

Tri-Smart Spruce Grove's Submission for the [September 9th 2024 Public Hearing](#)

Introduction:

The Public Hearing is on “The [Shape of Our Community](#), Spruce Grove’s municipal development plan (MDP), reflects the community’s shared commitment to foster quality of life, respect for the environment, economic vitality, fiscal responsibility, and inclusive and welcoming spaces... It is a crucial tool for guiding the growth and development of a municipality, including helping elected officials and administration make informed decisions and setting priorities.”

This submission serves the following purposes:

1. To Encourage Civic Engagement through community conversations, involvement in monitoring, and participation in presentations to the Council like this one.
2. To Prioritise an integrated approach to Heritage Preservation.
3. To present comments on Urban Agriculture related Heritage use of current farmsteads and inclusion of animals.
4. To present comments related to City Centre Development, Heritage, Residential Living, and Density.
5. To present the need for additional Special Study Areas.
6. To present the need for policies and plans related to Emergency Preparedness.

We present relevant policies, background, implementation activities, and comments for each purpose.

This submission is prepared so that the average citizen, with **limited time for “Civic Engagement”**, can read relevant information and **participate in the Public Hearing**. We have also developed an [Executive Summary](#), which captures our comments, without quoting the MDP document. This submission is also designed to present community conversations and ideas not captured by the Public Engagement Process used by the City and its consultants.

Appendix III outlines the process we went through to produce this submission.

Background:

October Careers Next Generation Workshop

Board up the Kuhl House on Century Road

Have community conversations about Pandemic Recovery (Social Sustainability) and Youth Employment.

Have community conversations about Agriculture and Heritage

Consider employing Homeless People 15-30

Identify Agricultural and Heritage resources and develop policies. (See City of Lacombe and Town of Cochrane).

Include Agricultural and Heritage Planning and Policies in the MDP

The above quote is from [Urban Agriculture, Recreation and Heritage Projects](#) that was presented to Spruce Grove's City Council on September 12th, 2021. For this submission we have included the above project document as Appendix II

Community conversations related to the above project document form the basis for much of what is presented in this submission to the MDP Public Hearing.

Appendix III outlines the process we went through to produce this submission.

The [Shape of Our Community](#) MDP Draft Document has a glossary of terms. Appendix D of that document has a table of Name Abbreviations used in the appendix on Implementation Tasks. Policies, and Background Information as are mentioned in the quotes below from the MDP document.

Note: Our comments on the MDP document are in Italics.

Civic Engagement:

Purpose: To encourage Civic Engagement through community conversations and involvement in monitoring and participating in presentations to Council like this one.

Policies:

“4.2.5 The City of Spruce Grove should foster an environment conducive to civic engagement that supports participation by community members to provide input on municipal issues, policies, programs and service delivery.”

Background:

3.4.1.3 Principle 3: Creating Community Spaces

“Spruce Grove also supports social connection through civic engagement, bringing people together to support initiatives, induce positive change, and build resilience.”

3.4.1.5 Principle 5: Community Viability

“An inclusive, accessible, diverse, and equitable social environment supports vibrancy, resiliency, and robust civic engagement.”

Appendix D:

Ongoing Implement the Social Sustainability Plan CSD

Short–mid-term Undertake a Community Needs Assessment CSD

Short–mid-term Develop an online 'one-stop' portal to access all social supports and programs provided by the City CSD

Implementation of the Social Sustainability, Plan Needs Assessment, and Portal Development provide multiple opportunities for Civic Engagement. It recommended that a Tri-Regional approach, to these implementations be done, like those done by Tri-Smart.

Short term Develop a civic engagement handbook for residents CC

It is anticipated that capturing and sharing community conversations through networking with community groups and individuals will produce Civic Engagement. In preparing this submission, we have attempted to do this and get people to participate in the September 9th Public Hearing.

If you would like to join a Tri-Smart Community Engagement Network email trismart2017@gmail.com.

Heritage Preservation:

Purpose: *To prioritize an integrated approach to Heritage Preservation.*

Policies:

“4.4.38 The City of Spruce Grove should identify and preserve existing cultural and historical resources, as well as ageing heritage resources, that will be of significance in the future.”

The policy is good but may be implemented too late to preserve some resources before they are destroyed (See Special Study Areas below)

Below are some of the Policies that need to include Heritage Preservation.

4.3.33 The City of Spruce Grove shall ensure that infill and redevelopment guidelines support complementary infill development in established neighbourhoods.

