

planning + design

A CITY OF SASKATOON SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION FROM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

FALL/WINTER 2017



Community Support Program • Plans For Growth • Imagine Idylwyld • ayisīnowak
Meadowgreen Local Area Plan • Way-To-Park • Official Community Plan • Regional Plan
Third Avenue United Church



Message from the Director

As I mentioned in the last issue of Planning + Design, the Planning and Development Division has been working toward creating our first Strategic Plan. We have worked through a process with our entire Division to identify some of the challenges that we're facing, as well as trying to understand where our priorities should lie in the next few years. It was a really eye-opening experience for me and I think it will serve us well. We're going to continue to refine it over the next year, so stay tuned.

We had a number of realizations that I wanted to share:

#1: Much of our work is based on policies and bylaws. Policies and bylaws need to be revisited over time to remain effective and responsive to changes in the community. What we realized is that our Division is not currently set up to keep our "tools" up to date. Industries are changing (micro-breweries, for example), as are laws (marijuana legalization), and so are community expectations. We're going to make changes to how our Division maintains and reviews our policies and bylaws to be able to better respond to the changing conditions around us.

#2: Downtown development has its own complexities and we need to do a better job of making sure that the Downtown is an attractive place to develop. We need to support applicants with simpler processes, and clear expectations from all areas of City Administration, but we also need to make sure that people want to work, shop and visit Downtown for a variety of reasons. We're excited to be working

with City Council to support their Downtown Development priority, and with the Downtown YXE, Riversdale and Broadway Business Improvement Districts to keep the Downtown and City Centre areas thriving and exciting.

#3: As the Growth Plan to Half a Million is advancing, through numerous projects underway right now, we also need to understand and address the challenges that infill development in Saskatoon faces because infill development is a key pillar of the Growth Plan. We've heard from the development industry about a wide variety of challenges and barriers that really only affect infill development. The Saskatoon and Region Homebuilders Association has helped to lead discussions aimed at reducing these challenges. Moving forward, we will work through these barriers, aiming to make infill simpler for all. An important component of this discussion is also about how to make sure that infill benefits the neighbourhood around it, and helps to build quality of life for residents.

These are by no means the only items on the go for Planning and Development, but a flavour of where we're heading. Check out the rest of this issue of Planning + Design to see a variety of other projects that have been underway!

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

Community Support Program – 5 Years and Growing

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The process that produced the Community Support Program (CSP) started with a Council request in regard to panhandling in 2010. Through the work of a dedicated group of Business Improvement District (BID) and City staff, with input from other service providers in Saskatoon, the research was done, the analysis was completed, and a made-in-Saskatoon program was established to help address negative street activity.

The CSP is a hybrid that blends community outreach and bylaw enforcement. The main duties are as follows:

- Provide a highly visible and accessible uniformed presence;
- Assist community members in need in accessing relevant supports;
- Respond to requests from businesses and the general public;
- Establish ongoing partnerships with local businesses, residents, and community support organizations.

The program’s mission is to provide a safe and enjoyable street experience for everyone in the community; a total approach to community, safety, and health. The identifiable uniformed foot patrol reassures community members and businesses, and coordinates with community support organizations, and the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS).

The program is overseen by the Street Activity Steering Committee, which includes the Downtown, Broadway, and Riversdale BIDs, a representative from the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition, SPS, and City staff. This committee ensures the program is meeting its mandate, reports to City Council, and carries issues forward to Council that have been identified at the street level.

On July 9, 2012, the CSP opened for business. Five Community Support Officers — one supervisor and four staff — stepped out onto the streets of Saskatoon for the very first time.

The CSP is in its formative (foundational) years and there has been significant growth and change since 2012. The below table illustrates this growth:

Category	First Year	Current Year
Calls Attended	992	1873
People Assisted	1301	2382
Response Times	5–10 minutes	

The program continues to experience growth year after year.

According to the staff, the realities of performing their duties, the boots on the street, include:

- Witnessing the sad realities of the street life and walking alongside some of the most vulnerable in our city;
- Knowing and caring about clients who have passed away over the years;

- Learning how to balance their role as an outreach worker and community ambassador with the enforcement role;
- Getting to know the areas they work in, as well as the people who live, work, and play in these areas.

