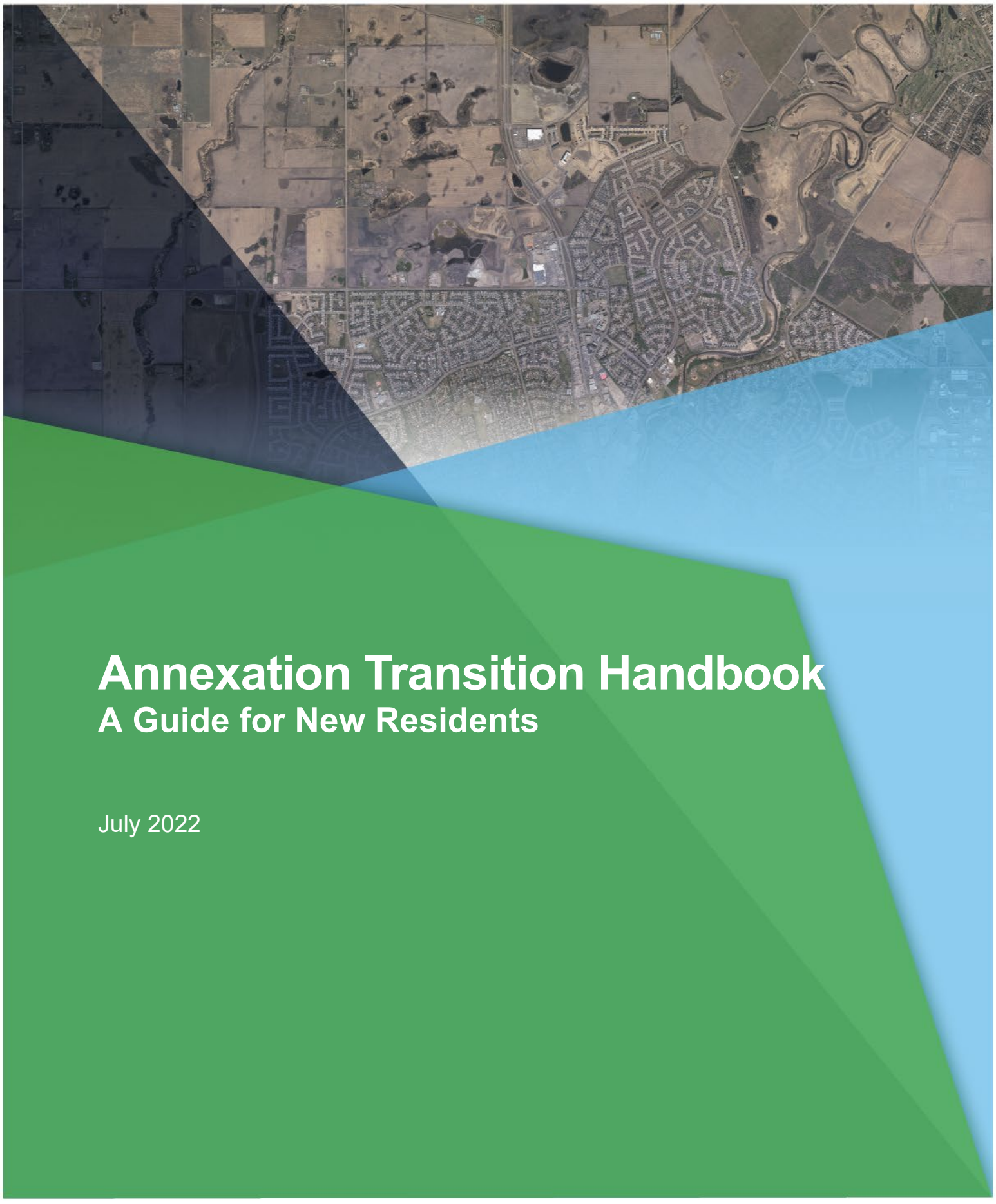


Annexation Transition Handbook

A Guide for New Residents

July 2022

City of St. Albert
Cultivate Life

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1.0 Purpose

This handbook has been created to help you transition from life in Sturgeon County to living in the City of St. Albert. You will find that many aspects of day-to-day life will not change now that you live within the City of St. Albert's boundary. However, should you have questions or concerns this guide is a good starting point.

