

HORIZON 2050

The City of Burlington's vision and 25-year strategic plan | as of 2026



burlington.ca/horizon2050

CITY OF
Burlington



WELCOME

As we plan for the next 25 years, it is important that we remember the history of Burlington. Long before Burlington existed, Indigenous peoples lived on and cared for these lands and waters.

The City of Burlington recognizes it is on treaty lands and territory of Indigenous groups.

We celebrate and collaborate with Indigenous leaders and community members with projects and initiatives that create awareness of First Nations history and break down barriers of misinformation, arriving at the Truth followed by Reconciliation.

Burlington strives to be an inclusive community that celebrates its history while embracing its present.

Thank you

Thank you to our Indigenous community for partnering with us and sharing their traditions.

Learn more at burlington.ca/indigenousprojects.

Our STRATEGY

Vision

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

Mission

Burlington stands together; staying connected, caring for one another, and strengthening community well-being for generations to come.

Strategic directions

Quality services for all people and communities

Neighbourhoods that support well-being

Preserve the environment and promote the natural legacy

Enabled and purposeful growth

Guiding principles

Financially responsible

Sustainable and future-ready

Communities fostering respect and belonging

Economic vitality

Innovative, transparent and data-driven

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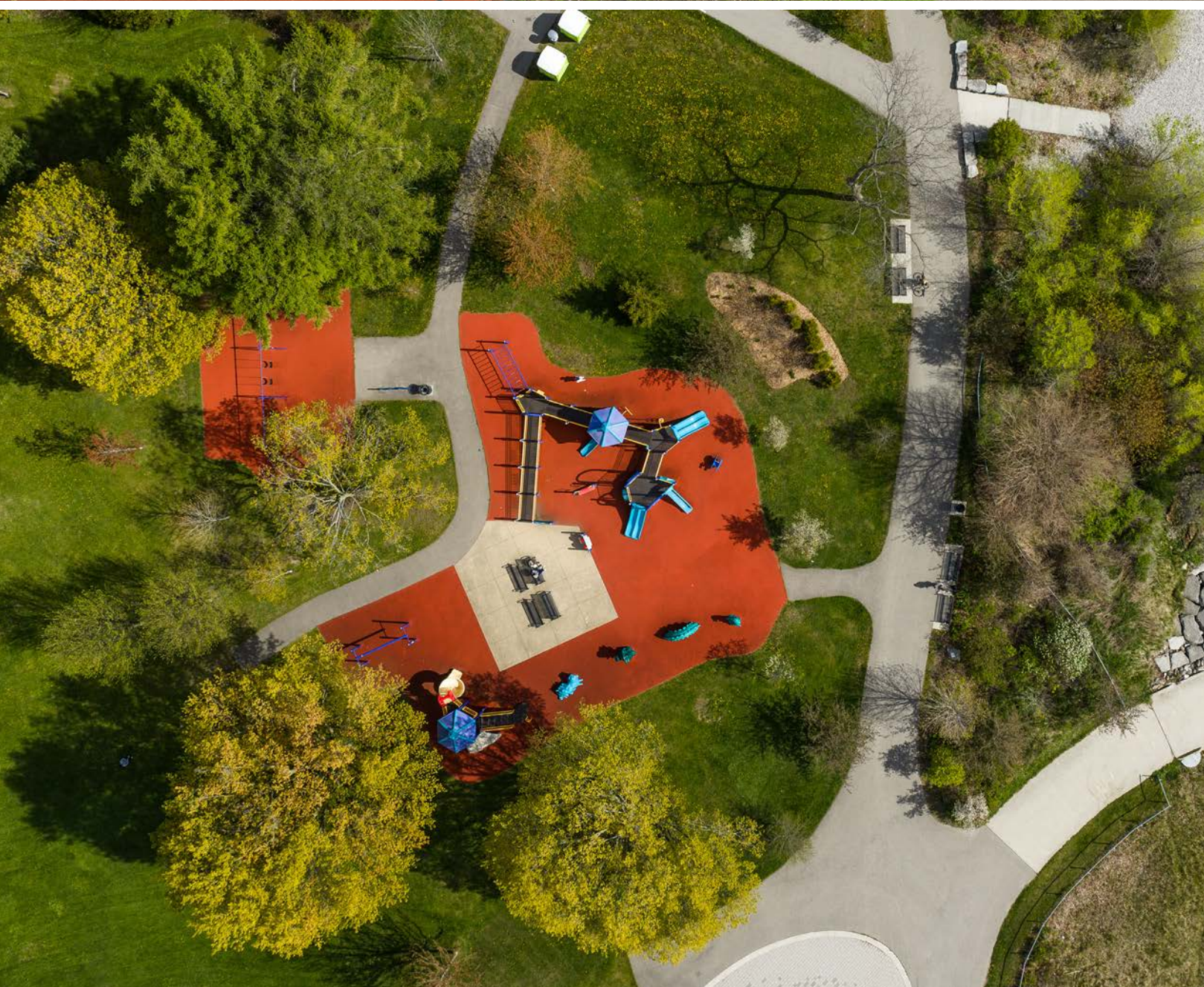
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See the plan in action

Learn more about Horizon 2050 and check back for progress updates in the future. Visit burlington.ca/horizon2050.





BURLINGTON: planning for our future

What makes the City of Burlington exceptional?

Our amazing location comes to mind. We have Lake Ontario, the Beachway and Spencer Smith Park to the south and rural land rolling up to meet the Niagara Escarpment to the north. In between, you can find established neighbourhoods, thriving rural communities, rich natural heritage, plus a network of parks, trails and green spaces.

Burlington's Greenbelt and Niagara Escarpment landscapes provide permanent environmental protection while supporting a vibrant rural and agricultural economy.

Combine that with a strong local economy, diverse businesses, cultural festivals, recreation opportunities and convenient connections across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, and Burlington is able to offer a sought-after and balanced lifestyle.

