

OurWinnipeg™

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY, 2012

Winnipeg

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INTRODUCTION

In July 2011, City Council approved OurWinnipeg, a new plan to guide the physical, social, environmental and economic development of our city over the next 25 years. Winnipeg is growing and OurWinnipeg will continue to build on the strengths of our community and continue to capitalize on this growth sustainably. Winnipeg is a vibrant modern city, and this clear plan combined with focused implementation, will be the key to our ongoing competitiveness, prosperity and quality of life.

OurWinnipeg was created with the input of more than 40,000 Winnipeggers through the most creative and collaborative planning process ever undertaken in our city—SpeakUpWinnipeg. And that conversation is not over. We are pleased to present our first Report to the Community, an update on OurWinnipeg related activities from 2011. This report highlights activities connected to key areas of the plan and includes input from a check-in with Winnipeggers conducted in June 2012.

The momentum started during the creation of the plan has continued through the first year of plan implementation. Some recent highlights include:

- Enhanced transportation options for Winnipeggers, including the development and launch of Rapid Transit, the opening of an extension of the Chief Peguis Trail and many new active transportation facilities
- A new culture of collaboration – working together with the community and key stakeholders on forward-looking projects including waste management, transit oriented development and community safety
- Aligning many of the City's plans with OurWinnipeg's focus on sustainability and competitiveness, creating new plans where needed, such as the Transportation Master Plan, Garbage and Recycling Master Plan, Transit Oriented Development Handbook and Downtown Parking Strategy.

THE CALL TO ACTION FOR OurWinnipeg

Part way through the initial stages of SpeakUpWinnipeg (the community process that created OurWinnipeg), Council endorsed an interim report—the Call to Action. This report set the direction for the plan by confirming 15 primary themes of most importance to Winnipeggers and by setting out 76 first steps towards those themes as expressing the vision for OurWinnipeg. All of the themes identified in the report have been integrated into OurWinnipeg, and significant progress has been made on the described "first step" actions. The Call to Action was critical to building the energy and momentum for OurWinnipeg.

For more information about the progress made on implementing the Call to Action, visit **http://speakupwinnipeg.com/calltoaction-update**

- OurWinnipeg and SpeakUpWinnipeg received the Planning Award of Excellence from the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Manitoba Planning Excellence Award from the Province of Manitoba.

Looking ahead, there are many accomplishments to come, and lots of work to do:

- Further integrating OurWinnipeg directions and strategies into planning approaches and tools, including work on the Complete Communities Toolbox

- Building on new energy Downtown by actively partnering in establishing the Sports, Hospitality and Entertainment District and increasing opportunities to live, work and play at the center of the city

- Continuing to collaborate on sustainability initiatives that contribute to our quality of life and enhance the social, economic and environmental life of our city

OurWinnipeg's Report to the Community tracks our progress to date and communicates how Winnipeg is moving forward with the plan.

The initiatives and results captured in this report are a testament to the collaboration of the many thousands of Winnipeg citizens and organizations that have participated in the creation of OurWinnipeg and in taking the first steps to implementing our plan.

To learn more about OurWinnipeg and to read the plan, visit: **www.speakupwinnipeg.com**

POPULATION GROWTH AND PLANNING FOR CHANGE

By the end of 2011, Winnipeg's population had grown by nearly 10,000 to approximately 691,800 people over the course of a single year. This strong growth translated into more than 3,000 new housing starts – the highest level of residential construction in Winnipeg in more than 20 years. With strong population growth forecasted to continue into 2012 and beyond, it is likely that the City will eclipse the 700,000 persons mark at some point this year.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, we can expect to see an additional 8,000 people call Winnipeg home each year over the life of the OurWinnipeg plan. The Conference Board also expects housing starts to increase from current levels to the 4,500 starts per year range within 5 years – roughly a 40% increase in new housing construction.

URBAN STRUCTURE

In order to plan for growth and change in the City of Winnipeg over the next twenty-five years, we need a good understanding of what exists today, a vision of what kind of city we want for our future, and a clear, yet flexible direction of how we can achieve that vision. OurWinnipeg lays out a context-sensitive vision for how growth and development within the city will be accommodated now and into the future. This vision is expressed through the plan's Urban Structure Map.

Policy Direction

The Downtown, Mixed Use Centres, Mixed Use Corridors, Major Redevelopment Sites and New Communities are considered Transformative Areas. Anticipated to experience significant change over the life of the plan, these areas present the best opportunities for accommodating sustainable growth.

Recent City and Community Activities

One critical implementation strategy is to give Winnipeggers opportunities to see planning possibilities through demonstration projects. OurWinnipeg's first demonstration project – Fort Rouge Yards – was approved this year. Identified in the Urban Structure as one of 11 Major Redevelopment Sites, the 900 unit, mixed-use development will remediate a brownfield site and employ energy best practices (district geothermal) as well as transit oriented development (being adjacent to Winnipeg's new rapid transit system and AT corridor).

The Urban Structure will need to be regularly updated to ensure that it is current and continues to contribute effectively to the vision and directions of OurWinnipeg. To help do this, the City is currently developing a land supply monitoring system. This system will dynamically provide comprehensive monitoring of land location and availability for new development demands.

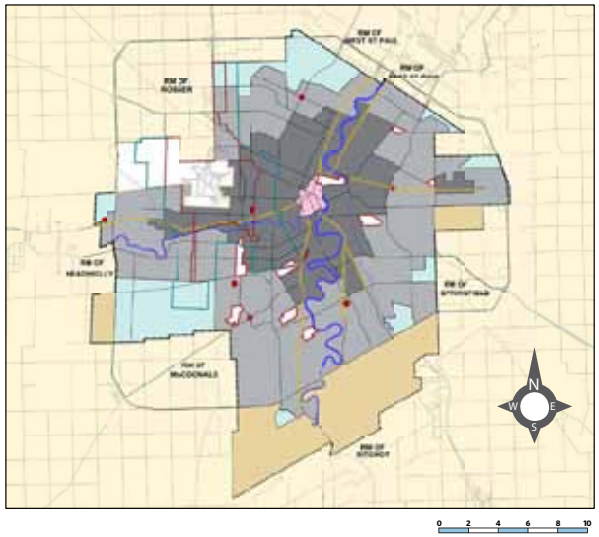
The Transportation Master Plan recently adopted by Council used the Urban Structure as its basis.

The Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Handbook – an OurWinnipeg implementation document – was endorsed as Council policy. The TOD Handbook is a high-level framework document that guides and facilitates mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented infill development along rapid transit and high frequency transit corridors.

Tracking Progress

The majority of new development will transpire in Transformative Areas over the next 20 years, providing the best opportunity to accommodate growth and change. Guided by the direction provided by Complete Communities, significant planning and development activity is already underway in many identified Transformative areas:

- Precinct planning is underway for five of the 18 New Community precinct areas. These areas will continue to accommodate a large share of projected growth and development over the life of the plan.



- In 2011, the City approved Fort Rouge Yards—the first of 11 Major Redevelopment Sites, and there is significant development interest on a number of the remaining 10 sites, all of which present exceptional opportunities to introduce new development on underutilized or vacant land.

- Significant momentum continues to build downtown with more than 1600 new housing units approved in 2011 and many other exciting projects and initiatives underway, such as the Sports Hospitality and Entertainment District (SHED).

Web Links

Fort Rouge Yards
http://fortrougeyards.com/

Transportation Master Plan
http://transportation.speakupwinnipeg.com/

Transit Oriented Development Handbook
http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/TOD/Handbook.stm

WASTE MINIMIZATION

Winnipeg generates over 750,000 tonnes of garbage a year from all sources and diverts only 15% of residential waste from landfill. Additionally, the Brady Road Resource Management Facility emits significant Green House Gasses (GHG) in Manitoba.

In applying the principles of zero waste, sustainability, and the concept of the waste hierarchy, the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan (GRMP) is an integral part of meeting OurWinnipeg goals, including sustainability, liveable communities and being a competitive city.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg calls for the sustainable management and reduction of solid waste and for setting long-term goals for solid waste diversion. The comprehensive waste management strategy integrates and optimizes service levels and efficiency for all facets of the solid waste management system while minimizing environmental impact to achieve these directions.

Recent City and Community Activities

More than 2,500 Winnipeggers participated in nine months of city-wide public consultations to help develop the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan which was adopted by Council on October 19, 2011. The plan outlines how the City will provide uniform, user-friendly services city-wide and focuses on a variety of waste minimization options to increase diversion to 50% or more.

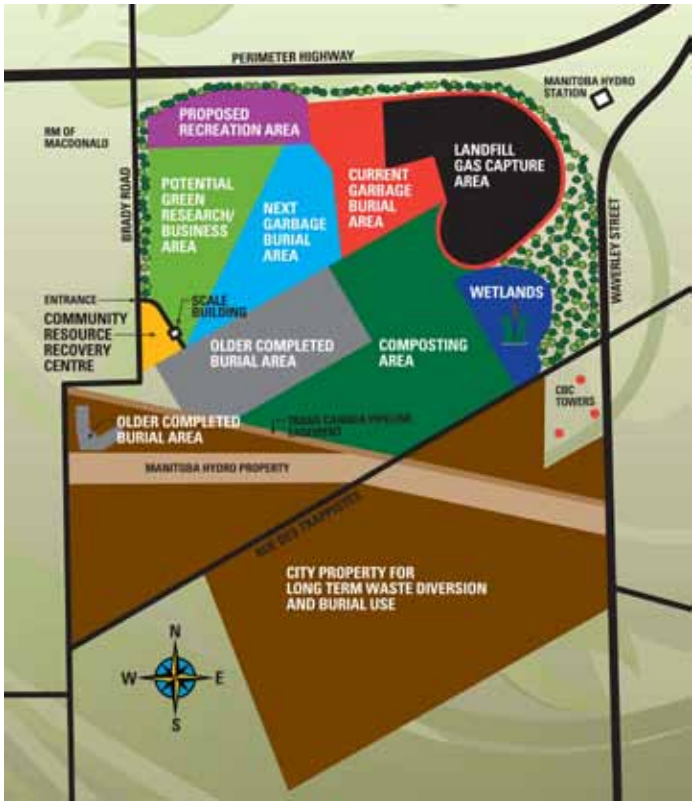
The Brady Road Environmental License application was submitted to the Province of Manitoba, outlining how the Brady Road Resource Management Facility will become a leading facility in waste management.

Tracking Progress

The enhanced integrated waste management system adopted by the City within the last year reflects a shift in priority from disposal to diversion and is based on input from public involvement together with the general principles of zero waste and the concept of a “waste hierarchy” that encourages and promotes efficient use of resources and waste minimization. In moving our current diversion rate (tonnage of waste diverted from total residential waste stream) of 15% towards a goal of 50% or

more, the system takes a balanced approach, considering three main factors:

- environmental protection through increased diversion, decreased burial of waste and decreased greenhouse gas emissions
- program costs, understanding that residents are affected by the costs associated with all program changes
- social considerations, understanding that waste management is a fundamental service to the needs of the community



Web Links

Garbage and Recycling Master Plan
http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/garbage/Garbage-Recycling-MasterPlanFAQ.stm

WATER QUALITY AND CONSUMPTION

Safe drinking water is an absolute requirement for protecting public health within our community, and Winnipeggers expect the City to take all necessary and reasonable steps to provide it both reliably and safely. While Winnipeg has an abundant water supply, we still need to be diligent in using it responsibly and sustainably. The City will continue to provide safe and reliable drinking water and in its water conservation efforts.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg sets a direction to ensure the quality and safety of our existing drinking water as well as the objective of maximizing our existing water supply and ensuring the availability of future water supplies.

Regulated in Manitoba by the *Drinking Water Safety Act* and Manitoba Regulation 40/2007, the City has a Water Supply System Operating Licence PWS-09-412 RR which sets and documents key parameters and regulations for drinking water quality.

Recent City and Community Activities

Since the construction of the Drinking Water Treatment plant, the City has enjoyed high quality drinking water. The drinking water treatment plant produces water that meets the drinking water quality parameters in the City's Water Supply Operating Licence.

A short video was created and made available online to demonstrate the processes required to treat the City's drinking water.

The Water Conservation program is actively promoting the Toilet Replacement Credit program. Since the program's inception in October 2009, approximately 8400 credits have been approved, resulting in approximately 195 million litres of annual water savings.

The Water Conservation program has promoted "Fix a Leak Week." A series of short videos were created to illustrate checking for common household leaks and posted to YouTube.

