

MARKHAM AGE FRIENDLY DESIGN GUIDELINES



STAGE 2 BACKGROUND REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022





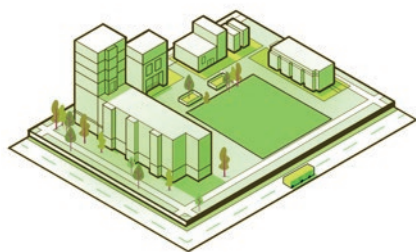
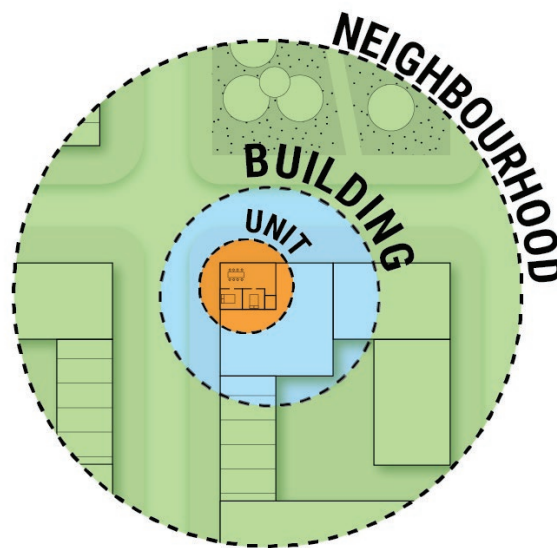
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1.0 | INTRODUCTION

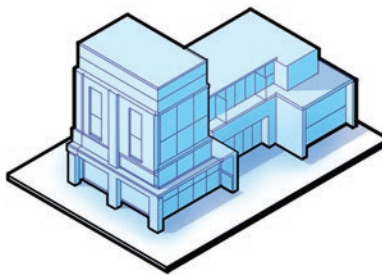
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Markham Age-Friendly Design Guidelines (MAFDG) are built form design guidelines intended to direct how new development in Markham can better function to serve all residents, from zero to 99 years of age. The guidelines will provide design direction for the built environment in both new and redeveloping communities - including privately-owned low-rise, mid-rise and high-rise residential and mixed use buildings and neighbourhoods, focusing on three scales:



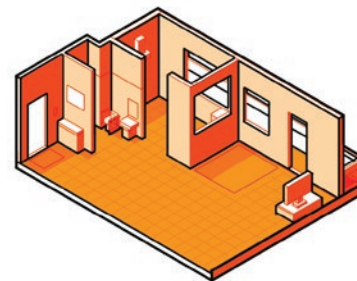
NEIGHBOURHOOD

Exploring how neighbourhood design encourages connectivity, mobility, safety and livability - incorporating services and amenities that meet the need of users of all age groups over time.



BUILDING

Exploring how the design of residential buildings can ensure they meet the changing needs of all residents, of all ages, over time, including places to socialize, play, work and learn.



UNIT

Exploring how the design of individual units can meet the needs of a variety of users of all ages over time, including the needs of different family sizes, types and configurations.

The intended audience for the guidelines is threefold:

-
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Development Industry, Design Community and Trades | To use the guidelines in preparation of applications for residential or mixed-use buildings, community infrastructure and/or public realm elements. |
| 2 City and Regional Staff | To inform new planning frameworks and priorities and in the review of development applications and new capital projects including work in the public realm, parks, transportation, and housing. |
| 3. Members of the Public | People, organizations and agencies who are interested in gathering information on age-friendly options, precedents and ideas for both personal interest/use and advocacy work. |
-

1.1 What is Age-Friendly Design?

In age-friendly design, buildings, public spaces, and infrastructure related to physical and social environments are designed to address the needs of all residents, from young children and families to older adults ¹.

Much of the literature around age-friendly planning and design is focused on the needs and requirements of older adults, so it is important to note that the Markham Age-Friendly Design Guidelines have a broader, more inclusive definition of age-friendly. The Markham Age-Friendly Design Guidelines will be designed to include the needs and requirements of children, youth, families, people with disabilities, and older adults ².

It is understood that many of the design interventions and solutions focused on one of these groups can be applied to others – removing barriers for one, removes barriers for all. For example, lowering sidewalks or adding a ramp to a building’s entrance can improve access for wheelchair users, a caregiver pushing a stroller, those with mobility needs, and young children learning to walk.



Figure 1. Multiple housing types in Berczy Village provide options for all stages of life.

1 Government of Canada. “Age-Friendly Communities.” 2016. Accessed December 17. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/aging-seniors/friendly-communities.html>

2 Older adults refers to all residents who are 65+ years of age, Children refers to residents who are 0 – 14 years of age, Youth refers to residents who are 15 – 24 years of age, and Adults refers to residents who are 25 – 64 years of age.

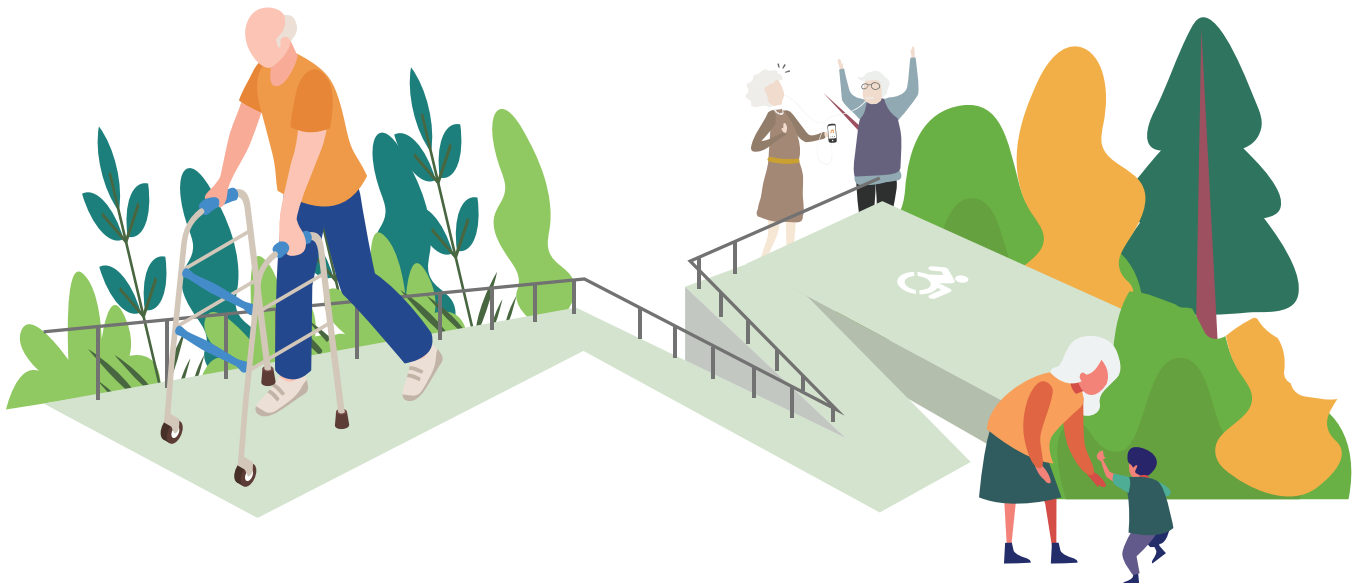
1.2 Why are Age-Friendly Design Guidelines Needed?

Age-Friendly Design Guidelines are needed because the way we live in cities is ever-changing, with new development resulting from population growth, shifting cultural priorities, and most importantly, the demographic and societal changes that come with an aging population. The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated issues of isolation and accelerated the need for remote work and learning options.

According to the Province of Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors (2017): "Seniors (65

years and older) are the fastest-growing age group in Ontario. In 2016, 16.4% of Ontario's population was 65 years or older. By 2041, it is projected that 25% of Ontario's population will be 65 years or older, almost doubling from 2.3 million seniors in 2016 to 4.6 million seniors."

In addition, the majority of older adults stated the desire to age at home or in a community setting, get around on their own, and stay involved with family and friends.¹



¹ Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors. (2017).



1.2.1 MARKHAM IS A GROWING AND CHANGING CITY

We know that Markham has been experiencing significant growth—bringing with it new forms of development and new ways of living, particularly for families and those wishing to age in place.

A shift towards higher-density living will require new thinking about how we design shared spaces, and incorporate highly accessible, welcoming public spaces and amenities and also how smaller spaces can be flexible and designed to accommodate the needs of larger families (ie. Storage, private amenities).