For more information, please visit www.stalbert.ca/annexation, or contact a department directly for specific questions. Department contact numbers are found in Section 3 of this Handbook, and online here: https://stalbert.ca/cosa/contact/phone/.

2.0 Mayor's Welcome



On behalf of City Council and the entire community, I am extremely honoured to offer a warm welcome to St. Albert – we're happy you're here!

While many aspects of daily life will not change, as new residents, I hope you embrace the vast programs, services and amenities the City has to offer. This guide contains important information and key contacts to help you transition to life in Alberta's Botanical Arts City.

Your energy and enthusiasm will undoubtedly help shape St. Albert as a top community in which to live, work and play. I look forward to creating many remarkable moments together.

Cathy Heron
Mayor, City of St. Albert

3.0 City Hall

St. Albert Place

Located at 5 St. Anne Street and home to City Hall, St. Albert Place overlooks the Sturgeon River and Red Willow Park trails. Click here for a map.

Home to: **(First Floor)** Arden Theatre, Business Licensing, Community Services, Musée Heritage Museum, St. Albert Public Library, Taxation and Utilities; **(Second Floor)** Engineering Services, Strategic Services & Communications, and Planning & Development; **(Third Floor)** Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Council Public Gallery, Financial Services & Information Technology, Legal & Legislative Services, and the Office of the Mayor.

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and closed on holidays.

Customer service desk hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, closed on holidays. Services include: taxation, utilities and business licensing.

Library hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Council

St. Albert City Council is elected as a whole, and Councillors do not represent specific divisions.

Please follow the link below to read the biographies of the Mayor and each Councillor.

Council Profiles & Contacts page

Key Contacts

Department/Agency	Contact Number
City of St. Albert General Inquiries	780-459-1500
Office of the Mayor	780-459-1605
Office of the CAO	780-459-1607
Assessment & Taxation	780-459-1516
Planning & Development	780-459-1642
Business Licensing	780-459-1618
Community Services	780-459-1600
Municipal Enforcement	780-418-6643
Public Works	780-459-1557 / 780-458-2020 (after business hours)
St. Albert Transit	780-418-6060
Arden Theatre	780-459-1542
St. Albert Public Library	780-459-1530
Servus Credit Union Place	780-418-6088
Fountain Park Recreation Centre	780-459-1553
Emergency Services	**911 for emergencies**
Fire Services	780-418-6069
RCMP (non-emergency)	780-458-7700
Sturgeon Hospital	780-418-8200
ATCO Gas (for gas emergencies)	780-420-5585
FORTIS (for electrical emergencies)	780-310-9473
Alberta 1-Call	1-800-242-3447

4.0 City Services

Animal Control

In the City of St. Albert, wildlife fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial government through Alberta Fish and Wildlife. If you need to report injured or aggressive wildlife, call:

- Large wildlife (moose, deer, coyote, cougar): Alberta Fish and Wildlife at 780-427-3574
- Small wildlife (babies, birds and other animals): WILDNorth at 780-914-4118.
- Beaver complaints: contact Public Works at 780-459-1557.

For domestic animal control, please see the Animal Bylaw or contact the City of St. Albert's Municipal Enforcement team for more information.

Community, Culture & Recreation Services

City of St. Albert residents enjoy access to all the City's recreational services offered across the community.

FCSS

Family & Community Support Services provides preventive social services to the residents of St. Albert through direct service to the community as well as a range of supports and services offered through FCSS funded community organizations. Contact 780-459-1756 for information and referral. https://stalbert.ca/city/csd/

Culture

Performing Arts Classes – Designed to nurture, inspire and motivate participants of all ages and experiences. A variety of classes are offered from Improv and Dance to Musical Theatre and Acting. https://activity.stalbert.ca/

The Arden Theatre – This acoustically brilliant 509 seat theatre continues to be a destination for world-class talent across all genres of entertainment. https://stalbert.ca/exp/arden/

The International Children's Festival of the Arts - An annual arts event in May/June that showcases the highest calibre performing, literary and visual arts for the whole family. https://stalbert.ca/exp/childfest/

St. Albert Children's Theatre (SACT) – Long-standing program, providing training and opportunities for young people to develop skills in dramatics, vocals and dance.

https://stalbert.ca/exp/sact/

Amplify St. Albert – Providing year-round artistic opportunities for students Grade 7 to age 21. https://stalbert.ca/exp/amplify/

Recreation

The City of St. Albert offers a wide range of recreation, fitness and aquatics activities, programs and services for all ages and fitness levels; and an abundance of parks and trails to explore.

