

Cannabis in Strathcona County

Presented by Linette Capcara

Our County

Specialized Municipality made up of both a large urban centre (Sherwood Park) and large rural area including eight hamlets

- County-wide area 1262 square kilometres
- Urban area of Sherwood Park Population 70,618*
- Rural area including eight Hamlets Population 27,426*

*2016 Federal Census

Land Uses

Being a blend of urban and rural, most of our land uses are reflected in both:

- Public Service Uses (Schools, Recreational Centres)
- Heavy Industrial Uses (Sherwood Park and Heartland)
- Commercial Uses (Contractor, Service Stations, Restaurants)
- Agricultural (Seed Cleaning Facilities, Seed Research & Development, Greenhouses, Intensive Horticulture)
- Cannabis Production

Cannabis Production Facilities

Strathcona County's Land Use Bylaw lists "Cannabis Production Facility" as a discretionary use in two districts:

Medium Industrial (IM) – Urban (Sherwood Park)

Agriculture General (AG) – Rural

Cannabis Production Facility "means a facility, comprised of one or more buildings or structures, used for the purpose of growing, producing, cultivating, testing, processing, researching, destroying, storing, packaging or shipping of cannabis by a federal government licensed commercial producer in accordance with federal legislation. This does not include the growing or processing of plants that are considered by federal legislation to be industrial hemp."

How did we get here?

- August 2013 – Medical Marijuana (APPROVED)
Agriculture, Intensive Horticulture (permitted use) in AG
- September 2017 – Medical Cannabis (APPROVED/REVOKED)
Agriculture, Intensive Horticulture (permitted use) in AG
- September 2017 – Agriculture Intensive Horticulture (discretionary) in AG
- November 2017 – Agriculture, Intensive Horticulture (discretionary) in IM
- December 2017 – Medical Cannabis (APPROVED)
Agriculture, Intensive Horticulture (discretionary use) in IM
- January 2018 – Cannabis Production Facility added to IM and AG (discretionary)
- January 2018 – Medical Cannabis (APPROVED*)
Cannabis Production Facility (discretionary use) in AG

*Appeal pending

Rationale

- Urban/rural blend
- Plans/policies support diversification of agriculture
- Scale differences (industrial scale vs. craft/micro grower)
- Focus differences (mass production, specialty markets)

Changes with Legalization

- Production
 - Specific Use Regulations
 - Possible Classifications/Scale
- Retail
 - Setbacks from Sensitive Uses
 - Required Land Use Bylaw Amendments
- Consumption
 - Smoking Bylaw
 - Parks Bylaw