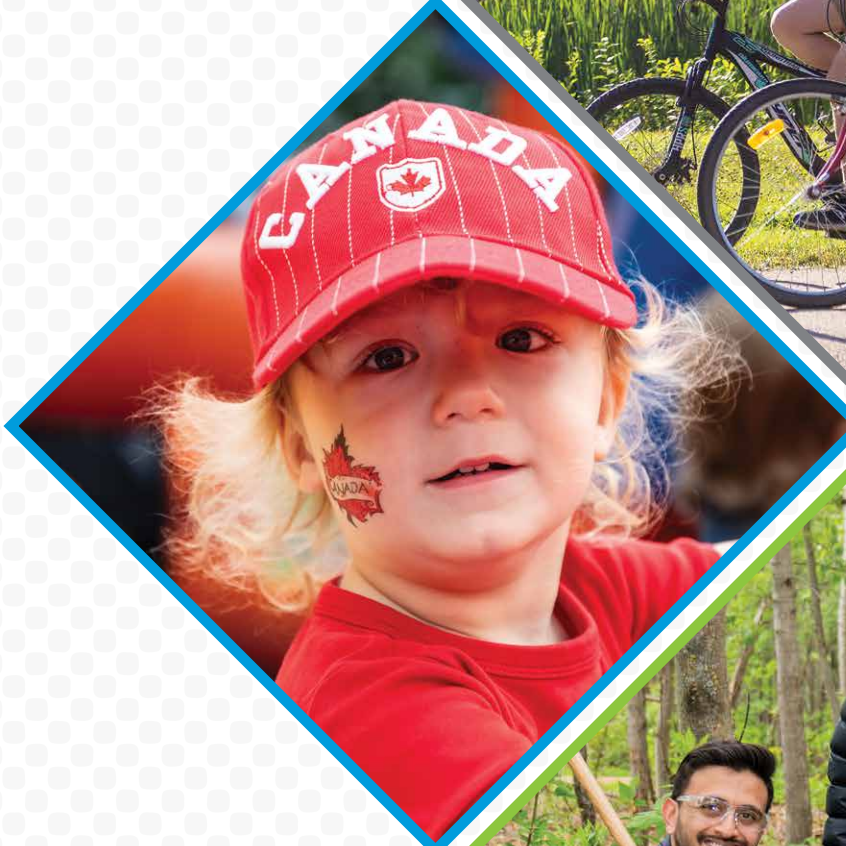


2024 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024
CITY OF SPRUCE GROVE, ALBERTA, CANADA





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Spruce Grove is honoured to acknowledge the land we work, play, and make our homes on as Treaty 6 territory, and the Métis Homeland. This is sacred land that holds the hearts, footsteps and spirits of many First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples, and in particular, Paul First Nation, Enoch Cree Nation, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Michel First Nation, Alexander First Nation, the Lac Ste. Anne Métis, and Métis Nation of Alberta District 8. We recognize and acknowledge Indigenous values, traditional teachings, ways of being, contributions, and historical inequities. The City is dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation to help in healing, and learning to build reciprocal and trusted relationships. We commit towards strengthening relations and building bridges with the Indigenous Nations whose traditional territories the City is located within.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The 2024 Annual Report Highlights provides an executive summary of the City of Spruce Grove's 2024 Annual Report, which can be found on the City's website at sprucegrove.org/AnnualReport. The highlight document contains an overview of statistics, accomplishments for 2024 related to Council's Strategic Plan and financial charts and graphs.

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- 6 City Council
- 7 Council's Commitment to the Community
- 8 Corporate Strategic Plan Highlights
- 12 Economic Overview
- 14 Financial Highlights
- 22 Financial Awards

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2024, it's clear that we've had another incredible year of progress and growth for our city. With more than 40,000 residents now calling Spruce Grove home, we continue to be an attractive place for both new and existing residents, businesses, and other investments.

Here in Spruce Grove, we know that community matters. That's why last year we introduced a new Community Standards Bylaw to help ensure a healthy and inviting community for all residents and visitors. We also reduced speed limits throughout residential neighbourhoods to help keep our roads safe and our neighbourhoods quiet. And we can't forget about our four-legged friends — a new Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw helps ensure the safety and well-being of cats and dogs in our community. I'm proud of these initiatives that support the Spruce Grove we know and love as we continue to grow, while maintaining safety, care, and respect for all.

Of course, we can't talk about growth without highlighting Heavy Metal Place, Spruce Grove's single largest and most ambitious infrastructure project to-date. With two NHL-size ice surfaces, a branch of the Spruce Grove Public Library, the Allied Arts Council of Spruce Grove and the LJL Galleries Community Art Gallery, and a black box theatre, Heavy Metal Place brings recreation and culture together under one roof — but that's not all! It also the co-location for our Transit Centre, offering residents an easy Park & Ride option for commuting in and out of our city.

Investing in programs, services, and infrastructure that better serves our residents is top-of-mind — and you don't have to look far to see those investments



