



What's Trending?

The New Official Plan: Planning by Transect



New
Official Plan
Nouveau
Plan officiel

The City started to develop the new Official Plan around the 5 Big Moves of: growth, mobility, urban design, resilience and economic development in 2019. Community engagement occurred across the city to discuss these key concepts. You may have seen our team at one of over 70 events across the City. This feedback was incorporated into the Preliminary Policy Directions presented to Council in December 2019.

Through the discussions so far, the City has had over 50,000 engagements with residents and will continue our equity and inclusion informed outreach into 2021.

This discussion is helping the city develop new ideas for the plan. One of the key cornerstones of the New Official Plan is the Transect approach, which means the City will plan by context.

We are changing from a previous approach to plan by land-use in order to recognize the specific needs of neighbourhoods in different parts of the City. The Transect approach will focus on “form and function” by planning for the appropriate shape of new buildings, their relationship with public space, and how they function to be informed based on which Transect you live in.

Planning by Transect will allow the City of Ottawa to recognize the different contexts of the City's varied geography and provide guidance as to how each area is to evolve.

We are proposing 6 different Transect areas across the city: Downtown, Inner Urban, Outer Urban, Suburban, Greenbelt and Rural. We are organizing 5 public presentations. These presentations will help residents learn what this new planning approach will propose for their neighbourhood.

Find out when your Transect presentation will take place by checking out the [New Official Plan website](#).

New site for the Ottawa Smart Farm!

On October 13, Invest Ottawa, with support from the Federal Government and City of Ottawa unveiled the new Area X.O site (formerly L5), which is located on Woodroffe Avenue, at the National Capital Commission's Greenbelt Research Farm. Area X.O is a living technology lab, where companies can collaborate on real-world innovations across various sectors, including autonomous vehicles, clean tech and smart farming, to name a few. With new federal dollars, partners have worked to secure leading technology assets that will drive innovation and support job creation in our region. Some of the assets that Area X.O boasts include:

- A 5G mobile command centre that can deploy drones to support first responders in rural areas.
- New cybersecurity technologies to help keep companies and their innovations safe.
- One of the most advanced telecommunications test systems in the world, to support technologies of the future.
- An autonomous vehicle that can be customized to address real-world scenarios.
- High-speed electric vehicle charging stations.
- A smart farm equipped with the latest sensors.

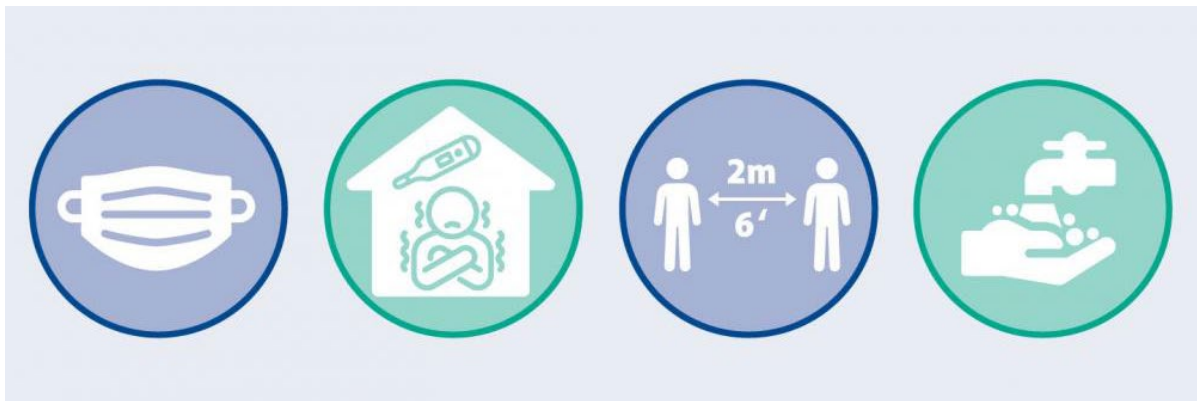
As part of the launch, Invest Ottawa and the City introduced its newest asset, the Ottawa Smart Farm, a 100-acre test farm, equipped with the latest in sensor technologies, geared at supporting the farm of the future. The purpose of the Ottawa Smart Farm is to help producers learn about new growing techniques and technologies and how they can work together to improve yields and reduce input costs, like fertilizer. Smart farming is all about reducing uncertainty for producers by providing them with information and tools to make evidence-based decisions.

