

SHAPING the FUTURE

BUILDING COMPLETE COMMUNITIES in YORK REGION

LIVE, WORK, PLAY in YORK REGION

York Region is expected to grow to approximately 1.8 million people and 900,000 jobs by 2041. Communities that provide the needs of the Region's diverse population, reduce commute times, maintain pedestrian safety, support health and protect the natural environment will be essential to plan for and accommodate this growth.

This is part of the reason why York Region is reviewing and updating its Regional Official Plan. We want you to understand the Region's plans to support growth now – and in the future. This plan is a roadmap that helps York Region bring its long-term vision to life.

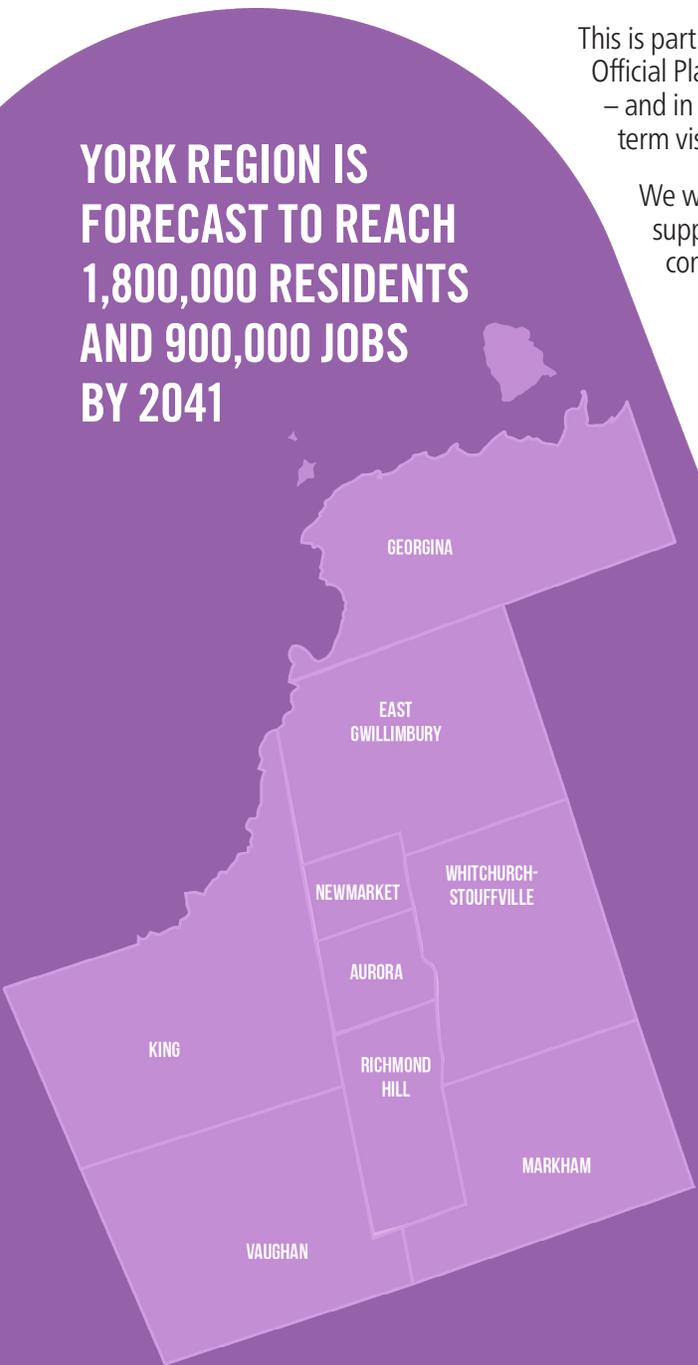
We want to share why planning and building Complete Communities will help support your health, the environment, sustain the feeling of safety in your community and provide more options to live, work and play in York Region.

**YORK REGION IS
FORECAST TO REACH
1,800,000 RESIDENTS
AND 900,000 JOBS
BY 2041**

COMPLETE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT GROWTH

Imagine a Region that provides a range of housing options at various price points, locally grown food, employment opportunities, clean water and air, local services, green spaces and great recreation, all accessible by walking, cycling and public transit.

This is York Region's vision of complete communities. The concept is fundamental to creating healthy, sustainable communities that meet the needs of our growing and diverse population.



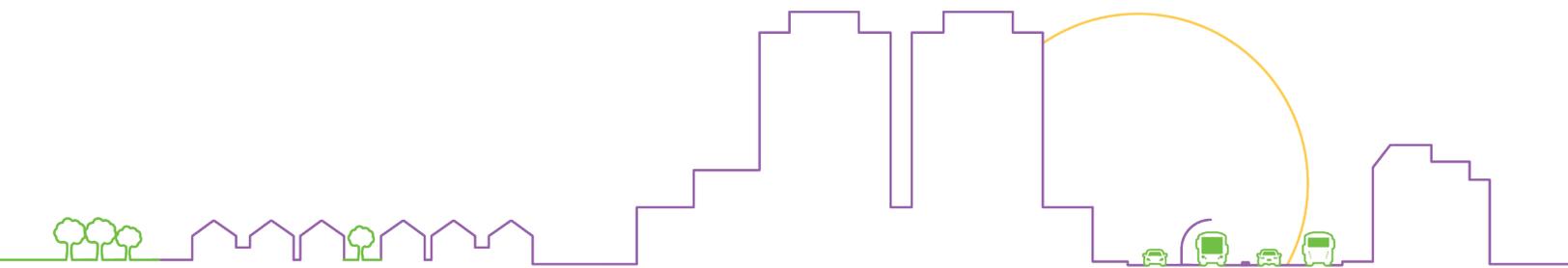


Complete communities allow people of all ages and abilities to thrive in an environment which includes buildings, roads, parks and trails, public transit and other infrastructure that positively impacts health and a high quality of life.

