



2025 Budget Engagement Report

Town Of Edson 2024 Citizen Budget Report

Table of Contents

Town Of Edson 2024 Citizen Budget Report	2
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Participation / Engagement	4
Results	5
Direct Questions / User Fees	5
Protective Services	7
Fire Department	7
Community Enforcement (Bylaw)	8
RCMP Services.....	9
Community Services	10
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	10
Parks.....	12
Community Development	14
Edson and District Leisure Centre	15
Infrastructure Services	17
Roads and Sidewalks/Snow Removal	17
Waste Collection	20
Landfill	22
About the Participants	23
Age	23
Status.....	23
Length of Residency.....	24
General Feedback	24

Introduction

From August 26th to September 20th, 2024, the Town of Edson conducted a public survey to get input on budget priorities for Edson residents.

Participants were asked to provide feedback on ten service budgets under three service categories – Protective, Community and Infrastructure Services.

This year also included a section on user fees.

Two public engagement sessions were also held on September 12th at the Edson & District Leisure Centre and Sept 19th at the Art Walk on Main Street.

Budget 2025

2025 Budget Survey

The Town of Edson understands that you care how your property tax dollars are spent. We invite you to use this budget tool to have your input on the 2025 Budget. Administration and Council will review the results as they prepare the budget for next year.

What kind of budget would you like to see, in an ideal world?

We want to know your priorities.

Progress through the following pages to select your preferences and provide valuable feedback.

For results to be counted, you must be a resident or property owner in the Town of Edson.

Here is the challenge:

You choose where you would like to see your tax dollars spent, make any key trade-offs, and submitting your priorities.

For best results, if you increase in one area, you should decrease in another. This will help us better understand your priorities.

[Next](#)

Summary of the report

The engagement attracted 267 participants over the period. There was a clear collective desire to keep service levels at the same or similar levels to the previous year (2024). The only exception to that was roads, where a slight majority requested a higher service level.

Overall, there were 267 respondents to the survey, however, results were filtered to include only residents and property owners in the Town of Edson. With that in place, We had 137 qualified respondents to the survey.

The general tone was constructive, and all the comments are included in this report within the appropriate sections.

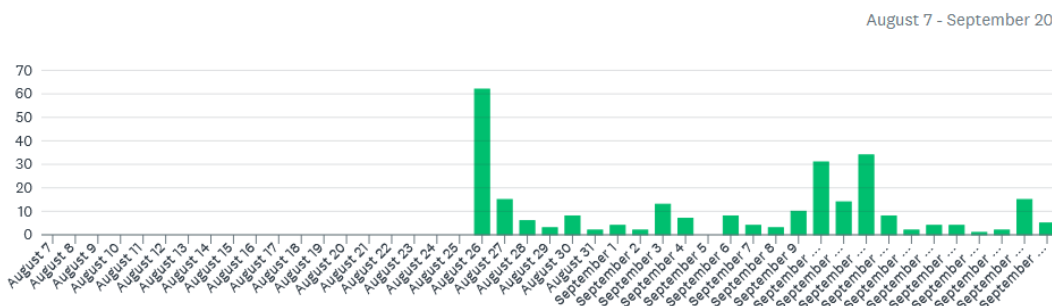
Participation

Over the 4 weeks that the engagement was live, the survey had

- 267 Participants at varying levels.
- 137 Qualified respondents. (85 in 2024 survey)
- 51.3% Qualified/completion rate.
- 270 comments - an average of 1.9 comments per participant (0.9 in 2024 survey)

Responses Volume

The highest daily response rate came on survey launch day (August 26, 2024). There were small spikes after each live engagement and subsequent advertising pieces.

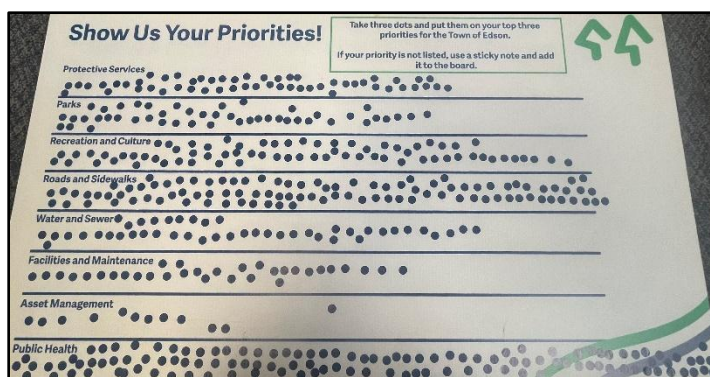


Public Engagement

Two live engagement sessions were held through the survey process to encourage residents to fill the survey, and to interact with the decision makers. Overall, the tone was constructive, and a few themes were prevalent - Road conditions and public health. While public health, and the highways are a Provincial responsibility, it is good information to be able to take back in future discussions with the Provincial Government.

During the engagements a “dot-macracry” poll was conducted to identify resident’s priorities heading into the 2025 budget. Each participant was given 3 stickers to place in their top 3 categories. The results were as follows:

- Protective Services – 54**
- Parks – 47**
- Recreation and Culture – 71**
- Roads and Sidewalks – 99**
- Water and Sewer – 45**
- Facilities and Maintenance – 32**
- Asset Management – 12**
- Public Health – 121**



Another public engagement session is planned immediately following the budget workshop on October 19th, 2024.

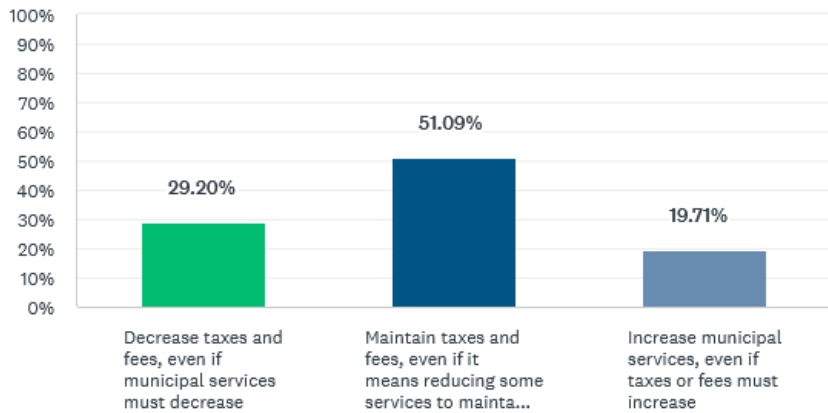
Results

Direct Questions

Taxation vs Services

When the municipality is creating the municipal budget it often faces higher costs to continue to provide the same level of service. Please indicate which of the statements comes closest to your point of view. The municipality should:

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



User Fees

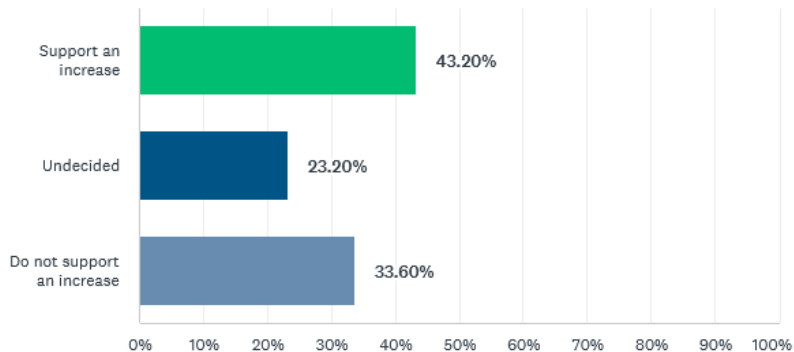
User fees are charges that an individual or group would pay for access to specific services. Most services that have user fees, such as facility rentals, are also subsidized by tax revenues.

