

Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

What We Heard Report



1. Introduction

Under Section 49.1 of *The Municipalities Act* and the RM's Division Boundary Alteration Policy, electoral divisions are required to remain as equal in population as reasonably practicable to ensure effective and appropriate representation.

Population data from the 2021 Census, released in 2022, indicated significant and ongoing demographic changes within the RM. As a result of these shifts, several divisions now exceed the policy's allowable 15% population variance, necessitating adjustments to restore population balance and maintain equitable representation. Council has thus directed Administration to initiate a comprehensive review of electoral division boundaries.

Public engagement is a foundational principle of the division boundary review process. In accordance with the RM's Division Boundary Alteration Policy, public input must be obtained through at least one open house and one public survey. The engagement process ensures transparency and provides residents with meaningful opportunities to participate in shaping proposed electoral boundary changes. This report summarizes the engagement activities undertaken and outlines the feedback received to support Council's consideration of potential electoral division boundary changes.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this engagement was to:

- Provide information about the Electoral Division Boundary Review, ensuring that residents understand the rationale, constraints, and guiding principles used in determining electoral boundaries.
- Provide an opportunity for ratepayers to ask questions and seek clarification about the review process and the proposed boundary options.
- Gather ratepayer perspectives on how electoral boundaries should be adjusted, documenting themes, concerns, and suggestions raised by participants to inform Council's decision-making.
- Collect feedback on the three potential boundary options prepared by Administration.
 - The guiding principles the three boundary options were created with are discussed in the **Methods** section.
- Support transparency and accountability by demonstrating that public input was actively sought and considered while fulfilling the public engagement requirements outlined in the RM's Division Boundary Alteration Policy.

Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

What We Heard Report



3. Methods

Following Council direction to review the electoral division boundaries, Administration prepared three (3) potential division boundary options for discussion and public feedback. As no explicit direction was provided by Council on how the review should proceed, the options were developed primarily for public feedback purposes and with the RM's Division Boundary Alteration Policy in mind. The two primary guiding principles in developing the options were:

- 1) Ensuring Balanced Populations Throughout 7 Divisions; while
- 2) Accounting for Future Growth

All proposed boundary alteration options, along with relevant background information, were made available for public review on March 20, 2026 on the RM's website and remained available for viewing throughout the engagement period.

Notice of the public engagement opportunities, including an open house and an online survey, was distributed by mail to all ratepayers. The notice, attached as **Appendix A**, provided information on the Electoral Division Boundary Review and outlined how to participate. The open house and survey were also advertised in the Quad Town Forum on March 20, 2026 and March 27, 2026, on the RM's website, through social media channels, and via Voyent! Alert

An Open House was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Approximately 35 individuals attended, along with several members of Council and Administration. The current electoral division boundaries and three potential boundary options (A, B, C) prepared by Administration were displayed at the event. Paper copies of the survey were also available for attendees who wished to complete the survey in person.

The online survey consisted of three to four questions and opened with a demographic eligibility question. Respondents were then asked to either:

- a) Indicate their preference among the three proposed boundary options
- b) Indicate whether they would prefer an alternative option
- c) Indicate whether they had no preference; or
- d) Indicate whether they were opposed to boundary changes.

Those indicating a preference for an alternative option were then invited to provide additional details. The final question provided space for any further comments for Council.

The survey was available from March 20 to April 15, 2026, for a total of 26 days. During this period, 173 online responses were received. Of these, seven respondents were deemed ineligible, and 17 responses were incomplete. Nine paper surveys were completed at the open house; however, one was incomplete and excluded from the results. The total number of completed and eligible survey responses included in the analysis is **157**. The full survey, as presented to respondents, is included as **Appendix B**.

Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

What We Heard Report



Following the Open House, Administration prepared a fourth boundary option (Option D) in response to public feedback received. This option considered reducing electoral divisions by 1 and creating divisions around the concept of “communities of interest” (2 country residential divisions, 2 urban divisions, and 2 rural divisions). Option D was subsequently posted on the RM’s website alongside the original three options. As the survey could not be amended after launch, respondents were advised to select the “alternative option” response and specify Option D within the comment field if they wished to indicate support.

4. Key Takeaways

- Emerald Park residents overwhelmingly favour Option D, feel they are not adequately represented by other options.
- Of the other three potential boundary options presented there emerged no obvious favourite.
- There is a general preference to group “communities of interest” together (i.e. separate urban and rural areas), although some ratepayers would prefer to instead mix urban and rural areas together. Both parties are concerned about the dichotomy between the urban and rural portions of the RM.
- Some rural residents are concerned about the favouring of urban populations, and loss of a rural voice as a result of boundary alterations.

5. Summary of Feedback Received

Open House Feedback

The following is a summary of the feedback received during the Open House held on April 1, 2026.

- Attendees were somewhat split between those who preferred boundaries that keep the urban and rural portions of the community separate, and those who would prefer boundaries that would mix the two.
 - Those who preferred that urban and rural area be in separate divisions spoke of a “communities of interest” approach, or of a 6-division model as proposed by community members.
- Some attendees liked Option A’s straight cut boundaries, while others did not feel it best represented the reality of the area.
- Some attendees commented they liked the aspects of Options B and C that grouped country residential estates together, others did not like the use of a Highway 48 as a dividing line in Option B, or the abnormal boundaries of Option C.
- Some attendees expressed that they were opposed to the separation of Woods Crescent, St. Andrew’s Bay and Hogan Place from their current divisions.
- In general, many attendees felt that the three options presented were similar and/or expressed no clear favourite.

Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

What We Heard Report

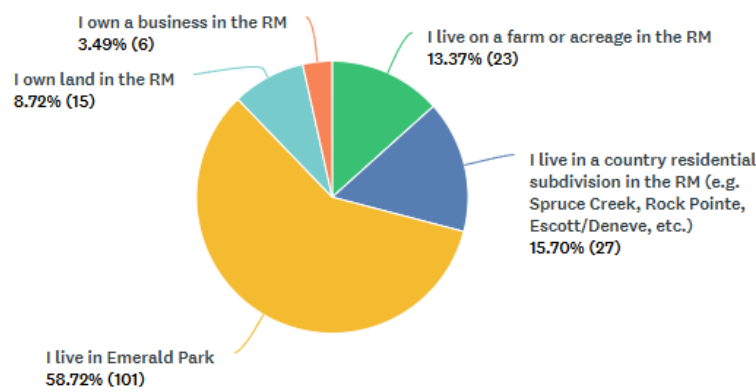


Survey Feedback

The following is a summary of the results received for each survey question. Written responses and responses to questions 3 & 4 have been grouped by theme / sentiment and may not account for all responses.

Question 1: Tell us who you are! (select all that fit). (Qualifying responses: 157)

Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers.

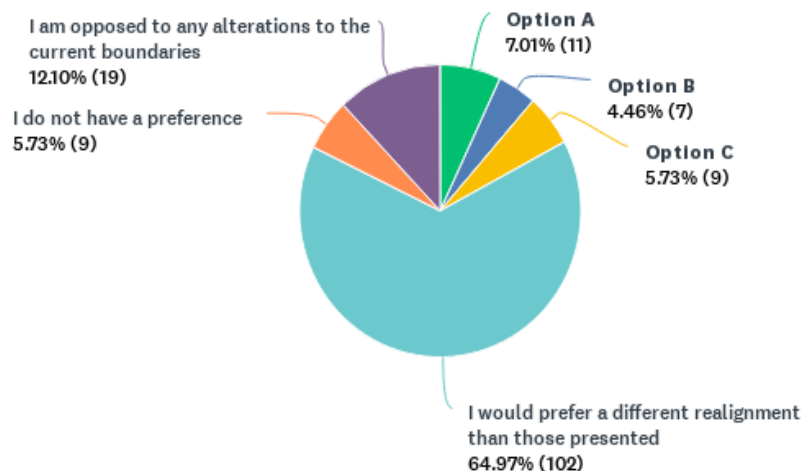


The majority (58.72%) of respondents were Emerald Park residents.

Question 2: Which of the proposed boundary alteration options do you prefer? (Qualifying responses: 157)

The majority (64.97%) of respondents indicated they would prefer alternate boundaries to those presented. Out of the three presented options A was the most popular.

All Respondents

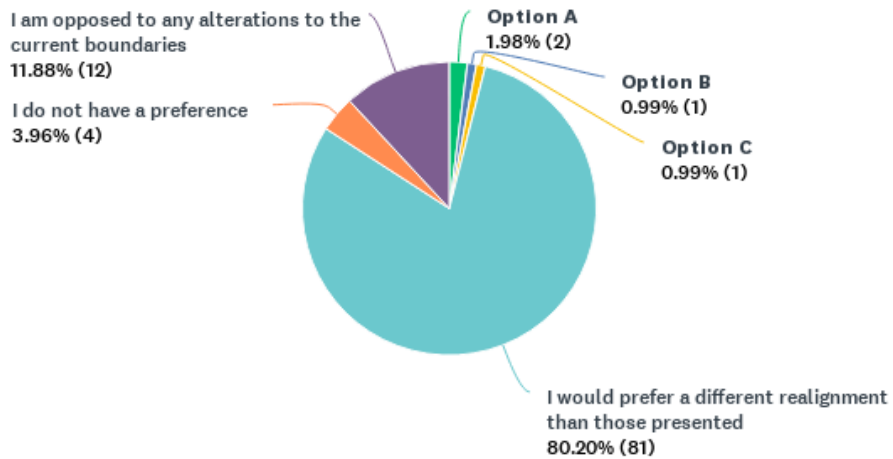


Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

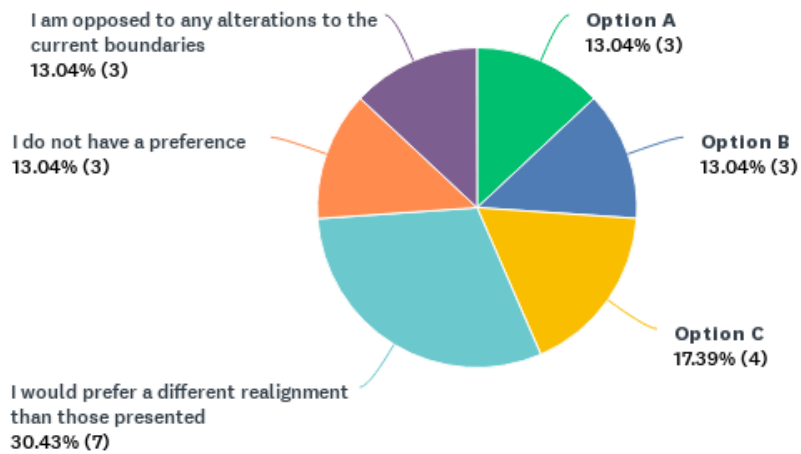
What We Heard Report



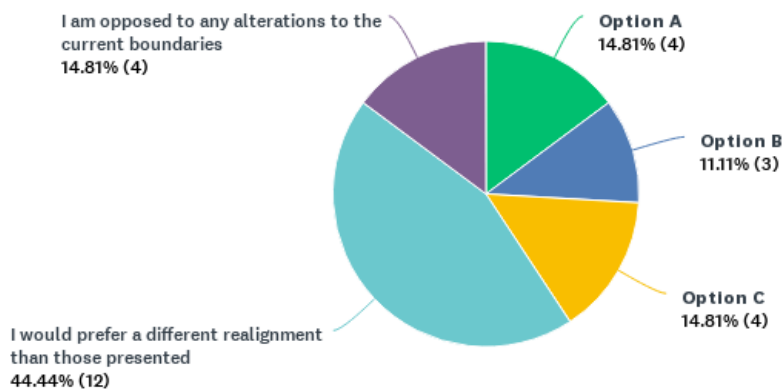
Emerald Park Respondents



Farm/Acreage Respondents



Country Residential Respondents



Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

What We Heard Report



Emerald Park residents overwhelmingly favour an alternative boundary option. However, despite claims that they are currently underrepresented 12 also indicated they would prefer to see the boundaries remain the same.