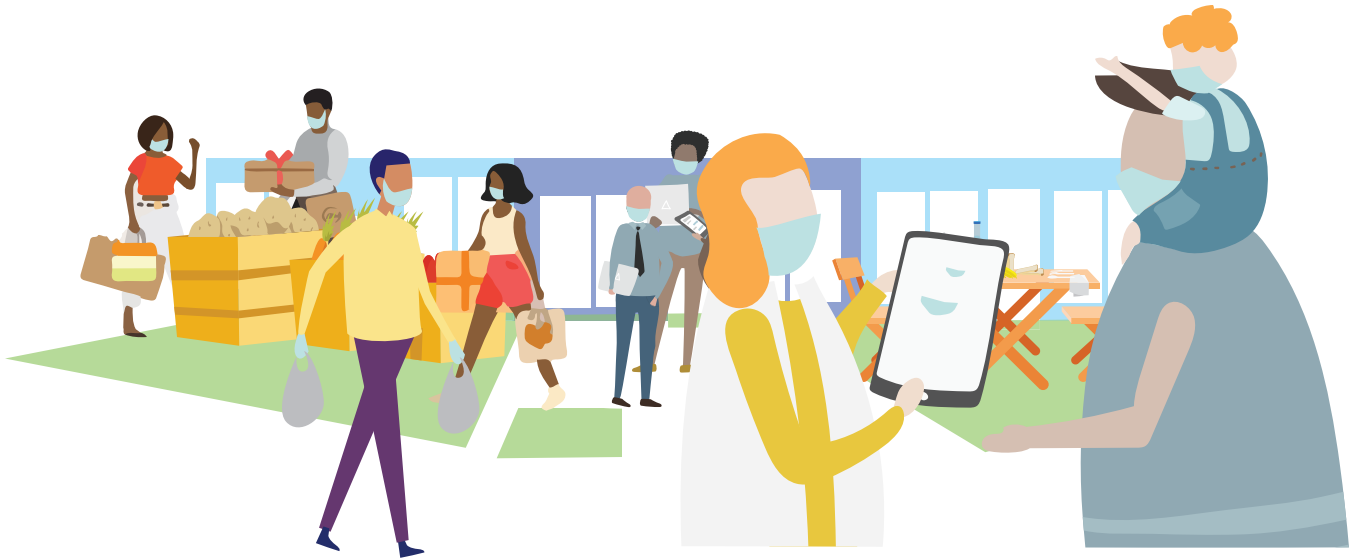


1.2.2 MARKHAM IS THE MOST DIVERSE CITY IN CANADA

According to Statistics Canada (2016 Census), 78% of Markham residents identify as a visible minority, 61% identify as immigrants or non-permanent residents, and over 63% of Markham residents speak a first language other than English.

We know that culturally supportive / appropriate housing forms are important – particularly in terms of age-friendliness – both for young families and older adults. This includes multi-generational family housing.

Many cities are undergoing an unprecedented demographic change that comes with a rapidly aging population. Markham is no exception. Markham is rapidly growing, aging, and diversifying with seniors becoming the fastest growing segment of Markham's population, a trend that is likely to continue over the next decade.



1.2.3 LIFE AS WE KNOW IT HAS CHANGED

Covid-19 has changed the way we live, work, travel, socialize and do business.

The resulting public health measures have led to increased social isolation, particularly for older adults and other vulnerable people including young children and those with disabilities. New thinking will be required in relation to working and learning from home, access to outdoor space and shifts in how we shop, get around and socialize.

The pandemic has also seen a shift in how people work, learn and recreate – with an increased focus on working and learning from home and a shift from group social, sport and recreational

activities to more individual, virtual and physically-distanced forms. This will have a lasting impact on how people use and access space in their homes, buildings and communities.

These built-form, demographic and social changes have led to rethinking how to create socially inclusive physical environments that benefit everyone. The City of Markham's Age-Friendly Design Guidelines are timely and provide an excellent opportunity to ensure that the City and the community anticipate these changes – ensuring long-term community livability and resiliency.

1.3 What is the focus of the Age-Friendly Design Guidelines?

The World Health Organization's (WHO) 2006 Global Age-Friendly Cities Project, identified eight inter-related key domains of urban life.

These domains highlight the many factors that are key to livability and the resiliency of communities:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services

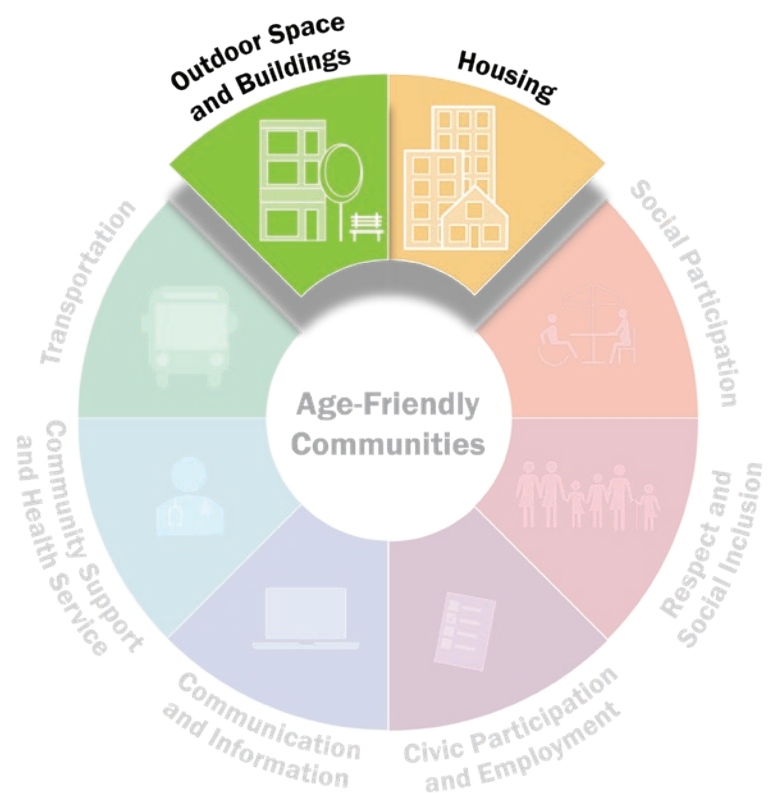


Figure 2. Image adapted from the WHO Age-Friendly Cities Report.

The Markham Age-Friendly Design Guidelines will focus primarily on two of the eight community domains: Housing and Outdoor Spaces and Buildings. While the primary focus is on the spatial parameters of these two domains, it is important to acknowledge the intersectionality of people's experiences when living and interacting in cities, and that a broad lens must be applied to this work – ensuring that the other six domains are considered when developing the guidelines.

The goal is to provide design direction for the built environment, particularly related to housing and outdoor spaces, in both ground-oriented and vertical communities, to ensure that new and redeveloping communities in the City are accessible, inclusive, functional, safe and adaptable for all households.

The following are the key areas of focus for the guideline document:

- **Ground-related communities:** including low-rise residential such as single detached, semi detached, and townhouse dwellings
- **Vertical communities:** including mid to high-rise residential or mixed-use buildings
- **Age-friendly neighbourhood structures:** including parks/outdoor spaces and public realm

1.4 Markham Age-Friendly Design Guidelines Process

The process underway to develop the Markham Age-Friendly Design Guidelines consists of 5 phases:

**August - September
2021**



**Phase 1
Project
Kick-off**

Phase 1 set up the project parameters and goals for the design guidelines.

This report marks the culmination of phase 2. Phase 2 sought to uncover the opportunities and challenges associated with age-friendly design and living. It included an exploration of innovative solutions and interventions for families and older adults living in ground-related housing and vertical communities, including opportunities for intergenerational living and age-friendly amenities.

**October
2021**




**Phase 2
Background Review
and Analysis**

Phase 2 involved the following activities which are covered in Section 2 of this report:

- Multi-Jurisdictional Policy Review
- Global Best Practice / Case Study Review
- Gap Analysis
- Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement

The policy review examined existing legislation and design guidelines from the four levels of government (Federal, Provincial, Regional, Municipal) to understand how age-friendly design is considered. A full list of the documents reviewed can be found in Section 2.0 of the report.



A global best practice case study review was conducted to explore how different strategies have been developed and implemented around the world - and how they have influenced the age-friendliness of their communities. The purpose of the best practice case study was to draw inspiration from innovative best practices, design guidelines, strategies, and policies related to local, national and international age-friendly communities. A full list of the case studies reviewed and the findings can be found in Section 2.3.

Preliminary stakeholder engagement was conducted to initiate interest and participation from key constituents,

gather high-level information on additional engagement approaches, audiences and methods, and to gather input from industry and community experts on the topic of age-friendly design and living. The Engagement Summary will identify key findings from the engagement completed.

Through the policy review, best practice case study review and stakeholder engagement, the team was able to identify various gaps in existing policy that the design guidelines could focus on.

Findings from Phase 2 will inform the development of the draft Guideline document.

**November
2021 - Feb 2022**



**Phase 3
Public
Engagement**

Broad public engagement through various methods including: one-on-one interviews and small group workshops with subject matter and community experts, the launch of an online project page and survey, a paper community survey/workbook, an online public open house, and an online engagement design ideas challenge.

Phase 3 engagement activities will seek to include both those with lived-experience – in particular families, youth and older adults – and professionals and practitioners from both public and private sectors with common interest in improving the built environment – representatives of the City and relevant agencies; and the design and development communities.

**March - May
2022**



**Phase 4
Draft
Guidelines**

Phase 4 will focus on drafting the Guidelines, including how the guidelines will be used and implemented. The draft Guidelines will be revised and refined based on feedback from ongoing engagement.

**May - June
2022**



**Phase 5
Final
Guidelines**

Phase 5 will focus on finalizing and presenting the Guidelines for approval to City Council in mid 2022.

