



SERVICE, SAVINGS & SUSTAINABILITY



# Land Acknowledgement



Reconciliation

SASKATOON

We acknowledge that our community is located on **Treaty**6 **Territory** and the **Traditional**Homeland of the **Métis**.

Indigenous peoples including Métis, Cree, Dakota, Dene, and Saulteaux have called the area now referred to as Saskatoon home for thousands of years. Today, Saskatoon is home to Indigenous peoples from a diversity of cultures and language groups.

The City of Saskatoon (City) recognizes the distinct order of government of First Nations and Métis and is committed to maintaining strong relationships through meaningful dialogue with Indigenous communities and organizations.

Strengthening cooperation and mutual support by working in partnership with Indigenous communities toward respective community goals and objectives is vital to fostering more inclusive communities.



# Introduction

The **2022 Service, Savings & Sustainability Report** highlights how the City of Saskatoon is committed to continuous improvement and providing the best possible service to meet the changing needs of a growing and diverse community.

Despite navigating post-pandemic challenges, continued lower revenues and the pressures of global inflation, this report showcases how the City captured year-over-year savings, found new efficiencies and managed the City smartly and sustainably in 2022.

Reflected are highlights of how the City, as a steward of taxpayer dollars, explored innovative and creative means to enhance the delivery of essential core services residents rely on now and in the future.

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# Message from the Mayor & City Council



From L to R: Councillor Bev Dubois, Ward 9; Councillor Randy Donauer, Ward 5; Councillor David Kirton, Ward 3; Councillor Hilary Gough, Ward 2; Mayor Charlie Clark; Councillor Mairin Loewen, Ward 7; Councillor Zach Jeffries, Ward 10; Councillor Cynthia Block, Ward 6; Councillor Darren Hill, Ward 1; Councillor Sarina Gersher, Ward 8; and Councillor Troy Davies, Ward 4.

Cost savings and efficiencies, improving service delivery, and taking strides towards greater sustainability are all areas residents expect to see continual improvements on. This report details how City of Saskatoon employees continue to do exactly that.

Whether it's providing more services online, piloting touchless pedestrian activation signals that will be implemented downtown in 2023, adding GPS routing for fixing potholes, or bringing in Transit Service Alerts to make service more predictable, these are all ways that make life easier for residents.

Long term financial savings were found this past year in departments across the corporation. They were done through innovations and efficiencies. Some examples include expanding a parks irrigation project, reducing properties being leased, and securing better IT contracts.

I'm continually impressed by the way City staff are collaborative problem solvers and find new ways to improve the city we live in. I know that City employees will continue to be creative in presenting new ideas and new ways to do their work, and the work of the City, to meet the needs and expectations of residents.

**Charlie Clark** 

Mayor

# Message from the 2022 Executive Leadership Team



From L to R: **Terry Schmidt**, General Manager, Transportation & Construction; **Celene Anger**, Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer; **Angela Gardiner**, General Manager, Utilities & Environment; **Morgan Hackl**, Fire Chief; **Adam Tittemore**, City Clerk; **Jeff Jorgenson**, City Manager; **Lynne Lacroix**, General Manager, Community Services; **Mike Jordan**, Chief Public Policy & Government Relations Officer; **Cindy Yelland**, City Solicitor; **Clae Hack**, Chief Financial Officer; and **Marno McInnes**, Chief Human Resources Officer.

This report highlights the many ways our City teams worked together to improve services, identify savings and efficiencies and enhance our sustainability.

Our commitment to finding new and better ways remained strong. Just a few highlights of the improvements made include the implementation of a GPS-based routing system for pothole repair crews to reduce travel time, implementing creative solutions to reduce flooding in older neighbourhoods, and the launch of an OnDemand Transit (ODT) service – an innovative and cost-effective solution for neighbourhoods with a growing demand for transit.

To make things easier to do business with the City, we moved building and plumbing permits online, launched SmartUTIL - a new online tool to support residential and commercial utility customers, and we made upgrades to our online payment system.

On the sustainability front, Saskatoon became the first large city in the province to require recycling at businesses and organizations in 2022. This new program and existing residential diversion programs will keep moving the city's waste diversion towards 70%.

The year-over-year improvements we make have helped the City retain strong citizen satisfaction ratings as demonstrated in our last <u>2021 Civic Satisfaction & Performance Survey</u>\* where 88% of residents agreed they are satisfied with the quality of services provided by the City of Saskatoon.

In 2022, we also announced the formation of a new department to advance Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) – a key council priority area.

I'm proud of all the important work that has been achieved by those throughout the City. These improvements are a testament to the hard work, creativity and resourcefulness of City of Saskatoon employees who continue to deliver civic services, programs and infrastructure that our community relies upon every day.

#### Jeff Jorgenson

City Manager, on behalf of the Executive Leadership Team

# Public Engagement



# Awards & Recognition













## **Engaging with the Community**

The City gradually returned to offering in-person public engagement in 2022 following two years of virtual engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual engagement options will continue to be offered to accommodate various situations and preferences.

### 2022 Public Engagement Initiatives

- > Bylaw to protect trees on public property
- > Corridor Plan for College Drive
- > Dog parks for small dogs
- > Dry stormwater pond in Weaver Park
- > Improving engagement practices with USask students
- > Location options for a Downtown event centre and arena
- Park developments
- > Potential extension of 17th Street W
- > Public art on future Bus Rapid Transit routes
- > Regulatory framework for e-scooters
- > Renewable energy strategy
- > Study of nuisances in residential areas from heavy industry
- > Walking and cycling improvements on Avenue C

To everyone who provided input on public engagement issues in 2022—thank you! Decisions made at the City are better informed when public and stakeholder perspectives, opinions and concerns are considered. Check out current engagement opportunities at saskatoon.ca/engage.









## Reaffirmed! 21st 'AAA'/Stable Credit Rating

In 2022, S&P Global reaffirmed the City of Saskatoon's credit rating as the highest rating possible, a 'AAA' credit rating with a stable outlook. The City has maintained the 'AAA'/Stable credit rating for 20 years. The rationale identified the City's "strong and prudent financial management as a key

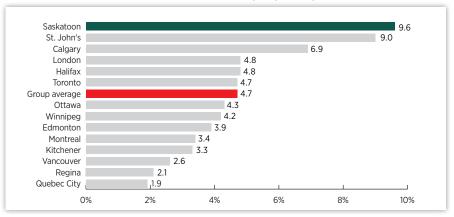


credit strength" and noted "the City's management team was experienced and qualified to effectively enact fiscal policies and respond to external risks."

