



WATERLOO PARK



WATERLOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX EXPANSION

# 2020-22 Approved Budget in Brief

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

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**BUDGET 2020-22**

THE CITY OF   
**Waterloo**

# BUDGET 2020-22

This budget reflects our priorities as a community — to support an inclusive, strong, green and vibrant waterloo that is within the financial capacity available from the community. It is focused on the delivery of core civic services for residents and businesses — and contains the right investments for the future to ensure we can respond to the needs of our growing city.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The budget is closely aligned with the city’s strategic plan which was built with input from close to 11,000 residents who shared their priorities with us. A strategic plan starts with a profound desire to do things well; to create a road map that effectively aligns effort and resources in a way that supports Waterloo to be the best city it can be. The six strategic pillars of that plan are:



**EQUITY, INCLUSION AND  
A SENSE OF BELONGING**



**HEALTHY COMMUNITY &  
RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS**



**SUSTAINABILITY &  
THE ENVIRONMENT**



**INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL**



**SAFE, SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORTATION**



**ECONOMIC GROWTH  
& DEVELOPMENT**



Learn more about our guiding principles and strategic priorities at [waterloo.ca/strategicplan](https://waterloo.ca/strategicplan)

## 2020-2022 TAX INCREASE

**3.3%** Annual average property tax increase

**\$87.77** Annual average increase to an average household



A Waterloo home with an average assessed value of \$394,400 will pay \$2,617 for city property taxes and water/wastewater/stormwater utilities by 2022. This represents a total increase to an average household of \$87.77 per year compared to 2019.

SERVICE	2020 %	2021 %	2022 %	Average increase
Tax impact – property	3.4%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%
Rate impact – city utilities	2.5%	2.4%	2.0%	2.3%
Rate impact – region utilities	1.4%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%

	2019 \$	2020 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	Total \$	Average increase
Property tax	1,288.45	43.32	46.05	42.84	1,420.72	\$44.07
City utilities – city portion	591.18	27.00	27.09	23.39	668.66	\$25.83
City utilities – region portion	473.63	14.87	18.47	20.29	527.26	\$17.88
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>2,353.26</b>	<b>85.19</b>	<b>91.62</b>	<b>86.52</b>	<b>2,616.64</b>	<b>\$87.77</b>

## WHAT DOES \$1 OF LOCAL MUNICIPAL TAXES BUY?



- 24¢** FIRE RESCUE AND MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT
- 20¢** OPERATING TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL
- 19¢** PARKS, RECREATION, COMMUNITY & CULTURE
- 12¢** TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
- 10¢** FACILITY DESIGN & MANAGEMENT
- 8¢** WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 7¢** CIVIC ADMINISTRATION

