

Sustainable by Nature

2020 Environmental Strategic Plan
Revised 2023



Why an Environmental Strategic Plan?

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Raymond has a deeply engrained sense of community and our relationship with the land around us was central to our community's settlement. During the 119 years since Raymond first became a place on a map, much has changed. However, our need for our environment to sustain our future, has not.

There is much in the world that is outside of our communities' control. Geopolitical events, natural disasters, changing weather patterns and economic restructuring currently affect us, and will continue to affect us in the future. But there are things the Town can do to take advantage of these future opportunities. The council's primary role is to provide services that support the well-being of the residents of Raymond. This broad statement leaves no shortage of options for elected officials to contemplate and when considered against scarce municipal operating and capital resources, the need for a plan to help guide those decisions is essential.

This plan will establish our "Areas of Focus" and ensure that the dollars spent, and initiatives developed, will work towards achieving our goals. It will also provide flexibility to adjust to the needs and priorities of future Councils, and to adopt best practices or new regulations as they evolve. In other words, this is intended to be a living document.

Our Areas of Focus are:

1. Water for Life
2. Prepare for the Rainy Day
3. Powered by the Sun
4. Efficient by Design
5. Access to Nature
6. Shade for the Future
7. Back to Earth

By acting on what we can control and setting a course to help direct our future, we can ensure that Raymond's posterity are the benefactors of a beautiful, sustainable, and prosperous community where they can raise their families, run their businesses and most especially, call home.

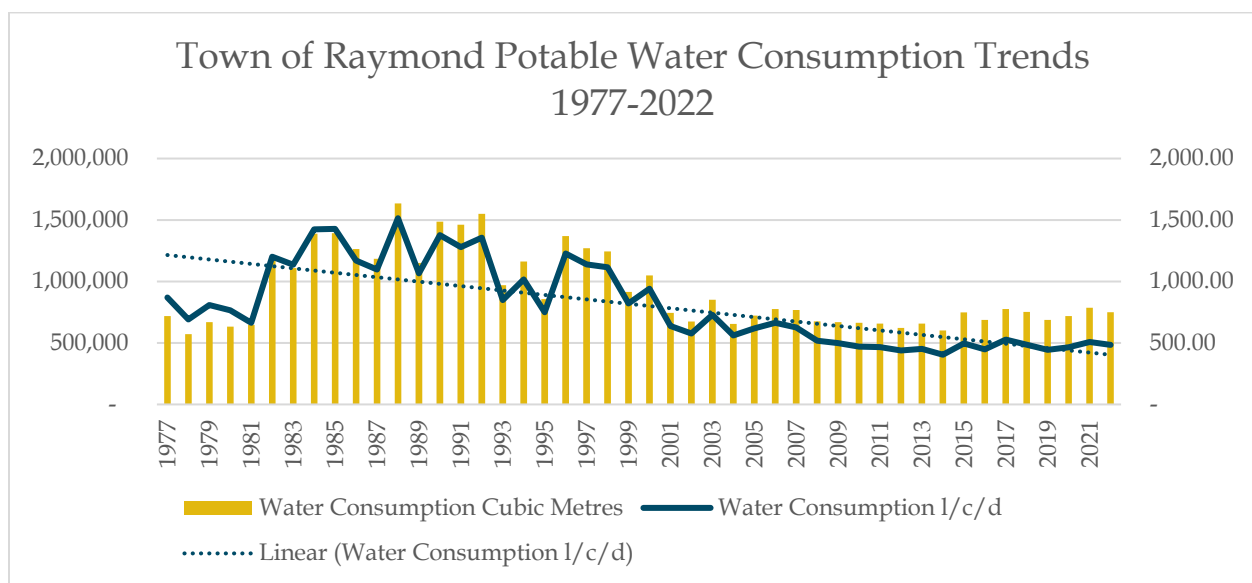
Town Council

1. Water for Life

Background:

In 2003, the Province of Alberta unveiled its Water for Life strategy and later updated it again in 2008 and 2013. Provincial grant programs were tied to municipalities implementing aspects of the plan to reduce their water consumption and help conserve this precious resource. Areas of focus were also expanded as the plan developed to address the entire water system.

The Town of Raymond has had tremendous success in reducing our water consumption over the years. The following graph outlines our overall water use trends since 1977.



In 1977, the Town of Raymond had a population of 2,265 and consumed 718,523m³ (cubic meter) of water. Our peak consumption occurred in 1988, when our population of 2,957 consumed 1,634,840m³ of water. In 2022, the Town had a population of 4,199 and consumed 749,653 cubic meters of potable water. This is a decrease of 36,874m³ when compared to 2021. Even when considering 2021, since 1977, our population has grown by 82% and our water consumption has only increased by 4.3%. When compared to our peak consumption (1988), our population has grown by 39% and our consumption has decreased by 54.1%.

