



City Planning Annual 2014



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From Vision to Reality

What a fascinating year it has been for our city. The sky over Edmonton is alive with construction cranes. Despite a provincial slowdown, the world continues to flock to our doorstep. We are building an incredible city – using our energy, tenacity, boldness of vision, and the courage of conviction that our future is indeed something to invest in.

It takes thoughtful, professional and passionate planning to build a city, and that's what our city planners bring to the task. They are the engineers, designers, land-use planners, architects, data-managers, ecologists and many others who transform the day-to-day details of our streets and neighbourhoods. They look decades into the future to choose the long-term path ahead. Whatever the timeline, it all takes planning.

Without city planners and their connection with communities and private-sector partners, we would not be where we are today, nor on the road to a future that is attracting workers, students and families from all over the world to our celebrated parks, neighbourhoods and public services – all the things that add up to quality of life and pride of place.

I'm proud to see this record, this celebration, of the amazing work our city-builders are doing to advance our collection aspirations for Edmonton. With these capable hands at the helm, we are indeed making that journey from vision to reality.



Don Iveson
Mayor

Innovation and Energy

Our city planners have had a year of focused energy. Innovations great and small brought new life to our city in 2014.

Shovels in the ground for Blatchford redevelopment and the downtown arena district are among our high-profile achievements. Right in the heart of Edmonton, they are transforming our local environment and our global reputation.

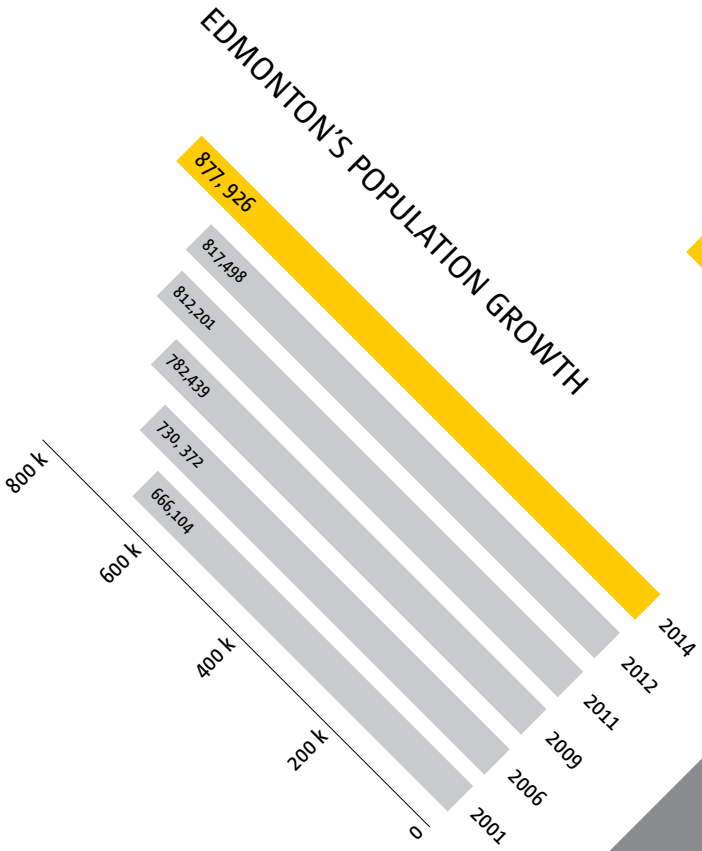
But not every innovation is on such a large scale. From an outdoor neon sign museum to a road crossing for moose, creativity also comes in small packages.

City Council and citizens have challenged us with a bold, clear vision for Edmonton's future, called The Way Ahead. The vision is important, not least because the Edmonton region could grow by as many as a million people in the next 30 years, and most of those people will live right here in our city.

Are we up to the task? Without doubt. We've got a city to build, and we're just getting started. The sampling of successes in this report will show you what I mean.



Simon Farbrother
City Manager



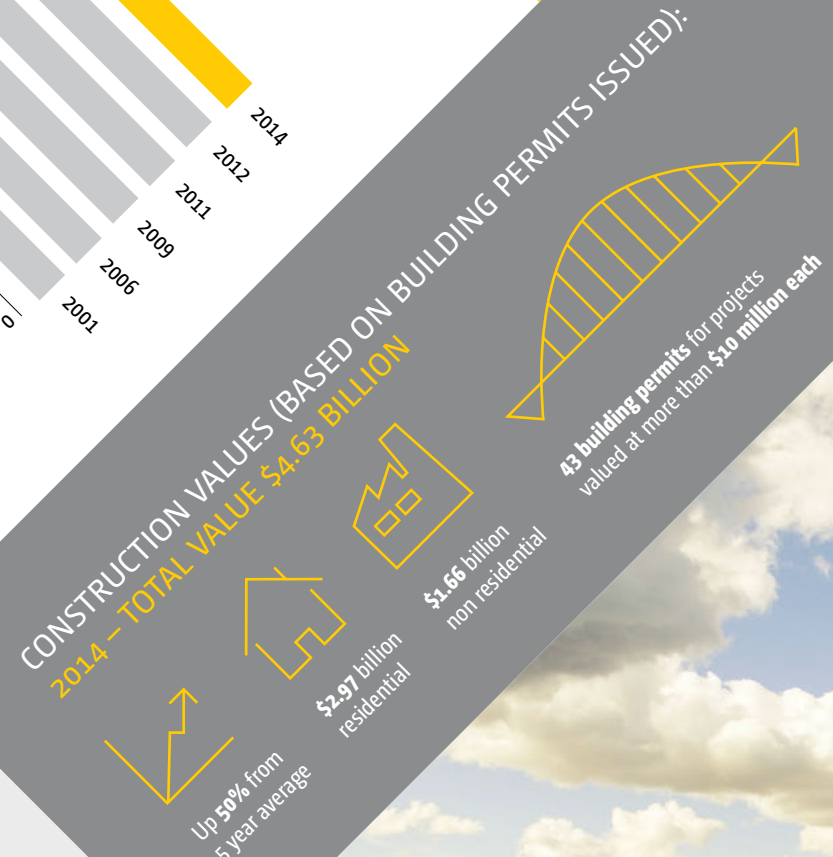
FASTFACTS

Average weekly salary for all workers in Edmonton: **\$1,060**

"40% of all the net new jobs created in Canada in 2013 were in the Edmonton region."

City of Edmonton's Chief Economist.

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DWELLINGS



Connect the Dots

What's the connection between location of a bike lane, the layout of a new subdivision, completion of a large multi-purpose recreation centre and the introduction of infill housing?

The answer is city planning, an organic and evolving connective tissue whose goal is to accomplish the future described in the City of Edmonton's long-term strategic plan, *The Way Ahead*.