The Water and Waste Department has signed on as a partner with Environment Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense program to promote water efficiency in Canada. The WaterSense label ensures consumer confidence that products have been tested and certified by an independent third party.

The Water and Waste Department has a partnership with FortWhyte Alive to promote wise water use with middle year students in Winnipeg.

Tracking Progress

Water use in Winnipeg has declined significantly since the peak set in 1990. Usage has decreased by more than 38% to 301 litres per capita per day (L/c/d) from 484 L/c/d in 1990. Much of this decrease can be attributed to the promotion and use of more efficient indoor water fixtures such as high efficiency toilets, low flow shower heads, and new front load clothes washing machines.

Winnipeggers now enjoy drinking water quality above and beyond the guidelines set out by Health Canada. An annual report documenting the drinking water quality produced and distributed to our customers is compiled and submitted to the Office of Drinking Water and is available on the City's website.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg Water Services
http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/default.stm

City of Winnipeg Water Supply System Annual Report
http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/qualityReport.stm

Fort Whyte Alive Water Conservation Programs
http://www.fortwhyte.org/outreachprograms/



TRANSPORTATION

The ability to provide innovative transportation choices is necessary in supporting OurWinnipeg. An anticipated 250,000 new people will call Winnipeg and the surrounding area home by 2031—the highest levels of growth in decades. This growth will result in considerably increased transportation demands, requiring significant changes to the transportation system to accommodate them. The economic prosperity of our city as envisioned in OurWinnipeg also depends on the effective and efficient movement of people and goods, and with it, the need for a transportation network that provides sustainable choices.

Policy Direction

A number of key strategic goals, each built on the strength of the vision and directions established in OurWinnipeg and its supporting Directions Strategies form the basis for the newly adopted Transportation Master Plan. These goals emphasize the importance of integrating transportation and land use planning to ensure that the transportation network supports the city's urban structure through the concept of complete communities. The strategic goals also emphasize providing well-maintained, safe and accessible transportation options for residents of all ages and abilities.

Recent City and Community Activities

The Transportation Master Plan was adopted by Winnipeg City Council in November, 2011. This plan sets out a long-term strategy to guide the planning, development, renewal and maintenance of a multimodal transportation system in a manner that is consistent with projected needs, and aligned with the city's growth and the overall vision for a sustainable Winnipeg and region.

In order to more completely integrate transportation and land use planning, a dynamic transportation model was developed which was designed to seamlessly integrate with a Population and Land Use Model (PLUM). The result is a fully integrated model that is able to project changes in travel patterns and transportation system utilization in response to changes in land use and development, demographics, and transportation infrastructure.

In order to ensure that pedestrian and cycling facilities in Winnipeg are developed and retrofitted in a manner that is safe, efficient and provides a pleasurable and healthy experience for users, active transportation facilities design guidelines are currently in development.

In 2011, continued to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the road network by continuing the Enhanced Traffic Signals Management Project. This project has already resulted in the synchronization of approximately 135 intersections throughout the city, with 65 additional signalized intersections to be completed in 2012.

Tracking Progress

In 2012, the City will develop a Performance Measurement Framework, which provides a basis for tracking changes in land use patterns, demographic characteristics, system performance and mode choice over time. This framework is critical in gauging the effectiveness of the policies, programs and infrastructure improvements contained in the Transportation Master Plan's strategic goals, directions and enabling strategies.

Web Links

Transportation Master Plan
http://transportation.speakupwinnipeg.com/



SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Providing an environment where our personal, social and economic goals can be pursued depends on the safety and security of Winnipeg's citizens and its visitors. Crime prevention and reduction, emergency preparedness and safety maintenance are all important factors in maintaining a vibrant and sustainable Winnipeg. The directions identified in OurWinnipeg establish the foundation from which we can focus our efforts, ensure that security related problems are addressed, and develop a reputation of being a safe city.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg provides eleven specific directions addressing safety and security related concerns. Each recognizes that reducing crime and enhancing overall safety requires a collaborative approach between various civic departments, other levels of government and the community. This includes addressing the needs of existing communities while also identifying the needs of new communities as they are planned.

Recent City and Community Activities

The City is in the midst of a number of service improvements, community initiatives and planning that will bolster safety and crime prevention efforts. Among them, in 2011:

- Winnipeg Police Service released The Roadmap, its 2012-2014 Strategic Plan which aligns with OurWinnipeg.
- New Winnipeg Police Service headquarters are currently under development at 266 Graham Avenue (the former Canada Post building) as part of the City's efforts to continue providing increasing levels and quality of service.
- The Planning, Property and Development Department is working on a "Complete Communities" checklist for developers which incorporates aspects of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Tracking Progress

Despite Winnipeg's continued population growth, crime in general has been decreasing. In 2010, the violent crime rate per thousand people decreased to 15.3 from 16.9, and property crimes also decreased to 68 per thousand people from 73.6 in 2009. These figures represent a continuation of a declining trend that has been established over the last decade. At the same time, costs per capita for policing have been increasing.

Web Links

Winnipeg Police Service
http://winnipeg.ca/police/

Winnipeg Committee for Safety
http://winnipegsafety.ca/



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Like many Canadian communities, Winnipeg has learned about the importance of comprehensive emergency preparedness programs over the last few decades. We now face new kinds of dangers, including the intensifying potential impact and frequency of familiar hazards.

Our focus is on mitigation, on community development, and on creating resilience. Our goal is to enhance individual and community capacity to confront risks. In turn, this provides significant returns through a collective contribution to "Emergency Preparedness" efforts.

Policy Direction

The City will provide timely assistance to the public in search of materials and resources, enabling better preparation for disaster response. This will be accomplished by:

- Maintaining a robust 'EmergWeb' internet site for preparedness information exchange.
- Responding to email requests in a timely manner.
- Including public interest groups in training opportunities when possible.
- Alerting media to events that can be used for public education and information.

Recent City and Community Activities

The City continues to partner with key emergency preparedness stakeholders through three theorized and practical exercises; with Winnipeg Airport Authority, Maple Leaf Foods and Canadian Sciences Centre for Human and Animal Health.

There were five Winnipeg Emergency Management (WEM) courses provided in 2011, increasing the total employee ratio trained in basic emergency management knowledge to 9%, from 6% in 2006. Additionally, there are now 343 personnel from partner agencies trained to the same level of emergency preparedness knowledge.

