



August 2019

Municipal Land Use Planning

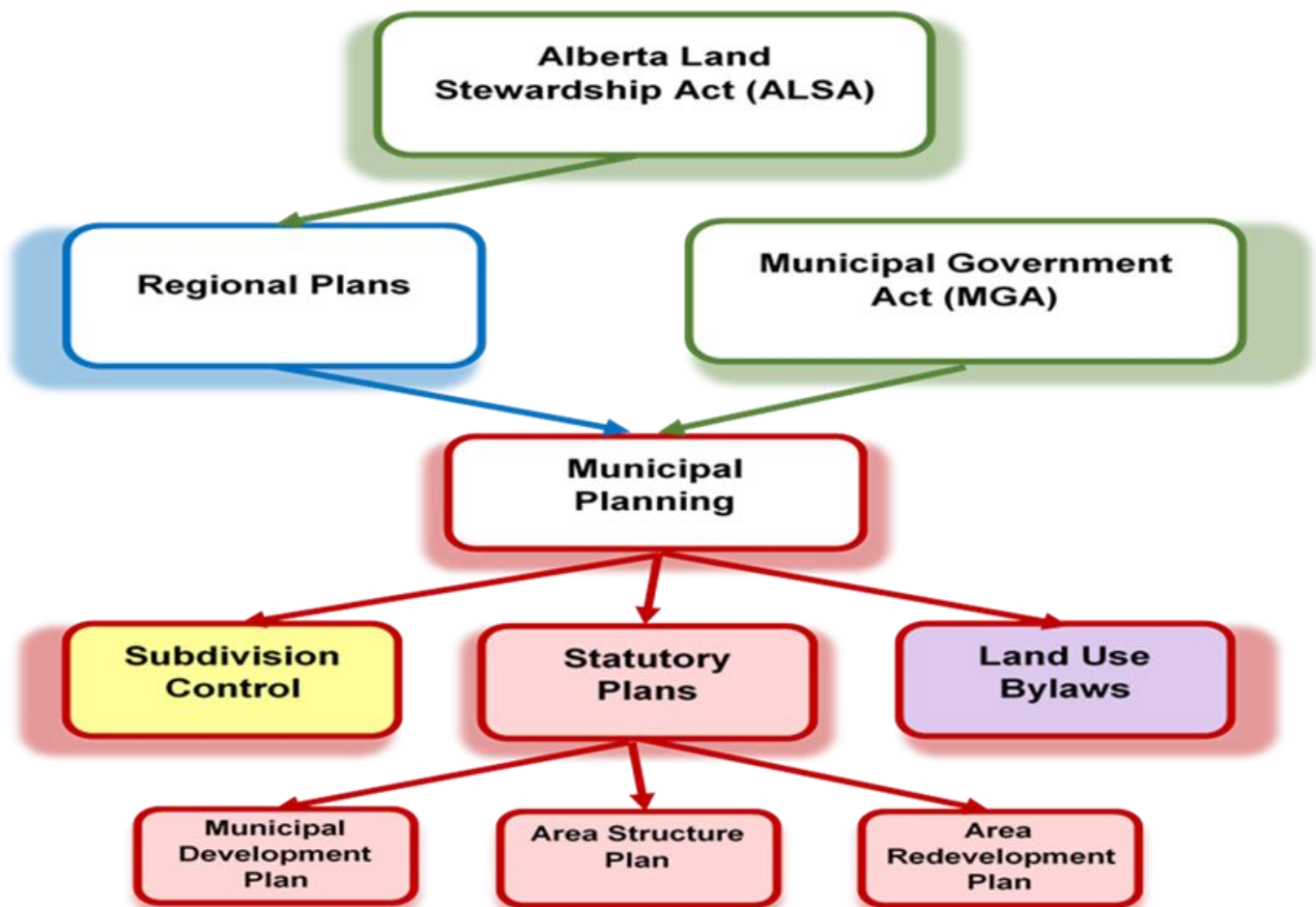
Welcome to the *Alberta Land-use Knowledge Network's* new monthly newsletter in which we share information and resources about land use planning in Alberta.

