

Community Standards Bylaw Policy Review

The City is developing a Community Standards Bylaw (CSB). The CSB will serve to regulate and enable activities that pertain to the safety, health, and welfare of residents on private and public property.

To inform a policy discussion on each of the topics, information has been assembled in the template below on what the current local context is, what other comparator municipalities have done, Administration's recommendations concerning minimum standards, as well as potential financial and operational implications.

TOPIC NAME: Camping

1. CURRENT SPRUCE GROVE BYLAW

No person shall camp or set up temporary accommodations of any kind in an Open Space Area unless they have obtained an Open Space Permit. ([Spruce Grove Open Space Bylaw](#), s. 19)

2. SPRUCE GROVE CONTEXT

While homelessness has increased in the City and may have implications for this topic, this template will focus on the broader recreational activity of camping.

Camping in public areas without a permit is restricted in City of Spruce Grove. This practice is consistent with what other jurisdictions have done, except for Edmonton, which refers to specific areas that have been set up for camping.

3. OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Edmonton

- While on parkland, no person shall set up any form of temporary abode except in an area designated by the City for this activity ([Edmonton Parkland Bylaw](#), s. 6c)

Beaumont

- While in a park, no person shall, unless allowed by a valid permit, set up or erect any form of temporary abode or structure or camp except in an authorized campground ([Beaumont Parks and Facilities Bylaw](#), s. 6.3).

Strathcona County

- Definitions of campground, campsite are included. Campsites are intended for occupancy by tents and recreational vehicles on a limited short-term basis. [Strathcona County Land Use Bylaw](#)

St. Albert

- A definition of Temporary Residence is included but the term is not used anywhere else in the bylaw.
- “Temporary Residence” means a tent that is set up in an area where overnight camping is legally permitted or a recreational vehicle or other vehicle that is parked in an area where overnight camping is legally permitted; and for clarity, shall not include any area outside of a tent, recreational vehicle, or other vehicle located in a legally permitted campsite ([St. Albert CSB](#), s. 1 (dd))

Banff

- Banff expanded the discretionary powers of enforcement officers to address illegal camping on private property in 2018.
 - No person shall permit, suffer or allow, property, real or personal, which he owns, occupies or controls to be used for the purpose of camping.
 - 37.2 In making a determination with respect to a contravention of section 37.1 of this bylaw, an Officer, Town Council, or a Court may take into consideration any or all of the following factors:
 - the frequency of the activity;
 - the intensity and duration of the activity;
 - the time of day or season;
 - the nature of the surrounding area;
 - the effect of the thing or activity on a complainant or complainants; and
 - the effect of the thing or activity on the surrounding area.
 - ([Banff Community Standards Bylaw](#), ss. 37.1, 37.2)

Drayton Valley

- Drayton Valley regulates camping on private property and has a specific time period put in place (7 days).
 - No person shall reside or Camp in any Accessory Building, Camping Unit, Temporary Shelter, or Tent on private property for a period not longer than seven (7) consecutive days within one (1) calendar year unless special permission has been granted in writing, subject to conditions by the CAO or his/her designate. ([Drayton Valley Temporary shelter Bylaw](#), s. 4.2)
 - A Peace Officer may direct the owner or occupant of a Camping Unit, Temporary Shelter or Tent to relocate to a Campground within twenty-four (24) hours if the Peace Officer believes that the Camping Unit, Temporary Shelter or Tent is being used, or is intended to be used, for the purpose of Human Habitation ([Drayton Valley Temporary shelter Bylaw](#), s. 5)

4. ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Minimum Standards

For camping on public land

- Keep the existing legislation which does not allow camping on public land without a permit.
- Criteria to be considered include length of time (e.g., over 5 days requires a permit) and frequency.

Committee Question: Is there a desire for a threshold to be extended to private land?

As noted above, Banff and Drayton Valley regulate camping on private land. Banff relies on discretionary powers of enforcement officers, whereas Drayton Valley has a specific time period put in place (7 days).

5. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Additional enforcement measures may be required depending on Committee's direction.