



COMMUNITY STANDARDS BYLAW 31-23 PERMITTABLE HOURS PILOT CLOSING REPORT

Issue

The Community Standards Bylaw 31-23 Permittable Hours Pilot Closing report is provided to Council for consideration of the continuance of the extended hours.

Motion Proposed by Administration

That administration be directed to maintain the extended hours for permittable residential noise established during the one-year pilot project and that no further amendments to Community Standards Bylaw 31-23 regarding residential noise be made at this time.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

The Town received a request to amend the Community Standards Bylaw to adjust permitted residential noise hours to better accommodate seven-day-a-week commercial operations. In response, the Governance and Priorities Committee recommended a trial period adjusting the permitted residential noise hours from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week, beginning July 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026.

As Okotoks continues to grow, it is crucial to ensure that existing bylaws align with the evolving needs of residents and businesses. One key consideration is the framework for permittable hours under noise regulations.

Under Section 3 of the Community Standards bylaw, noise is defined as sound likely to annoy or disturb another person.

In 2024, in response to a request from a business owner, the Community Standards Bylaw was amended to permit noise within residential areas from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

In 2025 the Community Standards Bylaw was further amended to conduct a one-year pilot project. The noise hours within residential areas were amended to be harmonious over all days of the week and be extended from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.

As part of the comparative analysis, the table below outlines permittable hours in other jurisdictions:

Permitted residential noise hours in comparator municipalities

Community	Permitted Residential Noise Hours	Golf Course Exception	Golf Course close to Residential Areas
Cochrane	No specific residential noise hours	Construction noise allowed 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Links of Glen Eagles
High River	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Grass cutting tools allowed 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Highwood Golf
Diamond Valley	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Grass cutting tools allowed between 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.	Golf Course not near residential areas
Airdrie	7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Grass cutting tools allowed between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.	Woodside Golf Course

Okotoks' permitted hours are shorter than neighbouring communities, with some municipalities allowing early-morning golf course maintenance exceptions.

The Community Standards Bylaw 31-23 regulates noise and other community standards to support resident well-being, including permitted noise hours and associated enforcement measures.

- During the trial period, noise-related complaints remained generally consistent with the same period in 2024, except for increased complaint volumes in August and September 2025.
- At this time, analysis does not indicate a clear correlation between the increase in complaints and the adjustment to permitted noise hours.
- Enforcement activity during the trial period, including tickets, tags and warnings totaled six occurrences, which is comparable to the previous year. Most enforcement actions occurred during August and September 2025.

Administration recommends continuance of the extended residential noise hours established in the pilot of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Strategic Plan Goals

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Responsibly Managed Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strong Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Culture & Community Health
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Excellence		

Equity/Diversity/Inclusivity Impacts and Strategy

n/a

Environmental Impacts

n/a

Community Engagement Strategy

n/a

Alternatives for Consideration

That administration be directed to continue the extension of residential noise hours pilot project beyond February 28, 2026, to gather more data which would provide continued flexibility for business operations while allowing further monitoring of residential impacts.

CAO Comments

Administration brought forward the bylaw amendment in July, before launching the pilot, so that if the pilot was successful Council would not need to consider a further amendment one year later (i.e., now). If Council determines the extended hours are working well, no further action is required as the bylaw was already amended last July.

Attachment(s)

1. Permittable Hours of Noise Statistics

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