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Calgary Metropolitan Plan

Calgary Regional Partnership

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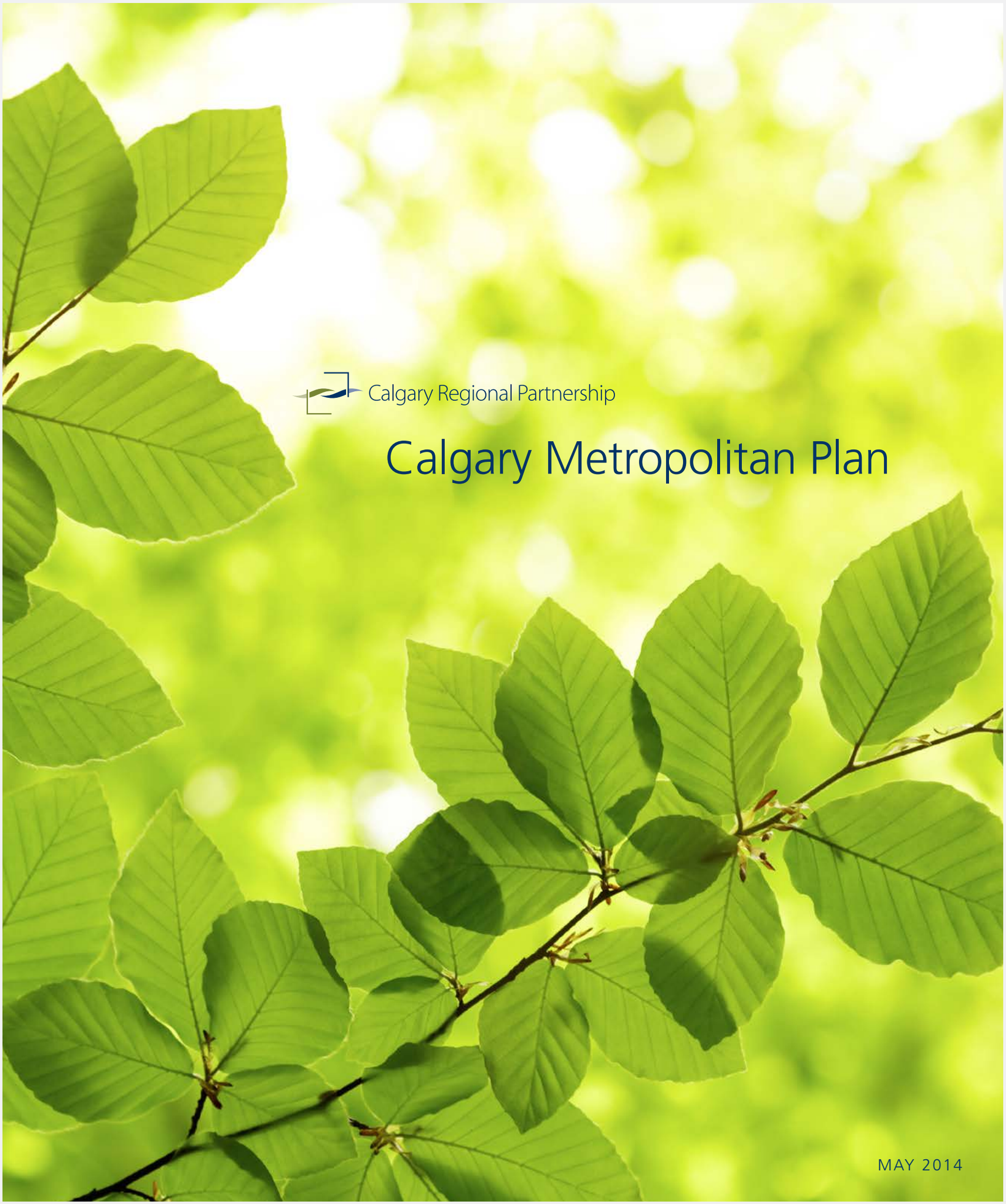

Calgary Regional Partnership
Calgary Metropolitan Plan
MAY 2014

Water is essential

We are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful, prosperous areas in the world, the Bow River Basin. Every year, thousands of people move here to experience all the advantages we often take for granted.

How we guide and shape the area's growth is fundamental to protecting the elements we value most – the natural environment, our communities, fresh air, clean and plentiful water and economic prosperity.

The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) was formed in 1999 as a voluntary network of municipalities working together for a brighter future. We recognize that the status quo for managing growth is unsustainable, and that protecting our water supply is key to our future.

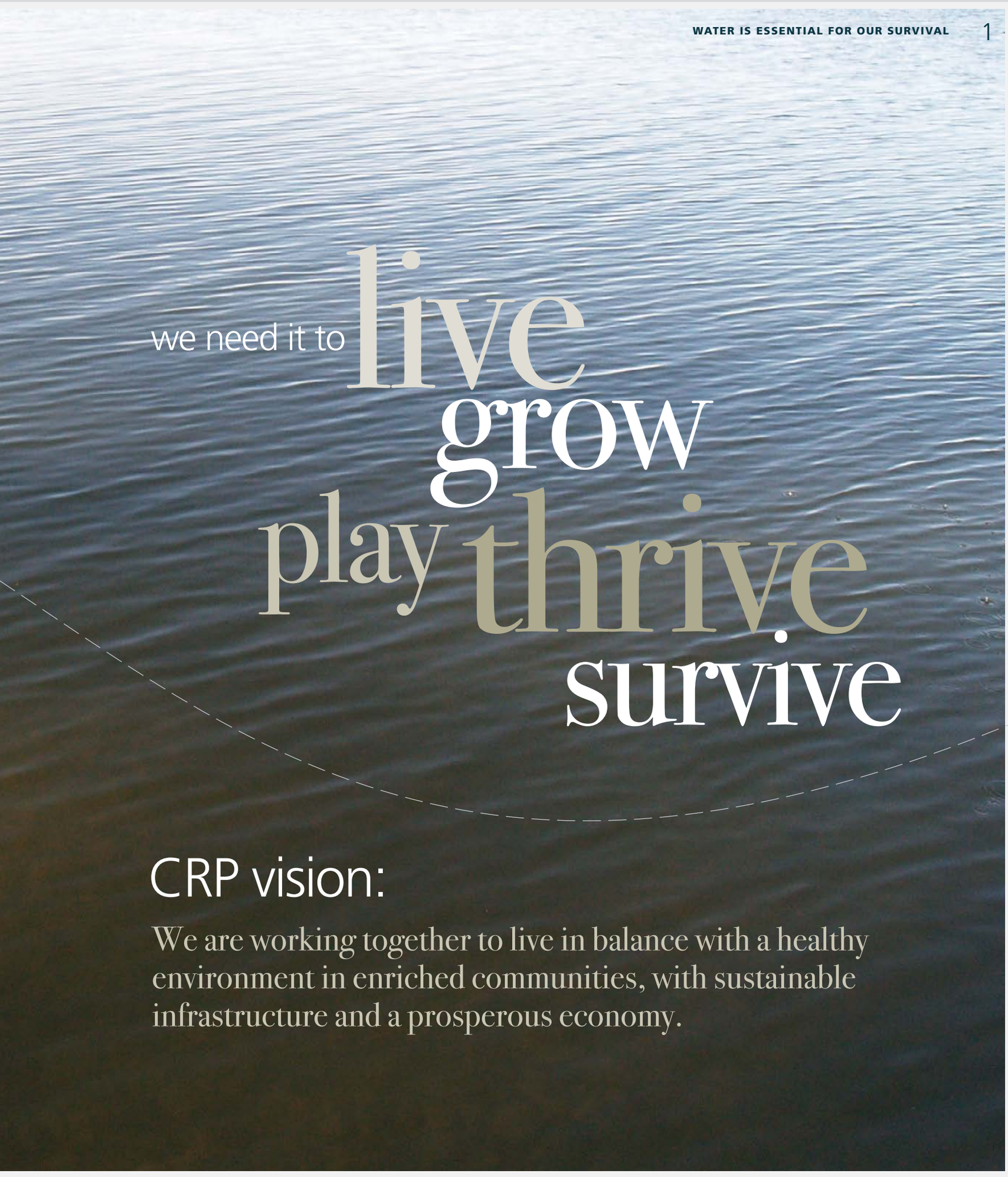
The CRP was created in a spirit of cooperation, and with the knowledge that we can achieve more by working together as partners. We must leverage and maximize our resources instead of competing for them. With challenges of growth and expansion, cooperation and collaboration are essential to preserve those things we value most.

That spirit of collaboration led to the development of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP). This document recognizes and supports the value of communities working together on issues that matter to everyone.

The CMP was designed with contributions from all of our member communities and is intended to be a guide for sustainable growth in our region. It is a framework of shared commitments – one that each community can support in a way that makes sense for them. The focus is on thinking regionally but acting locally, with the understanding that many different paths and approaches can lead to the same goal.

Today and in the future, we benefit from the vision of the community leaders who first came together in the 1990s. They saw the need for cooperative planning at a regional level. The work they initiated has become the blueprint for what the provincial government now requests of all regions. We are proud of our foresight to shape our own plan, choose our own future and guide our own success.

Though much has changed in the decade since the CMP was created, our Partnership has remained collaborative, community-directed and focused on opportunity. Today's citizens benefit from this vision and commitment, as will generations to come.



CRP vision:

We are working together to live in balance with a healthy environment in enriched communities, with sustainable infrastructure and a prosperous economy.

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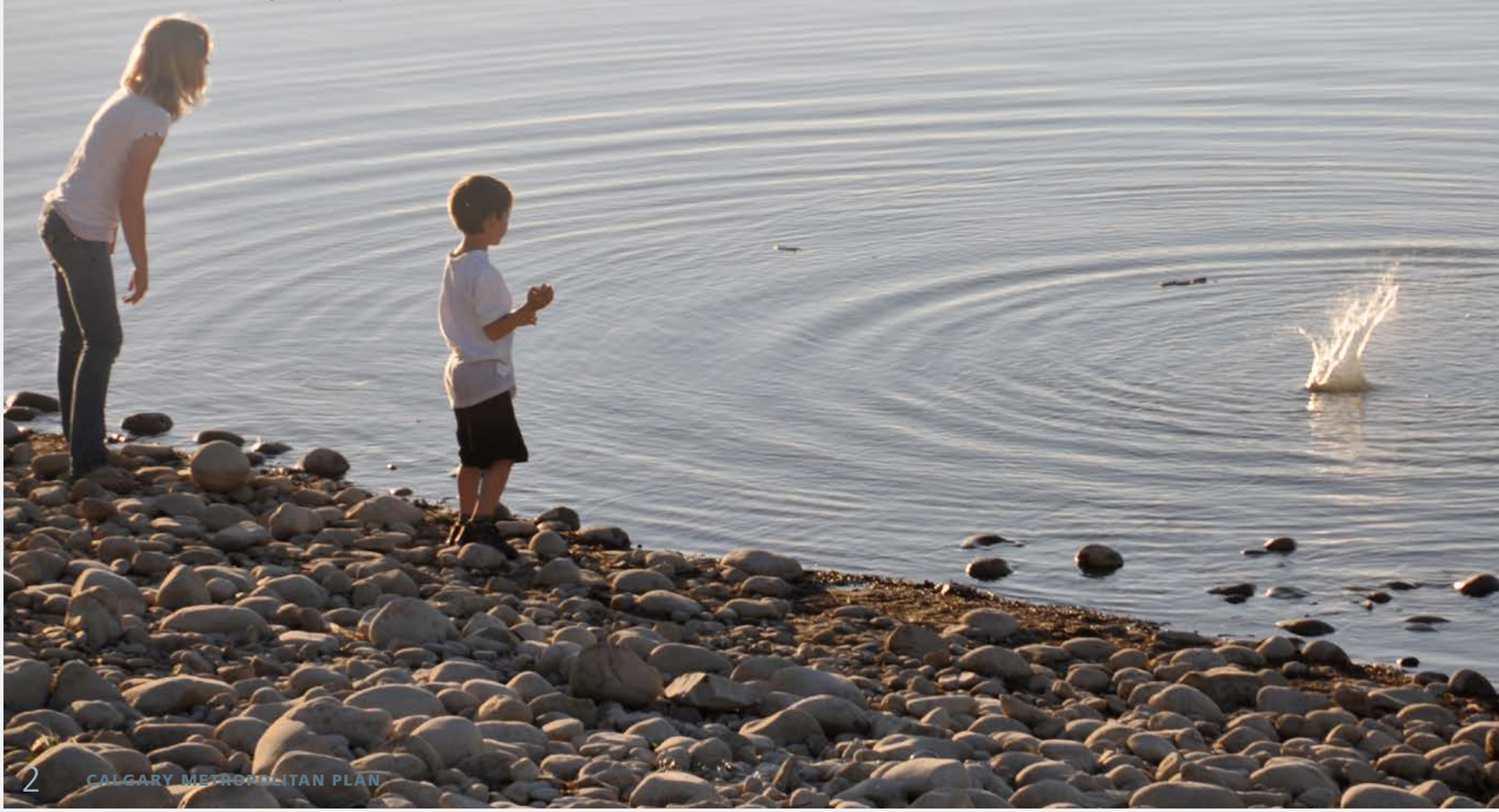


CRP principles

Our principles represent the foundation of what our region needs to be successful and sustainable for decades to come – they are what we live by and what cannot be compromised if we are to succeed.

