



Edmonton

EDMONTON IN BLOOM

CONTENTS

ii	Edmonton in Bloom Executive Summary
01	Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson
03	About Edmonton
04	Action Plan for Edmonton
06	Tidiness
10	Environmental Action
22	Heritage Conservation: Cultural
28	Heritage Conservation: Natural
32	Urban Forestry
38	Landscape
46	Floral Displays



EDMONTON IN BLOOM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2014, Edmonton was evaluated in the Circle of Excellence, won the Municipal World WinterLife award, and received special mention for the LRT Expansion Project - Valley Line Stage 1.

BACKGROUND

Communities in Bloom (CiB), is a national program that fosters green spaces, environmental responsibility, and community engagement.

**People, plants, and pride...
growing together.**



This program encourages projects that make Edmonton beautiful and increases the local profile.

The City of Edmonton has participated in CiB since 1995 and competes alongside the largest municipalities. Edmonton won the national award in 1997, 2000, and 2009.

EDMONTON IN BLOOM

2016 EDMONTON IN BLOOM DIRECTORY

The EiB Directory is an overview of initiatives that make Edmonton beautiful and livable. The CiB judges use the EiB Directory for their evaluation. It is distributed to partners and online at edmonton.ca/eib.

CIB TOUR WITH NATIONAL JUDGES

During their tour, judges meet with coordinators, community groups and citizens to understand our vibrant city. A City Councillor will meet with national judges, showing City Council's commitment to a beautiful Edmonton.

EDMONTON IN BLOOM AWARDS

The EiB Awards will be held at the Citadel Theatre on August 25th 2016. 24 Awards of Merit will be presented for Front Yards in Bloom. Awards will also be given for tidiness, fruit heroes, community gardens and urban forestry. Over 400 people attend the awards annually and the event receives publicity through local outlets.

FRONT YARDS IN BLOOM 2015

Edmontonians nominated 4,221+ yards for Front Yards in Bloom in 2015! 47 community leagues operated their own Front Yards in Bloom program.

MESSAGE FROM HIS WORSHIP MAYOR DON IVESON



The City of Edmonton's spectacular river valley, vast green spaces and many parks are a big part of what makes our city a special place to live. We are proud to have participated in Communities in Bloom since its inception in 1995, as it helps to create relationships between city dwellers and our environment. With approximately 460 parks throughout our community, Edmontonians are always encouraged to get involved in the beautification of our open spaces.

The City continuously works towards sustainability and resilience, promoting an environmental vision for Edmontonians to find inspiration and take action in their community. We are excited to highlight programs and projects that help achieve this vision. From urban agriculture to neighbourhood development and revitalization to urban forestry programs, Edmontonians are committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement.

Edmonton has won multiple national awards, including reaching the Circle of Excellence in 2010 and receiving the Urban Forestry Award in 2012. In 2015, Edmonton took home the Community of Gardeners Outstanding Achievement award and a Special Mention for the Root for Trees program.

I thank this year's national judges; I'm delighted you have taken the time to visit our city. I hope you like what you see! Edmontonians are passionate about their community and are proud to call Edmonton home. Best wishes for a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Alberta's Capital City.

Don Iveson

Mayor

ABOUT EDMONTON

Edmonton has been an enthusiastic supporter of Communities in Bloom since the program began in 1995. The city was a national winner in 1997, 2000, and 2009 and has graciously hosted the National Communities in Bloom Awards in 2000 and 2012.

Edmonton has had an excellent growing season in 2015 for our city, our communities, and our gardens. This year sees more festivals, more volunteers, more projects, and more blooms than ever.

Meanwhile, City Council supports a long-term vision of a vibrant, livable, and sustainable Edmonton. The strategic goals outlined by *The Way Ahead* are to:

- Preserve and Sustain Edmonton's Environment
- Improve Edmonton's Livability
- Transform Edmonton's Urban Form
- Shift Edmonton's Transportation Modes
- Ensure Edmonton's Financial Sustainability
- Diversify Edmonton's Economy

Edmonton is in the process of developing and implementing several major planning documents which set direction, guide decisions and align the priorities of the City of Edmonton. The City Vision paints a picture of how we imagine our city will look in 2040. Transforming Edmonton delivers on the City Vision; it is the way that the City's administration will work towards change and improvements to bring our City Vision to life.

The Way Ahead Strategic Plan is comprised of six strategic plans, each of which addresses one of the City of Edmonton's strategic goals:

- *The Way We Grow* - Municipal Development Plan
- *The Way We Move* - Transportation Master Plan
- *The Way We Live* - Edmonton's People Plan
- *The Way We Green* - Environmental Strategic Plan
- *The Way We Prosper* - Economic Development Plan
- *The Way We Finance* - Financial Sustainability Plan

ACTION PLAN FOR EDMONTON IN BLOOM

Edmonton engages with partners in a variety of strategies through the Edmonton in Bloom program – with businesses, community groups, institutions, residents, and our municipal government.

The partnership between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Horticultural Society (EHS) provides the foundation for our efforts – representing the municipality and residents. Both organizations deliver programs that engage community and enhance our green spaces. Examples of these include: Partners in Parks, Front Yards in Bloom, the Edmonton in Bloom Awards, Communities in Bloom, and the gardens near the Muttart Conservatory.

Other programs such as community gardens, Root for Trees, Capital City Clean Up, Bloomin' Boulevards, and Partners in Parks involve Edmontonians and Edmonton businesses in helping to make Edmonton flourish.

Hosting the national judges with Communities in Bloom allows local partners and groups to showcase their successes. The Edmonton in Bloom Awards brings these groups together to highlight their exceptional achievements.

Strong partnerships are at the heart of Edmonton in Bloom – creating a movement across municipal departments, sectors, and our city – to make Edmonton more livable, sustainable, and beautiful.

FACTS ABOUT EDMONTON

- Municipality: **Edmonton**
- Population: **895,000**
- Total area: **699.8 km² (270.2 square miles)**
- Parks and green spaces area as a % of total area: **19% (13,318 ha)**
- Municipal Budget: **\$2.5 billion**
- Parks budget as a % of municipal budget: **3.5%**

GEOGRAPHY

Alberta's capital, is situated along the North Saskatchewan River with over 160 kilometres of multi-use trails and urban green space 22 times larger than the size of Central Park in New York City. Edmonton is located at the geographic centre of Alberta and is a three-hour drive north from Calgary and four hours east from Jasper National Park in the Rocky Mountains.



Initiatives to support

TIDINESS

ANNUAL SPRING STREET CLEANING

City crews sweep 4,700 km of roadway to remove debris left from the winter season, since between 150,000 and 180,000 tonnes of materials are used to sand Edmonton's roads each winter. 80% of the street sand collected is recycled and re-used on roadways in later years.

PETS IN THE CITY

Pets in the City is an annual public education campaign about responsible pet ownership, cleaning up after pets, and keeping Edmonton's park system clean and safe. The slogan "They Poop - You Scoop" encouraged more than 4,400 off-leash park users to pick up.

CIGARETTE LITTER REDUCTION

Cigarette butts are the largest category of small litter in Edmonton, but progress is being made to reduce this source of litter. In 2013, CCCU introduced a Cigarette Butt and Litter Education and Enforcement Strategy, which contributed to the 38% decrease in the counts of cigarette butts since 2009 (reported in the 2014 Litter Audit).

SAFE NEEDLE DISPOSAL

A safe needle disposal toolkit of information is available on edmonton.ca. Some pharmacies offer needle take-back programs and Eco Stations accept used needles, syringes and lancets from households. Needles can also be returned to Streetworks, a free needle service which exchanges 800,000 needles annually.



CAPITAL CITY CLEAN UP (CCCU)

Since 2005, Capital City Clean Up has emerged as the City's comprehensive strategy to reduce and prevent litter and graffiti and make Edmonton a clean, safe and livable city. This public education and engagement program has nurtured a strong volunteer base, established a number of successful initiatives, and built strong, positive relationships with key City departments.

LITTER MANAGEMENT

This component of CCCU addresses behaviours related to litter in the community. This program continues to improve with increased participation by Edmontonians at all levels as volunteers, school and community associations and corporate sponsors.

15-to-Clean

2016 marks the 7th year of the 15-to-Clean Challenge. This challenge takes place to encourage Edmontonians to take 15 minutes (the length of a coffee break) to step outside and collect litter or report graffiti vandalism.

Adopt a Block or Roadway

Edmonton residents, businesses and community groups are encouraged to adopt a block or roadway in their community or business area and keep it litter-free.

Big Bin Events

These events, which take place over 12 weekends from May to September, encourage residents to dispose of large, bulky items for free and thereby discourage illegal dumping. The 2015 Big Bin Events had 10,202 visitors and accepted 1,855 tonnes of material.

Community Bin Grants

Grants, to a maximum of \$600, help community groups organize "mini" Big Bin events in their community to get rid of large, bulky garbage items.

Business Supporting Community

This initiative offers Edmonton-based companies a unique opportunity to combat litter while supporting local non-profit groups. Participating businesses pay organizations for litter cleanup as a unique fundraising opportunity.

Junior Wildlife Ambassador Program

In partnership with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, Capital City Clean Up provides an innovative school program that shows children how they can make a difference in their environment. Elementary students become Junior Wildlife Ambassadors after learning how to minimize their impact on the wildlife in their area through litter reduction and other techniques.

Litter Audit 2015

July 2015 marked the eighth litter audit for Edmonton. The 2015 litter audit averaged 11.6 large litter items per site, compared to 15.4 in 2014 and 27 in 2009. There were 16 sites with no large litter, compared to 15 sites in 2013, and 9 in 2011.

North Saskatchewan River Clean Up

Litter in the river is unsightly and affects the ecology of our river. City crews remove floating debris around bridges and close to shore. CCCU also works with various recreational groups that frequent the river under the "Eyes of the River" initiative. These groups assist by reporting debris or material found floating in the river.

River Valley Clean Up

Since 1987, thousands of city residents have scoured Edmonton's parks system as well as the shoreline of the North Saskatchewan River to pick up litter. 2016 marked the 29th Annual Spring Clean Up kick-off event at Victoria Park. It was attended by 150 volunteers, who combed the park and area in search of debris. A further 1,171 volunteers participated in clean up events at various River Parks throughout the City, collecting 859 bags of garbage.

Schoolyard Clean Up Program

Every spring when the snow melts, schoolyards need extra attention to be clean and safe. All students are encouraged to put litter in its place and show school pride by the slogan: "Just Can It." Participating schools are recognized by the City and the tidiest schoolyards receive cash prizes. In 2015, over 131 schools registered to participate.

Total Look of Clean

The City enhances street cleaning, sidewalks and back alleys of business districts in the inner city using an over-sized litter vacuum called a MadVac. More than 200 businesses in the pilot area currently benefit from the Total Look of Clean program. Benefits of this program include enticing more foot traffic and generating new business, as well as creating new research opportunities in waste management and recycling.



GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT (CCCU)

This program to reduce the incidence of graffiti vandalism in Edmonton is supported by CCCU and enforced through the Community Standards Bylaw 14600, which requires property owners to remove graffiti from their property within a reasonable time. It promotes the benefits of a graffiti-free community and implements strategies to remove and keep graffiti off of Edmonton's properties. Ongoing communication with Edmonton Police Service ensures a coordinated approach to prevention, community engagement, removal, and enforcement.

Bylaw Enforcement

As part of the Community Standards Branch, CCCU covers costs of hiring four seasonal municipal enforcement officers to inspect graffiti offenses and issue notifications to property owners about graffiti vandalism. As part of their work, officers inform owners about support programs offered by CCCU.

Giants of Edmonton Murals

Murals promote alternatives to graffiti vandalism through public art. Street murals create pride of place, encourage pedestrian traffic, and discourage graffiti. Twelve murals have been painted on large walls donated by local property owners, recognizing the people, places and things that make Edmonton great.

Community Mural Matching Grant Program

Since 2010, this program has offered grants of up to \$2000 each to support non-profit community agencies that develop murals in on private and public structures. The goal is to deter graffiti and create a shared responsibility for graffiti prevention in Edmonton.

Graffiti Clean Up Kits

The City offers free graffiti clean-up kits to help property owners remove graffiti. Kits include paint rollers, brushes, paint trays, gloves, chemical-removal wipes and a discount certificate that may be used toward the purchase of paint.

Graffiti Wipeout Projects

The City works with community groups to remove graffiti through "Graffiti Wipeout" fundraising events. Work is done by volunteers while supplies and funds are provided by CCCU. Non-profits are paid \$1 per square foot of graffiti removed to a maximum of \$1,500 per wipeout. A food grant of up to \$400 is also available to the group from CCCU.

Professional Cleaning Program

Residential and business property owners who agree to maintain their property graffiti-free for one year may receive a professional commercial graffiti cleaning on their property to a maximum value of \$500 per year. This program is intended to assist property owners with difficult-to-clean surfaces on their property, and owners of historic buildings to offset the costs of graffiti removal.



OPERATIONAL COMMITMENT

ENVIISO – ISO 14001

Enviso is the City's environmental management system, based on the international standard ISO 14001. Enviso provides a systematic method for managing and improving environmental performance through documentation of City operations, compliance with regulations, and release reporting and control.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Management Plan proposes a strategy for reducing emissions from City operations. This will contribute to Edmonton's long-term goal of carbon-neutrality. The plan is aimed at achieving a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from City operations by 2020 (from 2008 levels). Strategies outlined in the plan include building retrofits, changes to roadway lighting, reduction of emissions by the City's municipal fleet and increases in the City's urban forest canopy cover.

ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN

Traditionally Edmonton has been dependent on non-renewable energy sources. Edmonton's Community Energy Transition Strategy was released in August 2015 paving the way to energy reduction and ecologically responsible energy sourcing.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND

In 1995, the City of Edmonton created a revolving fund aimed at energy retrofits of City facilities. The \$30 million fund is set aside for energy efficiency projects such as upgrades to lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation systems and envelope upgrades.

LED STREET LIGHTING

Replacement of existing High Pressure Sodium Street Lights with LED Street Lights began in residential areas in 2011, and the installation of LED Street Lights was completed in 2013 in 34 communities. Conversion from the conventional street lighting to LED technology will result in power consumption reductions between 40% and 60% per light.

Initiatives to support

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



ORGANIZATIONAL GREENING INITIATIVES

The City of Edmonton is committed to going beyond the ENVISO environmental regulations in its daily operations, and strives to be a leader within the Edmonton community with regard to environmental stewardship. The Valley Zoo's Green Team has: planted an award winning Enrichment Garden on site that allows the Zoo to grow its own food, held a Green Commuter Challenge for staff, implemented composting at the Zoo, partnered with TerraCycle to collect waste items that would otherwise go to landfill and has been a regular organizer of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

BLATCHFORD REDEVELOPMENT

Located on the site of Edmonton's former City Centre Airport, the new Blatchford community will be home to up to 30,000 Edmontonians living, working and learning in a sustainable community that uses 100% renewable energy, is carbon neutral, significantly reduces its ecological footprint and empowers residents to pursue a range of sustainable lifestyle choices.

HOPE PROGRAM

HOPE helps qualifying homeowners bring their homes to a minimum standard of health and safety relating to plumbing, heating, electrical, structural, fire safety, disability modifications and energy efficiency. The program offers conditional grant funding up to a maximum of \$20,000.

LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (LEED)

LEED COMMITMENT BY THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Since 2008, all new City-owned buildings and major renovations have been designed and constructed to meet LEED Silver Standard as a minimum. Notable features of these buildings include use of rainwater for irrigation, grey water use in toilets, reduced site disturbance and pollution, and recycling.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

As Edmonton grows and more land is developed in the city and surrounding areas, the function of the natural water cycle is altered. Low impact development mimics natural hydrology (movement of water) by managing storm water close to its source. Wherever possible, natural landscape features that contribute to local hydrology are preserved and incorporated into the urban design.

TRANSPORTATION

EDMONTON TRANSIT SYSTEM (ETS)

The vision of ETS is to be a fully integrated, progressive, easy-to-use public transit system that supports economic development and improves the quality of life in Edmonton. Edmonton Transit has a key role in a sustainable community and its commitment to sound environmental practices have been recognized with its ISO 14001 certification.

BICYCLE PARKING

Public bicycle parking along road right-of-way is provided throughout the city and typically occurs along major commercial roads (e.g. Whyte Avenue, Jasper Avenue) and near businesses or institutions.



BIKE BOX

In September 2012 the City installed Edmonton's first bike box, and constructed two more in 2014. The bike boxes allow cyclists to clear the intersection ahead of cars, making cyclists more visible, and help motorists and pedestrians watch out for each other.

ETS MODERN DIESEL BUSES

ETS has 374 buses with Clean Diesel Engines. These buses are equipped with engines that have electronically controlled fuel systems fuelled by ultra-low sulphur diesel to achieve the best fuel economy. Diesel particulate filters and exhaust gas recirculation have also been installed to reduce the release of pollutants to the environment.

LRT (LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT)

Edmonton's electricity-powered train system carries over 95,000 riders a day. The system covers over 21km, 94 LRT cars and 18 stations. Expanding the LRT network is one way that Edmonton will meet objectives of *The Way We Move: Transportation Master Plan*. Construction on part of the new Metro Line of the LRT system was completed in 2015. Plans for the construction of a new Valley Line and expansions to the Capital and Metro Lines have also been approved by the City. Expansions to the LRT system are expected to significantly increase ridership and reduce the environmental impacts of Edmonton's transportation system.

BIKES ON ETS

Bike racks are available on major east-west and north-south bus routes and on the LRT outside of peak hours. Bicycle parking areas are available at many Transit Centres and LRT Stations.

MULTI-USE TRAIL CORRIDOR NETWORK

The Multi-Use Trail Corridor provides a 10 year plan to implement a network of multi-use trails across Edmonton. The multi-use trail network offers convenient access and linkages to all sectors of Edmonton in a secure, economically feasible and aesthetically pleasing manner. Since 2009, Edmonton has had more than 160 kilometers of maintained multi-use trails.

ON-STREET BICYCLE ROUTES

Approximately 20km of new on-street bike routes were constructed in 2014, adding to the existing 46km built since 2010. These routes connect to LRT Stations, the River Valley, Parks, UofA, across the major highways (Yellowhead and Anthony Henday Drive), as well as various schools, recreation centers and sports fields.

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD)

Transit Oriented Development concentrates housing, shopping, and employment along a network of walkable and bikeable streets within a five-minute walk (400 metres) in any direction of a transit station. Over the next 30 years TOD has the potential to promote a transition to public and active transportation and transform neighbourhoods around LRT stations and Transit Centres into vibrant hubs of mixed-use activity that bring people together.

WALK EDMONTON

Walk Edmonton supports neighbourhood initiatives, engages Edmontonians in creating a pedestrian friendly community, advocating and working for change in civic policies, programs, standards, and practices to enhance walkability in Edmonton.

WAYFINDING PROJECT

As the first step to this new project, the City has installed prototype wayfinding signs to test it as a tool to support people finding their way around the City as they walk, cycle, or use transit. The Wayfinding Project as a whole will include an integrated system of maps, apps, and signs to help in navigating the City more effectively without cars.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

ECO STATIONS

Four stations provide Edmontonians a central location to bring household hazardous wastes, bulky waste items (like old sofas), and recyclables. The Ambleside Eco Station also features a Reuse Area where items such as furniture, appliances, and electronics are set out for a limited time for pickup by other residents.

EDMONTON WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (EWMC)

The 233-hectare EWMC is North America's largest complex of modern, sustainable waste processing and research facilities. The EWMC diverts roughly 60% of residential waste from landfills. This rate of diversion will rise to 90% with the operation of the Waste-to-Biofuels Facility.

Construction & Demolition Recycling Facility

Opened in 2012, this is first facility of its kind in Alberta. The facility sorts loads of mixed construction and demolition waste into various categories.

Edmonton Composting Facility & Co-Composter

Since 2000, the Edmonton Composting Facility has used the organic waste collected from city households and biosolids (sewage sludge) as resources to create compost. Covering 25 hectares, the Edmonton Composting Facility is the largest of its kind in North America. To neutralize odours generated by the composting facility, air from the composter is channeled through a bed of wood chips, created from trees collected through the City's Christmas tree recycling program.

Proposed Anaerobic Digestion Facility (ADF)

This facility will expand the City's organics waste processing capacity and contribute to the goal of diverting 90% of waste from landfill. It will also create renewable energy in the form of electricity and heat, and produce high quality compost for agriculture. It is schedule to be in operation by the end of 2017.

GEEP Electric and Electronic Waste Recycling Facility

GEEP is Edmonton's Global Electric and Electronic Processing facility, which processes more than 30,000 tonnes per year of old computers, televisions, and a wide range of electrical and electronic waste materials for recycling.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

The MRF, a recycling plant capable of processing 40,000 tonnes/year, is one of the most advanced plants in North America for recycling mixed materials. It processes all types of recyclables accepted in the City's Blue Bag, Blue Bin and Recycling Depot collection programs.

Waste-to-Biofuels Facility

In this facility, the feedstock for producing biofuels is municipal solid waste that cannot be recycled or composted and has traditionally been sent to landfill. Using waste to produce cleaner burning fuels is a major leap forward in Edmonton's commitment to alternatives to landfills and an integrated energy vision.

Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence (EWMCE)

This Centre is a world leader in research and training on waste and wastewater management with sites at both the EWMC and Gold Bar Wastewater Treatment Plant. Both sites allow for testing, researching and piloting under laboratory conditions.

RECYCLING

Recyclables are collected through three programs: blue bags for single family homes, blue bins at apartments/condos and 20 depots located primarily at shopping centres. Apartment, condo and residential residents take part in the Blue Bins and Blue Bags on garbage day recycling program, with more than 93% voluntary participation among residents.

REUSE CENTRE & REUSE FAIRS

The Reuse Centre accepts reusable items free of charge year-round and makes them available to organizations and citizens. The centre promotes the benefits of reuse, provides affordable items to organizations and individuals and diverts waste from the landfill. Reuse Fairs are one-day events where unwanted but reusable items are collected and passed on to charities, non-profits, artists and schools.

WASTE REDUCTION PUBLIC EDUCATION

Edmonton Waste Management Services (WMS) focuses not only on effectively processing Edmontonians' waste, but also on encouraging residents to voluntarily reduce the amount of waste they produce weekly. Accordingly, WMS offers several educational and public outreach programs.

BACKYARD COMPOST EDUCATION CENTRE

Located at the John Janzen Nature Centre, the Backyard Compost Education Centre is a staffed site offering drop-in and scheduled compost education programs including demonstrations of over 10 different composting methods.

MASTER COMPOSTER RECYCLER PROGRAM

Participants complete a free 3-week course about ways to reduce waste: reuse, recycling, grasscycling, and composting. Following this course, Master Composter Recyclers volunteer at least 35 hours by teaching other Edmontonians how to reduce waste. Over 700 volunteers have completed the program.



SOLAR-POWERED WASTE RECEPTACLE (PILOT PROJECT)

Waste Management Services has purchased 10 solar-powered waste receptacles for a pilot program. These receptacles compact the contents so that the receptacle's contents are collected far less often. The compactor is powered by solar panels on the receptacle.

WASTEWATER REUSE

Wastewater treated at the Gold Bar facility allows up to 15 million litres of treated effluent per day to be used as boiler water by nearby industry.

STORE IT, DON'T POUR IT!

Fats, oils, and grease can cause sewer back-ups by blocking the main sewer lines as well as those on private property and causing expensive property damage. The City is asking Edmontonians to "Store it, don't pour it" by storing fats and grease in a disposable container.

TRASH IT, DON'T SPLASH IT!

This campaign is intended to reduce the amount of inappropriate items flushed down toilets and drains by informing residents of which items are (and aren't) allowed to be flushed.

TREAT IT RIGHT SCHOOL PROGRAM

This program is designed to provide teachers with guides that will reach specific outcomes in the Alberta Education Program of Studies for science and mathematics in grades 4, 5, 7 and 8, and will help children to treat their drainage system and water resources right.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, OUTREACH, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

BE IDLE FREE

The 'Be Idle Free' campaign builds awareness of the problem by reinforcing campaign messages through existing and relevant City outreach programs and partnerships, and now helps enforce bylaw 15982, which prohibits vehicles from idling in designated areas outside schools and hospitals.

BIKEWORKS

A community bicycle repair shop, run by volunteers of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society, is equipped with a complete set of tools for repairs and used parts. Volunteer mechanics are on hand to advise members on how to repair and maintain their bikes.

EDMONTON: EARTH HOUR CAPITAL OF CANADA

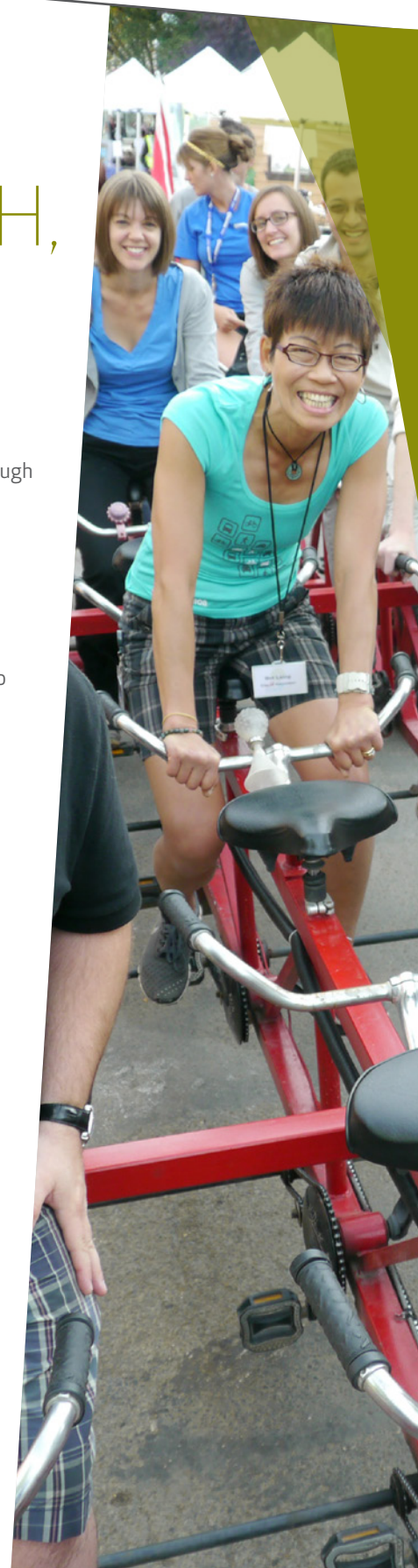
In 2015, Edmonton was one of the Finalists for Earth Hour City Challenge through the World Wildlife Fund. Edmonton was crowned the Earth Hour Capital of Canada in the 2014 Challenge. Edmonton's *The Way We Green* action plan received high scores for its strategies to increase energy efficiency, reduce emissions and save money, while ramping up plans for renewable energy. The jury also recognized Edmonton's vision for achieving a carbon neutral future and establishing a renewable energy task force to achieve its ambitious goals.

EDMONTON PERMACULTURE

This non-profit community group promotes permaculture through special events, a speaker series, and partnerships with other community groups. Permaculture is the practice of designing sustainable human habitats by following nature's patterns to yield an abundance of food, fibre and energy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC)

The EAC coordinates strategic advice and expertise from the community and the City of Edmonton for the continuing development of *The Way We Green* (the City's environmental strategic plan) and environmental issues as they arise.



FRUITS OF SHERBROOKE

Fruits of Sherbrooke began as a neighborhood fruit rescue operation in fall of 2010. Volunteers help pick fruit, make jams and preserves, and assist with events. They focus on local food sources and add additional items for flavour to make unique jams and preserves, which they sell at farmers markets.

GREEN SCHOOL RESOURCES

As part of The Way We Green, the City has developed green school resources which are available online through the City website. Lesson plans are geared to different grade levels and cover topics such as energy and climate change, ecological footprint, wetlands, urban forests, and personal environmental habits.

MEDICAL ALERT PESTICIDE PROGRAM

This program gives citizens with medical conditions, the option to maintain City turf that abuts residential property themselves. By registering their home, the citizens restrict application of herbicides or insecticides on City property within 30 m of their residence or receive pre-notification of chemical applications within 100 m of their residential property.

OPERATION FRUIT RESCUE EDMONTON (OFRE)

OFRE's mandate is to reduce food waste and promote Edmonton biodiversity by organizing harvesting events of locally grown fruits in the city. Residents offer fruit trees for harvesting, while volunteers come out to harvest. Volunteers, homeowners, and community organizations each get 25% of the harvest, with the remainder staying within OFRE for processing.

THE WAY WE GREEN SPEAKER SERIES

In 2010, the City began hosting this speaker series as a way of promoting its environmental vision, 'The Way We Green.' Speakers from 2014 included environmental activist Severn Cullis-Suzuk; wetland ecologist Kristen Andersen, and Dr. Greg Goss, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Alberta. Sessions cover a broad range of topics and are open to the public, free of charge.

YOU'RE GONNA LOVE GREEN (YGLG)

'You're Gonna Love Green' is the City's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy. It was created by more than 20 local companies, non-profit organizations, institutions and government agencies. YGLG offers energy efficiency education as well as rebates to residents and businesses.

GREEN LIVING GUIDE

This document provides Edmontonians with guidelines for reducing their environmental impacts in daily life. The Guide covers topics related to nature and biodiversity, food and agriculture, water, air, energy, transportation, sustainable purchasing, and waste.



Initiatives to support

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

CULTURAL HERITAGE

124 STREET GALLERY WALK

The Gallery Walk, the first of its kind in Canada, was formed in 1986 to promote both art and artists of merit within the community, focusing especially on work by Canadian artists.

ARTS HABITAT EDMONTON (AHE)

AHE is a non-profit company engaged in finding, managing and developing space for the arts. Arts Habitat Edmonton was formed in 1995 as an initiative through the Edmonton Arts Council to provide safe, affordable, appropriate living and working space for artists. Some AHE projects are listed below:

➤ **Artists' Quarters**

In response to the recommendations contained in the *The Art of Living*, The Artist Quarters will provide support to senior artists and respond to the critical need in Edmonton's arts and cultural community for affordable, appropriate, and sustainable live and work space.

➤ **ArtsHub 118**

On June 30, 2011 Arts Habitat celebrated the official opening of ArtsHub Housing Cooperative, also known as ArtsHub118. The co-op will allow artists to live and work in a dynamic community that is highly motivated to support the arts.

➤ **McLuhan House**

McLuhan Residence is to be converted into an interpretative space to provide a narrative about Marshall McLuhan and his place in history, a small area for limited public events, and a multi-use space for scholars, writers, and artists.

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA

The Art Gallery of Alberta is a centre of excellence for the visual arts in Western Canada, connecting people, art and ideas. The AGA recently underwent a major re-building project. Designed by Los Angeles architect Randall Stout, the 85,000 sq. foot new AGA opened to the public on January 31, 2010. Taking inspiration from the city's unique northern environment and urban grid, architect Randall Stout juxtaposed angular windows against a winding 190-metre steel ribbon that references the forms of the North Saskatchewan River and Aurora Borealis.

AVENUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Avenue Oral History Project began as a six-month effort to gather and preserve the stories of people who grew up along 118th Avenue. 13 one-hour long interviews were gathered with seniors to get their perspective on how the community has radically changed over the past 100 years. The interviews and research led to the development of a live theatre production called: *The Ave We Had: Stories from the Past in Voices of the Present*, premiering in 2012.

CHURCH STREET HERITAGE AREA

The 96 Street area, commonly referred to as Church Street, contains a significant collection of religious buildings within a 5 block strip, as well as other religious facilities in the surrounding vicinity. Consultations with local residents have led City Council to initiate some initial physical improvements to the area, with a view to long-term improvements and restoration to the community.

DOORS OPEN EDMONTON

The 2016 Historic Festival & Doors Open Edmonton is focused on the celebration of the history of the many cultures found in the Edmonton area and the heritage events that have enriched our community. Visitors can enjoy a variety of events, such as celebrating community milestones; exploring museums, archives and historic sites.

EDMONTON ARTS COUNCIL

The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of community life by investing in festivals, arts organizations and individual artists through funding, partnerships, and building awareness of the quality, variety and value of artistic work.

CARIWEST CARIBBEAN ARTS FESTIVAL

Cariwest is an annual three-day Caribbean Arts Festival that takes place in the heart of downtown Edmonton. Visitors enjoy dazzling costumes, lively music, street theatre and tantalizing cuisine that showcase Caribbean culture.

A TASTE OF EDMONTON FESTIVAL

2016 is the 32nd year of the largest food festival in Canada. Over 60 restaurants participate, providing visitors with a diverse selection of local and international cuisine.

EDMONTON & NORTHERN ALBERTA DISTRICT HISTORIC FESTIVAL

This family-oriented festival features tours, workshops, and activities at museums, historic sites, and community events. This year's festival is focused on the history of the many cultures found in the Edmonton area and celebrates the heritage events that have enriched the community.

EDMONTON FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Beginning in 1980 with one staff member and 300 volunteers, the Folk Music Festival has grown and matured to become one of the leading folk festivals in the world. The festival, staged in the beautiful river valley Gallagher Park, attracts hundreds of performers from around the world.

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Edmonton International Film Festival showcases 55 feature-length films, over 110 short films, and features a 24-hour filmmaking challenge, invited guests, and special events.

EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

This festival, one of the largest fringe theatre festivals in the world, hosts a diverse array of performances, featuring hundreds of shows from around the world.

SERVUS HERITAGE FESTIVAL

This festival is one of the largest in Edmonton, featuring over 60 pavilions by ethno-cultural groups from over 85 cultures. Guests visit the pavilions to sample culinary delicacies, watch performances, and shop for crafts, artwork or clothing. Pavilions also showcase cultural displays of photos, paraphernalia and stories about their culture or ethnic background.

NEXTFEST

Over the course of 11 days in June, over 500 artists present their work in theatre, dance, music, visual art, film and multimodal collaborations. The festival showcases the artistic voice of the next generation.

EDMONTON HERITAGE COUNCIL (EHC)

The EHC provides a unified voice for the heritage community while taking on various partnerships, projects and advocacy roles that promote the awareness and development of heritage principles and practices.

EDMONTON HIGH LEVEL & FORT EDMONTON PARK STREET CARS

The historic street car ride from Old Strathcona to downtown Edmonton across the High Level Bridge is one of the world's highest street car river crossings. The heritage cars are restored, maintained, and operated by community volunteers.



EDMONTON HISTORIAN LAUREATE

The Historian Laureate is an honorary position meant to promote and champion Edmonton's storied history. Chris Chang-Yen Phillips, Edmonton's fourth Historian Laureate, works to tell stories that reflect on how all of our stories are woven together, acknowledging the value of every individual life.

EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD (EHB)

The Edmonton Historical Board advises City Council on matters relating to City of Edmonton historical issues and civic heritage policies. The EHB's mandate is to encourage, promote and advocate for the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities and documentary heritage.

HISTORICAL PLAQUES AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

The Committee selects individuals, organizations, communities, buildings, and historic sites to receive awards at the annual Edmonton Historical Board Plaque and Recognition Awards Ceremony.

EDMONTON POET LAUREATE

Pierrette Requier has been named as the City of Edmonton's sixth Poet Laureate from 2015 to 2017. Pierrette Requier is a bilingual poet, performer, producer, mentor and emerging playwright.

EDMONTON ARCHIVES VIRTUAL EXHIBITS

This virtual exhibit on the City of Edmonton website showcases notable elements of Edmonton's rich history. Current exhibits feature the life and work of Ella May Walker (1892-1960), an Edmonton musician, artist, author, and advocate for Edmonton's history.

ETHNIC & CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Edmonton has several distinct ethnic areas and over 60 ethnic and multicultural associations operating throughout to preserve and celebrate traditions, customs, food, music, dance and crafts.

FORT EDMONTON PARK

Fort Edmonton is a living historic park that traces the growth and development of Edmonton through four historical periods represented by: The 1846 Fort, 1885 Street, 1905 Street, 1920 Street, and Midway, featuring 75 original and reconstructed historical buildings.

GALLERIA PROJECT

The Edmonton Downtown Academic and Cultural Centre, a not-for-profit organization funded through partnership between private, philanthropic, and public investment, has proposed an innovative redevelopment of the downtown core. The Galleria Project will include an open commercial Galleria, U of A campus, several theatre venues, an office tower, and will link to the new Royal Alberta Museum.

JOHN WALTER MUSEUM

The John Walter Museum is a small facility that interprets the life of John Walter and the Strathcona community from 1875 to 1915. The historic buildings in this facility have seen Edmonton grow from a Fur Trading Post to a large City, and were among the first homes built outside the walls of Fort Edmonton.

NEON SIGN MUSEUM

The Neon Sign Museum, the first of its kind in Canada, features a collection of historic signs that tell a story about Edmonton's neon past. The City of Edmonton has collected 12 neon signs, eight of which have been restored and installed on the side of the Telus building on 104 Street and 104 Avenue.

PERCENT FOR ART PROGRAM

The City of Edmonton supports public art as a way of enhancing the experience of living in Edmonton. It allocates space for public art and provides funding for artwork under its percent for art policy. The Edmonton Arts Council directs the Percent for Art program and provides vision for and stewardship of the City of Edmonton Public Art Collection.

PRINCE OF WALES ARMORIES HERITAGE CENTRE

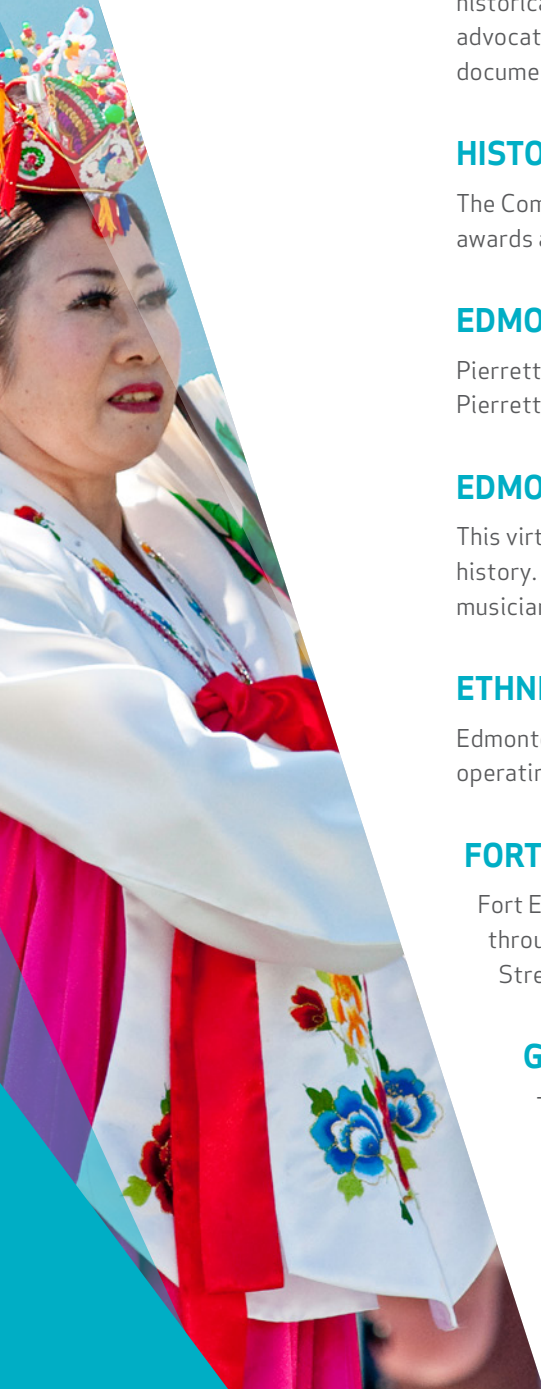
This rehabilitated heritage building currently houses several heritage and historical groups including the Telephone Historical Centre, Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum and the City of Edmonton Archives, which houses both private and government records of Edmonton's history.

