



## Fostering Inclusion and Equity in Public Spaces

***“Edmonton is many things, but first and foremost, it is a gathering of people.” - The City Plan***

Public spaces are the places where people gather. These spaces provide the opportunity for people to come together, to rest, play, and experience their neighbourhood and city. The Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy (OSPRS) will help to envision improved public spaces, like parks and plazas, where pedestrians come first.. This means taking a closer look at how people move in and out of public spaces, if they feel welcome to spend time in them, and what barriers or social inequities they are facing.

### Working Towards Inclusive and Equitable Public Spaces

The goal and need to further inclusion and equity (making sure everyone feels welcome) in public spaces is stated in a number of key strategic documents from the [The City Plan](#) to [Breathe](#).

Social inequities for public space are often created through physical, social and economic barriers that challenge the true nature of welcoming public space. These can result from a number of factors including: social and cultural segregation or discrimination, privatization trends, gentrification processes or dominating aspirations of local communities and different social groups.

The OSPRS project team will work to remove barriers by working with community partners and by incorporating guidance from:

- The **Accessibility Advisory Committee** which provides advice and recommendations to Administration and Council to improve the City's livability, inclusiveness and accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
- The City's **Gender Based Analysis (GBA+) Guide**. A guide to remove barriers to promote inclusivity and reduce inequality, discrimination and ensure equality of outcomes for Edmontonians.
- The City's [Access Design Guide](#) which promotes accessibility in open spaces and facilities owned, operated or leased by the City of Edmonton.

By working with partners and incorporating best practices, the final recommendations of the Old Strathcona Public Realm Strategy will identify and remove barriers to improve access to inclusive public spaces for all.