



Building Standards



Community Standards



Parks



Planning and Development



Recreation and Community Development

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

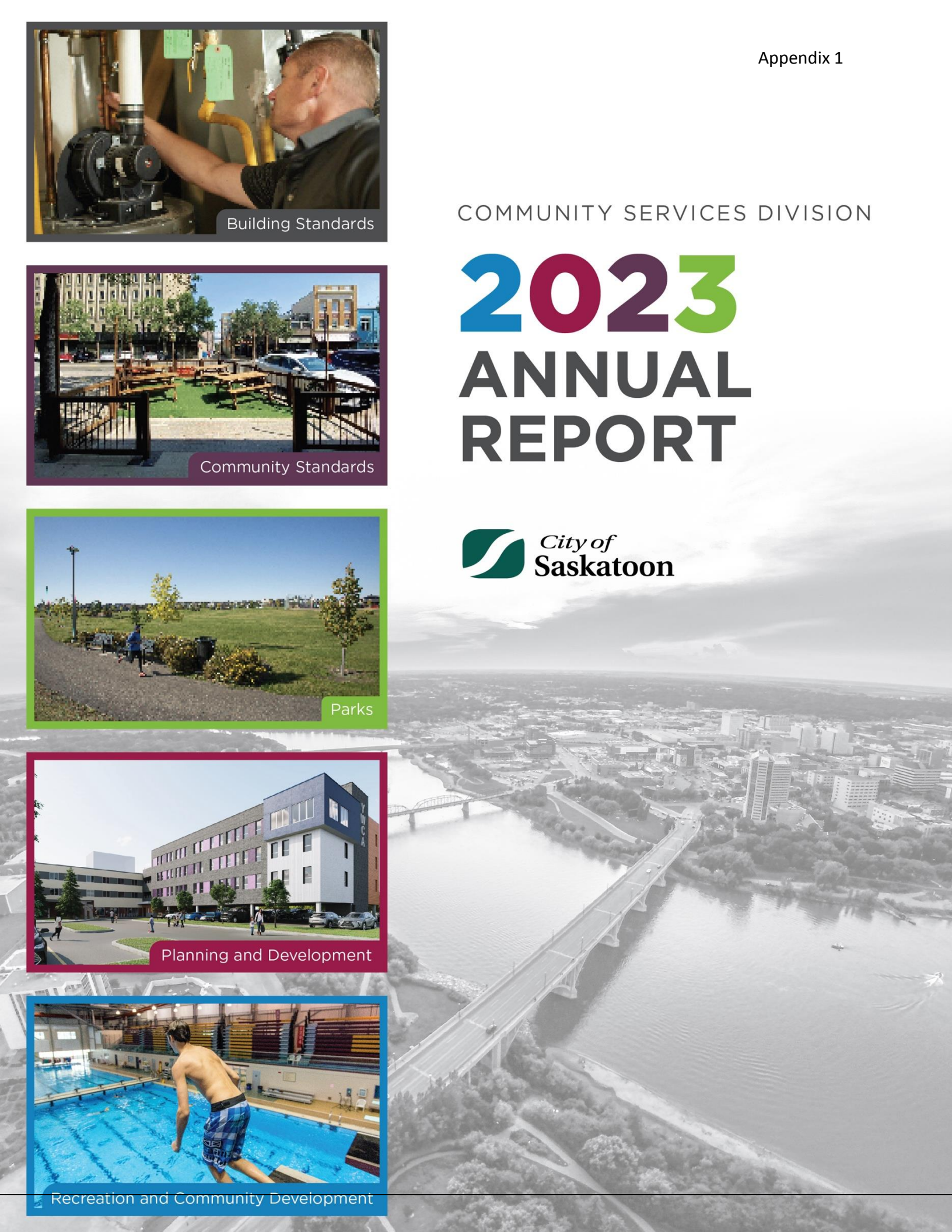


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Introduction

The 2023 Year-End Report for the Community Services Division provides an overview of the initiatives undertaken throughout 2023 and highlights plans for 2024 activities, programs and initiatives.

With previous years annual reports, each Department within the Community Services Division would complete a stand-alone annual report. For this annual report we have stream-lined the overall reporting, to come together in this one comprehensive summary report for the entire Division.

Message from the General Manager

2023 was another very successful year for the Departments within the Community Services Division with many notable accomplishments and continued focus on delivering high quality programs and services for the residents and businesses in Saskatoon.

The year end report does not speak to all the great work the team in Community Services delivers on each and everyday, it shares the summary overview of each Department's work and highlights some of the major accomplishments and/or initiatives implemented during the past year.

A huge thank you goes out to the entire Division for the great work throughout 2023.



Division Highlights

- Completed the implementation of the Building Standards department re-organization into three key areas: customer service, plan review and field inspections for the improved coordination and delivery of service.
- Building permit turnaround times within the residential program, which includes single family dwellings, two-unit dwellings and row housing, met service level targets.
- Prepared for the adoption of the 2020 national construction codes that came into effect in Saskatchewan on January 1, 2024.
- Conducted 4,838 bylaw-related investigations and responded to 6,122 bylaw-related enquiries.
- Issued 657 sign permits and portable sign licences.
- Issued 11,992 business licences, including 6,830 for commercial businesses and 5,162 for home-based businesses.
- Generated \$5.0 million in pay parking revenue.
- Impounded approximately 2,400 vehicles with outstanding parking tickets.
- Issued approximately 3,400 residential parking permits and 384 temporary reserved parking permits.
- Parks Reconciliation Equity Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) Initiative focused on improving the workplace culture at Parks.
- Comprehensive Dutch Elm Disease Response with several trees testing positive for the disease.
- Woodlawn Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue hosted the Centennial Celebration and received a Heritage Award for the event.
- Irrigation Water Conservation through the use of evapotranspiration based systems, saving \$65,000 in irrigation costs.
- Completed new Park Construction and park Upgrades in 10 parks.
- Multi-year collaboration resulted in Council endorsement of new boundaries for the Northeast Swale in February 2023.
- Urban Design's completed the 14th Street Parklet in 2023 and received positive feedback by the Varsity View Community Association.
- There were 24 Local Area Plan recommendations successfully completed, including 15 non-safety and 9 safety-related recommendations.
- Development of a new Housing Strategy began in 2023 and included work on a municipal scan, engagement with internal and external stakeholders and a comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment.
- In 2023, work continued on implementing the ePermitting system, with online land use applications going live in early 2024 in the system.
- The development of a Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan (District Plan) for the area around an event centre/arena and convention centre was kicked off with the approval of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.

- The Comprehensive Review of the Zoning Bylaw resulted in three major amendment packages in 2023, including the adoption of leading standards for accessible parking.
- The team prepared a Housing Action Plan as part of its application for the Government of Canada's Housing Accelerator Fund, involving collaboration from multiple civic departments. The successful application enables over \$40 million in funding to support housing in Saskatoon.
- Through the Partnership Process - Pawetetan (Basketball) Court and the Globe BMX track upgrade were completed.
- Holiday Park Golf Course had the highest number of rounds of golf in the entire province; combined attendance at the three municipal golf courses in 2023 was 138,380 rounds.
- The City of Saskatoon's (City) six (6) indoor Leisure Centres hosted a combined total of 17,120 rental bookings, which attracted 295,541 individual participants. The number of visits to Leisure Centres totaled 1,151,674. Shaw Centre and Saskatoon Field House hosted 40 local and provincial special events.
- Admission volumes at the City's four (4) outdoor pools totaled 81,023.
- 108,719 participants participated in the Summer Play program.
- The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo had 159,181 visitors from April 1 to October 31, 2023.
- New species at the Saskatoon Zoo included babydoll sheep, ring-tailed lemurs and zebra.
- Community Consultants provided support to Community Associations in delivering 789 programs for 2023.
- A total of \$1,432,400 was provided through the grant programs funding 44 different organizations.

BUILDING STANDARDS DEPARTMENT



Building Standards Department

Building Standards provides exceptional customer service to the residents and visitors of Saskatoon. Building Standards ensures homes, businesses and other buildings are constructed to the approved design and meet all necessary federal, provincial and municipal codes, thereby giving Saskatoon residents the ability to live, work and play in safe, comfortable structures.

