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Policy Title	ROADSIDE SHELTERBELTS				

Council Resolution	GMOS	CC	Cross Reference	Effective
No. 592-02 Date: November 26, 2002			AD 052	November 26, 2002

## PURPOSE

~~Parkland County being the local authority recognizes that trees growing adjacent to roads can result in snow drifting, icing, wildlife/vehicle conflicts and a general reduction in traffic safety. Additionally, roadway construction and upgrading requires the removal of roadside trees in many instances.~~

~~However, these same trees provide great benefits to ratepayers and society by reducing wind erosion, providing habitat for a variety of wildlife species, providing aesthetic beauty, increasing land values, conserving soil and water and purifying the air.~~

Therefore the County will promote the planting of roadside shelterbelts set back an appropriate distance from developed roadways.

## POLICY

This policy applies to all properties adjacent to developed roadways within Parkland County. ~~Undeveloped road right-of-ways will only qualify for the program if the right-of-way is on the Three Year Road Plan or is otherwise approved by the General Manager of Operations Services.~~

- ~~Commencing on January 1, 1994, landowners will be provided the opportunity to receive a \$200.00 payment, free trees and free use of the County tree planter to plant shelterbelts adjacent to any developed roadway upon approval of the General Manager of Operations Services.~~
- ~~In accordance with and subject to recommended Alberta Agriculture practice, the landowner will plant up to four rows of trees of approximately one to two feet at an approximate longitudinal spacing of 6.5 feet (2 meters) and lateral spacing of 10 feet (3 meters), depending upon species selected. These specifications are subject to the discretion of the Manager of Agricultural Services, but the shelterbelt must be parallel to the municipal roadway. Multiple shelterbelts per parcel or quarter section will not be considered.~~
- These trees will be set back from the road centerline a distance of no less than 100 feet (30 meters), but no greater than 200 feet (60 meters), or any other distance as designated by the General Manager of Operations Services. Additionally to avoid site distance obstructions, the trees will be no closer than 100 feet (30 metres) from the closest point of an intersection.
- With assistance from Tree Plan Canada, the cost of obtaining, shipping and distributing these trees will be the County's contribution towards the program. However, preparing the seedbed, planting and maintenance will be the sole responsibility of the landowner, and the County will not be liable for damages, claims or any other actions resulting from the shelterbelt program.
- At the discretion of the Manager of Agricultural Services, the County may offer replacement trees in the shelterbelt for a period of two years from date of initial planting. Maintenance by the landowner will include weeding, watering and spraying or whatever else may be required to produce a healthy and self-sustaining shelterbelt.
- Applications for the program will be prioritized based on date received unless roadway construction is scheduled, the application for shelterbelt is adjacent to a roadway on the "Three Year Road Program", or the road is scheduled for other types of upgrading (i.e. backsloping). In such cases, these applications may receive a higher priority. As a condition precedent of this

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program, the landowner will be required to enter an agreement for road widening, backsloping, or other such documents as necessary, for the County's road development plans.

7. The applicant shall indemnify and save harmless Parkland County from any and all claims, demands, actions and costs, whatsoever, that may arise directly or indirectly, out of any act or omission by the County or its representatives in performance of the policy objectives.
8. Only tree varieties available through the ~~Alberta Agriculture~~ Shelterbelt Policy will be qualified for planting under terms and conditions of this policy, and all conditions of the ~~Alberta Agriculture~~ Shelterbelt program unless otherwise noted will apply.
9. Projects that are a minimum of 200 metres (656 feet) in continuous length, and have met all other requirements of the programs, will be eligible for a \$200.00 compensation per half mile payment three years after initial planting.
10. ~~It is recommended that fencing of shelterbelts be done to avoid damage due to grazing, etc.~~

## **PROCEDURES**

1. ~~A request for the shelterbelt program will be submitted on the attached application form shown as Schedule "A" to the General Manager of Operations Services with the prescribed application fee by June 30th of the year prior to proposed planting. The Alberta Agriculture Shelterbelt Program application will also be completed and referenced.~~
2. ~~A non-refundable application fee in the amount set out in Fees and Charges Policy AD 052 will be paid by the applicant to the County except in cases involving roadway negotiations.~~
3. ~~An inspection will then be conducted at the planting site, by County Agricultural Services personnel, before planting. Three years after initial planting, upon request of the landowner, an inspection will be carried out in order to authorize payment.~~
4. ~~The landowner will be notified if the request is approved and all requests are subject to budget constraints and approval of the General Manager of Operations Services. Site preparation may delay planting if conditions are not to the satisfaction of the Manager of Agricultural Services.~~
5. ~~Before planting begins, the landowner will be consulted and also informed of all maintenance responsibilities associated with the shelterbelt project.~~
6. ~~Agricultural Services personnel will conduct inspections at sites one year after planting to assess the health of the shelterbelt and to make suggestions regarding management changes if required.~~

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## SCHEDULE "A"

### SHELTERBELT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjacent to: Rge. Rd. \_\_\_\_\_ Twp. Rd. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Trees to be Planted: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Trees: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Distance of Proposed Shelterbelt: \_\_\_\_\_

(One application Per Quarter Section or Legal Parcel)


Setback from Roadway – NB minimum of 82 feet (25 meters) Maximum 200 feet (60 meters)

#### COMMENTS:

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## SCHEDULE "B"

### SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, in  
Parkland County, being the registered owner or purchaser or lessee of an estate in fee simple, of the  
piece of land situated in Parkland County, and described as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

Do, hereby agree to the herein mentioned terms of this agreement with Parkland County for the  
purpose of establishing field shelterbelts.

It is expressly understood by the parties that the intent of this agreement is to establish a tree shelterbelt  
that would eventually provide soil and water conservation benefits, habitat, aesthetic value and air  
quality improvements and be of continued and ongoing advantage accordingly.

The Parties to this Agreement agree as follows:

1. An inspection will be conducted at the planting site, before and after planting, by Agricultural  
Services personnel.
2. Only the tree varieties stated in the Alberta Agriculture Shelterbelt Policy will be made available  
free of charge. If an application wishes to have other varieties, they will assume the expense.
3. The initial non-refundable \$25.00 application fee will be paid by the applicant except in cases  
involving roadway negotiations.
4. The application shall provide adequate care and maintenance of the shelterbelts.
5. The applicant shall indemnify and save harmless Parkland County from any and all claims,  
demands, actions and costs, whatsoever, that may arise directly or indirectly, out of any act or  
omission by him in his performance of this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 19\_\_\_\_\_.

**SIGNED** by the said \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IN THE PRESENCE OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Witness**

The personal information provided by you is being collected under the authority of the *Municipal Government Act* and will be  
used for the purposes under that Act. The personal information that you provide may be made public, subject to the  
provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.