

<b>POLICY #: AG 014</b>		<b>POLICY TITLE: Hamlet Beautification Policy - Draft</b>	
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<b>APPROVAL DATE AND MOTION:</b>	Draft	<b>CROSS-REFERENCE:</b>	AG 016 Weed and Vegetation Management
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Director of Agriculture and Environment, Agriculture and Environment	<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Hamlet Beautification Program Reporting Form
<b>APPROVER:</b>	Council	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	
<b>REVISION DATE(S)/ MOTION #</b>	June 25, 2007 (60-06-07); September 26, 2006 (81-09-06)	<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE:</b>	December 2029

## 1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.a. Beautification: The act or process of improving the appearance of a place or community.
- 1.b. Community organization: A group of local citizens that is a legal entity representing the citizens in the hamlet.
- 1.c. County property: County property within the hamlet includes parks, playgrounds, and environmental reserves.
- 1.d. Grounds maintenance: Activities done to keep outdoor areas within the community clean, attractive and orderly, including pruning, landscaping, trimming, planting and/or painting.
- 1.e. Nuisance weeds: A weed such as dandelion, stinkweed, chickweed, purslane or clover which is aesthetically unappealing, but easily controlled by typical landscape management.
- 1.f. Weed management: Actions taken to control weeds on a property including clipping, pulling or digging individual plants and hiring a licenced lawn maintenance company to apply herbicides for nuisance weeds.

- 1.g. Weed: A weed is any plant species that is undesirable in the location where it is growing. For this policy, weeds include nuisance weeds such as dandelion, stinkweed and clover which are aesthetically unappealing but easily controlled and those noxious weeds and prohibited noxious such as scentless chamomile, common burdock, dames rocket and Himalayan balsam which can readily be controlled by typical landscape management such as clipping, pulling, or breaking off seed heads within urban areas.

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.a. This Policy provides direction on designated funding for County of Vermilion River Hamlets to undertake weed management and grounds maintenance to manage weed growth and undertake beautification on public and County property within the hamlet.
- 2.b. Funding is payable to a legal entity that is a community organization representing the local citizens in the hamlet.

## 3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.a. Designated community organizations will be responsible for weed management and grounds maintenance on public and County properties within the Hamlet.
- 3.b. Funding is payable to a legal entity that is a community organization representing the local citizens in the hamlet.
- 3.c. All County property in the hamlet may be included in the weed management and ground maintenance program.
- 3.d. Payment is advanced upon receipt of application for funding. A project summary report is required to be submitted to the County of Vermilion River by November 15 annually following the grounds maintenance season.
- 3.e. Funding provided is roughly based on hamlet population and size, which impacts the amount of area to be managed. The following maximum amounts apply:
  - 3.e.i. Blackfoot \$3000 per year
  - 3.e.ii. Clandonald \$2000 per year

- 3.e.iii. Islay \$2000 per year
- 3.e.iv. Dewberry \$2000 per year
- 3.e.v. Tulliby Lake \$1000 per year
- 3.e.vi. Rivercourse \$1000 per year
- 3.e.vii. Streamstown \$1000 per year
- 3.e.viii. McLaughlin \$1000 per year

## 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.a. The intent of the Policy in 2006-2007 was to provide funding for hamlets within the County of Vermilion River to conduct mowing and grounds maintenance as well as beautification within the hamlet. Mowing is an effective weed control practice.
- 4.b. All County property in the Hamlet was to be included in the mowing and ground maintenance program.
- 4.c. The intention of the policy was to allow local citizens to make decisions on community maintenance and appearance and have control over weeds and mowing within their hamlet. This continues to be an important consideration today.
- 4.d. Allowing hamlet residents to manage community appearance helps build community and foster pride in the community. It also allows for each community to focus on their individual priorities.
- 4.e. In subsequent years, the County of Vermilion River increasingly took responsibility for mowing and grounds maintenance in many of the hamlets, and particularly the large hamlets.
- 4.f. The County of Vermilion River manages noxious and prohibited noxious weeds named in Alberta's Weed Control Act on County property and may issue notices requiring control of these weeds on private property.
- 4.g. Community organizations within County of Vermilion River hamlets have been receiving funding for mowing and beautification from the municipality consistently since 2006/2007. The amount received has not changed in that period.

## 5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 5.a. Hamlet residents should be supported and encouraged to manage the appearance of the hamlet. This allows each community to focus on those aspects that are particularly important to the community. It will also help foster community pride and involvement in the hamlet.
  - 5.a.i. An annual meeting should be held in each hamlet between administration and interested community groups and organizations to discuss responsibilities and opportunities between various groups and the County. This meeting could potentially also negotiate grant amounts annually. Elected officials would be encouraged but not required to attend.
- 5.b. Management and beautification on private properties will remain the responsibility of individual landowners.

## 6. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE/TASK	TITLE(S) OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE
<b>HANDLING INQUIRIES</b>	Director of Agriculture and Environment
<b>MONITORING REVIEWS AND REVISIONS</b>	Director of Agriculture and Environment
<b>IMPLEMENTING POLICY</b>	Director of Agriculture and Environment
<b>COMMUNICATING POLICY</b>	Director of Agriculture and Environment
<b>INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS</b>	Council
<b>EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS</b>	Landowners and General Public

## 7. EXCEPTIONS

- 7.a. None identified.



## 8. POLICY EVALUATION:

- 8.a. The County of Vermilion River will review this policy every five years, or earlier if the need is identified.