

The Blue Mountains Future Story: Vision & Goals

Sustainability Advisory Committee Review
November 10, 2021

Key Elements of The Blue Mountains Future Story

The draft/emerging vision and goals for The Blue Mountains Future Story will set the long-term direction for the Town of The Blue Mountains. As we approach the conclusion of Phase 2 of the planning process, which is focused on developing and confirming the vision and goals, it is helpful to anticipate the intended structure of the final plan. This will help to contextualize the role that the vision and goals will play.

The graphic below illustrates the four key elements of the new community sustainability plan as well as noting during which phase of the process these will be developed.



Emerging Structure of The Blue Mountains Future Story

The intended structure of The Blue Mountains Future Story plan will include bold actions as a key foundation. This approach will allow users to understand the intended direction of activity towards the desired future for the community. The bold actions that will make their way into the plan will be the ones that contribute to multiple goals at the same time. This counteracts the potential for the inadvertent creation of silos, and instead organizes the plan by natural streams of activity towards a sustainable future.

Below is a conceptual diagram and an example of a structure for a bold action (section) of the plan. This structure will be confirmed through Phase 3 of the process, as the bold actions and key steps are developed between January and April 2022.



Bold Action Name	
Description of Bold Action:	
Timelines:	
Key steps for this Bold Action:	
Responsibilities:	
Measures of success:	

Draft Vision & Goals

Below are the draft vision and goals for The Blue Mountains Future Story. The vision and goals are descriptions of the ideal future state for the Town and community of The Blue Mountains. These descriptions are set in a 50 year time horizon, meaning that they would be the ideal state by 2072, if not sooner.

Vision

The Blue Mountains' communities are world renowned as stewards of a healthy environment and as champions of well-being, sociocultural diversity, innovation, and regeneration to become the best place to live, work, and play for future generations.

Goal: The Natural Environment

The Blue Mountains...

- Is carbon neutral, and continuously reducing its carbon footprint
- Is adaptive and resilient to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather
- Has a strong and well managed tree canopy
- Has a renowned network of parks and green spaces across settlement areas and within the Niagara Escarpment
- Is celebrated for the prevalence of regenerative land relationships in food production and other sectors
- Has pristine water in Georgian Bay and throughout the connected watersheds
- Is celebrated for its healthy biodiversity as a key feature of the community
- Is renowned for its pristine air
- Is accessible and respected by residents, businesses, and visitors alike
- Has healthy soils, wildlife, and vegetation within all of its watersheds

Goal: The Built Environment

The Blue Mountains...

- Ensures all development is built with the environment, social well-being and climate change as first priorities
- Prioritizes sustainable and renewable sources as the primary form of energy in the community, to reduce GHG emissions
- Features a mix of commercial, residential and recreational land uses that facilitate community connections and increase active mobility
- Ensures transit, cycling, walking and other options for low-carbon transportation are diverse, accessible and balanced, providing options to move throughout urban and rural communities
- Is resilient through investments in sustainable grey and green infrastructure for use in our buildings and throughout the community

- Prioritizes useful and well managed public spaces along the Bay and within each unique community
- Ensures buildings are accessible to all members of the Town’s diverse community
- Collaboratively supports a circular economy that aims to eliminate waste, circulate resources and restore nature
- Prioritizes having a diverse mix and range of attainability of housing that is required to support workers and residents from all walks of life, as well as a diverse visitor base

Goal: Economy

The Blue Mountains...

- Is led by innovators committed to the natural, economic and social prosperity of future generations
- Has a diverse and stable workforce, with the community and corporation providing career opportunities from entry-level to leadership positions
- Builds on the historic strengths of agriculture and tourism, practicing regenerative and restorative methods, and supporting ventures into new and diverse sectors
- Encourages diverse opportunities for workers in the community to live, play and meet their needs locally
- Is attractive and competitive to new and existing investment opportunities, workers, and industries
- Is supported by community-based career training and educational opportunities across the region
- Is where local businesses thrive through the enthusiastic support of residents and visitors alike

Goal: Community and Culture

The Blue Mountains...

- Respects and welcomes diverse communities, old and new, as part of an inclusive and evolving community that respects its history and is excited about its future
- Has a vibrant, supportive and connected arts community that is integrated into the life of the broader community
- Brings people together through the celebration of our unique communities and by honouring our shared sense of place in the South Georgian Bay Region
- Is renowned as a home and outlet for all manner of creative expression such as public art, musical and dramatic performances, and visual design

Goal: Social Well-Being

The Blue Mountains...

- Supports the unique needs of different genders, races, classes, abilities, and life stages
- Balances the needs of current and future residents, while being respectful of our history

- Includes diverse opportunities for youth to connect to the broader community and engage in civic life
- Provides the aging community with a variety of pathways to safely age in place
- Supports local partnerships to ensure all households are food secure
- Is supported by systems to reliably connect our communities
- Connects residents of all backgrounds through a sense of community support, where diverse values are welcomed, respected and celebrated
- Provides a range of supports for lifelong learning, health and well-being for the community

Goal: Governance

The Blue Mountains...

- Has strong and adaptive leadership that makes decisions based on the overall community needs, sustainability of resources and long-term prosperity
- Honours the knowledge, experiences and contributions of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat/Wyandot/Wyandotte peoples—the traditional stewards of the land—and creates a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the Saugeen First Nation and Indigenous peoples who reside within the Town and in our region
- Promotes partnerships, shared responsibility, and action between the Town, businesses and community organizations
- Takes a regional approach to governance and service provision by collaborating with Grey and Simcoe Counties, neighbouring communities and the broader region
- Is informed by meaningful engagement and public involvement so all community members feel empowered to participate
- Supports a diversity of community volunteer and philanthropy opportunities
- Advocates for sustainable community outcomes by collaborating with the provincial and federal governments
- Is backed by a strong system of policies, programs and services that continually strive for sustainable community outcomes