



Beaumont Age-Friendly Strategy

July 2021

Acknowledgements

Many people gave generously of their time and effort in order to make this Age-Friendly Strategy a reality.

This strategy would not be possible without the contributions of the project Working Group, which included:

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Thanks are due to Council for their support for this initiative. The project team also thanks the many members of the Beaumont community who filled out surveys, attended workshops, and let us know what was needed and what was possible to improve Beaumont's quality of life through the full inclusion of older people.





Executive Summary

As people worldwide are living longer, the share of the world's population aged 65 years and older is growing faster than any other age group. This trend is holding true in Beaumont, where the share of residents aged 65 and older is increasing. At the same time, Beaumont's population is among the youngest and fastest-growing in the province.

These patterns indicate a need and an opportunity for Beaumont to plan for facilities and programs that support older people. In turn, everyone in our growing city, including young families, people with disabilities, and more, stands to benefit from a more accessible and inclusive community.

By preparing and adopting this Age-Friendly Strategy, Beaumont is taking a proactive approach to addressing demographic trends and remaining a desirable community that offers a high quality of life for residents of all ages.

What is an Age-Friendly Community?

Age-friendly communities foster healthy aging by providing environments that enable the autonomy, dignity, and full social participation of people of all ages and abilities. The World Health Organization, which has championed age-friendly public health initiatives since 2006, identifies eight dimensions of age-friendly communities:



Outdoor spaces and buildings – The design and condition of the physical environment, including public buildings, sidewalks, and parks.





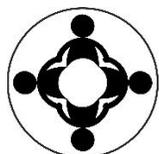
Transportation – The availability, accessibility, and affordability of a range of transportation options.



Housing – The design, location, and affordability of a range of housing options.



Social participation – The opportunity to participate in social, cultural, and recreational activities of choice.



Respect and social inclusion – The attitudes and behaviour of the community as a whole towards older people.



Civic participation and employment opportunities – The opportunity to take part in citizenship and economic activities, including governance, paid employment, and volunteerism.



Communication and information – The ability to access clear and relevant information about all community dimensions.



Community supports and health services – The ability to access high-quality, affordable health care and community services.

These dimensions provide the framework for Beaumont's Age-Friendly Strategy. The strategy is also supported by regional and municipal policies governing the City's growth and development, as well as by federal and provincial public health resources.

Approach, Vision and Goals

The Age-Friendly Strategy development process involved four main stages:

1. Establish an Age-Friendly Working Group

The members of the Working Group included representatives of local community organizations that serve older people, health and social service providers, and the City of Beaumont. Working Group members attended three virtual meetings over the course of the project and worked



collaboratively with the Project Team to draft a vision and goals for the strategy, identify key age-friendly needs, recommend potential actions, and review and validate the draft strategy.

2. Conduct an age-friendly assessment of the community

The purpose of this stage was to understand Beaumont's current age-friendly features, as well as gaps that could be addressed by the strategy. In addition to Working Group input, the project team considered the findings of a variety of other engagement activities, including a walking audit, a community survey, and an online workshop.

3. Develop and implement an action plan

The third stage of the project involved identifying priority actions the City could take to address the challenges identified in stage 2. These were identified and refined through discussion with the working group and a variety of City departments with a role to play, as well as a second round of community engagement.

4. Have a resolution passed by local government

As the final stage in the creation of the Age-Friendly Strategy, Council reviewed the strategy and passed a resolution to adopt it into the City's operations and practices. As part of the strategy's implementation plan, progress will be reviewed every 1-2 years, beginning in early 2023, and the strategy as a whole will be updated after five years.

Through engagement with the Working Group and the public, the following vision and goals were developed for the Age-Friendly Strategy:

Vision: Beaumont is an age-friendly city where the well-being and full inclusion of older people supports an accessible, healthy, and vibrant community for everyone.

Goals: To achieve our age-friendly vision, the City and its partners will:

1. Design and develop inclusive neighbourhoods, buildings and public places.
2. Promote a full range of housing options, including diverse sizes, types, tenures, and delivery models.
3. Implement safe, flexible, and reliable transportation for local and regional trips.
4. Offer programs and services that support older people's independence, health, and wellness.
5. Facilitate opportunities for volunteerism, employment, and community engagement.
6. Provide equitable access to a range of recreation and social participation opportunities.
7. Ensure information on events, programs, and services is communicated in a variety of ways and formats.
8. Include affordability, accessibility, and innovation as central decision-making factors for age-friendly initiatives.



Priority Actions

The 25 priority actions identified in the strategy are:

Ongoing (throughout strategy implementation)

1. Maintain and improve upon existing community strengths and continue to support age-friendly outcomes.
2. Adopt an age-friendly perspective throughout City planning, programming, operations, and other initiatives.
3. Incorporate age-friendly and accessibility considerations into new development and infrastructure guidelines, standards, and programs.
4. Facilitate the distribution of the Walking Audit checklist for use by interested residents and community groups, to help identify areas where walkability could be improved.
5. Incorporate an age-friendly perspective in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Affordable Housing Strategy.
6. Offer additional sponsored access to City facilities, including the BSRC field house and gymnasium, and drop-in programs.
7. Implement the recommendations of the Social Master Plan, particularly as they relate to offering inclusive services across all City departments.
8. Incorporate ‘ambassadors’—residents comfortable welcoming and drawing in new people—either as a standalone program or as an element of City events and activities.
9. Update and promote the Older Adult Service Directory on a regular basis, online and in paper format.
10. In City communications campaigns, particularly for FCSS, include messaging that normalizes reaching out for assistance and encourages residents to access City support services when needed.

Short term (1-2 years)

11. Develop a program to support local businesses in becoming more age-friendly, including accessibility resources and a recognition program.
12. Ensure that data collection and service planning for the City’s on-demand transit pilot project explore and address the specific transportation needs of various demographic groups, including older people.
13. Work with community organizations to implement a snow-clearing program (such as a “snow angels” program) to connect residents who need help with snow clearing with those who can provide this service.
14. Develop a more extensive and easy-to-find page on the City website with resources of interest to older people.
15. Increase the involvement of older people and organizations that serve them in Beaumont’s Community Awareness events.
16. Hold an event aimed at older people in partnership with local organizations that serve them, potentially as part of events to mark Seniors’ Week.



17. Create internal guidelines for preparing accessible print materials, including posters, advertisements, reports, and other public documents.
18. Hold a focus group with older people to explore preferred communication formats and channels, potentially including partnerships with local community organizations, a formal opt-in phone notification program, or additional web accessibility tools.
19. Develop and distribute a newcomers' guide for Beaumont.

Medium term (3-5 years)

20. Incorporate age-friendly and accessibility considerations into the next review and update of the Beaumont Urban Design Guidelines and the General Design Standards.
21. Establish a bench and shade tree dedication program.
22. Implement the transportation recommendations in the Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan, including the development of Complete Streets guidelines and implementation of intersection management guidelines.
23. Develop and implement wayfinding standards for city parks and trails, as well as for the downtown area. Consider including elements such as distance markers, maps, major community destinations, and public washrooms.
24. Create a volunteer coordinator role as part of a City staff position.
25. Establish a satellite location of the Leduc Food Bank in Beaumont.

As part of its implementation plan, the strategy identifies success indicators for each action that will help the City understand its progress as part of its annual reviews. Output-focused indicators can help show how well actions were implemented, while outcome-focused indicators can help demonstrate whether implementing the actions resulted in community benefits. Additional information will also be reviewed as needed.

To make the strategy's vision a reality, the City and its residents, businesses, institutions, and community organizations must commit to viewing and addressing issues through an age-friendly lens. Everyone in Beaumont can play a role in creating a more age-friendly community.



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1.0 Introduction

As people worldwide are living longer, the share of the world's population aged 65 years and older is growing faster than any other age group (World Health Organization, 2007). In Canada, in 2016, the number of seniors¹ exceeded the number of children under 15 for the first time (Statistics Canada, 2016). This trend is holding true in Beaumont, where the number of residents aged 65 years and older grew by 75% from 2011 to 2016 and the share of working-age adults declined. At the same time, Beaumont's population is among the youngest and fastest-growing in the province.

These patterns indicate a need and an opportunity for Beaumont. As a family-friendly community near a major urban centre, the City will likely continue to attract a high proportion of young families with children and must plan for supportive facilities and programs. At the same time, Beaumont can expect to be affected by national and global population trends that forecast an ever-higher proportion of older residents.

With the preparation and adoption of this Age-Friendly Strategy, Beaumont is taking a proactive and inclusive approach to addressing demographic trends. The City is planning now how it can continue to be attractive and accessible to residents as they age.

1.1 What is an Age-Friendly Community?

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes longevity as a valuable resource for both individuals and society. With the benefits of ever-increasing life experience, older people participate in community life in many ways: as mentors, entrepreneurs, caregivers, employees, artists, athletes, consumers, and more. The WHO has spearheaded public health initiatives to help communities reap these benefits by

¹ Throughout this document, "seniors" is used to refer specifically to those aged 65 or older. "Older people" is used more often and refers more broadly to those aged approximately 50+.

All images in this document are from the City of Beaumont's collection.



fostering healthy aging; that is, by making it possible for people to do what they value throughout their lives (WHO, 2017).

Healthy aging does not depend only on people's individual mental and physical abilities, but also on the physical, social, and policy environments that surround them. To account for the changes associated with aging, older people may need supportive living environments. For example, an older person with severe arthritis or low vision may be more able to live independently and take part in activities she enjoys if she has access to assistive devices, lives in a one-storey home or apartment, and lives near accessible and affordable transportation.

Age-friendly communities foster healthy aging by providing environments that enable the autonomy, dignity, and full social participation of people of all ages and abilities. Specifically, they:

- Recognize the wide range of abilities, interests and resources among older people;
- Anticipate and respond flexibly to aging-related needs and preferences;
- Respect decisions and lifestyle choices;
- Protect the most vulnerable people;
- Promote inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life.

The advantages of age-friendly planning also extend to the community as a whole. Children and young families, people with disabilities, and people on lower incomes are just some of those who can benefit from more accessible and inclusive public places and programs.² The benefits of planning for age-friendly environments include improved resident health and community engagement, more business opportunities, and wiser use of public resources in service provision (Alberta Health, 2012).

1.2 The Eight Dimensions of Age-Friendly Communities

In response to rapidly aging populations worldwide, the WHO launched its Global Age-Friendly Cities project in 2006. As part of this initiative, it developed the Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide, which sets out a framework for evaluating and planning age-friendly communities. The framework looks at eight community dimensions that influence how well a community meets the needs of older people:



Outdoor spaces and buildings – The design and condition of the physical environment, including public buildings, sidewalks, and parks.



Transportation – The availability, accessibility, and affordability of a range of transportation options.

² As described by the civic engagement non-profit 8-80 Cities (www.880cities.org), communities that are safe, functional and welcoming for an 8-year-old and an 80-year-old are likely to be so for all people.

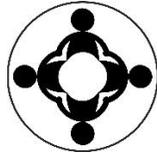




Housing – The design, location, and affordability of a range of housing options.



Social participation – The opportunity to participate in social, cultural, and recreational activities of choice.



Respect and social inclusion – The attitudes and behaviour of the community as a whole towards older people.



Civic participation and employment opportunities – The opportunity to take part in citizenship and economic activities, including governance, paid employment, and volunteerism.



Communication and information – The ability to access clear and relevant information about all community dimensions.



Community supports and health services – The ability to access high-quality, affordable health care and community services.

It is important to consider how these community dimensions overlap and interact. For example, respect and social inclusion is reflected in how well the needs of older people are considered in the design of outdoor spaces and buildings, or in the range of housing choices available in a community. The location and affordability of housing can influence a person’s access to different transportation choices (such as walking, transit, or personal vehicle) and in turn to opportunities for social participation, employment, or health care.

The age-friendly community dimensions provide the framework for the Age-Friendly Strategy, as described further in Section 4.0 below.

1.3 Beaumont Community Profile

Beaumont is a small city located at the southeast edge of the City of Edmonton. The area is part of Treaty Six territory and has been home to Indigenous peoples, including the Cree, Blackfoot, and Métis, for hundreds and thousands of years. The present-day city was established as an agricultural settlement by French-speaking families in the 1890s. It incorporated as a village in 1973 with a population of 370



people and a land base of 2.5 square kilometres (equivalent to one section). Since then, it has continued to grow rapidly and annex additional land, reaching a population in 2016 of 17,396 and a land area in 2017 of 23.5 square kilometres.

Beaumont’s population is younger than the provincial average, and growing fast. In 2016, 26% of its residents were aged 14 years or younger, and its median age was 33.2 years (compared with 19% and 36.7 years, respectively, for Alberta as a whole). Figure 1 shows the 2016 population breakdown by age and sex, compared with the province overall.

