

City of Edmonton Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) - Regional Context Statement

Part 1 RAMP Framework, Policy Areas and Agricultural Areas

RAMP Framework			
Framework	Consistency Requirement	City Plan Direction	Action Required
<p>Policy Definitions</p> <p>Note: defined terms within RAMP are shown in <i>italics</i> within this document (Appendix E, p. 65).</p>		<p>The policy direction and definitions in City Plan are consistent with RAMP.</p> <p><i>"Agricultural land"</i> is referenced within City Plan, but not defined.</p> <p><i>"prime agricultural Land"</i> and <i>"prime agricultural areas"</i> are not referenced or defined in City Plan, but policies within City Plan conserve agricultural areas within undeveloped areas of the City through infill, intensification and development threshold policies (see below).</p>	No Action Required
<p>Identify relevant RAMP Policy Areas (per Appendix E, p. 65)</p>		<p>Almost the entirety of Edmonton is within Policy Area 3 Agriculture Areas in Transition (within the developing area of the City) and Policy Area 4 Urban Agriculture, with small areas of Policy Area 1 Rural Agriculture.</p> <p>While the specific RAMP policy areas are not referenced in City Plan, the policy direction and maps are consistent with RAMP.</p>	No Action Required
<p>Identify relevant Prime Agricultural Areas (per p. 32 and Appendix E, in RAMP, p. 65)</p>		<p>Prime Agricultural Areas are identified in RAMP under Policy Area 1 in the very far SW and SE of Edmonton. These areas are identified to remain in agricultural use for the time frame of City Plan (which is longer than the RAMP/Growth Plan horizon).</p>	<p>No Action Required</p> <p>Consider adding <i>Prime Agricultural Areas</i> to City Plan maps in future updates.</p>
<p>Identify relevant All Other Agricultural Areas</p>		<p>Not applicable in Edmonton.</p>	No Action Required

Identify relevant Specialty Agriculture Lands		Not applicable in Edmonton.	No Action Required
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Part 2 RAMP Policies

Policy Area 1: Rural Agriculture			
RAMP Policy	Consistency Requirement	City Plan Direction	Action Required
1. <i>Agriculture</i> is the priority land use in Policy Area 1.		<p>The City of Edmonton contains only a small portion of Policy Area 1 Rural Agriculture.</p> <p>Areas within the City that are within Policy Area 1 are not anticipated to develop within the time frame of City Plan, or the Growth Plan (2044) and are therefore consistent with Policy Area 1 in the RAMP.</p>	No Action Required
2. Policies must be included in statutory plans to enable the continuation, <i>development</i> , and expansion of all types, sizes and intensities of <i>agriculture</i> throughout Policy Area 1.		<p>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</p> <p><i>Agricultural uses</i> will continue in the portions of Edmonton identified as Policy Area 1 Rural Agriculture.</p> <p>Agricultural areas in Edmonton that are classified as Policy Area 3 Agriculture Areas in Transition, specifically the Future Growth Area (south of 41 Ave) will be subject to the Substantial Completion policy (2.3.2.3). This will ensure that the land remains in agricultural production until it is needed for residential development.</p>	No Action Required
3. <i>Agricultural uses</i> that follow generally accepted agricultural practices must be		City Plan includes policies that are supportive of agricultural uses operating in their current location (policies 5.3.1, 2.3.2.3).	No Action Required