But what really makes Burlington an award-winning city is its people. Our community members choose to build their lives here. They raise their families, grow their businesses and pursue their careers here. They invest in Burlington when they volunteer, connect with neighbours, savour the freshness of the local harvest from nearby farms, appreciate nature and choose to spend their retirement years here.

People walk, run and roll along the Waterfront Trail year-round, gather at Spencer Smith Park for ice skating in the winter, cherry blossoms in the spring and festivals in the summer. They explore the Bruce Trail, meet up for a coffee or meal in Village Square and along Brant Street and experience trails, parks, farm stands, art crawls and makers markets amongst the rural landscapes of Lowville, Kilbride and Mount Nemo.

Burlington offers a balance of urban amenities, rural character, growth, communities and green space.

Add a strong sense of belonging and community pride and you have a place where people choose to live, work and thrive.

As our city develops and grows, our community has been clear about what matters most. They want Burlington to remain a welcoming, inclusive and connected city while protecting its natural environment, vibrant neighbourhoods, community spirit and exceptional quality of life.

They expect future decisions to protect and strengthen those foundations while embracing thoughtful changes that are ready to respond to the needs of future generations. Horizon 2050 is the plan that will prepare Burlington for that future.



Our PURPOSE

OUR VISION

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

The Vision reflects a strong sense of place and civic identity, grounded in collective belonging and shared responsibility for our future. It recognizes the importance of protecting and sustaining our natural environment for generations to come, by making sure that growth is thoughtful and purposeful. Development, mobility, infrastructure and services will focus on supporting community well-being for generations.

OUR MISSION

Burlington stands together; staying connected, caring for one another and strengthening community well-being for generations to come.

The mission highlights the importance of collaboration, inclusion and shared responsibility between the community, Council and the City in achieving the Vision and shaping Burlington's future.



HORIZON 2050: continuing to prepare for our future

Horizon 2050 is Burlington's 25-year vision and long-term strategic plan.

It was created with input from our community, local businesses, community partners, Council and staff. The result is a shared direction to shape Burlington's future through intentional, long-term decision-making.

Horizon 2050 continues our work established by Vision 2040. Our ongoing strategies guide how the City plans, invests and delivers services while balancing growth, environmental stewardship, economic vitality and community well-being. It refines our focus from managing growth to enhancing everyday experiences, well-being and quality of life for everyone in Burlington.

This 25-year strategic plan is built on four foundational elements to guide every priority, investment and decision:

- **People First**

Decisions are shaped by the everyday experiences, well-being and quality of life of our community members.

- **Vibrant Communities**

Neighbourhoods are inclusive, connected and designed for people to thrive at every stage of life.

- **Shared Responsibility**

Burlington's future is created by community members, businesses, Council, staff, community partners and solid relationships with other levels of government.

- **Purposeful Growth**

Growth is intentional to balance community needs, environmental responsibility, economic prosperity and long-term sustainability. Burlington will protect its natural environment to maintain its rare balance of urban and rural landscapes.

This is the foundation to build our shared vision for Burlington's future: Burlington is a community where nature is protected, growth is purposeful and everyone thrives. This is how we will gauge our success.

Thoughtful and purposeful growth means that we try to preserve the sense of community that we have while growing in size. We have something special in this city.

Esme D.
Active community member
and civic voice



Imagine BURLINGTON in the year 2050

These fictitious interviews are set in the year 2050. We took actual information that today's residents shared when they envisioned their Burlington of the future.

Every age, every stage of life

Tell me a little about yourself.

I'm a senior citizen although I hear we're now called 'older adults'. I was born at Joseph Brant Hospital in 1978. I grew up in Burlington and I've watched the city grow and evolve. In some ways, I feel like we've grown up together! Today, I live within walking distance of downtown.

Why did you choose to stay in Burlington?

I did go away to university and worked in a larger city in my 20s. After a few years away, I realized I missed Burlington.

I can start my mornings with a bike ride. Some days I follow Lakeshore Road along Spencer Smith Park down the beach towards the Burlington Lift Bridge. Other days, I take the Centennial Trail to meet up with friends for coffee.

It's great that I can grab a drink at the local café, walk to Central Park and go to the library. My friends who live in other neighbourhoods say it's the same for them. Their doctor, groceries and favourite spots are all close by.

What changes did the City make so Burlington is a livable city for you?

The City supported building a variety of homes. When it was time for me to sell my family home, a nice young family moved in. I was able to find a low-rise



condominium that still offered me all the amenities and outdoor space I wanted without the responsibility of home ownership. It was important to me that I stay in Burlington and maintain my lifestyle as I enjoy my senior, sorry, older adult years. [chuckles]

They also invested in Burlington Transit and made sure it was easy to walk and bike. Now, everything seems like it connects to one another and it's easy to get around. I can get a bus to anywhere in the city or ride my bike to a GO Train station to travel in and out of Burlington. I don't have to plan my day around my car or have to think about parking.

Burlington didn't just grow; it changed with me. It made room for people like me to be able to stay in a nice home in Burlington, stay connected with my friends and family, and remain part of the community we helped build.

Work life balance

Tell me a little about yourself.

I'm a single career woman. I live in a townhouse complex with a small garden and my dog. I love my job but I also have hobbies and friends so personal time is super important to me!

Why did you choose to stay in Burlington?

I came to Burlington to attend university and never left. It felt like home here, so I stayed.

I work from home and on the days when I want a change of scenery and socialization, I work remotely from a community hub in my neighbourhood. I like to support local, small businesses and they have the best coffee!

Once in a while, I do need to go into our Toronto office. I can take the GO Train from Aldershot Station. It's surprisingly easy to bike there on the cycle lanes and pathways that connect all through Burlington. On days when the weather's bad, I catch the bus or drive. I love the fact that it's so easy to get around Burlington and beyond.

One of my favourite things about Burlington is the variety of things to do and places to go. I can finish work and make it to a waterfront concert or a pickup game at my neighbourhood park. On the weekends, it still amazes me that in less than 20 minutes, I can go from the city to the country for a walk along the trails at Mount Nemo.

I'm hopeful that, in the years ahead, we keep investing in what makes Burlington thrive, so future generations can enjoy an even stronger, more connected, and more livable city.

