

Year of the Garden 2022  
Année du jardin 2022



Communities in Bloom



Message from the CAO

On behalf of the City, our residents and Council, welcome to Barrie - we're proud to share our community with you!

Barrie is a vibrant and attractive city with year-round opportunities to get out and enjoy life. From our waterfront, trails and 300+ hectares of parkland to the events and businesses that call Barrie home, we are continually building on the strong and connected community we have already established.

This is our 24th year participating in Communities in Bloom (CIB) and we believe the '*Year of the Garden*' is the perfect way to reinvigorate our communities with all things gardening. Throughout all of the challenges we faced as a city these past years, our civic pride and a commitment to beautify our neighbourhoods remained strong. We truly are a city who is passionate about our outdoor spaces and proud to showcase our talents in making the most of them.

I am continuously amazed by the dedication of our hard-working Communities in Bloom committee members, City staff and our CIB participants. Citizens, businesses, schools and local organizations all contributed to Communities in Bloom this year, and these efforts are evident in the vibrancy, colour and sense of hope that can be seen and felt while enjoying our great city.

Regards,

Michael Prowse

Chief Administrative Officer, City of Barrie



## About Barrie



### City of Barrie – 2022 Snapshot

#### *Municipal budget breakdown*

- Operating: \$392 million
- Capital: \$346 million

#### *Parks Forestry Operations budget breakdown*

- Admin: \$384, 923
- Forestry: \$1,781,632
- Horticulture: \$1,364,483
- Meridian Place: \$223,571
- Parks Maintenance: \$3,164,403
- Sports Fields: \$ 278,433

#### *Area & Population*

- Total Area: 99.93km<sup>2</sup>
- Community parks: 701 acres
- Gores: 6 acres

- Natural Areas: 2,455 acres
- Population: 151,043



### **Our History with Communities in Bloom**

Communities in Bloom (CIB) is a Canadian non-profit organization, committed to cultivating civic pride, environmental responsibility, and community beautification through a variety of national programs. The City of Barrie has maintained the highest level Five Bloom ranking consistently over the past several years. In 2019, Barrie participated in the International Challenge (Large) where the City received 5 Blooms Silver with special mention for Tall Trees Park – Forestry Education Initiative.

Barrie's CIB awards and recognitions include:

Winner of:

- Circle of Excellence
- Grand Champions
- International Challenge
- National Capital Commission Award

Recognized for:

- Waterfront property acquisition for public use



- Growth Management Plan
- Fruit Share Program
- Lampman Lane Park makeover
- Military Heritage Park creation
- Floral displays
- Landscaped areas
- Community involvement
- Barrie Community Sports Complex





## Action Plan

While some of the City's annual Communities in Bloom outreach initiatives couldn't take place due to the pandemic, we were able to involve the public in the CIB program through:

- Little Bloomer's Container Design Contest: encourages young gardeners to participate in a fun and free learning experience
- Improved [webpage](#): more information, past program successes and a photo gallery
- Spring into Clean: Residents contacted their councillor for supplies to pick up litter in their neighborhoods

- Pre-registration event at the Wyman Jacques Arboretum to share about the event, learn about the arboretum and encourage registration
- Communities in Bloom was promoted the following ways:
  - Featured in the 2022 Waste Collection calendar, which was distributed to every household in Barrie
  - [This Week In Barrie](#), the City's weekly advertising spread in The Barrie Advance on May 26, June 2 & June 9
  - Radio broadcast during the weeks of May 23 and June 27 on KOOL FM and Rock95
  - Media releases sent:
    - [Show off your garden with Communities in Bloom](#) (June 7)
    - [City offers free walking tour of Wyman Jacques Arboretum](#) (June 13)
  - Media coverage:
    - [The world was made to be beautiful](#) (BarrieToday - April 14)
    - [Communities in Bloom returns to Barrie this summer](#) (BarrieToday - June 7)
    - [Get Growing: Garden contest blooms in Barrie](#) (CTV News – June 7)
    - [Learn more about Wyman Jacques Arboretum on walking tour](#) (BarrieToday - June 13)
  - Promotion video shared on the website and social media channels
  - Facebook & Twitter posts including shares of the [Communities in Bloom photo album](#)
  - Facility screens at Allandale Recreation Centre, East Bayfield Community Centre and the Peggy Hill Team Community Centre
  - Information sent directly to all school boards in the area
  - Promoted at City-related events including:
    - [Lampman Garden Party](#) (May 14)
    - [Wyman Jacques Arboretum Tour](#) (June 17)





### **2022 Participation**

This year the City received more than 100 photo submissions with over 35,000 views so far. These photos, as well as those submitted for Communities in Bloom since 2015, can be viewed via the City's [CIB Facebook photo album](#).

### **Event Sponsor**

Thank you for your generous support of Communities in Bloom:





## Community Appearance

### Beautification



**Graffiti Abatement Program** The City continues to work with local artists and organizations to add artwork and historical photo wraps on new traffic signal cabinets and construction board signage, which helps [deter graffiti](#).

**Spring Into Clean** Residents, community groups and students helped clean up our community while raising environmental awareness levels and social responsibility through [Spring Into Clean](#). This year, 11,250 students from 32 schools and 1,120 individuals collected 4.8 tonnes of litter from Barrie's parks and public spaces.



**Boulevard Gardens** The [Boulevard Garden Program](#) allows residents to beautify the municipal boulevard on their property with ornamentals and supports our ecosystem by planting native species. Property owners can follow the [non-standard boulevard landscape treatment guidelines](#) which includes a suggested plant list.