# **Highest Year-Over-Year Employment Growth**

The Saskatoon Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) led the way in 2022 both in year-over-year employment growth and the highest employment rate as measured by Statistics Canada's annual Labour Force Survey. The survey showed Saskatoon CMA had the highest relative year-over-year employment growth at 9.6% and the country's highest employment rate at 68.3%.

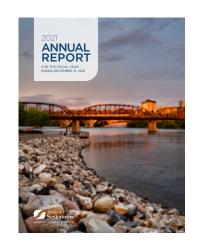
### Year-over-Year (2022 over 2021) Percent Change, Number of Persons Employed by CMA



Source: Statistics Canada Table 14-10-0385-01, Labour Force Characteristics Annual

# 15<sup>th</sup> National Financial Award

For the 15th consecutive year, the City of Saskatoon received the Canadian Award for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The award recognized the City's commitment to high standards, financial transparency and accountability in its 2021 Annual Report.



# Highest Annual Job Growth

Saskatoon also recorded the highest annual job growth over the last 15 years, according to the Labour Force Survey. This meant there were 16,700 more persons employed relative to 2021, accounting for 84% of all employment growth in Saskatchewan in 2022. More reasons why Saskatoon is a great place to live, work, learn and play!

# Kudos from Saskatoon Residents













### **Garbage Collection Kudos**

"I just saw our garbage truck driver go above and beyond to provide service to my neighbour and would like to extend my complements and thanks to him and the entire team working out in the cold today!"



#### **Kudos to the Graders**

"Kudos to the graders who cleared the back lane on the 2600 blk of Broadway Avenue. Caller was really happy that it was cleared, because over 10 cars had gotten stuck blocking access to the back lane for collection.

So thank you for making it accessible!'

#### **Back Lane Crew Kudos**

"A resident would like to pass along a thank you for the beautiful job done on the back lane of Tomlinson Cres."



### **Parks Crew Kudos**

"Thank you to the crews cleaning, mowing and trimming our beautiful parks. Doing a great job!"

#### Parks Kudos

"The neighbourhood has changed for the better since [W.W. Ashley District] park opened. I have noticed that the local high school students bring their lunch to the park. It is called the 'Second Bowl.' This I assume is a reference to the first one - the U of S Bowl. People walk around the rim of the 'Second Bowl.' They are all ages and sit on the benches and chat. ... Children roll like logs down the slopes. ... The park/storm pond is a great complement to the library, pool and waterslide, playground and paddling pool, which are all on the same block of land. Please convey our compliments .. for a JOB WELL DONE."



### **Street Sweeping Kudos**

"A resident called in to thank crews sweeping 2200 block of East Hill said they did an amazing job - nothing was missed!'



### **Kudos Landscaping Team**

"A resident on Waterloo Cres would like to thank the landscaping team that came and fixed the grass on the boulevard. They did a wonderful job and the grass took and it looks amazing."

### **Water Crew Kudos**

"A resident on the 1600 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N called to say what a wonderful and professional job the crews did when cleaning the

Wanted to make sure their supervisors were aware of how amazing their crews are."

#### **Water Kudos**

"A resident called in to say thank you for all the effort and hard work the City put in to getting their frozen water connection thawed.

Between diagnosing, having water delivered, and after a few attempts we were finally able to get the water running again for her.

She sees how much work went in to this and really appreciates all we do!"

### **Amazing Service**

"I'd like to thank your crew for the amazing service and help we have gotten with the clearing of our alley way at the end of 33rd street west this season.

Normally the snow drifts gather up on our garage doors and don't allow us to use our alley. Those guys and gals have been here so quickly this year and cleared our way very nicely!

Big Thanks to you guys!"

# Kudos for Snow Removal













### **Snow Removal Kudos**

"A resident called in and wanted to say THANK YOU to whomever cleared the snow on Haslam Court. Awesome job!"

### **Snow Removal Kudos**

"A resident would like to thank the roadways crew for doing such a good job with snow removal and sanding this year. He is very impressed with the quality and frequency."

### **Snow Removal Kudos**

"A resident called in to say a big thank you to the roadways crew for clearing her backlane speedily on Richardson Rd."



### **Roadways Kudos**

"To the roadwork crew. service Saskatoon and all city staff that arranged grading of city streets, THANK YOU for the swift action to address the ice ruts. This week our back-lane was even graded which was totally unexpected and is a huge help as we have a detached garage and had some pretty nasty ruts behind our garage. The road grading was done very quickly and efficiently, THANK YOU!! :)"

### **Snow Removal Kudos**

"A resident would like to say a big thank the city for prioritizing removing a bunch of the melting/ slushy snow during the last couple days from the deep freeze. It sure is a lot easier to drive on the streets that have had the slush removed, and I noticed a bunch of the plowed piles near sidewalks have also been removed recently. Thanks for all the hard work the snow and ice removal team puts in with our temperamental weather!"

#### **Amazing Service**

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Normally the snow drifts gather up on our garage doors and don't allow us to use our alley. Those guys and gals have been here so quickly this year and cleared our way very nicely!

Big Thanks to you guys!"

### **Snow & Ice Kudos**

I would just like to say Kudos to the snow removal crews for the excellent service this winter.

We live on Kerr Road and greatly appreciate that the snow was not only removed from the front of our driveway but also in front of the mail boxes beside our driveway.

Please pass our thanks on to the people who are out there in the bitter cold and middle of night to ensure that our roads are clean and safe!

#### **Roadways Kudos**

"A resident wants to thank the roadways crew for clearing the back lane and making it passable on Trent Cres."

### **Roadways Kudos**

"A resident on Oliver Cres would like to say thank you for grading her street, as well as the back alley. She was also very happy with how quickly you came back to remove the windrow that had been left blocking her gate."

#### **Snow Removal Kudos**

"I wanted to say to whoever did the snow removal last night on 115th St, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! This person was amazing on the grader. I have to park my car on the street every year and I shovel the show away so my son can park on the street. This person did not pile the snow anywhere near my car, in fact left a lot of room so we could pull in and out easily. I am so grateful to that person that they deserve a huge thank you, and \$20 bucks to have coffee on me."