Vignesh D.
Local professional and advocate
for green spaces



What changes did the City make so Burlington is a livable city for you?

Over the years, the employment opportunities and supports have gotten better and better. The City really did plan its growth so there are areas of the city that are business hubs. And then there are neighbourhoods, like mine, that feel like their own little town within the city. Where I live, there are homes, trails, businesses, restaurants, a community centre, an entertainment complex and shops.

For work, I can go to a flexible workspace in a business hub, work from home or the local café. No matter where I choose to work, the latest technology makes it easy to do my work and connect with head office.

Burlington made it easy for me to feel like I really do have it all: a home I love, lots of activities and I can build my career without leaving my city.

Imagine BURLINGTON in the year 2050

These fictitious interviews are set in the year 2050. We took actual information that today's residents shared when they envisioned their Burlington of the future.

Small business, huge success

Tell me a little about yourself.

I opened my first location in Aldershot in 2021. Since then, we've expanded to Roseland, Uptown and Lakeshore Road. We also have satellite locations inside businesses in a few of the community centres, universities, Lowville and Kilbride. And we've partnered with farmers to bring our mobile cart to their farm stands and events.

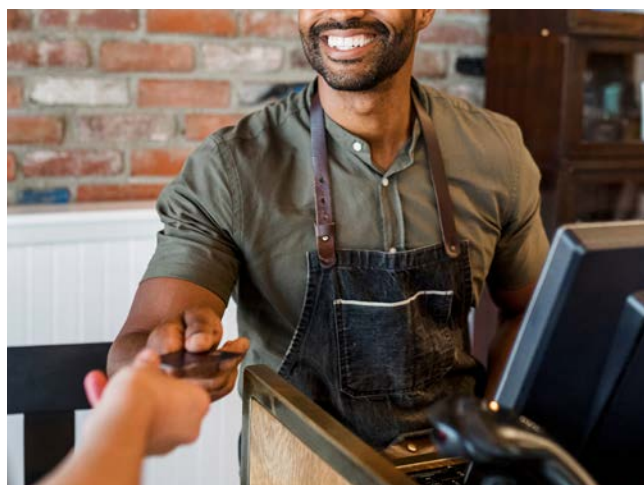
Why did you choose to stay in Burlington?

I've always loved the small town feel of Burlington and I wanted my business to start and grow to become a gathering place for the community.

It was easy to connect with other businesses through the BIAs to help me grow my vision of a grassroots business that supports other businesses, local artists and the community. And with a great mix of city and country, I'm able to support local farmers and producers and source local ingredients and supplies for my business. I love being able to support my local economy and help the environment!

What changes did the City make so Burlington is a livable city for you?

Burlington planned for growth in a way that has preserved its downtown, its neighbourhoods and its



countryside. It protects the environment and residents' quality of life.

This growth focused on communities and neighbourhoods and offered me new opportunities to expand my business. I have been able to add new locations all across Burlington and still been able to keep my business model to my original vision of a gathering place for the community.

It's great to see a mix of businesses in Burlington today. Of course, I have competition from global chains, but because of city planning, my business is flourishing as a favourite neighbourhood place where our customers are like family. Like the City of Burlington, we too have a vision of bringing people together to share their daily lives and build lasting relationships.

Everyone is welcome here

Tell me a little about yourself.

I brought my family of four to Canada almost a decade ago. We came here to be safe and for the high standards of life. We picked Burlington because it has big city amenities with a small-town feel. Today, we've settled into a lovely, three-bedroom home in Alton and we have a cat we adopted from the Burlington Animal Shelter.

Why did you choose to stay in Burlington?

The first thing we noticed about Burlington was how friendly, welcoming and inclusive everyone was. We felt safe from the moment we arrived and now we can't imagine living anywhere else.

Our children walk to Alton Village Public School and Hayden High School. They play soccer, skateboard and hang out in Norton Park. There's a leash free dog park there and they're already bugging us to get them a dog [laughs]. They get invited to birthday parties and our neighbours' pools and we host barbeques that are the talk of the neighbourhood.

We enjoy local shops and restaurants. Our favourite restaurant puts my traditional meals I learned from mom to shame!

What changes did the City make so Burlington is a livable city for you?

The City has created a culture of 'everyone is welcome here'. They have programs that make it easy to be a part

I hope future generations will experience the joy of living in a city that really has a sense of community. Although it's a growing city, and geographically, it now covers quite a wide area, it still has a lovely sense of community and belonging.
Esme D.
Active community member and civic voice



of the community. Our first winter here, we borrowed skates at Appleby Arena and learned to skate as a family! It was something we'd only seen on TV and now we look forward to skating on the Rotary Centennial Pond every winter. In the summer, we walk to the Multi-Cultural Festival in Alton Park and our eldest child has started volunteering for her high school hours.

We love how Burlington puts unique cultural touches in the small things, like local art pieces that seem to be at every community centre and park. You can tell they put a lot of thought into giving different artists a voice and some of the pieces remind us of where we came from.

Burlington continues to embrace its residents and cares about making everyone feel welcome. We're proud to be residents here and grateful for our home, our new friends and neighbours, and to be part of such an inclusive community.



