities post-construction. This will minimize in-soil seed bank migration during restoration.
- Areas that do not require grubbing or grading for access, commonly referred to as "drive and crush," will rebound naturally when the topsoil layer and associated root structure remain in place and have only been compressed by construction activity. These areas will be left alone and monitored post-construction to confirm successful restoration.
- Revegetation will be implemented per the SWMP. Seed selection will be based on site-specific conditions and the appropriate seed mix identified for those conditions. Weed-free seed mixes will be used during revegetation. This is an Xcel Energy standard and one that can be certified by the contractor.
- Xcel Energy's noxious weed management contractor will implement noxious weed control measures in accordance with existing regulations and Xcel Energy policy.