

Official Community Plan, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 015

Bylaw No. 3247-2022

The Council of the City of Abbotsford, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

- 1 Part II [Land Use Plan], Table II.1 [Land Use Designations] of the Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2016 is amended by repealing the "Agriculture" and "Rural Centre" rows and substituting "Agriculture 1 Uplands", "Agriculture 2- Lowlands", and "Rural Centre" rows in Schedule 1.
- 2 Part II is amended by adding Schedule 2 after "Institutional Uses and Places of Worship".
- 3 Part III [Policies] is amended by repealing Section 6 [Enhance Agricultural Integrity] and substituting Schedule 3.
- 4 Part V [Development Permit Guidelines] is amended by repealing Section 5 [Protection of Agriculture Development Permit Guidelines] and substituting Schedule 4.
- 5 Part VII [Maps], Map 1 [Urban Land Use] is amended by striking out the designation for the lands identified in Schedule 5 from "Agriculture" and substituting "Agriculture 1 Uplands" and "Agriculture 2 Lowlands" as indicated in Schedule 5.
- 6 Part VII [Maps], Map 2 [Rural Land Use] is amended by striking out the designation for the lands identified in Schedule 6 from "Agriculture" and substituting "Agriculture 1 Uplands" and "Agriculture 2 Lowlands" as indicated in Schedule 6.

Commencement

- 7 (1) In this section:
 - "development application" means an application for Official Community Plan Amendment, Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Development Permit, Development Variance Permit, Subdivision, Agricultural Land Commission approval, or a liquor related Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch approval:
 - "in-stream" means a Building Permit application or development application submitted and accepted by the City prior to adoption of this bylaw.
 - (2) This bylaw comes into force
 - (a) with respect to every property that is the subject of an approved development application or in-stream development application, on the earlier of
 - (i) two years from the date of approval of the development application,
 - (ii) the day after a development application is withdrawn, denied by Council, or closed in accordance with the *Development Application Procedures Bylaw*, 2016,

- (iii) the day after the development application is denied, refused, or cancelled by or on behalf of the Province, and
- (iv) the day after the applicant elects in writing to the General Manager of Planning and Development Services to subject the property to the entirety of Bylaw No. 3247-2022,
- (b) with respect to every property that is the subject of an in-stream Building Permit application, on the earlier of
 - (i) the day after an Occupancy Permit has been issued in respect of the property,
 - (ii) the day after the Building Permit application has been cancelled in accordance with the *Building Bylaw*, 2018, and
 - (iii) the day after the applicant elects in writing to the General Manager of Planning and Development Services to subject the property to the entirety of Bylaw 3247-2022, and
- (c) with respect to all other properties, on the day after adoption of this bylaw.

READ A FIRST TIME on April 25, 2022,
READ A SECOND TIME on April 25, 2022,
PUBLIC HEARING HELD on June 13, 2022
READ A THIRD TIME on June 13, 2022,
APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE on August 2, 2022
ADOPTED on ,

Employment Lands

Name	Purpose and Description	Building Type and Height	Uses	Density (min and max)
Agriculture 1 - Uplands	Large lots with rural character and active agricultural activity. In unique and limited circumstances, consider uses that support and enhance the agriculture industry and/or agricultural innovation.	Farming with rural residential	Agriculture Residential with accessory units Non-farm uses approved by the Agricultural Land Commission	8 ha minimum subdivision, except where a smaller lot size is supported in this Plan.
Agriculture 2 - Lowlands	Large lots with rural character and active agricultural activity. In unique and limited circumstances, consider uses that support and enhance the agriculture industry and/or agricultural innovation.	Farming with rural residential	Agriculture Residential with accessory units Non-farm uses approved by the Agricultural Land Commission	16 ha minimum subdivision, except where a smaller lot size is supported in this Plan.

Supporting Lands

Name	Purpose and Description	Building Type and Height	Uses	Density (min and max)
Rural Centre	Preserve and enhance existing services in rural agricultural areas Provide opportunities for civic and institutional uses to support the agricultural community	Varies depending on the use	Mix of residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional	Variable

Agriculture

Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund - Net Lot Area

When determining Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund contributions, the calculation of net lot area excludes environmental features requiring protection and the associated setbacks (e.g., watercourse setbacks).