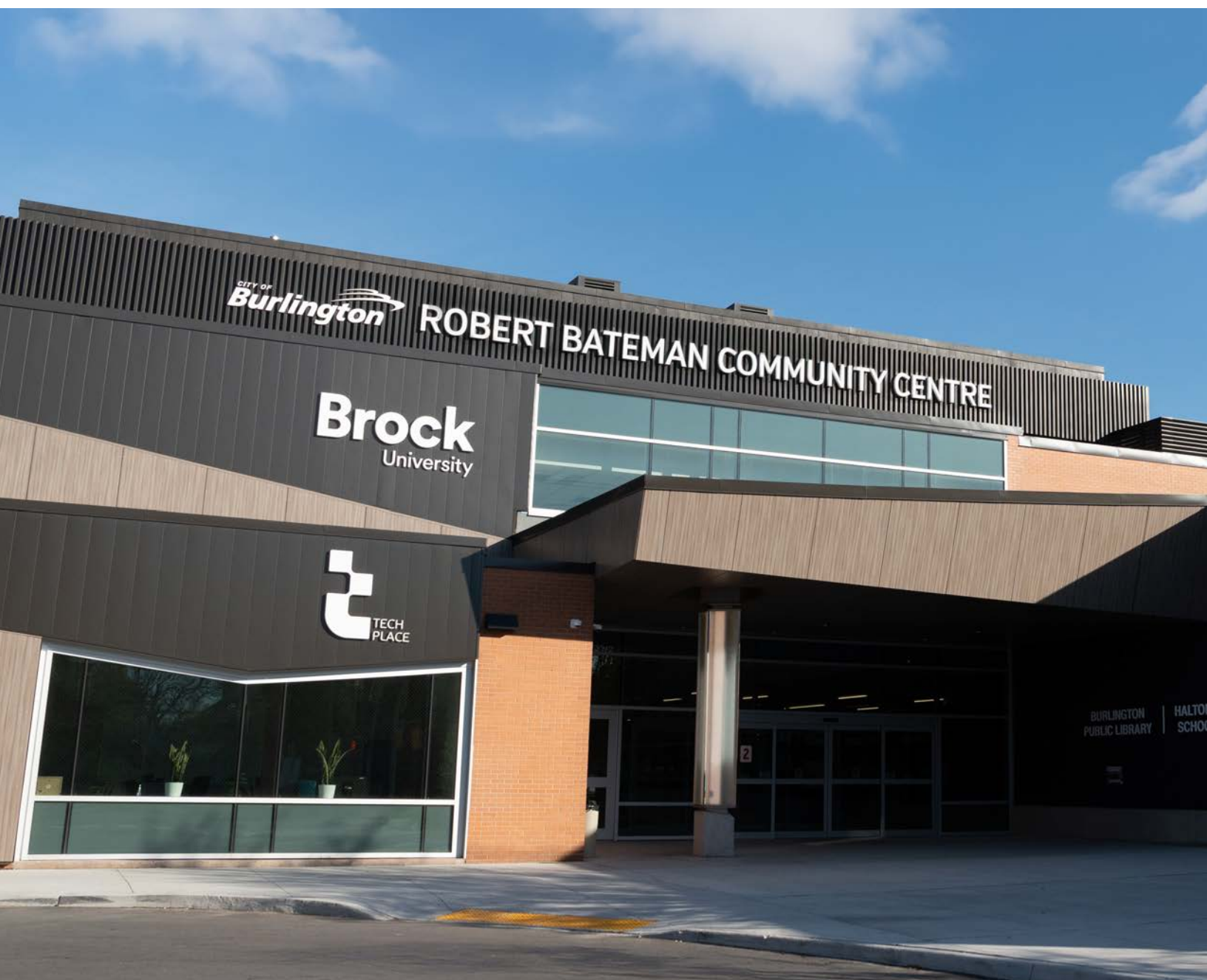
COMMUNITY voices shape our vision

Horizon 2050 is a reflection of the Burlington community. Community members, businesses and our community partners helped shape the direction of this plan.

The City held community sessions, invited people to complete surveys, workshops and held conversations before and during the creation of this 25-year strategic plan. Thousands of people shared their experiences, priorities and hopes for the future. Their voices highlighted what matters most; quality of life, safety, affordability, belonging, access to nature and the importance of careful growth.

Engagement is an ongoing commitment. The City will continue to listen, learn and respond so community voices are at the centre of decision-making over the next 25 years. Horizon 2050 will shift to respond to changing trends, feedback, community needs and emerging priorities.





A call to ACTION

Everyone has a part in the success of Horizon 2050 and Burlington's future.

The City plays an important leadership role but we cannot succeed on our own. Quality of life, including housing, economic opportunity, health and environmental sustainability, are influenced by many partners, levels of government and the community.

Sometimes, the City will lead by setting direction, making decisions and delivering services. At other times, we will partner, advocate, facilitate and support others to take the lead and work with community organizations, businesses and other government levels.

When the City is not the lead, we will bring people together, encourage collaboration and support community-led action. We will also advocate to influence policy, secure resources and represent Burlington's interests at the appropriate level of government; Regional, Provincial or Federal.

You, our community members, businesses and partners each play a critical role. Your actions, choices and leadership will help shape the future of Burlington.

This, Horizon 2050, is a call to action for each and everyone of us.

When people feel they belong, they're more likely to participate, contribute, build strong relationships and care about our city. That "we're all in this together" spirit shows up in every day kindness... shoveling a neighbour's driveway, helping search for a lost cat or volunteering at the food bank.

These actions make Burlington a better city.

France C.

Longtime resident and active recreation participant



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Burlington is a vibrant community, shaped by its celebrated waterfront, natural areas, urban centre and distinctive rural landscape. Welcoming neighbourhoods, public spaces, diverse amenities and local businesses create opportunities for people to belong, be active and thrive as Burlington grows.

A place for you

A growing, connected community.

As Burlington's population continues to grow, the City will continue to progress into a more connected community supported by investments in housing, transportation and infrastructure improvements.



A population of 199,484 [2025] with an annual growth of 2%.



20 unique neighbourhoods across six wards.



67% of residents have a post-secondary education.

Median age in Burlington is 43.6 with an average of 1.7 children per census family. Burlington is a family-friendly community.



Burlington offers access to three major highways (403, QEW, 407) helping residents and visitors travel conveniently across the GTA and beyond.



A place for nature and movement

Nature is always close by, putting a vibrant quality of life within reach.

Burlington's proximity to parks, nature, recreation and urban life offers balance, creating vibrant, healthy communities for today and future generations.



213 kms of trails including 6.8 acres of sandy beach.



30% tree canopy coverage across the city.



2,400 acres of landscaped gardens and nature preserves.

127 parks including nine leash-free dog parks, 105 playground locations and one conservation area.



50%+ of Burlington is greenbelt used for agriculture, natural heritage and recreational purposes.



