

2019-2022 Strategic Plan Progress Update for Remaining Eight (8) Projects

People-Friendly Transportation

Strategic Plan Action Statement	Project Description	Project Manager	Completion Year	Status	Spring 2025 Update (Final Update to Compass Kitchener)
1.3 Install a continuous and protected cycling network that connects adjacent neighbourhoods to the downtown by 2022.	<b>Protected Cycling Network Connected to the Downtown</b> Install a continuous and protected cycling network that connects adjacent neighbourhoods to the downtown by 2022.	<b>Darren Kropf</b> Transportation Services	2024	Completed	The cycling network was completed and opened for use in late 2024, with a few finishing touches on the last portion of Duke Street to be addressed in spring 2025. An official ribbon cutting and celebration will occur on Saturday June 7, 1-5 pm on Water Street next to the public bike counter, including learn-to-ride classes, bike scavenger hunts, themed rides and a street party. Come celebrate! More info posted at bikekitchener.ca.

Vibrant Economy

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3.2 Foster the creation of a city-wide network of incubators, accelerators and co-working spaces by completing the buildout of 44 Gaukel in 2019, advancing work on a Creative Hub and undertaking business cases in 2019-2021 for the food manufacturing and health/med-tech industries.	<b>3.2.2 Incubator, Accelerator and Co-Working Space Network</b> Lease all spaces in the Creative Hub, explore the potential to facilitate a Food Incubator with a business case pending, and explore partnerships for the development of manufacturing and health/med-tech industry incubators.	<b>Cory Bluhm</b> Economic Development	2025 and 2026	One item was completed in 2024; two are delayed – one will be completed in 2025 and one in 2026	The Creative Hub at 44 Gaukel is now fully leased and has a waiting list for new tenants.  Design for the Small Business Centre in the Innovation Arena is currently underway with build-out and occupancy anticipated in Q1 2026.  A Staff Report including a Business Case for a food incubator will be submitted to Council for consideration in Q3 2025.
3.4 Complete a comprehensive review of city-owned properties by 2020 to determine how they could be effectively used to advance city strategic objectives.	<b>City-Owned Property Review</b> Complete a comprehensive review of city-owned properties by 2020 to determine how they could be effectively used to advance city strategic objectives.	<b>Brian Bennett</b> Economic Development	2024	Completed	A city-owned property review has been completed and a new City-owned property land disposition framework can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
3.5 Develop a vision for downtown Kitchener and continue to position downtown Kitchener as a leading destination for redevelopment opportunities, with at least one new city-owned property brought to market by 2020. Finalize the Innovation District (Bramm Yards) Master Plan by 2021 and the Civic District Master Plan by 2022.	<b>3.5.1 Downtown Vision and City-Owned Property Brought to Market</b> Develop a vision for downtown Kitchener and continue to position downtown Kitchener as a leading destination for redevelopment opportunities, with one new city-owned property brought to market by 2022.	<b>Brian Bennett</b> Economic Development	2024	Completed	Downtown Kitchener is at a critical point in its evolution and growth. To ground new and ongoing City initiatives in equity, experience, growth and sustainability, the City of Kitchener initiated the development of a comprehensive vision and set of guiding principles. Nearly 3,000 individuals from diverse backgrounds were engaged in a collaborative and expansive process to gather input on their experiences with and aspirations for DTK. The vision can be found <a href="#">here</a> .  In a significant step toward addressing the growing need for affordable housing, the City of Kitchener is unlocking city-owned land to build not-for-profit housing. This initiative, aimed at creating long-term solutions to the housing crisis, was carried out through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, inviting qualified organizations to submit plans for development.