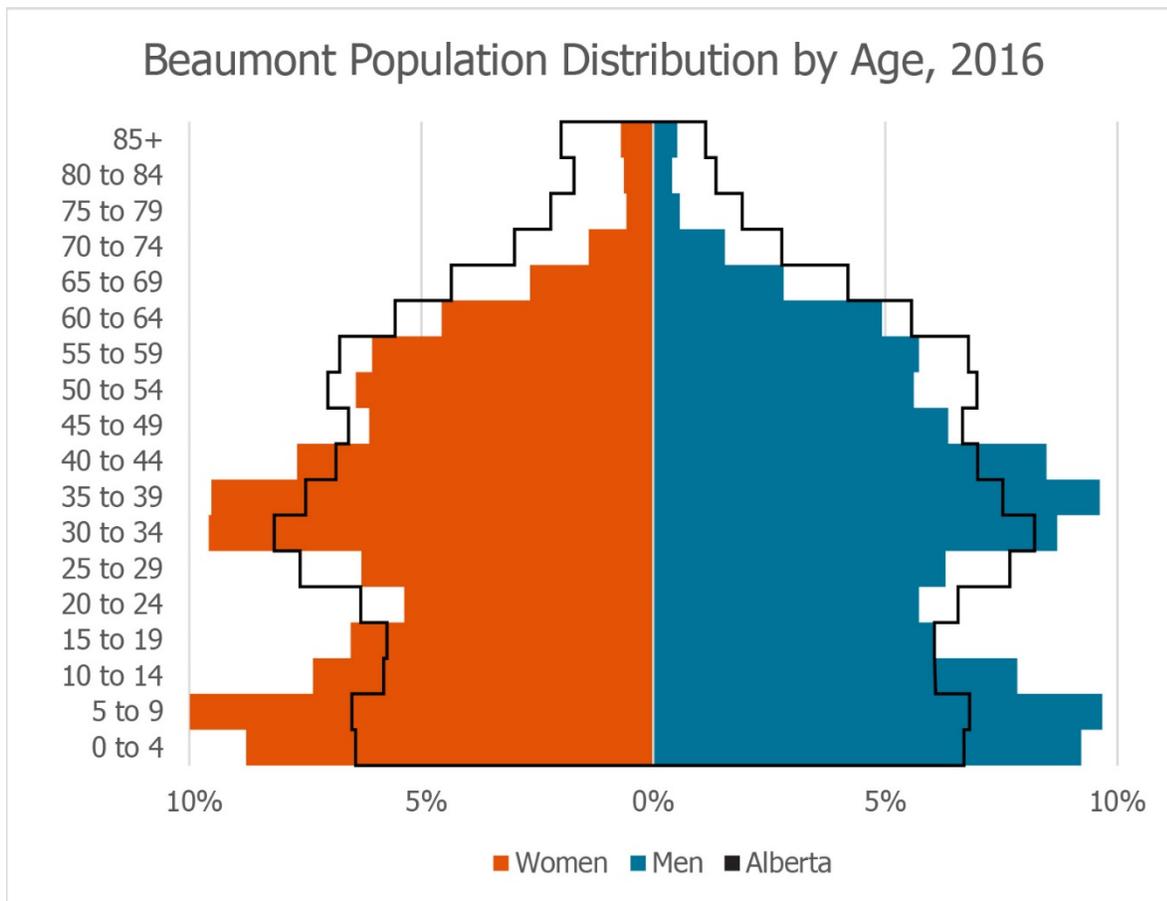


Figure 1: Beaumont population distribution

However, like communities all over the world, the share of Beaumont residents aged 65 and over is growing faster than other segments of the population. Figure 2 shows the percentage growth in each age group since 2011 and 2006. The total population grew by 31% between 2011 and 2016, which was the fifth-fastest municipal growth rate in the province and compared with 11.6% population growth in Alberta as a whole.



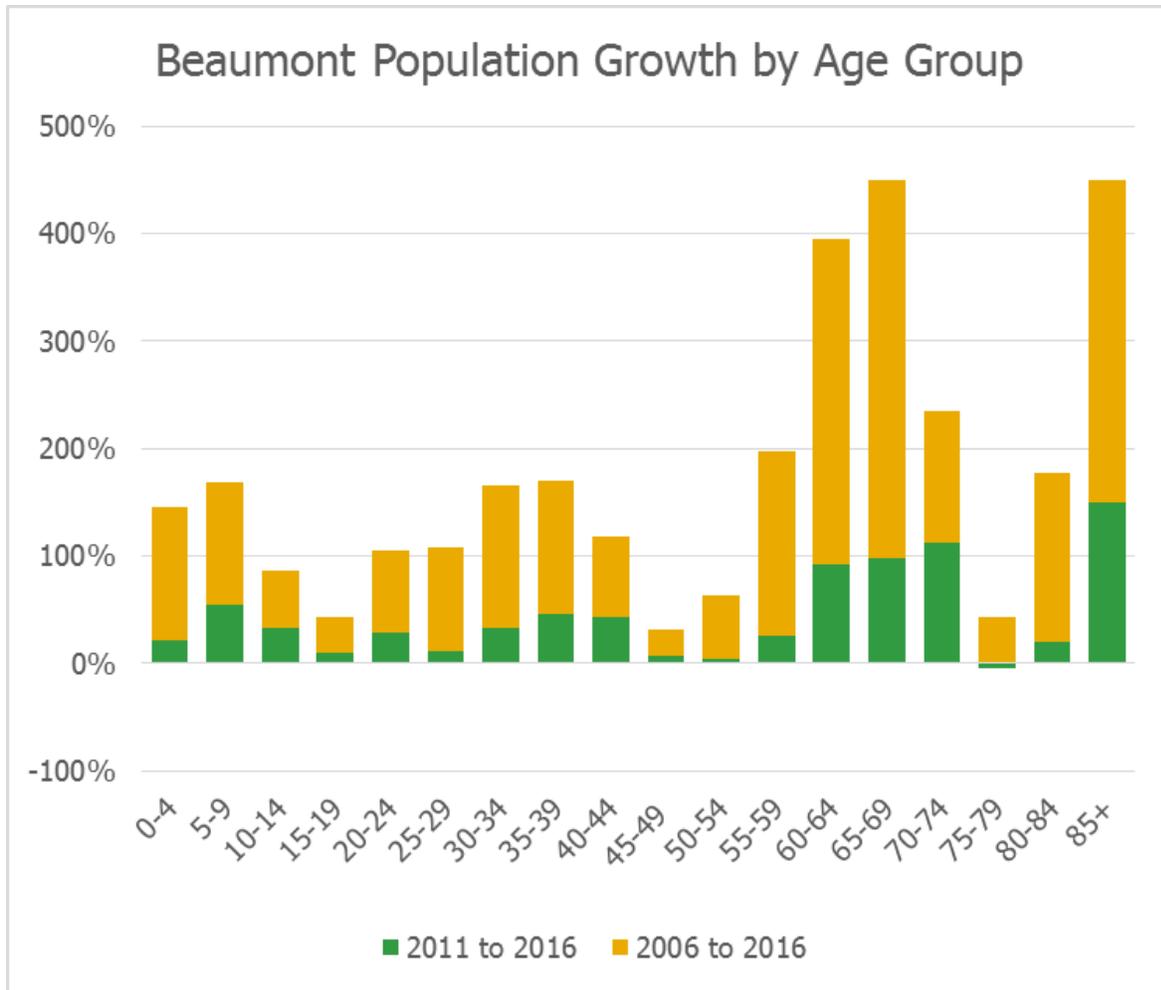


Figure 2: Beaumont population growth

The majority of households in Beaumont are families with children, including couple-headed and lone-parent families, although that proportion has been decreasing over time. Couples without children and single-person households, many of which include older people, each make up a significant and growing minority of household types (Figure 3). In 2016, 10% of Beaumont households were headed by someone aged 65 years or over.



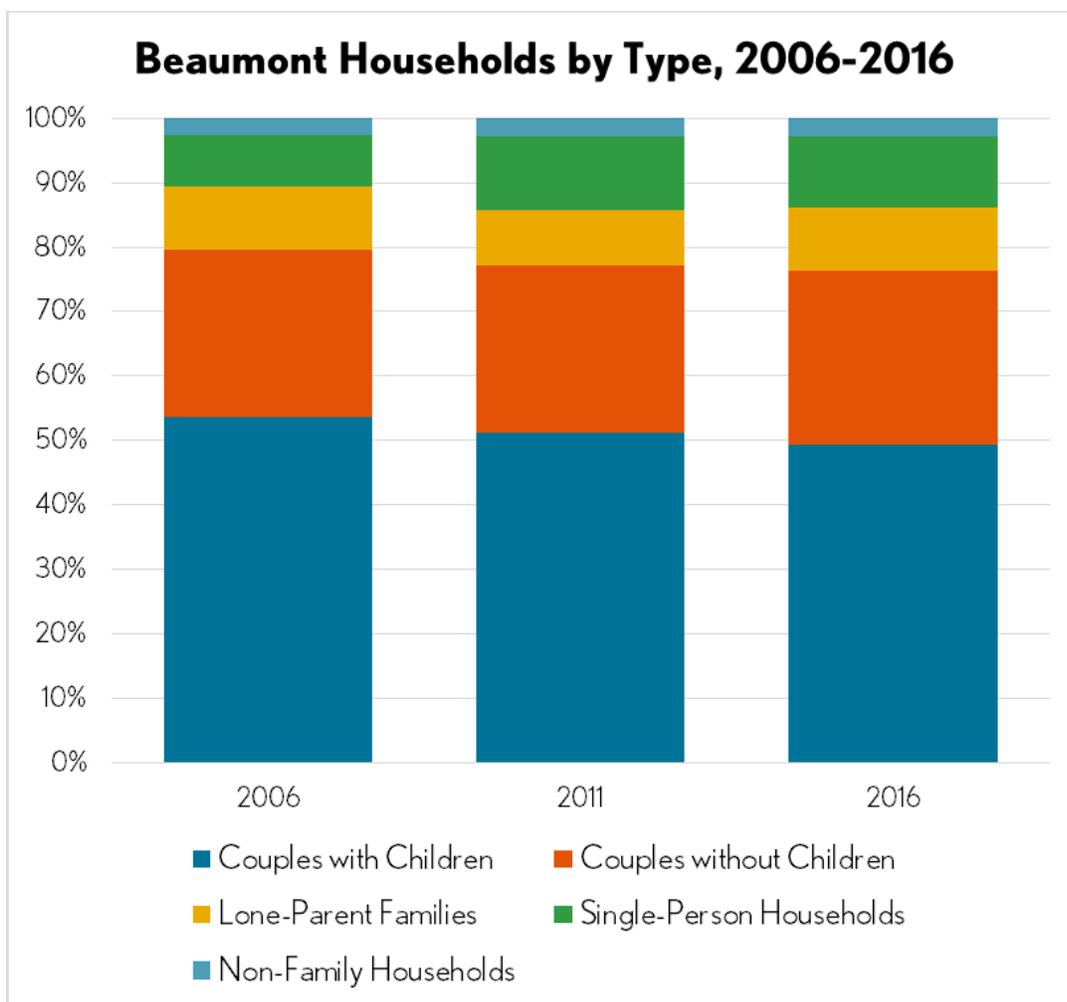


Figure 3: Household types

Beaumont has a relatively high median household income (\$134,443 in 2015) compared to the City of Edmonton (\$87,225) and the province as a whole (\$93,835). However, 270 households, or 4.1%, were in low income that year based on the Low Income Measure.³ A further 310 households, or 5.5%, earned incomes of below \$50,000, at which the average monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Edmonton region (\$1,259) would cost more than 30% of their income (CMHC, 2015). Additionally, 5.9% of all Beaumont households were in core housing need in 2015, meaning their housing did not meet federal standards⁴ but they could not afford to move to acceptable housing. Among Beaumont seniors (aged 65+), this proportion was 17.3% (8.9% of owners and 71.4% of renters).

³ According to Statistics Canada, the Low-Income Measure (after tax) refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median-adjusted after-tax income of private households. The household after-tax income is adjusted to account for economies of scale. This adjustment for household size reflects the fact that a household's needs increase, but at a decreasing rate, as the number of members increases.

⁴ According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), acceptable housing does not require major repairs, has enough bedrooms for the size of the household, and costs less than 30% of household income.



The vast majority (86%) of households in Beaumont own their home. Nearly 90% of dwellings have at least 3 bedrooms even if the households living in them are often smaller, as shown in Figure 4. For older people who may be interested in a smaller home or a different type of tenure, therefore, choices may be limited.

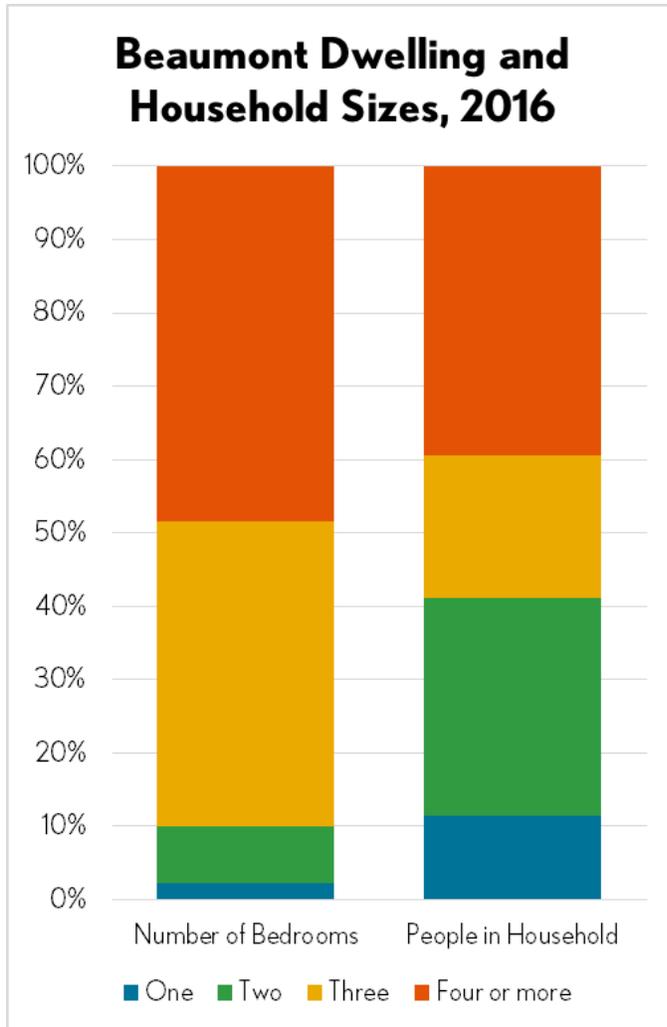


Figure 4: Dwelling and Household Sizes in Beaumont, 2016

These trends, along with the policy framework described in Section 2.0 below, are why Beaumont has chosen to prepare an Age-Friendly Strategy and ensure the City grows as an accessible, welcoming place to live for residents of all ages.





