



What's Trending?

2020 Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Highlights

We champion the city-building priorities – from planning and delivering growth opportunities and infrastructure, to managing City assets, to fostering economic prosperity.

This presentation highlights some of the department's 2020 accomplishments. These are only a few examples of the work that we do that contributes to building this great City.

I am proud of our work and I hope that you enjoy our story.

Stephen Willis

General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department

Have your say on the proposed Better Homes Loan Program

As we mentioned in the last edition, the City is developing a proposed Better Homes Loan program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ottawa. Through the proposed Better Homes Loan program, Ottawa homeowners could get a low-interest loan of up to 10 per cent of the value of their home to cover the cost of home energy improvements. Measures eligible for financing will likely include insulation, window and door replacements, heat pumps and solar panels.

City staff are currently finalizing the program details and would like to get feedback from residents, homeowners, contractors, community groups and organizations on details of the program including:

- Energy efficiency measures eligible for financing
- Eligibility requirements
- The proposed application process

[Find out more about the Better Homes Loan program and provide your input by completing the survey.](#)



EcoHack-A-city: Accelerating the Transition to Electric Vehicles

Thursday, June 3, 2021

7:00 – 8:30 pm

The City of Ottawa is participating in the Canada-wide EcoHack-a-City initiative organized by Earth Day Canada. The EcoHack-a-City includes a public panel discussion and online hands-on training to solve environmental challenges facing cities through a design thinking process. In Ottawa, we will be focussing on accelerating the transition to electric vehicles.

[Find out more and register.](#)



How to Coexist with Coyotes in Canada's Capital Region

Nick Stow, Senior Planner with Natural Systems and Rural Affairs, loaned his expertise on coyotes to the NCC to help support their recent blog, which provides information on how to coexist with coyotes - [How to coexist with coyotes in Canada's Capital Region](#).

Nick is also trained in conducting coyote risk assessments. In April, Nick completed an assessment in the Riverside South area at the request of Councillor Meehan. The purpose of the assessment was to identify factors that might be contributing to an increase in coyote activity in the area.

Fun fact: Did you know that dumping yard and garden waste in natural areas adjacent to homes, which is a common practice, can inadvertently provide food for coyotes, either directly as spoiled fruits and vegetables or indirectly by attracting rodents, rabbits and other prey. This practice also leads to the introduction of invasive plant species that can drive out native species.

City Nature Challenge: Let's go, Ottawa!

Looking for something to do this weekend? The City Nature Challenge is an international event aimed at encouraging people to spend some time outdoors, looking for plants and animals in their neighbourhoods. The Canadian Wildlife Federation is organising the event in Canada, as the host of [iNaturalist.ca](#) (the online nature identification app that was featured in the City's [Wildlife Speaker Series event](#) last fall).

From April 30 to May 3, participants are encouraged to go outside and take photos of wild plants and animals, and to submit their sightings to iNaturalist. Lichens and toadstools count too! You can submit observations from your own yard, a local boulevard or park, or a natural area in your neighbourhood. Nature is closer than you might think! You don't even need to know what it is – the app will help you by suggesting possible identifications, and other iNaturalist users will be able to view your submission and confirm or correct the identification online. Identification of the City Nature Challenge sightings will continue until May 9. Anything identified after that will not be included in the official results, but will still contribute to our understanding of biodiversity in our area. Last year the Ottawa-Gatineau region had just under 2900 observations submitted by over 200 people – we were the third ranked city in Canada, after Calgary (5573 observations) and Halifax (4383 observations).

If you're submitting observations from your own yard, remember to protect your privacy. The

app allows you to adjust the geoprivacy setting for each observation, from “open” to “obscured” to “private”. Other users will still be able to see your observation to help identify it, but they won’t be able to see the exact location. Observations made on public property can be left open.

For more information:

[Canadian Wildlife Federation: Your Connection with Wildlife \(cwf-fcf.org\)](https://www.cwf-fcf.org) – check out their videos on how to use iNaturalist

[City Nature Challenge – City Nature Challenge](#) – global web page

[CityNatureChallenge/DéfiNatureUrbaine 2020: Ottawa-Gatineau \(NCR/RCN\) · iNaturalist.ca](#) – summary of last year’s results for our region.



New Official Plan



The release of the draft New Official Plan in November 2020 has garnered some very informed and thoughtful feedback. This is providing excellent input into the development of the proposed policies. The Planning team is currently working hard to review the feedback received and are making changes to reflect what we have heard.

An *As We Heard It Report* will be released this spring to outline this process. It will include an overview of the feedback received as well as how this feedback has informed the further development of the proposed policies for the New Official Plan. Along with the release of this

report, there will be another series of public meetings.

The report and meetings will share with the public the process by which a draft New Official Plan is impacted by the feedback received. The final draft New Official Plan will be brought to joint Committee in the fall.

Please stay tuned to the project [website](#) or sign up to our notification list to be informed of the release of this document and the engagement opportunities that will come with it.

Engage Ottawa

You can weigh in on different online engagement opportunities using the City's new innovative engagement platform, [Engage Ottawa](#). See a full list of current engagement opportunities by visiting our [public engagement event page](#).

This notice issued on April 27, 2021.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.