2.0

**PHASE 2:
BACKGROUND
REVIEW &
ANALYSIS**

2.0 PHASE 2: BACKGROUND REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

2.1 Policy Review

In order to understand how age-friendly design was referenced and included in existing policies, a policy review was completed of relevant policy from all four levels of government. Many of the policies do not specifically focus on older adults and children, instead on broad goals for inclusivity and accessibility, indicating a gap and need to address age friendly measures through development of a design guidelines.

RELATED POLICY DOCUMENTS

Federal

Accessible Canada Act (S.C.2019, c. 10)

Provincial

Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13

Ontario Human Rights Code

Ontario Building Code (OBC 1997)

Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, C.32

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11

Regional

York Region Official Plan

York Region Seniors Strategy, 2016

York Region Women's Foundation Inclusive Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Plan

Municipal

City of Markham Official Plan

City of Markham Accessibility Design Guidelines, 2011

City of Markham Older Adult Strategy, 2017

City of Markham Greenprint Community Sustainability Plan, 2011

City of Markham Integrated Leisure Master Plan Update, 2019

Table 1. List of policy documents reviewed.

There is limited policy directly related to built form and outdoor spaces for older adults and families with young children.

The policy review summarizes existing and applicable policies and guidelines at the federal, provincial, regional and municipal levels related to the creation and promotion of an accessible and inclusive city for people of all ages and abilities - focusing on built form and design aspects related to outdoor spaces and buildings for both ground-related and vertical housing.

The existing policies and guidelines, while not focused explicitly on children and older adults, provide broad goals and recommendations to achieve age-friendly communities, including a focus on accessible design for people with disabilities. Relevant policies include providing minimum accessibility

standards for public spaces and outdoor spaces, renovated and newly constructed buildings, and encouraging housing options for all, including design and space needs for older adults. Accessibility requirements are typically enforceable only in publicly owned, leased or operated buildings and structures and increasingly in new vertical communities. This means households in ground-related communities are often neglected, including opportunities for retrofitting homes. However, accessibility guidelines geared to people with disabilities often include interventions that are applicable/transferable for children and seniors.

2.1.1 GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

ACCESSIBLE CANADA ACT (S.C. 2019, C.10)

The *Accessible Canada Act (ACA)* aims to make Canada barrier-free by 2040 by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers in seven priority areas. The built environment priority area is particularly relevant to Markham's focus on outdoor spaces and buildings for the Age Friendly Design Guidelines.

Areas of interest: Accessibility related to the built environment, including parks and outdoor spaces, for people with disabilities.

What's missing: Accessibility standards related to outdoor spaces and housing (2021-2022).

2.1.2 PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

PLANNING ACT, R.S.O. 1990, C. P.13

Section 2 of the *Planning Act* outlines matters of provincial interest to which municipalities shall have regard to, including the delivery of accessible facilities and services to people with disabilities (2.h.1), and the provision of a mix and range of housing options (2.j). Section 4.4 directs that any development should be designed to have regard for accessibility for people with disabilities. Section 41 makes provisions for accessibility for people with disabilities as part of the site plan process, which provide an early opportunity to address accessibility through development review and approvals. Section 51 directs municipalities to have regard to accessibility for people with disabilities when reviewing a draft plan of subdivision.

Areas of interest: Broad goals for Ontario, with a specific emphasis on accessibility.

What's missing: While the *Planning Act* encourages the inclusion of a number of affordable housing units and accessible design for people with disabilities, specific policy recommendations related to family-friendly and older adult housing are missing (i.e., larger units and adaptable housing requirements).

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

The *Ontario Human Rights Code* gives everybody equal rights and opportunities without discrimination based on 17 protected grounds, including age, disability, and ethnicity, among others, in protected social areas such as employment, housing and services and facilities.

Areas of interest: Basis for equal opportunities without discrimination, with special focus for people with disabilities.

What's missing: Specific policy and design requirements against discriminatory barriers related to housing for families with children and older adults at the building and unit scales.

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE (OBC 1997)

Section 3.8 of the *Ontario Building Code* (OBC), while not focused explicitly on children and older adults, does cover Barrier Free Design standards and expectations and applies to new construction and extensive renovations on buildings older than 5 years.

Areas of interest: Minimum accessibility standards for people with disabilities for renovated and newly constructed buildings.

What's missing: Input on unit sizes so that it is suitable for families with children in vertical communities and lifetime home standards to support aging in place. In addition, the Building Code also does not apply to existing buildings where no work is planned and most accessibility requirements do not affect houses.

**ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2001,
S.O. 2001, C. 32**

The *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (ODA) directs that barrier-free design guidelines should be developed, promoting accessibility for people with disabilities to government buildings, structures and premises.

Areas of interest: Broad goals to achieve accessibility by 2025, including standards related to the accessibility of buildings and structures for people with disabilities, which can benefit seniors.

What's missing: While visible disabilities – outwardly visible to others – are prioritized, specific standards to achieve accessible spaces for non-visible disabilities – have no, or little, outward visible signs – are lacking. For example, you may immediately recognize disabled people with a visible disability because they may be in a wheelchair, have difficulty walking, carry a white stick. However, you may not notice disabled people with a non-visible disability because they may have autism, a disabling mental health condition, dementia, or living with significant chronic pain.

**ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT, 2005, S.O. 2005, C. 11**

The *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) outlines standards for designing public spaces (DoPS), directs new or redeveloped public spaces to be accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities, and covers mostly the accessibility of outdoor spaces.

Areas of interest: Minimum accessibility standards for public spaces, outdoor and play spaces.

What's missing: Clarity about who is responsible for implementing DoPS especially for privately-owned public spaces, enforcement and consequences of non-compliance, integration of areas covered by the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

2.1.3 YORK REGION



YORK REGION OFFICIAL PLAN

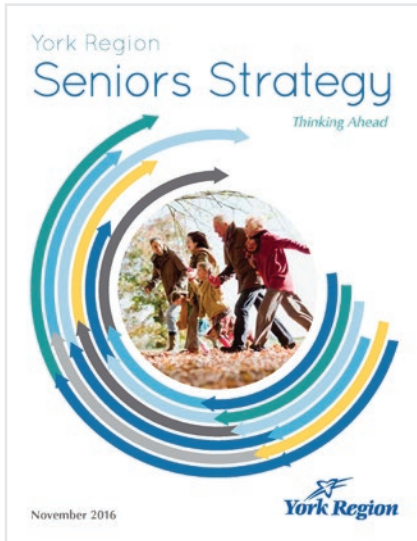
The *York Region Official Plan* directs that a portion of new housing units be accessible for people with disabilities, providing housing opportunities for all household types, including residents with special needs, larger families, and seniors (3.5.6). Special needs and seniors' housing are also encouraged in transit-supportive development (3.5.14). Policies 3.5.18 and 3.5.19 further encourage an accessible and adaptable design for all new units, accommodating the changing needs of the aging population. Development in intensification areas and new community areas should also provide a greater diversity of housing types, sizes and affordability (5.6.4) and accessible urban squares, parks, green spaces for all (5.2.7, 5.3.7, 5.3.8, 5.4.6(j), 5.5.3(f)).

Areas of interest:

Broad policies for York Region related to housing and open spaces/parks.

What's missing:

While the Official Plan encourages accessible units, specific design interventions related to children and older adults are missing.



YORK REGION – SENIORS STRATEGY (2016)

The *York Region Seniors' Strategy* aims to increase housing choices for seniors, including reducing barriers associated with secondary suites (costs, permitting). Housing areas not addressed by the MAFDG include leveraging inclusionary zoning, and developing various housing types and tenures (rental). The review and update of Official Plan policies through the Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review to promote age-friendly, complete communities and consider opportunities for retrofitting neighbourhoods and home sharing will be critical in successfully implementing the Seniors Strategy.

Areas of interest:

Broad goals, roles and actions for York Region to achieve age-friendly communities, with attention to housing needs for seniors.

What's missing:

Strategic directions and identified actions for municipalities to address issues related to the housing needs of seniors; alignment with other levels of government regarding responsibilities to act.



YORK REGION WOMEN'S FOUNDATION INCLUSIVE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY (AFC) PLAN

The *York Region Women's Foundation Inclusive Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Plan* acknowledges the varied needs of seniors, aiming to support positive aging for everyone by incorporating marginalized senior women's voices from diverse backgrounds and with diverse life experiences, including racialized, newcomer and LGBTQ groups. Key recommendations for York Region include increasing the availability of outdoor restrooms and drinking fountains, increasing security in public areas, and developing more flexible housing that allows for multi-generational living arrangements.

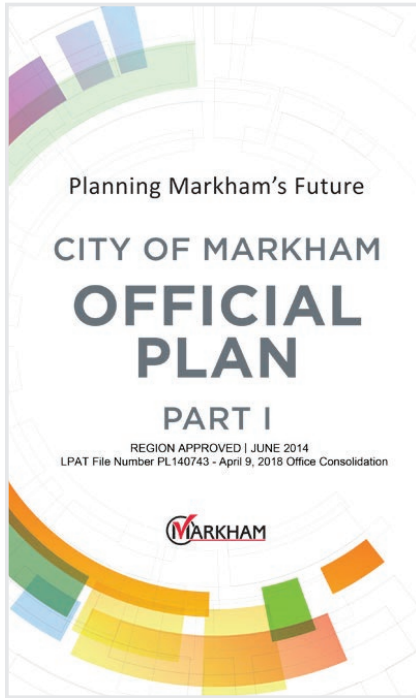
Areas of interest:

Broad recommendations for York Region related to the specific needs and lived-experience of marginalized senior women, with attention to housing and outdoor spaces.

