

# 4

## Make Places for People



# Vision

*Abbotsford will have beautiful and interesting public places. While pedestrian-friendly buildings will provide the frame for public life, parks, plazas and other open spaces will provide the stage. Many sidewalks will be filled with people going about their daily lives, walking, lounging, socializing, playing, kissing, eating, shopping, creating, dancing, exploring, and people-watching.*

*Abbotsford will also create places that are inclusive of all people and their diverse needs and aspirations, and that support a vibrant community. Public places will support people meeting people who are different from one another.*

*Abbotsford's economy will continue to be one of the most diverse and resilient in the country. With significant regional importance, the hospital, airport, and agricultural land will continue to draw investment. New opportunities for fibre optic, creative, and technology industries will add to Abbotsford's attraction.*

## Big Picture

### Open Spaces and People Places

Support a diverse and dynamic system of parks, recreational facilities, and trails, as well as urban plazas, streets, and other places and features.

### Creative and Cultural Expression

Support creative and cultural expression in public spaces and throughout the city, and celebrate local heritage. Embrace a sense of experimentation in the activation of people places.

### Local Economy

Support a vibrant, local, diverse, and resilient economy, leveraging both new and established assets related to fibre optics, the city centre, airport, agriculture, University of the Fraser Valley, and hospital.

### Inclusive and Diverse Community

Foster inclusivity in Abbotsford through diverse and accessible building and public space, and amenities that meet a variety of cultural priorities.

## Policies

The policies in this Chapter apply across the city, and Neighbourhood Plans and updated Master Plans will consider many of them in more detail.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

#### 4.1 Mill Lake

Create a comprehensive plan for Mill Lake, including strategies for adjacent development and integration with the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan.

#### 4.2 Park and Open Space Distribution

Provide new parkland and greenways in areas identified as being deficient and in future growth areas, high density areas, and intensification areas. Include urban types of parks such as plazas, boulevard tree strips, and other types of people places when assessing new parkland needs.

#### 4.3 Recreation Access

Provide access to a variety of recreation programs and services in neighbourhoods.

#### 4.4 Park Acquisition

Acquire parkland through dedication associated with development projects where it fits within the broader open space network.

#### 4.5 Colocation

Cluster parks and open space, where possible, with areas for active and passive recreation use that accommodate institutions and social facilities, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, retail and restaurant areas (in the case of urban places), and other community amenities. Discourage small, isolated, single purpose parks.

#### 4.6 Safety

Ensure consistent application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the planning and design of parks, trails, and recreational facilities, where aligned with holistic design principles.

#### 4.7 Ecological Management

Manage parks in an environmentally sensitive manner, and consistent with the policies in Part III.

#### 4.8 Greenways

Connect neighbourhoods, where possible, to multiuse pathways and other trails that link neighbourhoods to Mixed Use Centres, park amenities, and recreation areas.

### ARTS, HERITAGE, AND CULTURE

#### 4.9 Cultural Inclusiveness

Ensure cultural resources and activities provided by the City are inclusive:

- Respond to the cultural needs and aspirations of Abbotsford's diverse population through culturally relevant programs, services, and facilities.

- Encourage cultural expression – through events, public art, and other means – that reflect diverse community interests and needs.

#### **4.10 Public and Performance Arts**

Provide appropriate places and buildings for artistic expression and public art in formal or informal settings, such as in parks, greenways, open spaces, and performance venues.

#### **4.11 Library Access**

Ensure library facilities are accessible to residents across the city.

#### **4.12 Heritage Inventory**

Identify, conserve, and protect cultural heritage and historic buildings, including but not limited to First Nations sites, national historic sites, civic cemeteries, and properties on the *Community Heritage Register*, and Statements of Significance.

#### **4.13 Heritage Conservation Areas**

Assess the feasibility of applying heritage conservation areas to protect and enhance concentrated areas of heritage and historic buildings, such as Clayburn Village. Consider applying a heritage conservation area to other areas such as historical rural centres, or Historic Downtown when completing the Historic Downtown Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **4.14 Education and Access**

Support access to municipally-owned cultural, archival, and museum collections that facilitate learning about Abbotsford's past and present.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **4.15 Inclusion and Diversity**

Encourage cultural diversity and cross-cultural awareness to actively build a culture of tolerance and give residents opportunities to fully engage in the community, workforce, education, and public life.