### **Snow Removal Kudos**

"I wanted to thank the City of Saskatoon snow removal crew for all their hard work, efforts and long hours. I truly appreciate how well our roads are maintained in the winter time. You are truly appreciate it!!!!!"

### **Roadways Kudos**

"Very happy that the roadways crew were able to come clear the snow on Albany Cres. Victor wants to send a big thank you to the roadways department for doing a perfect job on the road after the water main break on Assiniboine."





### **Roadways Crew Kudos**

"Resident from Blakeney Cres wanted to call and express his gratitude to the crews who cleared the back lake that always gets snow blown in from the field across from them. He did not have to call us to complain and wait to have it cleared but it was already done this morning."

# Improving Our Services

# **Veteran Parking Pilot**

On November 1, 2022, the City launched a year-long pilot program to allow anyone with SGI-registered Veteran license plates to park free in pay parking zones for the posted time limit.

This pilot project eliminated the paperwork and processing time involved in applying for the Veteran Parking Permit program.

The pilot ends in October 2023. Data will be reviewed to determine impacts on user receptivity, parking supply, turnover and revenue.



# Free Veteran Parking

Between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023 parking in Saskatoon's public pay zones will be free of charge for Saskatchewan Veterans with Veteran plates within the posted time restrictions.



## **Touchless Accessible Pedestrian Signals**

A new pedestrian-actuated crossing at Redberry Road and Reindeer Road, adjacent to Lawson Heights School, was installed with a touchless accessible signal—the first of its kind in the City. The signal uses sound and a vibrating arrow to assist blind and deafblind users; it can be activated by pressing or waving a hand in front of the button. It was a pilot for a larger Downtown project in 2023, funded through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.



## **GPS Routing for Pothole Repairs**

In 2022, the City introduced new GPS-based software to plan and record pothole repairs. The software collects pothole locations and plans the most efficient repair order and route. Nearly 50% more potholes were reported by residents in 2022 compared to 2021, but with the help of the new software, pothole repair time dropped by 25%.

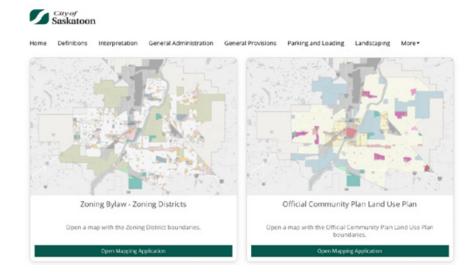


## **Streamlining Sidewalk Repair**

New processes were implemented to assess sidewalk safety concerns reported by residents and to prioritize and plan repairs. The new processes streamlined inspection of sidewalk condition and provided a framework for prioritizing repairs. As a result, nearly six times the total sidewalk repairs were completed in 2022 and 2021 compared to 2020.

## **Zoning Bylaw Goes Digital**

In May 2022, finding information on zoning in Saskatoon got a lot easier thanks to the new Digital Zoning Bylaw system. The online version of Bylaw 8770 – Zoning Bylaw, 2009 makes it easier to find zoning information on specific areas of the city through an easy-to-navigate interface and interactive maps. The online system lets builders, homeowners and anyone else easily find the information they need at <a href="mailto:saskatoon.ca/digitalzoningbylaw">saskatoon.ca/digitalzoningbylaw</a>.



## **Wastewater Plant Upgrades Complete**

In June, the 3-year, \$48.2 million upgrade to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester and Heating Upgrades Project was completed. The major upgrade improves plant capacity and helps maintain Water Security Agency processing standards. The City received funding from the Government of Canada (\$9.5 million) and Government of Saskatchewan (\$9.5 million) through the New Building Canada Fund, in addition to investing \$29.2 million.

# Flood Mitigation Pond Put to the Test

Residents in the Haultain and Queen Elizabeth neighbourhoods are resting a little easier knowing there is less likelihood of their properties flooding during intense rainfalls.

A new dry storm pond in W.W. Ashley District Park officially opened in October 2022, but it had already proven its value by preventing local flooding during a significant rain event in June.

The new dry storm pond is the first of nine to be completed under the City's Flood Control Strategy. The federal government's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund contributed \$21.6 million towards the strategy.



# Improving Our Services

# Speed Limits in School & Playground Zones

To enhance safety in areas where children learn and play, the City extended 30 km/h speed limits in School Zones, introduced speed limits for new Playground Zones and installed approximately 4,000 road signs before September 1.

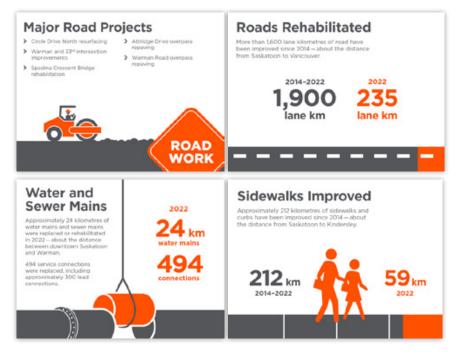
School and Playground Zone speed limits are 30 km/h from 7a.m. to 7p.m. every day, year round. The reduced speed limit was removed from High School Zones to align with national guidance.



# **Investing in Roads, Sidewalks, Water Mains & Service Connections**

Every year, the City invests over \$60 million to rehabilitate, improve or replace hundreds of kilometres of roads, sidewalks, water mains and service connections. A major rehabilitation project on Circle Drive North involved rebuilding deteriorated curbs and medians between Alberta and Millar Avenue and repaving eastbound lanes.

Other major projects included intersection resurfacing and adding a right-hand turning lane on Warman Road southbound onto 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, rehabilitating the Spadina Crescent Bridge and repaying the Attridge Drive overpass at Circle Drive.



## **No-dig Sewer Connection Replacement**

A pilot project tested a new technique for replacing fibre sewer service connections, which run from sewer mains in streets to individual properties. The process allows a structural liner to be inserted into the existing sewer connection without excavation and with minimal disruption to residences.

Lessons learned during the pilot will enable the City to plan future projects where no-dig sewer connection rehabilitation is a viable alternative.

# Winter in Saskatoon

### Snow & Ice Report

The City created a new report to update residents on winter maintenance activities and progress through a snow event. This keeps residents updated while ensuring early, accurate information sharing with local media, Councillors and Customer Care Centre. The report is shared via email, service alert and at saskatoon.ca/snowreport.