The community is becoming better informed and prepared by making an average 7,000 visits per week to our city 'EmergWeb' page. During the flood event of 2011, this number escalated to over 25,000 for a two week period.

Presentations and consultations with the public continued to grow, with more than 1,000 people hearing emergency preparedness messaging.

Tracking Progress

The changing nature of the risks and threats with infrastructure interdependencies, climate change and the new security environment have increased the potential for disasters that cross borders, jurisdictions and mandates. More than ever the City of Winnipeg and community must become better prepared through; public awareness, training and exercises.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg EmergWeb
http://www.winnipeg.ca/emergweb/

Get Prepared, Government of Canada
http://www.getprepared.gc.ca

Emergency Measures Organization, Province of Manitoba
http://www.gov.mb.ca/emo/

Emergency Management, Government of Canada
http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/index-eng.aspx



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Winnipeg is in the midst of an economic resurgence. Our population is growing at a rate that we haven't seen in decades, our economy continues to perform well and housing prices and sales are at record levels. Winnipeggers believe in the city that they live, work and play in. They also invest and learn here and conversations with Winnipeggers through SpeakUpWinnipeg confirmed that they believe a strong economy that creates wealth, jobs, income and investment is paramount in achieving a high quality of life.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg provides a number of specific directions relating to our economy and business environment. Each direction recognizes that fostering a strong economy and favorable business environment requires continued intergovernmental cooperation, as well as collaboration with other levels of government and community partners. These include local businesses, learning institutions, the James A. Richardson International Airport and various economic development agencies.

Recent City and Community Activities

In 2011, the City of Winnipeg began developing a Complete Communities Checklist. This will use a full range of enabling tools to achieve the goals laid out by OurWinnipeg's Complete Communities Direction Strategy. The checklist is being developed in partnership with the development community and is intended to facilitate further collaboration and to create the conditions for OurWinnipeg's success.

In partnership with the Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg's first Tax Increment Financing (TIF) zone was established Downtown. This tool promotes residential mixed use development downtown and direct sustainable funding for strategic public investments that are consistent with the Portage Avenue Development Strategy (PADS) and the Sports, Hospitality and Entertainment District (SHED).

The City is currently participating in developing a stakeholder-led Economic Development Strategy for the Winnipeg Region that builds on OurWinnipeg's policy platform.

Tracking Progress

Despite a challenging macroeconomic environment, Winnipeg has gained positive economic momentum and citizens continue to build confidence in our city and our future. In 2011 Winnipeg posted strong annual economic growth (1.7%), robust building activity (more than $1.1 billion in building permit values) and low unemployment (5.7%). Strong economic growth is anticipated to continue with more than 31,000 new jobs anticipated over the next five years.

Despite recent economic strength, Winnipeg continues to be an affordable place to live and do business. According to a study by KPMG, Winnipeg tops the list as the most cost-competitive city out of 25 western Canadian and Midwestern U.S. cities.

Web Links

Economic Development Winnipeg
http://www.economicdevelopmentwinnipeg.com/



HOUSING

Housing is one of our most basic needs. It is also a cornerstone of building healthy communities and a strong city. Winnipeg is home to a diverse housing stock consisting of more than 250,000 units. Making sure that it is well maintained, safe, appropriate and affordable is central to Winnipeggers' quality of life. OurWinnipeg recognizes that affordable and accessible housing is an essential part of the mix for serving our diverse population and for creating complete communities.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg sets a number of clear directions regarding housing, including:

- Supporting diverse housing options in each neighbourhood.
- Collaborating with partners to renew and regenerate Winnipeg's housing stock.
- Establishing partnerships to provide affordable housing.
- Providing leadership in property related housing standards.
- Supporting the integration of specialty housing.
- Encouraging residential development downtown.

Recent City and Community Activities

The implementation of the Downtown Residential Development Grant Program and its allocation of $40,000,000 has resulted in over 2000 new units planned for the downtown. Over 25% of these units are considered affordable.

The Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve has supported 655 rehabilitated housing units and 286 infill housing units.

The City has collaborated in creating new housing plans in the North Point Douglas, Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews, William Whyte and Dufferin Neighbourhoods.

Tracking Progress

Winnipeg's housing market continues to show strength with more than 3,000 new housing units built in 2011. In the coming years, the demand for housing is projected to significantly increase with the need for approximately 79,000 new dwelling units over the next 20 years. As our city grows and changes, continued planning, collaboration and action will be vital in maintaining a healthy housing stock that meets Winnipeggers' needs.

Web Links

Financial Assistance Programs for Housing, City of Winnipeg
http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/programs.stm

Programs for Homeowners and Residents, Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative
http://www.whhi.ca/programshomeowners.htm



RECREATION

The City is a leader in delivering recreation services that build healthy communities. The City's role as a recreation and wellness leader and facilitator includes working to address age, gender, ability and cultural barriers to participation.

Recreation, active living and leisure programs and services strengthen families, build healthy communities, improve quality of life, support the healthy development of children and provide an opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Opportunities to participate in recreation activities enhance life skills, community leadership development and our overall quality of life, particularly for our youth.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg outlines six policy directions relating to recreation:

- Promote and enable opportunities for people of all age groups to be active as part of their daily lives.
- Work with community partners to provide services that are responsive to the community's recreation and leisure needs.
- Directly provide, or facilitate through partnerships, equitable access to a base level of recreation, culture and leisure services.
- Participate as a leader in planning and delivering recreation and leisure services with community partners.
- Provide or facilitate community development and recreation opportunities for vulnerable youth.
- Plan for sustainable and connected recreation infrastructure.

Recent City and Community Activities

The City has developed partnerships with numerous organizations in continuing to improve the quality, diversity and accessibility of recreational opportunities through the Enhanced Programs for Inner City Children and Youth initiative. These efforts have resulted in 88,776 participant visits in community art, sports, and youth mentorship and in drop in activities—an increase of 353% since 2008.

Sports Programs in Inner City Neighbourhoods (SPIN) eliminated barriers to participating in organized sports, while providing skill development, teamwork, leadership and fair play in a non-competitive environment. 3,346 participant visits and 43 partnerships were developed in 2011, up from 450 participants in 2008.

A North End Recreation Plan was completed in 2011, and an Elmwood Recreation Plan will be completed in 2012.

