

Strategic Vision

Through the 2008 *Calgary Heritage Strategy*, Council established a municipal vision “as a Canadian leader in historic preservation. The *Strategy* outlined stakeholders, goals, and actions to achieve this vision. Since the *Strategy*’s adoption, a majority of its 30+ identified action items have been completed, including the following major accomplishments:

- Establishment of the **Historic Resource Conservation Grant Program** in 2012—systematizing funding for heritage resources.
- Approval of the **City-Owned Historic Building Management Strategy** in 2011 (RE&DS) and **Cultural Landscape Strategic Plan** in 2012 (Calgary Parks).
- Launch of the **online Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources** —among the best of its kind in North America. Updated to a GIS platform in 2021

Approval of the *Calgary Heritage Strategy* introduced a set of three principles: **Identify, Protect, and Manage**. A successful overall approach to heritage conservation requires attention to all three of these principles. The below information provides a high-level ‘snapshot’ of current progress towards Calgary’s heritage conservation vision.

How is Calgary doing?

Identify

- The [Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources](#) currently has over 920 listings. This includes built structures, public boulevards, parks & bridges, and demolished or decommissioned sites.
- Civic partner [Heritage Calgary](#) focused on re-evaluating existing sites and areas of high heritage concentration from 2020-23.
- In 2023 Heritage Calgary received over 70 enquiries for Inventory consideration and typically has budget to conduct approximately 35 evaluations annually.
- Through summer student work Heritage Planning completed a review of all Architectural Styles listed on the Inventory. Together with the civic partner, updates & publications will occur in 2024.
- In the summer of 2023 the Heritage Planning team welcomed two new heritage planners to assist with the increasing number of permit reviews, legal protection, matching conservation grants and intervention requests affecting Inventory listed and legally protected heritage resources.

Protect

- Designations are owner driven and Heritage Planning works with property owners of qualifying heritage resources to draft designation bylaws that will protect Calgary’s heritage resources for future generations.
- In 2023 eight heritage resources were brought to committee/ council for designation as Municipal Historic Resources, bringing the total legally protected resources to 135.
- An additional 26 public boulevards are also currently designated and 13 heritage resources have been protected by legal agreements negotiated as part of comprehensive development projects.
- Multiple sites on the Inventory are part of the [Downtown Office Conversion Programs](#). Some sites will be retaining all or most of their Character Defining Elements and providing homes for Calgarians and facilitating other uses that will revitalize Calgary’s downtown.

Manage

- Continued implementation of Heritage Area Tools ([Heritage Incentive Area](#), [Heritage Guideline Areas](#), [Direct Control Heritage Areas](#)) and the first Heritage Guideline Areas were approved in the North Hill Local Area Plan. The Riley and West Elbow communities’ local area planning projects are underway.
- Throughout 2021-23 the conservation grant program piloted a separate \$3.5 million funded stream for more complex non-residential heritage resources. Improvements resulting from this pilot will be implemented in 2024.
- Since the grant program launched and including the above pilot, 54 Municipal Historic Resources have been allocated \$9.3 million total in matching investment.
- Total funds issued to date is \$5.4 million as grants are paid at project milestones and may be completed in one year up to five. Thus this program results in a total local investment of \$10.8 million in conserving heritage resources by engaging local consultants and trades who specialize in this field.