

Edmonton

# District Planning

Conversation Starter #6

**How will the District  
General Policy and District  
Plans be Monitored and  
Updated?**





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## Introduction

Planning policy documents are only useful if they are maintained. If policy direction in the District General Policy and district plans are out of sync with The City Plan or other contemporary planning policies and practices, they will be less effective.

All planning tools, including district plans, are expected to evolve over time through proactive updates by Administration, as well as development industry-led updates through the established Land Development Application process. The risk of not changing and evolving over time equates to a planning system out of sync – much like a piano out of tune.

In this Conversation Starter we're going to talk about:

- + How planning tools in Edmonton's planning system are generally expected to change over time
- + How district plans will change over time

**The City Plan** is Edmonton's combined Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan. It is a statutory document approved by City Council that provides strategic direction for how Edmonton will grow and redevelop to 2 million people.

## The Planning Tool Lifecycle and Inputs of Change

### Edmonton's Planning System - A Brief Overview

To guide the city's growth and development, Administration and City Council rely upon a system of planning policies and regulations to inform decision making, often referred to as the planning system. The planning system is being updated to align with [The City Plan](#) in order to establish a predictable, efficient and effective policy landscape and regulatory direction to inform the long-term build-out of the city.

For more information on Edmonton's planning system and the various components, see Conversation Starter 1.

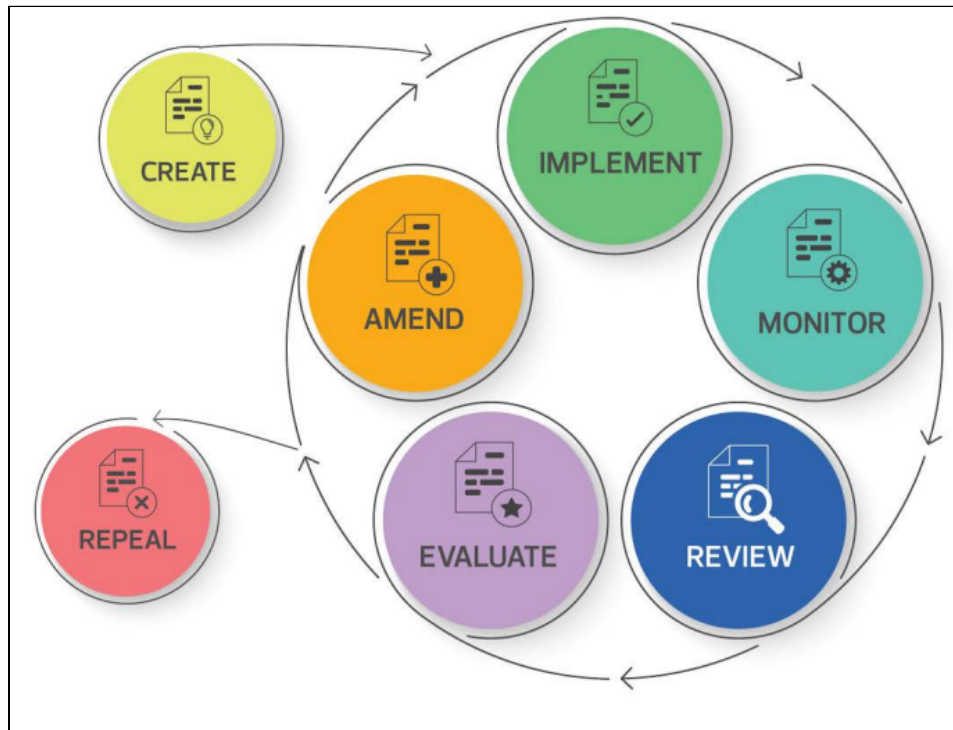
### The Planning Tool Lifecycle

All planning tools contained in the City's planning system are intended to change over time to ensure they remain efficient, effective and relevant in the planning direction they provide. Accordingly, there is





a predictable life cycle that each planning tool is expected to proceed through, from creation to an completion and where applicable, retirement. See the image below.



Though the policies and maps contained in district plans have been crafted in a way to be comprehensive while flexible and adaptive, district plans are expected to be changed and be updated over time.

## District Plans and Their Journey to 1.25 Million Edmontonians

District plans have been crafted to provide planning policy direction to facilitate and guide the growth of the city to a population of 1.25 million people. Over the course of this journey, district plans will be monitored to ensure they continue to be relevant, efficient and effective.

District plans are designed to interpret The City Plan while providing reasonable flexibility in interpretation and application. They enable City Council to balance The City Plan's policies, public input and stakeholder feedback in their decision making.

For example, an application may be received to rezone a site in the 'Urban Mix' land use to a zone that would allow for a medium density mixed-use development. While these sorts of developments are primarily encouraged in secondary nodes and corridors, the Urban Mix land use is intended to accommodate a mix of uses and housing types that are sensitive to the surrounding built environment.



Council may choose to approve such an application if they feel the proposed development fits within the context of the neighbourhood and would be consistent with The City Plan.

## How District Plans Will Change

There are two primary categories of change that are expected to occur throughout the life of district plans. They are proactive changes by the City and responsive changes initiated by the development industry, community groups and the public.

### 1. Proactive changes by the City of Edmonton

Once district plans are approved by City Council they will be continuously monitored to ensure they remain effective, efficient and relevant. As a result there may be necessary short-term and long term changes.

#### Maintenance Changes

- **Data and Map Maintenance:** Over time, features on district plans' maps may change. For example, landmarks may have name changes, new parks or schools may be created, roads may be realigned and infrastructure projects may be initiated and completed. These types of updates may be made on a regular review schedule.

#### Strategic and Evolutionary Changes

- **Strategic and Related Policy Change:** District plans will be one of many planning tools used to inform planning decisions. Over time, new planning tools will be created and others will be retired (consistent with the Planning Tool Lifecycle). As a result, updates to district plans may be required to consider and accommodate changes to related planning tools and ensure consistency and efficiency between the tools. For example, if a change to [Breathe: Edmonton's Green Network Strategy](#) were made, administrative changes to the open space policies and mapping in district plans may be required.
- **Evolution of The City Plan:** The City Plan's implementation will be monitored over time to ensure the goals and policy objectives are met. Through monitoring of The City Plan, particularly the Big City Moves, changes may be needed to accommodate market and societal disruption, geopolitical contexts and other external factors. Since district plans were carefully crafted to reflect and facilitate the policy direction in The City Plan, changes to The City Plan may necessitate amendments to district plans. For example, if City Council passes a capital budget in the future with specific city-building projects identified, it may require updates to policies and maps within The City Plan and district plans.