On December 14, 2011, Council adopted the 2012 Universal Funding Formula and Community Centres Responsibilities Document, providing a framework for program delivery and increased community centre usage by ensuring facilities are open and accessible. In effect until 2017, it highlights programming responsibilities for community centres and incorporates minimum targets for their hours of operation. The General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres and the City will support and assist individual centres to meet the targeted hours of operation.

Tracking Progress

Recreation services provide a broad range of program and service opportunities to citizens and are offered through partnerships with numerous organizations, institutions and other levels of government. Over the last year, participation in registered programs and free (drop in) programs have continued to increase with the enhancement of recreation facilities. This has lowered the cost in a number of program areas per participant, including Wading Pool operation which decreased from $6.59 per participant in 2009 to $4.39 in 2010.

Continued planning and action in the areas of infrastructure renewal, partnership development and effective program planning will continue the City's progress on Recreation Services.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg Leisure Guide
http://leisureonline.ca

City of Winnipeg Recreation & Leisure
http://winnipeg.ca/cms/recreation

The North End Recreation Plan
http://necrc.org/5_year_plan

General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres
http://www.gcwcc.mb.ca/

LIBRARIES

Libraries enrich the lives of all Winnipeggers by providing high quality, responsive and innovative library services. Library Services offers a wide range of programs, collections, and services aimed at newcomers to assist with developing reading, writing, and speaking skills.

Libraries also provide services and programs to address the needs of Winnipeg's Aboriginal community through the Aboriginal Youth Strategy.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg outlines four policy directions relating to Libraries:

- Implement enhanced programming for Older Adult/Seniors
- Within existing facilities, utilize annual capital and operating budgets to ensure facilities are safe, accessible, and meet community needs.
- The library offers a wide range of programs and services for all ages. Many of the programs are offered in partnership with community organizations.
- Provide mobile library services through the Outreach Services unit in high needs, high risk communities by expanding the Library Services Division "Check It Out" Reading Zones established as part of the LiveSAFE strategy.

Recent City and Community Activities

Hours at the Millennium Library expanded in 2011, opening one hour earlier each day Monday to Friday, and staying open one hour later on Fridays and Saturdays.

The TD Summer Reading Program reached over 5,800 children in 2011, a 23% increase over 2010.

The Elder-in-Residence program entered its second year with programming and outreach to youth in community.

E-book circulation increased by over 200% in 2011.

The Library celebrated the stories of 12 new Canadians in the English as a Foreign Language program by publishing "The Past is Another Country."

Library program rooms have been made free to book for non-profit groups.

Sign-a-Story program partnership with Society for Manitobans with Disabilities & Sponsor Winnipeg offers children's storytime programming to deaf children.

Tracking Progress

The library has undergone significant changes in recent years. New developments in technology, online resources, eBooks, social media (Twitter and Facebook) and mobile technology are changing the ways our library provides service.

As a result, citizen satisfaction with libraries continued to rise and now sits at 96.6%. In 2011, e-book usage increased by over 200% and visits to the library's website continued to grow, resulting in over 1,484,660 visits.

The library is becoming a community hub for early childhood literacy, career and job information for New Canadians, leisure and life long learning activities for seniors and access to information for students. In 2011 the library circulated over 5.3 million items and offered over 3,000 programs to over 60,000 individuals.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg Library Services Division
http://winnipeg.ca/library



SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Winnipeg has pledged to make sustainability a regular part of how it conducts business. This will be reflected in policies and programs that respect and value the environment, contribute to a vital society full of opportunity and develop our economy.

Winnipeggers want their municipal government to be a champion for providing options and opportunities for more sustainable living. Through collaboration and continuous improvement, the City contributes to global sustainable development.

Policy Direction

The City of Winnipeg will lead by example, working to embed sustainability into internal decisions and actions and into public programs and policies to create a solid foundation for advancing sustainability on a community-wide basis.

Recent City and Community Activities

The City of Winnipeg has partnered with the United Way, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and other community organizations in the development of a community indicator system called "Peg" that measures community well-being.

The City is actively testing innovative infrastructure through pilot projects such as stormwater retention facilities at the University of Winnipeg, a solar wall at Cindy Klassen Recreation Centre and planning a "green alley" that can reduce environmental impacts while providing social and/or economic benefits.

The City is currently implementing recommendations from a recently completed corporate print study to reduce energy and paper use across the organization while offering productivity and indoor air quality improvements.

The implementation of OurWinnipeg Direction Strategies and supporting documents such as the Transit Oriented Development Handbook and the Garbage and Recycling Master Plan are contributing to a wide range of sustainable lifestyle choices for Winnipeggers.

Tracking Progress

Sustainable development is a broad concept for attempting to measure. Together, many of the indicators noted in this report present a picture of the overall performance of the city – including resource demands and impacts (both positive and negative). Over the last year, positive environmental trends related to water conservation (usage has declined considerably since peaking in the late 1980s) and waste management (strong uptake on recycling programs) have continued. Many social and economic indicators remain steady or have shown improvement. Continued planning and action in areas such as safety, infrastructure renewal and addressing climate change will continue the City's progress on sustainability.

Web Links

Peg Community Indicator System
http://www.mypeg.ca



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The natural environment is essential to our city. Our local environment is the foundation for our economic and social health. Collectively, we need to take responsibility for it. Our actions should contribute to the protection of the natural environment both regionally and globally, both for our own wellbeing and for that of future generations.

Policy Direction

The City will continue to respect and value our natural and built environment by:

- Reducing the environmental impact of our actions
- Setting long range goals for solid waste diversion
- Providing safe and effective pest and weed control in City operations
- Collaborating to ensure water and air quality
- Enabling the protection of ecologically significant lands
- Protecting and enhancing the urban forest
- Recognizing and preserving Winnipeg's parks, green spaces and riverbanks as green oases in our urban setting
- Promoting the use of rivers and riverbanks
- Supporting waterway management

Recent City and Community Activities

As a partner in the Lake Friendly initiative, the City is specifying EcoLogo-certified cleaning products for civic facilities. These products can reduce the effects of runoff on water systems including Lake Winnipeg.

The City's Living Prairie Museum has begun a seed collection and propagation project in an effort to preserve the biodiversity of Winnipeg's prairie areas.

