

# Community Sustainability Annual Report 2020

City of Charlottetown, PEI

March 2021

**CHARLOTTETOWN**  
*Great things happen here.*

**the  
inspired  
city**







# Table of Contents

- Letter from Committee 4
- Staff 6
- Introduction 9
- Water 10
- Energy 12
- Transportation 14
- Food 16
- Healthy Economy 17
- Infrastructure & the Built Environment 18
- People and Places 19
- Arts, Culture and Heritage 22
- Active Healthy Living 24
- Nature 25
- Waste 28
- Adapting to COVID-19 30
- Micro-grant Recipients 32
- Partners 35







## Letter from Committee

2020 saw the City organization and the community of Charlottetown responding to some very unique challenges brought about by COVID-19. Like many municipalities across Canada, Charlottetown had to quickly find ways to adapt to ensure services were being provided to residents and that the safety of all was at the forefront.

We are proud to report that we were able to accomplish many of our sustainability goals this year, regardless of the impact of the pandemic. City staff modified many of our public education and awareness campaigns and events to ensure that the important messages of environmental protection and sustainability were still delivered to the community; we completed energy audits of all City facilities and developed a strategy to retrofit facilities to reduce our energy demand and associated greenhouse gas emissions; we continued to develop strong partnerships with other levels of government, environmental groups, and academic institutions; we launched and implemented the City's first Tree Protection Bylaw; and we completed major upgrades to the City's active transportation network.

Our passion and dedication to making Charlottetown a more sustainable City is only made stronger amid uncertainty of what the future will bring. There is no better time than now to focus on making our community as resilient as possible and to think about the long-term changes we want to see. This will ensure that we are equipped to respond to the challenges of climate change while making Charlottetown a safe, equitable, and prosperous City for all.

None of this would be possible without the commitment that Charlottetown residents and businesses continue to show for environmental protection and sustainability. We thank all of you for continuing to prioritize these values as we look forward together.

Kindest regards,

**Councillor Mitchell Tweel**

Chair – Environment and Sustainability Committee



## Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee



**Terry Bernard**  
Vice Chair



**Greg Rivard**  
Member at Large



**Julie McCabe**  
Member at Large



**Mayor Philip Brown**  
Member at Large





# Staff



**Ramona Doyle**  
Manager of Environment  
and Sustainability

Ramona is a graduate of the Masters of Environment and Business program from the University of Waterloo and has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies & Anthropology from the University of Victoria. She has worked with the City of Charlottetown since 2010. In her first position as Utility Projects Officer, she worked with the Charlottetown Water & Sewer Utility on water conservation, wellfield protection, metering, and leak detection. In 2014, she took on the role of Sustainability Officer and in 2019 she became the Manager of Environment and Sustainability. Ramona works on a variety of projects focused on energy, active transportation, and transit, and leads the Environment & Sustainability team in its goal to increase the resilience of the City organization as well as to promote and support sustainable action in the community.



**Jessika Corkum-Gorrill**  
Forest and Environmental Officer

In January 2020, Jessika joined the Sustainability team and returned to her home province of PEI. For 11 years prior to joining the City of Charlottetown, Jessika worked for the City of Mississauga, mainly in the Urban Forestry Section, but with time also spent in Parks Operations and their Environment Division. Jessika also worked for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and environmental non-profits, Evergreen and Ecosource.

Jessika completed the Environmental Technology program at Holland College and has a post-graduate certificate in Ecological Restoration from Niagara College. Jessika is a certified arborist and has training in Ecological Land Classification, Landscape Design Principles and Project Management. She is also passionate about communications and community engagement and is currently completing a Public Relations certificate at Ryerson University.



**Katrina Cristall**  
Sustainability Officer

Katrina joined the City of Charlottetown's Environment and Sustainability department in October 2019 as the Sustainability Projects Assistant but in April 2020 transitioned to the role of Sustainability Officer, filling a maternity leave position. She holds an undergraduate degree in Biology from Brandon University and completed her Master of Science at Queen's University in 2017. As the City's Sustainability Officer, Katrina leads the development and execution of a range of outreach initiatives as well as behind the scenes policy work. Her role with the City touches on numerous aspects of sustainability, including waste reduction, food security, and active transportation.



**Hammad Ahmed**  
Energy Coordinator

Hammad started working with the Environment and Sustainability Department in September 2019 as Energy Coordinator. He first joined the City of Charlottetown in May 2019 in the Public Works Department as an Engineering Intern. Hammad holds a Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Design Engineering from UPEI. Hammad's experience both in sustainability and with the City adds great value to the Environment and Sustainability team. He is responsible for furthering the implementation of the City's Community Energy Plan as directed by the Mayor and Council and as led by the Manager of Environment and Sustainability. Hammad works on a variety of projects that aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the City and the Community. Current major projects he is working on are the Honeywell Energy Performance Contract and PACE Programming for the City.





**Alistair Ozon**  
Water Coordinator

Alistair joined the City’s Environment and Sustainability Department in October 2020 as the Water Projects Coordinator. He completed an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science at Dalhousie University and has an Advanced Diploma in Water Quality from Memorial University’s Marine Institute. Prior to working with the City Alistair has worked with various roles with non-profit organizations and Federal Government Departments in the field of water quality, species at risk, aquatic invasive species, and public outreach. In his role as Water Coordinator he works with our local watershed groups and our other partners to work towards the management goals outlined in the City’s Brook Trout Conservation and Protection Plan. Alistair also works with the Water and Sewer Utility to further water conservation measures, and works to encourage low impact development practices in stormwater management.



**Morgan Laverty**  
Urban Forest Technician

Morgan is a graduate of Holland College where he obtained his diploma in Wildlife Conservation. He joined the City of Charlottetown in August 2016 where his main focus then was monitoring, treating, and managing the City’s elm trees for the devastating Dutch elm disease. Since then, Morgan monitors Charlottetown’s park and street trees for pests and diseases via in-field assessments and with Charlottetown’s tree inventory software. He also coordinates tree maintenance related work to provide Charlottetown with an environment where people can admire and appreciate its urban forest and wildlife.

His technical experience and passion for conservation provides him with the qualifications to help the Sustainability team develop methods to combat current and upcoming threats (such as invasive species and diseases) as well as preserve our urban forests.



**Raissa Gasaro Gakindi**  
Sustainability Intern

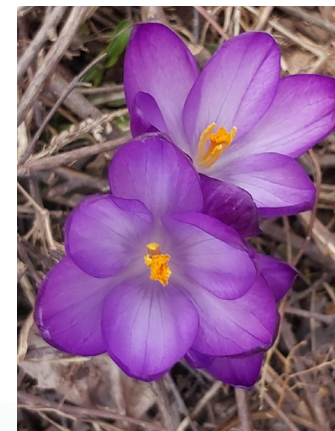
Raissa started working with the Environment and Sustainability Department in January 2021 as a Sustainability Intern. Raissa is a current student at the University of Prince Edward Island, where she is enrolled in the Environmental Studies program with a Specialization in Environmental Innovation and Change Management. Raissa has been supporting some of the City’s ongoing projects, including the Charlottetown Food Asset Map’s development and launch, which has been her primary focus. She is looking forward to supporting other Sustainability related projects in the future.



**Quinn Howard**  
ClimateSense Intern

Quinn Howard’s passion for food, the environment and community have been shaping factors in her academic interests and evolving career in climate adaptation. As an emerging professional in systems and landscape design Quinn’s work focuses on climate adaptation, delivering nature-based solutions rooted in the context of place. Quinn is a recent addition to the City of Charlottetown’s Environment and Sustainability Department as Policy and Planning Intern with ClimateSense Program, hosted by the University of PEI. In this role Quinn’s work is twofold, identifying gaps with municipal zoning and bylaws to better achieve the City of Charlottetown’s climate adaptation objectives and coordinating green infrastructure projects within the City. Quinn holds a BSoc.Sc. in International Development and Health Science from the University of Ottawa and a Masters’ of Landscape Architecture for the University of Guelph.







# Introduction

In March of 2017 the City of Charlottetown released an updated version of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). The process of updating the original ICSP was a great opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made, consider what still needs to be done, and get a renewed sense of the community's priorities when it comes to sustainability.

The ICSP is a working document – a useful tool for managing short term actions on the path toward actualizing the community's sustainability goals and long-term vision. Each year, a cross-departmental review is done to identify progress that has been made towards the Goals and Actions of the ICSP and the results are compiled into a report. This is a valuable process that allows us to reflect on how far we have come and remain mindful of the work ahead, ensuring that our daily efforts contribute to our key objectives.

We continue to operate with the overarching principles of leadership, collaboration, innovation, and action at the forefront of our efforts to achieve the goals laid out in the ICSP.

The ICSP goals are listed under the following themes:

**Water**

**Energy**

**Transportation**

**Food**

**Healthy Economy**

**Infrastructure and the Build Environment**

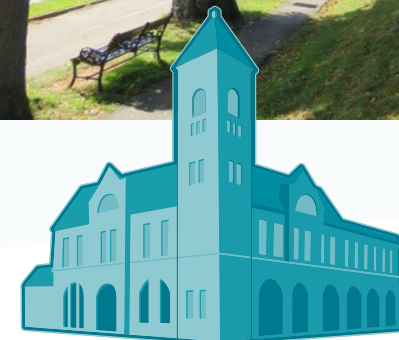
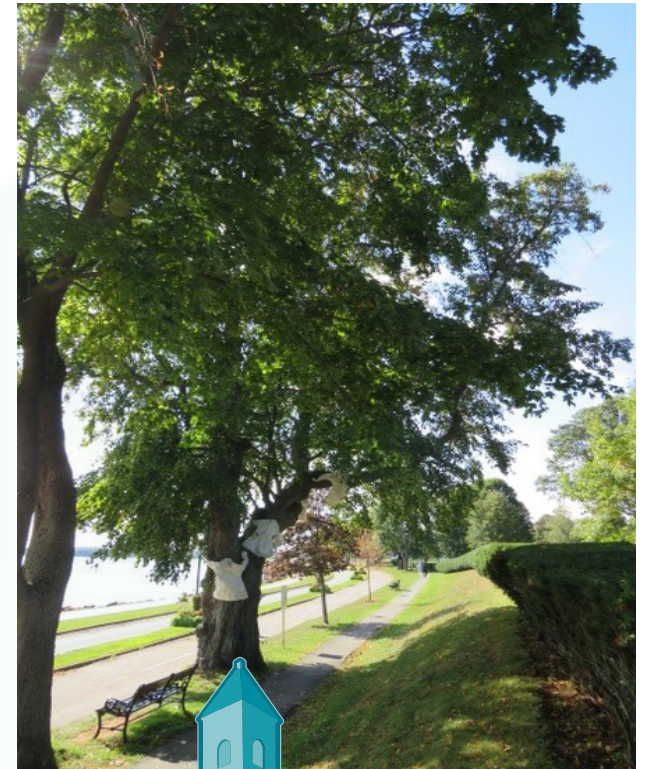
**People and Places**

**Arts, Culture, and Heritage**

**Nature**

In recent years we have found **Waste** to be a stand-alone theme of high interest and value to the public, various sectors and levels of government and, as a result, decided to add this as a theme in 2019.

We recognize the interconnected nature of each of the listed themes and note that sustainable progress in any one theme often has a positive impact on others, benefiting the existing community and future generations.



# Water

Charlottetown residents indicated that access to clean, quality drinking water is of paramount concern for our sustainable future and partnerships that work to conserve and enhance our watersheds are key for success.

## **2020 progress toward achieving the Water Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:**

### **1. Continue to offer incentive programs for water conservation.**

The City's annual water consumption for 2020 decreased to the lowest level since 1996. Since 2008 there has been a downward trend in water consumption thanks to many conservation campaigns and programs. This trend has continued despite the city's considerable growth.

### **2. Continue efforts to improve water quality in the Charlottetown Harbour.**

**Elimination of all Combined Sewers:** The City's wastewater is now completely serviced by separated sanitary and storm sewers. Prior to separation, overflow events could occur during storms when the increased amount of stormwater in the combined sewer exceeded the capacity of the treatment plant. Excess water, which contained untreated domestic and industrial sewage, was diverted into Charlottetown Harbour to prevent a backup. By separating the remaining combined sewer infrastructure, the risk of overflow events is eliminated.

**Decommissioning the East Royalty Lagoon:** In 2020, the East Royalty lagoon was officially decommissioned. The wastewater that was previously treated by the lagoon has now been directed to the treatment plant on Riverside Drive which offers a higher level of treatment. The former lagoon area will be managed by Parks & Recreation. Further discussions about the plans for the future of the area are ongoing.

### **3. Continue to implement the recommendations of the City of Charlottetown Brook Trout Conservation Plan.**

The City has acquired 6.6 acres of natural land in East Royalty thanks to a generous donation from John Andrew. This undeveloped land surrounding Andrew's Pond has an appraised value of \$416,000. The City will take responsibility for maintaining the property and will continue conservation efforts to ensure that Andrew's Pond and Wright's Creek are maintained as a healthy aquatic system the entire City can enjoy. There are plans to add additional lookouts around the pond, further develop the trail system, and install more interpretive signage detailing the area's rich history and the Andrew Family's legacy.

### **4. Provide drinking water sources or fountains downtown, in City facilities and in parks.**

Spring Park Elementary School is the latest school to have a water fountain/water bottle refill station installed to provide students with a clean and convenient source of water. The water bottle refill station encourages the use of reusable water bottles over single use plastic water bottles and encourages the healthy habit of drinking water over other beverages such as juice or soda, which can be high in sugar.



## 5. Control stormwater runoff and minimize siltation in construction zones.

Over the past year there has been a larger focus on ensuring that developers and contractors are monitoring and appropriately managing the environmental risks while working near water courses. To this end, during the construction involved with upgrading Charlottetown's wastewater treatment plant, modern environmental mitigation measures were used to capture excess silt in the runoff from the site.

Additionally, select City superintendents have received training from the Department of Environment pertaining to working around water courses and riparian buffer zones. Having certified staff streamlines the work being done in these areas.



# Energy

Improving energy efficiency, converting to renewable energy sources and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels are key components to community sustainability, as heard throughout the public consultation process.

## 2020 progress toward achieving the Energy Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:

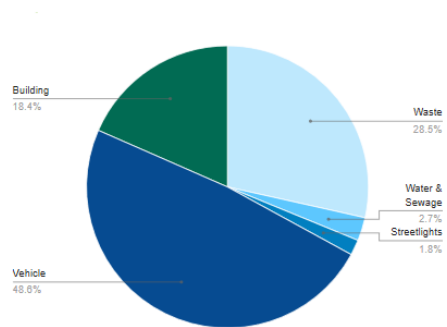
### 1. Work with community partners to provide incentives to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy.

**Better Homes Neighbourhood Energy Project:** The Better Homes Neighbourhood Energy Project, a collaboration with efficiency PEI, supported 40 homes in the Sherwood neighbourhood in the transition to using less energy. Participants received a free energy audit, one-on-one consultations about their energy use and possible retrofits, access to all efficiency PEI rebate programs, free air sealing, and access to funding for energy upgrades. In return for this extra support, participants were required to complete a pre- and post- survey, to learn more about how government can support communities in increasing their uptake of energy retrofits. Survey results indicate that the program increased participant knowledge of home energy efficiency and led to more efficient behaviour. Measurement of the individual- and neighbourhood-level energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with the program will be assessed once participants have completed all intended upgrades. To thank households for their participation, an electric vehicle parade was conducted to deliver gift bags.

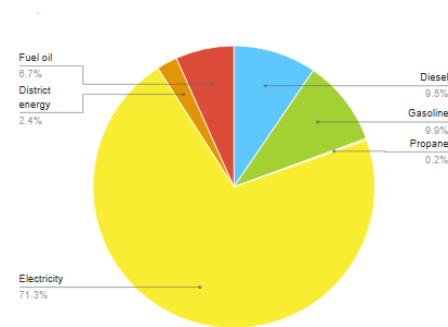
### 2. Continue to work on energy efficiency in City facilities.

**2020 Corporate Greenhouse Gas Inventory:** Corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the City of Charlottetown's operations were estimated at 3,098 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Expenditures in the inventory for 2020 were roughly \$4,665,169. This is substantially reduced from emissions and expenses in 2019.

Greenhouse gas emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) by sector



Energy (GJ) by source





**Energy Performance Study:** In the interest of further reducing energy consumption and associated GHG emissions, the City of Charlottetown hired an Energy Service Company (ESCO) to complete a comprehensive energy audit of all City facilities including Eastlink Centre, Bell Alliant Centre, and other City owned buildings. This was done to identify and cost a set of recommended retrofits. The recommendations of this report were approved by City Council and upgrades are intended to proceed in 2021.