This plan, assembled with the input of thousands of Edmontonians, describes the City we want to be in 30 years. It also describes how we will get there, by transforming the way we grow, move, live, prosper and sustain our finances and environment.

Our civic reputation and the experience that is Edmonton grow from an overall vision and strategy. They find expression through the multitude of citizens, professionals and civic leaders who transform today's ideas into tomorrow's city.

These city-builders turn the community's shared vision into the blueprints and buildings that help forge our sense of self, our sense of place.

Like all things worth doing, planning for the Edmonton of today and 50 years from now is a challenge. Accommodating 30,000 new Edmontonians a year isn't easy. But the evidence is there in front of us. We're up to the challenge.



FASTFACTS
Did you know that over
12,000 new housing
units were approved for
Edmonton in 2014.

Blatchford Redevelopment



Planning Our Transformation

How do you build a great city that's growing so rapidly and transforming itself almost overnight?

There isn't one single answer. The City of Edmonton balances three strategies to achieve the outcomes we want: growing up, in and out.

Growing up has a lot to do with planning for more mid and high-rise towers such as those in the downtown and high-density mixed-use buildings around LRT and other transit nodes and corridors, encouraging infill development like narrow lot housing and secondary suites, and ensuring our newest communities are significantly more compact and offer a diverse mix of housing along with employment and service opportunities.

And when we do it all with style, with an eye to beauty, with a dedication to the everyday people who are the heartbeat of the community, we attract the awesome arenas and skyscrapers, the homebuilders and shopping precincts, that make our city a truly great place to live, work and play. The following pages showcase a few of Edmonton's successes.



City planning is a joint effort and a shared commitment.





A Sense of Place

The skyline is filled with cranes over the future Edmonton Arena and Entertainment District. The arena is due to open in 2016 but is already amping up the excitement in Edmonton's downtown. The new district has inspired plans for spectacular residential, commercial and entertainment buildings and spaces that are eagerly awaiting their chance to play a role in this newly revitalized area. The new arena, Rogers Place, demonstrates the catalyst effect of a great piece of architecture combined with a destination public place.

Every year, two million ticket-holders will visit downtown to cheer the hockey team, their favourite band, a world-class show. We've dreamed of a revitalized downtown for years. The dream is here, Edmonton.

Flash and Dazzle

The 104 Street heritage district downtown burns a little brighter these nights, thanks to the Neon Sign Museum. The bright installation is hugely popular and shows off signs from classic city spots like Cliff's Auto Parts and Mike's News.

Within months of its opening, the Neon Sign Museum had captured a 2014 Award of Merit from the Alberta Professional Planners Institute for its contribution to a vibrant public realm filled with art and light.

Core of Creativity

We've got the hustle and the bustle. With billions of dollars in development planned and underway in downtown Edmonton over the next few years, it's not a facelift – it's an extreme makeover.

Publicly funded infrastructure improvements in roads, sewers and streetscapes are setting the stage for an avalanche of private sector investments in new condo towers, hotels, retail and service outlets.

Public investment in The Quarters Downtown is just one example of how to transform the traditional downtown east-side into a bustling residential and commercial gem with cultural vibrancy, top-notch hotels and condos, street-level rapid transit and more. The \$56-million investment doesn't raise taxes. It is funded by leveraging the future uplift in property taxes to repay the borrowing. Watch the district population rise from today's 2,400 to 20,000 in short order.



Leading Change in Oxford

Upping our design and sustainability game is a huge part of what we do. One way the City encourages higher quality development and efficient use of land is to sell municipally-owned, desirable building lots to individuals and builders who agree to build homes that achieve or exceed these goals.

Two hundred people vied for 40 lots in the Oxford subdivision lottery in May – and more would have entered their names if they could. This second phase of the subdivision brings the number of secondary suites built into new homes to 60, which means that more people are living on less land. In addition all homes must exceed minimum Energuide energy efficiency ratings, helping manage the city's carbon footprint as well as homeowner expenses.

The variety of housing types in subdivisions like Oxford – duplexes, single family, homes with secondary suites – helps all kinds of Edmonton families invest in a sustainable home of their own.



Better by Design

Everyone's seen it. The retail store with the worn-out face that does nothing to inspire you to find out what's inside.

Façade improvement grants have now helped more than 130 businesses transform that first impression and bring new tenants and customers to Edmonton's Business Revitalization Zones. Property owners say it's helped them create a more open and inviting face to the street which has improved the profitability of their business and brought more vibrancy of the area.



New Vision Takes Off in Blatchford

When the municipal airport closed, a piece of raw land the size of 362 football fields in the centre of a major city created a rare opportunity to explore a bold and pioneering vision for the future of Edmonton.

The Mayor calls the Blatchford development a "once in a lifetime city-building opportunity." It will be an exciting and innovative new community for 30,000 people and once complete, it will be one of the largest sustainable developments in the world.

Homes for every stage of life, retail and commercial space, parks, urban agriculture, walkable streets and public transport will come together as a crown jewel of urban design.

The world is watching our city grow up, and we intend to showcase a global standard of smart, award-winning city building.



FASTFACTS
Edmonton has one of Canada's youngest populations. The single largest age group is the 20-39 year old range.

FASTFACTS
15 hectares of wetlands in the northwest Oxford neighbourhood now play host to morning runs and evening strolls after a complete re-design added walking trails and recreational space.

FASTFACTS
After the Kelly Ramsey building was destroyed in a fire, the century-old landmark received a \$700,000 heritage management grant to help retain its historic character as it is rebuilt and restored to its original place downtown.



For the Love of Winter

Capturing the warmth of the sun. Sheltering your face from the wind. Adding colour, light and beauty. These are the key themes of the Winter Design Guidelines – the same reasons you head outside any time of year

The guidelines, developed in 2014, are about ways for Edmontonians to live in a city that is world renowned for celebrating our northern climate. They aim to be authentic, attitude-changing and sustainable. And they will bring new life to the freedom, beauty and fun of the winters of our childhood.

Others think we're on the right track. The strategy won a national Canadian Institute of Planners award for planning excellence, innovation and potential in 2014.



FASTFACTS

10 ways to enjoy winter

- 1 Dress warmly.
- 2 Challenge yourself to check out every one of Edmonton's Winter Festivals and Events.
- 3 Make a donation to help Edmontonians in need during the winter.
- 4 Check out one of the new river valley indoor gathering places like the Alfred H. Savage Centre or the Urban Green Café in Louise McKinney Park.
- 5 Spend an evening in front of a fireplace.
- 6 Become a winter artist—create a sculpture.
- 7 Enjoy your favourite winter comfort food with friends.
- 8 Find a place to sit in the sun - inside or out.
- 9 Host a winter party on your patio at home.
- 10 **Have a snowball fight!**



Roadmap for Infill

In approximately 10 years the City of Edmonton will be home to over one million people. That's a lot of people to house and a good reason to accelerate plans to make the best use of available housing space with guidance from Edmonton's Infill Roadmap.