2023 Highlights

- Prepared for the adoption of the 2020 national construction codes. The 2020 codes came into effect in Saskatchewan on January 1, 2024. The new legislation includes changes to minimum energy requirements for buildings, as well as changes to building and plumbing construction standards for both residential and commercial construction.
 - Completed the implementation of a department re-organization into three key areas: customer service, plan review and field inspections for the improved coordination and delivery of service.
 - Permit turnaround times within the residential program, which includes single family dwellings, two-unit dwellings and row housing, met service level targets.
 - Commercial permit turnaround times exceeded service level targets by an average of 10 business days.
-

Our Business

Building Standards works in partnership with industry associations and customers to identify the needs of the changing community and to align programs and services to meet those needs. Our core service is to administer the Building Permit and Inspection Program and the Plumbing Permit program.

Construction Activity in 2023

Building Standards issued a total of 3,254 building and development permits, at a construction value of \$872,060,000, which is a decrease of 12% and increase of 13%, respectively, compared to the activity seen in 2022. Permits issued will result in the creation of 2,738 new residential units, as compared to 2,293 units in 2022. The department also issued 1,750 plumbing permits and completed a total of 27,422 building and plumbing permit inspections.

2023 Plan Review Service Level Performance

The plan review service level for residential building permits is 5 to 7 business days and the plan review service level for industrial, commercial, institutional, assembly and multi-storey construction is 2 to 5 weeks. Permit volume fluctuates through the year, with volumes peaking during the spring and fall construction season. During peak construction season Building Standards strives to maintain a maximum of +5 days over the regular service level. City Council at its Regular Business Meeting on February 28, 2024, resolved in part to have administration report back on operational changes in Building Standards in the 2023 calendar year and the impacts these changes have had on commercial development with respect to

permit review/turnaround time compared to the 2022 calendar year. A full overview is provided in Appendix 3.

Below is a summary of the plan review performance for 2023, represented in business days:

BUILDING CATEGORY	TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION	SERVICE LEVEL	DAYS OVER TARGET
SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING	New	5 to 7	+1
	Alteration	5	+3
TWO-UNIT DWELLING	New	5 to 7	+3
	Alteration	5	+2
ROW HOUSING	New	15 to 20	+4
	Alteration	5 to 8	+3
APARTMENTS	New	17 to 22	+10
	Alteration	10 to 15	+10
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND ASSEMBLY	New	17 to 22	+10
	Alteration	10 to 15	+10
DEMOLITION	-	5 to 8	-

Building and Inspection Permit Stabilization Reserve

The Building Standards Reserve was approved by City Council for the purpose of accumulating funds to offset any deficits in the department operations, due to revenue shortfalls from the decline in the number and/or type of permits issued and program improvement expenditures. Program revenues received in 2023 from the issuance of building and plumbing permits were approximately \$865,000 or 11% higher than budgeted. The variance is largely attributed to the revenue received from apartment, assembly and institutional projects. Additional savings of approximately \$720,000 resulted in a \$2.031 million contribution to the Building Standards Reserve. The balance of the reserve at the end of December 2023 was \$4.489 million.



Looking Ahead to 2024

- Spring 2024 launching the Property Information Disclosure workflow in ePermitting.
- ePermitting System (Phase 3) – Continuing the work of the Cornerstone Project. Phase 3 of the project is focused on adding workflows related to code enforcement.
- Building Permit Timelines – Continuing efforts to achieve targeted service levels on a consistent basis. Efforts in the upcoming year will focus on increasing first time approval rates within the commercial program.

A young girl wearing a black winter jacket, blue jeans, black boots, and a pink knit hat with pom-poms is shoveling snow on a sidewalk. She is using a blue-handled shovel. The scene is set in a snowy residential area with snow-covered trees and a house in the background. The sky is overcast, and snow is falling.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

DEPARTMENT

Community Standards Department

The Community Standards Department is committed to supporting a safe and vibrant community by ensuring reasonable community standards are maintained. With a focus on information and education, the Department has developed strategies to better assist the community when it comes to matters related to bylaw enforcement, business and taxi licensing and permitting, and parking services. While the Department manages a diverse portfolio of work, the commitment to provide a high level of customer service to residents and the business community continues to drive decisions and priorities. The Community Standards Department is comprised of 38 City staff, plus 40 additional contract staff.

2023 Highlights

- Conducted 4,838 bylaw-related investigations.
- Responded to 6,122 bylaw-related enquiries.
- Issued 657 sign permits and portable sign licences.
- Issued 11,992 business licences, including 6,830 for commercial businesses and 5,162 for home-based businesses.
- Generated \$5.0 million in pay parking revenue.
- Impounded approximately 2,400 vehicles with outstanding parking tickets.
- Issued approximately 3,400 residential parking permits and 384 temporary reserved parking permits.

Bylaw Compliance

The Bylaw Compliance Section is a focal point for customers seeking assistance on bylaw or regulatory compliance. The Section administers and enforces nine civic bylaws in addition to administering a number of permit and licensing programs.

The investigations conducted by the team help ensure the safety of residents, supports the proper use of City infrastructure, and contributes to maintaining a high quality of life for Saskatoon residents. The Section includes six dedicated areas of focus including drainage, right-of-way (ROW), sewer use, signs, zoning, and prohibited and noxious weeds.

In 2023, 4,838 inspections related to bylaw enforcement were conducted in line with the Section's five-year average of 4,903. Customer service staff responded to 6,122 enquiries related to general bylaw questions and concerns, including 4,605 email submissions and 1,517 phone calls to the Bylaw Compliance hotline. This resulted in a record-breaking year for email submissions.

In addition to bylaw enforcement, Bylaw Compliance administers several other programs. The Section reviews sign permit applications and requests for portable sign licenses and in 2023, 616 portable sign licenses (588 in 2022) and 41 sign permits (32 in 2022) were issued. The Section administers the Legalizing Existing Suites (LES) program, which provides a cost-effective option for owners to upgrade existing suites that were in place prior to January 1, 1999. In 2023, 19 occupancy permits for legalized suites were issued. Bylaw Compliance also assists

in the development permit process through conducting inspections to ensure required site landscaping and off-street parking on new development sites are completed in accordance with approved plans. In 2023, 299 development permits were closed through inspections (395 in 2022). Environmental Protection Officers also review sewer use permits to manage the impact of discharges into the sanitary sewer system. In 2023, nine special discharge sewer use permits were issued, one temporary water permit was issued, and six businesses were included in the City's surcharge program.

2023 Highlights

Stakeholder engagement was completed to assist with policy development on the topic of back lane maintenance to outline homeowner responsibilities and expectations associated with volunteer tree growth and other forms of plantings.

Amendments to the City's Traffic Bylaw (Bylaw No. 7200) were also undertaken to provide bylaw inspectors with additional tools to help achieve compliance on matters related to ROW encroachments within a timely manner.

Licensing and Permitting

The Licensing and Permitting Section ensures commercial, industrial and home-based businesses follow City zoning and building requirements and provincial and federal licence requirements through the application of the the Business License Bylaw (No. 9746) and all related bylaws and council policies.

In 2023, a total of 11,992 businesses were licensed, including 6,830 commercial and 5,162 home-based, which was an increase of 1.5%, compared to 2022 totals. In 2023, a total of 1,128 new businesses were licensed, including 450 commercial and 678 home-based, which was a reduction of 1.5%, compared to the total number of new businesses licensed in 2022.

This Section also manages taxi and rideshare licensing and plays a key role in bylaw and policy review and development within the corporation. To ensure compliance with the Vehicles for Hire Bylaw (Bylaw No. 9651), inspections of taxis and transportation network company vehicles were conducted throughout 2023. A meter course was conducted in August, where every taxi was inspected for cleanliness, driver licences, vehicle safety, documentation and accuracy of the meter. Other impromptu inspections were also conducted throughout the year to ensure compliance is maintained and drivers continue to be aware of the rules. Educational materials on bylaw requirements were provided to each driver and made available on the City's website.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for passenger wait time service are set at 90% of trips achieving a wait time of 10 minutes or less for standard taxi service and 15 minutes or less for wheelchair accessible service. In 2023, respective wait time figures of 89% and 60% were achieved.

2023 Highlights

Utilizing the Taxi Cost Index, taxi fares were reviewed to ensure rates remain appropriate in consideration of taxi operating costs. This review identified the need to increase minimum taxi fares from \$3.75 to \$4.75, supported by taxi operating cost increases. It is also noted that additional review on taxi distance rates will be undertaken in 2024.

