

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

Community Standards Bylaw Amendments

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Presented by:

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 **stalbert.ca**

 **City of**
St. Albert
Cultivate Life

History

- October 3, 2023, Council Directed Administration to review the Bylaws and recommend amendments that would increase a wider scope of landscaping options, including food crops, pollinating gardens, rain gardens and xeriscaping.
- May 14, 2024, Administration presented the Standing Committee of the Whole with proposed amendments to the CSB

History

- May 14, 2024 SCOW directed Administration to review options to further amend the CSB based on the discussion of the committee.
- The SCOW discussion surrounded two main areas:
 - Revise (or not) the definition of “Weed” so that it would only require noxious and prohibited noxious weeds to be maintained at the 15 cm height standard, and
 - Revise (or not) the bylaw to prohibit a clover lawn from encroaching onto City or private property.

Weed Definition Review

- Restricting the 15 cm height standard for Weeds to only Noxious and Prohibited Noxious is not recommended because:
 - Nuisance weeds such as but not limited to dandelion, foxtail barley and stinkweed would not require any maintenance and could have negative impacts by competing with native plants and agricultural crops.
 - Unmaintained nuisance weeds such as dandelion is believed to be one of the leading factors that cause residents to complaint about unkempt properties.

Dandelion



Foxtail Barley



Clover Encroachment Review

- Prohibiting Clover from encroaching is not recommended because:
 - It is not enforceable due to the nature on how clover spreads through seeds and air. (not able to legally determine what property it came from).
 - Adding unenforceable provisions to a bylaw may lead to unrealistic expectations and dissatisfaction from residents when officers don't take action.

Administration's Recommendation

- Provide three readings to Bylaw 30/2024 that amends the CSB by:
 - Maintaining the 15 cm height standard for Grass and Weeds
 - Grass definition exempts ornamental grasses from 15 cm height standard.
 - Weed definition would allow for clover lawns provided that they are:
 - maintained at 15 cm (same standard for grass), or
 - contained within a defined flower/shrub bed or container such as a pot.

Administration's Recommendation

- Removes the definition of “Naturalization Area”.
- New educational statement regarding alternative landscape options.
- New exemption for City property.
- By Q2 2025, explore opportunities and make revisions to website that educates and informs residents on how they can legally implement alternative landscape options including but not limited to pollination gardens, food crops and clover lawns.

Questions

