



Ward 3 Report

Councillor Andrew Stevens

SUMMER 2021

Dear Ward 3 Residents

Like many of you, I had hoped that COVID would be a thing of the past by the time summer 2021 rolled around. Unfortunately, we're not there yet, but there are signs of hope as Saskatchewan's vaccination rate continues to climb. By adhering to restrictions and getting your vaccine, we can beat this. Despite the ongoing pandemic, things have been busy at Council and there's a lot lined up this summer.

The 2021 budget saw a property tax freeze for the City's operational expenses, with new money being invested in a recreation reserve through a dedicated mill rate. A half a million dollars was earmarked for harm reduction funding through our Community Investment Grants Program, and \$1 million in support for homelessness will be part of the 2022 budget. The new Maple Leaf pool will open in June, along with the City's other, cherished outdoor aquatic amenities. Road repairs and construction will have begun by the time this newsletter reaches Ward 3 mailboxes. We'll even see new dedicated bike lanes and multiuse pathways come on-line this summer. Check out the newsletter for other projects and initiatives that are underway.

One of my priorities has been to ensure that infrastructure is repaired in a timely manner. If you have a sidewalk that is damaged or was dug up in a previous year, please call or send me an email so I can get this work done. I've also been paying attention to garbage and litter in our communities, which is why I co-authored the "Clean Community" motion with Councillor Dan LeBlanc. Later this year, City administration will return to Council with options on how to improve service levels and strengthen bylaw enforcement options to handle garbage in our neighbourhoods. Finally, the Community Wellbeing and Public Safety strategy is set to return to Council this summer for approval. That's an important initiative I helped to advance during my first term.



Things aren't quite back to normal, but better times are just ahead. I can't wait to return to our summer festivals and events that bring community members together. I look forward to hearing from residents in the months ahead! Be safe.

Sign up on Regina.ca to receive my e-newsletter!

Stay informed about Ward 3 issues by signing up for my e-newsletter. Go to Regina.ca., search my name and click on the 'Sign up for the Ward 3 Newsletter' button. Then look for an email from me in your inbox to find out what's happening in Ward 3! It's a quick way to get updates and my comments on various issues that affect you.



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CITY OF REGINA

Councillor - Ward 3

2021 Budget Highlights

The 2021 Budget was approved on March 25, with a 2.34% mill rate increase--the lowest in over a decade--to support continued investment in infrastructure and community safety while managing the impacts of COVID-19.

The mill rate includes the continuation of previously approved dedicated mill rates for Mosaic Stadium and the Recreational Infrastructure Program. For the average assessed home value of \$315,000, the mill rate will increase by \$4.13 per month.

2021 General Operating Budget	Proposed Mill Rate Increase (%)
Civic Operations	0.00
Stadium	0.45
Recreation Infrastructure Program	0.50
Subtotal	0.95
Regina Police Service	1.39
Proposed Mill Rate Increase	2.34

Go to [Regina.ca/budget](https://regina.ca/budget) for more information.

COVID Financial Update

Using funding received through the federal Safe Re-Start Program, the City of Regina has dedicated \$15.9 million to a COVID-19 Recovery Reserve. This provides the City with a dedicated source of funding to offset expenses and lost revenue related to COVID-19 in 2021.

Community Investment Grants Program (CIGP)



The City offers grants in the areas of culture, social development and sport & recreation. This year, \$12.7 million goes to the Community Investment Program (CIGP). Through it, the City funds and partners with community non-profit organizations to deliver programs and

services to Regina residents that align with City priorities, have a clear community impact and respond to community needs.

In 2019, the CIGP provided about \$3.58 million to 195 non-profits. Through this funding, these organizations were able to provide 264,018 hours of programming to our residents, allowing 2,158,841 participants to enjoy a variety of events, initiatives and programs throughout the community.

In May, Council approved the creation of two new funding streams: harm reduction (\$500,000) and accessible recreation (\$100,000). Grant in-take begins now and goes throughout the summer. Organizations with planned initiatives/events/programs are invited to visit [Regina.ca](https://regina.ca) and look up community investment grants. Organizations may be eligible to apply for more than one grants; we will assist applicants to apply.

2021 Bike Lanes and Multi-use Pathways

Construction will soon begin on about 4.5 km of new on-street bike lanes and multi-use paths. That's a \$2.2 million investment into new infrastructure that will help promote more active communities and safer, connected pathways.

On-street bike lane projects include phase one of the new east-west crosstown bike route:

- 13th Ave between Forget St and York St
- 14th Ave between Edward St and Montague St
- King St between 15th Ave and 14th Ave
- McTavish St between College Ave and 14th Ave

Multi-use pathway projects:

- Arcola Ave between Pilot Butte Creek and University Park Dr
- Albert St between 23rd Ave and Regina Ave
- Brinkworth Park from 13th Ave and York St to 14th Ave and Edward St
- Pasqua St between Parliament Ave and Hill Ave
- Hillsdale St between 23rd Ave and Broad St

These projects are part of the City's Transportation Master Plan that aims to improve the way we drive, take transit, walk and cycle in our city.

