

Beautification Mowing Plan 2026

SCOPE OF WORK

The Agriculture Department's Beautification Mowing program is responsible for maintaining grass at the following County-owned greenspaces and leased properties:

- Public Parks and Playgrounds
- Public Utility Lots or easements (land owned by the County for municipal infrastructure) with surfaces that can be mowed
- Public Trail systems and abutting greenspace(s)
- Public parking lots
- Public boulevards
- Approved public boulevards (as per maps)
- Approved County buildings (as per maps)
- Approved Cemeteries

Only those areas identified in the Council approved maps will be maintained to ensure services are provided throughout the County in a consistent manner. The 109 approved Beautification mowing maps can be found on the County of Grande Prairies website [Mowing Services | County of Grande Prairie](#).

Residents are responsible for maintaining their own property according to approved bylaw(s).

PROCESS

The following practices will be followed:

- Mowing Height: Grass must be a minimum of four inches tall prior to mowing, and cut to a height of whichever is greater between:
 - using the 1/3 rule (no more than 1/3 of the grass should be removed during mowing)
 - or 2.5 inches (two- and one-half inches)
- Mowing Pattern: Greenspaces to be mowed in a different direction each time to prevent excess compaction and facilitate even blade growth.
- Grass Clippings will be left to add nutrients back into the soil. Only excessive clippings which are detrimental to the health of the grass will be removed.
- Areas are to be cleared of litter, refuse, and rocks prior to mowing.
- Grass will be trimmed around all stationary permanent objects to the same height as the mowed grass.

In addition:

- Weeds listed in the Alberta Weed Control legislation will be controlled utilizing principles of integrated pest management where feasible, ensuring all control methods are aligned with provincial and federal regulation. Single plants or small manageable patches may be dealt with by certified staff within the beautification mowing team, but larger cases may be sent to the Vegetation Management (spraying) team for control.
- Playgrounds will be sprayed for dandelion control with registered herbicide for use in playgrounds. Sites will be posted in accordance with standard herbicide notification practices.
- All sites will be assessed for hazards in advance of work being done. Sites may be left in a natural state where they are determined by the Agricultural Fieldman to be:
 - too steep to mow considering operator safety, equipment capability or to minimize erosion and loss of topsoil
 - located in standing water or otherwise too wet to mow
- Fertilizing, aerating, overseeding and top dressing will only be considered where necessary and on a special project basis as budget allows. Sites will be reviewed and determined by the Agricultural Fieldman.



LEVELS OF SERVICE

Levels of service are based on providing a consistent approach in areas of the same across the County grass growth and principles of effective greenspace management, with frequencies established by Council as identified below.

Bi-Weekly:

Hamlets

- Clairmont, Valhalla Centre, La Glace, Bezanson, Hythe, Teepee Creek, including cemeteries located within 3.5 kilometers of each hamlet
- Back alleys and PULs within hamlets are within the scope of hamlet mowing

Subdivisions:

with properties classified as Rural Estate (RE), Rural Residential (RR1), and Rural Residential (RR-2), Rural Residential Mixed (RR3), Rural Residential Mixed (RR4)

Other greenspace within Hamlets and Rural Estates

- Developed Walking Trails (within hamlets/Rural Estates)
- Dunes Walking Trail, and Evergreen Ridge (as needed)
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- non-irrigated sports fields
- Firehalls, shop yards and other properties operated by the County

Three times per year:

Approved Cemetery Sites

- not within hamlets



Two times per year:

Country Residential Subdivisions

- Greenspaces within Country Residential subdivisions (CR1, CR2, CR3, CR4, CR5) including shoulders and ditches of roadways.

CONSTRAINTS

At all times, consideration must be given to environmental factors such as air quality or precipitation that may delay beautification mowing operations. During rain events, staff will be deployed to other areas within the County where it may not be raining or redeployed to assist in other departmental activities that are not impacted by rain or environmental conditions.

For the safety of staff, outdoor work will be adjusted based on air quality levels.

- When the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is between 7 and 9, staff will limit their time outdoors.
- When the AQHI reaches 10 or higher, all non-essential outdoor work will be suspended, in accordance with County policy.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Beautification Mowing program will strive to ensure areas are mowed within seven days of specific community events to support the desire to have a well-maintained appearance. The Agriculture Department will contact groups organizing such events early in the year to confirm actual dates. These events may shift the regular schedule of other areas by a few days.

Known events and approximate dates are as follows:

- Teepee Creek Stampede – 2nd weekend in July
- Valhalla Canada Day Parade – July 1st (Canada Day)
- Hythe Agricultural Fair – 3rd weekend in August
- Clairmont Agricultural Fair – last weekend in August
- La Glace Go and Show (if occurring)



ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Additional requests outside of the above-identified priorities may be considered at the Agricultural Fieldman's discretion, and only if budgeted for, resources are available and scheduling allows. New requests from other County departments or outside organizations and societies may be denied or deferred to future years until appropriate resources are allocated to complete the requested work.

The Agriculture Department should be provided with ample time as new developments requiring County maintenance are brought into County control, to ensure resourcing needs can be identified and secured through regular budgetary processes.