



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Meaghen Reid, Director, Legislative & Legal Services/Town Clerk

Date: April 13, 2026

Report No: CORS-010-26

Subject: Boulevard Maintenance

Recommendation: THAT the necessary by-law amendments regarding boulevard maintenance regulations, included on the April 13, 2026 Council Meeting agenda, be considered for approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On July 14, 2025, Council passed a resolution directing staff to bring forward a draft by-law requiring property occupants and/or homeowners to maintain boulevard grass to a reasonable standard.
- Boulevard or “adjacent boulevard” means that portion of the roadway immediately adjacent to the front yard and/ or side yard of a property, which is not used as travelled roadway or shoulder.
- It is common practice in most municipalities for homeowners to maintain vegetation on boulevards adjacent to their private property. Currently, the Town does not have a specific by-law outlining this requirement.
- Recommended amendments to the Town’s Community Standards By-law would provide the Town with a mechanism to formally address property owners who do not maintain the adjacent boulevard, resulting in improved aesthetics throughout the community. Following by-law adoption, new boulevard maintenance regulations would be included within the Town’s “Be a Good Neighbour” program, which focuses on educating residents about common by-laws affecting property, addressing compliance issues with a warning and taking enforcement action, when required.

REPORT

Background

At the July 14, 2025 Council Meeting, Council passed a resolution directing staff to:

- 1) Draft a by-law requiring property occupants and/ or homeowners to maintain boulevard grass to a reasonable standard

Background

- 2) Explore options to include reasonable exemptions for approved pollinator gardens, Town-managed spaces or special landscaping
- 3) Implement an appropriate enforcement strategy that includes, notice of non-compliance, fines and potential cost recovery recommendations.

Discussion

Boulevard Regulations

Boulevard or “adjacent boulevard” means that portion of the roadway immediately adjacent to the front yard and/ or side yard of a property, which is not used as travelled roadway or shoulder.

Currently, the Town does not have a specific by-law requiring property owners to maintain vegetation on boulevards adjacent to their private property. In recent years, the Town has received a growing number of complaints related to unkempt boulevard vegetation along neighbouring properties impacting community standards.

Comparator and neighbouring communities, including Oakville and Burlington, have regulations in place that require property owners to maintain the adjacent boulevard. A common regulation among these municipal comparisons is that the height of vegetation shall not exceed 20cm in height on private property and the boulevard.

Recommended Amendments to the Town’s Community Standards By-law

Staff are recommending the following amendments to the Town’s existing Community Standards By-law No. 042-2020:

1. Introduction of the following definition: adjacent boulevard means that portion of the roadway immediately adjacent to the front yard and/ or side yard of a property, which is not used as travelled roadway or shoulder;
2. Introduction of the following provision: Every Owner of Property shall maintain the adjoining boulevard at their expense and shall cut and maintain tall grass to a height not exceeding 20 centimeters).

At this time, staff do not recommend exemptions for pollinator gardens or special landscaping on boulevards. Currently, this is not an approved use of Town boulevards, as this may interfere with road maintenance operations and sightlines. In addition, an exemption program would require additional resources for oversight, inspections and administration of exemption permits. The Town’s Community Standards By-law allows for naturalized areas on private property only and staff recommend it not be extended to municipal boulevards.

Discussion

Updates to the “Be a Good Neighbour” Program

The “Be a Good Neighbour” seasonal program seeks to educate the community about common by-laws affecting private properties. Upon approval from Council, updated regulations regarding boulevard maintenance will be included within this existing Town program supported by communications and enforcement staff.

The “Be a Good Neighbour” program’s education-first campaign uses encouraging and advisory (non-punitive) messaging on a variety of platforms to help residents better understand Town by-laws. Our enforcement team works with property owners to achieve voluntary compliance with the Town’s community standards.

In 2025, this program addressed 743 Community Standards/Road Fouling matters and achieved 83% voluntary compliance (60% resolved within 48 hours). Resolving issues in this manner avoids days of queued tasks in our enforcement system and frees up staff to address more complex issues.

The “Be a Good Neighbour” program focuses on the following:

- Educating residents about common by-laws affecting property;
- Addressing non-compliance with a warning about their possible infraction;
- Enforcing when required.

As part of the education process, enforcement staff use a door-hanger in neighbourhoods as a first point of contact to residents. To increase understanding, the door-hanger has been translated into five languages (Urdu, Spanish, Punjabi, Chinese, and Arabic) using a QR code.

Fines

The Town has an established and Council-approved Administrative Penalty System (APS) that:

- (a) Sets out a penalty based on the type of contravention
- (b) Provides graduated penalties
- (c) Considers whether the contravention is ongoing or continuing
- (d) Offers opportunities for penalty reduction where efforts at compliance have been made.

The administrative penalty for failing to comply with a notice under the Town’s Community Standards By-law is \$300.00 for a first offence (with an opportunity to have this reduced by



Discussion

75% by a Screening Officer). As with other Town by-laws within the APS program, there would be escalating fines for reoccurring non-compliance.

Within the current enforcement of the Community Standards By-law, failure to comply could also result in mowing services provided by a Town contractor at the cost of the property owner.

Financial Impact

Any costs or associated revenues will be accounted for within the 2026 operating budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristene Scott
Commissioner, Corporate Services

For questions, please contact: Mary Beth Mitchell, Manager, Phone: Ext. 2133
Licensing and Enforcement

Attachments

n/a

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.