For clarity, the following land is included in the net lot area when determining Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund contributions:

- Public road dedications
- Utility rights-of-way, such as powerlines/pipelines, not included in the area removed above

Lot Size in Agricultural Areas

Rezoning and site specific Zoning Bylaw amendments within the Agricultural 1 - Uplands and Agricultural 2 - Lowlands land use designations to permit a lot size below the thresholds of Table II.1 may be considered in the following circumstances:

- · Provision of transportation or utility infrastructure serving public interests
- · Subdividing off the portion of a split-designated lot that is not designated for Agriculture
- New public civic and public institutional uses in Rural Centres
- · Properties with existing Agricultural Land Commission subdivision approvals
- A remnant agricultural parcel created through the above scenarios

Home Site Severances

Minimize the size of a home site severance parcel to maximize the agricultural potential of the remaining farm operation parcel.

Rural Centres: ALR Properties

New Civic and Institutional Uses

For properties generally identified within a Rural Centre on Map 2, proposals for public civic and public institutional uses necessary to support the surrounding agricultural community (e.g., parks, public schools, post offices, fire halls, etc.) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Subdivision below the Agricultural 1 - Uplands and Agricultural 2 - Lowlands land use designation minimums will be considered where required to minimize the impact on agricultural land.

Proposals for new public civic and public institutional uses will be considered in the context of, but not limited to, the following:

- · Compliance with the ALC Act, policies, and regulations, or ALC approval;
- Transportation infrastructure can adequately support the traffic generated by the use, and/or proposed improvements will adequately mitigate issues;
- Water supply and wastewater can be adequately addressed; and
- Buildings and structures are generally compatible with the local scale and character.



Vision

Abbotsford's agricultural areas – which comprise a longstanding pillar of the local economy and form a vital part of Abbotsford's character – will be protected and maintained as places for agricultural growing, production and processing, and a place for thriving livelihoods.

This rich agricultural identity will also be felt more strongly within urban areas, where community gardens and other forms of agriculture take root, and where local markets and food culture flourish.

Big Picture

Agriculture in the Country

Ensure Abbotsford is surrounded and sustained by a thriving and diverse agricultural sector through maintaining agricultural uses in viable agricultural areas, and encouraging public support for agriculture.

Food in the City

Support the establishment of urban agriculture, such as community gardens, edible landscaping, and permanent markets.



Policies

The policies in this Chapter apply across the city, and will support the regulation of Abbotsford's agricultural lands in coordination with senior levels of government.

AGRICULTURE IN THE COUNTRY

6.1 Partnerships Supporting Agriculture

Continue to work with senior levels of government (e.g., Ministry of Agriculture and ALC), agricultural stakeholders, and the broader community to develop and maintain up-to-date regulations that enable agriculture to grow and thrive.

6.2 Consistency in Agricultural Zoning

To improve regulatory consistency throughout the ALR, the Agricultural One (A1) and Agricultural Two (A2) zones will serve as the primary zones for regulating agriculture in Abbotsford. Other existing zones, such as A4, A5, A6, have been used previously to regulate non-farm uses within the ALR and scenarios for their future use should be minimized.

6.3 Capacity of Existing Agricultural Lands

Preserve viable agricultural land within the context of the Official Community Plan growth vision and support steps to increase the productive capacity of existing farmland. Explore and support opportunities to encourage the use of fallow or underutilized properties.

6.4 Value Added Opportunities

Support appropriately scaled value-added agri-business opportunities in suitable locations, including practices such as farm product processing, agricultural waste management, enhanced on-farm vertical integration, and activities that connect consumers with Abbotsford farms and agricultural products.

6.5 Permanent Buildings for Temporary Farm Worker Housing

While permanent on-farm buildings and structures for temporary farm worker housing are strongly discouraged in agricultural areas, site-specific applications for new permanent buildings may be considered in unique circumstances where temporary manufactured buildings will not meet the operational needs of the farm.

