



M. D. OF GREENVIEW NO. 16
POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL

Section:
AGRICULTURE

POLICY NUMBER: AG 18

POLICY TITLE: SOIL CONSERVATION

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Date Adopted by Council / Motion Number:

12.06.357

PURPOSE:

The Municipal District of Greenview recognizes that protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural and environmental sustainability. The MD further recognizes that it is beneficial to actively encourage the adoption of Best Management Practices and soil conservation techniques in order to protect and enhance productivity, and to take measures to prevent soil erosion and/or soil degradation on public and private lands throughout the Municipal District of Greenview.

POLICY:

1. For the purpose of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Soil erosion is defined as:

- *the loss or movement of topsoil through the forces of wind and water.*

Soil degradation is defined as:

- *the reduction in the level of soil organic matter and available crop nutrients,*
- *the redistribution of soluble salts onto the soil surface as a result of groundwater movement or evaporation, and/or*
- *the breakdown of soil structure through tillage practices.*

2. Agricultural Services personnel will provide information to residents, ratepayers, and stakeholders in appropriate soil management practices.
3. Agricultural Services personnel will conduct activities to encourage the establishment and maintenance of healthy vegetation on roadside ditches, and municipal lands.
4. As per Section 14(a) of the Soil Conservation Act, the Agricultural Service Board will be appointed as the Soil Conservation Appeal Committee to review and render decisions upon appeals submitted.
5. The Manager of Agricultural Services is, by virtue of title under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, automatically appointed as a Soil Conservation Officer under the *Soil Conservation Act*.
6. The MD will provide appropriate identification to duly appointed Inspectors;
7. The Manager and Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services will serve as Inspectors under the *Soil Conservation Act*. Any notice of soil deteriorating through wind or water erosion or other means will be reported to the ASB for consideration and recommendation to Municipal Council.

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8. The Inspector will encourage voluntary compliance with the *Soil Conservation Act*.
9. To minimize soil erosion on Municipal lands, Agricultural Services personnel will take appropriate measures in an attempt to ensure the rapid establishment of desired vegetation on Municipal properties by:
 - a. seeding exposed areas on all Municipal properties, as soon as reasonably practical and using an appropriate grass seed blend, and maintaining healthy vegetation, once established.
 - b. seeding areas that have been disturbed as a result of Municipal construction projects, as soon as reasonably practical, using an appropriate grass seed blend and maintaining healthy vegetation, once established.
10. The Manager of Agricultural Services will coordinate with other Municipal departments to establish a method of communicating the locations of soil disturbances, which have resulted in exposed soil that requires re-vegetation measures.

(Original signed copy on file)
REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER