



Edmonton's infrastructure – What do we own?

What is infrastructure?

Did you drive to work today or take public transit? Sign out a library book or take a walk in the park? Pour dishwater down the drain or flush a toilet? If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, then you benefited from the City of Edmonton's municipal infrastructure.

There is over \$20 billion of City-owned infrastructure all around us, providing the essential services that maintain Edmonton's enviable quality of life. As long as this infrastructure is working as intended, much of it passes unnoticed every day.

The City of Edmonton defines infrastructure as “the physical assets developed and used by a municipality to supports its community's social and economic activities.”

The City is responsible for a broad range of infrastructure assets that can be grouped into the following 12 classes:

Description of infrastructure

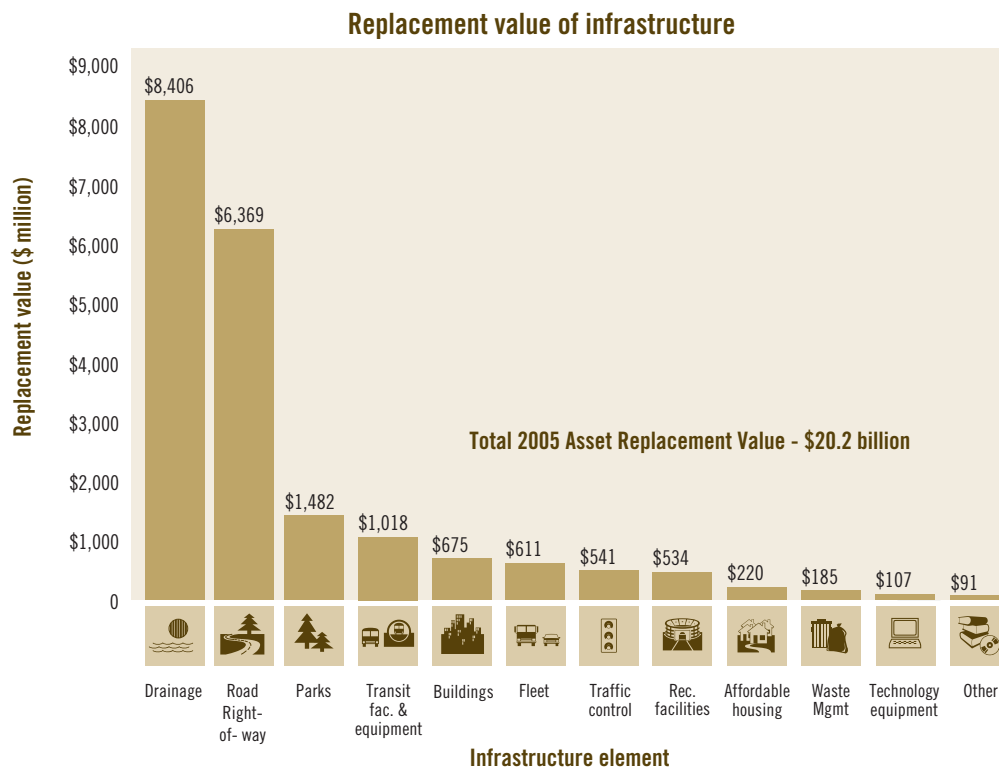
	Drainage	includes sanitary, storm and combined sewers (incl. manholes, catchbasins) and wastewater treatment.
	Road Right-of-Way	includes roads (arterials, collectors, local; and curb and gutter), sidewalks, bridges and auxiliary structures (such as gates, streetscapes and others).
	Parkland	includes horticulture, trails, hardsurfaces, playground, sportsfields, park infrastructure and parks.
	Transit facilities & equipment	includes Light Rail Transit (LRT) system facilities and equipment (including cars), transit centres, bus equipment and systems, trolley system.
	Buildings	includes civic offices, public works and operation facilities (e.g. yards), emergency response buildings, police buildings and libraries.
	Fleet	includes transit buses, city vehicles and shop equipment.
	Traffic control & street lighting	includes traffic signals, signs, markings, street lighting and parking metres.
	Recreation facilities	includes all major recreational facilities (e.g. arenas, leisure centres, Fort Edmonton Park) and amenities.
	Affordable housing	includes non-profit housing, community housing and senior lodges/cabins.
	Waste management facilities	includes operation and administration facilities, transfer stations and public facilities, processing facilities and operating landfills and apurtenances.
	Technology equipment	includes servers, network, all communication equipment.
	Others	includes emergency response and police equipment, and library contents and materials.

Infrastructure facts and figures — did you know Edmonton has:

- 1,879 km of local roads, almost 554 km of collector roads, more than 724 km of arterial roads and 166 km of freeways, for a total of 3,323 km — enough to stretch from Edmonton to Toronto.
- 750 diesel and trolley buses and 26 community buses that cover over 140 routes, and a Light Rail Transit (LRT) system with 37 light rail vehicles and eleven stations, all of which serve 44 million transit riders every year.
- A drainage system that includes:
 - 2,048 kilometres of storm sewers;
 - 1,873 kilometres of sanitary sewers;
 - 937 kilometres of combined sewers; and
 - 60,785 manholes.
- 106 roadway bridges.
- 14 community police stations and 30 emergency response stations.
- 16 libraries, including 1.5 million library books and other borrowing materials.
- 7,400 hectares of parkland in the North Saskatchewan River valley, the largest continuous urban parkland in North America.
- Five attractions: Fort Edmonton Park, Muttart Conservatory, Valley Zoo, John Janzen Nature Centre, and John Walter Museum.
- 1,785 sports fields, 16 swimming pools, 19 arenas and four sports and fitness facilities.
- Commonwealth Stadium — with seating for 60,000, it's Canada's largest open stadium.
- Five public golf facilities — Victoria Golf Course, Victoria Driving Range, Riverside Golf Course, Rundle Golf Club and Kinsmen Pitch-and-Putt.
- Three community leisure centres and three seniors centres.
- Seven cemeteries.

What is the replacement value of our infrastructure?

The total replacement value of the infrastructure assets owned and managed by the City is \$20.2 billion.



Edmonton's infrastructure assets continue to age and the demand for maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement increases accordingly. The life span of these diverse assets also varies. A sewer might last over 75 years, for example, while computers need to be replaced as often as every two years.

Escalating construction costs in Alberta's booming economy also contribute to the rising costs to maintain and replace infrastructure assets. More stringent environmental regulations and technological advances require that some assets be upgraded or replaced. Continued growth will also increase the pressure to invest in new or expanded infrastructure to service new communities and meet emerging business requirements.

As Edmonton grows, its total infrastructure investment will grow in proportion to those needs. With growth comes an increased need to build new roads, sewers, police stations and parks. The value of what Edmonton owns will increase and those assets must be carefully managed so that our City's growth, economic development, safety and quality of life are not compromised.

From the implementation of its first Infrastructure Strategy through to present day, Edmonton has worked aggressively to overcome its infrastructure challenges. Over the years, the City has endeavored to effectively manage revenues, balance competing demands for services and provide a high quality of life for its citizens. Edmonton's original approach to infrastructure asset management has led to its recognition as one of the North America's leading jurisdictions. The City of Edmonton has also been approached by many municipalities across Canada, the United States and Australia who wish to learn new ways to better manage their own infrastructure assets.

We need to take care of what we own today and plan for what we need in the future by developing management tools and fiscal policies that address infrastructure as an investment in the future of all Edmontonians.



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For more information, contact:



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