Work also continued on the testing and configuration to integrate all business license programs into the new ePermitting software system. The system allows businesses and customers to apply for and renew their license online using the same log-in as other City services. Customers also have added functionality to monitor the status of their application, communicate with staff on deficiencies and view their business licence. Customer software launch dates for the various application types will be finalized in 2024.

Development standards for a variety of home-based businesses were also updated as part of the Zoning Bylaw review project including updated parking requirements, allowances for tattooing and accessory retail sales.

In accordance with Vehicles for Hire Bylaw requirements, annual licensing fees, fares and charges for transportation network companies and taxis are identified in Appendix 2.

Parking Services

The Parking Services Section manages parking supply and demand within Saskatoon through several parking programs. Parking programs increase public safety, promote unrestricted traffic flow and support a healthy business community. Ultimately parking management affects the quality of life in Saskatoon.

The Traffic Bylaw (No. 7200), Residential Parking Program Bylaw (No. 7862) and the Impoundment Bylaw (No. 8640) provide the ability to manage parking supply and demand. These bylaws allow for regulation of parking through:

- Charging for parking time;
- Charging for the exclusive use of parking spaces;
- Restricting parking time;
- Administration of several parking permit programs;
- Parking enforcement; and
- Impounding vehicles with significant outstanding parking tickets until paid.

Parking revenues fund the cost of Parking Services programs, help to reduce reliance on property taxes, fund the Streetscaping Reserve and contribute to qualifying Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

In 2023, Parking Services investigated approximately 7,300 parking-related complaints and reviewed approximately 2,500 parking-related enquiries. Over 4,200 court documents were



served on time-sensitive matters such as subpoenas and summons on behalf of the Federal and Provincial Courts of Canada and the Federal and Municipal Police Services. Approximately 86,000 parking tickets were issued in 2023, and \$3.12 million in revenue was received in parking ticket payments. Five million in parking-related revenue was generated from parking pay stations, the temporary reserved parking program and from pre-paid parking cards. Approximately 2,400 vehicles were impounded in 2023, as a result of having unpaid parking tickets. In 2023, Parking Services issued approximately 3,400 residential parking permits and 384 temporary reserved parking permits.

2023 Highlights

In 2023, City Council approved changes to the Veteran Parking Permit Program, which provides free on-street parking in pay parking zones for Saskatchewan veterans with SGI-issued veteran licence plates. City Council approval followed a one-year pilot program, which evaluated and monitored program impacts.

In 2023, Phase One of the City's Accessible Parking Permit Program Review also concluded, which identified the need for a number of program changes related to fees, time-on-street allowances and increased program promotion to facilitate greater awareness. A review of accessible parking infrastructure within pay parking zones helped inform the need for the development of additional specifications and standards related to on-street accessible parking which will be developed in 2024.

Looking Ahead to 2024

- The Good Neighbour Guide, developed in 2021, will receive a significant update to incorporate new information relevant to City residents.
- Major amendments to the Zoning Bylaw – Appendix A Sign Regulations will also be completed to improve digital signage regulation and address newer sign types.
- Temporary taxi licence programs will be reviewed to ensure they continue to meet program objectives in achieving wait time targets.
- ePermitting functionality for many Licensing and Permitting programs will be available to customers.
- Upgrades to the City's pay parking station inventory will be deployed in the Fall of 2024, which offer improved payment options, stronger cold weather performance and enhanced fraud protection. The project helps extend the lifespan of the current pay stations, through the addition of new internal hardware.

A man in a dark jacket and light-colored pants is walking on a grassy field, holding the hand of a young boy in a dark jacket and pants. They are walking towards the left. In the background, there are several houses with brown roofs and some trees. The foreground is filled with tall grass and small yellow flowers, which are slightly out of focus.

PARKS

DEPARTMENT

Parks Department

Parks plays a lead role in developing, preserving and enhancing the City's investment in its parks system, urban forest and civic open spaces. The Department accomplishes this through the strengthening of workplace culture, operational efficiency, policy development, collaboration and communication with internal and external stakeholders and the provision of maintenance and design services. From broad ranging city-wide initiatives, such as the Urban Forest Management Plan to ensuring that residents' local park and open space areas are well maintained, this Department has a significant impact on Saskatoon and its residents. The Parks Department's work primarily supports the Strategic Goals of Quality of Life and Environmental Leadership.

2023 Highlights

- Parks Reconciliation Equity Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) Initiative
- Dutch Elm Disease Response
- Woodlawn Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue Centennial Celebration
- Irrigation Water Conservation
- Parks Construction Upgrades

Strengthening Workplace Culture

Parks REDI Initiative

In partnership with the City's Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Department, Parks embarked on a 14-week workplace culture and feedback initiative during its 2023 operating season. The goal of the initiative was to improve engagement and psychological safety in the workplace and celebrate the diversity of the individuals who make up our teams. Each week staff were provided with a toolbox talk on a topic promoting psychological safety and team building, as well a team activity to take part in. Staff were given opportunity throughout to provide feedback to Parks leadership and video messages were recorded to discuss feedback items and acknowledge issues to be addressed.

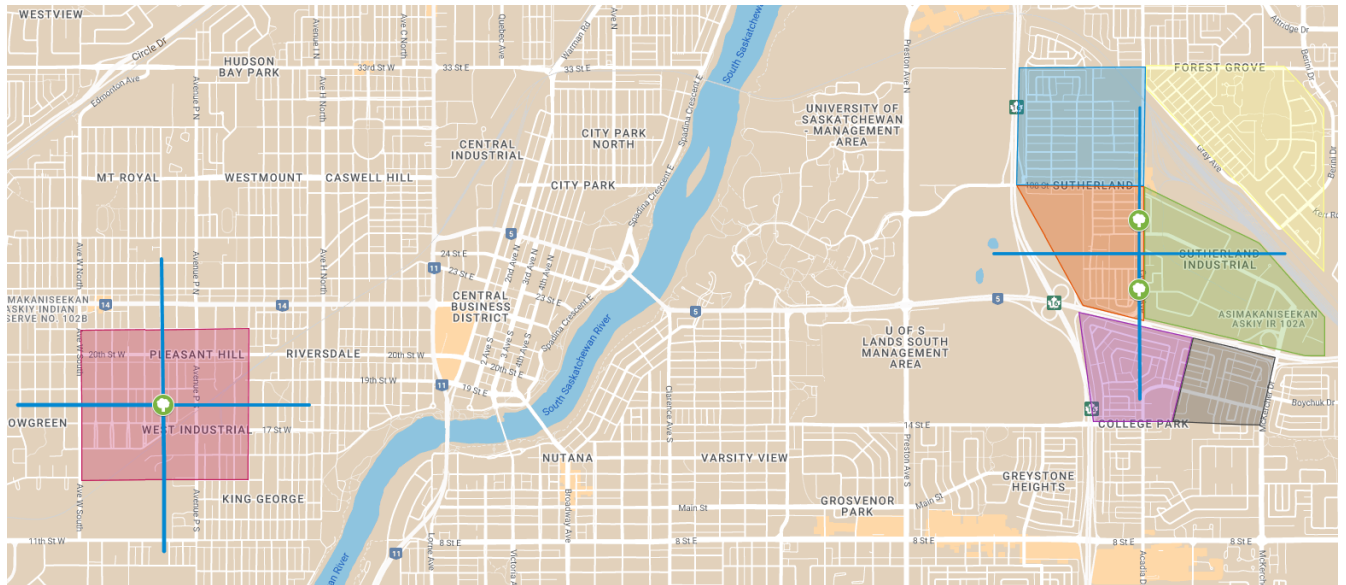
In a follow-up survey, a significant percentage of Parks staff indicated they felt the initiative had improved work culture in their area. A cross-functional group of Parks members met at the end of the year to discuss successes and areas of improvement for the program. The Parks team is excited to continue its improved REDI journey in 2024.

