

District and Local Level Focus in the Approach to Community Recreation Facility Planning

The following represents a selection of text from the current Approach to Community Recreation Facility Planning in Edmonton that demonstrates the document's focus on providing district and local level recreation opportunities. These excerpts represent only "snapshots" of this focus; this concept is interwoven throughout the broader document.

From Page 33:

Strategic Direction 1: Apply the Basic Commitment to Recreation Provision

To meet the City's goals and realize the principles of the Approach, the City is introducing a basic commitment to residents for community recreation facilities. Rather than striving to meet a specific resident demand for desired community recreation amenities, the City will target a basic commitment that focuses on a more general mix of opportunities accessible to residents at the district and neighbourhood levels and more reflective of a recreation network. This basic commitment is intended to provide residents access to indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities that are fundamental to physical literacy⁴. The basic commitment will help Edmontonians be active, creative, healthy, and connected to each other and their communities.

From Page 57:

Infrastructure Supporting Emerging Amenity Needs

As new amenities become increasingly popular, recreation spaces will need to accommodate these shifting demands for the "evolution of spaces" based on needs assessments and understanding the recreation network, availability of other amenities in the district or neighbourhood, and the basic commitment to residents. In recent years, the City has responded accordingly to the growing demand for new amenities. The Approach must remain flexible enough to continue to accommodate new recreation and sports activities, particularly as it can be expected that increasing demand for new amenities will also continue in parallel with the changing face of Edmonton.

From Page 107:

District Facilities in the Recreation Network

Unlike metropolitan facilities, district facilities are intended to serve sub-segments of the city and/or regional population. District facilities typically have a higher multi-purpose capability than other facility classifications as they serve a large enough population to offer activity choice.

While such facilities will be provided with reasonable access to all residents and will deliver equitable levels of community recreation facility service throughout the city, they are not all the same. District facilities will not be identical across the city. The basic commitment will guide individual amenities within each district facility which will be selected based on community needs and the needs of the larger recreation network.

From Page 109:

Neighbourhood Facilities in the Recreation Network

A neighbourhood is defined as a sub-segment of the city comprising up to approximately 20,000 residents that relate to each other in terms of urban design and geographic area. Neighbourhoods are at the root of community connectedness. Community recreation facilities and amenities provided at the neighbourhood level are key public areas where this connection occurs. As such, each resident should be able to access at least one neighbourhood amenity in alignment with the basic commitment.

As neighbourhoods aren't large enough to justify a full range of indoor and outdoor spaces and places like those provided at the district or metropolitan levels, the facility activity categories for neighbourhood facilities focus more on providing community-based opportunities for social interaction, physical activity, community building, and creativity.