St. Albert residents enjoy early registration for aquatics programs (contact rpquestions@stalbert.ca for more information) and are eligible to participate in sports and recreation activities with St. Albert community partners. Visit www.stalbert.ca/rec for more information.

Mosquito Control

The City of St. Albert will apply its Integrated Pest Management Plan to the annexation area. This does not include using insecticides to control mosquitos.

Protective and Emergency Services

The RCMP will continue to provide policing services in the annexation area from the St. Albert detachment. The City's Peace Officers will also be available to enforce traffic safety and City bylaws in the annexation area.

City of St. Albert will provide emergency services, including fire, in the annexation area. These services are supported in the annexation area through mutual aid agreements with Sturgeon County.

Roads

The City of St. Albert will maintain and repair roads in the annexation area to the County's current rural standards. This applies to surfacing, snow removal, ditch mowing and drainage, and dust control. Once urban-style development occurs, the City's urban road maintenance and repair standards will be implemented. For more information, contact City of St. Albert Public Works at 780-459-1557.

Transit

The City of St. Albert's transit system will not be extended into the annexation area for many years. As urban development expands and transit population thresholds are met, service will be extended.

Waste Management

The City of St. Albert has negotiated continued access for residents in the annexation area to the Roseridge Landfill for five years from the date of annexation.

Residents are offered 12 visits per year to a maximum of two (2) metric tonnes of waste per year free of charge.

Additional visits will be charged at current per visit rate or charged by weight, whichever is greater. In 2022 the minimum per visit rate is $17.50/visit.

In addition to Roseridge Landfill access, residents will be able to bring bagged residential household waste and recycling to the Mike Mitchell Recycling centre on 7 Chevigny Street in St. Albert. Residents may bring bagged and “tagged” household waste to the Mike Mitchell centre. Up to 60 bag tags can be obtained from Public Works for free with proof of residency. For more information, contact City of St. Albert’s Public Works.

Curbside pick up will become available when urban-style development takes place.

5.0 Properties & Utilities

Addressing

Existing rural addresses will remain the same except the municipality will change. The postal code will remain the same. New addresses became effective June 15, 2022. If you need a new rural address, please contact the City of St. Albert Planning & Development Department.

Firearm Use & Hunting

Firearm use is prohibited on public land inside the boundary of the City of St. Albert. Hunting is regulated by the Province of Alberta, and is prohibited on public lands in the City of St. Albert.

Fire Pits & Controlled Burning

Fire Pits

The City of St. Albert requires permits for all backyard fire pits. For more information, contact City of St. Albert Fire Services.

Controlled Burning

The City of St. Albert permits for all controlled burning. Persons wishing to perform a controlled burn will require a permit in advance of the proposed burn date. Please allow up to 5 days after a permit application to receive your permit for a controlled burn.

Large brush piles, windrow piles and structure fires are piles larger than 12'L x 12'W x 6'H. These types of fires are only permitted from December 1 - March 31 and they require a site inspection from Emergency Services staff prior to a permit being issued. Permits are issued for 30 days or until March 31 and can be issued on-site.

Please call St. Albert Fire Dispatch at 780-459-7021 when starting and extinguishing a burn.

For more information, contact City of St. Albert Fire Services.

Fireworks

No person can sell or use fireworks without a permit. For more information, contact City of St. Albert Fire Services.

Fuel Storage

Fuel storage is regulated by the Alberta Safety Codes Authority since June 8, 2020. All new installations require a permit. Contact the Safety Codes Council of Alberta to apply: 1-888-413-0099 or sccinfo@safetycodes.ab.ca

For more information, visit https://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/permits-inspections/storage-tank-management/

Land Use, Subdivision & Development

Land Use

The City of St. Albert will apply the Transitional (T) District to most of the annexation area. The Transitional land use district is based upon Sturgeon County's Agricultural District and the City of St. Albert's Urban Reserve District. The City of St. Albert's Council approves changes to the Land Use Bylaw.

