



# Strathcona County

## OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Priorities Committee Meeting  
April 22, 2025

# Agenda

1. Project update
2. Public engagement results
3. Vision statement and pillars
4. Next steps



A nighttime photograph of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, a large tree is heavily laden with snow and decorated with strings of warm white lights and purple lights. To the left, a smaller evergreen tree is illuminated with bright green lights. In the background, another tree is lit with orange and yellow lights. The ground is covered in a layer of snow, and a picnic table is visible on the left. The sky is dark blue.

**Project  
update**



# Purpose of the Open Space Master Plan

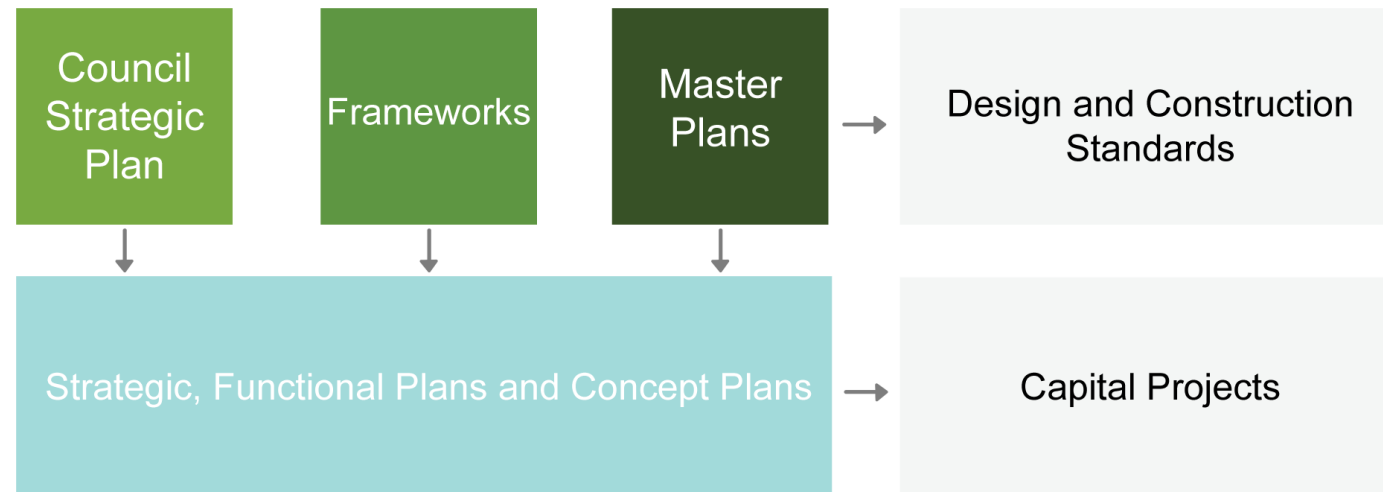
## **The Open Space Master Plan will:**

- Provide a framework for the planning, design, and management of open spaces to focus resources and make informed decisions.
- Establish clear classifications for open spaces to guide planning and programming.
- Inform municipal land use decisions by directing the location, sizing, and integration of open spaces into new and existing developments.
- Set service level direction, allowing the County to assess progress of supply and quality.
- Identify clear processes and implementation guidance.

## **The Open Space Master Plan will not:**

- Provide policy restrictions on the development and use of private lands.
- Provide detailed standards guiding the design.
- Provide detailed guidance to address short term needs for facilities and infrastructure (addressed in the recurring Recreation and Culture Strategy).

