

4. Amendments to Residential Boulevard Gardening Regulations in the Use and Care of Roads By-law

Modifications des règles sur le jardinage dans les banquettes des rues résidentielles du Règlement sur l'utilisation et l'entretien des routes

Committee Recommendations as amended

That Council :

1. Approve the amendments to the Use and Care of Roads By-law as set out in Document 1 and as described in this report.
2. Approve amendments to the Use and Care of Roads By-law No. 2003-498 to:
 - (a) permit the owners of land zoned residential to replace the grass within the boulevard abutting their property with herbaceous ground cover defined as soft-stemmed plants that grow to a mature height not exceeding 20 centimetres and which die down to the root each year, and not including any of the species listed in Schedule "A" to the By-law, being the species prohibited within the City's right of way; and,
 - (b) require the owners of land zoned residential to cut the herbaceous ground cover as part of an owners existing obligation to cut the grass and weeds on the abutting boulevard.

Recommandations du comité telles que modifiées

Que le Conseil :

1. Approuve les modifications du Règlement sur l'utilisation et l'entretien des routes définies dans le document 1 et décrites dans le présent rapport.
2. **Approuve les modifications au Règlement sur l'utilisation et l'entretien des routes (n° 2003-498) afin :**
 - (a) **de permettre aux propriétaires de terrains à vocation résidentielle de remplacer le gazon dans la banquette contiguë à leur terrain par un tapis végétal, défini comme un tapis composé de plantes à tiges souples qui atteignent une hauteur maximale de 20 centimètres à maturité et qui dépérissent jusqu'à la racine chaque année, à l'exclusion de toute espèce nommée à l'annexe A du Règlement, c'est-à-dire les espèces interdites dans l'emprise de la Ville; et**
 - (b) **d'exiger des propriétaires de terrains à vocation résidentielle qu'ils entretiennent le tapis végétal conformément à l'obligation qui leur incombe de couper le gazon et les mauvaises herbes dans la banquette contiguë à leur terrain.**

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

Direction to staff (Councillor L. Dudas)

That as part of the amendments to Residential Boulevard Gardening Regulations, staff be directed to develop a comprehensive communications and outreach plan to inform residents about the new City of Ottawa by-laws. This plan should clearly outline potential risks or impacts to gardens within the City right-of-way, including those related to utility work, snow clearing, and City maintenance.

POUR L'INFORMATION DU CONSEIL MUNICIPAL

Instructions au personnel (Conseillère L. Dudas)

Que, dans le cadre des modifications apportées aux règles sur le jardinage dans les banquettes des rues résidentielles, il soit demandé au personnel d'élaborer un plan complet de communication et de sensibilisation pour informer les résidents des nouveaux règlements municipaux. Ce plan devrait clairement décrire les risques ou les répercussions possibles pour les paysagements végétalisés situés dans l'emprise de la Ville, y compris ceux liés aux travaux des services publics, au déneigement et à l'entretien par la Ville.

Documentation/Documentation

1. Extract of the draft Minutes, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, March 27, 2025

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des travaux publics et de l'infrastructure, le 27 mars 2025

2. Manager's Report, Right of Way, Heritage and Urban Design Services, Planning, Development and Building Services, submitted on March 18, 2025 (ACS2025-PDB-TP-0009)

Rapport du gestionnaire, Services des emprises, du patrimoine, et du design urbain, Direction générale des services de la planification, de l'aménagement et du bâtiment, soumis le 18 mars 2025 (ACS2025-PDB-TP-0009)

**Public Works and Infrastructure
Committee
Report 18
April 16, 2025**

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**Comité des travaux publics et de
l'infrastructure
Rapport 18
Le 16 avril 2025**

**Extract of Draft Minutes 18
Public Works and Infrastructure
Committee
March 27, 2025**

**Extrait de l'ébauche
du procès-verbal 18
Comité des travaux publics et de
l'infrastructure
Le 27 mars 2025**

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and Care of Roads By-law

File No. ACS2025-PDB-TP-0009 - City Wide

Rob Maclachlan, Program Manager, Right of Way, Planning, Development and Building Services Department provided an overview of the report and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

The following staff were present and responded to questions:

- PDBS - Kevin Lamer, Program Manager, Inspection
- Public Works Department – Tracey-Lee Schwets, Program Manager, Forest Management
- Emergency and Protective Services Department, Jennifer Therkleson, Program Manager, Bylaw Enforcement Services

The Committee heard from the following delegations:

1. Kate Veinot, Director of Operations & Neighbourhood Planning - Just Food
2. Dr. Eugenie Waters, For Our Kids
3. Erica Shardlow, CAFES
4. Harry Fischer, Bel-Air Community Association (BACA) and the Maitland Area Pollinator Projects (MAPP)*

5. Deborah Doherty, Bird Friendly Ottawa

The following written submissions were received by, and are filed with, the Office of the City Clerk, and distributed to Committee Members:

- Email dated March 25, 2025 from Sharon Boddy
- Email dated March 26, 2025 from Lorraine Johnson

Following discussion and questions of staff, the Committee carried the report recommendations as amended by PWIC Motion No. 2025-18-03, and with the following Direction to Staff:

Direction to staff (L. Dudas)

That as part of the amendments to Residential Boulevard Gardening Regulations, staff be directed to develop a comprehensive communications and outreach plan to inform residents about the new City of Ottawa by-laws. This plan should clearly outline potential risks or impacts to gardens within the City right-of-way, including those related to utility work, snow clearing, and City maintenance.

Report Recommendation(s)

That Public Works and Infrastructure Committee recommend City Council approve the amendments to the Use and Care of Roads By-law as set out in Document 1 and as described in this report.

Carried as amended

Motion No. PWIC 2025-18-03

Moved by L. Johnson

WHEREAS the Use and Care of Roads By-law No. 2003-498 places an obligation on the owner of land zoned residential to cut the grass and weeds on the boulevard abutting the owner's land; and,

WHEREAS the by-law also prohibits the digging up and removal of grass within a boulevard; and,

WHEREAS the Use and Care of Roads By-law was amended in 2023 to permit residents to replace the grass in a boulevard abutting the property with a garden, subject to parameters including setbacks from existing City and utility infrastructure, as well as trees; and

WHEREAS these amendments were done in part to recognize the environmental benefits of allowing alternatives to grass within the boulevard, while maintaining safe mobility and the continuance of City and utility operations within the right of way; and

WHEREAS there are other landscaping alternatives to grass within a boulevard that require less maintenance by abutting owners, provide environmental benefits and would not impact City or utility operations, or mobility within the right of way;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Public Works and Infrastructure Committee recommend Council approve amendments to the Use and Care of Roads By-law No. 2003-498 to:

(a) permit the owners of land zoned residential to replace the grass within the boulevard abutting their property with herbaceous ground cover defined as soft-stemmed plants that grow to a mature height not exceeding 20 centimetres and which die down to the root each year, and not including any of the species listed in Schedule “A” to the By-law, being the species prohibited within the City’s right of way; and,

(b) require the owners of land zoned residential to cut the herbaceous ground cover as part of an owners existing obligation to cut the grass and weeds on the abutting boulevard.

Carried