

Advisory Committee of Council Information Report



Committee	Heritage Guelph
Date	Monday, August 14, 2023
Subject	Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guideline Consultation 1

Description

A workshop session to provide an update to the committee regarding the second phase of Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District (ORHCD) project and for the committee to provide commentary on the proposed statement of objectives and guiding principles for the draft ORHCD Plan and Guidelines.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for Heritage Guelph to receive information from Heritage Planning staff in a workshop format regarding the second phase of the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District (ORHCD) project and for the committee to provide commentary on the statement of objectives and guiding principles being recommended by WSP in the draft ORHCD Plan and Guidelines.

Report

The Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Study and boundary were approved by Council in March of 2023. The approved boundary for the ORHCD represents the portion of the original Ontario Reformatory lands that have cultural heritage value.

The ORHCD project is now in its second phase in which the consultant (WSP) will propose a HCD plan to guide the conservation of cultural heritage resources within the Reformatory HCD boundary.

The purpose of the Ontario cultural Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines is to ensure the heritage value of the Ontario Reformatory lands are protected, managed, maintained, and enhanced over time. It provides the City of Guelph, future owners, and tenants of the property with guidance on managing change, restoration, and alteration activities involving cultural heritage resources.

The ORHCD plan and guidelines will provide guidance to assist Council, Heritage Guelph, and staff in reviewing and making decisions on planning and heritage permit applications proposed within the HCD.

Other land use planning tools that will guide development in the ORHCD are the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan and Block Plan Area 4. It is important to understand that land use will not be defined or changed in the HCD Plan as the GID Secondary Plan sets out the land use. Potentially recommendations for OP policy and Zoning regulations may result from the HCD Plan and Guidelines.

An important initial step is to establish appropriate objectives and principles that will guide the consultant in drafting the content of the HCD Plan. Heritage Planning staff are requesting that Heritage Guelph consider WSP's proposed statement of objectives and guiding principles so that Heritage Planning staff can provide the committee's comments to the consultant.

Workshop Discussion

The committee will be asked to provide comments on the draft objectives and guiding principles.

Draft Objectives

1. Conserve (as defined in the City of Guelph Official Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement), the cultural heritage value of the HCD and its heritage attributes ;
2. Conserve the cultural heritage landscape attributes in alignment with the City's natural heritage policies and objectives;
3. Conserve the physical road pattern and layout as described in Part IV and Part V designation;
4. Conserve, recognize, and attribute the presence of the Indigenous, settler, and reformatory periods throughout the ORHCD;
5. Conserve the physical form, scale, architectural features, and heritage attributes of the built heritage resources;
6. Conserve the scale and form depicted in each character area through the guidelines, the Guelph Innovation District Secondary Plan and Block Plan process;
7. Ensure that proposed alterations to contributing cultural heritage attributes are informed by the guidelines of this HCD Plan;
8. Recommend a heritage permit process for the ORHCD;
9. Ensure new development conserves, maintains, and enhances the cultural heritage value of the HCD;
10. Ensure the ORHCD Plan is referenced by professional archaeologists when archaeological assessments are carried out within the HCD;
11. Encourage high-quality design in new development, additions, and alterations that are complementary and compatible with the HCDs cultural heritage value;
12. Encourage development and alterations adjacent to the ORHCD to consider the OR HCD Plan and Guidelines to minimize negative visual impacts.
13. Ensure the City of Guelph's social, cultural, diversity and inclusivity, and community values are reflected in the HCD;
14. Commemorate the HCD's Indigenous heritage;
15. Conserve, maintain, and enhance the public realm; and,
16. Conserve, maintain, and enhance the recreational aspects and public amenities of the HCD.

Draft Guiding Principles

- Protect and maintain the cultural heritage landscape associated with watercourses while seeking a balance with natural heritage system objectives and ecological restoration initiatives;
- The major features that form a cohesive landscape, including watercourses, circulation routes, and built features, that together form a recognizable whole, shall be conserved in accordance with the City's natural heritage plans and policies;
- Ensure the various historic periods, the peoples who came through the site, and the sense of time and place, are depicted and felt by experiencing the built form, landscape design, and interpretation throughout the OR HCD;
- The OR HCD shall be conserved and clearly differentiated from the contemporary adjacent developments through transitions in landscape and/or architectural design;
- Ensure that alterations to cultural heritage landscapes, and to institutional and residential built cultural heritage resources reflect the City Beautiful movement, wherever possible;
- Changes during the course of restorations, rehabilitations, and alterations will be documented concerning the cultural heritage and historical context of the OR HCD, as outlined in the Study;
- The cultural heritage character of the OR HCD will be preserved by discouraging false representations of history and design;
- Repair rather than replace cultural heritage resources through ongoing maintenance and conservation. Where repair is not feasible and replacement is necessary, replacement features should match the form and detail of original materials;
- Cultural heritage features that have deteriorated to a level that is beyond practical for restoration or rehabilitation will be assessed and future options will be outlined;
- The continued function of built-form heritage resources is encouraged through adaptive reuse; and
- Building alterations for additions and other interventions should be undertaken in a manner that respects and enhances the cultural heritage resource and the OR HCD.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Heritage Planning staff presentation

Departmental Approval

Melissa Aldunate, Manager Policy Planning

Report Author

Stephen Robinson, Senior Heritage Planner