

Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

Official Community Plan



THE TOWN OF FORT QU'APPELLE

Official Community Plan BYLAW NO. 24-2014

1. Pursuant to Section 29 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle hereby adopts the Official Community Plan, identified as Schedule "A" to this bylaw.
2. The Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer are hereby authorized to sign and seal Schedule "A" which is attached to and forms part of this bylaw.
3. This bylaw shall come into force on the date of final approval by the Minister of Government Relations.

Read a first time this _____ day of _____ 20__

Read a second time this _____ day of _____ 20__

Read a third time and passed this _____ day of _____ 20__

MAYOR

SEAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

THE TOWN OF FORT QU'APPELLE

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

SCHEDULE "A" to BYLAW NO. 24-2014

MAYOR

SEAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Professional Planner

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Section 1: The Official Community Plan

1.1 Introduction

The community of Fort Qu'Appelle celebrates the completion of its community plan known as the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan, hereinafter referred to as the OCP. This Plan is a voluntary, community based effort, formed to assist the Town with growth and development challenges and opportunities to sustain and retain current community services, and business activities which meet the economic, cultural, physical, and social needs of the current and future population.

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle recognizes the importance of planning for the future to ensure continued community economic development is stimulated. The policies within this Plan provide guidelines to reduce conflicts between land uses, protect sensitive environmental areas, build relationships and collaborate with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations communities, and to develop strategies which support community revitalization and population growth. The policies in this Plan are enabling and several key initiatives, as outlined in the Action Plan Section, are recommended to develop progress and results reflective of the comprehensive land use plan for the Town.

1.2 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is a prosperous community located in Treaty 4 territory, residing within the Qu'Appelle Valley. This area of Saskatchewan has a rich history and culture. Some of the history that is honoured within the Town includes the signing of Treaty 4 and the establishment of the Hudson Bay Company.

The history and culture is recognized in the Town and contributes to the character of the community. Built heritage that has been maintained in the Town includes, though is not limited to, the Old School, which has been re-purposed and is now the home of the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts, and the Hudson's Bay Company building. The beauty of the Valley and the Town's physical location provides opportunities for the community. The Town provides residents and visitors a variety of services and amenities with respect to health, education, and recreation. Pride in the community is shown through the local members and all that they do in the community. These unique features of the Town contribute the small town charm and beauty of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

1.3 Map of Fort Qu'Appelle



1.4 Enabling Legislation

The Planning and Development Act, 2007, and *The Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI)* provide the legislative framework for the preparation and adoption of an Official Community Plan. The Plan addresses such items as future land use, development, and other matters of community concern. This Plan is intended to guide the Town for a period of twenty to twenty-five years and beyond.

1.5 Beyond Legislative Authority

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan is derived from a participatory process with the involvement of many residents, stakeholders, and other community members. The non-legislative authority for the Plan is the capacity-building and partnership opportunities that have been realized as a result of this process and their direct correlation to sustainable growth, which is considered a priority by the community.

1.6 Purpose of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan

An Official Community Plan, as deemed in Saskatchewan under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* states:

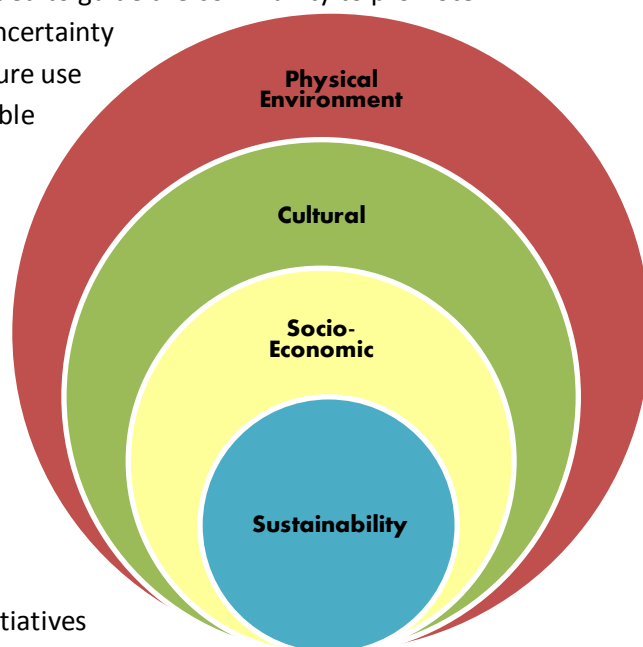
The purpose of an Official Community Plan is to provide a comprehensive policy framework to guide the physical, environmental, economic, social, and cultural development of the municipality.

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan is intended to guide the community to promote orderly and sustainable development. This OCP will reduce uncertainty for both the public and private sectors with respect to the future use of land by promoting development practices that are compatible with the land base and environment in the Town.

The Town shall in conjunction with the adoption of this OCP, amend in accordance with *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, their respective Zoning Bylaw as required to be consistent to the policies and provisions of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan. The OCP responds to the requirements of the Act by providing policies based upon "Community Goals." The day-to-day decisions based upon these goals, objectives, and the policies in this Plan are intended to promote orderly and sustainable development.

Fort Qu'Appelle supports the coordination of development initiatives within the community and further to work on a district-wide basis to collaborate regionally into the future. Findings from the consultative processes, together with technical research, have focused the Plan on the potential opportunities and issues residents and land owners identified as of prime importance for the future of the community, notably the need for collaborative planning and greater certainty when it comes to land uses. There is the opportunity to take a community approach to:

- Attract new residents and businesses to the Town and surrounding area to support local amenities and increase tax base;
- Take advantage of the existing infrastructure, central location, community assets; and
- Market economic opportunities and natural features including recreational, lakes, commercial, and industrial development.



1.7 Format of the Plan

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan is divided into four major parts:

Section 1

An introduction to the Official Community Plan, providing some general background information and guidance.

Section 2

Community voice and engagement process. The vision, goals, general planning principles of the community.

Section 3

General land use policies to guide the overall use, planning and development of land in all areas of the community.

Section 4

Implementation, action planning and the administrative tools and legislative supports available for Council to administer the Official Community Plan are highlighted.

The **Policies** of the OCP are action statements intended to address particular issues and advance the Town towards its vision. Policy implementation should involve appropriate levels of consultation with the public and relevant stakeholders. As future amendments to the OCP are contemplated, consideration should be given as to how the proposed amendment conforms to the vision and themes presented in the OCP.

Future Land Use Map: One of the key aspects of the OCP is to provide an overall future land use and development concept for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle. The Future Land Use Map (Appendix "A") illustrates general land use designations which have been determined by a number of factors including existing patterns of land use, projected land needs, resources areas, natural attributes and man-made features.

Reference Maps: A series of reference maps attached in Appendix "B" provide supplementary information. These maps may be updated periodically by resolution of the Town. All Reference Maps are conceptual only and should not be used to make site specific decisions.

Action Plans: To achieve the goals set out in this Official Community Plan, a clear plan of action or implementation strategy is required. An Action Plan template for the Town has been included in Appendix "F" to provide space to insert key action items that will need to be completed to help the Town achieve the goals outlined in this OCP. Each action item relates to policy statements included in this OCP and will require the action items be prioritized. The action items should be reviewed regularly to monitor progress and to determine if changes are required.



1.8 Guiding Growth in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

This OCP encourages some degree of change in the community to promote development opportunities. Guiding future population growth to support social-economic development in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is needed to assure a better future for the area. A dynamic community requires a strategy to successfully promote agricultural diversification, business enterprises, job creation, recreation amenities, and a variety of residential options to attract new residents. The potential benefits that will accrue to the greater community include employment, tax revenue, support for local business, as well as other economic and social opportunities.

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan, and corresponding Zoning Bylaw, will be utilized as tools to promote the community while also ensuring the local way of life and natural environment will be preserved for future generations.

Section 2: Community Voice and Engagement

2.1 Community Engagement

Community engagement is an important component of the planning process and an overall contribution to the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan. Writing local policy based on local wisdom and experience is one of the most valuable sources of information.

Through the creation of this OCP, the public was invited to share their local wisdom and experience to help plan for the future of the community. There were a variety of engagement sessions held in a number of forms including community meetings, focus groups, attendance at community events, intercept surveys, and interviews with community members, stakeholders, and visitors to the area. These sessions informed the policies, goals and objectives regarding key topics such as: land use potential, recreational amenities, ecologically sensitive lands, residential, transportation, infrastructure, inter-municipal relationships, and other key policy areas.

2.2 Community Engagement Approaches Utilized

The process for creating this Official Community Plan and the facilitation design utilized is based on best practices and is intended to ensure opportunity for community capacity-building and quality results to be achieved within the given time and resource parameters.

The following facilitation principles were followed:

- Every system works to some degree; seek out the positive and appreciate the “best of what is”;
- Knowledge generated by the inquiry should be applicable; look at what is possible & relevant;
- Systems are capable of becoming more than they are and they can learn how to guide their own evolution – so consider provocative challenges & bold dreams of “what might be”; and
- The process & outcome of the inquiry are interrelated and inseparable, so make the process a collaborative one (Cooperrider & Whitney, 1991)¹.

As part of the facilitative process, the following roles were outlined at each meeting and shared with participants at the beginning of the community engagement session. These roles were built upon as the process moved forward.

Facilitative Planners	Participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To prepare the process for the planning sessions and to prepare the draft plan with the community.• To ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To participate and provide input into the planning process.• To keep an open mind and participate in individual and group exercises.• To dialogue and provide suggestions and

¹ Cooperrider, D.L., & Whitney, D. (1999). Appreciative inquiry. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.

Section 2: Community Voice and Engagement

- To help the community move through the process in a timely manner.

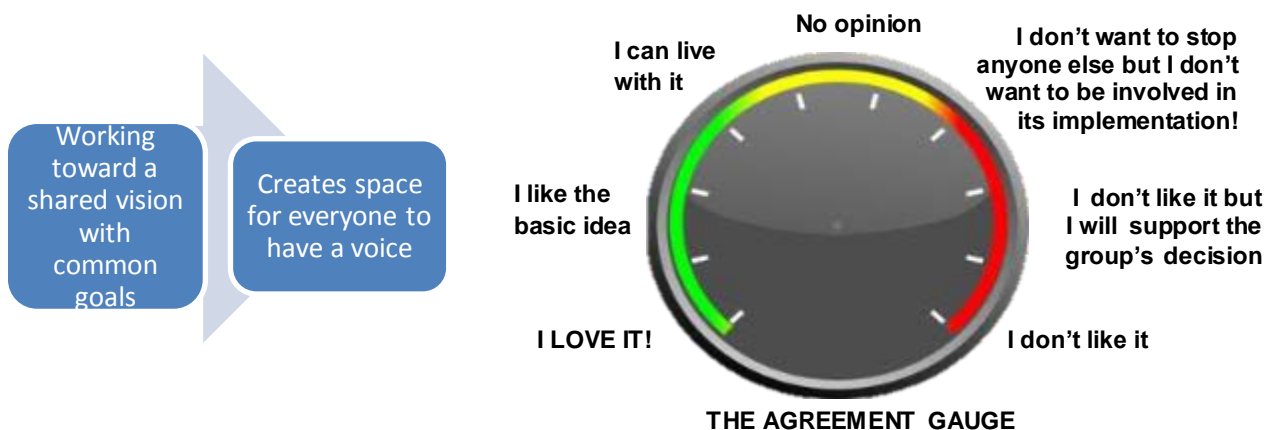
direction for improvements and next steps.

- To trust our views are important and respected as an essential part of our success.

Together, for all of us to learn something new, have fun and share with others the work we are collectively doing to prepare this plan.

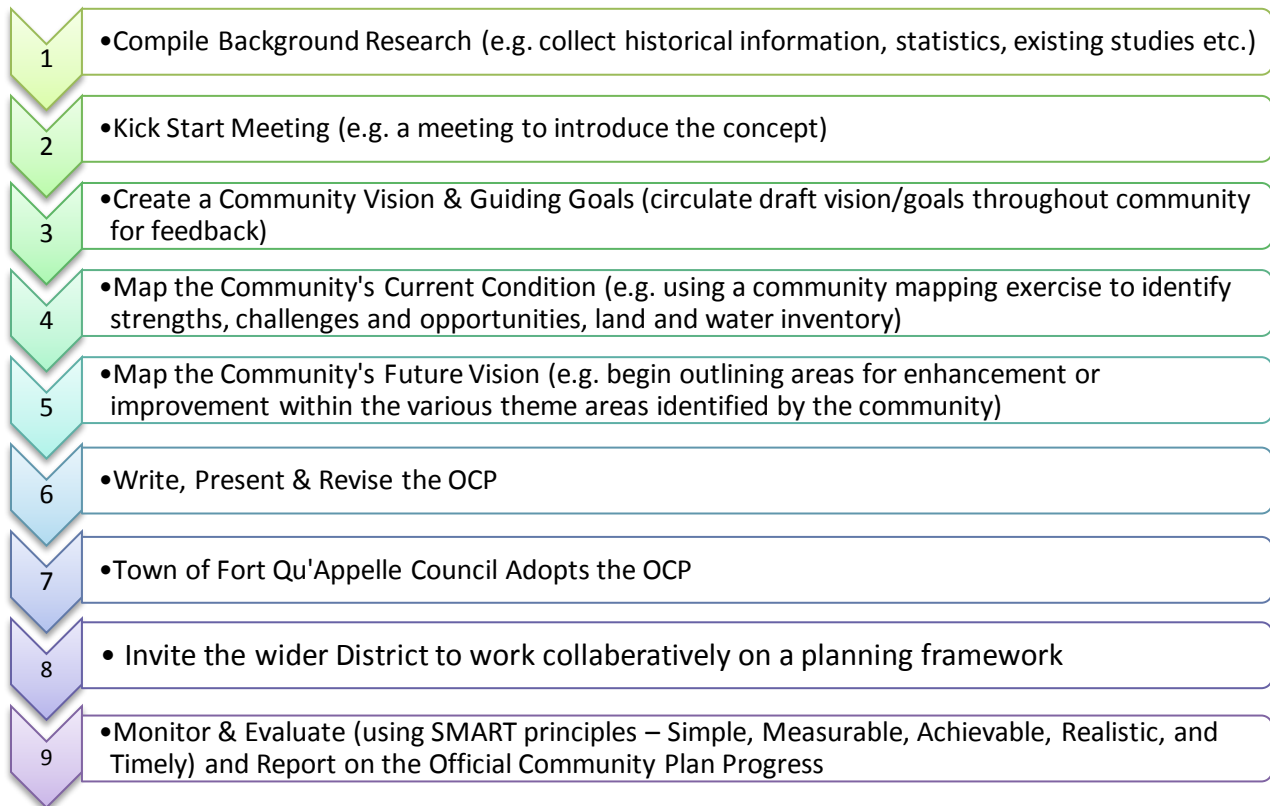
Decision Making Model

- To ensure that everyone had the ability to have a voice and participate equally, a collaborative decision-making model was utilized to make decisions throughout the process. This model is based on allowing all range of opinions to be heard, from: *I like it, I like the basic idea, I can live with it, no opinion, I don't want to stop anyone else but I don't want to be involved in its implementation, I don't like it but will support the group decision.*
- The idea was to create an open space where everyone can voice their opinions and be heard throughout the process. This model guided the community to create a shared vision that everyone can live with.



Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Planning Process Framework

The OCP framework provides actual policies and tangible targets, measures, and outcomes to drive subsequent and on-going actions, programs/services and further policy direction. The OCP was conducted through the utilization of a 9-step process.



Foundations for Success

Over the course of the process, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle along with three neighbouring communities that were also involved in a cultural planning process (Indian Head, Wolseley and District of Katepwa) came together to develop a set of guiding foundations to ensure success in making decisions collaboratively. The following values were compiled from the community engagement processes.

• Communication is important	• Movement and comfortable atmosphere
• Discussion and listening	• Working towards a common goal
• Sharing ideas	• Creativity
• Group participation	• Snacks and refreshments
• Laugh and have fun	• Remain open to new ideas
• Shifting judgment to curiosity	

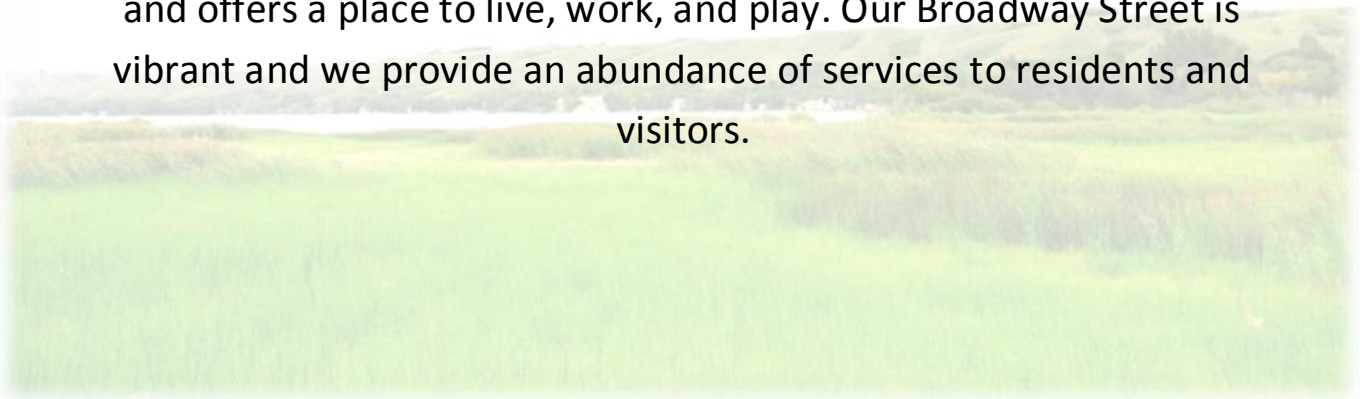
2.3 Fort Qu'Appelle Community Vision

Below is the vision statement for the community of Fort Qu'Appelle. The vision was created by community members and provides a broad, aspirational image of the future the Town hopes to achieve in the next 25+ years.

In 2039...

Fort Qu'Appelle has a population of 4,000 and continues to be a hub community in the Valley. We are environmentally conscious of our natural environment and work with neighbouring communities and First Nations to ensure sustainable development. We honour our past and continue to tell the story in the present and future.

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is welcoming to new people and families, and offers a place to live, work, and play. Our Broadway Street is vibrant and we provide an abundance of services to residents and visitors.



2.4 Goals of the Community

The goals for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle reflect the direction the community would like to go in the future around a number of themes that are important to residents within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

Community Development: The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle continues to be a hub community with land use plans created in collaboration with Treaty 4 based around protection of the environment and sustainable development.

Image and Enhancement: Preserving natural beauty and state, where possible, to enhance the aesthetics of the Town and attract new residents, visitors, and tourists. Our Main Street is a destination.