4.3.35 The City of Spruce Grove shall require area structure plans and area redevelopment plans to guide development in accordance with the City’s terms of reference for such plans.

4.3.38 The City of Spruce Grove shall require neighbourhood plans to guide subdivision and development at the neighbourhood scale.

Background:

“Cultural Master Plan (CMP)

The CMP is also connected with the MDP. Examples of the linkages include:

...undertaking a Cultural Heritage Management Plan, perhaps linked with the Historical Resources Inventory referenced in the POSMP [Parks and Open Space Master Plan]”

Heritage Management Planning does not seem to be urgent. Without a Heritage Plan similar to that of the City of Lacombe, heritage resources are destroyed to the detriment of current and future generations. For example, if we had a heritage plan the Khul House see action step 2 in the background information above may not have been burned and the other buildings on that site destroyed.

Heritage Planning could be linked to Urban Agriculture Planning with consideration being given to designating the three Remaining Farmsteads as heritage resources. (See Proposed Special Study Areas below)

Appendix D

Mid-term Develop a Heritage Management Plan RC

Change to Short term to ensure that important heritage resources are not destroyed.

Mid-term Establish and maintain a historical resources inventory PD

Long term Establish heritage recognition & interpretive signage RC

Change to Mid-term to match the change in the management plan

Addition to Appendix D

Immediate Work with the Agricultural Society to make the digital version of “As the Roots Grow” available for research and development use. RC

Urban Agriculture and Heritage:

Purpose: To present comments on Urban Agriculture Heritage use of current farmsteads and inclusion of animals.

Policies:

4.9.17 The City of Spruce Grove shall prepare and adopt an urban agriculture plan considering but not limited to the following:

- a. creating awareness and public support for urban agriculture;
- b. identifying opportunities and constraints for urban agriculture specific to Spruce Grove;

Spruce Grove is in a unique position with respect to Urban Agriculture because it has Open Spaces and natural areas that can be used for this purpose. It also has three FarmSteads that could be utilized for Urban Agriculture (See Special Study Areas below). One of the FarmSteads could be used for horses and other large farm animals and another one is being used for smaller farm animals. Horses and other animals have therapeutic value. The City’s trail system could connect the FarmSteads. The trail system could also be used by horses.

- c. identifying how urban agriculture will be supported in the city, with particular attention to the needs of public and private forms of urban agriculture;
- d. land use policies supporting agriculture generally and growth in the value-added agriculture sector specifically;
- e. policy direction to identify and coordinate infrastructure and services that are needed to support urban agriculture and the value-added sector;

- f. policy direction to create a public engagement process for public education about urban agriculture and to minimize conflict over land uses associated with urban agriculture;
- g. identifying the potential range of urban agricultural uses that may be considered suitable and those uses that may not be considered suitable in the community;
- h. policy direction encouraging that appropriate forms of urban agriculture become an accepted part of complete communities and integrated into the social fabric of the community;
- i. where appropriate, policy direction to embed urban agriculture as a land use in the City's Land Use Bylaw; and,
- j. identifying any urban agriculture attributes and characteristics unique to Spruce Grove.

Equine Heritage could complement Stony Plain's focus on Mechanised Heritage.

4.9.18 The City of Spruce Grove shall refer the urban agriculture plan to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board for review and comment prior to adoption.

4.10.6 The City of Spruce Grove may consider expanding its municipal boundary eastward only up to, but not including, the Wagner Natural Area.

These lands could facilitate extension of Urban Agriculture like Equine uses. Also horses could be used to provide access to trails and the Wagner Natural Area for people with limited mobility.

The following policies would need to be modified to include the use of horses.

4.4.12 The City of Spruce Grove shall ensure guidelines and standards for all trail systems reflect the current and future needs of the community.

4.1.15 The City of Spruce Grove shall ensure that all parks and open spaces are connected to the trail system where feasible.

4.1.16 The City of Spruce Grove shall encourage pedestrian connections from neighbourhoods to and within development along the highway commercial corridor.

4.1.17 The City of Spruce Grove should prioritize community connections between neighbourhoods and the rest of the city with more trails and pathways.

4.1.18 The City of Spruce Grove shall support connectivity for accessible and barrier-free trail connections between neighbourhoods and amenity areas.

4.4.18 The City of Spruce Grove should ensure that all parks and open spaces are accessible by pedestrian and bicycle/micromobility traffic, with good visibility from public roadways.

The following policies may affect Urban Agriculture.