The following services are supported by both user fees and taxation.

Please identify whether you would support an increase in user fees if this meant a reduction in the level of support from property taxes.

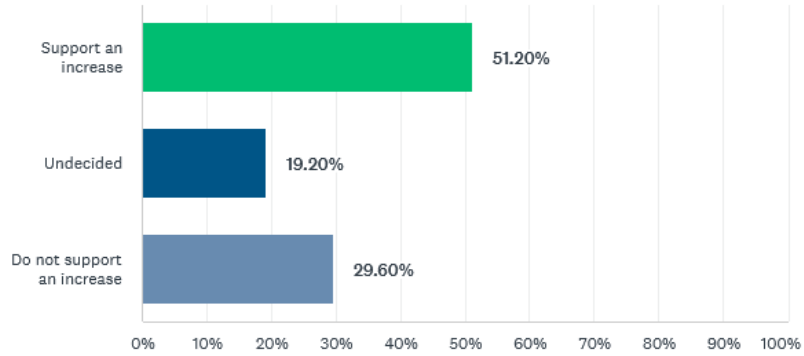
User Fees : Sports Fields

Answered: 125 Skipped: 12



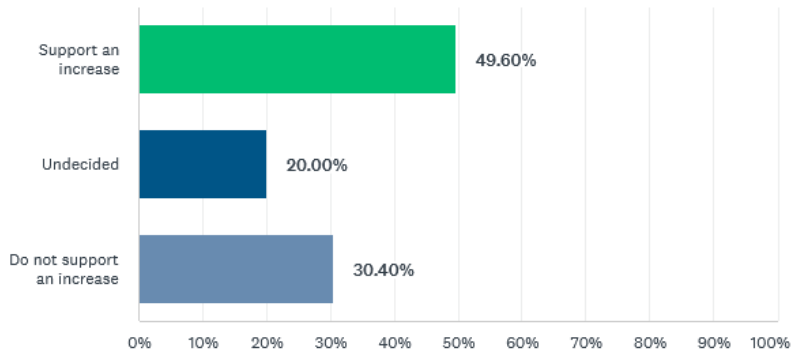
User Fees : Arena Rentals

Answered: 125 Skipped: 12



User Fees : Pool Rentals / Use

Answered: 125 Skipped: 12



Department Service Levels

Each category was given a description, and respondents were asked the following question.

Would you like to see a higher, lower, or the same level of service for the Fire Department?

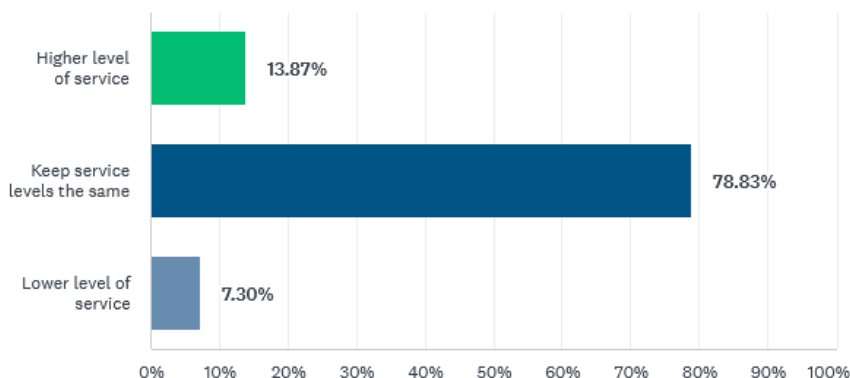
Protective Services

This section covers the Fire Department, Community Enforcement (Bylaw), and RCMP Services.

Fire Department

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (17)

- We need the same access to a ladder truck as tgg by w county has. Also, volunteer firefighters who put their lives at risk on calls should not be making minimum wage. Their pay needs to be increased to be competitive with other volunteer firefighters within the province. If you want good service and response to emergencies you need to be able to keep committed and trained staff. Wage increases would be a good start to holding on to these people.
- The response time of the EFD is remarkable good job on that.
- With the wildfire risk etc.
- Have town and county work together.
- Please review the management structure and reduce multiple managers to move funds into fire prevention/protection.
- Live within your means and review management styles.
- Get a ladder truck.
- Can you please disclose, in public report form, why the Edson Fire Department and Yellowhead County Fire Department cannot amalgamate. The same resources in two locations minutes away from each other seems counter-productive and very costly.
- Bring in mutual aid from YH County when obviously needed.
- Have Town of Edson and County fire departments help each other out so bigger fires dont get out of control.
- As this is the largest cost to the community, there are efficiencies to be obtained here.
- Do whatever the Yellowhead county is doing cause they definitely do a better job.
- We have 2 fire department within 5 minutes of each other, no reason they can not

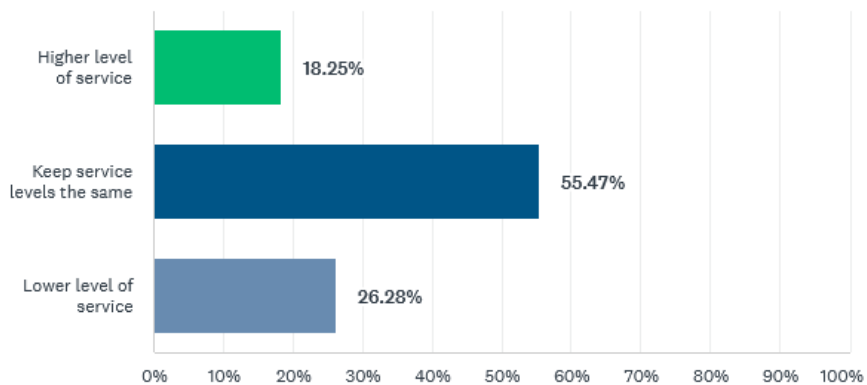
be called in for support.

- With yellowhead county department so close a joint venture should be considered, larger organizations can seem to find a way to create a win win for both organizations. This has the potential to positively affect operating costs, people, and training.
- Too many chiefs. Budget high with community events-setting up tent etc
- Should be a joint effort with the Yellowhead County Fire Department. Having both responding
- Better partnership with ththe county on bigger calls.

