Community Profile

Municipal/County Name	Foremost	Contact Name	Marilynn Hirsche
		Email	vlg4most@telusplanet.net
Date	December 2023	Phone Number	403-867-3733

Give an overview of your region (150-200 words)

Welcome to the Village of Foremost, Alberta, where community-minded values, ambition, and enterprising spirit converge to create a welcoming haven in the heart of the prairies. This close-knit community thrives on a shared commitment to fostering connections, and its residents embody the ambition to build a future filled with prosperity and camaraderie. With a population of 553 people, this village is small but mighty as its location is tucked away in Southeast Alberta between Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Coutts.

With a dedication to cleanliness and friendliness, Foremost stands as a testament to the collective efforts of its residents to create a welcoming and visually appealing atmosphere. The streets are not only tidy but also filled with the warmth of friendly faces, reflecting the genuine sense of hospitality that defines this village.

Sectors

What sectors are you most competitive for and why?

1. Agriculture- due to the surrounding farming community, the village naturally lends itself to providing support and resources.
2. Energy
   Oil & Gas- historically has been a strong sector but is starting to wane.
   Renewables- due to the large tracts of land there is potential for this sector to continue to grow.

What is your value proposition?

Join us in Foremost, where the community's heart beats with a passion for progress, an enterprising spirit, and a dedication to keeping our surroundings clean and friendly. Potential opportunities exist in supporting the ag and energy sectors while also providing opportunity to enhance supports with a grocery store and gas station. As you explore the village, you will discover a place where shared ambitions and an intense sense of community-mindedness create an environment that feels like home from the moment you arrive.

Costs of Doing Business

Tax rates

General Municipal Rate: 12.5934 and it has been stable

Land Costs per acre (average)

$135/front foot, $15-25K/lot (commercial)

Real estate costs per sq. ft (average)

$26-48,500K for residential lots.

Incentives or cost advantages (if any)

No formal incentive, but Council is open to conversation and case by case scenarios

Other

Ease of Doing Business

What supports do you bring for new businesses (try to be specific)?

With a strong Chamber of Commerce, promotion through the Village's communication channels, and a concierge service for business, the attitude is open and welcoming to support business.

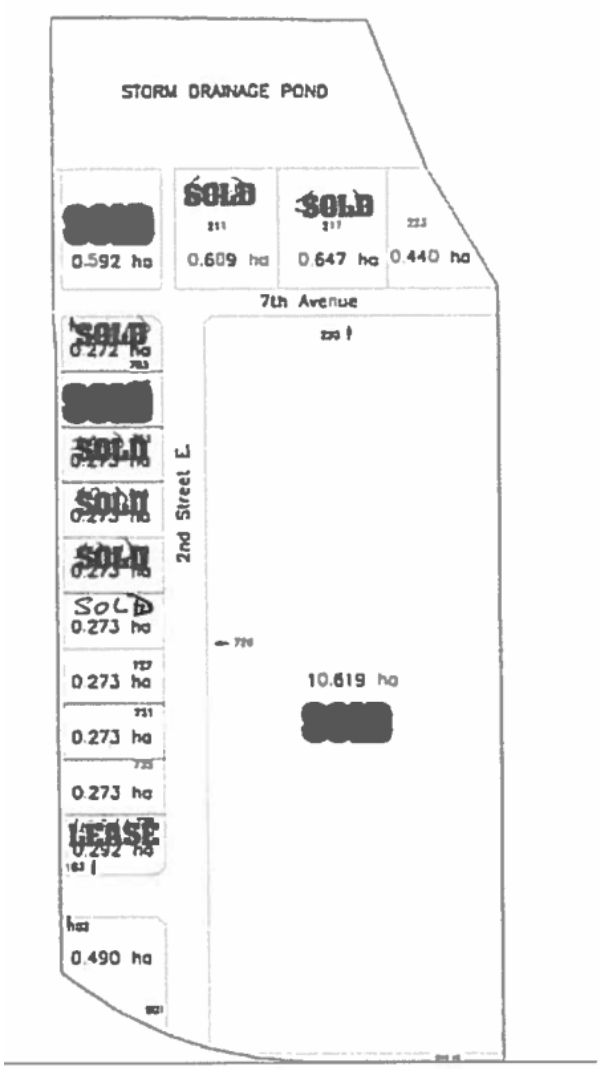
Are there major transport access (road, rail, air)

Rail: Cooperatively owned spur line for access to CPKC by community investors.
Road: Highway 879 (N/S), Highway 61 (E/W), the ability to connect up to Highway 3, 4, and 36 which

are major trade corridors is quite easy.

Describe the business culture in the community
In Foremost, the spirit of entrepreneurship is alive and well, as residents actively pursue ventures that contribute to the town's growth and vibrancy. The community focuses on cultivating an environment where innovation and forward-thinking initiatives are not only encouraged but celebrated as integral components of its identity with family-owned businesses that are welcoming.
How do you make new businesses feel welcomed? Feel supported?
With the ability to connect via the Chamber of Commerce, numerous community events to help promote their business, as well as the small-town feel, businesses are embraced quickly in the village
Who is the point of contact for inquiries?
Marilynn Hirsche
Speed of Doing Business
What are the permitting & zoning timelines?
Permitted: 1 day Discretionary: 2-3 Days
Is the point of contact for inquiries familiar with land use planning, development approvals and the building process?
Yes
Talent
What does your talent pipeline look like? How do you attract talent? What is the affordability look like (e.g., Average housing costs)
With a labour force of around 250 people, the village relies on recruiting from the neighboring rural area as well as drawing from Burdett, Milk River, and other small towns. Steady enrollment in schools provides stability for youth employment. Recruitment of foreign workers is necessary to help ensure steady labour. With a below average housing price, people want to move here because their dollar goes further, and the community stands together.
Is there access to post-secondary or training programs offered?
Closest is in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge
What are the stats about the local workforce?
Regional Dashboard: Couple Families Income median is $126,000, 250 labour force with a 63% participation rate and 0% unemployment. Stats Canada Census: 57.9% population is between 15-64 years with an average age of 36.8
How do you retain talent? What is the quality of life like in your community? (schools, recreation etc.) How do you ensure new residents feel welcome?
Foremost is easy to call home as they have schools for all ages, a strong sense of community, and due to their geographical location, amenities that are typically not seen in small villages. With a school, ice arena, pool/splash park, golf club, campground, rodeo grounds, and strong service clubs, the ability to immerse yourself in the village is quite accessible for all.
ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) + DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) ESG compliance and disclosure are top drivers of investor trust as there is a growing awareness that communities, companies, government etc. have the responsibility and resources to accomplish positive climate action and build a more sustainable and resilient future.
What are the environmental, sustainability or emission reduction initiatives in your community?
While no formal strategies are in place, the community has begun to look at how they can increase their ESG rankings.
What are the DEI initiatives in your community?
Equity is inherent within the municipality as we see a high percentage of female leadership within the administration. Upgrades to infrastructure to improve accessibility for all are underway as well.
Other
Are there any other aspects that make your community unique?
Foremost's uniqueness lies in its strong sense of community, ambitious spirit, commitment to cleanliness, and friendliness. The village is not just a location; it's a dynamic and supportive community that values innovation and embraces the essence of rural living.
Include any relevant maps or photos of investment ready sites

Industrial Park Lots Available



VILLAGE OF Foremost

It starts here!