

Municipal District of Edenwold - Process

What is a Municipal District?

A Municipal District (MD) is a type of Municipality (like Rural Municipality, Village, Town, or City) created when at least one urban and one rural municipality choose to come together, pool their resources, and create an entirely new entity.

Unlike RMs or Villages/Towns/Cities that are solely considered rural or urban, a Municipal District is regarded as both! By being considered both urban and rural in the province's eyes, Municipal Districts benefit by having access to services and programs that would be otherwise restricted.

While mentioned in provincial law, there are currently no Municipal Districts in Saskatchewan - thus, the MD of Edenwold would be the first of its kind in the province! This joining of municipalities is mutually beneficial and will create net efficiencies - it will not compromise services provided to residents and businesses but instead create more effective and efficient service flow.



What are the steps to creating a Municipal District?

Creating an MD is a relatively simple process. By working cooperatively, municipalities can facilitate the transition and make the change from individual entity to Municipal District easy.

- 1 Discussion between two (or more) municipalities to join together and form a Municipal District
- 2 Resolutions are passed by each municipal council indicating their agreement to make a joint application to become an MD
- 3 A restructuring agreement is prepared between the municipalities that acknowledges and accounts for each of their unique traits
- 4 Each municipality passes a resolution or bylaw authorizing it to enter into the restructuring agreement with the other municipality
- 5 Municipalities submit an application (with all associated documentation) to the Minister of Government Relations for approval
- 6 The Minister of Government Relations sets an incorporation date - the municipalities dissolve and form a Municipal District

Municipal District of Edenwold - Restructuring Agreement

What is included in the Restructuring Agreement?

The restructuring agreement provides the participating municipalities with a detailed list of items outlining how the MD process will change municipal structure and governance.

This agreement is created in partnership between RM and Village staff and Council. The municipalities have also hired a governance consultant from the Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy to facilitate this process. By hiring an external expert to provide support and assist staff and Council, both municipalities can receive fair and equal treatment. The restructuring agreement is the final document submitted to the province and guides both municipalities as they transition into the Municipal District.



What items can be included in the Restructuring Agreement?

- Staffing and Administration
- Office Location(s)
- Municipal District Name
- Application of Bylaws and Policies
- Disposition of Assets
- Establishment of an interim Council before the first Municipal District election
- Establishment of Special Service Areas (i.e. the Community of Edenwold and the Community of Emerald Park)
- Application of tax tools to municipal tax levies
- Process outlining dispute resolution
- Election scheme for the MD

The Minister of Government Relations can also request:

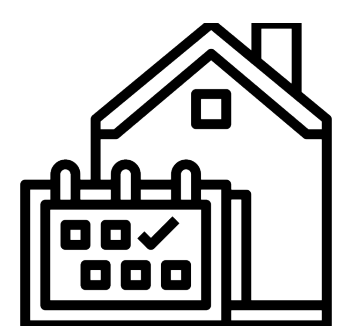
- Map of MD boundaries
- Future growth or development plans
- Proposed operating and capital budget
- Audited financial statement for each municipality
- Verification and report of public consultation taken to each council

Municipal District of Edenwold - Public Engagement

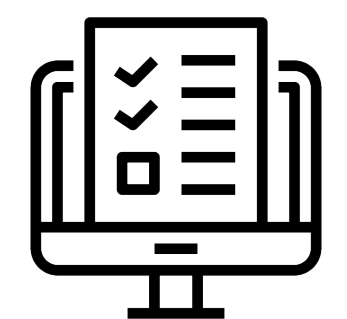
Due to the scale of change, public engagement is important for ensuring the Municipal District is successful. To make sure the public has the opportunity to learn about the process, ask questions, and stay up to date with the project, RM and Village staff and Council have chosen to host this (and future) open houses.

Further, RM staff have put together a Public Engagement Plan. This plan provides staff and Council from both municipalities with direction on what methods will be used to communicate with the public to obtain feedback and share information. This plan ensures the process is transparent and maintains community involvement.

The Public Engagement Plan outlines several activities for the future, including:



Open House in the Village of Edenwold on September 27th, and in the RM (in Emerald Park) on September 29th



Online survey shared with the public in November



“What-We-Heard” Open House in the Village, and in the RM in December

Please take a feedback form and leave it in the box to have your comments considered.

If you have any questions that are not answered today, please contact Ross Zimmermann, RM Planner, at (306) 347-2975 or rossz@edenwold-sk.ca

Municipal District of Edenwold - Advantages

What are the advantages of joining a Municipal District?

There are many positives to creating a Municipal District. Some advantages are shared between the two municipalities, while others are more specific to the Village or RM's current circumstances.