**LED Lighting Upgrades:**

**a) Pownal Parkade** Over the last three years the City has completed full LED lighting upgrades to its three parkades. Upgrades to two of these facilities were completed in 2017 and have led to a combined reduction in electricity costs of almost 38%, corresponding to annual savings of over \$31,000. This year, the City’s third and final parkade received LED lighting upgrades, which will contribute to additional cost savings and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

**b) Park Lighting** In 2020 City Dimond and Hillsborough Rink underwent LED lighting upgrades. A timer that can be controlled by a mobile app was installed for various sports fields to make the lighting system more efficient.

**c) Street Lights** The City worked with Maritime Electric to replace 276 street lights with LED lighting in 2020.

**Fire Hall Door Replacement:** In summer 2020 the City replaced all seven bay doors at the Kent Street Fire Hall, which not only improved the usability of the doors but also improved the building envelope. As a result, the bay area of the Fire Hall will retain heat more effectively during winter months. Other advantages of this replacement include more efficient door motor upgrades, better external visibility for fire fighters, and double-glazed windows, which further improved insulation.





# Transportation

The City of Charlottetown is striving to reduce fossil fuel dependency by creating a culture of active transportation, improving public transit and reducing car emissions. The City seeks to improve barrier-free accessibility to active transportation networks, to transit and to City facilities.

## 2020 progress toward achieving the Transportation Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:

### 1. Identify and fix gaps in cycling routes and improve signage.

In 2020, the Province of PEI launched the PEI Active Transportation Fund and the City was successful in receiving funding through this program to complete three projects: improvements to the Longworth Avenue Confederation Trail crossing with pedestrian lighting, the extension of the Beach Grove Road multi-use pathway that runs from Maypoint Avenue to the existing Beach Grove Trail system, and phase 1 of the Bypass Highway Multi-Use Path from Murchison Lane to St. Peters Road along the Bypass Highway. These three projects enhance connectivity in the City's cycling network and improve safety. In addition, cycling signage for roads were purchased in 2020 and will be installed in the spring of 2021.

### 2. Continue to provide courses in cycling safety and completing minor bike repairs/maintenance.

**Cycling Safety Video Series:** The City partnered with PEI Bike Guy to create a video series on cycling safety and bike maintenance that was released throughout Bike Week. The topics of the videos were: how to fix a flat tire, before you ride, adjust your brakes, shifting tips, and bike safety. The videos are available on the City's website and YouTube channel.

**Charlottetown Cycling Handbook:** The City of Charlottetown worked with Cycle Toronto to create a Cycling Handbook for Charlottetown. The handbook includes information on why cycling is important and how to get the most out of your bike ride. It also contains the regulations that need to be followed on PEI as well as tips for proper cycling safety and etiquette.





### 3. Continue to develop and deliver public awareness campaigns highlighting existing and new cycling routes and cycling safety.

**Virtual Bike Week 2020:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bike Week 2020 was adapted to be held in a virtual setting. Celebrations included the release of a bike maintenance video series, a bike race between Mayor Philip Brown and radio personality Chris Pride that resulted in a bike giveaway for one lucky resident, Bike to Work Day, and a cycling photo contest. To add to the fun of the photo contest, a cycling-themed temporary mural was painted by local artist Jordan Cameron and was displayed along the Confederation Trail. Cycling safety messages were also shared on the City's social media channels, radio advertisements, and on LED road signs around the city.

### 4. Continue to work with community stakeholders to help ensure sufficient bike racks are available in the City.

**Bike Rack Cost Sharing Initiative:** The City launched the Bike Rack Cost Sharing Initiative in summer 2019. The program allows local businesses and organizations to purchase a bike rack for 50% of the cost, with the City paying the other half. In 2020, there were ten participants in the program, including L.M. Montgomery Elementary School, PEI Farm Centre, Maid Marian's Diner, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Reactive Health, Sport PEI, Spring Park Church, Sydney Boutique Inn & Suites, The Pilot House, and the Voluntary Resource Centre.

### 5. Continue to implement the Regional Active Transportation Plan.

To further the implementation of the Regional Active Transportation Plan and Charlottetown's Cycling Strategy, which was created in 2019, several cycling initiatives were carried out in 2020. These included a virtual Bike Week celebration; the release of a bike maintenance video series; the release of the Charlottetown Cycling Handbook, a resource containing all the information that cyclists need to know to have fun and be safe while cycling in the city; the completion of a cycling signage inventory; and the installation of thirteen new bike racks around the city through the Bike Rack Cost Sharing Initiative. In addition, the Mayor's Active Transportation Task Force, made up of members of the Charlottetown community that are passionate about enhancing active transportation in the City, meets monthly to identify and implement improvements that can be made in the City.

### 6. Investigate the need for more electric vehicle charging stations.

Training was offered to Charlottetown fire fighters to educate them on safely interacting with electric vehicles during emergency response. This was an important step in increasing Charlottetown's capacity to integrate electric vehicles into the city.

### 7. Increase transit ridership & Provide support to potential users who are not familiar with the City's Transit system.

The Student Transit Project continues to grow in participation with over 250 high school students signed up for the 2020-2021 school year (up from 140 in 2019-2020). The program's aim is to develop transit users from an early age and engage students in the transit system. In return for providing data on their experiences with transit, students receive a free transit pass for the year. In 2020, the City developed a Transit 101 video aimed at students and new users to transit to demonstrate how transit can easily be used to meet transportation needs. Using these tools, the City aims to encourage younger riders and others to learn to use the transit system and create transit users for life.

# Food

The City of Charlottetown aims to promote local food production and procurement, improve food security, reduce food waste and use the culinary assets of the community to connect locals and visitors with food.

## **2020 progress toward achieving the Food Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:**

### **1. Work with community stakeholders to reduce food waste and encourage gleaning from local producers.**

**Food Waste Challenge:** For Food Waste Friday during Waste Reduction Week in Canada, the City partnered with Island Waste Management Corporation and the Department of Environment, Water & Climate Change to offer a series of food waste challenges as well as a food waste reduction pledge. The challenge promoted awareness of why food waste is an issue and provided tips on how to reduce that waste. The resources developed for the campaign can be accessed at <https://www.takechargeforclimate.com/FoodWaste>.

### **2. Support City-focused food projects (e.g., garden tours, greenhouses).**

**Food Asset Map & Community Conversations About Food:** The Charlottetown Food Council has created a Food Asset Map for Charlottetown. This map was generated to identify the existing food-related strengths and resources in the community. The intent of this map is to help the Council and other organizations better understand the City's existing food system and identify opportunities for improvement. The data collected by the Food Council has been turned into an interactive tool in the form of a virtual map. This tool was released in early 2021.

Additionally, in late 2020 the Food Council held a series of virtual Community Conversations About Food to engage residents on their opinions about the local food system and to get their feedback on the City's Food Asset Map. This four-part series focused on themes that emerged from the asset map. Each conversation featured interviews with panelists, breakout room discussions about the asset map, and an opportunity to engage with panelists during a question period.

**Community Vegetable Planters:** There are 22 community vegetable planters in Charlottetown parks that are maintained by the City for the public to enjoy! These planters are located in Victoria Park, Orlebar Park, Desbrisay Park, J. Frank MacAulay Park, Joe Ghiz Park, and Windsor Park. As in past years, a wide range of vegetables and herbs were planted such as lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers that were available on a first come, first served basis. This year the City provided regular updates on social media to alert the public what was available and created new signage to let visitors know what was ready for harvest.

### **3. Support and deliver education programs focusing on food preservation techniques and food production skills**

**Gardening in Small Spaces:** The City of Charlottetown hosted a Gardening in Small Spaces workshop in Victoria Park. Participants learned some tools and tricks to grow food and attract pollinators to their urban gardens. They also got to get their hands dirty and learned about the Community Vegetable Planters Project.



# Healthy Economy

The City of Charlottetown continues to develop partnerships with government, industry and local agencies to ensure a healthy economy and diverse job opportunities to attract and retain residents. The City collaborates with key stakeholders to reduce poverty and ensure an affordable cost of living for Charlottetown residents.