Our principles offer additional clarity on the vision and direction for subsequent policies in this Plan. The region is working together to build complete communities that respect the environment. This requires deliberate integration between the land and water, the people, the economy and governance.

Our five guiding principles were developed with extensive public engagement, and guide us in the work we do.

1. **Protecting the natural environment and watershed.** We will ensure that natural landscapes, ecologies and water sources are identified, respected and stewarded to ensure their function and integrity over time as the region grows.

2. **Fostering the region's economic vitality.** As a partnership, we will work together to develop and enhance business opportunities for the private sector, improve our ability to attract and retain our labour force, promote the overall environment for business investment and enhance national and global recognition.

3. **Accommodating growth in more compact settlement patterns.** We will emphasize the uniqueness of existing municipalities and the development of more complete, healthy, transit-supportive communities, with employment and services located where people live.

4. **Integrating efficient regional infrastructure systems.** We will work toward a regional infrastructure system that incorporates complete transportation and mobility systems for the movement of people and goods, and regional water and wastewater servicing approaches in support of member communities. Our collaboration will ensure the most effective use of financial resources as we work with industry in alignment with the Calgary Metropolitan Plan and the Province of Alberta.

5. **Supported through a regional governance approach.** We will enable collaborative implementation and maintenance of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan and Calgary Regional Partnership activities, emphasizing a commitment to consensus-based decision making.

Calgary Regional Partnership

Our member municipalities proudly endorse the Calgary Metropolitan Plan

Peter Brown, Mayor, City of Airdrie

Ivan Brooker, Mayor, Town of Cochrane

Karen Sorensen, Mayor, Town of Banff

Valerie Squires, Mayor, Town of Irricana

Michel Jackson, Councillor, Town of Black Diamond

Rick Everett, Mayor, Town of Nanton

Jim Stevenson, Councillor, City of Calgary

Bill Robertson, Mayor, Town of Okotoks

John Borrowman, Mayor, Town of Canmore

Michael Ell, Mayor, Town of Strathmore

Patricia Matthews, Mayor, Town of Chestermere

Barry Williamson, Councillor, Town of Turner Valley

Calgary Regional Partnership member municipalities

Membership in the Calgary Regional Partnership is voluntary

The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) provides a unique model of regional cooperation. The municipalities in the partnership voluntarily work together as they recognize the benefit of their collective strength. Instead of being a level of government, the CRP connects municipalities in achieving a common regional vision as expressed and approved in the CMP.

Each member in the partnership brings a unique perspective to the table. The partnership recognizes that the member municipalities use different planning processes and that each will take different paths to achieve the strategies and goals in the CMP.

Airdrie

The City of Airdrie is the second largest community in the Calgary Region. One of Canada's fastest-growing communities, Airdrie has a youthful population of more than 43,000 citizens. This is reflected in a dynamic community spirit and progressive approach to growing and developing the city. Local industry includes transportation and logistics, manufacturing, oil and gas servicing companies, professional services and environmental industries.

Banff

Few places on earth inspire the awe and enchantment of Banff. The Town of Banff, a national park community of 8,200, services over 3 million annual park visitors. The Town's goal - and obligation- is to cultivate Banff's uniqueness while building a sustainable future, maintaining and enhancing the townsite as a Canadian cultural and environmental resource for now, and always.

Black Diamond

Black Diamond features a unique mix of agricultural and artistic businesses, with a historic downtown area, extensive recreational opportunities, seniors facilities and a teaching hospital to support and nurture citizens. The town is home to more than 2,300 residents, and its priorities include ensuring the community is sustainable for the long-term, managing growth and developing effective partnerships.

Calgary

With a young, ethnically diverse and highly educated population, Calgary is home to 1.1 million people. A 2012 Cultural Capital of Canada, Calgary is home to many world-class attractions including the Calgary Stampede. With a forecasted GDP value of $67 billion in 2012 and the highest concentration of head offices in Canada, Calgary's 10-year strategy is to be competitive, successful and global by focusing on people and community with emphasis on the energy, finance, manufacturing, transportation and film sectors.

Canmore

Located just minutes from Banff National Park, the Town of Canmore has extensive recreational opportunities and strong growth potential in tourism and the health/wellness sector. Canmore is the permanent home of 12,300 citizens, with an additional 6,000 non-permanent residents. Future priorities include regional transit, developing pedestrian route systems, enhancing the downtown core and maintaining the fine balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Chestermere

The Town of Chestermere is home to more than 14,600 residents just east of Calgary. This dynamic lakeside community is the fastest growing municipality in Alberta, with a population base that has more than doubled in the past eight years. With its youthful population, strong recreational focus and growing business sector, Chestermere has been the community of choice for many Alberta families and businesses.

Cochrane

The Town of Cochrane is rich in western heritage, and its residents are highly educated, affluent and family-focused. Now home to more than 17,580 residents, Cochrane has experienced a 28 per cent population growth in five years. The town continues to grow its business and residential base with a commitment to sustainability and a proactive regional focus. Priorities include recreation and culture, community connectivity and economic development.

Irricana

Irricana is a quiet residential community with a strong agricultural base. The town celebrated its centennial in 2011, and today includes several tourist attractions and recreational facilities that celebrate the area's heritage. From its location northeast of Calgary, Irricana is focused on continued sustainable growth and prosperity, with an emphasis on developing and maintaining a well-balanced community. Irricana is home to 1,160 citizens.

Nanton

Located south of Calgary, Nanton's small-town charm attracts numerous visitors, all drawn to its historic icons, culture and museums, and its dynamic retail sector. The area's economy includes a strong agricultural base as well as thriving natural gas and oil operations. Providing a safe and tranquil environment for the 2,100 residents who call Nanton home is a priority within the community.

Okotoks

The Town of Okotoks experienced a 43 per cent increase in population from 2006 to 2011, and today is home to more than 24,500 residents. The area features several successful agri-tourism ventures, sports teams and a unique solar community that promotes energy efficiency. Priorities for Okotoks' future included managing growth and infrastructure, promoting economic vitality, maintaining a healthy and safe community and environmental stewardship.

Strathmore

The Town of Strathmore is an agricultural community located east of Calgary. Strathmore has thriving retail, agricultural and natural gas sectors, a growing population base and tourism attractions that include Canada's third largest rodeo. Future priorities include economic development, road improvements, town beautification, enhanced pathways and recreational areas, and managed residential and commercial growth for its 12,100 citizens.

Turner Valley

With a population of more than 2,160, Turner Valley is located at the base of the Rocky Mountains, on Calgary's urban fringe. The community reflects small-town values, with a balance between economic opportunity and healthy lifestyle. Outdoor recreation and cultural events are popular tourist attractions. Turner Valley is focused on developing its environmental, tourism, professional service and renewable energy sectors.

A solid foundation for generations to come

Our advantages today come from the vision our leaders displayed years ago. Because of their focus and commitment, our region achieved success that is years ahead of what many other regions are experiencing, with accomplishments that are often held up as examples to others. The success of our past will hold us in good stead as we move forward toward an even brighter future.

Where we've been and where we are now

1999 – 2005

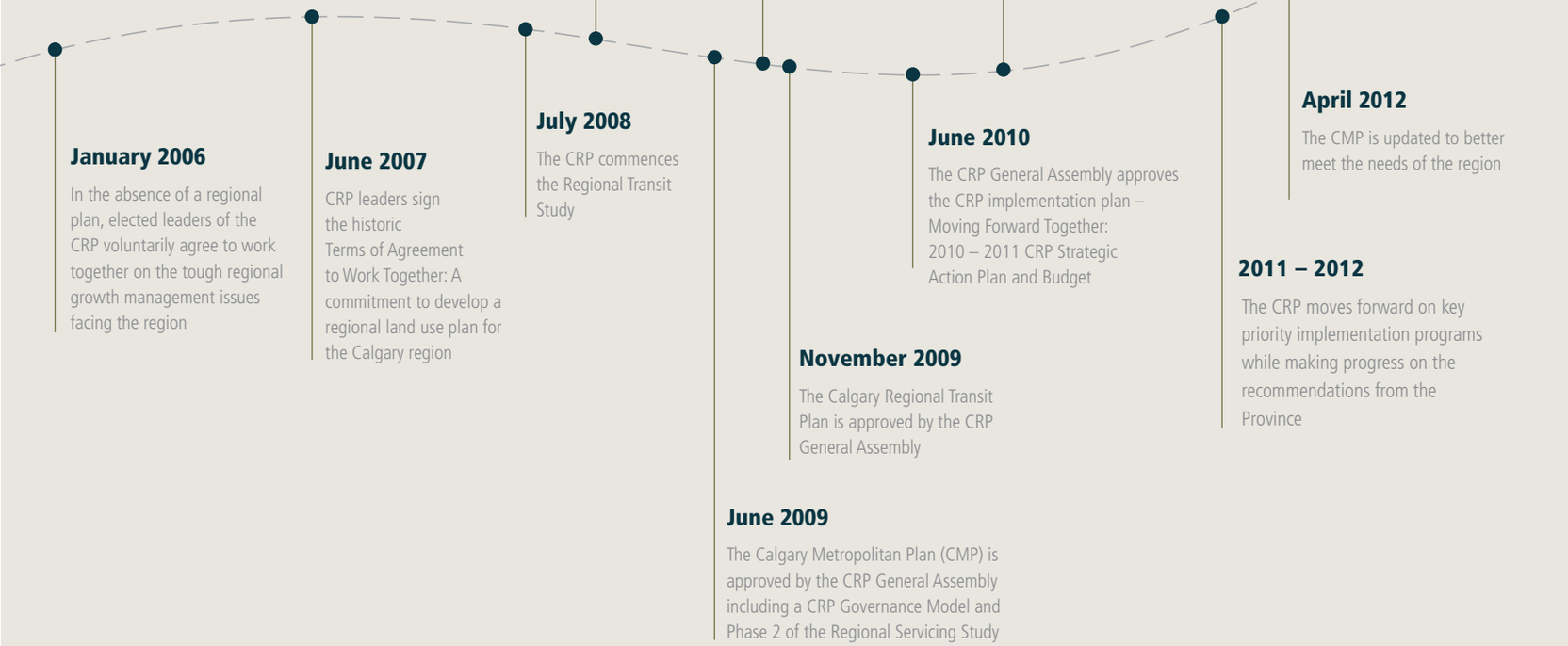
The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) begins as a loose network of municipalities based on a model of cooperation and consensus