### Roadways Emergency Response Plan

Saskatoon received approximately 34 centimetres of snow between December 25–28, 2022, prompting the City to activate the Roadways Emergency Response Plan. First approved by Council in 2021 using lessons learned from the extreme snowfall event of 2020, the plan provided the City with a phased approach to ensuring public safety and restoring mobility after an extreme snow event

2022 marked the first time the plan was used. City and contractor crews focused on clearing driving lanes on priority streets, transit routes and routes to emergency facilities, then all residential streets—totalling approximately 5,600 lane kilometres. Once all streets were graded, city-wide snow removal began.

### School Zone Snow Removal

Phase one of the School Zone Snow Removal project was completed over the winter of 2021–2022, with phase two taking place over the winter 2022–2023. Using in-person and virtual engagement sessions with internal and external stakeholders, the project has resulted in a number of actions items designed to improve clarity, consistency and standard of work, enhance communication and support continuous improvement.



# Improving Our Transit Services

## **The Transit Experience**

### **Transit Service Alerts**

Saskatoon Transit worked with Information Technology to improve service alerts for buses. The new process communicates simultaneously with the real-time mobile app and the transit website, providing updates when regularly scheduled frequency is temporarily reduced, service is delayed by more than 15 minutes, stops are temporarily closed, routing is temporarily altered or additional service is provided to assist with busy routes.



As of January 2023, Saskatoon Transit has over 20,000 riders subscribed to push notification service alerts in the transit app and over 22,000 monthly active users.

#### **On-Demand Transit**

In August 2022, the City launched the OnDemand Transit as part of the regular service in newer neighbourhoods such as Brighton, North Kensington, Blairmore and Rosewood. Transit riders in those areas can request a pickup or a drop off from designated bus stops to the nearest transit hubs and vice versa.

OnDemand Transit is a cost-effective solution in neighbourhoods with growing demand for transit, but where neighbourhood buildout does not support fixed route transit. In such areas, a growing number of municipal transit agencies are moving to microtransit services due to decreased cost, reduced environmental footprint, increased coverage, and improved rider convenience.

### **Experience Transit**

Experience Transit is a free program designed to teach people how to use public transit safely and independently. In 2022, the program collaborated with 10 organizations to train their staff as part of Experience Transit<sup>2</sup>, provided 36 group presentations and delivered 37 one-on-one travel training sessions.

Group sessions with grade 8 classes prepared students to take the bus the following year to high school while also promoting the ClassPass program, which allows teachers to use Saskatoon Transit for free to take students on class trips.

"I truly appreciate you offering this to our students. I look forward to taking a bus trip with my class this spring." - Grade 8 Teacher

"I think the students enjoyed the presentation, and it helped them feel more comfortable taking the bus next year to high school!"

- Grade 8 Teacher





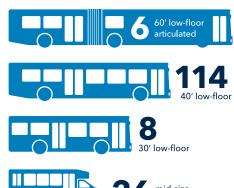
PER YEAR using formula-based ridership on Fixed-Route Transit

Approximately 4.9M using electronic-based ridership













~1,500 bus stops

276 km of streets

Sts A

41 routes

terminals

# Reconciliation & Inclusion

# **Red Dress Installation**

To commemorate Red Dress Day on May 5th, the City installed a Red Dress Display in the lobby of City Hall. The red dress has become a symbol of solidarity with families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirit persons (MMIWG2S) and a way to acknowledge disproportionate and systemic violence against Indigenous women and girls. On May 18, the City co-hosted a panel discussion on Creating Safe Spaces for IWG2S persons.



### **Let's Talk: Reconciliation Conversations**

The City is co-chair of Reconciliation Saskatoon, a community of organizations, non-profits, businesses and other partners who have come together to initiate a city-wide conversation on reconciliation and provide opportunities to engage in TRC Calls to Action. In 2022, five Reconciliation Talks were held that were open to everyone.



### MMIWG2S Walk

In April, a cross-country walk to raise awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2 Spirit persons (MMIWG2S) reached Saskatoon. City of Saskatoon Councillor David Kirton and City staff were honoured to meet with organizers and supporters. Krista Fox, a spokesperson for the family of Ashley Morin (last seen in North Battleford in July 2018) and Lindsey Bishop, the sister of Megan Gallagher (last seen alive in Saskatoon in September 2020) led the walk.

## **Indigenous History Month**

To recognize National Indigenous History Month in June, the City raised the Reconciliation Saskatoon flag in Civic Square and posted events and learning resources on <u>Saskatoon.ca/Indigenous</u>. City staff participated in a Tipi Teaching and Pipe Ceremony and Saskatoon Transit unveiled a fourth bus shelter displaying Indigenous artwork (885 Confederation Drive).



# **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

The City recognized the 2022 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in many ways, including raising the new Residential School Survivors flag in Civic Square, making orange decals available for staff to apply to City vehicles (including firetrucks and buses) and partnering with Saskatoon Tribal Council on the Orange Banner Project (orange banners displayed roadside in September-October).

A Blanket Workshop on September 16 gave employees a chance to learn about Reconciliation through an immersive experience. The City also co-organized the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation.









# Final Wîcihitowin Conference

In November 2022, the City helped deliver the 8<sup>th</sup> and final Wîcihitowin Indigenous Engagement Conference. Residential School Survivors gifted conference attendees with wisdom they've gathered, and keynote speakers from across the country shared their wisdom and experience.







# Reconciliation & Inclusion

## **Allyship at Work**

An ally is someone who does not self-identify as a member of a specific group but supports inclusion for members of that group. Having allies in the workplace can increase job satisfaction, engagement, sense of belonging and productivity.

The importance of allyship inspired the development and delivery of resources and learning opportunities for City staff, including how to support marginalized groups and how to demonstrate sponsorship and advocacy publicly.



## **Celebrating 9th Urban Reserve**

On December 14, 2022, City Council held a special signing ceremony with Pelican Lake First Nation to designate the First Nation's land at 1944 St. George Ave, the site of Adam's Lumber, as an urban reserve. The federal government makes decisions on reserve designation. This area will become the ninth urban reserve in Saskatoon. The City welcomes new urban reserves and the many benefits they bring, including economic investment, education, employment and cultural opportunities. For more information, visit saskatoon.ca/urbanreserves.



