



Media Release

June 7, 2011

Mowing underway in neighbourhood parks and tot lots

City crews are mowing the grass in neighbourhood parks and tot lots in response to complaints expressed to Council and staff about maintenance service cuts.

"The unusually vigorous grass growth this spring was not anticipated, and the City has responded to community concerns by restoring the service level for grass mowing in these parks," explains City Manager Andy Laidlaw.

During the 2011 budget deliberations, Council reduced the parks staff by two four-month seasonal student positions to reduce tax increases. This budget cut reduced the mowing frequency of 10 neighbourhood parks and seven tot lots from once every two weeks to twice per season.

"Grass cutting started Monday morning, and it will take City crews two to three weeks to get back on track with the once-every-two-weeks mowing schedule," says Ross Milnthorp, the City's general manager of parks, recreation and culture. *"We appreciate the community's patience and cooperation as we continue our work to maintain all City parks and green spaces."*

– 30 –

Contact: Ross Milnthorp, General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture 250-286-5797