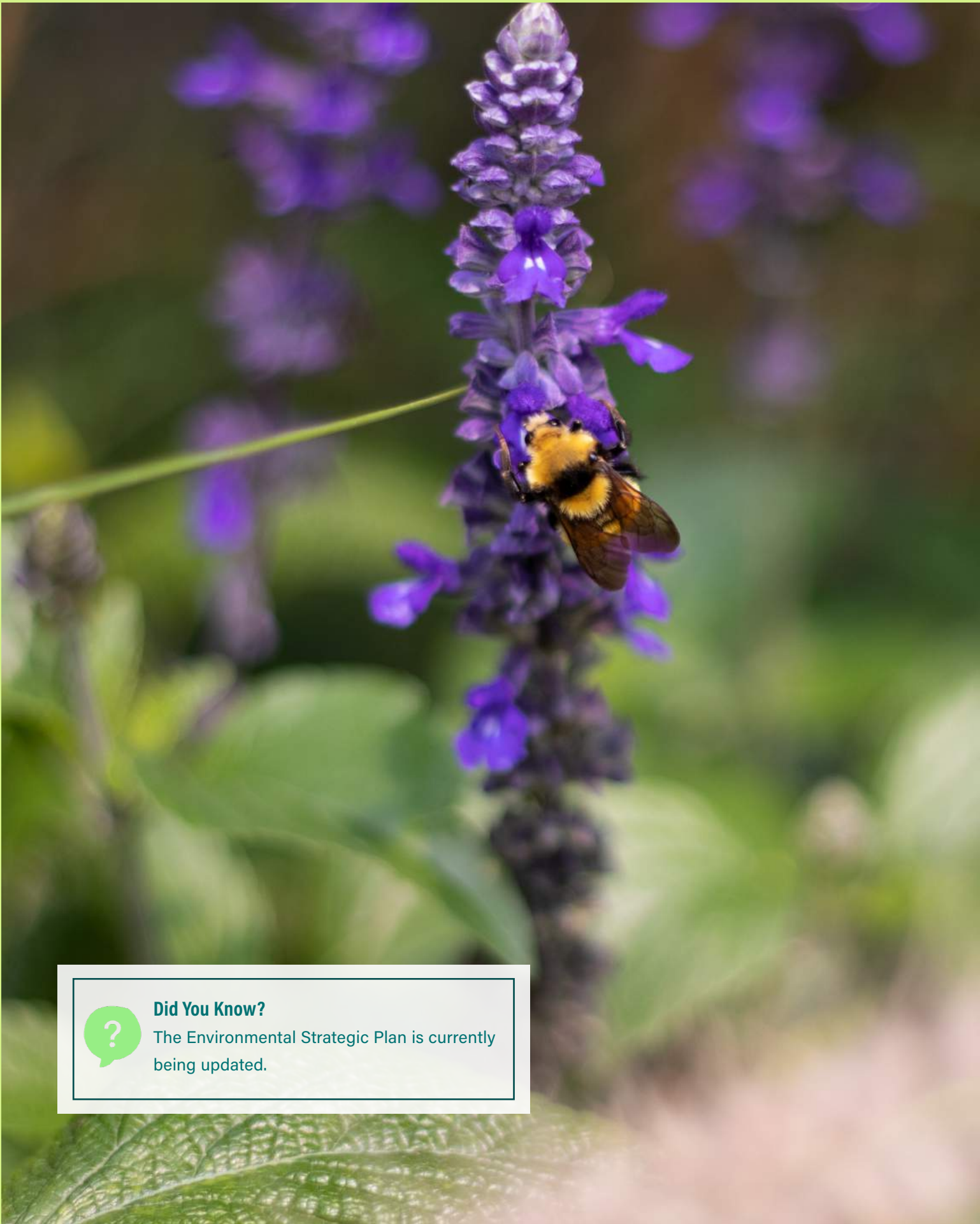




# 2018 Environmental Annual Report.

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**Did You Know?**

The Environmental Strategic Plan is currently being updated.



## Overview

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

## Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP)

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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.

## Brandon Environment Committee (BEC)

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The Brandon Environment Committee is an arm's length committee for City Council and provides information related to environmental issues in the community.

The committee has representation of citizens at large, business representatives, students, and City staff members. The committee meets on a monthly basis and deals with many issues in the community.



### Did You Know?

Anyone is welcome to join the committee.



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

## Eco Day in May

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The Brandon Environment Committee partnered with the Global Market to host “Eco Day in May”. The event was hosted at the Global Market and included other partnerships in the community such as 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 opportunities for the general public to participate in.



