

Why Regional Planning Matters in Manitoba's Capital Region

Planning for the future together | What kind of legacy are we leaving behind?

The choices we make today will shape our communities: how they flourish or fall behind.

It's important we make smart, deliberate choices if we want our children and grandchildren to choose to stay in Manitoba and build a good life here. These choices shape how our region grows. They shape the opportunities we create, and how we sustain and evolve the services we all rely on.

Regional planning gives us a roadmap for growth. We need a coordinated approach because our province is growing.

More people. More homes. More cars on the road. This brings opportunity, but it also puts real pressure on our infrastructure, services, and systems, like water, wastewater, reliable roads, emergency services, and housing.

At the same time, we are facing a shift. Our population is aging, and seniors are struggling to stay in communities they helped build. Additionally, too many young people are leaving the province because they don't see a future for themselves here. We need to create more opportunity across the region to address both trends.

Regional planning lays the necessary groundwork for growth. This is the foundation for keeping families together and creating good jobs. It makes Manitoba a place people want to stay, contribute to, and invest in.

Regional planning supports growth in a smart, fair, and cost-effective way. It connects the dots across municipal boundaries so that the whole region benefits. It helps us avoid duplication, lowers costs, and unlocks provincial and federal funding opportunities.

What is Regional Planning?

It's the work of bringing municipalities together to:

- Make smart decisions about where and how growth happens.
- Provide essential services like water, wastewater, and roads.
- Protect our vital farmland and natural areas.
- Coordinate applications for provincial and federal funding.
- Give investors and builders confidence that our region is ready for growth.
- Protect local autonomy while ensuring we are all pulling in the same direction.

Where Things Stand:

In 2024, the Board of the Capital Planning Region, operating as the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR), decided not to move forward with Plan20-50, a regional plan developed between 2019 and 2024. The Board recognized that a different approach was needed, one that better reflects today's priorities and tomorrow's opportunities.

In early 2025, a renewed regional planning process began, grounded in municipal and regional needs and aligned with provincial requirements. Work is now underway to reach out to engage a broad range of perspectives to shape our strategic plan in a way that reflects the communities and people that make up this region.

What You Should Know:

Regional planning in any community can be misunderstood or subject to misinformation being shared. We want to be a resource that ensures you have the facts.

The WMR and the Province of Manitoba will provide clear, reliable information about regional planning. This will help people understand what regional planning means for their community.

To learn more:

- winnipegmetroregion.ca
- gov.mb.ca/mr/land_use_dev/wpg_metro_region.html

The Bottom Line:

This work is being led by municipal leaders who are coming together to shape the future of this region. They are bringing local knowledge to the table and sharing community perspectives. They are identifying priorities that reflect what matters most to the people who live here.

Regional planning is how we turn local priorities into a bigger, more coordinated plan. It helps us make smart decisions, so communities aren't left behind and infrastructure, housing, and services can keep up with demand.

The choices we make today shape the future of this region. Let's plan with purpose and build a Manitoba that works for everyone.