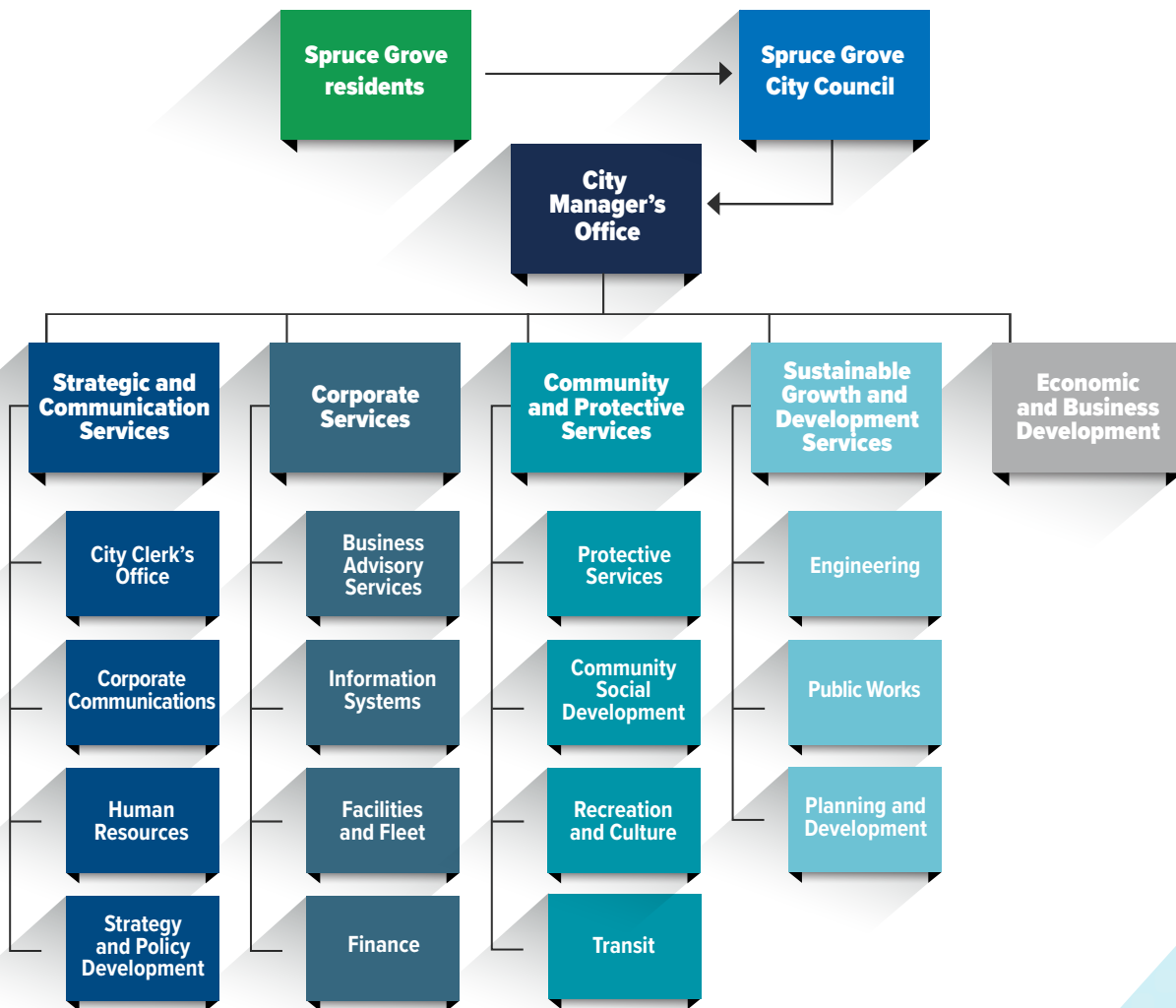
coming to life! The Re-imagined Central Park project is revitalizing this much-loved area of our city with new amenities and enhancements, including a new wheeled sports park and pump track and a playground with accessible features, while still preserving the park's key features we know and love. I know many of you are just as eager as I am to see it open in the summer of 2025. We were also thrilled to celebrate the completion of the Joint Trail Connection project that enhances connectivity with our Town of Stony Plain neighbours, while supporting active lifestyles.

Looking back on all our accomplishments from 2024, I am filled with so much gratitude — for my colleagues on City Council and our shared vision for this community, for City Administration and the passion they have for this city, and for you — our incredible residents. We do this work for you, but we also couldn't do it without the tremendous care and pride you have for this city. I can't wait to see what 2025 brings to our amazing city, and I look forward to going on this journey together.

**JEFF
ACKER**
MAYOR



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SPRUCE GROVE CITY COUNCIL

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF CHOICE



From left to right: Councillor Stuart Houston, Councillor Dave Oldham, Councillor Danielle Carter, Mayor Jeff Acker, Councillor Erin Stevenson, Councillor Jan Gillett, Councillor Reid MacDonald

The City of Spruce Grove is governed by an elected Council comprised of a full-time mayor and six part-time councillors. Spruce Grove City Council is responsible for identifying the overall vision for the community and developing a long-term strategic plan for the City. Council also reviews and approves new or amended policies and bylaws, as well as the annual corporate plan which is the City's principal guiding document for providing residents with a high quality of life with affordable services, while also staying the strategic course of municipal economic sustainability.

 Mayor and Council – 780-962-7604  council@sprucegrove.org

Council's Commitment to the Community

Entering the final phase of implementing the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan

The City's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan outlines Spruce Grove City Council's vision for the future of Spruce Grove as outlined in their commitment statement. It sets the goals and priorities for the course of Council's term (2021-2025) and contains four main themes:



Community Connections



Environmental Sustainability



Economic Prosperity



Governance in Action

Each year, Council reviews the plan to ensure it continues to reflect the priorities they have heard from the community. A retreat was held in January 2024 where Council and Administration discussed proposed amendments and priorities. Based on the feedback provided by Council, Administration recommended a series of amendments, which are reflected in the updated Strategic Plan. The total number of actions was reduced to 85 as a result of three actions being combined or removed from the Strategic Plan. Additionally, 11 actions were reprioritized from 2022/2023 to 2024 and another two actions from 2024 to 2025.

Progress report

Since the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan was originally approved, significant progress has been made in moving Council's priorities forward. As of December 31, 2024, 82 per cent of actions in the plan have been completed and, in some cases, integrated into everyday business. The majority of remaining actions are expected to be completed in 2025 and a final progress report will be presented to Council in mid-2025.





CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS



Community Connections



- The City of Spruce Grove reached a population of 40,000 people in 2024, which was officially recognized and celebrated at the annual Canada Day Celebration with a special commemorative pin.
- Grant Crawford, a dedicated community volunteer, and Dr. Robin McLeod, an internationally renowned surgeon-scientist, were inducted into the City of Spruce Grove's Awards of Excellence program in 2024.
- Throughout 2024, the City of Spruce Grove's Community Outreach Team provided support to 214 unique individuals. The team's efforts supported a decrease of over 50 per cent in related municipal enforcement files, when comparing 2023 to 2024.
- Spruce Grove Fire Services responded to 6,688 calls for service in 2024.
- Spruce Grove Enforcement Services responded to 3,524 calls in 2024.
- The City's website received over 1 million visitors, and there was significant growth across all four corporate social channels (Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn).
- In August 2024, local business Heavy Metal Equipment & Rentals was announced as the



naming rights sponsor for the facility previously referred to as the Civic Centre. Heavy Metal Place, which opened to the public in May 2025, is the single largest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the City of Spruce Grove.

- In September 2024, the City of Spruce Grove and the Town of Stony Plain announced the completion of the Joint Trail Connection project, a major milestone in enhancing connectivity and promoting active lifestyles for residents of both communities.
- The construction phase of the Re-imagined Central Park revitalization project kicked off in 2024, following engagement sessions with residents and community partners in 2023. The park will be refreshed and updated to improve the experience for users of all ages, interests, and abilities, while still retaining the key features that make the park what it is today, including the skating oval, Lions Log Cabin, splash pad, and stage/plaza area.



- A new regulation, outdoor horseshoe pit was installed in the community in August 2024. Located in the green space west of the TransAltra Tri Leisure Centre, adjacent to the outdoor rink, the pit is available for public use on a first-come, first-served basis and is equipped with stakes and wood barriers.
- In December 2024, Spruce Grove City Council put forward a resolution at Alberta Municipalities, calling on the Government of Alberta to increase capital funding for accessible playgrounds at all new, replacement, or renovated Alberta public K-6 schools.



CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS



- The City of Spruce Grove hosted a new summer music and performance series in parks throughout the community last year. Grove Gatherings featured a diverse lineup of performers and musicians of different genres. The outdoor performances offered residents and visitors the chance to explore the City's outdoor spaces while enjoying top-notch entertainment.
- Several new additions were added to the City of Spruce Grove's public art collection in 2024, including a stunning sculpture carved into a 6,000-pound piece of marble by local resident and First Nations artist Brad Callihoo.
- A wide variety of City-led and community-initiated programs and events were held throughout Spruce Grove in 2024, providing opportunities for residents to come together and connect. This included events like our Canada Day Celebration, Pop-Up Playground, Summer in the City, Agra Fair, and more.
- A new tree planting component was added to the City of Spruce Grove's popular Spruce Up Spruce Grove community clean up initiative in 2024. More than 100 people planted over 800 trees within the Heritage Grove Forest. Additionally, more than 1,300 people took part in the five-week city-wide cleanup initiative, including 57 teams, classrooms, businesses, and community groups.
- Following two years of work and significant community engagement, Spruce Grove City Council adopted the City's new Municipal Development Plan (MDP), The Shape of Our Community, this past September. The MDP guides future growth and development in Spruce Grove for the next 20 to 30 years by building on the community's core values and preferences.
- Work on a new integrated Transportation Master Plan (iTMP) for Spruce Grove was completed in 2024. The iTMP is a long-term plan for the City's transportation network that will address the current and future mobility needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.
- To accommodate and responsibly plan for growth in the community, the City of Spruce Grove began developing a Housing Strategy in 2024.
- The City of Spruce Grove introduced a two-year urban hen keeping pilot program in 2024 that created the opportunity for hen keepers to house three to six hens safely in their backyard.



Environmental Sustainability

- The new Spruce Grove Transit Centre officially opened in December 2024 to transit riders from Spruce Grove and neighbouring municipalities. Located at 50 Westwind Drive, the Transit Centre is now the hub for all commuter service into and out of Spruce Grove and features Park & Ride stalls, a passenger drop off/pick up zone, bike racks, and a heated shelter where riders can wait for their bus.





CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- Spruce Grove's on-demand local transit service expanded to offer service within city limits on Saturdays, starting January 2024.
- Mandatory attendants of individuals who require support now ride for free on Spruce Grove transit when accompanying a person who needs assistance.
- In 2024, there were 141,397 commuter transit passenger trips, and 62,649 on-demand transit passenger trips.
- The City of Spruce Grove's e-scooter pilot program continued in 2024, giving Spruce Grove residents another micro-mobility option.
- A new electric Zamboni 650 ice resurfer and a new electric vehicle were both added to the City's fleet in 2024, supported with grant funding from the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre's Electric Vehicles for Municipalities Program.
- The City of Spruce Grove was the proud recipient of the 2024 Clean Air Award for Innovation and Application of Technology from the Alberta Capital Airshed (ACA), which is awarded to individuals and organizations working to make a difference in air quality.



- The City's curbside waste collection program gathered 236 kg of average household organics, 95 kg of average household recycling, and 687 kg of average household waste. The program diverted 4,019 tonnes of total waste from the landfill at a rate of 32.6 per cent.



- Spruce Grove's Eco Centre had 35,502 visitors in 2024 and collected 30 tonnes of blue recycling bags, 96 tonnes of cardboard, 233 tonnes of metal, 264 tonnes of organics, and 627 tonnes of waste.
- The Trim Your Trash app was well used, with 42,455 items viewed, 34,866 calendar views, 707 reminders created, 476 games played, and 22,709 first-time visitors.



Economic Prosperity

- In 2024, the City of Spruce Grove issued 1,182 building permits, resulting in 877 new residential housing units. There was a total of \$311 million in total construction value for all building permits, setting a new 10-year record.
- Construction work in Spruce Grove in 2024 focused on 10 key projects and invested \$22.45 million to help improve infrastructure in the community. Work included roadway resurfacing, stormwater facility upgrades, sidewalk and curb redevelopment, intersection upgrades, watermain rehabilitation and much more.



CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- Spruce Grove's industrial area experienced considerable growth in 2024, including TC Energy expanding by nearly 100,000 square feet, Cam Tran moving into a 62,000 square foot facility, and BeeMaid Honey adding an additional 56,00 square feet to their operation.



- Significant progress was made on the new Energy City Metro Ballpark, located at the northeast corner of Pioneer Road and Highway 16A. This privately owned development by Spruce Gold Partnership is anticipated to open in 2025 and will be home to the Energy City Cactus Rats baseball team.
- The Spruce Grove City Centre Storefront Improvement Program entered its second year in 2024, providing commercial property and businessowners in the Spruce Grove City Centre with a funding incentive to make exterior improvements to their storefronts. By the end of 2024, a total of six projects were completed, with two multi-unit applications in for 2025. The City provided a total of \$42,869.75 in granting, resulting in an investment of \$85,739.50 in storefront improvements.
- Throughout the 2024 summer months, the Spruce Grove City Business Association, in partnership with the City of Spruce Grove, hosted a series of four market events.



Governance in Action

- To bring clarity to the regulations around pet ownership and ensure the safety and well-being of residents, pet owners and pets, Spruce Grove City Council approved a new Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw in 2024.
- The City of Spruce Grove introduced its new Community Standards Bylaw in 2024. The first of its kind in Spruce Grove, the bylaw is a “one stop shop” for anything related to community standards, which are the defined behaviours and expectations of residents and businesses in the community on private and public land.
- In October 2024, the Government of Alberta officially awarded the necessary construction funding for a new Spruce Grove Composite High School. The City of Spruce Grove, along with Parkland School Division, advocated strongly for this funding with both parties working together to address challenges and promote the needs of the community.
- Speed limits in residential neighbourhoods were reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h last year to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.
- A total of 946 requests were received through SeeClickFix, the City's online reporting tool, in 2024. SeeClickFix is a quick and easy way to report common non-emergency issues to the City, including missed waste collection, potholes, sidewalk issues, and litter. In addition to reporting non-emergency issues, SeeClickFix can also be used to review existing problems that have previously been reported through the City's website or the downloadable mobile app.





ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

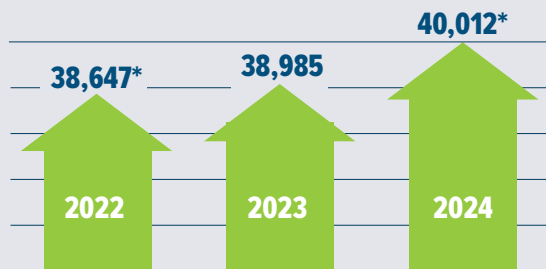


The City of Spruce Grove is a vibrant, dynamic community of more than 40,000 people.

Located just 11 kilometres west of Edmonton, the City offers a variety of housing options, excellent schools, sports, culture and recreation facilities, and a mix of businesses ranging from national retailers, shops, locally owned and chain restaurants, and professional services.

