City releases preliminary flood risk maps
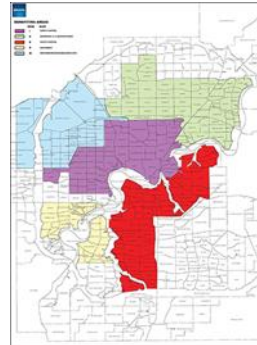
November 9, 2016

As part of an ongoing flood mitigation assessment, the City of Edmonton released preliminary neighbourhood flood maps today. The city-wide assessment was initiated in response to the 2012 floods and future planning for changing weather patterns and rainstorms. The assessment looked at 160 mature neighbourhoods, primarily built before 1989 and within the Anthony Henday ring road.

"The Edmonton of decades past had a much smaller population, with less demand on the system, and experienced different, less-severe rainstorms than we see today," said Chris Ward, branch manager of Utility Services for the City of Edmonton. "City staff have started a proactive study of urban flood mitigation measures so that we can be better prepared in the years ahead."

The maps are part of a larger technical review and proposal for infrastructure enhancements that will come forward to City Council for consideration. It is anticipated that infrastructure upgrades will be required to ensure neighbourhoods can deal with the increasing needs placed on our existing drainage system.

City administration will balance risk, cost and the likelihood of major rainstorms when presenting alternatives to Council in the second quarter of 2017. Coming forward will be a mitigation strategy with alternatives and cost estimates for consideration. Neighbourhood-specific recommendations and costs will be presented as appropriate strategies and programs are reviewed and developed. The City will continue to communicate to residents as program alternatives are developed and reviewed by Council.

The preliminary flood maps and additional information can be found at edmonton.ca/floodmitigation.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/floodmitigation

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