How do we get there?

Council has implemented several measures that reduced our overall consumption.

1. Phase 1 - Installation of Water Meters – Completed 1993

In 1992 and 1993, the town installed water meters on every property to be able to monitor and track consumption. Our operator read the meters manually and the Town would bill any over-consumption as each property was given a flat volume each month. Today, we collect the readings remotely through a cloud-based system and can estimate if a house has any internal plumbing challenges that could lead to wasted consumption.

2. Phase 2 - Total Consumption Billing – Completed 2000

In 2000, the Town stopped providing any amount of free water for each billing cycle and began to charge for each m³ that flowed through the meter. This change reduced consumption by 26.5% from 1999 to 2000 and it has continued to decline to where our average consumption between 2001 and 2019 is 704,789m³ or down 32.9% from our 2000 consumption total.

3. Phase 3 - Regional Water Commission Formation – Completed 2009

In 2009, the Town of Raymond and Village of Stirling became members of a regional water treatment plant. By 2011, the County and Village of Warner had also become members. Rates are set by the commission for the value of water sufficient to cover all current operating and future capital replacement needs. This has increased the cost of water from \$0.33/m³ in 2009 to \$0.92/m³ in 2020. Residents have become more conscious as to their watering habits as the value of water has increased.

4. Phase 4 - Raw Water System Expansion – Completed 2016, 2021, 2022, 2023.

In 2016, the Town extended its raw water system to large scale users, like the hospital, some churches, the schools, and some town facilities to reduce overall demand on our water treatment plant and to significantly reduce the volume of treated water being wasted to irrigate large, open spaces within the community. Some new subdivisions, where possible, are also expanding the infrastructure within their developments as an added selling feature for their lots. Total raw water consumption (not included in the graph on page 3 has expanded from 108,024m³ in 2016 to 404,087m³ in 2022.

5. Phase 5 – Reserve Fees – Completed 2019

In 2018, Council implemented utility reserve fees for each account to help cover the costs of water, sewer or garbage/recycling capital asset expansion and replacement. This has added \$17/month to each residential utility bill and brings in \$300,000 annually to either establish reserves to limit future debt needs or to pay for the interest/interest/principal payments of large-scale utility infrastructure projects.

6. Phase 6 – Residential Rain Barrels or Self-Watering Planters – TBD

Promoting the use privately and publicly of rain barrels or self-watering planters reduces the demand on our waterways and the use of treated water for irrigation purposes. The Town will primarily consider where we can install rain barrels and what types of self-watering planters will work within our operations and begin to acquire them as time and budget allows. This will reduce costs associated with daily watering of plant and flower beds, while consuming less treated water and extend our water supply during times of drought.

A municipal rebate program may be considered to encourage residents to install rain barrels at their homes or businesses to further encourage conservationist practices.

2. Prepare for the Rainy Day

Background:

The Town of Raymond has experienced several overland flood events due to periods of high rain fall over short periods of time. These events have overwhelmed our stormwater infrastructure (below and above ground), overwhelmed our wastewater collection and treatment systems, and caused substantial damage to institutions and properties within our community.

In 2007, the Town completed an Infrastructure Master plan that identified the challenges our community faced when dealing with high water events. Over 271 hectares of overland flood water from the County of Warner flows north, through the Town and overwhelms our municipal infrastructure. Plans were developed to help re-direct this water once funding became available.

Changes were made to our development practices that required engineered drainage plans to be provided for every new development within Town and new sub-divisions were required to develop dryland stormwater retention ponds to collect and restrict the

