



Policy Title: Cultural Landscape Policy

Policy Number: CSPA036

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Approved by: Council

Effective Date: 2012, May 28

Business Unit: Calgary Parks

BACKGROUND

Calgary Parks currently plays an active role in managing the City's cultural landscapes and has developed the Cultural Landscape Policy as a means of formally recognizing and safeguarding City-owned cultural landscapes.

Cultural landscapes are historically significant landscapes. They connect Calgarians with their past and tell the story of how Calgary developed. Cultural landscapes contribute to great communities by enhancing character, distinctiveness, vibrancy, identity and a sense of place.

In 2006, Council recognized the value of identity, diversity, traditions, values, and the distinctive characteristics of neighbourhoods by adopting the following **Imagine Calgary** targets:

- By 2036, 90 per cent of citizens agree that "Calgary is a city with soul," which is defined as citizens having meaning and purpose in life and experiencing ongoing feelings of connectedness with some form of human, historic, or natural system.
- By 2036, 95 per cent of Calgarians report that they have a range of opportunities for the aesthetic enjoyment of nature, arts and culture.

In 2010, Council recognized the value of great communities and effective urban design through the institution of the following objectives of the **Municipal Development Plan**:

- Respect and enhance neighbourhood character and vitality. As the "sense of place" inherent in Calgary's neighbourhoods is a function of their history, built form and landscape as visual qualities.
- Protect historic resources. As historic preservation is part of good city building and community identity.
- Create quality public parks, open spaces and other community amenities, and make leisure and recreation activities available to all Calgarians. As the retention of Calgary's natural and cultural heritage promote overall community health and quality of life for all Calgarians.
- Make Calgary a more beautiful, memorable city with a commitment to excellence in urban design. This includes the recognition that Calgary's unique setting and

cultural landmarks provide city reference points that contribute to way finding, sense of place and city identity.

In 2008 City Council directed, via the **Calgary Heritage Strategy**, that the City of Calgary would serve as a role model for City-owned historic resources, including the development of an “overall Cultural Landscape Management Plan”.

In 2002 City Council approved the following policies via the Open Space Plan:

1. The management of cultural resources should be governed by a Cultural Resources Management Plan that sets out the guidelines and standards for maintaining the resource.
2. Cultural Landscapes should be protected, enhanced and promoted because of their importance to the City of Calgary.
3. Cultural landscapes should be managed for the public benefit within the context of protecting the resource.
4. Prior to development, cultural landscapes shall be identified as part of the natural area and biophysical inventories, and a Historical Resources Impact Assessment shall be conducted and approved by the Province of Alberta.

In 2011 City Council approved the **City-owned Historic Building Management Plan**. This plan identifies and proposes management strategies for City-owned historic buildings. The document identifies six buildings operated by Calgary Parks (Colonel Walker House, Edworthy House, Firehall No. 6, Reader Rock Garden, Union Cemetery Caretakers Cottage and Union Cemetery Mortuary). The plan states that all of these sites are to be retained as they are of value to The City of Calgary.

PURPOSE

In compliance with Council’s priorities and goals, and by implementing and refining the 2002 Open Space Plan policies, Calgary Parks has developed a Cultural Landscape Policy. The Cultural Landscape Policy builds upon the Municipal Development Plan and establishes a set of specific policies to identify, protect, manage, and celebrate the rich collection of historic resources found within Calgary’s open space system.

POLICY

1. The City will identify and help to protect and manage Calgary’s historic Resources i by:

- a. Identifying and evaluating (via the Calgary Heritage Authority) a collection of City-owned cultural landscapes that have historic significance.

2. Ensure that the protection and enhancement of historic assets in Calgary is based on an understanding of their special character and form part of the wider design and urban development agenda ii by ensuring:

- a. The management of cultural resources, including cultural landscapes, will be governed by Cultural Resource Strategic Plans that set out the guidelines and standards for conservation of the resources.

3. Encourage owners to conserve and/or enhance Calgary's historic resources, including historic structures, streetscapes, landmarks and viewpoints, parks and gardens, landscapes, topographical and natural features, archaeological sites and artifacts ⁱⁱⁱ by:

- a. Developing partnerships and collaboration opportunities with external organizations that own, manage, or have an interest in the conservation of cultural resources, including cultural landscapes.

4. The City will be a leader in preserving and enlivening historic resources using all tools and mechanisms currently available to a municipality, ^{iv} including ensuring:

- a. A Historical Resource Impact Assessment will be conducted prior to development to ensure the conservation of cultural resources, including cultural landscapes.
- b. City-owned cultural resources, including cultural landscapes, will be legally protected via the Alberta Historic Resources Act.

5. Preserve, enhance and feature important elements of significant architectural, topographical, landscape, scenic, ecological, recreational or cultural interest ^v by:

- a. Establishing education and awareness programs with the intent of developing an intrinsic public value for cultural resources, including cultural landscapes.

PROCEDURE

City staff developed this policy and will act as a resource for ongoing management of cultural landscapes by establishing best practices to ensure service effectiveness and efficiency.

AMENDMENTS

Policies related to cultural landscapes were first approved in 2002 via the Council approved Open Space Plan. This set of policies refines and replaces the 2002 policies.

Effective 2016 February 01, Parks became Calgary Parks.

ⁱ Bolded text is policy 2.3.3a from the Municipal Development Plan (2010)

ⁱⁱ Bolded text is policy 2.3.3b from the Municipal Development Plan (2010)

ⁱⁱⁱ Bolded text is policy 2.3.3d from the Municipal Development Plan (2010)

^{iv} Bolded text is policy 2.3.3e from the Municipal Development Plan (2010)

^v Bolded text is policy 2.4.1b from the Municipal Development Plan (2010)