

New Official Plan Update



The County of Brant needs your feedback on our New Official Plan.

The County of Brant is excited to share with residents the draft versions of our New Official Plan and Municipal Comprehensive Review, released on **July 29, 2021** and endorsed by Council at a Special Meeting on **August 10, 2021**. Find out more about these draft documents by visiting www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan

Looking for a summary? We've got you covered!

This project update shares what we've heard from the community and how the new Official Plan will create policies and support implementation tools to address your concerns. Before Council finalizes the new Official Plan in January of 2022 and we move forward with implementation, we need to make sure these draft policies best reflect the values of the County of Brant.



Engage With Us!

- Complete the **attached survey** or provide feedback online by visiting engagebrant.ca/thenewofficialplan to have your say.
- Join us for a **Virtual Town Hall** event on **September 15, 2021 beginning at 7:00pm**. We'll be discussing the draft policies and answering common questions live on Zoom.
- Join us that evening by visiting www.brant.ca/OPTownHall
- Find out more about this project by visiting www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan
Commenting for this phase of the project ends on October 29, 2021

Growth Management

Managing growth is a top priority of residents and Council in the County of Brant.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND POLICIES

- **Growth Management Strategy**
New projects will only be able to start when servicing infrastructure like water, waste water and traffic capacity is available within 3 years.
- **Phasing of Development Plan**
Timelines for new developments will be easily accessible for residents and heavily regulated.
- **Excess Lands Policy**
This new policy will ensure that lands not needed to reach our growth targets before 2051 will not be permitted to develop.



Building Healthy & Complete Communities

Residents want more input in how our communities are designed and built.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND POLICIES

- **Intensification Targets, Tracking and Reporting**
Data will be updated regularly and available so that the public can easily keep track of our growth and development, including new projects in existing neighbourhoods.
- **New Comprehensive Design Manual**
Public input on creating a new design manual will provide opportunities for input in subdivision design, housing options, streets, and public spaces.
- **Community Planning Permit System**
A new permit process will help reduce red-tape and support local projects.
- **New Comprehensive Zoning By-Law**
A new Zoning By-Law will implement the policies of the new Official Plan with requirements for setbacks, green space and density.

Protecting What We Value

Residents want strict protection for the County of Brant's rural areas and natural environment.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND POLICIES

- **Partnerships with local First Nations**
Building better relationships with local first nations will improve our reconciliation efforts and help us honour the land on which we live.
- **Agricultural Systems Policies**
New policies will prevent severances in rural areas, protect farming, restrict incompatible uses, and support local food initiatives.
- **Natural Heritage System Policies**
Improved mapping and policies will protect natural features and provide requirements for buffering and enhancement.
- **Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments and Heritage Conservation Districts**
Thorough evaluation of cultural heritage will help us protect culturally significant areas of the County of Brant.

Transportation & Mobility

Residents want a more comprehensive approach to street design and better transportation options.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND POLICIES

- **Active Transportation Policies**
New policies will require better connections for walking, biking and other lower-speed transportation modes. Active transportation options will be safe, appealing, comfortable, easy and quick.
- **Transportation MasterPlan**
The new TMP will make recommendations to work with the new Official Plan to improve traffic in Paris, sidewalk and trail connections, and street design that incorporates traffic calming.
- **Truck Route Management Plan**
Additional planning that will compliment the TMP will help address specific issues like managing truck routes and by-passes around the County of Brant.

Good Forestry Practices By-Law

In advance of the New Official Plan, the County took a big step forward on its commitment to sustainable and managed growth to protect the natural environment. Council adopted a new Good Forestry Practices By-Law on June 22, 2021 that is now being implemented.

What's Changed?

- Circumference limit harvesting is no longer permitted.
- Clear cutting is subject to an environmental review process in which replacement trees are required.
- The new By-Law generally applies to forested areas that are 0.2 hectare or greater in area.

[Learn more at brant.ca/TreeConservation](https://brant.ca/TreeConservation)

Planning for Infrastructure

Residents are concerned about providing adequate infrastructure, timed appropriately with our growth.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND POLICIES

- **Master Servicing Plans and Environmental Assessments**
Burford, St. George, and Cainsville are undergoing studies to help residents and council decide what infrastructure is needed to benefit these areas.
- **Infrastructure Capacity**
The availability of infrastructure, including enough road space for traffic and enough wastewater and water capacity, will be more readily accessible to the public to help manage and show the rate of growth in the County.

Economic Development and Prosperity

Residents want to see more support for local agriculture, more job opportunities and more protection for downtown areas.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

- **Agriculture Systems Policies**
Agricultural policies will now include opportunities for processing, shipping and diversification to support local farm operations and drive the agricultural economy.
- **Strategic Employment Land Reserve**
This new reserve of land will provide a large employment area in proximity to Highway 403 and Rest Acres Road and improve the supply of jobs in the County of Brant.
- **Community Improvement Plans**
The new Official Plan will support our staff in the Strategic Initiatives Department as they work with local businesses and promote our downtown areas with grants and loans that help with community-building projects.

How We Green

Residents would like to see a strict science-based approach to the protection of the environment and resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

→ IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND POLICIES

- **Paris Flood Risk Mitigation Study**
Creating a more resilient and green downtown will help us protect residents from the dangers of flooding at the confluence of the Nith and Grand Rivers.
- **Biggar's Lane Landfill Class Environmental Assessment**
An expansion to our Landfill is needed to meet our projected waste disposal needs. This assessment considers the net impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and how the County will address these with our waste disposal needs.
- **Low-Impact Development Guidelines**
As a part of our new Comprehensive Design Manual for the County, we will be looking at guidelines and by-laws that encourage low-impact development with things like green roofs, rain gardens and permeability standards.