



COUNCIL POLICY C-ES01

Maintaining Biodiversity on County Lands

Prepared By:	Environment and Community Sustainability Services	Council Approval Date:	October 14, 2014
Effective Date:	October 14, 2014	Council Resolution No:	N/A
References:	Parkland County Environmental Conservation Master Plan	Previous Revision Date:	New
		LAS Review Date:	August 19, 2014
Function:	Property Management		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain the environmental integrity of County Land assets by developing and implementing appropriate maintenance, restoration and enhancement strategies.

POLICY STATEMENT

County Lands with high biodiversity and environmental sensitivity are an important assets to the community and the eco-systems within the County. There are numerous environmental, social and economic benefits associated with maintaining, restoring and enhancing these ecological features located on County Lands. In order for these benefits to occur, Parkland County will employ a strategic approach using well-established and proven best management practices for maintaining, restoring and enhancing the existing biodiversity and ecological value of these features.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Biodiversity" means the biological diversity, or variety, of plants and animals and other living organisms in a particular area or region.
2. "County Lands" means lands owned, or managed under conservation easement by Parkland County.
3. "Enhancement" means a process that promotes the natural condition of a site 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.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to County Lands.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The General Manager of Development Services is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring, of this policy.
2. Agricultural Services is responsible for considering this policy, and utilizing best management practices when carrying out vegetation control activities.

3. Environment and Community Sustainability, and Parks, Recreation and Culture are responsible for considering this policy, and utilizing best management practices when undertaking construction and/or maintenance and/or enhancement activities on County Lands with high biodiversity or environmental sensitivity.
4. Engineering Services, and Public Works are responsible for considering this policy, and utilizing best management practices when undertaking road enhancement and/or maintenance activities in proximity to or on County Land with high biodiversity or environmental sensitivity.

STANDARDS

1. Maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects will be planned and executed by Parkland County on a site-by-site basis as resources and capacity permit, with a general focus on prioritizing environmentally sensitive and areas of high biodiversity as identified in Parkland County's Environmental Conservation Master Plan.
2. Parkland County will utilize well-established and proven best management practices to maintain, restore, and enhance areas of high biodiversity and environmental sensitivity located on County Land.
3. Specific enhance activities will be selected based on existing sites where the biodiversity of the feature is being affected by activities on or adjacent to the feature.
4. Weed and invasive species control: Efforts will be made to reduce overall herbicide use on public lands.
5. Parkland County supports collaborative efforts between the County, non-governmental organizations, Alberta Environment and sustainable Resources, and citizen groups on developing and implementing enhancement projects.