

TOWN OF OLDS

BYLAW NO. 2026-09

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF OLDS TO REGULATE THE USE, ENJOYMENT, AND PROTECTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY

WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, as amended, provides that a council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes, including the safety, health, and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

AND WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* further authorizes a municipality to pass bylaws respecting people, activities, and things in, on, or near a public place or place that is open to the public;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Olds deems it necessary and in the public interest to establish regulations for the use, protection, and management of Public Open Spaces to ensure the continued enjoyment and benefit of the community;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Olds, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

PART 1 – TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the “**Public Open Space Bylaw.**”

PART 2 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

2. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) “**Act**” means the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, as amended.
- (b) “**Activity**” means any regulated action, behaviour, event, or organized function carried on within a Public Open Space.
- (c) “**Chief Administrative Officer**” or “**CAO**” means the individual appointed by Council to the position of Chief Administrative Officer under the *Municipal Government Act* and pursuant to the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw; or anyone authorized to act on his/her behalf.
- (d) “**Council**” means the Town of Olds Municipal Council.
- (e) “**Peace Officer**” means a Person employed for the purposes of preserving and maintaining the public peace, and includes:

- i. a Police Officer under the *Police Act*;
 - ii. a Peace Officer appointed under the *Peace Office Act* for the purpose of the Act; and
 - iii. a Bylaw Enforcement Officer or Community Peace Officer authorized to enforce this Bylaw in accordance with their appointment.
- (f) **“Person”** means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity.
- (g) **“Public Open Space”** means land, which is not in private ownership and is open to use by the public.
- (h) **“Public Place”** means any place within the Town to which the public may have either express or implied access Including, but not limited to, areas such as streets, sidewalks, pathways, trails, and any fixture or sculpture located in such area.
- (i) **“Special Event Permit”** means written authorization issued by the Town of Olds permitting a regulated or restricted Activity within a Public Open Space.

PART 3 – APPLICATION

- 3. This Bylaw applies to all Public Open Spaces within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Olds.

PART 4 – PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE

- 4. Public Open Spaces are provided for the use and enjoyment of the public, subject to the provisions of this Bylaw.
- 5. Unless otherwise posted, all Public Open Spaces are closed from 12:00 AM to 05:00 AM.
- 6. No person shall enter or remain in a Public Open Space when it is closed to the public.

PART 5 – AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATION

- 7. The Chief Administrative Officer is responsible for the administration and enforcement of this Bylaw.

8. The Chief Administrative Officer may establish rules, guidelines, and operational procedures governing the use of Public Open Spaces, provided they are consistent with this Bylaw.
9. A Peace Officer may remove from Public Open Spaces any person who is contravening this Bylaw or who fails to comply with a lawful direction.

PART 6 – SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS

10. No person shall conduct an Activity requiring authorization unless a Special Event Permit has been issued.
11. The Town may issue a Special Event Permit subject to terms and conditions considered necessary to protect public safety, property, or the environment.
12. The Town may refuse, suspend, or cancel a Special Event Permit where:
 - (a) false or misleading information was provided;
 - (b) permit conditions are not complied with;
 - (c) the Activity poses a risk to persons or property.

PART 7 – GATHERINGS AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

13. No person shall organize or conduct a special event, demonstration, public gathering, or commercial activity in a Public Open Space without a Special Events Permit.
14. No person shall charge admission or solicit payment in a Park Space Area without written authorization from the Town.

PART 8 – CONDUCT IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

15. No person shall engage in behaviour that unreasonably interferes with the use or enjoyment of a Public Open Space by others.
16. The consumption or possession of alcohol or cannabis is prohibited except where expressly authorized by signage or permit and in compliance with municipal bylaws and provincial legislation.

PART 9 – PROTECTION OF PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

17. No person shall damage, remove, deface, or alter Town property, vegetation, or natural features within a Public Open Space.

18. No person shall deposit waste or litter except in receptacles provided for that purpose.

19. No person shall encroach upon a Public Open Space by placing any structure, or by altering the landscape for private use.

PART 10 – FIRES AND SAFETY

20. No person shall ignite or maintain a fire except in designated facilities or where authorized by fire permit.

21. Where a fire is authorized, it shall:

- (a) Be contained within a designated or approved fire receptacle or appliance;
- (b) Use only clean-dry wood, charcoal, natural gas, or propane as fuel;
- (c) Be continuously attended by a responsible person; and
- (d) Be fully extinguished before being left unattended.