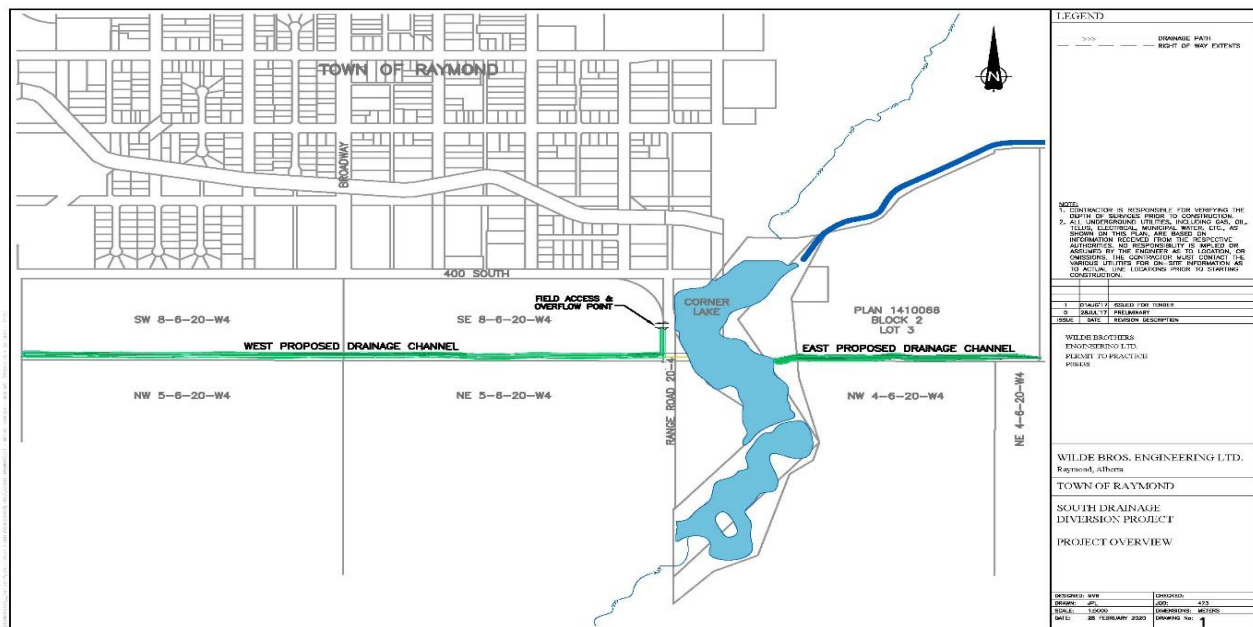
flow of surface drainage for longer periods of time to allow the system time to manage the excess volume of water.

How do we get there?

1. South Drainage Diversion Project - Completed 2019

In 2014, the Town submitted a grant application to the Alberta Community Resilience Grant Program and received \$1,473,300 in provincial grant funding to complete this \$1,637,000 project. The province then submitted our application to the Federal government's Building Canada Fund and the town received an additional \$543,343 for this project. This project was to construct a 2.3km dyke along the southern municipal boundary and redirect the overland, county overland flood water into the Raymond Irrigation District's (RID's) Corner Lake reservoir and either down through their canal system or down through the Hells Creek Golf Course. On the course, the width of the creek was increased by 3 times and an additional 5 ponds were developed to add increased retention to our system.

Construction began in 2016 and was completed in 2019 for a total cost of \$2,310,343. The Town of Raymond contributed \$293,700 or 12.7%. While we have not had a significant weather event since completion and have not been able to test the infrastructure against any real weather event, we are confident that this project will allow our existing, stormwater infrastructure to handle whatever internal drainage we may experience and significantly reduce the damage our property owners may incur in the future.



Cross section of lower half of South Drainage Project

2. North Drainage Diversion Project - Completed Phase 1 2022. Phase 2 TBD

In 2021, design planning is underway to add retention capacity for the drainage that flows through Town and enters back into the County on our northern boundary. This will enlarge the width of an existing natural drainage corridor

and enhance the durability and capacity of a natural drainage retention area approximately 1.25km north of Town adjacent to Highway 845.

This area will accommodate re-directed intown stormwater from the northeast of Town while allowing for stormwater infrastructure to be installed throughout the northwest portion of Town that is currently under-developed due to a lack of municipal services. As our Northwest Infrastructure project continues its phased development, this will allow for increased development in the northwest and not only increase our overall assessment base, but better utilize our infrastructure through enhanced looping and connectivity.

Phase 1 of the project is underway and will address northeast drainage challenges from within residential areas. Phase 2 will address the connection of the redeveloped Phase 1 plan to our natural drainage corridor. Phase 3 will expand and enhance the retention capacity of our north drainage corridor to better accommodate periods of highwater flow.

3. Powered by the Sun

Background:

In 2014, the Town of Raymond accessed provincial grant funding under the TAME+ Energy program to conduct efficiency audits on the Raymond Ice Arena. The consultant at the time offered to include a solar assessment in the report as well and the Town accepted the recommendation and acquired the report. The report concluded that no site in Raymond was a good candidate for community solar.

In 2017, the Town of Raymond began again to explore the benefits of installing solar panels on municipal infrastructure to take advantage of government grant programs and mitigate the uncertainty in our operating budgets associated with fluctuating electricity prices due to supply/demand and carbon taxation. The Town of Cardston had recently entered into an agreement with Enmax Energy and installed solar panels on a couple of their facilities.

Since the geographic realities of our communities were basically the same, we approached Enmax to explore what could be done in Raymond. They came down and reviewed 10 locations and determined 7 locations had sufficient return on investment potential to warrant consideration. Administration then presented the proposal to the Council, and they considered if this initiative was in the Town's best interests.

How do we get there?

