

HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

City of Edmonton

Edmonton



AUGUST 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as Nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

The place we call Edmonton is also known to many as amiskwaciwâskahikan (ᐱᓄᓴᑦᕈᕐᕋᐱᓂᓇᐱᓂᓇ or Beaver Hills House). Indigenous Peoples have looked to the meaning of space (referring to location, physical space and/or physical geography) as a means of establishing a sense of place (referencing meaning within space) long before Edmonton's built form developed. A new heritage strategy will help to broaden what heritage can be, beyond our colonial and settler history, to reflect a more holistic representation of the histories and stories for those who call this place home.

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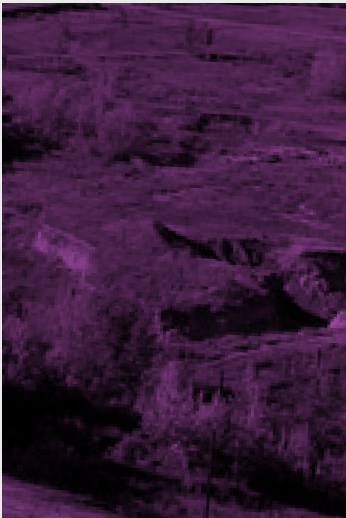
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THE TEAM

This project would not have been possible without the energy and support of many people. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and ideas to the development of the Heritage Places Strategy.

The City of Edmonton

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Heritage Places Strategy represents another exciting shift in Edmonton’s evolving approach to heritage. Heritage reflects what communities inherit from the past and choose to carry forward to future generations. It offers Edmontonians and visitors cultural, social and economic benefits that contribute to our collective identity and sense of place.

A new Heritage Places Strategy is required to update how places that matter to Edmontonians are identified, commemorated, and conserved. It will replace the 2009 Historic Resource Management Plan. The City of Edmonton aspires to expand the scope of heritage planning to recognize diverse histories, voices, and both natural and cultural heritage in addition to built heritage. The Heritage Places Strategy will contribute to The City Plan, the Indigenous Framework, and many City priorities including reconciliation, climate resilience, and local economic development.

The Heritage Places Strategy was developed thanks to the participation and input of Indigenous partners, heritage partners, community leagues and organizations and Edmontonians. The strategy outlines the engagement feedback heard, the review of existing policies, and the research from other cities that informed the development of the strategy.

The Heritage Places Strategy includes six **Guiding Principles** (Inclusive, Integrated, Community-Led, Living and Evolving, Visible and Accessible, and Collaborative) that express the shared values to guide all elements of the strategy. The four **Pillars** — Natural Heritage, Indigenous Heritage, Community and Cultural Heritage, and Built Heritage — are the updated focus areas with recommended directions. The six **Implementation Priorities** (Indigenous Stewardship and Partnership, Community-led Heritage Storytelling, Awareness and Promotion, City-owned Heritage, Incentives, and Heritage Areas) will advance various directions through specific projects.

Implementation will rely on a combination of existing resources, partnerships, and access to additional funding sources. It may require choices and tradeoffs, which may include reallocation or realignment of responsibilities, to achieve the strategy’s goals. Ongoing communication and future engagement with Indigenous partners, heritage partners, underrepresented groups, and the public will be important. As the Heritage Places Strategy advances a broader and more inclusive understanding of heritage, the City looks forward to working with all partners to promote and celebrate heritage in Edmonton.



Hawrelak Park, 1968, photo by David Murray

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INTRODUCTION

NEED FOR A HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

Heritage reflects what communities inherit from the past and choose to carry forward to future generations. Heritage places are locations that hold special meaning and contribute to understanding our history, identity, and sense of place. These places also contribute to Edmonton’s cultural vitality, economic activity, and climate resilience.

The City of Edmonton’s heritage conservation effort was established in the 1980s and has supported the designation and protection of many significant historic resources. These include iconic landmarks such as the Hotel Macdonald, the Garneau Theatre, and Alexander Circle, as well as many publicly and privately owned historic buildings across the city.

A new Heritage Places Strategy is required to update how places that matter to Edmontonians are identified, commemorated, and conserved. The City of Edmonton aspires to expand the scope of heritage planning to recognize diverse histories, voices, and both natural and cultural places. In March 2024, City Council directed its Administration to develop a new strategy to replace the 2009 Historic Resource Management Plan and Policy C450B (2008).

The Heritage Places Strategy aligns with The City Plan, particularly the Guiding Value to “Preserve”, and supports policy directions related to heritage, including facilitating programs and services that preserve, document, and celebrate Edmonton’s heritage. The strategy also contributes to the City’s Indigenous Framework by supporting stronger relationships with Indigenous Peoples in heritage planning. In addition, it advances broader Council priorities, including climate resilience and local economic development.

HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY GOALS

The development of the Heritage Places Strategy was guided by three primary goals:

- Build on the City’s existing heritage program to create a strategy that reflects diverse histories, voices, and places.
- Expand the scope of the heritage program to:
 - Recognize and advance the contributions of underrepresented people, places, and cultures, including Indigenous Peoples
 - Recognize, protect, and integrate cultural, natural, and built heritage
 - Consider how heritage conservation can contribute to climate resilience objectives.
- Replace the Historic Resource Management Plan and Policy C450B.



The Neon Sign Museum, the first in Canada, features a collection of historic signs. City of Edmonton.

HOW TO READ THE HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

The Heritage Places Strategy provides recommendations and guidance for City Council, City Administration, Indigenous partners, heritage organizations, community groups, and residents.

The document is organized into four main sections:

- **Background** - summarizes engagement, research from other municipalities, and a review of existing City policies.
- **Guiding Principles** - outlines the shared values and approaches that inform heritage decision-making.
- **Pillars** - defines the updated focus areas and recommended directions for the City’s Heritage Places Program.
- **Implementation** - identifies priorities that support delivery of the directions under each pillar.

A glossary of frequently used terms is provided at the end of the document. Supporting appendices are referenced throughout the strategy document and are available at edmonton.ca/historicresources.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

The Heritage Places Strategy is intended for anyone involved in or wanting to be involved in promoting heritage in Edmonton. The Heritage Places Strategy was developed thanks to the participation and input of many partners. While the City will lead much of the strategy’s implementation, successful implementation is contingent on continuing this collaboration and partnership with those passionate about or interested in heritage places. Whether that’s a community looking to the strategy to support their own heritage initiative or a joint project between the City and a partner, the importance of heritage will strengthen with our collective efforts.

BENEFITS OF HERITAGE PLANNING IN EDMONTON

Heritage planning continues to offer Edmontonians and visitors cultural, social and economic benefits. Heritage provides people with links to the past, allowing us to understand where we have come from and helping us shape our city in the future. Historic buildings and streetscapes become landmarks contributing to the aesthetic enrichment of Edmonton.

The direct benefits of heritage include economic development, job creation, promoting tourism, strengthening our tax base, and climate resilience. For example:

- Heritage grants contribute to redevelopment projects such as the Boardwalk and the Revillon Building designated as Municipal Historic Resources in 2023. Each resource received a \$500,000 rehabilitation grant, leveraging over \$2,000,000 for heritage restoration work in addition to general renovation costs.
- Rehabilitation requires a range of services and materials that are supported by specialized tradespeople with masonry, woodworking and restoration skills.
- Residents and tourists alike are attracted to Edmonton’s most popular Municipal Historic Resources, including the West End Telephone Exchange, the streetcar on the High Level Bridge, the pavilions in Hawrelak

Park, Downtown’s 104 Street and Neon Sign Museum and Whyte Avenue in Old Strathcona.

- Investing in heritage buildings potentially improves the municipal tax base as rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance can increase property value.
- Investing in existing and heritage buildings prevents materials from entering the landfill. Reusing and adapting buildings expends less energy and resources.

Drawing inspiration from historic urban landscape approaches, the Heritage Places Strategy will reflect a more holistic understanding of heritage. The expanded scope for heritage will ensure that Edmonton’s most significant natural features have the opportunity for recognition. Indigenous communities, immigrant and newcomer communities, and those that may have been underrepresented will have support to commemorate places of historical significance to them, whether natural, cultural, or built; celebratory, or challenging. Celebrating cultures and communities that have contributed to Edmonton helps create a sense of pride and belonging. When people see themselves in the story of the city, they feel more compelled to be a part of it. This work will broaden the City’s Inventory and Register of Historic Resources beyond a focus on built heritage.

HISTORY OF THE HERITAGE PLACES PROGRAM

Ceremony and meaning connected to place has a long history in the Edmonton area, and this continued into the settlement era of the late 1800s. The Edmonton Journal reported that “something resembling panic reigned among citizens who value the historic” in 1915 when Fort Edmonton was demolished. The earliest modern heritage place commemoration appears to have been the 1923 designation of the site of the first fur trading forts as the Fort Augustus and Fort Edmonton National Historic Site. In 1947, the City of Edmonton established an Archives and Landmarks Committee that was later renamed the Edmonton Historical Board.

Public interest in heritage places increased in the 1960s and 70s as early, much-loved buildings such as the original downtown public library, courthouse and post office were demolished. The Government of Alberta began designating (legally protecting) properties as Provincial Historic Resources in 1976. These were also the early years of Fort Edmonton Park and the John Walter Museum, which point to growing interest in the City and the general public around the conservation of built heritage. The City of Edmonton hired its first heritage officer in 1981. In November of that year, City Council designated the Tegler Building as Edmonton’s first Municipal Historic Resource but in March 1982, the designation bylaw was repealed and the building was soon demolished. The Hotel Macdonald was

the second building designated, in 1985, and this helped initiate a period of heritage place identification and preservation.

In 1995, the City developed its first Historic Resource Management Plan to guide the heritage program and support future designations. The Historic Resources Management Plan was updated in 2009 and continued to guide the success of the program, with a focus on built heritage. Over the last 40 years, over 200 Municipal Historic Resources have been designated and preserved.

Also in 1995, a Historic Resources Reserve Fund Account was created to ensure that a secure source of funding would be available to assist in the rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance of protected historic resources. Since renamed the Heritage Resources Reserve, the fund provides financial incentive to designate, restore and rehabilitate Edmonton’s identified historic resources. Rehabilitation funding is provided upon designation, and ongoing maintenance funding is available for designated Municipal Historic Resources. The reserve also funds other heritage-related initiatives, such as the Neon Sign Museum. The Heritage Resources Reserve is funded annually from the municipal tax base; unused amounts in a given year roll over to subsequent years, thus helping maintain the reserve.

In addition to the Historic Resources Management Plan, Council Policy C450B to *Encourage the Designation and Rehabilitation of Municipal Historic Resources in Edmonton* was adopted in 2008 to help direct the heritage program. Policy C450B superseded the earlier C450A (approved in 1988), outlining key elements for the heritage program, including definitions, processes and requirements, in alignment with the Historical Resources Act, the provincial legislation that enables heritage place protection in Alberta.

Over time, the City’s heritage planners established two lists of recognized heritage resources: the Inventory of Historic Resources and the Register of Historic Resources. The Inventory is a list of heritage resources that merit conservation, but are not legally protected. Once they are designated as a Municipal Historic Resource, they are placed on the Register. The Register is a list of Municipal Historic Resources that are legally protected from demolition or inappropriate alteration under a designating bylaw. This agreement is registered on the property’s title.

Since the 1980s, heritage areas have been another tool used to conserve specific locations with important heritage characteristics. The first heritage areas were established through customized zoning prepared in conjunction with

Area Redevelopment Plans in the 1980s. In 2007, the Government of Alberta designated Old Strathcona as a Provincial Historic Area, one of just a handful in Alberta. In the 2000s, areas of historic significance began to be identified in neighbourhood heritage inventories.

Throughout its existence, the City’s heritage program worked closely with the Edmonton Historical Board (including engagement on the development of this strategy). The board’s mandate was to provide advice to Council regarding historical issues and civic heritage policies. It also encouraged and promoted the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities, and documentary heritage. Additionally, the Board made recommendations for additions to the Inventory of Historic Resources. On April 28, 2026 as part of a governance review, City Council concluded seven of its civic agencies including the Edmonton Historical Board. This left the Edmonton Heritage Council, founded in 2009, as the sole City-funded heritage partner organization. With the preparation of this Heritage Places Strategy, the effort it guides was renamed the Heritage Places Program.

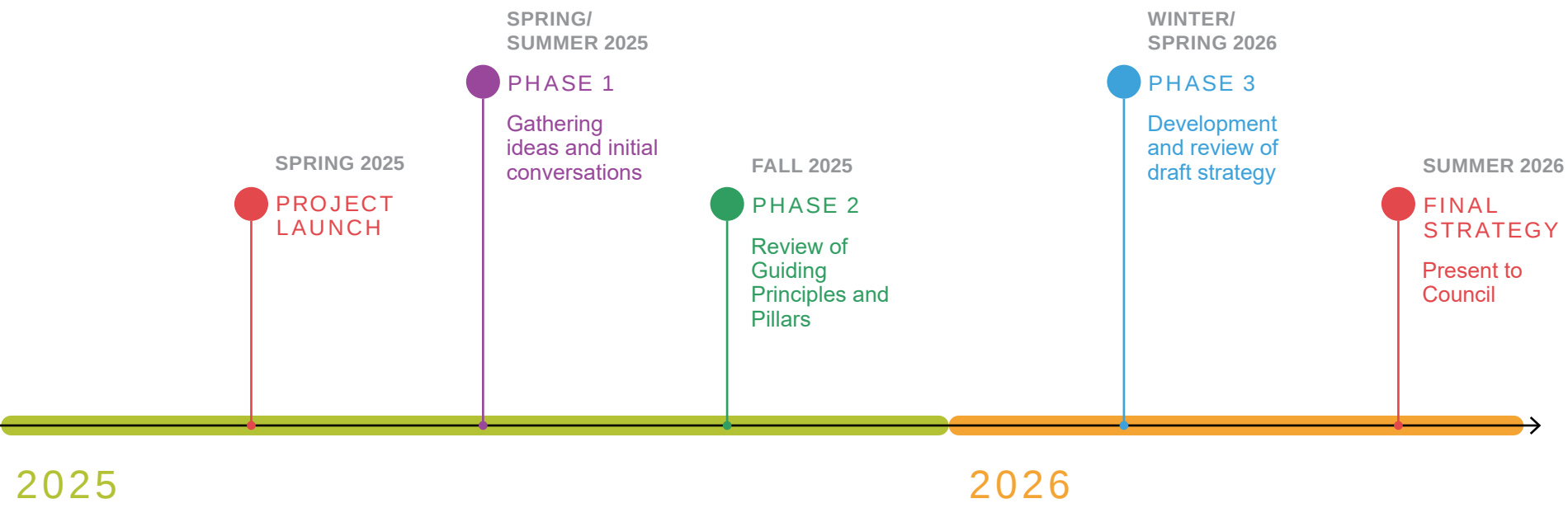
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BACKGROUND

MAKING THE STRATEGY

The Heritage Places Strategy project launched in spring 2025 and was developed through three phases. Engagement with partners and the public was an important component of each phase.

In addition to engagement feedback, the project team considered existing City policies and guidelines, as well as research and leading practices from other municipalities. This section summarizes the development of the strategy and highlights key findings from each phase of engagement.



PROJECT TIMELINE

PARTNER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The City of Edmonton is committed to involving people and seeking diverse perspectives, experiences, and knowledge to ensure a broad range of viewpoints are considered in decision-making.

The City’s Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) framework guided this project by considering diverse identity factors, reducing barriers to participation, and promoting equitable outcomes.

Engagement activities were carried out in three phases and involved a range of partners, organizations, and members of the public, including the following groups.

Indigenous Partners

Indigenous engagement was essential to ensuring that Edmonton’s approach to heritage management reflects Indigenous ways of knowing and being and supports meaningful reconciliation. Engagement was important since Indigenous peoples have been historically underrepresented in traditional heritage planning processes in the past. The City of Edmonton have signed many memorandums of understanding, dialogue, cooperation and recognition that bring the spirit of reconciliation and knowledge that the Indigenous Peoples have been here since time immemorial. Engagement was undertaken with

three of the City’s Indigenous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partners: the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Enoch Cree Nation, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

Heritage Partners

Heritage partners and community organizations included groups with a strong interest in heritage, organizations whose mandates include heritage stewardship, and those interested in exploring their role in heritage planning. Partners included the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Historical Board, Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, the City’s Naming Committee, several community leagues, Edmonton Public Schools, business improvement areas, and representatives from the development industry.

Underrepresented Groups

This included communities and organizations with an interest in heritage that have historically been underrepresented in traditional heritage planning processes. Engagement included representatives from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including the Queer History Project and Pride Corner; the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee; the Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage; the

Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative; and proponents for South Asian heritage and Francophone heritage.

Public

The public included residents, property owners, individual members of heritage or historical organizations, members of community leagues, and Edmontonians more broadly. Participants may or may not have been familiar with heritage or the City’s Heritage Places Program but shared an interest in providing their perspectives.



Edmonton Dragon Festival Parade on 97 Street with the Hull Block, a Provincial Historic Resource, in the background. City of Edmonton.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Communications were undertaken throughout the project to raise awareness and inform partners and the public about opportunities to provide input during each phase of engagement. Communication methods included direct emails and invitations to partners, updates through the project webpage and social media channels, postcards mailed to residents and property owners of sites listed on the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and public service announcements.

Feedback was collected through a range of engagement activities, including facilitated conversations, opportunities to provide input through the Engaged Edmonton webpage, online surveys, and written submissions submitted through the project email.

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT RECAP AND HIGHLIGHTS

Phase 1 engagement took place in spring and summer 2025 at the Advise and Refine levels of the City’s Public Engagement Spectrum. People were invited to share their familiarity with the City’s heritage program and provide input on considerations for the Heritage Places Strategy.

Key themes gathered through Phase 1 engagement are summarized as follows. A complete summary is available in the *Phase 1 What We Heard Report* at edmonton.ca/historicresources

Expanding the Definition of Heritage

Participants noted that heritage extends beyond buildings and physical structures. Cultural practices, community connections, stories, and traditions were shared as important elements that give places meaning. Natural heritage, including the river valley, mature trees, natural formations, and landscapes, was also identified as a significant component of Edmonton’s heritage.

Inclusivity and Indigenous Perspectives

Participants emphasized the importance of recognizing a broader range of histories and

perspectives in heritage planning. Indigenous heritages and perspectives were identified as foundational. The Otipemisiwak Métis Government, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, and Enoch Cree Nation highlighted the importance of collaboration, community-led engagement, and storytelling. Participants also noted the importance of recognizing the contributions of newcomer and immigrant communities that have shaped Edmonton’s development and character.

Creative and Flexible Approaches to Heritage Recognition

Participants expressed interest in creative and flexible approaches to recognizing heritage. Suggestions included digital storytelling, art projects, walking tours, interpretive programming, and community-led initiatives. Examples such as community-led plaque programs and walking tours were noted as successful initiatives that could benefit from continued City support.

Development Pressures and Growth Management

Participants expressed concern about the potential impacts of infill redevelopment on heritage resources. Many noted the importance of heritage-informed approaches

to development that balance growth and conservation rather than treating them as competing priorities.

Policy Integration and Resource Considerations

Participants highlighted the importance of aligning heritage planning with broader City priorities, including climate resilience, waste reduction, economic development, and social equity. Questions were also raised regarding feasibility and resourcing, including the need for enhanced incentives, streamlined processes, and recognition of heritage conservation as an investment that contributes to broader city-building objectives.

PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT RECAP
AND HIGHLIGHTS

Phase 2 engagement took place in fall 2025 at the Advise and Refine levels of the City’s Public Engagement Spectrum. Building on the feedback received during Phase 1, as well as research from other municipalities and a review of Edmonton’s policies, the project team drafted Guiding Principles and Pillars to form the foundation of the new Heritage Places Strategy.

Key themes gathered through Phase 2 engagement are summarized below. A complete summary is available in the *Phase 2 What We Heard Report* at edmonton.ca/historicresources

Feedback on the Overall Strategy

Participants expressed general support for the draft Heritage Places Strategy and its expanded understanding of heritage. Many noted that the proposed approach appropriately recognizes heritage beyond historic buildings to include natural spaces, cultural landscapes, community landmarks, and intangible heritage.

Discussions with representatives from Enoch Cree Nation, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government highlighted several important considerations related to both the project and engagement process. Key themes included the importance of relationship-building, trust,

and presence in determining what knowledge can be shared; the role of ceremony in creating appropriate conditions for dialogue; the persistence of historical experiences in the present; and the importance of recognizing diversity within Indigenous communities. They also emphasized that heritage is lived in the present and that the structure and logic of the strategy framework are important in shaping how heritage is understood and supported.

Across engagement activities, additional themes included the importance of integrating heritage within broader City priorities to avoid it being treated as a secondary consideration, the need for timely action given ongoing loss of heritage resources, clearer and more accessible language within the strategy, and recognition of heritage as an important component of community identity.

Feedback on the Guiding Principles

As part of the Phase 2 survey*, a slight majority (59 per cent or 1,567 of 2,656) of survey respondents agreed that the proposed Guiding Principles provided strong guidance for the new Heritage Places Strategy.

Across engagement activities, participants shared several areas for refinement. These included clarifying how the Guiding Principles

are distinct while working together as a cohesive framework; recognizing heritage as a form of vibrant social capital; establishing clearer standards and policy direction; and moving beyond symbolic recognition toward meaningful action.

Based on Phase 2 feedback and internal review, refinements were made to the language and framing of certain Guiding Principles to clarify their intent and better reflect the engagement themes of integration, clarity, and actionable direction.