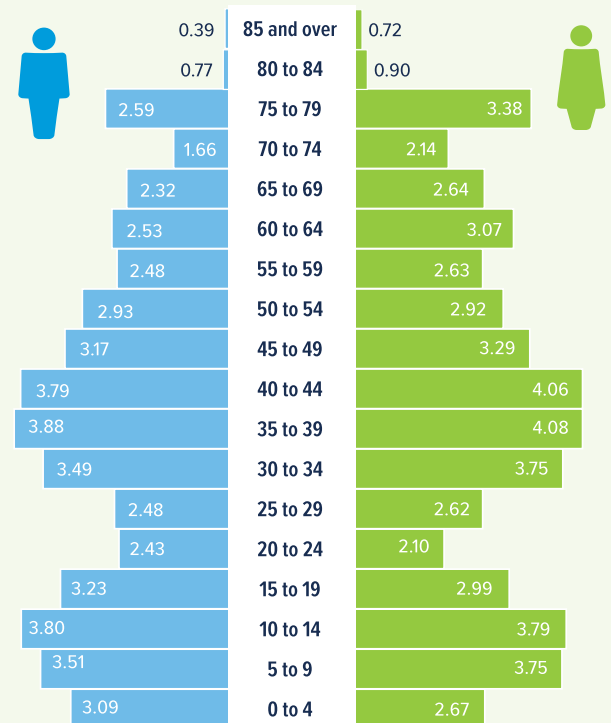
POPULATION (last 3 years)

Spruce Grove has an average annual growth rate of 3.1 over the past decade, making it one of the fastest growing municipalities in Alberta.



*Estimated population

POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER (%)*



*According to data from the 2023 municipal census

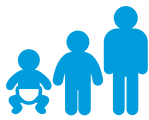
HOUSEHOLD STATISTICS*



2.57
RESIDENTS
PER HOUSEHOLD



\$106K
MEDIAN
HOUSEHOLD
INCOME (2020)



39.2
AVERAGE
AGE



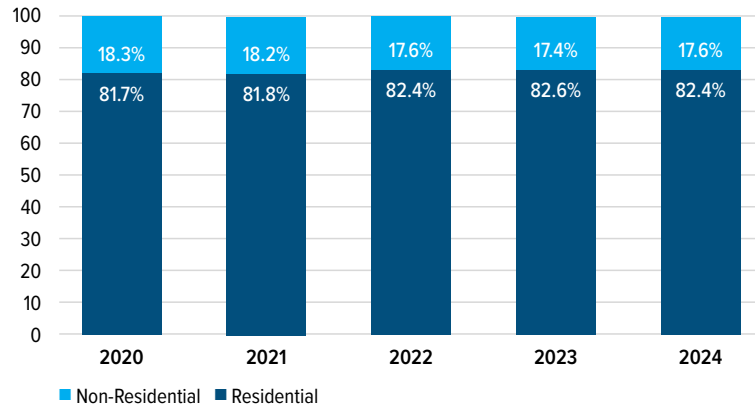
75.43%
OWNED
(HOME OWNERSHIP)

*According to data from the 2023 municipal census

RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENTS

An economic indicator considered by the City is the proportion of total property assessment value derived from residential and non-residential assessments, which provides insight into financial sustainability and maintaining reasonable and competitive levels of taxation.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT SPLIT



877
HOUSING STARTS IN 2024



2.7%
RETAIL
VACANCY RATE



3.1%
OFFICE
VACANCY RATE

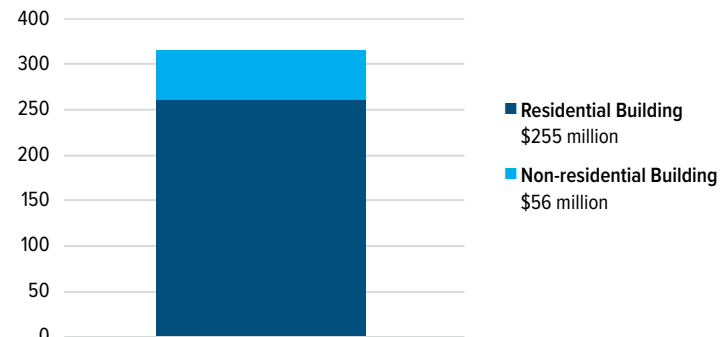


0.5%
INDUSTRIAL
VACANCY RATE

BUILDING PERMITS

2024 year was a record-setting year for development in Spruce Grove! The total construction value of building permits reached a record \$311 million, surpassing the previous year by \$34 million.

BUILDING PERMIT VALUES (Millions)



TOTAL BUILDING PERMIT VALUE: **\$311 million** (RECORD SETTING VALUE)



Understanding the City of Spruce Grove's Financial Information

Annually, the City of Spruce Grove's Audited Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with provisions set out in the Municipal Government Act (MGA) and must comply with Canadian public sector accounting standards, which provides guidance for financial and other information reported by public sectors.

The condensed financial information presented on the following pages has been collected from the City of Spruce Grove's comprehensive 2024 Annual Report available online at sprucegrove.org/AnnualReport.

Definitions

Financial Assets: Financial assets are assets the City owns that are fairly liquid, such as cash, cash equivalents, investments, and accounts receivable (money owed to the City). Financial assets can be used to pay existing liabilities or finance future operations.

Liabilities: Financial obligations the City has to others, such as loans, deferred revenue, and accounts payable (money owed to others). Liabilities arise from past transactions or events and are expected to be settled in the future.

Net Financial Debt: The number resulting from subtracting liabilities from financial assets.

Non-Financial Assets: What the City owns that are used to deliver services, such as roads, buildings and equipment, also referred to as tangible capital assets. Non-financial assets may also include inventory and prepaid expenses.