Biodiversity enhancement and meadow restoration work is underway at the Assiniboine Forest. Meadows around the Eve Werrier retention pond are transitioning from weedy fields to diverse prairie environments.

The City is maintaining or increasing the use of natural/biological pest control. In 2011, mosquito control was accomplished with 60% biological larviciding (up from 35%).

An environmental enhancement pilot project is underway along the Bishop Grandin Greenway. This project is transforming 5 hectares of low quality no-mow area into a diverse prairie with native grasses and wildflowers.

Several additional related activities are described in the Sustainable Development and Energy and Emissions sections of this report.



Tracking Progress

Winnipeg benefits from cumulative efforts to protect, manage and restore the natural environment. Legislation and policy, including the City's Ecologically Significant Natural Lands Strategy, is important and is supported by ongoing stewardship, research and integrated planning. The cumulative outcome of these activities is improved air and water quality, diverse natural areas and healthy ecosystems. Over the past several years, the number of identified natural areas in the city has increased (from 379 in 2008 to 433 in 2010). As our community grows, a critical challenge will be identifying strategies that simultaneously promote an efficient city that provides opportunity for all and a healthy, robust natural environment. Continued collaboration and integrated planning are critical to ensuring progress on environmental issues.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg 'Greenspace' page
www.winnipeg.ca/greenspace

ENERGY AND EMISSIONS

Climate change poses significant social, economic, and environmental implications for Winnipeggers. Southern Manitoba is already feeling the early consequences of these changes, and much greater change is expected in the coming decades. While anticipating and adapting to the inevitable impact on our city, we also need a concerted local effort to meet our global responsibility in reducing emissions and mitigating the long term consequences of a rapidly changing climate.

Policy Direction

A Sustainable Winnipeg incorporates three important strategies:

- Maintain a Climate Change Action Plan to reduce the City of Winnipeg's operational greenhouse gas emissions by a further 20 per cent below 1998 levels
- Create and maintain an action plan to reduce Winnipeg's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 6 per cent below 1998 levels.
- Establish corporate and community-wide reduction targets for 2020 and 2035.

Recent City and Community Activities

Major renovations recently completed at the North Centennial Recreation and Leisure Facility were designed to achieve a LEED® Silver certification through the Canada Green Building Council and include energy features such as a green roof and solar air pre-heaters.

In May 2011 Pam Am pool saw the installation of a dual-fuel boiler system to complement the existing boiler system, potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 893 tonnes of CO_2 annually.

The City hired a Community Climate Change Coordinator in the fall of 2011 to facilitate the implementation of policy directions in Our Winnipeg, including the development of a community climate change plan.

As an initiative of the Green Fleet Plan, the City has initiated a transportation demand management project to reduce the number of vehicle kilometres travelled for corporate operations.

The Garbage and Recycling Master Plan, adopted by Council in October 2011, is expected to dramatically increase waste diversion rates of most materials, including compostables such as leaf & yard waste, effectively lowering our City's carbon footprint this year.

Recognizing the link between land use, transportation and greenhouse gas emissions, the Transportation Master Plan was approved by Council in November 2011 with a strategic goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. The Plan sets forth key directions in support of active transportation and transit system improvements.

Tracking Progress

The City is currently updating both its community-wide and corporate emissions inventories and forecast. These are fundamental indicators of our overall climate change impact. This update is in support of our continued efforts to meet climate change mitigation targets, including the immediate goal of developing a strategy for community-wide climate action.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg 'Greenspace' page
http://www.winnipeg.ca/greenspace/



HERITAGE

Historic places offer social, economic and environmental benefits that enhance to the quality of life in our city, and our shared heritage provides the connecting fabric that links us together as Canadians and as Winnipeggers.

Winnipeg has an impressive array of such places, including more than 230 heritage buildings and the Exchange District National Historic Site. The City values these heritage assets and is committed to their sustainability, conservation and adaptive reuse.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg outlines six of policy directions relating to Heritage, including:

- Plan for heritage conservation.
- Conserve, protect and celebrate the significant heritage resources that illustrate the broad range of Winnipeg's heritage values.
- Provide leadership in heritage conservation that links to broader civic goals of economic development, sustainability and neighbourhood planning.
- Conserve Downtown's rich legacy of heritage resources that provide significant and sustainable development opportunities.
- Enhance the viability of the Exchange District National Historic Site.
- Plan for the sustainable development of healthy neighbourhoods based on their particular historic identity and character.

Recent City and Community Activities

The City continues to provide financial assistance to building owners through the Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program. To date, over 30 buildings have received a tax credit, ranging in value from $10,000 to $1.7 million.

The City has completed important surveys of heritage sites, including the Neighbourhood Profiles Study with heritage profiles of 236 neighbourhoods and, in partnership with the Manitoba Historical Society, the Historical Sites of Manitoba Inventory.

Amendments received from the Province of Manitoba to the *City of Winnipeg Charter* will enable the City to designate parcels of land, expanding on the previous powers which were limited to building footprints. These amendments greatly increase designation powers to include cemeteries, monuments, vegetation, districts and other parcels that hold heritage value for our community.

A new Historical Resources By-law is currently under development, as well as a Heritage Resource Management Plan.

Tracking Progress

Heritage conservation is a dynamic concept and greatly influenced by community support and input, particularly from building owners. The indicators noted in this report present a picture of the overall performance of the city – including viability of our heritage stock, emerging trends (demand to designate) and changing development factors within Winnipeg.

In the last year, 9 buildings were evaluated for municipal heritage designation, two received designation, three remain pending and four did not meet the criteria. Additionally, two buildings were de-listed and demolished. Looking forward, the City will begin exploring designating modern architecture (post 1930 buildings) as well as creating heritage districts.

Web Links

Heritage Conservation, City of Winnipeg
http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/historic/historic.stm

Provincial Heritage Sites, Province of Manitoba
http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/prov/index.html

Canada's Historic Places
http://www.historicplaces.ca

Manitoba Historical Society
http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/index.shtml



Photo: Brent Bellamy

REINVESTMENT AND VITALITY

A number of neighbourhoods within Winnipeg's inner city require comprehensive, integrated revitalization strategies. The City is committed to collaborating with community stakeholders and with other levels of government to create and maintain vital neighbourhoods.

