

Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement



Background

This information is intended to help the City to develop a Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement.

Please take a few minutes to read and understand the background and then we hope you can help us to identify the locally sensitive uses that we have missed or not considered.

Draft Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement

At its meeting on December 17, 2018, Council made a decision to provide a Notice to the Registrar (of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario) that Owen Sound has chosen to opt in to the retail sale of recreational cannabis.

The Association of Municipalities for Ontario has suggested that municipalities develop and have Council adopt a *Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement*.

Note: It was announced late in 2018 that due to a shortage of cannabis supply, only 25 stores would be licensed in the first round.

These stores are restricted to municipalities with a population of over 50,000 who have "opted in" under the provincial regulation. The City does therefore have some time to prepare the policy as Owen Sound will not have a location receive a retail cannabis store retail licence in the first round.

Why Prepare a Municipal Cannabis Policy Statement?

The purpose would be to set out specific and locally sensitive considerations or uses to represent the expectations of the community in allowing cannabis retail stores. The statement would be used by municipal staff to provide input to the AGCO within the proposed 15-day review period.

The purpose of the policy statement is:

1. Set out locally sensitive uses (in addition to schools under the *Ontario Education Act*) with respect to the location of retail cannabis stores that the municipality would want considered by the AGCO with respect to the licensing process.
2. Provide municipal staff a framework on which to base comments to the AGCO during the 15-day comment window.
3. Assist individuals and businesses who are planning to make an application to the AGCO to operate a store, understand the local context of where a store may be most appropriate, understanding however, that all licensing is the sole responsibility of the AGCO.

How Will I Receive Notice about a Proposed Store?

The AGCO cannabis licensing process, very similar to the liquor licensing application process, requires that a notice of a proposed cannabis store site be posted for comments from area residents and businesses before a site authorization. This would allow the municipality, the County and individual residents and property owners of the municipality where the store is proposed to provide input into the licensing process.

New applications will have notice given in two ways:

1. Posting a sign in the window of the proposed location
2. Posting on the AGCO searchable website.

The Notification looks like this:

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
90 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M2N 3B4
Tel: 416-226-8700 or 1-800-922-2070, toll free in Ontario
Website: www.agco.ca

Application for a Cannabis Retail Store Authorization

Store Name
Address

File Number: 123456

Deadline for submissions:
March 1, 2019

A Cannabis Retail Store Authorization may be issued to this applicant unless the Registrar finds it is not in the public interest.

For the purposes of the Cannabis Licence Act, 2018, the following are matters of public interest:

1. Protecting public health and safety
2. Protecting youth and restricting their access to cannabis
3. Preventing illicit activities in relation to cannabis

Written submissions regarding this application may be made online at www.agco.ca/AGCO by the following:

- A resident of the municipality in which the proposed store is located
- The municipality representing the area in which the proposed store is located. If the municipality is a lower-tier municipality, then the upper-tier municipality of which it forms a part may also make a submission.

Written submissions will be considered by the Registrar and the Registrar's decision to issue or refuse this retail store authorization is final.

Submissions must be received by the AGCO on or before the date set out in this Public Notice. In your submission, please include the file number noted above. The AGCO may provide copies of any submissions to the applicant. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

Questions about this application should be directed to the AGCO, quoting the file number noted above:

- Online: www.agco.ca/AGCO
- Telephone: 416-226-8700 or toll free in Ontario 1-800-522-2070