A place to live and thrive

More amenities. More connections.

Everything you need in one place.



200+ community-organized public festivals offered per year.



Two City-operated cultural spaces (Student Theatre and Music Centre).



Two museums and seven libraries, along with many other amenities across the city.



Eight community centres operated by the City with amenities including 11 ice pads at seven arenas, two outdoor pools, one wading pool, nine splashpads and one dedicated seniors centre (Burlington Seniors' Centre).

A thriving downtown, featuring Village Square as a hub for local shopping, tourism, dining, retail and professional services.



A place for business and connection

A thriving business environment and resilient local economy.

Burlington is a city where people and businesses thrive together, supported by economic growth, opportunities and strong regional accessibility.



4,965 large and small businesses in Burlington.



67% of residents participate in the labour force.

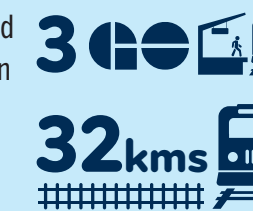


\$110,000 median household income in 2020.



Industries include: manufacturing, food and beverage, professional and technical services, biomedical and life sciences and Communications Technology (ICT).

With a 32 km rail corridor and three GO stations, Burlington offers easy travel options while driving business and economic growth.





Guiding PRINCIPLES

Horizon 2050 is guided by a clear set of principles that anchor decision-making across the organization. They define how priorities are set, how trade-offs are made and how resources are invested. As conditions change, they provide a consistent reference point to keep decisions focused on long-term sustainability, community well-being and responsible growth.



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.



Communities fostering respect and 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.



Innovative, transparent and data-driven

The City operates with openness, integrity and accountability by 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.



Sustainable and future-ready

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

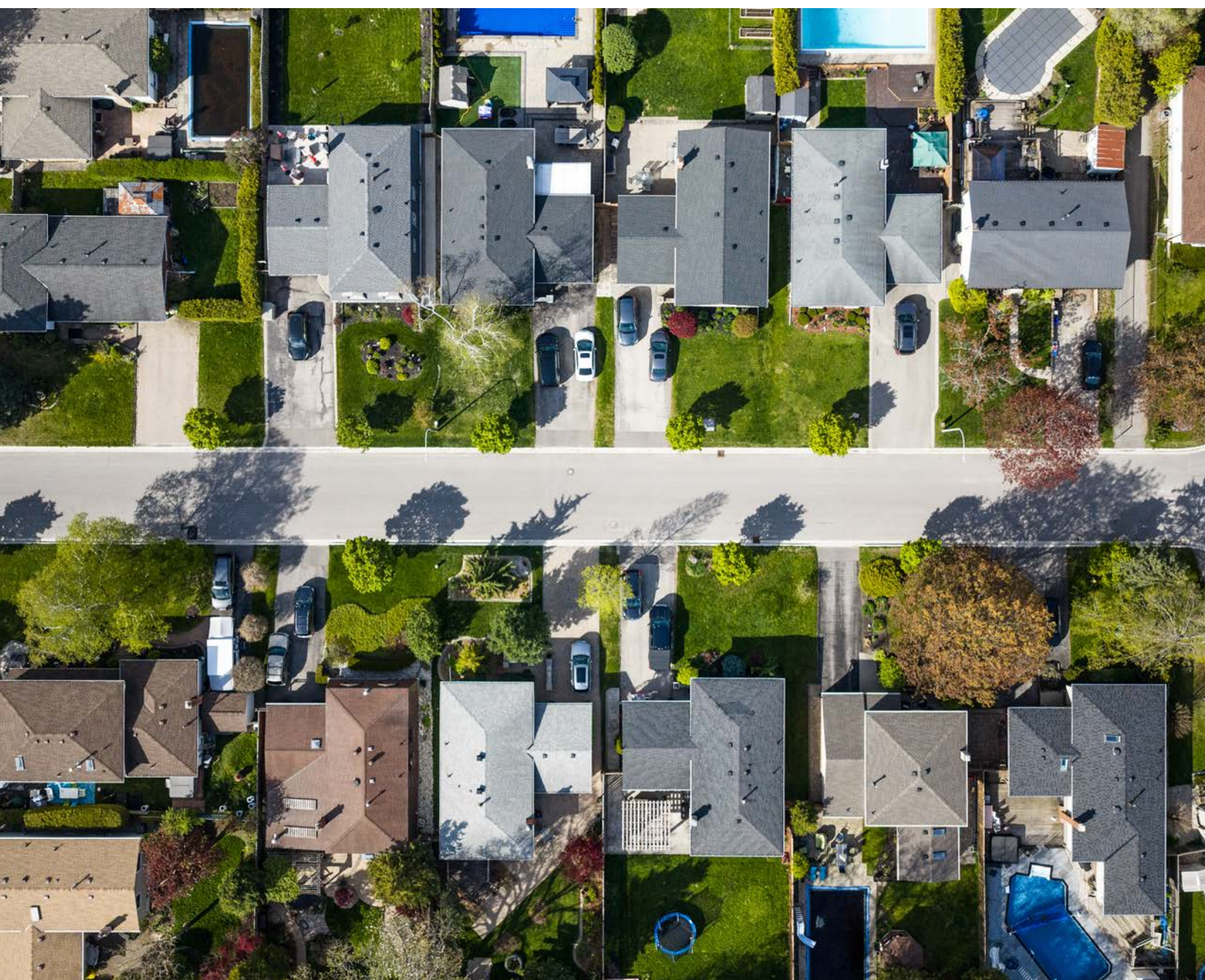
As a community, we contribute to sustainability by caring for our natural spaces, making climate-minded choices and supporting a resilient future for generations to come.



Economic vitality

The City supports a strong, diverse local economy that provides opportunities for community members and businesses to prosper.