Over the next two years, the Roadmap will set us on the right path to balance growth as we build "in." From two narrow houses on a split lot to garden and garage suites to duplex and row housing, infill in all shapes and sizes adds a new vibrancy to older neighbourhoods.

Doing it right is important. That's why we asked Edmontonians to tell us the best way to support more and better infill in our mature and established neighbourhoods. What we heard became Edmonton's Infill Roadmap, which sets out 23 actions to keep neighbours in the loop and make first class infill easier to build and easier to talk about for everyone.

FASTFACTS
Edmonton is embarking on a major P3 (public-private partnership) to contract out the construction, operations and maintenance of the \$1.8-billion Valley Line. The LRT line remains the property of the City, and the City retains authority over the contractors to deliver on commitments.



Planning for Housing Around Transit

"McKernan-Belgravia" the automatic voice announces as your train pulls into the station. A quiet residential area where LRT-riders hurry through the station on their way home.

The number of riders could increase substantially with a new transit-oriented development plan for the area. This kind of plan follows the idea that it makes sense to house more people next to efficient mass transit, such as LRT – less congestion on the roads, lower carbon footprint, an easier commute, new families bringing new energy to an established neighbourhood.

In the coming years, McKernan-Belgravia will undergo changes and additions in housing, shops, streets and parks to make it more traveller-friendly. We asked community residents, groups and business owners for input on what that would look like. We think you'll be impressed.

- Mixed Use Residential (Commercial Required)
- Mixed Use Residential (Commercial Allowed)
- Residential
- Small Scale Residential Infill
- Parks and Open Space
- Institutional / Public Utility Uses



Great Neighbourhoods

Great neighbourhoods make you feel welcome. Part of that welcoming feeling is well kept streets and interesting open spaces.

As neighbourhoods age, the welcome mat needs to be spruced up once in a while. The Great Neighbourhoods Capital Program invested \$15 million in 2014 to do just that.

Take Hazeldean, a mature neighbourhood of post-war bungalows bordered by a former railway track site. This empty greenway has been transformed into a park and connection to the River Valley. Benches, a gravel walking trail and railroad-themed art installations have turned what was a plain grassy strip into an inviting feature of the community.

In total, 18 neighbourhoods were revitalized, redeveloped, or improved in some way in 2014.





Housing for Everybody

The City works with partners and other orders of government to ensure citizens have access to a full range of housing options. Modest funds are available to help homeowners achieve this goal, and we are on track to create 1,000 new secondary suites and 3,300 affordable homes between 2006 and 2016.

Secondary suites help homeowners pay their mortgage and add value to their property while providing affordable rental options for Edmontonians. There are other benefits, including maximizing the use of precious land and making best use of our existing infrastructure.

It’s equally important that diverse housing options are prepared in a way that resonates with communities right across the city.

The City and Edmonton Homeless Commission met with many citizens, developers, funders and regulators to collaborate and find more effective ways to develop affordable and supportive housing in communities throughout Edmonton.

The purpose of this “Finding Common Ground” research and consultation project is to find ways to address the root causes for conflict in building developments, focusing towards a broader goal of building community trust in decision-making regarding approvals for such developments.

Growing Together in Our Region

Edmonton is more than just Edmonton. It is Metro Edmonton, where our Capital City is at the hub of an expansive circle of 24 cities, counties, towns and villages.

Taken as a whole, the capital region is a Canadian powerhouse of job creation, economic output, in-migration and cultural vibrancy. It is the northern entry point to the Edmonton-Calgary corridor and is also a gateway to Alberta’s oilsands, the Canadian North, and the Pacific Rim via Vancouver and Prince Rupert.

In less than 30 years, eight of 10 Albertans will live in this big-city corridor and more than a third of the province’s population will live in the metro Edmonton region alone.

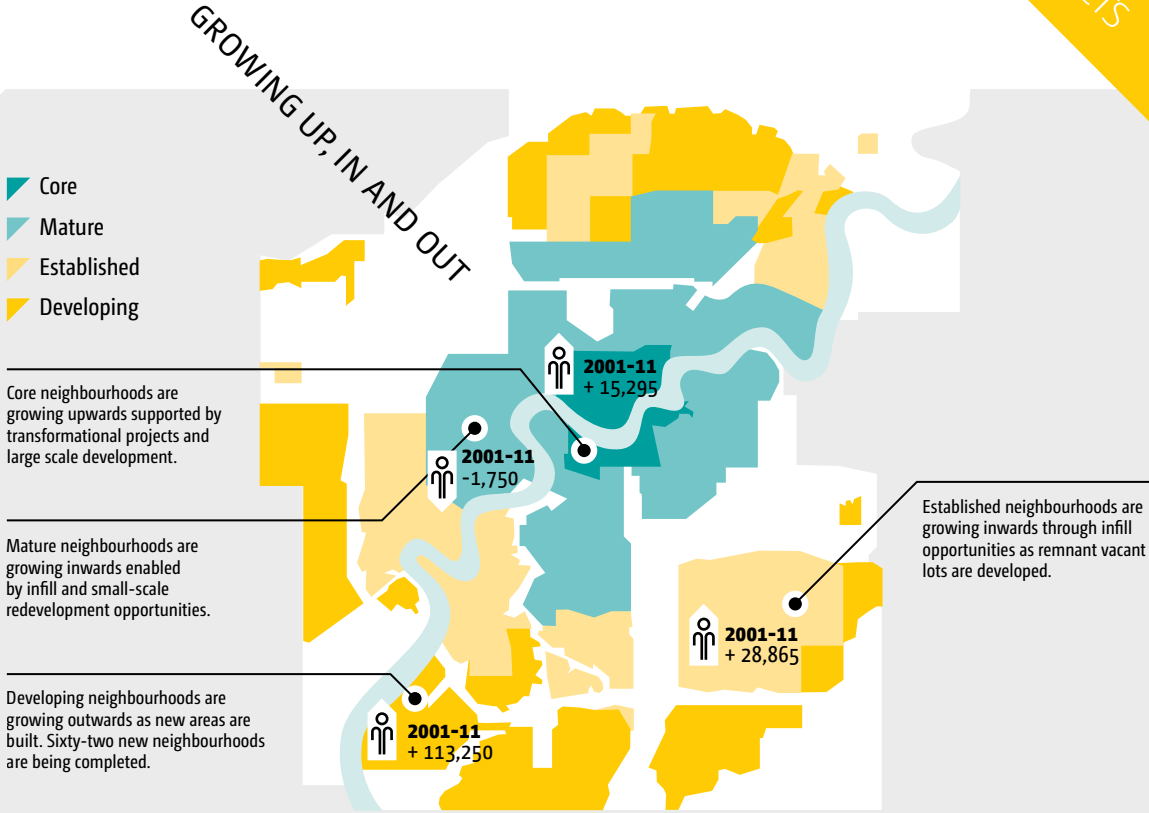
A coordinated and collaborative approach to planning across the metro region can be seen in emerging transportation and water servicing agreements, the creation of a regional plan that identifies clear priority growth areas, and joint action on affordable housing.