**Dunlop Streetscape project** The [Dunlop Streetscape Project](#) has transformed Barrie's downtown by maintaining and enhancing this vital corridor as an essential component of downtown Barrie. It focused on safe pedestrian movement, accessible and attractive store fronts, and ensuring better service through enhanced lighting, visibility, and service opportunities. New planters and trees create a new greener, look.



## Environmental Action

### Sustainable Mobility

#### Active Transportation

The City is creating a continuous, well-connected and safe [active transportation](#) network for residents and visitors that supports recreational and commuter opportunities.

In 2021 the City completed major cycling infrastructure on the new [Harvie Road/Big Bay Road Highway 400 Crossing](#). In 2022, the City is completing 3km of cycling infrastructure as part of large corridor reconstruction projects with substantial completion targeted for the fall.

#### *Cycle Barrie Project*

The [Cycle Barrie Infrastructure Program](#) (CBIP) is a focused and coordinated effort, using public feedback, industry best practices and City policies, to construct a quick-win cycling network. Bicycle lanes are made through road right-sizing (equitable reallocation of road space) by removing underutilized travel lanes, narrowing travel lanes and/or removing on-street parking.

In 2022, CBIP projects will create bicycle lanes on 8km of streets and implement 3.4km of paved shoulders in more rural areas until full road reconstruction (with designated cycling facilities) can occur.



### **Shared Transportation**

In 2020, Barrie Transit added [Transit ON Demand](#) (TOD), a service without a fixed schedule or route. Users book their trip through an app and bus travel is optimized through a computer-based system. TOD operates within a specific zone allowing riders to travel from bus stop to bus stop within it.

The City is also working on the [Allandale Transit Mobility Hub and Downtown Mini Hub](#) project, with [input from the public](#). These inter-regional and mini transit hubs will host transit services and connections through a more integrated public transit system. The Allandale Transit Mobility Hub and Downtown Mini Hub [staff report](#) provides an update on the project and its intended path forward.

To align with Council's net zero carbon emissions target by 2050, the new Mobility Hub is targeting a net zero energy performance, all electric building. This means the building will generate all required energy for operation through renewable energy generation using on site solar photovoltaics. Targeting net zero energy and a low carbon building design will reduce or eliminate operational utility costs for the City.

### **Greening Barrie's Fleet**

Since 2007, the City has been reducing the overall environmental impacts of service vehicles. In 2022, Council endorsed [Inspiring Climate Action In Barrie](#), a community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction strategy which, among many things, focuses on converting to environmentally friendly fuels:

- The City's waste contractor uses collection trucks powered by natural gas (produce 23% less GHG emissions than diesel)
- In 2021 the City decided to phase electric vehicles into the City's fleet as vehicles need replacing. Alternative fuel sources are considered when functionality isn't available in electric.
  - In 2022, the City will be going to market to source fully electric SUVs
  - Two new electric ice resurfacers will be in service at East Bayfield Community Centre later this year, replacing the existing natural gas-powered units



- When possible, electric parks maintenance equipment is purchased; if the required functionality isn't available in electric, then the lower GHG emitting four-stroke engines are preferred.
  - A 6-foot electric mower and an electric infield groomer have replaced gas powered units



## Conservation

**Anti-Idling** The City is working with Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and Natural Resources Canada to increase awareness of idling so we can all work towards a greener community and environment.

**Pesticide Policy** The City's Pesticide Policy restricts pesticide use on municipal lands. Pesticides aren't used on the waterfront, public lands, and reservoirs. Organic fertilizers, aerating, topdressing, and over-seeding are used for turf management. Herbicides are sometimes required to control noxious weeds (i.e. giant hogweed, poison ivy) in parks - signs are posted prior to spraying by a licensed technician. The product isn't harmful to wildlife and only applied to weeds.



## Water

### Water Conservation

Through [water conservation](#), Barrie has a large supply of high-quality water available. The City encourages conservation to ensure we continue meeting the demands of a very rapidly growing population:

- A \$50 toilet rebate when replacing high-flow fixtures (6L/flush +) with low-flow ones (6L or less)
- Thousands of litres of clean water enter the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility every year from illegal sump pump and downspout connections, costing residents money. *'Disconnect to Protect'* provides rebates for disconnecting illegal downspout and sump pump/foundation drain connections from the sewer system
- The City enforces a by-law that regulates the time and amount residents can water their lawns
- The City's annual rain barrel sale offers residents rain barrels at a discounted rate

#### *Wastewater & Water Optimization Groups*

The City has two optimizations teams to identify water conservation the Water Treatment Facilities and across the corporation. Since 2017 these cross-departmental groups have found the following efficiencies:

- \$2.94 million saved from utility costs (water/electric)
- 400,000 m<sup>3</sup> (equal to 1,000 pools) less water consumption
- 1.4 million kilo-watt hours (kWh) less electrical consumption
- 96 tonnes less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- \$20,000 monthly cost savings by reducing Water Treatment Facilities electricity consumption by 20%



#### **Source Water Protection**

The City encourages everyone to do their part and help [protect our safe drinking water](#):

- The [story map](#) provides info on Barrie's multi-barrier approach to protecting drinking water
- Risk Management Plans are actively negotiated with businesses in vulnerable areas to ensure best practices are in place, minimizing the risk some activities pose to drinking water sources
- Businesses who protect drinking water sources display the source water protection logo
- The City shares seasonal tips with residents about how to protect drinking water sources

- Development and building applications in vulnerable areas are reviewed to ensure they do not result in significant drinking water threats

**Stormwater Climate Action Fund** In 2022, Council approved the [Stormwater Climate Action Fund](#), developed using public feedback, to improve resiliency against climate change impacts, mitigate flooding, and protect Lake Simcoe and ground water sources. In 2023, stormwater program costs will shift from property taxes to user fees.



