


Title: MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AREAS		Number: 0117
Reference: Public Services Committee – February 3, 2004	Adopted by City Council: February 17, 2004 	Supersedes: May 28, 1990
Prepared by: URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD		

STATEMENT

THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT BELIEVES ITS NATURAL AREAS ARE AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED, CONSERVED AND/OR RECLAIMED. NATURAL AREAS COMPLEMENT DEVELOPED PUBLIC SPACE.

PURPOSE

To provide guiding principles for the management of natural areas according to environmentally sound principles to ensure the long term enjoyment, safety and sustainability of these areas for the general public.

PRINCIPLES

The City of Medicine Hat is committed to:

1. Managing natural areas as close as possible to their natural state while recognizing that intervention is required to ensure public safety and enjoyment of these areas.
2. Managing the effects of naturally occurring changes in natural areas.
3. Minimizing avoidable construction and vehicular access disturbances to natural areas.
4. Applying Integrated Pest Management principles in the management of natural areas.
5. Public education regarding the value of natural areas.

Policy 0117 – Management of Natural Areas		PROCEDURE
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1. DEFINITIONS

1.01 Natural Areas

Lands defined as those that are registered as Environmental Reserve with the Land Titles Office and those that are managed as Environmental Reserve and would be registered as such if the area were to be subdivided at this time.

1.02 Management of Change in Natural Areas

Involves alterations to the environment which are not the result of human action, e.g. flooding, erosion, vegetative succession, drought, fire and effects from animals and insects.