

City of Saginaw Master Plan 2011



Planning the Future of Saginaw, Michigan

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City of Saginaw Master Plan 2011

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The *City of Saginaw Master Plan 2011* was adopted by resolution by the Saginaw City Council by authority of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, on September 26, 2011, after the Planning Commission held a public hearing for this Master Plan on August 23, 2011.



Diane Herman
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Chapter 1

The Planning Process



Introduction

This document is the outcome of a year-long effort by the City of Saginaw Planning Commission to update the community Master Plan and to set a new course for the future. This document reflects the community's concern for the future of the City of Saginaw and conveys a strong commitment to retain and strengthen the local quality of life. The preferred future, or vision, for the City of Saginaw is outlined within this Master Plan. Specifically, the vision is expressed in the manner that this Master Plan:

- Documents recent citizen input on community needs and services,
- Forms general goal statements for the City's future,
- Provides an overall view of future physical development of Saginaw, and
- Presents a map that shows locations of how land is proposed to be used in the future.

Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, commonly known as the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, is the legal basis for cities in the State of Michigan to develop a Master Plan. The main purpose of

a Master Plan is to enable a community to establish a future direction for its physical development. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act specifically gives cities the authority to prepare and officially adopt a Master Plan, which serves as the primary policy guide for local officials when considering matters related to land development. It will serve to:

- Guide the use of limited resources in an efficient manner,
- Promote public health, safety, and general welfare,
- Preserve the quality of the environment in the City, and
- Guide future zoning decisions.

Because of constant change in our social and economic structure and activities, this Master Plan must be maintained through periodic review so that it reflects contemporary trends while maintaining long-range goals. Public Act 33 of 2008 requires the Master Plan be reviewed by the City at least once every five years.

The Planning Process

Saginaw began the process to update its Master Plan in July of 2010. It contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw to assist the Planning Commission and City Council in the preparation of this Master Plan. Because the Planning Commission wanted broad based input and support from across the City, it decided to form a Working Committee to develop the plan. The 15-member committee included a cross section of City staff and officials as well as representatives from the community:

- Saginaw Planning Commission (3 representatives)
- Saginaw Neighborhood Associations (3 representatives)
- Saginaw City Council (1 representative)
- Saginaw Riverfront Commission (1 representative)
- Saginaw Public Schools (1 representative)
- Saginaw County Land Bank (1 representative)
- Saginaw Future (1 representative)
- Saginaw Housing Commission (1 representative)
- Saginaw DDA (1 representative)
- Saginaw Business Community at large (1 representative)
- City Planning Department representative (1 representative)

The Working Committee met monthly throughout the development of the plan. The group held constructive discussions, offered input, and each member shared information on the progress of the plan with the groups they represented.

The Planning Commission was updated periodically as to the progress of the plan and they were given draft sections of the plan as they were completed. The City Council was kept informed with updates from its Working Committee representative. As required by Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, the City of Saginaw followed the required procedures for notifying neighboring communities and registered entities so that each interested party was made aware of the planning effort and was provided an opportunity to comment on the Master Plan.

The planning process began with a review and analysis of existing conditions and land uses in Saginaw. An interactive website and blog was developed for the project at www.saginawmasterplan.com. It provided updates on the progress of the plan and shared information about Saginaw. Visitors to the website could offer comments and take a community input survey. Six neighborhood meetings were also held to gather citizen input. Feedback from the survey and community meetings along with the pertinent background data was used as the basis for the goals, objectives, and future land use outlined within this Master Plan.

A draft of this document was prepared in April of 2011 and delivered to the Planning Commission and City Council for review. The City Council approved the draft for distribution on June 6, 2011. The document was posted on the City website and made available for review at City Hall. It was also mailed to neighboring communities, registered entities, and to the Saginaw County Planning Commission. The final step in the planning process was a public hearing that is required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. This provided an additional opportunity for public information and input. Final Master Plan copies were prepared and both the Planning Commission and City Council adopted the Master Plan on September 26, 2011.

Relationship between the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance

Master Plan = Guide
Zoning Ordinance = Law

Zoning is regulation of the use of land. A zoning ordinance controls how land is used today. It is the law. A Master Plan is a set of policies, not a law. The Master Plan represents a community's future vision, while the zoning ordinance contains the rules that govern the path to that vision. The long-range goals of the Master Plan are the basis for a zoning ordinance and zoning decisions. State law requires that a zoning ordinance be based on an adopted Master Plan. Zoning decisions that are consistent with the Master Plan are deemed to be valid if ever challenged in the courts.

Chapter 2

Learning about Saginaw



Regional Location

The City of Saginaw is located in northern Saginaw County in Michigan's lower peninsula. It encompasses approximately 18 square miles. The City is boarded by six townships: Carrollton Township, Saginaw Township, James Township, Spaulding Township, Bridgeport Township and Buena Vista Township. The county seat is located in the City of Saginaw. Figure1 shows Saginaw's regional location.

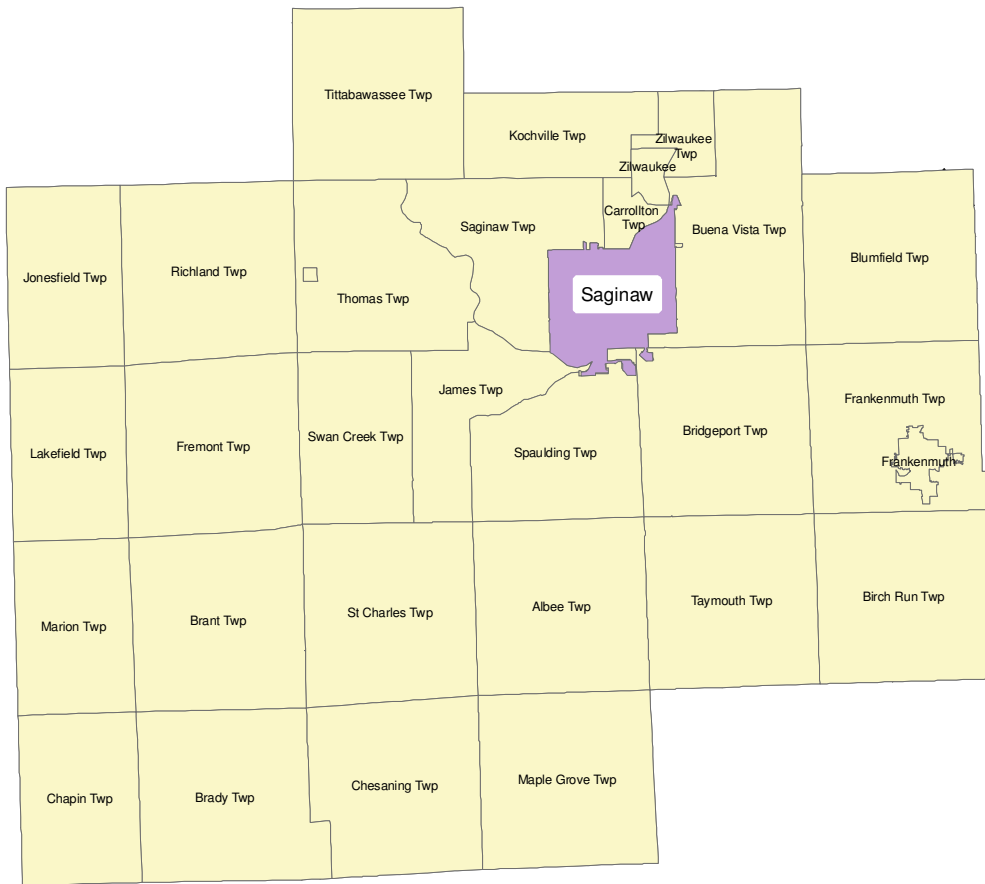
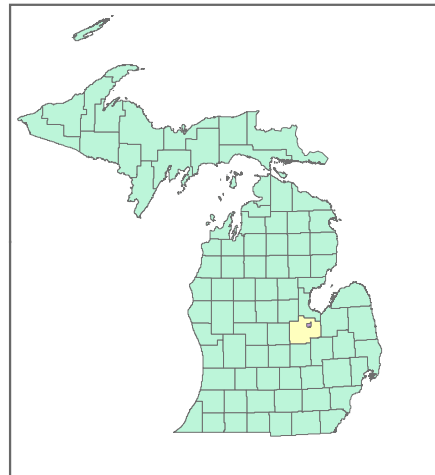


Figure 1
City of Saginaw
 Regional Location



History of Saginaw

The early inhabitants of the Saginaw Valley were Native American tribes such as the Chippewa and Ottawa Indians. The first white men in the Saginaw wilderness were the French Canadian voyageurs who established Saginaw as a trading post on the west side of the Saginaw River after the War of 1812. The name Saginaw is derived from the Ojibway Native American term “O-Sag-e-non” which is translated as “to flow out” and refers to the outflow of the Saginaw River into the Saginaw Bay.

Around 1850, the population grew to 900 with the arrival of German immigrants who established agricultural settlements. The population increased even more throughout the 1800’s with the establishment of the lumber industry. In 1855 there were 23 sawmills in operation, and by the 1880’s two of those sawmills alone each produced over 50 million board feet. Other important industries in the late 1800’s included salt and coal mining.

The present-day City of Saginaw includes the first settlement around what had been Fort Saginaw which was incorporated as the City of Saginaw in 1857 and contained the seat of Saginaw County government. On the east side of the river a parallel settlement, East Saginaw, developed which was incorporated first as a village in 1855, and then as a city in 1859. South of the City of East Saginaw, on the east bank of the river, the Village of Salina formed. Both Saginaw and East Saginaw quickly became a hub for railroad transportation in addition to serving as shipping ports on the Saginaw River. In June of 1889 the Michigan Legislature consolidated the City of Saginaw and the City of East Saginaw into a new city that also was named the City of Saginaw. The Village of Salina had already been added to the City of East Saginaw prior to this time.



Figure 2 - Looking across the Saginaw River in Saginaw in 1912

In the 1890's the City of Saginaw fell into a depression with the rapid decline of the lumber industry and salt production. The depression was short lived and within ten years Saginaw was booming again with new industry and culture related to the industrial revolution. During the 1900s, Saginaw's economy was dominated by manufacturing related to the automotive and defense industries. Immigration from other areas, particularly the American south, swelled the population. This population growth particularly expanded the presence of African-Americans in Saginaw. In a 1914 Census, the population of Saginaw was estimated to be 54,000. The population continued to grow through the 1960's when it peaked at 98,265.

Late 20th Century Struggles

The manufacturing presence in Saginaw declined in the latter half of the 20th century and the population diminished as well. By the 1980's, Saginaw had been hit hard by the economic downturn and changes in the automotive industry. Saginaw has faced increasing social problems relating to poverty as a result of its high rate of unemployment.

The economic conditions of the City of Saginaw make up another significant area of concern. The decline of manufacturing has resulted in high rates of unemployment. There has been a decline in property values in the city, which has shrunk the amount the city is able to collect through property taxes. Property taxes were further limited with the passage of the 1979 "tax cap" which freezes the amount of taxes that the City can collect for its general fund at 1979 levels.

Crime activity in the City of Saginaw is on the decline, despite federal crime reports claiming the City of Saginaw as the most violent city in the United States, which is based on 2009 data for cities with a population of 50,000 or more. However, between 2008 and 2009, there was a 24% decline in the violent crime rate in the City of Saginaw, dropping from 3.29 violent crimes per 100 residents, to 2.53.

The number of employees and size of City government is now nearly half of its level during the 1970s. Currently, the City of Saginaw has 435 employees and 70 part-time employees.

City Government

After using several different governmental structures, the 1936 City charter took effect and it is still in use today. This charter provided for all administration of city government to be headed directly by a single officer, the city manager, who was appointed by and accountable to a city council of nine members elected as a group by the entire city at-large. The charter was designed to address two principal issues with Saginaw's history of municipal government: the inefficiency and politics associated with having executive and administrative authority spread among many different officers and boards, and political rivalries and friction between various geographic areas of the city, mainly the east and west sides.

The City of Saginaw operates under a Council-Manager system. In this system, the City Council is composed of nine members elected at-large in non-partisan elections for four-year, overlapping terms. The Mayor is a member of Council, who serves as its chairperson as well as fulfilling various ceremonial functions. The Council establishes policies, enacts ordinances, approves rules and regulations, and gives policy direction.

The City Manager, appointed by the City Council, supervises departments that include Public Services (public works, parks, streets, engineering, cemeteries, solid waste, motor vehicles, water treatment, parking, parking ramps, etc.), Development (CDBG, inspections, economic development, planning & zoning), Police, Fire, Employee Services, Technical Services, Fiscal Services, City Clerk and City Attorney.

Planning and Development History

The City of Saginaw developed from the river outward to the east and west. Industrial facilities were originally located near the river and commercial areas were centered on the west side near the Court Street and Michigan Avenue area and on the east side near Washington Avenue and Genesee Avenue area. The first residential plat was developed in the 1830's and it was centered in the vicinity around the County Courthouse. The original plat of East Saginaw was developed in the 1850's. It extended approximately 10 blocks east of the river and was bounded by Astor Street to the north and Emerson Street to the south.

The first planning activity for the City of Saginaw was the 1925 zoning code (ordinance). This was followed by a land use plan and a traffic plan in 1934 that reflected expansion of the City's transportation system. In 1944, a post-war capital improvements program was developed. This included a new traffic plan approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and a land use survey used to update the zoning ordinance.

The traffic plan included the State/Davenport one-way system which was controversial because it traversed a west side residential district. The system was eventually constructed in 1955. Other major elements of the plan included the Rust Street Bridge (M-46), the Holland Avenue Bridge, and the Woodbridge/Mason one-way system.

The current City Planning Commission, consisting of 9 members, was formed in May of 1953. In 1958, a revised zoning ordinance was adopted.

In 1960, the first Saginaw Comprehensive Plan was adopted. This plan was used as a catalyst for a number of public projects over the next 20 years. Those projects included urban renewal, neighborhood rehabilitation, construction of I-675, construction of three new bridges and riverfront park development. The current zoning ordinance was developed and adopted in 1982. *(Source: Early planning history source 1982 Master Plan)*

Saginaw began to focus on historic preservation in the 1970s and 1980s with the creation of the Heritage Square Historic District and the Old Saginaw City (now known as Old Town Saginaw) District. The Saginaw Historic District Commission was established in 1987. It took over functions previously performed by the Saginaw County Historic District Commission which was eliminated in 1986. Locally, the Saginaw Historic District Commission has the responsibility to review all plans for construction, alteration, repair, moving, or demolition of structures or signs in the City's two local historic districts. At the federal level, Saginaw has 20 individual buildings and 9 districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register, which is separate from the local historic district, is the official list of historic places worthy of preservation in the United States. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. A map of the historic sites in the City is provided on page 56.

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At the local level, the Saginaw Historic District Commission, established by ordinance in 1987, has the responsibility to review all plans for construction, alteration, repair, moving, or demolition of structures or signs in the City's two local historic districts. The City of Saginaw has two local historic districts, the Old Saginaw City Historic Business District and the Heritage Square Historic District. The Old Saginaw City Historic Business District has 71 buildings and is located at the crossings of South Michigan Avenue, Court Street, and the Saginaw River. Heritage Square encompasses 325 buildings and is roughly bounded by South Oakley Street, Court Street, South Harrison Street, and Mackinaw Road.

These older buildings and districts can be critical assets for Saginaw, as they can be generators of economic activity and can contribute to the culture of the City. Renovation of historic buildings and using them in new ways can help maintain the urban fabric of the City while providing a unique community amenity.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was established in 1981, which was one of many efforts focused upon revitalization of the downtown area. DDAs are authorized by PA 197 of 1975, as amended, and are intended to be a catalyst in the development of a community's downtown district. A DDA provides for a variety of funding options including tax increment financing, which can be used to fund public improvements in the downtown district. A DDA is required to prepare a development plan and can create a tax increment financing plan, all of

which describes the costs, location, and resources for the implementation of the public improvements that are projected to take place in the DDA district.

The current Master Plan was adopted in 1992. The plan was presented to the public and decision-makers at key points along the way for local involvement, feedback and change. This helped build community support for the plan. This plan also introduced seven different planning districts based on existing U.S. Census tract boundaries. The future land use map showed an increase in land used for residential, commercial, and public/quasi public uses and a decrease in land for industrial uses. One of the more important elements of this plan is the establishment of a mixed use redevelopment area around the Central Business District.

In 2000, the Saginaw Riverfront Development Commission was established and a Saginaw River Corridor Master Plan was developed. As a result of this effort, a riverfront and business district overlay zone and a riverfront mixed use district were added to the zoning ordinance in 2001. The group updated its plan in 2005. This group consists of fifteen at-large members appointed by the Mayor subject to approval of the City Council, three City staff members appointed by the Manager, and the City Manager. The purpose of the Riverfront Commission is to recommend and advise the City Council on the development of the riverfront and implementation of the River Corridor Master Plan.

In 2003, the City developed the Housing Update to the 1992 Master Plan. It was adopted in 2004. This plan also focused on community input primarily through the efforts of a 50+ member Housing Task Force. Three major goals of this plan were:

1. Identify vacant land and redevelopment opportunities.
2. Improve existing Housing Stock.
3. Pursue Private/Public Partnerships to Improve Housing Stock and Build New Homes.

A future land use map was developed as part of the 2003 Housing Update to the Master Plan. A major focus of this map was the creation of a large riverfront mixed use district.

Today, the City's Planning and Zoning Department is staffed by an Associate Planner. This department provides staff services to the Board of Appeals on Zoning and the City Planning Commission. It is also responsible for site plan review for new construction and Historic District Commission reviews. Other services provided by the Planning and Zoning Department include ordinance reviews, Zoning Board of Appeals assistance on variance reviews, coordination with neighborhood associations, and historic preservation strategies with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Demographics: The People of Saginaw

The City of Saginaw experienced rapid population growth in the first half of the 20th Century, more than doubling from 42,345 people in 1900 to 98,265 in 1960. Fueling this growth was rapid development of industrial and manufacturing facilities related to the automotive and defense industries. Since then, there has been a severe population loss, dropping 47.6% from the peak in 1960 to a population of 51,508 in 2010. Compared to the Census 2000 data, when the population was at 61,799, decline over this ten-year period was at a rate of 16.7%. For the ten-year period of 1990 to 2000, the rate of decline was 11.1%. The status of housing in the City has followed a similar trend of decline, but has undergone an even more dramatic shift since 2000.

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2009 estimate</u>	<u>Change from 2000 to 2009</u>
Population	69,512	61,799	55,630	-10.0%
Households	26,177	23,178	20,934	-9.7%
Average Household Size	2.57	2.62	2.57	-1.9%
Median Age	29.1	30.7	32.5	5.9%
Population Below Poverty	31.2%	28.1%	36.2%	28.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Age 25 and Over	9.3%	10.4%	10.4%	0.0%
Median Household Income	\$29,424	\$32,682	\$27,066	-17.2%

Note: Median household income values are in 2008 inflation adjusted dollars.

Figure 3 – Overview of basic demographics for the City Saginaw, highlighting estimated rates of change between 2000 and 2009. *Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.*

Over the past decade, the number of owner-occupied housing units fell by 20.7%, from 14,746 units in 2000 to estimate of 11,693 units in 2009 (Figure 4). The number of renter-occupied units also dropped, from 8,432 in 2000 to an estimate of 7,230 in 2009, a decline of 14.3%. In 2000, the vacancy rate was 9.6%, and for 2009, the vacancy rate is estimated to have dramatically increased to 24.7%. The Census 2010 data released in March of 2011 show the decrease in the number total housing units in the City to be much greater, dropping 8.1% to 23,574 units. In terms of vacancy rates, the actual number of vacant housing units documented by the Census 2010 count was 3,775, or 16% of the total housing stock. Census 2010 also showed that the number of occupied housing units was slightly greater (19,799) than the 2009 estimate (18,923).

	1990	2000	2009 estimate	Change from 2000 to 2009
Total Housing Units	27,983	25,635	25,139	-1.9%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	15,052	14,746	11,693	-20.7%
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	11,125	8,432	7,230	-14.3%
Vacant Housing Units	1,806	2,457	6,216*	153.0%
Vacancy Rate	6.5%	9.6%	24.7%	15.1%
Median Housing Value	\$54,514	\$57,751	\$65,000	12.6%

Note: Median housing values are in 2008 inflation adjusted dollars.

* Results from Census 2010 show that the actual number of vacant housing units in the City was 3,775, or 16% of the total housing stock.

Figure 4 – Overview of general housing data for the City Saginaw, highlighting estimated rates of change between 2000 and 2009. *Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.*

Overall, what could have precipitated this decline over the intervening five decades? Historically speaking, the effects of the social and physical changes to the fabric of the City have certainly contributed to the problem, such as:

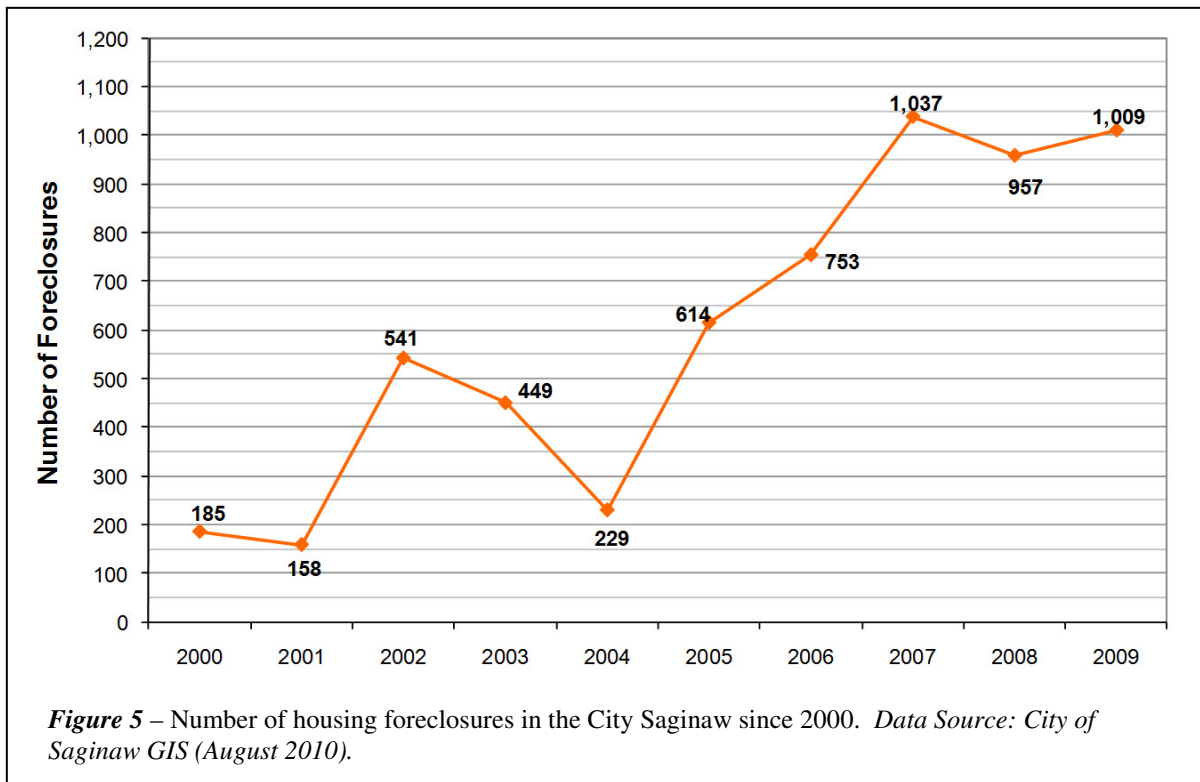
- Migration of City residents to the surrounding suburbs,
- The development of I-675,
- The continual downsizing of the automotive industry and related job losses,
- An aging housing stock: Nearly 75% of the City's housing stock was built prior to 1960, and since 1980, new construction accounted for only 3% of new homes in Saginaw,
- A housing stock that is relatively uniform with 75% of the structures as single-family detached homes,
- Conversion of residential units to office and medical uses, and
- A national trend of families having fewer children.

More recently, two trends have impacted the City in significant ways, the number of housing foreclosures in the City and the trend of total taxable value of property in Saginaw.

First, the number of housing foreclosures in Saginaw has grown dramatically (Figure 5). Fueled by the recent national collapse of the housing market, the subsequent credit crunch, the ensuing economic crisis, and the overall population decline in Michigan, homeowners for various reasons have decided to abandon their homes and leave the City. This has left the City further scarred with an abundance of vacant housing, and subsequently, a lack of demand for this housing stock.

While not every foreclosure ends up as a vacant and abandoned structure, the effects of a home that is left behind – even if for just a short while – does impact a neighborhood through lack of maintenance and a general overall lack of activity at the site.

Foreclosures have also negatively affected housing values and the desirability of neighborhoods. In part to help address this change and to stabilize neighborhoods and property values, since 1999 the City has demolished 1,522 structures. In 2009, the City has demolished 265 structures. In 2010, 499 structures have been removed.



Similar to the rest of the nation, the increase of foreclosures in the City also has a direct impact on building permits issued for new residential construction. As of 2009, building permits for the most part have been issued mostly for additions and modifications to existing residential structures. Below are the permits for new construction, major modifications, and additions:

- 37 residential building permits in 2005 totaling \$709,829 (averaging \$19,185 per unit)
- 10 residential building permits in 2006 totaling \$248,609 (averaging \$24,861 per unit)
- 53 residential building permits in 2007 totaling \$1,940,124 (averaging \$36,606 per unit)
- 10 residential building permits in 2008 totaling \$105,529 (averaging \$10,553 per unit)
- 16 residential building permits in 2009 totaling \$43,132 (averaging \$2,696 per unit).

The second trend relates to the total taxable value of property in the City of Saginaw. Since 2001, the taxable value of property – includes both real and personal property taxes – has declined by 12% from \$691 million in 2001 to \$608 million in 2010 (Figure 6). The causes of this decrease are clear and apparent. Industrial property as a percentage of total taxable value in the City has declined from 26.8% in 2001 to 11.7% in 2010. The total contribution of industrial property taxable to the City of Saginaw has dropped by 63%, from \$193 million in 2001 to \$71 million in 2010. This change is reflective of the downsizing of the automotive industry in Michigan over the past decade and the global trend of firms locating new manufacturing operations in other countries. Note: Residential property taxable value contribution remained relatively constant at around \$288 million during the same period, and the contribution from commercial property increased by 7%, from \$122 million in 2001 to \$130 million in 2010.

Disinvestment in manufacturing and industry in the United States is now the status quo. Locally, this means that as industrial and manufacturing operations have closed, jobs were lost, and the income that would have been spent on goods and services in the City disappears, which in turn affects overall wages, rent, mortgage payments, and the general economic output of residents and businesses. As such, people who are out of work decide to leave the City and seek opportunities elsewhere, but there others that decide to stick around. This effect is shown in Figure 3. The household income gains made during the 1990s have been lost since 2000 – median household income, when adjusted for inflation, is now below the 1990 level (from \$29,424 to \$27,066) and the population below the poverty level also exceeds the 1990 rate (up from 31.2% to 36.2%).

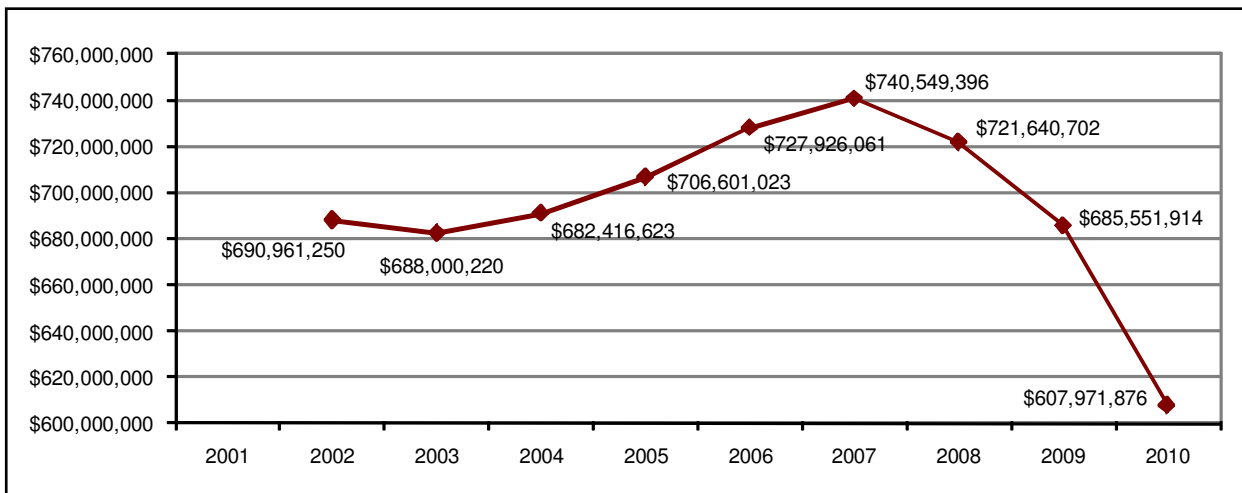


Figure 6 – Total taxable value in the City of Saginaw, inclusive or both real and personal property taxes.
Data Source: City of Saginaw Assessor (September 2010).

Comparing trends in the City of Saginaw to Saginaw County, the State of Michigan, and the United States as a whole, also provides some insight into the current citywide demographic and housing status. As shown below in Figure 7 and by the Census 2010 count, the rate of population decline in the City differs markedly compared to the rates in Saginaw County, the State of Michigan, and the United States as a whole. Over the past decade the City lost 16.6% of its population, but the rate of decline in the County was much smaller at 4.7%, Michigan as a whole declined slightly, while the U.S. grew by 9.7%.

The average household size in the City fell by 1.9%. Saginaw County remained unchanged. For the State of Michigan, average household size fell slightly, and the U.S. as a whole grew slightly. Except for the City of Saginaw, the average sizes of households remain practically unchanged. As noted earlier, the population in the City below the poverty level grew from 2000 to 2009. This trend holds true as well for the County, the State, and nationally.

Educationally, residents in the City with a Bachelor’s degree or higher has remained about the same. For the County, State, and the nation as a whole, there has been an increase by 3%.

	City of Saginaw			Saginaw County			Michigan			United States		
	2000	2009 estimate	Change	2000	2009 estimate	Change	2000	2009 estimate	Change	2000	2009 estimate	Change
Population	61,799	55,630	-10.0%*	210,039	202,626	-3.5%*	9,938,444	10,045,697	1.1%*	281,421,906	301,237,703	7.0%*
Households	23,178	20,934	-9.7%	80,430	77,400	-3.8%	3,785,661	3,844,581	1.6%	105,480,101	112,386,298	6.5%
Average Household Size	2.62	2.57	-1.9%	2.54	2.54	0.0%	2.56	2.55	-0.4%	2.59	2.61	0.8%
Median Age	30.7	32.5	5.9%	36.3	38.5	6.1%	35.5	37.7	6.2%	35.3	36.7	4.0%
Population Below Poverty Level	28.1%	36.2%	8.1%	13.9%	17.6%	3.7%	10.5%	13.2%	2.7%	12.4%	13.2%	0.8%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher, Age 25 and Over	10.4%	10.4%	0.0%	15.9%	18.8%	2.9%	21.8%	24.7%	2.9%	24.4%	27.4%	3.0%
Housing: Vacancy Rate	9.6%	24.7%	15.1%	5.9%	12.8%	6.9%	10.6%	15.0%	4.4%	9.0%	12.0%	3.0%
Median Household Income	\$32,682	\$27,066	-17.2%	\$47,678	\$43,351	-9.1%	\$55,119	\$49,694	-9.8%	\$51,821	\$52,175	0.7%

Note: Median household income values are in 2008 inflation adjusted dollars.

* Results from Census 2010 show population change in the City declined by 16.6%, the County lost 4.7% of its population, Michigan declined by 0.5%, and the United States as a whole grew by 9.7%.

Figure 7 – Demographics overview and comparison, highlighting estimated rates of change between 2000 and 2009.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Vacancy rates for housing between 2000 and 2009 have increased across the board, although at clearly different levels. As noted earlier there was vast increase in the City, now at 24.7%. For the County, the vacancy rate between 2000 and 2009 grew from 5.9% to 12.8%. At the state level, it is now 15.0%, and nationally it is 12.0%. Since 2007, the entire country has been affected by the collapse of the housing market, but in the City of Saginaw, it has become disproportionately worse.

Median household income is also on the decline. As noted earlier, in the City of Saginaw, income between 2000 and 2009 fell by 17.2%. Similar but smaller declines are also seen for Saginaw County and the State of Michigan. Median household income for the nation as a whole as remained relatively stable over the same period.

The median age continues to increase. This reflects a long-standing national trend, generally attributed to a decline in the population under the age of 18 coupled with growth in the population aged 65 years and over. Shown below, in Figure 8, it is evident that there are not as many young people (ages 19 and younger) in the City. In 1990, 36.7% of the population was 19 and younger. In 2000, the proportion fell to 34.7%. And estimated for 2009, the proportion of this age group is about the same, falling slightly to 34.2% of the total City population. Interestingly, those aged 65 and over have decreased by 17.3% during the past decade. While it may appear that a decline in this age group might signal that the population is in fact getting younger, the reality remains that City is getting older. In 1990, 27.2% of the population was aged 45 and older. In 2000, the proportion grew to 30.0%. And estimated for 2009, the proportion of this age group grew again to 32.9%. But as a whole, the City of Saginaw is still relatively younger than its counterparts at the County, State, and national levels.

At the County level, the population aged 65 and over is growing, if only slightly. In 2000, the County population of those 65 and over was 28,331 (13.5%). In 2009, it grew to 28,977 (14.3%).

	1990		2000		2009 estimate		Change from 2000 to 2009
Under 5 Years	6,891	9.9%	5,329	8.6%	5,753	10.2%	8.0%
5 to 19 years	18,610	26.8%	16,061	26.1%	13,598	24.0%	-15.3%
20 to 24 years	3,929	5.7%	4,257	6.9%	4,179	7.4%	-1.8%
25 to 44 years	21,046	30.3%	17,501	28.4%	14,456	25.5%	-17.4%
45 to 64 years	10,706	15.4%	11,552	18.7%	12,899	22.8%	11.7%
65 and Over	8,222	11.8%	6,943	11.3%	5,745	10.1%	-17.3%

Figure 8 – Age distribution in the City of Saginaw, highlighting estimated rates of change between 2000 and 2009. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

This shift in the regional population will present unique challenges to the City. With three major hospitals in the City, residents in outlying jurisdictions will be more dependent than ever on medical services within the City, thus highlighting its regional importance in the coming years.

In terms with the overall racial composition of the City, changes are underway as well (Figure 9). Between 2000 and 2009, the white, black, and American Indian populations have been on the decline. But for the same period, the Asian and Hispanic populations have been growing.

	1990		2000		2009 estimate		Change from 2000 to 2009
White	36,226	52.2%	28,912	46.9%	23,519	42.8%	-18.7%
Black	28,040	40.4%	26,732	43.4%	25,726	46.8%	-3.8%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	375	0.5%	299	0.5%	261	0.5%	-12.7%
Asian	302	0.4%	205	0.3%	249	0.5%	21.5%
Other Race	4,461	6.4%	3,616	5.9%	3,994	7.3%	10.5%
Two or More Races			1,869	3.0%	1,181	2.2%	-36.8%
Hispanic Origin (Of Any Race)	7,296		7,251		7,856		8.3%

Figure 9 – Racial composition of City of Saginaw, highlighting estimated rates of change between 2000 and 2009. Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Other citywide trends are noted on the following pages. They look at comparisons within the City, based on Census tracts. Some key points to consider from the information shown on the following five maps are:

- Population is distributed relatively evenly through the City (Figure 10).
- Vacant housing units tend to be clustered around the Saginaw River, but mostly on the east side of the City (Figure 11).
- Higher values of owner-occupied housing units are located mostly in the northwest part of the City. Essentially, neighborhood median values vary throughout the City, ranging from \$22,652 to \$87,501 (Figure 12).
- The range of median household income tends to be mostly higher in the northwest part of the City (Figure 13).
- Legal rental properties (those that are registered with the City) comprise nearly 39% of the City's housing stock (Figure 14).

