

Parks and Road Services

Alternative Landscape Options for Boulevards and Turf

Benefits and Considerations

March 21, 2022

Community and Public Services Committee

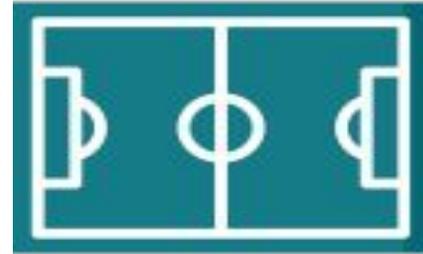
Introduction-Open Space Operations program



4,000 hectares of turfgrass



400,000 park and boulevard trees



1,500 sports fields



225,000 shrub beds.



1,059 hectares of naturalized areas



1,800 hectares of City owned naturally wooded areas

Existing Initiatives and Pilot Projects



Root for Trees Program - volunteer planting



Community Garden

Existing Initiatives and Pilot Projects



Bloomin' Boulevards



Median tree planting and low maintenance sod



Grads Park Project

Alternative Landscape Options



Naturalization



Permaculture



Artificial Turf Grass at Alex Decoteau Dog Park



Artificial Turf Grass at Commonwealth Stadium



Parkland Urban Farming



Low Growing Grass Alternatives

Alternative Landscape Options - Considerations

- ❖ Reduced or lower frequency of mowing and trimming
- ❖ Increased biodiversity, wildlife habitat, food sources for animals and beneficial pollinators
- ❖ Food production and community involvement
- ❖ Durability
- ❖ Cost
- ❖ Site Suitability
- ❖ Environmental impacts (contamination and waste production)
- ❖ Development permits and zoning



Alternative Landscape Options - Cost

Lowest Cost	High Initial Investment	Long Term Lower Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Naturalization <i>(without active planting)</i>• Traditional Turf Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artificial Turf• Permaculture• Urban Farming• Naturalization <i>(with tree and shrub plantings)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permaculture• Urban Farming• Naturalization <i>(with tree and shrub plantings)</i>• Naturalization <i>(without active planting)</i>

Next Steps

- ❖ Naturalization Plan and Public Engagement
 - Pause additional naturalization turf conversion around SWMFs while this work is taking place
 - Report back in Q4 2023 once the Naturalization Plan is complete
- ❖ Capital Planning for Greener As We Grow
- ❖ Creation of Edible Landscaping Guidelines
- ❖ Evaluation of various pilots
- ❖ Potential incorporation of new landscape techniques into Edmonton's Design and Construction Standards for Landscaping
- ❖ Continue existing initiatives and programs focused on beautification, community greening and gardening
- ❖ Continue to engage with community partners that approach the City with new ideas

Thank you

Edmonton

Alternative Landscape Options - Considerations

	Naturalized Grass - No Active Tree and Shrub Planting	Naturalized Grass - With Tree and Shrub Planting	Low Growing Alternatives to Grass	Urban Farming	Permaculture	Artificial Turf Grass
Benefits	Reduced mowing costs and environmental benefits	Reduced mowing costs, environmental and social benefits	Lower frequency of mowing	Food production and transfer maintenance responsibility	Food production and elimination of mowing cost in long run	Durability and lower maintenance frequency
Suitable areas	Roadways, narrow medians, berms, stormwater management ponds, dry ponds, passive use park and open space areas, slopes, utility corridors	Roadways, wide medians, berms, stormwater management ponds, dry ponds, passive use park and open space areas, slopes, utility corridors	Parks and open spaces, traffic circles, intersections crossings, medians, narrow boulevards	Parks and open spaces, typically away from roads and paths in order to avoid contaminants	Parks and open spaces, typically away from roads and paths in order to avoid contaminants	Traffic circles, intersections crossings, medians, narrow boulevards, sports fields