

Sustainable Land Use Guiding Principles

The Draft Sustainable Community Plan is organized around the following land use guiding principles.

1. Apply 'Smart Growth' principles to the built form, location and type of development.
2. Protect and enhance the heritage values of the community.
3. Protect the natural environment.
4. Ensure long-term sustainable municipal infrastructure.
5. Promote and provide alternative modes of transportation to single-occupant vehicles.
6. Provide a variety of linked recreational opportunities.
7. Support a diversified economy.
8. Support a vibrant arts and culture community.
9. Strengthen the social fabric of the community.
10. Manage the distribution of energy and water, and support the sustainable production of food.

Next Steps

Get involved in shaping the vision of your Community, by filling out and returning the community questionnaire found inside this newsletter.

See below for information on the next Public Open House

We need your Input!

Please fill out the Questionnaire

For more information, please contact the City of Grand Forks at (250) 442-8266

All information is available for viewing and download at www.city.grandforks.bc.ca under "City Hall" / "C.S. Plan"



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

LOCATED AT SENIOR'S CENTRE HALL IN CITY PARK
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2008

6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

VIEW THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PLAN
AT 7:00 PM—PRESENTATION BY THE CITY
AND URBAN SYSTEMS

All community members are welcome to attend & provide feedback that will shape the vision in the final plan.



"OUR GRAND FORKS" Sustainable Community Plan

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—AUGUST, 2008

This newsletter seeks community feedback on an important initiative currently underway in Grand Forks – the *Sustainable Community Plan*. This long-term planning document will set the framework for sustainability in our City for the next 20 years and beyond. The City needs your input in shaping the plan so that it meets the community's long term sustainable vision.

WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PLAN?

The approach taken for the development of the City of Grand Forks Sustainable Community Plan was to provide an update to the City's Official Community Plan, but with a view towards long-term sustainable development. The key difference between a typical Official Community Plan and the City of Grand Forks Sustainable Community Plan is the "sustainability lens" through which future goals, objectives and policies are viewed in setting the overall direction of the City of Grand Forks. This new Sustainable Community Plan provides a vision for Grand Forks towards self-sufficiency through the implementation of sustainability principles.

How was the Grand Forks Draft SCP Created?

This Sustainable Community Plan reflects the future vision of community values and goals with a major focus on sustainability. It is a Plan that was developed "for the community by the community" through the dedication and hard work of a Council appointed Steering Committee, City Council and City Staff together with the input from the general public through holding "Open Houses."

Why is a Sustainable Community Plan Being Created?

Grand Forks is changing. Current demographic trends indicate that within the next few years, Grand Forks will see a significant proportion of its population over the age of 65. With current economic challenges facing the community, the economic viability is of very high priority. As a result, some of the key considerations are:

- Composition of the City's future economic base.
- Attraction of young working families to the community.
- Availability of health needs for an aging population.
- Emphasis on local food production and consumption.
- Retaining and keeping young families in the Community.
- Emphasis on sustainability and self-sufficiency.

In addition, the ever changing world in the global economy and climate change requires the Community to be poised and prepared for the future.

While there are many definitions of sustainability, it basically entails the following:

“planning for the needs of today without compromising the needs of future generations”.

The Grand Forks Sustainable Community Plan provides a vision of a balance among the Environmental, Social, and Economic values. This is sometimes referred to as the Triple Bottom Line. The ‘Sustainability Stool’ highlighted here shows the relationship between the economic, environmental and social factors. If any one of these ‘legs’ of the stool is missing or present to a lesser degree than the others, then the sustain-



The Sustainability Stool

ability stool will not remain upright. Through discussions within the community, it was clear that the cultural aspect of Grand Forks was a critical component of the City’s past, present and future. While the cultural aspect may not be commonly expressed as one of the pillars of sustainability, it is a vital element.. Culture can be seen as the ‘Fourth Dimension’ of a community, that adds vibrancy and humanity to the society. Culture plays a significant role in the buy-in and success of implementing any sustainable practices. If a community has a ‘culture of sustainability’ it is much more likely to be successful in implementing policies and practices that create a viable, sustainable community.

Eight Goals for a Sustainable Grand Forks

The community gathered in December 2007 at a Visioning Workshop to discuss ideas for the future of Grand Forks, based on the following question:

“What is your idea for making Grand Forks a great, sustainable community?”

Over 50 ideas were brought forth that evening, covering all aspects from energy self-sufficiency to recruiting new, young families to settle in Grand Forks ensuring that the health and social services needed by all are present and everything in between. Interested residents were asked to return the next day to delve deeper into the ideas presented, which

were then drafted into *Eight Goals for a Sustainable Grand Forks*:

- Strengthen **arts and culture**;
- Fortify **sustainable economic development**;
- Ensure a **healthy natural environment**;
- Promote constructive **government–community relations**;
- Advance the community’s capacity for **self-sufficiency**;
- Develop a **sustainable land use plan**;
- Improve the **social fabric** of the community; and
- Integrate **health principles** in the decision making process.

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Cont’d from page 2
Eight Goals for a Sustainable Grand Forks

Draft Sustainable Land Use Plan

A Draft Sustainable Community Plan is available on the website and at City Hall. The Draft plan contains a number of land use policies, guidelines and maps that reflect the sustainable vision of the community. This land use vision can be summarized as follows:

“Grand Forks is recognized as a self-sufficient community, which infuses the principles of sustainability – social, economic, environmental and cultural – into its decision making”

The Principles of Smart Growth

The Draft Sustainable Community Plan incorporates many of the components of a land use philosophy called “Smart Growth”, which was born out of the realization that continued urban sprawl was not a viable, long-term community solution. There are ten principles of Smart Growth, which has been defined in British Columbia (by Smart Growth BC) as follows:



Smart Growth Principles

- Mixed land uses.
- Build well-designed compact neighbourhoods.
- Provide a variety of transportation choices.
- Create diverse housing opportunities.
- Encourage growth in existing communities.
- Preserve open space, natural beauty, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Protect and enhance agricultural lands.
- Utilize smarter, and cheaper infrastructure and green buildings.
- Foster a unique neighbourhood identity.
- Nurture engaged citizens.

For more information on Smart Growth visit www.smartgrowth.bc.ca