



Appendix B

Municipal Profile

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1 Purpose

Understanding the social, economic, environmental and cultural characteristics is vital in the planning process to not only inform decision making, but also to serve as baseline data to track changes within a region. Projected trends can help municipal leaders and administrators anticipate future needs of the community so that they may be accounted for in the long-term planning process. Furthermore, understanding the demands and constraints placed on municipal services can help leaders to prioritize and plan effectively.

2 Area Overview

2.1 Location

The Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 is located in southeast Saskatchewan, encompassing 849.04 km². The RM is situated almost directly adjacent to the east border of the city of Regina (Figure 1) and surrounds the town of White City, the town of Balgonie, the town of Pilot Butte, and the village of Edenwold. Emerald Park is a residential and commercial community with urban form governed by the RM and is home to around 1550 residents and over 130 businesses. As of the 2021 Census, the population of the RM was 4,466, making it the second most-populated rural municipality in the province and the 19th most populated municipality in the province overall.

The RM is located on Treaty 4 territory, the homeland of the Cree, Saulteaux, Assiniboine, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and Métis nations. Approximately 18.5% of the lands within the RM are held in reserve status. Cowessess, Standing Buffalo, Ocean Man, Ochapawace, Zagime Anishinbek (Sakimay), Muscowpetung and Piapot First Nations have lands within or directly adjacent to the RM. Indigenous economic development projects can be found throughout the RM.

