

Vision To be the community of choice, leading to a thriving and diverse Claresholm

Mission Statement We will offer family living and encourage economic prosperity through innovative and progressive thinking

Core Values

Community Pride

We take pride in our organization -- in its people, and in the many groups, business and organizations that make it a community. Organizationally, we take pride in the quality and variety of services we provide and the facilities we maintain. We are proud of all that Claresholm has to offer, and whenever possible, we will work to improve and enhance our community.

Healthy, Active Living

The Town of Claresholm will enhance the lives of our residents by supporting Town recreation services and community safety and wellness programming, and by assisting community groups that provide similar services.

Diversity

We recognize and respect the diverse needs of our residents and different sectors of our community. We will seek their input and engagement and grow together.

Forward Thinking

We will plan for the future. We will comply with provincial legislation and understand municipal best practices as we challenge conventional ways of conducting the community's business, managing its finances, and delivering services to our community.

MULTI-YEAR		Assigned to	Update on Progress
POLICY & PLANNING			
3 Year Operations and 5 Year Capital Plan			
	Revise 3 Year Operations Plan and 5 Year Capital Plan	Jennifer	Council and administration held preliminary 2025 Capital budget conversations. The 3 Year Operating and 5-Year Capital plans will need to be updated in the new year.
Community Center			
	Work with Community Centre Association to secure funding and facilitate accessibility and front entrance upgrades	Jace/Tara	Council approved Nitro Construction for this project. Administration has had pre-construction meetings with Nitro and the Community Centre Association. Construction to begin January 2025.
Stormwater Infrastructure			

MULTI-YEAR		Assigned to	Update on Progress	
		Finalize and Approve Engineering	Jace	Road crossing complete, and construction for this entire project is 95% complete, with sidewalk and curb work to complete.
		Secure grant funding for Phase 2	Jace	There is no competitive grant funding available for this project. Council has provided funding through the Community Canada Building Fund and Water and Sewer Utility Reserves. This is a focussed priority of Council and will it will be completed in 2024.
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT				
	Support the EDC			
		Provide Operational Budget for EDC	Council	Approved through 2024 budget
		Update Economic Development Committee Business Plan	Economic Development	EDC Strategic Plan has been finalized and approved by the committee, as well as by Council. The goal is to sync EDC priorities and activity with Council's Strategic Plan.
	Ensure Town is Development Readiness in Areas of Residential, Commercial and Industrial Development			
		Ad Hoc Committee to Address:		
		Residential, Commercial and Industrial Development Best Practices (Including MCC and PPP)	Abe	Council has approved the Enabling Housing Diversity best practices report. The CDC met in September with a private sector agricultural entity to discuss a joint economic development project with the MD.
		Consider Residential Development in Tax Incentive Program	Tara	Bylaw 1741, Residential Tax Incentive Bylaw was passed by council on August 15th, 2022. Town is sharing and promoting the bylaw with potential developers, including developer at parade staging, Tamarack, Prairie Shores, etc.
		Sell and Develop Town-Owned Land	Abe/Tara	Council has approved servicing infrastructure for 2nd St. East and Patterson Heights to service Tamarack Subdivision. The Town currently has one residential lot (Westlynn) for sale, and has sold over a dozen industrial or residential lots during its term. The selling price for Pine Place Lots are on the October 15 agenda for council consideration.

MULTI-YEAR			Assigned to	Update on Progress
		Explore Diverse Housing Opportunities (Housing Assessment)	Abe/Tara	Housing construction is currently underway at Tamarack -- R1 dwellings and town housing. Apartment building Phase 1 approved and construction is expected in the spring. Council has approved North Point ASP and Evolution ASP. Both ASPs have R1 and R2 zoning to accommodate diverse housing opportunities. Administration continues to approve residential development permits.
		Continue to work with landowners where Area Structure Plans exist (Starline Business Park, Prairie Shores)	Tara/Economic Development	Claresholm has five approved ASP (Prairie Shores, Starline, Southwest and North Point and Evolution). Administration is currently working with North Point and Evolution land owners on development opportunities. Administration also fields calls and works with groups interested in Prairie Shores (north of the elementary school).
Explore Value-Added Industry Opportunities				
		Continue Membership in Economic Developers of Alberta, Alberta SW and South Grow Regional Initiatives	Council	2024 memberships provided via operating budget. The future of REDA provincial funding is currently uncertain however, as REDAs have been informed that future funding will be project based (as opposed to operational). Council applied to two projects through Alberta SW -- a shared energy conservation officer and a regional housing initiative. Both endeavours were unsuccessful. Administration was recently involved with Southgrow strategic planning interviews.
		Explore FDI in 1-2 Industries from 1-2 Countries	Economic Development	Economic Development department has completed Community Profile through a partnership with Alberta SW (https://www.claresholm.ca/business/community-profile). The profile will market the community to potential business and investors. Administration has recommended two candidates for the Rural Entrepreneurial Immigration program (foreign businesses interested in coming to Claresholm).