Conservation and Ecological Sensitivities: Maintaining a sustainable environment with quality of life, recreational use, and economic development for everybody.

Infrastructure and Transportation: Providing quality infrastructure and various modes of transportation throughout the community and surrounding area.

Cultural Development, Services and Amenities: Working with organizations, surrounding municipalities, and First Nations communities to protect our culture and heritage and tell the story of our past together.

Economic Development, Marketing and Tourism: Collaborating with surrounding communities in shared activities and use land responsibility for local resources and amenities.

Capacity Building, Inter-Municipal Cooperation and Partnerships: There will be authentic relationships between the Towns, Villages, Rural Municipalities, and First Nations, in order for all parties to prosper within the region.

Section 3: Town of Fort Qu'Appelle – A Look Forward

3.1 General Land Use and Development

In managing change, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will undertake comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning to ensure that developments are compatible with the landscape quality of the area and that new developments can be sustained by service levels deemed appropriate by Council while meeting the requirements indicated in the *Statements of Provincial Interest*.

Objectives

- ❖ To promote compatible and orderly arrangement of land uses in the Town.
- ❖ To maintain public safety and access.
- ❖ To ensure that future development recognizes the physical capabilities and limitations of the land including the preservation of environmentally sensitive land and wildlife habitat.
- ❖ To identify areas that could support new development.
- ❖ To provide quality infrastructure that meets growth demands.
- ❖ To ensure that future development within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle does not have negative impacts on water quality, environmental resources, and sensitive areas and surrounding Valley and lakes.
- ❖ To minimize the risks of flooding, erosion, instability, and other physical hazards within the Town.
- ❖ To work with surrounding communities, First Nations, and the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission, to continue discussions and coordinate compatible and sustainable development in the communities and Valley.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall have a sustainable form, mix of uses, and densities that allow for efficient use of land, infrastructure, and public facilities. This Plan will help to identify suitable lands to attract a broad range of residential, commercial enterprise, recreation, and community services and amenities development to meet anticipated long-term needs for the community.
- .2 Unplanned development will be avoided to achieve an orderly and efficient land use pattern which will work to accommodate development and the provision of services in appropriate phases.

- .3 As per the *Statements of Provincial Interest*, access to open spaces, beaches, and lakes for passive and active uses shall be provided to all.
- .4 All lands shall be left in the natural state whenever possible. The developer shall work with the natural terrain and vegetation. Land clearing and water drainage will be strongly discouraged.
- .5 Development on unstable lands shall not be encouraged without positive recommendation through a geotechnical report or other professional reports.
- .6 Future development shall integrate into the natural surroundings and shall complement the surrounding community design, landscape, and vegetation. Planned development will help to increase land values, not be wasteful of the land resource, minimize public expenditure in service provision, recognize significant features and ensure that access connections to Provincial roads and highways are consistent with traffic safety standards.
- .7 All subdivision designs shall take into consideration access to the lake, trails, and other recreational areas and allow for the safe and efficient flow of pedestrian traffic.
- .8 Development of new buildings and additions to buildings in the flood way of the 1:500 year flood elevation of any watercourse or water body shall be prohibited. If the development of new buildings or additions is approved, flood-proofing to an elevation of 0.5 metres will be required. Flood prone areas and natural constraints for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle are identified on the Reference Map in Appendix "B".
- .9 When reviewing applications for development, consideration shall be given to the proposal's conformity with this Plan and the Calling Lakes District Plan. A proposal shall be denied when it is detrimental to the health, safety, general welfare of persons residing or working in the area, or incompatible with existing or proposed land uses in the vicinity.
- .10 Development proposals should be guided by concept plans and should indicate:
 - a. Future major roads;
 - b. Drainage systems and improvements;
 - c. Major open space (including physical areas);
 - d. Cultural and archaeological significant areas;
 - e. Areas requiring protection through buffering or other means;
 - f. Major hazards such as flooding, areas of high water table, and slope lands; and,
 - g. Phasing of development of future development or expansion into adjacent land.



- .11 Major deviations to the OCP design and policies shall require an amendment. The Future Land Use Map in Appendix “A” shows the general designation of land use.
- .12 Cumulative effects, land fragmentation, best management practices, innovative procedures, development phasing, route modification, alternative construction techniques, and impacts on municipal servicing shall be considered when reviewing all developments as to compliance with this OCP.
- .13 In managing growth and change, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall maintain a long-term asset management plan to ensure growth will not place an undue strain on municipal infrastructure or public service facilities. Development and new subdivisions shall be encouraged to locate where servicing and infrastructure are in place or planned to support the intensity and type of development.
- .14 Clustering development to adjacent built-up areas shall be encouraged, and considerations for compact form, mix of uses and densities that allow for efficient use of the land, infrastructure, and public facilities. Development shall minimize the potential impact to drainage, landscape, or other natural conditions and shall be required to mitigate on and off-site impacts.
- .15 Where land within the municipality has been purchased by a First Nations Band and it is pursuing “reserve” status through either the Treaty Land Entitlement process (TLEFA) or the Specific Claims process, to encourage compatible development, Council will offer to meet with the Band Council of the First Nation proposing the reserve to discuss and if possible, negotiate shared services, ensure compatibility of bylaws, and other matters of mutual interest.



3.2 Community Engagement

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle has many involved and active residents who contribute to the daily activities and events in the Town. It is important for the Town to honour the work being carried out by the various individuals, committees and organizations, and continue to strengthen the relationships moving forward.

Objectives

- ❖ To promote communication amongst all residents.
- ❖ To acknowledge local volunteers for their work in the community.
- ❖ To encourage and foster local stewardship and citizen participation in community committees.
- ❖ To continue to engage and encourage community members to be involved in community initiatives.
- ❖ To promote strong awareness of municipal events, new regulations, and new developments amongst residents and land owners.
- ❖ To collaborate with neighbours on community and district initiatives, programs, and events.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall continue to communicate with residents and neighbouring municipalities and First Nation communities, utilizing existing communications such as web, e-mail, newsletter, and the communications board. The Town shall also explore new ways to share community information.
- .2 There are many volunteers and active people involved in community committees, organizations, events, and initiatives. The Town values such people and will continue to foster good relationships with them in the future. A way to acknowledge and promote volunteerism may be pursued.
- .3 Advisory committees may be established to solicit input on planning and development, strategic planning, social, cultural, economic, infrastructural, and environmental issues. Review of the Official Community Plan shall be done consistently every five (5) years to ensure policy statements are current and reflective of the community.
- .4 Existing committees, clubs, and organizations shall continue to be encouraged as they are a great contributor to the Town as they encourage residents to become actively involved in community initiatives.
- .5 The Town shall initiate discussions and collaborate with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations on community and district wide events, programs, and initiatives. This may include a focus on culture, heritage, recreation, or otherwise.

3.3 Residential Land Use

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle offers a mix of residential accommodations including single-detached, multi-unit, rental, and country residential. There are opportunities for infill and expansion of residential development. Providing and attracting different types of housing is important to the community, specifically affordable housing developments.

Objectives

- ❖ To encourage infill residential development.
- ❖ To provide a mix and type of housing accommodations for all lifecycles.
- ❖ To support affordable housing opportunities.
- ❖ To minimize land use conflicts between residential uses and incompatible, non-residential uses.
- ❖ To provide quality infrastructure, utilities and public amenities to all residential areas.
- ❖ To support and encourage home-based businesses.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 An efficient Town form will encourage a diversity of housing and site form in new residential areas, facilitating infill development, and providing for higher density residential development.
- .2 A variety of housing styles, types of ownership, and choice of lot sizes shall be encouraged to provide greater housing alternatives in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.
- .3 In areas where land is re-developed, or infilled for residential use, the full range of options shall be explored in determining the best type of housing for the specific re-development. Infill development shall be encouraged in existing residential areas.
- .4 The Town may pursue opportunities to provide affordable housing options in the community. In order to attract affordable housing development, the Town may develop an incentive and identify areas where such type of development would be best suited in the community.



Section 3: Town of Fort Qu'Appelle – A Look Forward

- .5 A higher proportion of multi-unit housing would enhance land use efficiency and provide more affordable options. Multi-unit residential sites shall be designed to be compatible with land uses in the surrounding area. Multi-unit housing types range from duplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, and apartment blocks, and shall be permitted in residential areas, with siting criteria as follows:
 - a. Located, where possible, close to community facilities, educational and medical facilities, commercial areas, and/or places of employment;
 - b. Located, where possible, on sites having access to major arterial streets; or,
 - c. Located on the periphery of single-family dwelling areas.
- .6 Rental housing options will be encouraged to mitigate the present shortage of rental accommodation in the Town.
- .7 Mobile and RTM (ready-to-move) housing shall be accommodated when they can be effectively integrated with other types of dwellings within the Town to encourage high quality development. Housing developments will be regulated by the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Zoning Bylaw.
- .8 The Town may contribute to the provision of affordable senior housing units in the form of townhouses and other multi-unit dwellings through incentives.
- .9 Senior and special needs housing shall be located within walking distance to amenities and services to provide better access.
- .10 New residential areas shall be developed and integrated into existing development and will link to the community, providing efficient servicing, and access to schools and other community amenities. New development will adhere to appropriate development standards to ensure an equitable quality of life for all residents.
- .11 The Future Land Use Map for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle (Appendix "A") will provide for the development of residential and compatible land uses to accommodate various housing forms provided within the Zoning Bylaw.
- .12 The Town shall explore opportunities to work with the surrounding rural municipalities and the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission to identify areas of potential future growth surrounding the community.
- .13 The Town may acquire and subdivide land for residential purposes where there is a need to expedite land for future expansion. Rezoning from another land use district to a Residential District will be considered where servicing can be economically and safely supplied to a standard equal to the remainder of Town.



Section 3: Town of Fort Qu'Appelle – A Look Forward

- .14 Non-residential development will not be allowed in residential areas except for developments that accommodate municipal services and institutional uses compatible with the residential area. Parks, recreational, and institutional uses, such as schools, churches, childcare facilities, seniors housing, and nursing homes shall be accommodated in residential areas.

- .15 Areas suitable for residential acreage developments shall be encouraged to locate on existing municipal roadways within and around Town. Acreage development shall occur in an orderly and sustainable manner compatible with differing land uses, and shall minimize agricultural land consumption and severance.



- .16 Residential acreage development shall be responsible for their respective on-site servicing and development costs. The Town may offer hook-ups to water lines where feasible. Such development shall be encouraged in a phased manner and promoted to locate in the appropriate areas.

- .17 Home-based businesses will be accommodated provided that they are clearly secondary to the principal residential use of the dwelling unit, compatible with the surrounding residential area, and not of a size or scale that would affect the viability of the Town Centre.

- .18 Home-based businesses will be required to comply with the National Building Code of Canada.

- .19 Bed and breakfasts shall continue to be encouraged within the community.



3.4 Community Economic Development

There are a number of businesses that serve residents and the travelling public. Broadway Street is a cultural and historic hub where people gather to shop, visit local restaurants, and do daily activities such as banking and grocery shopping. Other services provided that assist in the overall economic development of the Town include health services, RCMP, library, recreational amenities, and many more.

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is located in the Qu'Appelle Valley and provides many advantages and opportunities to the Town. Its attractiveness and ability for people to enjoy a variety of activities draws new residents and visitors to the community. Working with surrounding municipalities and First Nations communities is important to continue to build local and regional support to enhance and promote community economic development in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and the wider Valley.

Objectives

- ❖ To promote the Town's locational advantage for community economic development and tourism.
- ❖ To involve younger demographics in Town initiatives and economic development ventures.
- ❖ To promote and sustain existing commercial development while attracting new businesses to Town.
- ❖ To encourage the use and re-development of existing and vacant buildings and lots.
- ❖ To market the Town as a tourism destination.
- ❖ To create a creative signage campaign.
- ❖ To maintain and revitalize the Town's vibrant and historic Broadway Street.
- ❖ To embrace and encourage economic development opportunities around arts, culture, and history.
- ❖ To collaborate with residents, clubs, organizations, surrounding communities, Calling Lakes Planning District Commission, and First Nations on joint economic development initiatives.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town shall encourage economic development and competitiveness by supporting an appropriate mix and range of employment opportunities including industrial, commercial, and institutional uses by ensuring when in the best interest of the community, the necessary infrastructure is provided to support current and projected needs.

Section 3: Town of Fort Qu'Appelle – A Look Forward

- .2 The Town shall promote itself as a hub of economic development, providing local and regional services and amenities.
- .3 Commercial activities shall include the development of structures, buildings, and landscaped areas that are compatible with adjacent uses and ensure a high level of visual and aesthetic quality.
- .4 The Town may invest in a local or regional economic development officer to assist with branding, attraction and retention of businesses, and other initiatives.
- .5 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall market itself as a tourism destination in the Valley and provide an updated listing of services and amenities that are offered.
- .6 In working with community clubs, organizations, business owners and the Chamber of Commerce, the Town may pursue a creative signage campaign for businesses to clearly identify and promote their services.
- .7 Commercial developments with extensive site requirements, such as outdoor storage, display, parking requirements (e.g. large trucks), will be encouraged to locate at appropriate locations outside of the central commercial area, or on vacant areas adjacent to railway lines in the central area.
- .8 In order to attract visitors and host large events, the Town shall promote and attract hotel developments. Large scale commercial developments such as this will be regulated by the Zoning Bylaw.
- .9 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall encourage youth engagement in community activities and initiatives to contribute to economic development within Town. This may include encouraging youth businesses, events, fundraising ideas, and any others.
- .10 The Town shall collaborate with other organizations and jurisdictions to pursue joint-capital improvements and development projects.
- .11 The Town shall work with the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission to develop a regional economic strategy.
- .12 Arts, culture, and history shall be integrated throughout Town as an economic driver for the community.
- .13 In recognition of agriculture and encouraging healthy living, the Town may implement new design ideas and features around Town including planters with fruits and vegetables and a farmer's market that is held regularly.

TOWN CENTRE POLICIES

- .14 The Town shall continue to encourage and promote current businesses and services in the Town Centre and welcome new commercial developments. In order to attract new businesses, an incentive may be created.

- .15 The Town encourages unique and boutique style commercial developments that complement the existing commercial centre.

- .16 The Town shall encourage unique development opportunities, flexibility, and reinvestment on Broadway Street by providing for new mixed-use developments to ensure that a broad range of compatible commercial, industrial, institutional, cultural, and residential uses, including live/work units, are accommodated.



- .17 The Town will continue to consult with individuals, business owners, and organizations in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle to identify initiatives that would encourage businesses and enterprises to locate in the Town Centre.
- .18 The Town may encourage business and property owners to rent or donate vacant buildings on Broadway Street and other commercial areas to provide opportunities for youth related activities and businesses, entrepreneurs, and arts and cultural showcases.
- .19 The Town, together with the business community, will pursue a "Main Street Design Plan" to improve the downtown atmosphere with hopes of creating a streetscape that will entice highway traffic to stop and enjoy the community's businesses and services while providing an enjoyable experience downtown (civic square, green spaces, social, benches, trees, etc.).
- .20 The Town will provide for developments that may have unique characteristics, innovative approaches, or unusual site constraints, and require a more flexible approach to land use regulation than is available under traditional zoning.
- .21 Developments along Broadway Street shall conform to any aesthetic or streetscape bylaws or policies of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle while promoting a human scale and pedestrian oriented environment.
- .22 Open space and pedestrian amenities shall be encouraged on Broadway Street by:
- a. Designating appropriate areas for park space;
 - b. Encouraging the private sector to incorporate open space and other pedestrian amenities into major development projects;
 - c. Where appropriate, providing plazas, courtyards and other public spaces along sidewalks and lanes;
 - d. Including multi-modal transportation paths for bicycles, scooters, and strollers;
 - e. Providing a pedestrian-oriented environment which is efficient, aesthetically pleasing and promotes public safety.

HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL POLICIES

- .23 Highway commercial developments shall be serviced by existing transportation infrastructure and be located at highly visible locations. Proposed developments shall serve the travelling public by providing vehicle and travel related goods and services that do not significantly detract from the services provided in the Town Centre.



- .24 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall encourage a broad range of commercial activities suited for a variety of lot sizes. Commercial areas shall be negotiated for adequate infrastructure that can accommodate these developments in a timely, economical, and environmentally sustainable manner.

- .25 Maintaining the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle's aesthetic appeal from the highway entryways is an important consideration, including appropriate signage advertising amenities available in the community, landscaping, and lighting attributes to attracting businesses and customers.



- .26 This Official Community Plan encourages a variety of highway commercial development that is well planned for occupancy by highway commercial uses which serve the travelling public and regional economy.

LAKESHORE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- .27 Beach and lake shore development shall be encouraged by the Town. The Town shall ensure all development is set back from natural hazard and eco-sensitive areas in order to protect the lakeshore. Development shall integrate into the natural surroundings and shall complement the surrounding landscape and vegetation.
- .28 Communal boat launching facilities and the potential development of a public marina will be encouraged.
- .29 In keeping with sustainable and environmentally responsible development, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall:
- Require all development adjacent to the lakeshore and the Municipal and Environmental Reserves to be reviewed by the Town Council, and if required, the Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans should Council feel that

development in these areas would have potential adverse impact on the shoreline and habitat;

- b. Identify areas that work with all levels of government and developers to ensure that any impacts are minimized;
- c. Recommend buffering of the shoreline where possible to promote retention and stability of the shore line;
- d. Take a lead role in educating all residents and visitors of the best management practices available to insure the quality of water and the importance of maintaining a balance between natural habitat and recreational use;
- e. When the opportunity for infill or re-development occurs, apply these best management practices and encourage existing uses to apply these standards when landscaping or rebuilding adjacent to the lakeshore and other riparian areas.



- .30 Opportunities to explore the development of uses that serve the public and users of the Lake such as a marina and a beach store may be pursued. Suitable potential locations for this type of development are identified on the Future Land Use Map (Appendix “A”). Regulations around marinas or developments of this nature will be provided in the Zoning Bylaw.

HOME-BASED BUSINESS POLICIES

- .31 Home-based occupations and businesses shall be encouraged in the Town as valuable contributors to the Town and greater district economy. Home-based businesses may be accommodated provided that they are clearly secondary to the principal residential use of the dwelling unit. The Zoning Bylaw shall specify development standards for home-based businesses.
- .32 Bed and breakfasts shall be encouraged within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

3.5 Industrial Development

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle has some industrial-related developments. Industrial development requires large space and areas for storage. Due to the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle's locational advantage and transportation options for shipping goods and services, there are some compatible areas to accommodate this type of development. Being environmentally conscious around the placement of industrial development is important to the community.