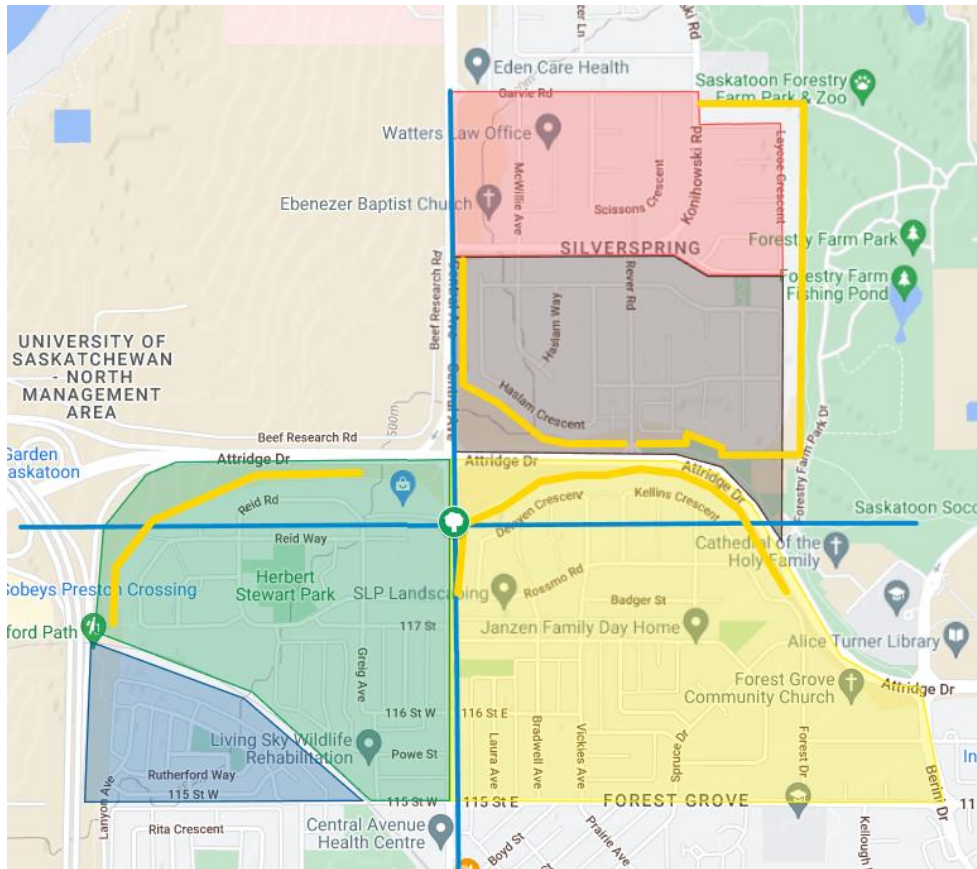
Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Monitoring and Response Plan

As part of the Parks Department's Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Surveillance and Sampling Program service level, Parks crews removed 1,620 kg of improperly stored elm wood and issued 58 elm storage infractions. DED surveillance crews submitted 92 elm samples to the Provincial Crop Protection Lab for DED testing. Four of these samples returned as confirmed cases of the deadly fungal disease that affects all elm species in Saskatchewan. This record number of positive cases triggered the immediate removal and disposal of all infected and likely

infected adjacent trees by Urban Forestry. Due to their sporadic locations, it is unlikely these cases were transmitted endemically and illegally transported elm wood is suspected to be the most probable source of infection. As part of the DED response protocol, two consecutive elm wood sweeps were initiated in a predetermined radius around the positive trees, one in Pleasant Hill and another in the Sutherland/Forest Grove neighborhoods. These sweeps resulted in the removal and disposal of an additional 5,300 kg of elm wood from 123 locations.

Below are maps of Urban Forestry's DED sweep locations, including the locations of positive DED cases:





Collaboration with Internal Stakeholders

Proper Elm Disposal Pilot

Storing elm wood can increase the spread of Dutch Elm Disease which threatens approximately 25% of the trees in Saskatoon. Strategies associated with proper Elm wood disposal continued to be developed through collaboration between Parks, Sustainability, Water and Waste Operations and Communications and Public Engagement Departments, as well as the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment. These efforts included an initiative which allowed elm disposal to occur at the Landfill, at no cost during the month of October 2023. This initiative resulted in 866 loads of elm wood being properly disposed of at the Landfill, totaling 430 tons of elm wood. This equates to 58% of the elm wood loads and 37% of the tons of elm wood brought to the landfill for the entire previous year. Based on the high level of uptake, program expansion will occur in 2024.

Collaboration with External Stakeholders

Woodlawn Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue Centennial Celebration

On Sunday, June 18, 2023, the City hosted a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue in Woodlawn Cemetery, the last remaining intact Road of Remembrance in Canada. Chris Zerebeski, Parks Superintendent responsible for the cemetery, led as the planning committee chair for the event. Parks cemetery staff contributed greatly to the event, preparing the grounds, assisting in coordinating and operating the event. The event was attended by the Lieutenant Governor and other dignitaries, members of the Canadian Armed Forces, veterans' organizations and the heritage community.

The City of Saskatoon, the Decoration Day Service Committee, Saskatoon Heritage Society, Friends of the Forestry Farm House and Parks Canada were proud recipients of a 2023 Saskatchewan Heritage Award in the category of Physical Heritage Conservation for the Next-of-Kin Memorial Avenue, Woodlawn Cemetery Centennial Project.



Operational Efficiencies

Water Conservation in Sports Fields

Parks and Sustainability partnered to save approximately \$65,000 in water costs using an evapotranspiration-based (ET-based) irrigation system approach in seven sports fields in 2023, while maintaining \$98,000 savings from the 2022 ET irrigation pilot in 46 parks using the same approach. Sports fields require a higher level of irrigation and maintenance, including an extended irrigation season coupled with deep irrigation, which results in higher water consumption, cost and GHG emissions, when compared with parks in general. The ET-based approach uses software and weather data to reduce the amount of water required to irrigate sports fields while maintaining a high level of turf quality. Planning efforts are underway to optimize the entire Parks irrigation network system.

Provision of Design Services

Federal Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF)

Park & Green Enhancement Projects

As part of the City's successful application to the federal Natural Infrastructure Fund, the Parks Department began several projects in its Park & Green Enhancements long-term plan. Parks is leveraging existing capital funding to receive over \$4.6 million in federal grant money to complete additional park enhancements. Projects initiated in 2023 include Parkridge and Balsam Parks, where the extra funding provided increased plantings and natural amenities and improvements to existing infrastructure such as irrigation. Park & Green Enhancement projects benefitting from the NIF program will be completed in 2024 and a full list of projects can be found on [Saskatoon.ca](https://saskatoon.ca) (search Natural Infrastructure Fund).

Parks Construction Updates

The Park Design Services Program is involved in the planning, design and development of public lands, which includes parks. The core areas of responsibilities include planning, estimating and administration of capital budgets, conceptual and detailed design, project management, internal and public consultation, development and implementation of landscape construction standards, and the collection and maintenance of “as-built” data. Below are listed the park construction projects completed in 2023, including new parks transitioned to the Parks Department for maintenance.

Completed New and Upgraded Park Projects 2023

kisiskaciwan Park (Aspen Ridge)	La plaas Ayiwaypihk Park (Brighton)
WJL Harvey South Upgrade (Silverwood Heights)	Lamb Park (Aspen Ridge)
kāsīnamākēwin Park (Rosewood)	Sarkar Park (Brighton)
Lions Century Park - Phase 1 (Kensington)	Churchill Park Storm Pond (Adelaide/Churchill)
kīwētīn Greenway (Aspen Ridge)	Parkridge Park Playground Replacement (Parkridge)

Collaboration with Internal Stakeholders

Storm Pond Landscape Projects



In addition to new park and park upgrade work carried out in 2023, the Parks Department provided landscape design and project management services to the Saskatoon Water Storm Water Utility team to complete the redesign of Churchill Park as part of the Churchill Park Dry Storm Pond. The project is one of three interdepartmental collaborations on dry pond construction so far throughout Saskatoon and an example of blending design and function for residents.