Benefits for the Village and RM:

- 1) Improved performance (through cost and operations) of existing resources, assets, and services. By reducing duplicated services and increasing economies of scale, the Village and RM will be able to pool their resources and enhance service delivery. These changes will deliver greater financial and long-term security.
- 2) Jurisdictional advantages by being both urban and rural. By creating the province's first Municipal District, the MD of Edenwold will be uniquely placed to be a leader and benefit from services and funds available to only urban or only rural communities.

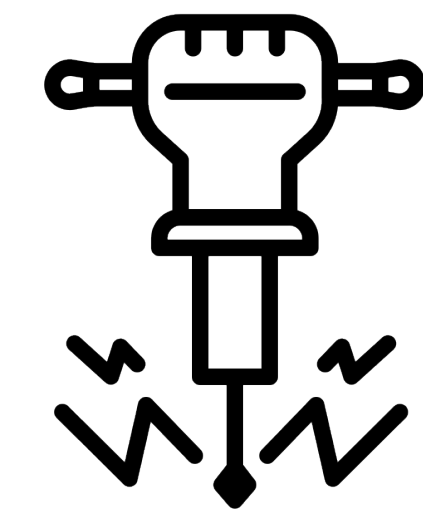


Benefits for the Village:



Safety

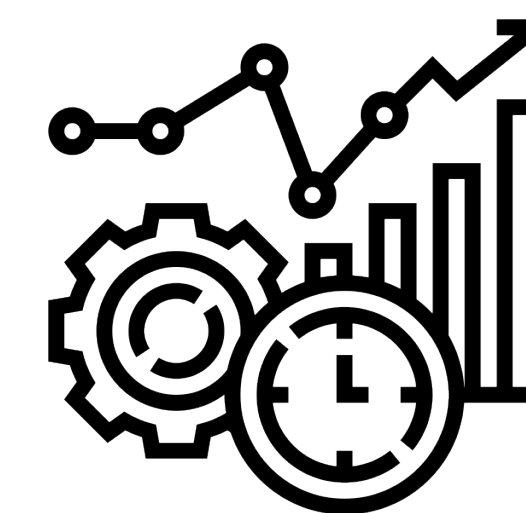
By joining into a Municipal District with the RM, the Village will gain access to the RM's Community Safety Officer (CSO) program. This program provides bylaw and community enforcement and responds to resident calls.



New Resources

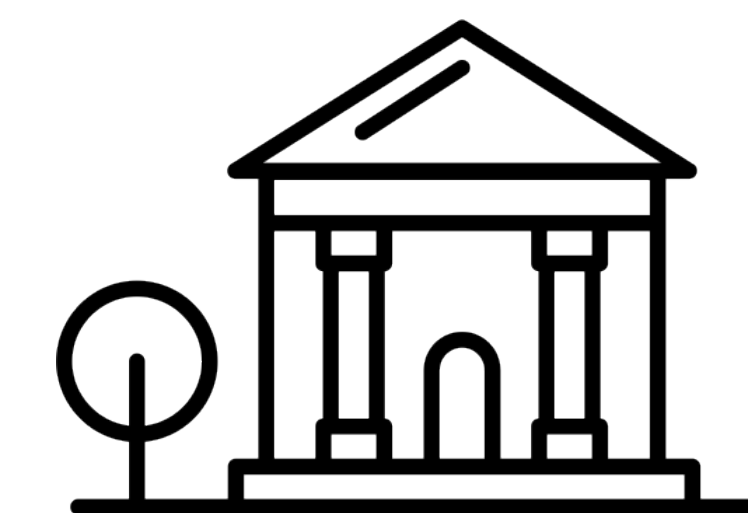
The Village will also benefit from the RM's resources. The RM has a large public works department that can further support the development and maintenance of roads, recreation infrastructure, and utilities. Instead of having to hire costly contractors, the Village will be able to benefit from the RM's experienced staff and access to equipment.

Benefits for the RM:



Autonomy

Through the Restructuring Agreement, the MD will receive greater legislative autonomy. This independence will manifest itself through efficiencies in development. The new autonomy will also allow the MD to create special service areas with unique tax rates, policies, and development standards.



Accessibility

The village office will become a satellite office of the MD. This second office will allow municipal services to become more accessible for residents living north of the correction line. Further, by keeping an office in Edenwold, Village residents will continue to have easy access to municipal staff when they require assistance.

Municipal District of Edenwold - Changes

What do YOU want for your community?

