



GRAND VALLEY

## Town of Grand Valley Operating Budget 2025

### Grass Cutting and Groundskeeping

The draft operating budget includes the following:

- Keeping budget at \$125,000, which will cover grass cutting on Town lands (except ball diamonds and cemeteries) and flower bed maintenance
- Adding properties to the contractor role, and decreasing staff time dedicated to grass cutting to offset, giving Public Works staff availability for other tasks (locates, patrol, storm water pond cleanout, etc.)

Town staff take pride in the grass cutting and gardening, and have been made aware of public concerns about the quality of care given. Direction is sought from Council on expectations for gardens to determine if staff are able to accommodate the expectations or if we need to seek outside assistance if required.

#### Second Draft

- No changes

#### Final Draft

- Council requested further details on the plans for managing grass, gardens and groundskeeping in 2025.
  - Recreation staff to maintain grass at urban area cemeteries
  - Contractor to be retained for an additional season, as follows:
    - 1.9% COLA increase to contract (from \$27,900 to \$28,430), under terms of the 2024 agreement
    - Addition of 18 properties to the contract for a negotiated price of \$17,280, in line with the per-cut pricing under the contract (18 x 24 cuts x \$40 per cut)
      - This cost will be offset by a decrease in wages
  - Recreation staff to maintain grass at ball diamonds
  - Recreation staff to maintain gardens, per the attached map (no change from 2024), ensuring adequate time is allocated to this task
  - Public Works to water gardens and Main Street hanging and street flower baskets, as part of Downtown Improvement budget, separate to the Grass Cutting and Groundskeeping budget
- \$125,000 originally proposed has been decreased to \$110,000 left in budget for staff time, contractor payments, equipment charges, purchasing of plants, planting materials, tools, etc.