



Title: HERITAGE RESOURCES POLICY		Number: 0144	
Reference: Administrative Committee - August 21, 2024	Adopted by City Council: October 7, 2024		Supersedes:
	City Clerk	Chief Administrative Officer	
Prepared by: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			

STATEMENT

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT, RECOGNIZING THE RICH HERITAGE RESOURCES THAT FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY'S IDENTITY, IS COMMITTED TO THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, AND PROMOTION OF THESE INVALUABLE ASSETS. THROUGH THIS POLICY, THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING ITS RICH HERITAGE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, CONTRIBUTING TO A SENSE OF PLACE, COMMUNITY PRIDE, AND CULTURAL CONTINUITY.

PRINCIPLES

1. The City of Medicine Hat, guided by the Province of Alberta's Historical Resources Act – R.S.A. 2000, and any subsequent actions relevant to Medicine Hat's heritage, acknowledges its role in protecting heritage resources for future generations. The policy provides a framework of principles and goals, outlining the structure for the identification, protection, and preservation of heritage resources. The purpose is based on the following principles:
 - a) **Protection:** The City should encourage the protection of heritage resources that are representative of Medicine Hat's history. This includes built structures, streetscapes, historical and archaeological sites, cultural objects and landscapes, archaeological specimens, and natural features of heritage significance.
 - b) **Preservation and Dissemination:** The City should preserve and disseminate information about existing and lost heritage resources. This includes maintaining detailed records of all heritage resources and updating them regularly.
 - c) **Public Awareness and Participation:** The City has a role in raising public awareness about heritage resources and encouraging public participation in their preservation. This includes educational programs, heritage tourism initiatives, and public events that celebrate the city's history and culture.
 - d) **Networking:** The City has a role in networking with other agencies involved in the preservation and education of heritage resources. This includes consulting with local heritage groups, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders in decision-making processes related to heritage preservation.

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2. Through this policy, the City of Medicine Hat reaffirms its commitment to preserving its rich heritage for present and future generations, contributing to a sense of place, community pride, and cultural continuity. This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure it remains effective and relevant.

ROLE OF COUNCIL

1. To receive, review and adopt this policy and any recommended amendments thereto.
2. Designate properties in accordance with the *Alberta Historic Resources Act* (R.S.A. 2000).

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1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.01 Archaeological Site – refers to physical evidence of past human activity found in a specific location on or below the ground, or under water. It is comprised of features, structures, and objectives, including artefacts, soil botanical samples, animal bones, pollen, or any specimen of archaeological interest.
- 1.02 Conservation – encompasses all actions aimed at the safeguarding of heritage resources for the future. Its purpose is to study, retain and restore the culturally significant qualities of the resource with the least possible intervention.
- 1.03 Cultural Landscape – is any geographical area that has been modified or influenced by human activity, including natural landscapes used and/or altered by native peoples; designed landscapes which derive value from their aesthetic qualities; vernacular landscapes associated with the region's demographic, social and economic development; heritage landscapes, (including heritage routes and trails), which are valued primarily for their historical associations; and such specific landscape types as cemeteries, canals and fortification earthworks.
- 1.04 Historical Integrity – conveys the sense of remaining true to the original and is the ability of a property to clearly and visibly convey its significance with reference to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, sense of place and
 - (a) Association with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
 - (b) Embodiment of a type, period, or method of construction, or representation of the work of a master, or possession of high artistic values, or representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose individual components may lack individual distinction; or
 - (c) Representation of information important in Canada's prehistory or history.
- 1.05 Heritage Place – is a structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site, or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value.
- 1.06 Heritage Resource(s) – refers to a structure, site, object, cultural or natural feature, in or above the ground, or related cluster of structures, sites, objects, cultural or natural features that are deemed to be significant by virtue of their design, construction, association with an heritage event, trend, person, place or social movement, or by virtue of the importance of the research or knowledge content which the resources may possess.
- 1.07 Alberta Historical Resources Act – R.S.A. 2000 – includes and follows the Government of Canada Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Place in Canada, Parks Canada 2003, Queen's Printer, Alberta Government, Historical Resources Act.
- 1.08 Heritage Structure – refers to any building, work or structure or the remains of same, on or above the surface of the earth, forty (40) years of age or older, that is deemed to be of historical or architectural interest by virtue of its design, construction, architect/designer or builder, its association with a person, place, event or social

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movement also deemed to be of historical or heritage architectural interest. The environmental and contextual significance of a heritage property is also noted.