Looking Ahead to 2024

- Woodlawn Cemetery will be undertaking a pilot to test the use of an electric mower. The electric mower will be quieter, produce no emissions or fumes, require less maintenance and the pilot will help the Parks Department better understand the capabilities, benefits and practical applications of commercial electric power mobile equipment.
- The SportsFields team will trial the combined use of shale and crusher dust on several ball diamonds to measure its effectiveness. The combination of materials will make the surface easier to maintain, improve drainage, reduce drying times and airborne dust and provide a more forgiving play surface. The addition of less expensive crusher dust will also reduce the cost of ball diamond construction and maintenance.
- The City's new Tree Protection Bylaw was created to protect trees located on City property (e.g., boulevards, medians, parks and natural areas) and regulate work occurring near them. In 2024, the Tree Protection Bylaw will be operationalized, including the implementation of a new Tree Protection Bylaw Technician in Parks.
- In 2024, the Urban Forestry team is prepared to trial a DED preventative measure, involving the injection of a fungicide into trees at risk of contracting the deadly disease. If successful, this effort would result in the reduction of trees required to be removed in the event of a confirmed DED case.
- Turf condition rating efforts at the City's sports fields and general turf in parks will be initiated in 2024, as part of the Parks Department's ongoing maturation of its asset management practices. Information of the condition of turf and other green assets will allow parks to better align its asset management practices with the City's corporate asset management philosophy and prioritize park enhancement projects.
- In 2024, Parks will continue its GIS mapping efforts, including the implementation of a tree on public data set property on the Developer's Resource Map on the City's public facing website. Offering public visibility of trees enhances the City's tree protection efforts and provides helpful information to interested stakeholders. In addition, the development of a public Parks map will begin, with the vision of providing relevant park information to residents and developers, while assisting Parks in its asset management and park development efforts.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT

Planning and Development Department

Planning and Development plays a lead role in guiding growth and development of Saskatoon, through its programs and policies. From broad, city-wide initiatives, such as the Official Community Plan and the Plan for Growth, to local projects such as rezoning and discretionary use applications, the work of this Department has a significant impact on the city and its residents.

2023 Highlights

- Multi-year collaboration resulted in City Council endorsement of new boundaries for the Northeast Swale, in February 2023.
- Urban Design's completed the 14th Street Parklet in 2023 and received positive feedback by the Varsity View Community Association.
- There were 24 Local Area Plan recommendations successfully completed, including 15 non-safety and 9 safety-related recommendations.
- Development of a new Housing Strategy began in 2023 and included work on a municipal scan, engagement with internal and external stakeholders and a comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment.
- In 2023, work continued on implementing the ePermitting system, with online land use applications going live in early 2024 in the system.
- The development of a Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan (District Plan), for the area around an event centre/arena and convention centre, kicked off with the approval of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.
- The Comprehensive Review of the Zoning Bylaw resulted in three major amendment packages in 2023, including the adoption of leading standards for accessible parking.
- The team prepared a Housing Action Plan as part of its application for the Government of Canada's Housing Accelerator Fund, involving collaboration from multiple civic departments. The successful application enables over \$40 million in funding to support housing in Saskatoon.

Long Range Planning

Work continued on amendments to the Blairmore Sector Plan that will go to Council in 2024. Work began on amendments to the Riel Sector Plan, including completion of a commercial and industrial market study for the sector.

Initial research and engagement on the development of an updated natural areas policy framework was completed.

Multi-year collaboration resulted in Council endorsement of new boundaries for the Northeast Swale in February 2023.

Process improvements included developing a process for consolidating amendments of existing Concept Plans and completing initial work on documenting the process for managing the Planning Levy.

A Program Coordinator position for Indigenous Land Development Support was hired and a Development Resource document was created to be shared with First Nations interested in land development in Saskatoon and region.

The Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) North Concept Plan was endorsed by all five municipal partners.

The 2023 Growth Monitoring Report was produced as well as numerous mapping and data analysis support for projects led by various internal groups.

Neighbourhood Planning

In 2023, City Council approved two projects for Vacant Lot and Adaptive Reuse incentives for five-year abatements of the incremental property taxes including an adaptive reuse and expansion project adding four storeys to an existing, vacant two-storey City Centre office building at 317 4th Avenue South, and environmental remediation of a former auto salvage yard for a new six-bay commercial building at 522 Avenue N South.

There were 24 Local Area Plan recommendations successfully completed, including 15 non-safety and 9 safety-related recommendations.

The Neighbourhood Safety program completed 31 CPTED Review reports.

Throughout 2023, Urban Design continued to support the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) by providing ongoing asset maintenance focusing on the Downtown BID and building on the asset replacement and maintenance program to find efficiencies.

Planning and design for streetscape projects in all four BIDs continued throughout the year – 20th Street East Streetscape, exploration of Avenue B, D and 21st Streetscape, Central Avenue Gateway Feature and work on the corner of Broadway and Main.

Urban Design's work on City-Wide projects included design support for Corridor Planning and the 14th Street Parklet, which was completed in 2023 and received positive feedback by the Varsity View Community Association.

The Façade Conservation and Enhancement Grant Program supported four Building Refresh Incentive applications for \$4,750 and two Façade Conservation & Enhancement Incentive applications were approved for \$32,000.

River Landing had over 35 events scheduled over 110 days resulting in 619,000 visitors. In September, the Pawâtêtân basketball courts, in the west corner of River Landing, opened and preparations started for the final developments of River Landing Phase 2.

The Housing Strategy development began in 2023 and included work on a municipal scan, engagement with internal and external stakeholders and a comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment.

Development Review

Land Use Applications received and reviewed:

1155 Development Permits; 3 Official Community Plan amendments and 20 Zoning Bylaw amendments; 5 minor Concept Plan amendments and 1 Major Concept Plan amendment; 18 Discretionary Use applications, 7 of these applications were delegated to Administration for review and approval; 42 subdivision application and 5 condominium applications.

Development Review represents the City at the Development Appeals Board which heard 40 development appeals in 2023, as well as at the Planning Appeals Committee of the Saskatchewan Municipal Board which 1 had appeals filed in 2023.

The Civic Heritage Program designated one new property, 850 University Drive. Funding was approved for 6 properties to help cover costs related to heritage conservation and maintenance work.

Focus Group sessions for the B6 Review Project were held in spring 2023. This included Downtown and development industry stakeholders, with a focus on reviewing the provisions of the B6 District for improvements and added flexibility.

In 2023, work continued on implementing the ePermitting system, with online land use applications going live in early 2024 in the system.

Planning Project Services

- The Zoning Bylaw Review project delivered three major Amendment Packages, including:
 - Adopting a leading standard for accessible parking requirements,
 - Revised regulations for alcohol establishments and microbreweries,
 - Updates to Appendix C South Downtown Design Plan (River Landing),
 - Amendments regarding on-site waste spaces.
- The development of a Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan (District Plan) for the area around an event centre/arena and convention centre was kicked off with the approval of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. Through 2023, the District Plan had significant engagement to develop a land use and public realm plan for the District with approval anticipated in 2024.
- Four new corridor-specific zoning districts were adopted that are intended to achieve the land use and development goals of the Corridor Planning Program. Significant public engagement was undertaken to share information and gather feedback on proposed land use designations for six Corridor Plan Areas.
- The City prepared a Housing Action Plan as part of its application for the Government of Canada's Housing Accelerator Fund. Major initiatives in the City's Action Plan include incentives for affordable residential construction, permitting four residential units on a residential site citywide, permitting residential development up to four stories within 800 metres of planned Bus Rapid Transit stations, removal of minimum parking requirements within Corridor Growth Areas and for Affordable housing and redevelopment of City-owned land for Affordable housing. The successful application enables over \$40 million in funding to support housing in Saskatoon.

Looking Ahead to 2024

- Work will continue on the development of a Downtown Event and Entertainment District Plan (District Plan). The plan will be brought forward to Council in 2024.
- Actions to implement the City's Housing Action Plan will continue including Zoning Bylaw amendments, supporting provision of student housing with the University of Saskatchewan, and (re)development of City-owned land for Affordable housing. \$41.3 million in funding was successfully approved in February 2024 to support housing in Saskatoon.
- Construction of several pathways to Leif Erickson Park will support implementation of a Westmount LAP recommendation.
- An environmental noise and air quality study will collect samples at and near heavy industrial facilities identified through a community survey that may be generating nuisance conditions affecting residential neighbourhoods.
- The Round 3 Rapid Housing Initiative project with the YWCA for development of 33 transitional housing units for woman and their children is anticipated to be complete by November 2024.
- Review of the Holmwood Urban Centre and Neighborhood 2 Concept Plan in the Holmwood Sector is expected to be complete in 2024.
- Phase II and III of the ePermitting project will be implemented in 2024. This will include development permit applications (not requiring a building permit), preliminary zoning review files and non-customer related project files.
- Ongoing work on the comprehensive review of the B6 – Downtown Commercial District will continue, focusing on improvements and added flexibility to the district.
- The Heritage Review Project will be completed and brought to Committee and Council in 2024, to provide information and options to enhance the program through a phased approach.
- The Blairmore Sector Plan amendment will be brought forward for approval in Q2 2024.
- A report will be brought to Committee and Council regarding a review of land use and zoning policies for office space.
- The Developers Resource will be launched, supported by creation of Indigenous engagement resources for City staff.
- The State of Official Community Plan Report will be prepared in late 2024.
- The 2024 Growth Monitoring Report will be created along with continued data analysis and mapping for support organization-wide Departments and initiatives.