2.0 Regional and Municipal Policy Context

The City's activities and development are guided by a variety of planning documents, which together provide direction and a framework for this Age-Friendly Strategy. Key statements and policies from each document are summarized below and described in more detail in Appendix A.

2.1 Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan (2017)

The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan sets out a 30-year framework for population, employment and land use growth in Edmonton and surrounding municipalities, including Beaumont. Although the Edmonton region is the youngest metropolitan area in Canada, its population is aging. To achieve sustainable growth, it must continue to attract and retain residents. Therefore, to prepare for the future, the region must plan now for housing, transit, amenities and infrastructure in appropriate locations.

The Growth Plan's policies focus on developing complete communities throughout the region. Complete communities are those that meet residents' daily needs by providing convenient access to a wide range of housing and transportation choices, local services, jobs, and community infrastructure.

The Growth Plan also adopts the WHO's definition of age-friendly communities.



2.2 Our Beaumont: Strategic Plan 2017-2021

The Strategic Plan sets out the following vision for Beaumont in 2044:

“Together, we make life better in Beaumont. We are the community of choice for livability and economic innovation. We have a vibrant arts community, ample recreational opportunities, and a healthy environment. We are culturally diverse and celebrate our Indigenous, agricultural, and French heritage.”

Several strategic pillars within the plan support—and can be supported by—planning for an age-friendly community. These include:

- Livability;
- Connecting with Citizens;
- Good Governance, Fiscal Responsibility and Efficient Use of Tax Dollars;
- Regional Collaboration and Leadership; and
- Economic Prosperity.



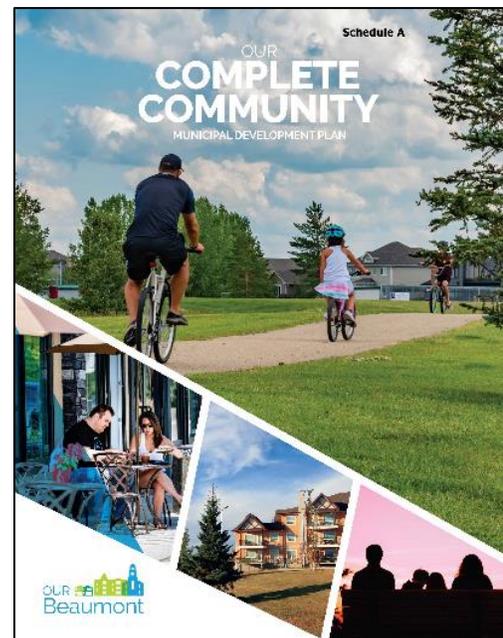
Beaumont’s directional plans, which contain specific policy directions that can foster an age-friendly community, are intended to help meet the strategic plan goals. Relevant policies from these plans are discussed in the sections that follow.

2.3 Our Complete Community: Municipal Development Plan (2019)

The Municipal Development Plan provides policy direction for Beaumont’s growth over the next 30 years. Its policies are divided into the following six policy theme areas, several of which are relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- Healthy Vibrant Community;
- Responsible Development;
- Economic Strength;
- Effective Movement of People and Goods;
- Environmental Stewardship;
- Safety and Emergency Management; and
- Working Together.

Policies in support of these theme areas and goals focus on promoting a variety of housing options; incorporating age-friendly design in public facilities and transportation systems; providing community programs, facilities, and open spaces



that serve all ages; and encouraging business development. Additionally, the development of an Aging in Place Strategy is included as an action item for the implementation of the MDP.

Many of these Municipal Development Plan policies are implemented at the neighbourhood level through Area Structure Plans, Area Redevelopment Plans and Outline Plans. These types of plans provide guidance regarding land use, servicing, and development phasing for a specific neighbourhood, and may include policies regarding residential types and densities, the transportation system, and the built environment that can support age-friendly objectives.

2.4 Our Inclusivity: Social Master Plan (2019)

The Social Master Plan provides direction for the social supports and services to be provided in Beaumont over the next 10 years. Its vision is to enhance the well-being of Beaumont residents through compassion, inclusion, and resiliency.

The Social Master Plan uses a social determinants of health approach, informed by the WHO and Government of Canada frameworks, that overlaps considerably with age-friendly community dimensions. Notably, the Physical Environments determinant includes an Aging in Place subdomain, as well as Transportation and Housing sub-domains.

Engagement with older people as part of the Social Master Plan identified the following major factors in a good quality of life:

- ability to live independently with appropriate housing and affordable standards of living,
- having access to good physical and mental health care, and
- opportunities for social interaction.

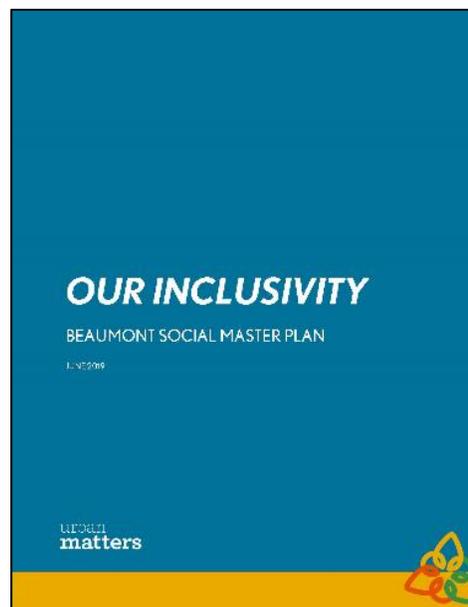
This engagement also identified the following priorities for improving their quality of life:

- suitable, affordable, and accessible housing,
- having tax breaks or financial assistance to access services, and
- transportation access.

The Social Master Plan includes a Responsibility Matrix that identifies that the City has important responsibilities in areas related to age-friendly communities, notably:

- Primary legislative responsibility for affordable housing policy development; and
- Primary implementation responsibility for providing services and activities for older people.

Finally, the Social Master Plan includes an action plan that sets goals within each determinant of health and identifies actions to be taken to meet them. These goals align with other City planning initiatives, and include:



- Encouraging developments, urban design requirements, programs, and services that support aging in place;
- Incorporating universally accessible design, barrier-free, and age-friendly design when considering housing, transportation networks and access, outdoor spaces, buildings, and other amenities;
- Providing a choice of housing and tenure options to meet the needs of a multi-generational community, and increasing housing options for older people;
- Encouraging an environment of life-long learning;
- Increasing community connectedness and reducing isolation; and
- Promoting health and resilience among residents of all ages.

2.5 Our Places and Play: Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan (2019)

Our Places and Play provides guidance and recommendations for the development of parks and recreation facilities in Beaumont.

Guiding principles for the plan include:

- Providing equitable access to facilities, services and programs which will include a balance between access for diverse ages, cultures, and abilities; and
- Enhancing diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in all programs, facilities, and services.



2.6 Our Connectivity: Transportation Master Plan (2020)

Our Connectivity provides high-level direction for the development and maintenance of Beaumont’s transportation system. Its vision is a resilient transportation system that provides safe and inclusive options for active living and effectively connects residents, goods, and services both locally and regionally.

The plan’s design approach is to consider the needs of all modes, including active transportation, transit, and private and commercial vehicles, in the development and maintenance of all transportation facilities. The goal of this approach is to develop complete networks for all modes and provide real transportation choices for users of all ages and abilities.





3.0 Approach, Vision and Goals

3.1 Approach to Developing the Age-Friendly Strategy

The Age-Friendly Strategy draws on the WHO's Age-Friendly Cities framework and its eight community dimensions, as outlined in Section 1.2 above. It also draws on Building Age-Friendly Communities: A Guide for Local Action, an Alberta Health resource that expands on the WHO framework to provide additional guidance for municipalities. The Alberta Health guide outlines four key steps to effective planning with an age-friendly lens, which the Age-Friendly Strategy project team adapted to Beaumont's context:

1. Establish an Age-Friendly committee
2. Conduct an age-friendly assessment of the community
3. Develop and implement an action plan
4. Have a resolution passed by local government

The Age-Friendly Strategy has involved all four steps, which are described in further detail in this section.

Additionally, the strategy drew on resources developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), which support the WHO framework with additional tools for a Canadian context. These provided particular guidance for developing an effective action plan with meaningful indicators.

3.1.1 Age-Friendly Working Group

The first stage of the project was to establish a Working Group to guide the development of the strategy. Members include representatives of local community organizations that serve older people, health and social service providers, and the City of Beaumont. Working Group members attended three virtual meetings over the course of the project and worked collaboratively with the Project Team to draft a vision and goals for the strategy, identify key age-friendly needs, recommend potential actions, and review and



validate the draft strategy. Members are also identified as partners in several of the actions that were included in the final strategy. The invitation to working group members is included in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Age-Friendly Community Assessment

The second stage of the project involved identifying age-friendly strengths and needs in Beaumont. The purpose of this stage was to understand Beaumont's current age-friendly features, as well as gaps that could be addressed by the strategy. The assessment drew on a wide range of sources, which are described below.

Working Group Input

Due to its members' work with a wide cross-section of older people in Beaumont, the Age-Friendly Working Group played a key role in identifying local age-friendly needs. Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, the group met virtually throughout the project.

At its first meeting, on August 25, 2020, the Working Group focused on learning about the project and the WHO age-friendly communities framework, discussing major age-friendly needs in Beaumont, and brainstorming a draft vision and goals for the strategy.

The second meeting took place on January 20, 2021 and focused on reviewing the findings of the needs assessment and community engagement; on refining and confirming the vision, goals, and key age-friendly needs identified; and on brainstorming potential actions to include in the strategy.

Community Audit

A community walking audit of the Centre-Ville area took place on August 25, 2020, following the first Working Group meeting. Seven participants, including City staff and Working Group members, walked a 1-km route beginning at the corner of 50 Street and 50 Avenue, north along 50 Street, west along 52 Avenue, south along 55 Street, and east along 50 Avenue. Along the way, using a checklist focused on the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings and Transportation dimensions, they assessed streetscape features that were strengths or weaknesses in these areas. The audit findings are summarized in Appendix C.



Community Engagement

The Project Team also consulted the public during this stage of the project, in order to understand needs and perceptions in the wider community. A variety of opportunities and formats were offered, although participation was complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic that was occurring at the time, and that had a particular impact on older people's activities and well-being. The engagement activities are listed below and described more fully in the What We Heard Report (Appendix D).



Project Website

A dedicated page on the City's website was launched at the beginning of the first round of public engagement and maintained through the end of the strategy development process. It provided background information on the project and was maintained with regular project status updates and information on upcoming milestones and engagement events.

Community Survey

A community survey was circulated online and on paper for a three-week period in October and November 2020. The survey sought input on perceived age-friendly needs in each of the eight community dimensions, as well as on the project vision and goals. It took from 10-15 minutes to complete and received 43 responses, mainly but not exclusively from older people.

Public Online Workshop

A public online workshop was held in the evening on November 16, 2020. It was promoted through the website, the community survey, and Beaumont social media. Four participants registered and two attended. The session included a presentation by Beaumont staff about the project and the age-friendly communities framework, as well as an opportunity for participants to ask questions and discuss age-friendly needs they saw in their daily lives. The presentation portion was recorded and posted to the project website.

Focus Group and Walking Audit

A public, in-person focus group and community walking audit was scheduled for November 12, 2020, to discuss perceived needs under each community dimension. The event was cancelled due to low registration, likely due to a combination of early snow and increasing COVID-19 numbers in Beaumont at the time.

3.1.3 Development of the Strategy

The third stage of the project was to develop a strategy, including specific actions, responsibilities, and timelines, to build on the strengths and address the needs that were identified during the assessment.

Working Group Input

A third and final Working Group meeting took place on April 8, 2021 and focused on reviewing and refining the draft strategy, including the proposed priority actions and the implementation plan for each action, and on preparing for the final round of community engagement.

Community Engagement

The engagement findings are described in detail in the What We Heard Report (Appendix D). The activities offered during the second round of community engagement were again complicated by high COVID-19 case numbers and resulting public health restrictions at the time. Due to gathering limits, particularly for indoor activities, in-person consultation could not be offered.