Figure 10 – Population (2009)

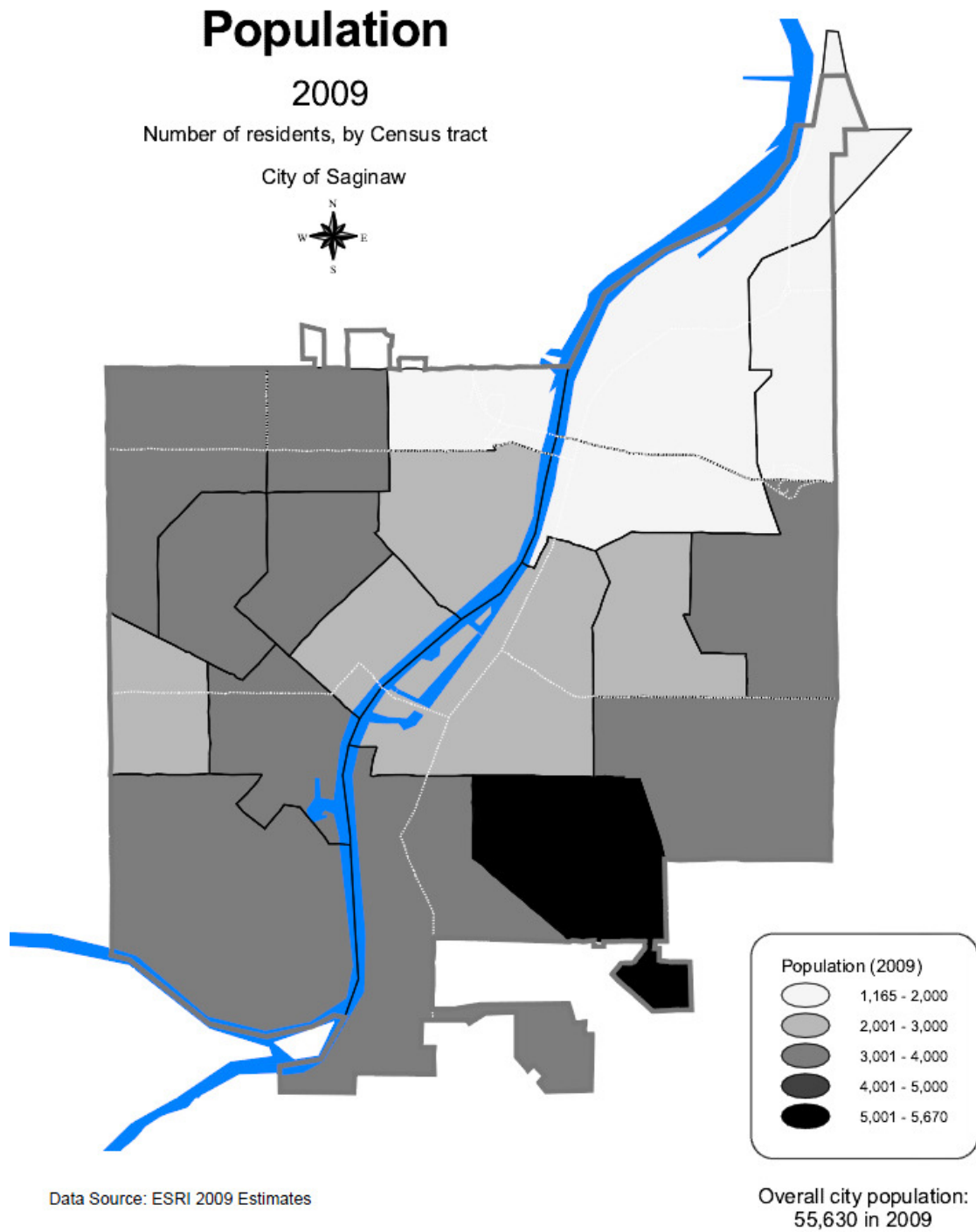


Figure 11 – Vacant Housing Units (2009)

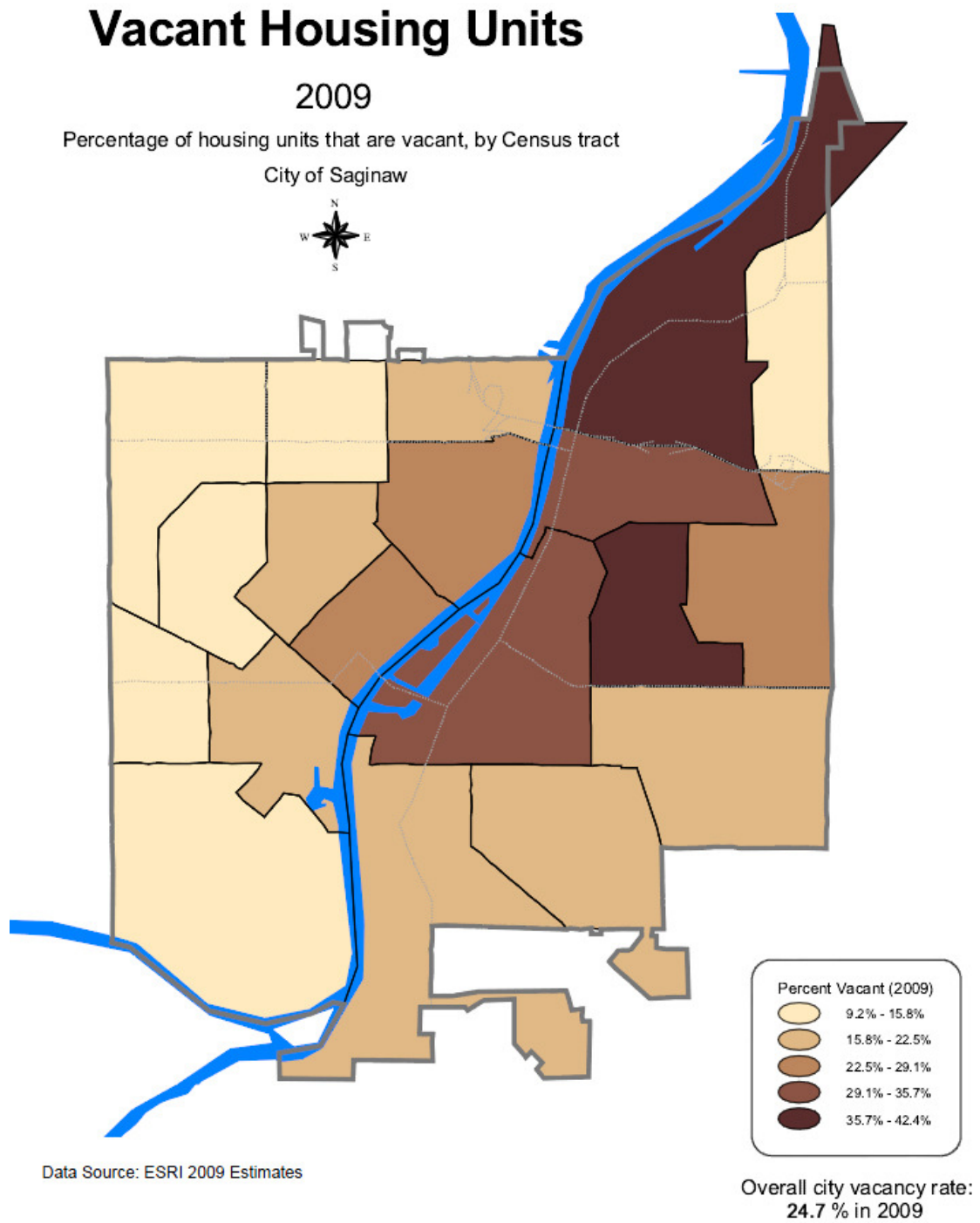


Figure 12 – Median Value of Owner-Occupied Households (2009)

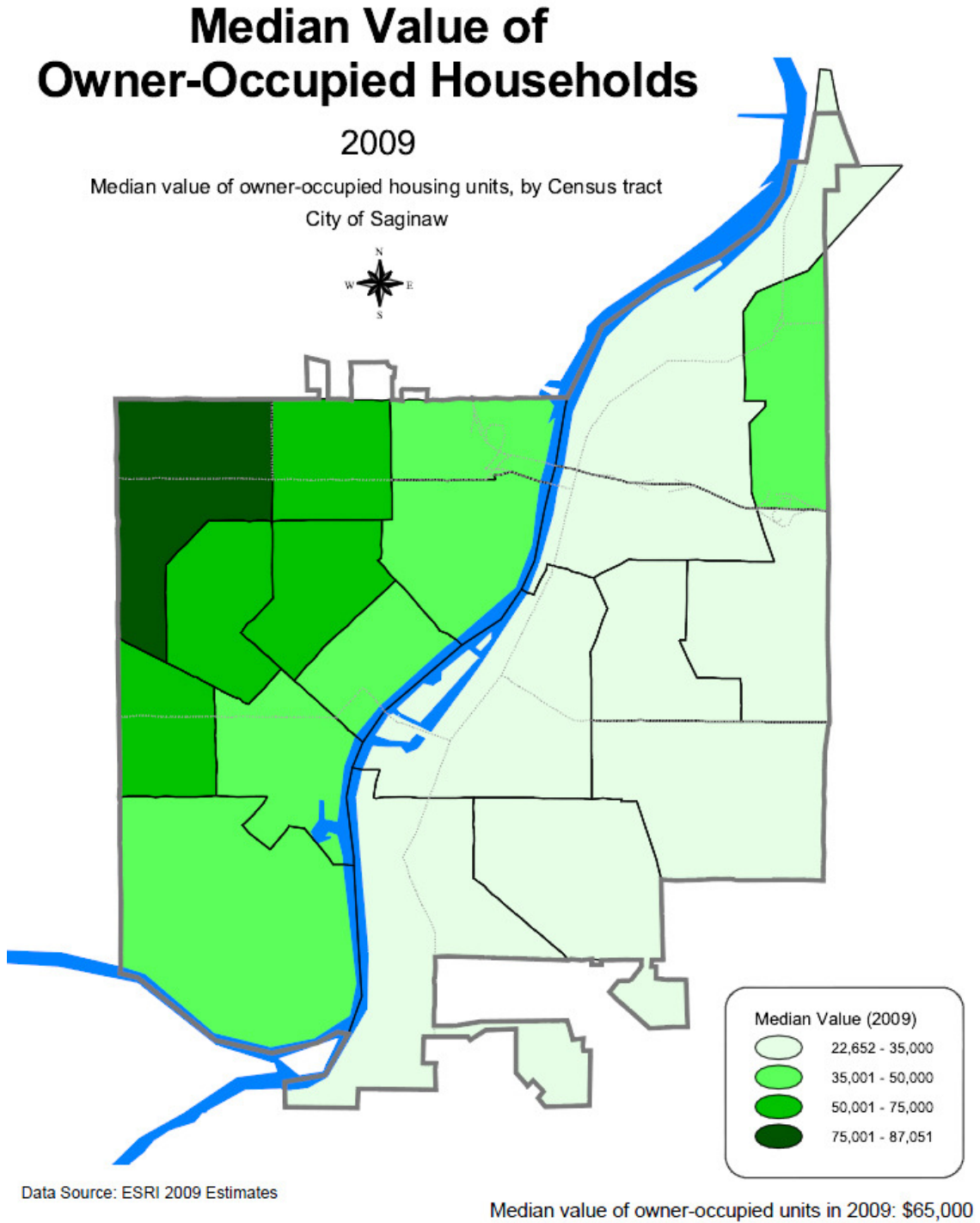


Figure 13 – Median Household Income (2009)

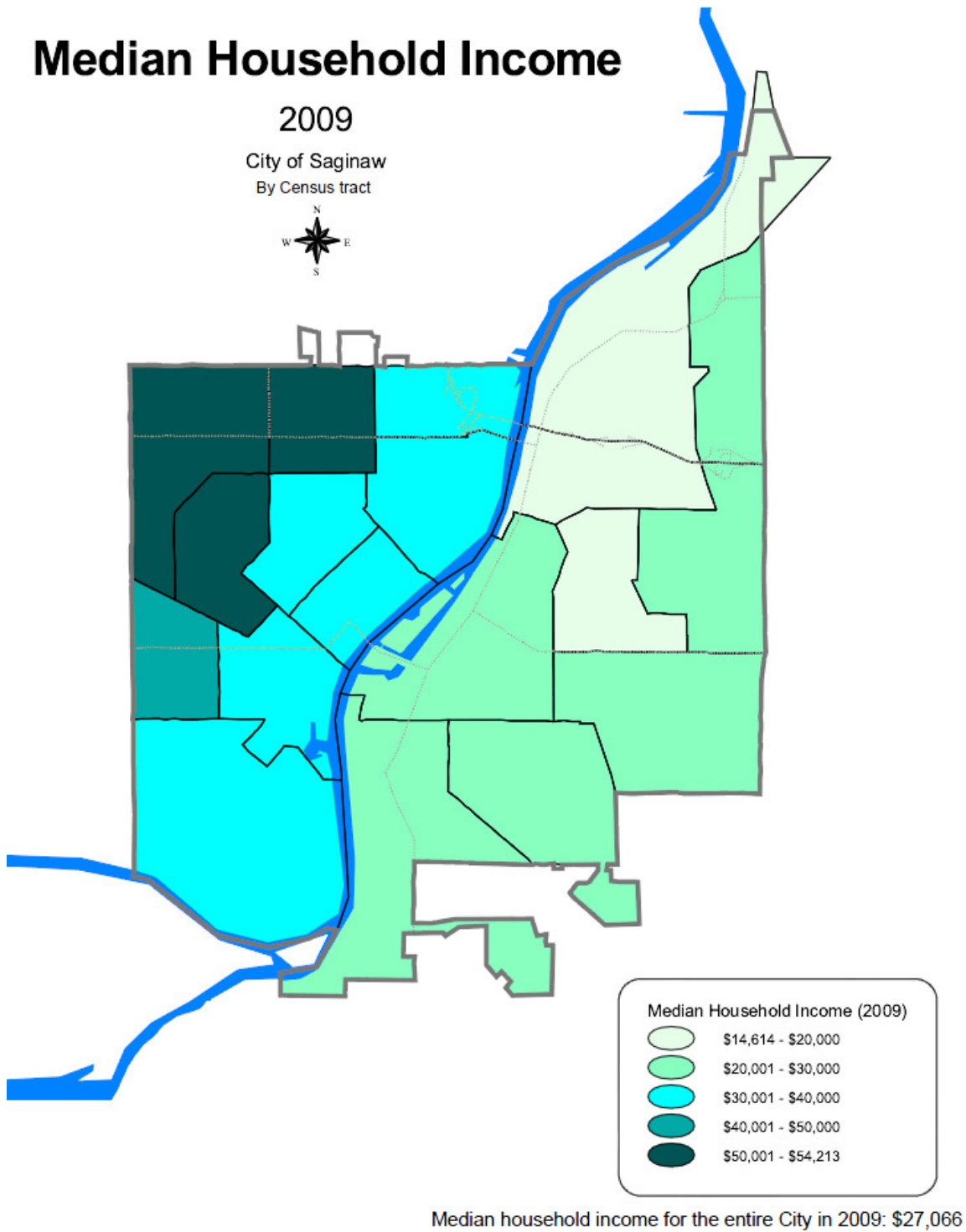
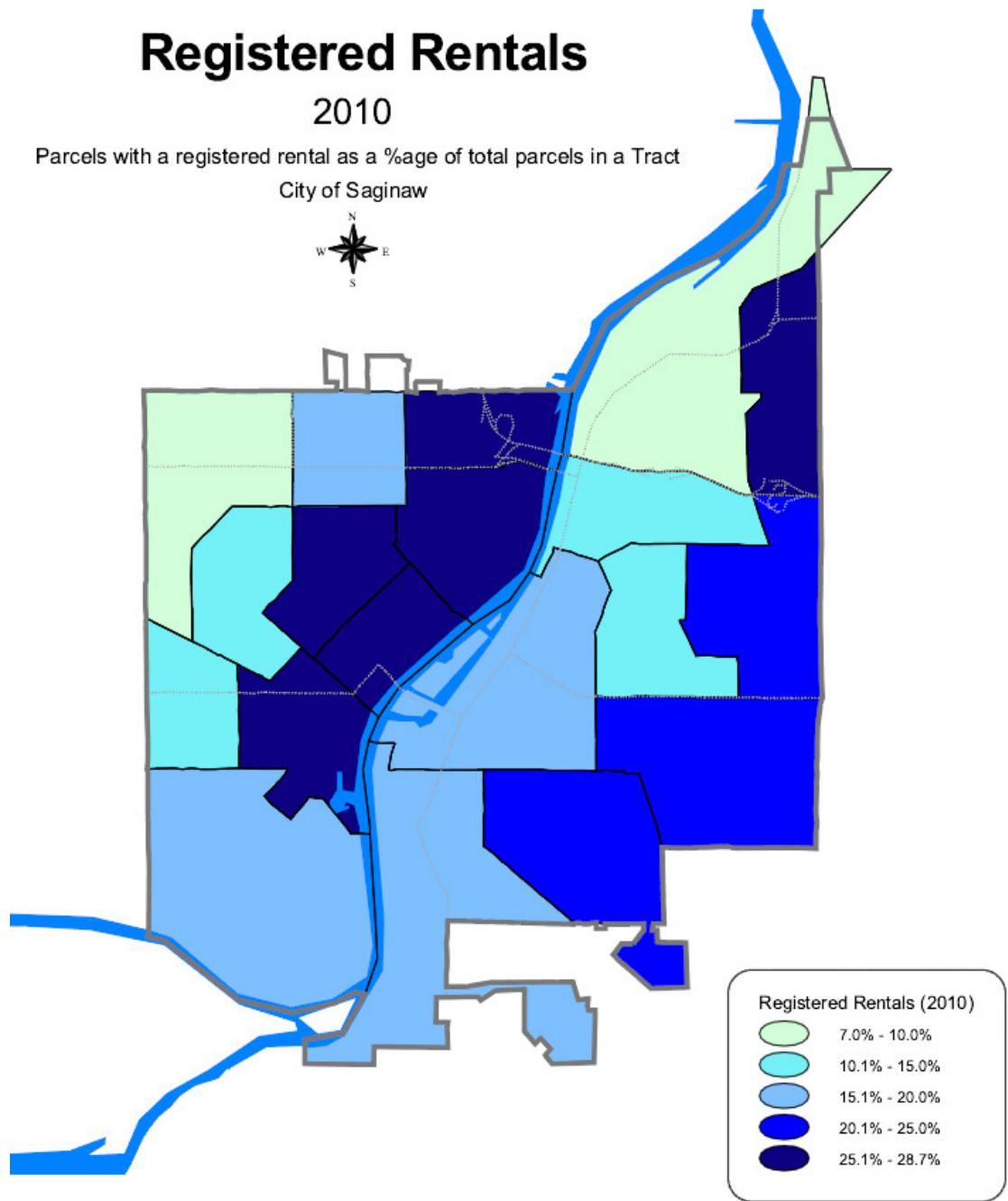


Figure 14 – Registered Rentals (2010)



Data Source: City of Saginaw GIS (Sept 2010)

Total registered rental parcels:
4,875 in 2010 (18.5%)

Community Facilities and Infrastructure in Saginaw

Community facilities and infrastructure are those facilities and services operated by public or quasi-public entities for the benefit of residents. This section of the plan describes these public resources and their general condition in order to consider their improvements or preservation in the goals and objectives of the community. In addition, the availability and condition of community infrastructure and facilities can help a community determine how it wishes to use land in the future. In terms of infrastructure, the City's Maintenance Service Division developed a 20-year capital improvements plan, with a range of road and water projects planned from 2006 through 2026, amounting to a total of just over \$69 million. Water system and wastewater system maps are included at the end of this chapter.

Water System

Saginaw has public water available throughout the entire City. The distribution system covers 310 miles. Approximately 80% of the distribution lines in the City are more than 50 years old which can be a concern because water main breaks occur more frequently in these aging lines. Based on engineering depreciation standards, the typical lifespan of a water main is 50 years.

The City's water treatment and pumping operation is responsible for management, treatment and delivery of potable water to the City of Saginaw and several other communities in Saginaw County. Raw water is pumped to the Saginaw water treatment plant through the 65-mile-long Saginaw-Midland Water System pipeline which originates in Lake Huron, north of Au Gres. The treatment system holds 220 million gallons of untreated water in two 90-million gallon reservoirs on Kochville Road and a 40-million gallon reservoir next to the treatment plant. The water treatment plant is located at the corner of Washington and Ezra Rust. The city has two 10-million gallon clear wells at the treatment plant to hold treated water. Several other treated water storage tanks are located in the other communities served with City water.

Pumping Capacity for the treated water coming out of the plant is 52 million gallons per day (MGD), with about 22 MGD actually pumped. Approximately half of this serves City residents and the remainder is for other municipalities in Saginaw County.

Despite its age, the City's water treatment system is in good shape. The plant has undergone several upgrades over the years to keep it in compliance with all state and federal mandates and the City has recently completed a long term capital improvements study. The quality of the water itself coming from Lake Huron is outstanding. The system maintains 55 pounds per square inch (psi) pressure in the system and has 8,000 psi capacity for firefighting. The water system has excess capacity and would be able to handle commercial and industrial growth.

Wastewater System

The City of Saginaw has sanitary sewer service available throughout the City via a combined stormwater/sanitary system. There are approximately 300 miles of combined sewer lines that carry wastewater to the City of Saginaw's wastewater treatment plant, which is located on a 40-acre parcel off of Veterans Memorial Parkway in the northeastern corner of the City. The majority of the combined sewer lines are located within the City but the treatment plant does handle flows from some separated sanitary sewer lines in outlying communities such as Carrollton Township, Zilwaukee, and a portion of Saginaw Township. The collection system covers approximately 9,000 acres in the City of Saginaw and 21,000 acres in the outlying communities.

Sewers range in size from 8 inches to 10 feet in diameter and the wastewater flows primarily by gravity with some low areas having pumping stations to lift wastewater up in to another sewer so that it can again flow by gravity to the wastewater plant for treatment. The approximate average flows at the wastewater treatment plant are 22 million gallons per day. The design capacity of the plant is 32 million gallons per day (mgd) and the maximum treatment capacity is 70 mgd. The treatment system is a secondary activated sludge system, with discharge into the Saginaw River and sludge being recycled to farmland.

In the 1990s, the City completed a comprehensive Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control project to meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permit requirements. The Project consisted of six retention basins, collector sewers, and existing system upgrades, and had a total cost of approximately \$110,000,000. Planning began in 1988 and construction was completed in 2001. Overall, the City has seven retention basins that can store a combined total of 60 million gallons of sewage and stormwater. These basins, along with collection systems modification are designed to assist with the prevention of the discharge of any raw sewage into the Saginaw River.

Public Safety

Police

The Saginaw Community Public Safety Police serves the residents of Saginaw from the Central Police Station at 612 Federal Avenue. The department currently has 105 sworn members with nine full-time and 9.5 part-time civil employees. The Saginaw Community Public Safety Police has a fleet of marked patrol cars and several support vehicles. In 2010, the Regional Call Center received 72,000 calls for service. The Saginaw Community Public Safety Police in 2010 responded to 46,200 of these calls for service. In 2010, over 42% of these calls (20,411) involved a response by the department. Between 2009 and 2010, the City saw a 14% reduction in crime.



The City is supported by a Canine Unit and an Emergency Services Team. Additionally, the Gang Task Force and the Fugitive Warrant Team have been instrumental in apprehending known

offenders and reducing violent crime in the City. The fugitive task force is a Michigan State Police initiative in which the City participates. The City also contributes officers to the DEA task force and ATF task force. The gang task force is a direct collaboration with the FBI Safe Streets Initiative.

Under the Saginaw Community Public Safety Police's "Community Policing Division" approach to crime reduction, Sergeants supervise Community Police Officers (CPOs) assigned to specific "beats" within a CPO zone and together they develop creative problem solving techniques to make the neighborhoods safer. The creation of partnerships with citizens and businesses has benefited the City of Saginaw in its crime fighting efforts. Officers attend monthly meetings with neighborhood associations. At these meetings the CPO Supervisors (Sergeants) and the CPOs meet with citizens to discuss problems and work together to find solutions through creative problem solving techniques.

The Community Public Safety Police is also supported by a Mobile Command Post. The unit is equipped with telephones, computers and radios. It affords the Saginaw Community Public Safety Police the capability to station personnel in "hot spots" throughout the City on an as needed basis to suppress crime and restore peace and tranquility to neighborhoods. The unit also serves as a command center for community disasters. The Mobile Command Post also provides support to neighborhood and community groups for events such as bicycle registrations, parades, child fingerprinting and identification.

The City is taking advantage of new technology in its department with the "Park Station" where it is building the "RAPTOR" system consisting of shotspotter, high definition video surveillance cameras in high crime neighborhoods, and "real time" crime mapping. The City is also in the process of training a certified crime analyst to use the information the City is now able to obtain with its new technology, which should translate into further crime reductions in the future. This is the only such facility in the State of Michigan at the present time.

Fire

Saginaw's Community Public Safety Fire serves the City's firefighting and fire prevention needs and responds to many medical emergencies. It operates four fire stations with varying capacity of service:



- Fire Station #1, 801 Federal Ave, is collocated with the department administrative offices and the fire prevention division. This station is equipped with two pumpers capable of pumping 1,500 and 1,250 gallons per minute, one 95-foot Quint aerial platform capable of pumping 1,500 gallons per minute, one 100-foot aerial ladder, one fire (crime) scene investigation unit, a utility vehicle, and two command vehicles.

- Fire Station #2, 1305 Gratiot Street, is equipped with one pumper capable of pumping 1,250 gallons per minute, one 75-foot Quint aerial ladder, one 14-foot rescue boat, and one utility vehicle.
- Fire Station #3, 1602 Hess Street, is equipped with two pumpers capable of pumping 1,500 and 1,250 gallons per minute.
- Fire Station #4, 2208 State Street, is equipped with one pumper capable of pumping 1,250 gallons per minute, one hazardous materials handling unit, and a 28 foot hazardous materials equipment trailer.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO), a leading source of information about risk, assigns municipalities a fire protection rating. The ISO uses a 1 to 10 rating system, with 1 the highest rating and 10 as the lowest rating. The fire protection rating is based on a number of factors, including number and location of hydrants, number and location of fire stations, and access to water sources in rural areas beyond the metropolitan water system. The Insurance Services Office has rated the City of Saginaw at a Class 3.

The Saginaw Community Public Safety Fire has 68 employees. Of this total figure, 63 are assigned to fire fighting and emergency response. The Department responds to an average of 2,200 incidents annually. Approximately 60% of the total incidents are fire related. The department is separated into two divisions, Fire Prevention and Safety and Operations.

The Fire Prevention and Safety division determines the services and actions that are necessary to provide a safe city. This division includes the Fire Investigative Services Team as well as the Saginaw Code Enforcement Neighborhood Improvement Cooperative (SCENIC) partnership, described further below. In 2010, Fire Prevention and Safety helped install 810 new smoke detectors. The Fire Investigative Services Team (FIST) is an entity of the Saginaw Community Public Safety Fire that is comprised of personnel from Saginaw Community Public Safety Fire, Saginaw Community Public Safety Police, and Michigan State Police Arson Investigators. FIST is responsible for determining the origin, cause, and circumstances of fires in Saginaw. The Operations division of the Saginaw Community Public Safety Fire is responsible for on-scene management in emergency situations. This includes tactical response, water and ice rescue, hazardous material response (Haz-Mat), as well as community fire awareness.

Saginaw Code Enforcement Neighborhood Improvement Cooperative (SCENIC)

In 2008, as a result of the City of Promise funding, the City of Saginaw created a program to more effectively address neighborhood concerns in the City, such as including parking infractions, code violations, and abandoned structures that contribute to blight in the area.

SCENIC staff includes a combination of personnel from the Saginaw Community Public Safety Fire, Department of Development, and Saginaw Community Public Safety Police. These officials

work jointly with neighborhood associations around the city, providing taxpayers with a more effective means of communicating their concerns with the city government.

Code Enforcement is one of SCENIC's major responsibilities. This includes responding to violations in housing code, zoning code, and environmental ordinances. In doing so, the city helps remove trash and junk vehicles from yards. Homeowners and landlords are fined for infractions on City ordinances. SCENIC also addresses any tall grass or broken glass issues in the City. SCENIC also helps enforce the dangerous dog ordinance. These efforts help increase the appearance of the community and prevent the continued deterioration of neighborhood property.

Additionally, SCENIC is responsible for removing vacant buildings in Saginaw, which continue to be a target for arson related crimes. In 2010, SCENIC demolished 499 dangerous structures which is correlated with a 24.6% reduction in reported arson in the same year. SCENIC was acknowledged as a Best Practice Program in the State of Michigan and has been recognized by the Michigan Association of Chiefs and Police for Excellence in Environmental Crimes Enforcement.

The Role of Neighborhood Associations on Crime Prevention Assistance

Saginaw's neighborhoods are the building blocks that help shape the City's identity and vitality. Changes in the City population, employment levels, and housing have had varying degrees of impacts on its neighborhoods. To address these issues as well as public safety, collaborative neighborhood planning has recently started, most notably by the creation of an umbrella group called the Neighborhood Association Action Group (NAAG) consists of a representative of each of the City's neighborhood associations. Such planning provides the City an opportunity to identify, coordinate, and prioritize a variety of goals with the involvement these neighborhood associations. Using neighborhood planning, residents and neighborhood leaders have become actively involved to identify problem areas and issues that can be addressed by the City's community police officers.

At the neighborhood level, residents can help identify priorities, plan for the long term, and ensure City goals for public safety are implemented. Implementation for public safety is achieved through regular meetings with City staff, community police officers, and the neighborhood associations. At such regular meetings, neighborhood associations, City staff, and citizens work together to identify long-term plans that address public safety issues, ordinance changes, and other public concerns. This line of open communication between the City and the residents provides an outlet to:

- Help deter criminal activity.
- Create a greater sense of security.

- Build bonds with neighbors.
- Reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim and, in turn, reducing the physical, financial, and psychological costs of crime.
- Instruct residents on how to observe and report suspicious activities.
- Address quality of life issues and mutual interests of City residents.
- Help correct the perception of crime in the City.

Funding for Public Safety

Public Safety functions in Saginaw are supported with a property tax millage that began in 2006. From 2006 – 2010, it was 6.0 mills. In August of 2010, voters approved a renewal of that millage and an additional 1.5 mills.

Trash Collection

Curbside trash collection in Saginaw is provided by the Mid Michigan Waste Authority through Waste Management, Inc. A pilot recycling program will begin in the spring of 2012 and will be re-evaluated annually. Trash collection services are funded through a flat user fee. Yard waste is collected separately from April 1 to November 30.

What is a mil?

One mil is equal to one tenth of one penny or one 1/1000 of a dollar. Stated another way, one mil equates to \$1.00 for every \$1,000.00 of taxable value. Mills are used to calculate property taxes. When a millage rate is used to calculate a property tax, the formula is the millage rate multiplied by the property's taxable value equals the tax levy. For example, if you live in an area where the total millage levied on all homes is 10 mills, and if the taxable value of your home were \$50,000, then your property tax would be equal to $0.01 \times \$50,000 = \500.00 .

Parks and Recreation

Saginaw has a variety of parks across the City. The bulk of them are located along or near the east side of the Saginaw River. A park map is included at the end of this chapter. Some of the larger and most visited parks include:

- **Hoyt Park** – Off Washington Avenue north of Ezra Rust with five baseball diamonds. The warming house is currently under renovations.
- **Children's Zoo** – Located at the end of Ezra Rust, just south of Hoyt Park, operated as a separate entity from the City of Saginaw.
- **Frank N. Andersen Celebration Park** – On Fordney between Ezra Rust and Rust. Features a new splash pad and skate park. The Garber tennis courts are adjacent to Celebration Park and Crayola Park is located just across the street.
- **Ojibway Island** – On the River between Ezra Rust and Holland. Site of the annual 4th of July Fireworks.

- **Bliss Park** – Large neighborhood park located near Covenant Medical Center that is on the National Historic Register.
- **Deindorfer Woods** – Large wooded park, with a new pavilion, that is located on the northwest side of the City.
- **Greenpoint Environmental Learning Center** – 82 acre nature area located in the southwest corner of the City. Owned by the City and operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Wickes Park** – 92 acres located along the east side of the Saginaw River.

The City also owns and operates the Civitan Recreation Center and the Anderson Enrichment Center. The Civitan is used as a community center offering after school programs, summer day camp, senior meals, a Food Bank, and the Claytor Library. The Anderson Enrichment center offers various meeting rooms and is host to art exhibits and cultural events throughout the year. Other City parks include Fordney, Merrill, Rosier, and Veterans Park.

Public Library

The Saginaw Public Library system consists of a main library in the City, three branches in the City and one branch in Saginaw Township. The four library locations in the City are:

- Hoyt Main Library – 505 Janes
- Butman Fish Library – 1716 Hancock
- Claytor Library – 1410 N. 12th Street
- Wickes Library – 1713 Hess

The Saginaw Public Library is supported by a 4.0 mill property tax assessment. It generates the majority of the library's operating revenues.

Schools/Education

Approximately 8,200 students attended the Saginaw Public Schools in the fall of 2010. This enrollment figure has declined significantly in the past 20 years, mirroring the population decline in the City. According to the 1992 Master Plan, the October 1990 count student count was 13,575. The district has downsized operations and closed several school buildings during the recent 20 year time period. The school district operates 13 elementary schools, two K – 8 schools, two middle schools, two high schools and a combined middle-high school. It also operates the Saginaw Career Complex which serves as a career center for high school students across Saginaw County. Another public school option is the Francis Reh Academy, a K-8 public charter school located on Owen in Saginaw.

There are four parochial schools in Saginaw: St. Stephens Catholic (K-8), St. Paul Lutheran (K-8), Holy Cross Lutheran (K-8), and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, a 9-12 high school that includes boarding. A map showing schools in the City of Saginaw is shown at the end of this chapter.

Transportation

Roads

The City of Saginaw has approximately 300 miles of roadway. According to MDOT, 96 miles of these are major roads, 182 miles are local roads, and 24 miles are state highways.

Five state highways and one expressway are the main traffic carriers to and across Saginaw. These are shown in Figure 18 at the end of this chapter. I-675 is a business loop expressway that runs off of I-75. It is the most frequently traveled road in the county with daily traffic counts of approximately 25,000. I-675 has three exits that carry traffic into Saginaw.

M-46 runs across the entire state and traverses across the south side of Saginaw from east to west. It carries approximately 10,000 to 20,000 vehicles across Saginaw daily. M-13 travels north from I-69 in Genesee County to Bay City. It is known as Washington Avenue in Saginaw and carries traffic through the downtown area on the east side of the Saginaw River. M-81 carries traffic into Saginaw from Tuscola County and the thumb region, merging with M-13 on the northeast side of the City. M-58 (State and Davenport one way streets) is a short 5-mile long state highway that carries traffic from I-675 westward to Saginaw Township where it intersects first with M-84 and further west, with M-47 (Midland Road). M-84, also known as Bay Road, carries traffic northward from Saginaw to Bay City. The average daily traffic count (ADT) on Bay Road just south of Weiss is 18,800 vehicles per day. By comparison, I-675 and M-46 carry up to 26,800 and 20,250 vehicles per day.