Feedback on the Pillars

Over two-thirds (69 per cent or 1,832 of 2,656) of survey respondents agreed that the proposed pillars provide a strong foundation for the new Heritage Places Strategy.

Themes heard through engagement included the importance of strengthening language beyond “recognition” to emphasize protection, preservation, celebration, and stewardship. Participants also highlighted concerns about economic pressures affecting heritage resources, including buildings, landscapes, and public spaces. There was strong support for expanding the scope of the heritage program beyond traditional built heritage to include social, cultural, natural, and intangible heritage.



Gibson Block. City of Edmonton

PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT RECAP
AND HIGHLIGHTS

The feedback received from Phase 2 engagement, together with the ongoing research and alignment with policy objectives, was used to draft the Heritage Places Strategy. In Phase 3, the project team shared the draft strategy with partners and the public showing how their contributions were used to gather feedback on the draft.

Key themes gathered through Phase 3 engagement are summarized below. A complete summary is available in the *Phase 3 What We Heard* at edmonton.ca/historicresources

General Positivity and Appreciation

Partners and the public were generally positive about the draft Heritage Places Strategy, including the updates to the Guiding Principles and the Pillars. For each pillar, a majority of the 1,609 people who participated in the Phase 3 survey* agreed (somewhat or strongly) with the directions under the pillars ranging from 83 per cent agreement for Natural Heritage, 64 per cent agreement for Indigenous Heritage, 65 per cent agreement for Community and Cultural Heritage, and 80 per cent agreement for Built Heritage. Many expressed appreciation for the work completed and feedback was provided to strengthen the language and intentions of the strategy.

Continuous Partner Involvement

Representatives from the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government emphasized the importance of relationships and continued engagement. Opportunities to involve Elders, Knowledge Keepers as well as youth will be essential for future heritage initiatives. Community partners highlighted the importance of supporting community-informed and community-led efforts to commemorate or celebrate heritage places.

Pressures on Heritage

Participants worried about the strategy’s “teeth” to preserve heritage. Partners were concerned that the strategy and heritage initiatives would be overshadowed by other City objectives such as increased density in mature neighbourhoods. Partners suggested improving the document’s language to better empower and support heritage and include more specificity around who would be responsible for which directions and implementation activities. There was also concern around the potential loss of Policy C450B and the perceived lack of Council connection to heritage related work.

City-owned Heritage

Partners were supportive of the City’s responsibility to designate and maintain City-owned resources with heritage value. Whether resources are retained long term by the City or sold with conditions for designation, more attention is required to continue to manage these historical assets.

Additional Considerations, Tools, and Incentives

Existing heritage tools and incentives were discussed by partners. Improvements to grants, revised criteria, new tools, new heritage areas, or zoning could support heritage preservation within neighbourhoods and encourage designations. Accessibility and inclusiveness were also flagged for heritage buildings and places that could be more challenging to visit and navigate.

Funding

The Heritage Resources Reserve and future budget requests also came up. Partners were concerned with the expansion of the heritage team’s scope without increasing funding and available resources. Gaps will need to be filled with the “sunsetting” of the Edmonton Historical Board and the tasks they supported.

The project team is grateful for all of the partner and public feedback that supported the development of the strategy.

**Survey note: the respondent pool is a voluntary sample and is not statistically representative of the entire city of Edmonton population. Therefore, while the insights are valuable, the results reflect the views of the survey respondents only. The themes provide a snapshot from the survey’s closed-ended questions and the additional thoughts provided through the open responses.*

RESEARCH FROM OTHER CITIES & REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICIES, GUIDELINES & LEGISLATION

As part of the development of the Heritage Places Strategy, a review of relevant municipal policies, legislation, and guidelines was undertaken. Research also included local, national, and international examples to inform the identification of tools and approaches suitable for Edmonton’s context.

This review helped ensure that the Heritage Places Strategy connects with existing City directions while incorporating emerging best practices in heritage conservation and management.

CITY-WIDE

The City Plan

The City Plan provides a long-term vision for Edmonton’s growth, focusing on sustainability, equity, and resilience. It includes policies on integrating heritage conservation into urban development, addressing heritage through a balanced approach that ensures historic assets contribute to the city’s identity while allowing for the necessary growth and redevelopment. The City Plan sets the framework for the city’s broader vision, including the adaptation of historical resources in a manner that respects both the past and future needs.

Connections:

- Heritage conservation should be prioritized within broader city planning frameworks to balance historic conservation with development.
- Meaningful engagement and storytelling are essential to recognizing diverse communities, particularly Indigenous peoples, within heritage conservation.

District Policy

The District Policy provides general direction for planning, design, mobility, and growth management for all districts. Section 2.3 concerns Heritage Places and Cultural Areas. The policies encourage the identification of heritage places, adding them to the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and promoting compatible development adjacent to heritage places and within cultural areas. The policy also supports efforts to identify, manage, and celebrate Indigenous heritages and places of significance.

Connections:

- Clearly identifying heritage areas and creating supportive planning regulations is vital.
- Close collaboration with Indigenous communities to identify and manage significant cultural sites will ensure more inclusive and accurate heritage recognition.

District Plans

The District Plans contain district-specific maps and area-specific policies to show how the city-wide District Policy directions are applied in each district. Edmonton has 15 District Plans. The District Plans indicate areas that are zoned with heritage considerations, such as the Westmount Architectural Heritage Area. They also contain maps which show where Inventory and Register resources are located in each district.

Connections:

- Successful district-level heritage management requires detailed guidelines for adaptive reuse, sensitive urban design, and conservation of visual character and historic streetscapes.
- Integrating heritage considerations explicitly in redevelopment and zoning processes promotes the conservation of local identity.

Indigenous Framework

The Indigenous Framework acknowledges the City’s obligation to respect and honour Indigenous cultural heritages. It sets out commitments for integrating Indigenous perspectives into heritage planning, ensuring meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities, and promoting the recognition of Indigenous cultural heritages within urban spaces. The Indigenous Framework’s Guiding Principles (Relationships, Celebrations, Agreements, Renewal), four Roles (Listener, Connector, Advocate, Partner), and Seven Commitments will serve as useful to guide the Heritage Places Strategy’s implementation.

Connections:

- Authentic engagement with Indigenous communities is crucial for accurately representing and respecting Indigenous heritages in municipal planning.
- Providing ongoing staff education on Indigenous cultural practices ensures more meaningful and culturally sensitive policy implementation.

Edmonton Zoning Bylaw 20001

Edmonton’s current Zoning Bylaw took effect on January 1, 2024. The Zoning Bylaw is the primary regulatory tool to implement The City Plan and determines what can be built where. It sets the rules for where new buildings should go, what types of buildings they can be, and what types of businesses and activities can happen on a property.

Connections:

- Every parcel of land is affected by its zone. Several historic resources have Direct Control zoning or are part of a broader character or heritage area, where specific zoning aims to ensure new development is in harmony with existing heritage buildings.
- Development rights established in zoning help influence whether a property owner will preserve a historic resource.

NATURE AND CLIMATE

Breathe: Green Network Strategy

This strategy outlines policies for connecting natural and cultural landscapes within Edmonton. It recognizes the importance of heritage in green spaces, integrating cultural and ecological heritage through public art, interpretive signs, and the use of public space for community engagement. The strategy supports the conservation of significant ecological and cultural landscapes, leveraging them as focal points for urban design and social interaction.

Connections:

- Parks and open spaces can effectively integrate cultural heritage through landscape design and public interpretation.
- Educational partnerships with Indigenous groups enhance understanding and stewardship of ecological and cultural landscapes.

Ribbon of Green Strategic Plan

The Ribbon of Green provides strategic direction to guide the protection and responsible use of Edmonton’s River Valley and Ravine system to Edmonton’s 1.5 million population horizon. The plan provides direction to inform future site-specific planning and guide decision making.

Connections:

- It aims to protect and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the River Valley and Ravine system. A guiding principle of the plan is to protect these sites, and where appropriate, interpret them.
- Ribbon of Green Policy 2.3.6 concerns incorporating public art and heritage into the River Valley and Ravine system, which aligns with directions in the Heritage Places Strategy.
- Ribbon of Green Policy 2.5.3 addresses management of Heritage, Cultural, and Traditional resources. This includes working with heritage and other organizations to identify culturally significant locations and historic resources to ensure appropriate protection and/or interpretation.

Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Strategy

The Wildland-Urban Interface Wildfire Risk Strategy is Edmonton’s roadmap to proactively minimize wildfire risk, safeguarding people, property, and the environment. It addresses the increasing threat of wildfires in urban areas due to climate change and expanding urban development.

Connections:

- This strategy contains guidance for management of areas vulnerable to wildfire in Edmonton. Action VM3 concerns developing resilient landscape design and construction standards for public parks, environmental reserves, and top of bank areas, which may affect natural and built heritage.
- Action LD1 explores applying appropriate zoning regulations to applicable types of development in the wildland-urban interface to mitigate wildfire risk and may affect built heritage.

Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation Strategy & Action Plan

The Climate Resilient Edmonton strategy outlines how the city will adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change, focusing on minimizing risk and building urban resilience. While not heritage-specific, it supports ensuring buildings, infrastructure, natural assets, and the community are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Connections:

- Encourages incorporation of climate adaptation and resilience standards into planning and development processes which can help ensure built heritage is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Encourages the protection and preservation of natural areas and ecosystems and works to ensure they are resilient to climate change impacts.

Edmonton’s Community Energy Transition Strategy

This strategy sets out Edmonton’s roadmap for achieving a low-carbon future, with targets for emissions reductions across buildings, energy systems, and transportation. While not heritage-specific, it supports adaptive reuse and deep energy retrofits of existing buildings.

Connections:

- Encourages energy retrofits of existing buildings to reduce emissions.
- Encourages nature based solutions and invests in natural carbon storage and sinks which includes natural areas and other natural assets.

PLACE-BASED

Chinatown Strategy

The Chinatown Strategy focuses on preserving and revitalizing one of Edmonton’s most culturally significant areas. It addresses the heritage of Chinatown’s built environment, landscapes, and its community significance, proposing a vision for sustaining and enhancing the area’s historical value through sensitive development and interpretation.

Connections:

- Active community-led initiatives, including tourism and marketing plans, are critical to revitalizing cultural and historic areas.
- Heritage landmarks and streetscapes need explicit conservation and maintenance strategies to sustain long-term community value.

River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan

This plan outlines a vision for interpreting the heritage of Edmonton’s River Crossing area. It emphasizes the area’s cultural and historical significance to multiple communities, including Indigenous peoples, and provides a framework for future interpretive work that honours the area’s diverse history through landscape, programming, and the built environment.

Connections:

- Explicitly interpreting diverse histories, particularly Indigenous and industrial, in public spaces enriches urban narratives and fosters deeper community connections.
- Heritage interpretation should be central in redevelopment areas, significantly contributing to the success of revitalization projects.

Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy

The Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy envisions a new future for parks, plazas, parking lots, sidewalks, alleys and streets. The strategy incorporates input from Edmontonians, key actions, public realm concept and recommended improvements.

Connections:

- This strategy references heritage interpretation in Old Strathcona.
- It encourages the rehabilitation and re-use of heritage buildings as well as sympathetic redevelopment next to them (e.g. 1909 Strathcona Public Market Building and Connaught Armoury).

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

Connections & Exchanges

Connections & Exchanges is Edmonton’s cultural plan that outlines goals for supporting the city’s arts and heritage sectors. It includes commitments to support diverse cultural expression, increase access to heritage spaces, and recognize Indigenous and equity-deserving communities in public memory.

Connections:

- Arts and heritage integrated into the city’s daily life and civic fabric can support inclusive storytelling and programming in heritage spaces.
- Partnerships and capacity building across heritage and arts sectors can increase public engagement with arts and heritage events and activities.

The Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan

Developed by Arts Habitat Edmonton with the partners of Connections and Exchanges, the Edmonton Cultural Infrastructure Plan (ECIP) is Edmonton’s first comprehensive, community-driven plan to guide the development, use, and integration of cultural infrastructure over the next decade (2026–2036). It establishes a shared vision, principles, and phased priorities to ensure arts, culture, and heritage spaces are accessible, sustainable, and embedded across the city.

Connections:

- Action items in ECIP include activating existing community infrastructure to promote heritage and heritage spaces. It emphasizes community-led initiatives, utilizing heritage properties, and infrastructure that supports arts, heritage, and culture.

Beyond Belonging: The 2SLGBTQIA+ Safe Spaces Action Plan

Beyond Belonging is an initiative shaped by the voices and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, aiming to build a safer, more inclusive Edmonton, where every person can live authentically and without fear. The seven actions in Beyond Belonging include creating safer public spaces, increasing education, and greater integration in municipal communications, services, and operations.

Connections:

- Beyond Belonging Item 6.04 states that the Heritage Places Team “will continue working with a variety of 2SLGBTQIA+ groups in an effort to preserve and promote their rich history, involving events, exhibits and adding records to the City’s heritage collection.” This aligns with the Heritage Places Strategy Guiding Principle of *Inclusive*.
- It also aligns with proposed directions in the Heritage Places Strategy to prioritize place-based, community-led heritage initiatives that reflect the histories and experiences of traditionally underrepresented communities, such as 2SLGBTQIA+ groups.

Policy C602: Accessibility for People with Disabilities

Policy C602 supports Edmonton’s aim to be an accessible city by providing equitable access and opportunity for all people. This includes incorporating best practices, reducing barriers, and collaborating with community groups, businesses, institutions and organizations to incorporate accessibility using Universal Design principles.

Connections:

- Many heritage buildings were constructed under a different building code and with less regard for accessibility. Safety and access interventions should be encouraged alongside heritage rehabilitation and maintenance in order to enhance everyone’s experience of heritage.

PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL

Historical Resources Act of Alberta

This legislation provides the legal framework for heritage protection in Alberta. It governs the designation of Provincial and Municipal Historic Resources, regulates alterations to protected sites, and enables municipal powers to recognize and conserve local heritage assets.

Connections:

- Enables municipalities to designate and legally protect heritage resources, including designating a part of the municipality as a Municipal Historic Area.
- It provides the authority to offer grants, incentives, and conservation tools under municipal bylaws.
- It considers “historic objects”, “historic resources”, and “historic sites” of nature or of humans as having value for their palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific, or aesthetic interest.

Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places

These guidelines establish best practices for the conservation of historic places in Canada. They emphasize the need for a careful balance between conserving character-defining elements and accommodating contemporary needs, providing a valuable reference for the conservation efforts in Edmonton.

Connections:

- Clearly defining and conserving character-defining elements is central to successful heritage conservation.
- Balancing strict preservation guidelines with flexibility for contemporary needs ensures heritage resources remain relevant and actively used.

RESEARCH FROM OTHER CITIES

Municipal governments play a vital role in leading by example when it comes to heritage stewardship. Across Canada, cities are proactively designating, reusing, and investing in their own heritage assets—from historic civic buildings to public parks and cultural facilities. These assets serve the public in visible and impactful ways, reinforcing civic identity, supporting cultural programming, and advancing sustainability through adaptive reuse. The following are a few case studies that highlight how municipalities across the country approach the management of heritage assets, including city-owned heritage, through policies, incentives, public access strategies, and partnerships that demonstrate a strong commitment to preservation. Together, they offer replicable tools and inspiration for the Heritage Places Strategy.

For a full list of tools and tactics used by other cities across Canada and beyond to incentivize heritage conservation, see the Heritage Places Strategy Appendix at edmonton.ca/historicresources.

CALGARY, ALBERTA

- Proactive designation of city-owned properties, including historic schools, fire halls, and parks.
- The City leads by example by designating its own assets, even when it creates limitations on redevelopment.
- Strong support from Heritage Calgary, an arms-length organization that provides public education and advocacy.
- Maintains a Heritage Incentive Program that includes municipally owned assets and partnerships with nonprofit stewards.
- Heritage Calgary provides education, promotes heritage values, and advises on policy development, contributing to a broader culture of conservation.
- Calgary integrates heritage considerations into municipal planning and development review processes.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- Calgary Public Building (1931): Now houses the Jack Singer Concert Hall and City of Calgary offices.
- King Edward School (1913): Transformed into cSPACE Arts Hub, a creative arts incubator.

- Pumphouse No. 2 (1913): Converted into the Pumphouse Theatres, preserving its historic architecture.
- Bow Valley Rancho Site: A city-owned heritage landscape that incorporates Indigenous history, natural trails, and cultural interpretation.

Key Tools:

- Heritage Conservation Program: Provides financial incentives and support for the preservation of heritage properties.
- Municipal Historic Resource Designation: Offers legal protection to significant heritage sites.

TORONTO, ONTARIO

- One of the largest inventories of heritage properties in North America, with many municipally owned sites designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Toronto has over 4,500 properties formally designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, many city-owned or used for public purposes.
- The City mandates Heritage Impact Assessments for any work involving public heritage sites.
- Operates City-owned museums like Fort York and Spadina House under dedicated heritage stewardship frameworks.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- Old City Hall: A designated heritage property serving as a courthouse.
- St. Lawrence Market: Historic market building integral to Toronto’s heritage.

Key Tools:

- Heritage Register: Maintains a list of over 8,000 properties with heritage value, including the 4,500 designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Heritage Conservation Districts: Areas like Cabbagetown and Queen Street West are protected to maintain historical integrity.

ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

- Has designated many city-owned properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (e.g., public libraries, City Hall, historic homes).
- Actively uses heritage conservation as part of its downtown revitalization strategy.
- Clear internal coordination between Planning, Culture, and Facilities to ensure consistent conservation of assets.
- The City applies its Heritage Impact Assessment process to both public and private proposals affecting heritage properties.
- Community heritage committees play a role in site evaluations and heritage planning reviews.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- Montebello Park: Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, featuring a historic band shell and pavilion.
- Sts. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church (1946): Designated as a municipal heritage site in 1997.

Key Tools:

- Heritage Designated Property Grant: Provides financial assistance for the conservation of designated heritage properties.
- Heritage Conservation Districts: Includes areas like Port Dalhousie and Queen Street, preserving the historical character of neighbourhoods

VANCOUVER, BC

- While it doesn't always designate its historic assets, many public heritage sites are listed on the Heritage Register (e.g., City Hall, Carnegie Library).
- Employs a policy of "honourable stewardship" through maintenance, public engagement, and adaptive reuse.
- Projects like the Heritage Hall, Burrard Bridge, and PNE Livestock Building show strong in-house restoration capability.
- Incorporates Indigenous heritage and cultural landscapes more visibly through the City of Reconciliation framework.
- While not all heritage buildings are designated, the City applies maintenance standards, hosts community workshops, and publishes detailed conservation guidelines.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- City Hall: An iconic example of Art Deco architecture.
- Carnegie Community Centre: Originally the Carnegie Library, now serving as a community center.

Key Tools:

- Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR): Lists over 2,300 buildings and structures recognized for their heritage value.
- Heritage Designation Bylaw: Provides legal protection to designated heritage properties, preventing unsympathetic alterations.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

- Has a comprehensive Heritage Register and has designated a number of city-owned buildings, including schools, fire halls, and community buildings.
- Heritage planning is integrated into its Official Plan and Capital Budget review process.
- Operates municipal museums and heritage sites with public programming, such as Billings Estate and Pinhey’s Point.
- Integrates heritage planning into Official Plan and long-range capital budgeting.
- Community heritage panels and planning committees are consulted on heritage policy changes.
- Heritage Conservation Districts: Protects areas with significant historical and architectural value.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- Billings Estate National Historic Site: One of Ottawa’s oldest wood-frame houses, now a museum.
- Minto Park: A designated Heritage Conservation District featuring historic residential properties.

Key Tools:

- Heritage Register: Includes approximately 3,800 properties of cultural heritage value or interest.

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site that treats municipal assets as part of a living heritage landscape.
- All municipal work in Old Quebec follows strict restoration and materials protocols.
- Leads in site-specific conservation plans and municipal heritage easements.
- Applies conservation protocols to all municipal projects in Old Québec, regardless of ownership.
- Operates under a UNESCO designation which guides city-wide policies, not just site-specific efforts.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- Old Québec: A UNESCO World Heritage Site encompassing historic buildings and fortifications.
- Old Québec Custom House (1831): A rare example of neoclassical federal architecture.

Key Tools:

- Cultural Heritage Act: Provides a framework for the designation and protection of heritage properties and sites.
- Heritage Conservation Plans: Guides the preservation and management of heritage resources within the city.

VICTORIA, BC

- One of the most advanced heritage building maintenance bylaws in Canada.
- Designates many city-owned assets, including infrastructure like the Johnson Street Bridge and historic city parks.
- Offers a Tax Incentive Program (TIP) that is extended to city-owned buildings through partnerships with non-profit stewards or lessees.

Notable Heritage Assets:

- Royal Theatre: A historic performing arts venue designated as a heritage property.
- Old Town: Victoria’s first Heritage Conservation Area, preserving 19th-century architecture.

Key Tools:

- Heritage Register: Lists properties with recognized heritage value, providing them with protection and conservation guidelines.
- Heritage Conservation Areas: Designated zones where heritage conservation is prioritized in planning and development.

3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES, PILLARS & DIRECTIONS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following **Guiding Principles** express shared values intended to guide all elements of the strategy and its implementation.

