

James Street Neighbourhood Strategy 2021–2025

City of Sault Ste. Marie
DRAFT October 2020



SAULT STE. MARIE

Shape the Sault.ca



Sault Ste. Marie Official Plan Review

The vision for the James Street neighbourhood is a ...

Neighbourhood for **all ages**

The neighbourhood has something for everyone – toddlers, young children, teenagers, adults and seniors.

Safe neighbourhood

Where people feel safe and comfortable to live, work and visit at all times of day throughout the whole year.

Complete neighbourhood

Contains good housing options, offers opportunities for work, and has places to go for groceries and basic needs and services.

Neighbourhood **connected** with the rest of the city

Where people don't feel that they are physically separated and socially isolated from the larger Sault Ste. Marie community.

Positive and celebrated neighbourhood

One with a unique history and character that's seen with pride by Saultites across the city.

The James Street Neighbourhood

The James Street neighbourhood is located in the original west end of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, and has been known by different names over the years, such as "Jamestown", "Little Italy" and the "West End". It is surrounded on three sides by Algoma Central Railway and Algoma Steel. There isn't a precise definition as to where the neighbourhood's easterly boundary lies. Some consider Carmen's Way as the neighbourhood's easterly boundary, while others who live as far as Huron Street also consider themselves residents of this neighbourhood.

This is one of the most storied neighbourhoods in Sault Ste. Marie, especially to European immigrants who came to the city in the early 20th century and chose to settle here. It was known as a lively community of immigrants, including Italians, Ukrainians, Croatians and others ⁽¹⁾. Residents often remember it as a neighbourhood where one could easily get everything a household needed. A survey in 1960 counted almost 2,000 residents living between the steel plant and the Canadian Pacific (CP) rail tracks ⁽²⁾. A local neighbourhood organization at that time, the West End Ratepayers Association – also known as the West Street to Huron Street Ratepayers Association – consisted of 600 members ⁽³⁾.

Today, 60 years later, Statistics Canada's Census data show that approximately 850 people live in the area between Cathcart Street to the north, West Street to the west, the Algoma Central Railway to the south, and Hudson and Toronto streets to the east ⁽⁴⁾. Of the residents in the neighbourhood, 56% live in apartment buildings, and almost three-quarters rent rather than own their home. Over the decades, the neighbourhood has gained a reputation as a place that needs help ⁽⁵⁾. In 2019, the average residential property assessment value per dwelling unit was around \$60,000 in the James Street neighbourhood, compared to \$166,000 city-wide ⁽⁶⁾.

(1) SooToday and Sault Ste. Marie Public Library. December 9, 2018. "Anna Marinelli: The volunteer midwife who helped deliver more than 1,500 babies."

(2) E.G. Faludi. 1960. Rebuilding a City: The Urban Renewal of Greater Sault Ste. Marie.

(3) Sault Star. August 16, 1969. "Majority of west end people favor urban renewal project."

(4) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

(5) The Steel Town Down (2018) documentary by CTV and Vice shone a spotlight on this neighbourhood.

(6) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

The James Street Neighbourhood

However, looking closer at property assessment values, while total residential assessment values in the James Street neighbourhood are low overall, the neighbourhood's average residential assessment value on a per hectare basis is comparable to that of most other urban areas in Sault Ste. Marie ⁽⁷⁾. This is because of James Street's denser traditional form of development, which is often more efficient and more productive than some newer, sparser forms of development on the outskirts of the Sault's urban area. In terms of commercial property assessment values, James Street is comparable to other traditional commercial areas in the Sault, such as the south end of Korah Road (the area traditionally known as Buckley) and Wellington Street West in the Steelton area ⁽⁸⁾.

Despite some of the perceptions of this neighbourhood, there is optimism that this neighbourhood can be rejuvenated. Many of the people who still live, work and volunteer in this area are very passionate and engaged about their neighbourhood. In addition, the James Street neighbourhood already has some of the key components of a 'complete neighbourhood': it's a neighbourhood where generations of families can live within close proximity to one another; a neighbourhood that provides a diverse range of housing options; a neighbourhood that has (although underutilized) a tremendous amount of public space; and, a mix of land uses with the potential to provide goods, services and employment opportunities all within walking distance.