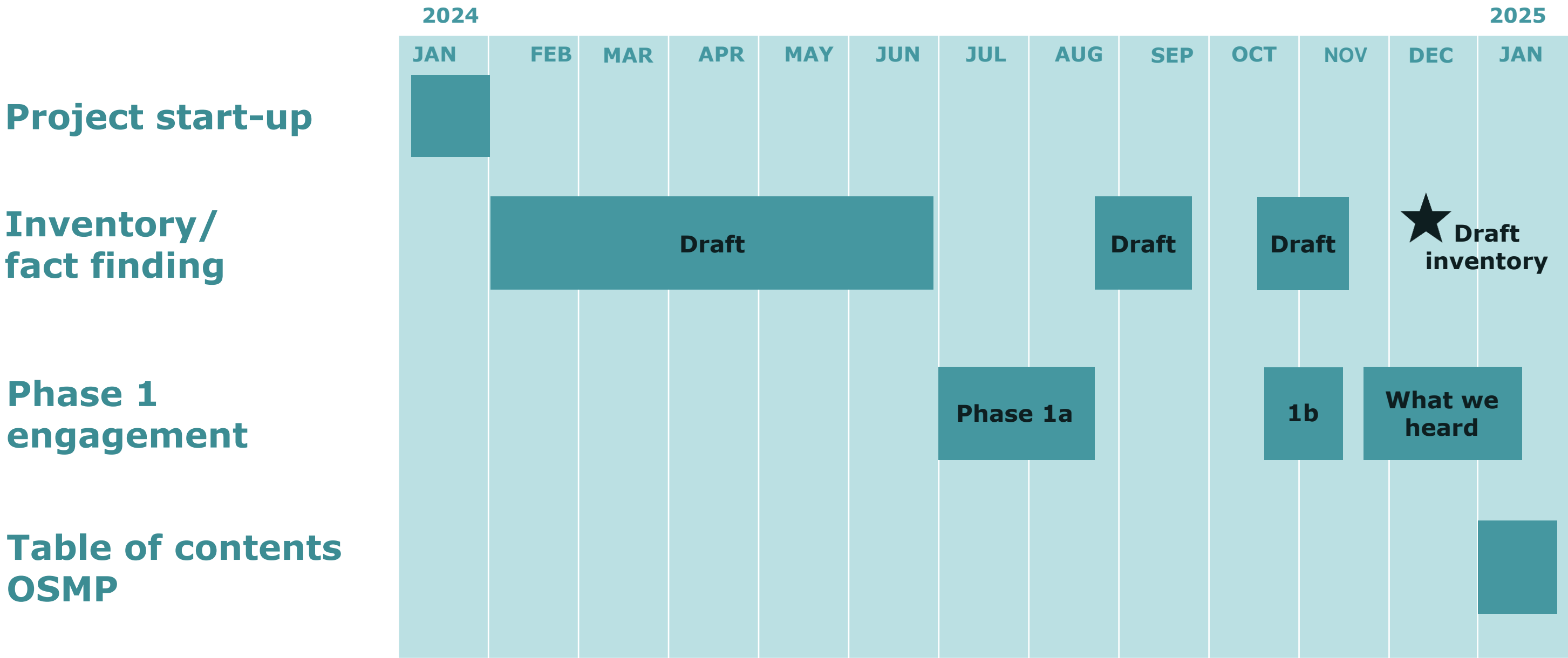
# Policy hierarchy



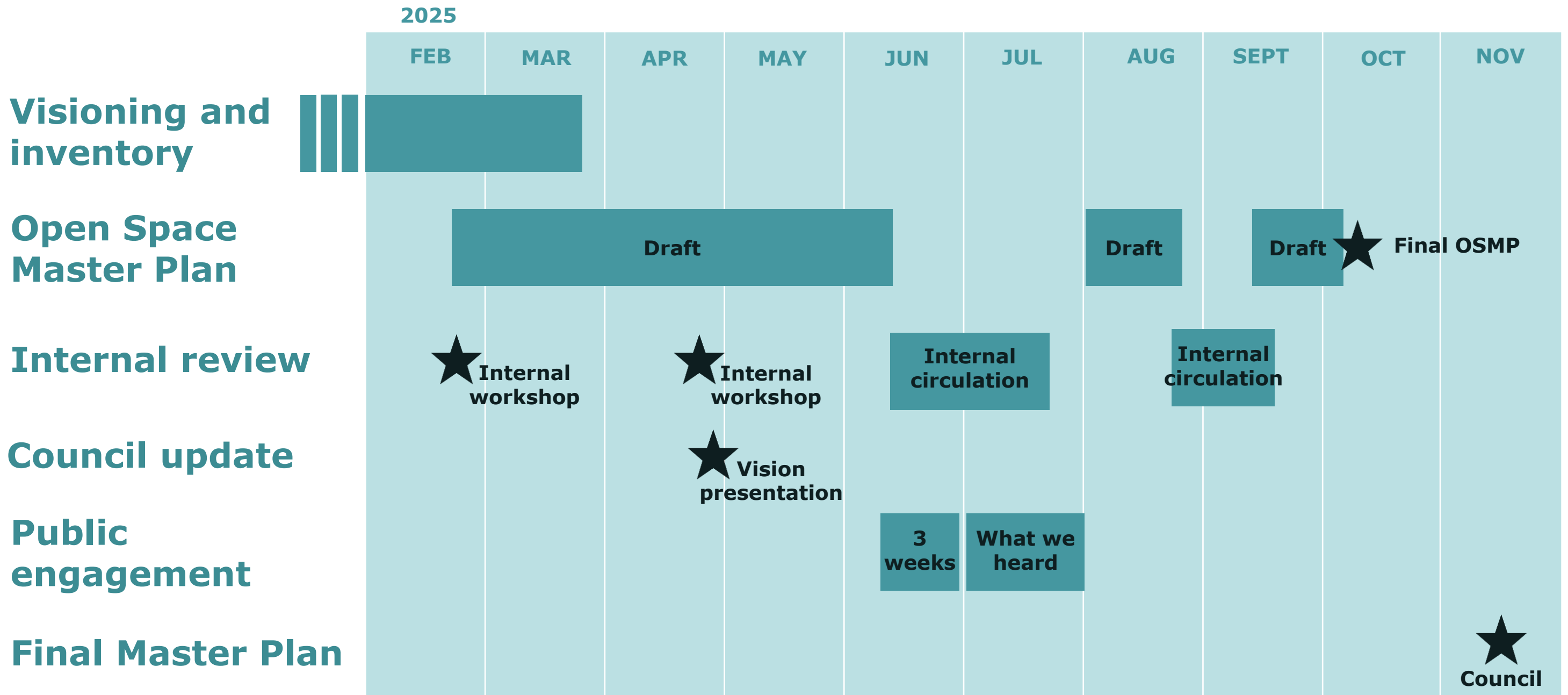
## Strategic Alignments

Master Plans	Frameworks	Strategies	Functional Concept Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open Space Master Plan</li><li>• Integrated Transportation Master Plan</li><li>• Sustainable Rural Roads Master Plan</li><li>• Transit Master Plan</li><li>• Trails Master Plan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long Term Financial Sustainability Framework</li><li>• Environmental Framework</li><li>• Social Framework</li><li>• Municipal Land Framework</li><li>• Accessibility Framework</li><li>• Agricultural Framework</li><li>• Economic Sustainability Framework</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sports Field Strategy</li><li>• Community Hall Strategy</li><li>• Dog Off Leash Strategy</li><li>• Outdoor Aquatics Strategy</li><li>• Recreation and Culture Strategy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ardrossan Community Recreation Concept Plan</li><li>• NSC Regional Park Concept Plan</li><li>• Community Recreation Concept Plan</li><li>• Highway 17 Functional Plan</li></ul>

# Project work to date



# Project update







# Public engagement results



# Phase 1b engagement

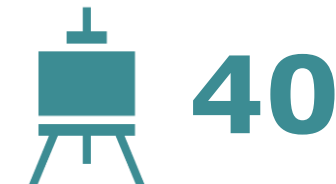
Phase 1a: Vision (summer 2024)  
Phase 1b: Priorities (fall 2024)



Responses to visioning survey



Pins placed on the interactive map



Attendees at two community open houses



Responses to survey on experiences, priorities and preferences



Participants in a workshop for community groups and sports organizations

# Key takeaways



## ENHANCING THE SYSTEM

- Appreciation of **accessibility, natural areas and connectivity**
- **Trail system and access to ecologically significant spaces** a strength
- Would like to emphasize and **strengthen these aspects** as the County grows



## NAVIGATING TRADE-OFFS WITH GROWTH

- **Avoid compromising natural areas** with increased recreational amenities
- **Would like to see more amenities and facilities** overall (e.g. pickleball, dog parks, splashpads, washrooms, parking, gathering areas etc.)



