

January 2025

CRANBROOK 2042

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN



MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY

CRANBROOK





Official Community Plan Overview

OVERVIEW

Mayor and Council adopted Cranbrook’s Official Community Plan (OCP) on January 27, 2025. The OCP is Cranbrook’s Path to 2042 – a community planning document that will guide strategic decision-making pertaining to all aspects of land use planning, growth, development, and community-building in the City. It is intended to be a reference document for all members of the Cranbrook community to clearly understand how Cranbrook will evolve over time.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PHASES

PHASE 1

Fall 2021



Engagement on community visioning

PHASE 2

Summer 2022



Engagement on potential land use concepts & policies



WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN?

An OCP provides direction and guidance on items relating to land use, transportation, housing, environment, infrastructure, parks, agriculture, economic development, and arts and culture, amongst other community-related items. These forward-thinking plans give shape and overall function to a municipality. They are influenced by other strategic plans, policies, and bylaws, and provide direction to both new and existing versions of these key documents.

While OCPs are written in the form of a plan, it is important to note that unlike master plans (e.g. Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Utilities Master Plan, etc.), OCPs are bylaws that are adopted by Council through the process of readings and facilitation of a public hearing to ensure that public input is considered before the plan comes into effect.

OUR PATH TO 2042

The City last underwent an OCP update process in 2005 and 2006, with the previous bylaw being adopted in August 2006. A lot has changed in Cranbrook since then, making it essential to engage with the community to understand their perspectives on the city, what they appreciate about it, and how they envision it in the future. As such, three key rounds of engagement were facilitated by the City from 2021 to 2023, with one final opportunity for the community to review and provide input on the OCP in late 2024 before being considered by Council for 1st reading.

PHASE 3

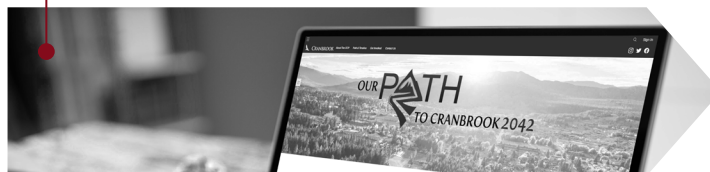
Winter 2023



Engagement on the draft Official Community Plan

PHASE 4

Fall 2024



Final public review of the Official Community Plan

Vision and Guiding Principles

A vision and set of guiding principles that aim to achieve the overarching vision statement were created in collaboration with the community and Council. The vision statement outlines at a high level what Cranbrook may look like in the year 2042.

COMMUNITY VISION

Refer to page 3 of the OCP

In 2042, Cranbrook is a thriving regional centre with a robust economy. It is known for its striking mountainous beauty, abundant access to outdoor recreation activities, small town feel, and strong sense of community. Cranbrook embodies a forward-thinking mindset to manage growth and development and ensure resiliency and adaptation for future change, while maintaining a deep connection with its rich heritage. It is an attractive and affordable place for all.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Refer to page 4 of the OCP



1 Beautify the community and cultivate vibrant neighbourhoods



2 Prioritize the revitalization of Downtown Cranbrook



3 Continue to build a strong relationship with the Ktunaxa peoples



4 Promote complete communities and sustainable infrastructure management practices



5 Enhance Cranbrook's status as the economic regional hub for the East Kootenays



6 Support the provisions of affordable and attainable housing options for all residents



7 Protect and restore the natural environment



8 Provide a range of transportation options to enhance mobility for all ages and abilities



9 Strengthen Cranbrook's network of parks, trails and open spaces



10 Take action on climate change adaptation and mitigation



11 Support partnerships to address inequities and social issues

New Features of the OCP

While the new OCP builds upon the OCP that was adopted in 2006, it also includes several new components to reflect Cranbrook's needs today and in the future.

1 SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Refer to page 37 of the OCP

The new social well-being policies focus on improving social supports and services to ensure Cranbrook is a livable, healthy community that prioritizes the well-being of all.

2 CLIMATE ACTION

Refer to page 42 of the OCP

The new climate action policies support climate action initiatives and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging energy efficient buildings, sustainable infrastructure and transportation options.

3 FOOD SECURITY

Refer to page 46 of the OCP

The OCP includes new policies to improve food security through supporting urban agriculture initiatives, such as community gardens and backyard hens, exploring partnership opportunities with community organizations, and more.

4 ACTION PLAN

Refer to page 111 of the OCP

The new OCP contains an Action Plan identifying key action items for implementation over the lifespan of the OCP based on the policy directions outlined in its contents.

5 HAZARDOUS AREAS

Refer to Schedule 5 of the OCP

The new OCP includes improved mapping of hazardous areas in Cranbrook, including those with flood risk, steep slopes, and high wildfire risk.

6 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Refer to Schedule 8 of the OCP

Key features of the Active Transportation Network Plan were integrated into the OCP to clearly identify existing and proposed routes to enhance multi-modal travel and overall connectivity.

7 PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY USES

Refer to Schedule 1 of the OCP

Parks and Recreation areas have been separated from Institutional uses through the creation of two distinct land use designations. This will allow for more opportunities to provide community uses such as libraries, community halls, playgrounds, sportsfields, and green spaces.

8 INFILL RESIDENTIAL LAND USE DESIGNATION

Refer to page 77 of the OCP

An Infill Residential Land Use Designation was created to address small-scale, multi-unit housing legislation, and to promote a variety of housing forms, particularly those defined as 'missing middle housing'.