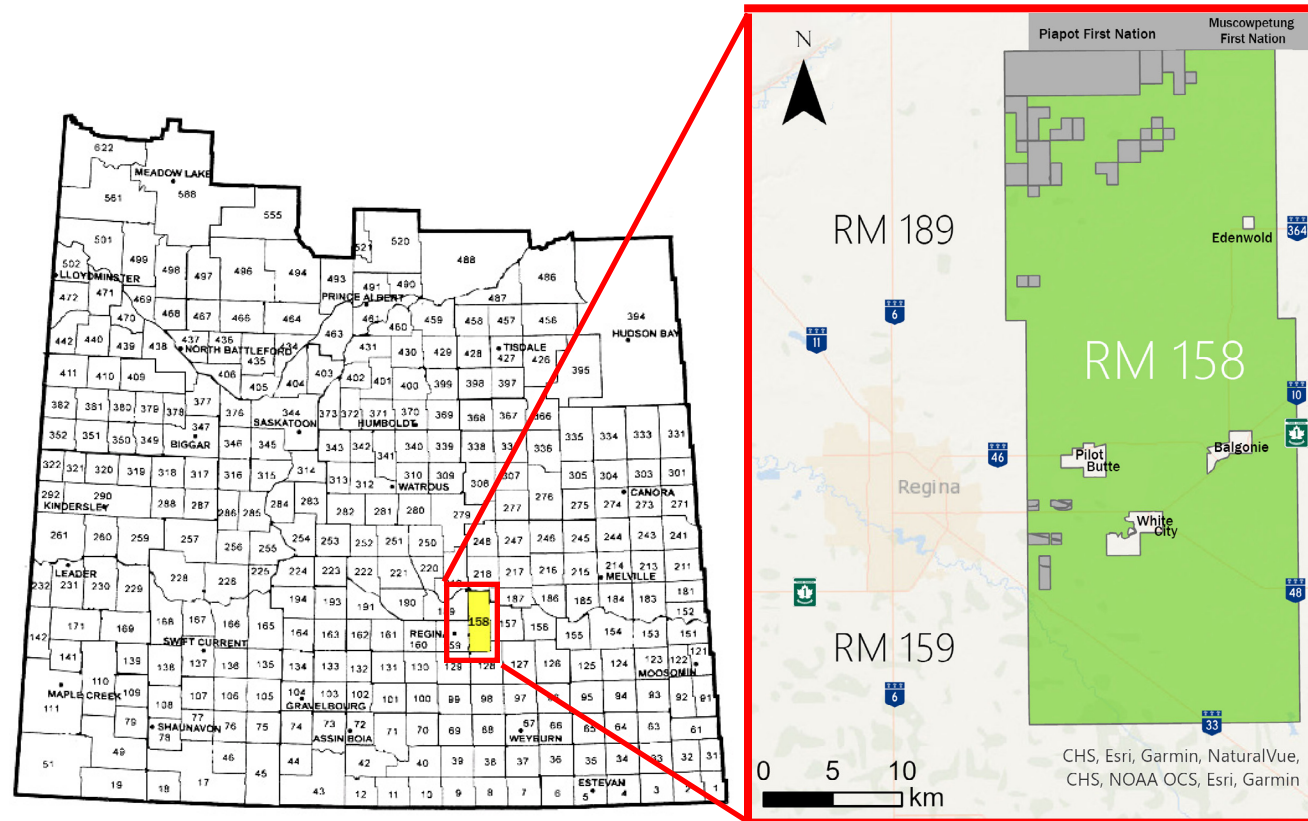


Figure 1. Location of the RM of Edenwold No. 158 within Saskatchewan

Source: Geospatial data (Copyright of His Majesty the King in Right of Canada) has been provided by Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan. It is the responsibility of the user to verify accuracy of the information since changes may have occurred since the time of the map creation.

2.2 History

The settlement of the region is strongly tied to railway development in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Balgonie and Edenwold were the first major settlements in the area, attracting strong Scottish and German contingencies respectively. Edenwold was advertised as the first Grand Trunk Railroad townsite between Melville and Regina, attracting both farmers and commercial activity.

The communities within the RM have experienced much of their growth serving as commuter communities for Regina workers looking to live a more rural or small-town lifestyle. The RM has also developed service centers offering a variety of commercial, recreational, and institutional amenities.

The RM and the municipalities within it have experienced growth in recent years. This is a function of its proximity to Regina, the wide array of lifestyles offered, and the number commercial and recreational amenities available, among other factors.

2.3 Environment

The RM is situated on the transitional border between the Moist Mixed Grassland ecoregion and the Aspen Parkland ecoregion. Both ecoregions are characterized by intermittent sloughs and ponds, productive agricultural soils, fescue grasslands, and nonarable pasture-land. An extensive and variable system of wetlands and run-off networks flows through the region. The RM is situated in the Qu'Appelle River Basin.

The RM also includes the White Butte Trails Recreation Site, a naturalized area featuring 12.7km of all-season hiking and cross-country ski trails.



3 Population

Based on the 2021 Census, the population of the RM of Edenwold is 4,466. The population density of 5.3 people per km² [Figure 2] is an average between two extremes: urban-style residential density, and sparsely populated agricultural land. Approximately 1700 of the RM's residents reside in Emerald Park, the district with the highest residential density located adjacent to White City. The regional diversity within the RM has proven to be an asset for the RM to be able to attract all types of residents and businesses.

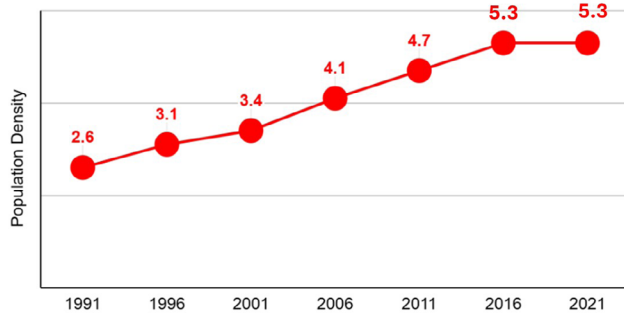


Figure 2. RM Population Density per square kilometer since 1991

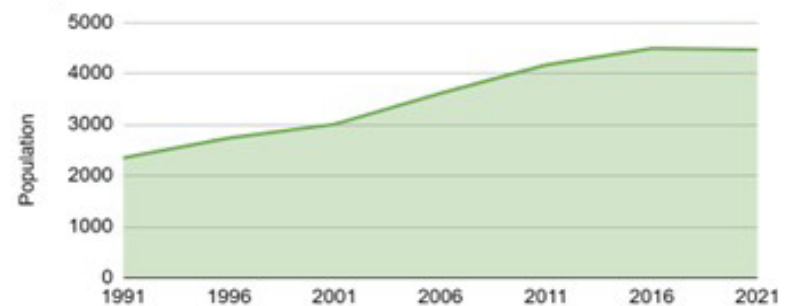


Figure 3. RM Population Growth since 1991

3.1 Composition

The average age of the RM is 40.0, indicative of the number of young families living in the region. Approximately 65.5% of the population is between the ages of 15 and 64 [Figure 4]. As of the 2021 Census, there were 650 individuals over the age of 65. At the time of writing, two senior care homes are operational in Emerald Park.