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



Quality SERVICES for all people and communities

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Meet or exceed service levels and quality standards

- Modernized digital infrastructure delivering secure, seamless and accessible services
- Innovative and adaptive approaches that continuously improve service delivery



Foster meaningful civic engagement and participation

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



Ensure transparency and accountability in governance

- Open, reliable and accessible data for community members
- Clear and timely communication of City decisions
- Transparent reporting on financial health and service performance



Enhance customer experience through a customer-first approach

- High satisfaction across all customer interactions
- Streamlined, responsive and user-friendly service channels
- Services that reflect and support diverse community needs



Foster an ethical and collaborative organizational culture

- Staff consistently demonstrate helpfulness, integrity, accountability and adaptability
- Strong collaboration across departments and with community partners

Burlington is advancing toward services that are high-quality, accessible and responsive to community needs.

Services will be modern, customer-focused and continuously improving, supported by digital innovation and meaningful engagement.

Transparency and accountability will guide this work to build trust and ensure services evolve with the community.

These are the objectives and intended outcomes guiding this work.



Every week I participate in well-run City programs that make life more enjoyable and help me feel connected to both new and longtime friends. I'm consistently impressed by the quality of the offerings.

France C.
Longtime resident and active recreation participant

Neighbourhoods that support WELL-BEING

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



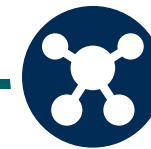
Strengthen social connectivity and community spirit

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



Enable safe and inclusive neighbourhoods

- Enhanced safety through proactive and preventative approaches
- Family-friendly neighbourhoods with safe, accessible and walkable spaces
- Continued sense of safety, trust and low crime across all neighbourhoods



Advance creative and adaptive city planning and development

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



Foster equity and inclusion across all services

- Equity and inclusion embedded across programs, services and amenities
- Reduced barriers to access, including affordability
- A welcoming culture that fosters a strong sense of belonging



Promote health and wellness for all community members

- Access to healthcare and preventative health programs across the city
- Integration of mental health supports into community services
- Increased lifelong participation in active living, sports and recreation

Burlington is advancing toward neighbourhoods that are inclusive, connected and designed to support the well-being of all community members.

Neighbourhoods will foster strong social connections, provide safe and accessible spaces and support healthy, active lifestyles at every stage of life.

Equity, inclusion and thoughtful planning will guide this work, ensuring all community members feel a sense of belonging and can fully participate in community life.

These are the objectives and intended outcomes guiding this work.

“[Spencer Smith Park was] just thronging with people of all descriptions, young, old, different racial and language, cultural groups and so on. And so that's the kind of thing that would be really nice to maintain in the city for the future. Debbie K. Longtime resident and supporter of an accessible downtown



Preserve the ENVIRONMENT and promote the natural legacy

3

STRATEGIC DIRECTION



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

- Municipal buildings, facilities and services operate with net-zero emissions
- Municipal operations, electricity and heating are sourced entirely from renewable energy
- Municipal fleet transitions to zero-emission vehicles
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across residential, commercial and industrial sectors
- Achieve zero-waste in City operations and promote circular economy practices
- Engage and include community members in climate response
- Reporting frameworks track progress and ensure accountability



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

- All residents live within a short walk of high-quality, inclusive green spaces
- Green spaces support recreation, health and cultural connection year-round
- Parks and trails are designed for exploration across diverse landscapes
- Outdoor learning and interpretive features are integrated into public spaces
- Year-round programming fosters environmental stewardship and intergenerational connection



Preserve natural areas to maintain biodiversity and ecological resilience

- Tree canopy coverage targets are achieved and sustained
- Urban forest health and lifespan are maximized
- Natural areas adapt to changing climate conditions
- Native species flourish, invasive species decline and ecosystems remain diverse
- Increased public participation in conservation and biodiversity monitoring



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

- Continuous, connected green corridors link parks, streetscapes and natural areas
- Green infrastructure manages stormwater, reduces heat islands and buffers extreme weather
- Integration of green infrastructure across new and existing developments



Enhance municipal resilience to climate-related risks

- Reduced service disruptions during extreme weather events through resilient infrastructure and response protocols
- Climate-risk assessments embedded in planning, asset management and emergency operations
- Community readiness supported through clear communication, accessible emergency supports and coordinated multi-partner efforts

Burlington is advancing toward a future where its natural environment is protected, enhanced and integrated into everyday life.

The City will lead in environmental stewardship and climate action to preserve natural assets, expand green spaces and build resilience to climate-related risks.

Sustainability and long-term responsibility will guide this work, ensuring Burlington's natural legacy is protected and accessible for future generations.

These are the objectives and intended outcomes guiding this work.

It matters very much to me that Burlington preserves its natural environment. As a lakeshore city, we need to be even more mindful than others about protecting our surroundings.

Vignesh D.
Local professional and advocate for green spaces



Enabled and purposeful GROWTH

4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION



Burlington is advancing toward growth that is intentional, balanced and aligned with the needs of its community.

Growth will support a strong local economy, diverse housing options and an integrated mobility network to ensure people can live, work and move easily within the city.

Purposeful planning will guide this work, protecting Burlington's character and natural environment while creating opportunities for long-term prosperity.

These are the objectives and intended outcomes guiding this work.

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

- 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 supporting infrastructure
- Integration of micro-mobility and on-demand transit options

Enhance connectivity and reduce car dependency through transit and active transportation

- North-south transit connections fully operational and integrated
- More trips taken using eco-friendly transportation such as cycling, walking or transit and less with private vehicles
- Safer streets that reduce fatalities and serious injuries

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

- Burlington is recognized for innovative and advanced industries
- Increased private and public investment in priority sectors
- Growth in tourism and the cultural economy contributing to local revenue
- Integrated support networks for local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Diverse job opportunities across sectors supporting local talent
- Increased proportion of residents living and working in Burlington
- Sustained partnerships with educational institutions to support workforce development and talent pathways
- Reduced office vacancy with increased use of employment spaces

Deliver purposeful housing development to support diverse and changing needs

- Balanced mix of housing types for all income levels and life stages
- Increased access to attainable and affordable housing options
- Walkable, integrated neighbourhoods with access to transit and amenities
- Housing growth aligned with sustainable land use and infrastructure capacity
- Rural landscapes and community identity preserved as growth is directed to established areas

Purposeful and thoughtful growth is to have a long-term plan, not just looking at five years, but looking at 10 to 25 years ahead. And making sure the intensification makes sense when evaluated against these plans.

