

Official Community Plan Redesign - Accessibility

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 OCP project, as well as an overview of content expected to be included in the proposed OCP related to the accessibility of City of Saskatoon (City) services, information, facilities and infrastructure.

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 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 Saskatoon residents collectively desire and envision. This framework encompasses and supports other City plans, guidelines and initiatives, such as the Accessibility Action Plan, the Parks Development Guidelines and Age-friendly Initiatives. The OCP connects policies within these plans, guidelines and initiatives to the overall vision for the City.

Since the last major update of the OCP (in 2009), a number of initiatives have helped shape a new direction for the City, including the Saskatoon Speaks Community Visioning process; 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, Administration, and other stakeholders, a clearly defined vision for the city's future, supported by policies necessary to achieve this vision.

CURRENT STATUS

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 and endorsed initiatives (see Appendix 1 for a listing of documents which have informed updates to the OCP). 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 (see Appendix 2 for the draft Table of Contents).

Each section will be drafted based on an extensive review of City management documents and endorsed initiatives, as well as internal engagement with relevant City staff to confirm the 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.

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A comprehensive review and approval strategy has been developed to ensure all appropriate committees have the opportunity to consider 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 City's five advisory committees, as well as to City Council through the Governance and Priorities Committee.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This report provides an overview of content of the proposed OCP related to the accessibility of City services, information, facilities and infrastructure. This content is included throughout the proposed OCP, with references to accessibility included in:

- Section C – Our Vision and Strategic Goals;
- Section D – Quality of Life;
- Section F – Urban Form and Structure;
- Section G – Sustainable Growth;
- Section H – Moving Around; and
- Section J – Implementation.

This content supports the Accessibility Action Plan and other plans, bylaws, policies and/or procedures related to accessibility.

It includes new policies relating to:

- Civic vision;
- Social development;
- Community facilities;
- Community focal points; and
- Transportation planning;

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

- Section 3.0 – City Form, Structure and Development Phasing;
- Section 5.0 – Residential Land Use and Housing Policies;
- Section 11.0 – Community Services and Facilities;
- Section 12.0 – Transportation;
- Section 17.0 – Social Development; and
- Section 21.0 – Corridor Planning Program.

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New and updated content related to the accessibility of City services, information, facilities and infrastructure is informed by:

- [Saskatoon Speaks - Community Vision \(June 2011\);](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021;](#)
- [City of Saskatoon - Recreation and Parks Master Plan;](#)
- [Growth Plan to Half a Million - Growth Plan Technical Report \(February 2016\);](#)
- [Growth Plan to Half a Million - Active Transportation Plan Final Report;](#)
- [Growth Plan to Half a Million - Complete Streets Design & Policy Guide;](#)
- [Saskatoon Council on Aging - Age-friendly Saskatoon Initiative;](#)
- [Winter City Strategy Framework;](#) and
- [A10-017 - Park Development Guidelines.](#)

Policies will provide overall direction for how the City makes decisions relating to accessibility. 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.

NEXT STEPS

Reports providing an overview of each section of the proposed OCP are being provided to the Municipal Planning Commission for review. Additionally, each of the City's five Advisory Committees are being provided reports summarizing topics relevant to their mandate. As these reports 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 Administration's recommendations that the proposed OCP Bylaw be approved.

APPENDICES

1. Official Community Plan Redesign – Guiding Documents
2. Official Community Plan Redesign – Proposed Table of Contents
3. Proposed Content of the Official Community Plan related to Accessibility

REPORT APPROVAL

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