



Park Space Guidelines

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Background.....	1
Greenspace Inventory.....	1
Stony Plain’s Park Space Classifications.....	1
Recreation Amenities	3
Financial Impact Assessment.....	5
Evaluation.....	5
Area Structure Plan Evaluation Matrix.....	7
Subdivision Evaluation Matrix.....	8

Introduction

Recreational park spaces are an essential component of Stony Plain's greenspace network and are an important resource that provide benefits to individuals and communities. As the town of Stony Plain continues to grow and develop, future parks spaces must be acquired, planned, and designed to effectively meet the recreation needs of the community. The Town has developed the Park Space Guidelines as a tool to inform the development and acquisition of future recreational greenspaces.

Purpose of the Park Space Guidelines

The Park Space Guidelines (the Guidelines) establish a clear process for park space planning and design at both the area structure plan and subdivision stages of the municipal planning process. They act as the guiding document to implement and inform how the Town, development community, stakeholders, and partners allocate and plan new parks and open spaces to provide recreation uses and amenities that are suitable for the surrounding residential neighbourhoods.

Background

Stony Plain has several existing documents that outline policies and standards related to recreation and greenspaces. Currently, Stony Plain's greenspace network is planned, designed, constructed, and maintained in alignment with the following:

- Municipal Development Plan
- Area Structure Plans
- Municipal Development Standards

- Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- Trails Master Plan
- Transportation Master Plan
- Active Transportation Strategy

Although these documents provide guidance on certain aspects of parks space planning, one missing element is how we efficiently allocate park spaces and their associated uses to meet the needs of the community.

Greenspace Network

Stony Plain's existing greenspace network is comprised of 362.4 hectares of land connected by approximately 46 kilometres of multi-use trails. Due to the evolving nature of land development and infrastructure improvements, the number of greenspaces and multi-use trails frequently change as the town grows and the network expands. Some greenspaces provide passive or active recreation opportunities for improved social, physical, and mental health, some provide utility functions to deliver essential services to the community, and others protect and conserve significant environmental areas and ecosystems that allow natural processes to occur. Together, this network is the foundation that the Guidelines build from, with specific focus on recreational greenspaces, their uses, and opportunities.

Stony Plain's Park Space Classifications

Purposeful and thoughtful planning is required to provide effective and functional park spaces. To provide clear direction for the future intent of recreational greenspaces, the Town has developed a classification system to ensure that every new recreational greenspace plays a specific role in the larger network. The park space classifications were created to achieve the following:

- Clearly define the intended purposes and uses of each recreational greenspace;
- Ensure the guidelines are applied consistently so future recreational greenspaces provide a range of recreation uses and opportunities;
- Provide general guidance and requirements for each park space classification; and
- Establish an evaluation framework to determine if proposed recreational greenspaces meet Town requirements.

Recreational greenspaces have been grouped into five classifications based on the types of existing park spaces in Stony Plain. Each classification has specific guidelines that are intended to inform the planning and development of future recreational greenspaces within that respective class. This tool will help developers determine which classification their proposed park space fits into and what amenities are suitable for the proposed space based on its intended use or function.

The Town will apply the following five classes of parks and open spaces throughout the Town:

- Destination Park
- Community Park
- Neighbourhood Park
- Greenway
- Conservation Park

Park Space Guidelines

The following table presents the guidelines for each park space classification that are intended to be applied when planning future parks and open spaces.

Destination Park	
Purpose	A major multi-purpose destination for active and passive recreation, social gathering, and community events that attract residents from across the Tri-Region. Destination Parks are focused on providing unique recreation opportunities that are not offered in other classifications
Primary Function	To provide multiple active and passive recreation opportunities for Town-wide events and gatherings, and are likely to include a combination of amenities associated with other classifications
Size	5 ha or greater
Location	Along an arterial or collector roadway
Street Frontage	Minimum 30%
Access & Connectivity	One major vehicular access
Examples	Rotary Park, Heritage Park, Stony Plain Golf Course
Community Park	
Purpose	A large multi-purpose space for active and passive recreation, beyond opportunities provided at the neighbourhood level. Community Parks are focused on providing amenities such as sports fields and outdoor rinks and may be associated with a school
Primary Function	To provide multiple active and passive recreation opportunities for community-wide uses and functions
Size	1.5-5ha
Location	Along or near an arterial or collector roadway
Street Frontage	Minimum 15%