The **Land-use Knowledge Network** was launched in 2011 and the **Land Use Planning Hub** in 2018. These two tools continue to grow and support research-based land use decision making throughout the province

If this newsletter was forwarded to you, please consider **subscribing** to our monthly publication.

Review **past issues** of our newsletter

Land Use Planning in Alberta



Land Use Planning Hub

The **Land Use Planning Hub** is an informal network that supports the implementation of Alberta's regional plans.

Currently on the Land Use Planning Hub



Compare the size of Alberta's solar farms

Rocky View County is preparing for the **creation of one of the largest solar farms in Canada**. How does the size compare to other solar farms?



Guide to the Open Streets Project

Temporarily closing streets to vehicles can create open spaces for the community, provide free recreation, promote civic engagement and support local businesses. Here is how to start an open street program.



Explore Alberta's land use planning regions

Use our new interactive map to explore the seven regions outlined in Alberta's Land-use Framework. The map and graphs show the status of the regional plans, population, area, human impact measures and number of businesses registered.



Role of municipalities in strong collaboration for healthy watersheds

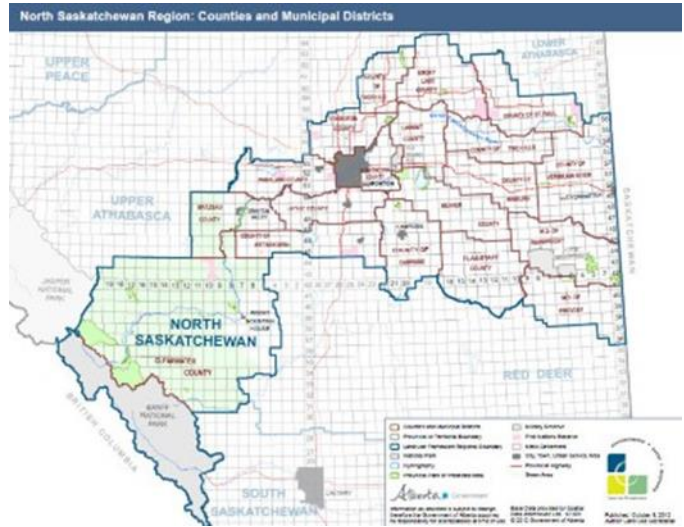
Using examples from British Columbia, a report from the **POLIS Water Sustainability Project** considers systemic solutions as the key for watershed management – including collaborative governance, knowledge sharing and shared authorities. Here is the role of municipalities.

For more information about the Land Use Planning Hub, contact the website's coordinator, **Jeff Wiehler**

North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP)

The North Saskatchewan Region contains a diverse landscape encompassing Rocky Mountain, rolling foothill and prairie parkland ecosystems. The North Saskatchewan Region includes headwaters forests that provide clean water to downstream communities, mountains foothills, and parkland that support a diversity of habitats that provide homes for species at risk and serves as a major source of recreation and tourism.

The North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council



Read Jeff Wiehler's post entitled [Preparing for the next regional plans](#)

Check out our resource list related to the [North Saskatchewan Regional Planning](#) process.

[Recommendations Document from the North Saskatchewan Regional Advisory Council](#)

Municipal Land Use Planning

Land Use Topics

Municipal governments are the primary land use planning approval within their boundaries. In Alberta this authority is set out in Part 17 the **Municipal Government Act (MGA)** which provides for the preparation and adoption of plans, subdivision and development approval, and a variety of tools through which municipalities can achieve land use planning objectives. These plans lay out how land can be used and how best to address a community's short- and long-term social, environmental, and economic needs.

The MGA outlines a hierarchical framework of plans and each subsequent plan must be consistent with its parent plan, beginning with, where available, the **Alberta Land-use Regional Plans**.

Regional Growth Plans: Two or more municipalities may adopt an intermunicipal development plan in respect of land where a consensus on use and development is desired. Such a plan typically relates to the fringe area of urban and rural municipalities or to shared natural features such as lakes. Both the **Edmonton Region** and the **Calgary region** have collaborated to develop such plans.

