The City of SPRUCE GROVE	**COUNCIL POLICY**	**Policy No:** CP-1070-26 **Approved By:** Council **Effective Date:** October 19, 2026 **Resolution No.:** RCM-257-26 **Last Reviewed Date:** October 19, 2026 **Division:** Sustainable Growth and Development - Public Works

TURF MAINTENANCE POLICY

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POLICY STATEMENT

Turfgrass is an important part of most landscapes and provides many benefits in the urban setting. Turf is often the groundcover of choice for its aesthetic value, ecological benefits, erosion prevention capacity, and weed control properties.

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To establish basic guidelines for the provision of Turf Maintenance services by the City on public lands within the corporate limits of the City.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 “Arterial Roads” means a Road in an urban environment that is designed for high volume and/or capacity to carry thoroughfare traffic and is subject to controlled or limited access. Roads are designated as Arterial as per the City’s road classification hierarchy.

2.2 “As required” means a statement that service will not be limited to a pre-planned number of occurrences per year and allows for the application of field judgment based on growth patterns, horticultural expertise, experience, and best practices.

2.3 “Buffer Strip” means a designated, Naturalized or naturally vegetated area between developed land and Wetlands, streams, or Stormwater Management Facilities to help prevent soil erosion, filter sediment, and reduce nutrient runoff. Naturalized Buffer Strips are typically planted with native grasses.

2.4 "Boulevard" means the landscaped area between the shoulder or curb of a roadway and the right-of-way boundary.

2.5 "City" means the municipal corporation of the City of Spruce Grove within the Province of Alberta.

2.6 "Collector Roads" means a Road that connects Local and Arterial Roads and provides direct property access. Roads are designated as Collector as per the City's road classification hierarchy.

2.7 "Dry Pond" means a Stormwater Management Facility that remains dry most of the time and is designated to temporarily hold Stormwater during heavy rain events.

2.8 "Easement" means a right to use land, generally for access to other property or as a right of way to other property.

2.9 "Environmental Reserve" means Lands that have been dedicated to the municipality by the developer of a subdivision as part of the subdivision approval process. Environmental Reserves are those lands that are considered undevelopable and may consist of a swamp, gully, ravine, coulee or natural drainage course, or may be lands subject to flooding or are considered unstable. Environmental Reserve may also be a strip of land, not less than 6 meters in width, abutting the bed and shore of any lake, river, stream, or other body of water for the purposes of preventing pollution or providing access to the bed and shore of the water body.

2.10 "Highways" means public roadways that are so designated in the City Transportation Plan and Land Use Bylaw.

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2.11 "Local Road" means a Road that primarily provides direct property access and is not an Alley. Roads are designated as Local Roads as per the City's road classification hierarchy.

2.12 "License of Occupation" means contract entered into by the City of Spruce Grove and a land owner which allows the resident of a private property to occupy some or all of a Public Utility Lot for the benefit of their private property.

2.13 "Median" means the landscaped area between the travel lanes of a divided roadway.

2.14 "Natural Areas" means an open space containing unusual or representative biological, physical or historical components, which, although it need not be completely undisturbed, either retains or has had re-established a natural character.

2.15 "Naturalized Areas" means landscaped or naturally occurring areas that are not mowed due to aesthetic, environmental, economic, or practical considerations.

2.16 "Open Space Area" means any land in the City which is developed, used, leased, controlled or managed by the City as a public Park, Sport Field, playground or recreational area.

2.17 "Park" means a specific-use Open Space Area that is managed to provide opportunities for recreation, education, cultural or aesthetic use.

2.18 "Public Utility Lot (PUL)" means a right of way owned by the City through which utility lines or drainage ways pass, usually beneath the surface of the ground.

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2.19 "Rough Cut" means to knock down undesirable vegetation, tall and thick grass, woody brush, and in some cases even sapling trees.

2.20 "Sport Fields" means areas specifically designated for organized or spontaneous group sport activities.

2.21 "Storm Water Management Facilities (SWMF)" means areas designed and constructed to temporarily hold overland drainage water as part of an overland Storm Water Management System.

2.22 "Turfgrass Management" means the application of scientific principals as they relate to turfgrass establishment and maintenance including mowing, seeding, and the management of soils, water, pests and nutrition.

