

**BY-LAW #26-2015  
AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE BYLAW  
TOWN OF SLAVE LAKE**

**A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF SLAVE LAKE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO  
AMEND LAND USE BY-LAW #22-2007.**

Pursuant to the Municipal Government Act being Chapter M-26 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, as amended, the Municipal Council of the Town of Slave Lake, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. That Section 3 is amended by adding:

**“GROUND COVER”** means vegetation or vegetative materials, commonly used for landscaping purposes that are used to provide protection from erosion and drought and to improve aesthetic appearance by concealing the bare earth. Landscaping fabric may be used however must be covered by some form of ground cover or soft-landscaping materials.

2. That Section 3 is amended by replacing the definition as follows:

**“LANDSCAPING”** means the modification and enhancement of a site through the use of any or all of the following elements:

- (1) “soft-landscaping” consisting of vegetative materials such as trees, shrubs, hedges, grass, ground cover, wood chips, and gardens;
- (2) “hard-landscaping” consisting of non-vegetative materials such as brick, stone, concrete, tile and wood, excluding monolithic concrete and asphalt.

3. That Section 59 is replaced with the following:

**LANDSCAPING**

The Town of Slave Lake is surrounded by numerous natural features of outstanding value, including varied ecology of the Boreal Forest, the Lesser Slave River Valley, Sawridge Creek and Lesser Slave Lake. The Town Council and Citizens of Slave Lake treasure these natural features and expect future design to be in harmony with the landscape.

The Land Use Bylaw encourages landscaping in most areas within the Town in order to extend the value of the natural features of the area within the Town itself and to ensure the overall landscape is aesthetically pleasing. Where possible, natural features should be preserved and enhanced.

The Land Use Bylaw defines Landscaping (see Section 3) as follows:  
**“LANDSCAPING”** means the modification and enhancement of a site

through the use of any or all of the following elements:

- (3) "soft-landscaping" consisting of vegetative materials such as trees, shrubs, hedges, grass, ground cover, wood chips, and gardens;
- (4) "hard-landscaping" consisting of non-vegetative materials such as brick, stone, concrete, tile and wood, excluding monolithic concrete and asphalt.

**"GROUND COVER"** means vegetation or vegetative materials, commonly used for landscaping purposes that are used to provide protection from erosion and drought and to improve aesthetic appearance by concealing the bare earth. Landscaping fabric may be used however must be covered by some form of ground cover or soft-landscaping materials.

### **Landscape Planning**

A good landscape plan will produce high quality landscapes with the least maintenance cost and time.

Landowners should take into consideration, when planning their landscaping, the ease of long-term maintenance and the landscaping layout as well as FireSmart Principles. Ensure your landscape plan notes the areas of your yard that are hot, dry, shady or damp. Select plants for these specific areas that will thrive in those specific conditions.

Plantings should also be of hardy varieties suitable for our local conditions. Slave Lake is Zone 3a in the Alberta Hardiness Zone and as such, Plantings that are selected for Slave Lake and area should be rated Zone 3a if they are to survive and thrive.

### **FireSmart**

Wildfires are a natural part of Alberta's wildland ecosystem. Living where wildfires can occur puts your home at risk, but it is possible to live safely with this natural event. The recommendations in the Homeowner's Manual FireSmart Begins at Home will reduce the risk of wildfire to your home and neighborhood and help firefighters defend your home. When preparing your landscape plan we suggest visiting the Alberta Government website or obtaining a copy of the noted publication from the Town Office.

### **Maintenance**

The Land Use Bylaw requires that the landscape plan that is approved at the time of development is maintained for the life of that development. As such, all Plantings that do not survive must be replaced. A good landscape plan will minimize the time required to

maintain the landscaping and will ensure the varieties of Plantings you have chosen will not only survive but that they will thrive.

### Reducing the Use of Water

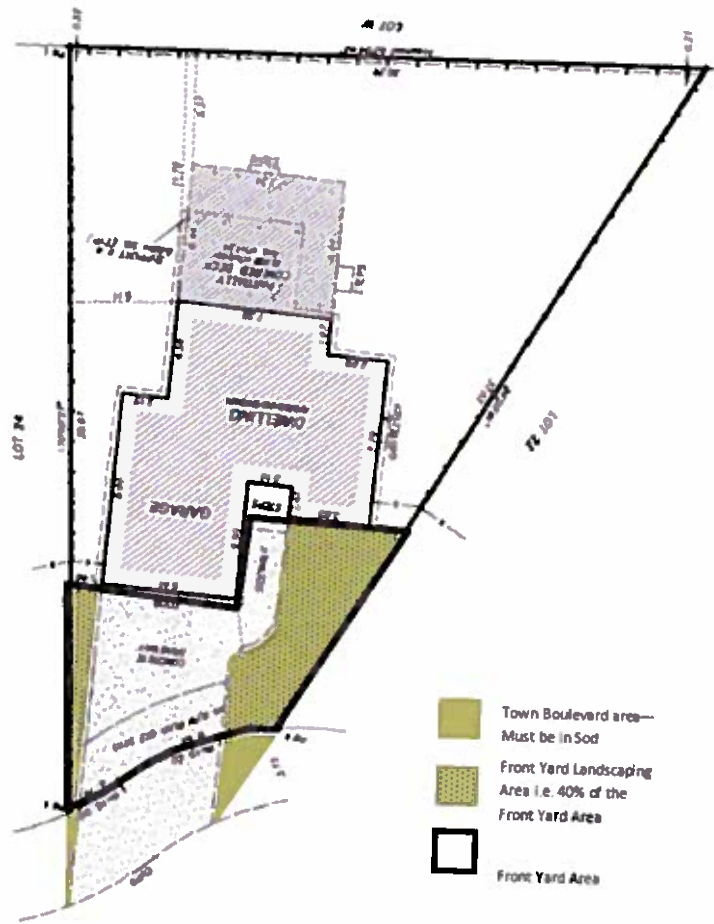
Your landscape plan can also address minimal water use. Improving the quality of soil with organic matter allows for better water absorption and water holding capacity. The use of mulch and ground cover cools the soil, minimizes weed growth, slows erosion and evaporation and reduces the amount of water required by the landscape.

