



A United Vision:  
**GUELPH'S  
COMMUNITY PLAN**

Join us, as we write  
the next chapter of  
our city's vibrant life.

**MAKE YOUR MARK.**



Guelph's Community Plan Conversation

Do – It – Yourself Guidebook



# A United Vision: **GUELPH'S COMMUNITY PLAN**

## **What are we doing?**

We are building a Community Plan to help us shape what Guelph will look like in the next 10 - 20 years. It will consider our economic, cultural, educational, environmental, social and health hopes and dreams. A Community Plan will guide the work of our local government but it is more than just a strategy for city hall. It will give everyone in Guelph a way to monitor our progress together, share what we learn, and adjust when necessary.

## **How can you help?**

This is the start of the City of Guelph's year-long listening and engagement phase. From September 2017 to October 2018 there will be many different opportunities for all voices in our community to be heard. And we want to hear from everyone!

This "Do-it-Yourself" workshop booklet is one way you can participate. It is full of activities and questions to get the conversation started. We want to know what the future of Guelph looks like to you and the people you talk to everyday. Choose an activity, have a conversation and send us your results. We can't wait to hear what you have to say!

## **What will we do with what we hear?**

We will be using everything you send to us to build the next phase of community activities. We will share your stories, pictures, thoughts, hopes and dreams and together find common themes, and goals. This work will form the basis of the plan. In late 2018, we'll take all we've learned and heard from you to draft the Community Plan, which we will validate in early 2019. We will present a final Community Plan to City Council for approval before the end of 2019.

Alternate formats are available as per the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act by contacting Kelly Guthrie 519-822-1260 x 2677.

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# Getting Started

## Having a Community Plan conversation is as easy as 1,2,3!

**1. Pick a location, group, date and time and invite your family, friends, neighbours or colleagues.** Think about where you would like to hold your conversation and who you would like to talk to. Some ideas include:

- Gather your family together after dinner for dessert/tea and chat
- Invite your neighbours to your front steps for coffee or tea
- Invite your friends over for a night in
- Talk to your colleagues on a coffee or lunch break
- Add a few extra minutes to the end of your book club night

**2. Get organized.** The activities in this guidebook are designed to be done with whatever material you have around the house or office. Each activity can use any of the questions asked at the beginning of any of the other activities. Take a look through which activities you would like to do, and have on hand what you might need – a pen, some paper, maybe some tape, and this guidebook.

**3. Have fun!** The activities in this guidebook will help us all understand what is important for our future Guelph and what could make our lives better. You just might learn more about your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours too!



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# Activity 1: Pictionary

**Activity question:** What does, "That's so Guelph," mean?

## Description of activity

Draw your answer to this question and ask others to guess your answer by looking at your drawing.

## What do you need?

Pens, crayons, markers

Blank paper: one large or several regular 8.5 x 11 sheets

Flat surface: wall, table or floor

Tape (if using a wall)

## Instructions

1. Ask each person think for a couple of minutes about their answer to the question "What does 'That's so Guelph' mean?" It could be a building or space, a concept, an event, a feeling, a person – you name it!
2. Ask one person to beginning drawing their answer on the large paper or on a regular size piece of paper, so everyone can see.
3. As the person draws, everyone else tries to guess what they are drawing. The first person to guess the right answer scores one point.
4. Repeat until each person has a chance to draw their answer to the question. The person with the most points wins.
5. Write down everyone's answers to the question and send this in to us. We'd also love to see your drawings, so take pictures or send the originals too if you are willing to share. Please go to, "Where to send your conversation artifacts," at the end of this booklet on p.8.

### Activity tip: no artistic talent required

You don't have to be an artist to do this activity. The fun is seeing how creative you can be at communicating an idea through something other than words, and to see how well your friends, family, colleagues or neighbours know you.

## Activity 2: Make a story

**Activity question:** What would be your perfect Guelph day in 2030?

### Description of activity

Write a story about your perfect Guelph day in 2030 (or if you prefer 2040)? This can be an activity you do alone or with others.

### What do you need?

Pens or pencils

Blank lined paper or a computer

### Instructions

1. Imagine your future in Guelph 10 or 20 years from now. If we've done a good job planning for our community it will be a perfect day. What makes the day perfect? What does the future look like to you? What do the roads look like? Where does our food come from? What global or human problem has been solved? How do you spend your leisure time? What thing that isn't in Guelph now is in your future perfect day in Guelph?
2. Take 10 or 15 minutes to write down your story or a description of your perfect Guelph day in 2030. If this is a group activity share your story with your group or if you like, write a story together that includes parts of everyone's perfect day.
4. Have a conversation about your story. Is your perfect day different from that of your friends, family, neighbours or colleagues? What needs to happen to make your perfect future day a reality? Take some notes about this conversation.
5. Share your stories and conversation with us! Please go to, "Where to send your conversation artifacts," at the end of this booklet on p.8.