All of the traffic counts on the major roadways in Saginaw that are discussed above are significantly less than they were in 1989. The 1989 data which was used to complete the 1992 Saginaw Master Plan is compared to the 2009 data in Figure 15.

The Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008) and Act 51, the Michigan Transportation Fund that governs state appropriations for transportation programs, was amended in 2010 to allow Michigan's communities to plan for all forms of transportation, a policy approach to road building commonly known as Complete Streets. Complete streets includes pedestrian-friendly and walkable community improvements to the transportation infrastructure. Complete streets also broadens the view of streets and roads – the planning and design of roads should consider the entire right-of-way, inclusive of sidewalks, bike lanes, bus stops, and streetscape elements such as trees and benches. Implementing complete streets means the accommodation of all users of the road, including vehicles, buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

In general, complete streets addresses non-motorized transportation (bikes, mopeds, etc) along with cars and trucks. In the City of Saginaw, there are a number of ways to implement complete streets. Some initiatives may include using the site plan review process to require sidewalks and pathways, adoption by the City Council of a complete streets policy, the development of a city-wide non-motorized transportation plan, and collaboration with MDOT and the Saginaw County Road Commission on future road improvement projects.

Bridges

Because the City of Saginaw is split by the Saginaw River, the bridges that cross the river are a very important component of transportation in Saginaw. There are seven vehicular bridges across the Saginaw River. Five are owned and maintained by the City:

- Johnson Street Bridge ADT = 10,800
- Genesee Street Bridge ADT = 14,775
- Holland Avenue Bridge (G. Stewart Francke bridge) ADT = 15,525
- Court Street ADT = 14,025
- Center Street Bridge ADT = 12,100

Note: ADT info provided by City engineering staff, years 2008 – 2010)

In general, the City bridges are somewhere in the middle of their expected life span and they are well maintained. They require annual repair and maintenance to keep them in good shape.

Two bridges in Saginaw are owned and maintained by MDOT:

- I-675 Bridge (Henry Marsh Bridge)
- M-46/Rust Avenue Bridge – owned and maintained by MDOT

Figure 15
City of Saginaw Major Roadways
Average Daily Traffic Count (ADT) Comparison
1989 and 2009

	1989 Traffic Count (Approximate)	2009 Traffic Count (Approximate)
I-675	37,050	25,000
Holland Avenue	25,700	16,400
Gratiot	25,300	20,250
Davenport/State	35,000	35,000

Source – MDOT, City of Saginaw

Transportation Planning

Transportation planning for the City of Saginaw takes place in two major areas. The first is with its Asset Management Program and the second is through the Saginaw Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (SMATS).

The City of Saginaw is in the midst of completing an Asset Management Program which is a requirement of Michigan Public Act 199 of 2007. All concrete and asphalt roads were rated using the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) tool. The PASER systems rates pavement condition on a scale of 1 (very poor, failed) through 10 (excellent) based on physical and visible surface distresses. This evaluation shows that the City's roads are in very poor condition. The City has 124 miles of concrete roads with an average surface quality index (SQI) of 1.93. The City has 156 miles of asphalt roads with an average SQI of 2.81.

The SMATS group is the arm of the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in the Saginaw Urbanized Area. Every metropolitan area with a population of more than 50,000 must have a designated MPO for transportation to qualify for federal highway or transit assistance. This is to comply with the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equality Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) 2005. The United States Department of Transportation relies on the MPO to ensure that highway and transit projects that use federal funds are products of a credible planning process and meet local priorities. The Saginaw County SMATS study area includes Tittabawasee Township, Saginaw Township, Kochville Township, Zilwaukee, Carrollton, Buena Vista Township, Bridgeport Township, Spaulding Township, James Township, Saginaw Township, and the City of Saginaw.

The MPO carries out three major work activities to meet specific federal requirements. These are:

- The development and maintenance of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) through a "continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C)" planning process.
- The development and maintenance of a four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that identifies all transportation system improvements in the SMATS area that receives Federal funding, including highway, transit, and non-motorized projects. The proposed City of Saginaw TIP projects for 2012 – 2014 are shown in Figure 16.
- The annual adoption of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) or, more simply, Unified Work Program (UWP). This document presents a comprehensive one-year planning program that describes and coordinates the individual transportation planning activities of all agencies in the area.

Deciding how best to use the City's limited road budget has trade-offs, that is, the City could concentrate on reconstructing the worst roads (very expensive but needed) or it could concentrate on preventive maintenance to preserve streets in better condition. Fixing the worst roads requires complete reconstruction which costs up to ten times as much as some rehabilitation/maintenance strategies. In reality, the City uses a blend of the two strategies but

they are falling further behind each year. More roads are falling down to the “1” category and the City cannot repair/maintain the roads at a pace that keeps them where they are.

I-675/Warren Avenue Interchange Project In 2011, MDOT has undertaken a major improvement project that will improve access to downtown Saginaw via I-675. On and off ramps will be reconfigured and repositioned so that motorists can access the downtown area more easily. A new northbound I-675 exit ramp and a southbound I-675 entrance ramp will be built, both at Warren, to complete a full four-lane interchange. The project includes replacing six overpasses at Warren, Fifth, and Sixth Streets. Overpasses at Second and Weadock Streets will be removed to make way for the new ramps. The new ramps, officials estimate, will create a more accessible link to The Dow Event Center, Temple Theatre, St. Mary’s of Michigan hospital, and the Michigan CardioVascular Institute.

Rail There are two railroad lines that carry freight across Saginaw, the Huron & Eastern and Saginaw Bay Southern. Saginaw Bay Southern lines are owned by Lake State Railway Company. They were purchased from CSX Transportation in 2005. Lake State operates an office on N. Washington in Saginaw. There are two railroad bridges across the Saginaw River in Saginaw. The first is north of the I-675 Bridge. The second is located midway between the Holland Avenue Bridge and the Genesee Street Bridge. The railroads in Saginaw are shown in Figure 18 at end of this chapter.

Figure 16
Proposed City of Saginaw Transportation Improvement Projects
2012 - 2014

Year	Project Name	Limits	Length	Description
2012	Ezra Rust	M-13 to Court St. Bridge	0.45	Mill and pave 4 lanes
2012	Fordney St.	M-46 to Ezra Rust	0.32	Reconstruct 3 lanes with concrete pavement
2012	Genesee Ave	Harold to Hess; Janes to Hartsuff	1.5	Mill and pave 5 lanes with ADA ramp upgrades
2013	Genesee Ave	Harold to Hess	0.75	Resurface
2013	Genesee Ave	Janes to Hartsuff	0.75	Resurface
2013	Weiss St.	At Hermansau	N/A	Add center left turn lane and traffic signal
2013	Niagara St.	RR tracks to Davenport	0.70	Reconstruct
2013	Treanor St.	Williamson to Dixie Highway	1.56	Resurface
2014	Niagara St.	RR tracks to davenport	0.70	Reconstruct 2 & 3 lanes
2014	Mackinaw St.	State St. to Weiss St.	0.5	Reconstruct .1 mile; .4 miles pavement repair

Shipping Shipping plays an important part in the Saginaw region’s industrial and agricultural industries. The Saginaw River shipping channel provides linkage from commercial port facilities in the county to the St. Lawrence Seaway and ultimately to the Atlantic Ocean. A variety of resources are shipped on the channel including coal, sand, limestone, grain, petroleum products, and cement. Over 30 cargo port docks along the Saginaw River channel provide access to the shipping channel. The two ports facilities that are located within Saginaw are Saginaw Rock Products and the GM Powertrain Metal Casting Operations. To accommodate commerce, the upper portion of the Saginaw River servicing Saginaw County has been dredged. The Saginaw River, inclusive of docks from the mouth of the Saginaw Bay (Lake Huron) to the southern end of the City, is Michigan’s eighth largest port by cargo volume with about 4.6 million tons of river commerce annually, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation (*Source: Saginaw Future*).

Transit The Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) is a public transportation system for the Urbanized Saginaw Area, which travels about 1.5 million miles per year. Over 2,700 people use the STARS system each day. In each of the past three years, STARS has provided over one million passenger trips. STARS LIFT is a curb-to-curb service designed for senior citizens, persons with mobility disabilities, and the general public not conventionally served by STARS fixed routes. The major portion of the STARS budget is funded with a 3 mill City of Saginaw property tax levy. STARS currently owns and operates a fleet of 58 passenger vehicles. STARS operates six days per week Monday through Saturday (Figure 17). In early 2011, STARS began developing a transportation master plan that will identify near- and long-term transit improvements.



Figure 17 Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS) route map, as of fall 2010.

Airports MBS International is the closest commercial passenger airport to Saginaw. It is located 10 miles northwest of Saginaw in a rural setting near Freeland. Delta and United Airlines fly daily

routes to hubs in Detroit, Minneapolis, and Chicago. According to Saginaw Future, in 2009 the airport provided air travel services to 267,436 people and it carried 197,825 pounds of air cargo.

A new \$48 million, 75,000-square foot expansion of MBS began in 2011. A new terminal will be built just north of the current terminal and the hope is that it will bring more airlines and more competition to MBS. Completion is anticipated for 2012. Additional charter and fixed wing base services are provided at Harry W. Browne Airport in Buena Vista Charter Township located southeast of Saginaw.

Neighborhood Associations

The City of Saginaw has many active neighborhood associations. They are active with neighborhood watches, clean-ups, arson watch, neighborhood events, and neighborhood planning. Saginaw's community police officers also work closely with the Neighborhood Associations. The focus of the associations is to improve the area's quality of life through community service and proactive response to issues. The various associations are:

- Adams Boulevard Area Neighborhood Association/ Neighborhood Watch
- Arthur Eddy Neighborhood Watch
- Butman-Fish Library Neighborhood Association
- Cathedral District Neighborhood Association
- Central West Side Neighborhood Watch
- Covenant Neighborhood Association
- Heritage Square Neighborhood Association
- Houghton-Jones Neighborhood Task Force
- Northeast Saginaw Neighborhood Association
- Northmoor Neighborhood Watch Association
- Northwest Neighborhood Association
- Redeemer Area Neighborhood Watch
- Saginaw High School Neighborhood Association
- St. Paul's Townhouse
- St Stephen's Area Neighborhood Watch (now includes Brockway-Carmen Park Neighborhood Watch)
- Southeast Side Neighborhood Association
- Southwest Saginaw Neighborhood Association
- Triangle Parks Neighborhood Association

A group called the Neighborhood Association Action Group (NAAG) consists of a representative of each neighborhood association. They meet monthly at City Hall.



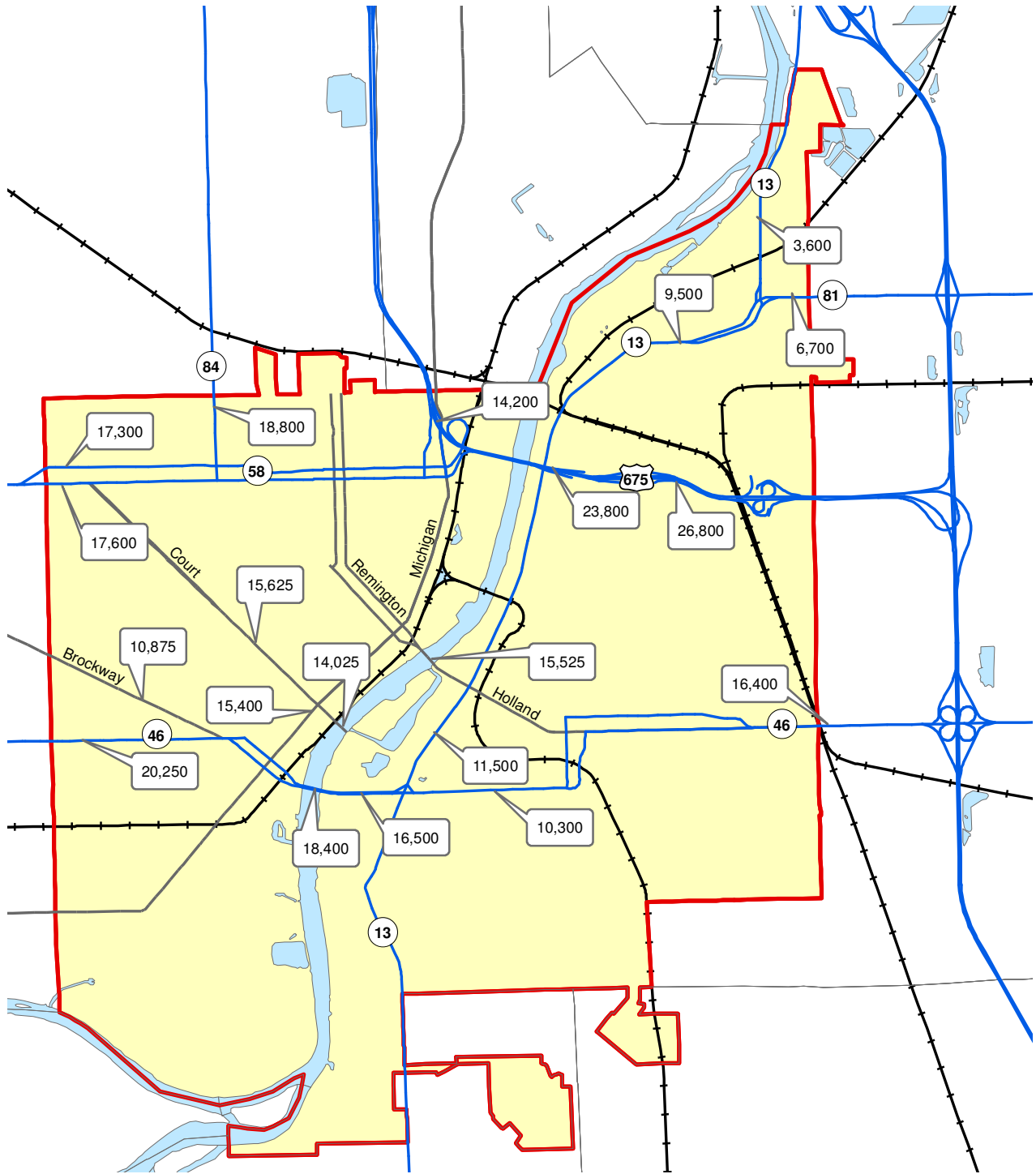
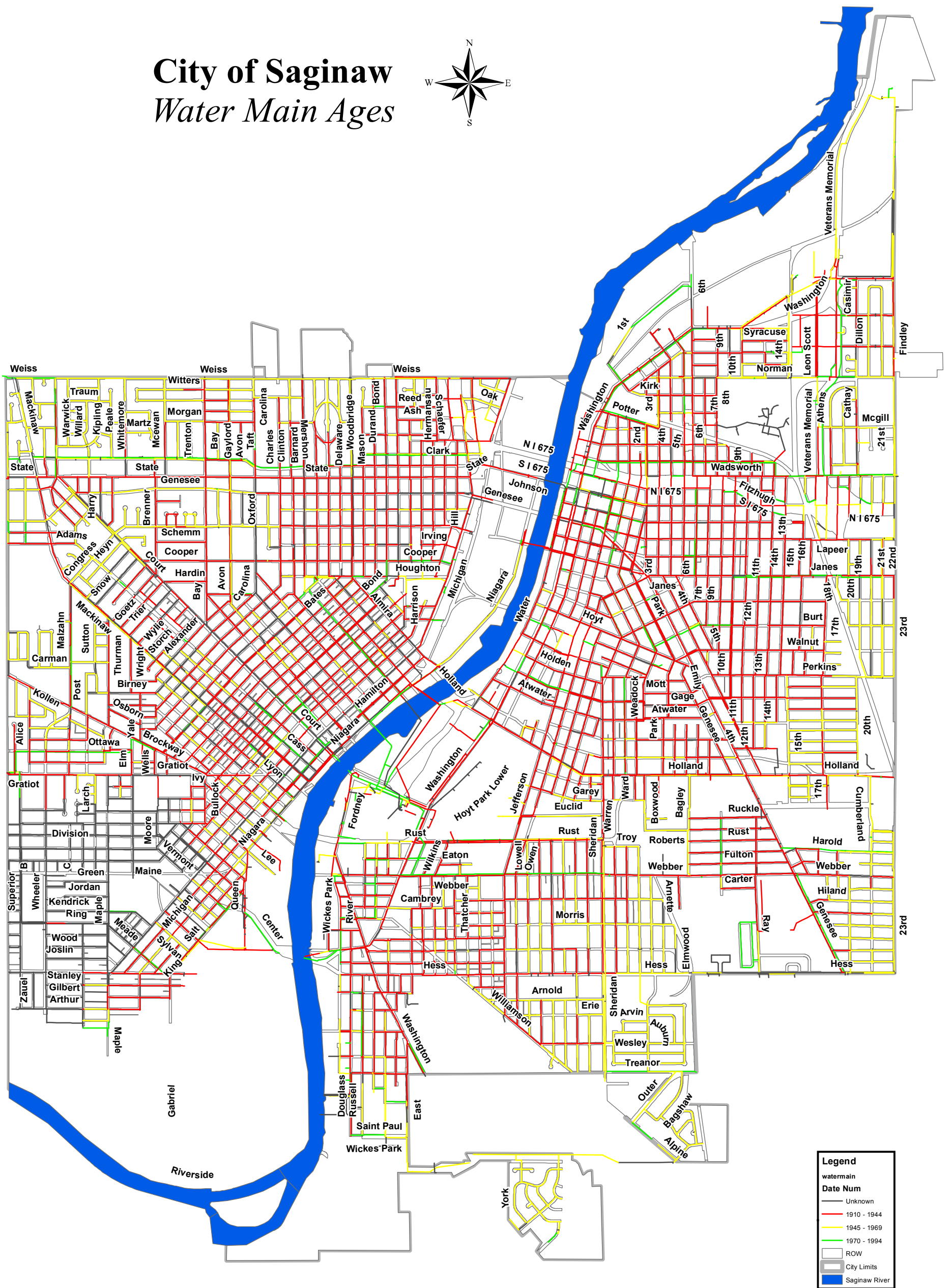
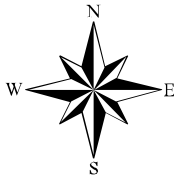


Figure 18 - Transportation data. This map shows railways and state and interstate roadways with average daily traffic counts. (Source – Michigan Geographic Data Library, Michigan Department of Transportation, City of Saginaw)

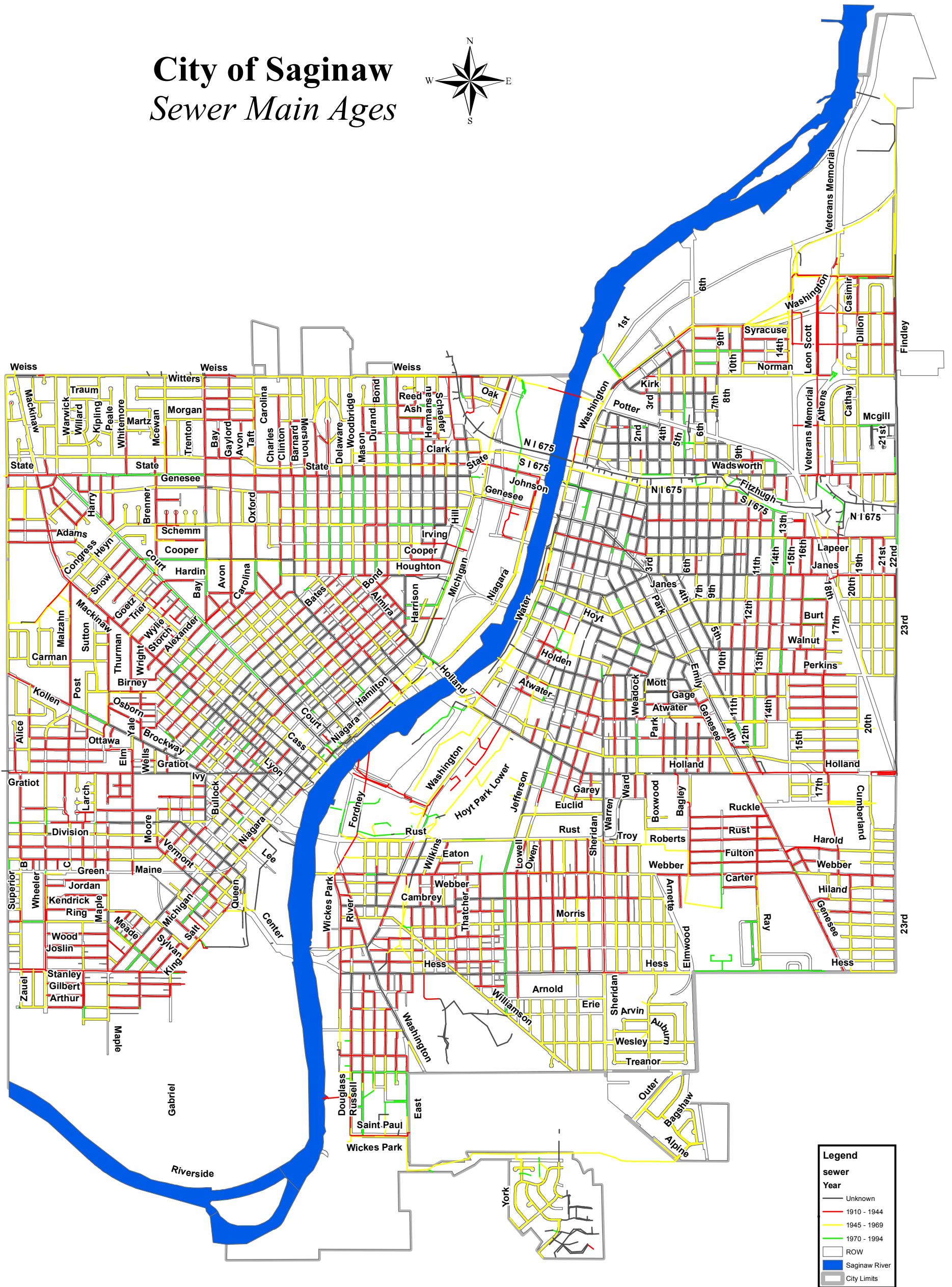
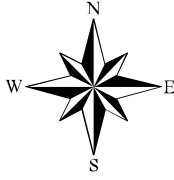
City of Saginaw

Water Main Ages

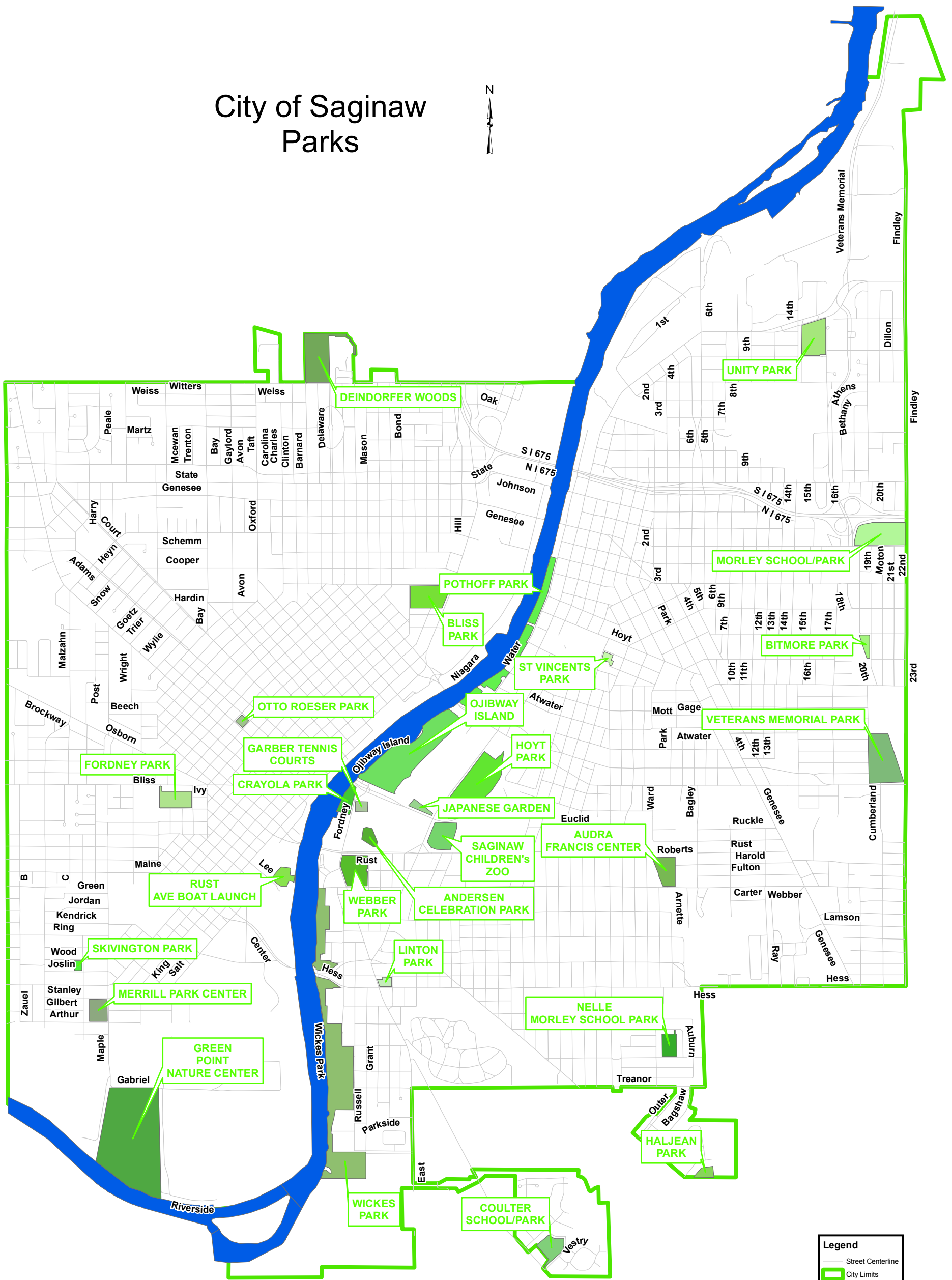


City of Saginaw

Sewer Main Ages



City of Saginaw Parks



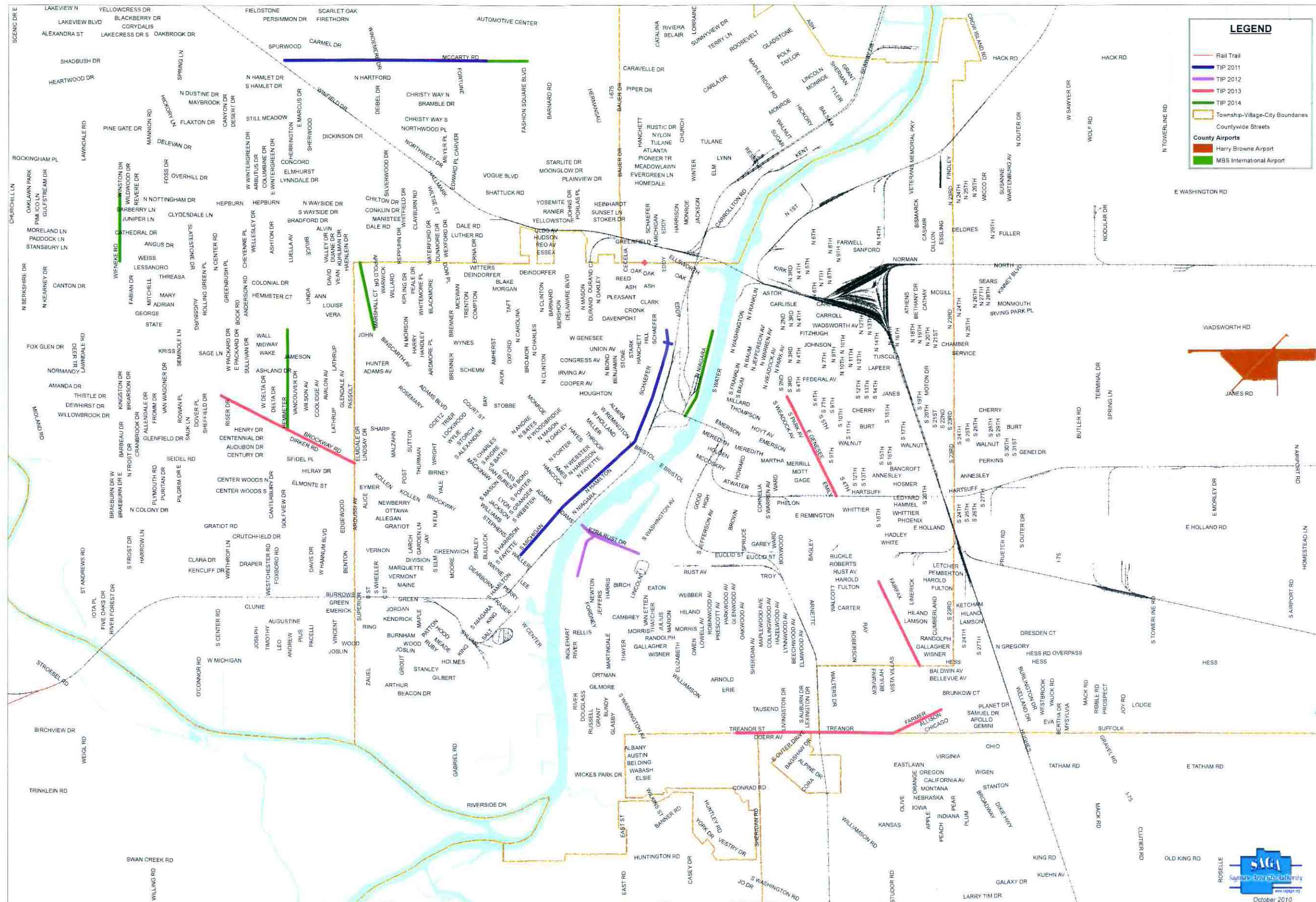
Legend

- Street Centerline
- City Limits
- Saginaw River

Transportation Improvement Program

Major Projects 2011-2014

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles



LEGEND

- Rail Trail
- TIP 2011
- TIP 2012
- TIP 2013
- TIP 2014
- Township-Village-City Boundaries
- Countywide Streets
- County Airports
- Harry Browne Airport
- MBS International Airport

Chapter 3

Existing Land Use



Overview

Existing land use is one of the most important pieces of physical data to evaluate in a place like Saginaw. Because the existing land uses have set a pattern established over years of related and independent decisions pertaining to the growth and development of the City, existing land use sets the stage for future planning decisions. This section of the Master Plan evaluates the existing land uses in the City of Saginaw.

To provide an account of the existing land uses in Saginaw, a base map was developed by the City's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division using property class data. This base map was then further refined to show parcels that are vacant and have registered rentals. Other layers depicting physical features such as parks, railroads, and the Saginaw River were also added. The map was then finalized after a review of aerial photography from Google Earth and field verifications.

The existing land use map is designed to provide a snapshot in time of how land in the City is actually being used. The patterns on the resulting map were evaluated by the Working Committee and were used throughout the planning process to inform the group of critical land use issues and to assist them with the development of goals and strategies. Descriptions of each land use category follows. But first, key community issues that impact the City's land use pattern are discussed.

Issues

As a mature urban center, the City of Saginaw was at one time fully built-out. But over time, there has been population loss, building demolitions, and growing rates of vacancies, all of which presents a unique opportunity today for the City of Saginaw to begin right-sizing. As described in Chapter 2, in recent decades, the City of Saginaw has experienced substantial population loss. Historically, Saginaw's neighborhoods grew out from the development of new industry, manufacturing, and other investments. But as those employment centers close or relocate elsewhere, the adjacent neighborhoods change.

This physical decline impacts the overall land use pattern in the City. As people have abandoned their homes due to job loss or because of the national collapse of the housing market, what's left behind is an abundance of vacant housing and a market with weak demand to absorb the empty units. Such market oversupply negatively affects housing values and the desirability of neighborhoods.

The impacts from abandonment include empty buildings that are dangerous, along with subsequent demolitions that are meant to help maintain and stabilize a neighborhood by removing a potential threat to adjacent occupied homes, but can leave behind significant gaps in the physical fabric of neighborhoods. To help improve neighborhood conditions, the City tracks dangerous buildings and has a dangerous building ordinance (DBO). Further, current demolitions related to neighborhood stabilization are completed using Federal funds, and there are certain guidelines in place to help ensure that neighborhoods are stabilized. These initiatives are meant to minimize further physical decline in the City and are briefly described in more detail below.

What is right-sizing?

In *Greening the Rustbelt*, right-sizing is defined as:

"Stabilizing dysfunctional markets and distressed neighborhoods by more closely aligning a city's built environment with the needs of existing and foreseeable future populations by adjusting the amount of land available for development."

An example they cite is that replacement of vacant and abandoned properties with green infrastructure, blighted and surplus lands can be converted into green space. The result is the creation of community assets while aligning supply more closely with existing and foreseeable future levels of demand. The overall understanding is that there are unique challenges face shrinking cities ("dysfunctional markets") such as a declining population, disinvestment, crime, and a declining tax base. City officials can address these problems through infrastructure overcapacity reductions and supporting land banks so to ensure acquired land can be properly managed or sold.

Sources:

Greening the Rustbelt: A Green Infrastructure Model for Right Sizing America's Shrinking Cities
Schilling and Logan, Journal of the American Planning Association, Autumn 2008, Vol. 74, No. 4.

Planning for the Shrinking City and Region
Kyle Shiel, The New Planner, American Planning Association, Spring 2010.

Dangerous Buildings

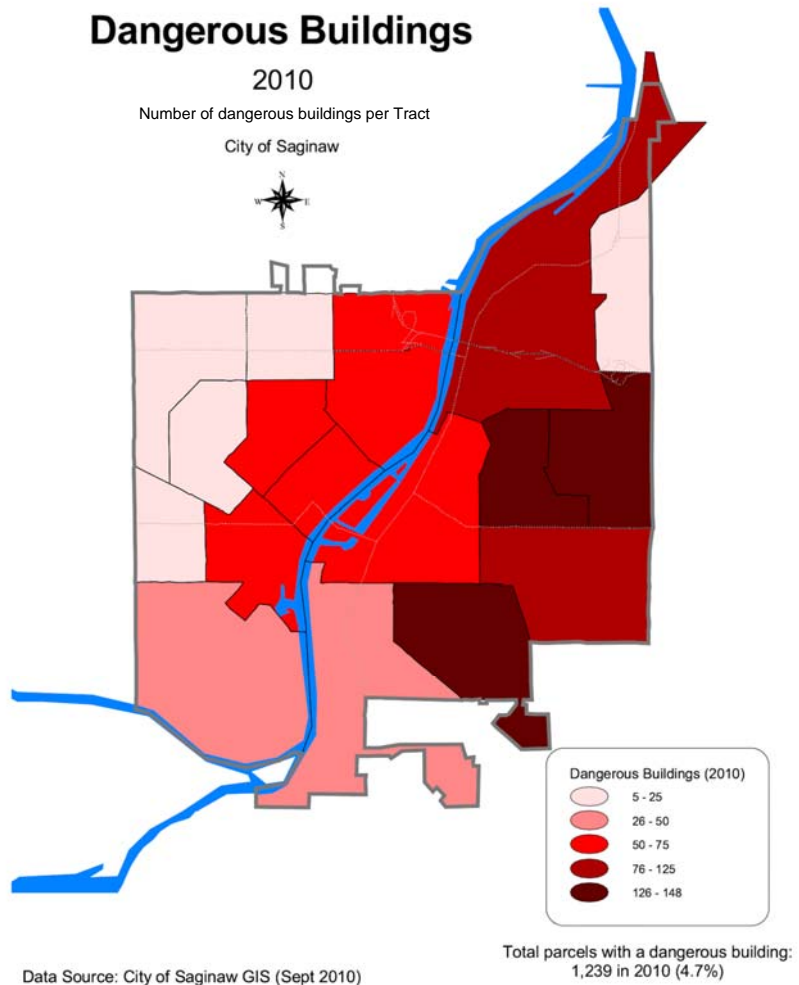
Of all the parcels in the City, 4.7% have been identified by the City as dangerous buildings, or a total of 1,239 parcels. A building is considered dangerous by the City's dangerous building ordinance (DBO), if it meets the following criteria:

- The building is vacant and open to entry (includes broken windows and open doors).
- The building has been vacant for 180 consecutive days or longer and is not registered for lease, rent, or sale by a Michigan State licensed real estate broker.
- The building has any defects that inhibit the structure from its intended use.