2005

The CRP recognizes the need to work toward regional sustainability and approves the Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities

Change Begins:

the region takes leadership



January 2006

In the absence of a regional plan, elected leaders of the CRP voluntarily agree to work together on the tough regional growth management issues facing the region

June 2007

CRP leaders sign the historic Terms of Agreement to Work Together: A commitment to develop a regional land use plan for the Calgary region

July 2008

The CRP commences the Regional Transit Study

December 2008

The Government of Alberta mandates regional planning through the Provincial Land-Use Framework

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER: the region continues to take leadership

June 2009

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) is approved by the CRP General Assembly including a CRP Governance Model and Phase 2 of the Regional Servicing Study

October 2009

CRP Executive approves preliminary implementation priorities

November 2009

The Calgary Regional Transit Plan is approved by the CRP General Assembly

June 2010

The CRP General Assembly approves the CRP implementation plan – Moving Forward Together: 2010 – 2011 CRP Strategic Action Plan and Budget

December 2010

The Province of Alberta responds to the CMP with recommendations on further work to be completed

2011 – 2012

The CRP moves forward on key priority implementation programs while making progress on the recommendations from the Province

April 2012

The CMP is updated to better meet the needs of the region

May 2014

CMP amended and approved

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan: Collaboration in action

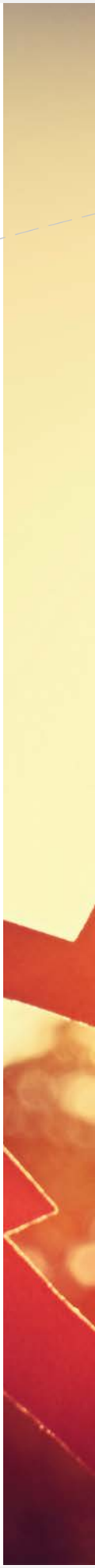
The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP)

Our region is expected to grow to three million people by the year 2076.

The CRP is a voluntary association of municipalities in the Calgary region that has come together to plan for long-term growth in the region and address issues of a regional interest. The CRP is not another level of government. Local jurisdictions must align their statutory plans to the overarching provincial legislation and the CMP. However, the Partnership does not have any jurisdiction on local land use decisions (e.g. zoning, development, subdivision authority); to approve municipal or intermunicipal plans; or to undertake annexations or inter-municipal negotiations.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP)

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan is the blueprint for accommodating growth over the next 60 years. The municipal members of the CRP have committed to the CMP by aligning their local plans. Regional Context Statements will be included in CRP members' Municipal Development Plans (MDPs) to set out the relationship between the local MDPs and the CMP. Regional Context Statements are policy tools that enable municipalities to develop locally appropriate approaches to aligning with the CMP.



Managing growth for a better tomorrow

Our region is expected to grow by an additional 1.6 million people and 700,000 jobs by the year 2076. This will add thousands of hectares of development, in addition to the infrastructure (above and below ground) required to service it all.

The challenges of dealing with rapid, robust growth are more easily managed with the guidance of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan. This comprehensive Plan is our roadmap to determine how and where this inevitable growth will take place. It will also guide how we can manage growth in a way that protects and preserves the things we value most.

From the start, our planning process relied on three related strategies to ensure the final Calgary Metropolitan Plan would be both effective and sustainable. These strategies simultaneously address development and environmental conservation objectives while considering necessary government and servicing arrangements.

If our planning process revealed one thing, it's that the status quo is not sustainable. If development continues at its current pace, without coordinated regional planning, our region's urban development footprint is sure to increase dramatically. In fact, our modelling suggests that our development footprint could grow by 125,000 hectares or more over the next 50 to 60 years. The fiscal impacts associated with this type of unmanaged growth are unsustainable for governments, municipalities and future taxpayers, not to mention the impacts of the status quo on the land, water and quality of life in the region.

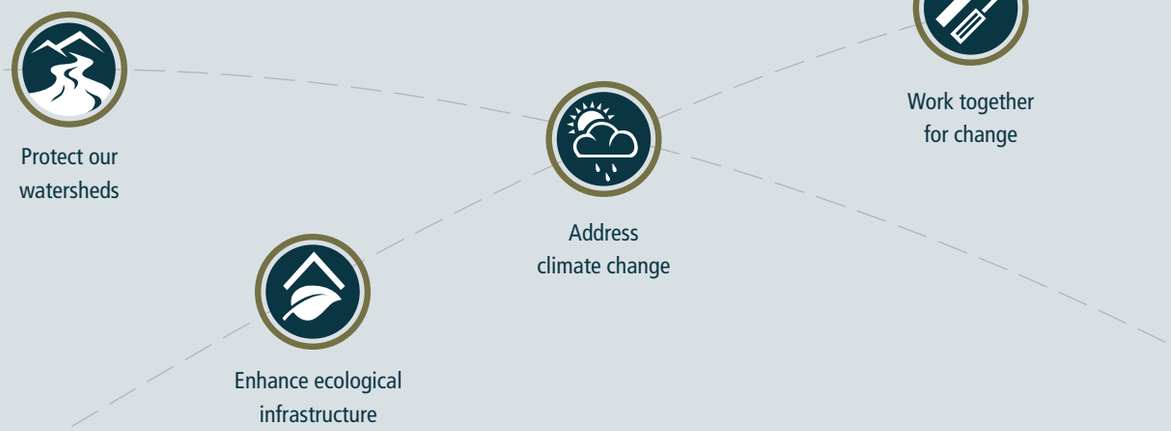
With its regional approach to planning, the Calgary Metropolitan Plan represents an opportunity to ensure development can be more efficient and compact. By implementing the goals in the Plan, we can expect to see a 70 per cent reduction in land used for urban development in the future. Infrastructure costs will decrease proportionately, benefitting us all.

PROTECT

Principle 1:

Protecting the natural environment and watershed

We will ensure that natural landscapes, ecologies and water sources are identified, respected and stewarded to ensure their function and integrity over time as the region grows.



Strategy 1.a

Protecting our watersheds

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) is committed to protecting and conserving our region's environmental assets and watershed. The effective management of our water is a key consideration, given the magnitude of the water challenges we face. An improved regulatory framework for water servicing and conservation, including re-management of the Bow River, is essential for our sustainable future.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan and the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan can play a pivotal role in the development and delivery of that regional framework.

1.a.1 **Supporting watershed protection.** The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) will identify and pursue options and opportunities to support member municipalities in their efforts to actively protect critical watershed areas for the benefit of the region.

1.a.2 **Integrated watershed management.** CRP and member municipalities will actively work with the Province of Alberta, the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) and other key stakeholders to support the development and implementation of an Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) approach. The IWM will deal effectively with the relationships between land use, water quality management and water supply in the Calgary region.

1.a.3 **Planning for storm water management.** CRP and member municipalities will identify locations where storm water management may impact regional infrastructure systems, develop appropriate policies and approaches to address potential areas of impact and address cumulative effects management considerations.

1.a.4 **Wetland impacts.** Member municipalities will adopt a "no net loss of wetlands" approach by avoiding, minimizing and mitigating impacts to wetlands. Municipalities will determine actions within their jurisdiction and will recognize site-specific needs.

1.a.5 **Riparian lands.** Member municipalities will protect the ecological function of riparian lands within their jurisdiction and will recognize site-specific needs.

1.a.6 **Water conservation**. Member municipalities will commit to achieving provincial water management goals and targets as a region.

Strategy 1.b

Enhance ecological infrastructure

As stewards of our natural environment, we are committed to protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems throughout the region. Ensuring that our forests and grasslands continue to conserve water sources is a priority. Landscapes that have large patches of natural vegetation to the northwest, west and southwest of Calgary are of particular importance.

1.b.1 **Ecological infrastructure.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities acknowledge the global attraction and value of our region's natural environment and will align and coordinate local, regional and inter-municipal plans to protect the six key elements of the region's ecological infrastructure:

- wetlands
- riparian buffers
- regional corridors
- large patches of natural vegetation
- ridges
- escarpments

1.b.2 **Ecological restoration.** Member municipalities will encourage the restoration of strategically important ecological infrastructure that has been impacted by past development.

1.b.3 **Ecosystem diversity**. CRP and member municipalities will strive to work together to maintain the diversity of species and ecosystem types in the region.

1.b.4 **Landscape connectivity.** Member municipalities will work together to maintain and enhance landscape connectivity across the region to ensure the health and integrity of the ecological system.

1.b.5 **Regional Open Space Strategy.** CRP will pursue the creation of a Regional Open Space Strategy, which would include the provision of publicly accessible parkland.

Strategy 1.c

Address climate change

While Alberta is home to 11 per cent of the country's population, we are responsible for one-third of Canada's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This is why the provincial government is committed to reducing GHG emissions while maintaining economic growth. By 2050, Alberta plans to reduce emissions by 200 megatonnes, a reduction of 24 per cent from 2005 levels.

1.c.1 **Climate strategy.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) will investigate, develop and implement a regional greenhouse gas and climate change strategy.

1.c.2 **Air quality.** CRP and member municipalities will ensure that air quality receives a high priority in the development and approval of local and regional land use and transportation plans.

Strategy 1.d

Working together for change

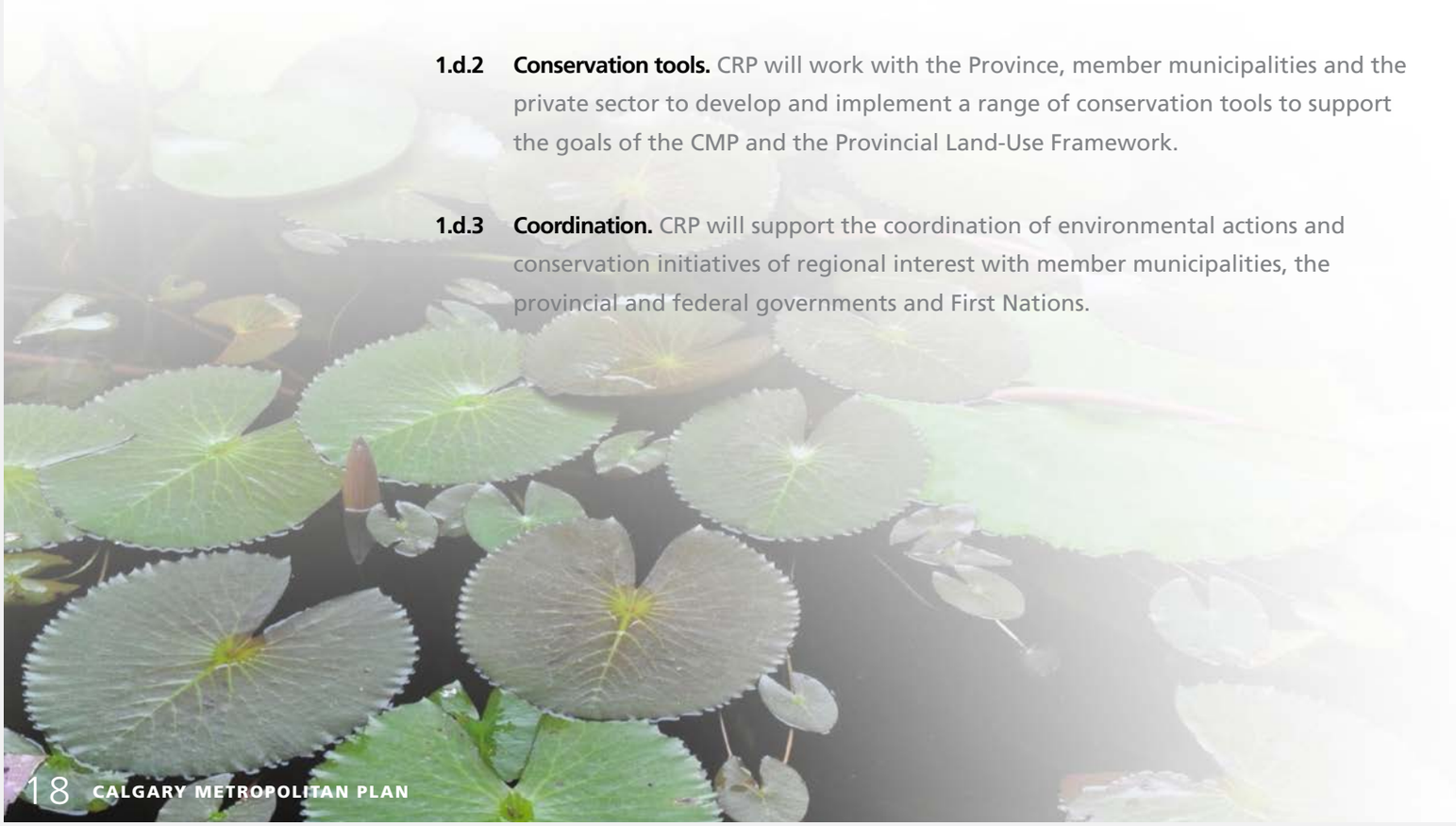
The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) is proud to initiate and support research partnerships with leading organizations and institutions including the Bow River Basin Council, the Miistakis Institute of the Rockies, The University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design and Alberta Environment and Water.