Other land within the annexation area received different land use districts: Riverlot 56 received the Public Park (P) District and land under ownership by higher levels of government (i.e.: Provincial or Federal) received the Alternate Jurisdiction (AJ) District.

Subdivision & Development

Future development and subdivision proposals are subject to City of St. Albert policies and regulations, as governed through *Flourish* (Municipal Development Plan) and the Land Use Bylaw. Existing development will continue as previously approved by Sturgeon County. For more information, contact the City of St. Albert's Planning and Development Department.

Noise Control

The City of St. Albert will apply its Noise Control Bylaw to the annexation area. Agricultural Operations regulated by Provincial legislation are protected from noise control complaints that arise from generally accepted agricultural practices. For more information, contact City of St. Albert Municipal Enforcement.

Noxious Weed Control

The City of St. Alberta will apply its Integrated Pest Management Plan to public lands within the annexation area. The City is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on public lands, and private landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on private property. For more information, contact the City of St. Albert's Environment team.

Offsite Levies

The City of St. Albert is updating its offsite levy model to include the annexation area. The revised model and associated rates will be available in 2022.

Off Highway Vehicles

The City of St. Albert has adopted Sturgeon County's rules on private lands and public roadways until urban development occurs. Please see the Traffic Bylaw for more information.

Outdoor Storage

Agricultural operations are exempted from the City of St. Albert's outdoor storage regulations under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA) of Alberta. However, unsightly premises can still be enforced under the City of St. Albert's bylaws. Fencing and/or other screening may be required for unsightly outdoor storage.

RV Storage

The City of St. Albert will apply its RV parking restrictions to the annexation area. An RV may be parked on a public road for a maximum of 24 hours

6.0 Licensing & Taxes

Business Licensing

Business licences are required for all businesses operating in the City of St. Albert. Existing businesses are exempt from business licence fees for five (5) years from the annexation's effective date (January 1, 2022).

Existing businesses may apply for the fee exemption by notifying City of St. Albert Business Licensing through their licence application or renewal that their business premises are located in annexed lands.

All issued business licences expire on December 31 of each calendar year and must be renewed for the following year. Accordingly, the exemption will be applicable for the following years: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

As the exemption expires on January 1, 2027, any business licence application or renewal for the 2027 calendar year and beyond will no longer be eligible for the fee exemption.

Farming operations regulated under Provincial legislation will remain exempt from business licences and associated fees.

For more information, contact the City of St. Albert's Economic Development Department.

Animal Licensing

Animal licensing is regulated by the City of St. Albert's Animal Control Bylaw. All dogs require a dog licence, while cats are not licenced. There are no fee exemptions for pet licences. For more information, contact City of St. Albert Municipal Enforcement

Taxes

Unless activated, ratepayers within the annexation area will pay the lower of Sturgeon County or City of St. Albert tax rates until 2066.

Activation occurs:

- if an owner wants to subdivide their land, except where that subdivision does not exceed the maximum parcel density of four (4) lots per quarter section, as detailed in Section 11.1(3)a of Sturgeon County's Agricultural land use district, as of September 2, 2020.
- if an owner wants to change the land use designation of their land.
- if an owner wants to connect to the City of St. Albert's water and/or sewer services.

The change in land use districts that the City will undertake upon the annexation taking effect will not activate a change in tax rates.

Selling your property will not activate a change in tax rates.

Tax arrears and associated penalties get transferred to the City and are payable to the City. The City's late payment policy will apply to all pre-existing tax arrears that get transferred and remain outstanding.

7.0 Stay up to date

There are a variety of ways residents can stay up to date regarding the latest information from the City of St. Albert:

Follow the City's social media channels: https://stalbert.ca/cosa/news/social-media/

Sign up to receive the City Highlights newsletter: https://stalbert.ca/cosa/news/highlights/

Check out the weekly Citylights feature in the St. Albert Gazette or online: https://stalbert.ca/cosa/news/citylights/

Visit the City's website, which offers many resources: https://stalbert.ca/

For More Information:

www.stalbert.ca/annexation