|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STRATEGIC PLAN** | | | |
| 39 | **OUTCOME:**  **The Regions economy is growing and diversified** - Economic growth is the key to future prosperity in the region and therefore, must be sustained through a competitive market place that is supported by continuous innovation, education, infrastructure and efficient and effective regulation.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Sustainable development wherein economic development takes into account environmental sustainability and social outcomes. |  |  |
| 39 | **OUTCOME:**  **Air quality is managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship** - Understanding and managing non- point sources using a combination of both non-regulatory and regulatory tools will be important to achieving air quality objectives in this region. Air quality management will require continued collaboration with all levels of government and stakeholders.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Managing air quality through continued collaboration |  |  |
| 40 | **OUTCOME:**  **Biodiversity and ecosystem function are sustained through shared stewardship** – The benefits received from biodiversity and healthy functioning ecosystems are critical to the ongoing prosperity of all Albertans. The impacts of multiple land-use demands and pressure must be managed through an integrated approach.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Conserving and maintaining the benefits of biodiversity |  |  |
|  | **OUTCOME:**  **Watersheds are managed to support healthy ecosystems and human needs through shared stewardship** – Water plays an essential role across the region and with increasing pressures and demands placed on this resource, it is essential that an integrated view across water supply, water quality and aquatic ecosystems be advanced.  **Strategic Direction:**  Advancing watershed management |  |  |
| 40 | **OUTCOME:**  **Land is used efficiently to reduce the amount of area that is** **taken up by permanent or long-term development** **associated with the built environment** - Land is a limited, non-renewable resource and so it should not be wasted. Land -use decisions should strive to reduce disturbances on Alberta’s landscape. When it comes to land use, other things being equal, less is more - more choices for future generations. Examples of the built environment include urban and rural residential development, commercial and institutional development, industrial development, tourism development, surface mines, oil and gas well sites and pipelines, utility rights-of-way, infrastructure, transportation routes and recreational trails.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Promoting efficient use of land |  |  |
| 41 | **The quality of life of residents is enhanced through increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and the preservation and promotion of the region’s unique** **cultural and natural heritage** - Increasing outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the region by enhancing outdoor recreational and outdoor spaces will enhance quality of life and promote active, healthy living.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Providing recreation and nature -based tourism opportunities and preserving and promoting the region’s unique cultural and natural heritage. |  |  |
| 41 | **Aboriginal peoples are included in land-use planning**- The government of Alberta will continue to look for opportunities to engage aboriginal peoples and invite them to share their traditional knowledge to inform land and natural resource planning in the region.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Inclusion of aboriginal peoples in land-use planning. |  |  |
| 41 | **Community development needs are anticipated and accommodated** - To effectively address the challenges that increased future growth will bring to the region, all decision-makers will require collaboration with stakeholders.  **Strategic Direction:**   * Strengthen communities. |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Implementation Plan** | | | | |
| **1. ECONOMY** | | | | |
| *Agriculture* | | | | |
| 44 | **Objective:**  **The Region’s Agricultural Industry is Maintained and Diversified.** | | | |
| 44 | 1.1 | **Maintain an agricultural land base** by reducing the fragmentation and conversion of agricultural land.  …  This Strategy strives to maintain contiguous blocks of land for primary production through the implementation of municipal land use policies that expect municipalities to identify their agricultural lands and to limit their fragmentation and conversion to non-agricultural uses. |  |  |
| 46 | 1.6 | **Encourage the use of voluntary market-based instruments for ecosystem services** in order to recognize and reward the continued stewardship and conservation of private agricultural land and to potentially diversify the agricultural economy. |  |  |
| *Renewable Energy* | | | | |
| 47 | **Objectives:**  **Opportunities for the responsible development of the region’s renewable energy industry are maintained in support of Alberta’s commitment to greener energy production and economic development.**  **Value-added opportunities that enhance the sustainability of Alberta’s industries and communities are created.** | | | |
| 47 | 1.9 | Ensure policies are in place to promote and remove barriers to **new investments in renewable energy** (that is, wind, biofuels, solar, hydro) production. |  |  |
| *Surface Materials (aggregates)* | | | | |
| 50 | **Objective:**  **Opportunities For The Responsible Development Of Surface Materials Resources Are Maintained On Public Lands.** | | | |
| 50 | 1.18 | Work with municipalities, industry and other stakeholders to identify areas of existing and future extraction of surface materials and mineral resources and determine appropriate land uses in the vicinity of these resources. |  |  |
| *Forestry* | | | | |
| 49 | **Objective: The region’s forest industry is maintained and diversified.** | | | |
| 49 | 1.16 | Incorporate **wildfire management planning** into forest management initiatives including the development of landscape wildfire risk assessments, landscape disturbance planning and FireSmart strategies. Forest management activities – such as prescribed burning, thinning and timber harvesting – will support meeting community and landscape-level FireSmart objectives. |  |  |