THE FLYING CANOE ADVENTURE WALK

The Flying Canoe Adventure is a unique, nighttime, outdoor winter event, where visitors are invited to discover the legend of La Chasse-galerie (The Flying Canoe), a combination of French-Canadian and First-Nation legends told by various lost canoeists along a lit trail in the Mill Creek Ravine.

WINTER CITIES SHAKE-UP 2017

In 2017, Edmonton will once again host the Winter Cities Shake-Up conference, an international conference with the mandate of developing innovative and creative ideas to "shake up" preconceptions about winter cities. The conference explores how winter cities are planned, designed, and programmed to include year-round access, business, recreation, and social opportunities.



NATURAL HERITAGE

ALBERTA RIVERWATCH

The RiverWatch program enables high school students to learn about science aboard large inflated rafts which act as floating laboratories. Alberta RiverWatch explores a 10 km section of the river, making shoreline stops to conduct water chemistry and biology tests.

EDMONTON AND AREA LAND TRUST (EALT)

This non-profit, community-based organization is dedicated to acquiring and conserving the natural heritage of the region through private stewardship. The EALT achieves its goals through land acquisition, conservation easements, education, and stewardship. The City of Edmonton is a one-sixth owner of the EALT, and sits on the Board of Directors.



EDMONTON NATIVE PLANT GROUP (ENPG)

This community group is committed to growing and promoting the use of native plants in gardening and landscaping. Some ENPG's projects, all of which are maintained by volunteers, are outlined below:

➤ *Muttart Conservatory Native Plant Bed*

A former annual garden bed at the Muttart Conservatory has been given to the ENPG to showcase perennial native plants.

➤ *Native Perennial Demonstration Bed*

This bed is a display of 37 native perennial plants at the John Janzen Nature Centre, encouraging Edmontonians to understand and appreciate native plants.

➤ *Old Man Creek Nursery*

An area at Old Man Creek Nursery is dedicated to more than 170 species of native wildflowers, grasses and sedges. The site is used for plant rescues, harvesting seeds and distribution to naturalization and rehabilitation projects.

➤ *Thistle Patrol*

Thistle Patrol volunteers get together regularly to weed creeping thistle and other invasive, noxious weeds from natural areas in Mill Creek and Fulton Ravine.

➤ *Shooting Star Hill*

Shooting Star Hill is a ravine slope with a spring seeping out of the escarpment. Citizens are progressively replanting this site with native plant vegetation while removing the Caragana shrubs that have proliferated on this hill.

EDMONTON NATURE CLUB (ENC)

The ENC develops awareness and encourages interest in the natural environment in the community through meetings, workshops, study groups, field trips and publications.

EDMONTON URBAN BIOKIT

The BioKit is an educational resource designed to engage immigrants and other Edmontonians in learning about and exploring Edmonton's natural areas and biodiversity. It includes a booklet of information, photos and hands-on activities, as well as a kit of resources (hand lenses, paint kits, etc.) that can be used by a family or an interpretive walk leader.



JOHN JANZEN NATURE CENTRE (JJNC)

For the past 34 years, the John Janzen Nature Centre's interactive exhibits, educational programming, and special events have encouraged awareness of, and engagement with, the wonders of nature. Some of the John Janzen Nature Centre's programs are listed below.

✔ **Nature Line**

This telephone line provides information and expert opinions to citizens when they see a species in Edmonton's natural areas they can't identify.

✔ **Animal Encounters and Feeding**

Visitors are invited to meet local amphibian and reptile species up close as they are fed by staff.

✔ **Trail-Ventures**

A nature hike on the river valley trail system makes for a hands-on sensory exploration of the plants and animals that make the river valley their home.

✔ **Summer Camps**

The JJNC offers a number of daycamps for different age groups, and for families.

✔ **Natural Treasures Scavenger Hunt**

Visitors can connect with nature by going on a hunt for hidden plant or animal images with the help of a map or GPS device.



LIVING BY WATER

Living by Water is an educational program administered by Nature Alberta that helps waterfront residents to adopt environmentally-friendly practices on their properties to help maintain shoreline health and water quality.

LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY (LAB)

Since 2007, the City has been a part of the LAB project, an international initiative supporting the protection of urban biodiversity. LAB is helping Edmonton showcase its biodiversity initiatives and collaborate with the 20 participating cities from across the globe to discover and implement best practices. The project includes development of a biodiversity report and 10-year action plan.

CITY OF EDMONTON BIODIVERSITY REPORT

This report provides a review and assessment of Edmonton's biodiversity and governance structures. Analysis focuses on the unique ecology of the Edmonton area, the governance structures in place to

protect biodiversity, the integration of different governance structures, and public involvement in the protection of biodiversity.

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Initiated in 2009, the Master Naturalist Program provides Edmontonians a chance to learn about and care for Edmonton's natural areas and biodiversity. This "learn and serve" program gives volunteers an opportunity to learn about natural areas, ecology, and naturalization and then take part in meaningful volunteer work, including natural area stewardship and community engagement.

OFFICE OF BIODIVERSITY

The Office of Biodiversity protects Edmonton's ecologically sensitive areas through creation of protected areas, ecologically conscious development, and public education. They work with other departments to ensure that natural areas are protected, restored and managed, and that opportunities exist for community members to get engaged in the stewardship of natural areas.

RIVER DAY

River Day is a family event hosted by the City consisting of activities to celebrate river activities and water safety. Visitors learn the importance of the North Saskatchewan River, discover the many types of water bugs, learn to fish, try canoeing or kayaking and check out numerous environmental displays.

RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE (RVA)

The RVA is an incorporated company that protects, preserves and enhances the Capital region's North Saskatchewan River Valley Park System for year-round accessibility and enjoyment.

ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM

The Royal Alberta Museum is the premier location to learn about Alberta's natural and cultural history. It is currently on a multiple-year journey to its new location in Edmonton's downtown Arts District. The museum will be the largest in western Canada and will feature natural history, human history, a children's gallery and a bug room. The overarching design concept for the new facility is the interwoven narrative between nature and man. Nature is brought into the building through integrated gardens while the building extends out into the landscape.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SOCIETY OF EDMONTON

This shelter provides care for injured and orphaned wildlife and promotes understanding and respect for wildlife through education. WRSE annually cares for over 1,800 wildlife patients, and in 2014 treated 130 different species. WRSE annually takes over 5,000 wildlife-related calls and provides education on human/wildlife interactions to students of all ages, including post-secondary, professional, and community groups.



Initiatives to achieve

URBAN FORESTRY

TREE INVENTORY DATABASES

There are over 320,000 ornamental trees on City property with a total value of approximately \$1.2 billion. The online “yegTreeMap” shows all public trees in the city, including information on the species, size, condition and maintenance history of each tree. This map is open for viewing and editing by the public and includes information on the ecological benefits of Edmonton’s tree canopy. In addition, the City has a comprehensive internal database which catalogues and maps all public trees, as well as private elm trees (for monitoring of Dutch Elm Disease).

ANNUAL TREE HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Since 2001, City trees are annually inspected for health, damage, critical pests, and disease. Vacant tree spots and trees beyond recovery are put on the replacement list. Information gathered is used to provide extra watering and fertilization to stressed trees and inform pest management staff for monitoring and treatment.