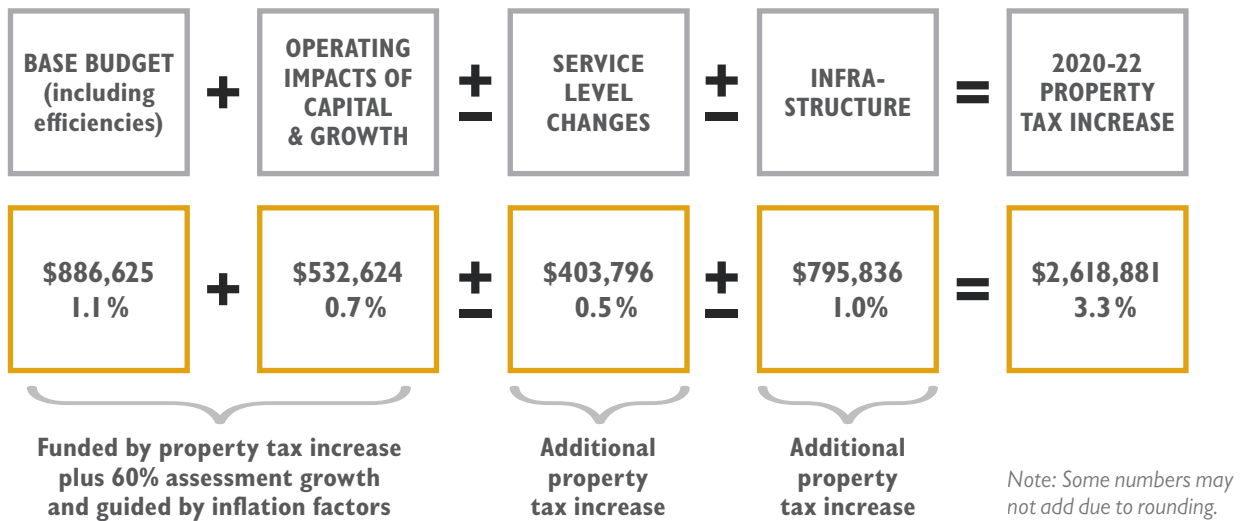
**\$1.00**

## OPERATING BUDGET

# \$87 million Total 2022 net operating budget for the city

The average annual property tax increase over 2020 to 2022 is 3.3%. This increase funds the city's base budget. The city requires a base budget to ensure the continuity of the current level of service on activities such as operating a community centre like the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex. As the city grows, there are impacts to both the operating and capital budgets that result in activities such as the expansion of the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex to meet the demands of a growing community. With this expansion, comes the need for increased infrastructure contributions to the capital budget and a change in service levels such as the addition of new program offerings.

### AVERAGE ANNUAL TAX INCREASE



### EXAMPLE: OPERATING THE WATERLOO MEMORIAL RECREATION COMPLEX (WMRC)



# \$2.7 million Identified budget efficiencies & revenue opportunities

As part of the budget process, staff look to include continual improvement efficiencies and revenue opportunities to help deliver the important day-to-day services residents have come to expect while maintaining a moderate tax rate increase. For 2020 to 2022, \$2.7 million in budget efficiencies and revenue opportunities were identified including facility energy savings of \$300,000, hotel tax revenue of \$250,000 and LED streetlight electricity savings of \$83,000, to name a few.

## OPERATING FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS



### BASE BUDGET

- ten per cent of budgeted assessment growth to be transferred to the capital reserve fund and 30 per cent to the capital infrastructure reserve fund for 2020-2022 to assist with supporting much needed infrastructure investment
- environment and parks services supervisor is required at Waterloo Park to oversee the large number of staff dealing with activities, events and maintenance
- contract with the KW humane society is renewed for animal control services

### OPERATING IMPACTS OF CAPITAL AND GROWTH

- future operating expenses of the new East Side Branch Library to be partially funded by assessment growth
- development of the west side employment lands will result in ongoing operating needs such as winter control, street lighting and streetscaping
- Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex's \$30 million expansion will require an operational impacts and overall programming review

### SERVICE LEVEL CHANGE

- In 2020, the city will assume responsibility for the planning and delivery of the annual Canada Day celebrations, previously hosted by the University of Waterloo
- Resources are needed to support community development efforts with diversity, equity and inclusion organizations such as LGBTQ+ and immigrant supporting agencies
- Executing the action plan to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action requires funding support



