



SPRUCE GROVE PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

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Sandalack + Associates
urban design / landscape architecture / planning

Prepared by

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on behalf of The City of Spruce Grove

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CONTENTS

0.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
1.	INTRODUCTION	9
1.1	Open Space	9
1.2	Goals and Objectives	10
1.3	Approach and Methodology	11
2.	VISION AND PRINCIPLES	14
2.1	Vision	14
2.2	Qualities of Good City Form	14
2.3	Open Space Principles	15
3.	TOWNSCAPE ANALYSIS	17
3.1	Regional Context	17
3.2	Environmental Context and Character	18
3.3	Historic Evolution	21
3.4	Cultural Landscapes and Special Places	27
4.	OPEN SPACE INVENTORY and ANALYSIS	29
4.1	Inventory of Existing Open Spaces	29
4.2	Assessment of Demand	32
4.3	Summary of Public & Stakeholder Consultation Process	33
4.4	Review of Spruce Grove Policy	34
4.5	Issues and Opportunities	38
5.	OPEN SPACE CONCEPT	43
5.1	Concept Plan	43
5.2	Open Space System	45
5.3	Open Space Nodes	51
5.4	Neighbourhood-Scale Parks	52
5.5	Open Space Types, Norms and Standards	53
5.6	The Urban Forest	70
5.7	Industrial Land	71
6.	FROM VISION TO PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION	73
6.1	Maintenance and Construction Standards for Open Space	73
6.2	Acquisition Strategies	73
6.3	Financing Strategies for Open Space	77
6.4	Landowner Donations	79
6.5	Parks and Open Space Master Plan Implementation Goals	79
6.6	Open Space Management	80
6.7	Partnerships	81
6.8	Evaluating Success	81
6.9	Updating the Plan	82

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.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Open Space

Spruce Grove was the first community in Alberta to prepare an open space master plan in 1972, and has continued to be a leader in open space planning (The City of Spruce Grove, Parks and Open Space Master Plan, Randall Conrad & Associates, 2000). A trail system is the framework for the open space system, and as the city continues to grow, there is a need for principles and a plan to guide the evolution of the parks and open space system.

The City of Spruce Grove is a growing and vibrant community, and is experiencing a high population growth rate of 6.88% (considerably higher than the forecasted high growth rate of 2.9% for 2006). Spruce Grove's growth rate is even slightly higher than that of the Greater Edmonton Region which experienced a 5.8% growth rate. Over the past few years, the City of Spruce Grove has seen strong economic growth in residential, commercial and industrial developments, as well as an increase in the number of building permits it receives each year.

However, with fast growth come the pressures on services and municipal infrastructure. Not unlike the growing need for policing services, more roads, expansion to the regional water and wastewater distribution system, the need grows as well for open space and trails. If Spruce Grove is to remain "The Community of Choice", the Parks and Open Space Master Plan will have to keep pace with the City's growth.

1.1.1 Role of Open Space

The functions of open space include:

- permeability,
- continuity,
- protection of natural resources,
- encouragement of biodiversity,
- provision of places for recreation and sports,
- provision of neighbourhood gathering places,
- promotion of public health benefits through walking and other activity,
- creation and support of civic and cultural infrastructure,
- enhancement of sense of place and identity, and
- helping to shape patterns of development, and control unwanted growth.

Open space is organized at three scales:

- city scale,
- neighbourhood scale, and
- street scale

This Plan discusses Spruce Grove's open spaces at all scales, and proposes guidelines and policies to guide its ongoing evolution, and to serve as tools to ensure a high quality parks and open space system.



1.2 Goals and Objectives

The Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Master Plan (POSMP, or the Plan) is a single, comprehensive source of policy on open space, and guides the City's acquisition, development, and use of open space.

The role of the Plan is to provide an overall philosophy for planning environments that contribute to the building of an exemplary city, and a comprehensive and integrated policy on open space. While the plan will still take direction from the MDP, this statutory policy document will provide city-wide policy and long range goals for an open space system that will be viewed in the same light as a long range transportation plan. That is, the recommendations for long range open and linear space development should be seen as a template for planning open spaces, parks and trails at the beginning of the land use planning process, rather than integrating them into the back end of process, with land that is left over.

The Plan identifies broad principles, policies and strategies for the acquisition and development of open space in The City of Spruce Grove. It will be implemented through the development of policies in more specific related planning and management documents. Implementation will also occur as community plans, outline plans, area redevelopment plans, and other development proposals adhere to the policies of the Plan.

The Plan will be a foundation document upon which more specific and detailed policy plans (e.g., ASPs) will be based. It provides policy, strategies, and an overall general concept for an open space network for Spruce Grove. More detailed parks and open space plans will take overall direction from the Parks and Open Space Plan as they are required. Moreover, detailed engineering plans (e.g., stormwater ponds (wet / dry)) will also take direction from the Plan to integrate these dual-role land uses (municipal engineering / open green / water space) with the overall open space network.

The Plan provides policies and strategies to:

- identify and address public needs and priorities;
- provide strategic direction to address long-term open space needs; and
- ensure the efficient, coordinated use of open space.



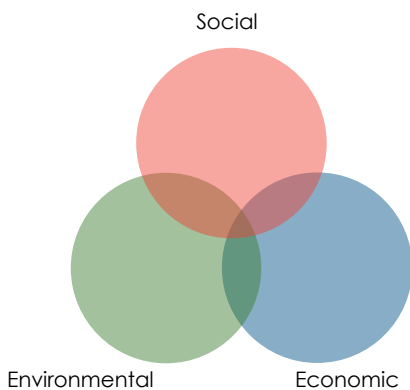
1.3 Approach and Methodology

1.3.1 Benefits of Open Space

According to the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association's (ARPA) Urban Parks program, there are proven benefits to integrating parks in urban environments. These follow triple bottom line principles as shown:

Table 1. Triple Bottom Line Benefits of Open Space

TBL Realm	Benefits (ARPA, Urban Parks Program proposal)
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, open spaces and protected areas play an essential life sustaining role, contributing to the critical environmental health of the city. • Parks, open spaces and natural areas meet a strong and growing desire for natural, environmental based recreation and nature interpretation. • Preserving natural lands is recognized as a wise investment, an essential part of integrated landscape management required for long range environmental future.
Social & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open spaces create quality communities. These spaces are critical foundations for city building and their easy access has become a valid measure of a community's quality of life. • Participating in the development of recreation facilities through urban parks and open spaces creates leadership development opportunities that build strong communities, social capital and social cohesion. • Recreation in parks and open spaces links neighborhoods and communities, promotes ethnic and cultural harmony, and reduces alienation and loneliness. • Parks and open spaces help to encourage community involvement, and their shared development and management contributes greatly to community vitality, civic pride and responsibility.
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of life created by parks and open spaces translates into proven economic advantages for the surrounding community. Analysts confirm that quality of life, measured in part by urban green space is a determining factor in real estate values and economic vitality. • A park enhanced environment attracts tax-paying businesses to locate, relocate and expand in a community while acting as a catalyst for tourism and its inherent spin-off benefits. • Urban parks and open spaces also support one of our economy's most vigorous growth areas: outdoor recreation.

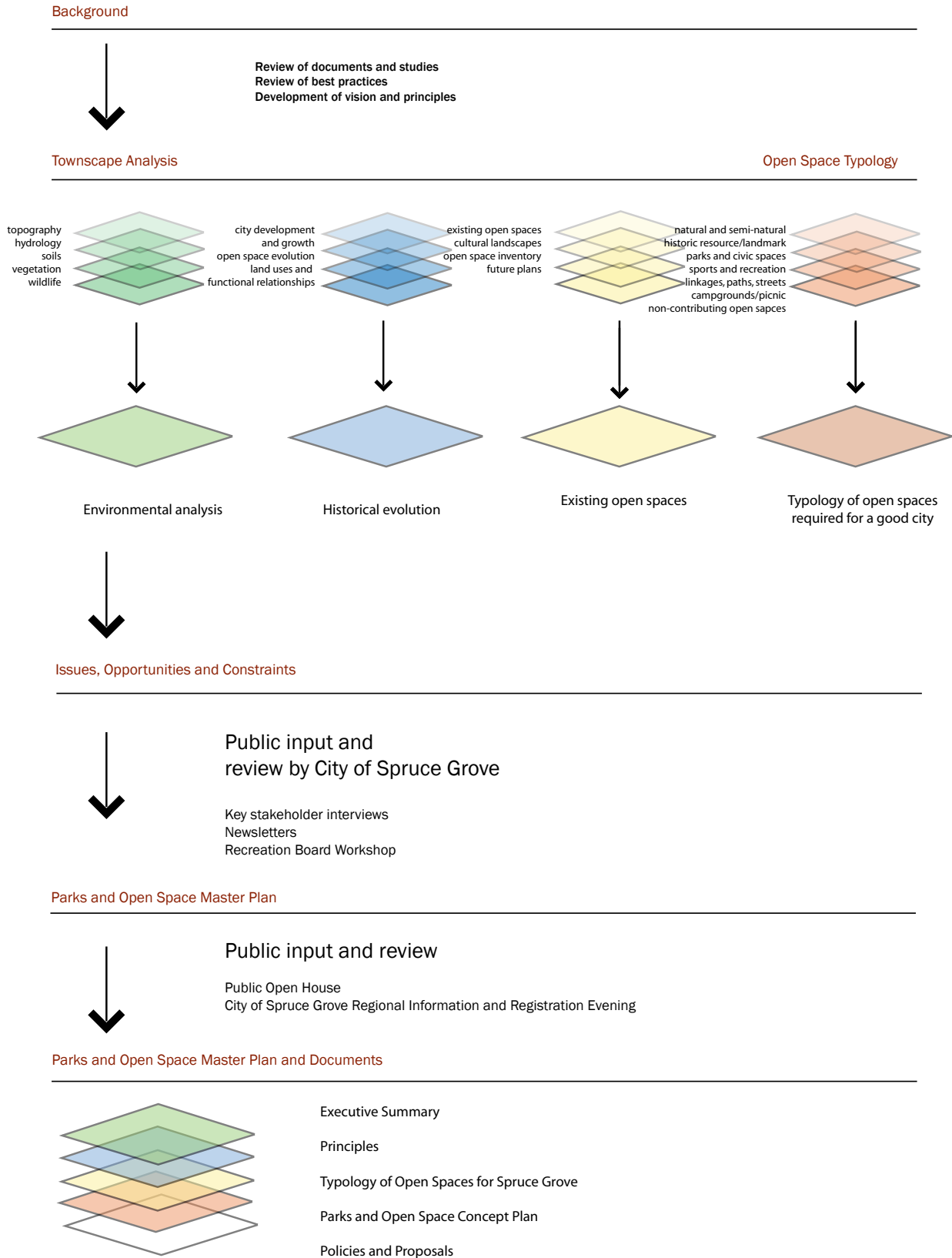


1.3.2 Methodology

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan was created through a collaborative effort between the City and their consultant, along with the invaluable contributions of the public and other stakeholders. The approach to producing the plan included the following major activities:

- gathering of background data and review of documents, in order to provide a baseline condition assessment of Spruce Grove's existing open space system and plans, as constraints to future implementation and opportunities to build on;
- consulting with the public, key stakeholders and City Staff.
- performing several aspects of townscape analysis including a historical evolution analysis in order to understand how Spruce Grove and its open spaces have developed over time, and to recognize spatial patterns and trends;
- development of a vision and guiding principles to provide a standard and ultimate goal to work towards in developing Spruce Grove's open space system.
- development of a typology of open space in order to identify the range of open space types that are required for a great city, and to utilize as a tool in assessing Spruce Grove's existing open spaces and identifying gaps and needs;
- identification of issues and opportunities regarding open space;
- development of a concept plan to address the issues and opportunities, to illustrate the vision, and to provide an overall framework for open space;
- preparation of a Parks and Open Space Master Plan, as an overall document consisting of the analysis, concept and policies.

figure 1
Plan Process



2. VISION AND PRINCIPLES

2.1 Vision

By 2026, Spruce Grove's Open Space & Parks System will be a model of environmental stewardship and a highly valued community asset. Strong forward planning over the coming years will provide Spruce Grove with a comprehensive, contiguous and innovative parks, open space and trail system. Residents will recreate and commute to work through a network of trails, pathways and streetscapes while stopping to enjoy the many park space amenities available. Sustainable solutions to growth will provide the means for implementing this Plan. All of this will contribute to Spruce Grove being the Community of Choice.

2.2 Qualities of Good City Form

Qualities of good city form include:

- Protection of natural resources and biodiversity;
- High quality public realm – civic, cultural and recreational infrastructure;
- Permeability;
- Continuity;
- Walkability and public health benefits;
- Sense of place; and
- Sustainability.

This plan proposes that the landscape and the public realm be considered as the underlying framework for the city form. This implies a shift in priorities, but would result in a more livable, walkable, and coherent city. The diagram at left and notes provide a discussion of this theoretical framework.

The built environment is composed of several inter-related 'layers.' Each layer represents a degree of permanence.

Layer 1 - The Land

The land and landscape character is the most permanent aspect of the built environment, with the greatest potential to contribute to a sense of place. Urban planning and design can be some of the best ways to express good conservation practices, and to create places that have a relationship to the landscape. At the scale of the neighbourhood, careful attention to the topography, the natural features, the view and the connections can help to create memorable places with a strong foundation in the landscape. Good urbanism is good environmentalism. This can be expressed through the built landscape.

Layer 2 - The Public Realm

Most of our everyday urban experience occurs within the shared city space made up of the streets, sidewalks, parks, squares and plazas. Collectively this is known as the public realm; the city space where all citizens can be by right. It constitutes the next most permanent component of the built landscape. The open space system and network of pedestrian-

friendly streets can provide a strong framework for neighborhood and city development. All public open spaces and neighborhood streets should be places of quality, and deliberately-designed parts of the public realm.

Layer 3 - Built Form

Buildings are the most visible part of the urban environment, and they sit within the infrastructure of the public realm. Several generations of built form will come and go within the life cycle of the urban structure, however if the frame of the public realm is intact, then the built form has a sense of continuity and meaning over time. The outside of the building forms the inside wall of the public realm, and all buildings have this responsibility to help shape space. Making a good street, park or square is difficult when the edge conditions are not supportive.

Layer 4 - Program

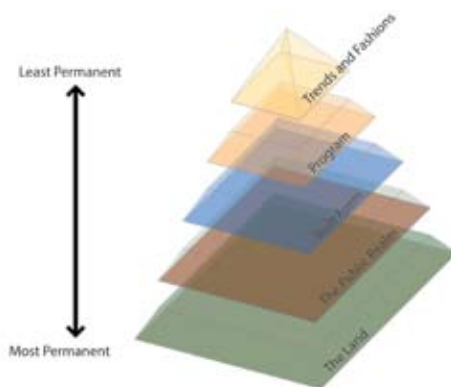
Each individual open space or public building, if it has a resiliency of form, may be used for various activities or programs over its lifetime. The robustness of built form contributes further to the establishment of a sense of place through continuity of form, rather than continually rebuilding in the name of newness.

Layer 5 - Trends and Fashions

The least permanent aspects of the built environment, and of design activity, are the transient and ephemeral trends and fashions. While these frequently add the qualities of delight and contemporariness to the built environment, there is normally a built-in obsolescence to them, and they should be understood as the least permanent, although not necessarily the least important, aspects of urban design.

This framework can lead to the creation of a city that is firmly rooted in its landscape context and that has an open space system that is connected to that landscape and that provides a strong public realm infrastructure.

Open space can also be understood as a broad system made up smaller systems of various open space types. All types are required for good city form and function, and they work together and inter-relate.



2.3 Open Space Principles

The Parks and Open Space Plan provides a strategy for developing a high quality open space system and is intended to satisfy the following general principles, which address environmental, social and economic concerns:

- reflect the environmental context of Spruce Grove through the respect of natural features and views, and the use of plants and other materials that are appropriate to the climate and context, and that protect and enhance biodiversity;

(Concept by B. Sandalack (2000), re-drawn by Francisco Alaniz Uribe 2005.)

- provide a variety of places for recreation, physical activity, and enjoyment of the outdoors, for a diverse population by ensuring that there is a complete range of open space types appropriate for Spruce Grove;
- reflect and respect Spruce Grove's history and culture;
- recognize Spruce Grove's existing special places, create new ones, and provide good linkages through paths, good streets and linear parks;
- ensure a walkable and accessible city, neighbourhoods, and streets;
- promote public health objectives through the provision of open space;
- ensure that a range of open spaces are within the appropriate proximity of every citizen;
- ensure that all open spaces are safe for use, and that the urban design of surrounding areas supports the concept of 'eyes on the street/path/park'; and
- raise the profile of parks, open space and trail systems within The City of Spruce Grove's Administration to ensure that it is a priority in future planning and development.



Photo at top: residential street conceived and designed when ideas of the street as public space informed typology, and where the buildings supported the street.

Photo above: more recent residential street, designed according to a transportation model rather than typology, and where the public role of the street has been neglected, and is unsupported by the building edge.



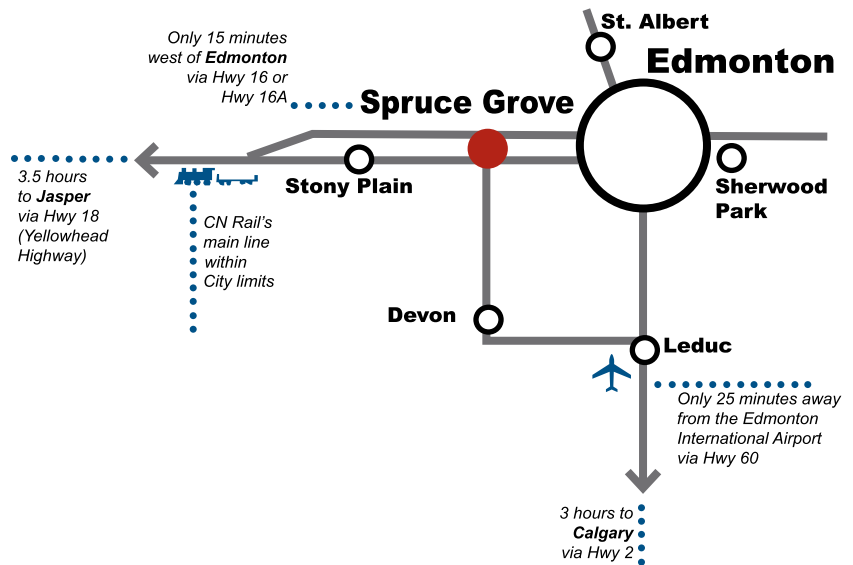
3. TOWNSCAPE ANALYSIS

Townscape Analysis provides a methodology for understanding, in detail, Spruce Grove, its evolution and its qualities, and it provides some of the basis for the development of an open space concept. It consists of the following:

- regional context
- environmental analysis
- historical evolution analysis
- inventory of cultural landscapes and landmarks
- inventory of existing open space
- demographic overview
- review of plans and documents

3.1 Regional Context

The City of Spruce Grove is located at the geographic centre of Alberta, Canada, approximately 11 km west of Edmonton. It is situated between provincial highways 16 and 16A and its urban form has over the last several years, expanded south of Highway 16A. Located within Parkland County, the city is nearly bounded to the west by the Town of Stony Plain which too is growing and expanding to the south and east towards Spruce Grove.



3.2 Environmental Context and Character

This section outlines the Environmental context for the City of Spruce Grove, and relates to the environmental inventory shown in **Figure 2**.

The City of Spruce Grove owes much of its topographical relief to the glacial forces which carved out the North Saskatchewan River valley. The glacial movement scoured the land and left a landscape that is relatively flat with gently rolling hills and several “prairie potholes” which has left many areas low lying and potted with sloughs. The city occurs entirely within the Parkland Natural Region and the Central Parkland Natural Subregion. This subregion is transitional between the boreal forests to the north and the grasslands to the south. Climate data for this area indicates the Stony Plain area has a greater climatic affinity to the Central Parkland subregion than to the Boreal Dry Mixedwood subregion. Vujnovic 1998 (in Vujnovic et al. 2000) indicates that the Stony Plain- Spruce Grove area falls within the wettest part of the Central Parkland subregion, a trend that is supported by the comparative average annual precipitation.

Soils in the Spruce Grove area vary moving north from the North Saskatchewan River (NSR). Like many historic fluvial landscapes, this region contains many highly fertile soil types and subsoil deposits (sands and gravel) characteristic of glacial movements. Much of the land is underlain with gravel deposits which transition to sand deposits underneath hilly terrain adjacent to the NSR. Two to three kilometres south of Highway 16A the soils are sandy to sandy-loam whereas north of 16A, they consist of alluvial loam and are very fertile. North of Highway 16, soils transition into grey to dark grey loam where much of the area used to be forested.

The City of Spruce Grove region used to be a wide-spread forest of spruce, birch and poplar trees. Patches of willow were also interspersed throughout the area, mostly around the edges of the numerous sloughs and other wetlands. Today, only patches of the once thickly forested region remain, due in large part to clearing and cultivating of land by early settlers.

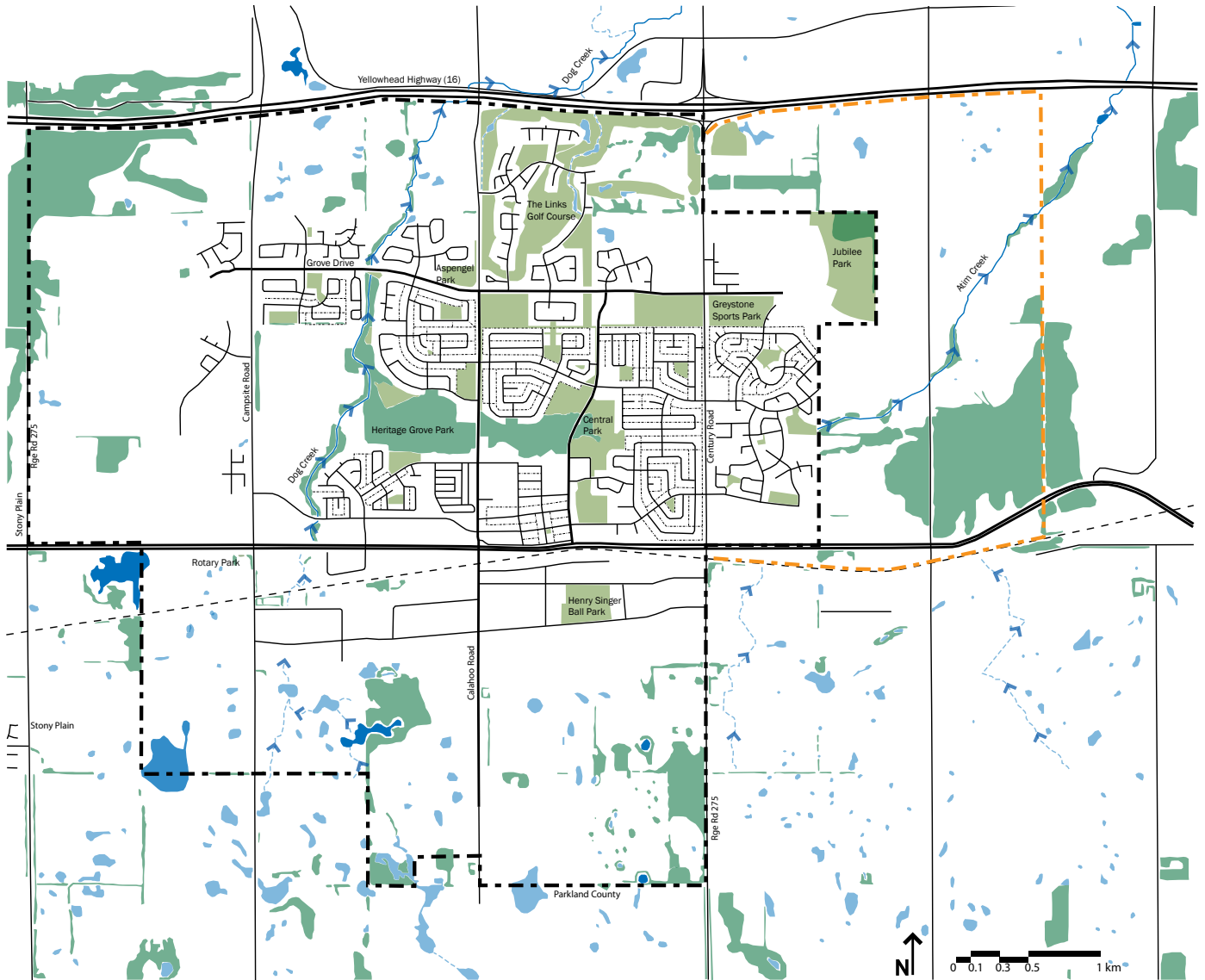
Heritage Grove and Atim Creek forests account for about 90 percent of the total forested area and 85 percent of the total standing volume of trees. The average estimated volume per hectare is an indication of relative productivity, assuming a more or less equal age distribution and stand density. By this criterion, Jubilee Park currently appears to be the most productive and Atim Creek forest the least productive.

The “mean annual volume increment estimate” provides an idea of the amount of wood added due to annual tree growth; it is calculated by taking the total estimated standing volume for each map unit, dividing by the age of the forest in that map unit, and summing the resultant mean annual increment value for each map unit across the entire forest (The City of Spruce Grove, Urban Forest Management Plan, 2004).

Much of the native vegetation has been removed by cultivation; several hundred thousand hectares around Edmonton was already cleared by the 1920s (Bowser et al, 1962). White spruce stands occur in moister



figure 2
Environmental Inventory



- Legend**
- Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Ephemeral waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Direction of flow
 - Road
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary
 - Proposed annexation

locations where intense fires are less likely to occur. Wetlands are typically cattail, sedge or bulrush marshes and the conifer dominated wetlands that occur in Wagner Natural Area, Heritage Grove, and Atim Creek forest are uncommon in the Central Parkland subregion (The City of Spruce Grove, Urban Forest Management Plan, 2004).

Two previous vegetation studies provide more detailed information on understory vegetation composition than is provided in the City's Urban Forest Management Plan. Williams (Williams/Ecomark, in Durrance and Associates 2003) summarizes understory and overstory plants encountered during a one-day survey of Atim Creek forest and indicates potential rare and uncommon plant species that may be found in the general area.

Cosco (1990) provides a detailed landscape unit map of Heritage Grove with map units very similar to those provided in this forest management plan and associated detailed vegetation descriptions and photographs (The City of Spruce Grove, Urban Forest Management Plan, 2004).

The land within the boundary of Spruce Grove and adjacent quarters drains to the north / northeast. Further south of Highway 16A, the drainage line breaks and overland flow is south towards the North Saskatchewan River. Dog Creek primarily drains the city's overland flow with minor tributaries contributing to the Creek.

Drainage of Dog Creek runs from southwest of Highway 16A, north to Heritage Grove Park where it travels east and then again to the northeast out of the city, towards Big Lake. An additional creek within the proposed annexation area also drains from the southwest to the northeast making its way to Big Lake. Surface water (both permanent and ephemeral) are illustrated in most figures of this Plan.

Groundwater flow patterns have had a pronounced effect on the development and history of the Heritage Grove and Atim Creek forests. The Atim Creek study (Alberta Environment Planning Division 1978, plate 8) indicates that the Wagner and Heritage Grove areas are in a groundwater discharge zone; the recharge area is to the south and west of Stony Plain (The City of Spruce Grove, Urban Forest Management Plan, 2004).

The land in the now Industrial area of Spruce Grove south of Highway 16A (then known as the Golden Spike area) used to be very flat and include a number of sloughs and muskeg. In the 1920s, a land reclamation project called the Golden Spike Drainage Ditch was developed to open up land for cultivation and road allowances.

This land, of course, now accommodates the majority of the city's industrial and heavy commercial land uses. South of the developed industrial area however, much of the same flat and wet land occurs. This is valuable wetland habitat and drainage control, and should be carefully planned with green infrastructure integrated into future land use and development.



3.3 Historic Evolution

This section describes some of the major changes in Spruce Grove's urban form and lists the open spaces developed during each era, which are shown in Figures 3 through 6.