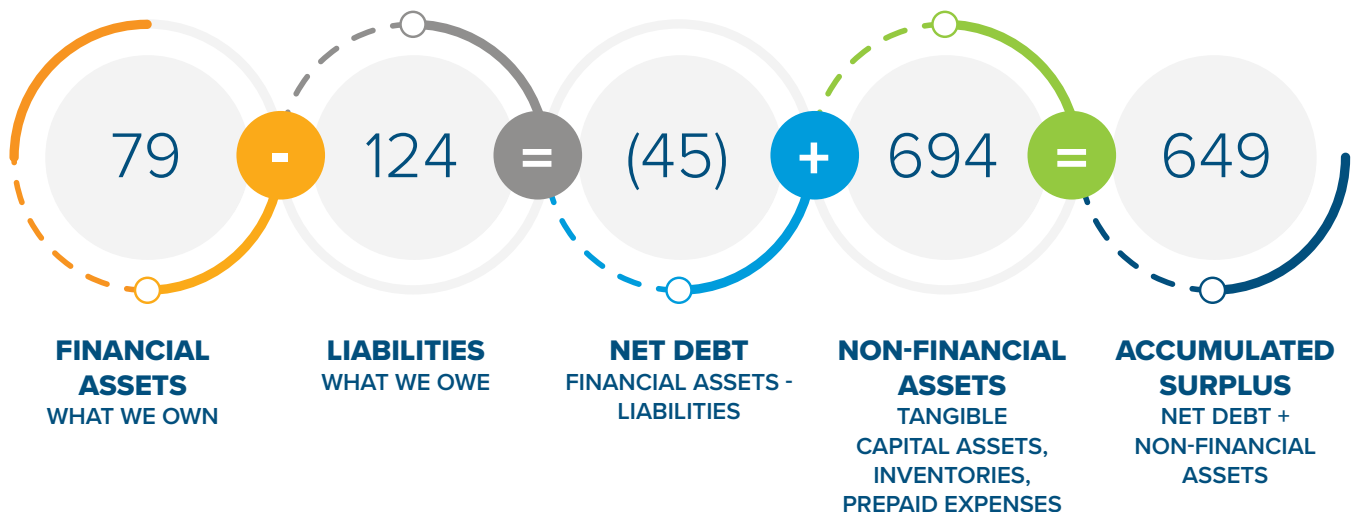
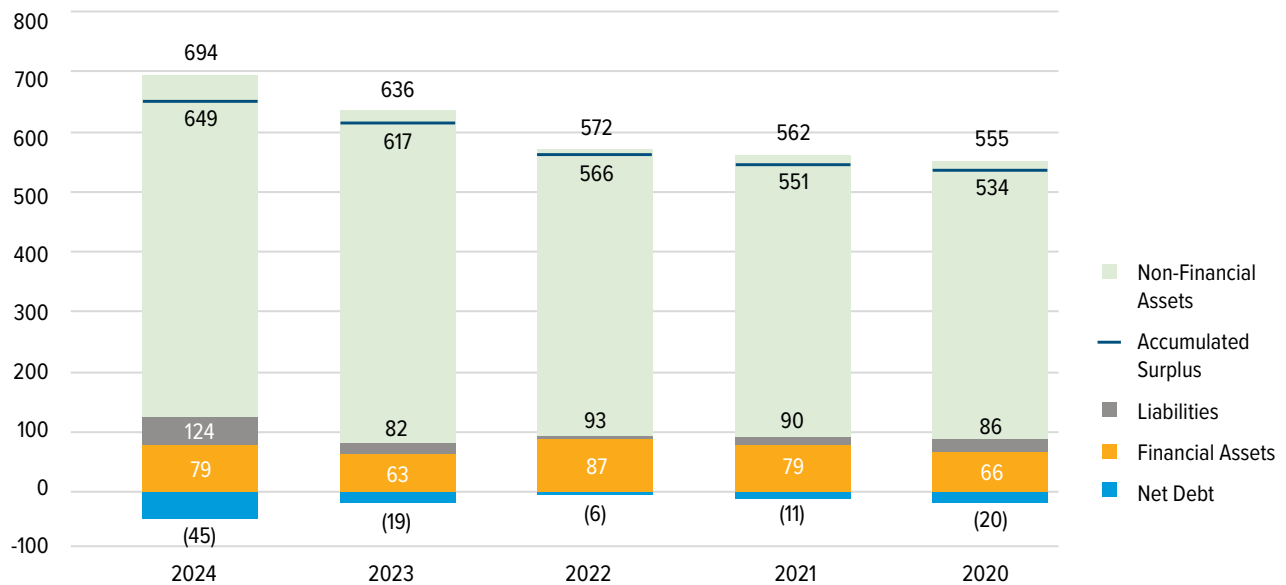
Accumulated Surplus: The number resulting from adding net debt and non-financial assets. It indicates the net assets of the City.

Summary of Financial Position

(in \$ millions)

At the end of 2024, future revenues of \$45.1 million (2023 - \$19.1 million) were required to pay for past transactions or events.

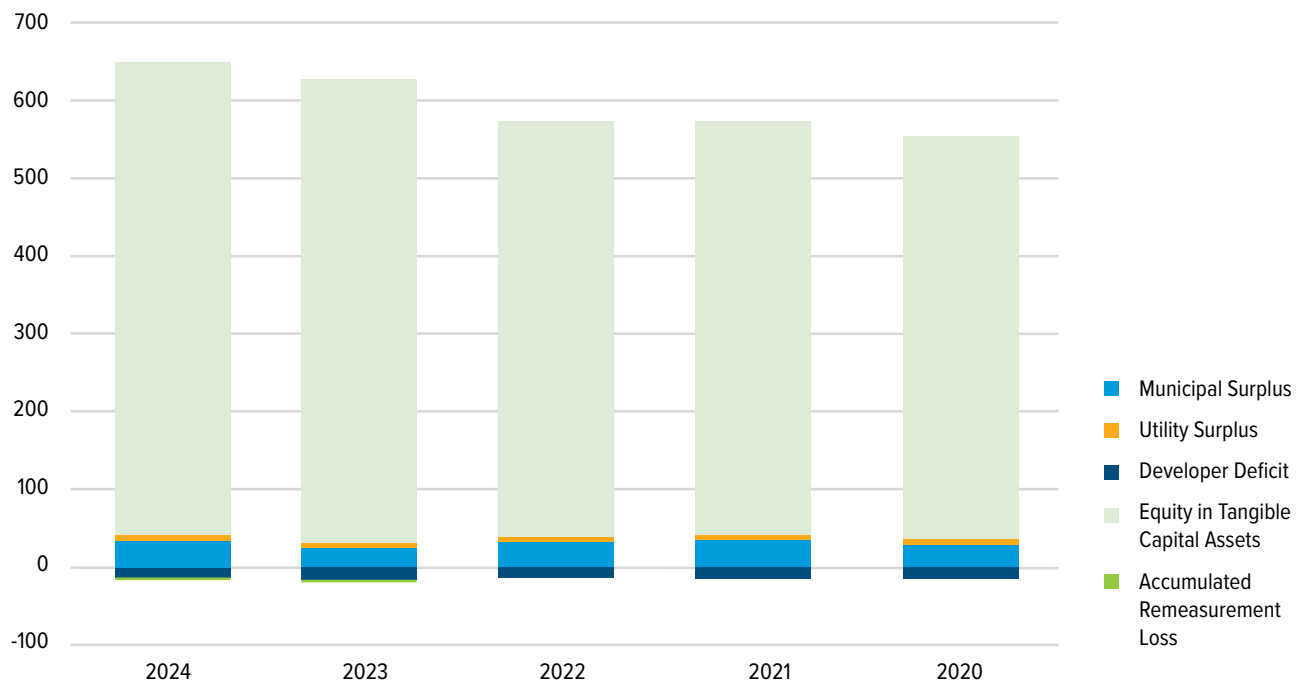
Surplus funds have accumulated over the history of the City to \$648.7 million (2023 - \$616.5 million). Virtually all surplus funds \$616.3million (2023 - \$597.1 million) have been used to acquire or construct roadways, underground utilities, facilities, and other tangible capital assets used to deliver municipal services.



Accumulated Surplus

The accumulated surplus of the city is \$648.7 million of which the investment in tangible capital assets represents \$616.3 million. The financial surplus position of the city is \$35.3 million or 5.4% of overall accumulated surplus. The financial surplus position has increased from 2023 to 2024, and the city remains within the Government Financial Officers Association recommended cash flow management and emergency preparedness range of two to three months of expense (\$20.0 to \$30.0 million). The current financial surplus position of \$35.3 million is made up of municipal surplus of \$36.8 million (2023 - \$28.7 million), utility surplus of \$8.3 million (2023 - \$7.5 million) and developer deficit of \$9.8 million (2023 - \$14.2 million).