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a blue tank top and black shorts, stands in a gymnasium. He is smiling and holding a cricket bat. The background is a blurred indoor sports facility with various equipment and a green field visible in the distance. A blue banner is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'RECREATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT'.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT

Recreation and Community Development Department

The Recreation and Community Development Department oversees the provision of programs and services for residents to participate in and enjoy the benefits of sport, culture, recreation, community development, social development and wellness activities.

To encourage as many residents as possible to take advantage of the activities and opportunities available, the Department operates numerous facilities, provides direct services and programs and provides support and partners with community-based organizations involved in delivering programs and services.

In addition to programs and services, the Department facilitates partnerships, information sharing and collaboration to strengthen community groups and organizations, promote diversity, inclusion, supports community well-being, and address racism.

2023 Highlights

- Through the Partnership Process - Pawetetan (Basketball) Court and the Globe BMX track upgrade were completed.
- Holiday Park Golf Course had the highest number of rounds of golf in the entire province; combined attendance at the three municipal golf courses in 2023 was 138,380 rounds.
- The City's six (6) indoor Leisure Centres hosted a combined total of 17,120 rental bookings, which attracted 295,541 individual participants. The number of visits to Leisure Centres totaled 1,151,674. Shaw Centre and Saskatoon Field House hosted 40 local and provincial special events.
- The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo had 159,181 visitors from April 1 to October 31, 2023.
- New species at the Saskatoon Zoo included babydoll sheep, ring-tailed lemurs and zebra.
- Admission volumes at the City's four (4) outdoor pools totaled 81,023.
- 108,719 participants participated in the Summer Play program.

Special Use Facilities and Capital Planning Section

Animal Services/Partnerships/Special Events

The Animal Services Program is responsible for the collection of pet license revenue, marketing to encourage the purchase of pet licenses, pound services and bylaw enforcement through the management of Saskatoon SPCA and Saskatoon Animal Control Agency contracts, program development and the development and maintenance of 13 off-leash dog parks. In 2023, pet licensing increased by 450 animals; subsidized spay and neuter program served over 220 animals/families and two small dog off leash parks were constructed at Hyde Park and Charlottetown Park for dogs under 40 cm (16") at the shoulder and less than 9 kg (20 lbs).

The City maintains over 100 joint use and partnership agreements. The City works with external organizations in the development of outdoor sport and recreation facilities. Through the partnership process, 2023 saw the completion of the Globe BMX track upgrade in Lakeview Park and Pawetetan Basketball Court development in Victoria Park.

In 2023, the City supported 424 special event contracts, 1,045 event dates with an estimated attendance of over 535,000 participants. The Provision of Civic Services supported 122 of the outdoor events.

Golf Courses/Gordie Howe Campground/Nutrien Playland/Indoor Arenas

The City operates three unique, affordable golf courses in Saskatoon: Holiday Park Golf Course (Holiday Park), Silverwood Golf Course (Silverwood) and Wildwood Golf Course (Wildwood). In 2023, Holiday Park had the highest number of rounds of golf in the entire province of Saskatchewan; Wildwood and Silverwood were in the top 10. Overall combined attendance at the three municipal golf courses in 2023 was 138,380 rounds. The City's golf courses, continue to meet the 100% cost recovery goal. In 2023, golf course revenues were \$5,036,500, expenditures were \$3,937,000 and transfers to reserves were \$1,099,500.

The Gordie Howe Campground is a mature, beautifully landscaped campground with 135 serviced sites located in the heart of the city. The campground operates on a full cost recovery basis, generating \$631,300 in revenue, with expenses of \$560,000, resulting in a \$71,300 contribution to the Campsite Reserve.

Nutrien Playland at Kinsmen Park is a one-of-a-kind attraction that offers activities for families and kids of all ages. Popular attractions include the miniature locomotive train, refurbished animal carousel and new, larger Ferris wheel. The rides are supported by a plaza area, as well as water features, sand play and natural elements. There were over 191,068 visitors to this attraction in 2023.

The City operates six (6) sheets of ice at five (5) indoor arenas. In 2023, the City allocated 99% of available prime time ice to various user groups including minor hockey, ringette and speed skating for a combined revenue of \$2,367,000. The City's indoor arenas derive revenue from external hourly rentals, lease revenue at ACT, public skating and board advertising, grants and concession/vending.

Sport Fields

The City also operates and maintains 308 sport fields, 45 tennis courts, 26 pickleball courts, 29 paddling pools, 23 spray pads, 7 skateboard sites and 3 disc golf courses. Outdoor sport fields generated \$784,200 in revenue in 2023. Some park programming is directly offered by the City, but the majority is offered by community-based interest groups, Community Associations, private sector organizations and allied stakeholders. Capital improvements were made to the Kate Waygood ball fields, which included infield regrading, sodded turf aprons and irrigation improvements. The improved diamonds will be available for allocation in 2024.

Recreation Facilities and Programs

Leisure Centres

In 2023, 1,151,674 people visited Leisure Centres for drop in programs or to participate in registered programs and rental programs. Total admission revenue was \$4,487,100 and total rental revenue was \$1,622,300.

The Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre closed to the public on March 31, 2023, for a major upgrade project. The initial tender for this project closed on April 6, 2023, but came in higher than anticipated. Following the tender, the Project team completed a review of the project scope for efficiencies. The project architect updated the project design to reduce the scope of the work

and bring the facility to a reasonable standard of operating condition to fit within the available budget. The project will be retendered in the first quarter of 2024.

Lawson Civic Centre was closed for maintenance from December 5 to 25, 2023. During this closure, work was completed on the wave machine, extensive grout work was completed in the pool basin, portions of the facility were painted and a deep cleaning was completed.

With the Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre being closed, the Program Team reviewed swim lesson formats and offerings with the primary objective being to increase the number of swim lesson opportunities. Lesson sets were reduced from ten (10) lessons to eight (8) lessons, five day swim lesson sets were added, weekend-morning lessons were added at Shaw Centre and the Lawson Civic Centre summer lesson format was changed to one (1) lesson per week for eight (8) weeks or two (2) lessons per week for four weeks. Registered program revenue totaled \$1,245,100, an increase of \$185,300 from the previous year. In 2023, the indoor Leisure Centres had 13,550 aquatic registrations, compared to 11,776 in 2022.

Other program highlights included adding physical activity programs targeted at 2 & 3-year-olds and 3–5-year-olds. Lil' Movers and Mini Movers Active Games develop fundamental movement skills through games/activities and were offered at Lawson, Lakewood and Shaw Centre. Lifeguard training and recruitment measures continued in 2023, with additional lifeguard leadership courses being offered. Additional lifeguards were recruited from these courses, which allowed swimming lessons and drop-in programs to be maximized.

Shaw Centre and Saskatoon Field House hosted a total of 40 local, provincial and national special events in a variety of sports disciplines. High profile events hosted included: the Canada Elite Gymnastic competition, USports CanWest track and field championships and USports National track and field championships.

A total of 3,322 equivalent months of Corporate LeisureCards were purchased, which is made up of 1,267 months of Family Corporate LeisureCards and 2,055 months of Adult Corporate LeisureCards. As of December 31, 2023, 230 businesses have been approved to participate in the Corporate LeisureCard program since it started in 2020.

An Inclusion in Action – Gender Equity in Recreation and Parks workshop was hosted in partnership with Saskatchewan Parks & Recreation Association to review best practices related to inclusion and accessibility.

Outdoor Pools

Lathey and Riversdale Outdoor Pools both opened for the season with new waterslides. Lathey Pool's waterslide now features a run out flume (a deceleration area that permits the rider to stop before exiting) which has helped to increase safety at the site. Exciting colors were chosen for the new waterslides and both proved to be a big hit, contributing to the increased admission volumes and revenues at the outdoor pools. Swimming lesson revenue was also up from the previous year.