**Blue Flag Designation** The Barrie Marina was the first marina on Lake Simcoe to receive the internationally recognized [Blue Flag award](#) and has maintained this prestigious eco-label since 2016. To receive a Blue Flag, marinas and beaches must achieve and maintain a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related, and access-related criteria.



## Energy

The City's Energy Management Plan outlines strategies to meet the Provincial reporting requirements of the Green Energy and Economy Act and reduce energy and water consumption across the corporation .

Hydro rates have risen steadily over the years, which has a major financial impact on the City's budget. Barrie is mitigating these increases by reducing energy and water consumption through conservation initiatives. Since 2012, the City has saved \$6.64 million in hydro rates.

*East Bayfield Community Centre*

Operational efficiency at this recreational facility has been significantly improved since replacing the building automation system. The Water Optimization Group improved the original ground source geothermal system to significantly improve energy efficiency. This has reduced electricity consumption 8% from 2017, generating a \$43,000 cost avoidance.



### Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

To prepare for climate change challenges and manage the physical, economic, social and ecological climate change impacts proactively, the City follows our [Climate Change Adaptation Strategy](#) and [Implementation Plan](#).

By taking a holistic approach to maintaining more effective, efficient, and sustainable application of resources, the City uses actions to integrate climate change considerations into existing plans, policies and decision-making frameworks. These include:

- Incorporating climate change adaptation into the Official Plan
- Empowering residents and businesses to undertake climate change actions
- Developing education initiatives to:
  - enable residents and businesses to manage their own practices
  - create awareness of the City's climate change efforts

#### *Inspiring Climate Action in Barrie*

In March 2022, Council passed the Inspiring Climate Action in Barrie [Energy and GHG Emission Reduction Plan](#). It includes actions and strategies for improving energy efficiency and reducing community-wide GHG emissions. Developed using extensive [public and stakeholder engagement](#), the plan identifies 4 Big Moves that will transition our community to net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. Together, we can reimagine how we travel, work, and play to maximize the benefits to our environment, health, economy – making Barrie a better place to live for everyone.





### *Kidd's Creek Replacement*

The City collaborated with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to reduce the potential of flooding from Kidd's Creek at Dunlop Street. [The replacement project](#) aims to help improve public safety and protect property by reducing flooding, improve Lake Simcoe's water quality and increase fish habitat.



### **Waste**

Between circular economy efforts, curbside collection and drop off locations, the City's 2021 diversion rate was 55%.

**Circular Economy** Barrie's waste management future includes a [Circular Economy](#), providing opportunities to maximize productive value of resources, materials and nutrients by reusing, recycling and remanufacturing.

### *Rethinking Waste*

We are [rethinking](#) the traditional three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) so products are given a second chance before they become waste. The City's new Circular Economy Working Group was formed with the goal of developing initiatives to support the CE framework: *Reuse, Recycle, Consume and Recover*.

We are finding ways to move toward greener, more sustainable options:

- Residents are [reducing food waste](#) sent to the landfill with the City's Green Bin Program or by composting in their own backyard. By the end of 2021, there were 29,763 backyard composters in place, which diverted an estimated 2,976 tonnes of kitchen and yard waste
- 95.74 tonnes of textiles was diverted from the landfill through 2 curbside [textile collection](#) weeks (15,073 participating households). Textiles were donated to [Cornerstone to Recovery](#), a non-profit agency providing community-based recovery programs
- [Sharing, swapping and repairing](#) are simple ways to extend the life of everyday products, especially through the City's 'New to Me' day that took place on June 11

### **Curbside Collection**

In 2021, curbside collection helped divert the following from our landfill:

- 12,203.88 tonnes of recyclables through the blue and grey box program
- 12.07 tonnes of batteries during [Battery Collection Week](#)
- 8,049 tonnes of yard waste, all composted
- 6,469.03 tonnes of organic food waste, all composted
  - Yard waste received is processed into high quality compost using the City's open windrow, centralized composting facility. Once done, it is sold to the public or used in City parks and boulevards
  - 3,967.40 tonnes of compost sold in 2021

The City has 197 recycling and garbage bins installed in public spaces throughout the community to help control litter.

### *Multi Residential Diversion Programs*

The City supports waste diversion in 6+ unit residences with these programs:

- Grey and blue recycling carts are provided for free, with no limit on how many can be collected
  - 10,806 properties participate in this program
- Properties are provided with 35-gallon organic collection carts and in-unit kitchen bins

- 1,343.74 tonnes of organics have been diverted from the landfill to date
- Front End Bin Garbage Collection services are provided to eligible properties (based on criteria including participation in the recycling and organics programs)
  - 167 properties participate in this program

Each property receives educational materials (superintendent handbooks, tenant brochures, organics posters, lobby displays) and hosted information sessions to ensure participation and success.



## Drop-off Facilities

In 2021, organized drop-offs and designated landfill facilities diverted the following from our landfill:

- 242 tonnes of hazardous waste
  - In 2022, two hazardous waste receiving locations were open for residents to properly dispose of hazardous materials – the Hazardous Waste Facility (Upper location) and the Hazardous Waste Depot (lower location at the Recycling Depot)
- 188 tonnes of e-waste, dropped off at the landfill free of charge and recycled
- 517 tonnes of scrap metal, dropped off at the landfill free of charge and recycled
- 63 tonnes of residential tires, dropped off at the landfill free of charge and recycled
- 359 tonnes of which was corrugated cardboard

### *Recycling Depot*

The City's Recycling Depot provides residents a second location for dropping off recyclable material and avoiding lines at the main landfill. The depot accepts recyclable materials that don't carry a disposal fee (organics, tires, scrap metal, electronics, cardboard, blue and grey box material).

