

SOIL CONSERVATION POLICY

FILE CODE: ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT CODE: AGRICULTURE SERVICES No. 63

DATE APPROVED: March 24, 2026

MOTION NO.: 132/24/03/26

REPLACED: 1342/26/04/16



PHILOSOPHY

The County of Northern Lights believes in delivering the Soil Conservation Act and promoting initiatives around soil health, conservation, quality, stabilization and adoption of best management practices to prevent erosion and degradation.

The County of Northern Lights believes in supporting healthy ecosystems within our County through the encouragement of shelterbelts and extension work through North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA) regarding soil initiatives.

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The County will operate under the Soil Conservation Act of Alberta.
- 1.2 The County will encourage the growth of shelterbelts to promote healthier ecosystems, prevent soil erosion and degradation.
- 1.3 The County will provide a grant to NPARA for demonstration, extension, outreach and education to cover various topics, some of which include soil health, quality, best management practices, stabilization, conservation and shelterbelts.

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 Will provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman for carrying out this policy.
- 2.2 As prescribed by the Soil Conservation Act under Section 14, the Agricultural Service Board will form the appeal committee and will follow and enforce the Act.
- 2.3 Will require reseeding after construction projects.
- 2.4 Will verify NPARA is meeting the requirements within the Schedule of the Grant provided to them.

AGRICULTURE FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Under the Soil Conservation Act, the Agricultural Fieldman is appointed under Section 15 as a municipal soil conservation officer and will follow the duties under the Act and will remain an officer for their term of employment or as removed by Council motion.
- 3.2 Collaborate with the public and other departments to prevent soil erosion and revegetation of bare soil, if required.

- 3.3 Will administer the program and negotiate with an approved supplier.
- 3.4 Will determine most desirable species and provide information to participants.
- 3.5 Will collect trees and oversee disbursement.
- 3.6 Will collaborate with NPARA and suggest topics relevant to this policy, if needed.

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 No person shall obstruct an officer from carrying out the officer's duties under this act or regulation.
- 4.2 Every landholder shall, in respect of the landholder's land, take appropriate measures
 - 4.2.1 to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place, or
 - 4.2.2 if soil loss or deterioration is taking place, to stop the loss or deterioration from continuing.
- 4.3 If an officer is satisfied, with respect to land, appropriate measures are not being taken
 - 4.3.1 to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place, or
 - 4.3.2 in the case where soil loss or deterioration is taking place, to stop the loss or deterioration from continuing, the officer shall serve on the landholder a notice directing the landholder to take, within the time specified in the notice, the remedial measures set out in the notice.
- 4.4 Will order, pay for and pick up trees from the County within the allotted times.
- 4.5 Will follow the guidelines for planting restrictions within the County, as outlined:
 - Stay 15 m from utilities. (gas, power, sewer, water, etc.)
 - When planting parallel to a roadside a participant will plant a minimum of 30 m from the property line.
 - When planting perpendicular to a roadside a participant will plant a minimum of 15 m from the property line.
 - When planning shelterbelts plan for the size of farming implements to be able to access land, if applicable.
 - Exceptions to the planting restrictions can be approved by the Municipal Planning Commission on an individual basis.
- 4.6 Failure to adhere to the planting restrictions will render the participant liable for the removal of the shelterbelt.
- 4.7 Eligible to participate in NPARA events so long as pay the event fee.

RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

- 5.1 Under Section 6 the local authority shall demand payment for the cost of any remedial measures taken to rectify the duties of a landlord.
- 5.2 The County will administer a cost recovery Shelterbelt Program.

- 5.3 Cost recovery will be based on the price established with an approved supplier plus the established fee for the County to administer the program.
- 5.4 Anyone wishing to participate in the Shelterbelt Program must not be indebted to the County in any amount greater than \$50.00.

OFFENCES

- 6.1 Under Section 22 of the Soil Conservation Act the issuance of offences can be applied if the criteria is met.

ATTACHMENTS/SCHEDULES/APPENDIX

--	--

REFERENCES

Legal Authorities	Municipal Government Act Agricultural Service Board Act Soil Conservation Act Municipal Planning Commission
Related Policies	NPARA Grant Policy
Other	Shelterbelt Program Order Form

REVISION HISTORY

April 26, 2016	1342/26/04/16

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION UNDER ATIA AND POPA

Classification 1. A	Public Information
---------------------	--------------------

Chief Elected Official

Chief Administrative Officer