

### Alignment with City Policies

#### ConnectEdmonton

ConnectEdmonton sets the strategic direction for the future of Edmonton, outlining where changes are needed to realize the strategy's vision in 2050. Of the four strategic goals, Administration found Healthy City to be the most relevant to the Public Spaces Bylaw: "Edmonton is a neighbourly city with community and personal wellness that embodies and promotes equity for all Edmontonians."

#### The City Plan

The City Plan envisions a vibrant city of two million people that provides bountiful opportunities to experience a sense of belonging, to live in a place that feels like home, to thrive, to have more access within the city, to preserve what matters most, and to be able to create and innovate. Public spaces, and the regulations that govern them, play a key role in all of these values. Administration reviewed the values, outcomes, intentions and directives within The City Plan that directly relate to the Public Spaces Bylaw, and found there are related directives within each of the five values represented in The City Plan. However, Administration found Outcome 2.1: "Edmontonians feel safe and secure in their communities and benefit from public spaces and infrastructure that support health and wellbeing" to be the most directly relevant to the Public Spaces Bylaw.

Each of The City Plan outcomes, intentions, and directives listed below relate either directly or indirectly to the Public Spaces Bylaw, and were considered in the development and implementation of the draft bylaw:

- Outcome 1.1: Edmonton fosters wellness and mental health by providing opportunities for all people to engage in community life and supporting those who are isolated, marginalized or at risk.
- Intention 1.1.1: Promote personal and community wellness and connection through inclusive and welcoming places.
- Directive 1.1.2.2: Address systemic racism and historic trauma experienced within local communities through the work and practice of City administration.
- Directive 1.1.1.5: Develop, enable and animate community hubs for intergenerational gathering.
- Directive 1.1.3.1: Create safe opportunities for women, girls and gender minorities to meet, connect, participate in and enjoy community and civic life.
- Directive 1.2.1.1: Enable publicly accessible spaces that invite exploration and support interaction and learning for people of all ages.

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- Directive 1.2.1.3: Encourage and support the use of public space in formal and informal ways throughout the year.
- Directive 1.2.2.5: Apply a gender-based equity lens in the design and application of City infrastructure, policy, programs and services.
- Directive 1.2.3.1: Acknowledge Treaty Six and recognize the First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples and their connection to this land.
- Directive 1.3.3.2: Address equity in the delivery of policies, programs, public services, investment and infrastructure delivery.
- Intention 1.4.2 Ensure Edmonton's air, land and water are safe and clean.
- Directive 1.4.2.1: Protect, restore, maintain and enhance a system of conserved natural areas within a functioning and interconnected ecological network.
- Outcome 2.1: Edmontonians feel safe and secure in their communities and benefit from public spaces and infrastructure that support health and wellbeing.
- Directive 2.2.3.2: Preserve and strengthen the role of Centre City as Edmonton's principal employment and residential node, regional economic and mobility hub, urban and traditional meeting place and celebration space.
- Directive 2.2.3.5: Prioritize the building, activation and maintenance of beautiful, comfortable public spaces at nodes and corridors.
- Intention 2.3.3: Promote gathering spaces for culture, sports, recreation and entertainment opportunities to support both formal and informal uses.
- Directive 2.3.3.3: Provide gathering and event spaces for hosting Indigenous cultural and ceremonial practices.
- Outcome 3.1: Edmontonians acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous heritage while honouring the diverse cultures, perspectives and experiences residents bring from around the world.
- Intention 3.1.2: Support equity among the diverse communities that contribute to Edmonton's sense of place, wellness and identity.
- Outcome 4.1: Edmonton advances equity through access to universally accessible spaces, services, facilities and transportation networks.
- Intention 4.1.3: Ensure the equitable access of affordable services and amenities to all Edmontonians.
- Directive 4.1.3.1: Deliver welcoming public facilities and services that are friendly for all ages and abilities, as well as universally accessible.
- Outcome 5.1 Edmonton protects, expands and improves access to its natural systems and open spaces in support of biodiversity and the health and enjoyment of all Edmontonians.
- Intention 5.1.1: Ensure protection, enhancement and opportunities for access to open space and the river valley and ravine system.