Community Enforcement (Bylaw)

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (16)

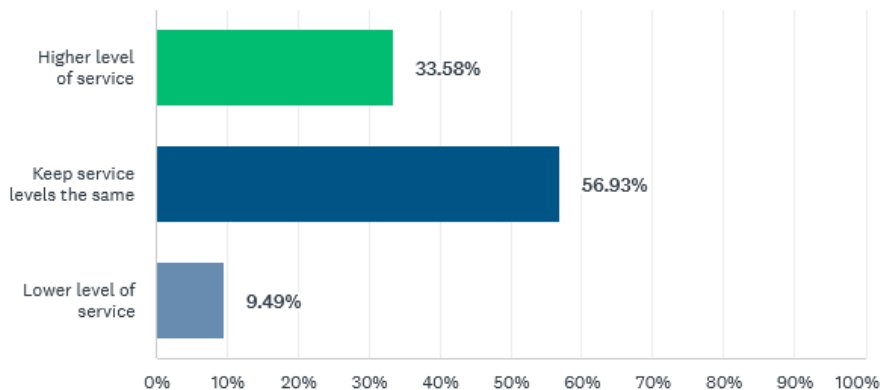
- Edson Bylaw officer is a joke. He or she is a waste of taxpayers money.
- Bylaws especially business and home owners cutting grass, making repairs etc.
- Help new business to be created in town.
- See above, less management and more officers/engagement.
- These things are mainly administrative and we are paying people to drive around and and give find to justify this position.
- I would focus more on bylaw infractions and ticketing as a source of income. Just walking around town I witness so many infractions.
- More services would mean faster responses, and less uncertainty RCMP involvement.
- The wandering cat situation in Edson is getting way out of hand. Need to help people trap the cats, buying a cat trap is well over \$100.00, a rental would be nice or a loan program with deposit.
- They are useless and never come when called.
- Bang for the buck, these resources are hugely over-rated.
- Change of hours of patrol to allow patrols to mitigate the speeding, stunting, and theft during evenings and nights.

- I don't believe that we are realizing value here.
- It would be great to see the actual impact of this service as these seem like white collar infractions that should record a revenue through fines etc.
- I don't know if the value for the money is there for this program? Would be interested to see stats on this program.
- What do they do? Never see them.
- I see no value added by the town peace officer. Animals are more loose than ever, crime is higher than ever. Yet you never see them doing anything. Hire more RCMP.

RCMP Services

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (24)

- Our RCMP in town are more Busy writing tickets than stopping crime. All they do is drive around and write tickets.
- Lower amount for photo enforcement. Use money paid to photo enforcement to have RCMP impose demerits to offenders. This is better than having a placarded truck that slows down drivers for less than a km until they get out of range. Demerits have more impact than just paying a fine.
- i think the RCMP should control the homeless people as they are close to the schools and could be dangerous for the kids.
- Would like to see more focus on thefts and drugs.
- I feel with the amount of crime in the Edson area that more enforcement is required. I don't believe this should be our burden, but should be Federally funded. Again, this could possibly be management style and death by a thousand clicks (abundance of paper work, practices and policies).
- We need more security from the thefts in this town.
- continue with photo radar in town if it funds this program at all.
- When calling about issues. Would like to see RCMP take interest and not say it's not a priority or no one else has called.

- They are drug sales at the pool and stunting day and night most days of the week and only 1 officer will ever come. We constantly phone on 12 ave. There is also a camera that no one ever looks at parking lot to the north and signs.
- Would like to consider, with pertinent and truthful research/documentaion, a Provincial Police force in our town.
- RCMP not very visible in community at all. Rarely see members in the downtown or community.
- Have harsher punishments for criminals.
- Extra officers, allowing more evening and night patrols.
- The RCMP are too expensive. It is time for change.
- Justice system is not doing its job so what's the point of having them?
- Need to crackdown on homeless camps/wondering.
- For what we get for their services it's not worth giving them a cent more.
- Why spend money on policing when criminals are put back on the streets with cheap bail policies?
- They can deal with the homeless and criminals in town,seems to be getting a lot worse.
- Keep RCMP
- cut from the Bylaw and increase the RCMP.
- Should be a federal cost. Or at least more of a shared. What about the county? What do they pay?
- Crime and homelessness are extremely high and more needs to be done.
- Would also like to see more done about the crime rate and drug related crimes that are seeming to become more of a problem.

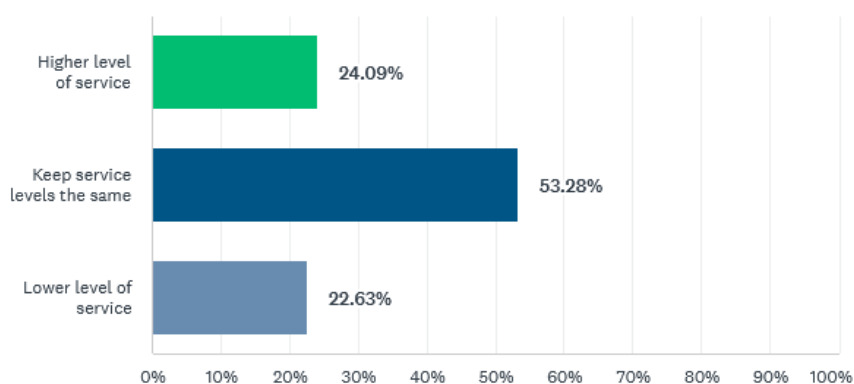
Community Services

This section covers Family and Community Services (FCSS), Parks, Community Development and Edson and District Leisure Centre.

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



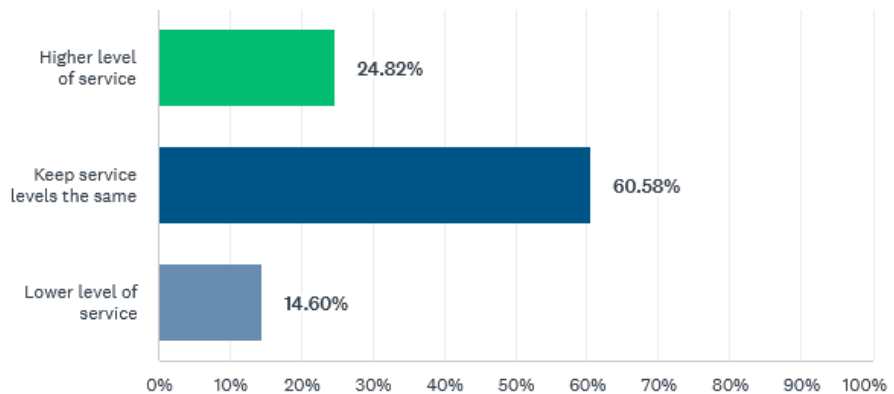
Comments (15)