## Established the Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Department

To support a One-City approach to City Council's REDI Priority Area, the REDI Department was formed to be responsible and accountable for identifying and addressing barriers that people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, race, abilities, age, gender/orientation, and such experience at the City or when engaging City services, policies, and programs. The goal of the department is to strengthen and further advance the City's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and reconciliation.











# Enhancements & Our Continuous Improvement

# **Council Adopts New Strategic Plan**

In January 2022, Council approved the **2022-2025** Strategic Plan, the document that sets direction and priorities for the City over the next four years. Along with the Official Community Plan and Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget, the Strategic Plan ensures City programs and services continue to address the changing needs of our community, while keeping within our financial means. The plan is available at saskatoon.ca/StrategicPlan.



# **Upgrades to Online Payment System**

Online payment systems were upgraded in 2022 to ensure City systems keep up-to-date on the latest security standards. The critical update impacts all online payment systems, including parking tickets, business licenses, leisure registration and more.

# **In-Person Council Meetings Resume**

After conducting virtual meetings for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City Council and its Committees resumed in-person meetings in April and reopened the Council Chamber to the public. The public had the option of attending meetings in-person or virtually, and Council proceedings continued to be made available via live stream video link.



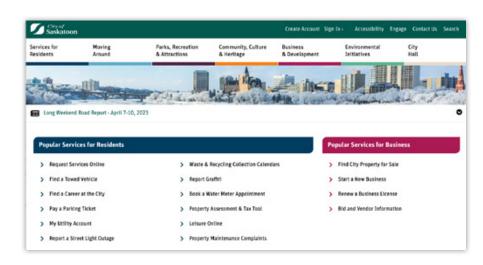
To enhance accessibility, the City also added closed captioning to the live Council stream.

## **New App Helps Manage Water Incidents**

The water valve turning application underwent a significant upgrade. The new application provides accurate data to City employees in the field. It provides information on which valves to operate when trying to isolate a water segment and the impact that isolation will cause. It also has the potential to support Drinking Water Advisories by identifying affected properties and improve citizen safety by noting hydrant impact for Saskatoon Fire.

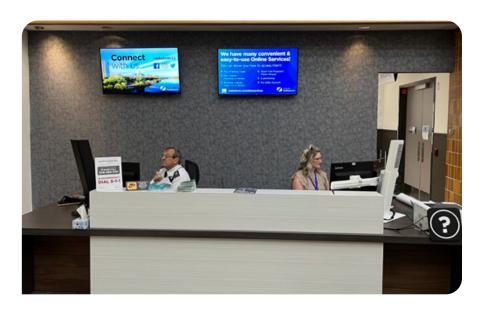
## **Tweaking Saskatoon.ca**

The City upgraded its public facing website, <u>saskatoon.ca</u> to ensure residents, visitors, businesses and stakeholders continue to have easy access to online functions, essential services and timely information.



## **Security Updates at City Hall**

A number of updates to the City Hall lobby improved security and customer service. Visitors check in at a new Customer Care kiosk and City employees use corporate ID cards to use stairwells and elevators (non-employees can still access the 4<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria and ground floor exits). The lobby was also outfitted with new digital messaging screens and three new meeting rooms have been created.



## **Online Tool Supports Utility Customers**

In 2022, the City launched SmartUTIL, an easy-to-use online tool for residential and commercial utility customers. Accessed through My Utility Account, SmartUTIL customers can view their water and electricity usage, set spending alerts and take steps to reduce their environmental impact by managing usage.



# City Advocates for Residents After Flood

Many Saskatoon residents experienced flooding and property damage during the extreme rainfall event on June 20, 2022. To help citizens recoup some of the costs of flood damage, the City Solicitor worked with the provincial government to ensure residents would be eligible for financial assistance under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program.



# Right to Know Week

The City acknowledged national Right to Know Week, September 26-October 2, to raise awareness of citizens' right to access information and the benefits of open, transparent government.

The City also made enhancements to its Access to Information webpage, adding online request for information forms, online payment of fees, a more detailed overview of costs, Frequently Asked Questions, and dedicated pages on types of information requests.

# Enhancements & Our Continuous Improvement

# Cybersecurity Is Everyone's Responsibility

### **Email Protection**

The City introduced new cybersecurity measures to email systems, including a new 'Report Message' option in Outlook to let employees report suspected phishing emails and a 'Safe Links and Safe Attachments' feature to guard against phishing attempts and malicious software.

### Multi-Factor Authentication

The City implemented Multi-Factor Authentication to defend against account takeover attacks—the most common type of cyber attack. The system requires users to present two or more credentials to verify their identity. This protects account information as well as critical infrastructure such as water and electricity.

### **Penetration Testing**

22

The City contracted Certified Ethical Hackers to perform "penetration testing," which involves attempting to gain physical/digital access to the City's network. The consultant shared a report on how easy (or hard) it was to bypass standard security protocols and identified potential security weaknesses.



### **Enterprise Security Assessment**

As part of ongoing work to protect sensitive information from cyber attack, the City conducted an Enterprise Security Assessment to identify potential vulnerabilities. The assessment highlighted critical weaknesses by identifying risks and noted where compliance requirements needed strengthening and security procedures needed enhancing.

### **Online Transaction**

The online payment system was updated to ensure the City meets standards for secure financial transactions. This means residents/customers need to use debit cards with a Visa or Mastercard logo on the front to make online payments. Residents/customers must also use a compatible, up-to-date internet browser, device and operating system.

## **Building & Plumbing Permits Go Online**

In 2022, the Cornerstone Project enabled online application for residential and commercial building permits and plumbing permits. The system lets customers track where their application request is in the process, while also saving the City annual paper, postage and fuel costs.

### **Command 9**

A partnership among the City, Saskatoon Fire Department, Saskatoon Police Service and Emergency Management Organization, the Command 9 mobile unit is used as an Incident Command Post during events and emergencies. In 2022, the unit (a retrofitted recreational vehicle) was updated to incorporate a printer, camera, backup LTE router and direct connection with City radio communications.

## New Management Software for Compost Depots

Compost Depot Management Software was implemented at the City's two seasonal compost depots to help meet growing operational demands in a more efficient and costeffective manner. Centralized plant management software provides a more reliable system for windrow monitoring, inventory, cost control, client visits, record keeping and business management.





