

EDMONTON CIVIC ELECTION 2021

Edmonton's Heritage & Historic Resources

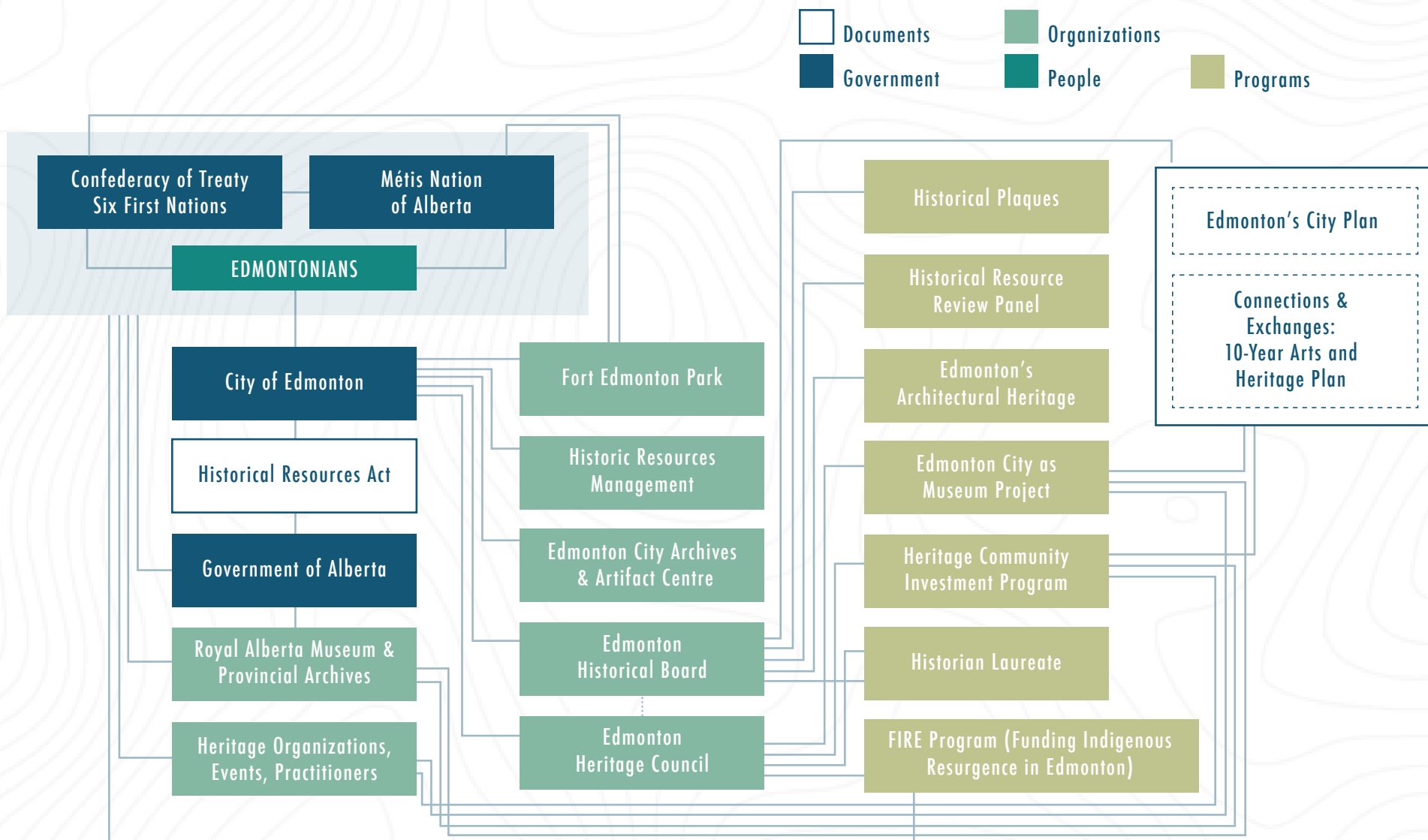


KEY OBJECTIVES

This brief is intended for citizens and candidates to raise awareness of key issues related to Edmonton's heritage and historic resources, including ward specific information.

