

POLICY #902C

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Policy Title:	Green Space Maintenance
Policy Number:	902C
Approval:	Town Council Motion #23-269
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Supersedes Policy No.:	New

Policy Statement:

The Town of Olds establishes standards by which Green Spaces will be maintained.

Purpose:

To establish service levels for Green Spaces that will:

- Ensure they are managed in an effective, efficient, and safe manner for public use.
- Reduce or eliminate potential liability claim exposure.
- Provide the public with clear maintenance expectations.
- Provide for more accurate annual budgeting.

Standards:

1. General

- 1.1. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or designate(s) is responsible for administering this policy within the standards established.
- 1.2. The council recognizes that operational capacity may fluctuate, the CAO has the authority to temporarily adjust the service level schedule. Temporary adjustments to the service level schedule shall be communicated to Council.
- 1.3. Complaints shall be responded to as per Council Policy 105C Communication and Response, as amended from time to time.
- 1.4. The Town will be accountable to its regulatory responsibilities to the federal and provincial governments 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. Maintenance

- 2.1. Maintenance shall be carried out on a priority basis with the understanding that some Green Spaces will receive higher priority based on the profile of the location, function, and amount of user interaction.
- 2.2. Where use of Pesticide is required, the Town is committed to the use of “preferred pesticides” which present the least short and long-term health risk to humans and with the lowest environmental impact by residual effects.
- 2.3. The Town will maintain a 15-metre pesticide free zone around all playground apparatus, unless the entire area is closed to the public for a period of 12 hours following the application.

3. Tree Conservation, Planting and Maintenance

- 3.1. The Town will strive to conserve existing Trees in Green Spaces. Trees for planting shall be selected from an established Alberta list of species which favors native plants when site conditions and locations permit.
- 3.2. For Trees that transect the property of the Town and a Private residence, the Town will undertake and pay all costs associated with any necessary pruning or removal of Trees, the main stem of which, are proven to be 50% or greater, on Town Lands. All trees main stems which are more than 50% on the private residence are the sole responsibility of the homeowner.
- 3.3. The Town will maintain suitable vertical and horizontal clearances on all streets, sidewalks, and trails to achieve a balance between maintaining tree/shrub health or aesthetics, safety, and operational needs.
- 3.4. Tree removal will only take place after it has been evaluated by qualified staff or qualified contracted service. Parks staff may remove the affected tree limb(s) or the tree itself immediately or within an appropriate time frame based on the level of risk posed by the tree. Visual signs of defect that could result in a catastrophic failure of the tree indicating a tree or tree limb might be removed.
- 3.5. Logs and wood chips will be removed where possible. In natural areas or areas that are inaccessible, they will remain on site and be left to break down naturally.
- 3.6. Boulevard tree removal shall be at the sole discretion of the Town. Property owners requesting removal shall advise the Town of Olds prior to the removal or relocation.
- 3.7. The Town of Olds shall then determine if the tree can be moved to another location, and if so, shall be relocated at the cost of the Town. If the tree’s location is not deemed to be practical,

the property owner shall be responsible to remove the tree at the property owners' expense through a vendor approved by the Town.

- 3.8. Working in conjunction with a certified arborist, decisions regarding the tree hazard assessment will be carried out by a qualified horticulturalist/arborist, in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) tree risk assessment record.

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
- Flower Planters, Flower Beds, and Shrub Beds

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
- Flower Planters and Flower Beds: Monthly
- Shrub Beds: Every second year

1.3 Exceptions

- Notwithstanding clause 1.2, High Visibility amenities shall 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

2. Weed Control

2.1. Priority will be locations with built recreational facilities (sports fields and playgrounds), other areas may be addressed as budgets permit.

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 to pest prevention and pest management. These alternative techniques will be pilot tested for applicability and efficacy and will be considered for further implementation based on observed results.

3. Trees

3.1. The Town shall strive to achieve an annual tree replacement of one-to-one ratio. Arbor care shall be provided as budgets permit.