Edmonton has a seat at the table with Alberta’s Industrial Heartland, a concentrated stretch of refineries and plants processing material from and for the oilsands as well as the conventional oil and gas sector.

With this cluster just 15 minutes to the north, our city is also in the game with its own Edmonton Energy and Technology Park, almost 5,000 hectares of land dedicated to eco-industrial development for the location of light to medium petrochemical plants, a logistics zone, a manufacturing zone and a business park that includes research and development facilities.

FASTFACTS
The City is an active participant in all Capital Region Board initiatives, including Parkland County’s Acheson Area Structure Plan process and a joint planning study with Strathcona County.

FASTFACTS
The City’s First Place Program works with builders and communities to place attainable housing for first-time buyers on building sites no longer required by the school boards. In 2014, about 125 units were sold and 100 were built under the multi-year program.





Growing Future Communities

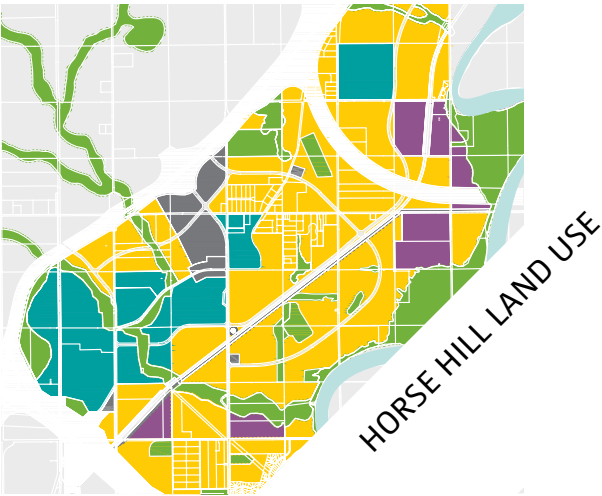
City-building continues on remaining undeveloped tracts of land within city boundaries. It's an opportunity to put some of the latest thinking on creating healthy, connected communities into practice.

In 2014 two new Area Structure Plans – Horse Hill and Riverview – were approved by City Council in Edmonton's Urban Growth Areas. These two areas will accommodate over 100,000 new residents in 10 new neighbourhoods, and will develop into very special places over the coming years as our city continues to grow and change.

Also approved in 2014, the new Neighbourhood Area Structure Plan for Goodridge Corners in the northwest covers 259 hectares destined to accommodate more than 3,380 housing units and 8,200 people. Features to enhance livability and sustainability include:

- Preservation of more than 10 hectares of natural area in addition to an existing 28-hectares protected wetland area.
- A mixed-use town centre and business employment uses in the central and east portions of the neighbourhood.
- A range of housing types with varied densities, with a minimum 10% to be provided as affordable housing.
- Innovative land uses such as manufactured housing and units that accommodate living and working.
- A public park and open space system connected by greenways and shared use paths to create a pedestrian-oriented environment.

- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Residential
- Green Space
- Institutional / Public Utility Uses



Keeping it Fresh

An age-old truth is coming back to urban living: food and community development are, ideally, inextricably linked.

Local food and urban agriculture offer an opportunity to increase the sustainability and quality of life, the joy of living, in our large and growing city. Edmonton is situated where it is because of abundant water and productive soils. The City adopted "fresh: Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy" that imagines how new approaches to food and urban agriculture can make this an even better place to live, work and play.

Community gardens, rooftop gardens, pop-up gardens on idle lots, edible forests and floral extravaganzas are bringing life to an increasingly densely-populated city. Educational and recreational activities put a new kind of green on the table.

FAST FACTS
Horse Hills is so named because it was home to the 800 animals in Fort Edmonton's horse guard. The variant Horsehills is used for the local creek.

Designing New Neighbourhoods

Edmonton is vibrant, young and growing. There's constant demand for new neighbourhoods and subdivisions and we want to be ahead of the curve to ensure future sustainability and quality of life.

Hence a new set of guidelines for Edmonton's future communities, called Designing New Neighbourhoods. We were the first in Canada to produce guidelines like these, and other major cities have been taking note. The Alberta Professional Planners Institute has also recognized the City with an award for policy leadership for the guidelines in 2014.

The guidelines establish a collective vision for our new communities and encourage them to develop in ways that are unique, innovative and sustainable. They are used by the City, developers, planning consultants, citizens, City Council and others involved in the preparation, review and approval of New Neighbourhood Structure Plans. These plans describe the general pattern of development and subdivision in a new neighbourhood and define a vision for the new community.



The Urban Farm

The year saw Edmonton Northlands sports and special events complex set aside part of its land for a 31,200 square foot urban farm that includes four beehives. Two local enterprises show how successful urban farming can be, and are producing high-end greens for local consumption at farmers markets and at independent restaurants.

Urban Birds and Bees

Pioneer roots were showing in Edmonton when a groundswell of enthusiasm for home-grown eggs and local honey led to pilot projects for backyard chicken coops and beehives. With a few rules on proper housing for the critters and on being a good neighbor, the pilots took off in no time flat. About 20 hen-hosts introduced small backyard flocks to the urban scene and several beehives now dot the city.



2

Designing Systems and Networks

Planning a city involves a lot of overlapping systems. Multiple networks need to be in place so that residents and businesses can enjoy the convenience and qualities that are inherent to a modern city. Think of the hidden infrastructure beneath our feet, then the roadway and transit networks, the connected neighbourhoods, the open spaces and wildlife networks; all inter-connected and inter-dependent.

Edmonton's approach to city-building pulls these different networks and systems together in a holistic approach to growth. Read on for highlights of the system under development.



Future Wagner Station



Edmonton on the Move

A prime example of designing systems and networks – our master plan for transportation in Edmonton. We plan to make travel safer, easier, faster. The diverse forms of personal and public transportation are what bring us together, help us be active, encourage us to explore beyond our neighbourhoods.

The Transportation Master Plan sets out the steps required to make your neighbourhood more navigable and accessible.

FASTFACTS Edmonton ridership on ordinary on-street bike lanes is on the rise. Counts at 106 Street and 76 Avenue see 300 to 400 cyclists a day during summer and fall, an increase from 80% to 90% since 2011.

New Lines

Construction of Edmonton's new Metro Line was completed in 2014. When fully operational it will whisk LRT riders between NAIT and downtown in nine minutes, with stops at the new stations at Kingsway-Royal Alex and MacEwan University.

