

Plan the Bruce: Communities

Presentation to Council

March 18, 2021

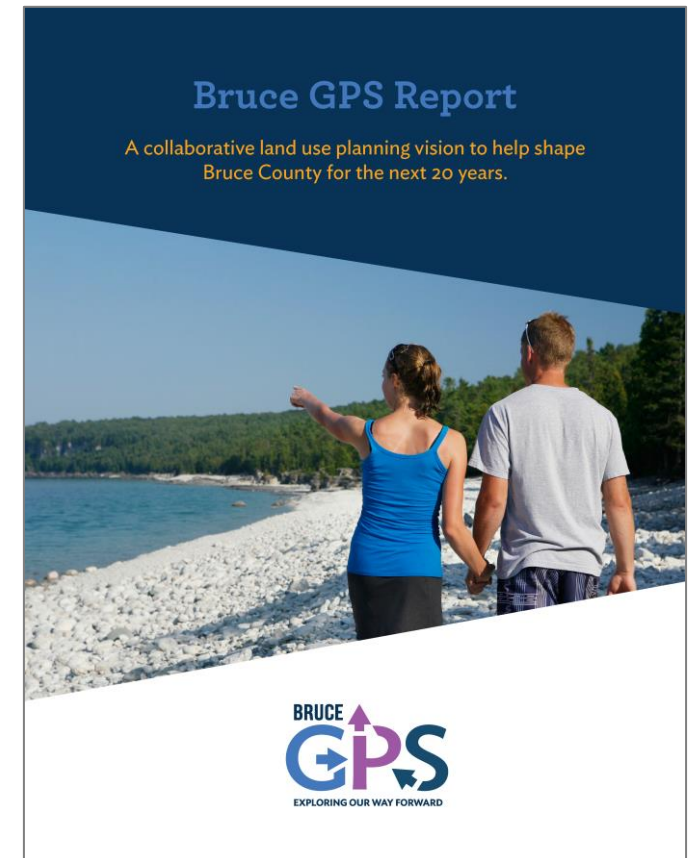
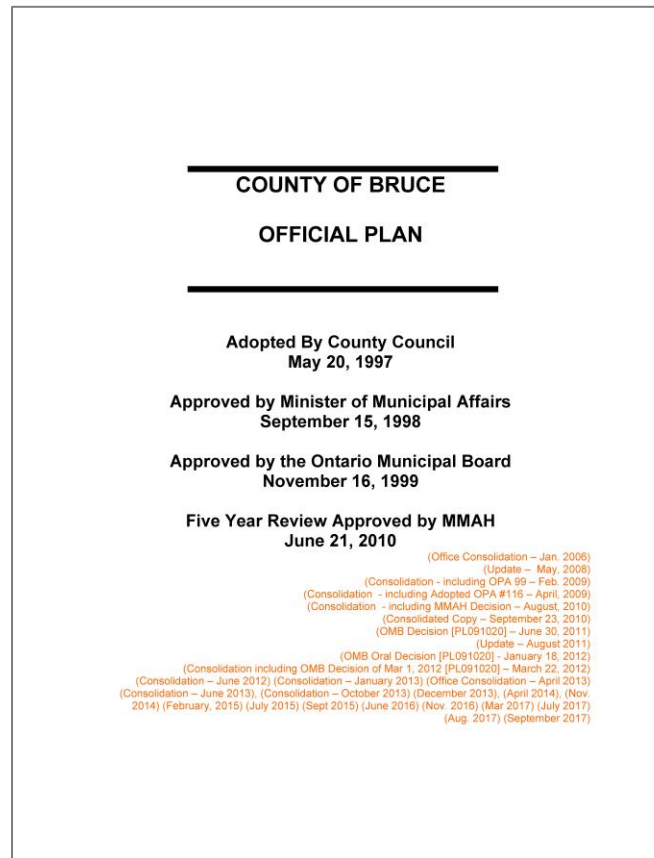
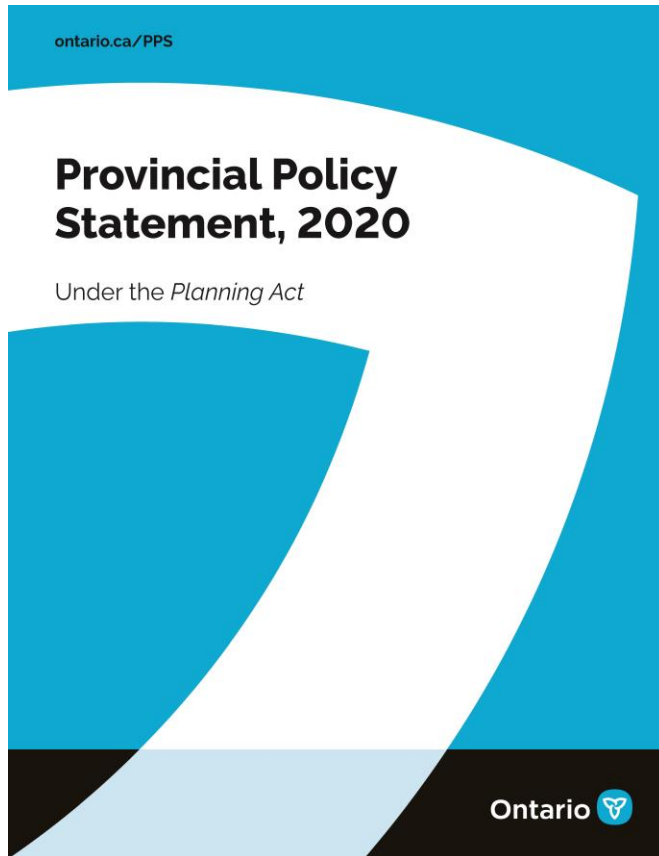


Purpose

- The Planning Partnership was retained to collaborate with Bruce County to prepare the **Communities Interim Report**.
- The purpose of the Report is to provide recommendations for enabling healthy community development policies in the Official Plan Update.
- The report is in response to the findings of the Bruce GPS initiative and **Guiding Principle #6 – to create well-being through access to complete and healthy communities.**



Planning Context



What is a Healthy Community?