4.3.36 The City of Spruce Grove shall create and follow area structure plans for Special Study Areas 1 and 2 as identified on Map 6.

4.3.34 The City of Spruce Grove shall follow the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan in the acquisition and designation of parks and open spaces.

4.4.30 The City of Spruce Grove should restrict development in wetlands, watershed recharge areas, riparian zones, and flood-prone areas.

Appendix D

Short term Develop an urban agriculture plan PD

Short term Explore opportunities for planting rainwater gardens along roadways and pathways to support rain event runoff management ENG/SPD

Short-mid-term Investigate how to enable micro farming through the urban agriculture plan and other regulations PD

Short-mid-term Investigate how to enable local food processing, distribution, and 'gate sales' through the urban agriculture plan and other regulations PD

Short-mid-term Enable community gardens on privately and publicly owned land through the urban agriculture plan and the Land Use Bylaw PD

City Centre Development:

Purpose: To present comments related to City Centre Development, heritage, residential living, and density.

Policies:

4.2.2 The City of Spruce Grove shall encourage the continued redevelopment of the City Centre as one of the primary, community-level gathering places, and as a distinct urban experience that is mixed use, pedestrian friendly, and offers a diverse and eclectic range of services.

4.2.10 The City of Spruce Grove shall encourage higher residential densities to be located along major transportation corridors and along the edges of existing Neighbourhoods.

The edges of the City Centre would be ideal for High Density Development.

4.2.12 The City of Spruce Grove shall focus on higher density and seniors housing in proximity to amenities and transit.

4.3.4 The City of Spruce Grove shall implement the City Centre Area Redevelopment Plan and review and update the Area Redevelopment Plan at least every five Years.

A review should be done this year to accommodate Heritage Preservation, 1st Avenue Planning, and conversations about investment, lifestyle and density.

Background:

3.5.2 City Centre Pg. 59

“Development in the City Centre should reflect the objectives and policies of the City Centre Area Redevelopment Plan and should:

► elevate the City Centre’s status as a cohesive, unique, and desirable area for investment and living;”

*“An alternate vision to “Urban Living” would be for “Rurban Living”. This would allow those who move to Spruce Grove from either a more rural area or an urban area like Edmonton to have a City Centre that reflects both our rural heritage as well as the conveniences of a Big City.” [Rurban Living and Heritage](#)
The focus of the City Centre ARP has been on Business Investment. There should be conversations on private residential investment and living in the City Centre.*

Appendix D

Mid-term Develop a First Avenue design guideline PD

Heritage Preservation needs to be considered.

Short–mid term Investigate feasibility of allowing tiny homes and small house villages to support affordability efforts PD

This be Investigation could be expanded to Japanese style condos and apartments, which could help increase density.

Special Study Areas:

Purpose: To present the need for additional Special Study Areas.

Policies:

4.1.12 The City of Spruce Grove shall prepare new area structure plans for unplanned lands and may, in collaborations with the affected landowners/developers, prepare revised area structure plans for lands that have already been planned.

4.3.37 The City of Spruce Grove shall, for the purposes of further planning and developing Special Study Areas 3 and 4 as identified on Map 6, amend this municipal development plan, including Map 6, in relation to Special Study Areas 3 and 4 to ensure consistency with any corresponding amendments made to the Shiloh and East Pioneer Area Structure Plans, respectively.

We would like to propose adding Special Study Areas numbered 5,6,7 and 8 on Map 6a (Appendix I). Areas 5-7 correspond to 3 remaining FarmSteads, which could be designated as Heritage Sites and used for Urban Agriculture. Designating them as Special Study Areas would keep them from development until the Special Area Studies are completed.

4.3.48 The City of SpruceGrove shall continue to provide a waste management program that includes a curbside component and promotes recycling, waste reduction, separation, and composting.

Study Area 5 includes Spruce Grove’s only Residential Heritage site. Spruce Grove’s other Heritage site is the Grain Elevator. Study Area 5 includes “Nelson’s Bush”, which is of Heritage importance to scouting and community picnics. The shop on Study Area 5 could also be used for Heritage and Waste Management Projects. The grain storage bins could be used to store grain for emergency purposes.

4.2.10 The City of Spruce Grove shall encourage higher residential densities to be located along major transportation corridors and along the edges of existing Neighbourhoods.

Study Area 6 could mix High Density Residential Development with Urban Agriculture. Urban Agricultural Paths are included to link the Red Barn Farmstead Jubilee Park and the Civic Centre. Study of Area 6 should include the use of horses.