# Enhancements & Our Continuous Improvement

# In Case of Extreme Cold Weather ...

Saskatoon's Emergency
Management Organization
(EMO) coordinated the
Extreme Cold Weather
Emergency Response Plan
(ECWERP) for Saskatoon
and worked with partner
organizations to ensure
everyone had access to a
safe location when Saskatoon
experienced extreme cold or
severe weather.

Partners collaborated to provide options for those who are unhoused, including outreach services, emergency shelters, access to emergency social services and more.



## Flip, Flip, Hurray!

The weather cooperated and an excellent crowd turned out for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Civic Pancake Breakfast on June 16. Great fun was had battering, buttering and serving up over 1,370 hearty pancake breakfasts. Attendees, volunteers and valued sponsors helped raise a record-setting \$9,783 (including tips) for the United Way Saskatoon & Area.

The first-ever Act of Kindness board (sponsored by Saskatoon City Employees Credit Union) donated 83 extra breakfast tickets for people needing a hot breakfast that morning. Well done, Saskatoon!

In keeping with the goal of a zero-waste Civic Pancake Breakfast, the event diverted a whopping 89.8 kg (or 197.97 lbs) of waste from the landfill. Well done, Saskatoon!











## **Upgrades to City Yards**

Work continued on improving site safety, security and efficiency at the City Yards, a hub for many essential services (e.g. roadways, fleet, transportation, water, waste operations).

- ➤ New fibre optics were installed in service buildings, resulting in higher connection speeds, greater bandwidth and a more secure, reliable network. Trenching and main fibre trunk installation were completed, with final building connections to be completed in 2023.
- > Construction of a new fuel island was completed with installation of above-ground fuel storage tanks, eight fuel pumps and security improvements (cameras, card readers).
- The main entrance gate at King Street was completed and new pedestrian gates were installed at 25th Street, King Street and Princess Street. Secondary gates were installed at Princess Street and exit gates at Ontario Avenue.
- ➤ A 24-hour guard at the King Street main entrance gate was added to increase security for employees, buildings and equipment.





# **Introduction of Managed Print**

The City has embarked on a managed print initiative with our vendor partner WBM.

- > SERVICE: increased print efficiency, improved document security, introduction of a standardized "follow me anywhere" print ability.
- > **SAVINGS:** \$5,500 annually in savings due to deleted/ expired print jobs.
- > SUSTAINABILITY: 190,000 pages NOT printed equivalent to: 5 gas-powered cars driven for 3 months / 4.3 homes' electricity for 3 months / the carbon sequestered by 26 acres of forest in 3 months / 1.9 tons of waste recycled instead of landfilled.



# Saskatoon Fire Department

### Ladder 1 Enters Service

The Saskatoon Fire Department's (SFD) newest aerial entered service in the summer of 2022—Ladder 1 is SFD's first-ever midship aerial. The location of the aerial turntable in the middle of the apparatus creates a lower profile and shorter overall vehicle length, while maintaining the 30-metre extension capability. Ladder 1 has the most powerful pump in the SFD fleet and can distribute water at 2,000 gallons per minute.



### **Did You Know?**

During a significant snowfall, SFD temporarily relocates its fleet to ensure all fire stations are equipped with 4x4s. The 4x4 vehicles serve as pilot vehicles to support apparatus response and are sometimes used to transport crews into areas where snow accumulation has made transportation difficult.



## **Partnering on Overdose Outreach Team**

In December 2022, SFD officially partnered with Saskatchewan Health Authority to create an Overdose Outreach Team. The team includes a Fire Inspector/Paramedic and a Mental Health and Addictions Support Worker who connect with clients after an overdose event and help them access the supports and care they need to start on a path of recovery. The OOT



provides support and connection to follow-up care, as well as harm reduction education and supplies in hope of reducing the risk of overdose and other drug-related harms.

## **New Homelessness Support Model**

Fire Inspectors took a proactive approach to identifying inadequate housing in several neighbourhoods to help reduce homelessness and risk of fires. Close to 600 interactions occurred with those living unsafe, and over 70 people accepted a connection to services. Relationship building was critical to the successes realized. Collaboration with other agencies led to expanded partnerships and greater outcomes.

### **Kinsmen Fund AEDs**

In November 2022, an agreement was signed between SFD and the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon to fund the replacement of 25 Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), two trainer AEDs and a data package that will result in savings of over \$20,000.

## **Exploring Green Assets**

SFD continued to explore sustainable options to decrease the carbon emissions emitted by its fossil fuel-powered assets. SFD already uses 60 pieces of battery-operated equipment for frontline suppression and prevention (chainsaws, positive-pressure fans, light sources). The newly constructed Fire Station No. 5 is being equipped with solar panels to offset electrical consumption and two EV charging stations for civic passenger vehicles.



# **Breaking Ground on New Facilities**

### Station No. 5

In April 2022, SFD broke ground on a new, state-of-the-art fire station on Preston Avenue near 108<sup>th</sup> Street. The new station will replace 56-year-old Fire Station No. 5 on Central Avenue in Sutherland. It will be operational by the summer of 2023, at which time, the Central Avenue station will be decommissioned.

### **Regional Training Facility**

In September 2022, SFD broke ground on a new regional training facility on 40 acres of land located north of Saskatoon in the RM of Corman Park. The new site will provide dedicated indoor and outdoor space for controlled training. It will also broaden year-round training opportunities for SFD staff, regional fire departments, public safety agencies and industrial responders.

### **SFD Reporting**

SFD's Key Performance Indicators dashboard was updated to provide SFD with more detailed, accurate data. The dashboard is used to gather statistical information that is used to measure travel times, monitor areas of growth and address service coverage across the city.

# Fusion: Our Largest Business Transformation

# Through our new business processes, to date, the City has gained:

- ◆ \$598,000 annual direct cost savings from retired software licenses
- \$371,000 in annual value savings from better datadriven decision-making at Saskatoon Water
- Reduction of fraud risk by reducing the number of buyer roles



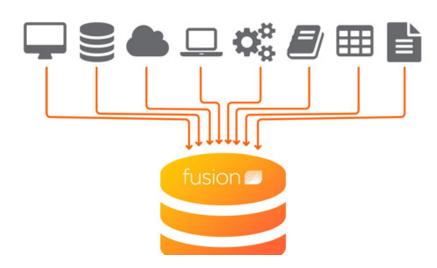
In 2019, the City of Saskatoon embarked on its largest business transformation and modernization initiative in its history, with the implementation of Fusion, the City's first Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

Powered by SAP, which is an integrated system used by many municipalities and Fortune 500 companies worldwide to manage business activities and improve processes, the City began its journey to modernize and standardize over 279 business processes.

