

Graffiti down overall; Strathcona, Downtown need work

May 9, 2016

An audit of graffiti vandalism for 2015 shows an overall decrease in the number of incidents and locations in Edmonton.

The audit, conducted by [Capital City Clean Up](#), recorded 977 incidents of graffiti vandalism compared to 1,071 incidents in the same top 20 Edmonton neighbourhoods audited in 2014. This is an 8.8 per cent decrease from 2014 and a 50.6 per cent decrease since the inaugural audit in 2010.

Incidents of graffiti vandalism were found in 322 locations in the City, which is an 8.5 per cent decrease from 352 in 2014 and a 50 per cent decrease since 2010. The Downtown, Strathcona and McCauley neighbourhoods accounted for 52 per cent of all the graffiti found during the audit. Capital City Clean Up recorded significantly fewer graffiti tags in Boyle Street (a 57 per cent decrease) and Ritchie (a 72 per cent decrease).

"These are great results. This overall downward trend shows us that businesses, citizens and neighbourhoods are really stepping up and taking pride in our city," said Capital City Clean Up Manager Don Belanger. "We ask citizens to keep reporting graffiti vandalism to 311 and to remove it as quickly as possible, which helps prevent it from reappearing."

During the 2015, the audit team travelled over 500 kilometres within Edmonton's 20 sample neighbourhoods — on streets, in alleys and in laneways — recording graffiti observations. This year, the audit identified 418 individual taggers, up from 400 in 2014. Ten of those were responsible for 20 per cent of all tags noted in 2015.

"Graffiti vandalism not only degrades the appearance of a neighbourhood, it can also lead to increased crime in the area," said Constable Ryan Katchur, graffiti coordinator with Edmonton Police Service. "With help from the public, the Edmonton Police Service and the City of Edmonton will help communities reduce graffiti vandalism."

If you see graffiti vandalism in your community, report it by calling 311, [file a complaint online](#), or take a picture with your smart phone and report it using the City's [311 mobile app](#).

Report graffiti on your property to the Edmonton Police Service complaint line at 780-423-4567 or use the [report a crime online](#) form.

For more information:

[Capital City Cleanup Graffiti Program](#) (edmonton.ca/graffiti)

[311 Mobile App](#)

[EPS Report a Crime online](#)

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