6.6 Support Agricultural Innovation and Agri-tech

Foster agricultural innovation by exploring strategic land use opportunities for agri-industrial within the Agricultural Land Reserve to develop, demonstrate and deploy emerging agritechnologies, facilitate advanced agri-education and research, increase farm commodity processing capacity, and effectively manage agricultural by-products.

Advance this policy in collaboration and coordination with the senior government agencies to identify strategic opportunities and locations for this use in Abbotsford.

6.7 Food Culture on the Farm

Support the agricultural sector through local and regional initiatives to promote and further develop the local food industry and culture. Consider opportunities to improve community visibility and the celebration of agriculture through enhanced branding, signage, and wayfinding in Abbotsford's ALR.

6.8 Holistic Food Systems

Support a thriving food system throughout the city, including local production, processing, distribution, celebration, consumption, nutrient recovery, and waste to energy.

6.9 Environment

Ensure agricultural activities support and respect human health, natural environments and groundwater resources in farming areas, particularly in relation to agricultural waste management, composting, anaerobic digestion, and incineration on farms.

6.10 Rural Centres

Recognize the important role Abbotsford's seven historical rural centres play in serving the needs of the local and surrounding agricultural communities by:

- Supporting opportunities for new public civic and public institutional uses (e.g., public schools, parks, fire halls, post offices); and
- Preserving and enhancing existing services in consideration of local context and community needs

6.11 Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund

Implement the Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund ('Ag Trust Fund') by requiring a \$20,000 per acre contribution, calculated on the net lot area, for land that is rezoned in the area identified on Map 16.

Consider opportunities to expand the Ag Trust Fund program to further support agricultural research, innovation, and farm practices. Consider revisiting the per acre contribution requirement if new lands are added to the endowment fund contribution area in the future.

6.12 Legal Non-Conforming Uses in Agriculture Land Use Designations

For properties designated "Agriculture 1 - Uplands" or "Agriculture 2 - Lowlands" in the City's Official Community Plan, which have existing non-agricultural zoning, Council may consider Zoning Bylaw amendments to recognize the historical uses on the property, provided:

- the use is compatible with surrounding properties or supports the agricultural industry; and
- the property is not located within the Agricultural Land Reserve, or is deemed by the Agricultural Land Commission to be exempt from the Agricultural Land Commission Act and its Regulations, in accordance with Section 23(1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act, as amended.

FOOD IN THE CITY

6.13 Food Culture in the City

Support initiatives to bring agriculture to the city through branding, marketing, programs and events, (e.g., Taste of Abbotsford).

6.14 Production and Sale

Enable the production and sale of food throughout the urban area by developing urban agriculture guidelines and permitting small scale, commercial urban food gardens.

6.15 Add Bees

Consider supporting additional urban agriculture activities that encourage self-sufficiency such as keeping bees in the urban area.

6.16 Community Gardens

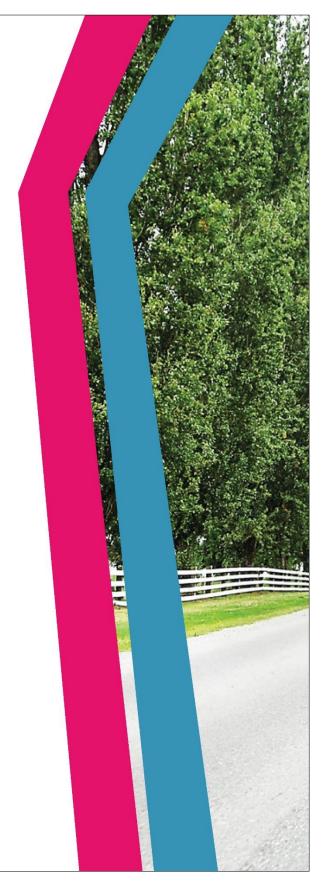
Encourage and establish non-commercial community and demonstration gardens where feasible and appropriate in parks, right-of-ways, boulevards, vacant lots, and mixed use developments.

6.17 Farmers Market

Support establishing a permanent farmers market facility to create a year-round local agricultural presence in the urban area.

