



County of
Grande Prairie No. 1

County of Grande Prairie

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE BY THE NUMBERS

26,701*
POPULATION

2024 COUNTY OF
GRANDE PRAIRIE
MUNICIPAL CENSUS
UP 11.88%
SINCE 2021*



30
PLAYGROUNDS



543 KM
PAVED
ROADS

VERSUS 396 KM
IN 2015



40.2*
MEDIAN
AGE



3,686 KM
PAVED &
GRAVEL
ROADS



\$574,348*

2024 AVERAGE
HOUSE SALE PRICE
IN THE COUNTY



32 KM
PAVED
MULTI-
PURPOSE
TRAILS



249
BRIDGES



\$129,223*
MEDIAN
HOUSEHOLD
INCOME



CONTENTS

- 2 By the Numbers
- 3 Messages from the Reeve and County Manager
- 4 County Divisions & Area Councillors
- 5 Advocacy Update
- 6 Plan Your County
- 7 Collaborating on Emergency Preparedness
- 8 Spotlight on Events
- 9 Community Contributions
- 10 Snapshot of Funds at Work in the Community

11 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

- 12 Effective Transportation Networks
- 13 Fiscal Management
- 13 Economic Development
- 14 Effective Land-Use Management
- 15 Governance and Leadership
- 16 Community Wellness and Safety

18 2024 Budget Highlights

19 Key Service Responsibilities

*Sources:

Population – 2024 County Municipal Census

Population Growth – 2021 Federal Census 23,769

Median Age – Manifold

Average Sold Price in the County – ReMax

Median Household Income – 2024 County Retail Gap Analysis

MESSAGE FROM REEVE BOB MARSHALL



In 2024, the County focused on economic development, emphasizing job creation, workforce development, and infrastructure improvements.

We engaged in two significant regional initiatives. The first, Invest NW Alberta, is a partnership with the City of

Grande Prairie and MD of Greenview, to highlight our region's strengths in energy, agriculture, forestry, and manufacturing. The second, Work NW Alberta, formerly the Grande Prairie Regional Workforce Group, collaborates with business leaders, including the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce and Northwestern Polytechnic, to address workforce challenges and align training with industry needs.

We made investments in community safety. The Regional Fire Training Centre at the Dunes Fire Station now provides advanced firefighter training, thanks to a partnership with the City of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview, TC Energy, and Pembina Pipeline Corporation. Emergency preparedness remained a priority, with the FireSmart™ Program and Livestock Emergency Response Plan strengthening community readiness.

After three years of holding the line on the municipal portion of taxes, we moderately increased taxes in 2024 to maintain service delivery levels after years of dipping into County reserves.

We contended with millions in lost revenue following provincial changes to assessment rules and lost an estimated \$12.7 million due to the three-year pause on taxes for new well and pipeline projects, and an estimated \$9 million due to the eliminated oil well drilling tax. We saw nearly \$984,000 in unpaid property taxes from the oil and gas industry in addition to \$382,000 which was written off.

We invested \$33 million in road and bridge improvements and advocated for the Highway 40X Southwest Bypass. We completed community-focused projects, including the County and City Trail Connector, and conducted a municipal census and electoral boundary review.

Through successful intermunicipal negotiations, we finalized a Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of Grande Prairie. The funding was based on County user counts to support residents' access to services and amenities.

We are incredibly proud of our progress as we continue to build a thriving, safe, and prosperous community. With the dedication of our residents and partners, we are shaping a bright future for all who call this region home.

MESSAGE FROM COUNTY MANAGER JOULIA WHITTLETON



2024 was a remarkable year for our team. We successfully completed our organizational realignment, welcomed new talent, and celebrated the retirement of some familiar faces. Together, we enhanced staff efficiency and innovation, achieved significant cost

savings, and consistently delivered quality services.

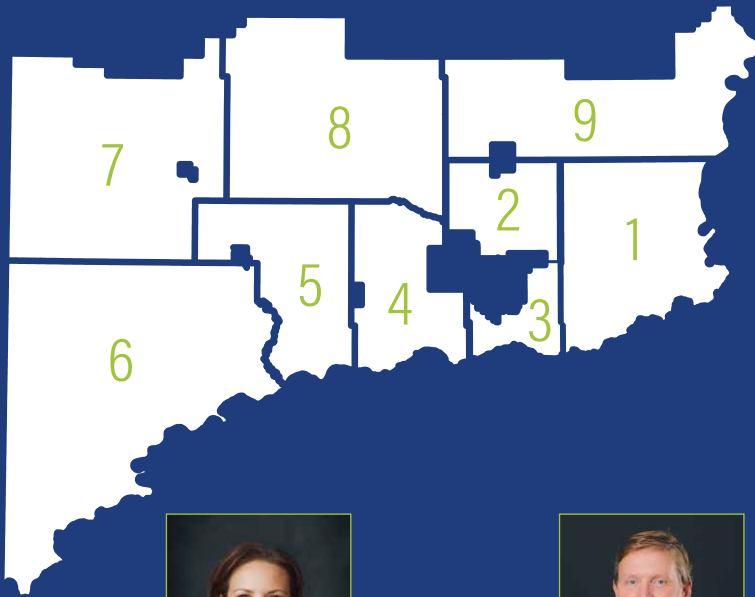
This year, we made further improvements in our response to disaster situations. During the Kleskun Creek Wildfire, our communication efforts, particularly with the new Voyent Alert system, and our collaborative work with the community, was exemplary. Once again, Forestry and other organizations demonstrated how invaluable they are to our region. We are

grateful for their assistance, as well as the support provided by GPREP members, other municipalities, and agencies.