Respondents that indicated they resided on a country residential acreage or farm were more split, but most still preferred an alternative to the three initial options presented.

Question 3: Please describe how you would modify either the existing divisional boundaries or one of the proposed division boundary options. (Qualifying responses: 93)

This question was only shown to those who selected 'I would prefer a different realignment than those presented' as a response to the previous question.

The majority of responses (66 responses, 70.97%) expressed support for **Option D**, which was introduced later in the consultation process, or described a substantially similar boundary configuration involving six councillors. Many of these respondents emphasized a preference for maintaining separation between urban and rural populations and identified potential cost savings associated with a reduced number of councillors.

In addition to those supporting Option D, 16 respondents expressed a desire for increased representation for the Emerald Park area. Of these:

- 1 respondent suggested expanding Council to eight members, with three councillors representing Emerald Park;
- 1 respondent suggested combining a portion of Emerald Park with part of the existing Division 4.

Other individual suggestions included:

- 1 respondent advocating for mixing urban and rural voters by dividing Emerald Park into quarters
- 1 respondent suggesting moving the proposed Division 5 boundary further north

Question 4: Are there any other comments you would like to provide to Council regarding this manner? (Qualifying responses: 76).

24 respondents emphasized the need for greater consideration of, or increased representation for, the RM's urban areas, particularly Emerald Park. These respondents were primarily residents of Emerald Park.

12 respondents reiterated or expanded on their responses to Question 3 under this question; all expressed support for Option D.

9 respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining communities of interest, particularly keeping urban and rural areas separate. Of these:

Electoral Divisional Boundary Alteration

What We Heard Report



- **2** respondents indicated support for Option B for this reason
- **4** respondents expressed concerns that rural councillors should not represent urban areas (and vice versa), citing the potential for conflict arising from competing interests.

12 respondents made general statements encouraging Council to “listen to taxpayers”.

3 respondents, all identifying as living on a farm or acreage, expressing concerns related to rural representation.

3 respondents raised concerns about the public consultation process, including a desire for earlier or expanded notice.

2 respondents referenced potential tax savings associated with Option D or reducing the number of divisions from 7 to 6.

2 respondents expressed disagreement with population-based boundary determinations, indicating a lack of awareness of legislative requirements.

2 respondents encouraged Council to consider projected future growth to minimize the need for further boundary alterations.

2 respondents commented on concerns related to high-density development or making the community “more like a city”.

1 respondent suggested boundary options that would minimize the need for by-elections and expressing concern that Highway 48 does not reflect community boundaries.

Appendices

Appendix A – Public Notice

Appendix B – Divisional Boundary Alteration Survey

PUBLIC NOTICE

Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Public Open House & Ratepayer Survey

The Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 (RM) is conducting a review of all electoral divisional boundaries and invites RM ratepayers to participate through both an open house and/or an online survey.

Why a Review Is Being Conducted

Under Section 49.1 of *The Municipalities Act* and the RM's *Division Boundary Alteration Policy*, electoral divisions must remain as equal in population as reasonably practicable.

The 2021 Census population counts were released in 2022. Council has directed Administration to initiate the review in response to significant and ongoing population changes. Several divisions now fall outside the policy's 15% population variance, requiring updates to ensure fair and effective representation.

Public Open House

- Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026
- Time: 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Location: Municipal Council Chambers, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park SK

At the open house, ratepayers will have the opportunity to learn about current population imbalances, review proposed boundary options, and ask questions.

Ratepayer Survey

An online survey is available to collect feedback from ratepayers. Your responses will help guide Council's decision on setting new division boundaries.