What's missing:

Lack of clarity about the roles and responsibilities of municipalities and policy recommendations/ requirements, for example a minimum number of outdoor restrooms, benches, and drinking fountains.

2.1.4 CITY OF MARKHAM



CITY OF MARKHAM OFFICIAL PLAN

The *Markham Official Plan* provides policies that address a greater diversity of housing types and sizes for the changing composition of Markham households (4.1.2); encourage park, open space and recreational opportunities for all users (4.3.1.4.e); create a public realm consisting of streets and boulevards, open spaces and parks providing places for shared use and community interaction (6.1.1.5.c); ensure accessibility for all users regardless of age and physical ability (6.1.1.5.o).

Areas of interest:

Broad goals for Markham

What's missing:

Specific design and built form policies for children and older adults in both ground related and vertical housing.



CITY OF MARKHAM ACCESSIBILITY DESIGN GUIDELINES (2011)

The *Markham Accessibility Design Guidelines* provides best practice approaches to planning and designing inclusive environments, with a focus on accessibility for both existing and new facilities to meet the diverse needs of users of all ages and abilities.

Areas of interest:

Specific accessibility requirements for private and public indoor and outdoor spaces, focusing on people with disabilities, which can be helpful for children and older adults.

What's missing:

Guidance specific to the needs of families with children and older adults is missing at all scales, including design considerations at the neighbourhood scale.



CITY OF MARKHAM OLDER ADULT STRATEGY (2017)

The *Markham Older Adult Strategy* recognized that the design of outdoor spaces and buildings has a major impact on mobility, independence, quality of life and the relationship that residents have with their community. The OAS includes a recommendation to amend the Zoning By-law to require more accessible parking spaces. The OAS also wants to ensure that an older adult perspective is considered as part of the City's Site Plan Review process.

Areas of interest:

Goals, outcomes and recommended actions based on community input to improve age-friendliness in Markham.

What's missing:

Issues related to housing in Markham as this dimension of age-friendly communities is the jurisdiction of York Region, therefore, working in partnership with York Region will be essential in addressing housing for older adults.



CITY OF MARKHAM GREENPRINT COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (2011)

The *Greenprint Community Sustainability Plan* encourages the redevelopment of existing neighbourhoods and prioritization of compact, mixed-use and pedestrian- and transit-oriented development that provide safe and accessible travel choices, parks and open spaces for community gathering for all. The Plan also encourages the provision of a greater housing diversity for the changing composition of Markham households.

Areas of interest:

Broad recommendations to achieve a sustainable Markham, including priorities and actions to provide housing options for all through higher intensity-grade-related-housing and housing in new vertical communities.

What's missing:

While the Plan provides actions to address housing issues for all, specific implementation actions related to housing needs of families and children, and older adults are missing.



CITY OF MARKHAM INTEGRATED LEISURE MASTER PLAN UPDATE (2019)

The *Integrated Leisure Master Plan* addresses the challenges of providing parks and recreation services in high-rise neighbourhoods where the public realm is an extension of the home, focusing on accommodating people of all ages and abilities.

Areas of interest:

Recommendations for parks in intensification areas and new vertical neighbourhoods, with recommendation that the ILMP be included as part of the required Community Benefit Charges Strategy.

What's missing:

Specific design standards for inclusive and age-friendly spaces

2.2 Gap Analysis

Gaps identified during the background phase highlight a clear need for focused directions in the draft guidelines.

The background and policy review, best practice case study review and discussions with key internal and external stakeholders led to a more thorough understanding of the existing age-friendly design provisions in place under current legislation, policies and guidelines. This understanding has highlighted several key areas for improvement and offered potential age-friendly design interventions at the unit, building and neighbourhood scales. Current legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines primarily address accessibility requirements in the built environment for people with disabilities. Fortunately, accessibility guidelines geared to people with disabilities often include design interventions that are applicable or transferable to older adults and children. There are several key initiatives in place for creating senior- and

child-friendly communities that focus on parks, outdoor spaces, public realm, and publicly-owned buildings, however, design-specific interventions for ground-related and vertical communities have not been prioritized. While best practice approaches to planning and designing inclusive communities in the City of Markham focus on accessibility standards and design considerations for City-led renovations and new construction of buildings and public spaces, guidance on age-friendly practices for non-City-owned, leased or operated facilities is limited. Current implementation of age-friendly initiatives varies - through the use of policy, regulatory and financial measures to inform guidelines, engagement processes and inter-agency coordination.

2.2.1 HOUSING

With housing affordability, unit flexibility and aging in place* surfacing as key issues facing residents in the GTA, Markham has demonstrated that it is well positioned to address these concerns with new development including purpose-built rental housing for older adults, flexible multi-family developments, purpose-built secondary suites, and laneway housing opportunities in low-rise communities.

As the continued expansion of the urban area for low-density, suburban-style development is unsustainable over time, Markham has planned and designed for both ground-related and vertical communities, including updating and creating guidelines and policies that prioritize people with disabilities.

While the City provides information for accessible housing within private residential developments, creating a truly age-friendly environment will require the delivery of flexible and adaptive housing that supports flexible, multi-generational use and aging in place opportunities in new residential development. It will also be important to ensure new single detached homes, duplexes, townhouses, and other low-to-medium density housing typologies, which are often exempt from accessibility guidelines and regulations, incorporate age-friendly elements in their design.

***Aging-in-place** refers to the ability to live in the same home or community safely, independently and comfortably as you age.



Figure 3. Second suites in neighbourhoods provide options for family members to live independently but close by.



Figure 4. Multi unit buildings with ample outdoor spaces, well designed public realm and access to nearby amenities can improve livability.

2.2.2 AGE-FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD STRUCTURE

We know that the concept of complete communities and the age-friendliness of a community are intrinsically linked. This includes a focus on, and investment in, parks, public spaces and community infrastructure. Markham is committed to supporting flexible, accessible, inclusive and age-friendly public spaces and amenities that accommodate people of all ages and abilities in both new and existing parks, public realm and community facilities.

In addition, addressing the challenges of providing parks and outdoor spaces in high-rise neighbourhoods, where the public realm becomes an extension of people's homes, will be paramount as Markham continues to grow through residential intensification. Improving the age-friendliness of public outdoor spaces in Markham needs to be prioritized, including the provision of street furniture on sidewalks and in plazas, and improved park and open space amenities such



Figure 5. Rosewood Park contains amenities for all ages, including a splash pad, walking path, adult exercise equipment and shaded seating.

as washroom facilities, accessible paths and trails, increased lighting, and seating areas for older adults and young children to rest. There is also a need to design vibrant four-season public spaces that encourage year-round use, for example, by incorporating weather protection elements to protect from heat, sun, rain, and snow.

Special consideration should also be given to street and sidewalk design in order to create a safe and enjoyable experience for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities. This is of particular importance on streets leading to or adjacent to schools and community facilities and in areas of high pedestrian traffic such as shopping, recreation and hospital areas.



Figure 6. Bruce's Creek Trail in Unionville provides active transportation connections to other outdoor spaces.

2.3 Global Best Practices / Case Studies

The Best Practice Review explores and summarizes 20 local, national and international case studies - including guidelines, strategies, and policies related to age-friendly communities and age-friendly design. The Best Practice Review will directly inform the development of the Draft Guidelines. The detailed case studies can be found in the Appendix.

Local	Growing Up Guidelines, Toronto, ON
	City of Hamilton Age-Friendly Strategy, Hamilton, ON
	Housing Options for Older Adults in Hamilton, Hamilton, ON
	Planning for Age-Friendly Communities A Call to Action, ON
	The City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines, Toronto, ON
National	City of Richmond Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan, Richmond, BC
	City of New Westminster Family Housing Policy, New Westminster, BC
	Township of Langley Age-Friendly Strategy, Langley, BC
	Child in the City: Planning Communities for Children and their Families, Vancouver, BC
	Zero to one hundred – Planning for an Aging Population: A Toolkit for Planners and Designers, Vancouver, BC
	Access Design Guide, Edmonton, AB
International	GrowingUp: Boulder, Colorado
	Accessible London: Achieving an Inclusive Environment, London, UK
	Making London Child-friendly: Designing Places for Children and Young People, London, UK
	Place-Age: Place-Making with Older Adults Towards Age-Friendly Cities & Communities, Edinburgh, UK
	Arnsberg's Future Aging Department, Germany
	Elderly-friendly Design Guidelines, Hong Kong, China
	Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages, Global
	Designing Streets for Kids, Global
	Global Street Guide, Global
	Cities Alive: Designing for Urban Childhoods, Global

Table 2. List Of Global Best Practices / Case Studies Categorized Into Five Key Focus Areas

Best practices from across Canada and around the world provide built form, policy and program ideas for the age-friendly design guidelines.

Case studies were selected to showcase how thoughtful and intentional age-friendly design at the unit, building and neighbourhood scales can improve livability for current and future residents of both ground-oriented and vertical communities.

