

Official Community Plan Redesign – Project Introduction

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 introduction to the redesign project, as well as background on the OCP and the proposed updates to it.

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, in 2009, a number of initiatives have helped shape a new direction for the City of Saskatoon (City), including: the [Saskatoon Speaks Community Visioning](#) process; the [Plan for Growth](#) and associated initiatives; and the adoption of the Strategic Plan and its subsequent update. To address the direction outlined through these initiatives, the City's [Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021](#) identified the following action under the Strategic Goal of Sustainable Development:

“Renew the City’s Official Community Plan to align with the principles of the Plan for Growth.”

Completing this action and consolidating these changes into the OCP ensures a consistent direction for development in the city and provides residents, City Council, the Administration, and other stakeholders a clearly defined vision for the city’s future, supported by policies necessary to achieve that vision.

CURRENT STATUS

Official Community Plan Redesign Project

Long Range Planning has led the Official Community Plan Redesign project. Intent of the project is to update the OCP to appropriately reflect the current vision for Saskatoon, based on current management documents (bylaws, policies, strategies, plans, procedures and guidelines) and endorsed initiatives. To ensure alignment with current direction of the City, a review of management documents and endorsed initiatives that guide the Administration’s work was conducted (see Appendix 1 for a listing of documents which have informed proposed updates to the OCP). This overall direction was then reviewed against the current OCP to ensure alignment and identify necessary updates.

Stakeholder Engagement

Guiding documents in Appendix 1 represent direction from 57 Council-endorsed reports, plans, studies, policies, strategies and bylaws. Combined, these provide direction based on an extensive collection of public engagement initiatives including:

- 55 public engagement events;
- 36 online surveys;
- 492 stakeholder groups; and
- Input or involvement from more than 20,000 stakeholders.

A summary of this engagement is included as Appendix 2.

Extensive internal engagement of City staff across the corporation occurred throughout 2017, 2018 and 2019 to confirm the direction provided by these documents, Council decisions and supporting public engagement that led to their development. This included meetings with representatives from 29 of the 34 City Divisions. Internal engagement provided the opportunity to ensure the OCP accurately reflected the direction of all Divisions whose work falls under its framework. Resulting updates to the OCP reflect this engagement and the approved directions that guide the work of each division.

Document Layout and Design

The OCP redesign project included a review of the layout and design of the current OCP. To ensure consistency with the Strategic Plan, a reorganization of the layout is being proposed. In addition, a visual identity was developed to create a more readable, visually-appealing document that connects the OCP to other related long-term City plans and initiatives such as the Plan for Growth and the Green Infrastructure Strategy, helping reinforce the relationship between these documents (see Appendix 3 for an example of the visual identity).

Review and Approvals Strategy

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 is being shared with the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC). An overview of relevant content is also being provided to each of the City's five Advisory Committees, as well as to City Council, through the Governance and Priorities Committee.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Supporting a Governance Framework

The OCP is the collective long-term vision for Saskatoon, guiding the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of the community. It provides both inspiration and direction through a comprehensive policy framework to ensure the community's vision for Saskatoon is integrated into all aspects of planning, decision-making and priority-setting for the City. It brings focus and purpose to more detailed plans, including growth plans, financial plans and strategic action plans, among others.

Saskatoon’s current OCP was initially approved in 1998 and updated in 2009. Over the last ten years, the City has undertaken a number of significant initiatives that have helped shape a new vision for the city. Consolidating these initiatives in the OCP provides a clear, consistent long-term vision for Saskatoon to help guide how the city develops and changes. Once approved, the redesigned OCP will work in conjunction with the City’s Strategic Plan and Multi-Year Business Plan and Budgeting process to create a strategic framework for how priorities are set and how the City achieves its goals.

A Living Document

The OCP is intended to be a living document. It provides a framework that can be monitored and updated to reflect new directions to meet the city’s evolving needs. The OCP redesign project provides an update of the OCP to reflect the City’s current direction, but it is recognized that future updates will be required.

Updated policy wording is being proposed as part of the OCP redesign project to ensure regular assessments of the OCP occur. This includes reporting to Council on progress toward the City’s long-term vision, as well as on any necessary amendments, mechanisms, or approaches needed to continuously improve the OCP.

NEXT STEPS

Reports providing an overview of the proposed content for the OCP are being provided to the Municipal Planning Commission, the City’s five Advisory Committees and the Governance and Priorities Committee. As these meetings occur, updates to the draft OCP will be made, as needed, based on discussions at these meetings. Once these reports have been received, discussions and direction will be summarized in a final report to Municipal Planning Commission. This report will provide an overview of the proposed OCP document and will include a recommendation that the report, along with the proposed OCP Bylaw, be forwarded to City Council recommending, at the time of a public hearing, that City Council consider the Administration’s recommendation that the proposed OCP Bylaw be approved.

A communication plan has been developed to inform and educate the public on the OCP redesign project and the planned public hearing that will include website updates, social media posts, e-newsletters to subscribers, news releases and City Page ads.

APPENDICES

1. Guiding Documents
2. Engagement Summary
3. Visual Identity

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Tyson McShane, Acting Manager of Long Range Planning
Reviewed by: Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services Department