

11...Institutional & Community Facilities

Introduction

Strathcona County offers a wide range of public services within numerous institutional facilities throughout the community. These facilities include schools, religious buildings, and various government offices, such as County Hall, Heartland Hall and a library, as well as a number of health facilities. Many of these facilities play important roles in the daily lives of residents, and help shape our social and physical environments.

In terms of health care facilities, at the time of creating this Bylaw, the County is serviced by a number of small clinics as well as a drop-in medical centre. As the County continues to grow, the demand for a variety of specialized, emergency and long-term health facilities will continue to increase.

Strathcona County's educational requirements are met by a mixture of public and commercial agencies including Elk Island Public Schools, Elk Island Catholic Schools, and a subsidiary campus of Lakeland College. Strathcona County provides education facilities for elementary, junior and senior high school levels (34 schools in total as of 2005). The County has sought, and will continue to seek, opportunities to develop its own major post secondary facility in order to widen the range of educational choices for County residents.

Strathcona County has a number of major recreation facilities, which include Glen Allan Recreation Complex, Kinsmen Leisure Centre, Strathcona Wilderness Centre and Millennium Place. Many communities including Strathcona County are beginning to develop joint-use or multi-functional facilities in order to reduce capital and maintenance costs associated with operating stand-alone facilities.

Objectives

Strathcona County's institutional and community facility objectives are to:

- 1) Plan and fund the development of municipal facilities and services to support the needs of existing and future generations;
- 2) Provide opportunities for the development of schools and other institutional uses which serve the educational, recreational, cultural, health, and spiritual needs of Strathcona County residents;
- 3) Ensure community facilities are appropriately located according to size, function, and transportation requirements;
- 4) Ensure community institutional facilities are developed and operated in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner; and
- 5) Continue to improve public accessibility to community facilities.

Policies

General

Strathcona County will:

- 11.1 Encourage the development of institutional facilities that are cost and energy efficient from a lifecycle costing perspective; that utilize regenerative energy heating and cooling sources which are alternatives to fossil fuels; and are designed to meet green building design standards such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), wherever possible;

- 11.2 Encourage the expansion of a range of community support services, in an effective and efficient manner through alliances with private, non-government and public sectors. Advocate the provision of services with voluntary organizations;
- 11.3 Pursue opportunities for the shared (joint) use of sites and/or multiple use facilities, such as fire, emergency services, health care, police, schools, recreational facilities, and libraries;
- 11.4 Coordinate efforts to establish joint use fields and community facilities in the development of new urban neighbourhoods as well as the redevelopment of existing urban neighbourhoods; and
- 11.5 Prepare development criteria for public institutional facilities. Development criteria must consider the following:
- a) Ensure the scale and design of institutional developments are sensitive to adjacent land uses;
 - b) Ensure sites are suitable with respect to the scale and nature of the institutional use and are in an accessible location;
 - c) Locate institutional developments so as to buffer residential land uses from commercial land uses, industrial land uses, highways or arterial roadways;
 - d) Encourage institutional developments in the Rural Service Area, to locate within hamlets or in areas of concentrated residential development; and
 - e) Traffic related impacts on residential areas, such as the filtering of vehicular traffic through residential areas, should be minimized through appropriate design.

Health Care

Strathcona County will:

- 11.6 Consider the following guidelines with respect to the development of future health care related facilities:
- a) Locate in close proximity to transit services;
 - b) Compatible in scale and form relative to adjacent residential land uses;
 - c) Locate close to commercial facilities; and
 - d) Locate close to passive and active open space.
- 11.7 Review the Land Use Bylaw to ensure the County is able to respond to needs for new or expanded health services in appropriate locations; and
- 11.8 Continue to encourage more health care specialists to locate in Strathcona County.

Education

Strathcona County will:

- 11.9 Regularly review with Elk Island Public Schools and Elk Island Catholic Schools, future school projections, school site needs, as well as any opportunities to establish joint use facilities, such as theatres, swimming pools and playing fields, based on community needs and population growth;
- 11.10 Encourage the Elk Island Public Schools and Elk Island Catholic Schools to collaborate to develop joint use facilities;

- 11.11 Support the joint use of local schools for community programs, such as recreation programs for youth/families and continuing education;
- 11.12 Continue to work with post secondary institutions to identify programs and training needed in the community;
- 11.13 Encourage the development of post secondary education facilities within Strathcona County;
- 11.14 Ensure that new schools are located along collector roads in order to improve safety for children and lessen impacts on arterial road traffic flows;
- 11.15 Strive to ensure the safety of children in relation to the road network, by considering children's needs when making decisions regarding the prioritization of sidewalk construction, crosswalk provisions and school drop-off zones;
- 11.16 Require all school sites to have adequate access, parking and drop-off facilities in accordance with the Land Use Bylaw and to the satisfaction of Strathcona County; and
- 11.17 Encourage the development of private or satellite schools, in conjunction with other complementary or mixed use developments provided that:
 - a) Parking and loading requirements are met;
 - b) The scale and nature of the use is consistent with the existing, adjacent land uses; and
 - c) Traffic generation is compatible with other land uses in the area.

Recreation

Strathcona County will:

- 11.18 Continue to assess, maintain, and where appropriate, enhance the facility infrastructure that supports the delivery of recreation services and where delivery can be accomplished in an economical manner; and
- 11.19 Encourage the expansion of the range of community recreation services, in an effective and efficient manner through alliances with private, non-government and public sectors and by sharing the provision of services with voluntary organizations.

Government Facilities

Strathcona County will:

- 11.20 Subject to future demand work collaboratively with the Strathcona County Library Board to establish branch libraries in appropriate locations;
- 11.21 Explore alternative, technology based, means of providing library services to the Rural Service Area; and
- 11.22 Support reciprocal library membership agreements with adjacent municipal jurisdictions such as Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and Tofield.

Religious Assemblies

Strathcona County will:

- 11.23 Encourage religious assemblies to be developed:
 - a) Close to and/or in conjunction with other public institutional facilities;
 - b) Close to neighbourhood commercial areas; and
 - c) Along arterial and collector roads.
- 11.24 Allow religious assemblies within commercial areas as provided for under the Land Use Bylaw;
- 11.25 Encourage religious groups to expand their role in the community by allowing their facilities to be used, when available, for such things as meetings, recreational uses and daycares;
- 11.26 Ensure new religious assemblies in rural areas have an adequate, community piped water supply and adequate sanitary sewer capacities;
- 11.27 Ensure religious assemblies are limited to a size and scale appropriate to the neighbourhood or adjacent development; and
- 11.28 Ensure religious assemblies are developed in such a way as to minimize traffic impacts on residential land uses; and
- 11.29 Ensure that when detailed, statutory plans are being prepared, (such as area structure plans and area redevelopment plans); an adequate amount of land is identified to accommodate religious assembly uses within the plan area.