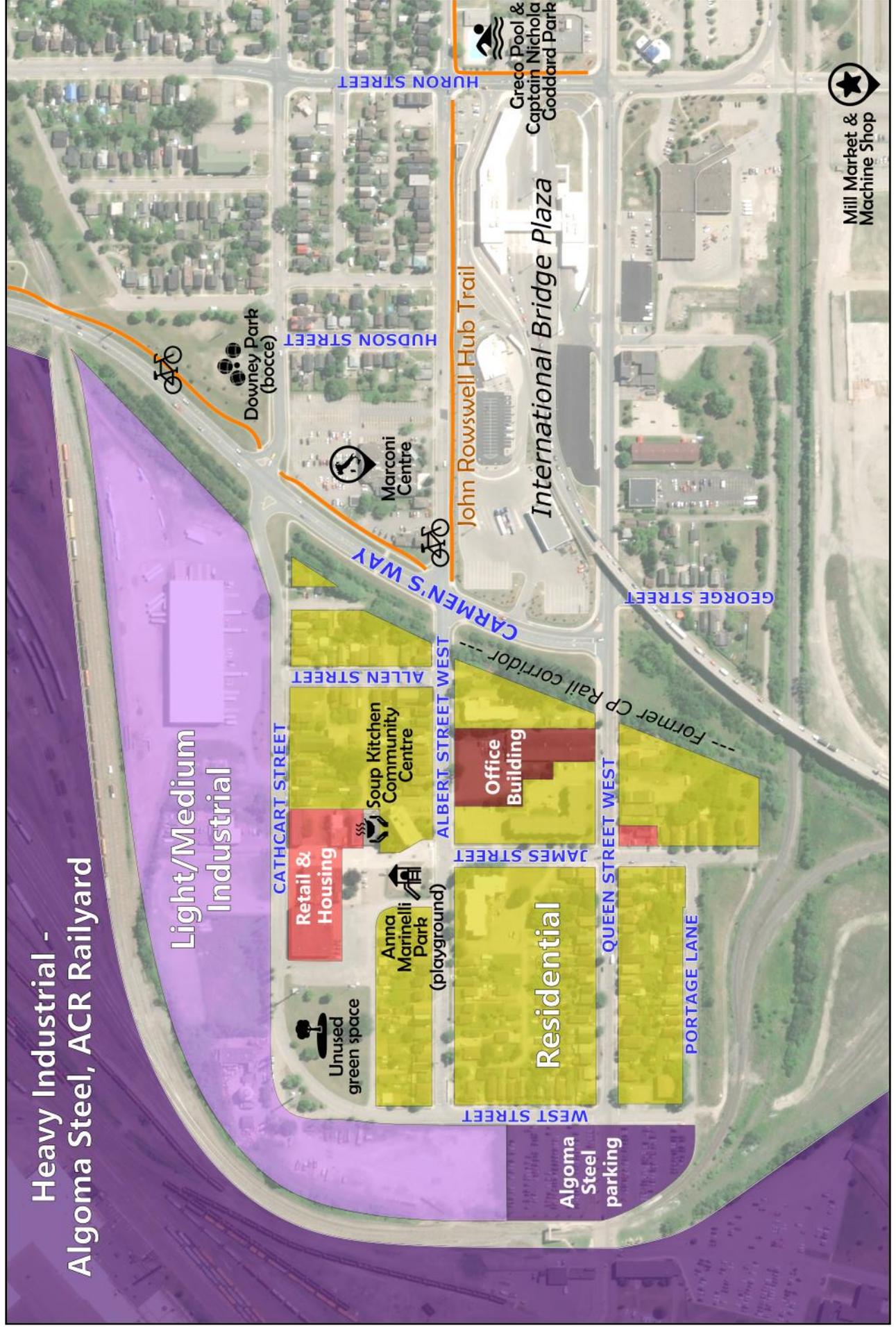
It's clear from Planning staff's conversations that there is great interest among both current members of the neighbourhood as well as organizations and leaders in the wider Sault Ste. Marie community to 'do something' to better this neighbourhood.

Recognizing the current form of the neighbourhood, this James Street Neighbourhood Strategy focuses on recommendations for improving the areas west of Carmen's Way to the steel plant.

(7) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

(8) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

Map of the James Street Neighbourhood today



What We Heard

The following are some of the recurring messages that Planning staff heard from community members during the **"Shape the Sault"** public and stakeholder engagement sessions held in October 2019.

Make it a safe place to be.

A store, or 2, or 3, or...

**Crosswalks at Carmen's Way
and Albert & Cathcart.**

**A variety of activities
for a variety of ages.**

**Bike path through or around
Jamestown. Hub Trail.**

Pop up markets.

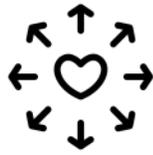
More people! More life!

Change the stigma.