We thank our area residents and businesses for their proactive engagement with us. Your involvement has kept us accountable, and we continue to strive to be the best we can be. Our staff has provided exceptional support to Council on intermunicipal initiatives and worked with neighbouring municipalities for services our residents use, including the Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of Grande Prairie.

As you read more about the services, programs, and projects we proudly delivered in this Annual Report, please join me in giving thanks to our supportive Council, hardworking staff, and the many volunteers who make our County such a wonderful place to live.

COUNTY DIVISIONS & AREA COUNCILLORS



Councillors represent you, and the division where you live or do business, and welcome your feedback. Find out about the boards and committees they serve on at www.countygp.ab.ca/committees.



1 **Division 1 Councillor and Deputy Reeve**
Amanda Frayn
780-518-3197
afrayn@countygp.ab.ca



2 **Division 2 Councillor**
Kurt Balderston
780-814-8404
kbalderston@countygp.ab.ca



3 **Division 3 Councillor**
Leanne Beaupre
780-814-3121
lbeaupre@countygp.ab.ca



4 **Division 4 Councillor**
Steve Zimmerman
780-831-0864
szimmerman@countygp.ab.ca



5 **Division 5 Councillor and Reeve**
Bob Marshall
780-933-2053
bmarshall@countygp.ab.ca



6 **Division 6 Councillor**
Peter Harris
780-933-3074
pharris@countygp.ab.ca



7 **Division 7 Councillor**
Brian Peterson
780-228-0034
bpeterson@countygp.ab.ca



8 **Division 8 Councillor**
Karen Rosvold
780-831-0902
krosvold@countygp.ab.ca



9 **Division 9 Councillor**
Bob Chrenek
780-897-3577
bchrenek@countygp.ab.ca

ADVOCACY UPDATE

The County of Grande Prairie advocates to the provincial and federal governments on several issues that impact community well-being and quality of life.

County Council approved three Government Advocacy Priorities for 2024-2025: Economic Development, Transportation, and Health. These areas are crucial for maintaining and enhancing quality of life in the County; they shine a light on our community's urgent needs and help maximize available opportunities.

2024-2025 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

1

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Gain economic development opportunities for the County with a focus on job creation, workforce development and talent attraction, economic diversification, and infrastructure development.

2

TRANSPORTATION

Promote awareness of transportation infrastructure needs in the County with the provincial and federal governments to ensure robust economic development, safety and resilience.

3

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

To better meet local needs, the County seeks improvements to healthcare services, including attracting professionals to our area.

Read about additional advocacy priorities at www.countygp.ab.ca/advocacy.



2024 SUCCESSES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- County officials engaged with the Premier, Ministers, and stakeholders to propose incentives to offset high electricity, fuel, and natural gas costs.
- Hosted Ministers on a tour of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, highlighting its regional value and a \$250,000 PrairiesCan investment.
- Launched Invest NW Alberta and Work NW Alberta, regional initiatives driving investment attraction and workforce development. Invest NW, a partnership between the County, City of Grande Prairie, and MD of Greenview, promotes investment in energy, agriculture, forestry, and manufacturing. Work NW, led by the same municipalities alongside the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce and Northwestern Polytechnic, supports workforce alignment and career development.

TRANSPORTATION

- Finalized land appraisals to expedite Highway 40X land acquisition and continued advocacy for capital funding.
- Pushed for rail service improvements to drive economic growth, enhance reliability, and reduce road infrastructure strain.
- Supported the Grande Prairie Airport Commission's efforts to secure commercial service to Vancouver and increased WestJet flights to Edmonton.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Collaborating with the City and MD of Greenview on healthcare worker attraction and retention, to realize shared value for our region.
- Advanced the Maskwa Medical Centre project, passing key bylaws and supporting capital funding efforts.
- Council approved a new Community Safety Coordinator role under the Crime Prevention Workplan and signed the Clairmont Municipal Policing Services Agreement, on track for 2025 implementation.

PLAN YOUR COUNTY

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Plan Your County is the ongoing, overarching project to update the documents that will inform our County's growth and development in alignment with the values and goals of the people who call it home.

What began with engaging residents in 2023 has continued in 2024 with further, more detailed engagements that contributed to the following elements of Plan Your County.

COMPLETED ELEMENTS OF PLAN YOUR COUNTY

Hamlet Resiliency Strategy: The County has completed the strategy for its nine rural hamlets. The strategy informs other Plan Your County documents and includes recommendations for a range of other initiatives such as recreation amenities, economic development, and infrastructure.

Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDPs): The County completed IDPs with the Town of Beaverlodge and the City of Grande Prairie. The project team gathered feedback from residents of all three municipalities to establish the long-term land-use vision for the areas around the two neighbouring municipalities, as well as processes such as how they will consult with each other.