In 2021, 37.19 tonnes of recyclable materials diverted to this depot.



## Heritage Conservation

### Urban Agriculture

In 2021, beautiful horticultural displays planted with swiss chard, kale, and basil yielded over 450 pounds of nutritious food, donated to the Barrie Food Bank and Hunger to Hope.

The Barrie Urban Gardeners Facebook group, created during the pandemic, actively engages the community by sharing gardening resources. The group spearheaded the installation of Community Seed Boxes in summer 2020 to promote seed sharing.





### Protecting Sensitive Habitats

**Bee City** Barrie maintains its [Bee City](#) status by upholding our commitment to protecting and creating pollinator habitats, providing community education, and celebrating our pollinators. Working alongside community groups, we are expanding habitat, promoting education, and encouraging public participation. The City continues to support pollinators by:

- Reseeding the decommissioned community garden with native plants
- Installing a pollinator garden at Barrie Community Sports Complex with emphasis on habitat housing and native species
- Donating a Bee Hotel with signage to the Janice Laking Community Garden for Earth Day
- Creating a Backyard Bingo card for kids to explore and learn about pollinators and nature
- Working with Pollinate Barrie to implement native plant gardens in parks to maintain and increase the natural ecosystem function
- Installing bird, bat and pollinator habitats in parks and community gardens that were built and donated by students from a neighbouring high school

Pollinator Week 2022, the first in-person celebration of pollinators since our Bee City designation, was held at *Open Air Dunlop*. Partners helped deliver outreach and educational activities to spread awareness of the pollinator plight. The winner of our Pollinator contest was celebrated on June 18 with a butterfly box gift and a photo featured on social media encouraging others to participate next year.



1 - Photo Credit: Julie Dunaikis

**Bird Friendly City** In June 2022 Barrie became Canada's 15th designated certified [Bird Friendly City](#) through [Nature Canada](#). Barrie has worked in collaboration with Nature Barrie and many other community members to make Barrie a safe haven for wild birds. The City is taking initiatives to protect nature, mitigate threats to birds, and put practices in place to protect birds.



2 - #PictureBarrie Credit: Maddy Haveman

## Barrie's Heritage

**Heritage Committee & Strategy** Heritage Barrie is an advisory committee appointed by Council that works with the community to build awareness of local heritage matters, provide information, and

encourage building and landscape preservation. It also advises Council on matters such as designating heritage properties and providing recommendations on development applications which may impact cultural heritage resources. The [Cultural Heritage Strategy](#) is Heritage Barrie's guide when completing this work.

### *Barrie Heritage Awards*

These awards are presented annually by Councillors on behalf of the Heritage Barrie Committee to owners of heritage buildings, as well as individuals and groups that contribute to preserving our cultural heritage. The 2021 [Barrie Heritage Award](#) winners are:

- 47 Rodney Street (Residential category)
- 94 Dunlop Street East (Commercial category)
- 178 Bayfield Street (Commercial category)
- BarrieToday (Group category)
- Sir Robert Barrie Committee (Group category)
- Grey & Simcoe Foresters Regimental Museum (Group category)



*3 - 178 Bayfield Street*



*4 - 94 Dunlop Street East*

## Heritage Features in Barrie

*Honouring the Military* Barrie [honours the military](#) with dedicated spaces to those who selflessly fought for our freedom:

- Military Heritage Park is a passive parkland that symbolically references Barrie's and Canada's military history by including landforms distinct to each era of overseas and national military commitment. Francis Pegahmagabow, from Wasauksing First Nation, is featured as one of the most highly military-decorated Indigenous people in Canada
- A poppy appears on the signs of streets that have been named in honour of local war veterans. A [map](#) of these streets allows residents and visitors to take a tour
- In 2021, three poppies were incorporated into the crosswalk at Memorial Square

### *Municipal Naming*

City assets can be dedicated in honour of individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to public life through [Municipal Naming](#). To date, six assets have been dedicated.



*Tours & Plaques* Historic sites, trails, parks, contributions, and achievements are permanently commemorated throughout Barrie with [tours and plaques](#).

The Barrie Heritage walking tour guide allows residents and visitors to learn about our history. It supports the Town Crier, who provides free walking tours of Barrie's downtown and other locations.





## Trails

Barrie residents have access to over 88km of naturally beautiful public [trails](#) including:

- [Waterfront Heritage Trail](#): Learn about Barrie's history on this 6km waterfront trail. Beginning with the last glaciers and ending when Barrie became incorporated 1959, themes include natural and military heritage, railway, boating, early industries, people and places. The diverse presence and legacy of Indigenous people is noted throughout the trail
- [Nine Mile Portage Trail](#): This 15km multi-use recreational trail runs between downtown Barrie and Fort Willow in Springwater Township. Created by Indigenous people as the shortest overland route connecting Lake Simcoe to Georgian Bay, it was later used by the British to defend the upper great lakes during the War of 1812. The naval buildings placed at the head of the trail on Kempenfelt Bay mark the birthplace of Barrie
- [The Trans Canada Trail](#): This is the world's longest network of recreational multi-use trails with approximately 20km running through Barrie. The City, in conjunction with the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs, placed three trail markers along Barrie's portion of the trail to honour the history, culture and share the story of local Indigenous communities
- [North Shore Trail](#): This multi-recreational 3km trail runs the entire length of Kempenfelt Bay's north shore. A former rail corridor, it provides direct views of the bay from an accessible pathway.

