

Strengthening Municipal Partnerships through the Built Environment Program Board of Health Report

March 4, 2026



PublicHealth
WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN-GUELPH
Stay Well.

What is the Built Environment?

The built environment refers to the human-made or modified physical surroundings in which people live, work, and play.¹

The Built Environment:

- Includes the planning and design of homes, schools, workplaces, greenspaces and recreation areas
- Includes the planning and design of neighbourhoods and transportations systems
- Can create conditions that contribute to health or disease



1. BCCDC. Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit. Available from: http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/HBE_linkages_toolkit_2018.pdf

Image adapted from: WDG Public Health. 2018 Neighbourhood Design Survey for Shelburne.

Creating Complete Communities



The goal of WDG Public Health's Built Environment Program is to support municipalities in creating complete communities.

Complete communities are places where people of all ages and abilities can conveniently access most of the necessities for daily living within close proximity to home and work.²

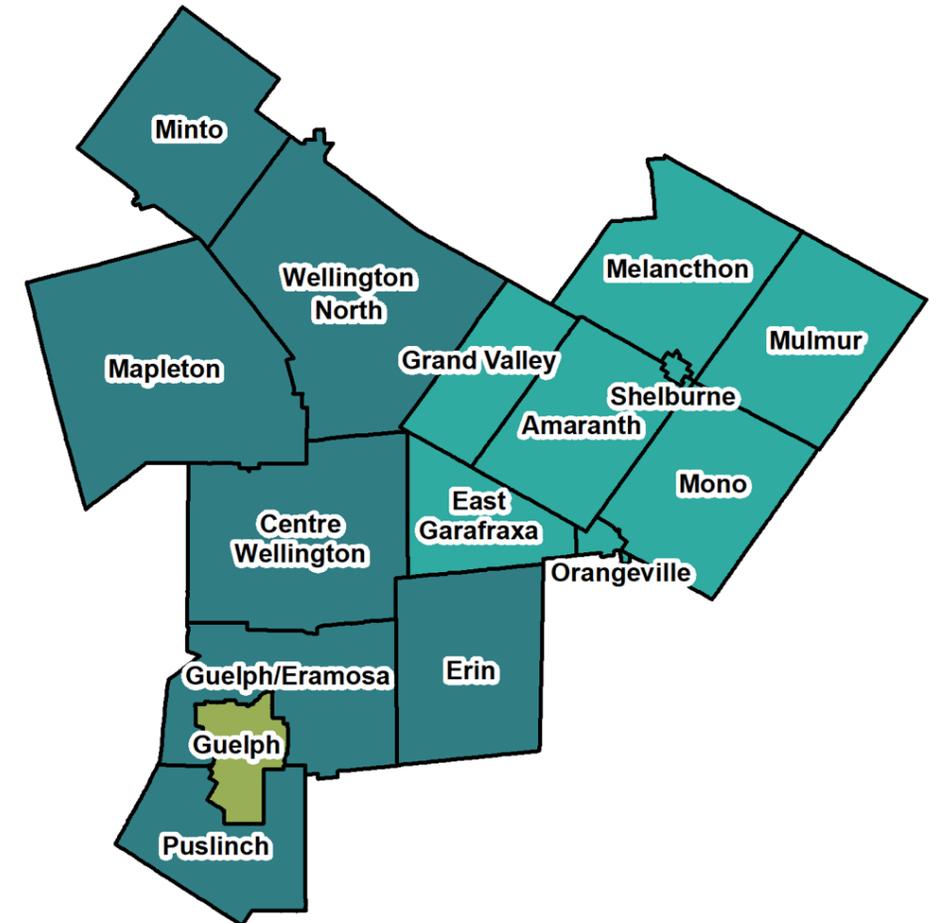
Complete communities:

- Apply an equity-informed lens
- Support positive health and well-being
- Contribute to environmental sustainability
- Are shaped through municipal **land use planning** policy