5

Protection of Agriculture Development Permit Guidelines



Area

All lands wholly or partially within the Urban Development Boundary that are adjacent to lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) are subject to these Protection of Agriculture Development Permit Guidelines, unless designated Airport or Open Space. Lands that are separated from the ALR by a public right of way are deemed to be adjacent to lands in the ALR for the purposes of this designation.

Justification

The urban-ALR interface is the site of potential land use conflict. Issues of trespass and vandalism to farm crops and operations, nuisance complaints related to odour, noise and dust, parking and traffic issues and urban impacts, such as increased light and noise, can strain the relationship between urban and agricultural uses. Although the urban-ALR interface is mostly "built out", there are areas along this interface that are either developing or redeveloping. As these areas transition to higher intensity urban uses, it is important to ensure the urban-ALR interface is designed in a manner that maximizes the compatibility between urban and agricultural land uses, helps to protect the viability of agricultural operations, and considers the liveability of adjacent urban areas.

Objectives

The following guidelines are intended to protect farmland from impacts associated with urban development, reduce conflicts between farm operations and urban land uses, define a stable and clearly understood boundary between urban areas and the ALR, and encourage urban development along the urban-ALR interface that supports the viability of agriculture.

Exemptions

- 1. Interior Renovations
- 2. Façade renovations limited to repainting or recladding without changing the roofline, footprint or number of openings into the building
- 3. Development of agricultural buildings or structures on a lot zoned to permit agricultural use
- 4. Development interfacing with the ALR across Highway 1
- 5. Development of lands designated Urban 3 Infill
- Development involving the rezoning or subdivision of lands designated Urban 4 Detached that will result in less than four lots when complete
- 7. Building Permits for single detached dwellings or buildings accessory to a single detached dwelling
- 8. Building additions or alterations for:
 - a. commercial or multifamily residential development, to a maximum of 50m²
 - b. industrial or institutional development, to a maximum of 100m²
- 9. Construction or alteration of institutional buildings or structures:
 - a. sited 90 m or greater from the ALR boundary, or
 - b. sited less than 90 m from the ALR and buffered from the ALR by an existing building
- Construction or alteration of buildings or structures on a lot that interfaces with ALR lands that are not designated Agriculture in the OCP
- 11. Emergency circumstances to remove any immediate danger

- 12. Buildings that have been destroyed by fire and/or natural disaster less than 75%, as determined by the building inspector provided the building massing, siting and general appearance are as prior to destruction and the use conforms to the City's Zoning Bylaw, 2014
- 13. For urban developments that abut the Agricultural Land Reserve and require a Form and Character, Natural Environment or Steep Slope Development Permit, provided the Protection of Agriculture Development Permit requirements are illustrated and fulfilled in the Development Permit submission, to the written acceptance of the City
- 14. Where a proponent provides satisfactory information to the City clearly demonstrating that the existing urban-ALR interface conditions will satisfy the intent of the Development Permit Guidelines for the full extent of the interface

Guidelines

The following guidelines may be applied when setting Development Permit conditions:

SITE PLANNING

To guide the design of development sites with suitable urban-ALR interfaces.

AG1 Orientation of High Intensity Uses

Orient buildings, structures, streets, vehicle accessways and outdoor amenity areas in a manner that directs high intensity uses, characterized by high levels of vehicle and pedestrian traffic and noise generators, away from adjacent agricultural lands.

AG2 Orientation of Low Intensity Uses

Orient low intensity uses, such as low activity service areas, residential rear yards and passive open space, in a manner that forms a buffer between higher intensity uses and adjacent agricultural lands.

AG3 Street Layout

Avoid locating new roads along the ALR boundary, wherever possible. Streets and vehicle accessways that 'dead end' adjacent to the ALR are strongly discouraged, except as may be necessary for access by farm vehicles into ALR properties.

AG4 Lighting Impacts

Design development sites, buildings and signage in a manner that minimizes lighting impacts on residential dwellings located on adjacent agricultural lands.

AG5 Rainwater Management

Design development sites to manage rainwater runoff onsite, as required by the Development Bylaw and the Natural Environment and Steep Slope Development Permit Guidelines.