Pride and a sense of community ownership is important to creating healthy neighbourhoods where people feel safe. The City is actively supporting the efforts of residents and local neighbourhood associations to develop and maintain safe, orderly viable and sustainable communities and to promote and maintain the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents through initiatives like the new Community By-law Enforcement Services and the Neighbourhood Livability by-law.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg sets a number of priorities for promoting the increased vitality of reinvestment neighborhoods, including:

- Strive to eliminate derelict buildings
- Deliver a coordinated integrated, and seamless service response to address community needs and priorities that contribute to building healthy communities
- Work in partnership with communities to identify and address neighbourhood issues
- Maintain the health and safety of neighbourhoods by enforcing animal control by-laws and promoting responsible pet ownership.
- Support effective Public Health Inspection Services
- Promote cleanliness and beautification

Recent City and Community Activities

The 9-point Vacant and Derelict Buildings Strategy is the City's plan to address the problem of non-compliant vacant buildings.

The Public Service is partnering with the North End Community Renewal Corporation in a 'door to door' inspection survey/audit of 600 properties in a designated 21-block area of the William Whyte and Dufferin communities in 2011 through 2012.

In 2011, the City's Animal Services agency responded to more than 12,000 service requests related to public safety or animal welfare. These requests relate to animal

licensing, neighbourhood dispute resolution, after-hours emergencies, police and fire assists, by-law enforcement and inquiries about stray dogs, illegal animals and injured animals.

Tracking Progress

Community groups and residents in reinvestment neighbourhoods often identify non-compliant buildings, including those classified as "vacant and derelict" as significant obstacles to neighbourhood revitalization.

While the City faces significant challenges in enforcing existing property standards by-laws, property standard enforcement activities are increasing, we have already seen signs of progress:

- The number of vacant buildings has decreased 29% from 577 as of October 31, 2010 to 411 as of February 2012.
- The number of property standard common offence notices issued has increased from 39 in 2009 to 381 in 2011. Property clean-ups by the Public Service have increased from 26 in 2009 to 101 in 2011.
- Customer satisfaction rates regarding inspections to ensure residential property standards are met through inspections have increased from 73% in 2010 to 93% in 2011.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg Property and Neighbourhood Standards
http://www.winnipeg.ca/cms/bylawenforcement/

9-point Vacant and Derelict Buildings Strategy, City of Winnipeg
http://www.winnipeg.ca/cms/bylawenforcement/vacantbuildings.stm#strategy



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

International newcomers are Winnipeg's largest source of population growth. As the cultural diversity of our city is increasing, it is important to respond to an increasing diverse community. Accordingly, the City of Winnipeg continues to foster inclusion and equity, support diversity and engage newcomers. The City continues its commitment to increasing the diversity of our workforce.

Policy Direction

The City is committed to providing cultural, gender and sexual orientation sensitivity and awareness for public service staff and strives to use mandated municipal service areas such as libraries and recreation as opportunities to foster cross cultural relations that contribute to healthy communities.

Through the Neighbourhood Integrated Service Teams (NISTs) the City works in partnership with community organizations and other levels of government to provide opportunities for newcomers and to support community led initiatives that foster equity and inclusion.

Recent City and Community Activities

In 2011, the city offered a number of courses and workshops to further our policy direction goals:

- Creating a Dynamic & Diverse Workforce – It's Everyone's Responsibility
- Diversity in the Workplace-Role of the Supervisor
- Generations at Work
- Aboriginal Awareness
- Medicine Pouch Making
- Metis Culture
- Disability Awareness
- Bias Free Selection
- Respectful Workplace Awareness
- Respectful Workplace Awareness – Role of the Supervisor
- LGBTTQ Training for HR Staff

Library Services has developed a variety of materials and programs for newcomers including:

- Teacher's resource guides on using the library
- Information on libraries in over 15 languages
- A published book with stories of 12 new Canadians
- A "Going to the Library" guide in plain language, and various Book Club Kits

In addition, the library provided numerous tours to newcomers through the Millennium Library and a variety of services and program opportunities through its Newcomer and EAL website.

In fall 2011, 23 children/youth newcomers participated in a Learn to skate program offered in partnership with Directorat de l'activité sportive du Manitoba (DAS).

Tracking Progress

The number of newcomers coming to Winnipeg is increasing and the number of visible minorities hired by the City of Winnipeg continues to increase.

In 2011, Library services reached 1913 newcomers through 174 library programs.

1,137 City of Winnipeg employees attended training/ education in 2011.

Web Links

Diversity Commitment
http://winnipeg.ca/isext/diverse_workforce/equity_diversity.stm

Library Services, For Newcomers and EAL
http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/libraryservices/newcomers.asp



ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

The City of Winnipeg recognizes the importance of the original people – the First Nations, Métis and Inuit – to the founding of our city. Each contributed culture, values and vision, which will continue to be important to our shared future. Today, the vibrant, diverse people who make up the larger Aboriginal community enrich and enliven the social fabric of Winnipeg: they remain vital to our economic and cultural future.

Additionally, several directions and strategies in the Recreation, Libraries and Quality of Life sections inform how the City engages and collaborates with the Aboriginal community.

A significant program in this area is the Aboriginal Youth Strategy or Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak ("Young Aboriginal People Leading"). The mission of this strategy is to give Aboriginal youth positive opportunities in the community and civic system by bridging and providing culturally appropriate programs and supports related to employment, literacy and recreation to increase resiliency, self-sustainability, pride and future opportunities.

Policy Direction

OurWinnipeg sets two directions that speak specifically to the Aboriginal community:

- Acknowledge that Aboriginal Winnipeggers bring a diverse richness of cultures, traditions, languages, teachings, values, skills and perspectives to our city

- Foster opportunities for Aboriginal Winnipeggers, particularly youth, to obtain meaningful employment by building on current civic practices, processes and community partnerships.



Recent City and Community Activities

In 2011, the City developed eight employment training partnerships for Aboriginal youth: Aboriginal Youth Career Awareness Camp, Aboriginal Youth Internship, Internship Expansion, Animal Services Support Workers Internships, Aboriginal Youth Website and Video Internships, Next Step Awards and Targeted Recruitment. These partnerships involved 204 participants including 35 camp participants and 13 interns who completed their programs.

Through a partnership with Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc., the City supports a wide range of safety, education and healthy living opportunities. Their recreation program offers Aboriginal youth of all athletic backgrounds an opportunity to learn and participate in both organized sports and other recreational activities.