1. Raymond Solar Initiative Phase 1 – Completed 2018

Council determined that there was a business case to proceed with Phase 1 of our Municipal Solar Initiative and installed panels on 6 locations in Town and at our regional water treatment plant. We applied for grant funding from the Municipal Climate Chance Action Centre (MCCAC) and received \$380,893 in grants that acted as our down-payment and entered into a lease arrangement with Enmax to finance the remaining \$1,143,769 over 15 years. During this time, Enmax would be responsible for all maintenance and warranty work.

2. Raymond Solar Initiative Phase 2 – Completed 2019

The province carried out some regulatory changes, which allowed us to off-set the remaining portion of our municipal consumption. Previously, you could only produce as much power as you were consuming at one specific location. With these provincial changes, we were able to off-set our street light infrastructure, the remaining 52% of power consumed at the pool, along with any other electrical connection that was attached to municipal infrastructure.

Council proceeded with Phase 2 which offset the remainder of our total municipal operating consumption and installed panels on our new Town office as well as on a carport structure at Victoria Park. We applied for additional funding from the MCCAC and received an additional \$253,124 and financed the remaining \$1,004,134 over 15 years under the same conditions as in Phase 1.

Since our system went live, we have hosted dozens of site tours, spoken at numerous conferences, won provincial and national awards, and given radio and tv interviews to organizations around the world. Phases 1 & 2 have been tremendous economic, environmental, and marketing successes and once the leases are paid off, we will be saving approximately \$150,000 annually in power consumptions expenditures.

The following chart (next page) outlines the system size, total number of solar panels, total cost per site, total grant dollars received per site, estimated production, greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere and number of cars removed from off the road.

Town of Raymond Municipal Solar Initiative - Phases 1 & 2							
Phase 1	System Size KW	# of Solar Panels	Total Cost/Site (\$)	Total Grant/Site (\$)	Est Production (KWh)	GHG (tonnes CO2)	Cars off Road
Aquatic Centre	42.9	116	\$ 89,210	\$ 22,302	45000	29	6
Arena	188	508	\$ 484,286	\$ 121,071	202000	129	27
Fire Hall	17	46	\$ 34,600	\$ 8,650	19000	12	3
Golf Course	41.2	103	\$ 92,442	\$ 23,110	50000	32	7
Town Shop	30	81	\$ 58,902	\$ 14,725	32000	20	4
Victoria Park	64	160	\$ 123,411	\$ 30,582	69000	44	9
Water Treatment Plant	288	720	\$ 641,811	\$ 160,453	364000	233	49
Phase 2	System Size KW	# of Solar Panels	Total Cost/Site (\$)	Total Grant/Site (\$)	Est Production (KWh)	GHG (tonnes CO2)	Cars off Road
Town Office	43.2	108	\$ 91,376	\$ 22,844	52000	33	7
Victoria Park - Carport	383.8	984	\$ 1,165,882	\$ 230,280	419000	268	57
Total	1,098	2,826	\$2,781,920	\$ 634,017	1,252,000	800	169

Municipal Solar Initiative Analytics

3. Raymond Solar Initiative Phase 3 - TBD

The Town of Raymond is contemplating a partnership with a utility provider to install a large-scale solar farm in Town to generate enough power to off-set our population's consumption. A preferred electricity rate would be offered to consumers in Raymond who enter a contract with that provider. In order to make this feasible a certain percentage of the community would have to choose to have their power through that provider. The Town would benefit from the increased assessment and liner taxation, as well as providing our residents with an affordable, carbon emission and carbon tax neutral power source, that would be supplemented by the electrical grid.

4. Ridge Utilities Solar Club - Underway 2021 to Present

In 2021, the Town became a marketing associate of Ridge Utilities and has enrolled 6 of our 9 solar producing sites to their Solar Club. This program allows the Town to sell our produced power back to the grid at a higher rate and maximize the return on investment of our assets. In 2023, we added the ice arena array to the Solar Club program and are experiencing tremendous returns exporting our excess power to the grid. We are continuing to work to get approval to have our remaining two locations eligible for inclusion within this program as it will significantly enhance the profitability of this asset for the Town for decades to come.

5. PACE Program for Residential & Non-residential Installations – TBD

The Town is analyzing the value of providing our property owners with the ability to access Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing tools which building owners and developers can use to upgrade their building's energy performance, install renewable energy systems, and reduce resource consumption with no money down and with the financing repaid through their property's tax bill.

In addition, because Alberta's energy market allows customers to sell unused power back into the grid, homeowners at times will be able to generate additional savings that can reduce their remaining utility bill.