Townscape Analysis – Timeline			
1950	1967	1980	2006

- although the first settlers arrived in the area as early as 1879, the town developed slowly
- the townsite was originally established in 1891 at the intersection of what are now Highway 16A and Century Road, but was relocated to its present location in the early part of the 20th Century
- grain elevators were located south of the railway accessed from Railway Avenue
- the downtown commercial district and residential development occurred to the north of Highway 16A in a grid pattern aligned parallel and perpendicular to the railway
- as the town grew north, the streets were aligned with the grid roads
- the railway roughly paralleled the highway, creating a transportation corridor between the two sections of the town
- the railway station was located on axis with Main Street
- a broad band of woodland bordered the town to the north

Open Spaces Developed during this Period:

- school fields

Townscape Analysis – Timeline			
1950	1967	1980	2006

- modest expansion to the residential areas occurred to the east and west, with block form including the beginnings of crescents and cul de sacs
- school constructed on Queen Street
- residential development to the north interfaces with woodlands

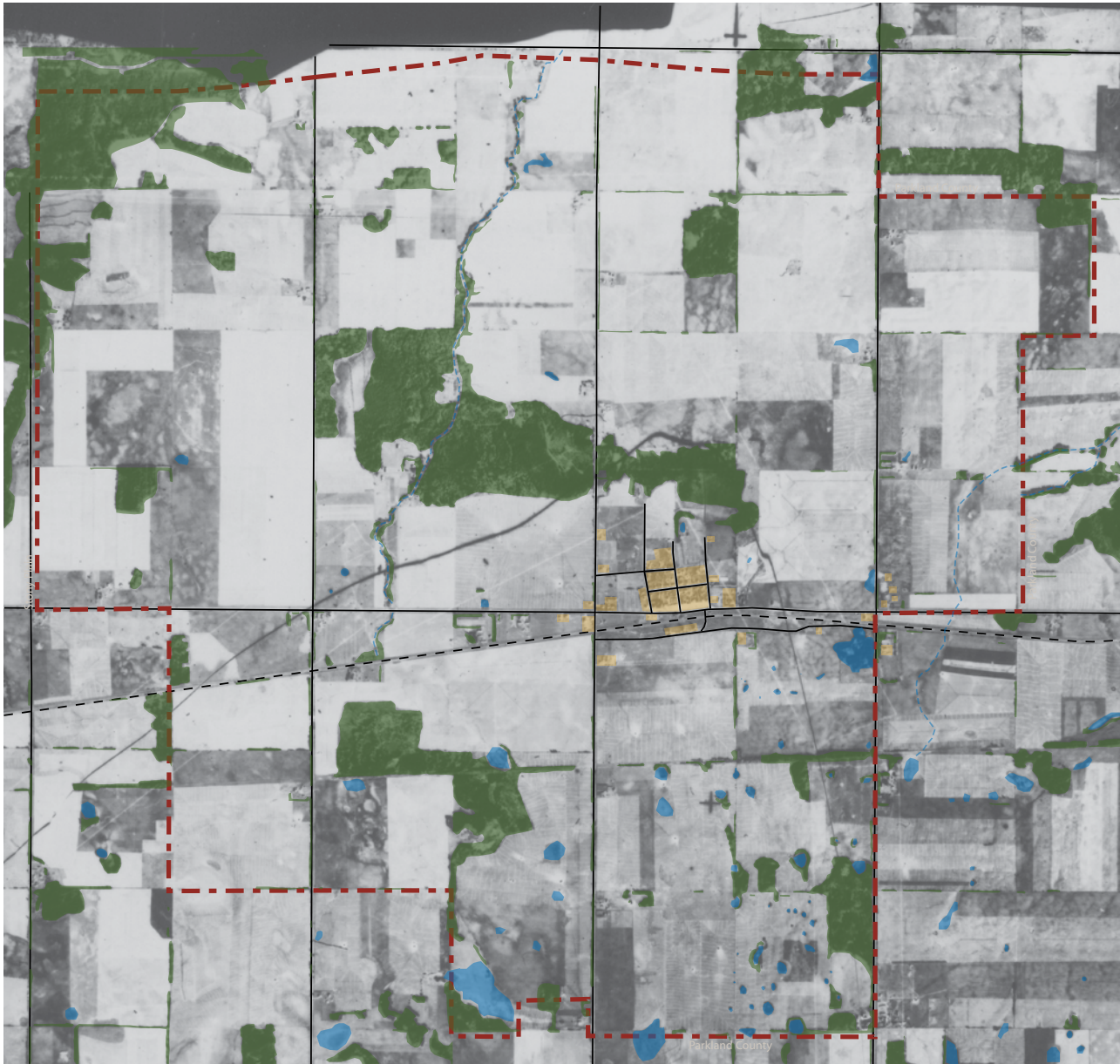
Open Spaces Developed during this Period:

- school fields

Townscape Analysis – Timeline			
1950	1967	1980	2006

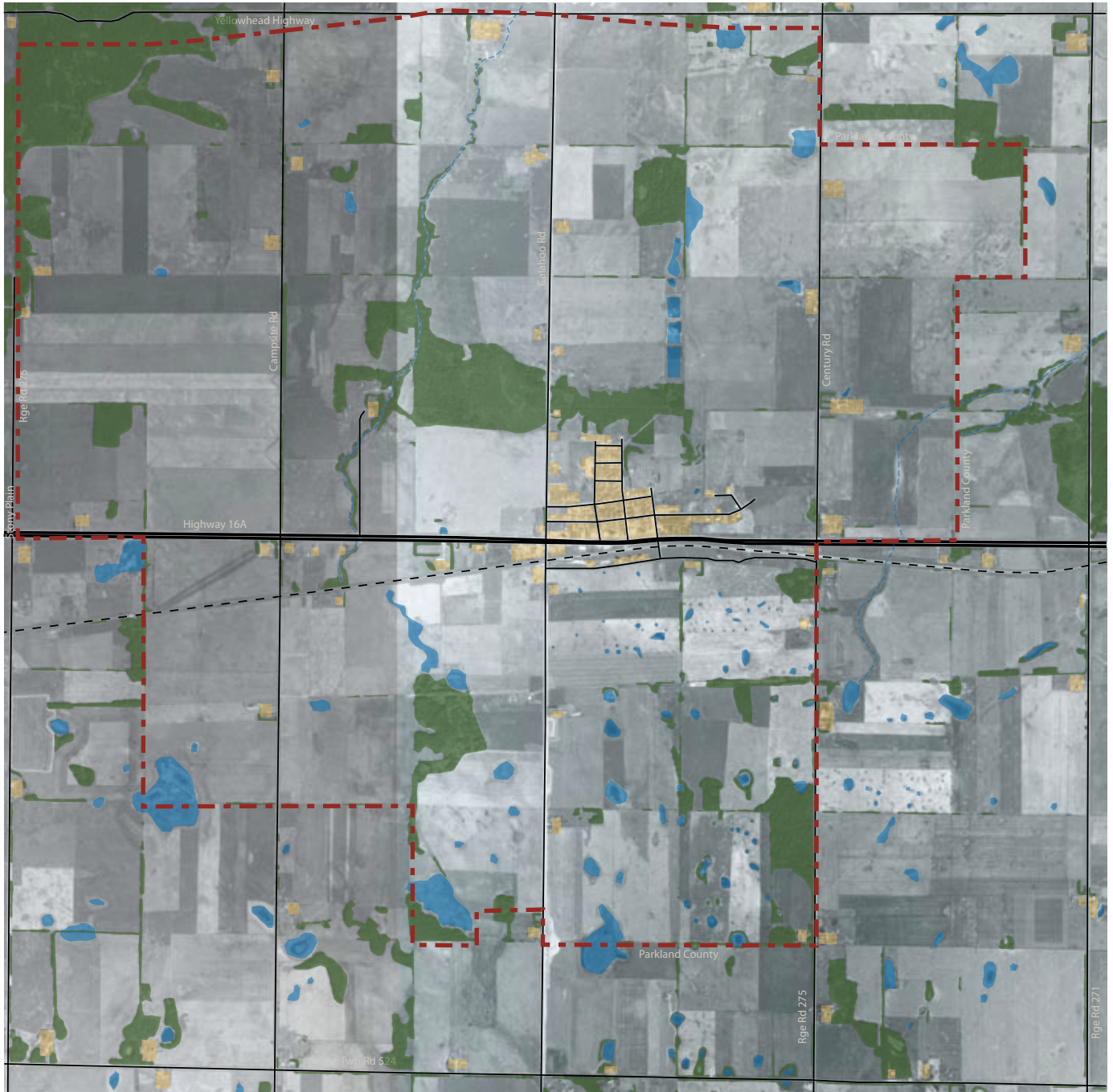
- significant development has occurred north and south of Highway 16A reflecting general economic prosperity and growth in Alberta
- residential development is in the form of curvilinear street patterns, rather than a grid

figure 3
Spruce Grove 1950



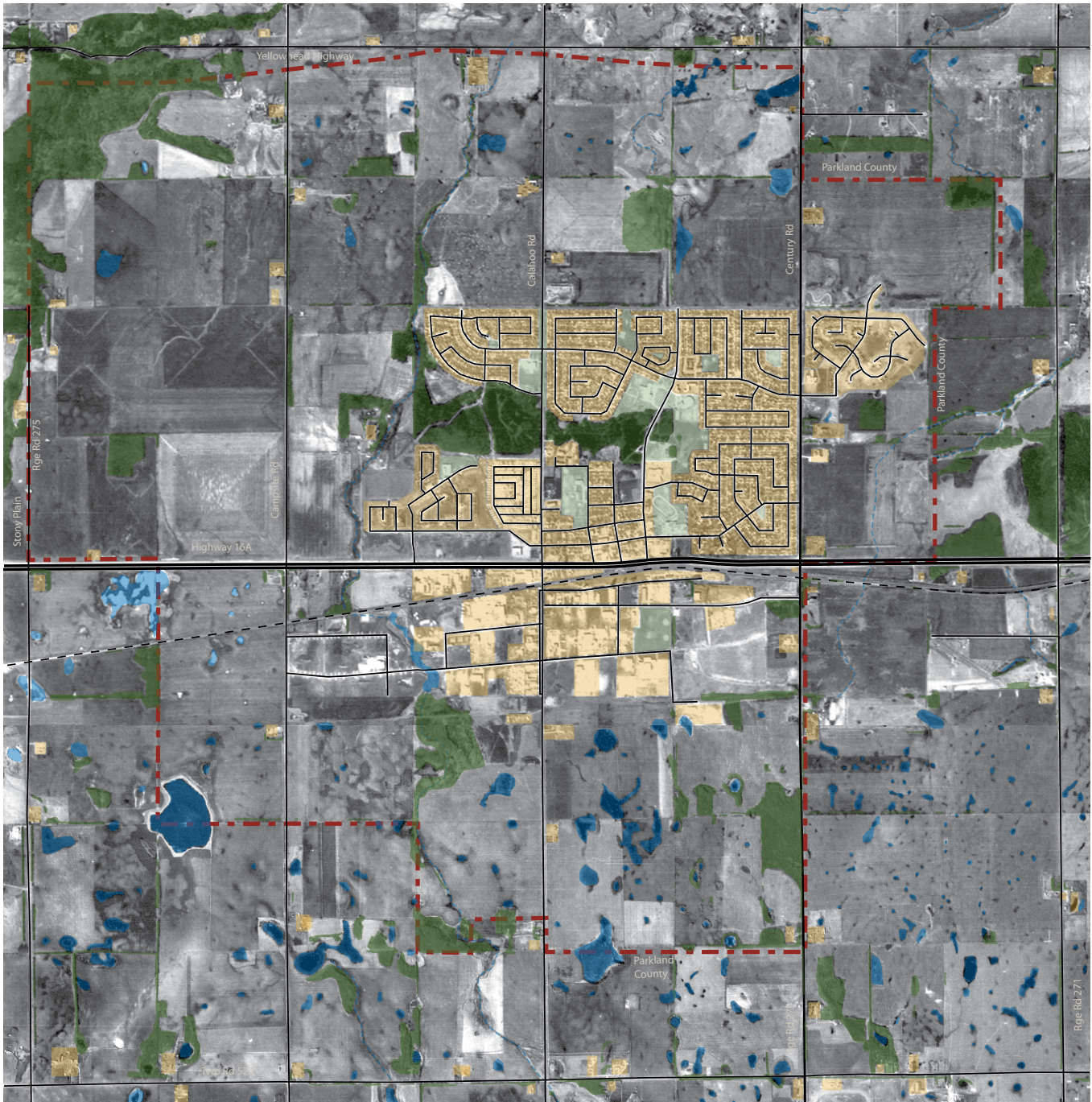
- Legend**
- Developed land
 - Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Road
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary

figure 4
Spruce Grove 1967



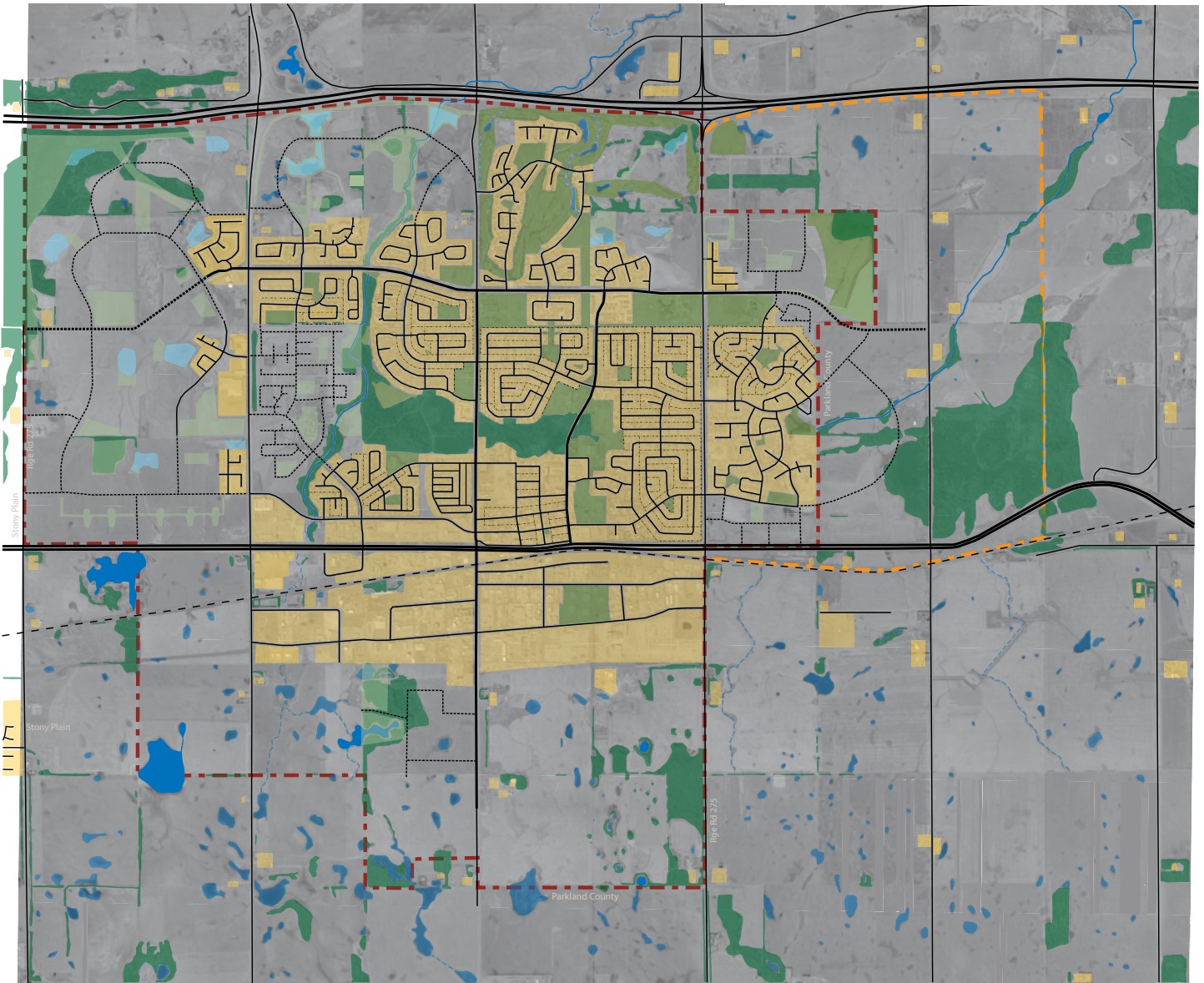
- Legend**
- Developed land
 - Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Road
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary

figure 5
Spruce Grove 1980


















- Legend**
- Developed land
 - Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Road
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary

figure 6
Spruce Grove 2006



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | Developed land |  | Permanent watercourse |
|  | Tree cover |  | Ephemeral watercourse |
|  | Major green space |  | Road |
|  | Proposed Major green space* |  | Proposed Road |
|  | Permanent waterbody |  | Highway |
|  | Ephemeral waterbody |  | Railroad |
|  | Proposed waterbody* |  | 2006 City boundary |
| | |  | Proposed annexation |

* Proposed in an approved ASP

- Mobile City Estates (mobile home park) has developed west of Calahoo Road
- industrial development has extended south of the railway tracks in a grid block pattern
- new schools have been constructed in several locations
- the woodlands have now been enveloped by the city form
- highway commercial development has grown on both side of Highway 16A

Open Spaces Developed during this Period:

- school fields
- Henry Singer Ball Park
- recreation fields
- natural environment reserve
- trails
- neighborhood parks

Townscape Analysis – Timeline			
1950	1967	1980	2006

- much new residential development is taking place especially to the north and east, where neighbourhoods are being constructed with a curvilinear block pattern, discontinuous with the existing city street pattern
- major roads subdivide the city, providing easy vehicle access but creating barriers for pedestrians
- Heritage Grove Park, Greystone Sports Park, Central Park, the school fields and Fairway Park form major open spaces
- additional industrial development has been added south of Highway 16A, and Dog Creek has been channelised
- additional highway commercial development is found on north and south sides of Highway 16A

Open Spaces Developed during this Period:

- skateboard park
- additional school fields and recreation fields
- Tri-Leisure Centre
- off-leash park
- golf course
- trail system and paths
- Columbus Park (downtown park)
- additional neighbourhood parks and totlots



3.4 Cultural Landscapes and Special Places

The following elements of Spruce Grove and region are important in contributing to the cultural and visual identity, and should be enhanced through linkages with path systems, and emphasized through inclusion in open space site planning.

Grid survey system of land subdivision and roads

- the grid pattern is characteristic of the agricultural prairie provinces, and provides a frame for city development
- the early downtown grid was aligned with the railway, and shifted to align with the survey grid as the city developed to the north – this is distinctive, and the intersection of the two patterns could provide opportunity for interpretation

Important views to the regional landscape

- streets and trails can enhance good views, and buildings and landscape can be used to frame important views

Railway, railway lands, location of former railway station and grain elevators

- Spruce Grove was established on the rail line, and the railway lands are located in a prominent location, and with potential for eventual redevelopment to active functional use and/or inclusion in a historical interpretation program
- the station was located on axis to Main Street, and is in a centrally located site

Main Street historic district

- Spruce Grove's original downtown comprises the historic heart of town, with a different commercial form and urban quality than the highway commercial area

Churches, schools and cemetery

- these are important social anchors and should be integrated where possible into the open space system



4. OPEN SPACE INVENTORY and ANALYSIS

4.1 Inventory of Existing Open Spaces

This section provides a discussion of current open spaces in Spruce Grove, and detailed inventory of each space. It does not include: trails, ROWs and other non-contributing / unused MR, ER and MSR parcels.

Figure 7 shows the locations and spatial relationships of the different open space types presently found in Spruce Grove, as well as the public network of streets and lanes that connect them. The map also illustrates the extent and importance of the network of streets, and its determining influence on Spruce Grove's character and function. A good network of streets and lanes provides not only access, but also choice of routes, and is important for connecting residents to the open spaces and to other areas of the city.

Heritage Grove Park

- 50 ha (123.55 ac) of natural wooded area in the heart of the city
- Nine different types of forest

Central Park

- Skateboard park
- Splash park

Ice Arenas

- Indoor arenas
- A six sheet curling rink

TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre (west side of Spruce Grove)

- Two indoor NHL-sized rinks
- Two indoor soccer fields
- Indoor running track
- Leisure skating rink
- Aquatic centre
- Fitness centre
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Child play centre
- Community gymnasium
- Physiotherapy clinic
- A concession and sports lounge

Tennis Courts

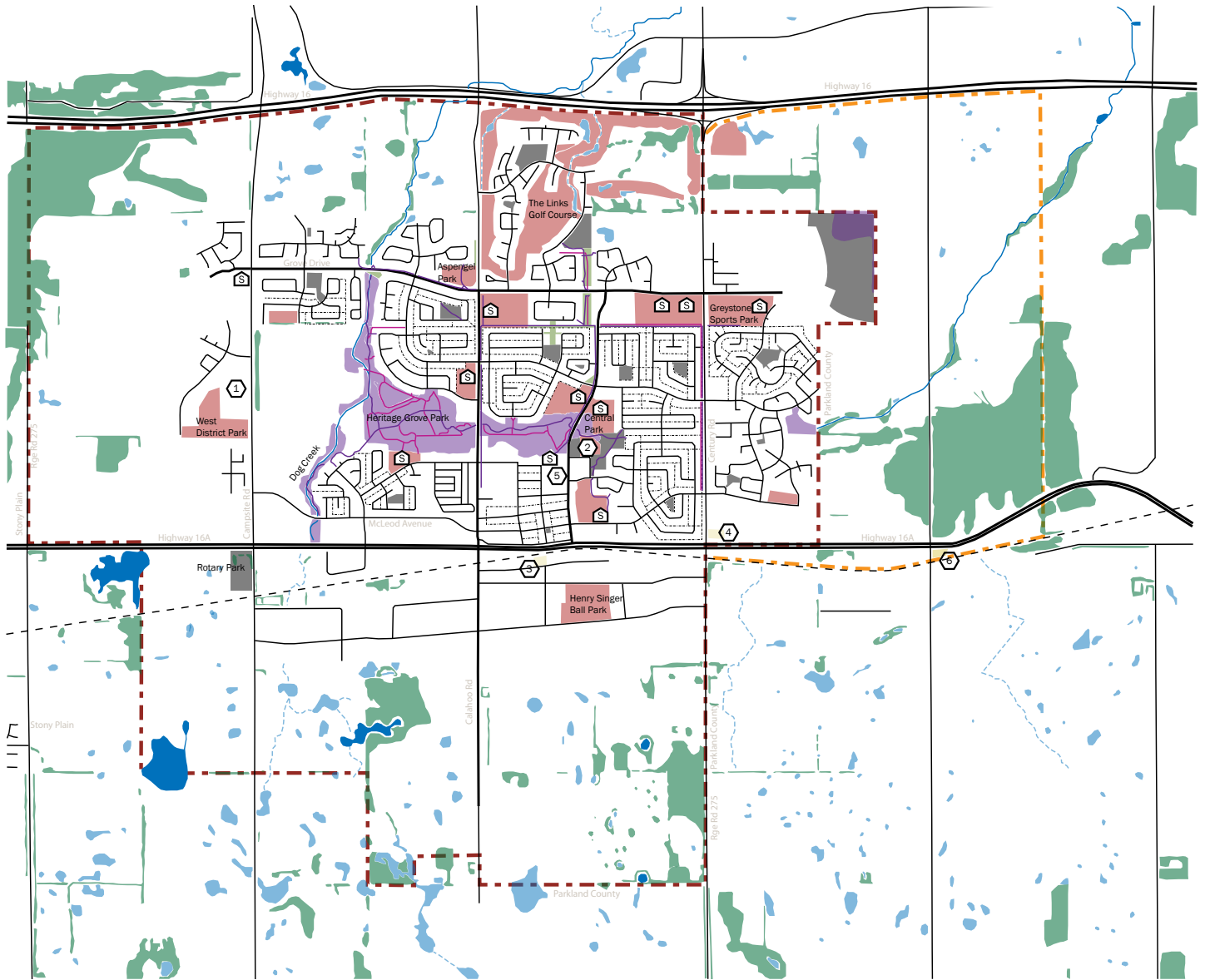
- 11 tennis courts are located in various areas around the city.



Table 2. Tennis Court Locations in Spruce Grove

Location	Number of Courts
Greystone Sports Park	3
Henry Singer	6
Spruce Grove Composite High School	2

figure 7
Park and Open Space Inventory



Legend	 Tree cover	Open Space Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Natural and semi-natural green space or water course B. Historic resource or landmark C. Parks and civic spaces D. Outdoor recreation and sport facilities E. Green corridors and other linkages F. Campgrounds and day use areas G. Non-contributing green space 	Cultural landscapes and special places	
	 Major green space				1 TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre
	 Permanent waterbody				2 Agrena / Grant Fuhr Arena / East Arena
	 Ephemeral waterbody				3 Grain Elevator Museum
	 Permanent watercourse				4 Original Town Site
	 Ephemeral watercourse				5 City Hall
	 Road				6 Cemetery
	 Highway	S Existing schools			
	 Railroad				
	 2006 City boundary				
 Proposed annexation					

The Links Golf and Country Club

- 18 hole international caliber golf course
- Meeting facilities

Off-Leash Area

- 20 ac (8.09 hc) site
- Located on Century Road, 500 meters north of the old location

Soccer Fields

- 25 athletic fields are located in various areas around the city

Table 3. Soccer Field Locations in Spruce Grove

Location	Number of Fields
Aspen Glen Park	1
Brookwood School	1
Broxton Park School	2
Fairway Drive #1 - West	1
Fairway Drive #2 - East	1
Greystone Sports Park	5
Heatherglenn	1
Longview	1
Millgrove School - #1 West	1
Millgrove School - #2 East	1
Millgrove School - #3 South	1
St. Joseph School - East	1
St. Marguerite School	1
St. Thomas Aquinas High School	1
Spruce Grove Composite High School – East	1
Spruce Grove Composite High School – West	1
TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre (indoor)	2
Woodhaven School	2

Baseball Diamonds

- 12 ball diamonds are located in various areas around the city

Table 4. Baseball Diamond Locations in Spruce Grove

Location	Number of Diamonds
Central Park	2
Greystone Sports Park	1
Henry Singer Ball Park	5
Rick Delorme Ball Diamond	1
St. Joseph School	1
St. Thomas Aquinas School	1
Spruce Grove Composite High School	1

Football Fields

- 4 football fields are located in various areas around the city

Table 5. Football Field Locations in Spruce Grove

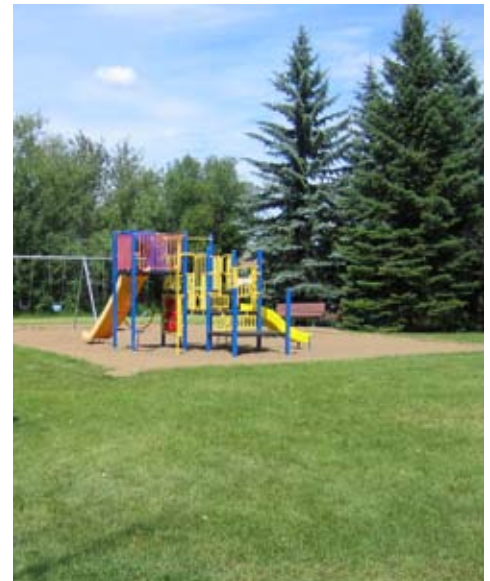
Location	Number of Fields
Brookwood School	1
Spruce Grove Composite High School – East	1
Spruce Grove Composite High School – West	1
Woodhaven School	1

Playgrounds

- 22 playgrounds are located in various areas around the city

Table 6. Playground Locations in Spruce Grove

Location	Number
Aspen Glen Park	1
Beechmont Park	1
Brookside Park	1
Brookwood School	1
Broxton Park School	2
Fairway Park	1
Fieldstone Park	1
Greystone Sports Park	2
Heatherglen	1
Lansdown Park	1
McKean Park	1
McLeod Avenue Park	1
Millgrove School	2
St. Joseph Schoo	1
Wellington Park	1
Westbend Park	1
Westridge Playground	1
Westview	1
Woodside Park	1



4.2 Assessment of Demand

Spruce Grove has been experiencing significant growth over the years, the census population in 2001 was 15,983 while the 2005 civic census places the population at 18,405. Spruce Grove’s population has the following characteristics:

- Median age is 33.7 years
- Males outnumber females in six out of ten age groups
- Females outnumber males in age groups 10 - 14, 25 - 44, and 65+

- 90 % of Spruce Grove's population is under 65 years old
- 65 % is under 45 years old
- 36 % is under 25 years old
- Community composed primarily of typical parent-child families.
- One third of the population holds either a college or technical diploma or a university degree.

Source: The City of Spruce Grove 2005 Census, and Statistics Canada 2001 Census.

4.3 Summary of Public & Stakeholder Consultation Process

This section provides a summary of all consultation completed leading to the creation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan. In keeping with the open, transparent and engaging consultation efforts Spruce Grove is known for, the POSMP process also utilized a public and stakeholder consultation process to develop the plan.

4.3.1 2006 Consultation Summary

The purpose of the consultation process was to have stakeholders assist in:

- determining the vision for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan;
- understanding the role of pathways and trails in the overall community transportation system;
- developing a series of policies and standards to guide open space design, guidelines and planning;
- reviewing a strategy for the City to meet these standards today and in the future;
- developing a strategy on how to better incorporate environmental infrastructure in the open space system; and
- assuring the Recreation Board and Council that the standards, policies and guidelines are representative of the stakeholders expectations and interests.

The Consultation process consisted of the following:

Key Stakeholder Interviews

The consultants interviewed a number of key City Staff to identify opportunities and challenges in planning for open space.

Newsletters (3)

Newsletters were prepared and posted to the City's website and provided to stakeholders at key milestones in the process.

Website

Information about the project, the public consultation process, and any reports and newsletters coming out of the process was continually updated to keep the public and key stakeholders informed.

Recreation Board Workshop, April, 2006

The workshop provided the foundation for the POSMP by finding out what currently exists in Spruce Grove and what is missing. The recreation Board is now disbanded and will reconvene only when needed as a task force.

Information Fair (Regional Information and Registration Evening), August 31st, 2006

An evening information session for recreation and leisure pursuits was held at the Tri-Leisure Centre. A booth was set up to display information about the open space plan and answer questions from the public.

Council Meeting

Presentation of the final plan to City Council and general public.

4.3.2 Priority Actions Identified in Consultation Processes

The information in **Appendix F**, provides the foundational information and directions for POSMP. This information was instrumental in guiding policy directions provided in this Plan.

Create a regional natural area for walking, nature viewing, bicycling, and education.

Recommendations from the Concept Plan Sessions (below) should be validated through the administration of a representative survey in Spruce Grove. Participants were united in desiring:

- A central park to create a gathering place and area for multiple activities like special events, multi-use fields, walking, gardens, structured and unstructured play areas. This would give a sense of place when people arrive in Spruce Grove;
- Protect and preserve natural areas, agricultural lands, and historical landmarks (e.g., grain elevator) to ensure a sense of community is enhanced throughout the City; and
- Enhancement of the current pathway system to include linkages to destinations such as sports fields, historical sites, playgrounds, and schools.

The time spent on public consultation provides valuable insight into what the various stakeholders see as potential areas for improvement and change. The previous priority actions speak to the needs of all stakeholders, as Spruce Grove continues to grow as the "Community of Choice".

