

Proposed Emergency Residential Shelter

This notice is to provide information on an application that the City of Saskatoon has received from the Province of Saskatchewan for an Emergency Residential Shelter, for up to 15 individuals with complex needs, at 1701 Idylwyld Drive North. An Emergency Residential Shelter is permitted at this location under the Zoning Bylaw. However, City Council approval is required for the length of operation for a temporary use up to 18 months. A location map is provided on the last page of this notice.

The application is for a temporary operation up to 18 months. A permanent facility may be considered in the future, which could be established at this location provided further requirements are met. Any site chosen for a permanent location would be required to meet the full requirements of the Zoning Bylaw and obtain the necessary Building Permits. Administration will continue to work with the Province as they finalize the details of the facility and confirmation on plans for a potential permanent facility are developed.

The Province has provided the following information on the application:

To better support individuals in crisis and enhance community safety, two complex needs emergency shelters will be established, one in Regina and one in Saskatoon. Complex needs emergency shelters are one of the critical components of the provincial approach to address homelessness, to support individuals in crisis and enhance community safety.

Complex needs emergency shelters will provide a secure environment and medically supervised place where police may bring an individual who is intoxicated and exhibiting behaviours that present a danger to themselves or a danger or disturbance to the public. Each complex needs emergency shelter will provide up to 15 individuals in crisis with a safe place to stabilize while being monitored by health care professionals for up to 24 hours for the negative effects of drugs or alcohol. These individuals will also be connected to services such as addictions supports, housing and income assistance supports.

Given the urgent need, we are utilizing these temporary locations that are already owned by the province. This allows us to move quickly to make any renovations so that we can get the shelters operational as soon as possible.

Common Questions and Answers

Q. Why are you creating complex needs emergency shelters?

A. *Despite historic investments, issues related to mental illness and addictions are increasingly present in communities. Many people struggling with complex challenges repeatedly end up in emergency rooms or police cells.*

The complex needs emergency shelters will better support individuals in crisis and enhance community safety. These shelters will provide health-care professionals and a secure environment to go for up to 24 hours for individuals who are intoxicated and exhibiting behaviours that present a danger to themselves or a danger or disturbance to the public.

Q. Why has this site been selected?

A. *Given the urgent need, we considered pilot sites that are already owned by the province. This allows us to move quickly to make any renovations so that we can get the shelters operational as soon as possible.*

Q. How do individuals access the shelter?

A. *Unlike a traditional emergency shelter, individuals do not self-refer nor do other community-based organizations refer clients to these shelters. The complex needs emergency shelters provide a safe and secure location where police may bring an individual who is intoxicated and exhibiting behavior that presents a danger to themselves or a danger or disturbance to the public.*

Q. Who will staff these shelter facilities?

A. *The ministries of Health and Corrections, Policing and Public Safety will contract with third-party service providers to deliver the health operations and security of these facilities. This will include nurses and support staff with experience in detox and withdrawal management, and security services to ensure patient and staff safety, and that individuals remain safely inside the facility. This includes trained personnel with the ability to appropriately manage individuals experiencing a high level of distress to ensure patient and staff safety.*

Q. What will happen when individuals are released from the shelter? Will individuals be permitted to loiter around the facility?

A. *Addiction is complex and we anticipate it may take multiple attempts to help people move towards recovery. Individuals will be provided with the opportunity to be connected to community services such as withdrawal management centres, addiction treatment, shelters, financial support, and further services to promote change and a path to successful recovery.*

Discharge planning will be a crucial component of our approach, ensuring that individuals leaving the site are effectively linked to support services, while also strictly enforcing policies to prevent them from remaining on the grounds for the safety and security of all.

It is also important to note that the complex needs emergency shelters are smaller facilities with space for up to 15 individuals at a time. They are also not a place where individuals self-refer, so it is unlikely individuals will be congregating around the sites.

Q. When will the complex needs emergency shelters open?

A. The goal is for the shelters to be established this winter, in early 2024.

Questions and Comments on Application

Questions and comments regarding the operation of the Emergency Residential Shelter and the 'Provincial Approach to Homelessness' may be emailed to the Provincial Government at socialservicesinquiry@gov.sk.ca

Questions and comments on the City's role and processes may be emailed to the Community Services Division, Planning and Development Department at city.planning@saskatoon.ca

Information on shelter spaces may also be viewed on the City's website at the following link saskatoon.ca/shelterspaces.