Accumulated Surplus (Millions)

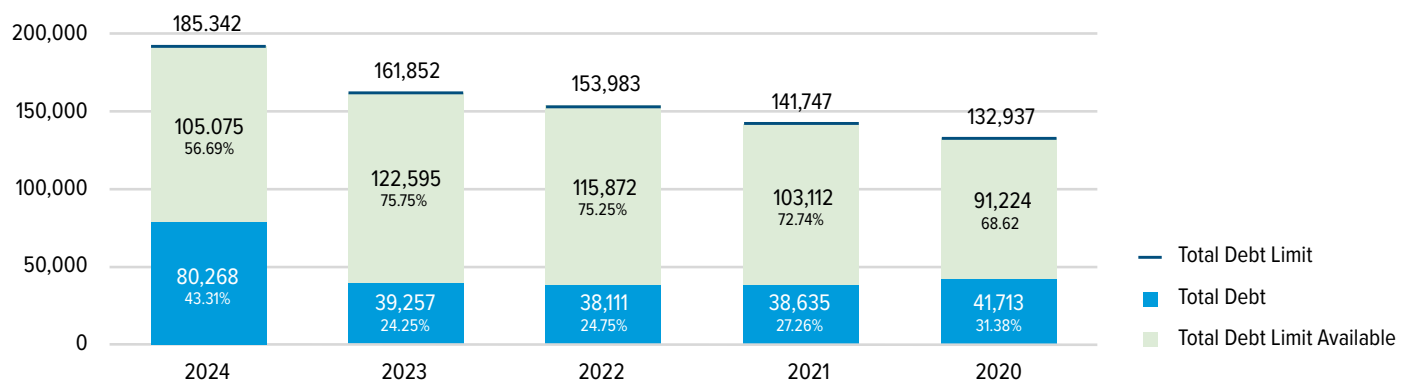


Long-Term Debt

The actual long-term debt of the municipality is \$80.3 million in 2024, up from \$39.3 million in 2023. This increase is due mainly to the new debt acquired to fund the new Heavy Metal Place.

The allowable provincial limit of long-term debt under section 276(2) of the Municipal Government Act for the City of Spruce Grove is \$185.3 million. By City policy, a self-imposed debt limit of 50 per cent of the provincial limit exists, at \$92.7 million. The City's 2024 borrowing balance of \$80.3 million is currently below both limits. Actual borrowing represents 43.3% of the provincial limit and 86.7% of the City's self-imposed limit.

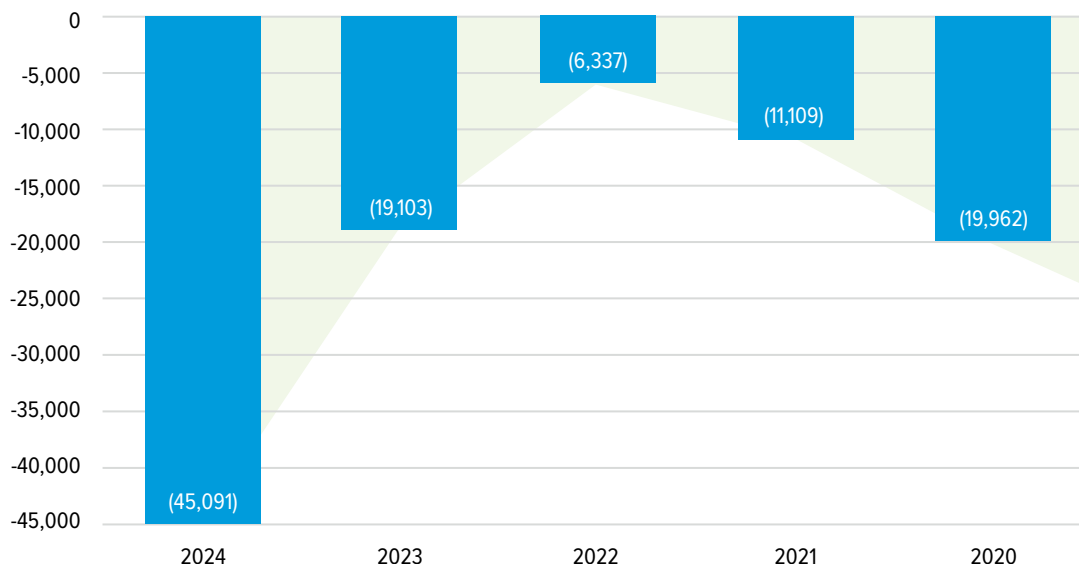
Debt Limits (Thousands)



Net Debt

The City of Spruce Grove's overall net debt position increased from the prior year-end. Net debt was \$19.1 million at the end of 2023 compared to \$45.1 million by the end of 2024. However, the year-end results came in better than the 2024 projected net debt of \$78.6 million, primarily attributed to lower than planned capital asset acquisitions in 2024.

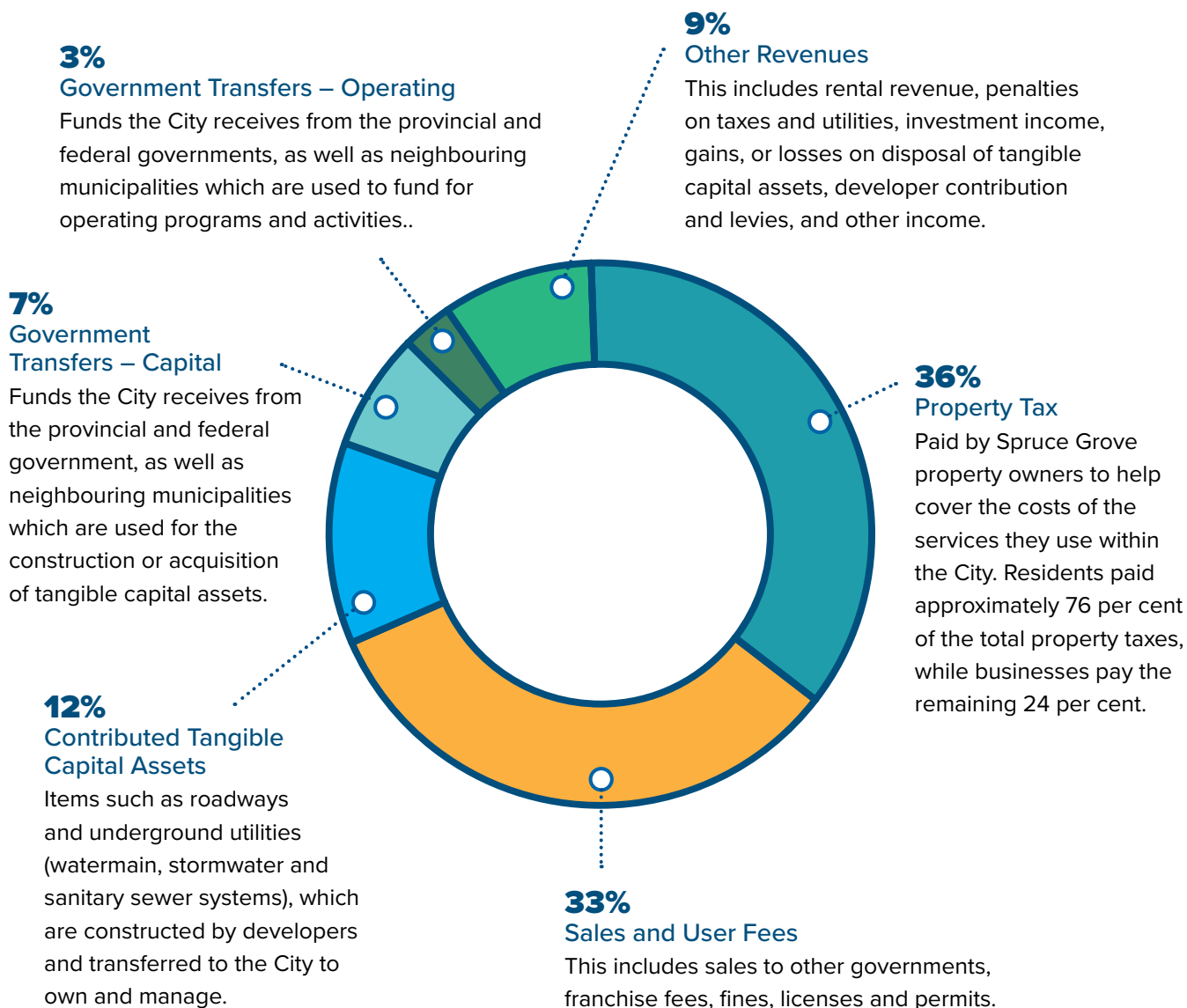
Net Debt (Thousands)



