

**An Evaluation of Three Inner City Parks in Calgary, Alberta**

By

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## **Abstract**

This report evaluates a variety of social and physical factors affecting the life of public parks in downtown Calgary. It is an adaptation of a pilot study undertaken by the City of Toronto in 1988 to evaluate the factors, which contribute to the health of public spaces. Three parks have been chosen for this evaluation: Olympic Plaza, James Short Park and Memorial Park. The site areas represent a diverse cross-section of public open spaces in downtown Calgary. The thirteen design and social factors discussed in this report describe a 'total view' of park life offering a "planning for use" approach for open space. This method emphasizes users and site design equally. By isolating and understanding the interplay of design factors and human interests this report puts forward several site-specific concepts and ideas that can help rejuvenate and create positive park environments.