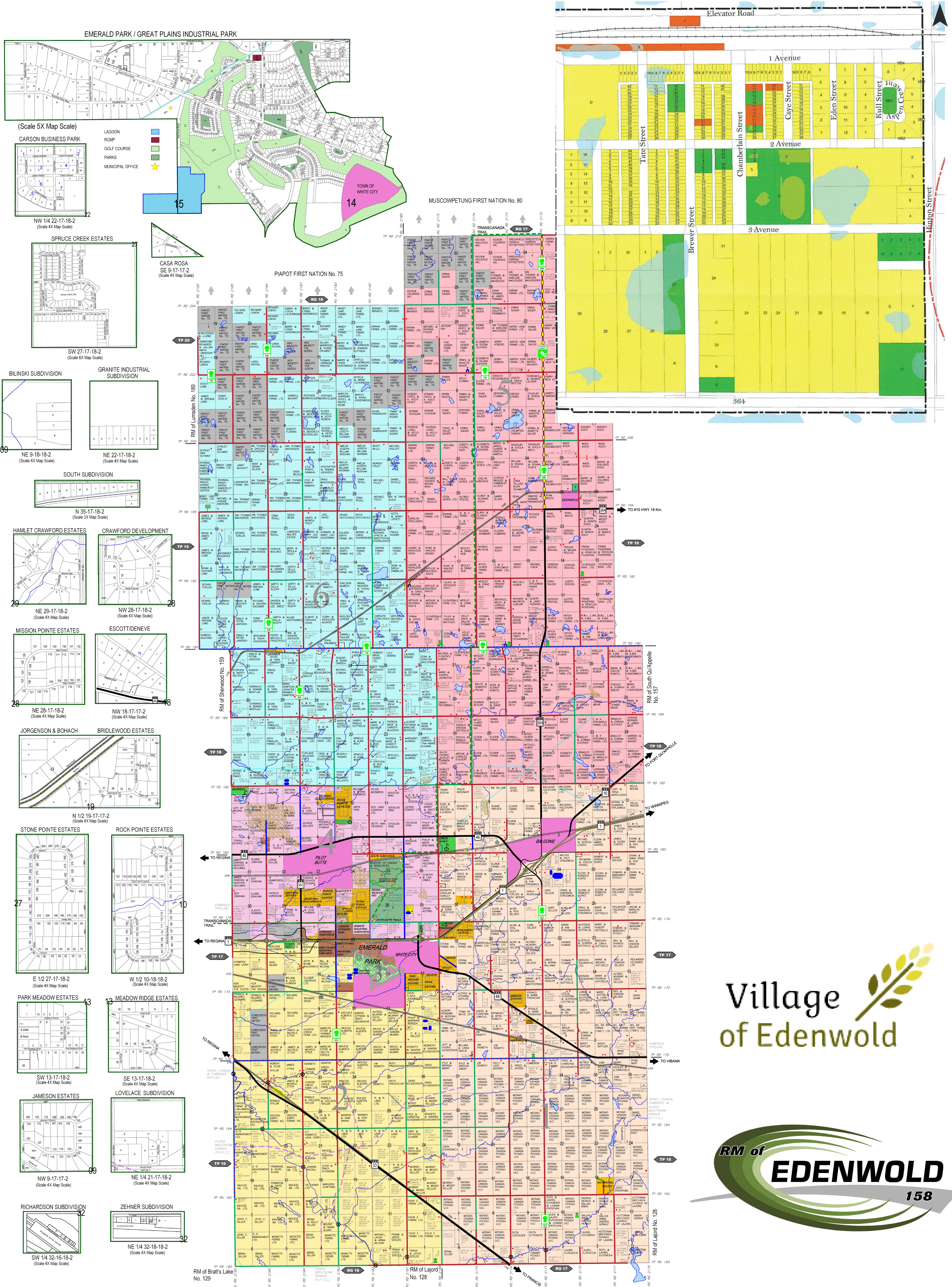
Please use the stickers to indicate what you want to see stay the same, and what you are interested in seeing change in your community.

Current Services and Operations	Stay the Same	Open for Change
<i>Taxes</i>		
<i>Utility Rates</i>		
<i>Garbage & Recycling Program and Schedule</i>		
<i>Road Maintenance & Snow Removal</i>		
<i>Location of Municipal Offices</i>		
<i>Council Representation</i>		
<i>Website</i>		
<i>Emergency Services (Fire and CSO)</i>		
<i>Municipal Staffing & Administration</i>		
<i>Bylaw Enforcement</i>		
<i>Planning & Development</i>		
<i>Recreation</i>		

Municipal District of Edenwold - Map

Where are you from?

Please use the stickers to indicate what community you are coming from.



Village
of Edenwold