2.23 "Turf Maintenance" means maintenance activities undertaken to promote the health of turfgrass as part of a Turfgrass Management program. Maintenance activities may include mowing, irrigating, aerating, fertilizing, weed control, top-dressing, and over-seeding.

2.24 "Wetland" means an area where standing water is retained for a portion of the year and unique vegetation and animals have adapted to the aquatic environment.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Director of Public Works shall be responsible for overall implementation and coordination of all Turf Maintenance operations.

3.2 Whenever the term "Director of Public Works" is used, it is intended to mean either the Director of Public Works or any person who may be designated from time to time to act in his/her stead.

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3.3 The Director of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and updating of this policy.

4. SERVICE LEVELS

4.1 The City will undertake Turf Maintenance activities on the following defined lands.

(a) Open Space Areas;

(b) Sport Fields;

(c) Storm Water Management Facilities (excluding established Buffer Strips or naturalized area);

(d) Highways;

(e) Arterial Roads;

(f) Collector Roads, excepting Diamond Avenue:

(i) where a Boulevard is adjacent a City operated property, or,

(ii) where a Boulevard is adjacent to the rear of a private property.

(iii) where internal properties abut Boulevard, but do not include direct access to the Boulevard (i.e. internal cul-de-sac locations).

(g) Local Roads:

(i) Medians only.

(h) Public Utility Lots:

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(i) excepting particular PUL's or portions thereof where a License of Occupation or similar agreement is in place which assigns maintenance responsibilities to an adjacent landowner.

4.2 Turf Maintenance activities will not be undertaken within any Easements.

4.3 Turf Maintenance activities within Storm Water Management Facilities shall be delineated between turfgrass and Naturalized Areas as per landscape design specification or as indicated by the Director of Public Works. Areas seeded with and intended to be naturalized will remain unmaintained except for a 6 foot Rough Cut mow strip along property lines or where additional mowing is required for weed control/seed establishment. Areas within Storm Water Management Facilities will also be maintained in accordance with the Storm Water System Maintenance Policy, as amended and prescribed Buffer Strips / access points.

4.4 The City will endeavor to maintain turf at a mowed height of between 60 mm and 90 mm for lands in 4.1 with the following exceptions:

(a) Sport Fields will be maintained at a mowed height of between 50 mm and 75 mm, As Required;

(b) portions of any arterial roads constructed to a rural cross-section standard will be maintained at a mowed height between 100 mm and 150 mm.

(c) lands or portions thereof identified as Environmental Reserve, Natural Areas, Naturalized Areas, or Wetlands may not be mowed due to aesthetic, environmental, economic, or practical considerations.

4.5 The Director of Public Works may within approved operating budget limits, authorize City resources to undertake Turf Maintenance on specific additional lands, in instances where the City desires either to:

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(a) increase operational efficiency;

(b) provide for a specific aesthetic; or

(c) complete maintenance on a Boulevard where the configuration of a Boulevard is such that it may be unreasonable to expect an adjacent property owner to complete certain maintenance.

4.6 Additional lands maintained under section 4.1 are subject to annual review and the Director of Public Works may discontinue or modify maintenance of these areas at any time.

PRIORITY	TURF CLASSIFICATION	STANDARD
Turf Maintenance operations commence May 1 and extend until end of growing season. Weather or field conditions/closures may result in modification or suspension of scheduled maintenance activities.		
1	Sports Fields	Mowed twice weekly
2	Pioneer Cemetery	Mowed weekly
3	Arterial Roadway Boulevards	Mowed bi-weekly

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4	Collector Roadway Boulevards (except Diamond Ave), Parks / Open Space Areas, Walkways, Turf areas within Stormwater Management Facilities, Local Roads – Medians, Public Utility Lots	Mowed bi-weekly
5	Naturalized Areas – 6 foot Rough Cut mow strip along Storm Water Management Facilities perimeter	Monthly
6	Highway Ditches, Dry Ponds, Lagoons - Rough Cut	Twice yearly

5. RESCISSION OF POLICY 2,018

5.1 Policy 2,018 Turf Maintenance Policy is hereby rescinded.

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RELATED DOCUMENTS

Land Use Bylaw, as amended
Traffic Bylaw, as amended
Community Standards Bylaw, as amended
Outdoor Natural Sport Fields Policy, as amended
Public Utility Lot License of Occupation Policy, as amended

APPROVAL

Mayor: Original Signed by Mayor Acker Date: October 19, 2026

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