

Our Complete Community: Beaumont's new Municipal Development Plan – Part 3

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This article is the third installment in a three-part series that examines annexation in Alberta, Beaumont's annexation, and the purpose, function, and approval process for *Our Complete Community: Beaumont's new Municipal Development Plan*. Our first article, *Annexation in Alberta: What it means to Beaumont*, defined annexation, the process and key participants, along with identifying the potential costs. The second article, *Annexation in Alberta: Beaumont's Story*, focused on the timelines, process, and outcomes of annexation in our community.

A municipal development plan is a statutory planning document (adopted by bylaw) that sets out a clear vision for a community's future and serves as an important decision-making tool for Councils, Administrations, and all stakeholders. It's the primary document that guides the future land-use development and growth for the entire community.

In March 2016, a public engagement process kicked-off in support of the Town's new Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan. This rigorous public engagement process was designed to provide diverse engagement opportunities to gain perspectives from the public, stakeholders, neighbouring municipalities, Council, and Beaumont's administration. Numerous workshops, open houses, interviews, and information sessions were held. Thanks to the participation and great interest of the community, a framework for our future that reflects how we want to grow over the next 25+ years has been captured in Beaumont's new Municipal Development Plan, *Our Complete Community*. The Plan also includes policy directives to guide Beaumont as it grows, while also preserving the features that make our community unique. A copy of *Our Complete Community* can be found here: <http://www.beaumont.ab.ca/ourbeaumont>

Beaumont has regional responsibilities as a member municipality of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (formerly the Capital Region Board). The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board is made up of 13 municipalities who are responsible for managing the growth of the region in a strategic, coordinated, and integrated way. The former Capital Region Board was made up of 24 members, but the passage of the new *Modernized Municipal Government Act* in recent weeks limited the Board to municipalities in the region with a population of 5,000 or more and re-named the Board the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board. The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board uses the Regional Evaluation Framework to implement the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan by reviewing statutory plans and amendments to ensure they are consistent with the Growth Plan. This process includes a third-party evaluation, a recommendation from the Board's Administration, and a 28-day appeal period, in which any member municipality can appeal a decision.

As a member municipality, Beaumont's planning documents must adhere to the current Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan. When *Our Complete Community* was submitted to the former Capital Region Board, the Capital Region Growth Plan was in effect. Beaumont ensured that *Our Complete Community* complied with both the old and new Growth Plans prior to submitting the plan for approval. The Capital Region Board's administrative review of *Our Complete Community* confirmed that it fully complied with the Growth Plan of the day. However, as part of the Regional Evaluation Framework process, *Our Complete Community* was appealed by the City of Edmonton and a vote of the member

municipalities was required to determine the final approval of the Plan. The City of Edmonton's stated reason for appealing was that it believed it could more efficiently service the nine quarter sections north of Township Road 510, which the City is now seeking to annex from Beaumont. Beaumont disagreed with the City of Edmonton's position, but due to the voting structure in effect at the Capital Region Board, the Town's position ultimately did not matter. Although 18 of the 24 municipalities voted in favour of *Our Complete Community*, the vote is determined by the percentage of population rather than the number of votes. The City of Edmonton has approximately two-thirds of the population and, as a result, prevented the approval of the *Our Complete Community*.