**Make Jamestown a
better destination.**

**A cleaner environment
for everyone.**

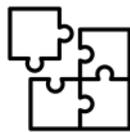
Key Directions



1. Rejuvenate the heart of the neighbourhood – James Street between Albert & Cathcart.



2. Create new recreational amenities that could serve neighbourhood residents and other Saultites.



3. Connect the neighbourhood to the rest of the city.



4. Attract new businesses and economic activity to the neighbourhood.

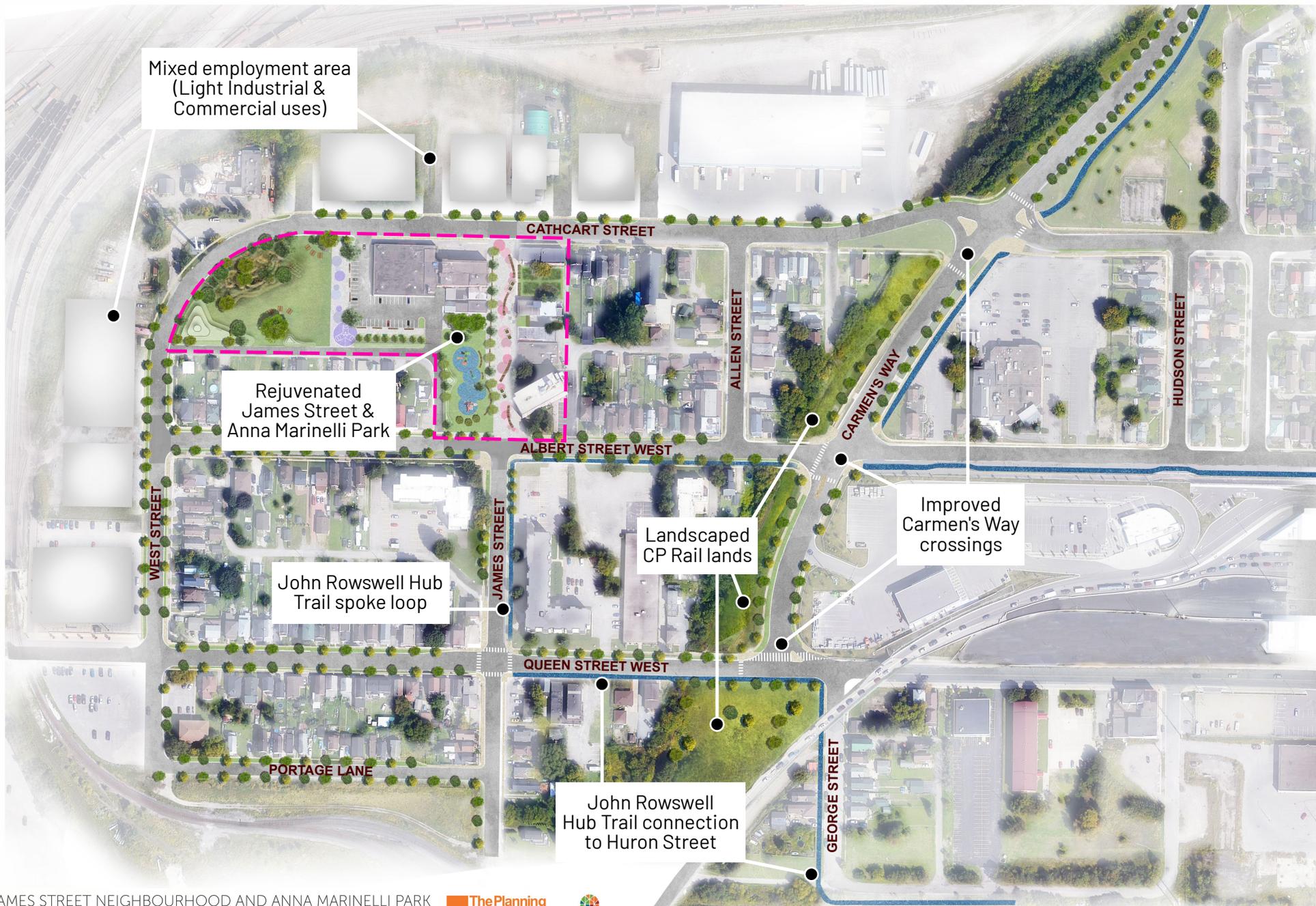


5. Continue efforts on safety, property standards and beautification.



6. Foster partnerships to bring in services and other neighbourhood improvements.

Each of these key directions is associated with a set of recommended action items. A time frame is also indicated for each action item:
Immediate – 2021 and 2022; Medium term – 3 to 5 years.



Mixed employment area
(Light Industrial &
Commercial uses)

Rejuvenated
James Street &
Anna Marinelli Park

John Rowswell Hub
Trail spoke loop

Landscaped
CP Rail lands

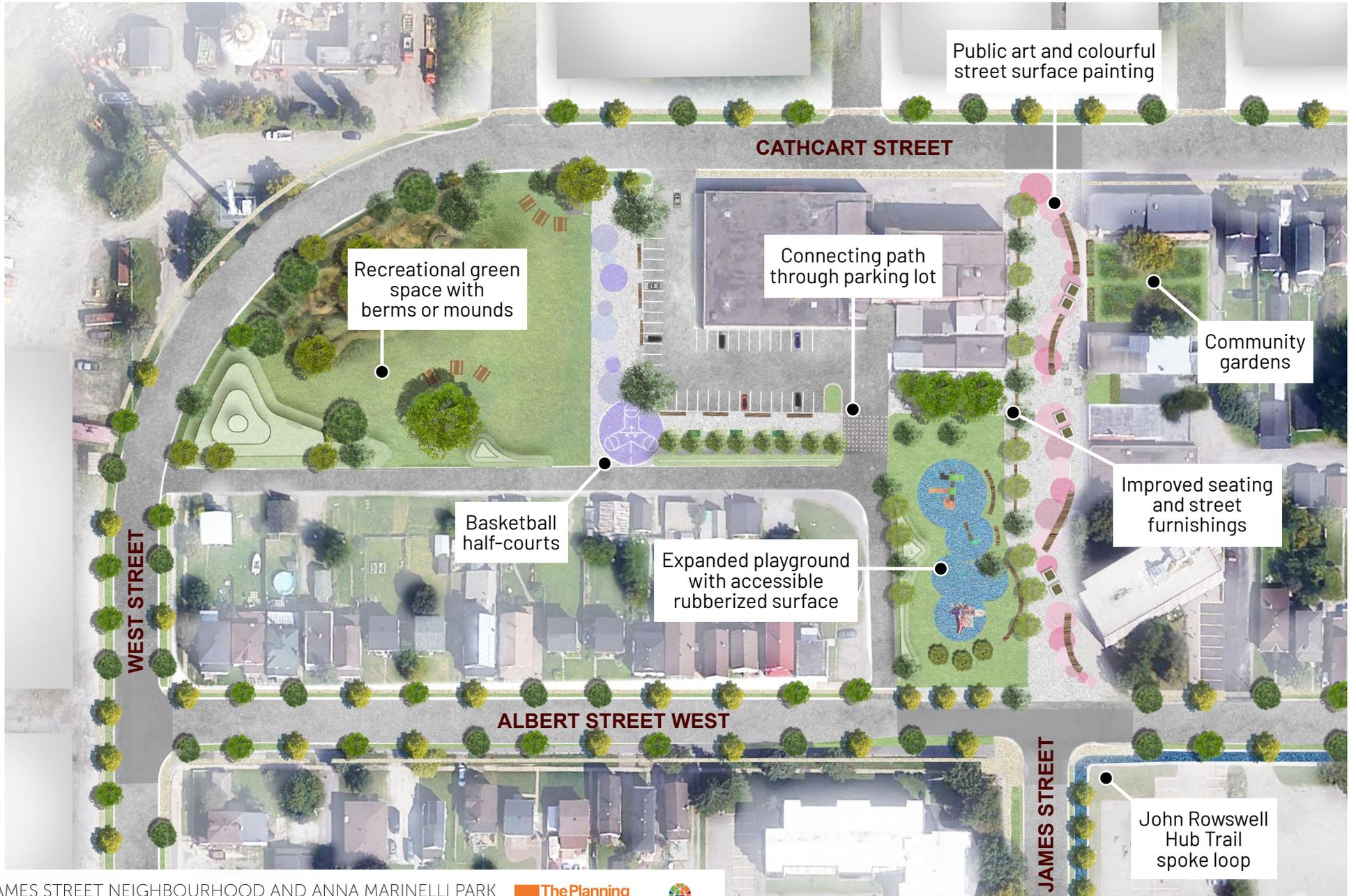
Improved
Carmen's Way
crossings

John Rowswell Hub
Trail connection
to Huron Street

JAMES STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ANNA MARINELLI PARK

Note: Conceptual illustration – exact design subject to change.





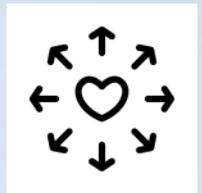
JAMES STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ANNA MARINELLI PARK

Note: Conceptual illustration – exact design subject to change.



REJUVENATED PARK AND STREET

1. Rejuvenate the heart of the neighbourhood – James Street between Albert & Cathcart.



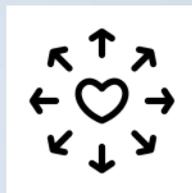
The block of James Street between Albert and Cathcart forms the social heart of the neighbourhood. The Soup Kitchen Community Centre on James Street is a regular hub for community activity and social gathering, and Anna Marinelli Park at the corner of James and Albert is currently the only place within the neighbourhood for families to go for outdoor play and recreation.

Despite being termed a 'pedestrian mall', it is clear from Planning staff's observations that the current state of James Street does not work in terms of being a vibrant and attractive place for people to visit and stay. Planning staff heard that residents are troubled by potential needles in the playground, public drinking and drug activity, and general safety concerns. While the Soup Kitchen is a bustling hub of activity, James Street, just outside its doors, is often deserted and a completely different picture.

Anna Marinelli Park currently contains a playground with a swing set for toddlers, and a play structure and another swing set for grade-school children. However, residents have indicated that they wish to see a greater variety of play offered at the park, especially for toddlers and older youth. Another suggestion was that the park could be improved by adding more seating for families and older adults – more places to sit and relax would help foster parent-child engagement as well as neighbourhood socialization.

By making James Street and Anna Marinelli Park a more welcoming and interesting place for children, parents, youth, seniors and other community members, it is hoped that the heart of this neighbourhood can begin to be restored.

1. Rejuvenate the heart of the neighbourhood – James Street between Albert & Cathcart.



	Action Item	Time Frame
1.1	Resurface Anna Marinelli Park using a rubberized, accessible surface, and add playground equipment for a range of ages and abilities.	Immediate
1.2	Make the street more welcoming by refurbishing existing street furniture, benches and planters, and removing the concrete blocks at the north end of James Street.	Immediate
1.3	Start up a community garden program at the Soup Kitchen Community Centre.	Immediate
1.4	Use public art and celebratory plaques to enliven the James Street public realm as well as to narrate the James Street neighbourhood's unique history.	Immediate
1.5	Consider expanding Anna Marinelli Park onto the existing unpaved parking lot abutting the park, in front of the Soup Kitchen.	Medium term
1.6	Activate James Street through programming such as markets and events.	Medium term
1.7	Consider replacement of existing large street furniture with more modular and contemporary furnishings.	Medium term

2. Create new recreational amenities that could serve neighbourhood residents and other Saultites.



The James Street neighbourhood falls into the category of most 'materially deprived', according to the 2016 Ontario Marginalization Index ⁽¹⁰⁾. This means there is a very high proportion of residents and households in this neighbourhood who are unable to afford typical consumer goods and services. Based on the 2016 Census, 53% of residents in the James Street neighbourhood are considered low-income, including 68% of children aged 0 to 17 years ⁽¹¹⁾. In contrast, across Sault Ste. Marie, 16% of all residents and 22% of children aged 0 to 17 years are considered low-income. Furthermore, 39% of the families who live in the James Street neighbourhood are lone-parent families, compared to 20% across the city.

All of this translates to low participation rates in organized sports and membership clubs. Data received from various sports and recreation organizations in Sault Ste. Marie, including the YMCA, Sault Youth Soccer, CanSkate and Sault Minor Football, indicate that very few residents from the James Street neighbourhood are registered in organized sports and other recreational programs ⁽¹²⁾.

Given the low participation rates in organized sports and recreation, additional opportunities should be explored to provide informal or less-structured activities that allow a range of athletic and recreational play within the neighbourhood.

The current Anna Marinelli Park consists of approximately 1,200 square metres. It is a quarter of the size of the original Anna Marinelli Park that was located just east of the CP rail tracks between Albert Street West and Queen Street West beside the former St. Mary's elementary school ⁽¹³⁾. The former park included a playground, baseball diamond and tennis court. It was relocated in 2005 to its current location at the corner of James and Albert in order to accommodate the construction of Carmen's Way ⁽¹⁴⁾. In addition to its reduced size, there is currently no space or equipment for sports or athletic forms of recreation.

There is a significant amount of City-owned vacant land that could be repurposed for providing recreational amenities for the James Street neighbourhood. The large green space at the corner of West and Cathcart streets was originally created during the 1970s Urban Renewal projects through clearance of homes in the Cathcart-West-Rome Street-May Lane area ⁽¹⁵⁾, but has sat vacant ever since. This underutilized space could be used for some relatively low-cost recreation installations that might not be commonly found across the city, especially in the Sault's core areas. This would not only serve residents living in James Street, but potentially also attract Saultites from other parts of the city to visit a rejuvenated neighbourhood.

(10) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

(11) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

(12) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

(13) Based on comparisons between 1998 and current air photos, and 2002 and current property maps.

(14) SooToday. October 20, 2005. "Jim Marinelli strings Frank Manzo a line."

(15) Sault Star. August 14, 1969. "Ottawa approves west end renewal."

2. Create new recreational amenities that could serve neighbourhood residents and other Saultites.

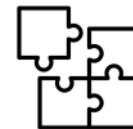


	Action Item	Time Frame
2.1	Consider new recreational amenities on the City-owned green space at the corner of West Street and Cathcart Street. New amenities on this green space could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berms or mounds that could function as a tobogganing hill and sitting space. • Small dirt-surface bike track. • Small soccer field with goalposts. • Benches and picnic tables around existing mature trees. 	Immediate
2.2	Connect the West Street green space to James Street using colourful painting or landscaping on the existing parking lot to create a contiguous public park.	Medium term



Air photograph taken in 1998, labeled with the locations of the former and present-day Anna Marinelli Park.

3. Connect the neighbourhood to the rest of the city.



One of the ideas expressed most vividly by community members was that the James Street neighbourhood is isolated, both physically and socio-psychologically, from nearby Downtown and the rest of Sault Ste. Marie. Public transit services do serve the neighbourhood and are very well-used. However, many people have expressed safety concerns about walking to and from other areas of the city, particularly due to the presence of Carmen's Way – a designated truck route.

Carmen's Way has a posted speed limit of 50 km/h, and based on measurements done in December 2019, most vehicles using Carmen's Way between Queen and Cathcart streets travel at or below 60 km/h ⁽¹⁶⁾:

Location and direction of travel	Carmen's Way – Queen to Albert, Northbound	Carmen's Way – Queen to Albert, Southbound	Carmen's Way – Albert to Cathcart, Northbound	Carmen's Way – Albert to Cathcart, Southbound
85th Percentile Speed	63.44 km/h	60.17 km/h	55.41 km/h	56.85 km/h

More problematic is that the width of Carmen's Way does not make it easy for pedestrians and cyclists to cross. Carmen's Way's three vehicular lanes have a combined width of approximately 14m, but rounded corners at its intersections that allow vehicles to perform quicker turns add significant distances for crossings. For example, at the Albert Street intersection, a pedestrian needs to cross approximately 25m of roadway to get from one side of Carmen's Way to the other side ⁽¹⁷⁾. Also, there currently is no signage or other clear visual indication to motorists that pedestrians can legally cross Carmen's Way.

Many free and affordable activities for youth and families are offered at Greco Pool, Captain Nichola Goddard Park (i.e. Etienne Brule Park), Kina Awiiya (formerly Etienne Brule school) and Esposito Park. All are within a 10-to-15-minute walk from the James Street neighbourhood across Carmen's Way ⁽¹⁸⁾. The nearest food establishments are also all across Carmen's Way, with the Marconi Centre being the closest. The nearest grocery store is RJ's Market in the Steelton neighbourhood, which is a 15-minute walk and just over one kilometre away, and again involves crossing Carmen's Way.

An improved intersection at Albert Street West and Carmen's Way can be an effective conduit between the James Street neighbourhood and the rest of the city. Albert Street directly connects James Street with the many amenities and services in the Greco Pool and Captain Nichola Goddard Park area, as well as the Gore Street area. Furthermore, there already exists a Hub Trail multi-use path along Albert Street beside the International Bridge Plaza, just east of Carmen's Way.

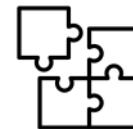
Extending the John Rowswell Hub Trail into the James Street neighbourhood, via a spoke trail loop, would better integrate the neighbourhood with nearby areas such as Gore Street, Steelton, the Machine Shop and Mill Market area, and Downtown as a whole. At the same time, a Hub Trail extension could also bring more Saultites into the neighbourhood and enliven the James Street area.

(16) City of Sault Ste. Marie, Engineering Services. December 2019.

(17) Based on measurements done using Google Earth.

(18) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

3. Connect the neighbourhood to the rest of the city.



	Action Item	Time Frame
3.1	Construct a pedestrian crossing facility at the intersection of Carmen's Way and Albert Street West, similar to the new crossing at Wellington Street West and Beverley Street.	Immediate
3.2	Extend the John Rowswell Hub Trail system into the James Street neighbourhood, via a spoke trail loop. This could be done with a new multi-use path along Albert Street West, James Street, Queen Street West, George Street and then connecting back to the existing Hub Trail at Huron Street.	Medium term
3.3	Undertake an analysis to determine appropriate improvements to better facilitate pedestrian and cyclist crossings at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carmen's Way at Cathcart Street 2. Carmen's Way at Queen Street 3. Queen Street at James Street 4. Albert Street at Huron Street (by Greco Pool and Captain Nichola Goddard Park) 	Medium term
3.4	Explore the creation of more visible and intuitive pedestrian connections to the Steelton neighbourhood along the existing Hub Trail north of Cathcart Street.	Medium term

4. Attract new businesses and economic activity to the neighbourhood.



Today, only three retail businesses – Spadoni's Furniture, Mathewson Office Pro and Pristine Auto Detailing – remain in a neighbourhood that used to have a thriving commercial core. Many residents expressed a strong desire to see more stores locate in the James Street area, such as a grocery store, convenience store, laundromat, coffee shop and restaurant, so that residents would not need to always leave the neighbourhood to obtain everyday goods and services.

While the City cannot simply build new stores, the City can try to foster an environment that could potentially attract stores and businesses to invest and locate in the James Street neighbourhood.

There is an abundance of vacant privately-owned land in the neighbourhood, especially along Cathcart Street and West Street. Encouraging a mix of commercial and light industrial development on these lands could create a more attractive interface and visual buffer between the neighbourhood's residential buildings and the heavy industrial uses that surround this area. Additionally, if enough new businesses set up here, bringing more employees to work in the area, that might generate the market conditions needed to support new stores in the James Street neighbourhood.

	Action Item	Time Frame
4.1	Change the Official Plan designation of the lands along the north side of Cathcart Street and the west side of West Street to permit a mix of light industrial as well as commercial uses.	Immediate
4.2	Utilize the City's Economic Growth Grant Program to catalyze export based industries on vacant lands within the area.	Medium term

5. Continue efforts on safety, property standards and beautification.



Safety and property standards on both private and public lands is an ongoing concern in the James Street neighbourhood. As some Saultites suggested, improvements of any kind do not matter unless safety is simultaneously addressed.

A cleaner neighbourhood increases community morale as well as makes the neighbourhood a more attractive place to live, work, visit and invest in. Having the City take the lead on cleaning up public lands, and coupling that with proactive enforcement, can produce an environment that encourages private property owners to follow suit in working to create and maintain a better neighbourhood.