Building Partnerships with Municipalities

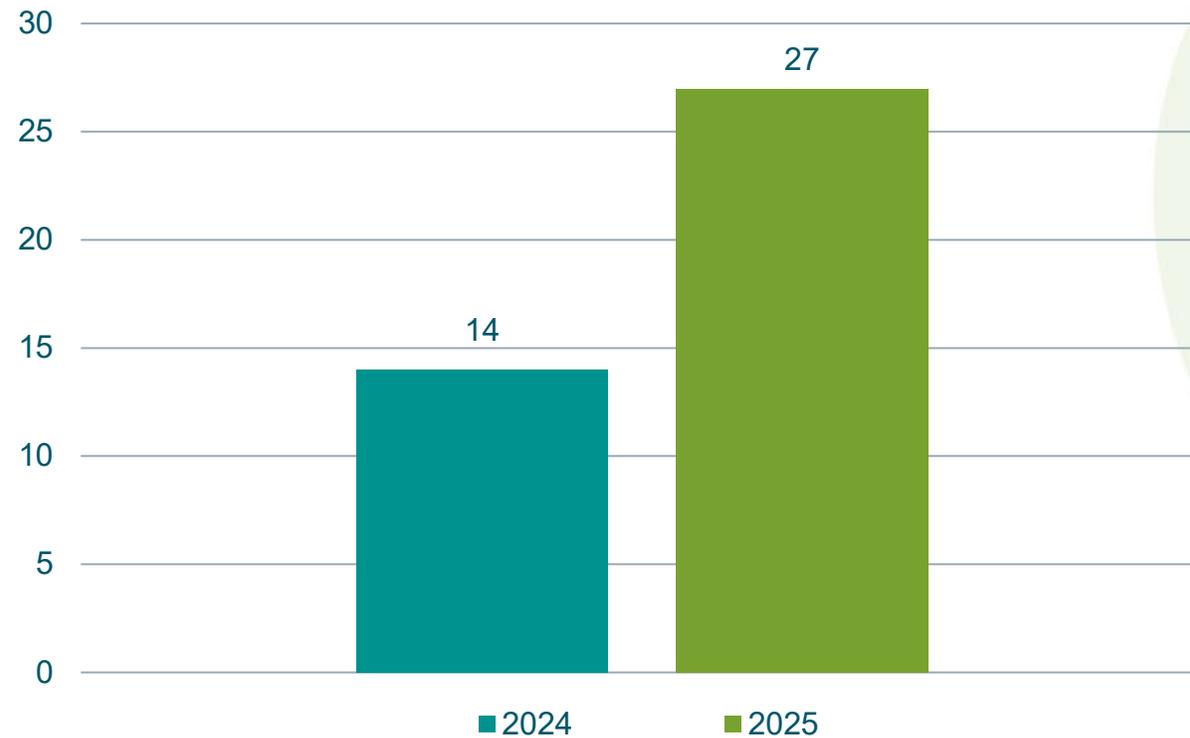
Steps WDG Public Health took to strengthen and expand municipal partnerships:

- Collaborating across municipal services and departments
- Included in municipal planner notification and circulation lists
- Attending municipal public meetings and engagement events
- Supporting municipal land use planning requests and projects