These dangerous buildings can be further identified by the underlying property class code to determine the main sources of overall physical decline in the City:

- Higher-Intensity Residential (401 property class code and a registered rental) includes 92.2% of the DBO parcels (1,142)
- Commercial (201 property class code) includes 7.5% of the DBO parcels (93)
- The remaining parcels are industrial (301 property class code).

Concentrations of dangerous buildings in the City, based on the number of buildings per Census tract, are shown at the right. The Dangerous Building Ordinance (DBO) is described further in Section 151.110 of the Saginaw Code of Ordinances.



Demolitions

If a building cannot be repaired or rehabilitated, the City's dangerous building ordinance (DBO) deems it to be a public nuisance and it can be demolished per the stated process.

City records indicate that since 1999, the City has demolished 1,677 structures. See Figure 19 below which shows the number of demolitions for the past 12 years. In 2009, the City had 280 demolitions, and in 2010 there were 535, for a two-year combined total of 815, accounting for 48.6% of all demolitions recorded by the City since 1999. In terms of land use:

- 95% of the demolitions were residential structures,
- 3% were commercial structures, and
- The remaining 2% included some industrial structures and other uses that have been converted to surface parking areas adjacent to various church and hospital sites.

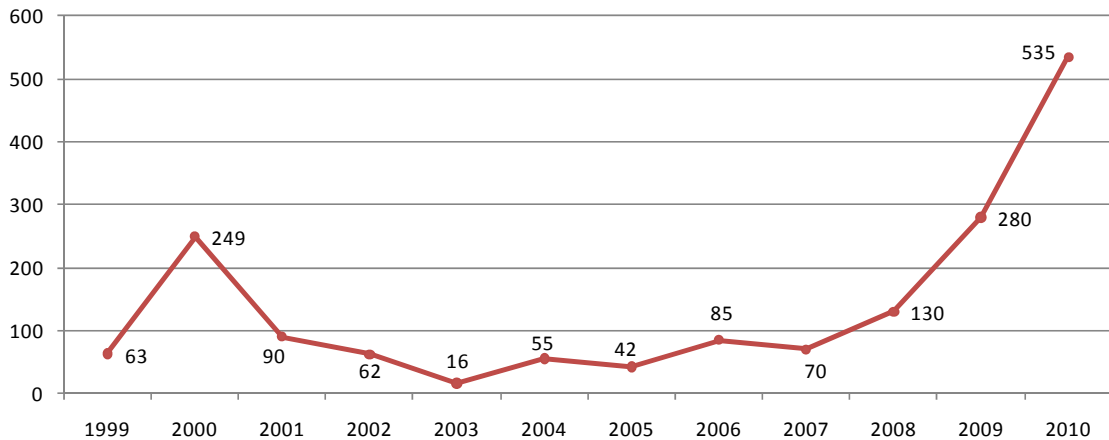


Figure 19 – Number of demolitions in the City of Saginaw since 1999. *Data Source: City of Saginaw GIS and The Saginaw News (December 2010).*

What's Next?

Through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), a federal program that provides funds for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of abandoned or foreclosed properties, the City has the means to push back against the physical decline that has been endemic to Saginaw for so many decades. Through various revitalization initiatives and plans, the City has identified areas for intervention and demolition. The City is also in the process of acquiring homes for redevelopment in partnership with the Saginaw County Land Bank. The outcome of these interventions that address, in part, the long term City's physical decline will depend on many factors, including the soundness of this Master Plan document, the decisions of stakeholders from both the private and public sectors implementing this Master Plan, and the dynamics and unknown shifts of future market trends. Since it is viewed these initiatives are vital to the transformation of Saginaw, the aspects of physical decline they are intended to address are depicted on the existing land use map in various ways. Because

most of the dangerous buildings are associated with registered rentals, a red star icon is used to designate the locations of registered rentals, named *Higher-Intensity Residential: Registered Rentals* on the existing land use map. Registered rentals are widespread throughout the City and they need to be monitored regularly to note any changes in site conditions. Also shown on the existing land use map are vacant parcels (as opposed to vacant housing), depicted with a thicker border for each parcel so that it is emphasized on the map. The City classifies 5,350 parcels as vacant, of which 1,677 (31.3%) are truly vacant as a result of demolition activity since 1999. These vacant parcels include surface parking lots and other non-developed uses. Regardless of how the parcels became vacant, it is evident that as long as the City continues its demolition initiatives, the number of vacant parcels in the City will increase for the short-term, thereby providing new opportunities for which to think about how development, infill opportunities, and future land use patterns should emerge for the long-term. The existing land use map that follows has been developed as a tool with that intent in mind.



Consideration of the City's Assets

For Saginaw to fulfill the expectations of a 21st Century City, developing appealing places and amenities that attract new residents and businesses will need to be a priority. Already, the City has many important assets that have value and meaning to its residents and visitors from throughout the region. Assets help establish a sense of place in the City and provide opportunities to host events and other community activities. Typically, assets are buildings, parks, or natural features within a City that offer opportunities for people to experience the arts, culture, festivals, food, dining, and other forms of entertainment. Assets are the popularly recognized attributes of a City, and are what the citizens want to keep, build upon, and sustain for future generations. Community assets can also attract new growth and development.

In the City of Saginaw, the Saginaw River is its most significant natural resource and is centrally located. Located around the river are several parks, cultural attractions, and entertainment venues. Included is Ojibway Island, the Andersen Enrichment Center, Celebration Park, the Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House, the Children's Zoo, Hoyt Park, Potthoff Park, the Farmers' Market, Hoyt Library, the Castle Museum, the Temple Theater, the Dow Event Center, the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum, Bliss Park, the Saginaw Art Museum, the Pit and Balcony Community Theater, and Riverside Park. See Figure 20.

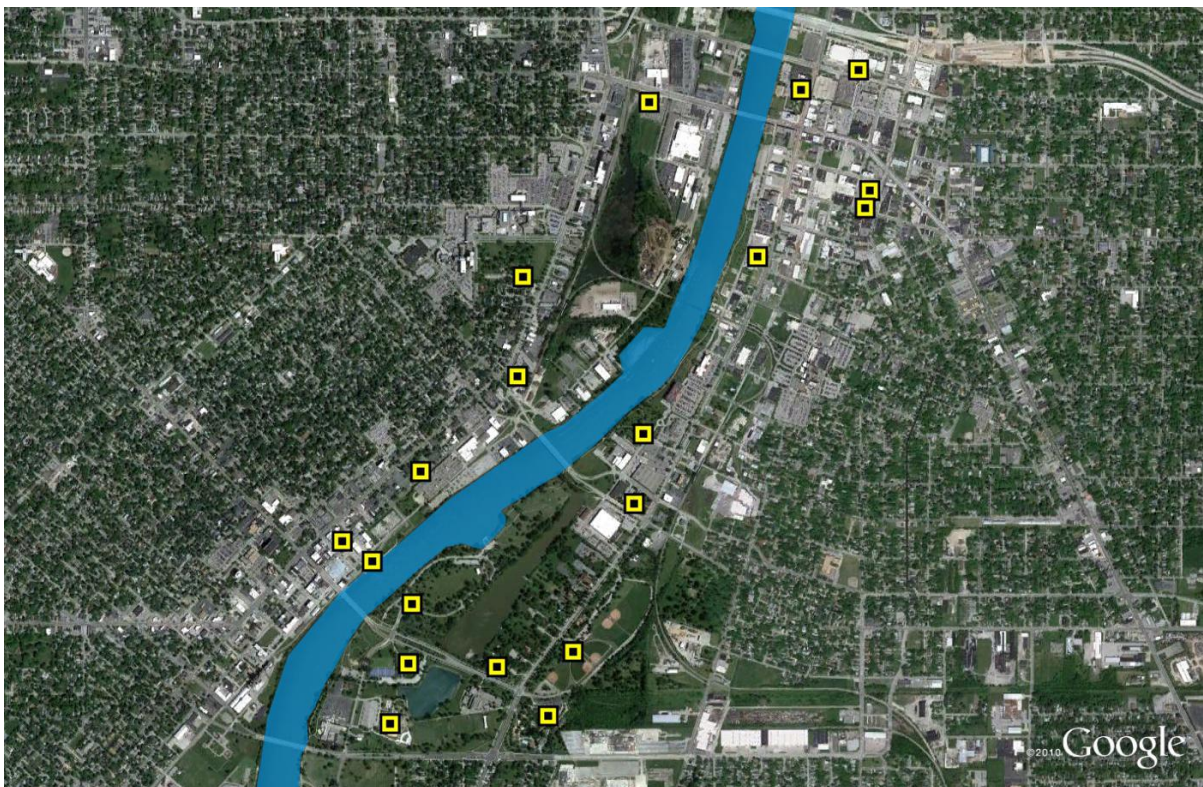


Figure 20 – Generalized locations of many of the City's assets that surround the Saginaw River. Map details are provided online at <http://www.saginawmasterplan.com/?p=238>.

The diversity of these assets and their concentration around the Saginaw River illustrates how a conceptual framework can be articulated. That is, the City is in a good position to build upon its existing set of appealing centrally-located places and amenities that surround the Saginaw River.

In addition to the parks, cultural sites, and museums shown in Figure 20, there are historic structures and districts that also help make Saginaw unique and special. There are two kinds of historic structures and districts in Saginaw. A map of the City's these historic sites are provided at the end of this section on page 59.

The first kind is the National Register of Historic Places. This is the official list of historic places worthy of preservation in the United States. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. The City of Saginaw has 20 individual buildings and 9 districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

At the local level, the Saginaw Historic District Commission, established by ordinance in 1987, has the responsibility to review all plans for construction, alteration, repair, moving, or demolition of structures or signs in the City's two local historic districts. The City of Saginaw has two local historic districts, the Old Saginaw City Historic Business District and the Heritage Square Historic District. The Old Saginaw City Historic Business District has 71 buildings and is located at the crossings of South Michigan Avenue, Court Street, and the Saginaw River. Heritage Square encompasses 325 buildings and is roughly bounded by South Oakley Street, Court Street, South Harrison Street, and Mackinaw Road.

These older buildings and districts can be critical assets for Saginaw, as they can be generators of economic activity and can contribute to the culture of the City. Renovation of historic buildings and using them in new ways can help maintain the urban fabric of the City while providing



architectural diversity and the potential for new mixed-use development.

In addition to these historic resources and the core set of assets concentrated around the Saginaw River, there are many more assets in the City that enhances the quality of life for everyone.

For example, the City of Saginaw is also home to the Saginaw County Governmental Center and a State of Michigan building that provides services and administers programs throughout Saginaw County and the Great Lakes Bay Region. The Social Security Administration also has an located downtown on East Genesee Avenue and provides a host of services that are necessary for the area's residents.

Several popular events are also hosted in the City, such as the Old Saginaw City Lawn Chair Film Festival, PRIDE (Positive Results in a Downtown Environment) concerts, races on the Saginaw River hosted by the Saginaw Rowing Club, and various other cultural festivals and parades. Another popular event is the Independence Day fireworks, which is a regional draw for thousands of people living in the Great Lakes Bay Region and brings them right into downtown Saginaw. Many of these events are free to the public.

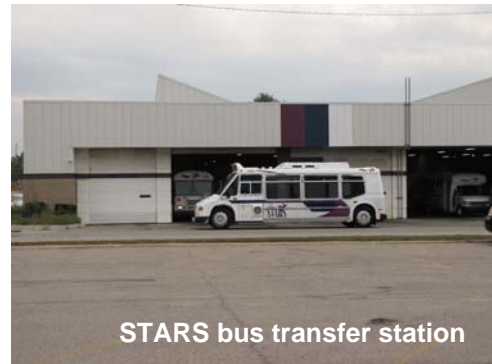
The Dow Event Center is home to the Ontario Hockey League's Saginaw Spirit hockey team. The Event Center also hosts to the Ultimate Indoor Football League's Saginaw Sting. Overall, the facility consists of three parts, the Heritage Theater, a meeting facility formerly, and Wendler Arena which has a capacity of 7,600 people.

There are also a number of buildings along the Saginaw River area that are vacant, but are considered prime real estate due to their location, and provide opportunities for adaptive reuse and new business opportunities.

Many of the City's neighborhoods are unique and possess qualities that cannot be found in the adjacent suburbs. Qualities such as tree-lined streets and sidewalks are common throughout many areas of the City.



Adams Boulevard neighborhood



STARS bus transfer station



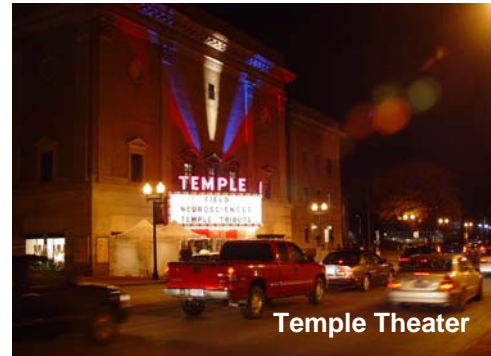
Inside the Dow Event Center



Prime riverfront real estate

The Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS), the local public transportation system, is also another important community asset. Buses travels about 1.5 million miles per year and the system had over 2,700 daily riders. STARS provides basic transportation needs for City residents and the region as a whole.

Broadly speaking, these places, attractions, and historic sites are the assets that make the City of Saginaw an important hub of activity not only for the City and County, but for the overall Great Lakes Bay Region.



Land Use Classification and Analysis

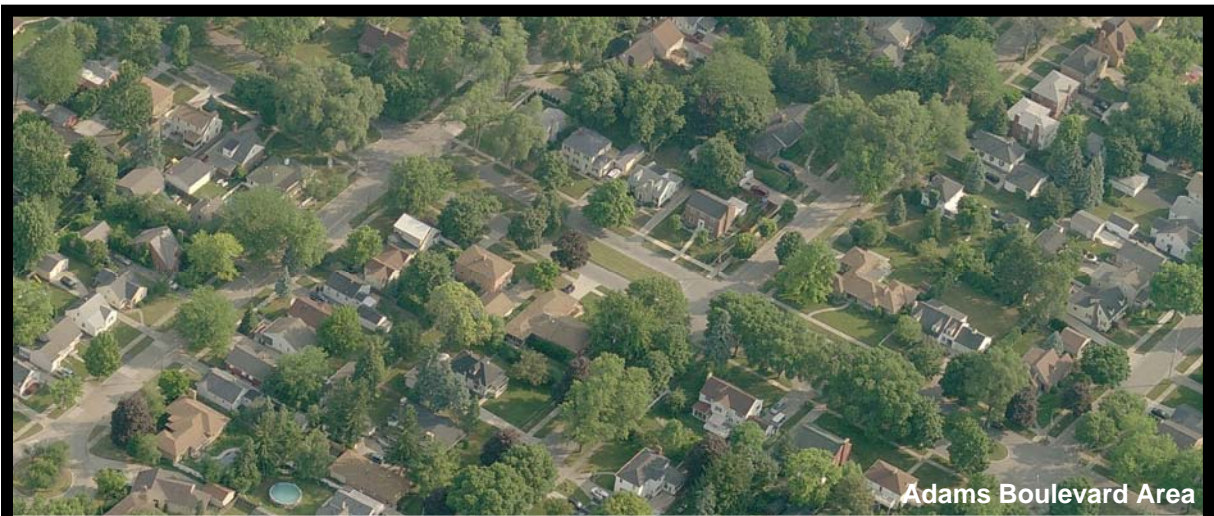
The existing land uses in Saginaw are divided into 13 categories for the purposes of mapping. General descriptions of the uses follow. The chart below, Figure 21, shows the number of parcels for 11 of the 13 mapped land uses, with city-owned parks included with the Governmental land use. Figure 21 analyzes the number of parcels dedicated to a particular land use in the City, based on property class codes, which is used as a proxy for total land area. Overall, the City of Saginaw occupies an area of about 18.2 square miles. The Saginaw River is not included in Figure 21, but it does occupy an area of about 0.6 square miles, or 3% of the total physical area of the City. An existing land use map is shown at the end of this section on page 60.

Property Classification	Parcels	Percent
Residential: Ownership Units	17,146	64.9%
Higher-Intensity Residential: Registered Rentals	4,875	18.5%
Demolished/Vacant	1,677	6.35%
Commercial	1,652	6.25%
Industrial	342	1.29%
Religious Institution	279	1.06%
Governmental (includes parks)	245	0.93%
Hospital	58	0.22%
Educational Institution	58	0.22%
Library & Museum	13	0.05%
Agriculture	4	0.02%
<i>unclassified</i>	63	0.24%
Total	26,412	100%

Figure 21 – Analysis of existing land uses in the City of Saginaw, based on property class codes. *Data Source: City of Saginaw GIS.*

Residential: Ownership Units

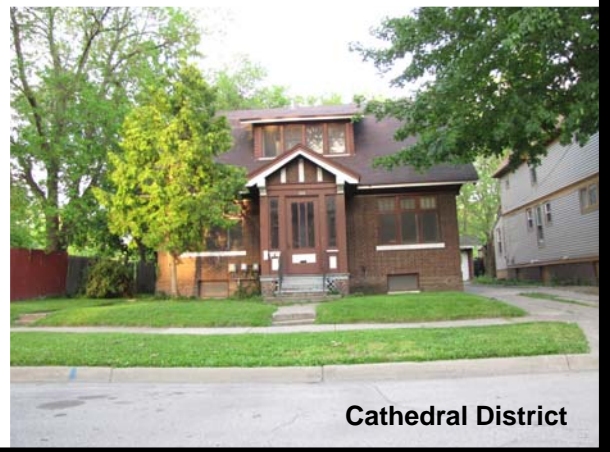
The *Residential: Ownership Units* land use category includes all owner-occupied residential parcels in the City comprised with single-family homes and is the most common use in Saginaw. Lot sizes are regulated by zoning requirements and are relatively small, with lot widths ranging from 50-feet to 100-feet, permitting about three to six units per acre. This relatively dense urban development pattern is consistent throughout the City, except for more recently developed areas in the north and west that have taken on a more suburban character somewhat similar to adjacent Saginaw Charter Township.



Adams Boulevard Area



Cathedral District



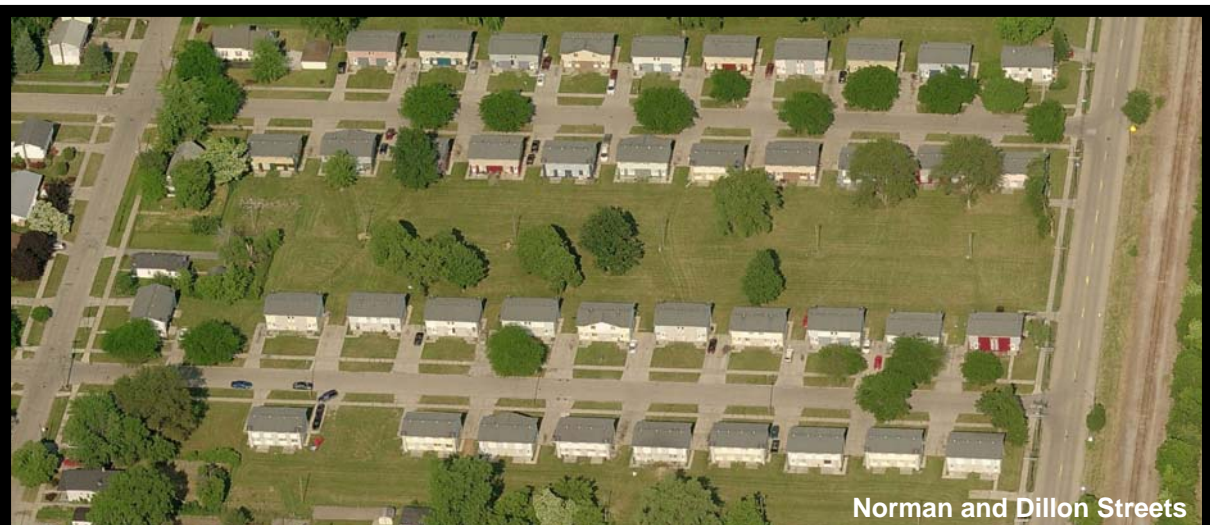
Cathedral District

Higher-Intensity Residential: Registered Rentals

The *Higher-Intensity Residential: Registered Rentals* is a diverse land use category that includes all renter-occupied residential units registered with the City via its Non-Owner Occupied Dwelling Registration Application. This use takes on many forms situated on residential and commercial properties and they are widespread throughout the City. In particular, this category includes:

- 97.3% of the parcels (4,745) have residential property class code
- 2.7% of the parcels (129) have a commercial property class code

Most of the structures are former single-family residences, which in some cases includes the entire structure itself for rent as a single residence, or more likely, single structures divided with multiple units available for rent. Also included in this category are duplexes and traditional apartment complexes. This category does not include senior care facilities such as nursing homes, which are classified as commercial. Of the parcels in this category, 4.4% of them (213 parcels) have been identified by the City as a dangerous building under its dangerous building ordinance (DBO).



Norman and Dillon Streets



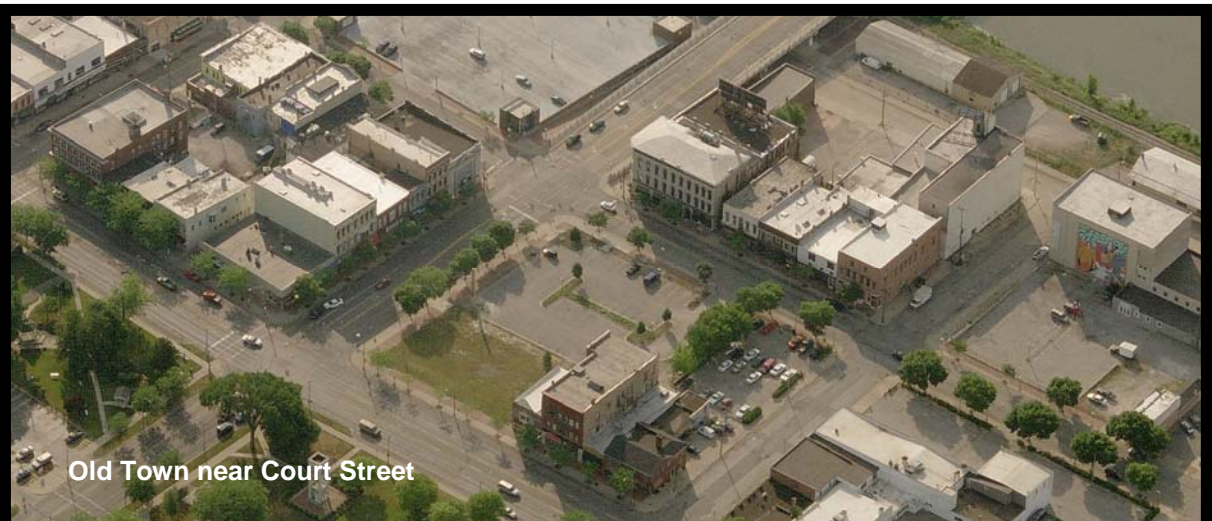
Bancroft House



Amadore Apartments

Commercial

The *Commercial* category is predominately occupied by retail sales or service establishments such as shopping and restaurants, and includes offices such as financial institutions, professional offices, gas stations, convenience stores, medical and dental practitioners, and personal service establishments such as barbers and hair salons. It also includes post offices and senior care facilities such as nursing homes. While *Commercial* is found throughout the City, it is mostly concentrated along the Washington and Genesee corridors; in the Old Town area along Court, Michigan, and Hamilton; the North Michigan Avenue corridor north from Madison to Genesee; Court Street north from Michigan Avenue to Alexander; the State and Davenport one-way pairs from Bay to Mackinaw; Gratiot from South Michigan to Elm Street, and the stretch of offices along South Michigan from Mackinaw to Fraser.



Industrial

The *Industrial* category includes a large range of industrial operations such as manufacturing, assembling, and other high impact activities. Also included are light industrial uses such as warehousing, wholesaling, and boat docks, railroads, and utility substations. The major industrial use in Saginaw is GM's Metal Casting Operations. Other industries in the City of Saginaw include Mahar Tool Supply and GlobalWatt.



Religious Institution

The *Religious Institution* category includes places of worship and related educational facilities. These uses are located throughout the City and are typically integrated into nearby neighborhoods. Many of Saginaw's churches contribute to the overall character of many neighborhoods due to their distinct architectural styles. For example, one of the distinctive features of Old Town is the number of church steeples that are visible on the City's horizon. Also, St. John's Episcopal Church on Hancock Street is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Governmental

On the map, the *Governmental* category includes federal, state, County, and City offices and facilities, including the Children's Zoo (which is on land owned by the City, but leased by the zoo), the Dow Event Center, and cemeteries. While this does not include parks, they are shown on the Existing Land Use map and described on the following pages.



Hospital

The *Hospital* category includes Saginaw's three primary medical centers, Covenant Health Care, St. Mary's of Michigan, and the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center. Also included are smaller medical operations such as Health Delivery, Inc.



Educational Institution

The *Educational Institution* category includes all public school facilities owned and operated by the Saginaw Public School District, including the Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy.



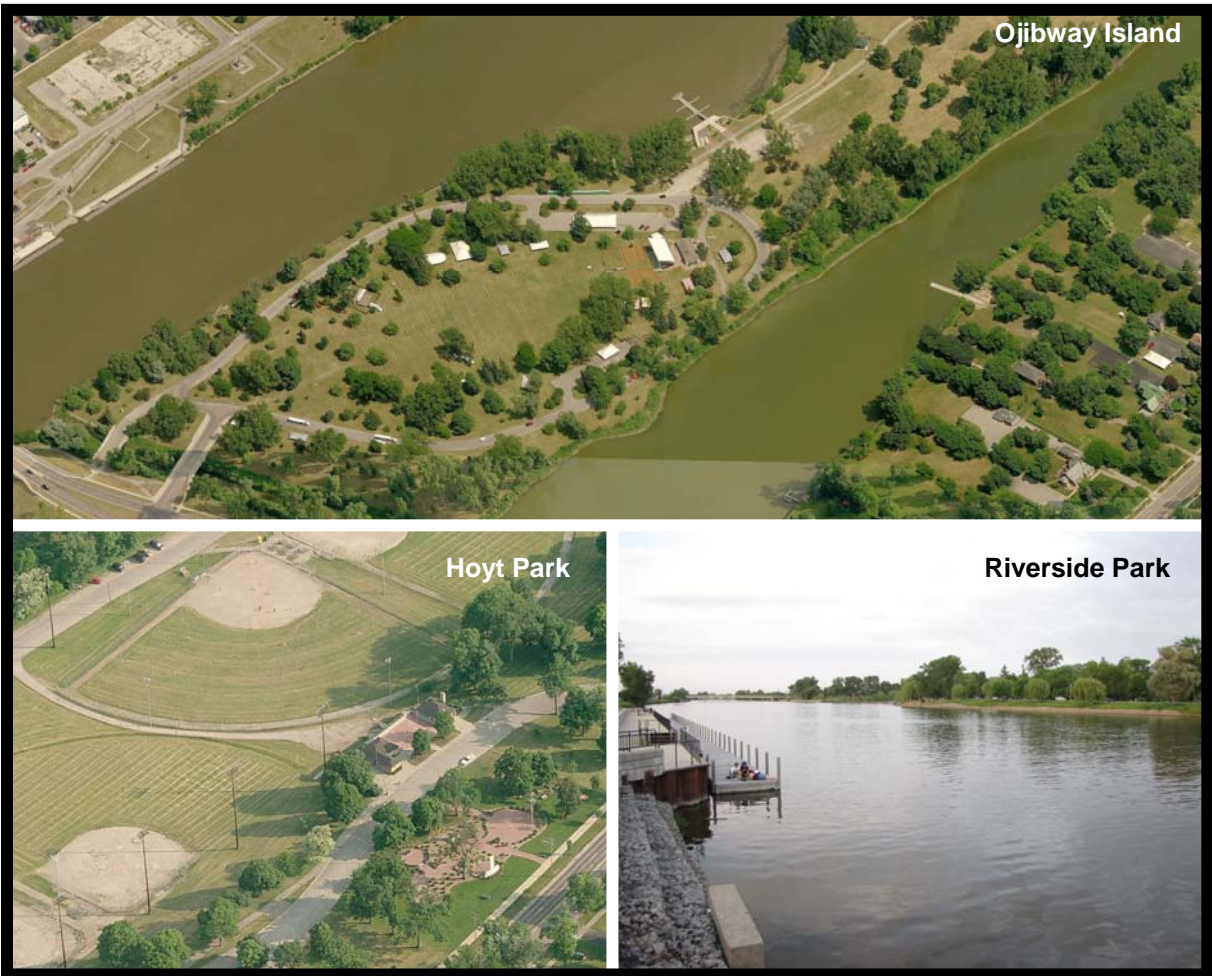
Library & Museum

The *Library & Museum* category includes all public libraries owned and operated by Public Libraries of Saginaw, including all museums and related operations in the City such as the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum, Pit and Balcony Community Theater, the Saginaw Art Museum, and the Saginaw County Castle Museum.



Parks

The *Parks* category includes all parks and recreation lands owned and operated by the City of Saginaw and are listed together with *Governmental* in the chart on page 50 (Figure 21). The bulk of the City's parks are located along or near the east side of the Saginaw River. Some of the main parks in the City include Hoyt Park, Ojibway Island, Bliss Park, Deindorfer Woods, Pothoff Park, Crayola Park, and Wickes Park. Because the Frank N. Anderson Celebration Park, located on Fordney between Ezra Rust and Rust, is part of the Water Treatment Plant facility, it is listed under *Governmental*. The Frank N. Anderson Celebration Park features a new splash pad and skate park which is adjacent to the Garber tennis courts.



Agriculture

The *Agriculture* category includes four flood prone parcels located at the southern end of the City along the Saginaw River that are actively farmed for crops.



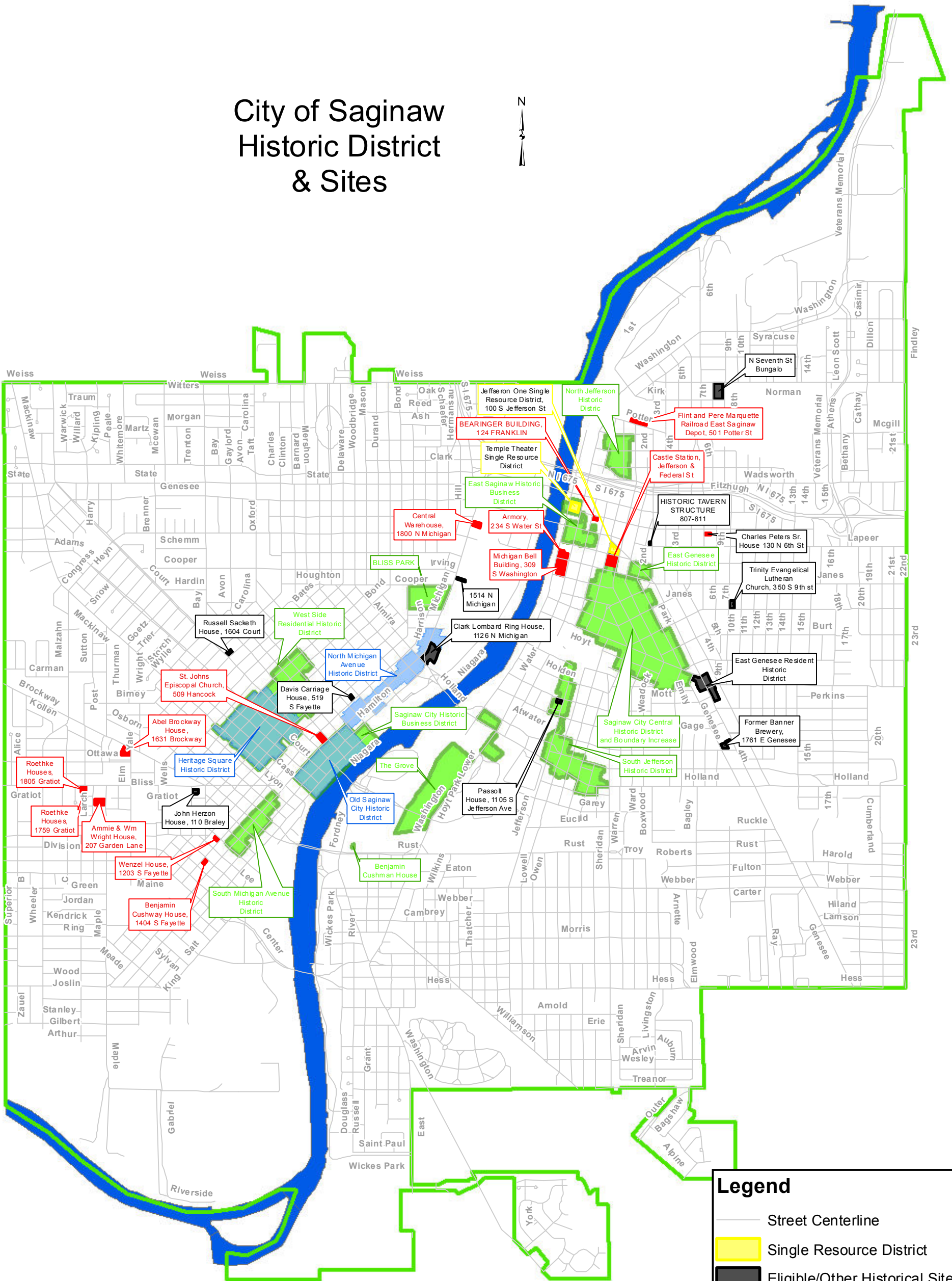
Saginaw River

The Saginaw River stretches for almost 6.7 miles through the middle of the City, formed by the confluence of the Tittabawassee, Shiawassee, Flint, and Cass Rivers to the southeast of Saginaw and flows northward into the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron just northeast of Bay City. The Saginaw River is an important shipping route and is one of Michigan's few inland navigable rivers. It is popular with recreational boaters and anglers and home to the annual "Shiver on the River" walleye ice fishing contest.

Vacant

This category includes open vacated land, but not land with closed or vacant buildings such as schools and other underutilized buildings. The property in the City that is truly vacant and without structures includes 1,677 parcels created by the City's demolition program. In total, the City of Saginaw classifies 5,350 parcels as vacant, which includes surface parking lots and other non-developed uses.