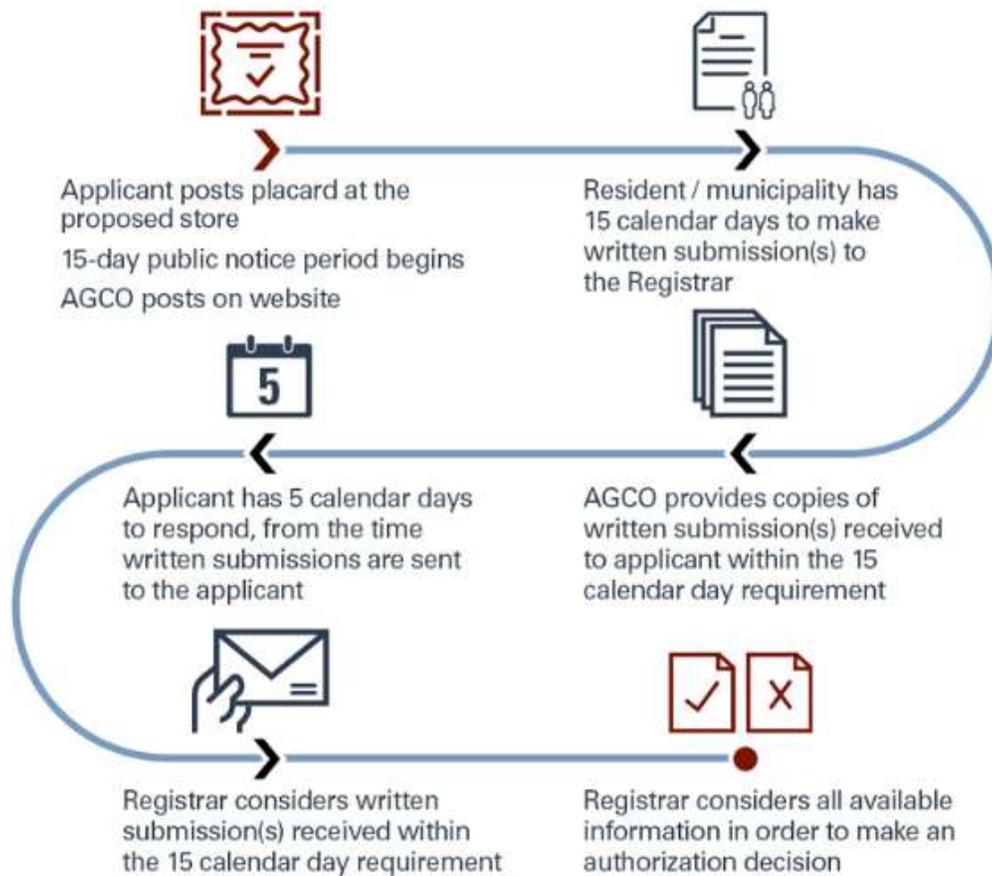
Information about the application contained in this notice is released pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

This Public Notice placard must be posted in a place where members of the public can easily read the contents without having to enter the proposed premises.

4-0152 (2018/11) © Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2018

Source: AGCO

What is the Process Once the 15 Day Notice has Been Given?



Source: AGCO

What Can I Comment on and Does the AGCO Have to Consider and Implement my Comments or Comments from a Municipality?

Comments to the AGCO are restricted to matters of “public interest” which are defined as follows:

- i. Protecting public health and safety;
- ii. Protecting youth and restricting their access to cannabis; and
- iii. Preventing illicit activities in relation to cannabis.

There is NO regulatory requirement however for the AGCO to act on municipal input (or public input) that is received.

The policy, once adopted by Council, would be shared with the AGCO and used by City staff to provide comments during the 15-day commenting period.

How Does the Policy Work?

Staff have identified the areas of the City where a “retail store” is a permitted use.

We also created a map layer to show the location of schools as per the Regulation. A 150-metre setback from schools has been incorporated into a school sensitive use layer. We understand that School Boards are being asked to identify all schools; however, municipalities are encouraged to also provide and include this information in any municipal policy.

A second sensitive use layer has been developed to identify other local sensitive uses (other than schools).

The municipal cannabis policy cannot be so restrictive to make it impossible to locate a store or can the policy state a specific number or maximum number of stores.

If a separation distance from an identified sensitive use is recommended, a justification for the separation is recommended. The draft policy includes a 70-metre separation from these other sensitive uses.