### Regulations

- (1) Landscaping for all lots within all residential land use districts shall be in accordance with the following standards.
- (2) All areas of a lot that are not covered by buildings, driveways and sidewalks must be landscaped.
- (3) Landscaping for front yards shall be in accordance with the following regulations:
  - (a) the conservation of existing trees and shrubs to the maximum extent possible;
  - (b) a minimum of 50% of the front yard area, for regular shaped lots, shall be landscaped;



- (c) a minimum of 40% of the front yard area, for pie and/or irregular shaped, semi-detached and duplex lots, shall be landscaped;



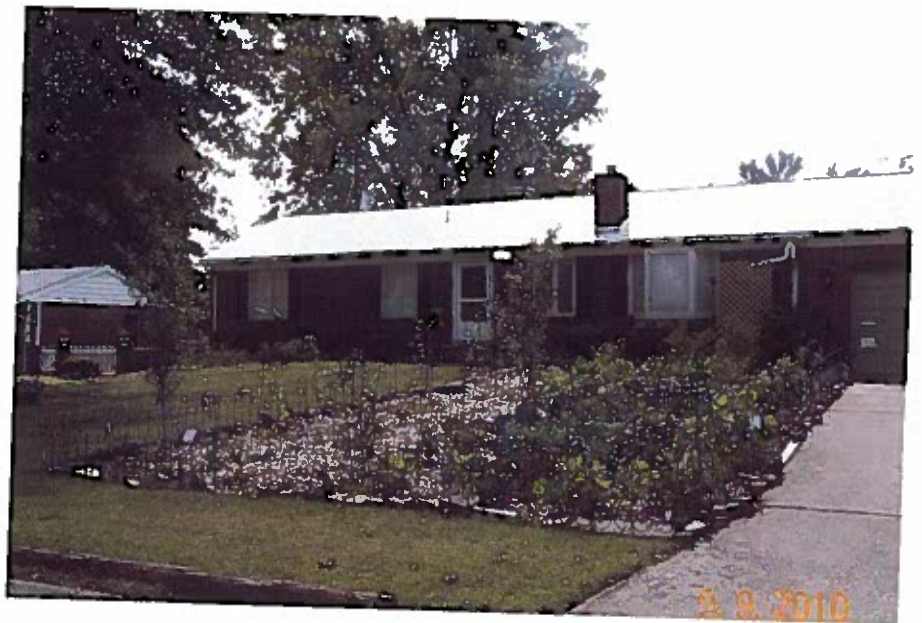
- (d) a maximum of 25% of the front yard area for all residential lots may be hard-landscaped;



- (e) alternative forms of landscaping may be substituted for seeding or sodding, provided that all areas of exposed earth are designed as either flowers beds or cultivated gardens;



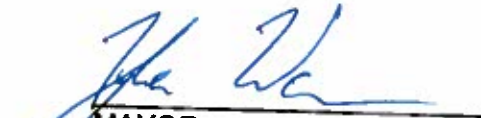
- (f) the front yard landscaped area may consist entirely of cultivated gardens as long as the Town's boulevard remains in a grassed or sod standard;



- (g) a sufficient depth of topsoil to facilitate vegetation growth in the soft-landscaped areas is required;
- (h) completion of the landscaping of the entire lot by the end of the first full growing season following completion of construction or the commencement of the use;
- (i) a landscape plan is to be prepared and submitted for all developments in medium and high density residential districts;
- (j) the landscaping areas shown on the submitted and approved landscape plan and/or approved by the issuance of a development permit must be maintained on the lot as long as the development exists.


That this Bylaw comes into effect upon the date of its Third and Final Reading.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 15 DAY OF March 2016 A.D.

  
MAYOR

  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 19 DAY OF April 2016 A.D.

  
MAYOR

  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 19 DAY OF April 2016 A.D.

  
MAYOR

  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER