

Audit shows decrease in graffiti in the city

The results of Capital City Clean Up's 2014 Graffiti Audit show an overall decrease in the number of incidents and locations of graffiti vandalism.

The 2014 Graffiti Vandalism Audit recorded 1,071 incidents of graffiti vandalism compared to 1,413 incidents in the same top 20 Edmonton neighbourhoods audited in 2013. This is a 24.2 per cent decrease from 2013 and a 45.9 per cent decrease since the inaugural audit of 2010.

"These numbers show that with consistent effort and support from communities, citizens and property owners, we are able to decrease graffiti vandalism in Edmonton," said Katie Hayes, graffiti project manager. "These results are very encouraging. We will however, continue to rely on Edmontonians to help the City and Edmonton Police Service fight graffiti vandalism by reporting it."

"Since the launch of the Graffiti Management Program in 2008, Capital City Clean Up along with the City's Municipal Enforcement Officers and Edmonton Police Service have been making great strides to coordinate efforts in support of helping to prevent and remove graffiti," said Constable Ryan Katchur, graffiti coordinator with Edmonton Police Service. "Graffiti vandalism is one of the most visible and prominent crimes in a neighbourhood, often leading to more crime in the area. That's why it's so important it gets addressed quickly and efficiently."

Graffiti vandalism was found in 352 locations (a 10.9 per cent decrease from 395 in 2013 and a 45.5 per cent decrease since 2010). The downtown and Strathcona neighbourhoods continue to rank as the top two most vandalized neighbourhoods, accounting for 33.6 per cent of all tags (down from 37.4 per cent in 2013).

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

This year the audit identified 400 taggers who were responsible for 74.7 per cent of all graffiti vandalism surveyed. Ten of those taggers were responsible for 14.3 per cent of the overall number of tags noted in 2014.

Edmontonians are asked to report graffiti vandalism to 311 or to Edmonton Police Service. If you see graffiti vandalism in progress, call 911. Graffiti vandalism can also be reported online to both 311 and the EPS complaint line 780-423-4567.

For more information:

On graffiti vandalism prevention programs, visit edmonton.ca/capitalcitycleanup

Media contacts:

[Jennifer Mukena](#)
Communications Coordinator
780-944-1489

[Chrystal Coleman](#)
Communication Advisor
780-868-7176

3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca



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