

TURF INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Date Issued: January 7, 2019

Mandated by: Administration

Current Revision: January 7, 2019

Cross Reference:

- Turf Installation & Maintenance Procedure GEN-043-A

Next Review: January 30, 2021

Responsibility: Director, Public Works

1. PURPOSE

To maintain aesthetically pleasing boulevards, sports fields, parks and open spaces within the City. Healthy Turf aids in beautifying the City, as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle by providing a place to play, to relax and a place to spend time with family. Turf also provides us with many environmental benefits, such as cleaning the air we breathe through carbon sequestering, oxygen generation and controlling erosion.

2. POLICY

2.1) The City shall:

- endeavor, as financial resources allow, to keep all Turf healthy, safe and aesthetically pleasing;
- strive to provide an efficient, consistent, and cost effective means to maintain the aesthetic value of Turf specific to each area;
- endeavor to manage turf areas on City owned property by employing a Turf management program;
- strive to maintain a natural approach to Turf Grass and landscape management, including utilizing cultural practices when applicable that promote healthy soil and plant life;
- maintain Turf to the following standards:

ROUTE	CUTTING HEIGHT
Push Mowing; Parks Mowing	60mm-90mm
High Profile Mowing; Cemetery Mowing; Sportsfield Mowing	60mm-90mm
Highway Buffer Mowing	80mm-150mm
Secondary Roads & Reserve Mowing; Highway Roadside Mowing	100mm-150mm

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1) *City* – The City of Fort Saskatchewan.
- 3.2) *FAC* – Final Approval Certificate.
- 3.3) *IPM* – Integrated Pest Management.
- 3.4) *Turf* – City owned Turf Grass meaning cemetery, sports fields, parks, playground, boulevards, highway buffer ditches and adjacent to walking trails.
- 3.5) *Turf Grass* – Ground cover composed of close cut thickly growing intertwining stems and leaves of grass plants.

4. EXCEPTIONS

- 4.1) This Policy shall apply only to City owned land and City maintained Turf.

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 5.1) An Administrative Procedure assigning labor, equipment and materials to the Turf Maintenance Program may be created to support this Policy.
- 5.2) The Administrative Procedure shall be followed to ensure that all City maintained Turf is inspected on a regular basis and that Turf that poses a health or safety risk to the public is assessed, prioritized and executed within an acceptable timeframe.
- 5.3) The Parks Manager, Foreman and/or Lead Hand – Turf all have authorization to adjust the level of response required for the mowing program by adjusting cutting heights or mowing frequencies to reduce stress on the Turf.

6. AUTHORITY / RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT

The Director, Public Works is authorized to establish procedures for the implementation of this Policy which are consistent with the governing principles.



City Manager

TURF INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE

Date Issued: February 15, 2019

Responsibility: Director, Public Works

Current Revision: February 15, 2019

Cross Reference:

- Turf Installation & Maintenance Policy GEN-043-A
 - Parks Safe Work Practice & Procedure for Turf Installation & Maintenance
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1. PURPOSE

To provide a strategic framework for the installation and maintenance of all City-owned and maintained turf. The City will assess turf and assign a service level interval based on size, location, specific usage, and maintenance requirements of specific turf areas such as sports fields.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1) *City* – The City of Fort Saskatchewan
- 2.2) *Turf* – City owned Turf Grass meaning cemetery, sports fields, parks, playground, boulevards, highway buffer ditches and adjacent to walking trails.
- 2.3) *Turf Grass* – Ground cover composed of close cut thickly growing intertwining stems and leaves of grass plants.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1) Installation:

- a) The City will design new turf areas in accordance with the City's Engineering Standards and industry best practices.
- b) Considerations for new turf stands are to include criteria of hardiness, suitability to native conditions, drought, disease and pest resistance and ease of maintenance.
- c) The City will install new turf in accordance with the City's Turf Installation & Maintenance Policy GEN-043-A.

3.2) Inventory:

- a) The City will inventory all new turf into designated mowing routes upon granting of Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC).

3.3) Service and Maintenance:

- a) The City will determine a service level interval for the maintenance of turf based on how often an area is used and what purposes it is being used for.
- b) All routes have a particular priority order in which they are to be completed and maps are available to all operators to ensure nothing gets missed.
- c) Designated operators will maintain each route accordingly, adjusting the mowing frequency to weather conditions and growing patterns.
- d) Each route is to be maintained completely (litter picked, line trimmed, mowed and cleaned-up before moving to the next area on the route.
- e) Each turf area will be assessed on its current condition and will include the following considerations: drainage, soil components and conditions (including nutrient levels and pH), presence of pests (animals or insects), presence of weeds, presence of turf disease, irrigated or non-irrigated, presence of native plants, and proximity to water bodies. Other conditions to consider are weather (for example, if the area has seen extreme drought or rain), current maintenance schedule and current or expected usage.

