



The City of
**SPRUCE
GROVE**

Youth Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan

Ongoing Annual Responsibilities

- a) Coordinating youth specific initiatives that profile local youth issues;
- b) Developing and maintaining relationships with individuals and organizations addressing issues or opportunities relating to youth;
- c) Researching and providing input into policy proposals for Council's consideration in reference to matters that directly impact youth in the community;
- d) Receiving direction from Council on work or reports Council requires on youth matters;
- e) Providing a youth lens on youth-oriented City policies, programs, or services; and
- f) Engaging with Administration and other organizations supporting youth initiatives and other municipalities.

Awareness and Understanding

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was created in 2023 and is tasked with engaging with youth in the community to accurately represent a youth perspective on a variety of municipal issues and provide recommendations to Council on these issues.

The 2026 committee has eleven members, eight new member and three returning from 2025. The YAC is well positioned to learn from their successes and leverage them into 2026.

Based on feedback from the 2025 Committee, the youth identified that they would like more mentorship opportunities from Administration, increased opportunities to volunteer, and meaningful connection opportunities with youth to gather input and advise accordingly.

2026 Priorities

The 2026 work plan priorities were formulated after a review and analysis of the previous year's activities, suggestions from administration, Committee Council members, and the Committee members. This work plan is a high-level overview of the focus areas that will guide their involvement and participation in various initiatives. As initiatives emerge that support their priorities, details will be added to the work plan. The work plan is also intended to be iterative to accommodate emerging interests and opportunities.

1. Youth Voice and Civic Engagement *(aligning to mandate a, c, d, e, f)*

Purpose

To strengthen meaningful youth participation in municipal decision-making and increase awareness of local youth issues.

Key Objectives

1. Increase opportunities for youth to share perspectives on City matters.
2. Provide structured youth feedback to Council and Administration.
3. Enhance youth understanding of municipal processes and civic engagement.

2. Youth Opportunity and Economic Inclusion *(aligning to mandate a, b, c, e, f)*

Purpose

To improve awareness, access, and advocacy related to youth employment, volunteering, and skill development opportunities.

Key Objectives

1. Identify barriers to youth employment and volunteer participation.
2. Strengthen relationships with local businesses and youth-serving organizations.
3. Provide opportunities to enhance youth leadership development.

3. Youth Wellbeing and Access *(alignment to mandate a, b, c, e, f)*

Purpose

To identify and address barriers affecting youth wellbeing, including mental health, accessibility, safety, and equitable participation.

Key Objectives

1. Increase awareness of youth mental health and wellbeing needs.
2. Identify systemic barriers limiting youth participation in programs and services.
3. Provide actionable recommendations to improve youth access and inclusion.