Along or near property lines adjacent to agricultural lands, landscape areas with the capacity to infiltrate or detain rainwater, such as rain gardens, planting beds, grassed areas and water features. Wherever possible, these features should be incorporated into the design of landscape buffers.

AG6 Mature Trees

Wherever possible, preserve mature trees in areas along or near property lines adjacent to agricultural lands and incorporate them into landscape buffers.

AG7 Existing Fences

Wherever possible, utilize existing fencing (located along property lines between urban and ALR lands) and incorporate into landscape buffers, provided it is in good condition and meets landscape buffer fencing requirement.

LANDSCAPE BUFFERS

To guide the design of landscape buffers that are adapted to specific urban-ALR interface conditions.

AG8 Landscape Buffering Requirements

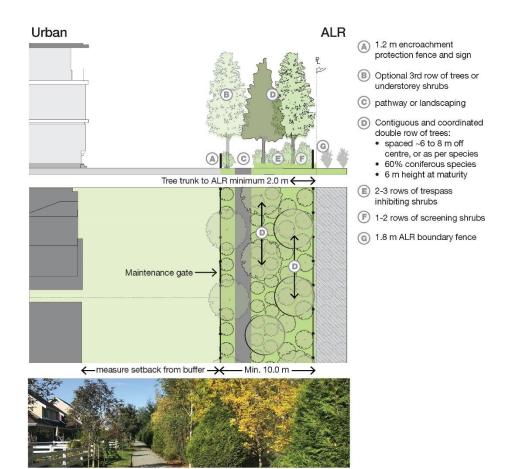
Include landscape buffers along urban-ALR interfaces that meet the following requirements:

- a. Landscape buffers shall be located entirely on the urban side of the ALR interface.
- b. Landscape buffers shall be designed to include setbacks, fencing and landscaping features that aim to minimize conflicts between urban and agricultural uses.
- c. Buildings, structures, streets, vehicle accessways, parking areas and paved areas are prohibited within landscape buffer areas, except in circumstances where site access cannot be provided in an alternative location.
- d. Vegetation within landscape buffer areas should be designed to filter dust, airborne particles, and crop spray from adjacent ALR land, and generally meet the following parameters:
 - i. mature height of 6.0 metres and minimum crown density of 60%
 - ii. minimum 60% conifers; street trees within the public right-of-way should reflect City standards;
 - iii. whenever possible, use species native to the region, or as recommended in the Ministry of Agriculture Guide to Edge Planning, subject to alternatives specified by the City; and
 - iv. implemented as per the specifications of Development Bylaw, 2011, as applicable.
- e. A restrictive covenant shall be registered on title:
 - i. identifying the area of the lot protected for implementation and maintenance of the buffer, according to the approved landscape plan; and
 - noting that the property is adjacent to an agricultural area where normal farming practices can be expected.
- Required landscape buffer widths do not supersede setbacks prescribed by environmental legislation.
- g. Measure Zoning Bylaw rear and interior lot line building setbacks from the urban edge of the landscape buffer. Where the prescribed distance cannot be achieved due to unique site conditions, a reduction may be considered if the intent of the guidelines is maintained.
- h. Install signage on all buffer encroachment protection fencing and at dead-end roads to inform residents and prospective purchasers of adjacent farm operations (see AG14).
- i. Where existing wooded, natural, or environmentally sensitive areas separate development from the ALR, buffer design may incorporate and enhance (where necessary) the existing vegetation to satisfy the Protection of Agriculture Development Permit Guideline objectives.
- j. Where a proposed development is directly adjacent to an existing lot with an established ALR landscape buffer that is shallower than the standards set out in these guidelines, consideration may be given to a reduced buffer depth, or a portion thereof, to improve buffer design, transition, and continuity.