## 2020 progress toward achieving the Healthy Economy Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:

### 1. Work continuously to ensure the City is an equal opportunities employer and to increase diversity within the City's workforce.

The City is proud to have become a designated employer through the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program (AIPP) in 2020. The AIPP is a federal program designed to help Employers fill permanent labour shortages and skill gaps by supporting foreign nationals for permanent residency. The City is proud to be a designated Employer through AIPP.

### 2. Continue to sponsor, partner, organize and promote local festivals and events that attract visitors.

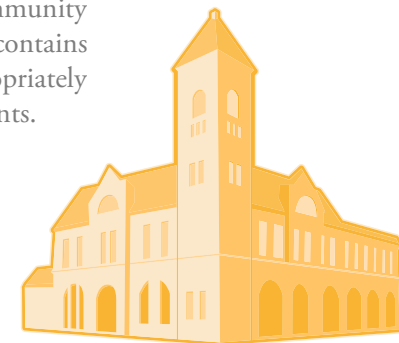
Despite COVID-19, event creation was alive and well in Charlottetown in 2020. Partners including Discover Charlottetown, Confederation Centre of the Arts, and Whitecap Entertainment, in collaboration with the City, dove deep into creating new and engaging tourism-driving events that capitalized on the "Atlantic Bubble". Initiatives included an expanded Charlottetown Christmas Festival, Cinema Under the Stars, Live and Local, Scarecrows in the City, and Set in the Sun, some of which will continue to live on as part of Charlottetown's event offerings post-COVID.

### 3. Examine and respond to housing needs with a focus on affordability, accessibility, and reduction of long-term operating costs.

**Short Term Rental Study & Report:** In 2020, staff continued to research, obtain public feedback, and provide options on regulating short-term rentals (STRs) within the City. After extensive research, discussion with stakeholders, and consultation with a leading expert in the STR field, staff prepared regulatory options for STRs. The proposed regulatory framework has been designed to provide opportunities for residents to benefit from the STR economy while establishing appropriate measures that minimize the negative consequences of STR activities that impact housing, generate nuisances, and disrupt community harmony. The concerns of ensuring the health and safety, consumer protection, and the economic and social well-being of the municipality have been the focus of these proposed regulations. Public consultations were put on hold due to COVID-19. Once it is possible for public meetings to resume, they will be the next step in furthering the regulation process.

**Affordable Housing Units:** In 2018 the City of Charlottetown implemented an Affordable Housing Incentive Action Plan which provides incentives for the development community to construct affordable units as defined by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation guidelines. To date the incentive has resulted in the creation of approximately 167 affordable housing units, with another 88 units pending approval through land use processes.

**Manufactured Residential Housing Zone:** In 2020 the City of Charlottetown amended the Zoning & Development Bylaw to create the Manufactured Residential Housing (MRH) Zone. The creation of this zone was in response to local community housing needs and applies to manufactured residential construction consisting of modular and mini homes. The zone contains reduced minimum lot sizes and provides residents with the option of establishing a manufactured home on an appropriately zoned lot with access to a public street. This change will allow for more diverse housing choices and options for residents.



# Infrastructure and The Built Environment

Developing long-term plans for managing, maintaining and replacing infrastructure, the City works to minimize sprawl, prepare for the effects of climate change, and ensure emergency preparedness.

## 2020 progress toward achieving the Infrastructure and the Built Environment Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:

### 1. Continue to plan and prepare for the impacts of climate change (e.g., storm surges, coastal erosion and sea level rise).

**Shoreline Monitoring:** The Police Department used their high-quality drone to scan Charlottetown's shoreline prior to Hurricane Teddy. This work will set a baseline for the current state of the shoreline, allowing for comparison to future assessments. Not only will this work allow for damage following storms to be evaluated, it will also monitor erosion and allow the City to determine what shoreline protections need to be in place.

**Designing Protection for Victoria Park Shoreline:** In 2020, the City of Charlottetown commissioned the design of a solution to protect the shoreline in Victoria Park, which has deteriorated because of storm surges and high tides. The implementation of this design would help to protect the infrastructure in the vicinity such as the boardwalk, pool, and playground.

**Climate Risk and Resilience Report and Recommendations:** The City of Charlottetown took part in the 'Municipalities and Utilities Partnering for Resilience' project led by QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow) in 2019-2020. The first phase of this process involved the collaboration of various stakeholders and City departments in assessing the City of Charlottetown's risk and resilience, specifically when it comes to extreme weather events in the context of climate change. The second phase compiled some key findings and recommendations of how to bolster our climate change resilience moving forward. The City's Climate Risk and Resilience Report and Recommendations was finalized and released in early 2020 and provides an inventory of climate risk for the City as well as several recommendations on how the City can manage those risks.

A major hazard identified in the recommendations report was hydrological hazards including coastal flooding, sea level rise, and other forms of flooding from increased precipitation, especially in winter and spring. This is just one area where residents can take individual action to protect their homes with some simple and cost-effective (or even free!) preventative measures.

### 2. Provide training opportunities (in innovative design and development options) for developers, engineers and contractors.

**Tree Protection Bylaw Education:** A number of companies, such as Maritime Electric, are required to work on City-owned trees in order to deliver their business services. It is important that their staff are aware of the Tree Protection Bylaw and their requirements to be in compliance with the bylaw. City staff delivered a workshop for Maritime Electric staff to provide education on the City's Tree Protection Bylaw and proper tree pruning techniques. This helps ensure that the health and structure of trees are protected.



# People and Places

The City of Charlottetown works to improve safety and create spaces that engage and inspire residents of all demographics and backgrounds. The City supports an engaged population with a shared goal of enhancing the community and operates as an open and transparent government.

## 2020 progress toward achieving the People and Places Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:

### 1. Update the City's website in an effort to improve communication with residents and visitors as well as to provide more online access to City services.

A variety of improvements were made to the City's website in 2020 to improve the services available to residents. These included the digitalization and availability of all Planning & Heritage application forms as well as the option to register for Parks & Recreation day camps online. The City also developed its YouTube channel to provide residents with access to public meetings as well as to host other video resources.

Additionally, the Planning & Heritage Department continued to maintain the Charlottetown Stories website. This website features historic images and information regarding the City of Charlottetown's rich past. It is a virtual method of sharing our stories through exhibits and archival resources.

### 2. Deliver initiatives that help to create a safe, welcoming space for members of the LGBTQ community:

**Pride Week:** In the lead-up to and during Pride Week 2020, the City's Tourism & Event Management Team continued to find ways to create more awareness and support for Pride Week celebrations. New initiatives in 2020 included the installation of 'Happy Pride' billboards at 6 locations across the City, along with transitioning the City's social media cover page to the same graphic. These initiatives were an extension of a 2019 initiative where the City cost-shared the production of promotional street banners for the downtown core. The City also continues to support Pride Week celebrations through an annual grant.

### 3. Implement the recommendations of the City's Barrier Free City Report 2015 by looking at new and existing infrastructure through an accessibility lens.

**Accessible Taxis:** The City of Charlottetown is part of a group collaborating to make taxis on the Island more accessible. This partnership consists of representatives from the province of PEI, the PEI Council of People with Disabilities, Pat and the Elephant, as well as the taxi industry.



#### 4. Support Youth Mentorship.

The City provided many opportunities for youth mentorship in 2020. Throughout the summer months, the City hosted three engineering students through the Public Works and Water & Sewer Utility departments, an intern from the Holland College Journalism & Communications program, and two Nature Education staff attending UPEI and Holland College. The City also hosted two volunteer student interns studying Environmental Studies at UPEI. Additionally, City staff offered presentations to UPEI Sustainable Design Engineering students as well as to the UPEI SEAM/STAR program. Finally, the City's Energy Coordinator worked with first year Sustainable Design Engineering students on their junior design projects to develop innovative solutions to the goals of the City's Community Energy Plan.

The City also hosted two volunteer student interns studying Environmental Studies at UPEI. A student from the UPEI Public History program also worked with Heritage Staff to assist with Collections care and exhibit curatorship.

#### 5. Continue to support public art projects.

**Rooted in Art:** Rooted in Art was a tree appreciation initiative intended to celebrate the importance and beauty of Charlottetown's urban forest. Five Island artists used some of downtown Charlottetown's most distinctive and historic trees as inspiration for a temporary art installation. The trees involved in the project occurred along a 2.5km loop. A self-guided tour was launched that guided participants around to each of the trees where they could learn more about the trees themselves as well as the artists involved.

