



Active Living Charter of the City of Kingston

Active living is a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routine. It is vital to Kingston's overall health and quality of life. Active living reduces the risk of chronic disease and enhances physical and mental health, and brings members of our community together.

An active community embraces active living through active transportation and physical recreation. Active transportation is any form of self-propelled travel such as walking or cycling, that helps get you to your destination - either on its own or combined with public transit. Physical recreation opportunities range from instructional programs to parks with play structures to places to walk, jog, or cycle. Active transportation and physical recreation are highly effective ways for people to meet Canada's physical activity guidelines and increase Kingston's overall physical activity level. Active transportation and physical recreation are both important for active living, and are integral to Kingston being a healthy, sustainable community.

Kingston supports active living through:

- **Policies** that direct mindful decision-making about new developments, neighbourhoods, schools, parks, trails, recreation facilities, public spaces, and amenities.
- **Community designs** that include public green space, and ensure that home, work, school, and amenities are not too far apart for self-propelled travel.
- **Infrastructure** that includes reliable travel routes with well-maintained, safe sidewalks, connecting pathways, signage and lights; and neighbourhood recreation centres.
- **Equipment** such as bicycle parking, playground structures, and sports fields.
- **Community recreation programming** that encourages healthy active lifestyles in recreation centres, community schools, and parks and open spaces.
- **Education and awareness** to motivate Kingstontians to be active.
- **Working together** with people and organizations to promote Kingston as an active community.

Kingston values active living as a key element in:

- Maintaining and improving the health of our citizens.
- Enhancing quality of life through social interaction and local economic growth.
- Improving environmental health by reducing reliance on motor vehicles.

Kingston active living opportunities are:

- **Accessible.** Participation is facilitated when physical and social barriers are broken down.
- **Affordable.** Free or low-cost opportunities close to home or work encourage greater involvement.

The City of Kingston promotes active living by providing opportunities to be active in your neighbourhood and on your way to work, school, or play.

The Kingston Coalition for Active Transportation is comprised of representatives from the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board, Centre for Obesity Research and Education, City of Kingston, Community, KFL&A Public Health, Kingston Gets Active, Limestone District School Board, Queen's Department of Geography, Queen's School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, and Queen's School of Urban and Regional Planning.