

Council supports coordinated Plan for 2050 Master Plan Update Program rollout

At their May 12 meeting, City Council approved the coordinated “Plan for 2050” Master Plan Update Program and directed staff to begin public engagement.

In their report to Council, staff explained that the Plan for 2050 coordinated approach is an effort to facilitate an efficient and effective update to eight service and infrastructure Master Plans to support and accommodate the growth and vision set out in the 2025 Official Community Plan and align them with the direction identified in Council’s Strategic Plan.

The following Master Plans are being updated as part of Plan for 2050:

- Joint Water
 - Joint Wastewater
 - City Water
 - City Wastewater
 - Drainage
 - Transportation
 - Fire Rescue Service
 - Parks, Recreation & Culture
- (the update process for this Plan will begin in 2027, once related strategies currently in progress are completed)*

The updates to the Master Plans will build on the direction set out in the

Official Community Plan and support strategies to ensure services continue to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Stage 1 of public engagement took place in May. Staff will present their Stage 1 Background findings to Council in July.

View the staff presentation at www.abbotsford.ca/masterplanupdatestage1



Council directs staff to update density bonus program

At their May 26 meeting, City Council directed staff to draft bylaw amendments regarding the City’s density bonus program to align with new Provincial legislation.

In their report to Council, staff explained that this program gives property developers the ability to build additional density in exchange for financial or in-kind contributions to the City, including adding affordable housing units.

Staff held engagement sessions with members of the industry, public and City committees in March and April 2026 to help inform the updates, and are recommending that the rate of financial contribution in exchange for density bonusing remains low.

View the full staff presentation at www.abbotsford.ca/densitybonus2026update

Council votes to amend Civic Awards and Recognition Policy

At their May 12 meeting, City Council approved amendments to the Civic Awards and Recognition Policy to modernize the policy and improve clarity, transparency and administrative efficiency.

In their report to Council, staff noted that since being adopted in 2020, the current strategy has been reviewed to identify opportunities for improvement. Staff propose:

- Updating the award structure
- Clarifying eligibility criteria
- Clarifying ineligibility of current City and Abbotsford Police Department employees
- Implementing a four-year waiting period for former employees and members of Council
- Simplifying the intake process
- Retaining nominations from prior years for future consideration
- Revising the review process
- Disbanding the Awards and Recognition Advisory Committee

Additional amendments include reducing the vote threshold for selecting an Order of Abbotsford recipient from a unanimous resolution to a two-thirds majority and emphasizing volunteer contributions. Together, these changes support Council's vision of recognizing individuals and organizations that contribute meaningfully to the community, while enhancing the clarity, fairness and integrity of the awards process.

Council approves new housing agreement with Salvation Army

At their May 26 meeting, City Council approved a new housing agreement with the Salvation Army that will allow for the expansion of services following upgrades to their Centre of Hope emergency shelter located at 34081 Gladys Ave.

In the report to Council, staff noted that the Salvation Army intends to renovate the building's washrooms, laundry facilities, doors, windows and privacy dividers. The shelter has been in operation since 2004 and is presently authorized to accommodate 19 men. The revised housing agreement removes the gender and occupancy limitations to accommodate up to 50 people.

Support services offered at the shelter include daily meals, health care checks, outreach and community lunches for up to 150 people.

Council endorses residential tree giveaway program

At their May 26 meeting, City Council endorsed “Branch Out Abbotsford,” a new residential tree planting program.

In their report to Council, staff explained that participants of the program would have trees delivered to their homes and professionals would help plant them. The property owner would then be provided with instructions on how to care for the tree.

Eight species of locally supplied trees are recommended for the project. This includes a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees in range of sizes to suit a variety of locations and conditions. Staff recommend focusing the program in the Peardonville and West Abbotsford neighbourhoods in its first year.

This program addresses three goals of the City’s Urban Forest Strategy:

1. Prioritize tree planting in urban neighbourhoods with less than 20 per cent canopy cover.
2. Develop and implement a communications and stewardship plan that explores opportunities to share key messages about the urban forest, engage community members in stewardship and provide educational opportunities.
3. Explore programs that encourage people to regularly plant and maintain large trees on their properties.

Council approves Fishtrap Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

At their May 12 meeting, City Council approved the Fishtrap Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan.

In their report to Council, staff stated that the purpose of the plan is to develop strategies to address watershed issues, minimize impacts of future development and climate change, and improve drainage infrastructure in the Fishtrap Creek watershed to support safe and sustainable growth of the watershed and protect the environment.

The plan makes recommendations for improvements in the areas of:

- Flood management
- Erosion management
- Sediment management
- Environmental restoration and enhancements

This program is expected to take more than 30 years to complete. Right now, sediment is being removed from the Fishtrap detention ponds as part of the program. The remaining identified projects will be prioritized and incorporated into the City’s Drainage Master Plan to be completed later next year.

View the staff presentation at www.abbotsford.ca/fishtrapcreekplanfinal