

Modernizing the Joint Use and Planning Agreement

The Joint Use and Planning Agreement (the Agreement) was created in 1985. It is important to update the Agreement as community demographics and needs change over time. In December 2020, City Council and the three school Board of Trustees directed their administrations to begin collaborations on a new Agreement that will be more adaptable, flexible, and respond to changes in Provincial legislation and City policies since 1985.

Modernizing the Agreement will create efficiencies in delivering land use, recreation, parks, and mobility options. It will allow for multiple uses on reserve lands to further the role of school sites as key activity nodes in the community. Through this review The City and school boards will explore allowing a mix of uses on joint use sites and blending complementary land uses to help diversify Calgary's communities.

The new Agreement will address how The City and school boards plan, develop, use, dispose of and service school sites. As well, the use and maintenance of school facilities, municipal facilities and playing fields will be addressed. In addition to updates to the content, a single Agreement with all three school boards is an important outcome for all partners.

Collaboration

The City and school boards have begun the review of the existing Joint Use Agreement (JUA), looking for gaps, issues and opportunities to improve the JUA. This includes:

- Identifying uses that provide a public benefit that are compatible with school board purposes and enable multiple uses on joint use sites.
- Developing principles and parameters to promote development, interim uses or redevelopment on surplus unused, closed or underutilized school sites.
- Addressing maintenance and operational costs of multi-use buildings.
- Assessing and updating the use of the reserve fund.
- Modernizing the transfer and disposal of surplus school sites.
- Incorporating recent City policies and Provincial legislation that are related to the Agreement.
- Providing one Agreement with all three school boards.

The first phase of engagement and visioning for the new Agreement has been completed. Administrations from the four partners are collaborating on the detailed review of specific issues and opportunities previously identified.

The new Agreement will not be focused on any individual joint use site in Calgary. It will provide the policies to help improve land use and planning on joint use sites across the city. The new Agreement will support discussions about individual sites. Administration will be returning no later than Q2 2022 with a draft modernized Joint Use and Planning Agreement.