



2020

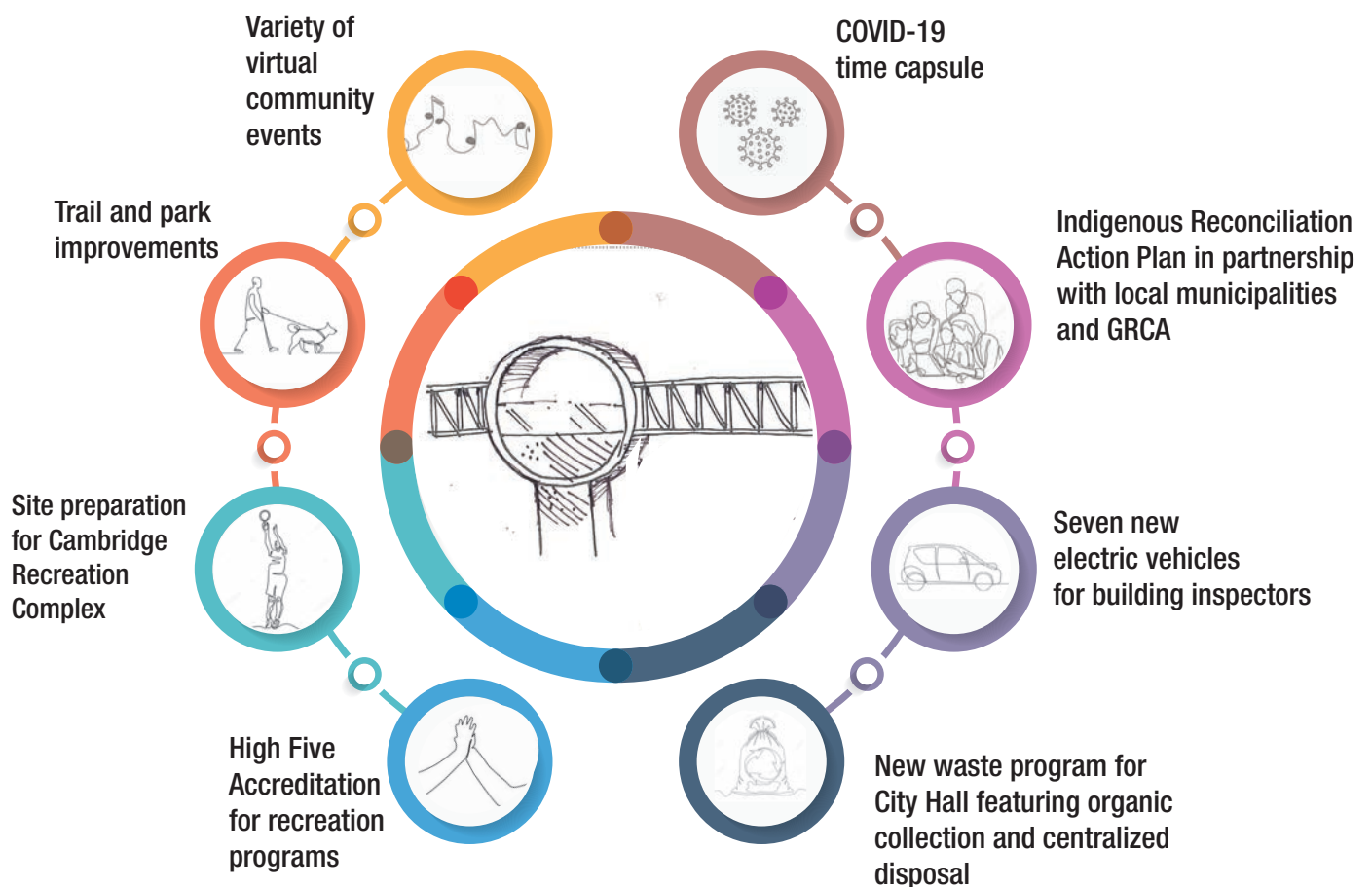
City of Cambridge **YEAR IN REVIEW**

PLACE

To take care of, celebrate and share the great features in Cambridge that we love and mean the most to us.

How we accomplished this...

PLACE AT A GLANCE



We promoted a creative environment that encourages arts, culture and heritage and values our unique architectural assets.

Arts, culture, heritage and architecture continued to be a focus of the City's efforts in 2020, even amidst the global pandemic.

The Historic City Hall restoration project was one way that the City helped to preserve an important heritage asset in Cambridge. Further, the City made additions to the City's Heritage registry by adding four designations and two properties.

The Cambridge Farmers' Market "pivoted" to make sure this valued institution could continue to serve both small businesses and their customers during the evolving COVID-19 restrictions. Market staff worked closely with Waterloo Region Public Health, the St. Jacobs Farmers' Market and the Kitchener Farmers' Market, as well as with market vendors, to establish appropriate procedures and protocols for a safe re-opening on June 27. A new Farmers' Market online platform for pre-order and safer pick up launched in September. (cambridgefarmersmarket.ca/online).

We were good stewards of the rivers, waterways and natural environment that this community enjoys.

In 2020, the City and Regional partners used its Engage platform to have virtual community discussions about the Waterloo Region Climate Action Strategy, including the community vision survey, question and answers, and plan development information.

The City implemented several energy management strategies at the Dickson, Macintosh and Galt Arenas and held a targeted spring cleanup blitz across the City.

In partnership with Reep Green Solutions, the City held a "Fundamentals of Tree Health" session on June 13 to help the community learn about the unique challenges that trees face in the urban environment and ways to ensure they can adapt and thrive.



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We facilitated and delivered a wide range of accessible and diverse community recreation opportunities.

The pandemic affected all operations across the City, and recreation programming was no different.

Closures and restrictions presented a series of unique challenges that staff found innovative ways to address. Some of these programs included **#Recfromhome** (cambridge.ca/RecFromHome), where residents could access free resources to stay active and engaged from home, and **#WOWSocial** (cambridge.ca/wow), which included reassurance and wellness calls, a 50+ Facebook page, and website cambridge.ca/50 updates.



Staff also made sure that safe in-person programming was still available when possible. This included opening John Dolson, Ed Newland and W.J. Johnson pools to the public, allowing for both recreational swims and lessons. Staff worked tirelessly to put together summer camp programs that were fun, engaging and, above all, safe for attendees by providing a stronger focus on outdoor play and smaller camp sizes. There was a lineup of recreation camps, specialty arts camps, and online camps throughout the summer. In the fall recreation centres, senior centres, Cambridge Centre for the Arts and four arenas opened for drop-in classes. All of this helped to ensure a variety of affordable and accessible options were available for people to stay active during the pandemic.



The City continued to work on major recreation projects in 2020



- Cambridge Recreation Complex - site preparation and began a feasibility study to investigate opportunities to share amenities and facilities with the school board and library
- Fountain Street soccer field land acquisition

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Trails and Park Improvements

- New footbridge at the Living Levee Trail at Mill Race Park
- New pedestrian bridge on the Mill Run Trail in Hespeler
- Witmer Park improvements, including a shade pavilion and a multi-use court
- Devil's Creek Trail retaining wall
- Centennial Park landscaping and lighting
- Forbes Park revitalization Phase One
- Mount View Columbarium cemetery improvements



Highlight – Virtual and Socially-Distanced Celebrations

The City also transitioned many community celebrations to virtual and socially distanced formats including:

- Virtual celebration for the Arts and Canada Day
- The special events team hosted two virtual Whimsical Wednesday events with hundreds of views on our social media platform (July 31, August 26)
- Virtual kick-off for Oktoberfest with Waterloo Region's Heads of Council at Waterloo Regional Airport
- Old Post Office digital light show featured safe entertainment, and even special student content developed by Conestoga College's School of Creative Industries
- Modified Christmas in Cambridge in 2020 featuring Winter Illumination and an Online Cambridge Christmas Market

