



City of Kelowna  
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# Council Policy

## Ditch Maintenance and Inspection

APPROVED November 1, 2004

RESOLUTION: R375/10/04/26  
REPLACING: R1041/04/11/01  
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: April 2010

It is recognized the City has a duty of care in maintaining ditches which make up part of its drainage network.

### **A. ANNUAL INSPECTIONS**

- The City's Roadway Operations Department will be responsible for conducting annual ditch inspections. Annual inspections will be documented.

### **B. DITCH CLEANING**

- Areas found in need of repair or cleaning will be scheduled on a priority basis and work will be performed within the resources available.

### **C. RE-ESTABLISHING DITCHES**

- Where a ditch has been filled in by the existing landowner, since the previous inspection, the City will instruct the landowner to remove the obstruction. If the landowner fails to remove the obstruction within the time allotted by the Roadways Superintendent, a resolution imposing a remedial action will be drafted for Council approval and will be carried out at the property owners expense.
- Where the ditch has been filled in by the previous landowner, since the previous inspection, the City will remove the obstruction at the City's expense, within resource limitations.
- Where the ditch has been filled in by the existing or previous landowner before the implementation of this Policy and there is a demonstrated history of flooding as a result of the obstruction, the City will remove the obstruction, at the City's expense, within resource limitations.
- Where the ditch has been filled in by the existing or previous landowner before the implementation of this Policy, the City will only remove the obstruction if the City believes the obstruction will cause flooding damage to property other than the property who filled in the ditch. The obstruction will be removed at the City's expense, on a priority basis and within resource limitations.
- In cases where the filled in ditch has been landscaped, the City will give notice to the landowner of its intent to remove the obstruction and provide an opportunity for the owner to remove any landscaping that would have to be removed in any event as part of the construction process. Where a landowner neglects or refuses to remove any landscaping or other items within the road right of way, the City will proceed to remove the items.

### **REASON FOR POLICY**

To provide maintenance staff direction on dealing with filled in ditches.

### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Sanitary Sewer/Storm Drain Bylaw

### **PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Annual inspection program and service requests.