The project website was updated to provide information on the project progress to that date. It also offered access to the full draft Age-Friendly Strategy, a brief summary document, a short introductory video, and the community survey. The engagement opportunity was advertised through social media, in



the Beaumont News, on municipal signage, through Working Group partners' communication channels, and through posters at City and Working Group partner sites.

The community survey provided an opportunity to learn about and give feedback on the priority actions that were recommended in the draft strategy. It was offered online and in paper format for a 2.5-week period, took about 10 minutes to complete, and received 61 responses. Respondents were of all ages, but mainly older people.

3.1.4 Council Resolution

The fourth and final stage of the project was to seek approval for the strategy through a City Council resolution, to formally adopt it as policy and allow it to be put into practice. Council received the Age-Friendly Strategy at its July 13, 2021 meeting. It passed Resolution 21/07/05 to adopt the strategy and confirm the City's intention to carry out the priority actions in support of Beaumont's development as an accessible and welcoming community for all ages.

3.2 Beaumont's Age-Friendly Vision

Based on discussion with the Working Group and input received during public engagement, the following statement sets out the vision for the Age-Friendly Strategy:

Beaumont is an age-friendly city where the well-being and full inclusion of older people supports an accessible, healthy and vibrant community for everyone.

3.3 Beaumont's Age-Friendly Goals

To achieve our age-friendly vision, the City and its partners will:

1. Design and develop inclusive neighbourhoods, buildings, and public places.
2. Promote a full range of housing options, including diverse sizes, types, tenures, and delivery models.
3. Implement safe, flexible, and reliable transportation for local and regional trips.
4. Offer programs and services that support older people's independence, health, and wellness.
5. Facilitate opportunities for volunteerism, employment, and community engagement.
6. Provide equitable access to a range of recreation and social participation opportunities.
7. Ensure information on events, programs, and services is communicated in a variety of ways and formats.
8. Include affordability, accessibility, and innovation as central decision-making factors for age-friendly initiatives.

These goals were used to guide the development of the actions identified in the Age-Friendly Strategy. In turn, the actions are intended to support achieving the goals.





4.0 Age-Friendly Strategy

The Age-Friendly Strategy uses the framework set out in the WHO's Age-Friendly Cities Guide. It is organized according to the eight dimensions of age-friendly communities that were described in Section 1.2 of this document: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Communication and Information; Civic Participation and Employment; and Community Support and Health Services.

The strategy is presented in the following format for each dimension:

Existing Community Strengths and Resources: A summary of the major features, programs, and services currently available for older people in Beaumont. These are listed to provide context for the subsequent challenges and actions, but also to promote the implementation of the strategy by increasing readers' awareness of existing age-friendly resources.

Current Challenges: A summary of common issues and concerns identified through the needs assessment.

Priority Actions: Suggested initiatives to address the challenges and make Beaumont a more age-friendly city. The actions that are listed were chosen because they are feasible for the City to do, directly address at least one identified challenge, and are likely to have a meaningful impact. To help focus the City's efforts during the strategy's initial five-year implementation period, the number of priority actions has been intentionally limited. However, some appear under more than one dimension as they can help address more than one challenge.

To identify the strengths, opportunities, and priority actions, the Project Team used the WHO's checklists for each dimension, as well as input from the Working Group and public engagement activities as described in Section 3.1.2 of this document.



An implementation plan to carry out the strategy, including required resources, timelines, and indicators of success, is set out in Section 5.0 of this document.

4.1 Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

This dimension considers the design and condition of the physical environment, including public buildings, sidewalks, and parks. Safe, accessible, and well-maintained public spaces and buildings support residents' health, independence, and quality of life. They make it easier for people of all ages and abilities to move freely around the community to access services and take part in activities.



Key questions during the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Are public buildings accessible, with features such as ramps and automatic doors?
- Are parks and public areas well-maintained and well-lit, with ample shade, shelter, and seating?
- Are there enough public washrooms?
- Is public signage easy to read?

4.1.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- Many public and community buildings, including the Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre (BSRC), the Beaumont 50+ Club, the Centre Communautaire de Beaumont Community Centre (CCBCC), City Hall, and the Beaumont Library, include accessibility features such as automatic doors, ramps, and accessible washrooms.
- The Beaumont Urban Design Guidelines (BUDG) provide guidance on pedestrian-friendly design for developers of public and civic buildings.
- Parks and public areas are generally clean and well-maintained.
- Seasonal public washrooms are provided at several City sports fields.
- A City forest canopy study is planned for 2021, which will identify areas where additional park and street trees may be needed and support future improvements.
- A major rehabilitation project in Four Seasons Park in 2021 will widen and improve drainage on existing trails, as well as add new trail connections to nearby neighbourhoods.
- A risk assessment of City parks and trails is planned for 2022, which will support recommendations for improvements to lighting and other safety features.
- A pedestrian-friendly streetscape in Centre-Ville features wide sidewalks, shade trees, and ample seating.

4.1.2 Current Challenges

- Residents highlighted that not all businesses in the City are fully accessible. Common barriers include a lack of railings and automatic doors, and the presence of steps at entrances.
- Residents indicated that walkways in commercial developments are not always accessible and well-connected.
- More benches are desired in City parks, along trails, and in public and commercial areas, to make these areas easier and more comfortable for people with mobility limitations to access on foot.



- More public washrooms are desired in City park spaces and public areas, and these facilities should be fully accessible.
- More lighting and shade is desired in City parks, along trails, and in pedestrian areas, to make these areas safer and more comfortable to use.

4.1.3 Priority Actions

- Develop a program to support local businesses in becoming more age-friendly, including accessibility resources and a recognition program.
- Incorporate age-friendly and accessibility considerations into the next review and update of the Beaumont Urban Design Guidelines and the General Design Standards.
- Incorporate age-friendly and accessibility considerations into new development and infrastructure guidelines, standards, and programs.
- Facilitate the distribution of the Walking Audit checklist for use by interested residents and community groups, to help identify areas where walkability could be improved.
- Develop and implement wayfinding standards for city parks and trails, as well as for the downtown area. Consider including elements such as distance markers, maps, major community destinations, and public washrooms.
- Establish a bench and shade tree dedication program.

4.2 Transportation

This dimension considers the availability, accessibility and affordability of a range of transportation options. Transportation has a major impact on older people's ability to access daily needs and services, and to take part in community life. Improvements under this dimension, therefore, can help support improvements in other areas.



Key questions during the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Are there enough affordable, accessible transportation options for those who do not drive?
- Are there enough safe, accessible parking spaces and drop-off areas?
- Are crosswalks safely designed and provided where they are needed?
- Are sidewalks and walkways provided where they are needed, and are they well-maintained year-round?

4.2.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- The Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan contain strong policy direction and implementation actions that focus on developing complete streets and using "8-80" and pedestrian-prioritized design approaches. These policies support the development of a more age-friendly transportation system as new transportation facilities are built and older ones are renewed.



- The Intersection Management Guidelines, developed in 2020, provide a framework of best practices for evaluating and addressing transportation infrastructure issues as they arise. Six intersections in the City are to be evaluated in 2021.
- Beaumont has an extensive network of well-connected trails that are convenient to use for transportation and recreation.
- Crosswalks in Beaumont are generally highly visible and provided where they are needed.
- Beaumont has a well-developed road network and ample on- and off-street parking.
- Before the pandemic, Beaumont Transit offered a direct connection between the Ken Nichol Regional Recreation Centre and Century Park LRT Station in Edmonton at peak periods. Transit service, potentially including an on-demand option, is expected to resume once the public health situation improves.
- Beaumont is a founding member of the Edmonton Metropolitan Transit Services Commission, which is expected to take over transit service provision for Beaumont in 2022.
- Before the pandemic, the Beaumont 50+ club offered a local van transportation service and may resume it once the public health situation improves.
- Drive Happiness, a non-profit organization offering low-cost transportation to seniors (65+) with income and mobility limitations, serves Beaumont.

4.2.2 Current Challenges

- Affordable, accessible, and convenient local vehicle transportation options for non-drivers (e.g., transit, taxi, community bus) are extremely limited. This acts as a barrier to accessing programs, services and activities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic forced the suspension of Beaumont transit and other shared transportation services and may result in longer-term ridership drops due to public hesitation about shared transportation.
- Concerns about snow clearing from pedestrian facilities are common. Residents indicated that while City trails and commercial walkways are fairly well maintained, sidewalk clearing is inconsistent and is a major safety hazard in winter. Some older people living in detached homes also have difficulty clearing their sidewalks.
- Residents expressed concerns about cracked sidewalks in the Centre-Ville area and flooded walkways in Four Seasons Park that were not repaired in a timely manner.
- There may be a need for better wayfinding and other signage along pathways and cycling routes.
- Signal timing at some intersections along 50 Street does not always provide enough time for people with mobility limitations to cross the main road safely.

4.2.3 Priority Actions

- Implement the transportation recommendations in the Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan, including the development of Complete Streets guidelines and implementation of intersection management guidelines.
- Ensure that data collection and service planning for the City's on-demand transit pilot project explore and address the specific transportation needs of various demographic groups, including older people.



- Work with community organizations to implement a snow-clearing program (such as a “snow angels” program) to connect residents who need help with snow clearing with those who can provide this service.
- Facilitate the distribution of the Walking Audit checklist for use by interested residents and community groups, to help identify areas where walkability could be improved.
- Develop and implement wayfinding standards for city parks and trails, as well as for the downtown area. Consider including elements such as distance markers, maps, major community destinations, and public washrooms.

4.3 Housing

This dimension considers the design, location, and affordability of a range of housing options. Access to appropriate housing is critical to residents’ well-being. As people’s housing needs can change over time, it is important that a range of housing choices and support services be available, to allow people to live independently for as long as they wish and to “age in place” in the community they call home.



Key questions in the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Are there enough different housing sizes and types available to meet different needs and preferences, and are they affordable?
- Are home support, maintenance and renovation services affordable and easy to access?

4.3.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- The Place Beauséjour Life Lease Society offers 97 life-lease independent living units for adults aged 55+.
- The Leduc Regional Housing Foundation operates 12 units of seniors’ (generally 65+) rent-g geared-to-income housing at Manoir Beauregard, as well as 35 below-market rental units open to all ages at Villa Beauregard.
- Chateau Vitaline, operated by Covenant Care, offers 46 supportive living units and 3 lodge units.
- Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) offers a subsidized Outreach Home Support light housekeeping service to eligible low- and moderate-income seniors.
- The Municipal Development Plan includes policies requiring new neighbourhoods to include a diverse mix of housing options and consider universally accessible design.
- The City’s fast-growing new residential developments include additional apartment-style rental and condominium units recently built or under construction, as well as a range of townhomes and detached homes.
- The City’s 2019 Land Use Bylaw generally permits smaller-scale housing types such as garage suites and basement suites in all neighbourhoods, which is expected to increase the supply of this type of housing.



- The City is preparing an Affordable Housing Strategy to identify how it can best support the development of housing that meets the needs of diverse residents.

4.3.1 Current Challenges

- There is still a lack of accessible, affordable options that meet the needs of people with limited mobility and/or income.
- Many residents do not know how to access—or have difficulty finding local providers for—home support, maintenance, and renovation services that can help older people continue to live independently.
- Some residents are concerned that there are not enough assisted living options available locally.

4.3.3 Priority Actions

- Incorporate an age-friendly perspective in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Affordable Housing Strategy.
- Ensure the Older Adult Service Directory includes up-to-date information on housing support programs and grants.

4.4 Social Participation

This dimension considers the opportunity to participate in social, cultural and recreational activities of choice. Social engagement benefits both individuals and the community at large, by allowing people to exercise competence and enjoy respect and supportive relationships. These factors, in turn, are important for fostering health and wellbeing at all stages of life.



Key questions in the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Do the City and community organizations offer a good number and variety of recreational activities of interest to older people with diverse interests and abilities?
- Are recreational activities affordable?

4.4.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- The Beaumont 50+ Club offers a range of affordable social and recreational activities, oriented towards older people, at its downtown facility.
- The Recreation and Culture division offers a wide range of recreation and fitness programs, including some geared specifically to older people. Local recreation facilities include the Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre, the Ken Nichol Regional Recreation Centre, the Centre Communautaire de Beaumont Community Centre, and various parks and outdoor rinks.
- The Recreation and Culture division provides a variety of low-cost or discounted recreation opportunities, including free public skating times sponsored by local businesses, and free and/or discounted access to the Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre for older people. The City's Recreation Inclusion Program also offers a subsidy for residents who show proof of lower income, and can support residents' applications to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program.



- The Beaumont Library offers a range of programs and activities, many of which are oriented towards older people.
- A wide range of athletic, recreational, social, service, and faith-based Community Volunteer Organizations operate in Beaumont and receive resources and support from the City.⁵ Some of these offer free or low-cost activities and programming. Many of them are promoted at regular Community Awareness nights and information events hosted by the City and the Library.
- Our Places & Play, the City's Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan, sets out a strategy for maintaining and developing comprehensive, inclusive recreation offerings in Beaumont.

4.4.2 Current Challenges

- There is a need for more effective promotion and advertising of social events and activities.
- There may be a greater need for subsidized, sliding-scale, or free activities to allow older people with low incomes to participate.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of virtually all public social activities since March 2020. Many older people and residents in general have lost social connection opportunities that are important for maintaining their health.