ONGOING ELEMENTS OF PLAN YOUR COUNTY

Municipal Development Plan Update (2023-2025): After two rounds of engagement in 2024, a draft update was completed and slated for further engagement in 2025. The draft MDP establishes a high-level vision for how the County will grow in the long term. It includes policies directing different types of development and for preserving natural areas and better agricultural land, among others.

Land Use Bylaw Review (2024): This bylaw outlines the standards (e.g., zoning) when someone is developing a site, such as building a house. The bylaw review will ensure alignment with residents' needs and improve application processes. Currently in an administrative phase driven by Council direction and provincial legislation, the review will require further phases and public consultation throughout 2025-2026.

UPCOMING ELEMENTS OF PLAN YOUR COUNTY

Area Structure Plan Reviews (2025): These plans provide direction for long-term land use and details on the growth and development within defined areas in the County.

Educational Programs (2026): The County is developing an educational program to help applicants easily navigate the planning framework.

Other Planning & Development Documents (2026): This includes a wide range of documents such as policies, non-statutory plans, and bylaws related to development in the County.

Resident engagement is vital to the success of Plan Your County. Please visit www.countygp.ab.ca/PlanYourCounty to learn more.

1,000+
VISITS TO
[countygp.ab.ca/
planyourcounty](http://countygp.ab.ca/planyourcounty)



100+
PEOPLE
ENGAGED



10
IN-PERSON
EVENTS



12
EMAIL
UPDATES



1
SURVEY





COLLABORATING ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership (GPREP) model fosters unity and resilience, bringing together the County and City of Grande Prairie and the towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley to prepare for, and manage emergency situations. In 2024, GPREP enhanced operations by developing additional planning and tools to ensure clear, accurate and timely communications during emergency activations, including dedicated social media channels. Follow @GPREPAIAlerts on Facebook and X.

GPREP was invaluable during fire season, including for the Kleskun Creek Wildfire in May. The 1,298-hectare fire was managed through cooperation and support from the County, Alberta Wildfire, MD of Greenview, City of Grande Prairie, MD of Smoky River, Town of Slave Lake, and Big Lakes County. Our thanks to the brave firefighters and responders from across the region whose tireless work in containing the fire ensured the health and safety of residents was prioritized and no property was damaged. GPREP was activated again in July to accept Jasper evacuees.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

To enhance fire mitigation in 2025, the County will continue vegetation management work within Priority Area 3: Highway 40 west, which spans 1,100 hectares. In 2024, 19.09 hectares of Priority Area 3 were treated through a vegetation management grant from the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA). The County is also updating its Wildfire Mitigation Strategy to address evolving risks from growth and proximity to forested land, and enhancing prevention, education, and collaboration.

CRITICAL ALERT COMMUNICATION

In May 2024, the County launched Voyent Alert to help residents receive critical and timely alerts about emergencies such as fires and floods, and day-to-day services. The County's Communications and Marketing department also adopted a 24/7 on-call model for crisis communications. Both were instrumental during the Kleskun Creek Wildfire. Don't wait for emergencies to strike; download the app or register today for email, text or landline updates: www.countygp.ab.ca/alerts.

EXPANDING FIRESMART EDUCATION

In 2024, the County continued their dedication to sharing messages about the importance of emergency preparedness. FireSmart education is integrated into public events such as County Open Houses and annual tradeshows. Reduce the risk of wildfire damage to your property; download the FireSmart Home Assessment app today or contact County Regional Fire Service.

ENHANCED RESPONSE

County Regional Fire Service has adopted the practice of assigning pre-staging firefighters, apparatus, and standby helicopters to strategic locations during extreme fire risk.

2024 Deployments:

County Regional Fire Services and regional partners had a busy year with an early start to the season on March 1, 2024, fed by a dry winter and spring. Local fires included grass fires, holdover fires, those threatening property, and the Kleskun Creek Wildfire, which prompted an evacuation. The County was proud to provide regional support and deployments including:

- Support to the MD of Peace for a large wildland fire in the Shaftesbury area.
- Assistance to Alberta Wildfire for structural protection and fire suppression in the Provincial Fire Protection Area.
- Four members deployed to Zama City to support structural protection and suppression of an out-of-control fire.
- Support for the Jasper townsite fire including a Task Force Leader, Structural Protection Specialist, a crew of four with a Type 3 engine, and members of the Clairmont, Dunes, Hythe and Wembley fire stations.

MANAGING LIVESTOCK EMERGENCIES

The Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) and its database of area livestock helps reduce risk to people and animals in an emergency through planning and providing resources for transportation and/or feed. Learn more and register: www.countygp.ab.ca/lerp.

SPOTLIGHT ON EVENTS

The County of Grande Prairie is proud to host and facilitate events that celebrate residents' pride and community spirit.

COUNTY OPEN HOUSES

County Open Houses provide opportunities for residents to engage with County staff and Councillors and provide feedback on initiatives. In June 2024, Open Houses were held at Valhalla Community School, Teepee Creek, and Five Mile Hall.

ALBERTA DAY

County residents joined us for our first Alberta Day on September 1 at the Bezanson Community Event Centre to celebrate who we are as Albertans and what we can achieve together. The family-friendly festival showcased our heritage, cultural identity, and our shared pride in our province.

