



POLICY

Policy No. 72 304 23/10/16
Department: Parks & Recreation

GOPHER CONTROL

PURPOSE:

To formalize the Town's approach to pest control with respect to the Richardson Ground Squirrel/ pocket gopher.

1. POLICY:

- 1.1 Gophers are primarily a nuisance through their creation of holes in public spaces or recreational areas that cause safety issues for people and pets.
- 1.2 This is a Town within an agricultural region, surrounded by farmers' fields. The impacts of gophers as pests can only be temporarily mitigated, not eradicated.
- 1.3 The Town does not conduct gopher control on private property, other public institution lands or public land leased to third parties – that is the responsibility of the owner/ holder.
- 1.4 The Town does not generally treat municipally-owned public spaces that have not been developed for residential, institutional or recreational uses from a standpoint of fiscal responsibility.
- 1.5 Areas that are annually treated each spring (represented on schedule 'A' include:
 - Cemetery;
 - Dave Wallace Park;
 - Lions Grove Park;
 - Westview Dry Pond on 27th Avenue;
 - Westview Dog Park (external perimeter only)
 - Westview Wet Pond;
 - Mile 56 Rest Area (if required in the view of management or designated supervisor).
 - Baseball diamonds (if required in the view of management of designated supervisor).
 - Westview Town-owned serviced lots for sale (if required)
 - Other municipal lands if required and sufficient budget is available

2. PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 The Town will utilize licensed or certified pest control contracted service providers, using appropriate products approved by Health Canada (e.g. Rozol RTU).
- 2.2 The Town will endeavour to have Contractors undertake the applications in the months of March or April annually.
- 2.3 Through the Town website, social media, and advisory signage, residents are encouraged to take precautions and avoid treated areas, particularly with small children and pets, urging the public to keep their dogs on a leash in line with bylaws when passing through these areas or avoiding them entirely for 2-3 weeks.

2.4 Property owners and businesses may be able to tack-on treatment for their land by the Town's chosen Contractors at cost negotiated with same, but the Town hold no liability for the cost, effectiveness or other consequences arising from such an arrangement.

VRGop
MAYOR

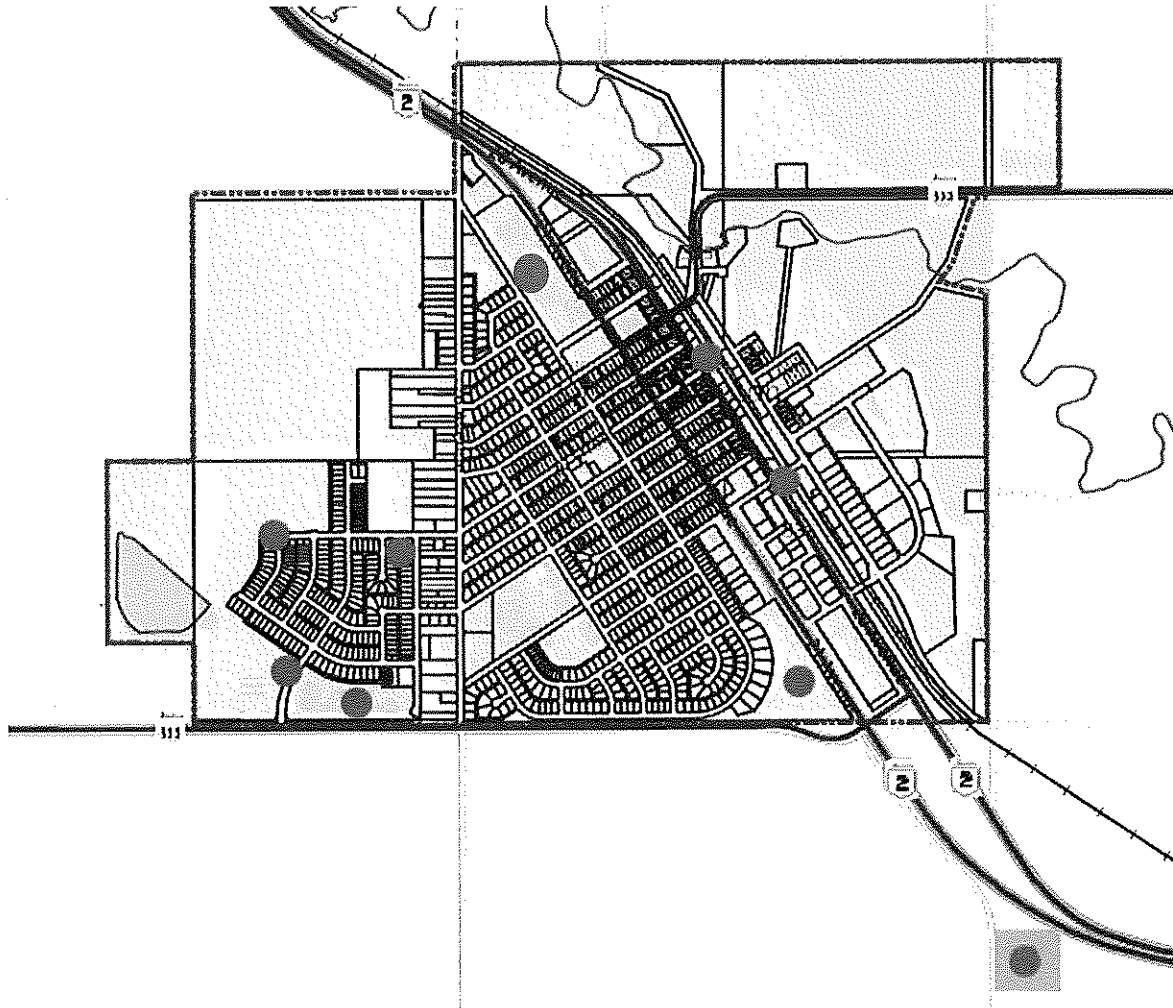
[Signature]
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

October 16, 2023
Date

October 16, 2023
Date



Gopher Treatment Areas



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