Key indicators of success were established for the CSP in 2014. The majority of key indicators have shown positive change over the years with significant increases in business contacts, number of calls, and individuals served.

The CSP’s connection with SPS has been strengthened through improved communications and meetings with the Police Chief. This is reflected in the significant increase in number of dispatches from SPS to the CSP. The CSP also now deals with the majority of the individuals encountered without the addition of, or reference to, any other service provider or the SPS. If the CSP did not exist, it is unlikely that other providers would be able to match the five-to ten-minute response time of the CSP.

This program has been validated by the Police Chief as a way to address a significant percentage of their calls for service that are non-criminal and include many of the types of calls the CSP already addresses. CSP is also supported by the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority’s (SREDA) “Saskatoon Downtown Office Vacancy Round Table Report” (June 23, 2015). This report stated that “the image of the downtown core as a safe and clean place to work, live, and visit is key to its ability to thrive. The CSP was viewed to be a crucial contributor to managing minor disturbances, discouraging loitering, and enforcing bylaws. Strengthening the program, along with encouraging additional internal security personnel and police presence at locations where infractions are concentrated, was seen as critical.”

The level of awareness of and support for the program is steadily rising. A comprehensive report will be completed for December 2018. This will also include an update to the Street Activity Baseline Study, which was the basis for this program’s development.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM ...and many more



GROWTH PLAN

Implementing Saskatoon’s Plans for Growth – It Starts Now!

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Saskatoon’s growth initiatives are shaping the future of the city and its diverse communities. These plans are working together to guide how Saskatoon will grow in the decades ahead, and advance the City’s Strategic Goals of Sustainable Growth, Quality of Life, Environmental Leadership, and Moving Around.

“As Saskatoon continues to grow, it is important that our transit options are strong, that citizens are able to get around, and that neighbourhoods are connected,” says Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark. “The implementation of our Bus Rapid Transit system is crucial in achieving this and to creating a truly 21st Century City, one that is ready to address the needs of people and respond to rapidly changing technology. It is important that the investments being made in transit are as effective and efficient as possible so that we can be the city that gets it right.”

To complete this important implementation work, the City has partnered with a number of industry-leading teams, including:

- BRT planning and design experts, HDR Inc., with sub-consultants CIMA+ and Dillon Consulting, to work on detailed planning and design for Saskatoon’s city-wide Bus Rapid Transit and Conventional Transit system;
- Architectural firm, Dialog, to create concept designs for future Transit Villages at key station locations along the city’s future Bus Rapid Transit Red Line;
- Environmental assessment agency, Dillon Consulting, to develop a strategy to address environmental concerns along major transportation corridors through the creation of a Brownfield Renewal Strategy; and

- Planning and engagement firm, O2 Planning + Design, to work with the City to develop scalable in-person and online engagement in support of multiple Growth Plan projects.

The City’s plans for growth touch many aspects of everyday life in Saskatoon, guiding the development of neighbourhoods, business districts, parks, and facilities to the delivery of services like transit, roadways, and civic utilities. Growth that promotes quality of life for every resident is the goal.

“Growing in a smart and sustainable way starts with putting people at the centre of planning,” says Randy Grauer, the City’s General Manager of Community Services. “Growth isn’t just about expanding our footprint, it’s about expanding economic, social, cultural and educational opportunities for everyone... when quality of life leads planning, cities become great places to live.”

Starting in October 2017, the City will begin a city-wide conversation designed to better understand the impact of these future changes. Through a series of exciting opportunities, residents of Saskatoon will be asked what it will take to create a vibrant, safe, and sustainable future that provides efficient and cost-effective options for all residents.

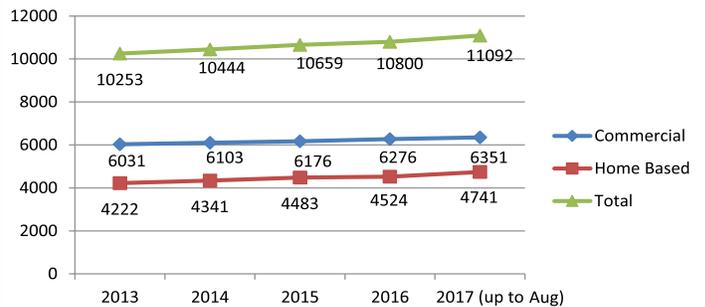
More details about these important projects and the City’s larger work on growth-plan implementation will be presented in the coming months. For more information on the Growth Plan, please visit saskatoon.ca/growth.

Business License Program

The City’s Business License Program licenses all businesses operating from a fixed address within Saskatoon. This includes all home-based businesses as well as businesses operating from commercial and industrial locations.

At the end of 2016, there were **10,800** businesses licensed by the Program. As of August 1, 2017, there are **11,092** licensed businesses. The graph shows the overall business growth in Saskatoon and identifies the total number of home-based and commercial/industrial businesses licensed from 2013 to 2017. The annual rate of increase has remained consistent at 2–3% per year. The number of new home-based businesses continues to exceed the number of new commercial/industrial businesses.

Summary of Total Business Activity



For more business license statistics or to view the Business Profile 2016 Annual Report, please visit saskatoon.ca/businesslicense.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Imagine Idylwyld Project Final Design Options Taking Shape

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Imagine Idylwyld is a City led planning, transportation and design initiative for Idylwyld Drive. The project envisions Idylwyld Drive becoming a signature gateway into the city centre; a modern grand avenue that connects people and places in a compact, mixed-use urban environment that supports daily life in Saskatoon. To further that vision and to develop a conceptual plan, the City Administration has worked with HOK, an architecture and design consultant, and Associated Engineering, to conduct a technical assessment and engage with the community. The final plan for Imagine Idylwyld is anticipated to be delivered to City Council in 2018.

The Imagine Idylwyld project has included multiple engagement phases, including online and in-person surveys. During the first round of engagement, in January 2017, the City heard from over 2,800 residents and stakeholders in the span of three weeks. Using community input and technical analysis, design options were developed and presented again for public input in the summer of 2017. These included balancing transportation alternatives for all users including motorists, pedestrians and cyclists, as well as land-use planning to direct the built environment. Again, over 2,000 citizens responded with input on the design. From there, five corridor priorities were highlighted to guide the corridor design. Those five priorities are as follows:

- Idylwyld Drive will be a street that provides the most **efficient and predictable** means of travel for all users;
- Idylwyld Drive will be a street that is **safe and accessible** for users of all abilities;
- Idylwyld Drive will be a street that is **walkable and human scale** – an interesting and engaging urban environment;
- Idylwyld Drive will be a street that not only **connects** people with their destination but with our **cultural**, built and natural heritage.
- Idylwyld Drive will be a **livable and sustainable** street that enhances daily life by balancing environmental, social, cultural and economic considerations.

The corridor priorities will shape the final concept and design plan for Idylwyld Drive and surrounding area. Some of the key objectives for the transportation design plan include driving lanes that are predictable and consistent, shorter wait times for pedestrians at crosswalks, and accessibility improvements for all users of the road (and sidewalk). Consistent streetscaping will also be required to enhance the visual and functional design of the area.



Idylwyld Drive is an important gateway into the city centre. As traffic patterns have changed with the completion of Circle Drive and the extension of 25th Street East, the use of Idylwyld Drive has changed and will continue to evolve. The Imagine Idylwyld Project strives to ensure that Idylwyld Drive serves the people of Saskatoon's transportation needs moving forward.

For more information, please see the Imagine Idylwyld project website at saskatoon.ca/imagineidylwyld.



REGIONAL PLANNING

ayisīnowak

A Communications Guide

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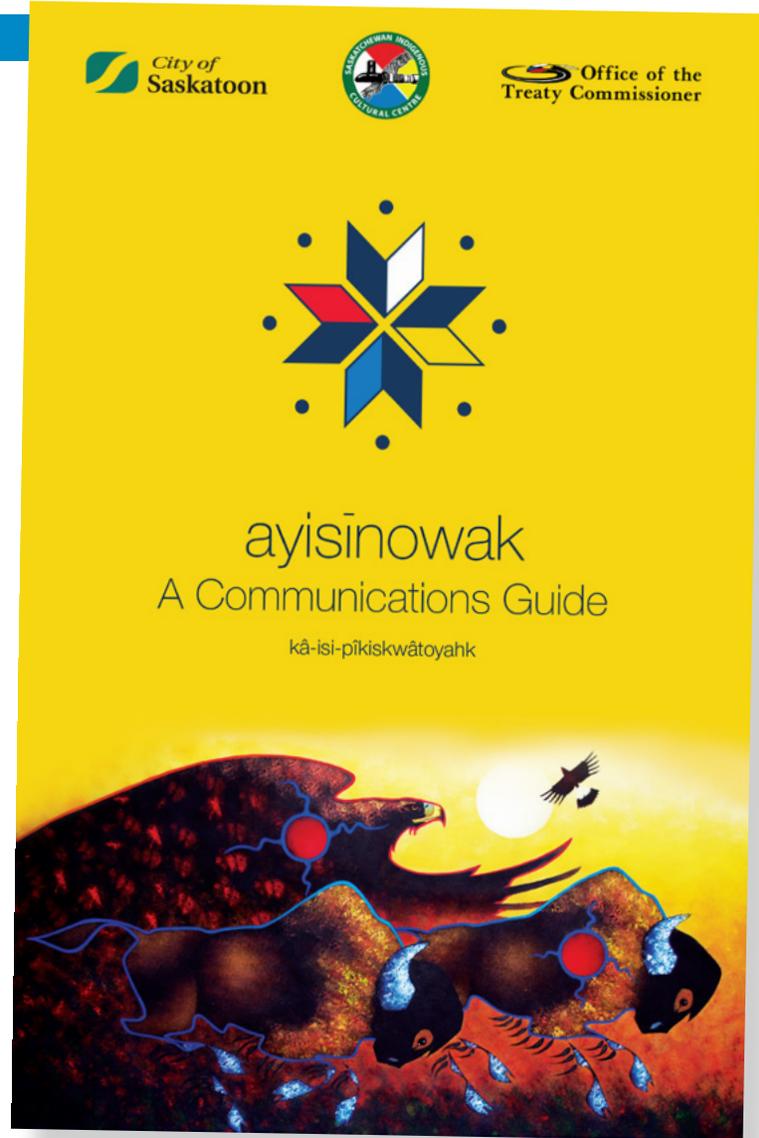
Inside ayisīnowak, readers will find a background to working with First Nations that includes a summary of the City’s Reconciliation efforts, a brief history of the City’s relationship with First Nations, and an overview of the Indigenous peoples in Saskatoon, Urban Reserves and the Treaty Land Entitlement process.

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In keeping with the City’s commitment to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Calls to Action, as well as the City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan (2013–2023) goal to enhance relations with Aboriginal organizations through development of educational opportunities, the City has collaborated with several key individuals and groups, most notably the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre (SICC) and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC), to develop the first edition of ayisīnowak: [‘aye-see-nu-wok’] A Communications Guide. The development of the Guide was made possible, in part, through a summer employment partnership opportunity between the City and the Saskatoon Tribal Council. The content is presented as an adaptive and living document, and is intended to assist City employees with building successful partnerships with First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal organizations. The Guide provides a basic outline of Aboriginal understandings and governance systems to bridge gaps, build more collective understandings, and create positive change together in an innovative and collaborative fashion.

On June 29, 2017, a launch event was hosted by SICC to publically share the first edition of ayisīnowak: A Communications Guide. Many community leaders were in attendance, speaking to the meaning and purpose of ayisīnowak and the steps made on the path toward reconciliation.

ayisīnowak translates to “the people are speaking.” This title was chosen by a panel of Elders we were privileged to work with. ayisīnowak also has strong community and neighbourly connotations as “people” are at the root of the word and we must communicate with one another to foster a strong community. The



content of ayisīnowak is intended to assist with this communication and community-building process.

During the spring of 2016, Regional Planning, in partnership with Aboriginal Relations, applied for a joint summer student through the Summer Employment Program offered by Saskatoon Tribal Council. Students belonging to member Nations were eligible for the program. Leigh Thomas was the successful applicant, whose major project during his summer term was to draft the framework for the Guide. Leigh spent the majority of his term crafting the outline and structure of the guide not only with research, but his own traditional knowledge. We were thankful to be able to draw on Leigh’s experiences.

