



FLOOD MITIGATION OFFICE

NATURALIZED GRASS & ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVES



You may have noticed that grass and other pioneering species are a little taller in certain areas than others. The grass is allowed to grow uninhibited around some parts of the Valley and around some parts of the newly constructed berms because these areas are considered Environmental Reserves. It can look shaggier at times but will make sure there is good establishment in those areas. The tall grasses retain moisture in the soil and create shade allowing for germination underneath. **Continual mowing of natural areas will inhibit growth of native grass species** going into the heat of the summer as the grass will burn and may not recover or if cut before the species go to seed, inhibiting spreading of intended species.

The Town of Drumheller and the Flood Office try to keep these areas as natural as possible which have benefitted from the rainfall this spring and will soon go to seed. Selective trimming of weeds to remove seed heads prior to flowering is best practice as an intermediate step and weeds will become less prevalent as the native grasses fully establish and choke out any uncovered soil. **Residents can elect to mow a strip of land outside their property line but please note herbicides are not suitable to be used near any body of water.** Areas designated as Environmental Reserve (e.g. newly constructed berms) are meant to remain natural once established. A reminder that **native species can take multiple growing seasons to fully establish** but once established will require no additional nutrients or water and will remain greener longer.