

# BRAZEAU COUNTY **STRATEGIC PLAN**

2026–2029



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## Reeve's Message

Brazeau County is a place people are proud to call home, and this Strategic Plan is about making sure it stays that way for years to come.

As Council, our job is to make decisions that reflect the needs of residents today while also planning responsibly for the future. This plan helps guide that work by focusing on four key priorities: keeping a residents-first philosophy at the center of local government, supporting affordable and healthy rural living, encouraging responsible growth and opportunity, and continuing to invest in the infrastructure our communities rely on every day.

These priorities connect directly to the things residents care about most: strong communication, good roads and services, recreation and quality of life, responsible spending, and creating opportunities that keep Brazeau County strong and sustainable for the next generation.

Rural Alberta is built on hard work, common sense, and communities that look out for one another. I believe this Strategic Plan reflects those values while giving Council and administration a clear direction as we move forward together.

On behalf of Council, thank you for taking the time to read our Strategic Plan and for continuing to make beautiful Brazeau County such a strong and welcoming place to live, work, and play.

-Reeve Bart Guyon

# Brazeau County Council



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## Community Profile

Brazeau County, Alberta is a place where history, hard work, and opportunity come together. Located in west-central Alberta, the County is known for its scenic landscapes, strong rural roots, and welcoming communities. From Breton and Buck Creek to Cynthia, Lodgepole, Poplar Ridge, Rocky Rapids, and Violet Grove, Brazeau County reflects the character of people who value connection, resilience, and local pride.

The region's story is grounded in Alberta's pioneering past. Its name comes from the Brazeau River, tying the County to an earlier era of exploration and settlement. Over generations, families, farmers, workers, and business owners helped shape a community built on determination and shared purpose. That history remains visible today in the County's culture, its work ethic, and its lasting sense of identity.

What makes Brazeau County especially compelling is the way it carries that heritage forward. The County continues to build on a strong foundation in agriculture, forestry, and energy while also embracing new investment, innovation, and economic development. It is a region that respects its past while preparing for the future, offering both stability and momentum.

Residents take pride in a lifestyle that combines natural beauty with community spirit. Outdoor recreation, local events, open space, and strong neighborhood ties all contribute to a quality of life that feels both grounded and uplifting. There is room to grow, room to contribute, and room to belong.

Brazeau County stands as a positive example of rural Alberta at its best: proud of its history, confident in its direction, and united by a strong sense of community. For those who live here, it is a place to celebrate. For those discovering it for the first time, it is a place full of promise.

## Why a Strategic Plan

The Brazeau County Strategic Plan helps set a clear path for Council and administration as they work together to serve residents and plan for the future. It is meant to support good decisions, keep everyone moving in the same direction, and make sure County resources are used in a responsible and effective way. Shaped by Council's priorities and by what residents shared during the 2025 election campaign, the plan reflects both today's needs and the community's hopes for the years ahead.

Like all municipalities, Brazeau County operates in a world that is always changing. Economic conditions, infrastructure needs, population changes, community expectations, and government requirements all affect the services the County provides and the choices it must make. A strategic plan helps the County respond to these changes by setting shared goals and keeping attention to the things that matter most. It helps Council and administration work with purpose, respond to challenges as they arise, and balance long-term goals with day-to-day responsibilities.

This Strategic Plan shows Council's commitment to good governance, careful planning, and responsible use of public resources. It highlights the main priorities that will guide decisions, budgeting, and daily operations over the life of the plan. By providing a clear and accountable path forward, the plan helps Brazeau County remain a strong, sustainable, and welcoming community now and in the future.

## Guiding Vision

Brazeau County is a place where independent spirit, strong leadership, and local pride come together to shape a vibrant and forward-looking future. Guided by a residents-first approach, we are committed to creating a climate where entrepreneurs can succeed, recreation and quality of life are valued, natural resources and the environment are respected, and diverse opportunities are welcomed. Through innovation, ambition, and a commitment to continuous improvement, Brazeau County will continue to build a strong, resilient community that supports its people and embraces the future.

# The Plan

The strategies below are seen as key to advancing the Brazeau County's guiding vision. There are four central priorities for this term of Council. Within them, each priority sets forth the key tasks or actions that will best advance the goals of Council over the course of its term.

**A Residents-First Philosophy**

**Affordable, Healthy Rural Living**

**Growth and Opportunity**

**Advancing and Investing in Infrastructure**



## A Residents-First Philosophy

A Residents – First Philosophy means putting community at the center of every decision by promoting transparency, clarity, and fairness. It reflects a commitment to sharing resources throughout the County to help maintain a low cost of living that builds trust between residents and local government.

**Key Deliverables:**

1. Create updated policies regarding emerging industries and technologies.
2. Update Council Communication Policy to ensure the County is demonstrating continued and persistent communication with residents.

## Affordable, Healthy Rural Living

We respect the land and natural spaces that support a healthy lifestyle and create a strong, connected community where recreation, nature, and a thriving local economy work together to support everyday wellbeing.

### **Key Deliverables:**

1. Receive and present the findings of the Recreation Master Plan to Council in order to inform decision making in this area. There will be recommendations, foundational results and information as to where to invest in the quality of life of residents in the region.

## Growth and Opportunity

We encourage responsible and manageable growth that builds long-term stability and supports a diverse and resilient community. Innovation, strong partnerships, and openness to new opportunities will create a vibrant future for everyone.

### **Key Deliverables:**

- Finalize the County's economic development strategy.
- Update the Municipal Development Plan- this will ensure that growth in the County will be well-planned and consistent with Council and community aspirations.
- Devise, promote and market opportunities and incentives to attract residents to the area.

# Advancing and Investing in Infrastructure

We commit to well-planned, well-maintained infrastructure that meets community needs today and into the future. It means making thoughtful, data-driven decisions that support growth and uphold community standards that residents can rely on and be proud of.

## **Key Deliverables:**

- Continue to develop the Asset Management Strategy (Long Term Capital Plan) to completion so that the County may make data-driven decision on where best to invest.
- Place an emphasis on community standards and improving the appearance and attractiveness of the community to residents, visitors, and investors.

## Conclusion

This Strategic Plan gives Brazeau County a clear path forward and reflects Council’s shared commitment to the people, communities, and future of the County. It will guide the choices Council makes by keeping the focus on serving residents well, supporting responsible growth, investing wisely, and strengthening the kind of rural community people are proud to call home. Council is committed to using this plan as a steady guide for decision-making throughout its term, so the County continues to move forward with purpose and a strong commitment to long-term success.

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