4.4 Review of Spruce Grove Policy

This policy review focused on growth management and openness for recreational opportunities. Several documents were reviewed and the relevant sections identified for application to open space, parks and trail development in Spruce Grove. *Appendices B, C, and D* contain additional information on Spruce Grove's policy plans.

A review of current Municipal Development Plan (MDP) policies provided a starting point from which to engage municipal partners in developing intermunicipal recreational opportunities in phase two of this process (consultation).

Table 7. Framework for Spruce Grove's Policy Documents

Increasing Detail of Plans / Processes	Type of Policy and relationship to Open Space	Municipal Government Act / Provincial & Federal Legislation (as applicable)		
	City-wide; Partnership-based; Multiple policy functions	Spruce Grove – Stony Plain / Parkland County Intermunicipal Agreements	MDP; Other Council approved policy documents (e.g., Transportation Plan, Sustainable Development Charter)	Any applicable Joint Use Agreements
	City-wide; All open space policy	Open Space & Parks Master Plan		
	City-wide; Specific to issue or aspect of open space; Examples include:	Urban Forest Management Policy	Trails Policy	Stormwater Management Plan
	Policy for broad geographic area	Area Structure Plans	Area Redevelopment Plans	Spruce Grove Growth Study
	Configuration of open space in a specific area (implementation)	Land Use Bylaw, ASPs, Tentative Plans of Subdivision		
	Implementation of policy through development of specific site or project	Design & Construction Approvals process	Development Agreements	Master Plan Concepts for City Park Projects

(Format adapted from The City of Calgary)



Review of Previous Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Master Plan

The existing Parks and Open Space Master Plan was prepared in 2000 and is now considered out of date. The following table highlights important information to take into account in the new POSMP.

Table 8. Summary of Spruce Grove's Parks and Open Space Master Plan Review

Plan	Useful Information
Parks and Open Space Master Plan, January 2000	Sections 4.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.7 Table 8.2

Longevity of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan

The approach proposed by the Plan is for open space to become the framework for city development, rather than something that is added in the final stage of planning with land that is remaining after other elements have been accounted for. The great urbanist Lewis Mumford stated that there were two ways to order a city - through its roads or through its open spaces.

Spruce Grove's Parks and Open Space Master Plan emphasizes the infrastructure of open spaces and includes streets as part of the potential open space system. This will lead to a more integrated, walkable and sustainable city. Although the Plan provides a strong framework for the ongoing evolution of the open space system, it will require modification over time in response to changing circumstances and needs.

Priority Actions

1. Amendments to the POSMP may be required from time to time, therefore the Open Space Planning Team is encouraged to review the document every year prior to fiscal budgeting.

Summary of Spruce Grove Statutory Documents – Open Space

This section outlines the parts of the City's MDP and LUB which provide the policy direction for open space in Spruce Grove. The complete document review is included as part of **Appendix B**.

Table 9. Open Space Sections to Reference in Spruce Grove's Statutory Documents

Plan	Relevant Sections for Open Space & Recreation
The City of Spruce Grove MDP	Part II Community Goals and Objectives, Sections: 2.1, 2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 6.0
	Part III Land Use Plan and Policies, Sections: 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.0,
	Part IV Community Services, Sections: 2.0
	Part V Servicing Infrastructure, Sections: 2.0, 3.0
The City of Spruce Grove Land Use Bylaw	Sections: 36, 51, 53, 115, 122-125, 127-129, 131-133

Summary of Spruce Grove's Studies & Standards

The following table provides a summary of information and sections from Spruce Grove Studies and Standards relevant to the creation or review of parks and/or open space plans.

Table 10. Review of Spruce Grove Studies & Standards

Plan	Relevant Sections for Open Space & Recreation
The City of Spruce Grove, Engineering and Construction Standards	Section VIII
The City of Spruce Grove, Downtown Development Action Strategy	Sections 2.7, 4.2
The City of Spruce Grove, Highway 16A Corridor Enhancement	Sections 4 (4.1, 4.2), 6.1



Plan	Relevant Sections for Open Space & Recreation
The City of Spruce Grove, Master Drainage Report	Section 8
The City of Spruce Grove, Strategic Plan 2005-2007	Themes: Building Community, Planning for Growth, Delivering Sustainable Services
The City of Spruce Grove, Sustainable Development Charter	Whole charter
The City of Spruce Grove, Transportation Study	Sections 8.7, 8.8
The City of Spruce Grove, Urban Forest Management Plan	Sections 6, 7
Columbus Park Concept Plan	Section 3
Grovecro Park Master Plan	Sections 3, 4, 5
Hillsdown, Grove Drive West, and Service Club Park, Neighbourhood Parks Design Report	Sections 2, 3
Spruce Grove District Park, Business Plan Analysis and Design - DRAFT	Section 2

Spruce Grove Area Structure Plans

This section provides a review of the applicable and relevant policy, concept plans and development options for open space in various Spruce Grove ASPs.

Although the ASPs are statutory and have been approved by Council resolution, the City or other parties, such as the developer, may apply for amendments to any or all of the documents. Amendments may include:

- the addition of additional open space and park development policy,
- alteration of the conceptual plan (this may also occur at the outline plan stage), and
- changes to MR and/or ER dedication.

Several ASPs do not provide enough detail on parks and paths, or should be amended (or changed at the outline plan stage) to reflect improvements in the open space and path plans. These include:

- Golden Spike Business Park ASP
- Mobile Home Development (Spruce Woods Villa) ASP
- Railway Avenue ASP
- SE 33-52-27-W4 (Schutz) ASP

For more information on the review of each plan, refer to **Appendix D**.

Plans Adjacent to Spruce Grove

Any plans adjacent to or sharing boundaries with another jurisdiction will have an impact on the City's future open space system. The policies within these plans relate to open space and trail development outside of Spruce Grove, but affecting the City in terms of potential connections with the Town of Stony Plain and Parkland County, and for potential long range annexation of lands. It is therefore prudent to review these plans and provide applicable policy (bylaw) in the POSMP for consideration in developing the overall open space system.

Table 11. Review of Plans Adjacent to Spruce Grove

Plans	Relevant sections to refer to when planning open space and trails
Parkland County Land-Use Bylaw	Section 49
Parkland County, Municipal Development Plan	Sections 7, 9
Town of Stony Plain, Land-Use Bylaw	Section 55
Town of Stony Plain, Municipal Development Plan	Sections 4.2, 6, 7, 12, 14

4.5 Issues and Opportunities

The Townscape Analysis, community consultations, and review of existing planning documents provided an understanding of the evolution of Spruce Grove and its public realm, and allowed the identification of issues and opportunities that may then be used to provide focus and direction for the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

4.5.1 Spruce Grove Urban Structure, Parks and Open Space

Spruce Grove is a city in rapid transition. Its transformation from a railway town to a small city took place over a brief period of time. Where Spruce Grove's population was once comprised of people associated with either agriculture or with local services, now a significant number commute to Edmonton for work. The original town core is now much less legible, and highway commercial developments have increased on Highway 16A.

Most growth over the past few decades has taken the form of suburbs light industrial development. The city's proximity to Edmonton as well as the demands of an increasingly urban population area important factors in making Spruce Grove a desirable place to live.

Over the course of its evolution, several parks and open spaces have been constructed and a network of linear parks and paths has emerged to connect these. Most notable are the woodlands that form the heart of the open space system and create a strong identity for Spruce Grove.

The original core of the settlement (visible in **Figure 3: Spruce Grove 1950**) set the stage for development of the city as a modified gridiron town. More recent subdivisions have created neighborhoods isolated from adjacent areas, consisting of a hierarchical street pattern that promotes more automobile dependency.

Several issues and opportunities were identified in the townscape analysis, or in the reviews with the public and administration:

Ecological Areas

- Spruce Grove has several important ecological features and natural areas that form the basis for some of the open space structure. However, many natural features and systems have been lost to development, especially south of Highway 16A.

Open Space Types

- Spruce Grove has a fairly comprehensive infrastructure of linear parks and paths that should be reinforced and augmented.
- There are several large recreation areas, and opportunities for better connections.

Trails and Paths

- Spruce Grove has begun a good network of trails and paths. This is one of the important circulation systems and recreation networks, however all parts of the city do not have equal easy access to the trail system.

City Centre

- There are currently few downtown public open spaces.
- It is difficult to identify a legible City centre or heart.
- A downtown plan should be developed to set out a comprehensive plan for this area that includes provision of a range of civic spaces, and makes the area more economically competitive.

Entrance Points

- Entrance points are not visually strong, and there is an opportunity to create a higher quality physical impression.

City Linkages & Barriers

- Highway 16A forms the strongest edge and barrier.
- Several new internal roads have formed strong barriers between areas of the City.
- The railway forms an edge, with infrequent crossing points.
- Railway lands need a development concept.

Development Patterns and Neighbourhood Design

- There are several residual open spaces resulting from fragmented development patterns.
- Street / open space patterns of new neighborhoods are incongruent and detached from earlier urban form.

Streets

- There is a range of street types in Spruce Grove's neighbourhoods, and these vary in their degree of walkability, connectivity, and urban quality.
- Certain streets function more for traffic efficiency rather than as multi-modal elements, and there is an opportunity to improve street design.

4.5.2 Challenges and Trends in Parks and Recreation

Several trends regarding parks and open space have emerged in smaller cities in Alberta:

Increasing customization and individual activity

Across Canada, traditional organized team sport is in slight decline, while casual, self-structured, individual activities are on the rise (Parks and Recreation Ontario 2001, City of Edmonton 2002). Over the past 20 years there has also been a greater variety of accessible activities and this choice has had an influence on the reduction of participation in more traditional sports (ACD, 2002).

Declining volunteerism

Statistics Canada's 2000 survey on volunteerism revealed a decline in Canadian volunteer hours. Canada lost one million volunteers and 53 million volunteer hours from 1997 to 2000 (Parks and Recreation Ontario 2001). The loss of volunteers and their time could have a huge impact on the parks and recreation sector which relies heavily on them to provide many services to the public.

Changing participation levels according to age

Youth activity levels have declined over time and youth obesity has risen at an alarming rate. In 1998 1/3 of Canadian children did not have the minimum amount of activity required to sustain basic health. This increased to 2/3 in 2000 (Parks and Recreation Ontario 2001). Youth are tending to participate less in traditional sports, particularly team sport and more in activities aligned with youth culture such as skateboarding.

Time constraints and the changing style of leisure time

Albertans are switching to activities that are more time efficient and easier to fit into their busy schedules (ACD 2002). This trend is known as "time deepening", where people speed up the activity (i.e. use a golf cart rather than walking), participate in more time-intensive activities (i.e. play squash rather than tennis), multi-task and schedule activities within tight deadlines (City of Edmonton 2002). Flexibility in the programs and delivery services of recreation is becoming more essential for meeting the needs of time-pressured users (ACD 2002).

Increase in recreation activity for improving health

Health awareness is increasing and more efforts are being made to increase participation in recreation activities and change overall lifestyle behavior. This change will increase demand for recreation services and facilities. Also, the promotion of recreation's health benefits could lead to more support for parks and recreation service providers (City of Edmonton 2002).

Increasing pursuit of pleasure and the spiritual quest

The pursuit of immediate pleasure, stimulation of the senses and spiritual quests are becoming more popular in recreation activities today. "Extreme sports" is experiencing increasing participation rates largely due to changing values toward self-gratification and risk-taking (City of Edmonton 2002). Involved in this is the trend towards one-time experiences becoming more popular than long-term commitments.

Increasing citizen involvement

People are demanding more input into all types of decisions that affect them, including decisions in parks and recreation programming and services. Parks and recreation administrators will increasingly need to include various community members and groups in decision-making processes (Parks and Recreation Ontario 2001).

Increasing emphasis on safety and protection of the environment

Municipalities will need to work towards reducing perceived risks. Several actions to improve safety in parks include: placement of emergency phones at trailheads, clearly marked trails, more park staff visible on the trails and better lighting in parking lots (City of Edmonton 2002). Intervention at early stages to remove litter, vandalism and graffiti from parks can improve perception of safety, increasing the recreational potential of the park and deterring illegitimate use.

Policy

- 1. The City shall consider all ages, gender, and abilities when planning for open space or working with developers.**
- 2. Culture and ethnicity within a community should be considered when planning new recreational opportunities or retrofitting open spaces for new uses.**
- 3. The City should encourage developers and communities to incorporate public art and aesthetic elements into open space designs, thereby marketing the space to a broader spectrum of users.**

Priority Actions

- 1. Parks and Open Space development should consider the following trends in the design and planning stages:**
 - offer recreation options that are less time-consuming to park users or offer "tranquility" through minimizing the intrusion of development on the park space, providing more contact with nature and promoting interpretive opportunities;**
 - offer more daytime opportunities (so long as demand is there);**
 - offer more individual, drop-in activities;**
 - customize services based on disability, occupation, skill level in a leisure activity, lifestyle, level of knowledge, special interest, etc;**
 - increase the area available for dog parks and community gardens; and**
 - increase the supply of naturalized areas in parks to reflect the growing demand.**

2. The City should seek new programs and policies for effective partnerships involving close collaboration with local sports organizations, non-profit organizations, community groups and private sector businesses.

3. The City's approach to marketing open space should be reviewed to ensure Spruce Grove's open space system is receiving appropriate exposure to potential users. The internet, radio, print and television provide advertising opportunities for events and programs.

4. Through an education program, Spruce Grove Staff will be better equipped to identify consumer need, cultural diversity, leisure counseling, etc.

5. OPEN SPACE CONCEPT

5.1 Concept Plan

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan responds to the plan principles and addresses the issues and opportunities identified in the townscape analysis, and sets out a physical plan and strategy for the development of an exemplary system of public open spaces.

The Plan consists of an integrated system of streets, paths, parks, squares and other open spaces, and it attempts to build on Spruce Grove's existing special places and urban structure. The Plan addresses the provision of public spaces at three integrated scales: the city, the neighbourhood, and the street, and sets out design guidelines for several aspects of the plan. The Plan emphasizes the role of parks, open spaces, and streets in controlling and directed growth, and in shaping new development.

The key aspects of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan include the following:

Sense of Place

The Plan attempts to build on Spruce Grove's existing environmental features, historic and cultural resources, open spaces, and distinguishing features in order to enhance and support its sense of place.

The relationship with the landscape is perhaps the most powerful element contributing to Spruce Grove's unique sense of place, and the woodland parks form the heart of the city and the system. Where possible, the natural landscape should be integrated with the city form. Parks and open spaces in new neighbourhoods should respond to natural features, and where these have been lost in earlier development, such as south of Highway 16A, there is an opportunity for some re-establishment.

There is also a historical relationship between the city centre, the railway, and Highway 16A that established the first urban structure pattern, and this can also contribute much to the sense of place of Spruce Grove through city planning. The development of local identity and culture should be derived from these historic relationships, and be interpreted in contemporary ways.

Spruce Grove's existing special places should be emphasized. This includes the major open space nodes such as Heritage Grove Park, Central Park, Harry Singer Ball Park and the Tri Leisure Centre, as well as smaller sites. It also includes elements such as the grain elevator and museum, City Hall, and various schools and churches. Emphasis and reinforcement of these sites and areas helps to provide greater legibility and enhance the sense of place.

Ecological integrity

Dog Creek and Atim Creek, the woodlands of Heritage Grove Park and the undeveloped areas to the northwest and central east, and the networks of wetlands are unique and valuable amenities and ecological systems



and should be considered as the key organizing elements in the Plan. The Plan should be considered as a deep layer of ecological infrastructure that includes the creeks, woodlands and wetlands, and provides linkages to all parts of the City. Protection and reclamation of natural features is a priority in the Plan.

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure includes projects related to water and wastewater systems, water management, solid waste management and recycling, and capital expenditures to retrofit or improve the energy efficiency of buildings and facilities owned by local municipalities. Many urban municipalities in Alberta rely on constructed, engineered infrastructure for water treatment, wastewater disposal and treatment and stormwater management. There are several innovative “green” ecological means for accomplishing the same types of treatment.

The Plan emphasizes the incorporation of natural features in new neighbourhoods, and the development of innovative eco-industrial areas.

The Public Realm

The public realm is made up by the parks, squares, streets, paths, and other public spaces, and forms one of the most permanent elements of the urban infrastructure. All private and public development contributes to the formation of the public realm, and every project should be considered as having a responsibility to create high quality public space.

There is a strong correlation between public health and the parks and open space system. It is important for Spruce Grove to provide access to public spaces for recreation and enjoyment, and to ensure that the city consists of a network of high quality, walkable streets.

A Range of Open Space Types

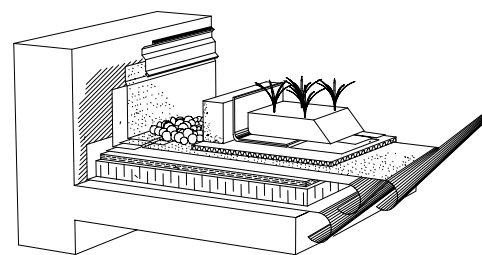
Many parks and open space plans concentrate on sports fields and recreational space, and while these are important, the Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Master Plan also includes principles and standards for other elements of public space such as streets and civic spaces. A range of open space types is required for a great city, and the infrastructure created by the effective layout, distribution, and linkages of these spaces contributes to a high quality public realm.

Spruce Grove's existing parks and open spaces provide the framework for the development of the plan. There is currently a good range of open space types, and most areas have access to parks and open spaces.

Open spaces are either resource-based (i.e., are found where they occur naturally or where cultural or historic sites have been established), or are population-based, and provided according to accepted norms and standards. Each open space type is distributed according to a distinct

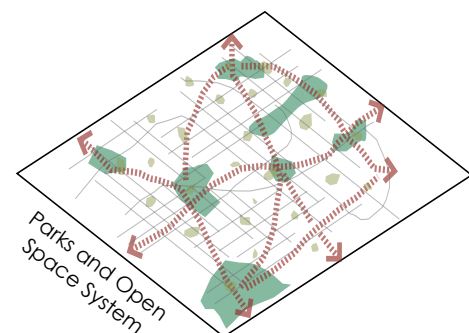
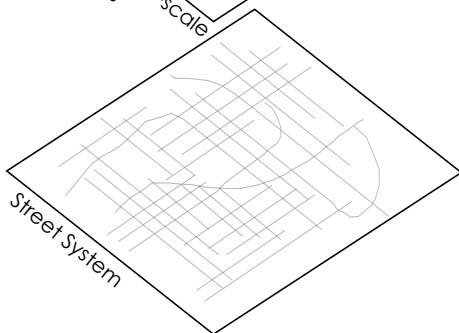
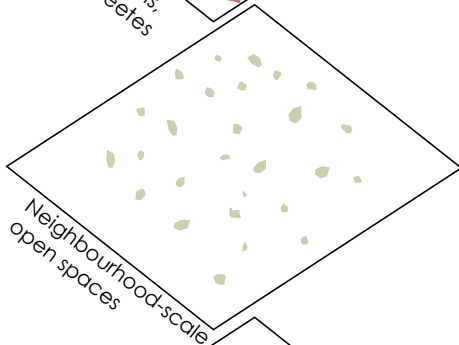
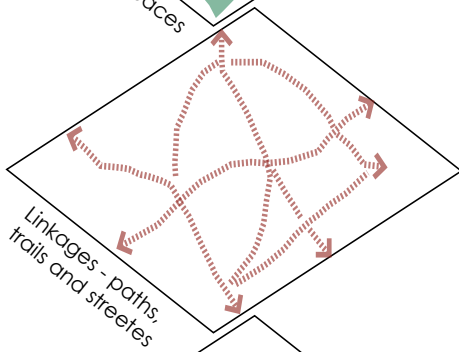
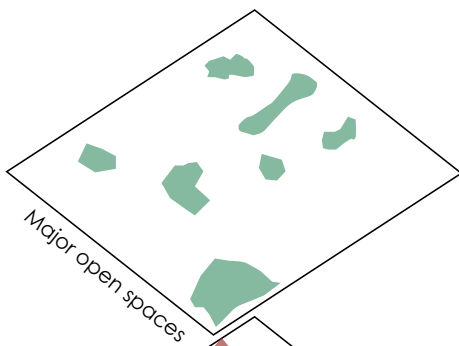


Living Machine from Ocean Arks International
Drawing from Research/PennState by Jeff Wolovitz



Sopranature Typical Assembly according to Soprema (www.soprema.ca)
Green roof by Soprema in Canmore, AB





pattern, although all the types are interrelated and inter-dependent. By overlaying the open space patterns, it is possible to identify areas of overlap, or places where there is a convergence of circulation routes or paths, or places where there are existing special places.

These locations are where major open space nodes should be located. Many of these already occur in Spruce Grove, and they should be supported. The plan also identifies where natural systems and population distribution indicates where new major nodes should be located.

Smaller open space nodes are distributed according to a finer grain, and are located according to population distribution. Both major and minor open space nodes should be well-linked to the linear path and street network.

Paths and Linkages

The Plan attempts to provide good multi-modal linkages for all areas of Spruce Grove. These linkages build on natural systems, on existing path systems, or on anticipated connections between neighbourhoods.

General connection points with Parkland County are shown, and intermunicipal green space recommendations (e.g., creeks) are illustrated. In addition, opportunities for strong multi-modal connections with Stony Plain are proposed.

Entries provide an opportunity to establish the image, character and qualities of Spruce Grove and should be developed to a high standard. Entry streets and the highway should be designed as special thoroughfares, and designed for multi-modal circulation.

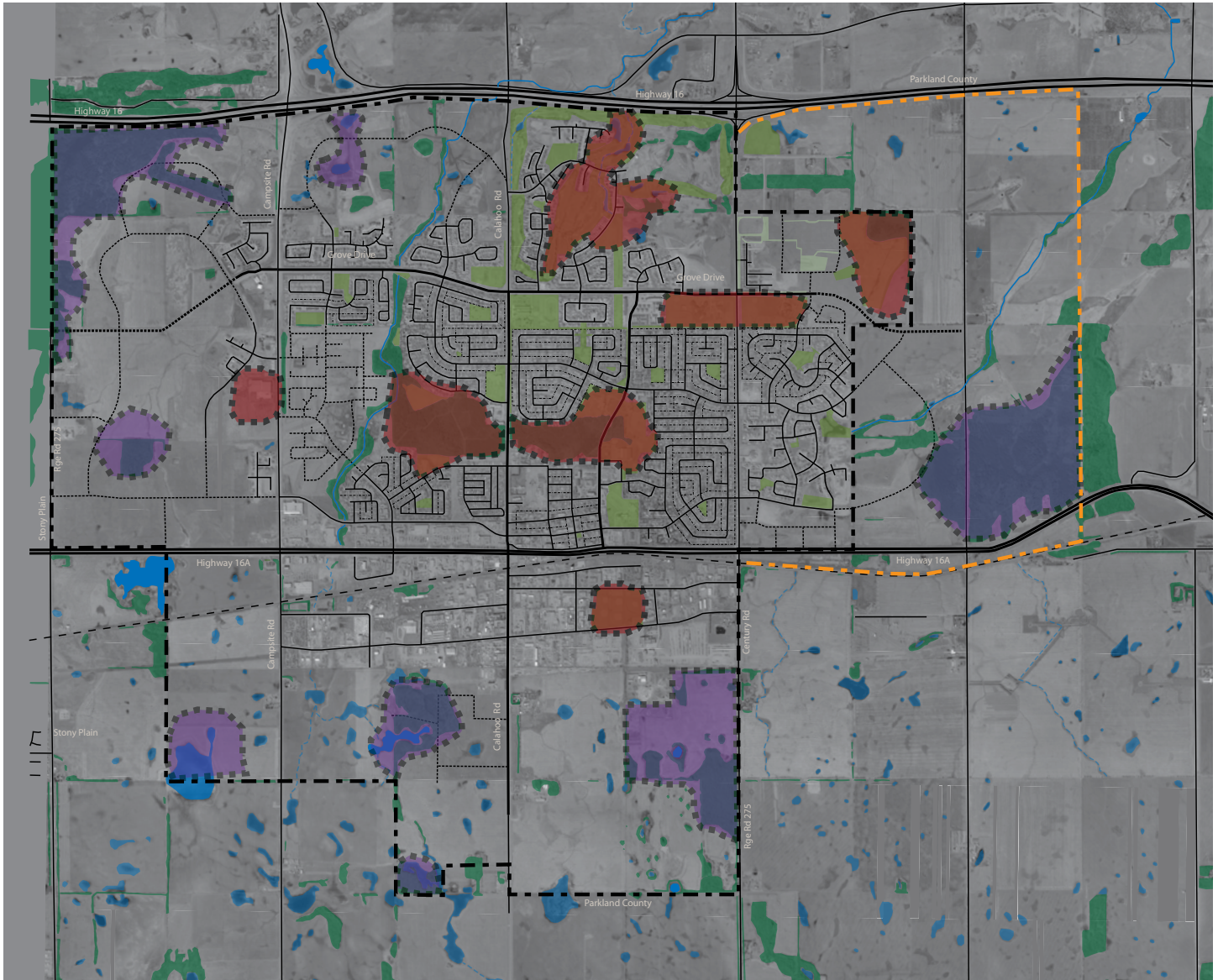
5.2 Open Space System

The Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space System is comprised of several interrelated elements which are shown on **Figures 8** through **Figure 12**:

- existing environmental assets and established parks are recognized as major open space nodes (**Figure 8**);
- new major open space nodes are proposed at several key locations;
- existing and proposed nodes are linked by paths, trails and streets (**Figure 9**);
- a finer grain of neighbourhood-scale open spaces is distributed throughout the city so that all residents have easy access (**Figure 10**);
- the city is interconnected by a street system that is considered as another element of the public realm (**Figure 11**); and
- a range of open spaces is distributed throughout the city (**Figure 12**).