Inside ayisīnowak, readers will find a background to working with First Nations that includes a summary of the City’s Reconciliation efforts, a brief history of the City’s relationship with First Nations, and an overview of the Indigenous peoples in Saskatoon, Urban Reserves, and the Treaty Land Entitlement process. The real heart of ayisīnowak is in the section that follows: Meetings and Protocol. Here, readers will find answers to many questions they may have been too afraid to ask, or unsure of where to find the answers to,

such as, “who exactly is an Elder?” or, “what should I expect when meeting with representatives of a First Nation for the first time?” A glimpse of the Table of Contents is shown here. Descriptions of ceremonies and terminology are included in the Guide as well, to inform readers about the significance of these traditions. An extensive glossary and recommended reading list supplement the Guide and were provided courtesy of our partners at the OTC.

ayisiṇowak is intended to be a living document and will be updated regularly. One of the first sections to be reviewed will be the Metis section, as we have only recently connected with members of the community to assist in developing a more detailed reflection of the Metis people and their contributions to the Saskatoon area.

Since the launch date, numerous requests have been received from municipalities, non-profit organizations, and various provincial organizations for copies and background information on the development of ayisiṇowak. The importance of relationships developed with our partners during the writing process cannot be stressed enough. ayisiṇowak would not contain the details or authenticity it does without the SICC, their supporting Elders Review Panel, and the OTC.

ayisiṇowak is available digitally at saskatoon.ca/aboriginalrelations. Hard copies are also available upon request for a small fee. Please contact Regional Planning at regional.planning@saskatoon.ca if you would like to purchase one.

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ayisiṇowak Core Project Team: Back row from L to R: Gilles Dorval (Director of Aboriginal Relations, City of Saskatoon); Jonathan Derworiz (Planner, City of Saskatoon); Paul Collins (Graphic Designer, City of Saskatoon); Wanda Wilson (Executive Director, SICC); Blaire Prima (Senior Planner, City of Saskatoon); Mason Medynski (Graphic Artist, SICC); and, Harry Lafond (Executive Director, Office of the Treaty Commissioner). Front row from L to R: Jennifer Pesenti (Communications Consultant, City of Saskatoon); Sarah Nunweiler (Marketing & Communications Manager, City of Saskatoon); Dana Kriпки (Senior Planner-Regional Partnerships, City of Saskatoon); and Leigh Thomas (Intern, City of Saskatoon).



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Meadowgreen Local Area Plan

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Local Area Planning is a community-based approach to developing comprehensive neighbourhood plans by enabling residents, business owners, property owners, community groups, and other stakeholders direct input into determining the future of their community. It is a highly adaptable process that encourages stakeholders of an established neighbourhood to discuss issues of local importance.

The Local Area Plan (LAP) program is administered by the Neighbourhood Planning Section, Planning and Development Division. Once completed, LAPs establish the vision and set goals to guide the renewal and growth of a neighbourhood. Each plan is submitted to City Council for endorsement, and identifies specific recommendations for local improvements. LAPs are long-term plans that may take many years to be fully implemented. The Meadowgreen LAP was adopted by City Council in June 2017, becoming the 14th LAP completed since the program began in 1997.

The neighbourhood of Meadowgreen is located in southwest Saskatoon and is bordered by 22nd Street to the north, Avenue W to the east, the Canadian Pacific Railway line to the south, and Circle Drive to the west.



More than 90 neighbourhood residents and stakeholders participated in the creation of the Meadowgreen LAP, which contains a total of 25 recommendations related to the following topics: Land Use and Housing, Parks, Building Community, Municipal Services, Transit and Bus Stops, Traffic, and Neighbourhood Safety.

Meadowgreen is Saskatoon's most ethnically diverse neighbourhood. Recent census data showed that only 57% of residents cited English as their mother tongue or the language typically spoken in the home. The remaining 43% of the

neighbourhood population cited one of more than 45 unique languages that are present in Meadowgreen. The Building Community chapter of the Meadowgreen LAP focuses on the complex challenges that can arise in neighbourhoods with a large population of new Canadians and very high rates of cultural diversity, such as addressing language barriers and encouraging residents to establish a connection to the local community.