It's a 3.3 kilometre extension from Churchill Station that will add more than 13,000 riders a day to the LRT system. Most of the line is street-level, blending with vehicle and pedestrian traffic and involving no parking lots or bridges.

Future plans are for the Metro Line to reach northwestern Grand Trunk, Castledowns and Griesbach neighbourhoods – and possibly our neighbor city of St. Albert when circumstances allow.

Festival-goers, commuters, entertainment district patrons and more will use new ways to reach schools, shops and downtown. Everyone benefits when expanded LRT takes cars off the road and makes it easier to explore what Edmonton has to offer.

- NE Edmonton to Heritage Valley
- St. Albert to Health Sciences
- Lewis Farms to Sherwood Park
- Sherwood Park to Ellerslie
- Lewis Farms to Ellerslie



LRT NETWORK PLAN

Pop-Up Bike Lanes

Edmonton makes room for everyone – and that includes cyclists. Community consultation and street design combine for a growing network of bike routes around the city.

One of a series of “What the B*ke” events in 2014 was a multi-sensory pop-up bike lane experience. The City installed a bike boulevard, a protected bike lane and a contra-flow lane in Old Strathcona for two days, allowing people to look at – and try out – these options. It was another in a series of events to invite public opinion on safe cycling in our city.



The New Walterdale Bridge

Construction has begun on this new addition to the city skyline just southeast of downtown. Our century-old Walterdale bridge will make way for a signature arch bridge spanning 206 beautiful metres of river.

When you build a bridge that nestles neatly into the river valley, you need drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to come together in a way that makes sense. The new one-way bridge has three lanes for northbound traffic, but also features easy ways to get across for walkers, runners and cyclists.

The east side has a shared-use path, while a walkway spans the west side, leaving plenty of room for everyone to make use of this stunning new landmark that will welcome northbound drivers to the downtown skyline when it is completed in 2016.

FASTFACTS A series of fun Lego movies demonstrating bike safety won an international transportation safety award from the Institute of Transportation Engineers as well as the Sustainable Urban Transportation Award from the Transportation Association of Canada. Now municipalities around the world are using Edmonton's videos.

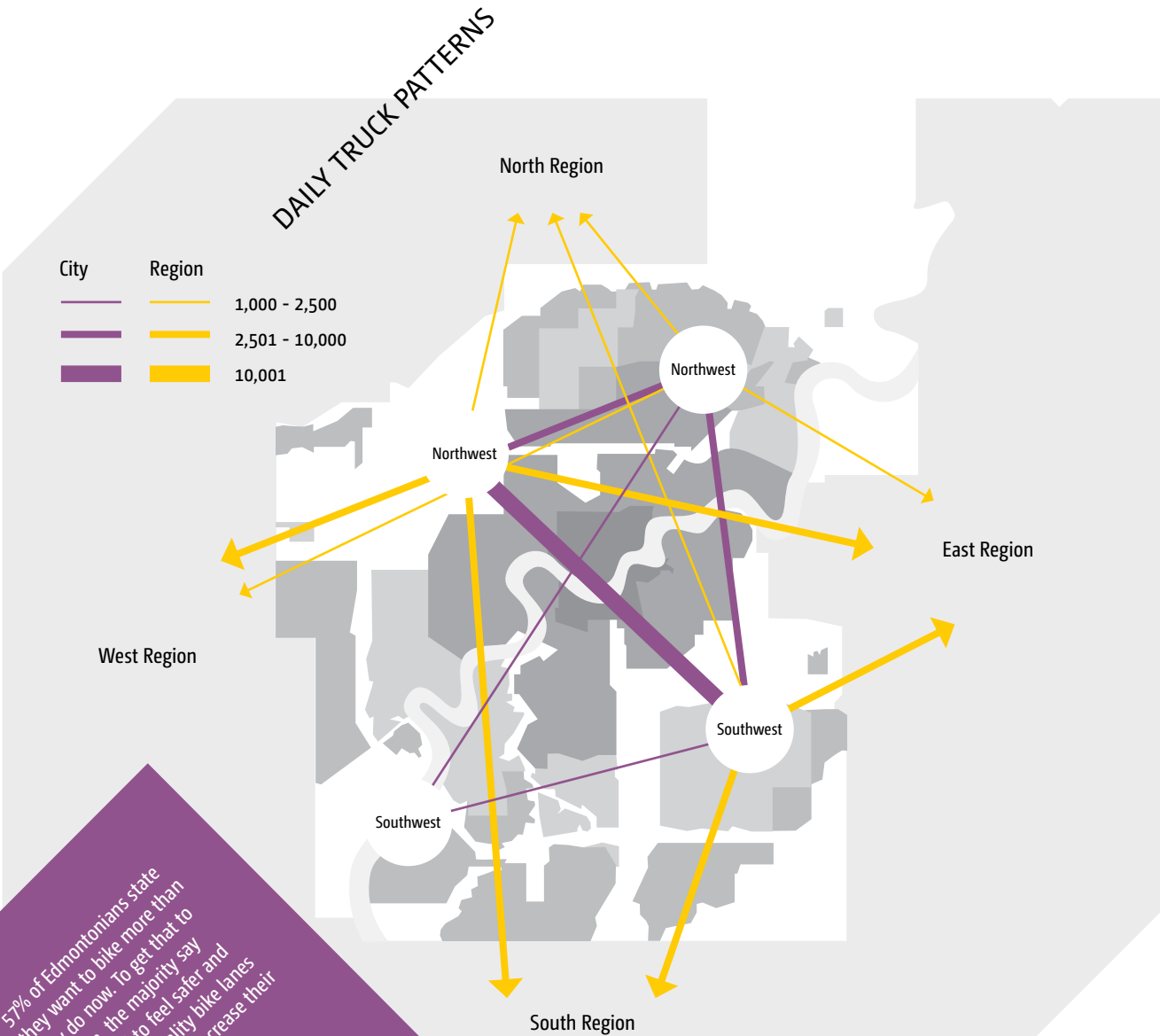
FASTFACTS The new Walterdale bridge is the...
 - First single-span arch bridge in Edmonton
 - Structural steel: 5,000 metric tonnes
 - Reinforcing steel: 900 metric tonnes
 - Concrete: 7,000 cubic metres
 - 4 new cultural resource sites have been recorded near the project site.



Moving Business

Thousands of tonnes of goods move through our city every day. When drivers can easily find their destination, move continuously through our streets, and have access to the streets they need, everything flows more smoothly. Commutes are faster and there's less stop-and-start traffic.

The Edmonton Goods Movement Strategy guides transportation, funding and land use decisions to speed the movement of goods safely through the city with an eye to the broader regional context. In building the strategy we interviewed 23,000 truck drivers about their needs. Now the rubber hits the road.



