

# Parkland County Community & Protective Services

## *Information you should know about new bylaws in Parkland County*

### Community Standards Bylaw

Parkland County strives to maintain a safe, enjoyable and attractive environment to live. Parkland County's Community Standards Bylaw 35-2008 helps promote responsible property ownership through education and enforcement.

The Community Standards Bylaw sets out minimum property standards to address unsightly and nuisance properties, unacceptable noise levels, unsafe excavations, and municipal addressing.

The Community Standards bylaw also incorporates previous Parkland County bylaws, such as the Littering Bylaw, Noise Bylaw and the Municipal Addressing Bylaw.

### Unsightly Properties

Unsightly properties can create a host of problems, including decreased property values. They can also attract vandals, trespassers and other aspects of criminal activity to the community.

Section 546(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* indicates that owners of a property considered to be detrimental to the surrounding area because of its unsightly condition may be required to improve the appearance of a property. In the case of a structure, this may include demolition of the structure.

The Community Standards Bylaw incorporates the requirements set out under the *Municipal Government Act* and gives enforcement officers a more subjective outline of what constitutes an unsightly property.

### Littering

Littering detracts from the natural surroundings that residents of Parkland County have come to enjoy. Securing a loose load, using garbage containers and disposing of waste at sanitary waste disposal sites ensures that future generations of Parkland County residents and visitors can continue to enjoy these surroundings.

### Noise

Parkland County is known for its peaceful rural atmosphere, even in the more densely-populated areas. Loud noises from a variety of sources can detract from this, causing an unpleasant atmosphere in which to live.

The Community Standards Bylaw limits the hours yard maintenance equipment can be used, prohibits motor vehicle noise during night-time hours, and restricts the noise decibels that can be emitted from a property over a period of time.



### Graffiti

Graffiti can negatively affect the surroundings of which it is contained. Graffiti makes a structure appear unkempt and unmaintained. It can also attract further vandalism or graffiti. Therefore, it is important that graffiti be removed as soon as possible.

### Maintenance of Buildings, Structures and Fences

With age and wear, structures and fences can become unsightly or a hazard. It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that buildings and fences remain in good repair.

### Nuisance Properties

Some activities conducted on a property may negatively affect the surrounding properties. These activities include lighting, excessive vehicles, or excessively tall grass or weeds. These should be controlled to limit the negative affects on surrounding residents and to promote friendly neighbourhoods.

### Municipal Addressing

Municipal addresses help emergency services locate a property in the event of an emergency. In most cases, emergency vehicles respond to the address displayed to the Emergency Communications Centre dispatchers. It is this municipal address that must be displayed prominently at driveways and subdivision entrances. Not only will this help emergency services vehicles to find your property quickly in an emergency, it will also assist utility, delivery and service companies as well as your friends and family.

Contact Parkland County Public Works at 780-968-8448 to purchase your municipal address sign.



# Fire Permit Bylaw

On May 12, 2009, Parkland County Council passed **Fire Permit Bylaw 36-2008**, which includes many changes from the previous fire bylaw. These changes affect the sale and discharge of fireworks, the use of outdoor wood-fired boilers, indoor or outdoor solid fuel burning appliances, and outdoor burning in restricted burn areas, such as hamlets, industrial parks and multi-lot country residential subdivisions.

## Fireworks

Family Fireworks (do it yourself) are only allowed to be discharged (permit required) during the following times:

New Years: 8 PM December 31 - 1 AM January 1

Canada Day: 8 PM - 11:59 PM July 1

Labour Day: 8 PM - 11: 59 PM on 1st Monday of September

Anyone wishing to discharge fireworks other than the times listed above, needs to have a trained and qualified pyrotechnics contractor apply for a permit.

## Indoor/Outdoor wood-fired/ Solid Fuel Appliances

No person shall install, operate or burn materials in an Outdoor Wood-fired Boiler (OWB) or Coal-Fired Indoor or Outdoor Appliances in a Multi-Parcel Subdivision, Rural Centre Districts, or Industrial Commercial Core area unless the appliance meets the clean burning regulations and emission control standards of the CSA or EPA.

“Outdoor Wood Boiler” (also known as Outdoor Wood Fired Hydronic Heater, Wood Stove or Outdoor Wood Furnace) means a fuel burning device designed to burn wood and other approved solid fuels such as coal that the manufacturer specifies for outdoor installation and heats fluid, typically water and antifreeze mixture, for distribution typically through pipes to heat building space.

The new bylaw does not affect the use of fireplaces, and wood stoves used to burn clean wood for home heating purposes.

## Outdoor Fires

No person shall burn materials on any lands in Parkland County where the burnable materials were transported there from another location, municipality or jurisdiction.

No open fires of any sort are allowed in areas designated as Municipal or Environmental Reserve, or in designated Restricted Burn Areas, without a permit.

**In a multi-parcel subdivision on a piece of land 10 acres or less, the only burning you can do is as follows:**

- Fire pit with regulation screen (13mm ½” mesh), **No permit required.**
- Fire pit without regulation screen, **Fire permit required.**
- Family fireworks on the days listed above, **Fire permit required.**

If your property is not in a multi- parcel subdivision, there are no changes that affect you; however, a permit is still required year-round for anything other than a screened fire pit.

If you operate a business in an Industrial/ commercial area, the only burning you can do is in an incinerator that is completely enclosed with mesh screen (13mm ½”) covering the intake and exhaust. No other burning is allowed in these areas.



# Animal Control Bylaw

On June 23, 2009, Parkland County Council passed the Animal Control Bylaw 28-2009. The new Bylaw incorporates regulations from the Land Use Bylaw and replaces Dog Bylaw 38-2006.

Changes included in the new bylaw include an increase in the number of household pets, increase to two horses being one animal/bird unit, and an increase in fines. There are no provisions within the Animal Control Bylaw or the Land Use Bylaw for increasing the number of allowable animal units.

## Dogs and Cats

On any residential parcel LESS than 0.81 ha (2 acres) in size, you are permitted to have a maximum of four (4) household pets (dogs or cats). On any residential parcel MORE than 0.81 ha (2 acres) in size, you are permitted to have a maximum of four (4) dogs.

## Other Animals and Birds

On residential or agricultural parcels between 0.81 ha (2 acres) and 16.1 ha (39.9 acres), additional animal/bird units will be allowed as follows:

| Parcel size                     | # of Animal/ Bird Units |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 0.81 - 1.21 ha (2 - 2.99 acres) | 1                       |
| 1.22 - 1.61 ha (3 - 3.99 acres) | 2                       |
| 1.62 - 2.02 ha (4 - 4.99 acres) | 3                       |
| 2.03 - 2.42 ha (5 - 5.99 acres) | 4                       |
| 2.43 - 4.04 ha (6 - 6.99 acres) | 5                       |
| 4.05 ha or greater (10+ acres)* | 5*                      |

\*Plus the number of animal/bird units permitted for that portion of the parcel in excess of 4.05 ha (10 ac) i.e. 5.26 ha (13 acres) = 5 + 2 = 7 animal/bird units

One animal/bird unit means:

- Two (2) horses, donkeys, mules or asses
- Two (2) llamas, three (3) alpacas or guanaco
- One (1) cow or steer (over one year old)
- Two (2) calves up to one year old
- Fifteen (15) chickens
- Ten (10) ducks, turkeys, pheasants, geese or similar fowl
- Three (3) sheep or goats
- Twenty (20) rabbits or other similar rodents
- Two (2) ostriches, emus or other ratites.