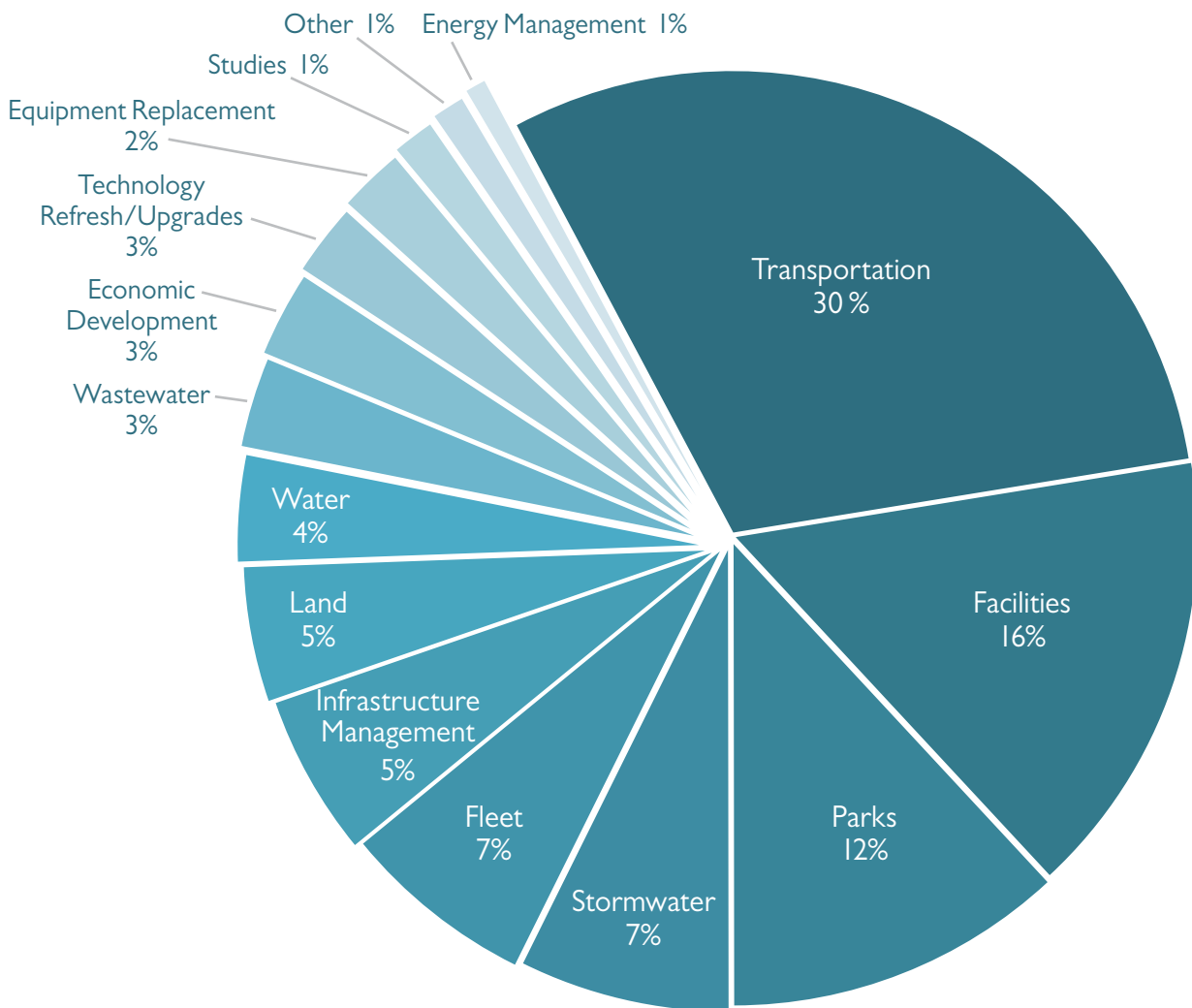
### INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- Preventative maintenance funding to help assets reach their intended useful life and reduce the risk of premature asset failure
- Procurement specialist is required to manage more complex procurement projects and methodology
- Increase infrastructure funding to assist in closing the approximate \$17 million average annual funding gap for tax based assets

## CAPITAL BUDGET – NEXT TEN YEARS OF INVESTMENTS

**\$655.0 million** Capital spending over the next 10 years

Road construction, facility expansion, facility refurbishment and parks account for **58%** of the entire budget



### 2020-2029 CAPITAL

Note: "other" category is an aggregate of initiatives that were each 0% of the total budget. Items included in the other category are library collection growth, traffic management, parkade, parking rehabilitation and new programs.

## **\$275.5 million** Capital spending for the next 3 years

### **HERE ARE SOME 2020-2022 CAPITAL SPENDING HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### **ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION \$68.8 MILLION**

Along with thirteen major road construction and paving projects, the city will also be reconstructing Beaver Creek Road and Conservation Drive. The work will include extending the watermain, sanitary and storm servicing and upgrading two sanitary pumping stations to service new residential development lands. A new collector road will be installed on Ira Needles Boulevard between the Boardwalk and Erb Street and will include servicing for future lands and potentially, a new roundabout at Erb Street.

#### **ECONOMIC AND LAND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES \$20.0 MILLION**

The city owns employment land on the west side of Waterloo. Development will include the construction of Platinum Drive from Erb Street West to the south, Columbia Street West to the north, and the construction of a permanent stormwater management pond. On the other side of the city, the University Avenue Gateway Study will identify initiatives for University Avenue such as active transportation improvements, streetscaping (landscaping, street furniture) and gateway signage.

#### **PARK EXPANSION/REHABILITATION, SIDEWALKS & TRAILS \$8.6 MILLION**

Four new action sports park developments are planned: a skate park and splash pad at Albert McCormick Community Centre and Branch Library, a bike park at RIM Park, a skate park at RIM Park and a skate park at the Harper Branch Library & Stork Family YMCA. Three neighbourhood-based splash pads are scheduled



to be built throughout the city. A new splash pad is scheduled to open in the Summer of 2020 on the west side of Waterloo Park and Waterloo Park's Silver Lake will be rehabilitated with a new design for the shoreline that includes a new public gathering area. The city will also be completing the last section of the Waterloo Trail through the former Waterloo Inn lands.