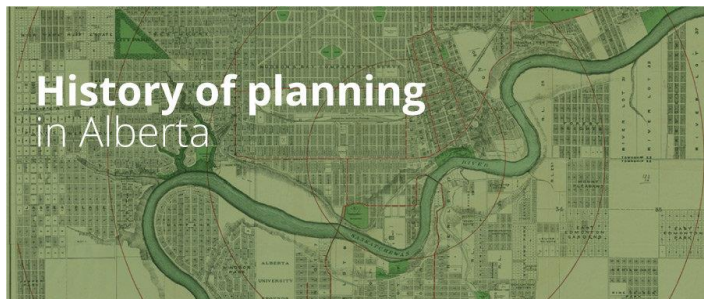
A **Municipal Development Plan (MDP)** is a statutory plan requirement and the amended MGA requires all municipalities to develop and implement an MDP by April 1, 2020. Prior to the amendment, only municipalities with a population greater than 3,500 were subject to this requirement. Municipal Affairs has developed a Guidebook for Preparing a Municipal Development Plan to assist municipalities with developing MDPs that meet the requirements in the MGA.

All municipalities are also required to develop a land use bylaw that covers development permits as well as the restrictions for development according to the MDP. This bylaw also outlines the specific uses of land within the community, usually dividing it into several categories: residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and parkland. The municipality is free to add other categories or subdivide any of these general categories.

An **Area Structure Plan (ASP)** outlines the municipality's plans for implementing their MDP by describing the framework in which they will subdivide and develop the land including proposed land uses, density,

general location of utilities and transportation routes as well as a proposed schedule for developing specific areas.

An **Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP)** is a document that outlines changes (generally labelled revitalization) in previously developed areas of a city to bring them in line with the vision described in the MDP.



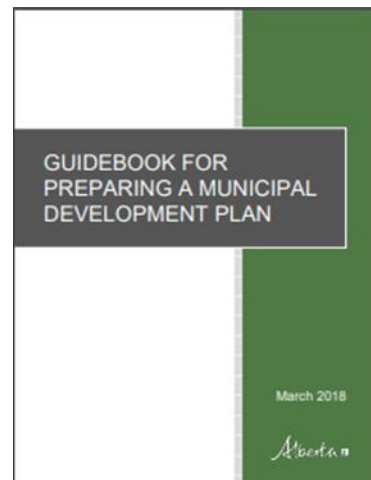
Detailed History of Land Use Planning in Alberta

Regional planning is founded on dreaming of what can be achieved in the future and then setting out the steps to get there. It is an optimistic vision – which is typically created in optimistic times. And during periods of economic difficulty, political and social priorities focus on meeting the needs of the day instead of the tomorrow...

[read more](#)

Guidebook for Preparing a Municipal Development Plan

This guidebook has been written for municipalities who will be preparing their first municipal development plan. It is meant to aid the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the municipal council in ensuring that the municipality meets the obligations of provincial legislation and creates a plan that benefits the community.



Check out this sampling of Municipal Development Plans. LuKN is in the process of developing a database of all land-use planning documents at the provincial, regional, and municipal levels. Stay tuned.

Municipality	Municipal Development Plan Title
Beaumont	Our Complete Community Municipal Development Plan (2019)
Calgary	City of Calgary Municipal Development Plan (2017)
Cochrane	Town of Cochrane Municipal Development Plan (2008)
Edmonton	The Way We Grow: Municipal Development Plan (2010)
Fort Saskatchewan	Municipal Development Plan 2010-2013 (2010)
Grande Prairie	Municipal Development Plan (2019)
Lac Ste. Anne County	Lac Ste. Anne County Municipal Development Plan (2015)
Lacombe	Growing Lacombe: Municipal Development Plan (2015)
Lloydminster	Our City, Our Plan, Our Future, 2013-2032 Municipal Development Plan (2013)
MD of Taber	Municipal Development Plan Bylaw No. 1723 (2013)
Medicine Hat	Medicine Hat Plan: Growing to a City of 100,000 (2012)
Milk River	Town of Milk River Municipal Development Plan (2017)
Okotoks	Okotoks Municipal Development Plan (draft) (2019)
Olds	Town of Olds Municipal Development Plan (2017)
Parkland County	One Parkland: Powerfully Connected (2017)
Strathcona County	Forwarding Our Future Together: Municipal Development Plan (2018)
Wood Buffalo (RM)	Big Spirit, Big Ideas, Big Plan (2011)

Spotlighted Organizations



The **Alberta Tomorrow** simulator is an educational tool that helps you to understand the process of sustainable planning to balance land-uses such as agriculture, oil and gas and forestry with ecological integrity. By looking at past and present landscape imagery, you will be able to see changes that have taken place in the past. You can also collect, geotag and save water sampling data, images, video and other observations.