**Imagine Charlottetown:** Launched by the City's Arts Advisory Board during winter 2020, Imagine Charlottetown was introduced to engage and empower the public surrounding the future of public art in Charlottetown. The initiative served as a platform for the public to submit their own ideas for public art which were then compiled into an "Idea Bank" to inspire future public art projects. Key categories of public submissions included: murals/paintings; sculptures; landscaping/living art; urban furniture; modification of public spaces; and public events.

#### 6. Encourage more programming in the City's greenspaces (e.g., yoga in the park, games and social activities).

With the restrictions around COVID -19 the Parks and Recreation Department needed to adapt their special events to meet the requirements as set out by the Chief Public Health Office. The Great Pumpkin Walk was an event that allowed families to gather for a group walk along the Beach Grove Nature trails, enjoy apple cider and apples and then collect a pumpkin for carving. This year we asked families to do a drive by pumpkin pick up and encouraged them to walk on their own favorite trail. Instead of the traditional Halloween parties we set up a self-guided spooky haunted forest walk and provided treat bags at the end. Finally, the Jingle Bell Walk event was downsized from the normal party style event with food, wagon rides and bouncy castles. Instead, the City partnered with the PEI Public Library Service to offer Charlottetown's first self-guided StoryWalk along the Beach Grove Trail. The StoryWalk featured Caralyn Buehner's story "Snowmen at Night."



## 7. Continue to develop programs, activities and events for the winter months to position Charlottetown as a winter destination for residents and visitors.

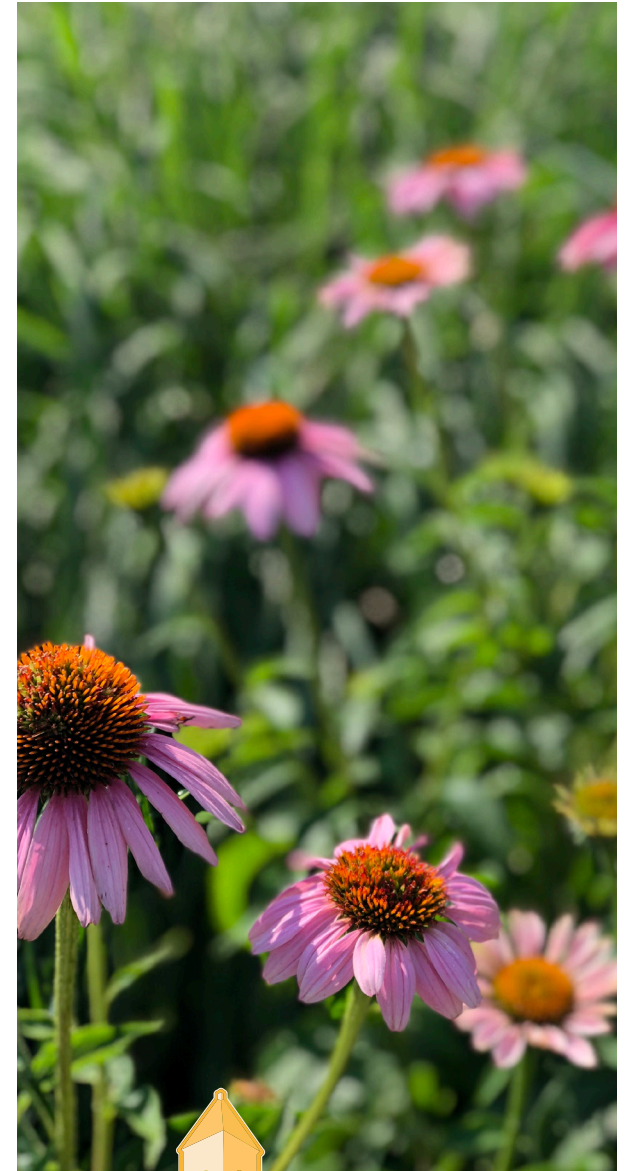
**Expanding Winter Active:** The Charlottetown Parks and Recreation Department expanded their winter programming by offering Winter Family Fun Events. The events were spread out across the City and included snowshoeing, sleigh rides, access to outdoor rinks, and free hot chocolate. The Parks and Recreation Department also continued to offer free snowshoe sign-outs in Victoria Park and offered two free family skates at the Cody Banks Arena and Simmons Sport Centre. Finally, the City partnered with Winter Love PEI to offer Light up the Park, a family fun event that took place during the evening in Victoria Park.

**Re-Imagining Jack Frost:** In 2019, the Jack Frost Winterfest engaged a consultant to develop a roadmap for re-imagining the annual festival between 2020–2022. A number of recommendations were implemented including: creating a more walkable festival in the downtown; broadening the scope of activities to appeal to a wider demographic of attendees; and utilizing close proximity venues to encourage active transportation between sites resulting in a more sustainable festival footprint. All three of these recommendations were incorporated into the 2020 festival. Additionally, the City’s team of sustainable events volunteers were recruited to work at Founder’s Food Hall throughout the festival to guide attendees to properly sort their waste and make use of the water bottle refill station.

## 8. Support neighborhood engagement initiatives (e.g., neighbourhood socials, Community Watch programs and Neighbours helping Neighbours programs).

**Santa Clause Comes to Town:** COVID-19 presented many challenges throughout 2020, particularly when it came to large gatherings; however, the City was not going to let COVID-19 cancel Christmas celebrations. The Tourism & Event Management team developed a plan to replace the traditional Santa Claus Parade with nightly Santa tours throughout the City’s neighbourhoods, enlisting the help of the City’s Public Works Department, Charlottetown Police Services, Charlottetown Fire Department, as well as Mayor Brown and Council to escort Santa and everyone’s favourite dog, Charlie Town, around the city. The “mini-parades” were incredibly well received and lifted the spirits of tens of thousands of residents during pre-Christmas “circuit breaker” restrictions.

**Decorating Contests:** With residents and their families spending so much time at home during 2020, two home decorating initiatives were promoted to help encourage community engagement: one during Canada Day celebrations and a Christmas-themed one during Wintertide celebrations. The use of sustainable and natural materials were promoted during both initiatives, with the option of being judged under a sustainable material-specific category during the Canada Day contest.



# Arts, Culture & Heritage

The City works to provide year-round cultural activities and events while making the best use of multi-purpose venues in the community. The City supports the arts community and celebrates its heritage while embracing the evolving community.

**2020 progress toward achieving the Arts, Culture & Heritage Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:**

## 1. Partner with community organizations to deliver more cultural and heritage-focused events.

**Capital New Year:** When COVID-19 restrictions challenged traditional Capital New Year celebrations, the City sought assistance from the Confederation Centre of the Arts to offer complimentary, engaging cultural programming at their facility in a COVID-friendly environment. Programming included art and dance-based activities that were well attended by residents.

**Heritage Events:** The 2020 Annual Heritage Awards were celebrated at City Hall in February 2020. The event included an exhibit and talk celebrating the oldest still operating businesses in the City of Charlottetown. Local businessman, T. Daniel Tweel shared some of his memories of the City's business community in a fascinating talk.

To honor the sacrifice and service of those that fought and continue to fight for our freedom, the City of Charlottetown partnered with The Prince Edward Island Regiment Museum to create the historic exhibit, Military Service in Charlottetown, that explored the City's wartime and military history. It was the first installment of the pop-up exhibit series that focuses on an aspect of Charlottetown's history or traditions. A holiday and winter exhibit followed in late December into 2021.

The Old Protestant Burying Ground Committee partnered with the City's Heritage Department to premier their film entitled *The City under the Ground*. The short film tells the captivating stories of individuals whose final resting place is the Old Protestant Burying Ground on University Avenue





## 2. Partner with educational institutions and community organizations to support emerging artists.

**Natal Day Chalk Drawings:** The City's Tourism & Event Management team engaged a group of 7 local emerging (high school) and established artists to create chalk-based artwork on sidewalks in the downtown as part of annual Natal Day Celebrations. Each artist was tasked with creating one chalk drawing and one inspirational word mark which were collectively promoted as a self-guided "art walk".

## 3. Continue to develop the historic Charlottetown – Quebec City partnership, including cultural initiatives.

The two historic cities continue to maintain an ongoing partnership in honour of each municipality's role in the formation of Canada. In 2020, the process to relocate a public gathering place dedicated to Charlottetown was commenced in Quebec City. The space will officially open in 2021 and include a statue, garden, and benches.

