	Sustainable Okotoks	
	Policy Type:	Purpose Statement
	Number:	PS-A-2.1
	To be Reviewed:	Once per term
	Approval Date:	March 8, 2021
	Motion Number:	21.C.094 22.C.283 22.C.435
	Revised Date(s):	July 18, 2022 December 12, 2022

Policy Statement:


Okotoks prioritizes, protects, conserves and restores our environment and creates strong community connections to nature.

1. Natural resources and natural places are preserved and protected.
 - 1.1. Urban and natural spaces are integrated.
 - 1.1.1. The urban forest is managed with industry best practices for resilience.
 - 1.2. Land use maximizes the potential of the natural environment.
 - 1.3. Neighbourhoods have interconnected networks of open spaces that include existing or enhanced natural and conservation areas or are a response to natural features.
 - 1.4. Environmentally sensitive lands are preserved and protected.
 - 1.4.1. Conservation of environmentally sensitive and valuable areas including the Sheep River Valley, wetlands, riparian areas, wildlife corridors and natural vegetation is championed.
 - 1.5. Energy efficiencies and low-carbon environments are created to improve the health of our environment.
 - 1.6. Public lands are maintained and managed using effective environmentally sound land stewardship practices and using various integrated pest management practices to prevent and manage weeds and pests. Weeds are managed within the acceptable threshold levels as set out in Schedule A.
2. Okotoks is recognized locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for its environmental stewardship.
 - 2.1. An environment is fostered where citizens and businesses actively contribute to reducing the ecological footprint.
 - 2.2. Land Use and infrastructure provide the foundations for sustainable growth.
 - 2.2.1. Careful neighbourhood design allows residents to live, work and play in place.
 - 2.2.2. Higher density housing is clustered and located with mixed uses and public transit.
 - 2.3. Infrastructure is designed for resiliency and adaptable to alternative energy sources and servicing.

Service Level Descriptions:

Within the description and context noted below, the following service levels will be adhered to:


- utility services are provided with an environmental lens;
- development services including planning and engineering;
- operations services including management of parks, open spaces and sensitive lands

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Schedule A

Site Type	Long Description	Threshold Levels of Weeds
Parks, Pathways and Roadways	Mowed park areas, parkways, pathway connectors, boulevards and medians, except within 15m of playgrounds.	15%
Sports Fields	Includes irrigated and non-irrigated ball diamonds and rectangular fields.	5%
Commercial Sites	Town owned and operated building sites not associated with designated parks.	5%
School Grounds	The Town may contribute to integrated pest management measures on School Reserve (SR) and Municipal School Reserve (MSR).	15%
Industrial Areas	Town owned parking lots and storage compounds.	15%
Undeveloped	Lands that may come under Town ownership.	15%
Non-manicured areas	Roadsides, boulevards, medians, and some steep slopes that don't receive regular mowing.	Control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds
Natural Areas	Riverbanks, gullies, escarpments, islands, and wetlands that don't receive regular mowing.	Control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds

Note: The Town has the right, but not the obligation, to control additional invasive species not required for control by the the *Alberta Weed Control Act & Regulation*.

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Service	Service Level Descriptions	Service Level
Eco Services	To protect and support the environmental health and vibrancy of the community's natural assets and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate the Eco Centre as a centralized site where residents can bring yard waste, recycling, hazardous waste, electronics, and other goods for proper disposal during their hours of operation which is Tuesdays to Saturdays. • Educate users for waste initiatives and water consumption issues. • Provide public land management as set out under the Integrated Pest Management Plan. • Provide urban forest services. • Record and report on corporate environmental initiatives including education programs and events. • Operate the Conservation Educator Program. • Provide environmental rebate/incentive programs.
Development Services	In support of the conservation of the community's environment and to mitigate the impact of growth and development in the built environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer the Land and Corporate Properties Program including administration and acquisition for capital and infrastructure projects that align corporate objectives with strategic goals. • Provide inspections and issue construction completion and final acceptance certificates. • Provide long range planning services, growth management, and master planning. • Provide current planning services for development.