	CORPORATE POLICY	Policy No: 2,018 Revised
		Approved By: Council
		Effective Date: October 24, 2011
		Resolution No.: 252-11
		Department: Planning & Infrastructure, Public Works Section

TURF MAINTENANCE POLICY

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 The purpose of this policy is to establish basic guidelines for the provision of turf maintenance services by the City of Spruce Grove on public lands within the corporate limits of the City.


2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 *Arterial Roads:* public roadways that are so designated in the City of Spruce Grove Transportation Plan and Land Use Bylaw.
- 2.2 *As required:* 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 *Boulevards:* the landscaped area between the shoulder or curb of a roadway and the right-of-way boundary.
- 2.4 *Collector Roads:* public roadways that are so designated in the City of Spruce Grove Transportation Plan and Land Use Bylaw.
- 2.5 *Easement:* A right to use land, generally for access to other property or as a right of way to other property.
- 2.6 *Environmental Reserve:* 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


	CORPORATE POLICY	Policy No: 2,018 Revised
		Approved By: Council
		Effective Date: October 24, 2011
		Resolution No.: 252-11
		Department: Planning & Infrastructure, Public Works Section

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.

- 2.7 *Environmentally Significant Area:* Defined as sites that are:
- a. hazard lands which are unsafe in their natural state or pose severe constraints for development;
 - b. perform a vital environmental function;
 - c. contain rare or unique features, plants or animals;
 - d. unique habitats or small remnants of once large habitats which have virtually disappeared;
 - e. large and relatively undisturbed habitats that provide shelter for species which are intolerant of human disturbance; or,
 - f. provide an important linking function or permit the movement of wildlife over considerable distance.
- 2.8 *Highways:* public roadways that are so designated in the City of Spruce Grove Transportation Plan and Land Use Bylaw.
- 2.9 *License of Occupation:* A 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.
- 2.10 *Medians:* the landscaped area between the travel lanes of a divided roadway.
- 2.11 *Municipal Reserve:* Land dedicated to the municipality by the developer during the subdivision process in accordance with the Municipal Government Act. The land is to be used for community purposes such as a park or a school.
- 2.12 *Natural Areas:* 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.

	CORPORATE POLICY	Policy No: 2,018 Revised
		Approved By: Council
		Effective Date: October 24, 2011
		Resolution No.: 252-11
		Department: Planning & Infrastructure, Public Works Section

- 2.13 *Naturalized Areas:* landscaped or naturally occurring areas that are not mowed due to aesthetic, environmental, economic, or practical considerations.
- 2.14 *Open Space Area:* 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.
- 2.15 *Park:* A specific-use open space area that is managed to provide opportunities for recreation, education, cultural or aesthetic use.
- 2.16 *Public Utility Lot (PUL):* A right of way owned by the City of Spruce Grove through which utility lines or drainage ways pass, usually beneath the surface of the ground.
- 2.17 *Riparian Zones:* Areas bordering streams, lakes, rivers, and other water courses. These areas have high water tables and support plants requiring saturated soils during all or part of the year.
- 2.18 *School Grounds:* areas that are under the control of a school district but have a maintenance agreement between the school district and the City of Spruce Grove outlining the level of service to be provided.
- 2.19 *Sport Fields:* areas specifically designated for organized or spontaneous group sport activities.
- 2.20 *Storm Water Management Facilities (SWMF):* areas designed and constructed to temporarily hold overland drainage water as part of an overland Storm Water Management System.
- 2.21 *Turfgrass Management:* 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.
- 2.22 *Turf Maintenance:* 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.

	CORPORATE POLICY	Policy No: 2,018 Revised
		Approved By: Council
		Effective Date: October 24, 2011
		Resolution No.: 252-11
		Department: Planning & Infrastructure, Public Works Section


2.23 *Wetland:* 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.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - g. Local Roads:
 - i. Medians only.
 - h. Public Utility Lots:

	CORPORATE POLICY	Policy No: 2,018 Revised
		Approved By: Council
		Effective Date: October 24, 2011
		Resolution No.: 252-11
		Department: Planning & Infrastructure, Public Works Section

- 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 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.
- 4.4 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:
 - a. increase operational efficiency, or,
 - 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.
- 4.5 Additional lands maintained under 4.3 are subject to annual review and the Director of Public Works may discontinue or modify maintenance of these areas at any time.

	CORPORATE POLICY	Policy No: 2,018 Revised
		Approved By: Council
		Effective Date: October 24, 2011
		Resolution No.: 252-11
		Department: Planning & Infrastructure, Public Works Section

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Land Use Bylaw, as amended
- Weed Bylaw, as amended
- Traffic Bylaw, as amended
- Nuisances, Unsightly and Untidy Property Bylaw, as amended
- Outdoor Natural Sport Fields Policy 8,030
- Public Utility Lot License of Occupation Policy 6,015

UNCERTIFIED COPY

<p>APPROVAL</p>	
<p>Mayor: <u>Original Signed by Stuart Houston</u></p>	<p>Date: <u>October 26, 2011</u></p>