Objectives

- ❖ To support Fort Qu'Appelle's industrial businesses and activity base.
- ❖ To minimize land use conflicts between industry and other land uses.
- ❖ To identify areas for future industrial development and ensure there is sufficient industrial land available for primary, secondary, and service industries in appropriate locations.
- ❖ To recognize and market strategic opportunities for development along the Highway corridors.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town shall promote Fort Qu'Appelle's locational advantage when pursuing industrial expansion in areas of agriculturally related activities, light industrial manufacturing, material transportation, and heavy equipment and support service activities.
- .2 Industrial areas shall be provisioned with adequate infrastructure that can accommodate these developments in a timely, economical, and environmentally sustainable manner.
- .3 The Town will encourage the provision of various industrial lot sizes and may provide varied servicing levels, including fully serviced (water, sewage) and lightly serviced parcels (water).
- .4 Industrial development shall be directed to lands readily accessible to existing transportation infrastructure to provide for efficient transportation and shipping operations. Industrial and associated commercial development shall be encouraged to cluster into nodes along established and future transportation interchanges.



- .5 The designation of additional land for industrial use shall take into consideration the following criteria:
 - a. The site shall have direct and approved access to major public road systems;
 - b. The development will not generate additional traffic on residential streets;
 - c. The development shall not have adverse impacts on the natural environment, including groundwater resources; and
 - d. The development shall not detract from the visual attractiveness of the area.
- .6 Care shall be taken in the siting of industrial uses that normally create very significant land conflicts with regards to noise, vibration, dust, odour, or potential environmental contamination. Such uses shall be encouraged to find a location that maximizes separation from residential areas and shall be visually screened or otherwise buffered to protect adjacent land uses.
- .7 Industrial uses which are likely to be unsightly due to the nature of the industrial operations, exterior storage, or type of building or structures, should generally be discouraged from locating along the highway approaches and entrance roadways into the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle. If such uses are proposed in these areas, commercial uses shall be encouraged as a buffering use to retain an aesthetically appealing Town. Special landscape buffer or other mitigation measures may also be requested to screen the industrial uses from public view.
- .8 Use-specific industries that exhibit a potential level of hazard or environmental impact which can only be mitigated through special separation shall be located according to the separation distances outlined by the appropriate Provincial agencies. Industries considered hazardous due to the transport, handling, bulk storage or use of hazardous materials shall be discouraged.

SAND AND GRAVEL POLICIES

- .9 As per the *Statements of Provincial interest*, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall ensure the following around sand and gravel development:
 - a. That it is compatible with existing and planned land uses;
 - b. It is operated with minimal disturbance to the environment and aquifers;
 - c. Require that future reclamation of the sand and gravel development be addressed during the development approval stage; and
 - d. Include sand and gravel development as a discretionary land use within the Town.

3.6 Community Services

There are a number of community services within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle including, though not limited to, clubs, organizations, committees, health care, emergency services, education, religious facilities, arts and culture, and recreation.

Fort Qu'Appelle's health care is unique in that the All Nations' Healing Hospital is located within the Town. The services offered in this facility include acute care, women's health centre, and a number of programs and services.

Education within the community includes the Fort Qu'Appelle Elementary School, Bert Fox High School, and Parkland Regional College.

There is also a strong presence of arts and culture in the community. Recently, the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts opened in the former school. Artists, programs, and events are brought to the Centre. There is also a number of summer and winter events put on by the Town and community members.

Objectives

- ❖ To provide for recreational activities, institutional, community services, and cultural facilities that are accessible and available for all ages and lifestyles.
- ❖ To maintain and improve existing community facilities in order to attract residents and other recreational and cultural opportunities.
- ❖ To explore the need for a greater variety of multi-function indoor recreational activities and support local interests by providing year-round outdoor activities.
- ❖ To promote nearby parks and recreational amenities for year round activities.
- ❖ To pursue multi-use building to integrate various community services and amenities.
- ❖ To acknowledge local volunteers for their work in the community.
- ❖ To promote events and initiatives within the Town and region.
- ❖ To collaborate with local organizations and committees, surrounding municipalities, First Nations communities and the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission to provide community and regional delivery of facilities, services, events and initiatives throughout the valley.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall encourage the development of institutional, public and community services, and, where available, the development of institutional, recreational, or cultural facilities shall be encouraged to locate where services can be shared or have a joint-use.
- .2 Community services and amenities including open space, parks, beaches, and other natural and built amenities shall be made accessible to everyone.
- .3 The Town shall explore opportunities with organizations to promote volunteering and related types of community work to residents and newcomers in the Town.



- .4 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle may acknowledge and celebrate work carried out by local and regional clubs, committees, and organizations that want to help the community and create positive results. The clubs, committees, and organizations shall have an open invitation for new people to become involved.
- .5 The Town shall promote arts, culture, and heritage amongst the community. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will enhance the cultural well-being of residents through continuous support for art and cultural programs and to be a community that is inclusive of all backgrounds, traditions, and cultures.
- .6 Broadway Street and the Town Centre as a whole shall be viewed as an opportunity for cultural vibrancy that includes a strong mix of retail, food, and entertainment. Festivals and events shall be encouraged and promoted year-round.



- .7 The Town campground shall be maintained and expanded upon when feasible.
- .8 The Town will monitor the adequacy of community services and strive to recognize and respond to the needs of a growing community. The Town will work with various community groups and organizations to determine these needs and the best methods to provide and maintain needed community facilities.
- .9 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall explore the opportunity to utilize an existing building or develop a new building that accommodates joint community services such as a Town office, library, community hall, and other uses.

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- .10 The Town shall enhance the physical, social, and cultural well-being of residents through support for the arts, culture, recreation, library, fire, police, education social programs and health services to meet present and future needs.
- .11 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall promote the parks, green space, and recreational amenities such as the Fort Campground as valueable assets to Town and district residents and visitors.
- .12 The Town supports the Fort Qu'Appelle Elementary Community School, Bert Fox Community High School, and Parkland Regional College as integral facilities for the greater community which can also be utilized to host a variety of local and regional events.
- .13 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall continue to promote and encourage post-secondary educational opportunities such as those offered by the Parkland Community College. Expansion of programs and services will be encouraged.
- .14 Programming and services that are affordable and inter-generational that are offered to residents and visitors shall be encouraged to provide inclusive community services and amenities.
- .15 Events and initiatives within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall continue to be encouraged. Working together with organizations, committees, surrounding communities, Calling Lakes Planning District Commission, and First Nation communities, new events, initiatives, and creative ways of raising funds shall be explored.
- .16 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will work with neighbouring municipalities, First Nations communities, and the Calling Lakes Planning District to provide facilities and services to the residents of the area where and when it is feasible to do so.
- .17 The Town will work with service delivery agencies, other municipalities, First Nations communities, and other jurisdictions by:
 - a. Participating in activities to enhance the delivery of services;
 - b. Assisting in site planning for public service uses;
 - c. Ensuring infrastructure development that supports public service uses;
 - d. Supporting, as appropriate, the joint-use of community facilities as a means of providing cost-efficient services to the public;
 - e. Accommodating public service development in appropriate locations in the community compatible with existing land use as may be permitted by the Zoning Bylaw; and
 - f. Entering into collaborative inter-municipal and inter-agency agreements.



3.7 Recreation and Tourism

There are many recreational amenities and programs within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle including on land, water, and year-round. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle has easy access to water, allowing for boating, fishing, and other water sports. The Town's locational advantage in the Valley provides for a vast amount of recreation and tourism opportunities.

The natural beauty of the Valley and rich history in and around the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is an attraction in itself. Embracing and continuing to tell the story of the history and showcasing heritage and cultural artifacts of the Town and area is important. The story shared would include all cultural backgrounds.

Objectives

- ❖ To provide for recreational activities, institutional, community services and cultural facilities that are accessible and available for all ages and lifestyles.
- ❖ To link recreational activities, programs, and amenities throughout Town and the surrounding region.
- ❖ To maintain and sustain the existing recreational facilities while seeking opportunities to enhance them.
- ❖ To ensure a mix of indoor and outdoor recreational activities.
- ❖ To support and promote Town and district recreational amenities and programs.
- ❖ To develop multi-modal trails within Town and connect them throughout the Valley.
- ❖ To encourage conservation and expansion of green space and buffer strips within the community.
- ❖ To pursue new strategies to enhance tourism development in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.
- ❖ To work with neighbouring municipalities and First Nation communities to develop a regional tourism and marketing plan.
- ❖ To brand the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle as a tourism destination.
- ❖ To promote the Town as a regional convention centre and Provincial and National scale sports tournament venue.

RECREATIONAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town will promote the use of existing recreational space and amenities such as the lake, beach accesses, golf courses, and Rexentre as resources to be utilized in the programming of recreational and cultural activities to ensure these amenities remain vibrant in the future.
- .2 When feasible, the Town may pursue a multi-plex that accommodates a variety of recreational amenities including, though not limited to, a swimming pool, rink, and community hall.
- .3 Recreational amenities shall be considered in locations which meet the following criteria:
 - a. The additional development shall not conflict with existing land uses;
 - b. Access to the development shall meet municipal standards;
 - c. There shall be a demonstrated demand for new recreational facilities;
 - d. Buffer strip requirements shall be followed.

- .4 Recreational developments and pursuits must consider the natural landscape and will not have negative impacts on the natural beauty of the Valley. Protecting and preserving unique features including valley walls, major streams, coulees, wooded areas, and natural shore land and major marshland will be required.



- .5 Where a proposed development arises in an environmentally sensitive area, the developer must undertake an assessment of the environmental impacts. Mitigation measures may be required to ensure the protection of land and water resources.

- .6 The Town shall develop an integrated and linked system of parks, green space, and recreational facilities to meet the recreational needs of the community.

- .7 A network of pedestrian, cycling, ski, scooter, and other modes of transportation shall be identified. The Town shall strive to provide and maintain year-round, safe, well-lit, and convenient trails for pedestrians, scooters, and cyclists.



- .8 Private, public, and service groups will be encouraged to develop and construct walkways, bicycle pathways and related facilities in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

- .9 The trail networks throughout Town and the Valley such as the TransCanada Trail is considered an asset and shall be maintained into the future.
- .10 Proposed walking trails as encouraged in this Official Community Plan may occur in wildlife habitats, fish habitats, or natural areas while ensuring that natural areas and habitats remain protected.
- .11 Park space will be provided as required to meet public needs in residential and the Town Centre areas. Equitable distribution of built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, open space areas, and trails shall be encouraged.
- .12 As the community grows, the development of a variety of recreational amenities within new residential neighbourhoods shall be encouraged.
- .13 In new or redeveloped residential areas, the provision and development of buffer strips and pathways will be encouraged to separate incompatible land uses, and, if possible, to keep important natural and nature-like areas intact.

TOURISM POLICIES

- .14 The Town shall continue to market the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle as a destination site to increase the appeal for local residents and visitors to visit the region and utilize the amenities.
- .15 The preservation of present cultures and traditions through festivals, dances, and other events will be seen as essential to the community and shall be maintained and enhanced when opportunities arise.
- .16 Tourism initiatives including marketing and branding shall be done cooperatively and participated in by local and regional residents, businesses, and other stakeholders.
- .17 New strategies featuring services and amenities should be pursued to enhance tourism development of the area. The Town should also market the Town as a regional "Convention Centre" that attracts tournaments and other events.
- .18 Attractive signage along major highways shall be promoted to support tourism in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and entice the travelling public to stop in the community.



3.8 Natural Hazard and Ecological Sensitive Lands

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle includes many environmental aspects and qualities that make up the community. This includes the water bodies, shorelines, hillsides, natural vegetation, and areas for wildlife. These resources are highly sensitive and precautions and necessary steps are critical when considering development and the future of the Valley. To ensure these lands and resources are preserved and protected into the future, flood, slope and fire hazards must be taken into consideration. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle also recognizes the importance of working with the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission to ensure the prosperity of the Valley as a whole.

Objectives

- ❖ To protect natural and environmental features and systems within the Town and Valley.
- ❖ To protect and maintain water quality and environmental resources.
- ❖ To balance economies of scale and environmental preservation.
- ❖ To extend the responsibility for sound environmental management to property owners and developers.
- ❖ To dedicate areas that are environmentally sensitive or hazardous in nature as Environmental Reserve.
- ❖ To restrict development that would accelerate or promote damage in areas where drainage patterns are altered.
- ❖ To preserve and enhance defined areas of critical habitat and heritage resources.
- ❖ To work with surrounding municipalities, First Nations communities, and Calling Lakes Planning District to ensure and practice sound environmental management of ecological and environmentally sensitive lands within the Valley.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will work with provincial departments and agencies to identify significant:
 - a. Critical wildlife habitat or rare or endangered species within the municipality; and,
 - b. Wetlands and other sensitive environmental regions within the municipal boundaries.
- .2 Natural areas and habitats shall be protected from incompatible or potentially incompatible uses where:
 - a. Rare or endangered flora and fauna have received Provincial designation and protection;
 - b. Lands that are designated under the *Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, and amendments;
 - c. Private lands have been voluntarily protected by landowners;

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- d. Lands which may be designated under a variety of other environmental protection legislation or policies;
 - e. An aquifer is found or located;;
 - f. The area is used for recreational purposes including bird watching or designated areas for hunting; or
 - g. Lands are designated natural prairie or grasslands.
- .3 Future development shall integrate into the natural surroundings and shall complement the surrounding community design, landscape, and vegetation. Natural areas and sensitive environmental areas shall be identified and protected where human activities may create potential to stress the environment.
- .4 Environmentally sensitive lands in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle as identified in Appendix "B", should be protected as Environmental Reserve in accordance with the *Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the *Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002*.
- .5 Proposed developments shall be subject to the consideration of preserving the ecological value, integrity, and management of wetlands, riparian areas, significant natural landscapes and regional features, and provincially designated lands.
- .6 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall recognize and support provincial planning initiatives contributing to ecological integrity.
- .7 Development shall not deplete or pollute the lakes and water in the Town. Any development that may pose a threat of damaging the water will be restricted.
- .8 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle in accordance with the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission will work with government and non-government organizations, agencies, and other communities to improve the water quality of the lakes.
- .9 Developers may be required to provide a Comprehensive Development Review with information pertaining to environmental qualities, vegetation, drainage, and soil reports prepared by accredited professionals as a means of ensuring the required provisions and criteria of the proposed development are met.



NATURAL HAZARD POLICIES

- .10 Natural hazard lands include the following:
 - a. Lands subject to flooding around main water bodies within the municipality, including all lands which would be flooded by the 1:500 year flood event, or in any flood prone area, unless the development is above the elevation representing the 1:500 year return frequency flood event; or,
 - b. Lands subject to instability or erosion; or
 - c. Lands in areas subject to ponding based upon historical information and specific site analysis.
- .11 It may not be practical or desirable to restrict certain development in hazard areas due to economic or social reasons. Development shall be carefully controlled and planned to ensure that they are compatible with the risks or that the hazards have been eliminated, or protected against. In these instances, the following criteria shall be applied:
 - a. Proposed developments shall not obstruct, increase, or otherwise adversely alter water and flood flows and velocities;
 - b. There shall be no added risk to life, health, or personal safety;
 - c. Structures and services must be protected against flood damage and shall be fully functional during hazard conditions;
 - d. Activities which alter existing slopes and may accelerate or promote erosion or bank instability shall be prohibited, unless appropriate mitigation measures are taken to minimize the potential of such erosion or bank instability; and
 - e. Existing tree and vegetation cover shall be preserved where appropriate to reduce erosion and maintain bank stability.

SURFACE WATER AND DRAINAGE POLICIES

- .12 Adequate surface water drainage will be required throughout the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and on new development sites to avoid flooding, erosion, and pollution. Consideration shall be given to the ecological, wildlife habitat and drainage effects of development, including the upstream and downstream implications.
- .13 Where an area has been previously or exhibits potential for poor drainage due to snowmelt or prolonged rainfall events, all proposed building sites shall be located outside of those areas whenever possible. Otherwise, the proponent shall provide a suitable amount of fill at the building site to provide a satisfactory level of protection for the buildings.
- .14 Unauthorized drainage of surface water runoff from any land within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall be prohibited. Water courses shall not be filled or altered without the prior approval of the Water Security Agency, Ministry of the Environment, and the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall require the preparation of an overall drainage plan for commercial and multi-residential developments within the Town.
- .15 New developments and subdivisions which are adjacent to water courses shall be developed to minimize erosion and maximize water quality.

UNSTABLE SLOPE AREA POLICIES

- .16 Slope steepness shall guide development within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and the larger Calling Lakes Planning District. Slopes greater than 15% are unsuitable for development and development within these areas shall be discouraged. Slope stability investigations carried out by a professional engineer shall be undertaken where necessary.
- .17 Proposed development shall not be permitted in any unstable slope or erosion prone area without undertaking erosion and/or slope stability investigations to address the interests of the municipality and to ensure that the developer and/or property owner reasonably assess the hazards relative to the proposed development.
- .18 Development and activities shall be avoided where the risk of unmitigated erosion or slope failure exists, where there is the potential to cause erosion or increase the potential for erosion or slope instability on the site or elsewhere, and, when possible, to minimize the potential impacts of slope instability on municipal services and infrastructure.
- .19 Developers and property owners shall commission sufficient, professional engineering investigations to reasonably assess erosion and slope failure potential and to understand that they also share in and accept all residual risks and liabilities associated with development where hazard slopes exist.
- .20 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, in addressing the hazards associated with erosion and slope instability shall:
 - a. Require investigations as part of an application for subdivision and/or development;
 - b. Establish the objectives of scientific and engineering investigations in relation to such applications;
 - c. Reasonably ensure, using current and future technical, administrative, and legal means, that the hazards and potential long-term costs associated with potential erosion and slope failure can, and will, be borne fairly by all parties including the proponent and/or future owner; and
 - d. Ensure that future owners are informed, acknowledge the inherent risks, undertake reasonable investigations, and accept liability for development undertaken on land where slope instability is a concern.



FLOOD HAZARD AREA POLICIES

- .21 Development will be restricted in the flood plain to protect against the loss of life and to minimize property damage associated with flooding events. Flood prone lands will generally be limited to agricultural, park and open space recreational uses.
- .22 All structures and developments that are proposed in the 1:500 year flood fringe shall be discouraged.

- .23 The Water Security Agency or other appropriate government or private sector consultants can be utilized as a source for technical advice regarding flood levels and flood proofing techniques.
- .24 Development proposals in flood plain areas shall be referred to the Water Security Agency for review prior to approval. A site specific legal land survey including contour lines shall be provided by the proponent at the time of a proposed development.
- .25 The Water Security Agency may provide comment on where there is potential for a flood hazard, and if so providing the flood hazard flow.

