

COMMUNITY SPACES

Creating places that bring people together

The new Official Plan supports high-quality parks, public spaces, cultural heritage assets, and gathering places that help build a strong sense of community and belonging. The Plan supports community spaces that enhance quality of life for residents of all ages.

- **Investing in parks and recreation:** Updated policies help ensure that growth is supported by parks, recreational facilities, green spaces, and an interconnected park system that is accessible to residents across town.
- **Celebrating local identity:** The Plan places greater emphasis on preserving cultural heritage, supporting placemaking, protecting the urban tree canopy, and creating attractive public spaces that reflect the character of Smiths Falls.



TOGETHER WE CAN RISE AT THE FALLS

The new Official Plan builds on community feedback and provides clearer direction to help Smiths Falls grow in a way that benefits residents, businesses, families, and future generations.

By strengthening policies for housing, transportation, downtown revitalization, sustainability, and community spaces, we are creating a stronger foundation for the future while preserving the qualities that make Smiths Falls unique.

Upcoming Public Meeting

August 25th at 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Council Chambers, Town Hall

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SMITHS FALLS NEW OFFICIAL PLAN

Building Our Community Together



The new Official Plan strengthens our shared vision for a more vibrant, connected, and sustainable community



SMITHS FALLS
RISE AT THE FALLS

SHAPING TOMORROW'S SMITHS FALLS

The new Official Plan is Smiths Falls' roadmap for the future. It guides where housing, businesses, parks, transportation, and community services will be located as the town grows over the next 25 years.

Reflecting the voices of the community, this plan establishes a shared direction for future growth and development in Smiths Falls.

HOUSING

More homes. More choices. More opportunities.

The new Official Plan supports a wider range of housing options, helping ensure that people of all ages, incomes, and life stages can find a home in Smiths Falls while accommodating future growth sustainably.

- **More housing choices in more locations:** New housing opportunities in the Downtown Fringe, Lombard Street, and Mazie/Cornelia areas will support more housing choices for families, seniors, workers, and future residents.
- **Support for affordability and gentle growth:** Updated housing policies encourage a mix of housing forms—including affordable housing, additional residential units, housing for seniors, and compatible infill development—making it easier to add homes while maintaining neighbourhood character.

TRANSPORTATION

Connecting people, neighbourhoods, and destinations

The new Official Plan supports a more connected community by making it easier and safer for people to move around whether they walk, cycle, drive, or use future transit services.

- **Stronger active transportation network:** The Plan expands support for sidewalks, cycling infrastructure, trails that connect neighbourhoods with schools, parks, downtown, and community services.
- **Planning for future transit options:** The Plan recognizes ongoing work with Lanark County to explore regional transit opportunities, helping improve mobility for residents as the community grows.

SUSTAINABILITY

Growing responsibly for future generations

The new Official Plan promotes responsible growth by protecting natural resources, supporting climate action, and helping Smiths Falls become more resilient to future environmental challenges.

- **Supporting climate action:** The Plan formally links land use planning to the Town's Climate Action Plan and participation in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Partners for Climate Protection program.
- **Greener development practices:** Enhanced policies encourage greener development practices, better stormwater management, tree planting, water conservation, and renewable energy initiatives.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

A thriving downtown at the heart of our community

The new Official Plan strengthens downtown as the cultural, economic, and social heart of Smiths Falls by encouraging investment, housing, and vibrant public spaces.

- **More people living downtown:** The Plan supports additional residential development and mixed-use buildings in the Downtown Core and Downtown Fringe, bringing more residents within walking distance of shops, services, and community amenities.
- **Stronger Canal District vision:** New policies reinforce long-term plans to reconnect downtown with the Rideau Canal through new public spaces, trails, housing, and tourism opportunities.

