



Department Operations	Policy No. OP(46)	Page 1 of 2
Policy Title MAINTENANCE OF RESERVES AND PUBLIC LAND	Date: February 28, 2019	Resolution No. C/75/19

Policy Statement

To facilitate the orderly and effective management of reserves and public land under the jurisdiction of Lacombe County the following classification system and standards have been adopted. The classifications and standards may be varied to address specific need or unusual conditions.

Regulation

The County Manager or his designate will categorize each parcel of land based on the type of property, proposed usage, and the subsequent maintenance and inspection requirements. Generally, each parcel will have a yearly inspection to ensure that the site conditions are appropriate for the usage and if maintenance procedures or lease agreement conditions are being followed.

Inspections must be documented and will include but not be limited to:

1. Liability issues
2. Appropriate signage
3. Fire smart requirements
4. General maintenance requirements being met
5. Noxious weeds
6. Site amenities condition.

The classification of parcels of land will fall into one of eight different categories

Category 1: High Use Recreation Areas – include amenities with high user bases which require maintenance on a daily basis i.e., Sandy Point Beach.

Maintenance: Between May 1 and October 31 garbages emptied and washroom facilities cleaned daily.

Mowed every 2 weeks, dependent on weather. Gravel trails graded monthly.

Between November 1 and April 31 garbages emptied and washroom facilities cleaned every 2 weeks.

Other site specific maintenance may be required dependent on the amenities available at specific locations, service levels in such cases shall be determined by the County Manager or designate.

Category 2: Developed Green Space – typically Municipal Reserve within subdivisions and includes, but is not limited to, open grass areas, parks, local trail systems.

Maintenance: Mowed every 2 weeks, dependent on weather. Gravel trails graded monthly.

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Category 3: Public Recreation Areas – include boat launches, picnic areas, fish ponds, and regional trail systems.

Maintenance: Between April 1 and October 31 garbages emptied and washroom facilities cleaned the first working day of every week. High use areas (i.e., Sunbreaker Cove Boat Launch) to have an additional cleaning on the last working day of each week.

Between November 1 and March 31 garbages emptied and washroom facilities cleaned every 2 weeks.

Mowing completed every 2 weeks, dependent on weather.

Category 4: Passive Recreation Areas – lands with natural trails, may have some amenities such as garbages and bathrooms. Typically Environmental Reserves or gifted lands with the intent of low impact use.

Maintenance: Between April 1 and October 31 garbages emptied and washroom facilities cleaned the first working day of every week.

Between November 1 and March 31 garbages emptied and washroom facilities clean every 2 weeks.

Removal of any vegetation (grass, trees, and brush) will be done only when deemed a public hazard ex. trees in danger of falling on a trail, roadway, house, or other infrastructure, grass or brush that is a fire hazard.

Category 5: Natural Areas – areas of vegetation with no recreational potential or use that do not require public access. May be Environmental Reserves in first parcel out subdivisions or isolated property with heavy vegetation.

Maintenance: Typically left in their natural condition, vegetation may be removed if deemed a hazard to adjacent property or infrastructure.

Category 6: Unmaintained Natural Areas – areas of vegetation with no recreational potential or use that do not require public access. These areas are isolated and do not pose hazards to adjacent property or infrastructure. May be Environmental Reserves in first parcel out subdivisions or isolated property with heavy vegetation.

Maintenance: None

Category 7: County Developed Land – lands that are for Lacombe County's sole use in an operational capacity such as gravel pits.

Maintenance: Noxious weed inspection is done every spring and spraying is prioritized based on the severity of the weeds that are found.

Category 8: Leased Land – land that is being leased from Lacombe County by a landowner.

Maintenance: None, inspected yearly as part of regular weed inspection process.

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Category 9: Private Use Unleased Land – lands that are owned by Lacombe County but are being utilized by the adjacent landowner without a lease in place. Typically these are very small parcels that are best served being maintained by the adjacent landowner, however a lease should be in place.

Maintenance: None, maintenance is currently undertaken by the adjacent landowner but would be required if the current maintenance ceased.