



ENVIRONMENTAL
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REPORT
2017

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Overview

This report provides an update on many of the environmental initiatives being addressed directly by City of Brandon staff or in partnerships with other groups in the community within the last year.



Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP)

The Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) was compiled for the community with the public's input and approved by City Council in November of 2007, and updated in June of 2013. The ESP is a living document and has a series of actions over the short-and-long-term, which will reduce the City's negative impact on the environment and produce a positive outcome.

 **Did you know?** The Environmental Strategic Plan will be updated in 2018.

Brandon Environment Committee (BEC)

The Brandon Environment Committee (BEC) is an arm's-length committee for City Council and provides information related to environmental issues in the community. The committee is made up of citizens at large, business representatives, students, and a City staff member. The committee meets on a monthly basis and deals with many issues in the community. The Brandon Environment Committee is a vital component of environmental initiatives and concerns in the community. The Brandon Environment Committee is on Twitter (@BdnEnviroCom), on Facebook, and online (www.brandonenvironment.ca) to provide an easier format for the public to access information.

 **Did you know?** The Brandon Environment Committee has been in place for more than 10 years!

The Brandon Municipal Airport is working to become the first municipal LEED certified building in Brandon.

Details on page 8



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES



Eco Day in May

The Brandon Environment Committee partnered with the Global Market to host “Eco Day in May”. On May 27th, the event was hosted at the Global Market and included other partnerships in the community such as the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and CAA Manitoba. This eco-friendly day brought the community together with local entertainment, compost giveaways, and exhibits from local organizations/businesses showcasing their product/service and offering participation opportunities for the general public.



Brandon Enviro Expo

The Brandon Enviro Expo started in 2013 and is a one-day annual event held the first week in June to celebrate National Environment Week. The purpose of the Enviro Expo is to educate and empower youth within the Brandon School Division on environmental stewardship and connect what they learn in the classroom to their community. In 2017, the Enviro Expo was held on June 6th and had 290 students take part in interactive workshops, including tours of the City’s landfill and recycling facility, geocaching, gardening and much more led by environmental stewards within the community and surrounding area.



Team Up to Clean Up

On May 13th, the Brandon Environment Committee joined forces with Take Pride Winnipeg to run the Team Up to Clean Up Campaign. The committee encouraged community organizations, businesses, and individuals to tidy different areas of the City and a friendly competition between City Councillors to engage their wards to participate. An estimated 140 people volunteered their time to help make the City clean and green and Councillor Glen Parker representing Riverview Ward won the trophy!



Did you know? The City provides bags and gloves for community group clean-ups in our greenspaces!



Did you know? The Expo has been marked a favourite, must-attend event by teachers.



Waste Reduction School Challenge

October 2017 marked the 7th year of the Waste Reduction School Challenge. This educational program is in partnership with the Brandon School Division and title sponsor Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM). This program involves students in Grades 1-6 being challenged to measure their recyclables and organic waste volumes over a three-week period. Students take part in waste reduction activities to earn points (clean school grounds, recycled art, educate other students etc.). 19 participating classrooms went on a tour of the Eastview Landfill. The classrooms who had the most points won the challenge. All 412 students received prizes made out of recycled materials and t-shirts. Winners of the challenge received a photo with the Mayor, bragging rights, and a bench made out of recycled plastic for their school. Each participating class had to pledge a waste reduction initiative they would carry out for the rest of the school year (ex: organics program, litter-less lunches, and to engage other students in recycling).



The Lieutenant Governor's Tree Project

The Lieutenant Governor's Tree Project is a new sustainable way Her Honour recognizes outstanding Manitobans. The tree species, created by Jefferies Nursery has the hardiness of western maples and the bright red foliage of maples in eastern Canada. This initiative received partial funding from the Government of Canada through a Canada 150 grant with Her Honour's goal to plant 150 of these Regal Celebration trees throughout Manitoba in 2017. There are 11 of these Regal Celebration trees planted at Memorial Park just north of the Brandon Police Services building. In September, Lt-Gov. Janice C. Filmon took part in a tree planting ceremony to recognize this project here in Brandon.



CN Natural Oasis

The City in partnership with Communities in Bloom and Tree Canada, received \$25,000 from CN EcoConnexions from the Ground Up grant program. On May 24th, Parks staff, volunteers, dignitaries, and students from École Harrison planted 50 maple trees by the dry retention pond along Kirkcaldy Drive. This project is recognized as a Canada 150 Tree Legacy Project from the Government of Canada. At the northwest corner of the dry retention pond is a commemorative plaque and three trees: a maple symbolizing CN Railway and Canada, a white spruce representing the Province of Manitoba, and a cedar representing First Nations. In addition to the trees planted at this site, 50 more maple trees were planted in the downtown area as part of a beautification project.



