



What's Trending?

Help shape the City's Climate Resiliency Strategy

The City is developing a Climate Resiliency Strategy to assess how Ottawa is vulnerable to climate change and identify strategies to adapt to future conditions and mitigate the greatest climate risks.

Ottawa will become much warmer over the coming decades, with more intense rainfall and more extreme events. This will impact our health and safety, infrastructure, economy and the environment. We need to make sure we are ready to deal with the impacts.

In this first phase of engagement, we're looking for your input on:

- What climate impacts you are most concerned about
- How climate change is affecting you
- How we can help you prepare for the future

Your input will help us develop a strategy that meets the needs of everyone in Ottawa.

The Climate Resiliency Strategy will go hand in hand with [Energy Evolution](#), the City's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[Find out more about the Climate Resiliency Strategy and provide your input by completing the survey.](#)

Better Homes Loan Program

The City was successful in receiving \$12,169,500 of funding from the Federation of Canadian

Municipalities for a Better Homes Loan Program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ottawa.

The Better Homes Loan Program will make it easier and more affordable for homeowners to pay for home improvements over time as they save on their energy bills. Through the proposed Better Homes Loan Program, Ottawa homeowners could get a low-interest loan of up to 10 per cent of the current value of their home to cover the cost of home energy improvements. The loan would be tied to the property not the owner. This means that if the home is sold before the loan is repaid, the new owner will assume the balance of the loan.

Although the details of the program are still being developed and subject to change, measures eligible for financing will likely include:

- Basement, attic and exterior wall insulation
- Air sealing (such as weather stripping or caulking)
- Window and door replacements
- Air and ground source heat pumps
- Solar hot water systems
- Solar photovoltaic systems
- Battery storage
- Electric vehicle charging stations (level 2)

The final program details will be announced in the coming months. If you would like to receive updates on this program and other climate change news subscribe to the [climate change e-newsletter](#).



Reducing Emissions Through Wood Burning Changeout Program

Launched in 2019, the [Ottawa Wood Burning Changeout Program](#) encourages residents to replace outdated wood burning appliances with new, EPA certified models through a rebate on the purchase and installation of the new appliance.

Wood burning appliances have been subject to increasingly stringent certification requirements over the past years, with an appliance manufactured today reducing emissions up to 90 per cent over an appliance from the 1980s. Replacing an outdated appliance with a new model is a practical action homeowners can take to bring about a measurable reduction in emissions, improved local air quality, and a reduction in the amount of wood required to generate the same amount of heat. In addition to replacing old appliances, residents are encouraged to have wood burning appliances serviced regularly, and to only burn properly seasoned (dry) firewood.

The Ottawa Wood Burning Changeout Program will cover 25 per cent of the cost of purchase and installation of a replacement appliance, to a maximum of \$750. This program is a partnership between the City of Ottawa and the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association of Canada, and is open to all residential addresses within the city, with a limit of one rebate per household.

[Find out more about the Ottawa Wood Burning Changeout Program.](#)



Windows of Opportunity: Making our Homes Safer for Birds

Windows allow natural daylight into our homes and workplaces, and may provide breathtaking views of the world outside. Unfortunately, most birds do not recognize windows and other transparent or reflective surfaces as a solid barrier. Many thousands of birds are injured and killed every year in Ottawa from collisions with buildings and other structures. Light pollution at night is also detrimental to migrating birds and other wildlife. We can all help to reduce these risks. The City of Ottawa recently developed [Bird-Safe Design Guidelines](#) for use when planning and reviewing new buildings. This Wildlife Speaker Series event will help residents recognize

and reduce the risks to birds around their homes. We hope you can join us!

Speaker: Willow English, Safe Wings Ottawa

For more information: [Wildlife Speaker Series | City of Ottawa](#)



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](#).

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.