WILDFIRE HAZARD AREA POLICIES

- .26 Development in wildfire-prairie fire hazard areas should be undertaken with precautions intended to minimize the risk of damage to property caused by wildfires. Precautions may include those intended to help protect property from the damage of wildfires that may ignite in or around the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.
- .27 Development should utilize the following guidelines:
 - a. Developers of new developments in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall consider the integration of trails, roads, and cleared park land around development which may serve as fire breaks, and provide a vehicle access route to facilitate fire suppression in interface areas;
 - b. Fuel reduced buffers around residential properties are encouraged; and
 - c. Building design and construction shall be generally consistent with the standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

3.9 Ground and Source Water Protection

Water as a natural resource is an important aspect within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and throughout the Qu'Appelle Valley. Water needs to be protected and managed into the future to ensure an adequate supply for existing and future users. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle in conjunction with its neighbours wants to ensure these resources are protected into the future.

Objectives

- ❖ To protect and maintain water quality and resources.
- ❖ To give consideration to ground and source water in areas of new development and re-development.
- ❖ To work with the Water Security Agency, neighbouring municipalities, First Nations communities, and the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission to create regional strategies on preserving and protecting the water within the Valley.
- ❖ To manage ground water resources in a manner that would not deprive existing users of their water supply and would not have a known detrimental effect on the aquifers.
- ❖ To ensure adequate distance is provided between developments.
- ❖ To ensure activities are not harmful by causing pollution or contamination in aquifers.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 Development shall not deplete or pollute groundwater resources within the Town. Investigations to assess the impact of development on groundwater resources including drainage may be required to protect aquifers and their supply. Saskatchewan Water Security Agency will be utilized as a source for technical advice.
- .2 Development should avoid any alteration to drainage, landscape, or other natural conditions and shall be required to mitigate on and off-site impacts. Detailed analysis by a qualified engineer shall include studies for water quantity and quality, septic services, shoreline erosion, and any works required to support the proposed development.
- .3 Areas subject to historical spring flooding shall submit a drainage plan as part of the proposal. Natural methods of storm water retention and drainage will be utilized to the fullest extent possible.
- .4 Proponents may be required to obtain comments, recommendations, and requirements from appropriate referral agencies or private consultants regarding water supply quality and quantity

considerations, waste or manure management plans, and other issues that may be required for the purpose of ensuring public health and safety.

- .5 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall collaborate with the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency to monitor development to ensure there is no negative impact on ground or source water resources and watercourses, and other bodies of water.
- .6 Buffer strips should be maintained adjacent to watercourses and water bodies to allow for shoreline protection measures against erosion and flood hazards. Wetlands shall be preserved, whenever possible, for the benefit they serve as catchment basins for drainage and ecological aspects.
- .7 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle may explore opportunities to work with other municipalities and government agencies to investigate and improve the quality of water in the Town.
- .8 All development near any water bodies will be complementary to the natural features of the river valleys. All development shall be in accordance with the 25 year Water Security Plan.



AQUIFER POLICIES

- .9 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is located in the Hatfield Valley Aquifer area. Care must be taken in the storage, handling, manufacture, and use of products on sites within the aquifer area to avoid contamination of the underlying aquifer.
- .10 All applications for development near aquifers shall be accompanied by a report certified by a professional engineer that shall address site design, waste water management, and hazardous materials handling, storage and disposal, descriptions of physical/facility-specific structures, plans and standards.
- .11 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall work cooperatively with Saskatchewan Water Security Agency to monitor ground water resources and may require annual assessment of residual nutrient levels in the soil, ground, and local surface water by a qualified professional recognized by Water Security Agency demonstrating:
 - a. The development and on-going operation of activities with the land use will not pose a risk or cause pollution of the soil, surface water or groundwater resources; and
 - b. The precautionary measures which are required to be taken to sufficiently mitigate the potential risks of endangering soil, surface, and groundwater quality resource.

3.10 Municipal and Environmental Reserve

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is committed to dedicating lands for Municipal and Environmental Reserve. These lands offer opportunity for shared management, district capacity and relationship building. There is a strong emphasis on the placement of Environmental Reserves to preserve and protect natural features within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle such as the Valley, lakes, and natural areas. The dedication of lands will ensure these amenities are preserved for future generations.

Objectives

- ❖ To dedicate any municipally-owned land considered suitable as Municipal Reserve as set forth in provincial legislation.
- ❖ To prohibit any encroachment on Environmental or Municipal Reserve lands, except those permitted under *The Dedicated Land Regulations*.
- ❖ To ensure the dedication of lands as Environmental Reserve in cases where the land meets requirements set in provincial legislation.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 Subdivision applicants will be required to dedicate the full amount of Municipal Reserve owing in the forms provided for in *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*.
- .2 Subdivision applicants will be required to dedicate, as Environmental Reserve, all lands in an area to be subdivided that can be defined as Environmental Reserve in accordance with the provisions of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*.
- .3 Land provided as an Environmental Reserve becomes the property of the municipality. The applicant may be required to provide any amount of land in any location that the approving authority considers necessary, if the land consists of:
 - a. A ravine, coulee, swamp, natural drainage or creek bed;
 - b. Wildlife habitat areas that:
 - i. Are environmentally sensitive; or,
 - ii. Contain historical features or significant natural features.
- .4 Where development is proposed adjacent to a watercourse, the Town will request the subdivision approving authority to dedicate Municipal or Environmental Reserve as appropriate to protect sensitive areas and ensure continued public access to these areas. Considerations shall be given to use Municipal Reserve as walking paths, green space, bike trails, and All-Terrain vehicle paths.



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- .5 The Town will require the dedication of Municipal Reserve or will use the provisions of the *Dedicated Land Regulations* to ensure adequate recreational and utility space is provided for future needs.
- .6 Public Reserves that support a combination of parks, green spaces, nature reserves, and recreational facilities will be encouraged.
- .7 Critical or threatened habitat and environmentally sensitive areas shall be designated as Environmental Reserve within the Town.



3.11 Heritage and Cultural Resources

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is a participant in the Cultural Resource Use Partnership (CRUP) which includes the communities of Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Wolseley and District of Katepwa. These communities worked cooperatively and were successful in obtaining funding from SaskCulture's Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant. Through this process, the communities have embedded a cultural planning component within this OCP that is reflected in this Section.

There is a multitude of special cultural and heritage areas, amenities, and sacred spaces in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle including, though not limited to, the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Museum, the Hudson's Bay Company Building, the Pottery and Art Gallery, the Treaty 4 Governance Centre and Powwow Grounds, and the Mission Ridge Winter Park. The community of Fort Qu'Appelle wants to ensure the preservation of heritage and cultural resources while striving for diversification and expansion of heritage, arts, cultural programming, events, and celebrations.

Objectives

- ❖ To recognize and promote the value of local and regional heritage areas and buildings.
- ❖ To maintain and improve the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle's cultural amenities.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for community members and visitors to be involved in heritage and cultural events, initiatives, and programming.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for youth to take part in cultural and heritage initiatives.
- ❖ To create places and programming for positive public interaction between people of various ethnic backgrounds, religions, and lifestyles.
- ❖ To promote important cultural facilities and heritage assets as valued community amenities.
- ❖ To recognize the historical significance and story of "Fort" Qu'Appelle.
- ❖ To proactively engage people of various ethnic backgrounds, including the Aboriginal community, to participate in the emergence of a Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and area cultural identity.
- ❖ To promote and take pride in the local artists and storytellers in the community.
- ❖ To link cultural and community amenities throughout the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town will continue to cooperate with community stakeholders to identify and continually assess the significance of historic, cultural sites, and special areas within the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle to ensure that it is accessible to everyone.
- .2 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall collaborate with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations communities to identify heritage and cultural assets to protect, and market these important assets, amenities, and sites for community members and visitors.
- .3 The Town will work with and encourage partnerships with the various committees and community members involved in community events to retain and promote festivals and events such as the Winter Festival. Other festivals and events such as the Mid Summer's Arts Festival and Jib Fest shall be encouraged and expanded on in the future.
- .4 At the time of subdivision, Environmental Reserve and/or Municipal Reserve may be used to protect certain portions of land that may have any cultural and/or heritage significance.
- .5 Consistent signage to market and link heritage and cultural assets within the community and larger region shall be encouraged. A visual theme can be implemented throughout the community and downtown area.
- .6 The Town shall continue to focus, encourage, and promote the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle as a "Four Season" community.
- .7 Broadway Street and the downtown area shall be viewed as an opportunity for cultural vibrancy that includes a strong mix of retail, food, and entertainment uses. Festivals and events shall be encouraged and promoted year-round.
- .8 The Town shall encourage partnerships with small businesses in the downtown area that support the focus on artists, designers, and creative entrepreneurs to create and promote vibrant community nodes.



- .9 The development of a Regional Cultural and Heritage Commission may be formed to maintain and implement the objectives and policies of this OCP and the Calling Lakes District Plan.

HERITAGE POLICIES

- .10 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will work with the Provincial Heritage Resources Branch and other agencies to develop a local catalogue and criteria for local heritage buildings, sites, landmarks, and districts.
- .11 The Town will utilize the *Parks Canada Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* to guide conservation projects on historic places which are owned, regulated, funded, or guided by the municipality.
- .10 The Town shall protect its natural and built heritage through the preservation of key historical buildings such as the Hudson's Bay Company, the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts, McDonald Bank (now the Town Office) and other historical amenities identified by the local community.
- .11 Amenities such as the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts hold significant heritage value for the community and wider region. The Town shall promote the Centre as a facility that showcases a number of art shows and galleries. The Town shall work closely with the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts Committee to ensure the building receives and retains Provincial Heritage Status.
- .12 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will move forward where criteria is met, for the designation of respective buildings, sites, and districts either municipally, or where applicable, provincially, nationally, and internationally.
- .13 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will demonstrate the appropriate use and treatment of properties designated through *The Heritage Property Act*.
- .14 The Town shall promote the local build, social and natural history collections, sites and stories of peoples of various cultural backgrounds through various media and technology platforms.
- .15 Heritage resources will be protected from incompatible or potentially incompatible land uses which may threaten their integrity or operation. The protection of heritage resources from incompatible development will be regulated by the Zoning Bylaw. A Heritage Resource Overlay District may be implemented.



- .16 The Town will explore any potential for repurposing buildings, structures, or spaces as cultural centres where arts, design, and culture, both non-profit and commercial, are brought together as studio spaces.

- .17 Education and the use of facilities such as the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts or the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Museum shall be utilized to ensure that local history and stories are showcased and promoted.

- .18 The Town will work with Saskatchewan Trails Association, TransCanada Trail, and local committees to ensure the Trans Canada Trail is maintained and promoted. This trail holds significant value for the community, not only for recreational purposes, though for heritage and cultural purposes as well.



CULTURAL POLICIES

- .19 The Town shall encourage community initiated projects and events that enhance the sense of community and increase the number of events, activities, festivals, fairs, and local cultural events.

- .20 The Town will actively promote and encourage continued relationship building and open communication with the various cultural communities in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

- .21 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will enhance the cultural well-being of residents through continuous support for art and cultural programs and to be a community that is inclusive of all backgrounds, traditions, and cultures.

- .22 Treaty 4 holds significant importance to the community and wider region. Events such as the Treaty 4 Days shall continue to be promoted through education and marketing opportunities.

- .23 Events to promote cultural collaboration through the National Culture Days or Treaty 4 Gathering shall continue to be explored as an opportunity to promote cross-cultural themes and dialogue.

- .24 Cultural facilities such as the Treaty 4 Governance Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle Pottery and Art Gallery, the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts and others shall be promoted and utilized as integral centers for arts, cultural, and commercial networks.



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- .25 Enhancement of cultural programming throughout the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall be explored in order to attract community members and tourists to participate in the cultural aspects of the community.
- .26 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall continue to work neighbouring communities to create a Regional Tourism Plan that will showcase tourism opportunities related to culture, heritage resources, and recreation in the area.
- .27 The Town shall actively involve newcomers into the community by encouraging programs and resources (i.e. volunteer opportunities, etc.) to be made available.
- .28 "Artists-in-Residence," or "Artists-in-Reserve" as identified, shall be explored as an avenue for cultural and artistic showcasing. This type of program will allow for local artists and story-tellers to foster greater cultural understanding and appreciation among community members and visitors.
- .29 Youth play a vital role in the development of a culturally vibrant community. Opportunity shall be given to youth to contribute to the cultural vitality of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle through programed events, or utilizing public spaces as artistic opportunities to encourage youth engagement.
- .30 Arts and culture is a fundamental component of the Town's identity and contributes strongly to sustaining a quality of life. Promotion of arts and culture shall be achieved through education in the schools to engage youth in arts and culture.



3.12 Public Health and Safety

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle offers many health and emergency amenities and services such as a medical centre, nursing home, ambulance, pharmacy, and fire and RCMP detachment. The Town has joint-fire and mutual aid agreements with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations communities.

Objectives

- ❖ To maintain health and emergency services within the Town.
- ❖ To ensure public safety of residents and visitors.
- ❖ To coordinate health and emergency services with neighbouring municipalities, First Nations communities, and the Calling Lake Planning District.
- ❖ To implement new design ideas through Town to increase safety.
- ❖ To promote healthy living by supporting locally grown foods and recreational programs and activities.
- ❖ To support the RCMP and the services they provide.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 Public safety and health requirements shall guide all development. The Town shall ensure that Emergency and Response Plans are current and reflect changes in land use or activities.
- .2 Firefighting requirements will be considered as part of every development application, re-zoning application, and servicing agreement.
- .3 The Town is encouraged to utilize FireSmart² principles for subdivisions planned within and adjacent to potential fire hazard areas.
- .4 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will encourage all developments to be safe, accessible to all, and conducive to social interaction by encouraging barrier free access design and locational considerations.
- .5 Emergency planning needs to be undertaken before an event to identify risk and to research risk reduction measures that lower the probability of an event occurring.
- .6 Emergency service and evacuation plans shall be reviewed annually to ensure the most up to date information is provided.



² FireSmart principles and resources can be found at the following website: <https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/>

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- .7 The Town shall continue to work with the Calling Lakes Planning District and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region regarding health initiatives in the region.
- .8 The Town shall support and encourage the maintenance and on-going services of the local ambulance, fire, and RCMP to contribute to the overall safety of the community.
- .9 The Town shall continue to work with the local RCMP to ensure their presence remains within the community.

- .10 Utilizing design guidelines and principles such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, the Town shall implement some design features that will increase accessibility and safety within the community.



- .11 The Town, in conjunction with community clubs, organizations, and advocacy groups shall promote healthy lifestyles for community members by promoting locally grown food, ensuring health support, and recreational opportunities are available in the community.
- .12 Inter-Municipal Fire Agreements and Mutual Aid Agreements with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations communities shall be updated regularly and continue to be supported by the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.
- .13 The Town along with surrounding municipalities and First Nations communities shall ensure the Emergency Measures Organization services and facilities are maintained and that there is enough staff and volunteers are available within the local RCMP detachment and fire department to adequately serve the population.

- .14 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall collaborate with First Nations communities on health and safety initiatives and support the All Nations' Healing Hospital and the coordination, attraction, and retention of health care personnel.



3.13 Infrastructure: Public Utilities

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is committed to providing quality infrastructure and public utility services to the community in a safe and sustainable manner through investigating new and innovative options.

Objectives

- ❖ To take a proactive approach in infrastructure planning in order to direct investment sustainability and conserve financial resources.
- ❖ To maintain, preserve, and enhance the infrastructure system, by encouraging a continuous process of upgrading and project prioritizing.
- ❖ To provide effective municipal services that can be supplied economically and that meet the needs of a growing population in standard equal for all residents of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town shall develop and maintain an Infrastructure Asset Management Plan to ensure affordability in the long-term to:
 - a. Provide baseline information to measure performance;
 - b. Improve efficiency and effectiveness;
 - c. Rank relevant up-to-date inventory;
 - d. Analyze the system's condition and capacity; and
 - e. Budget service life for long term replacement.
- .2 The progress of the Asset Management Plan shall be monitored for the short and long term and as such will have a schedule, budget, and deliverables. Infrastructure improvements shall be supported by the Town on an annual basis, where budgeted funds can be allocated, to ensure that upgrades to water and sewer amenities are achieved.
- .3 The use of existing municipal infrastructure shall be optimized wherever feasible before consideration is given to developing new infrastructure and public service facilities.
- .4 The Town shall ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of public works, sewers, sidewalks, streets, maintenance yards, and other public utilities.
- .5 Strategies and standards for the orderly, efficient, and economical extension of water distribution systems, streets, waste management facilities, and storm water management requirements will require adopting and implementing the Infrastructure Asset Management Plan policies.



- .6 The Town shall ensure that capital works/infrastructure assets maintain or exceed current standards and shall incorporate servicing standards into all infrastructures upgrading and extensions.
- .7 Infrastructure and public service facilities shall be provided in a coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective manner to accommodate projected needs by integrating servicing and land use considerations at all stages of the planning process.
- .8 Front end costs of expanding municipal services and infrastructure shall be recovered through off-site development levies.
- .9 The Town shall ensure adequate storm drainage of all areas of the community by preserving natural holding areas or by other means as may be engineered and constructed.
- .10 The location of future subdivisions and development shall be decided upon with the consideration of ensuring responsible and efficient provision and use of municipal services.

WATER AND SEWER POLICIES

- .11 The planning, phasing, and development of water and sewer services will be based on:
 - a. Conformance with environmental regulations;
 - b. The demand for services and the need for upgrading;
 - c. The financial resources of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle;
 - d. The logical extension of existing services; and
 - e. Growth trends.
- .12 Planning for water provision and waste management services shall ensure that current systems are provided in a manner that can be sustained by the water resources, are financially viable and compliant with all regulatory requirements and protect public health and the natural environment. The Town shall continue to pursue available funding and grants to assist with maintaining their water supply.
- .13 The Town will investigate water quality on a regular basis to ensure that potable water is healthy and free of contaminants.
- .14 The Town will work to educate residents and visitors on water and natural resource conservation to reduce over-consumption and reduce pressure on existing water infrastructure.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REDUCTION POLICIES

- .15 Recycling and compost options shall be encouraged throughout Town to reduce waste.
- .16 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall continue to work with the Calling Lakes Planning District, organizations, and agencies in providing and enhancing effective waste management and environmental protection. Support will be given to the proper management and safe disposal of domestic sewage, solid, and industrial waste.

3.14 Transportation Networks

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle provides a number of transportation networks for foot, automobile, bicycle, and other transportation needs. The Town is located along four Highway corridors including Highways 10, 56, 20, and 35. Highway 10 is one of the busiest highways in Saskatchewan. Safe transportation networks are a priority for the Town.

Incorporation of a variety of trails throughout Town and the wider region has been expressed as an important feature community members would like to see implemented.

