

Agriculture Operations Update

GPC
July 7, 2026



Overview

- Weed Inspections
- Weed Management on County Properties
- Roadside Mowing
- Program Improvements
- Communications



Weed Management

Overarching Goals

1. County lands are free of prohibited noxious weeds and noxious weeds are controlled.
2. Protect agricultural lands
3. Protect environmentally sensitive areas

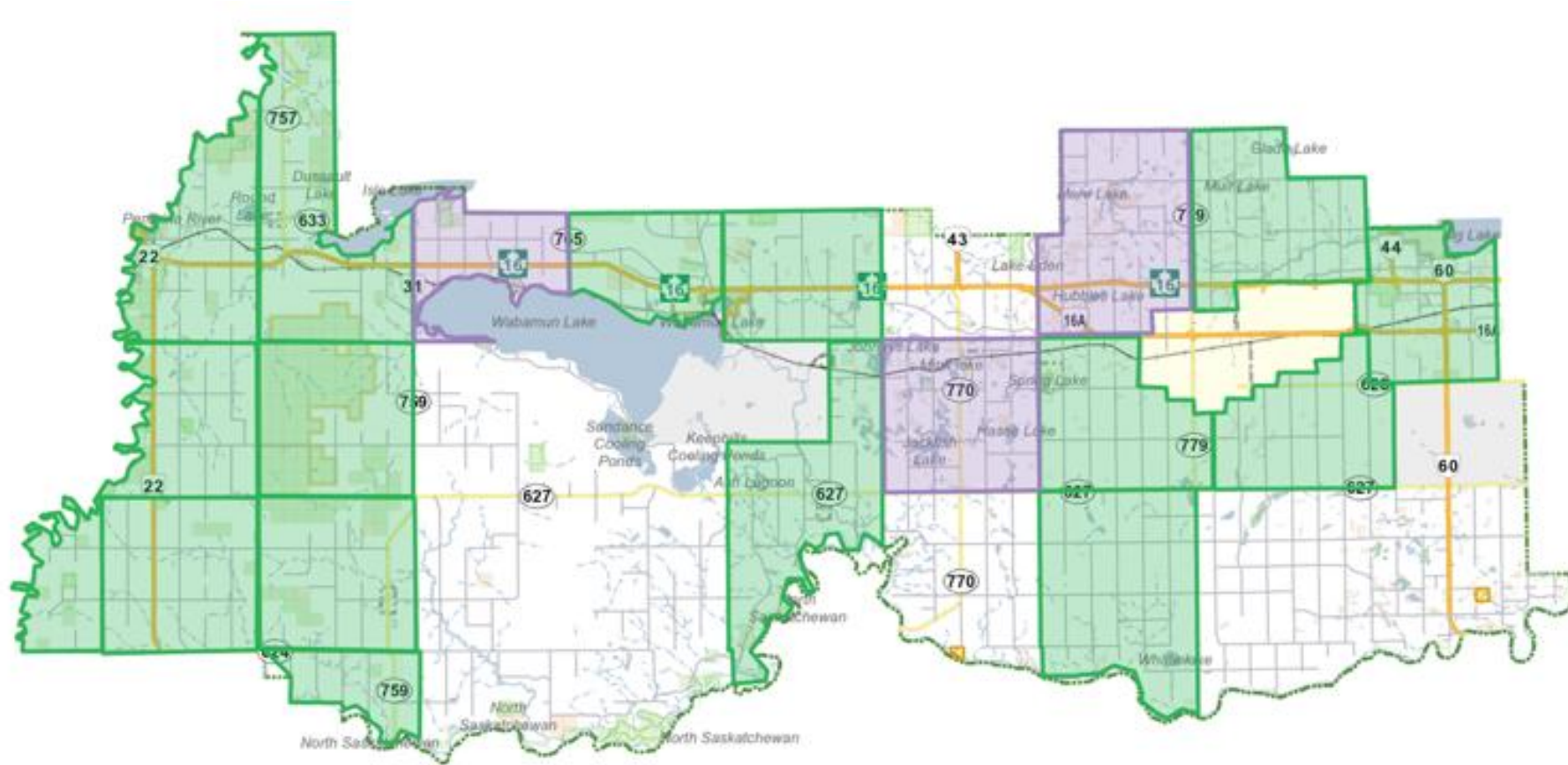
Additionally

1. Provide transparent service levels to residents.
2. Communicate program goals and processes.
3. Voluntary compliance.
4. Complete inspections consistently and fairly.
5. Support our agricultural community.





Focus Areas Approach



Weed Inspection






WEEDS

Prevention is best!

- Inspect your entire property regularly and control weeds early.
- Keep vehicles clean - they transport weed seeds.
- A healthy lawn can overpower most weeds.
- Be cautious when planting wildflower seed mixes as noxious weed seeds have been identified in some mixes.