	Action Item	Time Frame
5.1	Support ongoing work by the city-wide, multi-agency By-law Enforcement Task Force and Integrated Municipal Enforcement Team.	Immediate
5.2	Clean up City-owned lands including vacant lots and road right-of-ways, and explore updates to streetscaping as appropriate.	Immediate
5.3	Conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safety audit with the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service.	Medium term

6. Foster partnerships to bring in services and other neighbourhood improvements.



The rejuvenation of the James Street neighbourhood cannot happen simply on City actions alone. If improvements to the neighbourhood are to be sustained over time, it is critically important to obtain support and form partnerships with community stakeholders. Fortunately, based on Planning staff's preliminary discussions with various groups and organizations, there does seem to be great interest in helping James Street and other struggling neighbourhoods in the city.

Physical and mental wellbeing in the neighbourhood is one key aspect that requires collaboration among wider community stakeholders in order to achieve lasting positive impact. The James Street neighbourhood is one of the 'hotspots' in the city with higher incidence of confirmed opioid overdoses ⁽¹⁹⁾. In addition, as mentioned previously, the James Street neighbourhood is considered a highly materially deprived neighbourhood. Residents in such neighbourhoods generally experience over 2 times the rate of cardiovascular disease, 5 times the rate of mental health emergency department visits, 2.8 times the rate of youth self-harm emergency department visits and over 3 times the rate of potentially avoidable deaths, compared to residents in least deprived neighbourhoods ⁽²⁰⁾. Bringing health and wellness services to James Street residents would go a long way toward making life in the neighbourhood better.

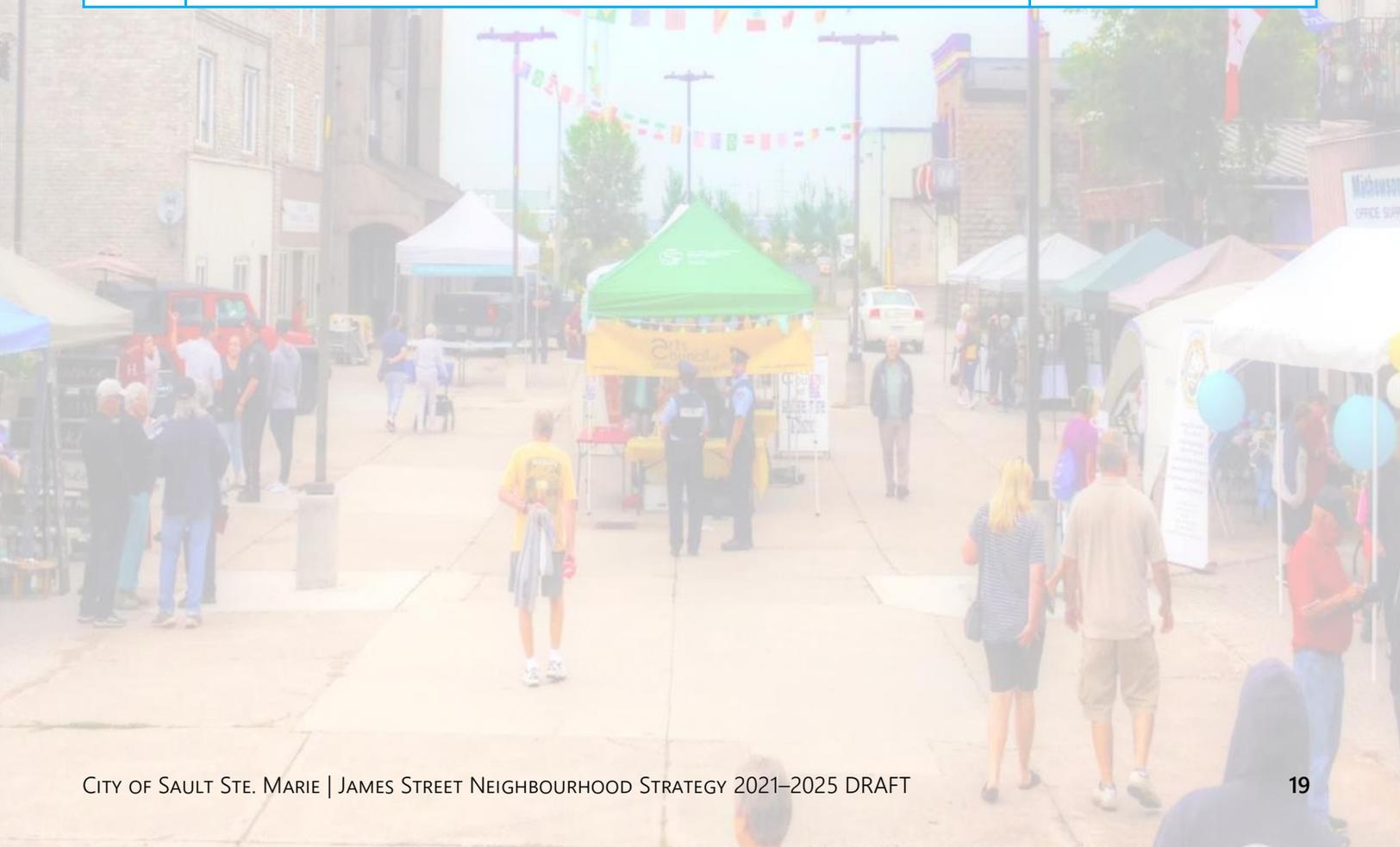
James Street is a stigmatized neighbourhood, and community members believe this stigma may be partially attributable to the physical appearance of the neighbourhood, particularly its entrance along Carmen's Way. The Canadian Pacific Railway lands beside Carmen's Way have been vacant since the rail line was decommissioned, and is now little more than unsightly bush. Working with corporate and community partners to transform the CP lands into an attractive and enjoyable neighbourhood edge can shed new light onto the James Street neighbourhood and create a more positive impression for this area.