As an important stakeholder in the Bow and South Saskatchewan watersheds, the Calgary Regional Partnership collaborates on all key plans and studies to help ensure the protection and preservation of our valuable natural resources. Working closely with Alberta Environment and Water, the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) provides a forum to collaborate on watershed research and management issues.

1.d.1 **Cumulative effects.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) will work with the Province of Alberta to develop and implement a regional cumulative effects management (CEM) approach.

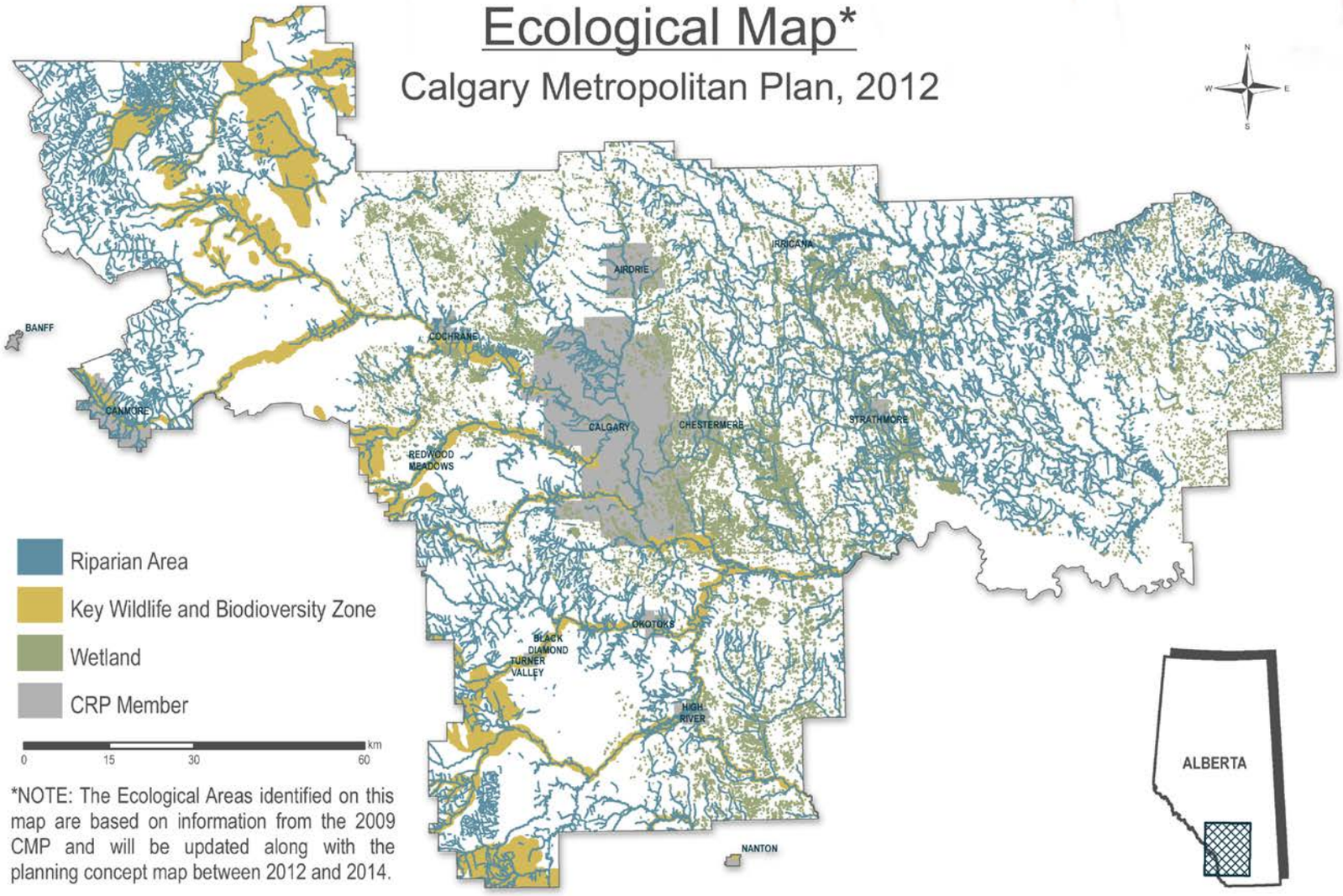
1.d.2 **Conservation tools.** CRP will work with the Province, member municipalities and the private sector to develop and implement a range of conservation tools to support the goals of the CMP and the Provincial Land-Use Framework.

1.d.3 **Coordination.** CRP will support the coordination of environmental actions and conservation initiatives of regional interest with member municipalities, the provincial and federal governments and First Nations.

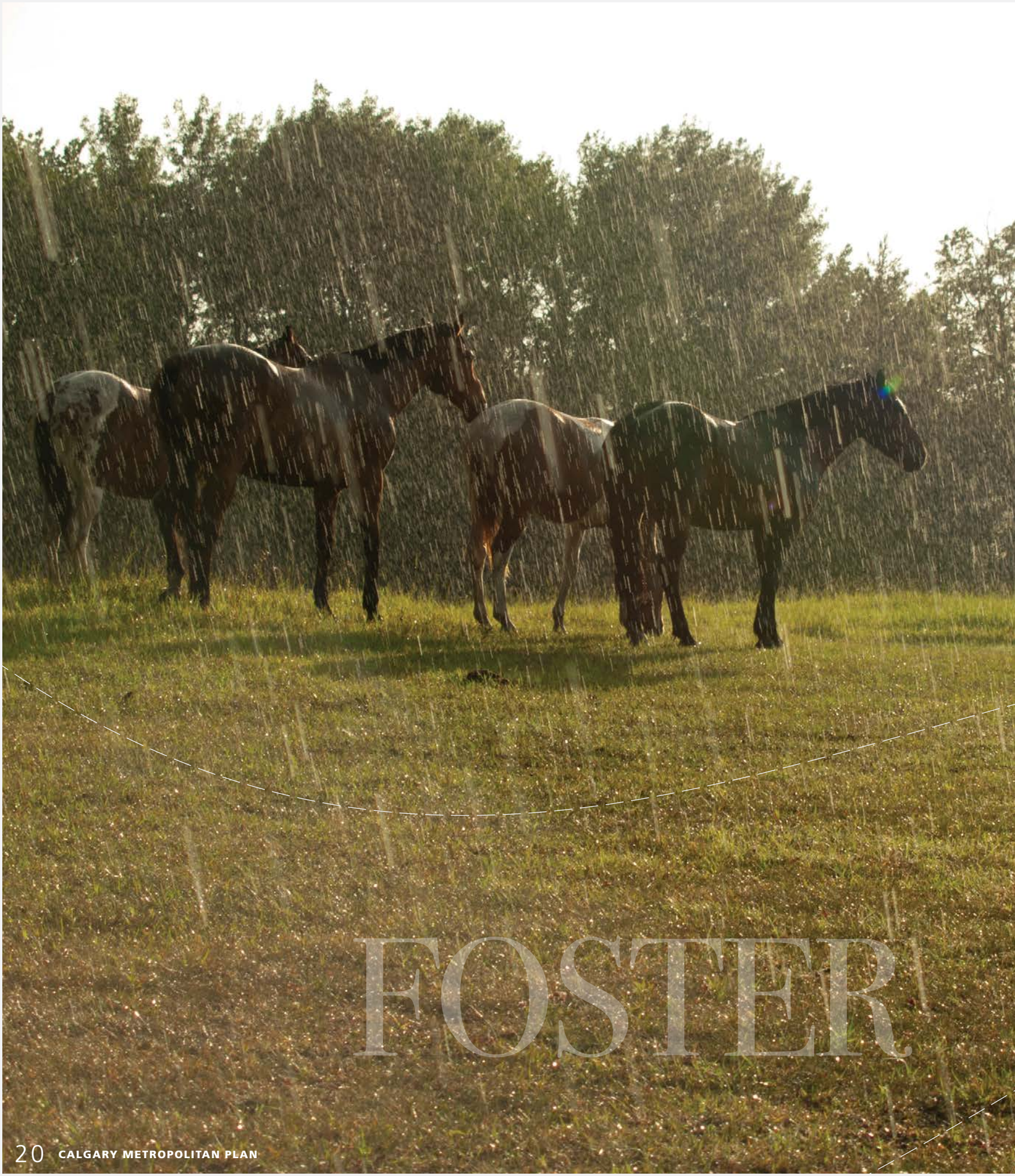


Ecological Map*

Calgary Metropolitan Plan, 2012



*NOTE: The Ecological Areas identified on this map are based on information from the 2009 CMP and will be updated along with the planning concept map between 2012 and 2014.



FOSTER

Principle 2:

Fostering our economic vitality

As a partnership, we will work together to develop and enhance business opportunities for the private sector, improve our ability to attract and retain our labour force, promote the overall environment for business investment and enhance national and global recognition.

Plan for resilient economies

Support sustainable rural economies

Strategy 2.a

Plan for resilient economies

Together, we are building a regional framework for a sustainable future. By coordinating our efforts, instead of duplicating them, we directly reduce the pressure on residential taxes to support constantly growing local needs.

Through effective land use strategies, enhanced infrastructure provision and improved regional transit mobility options, the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) helps increase the economic competitiveness of the region and its municipalities.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan gives municipalities an opportunity to participate in region-wide solutions to common municipal issues while respecting local autonomy. The implementation of solutions is in the hands of the individual councils.

Working together, we support the future growth and vitality of our member communities.

Working together, we support the future growth and vitality of our member communities.