One of the Meadowgreen LAP recommendations that has already been implemented relates to improving transit service in the neighbourhood. As of July 2017, Saskatoon Transit has increased daytime Monday-to-Saturday bus service in Meadowgreen from having buses every 30 minutes to 15-minute frequency. This significant improvement was accomplished through a simple transit route adjustment that doubled the local bus frequency, while maintaining the existing timing between major transit hubs and without requiring additional funding.



During August 2017, implementation of the Neighbourhood Safety recommendations began and included the Neighbourhood Planning Section working together with local residents to conduct safety reviews of several areas within Meadowgreen. Among the areas examined were four neighbourhood parks and a neighbourhood pathway. The purpose of these reviews is to identify opportunities for safety improvements.

The Meadowgreen LAP (full report and summary report) is located online at saskatoon.ca/lap.

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Way-To-Park

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On April 5, 2017, the City introduced the Way-To-Park (WTP) application, allowing drivers to pay for parking through their smartphone device. The app provides new parking flexibility and is designed to ease the need to go to the existing parking terminals. The WTP app allows for the same payment methods as the existing parking terminals and lets users pay by credit card or e-purse through their smartphone.

After downloading and registering for the app, the user enters zone number 6001, which is the number used for all parking districts with parking terminals in Saskatoon, including the Central Business District, Riversdale, Broadway and Sutherland areas. The user can then enter the amount of parking time they require from the minimum of 15 minutes and the maximum of 3 hours. Fifteen minutes before the parking session expires, a notification will appear on the user’s phone, warning that the parking session is set to expire. The user can then top-up their parking if needed, as long they are still in the three-hour maximum timeframe limit. This top-up feature helps reduce users’ parking infractions when they are running behind.

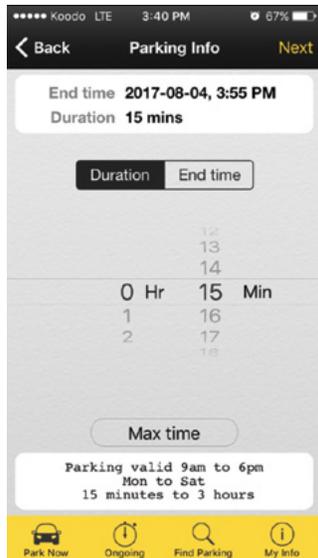
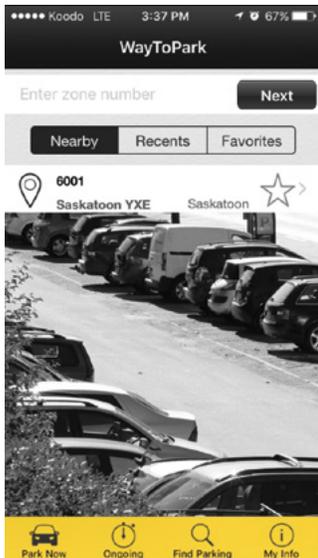
Other features of the app include allowing the user to enter and save multiple license plate numbers for different vehicles, view past parking sessions, and receive, e-mail and print parking receipts.

The existing parking and sign regulations remain in effect with the WTP app, including 3 hour maximums and the requirement to change block faces after the maximum parking time has been reached. The WTP app is linked to the current Flexparking enforcement system and uses the same interface currently used to verify when a vehicle’s parking time has expired.

The app target usage before implementation was 10% of all parking transactions. The current app usage rate of all parking transactions is at 15% and has continued to grow month by month. Total app-related parking transactions at the end of July, totalled \$533,600. Feedback from the community has been very positive.

The Way-To-Park app is currently available for both iOS (App Store) and Android (Google Store) devices.

For more information on the Way-To-Park app, please visit saskatoon.ca/parking.



WORDS FROM THE INTERNS

The City of Saskatoon was lucky to have two fantastic Planning Interns this past summer: Kaitlyn Luster and Veronica Wallace. Here is a reflection of their experience.



It has been a fantastic summer. Thank you to all City Staff for your help and patience. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity. It is so important for students to have experiences like this to complement their education.