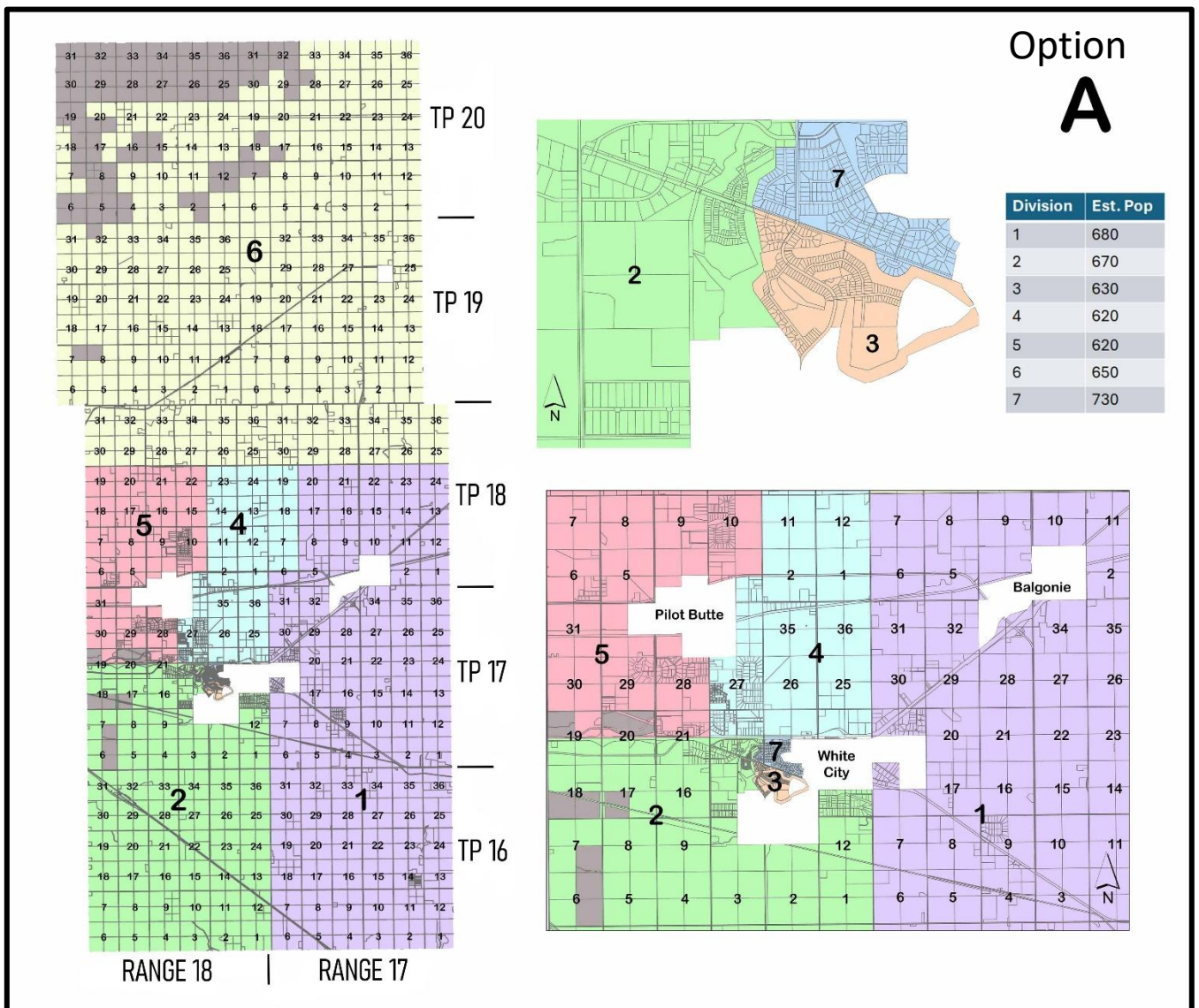
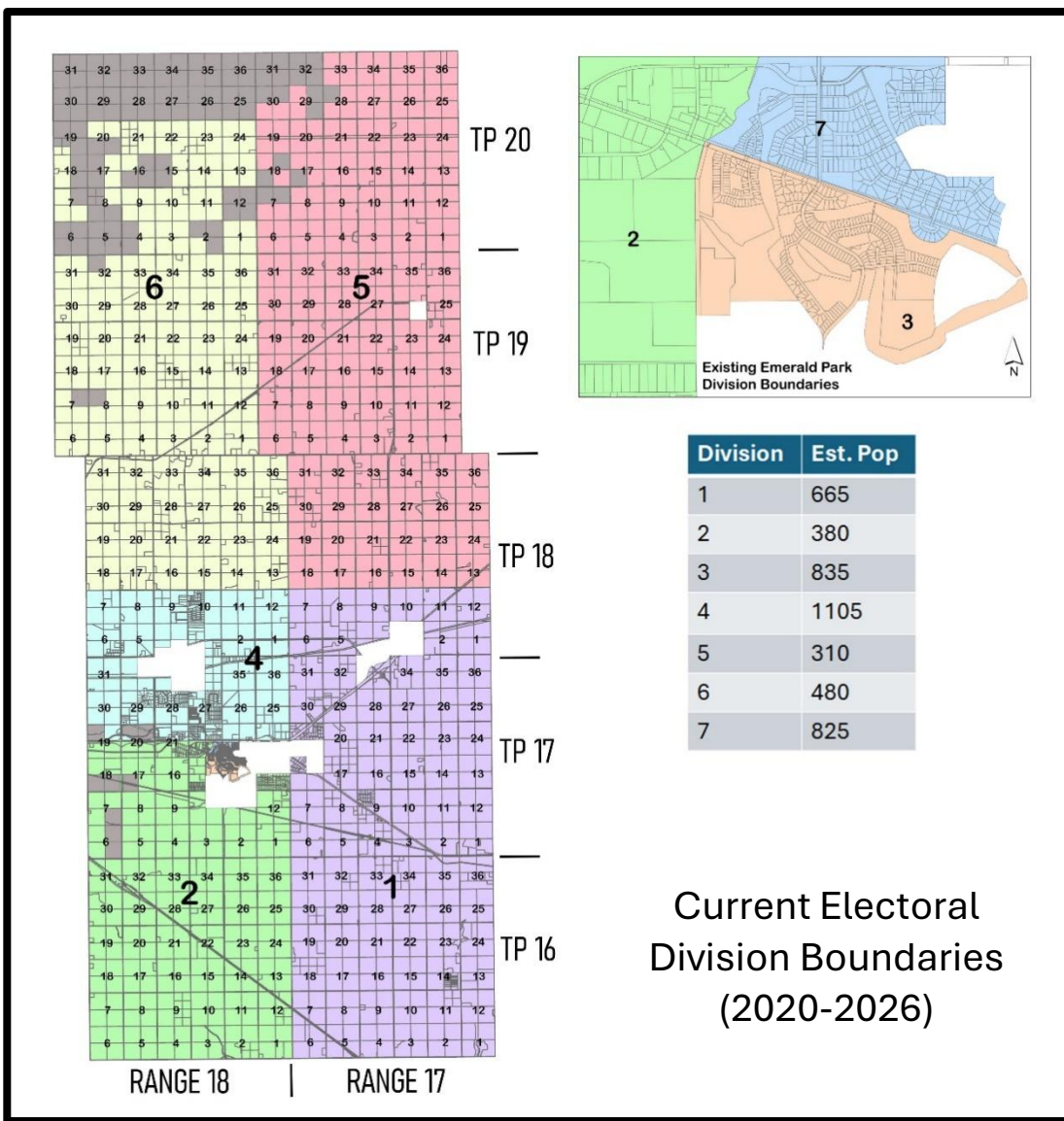
Scan the QR code to access the online survey or visit <https://rmedenwold.ca> for a larger version of the proposed boundary maps, online survey link, and background information.