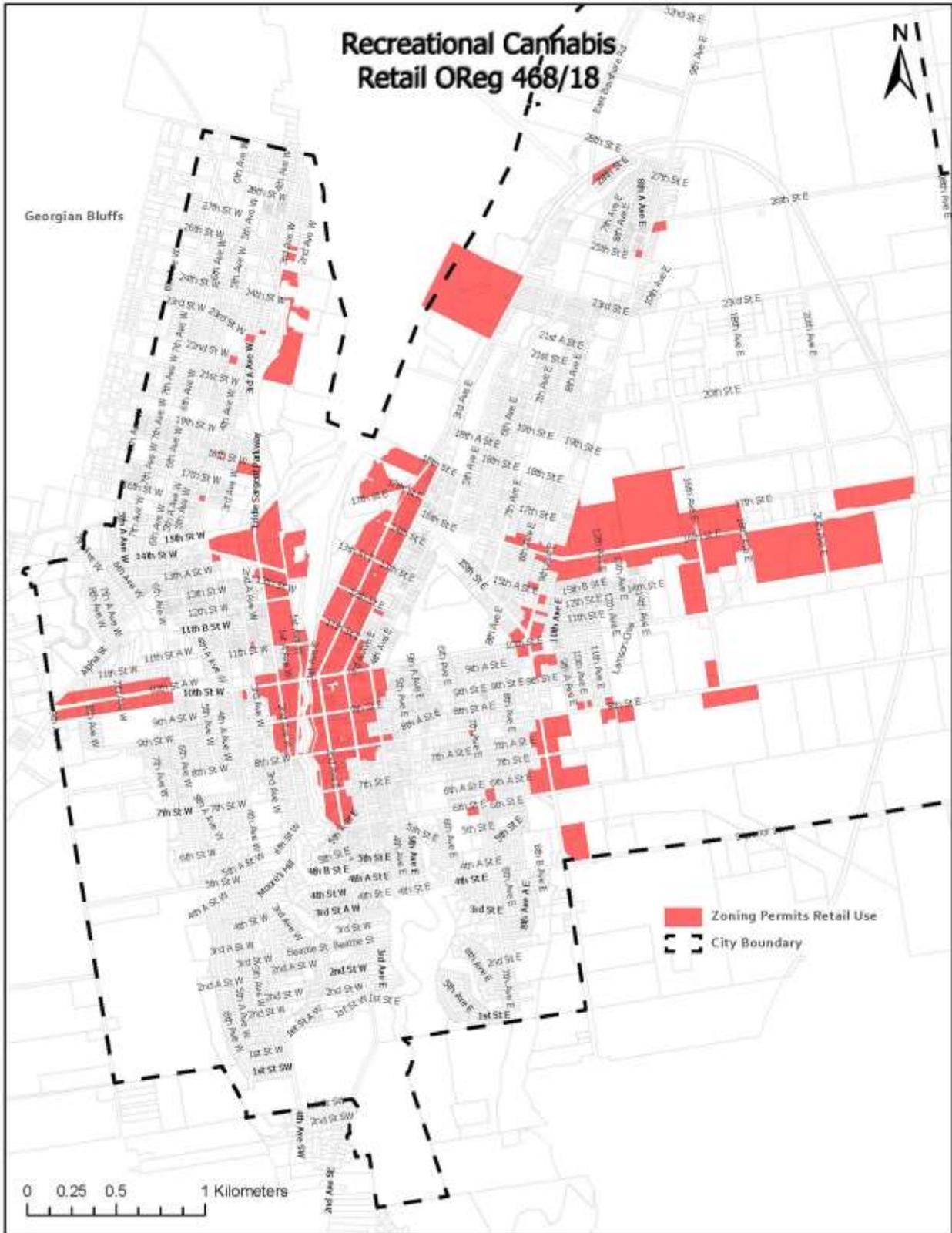
Sensitive uses that have been mapped include:

- Daycare
- Church
- Drinking establishment
- Addiction treatment facility
- Existing beer store or AGCO liquor sales outlet
- Group home