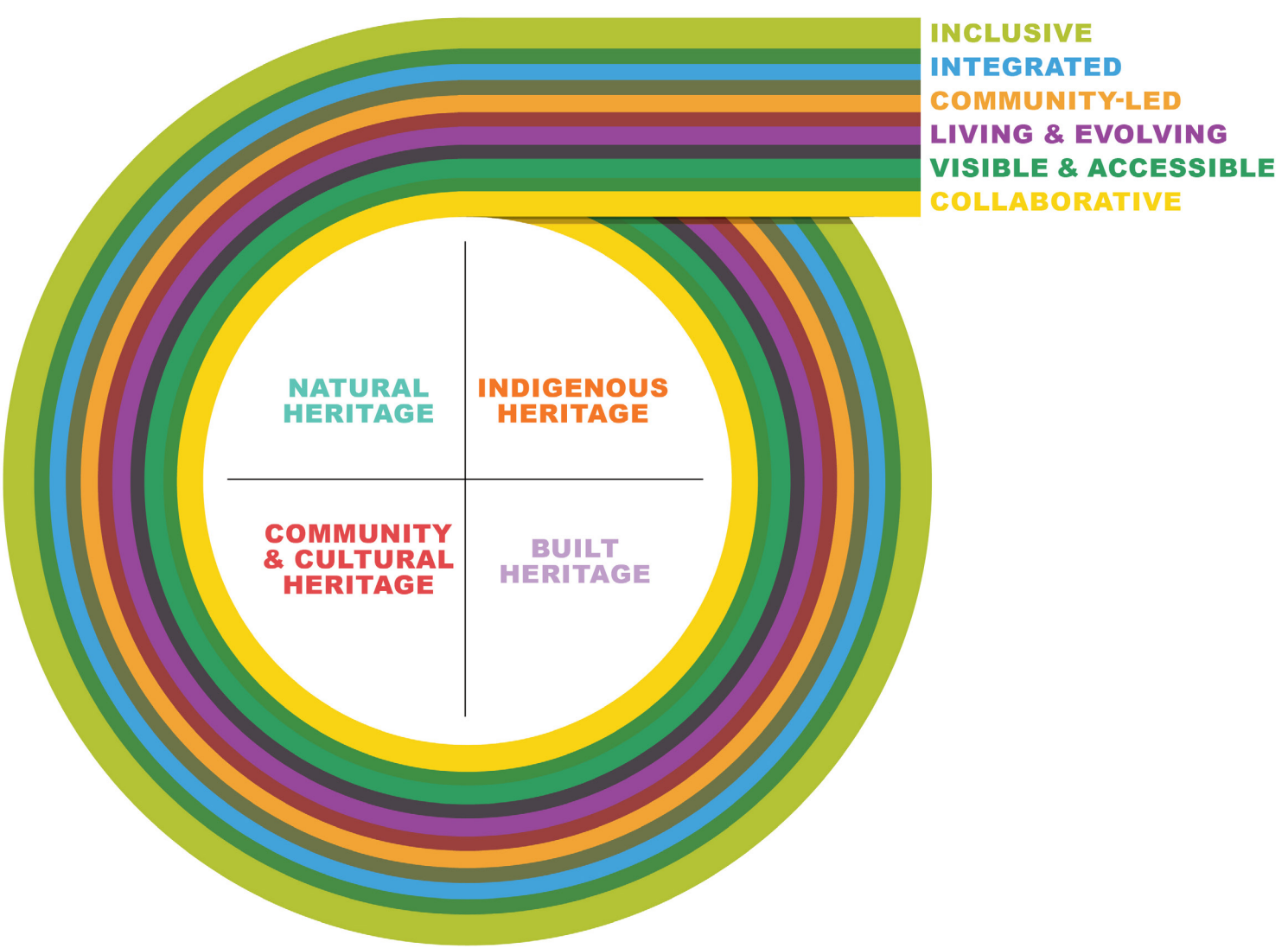
- **Inclusive:** Reflect Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+ histories and settler heritage.
- **Integrated:** Connect heritage goals with broader City priorities, including climate resilience, housing, and economic development.
- **Community-Led:** Support grassroots storytelling, stewardship, and decision-making.
- **Living and Evolving:** Embrace heritage as dynamic, connecting past, present, and future.
- **Visible and Accessible:** Make heritage visible in public space, infrastructure, and everyday life.
- **Collaborative:** Enable meaningful partnerships between communities, the City, and heritage organizations.

PILLARS & DIRECTIONS

The pillars identify the updated focus areas for the City’s Heritage Places Program. They are informed by engagement feedback, research from other municipalities, and alignment with existing City policies and initiatives.

Each pillar includes a brief description followed by a set of directions that guide how the City and its partners will advance heritage conservation, recognition, and stewardship. Each direction is intended to balance the aspirational with the actionable, recommending a way forward while still providing flexibility.

The directions are intended to guide anyone involved in promoting heritage in Edmonton. While the City will take a lead, success is contingent on continued collaboration and partnerships.



THE HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

PILLAR:

NATURAL HERITAGE

The Natural Heritage Pillar recognizes the importance of natural features and landscapes as part of Edmonton’s heritage. This includes open spaces, parkland, trees, natural sites, or geological formations that contribute to the City’s identity, natural ecosystems, and cultural history.

Natural Heritage Directions:

- 1.1 Document significant natural heritage places in Edmonton for inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 1.2 Designate significant natural heritage places as Municipal Historic Resources.
- 1.3 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to identify and commemorate natural heritage.
- 1.4 Commemorate a site’s layered or overlapping heritage values, including, but not limited to, geological, ecological, cultural, and recreational significance.
- 1.5 Encourage the use of physical and digital interpretation tools to commemorate significant natural landscapes, features, open spaces, park spaces, and trees.

- 1.6 Encourage the conservation, maintenance, rehabilitation and reintroduction of natural heritage resources through acquisition strategies, updated processes, management plans, traditional ecological knowledge, and other appropriate tools.
- 1.7 Encourage land owners to incorporate natural heritage commemoration or interpretation into the development or redevelopment of sites.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-600-5027a
City of Edmonton Archives, EA-10-131

PILLAR:

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton and across Alberta are part of the historical and ongoing narrative of this place known to many as amiskwaciwâskahikan. The Indigenous Heritage Pillar recognizes the diverse histories, languages, cultural practices, and relationships to land and water held by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

Within Indigenous worldviews, heritage extends beyond physical sites and objects to include stories, living practices, and traditions that continue to shape communities today. The interpretation and recognition of Indigenous heritages are therefore encouraged as living, relational, and ongoing.

The City’s Indigenous Framework – including the Four Roles, the Responsibilities of the City, and the Seven Commitments – guides relationship-building with Indigenous Peoples and informs collaborative approaches to heritage planning and stewardship. Updating Edmonton’s approach to heritage places helps to advance meaningful reconciliation.

Indigenous Heritage Directions:

2.1 Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage place initiatives.

2.2 Follow the City’s Indigenous Framework to ensure that engagement with Indigenous partners supports community-led participation, includes culturally appropriate activities and settings, and seeks input from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

2.3 Partner with Indigenous communities to identify places and landscapes of significance and commemorate the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the places.

2.4 Consider significant Indigenous heritage places for inclusion, if appropriate, on the Inventory of Historic Resources.

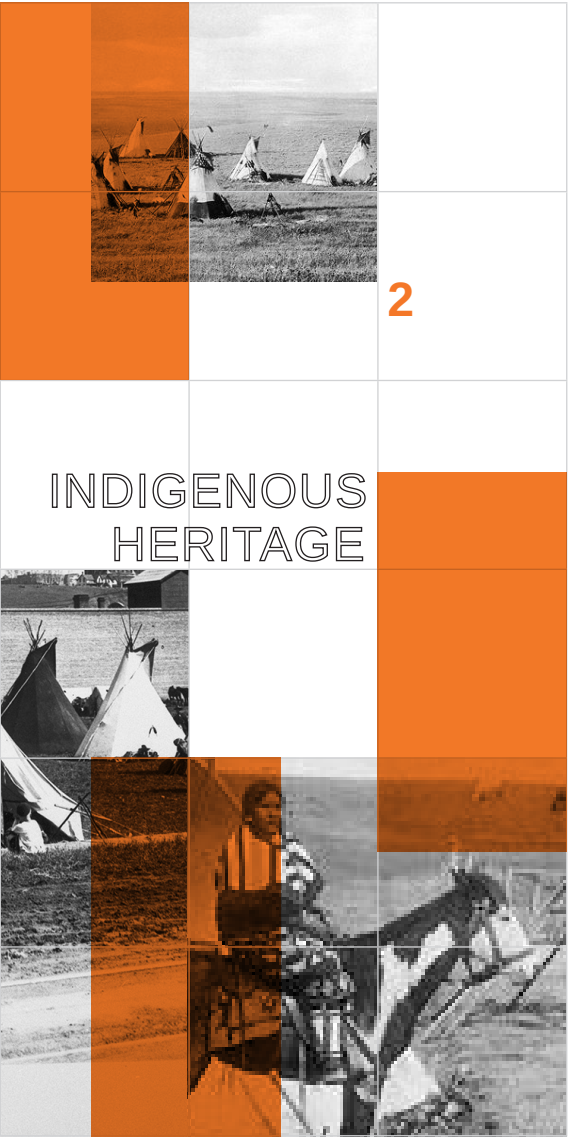
2.5 Designate significant Indigenous heritage places, if appropriate, as Municipal Historic Resources.

2.6 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to identify and celebrate Indigenous heritages.

2.7 Support, in collaboration with Indigenous partners, ceremony and cultural heritage practices, including providing funding for protocol and following trust-based approaches that enable for safe and respectful knowledge-sharing.

2.8 Work with Indigenous communities to determine the appropriateness of making significant or sacred places publicly known, how to celebrate them, and measures to prevent these places from being harmed.

2.9 Encourage the recognition and promotion of Indigenous heritages across multiple domains, including land, buildings, community, public space, and storytelling.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-165
City of Edmonton Archives, EA-13-13-142

PILLAR:

COMMUNITY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Community and Cultural Heritage Pillar celebrates local histories and places significant to Edmonton’s diverse communities. This includes cultural landscapes, gathering spaces, and intangible heritage (such as traditions and stories) that contribute to community identity, belonging, and shared memory associated with a place.

**Community and Cultural Heritage
Directions:**

3.1 Collaborate with diverse communities to identify places of community or cultural significance and the heritage associated with them.

3.2 Support place-based, community-led heritage initiatives, including programming, mapping projects, monuments and storytelling.

3.3 Prioritize place-based, community-led heritage initiatives that reflect the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC), immigrant, newcomer, cultural, disability, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.

3.4 Encourage historical and cultural commemoration within neighbourhoods in collaboration with City departments or community partners through physical interpretive infrastructure.

3.5 Work with Edmonton Heritage Council and the Edmonton Arts Council to support place-based heritage commemoration through public art and public history.

3.6 Work with the Edmonton Heritage Council, partners, and other professionals to promote the importance of heritage places, enhance place-based historical research, expand the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and to strengthen the City’s Heritage Places Program.

