



New Official Plan

Rural Ottawa

Ottawa's rural area comprises close to 80% of the City's total land area and is the location of productive agriculture operations, sensitive ecosystems, and 26 villages with the vital role of supporting rural communities.

With the rural area facing challenges such as shifts in demographics, advancements in technology, and changes to the environment and climate, it is important to address these issues through policies that provide for long-term liveability, economic growth, and environmental resilience.

Potential Challenges

Aging population

Adults aged 50 to 59 comprise the largest group of people living in the rural area. The number of children and youth aged 0-4 years and between 5 and 19 years of age is decreasing while the population of adults over 65 years of age continues to rise. This compared to the urban area makes the rural area significantly older. Are the needs of these age groups being met in the rural area? What is needed to support young families?

Growth pressures

Growth and urbanization is a significant challenge for the rural area and agri-businesses as it increases demand for developable land. Loss of agricultural land poses a threat to our food security as do land uses which may not be compatible with agricultural operations and could potentially jeopardize productive farming. As the need

to be competitive with the surrounding area and global markets rises, along with the interest in rural employment lands, what actions can be taken to ensure compatible development and the long term protection of the City's valuable rural industries.

Climate Change and Agriculture

Global temperatures are rising and many regions in Canada are projected to warm causing significant impact to local agriculture production. The greatest impacts will be the result of frequent droughts, storms causing severe flooding, and variable freeze thaw cycles, all of which make it difficult to manage farm operations. Resilience is not only related to our built environment, but our natural one as well, and achieving resilience in the face of climate change for rural-based industries, particularly farming, is essential to economic prosperity.