Did you know? Several classes in the WRSC earned extra points for spreading the word about the three R's!

CORPORATE INITIATIVES



💡 Did you know? A rain garden imitates natural filtering systems such as wetlands.

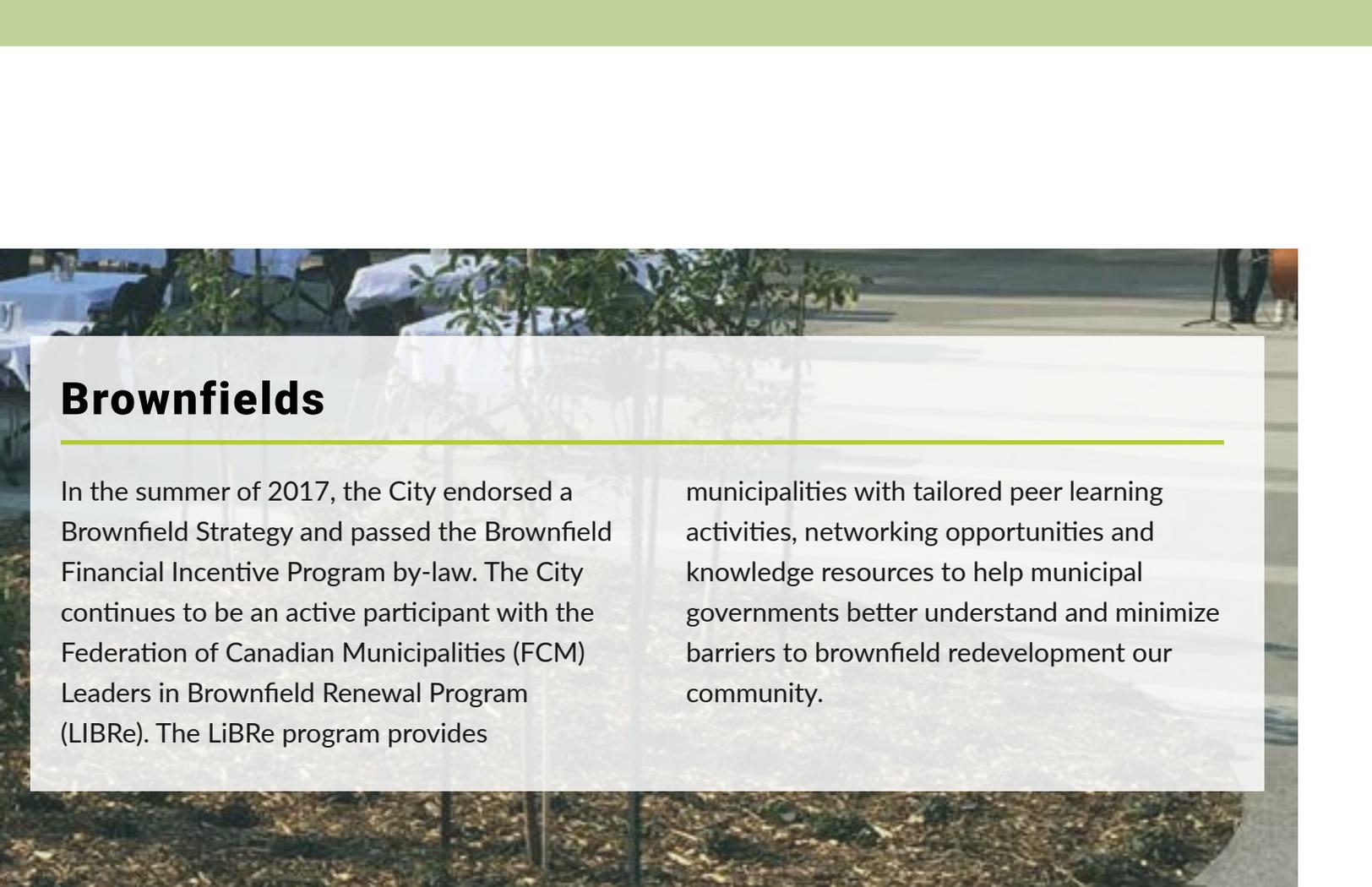
Water Conservation Plan

The City's Water Conservation Committee continues to implement the City's Water Conservation Plan, which was adopted by Council in 2013. The plan's focus is on conserving and protecting water use for present and future generations on both a community and corporate level. The Water Conservation Committee meets quarterly to ensure it is on track in meeting our conservation targets. In 2017, the committee focused on educating the public on checking for leaks in their home. Late fall construction started to create two rain gardens in the parking lot islands at the Brandon Municipal Airport. The rain garden project is a partnership with the Assiniboine Hills Conservation District.