3.7 Consider significant community and cultural heritage places for inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources.

3.8 Designate significant community and cultural heritage places as Municipal Historic Resources.

3.9 Ensure that broader histories and stories associated with Municipal Historic Resources are documented and shared.

3.10 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve fund to identify and commemorate community and cultural heritage places.

3.11 Promote awareness of and contribution to the Edmonton Heritage Places Endowment Fund.



City of Edmonton Archives, EB-21-71
Province of Alberta Archives, NA-559-16



PILLAR: BUILT HERITAGE

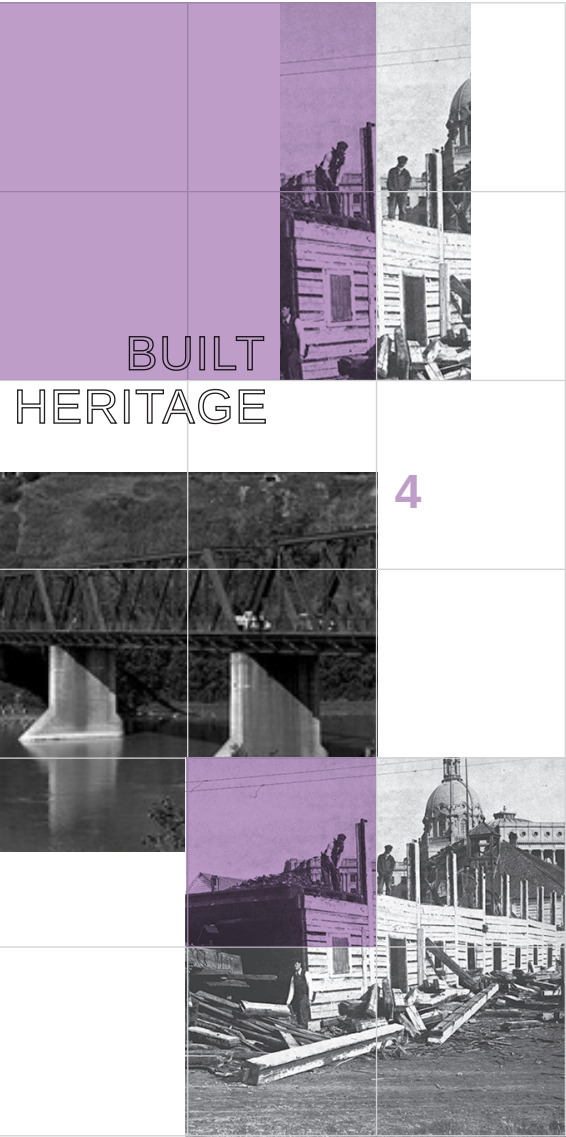
The Built Heritage Pillar recognizes buildings and structures with historic, architectural, or cultural value. The City of Edmonton maintains and regularly reviews the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources to identify, conserve, and protect significant heritage resources.

Built Heritage Directions:

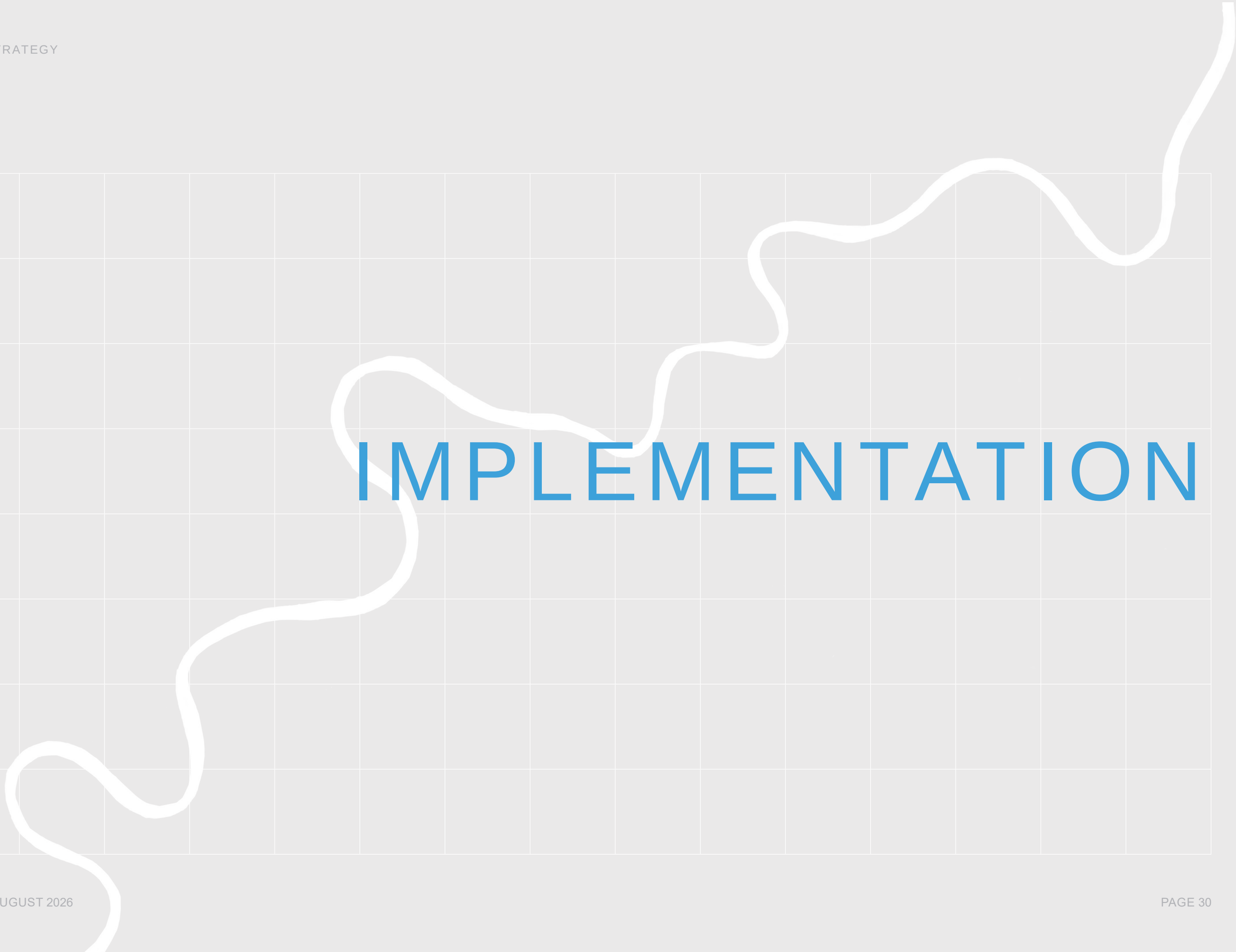
- 4.1 Work with property owners to add eligible properties to the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 4.2 Work with property owners to support the designation of eligible properties as Municipal Historic Resources.
- 4.3 Preserve, designate, manage, and celebrate City-owned built heritage resources.
- 4.4 Complete geographical, topical, or theme-based studies to expand the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 4.5 Recognize, identify, conserve, and promote significant heritage areas in Edmonton.
- 4.6 Continue to improve processes to support property owners and developers through heritage designation, approvals, and technical requirements.
- 4.7 Create maintenance guides that reflect heritage conservation best practices, climate resilience considerations, accessibility, and appropriate material options.

- 4.8 Ensure that accessibility and barrier-free design are considered in rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings.
- 4.9 Explore material and construction alternatives for designated resources in alignment with provincial or national heritage standards and guidelines.
- 4.10 Explore enforcement tools to discourage willful neglect or the potential demolition of properties listed on the Inventory or the Register of Historic Resources.
- 4.11 Support other orders of government, post-secondary institutions, school boards, utility companies, and other organizations in creating inventories of their heritage building stock. The City will work with these organizations toward additions to the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources.
- 4.12 Promote heritage as a contributor to economic development, local businesses, vibrancy, and tourism.
- 4.13 Review, on an ongoing basis, the allocation, disbursement, and administration of heritage grants and incentives to support property owners of Municipal Historic Resources.
- 4.14 Explore adjustments to the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to meet heritage places needs and reflect evolving variables like the construction price index or inflation.

- 4.15 Explore new grants or incentives to support heritage designation, rehabilitation and maintenance in support of climate resilience initiatives and energy-related retrofits.
- 4.16 Explore grants, incentives or other tools that support deconstruction, adaptive reuse, and structural relocation over demolition to retain materials, reduce waste, and advance circular economy practices.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-1326
City of Edmonton Archives, EA-10-79

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4 IMPLEMENTATION

OVERVIEW

The Heritage Places Strategy represents another exciting shift in Edmonton’s evolving approach to heritage. Heritage offers Edmontonians and visitors cultural, social and economic benefits that link people with the past and contribute to our collective identity and sense of place. The Heritage Places Strategy is intended to offer new ways to support Indigenous partners, heritage partners, and underrepresented communities. Implementing the strategy will contribute to The City Plan, climate resilience, reconciliation, economic development and other City objectives. Six priorities will help to implement the strategy and advance the directions under each pillar. This section also highlights the projected timelines, resourcing, responsibilities, ongoing communication, engagement and monitoring that will be considered for successful implementation.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

While the directions under each pillar provide ongoing guidance, the Implementation Priorities are specific and discrete project or program-like tasks. The priorities will include dedicated scoping, resources, coordination, and collaboration to advance multiple pillars and directions. Based on the engagement feedback and project team’s analysis, six have been developed:

- A. Indigenous Stewardship and Partnership
- B. Community-led Heritage Storytelling
- C. Incentives
- D. City-owned Heritage
- E. Awareness and Promotion
- F. Heritage Areas

The purpose, implementation approach, projected timelines, who would lead or support, and which pillars and directions will be advanced are described below.

TIMELINE

Timeline for implementation is broken into the following horizons:

- Short-term (0 to 2 years)
- Medium-term (2 to 4 years)
- Long-term (4+ years), and
- Ongoing

The short, medium, and long term horizons consider the City’s operating, capital and supplementary budget cycles. While each Implementation Priority will have tasks that fall within the short, medium, and long term, the priorities are ordered to reflect those that can be started sooner versus those that require more time. Overlaps exist and progress on

one priority may help contribute to another. When and how they are initiated will be carefully considered with staffing, resources, coordination, relationships and opportunities in mind.

RESOURCING AND FUNDING

Implementation will rely on a combination of existing resources, partnerships, and access to additional funding sources. The City’s Heritage Places Team will continue to monitor the Heritage Resources Reserve, created to ensure a secure source of funding is available. Other funding approaches may include integration with capital planning, alignment with other City initiatives or programs, cost-sharing with external partners, and leveraging grants from other orders of government.