Study Area 7 relates to the working Farmstead of Norman Shwint.

Policies Related to Special Study Area 8

4.3.19 The City of Spruce Grove shall continue to collaborate with school authorities on locating joint school and municipal facilities and continue to maintain joint use agreements.

4.1.7 The City of Spruce Grove should support the furtherance of post-secondary education and work in partnership with educational and community-based organizations and other relevant partners to enhance opportunities for innovation, learning and skill development in Spruce Grove.

4.3.31 The City of Spruce Grove shall investigate integrating mobility trails within required road rights-of-way so that available reserve lands can be allocated to higher order community needs, such as schools.

Study Area 8 relates to the above policies reserving this land for a future Multi-Purpose Educational Institution, which could be used for joint programing between school boards and joint community and Post-Secondary use. Reserving the land as a Special Study Area allows this study to take place before it is used for residential development.

Appendix D

Mid term Develop ASPs for the Special Planning Areas identified on Map 6 – Future Land Use Concept PD.

If Special Study Areas 5-8 are added, then current ASPs need to be modified.

Emergency Preparedness:

Purpose: present the need for policies plans related to Emergency Preparedness.

In reviewing policies, there are the following policies related to Emergency Preparedness but none specific to the extended loss of electricity or water supply and Emergency Plans. Horses could be used for Emergency Transportation. Well water could be treated to provide Potable Water and food produced by Urban Agriculture and Food Processing and Storage Industries for Emergency Food.

Electricity Preparedness:

Policies:

4.3.32 The City of Spruce Grove should require the orientation of new subdivision design and building construction to take maximum advantage of passive and active solar opportunities where appropriate.

Appendix D

Short–mid term Develop public education materials on solar access assessments for passive and active solar
SPD

Mid–long term Enable solar photovoltaic electricity generation in all land use districts
PD

Water Preparedness:

4.4.29 The City of Spruce Grove should manage water resources within the City's boundaries through a comprehensive naturalized stormwater management program that considers impacts on the local and regional watersheds.

4.3.49 The City of Spruce Grove should explore opportunities for rainwater capture and use for public and private properties.

4.4.29 The City of Spruce Grove should manage water resources within the City's boundaries through a comprehensive naturalized stormwater management program that considers impacts on the local and regional watersheds.

4.4.30 The City of Spruce Grove should restrict development in wetlands, watershed recharge areas, riparian zones, and flood-prone areas.