AG9 Interior Lot Line Interface Buffer

The following provisions apply to development interfacing with the ALR across an interior lot line or where the ALR interface is mid-parcel:

- minimum 10 m on-site landscape buffer
- minimum of two contiguous and coordinated rows of coniferous and deciduous trees; provide at least 60% coniferous species
- 3-5 rows of continuous screening and trespass inhibiting shrubs;
- a pathway may be required on the urban side of the buffer, at the discretion of the City; this space shall be planted with understorey shrubs if a pathway is not provided
- 1.2 m buffer encroachment protection fencing with signage
- 1.8 m ALR boundary/property line fence
- · measure building setbacks from the buffer, not lot line, where space permits

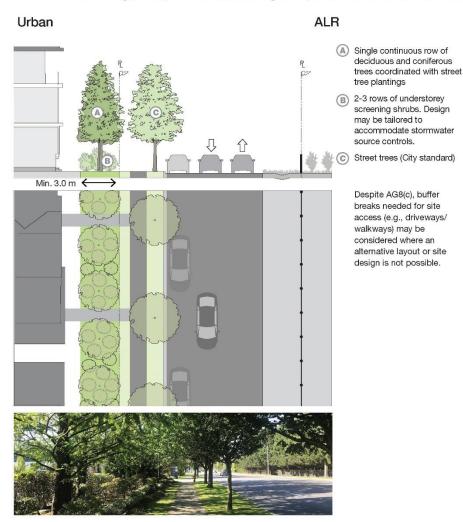


Part V - 5 - 5

AG10 Existing Road Edge Buffer 1 - Urban (with street trees)

The following provisions apply to development, other than single detached dwelling development, that fronts, flanks, or backs onto the ALR across an existing road developed to an urban frontage standard, with street trees:

- minimum 3.0 m on-site landscape buffer; a reduction may be considered for shallow, highly constrained sites
- single contiguous row of deciduous and coniferous trees spaced in coordination with street trees; at least 60% coniferous. Provide a higher proportion of coniferous species where the buffer depth is constrained.
- 3 rows of screening shrubs; 2 rows of dense evergreen species in constrained circumstances

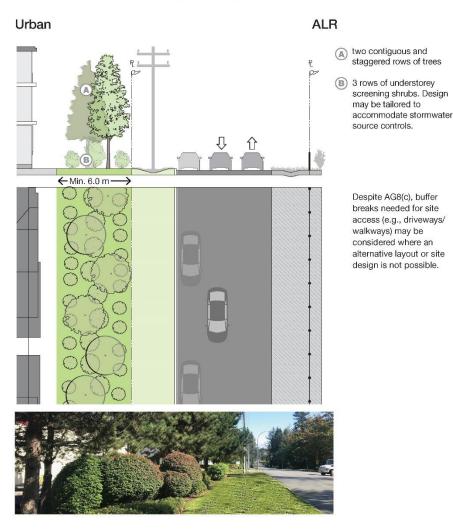


Part V - 5 - 6

AG11 Existing Road Edge Buffer 2 - Rural (no street trees)

The following provisions apply to development, other than single detached dwelling development, that fronts, flanks, or backs onto the ALR across an existing road designated "rural" or a road without street trees:

- minimum 6.0 m on-site landscape buffer with a staggered and contiguous double row of trees; at least 60% coniferous species.
- where 6.0 m cannot be achieved, a reduction to 4.0 m may be considered with a higher proportion of coniferous species (over 60%). Special consideration may be given for further reductions in highly constrained locations.
- minimum 3 rows of understorey screening shrubs

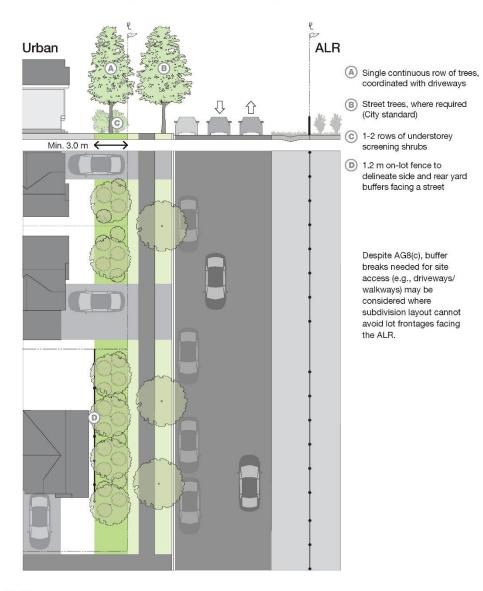


Part V - 5 - 7

AG12 Existing Road Edge Buffer 3 - Single Detached Dwellings

The following provisions apply to single-detached dwelling development that fronts, flanks, or backs onto the ALR across an existing road (with or without street trees):

