

Centre in the Park

Strathcona County

Creating a heart for our community

New Community Centre now open



The Grand Opening of the Community Centre on December 5, 2010, marked a significant milestone in Strathcona County's longstanding vision for Centre in the Park in creating a heart for our community.

As the anchor building in Centre in the Park, the Community Centre completes a core gathering place for culture, learning, services and celebration. Within this year-round hub, the community can enjoy the new library, access municipal services, and host meetings and events in the new spaces available.

Booking inquiries: 780-410-8505
or email: ccbookings@strathcona.ca.

More recently, on March 10, 2011, the new Strathcona County Art Gallery @ 501 opened in the Community Centre to foster an appreciation of the visual arts. Visitors will enjoy a variety artwork exhibits along with educational and hands-on programs.



Final finishes scheduled for Prairie Walk

Centre in the Park has been designed as a pedestrian-friendly area, and one of its inviting outdoor public spaces is Prairie Walk. This pedestrian walkway runs east-west linking the central plaza area with Festival Place and connecting to Sherwood Park's Heritage Trail system. Prairie Walk has been designed and landscaped to reflect Strathcona County's history, culture and natural environment.

Tranquil setting

To enhance the aesthetic experience of Prairie Walk, a combination of natural and synthetic forms, texture, light and sound will be added. Early this summer, construction and further landscaping will create several groupings of rocks that will sit in harmony with the plantings and lighting along the southern edge of the walk.

Individually selected stones and rocks that are shaped, polished and set will form seating areas, stopping points and zones for contemplation. Recordings of sounds taken from the natural prairie landscape will feed through directional speakers positioned within the rock groups. Low in volume and audible only at close range, the sounds will randomly repeat and combine various sequences, and turn off at night.

Prairie Walk to close for construction

To accomplish this landscaping concept, Prairie Walk will be closed for construction from June through mid-July (weather may alter this timing). During Prairie Walk construction, pedestrians are asked to use the sidewalks along Festival Way, Festival Avenue and Festival Lane to get around Centre in the Park (see map on back).

About Centre in the Park

With the Community Centre now built and beautiful, work will focus toward completing the full vision for Centre in the Park.

Vision

To create a centre for Strathcona County in the heart of Sherwood Park which personifies the character and values of Strathcona County.

Centre in the Park — Planning and Design

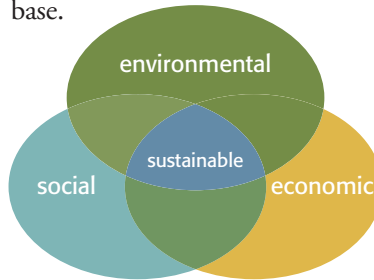
These four philosophies have been applied to achieve the vision for Centre in the Park:

1) Community Design Principles

- A “pedestrian first” approach
- High quality design of public spaces
- A vibrant mix of uses – homes, shops, schools, Festival Place, the library and municipal offices
- Higher density – level of activity needed to sustain the many uses
- Creation of focal points
- Integration with surrounding development

2) Triple Bottom-Line Approach – a model for community sustainability

- **Social Sustainability:** Creating a place for residents to live, work and play.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Improving our environment through green building practices, good urban design and community energy.
- **Economic Sustainability:** Using existing infrastructure, assessing the life cycle costs for energy and utilities, and developing Centre in the Park on previously vacant land in Sherwood Park contributes to the property tax base.

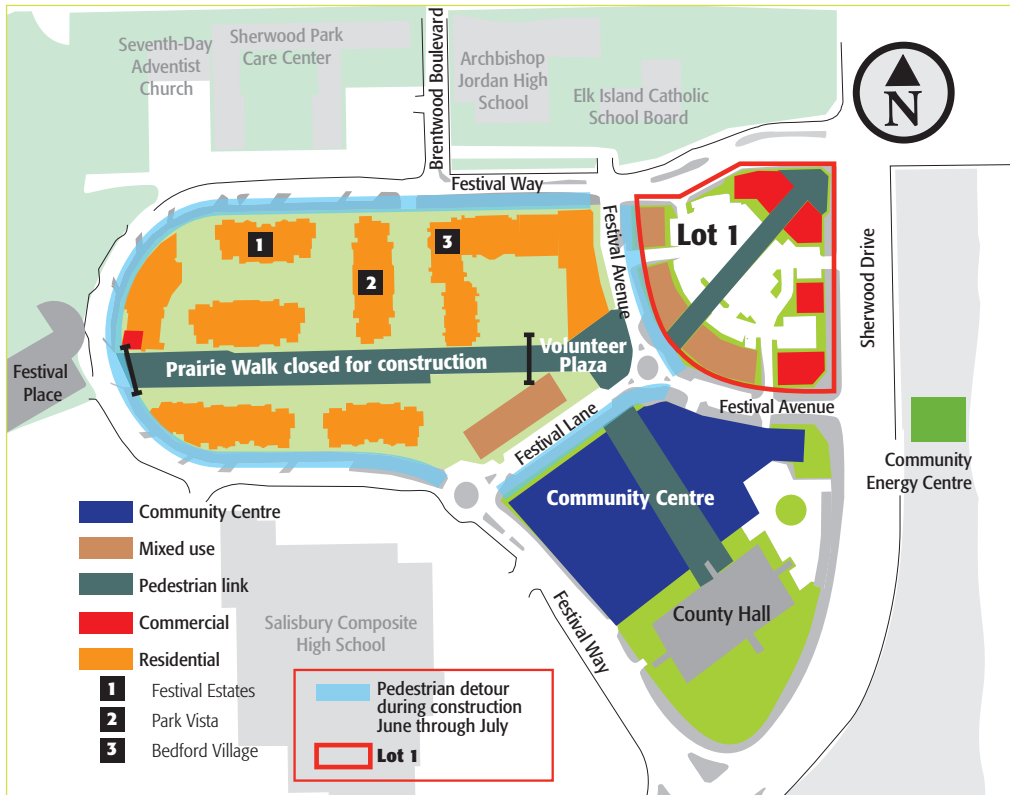


3) Community Energy

- Strathcona County’s community energy system provides heat to all buildings in Centre in the Park through a network of underground pipes which convey hot water from the Community Energy Centre to each building. The Community Energy Centre acts as the heat source for the entire development. This means that each building that is connected to the system does not need a boiler.
- Sharing this infrastructure means reduced infrastructure costs for individual buildings.
- The current system has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 18% annually compared to a conventional heating system. The potential to eventually transition the system from natural gas to a renewable energy source could significantly further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4) Civic Component

- Planning our downtown around County Hall and the new Community Centre places local government and many services in the heart of our community.



Centre in the Park— Key timelines

Community Centre opened	December 5, 2010
Art Gallery opened	March 10, 2011
Prairie Walk Construction	June - July 2011
Bedford Village Phase II scheduled completion	Fall 2011
Bedford Village Phase III construction begins	Fall 2011/Spring 2012
County works with private partners on a vision for Lot 1	Fall 2011

Further information:

Planning and Development Services
 Phone: 780-464-8080
 Email: planninganddevelopment@strathcona.ab.ca
www.strathcona.ca