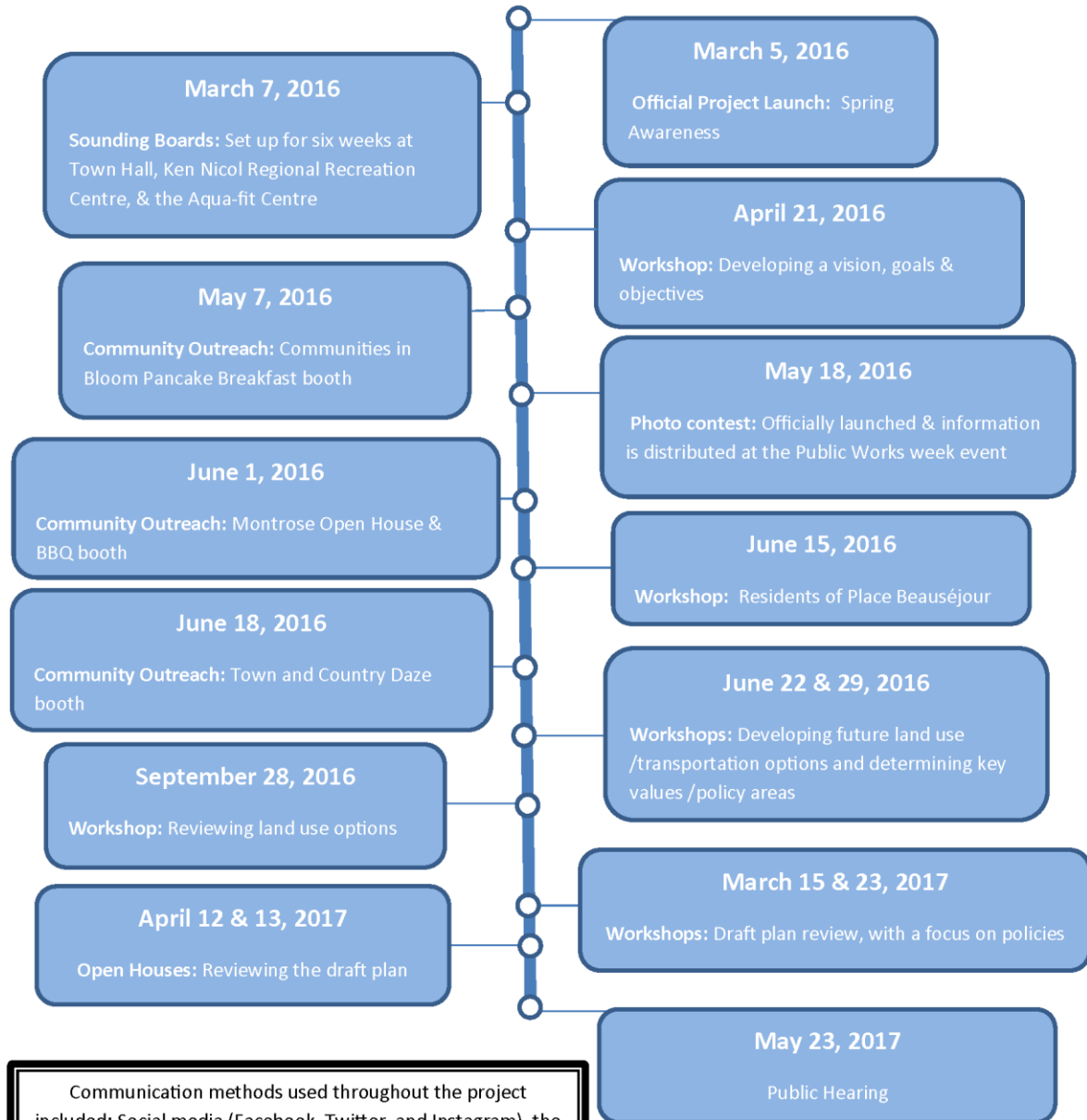
While it is disappointing that the City of Edmonton prevented the approval of *Our Complete Community* at the former Capital Region Board, Beaumont is working on an interim solution for the Town's existing Municipal Development Plan (Bylaw. 486-98) that will provide certainty for landowners, builders, and developers in the community.

Moving forward, Beaumont will revisit the policies of *Our Complete Community* with our regional partners and when the timing is right, submit the plan to the new Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board for approval. Beaumont's new Mayor and Town Council are looking forward to working with all members of the new Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board to create a plan where all municipalities can thrive.





Engagement Timeline



Communication methods used throughout the project included: Social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), the radio, newspaper, and Mind-Mixer. One-on-one interviews with stakeholders were also held.