This provides Spruce Grove with a framework of a range of types of open spaces interconnected by trails and streets. The following sections describe the elements of the Plan.

figure 8
Major Open Space



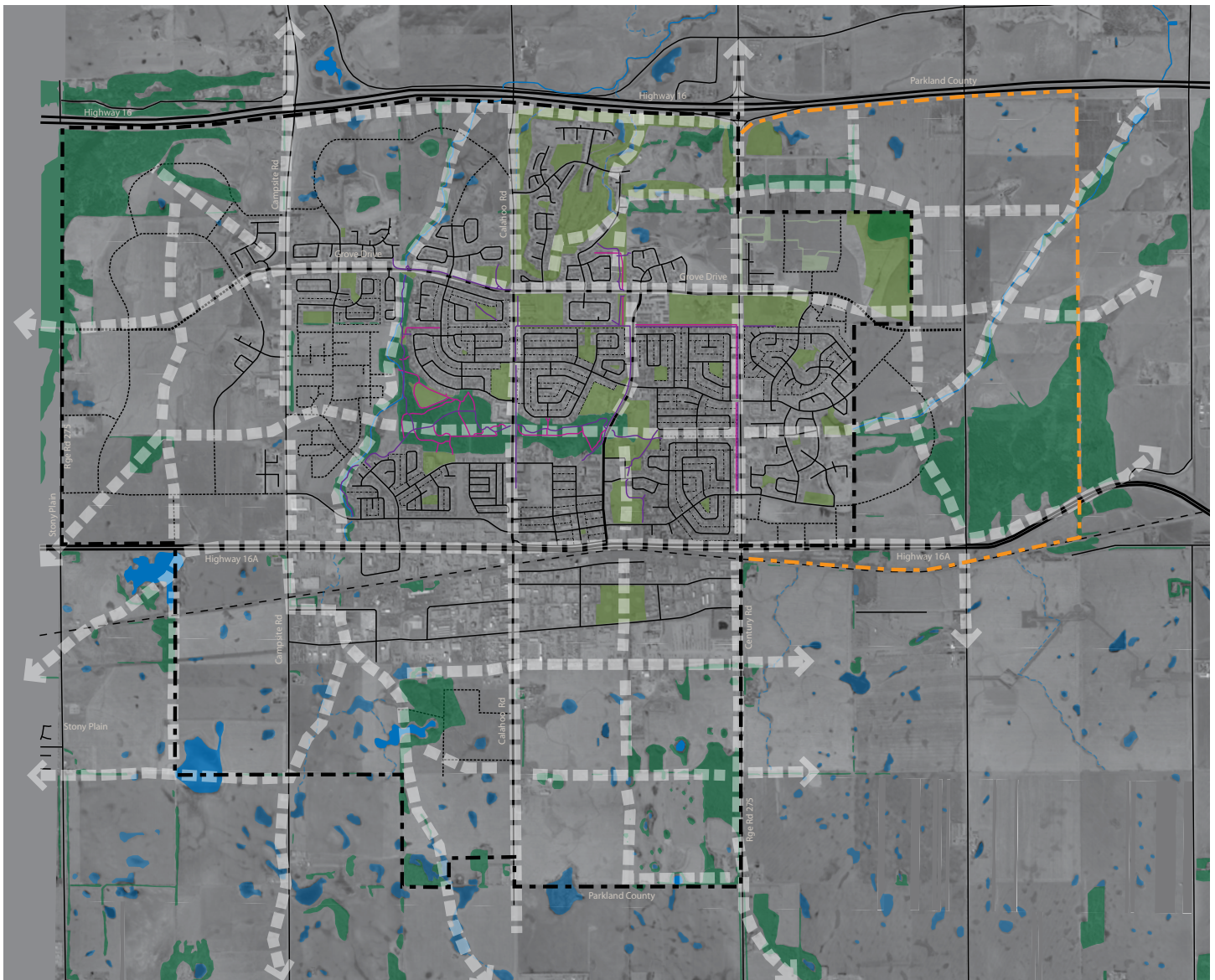
- Legend**
- Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Ephemeral waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Road
 - Proposed Road*
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary
 - Proposed annexation

Major Open Space Nodes

- Existing
- Proposed

* Proposed in an approved ASP

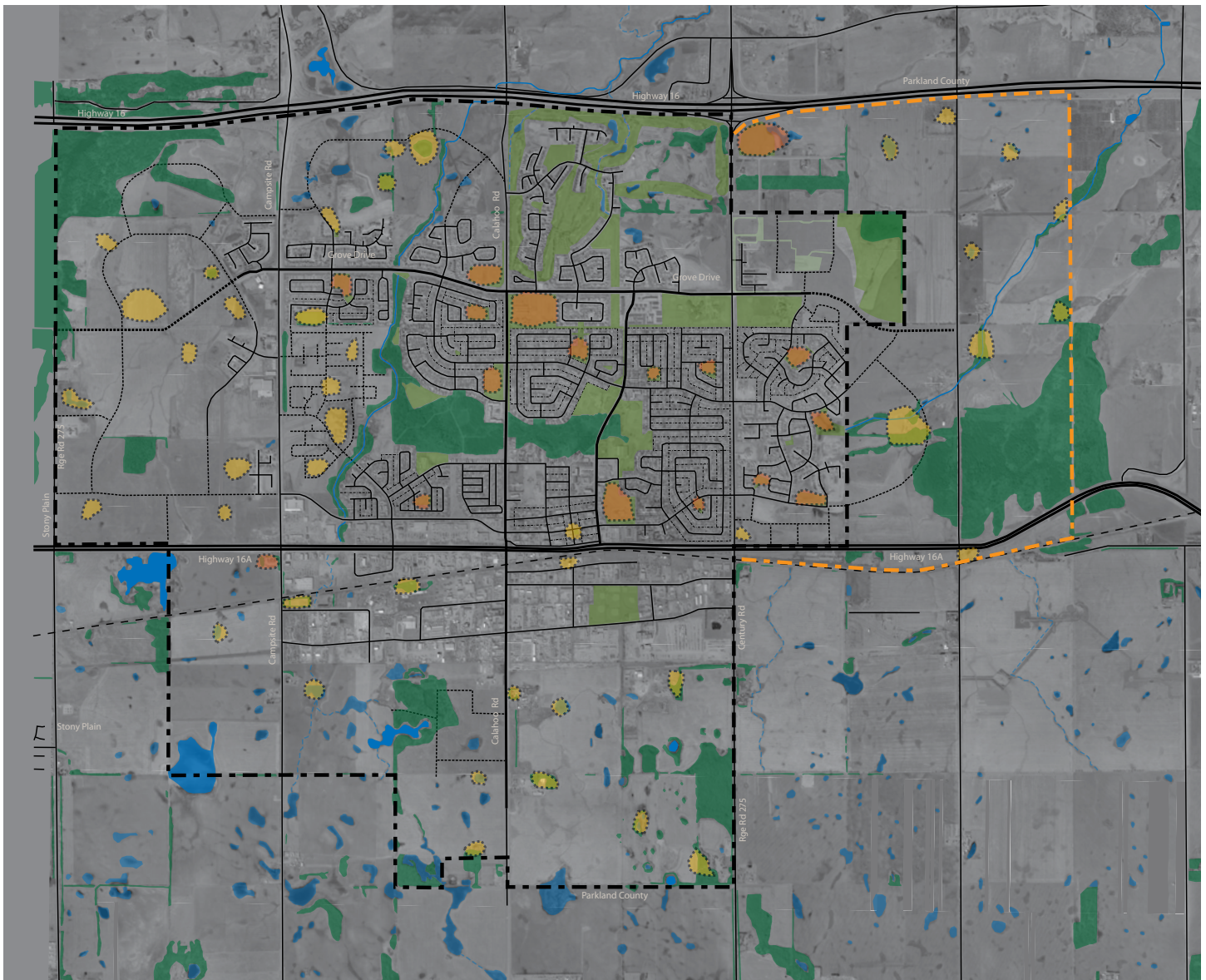
figure 9
Linkages - Paths, Trails and Steets



- Legend**
- Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Ephemeral waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary
 - Proposed annexation

- Linkages**
- Existing Path
 - Existing Trail
 - City Hall
 - Road
 - Proposed Road*
 - Highway
 - Proposed connectivity
- * Proposed in an approved ASP

figure 10
Neighbourhood-scale Open Space



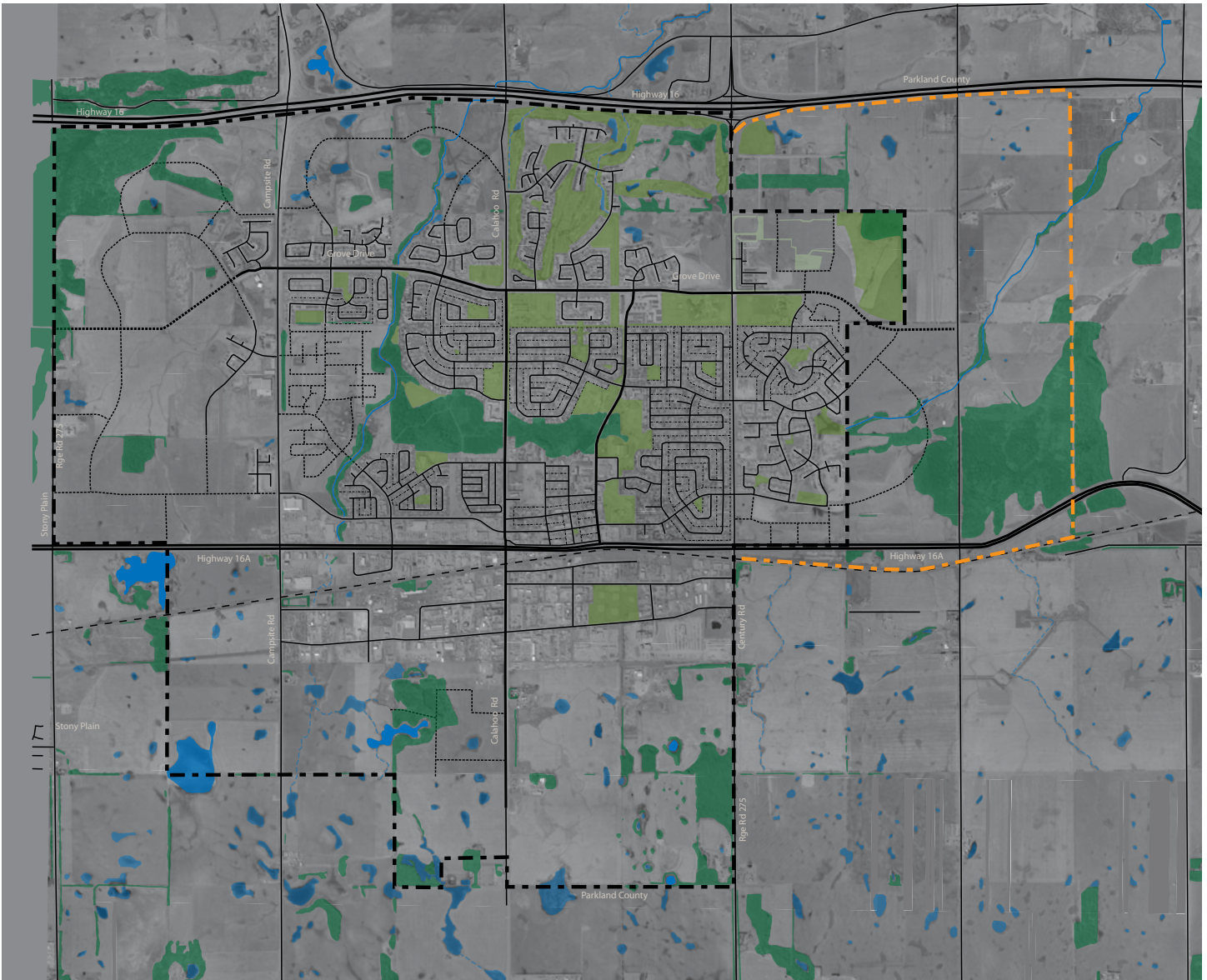
- Legend**
- Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Ephemeral waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Road
 - Proposed Road*
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary
 - Proposed annexation

Minor Open Space Nodes

- Existing
- Proposed

* Proposed in an approved ASP

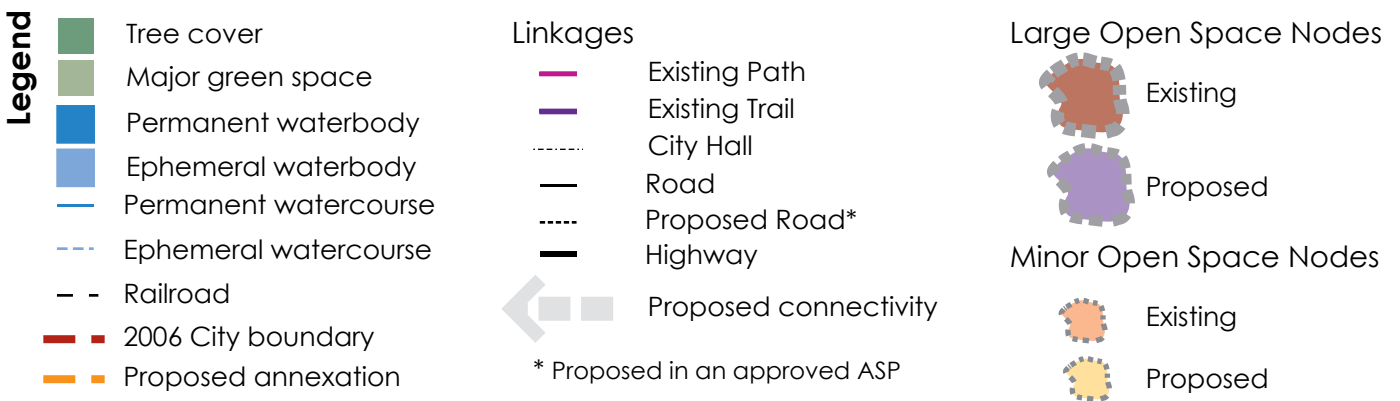
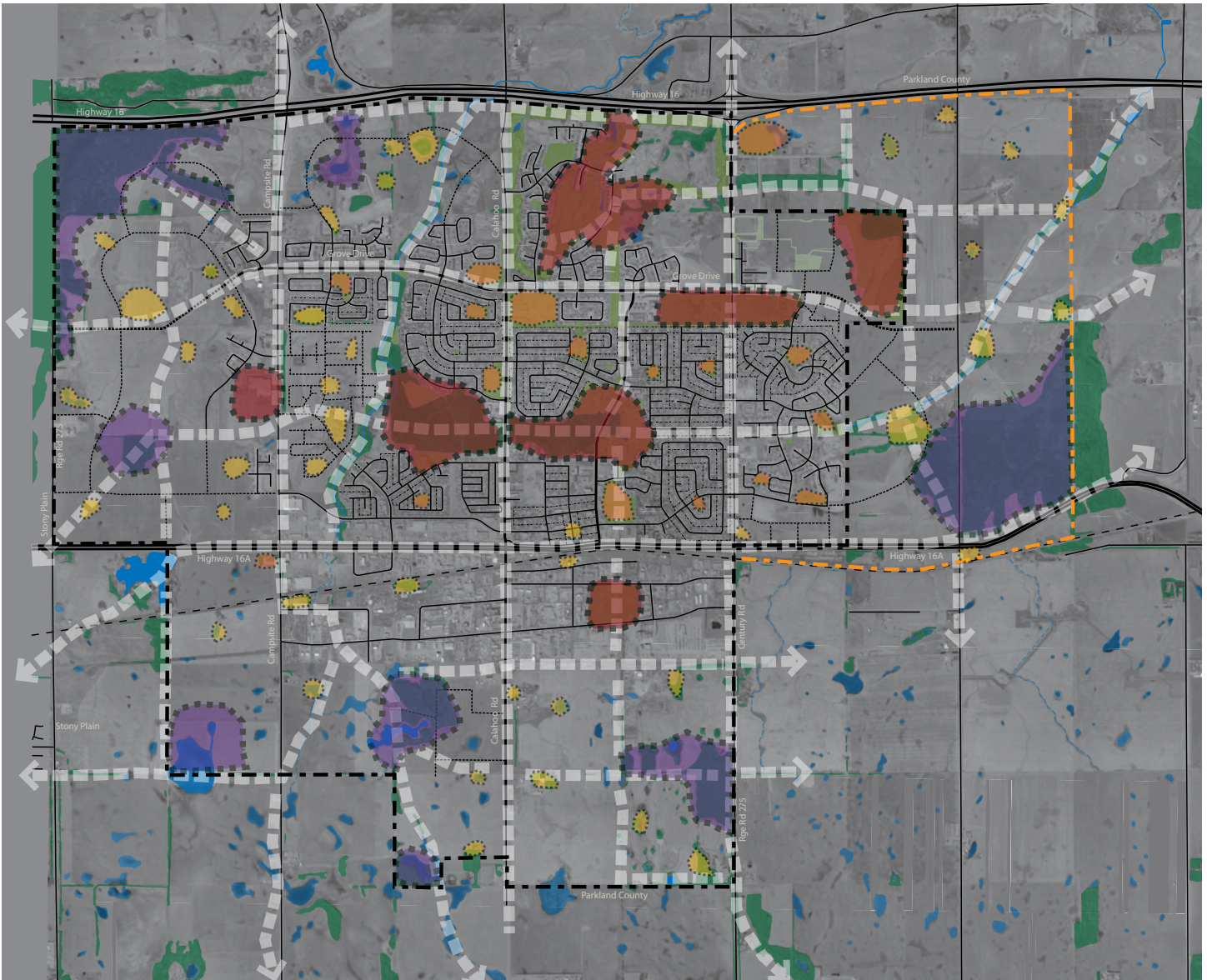
figure 11
Street System



- Legend**
- Tree cover
 - Major green space
 - Permanent waterbody
 - Ephemeral waterbody
 - Permanent watercourse
 - Ephemeral watercourse
 - Road
 - Proposed Road*
 - Highway
 - Railroad
 - 2006 City boundary
 - Proposed annexation

* Proposed in an approved ASP

figure 12
Parks and Open Space System



5.3 Open Space Nodes

5.3.1 Major Open Space Nodes

Existing Major Open Space Nodes are found in these locations:

- Heritage Grove Park
- Central Park
- Fairway Park
- Greystone Sports Park
- Henry Singer Ball Park
- Jubilee Park
- TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre

Additional Major Open Space Nodes are proposed in several locations. Overlay of the environmental inventory, the open space inventory, the cultural landscapes/landmarks inventory, and the proposed neighbourhoods allowed identification of where new Major and Minor Nodes should be located. The overlap of several open space systems, the presence of many public functions, or the convergence of several circulation routes creates greater potential for the development of areas in which the landscape, urban structure, functional relationships, and circulation patterns reinforce each other.

Major open space nodes should all include a range of open space types, and be well-linked by trails and streets. The proposed Major Nodes should include additional facilities and features:

The Plan proposes that all Major Nodes be considered as transit oriented developments, and include good accessibility by public transit, good multi-modal linkages, and higher relative residential densities.

5.3.2 Minor Open Space Nodes

Smaller open space areas, or Minor Nodes, should be located in conjunction with the population distribution, and include Open Space Types C (parks, gardens, civic spaces) and D (sports and recreation facilities), and where appropriate Types A (natural and semi-natural) and B (cultural and historical landscapes, landmarks) (see the following section for a discussion of open space types). These Minor Nodes will serve several neighbourhoods, and have a more local character (as shown in **Figure 10**). Each Minor Node should be designed by a qualified landscape architect/urban designer, and should reflect the principles and objectives of the Plan. Incorporation of new landmarks and features should consider input from residents in order to develop places that have a community-building potential.

5.3.3 Commercial/Civic Nodes

Commercial/Civic Nodes are also identified:

- Downtown civic node, and
- Cultural landscape node associated with the grain elevator.

The downtown has potential to be enhanced as a shopping and office character area. It has a compact and walkable street network, and would benefit from the incorporation of a several small civic squares, street tree planting, and other streetscaping.

Policy

- 1. Vehicular access to Major Nodes shall ensure safe routes via collector road system to avoid increased traffic in residential neighborhoods.**
- 2. Connections with Spruce Grove's regional pathway system shall be mandatory for all new Major and Minor Nodes.**
- 3. The acquisition of land for a Major Node may not be through dedication of MR and/or ER. The City is encouraged to seek alternate means for land acquisition and/or partnerships for funding to purchase.**
- 4. Support facilities (e.g., concessions) should be built in conjunction with Major Nodes, if the site will draw festivals, tourists or sporting events.**
- 5. Whereas neighbourhood-scale and Minor Nodes may be planned as a new area is developed (e.g., for residential use), Major Nodes may require several years of advanced acquisition and planning prior to construction.**

Priority Actions

- 1. The City of Spruce Grove should collaborate regionally to conduct a long-range regional recreation/facility master plan, that will address needs over the next fifty years.**
- 2. The City will ensure that a range of open space types is provided in each major and minor node, to correspond to the norms and standards outlined above.**
- 3. The City will be responsible for ensuring that detailed plans and designs for Major Nodes are prepared that reflect the principles, objectives, and concepts of the Plan, in conjunction with the local School Boards as appropriate.**
- 4. Due to the expense of developing new Major Nodes, the City should augment the assets at existing destination facilities as a priority.**

5.4 Neighbourhood-Scale Parks

Neighborhood parks are typically small in size. They are often connected with a K-6 school or a community association, or located for the use of a single neighbourhood.

The spaces are often multi-use, and are utilized by school children during the day and by the community after school hours. There may be a joint use agreement between the municipality and local school board.



Policy

1. The dedication of MR in new communities which are too small to be used as viable long term open spaces shall be discouraged.

2. Small, single use park spaces (i.e., less than one acre) shall be discouraged where the costs associated with capital and maintenance are not justified by an appropriate level of use (i.e., frequency of use). Similarly, where the lifecycle of the park space (the period of time over which an age-cohort will use the facility) is not sufficiently long enough to justify costs of the park space, alternative open space use should be considered.

3. Existing pocket parks should provide (through retrofitting) sustainable, long term use for:

- **children between 0 – 5 years of age;**
- **persons with reduced mobility;**
- **picnicking areas;**
- **mailboxes;**
- **transit stops; and**
- **where large contiguous open spaces are limited due to natural or transportation constraints**

4. Spruce Grove should ensure that, where possible, neighbourhood-scale parks are sited in collaboration (i.e., signing of a joint use agreement) with the local school board to maximize opportunities for joint uses on the site for formal and informal play and school related activity and community related activity areas.

5. The location of the park space shall take advantage of and maximize the catchment area of the community.

6. The design of Neighborhood / Community Park Space shall comply with The City of Spruce Grove's Engineering Standards.

5.5 Open Space Types, Norms and Standards

This section discusses the types of open spaces that are included in the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, and outlines some of the norms and standards that determine the requirements for provision of each open space type. As well, open space objectives are discussed, and policies are outlined.

5.5.1 Typology of Open Space

The language of open space types provides the vocabulary for conceptualizing, designing and realizing a coherent and high quality infrastructure of public streets and spaces. Development of a typology of open space helps in understanding the relationship between the physical form of the open space and the functions it provides. An understanding of the typological framework of open spaces can help in providing an open space system that addresses the needs of a growing population.

Each open space type implies a particular design vocabulary, vegetation, and maintenance regime, and therefore the uses that are appropriate and desirable in each space.

There may be variation over time in how a particular open space is used, within the parameters of that type. For example, a recreation field may accommodate changing sports trends and changing age groups, but it will still maintain its function, and will still require the same level of maintenance.

It will not, on the other hand, be modified into another type, for example, into a civic square, or an ecological park, without modification to the parks and open space plan. This will ensure that Spruce Grove will maintain the desired range of open space types, and that its open space system will be adaptable to the population and culture as it evolves.

5.5.2 Norms and Standards

Successful open space systems are built around the existing resources and distinguishing features of a place. The extent to which one type of open space will be found depends on local availability, needs and circumstances, and also depends on the age of a settlement – open space systems take time to develop, and therefore great care should be taken to the establishment of a proper framework upon which the system can evolve.

Open space types are either resource-based, or population-based. The following section discusses some general standards and norms for provision of open spaces, however these will be refined in the next section and in the concept plan to reflect the particular circumstances of Spruce Grove.

It should be noted that normative standards should not be applied too rigidly, as they are based on generalities, and on a synthesis of several sources, and may not reflect the social, cultural, environmental, or economic situation of Spruce Grove. Norms and Standards used in this section have been referenced from the following two documents:

- Leung, Hok-Lin, *Land Use Planning Made Plain*, Second Edition, University of Toronto Press Incorporated, Toronto, Ontario, 2003.
- American Planning Association, *Planning and Urban Design Standards*, John Wiley & Sons Inc., New Jersey, N.Y., 2006

5.5.3 Types and Subtypes

A range of open space types is required for good city form and city life. Each of Spruce Grove's development eras has been characterized by open space types that have been considered valuable, and over time, Spruce Grove has acquired many of the open space types appropriate to its population. The following section outlines the open space types that are required for a complete open space system, and that characterize good city form.



Example of Type A (Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space or Watercourses)

Each of the open space types can be understood as a 'system,' with the presence and distribution of open spaces a factor of the characteristics of each type. Each type is somewhat distinct from, but interrelated with, the other types.

A **Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space or Watercourses**

Examples of Type 'A' Open Spaces:

- Woodland
- Urban forestry
- Grasslands
- Wetlands
- Canals
- Open and running water
- Ecological reserve

This plan assumes that the 'natural capital' of Spruce Grove is one of its major assets. Identifying the open spaces that are based on, or associated with, natural areas or ecological features is important in establishing an ecological framework for the Plan. These sites have intrinsic ecological value, and may have greater potential for recreation or interpretation purposes.

The issue of authenticity and ecological integrity is also of concern in the development of a system of open spaces. Natural and semi-natural areas occur where they are found, directly related to the landscape.

The presence of these spaces is directly related to the environmental conditions and features of the area. Preservation of natural systems is important in guaranteeing that open spaces of this type are present and that they maintain ecological integrity.

These spaces exist on a continuum:



Open space that is considered "Open Space / Environmental" in Spruce Grove should be set aside for the following reasons (at a minimum):

- Biological/ecological diversity
- Aesthetic quality of Spruce Grove's environment
- Wildlife and fish habitat
- Quality of life for Spruce Grove residents and visitors (e.g., air, water, ground)

Spruce Grove Context

Dog Creek and Atim Creek are small but important watercourses, and should be incorporated into all development plans in which they are found. The woodlands of Heritage Grove Park and the undeveloped areas

to the northwest and central east are perhaps the most notable natural features, and are unique and important assets. There is an extensive network of wetlands in the Spruce Grove region, particularly to the south, and these should be incorporated into future development where possible. They also have the potential to inform the development of eco-industrial developments.

Standards for Provision

- Regional park reserves generally have 80% of the area dedicated to conservation and resource management, and 20% to nature-oriented outdoor recreation.
- Service catchment area – one hour driving time, serve several neighbourhoods or city as a whole.
- Size can be from one acre (0.40 ha) to well over 1,000 acres (400 ha) depending on resource availability and preservation needs.

City Urban Forest Management Plan

The Urban Forest is composed of all the trees and shrubs within city limits. It includes natural vegetated areas as well as parks and street boulevards. While the trees on private property also contribute to the urban forest, only the trees on public property are considered as the responsibility of the City in this plan.

Street trees provide numerous benefits:

- they provide shade in the summer and shelter in the winter, and make streets much more walkable,
- they contribute greatly to the overall attractiveness of the streets and the City, and
- they have many ecological functions, and serve as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The presence of street trees, and the design of residential streets, has varied over time in Spruce Grove. A strong vision of the public open space system should include streets with street trees as one of the most important public open space elements. This needs to be combined with a good planting, management and replacement program. An inventory of street trees is the basis for development of an urban forestry plan, and should be considered for Spruce Grove.

Objectives

- Ensure that the natural landscape is expressed in the open space system, and that all residents have easy access to Type A open spaces.
- Preserve creeks and adjacent areas, woodlands, and wetlands, and incorporate into new development where possible.
- Restore creeks where they have been channelized or diverted underground.

Policy

1. Natural processes in Spruce Grove shall be preserved to the greatest extent possible, and all natural systems (creeks, wetlands, woodlands) shall be integrated into new communities and/or parkland areas.

2. Planning and Infrastructure Department is primarily responsible for identifying lands for City acquisition (see Section 6.2 Acquisition Strategy) and for their long term maintenance.

3. The City of Spruce Grove is encouraged to create Natural Area Management and Enhancement Plans for open spaces set aside as natural or semi-natural areas. Any new developments adjacent to such areas shall be required to mitigate cumulative affects or other potential development impacts prior to construction.

4. New development proposals shall be required to include, in concept or area structure plans, a biophysical assessment of proposed developable lands identifying potential impacts on natural ecosystems, environmentally significant areas, habitat and other aesthetic qualities (e.g., viewshed).

5. The protection of identified Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) in Spruce Grove shall be a priority. Specifically:

- a) ESAs should be preserved and maintained as ecological components of the open space system;**
- b) designated natural environment parks shall be managed so they maintain their natural character and integrity of these sites;**
- c) all Natural Environment Parks (NEPs) shall be obtained and developed primarily for unstructured recreation opportunities;**
- d) municipal reserve and/or school reserve dedicated adjacent to an environmental reserve or ESA should be located and developed in a way that will ensure compatibility between the two sites; and**

6. Development Plans submitted to the City shall be reviewed for integration of green infrastructure, including the following criteria:

- a) Has landscaping for energy conservation been incorporated into the plan?**
- b) Has the reliance on fossil fuels been reduced?**
- c) Does the plan include provisions for organic waste reduction?**
- d) Have impervious surfaces been effectively reduced?**
- e) Does the site maximize infiltration and minimize runoff?**
- f) Has landscaping (e.g., xeriscaping) for water conservation been incorporated into design?**
- g) Are the streets, sidewalks, community level trails connected to the regional pathway system?**
- h) Have energy efficiency measures been incorporated into building design?**

7. The planting of trees in Spruce Grove has a significant benefit for improving air quality, providing habitat, reducing ambient street level temperatures and improving quality of life for residents. Developers



shall be responsible for tree planting in new developments to Parks' specifications and also for the maintenance of trees over the first two (2) year period to ensure early growing period is successful.

8. The City promotes innovative integrative designs for stormwater management. Best Practices are also encouraged and the City supports the following management methods:

- wet ponds,
- constructed or natural wetlands,
- point source control (e.g., pervious pavement for parking lots),
- storm conveyance methods, and
- end-of-pipe practices.

9. The use of MR lands for new or retrofit stormwater management facilities should be permitted, however the environmental, recreational, and aesthetic integrity of the lands should not be compromised.

10. The reduction of impervious surfaces (particularly asphalt) is encouraged to increase infiltration on site, decrease construction material use and maintain lower ambient street level temperatures.

Priority Actions

1. The City should develop a checklist of green infrastructure to evaluate development proposals. The checklist will also contain examples of performance indicators to provide developers with a better understanding of how to implement green infrastructure.

2. Given the future-oriented nature of the Plan, the City is encouraged to provide collaborative workshops for the local development industry, school boards, recreation stakeholders and other City departments to identify how to best designate and protect ESAs for the benefit of all parties.

3. Spruce Grove should establish links with the various foundations and councils to establish programs to help protect ESAs.

Example of Type B (Historic Resource, Cultural Landscape, or Landmark)



B Historic Resource, Cultural Landscape, or Landmark

Examples of Type 'B' Open Spaces:

- Cemeteries
- Churchyards
- Grain elevator
- Museum
- Historic sites

The location of historic or cultural sites depends upon local history and physical landmarks. Their identification provides the basis for a rich layer of open space. It is not expected that these will be evenly distributed throughout the city, however their existence provides an excellent base for place-specific plans to be developed that build upon unique resources.

Spruce Grove Context

Spruce Grove has a brief but interesting history, and like other areas of Western Canada, places of historic interest are often intertwined with the early settlement patterns. Many sites of potential historic interest have already been lost, such as the railway station and many of the grain elevators, and the remaining grain elevator and museum has even greater potential to serve as a landmark and important open space node. There are other historic sites and development patterns that may not yet have been identified or effectively integrated into the city structure.

Standards for Provision

- There are no accepted standards for provision.

Objectives

- Ensure that there is an accurate and comprehensive inventory and analysis of Spruce Grove cultural landscapes and historic resources, and incorporate into the open space plan.
- Consider institutional uses as assets in the open space system, and ensure that new development includes public open space that is well-connected to the open space system.

Policy

1. As a condition, all lands slated for development shall be required to conduct an Historical Resources Impact Assessment to be submitted to the Province for approval and to the City for review.

2. The City should map all historic and cultural landmarks in their geographic information system to aid in the proper and long term identification of these sites until such time as additional interpretive projects are implemented.

3. Major cultural and historic resources should be brought to the attention of the public and to historical societies interested in their long term preservation (funding may be available to the City).

4. All lands slated for cemetery development shall follow cemetery purposes under provincial legislation but the City is encouraged to design cemetery lands (under the directive of City Bylaw No. B-48/2003) with a secondary recreation use.

Priority Actions

1. Commission the preparation of a heritage conservation study for Spruce Grove. This will include a city-wide inventory of all potential resources, their value to Spruce Grove and what measures are to be taken to maintain their presence (e.g., preservation, conservation, restoration, etc.).