FASTFACTS
57% of Edmontonians state they want to bike more than they do now. To get that to happen, the majority say they need to feel safer and have high quality bike lanes and paths that increase their comfort level.

Complete Streets

It's easier to move around the city when our street design is flexible. Rigid, traditional design standards limit us. Sometimes they can be downright unfriendly to the intrepid walker, cyclist or transit rider.

In Edmonton, we've embraced Complete Streets as our model for building the streets and walkways that take people around the city. A Complete Street reflects the area it's built in.

In Complete Streets, design depends on who will be using the street, what is located beside it and how the street will be used. It's meant to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, future transit routes, motorists and truck drivers.



FASTFACTS
The City uses brownfield development grants as a very effective way to kickstart exciting new uses for lots that otherwise sit vacant due to the costs of dealing with soil contamination from previous uses, such as gas stations. Costs of public investment are balanced by the increased property taxes contributed by the new residential or commercial development. Some examples from 2014:

- The Wexford six-storey mixed use tower on Whyte, LEED Gold.
- Seventh street 10-storey mixed use tower downtown.
- Fox 1 mixed use tower tailored for use and maintenance by Excel Society's patrons with mental, physical and developmental challenges.



Wide Open Spaces

Multifunctional landscapes provide ecological, recreational and community building benefits. They can also grace our city with other values, including beauty and refreshment of the soul.

This is very evident in the diversity found in our parks, with their meadows, paths, creeks, urban forests, ravines and recreational spaces. These connected green spaces and systems create habitat for wildlife, places for quiet contemplation or exercise, and natural gathering spaces for special events. You can get away from it all just a short walk from your home.

It's also seen in our people places, where makeovers of the streetscape shake up and refresh the way we enjoy and experience our city.

FASTFACTS
Edmonton is on three major migratory bird pathways and hosts 250 species of wildlife – 178 bird, 47 animal, 27 fish, 2 reptile, 5 amphibian and 66 butterfly species.

Connecting the Banks

Work began on building the Terwillegar Park footbridge, a 262-metre stressed ribbon footbridge connecting the park with the comprehensive trail system running through the river valley. The project is part of the West End Trails initiative, funded as part of a \$72.9 million partnership with the River Valley Alliance and other orders of government. Four more projects are in the works to further improve public access to the North Saskatchewan River and connectivity within the valley.

A Century of Fun

A vibrant community needs a vibrant place to play and Borden Park is keeping its legacy alive. This park, first opened in 1906, was home to Edmonton's first zoo and one of its first swimming pools.

A bold, community driven revitalization plan for 2010-2014 focused on providing unique, vibrant, year round outdoor recreational opportunities while honouring the rich history of the park.

Highlights include: an award-winning pavilion design, a formal garden with interactive fountains, a revamped playground incorporating features from the original fairground and Edmonton's first zoo, more than 200 new trees and approximately two kilometres of new walkways. Still to come: the Borden Natural Swim Experience – outdoors!

FASTFACTS
18 neighbourhoods were renewed at a cost of \$1.5 million in 2014, resulting in more than a few facelifts, new parts and smart plans.



Photo Credit: Raymond Chow

FASTFACTS
The new neighbourhood plan for McKernan-Belgravia earned an award of merit from the Alberta Professional Planners Association. The plan provides a framework for the design of future transit-oriented land uses such as housing, retail and employment as well as supportive infrastructure including streets and parks.

Capital Boulevard

Capital Boulevard is a broad and ceremonial street connecting sightlines between iconic MacEwan University structures to the north and the dome of the provincial legislature. Completed reconstruction and upgrades on 108 street have introduced a more inviting pedestrian environment, with appealing lighting, a paving stone road surface, granite pavers and bollards, along with planters and benches.

Jasper Avenue New Vision

The vision is to return Jasper Avenue to its rightful place as the main street, the core artery, of Edmonton, and reconstruction from 100 to 102 street is now complete. It's still a major east-west route for traffic, but it's also an inviting place to walk and linger with expansive sidewalks and decorative streetscape elements.

Budgets are now in place to plan next phases of the project, moving improvements westward along Jasper Avenue.



The City enables development and quality of life with incentives and infrastructure that form the foundations of our city.



FASTFACTS
What is sustainability anyway? "A way of living that meets the needs of the present yet does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The Way Ahead, 2010.

Historical Treasures

City crews toured the Newton neighbourhood, snapping pictures and making notes for a Neighbourhood Historic Resources Inventory. Newton is more than a century old, and despite its location in northeast Edmonton has some direct ties to the development of the city.

John A. McDougall owned the land until the turn of the 20 century, then sold a record 1,152 lots to a real estate developer in 1909. City Park Annex, as it was known then, developed slowly over decades – leaving the rare legacy of several architectural periods in one area.

The Newton inventory, conducted with the help of the community league, led to nine properties being identified as having sufficient historical integrity and significance to merit inclusion on the City's overall inventory.

Residents whose homes were chosen can now apply to designate their properties as Municipal Historic Resources, which provides grant funding to restore or maintain the character of their homes.



FASTFACTS
Edmonton Design Committee casts an eye on the more significant development applications and projects in a collaborative process designed to create "a dynamic, creative and delightful new urban landscape." Key principles fall under the headings of urbanism, design excellence and scale, connections and context.

FASTFACTS
Ken Tingley, Edmonton's first Historian Laureate, published a comprehensive account, richly illustrated with full colour photographs, entitled Building a Legacy: Edmonton's Architectural History.



Stormy Weather

Working with the Province, the City re-designed Schonsee Wetland to provide stormwater management benefits as well as a neighbourhood recreation and educational amenity. The engineered wetland and accompanying paths act as a major amenity to the neighbourhood and connect to one of Edmonton's largest naturalized corridors.

Edmonton Energy

The City is preparing a large piece of land in northeast Edmonton – part of Alberta's Industrial Heartland – for petrochemical processing, manufacturing and logistics.

Developments such as Edmonton Energy and Technology Park support business growth and job creation, and build industrial tax revenues to balance the residential property tax load for Edmontonians. By driving the early development plans, the City is also in position to guide some of the sustainability features of the park.

This eco-industrial development model means companies can share utilities and reduce waste. There will be opportunities to reuse water and heat created by the manufacturing process, and to preserve the park's ecological network.

The Area Structure Plan for Edmonton Energy and Technology Park guides future land uses and identifies the needed infrastructure, utilities, major roadways, and other park amenities. Development will occur over the next 30 to 50 years.



Rampart Industrial Wetlands

The City has taken the initiative on opening up 130 hectares of land in the northwest to create the Rampart Industrial development. Buying, developing and selling land is something the City does on a small scale to drive some of its fiscal and sustainability objectives.