- minimum 3.0 m on-site buffer with a single contiguous row of trees spaced in coordination with adjacent street trees, where provided; provide at least 50% coniferous tree species.
- provide a higher proportion of coniferous tree species where a rear yard buffer interfaces with the ALR across a road without street trees.
- 2 rows of screening shrubs; 1 row of dense evergreen shrubs in constrained circumstances

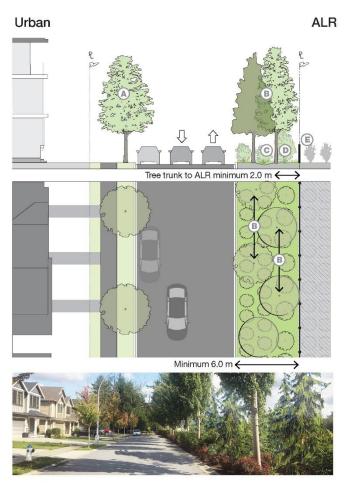


Part V - 5 - 8

AG13 New Road Edge Buffer

The following provisions apply to development fronting the ALR across a new street constructed as part of the development:

- wherever possible, avoid new roads adjacent to the Agricultural Land Reserve that require this buffer type
- in circumstances where this interface type cannot be avoided, a maintenance/funding plan
 and financial security may be required and determined through the application process
- · minimum 6.0 m road right-of-way buffer
- minimum of two contiguous and coordinated rows of coniferous and deciduous trees; providing at least 60% coniferous species
- · 3 rows of continuous screening and trespass inhibiting shrubs
- 1.8 m ALR boundary fencing (page wire, existing, or as per AG14)



- (A) Street trees (City standard)
- Contiguous and coordinated double row of trees:
 - spaced ~6 to 8 m off centre, or as per species
 60% coniferous species
 - 6 m height at maturity
- © 2 rows of trespass inhibiting shrubs. Design may be tailored to accommodate storm water source controls.
- 1-2 rows of screening shrubs
- 1.8 m ALR boundary fence

Part V - 5 - 9

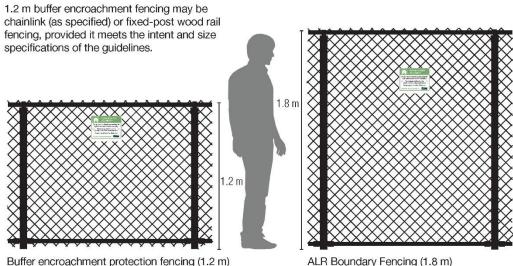
AG14 Fencing and Signage

Signage

- 6" x 4.5" (15 cm x 11.5 cm) designed as shown.
- · Sign grade aluminium with white surface; no sharp corners.
- · Green or black 7 year 2 mil vinyl text, or screen printed.
- . One sign every 15.0 m, or at the back of each lot (closer of)
- Mount to buffer encroachment fencing or ALR property line fence for street applications. Mount with galvanized hardware in a position that will not impede text.

Fencing

- Chainlink Mesh: galvanized, vinyl-coated black 3.5 mm steel wire, woven in 50 mm mesh
 - Top and bottom edges should be knuckled (bent interlocking)
 - Fasteners and fittings to be hot dipped galvanized, black
- Posts: galvanized powder-coated black steel:
 - 75 mm outside diameter end, corner and straining posts
 - 60 mm outside diameter line posts
 - concrete footings
 - black powder coated end caps, welded in place
- Top/Bottom Rail: galvanized powder-coated black steel (41 mm outside diameter)
- Gate: provide at least one buffer maintenance access gate for each lot with a rear or side yard buffer that cannot otherwise be accessed by the lot owner. Materials and construction shall be consistent with the fencing.
- 1.8 m ALR boundary fencing may be chainlink (as specified), page wire, or solid wood. Reuse of existing fencing that meets the intent and general size specifications of the guidelines is encouraged.





