



What's Trending?

ByWard Market Public Realm Plan

On January 27, 2021 Council approved the [ByWard Market Public Realm Plan](#), which provides a vision for the network of public spaces in the ByWard Market, including streets, sidewalks, parks, squares and plazas. The plan provides a roadmap to guide its physical transformation over time and a framework to help coordinate reinvestment among multiple partners to ensure it remains a place befitting to define Ottawa's image.

This Public Realm Plan is a long-term plan, which outlines and prioritizes renewal projects that serve to promote public health and support the resiliency of the ByWard Market. The plan will ensure the ByWard Market remains a unique, pedestrian friendly destination in Ottawa. The goal is to beautify, connect and enhance the public spaces, and make them inclusive, safe and inviting.



Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada Facility Points to a Greener Future

Did you know that the new Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada Facility is set to be one of the country most sustainable buildings?

On February 8, 2021, Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities as well as local dignitaries Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Matthew Luloff, Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board, announced a significant contribution of an additional \$34.5 million federal funding to achieve a net zero carbon facility.

Funding from the federal government will allow for:

- upgrades to the building's envelope and insulation;
- triple-glazed windows;
- solar panels on the rooftop and embedded in the facade;
- additional sustainable materials; and
- an indoor green wall



The federal funding means the building design can be enhanced to be a net-zero carbon facility. This supports the City's targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 100 per cent by 2050.

Construction on this project is expected to start later this year and be completed in 2024 with an official opening in 2025. For more information about the Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada Facility, including project updates, visit www.inspire555.ca.

[Find out more about the joint Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada facility.](#)

New Official Plan - Growth Management Strategy

When Council adopts a new [Official Plan](#) before the end of the year, it will extend Ottawa's urban boundary – the line that divides suburban and rural Ottawa – to include 1,281 hectares of land for new neighbourhoods. Council on February 10, 2021 approved where those lands would be located, along with policy direction to help protect sensitive lands from future urban expansion.

Those lands for new neighbourhoods include 445.35 hectares in a new satellite community called Tewin. The Tewin lands are located east of Leitrim and west of Carlsbad Springs, some of which are owned by the Algonquins of Ontario. Staff would work with the Algonquins of Ontario to identify specific lands and recommend them later this year when the Joint Planning Committee and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee consider the draft new Official Plan.

The City needs to add enough land for new neighbourhoods to comply with provincially mandated 15-year land supply requirements. Last May, Council approved selection criteria for determining which lands should be added to the urban boundary. At the same time, they approved higher intensification targets in existing communities that will lead to 60 per cent of new units being delivered through intensification between now and the end of 2046. Coupled with rules requiring minimum densities in new neighbourhoods, the new lands approved today by Council will mean Ottawa has reasonable alternatives for growth to the end of this century without requiring further urban expansion. That will help protect important agricultural lands outside the urban boundary.

The Joint Planning and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Meeting to consider the draft New Official Plan is expected to be scheduled for September 2021.



New Official Plan

Committee Updates

The City's Planning Committee approved on February 11, 2021, a community design plan and secondary plan to help guide future development in Orléans, in the area south of Innes Road that straddles Mer Bleue Boulevard. The approved plans would see these lands, referred to as the [East Urban Community](#), build on and complement the nearby Trailsedge and Mer-Bleue communities as well as the recently developed Orléans Village subdivision. Once built, it would blend into those subdivisions to make a cohesive whole.

A wider range of dwelling types is envisioned for Westboro, in the area bounded by Byron, Dovercourt, Golden and Tweedsmuir avenues. The City studied the area after Council moved to temporarily prohibit development of three-unit dwellings there. The study determined that three-unit dwellings are compatible in the area and the Planning Committee approved a [zoning amendment](#) to once again permit them.

Planning Committee also heard about City plans to help speed up timelines for projects that have a significant social impact – specifically, affordable housing projects, long-term care facilities and retirement homes. The COVID-19 pandemic has put added pressure on such facilities and staff would work with non-profit organizations to prioritize reviewing applications for these types of [high social impact projects](#), aiming to get them built and operating as quickly as possible.