- great programming. love the events. winter festival with fireworks was great.
- Family and community services are more needed in town. The drug and crime are at an all time high. Family involvement are much needed.
- AHS has just recently cut the early child hood development program, now there is even less support for high needs families, unless they want to pay out of pocket for other services offered in the community. When we lost funding for FCSS awhile back, our community felt it. We need to focus on this as a priority. Early intervention and access to family supports helps stop the cycle of abuse, addiction and mental health issues later in life.
- Loss of the AHs early intervention program
- We like all the events for young families.
- These programs are great!! Keep up the great work
- Until the new multi-plex is completed, an increase within FCSS would be an asset for families and things for kids to do over winter and school breaks.
- Love the events, they make me enjoy living in Edson. I like to connect to my community through street festivals and parties in the parks. Love the renaissance fair and am always surprised more people don't know about the great things happening in Edson. Maybe more marketing required.
- Reduce diversity, equity and inclusivity programs in order to discourage division tactics in our town. These programs/mandates should not be part of municipal governance.
- The former mayor really cleaned up the town. It would be a shame to let it slide.
- This could be considered a place for more support. Families, and communities are suffering - emotionally, financially, and physically due to poor health care system.
- Not for profits should not get any money from taxpayers unless it's by their own donation or by fundraising.
- There is a lack of drop in groups or free activities spread out throughout the week. More drop in times and programming for under 5 years old at all times of the day are needed.
- The town should provide some support to dealing with unhoused people. Other than that, I don't feel that this is a town responsibility, and I have little faith our resources would be efficiently used.
- Such a large staff at the new location

Parks

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (28)

- There is no need for plants to be watered while it is raining (I have seen this many times). Flowers are nice but not if it means less money can be spent on essentials.
- would like to see more flowers and attention paid to the highway 16 corridor. love the murals. would like to see more attention paid to beautification in our community. more public art, a cohesive approach. just not the little "e's ". would also light to see more lights on trails and better efforts to keep homeless people off of the trail system.
- Edson does a fantastic job of looking after parks and recreation areas around town.
- I've notice the grass not being cut in multiple green spaces this year. The old hospital spot looks terrible. That's a perfect central location for a picnic area. It's sad driving down the highways and seeing all the businesses who get away with not landscaping, killing weeds, grass not cut, garbage everywhere. It makes us look terrible. And meanwhile they are making a profit despite looking like a dump.
- Parks does a great job!
- Budgets for parks seems excessive when roads and utilities are almost half.
- 1) Much of the walking path is rapidly deteriorating. Crack filling is very much needed and areas of the walking path needs to to be replaced. 2) I do not understand what is going on with the ball diamonds. All the money that has already been spent and going to be spent certainly, to me at least, has seen very little return. 3) Ponds. Why not clean the ponds and get the cat tails and sludge from the pond bottom out. Maybe even a few of the willows. They will all grow back. And the ponds then can do what they were meant to do and that was to collect water. Encroaching cat tails and willow and the accompanying sludge all take away from what the ponds were meant for.
- Has there been any though given to volunteers to assist in maintaining the Cemetery? As for the green spaces and lawn maintenance, was the remote control lawnmower the right choice? My observations thus far, it appears to cost and arm and a leg, it still requires someone to operate it, and it mows more slowly than a regular mower. Now if it were automatic, could be trained to a mowing area then

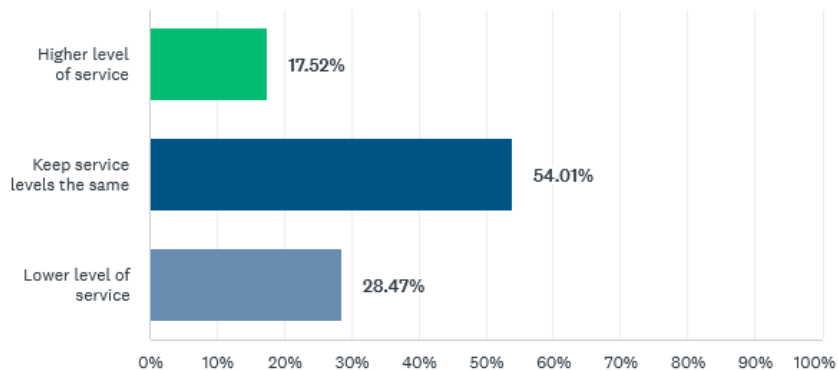
dropped off to mow while the employee weed eats, that would be different.

- Not a priority over security.
- Time to upgrade our parks and trails. Trail surface is failing. would love to see a disc golf course in town to utilize the green space.
- Why the skating loop, focus on the rinks in town (winter and summer) that are neglected, even nice new rink went to waste.
- The ball diamonds at kinsman park are a disaster, losing teams because of it.
- The town is doing an excellent job in the winter keeping the trails accessible and the parks all looked great this summer.
- In the current economic state some things need to be cut.
- Love the community flowers downtown. Would like to see more seating and places to visit downtown. Love centennial park it is a great showpiece. Would love to see more events and live music there.
- Keeping walking trails clear in the winter has been great - so many people use the walking trails all year around. Much cheaper than a multi-million dollar rec centre.
- More / better/ cleaner / more maintained playgrounds for kids.
- Love the trails, and park systems in Edson. Although there is a growing tent city (heavy drug use/users, and people with financial problems due to over taxation, and hyper immigration program being used to save big companies, and franchises on employee wages) problem here. I called to order food the other day from a franchise, and the employee could speak English, and didn't understand what a Quesadilla was.
- Definitely need more for what we invest in our town services. Seems like summer students are the only ones we see doing any work.
- Ball diamonds are not maintained to a decent level. Trails are unsafe with homeless camping in them. We should be developing and maintaining parks with the idea of hosting tournaments and other communities.
- We can't even get our bridges replaced on the trails. Why does it cost ~\$400,000 to replace a bridge?
- Considering Edson Minor Ball represented really well in provincials with all 3 travel teams brought home medals, would be really nice for if we could get some better Diamond so that the Edson Prospects could host Provincials, would have brought a lot of people into town and grow Baseball back to where it was years ago.
- Same amount of money but run more efficiently.
- Parks and trails used to look good and were maintained well. Last couple of years the quality has gone down.
- Routine maintenance on sports facilities and fields is very minimal. The tennis courts are in the worst shape they have ever been. Ball fields are being neglected. After spending money at the ball diamonds, next to no up keep have been done since.
- Cemetery maintenance needs improvement. Water pools in the spring in the SW section. Grass maintenance and topping up graves with dirt is below expectations.
- You really do need to start cutting the weeds out around the slide at Glenwood park instead of looking in your phone.
- I would like to see more activities and areas for families. Especially in the summertime. The winter trails are not well maintained.

