

Village of Earl Grey

Official Community Plan

Project Newsletter



Welcome

On behalf of Associated Engineering we would like to thank the Council and residents of the Village of Earl Grey for providing us the opportunity to work with you to prepare an Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw for your community. The implementation of an OCP and Zoning Bylaw represents a new beginning for the Village, and Associated Engineering is proud to be assisting you along this journey. To kick-start the planning process we have prepared this brief communication and survey to introduce the project, begin collecting information about the Village, and encourage thought about community goals.

What is an Official Community Plan?

An OCP provides policies to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural development of a municipality. An OCP informs municipal decisions regarding the development of land within its boundary, and the potential allocation of public funds to support the development process. An OCP promotes a predictable development environment for people considering investment into the community, while protecting the public interest of existing residents. The OCP tells the story of where the community is now, and where it intends to be in the future. The OCP is primarily a text-based document complemented by a series of thematic maps including a Future Land Use Map (FLUM).

What is a FLUM?

The FLUM is a graphic representation of the community's intended direction for growth, as described in the text of the OCP. The FLUM identifies the intended long term use of land in the community and identifies this land use through a designation. All future development within the community is required to conform with the designation placed on it by the FLUM and OCP policies or alternatively would necessitate an amendment. Decisions concerning the timing and form of development remain with the developer and/or land owner.

How does the OCP relate to the Strategic Vision?

Prior to initiating this project, Council endeavored to prepare and adopt a Strategic Plan to guide Council activities over the next three years. Within the context of preparing the Strategic Plan, Council adopted the following vision which is being used in developing the OCP:

A flourishing, vibrant community supporting strong family values.

What is a Zoning Bylaw?

The Zoning Bylaw is a required companion document to the OCP used to regulate the use and development of land, and assist in implementing the policies within the OCP to achieve fair, orderly and economic development of land. These regulations include, but are not limited to, permitted building uses, density, height, and lot coverage. This creates a level of stability for council and land owners as the options for development are clearly presented, and accessible for evaluation.

Plan Process Overview

A summary of the process followed in preparing an OCP and Zoning Bylaw is provided below, along with an estimated time frame for each stage of the project.

1. Establish Context for the Plan

The initial stage of the process focuses on collecting background information relevant to the community. This information includes, but is not limited to, community history, population and demographic data, existing development patterns, physical conditions, land uses, and infrastructure. This data is acquired from a variety of sources including municipal records, provincial databases, published studies, and personal interviews.

January and February 2018

2. Community Visioning

This stage is focused on establishing the community's goals and priorities for the growth and development of the Village over the next 20-25 years. These statements of priority establish the foundation for the policies that guide municipal decisions. Information regarding community priorities is acquired through in person meetings with community leaders, and through feedback received from a community survey and social media.

February and March 2018

3. Plan Preparation and Refinement

The consulting team will translate the information gathered in the previous phases of the project and prepare a draft OCP and companion Zoning Bylaw. The OCP, Zoning Bylaw and future land use map will be provided to the community for inspection and presented at an open house event. At this event, members of the public will be able to provide their perspective to the consulting team. Following this event, the documents will be refined as needed prior to initiating the formal approval process.

March and April 2018

4. Plan Adoption

The Planning and Development Act, 2007 prescribes the process for adoption of an OCP and Zoning Bylaw. This process begins with Council passing a resolution to consider adoption of the OCP and Zoning Bylaw. Following this meeting, Council will advertise its intention to hold a public hearing, providing the public with an additional opportunity to comment on the proposed plan. Following the hearing, Council may provide final reading to the adopting bylaws signifying their support for the plan. The OCP and Zoning Bylaw come into force following receipt of Provincial approval of the proposed bylaws.

April and May 2018

Survey



Through this survey community input will be gathered for the Village of Earl Grey's new Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw. Your participation is important to ensure that Earl Grey's OCP will represent the community's vision and goals for the future. Please take a few minutes to help shape the future of Earl Grey.

The following survey questions are intended to encourage community reflection on topics that are considered within the context of preparing an OCP. More specifically the survey questions seek to:

- Establish community priorities concerning the growth and development of Earl Grey over the next 20 to 25 years.
- Identify desired (and less desired) forms or types of development in the future.
- Identify existing community strengths that should be leveraged moving forward, and community challenges that may need to be mitigated in the future.
- Access personal perceptions concerning the current and future state of your community.

Please complete this survey and return printed copies to the Village office or digital copies to weddigek@ae.ca by Friday, March 23, 2018. Please note that digital copies of the survey may be found on the Village website at www.earl-grey.ca. If you have any questions about the survey or the OCP process, please contact Kenneth Weddige at weddigek@ae.ca or by phone at (306) 653-4969.