### *North Shore Trail Vegetation Management*

Staff have collected feedback on preferred methods for maintaining the North Shore Trail and are working to update the Vegetation Management Plan. Key considerations include:

- Improving the health and diversity of the existing vegetative community
- Planning for appropriate tree trimming, pruning and thinning for long-term tree cover
- Removing invasive species (i.e. garlic mustard, phragmites, dog strangling vine) and managing sumac, virginia creeper and other similar species
- Planting new trees and shrubs in appropriate locations to enhance the vegetation community
- Encouraging growth of plants that support pollinator and bird habitats

- Creating educational and interpretive signage



## Events, Festivals & Celebrations

The City of Barrie hosts annual community festivals, special celebrations, and cultural events every year. City-run events bring the community together to celebrate, promote civic pride and engagement, encourage tourism, and support local businesses and cultural industry. Some examples include:

- [Canada Day](#): In solidarity and consultation with local members of the Indigenous community, the City's 2021 Canada Day theme was around our shared history with a focus on reflection, healing and education. It provided residents with the opportunity to learn about the histories and cultures of the Indigenous people of our region. The City worked with the Indigenous community to host a sacred fire to honour all who have been impacted by residential schools. Anyone was welcome to attend and heal together as a community
- [Culture Days](#): The City proudly celebrates culture days, a Canada-wide celebration designed to inspire public participation in the arts
- [Celebrate the Holidays](#): The City held many programs, events and activities throughout December to celebrate the holidays including a skating party and New Year's Eve fireworks
- [Hello Winter](#): Barrie brought light to the winter season with innovative activities encouraging residents to get outside and celebrate during February and March. Residents and visitors enjoyed ice sculptures, interactive art installations, and the downtown Hot Cocoa Trail. *Nature in Winter* showcased local conservation authorities and community partners running activities and games with weekly pop-ups in parks featuring what flora and fauna do in the winter and free guided snowshoeing in Sunnidale Park highlighting the area's natural history and features
- [National Day for Truth & Reconciliation](#): The City is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools are never forgotten
- [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#): In continued efforts towards reconciliation, the City collaborated with local Indigenous organizations to celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures, and significant contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples on June 21. This year, programming expanded throughout June to celebrate National Indigenous History Month. Through partnerships and collaboration with the local Indigenous community, programming

included workshops, an outdoor film screening, cultural celebration, drumming, and a variety of shared resources for continued learning.

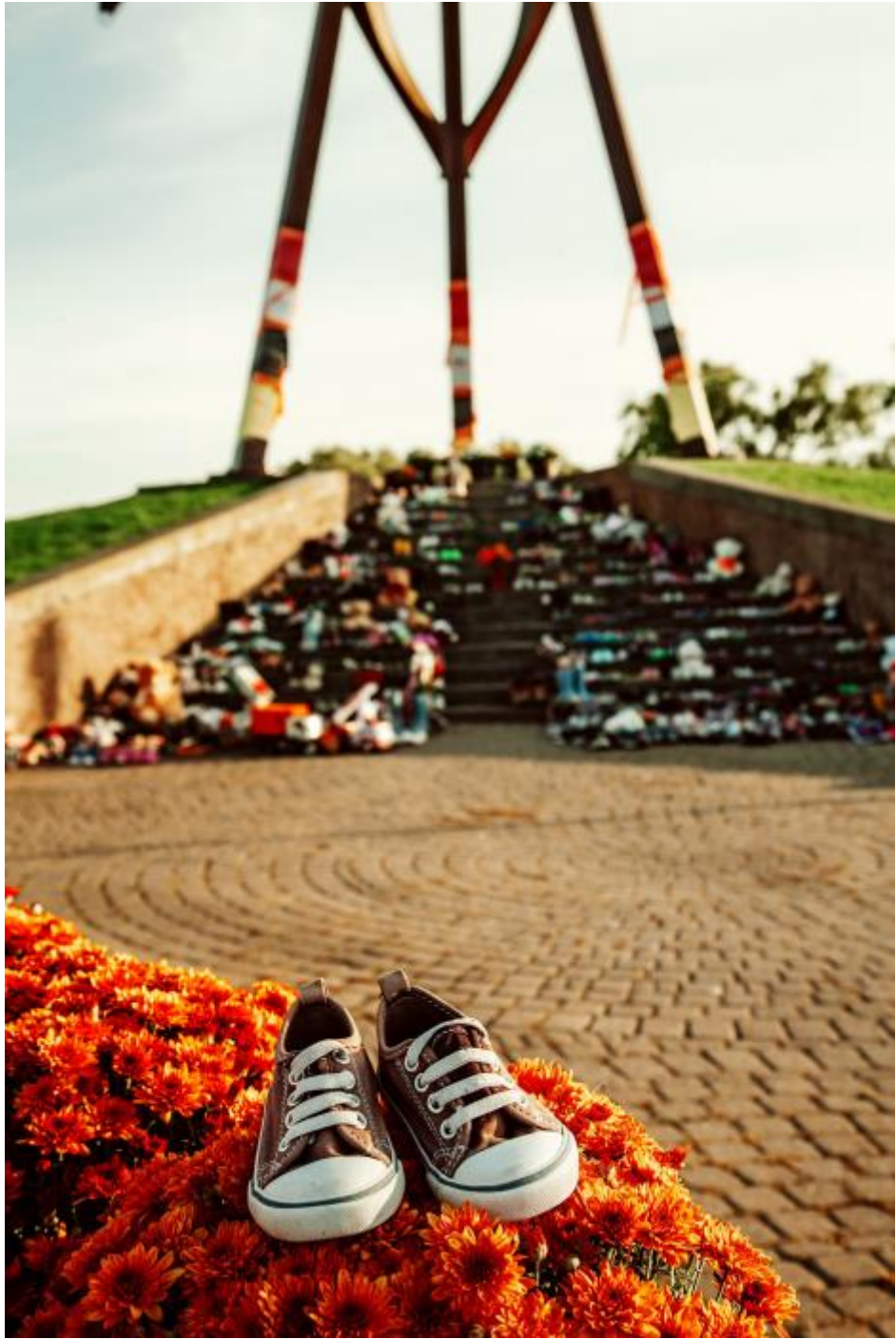
The City works in partnership with several major community events including:

- [Black History Month](#)
- [Kempenfest](#)
- [Remembrance Day](#)
- [Santa Claus Parade](#)
- [Tree Lighting Celebration](#)
- Winter Lights Displays: twinkling seasonal lights displayed at Heritage Park and Meridian Place

Barrie issues Special Event Permits for over 120 other community-led events and fundraisers annually.









## Tree Management

**Private Tree By-Law consultation** Through [public consultation](#), staff are investigating revising the Private Tree By Law to include individual trees on private properties to provide more mature tree protection and mitigate future damage to privately owned trees through private construction and excavation projects.



*5 - 2022 Communities in Bloom public submission*

## Urban Forestry

**Pests, Diseases & Invasive Plant Species** Invasive plant species, pests and diseases directly impact natural environments in Barrie. Managing them requires collaboration between departments, stakeholders, and volunteers to actively monitor and control the spread. By working together, we employ methods of rapid detection, early response, and ongoing removal processes.

Preventative maintenance programs include [pest preparedness](#) and [invasive plants](#) measures to ensure our greenspaces are safe and healthy:

- The Emerald Ash Borer showed signs of infestation in 2014. Since then, staff have removed Ash trees along streetscapes, park lands and woodlots. Ash logs and waste wood are tub ground at the landfill and turned into compost, landfill cover and even benches for city parks!
- 2021 - 2023 are expected to be significant years for Spongy (LDD) moth infestation. Using an Integrated Pest Management Approach, staff apply measures to City-owned trees in high-infestation areas, and encourages all residents to do the same
- Staff assembled and gave residents 2,000+ burlap kits to protect their trees and encourages all residents to do the same
- Multiple departments actively monitor and control invasive plant species in parklands and infrastructure



### Inventory & Annual Work Completed

- Inventory:
  - 28% total canopy cover
  - 35,000 street trees
  - 10,000 individual park trees

- 601 hectares (38%) of city-owned forest
- 2,134 total work orders completed by City staff:
  - 1,149 trees removed
  - 195 stump removals in parks and street boulevards
  - 602 trees pruned
  - 145 other tasks including tree repair, inspections, fertilizing, tree staking, wasp spray, bucket and crane truck assistance
  - 43 trail maintenance activities
  - 379 native trees and shrubs planted for the Wilkin's & Assikinack parks naturalization projects
- 4,926 total work orders completed by contractor services:
  - 133 stump removals
  - 244 street tree removals including Ash
  - 3,653 trees pruned
  - 824 street trees planted
  - 108 park trees planted
  - 16 commemorative trees planted



**Naturalization policy** The City's naturalization policy governs the level and extent of naturalization within municipal parkland, open spaces, and environmental protection lands, and encourages developers to use naturalization techniques in new developments. Some examples of naturalization include establishing 'no mow' native vegetation areas alongside streams to protect water quality and fish habitat or planting native trees and shrubs onto steep slopes to stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

### **Tree Planting Events**

In 2021 the City held [planting events](#) that resulted over 1,700 trees being planted:



- 300 trees at Kidd's Creek planted by Living Green Barrie and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- 180 trees at Dunsmore Park, extending the wetland riparian buffer area, planted by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- 750 trees and shrubs at Willoughby Park planted by Living Green Barrie and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- 200 trees and shrubs along with 87 pollinators in Assikinack Park planted by grade 3/4 & 8 local students as part of a naturalization project
- 91 trees and shrubs at Crompton greenspace planted by Living Green Barrie and the local community
- 20 trees at Victoria Woods planted by Living Green Barrie
- 20 trees at the Innisfil Street greenspace planted by Living Green Barrie
- 150 trees and shrubs at Shalom Park planted by the Lake Simcoe Conservation Area and Living Green Barrie

#### *Assikinack Park Naturalization Project*

In spring 2022, students from Assikinack Public School planted 100 trees, 100 shrubs and 87 perennial plants (pollinator species) along with native pollinator seeding in the newly formed naturalized area.

The final portion to complete the project includes some additional planting and natural bench installation to create Assikinack Park's outdoor classroom in fall 2022.



## Landscape

### Updates & Redevelopment

**Heritage Park Master Plan Development** The Heritage Park Mast Plan process started in 2021 and is the first Master Plan since the park's original development in the early 90s and is an opportunity to explore

creative ways to update, revitalize and add innovation to this semi-urban destination to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's park users.

Heritage Park is one of Barrie's premier waterfront destinations. Its 7.3 acres hosts many events and features horticultural displays, a water feature area, natural pond, and the Sea Serpent sculpture.

