



Town of Penetanguishene Policy/Procedure

Policy Name: Environmentally Inspired Mowing Strategies		
Policy Division: RCS	Department: Parks	Policy Number: 01-2024
Effective Date: January 10, 2024		Revision Date:
Supersedes:		Date Approved by Council: January 10, 2024
Corporate Policy (Approved by Council)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Administrative Policy (Approved by CAO)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Related Documents/Legislation: n/a		

POLICY STATEMENT: The Town of Penetanguishene is committed to taking action on climate change and to the standards of the Bee City Canada Program.

PURPOSE: No-mow practices have many environmental benefits, some of which include creating pollinator habitat, reducing local pollinator mortality, preventing erosion, and reducing stormwater runoff. No-mow practices also help to reduce local Green House Gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change by decreasing fuel usage when maintaining municipal parks and lands. No-mow practices demonstrate the Town’s commitment and leadership in environmental stewardship.

Other benefits of no-mow practices include a financial savings related to staff time, equipment maintenance and fuel purchase.

SCOPE: This policy applies to municipal parks, trails and lands.

DEFINITIONS:

No-Mow – a specific area of land that would otherwise be mown regularly is left to grow freely.

Reduced Mow – a specific area of land that is regularly mown is put on a reduced mowing schedule which can be achieved by, increasing the time between mowing, increasing the height in which the grass is left to grow, or limiting mowing at certain times of the year that support environmental initiatives (ie. No-Mow May, Leave the Leaves).

Patch Mowing: Rotating mowed areas during the season or between years to leave refuge areas for insects and other wildlife. These areas provide source for populations to recolonize the mown patch.

No-Mow May - When pollinators first emerge in the spring, their food sources are limited due to the seasonality of many flowering plants. To help increase the abundance of food sources available to pollinators in early spring, mowing activities may cease during the month of May on designated lands.

Leave the Leaves - Many pollinators use leaf litter in the fall as insulation for the winter. When these leaves are removed or mulched up by a mower, many pollinators become casualties or lose this wintering habitat. A fall *Leave the Leaves* initiative may be implemented to avoid or reduce fall mowing and leaf removal on designated lands.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Facilities Manager

- The Facilities Manager is responsible for the implementation of and adherence to the no-mow policy.
- The Facilities Manager is responsible for providing training to parks staff on mowing strategies and said policy.
- The Facilities Manager is responsible for making recommendations for updates to the mowing policy.

Facility Operators

- Facility Operators are responsible for participating in training and adhering to the policy.
- Facility Operators are encouraged to bring forward recommendations for consideration.

Director of Recreation and Community Services

- The Director of Recreation and Community Services is responsible for conducting annual reviews of the policy and bringing forward recommended changes to Council for consideration.

PROCEDURES:

- 1) The Recreation and Community Services department will review this policy annually with consideration to the Town's commitment to its Bee City Canada designation and in collaboration with other third-party environmental organizations.
- 2) Parks staff will receive training on mowing strategies, how they provide environmental benefits and this policy.
- 3) Signage will be placed in areas impacted by the policy to educate and inform the public.

- 4) The following areas are no-mow areas in the Town of Penetanguishene:
- The west side of Therrien Park
 - JT Payette Park
 - Storm water & retention ponds

The following areas are subject to reduced or patch mowing in the Town of Penetanguishene:

- 139 Robert Street West
- 116 Robert Street West
- The section northeast of the dog park in Rotary Champlain Wendat Park (figure 1 provided below)
- Northeast corner of McGuire Park (figure 2 provided below)

Figure 1



Figure 2