4.4.3 Priority Actions

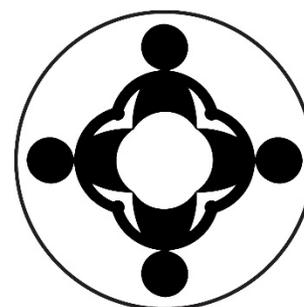
- Develop a more extensive and easy-to-find page on the City website with resources of interest to older people.
- Increase the involvement of older people and organizations that serve them in Beaumont's Community Awareness events.
- Hold an event aimed at older people in partnership with local organizations that serve them, potentially as part of events to mark Alberta Seniors' Week.
- Offer additional sponsored access to City facilities, including the BSRC field house and gymnasium, and drop-in programs.

4.5 Respect and Social Inclusion

This dimension considers the attitudes and behaviour of the wider community towards older people. Fostering awareness and inclusion of the needs and contributions of older people in the community can help them be treated with greater understanding, reduce their isolation, and improve their well-being.

Key questions in the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Is there enough outreach to socially isolated individuals?
- Are customer service staff aware of the needs of older individuals?
- Are there enough opportunities for different generations to interact?
- Is there enough recognition for volunteers?



⁵ As of this writing, a listing of these organizations is provided on the Community Programs page of the City's website.



4.5.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- Many local businesses and service providers have demonstrated flexibility in meeting the needs of older clients, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Social Master Plan includes action items related to aging in place and commits the City to working towards respectful and inclusive services across all departments.
- FCSS awards the annual Philip Ki Joon Oh Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year awards to recognize community service.
- FCSS has launched an ongoing “Action for Happiness” campaign to promote mental health and social connection in the community.
- FCSS and the Beaumont Library often offer programs with an intergenerational component, such as youth book club visits to Chateau Vitaline, or the Cyber Seniors program that connects older people to young people to learn technology skills.
- Our Places & Play, the City’s Recreation, Parks, and Facilities Master Plan, sets out a strategy for maintaining and developing comprehensive, inclusive recreation offerings in Beaumont.
- Cycling Without Age, a non-profit organization that promotes intergenerational relationships through rides on a specialized accessible bicycle, has an active chapter in Beaumont.
- The City is currently in negotiations to host an ultra high speed broadband network that would connect all homes and businesses in the community, and that could provide a variety of opportunities to offer more equitable access to information technology.

4.5.2 Current Challenges

- Many older people and youth, depending on their circumstances and social circles, have limited opportunity for intergenerational interaction.
- It can be challenging for newcomers to a community to develop a network of social contacts and relationships.
- There may be a need to connect more effectively to Beaumont residents at risk of social isolation.

4.5.3 Priority Actions

- Implement the recommendations of the Social Master Plan, particularly as they relate to offering inclusive services across all City departments.
- Incorporate ‘ambassadors’—residents comfortable welcoming and drawing in new people—either as a standalone program or as an element of City events and activities.
- Hold an event aimed at older people in partnership with local organizations that serve them, potentially as part of events to mark Alberta Seniors’ Week.
- Create a volunteer coordinator role, potentially within a new City staff position arising from the recommendations of Our Places & Play. This role could include responsibilities such as
 - linking prospective volunteers with opportunities,
 - helping community organizations navigate City processes,
 - coordinating community organizations for event and/or program development,
 - coordinating City departments in their response to and support of community organizations, and
 - building capacity among community organizations.



4.6 Civic Participation and Employment

This dimension considers the opportunity to take part in citizenship and economic activities, including governance, paid employment, and volunteerism. Individuals and the community can benefit from the wealth of skills, experience, and knowledge that older residents have gained over time. Barriers to civic participation and employment should be minimized so residents have the opportunity to use their skills in paid or voluntary work for as long as they would like to do so.



Key questions in the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Do local boards and committees include people of diverse ages, genders, and backgrounds?
- Are volunteers—and volunteer opportunities—easy to find?
- Are employers aware of the value older people can offer?

4.6.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- The wide range of local businesses in Beaumont may offer employment opportunities of interest to local residents.
- The City sponsors several boards and committees to advise and make decisions on various aspects of community life. Residents are welcome and encouraged to apply.
- The City supports community organizations in several ways, including:
 - the Community Grant Program,
 - reduced fees for some facility rentals,
 - streamlined processes for some facility rentals, and
 - access to resources and supplies.
- There are opportunities to volunteer with the Library, the City's Recreation and Culture division, and a variety of Community Volunteer Organizations in Beaumont. Many of these are promoted at regular Community Awareness nights and information events hosted by the City and the Library.
- Our Places & Play, the City's Recreation, Parks, and Facilities Master Plan, sets out a strategy for maintaining and developing comprehensive, inclusive civic engagement opportunities in Beaumont.

4.6.2 Current Challenges

- Both volunteers and community organizations have indicated that it is hard to link volunteers to opportunities in Beaumont.
- As in many communities, people with disabilities have indicated there are barriers to employment in Beaumont.

4.6.3 Priority Actions

- Increase the involvement of older people and organizations that serve them in Beaumont's Community Awareness events.



- Create a volunteer coordinator role, potentially within a new City staff position arising from the recommendations of Our Places & Play. This role could include responsibilities such as
 - linking prospective volunteers with opportunities,
 - helping community organizations navigate City processes,
 - coordinating community organizations for event and/or program development,
 - coordinating City departments in their response to and support of community organizations, and
 - building capacity among community organizations.
- Develop a program to support local businesses in becoming more age-friendly, including accessibility resources and a recognition program.

4.7 Communication and Information

This dimension considers the ability for older people (and their families and caregivers, if applicable) to access clear and relevant information about all community dimensions. Information is critical for ensuring older residents can access services and maintain their health, independence, quality of life, and community connections. As with transportation, improvements under this dimension can help support improvements in other areas.



Key questions in the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Is information on local events and services easy to find in a variety of formats?
- Is written communication easy to read?
- Is internet access affordable?
- Is there enough access to computer and literacy programs?
- Are accessible formats available when needed?

4.7.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- The Beaumont News offers local event coverage and advertising opportunities.
- In May 2021, FCSS published an Older Adult Service Directory offering information on local programs, services and resources relevant to older people. This resource is available online and as a paper booklet.
- A wide range of City-run and community-based social media pages and print or electronic newsletters help local information circulate to residents.
- A City electronic bulletin board at 50 Street and Township Road 510, as well as community bulletin boards at the Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre and the Ken Nichol Regional Recreation Centre, provide local information offline.
- The Beaumont Library offers free computer access and technology programs geared towards older people. It also lends Chromebooks in partnership with FCSS.
- The Beaumont 50+ Club has developed computer literacy programs to offer to its members.



- The City is currently in negotiations to host an ultra high speed broadband network that would connect all homes and businesses in the community, and that could provide a variety of opportunities to offer more equitable access to information technology.

4.7.2 Current Challenges

- Residents indicated that they often don't get information in a timely manner and only find out about events after the fact.
- There is a wide range of Internet access and computer literacy levels among older people, so an equally wide range of communication channels must be used.
- Approaches to communication are evolving quickly, and some existing methods preferred by many older people (e.g., print) are being used less often. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has made in-person, non-digital communication opportunities less frequent, which may have had a disproportionate impact on older people.

4.7.3 Priority Actions

- Develop a more extensive and easy-to-find page on the City website with resources of interest to older people.
- Create internal guidelines for preparing accessible print materials, including posters, advertisements, reports, and other public documents.
- Hold a focus group with older people to explore preferred communication formats and channels, potentially including partnerships with local community organizations, a formal opt-in phone notification program, or additional web accessibility tools.
- Hold an event aimed at older people in partnership with local organizations that serve them, potentially as part of events to mark Alberta Seniors' Week.
- Develop and distribute a newcomers' guide for Beaumont.
- Update and promote the Older Adult Service Directory on a regular basis, online and in paper format.

4.8 Community Supports and Health Services

This dimension considers the ability to access high-quality, affordable health care and community services. Access to appropriate medical and support services within the community can help older residents maintain their health and independence and “age in place” in their communities for as long as they would like to.



Key questions in the needs assessment for this dimension included:

- Is preventive and primary health care (e.g. family doctor, dentist) easy to access locally?
- Are there enough health promotion and education programs?
- Are delivery services for needs such as groceries and medication easy to access?
- Are there enough affordable meal options?



4.8.1 Existing Community Strengths and Resources

- A variety of health services are offered locally through Alberta Health; the Leduc-Beaumont-Devon Primary Care Network; and private doctors', dentists', and other specialists' offices.
- FCSS offers a variety of support programs to residents experiencing financial, health, and other needs. The FCSS team includes a Community Development Coordinator specifically focused on older people, who can also advise other departments on age-friendly initiatives.
- FCSS coordinates regular meetings of the Beaumont Interagency Group (BIG), which includes health and community service providers active in Beaumont. It acts as a forum for sharing information and ideas and coordinating advocacy and action.
- The Beaumont Library periodically hosts information events that promote community and health services available in Beaumont.
- Heart to Home, a meal service geared towards older people, delivers to Beaumont.
- A volunteer-run Karma Pantry at 50 Street and 52 Avenue, which allows anyone to take or donate pantry and hygiene staples, is well-used and has potential to expand.
- In February 2021, the City allocated \$35,000 in shared grant funding to non-profit organizations serving Beaumont for projects that help these organizations meet community needs associated with COVID-19.

4.8.2 Current Challenges

- Residents indicated it is difficult to access doctors in Beaumont, although the recent opening of two new clinics may help to address this need.
- Transportation, information, and costs are barriers for many residents in accessing health services.
- Many residents are not aware of how to access delivery services locally, or cannot afford the extra costs.
- Some Beaumont residents, including older people, cannot always afford nutritious food.
- Some Beaumont residents, including older people, feel uncomfortable if they need (or do not know how) to reach out for assistance.
- The local need for support services, notably for mental health, has increased during COVID-19.

4.8.3 Priority Actions

- Hold an event aimed at older people in partnership with local organizations that serve them, potentially as part of events to mark Alberta Seniors' Week.
- Develop a more extensive and easy-to-find page on the City website with resources of interest to older people.
- Develop and distribute a newcomers' guide for Beaumont.
- Update and promote the Older Adult Service Directory on a regular basis, online and in paper format.
- Establish a satellite location of the Leduc Food Bank in Beaumont.
- In City communications campaigns, particularly for FCSS, include messaging that normalizes reaching out for assistance and encourages residents to access City support services when needed.



4.9 Overall Priority Actions

As documented under each community dimension above, Beaumont benefits from a wide range of existing community strengths and resources. Supporting and maintaining these initiatives will help the City continue to become more age-friendly. Additionally, Beaumont and the world beyond are constantly changing in ways that can be hard to foresee. Encouraging City staff and partners to view change with an age-friendly perspective can help identify and seize new opportunities for action, beyond those identified above.

Therefore, the following two priority actions are also included in the strategy to provide general support for age-friendly action in all community dimensions:

- Maintain and improve upon existing community strengths and continue to support age-friendly outcomes.
- Adopt an age-friendly perspective throughout City planning, programming, operations and other initiatives.

An implementation strategy for the priority actions is set out in Section 5.0 that follows.





5.0 Implementation

The Age-Friendly Strategy identifies a wide range of existing community strengths and resources. These are listed in Section 4 above to provide context for the strategy, but also to promote awareness among Beaumont residents who may not previously have known about them. In this way, the Age-Friendly Strategy document itself can provide information to support the strategy's broader goals.

The strategy also identifies 25 priority actions for improvement, including some that apply an age-friendly perspective to an existing initiative in response to an age-friendly need. The actions were chosen because they are feasible for the City to do, directly address one or more identified challenges, and are likely to have a meaningful impact. The number of specific actions is intentionally limited, to ensure the City can properly focus on them during the strategy's initial five-year implementation period.

The priority actions have been organized into an implementation plan that sets out how they can be carried out. The implementation plan is set out in the table below. For each priority action, the table provides the following information:

- **Dimensions:** the community dimensions supported by the action;
- **Timing:** when the action should take place;
- **Action Lead:** which City department will be responsible for taking the action;
- **Potential Partners:** who the action lead should work with; and
- **Outcome:** the intended effect of the action
- **Success Indicator:** how the action lead and partners will know they are making progress toward the outcome.

Actions identified as “short term” are intended for implementation within 1 to 2 years and “medium term” actions between 3 and 5 years, prior to the strategy's planned five-year update. Actions listed as



“ongoing” will be most effective if they are undertaken regularly from the beginning of the implementation period.

Success indicators were reviewed against the WHO and PHAC guides discussed in Section 3.1 and are intended to be measurable by the City, and to provide meaningful information on progress. Some indicators measure the output of an action (i.e., the report, program or infrastructure actually created) to identify how well it was completed. Others measure progress towards the broader outcomes that are intended to result. The recommended indicators include existing external data where available, to allow for easier collection and comparison; however, because most relevant public health survey data is not available at a scale as small as Beaumont, local surveys or event/program feedback forms using similar questions may need to be conducted to support evaluation. Wherever possible, programs and events that respond to this strategy and are oriented towards older people should include an opportunity for participant feedback.

It is intended that the City, led by the Long Range Planning team, will use the success indicators to review the progress of this implementation plan every 1-2 years, beginning in early 2023. Each review will offer an opportunity for engagement with community stakeholders. They will allow staff, Council and the community to see which actions have been taken, which goals have been achieved, and whether there should be any changes to the plan in light of community priorities and available resources. Notably, as the longer-term implications of the COVID-19 pandemic become more apparent, the timing of priority actions may change or new priority actions may be identified.