Implementation may require choices and tradeoffs. For Implementation Priorities (A to F), tasks listed under the Short Term (0 to 2 years) timeline can be initiated with current resources (i.e. staffing, budget). Tasks listed under the medium and long term timeline will require additional resources or reallocation or realignment of responsibilities to initiate and complete. The City will confirm resource requirements, roles, and sequencing following strategy adoption.

POLICY & PROCEDURE UPDATE

Council adopted Policy C450B *Encourage the Designation and Rehabilitation of Municipal Historic Resources in Edmonton*, an update to an earlier policy, in 2008. The policy provided guidelines for the identification, management, protection, and promotion of historic resources which complemented the guidance from the Historic Resources Management Plan (2009). Due to procedural changes over time, however, the policy is now out of date. As part of the Heritage Places Strategy’s implementation, Policy C450B will be updated and a new Administrative Procedure will be developed that better supports the Heritage Places Program’s work.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Implementation will include ongoing communication and future engagement opportunities with Indigenous partners, heritage partners, underrepresented groups, and the public. The City’s Public Engagement Spectrum will continue to guide the level and type of input needed for different priorities. The City’s GBA+ (Gender-Based Analysis +) framework will also guide implementation to consider identity factors, reduce barriers to inclusion, and ensure equitable outcomes.

Edmonton has a network of organizations that together form a broader heritage ecosystem focused on preserving, sharing, and promoting the city’s history and culture.

As the Heritage Places Strategy advances a broader and more inclusive understanding of heritage, the City looks forward to working with the MOU Partners, the Edmonton Heritage Council, and other organizations to support implementation, visibility, and community momentum.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

It will be important to monitor and report on the progress of the Heritage Places Strategy. While the directions under the pillars will provide ongoing guidance, the Implementation Priorities may have specific tasks and milestones associated with them. Possible indicators to monitor could include initiatives started and/or completed by partners, grants issued, additions to the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, recommendations on City-owned heritage, as well as others. Given the strategy’s broader focus, the influence of market factors, opportunities or shifting civic priorities may require flexibility or adjustments to monitoring. A review will be targeted four years after the strategy is adopted (i.e. following

the long term timeline horizon). A second review will be targeted eight years after the strategy is adopted. Similar to the lifecycle of other strategies in the City’s planning toolkit, the monitoring will serve to inform when the City should renew or update the Heritage Places Strategy.



Alexander Circle is a park located within the Glenora neighbourhood. This was the first open space in Edmonton to be designated as a Municipal Historic Resource. City of Edmonton.



IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY: INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP & PARTNERSHIP

PURPOSE

The City will support Indigenous heritage place-based initiatives. Indigenous heritages are living, relational, and grounded in land, language, and ongoing cultural practice. Indigenous Peoples have stewardship of their own history. Celebrating Indigenous heritages (pre- and post-contact) is necessary to tell the full story of this place, known to many in Nêhiyaw (Cree) as amiskwaciwâskahikan, and to contribute to meaningful reconciliation.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will support Indigenous partners to identify, assess, interpret, and commemorate Indigenous heritage places. Relationships are key to this collaboration and will be nurtured by regular updates and formal or informal touch points between the City and partners. Support to Indigenous partners could include (but not limited to) championing existing initiatives, exploring joint heritage initiatives, finding opportunities to incorporate Indigenous heritage as part of other directions or Implementation Priorities, or providing grants.

As part of the work, the City will honour the principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) when receiving knowledge or information shared by Indigenous partners. This activity will align with the

City’s Indigenous Framework and include coordination with the City’s Indigenous Relations Office and different City departments.

TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Initiate Indigenous heritage places pilot project

Medium-term (2 to 4 years)

- Identify additional Indigenous heritage place initiatives to support or collaborate on

Long-term (4+ years) / ongoing

- Continue to partner on Indigenous heritage place initiatives

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Edmonton, Indigenous partners

PILLARS ADVANCED

Natural Heritage

- 1.4 Commemorate a site’s layered or overlapping heritage values, including, but not limited to, geological, ecological, cultural, and recreational significance.
- 1.6 Encourage the conservation, maintenance,

rehabilitation and reintroduction of natural heritage resources through acquisition strategies, updated processes, management plans, traditional ecological knowledge, and other appropriate tools.

Indigenous Heritage

- 2.1 Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage place initiatives.
- 2.2 Follow the City’s Indigenous Framework to ensure that engagement with Indigenous partners supports community-led participation, includes culturally appropriate activities and settings, and seeks input from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- 2.3 Partner with Indigenous communities to identify places and landscapes of significance and commemorate the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the places.
- 2.4 Consider significant Indigenous heritage places for inclusion, if appropriate, on the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 2.5 Designate significant Indigenous heritage places, if appropriate, as Municipal Historic Resources.
- 2.6 Explore new grants, incentives, or use

of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to identify and celebrate Indigenous heritages.

- 2.7 Support, in collaboration with Indigenous partners, ceremony and cultural heritage practices, including providing funding for protocol and following trust-based approaches that enable for safe and respectful knowledge-sharing.
 - 2.8 Work with Indigenous communities to determine the appropriateness of making significant or sacred places publicly known, how to celebrate them, and measures to prevent these places from being harmed.
 - 2.9 Encourage the recognition and promotion of Indigenous heritages across multiple domains, including land, buildings, community, public space, and storytelling.
- Community and Cultural Heritage
- 3.3 Prioritize place-based, community-led heritage initiatives that reflect the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC), immigrant, newcomer, cultural, disability, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.
 - 3.9 Ensure that broader histories and stories associated with Municipal Historic Resources are documented and shared.



IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY: COMMUNITY-LED HERITAGE STORYTELLING

PURPOSE

The City will support diverse communities in identifying, sharing, and interpreting their place-based heritage stories across different accessible formats. Community-led heritage storytelling strengthens people’s sense of place and identity, increases community and cultural visibility, attracts visitors to neighbourhoods, and can benefit the local economy.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will work with the Edmonton Heritage Council to support community groups, organizations or leagues on an opportunity basis and consider proposals or requests. Support could include (but not be limited to) brainstorming possible initiatives, connecting communities with (external) partners or City departments, providing grants, or letters of support to assist with fundraising.

Formats for storytelling and interpretation could be temporary or permanent including digital, physical, or audio-based tools that are accessible and available as widely as possible. Examples could include walking tours, digital mapping, app-based products, podcasts, interactive displays, oral histories, murals, pop-up installations, and multi-language content.

This approach will involve coordination across departments and with the Edmonton Heritage

Council. Storytelling initiatives could be aligned with other City programs or initiatives such as Indigenous naming, cultural recognition, and land-based interpretation where appropriate.

TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Consider place-based opportunities suggested by community and/or cultural groups

Medium-term (2 to 4 years)

- Collaborate on and support community-led initiatives

Long-term (4+ years) / ongoing

- Monitor projects started and completed

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Edmonton, Edmonton Heritage Council, community partners

PILLARS ADVANCED

Indigenous Heritage

2.1 Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners,

Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage place initiatives.

2.3 Partner with Indigenous communities to identify places and landscapes of significance and commemorate the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the places.

Community and Cultural Heritage

3.1 Collaborate with diverse communities to identify places of community or cultural significance and the heritage associated with them.

3.2 Support place-based, community-led heritage initiatives, including programming, mapping projects, monuments and storytelling.

3.3 Prioritize place-based, community-led heritage initiatives that reflect the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC), immigrant, newcomer, cultural, disability, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.

3.4 Encourage historical and cultural commemoration within neighbourhoods in collaboration with City departments or community partners through physical interpretive infrastructure.

3.5 Work with Edmonton Heritage Council and the Edmonton Arts Council to support place-

based heritage commemoration through public art and public history.

3.6 Work with the Edmonton Heritage Council, partners, and other professionals to promote the importance of heritage places, enhance place-based historical research, expand the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and to strengthen the City’s Heritage Places Program.

3.7 Consider significant community and cultural heritage places for inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources.

3.8 Designate significant community and cultural heritage places as Municipal Historic Resources.

3.9 Ensure that broader histories and stories associated with Municipal Historic Resources are documented and shared.

3.10 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve fund to identify and commemorate community and cultural heritage places.

Built Heritage

4.5 Recognize, identify, conserve, and promote significant heritage areas in Edmonton.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY:
INCENTIVES

PURPOSE

The City will continue to support the financial viability and long-term sustainability of heritage conservation using existing and new incentives. The existing incentives reduce financial barriers and may be expanded for additional flexibility. Additional financial and/or regulatory incentives will be considered to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes between heritage conservation and City goals such as adaptive reuse, climate resilience, affordable housing, and reconciliation.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City’s Heritage Places Team will continue to work with heritage property owners, developers, other levels of government and partners to navigate regulatory requirements, funding opportunities, and conservation best practices. The Heritage Places Team will continue to monitor the Heritage Resources Reserve.

The existing heritage grants will be reviewed (and refined as needed) to fund natural, Indigenous, community and cultural heritage initiatives in addition to built heritage. This may include phased or new grant structures, tax incentives, rebates, fee waivers, reallocation of existing resources, or coordination with other City grants to stack heritage funding with other sources and achieve multiple outcomes.

TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Investigate new grants tied to climate adaptation and resilience
- Use incentives to support heritage projects with economic development potential

Medium-term (2 to 4 years)

- Explore a new tax incentive for residential designations
- Review the effectiveness of the existing tax incentive for non-residential designations

Long-term (4+ years) / ongoing

- Adjust grant amounts to reflect inflation, construction price index, or other market factors

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Edmonton

PILLARS ADVANCED

Natural Heritage

1.3 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to identify and commemorate natural heritage.

Indigenous Heritage

2.6 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to identify and celebrate Indigenous heritages.

Community and Cultural Heritage

3.10 Explore new grants, incentives, or use of the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve fund to identify and commemorate community and cultural heritage places.

Built Heritage

4.13 Review, on an ongoing basis, the allocation, disbursement, and administration of heritage grants and incentives to support property owners of Municipal Historic Resources.

4.14 Explore adjustments to the City’s Heritage Resources Reserve to meet heritage places needs and reflect evolving variables like the construction price index or inflation.

4.15 Explore new grants or incentives to support heritage designation, rehabilitation and

maintenance in support of climate resilience initiatives and energy-related retrofits.

4.16 Explore grants, incentives or other tools that support deconstruction, adaptive reuse, and structural relocation over demolition to retain materials, reduce waste, and advance circular economy practices.



IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY: CITY-OWNED HERITAGE

PURPOSE

The City strives to be a leader in the preservation and management of historic resources, including the retention and adaptive re-use of resources it owns. Historic resources are significant to Edmonton’s evolution, they are important to our sense of identity and place, and can support climate resilience and the local economy. The City’s stewardship of its resources will encourage residents and the private sector to do the same.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will develop updated processes and prioritization for City-owned heritage resources. This will include additions to the Inventory, designations to the Register, whether City-owned heritage resources should be retained as assets (considering operation and maintenance), or sold (ideally with the condition of designation), as well as resources the City acquires for a capital project or on an opportunity basis.