Objectives

- ❖ To work with the Provincial government and Department of Highways to maintain the highways through Town.
- ❖ To ensure proper access on and off highways into and through Town.
- ❖ To advocate for the twinning of Highway 10.
- ❖ To ensure road networks are maintained and prioritized for improvements.
- ❖ To provide a mix of multi-use, all season trails for local community members and visitors.
- ❖ To ensure road design permits safe and convenient vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation.
- ❖ To create aesthetically pleasing entranceways into and out of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

- .1 Street classification of local, arterial, and collector streets should be established in order to promote orderly, safe, and efficient street systems. Control of access points and/or provision of service roads may be required in some instances.
- .2 Entrances and access points in key locations shall be well-provisioned and maintained to establish a sense of place and safety for both vehicles and pedestrians.
- .3 Key highway entrance points into the community, from all highways, shall be maintained to be aesthetically pleasing, and safe-guarded for pedestrians and vehicles.



- .4 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall work with surrounding communities, First Nations and appropriate government agencies to advocate for the twinning of Highway 10 to ensure safety of residents and the travelling public.
- .5 The Town shall target key roads and start an implementation strategy on improving and paving the local road and sidewalk networks.
- .6 The Town shall evaluate existing neighbourhoods and compile a priority list for areas that could benefit from the upgrade and/or addition of sidewalks throughout the community to ensure improved walkability.
- .7 Developments will ensure safe access and egress from adjacent roadways without disrupting their transportation function by locating on service roads, municipal streets, or at existing intersections.

RAILWAY POLICIES

- .8 The municipality, through this Plan, shall provide for efficient and effective land use and transportation planning. This includes consultation with neighbouring property owners such as Railways, in order to reduce the potential for future land use conflicts and provide adequate protection for rail infrastructure. The primary situations include:
 - a. New land development or re-development in proximity to existing rail operations;
 - b. New or significantly expanded rail facilities in proximity to existing residential uses; and
 - c. Road and rail crossing issues.
- .9 The municipality shall be pro-active in identifying, planning, and protecting the rail corridor and yards for their optimal use together with the Railways. The municipality shall coordinate development approvals with the Railways that also require rail regulatory approvals to increase awareness regarding the railway legislation, regulatory, and operating environment.
- .10 Consultation with the Railways shall be required when a potential development is proposed for:
 - a. Development or re-development proposals in proximity to rail facilities or for proposals for rail-serviced industrial parks;
 - b. Road and utility infrastructure works which may affect a rail facility;
 - c. Transportation plans that incorporate freight transportation issues; and
 - d. All new, expanded, or modified rail facilities.

PUBLIC TRANSIT POLICES

- .11 The Town shall work with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and other organizations to explore opportunities to have a health bus available for residents.

3.15 Regional and Inter-Municipal Cooperation

The Town is a contributor to a number of initiatives and it recognizes the importance of neighbourly relations with adjacent municipalities and First Nations communities. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is involved in the Calling Lakes Planning District which includes the neighbouring communities of RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187, Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, Village of Lebret and the Resort Villages of B-Say-Tah and Fort San. Together, they have created the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission.

It is important to the Calling Lakes municipalities to protect and properly manage land and water resources within the Valley and to have district level policies in place to accommodate appropriate existing and future uses of the area.

Objectives

- ❖ To maintain positive and productive relationships with neighbouring municipalities, First Nations communities, and the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission.
- ❖ To continue to participate in the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission.
- ❖ To encourage open communication between members, adjacent municipalities, First Nations communities, and other groups and organizations in the area.
- ❖ To continue partnerships with public and private sectors for continuous improvement of service delivery at a regional level.
- ❖ To investigate opportunities for shared service provisions between municipalities and First Nations communities.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 The Town shall continue to work in partnership with other jurisdictions, the adjacent municipalities, First Nations communities, the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission, and other agencies as a means of providing, sharing and funding community services effectively and efficiently.



- .2 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall promote inter-municipal cooperation and public and private sector initiatives that focus on a cooperative approach to providing cost efficient services that optimize financial and infrastructure resources.

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- .3 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall pursue other inter-municipal agreements to ensure that local and regional growth issues are addressed proactively. A coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive approach should be used when dealing with inter-municipal planning matters including:
- a. Managing growth and development;
 - b. Managing natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral, tourism, culture, heritage, and archaeological resources;
 - c. Infrastructure, public service facilities, energy generation and waste management systems;
 - d. Ecosystem, shoreline, and watershed related issues;
 - e. Natural and human-made hazards; and,
 - f. Population, housing and employment projections based on regional market areas.
- .4 Maintaining key highway and road networks is important at fostering partnerships at a regional level. The Town shall work with respective agencies to ensure Highways 10, 56, 20 and 35 are maintained in an adequate condition.
- .5 Community and regional amenities and services that serve the area shall be promoted.



3.16 Future Urban Development

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is surrounded by agricultural holdings, First Nations Reserve Land, water and hillside. Support is given to keep undeveloped lands and lands that are used for agriculture to remain until the Town needs land for expansion.

Objectives

- ❖ To plan for possible urban expansion regarding infrastructure, future land use needs, and other services.
- ❖ To ensure development occurs in a manageable and sustainable manner that does not harm the surrounding environment.
- ❖ To work with First Nations communities on future development within and around the Town.

GENERAL POLICIES

- .1 Development and land use patterns which are adjacent, or in proximity to, urban areas that may have negative effects on future urban design and/or densities that may hinder expansion will be discouraged, or mitigated. This does not apply to such effects that arise in the course of normal, non-intensive farm operations.
- .2 Future Urban Development Areas may include:
 - a. Lands which are capable of being serviced with a full range of utilities, though for which no overall area concept plan has been approved for the general area; or
 - b. Lands which are not readily capable of being serviced with a full range of utilities and for which no concept plans have been approved.
- .3 The Town shall work with neighbouring communities to discuss and coordinate future land use and developments to ensure compatibility of uses and potential inter-municipal sharing of municipal infrastructure.

3.17 First Nations Treaty Entitlements and Urban Reserves

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle resides within Treaty 4 lands. There are Indian Reserves and First Nations lands within the Town and surrounding area. A significant time in history within this area was the signing of Treaty 4. Moving into the future, it is important to the Town to continue to foster relationships with the First Nations communities socially, culturally, economically, and environmentally.

Objectives

- ❖ To continue to nurture and build relationships with First Nations communities in the area.
- ❖ To collaborate on joint gatherings, initiatives, and events to strengthen and showcase cultural diversity.
- ❖ To support existing and new First Nation development.

- .1 The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle shall continue to build and improve relationships between First Nation parties to ensure a collaborative working body can be created. An invitation will remain open for First Nation Bands to participate in the Calling Lakes Planning District Commission.
- .2 Collaboration and Integration of First Nation and Metis heritage and culture will be encouraged as a historical and present acknowledgement that the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle resides within Treaty 4 lands. This may be pursued through sharing of stories, art, gatherings, events, and joint initiatives.
- .3 Where land within the municipality has been purchased by a First Nations Band and it is pursuing “reserve” status through either the Treaty Land Entitlement process (TLEFA) or the Specific Claims process, to encourage compatible development, Council will offer to meet with the Band Council of the First Nation proposing the reserve to discuss and if possible, negotiate shared services, compatible bylaws and other matters of mutual interest.
- .4 Lands selected by a First Nation in an urban municipality are governed by *The Treaty Land Entitlement Act*, which requires an agreement between the First Nation and the affected municipality regarding tax loss compensation, municipal service provision, any payments in lieu to the municipality, bylaw application and enforcement and an appropriate dispute resolution mechanism for solving matters of mutual concern.



Section 4: Administrative Tools

4.1 Action Planning

Successful implementation of this Official Community Plan (OCP) depends to a large degree on whether its policies can guide local development and action in a variety of contexts over the next twenty to twenty-five years. This Section contains policies to ensure that planning is sensitive to local conditions in specific locations of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, while at the same time advancing the Plan's core principles and building on its broad objectives.

To achieve the goals set out in this Official Community Plan and the Calling Lakes District Plan, a clear plan of action or implementation strategy is required. An Action Plan template has been attached in this OCP (Appendix "F") for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle's use as the Town may choose to undertake action planning as part of this Official Community Plan. Each action item will relate to the policy statements included in the OCP and will require the action items to be prioritized. The actions items will be reviewed regularly to monitor progress and to determine if changes are required.

The Official Community Plan Guides Action

As a statutory document for guiding development and land use in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, the OCP gives direction to Council on their day-to-day decision making. The OCP's land use policy areas illustrated in the Future Land Use Map in "Appendix A" provide geographic references for the municipality's policies. If the Town is to move closer to the future envisioned by the OCP, the OCP must guide other related decisions of Council. *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* requires that:

- ✓ Municipal bylaws and public works will conform to this OCP;
- ✓ The decisions and actions of Council and Municipal Administration, including public investment in services, service delivery and infrastructure, will be guided by this OCP; and
- ✓ Implementation plans, strategies and guidelines, consistent with this OCP will be adopted that shall identify priorities, detail strategies, define guidelines and actions, and advance the vision, goals and objectives of this OCP.

The Future is a Shared Responsibility

Communities are successful when all sectors cooperate with their time, effort, and resources to enhance the quality of life in the greater community or district. The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, together with the Calling Lakes Planning District and surrounding municipalities and First Nations communities can lead by example with engaged and informed residents to successfully guide the future by measuring the accomplishments made in environmental stewardship, economic development, community service provision, population growth, social planning, and the overall lifestyle available in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle.

4.2 Implementation and Monitoring

Planning Tools

This Section outlines the variety of traditional tools the municipality has available to make things happen. *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* provides the authority that governs plans of development, zoning bylaws, servicing agreements, development levies, and review processes to ensure that the OCP is effective over the long term.

Definitions

The definitions contained in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Zoning Bylaw shall apply to this Official Community Plan and the Calling Lakes District Plan. Any amendments to the Zoning Bylaw definitions shall ensure they do not conflict with the municipality's Zoning Bylaw, Official Community Plan, and District Plan.

Adoption of the Official Community Plan

Adoption of this Official Community Plan by the Town will give it the force of law. Once adopted, no development or land use change may be carried out within the area affected by the Official Community Plan that is inconsistent or at variance with the proposals or policies set out in the Official Community Plan and the Calling Lakes District Plan.

By setting out goals, objectives, and policies, the Official Community Plan will provide guidance for the Town when making decisions regarding land use, zoning, servicing extension, and development in general. It will also provide the Town with the ability to provide input on future subdivision applications. These decisions must be made in conformity with the stated objectives and policies of this OCP to ensure that the goals for the future development of the municipality will be achieved.

The application of the Official Community Plan policies is illustrated in the Future Land Use Map contained in "Appendix A." This map is intended to illustrate the locations of the major land use designations within the Town. This "map" should not be interpreted in isolation without consideration of the balance of the Official Community Plan. The land use designations have been determined by a number of factors including existing patterns of land use, projected land needs, resource areas, natural attributes and man-made features.

The Official Community Plan will be implemented, in part; by the development-related decisions that will be made in the future. However, the two most important tools available for guiding the future development of the municipality are the Zoning Bylaw and the subdivision process; including associated agreements.

Adoption of the Calling Lakes District Plan

The Calling Lakes Planning District Commission has adopted the Calling Lakes District Plan as per *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. The District Plan will be utilized in conjunction with the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Official Community Plan to guide land use development decisions at the local and district level over the next 25+ years.

In support of the Calling Lakes District Plan, the municipalities are committed to pursuing voluntary District Planning Commission status to oversee and implement the District Plan. The Calling Lakes District Planning Commission Agreement Bylaw sets out all provisions with respect to the District Planning Commission, including boundaries of the District, amendments, and others as per *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*.

Adoption of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw

Following the adoption of the Official Community Plan, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle is required to enact a Zoning Bylaw which will set out specific regulations for land use and development:

- ✓ The Zoning Bylaw must generally conform to the Official Community Plan, and the Calling Lakes District Plan and future land use and development shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of this OCP and the Calling Lakes District Plan;
- ✓ Future development will avoid land use conflict and meet minimum standards in order to maintain the amenity of the municipality;
- ✓ Zoning Bylaws designate areas for certain types of development. Permitted and discretionary uses and development standards are prescribed for each zone;
- ✓ Development will be consistent with the physical opportunities of the land and of reasonable engineering solutions;
- ✓ Undue demand shall not be placed on the municipality for services, such as for roads, parking, water, sewer, waste disposal, and open space;
- ✓ The objectives and policies in the Official Community Plan, and the Calling Lakes District Plan, provide guidance to Council when preparing the Zoning Bylaw or considering an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw.

The Zoning Bylaw will be used to implement the policies and achieve the objectives of this OCP by prescribing the uses of land, buildings or other improvements that will be permitted in the different Zoning Districts established in the municipality. In addition, the Zoning Bylaw regulates how these uses may be carried out and the standards that developments must meet.

The Zoning Bylaw provides the Town with actual control over land use and the types of development and uses allowed in each land use district. The associated supplementary requirements and development standards will be specified in the Zoning Bylaw respecting building setbacks, parking, loading, landscaping, signage, buffering and all other relevant standards prescribed by the Town.

To ensure that these regulations work to help achieve the stated goals and objectives, the Bylaw itself must be consistent with the policies and the intent of this OCP. In considering a Zoning Bylaw or an amendment, the municipality should refer to the policies contained in the Official Community Plan and the Future Land Use Map (Appendix "A") to ensure that the development objectives of the municipality are met.

Contract Zoning

For purposes of accommodating a rezoning for unique development situations, Council may consider entering into rezoning agreements, pursuant to provisions of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*.

Section 4: Administrative Tools

The person applying for a rezoning agreement to have an area of land rezoned to permit the carrying out of a specified proposal, the Council may enter into an agreement with the person outlining:

- a. A description of the proposal;
- b. Reasonable terms and conditions with respect to:
 - i. The uses of the land and buildings or the forms of development; and
 - ii. The site layout and external design, including parking areas, landscaping, and entry and exit ways, but not including the colour, texture or type of materials and architectural detail;
- c. Time limits within which any part of the described proposal or terms and conditions imposed pursuant to clause (b) must be carried out.
- d. A condition that, on the rezoning of the land, none of the land or buildings shall be developed or used except in accordance with the proposal, terms and conditions and time limits prescribed in the agreement.

Section 69 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* contains the provisions for entering into a rezoning agreement. The following are additional guidelines:

- ✓ The rezoning to permit the development will not unduly conflict with adjacent land uses that are legally permitted uses within the proposed or adjacent Zoning District;
- ✓ The rezoning will be used to allow a specific use or range of uses contained within the Zoning District to which the land is being rezoned;
- ✓ The development or re-development of the site for the specific use will be of benefit to the immediate area and the municipality as a whole;
- ✓ The use of these zoning tools does not undermine the intent of the Official Community Plan or any affected legislation such as *The Condominium Act* or Environment or Health regulations.

Concept Plans

Concept plans represent design layout concepts prepared at the request of the Municipal Council to provide direction for how new developments:

- ✓ Ensure the efficient provision of infrastructure services;
- ✓ Demonstrate how site development will be organized to ensure compatibility with adjoining land uses and transportation systems; and
- ✓ Provide design features for special purposes such as landscaping, buffers, open space, and pedestrian and vehicular access.

In accordance with Section 44 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, a Council may, as part of the Official Community Plan, adopt a concept plan for the purpose of providing a framework for subsequent subdivision and development of an area of land. The Council shall ensure that any concept plan is consistent with its Official Community Plan, and any part of a concept plan that is inconsistent with the Official Community Plan has no applicability insofar as it is inconsistent.



Comprehensive Development Reviews

A Comprehensive Development Review may be completed by any person proposing to rezone land for multi-parcel country residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. The purpose of this comprehensive review is to identify and address social, environmental, health and economic issues appropriately and to encourage the development of high quality residential, commercial, and industrial developments. This Review proposes to address the following topics:

- ✓ Proposed land use(s) for various parts of the area;
- ✓ The effect on adjacent land uses and integration of the natural landscape regarding the planning and design of the area;
- ✓ The location of, and access to, major transportation routes and utility corridors;
- ✓ The provision of services respecting the planning for future infrastructure within the municipality;
- ✓ Sustainable development and environmental management practices regarding surface and groundwater resources, storm water management, flooding and protection of significant natural areas;
- ✓ Appropriate information specific to the particular land use (residential, commercial or industrial); and
- ✓ Proponents may be required to undertake and submit special studies as part of the approval process for certain types of development proposals. Engineering or other professional studies may be required including, though not limited to, traffic studies to determine impacts upon the municipality's road and highway system, assessments of lands affected by flooding or slope hazards, risks to endangered species, heritage resource conservation, potential for ground and surface water pollution, and general risk to health and the environment.

Development Levies and Agreements

Council may provide for a Development Levy Bylaw as specified in Sections 169 to 170 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. Where a development is proposed that is of a greater density and requires the capital upgrading of services beyond those originally provided for in the subdivision of the land, Council may by Bylaw, provide for the recovery of those capital costs.

Council may adopt a Bylaw that specifies the circumstances when these direct or indirect levies will apply to the development based on the additional capital costs for services created by that development. The Bylaw will contain a schedule of the unit costs to be applied. Before adopting the Bylaw, Council will undertake studies necessary to define the benefiting areas and the unit costs associated with required capital upgrading of off-site services. The studies will be used to determine a fair level of development levy charges in relation to the subdivision fees.

Service Agreements

Council may establish a separate fee bylaw for the collection of subdivision servicing charges that would be applied in a servicing agreement at the time of subdivision in accordance with Section 172 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, at the time of subdivision approval to ensure that new

subdivisions are developed to the standards of the municipality and to address other concerns specific to the proposed subdivision.

Where Council requires a Servicing Agreement, the Agreement becomes a condition of approval of a subdivision by the approving authority. The Agreement will ensure that municipal standards are met for capital works and ensure that such infrastructure development costs are borne by the developer. A Servicing Agreement may be required by subdivision proponents. The requirements, conditions, and fees relating to Servicing Agreements may vary depending upon the level of required services.

Subdivision Process

The Director of Community Planning for the Ministry of Government Relations is currently the approving authority for subdivisions in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle and Calling Lakes Planning District. The municipality has input into the subdivision procedure as follows:

- ✓ The municipality provides comments on all subdivision applications within the municipality;
- ✓ The municipality has an impact on the subdivision process through the Zoning Bylaw, since no subdivision can be approved that does not conform to the Zoning Bylaw. In the Zoning Bylaw, the municipality can establish the minimum area, width, or depth of lots, and other spatial and land use standards. Zoning is intended to implement the municipality and District's development policies, and to ensure that subdivisions contribute to achieve the long term goals of the municipality;
- ✓ In order for the subdivision to be completed in a timely manner, it is advisable to consult with the planning staff of the municipality before submitting a subdivision proposal to Government Relations.