Community Development

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (18)

- Save money.
- isn't this the same as FCSS? town of Edson events are great, but more effort needs to go in to talking about them before they happen. We follow the town of Edson facebook page and the community calendar, but these are often things left off. it would be nice to have a one stop place for local events.
- Edson does a great job of putting on events.
- This has improved over the years.
- the town should have more activities for kids, programs for development.
- If available, more communication of events. I unfortunately always know of the entertainment arriving at a certain establishment in town; a LED type community billboard would be a delight.
- I think the town is doing very well here. We don't attend many, but we do attend a few. I enjoy seeing that events are running. More of an effort should be made to allow for town income during these events.
- Great, well attended events in the past.
- Keep doing the events.
- In the current economic state some things need to be cut.
- Need more community events to bring the community together. Also more awareness events, events over the winter, and events for single people or a way to just meet more people within the community.
- This is what keeps me and my family engaged in town. Love the programming for littles, would love to see more teen programming.
- Exercise more corporate sponsorships when possible. Large events take the most taxpayer funds, for a select few.
- This sounds more like a volunteer style position and should require fundraising to maintain these activities.
- Unless there will be more community events we need to lower the cost.
- The town should lower the budget and these should be created/supported by

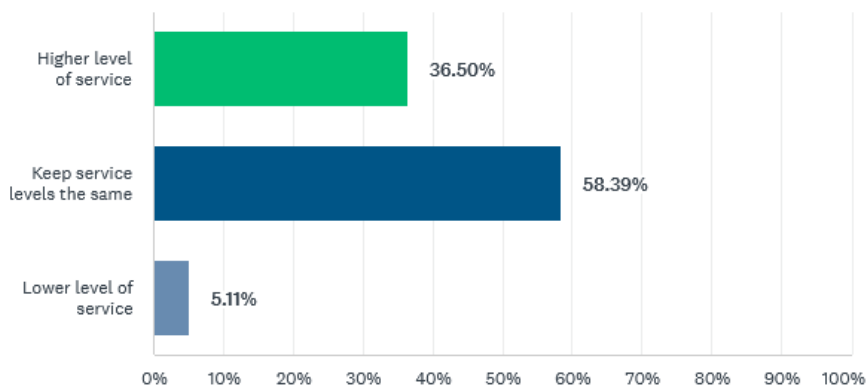
private sector and volunteer driven. These events if successful and the interest is there will continue and if no interest will fade away. The tax dollars should not prop up events and should be more focused on providing facilities that can support events and family activities.

- Does this include ball diamonds? If it doesn't we need to look at a better set up for the minor ball players in our community.
- I would like to see more events for families.

Edson and District Leisure Centre

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (31)

- Get the new facility built, what is the hold up. The town has hired management company/companies to get the show on the road yet nothing is happening!!! They are still being paid at who's expense?
- Would like to hear more about events. they did bouncy castles this year and it was great, but no one seemed to know about it until after. The new manager was very kind to my kids, she is very approachable and seems to have good ideas.
- Does this include the slow progress of the new leisure center. Seriously, how long does this have to take. Otherwise put in a new hot tub and pay for heat to be put on every day in the arena.
- with the improvements will be great.
- It would be very nice to have the new recreation facility.
- I think there can be a better managed facility here. Most specifically swim lessons. We finally gave up putting our children in swimming as we could only get in half the time. we opted to put them in the swim club instead.
- This is what will bring people to our town to spend money. Hockey tourny, swim meets, events.... this is where we get people to visit and or move to the town.
- Summer programming?
- Waterlines freeze in the dressing rooms, nothing is well maintained, ice is terrible.
- Hoping for the new multi-plex!

- We need this new rec centre. Would love to see multi use courts in the new design. Would love to have space to attend a concert or grad ceremony when the ice isn't in place. Management staff are very friendly, but seem to be very busy, maybe they need more support.
- Get after the multiplex. Make sure the gym makes the cut.
- Serious consideration and pre-planning NEEDS to be done for this facility and the user costs associated with it.
- Don't think we need to spend multi-millions on a new rec centre. Edson, like other small communities, has a declining population and priorities should reflect the increased aging demographics. There are less children, less kids in hockey, etc. Just maintain what is there.
- Indoor walking track would be nice for our harsh icy winters.
- New rec complex has been needed for decades, this town is embarrassing.
- These services bring people together. They are important.
- It would be really nice to have an indoor play area for little kids.
- Upkeep is important to keep these venues open for exercise, health and wellness for the communities children, especially, but all residents. This makes for a happier community.
- Should be user pay.
- Compare our public swim to Whitecourt's. Edson is terrible with very little public swim time. Hire more lifeguards.
- Build the new recreation center already. This has been going on way too long. Shovels were supposed to be in the ground this year and once again are being pushed to next year.
- The fact that this project STILL has not even begun is insane to me. we have been paying higher taxes and all of this money is wasted OVER AND OVER again on consultants and surveyors which from what i'm hearing are all friends of council
- We are just waiting for the new centre to be built, after being unnecessarily demolished in 20...16?
- Our rec complex is a joke, considering we have 8000 people in town and how many more in yellowhead county, go have a look at Athabasca with population of 2000 and see what they have, it is absolutely amazing. Whitecourt, another amazing facility
- The town is desperate for a proper recreation facility. This is a sore spot a many families and individuals will leave the town for the day and use other town's infrastructure. This means local community facilities are not supported and local businesses as well. The cost management and lack of response to failed facilities is terrible. For example, a replacement cost for the hot tub was touted at 400k, how can a temporary solution not be sourced and setup for 20-30k many people have hottubs at there house. Would it be perfect, no, but it is something. Swimming has short hours and on weekends during public swimming the pool is shut down in the afternoon for 45mins. Causing families limited flexibility and are discouraged to when they can go swimming. Others towns have a start and end time to public swim giving a wider range to when you can go providing more flexibility. The ice surfaces when, put in place and not booked should be open for public skating, the staff is there getting paid why do we limit the availability? Industry has continued to try and support the recreation facilities but has continued to be disappointed by lack of

progress, many town the recreation facilities is plastered with sponsors as having that brings people into town to support there industry. Whitecourt is a prime example. It is sad that no funds have been created from private investment on the naming rights to Edson leisure Center or the rinks, or pool or any parks. Small towns need amenities to attract people and private investment is key, it is to bad the town has seemed to ruin this trust. The new facility design has limited it revenue income by not having a spot for a restaurant/ lounge that can be leased from the town. This very attractive with the late night curling and hockey games for a restaurant owner as long as the town doesn't try to restrict the menu design etc. many communities have this it not only attracts people to the facility but also adds revenue to offset some of the cost of operating the facility.

- We need that new fieldhouse soon. It will help attract new professionals and be a positive site for youth and community.
- Could be run more efficiently.
- I've given up on seeing a new facility built. The price is now ridiculous and will only go up.
- Again a little routine and preventitive maintenance goes a long way.
- Obviously a hot tub would be great. But I know that's coming!

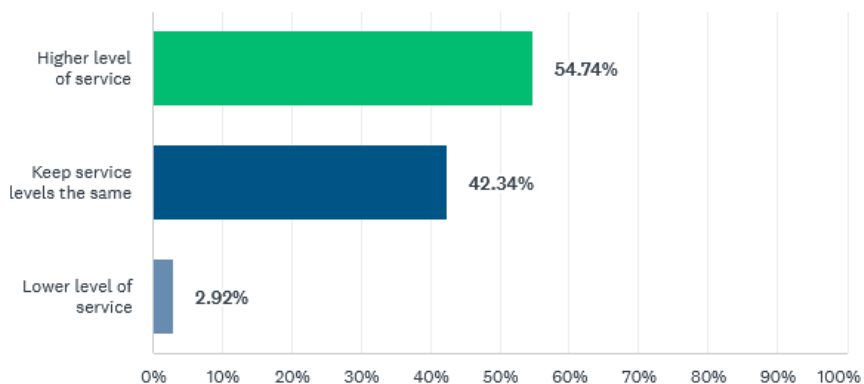
Infrastructure Services

This section covers Roads & Sidewalks/Snow Removal, Waste Collection and Landfill.