To support the different activities (i.e., additions, designations, retention, disposition, acquisitions), criteria will be developed to help inform evaluation and prioritization. Potential criteria could include: landmark

value, condition assessment, operations related to key infrastructure, facility costs (including incremental costs associated with heritage designation), funding availability (operation and maintenance), economic benefit, projected revenue (sale or lease), adaptive reuse potential and public use opportunities. City-owned heritage sites that may include Indigenous heritage will include communication and engagement with Indigenous partners as outlined under the Indigenous Heritage Pillar.

This approach will involve coordination across City departments including Urban Planning and Economy (which includes the Heritage Places Team), Infrastructure Services, Community Services and City Operations, who all play a role or are responsible for different aspects related to City-owned heritage. Implementation of this will be in alignment with Council Policy C598A, the Asset Management Policy, which ensures that all City assets are managed throughout their lifecycle to achieve their intended useful lives in support of the services provided by the City of Edmonton.

TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Develop updated processes and prioritization
- Make recommendations (additions, designations, retention, disposition, etc.)

Ongoing

- Follow process and make recommendations on City-owned heritage assets

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Edmonton

PILLARS ADVANCED

Natural Heritage

1.1 Document significant natural heritage places in Edmonton for inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources.

1.2 Designate significant natural heritage places as Municipal Historic Resources.

Indigenous Heritage

2.4 Consider significant Indigenous heritage places for inclusion, if appropriate, on the Inventory of Historic Resources.

2.5 Designate significant Indigenous heritage places, if appropriate, as Municipal Historic Resources.

Community and Cultural Heritage

3.7 Consider significant community and cultural heritage places for inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources.

3.8 Designate significant community and cultural heritage places as Municipal Historic Resources.

Built Heritage

4.3 Preserve, designate, manage, and celebrate City-owned built heritage resources.



IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY: AWARENESS & PROMOTION

PURPOSE

The City will promote the importance of natural, Indigenous, community, cultural and built heritage, generate awareness about the various benefits of heritage, and continue to work together with the Edmonton Heritage Council, other partners, property owners, and the public. Awareness, education, and promotion is key to sharing why heritage matters, encouraging people to learn about the ways they can get involved, the support or grants available and celebrating resources that are designated and protected.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will share information about heritage places, the City’s Heritage Places Program, and stories that showcase possibilities and successes. This could include communications about additions to the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, completed rehabilitation projects, giving tours or presentations, developing educational materials, and using social or traditional media. The City will collaborate with partners on similar initiatives, events or educational or applied learning opportunities. Working with Businesses Improvement Areas, realtor associations or others to inform them of the importance of heritage properties and

the support available for property owners.

Topics may include the role of the City’s Heritage Places Team to assist partners and the public, interpretation or commemoration opportunities, information for property owners about adding resources to the Inventory or Register of Historic Resources, grants, adaptive reuse, how new development can interact with or showcase adjacent heritage resources, conservation standards, information for builders or contractors, documentation requirements before demolition, and more.

TIMELINES

Ongoing

- Create opportunities to promote the Heritage Places Program
- Collaborate with partners on initiatives, events, or learning opportunities
- Develop educational sessions and materials for existing or prospective heritage property owners
- Meet with Business Improvement Areas to generate awareness about the City’s Heritage Places Program
- Develop a communication strategy to regularly update property owners

on the Inventory and Register, partners, and the public

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Edmonton, community partners, Indigenous partners, Edmonton Heritage Council

PILLARS ADVANCED

Indigenous Heritage

2.1 Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage place initiatives.

Community and Cultural Heritage

3.6 Work with the Edmonton Heritage Council, partners, and other professionals to promote the importance of heritage places, enhance place-based historical research, expand the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and to strengthen the City’s Heritage Places Program.

3.9 Ensure that broader histories and stories associated with Municipal Historic Resources are documented and shared.

3.11 Promote awareness of and contribution to the Edmonton Heritage Places Endowment Fund.

Built Heritage

4.6 Continue to improve processes to support property owners and developers through heritage designation, approvals, and technical requirements.

4.7 Create maintenance guides that reflect heritage conservation best practices, climate resilience considerations, accessibility, and appropriate material options.

4.12 Promote heritage as a contributor to economic development, local businesses, vibrancy, and tourism.

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITY:
HERITAGE AREAS

PURPOSE

The City will explore the conservation of heritage at various levels. Heritage areas recognize elements such as, but not limited to, built form, streetscapes, viewscales, mature trees, river lots, and cultural landscapes. The City Plan promotes the need to increase density in Edmonton while also promoting the importance of preservation. A number of heritage areas already exist in Edmonton and are reflected in the district plans. Heritage considerations will be integrated, ensuring that new development responds to the local context.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will continue to monitor areas of heritage value and the features or elements that create that value. This could be done through studies, topical or geographic inventories and working with communities and property owners. Outcomes may include tools such as design guidelines, regulations, context-based controls, and targeted initiatives. Pilot projects to test approaches could be done. Documentation of heritage that is area or typology-based can inform future interpretation, commemoration strategies, area planning, and inventory studies. Implementation will require coordination and alignment across different City departments.

TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Document and review Edmonton’s existing heritage areas and establish criteria to inform their management and any updates

Medium-term (2 to 4 years)

- Apply the established criteria to update heritage areas, as required

Long-term (4+ years)

- If warranted, explore the possible creation of new heritage areas or new tools to manage them

KEY PARTNERS

- City of Edmonton, community partners, industry

PILLARS ADVANCED

Built Heritage

- 4.1 Work with property owners to add eligible properties to the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 4.2 Work with property owners to support the designation of eligible properties as Municipal Historic Resources.
- 4.4 Complete geographical, topical, or theme-based studies to expand the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 4.5 Recognize, identify, conserve, and promote significant heritage areas in Edmonton.



Peter Hemingway Aquatic Centre, the first recreation-oriented building in Edmonton to be designated a Municipal Historic Resource. Photo by James Dow.

5 MOVING FORWARD

NEXT STEPS

The Heritage Places Strategy builds on the existing heritage program to reflect diverse histories, voices, and places. As Edmonton grows, the places we choose to honour and preserve will be essential for future generations.

The Heritage Places Strategy will be key to guide and inform future decision making surrounding Edmonton’s heritage places. The strategy will be presented to Edmonton City Council in September 2026. Successful implementation of the strategy will involve using existing resources, finding new resources, continued relationship-building and engagement with partners.



A campsite in Rosedale next to the Hudson’s Bay Company Barns, April 1919. City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-165.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES, PILLARS, AND IMPLEMENTATION CROSS-REFERENCES

LEGEND

- Primary Alignment
- Secondary Alignment

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES	PILLARS				GUIDING PRINCIPLES					
	Natural Heritage	Indigenous Heritage	Community and Cultural Heritage	Built Heritage	Inclusive	Integrated	Community-Led	Living and Evolving	Visible and Accessible	Collaborative
A Indigenous Stewardship & Partnership	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	○	●
B Community-Led Heritage Storytelling	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●
C Incentives	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	○
D City-Owned Heritage	●	○	○	●	○	●	○	●	●	○
E Awareness & Promotion	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
F Heritage Areas	○	○	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	○



Walterdale Theatre and the Old Strathcona Farmers' Market on 83 Avenue within the Old Strathcona Provincial Historic Area. City of Edmonton.



GLOSSARY

Adaptive Reuse – The repurposing of a historic place for a new use while retaining its heritage value.

Character – The perception derived from the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses, and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a historic place. To preserve character and heritage value, these elements must be retained.

City of Edmonton’s Inventory of Historic Resources – A list of heritage resources that merit conservation, but are not legally protected.

City of Edmonton Register of Historic Resources – A list of Municipal Historic Resources that are legally protected from demolition or inappropriate alteration through a bylaw passed by City Council, with heritage protection registered on the land title.

Commemoration – The act of remembering, honouring, and demonstrating respect for a historical event or for a person, group, or historic place. The form of the commemoration may be a ceremony, ritual, or physical representation such as a statue, plaque, exhibit, installation, or other physical constructs.

Conservation – All actions or processes that are aimed at safeguarding the character-defining elements of a cultural resource so as to retain its heritage value and extend its physical life. This may involve preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, or a combination of these actions or processes.

Culture – The collective beliefs, values, customs, arts, and practices that characterize a particular group or society.

Designation – The formal legal protection of a heritage place through a municipal bylaw under the provincial Historical Resources Act, recognizing its heritage value and regulating alterations, rehabilitation, maintenance, demolition, and redevelopment.

Geological Formations – The fundamental unit of rock classification. It consists of a distinct, continuous body of rock that shares a common composition, appearance, and geological history, making it distinguishable from surrounding rock layers. A typical formation represents a specific environment or event and formations are used by geologists to organize Earth’s rocky crust and interpret its history.

Heritage Place – A site, building, structure, landscape, or area recognized for its historic value, whether identified, listed or designated through community processes.

Heritage Value – The historical, cultural, architectural, social, spiritual, or associative significance of a place.

Identification – A process to discover, document, and evaluate sites, buildings, and landscapes that hold heritage value such as historical, cultural, architectural, ecological, or social significance.

Indigenous Stewardship – Indigenous-led care and responsibility for land, sites, and stories, grounded in Indigenous laws, practices and relationships.

Intangible – Intangible cultural heritage is the practices, expressions, knowledge, and skills that communities, groups, and sometimes individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. Also called living cultural heritage, it is usually expressed in one of the following forms: oral traditions; performing arts; social practices; rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship.

Knowledge Keeper – An individual recognized by an Indigenous community as holding cultural, historical or spiritual knowledge.

Living Heritage – The ongoing cultural practice, knowledge, and relationships, rather than something fixed in the past.

Place-based – A strategy, education method, or approach that is deeply rooted in a specific geographic location, utilizing local history, culture, and community as the foundation for learning, development, or intervention.

Preservation – The protection, maintenance, and stabilization of the existing forms, materials, and integrity of a heritage place or individual component, while protecting its heritage value.

Recognition – The identification or acknowledgment of a place’s heritage value without legal protection, through listing, policies, or community-based processes.

Rehabilitation – The process of returning a building or portions of a building to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which make it possible to facilitate a contemporary use while preserving those portions and features of the building which are significant to its historic, architectural values. Rehabilitation shall also mean the work which is described in the Rehabilitation Incentive Agreement.

Reintroduction – Reintroduction is the act of bringing something into use, practice, or existence again after it has been paused, stopped, or absent for a period of time. An example is the reintroduction of plains bison to the Banff National Park in 2017 after an absence of over a century.

Restoration – The process of accurately revealing, recovering, or representing the state of a heritage place or individual component as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting its heritage value.

Tangible – The (physical) evidence of past natural conditions or human activity located in situ on or, below the ground, or under water including those found in archaeological sites.

CITY OF EDMONTON
HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