Monitoring Performance

The Official Community Plan is a document intended to guide decision making over the long term and is not a static document that commits the Town to inflexible development policy. As new issues and concerns arise, or old ones change, the OCP shall be revised to meet these changes. The Official Community Plan shall be reviewed after five years, and before ten years, from the date of its adoption by Council to evaluate the stated goals, objectives, and policies as to their relevancies.

The Official Community Plan must be kept up to date to ensure that the document will continue to appropriately address the development issues facing the Town and the greater community. New implementation initiatives will be needed and priorities will require adjustment in response to the varied and changing conditions in the municipality.

Amendment

On occasion, land uses or developments may be proposed that do not conform to the Official Community Plan. The Official Community Plan can be amended in accordance with *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to allow the new development to proceed, however, before any amendment is made, the impact of the proposed change on the rest of the Official Community Plan and the future development of the Town shall be examined. Any changes to the Plan or the Zoning Bylaw shall be in the

interest of the future development of the community as a whole. Through the process of periodical review, amendments to the Plan will allow the Official Community Plan to continue to serve as an effective guide for Council to make decisions on the future development of the municipality.

Appendices

Appendix “A” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Future Land Use Map

Appendix “B” – Reference Maps

Appendix “B1” – Community, Park and Recreational Amenities

Appendix “B2” – Heritage Buildings & Historic Places of Interest

Appendix “B3” – Health, Safety and Emergency Services

Appendix “B4” – Natural Constraints Map

Appendix “B5” – First Nation Reserve Lands

Appendix “B6” – Water Distribution

Appendix “B7” – Sanitary Sewer

Appendix “B8” – Transportation Hierarchy

Appendix “C” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Town Centre Placemaking Designs

Appendix “D” – Defining Culture

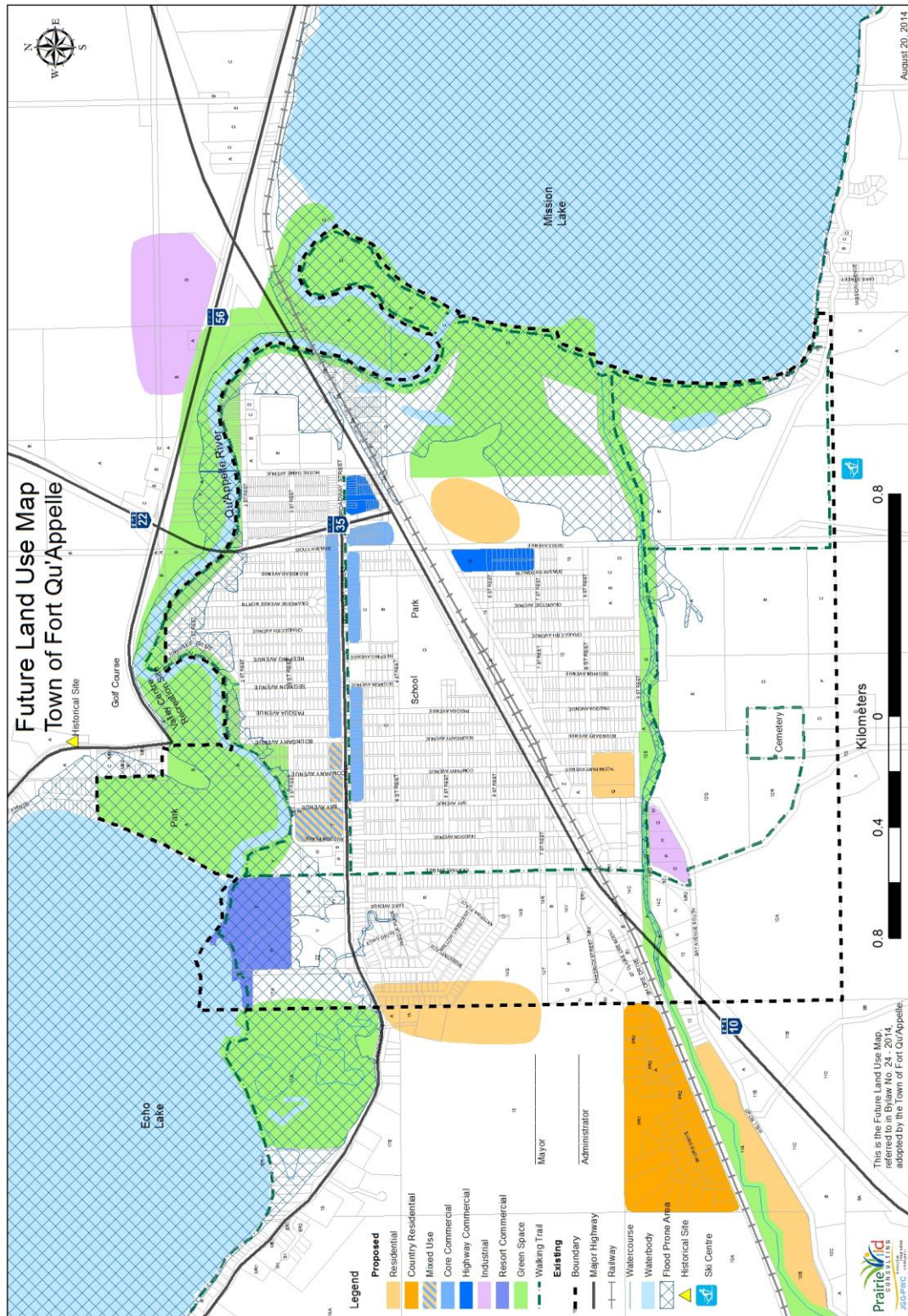
Appendix “E” – Wider Area of Cooperation

Appendix “E1” – CRUP Regional Map

Appendix “E2” – CRUP Region Cultural, Community, Recreational, & Tourism Amenities Map

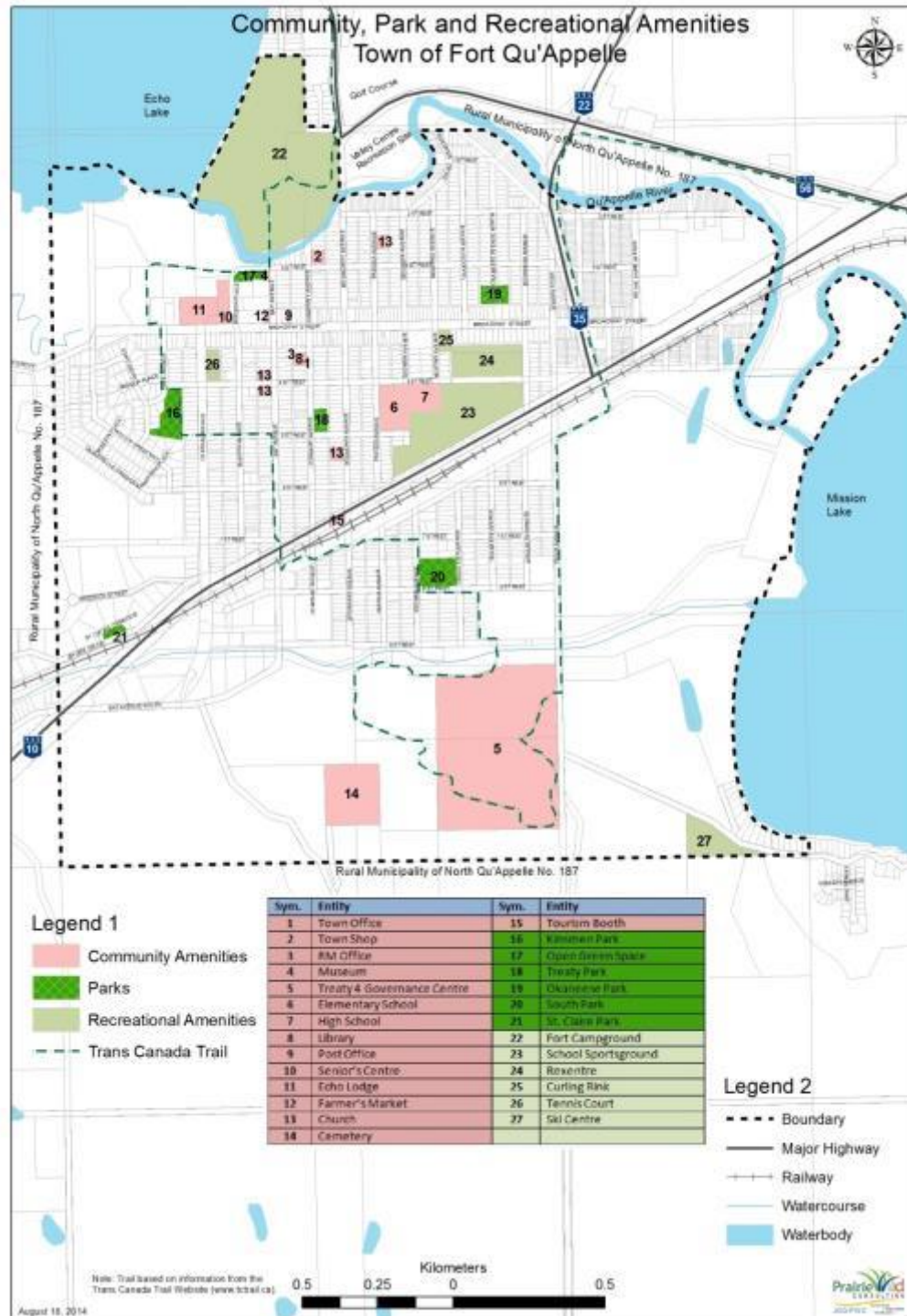
Appendix “F” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Action Plan Table

Appendix “A” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Future Land Use Map

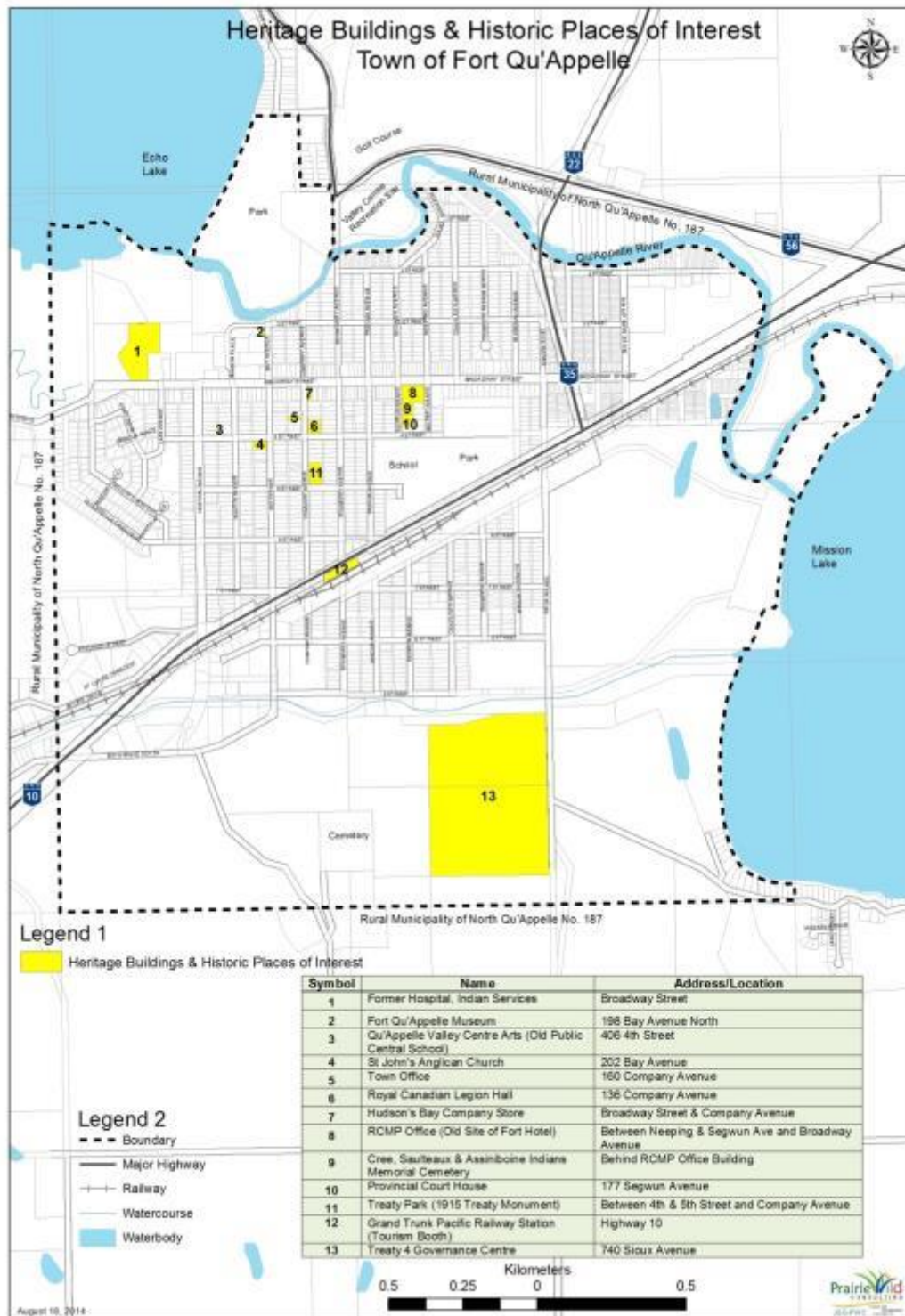


Appendix “B” – Reference Maps

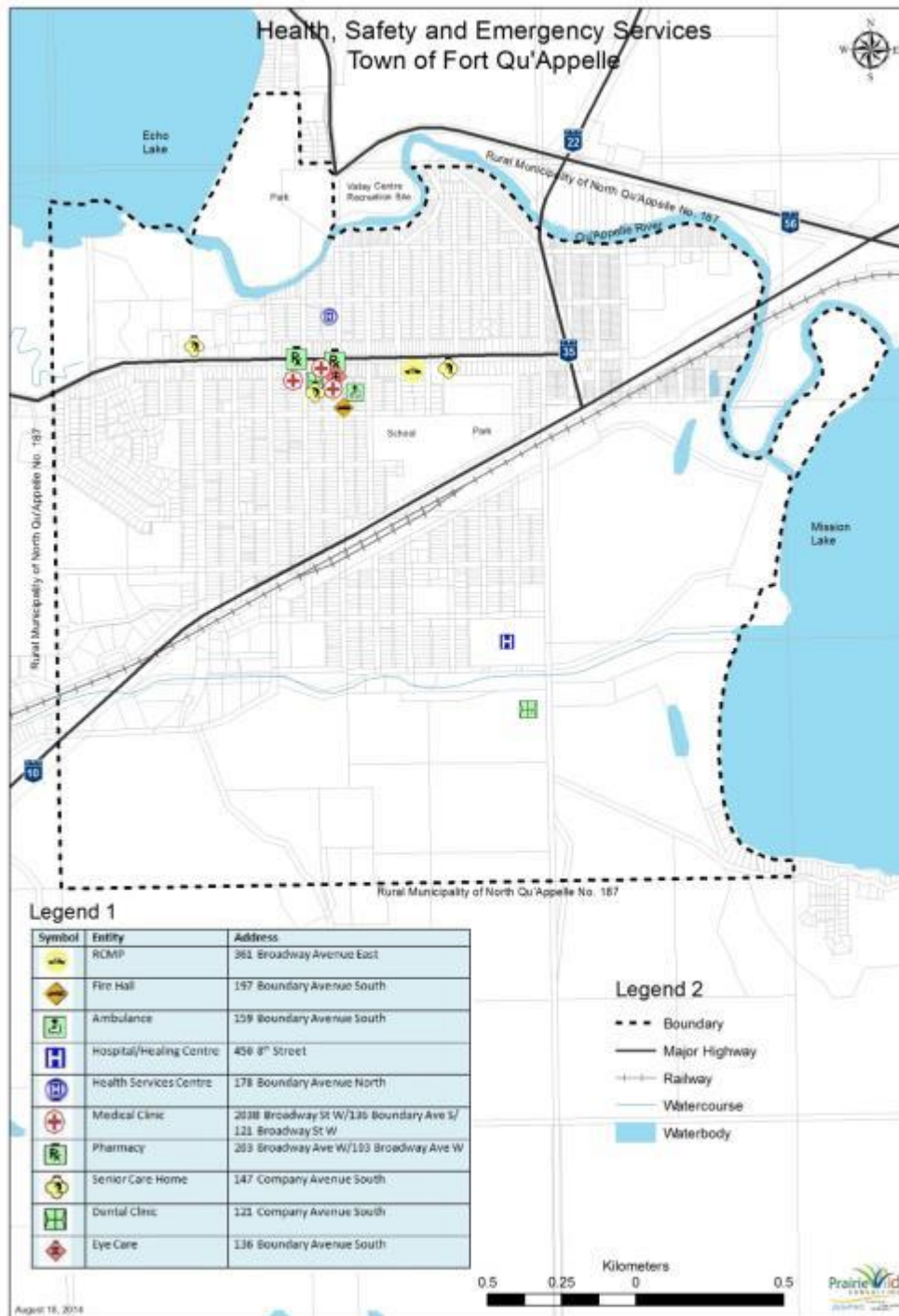
Appendix “B1” – Community, Park, and Recreational Amenities



