

GLOSSARY

All definitions have been drawn from existing City of Edmonton strategic planning documents, including the Municipal Development Plan, the Designing New Neighbourhoods Guidelines, and the Complete Streets Guidelines.

ACCESSIBLE

Having ease of access.

Active Transportation

Any mode of transportation by which people use their own energy to power their motion and includes walking, running, cycling, cross-country skiing, skateboarding, snowshoeing, roller blading, and use of a manual wheelchair.

Affordable Housing

Housing that requires no on-going operating subsidies and that is targeted for occupancy by households who earn less than the median income for their household size and pay more than 30 percent of that income for housing and require no in-situ support services.

Age Friendly Design

An age friendly built environment includes a safe pedestrian environment, safe street crossings, easy to access shopping centres, a mix of housing choices, nearby health centres and recreational facilities. Additional age friendly urban design features could include non-slip materials on footpaths, adequate street and park furniture and awnings for weather protection, legible and pedestrian scale signage, well-lit walking areas, and the incorporation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

Amenities

Neighbourhood features that contribute to residents' quality of life, such as parks and natural areas, recreational facilities, schools, shopping opportunities and services.

Area Structure Plan

A statutory plan that identifies future neighbourhoods and where residential, commercial, institutional and recreational sites will be located in a previously undeveloped area and how essential municipal services such as water and sewer systems, roads and fire protection will be provided. These plans also describe the number of people that are expected to live in the new area and how development will be staged over time.

Arterial Roads

Intended to carry large volumes of traffic between areas ("through" traffic) with fewer access opportunities

to adjacent developments and are defined by the Transportation System Bylaw.

Biodiversity

The number and variability of organisms found within a specified geographic region; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Bioretention Areas

Bioretention areas (also referred to as rain gardens) are stormwater management and treatment facilities, within a shallow depression, using vegetation and amended topsoil. They provide water quality treatment, reduce runoff and allow for infiltration near where runoff originates, such as roofs, driveways and sidewalks.

Bioswales

Open channels with dense vegetation specifically designed to attenuate, treat, and convey stormwater runoff.

Collector Roads

Provide neighbourhood travel between local and arterial roads and direct access to adjacent lands. Buses generally operate on collector roads within neighbourhoods.

Community Garden

A shared garden space where groups or individuals grow and raise food. Community gardens are often located on public lands or undeveloped private land and are the result of a group of people coming together to make land available for gardening. Community gardens often contain raised bed allotment plots, tool sheds, water access, public art and educational signage, among other features.

Complete Streets Principles

Complete Streets are intended to:

1. Provide safe, accessible, context sensitive travel options for all users and trip purposes.
2. Form a network of streets and intersections that together accommodate all users and allow for

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efficient and high quality travel experiences.

3. Be adaptable by accommodating the needs of the present and future through the design, effective space allocation and use of appropriate technology.
4. Contribute to the environmental sustainability and resiliency of the city.
5. Be economical and consider the direct and indirect costs, value of the roadway and the adjacent real estate.
6. Be vibrant and attractive people places in all seasons that contribute to an improved quality of life.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

CPTED is a pro-active crime prevention strategy that focuses on an analysis of how the features of the environment and the policies that govern its management and use can constrain criminal activity. CPTED strategies are based on the premise that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime and improve the quality of life. Emphasis is placed on the physical environment, productive use of space, and behaviour of people to create environments that are absent of environmental cues that cause opportunities for crime to occur.

Dangerous Good Route (DGR)

A route which is part of the City's Truck Route system, designated for heavy vehicles carrying specified dangerous goods.

Ecological Network

A coherent system of natural and/or semi-natural landscape elements that is configured and managed with the objective of maintaining or restoring ecological functions as a means to conserve biodiversity.

End-of-Trip Facilities

Infrastructure and amenities for bicycles and bicyclists that enable and encourage cycling as a viable mode of transportation, including short- and long-term secure bicycle parking, lockers, showers, and change rooms.

Energy Facilities

Infrastructure used to extract or distribute electricity, oil and gas such as wells, transmission lines and pipelines.

Focal Point

A grouping of facilities and infrastructure within a common geographic location which acts as a destination point for a variety of purposes to serve a neighbourhood

or community.

Greenway

Linear corridor for pedestrians and cyclists that connects parks, natural areas, other neighbourhood destinations and destinations outside of the neighbourhood.

Historic Resources

Structures, manmade or natural sites or areas of historical, cultural and/or architectural significance to the history of Edmonton which contribute to the city's unique sense of time and place.

Livability

The environmental and social quality of an area as perceived by residents, employees, customers and visitors. This includes safety and health (traffic safety, personal security, and public health), local environmental conditions (cleanliness, noise, dust, air quality, and water quality), the quality of social interactions (neighbourliness, fairness, respect, community identity and pride), opportunities for recreation and entertainment, aesthetics, and existence of unique cultural and environmental resources (e.g., historic structures, mature trees, traditional architectural styles).

Low Impact Development Best Management Practices

An ecosystem-based approach to managing and treating storm water runoff.

LRT (Light Rail Transit)

Electrically powered rail transit running on light gauge rail and operating in exclusive rights-of-way or dedicated running ways below, above, or at grade in trains of multiple articulated cars.

Mixed-Use Development

Development that includes a mixture of different land uses such as: residential, commercial, institutional, recreational and public spaces. It generally refers to development where different uses are not only combined on the same site but also within buildings themselves. An example might include residential apartments located above a commercial space located on the lower floors of a building.