| *Tourism* | | | | |
| 50 | **Objective:**  **The Region Is Positioned As A World-Class, Year-Round, Tourism Destination.** | | | |
| 51 | 1.21 | Work with municipal government and other partners to identify establish and promote **scenic byways** in and around areas with high-quality attraction and recreation and tourism features. This would include routes, trails and waterways to create distinctive travel experiences and showcase the region’s unique scenic resources and cultural landscapes. |  |  |
| **3. BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS** | | | | |
| *Stewardship and conservation on private land* | | | | |
| 68 | **Objectives: regional**   * **terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity are maintained.** * **long-term ecosystem health and resiliency is maintained.** * **species at risk are recovered and no new species at risk are designated.** * **intact grasslands habitat is sustained.** * **biodiversity and healthy, functioning ecosystems continue to provide a range of benefits to communities in the region and all Albertans and there is sustainable use of Alberta’s biodiversity resources.**   **Crown Lands**   * **The regional network of areas that support biodiversity**   **- conservation is enhanced through additional conservation areas.**  **Private Lands:**   * **the contributions of landowners for Their stewardship and conservation efforts on private lands are recognized.** * **the contribution and value of private land in supplying ecosystem services is recognized and opportunities To support ecosystem services on private land are identified.** * **the value of ecosystem services supplied by economic sectors reliant on private lands is recognized.** | | | |
| 74 | 3.15 | Encourage and support the continued stewardship of Alberta’s private lands through the **development and piloting of regionally appropriate conservation tools.** These tools may include exploring market-based options, voluntary conservation easements and the provision of other government and/or private sector incentives that assist in achieving environmental outcomes. This will be done within the provincial approach for management of ecosystem services.   * ... * Encourage local authorities or qualified organizations to explore the applicability and use of voluntary stewardship and conservation tools on private lands including conservation easements, conservation offset programs and transfer of development credit scheme. * Explore innovative funding mechanisms to support stewardship and conservation on private lands; |  | . |
| **4. WATER** | | | | |
| *Enhanced Integrated Watershed Management* | | | | |
| 83 | **Objective:**  **Regional Approaches And Tools Support Integrated Management Of Water And Aquatic Ecosystems.** | | | |
| 83 | 4.3 | Continue to support the work of the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils on **watershed assessment and planning** under the Water for Life strategy, in alignment with regional planning. Stakeholders are encouraged to support the work of the Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils including development and implementation of watershed management plans. |  |  |
| 83 | 4.4 | Continue to increase knowledge and **improve management of wetland areas** within the region.   * Establish regional wetland management objectives as enabled under the Alberta Wetland Policy. The objectives will focus on the wetland values that are of high priority including biodiversity, water quality improvement, flood reduction and human use.   … |  |  |
| 83 | 4.5 | Continue to increase knowledge and **improve management of riparian lands** within the region.  …   * Encourage municipalities to use Stepping Back from the Water when establishing appropriate setbacks from water bodies to maintain water quality, flood water conveyance and storage, bank stability and habitat;   … |  |  |
| 84 | 4.6 | Encourage the use of **best management practices for land disturbances to minimize sedimentation of water bodies** and encourage municipalities to work with land developers to develop and implement best management practices appropriate for the site and establish polices and guideline for erosion and sediment control in locations with high development pressures. |  |  |
| 84 | 4.7 | Encourage the development of **source water protection plans** and the use of **source water protection measures**. Source water protection plans may be developed by municipal water utilities, Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and upstream stakeholders and include aboriginal communities participation where appropriate as a collaborative effort which is important for successful implementation. |  |  |
| 84 | 4.8 | Continue to require the development of **drinking water safety** plans for all municipal waterworks systems as required under the current regulatory system. Municipalities are encouraged to work collaboratively with upstream stakeholders to identify and mitigate risks in watersheds. |  |  |
| 84 | 4.9 | Encourage decision-makers and land managers to use the available **planning information**, including: riparian and wetland mapping and inventories, environmentally significant areas mapping and groundwater vulnerability mapping. |  |  |
| *Efficient and Resilient Water Supply* | | | | |
| 85 | **Objectives:**   * **Water Is Used As Efficiently As Possible To Meet The Current And Future Human And Ecosystem Needs.** * **There Is Resiliency In The Ability Of The Water Management System To Adapt Over Time.** | | | |
| 86 | 4.12 | Continue to develop approaches to **address the climate variability** found in the region.   * Support flood management planning and preparedness including assessment of flood risk through:   + Continuing to develop and update flood hazard mapping in communities that are at risk of flooding. Flood hazard mapping will be used in decision-making and to determine appropriate limitation for new development and infrastructure;   + Supporting development of municipal flood hazard mitigation plans to mitigate the threat from flooding to communities in the region; and   + … |  |  |
| **5. EFFICIENT USE OF LAND** | | | | |
