

Proposed Horizon 2050 Vision Statement

A Vision

An **aspirational** description of what the City of Burlington would like to **achieve, accomplish** or **be known for** over the medium to long-term; serves as a clear **directional guide** for choosing the right course of action.

The Vision Statement

Burlington is a community where nature is protected, growth is purposeful, and everyone thrives.

Emphasizes a strong sense of place and civic identity

Emphasizes collective belonging and shared responsibility

Green spaces and the lakefront preserved for generations

Development, mobility, and services that are planned and deliberate to support community well-being

Residents, businesses, and visitors have access to opportunity, feel connected, a sense of belonging and able to live well and fulfilling lives.

Proposed Horizon 2050 Strategic Directions and Objectives

Quality Services for all Communities

Burlington provides exceptional and efficient services to customers and community members. Community members feel connected and actively participate in civic life

- *The city aims to meet or exceed service levels and quality standards.*
- *Foster meaningful civic engagement and participation*
- *Ensure transparency and accountability in governance*
- *Enhance customer experience through a customer-first approach*
- *Foster an ethical and collaborative organizational culture*

Neighbourhoods that Support Well-Being

Burlington's diverse neighborhoods are welcoming to all. Neighbourhoods are designed and supported to be safe, inclusive and encourage healthy living.

- *Strengthen social connectivity and community spirit*
- *Enable safe and inclusive neighborhoods*
- *Advance creative and adaptive city planning and development*
- *Foster equity and inclusion across all service*
- *Promote health and wellness for all community members*

Preserve the Environment & Promote the Natural Legacy

Burlington is a leader in environmental stewardship. The natural beauty of the lake front and green spaces are protected for future generations and enjoyed by all.

- *Advance the established net-zero commitments for municipal operations and the broader community*
- *Preserve natural areas to maintain biodiversity and ecological resilience*
- *Expand and innovate urban green spaces to support climate adaptation and improve community well-being*
- *Create vibrant, accessible green spaces that invite exploration, learning, and generational connection with nature*
- *Enhance municipal resilience to climate-related risks to protect essential infrastructure and maintain reliable service delivery.*

Enabled and Purposeful Growth

Burlington grows its economy in priority sectors. Development is purposeful to meet the changing needs of the community. An integrated network of mobility solutions moves people and goods seamlessly.

- *Drive sustainable economic growth in priority sectors to create quality jobs and long-term prosperity*
- *Deliver purposeful housing development to support diverse and changing needs*
- *Create an integrated mobility network with accessible and low-emission options*
- *Enhance connectivity and reduce car dependency through transit and active transportation*

Strategic Direction #1

Quality Services for all Communities

The Objectives are to ...

The city aims to meet or exceed service levels and quality standards

Foster meaningful civic engagement and participation

Ensure transparency and accountability in governance

Enhance customer experience through a customer-first approach

Foster an ethical and collaborative organizational culture

The Outcomes We are Working Towards...

- Modernize the city's digital infrastructure to deliver secure, seamless and accessible services
- Implement innovative and adaptive approaches to continuously improve service delivery

- Increased community member participation and engagement to inform community needs
- Commitment to strong and effective volunteer programs, civic boards, and advisory committees
- Growth in community-led initiatives

- Open, reliable, and accurate data is available to community members
- Clear and timely communication of city decisions
- Information on financial health and service performance is clear and accessible to everyone

- High satisfaction ratings across all community member interactions
- Streamlined service channels with responsive digital platforms
- Service delivery supports diverse community needs

- All staff adhere to and promote the values of helpfulness, integrity, accountability and adaptability
- Strong collaboration across departments and with community partners

Strategic Direction #2

Neighbourhoods that Support Well-Being

The Objectives are to...

Strengthen social connectivity and community spirit

Enable safe and inclusive neighborhoods

Advance creative and adaptive city planning and development

Foster equity and inclusion across all service

Promote health and wellness for all community members

The Outcomes We are Working Towards...

- Expanded access to community events, arts, and cultural festivals for all demographic groups city-wide
- Increased intergenerational programming offered in community hubs and center
- Enhanced social cohesion by design through inclusive and equitable initiatives

- Enhanced city safety through proactive and preventative strategies
- Family-friendly neighbourhoods that promote safe and accessible walkable spaces
- Continued sense of safety, trust, and low crime rates across all neighbourhoods

- Future-oriented community hubs supporting diverse needs
- Integrated design that preserves neighbourhood character and charm
- Improved mobility and connectivity between neighbourhoods for social interaction

- Advance equity and inclusion as core principles in amenities, programs, and services across the city
- Provide access to city programs and services by minimizing cost barriers
- A welcoming culture that creates a strong sense of belonging across the city

- Healthcare and preventative health programs are available citywide
- Mental health support is integrated into community services
- Increased life-long participation in active lifestyle programs, sports, and recreational activities

Strategic Direction #3

Preserve the Environment & Promote the Natural Legacy

The Objectives are to ...