9 UPDATED MAPPING OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Refer to Schedules 9, 10, and 11 of the OCP

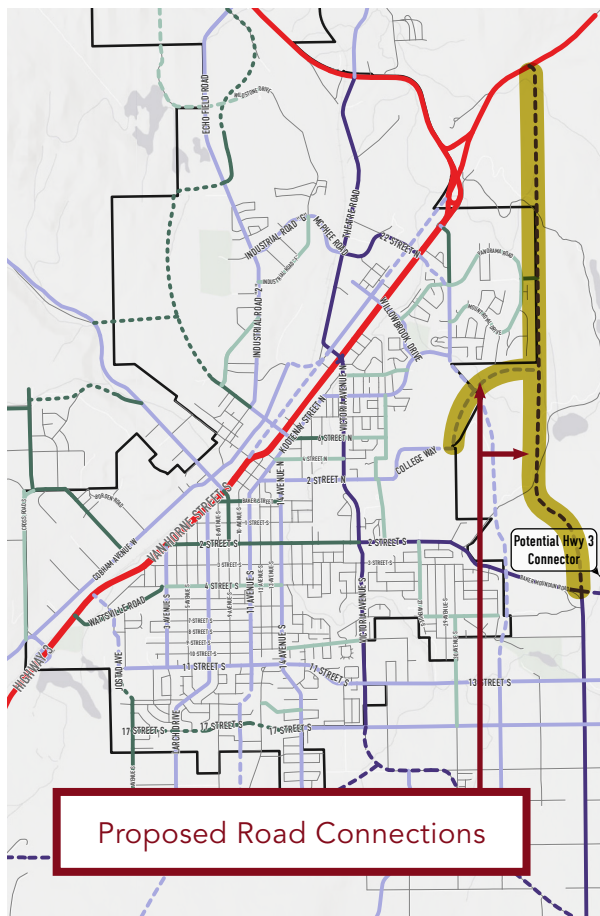
Mapping of infrastructure services (water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater) was updated to better reflect existing and future service locations and upgrades.

Road Network Amendments

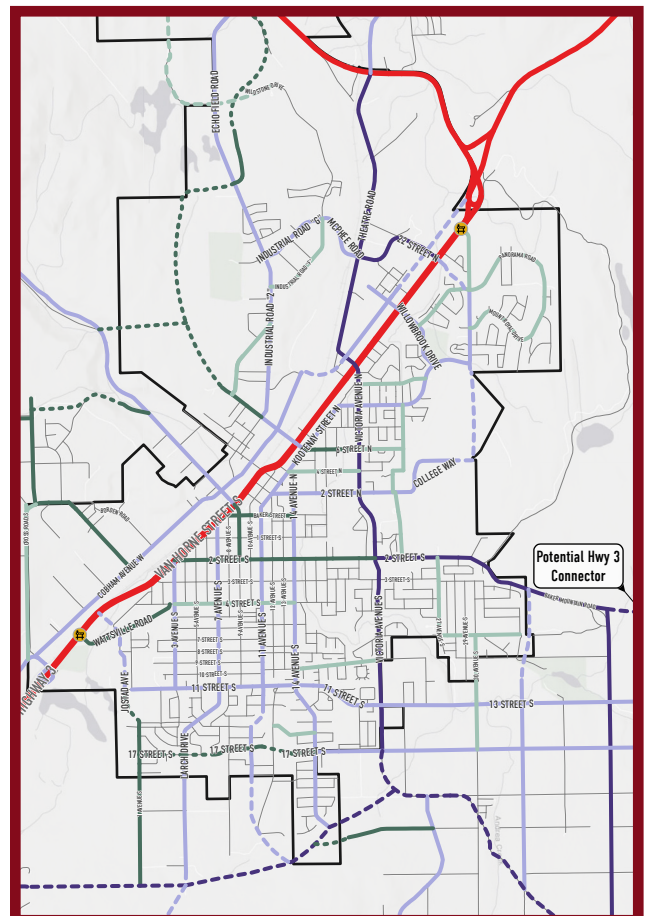
Refer to Schedule 7 of the OCP

Two road connections were proposed in the previous OCP for the eastern area of Cranbrook. These connections were carried forward into the first draft versions of this new OCP and presented to the community during phase 3 of engagement. The roads connection were removed from Schedule 7: Road Network Map, as shown below, to address concerns expressed from the community.

DRAFT OCP:
SCHEDULE 7 ROAD NETWORK



FINAL OCP:
SCHEDULE 7 ROAD NETWORK



Integration of Plans

The OCP integrates several plans that were created or updated since the adoption of the 2006 OCP. These plans include:

- Active Transportation Network Plan (2024)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2016)
- Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan (2019)
- Downtown Revitalization Master Plan (2023)
- Childcare Action Plan (2020)
- Economic Development Plan (2022)
- Tourism Master Plan (2023)
- Housing Needs Report Update (2023)
- Community Climate Action Plan (2022)
- Existing Neighbourhood Plans

Updated Development Permit Areas

Refer to page 125 of the OCP

Development permit areas (DPAs) are a tool employed by local governments to guide development in specified areas of the community to achieve a particular goal or set of goals. These goals are outlined in the form of guidelines that are often integrated into OCPs. Provincial legislation allows local governments to create DPA guidelines for a number of reasons, such as environmental protection, water conservation, hazard risk reduction, and form and character design, amongst others.

The City's DPA guidelines were updated in the new OCP to enhance clarity and ensure compliance with the Local Government Act and other legislation, where applicable. Updates to the DPAs include:

- Consolidation of the Aquifer and Geothermal DPAs into a single Aquifer DP
- Creation of a new Riparian and Foreshore DPA to include all watercourses, not only Joseph Creek (as per the previous OCP)
- Integration of design guidelines from the Downtown Revitalization into the Downtown Commercial DPA guidelines, where applicable
- Revised Wildfire DPA to include BC FireSmart principles



Land Use Map

