

0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Master Plan is a comprehensive source of policy on open space, as well as a guide for its acquisition, development and use. This Plan can also be considered a statement of values and principles, and will be of use in guiding development in the future so that it responds to what is considered important to a desired way and quality of life. The Plan emphasizes the importance of understanding the city's context, historical evolution, and present structure, and therefore, public education and stewardship are important aspects of this Plan, and will help to ensure that the open space resources are managed well in perpetuity.

The Plan outlines several open space principles that should inform any decisions on open space and general city planning:

Ecological integrity

- Unique and valuable amenities and ecological systems form the basis for the concept of a system of 'green infrastructure.'
- Development should occur at an optimum density in order to protect adjacent land.

Livability

- An integrated system of streets, paths, parks, squares and other open spaces is the framework of the Plan for Spruce Grove. The infrastructure of public spaces is central to urban structure and function and contributes to a high quality way of life.
- The street is a vital component of the public open space system, and should be designed to support walkability, safety and comfort, and should build on a grid or modified grid pattern where possible. Street standards should be developed that support pedestrian and multi modal use as well as auto access.
- Neighbourhood plans should emphasize pedestrian primacy and linkages, and should set aside public lands for open space. These public spaces should graft on to the existing open space system, and should include all types of open spaces and serve the neighborhoods first, in addition to providing city or regional scale amenities.
- The urban forest is an integral part of the city and of the open space system. Public street trees should be included in street design.

Positive Image and Character

- Entries provide opportunities to convey the image and character of Spruce Grove. Entry streets should be designed as special thoroughfares.
- The historic relationship between the downtown, the woodlands, and the railway can contribute much to the sense of place of Spruce Grove and should be reinforced through city planning. The development of a local identity and culture should be derived from these historic relationships, and be interpreted in contemporary ways.