City of Saginaw Historic District & Sites



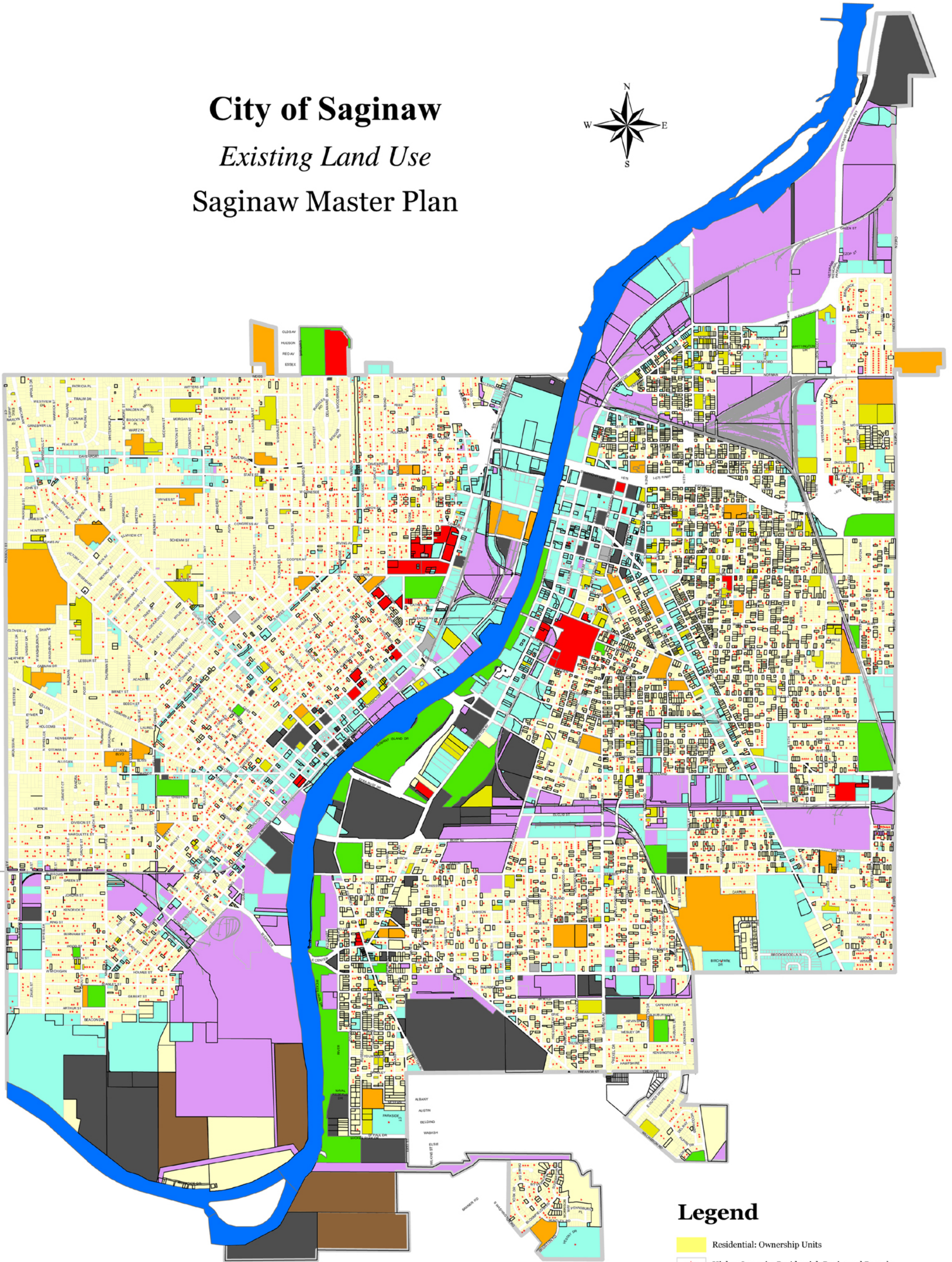
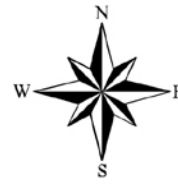
Legend

- Street Centerline
- Single Resource District
- Eligible/Other Historical Sites
- National Historic Sites
- Local Historical Districts
- National Historical Districts
- City Limits
- Saginaw River

City of Saginaw

Existing Land Use

Saginaw Master Plan



Legend

- Residential: Ownership Units
- ★ Higher-Intensity Residential: Registered Rentals
- Vacant
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Religious Institution
- Governmental
- Hospital
- Educational Institution
- Library & Museum
- Parks
- Agriculture
- Saginaw River

Chapter 4

Listening to Saginaw



Methods of Community Input

One of the most important elements of the Master Plan process is community input, which provides community members with an opportunity to express their perspectives regarding future development and change in the City. This input was used by the Master Plan Working Committee when developing goals and action items for the Plan.

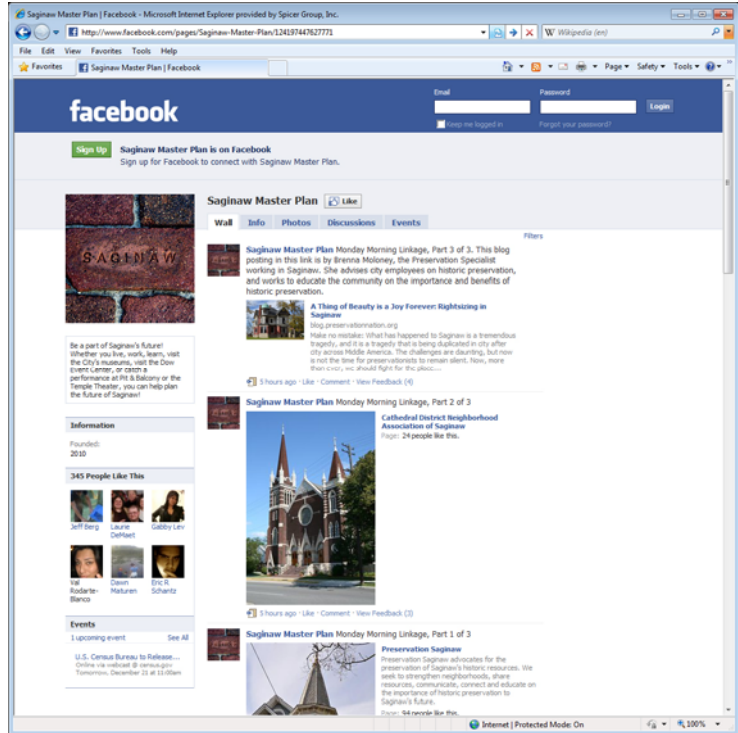
During the summer and fall of 2010, Spicer Group facilitated a series of online and community events aimed at gathering input and listening to Saginaw. Specifically, this included:

1. **A project website and blog** that offered the opportunity for online discourse. The site, www.saginawmasterplan.com, informed readers about the master plan process, provided maps, slide shows, videos and resource links, and offered them the opportunity to comment.

It offered interactive activities such as a collaborative Google map where readers could add virtual pins to identify various assets along the Saginaw River.

2. **An online survey** that was completed by 720 interested citizens. The 19-question survey contained multiple choice questions and offered the opportunity for open ended responses. Hundreds of earnest and heartfelt comments and suggestions were received in the open-ended responses.

3. **A Facebook page** that was “liked” by 383 people and organizations. It provided updates on the planning process and offered a variety of links about “right-sizing” strategies, and current initiatives in Saginaw.



4. **A Twitter page** with 97 tweets and 20 followers.

5. **Four community input open houses** attended by 56 people, including one that was specifically geared for neighborhood input. Citizens could stop in, view maps and other visuals and then offer comments and suggestions to the facilitators. These comments and suggestions were written on large sheets of paper that were placed around the room.

6. **A business leader meeting and follow-up survey** that received responses regarding the business climate in the City.

7. **A high school student input session** with the AP government class from the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. As part of this session, students were given cameras and asked to take photos of things they liked, disliked, or were unique to Saginaw.

When the Master Plan draft was completed, the City Council approved the distribution of the Plan for review and comment for 63 days, as required by PA 33 of 2008. Any input received was considered by the Planning Commission prior to the public hearing. At the conclusion of the review period, a final input opportunity was held at the required public hearing.

It should be noted that, in compliance with PA 33 of 2008, all neighboring jurisdictions, utilities, and registered entities were notified of the planning process at the beginning of the project. Each was sent a draft plan during the review period affording the opportunity for comment.

Complete documentation of the input received at the open houses and in the community survey is included in Appendix A. A brief summarization of the key results from the online survey is listed below.

Online Survey Results

What’s Important to the Future of Saginaw? Survey respondents were asked to rate each of 10 different issues on a 1 through 5 scale (where 1 was important and 5 was not important) on their relative importance to the future of Saginaw. The issues evaluated were:

- Job creation and economic development
- Preservation of historic buildings and areas
- Creating a walkable, pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly city
- Demolition of abandoned and condemned buildings
- Maintaining Saginaw's position as a high-quality regional health care provider
- Developing large open areas where vacant and condemned buildings have been demolished
- Operating and maintaining a variety of well-kept parks and recreation facilities
- Offering a variety of cultural and entertainment facilities such as museums and theaters
- Providing quality schools and educational opportunities
- Providing recycling opportunities

Respondents considered *all* of the issues to be relatively important. The majority of respondents ranked each issue as a “1” or a “2”. The issues that received the highest percentage of “1s” are shown in the Figure 22 below.

Figure 22 What’s Important to the Future of Saginaw?	
Issue	Percent of Respondents Ranking Issue as 1 in Importance
Job creation and economic development	83.5%
Providing quality schools and educational opportunities	69.2%
Demolition of abandoned and condemned buildings	62.5%
Maintaining Saginaw’s position as a high-quality health care provider	59.7%

Maintaining and Stabilizing Key Areas The survey asked residents to look at six different areas in the City of Saginaw and evaluate five to eight differing strategies to maintain and stabilize the areas. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each of the proposed strategies on a 1 to 5 scale where 1 was important and 5 was not important. The areas evaluated were:

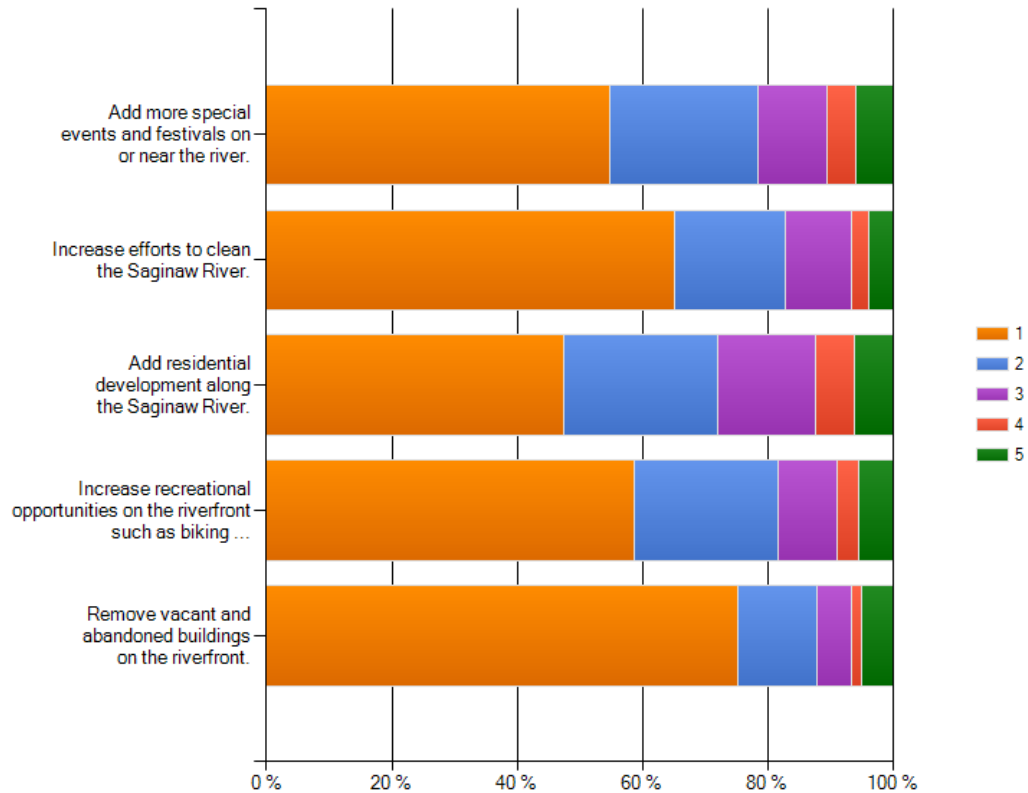
- Celebration Square
- Old Town Saginaw
- Downtown Saginaw
- Court Street Business District
- St Mary’s Medical Center Cathedral District
- Covenant Medical Center Neighborhood

Similar to the scoring for the issues discussed above, **all** of the strategies were considered to be important. Two of the proposed strategies were the same for all six of the areas and those two strategies were considered to be most important by the most respondents in each area. Those two strategies were: Increase public safety measures, and remove blighted and abandoned buildings.

How to Address the Issues Associated with Decline Question 13 asked respondents to rate the importance of various strategies for dealing with the consequences of a city that was shrinking in population (oversupply of housing, vacant and abandoned land, aging infrastructure, etc.) In a recurring theme, respondents once again thought that **all** the strategies offered were important. Offering tax incentives to developers who relocate to the City or add jobs gained the largest number #1 or #2 ratings indicating it was a very important strategy. Offering adjacent vacant lots to existing homeowners at a reduced price had the second largest number of “1” or “2” ratings. See Figure 23.

Figure 23 How to Address the Issues Associated with Decline		
Strategy	Percent ranking as 1 in 1- 5 importance scale	Percent ranking as 2 in 1 - 5 importance scale
Offer tax incentives to commercial and industrial developers who relocate or add jobs in the City	63.3%	20.1%
Offer adjacent vacant lots to existing homeowners at a reduced price.	58.7%	22.4%
Offer land to urban homesteaders and developers who are willing to relocate and pay taxes in the City.	50.0%	27.8%
Begin urban farming on large unused parcels of land in the City.	42.0%	21.1%
Create large open areas where most buildings would be demolished. This strategy may include abandoning streets and reduction of city services.	35.3%	22.6%

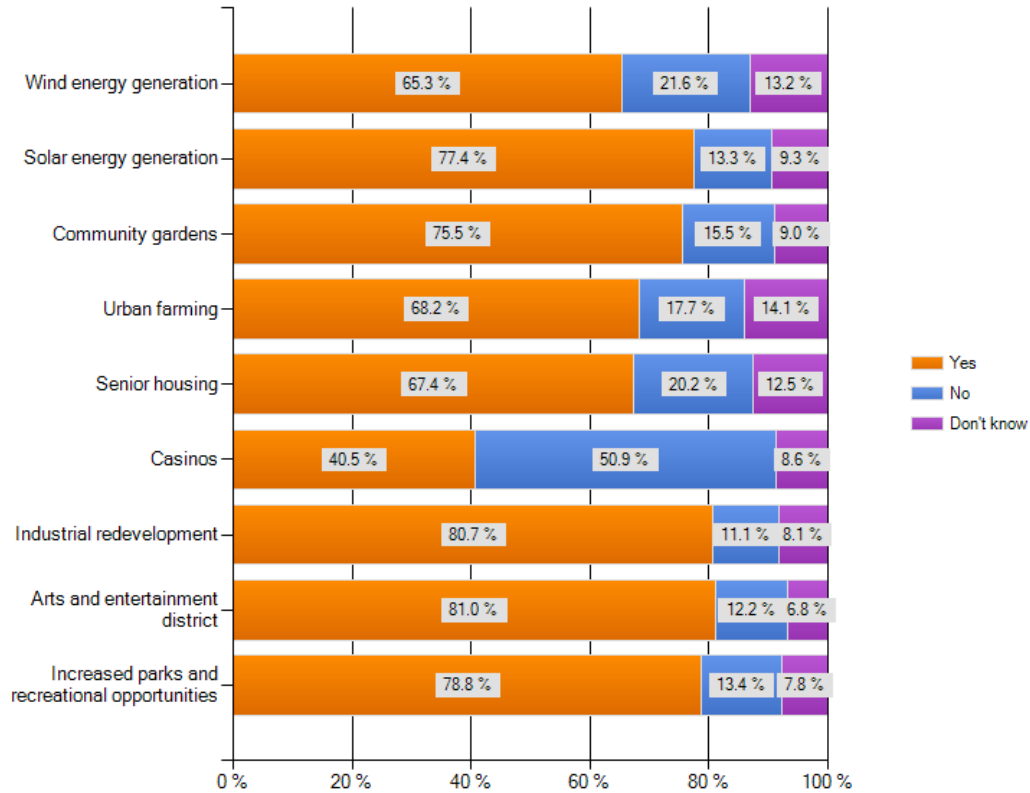
The Saginaw River Question 14 asked respondents to rate the importance of various strategies that take advantage of the Saginaw River. Once again, respondents thought that all the strategies offered were important. Removing vacant and abandoned homes gained the largest number #1 or #2 ratings indicating it was a very important strategy. Increasing efforts to clean the Saginaw River had the second largest number of “1” or “2” ratings. The results are summarized below in Figure 24.



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Remove vacant and abandoned buildings on the riverfront	74.3%	12.5%	86.8%
Increase efforts to clean the Saginaw River	64.7%	17.8%	82.5%
Increase recreational opportunities on the riverfront such as biking and walking paths, fishing, picnicking, and parks	58.6%	22.9%	81.5%
Add more special events and festivals on or near the river	54.3%	23.3%	77.6%
Add residential development along the Saginaw River	46.9%	24.1%	71.0%

Figure 24 Responses regarding various strategies to take advantage of the Saginaw River.

Planning for Future Land Uses Respondents were asked in a yes/no/don't know choice format if the City of Saginaw should plan for nine different types of land uses. The majority of respondents were in favor of planning for eight of those land uses. Industrial redevelopment and an arts and entertainment district had the largest percentage of respondents answering yes, each at approximately 81%. The only strategy that the majority of respondents were not in favor of was the addition of casinos. The results are summarized below in Figure 25.



	Yes	No	Don't Know
Arts and entertainment district	81.0%	12.2%	6.8%
Industrial redevelopment	80.8%	11.1%	8.1%
Increased parks and recreational opportunities	78.8%	13.4%	7.8%
Solar energy generation	77.4%	13.3%	9.3%
Community gardens	75.5%	15.5%	9.0%
Urban farming	68.2%	17.7%	14.1%
Senior housing	67.4%	20.2%	12.4%
Wind energy generation	66.3%	21.6%	13.1%
Casinos	40.5%	50.9%	8.6%

Figure 25 Respondents felt that the City should plan for several different kinds of land uses.

Community Meetings

As described previously, at the outset of the planning process, there were four community input open houses held at various locations and times in the City. In addition, meetings with business leaders and an input session with a high school government class were held. The dates and times of those meetings were:

- **Community Input Open House**, Butman-Fish Library, October 5, 2010, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- **Community Input Open House**, Hoyt Library, October 14, 2010, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- **Workshop: “A Conversation with You about Your City,”** City Hall, October 19, 2010, 12:00 noon
- **Community Input Open House**, Hoyt Library, October 27, 2010, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- **Visit and Photo Activity with High School Students**, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, November 23, 2010, 10:50 am to 11:40 pm
- **Business Community Input Session**, Hoyt Library, December 2, 2010, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

The following summarizes the ideas that emerged from the meetings.

Open Houses The input shared by the attendees at the three open houses held at the libraries was thoughtful and varied. Throughout, common themes emerged. Citizens expressed how much they valued the City’s assets, such as the hospitals, museums, entertainment venues, the river, historic properties, availability of various transportation options such as access to well-connected roads and the STARS bus system, the parks, good restaurants, and local events such as Shiver on the River, Friday Night Live, Jazz on Jefferson, and the Lawn Chair Film Festival. Some of the concerns citizens had included the decline of employment opportunities in the City, the need to redevelop former industrial sites, effective ways to address abandoned properties, and encouragement to think about land use differently, such as allowing innovative uses such as urban farming. Most attendees also thought that creating an entertainment district would be an excellent initiative to boost the



City's economy. Overall, job creation, blight elimination, healthy neighborhoods, public safety, recreation, river front improvements, and strong schools were the common themes at all meetings.

Workshop The workshop entitled "A Conversation with You about Your City" was a special work session at the monthly meeting the Neighborhood Association Action Group (NAAG), an umbrella group consisting of representatives from the 19 neighborhood associations in the City. Attendees were given an opportunity to discuss things they liked in their neighborhood, and then rank them. The top votes went to community policing, well-maintained homes and yards, and owner-occupied homes. Then there was a discussion about concerns in the neighborhood, which were then subsequently ranked. The top concerns involved absentee landlords, an abundance of rental properties, and crime. After the ranking exercises, various strategies to strengthen neighborhoods were discussed and then prioritized. The summary from this meeting is included in Appendix A.

Visit and Photo Activity with High School Students The photo activity at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy was with Mr. Olvera's AP Government class. The session began with an introduction to the Saginaw Master Plan project, with a discussion about why communities plan. The class ended by asking the

students to take on an assignment. The students were given disposable cameras and were asked to go around town and take pictures of likes, dislikes, and things they thought were unique to Saginaw. The results included 29 pictures highlighting the things the students thought were unique to Saginaw, 48 pictures representing their dislikes, and 82 pictures showing what they liked. All photos were posted on the project website as a blog entry highlighting the student's work.



Business Community Input Session The input from the business community centered on two main themes, addressing how to help business locate and expand in the City, and suggestions for any other needed changes or improvements. The responses from this group are included in Appendix A.

Summary The overall input provided was constructive and helpful. All information shared was compiled and provided to the Working Committee, the Planning Commission, and the City Council. The ideas generated by the citizens, students, and other community stakeholders also provide the foundation for developing goals and action items necessary to address the various issues facing the City of Saginaw.

Chapter 5

How will Saginaw Look?



Future Land Use

The Future Land Use Plan detailed in this chapter establishes future land use designations, maps the location of planned land uses, and provides a framework for the City's future land use pattern. The Future Land Use Map is located on page 81.

The Future Land Use Map is generalized in its scope and is not intended to delineate exact parcels or defined boundaries for planned land uses. It is not intended to serve as an ordinance restricting and regulating development. The Future Land Use Map serves as a guide to City officials regarding day-to-day planning issues. The Planning Commission should consider this Master Plan, as a whole, as a guide for future land use, zoning, site planning, development, and redevelopment decisions. In addition, the Future Land Use Map is intended to compliment the goals and action items of this Master Plan.

The timing of a particular land use is dependent upon a number of factors, such as:

- Community input
- The City's vision, goals, objectives and policy guidelines
- Relationship to existing land uses and general neighborhood conditions

- Current zoning
- Economic trends, market forces, and population changes
- Considerations of traffic, circulation, access, mobility, and overall road quality
- Location and relationship to the Saginaw River, flood prone areas, and any existing topographical constraints
- Capabilities of and costs associated with public services and infrastructure such as water, sewer, and street lighting

These factors noted above, among others, must be given strong consideration when reviewing rezoning requests. As a general policy, it is recommended that rezoning requests to implement this plan be consistent with the attached Future Land Use Map and/or text of this Master Plan, unless this plan is first amended after careful analysis to establish the appropriateness of a proposed change in zoning.

The Future Land Use Map will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, every five years to ensure it reflects community interests and relevant trends.

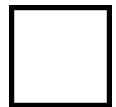
Mixed Use

The Mixed Use future land use category corresponds to the Riverfront Mixed Use (RMU) zoning district. Per the zoning ordinance, this is a transitional area of the river front and Washington Avenue corridor which is intended for new commercial, office, residential, park, recreation and marina development. Generally, it allows uses in the following broad areas: prepared food, entertainment, specialty retail, convenience retail/select services, offices, housing, lodging, and recreation. It also prohibits certain uses, unless permitted by special approval by the Planning Commission, such as blood donation clinics, plasma centers, veterinary hospital and clinics, pawn shops, homeless shelters, penal and correctional institutions, for example.



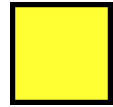
Residential

This category is intended to limit uses to single-family residential units, while still providing needed connections in terms of nearby neighborhood commercial services and public facilities. Additionally, when tracts of available land can be assembled, this future land use category would permit the pursuit of a Planned Unit Development (PUD). A PUD allows for a mix of land uses and densities, ranging from single-family to multiple-family and limited commercial, dependent on public review, Planning Commission, and City Council approval. PUDs provide additional control to the City in terms of layout, design, and development standards. In general, this future land use category corresponds to the R-1 (Single-Family Residential) zoning districts.



Medium-High Density Residential

This category is intended to promote single-family, two-family, and low-density multiple-family dwellings. It is designed to promote a harmonious mixture of detached and group housing and related education, cultural and religious land uses in a basically residential environment. If areas are generally located adjacent to streets permitting good accessibility, and site design is compatible with adjoining single-family neighborhoods, a more intensive residential use of land with various types of multiple dwellings, including high rise apartment structures, and related institutional uses may be allowed. In general, this future land use category corresponds to the R-3 (Low Density Multiple Dwelling Residential) and R-4 (High Density Multiple Dwelling Residential) zoning districts.



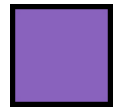
Neighborhood Opportunity Area

This category includes traditional neighborhoods next to employment centers, e.g. hospital, manufacturing facility, and former public uses that present growth opportunities for both new investment and possibilities for a comfortable high-quality urban living. These traditional neighborhood areas include many existing vacant residential structures, and over time, are expected to be either rehabilitated or demolished, providing new possibilities for business expansion and the development of new neighborhoods that are well-buffered while remaining connected to the existing urban fabric. This is a new land use category and it does not correspond to any of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance.



Neighborhood Commercial

This category is intended to provide a transition from the Mixed Use district to less intense office uses, some multiple-family housing, and lower density residential uses that are compatible with single-family residential. This commercial designation provides for, when appropriate, adjustments to zoning restrictions to permit commercial uses with standards that encourage neighborhood access to these businesses as well as encourage compatibility among these lower intensity uses and associated residential areas. This is a new land use category and it does not correspond to any of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance.



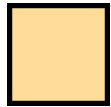
General Business

General Business is a category that permits a variety of commercial and service uses that are limited to the Genesee Avenue area. The intent of this future land use designation is to provide for supportive services to nearby residential areas while accommodating the needs of a larger consumer population, particularly those that are traveling through along Genesee Avenue. Permitted uses in this category are more wide-ranging than those in the Neighborhood Commercial category. This land use category does not explicitly correspond to any of the existing business districts in the City's zoning ordinance, though in general, it most closely resembles the B-2 (General Business) zoning district.



Office

This future land use designation corresponds to the RO-1 (Restricted Office) zoning district. It is intended for multiple-family residential uses and limited office and business uses that provide opportunities for local employment near residential areas. By associating live-work opportunities together, travel time to and from work is minimized. Further, this land use category encourages clean, modern office buildings in landscaped settings that provide, when adjacent to residential areas, appropriate areas in the City to allow uses that do not generate large volumes of traffic, traffic congestion, and parking problems.



Urban Venture Area

These areas are currently faced with extensive abandonment. This category also includes former school sites. The Urban Venture Area directs these transitional areas toward a range of innovative uses, when deemed appropriate for a given context to ensure compatibility with adjacent uses. Vacant land and vacant buildings are reinvented to permit a range of uses meant to stabilize the long-term integrity of these traditional urban areas. The Urban Venture Area allows single-family residential uses on large lots, multi-family and senior living facilities (skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living), art studios, parks, open space, community gardens, greenhouses, farm markets, home occupations, and small business start-ups. This is a new land use category and it does not correspond to any of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance. The Planning Commission should consider this category and further refine the allowable uses when updating the zoning ordinance.



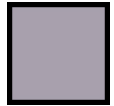
Light Industry Warehouse

This future land use designation corresponds to the M-1 (Light Industrial) zoning district. It is intended to permit certain industries which are of a light manufacturing, warehousing, and wholesaling character, and because of their relatively lower intensity of industrial activity, these uses can be integrated with nearby areas, such as commercial and residential uses. Further, such uses are limited to the degree of noise, smoke, glare, waste, and other features of industrial operations that are generated on site so as to avoid adverse effects with nearby areas.



Industrial

This future land use designation corresponds to the M-2 (Light Industrial) and M-3 (Heavy Industrial) zoning districts and the main objective of this category is to permit industrial uses, such as intensive manufacturing, assembling, fabrication, including large-scale or specialized industrial operations requiring access by road and/or railroad, and needing special sites, or public and utility services. These uses require special buffering and consideration so as to not cause adverse effects on residential and commercial areas in the City. It is expected that the intensity of these uses will vary from heavy industrial (such as the General Motors Metal Casting Operations) to lesser intense uses (such as smaller machine shops).



Public/Quasi-Public

The main objective of the Public/Quasi-Public land use category is to continue to provide high quality services and meet the future needs of the population and employers. These uses are scattered throughout the City, and include governmental facilities, various school sites, cemeteries, libraries, museums, community centers, and the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center. In general, this category promotes and maintains existing community buildings and schools. This category does not include parks. These uses are encouraged to have buildings located and designed to promote a neighborhood scale and character, complete with sidewalk connections to adjacent neighborhoods. Because of the general nature of this category, it does not necessarily correspond to any one of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance



Park Open Space

This classification includes the existing City parks, linear pathways, and limited areas intended for future recreational pathway development. The general character of the Park Open Space category is open, non-agricultural areas intended mainly for active recreational purposes, including some passive activities at undeveloped sites. Because of the overall nature of this category, it does not necessarily correspond to any one of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance.



Green Reserve Opportunity Area

This category includes lands that are envisioned to be converted to attractive low-maintenance natural areas intended to beautify and enhance key areas in the City through parkways, landscaped roadway buffers, gateways, landscaped open areas, and open meadows. Planned areas encompass many existing vacant residential structures, and over time, the City will demolish and remove them. The short-term vision for the Green Reserve Opportunity Areas includes very few to no residences. For the long-term, these areas will be returned to a natural state, but are still connected to the urban fabric through green space, landscaped gateways, community gardens, and can be used for passive outdoor recreational uses. This is a new land use category and it does not correspond to any of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance.



Rural Opportunity Area

The Rural Opportunity Area is limited to flood prone lands in the southern end of the City. Because of the limitations posed by flooding, general permitted uses include limited farming operations, community garden, parks, and passive outdoor recreational uses. This is a new land use category and it does not correspond to any of the existing districts in the City's zoning ordinance.



Additional Considerations

Green Zone

In 2009, the City of Saginaw designated a 346-acre portion of its northeast section as the Green Zone, a sub-area of Census Tract #1. See Figure 26. This was done in a joint application with the Saginaw County Land Bank Authority to a Federal program pertaining to neighborhood stabilization. The neighborhood stabilization grant that was awarded to the City of Saginaw and the Saginaw County Land Bank Authority covered many aspects. For the Green Zone portion of the grant, grant funds are directed toward blight removal through demolition, with vacant properties then placed in the Saginaw County Land Bank for future redevelopment considerations.