Service Level Frequency Chart

Route	Frequency	Number of Hectares
Push Mowing	1 time per week	0.30
High Profile Mowing	1 time per week	24.87
Cemetery Mowing	1 time per week	No Data
Parks Mowing	1 time per week	120.42
Sportsfield Mowing	1 time per week (with the exception of certain Sportsfields, which require 2 times per week)	15.86
Highway Buffer Mowing	1 time per week	124.28
Secondary Roads & Reserves Mowing	3 times per season	7.36
Highway Roadsides Mowing	3 times per season	63.85
Nordic Ski Trails	2 times per season (spring/fall)	No Data

3.4) Maintenance to Turf may include:

- a) Soil testing
- b) Removal of leaves and litter
- c) Aeration
- d) Dethatching
- e) Fertilizing
- f) Topdressing
- g) Over seeding (including using specialized seed mixes, based on soil testing)
- h) Watering (installation of irrigation, change to irrigation schedule, utilization of water cannon or water truck)
- i) Soil amendments
- j) Cutting of turf
- k) Line trimming of turf
- l) Pest control
- m) Application of herbicide or insecticide
- a) Removal of diseased turf
- b) Planting of new turf
- c) Installation or change to drainage
- d) Allowing naturalization of an area

3.5) Lifecycle Management:

- a) Turf is inspected regularly during regular mowing operations and when turf has reached or is nearing the end of its lifecycle, recommendations will be forwarded to the Manager, Parks Services for further consideration.

3.6) Records Management and Program Review:

- a) The City will record all turf maintenance accomplishments (including inspections) daily (through Worktech) to ensure that all routes are being completed in an acceptable timeframe so that adjustments can be made should there be a decline in the service level.

- b) The effectiveness of the Turf Installation & Maintenance Program will be reviewed annually through creating a Program Summary, which will include data from Worktech, the number of Fort Report Service Tracker requests.

4. SUCCESS INDICATORS

- 4.1) All City-owned and maintained turf is being maintained in accordance with the City's service level intervals to provide residents with safe, healthy and aesthetically pleasing turf, while avoiding disturbances to the public.

5. LEGISLATION

- 5.1) The City of Fort Saskatchewan will adhere to all pertinent legislation while providing maintenance to City turf.
- 5.2) Legislative context to include:
 - a) Alberta Occupational Health & Safety Legislation
 - b) Alberta Traffic Safety Act
 - c) Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
 - d) Alberta Weed Control Act
 - e) Pest Control Products Act (Federal)
 - f) Alberta Agricultural Pests Act
 - g) Alberta Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation
 - h) Alberta Wildlife Act
 - i) Weed Notice

6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 6.1) The City of Fort Saskatchewan will adhere to all pertinent supporting documentation while providing service and maintenance to City turf.
- 6.2) Supporting documents to include:
 - a) City of Fort Saskatchewan Health and Safety Policy
 - b) Job Hazard Assessments (JHAs)
 - c) Safe Work Practices and Procedures (SWP&Ps)
 - d) City of Fort Saskatchewan Engineering Standards
 - e) Canadian Standards for Nursery Stock

- f) Development Agreement
- g) Final Acceptance Certificate
- h) Mowing Route Maps
- i) Photos

7. REFERENCES/LINKS

- Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code - <http://work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety/ohs-act-regulation-and-code.html>
- Alberta Traffic Safety Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/t06.pdf>
- Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/acts/e12.pdf>
- Alberta Weed Control Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/W05P1.pdf>
- Pest Control Products Act - <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/P-9.pdf>
- Alberta Agricultural Pests Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A08.pdf>
- Alberta Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation - http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=2001_184.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779792481
- Alberta Wildlife Act - <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/W10.pdf>
- Alberta Weed Notice - [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv409/\\$FILE/authority_notice06-13-2011.pdf](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv409/$FILE/authority_notice06-13-2011.pdf)
- City of Fort Saskatchewan Health and Safety Policy - <http://www.fortsask.ca/Home/ShowDocument?id=3673>
- Canadian Standards for Nursery Stock - http://www.canadanursery.com/Storage/47/5649_CSNS_-_8th_Edition_-_web.pdf
- City of Fort Saskatchewan Parkland Bylaw 1952 – <http://www.fortsask.ca/city-government/bylaws/parkland>