KIDS CAN CATCH

Kids Can Catch 2024, held at the Sportsplex Pond, was a success despite the heat! Prime Time fishing mentors provided expert guidance and one lucky kid reeled in the only fish of the day.

SENIORS' WEEK

Seniors' Week 2024 celebrated the contributions of local seniors with intergenerational lunches in Hythe and Clairmont and the return of the Bi-Annual Seniors' Tea, hosted by Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) teams from the County, City and surrounding towns. Seniors across the region enjoyed the fellowship, entertainment and appreciation.

PASSIONATE HEARTS

The Passionate Heart Awards, held annually on Valentine's Day, celebrate outstanding contributions to social services in our region. Sponsored by FCSS from the County, City and surrounding towns, the event honours those dedicated to community well-being. In 2024, nine recipients were recognized for their exceptional impact.



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The County of Grande Prairie invests millions of dollars in grants each year to enhance the well-being of its residents and to support committed local citizens who put the funds to work for their communities.

\$8,895,504
MILLION

TOTAL COMMUNITY
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

\$1,158,570
MILLION
IN CAPITAL
PROJECTS



\$1,904,546
MILLION
IN COMMUNITY
ASSISTANCE GRANTS
IN ADDITION TO
\$500,000 TO MASKWA
MEDICAL CENTRE



\$190,819

TO SUPPORT
ACCESSIBLE
TRANSPORTATION
FOR RESIDENTS



\$587,479

IN GRANTS SUPPORTING
PUBLIC LIBRARIES
IN COUNTY HAMLETS
AND NEIGHBOURING
COMMUNITIES



\$377,422

TO SUPPORT
PREVENTATIVE SOCIAL
PROGRAMMING
THROUGH
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS



\$41,920

IN CEMETERY
GRANTS



\$567,481 TO LOCAL RECREATION BOARDS, INCLUDING:

Beaverlodge – Elmworth – Huallen Area Recreation Board	\$74,576
Clairmont – Bezanson Area Recreation Board	\$71,166
Grande Prairie Area Recreation Board	\$46,000
Hythe – Demmitt Area Recreation Board	\$208,783
Sexsmith – La Glace – Teepee Creek Area Recreation Board	\$129,984
Wembley – Saskatoon Lake – Dimsdale Area Recreation Board	\$36,792

\$3,567,249
MILLION

ALLOCATED TO
NEIGHBOURING MUNICIPALITIES
THROUGH INTERMUNICIPAL
COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK
AGREEMENTS

SNAPSHOT OF FUNDS AT WORK

IN THE COMMUNITY



\$1.5 MILLION
TO SUPPORT THE LA GLACE & DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN 2024
 part of a \$4.5 million total investment
 for the new recreation facility



\$773,724
TO SUPPORT EVERGREEN PARK
 including operating support



\$558,375
TO THE NITEHAWK YEAR-ROUND
ADVENTURE PARK
 \$169,625 per year (2023-2026) for capital
 equipment replacement



\$500,000
TO MASKWA MEDICAL CENTRE
 to assist with developing a business plan and
 cost-benefit analysis



\$500,000
TO STARS FLEET RENEWAL CAMPAIGN
 \$100,000 per year (2020-2024)



\$400,000
TO THE PHILIP J. CURRIE DINOSAUR MUSEUM
 for operations



\$300,000
TO THE GRANDE PRAIRIE
YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER SOCIETY
 \$100,000 per year (2023-2025) for the new
 Sunrise House



\$258,000
TO THE ART GALLERY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE
 \$86,000 per year (2023-2025) for operational
 funding



\$200,000
TO RISING ABOVE
 \$100,000 per year (2024-2025) for a new
 building



\$200,000
TO THE ALBERTA WINTER GAMES
 \$100,000 per year (2023-2024), in addition to
 \$50,000 through gift-in-kind services



\$174,216
TO THE GRANDE PRAIRIE
REGIONAL SPORT CONNECTION
 \$58,072 per year (2022-2024) for operational
 funding



\$77,571
TO THE SOUTH PEACE REGIONAL ARCHIVES
 for a three-year term (2024-2026) for
 operational funding



\$70,000
TO THE GRANDE PRAIRIE
REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
 for the installation of widescreen TVs in patient
 rooms and common areas



\$50,000
TO THE HARRY BALFOUR SCHOOL
PARTICIPARENT ASSOCIATION
 for a playground at the replacement school



\$25,000
TO THE BEAR CREEK FOLK FESTIVAL SOCIETY
 for the Bear Creek Folk Festival



\$25,000
TO THE GRANDE PRAIRIE
TECHNICAL SEARCH AND RESCUE
 for operations



\$10,000
TO THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION WEST
SMOKY BRANCH NO. 244
 for a kitchen renovation project

2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

The County of Grande Prairie No. 1. First in building sustainable, prosperous, and safe communities.

MISSION

The County of Grande Prairie builds on its natural environment and the entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens to provide opportunities for all.