Urban Forestry

In 2017, the City of Brandon Parks Department planted 756 trees. The City continues to work with the Province to manage Dutch Elm Disease. This past December, the City of Winnipeg announced it had found Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in their urban forest. The City of Brandon will be increasing their monitoring and education efforts of EAB and overall health of our urban forest as approximately 12,000 of the City's trees are of the ash species.

💡 Did you know? Don't move firewood! Moving firewood can introduce invasive species and harm our urban forest.



Brownfields

In the summer of 2017, the City endorsed a Brownfield Strategy and passed the Brownfield Financial Incentive Program by-law. The City continues to be an active participant with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Leaders in Brownfield Renewal Program (LiBRe). The LiBRe program provides

municipalities with tailored peer learning activities, networking opportunities and knowledge resources to help municipal governments better understand and minimize barriers to brownfield redevelopment our community.

Municipal LEED Building

The Brandon Municipal Airport recently completed a major renovation and expansion. The airport terminal has almost tripled in size, growing from 505 s.m (5,400 sf) to 1,371.6 s.m. (14,764 sf). The newly designed facility is a blend of the old terminal building and a newly added structure and incorporates several sustainable features. A few examples are: installing hand dryers in all washrooms, a water bottle refill station in the departure lounge, using native grasses and adaptive plants in landscaping that can withstand drought and require little to no irrigation, using wood in the renovation that is Forest Stewardship Council

(FSC) Certified, and promoting alternate transportation by making available covered bike spaces. Additionally, energy efficient measures were integrated into the construction such as: geothermal heating and cooling, in floor heating, displacement ventilation, low energy flow fixtures and LED Lighting. The airport team has also incorporated Green products and practices in the day-to-day operation of the facility to enhance the environmental footprint of the airport. The airport will soon add a virtual tour to the airport webpage highlighting the sustainable features of the airport, and is working to become the first municipal LEED certified building in Brandon.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



Green Cart Program

In 2017, the program had 7,103 households participate on a voluntary basis. Throughout the year the public has been able to access the finished compost. The benefits of this program will extend the life of the landfill and has helped the City reach its goal of diverting more than 50% from the waste stream, creating a natural fertilizer to use within our City, and reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

Did you know? 1,590 tonnes of organic waste from our Green Cart Program was diverted from the landfill tipping face in 2017.



Fair Trade Town

Fair trade is a certification program ensuring that the producers behind the products we buy are getting a fair deal. In May of 2014 the City of Brandon became the 19th Fair Trade Town in Canada, the 2nd municipality in Manitoba, to do so. This initiative was spearheaded by the Marquis Project. To become a Fair Trade Town, 5 steps had to be completed: form a steering committee, receive political support, have a certain number of stores and restaurants that would demonstrate product availability, public awareness & education, and lastly, community support. There are hundreds of fair trade products in Brandon. A complete list of what is available can be found at www.marquisproject.com. Over the next year, the committee will continue to engage the community and keep the momentum going to promote Brandon as a Fair Trade Town.



Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is shipped from the landfill's year-round depot to Miller Environmental Group located in Winnipeg, where it is properly disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. This program is in partnership with Product Care and the Province of Manitoba.

Did you know? 11 semi loads of HHW were disposed of in 2017.



Incredible Edible Route

Inspired by the England-based Incredible Edible Todmorden program, the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) brought together the Incredible Edible Brandon Committee in January of 2017. In addition to the BNRC, the committee consisted of members from: the Cooperators, the City of Brandon Community Services section Canadian Mental Health Association, CAA, and Healthy Brandon. Brandon's pilot project consisted of twelve locations in the downtown area where businesses sponsored planters and grew vegetables for the public to access at any time.

Did you know? Brandon has been triple crowned Fair Trade Town of the Year by Fairtrade Canada!

FUTURE INITIATIVES



Bee City

Members of the Brandon Environment Committee and the Assiniboine Food Forest are working together to have Brandon become a designated BEE City by BEE City Canada in 2018. This program focuses on educating citizens on how to be pollinator friendly.



Textile Recycling

The City's Environmental Initiatives Section and the Brandon Environment Committee will be exploring avenues for textile recycling and providing educational opportunities for the community.



Did you know? The average Canadian throws out 81 lbs of textiles a year!

