

2

Acknowledgement of the Town's commitment to environmental sustainability, having joined the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 's Partners for Climate Protection Network in the development of a climate action plan.

3

We are reinforcing the Town's commitment to growing our urban tree canopy, aiming to surpass the 30% coverage target set in the Smiths Falls Tree Canopy Preservation and Vegetation Enhancement Policy. Expanding tree cover will help create greener, healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Policies on Community Spaces are designed to foster community pride, well-being and a deeper connection among residents through strategic placemaking opportunities.

These policies offer opportunities to influence the streetscape & surrounding neighbourhoods through public art installations, natural areas, land use compatibility, wayfinding signage, & connectivity.

1

We will update policies that guide how new development contributes to parkland, ensuring our growing community has quality parks and green spaces. Parkland dedication is a vital part of land use planning, helping balance growth with vibrant, sustainable neighborhoods

2

Encouraging adaptive reuse of historically significant buildings and preserving cultural heritage resources improves community spaces that celebrates our culture, history and sense of place.

3

We're improving access to parks and community amenities by ensuring that large development projects include quality green and gathering spaces. With more flexible development permissions, these spaces can be designed to fit seamlessly into mixed-use neighbourhoods, creating vibrant places for everyone.



UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE!

This is your community, and your voice matters!
Review the draft Official Plan and tell us what you think. Did we get it right?

Share your feedback at opupdates@smithsfalls.ca or join us at our upcoming open house at Town Hall in Council Chambers, **September 10, 2025**, to help shape the future of Smiths Falls.

Let us know what you think!

Visit smithsfalls.ca/opupdates to find out more information about the New Official Plan and ways you can get involved. You can also connect with us at: opupdate@smithfalls.ca

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Town of Smiths Falls New Official Plan

Discover how we're building a more vibrant, connected, and sustainable Smiths Falls!



SMITHS FALLS





NEW OFFICIAL PLAN!

Smiths Falls is currently developing a new Official Plan to guide the community's growth and development over the coming decades. The Smiths Falls 2050 Official Plan builds on the Town's planning history and core community values while introducing bold new directions.

The Official Plan is guided by strategic directions centred on five key themes: **housing, transportation, downtown revitalization, sustainability, and community spaces**. These directions, developed through extensive staff collaboration and public engagement, have shaped the formulation of the Official Plan.

The Official Plan is updated every five years to keep it aligned with provincial policies and, most importantly, with the evolving needs and priorities of our community. This brochure outlines some of the significant changes in the new Official Plan.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Downtown revitalization is at the heart of Smiths Falls' future. Updated policies in the new Plan on downtown revitalization aim to create a vibrant, welcoming place firmly rooted in culture and heritage that supports local businesses, attracts investment, and brings the community together.

1

The Canal District Master Plan will reconnect Smiths Falls' downtown with the Rideau Canal waterfront by creating a vibrant, accessible neighborhood with parks, trails, cultural spaces, and community gathering places that attract visitors and support local growth.

2

The Downtown Fringe designation has been defined in the new Plan to further support the Downtown Core. The Downtown Fringe encourages a greater mix of commercial and residential uses, including higher-density housing such as multi-unit apartments. Retail and tourism will continue to be concentrated along the main streets in the Downtown Core.

HOUSING

To provide better housing and support the anticipated population growth in Smiths Falls, the new Official Plan includes new and improved housing policies with a specific focus on affordable housing, a broader range of housing types, and more flexible development permissions that are compatible in mixed-use neighborhoods

1

Population growth targets have been updated in the Official Plan based on the Land Needs Study (2023) to ensure Smiths Falls can accommodate future growth sustainably.

2

To support our community's housing and growth goals, several areas in Town have been redesignated for residential use. This includes creating new housing areas, such as along Mazie Street, and allowing more residential options in mixed-use neighbourhoods like the Downtown Fringe and portions of Lombard Street.

3

The new Plan provides flexible development permissions to encourage compatible, gentle growth within our neighborhoods. Developers will be able to create more diverse housing options, from 'starter homes' to affordable units, ensuring that housing meets the needs of people at all stages of life

TRANSPORTATION

The new Plan in conjunction with the New Transportation Master Plan emphasizes active transportation as a core component of creating a balanced, sustainable transportation system that prioritizes walking, cycling, and trail use alongside vehicular movement.

1

In a joint venture with Lanark County, the Town is currently exploring the potential for new transit services in the region through a Rural Transit Feasibility Study.

2

Our street designs are guided by a Complete Communities approach — with sidewalks, bike lanes, and trees that create safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces for everyone.

3

We're expanding the Town's pedestrian and cycling network to improve connectivity and make it easier to get around. This includes new capital projects, upgrades to existing streets, and retrofits to fill in missing links so that sidewalks, trails, and bike routes connect seamlessly

SUSTAINABILITY

The updated sustainability policies in the new Plan enable the Town to mitigate the impacts of climate change, making the Town more resilient to extreme weather events by promoting practices that reduce its ecological footprint and supporting renewable energy sources.

1

We encourage stormwater management practices that help rainwater soak back into the ground. This includes using green infrastructure, such as bioretention gardens or landscaped stormwater features, where possible in new developments, to reduce runoff and support a healthier environment.