

CITY POLICY



POLICY NUMBER: C614

REFERENCE:

Breathe Green Network Strategy
Community Standards Bylaw 14600
Integrated Pest Management Policy C501
Natural Area Systems Policy C531
North Saskatchewan River Valley A.R.P
Open Space Policy (C594)
Parkland Bylaw 2202
Traffic Bylaw 5590
Zoning Bylaw 12800

ADOPTED BY:

City Council on July 2/3, 2019

SUPERSEDES:

New

PREPARED BY: Open Space Operations / City Operations

DATE: July 3, 2019

TITLE: **Turf Management Policy**

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Policy Statement:

Turfgrass offers ecologically resilient ecosystems in our urban environment, economic vitality, social cohesion and wellness opportunities for Edmontonians.

This policy supports well-maintained turfgrass that provides a variety of environmental, economic, health, energy and climate benefits that can be summarized within three mutually supportive themes.

- **FUNCTIONAL:** Turfgrass supports healthy and resilient ecosystems, with key functions that include flood mitigation, weed control and temperature regulation.
- **RECREATIONAL:** Turfgrass connects people to one another by providing spaces for communities to gather and thrive. Passive and actively programmed open spaces provide locations to gather, participate in low cost recreation, and hold events across the City of Edmonton.
- **WELLNESS:** Turfgrass promotes healthy living and fosters well-being through diverse physiological and recreation benefits. Open spaces that are landscaped with turfgrass contribute to community beautification, increase values of adjacent properties, and contribute to the health of individuals who are able to connect with nature where they live.

Purpose:

This policy informs and guides on the development and acquisition, maintenance, and preservation of the City's turfgrass inventory. Edmonton is an environmentally sustainable and resilient city that implements innovation in turf operations to maintain a competitive ecological footprint, a vibrant and desirable city where people choose to live, play, work, visit and businesses choose to operate. This policy guides Administration to:

1. Support future City needs through the development of a long-term plan to facilitate quality, efficient, sustainable turfgrass infrastructure.
2. Provide safe, effective, efficient turfgrass maintenance operations services in foundation of a safe, healthy and sustainable community where people choose to live, work and play.
3. Preserve the turfgrass infrastructure to meet current and future community needs.

The Turf Management Policy will be administered in accordance with the City of Edmonton Turf Management Procedure.

Turf Inventory Prioritization

The following outlines turf inventory service priorities. Service frequency is variable depending on weather conditions. Service levels are determined based on the profile of the location, function and amount of user interaction.

High Priority

- Premier Sportsfields
- District, Neighbourhood and School Parks
- Civic Attractions, Event Locations, Business Improvement Areas Inventory

Medium Priority

- Streetscape and Residential Inventory
- River Valley
- Roadways

Low Priority

- Rural Roadways
- Undeveloped Land

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. City means The City of Edmonton.
- 1.2. Turfgrass is mix of diverse grass species growing on the matted surface layer of earth that consists of the binding grass roots and the soil in which the roots grow. Turfgrass includes naturally growing turfgrass and ornamental turfgrass on City property designated as Parkland, River Valley and Road right-of-way (with the exception of land which is under the jurisdiction of other orders of government).
- 1.3. Parkland means any property, whether developed or not, owned, controlled or maintained by the City as defined by Bylaw #2202 (Parkland Bylaw).
- 1.4. River Valley is the elongated lowland between ranges of mountains, hills, or other uplands, along which the North Saskatchewan river flows. This green stretch of land bordering the river banks in Edmonton is approximately 7,400 ha in size and 48 km in length.
- 1.5. Right of way is defined as a series of zones that include vehicle travel lanes (commonly referred to as the travelled way) and the portions of the street right of way allocated to other street users (e.g., people walking), open space (e.g., turfgrass, shrubs, trees) and utilities (commonly referred to as the roadside or public realm).