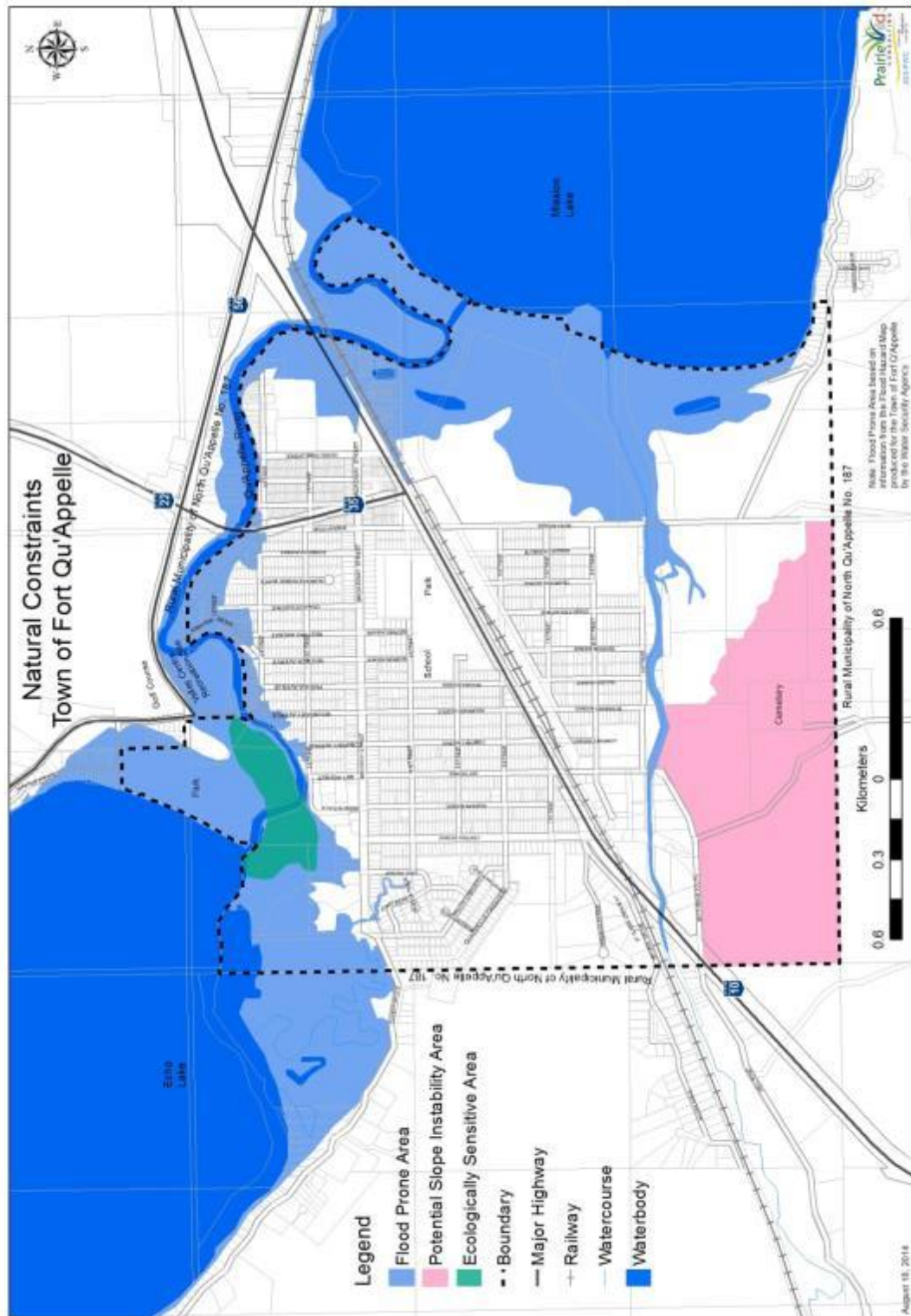
Appendix “B2” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Heritage Buildings & Historic Places of Interest



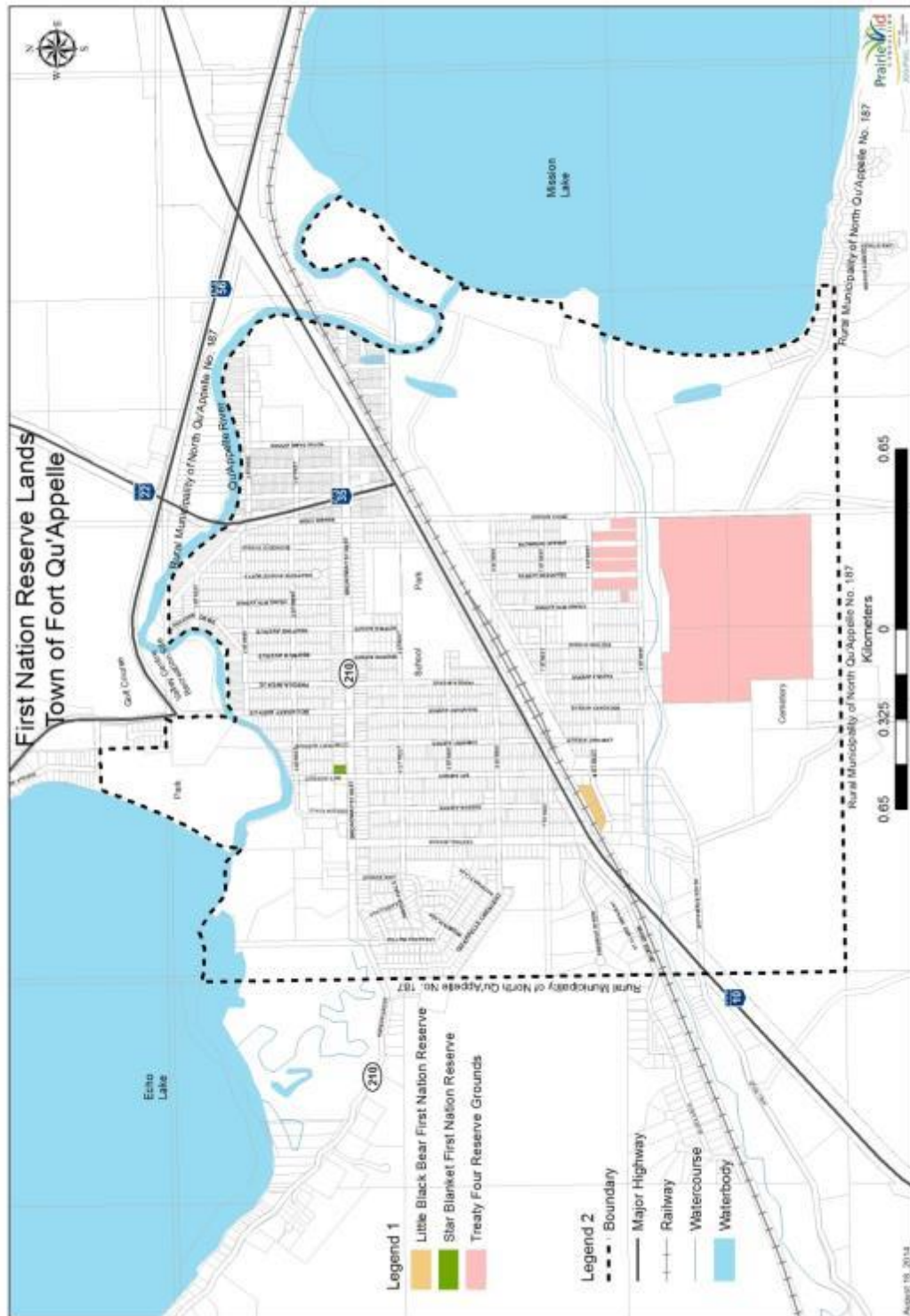
Appendix “B3” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Health, Safety and Emergency Services



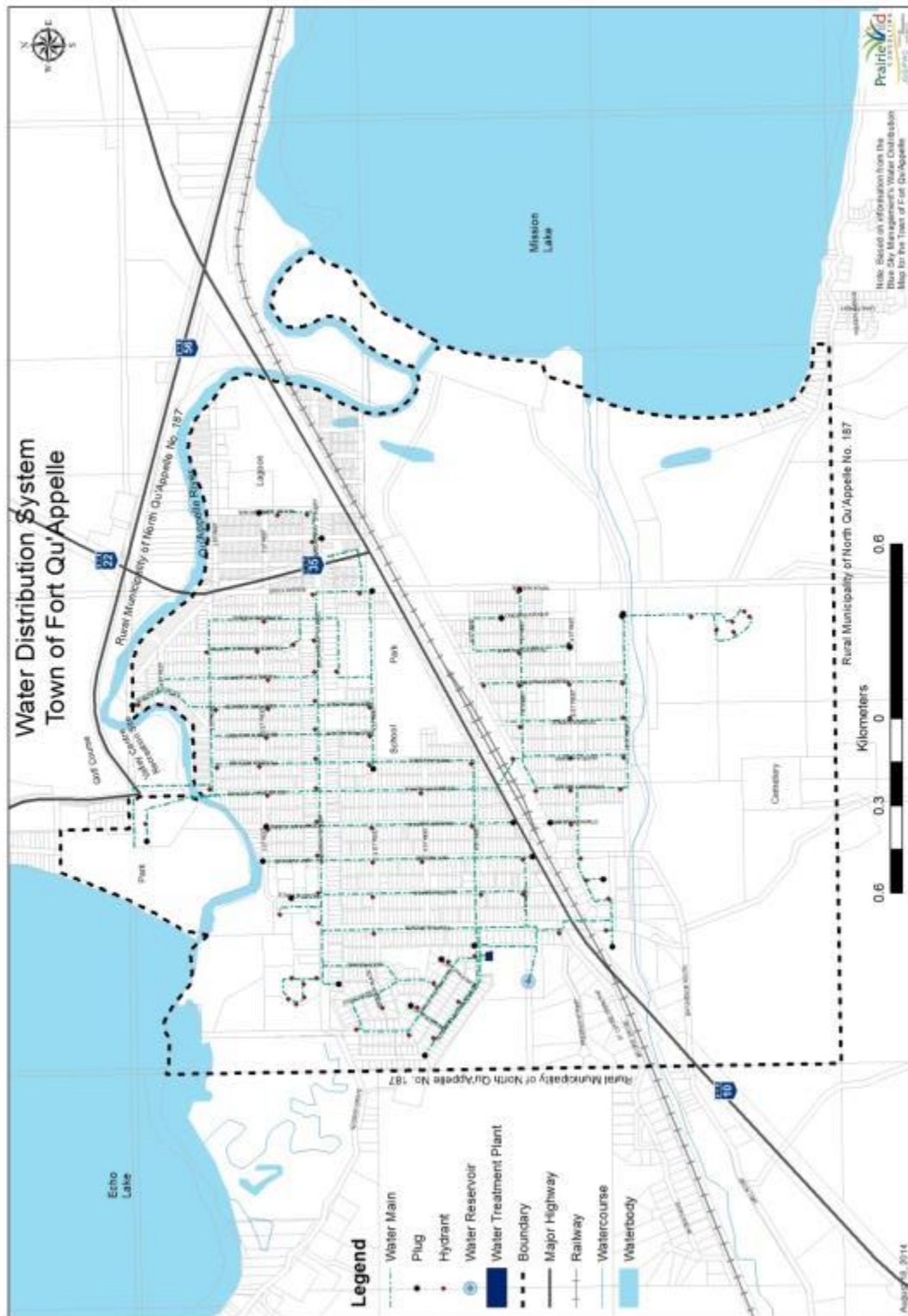
Appendix “B4” - Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Natural Constraints Map



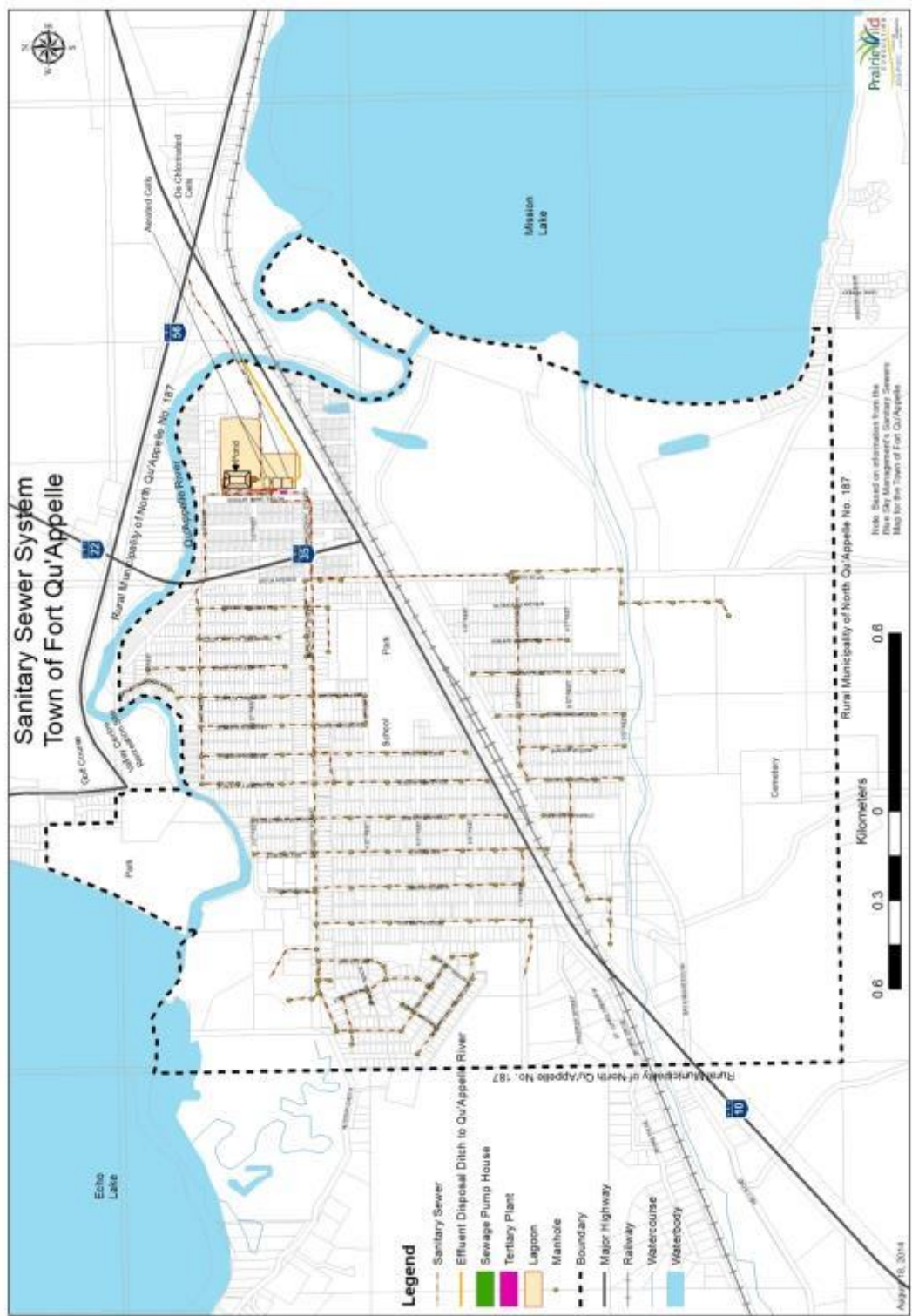
Appendix “B5” – First Nation Reserve Lands



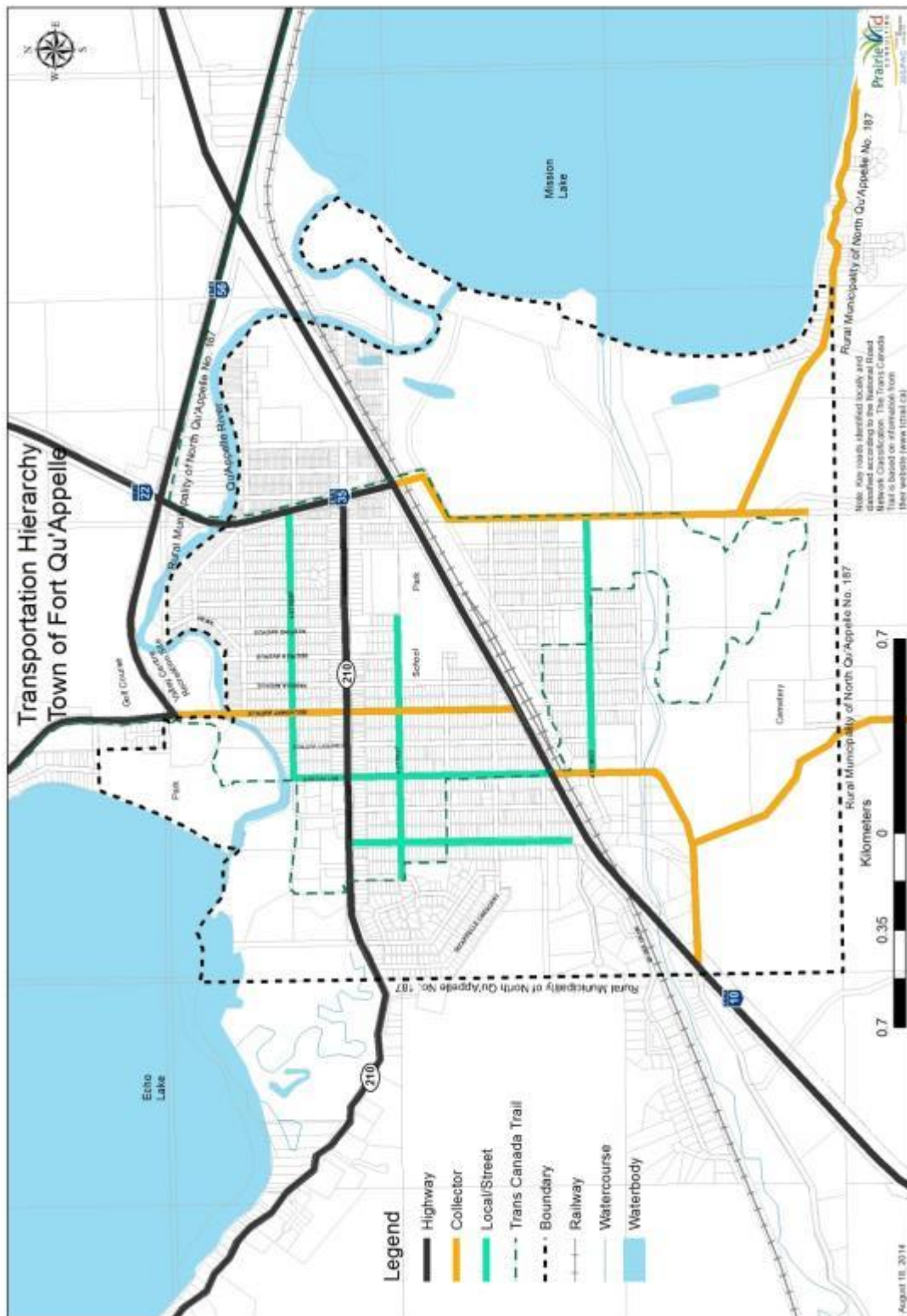
Appendix “B6” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Water Distribution



Appendix “B7” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Sanitary Sewer



Appendix “B8” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Transportation Hierarchy



Appendix “C” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Town Centre Placemaking Designs

On February 9th, 2013, the Town of Fort Qu’Appelle invited community members to a community engagement session regarding the Community and Cultural Planning Processes. As part of this process, a placemaking component for the Town Centre was included. Community members participated in a hands-on exercise to create future visions for the Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Town Centre with a focus on Broadway Street. The following design options are a reflection of the community vision, goals, policies of the Official Community Plan and the designs created from the placemaking session.