For the first time, SAP has unified the management of the City's resources and connected cross-business processes, shifting towards one master data source. It improves controls, facilitates information flow for data-driven decision-making, and enhances the City's effectiveness and efficiency.

Through SAP, the City continues to advance its business transformational vision, efficiencies, and will realize ongoing savings by adopting industry best practices in the areas of Finance, Human Capital Management, Supply Chain Management and Enterprise Asset Management.

SAP is a long-term investment, and much work lies ahead. We will continue to work together on business transformation to improve processes, standardize work, and provide employees with better tools and, information to make data-driven decisions. All of this change will ultimately benefit residents and businesses, who expect and deserve exceptional organizational efficiency.





# Savings Achieved in 2022 - Highlights

## **Lot 11 Lease Termination**

Savings: \$190,000

In April and October each year, the City assesses the parking needs and assigns parking privileges for civic employees working downtown. To accommodate employee parking, the City leased Lot 11 on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from a private landholder.

Given work-from-home circumstances and corresponding decrease in parking demand following the pandemic, the City terminated this lease and shifted existing parking demand to other civic parking lots. This saves the City approximately \$190,000 per year, when accounting for lease payments and operating expenses.

## Wide Area Network (WAN) Contract

Savings: \$126,000

In 2022, the City signed a new contract for Wide Area Network (WAN) services that has resulted in greater flexibility in implementation and savings of \$126,000 annually.

### **Water Conservation in Parks**

Savings: \$98,000

An irrigation pilot in the summer of 2022 used software and weather information to reduce the amount of water used in irrigating municipal parks. The system considers rainfall, temperature and wind to determine the amount of irrigation needed to maintain turf quality. Building on a 2021 pilot of 10 parks, the 2022 project involved 46 test areas. The pilot surpassed expectations, reducing water use by approximately 39 million litres and realizing cost savings of \$98,000.



## **Industry Standards Subscription**

Savings: \$50,000

Since 2015, the City has held multiple subscriptions to provide key departments with access to standards information (ASTM, CSA, ISO, etc.) Growing interest in standards information across departments meant growing requests for access. To accommodate this, the City evaluated alternatives and moved to ANSI online subscription. ANSI provides access to titles and catalogues from 140 standards organizations worldwide at a more affordable price. Eleven departments across the City now use ANSI, saving the City approximately \$50,000 annually.

## **Articulate Software Licenses**

Savings: \$24,000

Articulate is a desktop software used by a number of City departments for documenting processes and creating training material. In 2022, individual licenses for Articulate were consolidated into a three-year corporate contract, resulting in \$24,000 in savings over the term of the contract. In addition, license renewals now have the same date, reducing the administrative overhead of license management.

## **Saskatoon Home Energy Loan Program**

Savings: \$20,211 in Utility Costs, \$1,355 in Carbon Tax Charges

Saskatoon's Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) is the province's first property tax-based energy financing program. The City provides low-interest loans to incentivize Saskatoon homeowners to complete renovations to improve energy efficiency, install renewable energy and reduce water consumption.

HELP was launched in 2021 and expanded in 2022 with \$3.66M in grant funds and \$7.33M loan funds from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The loan supported 244 applicants. In their economic analysis of the program, the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority estimated that all upgrades completed in the program's first year have resulted in combined annual savings of 206,961 kWh in electricity use, \$20,211 in utility costs, \$1,355 in carbon tax charges and 283 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.





# Water & Sewer Data Model Change

Savings: \$12.100

The City updated its water and sewer GIS data model to an industry-standard model that allows implementation of out-of-the-box applications (instead of having to customize/create new applications) as well as live access to production source data. Eliminating and/or reducing the City's dependency on other software/databases achieves savings of \$12,100 annually.

# Saskatoon Land Financial Contribution - Highlights

Since 2007, Saskatoon Land has generated \$139.65 million in net proceeds from the sale of property in Hampton Village, Willowgrove, Evergreen, Aspen Ridge and Rosewood. Saskatoon Land is one of the largest self-financed municipal land development programs in Canada. Self-financed means the cost of all business operations is covered by revenue generated by land sales and not through property taxes. This revenue is also used to fund capital projects such as roads, affordable housing and leisure amenities. Many of these projects would otherwise need to be funded through property tax or borrowing.









In 2022, Saskatoon Land continued to deliver financial returns to the City for allocation to civic projects and programs.

## **2022 Sales Highlights:**

- **> \$77 million** total sales revenues generated
- **\$45.8 million** from 364 residential lots sold
- **\$10.9 million** from 5 multi-unit parcels totaling 12.3 acres sold
- **\$13.7 million** from 12 industrial parcels totaling 24.15 acres sold
- **\$4.4 million** from 2 commercial/mixed-use parcels totaling 3.8 acres sold
- **\$2.8 million** total annual revenue realized from managing over 90 leases of land and buildings
- **\$1.4 million** from 1 institutional parcel totaling 1.56 acres sold
- **7,000 acres** of future development land managed/maintained



# Funds/Grants - Highlights

## **Government Funding**

In 2022, the City of Saskatoon received approval on approximately **\$27.95 million** in funds for the following programs:

- **\$16.5 million** from the Government of Canada for the Green and Inclusive Building Program for the following projects:
  - \$10.0 million for the Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre retrofit project
  - ° **\$6.5 million** for the Albert Community Centre retrofit project
- ➤ \$11.0 million from the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadians Municipalities with \$3.7 million in grants and \$7.3 million in a zero-interest loan for the Home Energy Loan Program.
- **\$750,000** was received in June 2022 for Canada Community Revitalization fund for the Farmer's Market Building renovation project.
- **\$248,900** from the Government of Canada's Canada Healthy Community Initiative for Touchless Accessible Pedestrian Push Buttons.
- **\$200,000** from the Government of Canada for the Active Transportation Fund for the following planning studies:
  - ° College Drive Multi-Use Pathway Feasibility Assessment
  - ° Millar Avenue Multi-Use Pathway Planning Study
  - ° Victoria Avenue Planning Study
  - ° Active Transportation Street Team





# Addressing Sustainability

### **Groundwater Protection**

Groundwater is an essential resource—one the City is taking steps to protect for current and future users. In 2022, after the Groundwater Protection Project determined there were risks to both users and groundwater from using wells, the Waterworks bylaw was updated to prohibit new domestic-purpose pumping wells within city limits.

