



Planning and Land Use Committee Report

For the Meeting of February 5, 2015

To: Planning and Land Use Committee **Date:** January 23, 2015
From: Rob Bateman, Planning Analyst, Community Planning Division
Subject: Official Community Plan Annual Review 2014

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that committee forward this report to Council and that Council receive the Official Community Plan Annual Review 2014 for information and direct staff to communicate the findings and highlights from the Annual Review to the public.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Official Community Plan Annual Review 2014 (Annual Review) provides the second annual snapshot of progress towards achieving the *Official Community Plan* (OCP). It presents 17 indicators related to the OCP and reports key findings from the 2013 calendar year. The preparation of the Annual Report is guided by the OCP adaptive management approach, which establishes a regular cycle of plan implementation, monitoring and adjustment. Over time, once more information has been collected and analyzed, the Annual Review will help identify emerging trends and issues that may have an impact on the OCP and will inform potential changes to the OCP and other plans, policies and practices.

Overall, the OCP indicators from the 2013 calendar year show that targets are largely being met or exceeded. These include:

- exceeded targets for regional share of new housing
- improved bicycle network by increasing cycling lanes
- greater vibrancy through increased activities in public spaces
- healthier environment through increased tree planting
- balanced housing rental market.

A separate report on the status of OCP implementation actions will be prepared to reflect the updated timelines and priorities of the forthcoming 2015 Strategic Plan.

Note: The Annual Review includes building permit information limited to housing growth indicators. A separate report with more detailed construction permit statistics will provide an overview of recent construction activities.

BACKGROUND

On July 30, 2012, Council adopted a new *Official Community Plan (OCP)*. One of the distinguishing features of the OCP is its adaptive management approach, which establishes a regular cycle of plan implementation, monitoring and adjustment that measures the progress towards achieving the OCP's long-term goals and objectives and ensures that the OCP responds to emerging issues and opportunities. The *OCP Implementation Strategy*, approved by Council on September 12, 2013, also identifies the development of an OCP monitoring program and associated indicators as short-term actions to support and realize an adaptive management approach.

The OCP monitoring program includes both annual and five-year reporting. The annual status report (OCP Annual Review) will evaluate the progress towards plan implementation, goals and objectives and reporting on key annual indicators (Policy 22.9). The Five-Year Monitoring Report, featuring a comprehensive set of indicators and a more detailed evaluation of the plan progress towards the OCP implementation, goals, objectives and local area planning (Policy 22.11), will be prepared approximately every five years, as resources allow.

OCP Annual Indicators

The OCP Annual Review 2014 (Attachment) presents the second annual snapshot of progress towards achieving the OCP. It monitors annual indicators related to the OCP and, in conjunction with the *OCP Annual Review 2013*, provides a reference point against which progress can be measured in future years.

The following annual OCP indicators are reported in the OCP Annual Review. The annual indicators are focused primarily on land management and development and are limited to those where data is available on an annual basis:

1. New housing units
2. Share of new housing units located within target areas
3. Regional share of new housing units
4. New commercial and industrial space in target areas
5. Improvements to Greenways network
6. Improvements to sidewalk network
7. Improvements to cycling network
8. Improvements to underground infrastructure
9. Activities in public spaces
10. New trees on City lands
11. New housing units by tenure
12. New housing units by type
13. Rental housing vacancy rate
14. Emergency shelter use
15. Retail, office and industrial vacancies
16. Official Community Plan amendments
17. Contributions from development

Status of OCP Implementation Actions

In 2013, it was anticipated that future OCP Annual Reviews would review progress towards achieving the *OCP Implementation Strategy*, including reporting on the status of each implementation action. However, success of the *OCP Implementation Strategy* is premised on maintaining alignment with the *Strategic Plan* and the financial plans. It is, therefore, more appropriate to review the *OCP Implementation Strategy* in light of the renewed Council strategic planning process which will occur in 2015. For this reason, the 2014 OCP Annual Review does not report on the status of OCP implementation actions. A separate status report will be prepared to reflect the updated timelines and priorities of the new Strategic Plan in 2015.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Overall, the indicators for the 2013 calendar year show that targets are largely being met or exceeded. The following is a high level summary of several targets. More specific details on each indicator are included in the Annual Review (Attachment):

- **Exceeded targets for regional share of new housing:** The regional share of new housing units approved in the City's Urban Core and the City as a whole has exceeded targets over the last several years. New housing growth within the Urban Core supports the economic vibrancy of downtown and ensures that it retains its predominant role in the regional economy.
- **Improved bicycle network by increasing provision of dedicated cycling lanes:** There was a large annual increase in on-street cycling lanes between 2012 and 2013, helping increase the proportion of people making more sustainable transportation choices.
- **Greater vibrancy through increased number of activities in public spaces:** The number of permits issued for activities in public spaces has increased from 2012 to 2013. These activities, including markets, festivals and street vending, help make streets and neighbourhoods lively and vibrant. They also generate economic activity and contribute to the city's arts and cultural life.
- **Healthier environment through increased tree planting:** More trees were planted on City land in 2013 than in 2012. This helps to reduce stormwater runoff, filter air and water pollution, and provide important habitat for wildlife, while providing privacy and beauty for people.
- **Balanced housing rental market:** The rental housing vacancy rate was within the range of what is considered a balanced rental market.

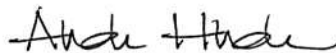
CONCLUSIONS

The Annual Report presents the second annual snapshot of progress towards achieving the OCP. This report presents data from the 2013 calendar year, which can be compared to the 2012 baseline to begin to understand if trends are developing. However, most of the OCP indicators do not yet show conclusive trends within this limited time frame.

Respectfully submitted,




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Community Planning Division



Andrea Hudson
Assistant Director, Community Planning
Sustainable Planning and Community Development

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager: _____



Jason Johnson

Date: _____

Jan. 29/15

RB:aw

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List of Attachments

- Attachment: Official Community Plan Annual Review 2014.