Example of Type C (Parks, Gardens, and Civic Spaces)



C Parks, Gardens, and Civic Spaces

Examples of Type 'C' Open Spaces:

- Civic spaces
- Gardens
- Amenity green space

Most settlements and communities have one or several formal or informal parks or gardens that have civic or ceremonial purposes. This category also includes informal recreation areas in housing areas, green spaces around housing areas, and hard surfaces designed for pedestrians. Many places have several green spaces of variable size and use. These may have actual use, but are often spaces that are left over after land use planning is complete, and may not contribute to the overall infrastructure of open space.

Parks, gardens and civic spaces are population-based, and also depend upon access (by foot, bicycle and vehicle). There are normative values for provision of this type of open space that correspond to population numbers, densities and distribution. This type of open space should be readily available to all sectors of the city and all of the population. It could be expected that a finer grain of distribution (many smaller sites) emerges relative to population concentrations.

Spruce Grove Context

Spruce Grove currently has Type C spaces of various sizes, including Central Park and several neighbourhood parks, however there are few high quality public spaces in the downtown or other commercial areas.

Standards for Provision

These types of open spaces are population-based, and should be provided according to the accepted norms and standards.

Table 12. Type C Standards for Provision

Subtype	Acres/ha/population	Catchment Area (Service)	Desirable size
Neighbourhood parks serving a social, aesthetic, or informal recreation purpose	1/4 - 1/2 mile	Uninterrupted by major road	3 - 10 ac (1.21 - 4.05 ha)
Large Urban Park	One per several neighbourhoods or to preserve notable landscapes and open spaces	Several neighborhoods	20 - 40 ac (8.09 - 16.19 ha)
Civic Squares	Square associated with city hall	Whole city	Small parks, squares

Policy

- 1. All downtown and commercial development are required to contribute to the public realm of streets and squares, and provide appropriate streetscaping.**
- 2. Public realm contributions in the downtown and commercial areas may include widened sidewalks, pocket parks, small squares and plazas.**
- 3. All Type C spaces should be designed for four-season, all-time use, and consider appropriate materials, landscaping, and lighting.**
- 4. All development plans including Type C spaces shall show site context including adjacent areas, connections to the open space system, and detailed plans.**

Priority Actions

- 1. Type C spaces can provide multiple roles within a community. They are often important focal points and landmarks, and do much to improve the economic values of adjacent areas. They also contribute to the economic vitality of the downtown and commercial areas, and benefit all businesses. The City is encouraged to examine the potential for off-site levies to business owners' payable to the City or through a local business owner's group (e.g., Business Revitalization Zone).**

D Outdoor Sport and Recreation Facilities

Examples of Type 'D' Open Spaces:

- Tot lots
- Playgrounds
- Neighbourhood Parks
- Sports fields
- School sites
- Tennis courts
- Golf courses
- Skateboard parks / BMX parks and tracks

These are spaces that are designed for active sports and recreation uses. They vary in their degree of publicness (tennis courts and golf courses often function on a fee-for service), and in degree of general-specific use. They are often larger in size than other open spaces, and often include specialized structures or equipment. The specifics may change over time as certain activities, such as skateboarding, become more or less popular.

The distribution of open spaces of this type is generally population-based. Playing fields have a larger catchment area than playgrounds and tot lots, and would have a somewhat coarser grain of distribution. It is expected that much of the population would access these spaces by vehicle as well as by foot, and that the larger space and equipment requirements would mean that this type of open space would be selectively located. There is often opportunity for the joint use of many of these facilities (schools, community associations, and other groups).

Spruce Grove Context

Spruce Grove has several large sports and recreation areas which serve most areas of the city, including Aspenglen Park, Greystone Sports Park and Henry Singer Ball Park. As well, numerous smaller sports fields are found, many of which are associated with schools. Most neighbourhoods include totlots or playgrounds.

Recently, the City of Spruce Grove and the Parkland and Evergreen School Boards have signed an in-depth joint-use agreement, which has been instrumental in ensuring school sites are developed not only to meet the educational needs of the school boards, but also provide a larger community benefit. This agreement also makes school facilities available for community use and City facilities available for school use. Future school sites and City facilities should continue the spirit of cooperation and public domain that is joint-use.

User groups in Spruce Grove are well organized and have a broad base of volunteers available to produce top-quality sport programming. The growth of organized sport in the community has strained development and maintenance of sport and recreation resources. As the level of sophistication of organized groups has increased, so has the expectation for higher-quality facilities.

Example of Type D (Outdoor Sport and Recreation Facilities)



In an effort to meet these growing expectations, City Administration has begun planning for a major premiere quality soccer/football complex. When developed, the West District Park will provide top-quality sporting facilities and will greatly assist the sport community in their service delivery. In order to see the community benefits of high quality sport programming, a concerted effort around sport field development and upkeep is required.

The emergence of newer sports is changing the way recreation spaces are designed. Once thought of as “extreme” sports, skateboarding, in-line skating and BMX are fast becoming mainstream activities in urban centres and in many cases, are overtaking traditional team-based sports. Competition amongst participants is also becoming very popular as is the case with Spruce Grove’s skatepark facility located in Central Park. These sports will likely continue to grow and consideration of provision of additional facilities should be included in park planning.

Standards for Provision

- These types of open spaces are generally population-based, and should be provided according to the accepted norms and standards.

Table 13. Type D Standards for Provision

Sub Type	Area per 1000 Population Catchment Radius	Service Catchment Area (miles)	Desirable Size
Tot Lot	0.25 - 0.5 ac 0.1 - 0.2 ha	Radius <1/4 mi.	<1 ac 0.4 ha
Neighbourhood Park / Playground	1 - 2 ac 0.4 - 0.8 ha	Radius 1/2 - 1/2 mi. for a population <5,000	>15 ac 10 ha
Athletic Complex	5 - 8 ac 2 - 3.2 ha	Radius 1 - 2 mi. 1.6 - 3.2 ha	>25 ac 10 ha
Combined complex, tournament level and other facilities,			20 - 80 ac 8.09 - 32.37 ha

The requirement for different types of sports and recreation facilities varies from place to place, and from time to time. Also, the need can be affected by the supply – there is often no demand for a particular facility until one is provided in a place. Some activities are also subject to trends, and may only be in demand for a finite period of time.

Although these standards are a useful tool for determining provision of Type D space, using such standards for major athletic facilities is more difficult. For example, Spruce Grove has a number of tennis facilities that are under-utilized, while a large number of sport fields are used beyond capacity. While population-based standards can be helpful, evaluating community needs and expected levels of service (early in the process) is generally a more accurate method for providing large-scale sport facilities.

Table 14. Type D Standards for Provision

Sports fields/recreation facility	Standard per population
Baseball diamonds	1/6,000
Softball diamonds	1/3,000
Tennis courts	1/2,000
Basketball courts	1/500
Shooting range	1/50,000
Golf course	1/25,000

The following table represents the status-quo standard for sport facilities currently in Spruce Grove. The last two columns include the number of new facilities that would be required if the assumption of maintaining the status-quo remains.

Table 15. Current Type D Facilities in Spruce Grove

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities	2006 (19,601) Status-Quo	2010 (24,742) Projected	2016 (32,220) Projected
Class A Ball Diamonds	6	1/3,267	7.6 (+1.6)	9.9 (+3.9)
Class B Ball Diamonds	8	1/2,450	10.1 (+2.1)	13.2 (+5.2)
Senior Soccer	13	1/1,507	16.4 (+3.4)	21.4 (+8.4)
Junior Soccer	17	1/1,153	21.5 (+4.5)	28 (+11)
Football Practice Field	1	1/19,601	1.3 (+0.3)	1.6 (+0.6)
Football Game Field	3	1/6,533	3.8 (+0.8)	4.9 (+1.9)
Basketball Courts	10 sites	1/1,960	12.6 (+2.6)	16.4 (+6.4)
Outdoor Ice Surface - Hockey	3	1/6,533	3.8 (+0.8)	4.9 (+1.9)
Outdoor Ice Surface - Leisure	3	1/6,533	3.8 (+0.8)	4.9 (+1.9)
Tennis Courts	3 sites	1/6,533	3.8 (+0.8)	4.9 (+1.9)
Skateboard Park	1	1/19,601	1.3 (+0.3)	1.6 (+0.6)
BMX areas	1	1/19,601	1.3 (+0.3)	1.6 (+0.6)

Objectives

- All citizens should have easy access to outdoor facilities for sports and recreation.
- A range of sports should be provided for, and Spruce Grove should assess the demand, and emerging demand, for various sports and recreation activities, and endeavour to address them.
- Spruce grove should provide a variety of sport fields ranging from community / drop-in use to premiere quality and tournament facilities, based on user demand and financial restraints.

Policy

- 1. Type D open spaces for entry-level sports and recreation should be provided within easy access of every citizen.**
- 2. City-wide fields, including major athletic parks shall be built to accommodate advanced levels of play and may be acquired through a partnership arrangement or be joint-use facilities.**
- 3. The Community Services Department shall examine all opportunities for retrofitting and intensifying existing sports fields prior to building new sites.**
- 4. Any retrofitted or new sports fields shall accommodate multiple uses, in order to make the most efficient use of space, and to avoid specialized parks and open spaces sitting idle during periods of non use.**
- 5. All new sports fields shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the current edition of The City of Spruce Grove Engineering Standards or equivalent.**
- 6. Commercial or industrial developments should be considered for sports field development, dependant on adjacent land use and connection to the site by regional pathway.**
- 7. Municipal owned public golf course design shall include consideration of year-round use, such as cross-country skiing.**

Priority Actions

- 1. The City should endeavor to create or have created, a Sports Fields Management Plan to address at a minimum: user issues, cost recovery strategies, utilization / under-utilization, seasonality of use and ways to improve booking and programming.**
- 2. Emerging, non-traditional sports groups (e.g., skateboarding, BMX, in-line skating) should be encouraged by the City to assist in reviewing under-utilized sports fields for opportunities to retrofit and adapt those sites for their use and/or investigating industrial lands for such uses.**
- 3. The Conceptual Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space System is illustrated in Figure 12. The map includes those park sites already owned and managed by the City along with suggested locations for future incorporation (e.g., those lands as shown in approved ASPs, and Outline Plans and within unplanned privately held lands).**
- 4. The City should determine a suitable location for a tournament facility for organized sport, that is large enough to provide a large number of facilities and located in close proximity to overnight camping.**
- 5. Spruce Grove should complete a "Regional Recreation Plan" to identify all needs and opportunities in the Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and Parkland County area, as well as possible partnership arrangements.**

E Linear systems, Green Corridors, Paths, and Streets

Examples of Type 'E' Open Spaces:

- Paths
- Bikeways
- Trails
- Streets
- Rights-of-way

Green corridors are important as recreation pathways and access points to ecological areas and recreation fields, and many are related to existing green spaces. Other linkages between open spaces often already exist, and this plan attempts to identify where potential connections between individual open spaces, open space clusters, or population concentrations may be strengthened. This will help to allow the evolution of an infrastructure of open spaces, with the various types of open space connected by a system of paths and trails. Many of the existing streets and linear parks provide opportunities for development of this system.

Ordinary streets are also part of the open space system, but often vary in their degree of pedestrian-friendliness.

Spruce Grove Context

Spruce Grove has a network of trails and paths, most extensively developed in Heritage Grove Park and Fairway Park.

Streets are considered in this plan as an important element of the pedestrian path system. Much of the established city is permeable and walkable, with good linkages between neighbourhoods. Many newer neighbourhoods do not provide good linkages, and are less walkable. This encourages automobile dependency and reduces the ability of the city form to support the activity of walking, one of the easiest ways of obtaining exercise.

Pedestrian connections across Highway 16A are poor, with few opportunities to cross. This is particularly problematic for access to Henry Singer Ball Park.

Standards for Provision

This type of open space connects other types, and is a system in itself. It should be based on the environmental framework, and should link major nodes. All residents should have easy access to the system.

Objectives

- Open space nodes and all major parks and open spaces should be linked by a multi-modal path system.
- New development should link to the existing open space system.

Example of Type E (Linear systems, Green corridors, Paths, and Streets)



Policy

- 1. The City of Spruce Grove shall support, enhance and expand both the community level and regional pathway system to promote healthy living, and sustainable recreation and transportation. Optimally, the regional pathway should be designed for walkers, runners, cyclists, inline skaters, skateboarders and persons with reduced mobility. Designs should also consider access, safety and adequate signage.**
- 2. Community level pathways should connect with Spruce Grove's regional pathway, and/or other key destinations within the community, such as neighborhood scale parks, schools, recreational facilities, and commercial areas.**
- 3. The regional pathway connections should be routed along the edges of ESAs or into locations with less sensitivity to the natural ecology to minimize the impact on the natural space and to minimize desire lines.**
- 4. The City should consider increasing the width of pathways from 2.5 m to a 3.0 m wide asphalt top.**
- 5. All new paths (regional and community) should be designed to provide off-street connections. Where it is necessary to follow the road, the street design should accommodate regional pathway users.**
- 6. The City should collaborate with the Town of Stony Plain and Parkland County to seek opportunities to connect Spruce Grove's regional pathway with the Town and County (if applicable) to pursue development and implementation.**

Priority Actions

- 1. Figure 9 illustrates Spruce Grove's existing regional trails and paths. New alignments for trails and paths are identified. Additions to the path system should be reviewed annually by a multi-departmental committee to ensure it is in keeping with the City's policy and infrastructure direction.**
- 2. Gaps in the existing pathway system in the downtown and established neighborhoods should be addressed as soon as possible.**

F Campgrounds & Day Use / Picnic Areas

Examples of Type 'F' Open Spaces:

- Recreational vehicle areas
- Camping areas
- Picnic and day-use areas

Places for camping and day use are often associated with natural areas, and are usually close to road access. They can also take advantage of views or existing places of interest.

Campgrounds and day use areas should be located within access of all of the population, but are best located in association with either an ecological feature or a cultural landscape. Road access is a requirement.

Spruce Grove Context

There are currently no campgrounds or day use areas in Spruce Grove, other than the Chamber of Commerce site, reserved for the purposes of the traveling public, and few picnic areas.

Standards for Provision

- 5 - 10 acres (2 - 4 ha)/1000 population.
- Service catchment area one hr driving time, for several neighbourhoods.
- Desirable size > 200 acres (80 ha).

Objectives

- Find an adequate site for camping (tent and tent-trailer) within Spruce Grove's city limits
- Provide day use facilities (washrooms, showers, kitchen facility) for the traveling public.

Policy

- 1. Siting a campground should consider:**
 - a) proximity to major transportation route;**
 - b) access to regional pathway system;**
 - c) inclusion of washroom / shower facilities;**
 - d) proximity to land uses sensitive to noise and traffic; and**
 - e) proximity to basic commercial goods.**

Priority Actions

- 1. The City should conduct a Best Practices Review of urban campgrounds in North America as a starting point for considering this use in Spruce Grove.**

G Non-Contributing Green Space

Examples of Type 'G' Open Spaces:

- Utility strips and transformer pads
- Grassed intersections
- Left-over green space/open space
- Awkward locations/sizes/shapes
- Rights of Way (ROW)

All parks, trails and open spaces should contribute to a comprehensive plan and be developed as one of the Types A – F. Through development and construction processes, there can often be “leftover” parcels of land which are provided to a municipality as Municipal Reserve and called “Park.” These often isolated spaces have no real connection to the community nor do they connect with another type of open space.

Right-of-Ways (ROW) provide area for infrastructure improvements and also act as utility easements. These spaces are often highly maintained turfgrass, and occasionally include trees and other plantings.

While there are many ROW open spaces that are considered unusable as open space, others may be incorporated into the open space system. A ROW considered unusable as an open space may still offer visual relief or provide a buffer along roads or rail lines, therefore each open space should be evaluated separately.

Spruce Grove Context

Non-contributing open spaces are often caused by conditions that tend to be out of the control of the municipality. For example, Highway 16A is a provincial road and the right-of-way generated along each side and within interchanges is considered non-contributing open space.

Example of Type G (Non-Contributing Green Space)



Standards for Provision

- This type of open space should be minimized. Some of these spaces are necessary, but should not be included in the calculation of park and open space. This type of open space should be described accurately, so that its maintenance can be appropriate.

Objectives

- Reduce or eliminate all existing and avoid the creation of new non-contributing open space in Spruce Grove.

Policy

1. All new proposed open space must contribute to the overall system of public space, and shall be Type A - F open space.

2. Development plans shall indicate all proposed open space, and

no non-contributing open space shall be permitted, except where essential in the provision of utilities.

3. All existing non-contributing open space should be evaluated for its use and potential reuse. Spaces identified as non-contributing shall be removed from the City's open space inventory, and mapping corrected.

4. Planning shall be consulted on all new ROW construction to provide comments on integration with the open space system, landscaping and maintenance requirements.

Priority Actions

1. The City should conduct a Non-contributing Open Space Review to determine how best to deal with existing spaces that do not contribute to the system and how to avoid this type of space in the future.

5.6 The Urban Forest

The Urban Forest is composed of all the trees and shrubs within city limits. It includes natural vegetated areas as well as parks and street boulevards. While the trees on private property also contribute to the urban forest, only the trees on public property are considered as the responsibility of the City in this plan.

The City of Spruce Grove adopted an Urban Forest Management Plan in December 2004. This two volume document provides a general biophysical survey of the forest conditions in Spruce Grove followed by a detailed forest inventory of each of the major forest stands in the city: Heritage Grove, Atim Creek, Jubilee Park and Cooke Lands Forest Reserve. The study was completed with long term directions on funding, partnerships and other urban forestry possibilities. This Open Space & Park Master Plan enforces the importance of urban forest management as a critical element of the city's open space plan. Street trees are an important structural, biological, and aesthetic component of the city, and greatly improve the quality of life as well as the economic value of neighbourhoods. Street trees provide numerous benefits including:

- provision of shade in the summer and shelter in the winter;
- improvement of the walkability of streets, thereby contributing to higher standards of public health;
- contribution to the overall attractiveness of the streets and the city as a whole; and
- provision of many ecological functions, and serving as habitat for many species of birds and other wildlife.

The presence of street trees, and the design of residential streets, has varied over time in Spruce Grove. The inclusion of public street trees in neighbourhood planning has generally declined, to the detriment of the city form, image and quality.



Parking lots should incorporate tree planting and landscaping.



Parking lots provide opportunities for multiple tree planting and should contribute to the urban forest

Street narrowings provide space for trees





Streets should always have trees on both sides

The City of Spruce Grove currently has a policy that deals with tree removals and plantings on city titled boulevards and road right of ways, and it also has a list of appropriate tree species. This should be supplemented by an urban forest management plan, based on objectives that support this Plan.

A strong vision of the public open space system should include streets with street trees as one of the most important public open space elements. This needs to be combined with a good planting, management and replacement program. This plan proposes that all streets include street tree planting.

5.7 Industrial Land

Planning for open space and trails within the context of a business park (e.g., “big box” retail) or an industrial park (e.g., Madison or Yellowhead Industrial Area) presents different challenges than for a residential area. However, the same high standards are expected in these areas, and there are some unique opportunities to incorporate open spaces, street trees and environmental management practices to make business and industrial parks human-scaled, walkable, and of a high aesthetic quality. Cash-in-lieu may be taken where development of open spaces or streetscape improvements are not possible. The City is interested in engaging developers and industrial land owners to move towards implementing eco-industrial standards and, therefore, acquiring lands for eco-infrastructure solutions is also encouraged.

Recommended Policy

- 1. Open Space dedication in business and industrial areas should reflect the concepts and principles of the Parks and Open Space Plan. The City shall enforce the open space policies for commercial and industrial land use, within the Spruce Grove City Plan.**
- 2. All developments in these areas are expected to contribute to the system of open spaces through dedication of land and/or through streetscape improvements. The City is to determine the appropriateness of the open space approach for each development on a case by case basis.**
- 3. The City should seek agreements and/or partnerships with developer/landowners to integrate open space and park into industrial or commercial land use areas.**
- 4. The City should create policy for comprehensive commercial business parks (e.g., big box retail) in Spruce Grove, as it pertains to open space for industrial areas.**
- 5. All commercial business parks and industrial parks shall be connected by the regional as well as the local level pathway system.**
- 6. The use of green infrastructure practices for big box retail centres and/or lifestyle centres should be practiced as discussed in this POSMP.**

Recommended Priority Actions

1. The City should create an Eco-Industrial / Business Park Strategy to guide future big box and light industrial development in a manner that is more responsive to the environment and is more inviting to users. Construction using green infrastructure is highly encouraged.

6. FROM VISION TO PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION

The City of Spruce Grove's Parks and Open Space Plan is a philosophical and policy based document to provide the guidance necessary to implement a city-wide open space system. This final section provides tools to acquire land, move forward on identified projects and secure funding to achieve the open space vision. The City will determine priorities through the budgeting process each year.

6.1 Maintenance and Construction Standards for Open Space

The City of Spruce Grove is encouraged to develop a formalized Operations and Maintenance Plan based on individual park space requirements. The POSMP proposes the classification of parks into Types of Open Space. Using this system of classification will allow Parks to define specific operations and maintenance criteria for each Type. Each type (regardless of size) will have standard elements and activities therefore the transition from asset to maintenance requirements will be straightforward.

Priority Action

1. The Open Space Planning Team with Public Works is encouraged to classify each open space and park as one of seven Types of Open Space in POSMP and set up operations and maintenance requirements based on this classification system. All open space typologies should be added to The City's GIS database.

6.2 Acquisition Strategies

The City of Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Master Plan is forward thinking document that will enable the City to pursue, protect, enhance and acquire important open spaces. This Plan for Acquisition serves as a comprehensive approach to acquiring lands within the city and is in keeping with the recommendations, priority actions and policies contain within this Parks and Open Space Plan.



For Spruce Grove to develop in a sustainable and progressive manner, while ensuring the continued enhancement to the quality of life for its residents, efforts must be made to maintain and improve the quality of the open spaces. As Spruce Grove plans for residential, industrial and commercial growth it must too plan for growth to its open spaces and trail network.

Citizens of Spruce Grove state they are very satisfied with their trail system and opens spaces. As this study illustrates that there is still some room for improvement, not only on the open space and trails themselves, but also on the level of communication with residents. As Spruce Grove maintains, plans, and builds parks, trails, and protects natural spaces, residents should be informed and encouraged to learn more about the active and passive recreational opportunities in their community.

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan is complementary to The City of Spruce Grove's Sustainable Development Charter, which ensures The City will work to:

- Create a livable community.
- Improve the quality of our environment.
- Live within the capacity of our natural resources.
- Protect and enhance natural areas and green space.
- Promote a sustainable, resilient economy.
- Foster a strong sense of community.

Open Space Acquisition Strategies

The following principles serve as general guidelines to support the protection, betterment, and development of an interconnected, functional, and accessible open space system.

General Land Acquisition Principles

- Ensure lands are acquired to enhance and build a greater functioning open space system of parks and trails that are publicly accessible to meet the needs of all city residents.
- Ensure all community neighbourhoods have equitable access to parks and trails.
- Encourage sustainable practices by expanding the interconnected trail network to promote commuting by walking, jogging, and cycling.
- Protect, expand and enhance natural habitats in collaboration with urban forests.
- Seek potential partnerships for the protection, purchase and maintenance of parks, trails and natural areas.
- Future planning for parks, trails, and natural areas shall be integrated with the land use process to ensure a citywide interconnected and accessible open space network.

General Land Acquisition Practices I: Voluntary Land Acquisition Techniques

In some cases private landowners may wish to assist in implementing the Parks and Open Space Master Plan by voluntarily agreeing to adopt best practice management techniques. They may also wish to enter into stewardship agreements with The City to preserve their land and only engaging in specific activities on their land, such as walking, hiking, or bird watching. Typically these voluntary conservation techniques are not a guaranteed protection of the open space, however, they can add significant areas to an open space system.

Fee Simple

Fee simple is the purchase of the fee title in a parcel of land. Lands are usually acquired at its fair market value. In some cases, lands can be sold at a reduced price, which may qualify as a charitable donation from income taxes. However, prior to purchasing fee simple lands it is important to conduct the appropriate environmental investigation to ensure the lands are not contaminated.



Restrictive Covenants

It is an act where by a developer voluntarily restricts the use of a portion of land, in order to provide an amenity space. One example may include common ownership area such as in a condominium development where homeowners back onto a privately held open space. This technique usually ensures that the common area will not be developed except for purposes relating to recreation or park space.

Conservation Easements

As discussed in *Section 22* of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Alberta) conservation easements are a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values. It allows the owner to continue to own the land, sell it or pass it on to heirs, however you give up the associated rights to the lands.

Donation

Land donation is a way in which private landowners can give their land to a land trust or government agency. This allows the owner to potentially release themselves the responsibilities of managing the lands and can provide a substantial income tax deductions and estate tax benefits. Donations could also be made through an Adopt-a-Park or Tree program or through corporation donations where physical structures or parks are named after the company.

Land Trusts

They are independent non-profit organizations that work with landowners interested in protecting open space. These organizations may also work collaboratively with local, provincial and federal governments. Land trusts can also accept land donations, funds to purchase additional lands, and development rights to ensure the lands are protected for open space or remain in a natural state. (Source: New York State Local Open Space Planning Guide 2004)

Urban Forest Legacy Program

A legacy program could be established and designed specifically to identify and protect environmentally sensitive forests that are threatened by invasive species such as noxious weeds or by residential growth affecting groundwater tables and contributing to soil erosion. The Program could acquire land and conservation easements from willing sellers or those wishing to donate land. The Forest Program could receive support from a number of programs such as the Tree Canada Foundation (Green Streets Canada and Greening Canada's School Grounds).

Land Exchange

The idea is to exchange land for land. In an example a developer may have parcels of land that they may wish to develop however, it may be identified as protected open space. The City may at this point exchange the lands for surplus lands it may have in its inventory that are not significantly valuable as open space.

Public Access Easements

Public access easements allow the general public the right to access and use a specific parcel of the property. These are commonly used to develop a pathway through a development in order to ensure access to other pathways, lake and other water bodies, parks and open space areas.

General Land Acquisition Practices II: Regulatory Land Acquisition Techniques

Local municipalities can regulate the kind of uses that are permitted by a number of provisions set out in the Municipal Government Act (MGA). The MGA empowers Municipalities to make their own municipal plans and supporting plans to ensure the safe development of their communities. The following techniques are an example of the type of devices that may be used to protect open spaces.

Municipal Reserves

As stated in *Section 664(1)* and *671(1)* of the MGA (Alberta) land may be taken as municipal reserve only to be used for the following purposes: a public park, a public recreation area, a school, or to separate areas of land that are used for different purposes. Triggered by an application of subdivision, the municipality may take as municipal reserve no more than 10% of the land or cash-in-lieu, after subtracting any required environmental reserve, or such lesser amount set forth in the municipal development.

Municipal reserve sites shall: be located to allow for convenient access by and a safe environment for the public; consist of lands that do not contain excessive slopes, are not susceptible to flooding, and are not legally encumbered by rights-of-way or other limitations which would reduce design options for the site; and accommodate as broad a range of activities and user groups as possible without creating unsafe conditions or high potential for conflicts among users.

Environmental Reserves

As stated in *664(1)* Subject to *section 663*, MGA (Alberta) a subdivision authority may take land as environmental reserve only if it consists of a swamp or a gully; is land that is subject to flooding, or in the opinion of the subdivision authority, is unstable; or is a strip of land not less than 6 metres in width abutting the bed and shore of any lake, river, stream, or other body of water to prevent water pollution or to provide public access.

Dedication / Density Transfers

This mechanism allows open spaces to be dedicated to the City for density transfers on the development of a property. Known as density transfers, dwelling unit equivalents may be relocated to other portions of the same parcel or to contiguous land that is part of the common development plan.

Overlay Zoning

The overlay zoning technique is a common set of standards or controls that are applied over a large area, across many different conventional land use districts. In the case of open space, a zoning ordinance can be superimposed as an overlay to ensure areas unsuitable for development

are protected or that development that occurs does not interfere with the sensitive environmental features of the area. (Source: New York State Local Open Space Planning Guide 2004)

Development Setbacks / Buffers

Development setbacks are another way to protect open spaces. Common examples include setbacks from a river, floodplain, landfill, escarpments and environmentally significant areas.

Performance Zoning

This technique establishes zones, which are based on an allowable environmental impact to the resources of an area as opposed to a specific allowable use. This technique is a good way for a municipality to maintain control over development impacts and to ensure that development will occur only in ways in which the natural resources will not be severely damaged. For example, a community zoning ordinance might require water bodies to be protected with vegetated buffers. Thus, instead of requiring buffer zones depending on the specific use of the land, buffer zones would be established regardless of the use. Rapidly changing technology can create new industries, making it difficult in some areas for a municipality to establish effective zones based on specific uses. In these communities, the performance standard approach may be particularly helpful. (Source: New York State Local Open Space Planning Guide 2004)

Special Use Permits

A zoning regulation will list "as of right" uses which are allowed in a particular district without the necessity of obtaining any further review. After these uses are listed, a list of conditional uses or "special use permit" uses may be listed, as exceptions. The kinds of uses that require a special permit are those which may be desirable but which could have adverse impacts that require special review and conditioning before being approved. For example, special use permit criteria can require development proposals to provide buffer areas and best management practices for control of non-point source pollution adjacent to wetlands. They can also require that a percentage of land be left as open or green space. (Source: New York State Local Open Space Planning Guide 2004)



6.3 Financing Strategies for Open Space

The following list outlines methods to fund open space and park development.

Fee Simple, Development Process

The City of Spruce Grove will acquire through the reserve dedication processes provided in Great Places, as much municipal and environmental reserve possible in new development proposals where it is deemed appropriate. This is the simplest and least costly form of acquiring land for open space and park development. Developer levies are collected to cover the cost of building City parks.

