

POLICY #902C

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Policy Title:	Green Space Maintenance
Policy Number:	902C
Approval:	Town Council
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Supersedes Policy No.:	New

Policy Statement:

The Town of Olds will maintain Green Spaces in accordance with established standards.

Purpose:

To establish service levels to ensure Green Spaces are managed in an effective, efficient, and safe level of service to reduce or eliminate potential liability claim exposure.

To maintain outdoor public open spaces through the scheduling and implementation of mowing, weed control, pest control, aeration, and fertilization programs.

To establish effective, economical, and environmentally sound turf care management practices

To establish guidelines for the selection, planting, and management of Trees in Green Spaces.

Standards:

1. General

- 1.1. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or designate(s) is responsible for administering this policy within established standards.
- 1.2. This policy is intended to provide general service guidelines and does not guarantee exact timing or frequency at any specific location. Service levels may be adjusted at any time based on operational capacity, weather conditions, staffing levels, growth rates, and environmental conditions.
- 1.3. Complaints shall be responded to as per Council Policy 105C Communication and Response.
- 1.4. The Town is accountable to federal and provincial regulations as well as to its own policies and procedures with respect to use, storage, transportation, and disposal of pesticides.

- 1.5. Playgrounds and outdoor facilities are maintained to meet user demand, as well as to ensure user safety and address legislative or liability requirements.
- 1.6. All Town staff and contractors carrying out pest management activities on behalf of the Town will receive appropriate training and certification.
- 1.7. The Town shall establish mowing, weed control, pest control, aeration, and fertilization programs, and review annually.
- 1.8. Maintenance is weather dependent and may not take place as scheduled.

2. Green Spaces

- 2.1. Maintenance will be carried out on a priority basis, with highest priority given to immediate safety issues, followed by green spaces that are highly visible, frequently used and serve key community functions.
- 2.2. The Town is committed to protecting the health and well-being of people and green spaces. When herbicides and pesticides are used, certified products will be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes impacts on non-target plants and animals, taking into account environmental conditions.
- 2.3. The Town will maintain a 10-metre pesticide free zone around all playground apparatus, unless the entire area is closed to the public for a period of 24 hours following the application.

3. Tree Conservation, Planting and Maintenance

- 3.1. The Town will strive to conserve existing Trees in Green Spaces. New Trees shall be selected from an established Alberta species list, with a reference for native plants where site conditions and locations allow.
- 3.2. For trees that extend across both Town and private property, the Town will cover all costs for pruning or removal of trees where the main stem is 50% or more on Town land. Trees where the main stem is more than 50% on private property are the responsibility of the homeowner. For trees determined to be Town property, the Town will maintain appropriate vertical and horizontal clearances on all streets, sidewalks, and trails balancing tree and shrub health, or aesthetics, safety, and operational requirements.
- 3.3. Tree removal will only occur after evaluation by qualified staff or qualified contractors. Parks staff may remove the affected tree limbs or the entire tree within an appropriate time frame. Trees showing visual defects that will result in catastrophic failure will be prioritized for removal.
- 3.4. Logs and wood chips will be removed where possible. In natural or inaccessible areas , all approved logs will remain on site to decompose naturally.
- 3.5. Boulevard tree removal or relocation is at the sole discretion of the Town. Property owners requesting removal or relocation must notify the Town before any removal or relocation takes place.

- 3.6. Decisions regarding tree hazard assessments will be made by a qualified horticulturalist or arborist, in consultation with a certified arborist, and in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment standards.

SCHEDULE A: SERVICE LEVELS

1. Mowing

1.1. The inventory for mowing area is summarized as follows:

- Sportsfields
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Cemetery
- Off Leash Dog Park
- Green Spaces and Boulevards

1.2 The mowing service level shall be set as follows:

- Sportsfields and Parks:
 - Sportsfields: Weekly
 - Parks: Bi-weekly
- Playgrounds: Bi-weekly
- Trails: Bi-weekly
- Off Leash Dog Park: Three times per year
- Green Spaces and Boulevards: Bi-Weekly

1.3 Exceptions

- Notwithstanding clause 1.2, High Visibility amenities have a service level that exceeds the Service Level Schedule for its category. The High Visibility amenities include:
 - Town property along Highway 27
 - Centennial Park
 - Cemetery

2. Weed Control

2.1. Priority will be locations with recreational facilities (sports fields).

2.2. The Town will use a combination of techniques including mechanical and physical treatments, biological control, habitat manipulation, and judicious application of pesticides.

2.3. Efforts will be made to identify novel or innovative approaches for weed prevention and management. These alternative techniques will be piloted for applicability and efficacy and considered for further implementation based on observed results.

2.4. Except for sports fields, the Town does not maintain weed-free conditions. An acceptable level of weeds may be present, particularly in low-use or naturalized areas.

2.5. Weed control thresholds are based on location type and level of use. Sports fields are considered high-use areas, where broadleaf weeds may pose safety risks and impact turf health. All areas are assessed before treatment to confirm thresholds are met.

3. Trees

3.1. The Town shall target an annual tree replacement of one-to-one ratio.

3.2. Arbor care shall be provided on a priority basis.

SCHEDULE B: SPORTS FIELDS CLASSIFICATION

The Town of Olds classifies its outdoor sports fields by level of service and amenities available. The following defines each classification and criteria for each outdoor sports field:

Class A:

Rotary Park Diamonds – Cornerstone, Hildebrand Motors, Olds Family Dental, and Richardson Pioneer.

Rotary Park Soccer Fields – Hildebrand Motors and Stirton.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full sized field• Fully fenced fields• Inground Irrigation• Players benches• Pitcher's Plate/Mound (Baseball)• Full sized goals (Soccer)• Infield Groomed 3 times per week• Cut 2 times per week• Aerified 2 times annually• Fertilized 3 times annually• Overseeded annually• Top-dressed annually | <p><u>Amenities:</u></p> <p>Washroom Facilities</p> <p>Seasonal Portable Toilets</p> <p>Dugouts</p> <p>Paved Parking lot</p> |
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Class B:

OR Hedges Park – Diamonds Hedges 1,2,3

Olds Minor Soccer Green

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non – Irrigated/ Surface Irrigated when needed• Cultural Practices when needed Soccer Green• Infield Groomed 3 times per week• Fully fenced fields• Cut 2 times per week• Aerified once annually• Fertilized 2 times annually | <p><u>Amenities:</u></p> <p>Seasonal Portable Toilets</p> <p>Dugouts</p> <p>Gravel Parking lot</p> <p>Players Benches</p> |
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Class C:

Imperial North and South

Deer Meadows South

- Not irrigated
- Infield Groomed 1 time per week
- Cut 1 time per week (Imperial only)
- Aerified 1 time annually
- Fertilized 1 time annually

Amenities:

Seasonal Portable Toilets

Backstop fence only