Appendix D

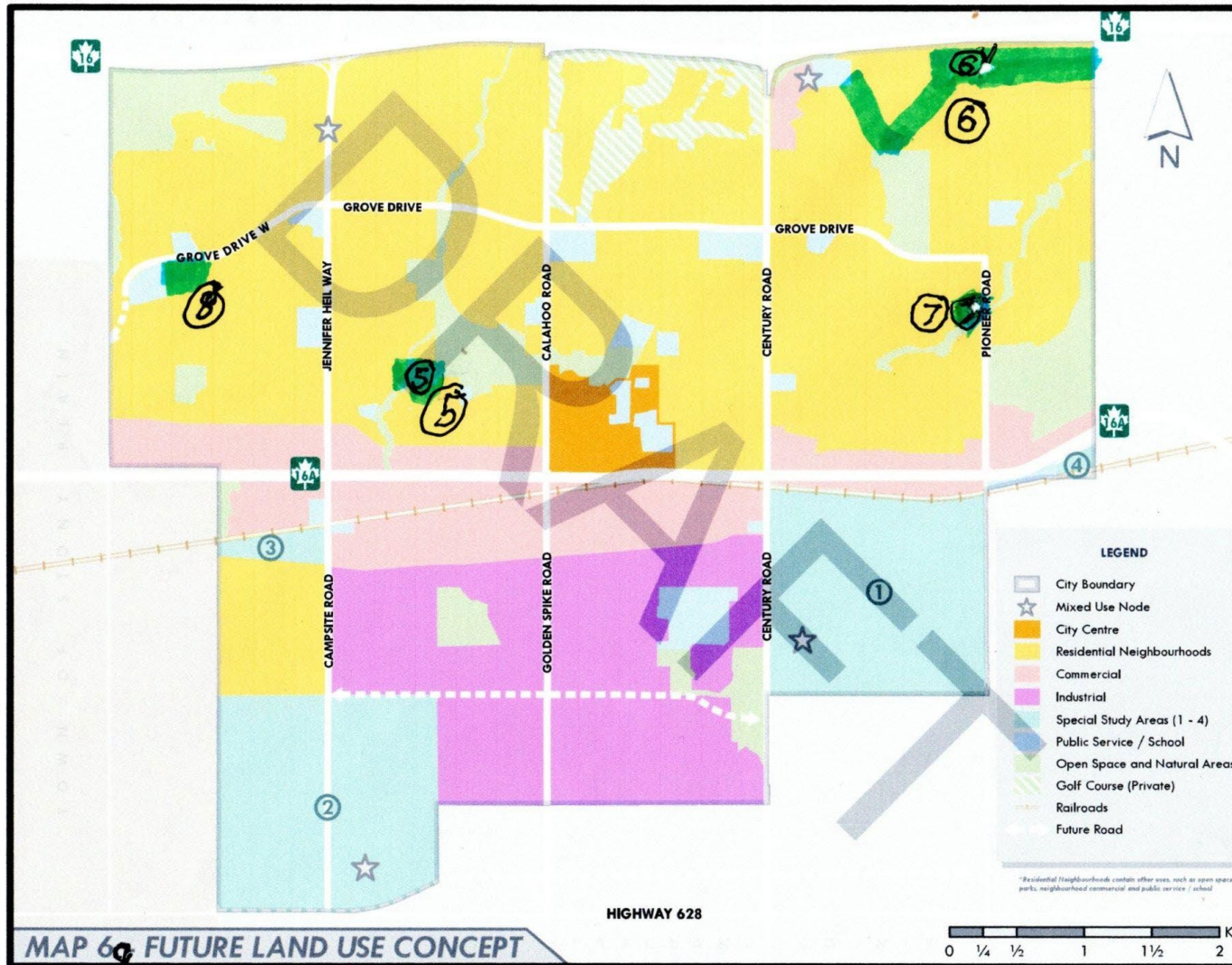
Long term Develop an integrated watershed management plan for Spruce
Grove
PD/SPD

If you would like to provide feedback and/or receive updates email trismart2017@gmail.com.
Also, email us if you would like to speak to a specific issue.

Submitted by David Ibsen, 510 Queen Street, Spruce Grove, AB, T7X2J5

Signed  Date September 4, 2024

Appendix I Map 6a Future Land Use Concept



Appendix II Urban Agriculture, Recreation and Heritage Projects (Public)

FACTS (Family And Community Twining Society) at the September 12th Council Meeting requested \$31,500 from the City of Spruce Grove to hire Young People to work on these projects. See [Public Budget Submissions Video \(Start at 1:05\)](#) and [PowerPoint Presentation](#).

Opportunity to get started immediately:

Approve Three \$1,500 internships as follows:

- One for FACTS to work with administration and others to get started on the action plan and facilitate heritage tours. see [Spruce Grove Heritage Tours 2022](#)
- One for a society to open up a digital heritage centre using the rec hub as a base.
- One for a society to open up the log cabin to be used by several groups.

We would like to talk more with administration and bring a joint proposal back to council.

Golden Age Tour 2022

A Special Guided Country Tour of our Heritage will take place Friday September 9th from 1:00 – 3:00pm. Spruce Grove Golden Age Club members have one day advance notice, prior to the tour being advertised to the general public this weekend at Agra Fair.

Space is limited to 20 passengers via ATS bus. Cost will be \$10/person. Drop off and pick up is at the Pioneer Centre. Tour will be 1:00pm – 2:30pm followed by a slideshow presentation in the RPW room. Coffee/tea and dainties will be served.

Please email or call the office at 780-962-5020 to register.

Links:

- [Canada Day 2017 Presentation](#)
- [Fall Fest](#)
- [City Map Cover 2022](#)
- [A Lost Generation \(PDF\)](#)
- [As The Roots Grow \(History of Spruce Grove\)](#)
 - Horse and Buggy Days (Online pg 168, Hard Copy, pg 164).
 - Golden Age Club(Online pg 274, Hard Copy, pg 270).
- [Tri-Smart Resources for Hard Times](#)
- [Tri-Smart One \(Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, Parkland County\)](#)
- [Agenda for the Sept. 12th meeting. PowerPoint for this meeting](#), in which the following actions are presented.

October Careers Next Generation Workshop

Board up the Kuhl House on Century Road

Have community conversations about Pandemic Recovery (Social Sustainability) and Youth Employment.