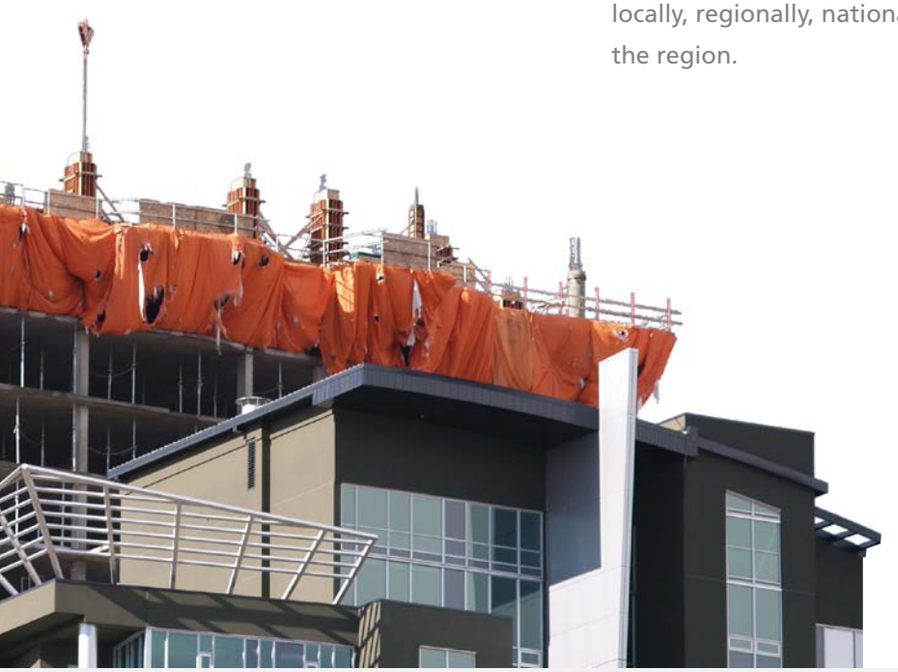
2.a.1 **Economic development strategy.** The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities will work together to ensure a diversified and globally competitive region that continues to enjoy a high quality of life and is able to attract and retain a viable and adequate regional workforce.

2.a.2 **Distribution of jobs.** CRP and member municipalities will endeavour to achieve a distribution of jobs and economic activities throughout the region consistent with transit and complete mobility policies that encourage the location of jobs close to where people live.

2.a.3 **Future employment lands.** CRP and member municipalities will strategically identify lands and corridors for future economic activities and work together with stakeholders to ensure identified lands successfully support economic activities.

2.a.4 **Industry location.** Member municipalities should encourage industrial and commercial sectors to establish in areas across the region that have been identified as compatible and strategic locations for specific types of activity and investment.

2.a.5 **Transportation networks.** CRP and member municipalities will endeavour to maintain and enhance the region's strategic transportation networks (roadways, railways, airports, transportation hubs) to link regional industries to markets - locally, regionally, nationally and globally - and to attract new industries to the region.



Strategy 2.b

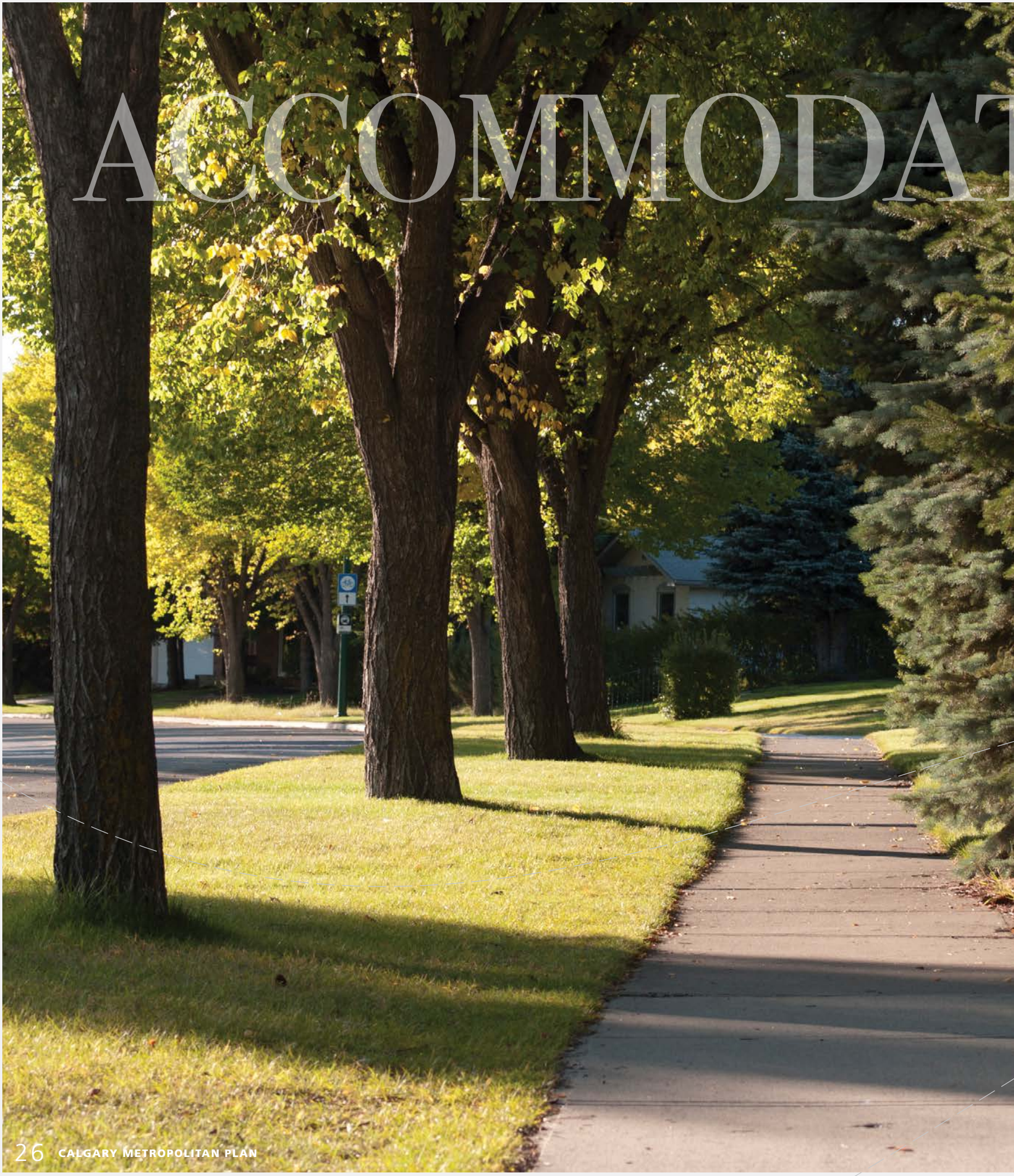
Support sustainable rural economies

Recognizing the connections and relationships that exist between communities, the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) acknowledges and respects the vital and historic importance of rural lands, industry and culture in our region. The Plan recognizes and supports the important contribution of the rural municipalities to our past and future successes.

2.b.1 **Rural regional economic opportunities.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) member municipalities will continue to support rural economic opportunities in the region.

2.b.2 **Resource development activities.** CRP and member municipalities will work proactively with the Province and the private sector to effectively manage resource development activities that impact the region's economy, natural environment and settlement pattern.

2.b.3 **Servicing commercial/industrial rural-regional priority growth areas.** The CRP and member municipalities will collaborate to provide regional servicing to identified commercial/industrial rural-regional priority growth areas for CRP members.



ACCOMMODAT

Principle 3:

Accommodating growth in more compact settlement patterns

We will emphasize the uniqueness of existing municipalities and the development of more complete, healthy, transit-supportive communities, with employment and services located where people live.

Develop compact settlements

Create sustainable and resilient communities

Support for sustainable rural development

Strategy 3.a

Develop compact settlements

Higher density infill development across the region makes good sense for the environment, the economy, our budgets and our quality of life.

This type of managed growth and development has many benefits, including preserving agricultural land, reducing infrastructure expenses, promoting public transit and encouraging the effective use of green spaces.

Together we are promoting more complete, healthy, transit-supportive communities, with employment and services where people live.

3.a.1 **Efficient use of land.** Member municipalities will ensure that new development occurs in ways that achieve efficient use of the land and infrastructure.

3.a.2 **Development form.** Member municipalities will ensure that all new development in priority growth areas is compact, mixed-use, walkable and connected through a range of local and regional mobility systems.

3.a.3 **Contiguous development.** Development within priority growth areas should be built out in a contiguous and connected manner.

3.a.4 **Housing location.** New housing in priority growth areas will be located in close proximity to local and regional transit service.

3.a.5 **Minimum density.** Unplanned lands (greenfield areas) in existing priority growth areas and lands identified for new priority growth areas will be designed and approved in local plans to achieve a minimum density of eight to 10 units per gross residential acre, and encourage higher densities where achievable. Municipalities may stage in density over time.

3.a.6 **Density over time and eligibility for regional infrastructure.** Municipal Development Plans approved by member municipalities that show how new greenfield areas will achieve the minimum densities, staged in over time, will be eligible for regional servicing. These minimum density thresholds are intended to enable regional transit and efficient water and wastewater servicing. Member plans will address all areas of municipal land use and servicing (including water, wastewater and transit) for any existing and new priority growth areas within the planning area, demonstrating alignment with the Calgary Metropolitan Plan.

3.a.7 **Intensification.** Member municipalities will strive to accommodate at least 25 per cent of new population growth across the region through intensification of existing developed areas.

3.a.8 **Priority growth areas.** Member municipalities will protect the identified long-term lands for development of priority growth areas, existing and new, across the region through the inter-municipal planning process, or other means as appropriate.

Strategy 3.b

Create sustainable and resilient communities

Building sustainable and resilient communities requires planners to consider all aspects of community life, including social, environmental and economic factors. The Calgary Metropolitan Plan helps by providing a framework for member municipalities to use as they decide how to create their own unique, sustainable communities.

We value and encourage people-friendly communities that provide cultural and recreational opportunities for all citizens.

3.b.1 **Housing choice.** Our region will support a range of house types and choices.

3.b.2 **Community identity.** Member municipalities will identify and protect important historic and cultural resources that contribute to the unique character of existing communities.

3.b.3 **Scenic corridors.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities should identify and encourage the protection of scenic corridors and major view sheds.

3.b.4 **Jobs and employment.** New industries and jobs will be strategically integrated into priority growth areas.

3.b.5 **Transit-oriented, mixed-use activity centres.** All new and existing priority growth areas will develop and maintain one or more viable mixed-use activity centres, integrated with local and regional transit stations, terminals and services, to promote local employment opportunities and transit accessibility. A minimum intensity threshold of 100 people or jobs/gross developable hectare, within walking distance of regional transit services, should be achieved in new mixed-use activity centres.

3.b.6 **Connecting to regional transit.** Member municipalities will provide local transit service, cycling and walking facilities and systems to connect with regional transit systems within growth corridors.

3.b.7 **Infrastructure system design.** CRP and member municipalities will endeavour to design, construct and operate regional systems using the most current environmental and sustainable practices.

3.b.8 **Financial sustainability.** To support the financial sustainability of the region's municipalities and to understand the real cost of development and related services, the CRP and the region's municipalities will work together to address planning for (and responding to) impacts of development on services and costs of adjacent municipalities.

3.b.9 **Food security in a growing region.** CRP and member municipalities recognize the need for strategies and collaborative actions to ensure continued access to safe, affordable and sustainably-produced food for the region's population.

Strategy 3.c

Support for sustainable rural development

Most of the undeveloped land in our region is categorized as traditional working landscape. These are our farms and ranches, and prime agricultural land. These lands, and the communities within them, are important not only for their economic contribution, but as a valuable link to the history and spirit of our region.

Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) policies are designed to ensure that we acknowledge and support the rural communities and their unique contribution to the region.