FORESTRY POLICY & CONTRACTS TEAM

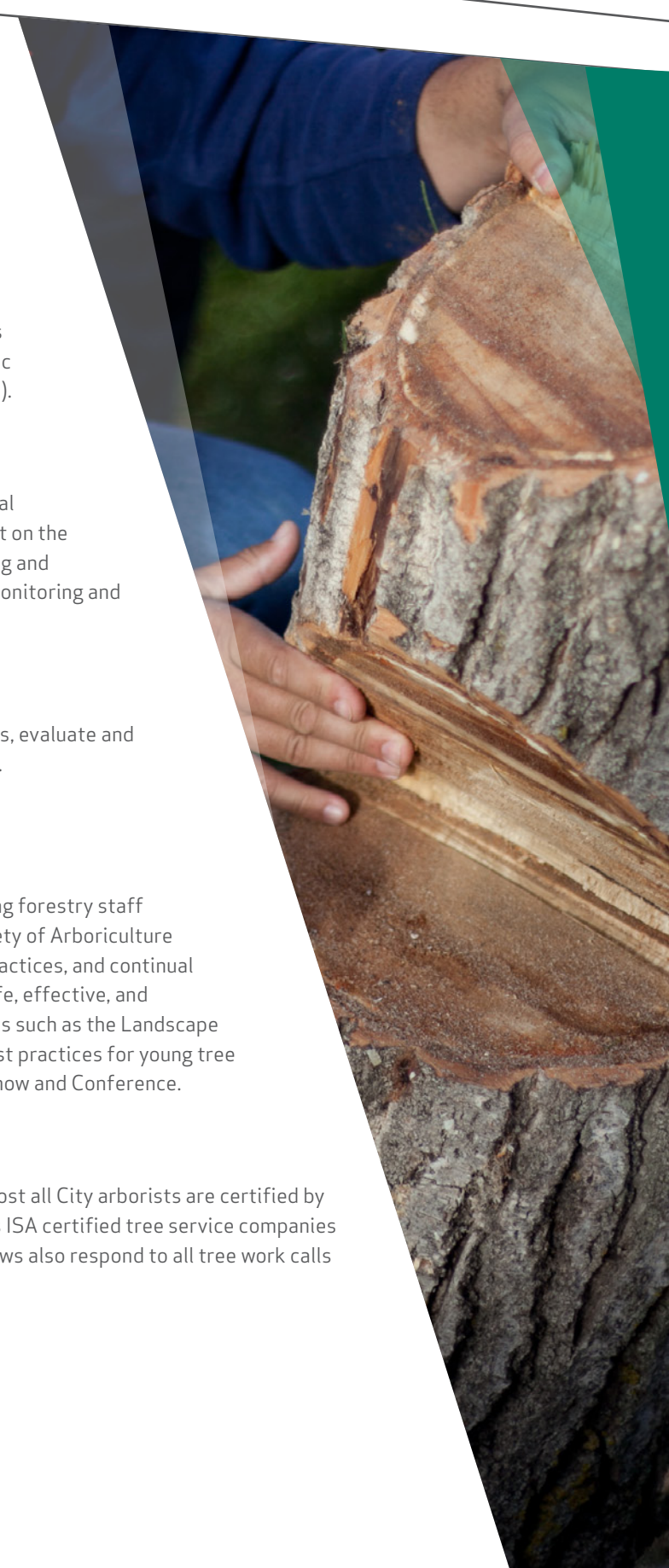
Urban foresters manage contracts with external tree service companies, evaluate and value trees, provide quality control and enforce urban forest policies.

ARBORICULTURE TRAINING, NETWORKING, & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The City of Edmonton fosters professional arboriculture practice among forestry staff and contractors. Safe workplace practice, obtaining International Society of Arboriculture certification, Integrated Pest Management certification, use of best practices, and continual training and improvement, are some of the ways City Forestry stays safe, effective, and efficient. The City of Edmonton networks with a variety of organizations such as the Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association to establish tree standards and best practices for young tree development. The City also participates in the annual Green Industry Show and Conference.

TREE PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

The City employs 18 full-time arborists during the pruning season. Almost all City arborists are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The City also contracts ISA certified tree service companies for additional help. Tree maintenance is done on regular cycles. City crews also respond to all tree work calls requested by citizens and councillors.



TREE WATERING

Newly planted and transplanted trees are put on specialized watering programs based on their size. Newly planted trees are watered regularly for three years after planting and transplanted trees are watered for five years after being moved. Approximately \$1 million is spent annually on tree watering. The use of innovative technology, including Tregator® irrigation bags and weeping tile irrigation in centre medians, is helping save water and increase tree survival rates.

TREE INJECTION OF PESTICIDES

Certain pesticides are injected into trees instead of canopy spraying. This method increases the effect of pesticides while reducing runoff and public exposure.

ROOT FOR TREES (RFT)

Root for Trees promotes planting through partnerships with corporations, individuals and community groups. Planting targets are set to 16,000 trees annually on public and private land. RFT improves air quality, enhances natural and public areas and adopts best management practices for the preservation and maintenance of natural and public spaces. In 2015, the RFT volunteers planted 42,573 trees in addition to the 60,000 planted by operational crews.

- **Root for Trees Festival** - Root for Trees Fest annually highlights the Root for Trees Initiative. Festivities include tree planting, a kids tree-athlon, face painting, airbrush tattoos, music, food, craft tent, and of course, loads of fun!
- **Arbor Day Celebration** - This celebration of trees provides activities for grade one students to develop awareness and appreciation of the urban forest. Activities include: seedlings distribution to all grade one students across Edmonton, classroom visits by arborists, ceremonial tree planting, tree climbing demonstrations, bucket truck and zip-line rides and guided nature walks.
- **Tree Stories** - Every year 15,000 children receive seedlings for Arbor Day. Children grow up with their trees and some people even move their trees when they buy a new house! Recipients are invited to tell their tree story by submitting their story as an entry to the yegTreeMap.
- **Commemorative Trees** - Citizens may fund a tree and plaque to commemorate a person, organization, or event.
- **Free Mulch Program** - The City of Edmonton is happy to provide free woodchips to citizens. The woodchips are local, disease free, and a great way to keep moisture in planting beds.
- **Have Shovel Will Travel** - This is self-guided tree planting program provides seedlings, tools, and approved planting locations to small groups, families and individuals.

- **Request to Plant on Public Property** - The City encourages citizens to help beautify our City by getting approval to plant and care for trees, shrubs, and flowers on public property.
- **Tree Donation Program** - Residents may donate their trees to the City. Acceptable trees are transplanted to public property and donors receive a charitable tax receipt.
- **Guided Tree Planting Program** - Groups from 10-100 can help grow Edmonton's canopy by participating in a facilitated planning event.

URBAN FORESTRY PUBLIC EDUCATION

City Forestry has created brochures and distribution materials about tree protection, tree preservation, caring for City trees and planting on City property. Displays also present urban forestry topics for public exhibits. Additionally, Forestry gives presentations to community groups, schools, City Hall School, other departments and City Council to foster learning about tree care, management, policies, and safety.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA TREE DIVERSITY

Long renowned in Edmonton as an unofficial arboretum, the U of A North Campus is home to trees that are rare for Edmonton, (e.g. Amur cork and Ginkgo biloba), as well as specimen elms and pines. They are a rich learning tool.

HERITAGE TREES OF ALBERTA

The program recognizes the historical value of trees and encourages Edmontonians to nominate trees to the "Heritage Trees of Alberta" book and yegTreeMap.

OLD MAN CREEK NURSERY (OMCN)

OMCN holds, maintains, and grows trial plant material for projects on City sites. The OMCN features include: Domestic Phytosanitary Nursery Certification, Strathcona County Community Garden, the Regional Woody Plant Test Project.

DISEASE WOOD COMPOSTING PROJECT

This project examines the feasibility of composting diseased wood chips instead of sending them to the landfill. Thanks to the project, elm wood infected with *Dothiorella ulmi* and *Verticillium* are now safely composted. Project managers hope to soon be diverting other diseased wood waste to the municipal biofuels facility.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE PREVENTION

Edmonton has one of the largest concentrations of healthy American elms remaining in the world. The City works with the Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease to promote public awareness and proper arboriculture practice. Municipal initiatives include increased monitoring, a seasonal pruning ban, an elm wood storage and transportation ban, increased deadwood pruning, and elm wood bins at Eco Stations for proper disposal of elm wood.

ROAD SALT AND TREE HEALTH STUDY

The City of Edmonton works in collaboration with the University of Alberta on an ongoing basis to study the impacts of road salt on trees and the use of mycorrhizal fungi to mitigate salt stress.

ROOT RESTRICTING PLANTING SITES

The City is testing new methods for increasing and amending soil volumes for trees with restricted rooting space. New planting pit designs now hold three times more soil than standard sidewalk pits. Many new tree plantings make use of Silva Cell technology. Through The Really Grate Tree Project, downtown improvement money has been allocated to improving the downtown trees.

COMPUTER MODELING TOOLS

Urban Forest Effects Model (UFORE) is used to analyze Edmonton's urban forest by taking information from field observations, pollution data, and meteorological patterns to calculate the environmental effects of the urban forest, especially in terms of its impact in cleaning the air, storing carbon and reducing storm water runoff. A UFORE study is completed every 10 years; the next one will be occurring in 2019.

The Street Tree Resource Analysis Tool for Urban Forest Managers (STRATUM) program provides a means of estimating environmental and asset returns that the urban forest provides (e.g. storm water drainage, reduced pollution, aesthetics, etc.)

URBAN FORESTRY & INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

During neighbourhood infrastructure renewal projects (sidewalks, etc.), Forestry staff cooperates with contractors to protect and preserve mature trees. Forestry personnel advise on best practices before, during and after development to mitigate damage to trees.

URBAN FORESTRY & LRT EXPANSION

The Transportation Master Plan includes a vision to expand LRT service to all sectors of the City by 2040. City Transportation is committed to tree protection, choosing paths that have few trees and incorporating existing trees into the designs.



Initiatives to support

LANDSCAPES

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE GROUNDS

The stunning 56 acre grounds of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are landscaped with lawns, trees, shrubs, and gardens. The design features include fountains, a reflecting pool, two amphitheatres, a band shell, a bowling green, a skating rink and the new Lois Hole Memorial Garden.

ARENA AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT (DOWNTOWN)

The City of Edmonton has invested in building a new sports arena in the downtown core of the city. Construction on Rogers Place began March 3, 2014, and is slated to be completed in fall 2016. The Arena project is key to Edmonton's downtown revitalization, and is supported by municipal, provincial, and private funding initiatives. The plan for this district will increase the amount of residential, commercial, and office development in the area to bring activity and community into the downtown core during the day and night.

BUSINESS REVITALIZATION ZONES (BRZS)

BRZs are unique opportunities for businesses to work together to accomplish mutual goals. These goals can be achieved through a variety of means including streetscape improvements, promotions and festivals, economic development initiatives and the Façade and Storefront Improvement Program.

▸ *Façade and Storefront Improvement Program*

This program encourages commercial property owners in BRZs to invest in façade renovations and storefront upgrades through grants.

109TH STREET CORRIDOR – AREA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The 109th Street corridor between the High Level Bridge and 61 Avenue is a prominent roadway in south-central Edmonton. The 109 Street Corridor Study recommended more intensive forms of residential and mixed-use development along 109 Street together with streetscape and transportation changes to create an improved balance between traffic movement and neighbourhood livability.