Over the past year, feedback responding to key issues, constraints and opportunities has led to a plan concept. The [Heritage Park Master Plan](#) was approved by Barrie City Council on June 6, 2022. The next steps will be to pursue municipal funding over the next several years for park redevelopment.



**Waterfront Strategic Plan Update** The City is updating its [2015 Waterfront Strategic Plan](#), with the exception of the Marina portion. This plan includes 21 waterfront parks, the North Shore Trail, and the J. C. Morrison Wreck site in and around Kempenfelt Bay within city limits. Two public meetings in 2022 collected feedback to inform an updated vision for the waterfront. The updated Plan will go to Council for approval in 2023.

**Downtown Beautification** The City continues to further enhance downtown beautification efforts:

- Partnered with the Downtown Barrie BIA, the City expanded the water conserving planter program with an additional 50 planters. Reservoir hanging baskets are along Lakeshore Drive at Heritage Park, City Hall and the Barrie Public Library. Reservoir planters are along Dunlop Street in the downtown, and on traffic calming medians in residential areas
- [The Container Project](#) at Meridian Place is a central storage unit with a mural by local artist Katie Green, depicting Barrie's skyline overlaid with images of flora and fauna

- Temporary outdoor patios on City sidewalks contributes to the downtown by expanding pedestrian walkways and adding flowers and greenery to the streetscape



## Programs & Education

**Community Garden** The City's [Community Garden](#) program has three new gardens (for a total of six), each having single, double, and accessible plots available to rent. The roots are growing in 2022 as gardeners have more access to their plots with Covid restrictions lifted.

In spring 2022, Urban Pantry hosted the Lampman Lane Garden Party as a thank you to the volunteers who helped build the community gardens and celebrated a job well done. There were free seedling giveaways, seed sharing, story-time, and a bee hotel craft and takeaway.

The Lampman Lane demonstration plot continues to run for programming during the growing season. This includes both the recreation camps, and anyone interested in building their gardening skillset.

Many organizations have access to garden space to offer education, support through food security initiatives and encourage gardening in the local community including Empower Simcoe, Barrie Garden Club, Pollinate Barrie, and Eastview Secondary Schools.

The City actively participates in groups such as the Barrie Urban Gardeners and the Simcoe County Food Council to help leverage community assets and engage members of the community to get involved.

## Communal gardens

The City encourages local community organizations to experience gardens by maintaining access to these spaces. These groups (including Empower Simcoe, Barrie Garden Club and various local school groups), offer education and support through food security measures.



## Safety & Inclusion

### Open Air Dunlop

Every Saturday in the summer season, part of Dunlop Street closes to vehicle traffic allowing a safe, physically-distanced space for pedestrians to enjoy downtown while supporting small businesses during the warmer months. Open Air Dunlop features:

- Vendors and community booths at Meridian Place
- Historic self-guided walking and bike tours
- Downtown Barrie's beautiful new streetscape and patios
- Theatre By the Bay's *The Ghost Watchers*
- Live music on the Meridian Place stage
- Family activities such as a Kids Roll & Stroll Parade

Open Air Dunlop pop-up markets were also added during special events/holidays, such as Hello Winter, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Canada Day.





**Barrie Wayfinding Strategy engagement** The City is working with stakeholders to improve our [wayfinding signage system](#) that directs people using all forms of transportation to the downtown Barrie area, public parking, parks, and other attractions, as well as help navigating through the downtown and waterfront.

Staff are currently developing recommendations for the types of signage, strategic locations, and design ideas to inform the project's next phases – sign design and installation in the downtown and waterfront, and along major arteries leading to those areas.

**Public Art** The Public Art Policy was created by a committee of art and design experts from Barrie and surrounding area to raise the profile of [public art](#) by highlighting its role in creating a vibrant and animated city.

The Barrie Public Art Committee (BPAC) is a volunteer group striving to enhance Barrie with art and encourage people to visit public spaces. BPAC secures art by commissioning new works, facilitating donations, and organizing temporary installations. Through the Community Engaged Art Policy, the BPAC enhances our community's sense of ownership and value by encouraging awareness of collective heritages, neighbourhood identities, and the value of creativity and creative processes in urban living.

Learn more about the public art collection in Barrie and explore the community through the lens of public art using the [Barrie Public Art Guide](#) and interactive Story Map.

*About Time (Hourglass) and About Time (Lightening Bolts)*

Two new sculptures stand in East Bayfield Community Park to increase awareness of pollinators, the significant loss of their habitats, and the impact of that loss on their populations and ecosystems. Barrie-based artists Derek and Tracey Martin created these original works made of laser cut mild steel specifically for this location to remind us that our ecosystems are under threat and time is running out.

The cut-out butterfly forms, modelled after monarchs, serve as a lyrical and hopeful counterpoint to the sense of urgency signaled by the hourglass and raw power of nature suggested by the lightening bolts.

The Hourglass Pollinator Garden at the base of the sculpture contains native plant species to attract bees, birds, butterflies, moths, wasps, bats and small mammals which convey pollen from plant to plant. This movement must occur for many plants to become fertilized and produce fruits, vegetables, and seeds. One out of every three bits of food you eat exists because of the efforts of pollinators!





### *Brightening Barriers*

Now in its second year, *Brightening Barriers* is a temporary public art project where nine local and regional artists have been paired with downtown business owners to create an artistic response on their seasonal patio fencing. Aiming to relieve the physical separation necessary during the pandemic, the patios offer an opportunity to turn barriers into a collective artistic experience.