Rampart Industrial provides serviced land for industry, sustains the integrity of the Henry Singer Wetland complex, and introduces a shared-use path network that adds recreational value to adjacent park areas and provides commuter linkage for cyclists between Edmonton and St. Albert.

The engineering design relied on low impact development methods and ecological network planning principles. A retained woodland and wetland are reconnected through a dedicated wildlife crossing providing small animal passage. A 10 hectare wetland was built to provide peak stormwater management, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat and public amenities such as trails, lookout and interpretive panels. Attention was also given to the design of fine details such as amphibian-specific habitat and mosquito predators.



Going with the Flow

East-west traffic flows in the booming southside area will be improved with a major new interchange at the junction of Queen Elizabeth II Highway and 41 Avenue. All orders of government are involved, with federal support coming through the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.

The interchange will convert 41 Avenue into a continuous corridor with full access to and from the highway as well as a new bridge over Blackmud Creek and a grade separation from the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks. The project goes beyond today's needs to anticipate the traffic that will come with future urban, commercial and industrial developments in Edmonton.



FAST FACTS

If you happen to be a coyote or a moose, it can be slightly intimidating to cross a four-lane road. (And if it isn't, you may not be long for this world.) The new neighbourhood development of Hawk's Ridge installed a wildlife culvert under 215 Street, so our furry friends can safely do their own commute.

FAST FACTS

Planning is under way to add even more to see at Fort Edmonton. This major tourist draw is 64 hectares of wooded parkland in the river valley, with a steam train, a replica of Fort Edmonton and streets that retrace centuries of history.



3

Building Spaces and Places Together

Edmontonians make things happen. We build skating rinks in our backyards. We attend festivals to celebrate our darkest months. We can make a patio out of overturned milk crates in the summer. We're a city of barn-raisers, and we take it upon ourselves to make Edmonton great year round.



3

Come build some spaces
and places with us!

Greenways Development

Helping Others Build

Places to Play

New community recreation centres at The Meadows and Clareview go the extra mile to help Edmontonians be healthy and active.

The southeast recreation centre at The Meadows has more than 230,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor activity space, including two hockey rinks, an aquatic centre, gymnasium, drop-in programming and even a branch of the Edmonton Public Library. There's something for everyone all under one roof.

On the northeast side of the city, Clareview Community Recreation Centre shares a space with an Edmonton Public Library branch, Clareview Multicultural Centre and Cardinal Collins Catholic High School. The centre truly reflects the priorities of its community, right down to the skate park for teenage residents and an LRT connection.

FASTFACTS
In 2014, Edmonton's population soared to 877,926. We have grown by 100,000 people in the last five years alone.





Renaissance Downtown

The Métis Capital Housing Corporation's Renaissance Tower opened in 2014, bringing 90 residential units that are senior-friendly and barrier-free to a special planning area known as Boyle Renaissance, located in the east of downtown.

This development provides a quality living environment that meets sustainability and energy reduction targets and can serve as a model for future affordable housing projects.

Boyle Renaissance is a special planning area where redevelopment is creating a community that brings together a range of affordable and market housing opportunities, much of it guided by aboriginal needs and perspectives.

Boyle Renaissance will meet the housing, social recreation and service needs of current residents and welcome new neighbours to the community. Accredited childcare, cultural opportunities, family services, park space, community gardens and social space will be located within a two-and-a-half block area.

Other phases include the Melcor YMCA Village affordable housing units and Boyle Renaissance Plaza, a new community centre with childcare, family resources, and recreational space.

HOPE for Homeowners

The Housing Opportunities Program for Edmonton (HOPE) gives homeowners grants up to \$20,000 to bring their homes up to health and safety standards. They can even get \$2,000 more if they choose energy-efficient upgrades.

HOPE began as a pilot program in priority neighbourhoods to help support community revitalization initiatives. Building on its success, the program expanded to include all neighbourhoods within Edmonton in 2014. Money can be used for improvements to plumbing, heating, electrical, structural, fire safety, disability modifications and energy efficiency.

Residents of Alberta Avenue, Boyle Street, Central McDougall, Eastwood, McCauley, or Queen Mary Park may also be considered for up to \$1,000 for exterior home improvements through the Curb Appeal program.



NEW CONVENIENCE: ONLINE SERVICE FOR PET LICENCES, BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWALS AND ENGINEERING DRAWINGS:

\$1.5 million in online payments

40,000 online accounts created

Paper engineering drawing submission eliminated

FASTFACTS

Revitalization Zones
A local park in Westmount is in line for a facelift as the City explores business revitalization upgrades on 124 Street and 108 Avenue. In Highlands, meanwhile, design work is underway for public space improvements along 112 Avenue, close to the commercial area.

FASTFACTS

Planning Academy
More than forty city planning enthusiasts attended each of our Planning Academy's three overview courses, plus three elective courses on urban design, transit-oriented development and transportation. A new elective module in 2015 covers infill housing principles and regulations.



Building on the Past

Edmonton is proud of moving towards having the largest aboriginal population of any city in Canada, and works to raise the recognition of our original peoples in the public realm.

The City's Naming Committee used the name of Alex Decoteau for a downtown park and a major new southside neighbourhood. Decoteau was a Métis West End Police Office sergeant who protected what is now the Warehouse District of Edmonton in 1914, and was also a noted athlete.

The leg of the LRT Valley Line from downtown to Mill Woods will cross two bridges bearing aboriginal names. Tawatina Bridge refers to "valley" in the Cree language, and Kahasiniskak Bridge recalls a historical reference to Mill Creek.



Alex Decoteau, City of Edmonton Archives, EA-159-6

A New Way for LRT

Edmonton transportation planners have a vision for urban LRT in mind. That means neighbourhood stops that are spaced closer together, with better walking and cycling connections. Greater accessibility means more transportation choices.