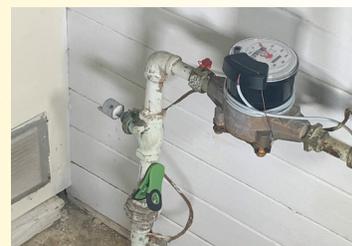
Lead Service Connection Management Program

Filters

The City is now offering residents with lead service connections private or public lead filters on an annual basis. To receive a filter call Service Regina at 306-777-7000.

Replacements

The City currently replaces the City-owned side of lead service connections when they break or during planned major road upgrades. The City-owned portion of the lead service connection is also replaced during redevelopment of an existing property with a lead service connection. And, if requested by a property owner, the City also replaces a City-owned lead service connection where the private portion of the service connection is not lead. In 2020, the City replaced 118 City-owned lead service connections through City construction programs.



City Council invests in Buffalo Pound

Regina City Council authorized up to \$60 million for upgrades to the Buffalo Pound Water Treatment Plant, which provides drinking water to both Regina and Moose Jaw. Financial support has also been provided by the federal and provincial governments, for a total investment of around \$253 million. Renovations are expected to be completed by 2025. The last major work done to the plant was completed in 1989.

Backyard Home Improvements

With more time spent at home, decks and fences in need of repair really stand out. Here's something to add to your to-do list:

Fences

First, talk to your neighbours and give them a heads-up before putting up a fence. You might be able to share the cost. In Regina, fences can be up to 1.83 m (6 ft) in backyards and 1.22 m (4 ft) in front yards.

Second, contact the City before construction to ensure that your proposed fence complies with all City regulations. A building permit is not required to build a fence, however, your fence must comply with all City regulations and bylaws. The City does not locate property lines, but you can refer to a surveyor's certificate or a real property report to determine where your property lines are.

Third, avoid significant damage to your property by calling **Sask 1st Call** at 1-866-828-4888 or beforeyoudig@sask1stcall.com 48 hours before you dig to locate all of the utility lines.

Decks

You will need a building permit to build an uncovered deck more than 30cm (1 ft) high and for all covered decks. Decks that require a building permit also require a development permit. Regardless of size or height, ensure your proposed deck does not encroach upon any easements on your property.

How to Apply for a Deck Permit

1. Complete the Deck Permit Application Package and ensure application contains all required information and documents.
2. The legal owner of the property as well as the applicant must sign the application.
3. If applicable, contact SaskPower at 1-888-757-6937 or visit Saskpower.com for inspections and permits for gas or electrical work.
4. Submit application through **eBuild** or by email to permits@regina.ca. The City will review to ensure it meets all building, zoning and heritage regulations and/or bylaws.



Once your application is approved, you will receive an email advising you of the permit fee. Payment can be made over the phone or visit us at the permit counter on the main floor of City Hall. **Visit Regina.ca/build to learn more and get your project started.**

2021 Construction Projects – Ward 3

The City expects to spend about \$17 million on Ward 3 roads, water and sewer systems, bridges and traffic infrastructure improvement projects. Here's some examples:

Road Renewal – sidewalk, curb and gutter replacement, followed by paving

- Knight Cres – 7th Ave to Pasqua St (concrete completed in 2020, pavement resurfacing in 2021)
- McTavish St – Dewdney Ave to 4th Ave (with internal water infrastructure renewal)
- Princess St – 4th Ave to 3rd Ave
- Robinson S – Dewdney Ave to 4th Ave
- Scarth St – Victoria Ave to 12th Ave (including SaskPower work)
- Wascana St – 15th Ave to 14th Ave (concrete completed in 2020, pavement resurfacing in 2021)
- Albert St – Victoria Ave to Saskatchewan Dr (including SaskPower work)
- Lorne St – Victoria Ave to 12th Ave

Signal Rehabilitation

- Elphinstone and Dewdney Ave

Permanent Pavement Markings

- Albert St – Victoria Ave to Saskatchewan Dr
- Broad St – Broadway Ave to 15th Ave

Sewer Infrastructure Renewal

- 6th Ave – Knight Cres to Pasqua St
- 7th Ave – York St to Pasqua St
- Albert St – 19th Ave to 2640 Albert St
- Angus St – 13th Ave to Saskatchewan Dr
- Athol St – 940 Athol St to 3rd Ave
- Athol St – 6th Ave to 1136 Athol St
- Edward St – 8th Ave to 7th Ave
- Les Sherman Park – Pasqua St to Les Sherman Park
- Lewvan Field (James Park) – East Buffer of Lewvan Dr to East Buffer of Lewvan Dr
- Pasqua St – Manhole S of Dewdney Ave to McKinley Ave
- Sussex Cres – Pasqua St (S Leg) to Pasqua St (N Leg)