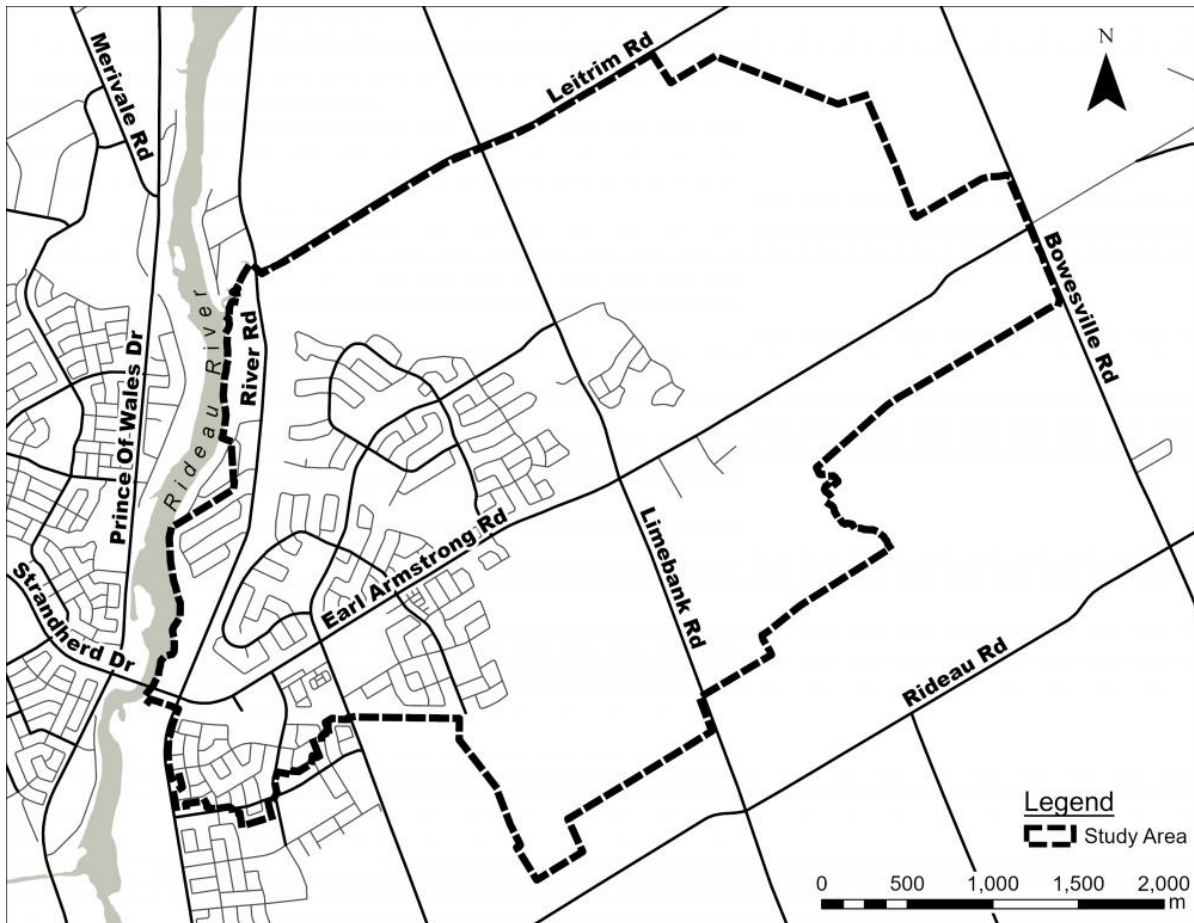
Please stay tuned to the project [website](#) or sign up to our notification list to be informed of the release of this document and the engagement opportunities that will come with it.

Mosquito Creek Master Drainage Plan Update

Notice of Commencement and Online Public Open House

The Study

The Riverside South Development Corporation, in partnership with the City of Ottawa, has initiated a study to update a portion of the Master Drainage Plan (MDP) for an area within the Riverside South Community Mosquito Creek. The study area is generally bound by the Rideau River to the west, Leitrim Road to the north, Bowesville Road to the east and Rideau Road to the south. The original MDP for the Riverside South Community was completed in 1992 and subsequently updated in 2008 and 2016, with the remaining Mosquito Creek study area outstanding. IBI Group has been retained to complete the Mosquito Creek MDP update to reflect the latest land use plan for the area and City of Ottawa design guidelines.



The Process

The Mosquito Creek MDP Update is being completed in accordance with the Master Plan process under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) (October 2000, as amended in 2007, 2011 and 2015), as approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. The study will meet the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 under the MCEA process. At the completion of the study, the Master Plan will be filed for public review.

How to Get Involved

Public participation is an important component of the Environmental Assessment process. In light of COVID-19 and associated physical distancing requirements, an online Public Open House (POH) will be held for this project to allow for public feedback and comments. The POH will introduce the study, summarize key constraints and opportunities, outline alternative solutions developed and the evaluation process followed, and present the preliminary recommended plan.

An online POH presentation will be available for viewing on the project website at www.ottawa.ca/MosquitoCreek

A live question and answer session will be held on Zoom on March 30, 2021 at 7pm where you may ask questions directly to the project team. Advance registration for the question and answer session is required. Please contact the project team members listed below to register for the event.

We encourage you to review the online POH presentation and provide comments or questions before April 9, 2021. You may submit comments through the project website, at the live question and answer session on March 30, 2021, or by contacting the project team members listed below directly:

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