1. Community Perception

1. Why did you choose to live here?

- Small town feel/ strong sense of community
- Low crime
- Low taxes
- Scenic beauty
- Parks and recreational facilities
- Proximity to work
- Close to family or friends
- Home prices

Other (please specify)

2. What do you see as the key community strengths and/or opportunities that should be leveraged in the future?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close knit community | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of traffic (pedestrian friendly) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small town atmosphere | <input type="checkbox"/> Social diversity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community services
(parks/cultural etc...) | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing affordability |

Other (please specify)

3. What do you feel is a major challenge facing your community in the next 20 years? (select top three)

- Population growth
- Community finances
- Community services (medical/fire/police/recreation)
- Traffic
- Water service
- Sewer service
- Lack of local employment opportunities
- Lack of local core retail services (gasoline/groceries/pharmacy)
- Crime
- Unsightly development
- Affordable housing

Other (please specify)

4. What would you change or improve in your community? Any ideas on how?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Disposal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting | |

2. Community Priorities

1. Rank each of the following statements in terms of community priority:
(1 - not a priority 2 - low priority 3 - medium priority 4 - high priority)

Statement	Priority
Promote energy and water efficient development	
Maintain a small town feel	
Promote development in areas where existing municipal infrastructure is readily available or may be economically provided.	
New development should respect existing development in regard to design and function.	
Attract new businesses to the community.	
Invest in community beautification	
Respect private property rights	
Transparency of local government	
Attracting health care providers	
Collaborating with other communities/governments to reduce duplication of services	
To collaborate with other communities/governments to promote regional economic development	

3. Please note your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Council should consider offering tax incentives to attract new business.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Home based businesses are important to the local economy and should be supported by the community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of existing serviced lots should precede subdivision and development of un-serviced land.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary suites should be supported within the community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Providing a diverse range of housing to meet a variety of needs is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing in the community is affordable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The community should maintain an inventory of serviced land to meet short term development demands.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	New development should pay for itself.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating a walkable community is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining housing conditions is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The provision of seniors and affordable housing in the community is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The provision of walking trails and open space in the community is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protecting water resources is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Areas important to wildlife habitat is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of natural resources is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attracting new businesses to the community is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having a clear plan for the future is important
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promoting compact development that maximizes existing public investments into infrastructure is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Providing affordable housing options is important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am satisfied how buildings and properties are maintained in the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having a clear and predictable development process is important

3. Residential Development and Housing

1. What type of home do you live in?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single detached dwelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duplex | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Suite/Garden Suite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triplex or Four plex (Row housing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidized or Social Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and/or assisted living |

Other (please specify)

2. Do you rent or own?

3. Does your current housing meet your current and future needs?

4. Do you feel that your residence is affordable?

5. What types of housing is needed?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entry level starter homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplexes, triplexes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-level single family homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-end single family homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary suites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apartments | |

6. How would you rate your overall quality of life in your community?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

4. Commercial Development and Community Employment

1. Which statement best represents your perspective on your current access to core commercial services?

- My basic needs are met to my full satisfaction
- My basic needs are met but there is room for improvement
- My basic needs are not met

2. What additional commercial services would you like to see?

- Sit down restaurants
- Night life/Entertainment
- Personal services (ex. Hair salon, banking)
- Retail
- Gas stations/convenience stores
- Grocery/pharmacy

Other (please specify) _____

3. Please indicate the usual location where you and/or your family access core commercial services. Please reference the community where the service is located ie. Regina, Southey. If multiple locations are frequented on a usual basis please indicate by including the names of multiple communities.

3.1 Household products including groceries, personal hygiene products, general cleaning supplies, and basic household goods like light bulbs.

Community: _____

3.2 Pharmaceutical products including prescription drugs.

Community: _____

3.3 Gasoline and convenience.

Community: _____

3.4 Social gathering places including restaurants, lounges and cafes.

Community: _____

4. How far do you commute to work?

- Less than 1 km
- 1 - 5 km
- 6 - 40 km
- Over 40 km
- Retired or unemployed

5. What role should the community play in attracting, keeping, and growing business in the community?

- Be prepared for commercial development by setting aside serviced lots
- Minimize regulatory barriers
- Invest public money in incentivizing new businesses

5. Community Infrastructure and Finances

1. Where should the community focus public investment in the future?

- Roadway infrastructure improvements
- Expanded community recreational facilities
- Expanded cultural facilities
- Civic beautification projects
- Economic development

2. How would you rate the general condition of roads within your community?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

3. If you were in charge of community finances and had 100 points to distribute between the following choices, how would allocate these finite community resources?

Maintaining and improving roadways	
Expanding serviced land inventory	
Increasing community preparedness for changing climatic conditions	
Improving and/or expanding community recreational facilities	
Improving and/or expanding community cultural and social facilities and programs	
Supporting social housing programs	
Expanding community programs	
Standardizing and regulation of development	
Investing in economic development to attract new businesses	
Improving community aesthetics (i.e. community appearance)	
Investment in community main street	
Improving water and sanitary sewer services	
Improving community telecommunications	
Improving local health and medical services	

Other (please specify):

6. Other

1. What do you believe should be the top three priorities for the community over the next five (5) years?

2. What community services are needed today and in the future?

3. What is one thing you would change about your community?

4. What are the best ways to consult with citizens about important issues in the community?

- Public surveys
- Online survey
- Community Website or Newsletter
- Public Displays
- Through local civic groups
- Public meetings
- Social Media such as Twitter, Facebook, etc.

Other (please specify)