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<p>able to operate in suitable locations without being unduly encumbered or hindered by non-agricultural development, or by adjacent land uses in neighbouring Policy Areas.</p>		<p>City Plan, in the 2.0 million horizon, anticipates no urban growth within <i>prime agricultural areas</i> in Policy Area 1 as defined in RAMP, with the only exception being a small area northeast of Beaumont, south of 41 Avenue and north of Irvine Creek that is designated as “Residential” in Map 1 City Plan Concept. This is expected to start developing within the 1.75 to 2.0 million horizon, which is beyond the timeframe of both the Growth Plan and RAMP (2044).</p> <p>Agricultural uses will continue in the foreseeable future.</p>	
<p>4. <i>Prime agricultural lands</i> will be conserved in <i>prime agricultural areas</i> to provide a secure, long-term local food source for future generations.</p>		<p><i>City Plan</i> policies 5.3.1, 2.3.2.3 support this conservation, and the 2.0 million horizon shows no urban development within <i>prime agricultural areas</i> in Policy Area 1 except for a small area northeast of Beaumont as noted above.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>5. <i>Prime agricultural areas</i> and <i>all other agricultural areas</i> will be informed by the outcomes of the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) tool and designated in statutory plans.</p>	<p><i>Designation of Prime Agricultural Areas</i></p>	<p>Prime Agricultural Areas are identified in RAMP under Policy Area 1 in the far SW and SE of Edmonton. These areas are either identified as agricultural in City Plan or will remain in agricultural use for the time frame of the RAMP/Growth Plan..</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>6. <i>Specialty agricultural land</i> may be identified in either <i>prime agricultural areas</i> or in <i>all other agricultural areas</i>.</p>		<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>7. Two or more municipalities that share a prime agricultural area(s) must coordinate the designation of the area to recognize the geographic continuity.</p>	<p><i>Identification of relevant areas</i></p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

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<p>8. <i>Agricultural uses, agriculture related uses, value-added agriculture uses, and on-farm diversified uses</i> are supported throughout Policy Area 1.</p>		<p>City Plan policies identify the portions of Edmonton in Policy Area 1 as agricultural for the entire time frame of City Plan, with the small exception northeast of Beaumont noted above. Agricultural uses are the only considered development in those areas.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>9. Notwithstanding Policy 8, agriculture-related uses and value added agriculture uses must not hinder agricultural operations in the surrounding area.</p>		<p>City Plan policies identify the portions of Edmonton in Policy Area 1 as agricultural for the entire time frame of City Plan, with the small exception northeast of Beaumont noted above. Agricultural uses are the only considered development in those areas.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>10. <i>Agriculture-related uses and value added agriculture uses</i> should be directed to lower capability agricultural lands when possible.</p>		<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>11. Development of <i>agriculture-related uses and value-added agriculture uses</i> should minimize the amount of agricultural land taken out of production.</p>		<p>City Plan provides direction that is supportive of this policy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i></p> <p>Agricultural use to continue in the foreseeable future within Policy Area 1, as per City Plan.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>12. Consideration should be given to directing <i>agriculture-related, and value-added agricultural uses to cluster sites.</i></p>	<p><i>Identification of cluster sites</i></p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>13. <i>Non-agricultural uses</i> are discouraged in <i>prime agricultural areas.</i></p>		<p>Agriculture is the only use anticipated in City Plan for the portions of Edmonton within Policy Area 1 of RAMP, with the small exception northeast of Beaumont noted above.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

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<p>14. <i>Non-agricultural uses</i> may be considered in <i>all other agricultural areas</i> and should be minimized to maintain <i>agriculture</i> as the priority land use pursuant to Policy 1. Designation of <i>All Other Agricultural Areas</i></p>		<p>Not applicable to Edmonton as almost all portions of Policy Area 1 in RAMP are identified as agriculture in City Plan, with the small exception northeast of Beaumont noted above.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>15. Consideration should be given to directing <i>non-agricultural uses</i> to lower capability land, where possible or to <i>cluster sites</i></p>		<p>No <i>non-agricultural uses</i> are contemplated within the portions of Edmonton identified within Policy Area 1 in RAMP, with the small exception northeast of Beaumont noted above.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>16. In <i>prime agricultural areas</i>, development of in-situ, resource-based economic assets such as coal, sand and/or gravel, marl, and peat may be considered.</p>		<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>17. In <i>prime agricultural areas</i>, other <i>non-agricultural uses</i> may only be considered, preferably on lower capability land if it can be demonstrated that other locations in <i>all other agricultural areas</i> or at <i>cluster sites</i> are not feasible. An Agricultural Impact Assessment is required to confirm the proposed use will not hinder the agricultural operations in the surrounding area.</p>		<p>No <i>non-agricultural uses</i> are contemplated in portions of Edmonton identified within Policy Area 1 in RAMP, with the small exception northeast of Beaumont noted above.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

