



What's Trending?

New design guidelines aim to reduce bird strikes

[Ottawa City Council](#) recently approved design guidelines to help keep birds from colliding with buildings and other structures. Millions of birds are killed by collisions each year in Canada, including an estimated 250,000 birds per year here in Ottawa. Bird-safe design features have been scientifically proven to lessen the risk of collisions, reducing bird injuries and deaths.

The guidelines address the design of buildings, lighting and landscaping, and also provide suggestions for improving bird safety around existing buildings. While large buildings with extensive use of glass are a primary target for these guidelines, the recommendations can be applied to any building or structure. Staff worked with Safe Wings Ottawa and other experts to adapt best practices from other jurisdictions and prepare recommendations tailored to Ottawa's context.

City staff engaged in planning, designing or reviewing projects are encouraged to apply the [guidelines](#) in their work. The basic recommendations are as follows:

- Consider the environmental context and surroundings
- Minimize the transparency and reflectivity of glass
- Avoid or mitigate design traps, such as glass passageways or corners that are invisible to birds
- Consider other structural features that might pose a hazard
- Create bird-friendly landscaping
- Design exterior lighting to minimize light pollution at night
- Minimize nighttime light spill from interior lighting

Staff were also directed to report back to Planning Committee on the implementation of the guidelines. For more information about the guidelines, or to share your success stories, please contact Amy MacPherson in the Natural Systems and Rural Affairs team.



Ottawa's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Each year, the City tracks the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced within Ottawa's boundaries and from municipal operations. Everyday activities like heating our buildings, moving around the city and treating our solid waste can all contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. [The 2019 greenhouse gas inventories are now available.](#)

In 2019, roughly 90 per cent of Ottawa's greenhouse gas emissions came from buildings and transportation. Most of these emissions are from natural gas used for space and water heating in homes and buildings, and from gasoline used to power vehicles.

Since 2012, Ottawa's emissions have decreased by 12 per cent but have remained relatively flat since 2016. However, now that [Energy Evolution](#) has been approved, the City has a framework for how Ottawa can achieve the target of reducing community emissions by 100 per cent by 2050.

The City's corporate emissions made up roughly four per cent of Ottawa's total emissions in 2019. Between 2012 and 2019, corporate emissions decreased by 34 per cent, primarily due to efficiencies at the Trail Waste Facility. The City is currently surpassing its short-term target to reduce corporate emissions by 30 per cent by 2050.

Everyone has a role to play in reducing emissions. [Find out how you can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.](#)



Mayor Jim Watson discusses electric buses and the future of public transit

[Listen to the latest episode of Hydro Ottawa's Think Energy podcast](#) as Mayor Jim Watson shares what's next for Ottawa as the City strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City operations to zero by 2040.

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Electrifying the system is our single biggest weapon in our arsenal to fight climate change and to push down our greenhouse gas (GHG) numbers.

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Jim Watson –
Mayor, City of Ottawa

Community Economic Development Funding Program

The City of Ottawa's Economic Development and Long-Range Planning Group (EDLRP) will begin receiving Community Economic Development (CED) funding applications **now** through **Friday, February 26, 2021 at 4 p.m.** Please follow the [link](#) for more information, eligibility of applicants, eligibility of projects and the process of applying.

2020 Grant Recipient Highlight

The following is an example of a successful program undertaken through support from the CED grant program.

The Women Information Technology Teleworkers (WITT) Program of the Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre was conceived to overcome the barrier of internationally trained IT professionals not utilizing their talents due to the need to be in the home to care for children. When the COVID-19 pandemic forced many people to work from home to avoid virus transmission, the work-from-home paradigm for IT workers (and others) grew exponentially and employers became even more motivated to explore this option. The WITT program seeks to support immigrant women, who are already trained internationally in IT, to work from home and secure jobs with local Ottawa employers.

The WITT initiative piloted successfully, through the April to November 2020 time period, and has brought employers and women on board which has resulted in 15 out of 38 women being hired within 3 months of completing the program.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan



We want to hear from you! - Phase 2 engagement

Everyone has a role to play in safety and well-being, and the City of Ottawa is seeking your feedback as Ottawa's [Community Safety and Well-Being \(CSWB\) Plan](#) is being developed.

On October 28, 2020, City Council [approved six local priorities](#) that will be the focus of Ottawa's first CSWB Plan as follows: discrimination, marginalization & racism, financial security & poverty reduction, gender-based violence & violence against women, housing, integrated & simpler systems, and mental well-being.

The City is offering multiple engagement opportunities **from January 18 to February 28**, and wants your ideas to help set strategic objectives, strategies and actions for the six priorities.

You can visit the CSWB website at ottawa.ca/CSWB to complete the survey, add your comments to the virtual forum or drop a pin on the map so the City can gather input of where you experience gaps in services related to the CSWB priorities. You can sign up to take part in virtual public consultation sessions or host your own session using the Community Toolkit. Join the conversation and stay up to date on the progress of the CSWB Plan by [signing up](#) for the newsletter.

Rideau and William Streets reopened just in time for the holidays!

Just in time for the holidays, on December 19, 2020, the Rideau Street and William Street Renewal project reached an exciting milestone when both streets reopened to traffic and pedestrian use.

This \$13.5 million investment included improved transportation infrastructure. Work on Rideau Street included more pedestrian space around the O-Train's Rideau Station and two new ParaTranspo stops on Rideau Street. It also includes new bike lanes and rack-style parking.

On William Street, new decorative pavers for patios and pedestrians were installed, electrical upgrades to support a 'ceiling' of twinkle lights were completed, and a historical timeline of the ByWard Market and Rideau Street, set into artistically-designed street panels, was added.

To celebrate this milestone, check out the City-released special [video](#) for this project!

Final landscaping and finishing touches will be completed in spring 2021.



Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

On December 18, 2020 at a [special meeting of Council](#), Council approved the next steps to seek funding from the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

As part of the Government of Canada's COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, approximately \$20.1 million in funding has been allocated to the City of Ottawa for infrastructure projects. The investments include:

- \$5 million for a joint project to deliver a new youth services facility in the Heatherington community
- \$750,000 toward a \$1.5 million expansion of the Beacon Hill North Community Centre
- \$8.6 million in sidewalks/trails, multi-use pathways, pedestrian crossovers, wayfinding and picnic areas in parks
- \$5 million in building retrofits and upgrades like ventilation, air conditioning, energy-efficient lighting and windows, Wi-Fi and safety features, including at various shelters, community centres and sports facilities.

The full list of projects can be found on [Ottawa.ca](https://ottawa.ca)

Scott Street reopens to traffic

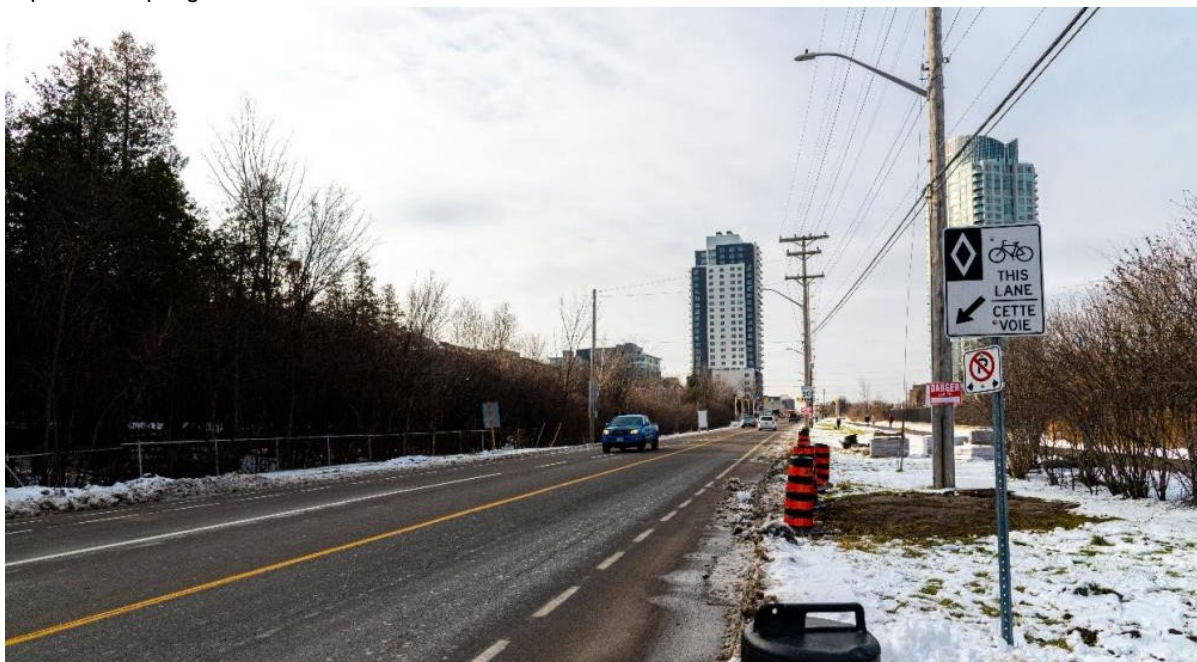
After much anticipation, Scott Street eastbound was re-opened to traffic from Island Park Drive to Holland

Avenue on December 11, 2020.

During 2020, as part of the Scott Street Sewer and Watermain Rehabilitation project, significant work was undertaken including:

- The existing multi-use pathway on the north side of Scott Street between Island Park Drive and Smirle Avenue was widened
- Underground watermain, sewers and service laterals were replaced
- Sidewalk and resurfaced the road were reinstated

In 2021, construction is expected to be completed on the new cycle track facility along the south side of Scott Street between Island Park Drive and Ross Avenue. Final landscaping and asphalt reinstatement is also expected in spring 2021.



City wants your input on what features should be in your parks and recreation centres

January 19, 2021 – The City needs your feedback and input to help develop its 10-year Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The plan will go to Community and Protective Services Committee and Council for approval in October 2021.

The online survey is now live on [Engage.Ottawa.ca](https://engage.ottawa.ca) until February 5, 2021. Ontario government legislation requires the City to develop this plan so that we can continue to request that park land is dedicated in new communities at the highest possible rate instead of the minimum provision as allowed by Planning Act.

The survey asks about the type of park and recreation facilities that you and your family use and what amenities you think are important for our City parks and facilities. The development of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan will help meet the future needs of our growing community over the next decade.

Virtual public engagement sessions are also planned in February and more information will be provided in the coming weeks.

The one thing that the Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced is how much parks and recreation facilities mean to so many Ottawa residents and neighbourhoods. Parks and recreation facilities have proven to be important amenities that contribute to the vibrancy of our communities and the social and physical well-being for our residents and their families.

These are your communities, your parks, and your recreation facilities. Have your say. Get involved.

For more information on City programs and services, visit ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1 (TTY: 613-580-2401). You can also connect with us through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Engage Ottawa

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