Access & Connectivity	At least one vehicular and pedestrian access
Examples	High Park, Forest Green, John Paul II and Memorial Composite school sites, Westerra park space (outdoor rink)
Neighbourhood Park	
Purpose	A local, multi-purpose space for passive recreation. Neighbourhood Parks are intended to provide opportunities for a variety of ages to meet the needs of residents in the adjacent neighbourhoods
Primary Function	To provide multiple passive recreation opportunities for neighbourhood level uses
Size	.02-1.5ha
Location	Along local roadway or alleyway
Street Frontage	Minimum 30% (to prevent future pocket parks, we want street frontage, access, and connectivity to the larger greenspace network)
Access & Connectivity	At least one pedestrian or vehicular access
Examples	Campbell Park, Rosenthal Road Park (Southridge), Lions Playground, Brown Street Playground
Greenway	
Purpose	A linear space for accessing and connecting neighbourhoods, amenities, roads, and other Town destinations
Primary Function	To provide connection and access points to Town amenities and destinations
Size	0-50m wide, longer/narrower than wide
Location	Adjacent to local, arterial, or collector roadways and residential areas
Street Frontage	Minimum 10%
Access & Connectivity	At least two pedestrian accesses
Examples	Trail corridors along 50 Avenue and Whispering Waters Creek
Conservation Park	
Purpose	A natural or environmentally sensitive area intended to be protected/conserved or remain in a natural state
Primary Function	To protect and conserve natural and environmentally sensitive areas that may support opportunities for passive recreation
Size	.2-20ha
Location	Areas with sensitive environmental conditions or with high habitat value)
Street Frontage	Not applicable
Access & Connectivity	At least one pedestrian access
Examples	Willow Park Natural Area, heavily vegetated areas along Atim Creek

**All proposed parks and open spaces must comply with the Town's Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Standards. Park space service levels and maintenance requirements will vary depending on classification and recreation amenities.*

Recreation Amenities

Recreation amenities can be defined as a feature or facility of a place that is intended to be used for social and recreational purposes. The Guidelines include recreation amenity options for each park space classification. Depending on the classification, recreation amenities may be standard, optional, or incompatible.

The following table illustrates suitable recreation amenities for each park classification, noting that certain amenities may require alterations to the park space design to enable accessibility, functionality, and maintenance. Although this list is not exhaustive, it is intended to identify common amenities that may be required or considered in a proposed park space.

Amenity	Park Classification										
	Destination	Community	Neighbourhood	Greenway	Conservation						
<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #92d050;"></td> <td>Standard</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffd966;"></td> <td>Optional</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e67e22;"></td> <td>Incompatible</td> </tr> </table>							Standard		Optional		Incompatible
	Standard										
	Optional										
	Incompatible										
Aquatics											
Outdoor pool (leisure)											
Outdoor spray park											
Water feature (fountain, ornamental pond, etc.)											
Ice Surfaces											
Outdoor hockey rink											
Outdoor skating surface											
Park Signage											
Community bulletin board											
Facility sign											
Informational sign											
Wayfinding sign											
Site Furnishings											
BBQ pit/fire pit											
Bike rack											
Bench											
Lighting											
Picnic table											
Trash unit											
Shelters/Structures											
Amphitheatre											
Clubhouse											
Gazebo											
Outdoor fitness equipment											
Pavilion											
Picnic shelter											
Playground											
Skatepark											
Sport Courts											
Basketball											
Beach volleyball											
Pickleball											
Racquetball											

Tennis	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Unobstructed Courts (e.g., bocce ball, horse shoe pit, etc.)	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Other					
Community garden	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Cross country ski trail	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Designated dog area – fenced	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
Golf course	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Multi-use trail	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Off-leash dog area	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Open/passive grass area	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Pedestrian bridge	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Permaculture design elements	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Public/functional art piece	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Sliding/sledding hill	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
Sport field (e.g., disc golf, soccer, baseball, football, etc.)	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red
Parking lot	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Washroom	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red

**Please be advised that the recreation amenity list is not exhaustive. The Town will work with stakeholders and developers to maintain and update this list, as necessary.*

***Certain uses may require additional considerations in the park space design; these will be identified and addressed by Town Staff, as needed*

Fiscal Impact Assessment

Proposed plans for future park spaces must consider the long-term financial impact to maintain, operate, and replace recreation amenities over time. A financial impact assessment for proposed plans can assist the owner, developer, and municipality determine if the proposal is financially viable, in addition to estimating the Town’s financial responsibility of acquiring new park space assets and facilities.