Roads and Sidewalks/Snow Removal

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (42)

- Everyone wants to see snow removal in their area immediately. I would like to see snow removal and street sweeping more than once a year in our cul-de-sac.
- Although I agree with the need for cleared snow from streets, there is no need to clear snow when it is melting in the spring. I have seen this happen. I think there needs to be more common sense decisions made in this area sometimes. I also think that street sweeping could be done once at the beginning of spring to clear

the sand and gravel from winter, but there is no need to continue throughout the summer. This money could be better spent elsewhere.

- Road and sidewalks are in rough shape. Over all welcoming look to the town is pretty sad. Want more pride and beauty brought to town.
- I would like to know what sidewalk other then the medical center, Edson town office are we paying for. With the amount of staff the city as why can't the be apart of employees job description.
- Worst place in Canada for snow clearing. Street sweepers spend 3hrs a day at the Sani dump. Get a better manager!
- The rec centre parkinglot was often not cleared as fast as other places in town. With all the traffic from hockey it would be good to see this get extra attention. Also interested to know when construction is going to impact our hockey schedule, we want the new rec centre but want to plan tournaments into the winter and can't seem to get straight answers on construction timelines.
- Edson does a horrible job of looking after our roads in town. Every pothole is a major accident waiting to happen when driving down our streets.
- Roads are a joke. The craters in town this summer are massive. If you're not going to fix them can you at least fill them with some gravel? Better yet why don't we just gravel some of these roads completely, like 1st ave. Unbelievable. This town has multiple sources of revenue, there is no reason I should break a rim driving into the Smity's parking lot. As for the snow removal, pay for shift differential and get people working during the night. It's ridiculous that the snow is being cleared on a main drag at 8am on a weekday. Also, remove the snow properly. 2 years ago, I was driving down six ave Ang caught a massive berm created by the snow removal, that my car turned and drove into the yard of an elderly couple. Crazy thing was, they said this wasn't the first time it happened and they also saw multiple people spin out in a circle at the 4 way. We still need more traffic lights. People try crossing the highway and it's super confusing for drivers whether or not they need to let them walk across.
- Particularly road maintenance. Gravel roads within town are unacceptable.
- The roads in town are gradually getting worse. There are sections in town that are terrible (8th Ave between 51st and 52nd St) Pick a few sections per year and rehabilitate them so the entire town is done in slow progression. Keep doing this in rotation so the roads are on a fixed repair cycle. I am willing to some extra tax to keep road in better repair.
- M.
- improve the roads on the main ave (4th and 2nd), as there are a lot of heavy equipment that is creating holes on the pavement.
- Where is the option for Utilities. My basement flooded multiple times and there needs to be an increase in budget allocated to correcting these issues. More money for flushing, capital upgrades, water and sewer repairs.
- Street sweeping needs to happen more often in the summer time as well as road maintenance. Pot holes and repairs are falling by the way side and should be looked into making all roads and alley ways paved to help reduce gravel tracked onto streets. As well we need to stop patching as this never seems to last and seems to be a make work project.
- I live on 50th street and with it being the main street it is strange for it not to be

cleared where the houses are but only businesses. I also would like to see snow PLOWS not just snow clearing. When it snows having a clear road is an essential first step but this town only has snow CLEARING which is something I have never seen in the dozens of towns and communities I have lived in including Northern Canada. I would like to see some tax money go towards a snow plow.

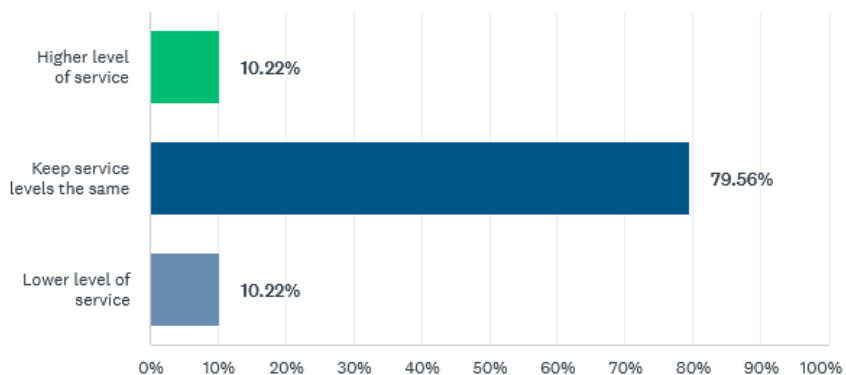
- Improvements can easily be made. 1) Some of the holes seem to never be repaired. Example the intersection at the United Church and the street leading down to 4th ave Past Mountain Steak. 2) Other holes around town don't seem to get filled. Does not take much other than a drive to see which ones. 3) Snow removal is too often. A 2 inch snow fall does not require removal. 4) Edson Drive snow removal should get a much higher priority. Also the road north and south of the the traffic circle by the hospital. These are important roads.
- It was embarrassing when the pavement from first avenue and returned to gravel. A very retro solution. I realize that all the services for road repair are expensive, but I believe that better bidding and tighter contracts with accountability is important.
- Would like to see functional sidewalks that runs the entire length of town. My father can not get to many areas because his mobility chair can't access sidewalks or there is none.
- The roads are atrocious. Makes me want to move out of area and I have lived here 25+ years.
- Keep improving year after year.
- Snow removal is a waste of money, big cities never do it on side roads.
- Roads in Edson are brutal and need more attention.
- We have long winters and no real public transportation. All of the roads and sidewalks should be drivable/walkable. I understand that the emergency routes take priority, but a skiff of snow on them can wait before they are plowed again. More attention needs to be put on schools and main street.
- Maybe plow 16 ave more then 3 times a year. It's not an ally when it's paved!
- I think safe roads in the winter should be a priority. More sanding when icy , completing snow clearing in school zones more quicker and earlier in the morning if necessary so that equipment is not in the way during school drop off.
- The amount of money spent on snow removal is ridiculous.
- It was a mild winter last year, hopefully we can add those savings on snow removal to this years budget. It could be a big winter this year.
- Planning ahead instead of consistantly proceeding on an emergency basis would be beneficial in order to increase service in this department without having to increase taxes.
- I felt the road & sidewalk removal was well done!
- For the same tax dollars. Which are already high.
- Second grader (owned/leased) to be used during high snowfall times.
- This is very much weather dependant. Although, enhanced drainage at the South end of town should not require too much effort.
- The same service should easily be maintained with fewer people.
- I pay a boat load in taxes and even with the new snow removal plans my culdesac got half done 1 time the grader doesn't even get down to pavement on out half of the culdesac.
- More snow removal and FIX THE ROADS.