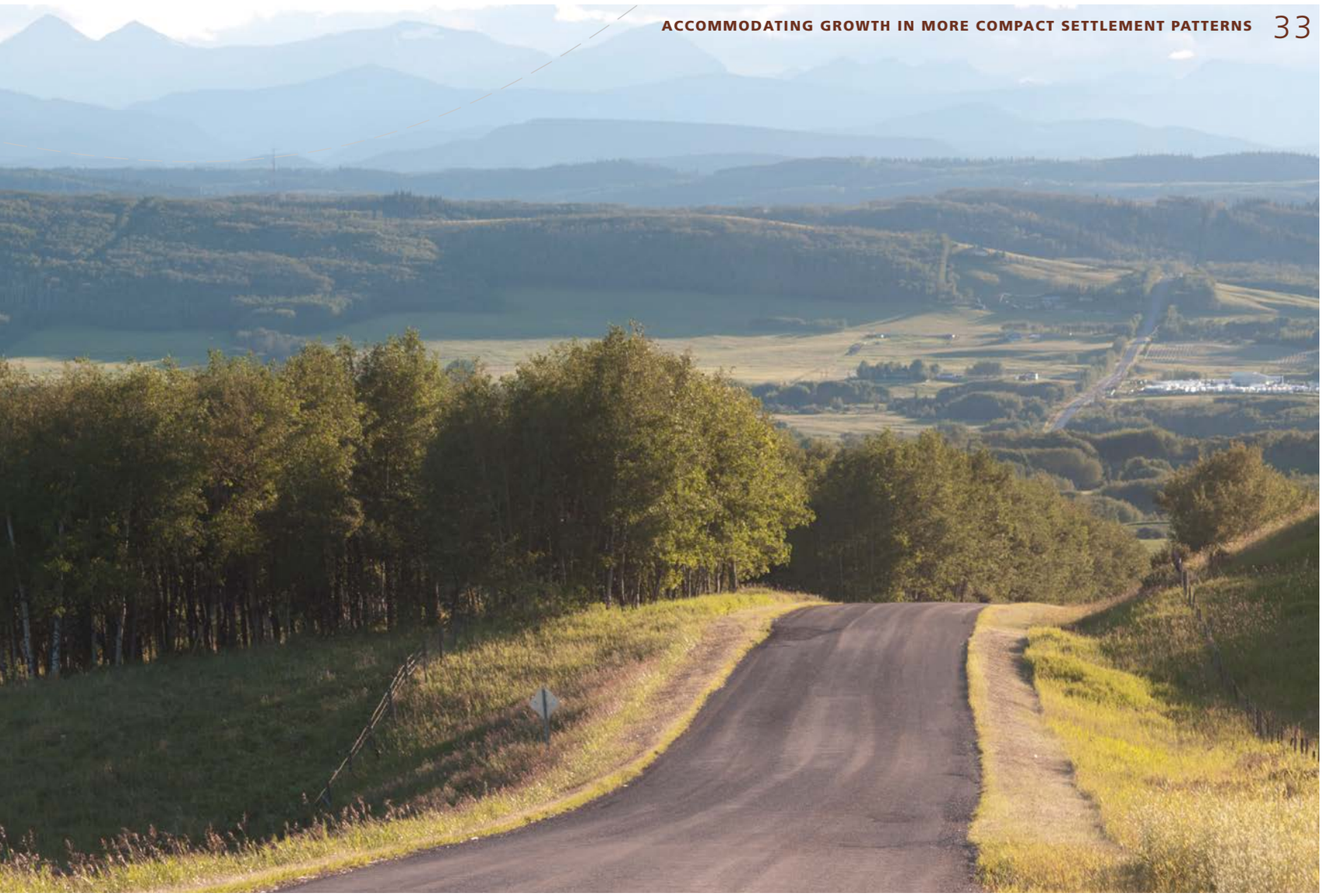
'Better' agricultural lands refers to: *Land Capability Rating System* (class 1 – 3 soils) or the *Farm Assessment Rating System* (40 per cent and better).

3.c.1 **Sustain agricultural lands.** Member municipalities will minimize the fragmentation and conversion of better agricultural lands to other land uses.

3.c.2 **Potential new growth areas**. The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) recognizes that new growth areas in locations not presently identified in the Plan may be proposed in the future. Proposed new growth areas may be evaluated for inclusion in the Plan based on CMP criteria and the requirements of current long-term growth projections and distributions.

3.c.3 **Hamlets and villages.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) acknowledges the unique low density lifestyle choice that existing and new hamlets and villages provide in our region, where they can thrive without regional servicing.

3.c.4 **Location of rural residential development.** Rural residential growth will be encouraged to be located and designed in a way as to minimize the impact on the environmental processes and agricultural capability of the land.



Citizens all across the region benefit from the effective stewardship of the region's environmental assets by rural municipalities. These efforts provide valuable environmental services to adjacent urban areas by protecting air, land and water.

3.c.5 **New rural residential development.** The CMP will support rural municipalities' intent to encourage the form of cluster development and/or conservation subdivisions in new rural residential development based on infrastructure planning, environmental stewardship and economic viability.

3.c.6 **Provision of regional servicing to Wheatland County.** Regional water and wastewater servicing may be provided to existing, slow-growth incorporated urban centres in Wheatland County, in order to support Provincial Water for Life strategies relating to community health and well-being.

INTEGRATE

Principle 4:

Integrating efficient regional infrastructure systems

We will work toward a regional infrastructure system that promotes practical and fiscal efficiencies. This system will incorporate complete transportation and mobility systems for the movement of people and goods, and regional water and wastewater servicing approaches in support of member communities. Our collaboration will ensure the most effective use of financial resources as we work with industry in alignment with the Calgary Metropolitan Plan and the Province of Alberta.

- Integrate and invest in regional infrastructure
- Plan for regional transportation and complete mobility
- Develop and implement strategic regional water, wastewater and storm water systems
- Investigate a regional waste management system

Strategy 4.a

Integrate and invest in regional infrastructure

By working together, we are able to achieve much more than we would in isolation. Our coordinated, regional approach to identifying future capital funding considerations supports the most efficient use of provincial, local and regional funding over the long-term. Citizens benefit from enhanced, expanded and coordinated services at a reduced cost.

4.a.1 **Regional infrastructure systems.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP), in concert with member municipalities, will identify, map and plan for three major regional infrastructure systems:

1. Regional water, wastewater and storm water
2. Regional transportation and transit system
3. Regional waste management (organic and solid)

4.a.2 **Integrated planning of land uses and infrastructure.** CRP and member municipalities will integrate the planning, funding and staging priorities of regional infrastructure systems with the implementation of identified priority growth areas, including commercial and industrial areas as specifically identified in the The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP).

4.a.3 **Regional transportation and utility corridors.** CRP and member municipalities will identify and protect future regional transportation and utility corridors (transit corridors, regional roadways, water and wastewater servicing and energy transmission).

4.a.4 **Staging of infrastructure system investments.** CRP and member municipalities will support the effective staging of the region's priority growth areas, including commercial and industrial areas as specifically identified in the regional plan, with related infrastructure systems in the short (zero to 15 year), medium (15 to 30 year) and long-term (30 to 75 year) timeframes of the CMP.

4.a.5 **Infrastructure system cost.** CRP and member municipalities will ensure fairness, accountability and efficiency in the way regional infrastructure and services are provided and funded, including recognition of investments to date.

DANGER
NO TRESPASSING
DANGER
NO TRESPASSING
CAUTION

Strategy 4.b

Plan for regional transportation and complete mobility

Collaboration between partners is an essential part of promoting public transportation throughout the region and helping citizens move easily between local, regional and inter-city destinations.

An effective, region-wide transportation system has many benefits. It is key to our ability to lead the country in economic growth, improved accessibility and a reduction in negative environmental impacts. At the same time, it maximizes our resources and minimizes infrastructure costs by reducing the duplication of services and improving overall quality of service.

4.b.1 **Right-of-way requirements.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities will identify and protect future right-of-way requirements for regionally connected transit, pedestrian, bicycle and roadway facilities and utility corridors.

4.b.2 **Regional transit.** CRP and member municipalities will work together to provide increased regional transit service and facilities that stimulate travel by means other than single occupant vehicle, encourage the development of transit-oriented urban nodes and provide enhanced mobility options.

4.b.3 **Proactive transit planning.** CRP and member municipalities will support the proactive advancement of regional transit investments in order to stimulate desired land use patterns and transit-oriented nodal development forms.

4.b.4 **Transportation demand management.** Member municipalities will encourage transportation demand management strategies and active transportation programs to change travel behaviour and provide incentives to use transit.

4.b.5 **Transit system funding.** CRP and member municipalities will create criteria and innovative approaches for funding the capital and operating costs of existing and expanded **regional** transit systems (these approaches may draw on new and/or expanded provincial and federal funding commitments, innovative public private partnerships, user pay and local tax-based incentives, etc.).

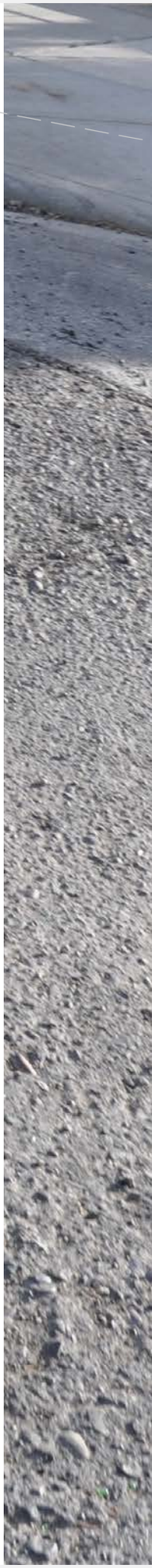
Strategy 4.c

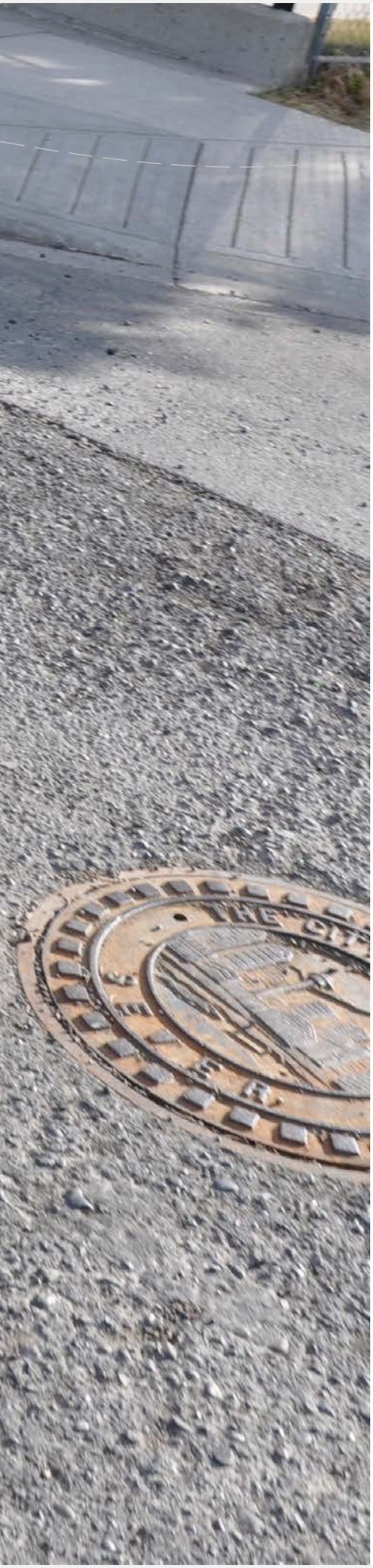
Develop and implement strategic regional water, wastewater and storm water systems

Collaborating in the provisioning of water and wastewater services offers several key advantages across the region. Citizens, in particular, benefit from a planned, effective approach to service growth and expansion, with access to long-term planning opportunities.

Working together in the provisioning of water and wastewater services, instead of in competition, benefits communities, individuals and economies. There is greater certainty around the type, timing, location, funding expectations and conditions associated with access to regional infrastructure servicing, and less duplication of services. Effective land use strategies and enhanced infrastructure management also increase the economic competitiveness of our region.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) estimates savings of over $400 million in water and wastewater infrastructure capital and life cycle maintenance costs over the life of the Plan. This is a result of a coordinated regional approach, more compact urban footprint and a commitment to water conservation.





