

## Attachment 1

### Naturalization Around Stormwater Management Facilities 2020-2022

In 2020, mowing was stopped at all stormwater management facilities as part of pandemic service level reductions. When some reductions were reversed, mowing started again at the end of the 2020 season. In 2021, as part of a Council approved budget reduction, Administration started work on more targeted naturalization of up to 150 hectares around stormwater management facilities and was able to convert approximately 80 hectares of naturalization at 113 sites. In April 2022, in response to public feedback in some areas, Council made a verbal request to revert stormwater management facilities areas converted to naturalized grass in 2021 back to mowed turf.

In spring 2022, Administration was able to convert 16 out of 113 of these areas back to mowed. Before mowing these naturalized areas for the first time, all sites had to be assessed for risk of nesting birds and certain sites required a wildlife sweep for nesting migratory birds as per requirements of the federal *Migratory Bird Convention Act*. Wildlife and bird surveys were completed in April and May before mowing started that spring.

In some locations, this legal requirement to assess sites for nesting birds and the presence of nesting birds in the naturalized grass, prevented crews from starting to mow and control weeds during the spring. This also resulted in Turf Operations postponing mowing and weed control activities in certain naturalized areas until after August 15, when the risk of breeding birds had passed.

In summary, out of 113 sites that had some new naturalization occur in 2021:

- 16 priority sites were converted back to mowed in spring 2022.
- 35 sites were assessed in spring 2022 as only having minimal new naturalization (slight extension to pre-existing naturalization border around the pond), so reversal back to mowed turf was not required.
- 62 sites were assessed in September and October 2022.
  - 26 sites had new mowing boundaries created in September 2022 and received a first mow in the fall.
  - 36 sites had remained mowed and had not started the naturalization process.

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The reversal of additional naturalization that was done in 2021 has been completed, and these areas will continue to be mowed until Public Engagement has been completed and a new Naturalization Plan developed. If additional naturalization were to be completed in these areas in the future, communications and/or public engagement with residents would be incorporated into that process.

Open spaces surrounding stormwater management facilities are owned by EPCOR as the drainage services provider. Development and maintenance in these areas must be compatible with the operation of the stormwater management facility. Administration has developed appropriate landscape standards for these areas in consultation with EPCOR.

Finally, naturalized stormwater management facilities that existed before 2021, or that are naturalized as part of a design by a developer or other organization (e.g. EPCOR) and brought into City inventory, will not be mowed.