It is not every day that the City participates in a nationally significant project. The Ottawa Smart Farm is part of a Canadian network of smart farms that are working together to share learnings and drive innovations across the country. These kinds of industry-led collaborations, supported by government and academia, are central to the smart economy and are helping Canada take a lead role on many exciting initiatives.

For more on these exciting projects please click [here](#) and [here](#)!



Mask Up Outdoors and COVID Wise Together



The City of Ottawa's Economic Development Services, in collaboration with Ottawa Public Health (OPH), launched two new campaigns recently aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 and building consumer confidence – COVID Wise Together and Mask Up Outdoors.

The COVID Wise Together campaign encourages businesses to implement health and safety measures and promote their actions to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. The Mask Up Outdoors campaign encourages residents to wear masks when outside in areas where physical distancing is difficult.

Additional information on the campaigns, including videos, downloadable posters, social media posts and digital images are available on OPH's [COVIDWise Together site](#). Local businesses are encouraged to share the content on social media, using the hashtags #COVIDWise! and #COVIDWiseTogether.

Did You Know?

There's an upcoming Wildlife Speaker Series Discovering Nature: there's an app for that!

Nature is all around us – throughout the city, in our greenspaces and in our backyards. Many Ottawa residents have been exploring their local natural areas and greenspaces this year and getting to know some of their wild neighbours. Camera phones and online resources such as [iNaturalist.ca](https://www.inaturalist.ca) enable residents to record, identify and learn more about the things they see. iNaturalist allows residents to contribute to conservation by compiling millions of observations across Canada and around the world. Researchers and naturalists can access this data to examine trends in wildlife sightings and occurrences. The information is useful for species at risk recovery and environmental impact assessment. Our speaker, James Pagé from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, will address how iNaturalist is helping people reconnect with nature, new Canadian discoveries, and whether nature has rebounded in a time of shutdowns and decreased human activity.

Join us online for this [Zoom Meeting](#) Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Learn more about iNaturalist Canada [here](#) and check out the [videos](#) that walk you through what it's all about!



About the Winter Patio Program

As the summer patio season has come to an end, please keep the following information in mind.

Right of Way (ROW) Winter Patio Permits

City Council has recently extended the ROW Summer Patio Permit program to November 15th and has also waived the monthly permit fees for the ROW Winter Patio program. The City will continue to collect the standard \$62 permit fee for ROW Winter Patio permit applications.

Anyone wishing to operate a ROW Winter Patio past November 15th, please contact ROWPatio@ottawa.ca as soon as possible to obtain a Winter Patio Permit (up to March 31, 2021).

Patios on Private Property

City Council has also extended the Temporary Zoning By-law amendment for patios on private property to December 31st to align with the [Alcohol and Gaming Commission's \(AGCO\)](#) temporary extension for liquor licensing. The City continues to engage in discussions with the Province regarding the need for a continued AGCO temporary extension for liquor licensing into 2021.

If you are already registered with the City, there is no need to register again for an extension to operate a patio on private property until December 31st.

Covered Patios – Tents and other types of structures

Building Code Services, Ottawa Public Health and Ottawa Fire Services have jointly advised that at least two sides of any structure (i.e. walls) must be open while the patio is in operation, regardless of the weather or type of heating source. This is to ensure adequate air circulation to mitigate possible transmission of COVID-19.