This implementation plan provides a framework to guide future, more detailed decision-making and planning within the City government and its partners. It is also intended to inform other municipal plans, policies, and decisions from an early stage. Finally, it offers an opportunity for Age-Friendly Working Group members and other community and institutional partners to keep working together to champion age-friendly initiatives in Beaumont. Implementation cannot succeed without the active participation of community organizations and partners, and will require a high level of outreach and collaboration.



Implementation Strategy by Priority Action

No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
1	Maintain and improve upon existing community strengths and continue to support age-friendly outcomes.	All	Ongoing	City departments Community organizations	Number of existing community strengths maintained or expanded; Proportion of community members, especially older people, reporting a high quality of life
2	Adopt an age-friendly perspective throughout City planning, programming, operations, and other initiatives.	All	Ongoing	Planning & Development, FCSS Other City departments, community organizations	Number of internal communications or education sessions incorporating or highlighting an age-friendly perspective; Proportion of community members, especially older people, reporting a high quality of life
3	Incorporate age-friendly and accessibility considerations into new development and infrastructure guidelines, standards, and programs.		Ongoing	Planning & Development Operations	Number of revisions to standards and guidelines that address age-friendly issues; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas



Outdoor Spaces and Buildings



Transportation



Housing



Social Participation



Respect and Social Inclusion



Civic Participation and Employment



Communication and Information



Community Supports and Health Services



No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
4	Facilitate the distribution of the Walking Audit checklist for use by interested residents and community groups, to help identify areas where walkability could be improved.		Ongoing	Planning & Development Operations	Number of checklists distributed and/or completed; Number of residents engaged through the checklist; Increase in submissions to Service Beaumont portal; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas
5	Incorporate an age-friendly perspective in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Affordable Housing Strategy.		Ongoing	Planning & Development FCSS, Economic Development, Leduc Regional Housing Foundation	Presence of recommendations responding to key housing needs of older people; Number of strategy recommendations implemented, as identified during regular plan reviews; Number and proportion of seniors in core housing need
6	Offer additional sponsored access to City facilities, including the BSRC field house and gymnasium, and drop-in programs.		Ongoing	Community Services Economic Development, Library, FCSS, local businesses	Number of additional opportunities sponsored; Number of additional participants in these opportunities; Proportion of participants providing positive feedback on session/program evaluations



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No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
7	Implement the recommendations of the Social Master Plan, particularly as they relate to offering inclusive services across all City departments.		Ongoing	FCSS All departments, Beaumont Interagency Group, community organizations	Number of recommendations implemented, as identified during regular plan reviews; Other indicators and measures as identified through Social Master Plan evaluation
8	Incorporate ‘ambassadors’—residents comfortable welcoming and drawing in new people—either as a standalone program or as an element of City events and activities		Ongoing	Community Services (potential new volunteer coordinator) FCSS, Library, community organizations	Number of ambassadors identified; Number of contacts made with newcomers
9	Update and promote the Older Adult Service Directory on a regular basis, online and in paper format.	  	Ongoing	FCSS Community Services, Library, community organizations	Number of updates completed Number of website hits and paper copies distributed; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information
10	In City communications campaigns, particularly for FCSS, include messaging that normalizes reaching out for assistance and encourages residents to access City support services when needed.		Ongoing	Communications & Marketing FCSS	Number of communications initiatives that include this messaging; Proportion of residents reporting an awareness of what FCSS is and how to access its services



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No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
11	Develop a program to support local businesses in becoming more age-friendly, including accessibility resources and a recognition program.	 	Short term	Economic Development Planning & Development, Communications & Marketing	Number of participating businesses; Proportion of participants (businesses and clients) providing positive feedback on program evaluations
12	Ensure that data collection and service planning for the City's on-demand transit pilot project explore and address the specific transportation needs of various demographic groups, including older people.		Short term	Operations FCSS; existing transportation providers; community organizations	Number of seniors and older people using transit and/or community transportation services (when available); Proportion of residents (including seniors and other priority groups) who report having adequate access to transportation
13	Work with community organizations to implement a snow-clearing program (such as a "snow angels" program) to connect residents who need help with snow clearing with those who can provide this service.		Short term	Operations Community Services (potential future volunteer coordinator), community organizations	Number of residents served by the program; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas; Reduction in service requests or complaints regarding snow clearing
14	Develop a more extensive and easy-to-find page on the City website with resources of interest to older people.	  	Short term	FCSS Communications & Marketing	Number of hits on this webpage; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information



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No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
15	Increase the involvement of older people and organizations that serve them in Beaumont’s Community Awareness events.	 	Short term	Community Services Library, community organizations	Number of new organizations that serve older people participating in Community Awareness events; Proportion of participants providing positive feedback on session/program evaluations; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information
16	Hold an event aimed at older people in partnership with local organizations that serve them, potentially as part of events to mark Alberta Seniors’ Week.	   	Short term	Library FCSS, Community Services, Planning & Development, community organizations, local businesses	Number of participants at event; Proportion of participants providing positive feedback on session/program evaluations; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information
17	Create internal guidelines for preparing accessible print materials, including posters, advertisements, reports, and other public documents.		Short term	Communications & Marketing FCSS, Community Services, Planning & Development, Library, Economic Development, Legislative Services, Operations	Proportion of materials that meet usability/readability guidelines; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information



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No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
18	Hold a focus group with older people to explore preferred City communication formats and channels, potentially including partnerships with local community organizations, a formal opt-in phone notification program, or additional web accessibility tools.		Short term	Communications & Marketing Community Services, FCSS, Library, Operations (IT), Planning & Development, Economic Development, Legislative Services, community organizations, local residents	Number of new communication strategies identified and implemented; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information
19	Develop and distribute a newcomers' guide for Beaumont.	 	Short term	FCSS Community Services, Economic Development	Number of website hits and paper copies distributed; Proportion of older people reporting good access to local information
20	Incorporate age-friendly and accessibility considerations into the next review and update of the Beaumont Urban Design Guidelines and the General Design Standards.		Medium term	Planning & Development Operations	Number of age-friendly elements included in each approved development; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas
21	Establish a bench and shade tree dedication program.		Medium term	Operations Community Services, Communications & Marketing, Economic Development, local residents and businesses	Number of new benches and shade trees in City parks and trails; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas



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No.	Action	Dimension	Timing	Action Lead and Partners	Success Indicator(s)
22	Implement the transportation recommendations in the Municipal Development Plan and Transportation Master Plan, including the development of Complete Streets guidelines and implementation of intersection management guidelines.		Medium term	Planning & Development Operations	Number of TMP recommendations implemented, as identified during regular plan reviews; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas; Number or proportion of residents who use City trails
23	Develop and implement wayfinding standards for city parks and trails, as well as for the downtown area.	 	Medium term	Operations Communications & Marketing	Number of maps or guideposts installed; Number or examples of walkability improvements to City streets and public areas; Number or proportion of residents using City trails
24	Create a volunteer coordinator role as part of a City staff position.	 	Medium term	Community Services FCSS, Library, community organizations	Number of community organizations or initiatives supported; Number of volunteers referred
25	Establish a satellite location of the Leduc Food Bank in Beaumont.		Medium term	FCSS Leduc Food Bank	Number of Beaumont residents accessing services at new Food Bank location



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6.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

During the development of the Age-Friendly Strategy, community members were invited to look at Beaumont and its potential from an age-friendly perspective. The engagement process helped identify a wide range of existing age-friendly assets, but also opportunities for improvement. The Age-Friendly Strategy and implementation plan set out a road map for addressing these opportunities and making Beaumont a more welcoming, accessible, and livable community for older people. The benefits of doing so will extend to residents of all ages and abilities.

For the strategy's vision to become a reality, the City and its residents, businesses, institutions, and community organizations must commit to viewing and addressing issues through an age-friendly lens. Everyone in Beaumont can play a role in creating a more age-friendly community, and even small initiatives and actions can have an impact.

Having completed its Age-Friendly Strategy, Beaumont can also apply to join the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (<https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/membership>). By becoming a member of this network, the City will be able to reach a global network of experts on aging, stay up to date regarding development and best practices in age-friendly community planning, and share its progress with other member communities worldwide.



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Appendices

Appendix A - Regional and Municipal Policies

The City of Beaumont's activities and development are guided by a variety of planning documents, which together provide direction and a framework for this Age-Friendly Strategy. Key statements and policies from each document are detailed below.

Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan (2017)

The Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan sets out a 30-year framework for population, employment and land use growth in Edmonton and surrounding municipalities, including Beaumont. Although the Edmonton region is the youngest metropolitan area in Canada, its population is aging. To achieve sustainable growth, it must continue to attract and retain residents. Therefore, to prepare for the future, the region must plan now for housing, transit, amenities and infrastructure in appropriate locations (Growth Plan, Section 2.4). The Growth Plan focuses on developing complete communities, which meet residents' daily needs by providing convenient access to a wide range of housing and transportation choices, local services, jobs, and community infrastructure. It also adopts the WHO's definition of age-friendly communities.

In support of this policy direction, Objective 3.1 of the Growth Plan is to plan and develop complete communities within each community type to accommodate people's daily needs for living at all ages. Specifically, new developments in the metropolitan area, which includes Beaumont, are to be planned and developed as complete communities that:

- a. are compact, contiguous, and incorporate a mix of uses;
- b. are accessible and age-friendly;
- c. provide a diversity of housing options in terms of density and built form;
- d. achieve the minimum greenfield density;
- e. incorporate an interconnected street network and urban form to support active transportation;
- f. integrate local services, amenities, institutional and commercial uses with residential development, within buildings and/or within a five-minute walk (400 metres);
- g. incorporate higher density uses along existing and planned transit corridors and at major transit stations; and
- h. provide high quality parks, trails and open spaces. (Policy 3.1.4)

The Growth Plan also notes that there is a housing supply mismatch in the region; that is, the housing that is available does not always match household needs. This gap is expected to become more pressing as the population ages and grows more diverse. The Growth Plan notes that offering a wide range of housing choices allows residents to remain within their preferred community throughout their lives. Objective 3.2 is to plan for and promote a range of housing options. Specifically, "housing will be planned and developed to address the changing demographics in the Region by including housing that offers a diversity of types, forms and levels of affordability to support a variety of lifestyle options, income levels and to meet the needs of all residents" (Policy 3.2.1). Additional policies under this objective specify that infill, more



compact housing forms, and increased density will be encouraged at a scale appropriate to the community and will be directed to areas that are close to transit and amenities.

In support of this direction, Objective 4.5 is to plan for and develop mixed use areas and higher density centres as areas to concentrate growth of people and jobs. For Beaumont, this includes incorporating “medium and higher-density housing to provide for a range of incomes, life stages and physical abilities in locations that provide links to jobs, services and other opportunities” (Policy 4.5.3).

Our Beaumont: Strategic Plan 2017-2021

The Strategic Plan sets out the following vision for Beaumont in 2044:

“Together, we make life better in Beaumont. We are the community of choice for livability and economic innovation. We have a vibrant arts community, ample recreational opportunities, and a healthy environment. We are culturally diverse and celebrate our Indigenous, agricultural, and French heritage.”

Several strategic pillars within the plan support—and can be supported by—planning for an age-friendly community:

Livability: Our citizens desire a great quality of life. Council will support the development of policies and programs to promote the economic, physical, environmental, cultural, and social well-being of Beaumont’s citizens. Relevant goals under this pillar include:

- Recreation and cultural facility infrastructure is available to all citizens.
- The community is safe and secure for citizens, visitors, and businesses.
- Natural public spaces are available throughout Beaumont, contributing to regional livability, and providing opportunities for citizens to connect with and enjoy nature and play.
- Citizens have transportation and transit options that are clean, safe, reliable, convenient, and regionally connected.
- Citizens of all ages benefit from an accessible community with a range of housing and support services options.

Connecting with Citizens: Input from citizens is crucial for creating great policies, designing new programs, and building new infrastructure. Beaumont is committed to regularly engaging with the community. Relevant goals under this pillar include:

- Community interests are recognized and Beaumont responds with information that connects us with citizens and stakeholders.
- Capacity to communicate with citizens is increased in meaningful ways to boost participation in local government and the public process.
- Embrace new technology to reach different demographics in the community.

Good Governance, Fiscal Responsibility and Efficient Use of Tax Dollars: Council recognizes that quality services, delivered cost-effectively, are critical to the wellbeing of our Municipality. Relevant goals under this pillar include:



- Orderly and beneficial use of land maintains and improves quality of life in the community and maximizes economic benefits for citizens, stakeholders, and businesses.
- New tools and/or processes are adopted on an ongoing basis to increase efficiency, effectiveness and consistency of delivery of programs and services.

Regional Collaboration and Leadership: Working together, municipalities in the region can achieve seamless boundaries through shared services, efficient infrastructure, and co-operative planning. Beaumont will actively promote our goals, needs, priorities and values while supporting regional initiatives designed to support sustainable growth in the region. Relevant goals under this pillar include:

- Beaumont actively pursues the principles and policies of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan.
- Municipal resources are optimized by ensuring effective and efficient service delivery through regional partnerships.