**Activity tip: you don't need to be a published author to tell a good story**

Your future perfect day is important. Please tell us about it.

## Activity 3: Mapping

**Activity Question:** What are the best things in Guelph?

### Description of activity

Imagine you have a visitor who has never been to Guelph before. They have asked you to share the best things in Guelph with them. What do you think the best things are; a restaurant, a tree, the university, a really nice wide bike lane? Figure out the best things and then make a map to take your imaginary visitor on a “best things” tour.

### What do you need?

Pen or markers

Blank paper: either several 8.5 x 11 sheets or one very large piece of paper

Flat surface: wall, table or floor

Tape (if using wall)

Yarn, string or ribbon

### Instructions

1. On a flat surface spread out your large sheet of paper or if you are using small sheets, dump everything in the middle of your group.
2. Start a conversation with your group. As you talk about Guelph’s best things start recording them. If you have a large piece of paper, ask people to draw and write their ideas on this. If you have smaller pieces of paper ask people to record their ideas on these, one idea per sheet. Use words, pictures, photos to share with your group about what the best things in Guelph are. One at a time, share your best things with each other. If you’ve used small papers, spread these out on your flat surface.
4. Start making connections between best things by using the yarn or string, or draw lines and arrows with a pen or marker to show how each best thing word, picture, idea is connected to other people’s. Does that bike lane make it safe to get to the university? Is the tree connected to a memory of grandma? Make that connection. Keep going until there are no connections left to be made. (You might need more yarn!)
5. Now you have a “map” for your visitor. Talk with each other about your map – does it make sense to everyone? Is anything missing? What does mapping the “best things” make you think about? How do you feel?
6. Take a photo of your map and send it to us! Please go to, “Where to send your conversation artifacts,” at the end of this booklet on p.8.

### Activity tip: you don’t need a map of Guelph

And you don’t need to worry about geography. This map is about connecting your group’s best things about Guelph, not about exactly where they are located.

## Activity 4: Brainstorming

**Activity Question:** What would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030?

### Description of activity

Think of what would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030, for you or your family, for your neighbourhood, and for Guelph as whole. Pretend there are no limits. Be creative!

### What do you need?

Pens or markers

Blank paper, several 8.5 x 11 sheets, cut in half or quarters

Flat surface: wall, table or floor

Tape (if using wall)

Activity Worksheet x (page x)

### Instructions

1. On three sheets of 8.5 x 11 of paper, write one of the following headings on each: Me /my family; my neighbourhood; Guelph. Place the headings in a row on a flat surface.
2. Ask your group to take a few minutes individually to think of ideas that would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030 for themselves and/or their family, for their neighbourhood, and for Guelph as a whole. Write each idea on a separate piece of small paper. If young children are part of the group, they could draw pictures.
3. Ask for volunteer to share one of their ideas with the group. Ask them to place their idea under the appropriate heading and explain why they feel their idea will help make Guelph the best city to live in 2030.
4. Ask another person to volunteer to share one thing, and repeat until each person in the group has shared all their ideas and they are placed under or beside the appropriate heading.
5. Look at the ideas under each heading and talk about what else would make Guelph the best place to live in 2030 for you and/or your family, your neighbourhood, and Guelph as a whole. Write new ideas on a sheet of paper and place under the appropriate heading. Some actions may cross columns – that's okay!
6. Write the ideas for each heading on a single piece of paper, take a photo, and send us your ideas! Please go to, "Where to send your conversation artifacts," at the end of this booklet on p.8.

### Activity tip: there is no right or wrong answer

There is no right or wrong answer for this question or any question in this Guidebook. Make sure that everyone knows their ideas are equally valued, and that everyone takes their turn listening. Ask people to prepare an answer by writing it down first. This will help them have confidence to share what they are thinking with the group.

## **Wrapping up the conversation**

By now you and your group have probably come up with some interesting ideas about the future of Guelph, and maybe learned some interesting things about each other!

A great way to close a conversation is to go around your group and ask each person to say one sentence about an idea that really stood out for them or about what they learned from the conversation. Questions you can use include:

- **Tell us an idea that really stood out for you today?**
- **Tell us one thing you learned today?**

Thank everyone for coming and taking the time to share their thoughts.

## **Where to send your conversation artifacts**

Don't forget to send us some of the artifacts from your conversation.

Make a copy or take a photo of your story, take a photo of your pictures, maps or idea brainstorm. Send these to us in any one of the following ways:

- Email us an electronic version at [MakeYourMark@guelph.ca](mailto:MakeYourMark@guelph.ca)
- Tweet to @cityofguelph with the hashtag #MakeYourMark
- Post to our Facebook page [Facebook.com/cityofguelph](https://www.facebook.com/cityofguelph)
- Drop off a copy at Service Guelph addressed to "Make Your Mark"

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