The selection criteria for case studies included:

- Global Leaders – innovative initiatives, recognized leadership in policy and design.
- Policy Context – local and regional initiatives that shared similar governance and policy context to Markham.
- Built Form Context – global initiatives that shared similar planning, built form and land use context to Markham.
- Location and Demographic Context - initiatives that shared similar location/demographic context, including: population size, proximity to other major urban centres, ethnic background and family structure.

The implementation of age-friendly best practices outlined in the case studies includes a variety of policy, regulatory and financial measures and interagency coordination. Most of the age-friendly case studies reviewed focused on neighbourhood structure, parks and public realm with limited case studies addressing design-specific recommendations for housing at the unit or building scale. The City of Markham has an opportunity to be at the forefront of the age-friendly conversation as it relates to housing and public space design for all ages and abilities.

The key implementation tools, actions and design recommendations extracted from the best practice case study review have been added to a matrix of 'age-friendly possibilities' that will be used to inform the development of the Draft Guidelines. The matrix is a living document that will be continuously refined throughout the engagement process as we gather input from City Staff, the public, and the design and development communities.



Figure 7. Clear wayfinding at Aaniin Community Centre directs to specific program areas.



Figure 8. The Teen room at Aaniin Library provides a youth-focused place to gather.

2.3.1 GLOBAL CASE STUDIES

Based on policy, built form, and demographic contexts applicable to Markham, 20 local, national and international case studies related to age-friendly communities and age-friendly design were selected to showcase how good design at the unit, building and neighbourhood scales can improve the livability for current and future households with older adults and children residing in ground-related and vertical communities.

Zero to one hundred – Planning for an Aging Population: A Toolkit for Planners and Designers

Vancouver, British Columbia (2018)



Ground-related community – Older Adults

This document provides policy and design recommendations directed toward community planning and site-specific development projects to help local municipalities collaborate with architects, developers, and residents to support age-friendly communities.

Growing Up Boulder

Boulder, Colorado (2009)



Ground-related and Vertical communities – Children

Using participatory planning methods with young people, Growing Up Boulder's vision is to lead a global movement in child-friendly cities, resulting in more equitable and sustainable communities for all.



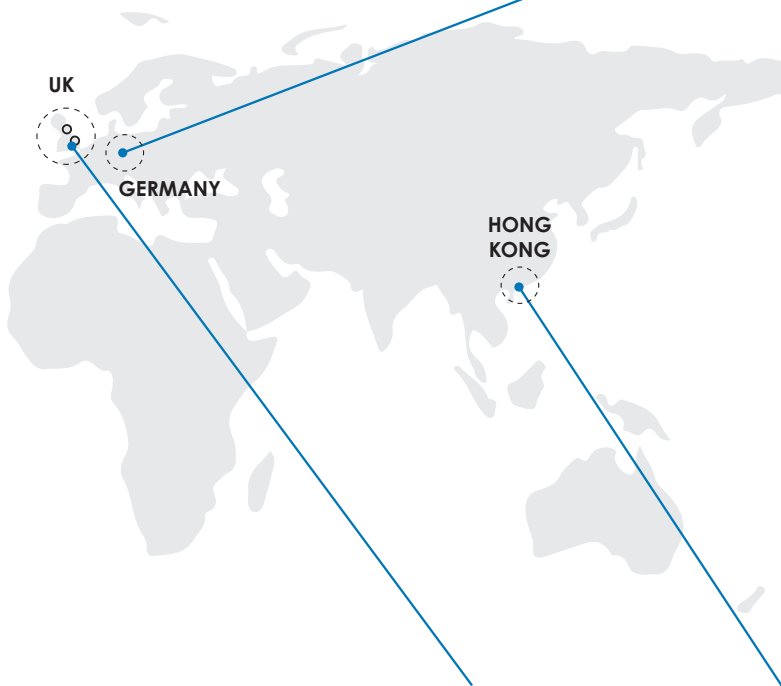
GrowingUP Guidelines

Toronto, Ontario (2020)

Vertical community – Children

These guidelines contain useful tools and recommendations to help developers plan for children in new vertical communities, focusing on three scales: neighbourhood, buildings and units.





Arnsberg's Future Aging Department
Arnsberg, Germany (2004)

Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

This initiative focuses on people experiencing dementia and their caregivers through improving social services and the physical design of the city. For example, wayfinding amenities such as numbered benches every 200 meters in some markets and on the promenade along the River Ruhr are provided for people to rest or call for assistance quoting the bench number if lost.



Making London Child-Friendly: Designing Places and Streets for Children and Young People

London, UK (2020)

Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Children

Design recommendations can help improve safety in play and open spaces at the scale of the neighbourhood and building.



Elderly-friendly Design Guidelines
Hong Kong, China (2019)

Vertical Communities – Older Adults and Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure

Design recommendations focusing on safety, accessibility, convenience and wayfinding help Older Adults to move around with ease and participate in various physical activities and social interaction.

DESIGN INTERVENTIONS FOUND AROUND THE WORLD

The following examples of age-friendly design could be considered for the guidelines.

UNIT



Figure 9. New-York, USA - Child-friendly and private open space and balconies

Wyckoff Street Townhouse in New York demonstrates how a large outdoor space and balcony can extend the living space for children to play outdoors.



Figure 10. Private Residence

Closet Elevators can be installed as a unit retrofit if the existing unit design includes stacked closets with doorways with a minimum width of 36 inches (3 feet).



Figure 11. Conceptual rendering

Accessible washroom with grab bars and a barrier-free roll/walk-in shower.

BUILDING



Figure 12. Vancouver, Canada - Child-friendly and accessible social spaces.



Figure 13. Canada - Child-friendly community



Figure 14. London, England - Age-friendly and accessibility spaces

The Eight-Oaks Housing Co-operative in Vancouver has a daycare located on the ground floor of the 4-storey residential building. Residents of the building have priority for childcare spaces and the daycare is used for co-op social events when not in use.

A development with family-friendly units providing a playground to support social interaction and cohesion.

Conversion of a former communal space into a mobility scooter storage/charging area for residents of Harman Court.

NEIGHBOURHOOD



Figure 15. Fortaleza, Brazil - Designing safe and enjoyable mobility networks



Figure 16. Arnsberg, Germany - Age-friendly and dementia friendly places to rest



Figure 17. Melbourne, Australia - Intergenerational spaces

The streets were reshaped with paint and moveable street furniture, travel lanes removed and narrowed, refuge islands installed, curb extensions built for increase safety and playful opportunities.

A numbered bench for rest and for people experiencing dementia who can call for assistance quoting the bench number if lost.

A'beckett Urban Square is an underutilized parking lot transformed into a multi-destination public space that includes bright colours to add whimsy and playfulness.

AGE-FRIENDLY DESIGN IN MARKHAM

The following examples are being implemented and considered in Markham.

UNIT



Figure 18. Markham, Solares Architecture - multi-generational house floor plan

A single detached home that includes a private living space, kitchenette, bathroom, and bedroom on the ground floor to support multi-generational use and aging in place.



Figure 19. Private Residence - Markham

Washrooms designed to be accessible and inclusive for older adults and families with young children. This includes barrier free showers, grab bars and wider doorways (min. 36") to accommodate mobility devices.



Figure 20. Laneway housing in Cornell

Second units (including basement suites, laneway houses and coach houses) provide housing options for family members such as grandparents and adult children.

BUILDING



Figure 21. Rendering of Gallery Square Condo

Shared outdoor space and terraces should be an extension of residents' living space and provide access to the outdoors, recreational and social amenities.



Figure 22. Rendering of a Children's Play Room - Vendôme Condo

Dedicated indoor children's play areas allow for safe, all-season play and socialization opportunities for children and families living in vertical communities.

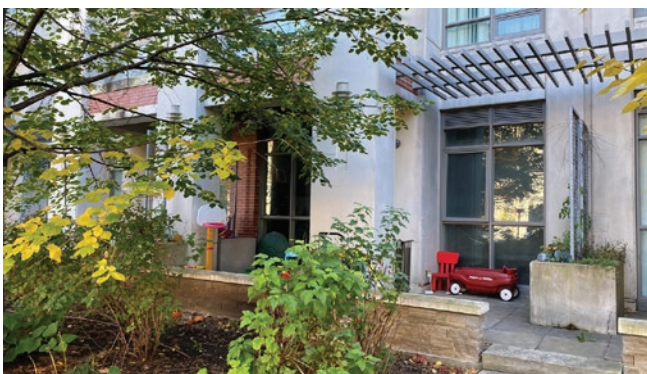


Figure 23. Townhouses in Downtown Markham

Street-oriented gardens and terraces provide opportunities for direct connection to the public realm for residents of all ages.

NEIGHBOURHOOD



Figure 24. Signage at the Markham Pan Am Centre



Figure 25. Roseberry Park



Figure 26. Markham Pan Am Centre

Clear and legible signage and wayfinding ensures that all people are able to use and navigate public facilities with ease regardless of age, literacy-level or language proficiency.

Parks with inter-generational features such as splash pads, accessible walking paths and adult fitness equipment encourage families and older neighbours to gather together.

Informal seating opportunities built into landscape features provide places to rest in the public realm - electrical outlets allow people to use and charge electronic devices while visiting and helps optimize the use of the space for markets, events or other community gatherings.