#### **4.16 Children, Youth and Families**

Recognize children and youth as citizens who contribute in their own way towards the quality of urban life. Approach their needs and the needs of families through coordinated amenities and services, transit, and public spaces; and through social development infrastructure such as health, education, employment, and housing.

#### **4.17 Older Adults**

Consider the needs of older adults to promote active aging, aging in place, and providing a continuum of care to ensure they remain socially connected, active, and supported in their homes and community.

#### **4.18 Social Spaces and Connectedness**

Create neighbourhoods that are designed to encourage social interaction and community participation opportunities. This can include community hubs with shared social service delivery and places that integrate health care, child care, family services, and local economic activity.

#### **4.19 Community Safety**

Collaborate, advocate and communicate with public safety agencies to ensure shared outcomes and coordinated responses. Build strong communication and public awareness practices that focus on pro-active policing and prevention for greater quality of life, safety and well-being.

#### **4.20 Policy Advocacy**

Leverage shared funding with other levels of government through advocacy to support the City's limited mandate and resources to address social needs. Measure, monitor and articulate local priorities for the community to support advocacy objectives.

### **ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT**

#### **4.21 Local Jobs and Short Commutes**

Continue to balance the number of jobs to number of residents employed in the labour force in the city, reducing the need for longer commute distances for residents. Support opportunities for jobs within complete neighbourhoods wherever feasible.

#### **4.22 Employment Hubs**

Support employment hubs by encouraging the City Centre as the primary office hub of the city, with supporting office and amenity areas near the University of the Fraser Valley and the Abbotsford Regional Hospital.

#### **4.23 Abbotsford International Airport (YXX)**

Continue to support the growth and expansion of the airport as a destination for domestic and international flights, and aerospace related industries.

#### **4.24 Creative Industries**

Investigate opportunities for expanding creative industries, including consideration of measures to create affordable studio or workshop space, live/work uses, and flexible spaces where people can gather to share equipment and ideas. Leverage existing high tech infrastructure, such as the fibre optic network through the City Centre and Urban Centres, to draw new industries into the urban area.

#### **4.25 Technological Industry Advancement**

Support technological advancements and integration by existing industries such as agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and aerospace/aviation to develop Abbotsford as an innovation hub. Consider developing a technology strategy for creating a colocation hub or incubator in the City Centre and Urban Centres.

#### **4.26 Industrial Land Supply**

Ensure that an adequate supply of industrial land exists to meet anticipated future needs as described in Part II of this Plan, protected from uses and conditions that could destabilize it.

#### **4.27 Diverse Local Economy**

Encourage the continued diversification of a local economy that supports existing businesses, encourages the development of new businesses, and facilitates home-based business development with a wide variety of sectors. A distinct focus will be continuing to grow Abbotsford's well established strategic sectors: agriculture, aerospace/aviation, and niche manufacturing.

## 4.28 Foster a Vibrant Business Community

Support a vibrant business community through local economic development programs including:

- Business retention and expansion (BR&E) by supporting existing business and their plans for growth and expansion, as they drive the majority of Abbotsford's economic growth, using initiatives such as Business Walks, Eat Local, and GIS site finding.
- Investment attraction by marketing the city as an attractive destination for new business investment, with a focus on attracting sustainable growth in strategic sectors (e.g. businesses looking to invest for the long term and increased opportunities for building a local skilled workforce).
- Start up support through resources and connections for early stage entrepreneurs who see Abbotsford as a long term home for their new businesses.

## 4.29 International Marketing

Position Abbotsford as a destination for global business, leveraging key and consistent messaging in communications, including:

- Showcasing Abbotsford as the most ideally positioned community within the Lower Mainland.
- Spotlighting Abbotsford's transportation network, with affordable, highly efficient access to all of North America, the U.S. Pacific Northwest, and Asia Pacific.
- Marketing Abbotsford as a diverse, livable community on the outskirts of one of the most desired global hubs in the world.

