



WEST ROSSDALE ROADS & PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS HISTORICAL RESOURCES FAQ

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The City of Edmonton is preparing for the next phase of the West Rosssdale Urban Development Plan (UDP): the West Rosssdale Arterial Roads and Public Realm Improvements Project. The project team is sharing their plans and welcomes public feedback. Please visit the website at edmonton.ca/westrossdaleroad to learn more about the City's vision for this important initiative.

1. **What is the historical significance of the area of West Rosssdale where the roadways and landscaping will be located?**

For many years, the area of West Rosssdale has been considered a location of significant cultural resource concern and is the focus of community identity and collective heritage by many people in and beyond the City of Edmonton. The north bank area known as Rosssdale Flats has particular significance as it is the location of the archaeological site FjPi-63 which includes the Rosssdale Generating Station, early versions of Fort Edmonton, and the Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds. The latter includes a memory circle, re-interment area and a historic period graveyard.

Prehistoric period artifacts in isolation and as discrete scatters have been previously identified within the project area and, as part of the Waltherdale Bridge project; additional sites were identified on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River.

All cultural resource sites are subject to management and possible mitigation measures as per the provincial Historical Resource Act, such as site-specific archaeological excavations as required.

Historical Resource Act clearance is a requirement of this project and includes three components; archaeology, paleontology, and aboriginal consultation. These requirements are under the authority of the Historic Resource Management Branch of Alberta Culture.

2. How has the Aboriginal community been consulted for this project?

Consultation with the Aboriginal community is currently taking place. The project team has worked closely with the City's Aboriginal Relations Office throughout the duration of the project, and will continue to do so. Aboriginal consultation requirements toward Historic Resources Act clearance are set out by Alberta Culture and that department regulates this process. Presently the City is consulting with 21 Aboriginal communities throughout Alberta. There is also Aboriginal and Metis representation on the Stakeholder Input Panel.

3. Have any human remains or graves dating prior to the Fur Trade Period (pre AD 1800) been documented in the project area?

Human remains and grave features have been recorded on the north side of the river in and in close proximity to the Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds dating to the Fur Trade Period (19th century AD) only. Many of these have been documented, while others are not entirely understood, particularly in areas where the ground has been disturbed by various kinds of development over many decades. The project will not impact any known burial locations. The Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds includes locations known to contain human remains as well as industrial infill from Edmonton's past development. For example, the area of the Walterdale Bridge Replacement north abutment has been found to be disturbed in its entirety to a depth of 6 metres or more.

4. Have any archaeological sites dating prior to the Fur Trade Period (pre AD 1800) been recorded in the project area?

Yes. Pre-Fur Trade Period artifacts have been found in the project area in small, isolated scatters. A small, well-preserved campsite (FjPi-162) approximately 2,000 years old was subject to study in 2009 and a similar site (FjPj-108) was subject to mitigation in association with the Walterdale Bridge Replacement. This site is dated to 1500 years before present. Data from these sites has been recorded.

5. Has there been any prior archaeological study of the project area? When, Where, Results?

Yes. Twenty-six archaeological assessments have been carried out in and around the project area since 1967. The most recent assessments relate to the new Queen Elizabeth Pool, the decommissioning of the EPCOR Power Generating Station and the Walterdale Bridge project. Each assessment is identified by a unique permit number and the reports are on file with the Historic Resources Management Branch at Alberta Culture. The project area is subject to cultural resource management requirements under the Historic Resources Act by Alberta Culture.

6. Has there been any prior attempt to locate human remains or graves in the project area? When, Where, Results?

Yes. Numerous ground-penetrating radar studies have been carried out in the project area around the Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds. In 2007 an archaeological study (2007-124) assessed several of these locations and found no human remains or grave features in test areas. During

the 2007 study a stakeholder group identified numerous grave locations, 49 of which were subject to subsurface investigation. No human remains or grave features were identified in test areas.

7. Who manages the Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds?

The facility is owned and maintained by the City of Edmonton and is subject to Provincial legislation under the Cemeteries Act and Historic Resources Act.

8. Has there been any archaeological study of the area specifically for the project? When, Where, Results?

Not yet. Archaeological investigations are a requirement of Historic Resources Act clearance for this project. These requirements include:

HRIA (monitoring/deep testing) is required for:

- Roads/landscape/streetscape modifications where work involves any excavations below the depth of contemporary/historic overburden
- Utilities replacement where work involves new excavations below the depth of contemporary/historic overburden
- All lands directly northwest of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery/Traditional Burial Ground extending to the 105 Street/Rossdale Road intersection
- Once the overburden is stripped in all these cases, deep testing of intact flood-plain deposits is required prior to any further development.

- Additional Measures: Depending upon the results of the archaeological monitoring/deep testing program, additional salvage, protection or preservative measures may be required.

9. Where have human remains been found in the Rossdale Flats area?

Both intact grave features and previously disturbed human remains have been found in the area of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds. Previously disturbed human remains have been recovered from overburden deposits in the area of the EPCOR Power Bellamy substation. Anecdotal evidence suggests human remains have been recovered from other locations as well, although details and locations are unclear.

10. What will you do if human remains are found during the course of this project?

All construction activities in the immediate area would stop immediately and an investigation would be initiated by the project's specialized historical resource consultant. The investigation would involve the Edmonton Police Service, the Provincial Coroner's Office, the Historic Resource Management Branch of the Government of Alberta and the City's Aboriginal Relations Office.

11. Will access to the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Grounds be restricted during construction?

Access to the Fort Edmonton Cemetery & Traditional Burial Grounds will not be impacted by this Project.