APPENDIX



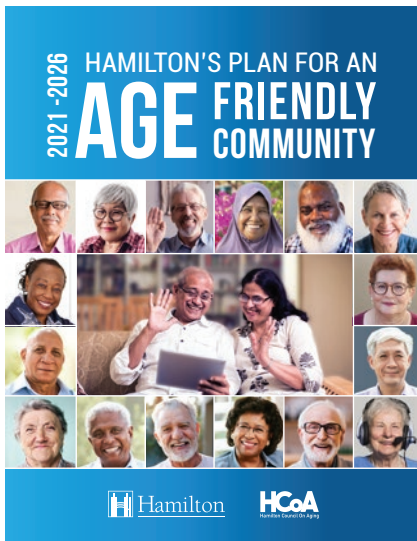
GrowingUP Guidelines

Location	Toronto, ON
Author	City of Toronto
Date	2020
Why it's relevant	Focuses on three scales: high-and mid-rise neighbourhood, buildings and units
What does it focus on	Vertical community – Children

Highlights



The GrowingUP Guidelines were created for the City of Toronto to help developers plan for children in new vertical communities. The guidelines provide useful tools and recommendations for the development industry, including the recommendation that 25% of all new units be 'large' units (breakdown: 10% three-bedroom, 15% two-bedroom). The GrowingUp Guidelines also includes recommended sizes per unit, and identifies the size of each unit element to be the most conducive for families. In addition, the document recommends provisions for a Privately-Owned Publicly Accessible Space (POPs) if on-site parkland dedication is not feasible and if there is no park within 250-500m or 5-10-minute walking distance of a new development site.



Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community (2021-2026)

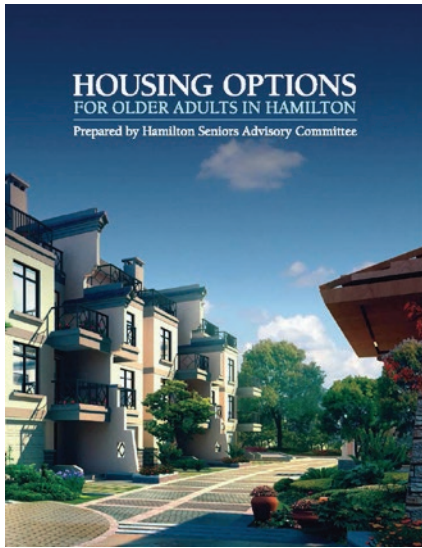


Location	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Author	City of Hamilton
Date	2021
Why it's relevant	Covers housing and outdoor spaces and buildings for adults 55+ and people with dementia
What does it focus on	Ground-related and Vertical communities and Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

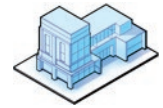
Highlights



Hamilton's 2021-2026 Age-Friendly Plan builds on Hamilton's first Age-Friendly Plan and provides recommendations to create age-friendly and dementia-friendly communities. Drawing on the WHO Age-Friendly 8 Dimensions, the Plan includes seven interconnected goals broken down into 21 objectives and 61 recommendations, reflective of Hamilton's commitment to being an age-friendly city with a specific emphasis on a dementia-friendly community. These include housing that supports aging place such as senior co-housing, multi-generational living, and lease-for-life in new developments and safe, inclusive, accessible and well-maintained outdoor spaces for people of all ages and abilities.



Housing Options for Older Adults in Hamilton



Location	Hamilton, Ontario
Author	Hamilton Seniors Advisory Committee
Date	2021
Why it's relevant	Focuses on housing at the scale of the unit, building, and neighbourhood
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

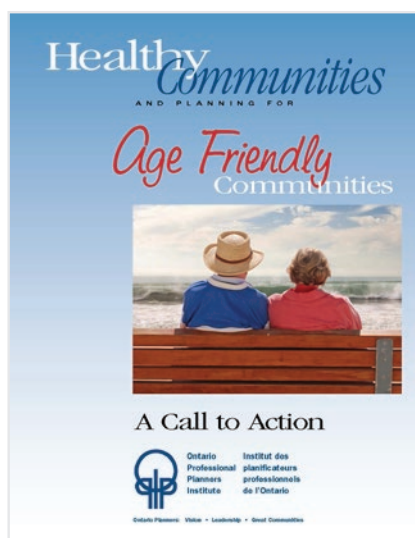
Highlights



The Housing Options for Older Adults provides information about housing options and locations for seniors in Hamilton. The resource lists several accessibility, affordability, and neighbourhood elements for seniors to consider when looking for suitable housing, including access, building, parking, traffic, sidewalk conditions, curbs, slopes, lighting. The guide also addresses ownership choices, including co-housing, barrier-free home renovation, housing with supports, including assisted living services in supportive housing (designated buildings), retirement homes, and retirement villages (adult lifestyle communities). The resource also includes valuable tips to keep seniors' homes safe.



Planning for Age-Friendly Communities A Call to Action

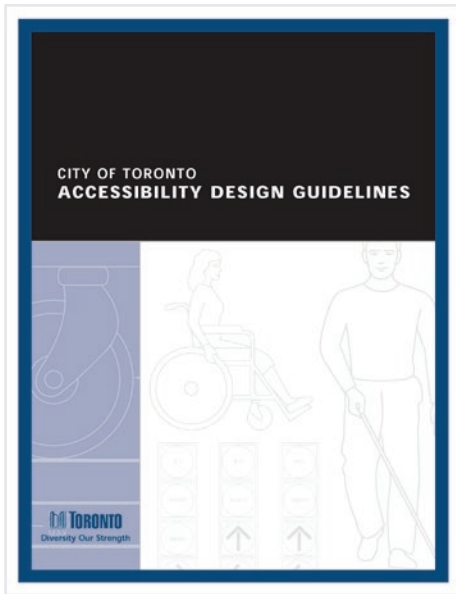


Location	Canada
Author	Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)
Date	2009
Why it's relevant	Focuses on key issues related to age-friendly communities
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

Highlights



The OPPI position paper addresses the challenges of planning for an aging population, suggesting key areas of action that can help create and foster age-friendly communities, and recognizing the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships as well as better services integration. Many seniors opt to age in place as housing options for seniors remain limited. Municipalities and planners are encouraged to explore and implement a greater range of housing options, both in terms of housing form and life-cycle housing models (i.e., shared living models, intergenerational family living). The paper also suggests implementing flexible and inclusionary zoning to facilitate aging in place and achieve age-friendliness in communities. The paper also promotes the integration of uses and adaptive use related to children and seniors rather than separating them.

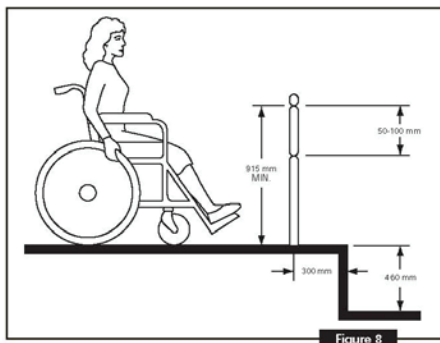
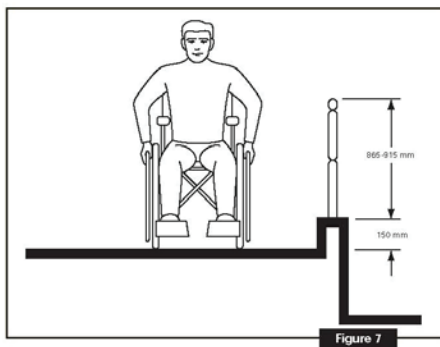


The City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines



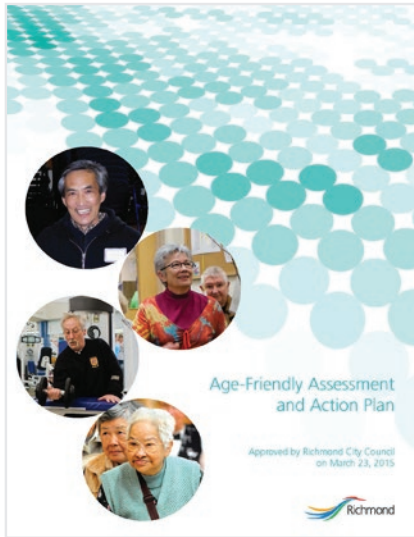
Location	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Author	City of Toronto
Date	2021
Why it's relevant	Covers design recommendations from spatial planning to circulation, from exterior to interior space.
What does it focus on	Age-friendly Neighbourhood Structure

Highlights

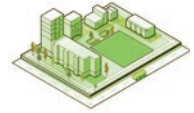


The City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines (TADG) address accessibility requirements to provide for an accessible and inclusive environment and for Toronto to become a barrier-free city. The TADG is the mandatory, guiding accessibility standard for the design and construction of new facilities, as well as the renovation of existing facilities owned, leased, or operated by the City of Toronto. The main audiences for the guide are planning and design professionals, the development industry and the City of Toronto government. The TADG articulates design considerations and requirements for age-friendly neighbourhood structure from pedestrian crossings and signals, exterior paths of travel, street furnishing, and specialized exterior areas such as play spaces, parks and parkettes to interior design aspects for building and facilities. The guidelines also include design features for specific building types (residential care, recreation and sports facilities).

GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES / CASE STUDIES: NATIONAL



City of Richmond Age Friendly Assessment and Action Plan

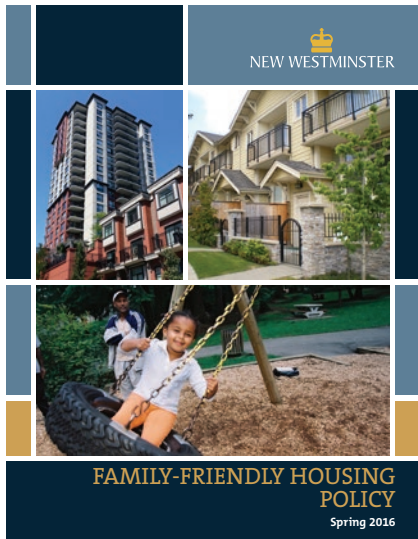


Location	Richmond, British Columbia, Canada
Author	City of Richmond
Date	2015
Why it's relevant	Covers public realm and public facilities, focusing on adults 55+ and people with dementia – Richmond is also a suburban community, close to a larger urban centre, with a diverse community - similar to Markham.
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

Highlights



The document identifies several public realm design-specific recommendations, including: auditing all marked crosswalks for safety, with signalized and special crosswalks as priorities, to ensure they are Age-Friendly (well-lit, non-slip markings, visual and audio cues and adequate crossing times), making improvements as required; ensuring sufficient indoor and outdoor washrooms are available in public spaces; Increasing seating and lighting in green spaces; addressing discontinuous sidewalks throughout the city; promoting the accessibility of business premises by proposing an Age-Friendly Business Program designation.



New Westminister Family Friendly Housing Policy



Location	New Westminister, British Columbia, Canada
Author	City of New Westminister
Date	2016
Why it's relevant	Offers both policy and design guidelines related to the development of family friendly housing in New Westminister, BC, a suburb of Vancouver.
What does it focus on	Ground-related and Vertical communities – Children

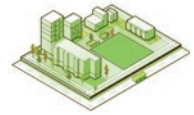
Highlights



The Family-Friendly Housing Policy provides both policies and design guidelines specific to family-friendly housing. The City of New Westminister's Family-Friendly Housing Zoning Amendment Bylaw directs all development applications (i.e., Zoning By-law Amendment, Development Permits and Building Permits) which have over ten residential units to include a minimum percentage of family-sized units (i.e., 25% of units to be two- and three-bedroom units), along with design guidelines to help increase housing options for families. The Family-Friendly Housing Policy is an example of achieving more living options for families through regulations rather than incentives but cautions against being too prescriptive about design considerations beyond the number of bedrooms.



Township of Langley Age-Friendly Strategy



Location	Langley, British Columbia, Canada
Author	The Township of Langley
Date	2014
Why it's relevant	Focuses on outdoor spaces and buildings
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

Highlights



Places to gather, McLeod Park



Accessible entry ramp, Township Civic Facility

Drawing on the WHO Age-Friendly 8 Dimensions, Langley Age-Friendly Strategy addresses the specific needs of older residents, supports inter-generational connections, and continues to plan for healthy, livable communities that are welcoming to all ages. The Strategy encourages the development of criteria for age-friendly park design, including elements such as benches, railings along pathways, and wayfinding signage, and the creation of an accessible trail standard, providing opportunities for active living and social interaction for people of all ages through a greater diversity of parks and public spaces. The Strategy also encourages the development of a diverse range of housing options for older adults, such as co-housing, single-level housing, and townhouses, with bedrooms and bathrooms on the ground level, and encourages the construction of all new housing for older adults, including independent or assisted living, to be located in areas that are in proximity to transit and services.



Child in the City: Planning Communities for Children and their Families



Location Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Author Kristin N. Agnello, RPP, MCIP

Date 2020

Why it's relevant Focuses on policy, regulatory and financial measures, participatory planning with children, and design interventions at the scale of the building, block, and city related to child and family-friendly communities

What does it focus on Ground-related and Vertical communities – Children

Highlights



Child in the City toolkit provides a lens through which planners, designers, and policy-makers can support child and family-friendly development practices that positively impact all. The document presents regulatory and financial tools to help implement child and family-friendly policies and achieve family-friendliness and multi-generational communities, stressing the importance of collaborations between multiple departments, agencies, and levels of government for their success.

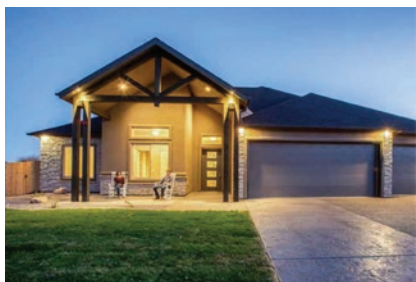


Zero to one hundred – Planning for an Aging Population: A Toolkit for Planners and Designers



Location	Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Author	Kristin N. Agnello, RPP, MCIP
Date	2018
Why it's relevant	Focuses policy and design recommendations related to age-friendly housing
What does it focus on	Ground-related community – Older Adults

Highlights



The Zero to one hundred document provides policy and design recommendations directed toward community planning and site-specific development projects to help local municipalities collaborate with architects, developers, and residents to support age-friendly communities. The role of all levels of government, residents, and private developers, key players that share responsibility for shaping an age-friendly built environment, is outlined. The document recommends addressing age-friendliness during the development approval and permitting processes, focusing on the pre-application stage as an opportunity to request developers and designers to incorporate age-friendly and accessibility features into a development. Local governments are encouraged to develop age-friendly development checklists, which can help discuss, negotiate and evaluate age-friendly features of new developments. Sample development checklists are included in the document.



Access Design Guide

Location	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Author	City of Edmonton
Date	2021
Why it's relevant	Focuses on inclusive design for outdoor spaces/parks, buildings and units
What does it focus on	Age-friendly Neighbourhood Structure

Highlights

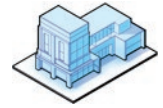


The Access Design Guide plans for a more accessible city for all ages and abilities at both the site and neighbourhood levels. The Access Design Guide is a supporting document for use in the planning and design of new neighbourhoods, neighbourhood redevelopments, and all new projects constructed within the City of Edmonton. The main audiences for the guide are planning and design professionals, the building and construction industry, government departments and members of the larger community. The Access Design Guide articulates design considerations for public open space planning, including site configuration, outdoor seating, exterior signs and wayfinding. The guide also considers various design aspects for building entrances, shelters and station buildings. At the unit level, the guide addresses a universal home design livable for all people of all abilities, including the recommendation for a turning diameter of 1500 mm or greater in all areas of the dwelling unit.

2.3.2 GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES / CASE STUDIES: INTERNATIONAL



Growing Up Boulder



Location Boulder, Colorado, United States

Author University of Colorado – Boulder,
City of Boulder

Date 2009

Why it's relevant Local initiative to include children and youth in city-building endeavours, including housing, planning, design and transportation. Using participatory planning methods with young people, Growing Up Boulder's vision is to lead a global movement in child-friendly cities, resulting in more equitable and sustainable communities for all.

What does it focus on Ground-related and Vertical communities – Children

Highlights



Multiple interactive initiatives that involve children and youth in planning, design and policy development processes in order to incorporate the unique input and ideas of children and youth. Projects include city-wide 'child-friendliness' audits, community planning processes, and a series of maps co-created by children and youth identifying child- and teen-friendly places, walking, cycling and transit routes and other places of interest or importance to children and youth.



SHAPING NEIGHBOURHOODS
ACCESSIBLE LONDON: ACHIEVING
INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

Accessible London: Achieving an Inclusive Environment

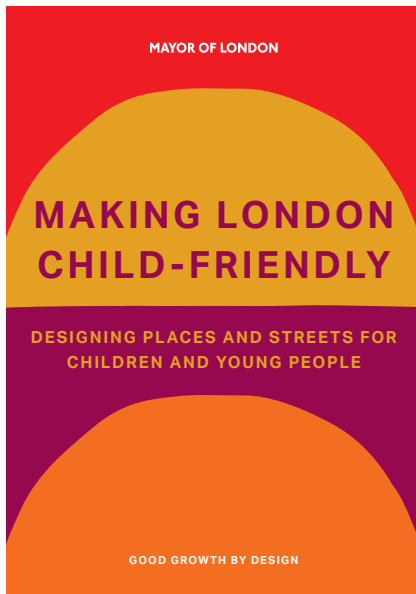


Location	City of London, England
Author	City of London
Date	2014
Why it's relevant	Covers housing and outdoor spaces and addresses integrating inclusive design in the development process
What does it focus on	Age-friendly Neighbourhood Structure

Highlights



The Accessible London: Achieving an Inclusive Environment report is a Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on the London Plan 2011 policies regarding creating and promoting an accessible and inclusive city. The SPG provides advice and guidance to boroughs, developers, designers and planning applicants on implementing inclusive design principles and creating an accessible environment, with particular attention to both disabled people and older adults. The SPG includes thirty-eight implementation points (SPGIP) to assist boroughs in developing and reviewing their local Plans, Area Action Plans and master plans, development control practices and procedures and assessing planning applications.