| *Use Land Efficiently* | | | | |
| 89 | **Objective:**  **The Amount Of Land That Is Required For Development Of The Built Environment Is Minimized Over Time.** | | | |
| 89 | 5.1 | All land-use planners and decision-makers responsible for land-use decisions are encouraged to consider the efficient use of land principles in land-use planning and decision-making (see Appendix I - Efficient use of Land Principles).  **1)** Reduce the rate at which land is converted from an undeveloped state into permanent, built environment. |  |  |
| **2)** Utilize the minimum amount of land necessary for new development and build at a higher density than current practice. |  |  | |
| **3)** Increase the proportion of new development that takes place within already developed or disturbed lands either through infill, redevelopment and/or shared use, relative to new development that takes place on previously undeveloped lands. |  | . | |
| **4)** Plan design and locate new development in a manner that best utilizes existing infrastructure and minimizes the need for new or expanded infrastructure. |  |  | |
| **5)** Reclaim and/or convert previously developed lands that are no longer required in a progressive and timely manner. |  |  | |
| **6)** Provide decision-makers, land users and individuals the information they need too make decisions and choices that support efficient land use |  |  | |
| 89 | 5.2 | **Build Awareness and understanding of the efficient use of land principles** and the application of land use planning tools that reduce the footprint of the built environment, how they might be applied and how their effectiveness would be measured over time with municipalities, land-use decision-makers and land users, on both public and private lands. |  |  | |
| **6. OUTDOOR RECREATION AND HISTORIC RESOURCES** | | | | | |
| *Outdoor Recreation and Historic Resources* | | | | | |
| 95 | **OBJECTIVES:**   * **A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATION EXPERIENCES AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES THAT MEET THE PREFERENCES OF REGIONAL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WILL BE PROVIDED.**   **THE ARTIFACTS, FOSSILS, HISTORIC PLACES AND ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES THAT DEFINE THE REGIONA’S DISTINCITVE CHARACTER ARE IDENTIFIED AND EFFECTIVELY MANAGED.** | | | | |
| 97 | 6.8 | In concert with developers, ensure that land-based development activities are assessed to identify and protect historic resources. |  |  | |
| **8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | | | | | |
| *Planning Cooperation and Integration* | | | | | |
| 105 | **Objectives:**   * **Cooperation And Coordination Are Fostered Among All Land Use Planners And Decision-Makers Involved In Preparing And Implementing Land Use Plans And Strategies.** * **Knowledge Sharing Among Communities Is Encouraged To Promote The Use Of Planning Tools And The Principles Of Efficient Use Of Land To Address Community Development In The Region.**   **Calgary Regional Partnership:**  **Work Together To Ensure Growth Occurs In A Sustainable Manner In The Region.** | | | | |
| 107 | 8.2 | Address common planning issues, especially where valued natural features and historic resources are of interests to more than one stakeholder and where the possible effect of development transcends jurisdictional boundaries. |  |  | |
| 105 | 8.3 | Coordinate and work with each other in their respective planning activities (such as in the development of plans and policies) and development approval processes to address issues of mutual interest. |  |  | |
| 105 | 8.4 | Work together to anticipate, plan and set aside adequate land with the physical infrastructure and services required to accommodate future population growth and accompanying community development needs. |  |  | |
| 105 | 8.5 | Build awareness regarding the application of land-use planning tools that reduce the impact of residential, commercial and industrial developments on the land, including approaches and best practices for promoting the efficient use of private and public lands. |  |  | |
| 106 | 8.6 | Pursue joint use agreements, regional service commissions and any other joint cooperative arrangements that contribute specifically to intermunicipal land-use planning. |  |  | |
| 106 | 8.7 | Consider the value of intermunicipal development planning to address land use on fringe areas, airport vicinity protection plans or other areas of mutual interest. |  |  | |
| 106 | 8.8 | Coordinate land use-planning activities with First Nations, irrigation districts, school boards, health authorities and other agencies on areas of mutual interest. |  |  | |
| 106 | 8.9 | Build awareness and work with municipalities to implement strategies that support achieving the regional outcome that community development needs are anticipated and accommodated. |  |  | |
| *Building Sustainable Communities* | | | | | |
| 107 | **Objectives:**   * **Ensure Provincial Guidance Is Provided To Municipalities And Other Stakeholders To:** * **Promote Healthy And Sustainable Communities;** * **Foster The Establishment Of Land-Use Patterns For And Orderly, Economical And Beneficial Development, As Well As To Maintain And Improve The Quality Of The Built Environment;** * **Support Timely Planning And Provision Of Social Infrastructure; Contribute To The “Maintenance And Enhancement” Of A Healthy Natural Environment;** * **Foster Preservation Of Historic Resources Through Responsible Land-Use Management;** * **Contribute To A Safe, Efficient And Cost-Effective Transportation Network; And** * **Minimize Risks To Health, Safety And Loss To Property Damage As A Result Of Land-Use Decisions.** | | | | |
