



GRAND VALLEY

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Brad Haines – By-law & Property Standards Enforcement Officer
Meeting Date: April 28, 2026
Report Number: 2026-076
Subject: Report – Clean Yards Pro-Active Enforcement Policy Amendment

Recommendation

THAT Council receive the report Clean Yards Pro-Active Enforcement Policy Amendment
AND FURTHER THAT Council approve amendments to the By-law Enforcement Policy Statement as outlined in the report.

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the requested amendment to the By-law Enforcement Policy Statement and initiate pro-active enforcement for By-law infractions related to Clean Yards By-law 2013-19.

Key Findings

By-law Enforcement provided solutions to address Council's request to make Clean Yards By-law 2013-19 pro-actively enforced, while looking for further feedback from council in how to address these infractions in the future.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report.

Report

Background

On November 25, 2025 Staff presented [Report – Enforcement Policy and Additional Parking Enforcement Resources Review 2025-171](#), which provided options to further address parking needs of Grand Valley and enhance the existing By-law Enforcement Policy. These options included:

- Ensuring that all similar by-law violations within view of an initial complaint are addressed.
- Emphasis on Administrative Fairness to help avoid accusations of favoritism or vexatious complaints.
- Introducing yearly ‘blitz’, focusing on a specific infraction type, allowing Council or residents to contribute suggestions, while still promoting administrative fairness.
- Promoting a by-law enforcement policy that seeks voluntary by-law compliance, which is achieved through education, information, and non-penalty enforcement, including providing a reasonable time frame to comply and escalating enforcement measures as warranted.

In response, Council passed Resolution 2025-53 as follows:

‘BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council received the report – Enforcement Policy and Additional Parking Enforcement Resources Review for information purposes **AND FURTHER THAT** Council directs staff to make the clean yards by-law proactive enforcement.

Discussion

Staff have reviewed the Clean Yards By-law 2013-19, (attachment 1) and recommend that no amendments to the by-law itself are required. Instead, Council’s request to implement proactive enforcement can be addressed through updates to the By-Law Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual (attachment 2). The proposed amendments are outlined below and highlighted in yellow.

Amendment 1

POLICY STATEMENT

The Town shall operate on a reactive, complaint-based process regarding municipal by-law enforcement, except for those violations that are obvious, malicious, or pose an immediate threat to health and safety for all of Grand Valley’s Municipal By-laws except Traffic and Parking

By-laws and Clean Yards By-laws, which may be pro-actively enforced at the officer's discretion.

Amendment 2

PROCESS

Section 1.1.2 staff are recommending the following addition:

1.1.2 – 'The M.L.E.O may, at their own discretion, pro-actively enforce Clean Yards by-laws to ensure a clean, sanitary and healthy community environment, for infractions seen in plain site and from the adjacent roadway'.

Amendment 3

Section 8 of the policy outlines the best practises to follow when conducting any investigation on private property. Staff recommend the addition of the following under this section:

- *The M.L.E.O shall not enter inside of any dwelling, structure or building without the accompaniment of a Town approved witness.*

Once amendments to the By-law Enforcement Policy Statement, have received Council approval, staff will commence pro-active enforcement of the Clean Yards By-law 2013-19 can commence.

Additional Enforcement Considerations

Council may also wish to give consideration as to whether proactive enforcement of the Clean Yards By-Law will be conducted in both the urban and rural areas. The Clean Yards By-Law is very broad and covers a wide range of infractions from refuse to stagnant water. Staff are recommending proactive clean yards enforcement within the urban area as Grand Valley has very large rural area. Proactive enforcement within the urban areas of Grand Valley will address the beautification of the Town, without infringing on any farming operations. Many rural properties in Grand Valley will likely have a violation under this by-law simply due to a prolonged construction project or in executing normal farming operations. For instance, many rural properties / farming operations hold onto inoperative equipment. This would be classified as a violation under the by-law. The only exemption in the Clean Yards by-law for a farming operation falls under the Odour and Long Grass and Nuisance Weeds sections.

It is also noted that a move to proactive clean yards enforcement will likely result in a larger case load for the single by-law enforcement officer to manage and time currently allocated to other enforcement activities may need to shift to focus on clean yards enforcement.

In the future, when amending the Clean Yards By-Law, it would be recommended to do so at a time when an A.M.P.S (administrative monetary penalty system) is in place. A.M.P.S. often has set fines that can be issued as further incentive to comply with any order, as an officer can fine a property owner every day until the property is in compliance with the by-law.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications to this report.

Consultations

None

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Clean Yards By-law – 2013-19

Attachment 2 - Policy and Procedure Manual – By-law Enforcement

This report was submitted by

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This report was approved by

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