Aboriginal Canoeing/Kayaking & Miyâwata recreation and leisure programs were offered at numerous venues throughout the city. These programs attracted more than 1,200 youth visits, combining aspects of Aboriginal culture and traditional knowledge with recreation.

The City offered innovative library programs, including Elder-in-Residence and Princess White Dove Community Library programs.

10 Aboriginal Youth Scholarships were awarded to support students registered in recognized post-secondary education institutions in acknowledgement of their scholastic achievements, with $1,000 used towards tuition costs.

Tracking Progress

In recent years, the City's active work on the Aboriginal Youth Strategy has resulted in an increase in Aboriginal youth engagement in its programs. For example, from 2010 to 2011 youth visits to its literacy programs increased 161%, while visits to its recreation programs increased 85% in the same period. Graduation rates from community partners' employment development programs have also climbed. While these positive trends are encouraging, there is a need for continued energy and engagement in this critical area.

Web Links

City of Winnipeg – Aboriginal Youth Strategy
www.winnipeg.ca/cms/ays/

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Since the 1800's, when people arrived by rail, Winnipeg has been a centre that welcomes newcomers from around the world. Immigration strategies and diversity are embraced and celebrated as integral to our city. Winnipeg is also the center for several seniors and disability organizations ranging from the international to the local level, supporting an active voice of advocacy in our city. Having City facilities and services open and accessible to everyone furthers Winnipeg's character as representative, welcoming, and approachable.

Policy Direction

Winnipeg has committed to creating an inclusive urban environment in keeping with the concept of Complete Communities. To be a successful and competitive city, Winnipeg must continue to support and foster inclusion, equity, and diversity. People from various cultures, economic backgrounds, ages and abilities must be engaged to participate in every aspect of civic life.

Recent City and Community Activities

- In the spring of 2011, a major review was undertaken of City Hall, our premier civic facility at 510 Main Street. A barrier removal action plan for City Hall has been completed, and items are currently being prioritized for implementation with assistance from the Access Advisory Committee.
- Work was completed to assist the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation in creating a visitable neighbourhood in the Bridgewater community of Waverley West.
- The Rapid Transit system has been designed to accommodate a broad range of passenger needs from wayfinding to boarding.
- Research is underway into obtaining an Age-Friendly designation for the community of Winnipeg.
- Improved accessible wayfinding signage is complete in the council building at City Hall and is being considered for the Administration building.

Tracking Progress

Universal Design and Age Friendly Communities are integrated concepts that can be difficult to achieve in larger centres like Winnipeg. While the has been some recent progress, moving towards a fully inclusive city will require continued and diligent action. To this end, the City anticipates a number of activities, including:

- Gathering literature about age friendly achievements in other jurisdictions.
- Establishing a cross-jurisdictional team to develop strategies, an action plan and timelines to achieve identified actions.
- Using Age-Friendly metrics in accordance with checklists established by the WHO and setting a benchmark of age friendliness in Winnipeg.
- Establishing how older people will be involved in the process.
- Ensuring connections between relevant citizen committees with regards to seniors and accessible facilities and provision of services.

Web Links

Accessibility and Age Friendly Services, City of Winnipeg
http://www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/accessibility/

CREATIVITY

Progressive cities around the world use arts, culture and creative industries to enhance quality of life, fortify local economies, build city reputation and generate positive social benefits. The City of Winnipeg is committed to being an active steward of this central aspect of our community, with the Winnipeg Arts Council as the primary conduit of programs and resources in support of OurWinnipeg's cultural objectives.

Policy Direction

Creativity plays a large role in OurWinnipeg. In addition to directions on Creativity, directions in the sections on Opportunity, Vitality and Implementation carry key related components, and several aspects of the Complete Communities Direction Strategy intersect with Creativity, particularly as they relate to recognizing downtown as the premier centre for arts and culture.

Recent City and Community Activities

Continued contributions to Winnipeg's public art collection, including:

- *living living room* by Erika Swendrowski, sod furniture and sculptures integrated into community gardens.
- *DIY Field* by Germaine Koh, a permanent, interactive light installation in Central Park, opened November 2011.
- *emptyful* by Bill Pechet - the largest public art project in Winnipeg and Sentinel of Truth, by Darren Stebeleski, a monumental artist-designed fence, both constructed in the Millennium Library Park.

Integrating art with new or renewed City infrastructure, adding beauty and richness to our urban environment:

- *From Here Until Now* by spmb (Eduardo Aquino and Karen Shanski), a series of art elements integrated into the Osborne Bridge.
- *Transcona Centennial Square Performance Pavilion* by artist David Firman (opening fall 2012).

Fostering community art connections through dialogue and collaborative projects, such as:

- *Artists+Community,* a symposium co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Arts Council and Arts & Cultural Industries Manitoba, featuring a talk by renowned community artist Rick Lowe of Project Row Houses.
- *Engaging WITH ART,* a documentary film about the diverse collaborations between artists and communities achieved through the WITH ART program.
- A collaboration that placed Winnipeg artist Craig Love in City of Winnipeg recreation centres to facilitate the creation of eco-sculptures by youth artists for Earth Day 2012. The completed sculptures were exhibited at Millennium Library and at the City of Winnipeg Archives.
- Winnipeg's 2010 designation as Cultural Capital of Canada involved the presentation of a number of extraordinary community-focused projects such as the River Barge Festival which brought 30,000 people to the Forks and the BIG Dance on Broadway that saw 7,000 people dancing on the street. These events were part of a year-long celebration of our rich creative talents and assets.

Tracking Progress

Winnipeg is known as a City of the Arts – with rich cultural production opportunities and offerings to residents and visitors. In its role as cultural advisor to the City, the Winnipeg Arts Council has completed and presented a cultural action plan entitled Ticket to the Future. Built on the direction strategies in OurWinnipeg, it provides a cultural plan for the city. Cultural resources such as museums, galleries and theatres need places to thrive; their success (particularly by environmental standards) is entwined with the completeness of the neighbourhoods in which they are located. By implication, cultural planning demands consideration of, and integration with, that which is most local: stories, landscapes, and streetscapes.

Web Links

Winnipeg Arts Council
http://www.winnipegarts.ca/

Ticket to the Future
http://www.winnipegarts.ca/index.php?/ticket_to_the_future/

Arts For All
http://artsforall.ca/

OurWinnipeg™

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY, 2012