3.2 Household Characteristics

As of 2021, the total number of private dwellings within the RM was 1,576, with the dominant housing type being single-family detached [90.4%]. The only other substantive form of housing is mobile homes [5%]. According to the 2021 Census, approximately 93.4% of the available housing stock is owned, and the remaining 6.6% is rented.

The average household size in the RM is 2.9 people per household, slightly above the provincial average of 2.5 people per household. The 2021 census shows approximately 630 couples with children, with an average family size of 3.0 individuals. These numbers reinforce the mandate of the RM to provide a variety of family-oriented amenities including day cares, parks, recreation facilities, and safe pedestrian routes, in addition to advocating to the Ministry of Education for additional schools located within the region.

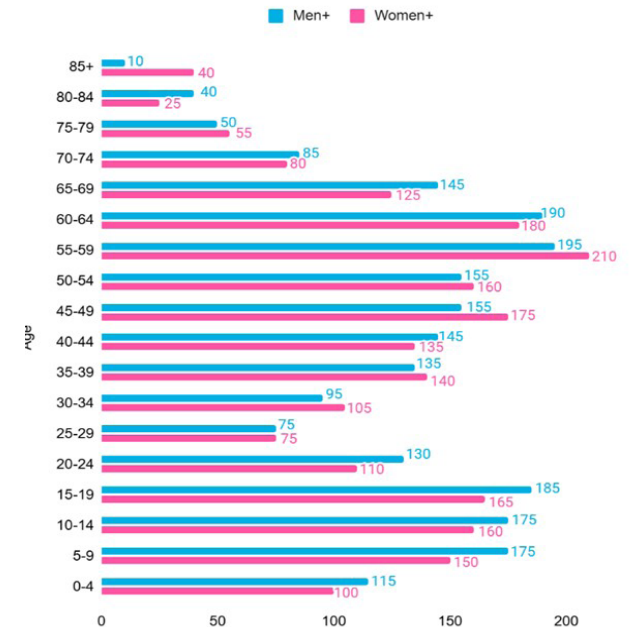


Figure 4. Composition of RM Population in 2021

4 Economy

4.1 Regional Economics

In addition to a recent increase of commercial and industrial development, agriculture continues to be a main source of employment in the RM in the lower density regions. According to the Soil Capability Survey (Figure 5), the majority of land is rated Class 2 or 3 which is suitable for production. The highest densities of development have largely occurred on Class 5 or 6 land which is undesirable for production. Using the Soil Capability Survey, the RM hopes to encourage development on lower quality soils to preserve agriculture as a viable livelihood for its many producers. The RM is located in Saskatchewan Crop District 2B. Crops typically grown in this region include wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, canola, peas, lentils, mustard, and canary seed.

Gravel and sand extraction are active industries throughout the RM, with over 20 private and municipal pits in operation as of 2017. The RM has recently developed an Aggregate Extraction Policy to ensure extraction is done in a safe and sustainable way, with any negative impacts being mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

The fastest growing sector has been commercial and industrial development adjacent to Highway 1 and in Great Plains Industrial Park, located in Emerald Park. The area presents an ideal opportunity for businesses looking for large lot sizes, proximity to Regina, good transportation access and optimal highway exposure. Over 130 businesses operate within the RM, employing local residents as well as commuters travelling east from Regina. Several well-known commercial brands have recently located in Emerald Park, recognizing a unique economic opportunity. In its OCP, the RM has implemented a Development Overlay Area which designates areas for future commercial development. As Regina expands eastward and the growing residential population requires more services, the RM expects commercial and industrial development to increase in the coming years. Through its policies, the RM will accommodate all forms of development in a compatible and comprehensively-planned way.

4.2 Household Economics

Based on 2020 data, the average total household income (before tax) in the RM of Edenwold was \$173,400, substantially above the provincial average of \$99,800. Figure 6 shows the pre-tax income distribution in RM households. The average monthly shelter cost for owned dwellings is \$1,844, compared to the provincial monthly average of \$1,296.