Making London Child-Friendly: Designing Places and Streets for Children and Young People

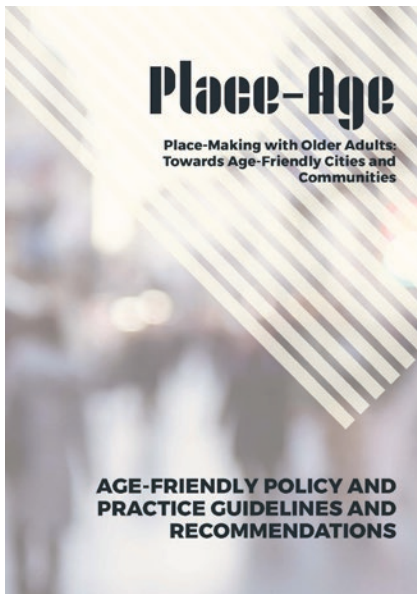


Location	London, England
Author	City of London
Date	2019-2020
Why it's relevant	Focuses on play/outdoor spaces at the scale of the neighbourhood and building
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Children

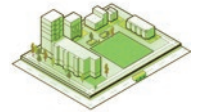
Highlights



The Making London Child-Friendly: Designing Places and Streets for Children and Young People Guidelines plan for a more child-friendly city by creating healthier and safer built environments for children and young people to live, learn and play. The guidelines contain various design recommendations to help improve safety in play and open spaces. It also includes case studies and advice for different planning and implementation stages, from policy-making and participation to design and management.



Place-Age: Place-Making with Older Adults: Towards Age-Friendly Cities and Communities



Location	Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Manchester, England
Author	Co-led by Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK, the Federal University of Pelotas in Brazil, and Sri Venkateswara University in India
Date	2019
Why it's relevant	Addresses housing and outdoor spaces
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

Highlights



The Place-Age: Place-Making with Older Adults: Towards Age-Friendly Cities and Communities report provides recommendations for developing and designing age-friendly cities, including the building of flexible/adaptive housing and co-housing, alongside the provision of ground floor properties and repurposing of existing housing stock to support intergenerational living. Increasing seating/resting areas in outdoor spaces is also recommended to improve neighbourhood structures' age-friendliness.



Arnsberg's Future Aging Department



Location	Arnsberg, Germany
Author	City of Arnsberg
Date	2004
Why it's relevant	Governance and implementation of an age-friendly town, focusing on people living with dementia and their caregivers
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Older Adults

Highlights



The Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages document presents a plan for enhancing and providing parks for all. Designing for all requires creating seating areas, providing structures and equipment in parks that cater to diverse ages, abilities and interests, improving access to parks through design changes. The guidelines also provide useful park planning tools to help create and improve green spaces for all ages and abilities, including a programming calendar, public space audit.



Elderly-friendly Design Guidelines



建築署
Architectural Services Department

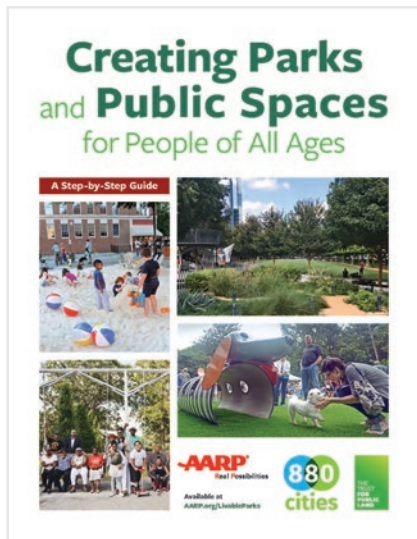
Elderly-friendly Design Guidelines

Location	Hong Kong, China
Author	P&T Architects and Engineers Limited for the Hong Kong's Architectural Services Department
Date	2019
Why it's relevant	Covers design recommendations from spatial planning to circulation, from exterior to interior space in private residences and LTC facilities.
What does it focus on	Vertical Communities – Older Adults and Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure

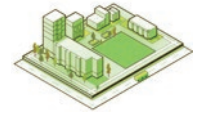
Highlights



The Elderly-friendly Design Guidelines plan for happy, healthy and active aging in the city. They provide design considerations for circulation planning, interior space design, outdoor space and amenities, focusing on safety, accessibility, convenience and wayfinding for the elderly to move around with ease and participate in various physical activities and social interaction. The guidelines also include enhanced elderly-friendly design that should be considered for specific building types (residential care, recreation and sports facilities). While the recommendations in the Guidelines are not mandatory requirements they provide guidance on age-friendly design and best practices for the development industry to consider and incorporate in their practices and projects.



Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages



Location	Global
Author	AARP, 880 Cities and The Trust for Public Land
Date	2018
Why it's relevant	Focuses on outdoor spaces/parks
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure

Highlights



The Creating Parks and Public Spaces for People of All Ages document presents a plan for enhancing and providing parks for all. Designing for all requires creating seating areas, providing structures and equipment in parks that cater to diverse ages, abilities and interests, improving access to parks through design changes. The guidelines also provide useful park planning tools to help create and improve green spaces for all ages and abilities, including a programming calendar, public space audit.

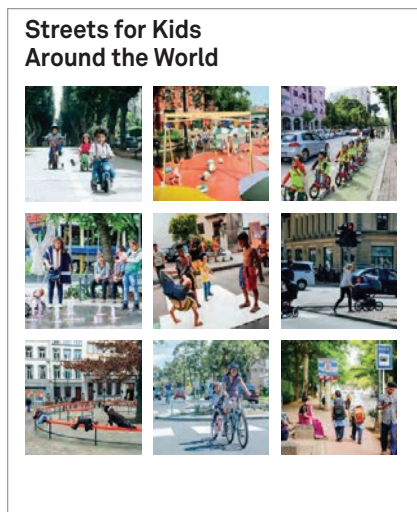


Designing Streets for Kids



Location	Global
Author	The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
Date	2020
Why it's relevant	Focuses on outdoor spaces and the public realm
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood – Children

Highlights



Designing Streets for kids builds upon the approach of putting people first, focusing on child-friendly street design streets around the world at different scales: the city or region, the neighbourhood, the block, and the detail. The report acknowledges streets as public spaces to pause and spend time and captures best practices, strategies, programs, and policies used globally, focusing on street redesigns in key areas such as near schools, residential streets, high-traffic areas and intersections. For example, implementing traffic calming measures (i.e., removing street parking, speed bumps, painting pavement, adding 30 seconds of pedestrian crossing time to each signal cycle) to improve children safety.

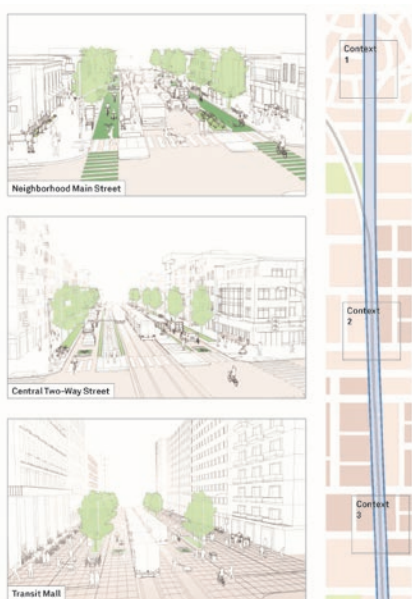


GLOBAL STREET DESIGN GUIDE



Location	Global
Author	The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
Date	2017
Why it's relevant	Focuses on streets as public spaces, with particular attention to people with disabilities, older adults, and children
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – All ages

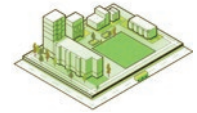
Highlights



Based on the principle that urban streets are public spaces, the Global Street Design Guide sets a global baseline for designing streets, shifting away from car-oriented street design to making streets accessible, safe and inviting for all users - while prioritizing sustainable and active mobility choices. With over 40 case studies addressing 21 street typologies and design elements found worldwide to support safe and inviting spaces for the various users of urban streets, the Guide shows in actionable terms how to redesign streets and intersections to prioritize pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders. For example, implementing calming traffic strategies (visual and audio cues, shorter crossing distances, adequate crossing times, refuge areas) and including streetscaping and street furnishing (seating, drinking fountains, weather protection, lighting, sidewalks) to increase pedestrian safety and mobility and enhance the pedestrian experience.



CITIES ALIVE: DESIGNING FOR URBAN CHILDHOODS



Location	Global
Author	Arup
Date	2017
Why it's relevant	Focuses on streets as public spaces for cities, places, and people
What does it focus on	Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Structure – Children

Highlights



Cities Alive: Designing for Urban Childhoods examines 41 case studies worldwide that exemplify the 'children's infrastructure' approach, ensuring that cities and public spaces work for the full spectrum of ages. These include providing intergenerational spaces such as community gardens for intergenerational activities and socializing; prioritizing pedestrians by implementing traffic calming measures such as speeding restrictions, clear demarcation of pavements/ sidewalks, colourful crossings or shared streets as well as enhanced streetscapes to create a safe environment for everyday street play, activities and socializing; repurposing vacant or underused spaces and transforming institutional outdoor spaces such as spaces around schools, health facilities, sport/recreation into multi-use neighbourhood spaces; encouraging temporary street closures so that play and social interaction can take place such as pop-up parks with benches, planters and deck chairs; incorporating public art or creative bus stop designs for playful interaction as part of everyday journeys and activities; and creating children's priority zones through including traffic calming, wayfinding, play-streets programming, pop-up parks, enhanced landscaping.