4.c.1 **Provision of regional water/wastewater servicing.** The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities will collaborate to provide regional water and wastewater servicing to CRP members for areas identified and in alignment with the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP). They will work together to improve watershed protection and stewardship. Regional servicing under the CMP may include Calgary centered* solutions, or other regional, sub-regional, and/or local approaches as appropriate without connections to Calgary's infrastructure.

** The City of Calgary is willing to provide water and wastewater services to members of the CRP in order to support the growth identified under the auspices of the CMP. Water and wastewater services may be accessed at Calgary's boundaries at points where sufficient capacity exists.*
It is recognized that regional connections and growth have an impact on the capacity of Calgary's infrastructure inside Calgary. The full financial impacts of regional connections and growth on internal infrastructure will be recovered through rates and/or capital charges. Calgary City Council approval is required for all new connections to The City of Calgary infrastructure and a Master Servicing Agreement will govern the commercial arrangement.

4.c.2 **Servicing to address existing environmental problems.** Provision of regional sanitary sewer infrastructure may be provided to address existing environmental problems (such as contaminated water and soils) created by existing development identified in this Plan. This policy is not intended to facilitate regional water and sewer servicing to additional infill, or similar new low-density development in close proximity to these areas.

4.c.3 **Regional servicing for existing public institutional uses.** Existing public institutional land uses within the CMP area that are located in rural areas outside of priority growth areas may be considered for regional servicing. Such consideration is subject to all financial costs associated with the extension of infrastructure being borne by the proponent. CRP and member municipalities will develop criteria with which to assess each application on its own merits.

Strategy 4.d

Investigate a regional waste management system

Working collaboratively, it is possible to develop waste management and recycling services that benefit citizens all across the region. In addition to maximizing financial resources, these solutions protect and preserve our natural resources and environment.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) aims to make our region greener and cleaner for everyone.

4.d.1 **Integrated waste management.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities will develop an integrated and coordinated system for waste management across the region to encourage efficiencies, economies of scale and innovation.

4.d.2 **Recycling.** Member municipalities should recognize waste as a resource and encourage local reuse and recycling through programs, education and incentives.

NEWSPAPER & INSERTS
MAGAZINES

SUPPORT

Principle 5:

Supported through a regional governance approach

We will enable collaborative implementation and maintenance of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan and Calgary Regional Partnership activities, emphasizing a commitment to consensus-based decision making.

Collaborate for a sustainable region

Implement a regional decision-making model

Coordinate implementation

Strategy 5.a

Collaborate for a sustainable region

The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and its member municipalities are committed to collaborative decision-making that values the perspectives of all members. We will enable collaborative implementation and maintenance of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) and CRP activities. Our focus includes a commitment to consensus-based decision making that ensures every member is heard.

Through collaboration, it will be possible to achieve the vision, principles and strategies that are at the heart of the Plan.

5.a.1 **Triple bottom line.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and all member municipalities will ensure the integrated and balanced consideration of all social, cultural, economic and healthy environments in developing regional, local and inter-municipal plans and programs.

5.a.2 **Align with the Province.** CRP will align the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) to the Provincial Land-Use Framework – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan.

5.a.3 **Leverage resources.** CRP will establish tools and programs that leverage the collective financial and technical resources of the member municipalities in order to address important regional priorities.

Strategy 5.b

Implement a regional decision-making model

The Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) is committed to achieving our regional decisions by consensus first. In fact, arriving at consensus has been a successful practice within the Partnership since 1999. In very rare cases when consensus may not be reached, we have a decision-making model in place to make regionally significant decisions. Our model represents both the population of the region and the CRP municipal membership. It is a democratic model striking a balance between the principles of one municipality/one vote and representation by population.

5.b.1 **Regional decision-making.** Member municipalities will abide by the following regional decision-making model.

a) Amending the Calgary Metropolitan Plan:

For all amendments to the CMP, including amendments to the Priority Growth Areas illustrated on the Planning Concept Map, a positive vote must contain at least two-thirds of the CRP's regional municipalities, and a majority (50 per cent plus 1 person) of the region's population, and must also include the support of the member municipality whose land is adversely affected by the proposed amendment.

b) Planning, coordinating, and governing regional water, wastewater, and transit systems:

A positive vote must contain at least two-thirds of the CRP's regional municipalities, and a majority (50 per cent plus 1 person) of the region's population.

Decisions under this regional model are the final decisions by the CRP Board and will not be reconsidered except in accordance with the Board's procedural by-laws.

5.b.2 **Dispute resolution.** A CRP member(s) municipality may make a complaint in writing to the CRP Board if the municipality is of the view that either:

a) there has been a breach of process, improper administration or discriminatory treatment by the CRP Board, or;

b) the municipality is of the view that a decision of the CRP Board relating to the Calgary Metropolitan Plan has an adverse effect on the municipality.

On receipt of a complaint, the CRP Board shall attempt to resolve the complaint informally with the participating municipality. Complaints must be submitted within 30 days of an alleged breach or detrimental decision.

If a complaint cannot be resolved informally, the CRP Board may refer the matter to mediation, if the parties agree to mediation.

If the dispute cannot be settled to the mutual satisfaction of the CRP member(s) involved, informally or through mediation, then the matter may, at the discretion of the complainant, be referred to the Stewardship Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and Alberta Land Stewardship Act.

Referral to the Stewardship Commissioner must occur within 90 days of complaint being issued to the CRP Board, unless the matter has been referred to mediation, in which case, an extension to the 90 day time limit may be requested of the Stewardship Commissioner in writing by the municipality initiating the complaint.

Strategy 5.c

Coordinate implementation

The purpose of the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) is to make our region stronger by collaborating on the issues that impact us all. Within this collaborative framework, each member has an opportunity to pursue approaches that are uniquely suited to their specific issues, needs and priorities.

What the Calgary Metropolitan Plan looks like in each community is up to the members themselves. It is not a "one-size-fits-all" plan. Instead, it recognizes and respects the uniqueness of each municipality. Members are encouraged to collaborate on and pursue the solutions that are right for them.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan contains policies designed to accommodate long-term growth in the region to 3 million people in a sustainable and fiscally efficient settlement pattern. It will help guide how we manage that growth in order to protect and preserve the things we value most – the natural environment, our communities, fresh air, clean and plentiful water, and economic prosperity.

The Calgary Metropolitan Plan supports and protects municipal autonomy – CRP member municipalities retain all of their local decision-making authority under the Municipal Government Act.

5.c.1 **Regional implementation.** Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) and member municipalities will identify, develop and integrate appropriate regional strategies and collective actions in order to implement the Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP).

5.c.2 **Provision for annexation.** Annexation continues to be an important tool in managing growth for municipalities. The CMP recognizes and supports the potential for annexation in identified priority growth areas based upon municipal growth rates, long-term land needs and other strategic interests, in accordance with the requirements as set out in the Municipal Government Act (MGA).

5.c.3 **Priority growth area refinement.** Recognizing the conceptual nature of the areas identified and approved in the CMP as priority growth areas, and the long-term planning horizon underlying this Plan, more detailed planning is needed to refine these specific areas.

The priority growth areas identified adjacent to existing municipalities will undergo an analysis and refinement study over a two-year period upon legislation of the CMP by the Province.

An analysis and refinement of all areas identified in the CMP as priority growth areas will address the following issues:

a) Examine the location and extent of the areas identified, and include significant changes as may be required by individual members or refinements through a CMP amendment.

b) Identify how these areas will be protected for the long-term growth requirements of member municipalities through local and inter-municipal plans.

5.c.4 **Evaluating location proposals for new growth areas.** The CMP recognizes that new growth areas may be proposed in the future in areas not presently identified in this Plan. This will require a CMP amendment, as well as incorporating the same local planning and infrastructure criteria that all new urban development must follow under this Plan.

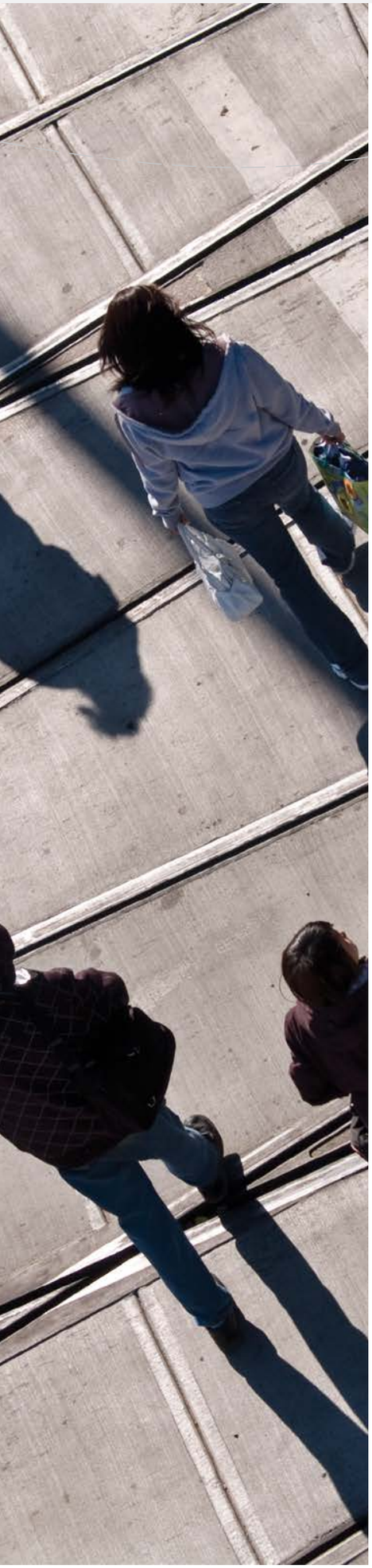
5.c.5 **Regional Context Statements.** Regional Context Statements will be included in member municipality's Municipal Development Plans (MDPs) to set out the relationship between the Calgary Metropolitan Plan and the MDP. These Statements will be reviewed by the CRP Executive Committee for alignment with the CMP.

These Regional Context Statements identify the role of member municipalities within the region and the extent to which these communities:

a) Are in alignment with the principles and strategies of the CMP, and

b) Are intending to come into alignment with the principles and strategies of the CMP.

Upon legislation of the CMP, municipalities have three years to prepare their Context Statements for review by the CRP Executive Committee.



5.c.6 **Scheduled plan amendments and updates.** Following adoption of the CMP, it will be scheduled for periodic updates and amendments. General updates and amendments will be scheduled in year three and year five to incorporate:

- Provincial Land-Use Framework – South Saskatchewan Regional Plan directions.
- New MGA legislation and/or other provincial policy and regulation.
- Key elements of new regional systems.
- Refinements arising from focused CRP policy studies and/or further sub-regional planning.
- Priority growth areas (if any are identified, and have been assessed for their fit into the Plan).

5.c.7 **Performance measures.** The Calgary Regional Partnership will develop performance indicators to measure progress toward CMP implementation. These indicators will be monitored and reported regularly for public information and to inform updates in the Plan.