<p>18. Subdivision Policy Criteria: <i>Prime agricultural areas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subdivision of a residential parcel for an existing Farmstead should be considered. b. Subdivision of land for <i>agriculture, agriculture-related, and value-added agriculture</i> uses may be considered. c. Subdivision for a new residential parcel from a quarter section with no existing residential use may be considered subject to Policy 15. d. Subdivision for <i>non-agricultural uses</i> is discouraged and may only be considered subject to Policies 15 and 17. <p>All other agricultural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Subdivision of a residential parcel for an existing Farmstead should be considered. f. Subdivision of land for <i>agriculture, agriculture-related, and value-added agriculture</i> uses may be considered. g. Subdivision for a new residential parcel from a quarter section with no existing residential use may be considered subject to Policy 15. 	<p><i>Identify MDP subdivision policy and how RAMP subdivision criteria will be implemented</i></p>	<p>City Plan provides policy (see below) that is consistent with this RAMP policy. This will be implemented into the Zoning Bylaw through the Zoning Bylaw Renewal.</p> <p><i>2.3.2.7 Prevents any further subdivision of Rural Residential or Agricultural lands that creates additional Rural Residential parcel(s) or would otherwise facilitate further country residential development.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.4 Prevent premature fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands for residential and non-residential uses.</i></p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
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<p>h. Subdivision for <i>non-agricultural uses</i> may be considered subject to Policy 15.</p>			
<p>19. Subdivision of agricultural land should result in parcels sized appropriately for the type of <i>agriculture</i> use(s) common in the area and sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations.</p>		<p>City Plan provides policy (see below) that is consistent with this RAMP policy. This will be implemented into the Zoning Bylaw through the Zoning Bylaw Renewal.</p> <p><i>2.3.2.7 Prevents any further subdivision of Rural Residential or Agricultural lands that creates additional Rural Residential parcel(s) or would otherwise facilitate further country residential development.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.4 Prevent premature fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands for residential and non-residential uses.</i></p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>20. Subdivision for any purpose should minimize the amount of agricultural land taken out of production and must not hinder the operation of surrounding agricultural land uses.</p>		<p>City Plan provides policy (see below) that is consistent with this RAMP policy. This will be implemented into the Zoning Bylaw through the Zoning Bylaw Renewal.</p> <p><i>2.3.2.7 Prevents any further subdivision of Rural Residential or Agricultural lands that creates additional Rural Residential parcel(s) or would otherwise facilitate further country residential development.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.4 Prevent premature fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands for residential and non-residential uses.</i></p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>21. Consideration must be given to directing subdivision for <i>agriculture-related, value-added</i> and <i>non-agricultural land uses</i> to <i>cluster sites</i> and wherever possible to lower capability land.</p>		<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

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22. Subdivision policies for <i>prime agricultural areas</i> apply to <i>specialty agriculture land</i> .		Not applicable.	No Action Required
Policy Area 2: Agriculture Co-exists with Other Land Uses			
RAMP Policy	Consistency Requirement	City Plan direction	Action Required
1. Agricultural lands co-exist with existing designated land uses and shall remain in agricultural use until required for conversion.		Not applicable.	No Action Required
Policy Area 3: Agriculture in Future Transition Lands			
RAMP Policy	Consistency Requirement	City Plan Direction	Action Required
1. Agricultural lands in Policy Area 3 will remain in <i>agriculture</i> use until the lands are needed for population and/ or employment growth.		<p>City Plan provides direction that is consistent with this RAMP policy.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i></p> <p>There are portions of Edmonton identified as Policy Area 3 in RAMP. These areas are anticipated to remain in agricultural use until they are needed for growth. City Plan policies are in place to ensure they are not fragmented prematurely.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>2.3.2.3 Require substantial completion of the developing area including service provision, amenities and infrastructure prior to authorizing the preparation of statutory plans for contiguous development of the future growth area.</i></p>	No Action Required