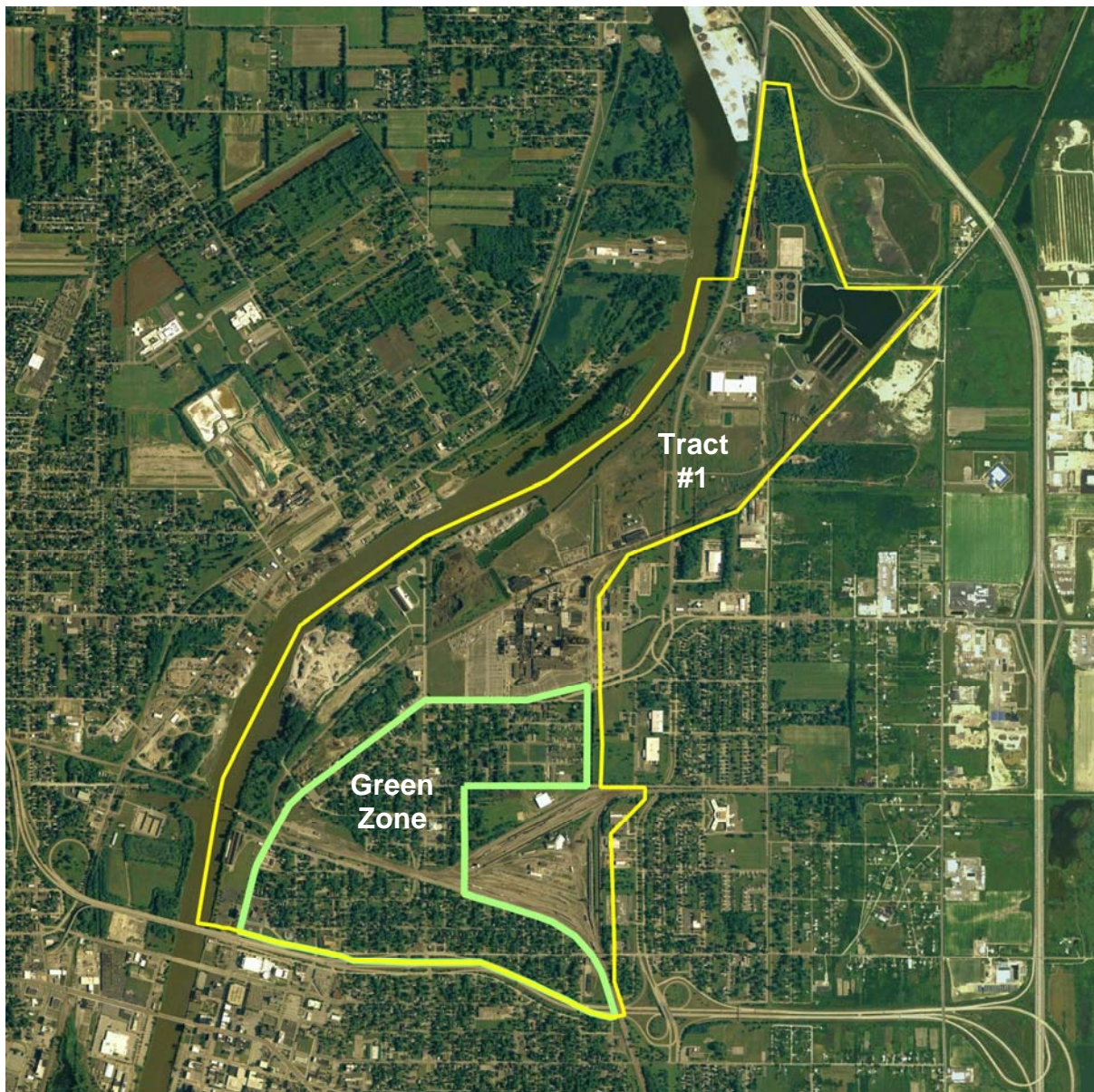
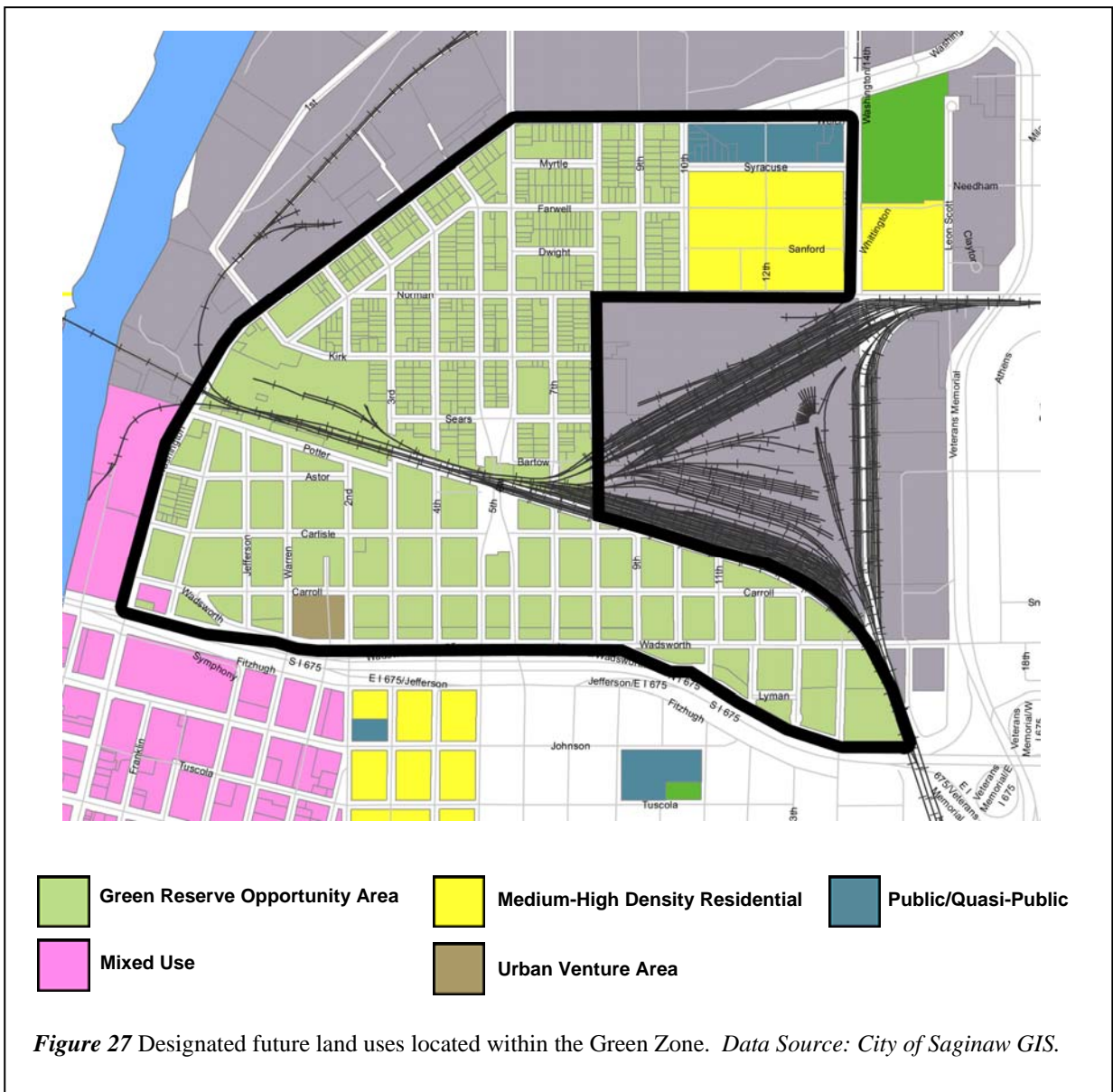


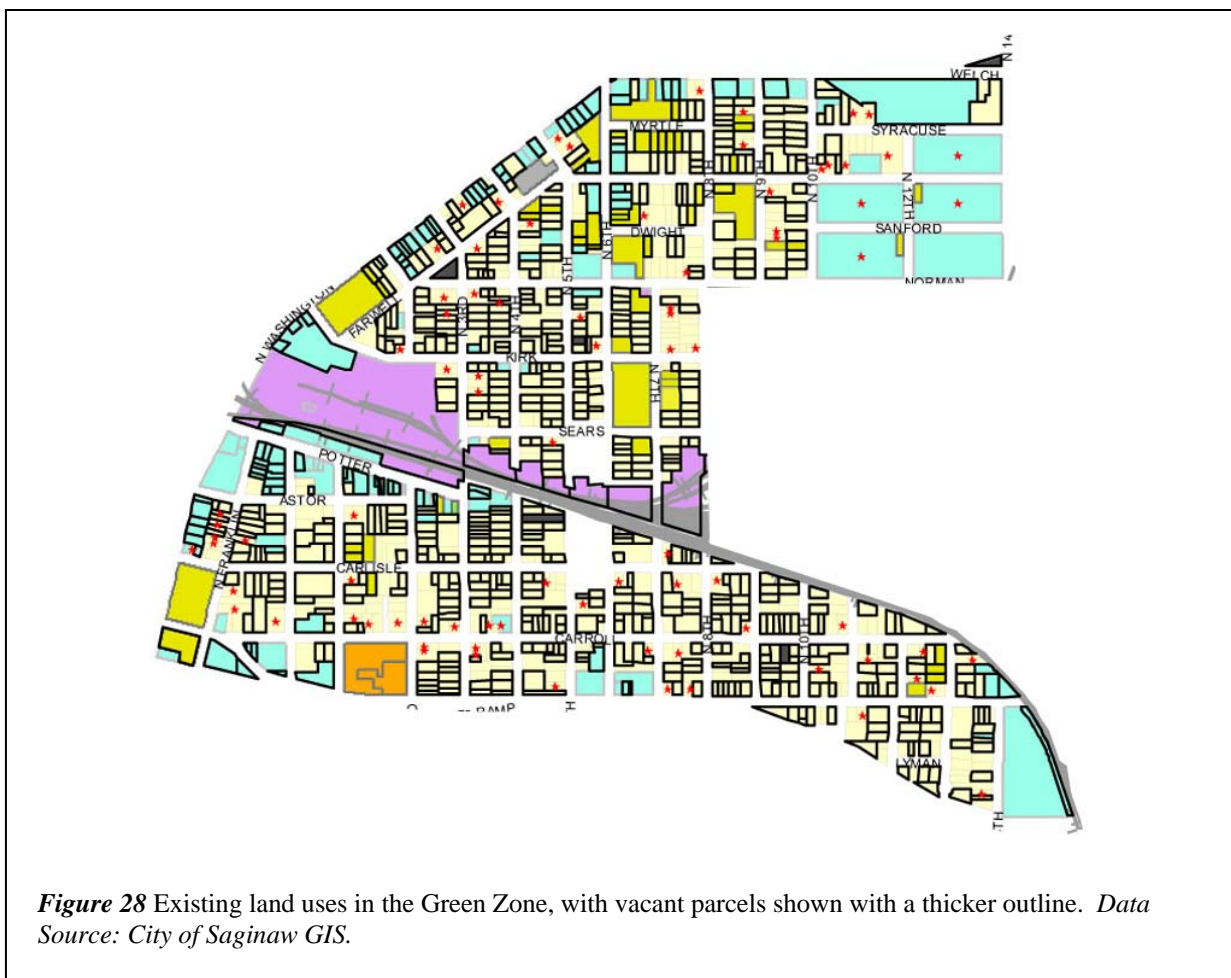
Figure 26 The Green Zone is a sub-area of Census Tract #1. *Imagery: Google Earth.*

As it developed this Master Plan, the Working Committee considered current demographic trends, community input, existing land uses, and zoning, to formulate the future land use strategy shown on the Future Land Use Map. The future land use detail for the Green Zone is shown below in Figure 27. Much of the Green Zone, approximately 250 acres, is planned for the Green Reserve Opportunity Area land use category. Also included are Public and the Medium-High Density Residential land use. Also planned for the Green Zone is a small Mixed Use area and the designation of the former Longstreet Elementary School as an Urban Venture Area. The main considerations in planning most of the Green Zone for the Green Reserve Opportunity Area were based on that much of the land has been abandoned and is now vacant. Declining population in the area was another major factor. According to the most recent Census data, the population within Tract #1, which encompasses the



Green Zone, fell 24.4%, dropping to 1,047 residents in 2010 from 1,385 in 2000. Going back to 1980, the area once had a population of 3,099, which translates to a decline of 66.2% over a thirty year period. This level of abandonment and its effect on the physical environment in the Green Zone is best illustrated by reviewing the Existing Land Use Map, detail provided below in Figure 28. To put this in perspective, Tract #1 has 1,199 parcels, the majority of which are within the Green Zone. Of the parcels in Tract #1, 744 are vacant, meaning that 62% of the parcels in Tract #1 are now vacant.

Any future industrial development proposals for this area would be appropriate for lands already zoned for industrial purposes. Outside of the Green Zone, much of the land is currently zoned for industry. It is worth noting that around the Green Zone there are “influencers” that are supportive to industrial development. There are existing rail lines. It is in close proximity to a shipping port on the Saginaw River. The area is also easily accessible from I-675 and I-75. Further, economic development professionals have noted that in order to attract potential new industrial investment, the previous three factors are all important. But in addition, the attractiveness of a potential development site is also enhanced by how much land area is available, with space needs typically in the range of over 100 acres. Approximately 700 acres of land outside of the Green Zone are designated as industrial on the Future Land Use Map.



In an effort to create a redevelopment plan that addresses the reuse of the vacant and abandoned property in the Green Zone, including the management of infrastructure investments in the area, the City of Saginaw, in partnership with the Saginaw County Land Bank Authority and the Saginaw County Brownfield Authority, submitted an application to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program. The application, entitled "Right Size, Right Use – A New Direction for Saginaw's Urban Land," was accepted by the EPA in late 2010. The aim of the application was to secure technical assistance from the EPA to help address infrastructure constraints, water quality standards, set development standards, and create options for housing and transportation in the Green Zone. Because this initiative was in its beginning stages at the writing of this Master Plan document, it is possible that additional future land use considerations might be recommended for the Green Zone. Any proposed changes to the Future Land Use Map must be processed as a Master Plan amendment, following the procedure described in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, as amended.

A Note about the Future Planning of the Green Zone

Despite the extent of decline for this area described in this Master Plan, it is important to place this area in its context of development. Since the City's early settlement, the Green Zone and Saginaw's northeast section has had a mix of traditionally incompatible land uses, specifically heavy to light industrial uses and mostly single-family residential. Special care and consideration in terms of land use planning, zoning, and environmental factors should be taken prior to any proposed large-scale developments. This general area has been identified in prior planning efforts by the City as maintaining separate yet competing uses – residential and industrial – and by acknowledging how prior planning decisions have affected this area, it is important to not recommend displacement of residents.

A final note about the future planning of the Green Zone. Despite the extent of decline described earlier, it is important to place this area in its context of development. Since the City's early settlement, the Green Zone and Saginaw's northeast section has had a mix of traditionally incompatible land uses, specifically heavy to light industrial uses and mostly single-family residential. Special care and consideration in terms of land use planning, zoning, and environmental factors should be taken prior to any proposed large-scale developments. This general area has been identified in prior planning efforts by the City as maintaining separate yet competing uses – residential and industrial – and by acknowledging how prior planning decisions have affected this area, it is important to not recommend displacement of residents.

Gateways

To complement the objective of enhanced open areas at key entry points into the City, as envisioned by the Green Reserve Opportunity Area future land use category, a number of additional landscaped gateway areas have also been designated. These areas are limited in scope and do not require

wide-ranging changes in land use. Instead, these gateways are strategic enhancements at specified locations at the boundary of the City and adjacent communities. The intent of these gateways is to create a positive image for people traveling into the City by improving the visual appeal of the City entry through low-maintenance and attractive landscaping. The proposed gateways are shown on the following map, Figure 29, and are proposed at the following locations:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| #1 – Bay Road | #5 – Schaeffer |
| #2 – State Street | #6 – Washington |
| #3 – Brockway Street | #7 – I-675 |
| #4 – Gratiot Avenue | #8 – Holland |

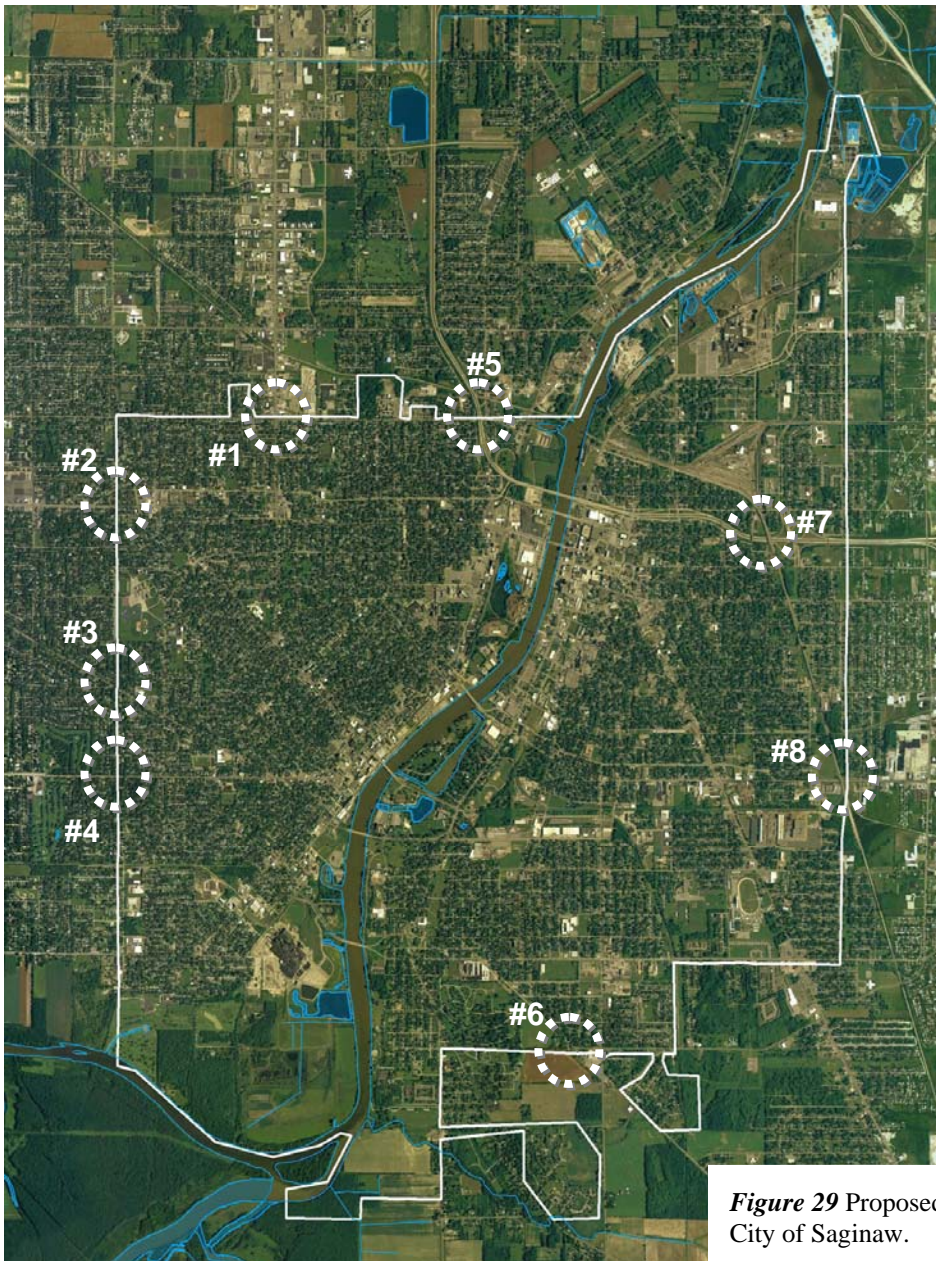


Figure 29 Proposed gateways into the City of Saginaw.

River Loop

The Saginaw River is the City's best asset and most significant natural resource. Located around the river are several parks, cultural attractions, and entertainment venues, such as Ojibway Island, the Andersen Enrichment Center, Celebration Park, the Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House, the Children's Zoo, Hoyt Park, Potthoff Park, the Farmers' Market, Hoyt Library, the Castle Museum, the Temple Theater, the Dow Event Center, the Mid-Michigan Children's Museum, Bliss Park, the Saginaw Art Museum, the Pit and Balcony Community Theater, the Old Saginaw City Lawn Chair Film Festival, and Riverside Park. The diversity of these assets and their concentration around the Saginaw River provides a framework to establish a core set of attractions and amenities that can be linked via a pathway loop around the river. Conceptually, the loop is a pedestrian and bicycling path that runs along both sides of the Saginaw River and loops through the City's core. Already on the east side of the Saginaw River there is a paved path from Rust Avenue to Genesee Street. The west side of the Saginaw River has not been developed for a pathway since much of the property is privately held. This area would need to be studied in order to determine the routes and potential costs. Generally, the River Loop pathway around the Saginaw River would be bounded by Ezra/Court Street, Michigan Avenue, Genesee Avenue, and Washington/M-13. Boundary of the proposed River Loop pathway area and adjacent attractions are shown in Figure 30.

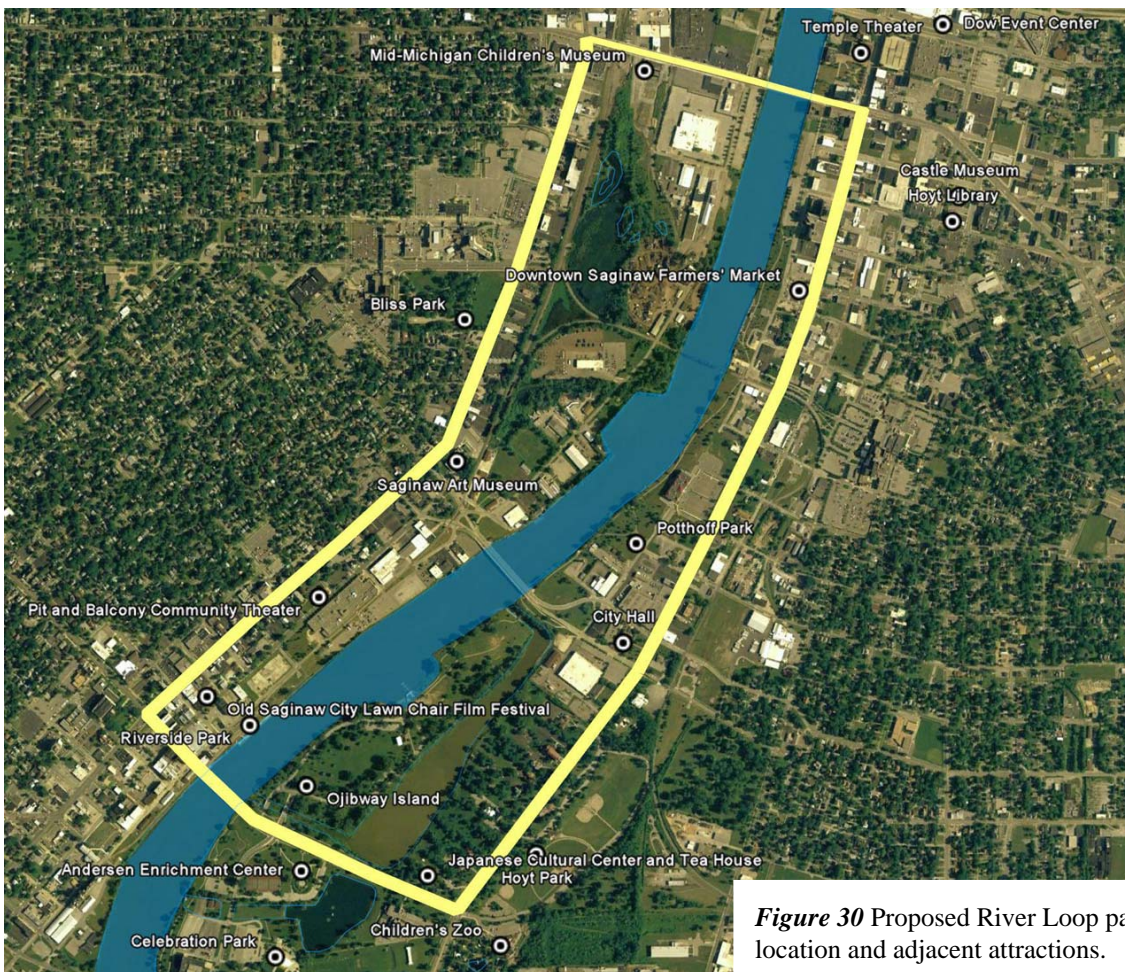
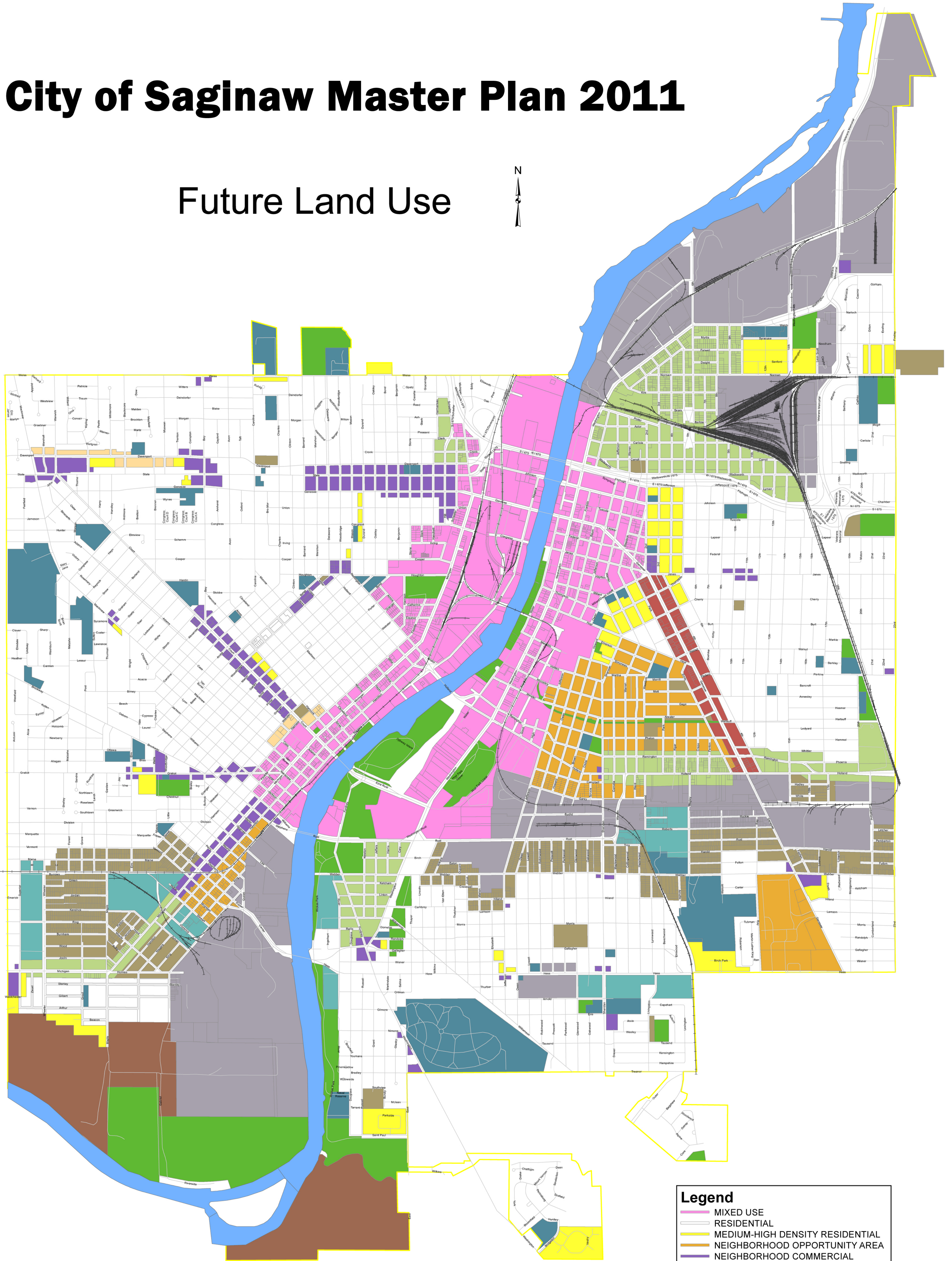


Figure 30 Proposed River Loop pathway location and adjacent attractions.

City of Saginaw Master Plan 2011

Future Land Use



This Future Land Use Map is a component of the City of Saginaw Master Plan, which was adopted by resolution of the Saginaw City Council, by authority of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, on September 26, 2011, after holding a public hearing for the Master Plan on August 23, 2011.

Diane Herman
 Diane Herman
 Clerk
 City of Saginaw

Legend	
	MIXED USE
	RESIDENTIAL
	MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
	NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITY AREA
	NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL
	GENERAL BUSINESS
	OFFICE
	URBAN VENTURE AREA
	LIGHT INDUSTRY WAREHOUSE
	INDUSTRIAL
	PUBLIC/QUASI PUBLIC
	PARK OPEN SPACE
	GREEN RESERVE OPPORTUNITY AREA
	RURAL OPPORTUNITY AREA
	Saginaw River
	RailRoad

Chapter 6

Action Program



Implementation Approach

Leading the City of Saginaw over the next five to twenty years toward a new direction will be a challenge. Being able to articulate what needs to be improved, what should be preserved, and what should be substantially changed is successful only when based on sound public participation and detailed analyses. In the City of Saginaw, this goal-setting process was accomplished by a thorough review of existing characteristics in the City and the results of the community input initiatives, including the online input survey and community open houses. Based upon this information, a number of **goals**, **strategies**, and **action items** were established. These goals and strategies, along with the action program, are a major component of this Master Plan, which is intended to be the primary policy document for City officials when considering matters related to planning, zoning, land development, neighborhood stabilization, and economic development.

Another purpose of this section of this Master Plan is to provide the long-term vision for Saginaw, with enough detail to highlight likely outcomes for Saginaw, yet be flexible in order to address changing conditions and adapt to the changing wants and needs of its current and future residents, landowners, and other stakeholders. To that end, this Master Plan is also a strategic component of the City Council's vision statement. Adopted by resolution in March of 2011, the purpose of City Council's vision is to "capture the core identity and desired future state that will enable the City to be

successful in the future both internally and externally.” In that vision, the City Council also adopted the following goals:

- Neighborhood Revitalization and City Beautification
- Recreation Offerings and Youth Activities
- Public Safety
- Enhancement of City Revenue Efforts
- Organizational Development

The following planning framework – inclusive of the goals, strategies, and action items that comprise this Master Plan – also serves to implement the City Council’s adopted vision and goals.

Goals: Nine goals were derived during this planning process, and they are divided into three broad categories and relate directly to the issues and concerns identified by the residents and the Working Committee. The goals to lead the City of Saginaw toward a new direction address:



- Economic Development,
- Quality of Life, and
- Place Making.

So, what exactly is a *goal*? A goal is a destination, a final purpose which the community seeks to attain. It is a broad, general statement expressing the intent of the community. It is often written in a general way to be inclusive of many ideas that support principles that are valued by the local community.

Strategies: To promote the implementation of Saginaw’s goals, a number of key strategies were also developed to support the long-term process that must capitalize on and leverage the interests and initiatives of many agencies, groups, and individuals in the City. So, what exactly is a *strategy*? A strategy is an approach that embodies a system of actions to achieve desired goals. It includes a set of action items to ensure the implementation of a goal or a set of goals. Essentially, it is the means for attaining a goal. One goal can have many supporting strategies.

Action Items: Action items are the next steps to be taken by City leaders and staff after adoption of this Master Plan. They are the nuts and bolts of this plan. They are clear and specific statements that describe measures to lead directly toward the implementation of the goals described in this Master Plan. Action items are listed as either short-range (to be completed in the next five years) or long-range (to be started in 2016) and each has a designated priority level.

Goals

The City of Saginaw formulated the following nine goals based upon the review of existing characteristics and conditions in the City and the results of the online input survey and community open houses. The goals represent the overall vision for the City of Saginaw. They serve as the foundation for preparing concise and well thought-out action items for the implementation of this Master Plan. In addition, the goals serve as the guiding principle for land use decisions by City officials and can guide zoning decisions and other land use questions that arise from time to time, such as capital projects, neighborhood stabilization, and new development proposals. Goals can be implemented with the use of zoning and other tools, such as five-year capital improvement programs. The guiding force behind this Master Plan are the following goals, as well as the strategies that follow, all of which has been designed to reflect the overall community vision for the City of Saginaw.

Economic Development Goals: To face the challenges of industrial disinvestment and to strengthen Saginaw's position in the Great Lakes Bay Region, the following goals were developed to help transform and retool the City for growth.

- Create a new economy for the City of Saginaw by developing a diverse job base while emphasizing existing cluster strengths to leverage new investment. (ED1)
- Create an entertainment district. (ED2)
- Re-envision and re-brand Saginaw and market the City regionally as well as globally. (ED3).

Goals to Improve Saginaw's Quality of Life: There are profound challenges when addressing the difficult issues facing the City, such as population loss, decay of the physical landscape, and the decline of revenues. As such, the purpose of these goals is to ensure Saginaw continues to provide quality infrastructure and public services while enhancing overall quality of life and public safety to sustain strong neighborhoods and to promote a strong community.

- Strong and stable neighborhoods that are desirable and have a unique sense of place. (QOL1)
- A safe community. (QOL2)
- Infrastructure and public services are adequate and cost-effective for a dynamic and ever-changing City. (QOL3).

Goals for Place Making: Charting a new direction for Saginaw will require the development of attractive places and amenities within in the City that will draw in new residents and businesses, as well as enhance the lives of current residents. In addition, historic properties and districts help create a sense of place that can reinforce and develop a unique identity for the City. To begin the overall place making process, these goals highlight the City's assets and provide the foundation to start.

- Capitalize on the City-wide and regional importance of the Saginaw River as an asset for economic development and quality of life by encouraging new mixed-use developments while also providing public access and a desirable natural amenity. (PM1)
- Functional and attractive public places for healthy minds and healthy bodies. (PM2)
- Sub-area planning and site-specific improvements. (PM3)

Strategies

The following strategies are designed to support the previous goals and are critical to ensure their implementation. In general, these strategies direct City staff and officials on how to implement the plan's goals. As they are implemented, each strategy will have a material impact and will make a real difference for the City of Saginaw and its people.

- A. **Right-Size City Infrastructure and Services:** Based on the level of decline described earlier in this plan, the City will need to re-examine what infrastructure is important and how to provide it. In some cases, because of reduced revenue streams, there may be a need to right-size some services.
- B. **Central Core Designation:** The Downtown and Old Town areas of Saginaw are connected by the Saginaw River. Together, these three aspects create a strong sense of place and comprise the essence and feel of a successful City. To build from this momentum, the City's resources for capital improvements will be prioritized for these areas.
- C. **Shovel-Ready Sites:** In partnership with Saginaw County Land Bank Authority, the City of Saginaw continues to eliminate vacant and blighted structures. When assembled and marketed, these properties then become an asset that can be used as an incentive to attract new investment into the City.
- D. **Riverfront Enhancements:** The Saginaw River is Saginaw's most significant natural resource. It is a corridor for recreation, an attractive location for activity, and it connects two of the busiest nodes in the City – Downtown and Old Town. Enhancing the riverfront is critical to place making and attracting new residents and businesses to the City
- E. **Strong Neighborhoods, A Safe Community:** Community input stressed the need to address absentee landlords, the abundance of rental properties, the persistence of needless crime, and historic preservation. By supporting neighborhood associations, code enforcement, community policing, continuing neighborhood stabilization initiatives, and working with the Saginaw School District, Saginaw's neighborhoods will maintain their desirability and attractiveness. Saginaw's historic districts and buildings can also be used as resources to help strengthen neighborhoods.
- F. **Hospital Partnerships:** Community input and conversations with the Working Committee demonstrated the need to continue cooperating with Covenant and St. Mary's to address growth and plan for stronger neighborhoods that are physically well-connected to their respective medical campuses. Together with the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, these hospitals offer opportunities for economic growth and diversification.
- G. **Gateway Enhancements:** Gateways are strategic enhancements at specified locations at the boundary of the City and adjacent communities. They are intended to create a positive image for people traveling into the City by improving the visual appeal of the City entry through low-maintenance and attractive landscaping.
- H. **Zoning Ordinance Re-Write:** Based on the new land use categories shown on the Future Land Use Map, new zoning districts will need to be drafted. The new zoning categories will permit new kinds of activities and uses in the City, all intended to encourage new economic development while addressing ways to right-size City infrastructure and services.

Action Program: Checklist for Saginaw's Future

With a solid understanding of the goals and strategies to move the City of Saginaw in a new direction, a more detailed and specific action program follows. This action program provides a detailed checklist of action items by which progress can be measured during the next five years. These action items are the next steps to be taken by the City in order to implement this plan. The action items encompass all the specific projects and initiatives the City wants to pursue in order to make Saginaw better.

Implementation is the key to any planning process. The City must review this Master Plan every five years, per the requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, as amended. With this horizon in mind, the following action program has been developed. The intent of this action program is to provide guidance and benchmarks for the implementation of the stated goals and strategies. It is reasonable to expect that the actual implementation of all the goals and strategies in this plan may take more than five years, and, even with the best intentions and efforts, some goals may not be accomplished exactly as laid out. This action program is developed then, knowing that the City of Saginaw is surrounded by events and possibilities that affect this Master Plan, such as changing economic conditions to new development opportunities.



This action program is designed to span the next five years, from 2011 through 2016, and beyond. The basic structure of the action program has three components. The first section includes all the short-range action items that are to be completed in the next five years. The second section includes activities that are ongoing. That is, they represent activities already underway within the City, they might be actions that will start sometime between now and 2016 and are anticipated to take many years to fully implement, or they represent basic service functions within City departments. The third section includes long-range action items to be initiated after the completion of the short-range actions.

In general, the action program should be used as a guide to ensure the City is traveling down the right path in terms of implementing the goals and strategies described in this document. Each year, and then especially every five years, City staff, the Planning Commission, and the City Council must make a concerted effort to review the events of the past, the progress made and whether or not implementation efforts have been effective, and then revise and refocus as necessary. Throughout this action program, a number of different groups, committees and organizations will be working concurrently. It is extremely important that this work is coordinated with and through the Planning Commission, along with City Council, for the implementation of this Master Plan.

