

SUMMER 2023

FROM THE PARK BENCH



As the temperature gets warmer and the days grow longer, we invite you to catch up with Charlottetown's sustainability team through this season's edition of From The Park Bench! From new transit routes to nature education in Victoria Park, we're here to keep you informed and inspired. Sit back, relax and take a look at all that the sustainability department has been busy with these past few months!



Click subscribe to receive future newsletters sent directly to your inbox each season!

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Sustainability in the City

New Transit Routes

This past spring saw the addition of new transit routes and the expansion of existing routes. These changes make choosing transit even more accessible within the city and surrounding communities.

Route 23 was added on April 1st to service the eastern perimeter of Charlottetown. It will run six days a week connecting Sherwood and Hillsborough Park. Also starting on April 1st was additional weekday buses on routes 1, 2 and 3.

June 1st saw the addition of on demand evening service for routes 2 and 3. This service will be provided five days a week from 7pm to 10:15pm. On demand evening service is accessed from Royalty Crossing Mall and Walmart. The Sleepy Hollow loop was added to route 11 as well on June 1st. This loop will move through Upton Road to Royalty Road to Sleepy Hollow Road to Lower Malpeque road and back again, five days a week.

Check out the links provided on this page for further information on transit in the capital region!



HotSpot
Parking Transit Taxis



Walk and Roll Week

The City's annual Bike Week is now Walk and Roll Week! Biking in the community is an activity that the City continues to encourage, but this year and moving forward, the City will be celebrating all forms of active transportation. This includes human-powered activities such as biking, walking, using a wheelchair, rollerblading and more. From June 12-18 the City had a full schedule of fun events including local art on city sidewalks and active transportation lanes, a nature walk, a group mountain bike ride, e-bike test rides, the Mayor's Bike Ride around Victoria Park and more!

Thank you to all those who helped make Walk and Roll Week a success and to the community for celebrating active transportation! We hope you keep using active transportation throughout the year, for the health of the planet and people.



Bike Friendly Businesses



Are you a cyclist? Get rewarded for biking when you shop at Bike Friendly Businesses in Charlottetown! The City of Charlottetown also invites businesses within the city to register to become a Bike Friendly Business and continue growing this program! Bike Friendly Businesses show their support for the environment and for cyclists in the community by offering special discounts for customers who visit on their bike and show their helmet at the register.

	<p>\$1 off beverages + bike parking 41 Allen Street upstreet.ca</p>
	<p>\$1 off beverages 156 Great George Street craftbeercorner.ca</p>
	<p>Free yoga mat rental + bike parking 4 Prince Street charlottetown.modoyoga.com</p>
	<p>10% off all menu items 475 University Ave. & 133 Queen St. Facebook or Twitter @JuiceCoPEI</p>
	<p>Free hot neck shave 173 Great George StreetFacebook.com/DTBarberShop</p>
	<p>10% off all purchases 62 Queen Street www.gaias.ca @gaiaspei</p>

Registered businesses are featured on the City of Charlottetown's website and receive an official City of Charlottetown Bike Friendly Business decal to place in their window.



Our Environment

Fiona Restoration Efforts

Operation Releaf

In May, eligible city residents were given the opportunity to apply for a large, climate resilient tree through Operation ReLeaf for a subsidized payment of only \$20. Priority was given to residents who indicated financial stress and who lived in areas of Charlottetown where space is limited for the City to plant street trees. This program was funded in partnership with Tree Canada. Due to the number of applicants a waitlist was created for a possible Fall program.

Forest and Riparian Area Restoration

In partnership with Ellen's Creek Watershed Group and the Wrights Creek Environmental Committee, the City will engage in the restoration of Charlottetown's urban forest. The focus will be on City-owned natural areas, riparian areas, existing forests and expansion of forested areas. City staff will lead the planning and the watershed group's seasonal staff will assist with the fieldwork component, increasing our capacity to deliver planting activities.

Institutional Natural Area Restoration

The City will engage in partnerships with large, privately-owned, or institutional properties, including schools, churches and hospitals, on forest restoration in priority areas. Typically, these organizations lack the capacity to restore and maintain natural areas and ecosystems. Watershed group staff will assist with these private land plantings. To inquire about this program please contact Simon at swilmot@charlottetown.ca.





Arbor Day 2023

The City's annual Arbor Day event is a favourite for many City staff. Each year, on Arbor Day, grade 5 and 6 students celebrate all things nature at Victoria Park! This year over 100 students from Parkdale, Prince Street and Spring Park schools enjoyed the festivities. Activities included meeting the Mayor, learning about PEI bats with the PEI Watershed Alliance, listening and dancing along with Mi'kmaq storytelling by Julie Pelletier-Lush and planting trees of course! This year, Charlottetown students planted trees, shrubs and flowers for a total of 175 plants!

