

Each year the Alberta Professional Planners Institute recognizes exceptional plans and projects, undertaken in whole or in part by members of the Institute, that significantly contribute to the livability of communities in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Applications for plans and projects specific to rural and indigenous planning are encouraged.

The awards will be presented at the 2026 APPI Conference in Calgary, September 28, 2026 during the evening banquet. Award recipients will receive a Certificate of Planning Excellence or a Certificate of Planning Merit.

CATEGORIES

The plan or project must be submitted for only one category and meet the Eligibility and Submission requirements.

1. Comprehensive and Policy Plan

- A strategic, long-range policy plan for a municipality, a portion of a municipality (e.g., neighborhood, downtown) or multiple municipalities (a region), often in the form of a municipal development plan, area structure plan, area redevelopment plan or inter-municipal development plan, also including a land use bylaw.
- A policy plan which addresses specialized areas such as the environment, housing, economic development, recreation and/or parks, social planning, roads or utility infrastructure of a municipality or region.

2. Design Plan

- A physical land use plan or project focusing on design elements for a specific site or larger area, including but not being limited to site design plans, park/trail plans, historic site/resource plans, revitalization plans, and downtown improvement plans.

3. Special Study

- An original or clearly outstanding study/report, based on sound research and analysis through creative or outstanding approaches leading to findings, solutions and/or approaches of value to the planning profession, the livability of communities or the sustainability of resources.

4. Education

- Written or electronic materials and videos intended for use within or outside the planning profession to inform or educate the public or segment thereof about the benefits of planning, how planning makes a difference, how planning works and how to be effectively involved in planning processes.

5. Implementation Success (Plan, Study, Report or Education Materials Approved Prior to 2024)

- A Plan, Study, Report or set of Education materials that was approved prior to 2024 and has realized or are realizing their goals and objectives as demonstrated by an accompanying Plan Evaluation (max 3 pages) submitted with the originally approved document. The evaluation must explain specifics of the Plan's positive impact on the community or communities it was intended to serve.

PLANNING AWARDS
Submission and Evaluation Criteria
Deadline – 12:00 PM March 19, 2026

EVALUATION CRITERIA Categories 1 – 4: Plans or Projects Completed in 2023-2025

The Planning Awards Committee will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria (the weighting for each criterion is shown in parentheses). Please ensure that your submission articulates how your plan or project demonstrates exceptional planning in each of the criterion identified.

Planning Process (25%)

- uses planning principles and knowledge, with a thorough, appropriate, and methodological approach
- demonstrates the engagement of with relevant public, stakeholders, and decision-makers in meaningful ways
- supports the alignment of other related plans and planning objectives
- acknowledges and/or resolves potential effects on other plans, objectives, and policies and/or effects on adjacent and nearby lands and resources

Original, Innovative or Creative Process, Product and/or Solution (25%)

- provides an original or uniquely visionary approach and/or outcome
- advances planning goals, principles, and processes
- applies innovative approaches to existing techniques, procedures, or concepts
- demonstrates a positive impact on the planning profession or approaches to planning

Transferability (20%)

- applicable to other jurisdictions and issues
- instructive to other applications, issues and circumstances

Results (20%)

- achieves the intended objectives of the product, process or plan
- appropriate to the nature of the challenges and issues addressed
- supported by analysis and community/stakeholder input
- implemented or the feasibility to be implemented
- effective and making a positive and measurable difference

Clarity of Presentation (10%)

- well organized, clearly articulated concepts, analysis, writing and graphics
- application of planning goals, principles and/or processes
- relevant to the targeted audience

Applicants are applying for an award recognizing exceptional planning. The Planning Awards Committee determines the standing of all applications and if they qualify for a Certificate of Planning Excellence, a Certificate of Planning Merit or whether no award will be granted.

Evaluation weighting is provided as information to applicants. The individual score for any one submission is at the discretion of the Planning Awards Committee and will not be disclosed to any award applicants. The decision of the Planning Awards Committee is final.

PLANNING AWARDS
Submission and Evaluation Criteria
Deadline – 12:00 PM March 19, 2026

EVALUATION CRITERIA - Category 5: Implementation Success - Plans Completed Prior to 2024

The Awards Committee will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria (the weighting for each criterion is shown in parentheses). Please ensure that your submission articulates how your plan or project demonstrates exceptional planning in each of the criterion identified.

Results (40%)

- achieves the intended objectives of the product, process, or plan
- appropriate to the nature of the challenges and issues addressed
- supported by analysis and community/stakeholder input
- carried out or feasibility to be carried out
- effective and making a positive and measurable difference

Transferability (20%)

- applicable to other jurisdictions and issues
- instructive to other applications, issues, and circumstances

Planning Process (20%)

- uses planning principles and knowledge, with a thorough, appropriate, and methodological approach
- demonstrates the engagement of with relevant public, stakeholders, and decision-makers in meaningful ways
- supports the alignment of other related plans and planning objectives
- acknowledges and/or resolves potential effects on other plans, objectives, and policies and/or effects on adjacent and nearby lands and resources

Original, Innovative or Creative Process, Product and/or Solution (10%)

- provides an original or uniquely visionary approach and/or outcome
- applies innovative approaches to existing techniques, procedures, or concepts
- demonstrates that is an outstanding application of existing techniques, procedures or concepts

Clarity of Presentation (10%)

- well organized, clearly articulated concepts, analysis, writing and graphics
- application of planning goals, principles and/or processes
- relevant to the targeted audience

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