



## **Maintain Small-Town Character**

*Social Fabric • Amenities • Downtown • Recreation • Scenic Viewsheds • Walkability*

One of the highest ranked values of the community is to maintain the character of the city and Hamilton's small-town feeling. When asked how residents define small-town (see Appendix C, Public Engagement), many responses focused on interaction with others, whether running into a neighbor while on a walk or having a conversation with local business owners while doing errands. Physical planning and design of spaces for connectivity can increase this social engagement, by including park space, increasing walkability, densifying areas of businesses, and integrating and diversifying housing types and neighborhoods.

To address this theme, this Plan's goals and policies include efforts to:

- Enhance the city's walkability and compactness, with the ability to easily access downtown, schools, daily services, and other city amenities; focus on increasing connections across Highway 93 to ensure safe routes to parks and schools; and support business by providing alternative means of getting to daily services (i.e. walking, and biking).
- Ensure continuation of park development in conjunction with new neighborhoods; investigate trail connections within and around the city, especially between activity hubs, such as schools, parks, and existing trailheads; and expand the types of recreation facilities and programs.
- Continue the focus on and improvements for downtown, identifying additional community space(s) for events and interaction, and increasing residential housing in walkable proximity to downtown businesses.
- Look at image and safety enhancements for Highway 93 in cooperation with MDT, including signage and landscape improvements, land use and zoning updates, access improvements, safe crossings, additional controlled intersections, and speed limit reductions.