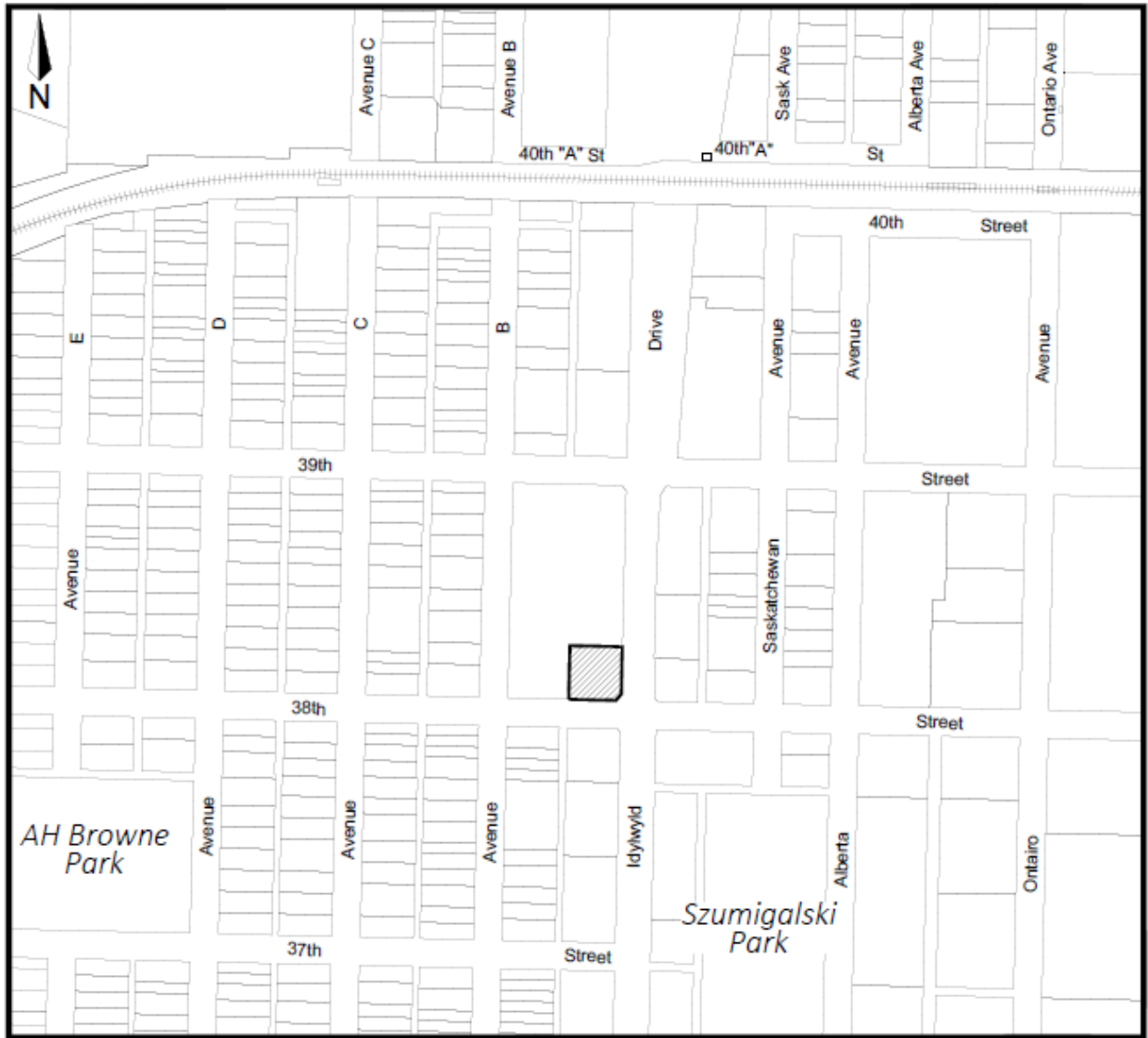
Next Steps

City Council will consider the length of operation for the Emergency Residential Shelter, for a temporary use up to 18 months, at the City Council Regular Business meeting that starts at 9:30am on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023, City Council Chamber, City Hall, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.**

Should you wish to provide written comment to City Council or submit a request to speak, please visit www.saskatoon.ca/write-letter-councilcommittees. Written submissions for City Council's consideration may also be forwarded to:

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office, City Hall
222 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5.

All submissions received by the City Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, November 20, 2023** will be forwarded to City Council.



Location Map



1701 Idylwyld Drive North

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