

**Chapter**

**3**

# **PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAN**

**MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON OFFICIAL PLAN**

# 3. PRINCIPLES OF THE PLAN

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## 3.1 VISIONS

The Plan seeks to achieve a vision for Clarington as:

- *a place where each community can build on its individual character but shares a common economic base and a distinct collective image*
- *a place for people to live, work and play in a safe, vibrant, healthy and prosperous environment*
- *a place where people, businesses and governments balance structured growth with the protection, management and enhancement of rural landscapes, cultural heritage, natural resources and the natural environment*

## 3.2 PRINCIPLES

This Plan has been prepared in recognition of three key principles which provide direction for the policies of this Plan: *sustainable development*, healthy communities and growth management.

### 3.2.1 Sustainable Development

The future *development* of Clarington will be pursued in a manner that ensures current needs can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This Plan seeks to implement the following directions:

- *Thinking Globally; Acting Locally*  
Global environmental concerns will be considered and acted upon in a local context.
- *Ecosystem Integrity*  
Planning and *development* will be undertaken in a context which recognizes the interaction of all parts of *ecosystems* and protects the integrity and vitality of natural systems and processes.
- *Cumulative Impacts*  
Future *development* will recognize *cumulative impacts* by not exceeding the carrying capacity of air, land and water to absorb the impact of human use.

- *Remediation and Regeneration*

Past environmental degradation will be remediated and natural systems regenerated.

- *Energy Conservation*

Future *development* will contribute to the reduction of per capita energy consumption.

- *Shared Land Stewardship*

The stewardship of land and resources will be a shared responsibility of governments, corporations and property owners.

### 3.2.2 Healthy Communities

A healthy community will nurture the collective health and well-being of residents to provide for a high quality of life. This Plan seeks to implement the following directions:

- *Personal Well-being*

Opportunities and services will be provided for employment, learning, culture, recreation and the emotional, physical and social well-being of residents.

- *Economic Vitality*

A competitive, adaptable economic *environment* will be promoted to encourage investment and diversity of employment opportunities.

- *Community Identity*

A sense of place and identity will be fostered to reinforce neighbourhood and community life and to contribute to civic identity and pride.

- *Public Involvement*

The participation of all residents will be encouraged in the process of decision-making and community-building which affect their lives.

- *Urban Design Excellence*

Excellence in urban design will be pursued to contribute to a sense of place, ensure physical safety, promote social interaction and enjoyment, provide human scale to the urban *environment* and promote the integration of land uses.

### 3.2.3 Growth Management

During the period of this Plan, Clarington will continue to experience growth pressures characteristic of the fringe communities of the Greater Toronto Area. Recognizing the importance of pursuing *sustainable development* and the collective health and well-being of Clarington residents, this Plan seeks to implement the following directions for managing growth:

- *Protected Natural Heritage*  
A *natural heritage system* and natural resource areas, including agricultural lands, will be protected.
- *Defined Firm Settlement Boundaries*  
Urban and hamlet growth will take place in the context of clear boundaries to prevent urban sprawl.
- *Compact Urban Form*  
Compact urban form will be achieved with an emphasis on infill and *redevelopment*, higher densities and a mix of uses.
- *Structural Growth*  
Growth will be directed to urban areas and will occur in proportion to the urban population targets with Bowmanville continuing to grow as the dominant urban centre.
- *Balanced Growth*  
Residential growth will complement employment growth.
- *Phased Development*  
Urban growth will be phased in order to encourage compact urban form.
- *Efficient Use of Infrastructure*  
Public *infrastructure* and services to accommodate growth will be extended in an orderly, cost-efficient manner.