The City partnered with White Buffalo Youth Lodge to offer swimming lessons for youth attending their summer day programs. A total of 88 youth participated in this program.

Summer Play and Targeted Programs

The Summer Play program saw a decrease in participation, with 108,719 enjoying the program which was offered at 43 weekday playground sites, 14 weekend playground sites and 10 youth centres. Less sites were operational because there was a shortage of qualified staff applying for positions. Recruitment measures have been put in place to address this issue in preparation for the 2024 season.

Twelve (12) free programs and events were offered this year to children, youth and families with 3,586 participants taking part in National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Day activities, Taking to the Court, Girls on the Move, Movies in the Gym, Drop & Shop, Bonus Free Skate, Multi-Sport Sampler, Winter Play, Family Day, February Break Camp, April Break Camp and Teen Open Gym.

Grants and Support Services

The Youth Sport Subsidy Program subsidizes up to 40% of the rental cost of facilities to eligible non-profit sport organizations offering sport programs to youth in Saskatoon, who are 18 years of age and under. In 2023, \$2,053,328 was provided to 27 organizations. This funding supported programming for over 24,000 participants.

The Youth Sport Subsidy Program also provides special event funding to these same eligible non-profit youth sport organizations hosting events in Saskatoon. In 2023, the City approved \$81,980 for seven (7) special events.

The Special Event Grant Program provides grants to non-profit groups and/or organizations who host major special events in Saskatoon. In 2023, funding in the amount of \$378,098 was approved for 11 events hosted in Saskatoon.

Grant applications and follow-up reports for each grant are available for review at the Community Services Division office, at City Hall, upon written request (Address: Community Services Division – Recreation and Community Development Department, 222-3rd Ave. North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5).

A one-year extension to the Shaw Centre Naming Rights and Promotional Benefits Agreement was signed with Shaw Communications with annual fees, terms and conditions remaining the same. The current extension expires on March 31, 2024.

Other Support Activities in 2023:

A Physical Activity Survey was conducted in fall of 2022, to track participation levels of Saskatoon residents in active recreational activities and organized sport. The survey is conducted on a five-year cycle to track any significant changes to participation and interest. In 2023, the data collected was used to assist the City and other providers to identify opportunities and programs that should be offered, forecast future demand and address participation barriers.

Leisure Centre Research was conducted with Saskatoon residents to explore how COVID-19 and other factors have affected people's usage patterns of leisure facilities, determine if changes to programs and services are needed to make people more comfortable visiting a Leisure Centre. The information gathered is being used to evaluate current programs and services and adjust where necessary.

Customer Experience Research (Mystery Shopper) was conducted at the indoor Leisure Centres, Outdoor Pools and Golf Courses. The research was conducted to track baseline data collected in 2018, to better understand the customer experience and how we are meeting service standards. The information collected is being used to identify customer experience training opportunities and to recognize areas of excellence.

Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo (SFFP&Z) remains one of Saskatchewan's top tourist attractions. The facility is home to a variety of native and exotic mammals, birds, trees and shrubs, as well as non-native ornamentals and fruit trees. It provides a setting for picnics, fishing, walking and other unstructured recreational activities. Rental facilities include a hall, cricket pitch, gazebo (semi-private picnic site), wedding garden, outdoor stage, Lions Event Pavilion and Forestry Farmhouse.

In 2023, SFFP&Z admission attendance from April 1 through October 31 was 159,181 guests. An attendance record and an increase of 33,403 from 2022. Total revenue for 2023 was \$1,639,300, which exceeded budget amount by over \$250,000. Contributing to the increased revenue was the operation of the new gift shop, a pilot program that generated \$158,400 in sales.

New exhibit spaces include the official opening of the Prairie Butterfly House, the Small Mammal House and the renovated Café. New animals included lynx, babydoll sheep, raccoon and zebra.

The City, after the extensive submission and review process, including an on-site inspection, received accreditation from the Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) for another five-year period. The SFFP&Z received the Thomas R Baines Award for Excellence in Habitat Design and Development awarded by CAZA for the updated small mammal house.

The City continues its long-term partnerships with the Saskatoon Zoo Society, Saskatoon Zoo Foundation, Friends of the Forestry Farm House and the Perennial Society. The Administration was able to renegotiate a new contract with the Saskatoon Zoo Society for the delivery of interpretative, educational and environmental programs as well as concession and Kinsmen Train services. The new contract begins in 2024.

Community Development

Social Development

Social Development staff serve as a convenor, facilitator, enabler and funder to a number of agencies and organizations in an effort to address issues concerning community safety and well-being, including supporting a variety of groups:

- Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership;
- Saskatoon Collaborative Funding Partnership;
- EGADZ Downtown Youth Centre;
- Community Advisory Board on Homelessness;
- Community-University Institute for Social Research; and
- Saskatoon Community Foundation adjudicator.

In 2023, Community Development underwent an organizational restructuring to support the development of a position to address Community Safety and Well-Being and the workplan for the Building Safer Communities Fund was submitted.

The Leisure Access Program allows eligible low-income residents within the city to access and participate in City leisure facilities and programs. The program includes unlimited admissions to drop-in programs at the Leisure Centres, one registered program per year and complimentary tickets to the Nutrien Playland rides at Kinsmen Park, as well as one-time use Family Passes to the Nutrien Wonderhub, Remai Modern Art Gallery and the Western Development Museum. This year Social Development also worked and developed a process to support the waste subsidy program.

2023 Leisure Access Program

- 4,946 applications approved (new record high);
- 12,056 cards issued (new record high);
- 138,848 drop ins (new record high);
- 2,972 hrs of childcare use; and
- 447 registered classes.

Culture & Inclusion

Indigenous Initiatives offered a wide variety of programs this year. The MeTaWeTan Programs are to provide a safe environment for participants to develop skills, to socialize and to lead healthier lifestyles.

The MeTaWeTan Traveling Van runs in the summer, from July to the end of August. The City works with Gabriel Dumont Institute and Saskatoon Tribal Council. This van not only served many participants in the parks and summer playground program, but it attended other places such as Reid Park where kids from the Wellness Centre were staying.

The City as the partner in the White Buffalo Youth Lodge assisted with and supported three major events this year, the Backpack giveaway, the Halloween Haunted House and the Holiday Dinner.

In Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion, we held many events in 2023. Highlight events included the Women Lead Councillor forum, a full day forum for women with lived immigrant and refugee experience to spend time at City Hall, in Council Chambers. Supporting Internship through a foundation, hired two (2) interns to work with the Councillors on coordinating the forum. The Eastview Walk Against Hate community event received support from the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory committee. This was a community response to an act of hate that occurred in the neighbourhood.

The Local Immigration Partnership, along with its partners, hosted the first ever Welcoming Week in Saskatoon. This is an annual event held each September, which presents an opportunity to



recognize and celebrate newcomers and help everyone feel like they belong in their community, with over 4,500 people in attendance.

Arts & culture organizations continue making a positive difference in our community through dedicated staff and the support of patrons, volunteers, sponsors, donors and government funders.

The City invested \$867,400 in 20 major cultural organizations which helped them:

- Generate \$17,472,681 in revenues;
- Provide 1,055,425 in-person visits;
- Hire 2,403 artists;
- Hold 1,621 in-person public activities;
- Hold 212 digital activities 434,714 people attended; and
- Receive 53,544 volunteer hours from 5,329 volunteers.

In addition, the 2023 Assistance to Community Groups Grant Program awarded \$565,000 in cash awarded to non-profit organizations with 24 agencies receiving support.

Public Art

The artist in residence program in the historic Bunkhouse at the SFFP&Z continued in 2023, with 11 artists taking part in the program. The Bunkhouse Gallery Pop-Up Program was available to local and established Saskatoon artists from January to the September long weekend. During this timeframe, 29 artists took part in 10 exhibits, attracting almost 300 visitors.

Launched on October 1, Poetry Downtown features poems from 10 local poets that reflect on the theme of Kindness. The project was inspired by a challenge from Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada Louise Halfe to bring poetry to public places. The project is a partnership with Downtown Saskatoon.

Neighbourhood Services

The Neighbourhood Services team of Community Consultants provide an important liaison role between the 47 Community Associations and City Departments. Consultants attend Community Association executive meetings, support community recreation programs, provide advice and updates on City initiatives and listen to community concerns and support community initiatives ranging from park development, facility development, rezoning applications, community gardens and park safety.