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Short-Range Action Items	Goal	Priority Level			Leadership		Appropriation		Progress	
		Catalyst Project	Important	Desirable	Responsible Department	Approving Authority	Cost & Staffing	Funding Source	Initial Below	
									Started	Completed
Action Program for 2011-2012										
Begin to evaluate processes and procedures - make it easy for companies to do business in Saginaw.	ED1			x	Council	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		
Create a packet of information for developers that explains and summarizes City information, development regulations, permit requirements, fees, and also includes demographics, economic development options, public services, and contact information.	ED3		x		PZ	City Council	Staff	General Fund		
Beautiful and improve the gateway into the City at Holland & Remington.	PM3	x			PZ	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		
Identify shovel-ready sites in the City that are between 100 and 200 acres in size.	ED1		x		PZ	Planning Commission	Staff	General Fund		
Create list of "shovel ready" sites owned by the City.	ED1		x		PZ	Planning Commission	Staff	General Fund		
Area improvements and enhancements to Old Town Saginaw (Courthouse, Hamilton Street, Court Street and Michigan Avenue area): Develop a façade-improvement grant program.	PM2									

Key:
PZ - Planning & Zoning, **Council** - City Council, **INS** - Inspections Division, **ED** - Economic Development Division, **DDA** - Downtown Development Authority, **Parks** - Technical Services, **SCLB** - Saginaw County Land Bank, **BRA** - Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, **SHC** - Saginaw Housing Commission, **Riverfront** - Riverfront Development Commission, **MDOT** - Michigan Department of Transportation
TBD - To be determined

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Short-Range Action Items	Goal	Priority Level			Leadership		Appropriation		Progress	
		Catalyst Project	Important	Desirable	Responsible Department	Approving Authority	Cost & Staffing	Funding Source	Initial Below	Completed
Action Program for 2012-2013										
Evaluate zoning on the river and determine where appropriate changes could be made.	PM1		x		PZ	City Council	Staff	General Fund		
Clarify zoning districts and define a vision for the future uses to be located in the northeast area of the City.	PM3		x		PZ	Planning Commission	Staff	General Fund		
Amend the zoning ordinance to address the types of use that are permitted along the Holland & Remington one-way pairs, from the City boundary west to City Hall on Washington Avenue.	PM3		x		PZ	City Council	Staff	General Fund		
Begin process to determine how future improvements to the City are prioritized and directed to the central core first, then, as additional resources become available, they can be applied to areas outside the central core.	QOL3	x			PZ	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		
Develop a marketing strategy that effectively re-brands the City as a safe and attractive community.	ED3	x			ED	City Council	\$30,000	General Fund, Grants, Foundations		

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TBD - To be determined

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Short-Range Action Items	Goal	Priority Level			Leadership		Appropriation		Progress	
		Catalyst Project	Important	Desirable	Responsible Department	Approving Authority	Cost & Staffing	Funding Source	Initial Below	
									Started	Completed
Action Program for 2013-2014										
Address the existing residential land use challenges associated with the Bancroft and Eddy buildings.	ED2		x		Council	City Council	\$50,000	Grants		
Develop a marketing strategy that addresses attracting young people to move and reside in the City of Saginaw.	ED3	X			ED	City Council	\$30,000	General Fund, Grants, Foundations		
Designate a central core for the City of Saginaw, which is defined by the Old Town and Downtown areas connected by the Saginaw River and the riverfront.	PM1	X			PZ	City Council	TBD	General Fund		
Area improvements and enhancements to St. Mary's Medical Center/Cathedral District.	PM3									
Area improvements and enhancements to Covenant Medical Center District.	PM3									

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TBD - To be determined

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Short-Range Action Items	Goal	Priority Level			Leadership		Appropriation		Progress	
		Catalyst Project	Important	Desirable	Responsible Department	Approving Authority	Cost & Staffing	Funding Source	Initial Below	
									Started	Completed
Action Program for 2014-2015										
Area improvements and enhancements to Downtown Saginaw (Genesee Street, Johnson Street, and Washington Avenue area, Dow Event Center, Temple Theatre area).	PM3									
Identify quality sites along the Saginaw River that need to become "shovel ready."	PM1									
Continue area improvements and enhancements to St. Mary's Medical Center/Cathedral District.	PM3									
Continue area improvements and enhancements to Covenant Medical Center District.	PM3									
Collaborate with other agencies to organize and host festivals in the City.	ED3									

Key:
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TBD - *To be determined*

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Short-Range Action Items	Goal	Priority Level			Leadership		Appropriation		Progress	
		Catalyst Project	Important	Desirable	Responsible Department	Approving Authority	Cost & Staffing	Funding Source	Initial Below	
									Started	Completed
Action Program for 2015-2016										
Area improvements and enhancements to Celebration Square (Zoo, Hoyt Park, Tennis Courts, Ojibway Island area).	PM3									
Continue to collaborate with other agencies to organize and host festivals in the City.	ED3									
Connect to the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail via a proposed linkage along West Center and West Michigan from the existing three-mile Saginaw River multi-use pathway system.	PM2									
Develop a River Loop pathway around the Saginaw River, bounded by Court Street, Michigan Avenue, Genesee Avenue, and Washington/M-13.										

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TBD - To be determined

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Ongoing Action Items	Goal	Priority Level			Leadership		Appropriation		Progress	
		Catalyst Project	Important	Desirable	Responsible Department	Approving Authority	Cost & Staffing	Funding Source	Initial Below	
									Started	Completed
Develop a right-sizing strategy for the City of Saginaw: Look into the status of old and ageing infrastructure that is no longer useful but has connections to areas that are principally vacant and plan for appropriate timing for when it is to be disconnected and/or removed from the City's system.	QOL3	X			PZ	City Council	TBD	Grants		
Continue to evaluate processes and procedures - make it easy for companies to do business in Saginaw.	ED1			x	Council	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		
Continue community policing efforts.	QOL1		x		Council	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		
Continue to use the Saginaw County Land Bank to consolidate and transfer parcels.	ED1		x		PZ	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		
Continue to increase the presence of public safety officers on the streets of Saginaw.	QOL2		x		Council	City Council	TBD	General Fund		
Continue to seek grants to improve the riverfront.	PM1		x		Riverfront	City Council	TBD	General Fund		
Continue current City-wide economic development efforts.	ED1		x		ED	City Council	TBD	General Fund		
Support the development of higher-education facilities within the City of Saginaw.	PM2			x	Council	City Council	TBD	Grants, Foundations		
Share success stories with the community and in the media.	ED3									
Vigorously address blight issues.	QOL1									
After 2015, area improvements and enhancements to St. Mary's Medical Center/Cathedral District.	PM3									
After 2015, area improvements and enhancements to Covenant Medical Center District.	PM3									
Support neighborhood stabilization programs and focus investment on marketable neighborhoods.	QOL1									
Work with the Saginaw Public School District to help expand successful educational approaches to other schools within the City.	PM2									
Create a year-round Farmer's Market.	PM1									
Continue to demolish existing blighted structures.	QOL1		x		SCLB	City Council	TBD	General Fund, Grants		

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TBD - To be determined

Saginaw Master Plan: Checklist for Action

Long-Range Action Items

Organized by Goal

Create a new economy for the City of Saginaw by developing a diverse job base while emphasizing existing cluster strengths to leverage new investment.

Seek grants to transition brownfield sites to greenfields.	ED1
Continue to offer incentives to businesses.	ED1
Bring all City Commissions, groups, and staff together annually to discuss economic development goals and progress (DDA, Planning Commission, Economic Development Commission, etc).	ED1
Offer free/reduced price land for companies who wish to relocate and bring jobs to the City.	ED1
Clarify how the City approaches economic development incentives offered through Renaissance Zones, Neighborhood Enterprise Zones, and the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act.	ED1
Pursue an urban agenda with the Governor's office.	ED1
Amend the zoning ordinance to permit to permit new uses and/or new zoning classifications: 1) Large lot/"country" living in the City with small farm, 2) Natural areas that encourage passive recreation uses in low-density areas, 3) Innovation development areas that currently have vacant buildings but can be redeveloped into future economic generators.	ED1
Create an incentive program for business to locate in Saginaw, such as which has been done in the City of Pontiac, by offering free years rent in exchange for a two-year lease at market rate and façade improvements.	ED1
Determine the feasibility of developing alternative energy facilities, such as a bio-energy, within the City of Saginaw.	ED1
Creation of a land for jobs program.	ED1
Creation of a bio-based industrial park to process, manufacture, and package agricultural crops grown in the region, powered by renewable energy source(s) that might include wind, methane, solar, or a bio-based fuel.	ED1

Create an entertainment district.

Make it convenient, easy and safe to move around from parking to destination points (shoveled sidewalks, well-lit, etc.).	ED2
Attract new businesses and stores to downtown.	ED2
Identify reuse/redevelopment opportunities for several key buildings within the Entertainment District	ED2
Create a coordinated marketing strategy to identify, unify, and promote all downtown arts venues, sports attractions, restaurants, and organizations, as well as supporting businesses.	ED2
Identify additional resources/revenues to support an increased level of activity in the district	ED2
Create an Entertainment District master development plan that identifies which City-owned parcels will need to be assembled.	ED2
Approaches to the development of an Entertainment District must distinguish food and beverage attractions from performance destinations and museum venues.	ED2
Create an organizational structure or entity to coordinate and manage all activities within the Entertainment District.	ED2

Re-envision and re-brand Saginaw and market the City regionally as well as globally.

Update the City website.	ED3
Develop a marketing strategy with a regional focus and reach, highlighting the positive attributes of Saginaw's position within the Great Lakes Bay Region.	ED3
Creation of a viable wayfinding system to link all the recreation activities together	ED3
Create a calendar that showcases improvements to the City and other accomplishments and circulate to the public.	ED3
Develop a marketing strategy that builds from and grows existing City festivals and events.	ED3
Utilize human resources and talent from local universities and other agencies to assist with the development of a City-wide marketing campaign.	ED3
Determine the feasibility of new large-scale entertainment venues, such as a race track, in the northeast area of the City.	ED3

Strong and stable neighborhoods that are desirable and have a unique sense of place.

Expand the Community Policing program.	QOL1
Continue and improve code enforcement efforts.	QOL1
Work with the medical/hospital community to develop neighborhood plan(s).	QOL1
Monitor rental properties.	QOL1
Monitor vacant properties.	QOL1
Develop ordinance that addresses the issues associated with absentee landlords.	QOL1
Monitor foreclosed properties.	QOL1
Amend the zoning ordinance to address appropriate locations for uses commonly referred to as party stores.	QOL1
Amend the zoning ordinance to allow the senior living facilities (skilled nursing, assisted living, independent living) in specified areas.	QOL1
When appropriate, use trained volunteers to assist with code enforcement.	QOL1
Research the possibility of creating a demolition fund whereby landlords and rental property owners contribute in order to offset potential future demolitions.	QOL1
Organize a team consisting of the City, Land Bank, MSHDA to organize funding opportunities for historic structures in key areas.	QOL1

A safe community.

Seek innovate ways to deter crime, such as the installation of closed-circuit cameras designated in key areas.	QOL2
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Infrastructure and public services are adequate and cost-effective for a dynamic and ever-changing City.

- Create and implement a plan to replace water and sewer lines. QOL3
- Plan for the merger of certain City and County services, such as assessing, police, fire, and inspections. QOL3
- Establish a tree-planting and property maintenance program that focuses on managing the aesthetics of vacant sites and enhances the environmental characteristics of the property. QOL3
- Amend the zoning ordinance to promote the availability of fresh produce, affordable locally-grown farm products, and access to urban farming opportunities. QOL3
- Establish a curbside recycling program QOL3
- Work with Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services to strengthen ridership on existing bus routes and establish other logical transit routes. QOL3

Capitalize on the City-wide and regional importance of the Saginaw River as an asset for economic development and quality of life by encouraging new mixed-use developments while also providing public access and a desirable natural amenity.

- Encourage related arts/culture/music uses to cluster to create a critical mass and establish a “scene.” PM1
- Showcase the City’s natural resources through festivals along the Saginaw River. PM1
- Create a festival place celebrating the heritage of the Saginaw River. PM1
- Open access to the river where possible (i.e. remove parking structure at Court and Hamilton). PM1

Functional and attractive public places for healthy minds and healthy bodies.

Regularly update the City's five-year recreation plan, which qualifies the City to apply for grants administered by the Department of Natural Resources.	PM2
Determine appropriate future uses for vacant school sites.	PM2
Improve Hoyt Park.	PM2
Seek grants to improve streetscapes.	PM2
Seek grants to update the amphitheater at Ojibway Island.	PM2
Develop a Complete Streets Policy that addresses the accommodation of all forms of travel, including automobiles, bicycles, pedestrians, personal mobility devices, transit and freight in a safe environment on designated City streets, with the guiding principle of promoting safe and convenient access for all users.	PM2
Prioritize and direct future resources to City parks with the intent to promote improvements at locations that provide a broad range of recreational opportunities that serve the largest possible number of users.	PM2
Seek innovative ways to partner with recreation organizations to provide appropriate programming opportunities to Saginaw residents.	PM2
Determine the feasibility of adding new recreational development and improvements, such as a marina, in Lake Linton.	PM2
Develop town squares throughout the City in key areas.	PM2
Support the Promise Zone established for City residents within the Saginaw Public School District.	PM2
Seek grants to improve Veterans Park.	PM2

Sub-area planning and site-specific improvements.

Amend the zoning ordinance to allow appropriate types of land uses that are permit in the Northeast area of the City.	PM3
Amend the zoning ordinance to update the types of uses permitted along Court Street, specifically to transition current multi-family uses to office and related mixed-uses.	PM3
Area improvements and enhancements to Court Street Business District (along Court Street from Bond to north of Bay Road).	PM3
Build on the efforts to create a unique neon-themed attraction at Court and Hamilton Streets.	PM3
Assist the Old Saginaw City Historic District to become a Main Street community.	PM3
Assist business owners with local tax incentives or grants if they start a business in a historic district or building.	PM3
Strengthen the Saginaw Historic District Commission by linking their efforts to the work of SCENIC.	PM3
Support local Realtor associations that promote Saginaw's historic districts and homes.	PM3

Appendix A

Community Input Documentation



Online Survey

Results and Analysis



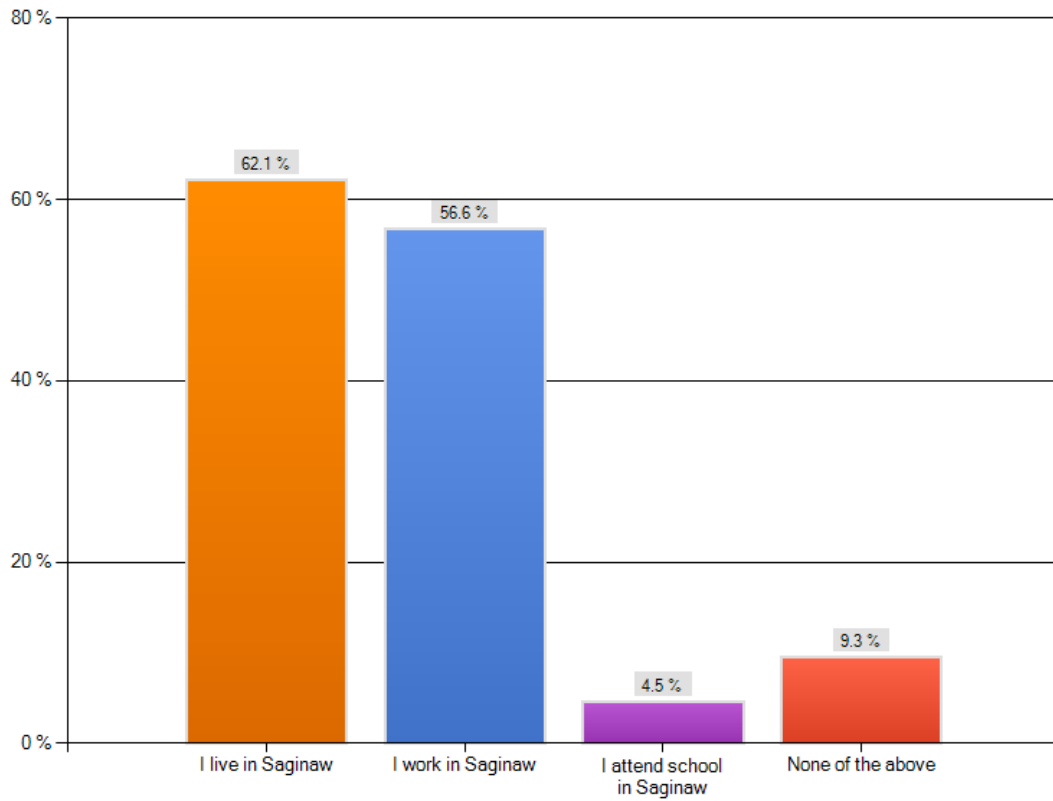
Overview

Community input received to date (11/15/2010):

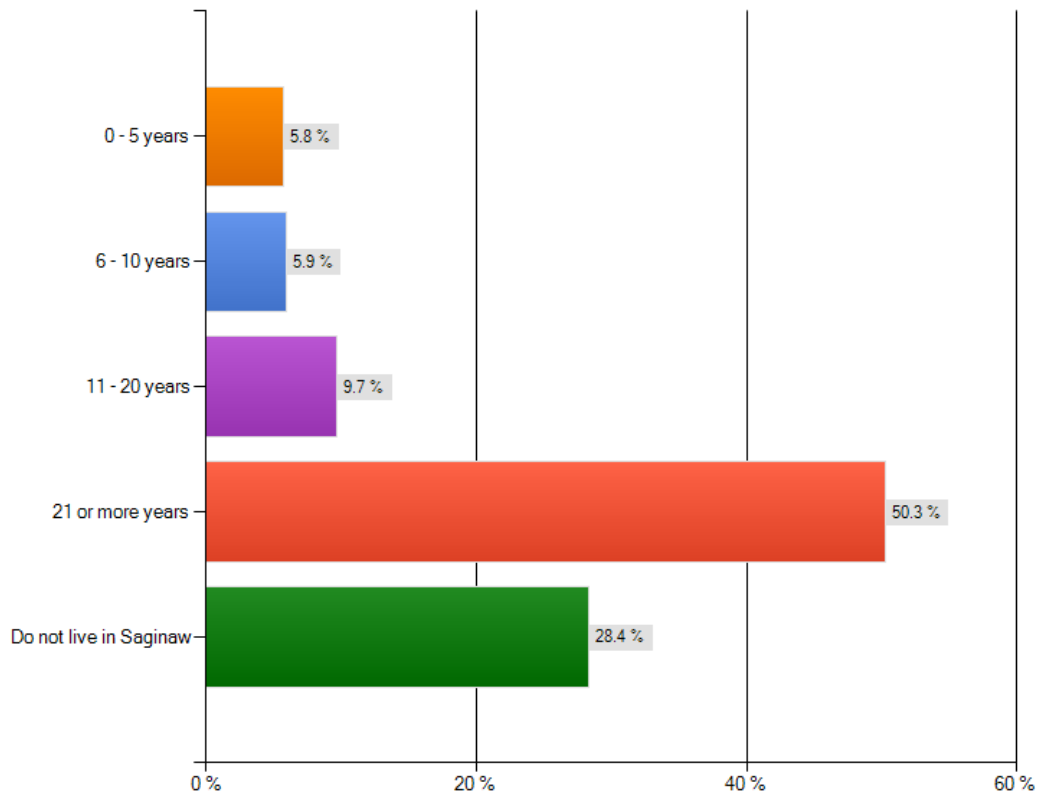
- Completed surveys: 720
- Survey open from 9/28 to 11/10

Included in the following pages:

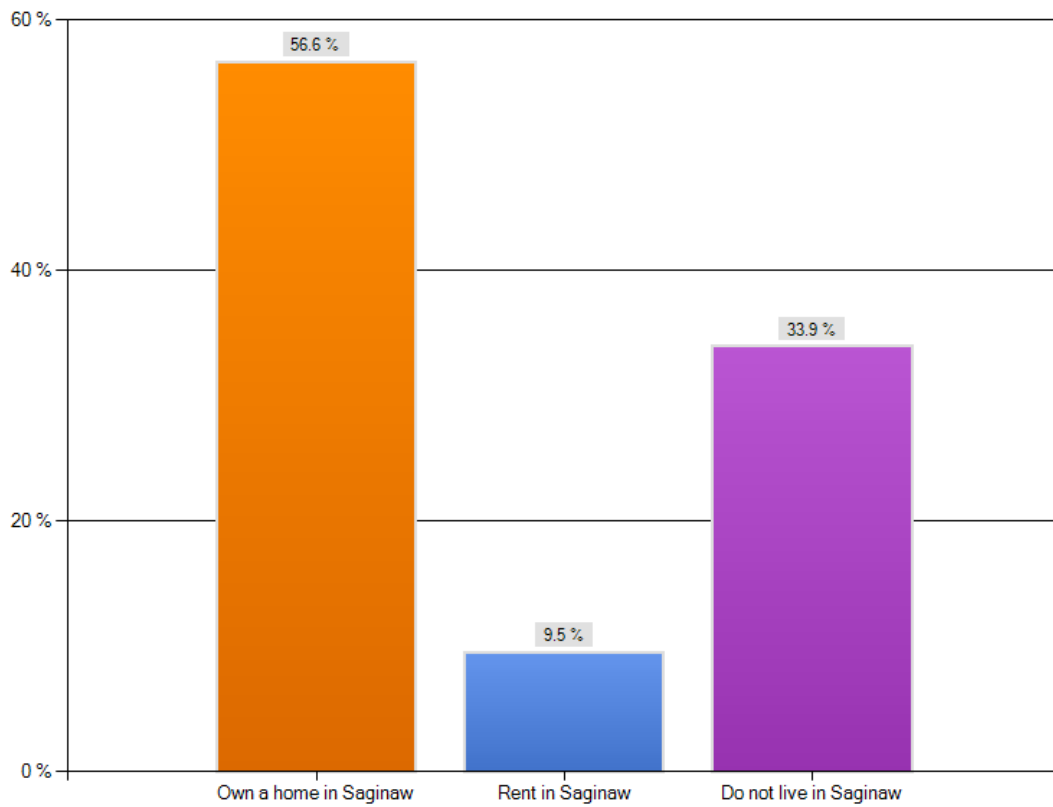
- Graphical overview and presentation of survey questions #1 through #19.
- All write-in comments from respondents to the open-ended portions of questions #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #13, #17, #18, and #19.
- An export of basic raw data for all survey questions.



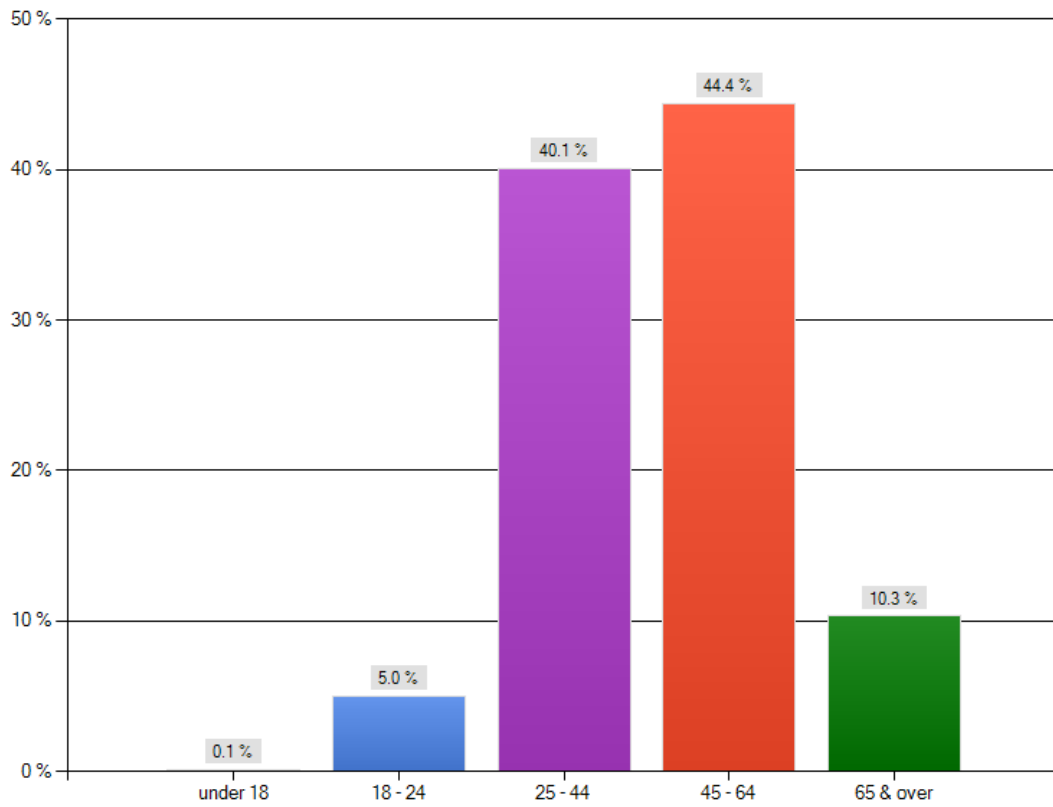
Question #1 – “Which of the following best describes your relationship to the City of Saginaw? Please check all that apply.”



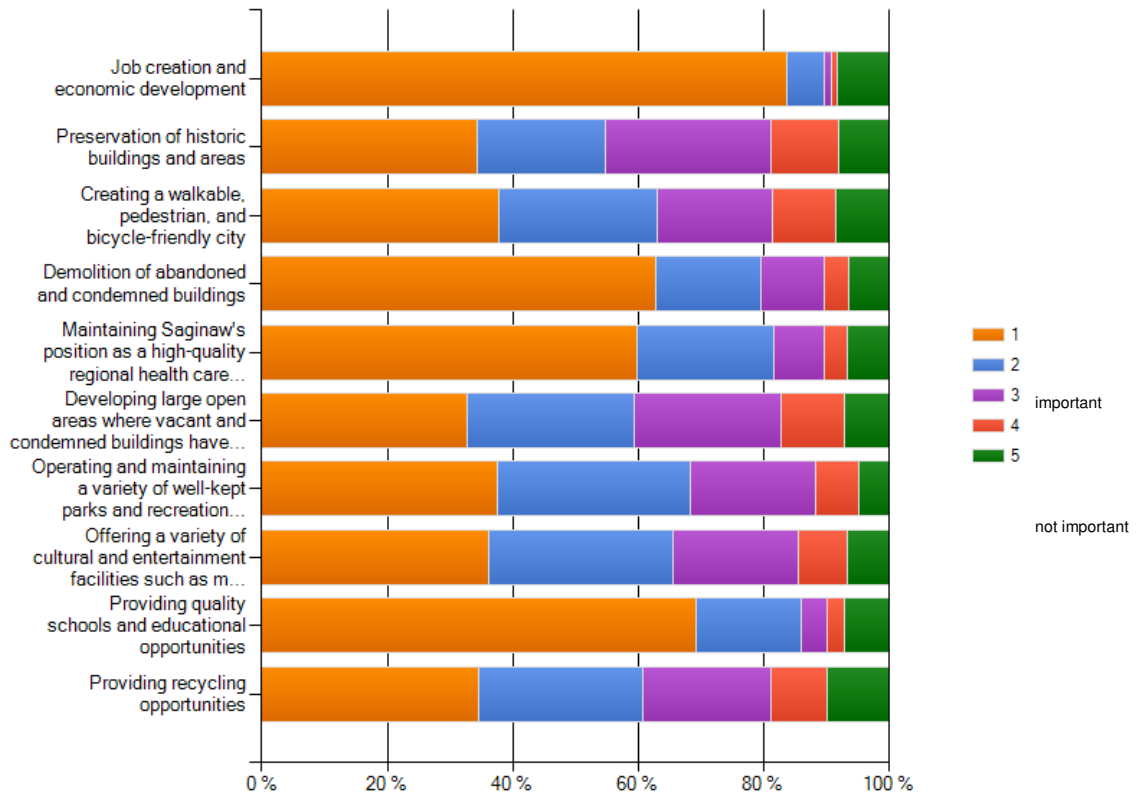
Question #2 – “How long have you lived in Saginaw?”



Question #3 – “What is your residential status?”



Question #4 – “What is your age?”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Job creation and economic development	83.5%	6.0%	89.5%
Providing quality schools and educational opportunities	69.2%	16.6%	85.8%
Demolition of abandoned and condemned buildings	62.5%	16.7%	79.2%
Maintaining Saginaw's position as a high-quality regional health care provider	59.7%	21.8%	81.5%
Creating a walkable, pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly city	37.5%	25.1%	62.6%
Operating and maintaining a variety of well-kept parks and recreation facilities	37.3%	30.6%	67.9%
Offering a variety of cultural and entertainment facilities such as museums and theaters	35.8%	29.2%	65.0%
Providing recycling opportunities	34.3%	26.0%	60.3%
Preservation of historic buildings and areas	34.2%	20.3%	54.5%
Developing large open areas where vacant and condemned buildings have been demolished	31.8%	26.1%	57.9%

Question #5 – Issues: “On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following issues when considering the future of Saginaw.”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Increase public safety measures	68.8%	15.3%	84.1%
Remove nearby blighted and abandoned buildings	63.1%	18.0%	81.1%
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance	52.1%	28.6%	80.7%
Improve streets in this area	43.3%	29.7%	73.0%
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.)	43.2%	27.2%	70.4%
Improve walkability (more sidewalks and pathways)	39.3%	25.5%	64.8%
Restore and preserve historic buildings	33.5%	26.1%	59.6%

Sample of the 99 responses to “Other”: Increased marketing and promotion to attract visitors; Would be nice if this area was better connected to Old Town; Add more directional signage indicating Celebration Square and the various venues; Trim the waterside brush so you can see Lake Linton; Longer river walk with fishing access; Add more restaurants; Few cities have the natural space that makes up Celebration Square; This area has much potential; Bike trails; To increase walkability, need to increase public safety; Roads around this area are in horrible shape; Make more use of the waterfront; Clean up Wickes Park.

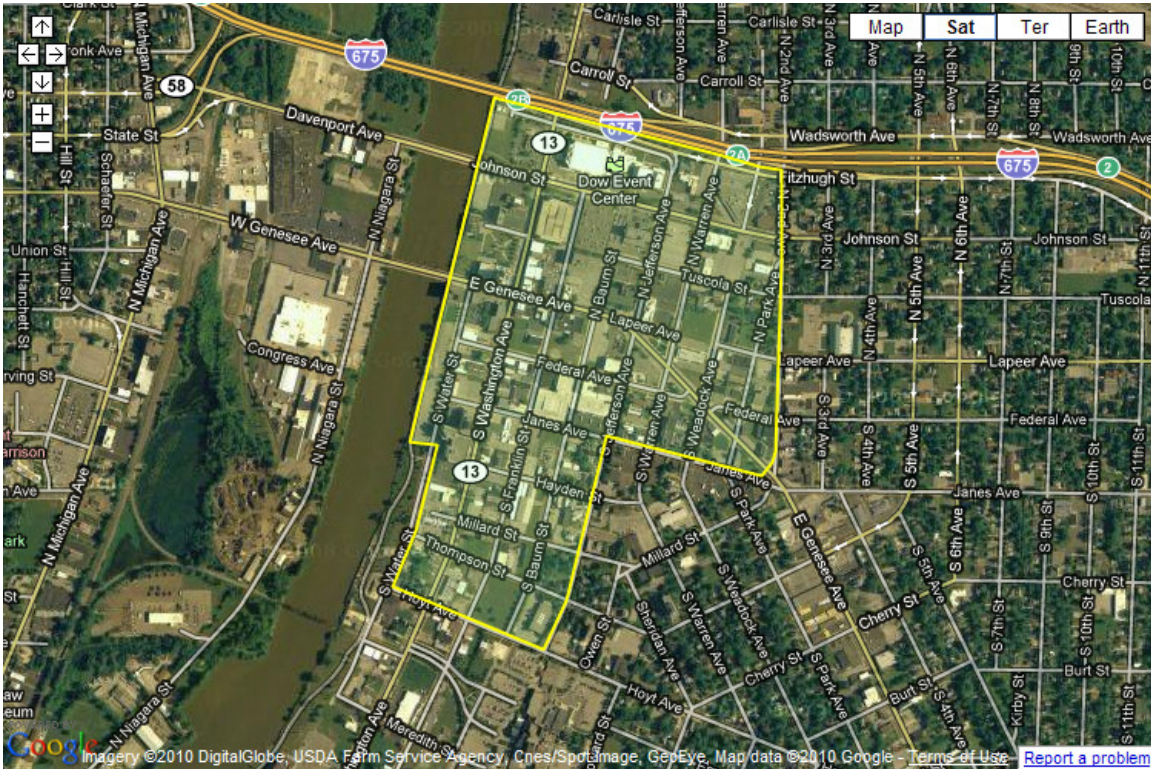
Question #6 – Celebration Square: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Celebration Square area.”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Increase public safety measures	66.4%	15.6%	82.0%
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings	57.4%	21.1%	78.5%
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.)	54.3%	23.5%	77.8%
Encourage residential riverfront development such as townhomes, condominiums, and lofts	53.3%	19.3%	72.6%
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance	52.9%	29.2%	82.1%
Improve streets in this area	45.8%	30.0%	75.8%
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.)	44.1%	24.9%	69.0%

Sample of the 90 responses to “Other”: Make more use of the riverfront, clean it up and enhance it; Special events; Would be great for businesses to be built on west side of river and have back of store/restaurant be a view of Ojibway; Bike lanes on roads; Area is destination retail; I have hope for this part of the city; Access to the riverfront via pathway and narrow park; Plan for tree maintenance; Abandoned and historic buildings should be rehabilitated, not torn down; Parking structures and quality housing could replace some abandoned buildings; Promote "Old Town" events via electronic signage in a central area; Better public transportation.

Question #7 – Old Town: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate how important each of the following strategies is to maintain/stabilize the Old Town Saginaw area.”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Increase public safety measures	68.8%	14.2%	83.0%
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings	64.3%	16.4%	80.7%
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.)	54.5%	21.8%	76.3%
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance	51.6%	26.2%	77.8%
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.)	43.9%	22.9%	66.8%
Restore and preserve historic buildings	42.9%	20.8%	63.7%
Improve I-675 access to downtown Saginaw	42.1%	20.2%	62.3%
Improve streets in this area	41.4%	25.6%	67.0%

Sample of the 106 responses to “Other”: Encourage small business development; Renovate building facades; Too much surface parking along river; Restore historic buildings; Convert area to tourist attraction with amusement park, Michigan Made product shops, fishing dock, boat rides, and riverboat casino; River walk has been a great improvement but need more picnic areas; Public safety is key; Rebuild area as entertainment hub; Increase bus traffic from SVSU to this area and Old Town; More opportunities if focus shifted toward students; Bike lanes and bike racks; Keep and expand farmers market; Address the challenges associated with Bancroft and Eddy bldgs; A different title such as “Entertainment District” may assist in changing perceptions.

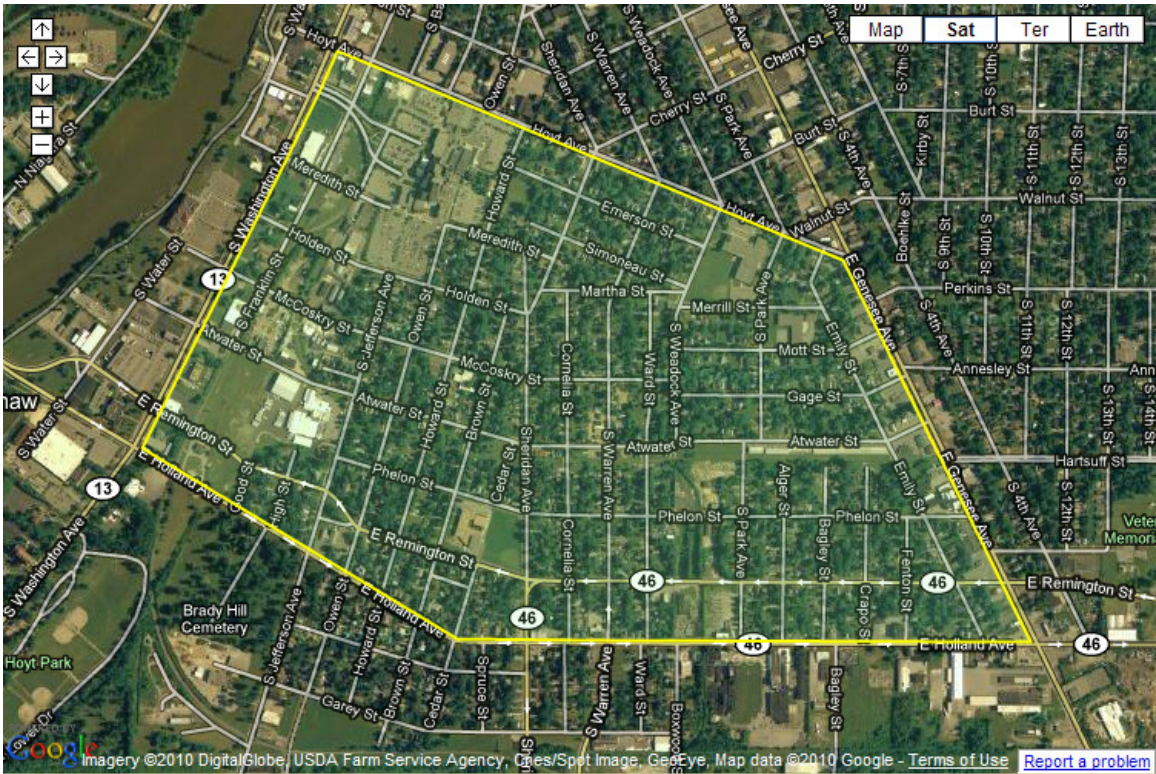
Question #8 – Downtown: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Downtown area.”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Increase public safety measures	63.0%	17.0%	80.0%
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings	56.3%	20.6%	76.9%
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance	52.7%	28.2%	80.9%
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.)	52.5%	23.7%	76.2%
Improve streets in this area	48.2%	25.0%	73.2%
Add bike lanes on Court Street	33.1%	19.8%	52.9%

Sample of the 73 responses to “Other”: Add police bike patrol; Preserve historic homes along Court; Intersection of Court & Bay could be a great node/landmark; Court is an asphalt island with 3ft weeds; This area of Saginaw draws people; Keeping the grass mowed on Court and the trees trimmed would make it look a lot better; Extend boulevard all the way to courthouse area; Possibly find funds to help with Court Theatre upkeep; This area is not as crucial to the redevelopment and growth of Saginaw as Old Town and Downtown; Bike lanes are very important and needs to be looked at for the whole city.