		<p><i>5.3.1.4 Prevent premature fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands for residential and non-residential uses.</i></p> <p>Further action is being taken by Edmonton to pursue higher growth via infill and intensification, as opposed to greenfield development. This will reduce the amount of agricultural land needed to support growth.</p> <p><i>A rebuildable City: 50% of new units added through infill city-wide.</i></p>	
<p>2. Subdivision and <i>development</i> should be limited to maintain large parcel sizes to support ongoing agricultural operations until the lands are needed for population and/or employment growth.</p>		<p>City Plan provides direction that prevents premature fragmentation of agricultural lands. This supports the ongoing operation of existing agricultural uses.</p> <p><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.1 Facilitate urban agricultural activities and protect agricultural operations through regulation, programming, land use and design.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.4 Prevent premature fragmentation and conversion of agricultural lands for residential and non-residential uses.</i></p> <p>This is further supported through regulations in the Zoning Bylaw that prohibit subdivision smaller than 32 hectares, except for existing farmsteads.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>3. Until the lands are needed for population and/or growth, agricultural producers must have access to their agricultural lands to farm their lands. This includes but is not limited to maintaining field approaches and local roads sufficient to</p>		<p>City Plan direction provides protection for existing agricultural operations in Edmonton.</p> <p><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.1 Facilitate urban agricultural activities and protect agricultural operations through regulation, programming, land use and design.</i></p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

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accommodate agricultural machinery.			
4. Consideration must be given to public education about the daily and seasonal operational needs of <i>agriculture</i> and agricultural operators, in order to increase awareness and understanding and reduce conflict.		<p>City Plan and <i>fresh</i> Edmonton’s Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy both promote urban agriculture, which helps build public education about the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Direction in City Plan supports education as well.</p> <p><i>2.2.2.5 Facilitate local urban agricultural opportunities through education, supportive programming and regulation.</i></p>	No Action Required
5. Existing agricultural operations shall be given consideration to be kept as an existing land use supported by an urban agriculture plan.		<p>City Plan provides direction that is consistent with this RAMP policy. City Plan identifies areas within Edmonton that are anticipated to remain in agricultural use for the entire time frame of City Plan.</p> <p><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.5 Cooperate with regional partners to steward agricultural resources and value-added industries.</i></p>	No Action Required
Policy Area 4: Urban Agriculture			
RAMP Policy	Consistency Requirement	City Plan Direction	Action Required
1. Urban agriculture plans will be prepared for each member municipality with an urban or rural center and is encouraged for Hamlets with a minimum population of 500. <i>(See Appendix 1 – Urban Agriculture Plan Guidelines).</i>	<i>Identify the requirement for an Urban Agriculture Plan</i>	The City approved <i>fresh</i> : Edmonton’s Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy in November 2012. This predates City Plan and RAMP, but does meet the compliance required. <i>fresh</i> is currently undergoing a review by Administration, and an update on this strategy is expected to be provided to Council in Q1 2024.	No Action Required

<p>2. Existing agricultural operations shall be given consideration to be kept as an existing land use and supported by an urban agriculture plan.</p>	<p><i>Identify potential operations for consideration</i></p>	<p>City Plan provides direction that is consistent with this RAMP policy. City Plan identifies areas within Edmonton that are anticipated to remain in agricultural use for the entire time frame of City Plan.</p> <p><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i> <i>5.3.1.5 Cooperate with regional partners to steward agricultural resources and value-added industries.</i></p> <p>Additional strategic direction is provided in <i>fresh</i>, for instance:</p> <p><i>Strategic Direction: 5.3 Expand Urban Agriculture</i> Led to Council approval of Zoning Bylaw changes allowing for more urban agriculture and local food production activities across the city as of February 2016.</p> <p><i>Strategic Direction: 5.4 Develop Local Food Infrastructure Capacity</i> Under 5.4.2 (2), this includes provision of a permanent farmers' market location, services for producers, and aggregation, storage and distribution capacity.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>
<p>3. Policies must be included in statutory plans to enable urban agriculture in suitable locations throughout Policy Area 4.</p>		<p>City Plan provides direction to enable urban agriculture in Policy Area 4.</p> <p><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i> <i>5.3.1.1 Facilitate urban agricultural activities and protect agricultural operations through regulation, programming, land use and design.</i></p> <p>Additional strategic direction provided in <i>fresh</i>:</p> <p><i>Strategic Direction: 5.9 Integrate Land for Agriculture</i></p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

