

TOWN OF STRATFORD - COUNCIL POLICY

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| NAME: | PARKLAND AND OPEN SPACE | POLICY NUMBER: | 2012-PH-01 |
| COMMITTEE: | PLANNING & HERITAGE | APPROVAL DATE: | January 11, 2012 |

Introduction

Stratford's sustainability goals include providing a network of parks and open spaces which are ecologically sound and aesthetically inspiring. The Town's sustainability vision considers parks and open spaces as opportunities for learning, leisure, spiritual renewal and recreation. Parks and open spaces are managed in ways which minimize fossil fuel use and maximize the use of natural materials.

Council believe that fairness, equity and consistency are key principles in guiding the best practices. These principles speak to the need for consistency in how parkland acquisition tools are applied within our community, for openness and transparency, for predictability in actions, and for mutual respect between players in the development process. These principles are fundamental to the development of good relationships between the Town, land owners and developers.

Policy

In order to create appropriate high quality parkland within the community and provide equal opportunities for all residents to access a public park close to their neighborhoods, it shall be the policy of Council to:

1. Consider the provision of parklands and open spaces as an essential component of every new subdivision approval
2. Be consistent and fair to all applicants in reviewing development proposals and parkland dedication scenarios
3. Evaluate the quality of existing parks and open spaces on a regular basis as a sound foundation for future policy decisions regarding parkland acquisition and development, as well as providing facilities and maintenance of existing parks
4. Encourage new subdivision developers to provide a high quality open space with good visibility, accessibility and connectivity to the Town's green infrastructure network including natural ponds, streams, creeks, trails, forest and wetlands to encourage sustainable development
5. Acquire additional coastal land to create new beach parks as well as improve and enhance the existing beach parks including Kinlock and Tea Hill
6. Require that all subdivision developers provide at least 10% of the land being subdivided as parkland or, where Council deems that less than 10% of the land is available (or required) for parkland, to pay an amount cash-in-lieu equal for the remaining balance of 10% parkland
7. Consider a portion of land (and/or a linear park) which is environmentally sensitive and useable for the public toward the required 10% parkland dedication
8. Exclude the environmental sensitive areas which are not useable for the public from the total subdivision area for purposes of calculating the required parkland contribution
9. Use the Province's Land Valuation and Assessment Division in determining the projected value of the proposed land towards calculating the amount of parkland dedication cash-in-lieu

10. Develop a plan to allocate budget and spend parkland dedication fees for the purchase, improvement and maintenance of the public parklands in the Town
11. Not require a parkland dedication (or cash-in-lieu fees), where the land being subdivided is a parcel of an approved subdivision which had already provided parkland and/or cash-in-lieu.
12. Create a beach park committee to evaluate the challenges of acquiring and developing new beach parks
13. Create and maintain a network of trails and linear park in order to develop the Town's Green Infrastructure Network

Definitions

Neighbourhood Park: Specifically designed to serve residents of a certain neighborhood. Could be Passive or Active

Community Park: Designed to serve several neighbourhoods and/or the entire community

Regional Park: A regional attraction including passive and active recreational services and facilities serve people living in the areas with an hour driving

Linear Park: Areas including trails, bike lanes, pedestrian etc. To facilitate Active Transportation and connect various parks and open spaces

Beach Park: Areas of natural beaches includes passive and/or active recreation facilities and services

Environmental Sensitive Areas: Important environmental areas which should be protected and maybe use as passive recreational areas