

Purpose:

- 1 To outline the guidelines when responding to reports of urban encampments along with any associated debris and belongings left on public and private lands.
- 2 To support individuals experiencing homelessness encountered on public land and to provide support services towards safe housing using the Housing First principle.
- 3 To ensure the safety of employees.
- 4 To increase the enjoyment and safety of our city's trail and parks.

Policy Statement(s):

- 5 The City of Red Deer has a zero tolerance approach to permitting the establishment or maintenance of urban encampments. This approach is justified based on the following:
 - (1) The City is responsible for the health and safety of citizens and staff accessing public lands and parks.
 - (2) The City is responsible for the ecological protection of the natural areas located within our community.
 - (3) The City respects and supports our community's vulnerable populations and has shelter and housing supports in place as alternatives to individuals sleeping rough.
- 6 The City has established a level of service that urban encampments, debris, and belongings are to be removed within 14 days of an initial report, 90% of the time.
 - (1) Cleanup will not occur on lands owned and managed by other levels of government and its agencies (e.g. Province of Alberta or Red Deer College).
 - (2) The Manager of Parks and Public Works Department may authorize assistance to third parties or citizen at their discretion based on economical and social factors. Cost recovery will be considered.
- 7 An urban encampment individual or site will not receive a vacancy notice greater than 72 hours prior to enforcement.
- 8 To protect the safety of the vulnerable population, The City will not issue or enforce a vacancy notice when:
 - (1) Daytime high temperatures (including wind chill) are lower than -20 degrees Celsius;
 - (2) Environment Canada issues a severe weather warning; or
 - (3) Alternative shelter or housing options (specifically shelter spaces) are not available.

- 9 To protect the safety of employees, and of the rights and safety of the vulnerable population, The City will not remove urban encampments left on publicly managed lands when:
 - (1) The removal would be in violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and any pertinent department safe work policies and procedures.
 - (2) A vacancy notice has not been issued.

Definitions:

- 10 Housing First is a recovery-oriented approach to homelessness that involves moving people who experience homelessness into independent and permanent housing as quickly as possible, with no preconditions, and then providing them with additional services and supports as needed.
- 11 Urban Encampments are areas in publicly managed lands where people experiencing homelessness are sleeping.

References/Links:

- 1 Bylaw No. 3383/2007 - [Community Standards Bylaw](#)
- 2 Bylaw No. 3255/2000 - [Parks and Public Facilities Bylaw](#)
- 3 3305-CP Urban Encampment Response
- 4 2005-CA Occupational Health & Safety
- 5 2005-CP Occupational Health & Safety

Scope/Application/

- 1 This policy applies to all City staff who are interacting with urban encampments, debris, and belongings left on publicly managed lands or private lands with explicit permission of the landowner (such as future development lands and vacated commercial areas) to protect citizens from the risks associated with the cleanup of urban encampments.

Authority/Responsibility to Implement:

- 1 Authority to implement this policy is delegated to the Municipal Policing Services Manager, Parks and Public Works Manager, and Safe & Healthy Communities Manager.
- 2 The applicable department superintendents and supervisors are to ensure that the policy requirements are met and will report to the managers as required.

Inquiries/Contact Person:

- 1 Municipal Policing Services Manager
- 2 Parks & Public Works Manager
- 3 Safe & Healthy Communities Manager

Policy Monitoring and Evaluation:

- 1 This policy will be reviewed every two years from the date of approval.

Document History:

Date:	Approved/Reviewed By:	Title:
Approved: December 14, 2020	"Allan Seabrooke"	City Manager