(19) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."
(20) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

6. Foster partnerships to bring in services and other neighbourhood improvements.



	Action Item	Time Frame
6.1	Reach out to city-wide health and social services agencies to explore the possibility of establishing a “wellness centre” in or within walking distance of the James Street neighbourhood that can provide a variety of health and social services for residents. A good model to explore is the Garden River Wellness Centre, which provides a wide range of programs and services that support wellness through all life stages.	Immediate
6.2	Work with Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) to clean up and transform the former railway right-of-way on the west side of Carmen's Way into a more welcoming landscaped area.	Medium term
6.3	Collaborate with property owners, community businesses, unions and agencies to facilitate neighbourhood projects, such as neighbourhood clean-ups, beautification projects and public art installations.	Medium term



Recognizing the Past, Looking to the Future

James Street is a neighbourhood that has experienced upheaval multiple times throughout the last 60 years – from the demolition of the Highline in 1958, to the development and redevelopment of the International Bridge Plaza, the Urban Renewal projects of the 1970s and the construction of Carmen's Way in the early 2000s.

The 2016 census indicates that the James Street neighbourhood is home to a higher proportion of new and transient residents than Sault Ste. Marie as a whole – 21% of residents in the neighbourhood moved to the city only within the past five years, whereas in comparison, 8% of residents city-wide are newcomers to the Sault ⁽²¹⁾. Both Census data and community stakeholders indicate that people who relocate to Sault Ste. Marie from other cities in Ontario often choose the James Street neighbourhood for their first home, perhaps due to the availability of affordable rental housing. Yet, these new residents frequently leave for other neighbourhoods after a short time.

Recently, community members have noticed an influx of international students choosing to live in the James Street neighbourhood while studying at local post-secondary schools. Despite its shortcomings, this neighbourhood still has its advantages and appeal. If the recommendations in this James Street Neighbourhood Strategy are implemented, James Street can be transformed into a model of a positive, complete neighbourhood, bringing tangible social, cultural and economic benefits for both the James Street neighbourhood and all of Sault Ste. Marie.

(21) Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. 2020. "James Street Neighbourhood Profile."

Recommended Action Items at a Glance

Immediate (2021 and 2022)

	Action Item	Lead
1.1	Resurface Anna Marinelli Park using a rubberized, accessible surface, and add playground equipment for a range of ages and abilities.	Community Services, Public Works
1.2	Make the street more welcoming by refurbishing existing street furniture, benches and planters, and removing the concrete blocks at the north end of James Street.	Public Works
1.3	Start up a community garden program at the Soup Kitchen Community Centre.	Soup Kitchen Community Centre, Public Works
1.4	Use public art and celebratory plaques to enliven the James Street public realm as well as to narrate the James Street neighbourhood's unique history.	Planning, Community Services, Community Development (FutureSSM)
2.1	Consider new recreational amenities on the City-owned green space at the corner of West Street and Cathcart Street. New amenities on this green space could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berms or mounds that could function as a tobogganing hill and sitting space. • Small dirt-surface bike track. • Small soccer field with goalposts. • Benches and picnic tables around existing mature trees. 	Community Services, Public Works
3.1	Construct a pedestrian crossing facility at the intersection of Carmen's Way and Albert Street West, similar to the new crossing at Wellington Street West and Beverley Street.	Engineering Services
4.1	Change the Official Plan designation of the lands along the north side of Cathcart Street and the west side of West Street to permit a mix of light industrial as well as commercial uses.	Planning
	<i>Continued on next page...</i>	

Recommended Action Items at a Glance

Immediate (2021 and 2022)

	Action Item	Lead
	<i>Continued from previous page...</i>	
5.1	Support ongoing work by the city-wide, multi-agency By-law Enforcement Task Force and Integrated Municipal Enforcement Team.	Engineering Services
5.2	Clean up City-owned lands including vacant lots and road right-of-ways, and explore updates to streetscaping as appropriate.	Public Works
6.1	Reach out to city-wide health and social services agencies to explore the possibility of establishing a “wellness centre” in or within walking distance of the James Street neighbourhood that can provide a variety of health and social services for residents. A good model to explore is the Garden River Wellness Centre, which provides a wide range of programs and services that support wellness through all life stages.	Planning, Community Development (FutureSSM), Social Services

Recommended Action Items at a Glance

Medium term (3 to 5 years)

	Action Item	Lead
1.5	Consider expanding Anna Marinelli Park onto the existing unpaved parking lot abutting the park, in front of the Soup Kitchen.	Community Services, Public Works, Planning
1.6	Activate James Street through programming such as markets and events.	Social Services
1.7	Consider replacement of existing large street furniture with more modular and contemporary furnishings.	Planning, Public Works
2.2	Connect the West Street green space to James Street using colourful painting or landscaping on the existing parking lot to create a contiguous public park.	Community Services, Public Works, Planning
	<i>Continued on next page...</i>	

Recommended Action Items at a Glance

Medium term (3 to 5 years)

	Action Item	Lead
	<i>Continued from previous page...</i>	
3.2	Extend the John Rowswell Hub Trail system into the James Street neighbourhood, via a spoke trail loop. This could be done with a new multi-use path along Albert Street West, James Street, Queen Street West, George Street and then connecting back to the existing Hub Trail at Huron Street.	Planning
3.3	Undertake an analysis to determine appropriate improvements to better facilitate pedestrian and cyclist crossings at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carmen's Way at Cathcart Street 2. Carmen's Way at Queen Street 3. Queen Street at James Street 4. Albert Street at Huron Street (by Greco Pool and Captain Nichola Goddard Park) 	Engineering Services
3.4	Explore the creation of more visible and intuitive pedestrian connections to the Steelton neighbourhood along the existing Hub Trail north of Cathcart Street.	Engineering Services
4.2	Utilize the City's Economic Growth Grant Program to catalyze export based industries on vacant lands within the area.	Planning
5.3	Conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safety audit with the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service.	Police Service
6.2	Work with Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) to clean up and transform the former railway right-of-way on the west side of Carmen's Way into a more welcoming landscaped area.	Planning (to reach out & coordinate)
6.3	Collaborate with property owners, community businesses, unions and agencies to facilitate neighbourhood projects, such as neighbourhood clean-ups, beautification projects and public art installations.	Planning (to reach out & coordinate)

Acknowledgements

The City of Sault Ste. Marie Planning Division would like to thank:

City staff in Community Development & Enterprise Services and Public Works & Engineering Services, as well as our consultants The Planning Partnership, for assisting in the development of this strategy.

