

## 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: Boulevards

#### 1. CURRENT SPRUCE GROVE BYLAW

[Spruce Grove Land Use Bylaw](#), s.15 and [Spruce Grove Traffic Bylaw](#), s. 8.2(e) speak to maintenance and limits boulevard vegetation/landscaping to grass only.

The Traffic Bylaw states the following with respect to turf grass:

- The owner of Private Property shall provide ongoing maintenance of the Turfgrass within a Boulevard that abuts their Private Property unless the Boulevard is part of an Arterial Roadway. [COSG Traffic Bylaw](#), s. 8.2d
- The owner of Private Property shall provide ongoing maintenance to Boulevards that abut their Private Property and keep Boulevards that abut their Private Property free of landscape developments including, but not limited to rocks, shrubs, concrete, rubber, plastic, wood, metal, or things other than Turfgrass. [COSG Traffic Bylaw](#), s.8.23

[Tree Protection Bylaw](#), s. 3.1 and 3.2 relate to tree landscaping

#### 2. SPRUCE GROVE CONTEXT

Most complaints related to boulevards include expansion of driveways in boulevards, installing sidewalks in boulevards, and landscaping.

Approximately 20 complaints are received under the [Construction Site Cleanliness Bylaw](#) related to boulevards every year. These complaints occur after the issuance of a development permit but during the building phase. Complaints include damage to boulevards by contractors, garbage/garbage containers, construction materials, or portable toilets on boulevards.

#### 3. OTHER JURISDICTIONS

##### Edmonton

- A person shall maintain grass by keeping to a reasonable length and removing any accumulation of debris [Edmonton CSB](#), s.8
- Edmonton has recently started a [Boulevard Gardening](#) program.

## **Beaumont**

- Wording is the same as Edmonton, but grass length is specified 20 cm rather than reasonable length and the City must be notified if tree maintenance is required [Beaumont CSB](#), s. 36

## **Strathcona County**

- The CSB addresses vegetation maintenance but does not specifically reference boulevards [Strathcona CSB](#).

## **St. Albert**

- “Boulevard” means that part of a Highway that: (i) is not a Roadway; and (ii) is that part of the Sidewalk that is not [St. Albert CSB](#), s. 2 (b)
- [St. Albert CSB](#), s. 5 (2) (l) addresses nuisance of vegetation but notes that this does not apply to boulevards.

## **4. ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Minimum Standards**

- Permit to place a sidewalk in the boulevard (this would be a new standard and will require the City to establish width and composition for minimum threshold as it is crossing city infrastructure).
- Permit to place a driveway expansion/extension (there is an existing standard and process in the Traffic Bylaw).
- Grass in the boulevard must be maintained at 15 cm.
- Only City-owned trees and shrubs are permitted in boulevards.

**Committee Question:** Is there a desire for any other vegetation outside of turf grass and City-owned trees and shrubs in boulevards?

## **5. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

As the topic of boulevards touches on several pieces of City legislation and crosses several City departments, a review will be done to ensure consistency of process and policies throughout.

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