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**Design and Construction Standards Update - open space components****Report Purpose**

To seek Council approval on proposed amendments to the open space related components of the Design and Construction Standards.

**Recommendation**

THAT the proposed amendments to the open space related components of the Design and Construction Standards, as set out in Enclosure 4 of the October 29, 2019, Planning and Development Services report, be approved.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

**Report**

The Design and Construction Standards (the Standards) were updated in September 2019 and approved by Council on October 8, 2019; however, the open space components of the Standards have not been updated since November 2012.

A summary of proposed open space amendments with impact to processes or standard requirements has been included in Enclosure 3 and all proposed (non administrative) amendments have been identified in Enclosure 4. The proposed amendments include changes to reflect both existing practices and standards that have evolved over the past six years, as well as some newly-proposed best practices and standards to align with Strathcona County's vision of modelling ecological integrity and ensuring safety, environmental awareness, completeness and comprehensiveness. The proposed amendments are identified in Enclosure 4 by highlighting as noted on the first page, differentiating between new sections and information versus amendments that revise the existing standards and process. Highlighting has also been included to reflect clauses being relocated to other sections for completeness of information. If approved, the instructions page and all highlighting within Enclosure 4 will be removed as a format amendment by administration, before amalgamating with the October 8, 2019 approved Design and Construction Standards.

Of note within the proposed open space related amendments is the addition of language to address regional, interdepartmental and private industry interests, including:

- integration of forest resiliency and bio-diversity standards to improve municipal tree health and minimize risks and vulnerability to pests and invasive species;
- incorporation of community garden and pollinator's habitat standards to take action on the vision from the Strathcona County Urban Agricultural Strategy; and
- streamlining some of the inspection processes to facilitate expediency in the completion of landscape architectural components of land development.

This project was completed in conjunction with Recreation Parks and Culture, Transportation and Agricultural Services, Utilities, Transportation Planning and Engineering and the landscape architectural consulting firm EDS Group Inc., who was retained to provide technical expertise on landscape architectural improvements, construction details and specifications. The Urban Development Institute was also engaged in review discussions and provided support of the proposed amendments as included in Enclosure 1. EDS Group Inc. has also provided a letter of support for the proposed amendments as included in Enclosure 2.

Although this project took place concurrently with Transportation Planning and Engineering's September 2019 updates, all enclosures included herein reflect the motions approved by Council on October 8, 2019, and only affected sections of the Standards have been included in Enclosures 4 and 5 for ease of reference.

**Council and Committee History**

October 8, 2019	Council approved the TPE 2019 Strathcona County Design and Construction Standards update and authorized administration to make administrative amendments to the Standards as required.
November 6, 2012	Council approved open space related updates to the Design and Construction Standards dated November 2012.
December 13, 2011	Council approved the Design and Construction Standards and rescinded the Engineering Servicing Standards – Urban Service Area, Engineering Servicing Standards – Rural Service Area; and the Open Space Development Standards.
June 13 2006	Council approved the revised Open Space Development Standards.
April 23, 2002	Council approved the revised Open Space Development Standards.
May 16, 1995	Council approved the Open Space Development Standards, formerly the Park Development Guidelines.
September 4, 1990	Council approved the Park Development Guidelines as the standards used for the development of parks, school sites and open spaces in Strathcona County.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** Recreation Parks and Culture, Transportation Planning and Engineering, Transportation and Agriculture Services and Utilities.

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

**Communication Plan**

Consultation occurred with the Urban Development Institute and following Council approval, updates to the Design and Construction Standards will be posted on the website and email notification will be sent to the distribution list on file.

**Enclosures**

1	UDI letter of support
2	EDS Group Inc. letter of support
3	Summary of proposed amendments
4	Proposed amendments to the open space related components of the Design and Construction Standards
5	September 2019 Design and Construction Standards - excerpts