CAPITAL CITY DOWNTOWN PLAN

Edmonton's new Capital City Downtown Plan is built upon the goals of *The Way Ahead* to create a vision of Edmonton's Downtown that is sustainable, vibrant, well designed, and accessible. Several major catalyst projects, listed below, have been initiated as the Plan moves into its first stages of implementation.

Central Warehouse Area Housing Incentive Program

Serving as a catalyst for redevelopment of the Central Warehouse Area of Downtown which has large tracts of under-developed and vacant land, the program will provide a \$10,000/unit grant for the first 1,000 new housing units built in the Central Warehouse Area.

Warehouse Campus Neighbourhood Central Park

The park will support a range of shops, cafes, leisure, recreation, and other facilities fronting and addressing the park to increase activity levels and build community. Low Impact Development for storm water management will be incorporated into the park design.

River Valley Promenades

This project will expand and enhance Downtown pedestrian systems that overlook the river valley. Projects such as the redevelopment of Louise McKinney Park will have improved access to the river valley flats at river edge.

Integration of At-grade LRT

This plan ensures that the LRT line positively impacts Downtown development objectives. Land uses and densities along the LRT corridor will support the creation of mixed-use activity, encourage high levels of day and night pedestrian activity, and generate high levels of transit use. LRT stations and platforms will incorporate landscape, buildings, public art, and other public realm elements.

Jasper Avenue New Vision

The City is developing a vision to re-establish Jasper Avenue as the main street of Edmonton. Elements of the project include a narrowed roadway and widened sidewalks, tree planting along boulevards, refined streetscape elements and increased design standards for private development.

THE QUARTERS DOWNTOWN

The Quarters will be redeveloped to become a vibrant, healthy community comprised of five distinct areas, each with its own character, activities, and feel. The City of Edmonton is investing in the future of the Quarters with \$56 million in infrastructure upgrades and new construction.

Boyle Renaissance

Boyle Renaissance is a special planning area within The Quarters Downtown Community Revitalization Levy Area Plan. The redevelopment will take place over a number of years and will create a community that brings together a range of affordable and market housing opportunities.

NEIGHBOURHOOD REVITALIZATION

Neighbourhood Revitalization is a process, directed by the community and supported by the City, to identify strengths, issues, challenges and the potential of a particular area.

Avenue Initiative

Celebrating its sixth year, this pioneer revitalization project has transformed this historic area, improving both its social and physical aspects. Goals of the community-led, City-supported initiative include safe streets and spaces, improvements to community life, a thriving economy and environmental well-being through walkability and greening efforts.

Central McDougall and Queen Mary Park Revitalization

This neighbourhood revitalization project, which began in 2012, has four key themes: the development of safer communities, a beautiful neighbourhood, building a dynamic economic environment and connecting the community.

McCauley Revitalization

The City of Edmonton is investing \$10.5 million in McCauley over the next three years to support a community-led revitalization to this diverse and vibrant neighbourhood. The urban design conceptual plans include street enhancements, a multicultural tea house, parkland, garden development and street lighting improvements.



OLD TOWN FORT ROAD REDEVELOPMENT

The Fort Road Old Town Master Plan is a City-led initiative to create a new transit-oriented urban village next to the Belvedere LRT station as a means to revitalize a historically vibrant business community. The urban village will be a place where retail businesses thrive, opportunities for affordable housing and townhouse living are created and residents and visitors are provided options to walk and ride transit in order to carry out their daily activities.

COMMUNITY LEAGUES

Edmonton has a thriving system of over 150 community leagues throughout the city, each embodying the spirit of community involvement. Community leagues facilitate recreation, sport, and social activities; develop and encourage local volunteers; and address issues affecting the community.

COMMUNITY FACILITY PARTNER CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM (CFPCG)

The CFPCG promotes an active and attractive city through partnerships for the enhancement of public facilities. Funding is allocated city-wide to organizations in the sectors of arts & heritage, multi-cultural, recreation and amateur sport, seniors, and social services/community development.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

There are over 90 community garden sites now operating throughout the Capital region promoting local, organically grown food; healthy and active lifestyles; and safer, more vibrant and connected communities.

COMMUNITY, RECREATION, AND PARKS REDEVELOPMENTS

The City approves plans to redevelop a number of community buildings, parks, and recreation facilities on an ongoing basis. Recently completed projects include the Clareview Community Recreation Centre which features a new multi-purpose recreation facility.

WINTERCITY STRATEGY

Edmonton's WinterCity Strategy provides opportunities for more outdoor activity, improves winter transportation, enhances the social and economic vibrancy of Edmonton streets and celebrates the season and cold climate.

FRONT YARDS IN BLOOM

Over 4,221 attractive front yards were nominated and recognized in 2015 for contributing to a more beautiful community. Judging and nominations are coordinated through partnerships with community organizations such as the Edmonton Horticulture Society, Edmonton Native Plant Group, Sustainable Food Edmonton, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, as well as other sectors of the City.

▸ *Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes*

Winterscapes celebrates the beauty of residents' snowy front yards and ice sculptures in the winter season. The program aligns with the WinterCity Implementation Plan to encourage residents to enjoy the winter season within their communities, while maintaining beautiful neighbourhoods.

TURF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To restore and maintain turf on sports fields in top condition, the City practices aeration (core aeration, slicing, and deep tine aeration), topdressing with municipal compost, over-seeding application, mowing and irrigation.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

The City of Edmonton uses a variety of IPM programs to manage a range of pests such as weeds, tree pests and other plant diseases, stinging/biting insects, rodents, and water-borne diseases. Evaluations of new systems, techniques, products and biological controls help to steer the continual improvement of IPM programs and reduce conventional pesticide use.

GOOD GROWING NEIGHBOURS

Alongside Edmonton's IPM, Good Growing Neighbours seeks to educate the public about effective ways of maintaining yards and lawns in an environmentally friendly way, minimizing pesticide use.



NATURALIZATION PLAN

This program aims to promote the use of native plants in landscaping to provide habitat for wildlife, reduce maintenance costs, prevent erosion and decrease storm water runoff. Volunteers and City contractors plant native plant species to grow and adapt to the landscape.

► **Pollinator Field Planting Project**

In 2014, the City of Edmonton received a TD Green Streets grant to develop a field of flowering plants that will help to create habitat and feeding areas for pollinators in Edmonton. The pollinator field is located at the John Janzen Nature Centre.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NPDP)

The NPDP provides funding to support improvements to parks at the neighbourhood level. The program aims to guide, facilitate, and support the creation of great spaces and fun places for neighbourhood play, wellness, and learning through active partnerships with the community.

PLANT A ROW - GROW A ROW

The program invites local gardeners to grow an extra row of vegetables or provide their extra produce to the Edmonton Food Bank and Meals on Wheels. The City promotes the program by growing and maintaining vegetables on the grounds of the Muttart Conservatory and at the Edmonton Waste Management Centre.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD EDMONTON

Sustainable Food Edmonton is a non-profit charitable organization focused on raising awareness and initiating programs and projects that result in communities engaged in healthy food and a healthy planet.

► **Little Green Thumbs**

Little Green Thumbs is an indoor garden program for children and youth designed to engage students in learning and caring about the plants and the environment that sustain us.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design make communities safer through neighbourhood planning, development, and maintenance. CPTED deters criminal activity through natural surveillance, natural access control, and natural boundaries.

REACH EDMONTON COUNCIL FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

REACH is involved in more than 30 collaborative projects throughout Edmonton. All take new approaches to prevention and safety. They focus on immigrant and refugee families; people who are vulnerable because of addiction, poverty or homelessness; and youth at-risk.

EDMONTON DESIGN COMMITTEE

A unit of the City of Edmonton which prepares urban design policies, reviews development proposals, influences urban planning and preserves historic architecture.

THE PLACES: ART & DESIGN IN PUBLIC SPACES

Art & Design in Public Places (The Places) is a community based, multi-partner initiative designed to help revitalize Edmonton's Downtown through the placement of publicly and privately funded works of art and design.

RIBBON OF STEEL

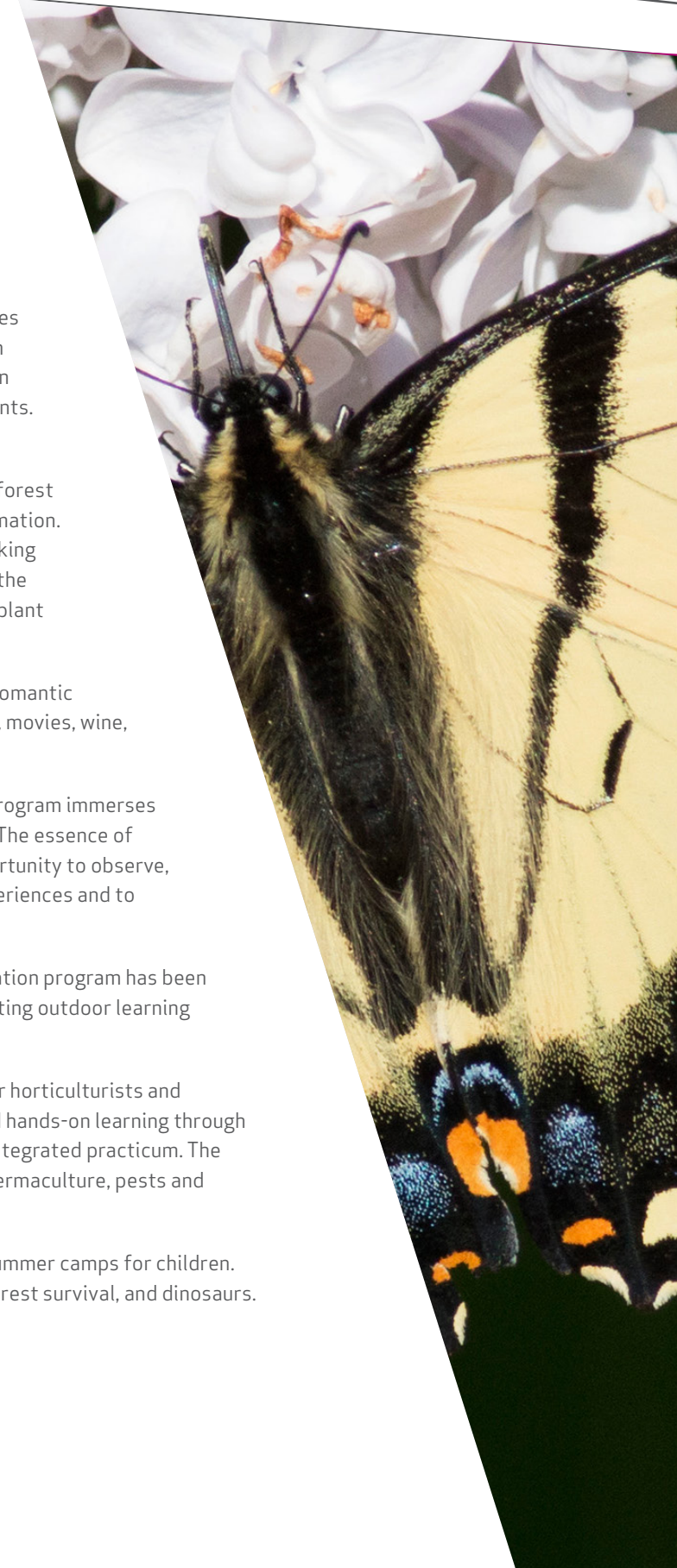
The Ribbon of Steel is a trail for walkers, cyclists, joggers and inline skaters along the former Canadian Pacific Rail lands north of the High Level Bridge. The goal of this project was the development of a multi-use trail within an abandoned railway corridor known as the Ribbon of Steel.