During a visit to Quebec City in 2020, Charlottetown was also able to forge a new best-practices relationship with one of Quebec City's sister cities, the City of Calgary, with a focus on events and culture.



# Active Healthy Living

The City works to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community by providing and promoting recreation opportunities for all ages and demographics year-round and by maintaining parks and facilities that provide essential spaces to improve and maintain health and wellness.

## **2020 progress toward achieving the Active Healthy Living Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:**

### **1. Provide public washrooms in more locations in the City, considering sustainable options such as low-flow and composting toilets where feasible.**

Upgrades were done at the Mulberry Park Clubhouse that included the install of low-flow toilets. In addition, the accessibility of the washroom was improved and sensor lights were installed. Finally, skylights were added to reduce the need for electric lighting on sunny days.

### **2. Partner with community organizations to create and promote healthy eating challenges and other active living programs.**

**Employee Health & Wellness Program:** The City offers a health and wellness reimbursement initiative to all permanent, full time employees. The City will pay the total cost of the membership to a wellness facility and will deduct the payments from the employees pay over the duration of the membership. Employees may choose any wellness facility within Charlottetown.

### **3. Continue to connect the Routes for Nature and Health to provide a comprehensive trail system.**

In 2020, the Parks & Recreation Department worked to improve the trail systems in Charlottetown. The trail surrounding Andrew's Pond was completed, allowing visitors to enjoy the entire loop. Additionally, 700m of the multi-use trail at Hermitage Creek were resurfaced to improve drainage and accessibility.

### **4. Continue to identify opportunities to make physical activity accessible for people with disabilities.**

**Upgrades at Queen Elizabeth Park:** Funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a fully accessible 1km asphalt loop was created at Queen Elizabeth Park.

**Expanding the Victoria Park Floating Dock:** In 2020, the floating dock at Victoria Park was expanded by adding additional platforms to double the width. This was done to improve the accessibility of the dock as well as to allow for physical distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Nature

The City works to protect urban wildlife, promote biodiversity of flora and fauna, and care for the City's urban forest.

## 2020 progress toward achieving the Nature Goals and Actions listed in the ICSP:

### 1. Continue to use the street tree inventory as a proactive urban forest management tool.

**Public Street and Park Tree Inventory:** The City of Charlottetown tracks almost 12,000 trees in a system called TreeKeeper, the City's street and park tree inventory. Until 2020, this was only an internal database used by staff for tracking work, calls, health information and other data on street and park trees.

In fall 2020, the City launched a public facing version of this tree inventory due to interest raised by the public. Residents can now access the inventory online and see information on tree locations, species, age range, size, and ownership. With more information online and available to the public, it is expected that residents will not only learn more about the City's trees but also get answers to some of their tree-related questions.

### 2. Annually, carry out an urban forest monitoring program to identify and manage invasive pests (plants, insects and diseases) and identify required tree maintenance (pruning, removals and hazards).

Invasive species harm the environment, often by attacking or reducing populations of native plants. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that is being monitored because of its destructive nature, wiping out populations of Ash trees. The insect is found in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick making it very important to keep a close eye on its possible spread into PEI. Through monitoring in 2020 with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, no EAB were found.

Other invasive species management in 2020 included: Japanese Knotweed control in Desbrisay Park and along King Street, extensive glossy buckthorn management in Southview Park as well as Victoria Park, and removal of invasive small balsam in Victoria Park.

### 3. Continue the proactive Dutch elm disease program to reduce the spread of the disease and protect the City's healthy elm trees.

The City of Charlottetown began addressing Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in 1996 and this work continues today. Annually, every elm tree in Charlottetown is inspected for the disease, whether on private or public property. Diseased trees are removed by the City to reduce the chance of disease spread.

In 2020, 552 elm trees were inspected for DED. Five of these elms were noted to have the disease and were removed. Eight of the largest, specimen elm trees in Charlottetown were treated with a fungicide to prevent them from contracting DED. The number of diseased elms found was down from the previous year, with nine infected elm trees removed in 2019.



#### 4. Continue planting trees in parks and along City streets and right-of-ways.

New trees are added to City streets and parks every year to beautify the landscape and increase the environmental services provided by trees. Some of these trees are planted as replacements for trees lost and others added to areas without tree cover. In 2020, 116 large caliper trees were planted in Charlottetown as part of the City's street and park tree planting program.

Residents can request a tree for a City right-of-way near their house at [www.charlottetown.ca](http://www.charlottetown.ca) or by calling 902-894-5208.

#### 5. Create a tree planting plan that ensures biodiversity, succession and distribution of the tree population throughout the City.

**Ward-by-Ward Tree Analysis:** In 2020, the City teamed up with the Environmental Studies Program at UPEI to assist with urban forestry research. This internship involved taking a close look at the City's street and park trees by ward. Specifically, a breakdown of trees in each ward was done based on the tree's species and estimated age. This information is very useful for urban forest planning and will help ensure wards have equitable tree cover, trees of varying ages and diverse tree species cover.

#### 6. Develop protocols and requirements for the size and remediation of planting spaces (particularly for areas with impervious surfaces).

**Tree Cell Project:** Ensuring there is tree cover in downtown Charlottetown is very important, but finding appropriate space for planting trees is challenging. The downtown area has a lack of open spaces due to the number of roads, sidewalks and buildings. As a result, the City took advantage of a technology that allows trees to be planted in these constricted spaces. Using a product called Permavoid, the City excavated an area underground and built a structure that will allow for tree root growth, while also supporting the weight of the sidewalk and parking space on top of it. The system also pulls water from underground and includes piping, which allows for additional watering in periods of drought. The project took place at the northwest corner of Queen Street and Richmond Street.

#### 7. Continue forest restoration/reforestation in City woodlands, green spaces, riparian zones and hedgerows. Plant understory plants where feasible to provide habitat for urban wildlife, such as birds and butterflies.

**Native Plant Garden:** Seasonal staff created a new native plant garden in Victoria Park in the area known as the Arboretum. The PEI native plants that were used included species such as swamp milkweed, herb Robert and blue-eyed grass. The plants support local wildlife and, once established, grow well with little maintenance.

#### 8. Create a Forest Technician position to carry out field work related to the City's urban forest.

The Environment & Sustainability Department was successful in securing an Urban Forest Technician within their department. This long-term contract position supports the Forest and Environmental Officer and leads the City's contracted tree maintenance, street tree planting, invasive species management and supports the Tree Protection Bylaw.



## 9. Create standards of expertise/training for all staff working with City trees.

**Tree Pruning Workshop:** The proper pruning of trees eliminates hazards to the public, and is essential to the health and long-term survival of trees. A hands-on pruning workshop was held to teach City of Charlottetown staff how to prune trees. In addition, the workshop was offered to some of Maritime Electric’s tree pruning contractors to ensure they are trained on proper pruning as they prune City-owned trees around overhead wires.

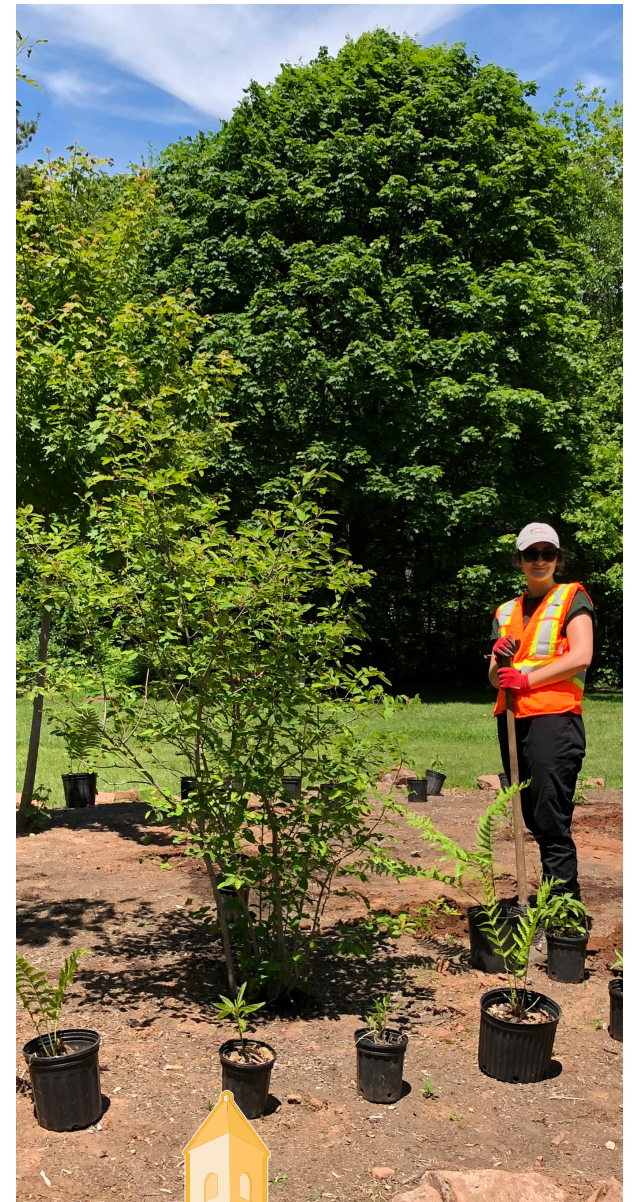
## 10. Continue providing community engagement activities related to flora and fauna.