The **Community Planning Association of Alberta (CPAA)** is an organization dedicated to the promotion of community planning in the Province of Alberta. Through various means, the Association provides a forum for the discussion of community planning-related concepts, ideas and issues with a view towards solutions.



The **Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN)** is a not-for-profit organization that uses the combined expertise of nine Albertan post-secondary institutions to support rural development in Alberta and help rural communities grow through research and learning.



Alberta Smart City Alliance

Society is becoming increasingly digital, connected, and urbanized. Recognizing this trend, some communities apply innovative "Smart City" solutions to identify and solve basic urban issues.

The **Land-use Knowledge Network** is a repository of a wide variety of resources to support your land use and planning research. Take a look at these items...

Resources on the LuKN



Miistakis Institute: Edmonton Ecoroof Initiative for Climate Change and Resiliency

Prepared by Kelly Learned and Holly Kincaid

The Edmonton Ecoroof and Climate Change Resiliency Initiative is a research project being led by the Miistakis Institute in partnership with the City of Edmonton. The purpose of the project is to explore the potential for an ecoroof policy program as a strategy for climate adaptation by gathering research, engaging stakeholders and identifying potential key motivators for a policy program.

What is a Land Use Plan?

A land use plan is a vision for how we want our city to grow and change. Plans can vary in scale—some land use plans apply to all of Edmonton, while others are focused on a small part of a neighbourhood. This booklet will explain more about the different types of land use plans used in Edmonton.

EVENTS

August

AWES: Agroforestry Field Day

29 August 2019, Leduc

September

Early bird rates until August 16

Western Canada Water Annual Conference & Exhibition (2019)

17-20 September, Edmonton

EOEP: Regional Partnerships and Collaboration Training

24 September 2019, Edmonton

AUMA 2019 Convention and AMSC Trade Show

25-27 September, Edmonton

**International Association of Transportation Regulators
(IATR) 32nd Annual Conference: Regulatory Roundup**

22-25 September 2019, Calgary

October

**Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation 2019
Sustainable Communities Conference**

1-4 October 2019, St. Johns, NL

Save the date

**Recycling Council of Alberta 2019 Conference: Sea
Change**

2-4 October 2019, Jasper

Save the date

2019 APPI Conference: Celebrate Strength

6-8 October 2019, Fort McMurray

EcoCity World Summit 2019

7-11 October, Vancouver

**Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA):
RemTech 2019**

16-18 October 2019, Banff

**Battle River Watershed Alliance
Finding Common Ground 2.0**

23-14 October, Camrose

November

**Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH): 2019
National Conference on Ending Homelessness**

4-6 November, 2019, Edmonton

Future Cities Canada Summit 2019

7-8 November 2019, Toronto

Save the date
ALIDP Conference and Trade Show
6-8 November, Calgary

If you have an announcement that you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter, please email [Linda](#) with the details.

NEWS

Alberta Energy Regulator Seeking Input on Public Involvement in Approval Process

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has released a draft of **Directive XXX - Participant Involvement** and is looking for public feedback within the next 60 days. The directive is part of a regulatory framework that seeks to ensure members of the public are informed about proposed and existing energy resource developments and have the opportunity to provide input regarding those developments.

26 June 2019, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

Have you prepared your community for emergencies?

Emergency preparedness has many components to it. It should encompass business continuity plans for municipal administration and plans for returning to the community after a threat has passed. Municipal leaders should consider the impacts on residents and local businesses, and the best means of communicating with them to encourage them to prepare correctly, too.

10 June 2019, AUMA

What Conservation Efforts Can Learn from Indigenous Communities

A major U.N.-backed report says that nature on indigenous peoples' lands is degrading less quickly than in other areas

29 May 2019, Annie Sneed, Scientific American

Want a more equitable city? Try food-oriented design

The way to a stronger city is through its stomach

10 May 2019, Diana Budds, Curbed



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