Google puts Edmonton on its new Maps Gallery

Edmonton-Google connection springs from City commitment to Open Data

The City of Edmonton is one of about 40 participants chosen for the launch of the new Google Maps Gallery. The Maps Gallery makes public, map-based information even more accessible.

Google selected Edmonton for Maps Gallery as a result of the City's long-standing commitment to open government.

Edmonton has long been a North American leader in the online provision of its data to the public. The City currently offers 415 datasets to citizens through the City's Open Data Catalogue. Many of these datasets are geographical in nature, 82 of which are now available through Google Maps Gallery. The Maps Gallery is integrated with other Google products, including its search engine and Google Earth.

Starting today, relevant Google search results will include links to the Google Maps Gallery so people can access a wide variety of map-based information about City operations. There is also an Edmonton-specific Gallery page. Examples of the information available include: street construction locations, spray parks, neighbourhood traction sandbox locations, heritage buildings, bylaw infractions and wi-fi locations.

"We're enormously proud of the team that contributed to this project," says Chief Information Officer Chris Moore. "And we're honoured that, because of our leadership in the provision of open data, it was Google that approached the City and asked us to become involved," he said.

Other global partners in this new Google initiative include National Geographic and the World Bank. "It's clear our efforts in making civic government transparent have won us a place in very significant company," says Moore.

The City's Open Data Catalogue website received 1,628,000 pageviews last year – about 4,500 per day – almost double the count from 2012.

The Open Data movement among Canadian governments is in its early years. Edmonton has been one of Canada's leaders since 2010. The City also offers a selection of maps at maps.edmonton.ca, and the Citizen Dashboard, a website where citizens can follow the City's progress on key performance indicators.

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