



Sudbury Master Plan

Words You Might Hear

Access to Opportunities – The ability to live in conditions that make it possible for people to lead successful lives. These conditions include safe, affordable housing; access to healthy food; good-paying jobs; quality education; adequate health care; and convenient transportation.

Accessory Dwelling Unit – Also referred to as an in-law apartment, an accessory dwelling unit is a separate residence that is within/attached to a single-family home, or part of an accessory structure (e.g., garage). These residences provide accommodations for independent living (separate entrance, full kitchen, sleeping area, and full bathroom facilities).

Community Engagement – Actively reaching out to members of a community, usually in an organized fashion, to create discussions about important issues and get feedback that will help shape public policy, regulatory change, or investment.

Development Density – The amount of building space per unit of land. This is often expressed as the amount of floor area or the number of housing units per acre. For example: “20 housing units per acre” or “30,000 square feet of commercial per acre.”

Disparity – A lack of equality and similarity, especially in a way that is unfair or unjust due to a disadvantage, such as place of residence, race, economic status, gender, disability, or other difference.

Disproportionate Impacts – When the outcomes of an event, project, policy, law, or plan create or amplify disparities (see above) in a community; disproportionate impacts can lead to further social and economic impairment of some groups while others receive the full benefit of the effort.

Education – Schooling or training including, but not limited to: job training, formal schooling, self-education, continuing or adult education, or people learning about each other’s perspectives through discussion.

Equity/Planning for Equity – Just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential; fair and inclusive planning in which all residents are considered when deciding goals and objectives for future programs, policies, and regulations that will help all resident have a good quality of life and reach their full potential; ensuring that all residents have access to opportunities (see above) and resources.

Housing – Residences where people live. For example, single-family houses, apartments, condominiums, or mobile homes.

Housing Cost Burden – The condition of housing costs being high enough to cause financial stress to a household. As a rule of thumb, a household is considered to have a “housing cost burden” if more than 30% of its income is spent on the sum of rent or mortgage, utilities, mortgage principle with interest, taxes, and insurance.

Infill – Construction that “fills in” the gaps in already developed areas. Infill can occur on vacant land between buildings or on large parking lots. It can also include reusing or changing the use of an existing building by remodelling or through renovation.

Infrastructure – The framework or system of public facilities that meets the needs of a community. For example, roads, bridges, drinking water systems, sewer systems, treatment plants, sidewalks, buildings, etc.

Land Trust – A non-profit organization that protects land for public and environmental benefits.

Live/Work Space – Interior space where commercial and residential uses are in the same structure, and the residence is clearly provided for the operator of the commercial use. The residence and commercial space often have the same address and entrance to the residence are often from the commercial space. An example is work/retail space for artists or craftsmen.

Low Income Household – A household whose income is 80% or less of the area’s median income.

Mixed-Use Development – Development of a building or collection of buildings with two or more different uses, such as residential, office, retail, public, or entertainment. The term is most often used to describe developments that have a mix of commercial and residential use.

Moderate Income – A household whose income is between 80% and 120% of the area’s median income.

Planning – Community planning. A process that develops goals, objectives, and strategies to guide community decision making over several years. The process for developing a plan often includes community engagement, analysing existing resources and conditions, developing a vision for how a place will look in the future, developing strategies or activities to create that vision, and passing regulations.

Public Health – The health of the population as a whole, especially as the subject of government regulation and support. Public health initiatives promote and protect the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. (American Public Health Association)

Services – Generally refers to municipal services such as veteran’s assistance, assistance for the elderly, public safety/emergency, and other similar items.

Social Determinants of Health – The economic, physical, and social environments in which we are born, live, work, and age. They are shaped by policies, programs, and institutions at all levels, public and private.

Sustainable Community – There are many definitions, and there are many different ways for communities to attain a more sustainable future. The sustainability of a community depends on creating and maintaining its economic and environmental health, promoting access to opportunities, and fostering broad-based citizen participation in planning and implementation. (www.sustainable.org)

Zoning – Local land use laws that specify uses that are allowed and the sizes and locations of buildings on a property.