### **Accessible Community Playgrounds**

Since 2014, the City has developed [accessible](#) playgrounds at Sunnidale, Lampman Lane, Ferndale, Holly, Shear and Lennox Parks. Centennial Beach Park and Queens Park also received accessibility upgrades, surfacing and new swings. In 2019, the City installed Mobi Mats at Centennial Beach for increased accessibility to the waterfront.

The City is shifting to a higher accessibility standard, applying universal design principles to park design and construction. The seven universal design principles were incorporated into the 2022 Council approved Heritage Park Redevelopment Master Plan.

### *Accessible Parks Projects*

The City is planning to build a new tournament-grade pickleball facility in 2022-23. This outdoor facility will include two fully accessible pickleball courts designed to the USA Pickleball Association standard.

This year the City is planning to reconstruct the St. Vincent Park play space with the Landscape Structures We-Go Swing – the first truly universally [accessible](#) swing and play space of its kind in the region. Children can remain in their wheelchair while accessing the swing to enjoy the full experience with other children, parents, or caregivers. The play space's design will be more immersive, intuitive, and easier for children of all abilities and ages to use, including a range of fully accessible elements (raised water play table, nature course, pathways, and playground accessible surfacing).





## Maintenance

### Parks

The City works to maintain the beauty and safety of our parkland, natural open space areas and trails:

- Forestry:
  - Maintains 32,327 boulevard street trees, parks trees in 117 parks totalling 625 acres and trees in 36 open space locations totaling 2,190 acres
  - cutting parks at 3" and 4-6" rough cut roadside (height raised to re-enforce plant health)
  - Areas treated with landfill compost have shown significant turf improvements
  - Waterfront and parks are fertilized and aerated four times a year, over seeded twice a year, and top dressed with either landfill compost or soil/compost mixture as required to improve turf resistance to weeds and help with compaction issues
  - Neighbourhood parks are fertilized in high-use areas (i.e. winter rink locations) using the waterfront cultural practices. The City follows IPM practice on turf areas outside the sports fields to reduce chemical fertilizer-use
  - 'Turface', a baked clay product, is incorporated after aeration at the waterfront to help with water retention and to reduce compaction
  - Naturalized areas de-littered as needed and rough cut once to improve plant health
  - During dry spells, staff are redirected to the trail and pruning crews where they assist with larger construction projects. Staff are cross trained to gain a better understanding of the parks team, which improves efficiency and builds a happier workplace
  - The Special Projects Team is a skilled group of employees who perform high-level construction jobs in parks
  - The parks team and Council accelerated installation of in-ground garbage containers within city parks – each unit replaces up to six 55-gallon drums. Where installed, these units have reduced the number of staff required to control garbage by 33%

- Barrie Community Sports Complex:
  - Maintains 10 clay diamonds, 7 natural grass fields, 4 beach volleyball courts, 3 amenity buildings and a playground
    - Regulation sized beach volleyball courts have screened and washed sand
    - Playgrounds are inspected monthly by a CSA certified inspector<sup>11</sup> of the playing areas are lit
    - All 17 playing areas are irrigated with 585 rotors and 37 valves
  - Irrigation system controlled by a software program to monitor volume needed, line breaks, and natural rainfall sensors to reduce water consumption
  - Aeration takes place four times a year – combination of fracture, deep tine and core
  - All turf is mix of Kentucky Bluegrass and Ryegrass, overseeded twice a year
  - Mowing is at 2.5” on all playing surfaces
  - Fertility program based on annual soil tests (average 4 applications per season) No pesticides are used on the turf
  - All setup and lining done in-house tailored each specific sporting group’s needs
  - Five large gardens throughout the complex
  - Maintenance of 158 red oak trees
- Sports Fields & Playgrounds:
  - Maintains 49 soccer fields, 40 baseball diamonds, 131 playgrounds, tennis courts and beach grooming
  - Playground unit inspection and maintenance through the year to ensure public safety
  - Sports fields receive an extensive Plant Health Care Program to ensure they are in top shape and able to withstand all uses from the sports and school groups.
- Turf & Trail:
  - Maintains turf in 117 parks, 40 gores, 24 boulevards and 20 municipal facilities



## Plant & Floral Displays

### Adopt-A-Bed

Residents can Adopt-A-Bed in their neighborhood, looking after preparing, planting, general horticultural maintenance, and irrigating the floral display for 5 years. The City provides plant material (when available). To date, 17 beds have been adopted. Contact [Mona.Boyd@barrie.ca](mailto:Mona.Boyd@barrie.ca) for more info.

### Seed libraries

[Brightly coloured boxes](#) at community gardens promote biodiversity and enable a more self-reliant community through the City's [Seed Exchange](#). A seed box is a mini Seed Library for borrowing, exchanging, or sharing seeds. All members of the public can access and use the Seed Library.

The Barrie Public Library and the City promoted these boxes on social media, including adding resources to [barrie.ca](http://barrie.ca), making signage on how to use the seed boxes, and providing learning opportunities through Seedy Saturday. New seed boxes have been installed at all three new community gardens.







### **Floral Program by Numbers**

Horticulture staff maintain:

- 175 hanging baskets (water conserving baskets) that surround the waterfront
- 230 moss boxes (2'x3') on bridge railings at Heritage and Centennial Parks, and Lakeshore Drive
- 160 water-conserving planters
- 415 floral displays
- 175 shrub beds
- 190 concrete planters
- 21,000 spring bulbs
- 91 reverse front lots
- 600 ornamental grasses (1gallon)
- 450 perennial pots



[barrie.ca/CommunitiesinBloom](http://barrie.ca/CommunitiesinBloom)