Richard L.
Resident with interest in long-term city planning



Measuring SUCCESS

Horizon 2050's progress will be measured using indicators that align with its four Strategic Directions.

This will help the City track and monitor if we are reaching our goals:

- a community where nature is protected,
- growth is purposeful,
- neighbourhoods support well-being,
- quality services are available to all and
- everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

We will produce an Annual Report Card* to share Burlington's key community indicators and long-term outcomes. The report will help the community, Council and staff understand progress to date, emerging trends and help with future decisions.

The City's public performance dashboards and other reporting tools will also share progress and data.

**While the Report Card will be published annually, some indicators may be updated semi-annually or based on available data from City reporting and external data sources.*



Quality services for all people and communities

People can access reliable, inclusive and responsive City services that meet their needs as Burlington grows.

Key Measures

- Overall community satisfaction with City services [%]
- Customer satisfaction with their most recent City service interaction [%]
- Total participation in public engagement activities [#]
- Total number of City services available through digital channels [#]



Neighbourhoods that support well-being

People feel connected, safe and supported in neighbourhoods that promote belonging, well-being and quality of life.

Key Measures

- Burlington's overall quality of life rating [%]
- Community members' sense of belonging and community connection [%]
- Burlington's overall safety rating [%]
- Annual recreation program attendance, including arts, culture, programs and events [#]
- Proximity of parks within neighbourhoods [kms]



Preserve the environment and promote natural legacy

People respect and help protect a resilient natural environment. Burlington natural landmarks are preserved for current and future generations.

Key Measures

- Corporate greenhouse gas emissions [tonnes CO₂e]
- Tree canopy coverage [%]
- Parkland and natural area per 1,000 residents [hectares]
- Total kilometres of trails and pathways [kms]



Enabled and purposeful growth

People have access to housing choices, transportation options, economic opportunities and the infrastructure for a high quality of life.

Key Measures

- Housing units delivered [%]
- Distribution of new housing by type [%]
- Average residential property tax as a percentage of the average Burlington household income [%]
- Transportation mode share by travel type [%]
- Annual transit ridership [#]
- Local employment growth rate [%]



Putting the plan into ACTION

Horizon 2050 is the roadmap for Burlington's future. It is designed to let us be flexible to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Horizon 2050 will help us remain aligned and focused on long-term outcomes. But it's not a static plan. We must watch for and respond to shifts happening locally, plus economic and environmental factors. This will allow us to change plans to address any emerging priorities.

Horizon 2050 will be put into action through:

- The City's 5-year Corporate Strategy and Workplan
- Annual budgets and long-term financial planning
- The Official Plan and supporting master plans
- Department business planning
- Partnerships with community organizations, businesses and other levels of government

By working together, we can continue to build a Burlington that is vibrant, inclusive and sustainable for the future.

Learn more

Review the City of Burlington's vision and 25-year plan. Bookmark or subscribe to the page for progress and updates. Visit burlington.ca/horizon2050.





THANK YOU

Horizon 2050 is a vision for the future of Burlington's community. It was made possible through the ideas, experiences and hopes for our city's future shared by thousands of people like you: People who care about Burlington.

Thank you to each one of you who took the time to share your time, knowledge and point of view. Your participation helped shape our long-term vision that reflects the values, priorities and goals for our community.

The project team would like to acknowledge:

- The Burlington community
- Burlington City Council
- City of Burlington staff
- Halton Region
- Burlington Youth Student Council (BYSC)
- Burlington Hydro
- Leaders of The Indigenous Advisory Circle in Burlington
- Discover Burlington (Burlington Tourism and Economic Development Leadership)
- Community organizations, service partners, interest groups and advocates
- Deloitte Canada
- Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA)

Your voices have helped shape a shared vision that will guide Burlington toward a future where nature is protected, growth is purposeful, neighbourhoods support well-being, quality services are available to all and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