Public-Private Partnerships

The City may wish to enter into a development agreement with a landowner or developer whereby land for park space (normally additional to 10% MR and ER dedication) is provided to the municipality in exchange for “incentive” benefits to the developer such as density bonusing or up-zoning to allow for higher densities. Spruce Grove may also enter into a business arrangement where land is owned by the City for park use and is leased back to the developer to be administered as a pay-per-use (fee-based) open space or park.

Government Grants

Government grants at the provincial and federal levels are available to municipalities for the development of parks and open space. Most are specific to a certain purpose and the City will need to develop a strategy for targeting certain types of grants. Park Grants may be for:

- Tourism
- Health and wellness
- Ecological management
- Community development

Examples of grants include:

- Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP): Under ICAP, the federal and provincial governments provide up to two-thirds of the funding for eligible project costs. Partnering communities or private sector organizations (proponents) cover the remainder of project funding. In Alberta, ICAP is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Green Municipal Funds (GMF): Under the GMF program, municipalities may apply for grants or loans to construct green infrastructure. The grant is up to 50% of the project cost, matched by other third party contributors or the municipality.
- The City of Spruce Grove Funding – Parks and Planning Department Staff can propose to the rest of Administration and Council, that funds be set aside each year in addition to their regular budget, for the purposes of implementing one or two additional projects required to augment the open space and park system. This will require a marketing and business case initiative to gain buy-in from Spruce Grove residents, and then translate into political support.

Adopt-a-Park – Municipal programs like Adopt-a-Park provide financial relief for municipalities in terms of capital and operations costs. User groups and other interested citizens are invited to assist in park and open space development and long term maintenance to off-set costs borne by the City which would otherwise not be possible to fund. This also makes residents “stewards” of the park and provides a sense of ownership which is valuable for a community.



6.4 Landowner Donations

As outlined in the land acquisition section, land may be donated to the City for the purpose of park and open space development. Alternatively, a landowner may apply to the Land Conservancy to have the land designated as conservation land and then provided to the City.

Priority Action

- 1. The City should establish a list of grants available and begin the process of applying early each year – some applications are onerous and go through a long and iterative review period.**
- 2. All park spaces proposed should be expressed in terms of best approaches for funding.**

6.5 Parks and Open Space Master Plan Implementation Goals

Management Goals

- **Goal One - Funding & Support**

Establish and encourage a focused and coordinated dialogue between adjacent municipalities, non-profit companies, private sector and citizens, and charitable organizations to advocate, acquire, protect and maintain natural areas, parks, and trail connections.

- **Goal Two - Public Stewardship**

To increase the value of Spruce Grove's open spaces, parks, trails and natural areas, public involvement should be increased by promoting more awareness, utilization, and care of parks, trails and natural areas.

- **Goal Three - Regional Node Approach**

This approach helps ensure that the entire City is connected, not just certain neighbourhoods. Connections within the City must occur in all quadrants and the planning of future parks and open space must be cognoscente of this.

- **Goal Four - Deferred Reserve Study**

Undertaking a deferred reserve study will provide The City of Spruce Grove with the necessary information required to form the linkages with current parks and open spaces with proposed or future areas.

Operational Goals

- **Goal Five - Highest Priority**

Focus short-term efforts on areas of highest priority, to ensure protection of key open space, trail connections, urban forestry and natural areas and that areas deficient of open space have equitable access to parks and trails.

- **Goal Six - Consider all Lands**

Review existing City owned lands (e.g., road rights-of-way) in collaboration with the POSMP Plan prior to sale of lands to the public. Similarly, work with utility companies and railways to ensure the consideration of possible donation of unused lands for parks or trails.

- **Goal Seven - Improvements**

Once the short-term needs are met, The City of Spruce Grove can turn their attention to the areas that require improvement, renovation, expansion etc that will ensure the current areas are meeting the needs of its citizens.

6.6 Open Space Management

To ensure policies and guidelines are managed and developed to keep pace with the growth of the City while maintaining a high level of quality of parks, trails and natural areas

- The City shall acquire, develop and maintain parks, trails and natural areas to provide a range of recreational opportunities along with encouraging environmental preservation.
- The City should engage in a communications plan (newsletter, website, maps) to identify new parks and trails and encourage use of the open space system
- Regular condition reports shall be performed every 5 years on City owned parks, trails, facilities and other assets to ensure public safety and that open space infrastructure is being maintained and or replaced as required.
- City should be committed to the accessibility, safety and security of their open spaces; providing well-lit areas, increase police presence, and adopt practices from Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) program.
- Encourage the use of Best Practices to reduce energy consumption and greenhouses gases.
- Recognize annually individuals or organizations that play a vital role in the stewardship or contributions to the City's open spaces.
- Parks containing lighted fields for adult and tournament play should be located in commercial or light industrial parks when reasonable and affordable. Parks designed for children should not be located in commercial or light industrial areas.
- Be committed to public consultation ensuring the public is on side with the planning of facilities, parks, trails and natural areas.

6.7 Partnerships

Partnerships play a key role in the development of the acquisition plan. Accessing the support from developers, local businesses, residents, school boards and non-profit organizations will help in funding, maintaining and growing the open space system. Partnerships are not only important for cash or land donations, but are also important in fostering a community spirit. Partnerships with youth groups can play an important role in the stewardship, teaching youth the importance of open spaces and encouraging them to value the parks, trails and natural areas.

6.8 Evaluating Success

Success can be measured in various ways. For The City of Spruce Grove, the usability of their parks and open space provides a valuable measure of worth. A variety of open space types provides opportunities for a variety of uses, and ensures that the important environmental, historical and cultural assets are preserved and enhanced. Inclusion of the street and path system in the open space network emphasizes the support of walking and biking as forms of exercise, recreation and commuting, and strengthens the city structure.

Key indicators of success include the:

- degree to which the open space or path is used;
- degree of accessibility of the open space, especially without the use of a car;
- amount of maintenance required;
- variety of uses and users in each open space; and
- quality of the open spaces, trails and streets, not necessarily their quantity.

A comprehensive open space system that addresses the needs of all residents is the goal of the open space plan. Spruce Grove has the opportunity to continue to be the Community of Choice as it offers a high quality of life and wide range of opportunities, and as it develops an open space plan that expresses its environmental setting and forms a strong and high quality public realm.

Spruce Grove has the opportunity to continue to be a distinctive and unique small city, offering a high quality of life and an exemplary open space system.

6.9 Updating the Plan

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan is a policy document and was created largely on the basis of existing conditions and expressed public need. As a result, it may change depending available budgets, changing public desires and development timelines for new communities. The POSMP should be reviewed each year, prior to municipal budgeting.



Priority Action

- 1. A Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Checklist will be used for reviewing the POSMP to ensure it is meeting the overall objectives and principles of the Plan.**

APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Active Recreation

Refers to activities such as team sports or organized sports with facilities, which require the alteration of the landscape (e.g., baseball fields).

Annexation

The transfer of land from the jurisdiction of one municipal government to another municipal government.

Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP)

A statutory plan, adopted by bylaw, which provides a land use strategy for the redevelopment of a specific area of land. These plans specifically address: neighbourhood public participation, transportation and noise attenuation, requirements, public transportation (if applicable), servicing infrastructure and capacities, recreation and open space, redevelopment levies (if applicable), architectural controls, neighbourhood population and housing types, schools and school population, the identification and protection of environmentally sensitive areas and locally significant environmentally sensitive areas.

Area Structure Plan (ASP)

A statutory plan, which describes land use, road networks, servicing, park locations, and public facilities within an undeveloped area of land within a municipality.

Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA)

ARPA unites province-wide advocates of recreation and parks into a proactive and effective force for building healthy citizens, their communities and their environments in Alberta.

Best Management Practices (BMP)

Practices or methods to manage stormwater, retaining as much of the natural runoff and absorption characteristics of a catchment area as required to minimize impacts on the watershed. The methods will address both water quantity and quality issues that are economically acceptable to all parties. These parties include the Province, the Municipality and relevant stakeholders, such as individual landowners.

Biophysical Impact Assessment (BIA)

BIA is an assessment of the likely biophysical impacts and changes to nature's services that a project may have. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that decision-makers consider biophysical impacts before deciding whether to proceed with new projects.

Buffer

A buffer consists of trees, shrubs, earth berming, open space, fencing or a combination thereof to provide visual screening, sound attenuation and/or separation between sites and districts.

Cemetery

Publicly owned and administered land base for burial and memorial purposes, developed as landscaped passive parkland.

City

The Municipal Corporation of the City of Spruce Grove, and where the context requires, means the area of land contained within the boundaries of the Municipality's corporate limits.

Community/ Conceptual Area Structure Plan (CASP)

CASP provide the link between the Spruce Grove City Plan and the ultimate design of neighbourhoods in the City. It shows, in conceptual form, the general layout of major sectors of the City by locating roads and other servicing corridors, open spaces, and general categories of land use.

Community Centre

The primary public activity centre within a community. Community centres are intended to provide a mix of public and commercial activities, including transit, provision for goods and services, community facilities, schools and open space to serve the needs of the community.

Community-level Pathway

Provides secondary routes within communities, linking residential areas to facilities such as neighborhood parks, schools, and other local community destinations. Local pathways may also serve as linkages to the regional pathway system and are generally asphalt or composed of granular material.

Community Needs Assessment

A decision-making tool used within the inner city or established suburbs to evaluate the need for proposed new open space and/or open space redevelopments by screening potential options against public demand, participation, opportunity, and fiscal assessments.

Community Parks

Community Parks are planned parks with a variety of active and passive opportunities. These parks are usually large in size containing soccer fields and/or baseball diamonds and serve a community area at least 1 -2 miles in radius.

Conceptual Scheme (Concept Plan)

A plan, adopted by bylaw, which relates a proposed development to future and existing development of adjacent lands and provides a strategy for subsequent redesignation, subdivision, and development of a specific area.

Constructed Wetlands

Designed and/or modified permanent water bodies that fluctuate with water drainage peaks but hold water at all times. Used to improve stormwater runoff quality through nutrient and sediment removal using vegetation, detention, settlement and other best management practices.

Contamination

The presence in soil, water, groundwater, air or structures of a material or condition that may adversely affect human health or the natural environment (e.g. soil, water, land, buildings). The intrusion of these undesirable elements may render a site inappropriate for certain land uses or types of development.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Design and use of the built environment that leads to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an overall improvement of quality of life.

Cultural Landscapes

Geographical areas that have been modified or influenced by human activity.

Day Use Areas

Lands designated for the daily use by the public for outdoor recreation purposes and may include uses and facilities such as parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, golf courses, campgrounds, and beaches.

Destination Recreation Parks

Park development and site programming that is undertaken to meet unique city-wide needs, including major festivals. There is a recreational and/or cultural emphasis in their use, design, development, and programming. They serve as in-city destinations for residents on half-day or day outings.

Downtown Open Space

Comprised of, but not limited to, publicly accessible parks, plazas, street edge and streetscapes with a mix of

hard and soft landscaping designed to beautify the city core and provide “green” respites from the heat, noise and congestion of the downtown area.

Dry Storm Ponds

Designed, low lying areas that temporarily fill with water in peak drainage conditions with controlled outflow rates. These sites are used to manage the peak volume and runoff rates of stormwater. The sites may be designed as multi-use facilities with sports field use when they are dry.

Easement

An acquired privilege or right of use or enjoyment which an individual, firm, corporation, person, unit of government, or group of individuals has in the land of another.

Eco-Industrial Park

An eco-industrial park or estate is a community of manufacturing and service businesses located together on a common property. Member businesses seek enhanced environmental, economic, and social performance through collaboration in managing environmental and resource issues. By working together, the community of businesses seeks a collective benefit that is greater than the sum of individual benefits each company would realize by only optimizing its individual performance (source:<http://www.indigodev.com/Ecoparks.html>).

Ecological Parks / Reserves

Ecological reserves (and parks) are established for the maintenance of biological diversity and are permanent sanctuaries (source: <http://www.ecorestores.bc.ca/erwhy.html>).

Environmental Open Space

Includes the Creek Valley System, Natural Environment Parks and Environmentally Significant Areas.

Environmental Reserve (under the Municipal Government Act)

A part of a parcel of land that is the subject of a proposed subdivision and is to be provided as environmental reserve as required by the subdivision authority if it consists of:

- a. A swamp, gully, ravine, coulee or natural drainage course,
- b. Land that is subject to flooding or is, in the opinion of the subdivision authority, unstable, or
- c. A strip of land, not less than 6 metres in width, abutting the bed and shore of any lake, river, stream or other body of water for the purpose of:
 - i. Preventing pollution, or
 - ii. Providing public access to and beside the bed and shore.

Environmentally Significant Area (ESA)

A natural area that has been inventoried prior to potential development and because of its natural features and characteristics is significant from an environmental perspective.

Escarpment

An extended linear topographical feature of relatively steep slope and significant change in elevation.

Established Community

Established neighborhoods and communities that are outside the defined inner city. They do not include the city's edge communities currently undergoing new development.

Floodplain/Flood Fringe

The lands abutting the floodway. The boundaries of the floodplain are indicated by floodwaters of a magnitude likely to occur once in 100 years.

Floodway

The creek channel and adjoining lands which would provide a pathway for flood waters in the event of a flood of a magnitude likely to occur once in 100 years.

Framework

The set of ideas, principles, and agreements that provides the basis of a plan.

Golf Course

Public golf courses owned by the City and operated by private owner.

Green Infrastructure

Includes municipal infrastructure related to water and wastewater systems, water management, solid waste management and recycling, and capital expenditures to retrofit or improve ecological functioning and quality of life for humans and wildlife.

Green Roofs

Green roof development involves the creation of “contained” green space on top of a human-made structure. A green roof system is an extension of the existing roof which involves a high quality water proofing and root repellent system, a drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium and plants. Green roofs are aesthetically pleasing, reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce carbon dioxide impact, reduce winter heat demand, reduce noise, remove nitrogen pollution in rain, etc.

Historical Resource

Any property, area, place, district, building, structure, site, neighborhood, scenic view-plain or other object having special historical, cultural, architectural or aesthetic value.

Inner City

The geographic boundary of the inner city communities, where there has been an evolution of land uses and housing mixes.

Joint Use Site

Municipal reserve lands owned jointly by the City of Spruce Grove and local School Boards through the Joint Use Agreement. Provisions concerning planning, development and maintenance of sites are included in the agreement. Sites may contain schools, playfields, community association facilities, recreation facilities, dry ponds, etc.

Land Use Bylaw (LUB)

The bylaw that divides a municipality into land use districts and establishes procedures for processing and deciding upon development applications. It sets out rules that affect how each parcel of land in a municipality may be used and developed.

Landscaping

The modification and enhancement of a site through the use of any or all of the following elements:

- (a) Soft landscaping consisting of vegetation such as trees, shrubs, hedges, grass and ground cover;
- (b) Hard landscaping consisting of nonvegetative materials such as brick, stone, concrete, tile and wood, excluding monolithic concrete and asphalt; and
- (c) Architectural elements consisting of wing walls, sculpture and the like.

Linear Park

A narrow open space area/park that is often in linear form containing a pathway or trail connecting adjacent parks or open spaces.

Maintenance Agreement

A formal agreement between the City and a project partner that defines who is responsible for maintaining park amenities when these costs are in excess of what the city regularly maintains (i.e. above base level maintenance). In the agreement the project partner agrees to perform the maintenance or pay for it to occur. It also specifies who is responsible for (and defines the mechanisms used to) remove the improvement and restore the site if the feature becomes unsafe or has reached the end of its useful lifecycle or if the partner no longer wants to support the required level of maintenance.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Establishes a mutually satisfactory relationship between the parties.

Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

A statutory plan that guides the future growth and development of a municipality as it relates to transportation, housing, economic activity, recreation, the environment, social issues and other matters.

Municipal Government Act (MGA)

The Municipal Government Act RSA 2000, Chapter M-26, and amendments thereto.

Municipal Reserve (MR)

Reserve land dedicated for park and open space purposes.

Municipal School Reserve (MSR)

Reserve land used for educational sports fields, community recreational sport fields and school building sites.

Natural Areas (Park) / Natural Environmental Parks (NEP)

An open space containing unusual or representative biological, physical or historical components, which, although it need not be completely undisturbed, either retains or has had re-established a natural character.

Natural Environment Park

A park classified as MR and/or ER, where the primary role is the protection of an undisturbed or relatively undisturbed area of land or water, or both, and which has existing characteristics of a natural/native plant or animal community and/or portions of a natural ecological and geographic system. Examples include wetlands, escarpments, riparian corridors, natural grasslands and woodlots.

Natural Open Space

Defined as undeveloped land left in its natural environment it often includes wetlands, steep hillsides, environmentally sensitive areas, creek and river corridors, and woodlots.

Naturalization

An alternate landscape management technique to conventional high maintenance landscapes. Natural processes of growth and change are less restricted and areas are allowed to return to a natural state.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks are the combination of tot lot/playgrounds and park designed for the primary purpose of non-organized recreation activities. These types of parks are generally small in size and offer children's play structures and picnic areas.

New Communities

The substantially unbuilt/undeveloped residential areas toward the edges of the city. Although unbuilt, planning policies are in place in all of these new communities areas prior to development.

Non-Statutory Planning Study

A non-statutory study that contains policies approved by Council but not adopted by bylaw.

Non-Traditional Open Space Uses

Uses that have a more specialized appeal in terms of participation rates than “traditional” activities such as ball, soccer and hockey. Programming for non-traditional open space uses is typically provided by specialized sports, recreational or user groups.

Off-Site Levies

A fee charged on development within a defined geographical area, typically for roadways and utilities.

Open Space

All lands not covered by structure or development that provides aesthetic or activity related value to the public.

Outdoor Joint Use Agreements

Outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties related to usage of facilities, capital costs and maintenance costs related to facilities.

Park

A specific-use open space area that is managed to provide opportunities for recreation, education, cultural or aesthetic use.

Parks & Open Space Master Plan (POSMP)

A document that expresses the public goals, objectives, needs and priorities for recreational facilities and protection of open space and parks.

Pathways and Trails

Designated areas for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized activities and serve as a means to linking various part of the community. Trails can serve single purpose or be multi-purpose serving a range of activities which may include mountain biking, rollerblading, walking and horseback riding.

Passive Recreation

Refers to activities that are more of an individual activity rather than a team activity, they usually are non-motorized, non-commercial, and non-competitive requiring little to no alteration to the natural landscape i.e. walking.

Performance Indicators

Measures of progress towards the vision for Spruce Grove.

Preservation

Designed to provide protection and maintenance of currently undisturbed natural areas and enhancement of existing natural features. Human access to these areas would be limited.

Protected Open Space

Open space that is subject to certain restrictions that limit the use of the lands and ability to transfer of the property such as conservation easements.

Public Utility Lot

Land required to be given under the Municipal Government Act for public utilities. A public utility is a system or works used to provide certain services for public consumption or benefit. Examples of public utilities include water, public transportation, irrigation, drainage, waste management and telecommunications.

Recreation

The activity that a person takes part in for pleasure or relaxation outside of the workplace. Recreation has different meanings to people, for some it is the physical activity of hiking, climbing or playing soccer, for others it is the intellectual activity of studying nature through birdwatching or photography. Both parks and open spaces provide for active and passive recreational opportunities respectively.

Recreational Open Space

One of the three major types of open space (along with environmental and urban design open space). Recreational open space is open space that is acquired primarily to provide places for accessible public recreation.

Regional Pathway System

A city-wide linear network that facilitates non-motorized movements for recreation and transportation purposes. The spine of the system parallels the major physical features of the river valleys park system, including waterways, escarpments and ravines. It connects communities by linking major parks, recreation facilities and natural features. The regional pathway system may also link other major community facilities such as schools, community centres and commercial areas. The regional pathway is hard-surfaced, typically asphalt and located off-street. It is a multi-use facility and no one user or type of user is to be given elevated status.

Regional Recreation Parks

Parks developed for general recreation. May consist of either natural or constructed features, or both. Regional Recreation Parks are located and designed to serve more than one community but less than the entire city. They usually accommodate multiple activities for half or full day outings. Major features and amenities include: riverbank escarpment, passive recreation areas, picnicking, winter recreation, tot lots, local and regional pathway connections, and sports field areas.

Creek Valley

Sloping area abutting the creek channel.

Right-of-Way / Roadway Greens

A type of open space located within road rights-of-way. In addition to mowed grasses, they commonly include amenities such as trees, pathways, benches, natural areas and, less commonly, flower beds, sculptures, playgrounds and play fields.

School Grounds

Are defined by the Municipal School Reserve (MSR) and can be under a joint-use agreement. The grounds can be owned either by the public or private school board.

Skate Park

Commonly called skateboard parks, although they accommodate in-line skating and other similar activities. Skate parks are usually cement structures with a series of moguls and edges to accommodate stunts and tricks.

Sports Fields

Developed open space providing educational and recreational opportunities for specialized sports activities; traditionally baseball, softball and soccer, with some fields for non-traditional uses including rugby, lawn bowling, cricket, field hockey, etc.

Sports Fields – Community Level

Educational and recreational sports field requirements for public elementary schools, public junior high schools, public elementary and junior high schools, separate elementary schools and separate elementary and junior high schools, as per City's "Development Guidelines and Standard Specifications—Landscape Construction."

Sports Fields – District Level

Educational and recreational sports field requirements for public and separate high schools as per the Site Planning Team's Joint Use Site Guidelines, as shown in the City's "Development Guidelines and Standard Specifications—Landscape Construction."

Sport Fields – City-Wide Level

Indoor and outdoor facilities that are available at dedicated sites. They have onsite staff and include Spruce Grove's major athletic parks. Both children and adult programs are offered at the city-wide facilities. They are built to accommodate advanced levels of play.

Stormwater Management

The planning, analysis, collection, storage and controlled discharge of urban stormwater runoff. A series of techniques is used to manage where and how much water passes through a system after a storm. The term "best management practices" is used to describe techniques that work in conjunction with the natural systems.

Sub-neighborhood Park

The smallest of the parks, it usually functions as a play area for small children or as a passive park. May be combined with a larger park.

Sustainable Development

Economic and social development within the limits required to sustain long-term environmental well-being. Such development ensures that our use of the environment and natural resources today does not harm the prospects for use by future generations.

Tourist Facility or Destination

A destination or attraction for the purposes of City owned direction signs and, in the opinion of the Approving Authority, which draws people regionally, for the purpose of entertainment, recreation, leisure, or cultural purposes.

Trails

Constructed linear paths with a granular surface and are generally located in natural areas. As a management tool they identify intended public routing and can formalize desire lines to minimize the impact on the natural environment.

Triple Bottom Line (TBL)

TBL captures an expanded spectrum of values and criteria for measuring organizational (and societal) success - economic, environmental and social.

Unprotected Open Space

Open space owned by individuals, private companies, groups or societies with the right to develop the lands as they wish, (e.g., private golf course).

Urban Agriculture

Is the practice of agriculture (include crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry activities) within or surrounding the boundaries of cities. The land used may be private residential land, public roadside land or river banks.

Urban Design Open Space

Open space where the main function is to contribute to the quality, form and function of the built environment through visual aesthetics, character, variety, sun allowances, noise/sight buffering, and public areas. Examples include roadway greens, escarpments, landscaped boulevards, sidewalks and urban plazas.

Urban Forest

The sum of all woody and associated vegetation in and around dense human settlement. It is the sum of street trees, residential trees, parks trees and green belt vegetation. It includes trees on unused public and private lands, trees in transportation and utility corridors and forests on watershed lands.

Urban Plaza

A place where the design, function and programming are its key characteristics and, therefore, it shall be maintained as a Class A park. The adjacent land uses, the plaza's unique features, interesting surface treatments, grade changes and seating contribute to its distinct identity and create a sense of place. It is an outdoor public space where cars are excluded. Its main function is for casual use by all Spruce Grove residents, regardless of ability, age, gender, culture or socio-economic status. However, it can also be used as a public gathering place for such activities as festivals, carnivals, art shows, exhibits, concerts, rallies and street markets. The three types of Plazas are:

- a. Downtown and Commercial District Plazas: These plazas contribute to the livability, character and vitality of the downtown and commercial districts, and primarily service nearby retail services and office buildings.
- b. Community Squares: These plazas contribute locally to a greater sense of community by their distinct identity and sense of place.
- c. City-wide Plazas: These centrally located and highly visible plazas contribute to a greater sense of community on a city-wide basis.

Utility Open Space

Classified as "miscellaneous open space," it includes undeveloped parklands, buffer strips, roadway greens, boulevards and medians, easement and utility rights-of-way.

Viewshed

Is an area of land, water, and other environmental elements that is visible from a fixed vantage point (source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viewshed>).

Walkability

Communities are designed in a manner that integrates and promotes daily walking in the lives of residents. The goal is to maximize the number of trips made on foot and make the experience enjoyable

Wet Storm Ponds

Constructed, permanent water bodies that fluctuate with water drainage peaks but hold a permanent level of water at all times. Site is managed for stormwater quantity and quality objectives. Live storage area may encourage vegetation, but is not necessarily vegetated. Depth may vary depending on site security and public access. Site may have restricted access.

Wetland

An area where standing water is retained for a portion of the year and unique vegetation and animals have adapted to the aquatic environment.

APPENDIX B REVIEW OF SPRUCE GROVE STATUTORY DOCUMENTS

City of Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Master Plan Final January, 2000

4.0 Plan Foundations

This POSMP uses the MDP parks and open spaces related goals as a basis for assessing what is needed in Spruce Grove. These goals include:

- To conserve and enhance the City's natural resources (urban forests, wetlands, wildlife habitat) through their integration with urban development.
- To create neighbourhoods which have individual identities, but are interlinked with one another to promote social interaction.
- To provide ongoing opportunities for community participation in community decision-making.
- To identify and protect natural vistas.
- To create opportunities for a broad range of social and aesthetic community experiences.
- To preserve important historical elements of the community, and integrate them with new development.
- To integrate local commercial development with other neighbourhood facilities to create community focal points.
- To ensure that community service facilities are appropriately located relative to their service populations.
- To recognize and enhance the role of community streets as potential social places in addition to their functional role in the urban transportation system.
- To ensure that future urban development accommodates a variety of transportation modes.
- To develop and maintain a linked, comprehensive open space system which integrates conservation areas, farmlands, community streets, and urban parks.
- To encourage diversity in neighbourhood living experiences.
- To recognize and provide a range of parks and recreation experiences varying in scale and service area.
- To promote Spruce Grove's potential as a tourism service centre.
- To encourage the provision of a full range of commercial, cultural, and recreational services and opportunities to the surrounding rural and urban communities.
- To cooperate with adjacent municipalities where mutual interests exist in planning, development, and the provision of municipal services.

Section 7.0 provides the recommended system requirements, and specifically:

7.2 identifies the system requirement issues facing Spruce Grove

- Need for future city-wide park space
- Continued expansion of the multi-use pathways system is demanded

7.3 identifies the need for partnerships

• All demands over the next ten year period cannot be met through local general taxation revenue, therefore there will be a need to support increased development through outside sources.

7.7 look at planning for open space issues

• Municipal reserve credit for trails and walkways – The degree to which open space for trails is granted municipal reserve credit should depend on the degree to which the facility serves a circulation as opposed to a recreation/amenity function.

• Timing of provision/development of site – Proper planning, the shared interest on the part of the City and the developer in the early provision of park sites, and the use of consistent cash contributions from all developers should reduce the need for any requirement that a site and facilities be provided once a certain number of lots have been developed.

Table 8.2 provides the City of Spruce Grove with general and specific actions to implement the issues discussed from previous sections. The table also provides who is responsible for what action

**City of Spruce Grove Municipal Development Plan
Amended Bylaw C-179-92
Adopted by City Council December 14, 1998 Bylaw C-327-98**

The MDP includes Part II Community Goals and Objectives all of which have a direct or indirect effect on the quality and preservation of parks and open space in Spruce Grove.

2.1 Open Space/Environment

Goals

2.1.1 To conserve and enhance the City's natural resources (urban forests, wetlands, wildlife habitat) through their integration with urban development.

2.1.2 To identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas, unique natural features, and unique or threatened species of flora and fauna.

2.5 Neighbourhood Character

Goals

2.5.1 To identify and protect natural vistas.

2.5.2 To create opportunities for a broad range of social and aesthetic community experiences.

3.0 Community Services

Goals

3.2 To provide appropriate community facilities and programs to offer Spruce Grove residents educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities.

3.5 To recognize and provide a range of parks and recreation experiences varying in scale and service area.

3.8 To ensure that community service facilities are appropriately located relative to their service populations.

4.1 Transportation

Goals

4.1.2 To recognize and enhance the role of community streets as potential social places in addition to their functional role in the urban transportation system.

4.1.3 To ensure that the railway remains a viable and functional part of the community.

6.0 Intermunicipal Matters

6.2 To cooperate in the conservation and enhancement of shared natural environmental assets.

6.3 To encourage the protection of rural vistas outside Spruce Grove's municipal boundary.

6.4 To cooperate with adjacent municipalities in the review of development proposals in the fringe and discourage incompatible land uses adjacent to the City.

Part III examines the Land Use Plan and Policies that pertain to the POSMP.

2.0 Open Space/Environment Policies

2.4 The City will encourage the permanent retention of productive and compatible agricultural areas integrated within urban development as buffers, transitional areas, and/or extensions of natural open space features.

2.5 The City will require area structure plans to identify the locations of significant types of vegetation, including woodlots, hedge rows, windbreaks and mature trees, and wherever feasible, propose methods for their integration into the urban landscape.

2.7 The City will require area structure plans to identify habitats of unique and/or threatened species of flora and fauna and to suggest appropriate measures for the management of these resources.

2.8 The City will require area structure plans to specifically address the future management of those environmental management areas identified in (Figure 2 – Future Land Use Plan). In order that these areas remain viable and retain their environmental and amenity value, appropriate buffering must be provided through area structure plans, subdivision layouts, and in municipal servicing designs.