- The snow removal is a joke, we pay for it but are lucky to see any streets or roads cleared more than once a year, and when cleared it is in worse shape after the before. Why even bother paying taxes if it cannot be done right. If the town cannot manage with a 24/7 operation why complete in house and contract the services out. The town needs to make a decision if their priorities is snow clearing or snow removal. Take a look at Newfoundland and the focus on snow clearing vs snow removal to help set priorities.
- I think infrastructure is doing a great job. There does appear to be some sidewalks that will need replacement in coming years but generally I think this is very good.
- Roads really need work.
- More efficient.
- Utilize the equipment you have. Stop wasting money every year on new equipment only to sell it for pennies on the dollar at auctions. Bought fancy equipment for sidewalk clearing only to hire a contractor the next year.
- The snow removal is a joke... you are constantly covering fire hydrants causing problems. The public works knows of this and doesn't follow up. Why am I doing their job??
- I think last winter we did an excellent job on snow removal. I live in neighbourhood with less snow removal and it was the best year with the most removal. I know how much snow falls also depends on the level of service. Keep up the great work.

Waste Collection

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Comments (26)

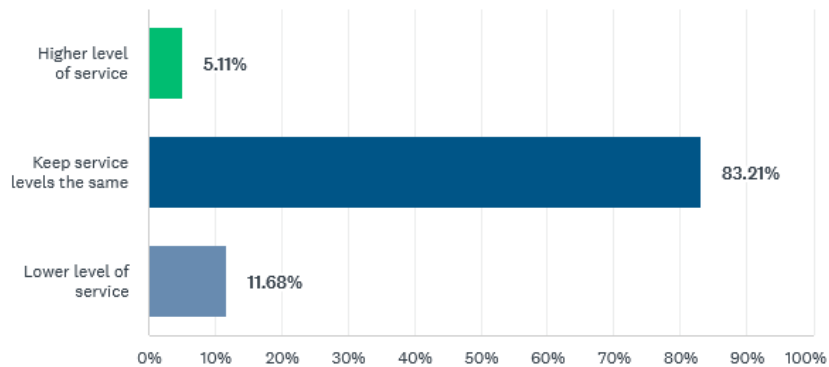
- Make the contracted provider more accountable. Have town staff pick up big waste in a more timely manner, it was very unsightly having it left curb side for several weeks.
- It should be bi weekly in the summer and 1 x a month in the winter.
- no issues.
- Good job on waste collection.
- Would love business waste collection.

- No complaints.
- I miss the lady that used to walk and collect all the garbage into the trucks but the GFL bins are better. Has thought been given to ticketing those or not picking garbage that is overflowing as per the Town of Edson guidelines?
- Blue bin program. The recycle program is eye sore, dirty, can't access due to first ave being in disrepair and the increased traffic of oil field haulers accessing the plant that was approved to be behind railroad track.
- I feel like organics could all be collected on one day similar to garbage. I don't understand why organics is picked up Monday- Friday and garbage is only Fridays. Even in the summer when it's weekly east could be Monday and west could be Tuesday.
- We need recycled paper, plastic and tin, bins or bags, house pick up like Whitecourt and other towns. Would have more households Recycling.
- Waste collection is fine, but the drivers are not great.... I understand that this is not the Town's responsibility. The drivers rush, forget blocks for pickup, toss garbage bins, do full gas then full break, and it's not that great.
- This service is a joke and only good for a single person and a family of 4 it not enough.
- Organics should be monthly during winter. Most of my neighbourhood isn't using the bi-monthly collect during winter. Spruce Grove is doing it that way.
- Would love to see a service where recycling is picked up.
- Organics collection every 3-4 weeks in winter.
- Recycling collection is needed.
- Weekly organic pickup is excellent, but with the Recycle center taking grass clippings, likely a luxury not needed.
- The problem here is bears love organic waste. Letting it sit too long promotes bear confrontations.
- Curbside recycling needed.
- Recycling would be huge, if we could just blue bag. This would reduce trash as convenience is what drives most people. But maybe more of a nice to have. The model could be looked at for snow removal.
- I do wish for curbside recycling but understand our current system ensures purchasing of our plastics and is likely the most cost effective.
- We appreciate the changes that have been made to this area.
- We need weekly waste collection YEAR ROUND!
- On the summertime I wish we would get garbage once a week as the smell is horrible for two weeks.

Landfill

Level of Service Change

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



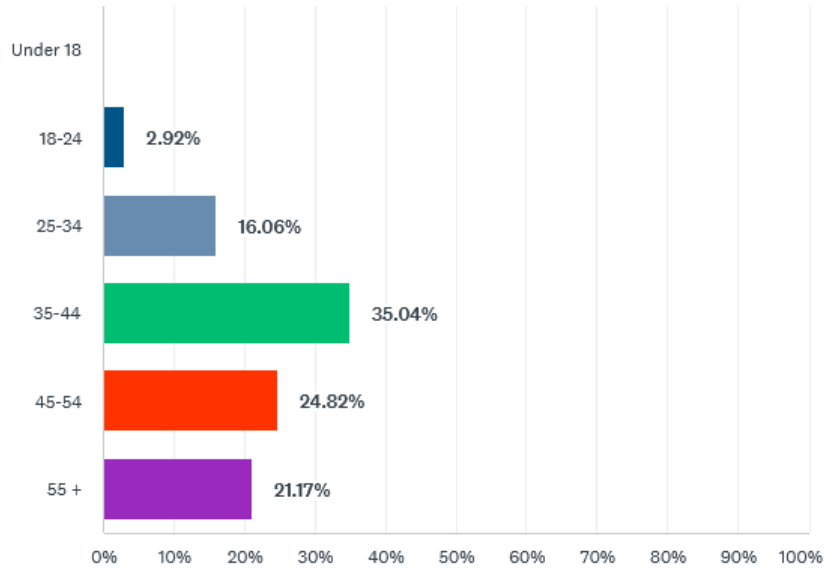
Comments (16)

- Prices are too high.
- Reduce winter hr to 3 days a week And Summer hr to 3 days a week and every other Saturday.
- \$10 minimum should be \$5.
- no issues.
- Edson has its hand out ripping off the taxpayers. 10\$ minimum just to drive across the scale and dump a bag of garbage is a joke.
- Never use it.
- Outrageous fees. Metal should be free, not a separate charge.
- Open on Sundays would be great.
- The service here is much improved over the last few years. I am disappointed at the cost. From what I have observed and paid, I see a lot of garbage being dumped elsewhere and not making it to the landfill. I believe the costs are too high for general waste.
- Charging for things like mattresses guarantees they get tossed out on rural side roads.
- In the summer, as a way to help people fire smart their homes, there should be in-town locations to drop off branches, stumps, old wood, etc. mulched then maybe sold back to the community. Or it can be used for other town projects.
- It's a joke. It's \$10 to take a single bag to the dump.
- I honestly maybe utilize the landfill once a year but think the service level is adequate.
- What does that even mean we pay to use the dump. Higher or lower level of service... makes no sense.
- Better weekend hours, when most people would use.
- Keep the services the same but change the days open. Frustrating not being open on a Sunday, I would think Sunday for many users would be useful the many others days of the week.