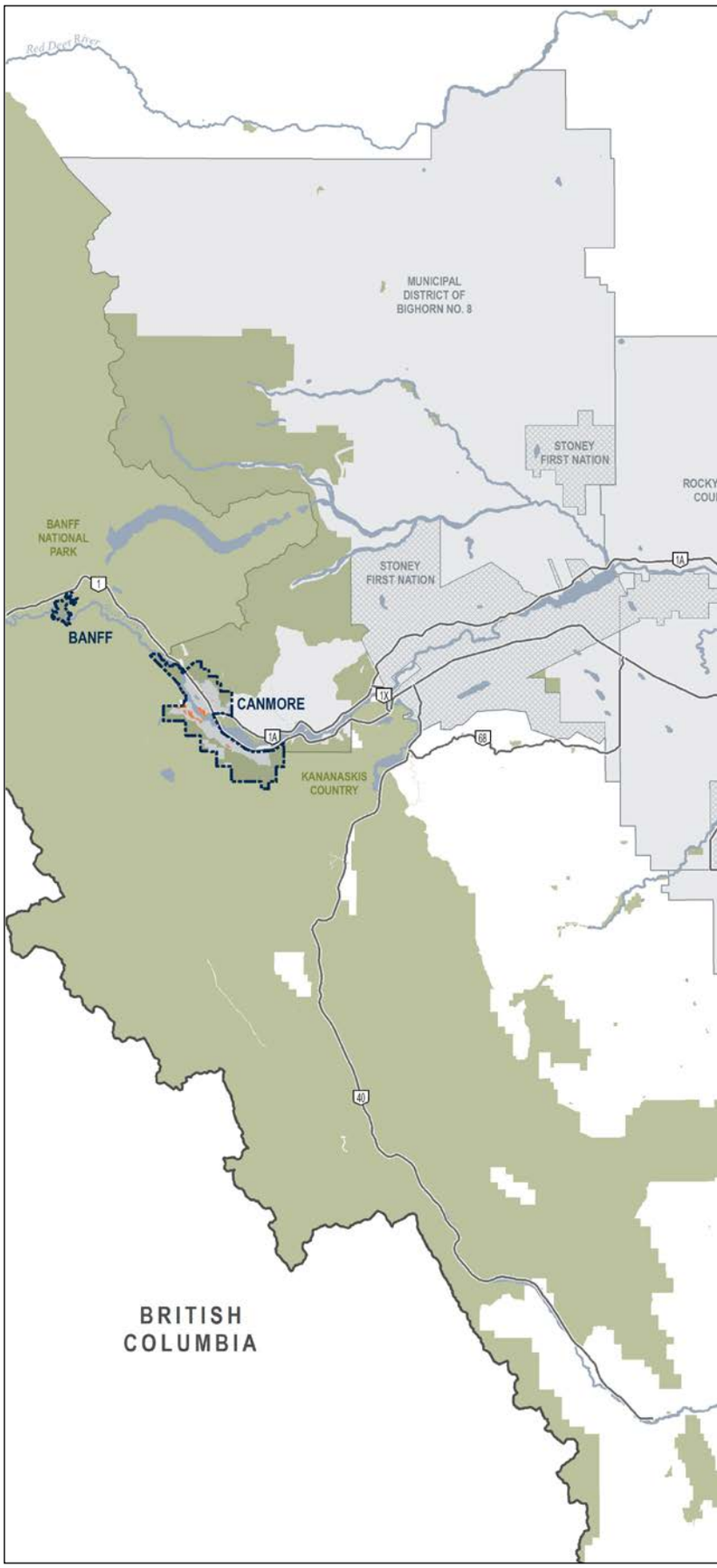
Planning concept map

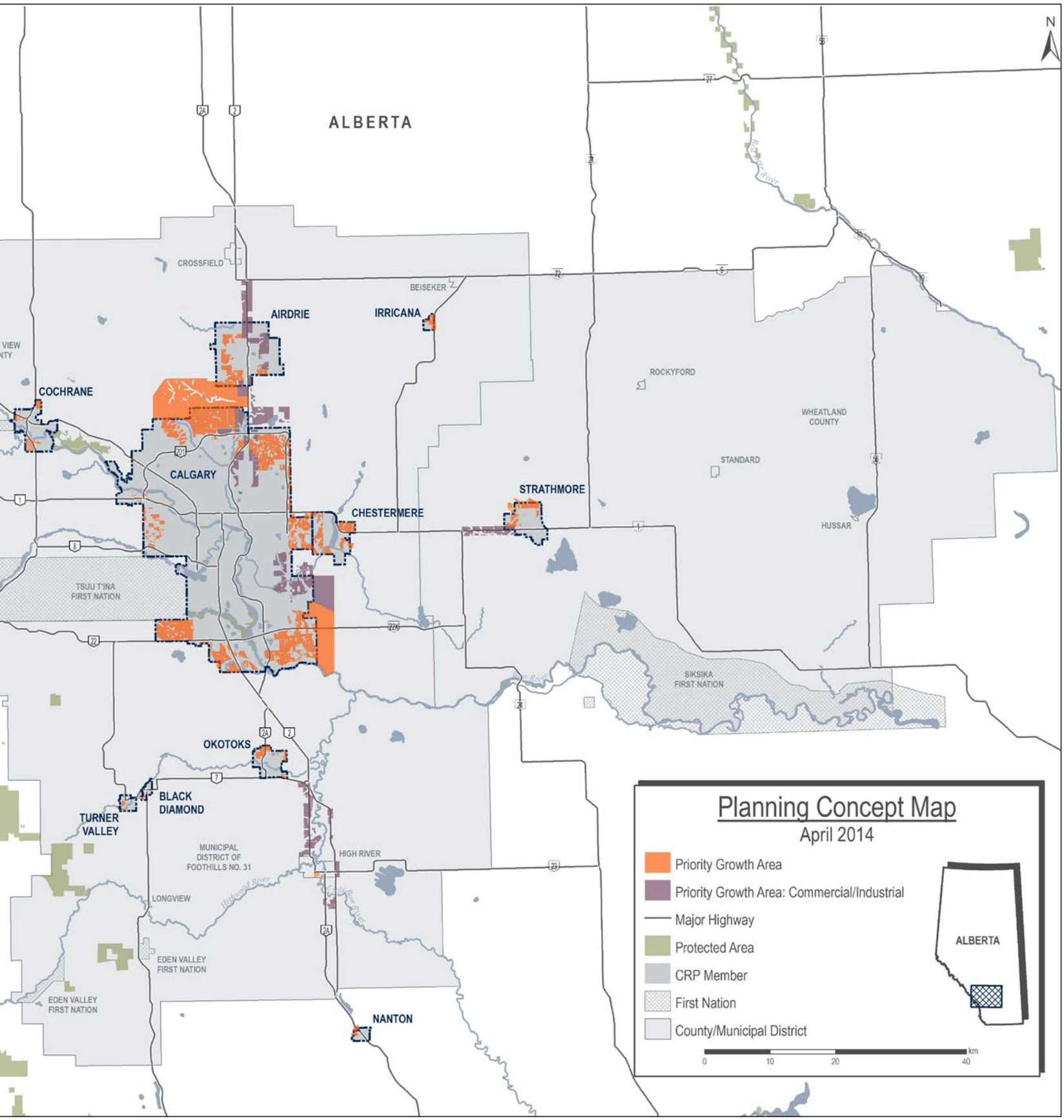
The Planning Concept Map shows Calgary Metropolitan Plan (CMP) priority growth areas that are eligible for regional servicing to Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP) members.

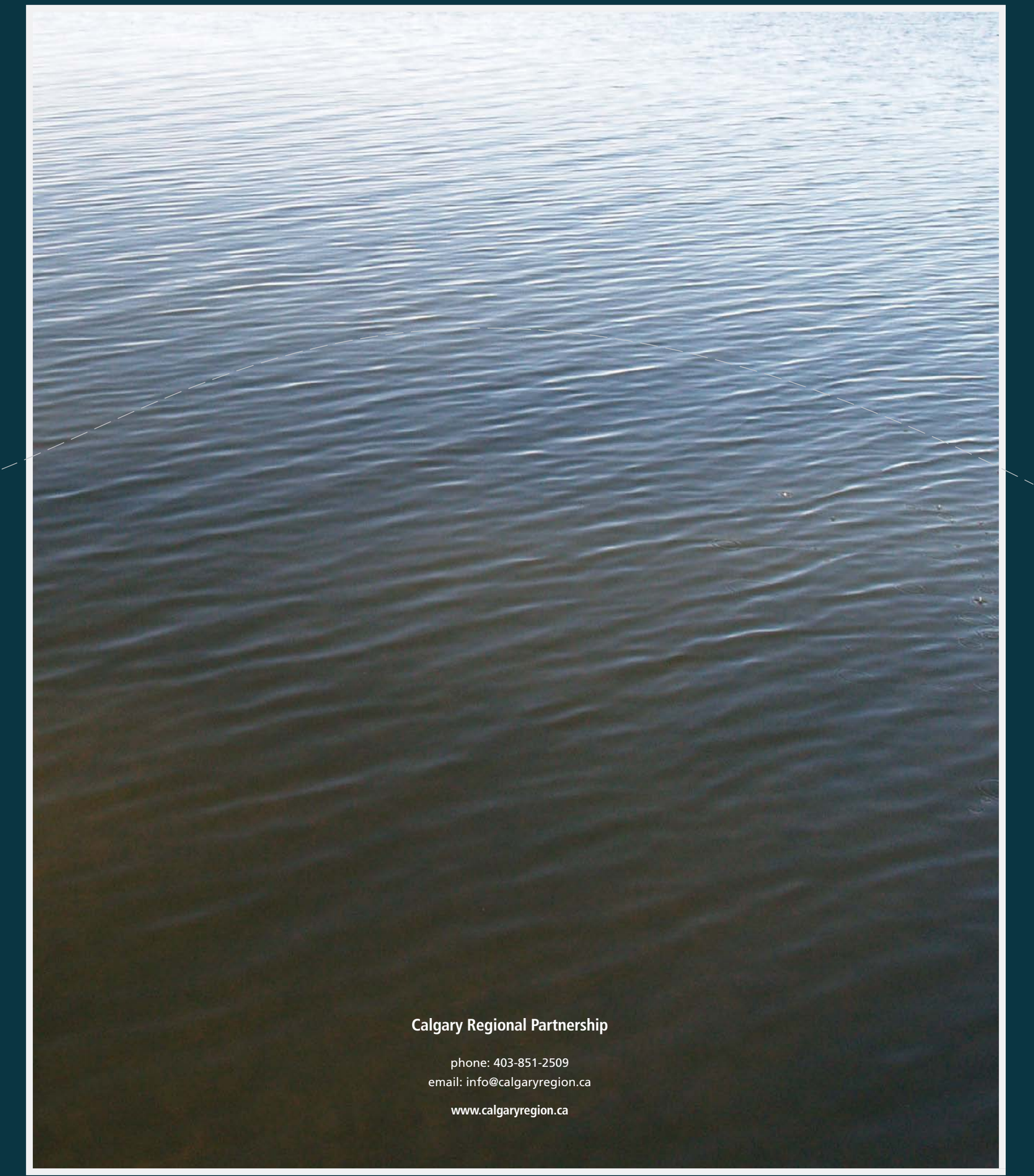
These areas were originally defined as Compact Urban Nodes and Future Industrial/Commercial Development in the 2009 CMP, and have been relabeled as priority growth areas in this CMP update. While these priority growth areas have not changed since they were originally adopted, some municipal boundaries have changed through annexation.

Based on the land conservation and intensification goals of the CMP, priority growth areas will accommodate the growth projected for the Calgary region to 3 million people and 1.5 million jobs by 2076 *(Urban Futures, 2012, A Context for Change Management in the Calgary Regional Partnership Area)*. Almost three quarters of the land required to accommodate this growth is within CRP members' current urban boundaries.

Between 2012 and 2014, CRP and member municipalities will analyze and refine the priority growth areas (see policies 5.c.3 and 3.a.8).




ALBERTA
CROSSFIELD
BEISEKER
AIRDRIE
IRRICANA
COCHRANE
CALGARY
CHESTERMERE
STRATHMORE
ROCKYFORD
WHEATLAND COUNTY
STANDARD
HUSSAR
TSUU T'INA FIRST NATION
SIKSIKA FIRST NATION
OKOTOKS
BLACK DIAMOND
TURNER VALLEY
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FOOTHILLS NO. 31
HIGH RIVER
LONGVIEW
EDEN VALLEY FIRST NATION
EDEN VALLEY FIRST NATION
NANTON
N
Planning Concept Map
April 2014
Priority Growth Area
Priority Growth Area: Commercial/Industrial
Major Highway
Protected Area
CRP Member
First Nation
County/Municipal District
ALBERTA
0
10
20
40
km



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