

Heritage Program Project Work Plan

A three-phase project is being proposed to address the outstanding implementation items and to strengthen the Heritage Program with the objectives of confirming the City of Saskatoon (City) leadership role in this area of public policy and increasing the integration of the Heritage Program into broader civic goals. The proposed project was reviewed with the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee to align with their work plan.

Phase 1 – Jurisdictional Review and Asset Assessment

Priorities

1. Identify best practices for heritage conservation.
 - a. Update research on what other cities are doing to identify, conserve, manage, interpret, support, and utilize heritage assets to their full potential.
 - b. Compile a list of best practices to identify effective funding opportunities and alternative incentives to support property owners to ensure their properties remain viable and useful.
 - c. Identify best practices to determine heritage value and the long-term commitment to preservation.
2. Assess City-owned heritage assets, both built and natural
 - a. Develop a framework to categorize the heritage assets
 - b. Develop a strategy and funding plan for the creation of Conservation and Maintenance plans. Each Conservation and Maintenance Plan would include:
 - i. Evaluate the current state of each asset and identify urgent rehabilitation work and ongoing maintenance needs.
 - ii. Create a budget for urgent work and regular/periodic maintenance for each asset.
3. Review other City plans and strategies for risks to heritage conservation.
 - a. Create wording to be inserted into this type of plan/strategy to represent the Heritage Program in a way that supports the ongoing conservation of heritage assets.

Phase 2 – Support for Municipal Heritage Property Owners

Priorities

1. Summarize how other cities are supporting heritage property owners to ensure their properties are well maintained and remain viable and useful.
 - a. Identify options to establish easily accessible heritage incentives that meet needs of property owners.
2. Identify heritage properties and sites, both built and natural.

- a. Review properties that are protected by Bylaw No. 6770, The Demolition Permit Bylaw, 1987 and determine if it is appropriate for each property to remain on the list. Identify path for further pursuit of heritage designation for those properties remaining on the list.
 - b. Evaluate the framework for adding and removing protected properties from the Holding Bylaw and other policy/bylaw updates that may be needed.
 - c. Identify areas of heritage interest in the city with a focus on those areas that may be suitable to be identified as a heritage conservation district.
3. Identify materials that need to be updated or created for owners of heritage properties including:
 - a. Information to assist property owners in making decisions regarding designating a heritage property.
 - b. Making alterations, repairs, and rehabilitation to heritage properties.
 - c. Information on the Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada as they relate to changes to their property.

Phase 3 – Public Awareness

Priorities

1. Build on the framework categorizing City-owned heritage assets developed in Phase 1 to extend to all heritage assets including those assets not owned by the City.
2. Improve public awareness of the Heritage Program and heritage assets in the City.
 Develop a range of partnership opportunities to enhance public awareness and understanding of local history and heritage resources through a variety of means, including school programs.
3. Create a process for interpretive features, such as commemorative plaques and signs using the themes created in the categorization framework.
 - a. Determine where interpretive features are suitable.
 - b. Develop a budget for creation and installation of interpretive features.
 - c. Continue partnership initiatives to implement a program of thematic interpretive features.