Whether they are urban or suburban, complete communities support people of all ages and abilities to live, work and play within our local communities.

COMPLETE COMMUNITIES:

1. Allow for easier access to every day destinations and services
2. Support the use of public transit, biking and walking which are environmentally sustainable, contributing to clean air and water
3. Reinforce initiatives that support public safety such as complete streets which are pedestrian-friendly with enhanced safety features and accessibility options for people of all ages and abilities
4. Neighbourhoods that have options for people at various stages of life to live through a range of housing types and affordability including accessible housing options
5. Promote job growth and business diversity for existing and new businesses within the community
6. Maximize opportunities for daily physical activity and support recreation and healthy living through interconnected streets and accessible green spaces for all ages
7. Foster a sense of community pride and promote community involvement such as volunteering
8. Create a distinct community character by preserving community heritage sites and respecting local culture
9. Promote sustainable growth by using existing infrastructure and redevelopment, including low impact development and green infrastructure features
10. Support equitable access to affordable and healthy food as well as protect farm lands to help secure local food production and supply





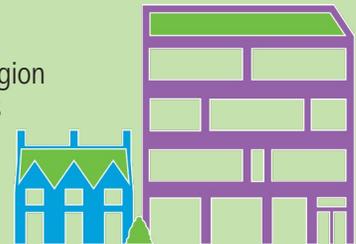
COMPLETE COMMUNITIES ARE FOR ALL AGES

York Region is growing; much of this growth will be concentrated around the Region's Centres and Corridors, which are new downtown areas identified as the primary place for urban growth in the Region. As York Region plans for anticipated growth, we must look at more sustainable ways to accommodate development to create complete, healthy, and thriving communities for the Region's residents and workers.

In complete communities housing is conveniently located close to transit, shops and services, and employment. Creating a diverse mix and range of housing, including affordable options, is a major contributor to the quality of life, well-being and community health.

A DIVERSE MIX and RANGE of HOUSING SUPPORTS:

- › Families of varying sizes and needs have access to housing and remain in the Region for all stages of life, contributing to social cohesion and positive health outcomes
- › Economic vitality by helping ensure there is a match between where workers live and where they can find employment, and supporting businesses
- › Options for people to live close to where they work which supports transit infrastructure and active transportation, thereby reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions.



Complete communities also have complete streets. Complete streets are for everyone, they allow pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and transit users to interact cohesively in a safe environment. They include features such as sidewalks, bike paths, cross-walks, clearly identified bus stops, street furniture, public art, lighting and curb ramps are examples of streetscaping features that enhance safety and accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.

York Region's population is aging, a trend that is observed provincially, nationally and globally. How a community is designed can affect individual physical and mental well-being, choices to live independently, access to services and facilities, and options for housing, mobility and employment regardless of age. Through sustainable planning, aging individuals are able to remain in their existing community close to family, existing social networks and familiar services and facilities.

Population trends indicate that by 2031, one in five York Region residents will be over the age of 65. To support seniors, universal design features that enable a senior to actively and safely age within their home are described in the technical report *York Region: Getting Better with Age* available at york.ca/seniorsstrategy

ONE in FIVE
YORK REGION RESIDENTS
WILL BE OVER the AGE of 65 by 2031

An icon representing five stylized human figures. Four are green and one is purple, holding a cane, symbolizing the statistic that one in five residents will be over 65 by 2031.

COMPLETE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT OUR HEALTH

In response to the strong linkages between planning, design and human health, York Region Public Health has developed a *Built Environment and Health Action Plan*. The Action Plan aims to employ community, transportation and land use planning policies and practices in order to advance the development of complete communities that support and enhance the health and well-being of York Region residents.

Creating walkable communities is important to human health. Maximizing opportunities to walk and bike to everyday destinations such as grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and schools increases physical activity and reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, various cancers and cardiovascular diseases. Increasing the number of trips taken through active transportation and transit reduces the number of car trips, reduces the risk of motor vehicle related injuries and lowers emissions, which contributes to cleaner air in our communities.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CITIES:

Our four Regional Centres in Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Vaughan are new downtown areas that have been identified as the primary place for urban growth in the Region. These Centres are hubs of economic and cultural activity that offer a high quality of life for residents and employees.

YORK REGION'S CITY BUILDING VISION

- › Planning for a variety of housing and building types like apartments and mid-rise mixed use buildings
- › Mixing land uses together (i.e. office, retail, and residential), instead of separating them
- › Providing travel alternatives to the automobile such as public transit, cycling, or walking
- › Creating inviting public spaces

COMPLETE COMMUNITIES PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL and AGRICULTURAL AREAS:

By reducing the need to rely on a car, activities like walking, cycling and public transit become more attractive options to get you to where you need to go. This approach reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change and help to improve air quality and human health. Creating complete communities also helps to protect our farmlands.

HAVE YOUR SAY

How will York Region achieve the ten components listed on the previous page of Complete Communities? Fill out our Complete Communities survey and let the Region know which components are most important to you right now and in the future. Visit york.ca/mcrgetinvolved to complete our community survey or follow us on social media with [#YRHaveYourSay](https://twitter.com/YRHaveYourSay)

For more information, visit york.ca/mcrgetinvolved or email futureyork@york.ca

DID YOU KNOW?



SINCE 2006
63%
of ALL NEW
MULTI-STORY
RESIDENTIAL
APARTMENT UNITS
HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN YORK REGION'S
CENTRES and CORRIDORS

128,500 JOBS



CURRENTLY EXIST in YORK REGION'S
CENTRES and CORRIDORS



York Region