



The Agriculture Department's Beautification Mowing program is responsible for maintaining County-owned turf surfaces in various Hamlets, Subdivisions, Commercial developments, Cemeteries, Firehalls, and Public Utility Lots (PULs), including turf areas at the Community Services Building and Administration Building.

SCOPE OF WORK

In Residential or Community Development zoned areas, the Beautification Mowing program will maintain the following County-owned/leased properties:

- Public Parks, Playgrounds and County owned greenspaces
- 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 on County owned property or County leased property.
- Cemeteries
- Public parking lots
- Public boulevards

As always, residents retain responsibility for maintaining their own property, and according to bylaw:

The Owner of any land within the County of Grande Prairie shall cut grass, control noxious and prohibited weeds or plants, and remove rubbish, garbage, and debris as it accumulates on his/her property and that portion of the highway (road) that lies between the boundary of his/her land and the center line of the highway (road) that abuts or flanks the property of which such person is the owner.

In Commercial or Industrial zoned areas of the County the Beautification Mowing program will maintain the following County-owned/leased

- County owned: Lots, Public Playgrounds, Public Parks, Public parking lots and Public Boulevards.
- Public Trail systems and abutting greenspace on County owned or County leased property.

Commercial/Industrial landowners are responsible for property that falls under one of these descriptions:

- Private parking lots intended for use by business customers or patrons
- Yard or property surrounding and abutting buildings to the property line
- Driveways or entrance/exits
- Private boulevards



- Soft landscaping (including grass, shrubs, flowers, etc.) on or abutting the property as is required within the development agreement or voluntarily established by the property owner.
- The area that falls between the property and the centerline of an abutting highway (road).

Landowners will not be expected to maintain ditches where there is:

- An excess of moisture or standing water,
- Large debris that may damage equipment, or
- A grade or slope that would put an equipment operator in a hazardous position.

Landowners will be expected to maintain this area as near as possible to the deepest point of the ditch before it becomes hazardous to people and equipment.

PROCESS

The following basic principles of turf management will be followed:

- Mowing Height: 2.5 inches (two- and one-half inches).
- Grass must be a minimum of four inches tall prior to mowing, using the 1/3 RULE: no more than 1/3 of the grass should be removed during mowing.
- Mowing Pattern: Fields to be mowed in a different direction each time to prevent excess compaction and facilitate even blade growth.
- Grass Clippings: add nutrients back into the soil. Only excessive clippings which are detrimental to the health of the turf will be removed.

In addition:

- Litter: areas to be free of natural and/or manmade litter, refuse, and rocks prior to mowing.
- Trimming: grass will be trimmed around all stationary permanent objects to the same height as the mowed grass.
- Fertilizing, aerating: as needed, site specific.
- Overseeding and Topdressing: only bare soil & thin areas are to be done, preferably in late summer/early fall.
- Regulated weeds as listed in the Weed Control Regulation will be controlled utilizing principles of integrated pest management where feasible, ensuring all control methods are in alignment with provincial and federal regulation.
- All sites will be assessed for hazards in advance of work being done. Should a site be too steep to mow, in the interests of staff safety, equipment capabilities and in order to minimize erosion and loss of topsoil it will be left in a natural state.



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

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Levels of service are based on grass growth and principles of effective turf management, with frequencies established by Council from time to time. In the interests of providing equal service, all hamlets are mowed on the same schedule and are limited to land the county is responsible for as outlined below.

Bi-Weekly: Within Hamlets:

- Dimsdale – by hamlet sign and in front of residences – rest to be mowed to industrial park standards (1-2 times per year – larger mowing equipment)
- Valhalla, La Glace, Bezanson, Hythe, Teepee Creek, including the 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/Rural Estates

- Developed Walking Trails (within hamlets/Rural Estates)
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- non-irrigated sports fields

AND:

- Firehalls operated by the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 within hamlets/REs

Twice per year: Select Cemeteries

- not within hamlets

Country Residential Subdivisions

- with properties classified as COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL (CR1, CR2, CR3, CR4, CR5)
- Developed Walking Trails
- Shoulders and Ditches



Twice per year:(cont.)

Developed Walking Trails independent of subdivisions

- Dunes/Wapiti and Evergreen

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Certain hamlets have specific annual events that showcase their hamlet. Wherever possible, the Beautification Mowing program will contact hamlets early in the year to confirm actual dates of significant events. Up to seven days in advance of the event, hamlet mowing will be scheduled in an effort to support each hamlet's desire to "put their best foot forward". Known dates will be maintained in an appendix to this document and updated from time to time.

Appendix 1:

Teepee Creek Stampede – 2nd weekend in July

Valhalla Canada Day Parade – July 1st

Hythe Agricultural Fair – approximately August 20th weekend

Clairmont Agricultural Fair – last weekend in August

La Glace Go and Show (discontinued?)