About the Participants

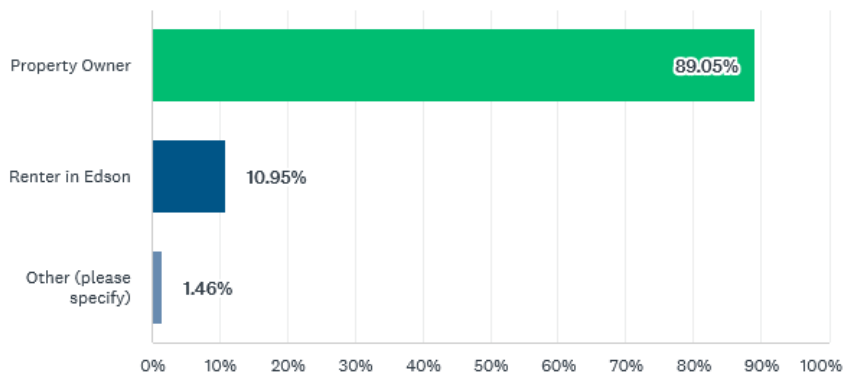
Age

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



Status in Edson

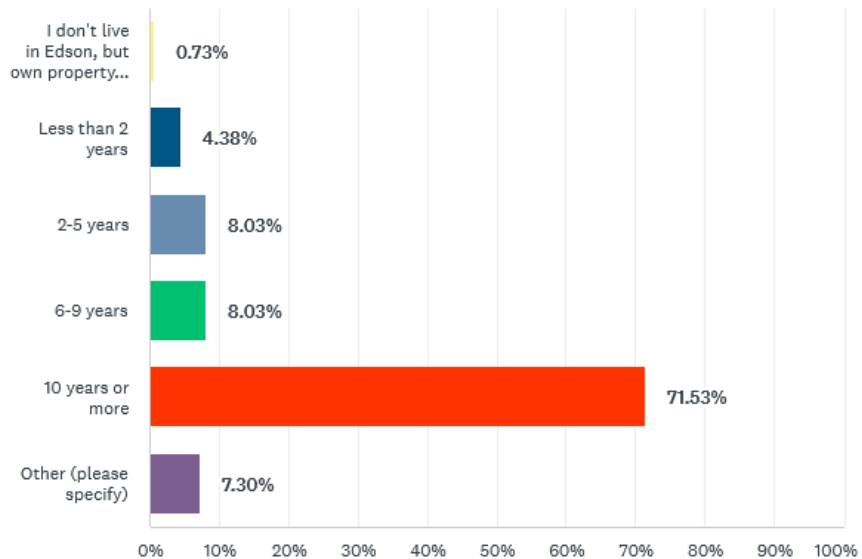
Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



****Others that were included indicated homeowner or business owner.***

Length of Residency

Answered: 137 Skipped: 0



General Feedback

Comments (37)

- Some attention on employee efficiencies and management would go a long way. In the summer do we need to water the flowers as much (I have witnessed the flowers on main street being watered and the water overflowing down main street). Do we need to weed eat the ditches in groups of 2-5 students as frequently? Can some of the drive time be lowered? Can more income be made by Bylaw Officers and Bylaw enforcement? Do we need as many management positions?
- Would like to see quality & value for the high taxes we already pay.
- Due to the infrastructure disaster in Edson, why I am paying the taxes I am? We are 10 years behind communities like Whitecourt that prioritize and have count support.
- The town must show something for its increase. In the past it feels like the any service added to the town has increased taxes (which makes sense) but also add fees to the homeowners on top of the increase.
- Keep taxes reasonable but the town faces inflation like we all do so I expect a small increase to keep the service.
- Perhaps reduce staff, esp. the high numbers of managers.
- Taxes are out of control for what we have in edson.
- It would be nice to have lower fees and taxes as some people may not have a lot of money but we still need the services, maybe the fees and taxes can be lowered while still getting the same services if the money could be found elsewhere in things the town doesn't need, or maybe reduce some services slightly.
- increase fees for pool, arena more to help pay for the new recreation center. I often hear parents comment on how affordable hockey registration is compared to other sports.

- My taxes are more than four times higher than when I bought my house, I feel like I'm extremely over taxed and need to return to the rate when I purchased my home.
- I do not feel we get over \$8000 worth of taxes and fees in municipal services through the year. The budget in this town is entirely mismanaged.
- Make the new recreation centre happen.
- Please advise where the industrial/commercial portion of taxes falls within this budget and/or why they aren't included in this survey. Businesses in our town should have a say where their tax dollars are spent as well.
- Residents and small businesses cannot afford any tax increases. We are losing too many of our small local businesses and people are struggling.
- You guys get enough Tax money if spent properly. Have a look at most towns surrounding edson for tips on how to do so.
- Town has been doing a good job with what to work with.
- The town is shrinking. We are not going to tax ourselves into growth and prosperity.
- Unfortunately, Canadians are suffering under extreme taxation. I believe it is the municipalities task to work against this constant increasing tax collection. We voted for you to help the community thrive, and going with the flow isn't your job. Making life affordable so the community flourishes is. The main street is dead.. . No support, but Walmart is thriving. Is this what you want Edson to become?? I think so reflection on why these positions were taken/given to municipality employees is needed... unfortunately these positions cannot not be worked for the paycheck. You have a bigger responsibility to the people you are caring for.
- A smaller tax increase is acceptable if we are getting more services.
- Easy cuts would be departments that should be Not for profit and have to fund raise for their budget. If they're unable to get community support, then do we really need them?
- Get rid of middle management. There are too many. There is a parks supervisor, manager, recreation manager, etc. all overseeing the same things. That is a lot of money wasted on services and programming.
- I don't feel we receive adequate services for the taxes we pay, as compared to other towns I've lived in.
- Taxes in this town are basically the same as Edmonton, should not be as town of edson is much smaller than the city.
- Reduce the exorbitant salaries that management now get, reduce the amount of managers in general and use the savings on actual projects.
- Not seeing a lot of services that add value.
- I struggle with this one a bit. I think I would like a really good internal review to try to identify administrative/other efficiencies before taxes increase or services decrease.
- Maintain taxes and offer more services.
- Business taxes need to be lowered. I pay an excessive amount of taxes for little to no service. Lucky if the road gets plowed once a year, no grass cutting in the ditches (which is town property). Just for highway frontage I guess we pay massive taxes.
- If the money from increased taxes is used properly, not wasted, then it is acceptable. Need to understand where the new funds go.
- We should not be paying any more. The roads are shocking and the pot holes are ridiculous. You should be looking for a solution not creating a problem.

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