### Did You Know?

The Brandon School Division and Multi Material Stewardship Manitoba were partners for the Waste Reduction School Challenge.

## Brandon Waste Reduction School Challenge

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This past fall marked the 8th year of the Waste Reduction School Challenge. This program involves students in Grades 1-6 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.). All 200 students received prizes made out of recycled materials, and reusable bags.

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!

## Brandon Enviro Expo

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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.

Environmental stewards within the community and surrounding area led interactive workshops entailing textiles, burrowing owls, geocaching, gardening and much more.



### Did You Know?

2018 was the largest Expo yet with 330 students participating!

## Community Tree Plantings

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The City in collaboration with the help from several organizations were able to plant 250 trees to add to our tree canopy cover.

One hundred and fifty white spruce trees were planted at the Parks holding nursery with the help of TD Friends of the Environment *#dtreedays*.

Ninety-six trees were planted in Kin Park with City staff and Youth Revolution students with the support of CN EcoConnexions From the Ground Up grant.

Eighteen trees were planted around the track at the Sportsplex with the help of our local Girl Guides of Canada.

## Soil Conservation Week

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Mayor Chrest successfully soiled his undies in support of Soil Conservation Awareness Week.



# CORPORATE INITIATIVES

## Municipal LEED Building

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The Brandon Municipal Airport recently completed a major renovation and expansion. The newly designed facility is a blend of the old terminal building and newly added structure and incorporates several sustainable features. To highlight the different environmental features of the airport, educational signage is displayed throughout the terminal.

Two rain gardens were installed in two of the parking islands; the purpose of this is to slow down the run off from the parking lot. This done in partnership with Assiniboine Hills Conservation District.

## Urban Forestry

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The City continues to work with the Province to manage Dutch Elm Disease. The City put up 40 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) traps up throughout the city to monitor detection of EAB. Brandon does not have EAB but is at high risk as we have ~12,000 ash trees that can be destroyed by this invasive specie.

This past spring was the first phase of updating our tree inventory. This will take several summers to update. Once complete it will be integrated into our asset management, to be used as a tool in how we manage our urban forest.



### Did You Know?

Don't move firewood. Moving firewood can introduce invasive species and harm our urban forest.





## **Brownfields**

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In the summer of 2017, the City endorsed the 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 resource to help municipal governments better understand and minimize barriers to brownfield redevelopment our community.

## **Off the Grid**

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Brandon Transit installed 32 new shelters with solar ad and security lighting and retrofitted 20 existing shelters to solar lighting as well.

## **Zero Waste Approach**

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Rethink, Reuse, Reduce and than Recycle! Last fall the City took its first step to shifting to a zero waste approach for internal meetings and events.

# COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

## Tidy-up Tuesday

On May 15th, the Brandon Environment Committee joined forces with Community Development to run the Tidy Up Tuesdays 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.

Fourteen organizations volunteered their time to help make the City clean and green and Councillor Parker from Riverview Ward won the trophy!

### Did You Know?

The City provides bags and gloves for community group clean-ups in our greenspaces.



## Textile Recycling

Last spring the City joined the one hundred and sixty municipalities across Canada to take part in a National Textile Diversion and Research Program spearheaded by Diabetes Canada and York University.

Textiles are not accepted in the blue bin program and can be recycled via donation bins or thrift stores to become something new or be new to someone. The average Canadian throws out 81lbs of textiles/year.



## BEE City

Last May Brandon became the first Bee City in Manitoba designated by Bee City Canada.



Our local Bee City Brandon committee will focus on educating our residents on the importance of native pollinators in our community.

## 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 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 to demonstrate product availability, and lastly public engagement and 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](http://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.



# FUTURE INITIATIVES



## Did You Know?

Over the span of 10 weeks, 8,880 lbs of textiles were collected in the pilot program bins.



## Did You Know?

Schools and workplaces can apply for fair trade designation, too!

## Carshare Program

The Brandon Environment Committee hosted a carshare workshop to educate City staff and the public on what a carshare program is.

A steering committee is continuing to explore this initiative and the opportunities for Brandon.

## Climate & Green Plan Implementation Act

On Nov. 8, 2018 the Province passed Bill 16-The Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act. The City is part of a working group to make recommendations to the Minister for setting greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and implementation strategies.



## Bat House Program

This spring the Community Services Department is looking at installing several bat houses in different areas of the City.

Bats are very beneficial to the ecosystem as they have a healthy diet of mosquitoes. This program will be a pilot for two years the projected outcome is to reduce the probability of spraying nuisance mosquitoes, and increasing the little brown bat species population in Manitoba.