Economic Prosperity: Resilient communities have growing local economies with strong regional, national, and international connections. They provide citizens with meaningful, year-round work, provide resources to pay for municipal services, and help attract and retain citizens. Relevant goals under this pillar include:

- Essential community and commercial services that meet the needs of citizens, visitors, and businesses are proactively attracted and supported.
- Livability, arts, and localized culture are strengthened to attract talent and new innovative businesses.
- A local network of services, and opportunities, are available for new and existing local businesses to thrive.

Beaumont's directional plans, which contain specific policy directions that can foster an age-friendly community, are intended to help meet the strategic plan goals. Relevant policies from these plans are discussed in the sections that follow.

Our Complete Community: Municipal Development Plan (2019)

Beaumont's Municipal Development Plan provides policy direction for Beaumont's growth over the next 30 years, in areas including land use, development servicing, transportation, the natural environment, and the City's relationship to the broader Edmonton region. Its policies are divided into six policy theme areas, several of which are relevant to age-friendly initiatives.

The **Healthy Vibrant Community** theme area includes a goal for the community to be inclusive and diverse with residents who are active and engaged at all ages, abilities, and stages of life. Key age-friendly objectives within this policy area include:

- All residents and visitors to Beaumont feel safe, secure, and welcome.
- Beaumont is a community of choice that is inclusive with a diversity of residents of all ages and stages of life.
- Supported by facilities and programs that promote health and wellness and life-long learning, residents of Beaumont of all ages and abilities are healthy and resilient.



In support of these objectives, several policies are specifically relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- Support and encourage public participation and meaningful engagement in the development of municipal plans and processes by creating and implementing a public engagement strategy that allows both formal and informal opportunities to encourage representation from a broad spectrum of stakeholders and residents (Policy 3.1.1).
- All new residential areas within Beaumont shall be required to provide diverse and innovative housing options, services, and facilities that meet the needs of residents at all income levels and stages of life. This shall include the provision of a mix of single detached, semi-detached, row housing, multi-unit housing, and apartments integrated within neighbourhoods as well as allowances for secondary suites. Where significant redevelopment of existing neighbourhoods is contemplated through an Area Redevelopment Plan, Beaumont will require the provision of a greater diversity of housing options to intensify the built-up residential area through a 10% increase in the number of dwellings (Policy 3.5.1).
- Encourage developments, urban design requirements, programs, and services that support aging in place (Policy 3.5.2).
- Incorporation of universally accessible design, barrier-free, and age friendly design shall be supported and encouraged when considering housing, transportation networks and access, outdoor spaces, buildings, and other amenities (Policy 3.5.3).
- Opportunities for services and facilities within neighbourhoods that support families, such as basement, garden, and garage suites, child and elder daycare facilities, and the provision of parks for passive and active recreation shall be encouraged (Policy 3.5.4).
- Encourage the continued pursuit of knowledge in the community by providing or supporting learning programs and spaces for all ages (Policy 3.6.1).
- Access to public facilities such as recreation centres and libraries shall be available to all Beaumont residents and surrounding community (Policy 3.6.2).
- Programs, opportunities and initiatives that encourage, educate and promote active lifestyles at all stages of life and ability will be supported (Policy 3.7.1).
- Parks and open space in the future residential areas shall be distributed within a five-minute walk (400 metres) in residential and mixed-use areas and should appeal to diverse interests, ages, and levels of mobility (Policy 3.7.5).

The **Responsible Development** theme area includes a goal for the community to grow and develop in a manner that ensures Beaumont remains attractive, liveable, accessible and safe and supports inclusiveness, affordability, and diversity for current and future residents. Key age-friendly objectives within this policy area include:

- Beaumont will provide a choice of housing and tenure options which meet the needs of a multigenerational, culturally diverse and variable income community;
- Beaumont will encourage excellent urban design; and
- Developments are resilient and designed to respond to climate change, economic change, and changing demographic conditions.



In support of these objectives, several policies are specifically relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- Development shall integrate a broad spectrum of housing types to accommodate low, medium and higher densities (Policy 4.1.3).
- Ensure that a diversity of housing types and tenure options, that meet a range of incomes and demographics, be incorporated into greenfield areas to meet the needs of all residents through all stages of life (Policy 4.5.1).
- Developments should be planned and designed to be barrier-free and accessible to allow use by as wide a range of people as possible (Policy 4.6.2).
- New residential areas within Beaumont shall be required to provide diverse housing options, services, and facilities that meet the needs of residents at all income levels and stages of life. This shall include the provision of a mix of single detached, semi-detached, row housing, multi-unit housing, and apartments integrated within neighbourhoods as well as allowances for secondary suites (Policy 4.9.10).

Additional policies guiding general neighbourhood design and housing provision are found in sections 4.5 through 4.9 of the MDP.

The **Economic Strength** theme area includes a goal for the community to develop a healthy economic base that sustains a vibrant community for residents and local businesses. Key age-friendly objectives within this policy area include:

- Foster local employment opportunities that enable residents of all capabilities to live and work in the community.
- Encourage an environment of innovation, entrepreneurship, skill development, and life-long learning.

No policies in this area are specifically relevant to age-friendly initiatives; the policies have a general focus on encouraging business development.

The **Effective Movement of People and Goods** theme area includes a goal for Beaumont to become a connected community that is safe, inclusive, and provides multi-modal options and opportunities that accommodate a broad spectrum of residents regardless of income or stage of life. A key age-friendly objectives within this policy area is:

- Beaumont recognizes the transportation needs of the community and encourages safe, reliable, accessible, and well-designed trails, pathways, and roads to accommodate all ages and levels of mobility.

In support of this objective, several policies are specifically relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- The principles of Complete Streets shall be implemented when designing new neighbourhoods and transportation corridors or upgrading existing corridors. Transportation corridors will be designed to ... allow users of all ages and abilities to safely move along and across the street; ... (Policy 6.1.4)



- Transit services and infrastructure shall be designed to be barrier free and accessible to mobility, hearing, and sight impaired users (Policy 6.4.7)

Additional policies guiding the general development of a transportation system that is effective and accessible for all users are found throughout Section 6 of the MDP.

The **Environmental Stewardship** theme area includes a goal that present and future generations are able to enjoy the benefits of clean water, fresh air, and thriving biodiversity through innovative best practices. In support of this goal, the following policy is specifically relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- Open spaces will provide a variety of opportunities for recreational experiences for all seasons and accommodate users of different ages and abilities (Policy 7.6.9).

The **Safety and Emergency Management** theme area includes a goal that Beaumont is prepared to manage emergency situations and disasters in such a way that injury to people and property is minimized, the environment is protected, and the community is able to successfully recover from such events. In support of this goal, the following policy is generally relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- All plans, policies, bylaws, and work undertaken in Beaumont will consider emergency management principles - mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery (Policy 8.1.1).

The **Working Together** theme area includes the goal that Beaumont will continue to cooperate and foster positive relationships with its neighbouring municipalities, Indigenous peoples, regional partners, as well as other levels of government. In support of this goal, the following policy is generally relevant to age-friendly initiatives:

- Develop and maintain strong, cooperative, and collaborative relationships with Federal and Provincial governments, its regional municipal counterparts, regional commissions businesses, non-profits, and Indigenous peoples through the preparation of Intermunicipal Development Plans, participation in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, or through other plans, agreements, and partnerships (Policy 9.1.1).

Additionally, the development of an Aging in Place Strategy is included as an action item for the implementation of the MDP.

Many of these Municipal Development Plan policies are implemented at the neighbourhood level through Area Structure Plans, Area Redevelopment Plans, and Outline Plans. These types of plans provide guidance regarding land use, servicing, and development phasing for a specific neighbourhood, and may include policies regarding residential types and densities, the transportation system, and the built environment that can support age-friendly objectives.

Our Inclusivity: Social Master Plan (2019)

Our Inclusivity: Beaumont's Social Master Plan provides direction for the social supports and services to be provided in Beaumont over the next 10 years, including identifying important roles and partnerships. Its vision is to enhance the well-being of Beaumont residents through compassion, inclusion, and resiliency. It has five main outcomes, three of which are relevant to age-friendly initiatives:



- Basic Needs – have all needs related to income, shelter, food, and clothing met;
- Access to Services – participate in programs and services that are welcoming, inclusive, and respectful of diversity in culture and one’s abilities;
- Equity and Security – support themselves and their families through training and employment opportunities.

The Social Master Plan notes that, due to Beaumont’s young population, the focus of programs and services leans towards those favouring early childhood, youth, and young families. It also notes that, across all age groups, there are lower-income residents who may require support within the community to have a healthy quality of life.

The Social Master Plan uses a social determinants of health approach, informed by the World Health Organization and Government of Canada frameworks, that overlaps considerably with age-friendly community dimensions. Notably, the Physical Environments determinant includes an Aging in Place subdomain, as well as Transportation and Housing sub-domains. Other relevant determinants of health include Employment and Working Conditions, Education and Literacy, Social Supports and Healthy Behaviours, Access to Health Services, and Culture.

Engagement with seniors as part of the Social Master Plan identified the following major factors in a good quality of life (Social Master Plan, Section 5.1):

- ability to live independently with appropriate housing and affordable standards of living,
- having access to good physical and mental health care, and
- opportunities for social interaction.

This engagement also identified the following priorities for improving their quality of life:

- suitable, affordable, and accessible housing,
- having tax breaks or financial assistance to access services, and
- transportation access (a lack of transportation for seniors has prompted many to relocate to Edmonton to access services).

Engagement also found that, across the population more generally, access to employment, health care, and arts and culture programming were significant areas of dissatisfaction.

The Social Master Plan includes a Responsibility Matrix that identifies that the City of Beaumont has important responsibilities in areas related to age-friendly communities, notably:

- Primary legislative responsibility for policy development regarding affordable housing; and
- Primary implementation responsibility for providing seniors’ services and activities.

Finally, the Social Master Plan includes an action plan that sets goals within each determinant of health and identifies actions to be taken to meet them. These goals align with the policies of the Municipal Development Plan and other municipal planning initiatives, including the Strategic Plan and the Family and Community Support Services’ Needs Assessment and Action Plan.



Within the Physical Environments determinant of health, in the Aging in Place subdomain, the Social Master Plan aims to encourage developments, urban design requirements, programs, and services that support aging in place. The action identified in support of this goal is to engage seniors through FCSS programs and community organizations to investigate how seniors wish to age in place in Beaumont.

Within the Transportation, Mobility and Accessibility, Walkability subdomain, the Social Master Plan encourages the incorporation of universally accessible design, barrier-free, and age-friendly design when considering housing, transportation networks and access, outdoor spaces, buildings, and other amenities. In support of this goal, the Social Master Plan identifies actions that include:

- Incorporating an understanding of the social issues which overlap with transportation planning into the planning process and implementing strategies to improve community accessibility;
- Considering an affordable transportation subsidy in partnership with other available programs to reduce barriers for vulnerable citizens to promote civic engagement and equitable access to services;
- Considering conducting an accessibility audit of municipal infrastructure to identify areas of success and improvement related to universal design principles and practices.

Within the Affordable Housing subdomain, the Social Master Plan sets goals of providing a choice of housing and tenure options to meet the needs of a multi-generational community, and increasing housing options for seniors. Actions to be taken in support of these goals include:

- Supporting the development of a housing needs assessment and action plan;
- Establishing partnerships with federal and provincial governments for the creation of affordable housing;
- Considering residential tax incentives to minimize the cost burden on lower income homeowners;
- Engaging with residents and community partners to investigate the need for housing to support vulnerable populations;
- Supporting policy and zoning amendments that encourage inclusive neighborhoods with diverse housing options for all residents; and
- Assisting agencies applying for new housing projects through the development approval process.

Several other determinants of health include actions relevant to age-friendly communities.

Within the Employment and Working Conditions determinant of health, in the Community Economic Development subdomain, specific actions to be taken to encourage an environment of life-long learning include:

- Investigating and understanding the business case for increased diversity and inclusion among employers, and
- Exploring incentives and supports for organizations that create inclusive opportunities.

Within the Education and Literacy determinant of health, specific actions to be taken in support of educational opportunities from cradle to grave include:



- Exploring partnerships with universities and trade schools to provide access to training opportunities within the community;
- Ensuring everyone in the community can access a library card;
- Increasing access to recreation and physical literacy opportunities through an affordable fare structure that reaches everyone in the community.

Within the Social Supports and Healthy Behaviours determinant of health, in the Community Connectedness (Isolation) subdomain, recommended actions include:

- Continuing to implement and raise awareness of the Good Neighbour program; and
- Continuing to implement operational plans to increase community connectedness and reduce isolation.

Within the Access to Health Services determinant of health, a recommended action to promote health and resilience among residents of all ages is to explore the creation of a community health hub to centralize access to health services.

Within the Culture determinant of health, recommended actions to promote health and resilience among residents of all ages include:

- Designing an affordable accessible recreation program that meets the needs of inclusion and specialized programs to support people with various abilities;
- Considering partnerships with support service organizations to develop recreation programs; and
- Reviewing the recreation subsidy program.

Our Places and Play: Recreation, Parks and Facilities Master Plan (2019)

Our Places and Play provides guidance and recommendations for the development of parks and recreation facilities in Beaumont. The community engagement process identified recreation, parks and culture as a high priority for the community; top facility and program needs that are particularly relevant to age-friendly planning include trails and walking paths, parks and green spaces, spontaneous use programs, and aquatics enhancements.