Edmonton's diverse and rich heritage, on Treaty 6 territory, draws on 11,000 years of human habitation as well as the stories of the people, places, events, natural heritage, and geography essential for understanding who we are as a community. The economic, social, and cultural value that comes with heritage preservation is essential to building a sustainable and inclusive city. The number of resources on the inventory in each ward may indicate a relative lack of survey data.

EDMONTON'S HERITAGE ECOLOGY



KEY ISSUES

Ongoing loss and risk of loss of significant Edmonton historic resources

- The Royal Alberta Museum in Glenora, the Ring Houses (University of Alberta), Soaring (Mactaggart gift to University of Alberta), the Paramount Theatre downtown, or many others listed on the Municipal Heritage Inventory; the futures of many prominent historic places are unclear.
- This issue extends to the significant Edmonton legacy of mid-20th century buildings, including mid-century modern homes in Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods, many of which are being regularly approved for (or facing the threat of) demolition.

Importance of identifying and preserving the city's Indigenous cultural heritage (including natural heritage)

- Edmonton's current policy and practice on naming, renaming, and commemoration (including placement and removal of monuments and statues) needs wider community consultation, with principles in relation to Indigenous communities and their experiences.
- A commitment to complete *kihciy askiy* (Sacred Earth), a permanent Indigenous ceremony and cultural site. This is an essential initiative for the region to host ceremonies, camps, and circles to support community and intergenerational learning.

Underfunding of Edmonton's Historic Resources Management Program

- This program is critical to identifying and managing the preservation of Edmonton's historic places. It is under resourced (funding, staffing) and overdue for review and updating.
- HRMP needs increased resources to continue neighbourhood heritage inventories, as well as increased funding of the City's heritage reserve fund, to provide financial incentives for preservation, restoration, and reuse of buildings.

Edmonton Historic Resource FAQs

168: Number of designated historic places in Edmonton (municipal and provincial)

960: Number of historic places (and features) on the municipal inventory (merit conservation, but not protected)

\$2.3 million: Amount of City of Edmonton's Heritage Reserve, a tax-levy fund used to rehabilitate and maintain Edmonton's historic resources (buildings) for future generations.

\$11.5 million: City of Edmonton's total annual investment in heritage facilities and organizations including: City Archives, City Artifact Centre, Prince of Wales Armouries, John Walter Museum, Neon Sign Museum, Muttart Conservatory, John Janzen Nature Centre, Edmonton Valley Zoo, Fort Edmonton Park, TELUS World of Science, Alberta Aviation Museum).

ABOUT



EDMONTON HERITAGE COUNCIL

EHC's mission is to connect people with the stories of their city, through programs to help Edmontonians research, preserve, interpret, and advocate for their heritage.

Programs include:

Heritage Community Investment Program

Administered on behalf of the City of Edmonton, investing in the development and innovation of Edmonton's heritage sector.

FIRE (Funding Indigenous Resurgence in Edmonton)

Supporting the heritage of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, including traditional practices.

Edmonton City as Museum Project

Including digital initiatives such as Edmonton Maps Heritage and Capital Modern Edmonton.

EHC is a lead partner in *Connections and Exchanges*, Edmonton's 10-Year Arts & Heritage Plan (2019-2028), approved by City Council in 2018 and funded through service agreements lead partners.



EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD

Formed as the Archives and Landmarks Committee in 1947, the EHB advises City Council on City of Edmonton historical issues and civic heritage policies.

The Board's mandate is to encourage, promote, and advocate for the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities, and documentary heritage. EHB's Historic Resources Review Panel reviews applications to include buildings on the City's Inventory of Historic Resources. The Board also coordinates the well-recognized historical plaques program and the website www.EdmontonsArchitecturalHeritage.ca.

