

### **Summary of Citizen Dandelion and Weed Concerns (2011-2015)**

This attachment summarizes long grass, dandelion and weed control service requests in Calgary parks and road-ways. Table 1 below provides the breakdown of the total 311 Service Requests (SRs) for Animal & Bylaw Services (ABS), Parks and Roads business units for long grass, mowing and weed control between 2011-2015.

- The Calgary Parks' mowing and weeds service requests refer to citizen concerns for weeds and long grass (including dandelions) in parks and open spaces that Calgary Parks stewards.
- Roads' long grass and weeds service requests also refer to citizen concerns in regards to grass and weeds (including dandelions), but along roadways which Roads stewards. The ABS service requests represent the concerns that citizens have for weeds (including dandelions) and long grass on private property where ABS enforces the Community Standards Bylaw.

Overall, the service requests that The City receives for grass and weed control are primarily in relation to concerns around maintenance of private property; approximately 70 per cent of the service requests for grass and weed concerns that are received by The City are citizens concerned about private property.

**Table 1: Total Weed and Mowing Concerns on City Property and Private Property (May – September)**

	2011 (May-Sept)	2012 (May-Sept)	2013 (May-Sept)	2014 (May-Sept)	2015 (May-July)	Total
<b>City Owned Property Concerns</b>						
Parks (mowing)	2,010	904	1,062	1,007	836	5,819
Parks (weeds*)	474	374	303	340	308	1,799
Roads (long grass/weeds)	293	195	154	175	256	1,073
<b>Total: Parks &amp; Roads</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>8,691</b>
<b>Private Property Concerns</b>						
ABS (long grass/weeds)	5,036	4,164	3,348	3,882	3,899	20,329
<b>Total: Private Property</b>	<b>5,036</b>	<b>4,164</b>	<b>3,348</b>	<b>3,882</b>	<b>3,899</b>	<b>20,329</b>
<b>Total: Private Property, Parks &amp; Roads SRs</b>	<b>7,813</b>	<b>5,637</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>5,404</b>	<b>5,299</b>	<b>29,020</b>

Trends in the service requests emerge when mapped by month. Every year for the past five years, for the months of May to September, June has been the highest month for service requests for grass and weed concerns, averaging 877 service requests. Over the past five years, July has been the second highest month for service requests averaging 411 over the month. May and August have comparable statistics. September has been the month with the least number of citizen concerns for grass and weeds.

**Table 2: Weed and Mowing Concerns on City Property by Month/Year**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Average
<b>May</b>	149	233	147	148	271	190
<b>June</b>	1,748	530	675	783	649	877
<b>July</b>	473	427	322	354	480	411
<b>Aug</b>	301	210	258	174	-	236*
<b>Sept</b>	106	73	117	63	-	90*

\*Only an average of four years not five year, as data is still being collected.

Dandelions are adaptable and the flowering period varies depending on conditions. Lots of sunny days over a few months provides the perfect growing condition for dandelions. They are relatively more drought tolerant and can grow better than turf grasses in dry years. Dandelion flowering tends to peak during the height of the growing season, which may explain the surge of complaints that The City receives in June. Dandelions can go from start to fluff quickly depending on weather/growing conditions.

Sources:

Canadian climate Monthly Summaries. Environment Canada

Document accessed at [http://climate.weather.gc.ca/prods\\_servs/cdn\\_climate\\_summary\\_e.html](http://climate.weather.gc.ca/prods_servs/cdn_climate_summary_e.html) on August 19, 2015.

Canadian Climate Normals (1981-2010).Environment Canada

Document accessed at [http://climate.weather.gc.ca/climate\\_normals](http://climate.weather.gc.ca/climate_normals) on August 19, 2015.