Community Association programming continues to recover to pre-pandemic levels. The 47 local Community Associations provided:

- Winter 2023 – 312 programs offered, 4932 registrants;
- Spring 2023 – 74 programs offered, 1027 registrants;
- Fall 2023 – 403 programs offered, 6716 registrants; and
- Total 2023 – 789 programs offered, 12,675 registrants.

Community Association grants are available for general operations, recreation programming, outdoor rink operations, as well as for rink infrastructure improvements and minor park amenity

upgrades. In total, Saskatoon's 47 Community Associations received \$315,215 in cash grants in 2023 including:

- \$128,400 in funding to support general operations;
- \$107,100 in program funding and support;
- \$48,600 in rink operating grants supporting 55 Community Association owned and operated outdoor rinks; and
- \$7,500 in rink improvement grants.

In addition, \$31,115 in Park Enhancement grants was awarded for two (2) community projects: Nutana (Massey Park) for the addition of benches, picnic table and bike racks. Eastview (James Anderson Park) for resurfacing of basketball court and the addition of trees and a bench.

Community Clean-Ups

Nineteen (19) community clean up events were held in the spring of 2023, with another two (2) in the fall. These events resulted in:

- 67,020 kgs of trash taken to the landfill;
- 6,380 kgs of metal taken for recycling; and
- 375 tires taken for recycling.

Community Gardens

There are 33 community gardens on City-owned property accounting for approximately 1,120 community garden plots. The Green Garden Fund provided \$7,500 to collectives to make improvements to their gardens.

Yearly Comparison of Key Department Data

Leisure Centre Admission Volumes	2022	2023	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Cosmo Civic Centre	4,380	5,582	1,202	27.40%
Saskatoon Field House	118,597	149,969	31,372	26.50%
Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre	73,306	26,305	-47,001	-64.10%
Lakewood Civic Centre	156,483	206,352	49,869	31.90%
Lawson Civic Centre	65,343	81,688	16,345	25.00%
Shaw Centre	202,289	261,452	59,163	29.20%
Total Attendance	620,398	731,348	110,950	17.90%

Leisure Centre Admission Revenues	2022	2023	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Cosmo Civic Centre	\$ 32,000	\$ 47,500	\$ 15,500	48.40%
Saskatoon Field House	\$ 724,900	\$ 952,800	\$227,900	31.40%
Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre	\$ 431,800	\$ 162,300	-\$269,500	-62.40%
Lakewood Civic Centre	\$ 869,400	\$1,216,100	\$346,700	39.90%
Lawson Civic Centre	\$ 393,000	\$ 494,900	\$101,900	25.90%
Shaw Centre	\$1,206,200	\$1,613,500	\$407,300	33.80%
Total Admission Revenues	\$3,657,300	\$4,487,100	\$829,800	22.70%

Leisure Centre Registration Revenues	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Cosmo Civic Centre	\$ 21,600	\$ 35,300	\$ 13,700	63.40%
Saskatoon Field House	\$ 33,400	\$ 43,700	\$ 10,300	30.80%
Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre	\$ 134,900	\$ 9,400	(\$125,500)	-93.00%
Lakewood Civic Centre	\$ 379,200	\$ 479,800	\$100,600	26.50%
Lawson Civic Centre	\$ 309,400	\$ 392,800	\$ 83,400	27.00%
Shaw Centre	\$ 181,300	\$ 284,100	\$102,800	56.70%
Total Registration Revenue	\$1,059,800	\$1,245,100	\$185,300	17.50%

Leisure Centre Rental Revenues	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Cosmo Civic Centre	\$114,000	\$110,500	(\$3500)	-3.10%
Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre	\$297,200	\$119,500	(\$177,700)	-59.80%
Lakewood Civic Centre	\$ 66,600	\$ 80,700	\$14,100	21.20%
Lawson Civic Centre	\$ 11,600	\$ 8,900	(\$2,700)	-23.30%
Saskatoon Field House	\$449,700	\$594,100	\$144,400	32.10%
Shaw Centre	\$677,500	\$708,600	\$31,100	4.60%
Total Rental Revenue	\$1,616,600	\$1,622,300	\$5,700	0.40%

Leisure Centre Volumes and Participation	2022 Visits	2023 Visits	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Recreation Registrations (Based on 5 visits per participant)	12,445	16,385	3,940	31.70%
Aquatic Registrations (Based on 8 visits per participant)	94,208	108,400	14,192	15.10%
Admissions Participation	620,398	731,348	110,950	17.90%
Rentals (Based on estimated number of participants at time of booking)	192,527	295,541	103,014	53.50%
Total Visits	919,578	1,151,674	232,096	25.20%

Outdoor Pool Volumes	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
4 Outdoor Pools	78,643	81,023	2,380	3.00%

Outdoor Pool Admission Revenues	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
George Ward Pool	\$ 65,100	\$ 64,100	-\$ 1,000	-1.50%
Lathey Pool	\$ 79,600	\$ 99,700	\$20,100	25.30%
Mayfair Pool	\$ 57,700	\$ 73,700	\$16,000	27.70%
Riversdale Pool	\$126,300	\$163,500	\$37,200	29.50%
Total Admission Revenues	\$328,700	\$401,000	\$72,300	22.00%

Outdoor Pool Registration Revenues	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
George Ward Pool	\$ 39,400	\$ 45,000	\$ 5,600	14.20%
Lathey Pool	\$ 29,600	\$ 30,600	\$ 1,000	3.40%
Mayfair Pool	\$ 19,400	\$ 20,500	\$ 1,100	5.70%
Riversdale Pool	\$ 16,300	\$ 20,100	\$ 3,800	23.30%
Total Registration Revenues	\$104,700	\$116,200	\$11,500	11.00%

Pet Licensing	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Not Spayed/Neutered Dog	1,429	1,456	27	1.90%
Spayed/Neutered Dog	15,579	15,945	366	2.40%
Not Spayed/Neutered Cat	121	164	43	35.50%
Spayed/Neutered Cat	7,649	7,974	325	4.25%
Service Dogs	27	22	-5	-18.50%
Spay/Neuter Program	161	220	59	36.65%
Juvenile Dog	1,438	1,213	-225	-15.60%
Juvenile Cat	267	249	-18	6.70%
Total	26,671	27,243	572	2.14%

Golf Course Attendance by Course	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Holiday Park	56,709	63,446	6,737	11.90%
Silverwood	31,191	35,559	4,368	14.00%
Wildwood	34,971	39,375	4,404	12.60%
Total	122,871	138,380	15,509	12.60%

Outdoor Sports Fields	2022 Hours	2023 Hours	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Baseball Diamonds (charge)	4,400	3,800	-600	-13.60%
Softball Diamonds (charge)	13,000	9,300	-3,700	-28.50%
Multi-purpose Fields (charge)	16,700	13,600	-3,100	-18.60%
Neighbourhood Diamonds (non-charge)	11,400	13,600	2,200	19.30%
Neighbourhood Multi-purpose Fields (non-charge)	23,450	18,850	-4,600	-19.60%
Total	68,950	59,150	-9,800	14.20%

Arena Revenue Comparison	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Revenues (net of public skating)	\$2,235,500	\$2,367,000	\$131,500	5.88%

Forestry Farm Park and Zoo	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2022-2023 Difference	% Change Previous Year
Zoo Guests	125,778	159,181	33,403	26.6%
Revenue	\$1,192,963	\$1,639,300	\$446,337	37.4%

Looking Ahead to 2024

- Complete Phase 2 of River Access Study to identify needs and access requirements for emergency services, active and passive recreation, commercial, as well as cultural and ceremonial purposes, along with strategies to address conflicts between users.
- Enhance 'zero waste' opportunities for special events through the provision of organics containers for event organizers.
- Install safety netting around the Silverwood Golf Course driving range.
- Enhance training programs for staff to align with staff roles, responsibilities and current behaviours and activities at facilities.
- Enhance safety for staff and patrons at sites by reviewing, developing new and improved safety measures to deal with complex social needs at leisure facilities.
- Strategically repurpose the indoor playground capital funding into leisure amenities that will attract a broader demographic.
- Repave more of the parking lot and roadways through the SFFP&Z with recycled asphalt.
- Complete a service level review of Neighborhood Services.
- Support inter-departmental actions related to Community Safety and Well-Being Framework.



Prepared by the
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