

Community Appearance

Community Appearance-related projects

1. Spring Clean-up
2. Spring lane cleanup
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5. Trash 2 Treasure weekend
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8. Streetscaping/Public works projects
9. Municipal bylaw enforcement
10. Winter (see floral)
11. Heart park (see floral)
12. Downtown park (see heritage conservation)
13. Planting memories (see environmental action)
14. Container Contest (see floral)
15. Flower Baskets (see floral)

Attachments:

Bylaw Enforcement

- Overgrown Tree/Vegetation Warning Notice
- Grass and Weeds Warning Notice

Community Appearance

1. Spring Clean-up

The Heartland Beautification Committee and Town of Stettler promote Earth Week Clean-up to help clean up our parks and green spaces for summer. Efforts include promotion at our annual trade show, Facebook, in the Town newsletter, local radio, and handing out coloring pages to promote Earth Week. We have had poster contests, and coloring pages were decorated by elementary students and posted in the entrances of local grocery stores. We ask that people/groups call the Parks and Leisure Dept. and let us know which area they would like to clean up. The Parks and Leisure Dept. hands out garbage bags and gloves to the groups and when they are finished, the parks staff pick up the full bags. We have an amazing group of volunteers that continue to support clean-up efforts year after year including the Good Sam's Club, Heartland Youth Centre, Atco Electric, Rotary Club of Stettler, Stettler Dodge, and Air Cadets, not to mention individuals. As a "thank you" to residents for their efforts, local businesses host a free BBQ at the end of the week.



Chris Van Somer of Tervita Oilfield serves Lenn Hayworth a hot dog during a community barbecue held April 26th over the lunch hour in the No Frills parking lot. The event was held to show appreciation to everyone who took part in the Earth Day clean-up in Stettler. Mark Weber/Stettler Independent



Community barbecue

Event shows appreciation for Earth Day clean-up participation



2. Spring lane Clean up

As part of clean-up efforts, the Town of Stettler organizes a “Spring Lane Clean-up” for residents of Stettler. People can put items, big or small, in their alley for the Town of Stettler staff to pick up and dispose of, free of charge. This event was put on hold in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid but made a come back in 2022.

3. Garbage pick-up

Along Stettler’s expanding walking trail system, many frequent users **pick up garbage** during their routine walks, assisting in **trail tidiness**. A number of the **Beautification Champions** nominated and/or recognized in recent years were selected for their tidiness-related activities. In previous years at least 4 separate individuals were nominated all for their efforts, but did not accept.

Based on an idea from a Parks staff member, “Cleanup Thank You Cards” were created to give out to people that were “caught in the act” of tidying up. These cards are given out to people by town staff as they work around town.

A high garbage collection area is the High School parking lot. The high school now cleans the parking lot once per week but it is still a problem area as well as the West parking lot of West Stettler Park and the Stettler Sports Park parking lot. We continue to look for solutions to eliminate the amount of garbage in these areas.



Over the years, **bear/seagull-proof garbage** cans have been purchased annually to expand the number of garbage cans that are put along Stettler’s growing paths and sidewalks. **Bottle/Can recycling containers** are in place on all community garbage cans. A number of the **new garbage cans are doubles**, with one can being a blue bin for recyclables. In high use areas (the recreation centre, ball diamonds, etc.), blue recycling bins have been added. Several zero waste initiatives are ongoing. (See environmental action section)

4. Cigarette butt receptacle program and butt recycling

To help deal with cigarette butt littering, the Heartland Beautification Committee installed “Butt Stop” receptacles in various public locations, being mindful of the No Smoking bylaw regulations regarding their proximity to business entrances. We recycle the collected butts through the Terracycle program: <http://www.terracycle.ca/en-CA/brigades/cigarette-waste-brigade.html>. About 30,000 butts are collected for recycling each year.

5. Trash 2 Treasure

One man’s trash is another man’s treasure. Residents can put unwanted items on front lawns on this weekend for others to claim for free. (See environmental action)

Busy with spring cleaning? Let us lend a hand!

During Spring Lane Clean-Up, residents can place their unwanted items (appliances, household items, yard debris, etc) in their back alley or lane for Town crews to retrieve and responsibly dispose of. All compost material must be bagged and labeled accordingly, and all items must be labeled “Lane Cleanup” and placed by garbage containers. Refuse such as tree branches, wood and metal pieces must be reduced to 1.5m (5 feet) in length. The pickup schedule is based on your regularly scheduled garbage day, as follows:

Garbage Day	→	Lane Clean-Up Day
April 22nd	→	April 25th
April 26th	→	April 27th
April 28th	→	April 29th

A cartoon illustration of a person in a white shirt and dark pants, holding a large red garbage bag. The person is standing next to a small table or bench.