22. No person shall:

- (a) Place or discard burning or smouldering material on the ground;
- (b) Move, remove, collect, or use firewood or combustible material from a Public Open Space without prior permission of the Town; or
- (c) Start or maintain a fire during a fire ban or contrary to any applicable legislation.

PART 11 – PATHWAYS AND MOVEMENT

23. All users of pathways within a Public Open Space shall exercise due care and courtesy and comply with posted signage.

PART 12 – CAMPING

24. No person shall camp, occupy, or remain overnight in a tent, trailer, recreational vehicle, or other temporary shelter on municipal property except in Public Open Spaces designated for camping or where authorized by a permit issued by the Town.

PART 13 – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

25. A person who contravenes this Bylaw is guilty of an offence.

26. An offence under this Bylaw is punishable by a fine as set out in Schedule "A."

27. In the case of an Offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes a separate offence in respect of each day, or part of a day, on which it continues and a Person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established by this bylaw for each such day.

PART 14 – EXEMPTIONS

28. The employees, servants and agents of the Town of Olds while acting in the course of their employment or duties are exempt from provisions of this bylaw.

PART 15 – OFFENCES AND ENFORCEMENT

29. A Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Notice, Municipal Violation Ticket or Violation Ticket to any Person who the Peace Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw. The Peace Officer may commence proceedings against such Person.

30. Municipal Violation Tickets and Violation Tickets will be issued in accordance with the Provincial Offences Act and the Town's General Penalty Bylaw.

31. In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention of a provision of this Bylaw constitutes a separate offence with respect to each day, or part of a day, during which the contravention continues, and a person guilty of such an offence is liable to a fine in an amount not less than that established by this Bylaw for each such separate offence.

32. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2500.00) and not less than FIFTY (\$50.00).

PART 16 – SEVERABILITY

33. If any provision of this bylaw shall be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability shall attach only to that provision and shall not in any manner affect or render invalid or unenforceable any other provision, and this bylaw shall be interpreted and enforced as if the invalid or unenforceable provision were not contained herein.

PART 17 – REPEAL

34. Bylaw 2026.09 hereby repeals the following bylaws, including all subsequent amendments:

- Public Places Bylaw 1177-80
- Parks Campground Bylaw 1410-92
- Public Places Amendment Bylaw 2008-27

PART 19 – EFFECTIVE DATE

35. This Bylaw shall come into force on the date it is finally passed.

READ A FIRST TIME the 13th day of April 2026.

READ A SECOND TIME t the 13th day of April 2026.

UNANIMOUS consent given for third reading the 13th day of April 2026.

READ A THIRD TIME the 13th day of April 2026.



Dan Daley, Mayor



Brent Williams, Chief Administrative
Officer

SCHEDULE “A” – Fines and Penalties

Unless otherwise noted all offences of the Public Open Space Bylaw have the following penalties.

| Penalty in lieu of Prosecution | 1st Offence | 2nd Offence | 3rd Offence |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$125 | \$250 | \$500 | \$750 |

SCHEDULE "B" – OFFENCES

Entering a Public Open Space outside designated hours

Entering a Public Open Space when closed

Carrying on activity without a Special Event Permit

Failure to produce a Special Event Permit

Making or providing false/misleading statement or information

Making or providing false/misleading statement or information

Entering a Public Open Space to which access is prohibited

Selling goods or services

Participating in a procession or public gathering without a Special Event Permit

Making a public address or demonstration without a Special Event Permit

Operating an amplifying system or loudspeaker without a Special Event Permit

Hosting or organizing an Event without a Special Event Permit

Hosting or organizing an Event after permit cancellation

Hosting or organizing a sporting Event without a Special Event Permit

Charging for use of a Public Open Space Area

Disrupting an activity for which a Special Event Permit has been issued

Obstructing free use or enjoyment of a Public Open Space Area

Public nuisance

Consumption of alcohol without authorization

Refusing to leave when directed

Loitering in a Public Open Space

Casting stones, missiles, or other dangerous objects

Propelling golf balls

Destroying, damaging, or removing vegetation or development

Walking, standing, or sitting on flower or shrub beds

Using grass, plots, or land where prohibited

Initiating development without a Special Event Permit

Using or dumping pesticides, herbicides, or chemical products

Littering

Dumping organic matter

Dumping household refuse

Starting fires outside authorized receptacles

Use of nonpermitted fuel

Leaving a fire unattended

Discarding burning material in a Public Open Space

Removing firewood from a Public Open Space

Collecting firewood without authorization

Failure to follow pathways regulations

Camping without permission