Effective January 1, 2023, the City adopted Canadian public sector accounting standard PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations and applied the standard using the modified retroactive approach with restatement of prior year (2022) comparative information.

Revenue Sources

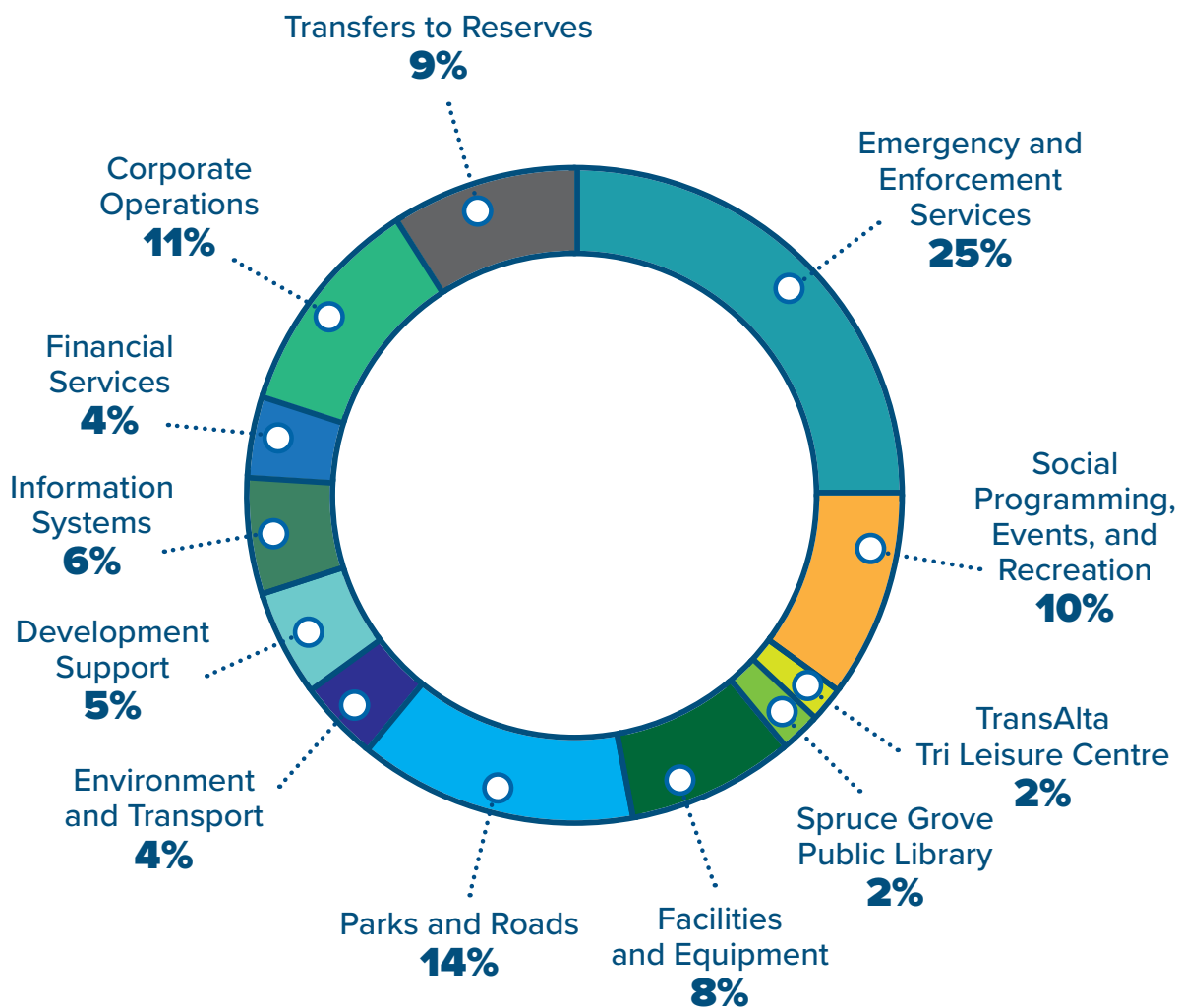
The City of Spruce Grove's 2024 revenue of \$152 million includes all revenue including property tax, sales and user fees, government transfers (operating and capital), contributed tangible capital assets, as well as other revenues such as investment income and gains or losses on the disposal of capital assets. Revenue sources are detailed below.



The City also collects levies on behalf of the provincial government for education and on behalf of the Meridian Housing Foundation for local seniors housing. The City does not use this funding for operations and passes it directly on to the Province of Alberta and Meridian Housing Foundation. The City also does not set or control the amount of these levies.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

The municipal portion of your property taxes is based on the City's budgeted revenue requirements. This portion is retained by the City and is used to pay for amenities and services for residents and the community as a whole, such as roadways, public transit, public safety, parks and open spaces, programming, and much more! The distribution of tax dollars is illustrated in this chart.



Expense By Function

The City of Spruce Grove's 2024 expenses of \$119.8 million by function are:

4%

Development Services

Comprised of the functional areas identified below. Planning and Development manages long-term land-use planning, current land-use planning and subdivisions, development permits and safety code disciplines. Economic and Business Development is responsible for facilitating programs and services intended to help local businesses prosper and grow and attract new business and investment to the City.