- 1.09 **Municipal Heritage Resource Designation** – is a form of local government regulation that identifies heritage resources. Heritage designation is applied to a property when the long-term protection of the resource is desired, (otherwise known as “designation”).
- 1.10 **Natural Features** – are features (not intentionally manmade) located in the City of Medicine Hat that are significant to the community. These features include but are not limited to the following: sand dunes, old growth vegetation, view corridors, wetlands, pathways and waterways.
- 1.11 **Places of Interest List (POIL)**- documents buildings, structures, streetscapes, natural features and archeological sites that are potentially of interest. They may have historical significance and integrity, but full research hasn’t been carried out. While notes are taken about each property on the POIL, specific character-defining features have not been documented.
- 1.12 **Preservation** – is the action or process of protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing materials, form, and integrity of a heritage place or of an individual component, while protecting its heritage value. Preservation can include both short-term and interim measures to protect or stabilize the place, as well as long-term actions to retard deterioration or prevent damage so that the place can be kept serviceable through routine maintenance and minimal repair, rather than extensive replacement and new construction.
- 1.13 **Registry** – is a list of properties and sites with qualities or characteristics that are recognized or significant and contribute to the City’s heritage. (Placement on the registry entails a thorough evaluation of the building or site along with any other photographs or documentation, and archival research.
- 1.14 **Rehabilitation** – is the action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a heritage place or an individual component, through repair, alterations, and/or additions, while protecting its heritage value. Rehabilitation can include replacing missing heritage features. The replacement may be an accurate replica of the missing feature, or it may be a new design that is compatible with the style, era, and character of the heritage place.
- 1.15 **Restoration** – refers to the action or process of accurately revealing, recovering, or representing the state of the heritage place or of an individual component, as it appeared at a particular period in its history, while protecting the heritage value.
- 1.16 **Streetscape** – means a collection of street properties that collectively form an integral portion of the community’s heritage integrity (not precluding the potential individual significance of each resource).

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2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.01 Administrative Committee

- (a) Makes recommendations to the City Council regarding any amendments to this Policy.
- (b) Receives and adopts the Procedures developed for the implementation of the Policy and any amendments thereto.

2.02 Public Services Committee

- (a) Reviews and recommends to Council the Heritage Resources Policy
- (b) Reviews Administration recommendations regarding designation of properties as Municipal Historic Resources

2.03 Community Development

- (a) Makes information available to the community through the Esplanade Archives on matters that relate to heritage resource preservation.
- (b) Establish a Heritage Resources Working Group which will make recommendations to administration regarding: the designation of historic resources and the demolition, preservation, or rehabilitation of these resources.

2.04 Heritage Resource Working Group

- (a) Advises Administration on all matters relating to Heritage Resources in the City of Medicine Hat.
- (b) Establishes and maintains a heritage inventory of heritage resources that could be considered for designation.
- (c) Receives requests for designation.
- (d) Evaluates the requests for designation of sites/resources and recommends designation to Administration
- (e) Reviews development and demolition applications that may affect designated and potential heritage buildings and makes recommendations to Planning and Development Services.
- (f) Monitors provincial and federal legislation which affects the City's heritage conservation objectives.

2.05 Planning and Development Services

- (a) Administers the Heritage Resources Policy.
- (b) Circulates for comment all development or demolition applications for property listed on the Places of Interest List (POIL) to the Heritage Resource Working Group
- (c) As applicable, reviews development or demolition applications following a review by the Heritage Resource Working Group.
- (d) Provides advice to the Heritage Resource Working Group on matters that relate to heritage resource preservation.
- (e) Ensures that building plans, pertinent to designated Heritage Resources, satisfy conditions set out by Planning and Development Services.
- (f) Monitors legislation which affects the City's heritage conservation objectives.
- (g) Provide advice to the community on matters relating to heritage resources preservation.

