Title:	Boulevard and Municipal Land Vegetation Control Policy
Policy No:	2019-02
Approval:	Village Council
Effective Date:	May 14, 2019
Supersedes Policy No:	None
Amendments:	March 9, 2024

Policy Statement: The Village of Spring Lake will control and maintain vegetation on Village owned lands in an effective, safe and cost-efficient manner.

Purpose: To establish procedures to control vegetation growth on Village owned lands for the purpose of enhancing weed control, better drainage, aesthetics and road visibility for traffic safety.

Principles:

1. To ensure the safety of residents.
2. To ensure residents are aware of roadside vegetation control priorities and procedures.

1. Definitions

1.1 **Boulevard** - the part of a road allowance that:
a) is not roadway, and
b) is not especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians.

1.2 **Council** - the Council of the Village of Spring Lake, in the Province of Alberta.

1.3 **CAO** - the person appointed as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Village of Spring Lake.

1.4 **Discretionary** - Due to a variety of variables (weather conditions, operational limitations and seasonal trending), some vegetation control activities are initiated by administration outside the realm of this policy. The intent of having non-quantified triggers is to provide administration the flexibility to respond to upcoming weather projections, balance resources, and deploy measures to prevent situations that could restrict access for emergency vehicles. Discretionary does not apply to a performance level target.

1.5 **Laneway** - also known as back alleys, laneways provide access to the rear of properties.

1.6 **Public Works Department** - the Public Works Department of the Village of Spring Lake.

1.7 **Policy** - a generalized statement of intent, based upon a body of principles, which describes what is to be done now and in the future.

1.8 **Procedure** - a statement(s) arising from policy which set out who does what, how, and in what sequence; the method of carrying out policy.

1.9 **Roadway** - means the part of a road allowance intended for use by vehicular traffic.

1.10 **Village** - the Village of Spring Lake in the Province of Alberta.

2. Guidelines

2.1 Vegetation Control consists but is not limited to grass mowing, tree removal, tree branch removal and/or trimming, invasive weed control and removal.

2.2 Although this policy sets out the priorities and procedures for vegetation control, the Village may direct crews and equipment to work in areas requiring immediate attention.

2.3 This policy must be kept flexible and should serve as a guideline for vegetation control within the Village.

2.4 The Village of Spring Lake may adjust/alter any section within this policy when an emergency situation occurs.

2.5 The Village will consistently endeavour to accomplish the tasks laid out within this policy in the most cost-effective and safe manner, while still maintaining the high level of service.

3. Service Levels

3.1 The Village of Spring Lake will maintain the following priority green/grassed, landscaped and vegetative or lawn areas as required during the growing season.

a) Boulevards along major thoroughfares
b) Boulevards along side streets
c) Boulevards located at entrances to the Village and intersections
d) Boulevards along alleys
e) Parks and public Areas
f) Public parking areas
g) Canada Post mailbox sites
h) Embankments when they do not exceed equipment standards for slopes
i) Meadows
j) Trails
k) Other lands as deemed necessary by the CAO or designate

3.2 Boulevards will be mowed at least 4 feet on each side and only more at the discretion of the CAO and/or by the Public Works Department and depending on moisture and saturation.

3.3 Vegetation control operations are primarily conducted Monday through Friday during daylight hours unless otherwise approve by the CAO.

3.4 Vegetation control must be performed making all practicable effort to prevent debris from being deposited on the roadway surface.

3.5 Areas that may be omitted are:

a) Major road construction
b) Minor road construction

3.6 Service Levels may be impacted by:

a) Available resources
b) Council approved budget
c) Equipment failures
d) Inclement weather conditions

4. General

4.1 Care and attention will be taken to reduce potential damage to private trees and boulevards; however, it will not be the responsibility of the Village to replant or reconstruct any damaged trees or boulevards.

4.2 No vehicles, garbage totes, equipment or other objects are to be left or parked on the road during vegetation maintenance operations.

4.3 Damages to vehicles, garbage totes, equipment and other objects left or parked on road allowances will be the responsibility of the property owner.

4.4 The Village accepts no responsibility for damage to or restoration of sod, sculptures, rock gardens, concrete or stone works and other landscaping on public property from the actions of vegetation control.

4.5 Residents are not to attempt to flag down equipment operators and when approaching vegetation control equipment, a minimum distance of 10 meters is to be maintained.