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## City Plan Implementation Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative and District Planning Project

### The Scoop | Inside info from the project leads

It's been a while since our last newsletter, but we've been hard at work and have a lot of updates.

As you know, City Council adopted The City Plan—Edmonton's combined Transportation Master Plan and Municipal Development Plan—in December 2020. The plan charts out the choices needed to be a healthy, urban, climate resilient city of two million people that supports a prosperous region.

Fundamentally, The City Plan is about change—changing the way we move through the city and changing the way we manage growth. The Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative and District Planning Project are the first City Plan implementation projects that really embody that change.

Moving forward, the two projects will provide joint updates through this newsletter. If you have any questions about the individual projects, please use the associated email addresses: [zoningbylawrenewal@edmonton.ca](mailto:zoningbylawrenewal@edmonton.ca) and [districtplanning@edmonton.ca](mailto:districtplanning@edmonton.ca).

Sincerely,

Livia Balone  
Director, Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative

Shauna Kuiper  
Director, District Planning

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Updates | The latest project updates to keep you in-the-know



### **Making Space - The City of Edmonton's first-ever podcast series**

A zoning podcast like you've never heard (because you've never listened to a podcast about zoning).

Yes, zoning - you read that correctly.

Too often, how we talk about zoning gets people to tune out. It's complex. There's all kinds of specialized language the experts use. The lawyers and the planners and the politicians get it, but that leaves a lot of us who might not.

Which is wrong.

Because zoning—basically, the rules for how land can be used and what can be built where—affects everyone.

Making Space returns that vital conversation to the people. The episodes are stories of real-life folks and communities whose lives have felt the impact of how Edmonton has been and is being

planned. It's an honest look at some of the hard-won lessons of how Edmonton can be an equitable city for all.

The podcast launched May 31, with a new episode released every subsequent Tuesday until June 28. The episodes are as follows:

- The Million Dollar Parking Lot, featuring Carola Cunningham and Lyla Peter
- Whose Home?, featuring Susan McGee and Colton Kirsop
- At Your Discretion, featuring Chris Hoit and Katherine Pihooja
- Connecting the Dots, featuring Cherie Klassen and Michael Strong
- What Does Better Look Like?, featuring Chris Dulaba

Visit [transforming.edmonton.ca/msp](https://transforming.edmonton.ca/msp) to listen to Making Space or subscribe on your preferred podcast app.

Join the conversation! Use #MakingSpaceYEG to share your thoughts on the podcast episodes.

### **Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative - Update**

The Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative is a multi-year comprehensive modernization of Edmonton's current Zoning Bylaw that includes rethinking how, what and why the City regulates zoning and land development. The Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative team is in Phase 2 of the [project timeline](#), Develop and Build, and is working on:

- Writing and refining the new Zoning Bylaw
- Testing zones
- Preparing a new Zoning Map
- Exploring technology to manage the new Zoning Bylaw and improve online customer service

The team shared a project update report ([item 6.2](#)) with the Urban Planning Committee on April 12th. Engagement on the draft Zoning Bylaw and Zoning Map will begin in September.

### **District Planning - June and July Engagement**

[The City Plan](#) introduces districts to help guide the physical change of neighbourhoods. Districts are collections of neighbourhoods that offer vibrant and diverse places for people to live, work and play. The District Planning project includes two main components:

- The District General Policy (DGP) - a document that will provide guidance to all districts at a level under The City Plan
- The district plans - one for each of the 15 districts identified in The City Plan

Public engagement on the DGP starts in June, with 7 online sessions:

- Thursday June 16 at 7:00-8:30pm
- Wednesday June 22 at 7:00-8:30pm
- Thursday June 23 at 12:30-2:00pm

- Tuesday June 28 at 12:30-2:00pm
- Wednesday July 6 at 7:00-8:30pm
- Saturday July 9 at 1:00-2:30pm
- Tuesday July 12 at 7:00-8:30pm

Each session will provide information on the DGP and explain how it will guide district plans. Participants can provide feedback on the DGP's general themes and content.

Space is limited, so please [register](#) to attend your preferred session.

District plans will be available in August. District plans point to where policies from the District General Policy apply on a set of 10 detailed maps and also include district-specific policies that speak to a district's context. To learn more, visit [edmonton.ca/districtplanning](http://edmonton.ca/districtplanning).

### **District Planning - Conversation Starters**

A series of Conversation Starters have been posted on [District Planning's Public Engagement webpage](#) to help Edmontonians prepare. They are mini information packages that address the following questions:

- What is District Planning?
- What are district plans and the District General Policy?
- How are the district plans and District General Policy being drafted?
- How can Edmontonians provide input?
- How are the district plans and District General Policy intended to be used?
- How will the district plans and District General Policy be monitored and updated?

Edmontonians planning to participate in the District Planning project should review the documents prior to engagements.

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Zoning Zeitgeist | Stories of urban planning in Edmonton





### **Making Space: new comic book draws colourful city-building ideas from Edmonton students**

Zoning is a field strewn with technical terms, a landscape full of complex decisions about how land is used and how people move across the neighbourhoods they call home.

At first blush, there's nothing particularly childlike about zoning.

It's unfortunate, said Michelle Neilson, a City of Edmonton planner working on the [Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative](#). "Because young Edmontonians, and those young at heart, often have the best ideas for their city."

[Read More](#)



### **Warehouse Park: Designing a safe urban oasis in downtown Edmonton**

Chris Buyze can't wait to play frisbee or relax under a tree in downtown Edmonton's newest park.

[Warehouse Park](#) will emerge from where five parking lots now sit between 106 Street and 108 Street, and Jasper Avenue and 102 Avenue. The urban oasis will be the size of more than two football fields (1.47 hectares) and will include a washroom pavilion, an open lawn, public art, seating and gathering spaces when it opens in late 2025.

[READ NOW](#)



**InDevelopment Podcast Episode 15: How we welcome more people into our neighbourhoods through infill**

The City of Edmonton's own Sean Bohle sat down with the folks from InDevelopment —IDEA's podcast about how Canadian cities develop in and up—to talk about infill and how District Planning will help bring more vibrancy to Edmonton's communities.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

## In the media

**READ:** Edmonton market heating up, but affordability still a key selling point (Edmonton Journal, March 22, 2022)

**LISTEN:** Why the answer to the housing crisis starts with zoning. (CBC, February 27, 2022)

**LISTEN:** You'll never guess which city has the answer to Canada's housing crisis (CHED Mid-Morning with Shaye Ganam, April 25, 2022)

The Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative seeks to develop a strategic, simplified and streamlined Zoning Bylaw to enable people, places and businesses to prosper and thrive. The Zoning Bylaw Renewal Initiative supports key objectives described in The City Plan and Corporate Business Plan, including red tape reduction, improved service delivery, sustained community and economic investment, and more equitable outcomes. Learn more at [edmonton.ca/zoningbylawrenewal](http://edmonton.ca/zoningbylawrenewal).

District Planning is a multi-year project to build The City Plan's 15-minute districts—small towns in our big city, where people can meet many of their daily needs locally. The project will provide a link between The City Plan and the Zoning Bylaw, while also simplifying our land use policies and plans. Learn more at [edmonton.ca/districtplanning](http://edmonton.ca/districtplanning).

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