OUR VALUES

The County of Grande Prairie Council commits to the following values. We will maintain high standards of ethical and professional conduct by being:

- Trustworthy
- Transparent
- Respectful
- Collaborative

OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES

We will use these principles to guide the decision-making and service delivery of our County. We will:

- Place the people we serve at the centre of our work.
- Be good stewards of our land, air and water.
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility and good financial management.
- Provide programs and services in an effective and efficient manner.
- Foster an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage sustainable agriculture, industry, and tourism pursuits.
- Be a good neighbour to our surrounding municipalities.
- Practice good governance and respect each other's roles.
- Create a work environment that contributes to employee health and well-being.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Six strategic themes lay the foundation of the County's work and planning. Read through the report for details of how the County has driven each priority forward in the past year.



**EFFECTIVE
TRANSPORTATION
NETWORKS**



**FISCAL
MANAGEMENT**



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



**EFFECTIVE LAND-USE
MANAGEMENT**



**COMMUNITY WELLNESS
AND SAFETY**



**GOVERNANCE AND
LEADERSHIP**

Learn more about County Council's Strategic Plan at www.countygp.ab.ca/stratplan.



EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS

Effective transportation networks are a priority for the County. Safe and well-maintained roads and bridges drive economic development, support communities, and align with the priorities of residents and industry.

Roads and sidewalks upgraded	51 km
Dust control applied	140 km
Gravel applied	810 km
Ditches rehabilitated	38 km
Repainted lines on paved roads	372.4 km
Culverts installed	142

Approximately \$72 million—65.5 per cent of the 2024 capital budget—was allocated toward capital road and bridge projects.

Busy roads reflect a recovering economy. We saw an increase in permits for service rigs, drilling rigs, and heavy hauls in 2024 and 2025 looks promising so far.



Township Roads 714 and 713A and the connecting Range Road 35 underwent a full rebuild in 2024, improving soil and drainage issues while reducing annual maintenance during wet conditions.



After reviewing the existing structure of Range Road 30, a Full Depth Reclamation process was used for the first time in the County, based on lifecycle costs. The road is now ready for two future overlays, extending its life by approximately 60 years without incurring the cost and inconvenience of a full rebuild.

**\$48.8
MILLION**

INVESTED IN
THE COUNTY'S
TRANSPORTATION
NETWORK

INVESTED
**\$27.9
MILLION**

IN CAPITAL ROAD
AND BRIDGE
PROJECTS

INVESTED
**\$20.9
MILLION**

IN ROAD AND BRIDGE
MAINTENANCE



FISCAL MANAGEMENT

The County relies on a sustainable financial framework to continue to build safe and prosperous communities.

County Council approved the 2024 budget with a 2.9 per cent municipal tax rate increase that aligns with public feedback which identified fire services and road conditions as two important areas of focus in recent and past Citizen Satisfaction Surveys. The increase came following three years of Council holding the line on the municipal portion of taxes while relying on the unsustainable practice of using reserve funding to balance the budget. The increase translated to approximately \$56.97 annually, or \$4.75 per month on a residential property valued at \$482,000.

The \$223.5 million budget included an estimated \$107 million for general operations, \$6.5 million for debt payments, and \$110 million for capital investments, including \$54.3 million for projects continued from previous years.



2024 BUDGET:

**\$223.5
MILLION**



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The County helps drive vibrant, prosperous, and sustainable communities by facilitating connections with our partners and stakeholders to encourage economic and community development.

The Economic Development team advances this vision through strategies that highlight competitive advantages and attract investment. Efforts focus on four pillars: investment readiness, attraction, business retention and expansion, and applying an economic lens to broader initiatives.

Regional collaboration is key. **Invest NW Alberta** and **Work NW Alberta**, partnerships with the City of Grande Prairie and the MD of Greenview, streamline investment and workforce development by reducing red tape and uniting municipal strengths. This approach enhances opportunities in the Grande Prairie-Greenview Corridor, creating a competitive, business-friendly environment.



Left to right: MD of Greenview Reeve Tyler Olsen, City of Grande Prairie Mayor Jackie Clayton, and County of Grande Prairie Reeve Bob Marshall.



EFFECTIVE LAND-USE MANAGEMENT

The County wants development to happen in the best and most appropriate locations. Sound planning and community engagement are key to the process.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

	2023	2024
Inspections	1,765	1,712
Non-residential building permits	60	57
Residential building permits	252	290
Residential construction value	\$44,812,490	\$51,029,410
Non-residential construction value	\$19,131,743	\$17,338,852



PLAN UPDATES

Municipal Development Plan (MDP) – Underway

The MDP provides long-term guidelines and policy direction for growth and development within the County. It guides the policy direction for other planning documents such as Area Structure Plans and the Land Use Bylaw. Slated for public consultation in 2025, the County-initiated review has had two phases of public consultation to update policies directing different types of development, requirements for developments, preserving natural areas and better agricultural land, among others.

Hamlet Resiliency Strategy – Completed in 2023-2024

The Hamlet Resiliency Strategy looks at the needs of the County's nine rural hamlets: Demmitt, Goodfare, Elmworth, La Glace, Valhalla, Huallen, Dimsdale, Teepee Creek and Bezanson. The Strategy provides recommendations to inform the MDP on land use and development policies, including recreation amenities. Hythe, Clairmont and Wedgewood were not included as they are urban hamlets and already have specific policies in the MDP.