2.9 The City will establish, and may require to be fenced, work limits to ensure that trees or wooded areas worthy of preservation are protected during development of adjacent areas.

2.11 The City will consult and coordinate planning activities with other municipalities and other government agencies to control the use of land adjacent to the City in order to protect significant environmental features, including views of rural areas.

2.12 The City will plan for optimum rather than maximum use levels of open space, thereby preventing over-use and environmental damage or deterioration.

2.13 The City will ensure, through the use of appropriate design criteria, that all forms of leisure development are compatible with their natural settings.

2.14 The City will cooperate with neighbouring communities in the management of shared environmental assets.

3.0 Neighbourhood Development Policies

3.3 The City will endeavor to ensure that new residential areas are designed to conserve land and energy.

3.6 The City will encourage the location of multiple unit housing in areas adjacent to community facilities, major roads, schools, recreation and commercial facilities, institutional buildings, or significant natural amenities.

4.0 Commercial Development Policies

4.2 The City will require that commercial development in the Highway 16A commercial corridor incorporate provisions for internal pedestrian and traffic movement, and substantial elements of landscaped open space.

4.8 Area structure plans will be required to designate appropriate locations for convenience and district commercial facilities. Generally, such facilities should be located along or at intersections of major roads, and should be combined with other public facilities and/or open space features to serve as a visual and activity focus within the community.

6.0 Community Character Policies

6.2 Area structure plans will be required to identify natural vistas and to describe the community design measures employed to ensure their preservation.

6.3 Development will be designed to respond to the natural landscape. Only topographical modifications necessary for the construction of buildings and services may be carried out so that as much topographical variation as possible is maintained to enhance the appearance of the development.

6.4 When considering a proposed development, the City may require that the developer enter into an agreement whereby only those trees which directly impede the construction of buildings and services may be removed. Removed trees are to be replaced by trees of sufficient number and maturity to enhance the appearance of the development at the time it is completed.

6.6 Adequate screening will be required when one land use may detract from the enjoyment and functioning of an adjoining land use. Such screening may include appropriate combination of the following:

- vegetation in the form of rows of trees and shrubs;
- grading; and
- architectural screening such as perforated or solid walls, fences, trellis work, or other structures.

6.8 The visual character of Highway 16A will continue to offer a sense of Spruce Grove's diversity (industrial, commercial, residential, and open space).

6.10 All new street furniture will be chosen and placed to visually enhance the general appearance of the area. Present street furniture that does not meet a high standard of design and appearance will be progressively replaced.

Part IV Community Services examines

2.0 Community Services Policies

2.2 The City, alone or in cooperation with other agencies, will, from time to time, review the needs of the people who live and/or work in Spruce Grove, including but not limited to the following services:

- parks and recreation;
- continuing education;
- health;
- libraries;
- personal social services;

- day care and nursery school;
- public assistance;
- cultural services and
- schools.

2.3 Neighbourhood and subdivision design will ensure that all parks and leisure areas are easily accessible from the residential areas served and that this access is clearly defined and visible to the public.

2.4 The City will ensure that a balanced system of park areas is provided with appropriate emphasis on neighbourhood, district, City-wide, and special use needs.

2.5 The City will require ten percent (10%) of the gross parcel of land being subdivided as municipal reserve, school reserve or municipal and school reserve less the land required to be provided as environmental reserve or land subject to an environmental reserve easement pursuant to Section 666 of the Municipal Government Act, 1994. A combination of land and money in lieu of reserve land will be considered by the City in limited circumstances only.

2.8 The City will utilize its open space policies and standards to ensure that sufficient open space will be provided for residents.

2.15 The City will require area structure plans to designate sites for schools, parks, protective services, and other community service facilities in such a way as to form a coherent focus for the community.

2.17 The City will support comprehensive school and park site design in new development areas.

Part V Servicing Infrastructure expands on the policies in place by the City of Spruce Grove for transportation and utility services.

2.0 Transportation Policies

2.12 The City will cooperate with developers and other agencies to develop a continuous pedestrian and bicycle circulation system which links residential areas, schools, commercial facilities, parks, and leisure facilities.

2.15 To accommodate interaction between neighbourhoods, local circulation networks should provide the maximum number of vehicular and pedestrian linkages compatible with the function of the surrounding major roadways.

3.0 Utility Services Policies

3.9 The City supports the use of utility corridors to minimize the impact of linear facilities by combining them, where feasible, in a single alignment.

The City of Spruce Grove

Land Use Bylaw

No. C-600-06

Adopted by Council October 1998

and Consolidated April 2006

Landscaping standards, as discussed in Section 36, (1) General, (b) "Vegetation existing on the site shall be preserved and protected or replaced.

(2) Planting Standards (a) The City of Spruce Grove Parks and Open Space Standards should be consulted for detailed landscaping drawings. (b) Tree mix of approximately sixty percent (60%) coniferous and forty percent (40%) deciduous shall be provided.

(3) Commercial District Landscaping (a) Trees or shrubs shall be provided in accordance with this Section, the number is determined on the basis of a minimum of one (1) tree or three (3) shrubs for every 60m² (645.ft²) of any required yard. (b) As required by the Development Officer, all required yards and all open spaces on the site excluding parking areas, driveways, outdoor storage and services areas shall be landscaped in accordance with the approved landscaping plan.

Industrial District Landscaping (a) The undeveloped portion of the site must be graded, contoured and seeded,

if not utilized for other purposes. (b) The developed portion of the site must be landscaped as in Subsection 3 above.

(4) Landscaping of City Boulevards - The owner of a site abutting a City boulevard is responsible for the initial excavating, backfilling, leveling to final grade, and seeding or to perform other works that may be necessary to construct a turf boulevard; the maintenance of the said boulevard is at the owner's expense.

Utility Easements Section 51 explains "Subject also to the conditions of a utility easement, no permanent structure other than a fence shall be constructed or placed on that utility easement unless (a) in the opinion of the Development Officer the said structure does not restrict access to the utility easement for the purpose of installation and maintenance of the utility;"

Design, Character and Appearance of Buildings and Structures Section 53, examines the importance of landscaping. (3) Pursuant to Sections 53(1) and (2), the Development Officer shall consider all of the following when reviewing development proposals in all districts (g) the use of landscaping should be encouraged to enhance the appearance of a development; (h) the existing trees and natural features should be preserved in new subdivisions and developments.

The general rules for any Residential District expect a minimum lot coverage.

Section 115 R-1D-Residential-Single Detached (16) Application for District Change to R-1D for Duplex Development (i) location and function of all open and identification of open space outside of the actual development that it is anticipated the residents of the project will use

Section 122 C-1-Commerical-City Centre District (3) Site Coverage – Coverage of all buildings another development may be one hundred percent (100%), provided that adequate provision is made for parking, loading, garbage and cardboard containment area, and landscaping. (14) Landscaping (a) Landscaping shall be in accordance with Section 36 of this Bylaw. (b) Sites within the Highway 16A Overlay District shall comply with the landscaping regulations set out in Section 133 of this Bylaw. (c) Where a landscaped area is required, it shall be in accordance with a landscape plan pursuant to Section 8 (2) of this Bylaw in conformity with the following standards: (i) all areas of a site not covered by buildings, parking or vehicular maneuvering areas shall be landscaped; (vi) all plant materials shall be of a species capable of healthy growth in Spruce Grove.

Section 123 C-2-Commerical-Transitional District (3) Site Coverage – There is no maximum site coverage requirement, provided that adequate provision is made for parking, loading, garbage and cardboard containment area, and landscaping. (16) Landscaping – Landscaping shall be in accordance with Section 36 of this Bylaw.

Section 124 C-3-Commerical Vehicle Oriented (13) Landscaping (a) Landscaping shall be in accordance with Section 36 of this Bylaw. (b) Sites within the Highway 16A Overlay District shall comply with the landscaping regulations set out in Section 133 of this Bylaw. (c) Where a landscaped area is required, it shall be in accordance with a landscape plan pursuant to Section 8 (2) of this Bylaw in conformity with the following standards: (i) all areas of a site not covered by buildings, parking or vehicular maneuvering areas shall be landscaped; (vi) all plant materials shall be of a species capable of healthy growth in Spruce Grove.

Section 125 C-4-Commerical-Neighbourhood Retail and Service (12) Landscaping – landscaping shall be in accordance with Section 36 of this Bylaw.

Section 127 M-1-General Industrial (16) Appearance (b) All yards shall be landscaped with trees, shrubs, and planted ground cover in accordance with the plans approved by the Development Officer.

Section 128 S-P-Semi-Public-Institutional and Section 129 P-1-Recreation-General-Recreation (3) Development Regulations for Permitted and Discretionary Uses – All site regulations shall be at the discretion of the Development

Officer. The design, siting, landscaping, screening, and buffering shall minimize and compensate for any objectionable aspects or potential incompatibility with development in abutting districts.

Section 131 DC-1-Direct Control-Comprehensive (4) Development Permit Information Requirements (i) location and function of all open and identification of open space outside of the actual development that it is anticipated the residents of the project will use

Section 132 BP-1-Business Park-Light (15) Appearance (c) In addition to the regulations contained in Section 36 of this Bylaw, a continuous landscape and screening area not less than 3 m (10ft) wide adjacent to a highway, an arterial roadway or a proposed arterial roadway to the satisfaction of the Development Officer. This landscaping and screening area may be interrupted for access ways or to provide the necessary pedestrian access for entering a building. (d) In addition to the regulations contained in Section 36 of this Bylaw, a continuous landscape and screening area not less than 2.5 m (8 ft) in width must be provided along all lot lines which do not abut a lot in a commercial, business park or industrial park.

Section 133 Highway 16A Corridor Overlay District (3) General Regulations (a) All applications for non-residential permits within the Overlay area shall be accompanied by a landscaping plan, unless a landscaping plan has already been prepared for the site to the satisfaction of the Development Officer. (b) The landscaping plan shall include the following: (iii) a plant material list identifying the name, quality, and size of plant material for both existing and new plants.

APPENDIX C SUMMARY OF SPRUCE GROVE STUDIES & STANDARDS

City of Spruce Grove, Engineering and Construction Standards Final Report April 2006

Design standards provide information regarding the standards governing subdivision design, servicing standards, design and construction approval processes and the as-built drawing submission requirements within the City of Spruce Grove. Section VIII – Landscaping provides in detail the type of trees, shrubs, etc that are permitted in Spruce Grove and how they should be placed.

City of Spruce Grove, Highway 16A Corridor Enhancement Final Report July 2001

This Plan "... provides a framework for developing a consistent and recognizable appearance throughout the corridor. The appearance applies to land use issues, development issues and general aesthetics". Section 4 and specifically subsection 4.1 and 4.2 provide rationale for the importance of landscaping and connecting the corridor with parts of Spruce Grove. Subsection 6.1 stresses the importance of implementing these ideas.

City of Spruce Grove, Master Drainage Report Final Report June, 1998

The Master Drainage Report provides various recommendations but two that stand out when examining the importance of parks and open space planning are:

- Review and refine the drainage concepts for future developments during the ASP and subdivision servicing stages of the industrial developments.
- Preserve the natural vegetation and tree cover in Dog Creek channel to reduce the risk of serious erosion occurring, and monitor the Dog Creek channel for signs of erosion and take corrective action as may be necessary.

The importance of incorporating open space into development is key to ensuring the proper draining of an area can occur without detrimental effects to adjoining land uses.

City of Spruce Grove, Strategic Plan 2005-2007 2005

In the Framework for Strategic Success one of the key themes is 'Building Community' and within that theme, two of the strategic objectives are:

- To maintain and enhance civic and community facilities, parks, open spaces and services contributing to an outstanding quality of life.
- To support neighbourhood beautification.

A second theme is 'Planning for Growth' which examines the desire:

- To ensure adequate infrastructure and service structure to meet the current and projected growth demands
- To foster attractive and varied community design.

A third and final theme as it relates to park and open space planning is 'Delivering Sustainable Services' one of the strategic objectives being:

- To actively pursue a clean environment and green community.

City of Spruce Grove, Sustainable Development Charter
Final
February 2004

The charter itself shows the commitment that the City of Spruce Grove has towards ensuring its parks and open spaces are protect and cared for. In particular three commitments stand out:

- Create a liveable community.
- Improve the quality of our environment.
- Protect and enhance natural areas and green space.

City of Spruce Grove, Transportation Study
Final Report
July, 2000

Section 8.7 Streetscaping provides an overview of what the City of Spruce Grove defines streetscaping as and what it looks like. "Streetscaping is a means of enhancing the environment to those users through physical features which can include all or a combination of elements such as traffic signs and signals, guide signs, utility poles and cabinets, hydrants, landscaping / vegetation, street furniture, fencing, lighting and many others". More importantly this section suggests that, "procedures should be developed by the City for effective integration of streetscaping strategies within, and adjacent to, road rights-of-way".

Section 8.8 General Municipal Plan Overview provides a few key objective statements that have a direct effect on the open space environment:

- Under point A (supports and enhances the City's growth strategy) – "...the Transportation System Plan will take into account the economic level of service, social and environmental aspects of alternative transportation strategies".
- Under point B (supports and enhances the development and retention of a viable Downtown) – "...full consideration should be given to maintaining the environmental, aesthetic, and recreational attributes of the Downtown".
- Under point F (provide ancillary transportation facilities such as bikeways and pedways for commuter and recreational use) – "...provide pedestrian facilities within residential areas to provide access to community facilities for recreational or other uses." "...develop and maintain a multi-use Trail System for bike and pedestrian recreational purposes".

City of Spruce Grove, Urban Forest Management Plan
Final Report
December, 2004

The Urban Forest Management Plan recommends improvements in the short-term (5 years) to both GroveCo 60 and Cooke Lands with regards to "... improving existing trail systems and planning new ones".

Columbus Park, Concept Plan
Final Report
July, 1997

This report shows the financial cost of having to move an existing park to a new site. It is likely this would not happen again as it is hard to re-establish a park in a new location when many of the residents identify with the original location.

**Grovecro Park, Master Plan
Final Report
December, 2003**

The Plan "... identifies the best use of the Grovecro site responding to existing environmental conditions, community needs and future adjacent development". Originally Grovecro was to be a major sports facility but because of adjacent land uses and that some of the aspects were integrated into other areas earlier it was redeveloped to meet the current and future needs. The flexibility of large recreational sites being reworked is key in keeping with open space planning.

**Hilldowns, Grove Drive West, and Service Club Park, Neighbourhood Parks Design Report
Final Report
February, 2005**

The outcome of this particular Report shows support for the goals and objectives set out by the City of Spruce Grove. The three neighbourhood parks are being planned to meet the needs of residents as well as the overall POSMP.

**Spruce Grove District Park, Business Plan Analysis and Design – DRAFT
Work in Progress
January, 2006**

The reasoning behind this Report is to provide the backup and research needed for Spruce Grove to undertake "...a premier complex that will attract both participants and spectators to the sports of soccer and football". It would be vital to the POSMP to ensure this District Park is linked to other passive and active recreational uses.

APPENDIX D REVIEW OF ASPs IN SPRUCE GROVE

Location / Name	Land Use	Rec. / Trail Plan	Concept Plan	Policy	Notes
Golden Spike Business Park ASP	General Industrial, MR	x	x	x	Section 4.3 (Municipal Reserve) – land to be used for future ball diamonds. No reference to open space, pedestrian linkages or otherwise
Grove Meadows ASP	Residential (SF/MF), Commercial, MR	✓	✓	✓	Section 4.0 (Rational) – examines the need to reduce the park size while ensuring the 10% MR requirement is still maintained.
Heritage Estates ASP	Residential (SF/MF), MR	✓	✓	✓	Section 3.0 (Development Concept) – pedestrian trail will connect to Tri Leisure Centre connecting the east-west of the City. Combines future and current trail system.
McLeod Avenue West Commercial Corridor ASP	Commercial, MR as Recreational	✓	✓	✓	Section 4.1 (The Land Use Pattern) – The Dog Creek MR area is to be for passive recreational uses. Pedestrian trails are also established to connect creek valleys.
Mobile Home Development (Spruce Woods Villa) ASP	Residential (SF), MR	x	x	x	10% MR was given to the City of Spruce Grove. No detail on the use of MR or potential linkages.
North Central ASP	Residential (MF), MR, ER	✓	✓	✓	Section 1.0 (Purpose) – parks and open space considered to ensure a large portion of existing tree stands could be retained. Concept plans provides a proposed trail linking the various MR, ER and open space areas.
Railway Avenue ASP	General Industrial, MR	x	x	✓	Section 8.0 (Urban Design) – briefly states that the LUB should be adhered to. No direction on linkages of MR to adjacent parcels.
SE 33-52-27-4 (Schutz) ASP	General Industrial, Commercial, EMA, MR	x	x	✓	Section 3.1 (Land Use) – the environmental management area (EMA) is to protect and preserve the creek and portion of wetland but does not explain how. The MR could be dedicated to accommodate sports fields – unsure if this in fact has happened. No discussion about linkages or trail development.
Seniors Co-op Housing (Grove Seniors Village) ASP	Residential (SF/MF), Private park, 2 parkettes	✓	✓	x	Section 6.0 (Proposed Development) – 2 small parkettes on the east side for passive recreation while linking Dog Creek ravine.

Southeast Spruce Grove ASP	General Industrial, MR	✓	✓	✓	Section 2 (Development Concept) – MR could be taken as land and incorporate the area into the future trail network while acting as a buffer between various degrees of industrial land use.
Spruce Village ASP	Residential, Commercial (minor), Pocket parks		✓	✓	Section 4.0 (Policy Context) Section 5.1 (Concept) – a community park to serve as a “village focus”, as well as provide pocket parks to link neighbourhoods.
Spruce Woods ASP	Residential (SF/MF), MR	✓	✓	✓	Section 2.0 (Proposed Amendments) 10% MR requirement will be used to provide future park. Open to linking community with Heritage Estates ASP to create walkable trails on ROW.
West Area ASP	Residential (SF/MF), Commercial, MR, ER	✓	✓	✓	Section 3.1 (Development objectives) – go into great detail on how to integrate and protect open space. Heavy emphasis on connecting TriLeisure Centre with pedestrian networks. Protection of Atim Creek area.
West Central ASP	Residential (SF/MF), Institutional, Commercial, MR, Parks	✓	✓	✓	MR will protect environmental area. Pedestrian linkages have been thoroughly thought out and in possible combination with stormwater.

APPENDIX E SUMMARY OF PLANS ADJACENT TO SPRUCE GROVE

Parkland County, Land-Use Bylaw Bylaw #15-00 June, 2006

Section 49 – Subdivision of Land

5. In the design of a multi-parcel subdivision, the following is required:

(g) consideration of the provision of open space in the form of municipal and/or environmental reserve. The design should allocate lands for open space that would merit use as open space and integrate open spaces in adjoining subdivisions.

Parkland County, Municipal Development Plan Bylaw #38-98 September, 1998

Section 7 – Environment

Objectives

(f) promote the use of suitable lands for parks and open space

(g) utilize municipal and environmental reserve provisions, and other suitable measures, to facilitate the provision of open space.

Policies

7.1 Parkland County will guide the use and development of land to conserve the quality of the environment.

7.2 Parkland County will encourage the subdivision, development and use of land to reflect the characteristics and capability of the land and surrounding lands, and resources related thereto.

7.6 For the purposes of this Plan, Parkland County considers the following to be environmentally significant sites and areas:

(e) major community parks,

7.8 Parkland County will endeavor to conserve, as much as possible and practical, environmentally significant areas by:

(d) providing open space, including integrated open space corridors,

(g) dedicating municipal and environmental reserves,

7.10 Parkland County recognizes the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Pembina River Valley as important open space and conservation corridors, but their use will be guided in a manner consistent with the ownership of land and the capabilities and constraints of the valley.

7.15 When there is sufficient need, Parkland County may consider the provision of one or more additional major community parks to complement the Chickakoo Lake Recreation Area.

7.16 In any residential subdivision, Parkland County may require money in place of reserve lands if the dedication of land as reserve lands is not warranted due to site characteristics, the proposed low density of the subdivision and the unlikelihood of the expansion or intensification of the subdivision.

7.17 If open space is required through dedication of reserve lands, the design of the residential subdivision should allocate reserve lands for open space that would merit use as open space and integrate, where possible, with open spaces in adjoining subdivisions. Since circumstances vary from one multi-lot subdivision to another (e.g. topography, vegetation, site sensitivities, development densities, etc.), outline plans will be required to address

the provision of open space. If dedication of reserve land is to be required, Parkland County will normally require the dedication of municipal or environmental reserve at the time of the initial subdivision approval, but may defer dedication to a later phase if circumstances warrant.

Section 9 – Implementation, Review and Amendment Policies

9.5 In order to consider a redesignation, subdivision or development application, or to generally provide directions for land use change in an area, Parkland County may require the applicant to prepare for consideration by the County an area structure plan, an outline plan, or revisions to an existing plan, to provide the details of intended directions regarding land use, utility services, roads, open space and other matters pertaining to the subject lands, and where necessary the surrounding lands.

9.7 In considering a proposal to redesignate, subdivide or develop land, the following matters should be considered:

(i) provision of open space in terms of public access and use, where applicable,

Town of Stony Plain, Land-Use Bylaw
Bylaw #1166/LUO/94
1994

Section 55 – Stream Course Protection Overlay

The stream course protection overlay is designed to protect and preserve the Town's stream courses and drainage parkways. The stream courses provide a drainage function and also represent a natural amenity feature within the Town which serves to integrate major open space and park facilities.

Policies

55.4 Regulations

(c) Developers of a multi-lot residential subdivision including 10 or more lots shall pay to the Town the amount required to construct the relevant segment of the Town's comprehensive trail linkage system as part of their development.

Town of Stony Plain, Municipal Development Plan March, 2005

Section 4.2 – Future Land Use Concepts – Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

... Existing parks and natural areas associated with Atim Creek will continue to be linked through greenways and multi-purpose trails connecting parks, recreation facilities, school sites and other activity areas. The 2005 Trail Master Plan makes provision for an inter-municipal trail link to provide a connection utilizing the Stony Plain trail system to connect with the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre in Spruce Grove.

Section 6 – Environmental Management

Policies

6.3 Where possible the Town of Stony Plain shall require as part of the plan of subdivision process, that sustainable natural areas be integrated into the design of new development areas to form part of the linked and integrated parks and open space system, including the retention of natural corridors and stormwater ponds to form continuous greenways.

Section 7 – Residential Development and Neighbourhood Design

Policies

7.13 Through the ASP and subdivision processes, ensure that residential neighbourhoods are designed and developed in a manner to make them safe, attractive, and well serviced through the following design principles:

k) the design should be integrated into the Town-wide multi-use trail systems by linking residential areas with open

space and activity nodes through municipal, school, and environmental reserves, public utility lots, planned trails, and other amenities;

l) design should provide adequate parks and open space to service the neighbourhood, preferably in the form of larger centralized park areas which are more usable and easier to maintain;

Section 12 – Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Trails and Schools

Objectives

- strive to meet the recreational, cultural and educational needs of the community;
- ensure that parks, open spaces and facilities are responsive to demographic and leisure trends;
- promote the idea of a linked parks and open space system that is environmentally sensitive and sustainable;
- require municipal and environmental reserve dedication during the subdivision process;
- work in partnership with neighbouring municipalities, service clubs and other organizations to meet the parks and recreation needs of the community;
- collaborate in preparing and implementing locational criteria and standards for new school sites; and
- combine wherever possible new school sites with neighbourhood parks.

Policies

12.1 For the purpose of establishing desirable standards for parks and open space within the Town of Stony Plain a guideline of 4.0 hectares (9.89 acres) per 1,000 persons shall be considered adequate and reasonable. In making this calculation, lands taken as municipal and environmental reserve and other public parks and open space available for public recreation and enjoyment will be counted.

12.2 The Town of Stony Plain should plan, organize and develop parks and open space in the Town according to a hierarchy of parks, which classifies parks and open space according to their varying recreational purposes and corresponding size, which are neighbourhood (0.40–0.81 hectares), community (0.81 - 2.02 hectares) district (2.02 – 4.05 hectares), and regional parks (4.05+ hectares).

12.3 Parks, natural areas, school sites and recreation facilities should be developed in a pattern which provides connections to a continuous Town-wide trail system to form greenways.

12.4 The Town of Stony Plain shall ensure that trail development in the Town, in accordance with the principles and policies contained in the 2005 Trail Master Plan and shall require developers to identify alignments, dedicate land, and contribute to the construction of the trail system.

12.5 The Town of Stony Plain should ensure that the location, site planning and development of parks, open spaces, and trail connections consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

12.7 The Town of Stony Plain shall require the dedication of 10% of land to be subdivided, or cash in lieu of land, for municipal reserves (MR). Within residential areas the dedication of land is preferred. In addition, the Town of Stony Plain may require additional municipal reserve allocations in accordance with the provisions of Section 668 of the Municipal Government Act.

12.8 The Town of Stony Plain may consider providing up to 50% municipal reserve credit for that area located between the 1:100 year flood line level and the 1:25 year flood line level of stormwater dry and wet pond facilities provided that:

- neighbourhood, community and district level service requirements elsewhere in the neighbourhood are not compromised;
- the proposed municipal reserve credit is required to be a usable and functional public space;
- the developer agrees to provide trail surfacing, landscaping, other structures or amenities to the Town; and
- there is an identified need in the community for this type of recreation.

Section 14 – Intermunicipal Planning and Regional Cooperation
Policies

14.5 The Town of Stony Plain shall endeavour to coordinate roadway and municipal servicing requirements with Parkland County and the City of Spruce Grove. This could include, but not necessarily be limited to roadways, transit, stormwater management, water, sanitary sewer and trail and open space linkages.

APPENDIX F TOOLS FOR MUNICIPALITIES: CONSERVE PARK & OPEN SPACE

TOOLS FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO CONSERVE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

(Adapted from Ducks Unlimited – North American Waterfowl Management Plan where it was adapted from the Environmental Law Centre's (Arlene Kwasniak) contribution to Conserving Edmonton's Natural Areas: A Framework for Conservation Planning in an Urban Landscape (Alberta Environmental Network and City of Edmonton 2001) (by Westworth Associates Environmental Ltd., The Dagny Partnership, the Land Stewardship Centre of Canada and the Environmental Law Centre)

CATEGORY 1 – DESIGNATION TOOLS

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Sale to and establishment by the federal government as a national park, park reserve, national historic site, migratory bird sanctuary or national wildlife area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High degree of protection • Difficult to undo • Flexible protection • Federal government carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement, less costly to City and developer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on action from the federal government • Provincial government must agree • Costly to the federal government • Difficult to meet criteria 	See the <i>Canada National Parks Act</i> , the <i>Canada Wildlife Act</i>
Gift to and establishment by the federal government as a national park, park reserve, national historic site, or national wildlife area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High degree of protection • Difficult to undo • Flexible protection • Federal government carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City and developer • Tax advantages if a gift of capital property • Could be an ecological gift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on action from the federal government • Provincial government must agree • For best tax benefits must qualify as an ecological gift • Costly to the land owner • Difficult to meet criteria 	See the <i>Canada National Parks Act</i> , the <i>Canada Wildlife Act</i>
Sale to and designation by the provincial government as a provincial park, wildlands park, recreation area, ecological reserve, natural area, wilderness area or wildlife sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying degrees of protection depending on designation • Some designations are difficult to undo • Flexible protection • Provincial government carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City and developer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on action from the provincial government • Costly to the provincial government • Difficult to meet criteria 	See the <i>Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act</i> , the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> and the <i>Wildlife Act</i>

CATEGORY 2 – SALES AND PURCHASE TRANSACTIONS

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Sale to the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible protection • High degree of protection if City agrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly for the City • Land owner must be willing to sell the land • City free to develop land in future • Does not bind future owners 	
Sale of Conservation Easement to City or other Government Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible protection • High degree of protection • Binds future owners • Less costly than sale of land itself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly to the City or other government recipient • Easement must fit within purpose set out in s. 22.1(2) of EPEA • Easement can be terminated by agreement or by the Minister of Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act(EPEA)</i> • The City, Alberta or government agencies qualify to accept a grant of a conservation easement.
Sale to an ENGO (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible • Unlikely to be undone • ENGO carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City and developer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly to the ENGO • Land owner must be willing to sell the land 	
Sale of Conservation Easement to ENGO (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Terms of the agreement can be modified by agreement • Binds future owners • ENGO carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City and developer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly to the ENGO who must pay market value for the easement • Easement must fit within a purpose set out in s. 22.1(2) of EPEA • Easement can be terminated by agreement or by the Minister of Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act(EPEA)</i> • The ENGO must be a "qualified organization" as set out in s. 22.1(1)(e)(iv) of EPEA.

CATEGORY 3 – GIFTS

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Gift to City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible protection • Tax benefits if a gift of capital property • Could be an ecological gift • High degree of protection if City agrees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly to Owner • Land owner must be willing to give the land • For best tax benefits must qualify as an ecological gift • City free to develop land in future if not an ecological gift • Does not bind future owners if not an ecological gift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ecological gift must be land that is certified by the federal Minister of the Environment to be ecologically sensitive land. • A sale, transfer or land use change of land donated as an ecological gift without the approval of the federal Minister of Environment will give rise to a tax penalty
Gift of Conservation Easement to City or other Government Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible protection • High degree of protection • Binds future owners • May be tax deductible if capital property • Could be an ecological gift • Less costly than sale of land itself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easement must fit within a purpose set out in s. 22.1(2) of EPEA • For best tax benefits must qualify as an ecological gift • Costly to land owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act(EPEA)</i> • An ecological gift can be an easement if certified by the Minister of the Environment to be ecologically sensitive land the conservation and protection of which is important to the preservation of Canada's environmental heritage.
Gift to an ENGO (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Certain • May be tax deductible if capital property • Could be an ecological gift • ENGO carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City and developer • High degree of protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costly to Owner who gives up the difference between market value of the land and the value of any tax deduction for a gift to charity • For best tax treatment must qualify as an ecological gift • Land owner must be willing to give the land 	<p>An ecological gift must be land that is certified by the Minister of the Environment to be ecologically sensitive land. The beneficiary of the gift must be a registered charity one of the main purposes of which is the conservation and protection of Canada's environmental heritage.</p>
Gift of Conservation Easement to ENGO (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Terms of the agreement can be modified by agreement • May be tax deductible if capital property • Could be an ecological gift • High degree of protection • ENGO carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City and developer • Binds future owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easement must fit within a purpose set out in s. 22.1(2) of EPEA • For best tax treatment must qualify as an ecological gift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act(EPEA)</i> • The ENGO must be a "qualified organization" as set out in s. 22.1(1)(e)(iv) of EPEA.