EHB and EHC also oversee and manage Edmonton's Historian Laureate program.

Nakota Isga (ward 1)

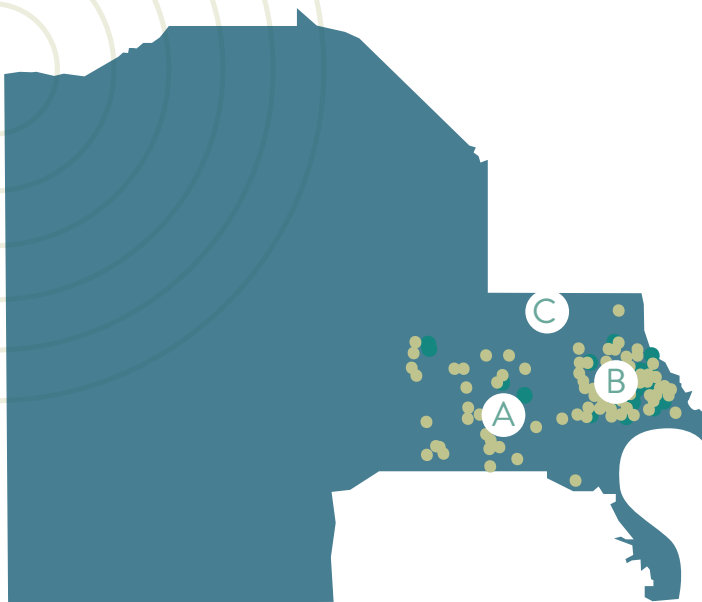
Pronunciation:

NA-KOH-TAH EE-SKA

“The Isga people” - in reference to people and history of the Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Crestwood, [Glenora](#), Jasper Place, North Glenora



• [Historic Resources in Ward:](#)

Historic resources on inventory - **167**;
Designated and protected - **4**.

A [The Starlite Drive-In Theatre in Jasper Place](#)

The colourful history of Edmonton’s first drive-in theatre, demolished in 1972.

B [My Royal Alberta Museum](#)

A personal experience of the former RAM site, which hosted millions of visitors over half a century (originally under the name Provincial Museum of Alberta – see [Edmonton Maps Heritage](#)) entry). A leading example of Edmonton’s modernist architecture, this Brutalist style building awaits a plan for future use.

C [North Glenora Patio Homes \(Capital Modern Edmonton\)](#)

These 1952 properties, under current threat of demolition, were designed by [Wallbridge and Imrie](#), a partnership of two woman architects. The firm was notable for the relative rarity of women in the field, but moreover for their attention to stylish and livable multi-family dwellings.

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:
[Civil Defense Underground Shelter](#), Jasper Place Curling Club,
[Westminster School](#)

Pronunciation: A-NIRK-NIK

“Breath of Life / Spirit” in Inuktitut; in remembrance of the institutional histories and traumas in the area, honouring the lives lost to time.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

[Calder](#), Griesbach, Inglewood, Woodcroft



- **[Historic Resources in Ward:](#)**

Historic resources on inventory - **52**;
Designated and protected - **6**.

- A** **[Camsell](#)**

EHC’s 2016 documentary deals with the complex history of the site that was once Canada’s largest “Indian Hospital”. The former Charles Camsell Indian Hospital is being converted into condominiums.

- B** **[Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium: The Crown Jewel of Coronation Park](#)**

This world-renowned planetarium within a large green area was named (like the park) in honour of Queen Elizabeth’s visit to Edmonton in 1959. An extensive renewal project is nearing completion.

- C** **[TELUS World of Science](#)**

Designed by renowned Indigenous architect Douglas Cardinal, the Edmonton Space Science Centre opened in 1984 and was Edmonton’s flagship project for Alberta’s 75th Anniversary.