## ALL-SEASON USE

- **High frequency of winter use** of open spaces in the County
- **Enhance winter enjoyment** (snow clearing, fire pits, shelters, lighting, washrooms, etc.)



A scenic autumn landscape featuring a paved path in the foreground, a large tree with vibrant yellow leaves on the right, and a wooden bench. The ground is covered in fallen yellow leaves, and a line of evergreen trees is visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

# Vision statement and pillars



# Creation of vision statement and pillars

1

Public **engagement** results

2

Technical and working internal **workshop feedback**



# Vision statement

**Strathcona County's open spaces connect people, nature and community.**

Our vibrant network of public open spaces bridge rural and urban landscapes to deliver diverse, accessible, and inclusive experiences that can adapt and evolve. This network conserves and enhances ecological health while creating leisure opportunities that nurture a vibrant and interconnected community where people and nature thrive.

# Pillars

## **Environmental stewardship**

The open space network will support the health of natural ecosystems with strategic public access and activities.

## **Multi-functionality**

The open space network will offer a variety of year-round activities to support leisure pursuits.

## **Context sensitive**

The open space network is tailored to the unique needs of the rural or urban environments.

## **Inclusivity**

The open space network offers safe and welcoming experiences for people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds and interests.

## **Community, sport and tourism development**

The open space network will support a range of leisure, sport, cultural and tourism opportunities.

## **Cultural and historical celebration**

The open space network will provide the space to celebrate the County's cultures and histories.

## **Connectivity**

The open space network strives to offer connections to and through communities.





**Next  
steps**



# Project update



# Questions