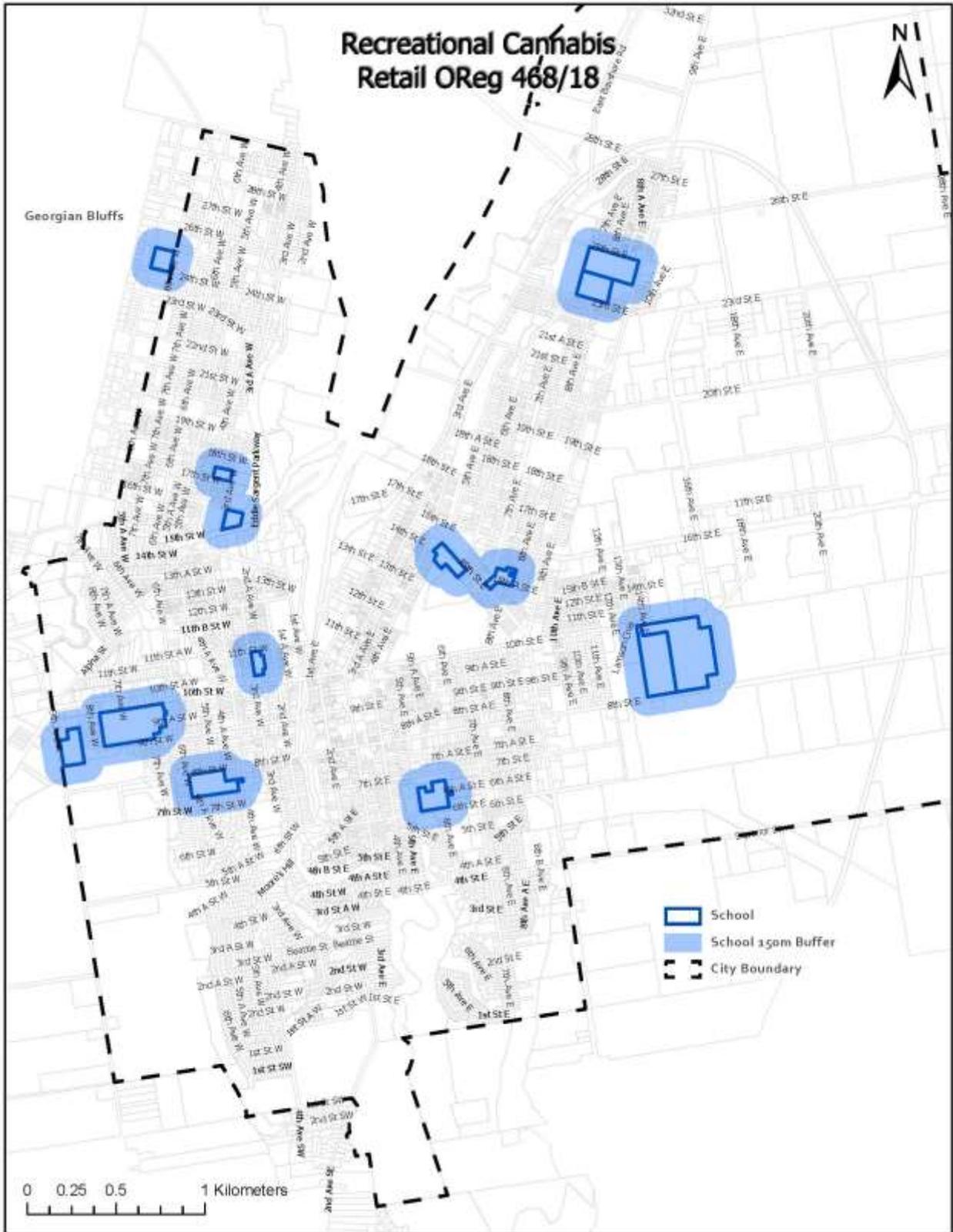
Recreational Cannabis Retail OReg 468/18