Arbor Day is a celebration of trees! It is to remind us to be grateful for the natural spaces around us, teach us about trees as natural assets and the importance of planting more trees for future generations to enjoy.

Did you know that the word, Arbor, is the Latin word for tree?



Spotlight on Nature



Victoria Park Nature Education

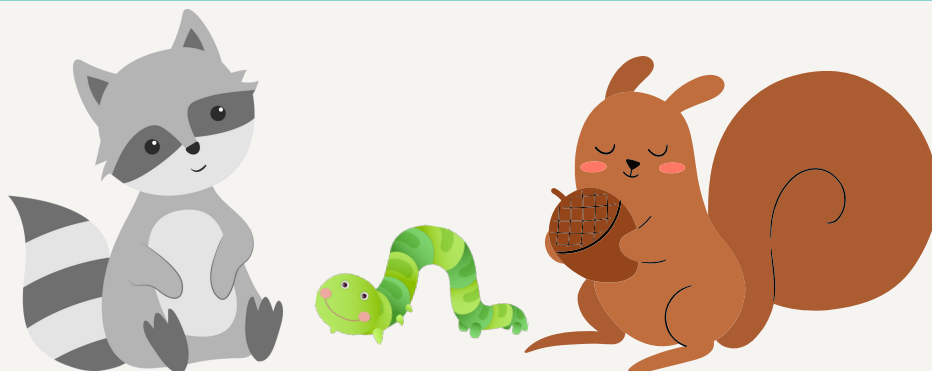
Looking to spend some time out in nature? Hop on down to Victoria Park this summer! The City is offering a variety of free and fun nature-based activities for groups of kids that will get you observing trees, scanning for bugs, and learning how to be a great steward of the forest.

We have three available tours to offer for groups of 10 or more kids: Wildlife Adventure, Senses in Nature, and Art in the Park.

Be sure to check out the Victoria Park Ball Clubhouse verandah every week. You will find nature scavenger hunts and other activities that you can complete as you stroll through the park.

These activities are available for everyone Monday to Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

Hope to see you soon!



NATURE EDUCATION IN VICTORIA PARK

Art in the Park

Learn about wildlife and plants in the park, create fun crafts, such as pinecone bird feeders, leaf art, and guided nature painting

Wildlife Adventure

Crawl around like salamanders, soar like owls, and hop like frogs to gain clues that will help solve a mystery using handy booklets

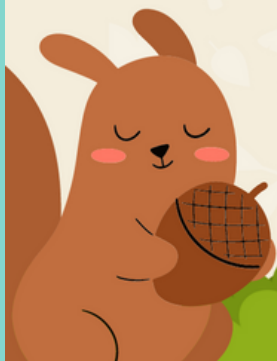
Senses in Nature

Participate in activities that explore the five senses in relation to nature, with the help of puppets!

**Programs are for groups of 10-25
kids, ages 4-12**

Contact us at:

childreninnature@charlottetown.ca
or visit www.charlottetown.ca for
more information





Climate Change

Climate Action Plan

To help the community build resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather, while also reducing our contribution to global climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the City of Charlottetown is working to develop a Climate Action Plan. Phase One of the climate action planning process wrapped up in April 2023. In this phase, we gathered input from the community, key stakeholders, and rightsholders to better understand how climate change and extreme weather have impacted Charlottetown and how we can improve climate readiness as a community. During this phase, we also conducted background research and municipal benchmarking.

The results of Phase One have been compiled in a Final Report that provides recommendations for Phase Two of Climate Action Plan development, which will involve the creation of the Plan itself. This report includes a set of guiding principles and focus areas, the key components the Plan should incorporate, and gaps in data or knowledge that must be filled to inform the Plan.

**Click here to read the
Phase One Final Report**



**Click here to watch the virtual
presentation of the Phase One Final Report**



Environment and Sustainability Annual Report



The 2022 City of Charlottetown Environment and Sustainability Annual Report is now available online. This report details the progress made towards the goals and actions of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) and Community Energy Plan (CEP) in 2022.

Highlights include the provision of nearly \$3,500,000 in 0 per cent interest financing to homeowners looking to complete home energy upgrades and the launch of the PEI Food Recovery Network, which rescued nearly 150,000 meals from going to waste.



**Click here to read
the full report!**

