

Wiping out graffiti, one neighbourhood at a time

2013 audit shows overall decrease in number of locations of graffiti vandalism with need for continued vigilance

Enforcement and graffiti management programs continue to be effective approaches to reducing citywide graffiti vandalism, according to newly released results from the fourth annual City of Edmonton graffiti vandalism audit.



The 2013 Graffiti Vandalism Audit recorded 1,413 incidents of graffiti compared to 1,116 incidents in the same top 20 Edmonton neighbourhoods audited in 2012. This is a 26.6 per cent increase from 2012, but a 28.6 per cent decrease since the first audit in 2010. This increase in graffiti "tags" was highly localized, with 90 per cent of the 268 tag increase occurring in the Downtown and Strathcona neighbourhoods.

Graffiti vandalism was found in 395 locations, a 9.8 per cent decrease from 438 in 2012, and a 38.9 per cent decrease since 2010. The Downtown, Strathcona and Gameau neighbourhoods continue to rank as the top three most vandalized neighbourhoods, accounting for 46 per cent of all tags, up from 30 per cent in 2012.

"These numbers show that while we continue to be on the right track with curbing graffiti vandalism, we can't become complacent," says Sharon Chapman, Community Relations Senior Program Planner. "We're pleased that our continued partnership with the Edmonton Police Service is an effective deterrent, and we strongly urge residents who encounter graffiti vandalism to call 311 to report it."

The auditor, third-party consultant MGM Management, was accompanied again this year by Municipal Enforcement Officers that assisted in examining selected neighbourhoods. Thanks to the officers' expertise in analyzing and classifying tags, new graffiti tagger names continue to be identified.

This year the audit identified 424 taggers who were responsible for 73 per cent of all graffiti vandalism surveyed. Ten of those taggers were responsible for 20 per cent of the overall number of tags noted in 2013. These 10 taggers also accounted for 40 per cent of the increase in tags in Downtown and Strathcona.

Edmontonians are encouraged to help the City and EPS fight graffiti vandalism by reporting it to 311 by phone or by using [311's online report form](#). If you see graffiti vandalism in progress, call 911.

For more information on graffiti vandalism prevention programs or for a copy of the 2013 audit, visit [Graffiti Management Program](#).

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