2.2.4 Employment Areas: Supporting Business and Employment Growth

Preserving Employment Areas contributes to a balance between employment and residential growth so that Torontonians have a greater opportunity to live and work in the City, rather than commuting distances to jobs outside of the City. As Employment Areas are spread across the City, work destinations and commuting direction are also spread out, resulting in less road congestion in any one direction. This provides workers who live in close proximity to Employment Areas with the opportunity for shorter commutes to work by either transit, cycling or walking.

4.6 EMPLOYMENT AREAS

The majority of Employment Areas are designated as Core Employment Areas where uses identified in Policies 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 are permitted. Core Employment Areas are, for the most part, geographically located within the interior of employment areas. Uses that would attract the general public into the interior of employment lands and possibly disrupt industrial operations are not generally permitted in Core Employment Areas. Industrial trade schools are traditionally permitted in Employment Areas and are provided for in Core Employment Areas.

General Employment Areas are generally located on the periphery of Employment Areas on major roads where retail, service and restaurant uses can serve workers in the Employment Area and would also benefit from visibility and transit access to draw the broader public. Retail uses on the periphery of Employment Areas frequently serve as a buffer between industries in the interior of Employment Areas and nearby residential areas. In addition to all of the uses permitted in a Core Employment Area, the uses identified in Policy 4.6.3, are also permitted in General Employment Areas. Automobile dealerships are permitted as a retail and service use in a General Employment Area.

POLICIES

Core Employment Areas

1. Core Employment Areas are places for business and economic activities. Uses permitted in Core Employment Areas are all types of manufacturing, processing, warehousing, wholesaling, distribution, storage, transportation facilities, vehicle repair and services, offices, research and development facilities, utilities, waste management systems, industrial trade schools, media, information and technology facilities, and vertical agriculture.
2. The following additional uses are permitted provided they are ancillary to and intended to serve the Core Employment Area in which they are located: hotels, parks, small-scale restaurants, catering facilities, and small-scale service uses such as courier services, banks and copy shops. Small scale retail uses that are ancillary to and on the same lot as the principal use are also permitted. The Zoning By-law will establish development standards for all these uses.

General Employment Areas

3. General Employment Areas are places for business and economic activities generally located on the peripheries of Employment Areas. In addition to all uses permitted in Policy 4.6.1, permitted uses in a General Employment Area also include restaurants, all types of retail and service uses.

#. Placeholder policy until Phase 1b to potentially address fitness centres, ice arenas, hotels and parks.