



sturgeon county

Vegetation Management Standards Policy Review

Overview

- Current State
- Desired Program Improvement Areas
- Options for Policy Amendment to expand current Service Levels
- Resource Implications of Each Option
- Opportunity for Council Questions/ Input

Overview

Desired Presentation Outcome: to facilitate Council discussion and to understand desired Council direction on which option to pursue further and to bring forward at February 28th Council Meeting for consideration

Current State

- Vegetation Management Standards Policy Approved by Council in May 2016.

Classification	Level of Service	Areas Included	Approx. % of Vegetation Management Area
Type 1	High; Trimming Included	High Use Areas; Improvements or Development Present	5%
Type 2	Moderate; No Trimming	Low Use Areas; Limited or No Development	85%
Type 3	Low; No Trimming	Environmentally Significant Areas; No Development	10%
Local Road Allowances	Low; No Trimming	Rural, Gravel Road Allowances	N/A

Current State

- Hard-surfaced Roadsides within multi-lot subdivisions (eg. Grandview Drive) and outside subdivisions (eg. Sturgeon Road) currently fall within the 'Type 2' Category
- Gravel Roadsides within Subdivisions are also treated as 'Type 2'
- Only exception- roadsides directly adjacent to an area classified as Type 1

Currently, no resources are committed to trimming around man-made obstacles within road allowances.

Improvement Areas

Based on council concerns/ budget information requests, two key areas where expansion of current services could be beneficial:

1) Weed trimming around signs/ other obstacles along high traffic county roadways

2) Weed trimming around Sturgeon County entrance signs (found along both county roadways and provincial highways)

Option #1

Change Policy to include trimming around man-made obstacles in **all** Type 2 areas

- Trimming would occur around 'man-made' obstacles including signs, guardrails, mailboxes, and playgrounds 2 times a year (same frequency as mowing)
- All signs in hard-surfaced roadsides and subdivision roadsides (both hard-surfaced and gravel) would receive trimming
- MR areas within Type 2 Category containing man-made obstacles would receive trimming
- Could result in trimming of some areas with little impact or visual benefit in addition to the areas where an improvement is desired

Cost: \$44,000 (includes manpower, equipment, fuel)

Option #2

Amend Policy by creating a 'Hard-surfaced Roadsides' category with service levels that differ from 'Type 2' Service Levels

- Mowing 2 times per year
 - Trimming around man-made obstacles 2 times per year
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- This option would avoid trimming in some lower profile (and lower priority) areas such as MR Areas with limited use or development and alongside Gravel Roads in Subdivisions
 - Note: 4 of 14 Entrance Signs in county hard-surfaced road allowances would receive trimming under this option

Cost: \$34,000 (includes manpower, equipment, fuel)

Option #3

This option does not require an actual policy amendment

- Current Policy Allows for Vegetation Management in areas not owned by Sturgeon County, provided that 'there is public benefit in doing so'
- Can mow and trim around county entrance signs within Provincial Highway Road Allowances at County's desired frequency
 - trimming and mowing of a 100 m² area four times per year
- 10 of 14 County Entrance Signs included in AB Highway Road Allowances
- confirmed with AT that it would be allowable; permit would be required

Cost: \$10,000 (includes manpower, equipment, fuel)

Option Combinations

Option 1: Trimming, All Type 2 Areas	Option 2: Addition of 'Hard- surfaced roadside' category, include trimming along High Profile Roadways	Option 3: Trimming & Mowing Around Entrance Signs in AB Highway Road Allowances	Improvement Areas Addressed (1 & 2)	Total Cost
✓			1 & Partially 2	\$44,000
	✓		1 & Partially 2	\$34,000
		✓	Partially 2	\$10,000
✓		✓	1 & 2	\$54,000
	✓	✓	1 & 2	\$44,000

Priority	Area Description	Current	Desired
High	High Profile Central Parks (e.g. Cardiff Park)	Not Included in Policy	
	High Profile Neighbourhood Park Areas with Playgrounds and Other Amenities	Type 1	
	High Profile County Entrance Signs (within Highway Road Allowances)	Currently not performed	
Medium	High Profile Hard-surfaced Roadways	Type 2	
	Subdivision Roadways (incl. hard-surfaced and gravel)	Type 2	
	MRs with limited/ no development	Type 2	
Low	Environmental Reserves	Type 3	
	Gravel Road Allowances	'Local' Road Allowances	



Questions & Discussion