27%

Transportation and Roadway Services

Responsible for the planning, development, and maintenance of roadway systems. This function is comprised of the following areas: Engineering, Facilities and Fleet Management, Public Works and Transit

14%

Community Services

Provide recreation and culture services, deliver programs which promote the health and wellbeing of citizens, and engage in activities related to parks and cemetery maintenance and operation. This function is comprised of the following areas: Community Social Development, Recreation and Culture.

22%

Utilities

Responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of networks and facilities to support utility services in the following areas: Water, Sanitary Sewer, Stormwater, Solid Waste.

15%

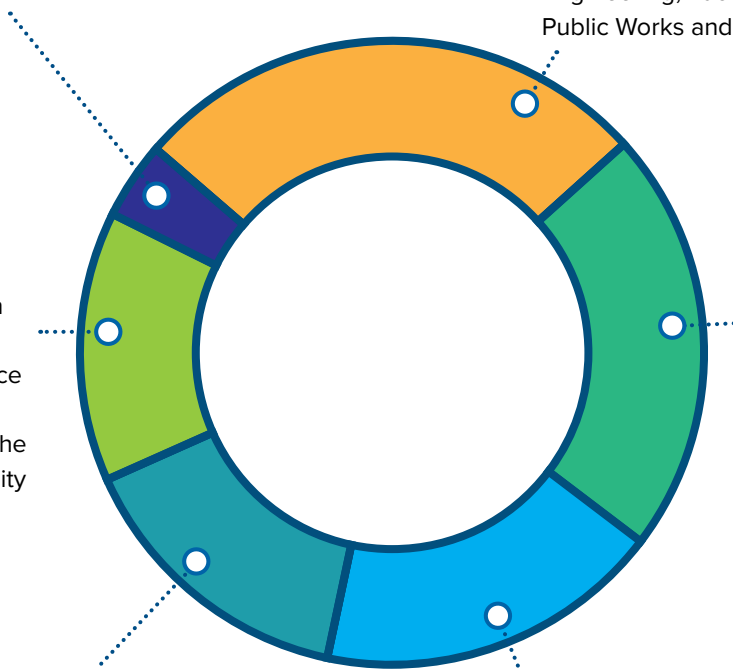
General Government

Comprised of Council and General Administration. Council makes decisions regarding delivery and service levels on behalf of the municipality to balance the needs and wants of City residents in a financially responsible manner. General Administration is responsible for the administration of the municipality. This function is comprised of the following areas: Council, City Manager's Office, City Clerk's Office, Corporate Communications, Human Resources, Strategy and Policy Development, Business Advisory Services, Finance, Information Systems.

18%

Protective Services

Exists to provide safety, security, peace of mind and a sense of wellbeing within the community for all residents, businesses and visitors. Exceptional emergency response is a key strength of the team which has led to consistently high performance when comparing safety data across other jurisdictions in the country. Building a diverse workforce, along with a strong commitment to community involvement, regional cooperation and providing training opportunities for all staff are key focuses of this department. This function is comprised of the following areas: Spruce Grove Fire Services and Enforcement Services.



Operating Results

Operating results in 2024 show a deficit of \$1.3 million before other capital items, however it was significantly less than the budgeted deficit of \$14.4 million. This was mainly due to higher than anticipated revenues for increased licenses and permits revenue for building, development, and electrical permit activity and sales of city lands. Expenditures were lower than expected mainly due to decreased contracted services requirements, particularly in transportation and roadway services for road repairs, lifecycle replacements and transit services.

Looking Forward

In 2025, the City will continue to provide sound fiscal stewardship, through evolving City processes, programs and services to support our growing city. The City is dedicated to investing in and serving our community.

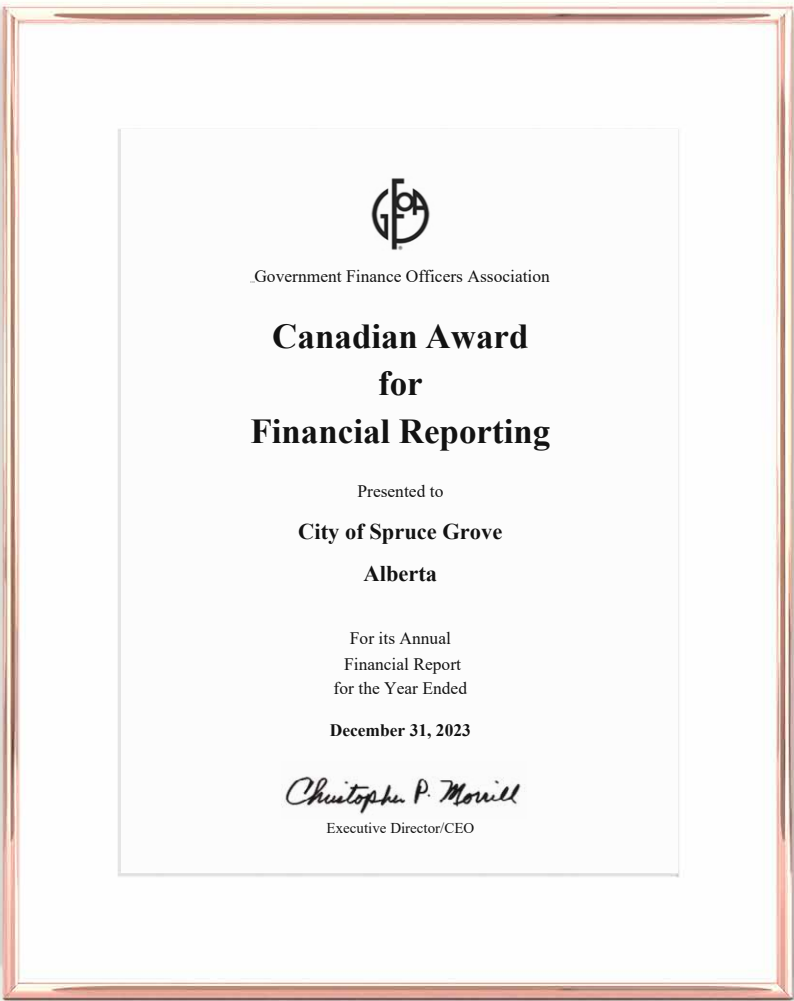
Letter of Transmittal of the Annual Financial Report

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Canadian Award for Financial Reporting to the City of Spruce Grove for its annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. The Canadian Award for Financial Reporting program was established to encourage municipal governments throughout Canada to publish high quality financial reports and to provide peer recognition and technical guidance for officials preparing these reports.

In order to be awarded a Canadian Award for Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized annual financial

report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such reports should go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and demonstrate an effort to clearly communicate the municipal government’s financial picture, enhance an understanding of financial reporting by municipal governments, and address user needs.

A Canadian Award for Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting program requirements, and we will be submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.







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connect.sprucegrove.org



City of Spruce Grove



[@CityofSpruceGrove](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofSpruceGrove)

City Hall

315 Jespersen Ave. T7X 3E8

Phone: 780-962-2611

Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

sprucegrove.org