## The Basics

What is urban planning

Urban or city planning is the process of design and managing how the physical, social and economic development occurs in a built environment like a cities, town, etc. City planning attempt to predict and shape how city will develop in the future, base a lot of what done or plan on a variety of aspect such as:

* Anticipating how the city will look or function in the future.
* Assessing current and potential needs in a city, and what will need to be accounted for and addressed.
* The change of demographics in a city over time, and how a difference in age, race, etc. between now and then could impact the development.

There are many other aspect that effect city planning but ultimately a goal of planning is to ensure that a city which is a continually evolving environment can develop in an organized and sustainable manner. Overtime shaping patterns of community growth and the overall quality of life in a city

## The Planning Process

City planning follows a process where it starts off with nonspecific ideas and concepts based on research and data gather these ideas slowly become more specific. Eventually after many stages a final detail plan and policies are formed. The planning process can be organized into into the follow phases:

*Big Ideas (long range planning):*

This phase is where planners research and gather data about the current state of an area, this data includes things like population demographics, environmental conditions, existing city services and infrastructure.

The data gathered in conjunction with other planning documents, help form the overall vision for the area. The resulting plans and polices that come from this phase are high-level, but act as blueprints for refinement.

Some documents are also used in this phase to help in forming the plan for an area, such as:

* The official city plan or Municipal Development Plan

This is a formal document that is designed to guide the long-term development, growth and policy decisions of a city. This document is basically the overall vison of the city and is meant to provide the framework for how developments within the city get design, planned and developed.

* Inter-municipal Development Plans

These are document made by a city in cooperation with neighbouring cities to determine how future growth and development in the areas between should be handled/carried out. The goal of this document is to ensure constant and continued cooperative growth and development between the cities/municipalities

#### Refined plans

In this phase more research is conducted which reflects the overall vision fir the area. Resulting in more detailed plans and policies being created that build on top of the high level plans and policies from in the last phase

Some tools used in this phase include:

* Area Structure Plans

The purpose of this document is to provide a detail framework for the development of a specific large area within a municipality. These documents designate a specific areas land usage, ultimately allowing planners to understand how an area will look when developed.

#### Detailed plans

This phase is where the final plan is formed which builds upon plans created in the last phase and forms a more detailed/focused plan. This plan is then reviewed and revised tell eventually become the final plan which covers exactly what should be done in the array and then is applied.

Tools and documents used in this phase include:

* Zoning bylaw

A law established which reflects the overall vision for an area. It regulates how a the land of an area can be used, dictated what types of building can/can’t be built in the area. These law are help in guiding the development of an area ensuring the land is used well and community needs are met.

* Development permits

Documents which grant permission to property owners or developer to develop an area. These documents ensure new development follow plans, guidelines and other document for how an area should be developed are followed.

### Importance of urban planning

### more about urban planning

### Sources

* <https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/business-in-red-deer/planning-and-development-of-property/planning/Planning-101.pdf>
* <http://www.urbanlearning.eu/toolbox/planning-process/>
* Geo 2535: Introduction to Planning