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:

[Griesbach Quartermasters Building](#), [Siri Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara](#),
[St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church](#)

tastawiyiniwak (ward 3)

Pronunciation:

TASS-TAW-WIN-EE-WOK

A Nehiyaw / Cree word for “the in-between people” in recognition of 2-spirit and LGBTQ communities.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Balwin, Beaumarais, Eaux Claires, Lago Lindo



• Historic Resources in Ward:*

Historic resources on inventory - 2;
Designated and protected – 2.

A Balwin

Originally part of the Village of North Edmonton (which also spanned part of what is now Ward Métis) before annexation in 1912, this neighbourhood anchors Edmonton’s meat packing history. These rich histories are documented in the [Packingtown](#) project.

B The Somali Museum of Edmonton

An emerging initiative of [Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton](#) supported through funding from EHC’s Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP). Programming is devoted to building a sense of pride and identity in young Somali-Canadians, introducing Edmontonians to Somali culture and heritage.

- C Community names within this ward are named in languages uncommonly used for Edmonton naming purposes: [Lago Lindo](#) (Spanish for “pretty lake”) and Klarvatten (Swedish for “clear water”).

* The number of resources on the inventory in each ward may indicate a relative lack of survey data

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:
[St Francis of Assisi Friary & Church](#)

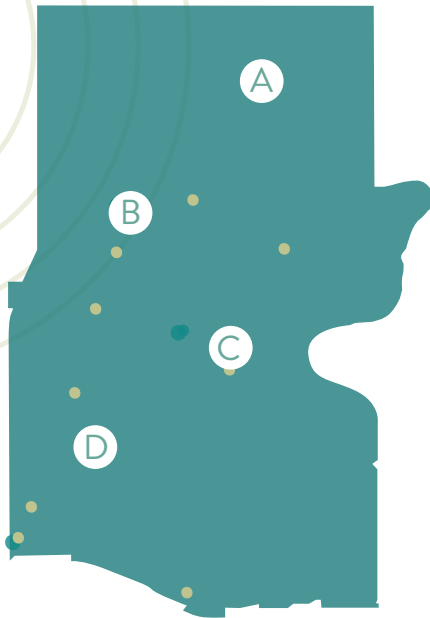
Dene (ward 4)

Pronunciation: DEH-NEH

The name of the Dene people translates to “all people; Indigenous & non-Indigenous,” connecting with the area’s traditional position as a northern gathering place of diverse peoples.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Belmont, Belvedere, Clareview Town Centre, Horse Hill



Historic Resources in Ward:

Historic resources on inventory - **18**;
Designated and protected - **2**.

A [Alberta Railway Museum](#)

As an ambassador of railway heritage preservation, the museum collects, preserves, restores, and interprets the railway artifacts and stories that helped shape Alberta and Canada.

B [Edmonton Energy and Technology Park](#)

An important part of Edmonton’s development history, this is found in Alberta’s Industrial Heartland, the country’s largest hydrocarbon processing region.

- C The agriculturally-focused residential area of [Horse Hill](#) was established in 2013 through City of Edmonton’s adoption of the [Horse Hill Area Structure Plan](#) (guided by the [City-Wide Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy](#)).

D [Little Mountain Cemetery](#)

Established in 1895, this municipal cemetery is the final resting place of many pioneers who settled in the northeast of what is now Edmonton.

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:

[Alberta Hospital Edmonton](#), [Nanaksar Gurdwara Gursikh Temple](#),
[Canada Packers Chimney Stack](#)

Pronunciation:

SEE-PEE-WIN-EE-WOK

“River Cree,” recognizing the people and history of the Enoch Cree Nation.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Callingwood North, Callingwood South, Laurier Heights, Lymburn

• Historic Resources in Ward:*

Historic resources on inventory - **5**;
Designated and protected - **0**.

A The Curious Case of the 1908 Enoch Surrender

This ECAMP story details the ways Treaty commitments were tossed aside to further the interests of settlers at the expense of the Enoch Cree Nation.

In 2000, a monument was dedicated on the location of a traditional Enoch burial site (link from [Aboriginal Multi-Media Society](#)) in the area.

