

Final Tonawanda DRI Vision Statement

Downtown Tonawanda will become a commercial and cultural hub at the confluence of the Erie Canal, Niagara River, and Ellicott Creek, offering a distinct blend of historical charm and modern vitality for residents, workers, and visitors of all ages. By capitalizing on its natural and built assets as a waterfront community, downtown Tonawanda will be sustainable; a vibrant place to live, work, gather, and recreate; and a unique regional destination to connect with history, nature, and each other.



Final DRI Goals

1. Attract new shops, restaurants, and other businesses to the downtown area.
2. Make downtown Tonawanda a year-round destination for residents and visitors.
3. Embrace Tonawanda's waterfront, parks, and trails as key activity centers for residents and visitors alike.
4. Improve walkability throughout downtown and better connect downtown to parks, trails, and neighborhoods.
5. Refresh streetscapes to improve access and make downtown Tonawanda look and feel livelier and more attractive to businesses.
6. Upgrade downtown Tonawanda's housing stock with a diverse mix of options for all residents.
7. Celebrate Tonawanda's rich heritage through the preservation of historic buildings and cultural sites and story-telling.
8. Highlight the small-town, historic feel of the city through enhancements to buildings, public spaces, and amenities.