

The following CityPlan Directions provide a checklist for Community Visions:

Strengthen Neighbourhood Centres

- Provide shops, jobs, and services close to home, and create safe, inviting public places to meet and socialize.

Improve Safety and Better Target Community Services

- Identify ways to increase safety; to better provide community services; and to use arts and cultural activities to support community identity and participation.

Reduce Reliance on the Car

- Make it easier to get around on foot, by bike, and by transit.

Improve the Environment

- Suggest ways to improve air quality, conserve water and energy, and reduce waste.

Increase the Variety and Affordability of Housing

- Find ways to help meet the housing needs of community residents of all ages and incomes.

Define Neighbourhood Character

- Define what aspects of neighbourhood character, heritage, and appearance to retain, and decide the character of new development.

Diversify Parks and Public Places

- Meet park needs, and identify a variety of designs, activities, and locations for all kinds of public places, from play areas to greenways and gathering places.

Involve People and Redirect Resources

- Find new ways to involve people and to redirect resources to bring CityPlan Directions and the Community Vision to life.

Vision Background

What is This Vision?

This Vision describes the kind of community that people who live and work in Renfrew-Collingwood want it to become over the next 10 to 20 years, and how CityPlan directions should be implemented in Renfrew-Collingwood. It identifies what people value and want to preserve, what improvements are needed, and how change should occur. It will be used at City Hall to help set priorities for capital projects, direct City programs and services, and make decisions affecting this community. It also provides an opportunity for community organizations and individuals to act on Directions that the community has endorsed.

How was this Vision Created?

The Vision Directions were developed by people who live and work in Renfrew-Collingwood. The program began in January 2002 with community outreach and a weekend Visions Fair in April 2002. The heart of the process was a series of intensive public workshops in spring and fall 2002 where over 650 people spent many hours developing ideas and options on a variety of topics. From these sessions, Vision Directions were created and published in the *Community Vision Choices Survey*, distributed to all households, businesses, and property owners in June 2003. In addition, a special random sample of households was given the same survey. Over 1800 people responded to the survey to create a shared Vision for the future. In February 2004 the Vision Directions that were supported by the survey were approved by City Council.

A Community Liaison Group, which was composed of a wide range of community volunteers, provided continuity throughout the process, served as a 'watchdog' of the process to ensure that community input was carried through, and advised staff on community outreach and other matters.



Making the Vision Happen

After the Vision is approved by Council, implementation begins. Both the City and the community are key players in making the Vision a reality.

For the City, the Vision Directions provide a policy framework for decisions on local issues such as development proposals, traffic management, and community services. The Visions also help direct programs such as public art, greenways, park stewardship, and crime prevention to where they are most needed. While some Directions are implemented relatively quickly, others require more detailed planning, for example, plans to make major roads safer and more attractive; designs for new types of housing; and improvements to local shopping areas. In order to identify and track short term and long term City actions, City staff develop a Vision Implementation Action Plan. The Action Plan describes how the Vision directions can be met using various City resources and programs such as capital funding, business improvement assistance, zoning, traffic calming, and neighbourhood centre planning programs. The Action Plan is reviewed with the community, reported to Council, and posted on the City's website where the public can monitor progress .

The Vision also provides the community with a framework for action and volunteer initiatives. City staff help set-up a community-based process to continue resident involvement and co-operation with the City. Most of the communities with approved Visions have formed implementation committees which meet monthly to share information with each other and City staff. Most committees have sub-committees working on specific issues and projects such as traffic calming, neighbourhood greenways, public art, park use conflicts, major development proposals, and community celebrations. An annual newsletter is delivered to all households and businesses which gives an update on implementation activities and invites the community to an annual meeting to review progress and identify priorities for the upcoming year.

An Overview of the Community Vision Program

The Vision is based on *CityPlan: Directions for Vancouver* which was adopted by City Council in 1995 as an overall vision for the city. In July 1996 City Council approved the Community Visions Program as a way of bringing CityPlan's city-wide directions to the community level and reaching all communities within several years. The program Terms of Reference describe the ground rules and process for creating a Community Vision. The program asks each community to implement CityPlan directions in a way and at a scale and pace that suits the community.

