

## Bylaw to Reinstate Designation of Bowness Park as a Municipal Historic Resource

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### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Urban Development recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw to designate Bowness Park as a Municipal Historic Resource.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- This report fulfils Council direction on PUD2019-1404 to reinstate designation (legal protection) of Bowness Park as a Municipal Historic Resource, following temporary removal of the same designation to facilitate construction of the Ring Road by The Province of Alberta.
- What does this mean to Calgarians?
  - Previously-approved heritage designation of Bowness Park will be reinstated, protecting the park for the future.
- Why does this matter?
  - Although Bowness Park is under the stewardship of Calgary Parks and not considered at-risk, designation of identified heritage resources by The City of Calgary demonstrates leadership in heritage conservation and adds oversight in the park's ongoing management as a historic place.
- The new bylaw protects the same heritage features as the previous designation and is amended only to remove references to the portion of land (0.13 acre) that was sold and transferred for construction of the Ring Road in 2019.
- At the 2019 November 18 Combined Meeting of Council, Bylaw 46M2019 was approved, repealing designation of Bylaw 28M2014 which designated Bowness Park as a Municipal Historic Resource under the Alberta Historical Resources Act. The associated report (PUD2019-1404) recommended that Administration report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Urban Development and Council no later than Q2 2020 with an amended bylaw to designate Bowness part as a Municipal Historic Resource.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
  - Council Priority N3 directs "Cherishing and protecting our heritage"

### DISCUSSION

Temporary removal of heritage designation for Bowness Park was performed to allow the sale of a small (0.13 acre) portion of land in the park by The City of Calgary to The Province of Alberta to enable the staging and construction of a new Bow River Bridge, adjacent to the existing Stoney Trail overpass.

The land sale and registration of new land titles was completed Q2 2020, and construction of the Bow River Bridge is underway by the Province of Alberta (the bridge supports are currently in place as of the writing of this report). In accordance with Council direction, Administration seeks approval of a new designation bylaw for Bowness Park which reflects the current lands.

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This report was originally recommended for Q2 2020, however due to the State of Local Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, reinstatement of designation through an amended bylaw was postponed until Fall 2020 – allowing prioritization of urgent items through Planning & Development.

Preparation for this report included collaboration between Calgary Parks, Calgary Growth Strategies, Law, and Real Estate & Development Services. All internal stakeholders have been circulated on this report. In accordance with the Alberta Historical Resources Act, a Notice of Intention to Designate was issued to Calgary Parks to align with the anticipated designation date at Council.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

Bowness Park is City-owned land under the stewardship of Calgary Parks, and Council approved the prior designation and temporary repeal of designation for construction of the Calgary Ring Road. No alterations have occurred to the identified ‘character-defining elements’ of Bowness Park as a heritage resource throughout this process.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Bowness Park was previously designated as a Municipal Historic Resource, and Council approved direction to reinstate designation after temporary removal. A detailed overview of the general social, environmental and economic benefits of heritage conservation is available at [calgary.ca/heritage](http://calgary.ca/heritage).

#### **Social**

Protection of Calgary’s heritage resources through designation is recognized as an essential part of conserving our history, culture and identity. A 2020 Citizen Perspective Survey Report indicates a majority of Calgarians agree that conservation of Calgary’s historic buildings and sites is important to them personally (83%), is important to Calgary’s culture (94%) and more should be done to conserve them for future generations to enjoy (86%).

The ongoing protection of Bowness Park retains one of Calgary’s most significant cultural landscapes – which serves as a place of recreation, learning and enjoyment for all citizens.

#### **Environmental**

In addition to being an identified cultural landscape, Bowness Park is a large ecological area that functions to conserve biodiversity and sustain environmental systems including riparian environments. Designation ensures further protection of these functions on an ongoing basis.

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### Economic

The conservation of heritage resources through designation has identified economic benefits including skilled job growth and retention, increased tourism, strengthening Calgary's competitive advantage in the labour marketplace, and the provision of affordable commercial/industrial space to the innovative/startup economy. In particular, Bowness Park is an important year-round activity site for Calgarians, promoting tourism and acting as part of Calgary's Parks network. The value and amenities of Bowness Park to citizens also helps increase and retain nearby property values.

### Service and Financial Implications

The *Municipal Development Plan, Calgary Heritage Strategy (2008), Culture Plan for Calgary, One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plan, Council Priority N3 'A City of Safe and Inspiring Neighbourhoods'* directing the 'Cherishing and protecting our heritage', and a variety of area-specific plans support the conservation of Calgary's Historic Resources.

Removal and reinstatement of designation for Bowness Park were performed as part of the ongoing City Planning & Policy workplan and did not have unique service or financial implications.

### No anticipated financial impact

### RISK

No risks have been identified for reinstating designation of Bowness Park as a Municipal Historic Resource. The site is City-owned, and designation follows explicit Council direction and policy.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

- Attachment 1 – Proposed Wording for a Bylaw to Designate Bowness Park as a Municipal Historic Resource

### Department Circulation

General Manager (Name)	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform (Pick-one)
Stewart Dalgleish	Planning & Development	Approve
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform
		Choose an item.
		Choose an item.