Windsor Area Structure Plan (ASP) – Underway

An ASP has been drafted to guide the development of approximately 388 hectares in the southwest part of the Hamlet of Clairmont, between Range Road 62 and 63, and south of Highway 43 to the City of Grande Prairie boundary. Currently awaiting public hearing, the draft envisions a framework for housing, neighbourhood and gateway commercial uses, services, and amenities.

Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP)

An IDP is a long-term and strategic plan between two or more municipalities. It is a coordinated and collaborative framework respecting land use, servicing, and transportation on lands adjacent to the boundaries of the respective municipalities.

County and City of Grande Prairie IDP – Completed in 2024

The County and City of Grande Prairie updated their IDP to ensure it meets residents' and the municipalities' needs. The plan uses current context of development in the area and public consultation outcomes to provide coordination in areas of mutual concern, such as parkland use and development, transportation, and infrastructure. It is a shared vision that helps reduce potential conflicts and increase effective coordination and collaboration.

Beaverlodge IDP – Completed in 2024

The completed IDP between the County and the Town of Beaverlodge establishes a long-term vision for the area surrounding Beaverlodge and policies for future growth and intermunicipal communications for development proposals.

Wembley IDP – On Hold

Currently on hold, the IDP between the County and the Town of Wembley will provide direction on types of land use, if and when the landowner chooses to develop, considering factors such as surrounding land uses and infrastructure.



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Effective leadership of a municipality starts with a shared understanding of challenges and priorities.



2024 MUNICIPAL CENSUS AND ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

In 2024, the County completed an Electoral Boundary Review in which community feedback contributed to the maintenance of existing boundaries. As part of effective leadership, a municipal census was also undertaken. With a 95 per cent response rate, the census revealed the County's significant population growth—up 11.88 per cent since 2021—and highlighted the 27 per cent of area residents without a family physician. Physician recruitment campaigns and intermunicipal partnerships are helping address this issue, along with the Maskwa Medical Centre, slated to begin construction in 2025.

INTERMUNICIPAL COLLABORATION FRAMEWORKS (ICFs)

As part of the updated Municipal Government Act, ICFs are required for municipalities that share a border. An ICF is a tool to facilitate cooperation between neighbouring municipalities to ensure municipal services are provided to residents efficiently and cost effectively.

In 2024, the County finalized the Recreation and Culture Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of Grande Prairie, ensuring access to vital community services and amenities. The Agreement to share costs includes a one-time retroactive payment of \$4.6 million, and a \$2.76 million net payment beginning in 2025 that was established based on County and City user data. The County also finalized recreational and fire service agreements with the Town of Wembley.

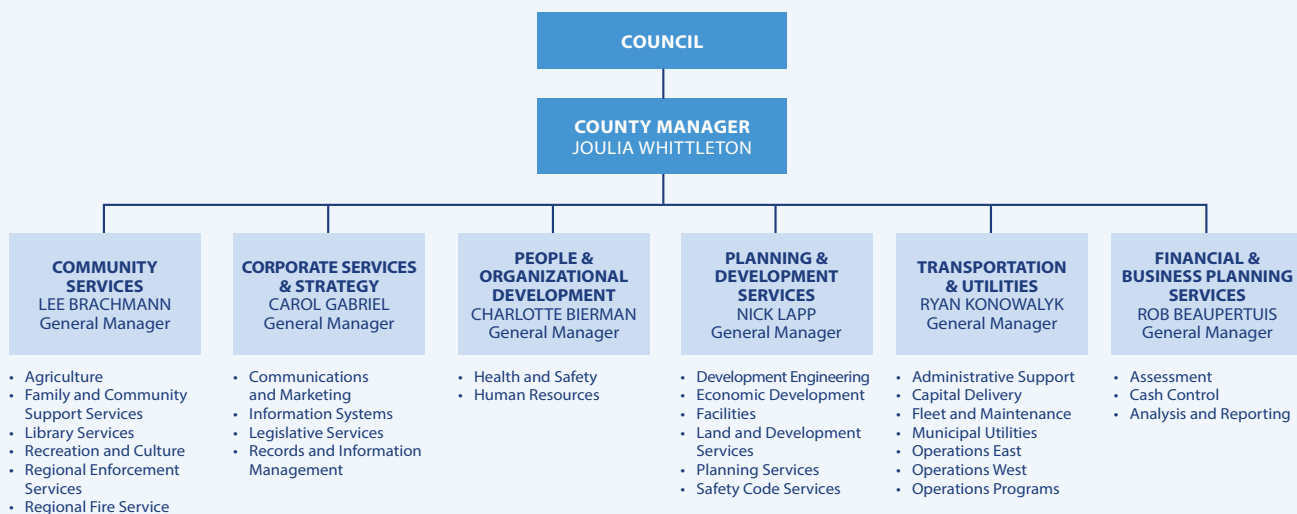
2023 CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

2023 marked the first time the County reached out to residents through an online Citizen Satisfaction Survey, after conducting telephone surveys in 2011, 2014 and 2021.

- 96 per cent of residents rated the County's quality of life as good.
- An increased number of residents (89 per cent) agree that the County is a safe region.
- Following a record-breaking year of wildfires in the province, County residents continued to provide top marks to Fire Service (82 per cent).

HOW THE COUNTY IS ORGANIZED

Our organizational chart includes the people and divisions responsible for providing exceptional services to our communities.





COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND SAFETY

The County prioritizes collaborating to develop and deliver programs and activities that create safe communities and a high quality of life for residents and business owners.

The County of Grande Prairie's ongoing **It Takes a Volunteer** program recognizes the outstanding contributions of volunteers and organizations who contribute to the well-being of their neighbours and communities. A total of 14 individuals and 10 groups were recognized in 2024.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) continues to strengthen community well-being, supporting over 4,300 County residents through programs that foster inclusion, health and resilience. In partnership with surrounding municipalities, and through funding non-profit social services, FCSS expanded local support networks and prioritized mental health and social connection. In 2024, 173 local volunteers contributed over 5,300 hours to FCSS-supported programs, reinforcing the impact of community involvement.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PROACTIVE PLANNING

	2023	2024
Regional Fire Service calls for service	2,790	3,003
Fire permits	1,768	2,054
Fire investigations	335	41
Regional Enforcement Services calls for service	1,469	1,860
Regional Enforcement Services charges laid	3,164	3,536
Regional Animal Pound intakes	1,192	978



The County's 2024 budget included \$3 million in transfers to the provincial government for RCMP policing costs, including the recently negotiated **Clairmont Municipal Policing Services Agreement** and \$80,000 annually to pay for a support position for the detachment. It also included investments in enhanced fire response through two **Fire Prevention Officer positions**, additional firefighter positions, and equipment.

Council approved the County's first **Community Safety Coordinator** role in response to concerns about rural crime, aligning with Council's strategic priority. The **Community Safety and**

Wellness Grant provides support to groups taking steps to protect their communities from harm. In 2024, a total of \$19,000 was awarded: \$2,000 for the Sea to Sea for PTSD event; \$5,000 to AgKnow for the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network; \$9,500 to Helping Homeless Restart Society operations; and \$2,500 to the Grande Prairie Rural Crime Watch.

In 2024, the County celebrated the grand openings of the new **Beaverlodge Fire Hall**, a modern space for 25 volunteer firefighters, and the **Regional Fire Training Centre** located at the Dunes Fire Station. The state-of-the-art training centre

enhances emergency preparedness and reduces training costs. Both facilities strengthen fire services across the County and neighbouring municipalities.

Launched in 2024 and supported by ATCO's three-year \$18,000 commitment, the **ATCO Cadet Program** gives high school students in the County of Grande Prairie and towns of Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, and Wembley hands-on firefighting experience while earning high school credits.

AGRICULTURE

For 57 years, the County of Grande Prairie has been recognizing local farm families who exemplify the values of collaboration, resilience, and community spirit. Each year, a deserving family is honoured for their dedication to agriculture and their significant contributions to both their industry and the community. The Farm Family Award continues to shine a light on those who help shape the future of farming while staying true to the values that define our region.

	2023	2024
Weed inspections	42,181	37,516
Pest and disease	344	420
Ditches mowed	8,616 km	8,816 km
Ditches spot sprayed	3,685 km	2,778 km

RECREATION AND CULTURE

The County maintains outdoor recreation and greenspaces, as well as some community cemeteries.

13,763 CAMPERS
AT COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS

Key upgrades included improvements at the Old Bezanson Townsite with new interpretive signage featuring archaeological findings. Upgrades at Hommy Park included a new playground.



County and City Trail Connector Ribbon Cutting

In October, County and City Councillors celebrated the completion of the two-kilometre trail, enhancing recreation and connectivity. Funded by both municipalities and the Canada Revitalization Fund, the trail runs parallel to Range Road 61 with a new pedestrian crossing at Highway 668.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

In 2024, the County's Municipal Utilities team undertook a \$900,000 water valve replacement project in Hythe, part of the ongoing work resulting from Hythe's transition to the County in 2021. The project was funded by an Alberta Community Partnership grant.

RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Facility	2023	2024
Clairmont Centre for Recycling & Waste Management	7,112 tonnes diverted 37,720 tonnes accepted	3,696 tonnes diverted 46,863 tonnes accepted
West Grande Prairie Regional Landfill	763 tonnes diverted 6,715 tonnes accepted	254 tonnes diverted 1,550 tonnes accepted