**Community Tree Planting:** Two community tree planting events were held in fall 2020. The Business Tree Planting Challenge took place in the parkland behind the West Royalty Community Centre with staff from Biovectra, Invesco Canada, McInnes Cooper, SableARC Studios and Upstreet Craft Brewing. This annual event allows businesses to offset their paper use through tree planting. The other event was held at J. Frank MacAulay Park to plant the land surrounding a new bioswale installed in the park for flood management. These events led to almost 500 native trees and shrubs being planted in parkland to expand Charlottetown’s natural areas.

**Nature Education:** The focus of nature education in 2020 was to develop self-led activities, given COVID-19 restrictions. Summer staff created weekly programming available for the public in Victoria Park including scavenger hunts and nature sketching. A self-guided tour was created to learn about the trees in the Victoria Park Arboretum. The map and tour details were also added to the City’s website for use into the future.

## 11. Build on partnerships to strengthen the protection and management of the City flora and fauna.

**Municipal Natural Assets Inventory:** The City has partnered with The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) to develop an inventory of the City’s natural assets (wetlands, forests, parks, lakes, rivers, etc.). These natural resources and ecosystems provide vital services similar to many of the City’s engineered assets. If managed properly they can be more resilient to the threats posed by climate change. The results of this collaboration will be an inventory and dashboard detailing all the natural assets within the City’s boundaries, which will provide a greater understanding of the state of Charlottetown’s natural assets and the services they provide. MNAI will also provide a road map outlining natural assets that can be improved, and steps that can be taken towards full natural asset management.



# Waste

When the latest ICSP was released in 2017, Waste was not identified as a key theme. Since then, public concern and awareness on the topic of plastic waste reduction has skyrocketed. It has become increasingly apparent that on a global scale the consumption of plastic is not sustainable. The impact on marine species and ecosystems has become devastatingly obvious and governments, non-profits, businesses, and the general public are taking action.

**The City of Charlottetown's Sustainability Department has identified some key goals on this topic that we made some significant progress on in 2020:**

## **1. Gain a better understanding of the current attitudes and behaviours of the general public toward single-use waste through education and engagement activities.**

**Waste Reduction Week:** 2020 was Charlottetown's first time participating in Waste Reduction Week in Canada, a national initiative that took place from October 19 to 25, 2020. Each day of the week was given a theme related to a different aspect of waste reduction. The themes were: circular economy, textile waste, e-waste, plastic waste, food waste, the sharing economy, and swap and repair. Resources relating to each of these themes were promoted through the City's social media channels. Additional highlights from the week included discounts at local secondhand stores and the Charlottetown Tool Library, a pop-up Bring It Charlottetown pledge booth, a food waste challenge, and the City's first Curbside Giveaway Day.

## **2. Engage and educate the business and events community in Charlottetown on the topic of single-use waste reduction through the use of sustainable alternatives.**

**Sustainable Events:** Charlottetown City Council has adopted an amendment to the City's Event Guidelines to include considerations related to sustainability. One addition is a reference to the City's newly created Sustainable Events Manual, which is intended to help event planners make more sustainable choices, especially as relates to waste, water, and transportation. The Event Guidelines and Sustainable Events Manual are provided to all potential City-affiliated events, establishing the City's priority for sustainability from early on in the event planning process.

**Sustainable Procurement:** The City of Charlottetown has joined the Canadian Collaboration for Sustainable Procurement (CCSP) as a step towards procuring goods and services more sustainably. The CCSP is a member-based network of over thirty organizations in Canada's public sector working together to develop and implement sustainable procurement practices. By joining this collaboration Charlottetown will gain access to peer-exchange webinars, facilitated working groups, consulting services, an online repository of established tools, procedures, and training modules, as well as benchmarking services. Sustainable procurement considers environmental, ethical, and social pillars when making purchasing decisions, alongside traditional considerations of quality and price. This is a powerful way in which organizations can reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions as well as promote community development and fair labour standards with the dollars they spend.



### 3. Reduce Single Use Plastic Waste in Charlottetown

**Bring it Charlottetown:** The Bring It Charlottetown single-use plastic reduction campaign was launched in December 2019 and continued through January 2020. To date, the campaign has appeared at seven events, resulting in over 600 Islanders pledging to reduce their single-use plastic by remembering their reusable items such as water bottles, coffee mugs, straws, cutlery, and bags. At the pledge booth, participants received the reusable item of their choosing for free in thanks for taking the pledge. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has made bringing reusable mugs to the coffee shop more difficult, our ability to bring items such as reusable cutlery and straws, or to bring beverages from home in reusable containers is still a great way to reduce the waste we produce!

**Bring It Business:** Bring It Business is a Business Recognition Program (BRP) intended to encourage and incentivize food service businesses to reduce their single-use plastic waste and to reward those that are doing so. It is a continuation of the public awareness campaign, Bring It Charlottetown. To become a Bring It Business, businesses must eliminate all Styrofoam, plastic cutlery, and “compostable” plastics, ensure all take-out containers are compostable or recyclable on PEI, offer straws only upon request, and implement a policy to refill customer’s water bottles and travel mugs. In exchange for their efforts, businesses get recognition and support from the City. The BRP was put on hold as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but the City is working to relaunch the program in a COVID-friendly way that will still assist businesses in their work to reduce single-use plastics. For more information, visit [www.charlottetown.ca/bringit](http://www.charlottetown.ca/bringit)



# Adapting to COVID-19

As it did all around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented changes to operations at the City of Charlottetown. Much of 2020 was spent working to modify programs and services to comply with public health regulations.

**The section below highlights how we adapted and what we learned:**

## 1. Working from Home:

In mid-March the majority of City staff were sent home, with only essential employees working from City facilities. For those staff required to come to work, procedures were put in place to protect staff as much as possible, including the installation of plexiglass barriers, availability of masks and sanitizer, and organizing employees into shifts with minimal overlap. Additional Virtual Private Networks (VPN) were made available to mobilize employees who could work from home until staff began transitioning back into the office in late May.

## 2. Communication During COVID:

To ensure the public had access to meetings of City Council, Standing Committees, and Advisory Boards, despite gathering restrictions, City IT staff quickly worked to broadcast these meetings live. This required the rapid purchasing and installation of new technology and software as well as the development of the City's YouTube channel. Once possible, the City also worked to set up a space at City Hall where those unable to access online broadcasts of public meetings could observe on a large screen in a physically distanced setting.

The City also worked to ensure employees could stay connected through virtual platforms. Microsoft Teams and WebEx were implemented to enable simple instant messaging and video calling between staff members.

## 3. Adapting Events:

Each year the City of Charlottetown offers numerous events, small and large. 2020 required some quick, creative thinking to offer these events in modified or virtual settings as well as to come up with new initiatives to engage and support the community. Week-long events such as Bike Week and Waste Reduction Week were offered in primarily virtual settings, encouraging individual participation. The Economic Development, Tourism & Events Department worked closely with partners to adapt past initiatives such as the Santa Clause Parade, and to create new ones, such as Scarecrows in the City. Although it was a challenging year for events, new traditions were born that will live long beyond the pandemic!