6. Fleet Electrification – Completed 2020 & 2021

As electric vehicles become more common, reliable, and affordable, the Town is looking into options for changing our existing fleet of vehicles. In 2020, the Town purchased an electric Kia Niro for employee use and in 2021, we purchased 30 Yamaha electric golf carts, and 4 Yamaha electric UTV's. In 2022, the Town is looking to purchase an electric transit shuttle to replace our existing Handi-bus and to expand the level of service that we can provide to our residents.

In the future, we will look to replace our fleet with electric F-150's or similar trucks as well as additional UTV's, and an electric Zamboni. This reduces the exposure our operating budget has to the carbon tax, and we will further leverage our solar infrastructure to charge our fleet. Switching to electric will also reduce our annual maintenance expenses as the vehicles do not require oil changes and have fewer moving parts. We will look to further leverage available grant programs as they become available to help fund this transition.

7. Charging Stations – Completed 2020 & 2023

As electric vehicles become more and more common, the need for charging stations becomes more critical. In 2020, a Level 2 charging station was installed at our municipal offices. This charging station is free to the public. We were approved for 2, Level 3 stations which we installed in the Aquatic Centre and Ice Arena parking lots and an additional Level 2 charging station at Victoria Sports Park. They have all been added to the Flo network and we have seen a noticeable increase in use since the first system was installed in 2020. These 4 stations will provide Raymond with a solid foundation to build upon and ensure that we can attract EV tourists and opportunities in the future.

4. Efficient by Design

Background:

Getting more for less is good for the budget and for the environment. Operating and capital costs are continually going up and the need to find ways to do more with less resources is as relevant today as it has ever been. The Town has 15 buildings, an ever-growing number of streetlights and there are over 1,400 private buildings within our community. Finding ways to ensure that we are providing sufficient lighting to promote increased safety and still maintain a dark sky atmosphere is a delicate process. Work will continue on how best to achieve these competing interests.

How do we get there?

1. LED Street Lights – Completed 2017

In 2017, the Town entered into an agreement with Fortis Alberta to retrofit all the Town's 419 streetlights from High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights to Light Emitting Diode (LED). This transition significantly reduced our organizational electrical consumption and brought along some operational cost savings to our operating budget.

2. Building Efficiencies – Under Way 2019 to present

Up to 30% of all energy produced is wasted as a result of building inefficiencies. The Town is taking advantage of provincial and federal grant programs to fund these improvements. In 2019, the Town brought in a consultant to conduct two scoping audits on the Aquatic Centre and Arena. These audits identified potential improvements to increase overall building efficiencies and reduce operating costs. These audits were completely paid for through grants the Town obtained through the MCCAC.

In 2020, the lighting within the Aquatic Centre, Arena and RCMP will be switched to LED. The RCMP retrofit was not grant eligible and was funded internally. Total costs for this replacement are \$20,000, with \$15,000 coming from MCCAC funding and the other \$5,000 coming from FORTIS Alberta. In 2022, we will undertake additional efficiency upgrades at the Aquatic Centre and Arena as per their specific scoping audits. The total cost for these improvements will be \$100,000, with \$75,000 coming from MCCAC funding. We are also looking to leverage a federal grant program that will turn \$250,000 of federal funds into \$1,250,000 of federal funds, all spent enhancing and improving the efficiency of our municipal buildings.

We will look to make our remaining facilities more energy efficient as time and budget allows.

3. Solar Street Lighting – TBD

As opportunities allow, the Town is considering the installation of solar street lighting throughout the community. These lights reduce our power/distribution costs and are carbon neutral. The Town may try out some of these lights on a trial basis and monitor how well they work and the cost to install before moving on with a larger project.

4. Energy Efficient Municipal Rebate Program - TBD

To encourage residents to upgrade their older and less efficient appliances, windows/doors and insulation, the Town of Raymond would provide a municipal rebate program to help offset the costs to the homeowner. Funding would be set aside annually to fund any/all improvements up to the prescribed maximums as the budget allows. Once available funding has been rebated, no new rebates would be considered until the following fiscal year.

Potential rebates may include the following and rebate amounts are subject to change:

- 3rd Party Home or Business Energy Audits - \$100
- Dual flush or High Efficiency Toilet (4.8L or less) - \$100
- High Efficiency Dishwasher (Energy Star) - \$100
- High Efficiency Full Size Refrigerator (CEE Tier 2 or 3) - \$75
- High Efficiency Furnace (AFUE of 95 or greater) - \$500
- Door Replacement (Energy Star) - \$50
- High Efficiency Water Heater (Energy Star rating of 0.72 or better) - \$350
- High Efficiency Solar Water Heater (Energy Star)
- Insulation Improvements
- Solar Panels Installation - \$0.90/watt up to \$10,000