B EPCOR’s [E.L Smith Solar Farm](#), currently in development, is set to transform a substantial area of the River Valley system as part of a significant investment in renewable energy.

C Since 2014, [MacKinnon Food Forest](#) (link from master gardener Dustin Bajer’s website) has been growing thanks to the efforts of community volunteers united in a vision of creating a sustainably edible self-contained ecosystem.

D The [Yorath House](#) is a designated historic place originally built in 1949 and one of very few homes remaining homes within Edmonton’s municipal park system.

E Set to open in 2023, [Big Island Provincial Park](#) is a collaboration between the province, City of Edmonton, and Enoch Cree Nation aimed at preserving wildlife, mature balsam forest, and ecologically significant wetlands in the River Valley for future generations.

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Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:
[Wallbridge & Imrie Residence](#), Oluk Residence, Lieberman Residence

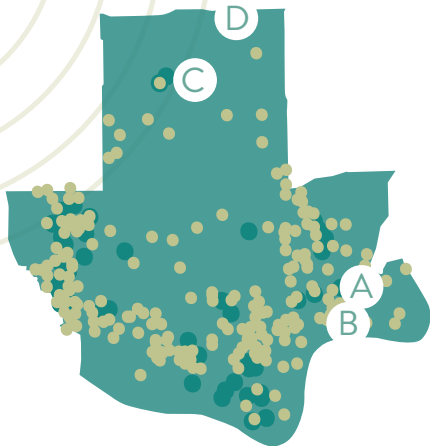
O-day'min (ward 6)

Pronunciation: OH-DAY-MIN

“Strawberry / Heart-berry” in Anishinaabe; situated in the heart of the city and recognizing the history of Edmonton as a traditional gathering place of many peoples.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Blatchford Area, [Boyle Street](#), [Downtown](#), [McCauley](#), [Oliver](#), [Queen Mary Park](#), [Rossdale](#), [Spruce Avenue](#), [Westmount](#)



• [Historic Resources in Ward:](#)

Historic resources on inventory - **278**;
Designated and protected – **80**.

A [Edmonton Chinatown Chinese Library](#)

(see [EHC's blog post](#) from April 2, 2019) has acted as an essential hub for Chinese culture, language, and education

For a personal reflection on the stories of Edmonton's Chinatown, read [Ah-Yin's Chinese Persons' Street or Amy's Chinatown](#) by Amy Wong.

B [Ukrainian Shumka Dancers](#)

have been celebrating heritage through dance and music for over 60 years.

C [Blatchford is a historically significant areas for its aviation history, including the \[Hangar 11\]\(#\) and the \[Alberta Aviation Museum\]\(#\).](#)

The area is in redevelopment as a sustainable inner city community.

D This ward contains the largest number of identified heritage resources in the city. [Westmount Architectural Heritage Area](#) is representative of the streetcar suburbs catering to middle and upper- middle class Edmontonians that emerged in the West End in the early 1900s.

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:
[Lemarchand Mansion](#), [St-Joachim Church](#), Page the Cleaners

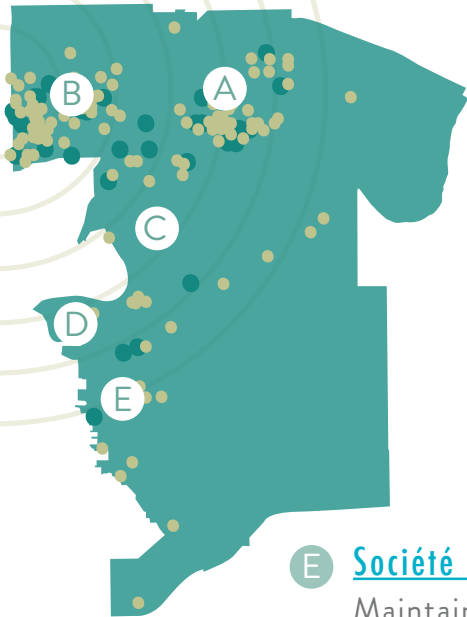
Métis (ward 7)

Pronunciation: MAY-TEA

Recognizing those who identify as Métis and are associated with the specific historical ancestry of Métis Nations.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

[Alberta Avenue](#), Bonnie Doon, Forest Heights, [Highlands](#), Strathearn



Historic Resources in Ward:

Historic resources on inventory - **159**;
Designated and protected - **28**.