North Central Drainage Upgrade Project

- 2nd Ave – Alley W of Princess St to Athol St
- Argyle St – 3rd Ave to 753 Argyle St (with internal water infrastructure renewal)
- Athol St – McKinley Ave to 1st Ave (with internal water infrastructure renewal)
- Athol St – 2nd Ave to 1st Ave
- McTavish St – 821 McTavish St to 2nd Ave (with internal water infrastructure renewal)
- Princess St – 815 Princess St to 739 Princess St (with internal water infrastructure renewal)

Visit Regina.ca/construction for a complete list of 2021 construction projects.

Garbage Collection and Composting Pilot Project

Garbage in alleys

Based on service requests identified by staff, residents, and city councillors, the City has completed several alley cleanups in Ward 3. Most of this work took place in the North Central and Heritage Neighbourhoods. The Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services department is bringing forward a report to Council with support for the community clean-up program. The Waste, Waste & Environment area will provide supporting data and in-kind support.

Bylaw enforcement – Illegal dumping

People who dump their waste in public property like parks and alleys violate the Clean Property Bylaw. Whenever items are dumped without using an authorized method like garbage or recycling bins/carts, the Waste Management Bylaw is violated. Let's keep our city clean, healthy and safe. We ask residents to call Service Regina at **306-777-7000** if they see this type of dumping.

Compost update

The City launched a one-year Food and Yard Waste Pilot in September 2020 to about 2,800 homes across Regina. Here's results of a survey we took halfway through:

- 81 per cent indicated strong satisfaction with pilot
- 80 per cent indicated they used their green cart for both yard and food waste
- 35 per cent agree that there are challenges to be addressed

The pilot continues to September 2021 and City staff are learning what's working well and what areas of improvement can be considered to the program prior to city-wide rollout. Participants have been doing a great job and are helping to lead the way in making our city cleaner and greener.

Pilot by the numbers:

- 300 tonnes of food and yard waste collected
- 29 per cent reduction in garbage cart material
- 2 per cent of green cart material is unacceptable, including plastic bags and foil

Learn more at [Regina.ca/waste](https://regina.ca/waste).

280 Businesses Supported through Economic Recovery

So far, the Regina Economic Recovery Grant (RERG) has provided funding support to more than 280 businesses throughout the city. Around \$600,000 in matching grants is still available to assist businesses in transforming their operations in response to COVID-19.

As of mid-April, a total of \$1.38 million has been distributed since the program began in August 2020. More than 20 businesses have received the maximum amount of \$25,000, accounting for one third of the total grants awarded. Additional matching grants have been given in the amounts of \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000.

The City of Regina committed \$2 million to the RERG program. On average, about \$70,000 is distributed each week. Based on the current rate of distribution, the City anticipates RERG funding may be fully utilized before summer.

RERG applications are reviewed according to how well each aligns with the core criteria of the program. Among this criteria, applicants are required to explain how the funding will help people return to work or create new positions, help keep the business open, allow for new products or business diversification, transform a business operation, allow other funding to become available, make a significant community impact and respond to COVID-19 requirements.

Visit [Regina.ca/recovery](https://regina.ca/recovery) to apply or learn more information about the Regina Economic Recovery Grant.

Renew Project

The North Central Community Association's (NCCA) Renew Project assists in cleaning up graffiti and vandalism in North Central Regina. It creates a sense of community by involving area residents, volunteers and restoring vandalism offenders from John Howard Society. It also aims to reduce vandalism and improve support for victims of vandalism. Project results were down in 2020 because COVID-19 presented challenges to implementing this year's project, limiting the numbers of volunteers, volunteer hours and ability to reach residents. Given these limitations, we still see the project as a success and were careful to follow health protocols.



2020 Results: Volunteers were involved with garage door paintings and the alley wall on Healing Hearts Church.

- 53 volunteers/137 Volunteer Hours
- 1704 Graffiti Removals
- 27 Alleys Cleanups

2019 Results: Volunteers mostly focused on covering up graffiti and were able to use rakes and shovels to clean many of the alleys, not requiring much use of Loraas bins, as in previous years.

- 89 Volunteers/251.5 Volunteer Hours
- 3896 Graffiti Removals
- 158 Needles retrieved
- 73 Alley Cleanups

The project closely relates to NCCA's strategic priorities: engaging our community and delivering quality programs and services. Now in its sixth year, the Renew project takes place from May to November.



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