

Council approves 2026-2030 Public Art Workplan

At their April 28 meeting, City Council directed staff to implement the 2026-2030 Public Art Workplan, starting by exploring community partnership opportunities for an art project at Mill Lake Park.

In their report to Council, staff recommended three new long-term public art projects be included in the 2026-2030 Public Art Plan:

1. Infrastructure integrated illuminated art at Mill Lake Park on the theme of cultural diversity and interculturalism.
2. Illuminated art and events at Mill Lake Park on the theme of cultural diversity and interculturalism.
3. Infrastructure integrated and interactive art at Jubilee Park on the themes of “play through public art,” celebrating community, and civic pride.

These projects were identified following engagement held over the past several months involving cultural and community partner organizations including the Abbotsford Arts Council, Heritage Abbotsford

Society, The Reach Gallery Museum and Tourism Abbotsford Society, among others, as well as City departments.

The Mill Lake Park projects were prioritized to take advantage of efficiencies associated with the Mill Lake Infrastructure Standards Report and associated capital renewal projects. The proposed illuminated art infrastructure would integrate power sources in light standards to create a cost-effective framework to support seasonal public art displays.

The Jubilee Park project was selected as it aligns with planned capital improvements to the park perimeter fencing and bollard system. Designed to encourage play and connection, the proposed project will integrate artwork into the fencing and bollards.

Staff expect to present a detailed project plan for the Mill Lake Park illuminated art and events project to Council in 2027, with the Jubilee Park project report projected for 2029.

Council approves 2025 draft financial statements

At their April 28 meeting, City Council approved the City's 2025 Draft Audited Financial Statements.

In their presentation to Council, staff reported that the City had a total annual surplus of \$66.2 million, of which \$59.9 million reflects an increase in its equity in capital assets, which include items like municipal land, buildings and infrastructure. This increase brought the equity in capital assets to \$1.64 billion. The remainder of the surplus, \$6.3 million, reflects an increase in the City's reserve funds.

A city's net financial assets is a key indicator of its financial health, and this indicator increased by \$10.6 million to \$393 million during 2025, mainly due to reduced long-term debt as well as the previously mentioned increase in the reserve funds. This figure represents the resources available to pay for future operating expenses and infrastructure. This level of net financial assets is considered a relatively strong position for a city of Abbotsford's size.

Independent KPMG auditors were also present to share their findings confirming the veracity of the City's financial statements.

View the staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/2025financialstatements.

Council advances Climate Resilience Strategy to next phase

At their April 28 meeting, City Council directed staff to proceed to Stage 3 of the City's Climate Resilience Strategy.

In their presentation to Council, staff provided an update on the strategy, including updated community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions figures, feedback from Round 1 of public engagement, initial findings from the Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA), plus the strategy's draft vision, big moves and action ideas.

The report compared GHG emissions from the 2007 baseline to the most recent available Provincial data from 2022. Findings indicate that total community emissions are up 21 per cent, which is typical for a growing city with increasing housing and transportation needs, while per capita emissions are down six per cent, reflecting efficiencies in energy use.

Round 1 of engagement focused on the impacts of climate change and other hazards on the community, and what can be done to strengthen climate resilience and emergency preparedness. The four main themes that came up were:

1. Strong community support for action, with 95 per cent agreeing that climate resilience and emergency planning are important.
2. Top hazard concerns were flooding, air quality, drought and extreme heat.
3. Nearly half of respondents have been personally impacted by flooding.
4. Concern about impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure and community services.

Looking ahead to 2050, the HRVA predicts that flooding, wildfire and extreme heat will continue to pose the greatest risks, followed by landslides and poor air quality. These results will help identify and guide where action is needed most.

Using the feedback from Round 1 engagement and the HRVA, the report put forth a draft vision of "A low carbon, resilient Abbotsford where our communities, environment, and economy thrive, guided by our shared values," as well as eight big moves that identify key focus areas along with some initial action ideas to support implementation.

Round 2 of community engagement continues through May 7, with the final strategy going back to Council for approval this summer.

View the full staff presentation at abbotsford.ca/climatestrategystage2.



City of Abbotsford
CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

Help craft Abbotsford's Climate Resilience Strategy.
Review our work so far and share your feedback on the vision, big moves and action ideas. Your input will help the City cut emissions and better prepare for climate risks.

How to get involved:

- ✓ Fill out a survey on Let's Talk Abbotsford and be entered to win a \$100 grocery gift card or emergency kit.
- ✓ Learn more at in-person Community Pop Up Events.
- ✓ Register for a Climate Conversation.

LEARN MORE AND TAKE THE SURVEY BY MAY 7, 2026

LET'S TALK abbotsford ABBOTSFORD