

## DESIGNATION OF TWO PARKS AS MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCES

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The steward/owner of Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden, Calgary Parks, has requested designation of the properties as Municipal Historic Resources under Section 26 of the Alberta Historical Resources Act.

Confederation Park's eastern and western portions extend across the communities of Capitol Hill and Mount Pleasant and are adjacent to the communities of Rosemont and Cambrian Heights. The property has been determined to be significant by the Calgary Heritage Authority for its development as one of the city's major initiatives to celebrate the Canadian Centennial in 1967 which was led by unprecedented community activism. In addition to being an early example of utilizing overland storm water management in Calgary Parks, Confederation Park is considered an outstanding achievement in the romantic, naturalistic order and style of landscape design.

Reader Rock Garden, established in 1914, is located on the northern slope and hill of Union Cemetery. The property has been determined to be significant by the Calgary Heritage Authority for its intricate and elaborate design based on an Edwardian era Arts and Craft style rockery consisting of rock elements, pathways, trees, water features, and numerous planting beds with a variety of differing micro-climates and garden areas. In addition to its design value, Reader Rock Garden is important for its association with William Roland Reader, Calgary's most influential Parks Superintendent, who promoted the development of civic recreational spaces and beautification of streetscapes.

The steward/owner, Calgary Parks, is seeking designation to preserve the properties in accordance with direction outlined in the 2012 Cultural Landscape Strategic Plan (CPS2012-022). Municipal designation is an important long term management tool, contributes to the community awareness of the significance of the sites and provides eligibility for provincial grant funds for on-going conservation.

### ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommends that Council:

1. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw (Attachment 1) to designate Confederation Park as a Municipal Historic Resource; and
2. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw (Attachment 2) to designate Reader Rock Garden as a Municipal Historic Resource.

### RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2017 JANUARY 11:

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That Council:

1. Give three readings to **Bylaw 8M2017** (Attachment 1) to designate Confederation Park as a Municipal Historic Resource; and
2. Give three readings to **Bylaw 9M2017** (Attachment 2) to designate Reader Rock Garden as a Municipal Historic Resource.

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### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

No previous Council Direction / Policy.

### **BACKGROUND**

Confederation Park (eastern and western portions addresses: 905 30th Avenue N.W. and 2807 10th Street N.W.; short legal descriptions: 7998JK;7;R1 and 7999JK;R6) was added to Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources in 2010 as a property of 'City Wide Significance.'

The property has been determined to be significant by the Calgary Heritage Authority, for its:

- Activity value, reflecting the unprecedented community effort on the part of North Hill businesses and residents in the neighbourhoods of Mount Pleasant, Capitol Hill, Rosemont and Cambrian Heights to establish the park.
- Person value, including Eric Musgreave, founder of the Centennial Ravine Park Society, and later Alderman, who was named Citizen of the Year for his contribution to the society and influencing the creation of the Park; and Harry Boothman, an outstanding, visionary Superintendent of parks in the history of Calgary.
- Design value, being an exceptionally beautiful achievement in park design created from a rough, featureless coulee, the design is of the romantic, naturalistic style. It is also an early example of incorporating overland storm water management into the design of a park.
- Event value, being one of the City's major initiatives to commemorate the centennial of Canadian Confederation.

Reader Rock Garden (addresses: 325 25th Avenue S.E. and a portion of 3025 Spiller Road S.E.; short legal descriptions: 3940L;11;3-7 and 5;1;24;10;SE) was added to Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources in 2007 as a property of 'City Wide Significance.' The property has been determined to be significant by the Calgary Heritage Authority for its:

- Person value, being William Reader, Calgary's most influential Parks Superintendent, garden designer and proponent of city beautification.
- Design value, being a unique design consisting of intricate gardens and pathways as well as its use of native plant varieties and local materials.
- Symbolic value, being a reminder of the early development aspirations and optimism in Calgary during the early 1900s, specifically reflecting the city beautification movement.