Your participation is important. Council encourages all RM ratepayers to attend the open house, learn more about the process and provide their feedback.

Dated this 20th day of March, 2026.

Shauna Bzdel
Chief Administrative Officer

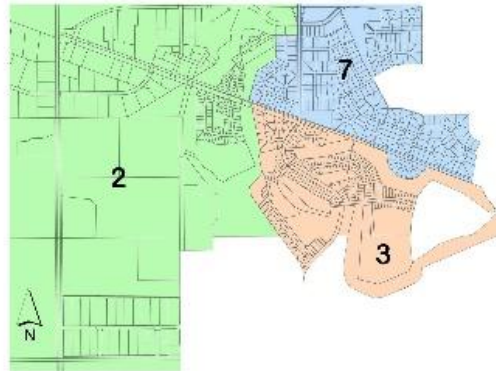
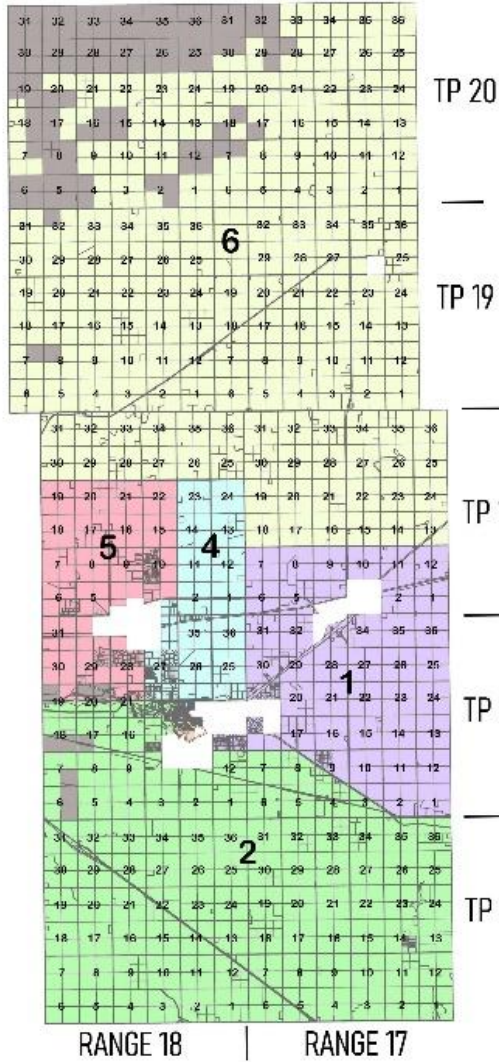


See reverse for additional maps...

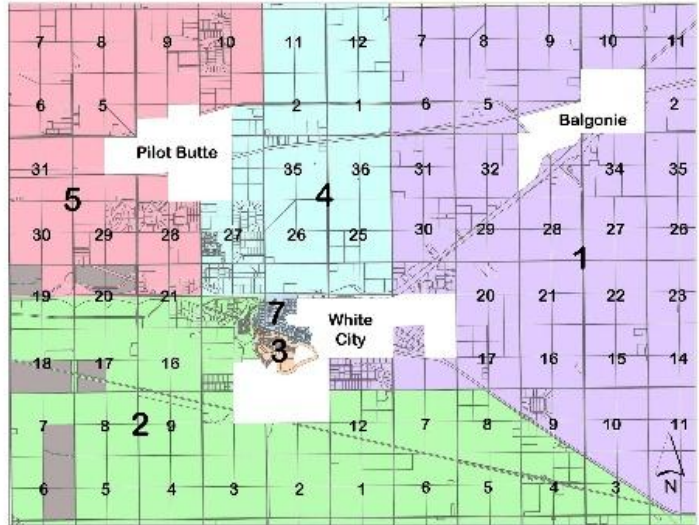
Digital Maps can be Found at:
rmedenwold.ca/divisional-boundaries

100 Hutchence Road
 Emerald Park, Saskatchewan S4L 1C6
 Phone: 306-771-2522 | Fax: 306-347-2970
 info@edenwold-sk.ca | www.rmedenwold.ca