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		Research Value-Added Agri-Food Examples in Neighbouring areas (Lethbridge, Taber, Calgary)	Economic Development	Canada's Premier Food Corridor has successfully attracted the food processing industry. More work required in this area.
		Explore opportunities in greenhouse farming and speciality agriculture	Economic Development	Administration has responded to a provincial greenhouse site-selection request. The Town and M.D. have provided a joint response/expression of interest.
Explore Business Attraction Incentives				
		Adopt Progressive Incentives for Private Development and Re-Development of Commercial and Industrial property	Economic Development	Council approved the small business improvement loans program with Community Futures.
		Consider other Incentives (land, utilities and recreation benefits)	Economic Development	Ongoing conversations at the Community Development Committee. Nothing new to report, however.
		Provide Expertise and Resources to Investors	Economic Development	Working on enhancing the webpage and updating resources for investors and potential business owners. Project to be considered during 2025 budget planning.
Business Improvement Programs to Promote Downtown Business Retention, Expansion and Revitalization				
		Community Futures Small Business Loan Program	Economic Development	Adopted Community Futures Business Improvement Loans program in partnership with Chamber of Commerce.
		New Business Start-up Grants	Economic Development	This service is coordinated through Community Futures SW
		Façade Improvement Grants/Loans	Economic Development	This service is offered through Community Futures SW and the Town of Clareholm.
		Focus on annexed land and vacant properties in downtown core and highway corridor	Economic Development	Continue to assist development inquiries as they are received. Council approved annexation on west wide of Town, providing more land for residential development within the Town's boundaries.
Sound, Responsible Governance				

MULTI-YEAR			Assigned to	Update on Progress
		Ensure ongoing public participation	Karine/Abe	Council has approved Coffee with Council schedule. Council has also held two ASP Open Houses. Council has also approved two public participation plans, which include public engagement on Town communications and reserve funding for Recreation and Cultural facilities. Administration is compiling final reports for the participation plans.
		Develop Communications and Public Engagement Strategy	Karine/Abe	Administration actively assessing current communication and engagement strategies, and recommendations for improvement. Council has approved a Public Participation Plan to engage the community on Town communications. This is a focused priority of Council.

MULTI-YEAR			Assigned to	Update on Progress
		Continue to review and update Administration and Council policies.	Abe	The Administrative Services Committee met in May and recommended the Flag Policy, and updated Hiring Policy and Taxi Token Policy for approval. Council approved these policies in May. Council recently updated Cemetery and Traffic and Highways bylaws.
		Address legislative changes in a timely fashion	Abe	Any legislative changes to statues, acts and regulations that affect the Town are updated as required.
PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS, RELATIONSHIPS				
Build Government Relations at All Levels				
		Look for opportunities to collaborate	All departments	M.D. and Town administrations are discussing the possibility of more Emergency Management collaboration. The ICF agreements are up for renewal within the year. ICF committee and participating administrations are actively reviewing the ICF agreements. Relationships are strong and we actively look for opportunities to collaborate. Economic Development is working with neighbouring communities to cross promote Town events.
Strengthen Stakeholder Relationships				
		Encourage presentations to Council, visit organizations to build relationships and have a presence in the community	Council	Ongoing - delegation policy is working as Council has been receiving delegations throughout the year.
		Develop relationships with Land Developers in order to progress on residential development	Economic Development	Administration is actively working with two ASP landowners.
Relationships with AHS and Other Service Providers				
		Enhance Relationships with AHS and Advocate for this industry where possible.	Council, Staff	Council Carlson has volunteered to be a municipal representative on the Alberta Health, Advisory Councils Secretariat
VIBRANT COMMUNITY, QUALITY OF LIFE				
Housing				

MULTI-YEAR			Assigned to	Update on Progress
		Complete Housing Needs Assessment	Economic Development/FCSS	This document was approved by Council on May 8, 2023. Community Development Committee has reviewed and sent zoning and planning recommendations to MPC. MPC did not impliment any as they felt they the recommendations were not beneficial. Administration has shared the report with various developers to provide leverage for grant opportunities. This is a focussed priority of Council.
		Once Assessment is Complete, Explore how to leverage results and integrate with future housing developments	Economic Development/FCSS	As noted above, the Town was successful with a consulting grant that will provide consulting to the town on how to build on Housing Needs Assessment findings.
Improvement of Parks				
		Revise Recreation Master Plan to Identify Priority Areas	Denise	Recreation personnel had initial conversation on revising the Master Plan. The recreation manager and CAO have met to discuss incorporating Council Strategic plan into the Recreation Master Plan. Work is ongoing.
		Pursue Grant Funding for Pathway and Park Expansions	Denise	Administration is actively pursuing grant opportunities.
Plan Events and Activities that Vitalize Claresholm				
		Economic Development to Coordinate Meeting amongst community groups to ensure resource and knowledge sharing	Economic Development	Adminsitration has coordinated community event meetings, bringing various community groups and volunteers together to plan large community events. Recent meetings have focussed on Fair Days.
		Promotion of Parks Through Town Videos	Denise	No updates
		Maintain and Enhance Current Programming	Denise	Administration applied for grant funding for summer programming assistant. The Town was not successful.

MULTI-YEAR			Assigned to	Update on Progress
		Planning for Town Event Sustainability	Abe	Town events planning is currently funded via grants, with funding to expire March 2025. Funding of Town event planning will be required via the 2025 operational budget. Council is considering a RFD to approve a Community Engagement Coordinator as a permanent position in the Town's organization structure. This position will oversee Town event planning, and provide community event organizational capacity and continuity