A McLuhan House

The home of Arts Habitat Edmonton, this was briefly the early childhood home of celebrated philosopher Marshall McLuhan. It is a fine example of how heritage houses can play active roles in the cultural life of a community. [Read more](#) on the house and the restoration project (Edmonton Journal).

B Alberta Avenue

Under renewal, a previous revitalization in the 1970s saw the introduction of a short-lived one-way street system. The area is now marked by the Sports Walk of Fame as well as a strong community focus on festivals and arts celebrations.

C Forest Heights: A Hidden Pocket of History

A brief history of this neighbourhood overlooking the river. Highlights the stories of important landmarks including the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery, the formerly state-of-the-art Patricia Motel, and the nearby Capilano Ravine Ski Jump.

D Muttart Conservatory

The home of horticultural heritage in the heart of the river valley.

E Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest

Maintains a genealogical research center for people with French-speaking ancestry and to encourage research and sharing of their genealogies and family histories.

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:

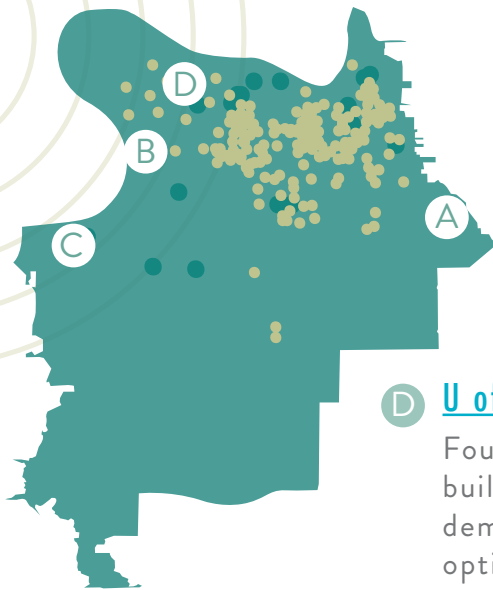
[Norwood Elementary School](#), [Macgrath Mansion](#), [Borden Park Pool and Bandshell](#)

Pronunciation: PA-PA-STAY-OH

Named in reference to the leader of the Papaschase band #13, papastew (or papaschase) the “Large Woodpecker.” This ward name commemorates Edmonton’s 1877 Treaty 6 land history.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

[Garneau](#), Parkallen, Ritchie, [Strathcona](#), [Queen Alexandra](#), [University of Alberta](#), [Windsor Park](#)



- **[Historic Resources in Ward:](#)**

Historic resources on inventory - **270**;
Designated and protected - **46**.

- **[A Edmonton Radial Railway Society](#)**

Edmonton Radial Railway Society: Founded in 1980 with a single streetcar, [Edmonton 1](#), the Society has the largest fleet of heritage streetcars in Western Canada and operates two heritage streetcar routes: through Old Strathcona and across the High Level Bridge, and at Fort Edmonton Park. See also: [The High Level Bridge at 100](#).

- **[B Keillor Point](#)**

A portion of the now-closed Keillor Road lives on in this spot, notable as an accessible place to enjoy a beautiful view of the River Valley. Formerly (and perhaps forever) known as “The End of the World” to many, construction was completed in 2019.

- **[C The Papaschase Cree & the Story of Edmonton](#)**

This story map by Papaschase First Nation and University of Alberta details the importance of the Papschase Cree nation.