5. Building Code Changes - TBD

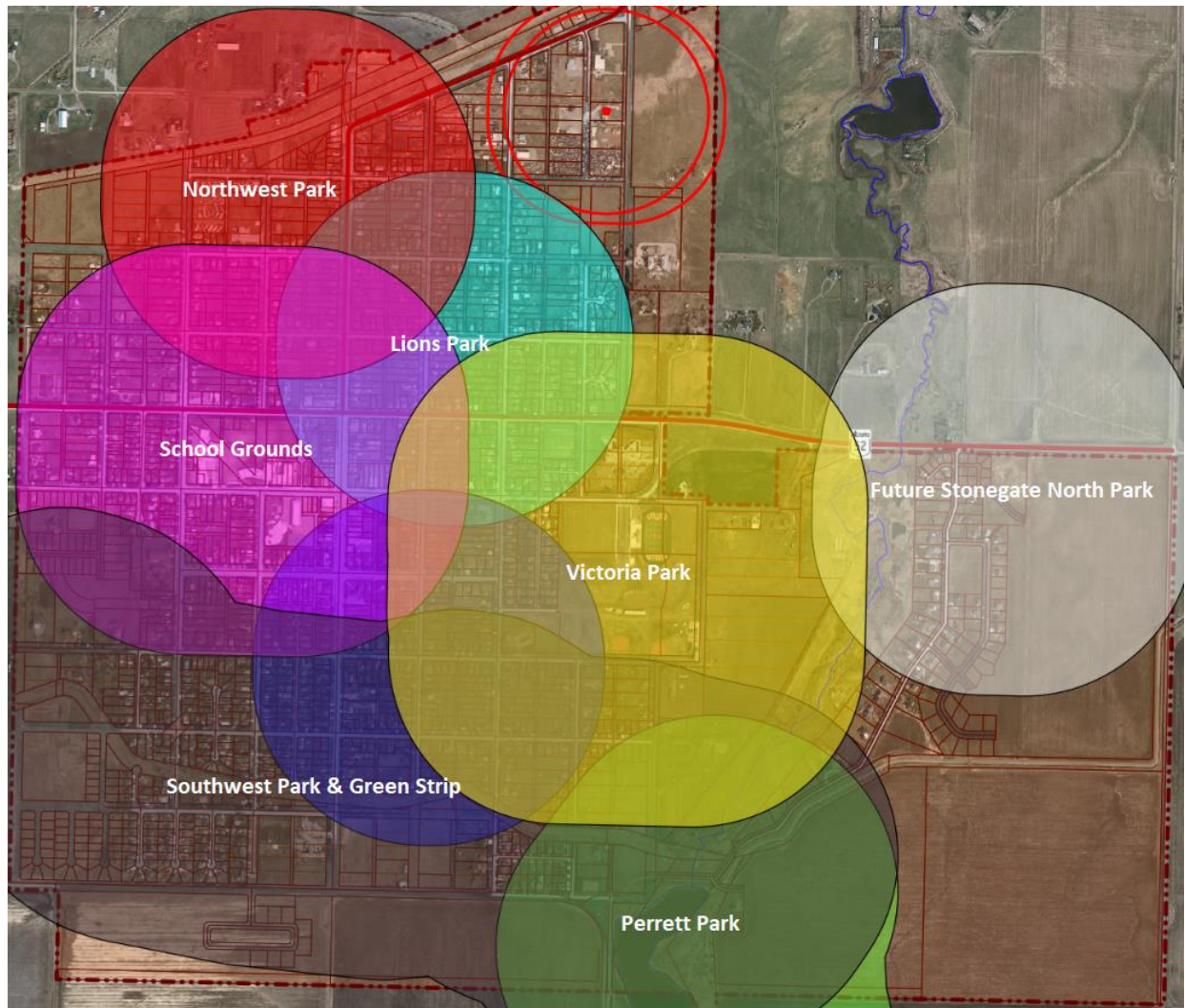
The Town may encourage all new construction or renovations to be built to a minimum standard by mandating that certain efficiencies are achieved during the building process. Consideration will be given to whatever the current building codes dictate, while balancing the need for conservation with maintaining our economic competitiveness in attracting new assessment growth and development.

5. Access to Nature

Background:

Anyone who has walked through a park on the first sunny day of spring has experienced the importance of green spaces to the health of individuals and communities. Whether they take the form of a community park, green strip, pathway or sports fields, green spaces have been shown to benefit our physical and emotional health by reducing blood pressure, cholesterol, and stress. These spaces also contribute to our sense of community by creating places for recreation activities, for children to play and for neighbours to meet and socialize.

How much greenspace is enough? There are many standards that have been developed to try and answer this question. Some say that a green space or park should be within a 5-minute walk or 500m from every residential home. Others quantify the total greenspace by the total number of acres/1,000 people.