For information on how to control the weeds identified on your property, please contact Parkland County Agriculture Services at 780-968-8467 or visit our website at www.parklandcounty.com/agriculture.

Case Number: _____

Door Hanger Number: _____

Not all flowers are friendly.

Did you know that Parkland County is home to many prohibited noxious and noxious weed species? Plants are considered "noxious" when they spread uncontrolled, are difficult to manage, and are invasive in nature.

These plants can:

- infest pastures and crops
- alter natural habitats
- compete with our native plants
- affect animal, insect and bird species
- be costly to control.

Prohibited noxious and noxious weeds are to be controlled as required under the Province of Alberta's Weed Control Act. All landowners have the responsibility to control prohibited noxious and noxious weeds on their lands.

Weeds do not adhere to our borders or fences. It is up to all of us to help prevent their spread.

During an inspection for prohibited noxious and noxious weeds in your area, some were found growing on your property. Please refer inside for more information.






Field of Orange Hawkweed



☐	Canada Thistle Purplish flowers with distinctive fluff in late summer. Prickly leaves.		☐	Leafy Spurge Long, narrow, waxy leaves with greenish-yellow umbrella-shaped flowers.	
☐	Scentless Chamomile Multiple daisy flowers. Leaves are fine and feathery.		☐	Himalayan Balsam Showy, irregular pink-purple-white flowers atop tall, hollow stem.	
☐	Ox-eye Daisy Single flowers on long, slender stems. Shallow roots and wide, glossy leaves.		☐	Common Tansy Clusters of yellow "button" heads and deeply-toothed leaves.	
☐	Tall Buttercup Glossy yellow flowers in clusters. Hairy leaves, deeply-lobed into three to five segments.		☐	White Cockle Five white, deeply-notched flower petals, prominent oval leaves.	
☐	Orange Hawkweed Multiple flower heads with red-orange petals. Leaves are spatula-shaped, narrow and hairy.		_____		
☐	Meadow Hawkweed 5 - 30 bright yellow flowers. Leaves are hairy, narrow and spatula-shaped.		_____		
☐	Perennial Sow Thistle Prickly leaves, hollow stems with milky juice. Flowers are yellow that turn to fluff.		_____		
☐	Yellow Toadflax Flowers resemble snapdragons. Reproduces by seeds and roots.		_____		

www.parklandcounty.com/weeds

Weed Management on County Properties

Integrated Pest Management

- Roadside chemical application
- Maintain facilities, service yards, boat launches, industrial sites
- Generally complaint-driven
- Proactive management in focus areas



Mowing Program

Current Service Level:

- Purpose: weed control
- Frequency: once annually
- Extent: entire ROW
- Priorities: Collector roads & focus areas

Additional Benefits:

- Aesthetics
- Visibility
- Fire Prevention
- General Maintenance

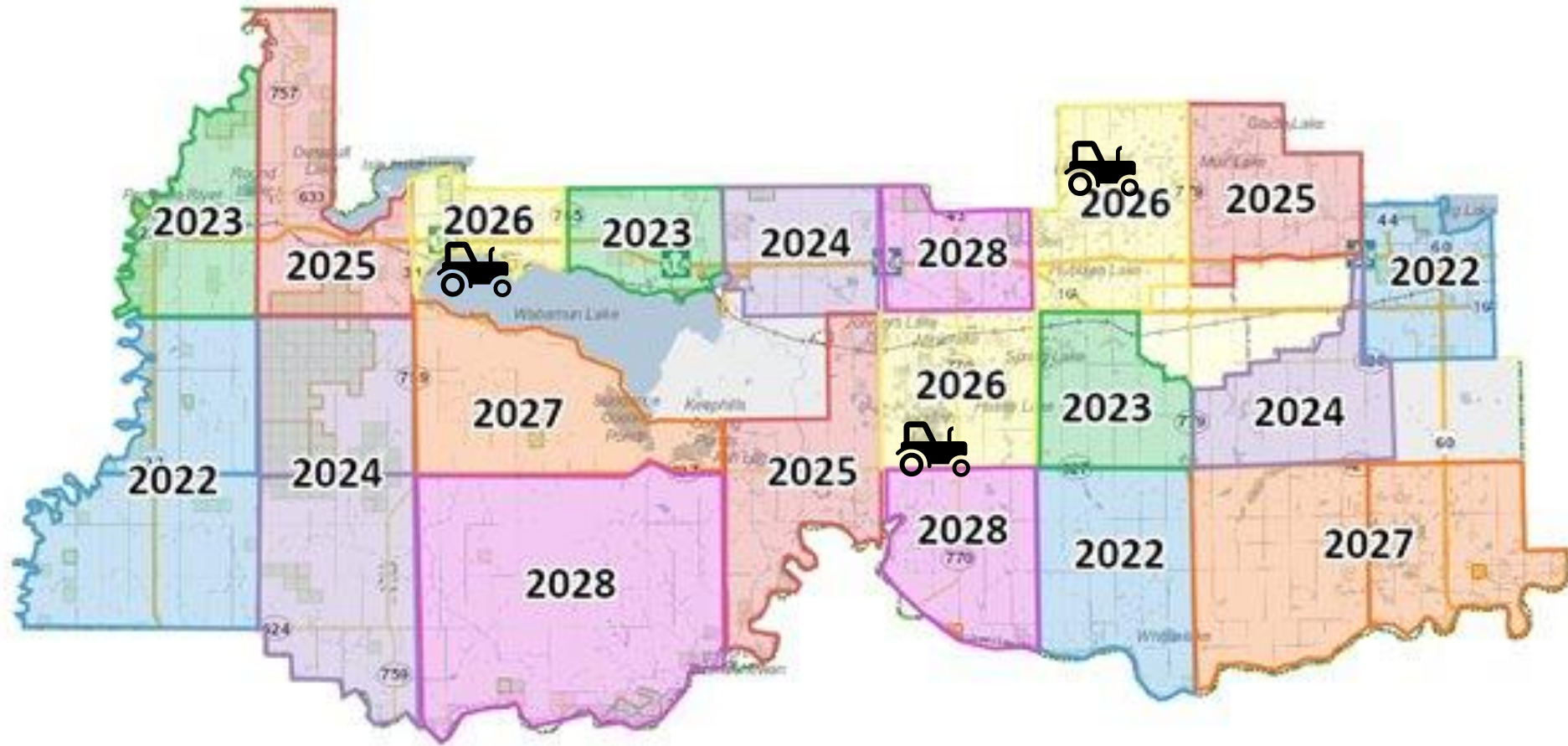
Other Considerations:

- Other property mowed as required for weed control
- Integrated approach with chemical application





2026 Roadside Mowing Plan



Resident Concerns

Roadside Mowing

- Investigated by Team Lead when certain criteria are met
- Common themes: visibility, intersection safety, damage, and missed areas

Weeds on County Land

- Triaged by Team Lead
- Prioritized & addressed as resources allow
- Historically completed before end of August

Weeds on Private Property

- Assigned to dedicated Weed Inspector
- Inspection & compliance through standard process

Other Concerns

- Inspectors entering private property
- Reserve looks messy/fire hazard



2026 Program Improvements

- Herbicide & equipment modifications
- Status tracking & proactive management
- Increased transparency & communication





Communications

Website Updates

- Clear program information
- Better resident guidance
- More FAQs

Newsletter Features

- Highlight key messages
- Address priority concerns

Social Media Plan

- Focus areas
- Roadside mowing updates
- Weather impacts
- Sweet clover awareness
- Landowner responsibilities
- Proactive education

SWEET CLOVER AND ROADSIDE MOWING

You may notice tall white or yellow plants growing along roadsides and ditches this summer. These are sweet clover, a plant brought to Canada many years ago for farming. Today, it grows across Parkland County.

Sweet clover is not listed as a noxious weed, so it does not have to be controlled under regulation in Alberta. However, it does spread very quickly. In its second year, it can grow 3 to 8 feet tall and produce hundreds of thousands of seeds. These seeds can stay in the soil for up to 30 years.

Large patches can block sight lines at intersections, attract wildlife closer to roads, and crowd out native plants.

HOW THE COUNTY MANAGES SWEET CLOVER

Parkland County manages sweet clover through its roadside mowing and weed management program, which is part of the County's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. Roadside mowing is done for weed control only, not for appearance.

Mowing work starts in designated focus areas but continues across the County throughout

the summer. Focus areas rotate annually. Some years, your area may be mowed early; in other years, it may be one of the last areas completed. The mowing program usually starts around June 15th.

Collector roads, which carry more traffic than local roads, are prioritized because they have a higher risk of weed spread. Where possible, roadsides are mowed once per year from the shoulder to the property line. Some parts of focus areas may receive blanket herbicide treatment, while other areas are spot treated when weeds are identified.

Because sweet clover is common across the County, mowing schedules cannot be changed for individual requests.

Municipal and Environmental Reserves are not included in the County's regular mowing program. Weed concerns in these areas may be handled through focus area work or on as-needed basis as resources allow.

With this approach we aim to support responsive service delivery while supporting natural landscapes and sustainable agriculture.



2026 SUMMER 11



Key Takeaways

Weed management programs:

- Meet legislative requirements (mostly)
- Reduce spread of invasive plants
- Use resources effectively
- Clear, consistent service delivery
- Protect agricultural land and sensitive environments
- Resident understanding:
 - What the County will do
 - Where the priorities lie
 - How they can participate



Discussion