#### 4. Repurposing Funding:

The City often participates in an annual event known as TD Tree Days. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this country-wide community event was cancelled. Instead, TD enabled the City to re-purpose this funding to support another tree planting project in a location accessible to populations that were impacted most by COVID-19, including seniors and low-income families. Funds were used by City staff to plant 50 native trees and shrubs as well as expand on the wooded natural area behind the Hillsborough Community Centre.

#### 5. Water Consumption Trends:

With the restrictions in place due to COVID-19 and a large shift towards employees working from home, there has been a corresponding shift in water consumption trends. Commercial consumption has decreased and residential use in Charlottetown and across the country has increased.

#### 6. Transit:

2020 was projected to be the tri-municipal transit system's best year to date as ridership has grown at a rapid rate since 2015, breaking records each year. While COVID-19 did impact ridership, the transit system maintained its regular operation during lockdown to ensure that riders had access to essential services. T3 took many measures to ensure passenger safety, including significantly increasing the frequency of bus cleanings, installing protective barriers for drivers and passengers, reducing bus capacity, and providing masks and hand sanitizer to all passengers.



# Micro-Grant Recipients (2020):

The Community Sustainability Micro-grant Program was developed in 2011 in order to support community groups and individuals in their sustainability-focused projects. Community action was seen as an integral part of the success of the implementation of the City's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). Through the community sustainability micro-grant program, individuals can apply to receive up to \$2,500 in funding for a project that contributes to the achievement of the goals and actions listed in the ICSP. Each year we are inspired by the ideas that the public share with us through this program. We are honored to help make these ideas come to life.

**The following projects were chosen to receive funding in 2020:**

## **1) Project Title: Charlottetown Disc Golf Course**

**Recipient: PEI Adventure Initiative**

Disc golf is an accessible sport that involves throwing discs, also known as Frisbees, with the goal of hitting a target (disc catcher) in as few throws as possible. This project involved building a free-to-play disc golf course in the green space by Charlottetown Rural High School (CRHS). This removed barriers to participation in this sport as, previously, all disc golf courses on PEI required a car to access and a fee to play.

## **2) Project Title: Staying Connected with Family, Friends & Nature**

**Recipient: Stars for Life Foundation**

The Stars for Life Foundation, which works to include young people with autism spectrum disorder in the community, built a gazebo on their property. This expanded the space where their clients can socialize and learn while maintaining physical distancing. This is especially important since many of their clients are not able to wear masks due to sensitivities. The gazebo will also be used as a location to conduct classes, such as nature-based art activities.

## **3) Project Title: Healthy Harvest Program for Students**

**Recipient: Charlottetown Farmer's Market**

The Charlottetown Farmer's Market expanded their Healthy Harvest Program to include a subprogram specifically focusing on students. The program provided participating students with \$25/week over 10 weeks in fall 2020, enabling them to purchase fresh locally grown produce (including meat & fish) at the Charlottetown Farmer's Market.

## **4) Project Title: Calypso Secrets - An Oshun Dance Studios Showcase**

**Recipient: The Island Fringe Festival**

Oshun Dance, PEI's only Black-owned dance company, partnered with The Island Fringe Festival, The Black Cultural Society of PEI and The River Clyde Pageant to present "Calypso Secrets". This dance showcase featured original choreography and live music to celebrate female empowerment and Caribbean culture. The event took place in The Bog, also known as Rochford Square, which helped raise the profile of The Bog's history and connections to PEI's Black community.





**5) Project Title: Shade and Shelter for the People!**

**Recipient: North of Euston Neighbourhood Group**

The North of Euston neighbourhood group intends to build a shade structure at Orlebar Park. The park is a wonderful community gathering space but lacks shade, making it difficult for community members to gather at the park. Building this structure will enhance usability of the park and provide an outdoor location for socializing where physical distancing is possible.

**6) Project Title: Roller Skate Gear Library**

**Recipient: Charlottetown Junior Roller Derby**

The Charlottetown Junior Roller Derby purchased roller skating equipment to create a Roller Skate Gear Library where borrowers could check out a set of gear during their weekly evening outdoor skates at Peakes Quay. This program empowered female youth, assisted youth in meeting their minimum daily physical activity requirements, and created an inclusive recreational activity that removed barriers to participation for low-income individuals.

**7) Project Title: Tales of Islandia**

**Recipient: Wild Child**

Tales of Islandia was a Wild Child initiative that harnessed the power of imagination to build a role-playing-based program to promote mental health, healthy relationships, nature education, and active-living for at-risk and marginalized youth in Charlottetown. Tales of Islandia ran as a free after-school program. Marginalized and neurodiverse adult volunteers were trained to support the youth and to build the experience. This initiative had an anti-racist and 2SLGBTQ+ inclusive philosophy and worked to create a truly inclusive community. Themes of belonging, coming together across difference, and understanding neurodiversity were explored through the overarching stories of the program.



## 8) Project Title: UPEISU Bike Co-Op Expansion

Recipient: UPEI Student Union

The UPEISU Bike Co-op, which began in 2019, is a service available to all UPEI students that gives students free access to a bicycle, a helmet, and a lock & key. This service aims to provide students with an environmentally friendly & active choice of transportation, for both on and off-campus use. This microgrant funded the purchase of four additional bicycles and associated safety equipment for this program.

## 9) Project Title: Honouring the Trailblazers

Recipient: Pride PEI Inc.

Pride PEI Inc. will commission artists to create portraits to celebrate members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community on PEI who have been trailblazers in encouraging positive social change, greater inclusion, representation, mentorship and the creation of safer spaces for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The goal of this project is to highlight the creative works of local 2SLGBTQIA+ artists as well as to recognize the contributions members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community have made in bringing about positive social change. This project will also add value to the history of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Charlottetown by adding physical assets to what has previously been only an oral history and shared stories within the community.





# Partners

A&S Scrap Metal	Government of Canada	PEI Public Library Service
ABT Inc.	Government of Prince Edward Island	PEI Regiment Museum
Arts Advisory Board	Happy Ocean	Pinnacle Agencies
Ashley Anne Clark	Hillside Chevrolet	Pride PEI
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	Honeywell Canada	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
BioVectra	Hotel Association of PEI	QUEST
Bird Stairs	Insight Brand and Marketing Studio	Reactive Health
Black Cultural Society of PEI	Invesco Canada	Repeats Quality Used Family Clothing & Costumes
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)	Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)	SableARC Studios
Canadian Collaboration for Sustainable Procurement	Island Waste Management Corporation	Sport PEI
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)	Jane Whitten	Spring Park Church
CFCY Radio	John Andrew	Spring Park Elementary School
Charlottetown Area Development Corporation (CADC)	Kings Square Affordable Housing	Stars for Life Foundation
Charlottetown Farmer's Market	L.M. Montgomery Elementary School	Sydney Boutique Inn & Suites
Charlottetown Food Council	Luxury Consignment Boutique	TD Bank
Charlottetown Junior Roller Derby	Maid Marian's Diner	The Island Fringe Festival
Charlottetown Rural High School	Maritime Electric	The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI)
Charlottetown Special Events Reserve Fund	McInnes Cooper	The Pilot House
Charlottetown Tool Library	Melissa Peter-Paul	The River Clyde Pageant
Colonel Gray Senior High School	Mission Thrift Store	this town is small
Confederation Centre of the Arts	Monica Lacey	Town of Cornwall
Confederation Centre Public Library	Nancy Cole	Town of Stratford
Confederation Court Mall	North of Euston Neighbourhood Group	University of Prince Edward Island
Cycle Toronto	Old Protestant Burying Ground	UPEI - School of Sustainable Design Engineering (SSDE)
Department of Environment, Water & Climate Change	Oshun Dance Studios	UPEI Student Union
Desbrisay Park Community Garden	Outer Limit Sports	Upstreet Craft Brewing
Discover Charlottetown	Pat and the Elephant	Volume 18
Downtown Charlottetown Inc.	PEI Adventure Initiative	Voluntary Resource Centre
efficiencyPEI	PEI Bike Guy	Whitecap Entertainment
Ellen's Creek Watershed Group	PEI Council of People with Disabilities	Wild Child
Farm Centre - Legacy Garden	PEI Farm Centre - Legacy Garden	Winter Love PEI
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	PEI Housing Corporation	Winter River Tracadie Bay Watershed Association
go!Charlottetown	PEI Invasive Species Council	Wright's Creek Watershed Environmental Committee
go!PEI	PEI Museum & Heritage Foundation	

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