A new development standard was also created to monitor wells installed, maintained and decommissioned on City land during the land development process.

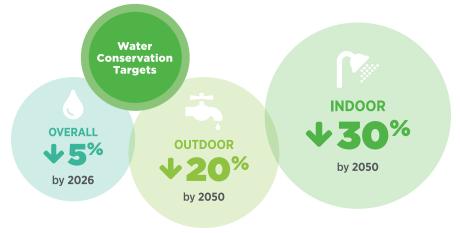


## **Water Conservation Strategy**

The City completed a Water Conservation Strategy in 2022. Informed by public engagement, the strategy provides a roadmap for both residents and City operations to conserve water, including reducing peak summer use to ease demand on infrastructure, reducing water used in City operations to save costs, and showing residents and businesses ways to reduce water use to lower utility



During 2022, the City continued to focus on current water conservation initiatives: water use in parks, residential education and the building energy and efficiency retrofit program.



Per capita water use in Saskatoon has been on a downward trend as residents realize the benefits of water conservation as the city's population continues to grow and the impacts of climate change intensify.

## **Recycling Education Unit Goes Solar**

In 2022, the City's Recycling Education Unit (REU) became Saskatchewan's first solar-powered unit. The trailer was fitted with two solar panels, an energy-converting system and batteries to store excess solar power, making it 100% self-sustainable.

In 2022, the REU attended 30 public events and interacted with over 5,390 people, sharing information on recycling and alternative waste diversion programs.



## **Two Curbside Swaps!**

Due to popular demand, the City held two Curbside Swaps in 2022—one in the spring and another in the fall. Curbside Swap events help reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill by giving residents an opportunity to give away unwanted but still usable items. In total, 673 listings were posted on the City's Curbside Swap page.





### **Alternative Currents**













Alternative Currents is Saskatoon's Renewable and Low Emissions Energy Implementation Plan. It outlines 12 actions to help move the city from non-renewable, high carbon-intensive sources to renewable and low-emissions energy. The plan provides stepby-step initiatives and timelines for successfully completing the 12 actions.

The initiatives and actions laid out in the plan were informed by extensive engagement with the community and internal stakeholders. City-led initiatives, called "implementer" actions, include installing solar photovoltaic (PV) on municipal properties. The City also plays a role in investing, regulating and encouraging renewable and low-emission energy in the community.

Alternative Currents will help Saskatoon switch fuel sources, support the growth of renewable energy to sustainably cool and power buildings and fuel vehicles, and enable industrial and commercial processes to meet the City's approved climate action targets.

# Addressing Sustainability

# Progress on Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Plan: Progress Report 2021 included progress updates on the Low Emissions Community Plan and Corporate Climate Adaptation Strategy. The report, released in 2022, highlights a 9% reduction in community-wide emissions, a 20% reduction in per capita emissions and a 3% decrease in City operations emissions, compared to the 2014 baseline.

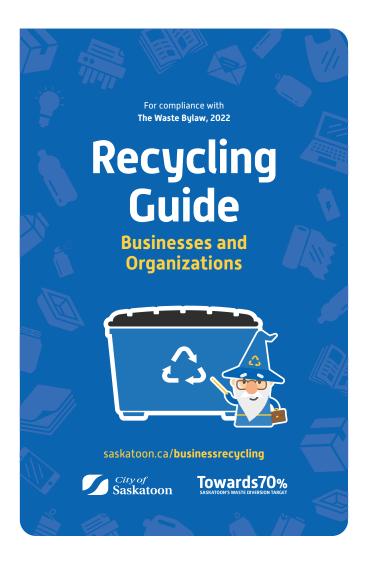
The report also highlights the City's progress on 26 out of the 40 actions in the mitigation plan and 18 out of the 30 actions in the adaptation strategy. The next report is scheduled for 2024. The switch from annual to biennial (every other year) reporting is expected to save the City \$50,000 every other year, making these funds available for other climate-related initiatives.



## **Business Recycling Bylaw**

In January 2022, Saskatoon became the first large city in the province to require recycling at businesses and organizations. An educational support program was launched to accompany the new bylaw, with staff in Sustainability and Water & Waste Operations working with businesses to identify and overcome barriers. A business organics education program will be launched in 2023.

The business recycling and organics programs are expected to divert 2,400 tonnes of recyclables and 3,000 tonnes of organics from the landfill every year. This will save \$362,000 of landfill airspace and reduce community greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 5,400 tonnes of  $CO_2$ e annually, the equivalent of taking 1,164 cars off the road.



### **Waste Diversion Stats**

The City's waste diversion program includes recycling, composting, hazardous waste collection and reuse of gently used items.

In 2022, the program diverted 29,753 tonnes from the landfill for a 24.7% diversion rate. This reduced  $CO_2$ e emissions by 45,585 tonnes, the equivalent of taking 9,824 cars off the road.

### **29,753 Tonnes Diverted in 2022!**

Materials Diverted in 2022	Tonnes
Compost Depots (Organics)	12,825
Curbside Residential (Recycling)	7,348
Green Cart Program (Organics)	5,753
Multi-unit Residential (Recycling)	1,731
Recycling Depots (Recycling)	1,186
Landfill (Recycling)	497
Charity Bins (Recycling)	132
Household Hazardous Waste (Various)	130
Household Glass Program (Recycling)	151
Total	29,753



# **Grant Applications Move Online**

The City provides a number of grant programs to help organizations or groups provide programs.

In 2022, grant management moved to online applications. The new system has been transformational for the Recreation and Community Development Department. The standardized process streamlines processing and management of grant applications, while eliminating paper and print waste.

## Enhancing Saskatoon's Green Spaces

Pathways for an Integrated Green Network (Green Pathways), the 10-year implementation plan for the Green Infrastructure Strategy, was approved by Council in June 2022.

Green Pathways outlines the plan to enhance and restore Saskatoon's green network through initiatives that revitalize urban spaces and ecosystems, support climate action and improve quality of life for residents and visitors.

Work in 2022-2023 will include a Food Forest pilot project and the development of a Natural Areas Program.

2022

SERVICE,
SAVINGS &
SUSTAINABILITY