On February 10, Council approved piloting [shared e-scooters](#) once more, from as early as April through November, with at least double the number of scooters as last year deployed in a larger central area. Ottawa will see up to 1,500 shared electric scooters rolling on streets and pathways starting this spring. Up to 300 e-scooters can also be used for a satellite pilot in a suburb.

With the goal of ensuring the ByWard Market remains a unique, pedestrian friendly destination, Council approved, on January 25, [a public realm plan](#) to guide the evolution of the market's public spaces and provide a framework for investment opportunities. The City will establish a working group to lead economic recovery in the market and review governance options next year.

Climate change and the new Official Plan Information Session

To achieve its vision to be the most livable mid-sized city in North America, Ottawa must be an energy conscious city where people can live, work and play in all future climate conditions.

The [new Official Plan](#) policies integrate climate change using two distinct pathways:

1. Mitigation: actions that reduce the amount of greenhouse gases the city emits
2. Adaptation: actions that prepare us for the impacts of a changing climate

City staff held a virtual information session on February 23 to explain how the City will use its planning policies and rules to facilitate local action on climate change and prepare us for the impacts of a changing climate. An introduction to a new implementation tool called the High-performance Development Standard was also

provided.

[The recording of the information sessions is available to watch on YouTube.](#)

A [summary document](#) is also available which explains how climate change has been addressed in the Official Plan.

Ottawa Film Office (OFO)

Like everyone experiencing the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020, the [OFO](#) was presented with numerous challenges along the way but Ottawa's film, television, and animation industry remained impressively resilient. Even with a four-month shutdown which began in mid-March 2020, live-action production contributed over \$26 million to the local economy over the course of the year. Although there were setbacks to live-action production in Ottawa, COVID-19 ignited increased interest in animated content. Some key sector highlights from 2020:

- 25 feature-length live-action and animated films
- 500 filming days
- 149 film permits
- 10 Christmas movies
- 28+ animated series and features
- 1 new City of Ottawa Film By-law and Film Permitting Process

"The fact that Ottawa's film, television and animation industry had such a booming year, despite a shutdown and the challenges of working through a pandemic, is frankly quite impressive," said Ottawa Film Commissioner Bruce Harvey. "The industry's continued success is a testament to the local producers, crew, and talent who work tirelessly to create the magic you see on screen. This sector is an important economic driver for Ottawa, creating hundreds of jobs and supporting local businesses."

[Reference: OFO News Release](#)

Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC)

The [Ottawa Music Industry Coalition](#) (OMIC) is a member-based, bilingual, non-profit organization that works to grow the local music industry for the benefit of its members and the city as a whole. OMIC brings together artists, music businesses, venues, festivals, and local businesses. With the support and investment of the City of Ottawa, OMIC engages in advocacy and research on behalf of the local music industry; supports the growth and development of our artists, entrepreneurs and music professionals through industry-specific programs and services; and builds new audiences for Ottawa music.

"We aim to nurture, develop, and support home-grown talent and to facilitate connections between our local musicians to the broader community, showcasing the tremendous amount of talent that we have right here in our Nation's Capital," Jamie Kwong, Executive Director.

Accessibility on ottawa.ca

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is now in effect. As of January 1, 2021, all public websites and web content that was posted after January 1, 2012 by businesses and non-profits with 50+ employees, as well as public sector organizations, must be accessible and meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA.

City of Ottawa accessibility policies and procedures

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Accessible formats and communication supports procedure

This procedure applies to all materials and communications products produced or purchased (e.g. consultant reports) by the City of Ottawa for release to the public. Each publication should be produced in such a way as to reduce barriers in the original document.

Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED)

Since 2013 the City has been working toward making Ottawa.ca compliant and over the past year, PIED Business and Technical Support Services (BTSS) has reviewed over 2000 PDF documents and adjusted web content to meet the AODA legislation. PIED is committed to ensuring accessibility for all materials posted to the website.

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](#).
