



# OKOTOKS COMMUNITY VISIONING 2014

**SHARE YOUR IDEAS.  
SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY.**  
SHARE TO SHAPE 2014.

## THEMES

Fourteen major themes that imagine what Okotoks could become in the future have been identified and refined during the OCV process.

### SOCIAL CAPITAL (PEOPLE)

- People are the most highly valued community asset
- Sense of knowing others, sense of community, friendliness, and coming together at community events are the foundation of the “small town feel”
- Okotoks needs more places for people to gather (plazas, markets, creative centres)
- “We give each other that Okotokian acknowledgement of smiling, waving ‘thanks’ for stopping to let us cross the roads or allowing each other into lanes on busy roads”
- “I run into people I know about Town”

### PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- The river valley landscape and mountain views are key natural features to celebrate and protect
- The sense of being close to nature contributes to the “small town feel”
- Pathways and trails connect people to the natural environment, and link-up neighbourhoods
- Preserve and expand the pathways and open space system as the community grows to nurture this asset

### DOWNTOWN

- Downtown should be a more active, vibrant place where there are things to see and do throughout the day and into the evening
- As a central gathering place, downtown requires attention, investment and some re-thinking
- Design, programming and services should reflect the people who make Okotoks great
- Need to address design and mix of commercial / restaurant uses

### NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Neighbourhoods are focal points of community activity
- Design is inclusive, environmentally responsible, compact and complete
- Spaces such as parks, community centres and small-scale commercial services create places for people to gather and socialize

### MOBILITY

- Transit (local and regional) is a defining feature of Okotoks in the future
- People choose active transportation options such as walking, biking or other people-powered modes over personal vehicle use
- Streets are safe, with high-quality infrastructure for all transportation modes

### CULTURE

- Okotoks is a cultural village where residents have access to a range of cultural opportunities
- Heritage, cultural and creative resources contribute to a thriving economy and residents' quality of life
- Cultural resources should be valued through community investment and support

### RECREATION

- Recreation facilities (eg. swimming pool, ice space, outdoor space) meet the needs of a healthy, active and engaged population
- Indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities are equitable, accessible and affordable
- Recreation contributes to a healthy lifestyle

### DESIGN / BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- The built environment is beautiful, reflects pride in the natural landscape, is well-connected, and supports the creation of an active and healthy lifestyle
- Housing is affordable, flexible and more diverse, and meets the needs of all residents young and old
- Develop a distinctive style beyond the “suburban” aesthetic

### ENVIRONMENT

- The Town is a leader in the provision of environmentally responsible services (recycling, composting, waste management)
- Focus on renewable energy and eco-innovation (solar power, district heating)
- Reduce waste, reduce energy use, preserve the river valley
- Create affordable environmental solutions

### GOVERNANCE

- Continue to invest in community events, high-quality provision of services, emphasis on relationships with people
- Model a “culture of yes” to promote innovation
- Regional focus to promote collaboration and cooperation
- Balance provision of services with affordability

### ECONOMY

- Locally-based
- Attract a range of professional and “living wage” jobs to improve affordability and reduce number of people who need to commute
- Market attractiveness of living in a complete community to attract small and medium-sized businesses
- Tourism is a component of economic development

### EDUCATION

- School spaces keep pace with population growth
- High-quality opportunities for continuing education, including a potential post-secondary campus
- Schools are multi-purpose community hubs

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Promote a healthy and active lifestyle through recreation opportunities, cultural outlets and resident participation
- Facilities and services are inclusive, and help people stay healthy through every stage of their life
- Embrace an outlook that allows people to thrive in Okotoks throughout their entire lives

### COMMERCIAL / RETAIL SERVICES

- A full range of commercial and entertainment services reduces commuting to Calgary, and helps “complete” the community
- Ensure that shopping and restaurants are balanced north and south of the river
- Neighbourhood-level services animate community nodes that can be easily accessed by walking, cycling or other active modes

## VALUES

Six core community values were distilled from the fourteen major themes. Values are the building blocks for the vision and principles, and are a collective expression of what is most important to the Town.

### CARING

- People are friendly
- People look out for one another
- People take pride in their Town
- People thrive

### COMPLETE

- A range of housing, jobs, educational opportunities, services, recreation and culture are provided in the community
- The needs of all residents, regardless of income or age, are equitably met

### CONNECTED

- People can easily access community services
- Mobility emphasizes walking, cycling and transit use
- Integrated design links the built, social and natural environments

### ACTIVE, INCLUSIVE + DIVERSE

- Healthy, balanced lifestyle for all
- Strong participation in civic culture / community events
- Accessible heritage, cultural, creative, play-based and sporting resources

### GREEN

- Respect and conserve the natural environment
- Become leaders in climate change adaptation, energy reduction and renewable resources
- People are mindful of their actions and impacts

### RESILIENT

- Strong leadership
- Enduring commitment
- Affordable services
- Adaptive management
- People and municipal government strive for innovative and creative solutions