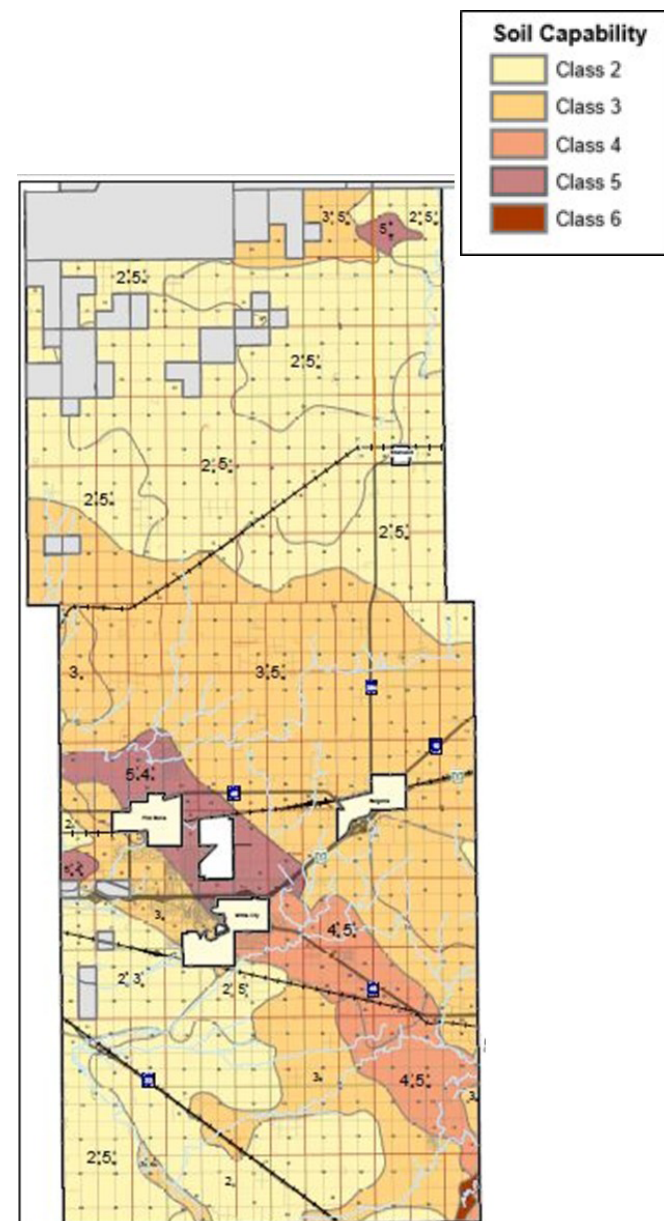


Figure 5. RM of Edenwold Soil Classification Map

Source: Geospatial data [Copyright of His Majesty the King in Right of Canada] has been provided by Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan. It is the responsibility of the user to verify accuracy of the information since changes may have occurred since the time of the map creation.

Soil geospatial data has been retrieved from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada online services National Soil DataBase (NSDB).

