



Report number: EC2026-0324

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2026 April 14

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Amending Community Standards Bylaw – Foxtail Barley

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillor Wyness, Councillor Chabot

WHEREAS On July 4th, 2023, as a mechanism to address nuisance properties, Council voted to amend the Community Standards Bylaw to require that nuisance properties owners control foxtail barley over 8 cm or face a \$500 fine;

AND WHEREAS Foxtail barley is a native plant that is part of a healthy prairie ecosystem and is not considered a weed in Calgary. It is commonly found in disturbed soils including construction sites, roadsides, boulevards, green spaces, and parks;

AND WHEREAS In 2025, there were 12,134 complaints for long grass and weeds of which 1,533 pertained to foxtail barley. Of the 1 ticket issued since 2023 for foxtail barley, the infraction encompassed long grass and other herbaceous material;

AND WHEREAS As a grass species, foxtail barley is difficult and expensive to manage through regular operations and maintenance practices. According to briefing C2023-1357, managing foxtail barley to the 8 cm standards set out in the bylaw would be a significant change to implement and require a comprehensive approach that would require adding two mowing cycles and site-specific spot treatment. A class 5 estimate at the time for the additional mowing work would be a potential annual increase of \$2 million and for vacant city land parcels, an additional \$200,000. Other implications included more inspection and quality control resource allocations, operational budgetary requirements, environmental impacts, and capacity constraints;

Managing foxtail barley to the same standard set out in the Community Standards Bylaw would be very costly and require permanent and ongoing tax-supported funding;

AND WHEREAS In practice, the City has not been held to the same standards as private citizens relating to the management of foxtail barley. These misaligned rules and practices are unfair and not reasonable.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to bring forward amendments to the Community Standards Bylaw that removes Section 7.2.j relating to foxtail barley to the May 6th, 2026 Community Development Committee to recommend that it be forwarded to the May 26st, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council.