

## District Planning at a Glance 2/6

### Why Districts?

#### Introduction

Anyone who has owned an old car knows that eventually the cost of maintaining it outweighs the cost of upgrading. Edmonton's planning system, consisting of hundreds of small plans, many of them more than thirty years old, needs more than just a tune-up. This is why the City is repealing old plans that have served their purpose and preparing a new type of plan - District Plans.

Since a plan for every neighbourhood isn't feasible (Edmonton has over 300 neighbourhoods!) district plans will serve a collection of neighbourhoods. District plans will also reflect how Edmontonians would like to access what they need - where they shop for groceries, exercise at a park or rec centre or where their kids go to school - which may not be within their neighbourhood but is likely within a 15 minute walk, bike ride or transit trip.

#### District Plans Will be a New Tool

*The City Plan* provides the vision and direction that will change how our city looks and feels as it grows to 2 million residents. District plans support *The City Plan*, but don't otherwise propose bold new directions. Their role is instead to communicate and illustrate how each district is intended to change according to *The City Plan*. This will make it easier for the public, builders and City staff to understand and with fewer plans it will also make it easier to keep our plans up to date and relevant.

#### Will the new tool provide everything we need?

Replacing our outdated plans with district plans and capturing all the details of each neighbourhood is too much to accomplish at once. That's why district plans will begin as rather simple plans that provide the essentials. The content will be drawn from existing plans and policies to stay true to decisions that communities and City Council have already made. In time, additional detail can be added to the district plans where needed through conversations with communities and additional analysis. While initially without all the bells and whistles, trading in our old plans for district plans will help us spend more time on the road and less time in the shop.