

Edmonton Design Committee

EDC 2024 Annual Report

Edmonton

March 10, 2025

Janice Mills, EDC Chair
edmonton.ca/edc

The mandate of the Edmonton Design Committee will be to improve the quality of the City's urban design by providing recommendations regarding development applications; and advice regarding urban design policies and principles.

City of Edmonton Bylaw 20673

2024-25 Goals and Accomplishments - Overview

- **Goal 1:** Reviewing Development Applications
- **Goal 2:** Updating the Standards and Procedures
- **Goal 3:** Updating the Principles of Urban Design
- **Goal 4:** Initiating a review of the EDC boundary

Reviewing Development Applications

- **27 development permits**
- **4 rezonings** including 2 projects presented to Council at Public Hearing
- **7 City projects** including Garneau Affordable Housing, Walker Fire Hall, Mary Burlie Park and the Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy

Updating the Standards and Procedures

- **Introducing a mission statement** to better communicate the purpose and value of the Committee
- **Exploring a new approach to informal submissions** that gives the Committee the ability to exempt projects from formal review
- **Providing new guidance on Committee recommendations** to better focus the scope of review

Updating the Principles of Urban Design

- **Articulating six principles** that better reflect best practice and align with both Connect(Ed)monton and The City Plan.
- **Creating a submission guide** that includes a simpler and less onerous submission process, and a clearer and more impactful evaluation process.

New Principles of Urban Design



Authentic and meaningful

Celebrating people and place, cultures, and natural and built heritage while promoting the evolution of culture for generations to come.



Healthy and inclusive

Creating safe and welcoming places for people of all cultures, incomes, ages, abilities and genders.

New Principles of Urban Design



Attractive and human-scaled

Creating comfortable, well-scaled public spaces that support walkability and create a memorable city image.



Connected and walkable

Integrating the movement of people within sites and public spaces across a multitude of modes, systems and scales, with a focus on walking and wheeling.

New Principles of Urban Design



Resilient and sustainable

Facilitating urbanization that supports energy transition and climate resilience and reduces our ecological footprint .



Vibrant and thriving

Enabling diverse activities, amenities and uses that contribute to lively, people-focused places.

Review of the EDC Boundary and Scope of Review

- **Aligning the EDC boundary to nodes and corridors**
- **Reviewing projects adjacent to major transportation corridors**
- **Reviewing all large site rezonings** regardless of their proximity to transit centres
- **Improving the project exemption process** with clearer principles for when existing criteria do not readily apply

Proposed 2025-26 Work Plan

- **Finalizing Changes to the EDC Boundary and Scope of Review** with amendments to the EDC Bylaw as needed
- **Implementing New Standards and Procedures, Principles of Urban Design and Submission Guide** including:
 - ◆ New committee training + industry education
 - ◆ Improved industry feedback + Committee self-assessment
- **Interacting with Council** through a Luncheon or Information Session
- **Undertaking a Review of Recent EDC Projects** to inform continual improvements to the Committee

Thank you.

Janice Mills, Chair
edmonton.ca/edc

The logo for the City of Edmonton, featuring the word "Edmonton" in white text on a dark blue square background.

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