The past three months I have been working in Bylaw Compliance, within the Community Standards Division, where my main task has been to resolve outstanding files. I have been working hard to close as many outstanding landscaping and parking files as time would permit. Sometimes this was an easy task, but occasionally it was more challenging. At times, I dealt with situations that were unfamiliar and had to work with others to find the best solutions. This led me to make professional connections, including with staff from other city departments. My process for inspecting included reviewing site plans and zoning check sheets, reading previous notes, visiting sites, recording my own notes, and even drafting letters to be sent out.

Another project I worked on throughout the summer was a Heritage Designation publication. The purpose of this publication is to provide information about how to designate heritage properties, benefits of designating, and myths and misconceptions. This project had a part in testing my writing and research skills, as well as providing me a well-rounded experience at the City. I had very little knowledge about heritage sites and designation before this project. Now, I am leaving with a better appreciation for the heritage sites of Saskatoon.

I have learned plenty this summer, but through countless letters, numerous emails, and the Heritage Designation publication, I have challenged my writing skills over and over. It is one matter to write a paper for a class, it is a completely different matter to write a clear and concise letter explaining subjects unfamiliar to the reader. Additionally, I have improved my communication skills through writing emails, answering phone calls, and having impromptu conversations at site visits. Lastly, I have become very familiar with the Zoning Bylaw and have learned how to read and navigate bylaw documents. These are only a few of the many things I have learned that will be transferable throughout my life and career.

This summer internship with the City was so valuable to me and I feel that I have accomplished a great deal. I am so grateful to be able to apply my knowledge outside the classroom and to learn things not taught in school. Real life experience in customer service, collaborating with people in different departments, and being able to write clear and concise letters, are all amazing lessons I will be able to take with me.

Kaitlyn Luster



The City provides a unique opportunity each year to Urban Planning students in the form of a summer internship. Going into this internship, I was nervous about what to expect, and how I could contribute to the wonderful work being done at the City. My co-workers were quick to make me feel comfortable, and seemed to understand exactly how I felt.

I worked primarily in Business Licensing within the Community Standards Division, who provided me with two special projects outside my regular licensing duties. I began the summer with the most controversial of the projects, researching regulatory frameworks for the up and coming marijuana industry. The most difficult part about this project was choosing what to present in my reports. The amount of information on the topic is overwhelming, as all Canadian municipalities have begun the process of creating regulations. I was involved in determining the scope of the research, and I greatly enjoyed the independence of pursuing information I found relevant or interesting. I worked on reporting my research until the end of my last day, and am eager to see how it contributes to the final regulations.

My next big project revolved around data accuracy, and cleaning our commercial space records. I was given a list of commercial spaces labelled 'vacant' in our database, and was asked to determine the validity of their status. I felt like an investigator, and learned a lot about businesses in Saskatoon. I also became experienced with the City's database system, a skill that will likely be beneficial in my career.

Between these projects were smaller tasks that gave variety to my days. This included inspecting sidewalk patios, opening new license accounts, and redesigning the business presentation. One of the greatest learning opportunities I had this summer came from my exposure to the people and day-to-day workings of a municipal planning office. I feel like I better understand the complexity of City-led initiatives, and the importance of co-operation.

The summer passed quickly, but I always felt like I was doing something valuable with my time. I am proud of the work I did, and am grateful for the opportunity to contribute meaningfully. I am glad that this internship has survived so many years, and hope that it does for future young planners as well.

Veronica Wallace

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Reimagining City of Saskatoon’s Official Community Plan

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The City is currently working on a redesign and reimagining of our Official Community Plan (OCP). Originally approved in 1998 as the culmination of Plan Saskatoon, a city-wide engagement on the future of the city, the OCP has served the City for nearly 20 years in its current format. It acts as the official record on the City’s plans for growth and provides policies to help ensure we achieve our long-term vision for Saskatoon.

Over the years, the City has made minor changes and updates to the OCP to reflect new initiatives and current best practices. More recently, a new vision has emerged for how Saskatoon should grow, necessitating a more comprehensive update and redesign of the OCP. Beginning with the approval of Saskatoon Speaks, and continuing through initiatives like the Strategic Plan 2013–2023, the City Centre Plan, and the Growth Plan to Half a Million (the Growth Plan), Saskatoon’s City Council has endorsed new directions for Saskatoon. New focuses include transit-oriented development; mixed-use, walkable areas; active transportation; and an overall more integrated process for ensuring new development and existing areas meet the needs of Saskatoon citizens today and into the future.

