



COUNCIL POLICY C-AG03

Shelterbelt Trees

Prepared By: Agricultural Services

Effective Date: June 10, 2014

References: Roadside Vegetation Management

Function: Agricultural Services

Council Approval Date: June 10, 2014

Council Resolution No.: N/A

Previous Revision Date: January 26, 1999
(Policy AG 003)

LAS Review Date: January 4, 2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to make shelterbelt trees available to all county residents.

POLICY STATEMENT

Parkland County shall promote the establishment of shelterbelt trees as they are a great benefit to ratepayers and society as long as they are set back the appropriate distance from roadways.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all County residents with property adjacent to developed roadways.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The General Manager of Infrastructure Services is responsible for approving Shelterbelt Tree applications. Parkland County Agricultural Services department is responsible for implementing, monitoring and evaluating this policy.

STANDARDS

1. Landowners will be provided the opportunity to receive payment, free trees, and free use of the County tree planter to plant shelterbelts adjacent to any developed roadway upon approval of the Manager of Agricultural Services.
2. The landowner will plant up to four rows of trees at the appropriate spacing as set out by Agri-Environmental Services Branch (AESB), parallel to the municipal roadway.
3. Trees will be set back from the road centerline a distance of no less than 100 feet (30 metres) but no greater than 200 feet (60 metres) or any other distance as designated by the General Manager of Infrastructure Services.
4. To avoid site distance obstructions, the trees will be no closer than 100 feet (30 metres) from the closest point of an intersection.
5. The cost of obtaining, shipping and distributing these trees will be the County's contribution towards the program. 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.

6. The County may offer replacement trees in the shelterbelt, at the discretion of the Manager, Agricultural Services, for a period of two years from the 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.
7. Applications for the program shall be made by submitting the required Shelterbelt Program Application, and will be prioritized based on date received, with the exception of applications for shelterbelts adjacent to a roadway on the "Three-year Road Program."
8. Applications for shelterbelts adjacent to a roadway which may be scheduled for upgrading on Parkland County's "Three-Year Road Program" (i.e. backsloping) may receive a higher priority. As a condition precedent of this 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.
9. Only trees available through the AESB Shelterbelt Program will be qualified for planting under the terms and conditions of this policy, and all conditions of the AESB Shelterbelt Program will apply, unless otherwise noted.
10. Projects must be a minimum of 656 feet (200 metres) in continuous length, and have met all other requirements of the program, to be eligible for a \$200 per half-mile compensation from the County three years after initial planting.
11. Any unclaimed trees will be distributed at the discretion of the Agricultural Services department.
12. 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.