



COUNCIL POLICY C-AD62

Naturalization Policy

Prepared By: Environmental Services

Effective Date:

References: N/A

Function: Property Management

Council Approval Date:

Council Resolution No.: N/A

Previous Revision Date: New

LAS Review Date:

(Must be reviewed by LAS before receiving approvals)

PURPOSE

Parkland County recognizes the importance of protecting, restoring, and enhancing the viability of our natural ecosystems for current and future generations. Therefore, Parkland County will ensure, the naturalization of all suitable publicly owned land, and will promote and encourage naturalization on private property.

POLICY STATEMENT

Parkland County views its natural environment as key asset and as a unique value proposition for residents and the community. In order to ensure and enhance the integrity of its environment, every reasonable effort will be made on County managed lands to: limit the physical destruction of natural features, return to natural state areas that have been disturbed, and to enhance the overall biological integrity of the County's Environment. The County will implement measures to minimize the physical disturbance of environmentally significant features associated with new construction and development. The County will also implement measures to promote and encourage private landowners to naturalize suitable portions of their properties.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Ecological restoration:** is process of assisting the recovery and management of ecological integrity. Ecological integrity includes a critical range of variability in biodiversity, ecological processes and structures, regional and historical context and sustainable cultural practices.
2. **Naturalization:** is a process of ecological restoration that involves protecting or returning an altered or degraded site to a more natural condition through the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of all of the following applicable aspects: the site's native vegetation; the site's natural hydrology; the area's natural topographical features; the site's biodiversity and its ability to act as a wildlife habitat.

3. **County Managed Land:** refers to lands owned, leased, or managed by Parkland County.

SCOPE

1. Environmental Services shall adhere to this policy when undertaking site naturalization activities, will promote the policy to private landowners, and shall adhere to this policy in all other applicable activities.
2. Parks and Recreation shall adhere to this policy when undertaking construction and/or maintenance and/or enhancement activities on County managed land, and all other applicable activities.
3. Engineering Services shall adhere to this policy conducting capital infrastructure work and maintaining county assets.
4. Planning and Development Services shall promote to this policy when evaluating new development applications, to encourage the incorporation of naturalization in all new appropriate development, and in all other applicable activities. Planning and Development Services will also promote the policy to private landowners when appropriate.
5. Public Works shall adhere to this policy when undertaking road enhancement and/or maintenance activities, when undertaking landscaping activities, and all other applicable activities.
6. Agricultural Services shall adhere to this policy when undertaking vegetation control activities.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Administrative Officer

- Provide the resources necessary to promote and implement this policy.

General Managers

- Provide managers and employees with the information, training, tools, procedures and support necessary to promote and implement this policy.

Managers – Parks and Recreation; Engineering Services; Planning and Development Services; Public Works; Sustainability Services

- Provides employees with the information, training, tools, procedures and support necessary to promote and implement this policy.
- Provides direction to employees for individual site Naturalization projects.

Employees

- Accountable for implementing this policy in accordance with managerial direction.

STANDARDS

1. Unless absolutely necessary, intact natural areas shall be left undisturbed on County managed lands and on lands that are known to be transferred to Parkland County (i.e. Environmental Reserve lands that are to be dedicated and transferred to the County upon parcel subdivision)
2. Naturalization of storm water management facilities shall be structured and conducted so as to ensure that the facility's primary function – the safe management of storm water runoff – is not compromised in any way. If it is found that any naturalization features negatively impact a storm water management facility's' primary function, they shall be removed.
3. Naturalization features on County managed lands may be removed in the future as the County's land use priorities change over time.