

Official Community Plan Redesign – The Environment

ISSUE

As part of the Official Community Plan Redesign project, a draft of a new Official Community Plan (OCP) has been developed. This report provides an overview of content expected to be included in The Environment section of the proposed OCP.

BACKGROUND

The OCP is a statutory plan created under the authority of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, that provides a comprehensive policy framework to shape the long-term growth and development of Saskatoon. Its purpose is to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community through a broad set of goals, objectives and policies. These policies provide a framework for decision-making that guides future development and redevelopment in Saskatoon and helps to achieve the community that residents collectively desire and envision.

Since the last major update of the OCP, a number of initiatives have helped shape a new direction for the City of Saskatoon (City), including: Saskatoon Speaks Community Visioning process; the Plan for Growth and associated initiatives; and adoption of the Strategic Plan and its subsequent update. Consolidating these changes into the OCP ensures a consistent direction for development in the city and provides residents, City Council and Administration a clearly defined vision for the city's future, supported by the policies necessary to achieve that vision.

CURRENT STATUS

Long Range Planning has led the Official Community Plan Redesign project. The intent of the project is to update the OCP to appropriately reflect the current vision for Saskatoon, based on current management documents and endorsed initiatives. The result includes a reorganization of the layout of the OCP to align it with the Strategic Plan, including making use of the Strategic Goals as titles for individual sections of the document.

Each section is being drafted based on an extensive review of City of Saskatoon management documents and endorsed initiatives, as well as internal engagement with relevant City staff to confirm direction. Internal engagement occurred throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019 and included meetings with representatives from 29 of the 34 City divisions. The resulting updates to the OCP will reflect this engagement, as well as the engagement that informed each guiding document or direction.

A comprehensive review and approval strategy has been developed to ensure all appropriate committees have the opportunity to consider the proposed sections of the OCP. Before the full document is presented for approval at a public hearing, an overview of each section of the proposed OCP will be shared with the Municipal Planning Commission. An overview of relevant content will be provided to each of the

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City's six advisory committees, as well as to City Council through its Standing Policy Committees.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This report provides an overview of the fifth section of the draft OCP, Section E – The Environment. General details on this section are included below, with additional information provided in Appendix 1 – Proposed Content.

This section provides direction for how the City will commit to protecting, enhancing and managing the impact on the environment. This includes the overall protection of the environment; conservation and management of natural systems; production and conservation of energy; the management of waste; mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and community involvement and programming.

It includes new policies relating to:

1. Protection and stewardship of the environment (water, air, land);
2. Integration of natural systems into urban areas and natural asset management;
3. Efficient use and production of energy, and energy sustainable buildings;
4. Reduction, recycling, diversion of waste, and management of the landfill;
5. Climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
6. Shared community stewardship and programming.

It includes updates to wording from the following sections of the [current OCP](#):

- 9.0 – Environmental Management;
- 10.2 – Parks and Recreation Open Space, specifically on storm water management; and
- 16.5 – Riverbank Areas Susceptible to Slumping and Slope Instability

New and updated content is informed by:

- [C02-036 - Environmental Policy](#)
- [C08-001 Triple Bottom Line Policy](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Energy & Greenhouse Gas Management Plan](#)
- [City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021](#)
- [Saskatoon Speaks - Community Vision \(June 2011\)](#)
- [Saskatoon Waste & Recycling Plan](#)
- [Bylaw No. 8310 - The Waste Bylaw, 2004](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Recreation & Parks Master Plan](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Strategy - Baseline Inventory Report](#)

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- [City of Saskatoon - Storm Water Pond Utility Business Plan](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Storm Water Pond Safety Review](#)
- [South Saskatchewan River Watershed - Source Water Protection Plan](#)
- [Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth Regional Plan](#)
- [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy \(Item 8.4.2\)](#)
- [The Low Emissions Community Plan](#)

Policies in Section E provide overall direction for how the City makes decisions relating to the environment. For implementation of these policies, they should be considered in the context of the full OCP document and decisions should be assessed against all the policies contained within it. However, it is important to note that the themes of sustainability and the environment are entrenched throughout the OCP.

NEXT STEPS

Reports providing an overview of the remaining sections of the proposed OCP will be provided to the Municipal Planning Commission for review. As they are reviewed, updates to the draft OCP will be made as needed, based on discussions at the Municipal Planning Commission and the Advisory Committees. Once every section has been reviewed, discussions and direction from the Municipal Planning Commission and Advisory Committees will be summarized in a final report to the Municipal Planning Commission. This report will provide an overview of the proposed OCP document and will include a recommendation that the report be forwarded to City Council recommending, at the time of a public hearing, City Council consider the Administration's recommendations that the proposed OCP Bylaw be approved.

APPENDICES

1. Proposed Content of Section E – The Environment

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by:	Ashley Kostyniuk, Planner, Long Range Planning
Reviewed by:	Tyson McShane, Manager of Long Range Planning
	Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability
	Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development
Approved by:	Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services Department

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