

# Cambridge Official Plan Citizen's Guide

## What is an Official Plan?

The Official Plan is a legal document which sets out the City's general land use direction for long-term growth and development in a coordinated way to meet the community's needs. The Official Plan forms the basis of what the city will look like in the next 20 years.

The Cambridge Official Plan is made up of text and maps. The maps divide lands in the city into different land use designations. The text includes policies describing land use designations with a general list of permitted uses.

The Official Plan includes policies about:

- Where different uses will be located
- What services will be needed
- When, and in what order, parts of the city will grow
- Community improvement initiatives

An Official Plan must comply to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Official Plan as well as Provincial policy documents.

## Why does the City need an Official Plan?

An Official Plan provides a framework for future development and redevelopment within the City. The Official Plan includes policies about the construction of new services such as roads and sewers as well as protecting our natural and built environment.

The City uses an Official Plan to guide all planning decisions in the City.

## How does an Official Plan affect me?

The Official Plan affects all land within the City of Cambridge. It provides a vision of what the future can be like and generally deals with growth of the city showing where new homes, schools, businesses and parks should be located. Each property within the City is subject to a specific land use designation and policies which govern how that land can develop or redevelop.

## How do I apply to change an Official Plan?

Changes to an Official Plan are called Amendments and the procedure for an Amendment is a public process which is set out in the Ontario Planning Act. This is a public process which requires an Amendment application and fee submitted to the City.

## How do I access the Cambridge Official Plan?

The Cambridge Official Plan is available online at <http://www.cambridge.ca/en/learn-about/Official-Plan.aspx> or for purchase in hard copy through the City of Cambridge Policy Planning Division at the contact information below.

## How do I find more information?

For more information about Official Plans and how to make an Amendment to an Official Plan please refer to the Provincial guide:  
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page1759.aspx>

In addition, City of Cambridge staff is available to answer any Official Plan questions at the following contact information:

Telephone: (519) 740-4650 ext. 4575

Email: [planning@cambridge.ca](mailto:planning@cambridge.ca)

Address: City of Cambridge

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## How do I read the Cambridge Official Plan?

The Plan is organized into the following chapters based on the topic area:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and vision statement
- Chapter 2: Growth Management
- Chapter 3: Natural Heritage and Environmental Management
- Chapter 4: Cultural Heritage Resources
- Chapter 5: Urban Design
- Chapter 6: Transportation and Infrastructure
- Chapter 7: Parks and Open Space
- Chapter 8: Land Use Policies and Designations
- Chapter 9: Interpretation
- Chapter 10: Implementation
- Chapter 11: Amendment
- Chapter 12: Monitoring and Review
- Chapter 13: Glossary of Terms
- Chapter 14: Maps
- Chapter 15: Appendices
- Chapter 16: Figures

Schedules are provided at the end of the Plan for information and do not form a legal part of the Plan.

## Where do I find policies pertaining to the entire City of Cambridge?

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the Plan and an explanation of the role, structure, legal status of the Plan as well as the vision for the city. General policies pertaining to the entire city are provided in the objectives at the beginning of each section.

## Where do I find policies pertaining to a specific property?

To find specific property policies start by looking at the maps located at the back of the document in Chapter 14 and then reading the corresponding text as listed in the table of contents.

### Map 1A & 1B - Urban Structure and Countryside

All properties within the city will be included either within the Urban Area Boundary or outside the boundary in the Countryside and Rural areas. Based on the location of the property, refer to the following policies in Chapter 2 of the Plan. Map 1A also identifies some specific areas including the Urban Growth Centre, Nodes and Regeneration Areas. Specific policies pertaining to these areas are provided in Section 2.6 of the Plan.

### Map 2 - General Land Use Plan

All properties within the city will be included under a designation as shown on Map 2 of the Official Plan. Specific policies pertaining to the designations are provided in Chapter 8. This section includes policies which apply to all designations and policies pertaining to each individual designation.

### Map 2A - Site Specific Policies

Some properties in the city include a site specific policy reference which is different from the general designation of the property. If the subject property is identified on Map 2A policies pertaining to the land are provided in Section 8.10 and Figures outlining the area.

Maps 3 to 15 identify additional areas and features that may apply to a property. Refer to the legend on each map and the corresponding text as identified in the Table of Contents on page i) of the Plan.



# Official Plan

[www.cambridge.ca/officialplan](http://www.cambridge.ca/officialplan)