| 107 | 8.11 | Provide an appropriate mix of agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, public and recreational land uses; developed in an orderly, efficient, compatible, safe and economical manner. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.12 | Contribute to a healthy environment, a healthy economy and a high quality of life. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.13 | Provide a wide range of economic development opportunities, stimulate local employment growth and promote a healthy and stable economy. Municipalities are also expected to complement regional and provincial economic development initiatives. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.14 | Feature innovative housing designs, range of densities and housing types such as mixed-use, cluster developments, secondary suites, seniors’ centers and affordable housing. Provide the opportunity for a variety of residential environments which feature innovative designs and densities and which make efficient use of existing facilities, infrastructure and public transportation. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.15 | Minimize potential conflict of land uses within and adjacent to natural resource extraction, manufacturing and other industrial developments. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.16 | Minimize potential conflict of land uses within and adjacent to areas prone to flooding, erosion, subsidence, or wildfire. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.17 | Complement their municipal financial management strategies, whereby land use decisions contribute to the financial sustainability of the municipality. |  |  | |
| 108 | 8.18 | Locate school and health facilities, transportation, transit and other amenities appropriately, to meet increased demand from a growing population. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.19 | Identify areas where agricultural activities, including extensive and intensive agricultural and associate activities, should be the primary land use in the region. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.20 | Limit the fragmentation of agricultural lands and their premature conversion to other, non-agricultural uses, especially within areas where agriculture has been identified as a primary land use in the region. Municipal planning, policies and tools that promote the efficient use of land should be used where appropriate to support this strategy. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.21 | Employ appropriate planning tools to direct non-agricultural subdivision and development to areas where such development will not constrain agricultural activities, or to areas of lower-quality agricultural lands. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.22 | Minimize conflicts between intensive agricultural operations and incompatible land uses by using appropriate planning tools, setback distances and other mitigating measures. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.23 | Utilize or incorporate measures which minimize or mitigate possible negative impacts on important water resources or risks to health, public safety and loss to property damage due to hazards associated with water, such as flooding, erosion and subsidence due to bank stability issues, etc., within the scope of their jurisdiction. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.24 | Incorporate measures in future land-use planning decisions to mitigate the impact of floods through appropriate flood hazard area management and emergency response planning for floods. |  |  | |
| 109 | 8.25 | Prohibit unauthorized future use or development of land in the floodway in accordance with the *Flood Recovery and Reconstruction Act* and the Floodway Development Regulation under development, which will control, regulate or prohibit use or development of land that is located in a floodway and define authorized uses. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.26 | Identify and consider, based on available information including information from the Government of Alberta, the values of significant water resources and other water features, such as ravines, valleys, riparian lands, stream corridors, lakeshores, wetlands and unique environmentally significant landscapes, within their boundaries. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.27 | Determine appropriate land-use patterns in the vicinity of these significant water resources and other water features. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.28 | Consider local impacts as well as impacts on the entire watershed. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.29 | Consider a range of approaches to facilitate the conservation, protection or restoration of these water features and the protection of sensitive aquatic habitat and other aquatic resources. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.30 | Establish appropriate setbacks from waterbodies to maintain water quality, flood water conveyance and storage, bank stability and habitat. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.31 | Assess existing development located within flood hazard areas for long-term opportunities for redevelopment to reduce risk associated with flooding, including human safety, property damage, infrastructure and economic loss. |  | . | |
| 110 | 8.32 | Facilitate public access and enjoyment of water features, to the extent possible. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.33 | Use available guidance, where appropriate, from water and watershed planning initiatives in support of municipal planning. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.34 | Identify significant historic resources to foster their preservation and enhancement for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. |  |  | |
| 110 | 8.35 | Work toward the designation of Municipal Historic Resources to preserve municipally significant historic places. |  |  | |
| 111 | 8.36 | Formulate agreements with the Ministry for development referrals to assist in the identification and protection of historic resources within the scope of the jurisdiction. |  |  | |
| 111 | 8.37 | Identify the location, nature and purpose of key provincial transportation corridors and related facilities. |  |  | |
| 111 | 8.38 | Work with the Ministry to minimize negative interactions between the transportation corridors and related facilities identified in accordance with strategy 8.37 above and the surrounding areas and land uses through the establishment of compatible land-use patterns. |  |  | |
| 111 | 8.39 | Enter into highway vicinity agreements with the Ministry and employ appropriate setback distances and other mitigating measures relating to noise, air pollution and safety to limit access if subdivision and development is to be approved in the vicinity of the areas identified in accordance with 8.37 above. |  |  | |