Initiatives to support

FLORAL DISPLAYS



DEVONIAN BOTANIC GARDEN

The University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden is a stunning 240-acre property located in Parkland County, with cultivated gardens and plant collections, indoor showhouses and an extensive nature trail system. Highlights of the Garden include the Kurimoto Japanese Garden; a butterfly garden; Tropical and Arid Showhouses; alpine, herb, rose, peony, lilac, lily and primula collections; Native Peoples Garden; trial beds and much more. The award-winning visitor attraction is a research site, and home to year-round adult and children's education programming as well as hosting a variety of music, arts, and culture events.

- **Collections and Research** - The DBG has been the site of research on topics as diverse as fungal associations, mosses, forest fires, bat and frog monitoring, and oilsands and wetland reclamation. The Garden is part of a global network of botanic gardens working to understand and preserve biodiversity and has partnered in the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew Gardens in England, the largest plant conservation project in the world.
- **Date Night** - Through the summer months, the DBG hosts a romantic evening in the garden. Event themes include painting, dancing, movies, wine, and craft beer.
- **Green School** - This Emerald Award winning Green School program immerses children in the natural world for five consecutive school days. The essence of the program is 'slow education' - giving children time and opportunity to observe, hear, smell and touch the natural world, to reflect on their experiences and to make personal connections to nature.
- **Kids in the Garden** - For 15 years this award-winning education program has been bringing children closer to nature through interactive and exciting outdoor learning and field trips to the garden.
- **Master Gardener Certification Program** - Led by senior horticulturists and industry experts, the program offers intensive theoretical and hands-on learning through classroom lectures, tours, assignments, project work and an integrated practicum. The broad range of topics include: arboriculture, alpine gardens, permaculture, pests and diseases, propagation, soils, and Japanese gardens.
- **Summer Camps** - The Garden offers a number of exciting summer camps for children. Themes include scientific experiments, insect explorations, forest survival, and dinosaurs.

EDMONTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (EHS)

The EHS is Edmonton's oldest and largest citizen group dedicated to gardening and beautifying our community. EHS events and programs, both past and present, support this vision by sharing knowledge and engaging gardeners.

- **Annual Garden Competition** - The Annual Garden Competition promotes excellence in gardening, whether through the use of rare and unusual plants, special features, or in the overall design and effect of a garden. In 2015, there were 16 categories.
- **EHS Centennial Garden** - A perennial and shrub garden recognizing the 100th anniversary of EHS was planted in 2009. The garden connects the Muttart Conservatory grounds to Louise McKinney Park and is maintained by volunteers from the EHS.
- **Garden Tour** - One of the EHS's most popular events, the Garden Tour is a self-guided tour of some of Edmonton's most beautiful and diverse gardens. Many of the featured gardens are award winners.
- **Open Gardens** - On select dates, local gardeners open their private gardens to members of the EHS for enjoyment and discovery.
- **Plant Share and Sale** - This event, which happens every spring and fall, is a great opportunity for gardeners to find new homes for extra plants, exchange them for new ones and buy locally hardy plants at reasonable prices.
- **Speaker Series** - These monthly talks provide opportunity to learn about gardening techniques, trends, and a variety of horticultural topics, as well as to socialize in a convivial setting.

LOUISE MCKINNEY RIVERFRONT PARK

Adjacent to downtown is a 15 acre park with 500 meters of unobstructed river view. The park is a venue for special events and river-based activities, such as the Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival. Louise McKinney is a central connector of the river valley trail system, linking to the Muttart Conservatory and the Trans Canada Trail. Features include:

- Riverfront Promenade
- Public dock
- Millennium Plaza & Shumka Stage
- Central Riverfront Plaza (with public pavilion and concession)
- World Walk—an aesthetic horticultural walk through the park
- Chinese Garden: This garden celebrates Edmonton's Chinese community with evocative plants. The garden includes a Chinese pagoda, welcoming lions, a rock garden and sculptures of the 12 animals of the zodiac.

MUTTART CONSERVATORY

Edmonton's premier horticultural attraction consists of four shimmering pyramids that are home to thousands of species of plants. Each pyramid hosts a different climate zone: temperate, arid, tropical, and a show pyramid for changing exhibits. The Conservatory also has extensive greenhouse space for plant maintenance, growing annuals, poinsettias, and plant material for the changing feature shows. The Conservatory engages students of all ages through educational programming; it also hosts a variety of music, arts, and cultural events, often incorporating horticultural themes.

- **Alberta Perennial Trials** - New herbaceous perennial varieties are planted to evaluate for hardiness, size, bloom time, quality, pest and disease resistance and overall landscape value. The plant beds inspire local gardeners with designs for their own perennial beds.
- **Annual Demonstration Beds** - These demonstration beds trial annual flowers for performance and display potential in Edmonton's growing conditions. Seeds are provided by local distributors. This is an example of a Partners in Parks project.
- **Education Garden** - The Muttart Education Garden has been planted to connect children attending day camps at the facility with nature and outdoor gardening through hands-on experiences. It is maintained by a team of volunteers and campers. Produce will be harvested by day campers to take home and extra produce is donated to the Edmonton Food Bank.
- **Grounds** - Landscapes around the Conservatory feature several beds of annuals as well as perennials that originate from the Alberta Perennial Trials program. The Conservatory is connected to the river valley trails.
- **Muttart Bedding Plant Sale** - The plant sale provides an opportunity to purchase expertly tended plants that make the perfect addition to any garden. There is also an opportunity to obtain additional gardening advice from Muttart's expert growers.
- **Orchid Collection** - This collection of renowned orchid species occupies three greenhouse spaces at the Muttart Conservatory. Orchids are displayed in the pavilions, while the Orchid Species Preservation Foundation conserves and preserves the different and unique species.
- **Perennial Demonstration Beds** - The Edmonton Horticultural Society has planted and maintained a Perennial Demonstration Bed at Muttart Conservatory to show how a selection of perennials can be successfully used in Edmonton to provide continuous interest and colour through the growing season in a Partners in Parks project.

EDMONTON LIVINGBRIDGE

The LIVINGbridge is an urban garden located atop an abandoned rail bridge in downtown Edmonton. It was inspired by urban designs that encourage a sense of community ownership and enjoyment of public green space. The hope is to foster pride and community engagement for the Downtown Edmonton, McCauley and Boyle Street neighbourhoods that intersect its borders. The garden is planted with native, drought resistant plants and indigenous edibles to lessen water consumption and reduce the environmental impact.

SILVER HEIGHTS PEONY GARDEN (FORT EDMONTON PARK)

Established in 1921 by Dr. James Brander, the Silver Heights Peony Garden was a popular Edmonton landmark and the source for many of the peonies seen across Western Canada today. This five acre site boasted more than 200 varieties of peonies by the 1930s, amidst a landscape of other flowers, shrubs and trees. Reconstructed at Fort Edmonton Park on 1920 Street, the Silver Heights Peony Garden is now in its 14th year and contains a glorious array of heirloom flowers. Although designed to bloom from spring to fall, the garden is most spectacular in late June when the peonies burst into a field of colour for just a few short weeks.



ORCHID FAIR

Each year the Orchid Society of Alberta celebrates the hobby of orchid growing with its annual show and sale. After nearly 40 years the show has grown to become the largest of its kind in Western Canada with over 15,000 square feet of displays and sales area featuring hundreds of exotic orchids. Added competitions look at orchid arrangement, artwork, and photography.

BLOOMIN' BOULEVARDS FLOWER BARRELS

Flower barrels and hanging baskets are available to Business Revitalization Zones to encourage businesses to beautify their property. In 2015, ten BRZs across Edmonton ordered a total of 730 barrels and hanging baskets.

SPECIAL EVENT CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION FLOWER BARRELS

To beautify Edmonton for the many sporting events (ITU Triathlon and the Tour of Alberta) and festivals being hosted in the city in summer 2016, large-size flower barrels have been placed throughout the City along roadways and around special event venues.

PARTNERS IN PARKS PROGRAM

The Partners in Parks program makes it possible for individuals, families, schools, or community groups to contribute to Edmonton's standing as a Community in Bloom. By planting in and/or maintaining a flower bed, a cul-de-sac island, a bit of parkland, or land along a roadway, residents help make Edmonton an even more beautiful place to live.