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Municipal Development Plan (MDP)

A statutory plan which guides the future growth and development of a municipality.

Native Vegetation

Plant species that are indigenous to Edmonton's natural region.

Natural Areas and Features

An area of land or water that is dominated by native vegetation in naturally occurring patterns. Such areas could include grasslands, forests, wetlands, peatland, or riparian areas. Areas such as groomed parks, sports fields and schoolyards are not natural areas. Natural features may include tree stands, water bodies, geologic formations, peatlands and grasslands that are representative of Edmonton's natural history.

Naturalized Drainage Ways

Surface stormwater conveyance features that use wetland zones, drop structures and natural materials and vegetation to replace storm sewer mains or prevent erosion of existing drainage ways.

Neighbourhood

A residential area with an appropriate mix of housing types with convenience-type commercial facilities and where appropriate, schools or park facilities.

Neighbourhood Area Structure Plans (NASPs)

Prepared for smaller areas within the SCDB to facilitate development of individual neighbourhoods. All NASPs must conform to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and are similar to a neighbourhood structure plan.

Open Space

Areas of land and water that is semi-natural in composition. Such spaces could include active recreation parks, schoolyards, conventional stormwater management facilities and some boulevards.

Pedestrian Oriented/Friendly

See: Walkable.

Public Art

Artwork which is accessible to the general public and has aesthetic qualities. Typically this art takes into consideration site and context.

Public Space

Space on public or private property within an establishment or outside an establishment, which is open to the public.

Public Transportation

Public transportation is a shared passenger transportation service which is available for use by the general public, as distinct from modes such as taxicab, carpooling or hired buses which are not shared by strangers without private arrangement. Edmonton Transit is the public transportation operator in Edmonton, and the system is comprised of bus, LRT and DATS services.

Right-of-Way (ROW)

A strip of land, including the space above and below the surface that is platted, dedicated, condemned, established by prescription or otherwise legally established for the use of pedestrians, vehicles, or utilities.

Semi-natural

Open green spaces that are not dominated by native vegetation and are at least partially manicured. These may include active recreation parks, greenways, schoolyards, cemeteries, golf courses, conventional stormwater management facilities, landscaped boulevards and some rights-of-way. Semi-natural landscape elements offer permeable spaces through which species may move and may also offer limited resources.

Servicing Concept Design Brief (SCDB)

States the City's pro-active, forward-thinking position on the placement of major land use developments, such as municipal and school facilities. The SCDB establishes a general framework for municipal infrastructure, servicing, planning and development and environmental requirements and is generally applied to an undeveloped suburban area considered to be an integrated planning unit. A SCDB contains most of the elements of an ASP.

Shared Use Path

A facility for active transportation modes (including walking, wheel chair use, jogging, cycling, and inlineskating) which is generally constructed to a wider, asphalt standard, but may be concrete or granular.

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Streetscape

All the elements that make up the physical environment of a street and define its character, including: the road, boulevard, sidewalk, building setbacks, height and style. It also includes paving treatments, trees, lighting, pedestrian amenities and street furniture.

Street Type

Defines a street, taking into consideration the land use context, relationship of buildings to the street and the number of travel lanes, volume, type and speed of traffic.

Sustainability

A way of living which meets the needs of the present and does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Urban planning takes an integrated, holistic view of urban environments and defines sustainability in the context of interrelated ecosystems encompassing economic, social, environmental and cultural sustainability. The principle of sustainability also includes financial sustainability, ensuring urban planning recognizes and addresses resource constraints and capacities.

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

Intensified development around LRT stations and transit centres, which creates attractive, livable and compact neighbourhoods with housing, jobs, shopping, community services and recreational opportunities all within convenient walking distance of a node. All TODs are not the same, each development has a unique context and may serve different purposes. Some intensified and mixed use development will also occur along Transit Avenues at a lower level of magnitude.

Universal Design

The design of buildings, streets, services, transportation systems, and public spaces that accommodate the widest range of potential users. This is accomplished by removing barriers for those with mobility, visual and hearing impairments, and accounting for other special needs. The Seven Principles of Universal Design are:

1. Equitable Use
2. Flexibility in Use
3. Simple and Intuitive Use
4. Perceptible Information
5. Tolerance for Error
6. Low Physical Effort
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use

Urban Agriculture

The practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in and around towns and cities. It involves applying intensive production methods and (re)using natural resources and urban wastes to yield a diversity of crops and livestock. Urban agriculture could be undertaken in backyard gardens, rooftop gardens, community gardens and urban farms.

Urban Growth Area

An area identified for future urban growth in the Municipal Development Plan.

Utilities

Facilities for gas, electricity, telephone, cable television, water, storm and sanitary sewer.

View Corridor

A three dimensional area extending out from a viewpoint, encompassing one or more scenic resources which may have many environmental, cultural, agricultural, historic, recreational or economic resources and themes of significance to the city or community.

Walkable

A built environment designed to make travel on foot convenient, attractive and comfortable for people of various ages and abilities. Considerations include the directness of the route, safety, amount of street activity, mix of land uses, local destinations, separation of pedestrian and auto circulation, street furniture, surface material, sidewalk width, prevailing wind direction, intersection treatment, curb cuts, ramps and landscaping.

Wetland

Land having water at, near or above the surface, or which is saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes, as indicated by poorly drained (hydric) soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and various kinds of biological activity that are adapted to the wet environment.

Terms of Reference for the Preparation and Amendment
of Neighbourhood Structure Plans
Edmonton's Urban Growth Areas
April 2014