- **[D U of A Ring Houses](#)**

Four of the original ten Ring Houses on the University of Alberta’s main campus remain, built in the early 1900s to attract faculty to the emerging university. Slated for removal or demolition, the larger community is advocating for a moratorium on demolition and creative options and future use. An [active Facebook group](#) indicates the importance of the remaining houses as essential to campus heritage.

Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:

[Old Strathcona Provincial Heritage Area](#), [Strathcona Hotel](#), [Old Timers’ Cabin](#)

Pronunciation: PEE-HAY-SOO-WIN

“The Land of the Thunderbirds” in Cree, in recognition of the spiritual connection to the land, nature, ceremony, and relationship with water.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Mactaggart, Magrath Heights, River Valley
Fort Edmonton, Terwilligar, Windermere



• Historic Resources in Ward:*

Historic resources on inventory - **4**;
Designated and protected - **0**.

A Fort Edmonton Park

Owned by the City of Edmonton, this open-air museum was a Canada Centennial reconstruction project in 1967. The new [iyiniwak okiskêyhtamowiniwaw or Indigenous Peoples Experience](#) features the diversity of First Nations’ and Métis peoples’ life in this region.

B kihciy askiy (Sacred Earth)

This development in Whitemud Park will act as a natural setting for ceremonies, intergenerational learning, and other Indigenous-led activities. Phase 1 of design is complete, with construction to begin upon approval of funding.

C Keillor Point

A portion of the now-closed Keillor Road lives on in this spot, notable as an accessible place to enjoy a beautiful view of the River Valley. Formerly (and perhaps forever) known as “The End of the World” to many, construction was completed in 2019.

D Soaring House

As [covered by CBC](#), there is community concern around the U of A’s plan to demolish the Riverbend estate donated by Sandy and Cecile Mactaggart. The property overlooking the river is a unique mid-century mansion.

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Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:
Ashby Residence & Elevators, Windermere Farmhouse

Ipiihkoohkanipiahtsi (ward 10)

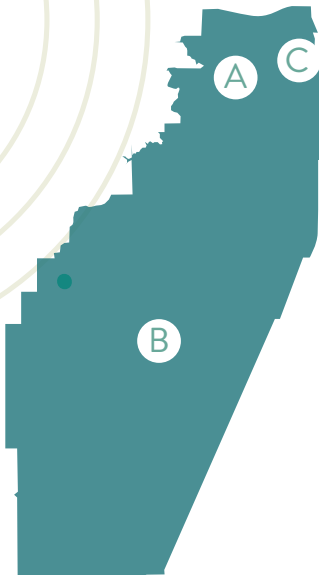
Pronunciation:

E-PEE-KO-KA NEE PIU-TSI-YA

“Northern migration season of Bison for calving season” in Blackfoot; recognizes and celebrates the relationship of the Blackfoot peoples to the land and bison through cycles of life, season, and harvest.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Blackmud Creek Ravine, Blue Quill, Chappelle Area, Heritage Valley Town Centre Area



• Historic Resources in Ward:*

Historic resources on inventory - 1;
Designated and protected - 0.

A Blackmud Creek and Heritage Point

Residents of these areas have access to 7 km of walking trails, noted in this [Walking Map](#). The creek is an important feature of the ward’s natural heritage.

B Dr. Anne Anderson School and Community Centre

This new Heritage Valley school is named for a scholar whose tireless advocacy for language and tradition is chronicled in the ECAMP story [The “Grand Lady of the Métis:” Dr. Anne Anderson’s mission to preserve the Cree language.](#)

C Neighbourhoods such as Ermineskin, Keheewin, Bears paw, Skyrattler, Blue Quill, Sweet Grass and Steinhauer reflect the dispersion and displacement history of diverse First Nations peoples in the development and growth of Edmonton as a city.