500m Park Radius Map – Future Stonegate North Park – Not Funded

When we compare the Town against the 5-minute walk or 500m scenario, the town has 94.1% of the population living within 500m of a park or greenspace. (1 titled NW property and 82 titled properties in Stonegate Meadows are outside of this metric.)

When compared to the total number of acres/1000 people scenario, the Town should have around 42.41 acres of greenspace for our 4,241 residents. We currently have over 110 acres of developed or undeveloped greenspace in our parks system.

The challenge Raymond faces is to develop or re-develop at least 90 acres of our current greenspace into usable public parks, playgrounds and walking trails with all the required amenities. This will require the Town to re-purpose some spaces into other land uses with more appropriate zoning, while adding new acres back into our parks system.

How do we get there?

1. Expand Pathway System – Underway 2019 to present.

Enhancing and expanding our municipal pathway system is critical to ensuring that our residents have access to nature and to promote active lifestyles and healthy living. The Town is working on plans to expand the walking trail to a 10km loop that would encircle the entire community. The entire pathway system would be paved, landscaped, and finished with all the necessary amenities. Phase 1 was paved in 2018, phase 2 in 2020 and phase 3 will be paved in 2022. Future phases will be developed as land is secured and budget is allocated.

2. Redevelop 5 existing and 2 new Playgrounds – 2021 to present.

Our existing 5 playgrounds are all in need of either complete redevelopment or enhancements. Two new playgrounds have been identified for Victoria Park and Stonegate Meadows. We want all of our playgrounds to be destinations that attract families and that cater to different age groups and styles. As the budget is provided, all playgrounds and park spaces will have enhanced landscaping, amenities and some will have new play structures developed. In 2021, the Lions and Phillips Parks were enhanced with improved landscaping and amenities. The remaining playgrounds will be improved as Councils allocate additional funds.

3. Develop Fairgrounds 2.0 – Underway 2023

As a new High School will be built at some point on the location of the existing Stampede grounds, Council has identified the need to re-develop the stampede grounds in a new location. The new fairgrounds, like a smaller version of Exhibition Park in Lethbridge will offer community groups a larger venue that they can use to host larger events such as the Raymond Stampede, Canada Day midway, tractor pull, mud bog etc. with ample parking, lighting, and other amenities. The Town is in the process of securing the land for this new amenity.

4. Develop Victoria Park West & East - TBD

In 2023, construction is beginning on Raymond's new \$37.5 million-dollar High School within Victoria Park. This addition will bring hundreds of additional users to our facility every day and will solidify VSP as the recreation hub of the community. Future plans for development include the addition of 2 new softball and 1 new baseball diamonds, enhancing our existing 4 baseball diamonds, the construction of a pickleball complex that will have up to 12 courts available for public and tournament use. We also plan on expanding the beach volleyball complex to allow for temporary expansion of up to 8 additional beach volleyball courts when we are hosting tournaments.

5. Develop an All-Wheel Park – In Progress

A site has been identified and land has been purchased in 2021 for a premier Skatepark, Pump-track, Bicycle playground and Mountain Bike facility that will be connected to our municipal trail system. This site will consist of the skatepark/pump-track infrastructure, parking, gazebo, benches, solar lighting etc. A firm has been contracted to help with the overall planning and design of this facility and the Town is collaborating with the Raymond Skate Park Association and the Raymond Mountain Bike Association to develop this site into another marquee, recreational facility. This asset will fill a gap in our active infrastructure inventory and will be used by all types of users.

6. Develop Day Use Beach Area at Perrett Park - TBD

Perrett Lake is an underutilized asset within our community. By developing a day-use beach area on the northwest corner of the lake, a new passive and active recreation destination will be created. Part of the area is to be a sand beach area that is retained to prevent the sand loss due to erosion. A public dock will be built, the shoreline will be enhanced, and the area will be landscaped and finished with the appropriate amenities. This beach area will be tied into our municipal pathway system and will accommodate parking for up to 88 vehicles that will be adjacent to the beach area or attached green space.

6. Shade for the Future

Background:

There is an old Chinese proverb that says, “the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second, best time is now.” Raymond's early settlers understood the value of trees, especially in context to the bare prairie they built our community within. Many of those trees are still here today. Unfortunately, many have not been cared for adequately

and will either be damaged by high winds or heavy snow or need to be cut down to reduce liability.

Raymond also has not undertaken any concerted efforts at replanting our urban canopy, either led by the municipality or through private initiatives. Promoting new

tree growth has so many positive benefits that range from improved aesthetics, reducing air temperatures, improving air quality, absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiation, help with storm water retention, energy conservation, support wildlife habitats and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

How do we get there?

