

The Blue Mountains Asset Management Plan

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What is an Asset Management Plan?

An Asset Management Plan is a long-range plan to help us identify the cost to build infrastructure and when to repair or replace aging infrastructure. Infrastructure for us here in The Blue Mountains includes things such as roads, municipally-owned buildings, water and wastewater systems.

Why do we need an Asset Management Plan?

In recent years, our Council asked Staff to develop an Asset Management Plan so that we could make more cost-effective decisions about the replacement, repair, or building of infrastructure. An Asset Management Plan will help us figure out the best and most low-cost way to provide necessary and safe infrastructure for our residents.

Under this plan, we will be able to make better decisions about building, repairing or replacing infrastructure by considering the following factors:

- the preservation of our environment;
- the life cycle cost of an asset (the total cost of an asset over the course of its life, including the cost to buy, repair and maintain the item); and
- how best to renew, replace or build infrastructure in common locations, such as roads, curbs, gutters, streetlights, water and wastewater service on a particular street.

An Asset Management Plan is not required by law, but it makes good sense to have, to protect the environment and to be conscientious in our spending of taxpayers' dollars.

What are the major benefits of an Asset Management Plan?

An Asset Management Plan does many things including:

- Allowing for better decision-making by Council regarding allocation of the budget;
- Providing more consistently high-quality infrastructure for use by our community;
- Allowing us to develop long-term plans for the budget so that our taxpayers do not see big increases in taxation all at one time; and
- Reducing the total cost burden of assets over the course of their life (also known as 'lifecycle cost').

What is the Cost of an Asset Management Plan?

The plan itself does not cost anything. Staff at the Town developed the Plan. Consultants were not used. Where there will be cost is in the construction, repair or replacement of our infrastructure. But, this would happen in any event. That said, what this plan does is ensure the best timing and use of tax dollars for construction, repair or replacement of infrastructure. The plan is meant to help us save money in the long run and use taxpayers' money in the most effective way possible.