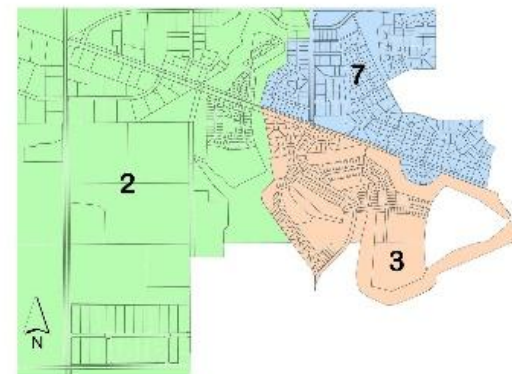
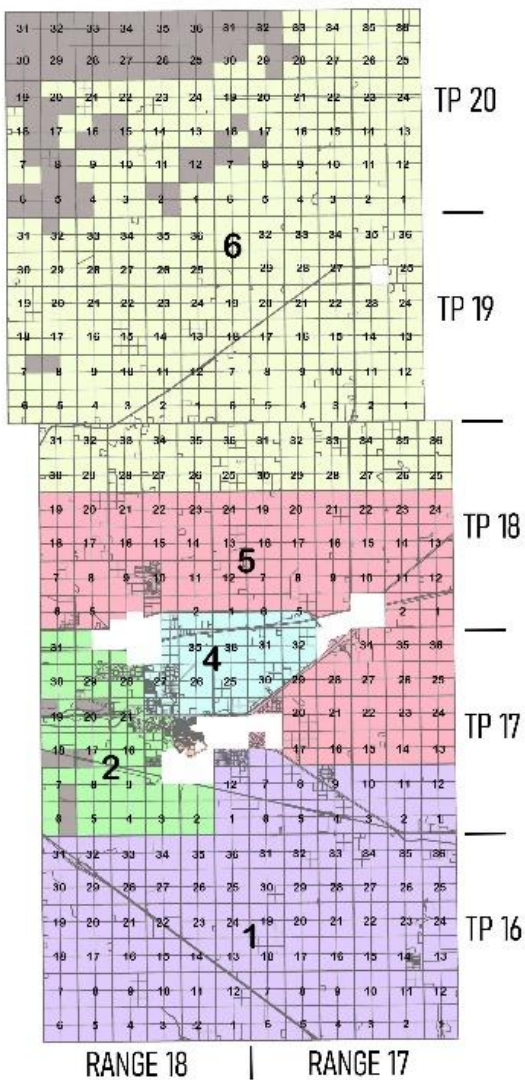
Option B



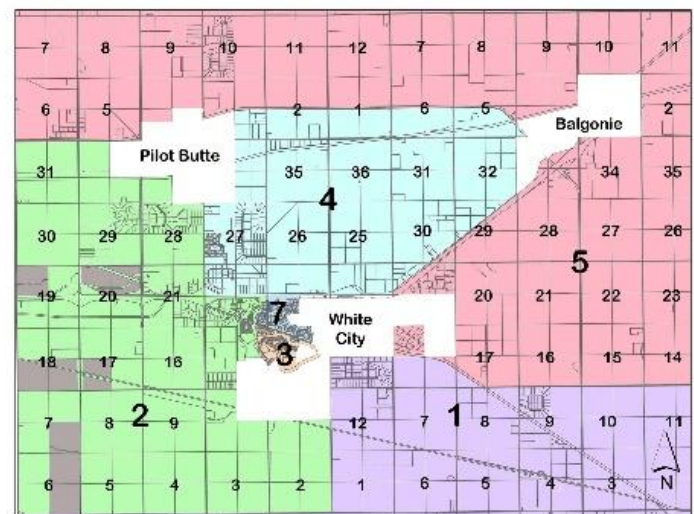
Division	Est. Pop
1	675
2	660
3	630
4	600
5	620
6	685
7	730



Option C



Division	Est. Pop
1	635
2	655
3	630
4	630
5	670
6	650
7	730





2026 Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Survey

The R.M. of Edenwold No. 158 is undertaking a review of all electoral divisional boundaries in accordance with Section 49.1 of The Municipalities Act and the RM's Division Boundary Alteration Policy.

This survey is designed to gather community feedback on the proposed electoral divisional boundary alteration. We've included three draft boundary options for ratepayers to review and provide feedback on. The feedback will help to inform Council's decision on setting new division boundaries. We appreciate your time and input as we work to ensure our divisions reflect our growing and changing community.

To learn more about the proposed boundary changes and the impact they will have on the upcoming fall election please visit our website at: rmedenwold.ca/divisional-boundaries.

* 1. Tell us who you are! (select all that fit)

- I live on a farm or acreage in the RM
- I live in a country residential subdivision in the RM (e.g. Spruce Creek, Rock Pointe, Escott/Deneve, etc.)
- I live in Emerald Park
- I own land in the RM
- I own a business in the RM
- None of the above



2026 Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Survey

You have indicated that you are neither a resident nor a property owner within the RM of Edenwold. As electoral division boundaries apply primarily to eligible voters, this survey is intended specifically for those who meet that criteria. As a result, you are unable to complete the survey.

If you are curious about the proposed divisional boundary options they can be viewed on our website at: [rmedenwold.ca/divisional-boundaries](https://www.rmedenwold.ca/divisional-boundaries)