Fiscal impact assessments for proposed park spaces must consider the following information:

- Cost of servicing, building, constructing, and installing recreation amenities and associated infrastructure;
- Estimated maintenance costs for the park, amenities, and associated infrastructure over their lifecycle
- Estimated amenity and infrastructure replacement costs at the end of their life
- As-built drawings of complete recreation amenities and associated infrastructure

Evaluation

Proposed plans for future park spaces will be evaluated against a set of criteria based on the stage of the municipal planning process the application pertains to (ASP or subdivision). Evaluation tools are a consistent means to assess how well a proposed park space meets the objectives of the Guidelines. The Town has developed two evaluation tools to assist in the evaluation process when new or amended area structure plans or tentative plans of subdivision are submitted. The following suitability rankings are used to assess each criterion:

- Meets expectations: Plan complies with the Guidelines, no revisions required
- Revisions required: Plan does not comply with the Guidelines and needs revisions

- Not applicable: Certain cases/exceptions mean the criteria is unable to be met or that the criteria are not applicable for the plan

Area Structure Plan Evaluation Matrix

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposed parks and open spaces in new or amended area structure plans:

Area Structure Plan Name:			Town Staff	
Criteria	Evaluation Considerations	Applicant Comments	Suitability	Administrative Comments
Parcel size	Is 10% of the gross developable area planned for parks and open spaces?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Conservation	Are parks and open spaces planned to protect and conserve natural habitat?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Proposed park classifications	Do the proposed park classifications comply with the Park Space Guidelines?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Proposed recreation amenities	Are the proposed recreation amenities appropriate for the neighbourhood, as informed by data, planning principles, public engagement, community need, etc.?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Compatibility	Are proposed recreation amenities compatible with each other and surrounding uses?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Access	Are proposed parks and open spaces planned within an unobstructed (high traffic road, rail line, fence, etc.) 400-metre distance from residences?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Connectivity - Active Transportation	Are parks and open spaces planned to connect to the active transportation network both within the plan area and to adjacent neighbourhoods?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Connectivity – Parks and Open Spaces	Are parks and open spaces planned to connect with parks and open spaces both within and outside of the plan area?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	

Subdivision Evaluation Matrix

The following criteria will be used to evaluate proposed parks and open spaces in new or revised tentative plans of subdivision:

Subdivision Name:			Town Staff	
Criteria	Evaluation Considerations	Applicant Comments	Suitability	Administrative Comments
ASP Compliance	Are the proposed parks and open spaces on the tentative plan of subdivision in alignment with the ASP concept plan?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Park Space Allocation	Do the proposed parks and open spaces meet the proportional amount of MR expected to sufficiently address the 10% requirement?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Fiscal Considerations	Have the costs of servicing, building, constructing, and installing recreation amenities and associated infrastructure been provided?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Visibility	Are the proposed park spaces fronting onto a street with unobstructed visibility?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Social Interaction	Are the proposed park spaces planned in prominent locations as a focal point of the neighbourhood?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Safety	Are the proposed park spaces planned in consideration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Four Season Design	Are the proposed park spaces planned to have different and continuous year-round recreation uses?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Demographics	Are the proposed park spaces and recreation amenities appropriate for the current and anticipated demographic needs of the community?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	

Flexibility & Adaptability	Are the proposed park spaces designed to accommodate flexibility and adaptability to respond to future recreation needs/changes?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	
Maintenance and Operations	Are the proposed park spaces designed to adequately address operational efficiency for the Town?		<input type="checkbox"/> Meets expectations <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions required <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	