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Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:
Log structure (3130 – 156 Street NW)

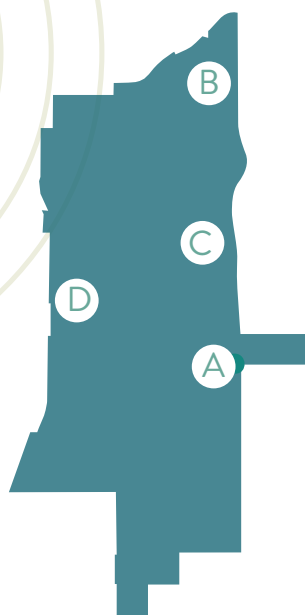
Karhiio (ward 11)

Pronunciation: GAR-EE-HE-O

“Tall, beautiful forest” in Mohawk; recognizes the enfranchisement history of Michel First Nation and Calahoo and honours the diverse descendants of Iroquois, Cree, and Métis peoples.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Ellerslie, Mill Woods Town Centre, South Edmonton Common, Tawa



Historic Resources in Ward:*

Historic resources on inventory - **1**;
Designated and protected - **0**.

A [St. Paul's Lutheran Church](#)

Established at Ellerslie in 1896.

B [Mill Woods Living Heritage](#)

An extensive collection of stories and histories (initially a series of pop-up exhibits) supported by EHC. Living Heritage sites include [Papaschase Indian Reserve](#), [Cariwest](#), and [Jackie Parker Park](#).

C [Mill Woods Recreation Centre](#)

This major development has served several southside neighbourhoods since 1983 with pool, skate park, football fields, and many other amenities.

D [Edmonton Research & Development Park](#)

An incubator for innovative companies in their early stages, this development puts the focus on advanced research in medicine, biotechnology, software, petroleum research, cold climate engineering, nanotechnology, and clean energy.

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Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:

[Edmonton Advanced Technology Centre](#), [St. Paul's Lutheran Church](#), Richard Paterson Transit Garage

Sspomitapi (ward 12)

Pronunciation:

SS-POH-ME-TAH-PEE

“Star Person” in Blackfoot, referring to the meteorite Sspomitapi, which was in Blackfoot territory until the 1800s. Blackfoot cosmology situates the relationships of land and people to the universe and sky beings: connecting navigational landmarks and sacred teachings.

Notable Historic Neighbourhoods:

Decoteau, Maple Ridge, Minchau, Weinlos



• Historic Resources in Ward:*

Historic resources on inventory - **3**,
Designated and protected - **0**.

A The 1987 Edmonton Tornado (Black Friday)

This period CBC news feature chronicles one of the most notorious natural disasters in the city’s history.

B Diverse religious celebrations by communities in Mill Woods include [Chùa Phật Quang Vietnamese Buddhist Temple](#) as well as the annual Nagar Kirtan Sikh Parade with historic attendance of 20,000-30,000 people annually.

C Graunke Park and Natural Area

A mixed-wood (aspen, balsam poplar, white spruce) treestand offers a diversity of shrub and herb species, providing a home for many urban-adapted wildlife species.

D Millwoods Community Church

Arriving from Wisconsin, Andreas Lilge (originally from the Russian province of Volhynia, now part of Ukraine) learned of available land in Western Canada, affording him a place in what is now southeast Edmonton to work with other settlers in establishing a Moravian Church as community centre in the late 19th century.

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Examples of Historic Resources on Inventory:

[Millwoods \(Bruderfeld\) Moravian Community Church Cemetery](#), Rosedale St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Ellerslie House & Barn

FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

- Related reading includes two articles published in 2021 by Edmonton Heritage Council's Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) initiative: [Gifting Indigenous Ward Names](#) (Rob Houle, June 2021) and [Place Renaming in Edmonton: A Constant in the City's History](#) (Connor Thompson, August 2021).
- We thank the City of Edmonton's iyiniw iskwewak wihtwawin (Indigenous Ward Naming Knowledge Committee) for their outstanding work; this [short documentary](#) on the renaming process has been an invaluable resource.
- [Edmonton's Architectural Heritage](#)
- [Edmonton Inventory & Register of Historic Resources](#)
- [Edmonton Maps Heritage](#)
- The number of resources on the inventory in each ward may indicate a relative lack of survey data