



Prepared By: Operations

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Council Resolution No.: 21-288

References:

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)

Land Use Bylaw

Community Standards Bylaw

Water and Wastewater Bylaw

Records Retention Management Bylaw

Equipment Maintenance Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The Town of Olds will provide for the standards to which Green Spaces will be maintained.

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the purpose of ensuring Green Spaces are managed in an effective, efficient and safe level of service to reduce or eliminate potential liability claim exposure.

To establish an Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) for effective, economical and environmentally sound management of Town of Olds turf and vegetation and to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation.

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

SCOPE AND GUIDELINES

This policy applies to inspection, maintenance of all Green Spaces, within the Town of Olds boundary.

DEFINITIONS

“Boulevard” means that part of a highway or road that is not a roadway, but is that portion of the right-of-way of a public highway or road lying between the curb line of the roadway and the adjacent property line, or where there is no curb, that portion of the right-of-way lying between the edge of the roadway ordinarily used by vehicles and the adjacent property line;

“Green Spaces” (Urban Green Space) means land that is completely covered with grass, Trees, shrubs or other vegetation, including wetlands. This includes any Town-owned areas designated as park, playground, sports field, cemetery, Boulevard, ditch, environmental reserve, municipal reserve, public utility reserve, school reserve, laneway, undeveloped or developed residential land, located within the corporate limits of the Town of Olds.

“Integrated Pest Management (IPM)” is an ecosystem based strategy that focuses on long term prevention of pests through a combination of techniques such as biological control, cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties.

“Pesticide” includes insecticide, herbicide, miticide, fungicide and arachnicide.

“Sports Field” means fields in which various sports can be played on different types of turf (i.e. grass, shale, sand). Sports include but not limited to baseball, soccer, and football.

“Trail(s)” means engineered pathways in parks that have a sub-base of either asphalt, shale or pea gravel surfacing. These Trails may be lighted for night use, and are intended to provide linkages between neighbourhoods.

“Tree(s)” means long-lived perennial plant(s) that are woody and have a self-supporting trunk with a root system. May be deciduous or coniferous and includes all living parts.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and/or designate, shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy.

STANDARDS

The standards are outlined in each section below. Complaints shall be responded to within 24 hours should a safety concern exist.

Green Spaces

Maintenance shall be carried out on a priority basis with the understanding that due to limited finances and resources, there will be Green Spaces that receive greater priority based on use and impact to the Town, neighbourhoods and user groups.

In this policy, the Town will manage turf grass pests, defined as broadleaf weeds, grasses and noxious weeds, using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles for Turf and Vegetation Management.

IPM incorporates the procedures of turf classification (acceptable weed cover limits), weed identification, monitoring, action levels, treatments and evaluation.

Also incorporated is the use of cultural turf management practices, including soil testing, fertilizing, aeration, dethatching, and mowing as an alternative to Pesticide use to control turf grass weeds. Additional non-chemical control means to be employed include physical controls (hand pulling of weeds) and mechanical means (mowing). To control other weeds which have been identified and assessed by a certified horticulturalist, a certified Pesticide applicator using control 1, 2 or 3 will be utilized.

Where use of Pesticide is required as identified by monitoring of weed infestations, 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.

The Town will maintain a 15-metre Pesticide free zone around all playground apparatus.

Turf Classification System

Priorities for the Integrated Pest Management program will be based on a Turf Classification System that aids decision for noxious weed control and service frequency. These levels are determined based on location, function, user interaction, maintenance and weather permitting.

All Town Green Spaces shall be classified accordingly as per the table below.

Classification	Class A	Class B	Class C
Level of Service	<p>These areas consist of high value, visibility, maintenance, and user interaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parks will be maintained* on a weekly basis and as per growing season conditions • High visible boulevards in high traffic areas will be maintained at this level • Fertilization applied at this level • Pesticides will be applied when required 	<p>These areas have moderate value, visibility, maintenance, and user interaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parks will be maintained on a weekly basis and as per growing season conditions • Boulevards will be maintained at this level or less • Fertilization may be required at this level • Pesticides will be applied as needed 	<p>These areas have fair value, visibility, maintenance, and user interaction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero fertilization • Mowing as needed • Zero whipper snipping along fence lines of all open green spaces • Zero pesticide application
Sport Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Athletic Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hedges' Ball Diamonds • Elks Soccer Field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer Meadows School South Diamond • Imperial Ball Diamonds • Holy Trinity Catholic School Sports Fields
Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All town owned facilities and other facilities the Town maintains • Memorial Way (65th Avenue Boulevards) • Centennial Park • Craig's Corner Memorial Park • Frank Wong Memorial Park • Hartman Green • Herb Samis Park • Highway 27 N & S Blvd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50th Street and West CPR Boulevard (was A) • 5057 - 57 Avenue Close Playground • 60th Avenue Close • 61st Avenue • Cemetery • Lion Balsam Park • Beech Crescent • Harrison Green • Highlands Playground • Imperial Estates (3 big green spaces) • Kiwanis 56th Avenue and 58th Street Playground • Kiwanis Beech Playground • Kiwanis Destiny Playground • McLeod Crescent • Neil Leatherdale Memorial Park • Kiwanis Richard's Playground • Ralph Maybank Memorial Park • Ryan Boutwell Memorial Playground • Sherwood Crescent • Sierra Pathway • Vista's Rotary Playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57th Ave Boulevard (58 St - border) • Imperial Pathways / Utility Right of Ways • Deer Ridge Tree Reserve and Pathways • Off-Leash Dog Park

Trail Systems

Trail systems throughout town during grass care season are at a lower level. Some right of ways will be maintained every two weeks, however, those areas will be determined based on growing season and precipitation.

Determining Ownership of Trees

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.

In determining ownership of the Tree, the Town will use the following resources: location of property pins; municipal GIS or; property line survey.

Tree Conservation, Planting and Maintenance

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 favour native plants when site conditions and locations permit.

The current ratio for planting trees will be a one to one ratio.

Street, Sidewalk and Trail Tree Clearances

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.

Tree and Tree Limb Removal

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 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.

Logs and wood chips will be removed where possible. In natural areas or areas that are inaccessible, they will remain on site and left to break down naturally.

Boulevard Trees will not be removed if Tree roots grow into the property owners' sewer service line connection between private property and the town's main sewer line.

Hazardous Tree Rating System

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 ISA Tree Risk Assessment record.