



CITY POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: C588

REFERENCE:

The Way Ahead
The Way We Grow
The Way We Move
The Way We Green
The Way We Live
The Way We Prosper

ADOPTED BY:

City Council December 13, 2016

SUPERSEDES:

New

PREPARED BY: Citizen Services

DATE: Dec 2016

TITLE: Winter Design Policy

Policy Statement:

Quality streetscapes and open spaces designed with a winter lens are foundational to creating a truly great year-round city. Good northern urban design overcomes the challenges of the winter season, making the city more accessible, safe, aesthetically pleasing, and enjoyable year-round.

The City of Edmonton supports urban design that fully considers its winter context. The Winter Design Guidelines provide a robust winter design lens for all development in the City.

The City supports the following five winter design principles, which will be applied across neighbourhoods, streets, sites and open spaces:

1. Incorporate design strategies to block prevailing winds and downdrafts;
2. Maximize exposure to sunshine through orientation and design;
3. Use colour to enliven the winterscape;
4. Create visual interest with lighting, while being mindful of density, spread and colour; and
5. Design and provide infrastructure that supports desired winter life and improves comfort in cold weather.

Applying a winter lens during early project planning and design stages supports a vibrant quality of life and contributes to Edmonton's prosperity. The following goals and outcomes will guide the design of all development, and are to be applied across the municipality to benefit all Edmontonians.

Goals:

1. Design our communities for winter comfort, safety, access, and aesthetic appeal.
2. Design elements for winter fun, activity, beauty and interest.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Municipal Government Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.

Outcomes:

1. Buildings are designed so that their impact on the public realm creates better microclimates, as well as public spaces that are more vibrant and inviting.
2. Streets are vibrant and attractive people-places in all seasons.
3. Parks and open spaces are used and enjoyed year-round.
4. Public spaces support outdoor winter programming, recreation and everyday winter life.

To realize the vision of designing for Edmonton's dominant and defining season at all levels of city building, the City of Edmonton will:

1. Update and enact bylaws, statutory and non-statutory plans, procedures, policies, directives, processes, programs and standards; and
2. Promote, collaborate, cooperate and partner with city builders in both the public and private sectors.

The purpose of this policy is to:

Inform the planning and design of new development to achieve the outcomes, and realize the vision, of Edmonton as global model for winter city living and cold-weather design.