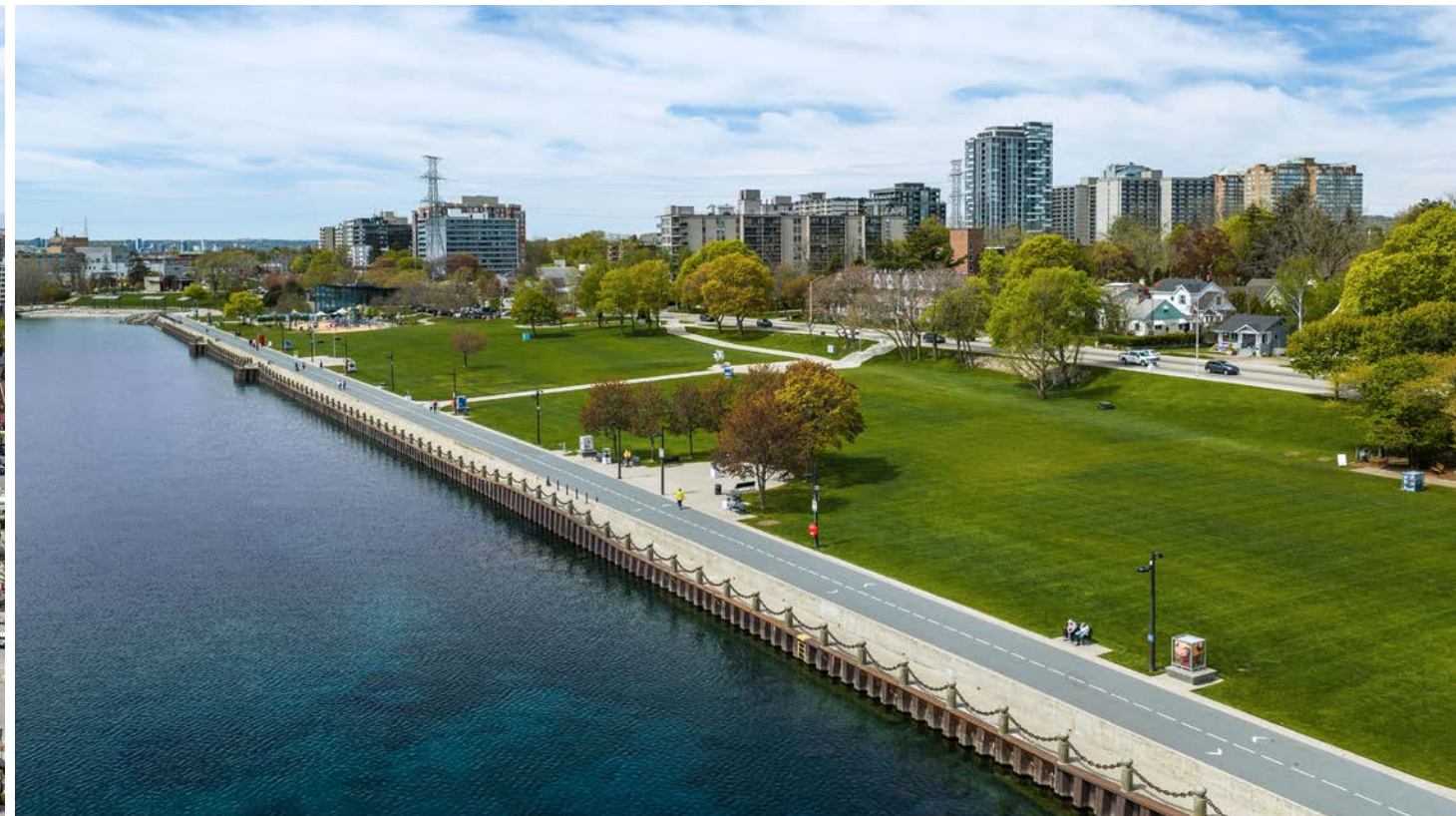
Thank you for embodying our mission and collaborating on Horizon 2050: The City of Burlington's vision and 25-year strategic plan.

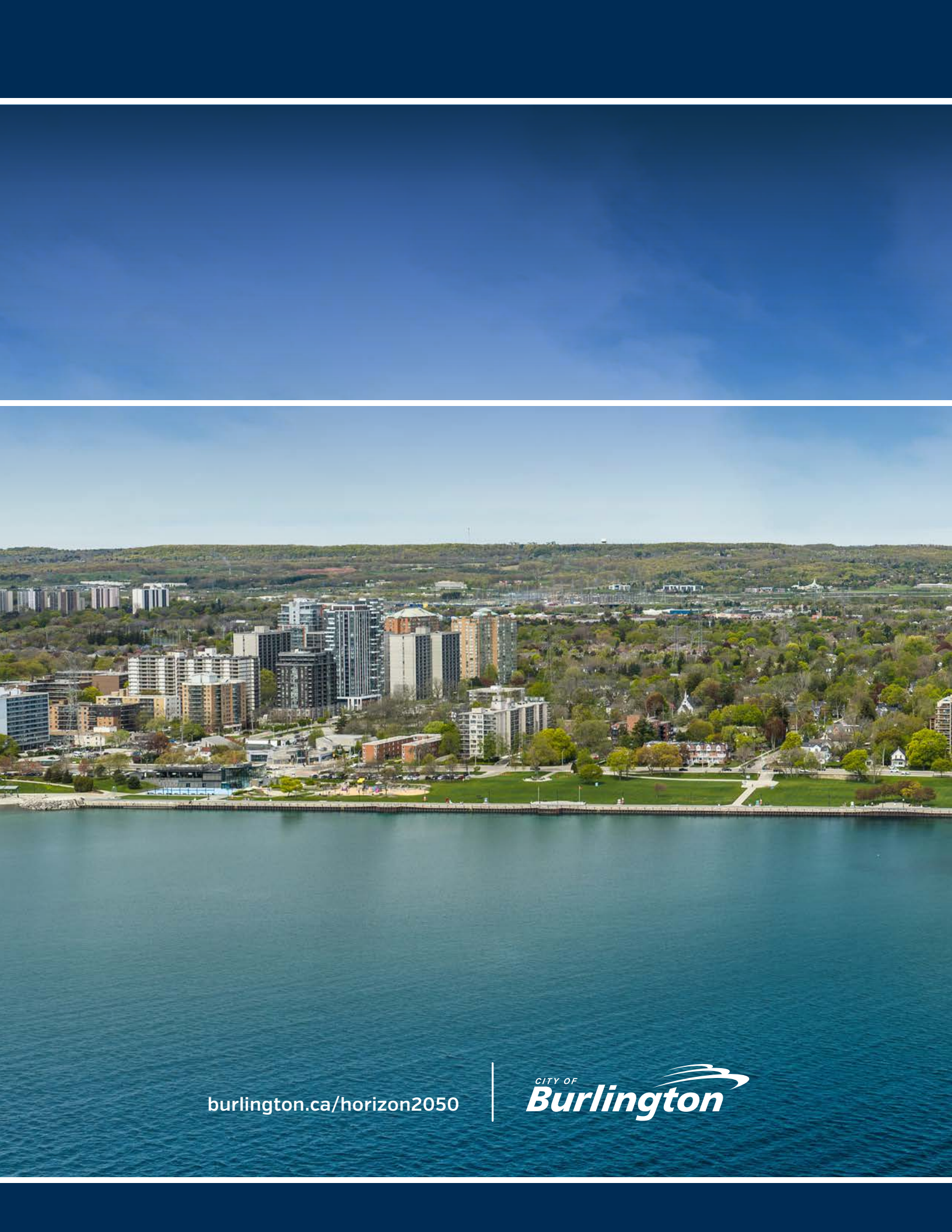
Data REFERENCES

Sources consulted as of July 10, 2026:

All statistics were verified against the cited sources at the time of publication; data may change over time and cannot be guaranteed to remain accurate.

- investburlington.ca
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burlington.ca/horizon2050

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