CITY OF ABBOTSFORD OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW, 2016, AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. OCP-015 Bylaw No. 3247-2022

Schedule 5

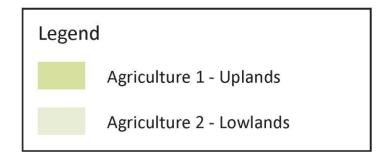
SCHEDULE BYLAW NO. 3247-2022 BEING ABBOTSFORD OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW, 2016

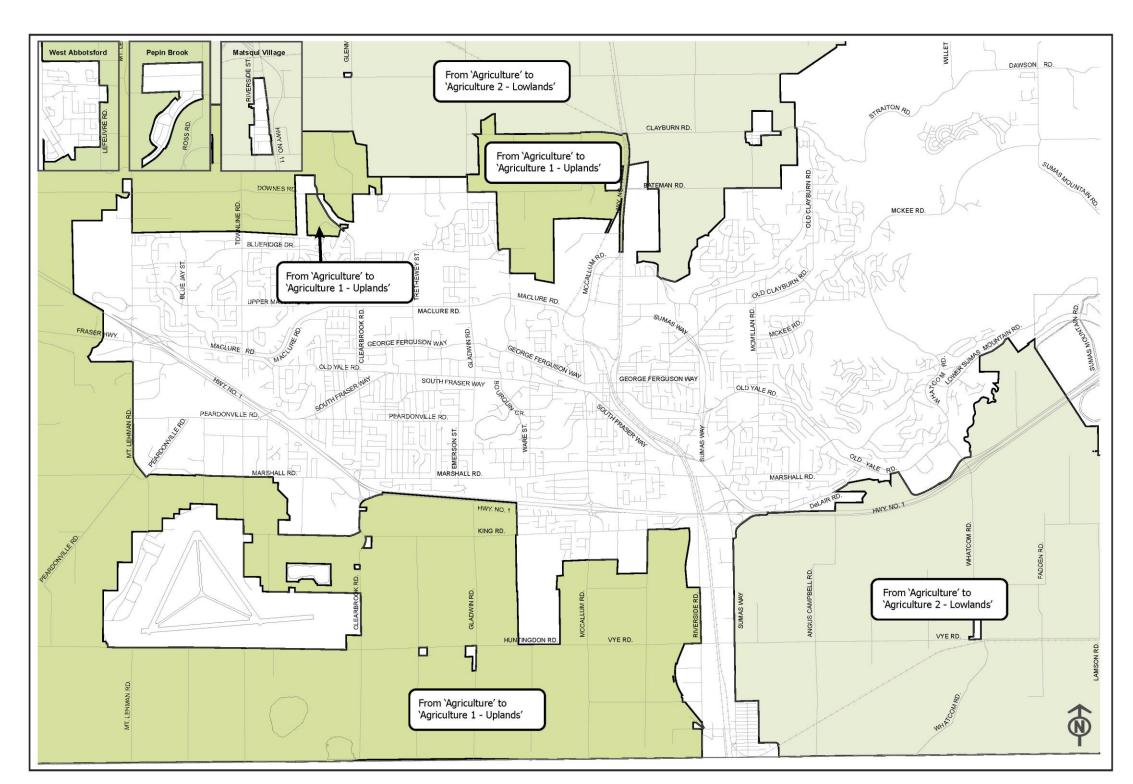
AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. OCP-015

FROM: AGRICULTURE

TO: AGRICULTURE 1 - UPLANDS

AGRICULTURE 2 - LOWLANDS





CITY OF ABBOTSFORD OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW, 2016, AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. OCP-015 Bylaw No. 3247-2022

Schedule 6

SCHEDULE BYLAW NO. 3247-2022 BEING ABBOTSFORD OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN BYLAW, 2016

AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. OCP-015

FROM: AGRICULTURE

TO: AGRICULTURE 1 - UPLANDS
AGRICULTURE 2 - LOWLANDS