Design Option 1 & 2 – Pocket Park



Design Option 1 & 2 – Pocket Park



Design Option 1 & 2 – Pocket Park



Design Option 1 & 2 – City Centre Plaza with Public Art Work on Building



Design Option 1 – Increased Pedestrian Functionality & Sidewalk Activities



Option 2 – Centre Boulevard



Design Option 2 – Centre Boulevard with Angle Parking



Design Option 2 – Centre Boulevard with Angle Parking



Option 3 – Pedestrian Street



Appendix “D” – Defining Culture

Definition of Culture

Definition and Purpose of the Cultural Resource Use Partnership

The Cultural Resource Use Partnership (CRUP) is a volunteer-led, community driven initiative that defines and takes action on its commitment to support arts and culture in the region. The four participating CRUP communities include the Towns of Fort Qu’Appelle, Indian Head, and Wolseley, and the District of Katepwa.

The purpose of the regionally cultural initiative is to:

- Catalyze and facilitate a supportive network between and amongst the four anchoring CRUP communities;
- To provide a vision that inspires and calls everyone to action, including the participating municipal CRUP Councils, workers, volunteers, the arts and culture community, and local residents and visitors, to support and develop arts and culture in the CRUP region;
- Provide a means for the arts and culture community to engage and act in partnership with the CRUP participating communities and the wider region.

Definition of Culture

Context:

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defines culture as follows: “ ... the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.

This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

Culture comprises the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group, and includes not only arts and letters, but also modes of life, fundamental rights of human beings, value systems, traditions and beliefs.”

(www.unesco.org)

Operational Definitions of Culture in addition to the UNESCO definition include:

- Culture encompasses the arts and includes design arts, visual and performing arts, music, literary arts, electronic arts, communications and media, crafts, festivals and events.
- Culture includes arts, built and natural heritage, the history of the community, ethno-cultural identity and expression, language and literacy, urban design, artistic expression and creativity in all sectors of the economy and the community.

Cultural Resource Use Partnership Guiding (Founding) Principles

The following principles provide a framework from which each of the respective participating CRUP committees are developing their local based community and regional planning tools that will help guide the management of growth and development over the next 25+ years.

1. Importance of Culture

- Culture will be recognized, nurtured, encouraged, and promoted as an integral part of life in the CRUP region.
- Culture is a fundamental core component of community identity and contributes strongly to sustaining community quality of life.
- Culture is important as it encompasses many elements, including arts, built and natural heritage, the history of the community, ethno-cultural expression, language and literacy, urban design, artistic expression, and creativity in all sectors of the economy and the community.
- Unique cultural assets and identity strengthen the region as a cultural tourism destination, supporting and enhancing other attractive features of the region.
- Local and regional cultural activity, organizations, resources and products are key elements for educating residents and visitors.
- Local and regional culture represents a diverse range of components which will enrich the lives of all of its citizens.

2. Sustainability and Growth of Culture

Culture is integral to quality of life, sustainable development and tourism in the region. The CRUP recognizes and endorses the following:

- A culture sector helps to attract and retain creative, entrepreneurial, skilled, committed and enthusiastic businesses, workforce, and volunteers.
- An environment supportive of creativity is a catalyst for innovation and imagination, inspiring renewal, growth, prosperity, and vitality.
- The cultural community is comprised of a diverse group of artists, artisans, organizations, arts and cultural workers, and volunteers who are involved in the creation, production, presentation, and distribution of arts and culture. Whether professional, semi-professional, or non-professional, all are important and valued.
- As the advocate and steward for arts and culture in the region, the CRUP will strive to create an environment in which the cultural community can be sustained and nurtured through economic investment and cultural renewal.
- The CRUP will strive to catalyze and facilitate an effective marketing and communications strategy for promoting regional cultural activities that will further community involvement in, and awareness of, arts and culture.
- The CRUP will encourage the participating CRUP municipalities and neighbouring municipalities to promote cultural activities in tourism and economic development initiatives.

- CRUP believes strongly that cultural identity is important to providing a framework for sustainable growth whereby municipalities that embrace and protect their sense of identity is able to respond to the evolving dynamics and needs of their citizens.
- Growth of a culture community requires strategic partnerships with private and public investors, and alliances between the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, and government agencies.
- It is important to recognize and celebrate volunteers, arts and cultural achievements, and initiatives.
- Supporting the creation and enhancement of culturally education programs within the work of arts organizations encourages cultural renewal and growth.
- The CRUP's guiding principles requires ongoing planning and development, and annual evaluation of its cultural activity and growth.

3. Economic Impact of Culture

Culture provides significant contributions, both directly and indirectly, to economic development, community sustainability, and tourism in the region. The CRUP recognizes and endorses the following:

- Culture is an important pillar of a sustainable community.
- The quality of life, augmented by the community's cultural products, attracts business, industry, new residents, and consumers of cultural products. The arts community makes significant contributions to our economy.
- The real beneficiaries of cultural investment are Canadian communities.
- The tangible benefits of "cultural tourism" make significant contributions to our economy.
- Leisure travellers who include a culture/heritage activity in their trips travel longer distances, have longer stays and higher spending per trip compared to other leisure travellers.
- Canadians love culture and will travel great distances in their own country to attend certain events or experience unique parts of Canada's history or culture.
- Arts and culture are "cornerstones of the creative, knowledge-based economy". (based on *Conference Board of Canada, Valuing Culture: Measuring and Understanding Canada's Creative Economy*, August 2008).

4. Regional Support and Capacity Building for Arts and Culture

The CRUP has committed to investing in Arts and Culture. The CRUP recognizes and endorses the following:

- Support of artistic and cultural activities may be represented by both financial and other resources.
- The CRUP lends groups, artists, and not-for-profit organizations credibility and accountability. This recognition raises the status of artists, projects, and organizations in the eyes of other potential supporters, funding groups, levels of government, and the private sector.
- Recognition through financial and other resources encourages capacity building of events, activities, and programs within the community.
- Public art and cultural amenities must be developed and maintained in order to enhance the quality of public spaces throughout the region.

5. Access to Arts and Culture

The CRUP recognizes the importance of making culture available to all persons and recognizes and endorses the following:

- It is important to provide cultural organizations with support and assistance in a pro-active manner, for promotion, advertising, and marketing of cultural opportunities, activities, and events that are held in the region.
- Clear communication is necessary between the CRUP municipalities and the cultural organizations to ensure that the circulation of information about cultural opportunities, activities, and events offered in the region are inclusionary.
- Making culture available to all persons is valuable and important, particularly to those with barriers to overcome or limited opportunities for exposure to cultural experiences and activities. Improved access to culture fosters social inclusion and cultural diversity.
- It is necessary to assess gaps and plan to address needs.

Appendix “E” – Wider Area of Cooperation

The Town of Fort Qu’Appelle together with the Towns of Indian Head and Wolseley, and the District of Katepwa has recently conducted community and cultural planning processes in each of their respective communities. Through the processes, community members within the District and Towns have identified other neighbouring communities as part of their wider area of cooperation. Section 3.14 of this Plan refers to opportunities identified for regional cooperation which should be further explored. The region contemplated consists of the Rural Municipalities of Chester No. 125, Montmartre No. 126, Wolseley No. 155, Indian Head No. 156, South Qu’Appelle No. 157, Abernethy No. 186, North Qu’Appelle No. 187, and Lipton No. 217; the Towns of Sintaluta and Qu’Appelle and Balcarres; the Villages of Abernethy, Glenavon, Lebret, Lipton and Montmartre; and the Resort Villages of B-Say-Tah and Fort San. Some time has been spent discussing the optimum size for the “area of cooperation”. This group of RM’s is a natural fit in that one can drive to any event being held in this region less than half an hour. It was felt that a problem often encountered in Saskatchewan is that we have tried to work with unmanageably large regional areas. It is proposed that the merits of focusing the area of regional cooperation of these municipalities should be investigated.

It is quite possible that the above region would be too small for optimum impact and the merits of expanding the area to include the Rural Municipalities of Lipton No. 217, South Qu’Appelle No. 157, Montmatre No. 120, and Chester No. 125 should also be investigated. This wider area includes the Towns of Fort Qu’Appelle, Indian Head, Wolseley, Sintaluta, Qu’Appelle and Balcarres; the Villages of Abernethy, Glenavon, Lebret, Lipton and Montmartre; the District of Katepwa and the Resort Villages of B-Say-Tah and Fort San. The wider area of cooperation including all of the municipalities is shown in the map in Appendix “E1.”

These communities are found in south east Saskatchewan and are approximately within a 100 kilometer radius of the City of Regina and City of Yorkton. The proximity of the communities to the Trans Canada No. 1 Highway creates opportunities for trade, employment, and recreation. The central feature in this area is the Qu’Appelle Valley that runs east to west across southern Saskatchewan.³ This deep valley was formed about 14,000 years ago as the last ice sheet retreated northward and a series of coulee hills, shaped by the glacial deposition, now outline the valley.⁴ The winding Qu’Appelle River and underground springs shaped the four lakes in the valley that are called the Pasqua, Echo, Mission and Katepwa Lakes. Together, these lake systems form an important watershed system in southern Saskatchewan, and the streams and trails connect the communities in the Region.

Across the prairie landscape, this Region shares the physical features of the Aspen Parkland Eco-region that is characterized by rolling hills, gullies and large coulees. Vegetation on the coulee hills form a distinct pattern with Aspen trees filling the northern slopes and native fescue grasses and cacti growing on the drier southern-facing slopes. The climate of the Aspen Parkland is slightly cooler and has fewer

³ Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan, “Qu’Appelle Valley,” http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/quappelle_valley.html.

⁴ Ibid.

droughts than the flat grasslands region. The Region contains rich farmland that attracted agricultural settlements in the 1880s and continues to provide farming and ranching activities today.⁵

Overtime, the Qu'Appelle Valley has served different purposes as human activities clustered around the lake.⁶ The prominent land uses include a natural habitat for hunting and fishing, an economic base for services and agricultural needs and natural amenities for outdoor recreation.

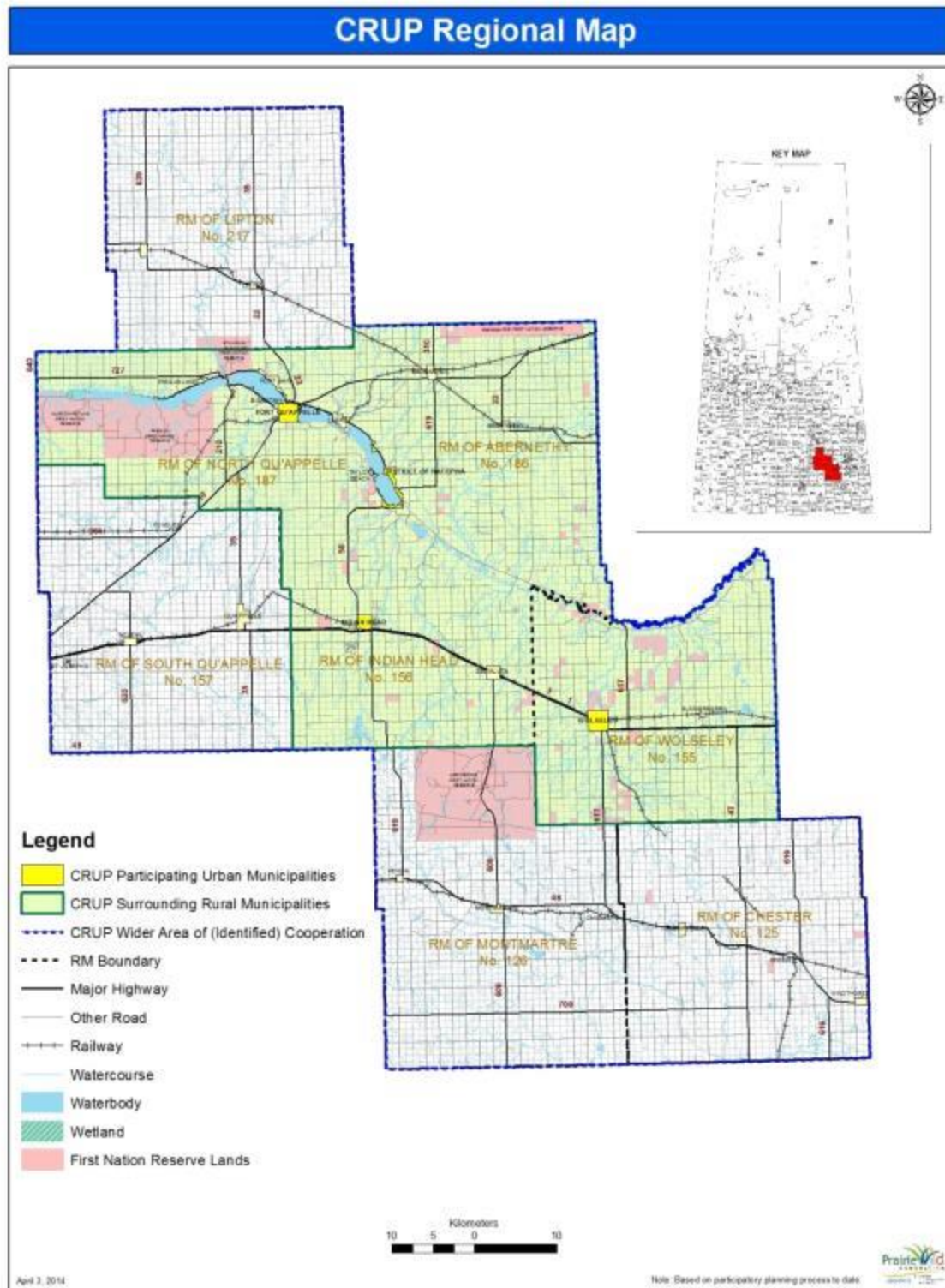
The communities currently have strong working relationships based on their commonalities and unique landscape. It was felt particularly important that the “area of cooperation” be as broad as possible and should include regional discussions regarding social, economic, cultural, and environmental concerns and opportunities.

While individual community plans are vital, it must be recognized that certain issues transcend the individual communities and can only be effectively addressed by regional action. With this in mind, it is important that the identification of the appropriate region and the desirability of creating a Regional Plan should be investigated.

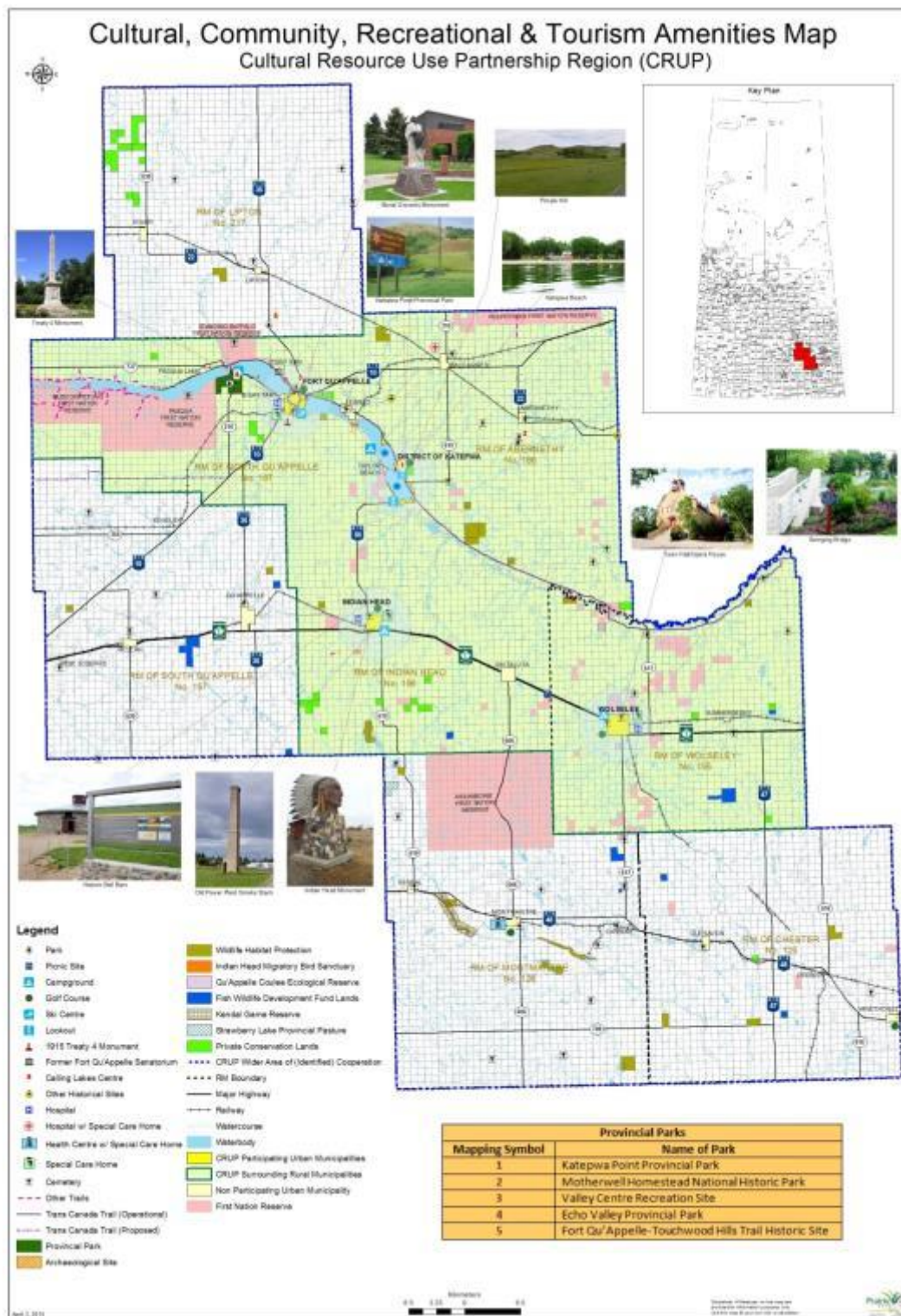
⁵ Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan. “Ecozones and Ecoregions”. http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/ecozones_and_ecoregions.html).

⁶ Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan. Qu'Appelle Valley. http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/quappelle_valley.html

Appendix “E1” – CRUP Regional Map



Appendix “E2” – CRUP Region Cultural, Community, Recreational & Tourism Amenities Map



Appendix “F” – Town of Fort Qu’Appelle Action Table

Policy Section/ Action	Performance Goal/Aim	Policy Section	Priority Timeline i.e. immediate, mid- term, 10+ years	Current Status	Reporting Period Status Update Typically annually for most
General		P 13			
Community Engagement		P 16			

Residential Land Use		P 17			
Community Economic Development		P 20			

Industrial Development		P 25			
Community Services		P 27			

Recreation and Tourism		P 30			
Natural Hazard and Ecological Sensitive Lands		P 33			

Ground and Source Water Protection		P 38			
Municipal and Environmental Reserve		P 40			

Heritage and Cultural Resources		P 42			
Public Health and Safety		P 47			

Infrastructure: Public Utilities		P 49			
Transportation Networks		P 51			

Regional and Inter-Municipal Cooperation		P 53			
Future Urban Development		P 55			

First Nations Treaty Entitlements and Urban Reserve		P 56			
Other					