Georgian Bluffs



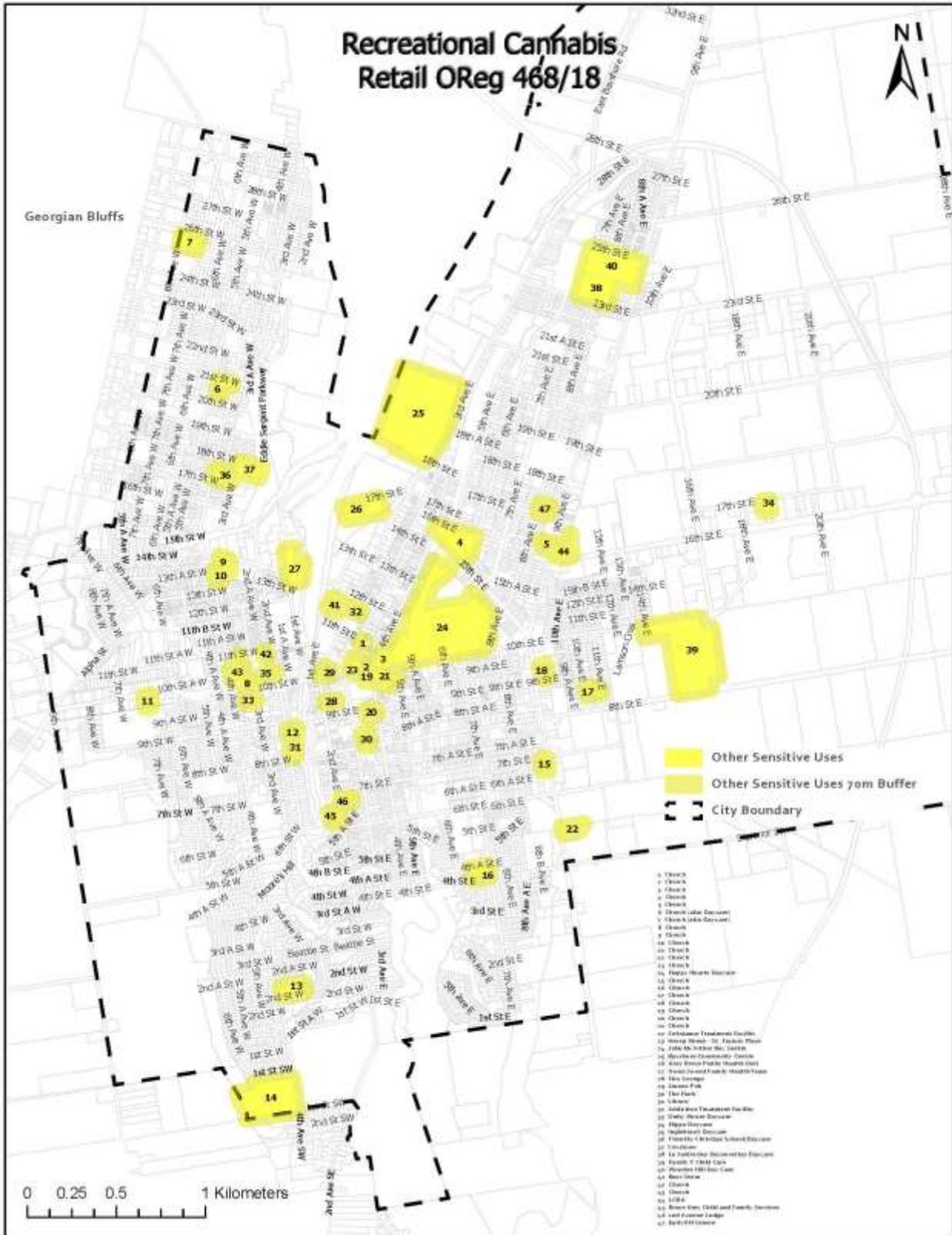
Recreational Cannabis Retail OReg 468/18



Recreational Cannabis Retail OReg 468/18



Georgian Bluffs



Survey

After reviewing all of the above background information, please complete the following short survey to identify if there are other sensitive uses that the City has missed: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NF3BGBG>