

Title: SOIL CONSERVATION

Policy No: 6314

Effective Date: April 8, 2019

Motion Number: 19.04.273

Supersedes Policy No: AG 18

Review Date: April 8, 2022



Purpose: Greenview recognizes that protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural and environmental sustainability. Greenview 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 Greenview.

DEFINITIONS

Soil Degradation means 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.

Soil Erosion means the loss or movement of topsoil through the forces of wind and water

POLICY

1. As per Section 14(a) of the *Soil Conservation Act*, the local authority (Municipal Council) shall appoint the Agricultural Service Board appointed as the Soil Conservation Appeal Committee at the beginning of each year, to review and render decisions upon appeals submitted.
2. The local authority (Municipal Council) shall appoint the Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services as a Soil Conservation Officer under the *Soil Conservation Act* for the term of their employment. 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*.
3. Greenview shall provide appropriate identification to duly appointed Inspectors.
4. The Manager of Agricultural Services shall 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.

PROCEDURE

1. Agricultural Services personnel shall provide practical advice and technical assistance information to residents, ratepayers, and stakeholders in appropriate soil management practices.

2. Agricultural Services personnel shall conduct activities to encourage the establishment and maintenance of healthy vegetation on roadside ditches, and municipal lands.
3. The Manager and Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services shall serve as Inspectors under the *Soil Conservation Act*, and take action and/or impose penalties upon landowners if soil is deteriorating through wind or water erosion and/or other means. Any notice of soil deteriorating through wind or water erosion or other means will be reported to the ASB for considerations and recommendation to Municipal Council.
4. The Inspector shall encourage voluntary compliance with the *Soil Conservation Act* including any amendments or successor legislation thereto, and shall as a last resort, issue and enforce such Notices to the landholder directing action to be taken as required by the Act, when the Inspector is of the opinion that appropriate measures are not being undertaken to prevent or stop soil loss and/or deterioration from taking place.
5. To minimize soil erosion on Municipal lands, Agricultural Services personnel shall 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 practicable 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 practicable, using an appropriate grass seed blend and maintaining healthy vegetation, once established.