

Community Focus Bulletin: ***Creating Community Conversations***



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Plan It Peterborough, Peterborough's Official Plan Review

Plan It Peterborough, Peterborough's Official Plan Review, is beginning its next phase of public engagement with the launch of Part 1 of the Draft Official Plan.

The Official Plan Update is being released in two parts which together will form a draft new Official Plan. Part 1 contains strategic policies for the City, connecting to several themes that were previously identified as priorities by the public and stakeholders through Plan It Peterborough while Part 2 will contain more detailed land use policies that implement the policy direction of Part 1. Part 1 is now available for your review:

[Part 1 of the Draft Official Plan](#)

Here are some key points to the plan:

Purpose of the Official Plan

The Planning Act of Ontario requires that an Official Plan be prepared for each municipality and that the Plan “contain goals, objectives and policies established primarily to manage and direct physical change and the effects on the social, economic and natural environment of the municipality”.

The Official Plan of the City of Peterborough:

1. establishes a vision, guiding principles, strategic direction, goals, objectives and policies to manage and direct land use, important resources and future development within the City in a manner that will enhance the economic, social, cultural, and natural environments of the municipality to the year 2036;
2. promotes a complete, healthy and resilient community with a strong economy, a sustainable land use pattern, protected natural and cultural heritage resources, and unique and vibrant spaces;
3. provides sufficient land for projected needs and co-ordinates land use with infrastructure requirements to create a compact and complete community with enhanced connectivity;

4. establishes a policy context for decision-making with respect to land use matters and development processes, in co-ordination with broader regional plans;
5. complies with Provincial Plans (including the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe) and is consistent with Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2014, which expresses matters of Provincial interest.

What the Plan is saying:

Vision Statement:

Peterborough will continue to develop as a complete, linked city that strives to provide for a decent home for everyone, fosters a sustainable environment, values its natural and cultural heritage, supports a strong and diverse economy and promotes a unique, vibrant sense of place for its residents and visitors.

Guiding Principles for the City:

1. A Complete Community: A complete community is one that meets people’s needs for daily living throughout their lifetime by providing convenient access to a mix of jobs, services, housing, community infrastructure, open space, and transportation opportunities.
2. A Sustainable Environment: A sustainable environment is one that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
3. A Unique and Vibrant Sense of Place: Communities have social and physical characteristics that make them special and unique and foster a sense of attachment and belonging for residents and visitors.
4. A Linked Community: Peterborough is a social, cultural and economic hub that is made possible by its ability to move people and goods throughout the city and region.
5. A Strong and Diverse Economy.
6. A strong, diverse economy is integral to a complete community.

Some of the key directions:	Some examples of how this is supported by community:
<p>Peterborough will continue to grow and develop as a healthy, vibrant and inclusive community composed of balanced residential, employment, commercial, and recreational opportunities connected by an efficient transportation system.</p> <p>Neighbourhoods will have a mixture of uses that include a range of housing choice within</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Peterborough http://sustainablepeterborough.ca/ • Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network’s work on community and neighbourhood hubs http://ptbopovertyreduction.com/

Some of the key directions:	Some examples of how this is supported by community:
<p>walking distance of parks, open spaces, community amenities and transit.</p> <p>Natural heritage areas, the waterfront, open spaces and parks as well as built and cultural resources will be fostered and enhanced to contribute to the City’s unique sense of place. The Central Area will be supported as the City’s focal point for a mixture of employment and commercial opportunities, social and cultural amenities and higher density housing. Municipal servicing and infrastructure will be expanded efficiently to promote the City’s financial wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Housing Action Committee’ Housing Supply Committee – need for affordable housing choices http://www.peterborough.ca/Living/City_Services/Housing_Division/AHAC.htm
<p>In considering new opportunities for employment, recreation uses, shopping and service uses, the City will strive to provide locations that increase convenience to residential areas and enhance the use of walking, cycling and transit. The location of housing will be co-ordinated with community facilities such as transportation routes, parks and open space, shopping areas, recreation facilities, schools and other private and public facilities. Where appropriate, mixed-use neighbourhood hubs will be planned as a convenient focus of such amenities. However, this policy is not intended to undermine strategic employment areas within the City or the commercial hierarchy of this Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peterborough Council on Aging’ Age Friendly initiatives: http://peterboroughcouncilonaging.ca/project-type/age-friendly-consultations/
<p>The City will strive to increase production and access to local food sources through the following means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> fostering connections with regional agricultural producers; supporting the growing of food, sharing of information on nutrition or cooking, and the sharing of produce in local neighbourhoods through community gardens and community kitchens; supporting the continued operation of the farmers markets in the Central Area and Morrow Park and the creation of a food hub that will enable people of all incomes to meet and to access nutritious food; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future of Food & Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough has documented that there is a growing demand by consumers to buy local http://sustainablepeterborough.ca/ A Task Force of the Future of Food & Farming Working Group is presently preparing a discussion paper on urban agriculture and the increasing interest in producing food in the city through such options as community gardens, roof top gardens

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<p>d) supporting the continued use of land for agriculture, until it is needed for development in accordance with this Plan;</p> <p>e) considering the use of City land for growing food; and,</p> <p>f) encouraging private gardens throughout the community and roof top gardens in higher density locations.</p>	
<p>The City will strive to expand and enhance its trail systems to promote connectivity, mobility, accessibility and active transportation within and between neighbourhoods, employment areas, areas of major open space, parks and the waterfront.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Transportation & Health Indicators Report prepared by Peterborough County City Health Unit, Peterborough Green Up, City of Peterborough, 2014 <p>http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/City+Assets/TDM/Documents/indicators+report.pdf</p>
<p>The City will support energy conservation and efficiency, improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation through land use and development patterns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Peterborough’s current initiative to develop a plan for local climate change
<p>Peterborough will support a strong, diverse and creative economy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing for a wide range of employment opportunities, including employment in major institutions and the tourism industry; • planning for, protecting and preserving employment areas for current and future uses and ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is provided to support current and future needs; • protecting strategic employment areas for the long term by limiting the conversion of such areas to other uses or permitting the infiltration of uses which would undermine the function and viability of employment areas; • protecting employment areas near major transportation facilities and corridors associated with the inter- and intra-provincial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Who Works Where in Peterborough: Overview” Martin Prosperity Institute, 2013 <p>http://martinprosperity.org/media/Who%20Works%20Where%20in%20Peterborough Overview.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Immigrant Integration Plan prepared by New Canadian Centre/ Peterborough Immigration Strategy, 2016-2021. <p>http://www.nccpeterborough.ca/</p>

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movement of goods for uses which require such locations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cooperating with existing and prospective businesses to facilitate economic growth and opportunity; • offering incentives for business growth; and, • strategically planning the location and function of commercial nodes to ensure the vitality of the Central Area and to provide a limited number of convenient and accessible nodes to serve the public. 	

Questions to consider:

1. For a sustainable environment, how do you meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations?
2. Should areas within the city (built boundary designation) that are actively being used for agriculture be protected as a local food source or be designated for development?
3. In order to plan a linked Community, should the public transit system be expanded to areas outside of the present serviced area or is the existing system sufficient?
4. How does this draft plan (part 1) compare to the previous consolidated plan (2015) in scope or intent (Parts date back to 1981)? The 2015 consolidated plan is available at: <http://www.peterborough.ca/Assets/City+Assets/Planning/Documents/Official+Plan.pdf?method=1>

For more information about our upcoming Community Focus Bulletins go to

<http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

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