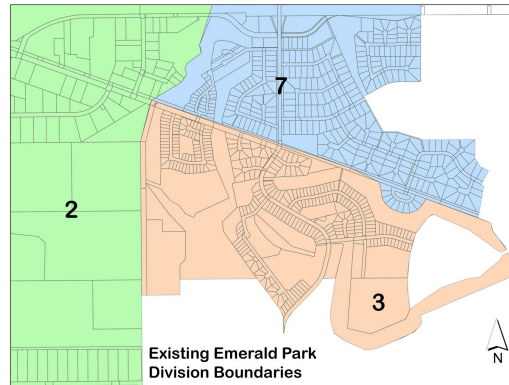
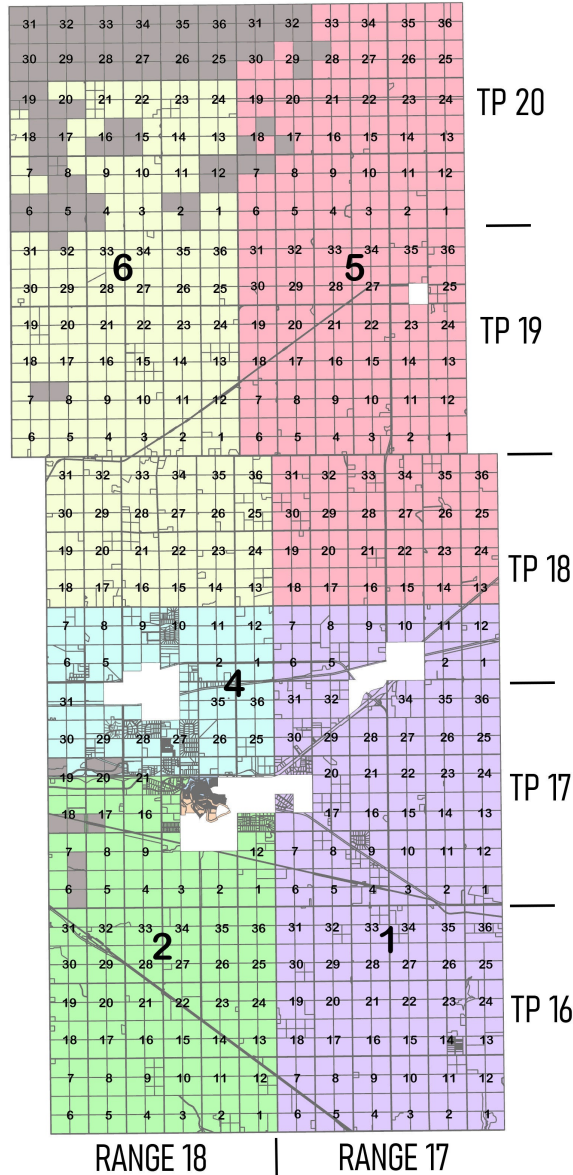
The RM values the perspectives of all community members, and we encourage you to follow our website and social media channels for other opportunities to share your feedback and participate in future community engagement initiatives.

Thank you!

This page was only displayed if the respondent selected "None of the above" in response to Question 1.

2026 Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Survey

The image below shows the current divisional boundaries, and their estimated populations.

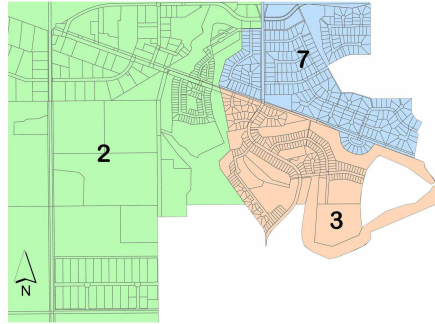
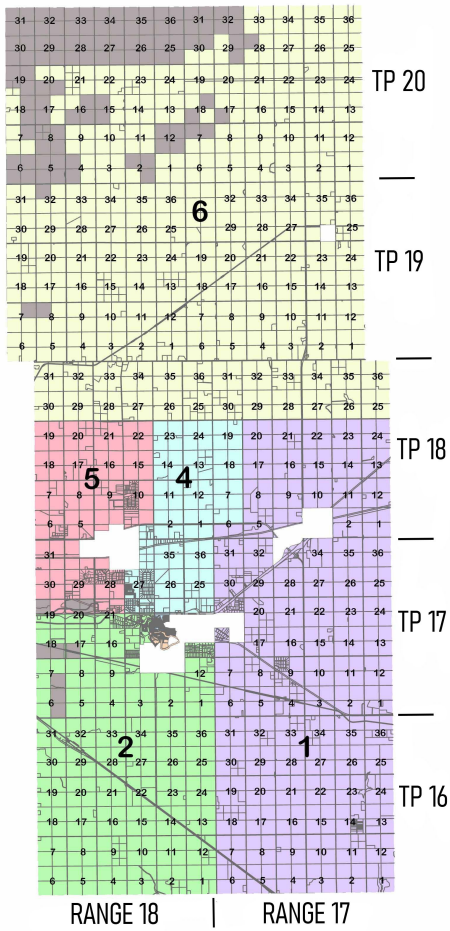


Division	Est. Pop
1	665
2	380
3	835
4	1105
5	310
6	480
7	825

* 2. Which of the proposed boundary alteration options do you prefer?

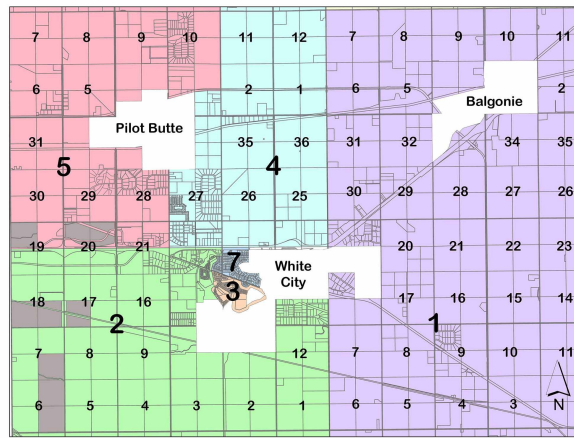
(scroll to see all options)