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		<p><i>5.9.2 A Framework to Integrate Land for Agriculture to determine how much, where, and how agricultural land should be protected.</i></p> <p><i>Strategic Direction: 5.5 Grow Local Food Supply and Demand</i> <i>5.5.2(3) Strengthen farmers' markets</i></p>	
<p>4. <i>Value-added agriculture</i> uses will be considered in this policy area.</p>		<p>City Plan provides direction that is supportive of this RAMP policy.</p> <p><i>Direction 5.3.1 relating to support the conservation of agricultural land:</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.3 Attract innovation and investment in urban agricultural intensification.</i></p> <p><i>5.3.1.5 Cooperate with regional partners to steward agricultural resources and value-added industries.</i></p>	No Action Required
Implementation			
RAMP Policy	Consistency Requirement	City Plan Direction	Action Required
5.1 Agricultural Land and Soils		<p>This section focuses on soil management, specifically with direction to consider reuse and recycling of soils in statutory plans.</p> <p>No specific policies related to soil management are included in City Plan. RAMP direction on this is enabling, so compliance can be achieved over time.</p>	<p>No Action Required</p> <p>Consider developing new policy related to soil management in future updates to City Plan.</p>
5.2 Land Use		<p>This section provides direction to member municipalities to ensure compatibility between agricultural and non-agricultural uses, including a regional growth study to address infill development requirements prior to the development of greenfield and agricultural lands, as well as connectivity to natural areas.</p>	No Action Required

		<p>City Plan provides direction on compatibility of lands uses in a variety of policies and provides specific direction on connectivity to natural areas.</p> <p><i>Direction: 2.3.2 Ensure that growth is managed with regard to long term fiscal impacts and full lifecycle costs of infrastructure and services.</i></p> <p><i>Direction: 5.1.2 Edmonton maintains and invests in regionally significant ecological connectivity, natural subsets, agricultural lands and infrastructure services.</i></p> <p><i>Intention: 5.3 Edmonton maintains and invests in regionally significant ecological connectivity, natural assets, agricultural lands and infrastructure services.</i></p>	
<p>5.3 Agricultural System</p>		<p>This section focuses on supporting the agricultural system as a whole and guides municipalities to consider impacts on agriculture when making decisions on land use.</p> <p>The general policy direction in City Plan is supportive of these outcomes and <i>fresh</i> goes further into the specifics about how Edmonton can support the agricultural sector.</p> <p><i>City Plan:</i> <i>Intention: 5.3 Edmonton maintains and invests in regionally significant ecological connectivity, natural assets, agricultural lands and infrastructure services.</i></p> <p><i>Direction: 5.3.1 Support the conservation of agricultural land to reduce its loss and fragmentation and contribute to economic development and resilience of the food system.</i></p> <p><i>fresh</i> - Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy - contains a number of recommendations and strategic directions to support agricultural systems, for instance:</p>	<p>No Action Required</p>

		<p><i>Strategic Direction: 5.7 Treat Food Waste as a Resource</i> <i>5.7.2(a) Develop partnerships to assist in the redistribution of healthy, fresh and high-quality surplus food.</i></p> <p><i>Strategic Direction: 5.9 Integrate Land Use for Agriculture</i> <i>5.9.3 (3) Adopt and Apply the "Integrating Land Use for Agriculture Framework" to guide future decisions about agricultural land use in the Urban Growth Areas, evaluate land use plans and large-scale development proposals and implement such decisions.</i></p>	
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