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					<p>The RFP process is part of the City’s broader strategy to increase the supply of affordable and supportive housing for residents. Proposals that can address critical housing needs were welcomed, including homes for low-income families, seniors, and individuals experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The City owned property at 1035 Ottawa St was donated to Habitat for Humanity as the first initiative in providing land for affordable housing. Construction for the housing project is expected to start in 2025 and take 18 months to 2 years to complete. You can read more <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<b>3.5.2 Innovation District (Bramm Yards) Master Plan</b> Finalize the Innovation District (Bramm Yards) Master Plan by 2022.	<b>Cory Bluhm</b> Economic Development	2024	Completed vision and design principles (City of Kitchener Scope)	<p>Council approved the revised vision and development principles for the Bramm Yards Master Plan. The plan includes allocating up to \$400,000 from the Environmental Remediation Reserve for pre-design reports necessary for the redevelopment of Bramm Yards at 55 Bramm Street and 130 Park Street.</p> <p>Additionally, staff will conduct a market assessment to determine the optimal timing for selling the property and identify potential development constraints to ensure a successful redevelopment process.</p> <p>Procurement Services and Realty Services were authorized by council to implement a competitive land disposition process, based on the vision and development principles approved as part of report DSD-2024-240, through the issuance of a public request for proposals (RFP) seeking a Master Developer who would acquire the Bramm Yards and lead a multi-phased redevelopment of the property, including the creation of a Master Plan. The timing of the issuance of an RFP will be subject to real estate market conditions.</p> <p>An Environmental Site Assessment was approved by Council in 2024, which is a necessary step to issue a Request for Proposal to sell the property. A Request for Quotations from Environmental Consultants was issued by Procurement in February 2025. Staff are reviewing the proposals received and will be awarding a contract shortly, with work to commence in May 2025.</p> <p>Going forward, staff will collaborate with the University of Waterloo to ensure a shared vision related to the development plan for the Bramm Yards area (given the neighbouring Health Innovation Arena UW Health Sciences Campus). A Master Plan for the site will be completed by the successful developer.</p> <p>Read the <a href="#">full report online</a></p>

Caring Community

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4.4 Complete the Rosenberg Community Centre by 2021.	<b>4.4.2 New Rosenberg Community Centre/School Business Case</b> With the Catholic School board, complete a needs assessment and business case to determine the requirements for a joint community centre/school in the Rosenberg area.	<b>Mark Hildebrand</b> Neighbourhood Programs & Services	2024	Completed	The needs assessment and business case for the project have been completed, followed by the successful completion of the design stage. Groundbreaking for the joint school and community centre took place in September 2024, marking a significant milestone. Currently, the construction of the combined facility is underway and progressing on track.
4.4 Complete an Open Space Strategy by 2021.	<b>4.4.4 Open Space Strategy</b> Develop an open space strategy to explore the value of open spaces, how they function, are planned, maintained, and managed, and including a review of permitted uses in parks.	<b>Mark Parris</b> Parks & Cemeteries	2025	Completed	<p><i>Places &amp; Spaces: An Open Space Strategy for Kitchener</i> will be our new guiding strategic document for parks and open spaces in Kitchener. The Places &amp; Spaces strategy focuses on two main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spaces: where we have parks and where we need them</li><li>• Places: what we need in parks to support our residents and communities</li></ul> <p>The <a href="#">Spaces</a> portion of the Places and Spaces strategy is complete.</p> <p>Staff have met with Councillors to refine the recommendations of the Places report and the final phase of the strategy – Places - is scheduled to be presented to Community and Infrastructure Services Committee on May 12, 2025.</p> <p><i>The status for this item is marked as complete, as it will be completed prior to Compass Kitchener’s report going to Council in June.</i></p>
4.5 Engage a broad cross-section of the community including the arts and creative industry sector and multi-cultural communities to develop an inclusive arts and culture Plan by 2021.	<b>Arts and Culture Plan</b> Develop a new and inclusive Arts and Culture Plan by engaging a broad cross-section of the community including the arts and creative industry sector and multi-cultural communities.	<b>Andrea Hallam</b> Economic Development	2025	On Track per the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan action item	<p>The development of this plan is currently underway (being retitled “Arts and Creative Industries Action Plan”). Implementation of the plan is an action in the current 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, which is reported on to council through the strategic plan reporting cycle to council (3x/year).</p> <p>The plan will be completed in 2025 and actioned over a multi-year period, from 2026-2028.</p>