

Landscape Management Plan

1 STATEMENT

The Landscape Management Plan is in place at Nova Scotia Community College to:

- Regulate groundskeeping through mowing and fertilization practices.
- Control invasive species' persistence.
- Prevent the release of harmful chemicals and toxins into the environment.
- Reduce water usage through irrigation.

Stormwater from sealed surfaces, such as asphalt and roofed areas, can transport sediments and contaminants to waterways and erode surface soils. Landscaping design shall incorporate best management practices to minimize the stormwater volume and flow velocity.

As NSCC adapts to a changing climate, the college will begin an assessment process to evaluate risks to critical infrastructure vulnerable to increasingly frequent and severe storm events. The assessment will include recommendations on addressing these risks with green infrastructure solutions that manage stormwater, reduce the heat island effect, and promote biodiversity on campus grounds. Careful consideration will be made to incorporate solutions that do not require extensive maintenance to minimize lifecycle costs and not burden facilities support staff unnecessarily.

2 PLAN

2.1 ONGOING

Groundskeeping shall be maintained through the Campus Facilities Management Office and completed by a qualified staff member or through a third-party vendor with experience acceptable to the College.

Spring Maintenance

- Re-edge and tidy all beds; add mulch.
- Thin and prune bushes.
- Prune and shape shrubs.
- Prune and shape hedges.
- Prune and shape rose bushes.
- Aerate and fertilize grass areas.

Summer Maintenance (where required)

- Prune and shape shrubs.
- Prune and shape hedges.
- Prune and shape rose bushes.

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- Weed, edge and tidy beds.
- Fertilize grass areas.

Fall Maintenance (where required)

- Cut back perennials.
- Prune and shape shrubs.
- Prune and shape hedges.
- Weed, edge and tidy beds.
- Fertilize and lime grass areas.

The grass cutting and trimming schedule:

- Mid-May to end of June – Every 10 days or as needed.
- Beginning of July to end of August – Every 14 days or as needed.
- Beginning of September to mid-October – Every 10 days or as needed.

Pesticide use is regulated throughout the Province of Nova Scotia. Fertilizers and other lawn treatments shall fall within these guidelines.

New planting shall include using native species to reduce the need for irrigation and pesticides.

2.2 IN DEVELOPMENT

The Central Sustainability Team is to begin climate change adaptation risk assessments in 2022 and complete full assessment reports for all campuses by 2025. These assessment reports will inform climate change adaptation projects to be implemented between 2025 and 2035.

3 TARGETS

- Maintain grounds without using irrigation, harmful chemicals or pesticides, and maintain areas where plants have been planted to promote the return of honeybees and butterflies.
- Use native species when adding new plants.
- Ensure grass growth does not exceed the allowable height set forth by the local Municipality.
- Utilize the full potential of Campus grounds to mitigate climate threats and create a thriving outdoor environment.

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3.1 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

No.	Action Item	Implement in Fiscal Year	Responsible Person
1	Identify the areas to be maintained.	Ongoing	Facilities Manager
2	Ensure the insurance documents are current when using a third-party vendor for maintenance.	2022-2025	Procurement Manager & Facilities Manager
3	Perform climate risk assessment and provide reports for landscaping.	2022-2025	Central Sustainability Team

This Grounds Maintenance Plan shall be reviewed annually.