Anyone wishing to continue using or install a covered structure for the winter season must review Building Code Services requirements and ensure that all requirements have been met. Building Code Services will continue to expedite permit approvals for [tents, patios, awnings and canopies](#) within 5 business days. Please contact Building Code Services directly for any inquiries at BuildingPermits@ottawa.ca

Heating of Patios and Blankets

With the colder weather approaching, installing or operating patio heaters will become more common. Ottawa Fire Services recommends that all heaters are approved for use in Canada and installed and operated as per the manufacturer's instructions including proper ventilation and maintaining recommended clearances to combustibles and customers. All appropriate portable extinguishers are required to be on location. The type and size of portable extinguishers is relative to the size of patio and number of heaters in use. Patio Operators must also adhere to all requirements of the [Ontario Fire Code](#).

As a reminder, at least two sides of any structure (i.e. walls) must be open while the patio is in operation, regardless of the weather or type of heating source (i.e. electric, propane). This is to ensure adequate air circulation to mitigate possible transmission of COVID-19. In addition, air circulation will avoid the build-up of carbon monoxide emissions from combustible heating sources.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) has prepared a [fact sheet](#) regarding heaters on outdoor patios. All heaters must be approved for use in Canada and installed and operated as per the manufacturer's instructions including proper ventilation and maintaining recommended clearances to combustibles and customers. All appropriate portable extinguishers are required to be on location. The type and size of portable extinguishers is relative to the size of patio and number of heaters in use. Patio Operators must also adhere to all requirements of the Ontario Fire Code.

For any inquiries related to fire pits, open-air fires or specific questions related to heating patios, please contact FirePrevention@ottawa.ca

With respect to the safety of blankets for customers on patios, please be advised that Ottawa Public Health recommends that customers bring their own blankets or, if blankets are provided, that they are laundered in between uses. It is also important to ensure that combustibles, such as blankets, are kept away from heating sources.

Physical Distancing

Continued diligence with respect to the [physical distancing](#) of customers is of the utmost importance. Please ensure any modifications to the layout of patios (such as heater locations, seating layout) respect the minimum 2-metre physical distancing requirements.

Additional information regarding winter patios will be available shortly on the [Patio webpage](#) and will be sent directly to all current ROW patio permit holders and private patio operators who have registered with the City.

What's New!

The Elgin Street Renewal Project

The [Elgin Street Renewal Project](#), one of the City's major infrastructure projects is now complete and is a

perfect destination spot! Check out [this video](#) that was created to celebrate the completion of this major project.

Some highlights of the new Elgin Street include:

- Wider sidewalks, accessible for everyone, accented with decorative landscaping features, and lined with trees
- Beautiful street furniture, like benches, flanked by new lighting that reflect the heritage feel of the street
- A street with two travel lanes and traffic calming measures that will result in an overall reduced speed
- New bus stops, bus pads and shelters along the route
- Public art
- A revitalized area, now called Boushey Square, that can be transformed into a public space for events like open air markets or community celebrations

Minor landscaping and finishing work, including installing bus shelters, will continue to take place on site this fall.



Blessing ceremony on the site of the new Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada Joint Facility signals preparatory construction work to begin

On October 8, 2020, Elders from Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation led a blessing ceremony on the site of the new Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada Joint Facility, ahead of the start of preparatory construction work. The ceremony included prayers and a smudging of the entire site.

Due to COVID-19, the blessing was attended by a limited number of participants, comprising of Elders and representatives from the two Algonquin communities and the project partners.

The idea of a community public library and national library and archives on this site presents an opportunity to examine the nature of knowledge transfer and learning that will take place in the building, and how it relates to the local Algonquin Anishinabeg People as well as other First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation People in Ottawa and across the country. The identity and vision of the project has been made richer by the inclusion of traditional Indigenous knowledge.

The blessing of the site is important and signals the commencement of preliminary construction work that will prepare the site for construction of the facility.

Construction activity is expected on site beginning mid-October.

PCL (one of [three pre-qualified general contractors](#) for the project), has been awarded the Early Works construction package.

The City will be releasing the tender for the main project construction to the three pre-qualified general contractors in early 2021, with construction of the facility to begin next summer.

For more information about the Ottawa Public Library-Library and Archives Canada Joint Facility, visit [Inspire555.ca](https://inspire555.ca)



Get Involved!

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](#).
