

Project Information and FAQs

Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Master Plan and Pollution Prevention Control Plan

What is a Master Plan?

A Master Plan provides the municipality with a broad framework through which the need and justification for specific projects can be established. It is developed in accordance with Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process in order to meet the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act for a class or category of infrastructure projects. Master Planning includes a stakeholder consultation process that involves consultation with the public, government technical agencies, other municipalities, and First Nations.

Features of Master Plans

Master Plans provide a strategic level assessment that includes consideration of a range of alternatives to better address overall system needs, potential impacts, and mitigation. The Strathroy Caradoc WWSWM Master Plan will identify water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs to maintain the level of service mandated in the Strathroy Caradoc Official Plan.

Key features of a Master Plan include:

- Addresses the key principles of successful environmental planning;
- Addressed at least the first two phases of the Municipal Class EA and can also cover other phases;
- Allows for an integrated process with other planning initiatives;
- Provides a strategic level assessment of various options to better address overall system needs and potential impacts and mitigation;
- Generally long term;
- Takes a system wide approach to planning which relates infrastructure either geographically or by a particular function;
- Recommends an infrastructure master plan which can be implemented through the implementation of separate projects; and
- Provides high level details of the identified projects, such as description and goals.

1st Public Consultation Meeting

The first public consultation meeting has been arranged to review and receive input from the public about the collection of background information and identification of the problem. The types of questions/ comments we are looking to receive are:

What is a Class EA process?

The purpose of Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) is to provide for “the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment.” Environmental Assessment (EA) process is a planning tool provided by the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and is used to identify the possible effects of proposed infrastructure projects on the environment.

The purpose of Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Act (EAA) is to provide for “the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment.” The current MCEA establishes an approved Environmental Assessment process for the municipal roads, water, wastewater and transit projects. Undertakings within the identified class of undertakings can be planned, consulted on, assessed, designed, constructed, operated, maintained, rehabilitated and retired without having to obtain project-specific approval under the EAA, provided the approved MCEA process and applicable requirements in Part II.1 of the EAA are followed. Details on the MCEA and the Master Plan process within it can be found at <https://municipalclassea.ca/>.

What is a Stormwater Master Plan?

A Stormwater Master Plan outlines the existing status of stormwater networks and includes guidelines and policies which dictate the management of stormwater over the next 5 to 10 years.

Why is stormwater management important?

Without stormwater management, runoff from urbanized areas would flood communities and roads, cause stream erosion and destroy aquatic habitat. Stormwater that rushes uncontrolled from urban pavements causes streams to rise faster and more dangerously than those in rural areas, while depositing picked-up dirt, oil, grease, road salt, fertilizers, pesticides, and bacteria from urbanized areas into the water bodies. Proper stormwater management releases runoff into natural waterways slowly, imitating the water cycle before urbanization. Stormwater ponds is one management technique as it provides an opportunity for sediment (and pollutants attached to the sediment) to become trapped in the pond bottom, rather than moving into the local streams.

How can I participate in the development of the recommendations?

Use this website to get informed, fill out the survey, and ask questions. Feedback received by the Municipality will be used in making recommendations to Municipality Council.

How does a Master Plan differ from an Official Plan?

The table below provides a comparison summary. An Official Plan is a legal policy that guides the short-term and long-term development in your community. The plan is developed through a public and legislative process in accordance with the Ontario Planning Act, and the community input helps ensure that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of your community. Some policies that Official Plans deals with include:

- Where new housing, industry, offices and shops will be located;
- What services like roads, watermains, sewers, parks and schools will be needed;
- When, and in what order, parts of your community will grow; and
- Community improvement initiatives.

Once an Official Plan is in effect, it guides all Municipal planning decisions, meaning:

- The local council and municipal officials must follow the Plan;
- All new services, sewer or watermains etc. must conform to the Plan; and
- All bylaws must conform to the official plan.

Official Plans provide a plan for where infrastructure is needed and a technical basis for undertaking infrastructure environmental assessment studies including Master Plans.

Master Plans rely on the analysis and detailed policies developed in municipal Official Plans such as speed of growth, growth location, and types of growth to determine infrastructure needs. The recommendations in a Master Plan can provide a roadmap to what follow up EA studies and projects that will be needed in the future. Unlike the Official Plans, a Master Plan does not provide general policies or decisions that must be adhered to.

Official Plan (OP)	Master Plan (MP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local council and municipal officials must follow the Plan;• All new services, sewer or watermains etc. must conform to the Plan; and• All bylaws must conform to the official plan.• An OP deals mainly with issues such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• where new housing, industry, offices and shops will be located• what services like roads, watermains, sewers, parks and schools will be needed• when, and in what order, parts of your community will grow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governed by Environmental Assessment Act• Build upon the analysis and detailed policies developed through OP• Plans on how to service growth detailed in the OP in municipal servicing (roads, water, wastewater, stormwater)• No policies/bylaws created• Can be undertaken:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a high level review for planning infrastructure services and support future planning of specific projects based on OP (MCEA Approach 1)• In conjunction with OP, Secondary Plans, or subdivision plans and/or include planning of specific infrastructure (MCEA Approaches 2 and 3)