- Directive 5.1.1.1: Provide opportunities for people to access, enjoy and connect to open space and the river valley and ravine system.
- Directive 5.1.1.5: Maintain the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine System's key role as an environmental protection area and for open space, cultural and recreational uses.
- Outcome 5.1.2: Promote the conservation and restoration of natural systems to improve ecological connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation.
- Directive 5.3.2.3: Prevent resource extraction within the North Saskatchewan River Valley and Ravine system in order to preserve its ecological value.
- Directive 6.1.1.5: Expand programming and encourage flexible use of open spaces and public facilities year round.
- Outcome 6.2: Edmonton is where creative spaces emerge and arts, design and culture flourish.

### **Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Strategy**

While The City Plan outlines 'what' outcomes, intentions, and directives to pursue for implementation, the CSWB Strategy provides more specific guidance on 'how' to implement and is the umbrella program under which the Public Spaces Bylaw project is being undertaken. The CSWB Strategy, provided in the May 16, 2022 Office of the City Manager Report OCM00991, is the City's system-wide approach offering a roadmap for inclusive, connected and coordinated safety and wellbeing planning that is aligned to the values in The City Plan; its overarching intention is that "each person making Edmonton home feels a sense of purpose, safety, and stability, curated through connectedness to self, land, culture and each other and rooted in reconciliation, anti-racism, removal of systemic barriers and transformation of thinking, interacting, and being."

The CSWB Strategy identifies a seven-pillar framework to achieve this intention, and while all pillars are interdependent, pillars one through four are relevant to the Public Spaces Bylaw project. Pillars #1 and #2 relate to 'Anti-Racism' and 'Reconciliation' respectively - given their importance and the existence of standalone City strategies, these elements are discussed separately below. Pillars #3 and #4 relate directly to the Public Spaces Bylaw, and were considered in the development and implementation of the draft bylaw:

- Pillar #3 - Safe and Inclusive Spaces: Safety has been a long-standing priority for the City of Edmonton. Within the CSWB Framework, Safe and Inclusive Spaces includes digital spaces (such as service tools like the 311 app), public transportation spaces (including transit, pedestrian and bike nodes) in addition to physical spaces, such as recreation centres, community leagues or Edmonton's extensive park system. Every person visiting a public space

should feel welcomed and comfortable regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or personal circumstance. Administration is committed to continuing to work with community in order to realize the long-term outcome that communities are supported and empowered to lead the cultivation and sustainment of safe, inclusive, vibrant, sustainable and resilient spaces.

- Long term outcome: Communities are supported and empowered to lead the cultivation and sustainment of safe, inclusive, vibrant, sustainable and resilient spaces.
- Pillar #4 - Equitable Policies, Procedures, Standards and Guidelines: Defined as the design and delivery of fair and equitable policies, programs and services that facilitate the full participation of all people, this pillar has identified the conditions and processes needed to support the actions and outcomes of each pillar. Reviewing Council policies and bylaws supports the CSWB Task Force's recommendation to "enact policies and standards that place focus on proactively and effectively providing support to disadvantaged Edmontonians," as well as EndPovertyEdmonton's expressed priority to decriminalize poverty through actions such as the amendment of bylaws.
  - Long term outcome: People making Edmonton home have enriched experiences through equitable access to programs, services and spaces.

### **Indigenous Framework**

The Indigenous Framework is intended to answer the question: "How can the City of Edmonton best support and build strong relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton?" With four guiding principles, four roles, and seven commitments, there are many indirect touchpoints between the Indigenous Framework and the Public Spaces Bylaw. However, Administration found the third commitment listed in the Indigenous Framework to be the most directly applicable to the Public Spaces Bylaw: "Identify and implement ways to make City spaces and buildings welcoming and safe for Indigenous Peoples and ensure they can see themselves reflected in the City's spaces and places."

### **Anti-racism Strategy and Anti-Black Racism Action Plan**

The Anti-racism Strategy (see the February 14, 2022 Community Services Report CS00872) aims to improve equity, end poverty, and eliminate racism, while the 2023 Anti-Black Racism Action Plan serves as a guide and slate of recommendations to comprehensively tackle the challenges and concerns of historical and current anti-Black racism, based on the voices of Black communities in Edmonton. The Anti-Black Racism Action Plan contains recommendations that relate directly or

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indirectly to the Public Spaces Bylaw. Indirectly, the “Policing and the Justice System” section urges the recommendations from the 2021 “Safer For All” report in addition to further recommendations aimed at reducing racism and discrimination in the legal system overall, including Peace Officer enforcement of municipal bylaws. In addition, recommendation 9.9 identifies the need for further work to reduce criminalization, support the safety, and explore the diverse needs of people using transit, particularly unhoused people, people with addictions, and people with mental health needs.