



Why We Need a City-Wide Growth Strategy

In the past, The City of Calgary has almost exclusively managed growth by building new subdivisions on the fringes of the city. This is too expensive and unsustainable.

Continuing the suburban growth strategy will, by 2076, require an additional \$16 billion in capital cost and an extra \$390 million in annual operating cost. This is a fiscal problem that must be solved.

Because of the strategy of expanding outward, the needs of both the Established Area and new subdivisions already in place have been neglected. In the Established Area, neighbourhood schools close, local businesses struggle, and The City finds itself short \$7.7 billion to fix or add infrastructure. In new subdivisions, the suburban growth strategy has continued to add population without promised infrastructure and services. The Calgarians of today deserve better than that.

What is the City-Wide Growth Strategy

Over the past eight months, we asked community leaders what their community and our city need. Based on [what we heard](#), we developed [Five Steps](#) for creating a city-wide strategy that will right-size investment and growth to support the communities we already have.

The five steps begin with improved methods of managing redevelopment and end with a method of fairly and efficiently reallocating and enhancing funding. Over the next decade, taking those steps will re-balance growth in Calgary, making it both more efficient and effective. It will also provide a more sustainable and affordable housing market within Calgary and the region.

What We Ask City Council to Do

City Council has recognized that a city-wide growth strategy is needed. We need that strategy now. It is the missing link in The City's planning – the foundation for tying together all The City's plans and strategies from the MDP to the *Housing Strategy*. It is the horse that pulls the cart.

We ask that Council direct Administration, by the third quarter of 2024, to create the city-wide growth strategy. Have Administration start with the five steps, build in other valuable components, and come back in ten months with the strategy and a plan to implement it.

What we propose, in most cases, is simply asking The City to do what it has already promised to do, only do it faster, do it better, and do it in a fair and equitable manner.

Our communities, our residents, and especially members of Council need a city-wide growth strategy. It will ease the burden on taxpayers. It will break down silos. It will increase the efficiency of decision-making and deliver better outcomes. And, finally, it will make living here more affordable for renters, homeowners, businesses, and all the other organizations and institutions that call Calgary home.

Surely, that's not too much to ask.