#### **FACILITY EXPANSION AND REFURBISHMENT \$3.0 MILLION**

Funding will be used to design and install lighting systems and to reconfigure ball diamonds at RIM Park to support the needs of user groups. A new elevator will be installed within the Button Factory to ensure the building is fully accessible.

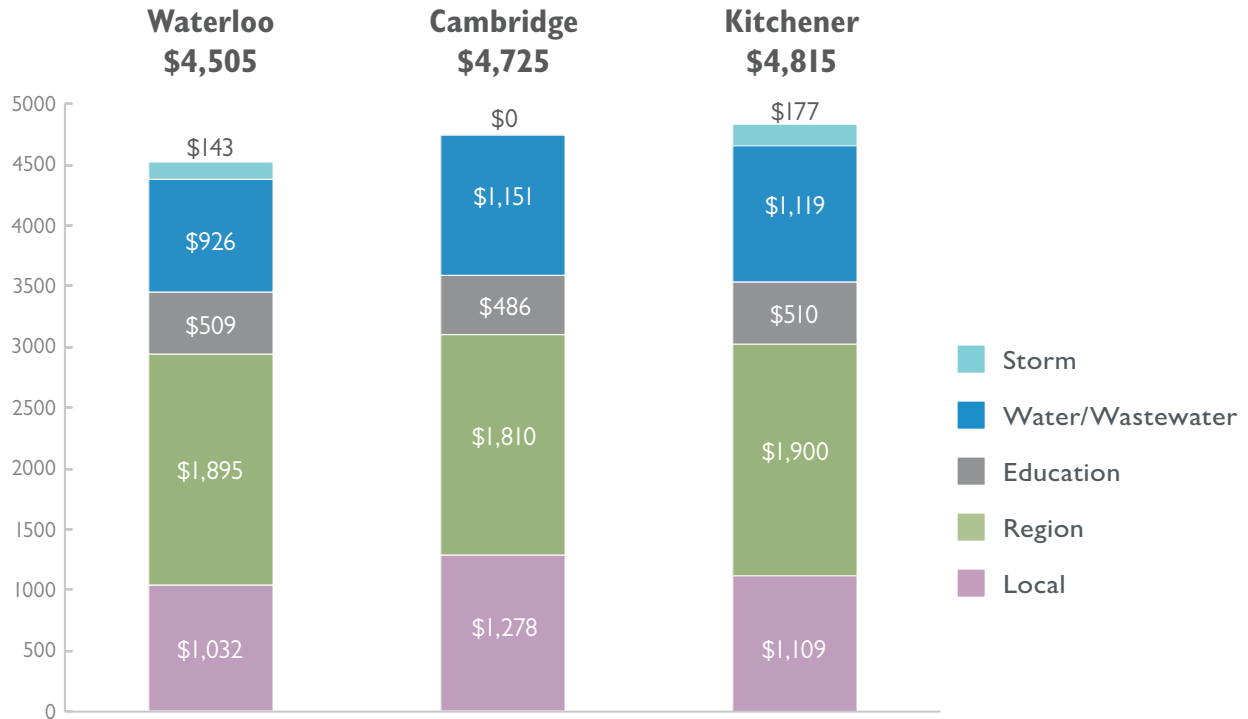
#### **ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT \$2.6 MILLION**

The city is committed to being a leader in demonstrating how the community can achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, by striving for a community scope GHG emissions reduction target of 80% below 2010 levels by 2050. The city intends to strive for a similar reduction target for city-owned buildings; these buildings will be retrofitted/renovated with energy upgrades and green initiatives to reduce GHG. The city will also be implementing a corporate climate change adaptation plan.

## HOW DO WE COMPARE?



Looking at total municipal taxes and water rates for an average detached bungalow, the 2019 taxes and water rates that a similar household will pay in the City of Waterloo are in line with Cambridge and Kitchener. Rates are based on 2019 assessment value for a single detached bungalow.



### SOURCE INFORMATION

- Storm and Water/Wastewater 2019 approved rates were taken from municipal websites.
- Local, region and education values from 2019 BMA Management Consulting Inc., municipal study.

Note: Some numbers may not add due to rounding.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Between Dec. 9, 2019 and budget day on Feb. 10, 2020, there were six council meetings where elements of the budget were featured. Residents were encouraged to attend these meetings in person or by streaming the meetings via the city's Youtube page. In addition, a public engagement survey was launched in December to collect feedback from residents about the priorities set through the budget. Thank you for participating in the budget process through these options or by contacting your ward councillor or the mayor.