6. Utility Pedestals

NEW

In addition to the historical photo wraps (see Heritage Conservation) on utility pedestals, the Heartland Beautification Committee reached out to Telus and Shaw to replace or straighten other unsightly utility pedestals. Below is a "before" and "after" example from 2022.



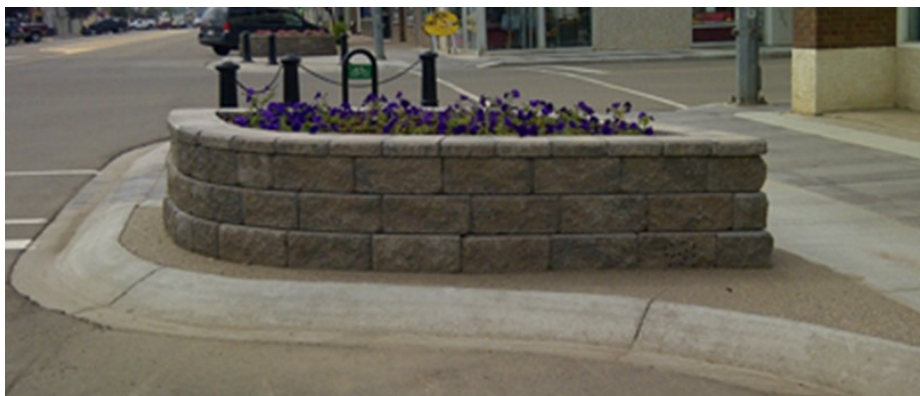
7. Street Sweeping

The downtown business core is **swept bi-weekly**, with all paved business parking lots swept once per year on a courtesy basis. Businesses are responsible for parking lot clean up (via a private company). Parking lots of non-profits are cleaned by the town. All graded privately owned public parking lots in the Town are graded at the expense of the owner, by private companies.

8. Streetscaping/public works projects

In 2015, the Town undertook the complete road reconstruction of Highway 56 from the intersection of Highway 56 and 12 through to 52 Avenue. Alberta Transportation funded \$2 million for this work. It has greatly improved drainage and dust on that heavily used stretch of road.

Downtown streetscape plan- The Town of Stettler adopted a **Streetscape Plan** to revitalize our downtown commercial district. In some areas, the existing paving stone sidewalk has been replaced with an aesthetically pleasing **railway track design sidewalk** to match Stettler's biggest tourist attraction, Alberta Railway Excursions. The design concept includes curb bulbing at intersections to improve pedestrian visibility when crossing the street. **Planters** are incorporated for additional plantings and benches have been added to encourage people to stay and visit. **Bike racks** have been added to each of the crosswalk/traffic bulbs up and down the main street. Tree plantings are also being incorporated into the hard feature designs.



Revamped crosswalks with railroad track sidewalks, stone traffic bulb planters, wrought iron posts and bike rack



Capital Purchases for 2019/2020/2021/2022:

1. Investment to renew existing equipment continued for 2019-2022 and includes Snow Blower, 2 Tandems, ¾ ton Truck, Grader, 1 ton truck, Municipal Sidewalk Tractor, Hydrovac, and 2 additional ¾ ton trucks for 2022 were planned, however sourcing vehicles may delay this purchase to 2023.
2. Lagoon cells B and C were desludged to remove sediment at the bottom of the lagoons and improve treatment and re-establish treatment volumes. Value of \$300,000.
3. Annual sidewalk replacement program has continued from 2019-2022, with an annual budget amount of \$130,000. Removal of trip hazards, sunken sidewalk and cracked concrete is important to ensure the community remains walkable.
4. Watermain replacements to remove cast iron mains and lead services was completed in 52 Street from 48-50 Avenues for a value of \$600,000 and in 50 Street from 48-49 Avenues for \$400,000 and in the back alley of 44 Street from 49-50 Avenues for \$280,000.
5. Asphalt pathway expansion included building the connection on the north side of 44 Avenue from 52-57 Street and on the south side of Highway 12 from 61-62 streets. (\$200,000). 2022 planned expansion is the west side of Highway 56 from 40-44 Avenues at \$100,000.
6. Cattails and excess vegetation/sediment was removed from Red Willow Creek, including three culvert replacements across 44 Avenue in 2020 at a cost of \$250,000. This keeps Red Willow Creek flowing as expected.
7. 44 Avenue (one of the largest collector roads in Stettler) was rehabilitated over a three year window (2020-2022) at a cost of \$2.3 million.
8. 2021 \$150,000 was expended crushing concrete salvaged from road replacement projects and misc. collection from resident/contractors to recycle the wasted concrete into a usable aggregate product.
9. The Water Treatment Plant installed automated actuators on the valves in the low lift building in 2021 for \$100,000. This allows staff to close the river intake remotely to quickly close the valves to prevent pulling in contaminated water into the plant. This reduces chemical demand treating high turbidity water or having to waste water to dump contaminated water pumped into the plant.