Guiding principles for the plan include:

- Providing equitable access to facilities, services, and programs which will include a balance between access for diverse ages, cultures, and abilities; and
- Enhancing diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in all programs, facilities, and services.

The development of a cultural corridor and a recreation/school co-located facility are key actions recommended in the plan. Other actions relevant to age-friendly priorities include:

- Acquiring and sustainably managing land for parks and trails;
- Enhancing and expanding the City's trail system;
- Prioritizing spontaneous use activities at the new Beaumont Sport and Recreation Centre; and
- Conducting an accessibility audit of existing recreation programming.



Our Connectivity: Transportation Master Plan (2020)

Our Connectivity provides high-level direction for the development and maintenance of Beaumont's transportation system. Its vision is a resilient transportation system that provides safe and inclusive options for active living and effectively connects residents, goods, and services both locally and regionally.

The plan's design approach is to consider the needs of all modes, including active transportation, transit, and private and commercial vehicles, in the development and maintenance of all transportation facilities. The goal of this approach is to develop complete networks for all modes and provide real transportation choices for users of all ages and abilities. This approach is supported by the "8-80" principle, which holds that if a facility is accessible to an 8-year-old and an 80-year-old, it will be broadly accessible to all users.

Policies that are specifically relevant to age-friendly planning include:

- Active transportation facilities should be planned and built in a manner that maximizes safety and access for users of all ages and abilities, with consideration for nearby land uses and mode priorities within the network;
- Transit service shall be accessible for all, taking into special consideration those with mobility or cognitive challenges, and those in financial need.



Appendix B - Invitation to Working Group Members

The City of Beaumont would like to invite a representative of your organization to be part of the Working Group for the Beaumont Age-Friendly Strategy.

What is the Age-Friendly Strategy project?

As people around the world are living longer than ever before, the share of the global (and Beaumont) population aged 65 years and older is increasing faster than any other age group. At the same time, Beaumont is one of the youngest, fastest-growing municipalities in the province. These dynamics present both a need and an opportunity for the City to consider how it can be attractive and accessible to residents at all stages of life. The benefits of planning for age-friendly communities include better resident health and community engagement, more business opportunities, and wiser use of resources in providing services.

The Age-Friendly Strategy project is being led by the City of Beaumont's Long Range Planning team. It will review Beaumont's current age-friendly infrastructure and programs, identify any gaps, and set out an action plan for addressing them in partnership with residents and local organizations. It will also develop barrier-free design guidelines that will apply to the development of future buildings and public spaces in the City. While the focus will be on older people, the resulting actions will likely improve the quality of life of a broad cross-section of Beaumont residents.

The project will use the World Health Organization's eight dimensions of age-friendly communities as its framework. These dimensions include aspects of both the physical and the social environment:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community Supports and Health Services

What is the role of the Working Group?

The Working Group will bring together a small group of stakeholders who are involved in at least one of the dimensions of age-friendly communities. Because of your in-depth knowledge of related issues and your potential role in implementing the strategy, the City wants your organization to have a strong voice in shaping a strategy that is achievable, meets the right needs, and builds on existing successes. We are excited about the insight you have to share!

What is the time commitment and project schedule?

The project will last approximately a year from kickoff to Council approval of the strategy. During this time, we would like your organization's representative to attend three Working Group workshops lasting no more than half a day each. Some additional time may be needed outside of Working Group meetings to review background materials and draft documents.

Two rounds of public engagement are also planned, and we will seek help from the Working Group to publicize the engagement and make materials available among their communities. All meetings and



engagement will be online or on paper until Alberta Health Services' COVID-19 guidelines support in-person meetings and larger public events.

Approximate dates are:

- Working Group Meeting 1 – Identify vision, goals, and key needs: August 2020
- Public Engagement Round 1 – Feedback on vision and goals; identify key needs: September 2020
- Working Group Meeting 2 – Review findings and identify potential actions: November 2020
- Working Group Meeting 3 – Refine draft Age-Friendly Strategy: February 2021
- Public Engagement Round 2 – Feedback on draft Age-Friendly Strategy: March 2021

Some additional time will likely be needed outside of Working Group meetings to review background materials and draft documents.

Thank you for helping make Beaumont a more age-friendly community!



Appendix C – Walking Audit Findings

A community walking audit of the Centre-Ville area took place on August 25, 2020, following the first Working Group meeting. Seven participants walked a 1-km route beginning at the corner of 50 Street and 50 Avenue, north along 50 Street, west along 52 Avenue, south along 55 Street, and east along 50 Avenue. The participants included four City staff from Long Range Planning and Family and Community Support Services, and three Working Group members, one of whom used a mobility aid (cane).

Along the way, using a checklist focused on the Outdoor Spaces and Buildings and Transportation dimensions, they assessed streetscape features that were strengths or weaknesses in these areas. The checklist was adapted from the following sources:

- “An Age-Friendly Walkability Report: Safe Streets for Seniors and Other Valuable People in Ottawa”, Council on Aging of Ottawa, 2016
- Sample Age-Friendly Checklist – Age-Friendly Accompanying Materials. Alberta Health, 2012.
- Checklist of Essential Features of Age-Friendly Cities. World Health Organization, n.d.

The completed checklist and related notes and photos are provided below. It is important to note that the findings are limited to the area assessed as part of the walking audit on the day of the audit, and may not be true for other dates, seasons, or areas of Beaumont.

1.	Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Yes	No	N/A
	Do public areas have enough accessible, safe, and well-maintained...			
	<p>Sidewalks & walkways?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent on 50 Street although potential future heaving with different paving materials 	x		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Narrower on 52 Ave, some patches with significant cracks, especially in front of fire hall  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree pruning needed along south side sidewalk on 52 Ave; leaves impede visibility and can also disorient visually impaired pedestrians 			
	<p>Benches & seating?</p>	<p>x</p>		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent on 50 Street and at public buildings, fewer on 52 Ave, especially in front of private homes  			
	<p>Public washrooms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seasonal portapotty in pop-up park at 50 St/52 Ave - No other public washrooms except if people can access Beaumont Community Centre 		<p>x</p>	
	<p>Do public areas include trees and landscaping to provide shade and a pleasant environment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, in public areas and streets with boulevards; less shade but still lots of landscaping along residential streets without 	<p>x</p>		



				
	<p>Do public areas offer places to shelter from rain, hot sun, cold winds, and snow?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No awnings; some overhangs on commercial buildings on 50 Street and at 55+ Club and CCBC 	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are public areas and parks well-maintained and free from debris, litter, and vandalism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pop-up park not extensively landscaped but is clean 	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are public areas well-lit after dark?</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Do public buildings offer accessible entrances and doorways, elevators, ramps, railings, non-slip floors, and sufficient seating?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCBC and 55+ Club do, although buttons are sometimes placed inconvenient to doors. Less consistent at businesses. 			



				
	<p>Are businesses and public services conveniently located? - Less convenient access to services further from 50th Street</p>			
	<p>Is public and business signage easy to read, and does it provide relevant information?</p>	<p>x</p>		

2.	Transportation	Yes	No	N/A
	<p>Are roads in the area well maintained, with clearly visible pavement markings, signage, and signals? - Many crosswalks recently repainted</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are speed limits for cars appropriate and clearly posted, including near schools and seniors' residences?</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are parking lots and street parking located close to shops, services, and amenities?</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are parking and drop-off areas safely designed and clearly marked?</p>	<p>x</p>		



	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Changes in level marked at 50 St/52 Ave plaza 			
	<p>Are enough parking spaces reserved for people with disabilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ample at CCBCC 		<p>x</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not at all private businesses – plaza at NW 50 St/50 Ave has none (it was likely not a building code requirement when the building was approved, and the City cannot require them to change it unless they apply for a new development permit) - Sometimes hard to find e.g. behind Chartier, at end of ramp; more signage from street may be needed 			
	<p>Do sidewalks and walkways offer continuous routes between destinations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally good pathway connections and few informal pathways indicating a missing link 	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are sidewalks and walkways free from obstructions; with even, non-slip surfaces; and wide enough for others to pass?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good on 50 Street/Ave - Lack of boulevard along 52 Ave/55 St makes sidewalk seem narrower and reduces snow storage; also debris in some locations 			



				
	<p>Are pedestrian crossings provided where they are needed (e.g., at busy roads or near important destinations such as schools or community centres)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple well-marked (some with push buttons) at school, CCBCC, 50+ centre, pathway crossings 	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Are pedestrian crossings visible to both pedestrians and drivers (i.e., not obstructed by hedges, parked cars, etc.)?</p>	<p>x</p>		

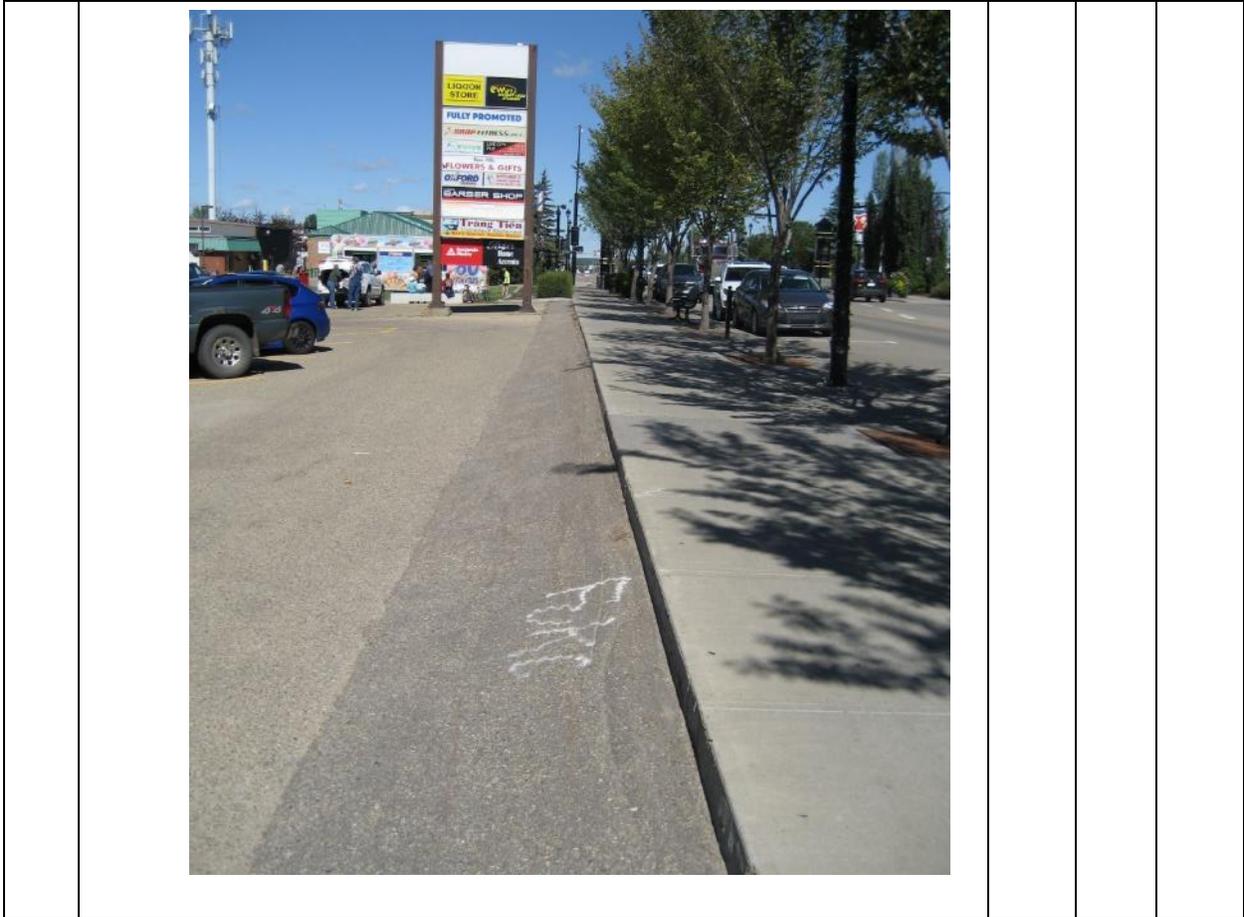


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally visible in area that was walked  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants noted that yellow curbs would be useful at driveway exits to encourage drivers to look for pedestrians there 			
	<p>Do pedestrian crossings feature curb ramps to allow wheelchairs, strollers etc. to safely move to road level?</p> 	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Do pedestrian crossings have adequate signage and accessibility features such as audible signals and textured pavement where needed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Textured pavement and audible signals common at high-traffic 50 St crossings; less on other streets 	<p>x</p>		



				
	<p>Do pedestrian crossings offer adequate crossing times, especially for older people and young children? - Crossing across 50 Street at 52 Avenue flagged as too short</p>		<p>x</p>	
	<p>In winter, are snow and ice promptly and sufficiently cleared from:</p>			
	<p>Roadways? - Main yes, residential no</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Parking areas?</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Sidewalks?</p>		<p>x</p>	
	<p>Pathways? - Sometimes slippery but often ok</p>	<p>x</p>		
	<p>Other comments and identified issues: - General lack of transportation options in Beaumont: minimal transit, only 1 taxi vehicle (others won't come from other communities for local trips) - Pedestrian access not provided around 50 Ave construction site on day of audit - Steep, unmarked curb along 50 St near vet clinic</p>			





Appendix D - What We Heard Report
Included on next page