Advance the established net-zero commitments for municipal operations and the broader community

Preserve natural areas to maintain biodiversity and ecological resilience

Expand and innovate urban greenspaces to support climate adaptation and improve community well-being

Create vibrant, accessible green spaces that invite exploration, learning, and generational connection with nature

Enhance municipal resilience to climate-related risks to protect essential infrastructure and maintain reliable service delivery

The Outcomes We are Working Towards...

Municipal buildings, facilities, and services operate with net-zero emissions

Municipal operations, electricity and heating are sourced entirely from renewable energy

Municipal fleet are zero-emission vehicles

Reduction in GHG emissions from residential, commercial, and industrial sectors

Meet and preserve the tree canopy coverage goals

Maximize the life expectancy of trees within the urban forest

Natural areas actively adapt to changing climate conditions

- Continuous, connected green corridors linking parks, streetscapes, and natural areas
- Urban green spaces are engineered to manage stormwater, reduce heat islands, and buffer extreme weather
- Integration and innovation of green infrastructure across urban developments

- Every community member lives within a short walk of high-quality, inclusive green spaces
- Green spaces serving as hubs for recreation, health, and cultural connection year-round
- Parks and trails designed for exploration and discovery across diverse landscapes
- Outdoor learning spaces and interpretive features integrated into public green spaces
- Year-round programs fostering environmental stewardship and generational connection

- Reduced service disruptions during extreme weather events through upgraded, climate-resilient infrastructure and response protocols
- Integrated climate-risk assessments embedded in capital planning, asset management, and emergency operations to proactively manage vulnerabilities
- Community readiness and continuity through clear communication plans, accessible emergency supports, and coordinated multi-party resilience efforts.

Achieve zero waste in City operations and promote circular economy practices in the community

Inclusive engagement of community members at risk of inequity in climate response

Reporting frameworks that track progress and ensure accountability

Native species flourish, invasive species decline, and ecosystems sustain diverse life

Broad public participation in conservation and biodiversity monitoring

Strategic Direction #4

Enabled and Purposeful Growth

The Objectives are to ...

Drive sustainable economic growth in priority sectors to create quality jobs and long-term prosperity

Deliver purposeful housing development to support diverse and changing needs

Create an integrated mobility network with accessible and low-emission options

Enhance connectivity and reduce car dependency through transit and active transportation

The Outcomes We are Working Towards...

- Burlington recognized for innovative and advanced industries
- Increased private and public investment in priority sectors
- Growth in tourism and cultural economy contributing to local revenue
- Integrated support network for local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Diverse job opportunities across sectors supporting local talent
- Increased proportion of community members living and working within Burlington
- Sustained partnerships with educational institutions to advance workforce development and talent pathways in Burlington
- Reduced office vacancy with increased use of office and employment spaces
- Balanced mix of housing types for all income levels and life stages
- Increased access to attainable and affordable housing options
- Walkable, integrated neighbourhoods with transit and amenities
- Housing growth aligned with sustainable land use and infrastructure capacity
- Rural landscapes and community identity are preserved as urban growth is directed to established and designated growth areas
- Optimized public transit coverage with frequent and reliable service
- Cost-effective transportation options available to those at risk of inequity
- Widespread adoption of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure
- Micro-mobility and on-demand transit integrated into the transportation system
- North-south transit link fully operational and connected
- Increase in cycling and walking mode share
- Increased modal shift from cars to public transit, cycling, and walking
- Safe streets that prevent vehicle fatalities and serious injuries

Horizon 2050 Guiding Principles

Horizon 2050 Guiding Principles



Financially Responsible

The city uses public resources responsibly and designs services, programs, and community amenities that remain within reach for everyone.

As a community, we work together to make thoughtful, balanced choices for all that support long-term financial sustainability.



Sustainable & Future-Ready

The city protects and enhances our natural environment, acts on climate change, and plans with long-term responsibility.

As a community, we contribute to sustainability by caring for our natural spaces, making climate-minded choices, and supporting a resilient future for generations to come.



Communities Fostering Respect & Belonging

The city fosters communities rooted in respect and belonging through strong partnerships that create welcoming spaces.

As a community, we ensure equitable access to services, safe and healthy environments, and opportunities for all community members.



Economic Vitality

The city supports a strong, diverse local economy that provides opportunities for residents and businesses to prosper.

As a community, we champion local enterprise, participate in economic life, and help build a Burlington where everyone can succeed.



Innovative, Transparent & Data-Driven

The city operates with openness, integrity, and accountability - using modern digital tools, clear communication, and evidence to guide decisions and build trust.

As a community, we engage constructively, stay informed, and participate meaningfully in decision-making.