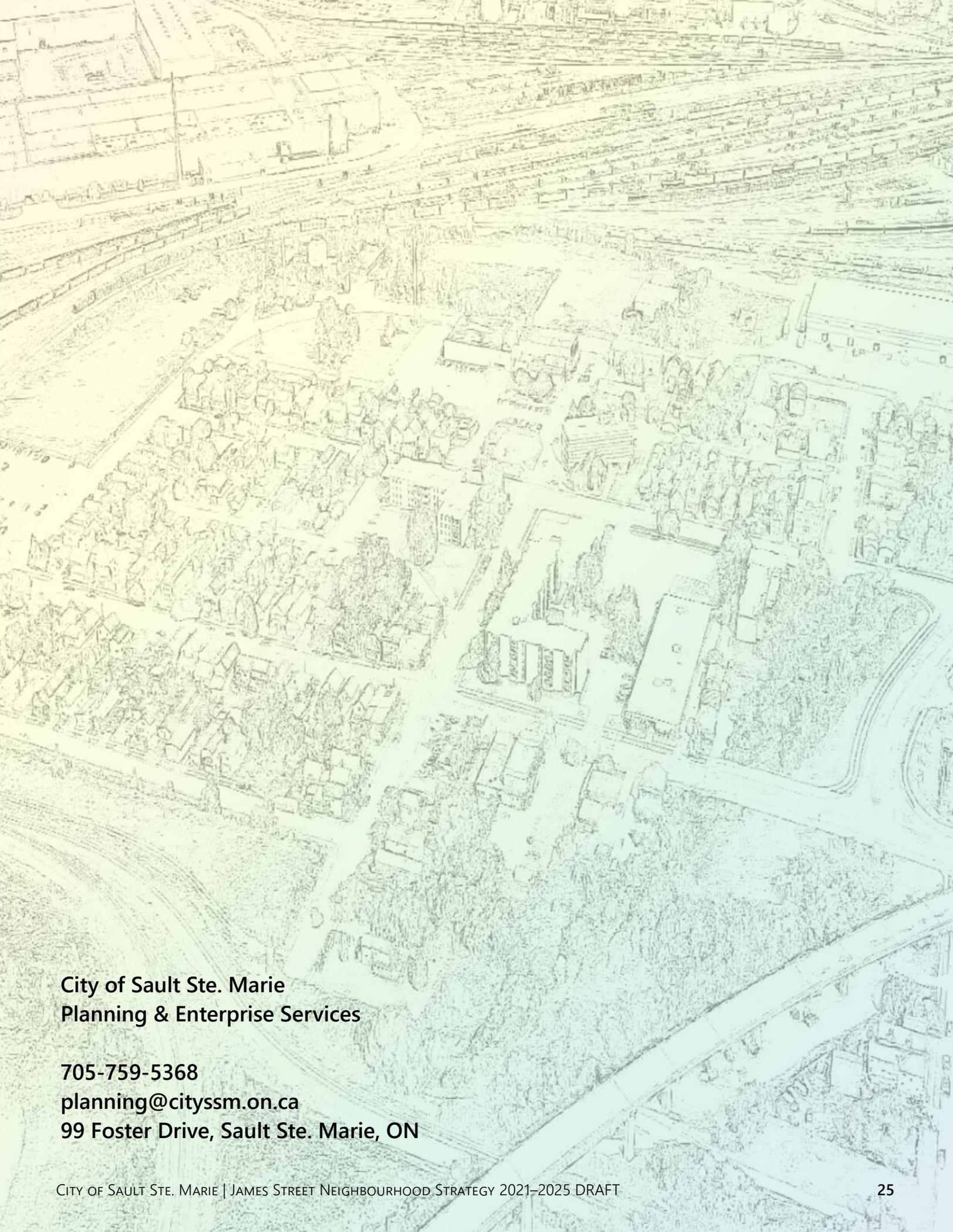
The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre for developing the accompanying James Street Neighbourhood Profile, along with the following local organizations for sharing their data with us:

- Algoma Public Health
- Group Health Centre
- Neighbourhood Resource Centre & Superior Family Health Team
- Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District
- Sault Ste. Marie YMCA
- Sault Youth Soccer Club
- CanSkate
- Sault Minor Football League

The following community stakeholders and “Local Champions” for sharing their time, insights & knowledge:

- Alan Spadoni – Spadoni's Furniture
- Blair Mathewson – Mathewson Office Pro
- Carla Fairbrother – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District (Early Years)
- Carla Perzia – The Perzia Group
- Darryl Betts – The Perzia Group
- Chief Hugh Stevenson – Sault Ste. Marie Police Service
- Jeff Barban – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District (Housing)
- John Hogg – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District (Housing)
- Lauren Doxtater – FutureSSM Social Equity Coordinator
- Lisa Vezeau-Allen – Ward 2 City Councillor
- Luke Dufour – Ward 2 City Councillor
- Mario DiSano – Sault Multimodal Terminal / Purvis Marine
- Mark Ciotti – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District (Housing)
- Melissa Ceglie – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District (Ontario Works)
- Mike Nadeau – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District
- Sgt. Ray Magnan – Sault Ste. Marie Police Service
- Ray Stortini – long-time community member; former resident and City Councillor
- Sgt. Rob Chabot – Sault Ste. Marie Police Service
- Deputy Chief Robert MacLachlan – Sault Ste. Marie Police Service
- Ron Sim – Soup Kitchen Community Centre
- Sara McCleary – local homeowner with young family; current resident
- Susan Parr – Social Services Sault Ste. Marie District (Early Years)
- Tracey McClelland – Algoma Public Health

And every person who shared their input with us – whether through email, phone, social media or by coming to our public neighbourhood meetings at the Soup Kitchen Community Centre.



**City of Sault Ste. Marie
Planning & Enterprise Services**

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