CATEGORY 4 – PERSONAL, TERM AND COMMON LAW PARTIAL INTERESTS

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Voluntary action by owner to refrain from or limit development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to undo • Expensive to land owner • Does not bind future owners • Limited protection 	
Lease to City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible • Unlikely to be undone during term of lease • City carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be costly to City • Leases usually must be of an entire parcel and not to part of a parcel • Land owner must be willing to lease land • No protection after term expires 	Must be registered at Land Titles if for over three years in order to bind future purchasers
Lease to ENGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Flexible • Unlikely to be undone during term of lease • ENGO carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement; less costly to City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be costly to ENGO • Leases usually must be of an entire parcel and not to part of a parcel • Land owner must be willing to lease the land • No protection after term expires 	Must be registered at Land Titles if for over three years in order to bind future purchasers
License to City or ENGO (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner could give a license to enter onto land to carry out a conservation program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not an interest in land, so does not bind future purchasers • Could be costly to City or ENGO • No protection after term expires 	
Profit a Prendre to City <i>(right to enter onto land and take some “profit” of the soil)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner could give City exclusive right to trees or other vegetation while City holds right, no one else may remove vegetation • City carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement • High degree of protection if rights not exercised • Could be for a term or be granted in perpetuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be costly to City to purchase right • Conservation goal only realized if City chooses not to exercise right • Land owner must be willing to sell a profit a prendre 	Profits a prendre are interests in land and bind subsequent purchasers if registered on title
Profit a Prendre to ENGO <i>(right to enter onto land and take some “profit” of the soil)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owner could give ENGO exclusive right to trees or other vegetation while ENGO holds right, no one else may remove vegetation • ENGO carries out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement so less costly to City • High degree of protection if rights not exercised • Could be for a term or be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be costly to ENGO to purchase right • Conservation goal only realized if ENGO chooses not to exercise right • Land owner must be willing to sell a profit a prendre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profits a prendre are interests in land and bind subsequent purchasers if registered on title • May exist in gross, meaning, no need for a dominant tenement as in easements and restrictive covenants

	granted in perpetuity		
Common law Easement from owner regarding neighbouring land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binds future owners • May contain positive or negative covenants • Less expensive than sale of land itself • Could be for a term or be granted in perpetuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easement on a parcel (servient tenement) must benefit another land (dominant tenement) • Can be undone by owner of the dominant tenement 	See ss.71 & 72 of <i>Land Titles Act</i>
Restrictive Covenant regarding neighbouring land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binds future owners • Less expensive than sale of land itself • Could be for a term or be granted in perpetuity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restriction on one parcel (servient tenement) must benefit another parcel (dominant tenement) • Covenants can only be negative and not positive • Can be undone by owner of dominant tenement • Can be removed by the Court in the public interest 	See s.52 of <i>Land Titles Act</i>

CATEGORY 5 – ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING TOOLS, TRADITIONAL

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Municipal Reserve required by City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be required by the subdivision authority as a condition for subdivision • Simple • Not costly to municipality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is only triggered by an application for subdivision • Amount of land is limited by ss 666 and 668 of Municipal Government Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See ss. 661 - 670 of <i>Municipal Government Act</i> • Municipal reserve is dedicated without compensation
Environmental Reserve required by City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be required by the subdivision authority as a condition for subdivision • High degree of protection • Simple • Difficult to undo • Not costly to municipality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is only triggered by an application for subdivision • Must comply with s. 664(1) of MGA so not apply to all environmentally sensitive land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See s. 664 of <i>Municipal Government Act</i> • Environmental reserve is dedicated without compensation
Environmental Reserve Easement required by City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the owner and city agree can replace the environmental reserve • High degree of protection • Simple • Flexible • Not costly to municipality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is only triggered by an application for subdivision • Costly to the developer as the easement is granted without compensation • Must comply with s. 664 of MGA so not apply to all environmentally sensitive land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See s. 664(2) & (3) of <i>Municipal Government Act</i> • Environmental reserve easement is dedicated without compensation • Title stays in name of developer
Use of zoning or other exercising of municipal authority involving downzoning to regulate land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses the City Land Use Bylaw and zoning powers • Simple • Flexible • Binds future owners unless changed by City • If a legitimate use of zoning powers no compensation is payable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be politically difficult for the City • Requires the definition of new land use category • Can be changed by City • Downzoning must be in pursuit of long term planning objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See s. 640 of <i>Municipal Government Act</i> • Caselaw has shown that there is ample scope to downzone land for protection of environment without having to pay any compensation.

CATEGORY 6 – ADMINISTRATIVE / PLANNING NOVEL

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Conservation easement instead of environmental or municipal reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be more flexible than municipal or environmental reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be discharged by the Minister of Environment in the public interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act</i>, s. 22.1 • Title remains in the landowner
Formal transfer of development potential by City to developer from one parcel to another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable • Cost Effective • Complex if possible • Flexible • Could have high degree of protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require legislative changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not specifically anticipated by existing legislation
Informal transfer of development potential by City to developer from one parcel to another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable • Cost effective • Simple • Flexible • Could have high degree of protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be legally challenged if part of process is City taking reserves in excess of those technically allowed by law in exchange for approval of other development • Is voluntary • Owing to novelty of tool, may be difficult to get City' staff and Council "on-side" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Informal" means that current legislation does not specifically authorize transfers of development potential • "Potential" is used instead of "right" since all relevant development is subject to municipal regulatory approvals
Bareland Condominium (unit owners own a common interest in a portion of parcel}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible • Allowed by current legislation • Unit owners manage natural area for mutual benefit • Could use in conjunction with a conservation easement over common area to better protect natural values 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See <i>Land Titles Act</i> and <i>Condominium Properties Act</i>
Bonusing (City approving authority provides added subdivision or development potential, for example, density, in return for protecting an area.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible • Unlikely to be undone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be legally challenged if part of process is City taking reserves in excess of those technically allowed by law in exchange for approval of other development, e.g. greater density • Is voluntary • Owing to novelty of tool, may be difficult to get City' staff and Council "on-side" 	
Building scheme restrictive covenants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binds future owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covenants may only be negative and not positive • Can be removed by the Court in the public interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been used in Strathcona County in a subdivision to protect natural values in conjunction with conservation easements

CATEGORY 7 – REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS

Tool	Advantages & Benefits	Disadvantages & Costs	Comments
Municipality's general bylaw making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could regulate many aspects of land uses (e.g. Surrey BC has a tree cutting bylaw) • Can protect land before subdivision and development stage • Flexible protection • City must carry out monitoring, upkeep and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have Council on side • Could be unpopular with landowners • Could be challenged if conflicts with Provincial regulation or goes beyond municipal jurisdiction 	See the Part I, Division 1, <i>Municipal Government Act</i>
Municipal taxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In limited circumstances could be used to lower or exempt taxes where landowner helps realize natural area municipal policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemption or reduction only allowed by Municipal Government Act in limited circumstances 	

APPENDIX G STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Public Consultation

Using the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, Dillon has identified the different techniques and level of consultation for this project.

Collaboration

Stakeholder interviews will be conducted throughout the process during a number of visits to The City or via telephone. We will interview individuals or representatives from major stakeholder groups in an effort to better understand their key issues, opportunities, and concerns.

Involve

Concept Plan Workshops will be conducted with internal staff and external users and the general public. We will present a series of base maps illustrating the existing open space plan with known constraints and areas of opportunity. Participants will help identify open spaces and linkages.

Key stakeholder user groups have been identified and they will receive a direct invitation to participate. The general public will receive an invitation to participate as part of the information bulletin and updates to the website. Space will be limited so those that wish to participate must RSVP.

Inform

Information bulletins will be used to keep the general public informed about the project. These bulletins will be issued at key milestones and can be posted to The City's website and/or provided through an email contact list to key stakeholders.

Inform/Involve

Spruce Grove Information Fair, August 31, 2006

Dillon will provide information on the project, along with a list of opportunities to participate in the project. This will include providing email information for regular updates.

Collaboration

Meeting with the Recreation Board for their input into the process and draft plan. Meeting with the Open Space Management Team for their input into the process and draft plan.

Involve/Empower

At the Public Hearing we will make a short presentation to Council regarding the P&OSMP and answer questions from Council and/or the Public.

Increased Level of Participation

←—————→				
INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Public Participation Goals:				
Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public:				
We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Techniques Used:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Bulletins (3) • Web site Updates • Public Notification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to provide comment thru email, phone, in person • Public Hearing of Council • Trade Show • Information Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept Plan Workshops (2) • Open House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation Board • Open Space Committee • Key Stakeholder Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council approves Plan

IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum
 Developed by the International Association for Public Participation

Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholder	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
1. City of Spruce Grove Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Development Coordinator	X	X	X	X	
2. City of Spruce Grove Council	X	X	X	X	X
3. Recreation Board	X	X	X	X	
4. Community Groups – <input type="checkbox"/> Kinsmen/Kinnettes <input type="checkbox"/> Rotary Club <input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Lions Club <input type="checkbox"/> Other	X	X	X		
5. The Public	X	X	X		
6. Environmental Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Forest Wardens <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Game	X	X			
7. Cultural Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts Council <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Society <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor Cultural Services	X	X			
8. Health and Wellness Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Health (health unit) <input type="checkbox"/> FCSS Staff <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP/Community Policing	X	X			
9. Senior Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Age Club <input type="checkbox"/> Legion <input type="checkbox"/> FCSS	X	X			
10. Neighbours/Partners <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland County <input type="checkbox"/> Stony Plain <input type="checkbox"/> TLC <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen Catholic School Board <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland School Board	X	X			
11. Special Interest/Sport Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Parkland Racers Ski Club <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Football <input type="checkbox"/> ITAL Soccer <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Soccer <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Burst Softball <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Seekers Snowmobile Club <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Ball <input type="checkbox"/> PLAY Society	X	X			
12. Developers and Builders	X	X			
13. Others who Deem Themselves to be Affected	X	X			

APPENDIX H CONSULTATION NEWSLETTERS & INVITATION

THE CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE

PARKS & OPEN SPACE NEWSLETTER #1

APRIL 2006



Parks & Open Space Master Plan

What will Spruce Grove look like 100 years from now? Will the landscapes of the city resemble anything that is familiar to the residents today? Just as we need places to live, work, and shop, we also need open space and recreation lands. These areas preserve the quantity and quality of our water supply, provide wildlife habitat, protect our homes from flooding, and provide opportunities for healthy outdoor activities.

What is a Parks & Open Space Master Plan?

A Parks and Open Space Master Plan will be more than words on paper. It will frame a vision for what the City's parks and open spaces can offer residents and visitors tomorrow and in perpetuity.

This plan will provide policies, standards and guidelines that will guide City administration to develop new programs and plan for future open space, parks, and pathways. It will reflect the aspirations of both Spruce Grove residents, present and future, and define the opportunities for Spruce Grove parks, open spaces and trails.

What would you like to see in the Plan?

We would like to ask the citizens of Spruce Grove to provide their ideas and vision for the future of parks and open space. We commit to keeping you informed through the website and newsletters like this one. We encourage you, as citizens, to provide your comments through email, or participation in the various consultation events.

Public Consultation Process

Newsletter #1

City Website Updates

Concept Plan Workshops

Key Stakeholder Interviews

Newsletter #2

Open House

Public Hearing

For more information, contact:

Lindsey Butterfield, ACP, MCIP

Project Manager

The City of Spruce Grove

Ph: (780) 962-7634

Email: lbutterfield@sprucegrove.org

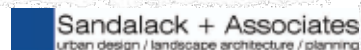
Jamal Ramjohn, ACP, MCIP

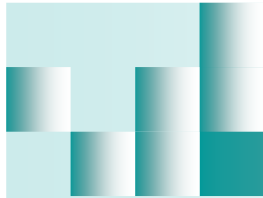
Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan

Consultant

Ph: (403) 215-8880 ext.8884

Email: jramjohn@dillon.ca





THE CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE

PARKS & OPEN SPACE NEWSLETTER #2

MAY 2006



Parks and Open Space Master Plan Well Underway

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan project began in April 2006 with the collection of background information, a historical resource inventory of the city, and the implementation of the public consultation process.

On the 27th of April, a workshop was conducted with the City of Spruce Grove Recreation Committee. This provided the team with a great start to finding out where Spruce Grove is today. Now we want to find out from YOU, what you would like to see in Spruce Grove.

Public Consultation Process

Newsletter #1

City Website Updates

Key Stakeholder Interviews

Recreation Board Workshop

Concept Plan Workshops

Newsletter #2

Open House

Public Hearing

YOU ARE INVITED!

The City of Spruce Grove and Dillon Consulting would like to formally invite you to participate in a Parks and Open Space Workshop. We will be working together to form the future of parks and open spaces in Spruce Grove. This fun and stimulating meeting of citizens and, City Staff, recreation groups, and environmental organizations, will be an opportunity to share your local knowledge and visions for the future of open space. Key directions and themes that emerge during the workshop sessions which will be used to create policy recommendations as the consultants begin their task of writing the plan.

When: May 31, 2006
Where: City Hall Chabers
 315 Jespersen Avenue
What to Bring: Your voice
 Enthusiasm
 And ideas.
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
RSVP: Shelly Touney
stouney@sprucegrove.org
Ph: 962-7579
PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 26TH AS SPACE IS LIMITED

For more information, contact:

Lindsey Butterfield, ACP, MCIP

Project Manager

The City of Spruce Grove

Ph: (780) 962-7634 ext. 103

Email: lbutterfield@sprucegrove.org

Jamal Ramjohn, ACP, MCIP

Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan
 Consultant

Ph: (403) 215-8880 ext.8884

Email: jramjohn@dillon.ca

THE CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE

PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Newsletter #3 OCTOBER 2006



Regional Information Fair a Success & Draft Master Plan Complete!

The City of Spruce Grove, Town of Stony Plain, and Parkland County partnered with the TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre to host a Regional Information and Registration evening. The event was held Thursday August 31, 2006 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm and the Parks & Open Space Master Plan process and draft plan was presented. A short questionnaire was administered with the following highlights (questionnaire respondents = 30):

1. The majority of respondents rated Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space or Water Courses and Green Corridors & Other Pathway Linkages as the open spaces they value most.
2. Most Respondents noted they are willing to walk, run, cycle or inline skate up to 10 minutes to get to a park or open space in Spruce Grove. An almost equal number will walk, run, cycle or inline skate 15 or more minutes to a park or open space.
3. Respondents indicated some concern with the limited amount of parking available at park/open spaces. Conversely, the majority of respondents are not concerned with the amount of park/open space or the number of sports facilities.
4. The Majority of respondents rated Heritage Grove Park as their favourite park and open space, followed by Central Park.
5. A majority of 4:1 indicated that parks and open spaces (e.g., squares, plazas, treed streets) in the downtown are important to them.

Public Consultation Process

Newsletter #1

City Website Updates

Concept Plan Workshops

Key Stakeholder Interviews

Newsletter #2

Information Fair

Public Hearing

Parks & Open Space Master Plan Vision

By 2026, Spruce Grove's Open Space and Parks System will be a model of environmental stewardship and a highly valued community asset. Strong forward planning over the coming years will provide Spruce Grove with a comprehensive, contiguous and innovative parks, open space and trail system. Residents will recreate and commute to work through a network of trails, pathways and streetscapes while stopping to enjoy the many park space amenities available. Sustainable solutions to growth will provide the means for implementing this Plan. All of this will contribute to Spruce Grove being the Community of Choice.



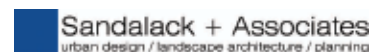
For more information, contact:

Lindsey Butterfield, ACP, MCIP

Project Manager
The City of Spruce Grove
Ph: (780) 962-7634
Email: lbutterfield@sprucegrove.org

Jamal Ramjohn, ACP, MCIP
Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan
Consultant

Ph: (403) 215-8880 ext.8884
Email: jramjohn@dillon.ca



join us

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

This fun and stimulating meeting of citizens, City Staff, recreation groups, and environmental organizations, will be an opportunity to share your local knowledge and visions for the future of Parks and Open Spaces in your community



WHEN:
MAY 31, 2006

WHERE;
CITY HALL CHAMBERS
315 JESPERSEN AVENUE

WHAT TO BRING:
YOUR VOICE
ENTHUSIASM
IDEAS

TIME: 6:30 pm TO 8:30 pm

RSVP:
SHELLEY TOUNEY
stouney@sprucegrove.org
Ph: 962-7579

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 26TH AS SPACE IS LIMITED



APPENDIX I CONCEPT PLAN SESSION NOTES

SPRUCE GROVE: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN
CONCEPT PLAN SESSION
MAY 31, 2006

CENTRAL THEMES

Growing Gateway

- Spruce Grove has no clear edges or boundaries
- Primary routes for entry do not offer any indication of arrival
- Need for clearly defined gateway features (i.e. signage and other defining features)

Open Space for all Existing and Future Residents

- Open space systems should be inclusive of all members of the communities
- A balance between special interest groups and remaining balance of community
- Need to plan for future demographics and growth

Defining a Core

- No clear downtown core exists
- No central gathering place
- No mainstreet, as found in adjacent communities
- Not conducive to pedestrian activity
- Poorly linked to surrounding community

Improving Pedestrian Access

- Problematic or non-existent pedestrian access throughout community
- Predominately related to road crossings
- Need for tunnels or pedestrian overpasses to improve connectivity

Green Space Identity & Branding

- The boundaries and names of green spaces (including the prominent Heritage Grove Park) were often not identified incorrectly - other names, like Central Park (a green space with connections to Heritage Grove Park) and Participark (former name for Heritage Grove Park), were often used. This could indicate a need for more branding, signage, and a more clear delineation of boundaries and destination.

Emphasize Sport and Recreation

- Sports activities and related facilities are of great importance
- Representatives of various sports associations indicate a deficit of facilities for level of demand
- Existing facilities require improved maintenance and investment
- Need for regional facilities, but associated lights and noise might require a separation from conflicting land uses

Other

- Opportunities to integrate cultural and social activities into open spaces, beyond recreation and sport
- Need for beautification and art installations to better represent history and/or identity of particular green spaces
- Important landmarks: Log Cabin, Tri-Leisure Center, Heritage Grove Park, Grain Elevator

NOTES FROM SESSION ONE: MAY 31, 2006: 2:00 – 4:00 pm

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS SESSION?

- Understand what the plan actually is
- Ensure all stakeholders are aware of the plan, as it impacts many actors
- Understanding how the plan might intersect with the Municipal Development Plan, which is currently being developed; help develop some ideas for MDP
- Expand notions of open space beyond recreation to include gathering places, forum for events and related activities
- Ensure a wide-scope of consideration for this planning activity
- Bring a youth focus to open space planning
- Offer some perspective on implementation and financial realities
- Consideration of emergency and safety implications of new open space; water amenities and issue of mosquitoes
- Bridge issues of City growth with open space and amenity

WHAT DOES OPEN SPACE MEAN TO YOU?

- Active/passive parks
- Places where my family and I can enjoy and play in the outdoors
- Natural environment: forest, water bodies
- Man-made open space: manicured green areas and amenity spaces
- Trails; places to sit; picnic spot
- Anything not private and fenced-in or have a roofed-in
- In terms of social and cultural value, open space (natural untouched environment) is very important to preserve
- Value of unpaved space
- Relationship to agricultural space
- Open space needs to have a relationship to some type of social activity, not just a raw blank slate; needs to create opportunities; multi-use
- Integration; safely move through and throughout community; connectivity
- Environmental protection
- Whole community interests are represented in open space; open space needs to serve multiple interests; build buy-in; everyone cares; reflect demographics
- Open space intersects with infrastructure and costs are associated
- It is essential!
- Facilities or infrastructure of any scale that are open to the public formally or informally
- Recognize the value of informal open space
- Plays a role with quality of life
- Educational opportunity
- Environmental stewardship

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE GENERAL CHALLENGES?

- Stony Plain; need a stronger link
- Annexation of Pioneer Road (looks to the east)
- Need for sense of arrival when coming over overpass (arrival from the east)
- South lands are problematic because the highway (16?) severs access for pedestrians
- Shame to loose agricultural lands remaining, and the grain elevator in particular
- “Nobody knows where Spruce Grove is – it just happens!”; we have no downtown; there is no central gathering place
- Need to look at the north/Parkland County (north of highway, which highway?); need for entryway; storm water management facilities potential for open
- Eastern entry feature; 128 acres of tree grove; 5 owners, mix of ER & MR; should policy be geared to address these important specific sites
- Important to identify capital for acquisition, but do we not need to draw a line around what open space we want?
- What? and, then, How?

DOES YOUR POSITION PRESENT ANY CHALLENGES RELATED TO OPEN SPACE & WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

- A need for engineering to work closer with community planning
- Need for partnerships within City; integrated approach
- Need to work with developers to better develop and manage potential/existing open space opportunities
- Utility facilities & storm water features can be better utilized
- MR crediting constraints / opportunities
- Active recreation is ever increasing by demand in number of participants and quality of spaces
- Need to address an active recreation space (soccer) serving both local and regional scales
- Need to think about the future active recreation needs; multi-purpose fields
- Operating and maintenance realities need to be adjoined any visioning or plan
- What is Spruce Grove?; What is going to be on the post card?; open space master plan to help create identity
- What things would be on postcards?
- Grain Elevator
- Log Cabin
- TLC (Tri-Leisure Centre)
- Central Park
- Walking through the forest
- Space design is no the big issue, but rather the activities of people; brush fires; infrastructure for bridges, etc. need be standard for emergency vehicles
- By-law officers, etc. need to adjust service delivery for different open space
- Associated costs for safety and fire prevention need to be considered

- Need to design for personal safety and create non-threatening environment
- Planning open space for particular users (youth in particular)
- Preserve Spruce Grove's character; sense of community and link to rural environment
- Importance of maintaining existing open spaces, rather than planning or stretching resources over new open spaces
- Don't allow open space planning to be high-jacked by special interest groups; plan for the whole community
- Need to anticipate future open space and future demographics

NOTES FROM SESSION TWO: MAY 31, 2006: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS SESSION?

- Interest from the perspective of Minor Football & Baseball, Public Schools, and the Arts Council
- Progress related to outdoor fields, maintenance, growth
- Plans for existing and future facilities
- Amount of open space
- Demand on current facilities
- Future of space for public schools
- Beautification of open spaces
- Incorporating other elements into the Plan

WHAT DOES OPEN SPACE MEAN TO YOU?

- Trails system (best I have ever used); parks, recreational facilities
- Open space defines Spruce Grove
- Worry about the pressure of growth
- Open space is grass; soft space as opposed to hard space; overly designed and beautified when all you need is a grass space
- Sports facilities; trees; kids play spaces (play grounds); need for multi-user access to any facility; places for families to gather
- A place for a new born through to a 90 year old
- Henry Singer not a family-friendly facility; only major open space south of 16A; crime and isolated; lacking other amenities; only accessible by car
- MR associated with middle and high schools are not large enough; 10-15 acres middle and 20-25 acres high school need to be larger
- Need to match dollars with what can realistically be maintained; consolidate and focus resources to maintain quality fields, not multiple poor quality fields
- Schools are land locked; all clustering together; relationship to the associated open space
- More benches and garbage cans scattered throughout the trail and path systems

POSTCARD VISIONING:

- Heritage Grove Park (a number of people called it Central Park or ParticiPark, branding)
- City Hall
- Central Park during the winter; lights
- Kids playing sports; Olympic Medalist (female?); huge volunteer community associated with sports and related activities; outdoor sports
- TLC – Tri-leisure Centre

OTHER THOUGHTS AND IDEAS:

- marketing, associated tournaments, accommodation and related expenses revenue
- keep your kids busy they are out of trouble; great for families
- more pedestrian-friendly engagement with the roadways are needed (tunnels, bridges, sidewalks, landscaping, buffers, etc.)
- regional facilities are noisier and lights, conflict with adjacent uses, need for separation of uses
- incompatible open space (recreational) use with other uses; maybe better suited with industrial uses
- need to release planned school sites, as schools will not be proceeding at on any timeline, so it doesn't make sense
- land ownership, delinquent developers, open space in flux, transition, ownership of future urban reserve
- lack of walking downtown, identifiable core; doesn't matter to some, does matter to some; lacks soul; happy to use my car
- continue the trail system, fill in the gaps

APPENDIX J INFORMATION FAIR INVITATION, SURVEY AND RESULTS



**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**

Date: August 31
Time: 6 –9 p.m.
Where: Spruce Grove Booth
 Information Fair
 TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre

Learn how Spruce Grove is planning for the future. This information booth will provide material about Spruce Grove’s Parks and Open Space Master Plan. View maps, and learn about the current and proposed parks and open spaces.

Representatives from the City of Spruce Grove and Dillon Consulting Ltd. will be there to answer your questions.



**Let ETS
do the
driving
this fall**

Do you work or attend College or University in Edmonton?
 Do you live off the bus routes or outside of Spruce Grove?
 Take advantage of the **free Park and Ride** service and save money on fuel and parking!
 Designated park and ride stalls are located on the west side of the Spruce Grove Agrena, east of Central Park.

Bus passes available at:
 Spruce Grove City Hall
 Horizon Stage Box Office
 Spruce Grove Public Library
 Mac’s locations within Spruce Grove

Post Secondary Students: Show your school ID and receive and entry form to win a solar power portable device charger!



THE CITY IS REQUESTING YOUR INPUT

Comments regarding the proposed drilling of a sour oil well at this location should be forwarded by August 31, 2006 to:

The City of Spruce Grove
 Attention - Paul Hanlan, Planning and Development Supervisor
 315 Jespersen Avenue
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PROOF EXAMINER

Please proof thoroughly, sign and Email, Fax or Phone back as soon as possible.
Fax: 962-0658 Ph: 962-4257

I have proofed all the information within the advertisement and approve the ad size with changes indicated to be published.

✘
 Authorized Signature

* This will be the only PROOF you will receive.
 * Any corrections not called in become the full responsibility of the client.

Spell Checked YES Rep # 23
 Initials LB pm

City Hall, 315 Jespersen Ave. T7X 3E8
Tel. (780) 962-2611 City Info Line (780) 962-7600
 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Information Fair (Draft Concept)

6:00 – 9:00 pm, August 31, 2006

TransAlta Tri Leisure Centre, Spruce Grove, AB

Questionnaire

Please fill out this short questionnaire before you leave this evening. The City of Spruce Grove values your input and would like to receive as much feedback as possible on the Open Space Master Plan. If you require assistance, please ask one of the Information Fair Facilitators.

1. What type of park or open space in Spruce Grove do you value most? (check a maximum of two)

- Natural & Semi-Natural Green Space or Water Courses (15)
- Historic Resource or Landmark (4)
- Parks & Civic Spaces (11)
- Outdoor Recreation & Sports Facilities (7)
- Green Corridors & Other Pathway Linkages (14)
- RV/Campground & Day Use Areas (2)

2. How long are you willing to walk, run, cycle or inline skate to get to a park or open space in Spruce Grove?

- 5 minutes (5)
- 10 minutes (11)
- 15 minutes (4)
- 15+ minutes (10)

3. Do you have concerns with Spruce Grove's parks and open spaces regarding: (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Amount of park and open space | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (9) | <input type="checkbox"/> No (17) |
| Number of facilities for organized sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> No (18) |
| Pathway system | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (10) | <input type="checkbox"/> No (16) |
| Railway crossings | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> No (18) |
| Vehicle parking at parks or open spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (11) | <input type="checkbox"/> No (14) |

-Number of facilities for organized sports – needed for user groups to rent or use for free. Stony Plain's facilities are so busy.

-Vehicle parking at parks or open spaces – some parking at soccer fields

4. What is your favourite park or open space to visit in Spruce Grove?

- Heritage Grove/Dog Rump Creek
- Central Park – however, the water needs to be bigger to accommodate more people!! Hot times during the summer are packed at the park
- Central Park!
- Heritage Park, Queen Street – need to keep school open space
- Bike / walking paths
- All
- Outdoor rink in Stoneshire, also a splash park
- Park trails and green spaces – Heritage Grove Park and beyond
- Heritage trails through forested areas
- Unknown just moving here
- Heritage Grove Park
- Trails in the woods – may we please have a trail to Stony Plain!
- TLC area
- Central Park
- Heritage Grove
- Heritage Grove Path
- Not sure – haven't moved here yet
- Heritage Grove Park
- TLC
- Heritage Grove Pathway
- Heritage Grove Pathway
- Woodhaven
- Dog run in Millgrove – through the trails
- Central Park
- Central Park
- Trail system – off leash area
- Central Park
- Park between Hilldowns and Stoneshire
- Millgrove – all actually
- Walking path

5. Are parks and open spaces (e.g., squares, plazas, treed streets) in the downtown important to you?

- Yes (22) No (6) Unsure (2)

Thank you for participating in this exit questionnaire. Your responses will help to create a more comprehensive and inclusive Open Space Master Plan for Spruce Grove.