

Community Standards Bylaw Policy Review

The City is developing a Community Standards Bylaw (CSB). The CSB will serve to regulate and enable activities that pertain to the safety, health, and welfare of residents on private and public property.

To inform a policy discussion on each of the topics, information has been assembled in the template below on what the current local context is, what other comparator municipalities have done, Administration's recommendations concerning minimum standards, as well as potential financial and operational implications.

TOPIC NAME: Liquor

1. CURRENT SPRUCE GROVE BYLAW

No consumption in an open space area unless there is a permit ([Spruce Grove Open Space Bylaw](#), s. 11.3).

2. SPRUCE GROVE CONTEXT

Complaints of public consumption of liquor are few. With respect to enforcement, it has been challenging for officers to see or enforce on a proactive basis outside of random patrols at specific times.

3. OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Amendment Act (2020) reduced restrictions on public alcohol consumption in parks which allowed municipalities to decide whether to allow the practice in their spaces. [AGLC Act, s. 89\(1-2\)](#) states:

- (1) Except as provided in this Act, no person may use or consume liquor in a public place or any place other than a residence, temporary residence, licensed premises, or a place or class of place prescribed in the regulations where liquor may be used or consumed.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), a person may consume liquor in a public park in a picnic area designated by the owner or operator of the public park during the hours designated by the owner or operator if a sign is posted that
 - (a) states that a person may consume liquor in the designated picnic area,
 - (b) sets out the designated picnic area, and
 - (c) sets out the hours when liquor may be consumed.

Edmonton

- Edmonton has concluded a 2022 pilot project to permit alcohol consumption at designated picnic sites. The results will be discussed with City Council in early 2023.
- According to Edmonton's public survey on liquor consumption in designated sites, reasons in support of the concept include liquor consumption would complete an enjoyable food experience (85 per cent), regulates an activity that is already happening (82 per cent), and

increases opportunities for social interaction with friends and family (79 per cent). Opposition centered around public safety and negative behaviour/interactions. Opposition ranked highest in the over 55 years of age demographic. With a younger population there would likely be lots of support. [Edmonton Alcohol Consumption Pilot](#).

Beaumont

- No person shall, except in accordance with a liquor license, sell or consume Liquor in a Public Place except:
 - (a) Where it is a temporary campsite in an approved campsite location; or
 - (b) Where a special event permit and liquor license has been issued. ([Beaumont CSB](#), s. 66)

Strathcona County

- Strathcona County started a pilot on July 1, 2021, where alcohol consumption is permitted between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. at designated picnic sites. [Strathcona County Pilot](#)

St. Albert

- Alcohol consumption is only permitted in designated areas and only between the hours of **11 a.m. and 9 p.m.**
- It is unlawful to be intoxicated in public.
- It is unlawful to drive while intoxicated.
 - Please have a transportation plan or designated driver in mind before consuming alcohol in the designated park areas.
- It is unlawful to consume alcohol under the age of 18.
- Public alcohol consumption is not permitted during Events as defined in the [Parks Bylaw 07/2022](#). [St. Albert Alcohol in Designated Park Spaces](#)

4. ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

There have been questions about allowing liquor consumption in specific sites but only for certain events. Administration has confirmed with the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission that liquor consumption would be permitted in larger events, but the change in legislation is intended for a more casual or spontaneous use. Given that events are attended by significant numbers of people, controls are needed to ensure public safety and should continue to be regulated through permits.

Minimum Standards

Choices are:

- Keep the existing legislation (no liquor consumption in public spaces unless there is a permit).
- Allow liquor consumption in designated spaces. A pilot project can be considered as some municipalities have done. Jubilee Park has been suggested as a possible location.

Committee Question: Is there a desire to allow liquor consumption in designated picnic site(s) in the city?

Other Recommendations

If liquor consumption in designated sites is desired by the Committee, Administration recommends allowing only in Jubilee Park with restrictions around specific times and locations (e.g., not in spray park). Administration recommends wording and guidelines similar to what St. Albert has used.

Consistent with what other municipalities (Edmonton, St. Albert, etc.) have done in their pilot programs, Administration would strongly recommend not to allow events without a permit.

5. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

If liquor consumption is permitted in a designated site such as Jubilee Park, more random, proactive park patrols will be required.