1. Municipal Tree Inventory – Completed 2021

The foundation of an effective, urban forest management program is a detailed tree inventory. A tree inventory provides information such as tree health, species, size, and location; this information is used to generate reports that can help urban foresters in their strategic planning, such as the development of maintenance and management plans, as well as to help educate residents about their urban forest. Inventory data can be used to identify species diversity and distribution, percentage of canopy cover, size/class distribution, and other data. A professional arborist will be brought in to help the Town develop an inventory of every individual tree in our urban forest on public lands.

2. Municipal Tree Inspection Cycle – Completed 2022

Coupled with an inventory, a tree inspection cycle is integral for proper tree maintenance and hazard abatement. Effective tree monitoring enables arborists and park managers to evaluate the urban forest resource and develop short and long-term initiatives, which can in turn provide substantial cost savings and mitigate safety issues. This will require annual budget funding be included within our operating budget to ensure that each tree is assessed and pruned in a given period of time.

3. Municipal Tree Planting Initiative – Completed 2020

The Town has set a goal to plant at least 100 new trees on public spaces annually. Adding new trees to your urban canopy ensures that there are always trees at different stages of development. This protects scenic landscapes from drastically being altered as trees mature and must be removed. By including funding in our annual operating budget, the Town will be able to ensure that our parks, playgrounds, green spaces and identified, prominent boulevards are aesthetically pleasing while providing our community with all the benefits that come with healthy, mature trees.

4. Municipal Tree Planting Rebate Program - TBD

Council may determine that a municipal tree planting program is needed to promote expansion of our urban canopy onto private lands. This program may include a community bulk buying program or the distribution of saplings around the community. Property owners that would like to participate will have to agree to plant the tree within two days of receiving it, water it at least 1-2 times per week and mulching it.

6. Back to Earth

Background:

The soil supports life and prosperity. The more we can do to return natural nutrients and bacteria into the soil, while reducing the amount of waste that we landfill will greatly enhance the soils health, within our community. Turning waste materials into new, value-added products is not only good for the economy, but it is good for the earth. By encouraging more locally grown food, we can also improve the food security of our community.

How do we get there?

1. Tree Chipping – Completed 2020

All the trees that are disposed of in our Recycling Centre's tree cell are being chipped and re-used as mulch throughout our park, playgrounds, greenspace, and golf course. Any available mulch will be made available for free to the public on a first come, first serve basis to use for their own private landscaping. This reduces the cost to collect and haul the material to an external site where we were permitted to dump previously.

2. Enhanced Recycling Centre Capacity - TBD

Our recycling centre provides 24-hour access to our residents. Moving away from the recycling trailer model and into large, roll-off bins has increased our overall volume and reduced capacity issues, but it has increased costs. We also have challenges with cross-contamination of materials, and this is largely due to the shared bin approach for paper/plastics and glass/metals. The Town will look at purchasing 3 additional bins so that we will have at least 1 dedicated bin for glass, metal, paper, and plastic, as well as 3 cardboard bins available at all times. This should reduce our cross-contamination rates and higher tipping fees at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Lethbridge. We will also experiment with some larger curbside collection bins for recycling to reduce the amount of cross-

contamination with our loads and increase our overall capacity, until such time as we can finalize the permanent expansion of our recycling facility.

3. Curbside Recycling Collection - TBD

Now that the City of Lethbridge has completed their MRF facility, the Town can offer curb-side recycling to our residents. The Town would have to purchase the

blue bins and we would adjust our collection schedule and alternate garbage and recycling pickups to maintain our current fee structure. This would be in addition to our recycling centre and provide numerous options for our residents and business to help reduce the volume of waste we landfill annually.

4. Curbside Compost Collection - TBD

The Town could consider offering curb-side compost collection, which would allow our residents to place in their bins organic waste, such as household food and yard waste. More research would have to be done as to how this material is processed, either internally or in Lethbridge, but it would reduce the volume of organic waste being landfilled and reduce GHG emissions from being released as the material decomposes, while creating a reusable product that can go back to the public.

5. Residential Composting - TBD

The Town is considering a residential composting pilot where the Town would subsidize the purchase of an approved kitchen composting unit and monitor how much organic waste has been diverted from our regional landfill. The pilot properties will also benefit from the nutrient rich fertilizer that the units produce that can be used in their gardens or throughout their properties.

6. Brownfield Rehabilitation – Underway 2021

The Town will work private, property owners of known and suspected brownfield sites to have them remediated and returned back into either greenspace or a new assessable improvement within the community. The sites are typically unkept and diminish from the aesthetic value of the community. We will look to apply for grant funding if available to help offset the costs of the improvement.

7. Community Garden – Underway 2021

The Town has been approached by a non-profit company who is interested in establishing a community garden. The Town would provide land and access to raw water for irrigation for the garden, as well as provide off-street parking for those working on the soil. The community group would be responsible for the

management of the community garden through a group of volunteers or interested community members.