8. Municipal Bylaw Enforcement

Littering bylaws have been in effect for years, and the littering bylaw is as follows: *“No person shall place; permit to be placed, or throw any substance or thing of any kind, including cement from construction sites, on any highway, boulevard or sidewalk”*. Our Bylaw officers enforce this, on a complaint basis.

The Town of Stettler Municipal Bylaw Program is primarily focused on education before enforcement. We have found that in most cases, education and warning letters will work to resolve many infractions throughout our community. The success of this strategy is largely based on community buy in; we have found our citizens and business owners are invested in the common goal of community beautification. Through our Bylaw Program we have seen that given the chance, our citizens want to improve what they can and rectify any issue that may have originally needed Bylaw’s attention in the first place before further enforcement measures are required. We can see exactly that in the 2020 and 2021 statistics relating to beautification as a total of 314 warnings were given out, but zero fines were issued.

Also worth noting, but not seen directly in the 2020 and 2021 statistics, the Municipal Bylaw Program saw less infractions, and heard less complaints than in recent years which we believe to be a result of our citizens spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic which allowed more time for them to take care of their properties. During the 2020 and 2021 years the Municipal Bylaw Officer also had to change how enforcement was handled due to social distancing measures. The Municipal Bylaw Officer attempted to lower

contact with citizens as much as possible, often leaving warning at citizen’s door front or sending them through the mail. However, even through this change of enforcement and less face-to-face discussions we still witness our citizens wanting to rectify issues and improve their properties throughout town.

	2020		2021	
	Warnings	Fines	Warnings	Fines
Overgrown Grass & Weeds	73	0	24	0
Overgrown Trees & Vegetation	10	0	9	0
Garbage & Refuse	10	0	8	0
Alberta Weed Act	21	0	1	0
Snow Removal	144	0	14	0

Town of Stettler Municipal Bylaw Program works to educate the citizens of Stettler through several different means including, letters, handouts, information posts on social media, signs, magazine articles, and more. In past years when there has been a prominent problem throughout the Town of Stettler, administration works with the Bylaw Officer to put out large scale educational pieces such as an article in the 2018 Town Life Magazine (distributed to all Town residents) discussing the importance of animal control and sharing statistics of the recent year’s enforcement. Other large scale education programs have included social media posts and printed handouts reminding citizens of the snow removal bylaw requirements and the waste bylaw requirements which took place in 2021 and 2019, respectively. The number one form of education used by the Municipal Bylaw Officer, however, is individualized letters and warnings. In the past we have seen the Bylaw Officer send out upward of 300 warnings and letters to our citizens in a single year. All warnings and letters are formatted in a similar way making it easy for the recipient to read and understand. The letters include a description of the infraction observed, the section of the Town of Stettler bylaw (or provincial legislation when applicable) that the infraction falls under and how to rectify the infraction in order to comply with Town of Stettler bylaws. Some warnings and letters go further to help citizens by providing photos taken by the Bylaw Officer of the infraction or diagrams to show the importance of why the bylaws are set out the way they are: an example of this can be seen in the Tree Warning Template.

Our Municipal Bylaw Officer is also an Alberta Weed Inspector and has the authority to address the presence of noxious or prohibited weeds within town limits. Noxious weeds can quickly take over an area as they all have the similar effect of choking out other plants, planted or natural, and spreading fast over a large area. Often the Municipal Bylaw Officer will issue a letter to a property owner who may not even realize they have a noxious weed on their property, this is another reason why the Town of Stettler Municipal Bylaw Program first line of defense is education. Many noxious weeds go unscathed by the owner because they don’t have the appearance people often tie with a weed.