

District Planning at a Glance 5/6

The Cost of City Building

Introduction

Building and maintaining a city is expensive. As a city grows outwards, it adds new taxpayers to help pay for its costs, but it also adds new roads to plow and pave, new pipes to connect, and new parks to mow. These areas will also need new police stations, recreation facilities, fire halls and libraries because existing ones will be too far to provide adequate service. *The City Plan* seeks to shift how we grow to manage these costs, setting a target of 50% of growth in infill areas. By growing in existing areas of the city, new residents can use existing infrastructure and facilities.

The role of the District Plan

It will take a long time to achieve the goals of *The City Plan*, but we can take steps now to change how the city will grow in the future. District Plans focus on the first phase of *The City Plan* - our growth to 1.25 million residents. Over this period, growth will continue in planned communities at the edges of the city, and redevelopment will be encouraged and supported in the nodes and corridors in existing areas. This builds on the City's infill strategies, and will help us transition from growing out to growing in and up. District Plans will help citizens and the City prioritize specific areas for development, which will in turn support vibrant communities and the responsible use of resources. More public and private investment will go to redeveloping areas as they welcome new residents, and we better manage our long term financial commitments.

The payoff

Changing how the city grows will take time and effort, but both our fiscal and environmental circumstances demand that we make better use of the land and the tax dollars contributed by all Edmontonians. In exchange, we will enjoy more diverse and vibrant communities, with more options to meet our needs locally.