



3 PLANNING VISION AND PRINCIPLES

3.1 COMMUNITY VISION

A vision statement captures what community members most value about their community, and the shared image of what they want their community to become in the future. The following statement was refined throughout the planning process and is based on feedback from the four member municipalities, the Steering Committee and key stakeholders:

The South Interlake Planning District accommodates a range of lifestyles in unique, affordable, and prosperous communities both urban and rural. Development is reflective of a diverse and thriving economy that respects environmental and agricultural assets, indicative of the collaborative and mutually beneficial relationship between member municipalities.

3.2 PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The following principles are another result of the Development Plan process and were derived from engagement with member municipalities and stakeholders in the community. The following principles expand on the community vision and provide direction and guidance for the objectives and policies of this Development Plan.

Planning for Housing

Municipalities and stakeholders have identified concerns related to the lack of options in housing type, size, and cost. This is creating challenges for both aging residents seeking to downsize and younger people struggling with the increasing cost of housing.

Creating higher densities, more diverse housing types, and mixed-use areas will provide more housing opportunities. This includes promoting secondary suites, exploring opportunities for intensification and infill, and reducing dependency on greenfield developments for accommodating new population growth. A community with more diverse housing options accommodates residents of all ages throughout the course of their lifetimes.

Planning for Growth

Concentrating and increasing population growth will generate interest in commercial development, attract and maintain businesses, and encourage residents to seek services and amenities locally. Directing development to existing urban and rural settlement centres will also limit future servicing and infrastructure costs and aid in the protection of prime agricultural land and associated operations. This Development Plan also clearly outlines the circumstances where rural residential and other non-resource related rural development may be considered.

Planning for Agriculture and Resource Development

The rural municipalities contain agricultural land that requires protection. This includes land with existing agricultural operations, prime agricultural land, and viable lower class land. Development not related to agricultural or livestock uses in rural areas causes fragmentation



of the agricultural land base and triggers the need for minimum separation distances. This Development Plan aims to protect agricultural land by preventing the premature conversion of agricultural lands to urban uses, limiting and clearly defining the circumstances where non-resource development can take place, directing development to existing settlement areas, and promoting compact development. Similarly, given the importance of aggregate extraction in the Planning District, areas with high quality aggregate resources are identified and, where they will not conflict with settlement areas, preserved for resource-related development.

Planning for Economic Development

Objectives of this Development Plan related to economic development include creating development conditions that enable residents to live and work in the Planning District, focusing on developing the unique place-based assets of the Planning District, and maintaining a sufficient supply of developable land for commercial and industrial uses.

Planning for Active Mobility

Improving walking and cycling infrastructure is associated with better physical and mental well-being among users and reduced greenhouse gas emissions as a result of less reliance on personal vehicles. Enabling and promoting active transportation can also provide economic benefits by attracting visitors to the area. Linking existing multi-use pathways with destination areas that have shops and other important services can increase the efficient and safe flow of people through existing and future neighbourhoods.

Planning for the Environment

Development should be considerate of the natural environment and potential negative effects must be recognized and mitigated. This Development Plan includes policies to restrict growth in natural areas, floodplains, and sensitive groundwater areas. The latter is especially important given that many communities within the Planning District depend on private wells to access potable water. Policies intended to recognize and safeguard against the negative effects of climate change and improve community resiliency are also included throughout this Development Plan.

Planning for Infrastructure and Transportation

The Development Plan aims to ensure the logical and efficient extension of municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as for safe, efficient, and high functioning transportation facilities for all modes of transportation, including roads, pathways, trails and railways. Avoiding hazardous situations and conflicts between the transportation system and adjacent land uses is another objective of this Development Plan.