

# PART I: VISION + INTRODUCTION







# A Vision for Abbotsford



# What Does Abbotsford Look Like in the Future?

This Official Community Plan (OCP), commonly referred to as Abbotsforward, is the culmination of almost two years of creative and inspiring visioning with thousands of residents across Abbotsford of all ages and backgrounds. The OCP vision paints a powerful picture of what Abbotsford will be like at 200,000 residents, while setting the stage for future and continuing growth and improvement beyond this Plan. It embodies the values, priorities, and aspirations of the community, and charts the course for development and implementation of policies.

*Abbotsford is a city of distinct and increasingly complete neighbourhoods rich with public life. Our compact urban area is anchored by a thriving City Centre and surrounded by remarkable natural areas and flourishing agricultural lands. We are diverse, inclusive, and connected. We are green, prosperous, and healthy. We are a vibrant and beautiful community.*

The following aspirations paint a more detailed picture of our vision:

## Life in the City

Our city has more street life, more night life, and more public life as we grow. There are many options for entertainment, culture, recreation, and gathering with others. These include public places like libraries and community centres, and other places like cafes and night spots.

## City Centre

Our city sees the beginning of a true City Centre as the heart of public, economic, and cultural life. It has a clear identity as the most vibrant urban area in the city with diverse destinations and activities. It is also a successful and complete urban neighbourhood.

## Transportation Choice

We have real, attractive choices in the way we move around our city. We will be able to safely and enjoyably get around by foot and bike, and have access to transit that is frequent, fast, and reliable.

## Walkable, Bustling Neighbourhoods

More of us are able to walk to a grocery store and other daily needs in our neighbourhoods. We have more destinations for celebrating heritage, learning, shopping, playing, gathering, and working close to home.

## Natural Areas and Trails

Our cherished trails and natural areas are protected for generations to come, and the quality of our air, water, and parks improve each year.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of our history and a pillar of our economy. As an important part of our past, it is also an important part of our future. We keep agricultural areas for agriculture.

## Housing Options

We have more affordable ownership, rental, and shelter housing options, including a variety of housing types for all stages of life, allowing people to stay in their neighbourhoods as they age.

## Compact City

We build up much more than we build out. In the process, we respect the character of our existing neighbourhoods even as they continue to change.

## Efficient and Effective Systems

We collectively conserve resources and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions through more efficient, well-designed, and cost-effective systems of open space, housing and buildings, infrastructure, and transportation.

## Jobs

We are expanding our diverse economy and employment base, building on our existing strengths including the university, airport, hospital, and agriculture. We have shorter commutes to and from work, within a compact urban area.

## Mill Lake

Mill Lake is the jewel in our city. It will be maintained, enhanced, and celebrated as an integral part of our city identity.

# Big Ideas to Realize the Vision

This vision of Abbotsford will be brought to life through smart, strategic land use regulation and policy direction outlined in Parts II and III of this Plan. These directions are diverse, providing guidance for land use, urban design, housing, transportation, infrastructure, jobs, open space, arts and culture, heritage, climate change and energy conservation, natural areas, and agriculture.

Policy directions are organized around 7 Big Ideas for the future of Abbotsford that comprise the most essential and transformative ingredients of this Plan.



**Create a  
City Centre**



**Establish Distinct and  
Complete Neighbourhoods**



**Make Walking, Biking,  
and Transit Delightful**



**Make Places  
for People**



**Improve Natural  
and Built Systems**



**Enhance  
Agricultural Integrity**



**Make the  
Plan Work**

# How to Use This Plan

**This Plan reflects a significant turning point for Abbotsford.** The same energy and passion that went into creating the Plan will go into implementing it in the face of significant challenges and tough choices – it will not sit idle collecting dust. As the principal policy direction for the city regarding how Abbotsford will change and evolve over time growing to 200,000 people, it provides the overarching strategic direction for the City. Over time, it will continue to be updated as required to address new opportunities in city building, and Part IV has more detail about how to use the Plan.