



Building Healthy and Complete Communities

What is a Healthy and Complete Community?

A healthy and complete community promotes and enhances health and social wellbeing, is economically and environmentally sound and is resilient to climate change.

The following items must be considered by the County of Brant to ensure the Official Plan encourages the development of Healthy and Complete Communities:

- Active transportation networks for walking and cycling
- Access to fresh, nutritious and affordable local food
- Access to green spaces
- Appropriate mix of jobs, local stores and services
- A full range of housing and transportation options
- Public service facilities



Active transportation networks for walking and cycling



Access to fresh, nutritious and affordable local food



Public service facilities



Access to green spaces



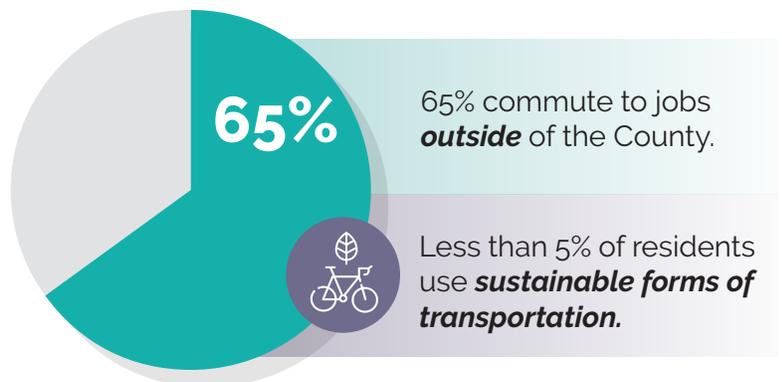
A full range of housing and transportation options



Appropriate mix of jobs, local stores and services

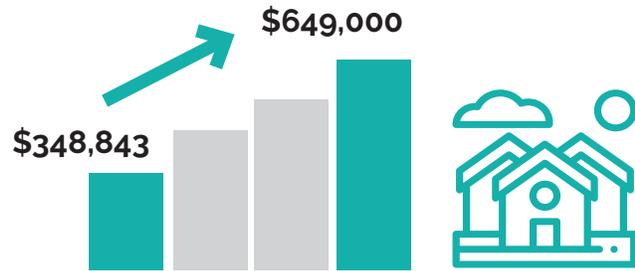
What do I need to know?

A key component of building healthy and complete communities is to provide opportunities for residents to live and work in the community which remains a challenge for the County of Brant. **Over 65% of Brant's working residents commute to jobs outside the County and less than 5% of residents use sustainable forms of transportation to commute to work.** Encouraging sustainable and active transportation options is good for the environment and promotes the health and fitness of residents.



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The County needs to determine how to provide attainable housing, offer a wide selection of housing options and a variety of ownership models and rental opportunities. **In the past 10 years, the average price of a County of Brant home has nearly doubled from an average of \$348,843 in 2009 to \$649,000 in 2019.**



Green spaces and the natural environment come in all shapes and sizes: street trees, gardens, backyards, parks, forests, lakes and streams. Spending time in green spaces has been proven to improve mental wellbeing, lessen depression symptoms, foster social interactions and promote a sense of community.

Finally, **access to safe, nutritious and affordable food** is considered a key component of health equity and contributes to overall health, lowering risk of many diseases. Land use planning and economic development can have a profound impact on whether residents have ready access to sources of safe and healthy foods.



How can I get involved?

Engage with us! Tell us what you think.

- What steps can the County undertake to build communities with a balance of employment and housing opportunities that encourage well-aligned live/work opportunities?
- What does a 'complete street' look like to you?
- What types of housing would you prefer to see in the County of Brant?
- How can planning of our communities facilitate and promote active forms of transportation (walking, cycling)?
- Where are the best locations for higher-density housing (e.g. apartments), and how can they be integrated into existing and new communities?
- What policies or initiatives should the County explore that may facilitate a range of affordable and attainable housing options?
- How can the new Official Plan consider policies, planning and financial tools that can assist in creating a broader range of affordable and attainable housing choices?
- Is there an opportunity to increase the utilization (density) of existing designated urban lands in both new undeveloped greenfield and existing built-up areas? Should the County's urban lands be more compact?
- How should the County's downtown and "Main Street" areas evolve to accommodate residential, retail, and other forms of non-retail growth?
- Should the County encourage the growth of large format retail uses?

Visit www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan for details on the New Official Plan process.

Sign up for Official Plan update e-mails, attend virtual town hall sessions and submit your questions and feedback anytime to officialplan@brant.ca