While Saskatoon has been laying out a new path for growth, cities across North America have begun to see the value of a more visual, plain-language style of OCP as a means to be more engaging and relevant to residents, developers, civic staff, and other orders of government. Saskatoon has followed this trend with documents like the Strategic Plan and the Growth Plan, and soon, with this project, will see our OCP get a significant facelift as well.



With the guiding documents for this update having been endorsed by City Council and having been based on major public engagement initiatives, new policy directions are already well known. The OCP redesign is intended to capture the vision outlined in Saskatoon Speaks, the Growth Plan, and the Strategic Plan, as well as a host of other supporting initiatives. Inclusion of the directions outlined in these documents in the OCP is a major step in ensuring that those visions are achieved. In addition, this process provides an opportunity to reinforce the value of the OCP both within the City and in the community. Long Range Planning staff are currently working extensively with staff from all divisions of City Administration to ensure their policy aligns with the OCP and vice versa. Once complete, events to introduce the community to the new document will occur. By ensuring the OCP is a well known and well used document, we can ensure that City staff, City Council, and citizens are more easily able to keep the long-term vision for Saskatoon in mind as new opportunities and challenges arise.

Expect to see more information on this process and the new OCP throughout 2018.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Saskatoon North Partnership For Growth (P4G) Regional Plan

In May 2017, the Regional Oversight Committee of the P4G endorsed in principle the draft Regional Plan, the Regional Governance and Implementation Strategy and the Regional Servicing Strategy. These documents were subsequently forwarded to the partner municipal Councils for endorsement in principle.

The P4G are currently undertaking a legal review of the draft Regional Plan and also working on developing a Planning District Agreement and a P4G Zoning Bylaw which are anticipated to be completed in 2018.

Please visit www.partnershipforgrowth.ca for regular updates including information on future public meetings.





HERITAGE

Third Avenue United Church

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Third Avenue United Church is one of the most significant heritage resources in the city of Saskatoon. The landmark building, with its English Gothic architecture, is deeply connected to the roots of this community and, in many ways, is a symbol of Saskatoon's development. The boom-time era of Saskatoon left a legacy of substantial buildings in the City that document the aspirations of Saskatoon's early citizens. Third Avenue United Church is a prime example of that legacy. From the time of its initial construction in 1911, the building has functioned as a place of worship, as well as an auditorium, and has been the site of many important political events. The iconic building is an important landmark in Saskatoon and in the province of Saskatchewan.

The building was designed by architect John N. Semmens, and remains relatively unaltered from its original construction. The stone church closely resembles the construction and architecture of the buildings found at the University of Saskatchewan campus. The church features lancet windows and doorways and two tall towers. The base and foundation of the building are made of native limestone, processed within five miles of the city. The stonework of the main body of the church consists of softly tinted buff Tyndall stone. The dominant features of the church's interior are the hammer-beam rafters and windows. The large Casavant organ is located on the church's north wall. Considered an engineering triumph at the time, the church's interior creates a sense of cathedral-like grandeur.

Throughout its history, Third Avenue United Church has performed the function of a civic auditorium for the city with its extraordinary acoustics. The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and Children's Choir have held many concerts here. It has also been the setting for events of historical significance in Saskatoon. In November 1921, for example, T. A. Crerar, leader of the National Progressive Party,

spoke at the church before a crowd of 3,000 supporters, and it was also here, on August 7, 1923, that American Pool Expert, Aaron Sapiro, spoke to a crowd of 2,000. This meeting would provide the backdrop for the formation of the Wheat Pool. Sapiro inspired the Saskatchewan Grain Growers Association and the Farmers' Union to combine their efforts to sign up farmers for the Wheat Pool, which was in operation within the year.

Following several years of uncertainty in terms of ownership and the proposed redevelopment of the site, City Council resolved to designate this landmark building as Municipal Heritage Property on August 28, 2017.



The current issue of *Planning + Design* is available for download at saskatoon.ca.

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