Option A

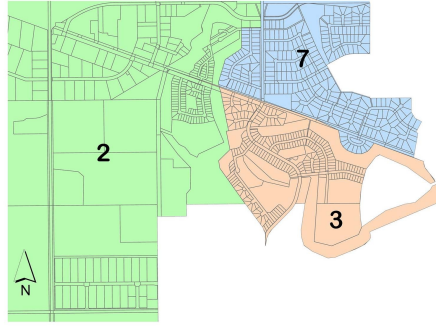
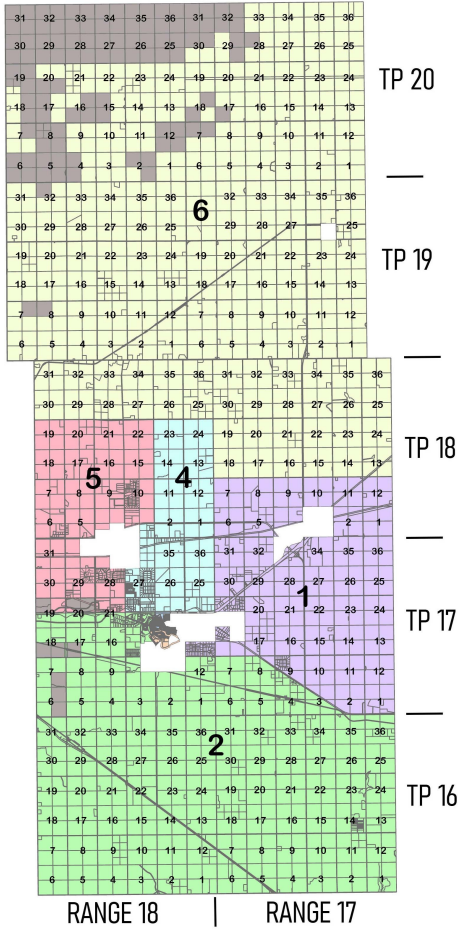


Division	Est. Po
1	680
2	670
3	630
4	620
5	620
6	650
7	730

A

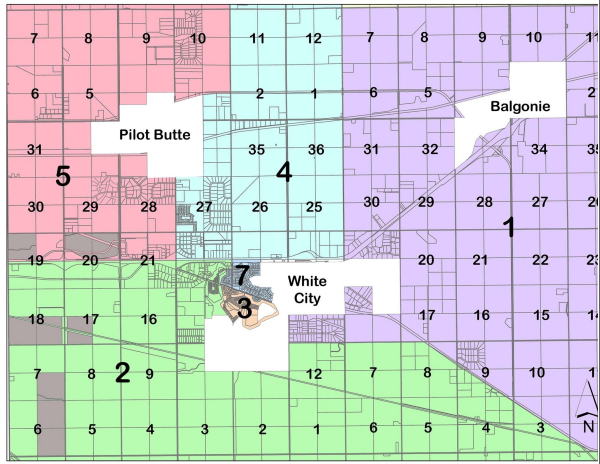


○ Option B

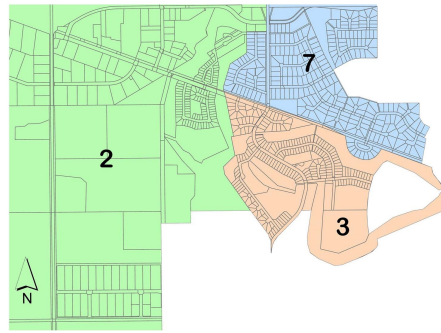
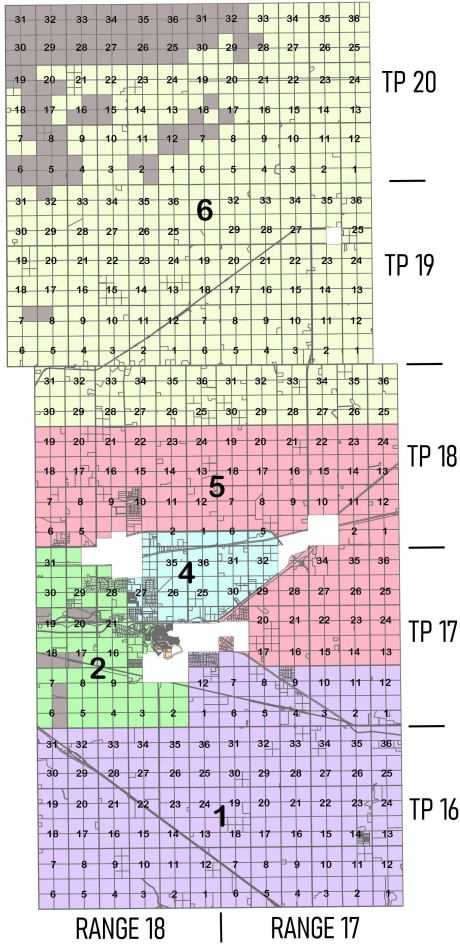


B

Division	Est. P
1	675
2	660
3	630
4	600
5	620
6	685
7	730

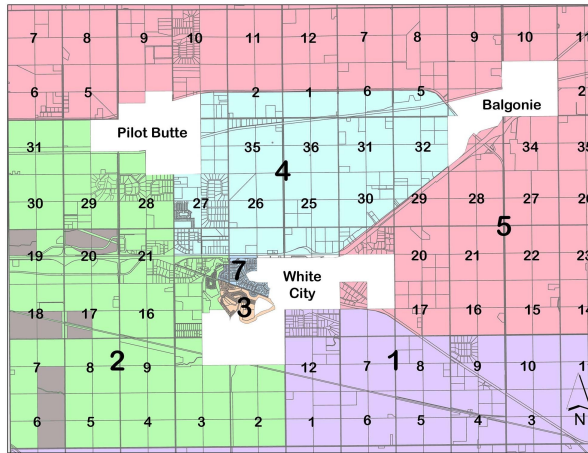


Option C



C

Division	Est.
1	635
2	655
3	630
4	630
5	670
6	650
7	730



- I would prefer a different realignment than those presented
- I do not have a preference
- I am opposed to any alterations to the current boundaries



2026 Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Survey

3. Please describe how you would modify either the existing divisional boundaries or one of the proposed division boundary options.

(e.g. I would modify Option C by moving Escott/Deneve from Division 5 to Division 1).



2026 Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Survey

4. Are there any other comments you would like to provide to Council regarding this manner? (If no leave this box blank)



2026 Electoral Divisional Boundary Review Survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your input is important and will help guide the review of our electoral division boundaries.

We invite you to join us at our upcoming open house, where we will share additional information and gather further community feedback:

Open House

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: RM Municipal Office, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, SK