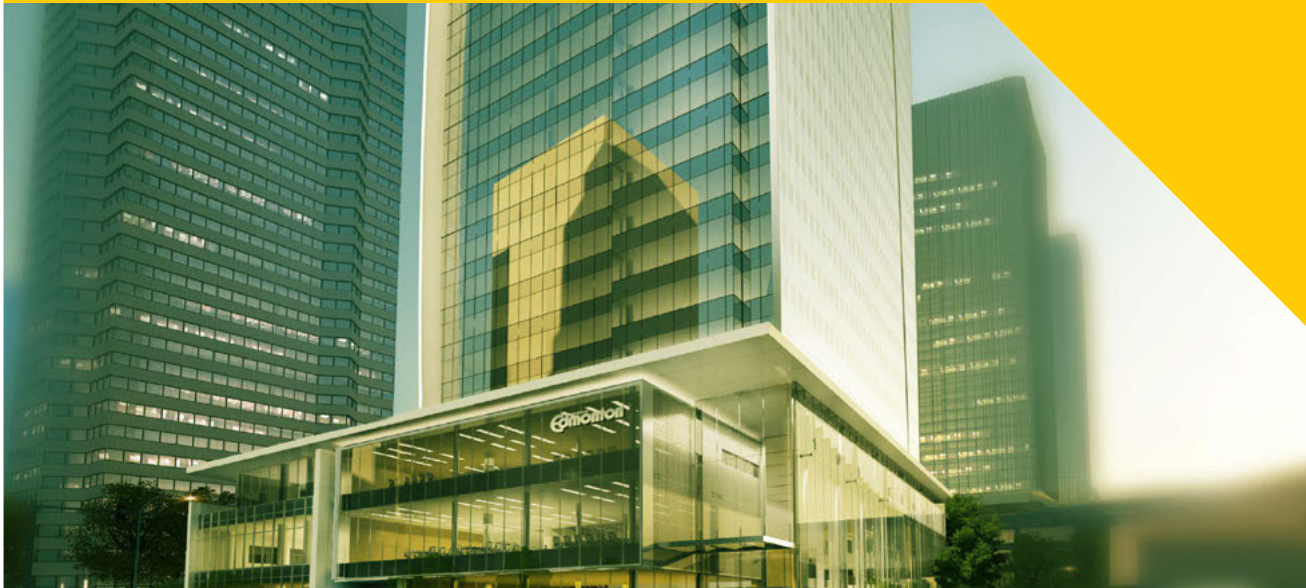
Urban LRT operates with reduced speeds in congested areas, allowing it to operate safely in pedestrian-oriented communities with a smaller footprint and fewer barriers to other people's movement. It looks great too. Investments cover features such as landscaping, streetscaping and architectural features like street furniture. Opportunities to use embedded track instead of traditional rock and ballast and railway ties will be explored to improve visual appeal.



The New Face of Service

In the near future, Edmontonians will be able to do a wide range of business transactions with the City all in the same central location. Thousands of City employees and a new integrated service counter will occupy 17 floors of the new Edmonton Civic Tower on 101 street downtown toward the end of 2016.

The landmark tower will demonstrate the City's commitment to contributing to the renewed life and architectural splendor of the downtown. The landmark tower is being built to the gold standard in environmental engineering and design, signalling an ever-improving carbon footprint for the City as well as leading edge space design for increasing efficiency and enhancing the working environment for staff.



MAKING APPROVAL PROCESSES EASIER

2014
2012



Through better web services, enhanced communication, and process redesign, the City of Edmonton is making approval processes easier and more straight-forward.

Rogers Place

As a key catalyst project in the City's plan to spur downtown growth, Rogers Place is a vital part of the vision for a more vibrant core.

Bringing two million event-goers downtown each year, Rogers Place will be a world-class entertainment venue that will grow the core's energy. The catalytic effect of Rogers Place can already be seen, as developers build new towers for people to live, work and visit, including the new privately-owned Edmonton Arena District.

Featuring a community rink and links to adjoining communities and LRT, pedestrian, and cycling routes, Rogers Place is designed to be an accessible and connected building.

Rogers Place also raises the standard for urban architecture in Edmonton. With its bold and forward-thinking design, Rogers Place will serve as a symbol of Edmonton's great future for years to come.

"There is no question that the design of Rogers Place has captured the imagination and excitement of many in Edmonton and beyond. It is bold and innovative, just as Edmonton is, and I am sure it will become an iconic building in our city."

- Mayor Don Iveson



FAST FACTS
The Hyatt Place Downtown hotel in The Quarters leans forward toward the River Valley, taking visitors in 230 guest rooms to a beautiful view.

Putting it all Together: A Showcase

Sometimes there's a convergence of great timing, strong commitment and vision, and a critical mass of willing public and private sector partners that brings city-building efforts together with great impact. There is no better example of this in Edmonton right now than the transformation occurring downtown.

So, how is the heart of our city transforming? Development worth more than \$5 billion is planned and underway in downtown Edmonton over the next several years.

The City is investing in catalyst projects to spur continued downtown growth. The development underway includes new housing, office towers, recreation facilities, LRT network expansion, bikeways, entertainment districts, parks spaces and signature streets. These investments span from east to west enlivening our city's core in magnificent and inspiring ways.

With many more private and public projects on the go, the energy in Edmonton's core is already changing and it gets better every day. Cranes dominate the skyline, building more places for people to enjoy in new ways.

A dynamic downtown is a key ingredient of a great city. This is an exciting time for Edmonton, and that is most evident in the core, where we are building a downtown to be proud of. To highlight this synergy and this energy, a selection of key initiatives that bring it all together downtown are highlighted here.

"Downtown development has accelerated even faster than we might have hoped, and it's triggered a wave of excitement about our core that's infectious," says Mayor Don Iveson.



FAST FACTS
Architects, planners and artists from across Canada gave an award of merit to Jasper Place Library, describing it as a beautiful jewel where the community could meet. The City was commended for investing money in creative, innovative architecture and stimulating excellence in the private sector.

The transformation of downtown has been critical to Edmonton's placemaking story over the past year - we can't wait to see what's coming next!

Capital Boulevard

The new ceremonial street highlights the connections between the Provincial Legislature and the Capital City, and celebrates the history shared by Alberta and Edmonton.

NAIT LRT

The Northwest LRT will encourage new development on under-utilized and vacant land, promote pedestrian scale development with active street-facing frontages, and provide the basis for more attractive, functional, and valued public spaces.

Edmonton City Tower

Edmonton Civic Tower Designed to be a LEED Gold certified building, the new 27-storey tower will provide Edmontonians with an integrated service centre, making it easier for citizens to access services such as business licences, development permits and pet licences.

Royal Alberta Museum

The Royal Alberta Museum is a \$360M project funded by the provincial and federal governments. It will be a provincial museum well-equipped for the future - a museum with the room, accessibility, and connections it needs to become an iconic institution respected around the world.

The Quarters Downtown

Several investments are underway including the Armature and \$12M stormwater trunk upgrades. The Armature will connect residents and visitors to the City's parks and attractions, including the River Valley and Louise McKinney Park.

Downtown Stormwater Drainage Servicing

The construction of a \$46M stormwater trunk system will accommodate infill and redevelopment in downtown, reduce frequency of flooding, and reduce combined sewer overflow discharge.

Jasper Avenue New Vision

This vision will re-establish Jasper Avenue as Edmonton's main street, making it a place all Edmontonians can be proud of, as well as a symbol of the vitality of the downtown and Edmonton as a whole.



What's Your Story?

What's your favourite piece of public place-making in Edmonton?
What more would you like to see happening?
Tell us your story or idea. It's your city. Help shape it!

Contact information:



@PlanEdmonton;



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