

Multiple Municipal Historic Resource Designations (City-owned sites) – December 2021

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Infrastructure and Planning Committee recommend that Council give three readings to each of the following proposed bylaws, to designate as a Municipal Historic Resource:

- a) the Guide-Scout Service Centre (Attachment 2);
- b) Riley Park (Attachment 3); and
- c) Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Rock Garden (Attachment 4)

HIGHLIGHTS

Protecting Calgary's historic resources is an identified objective of The City; designating the proposed historic sites will legally protect them permanently from demolition or unapproved alteration to heritage elements.

- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Designation of these sites as Municipal Historic Resources will provide social and economic benefits for the communities including increased sense of place, and cultural and educational value. Studies have shown that proximity to historic resources increases the value of buildings.
- **Why does this matter?** Designation as historic resources provides access to provincial and federal grant funds for ongoing conservation and is a valuable commemoration tool to increase public awareness of historic resources.
- Riley Park was constructed in the early 1900s during Calgary's Pre-World War One boom period (1906-1913). The two other sites were built during the Modern period (1957-1982).
- The City of Calgary departments that are the stewards of these properties have formally requested designation.
- Approval of the three (3) designations in this report, coupled with the four (4) designations in Report IP2021-1502 on the same meeting agenda, would result in 14 Municipal Historic Resource designations in 2021, bringing the total designations to 120.
- At the 2018 November 30 Regular Meeting of Council, through C2018-1158, Council adopted the One Calgary 2019-2022 Service Plans and Budgets. The City Planning and Policy Service actions proposed to "continue to legally protect heritage assets and directly support landowners".
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A city of safe and inspiring neighbourhoods
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

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DISCUSSION

The following sites are proposed for Municipal Historic Resource designation. They have been evaluated by Heritage Calgary using the Council-approved Historic Resource Evaluation System, which assesses sites against nine value areas. Once evaluated, the Calgary Heritage Strategy (LPT2007-64) states that these “significant historic resources” “can and should be protected through Designation Bylaws”. Both stewarding business units have policy supporting protection as outlined in Attachment 1.

Guide-Scout Service Centre

- Built 1966-67
- 2140 Brownsea DR NW [West Hillhurst]
- Is a symbol of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements, and their joint effort to construct a purpose-built headquarters as well as the 1967 National Centennial building program.

Riley Park

- Built in 1911
- 800 12 ST NW [Hillhurst]
- Located on former Riley family lands, it is associated with Ezra Riley, a prominent figure in Calgary’s early history who donated part of the land for the park, and William Roland Reader, Superintendent of Calgary Parks and Cemeteries 1913-1942, who designed and implemented much of Riley Park.

Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Rock Garden

- Built in 1956
- 1103 10 ST NW [Hillhurst]
- Is associated with prominent Calgarians, Senator Patrick Burns, one of the ‘Big Four’ backers of the first Calgary Stampede, and Alex Munro, Superintendent of Calgary Parks 1949-1960s. It is valued for its unique design and status as one of the few rock gardens in Calgary.

Proposed Bylaw Schedules

Detailed information on all properties can be found in Attachments 2 to 4, the proposed designation bylaws.

Each proposed bylaw provides conditions for the treatment of that property. Schedule A geographically situates the site location; Schedule B includes the Statement of Significance from the property’s heritage evaluation, and outlines specific ‘Regulated Portions’ that cannot be removed, altered, or destroyed without approval from the City of Calgary; Schedule C compiles a reference list of key standards from the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, a national best-practice manual.

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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

Public communication or engagement was not required for the recommendations. The proposed designation bylaws impact three City-owned assets, and both Calgary Parks and Building Infrastructure, the stewarding business units have expressly agreed to designation as a Municipal Historic Resource.

The stewards of each property intended for designation were circulated their proposed bylaw and provided agreement in-writing to it being presented to the Infrastructure and Planning Committee, and City Council. Per the Alberta Historical Resources Act, a 'Notice of Intention' to designate each property was issued to the stewarding business units in accordance with the 60-day notice requirement of the Act.

Heritage Calgary, a civic partner, has expressed support of these proposed designations as outlined in Attachment 5 to this report.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Protection of Calgary's heritage resources through designation is 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, personally (83%), to Calgary's culture (94%); and, for future generations to enjoy (86%).

Environmental

Conservation of heritage resources contributes to reducing carbon emissions through avoidance of new material use and diverted landfill waste. Historic buildings have 'inherent sustainability' through their long life-cycle, reparability and traditional building design. Demolition of buildings in Canada generates approximately 25% of all landfill waste. Conservation of historic buildings offers a significant opportunity to reduce unnecessary landfill usage and material loss. Additionally, conserving cultural landscapes retains mature trees and associated microclimates.

Economic

The conservation of heritage resources has economic benefits including, job growth and retention in skilled trades and construction; increased tourism through green spaces; and attracting innovative/start-up businesses by offering affordable commercial/industrial spaces.

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Service and Financial Implications

The proposed designations have no direct impact on the stewards' operating budgets. However, designation allows them to apply for supporting grants from other levels of government, that if successful would be directed to their respective operating budgets.

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 community plans support the conservation of Calgary's Historic Resources.

RISK

No risks have been identified in designating the proposed sites as Municipal Historic Resources. All stewards are in agreement with the proposed designations, which do not prescribe activities in the buildings or on the properties. The risk of not designating these sites is potential redevelopment or alteration, destroying the historic value.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – Previous Council Direction, Background
2. Attachment 2 – Proposed Wording for a Bylaw to Designate the Guide-Scout Centre as a Municipal Historic Resource
3. Attachment 3 – Proposed Wording for a Bylaw to Designate Riley Park as a Municipal Historic Resource
4. Attachment 4 – Proposed Wording for a Bylaw to Designate Senator Patrick Burns Memorial Rock Garden as a Municipal Historic Resource
5. Attachment 5 – Heritage Calgary Letters of Support

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Stuart Dalgleish	Planning & Development	Approve
Kyle Ripley	Parks	Inform
Susan Sprecht	Building Infrastructure	Inform