

**Parkland County  
Municipal Development Plan (MDP) Project**

**Small Group Discussion Feedback**  
Entwistle Hall - Tuesday, April 18, 2006

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**Environmental Management**

1. *To what extent should environmentally sensitive lands be protected? And by whom?*

- Clean beavers up in creeks.
- More recycle areas.
- Less development close to lakes.
- Have farmers designate virgin land and leave in natural state (no development).
  
- Should be the County.
  
- County should control level of development, depending on sensitivity.
  
- ESAs should be protected by the County, the province and the public.

2. *What stewardship approaches should Parkland County pursue to help protect environmentally sensitive areas?*

- Stewardship – limit development, treat same as national parks (i.e. provide access but control damage), managed trail systems.
  
- Education – programs, grants.
- Identify and control development.
  
- Guidelines.
- Driven by economics.
- ESA should be policed by an organization.
- Needs more enforcement.

3. *Should Parkland County acquire particularly unique or important environmentally sensitive lands? If yes, then how could such areas be acquired?*

- Parkland County – acquire land (environmentally sensitive).
- No need to acquire if they can control and manage the damage.
- Owners could donate land to Parkland County and get a tax break.
  
- ESAs should be owned by the County, if they are going to be policed.
- If privately owned, publicly enforced.

## **Agriculture**

### *1. How important is maintaining farmland to you?*

- Very important to maintain and management.
- Plant more trees.
  
- High importance.
- Future.
  
- Very important.
  
- Not important to maintain farmland.
- Important to maintain the best farmland.
- Maintain all farmland.

### *2. Do we need to maintain all farmland or just good farmland? What does good farmland mean to you?*

- Good farmland is productive (keep it).
- Marginal farmland back into trees and grazing.
  
- Good farmland is currently producing.
  
- Take into consideration good growing soil (east end).
- Good farmers will make good farms out of very poor land.
  
- All good farmland depending on region.
- Discourage development on prime farmland.
- Relocate top soil from development area to other farmland.

### *3. Should farmers be permitted to subdivide farmland? If yes, under what circumstances?*

- Yes in larger parcels, on marginal land.
  
- Yes, into larger parcels (i.e. 40 acres)
- Why should “farmer” be stated in the question?
  
- Yes – example family farms, single parcel, stay in production. Subdividing needs to be looked at very seriously. Important to keep farmland into production. Once it is lost – how do we get it back?
  
- Money should not be guideline.
- Will attract new people to the area.

4. *Should small value-added type agricultural operations be encouraged (e.g. livestock, market gardens, apiaries) in Parkland County? Where?*

- Should not discourage any agricultural operations.
- Small value-added agricultural businesses – yes.
- Yes encourage value added agricultural operations. Try west end of the County.
- Yes, to value-added agriculture.

### **Residential/Hamlet Development**

1. *What things matter to you if you choose to live in a country residential subdivision?*

- Good roads, infrastructure, keep clean/manicured, weeds, garbage pick up (where do you take it?).
- Privacy, rural setting/rural quality, increase industrial development setbacks near country residential areas.
- Garbage pickup, all season good maintained roads, walking trails, recreation, common community area.
- Job availability, recreational opportunities, roads, transportation, paving of more gravel roads (tax money).

2. *Should Parkland County encourage new residential subdivisions to be serviced with piped water and sewer systems rather than onsite wells and private sewage disposal systems?*

- Yes to water hook-up and sewer hook-up to ensure the environmental safety.
- Piped water and sewer needed within the hamlets.
- Country residential subdivisions should be allowed private wells and PSDS.
- Yes to piped water and sewer if high density, low acreage size.
- Pipe services are a good idea, but cost prohibitive. Guarantee quality of water. Smaller lots in subdivisions. Paid by tax money or shared cost.

3. *Should a range of housing choices be encouraged by the County to accommodate new residential growth as well as an aging population (e.g. aging in place)?*

- Yes to a range of housing for new residences and for aging taxpayers.
- User friendly homes near existing home.
- Granny suites in existing homes.

- Encourage the “age in place” concept. Could be private venture.
- Offering broader housing choice (duplexes, townhouses, etc.) – in hamlets, more dense areas.

4. *Should the County encourage new recreation resorts like golf course communities and lakeshore developments?*

- No more lakeshore development, no more golf courses.
- No – to lakeshore developments.
- Yes – to golf course communities.
- Should encourage recreation resorts, golf courses, etc.

### **Industrial/Commercial Development**

1. *What aspects of existing industrial and commercial development negatively impact you?*

- No negative impact.
- There isn't enough!!
- Size, location and time duration (Burnco) – traffic, noise, dust, health, stress, 1/5 water wells, loss of agricultural land.
- Not negative – need more.
- Good for taxes.
- Peat plant/gravel trucks hurt roads.
- Need more as long as they pay (contribute).

2. *What should be done to deal with these aspects?*

- Need more industrial/commercial businesses in the area.
- Industrial areas need to be promoted to the western areas.
- Consider existing community.
- Pave road/water road for dust control.
- Share maintenance cost of roads.

3. *Should the County be encouraging more commercial recreational tourism operations (e.g. RV parks, campgrounds, bed & breakfasts) to take advantage of its location and scenic parkland setting?*

- Yes, RV parks and campgrounds. Yes, encourage bed & breakfasts.

- Yes to all listed, plus: river rafting, trail rides, helicopter rides, hotels, balloon rides.
- Encourage recreational development: campgrounds, bed & breakfasts, expand local park.
- Yes the county should be encouraging more commercial recreational tourism operations – located away from major hubs, allow for more signage.

## **Recreation/Open Space**

### *1. What types of parks and open space should be provided in new residential subdivisions?*

- Increase walking/bicycle trails (no motorized vehicles) linking to other communities.
- Skateboard parks.
- Neat and tidy boulevards.
- Fencing along the riverbank.
- Use of grazing pastures/reclaimed mining areas for quads and skidoos (motorized).
- Outdoor rink.
  
- Increase amount of green space within subdivisions.
- Left as natural areas – open space – trails.
- Playgrounds – ball diamonds – skating rinks – soccer fields – beach volleyball courts.
  
- Open green space.
  
- Playgrounds.
- Walking trails.
- ATV trails – to keep them off the roads.
- A variety of parks and other recreational opportunities.

### *2. Should the County support and develop local trail networks to serve rural and hamlet communities?*

- Trail networks – yes Parkland County should develop for walking, horseback and biking.
- Yes to trail network between developments.
- The County should support trail networks.

### *3. What types of recreational uses should be allowed on these trails?*

- Designated ATV trails.
- Bird watching -> marshes and waterways.
  
- Trails to accommodate: walking, bicycling, ATVs, motorbikes – within reason, who would control, through education of local clubs, Entwistle Rodeo Grounds.

- Walking, biking, ATVs, dirt bikes, scooters.

4. *What other types of outdoor recreation opportunities are needed in Parkland County? (e.g. baseball diamond, outdoor hockey rinks, playing fields, playgrounds, etc.)?*

- Within hamlets and subdivisions -> hockey rinks.
- Make it easier for volunteers to manage and maintain facilities -> easier access to funding.
- Increase funding and support to existing facilities.
  
- Skateboard park.
  
- Baseball diamond. Entwistle and Evansburg work well on these programs.
  
- Campgrounds.

**Other (miscellaneous)**

- More copies of Reporter for Tomahawk/Seba Beach area.
- Communication to outer areas of Parkland County needs to be improved.