

re:think

# Calgary's Cultural Landscapes: Managing Calgary's Parks from a Cultural Perspective

Michelle Reid | City of Calgary | Calgary, Alberta

Calgary's cultural landscapes include historic parks, gardens, archaeological sites and culturally significant areas. These landscapes are vital to contemporary society; contributing to great communities by enhancing character, identity and a sense of place. Calgary Parks manages these valuable landscapes with policies that conserve and celebrate this rich, unique collection.

We have been managing a collection of landscapes with the award winning Cultural Landscape Strategic Plan. The plan establishes a set of Council approved policies and strategies for 8 areas of focus, including:

- Identification and Evaluation – 24% of Calgary's parkland is considered historically significant by one level of government.
- Conservation – successful projects include Reader Rock Garden, Central Memorial Park, Bowness Park, etc.
- Management – the creation of site specific management plans assists staff with operational conservation efforts.
- Archaeological Resources and Culturally Significant Areas – Calgary is the third municipality in Canada to staff an archaeologist and we are currently working with the Treaty 7 Nations to celebrate Culturally Significant Areas.
- Statutory Designation – the landscapes have been designated Municipal, Provincial, and National Historic Sites.
- Education and Awareness – Calgarians love to learn about the history of our city and our landscapes.
- Records and Archives – an online interactive map encourages Calgarians to get out and experience the landscapes for themselves.
- Collaboration and Partnerships – Calgary Parks works with all of the heritage organizations in Calgary, supporting and empowering Calgarians.