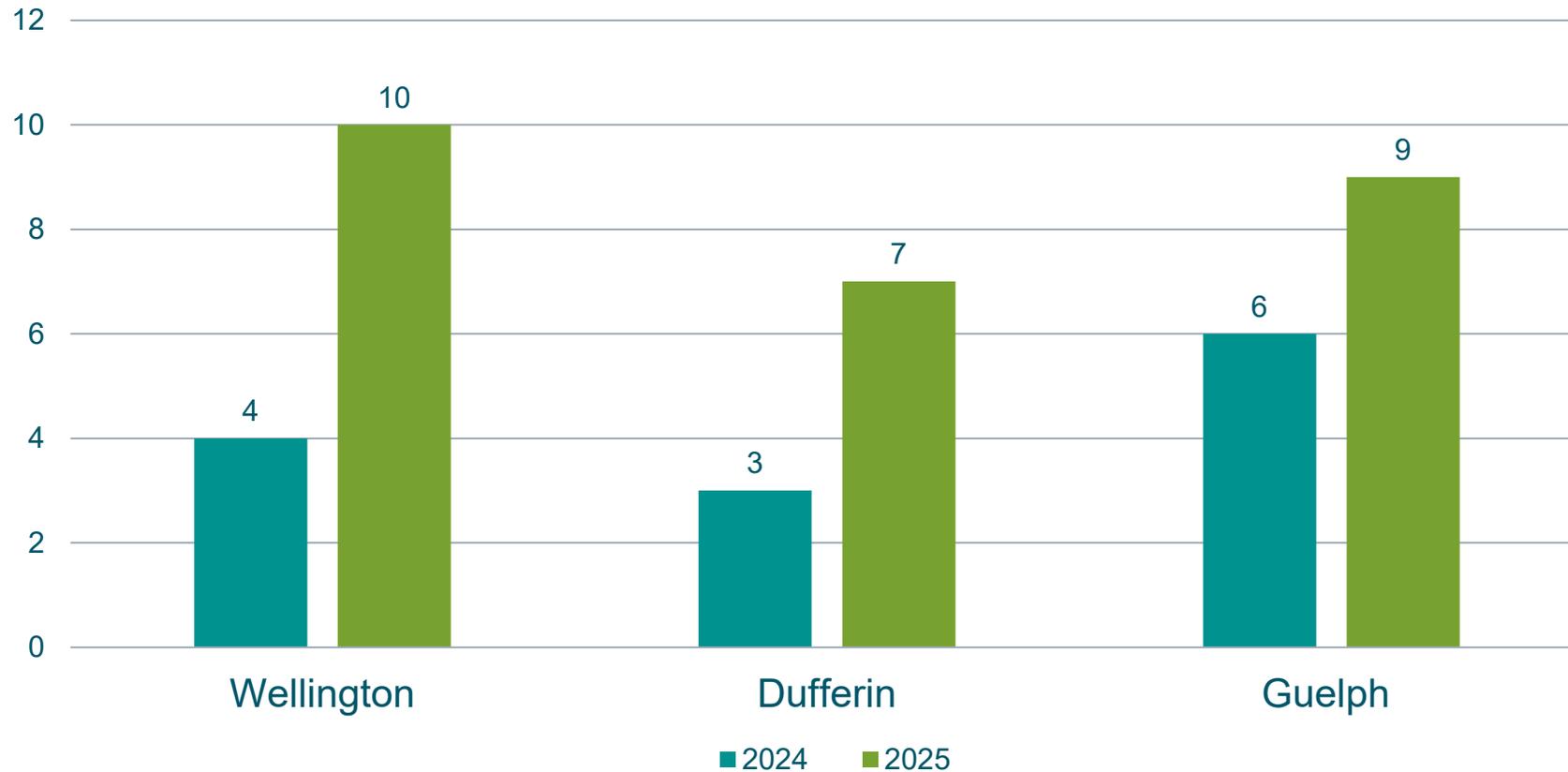
Partnership Outcomes

Number of Completed Land Use Planning Requests



Partnership Outcomes

Number of Completed Land Use Planning Requests, by Region*



* Two completed requests are not captured in this Figure as they were submissions for larger or joint jurisdictions.

Recommendation Examples

Active Transportation

- Encourage active transportation supportive infrastructure (e.g., sheltered and secure bicycle parking) in public spaces and developments.



Accessibility

- Recommend public areas and outdoor amenity spaces include a wide range of accessible seating options to accommodate all ages and physical abilities.



Recommendation Examples

Natural Environments

- Recommend preserving and expanding the local tree canopy to provide shade, improve air quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change.



Healthy Food Systems

- Encourage the inclusion of community gardens and permitting farmers markets to strengthen the local food system and support food security.





Questions?

