A Caring City

How We Plan for Community Wellbeing

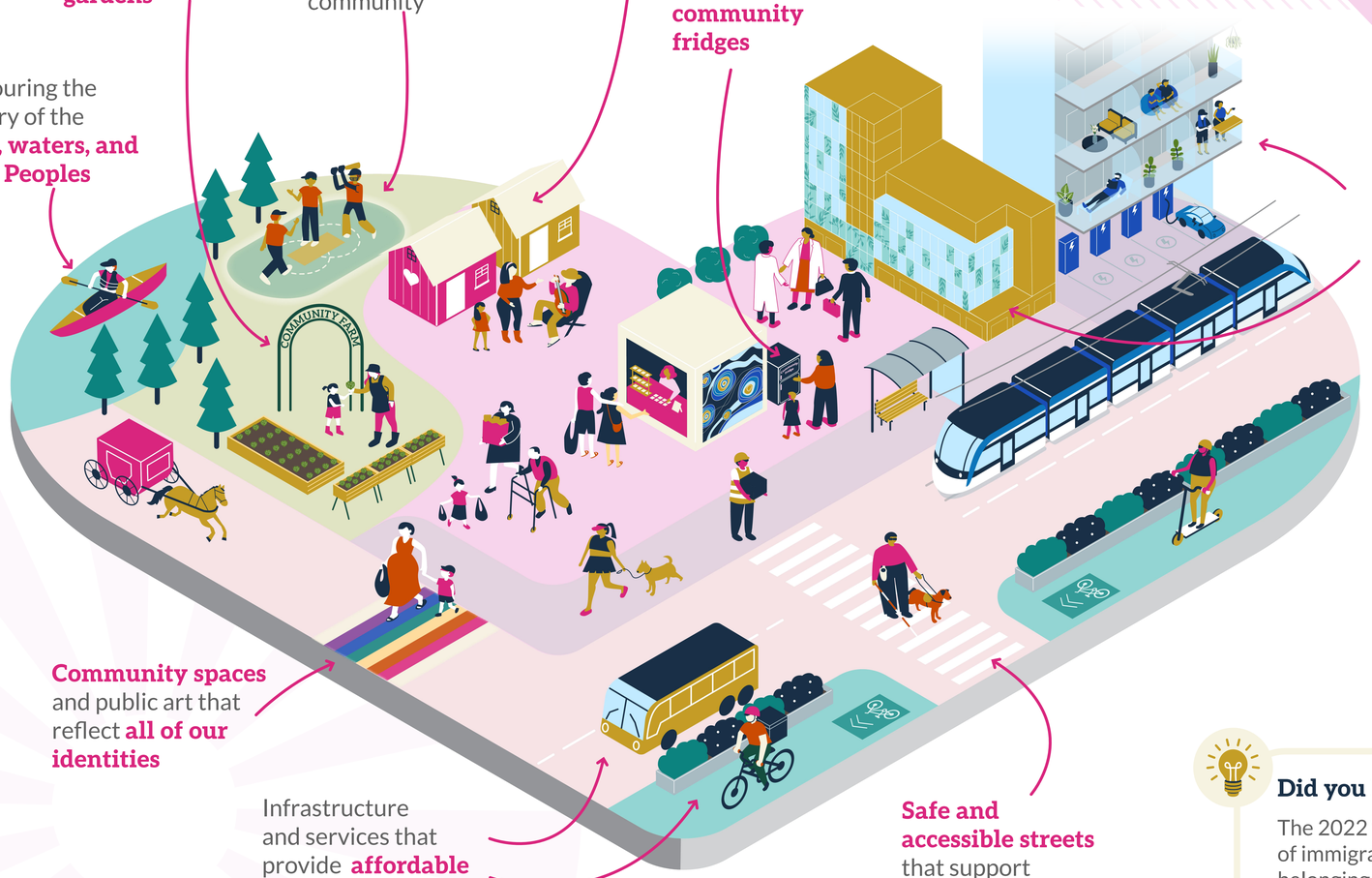
Local, affordable options for fresh food, such as through **community gardens**

A range of **housing options**, including interim housing solutions and **working with community partners** such as the YWKW

Recreational facilities that are tailored to our community

Care-based services and amenities like **community fridges**

Honouring the history of the **land, waters, and First Peoples**



Bringing the places we live and work closer together and in proximity to transit to support **social connection**

Community spaces and public art that reflect **all of our identities**

Infrastructure and services that provide **affordable and sustainable transportation options**

Safe and accessible streets that support walking and rolling

What is A Caring City?

A Caring City is about welcoming residents of all ages, background, and lived experiences. It is about reflecting and reconciling on our past, while planning for a future rooted in community wellbeing, inclusion, and belonging.

We have a responsibility and opportunity to address reconciliation with First Nations & local Indigenous communities through this process.

Kitchener 2051 is about land, people and governance, all of which are relevant to reconciliation. The City is committed to building upon existing relationships with First Nations and local Indigenous communities to recognize pasts, address present inequities, and jointly map out a path forward, together as it relates to the new Official Plan. To do so, we are undertaking a distinct engagement process with the Six Nations of the Grand River, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and local Indigenous communities.

Our city is becoming increasingly diverse and must serve a complex range of evolving needs.

Like cities across North America, Kitchener is grappling with issues of affordability, sustainability, food security, social isolation and loneliness, and more. People in our city experience these conditions differently based on their own life experiences, histories, and identities. Through Kitchener 2051, we will look to understand how we can better plan for and design our cities in a way that responds to the needs of all residents. We will also explore how we can create more inclusive, community-focused spaces so people can see themselves in our city's landscape.

This starts with providing opportunities for meaningful engagement and re-thinking how the ideas and aspirations of our residents can shape a new Official Plan. This is what Kitchener 2051 has set out to do.

What influences our wellbeing?

Our wellbeing, both as individuals and as a whole community, is strongly influenced by the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, and age. The social conditions that determine our wellbeing, known as the social determinants of health, include a mix of factors related to:

Our life · Environment · Healthcare · Biology

Where we live is just one of these factors.

Did you know...

The 2022 Waterloo Region Community Wellbeing Survey found that 68% of immigrants who arrived in the past 10 years reported a high sense of belonging, compared to 75% of those who arrived more than 10 years ago and 70% of Canadian-born individuals.

Kitchener 2051