



SECTION C2

Healthy Public Realm

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East Hants' neighbourhoods are the places where residents live, work and play. How we design our neighbourhoods plays a major role in our health and well-being. Land use decisions such as zoning, transportation systems and neighbourhood design significantly influence health.

For instance, the distances and mode people use to travel to work, the availability of healthy food options in a community, or the safety of a park, can promote good nutrition, physical activity and increase leisure time.

Healthy neighbourhoods are complete, having a range of land uses; compact, and connected to enable active transportation.

Policy Goal

Council recognizes the effect that land use and development has on the health of it's residents. Council shall consider opportunities to minimize social and environmental impacts and improve the health and safety of the municipality.

Policy Statements

HR1. Council recognizes the five pillars of healthy community design as:

- a) **Healthy Neighbourhood Design:** Neighbourhoods where people can easily connect with each other and with a variety of day-to-day services.
- b) **Healthy Transportation Networks:** Safe and accessible transportation

systems that incorporate a diversity of transportation modes and place priority on active transportation such as cycling and walking.

- c) **Healthy Natural Environments:** A built environment where natural environments are protected and natural elements are incorporated, and are accessibly experienced by all.
 - d) **Healthy Food Systems:** A built environment that can support access to and availability of healthy foods for all.
 - e) **Healthy Housing:** Affordable, accessible, and good quality housing for all that is free of hazards and enables people to engage in activities of daily living while optimizing their health.
- HR2.** Employ appropriate setback requirements to minimize land use conflicts for development adjacent to industrial corridors such as railways, pipelines, and other energy-generation facilities and other features, where required.
- HR3.** Council shall consider the impact of new development on emergency response infrastructure.
- HR4.** Council shall encourage school boards and developers to locate schools such that the safety and level of activity of children is optimized, and walking to school is a viable option for residents.
- HR5.** Council shall encourage community projects which have the potential to improve health through improvements to the built environment.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING STRATEGY - OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Policy	Amendment Date	Description