Have community conversations about Agriculture and Heritage

Consider employing Homeless People 15-30

Identify Agricultural and Heritage resources and develop policies. (See City of Lacombe and Town of Cochrane).

Include Agricultural and Heritage Planning and Policies in the MDP

Project Notes and Links:

As we have time and resources, we will be adding to the notes below.

[Strategic Plan](#)

Week 5: Farm Frenzy [Summer in the City 2022](#)

Campers will celebrate the harvest, country music, and all things agriculture at this farm-themed camp. Participants will get the opportunity to see barnyard animals and enjoy all the activities a farm has to offer!

- [The History of Spruce Grove](#)
- [Spruce Grove Grain Elevators](#)
- [Rurban Living and Heritage](#)
- Cultural Master Plan -**Needs to be updated in relationship to the MDP (Municipal Development Plan), Heritage Planning and City Centre Public Hearing**

</media/1999/cultural-master-plan.pdf>

Cultural Map chart

Cultural Heritage

– Spruce Grove has relatively few assets that fall into this category. A significant number

heritage buildings have been lost to growth and development pressures. Spruce Grove has continued to enjoy one of its most iconic historic properties

– The Grain Elevator. Along with the McLaughlin/Nelson

home, these two historic properties help to showcase several segments of Spruce Grove's history and heritage.

Festivals and Events

- these are annual recurring events that showcases different facets of Spruce Grove's identity and culture. Consultations confirmed interest in having more festivals and events available year round, including a potential signature event that could draw visitors from across the Capital Region.

Fall Fest

Comparative Analysis

Communities frequently ask how their mapping findings compare to other communities of similar population

size . Below we have compared Spruce Grove mapping findings to that of Parkland County and Stony Plain.

Given the strong commitment to establish collaborative regional approaches to cultural development connecting the three municipalities, these comparisons provide useful information.

Appendix III Preparation of Our Submission to the September 9th Public Hearing.

We first looked at the Table of Contents (see below) and searched the complete MDP draft document for relevant information related to the presentation of our community conversations and ideas.

We then read all of the Policies and Appendix D implementation tasks to select relevant policies and tasks relevant to our presentation.

We organised the information collected and wrote comments for our submission.

We then edited the submission to produce an executive summary.

This submission addresses the following highlighted sections of the draft MDP table of contents.

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Tri-Smart Spruce Grove's Executive Summary of Our Submission for the [September 9th 2024 Public Hearing](#)

Introduction:

The Public Hearing is on “The [Shape of Our Community](#), Spruce Grove’s municipal development plan (MDP), reflects the community’s shared commitment to foster quality of life, respect for the environment, economic vitality, fiscal responsibility, and inclusive and welcoming spaces”Where does this quote begin?

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5. To present the need for additional Special Study Areas.
6. To present the need for policies and plans related to Emergency Preparedness.

In the Executive Summary we discuss the above purposes by focusing on our comments, which are bases(d?) on policies, relevant background, implementation activities quoted in our submission.

This summary is prepared so that the average citizen, with **limited time for “Civic Engagement”**, can read relevant information and **participate in the Public Hearing**. It is also designed to present community conversations and ideas not captured by the Public Engagement Process used by the City and its consultants. This Executive Summary captures our Italicised comments

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Purpose:To present the need for additional Special Study Areas.

We would like to propose adding Special Study Areas numbered 5,6,7 and 8 on Map 6a (Appendix I). Areas 5-7 correspond to 3 remaining FarmSteads, which could be designated as Heritage Sites and used for Urban Agriculture. Designating them as Special Study Areas would keep them from development until the Special Area Studies are completed.

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Study Area 7 relates to the working FarmStead of Norman Shwint.

Study Area 8 relates to reserving land for a future Multi-Purpose Educational Institution, which could be used for joint programming between school boards and joint community and Post-Secondary use. Reserving the land as a Special Study Area allows this study to take place before it is used for residential development.

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Purpose: present the need for policies plans related to Emergency Preparedness.

In reviewing policies, there are Policies related to Emergency Preparedness but none specific to the extended loss of electricity or water supply and Emergency Plans. Horses could be used for Emergency Transportation. Well water could be treated to provide Potable Water and food produced by Urban Agriculture and Food Processing and Storage Industries Emergency Food.

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Also, email us if you would like to speak to a specific issue.

Submitted by David Ibsen, 510 Queen Street, Spruce Grove, AB, T7X2J5

Signed  Date September 4, 2024

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