Healthy communities are a priority for Bruce County. As identified through the Bruce GPS initiative, and articulated by residents, a **healthy community** is summarized as follows:

Healthy and sustainable communities consider and build access to services and resources and they also build opportunities for activity and provide access to healthy food while fostering a sense of belonging, trust, and inclusiveness in the community.

Planning compact communities with places to walk and spaces for people to engage with one-another, we can support vibrant, inclusive downtowns, and an inclusive culture, healthy community, and social well-being.



Factors that Influence Healthy Communities



Built Environment



**Sustainability +
Climate Change**



**Natural Environment
+ Open Space**



Economic Resilience

Key Topics + Trends Affecting Bruce County

- Public health and chronic disease
- Aging population
- Varying contexts - broad range of towns, villages, and rural townships
- Need for a full range of housing types and tenures
- Mobility options
- Access to services and amenities - recreation, health care, long-term care, education, retail and commercial, etc., parks and open spaces
- Access to healthy food
- Climate change

Recommended Directions

Public health and land use planning are intrinsically linked. Applying a healthy community focus to the Official Plan Update encompasses several factors that work together to improve public health with the overall intent to promote complete communities, support social well-being, active residents, and a viable and beautiful place to live, work, learn, and play.

The recommendations are organized under:

- **A Healthy Community;**
- **A Complete Community;**
- **A Viable Community;**
- **A Beautiful and High Quality Community;**
- **A Sustainable Community; and,**
- **A Resilient Community.**

Recommended Directions - A Healthy Community

- Support an **active transportation system** that is highly integrated and connected within the community, the County, and broader region.
- Design the community around **pedestrian activity** with destinations including parks, cultural and community facilities, shopping, and restaurants within walking distance.
- Plan for "**age-in-place**" facilities that anticipate changing housing needs for an aging population.
- Support opportunities for a **sustainable local food system**.
- Strengthen the **role of public health** in collaborating with municipalities to promote the development of healthy communities.
- Support **accessibility for persons with disabilities** in all land-use planning and development decisions.
- Promote building and site design through **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design** (CPTED) principles.

Recommended Directions - A Complete Community

- Recognize the importance of providing the opportunity for residents to remain in the community for their **entire lifecycle** by accommodating a range and mix of housing types.
- Recognize the **importance of social interaction** and where services can be provided within easy walking and cycling distances to meet the needs of people of all ages, backgrounds, and capabilities.
- Ensure easy access for all residents **to a wide range of uses** including retail, parks and open spaces, employment opportunities, educational and cultural opportunities, mobility options, and diversity of housing types.
- Support **higher density built forms** and higher intensity land uses as a way of reducing land consumption and maximizing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of municipal service infrastructure.

Recommended Directions - **A Beautiful Community**

- Develop a **high quality community** that encourages and supports active living, social engagement, civic pride, and the creation of a sense of place and well-being.
- Include **landmarks and gateways** that clearly identify where you are, and when you have entered.
- Build **beautiful streets** and streetscapes that accommodate all modes of transportation and are designed to be pedestrian friendly and safe.
- Ensure that **parks and open spaces**, as well as Bruce County's natural features, are beautiful, accessible, and linked.
- Require **high quality architecture** through a diversity of scale and style.

Recommended Directions - **A Viable Community**

- Continue to attract long-term economic development opportunities by protecting for and establishing opportunities for businesses and commercial activities.
- Continue the County's leadership role in attracting new economic drivers by **adapting to trend changes**, while still providing a full range of population-related employment options.
- Ensure that new development supports a full range of economical, safe, and accessible **mobility options**, including transit, when it becomes available.
- Ensure that development is **sustainable and financially viable** over its life cycle.

Recommended Directions - **A Sustainable Community**

- **Protect and enhance** local and regional ecosystems and biological diversity.
- Promote the **responsible use of resources** to ensure long-term sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce demands for energy, water, and waste systems.
- Demonstrate leadership in sustainable forms of **green building design and technology**, including the incorporation of renewable and alternative energy sources.
- Protect the **urban forest and the tree canopy** and identify objectives for how it can be enhanced and expanded.
- Support opportunities for **best management practices** for stormwater to protect against flooding and erosion while improving water quality.

Recommended Directions - A Resilient Community

- Explore opportunities in the Official Plan to support **Emergency Preparedness Planning** with respect to development, infrastructure, and systems to ensure access basic needs are designed in a way that mitigates the impacts of climate change and related extreme weather events, such as flooding, heat waves, severe winter storms, and supply chain disruption.

Next Steps

- This Interim Report is intended to provide a foundation for policy directions for **healthy communities and well-being**.
- Now that the stage is set, the County will lay out a road map for the community engagement process on the Recommended Directions.
- This process will culminate in a final Communities Discussion Paper to be integrated into the County's new Official Plan.