The steward/owner of the properties, Calgary Parks, has requested designation as Municipal Historic Resources to protect each site in perpetuity and to make the properties eligible for provincial grant funds for on-going conservation.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

Designation of Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden legally protects the properties and ensures that any future changes and conservation work aligns with best practices in heritage conservation. The proposed bylaws (Attachments 1 and 2) identify the elements of each property that contribute to its heritage value and must be treated appropriately in any future changes or conservation work.

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### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

The steward/owner of the Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden requested Municipal Historic Resource designation 2016 August 11 and 2015 May 14, respectively. 'Notices of Intention' to designate each property were issued 2016 November 17. Upon receipt of the notices (2016 November 23) and in accordance with the Alberta Historical Resources Act, sixty (60) days are required to pass before Council may, by bylaw, designate the sites as Municipal Historic Resources, which is 2017 January 22 or later. The steward/owner of Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden has reviewed the proposed bylaws and expressed through written correspondence that they are in agreement with them, as outlined in Attachment 3 and 4 to this report.

The Calgary Heritage Authority has expressed support of these designations as outlined in Attachment 5 and 6 to this report.

### **Strategic Alignment**

Council priorities outlined in The City's *2015 – 2018 Action Plan* include the fostering of "A city of inspiring neighbourhoods". Historic resources are an integral component of such neighbourhoods and their retention contributes to the diversity and character of their surroundings.

The City of Calgary *Municipal Development Plan* supports the conservation and protection of Calgary's historic resources. The plan identifies historic preservation as part of good city building and community identity, and encourages property owners to conserve Calgary's historic resources.

The City of Calgary *2020 Sustainability Direction* includes an objective for Calgary to become a "diverse and socially inclusive city that respects its heritage and the arts," as well as a strategy to "support the preservation of Calgary's historic resources".

The City of Calgary *Cultural Landscape Strategic Plan* (2012), states that The City of Calgary Parks Department will secure designation for each cultural landscape.

The City's *Calgary Heritage Strategy* (2008) recommends that identified historic resources should be protected by designation bylaws, when possible, to ensure their preservation. This protection prevents demolition, provides appropriate management of physical interventions and is critical to ensuring effective management of historic resources.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

#### **Social**

Historic resources connect us to our past, our future, and to each other. They provide places of learning and places of understanding for all Canadians.

Cultural Landscapes are integral to the identity of our community and help to strengthen its distinctiveness. Historic resources add to the beauty, character and visual interest of our urban environment which contributes to the city's liveability and are sources of community pride.

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### Environmental

The conservation of cultural landscapes can often have significant environmental benefits as many of these landscapes are rich with biodiversity that are being conserved as part of the landscape. The conservation of these components contributes to the larger biodiversity within Calgary.

### Economic (External)

Each cultural landscape adds character and visual interest to the community which makes economic investment in the area an attractive prospect. Designation will ensure these attributes are protected and the resulting security will promote high-quality investment. Additionally, tourists and residents are attracted to areas with historic resources.

### Financial Capacity

#### **Current and Future Operating Budget:**

Designation of Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden will have no operating budget implications for The City of Calgary.

#### **Current and Future Capital Budget:**

Designation of Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden will have no capital budget implications for The City of Calgary.

### Risk Assessment

No risks have been identified in designating Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden as a Municipal Historical Resources.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Both properties are identified on Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources, as sites of 'City Wide Significance' making them eligible for designation as Municipal Historic Resources. The steward/owner of Confederation Park and Reader Rock Garden has formally requested designation. Protecting Calgary's historic resources is an identified objective of The City.

### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Proposed Bylaw 8M2017**
2. **Proposed Bylaw 9M2017**
3. Letter from Calgary Parks: Confederation Park.
4. Letter from Calgary Parks: Reader Rock Garden.
5. Letter from Calgary Heritage Authority: Confederation Park.
6. Letter from Calgary Heritage Authority: Reader Rock Garden.