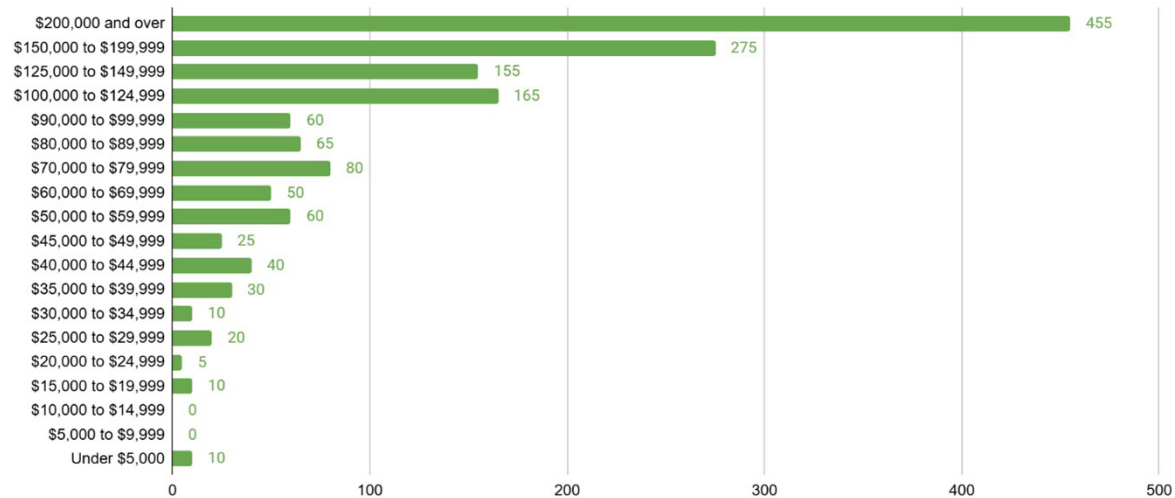


Figure 6. Distribution of annual pre-tax total household incomes in 2021

5 Infrastructure & Services

5.1 Transportation

The most travelled highway throughout the RM is the four-lane No. 1, which serves as the main route for commuters travelling to and from Regina, Emerald Park, Balgonie and White City. The No. 46 Highway provides primary access to Pilot Butte, and secondary access to Balgonie and surrounding country residential development. Highway Nos. 364, 33, and 48 are secondary highways that provide access to adjacent RMs and serve as potential development corridors. Most streets within the Emerald Park community are paved, as are frequently-traveled roads within the Development Overlay District.

The construction of the Regina Bypass has improved the safety of the No. 1 highway system, particularly at points where the highway is accessed by residents of Emerald Park, White City, and Balgonie through the addition of highway overpasses.

According to the 2021 Census, 94.8% of the sample population travelled by personal vehicle, either as a driver or a passenger, on their daily commute. This data emphasizes the need for safe and efficient roadway networks throughout the RM.



5.2 Services

The RM is one of the few rural municipalities in the province that provides potable water to its ratepayers through its own municipal utility. Municipal water service is available in Emerald Park, Great Plains Industrial Park, and areas north of the No. 1 Highway, with possibilities for future extensions.

The RM also provides communal wastewater services through the WCRM158 Wastewater Management Authority. The Authority is a regional group serving the RM and White City. Wastewater services are currently available in Emerald Park, Great Plains Industrial Park and areas north of the No. 1 highway.

Solid waste disposal is provided by Loraas to Emerald Park and several residential subdivisions within the RM. A single-stream recycling bin is available to ratepayers at the rural and urban public works shops. A curbside composting program was introduced in 2019.

The Rural Municipality is part of the Prairie Valley School Division. Five elementary schools serve the area and are located in Pilot Butte, White City, Edenwold, and Balgonie. White City also offers a French Immersion elementary school. French Immersion is also optionally offered in the RM's only high school, Greenall, located in Balgonie.

Fire services are provided by the Emerald Park Fire Department and support is provided through mutual aid agreements with the volunteer fire departments of White City, Pilot Butte, and Balgonie, Kronau, the village of Edenwold and the City of Regina to serve the RM when needed.

To enforce municipal and provincial bylaws, the RM has employed Community Safety Officers (CSOs) that regularly patrol both rural and urban districts within the RM. The White Butte RCMP detachment is located in Emerald Park.

Health care is administered by the Saskatchewan Health Authority, with the nearest hospitals and related health services located in Regina. Locally, residents have access to pharmacies, medical clinics, dental offices, and other primary care providers operating within the RM.



6 Recreation, Leisure & Community

Together with the local urban municipalities, the RM offers its residents several recreation and leisure opportunities without having to travel to Regina. In Emerald Park, the RM provides tennis courts, pickleball courts, a beach volleyball court, soccer fields, several pathways and trails, and playground equipment, in addition to a privately-run indoor skating rink. Curling rinks, senior centres, pickleball, swimming pools, golf courses, ball diamonds, splash parks, skate parks, rodeo arenas, and community halls can be found in the urban centres and are well-used by rural patrons. Additionally, Balgonie, White City, and Pilot Butte all have branches of the Southeast Regional Library.

White Butte trails is a unique natural asset within the region that provides free hiking and cross-country skiing opportunities. Portions of the Trans Canada Trail also run throughout the RM, with additions to the Trail likely to be added in the future.

The RM is also home to a variety of longstanding churches, including the Balgonie Baptist Church, St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Pilot Butte, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Edenwold which has been open for over 120 years.

In addition to local municipal newsletters, The Quad Town Forum, a weekly newspaper, serves the RM, White City, Pilot Butte, Balgonie, and the surrounding areas.



Kuzmics Commemorative Park, Emerald Park, SK



St. John's Lutheran Church, Edenwold, SK



Pickleball Courts, Emerald Park, SK



For more information about the RM of Edenwold, please contact the RM Office at (306) 771-2522
or visit our website at www.rmedenwold.ca.