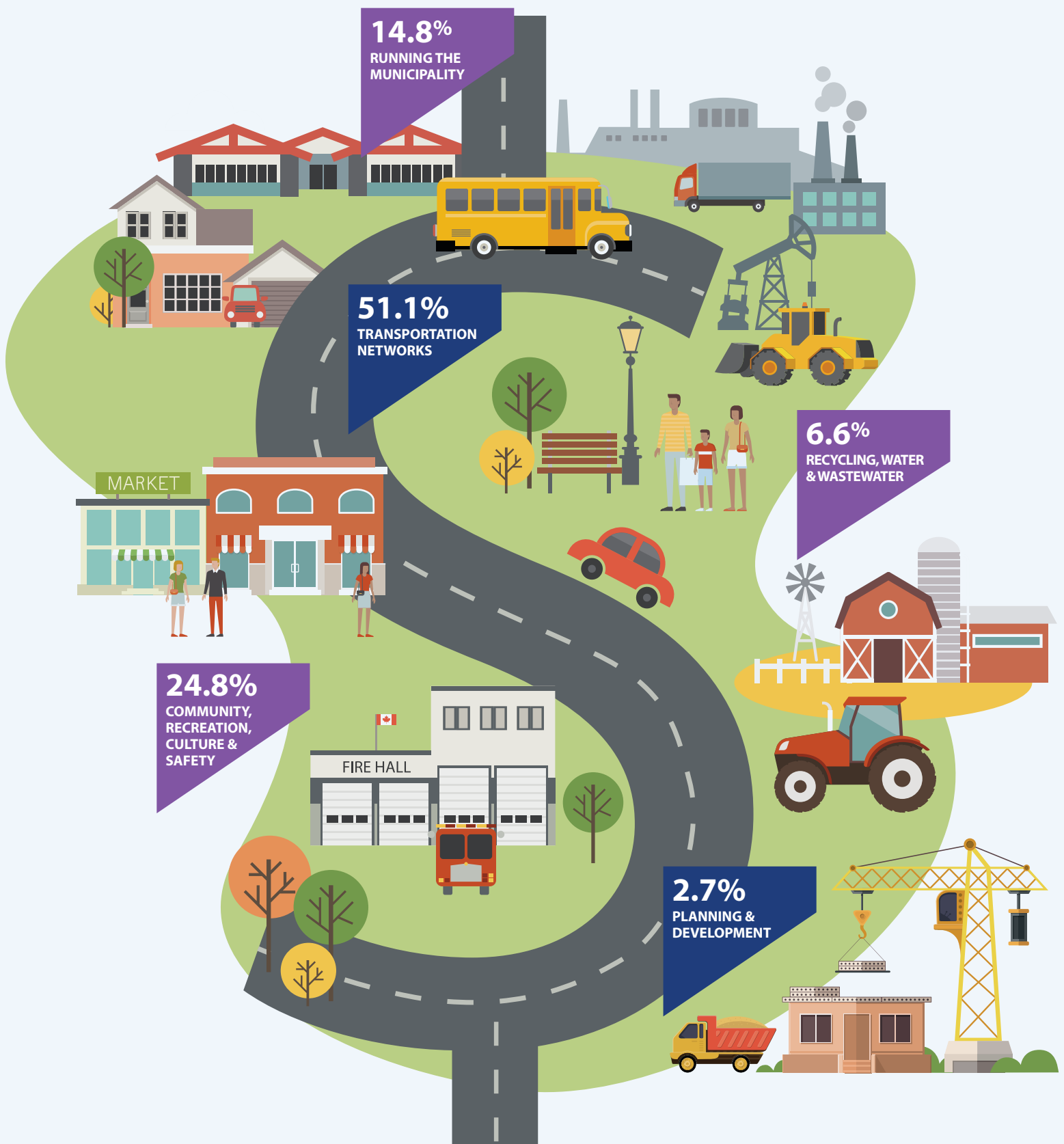
LIBRARIES

The County of Grande Prairie Library Board operates four libraries in our communities.

Physical and Digital Library Items Circulated	2023	2024
Elmworth Community Library	4,108	5,551
Hythe Community Library	7,290	10,818
La Glace Community Library	9,820	10,172
Valhalla Community Library	8,388	8,515

2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

How was the municipal portion of
your 2024 tax dollars invested?



KEY SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE



AGRICULTURE SERVICES & PROGRAMS
ROADSIDE MOWING,
WEED CONTROL



ANIMAL SERVICES



**COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS,
PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS & TRAILS**



DISASTER SERVICES



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
SUPPORT SERVICES**



**LAND-USE PLANNING,
ZONING & DEVELOPMENT**



LIBRARIES



PROPERTY TAXES
MUNICIPAL PORTION



**REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT
SERVICES**



REGIONAL FIRE SERVICE



ROAD MAINTENANCE
EXCLUDING HIGHWAYS



UTILITIES
WATER, WASTEWATER



**WASTE & RECYCLING
MANAGEMENT FACILITIES
& SERVICES**

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

ALBERTA



**EMERGENCIES AND
DISASTER RELIEF**



ENVIRONMENT
FISH AND WILDLIFE
SPECIES AT RISK



HIGHWAYS



HOSPITALS



JUSTICE



PROPERTY TAXES
PROVINCIAL PORTION
FOR EDUCATION, SENIORS
FOUNDATION, AND DESIGNATED
INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES,
REGISTRIES AND LAND TITLES



**PROVINCIAL PARKS &
CAMPGROUNDS**



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES



SCHOOLS
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
CHILDREN'S SERVICES



SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SENIORS, COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL SERVICES



**SUPPORTS FOR EMPLOYEES
& EMPLOYERS**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CANADA



AIRLINES & AIRPORTS
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
BORDERS



BANKING
MORTGAGES



**CHILD BENEFIT
SOCIAL SERVICES**



EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE



FISHERIES AND OCEANS



INCOME TAX



NATIONAL DEFENSE
RCMP



NATIONAL PARKS



POSTAL SERVICE



RAIL



STUDENT LOANS



STAY IN TOUCH

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Administration Building

P 780-532-9722

F 780-539-9880

Community Services Building

P 780-532-9727

F 780-567-5576

www.countygp.ab.ca

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