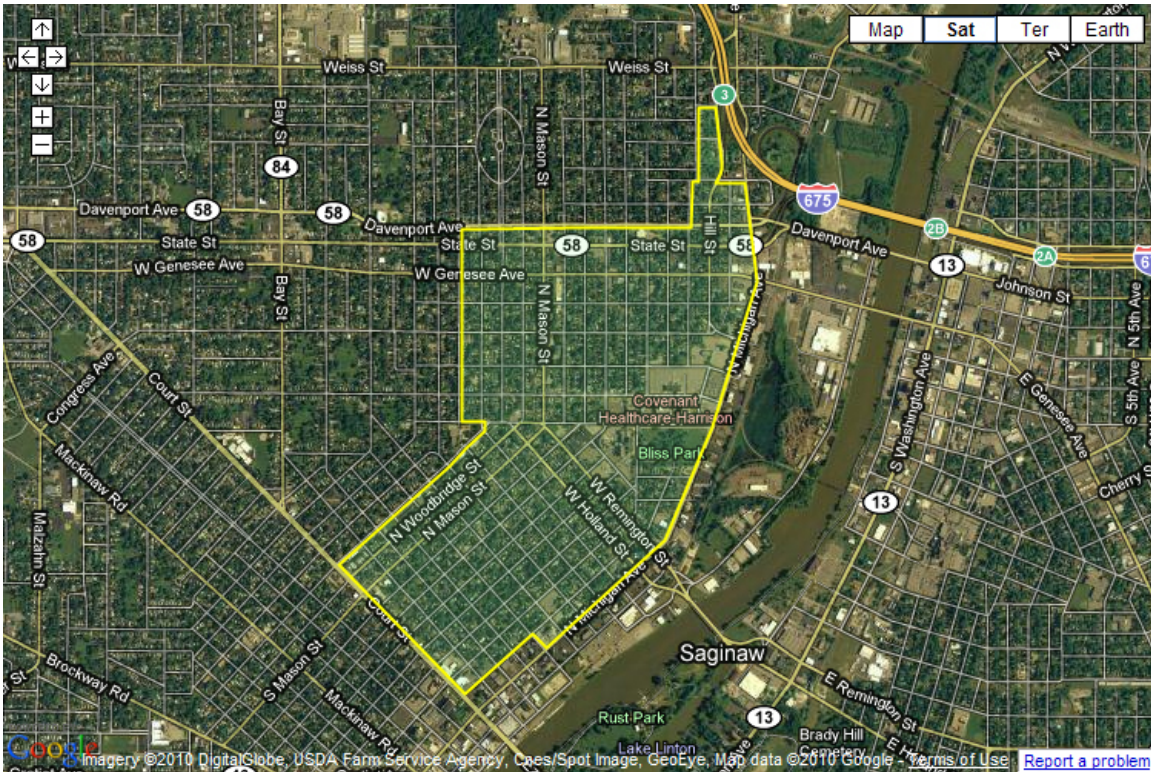
Question #9 – Court Street: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate how important each of the following strategies is to maintain/stabilize the Court Street business district area.”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Increase public safety measures	69.0%	12.1%	81.1%
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings	65.2%	16.0%	81.2%
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.)	60.2%	17.6%	77.8%
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance	51.1%	23.6%	74.7%
Encourage preservation of historic homes	47.9%	18.0%	65.9%
Improve streets in this area	45.6%	21.6%	67.2%

Sample of the 70 responses to “Other”: Add brighter street lighting and allow gated communities; Would be nice to see improvements for pedestrian and bicycle friendliness as well; Enforce building codes; Improve the Farmer’s Market (parking area-paved); Continue tax breaks for homeowners in this area; Improve sidewalks; Target gang and drug activity; Great improvement in this area over the last decade; Jobs created at the hospital are the reason for the success; Preservation of historic homes is important; Demolish abandoned homes; Encourage infill structures to be historically sympathetic; See that the vacant school is restored and reused.

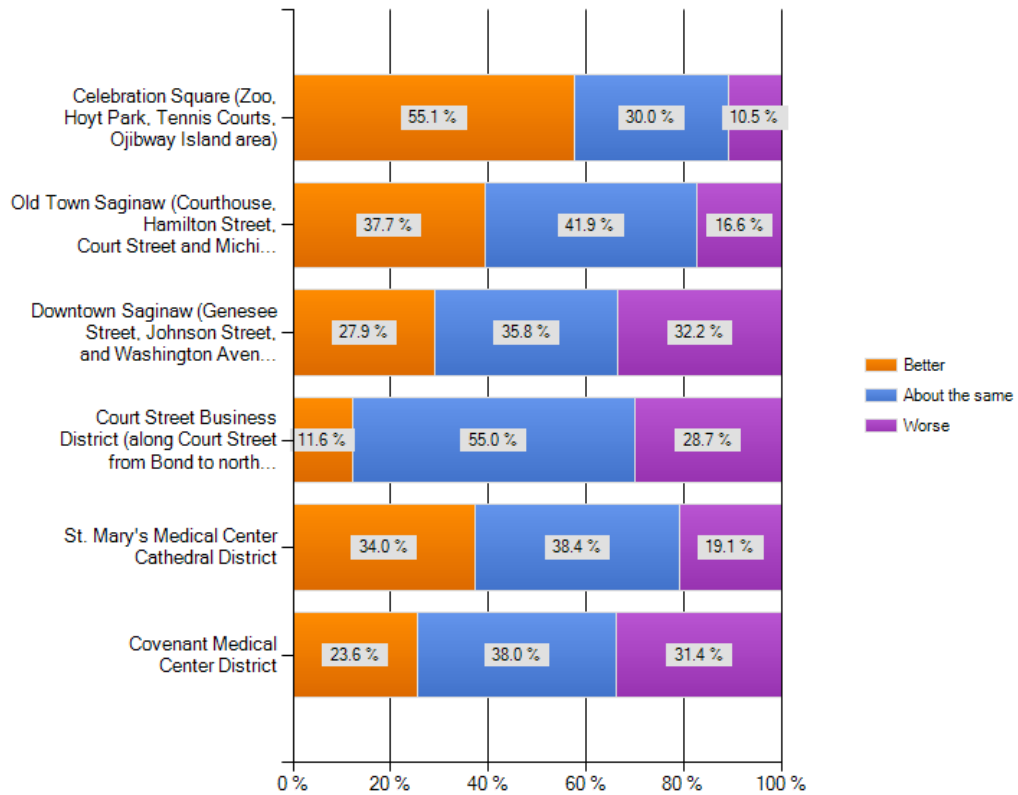
Question #10 – St. Mary’s Medical Center/Cathedral District: “On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the St. Mary’s Medical Center Cathedral District area.”



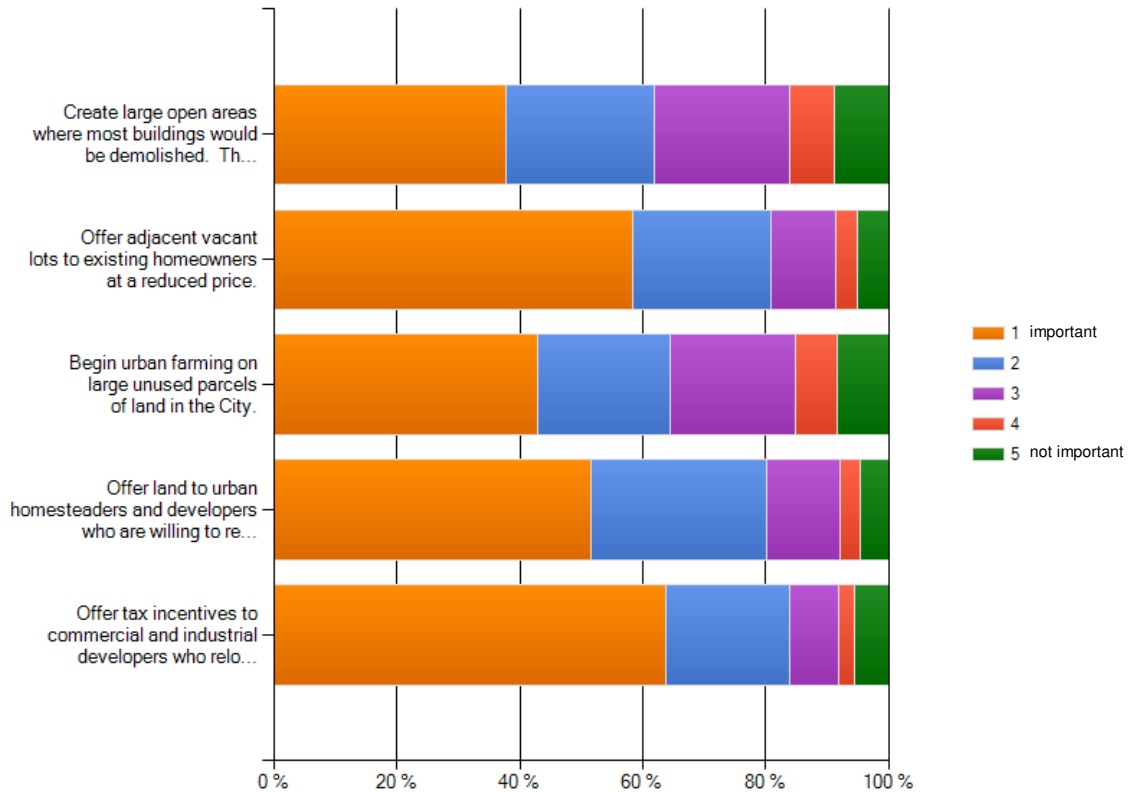
	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Increase public safety measures	70.0%	13.1%	83.1%
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings	65.8%	16.4%	82.2%
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.)	61.5%	17.8%	79.3%
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance	53.2%	25.3%	78.5%
Improve streets in this area	48.5%	24.9%	73.4%

Sample of the 68 responses to “Other”: Continue efforts to provide affordable owner-occupied housing; No more renters; Community events at Bliss Park; North Michigan needs resurfacing from Gratiot to Genesee; Better enforcement of yard businesses, junk cars in yard and parked on lawns; Increase public safety; New senior citizen housing; Identify and protect (through reuse/rehabilitation) of architecturally and historically significant properties; Streetscaping, give the area an identity, community gardening; Reduce problem local liquor stores; Turn the old school into beautiful condos.

Question #11 – Covenant Medical Center: “On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Covenant Medical Center neighborhood.”



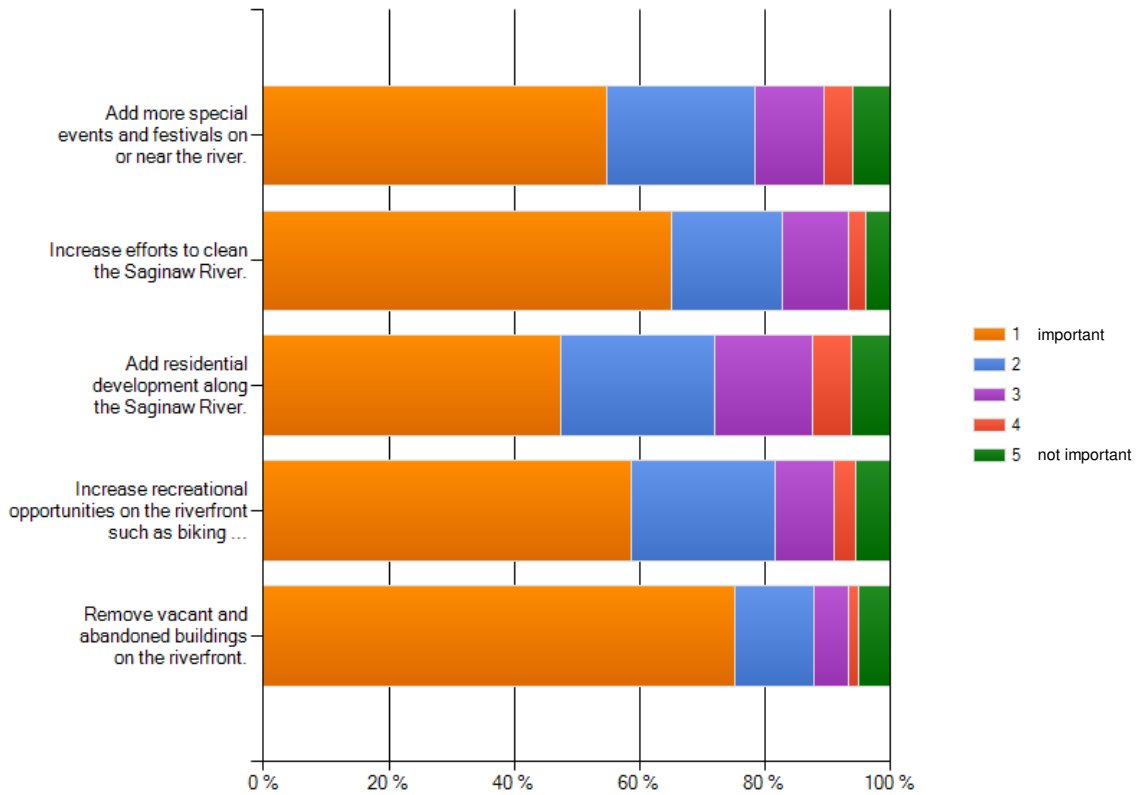
Question #12 – “When you consider the previous key areas, how do you feel that each has grown or changed over the past 5 to 10 years?”



	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Offer tax incentives to commercial and industrial developers who relocate or add jobs in the City	63.3%	20.1%	83.4%
Offer adjacent vacant lots to existing homeowners at a reduced price	57.8%	22.4%	80.2%
Offer land to urban homesteaders and developers who are willing to relocate and pay taxes in the City	50.0%	27.8%	77.8%
Begin urban farming on large unused parcels of land in the City	42.0%	21.1%	63.1%
Create large open areas where most buildings would be demolished. This strategy may include abandoning streets and reduction of city services	35.3%	22.6%	57.9%

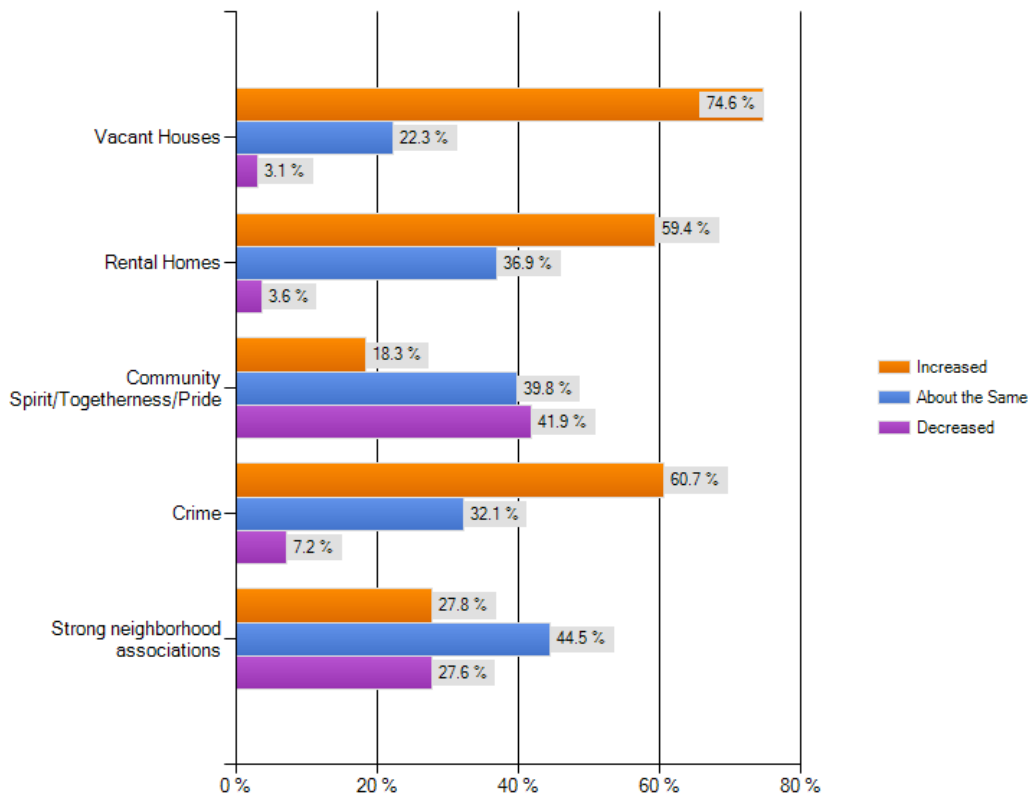
Sample of the 79 responses to “Other”: Enforce strict licensing for all rental units; Instead of large open areas, consolidate those areas into larger lots for new home construction; Turn large tracts into nature preserves/parks; Work with SVSU to develop some student housing in old town area; Support urban farming/community gardens; Urban homesteading and commercial redevelopment must focus on rehabilitating existing properties or new infill and not creating more supply; We could be a leader in bicycling, people already are riding more, out of economic necessity.

Question #13 – Strategies: “At its peak, Saginaw had a population of about 98,000 people. Today the population is about 55,000. This decline has led to an oversupply of housing, vacant and abandoned land, and an aging infrastructure system that must be supported by less people. On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate each of the following strategies that the City might use in addressing these issues.”

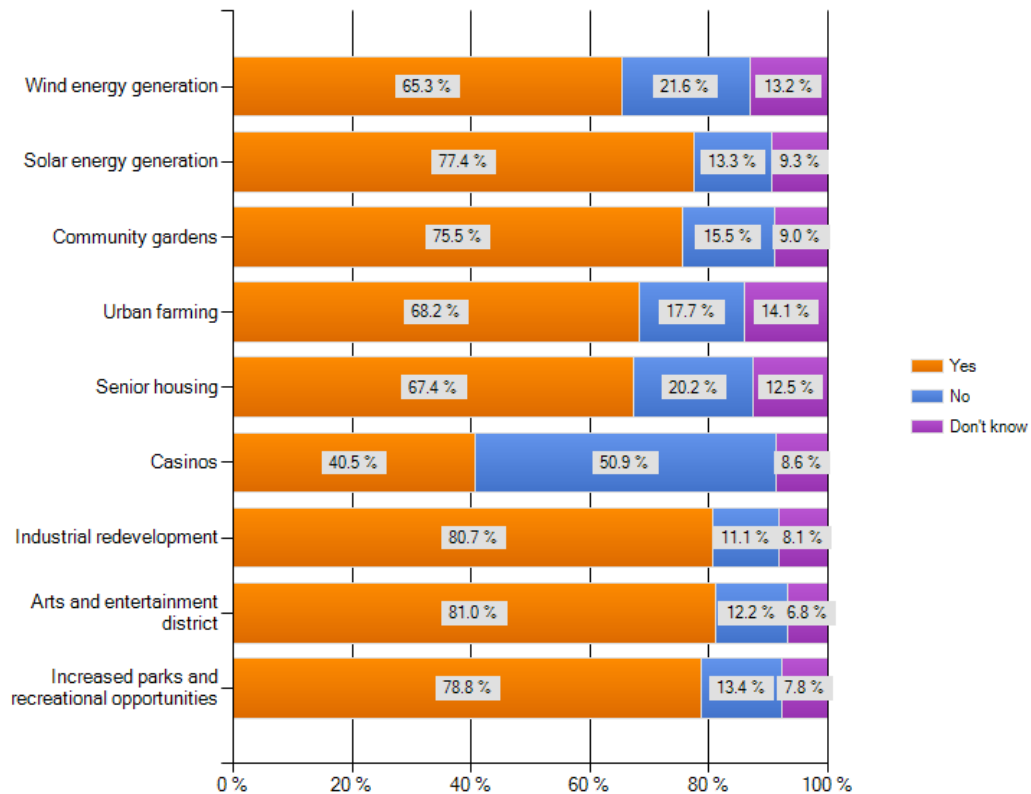


	1	2	Total (1 + 2)
Remove vacant and abandoned buildings on the riverfront	74.3%	12.5%	86.8%
Increase efforts to clean the Saginaw River	64.7%	17.8%	82.5%
Increase recreational opportunities on the riverfront such as biking and walking paths, fishing, picnicking, and parks	58.6%	22.9%	81.5%
Add more special events and festivals on or near the river	54.3%	23.3%	77.6%
Add residential development along the Saginaw River	46.9%	24.1%	71.0%

Question #14 – Saginaw River Front: “The Saginaw River is an important natural resource in the City of Saginaw. On a scale of 1 to 5, please rate each of the following strategies that the City might use to take advantage of the Saginaw Riverfront.”



Question #15 – “Please evaluate the following aspects of the neighborhood where you live or work in Saginaw and how it has changed in recent years.”



	Yes	No	Don't Know
Arts and entertainment district	81.0%	12.2%	6.8%
Industrial redevelopment	80.8%	11.1%	8.1%
Increased parks and recreational opportunities	78.8%	13.4%	7.8%
Solar energy generation	77.4%	13.3%	9.3%
Community gardens	75.5%	15.5%	9.0%
Urban farming	68.2%	17.7%	14.1%
Senior housing	67.4%	20.2%	12.4%
Wind energy generation	66.3%	21.6%	13.1%
Casinos	40.5%	50.9%	8.6%

Question #16 – “Should Saginaw plan for any of the following land uses?”

Question #17 – “What do you like about the City of Saginaw?”

Sample of the 409 responses to Question #17:

- Affordable houses, wonderful parks, magnificent historic structures
- I like that it is small, but at the same time big
- cultural opportunities...plays, concerts, educational seminars, etc
- Its central location to medical services, shopping , highways and most important the residents
- The city has good "bones" - it has all the streets, sidewalks, neighborhoods, amenities, and the infrastructure needed to make it a nice place live, work, and hang out
- Dow event Center, The Temple. and the Museum, The River
- The history and the riverfront are some of the greatest resources the city has. The hidden remnants of brick streets that are still seen in areas on Cass Street near Hamilton Street are amazing.
- Hoyt Park I think is truly one of the most beautiful areas in the greater region
- Homes and neighborhoods with character. Viable music and arts scene Grass roots efforts that make a difference
- Cultural opportunities, museums, libraries, events at Temple theater and Dow Event Center
- I like the people of Saginaw. I like the events such as the Riverside Film Festival, concerts by the Saginaw Bay Orchestra, Friday Night Live, and Jazz at the Anderson Enrichment Center. I like that I don't have to drive far to go to events in the city
- The historic buildings and potential to add new walking/running/biking paths along the riverfront and through the neighborhoods, making the city more friendly to those wishing to travel without cars
- That it's affordable to live here
- riverfront downtown
- I like the zoo. I like the improvements to Wickes Park and Hoyt Park, the Anderson Celebration Center
- The great walleye river we have running though it
- I like what has been done in the Court Street - Ippel Building area, and the improvements along the Washington Ave. Corridor
- medical facilities
- The Farmers Market
- There are lots of good restaurants, shopping, and recreation
- It's great that some of the concerts are offered at the Island, the fireworks, the preservation of some of the "old" signs (Bean Bunny, Ippel)
- the diversity of people
- I like the idea of the festivals that the city is trying to bring in
- easy to get around
- castle, art and children's museum; anderson enrichment; libraries, hoyt park ; pit and balcony ..churches and hospitals ..SASA and the educational opportunities in elementary and middle school
- Its old big beautiful trees and sidewalks. Its older housing
- Access to medical care and is close to three colleges/universities
- I like the Hamilton Street area, local shops, the Dow events center
- Police/Fire Departments are solid
- I like bike riding and the YMCA. I really love the local library
- Beautiful homes in the Cathedral District that are being restored.
- The creative elements, such as artists and musicians

- It is an excellent location in the state. Good people in leadership positions at locally owned businesses. High school sports. Cultural activities are abundant. Great medical facilities
- The events (Friday nights near Temple, fireworks, concerts, movies, zoo, etc.) The new improvements at Celebration Park (i.e. water park, playground, skate park). Thank you!
- I enjoy the "Old Town" area, especially with the addition of the new Ippel building and Jake's restaurant. It adds a small touch of class. The little restaurants and bars and shops are nice
- Libraries, Saginaw River, Parks, Children's Museum, Saginaw Museum, Castle Museum, Farmers market, People
- I like that the city is cracking down on deadbeat landlords. I like that we have community police officers that we can call and get action on problems in our neighborhood
- The way that Old Town is adding more businesses, and apartments, it is changing its atmosphere and offering more arts and entertainment
- Great architecture & history. I like the beautiful old churches, they add great beauty to skyline
- There are spaces/activities for artsty bohemian types
- We have a very large and very long riverfront that has the potential to be the envy of most cities in our country
- The floating docks to fish!
- There is a very active art scene here.
- Urban feel, though it needs to have infill structures downtown that look old but are new structures

Question #18 – “What would you do to improve the City of Saginaw?”

Sample of the 460 responses to Question #18:

- Urban farms, involve AmeriCorps in neighborhood organizing
- Fight crime and blight
- Education with job oppourtunities for young people
- infastructure.
- improve gateways into the city
- 'homeowner clinics' where residents would learn basic carpentry, painting and related maintainence repairs
- Need a Progressive Public Relations firm to promote Saginaw
- encourage small businesses and at home businesses
- I would try to re-develop the city into a destination that has a variety of services that are convenient. That do not require long car rides, that are within walking distance and biking distance
- city was designed for higher density and mixed use can be adapted much more easily
- Reduce crime through active neighborhood associations and community policing
- We need good schools to attract home owners to the city
- The demolished homes have done a lot to improve things, but the lots require a lot of upkeep and could be put to use instead of lying fallow to become illegal dumping grounds
- Urban/Loft living options downtown/old town, a larger variety of restaurants and bars. A Brewery!

- Have tougher regulation in regards to rental units. Increase Public Safety patrols.
- Start an urban renewal process of demolishing/clearing vacant, abandoned houses and building and coming up with a development plan for that space
- Expand the public transportation systems a little along with joining Michigan's various bike routes that are interconnecting with surrounding cities throughout the state
- Enforce the codes, ALL codes. You can't have a lumberjack business in the middle of a residential area. That's what it's become
- The City needs a restriction on how many dogs a person can own per household
- Plan more festivals and entertainment
- I would focus a lot of energy on improving the Riverfront on both sides
- I would create a municipal level version of the Federal Homestead Act, either in name or practice. The city would offer vacant land and any structurally sound existing buildings to be homesteaded by any who wished to stake a claim. Homesteaders would file a claim; live on and improve/develop the property for seven years as a primary residence, keep the taxes current; then receive a clear deed to the property
- Better sidewalks/curbs along major roads
- Make the gateways into the city more inviting and less intimidating. More welcoming
- health-care related jobs and industry are essential to Saginaw's growth
- Work harder to maintain our historic and architectural heritage
- Crack down on slumlords
- Clean up Saginaw's image with positive advertising
- Cultural growth, arts & entertainment, improved riverfront, remove blight
- bring back the recreation department in the City
- the idea of community or urban gardens is great
- curbside recycling
- Encourage neighborhood associations that would teach people how to maintain their homes, do a workable budget, plan for the future
- we need more lights downtown (like a mini Las Vegas)
- expand the public transportation network
- I feel everything needs improving in our City
- I don't believe it can happen in the next 20 years, certainly not in my lifetime
- Old town has potential to be so much more
- initiate an urban farming co-op
- Remove blight, restore and repurpose historical old building
- Code enforcement is very important
- Have I mentioned *Bike Lanes*? ...and a LOT more bike parking
- a bike rack on *all* buses
- I heartily believe that making the city more bike/walkable would be a big improvement, also improving public transportation would be good
- Work with SVSU to build a university center
- Give artists and entrepreneurs more opportunities and resources
- We need to get rid of townships and city and create a unified government for the area
- more urban office spaces for twenty somethings trying out new ideas
- Limit the number of rental homes available. We are losing people because bad landlords are allowing people into homes and then they abuse the property
- Increase awareness of the importance of historic preservation to the future economic viability of the city

Question #19 – “Other comments?”

Sample of the 189 responses to Question #19:

- I would like the former foundry area to be redeveloped into a variety of uses
- It would also be nice to see Wickes Park Drive repaved with bike/pedestrian lanes so that people can enjoy the beauty of the area
- Need to do something about the Bancroft Hotel. The corner of Washington & Genesee always has nasty people hanging around. It is not showing a good impression to people coming into our City
- The public school system must improve if the city is to attract professionals
- Economic development today relies on tapping into creative entrepreneurs. Saginaw can no longer depend on the old 19th and 20th century industrial regime of job creation and wealth. Today, we're competing with China, India, Brazil, and Russia. Saginaw needs to re-invent itself in order to attract, develop, and support educated and creative talent in order to be globally competitive
- Question pertaining to status of neighborhood should have provided opportunity for comments...I had to indicate stayed the same. Our neighborhood does not have vacant homes, and people have maintained a strong sense of neighborhood and maintain housing and appearance of neighborhood
- focus on the basics (public safety, rule of law, employment)
- I would start on the riverfront and clean up the blight
- Until this town corrects its crime problem and has more police presence seen and streets safe to walk again nothing will come to or relocate to this town
- more restaurants
- we need a dog park in downtown saginaw somewhere
- I675 access to downtown is confusing
- Reconstruct the following streets: Williamson Rd. (Sheridan to Washington), particularly near Hess/Gallagher, Mackinaw between Michigan, and CongressHess / Gallagher
- Sports is what people love. Develop something for kids and adults
- I think the abandoned railroad beds in the city should be made into rail trails that connect to the various other rail trails in the county
- Roses grow great in the city, let's plant some of them. Holland has tulips, we can have roses
- Build an entertainment area
- Please create incentives for companies to locate here and stay here. Jobs and safety are the most important items
- I would also love to see a connection between both sides of the Saginaw river
- The downtown area near the Temple theatre and Dow Event Center need to be seriously evaluated!!!! I drive through that area on my way to work each day. The Section 8 housing there creates a very bad impression
- Lordlords need to be held accountable for their buildings and properties. The LL Assoc. needs to work and partner with the powers that be to help us keep our City looking good by being good citizens
- Create a permanent Farmers Market building on the river. Great views, great site
- The entire riverfront should be open space, docks, restaurants with docks at them, riverwalks on both sides of the river
- Crack down on renters and landlords who don't maintain their properties and create disturbances that ruin the quality of life and safety of the other neighbors!
- Keep the historic buildings. It is our heritage and a lot that makes us look different than any township

Question 6 - Other strategies to maintain/stabilize the Celebration Square area.

1. I would consider Washington a gateway to the city, the boarded up houses and blight needs to be cared for so that people come into the city don't feel threatened
2. This area is the jewel of the city. Would be nice if this area was better connected to Old Town, which could be accomplished through dedicated bike lanes on the Court St bridge. Ojibway Island needs to be "opened up" to reveal its splendor to cars driving by, and this could be accomplished through strategic brush trimmings along the north side of Ezra Rust.
3. no assistant manager public safety
4. get rid of drugs and crime
5. Promote Saginaw in a positive manner in News Media. Discourage sensationalism of negative news coverage.
6. The area is a beautiful area, but needs more things to draw people to use it so that it gives more people reasons to visit various parts of the city.
7. increased marketing and promotion to attract visitors
8. Add more directional signage indicating Celebration Square area with directional signage directing to the various venues in Celebration Square...similar to Flint's Cultural Center.
9. trim the waterside brush back so you can see Lake Linton again from Ojibawa Island
10. I would like to see a longer river walk with fishing access for the handicapped residents in our town.
11. Advertise outside of the city.
12. Drop the stupid name "celebration square" It sounds idiotic. Promote each park by its own name.
13. Hoyt park was ruined once they stopped having the ice rink and put in the baseball fields.
14. Support summer organized sports at Hoyt Park
15. Better police protection with officers that actually do a daily job
16. Improve streets THROUGHOUT the city, not just here and there.
17. the abandoned buildings are unappealing to not only us but for visitors it must look unsafe in more than 1 way.
18. we need more things for our children to be involved in and find a safe way to run events.
19. It's a nice area, however I do not see any place to expand and build to bring in business this is more a rec. area
20. add more restaurants for people working downtown
21. Look how much Bay City has done, they are a good model to follow. Something going on every weekend to bring revenue into the city.
22. court street definitely needs repair
23. REPAIR ALL SIDEWALKS , CHARGE OWNER BY CASH OR TAX BILLS
24. improve road conditions
25. this is so stupid. Who wouldn't want all of this. How much did you get paid to put this together? Such a waste of time and money.
26. I currently do NOT attend events in this area for fear of my safety and that of my family.
27. Possibly reuse the land gained by removing blighted and abandoned buildings for extra parking for events
28. Few cities have the natural space that makes up the Celebration square area. Much of the river front is mis-used or blighted, this area has much potential.
29. if plants are planted then they need to be maintained on a regular basis, now places have plants and trees but weeds grow over it all or they need watering but why plant trees if there is no maintenance to prune and take care of what we now have, planting trees and not caring for them does not add to the beauty and eye appeal of the area
30. Crime is a main concern for all that live in Saginaw

31. Make city income tax rate same for residents and non-residents, except for city workers living outside of the city - they can pay 2%.
32. in general clean up saginaw that is the problem
33. Clean up Wickes Park. Close the public housing project there. Put in a boat launch and a river walk.
34. Ojibway Island should be privatized and updated. To be used for concerts, much like DTE.
35. I feel you need to also focus on the Downtown areas as well.... closer to the Dow
36. create a vibrancy where people not only visit for the day, but live. Have a reason to visit that's interesting and fun.
37. Add outdoor theatre in the summer
38. I have lived in the region all my life and this is the first time I have seen a map of "celebration square." It is not obvious to anyone what "celebration square" is or why the City felt compelled to name the area. I think it is confusing. It isn't a square. What are we celebrating? The name does not help identify the geography.
39. Focusing on zoo/childrens museum and other facilities to draw public to maintain /increase jobs as well as increase interest to area Consider casino
40. develop a river walk
41. Flood Hoyt park in the winter for ice skating! Have schools volunteer in the warming house.
42. keep it nice! i love the new anderson park, and the new look of the garber courts! keep it up! safety is a huge issue as well!
43. Develop riverfront with riverfront type developments. (marina, restaurant shopping)
44. Clean up all of the trash all over the roads. The roads around this area are in horrible shape (Fordney & Court/Ezra Rust)
45. Make more use of the waterfront.
46. Expanded Public Transportation !!!!! Like in other cities (Lansing, Grand Rapids, etc.
47. Keep unemployed youth busy with social activities and try to find employment for them
48. include better utilization of the Saginaw River
49. bring a casino to town
50. better lighting along the riverwalk would make it safer
51. SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY....
52. dig out the canal between rust and ojibway island, remove the tree also by canal to make it more safe and a island again
53. Well lit areas-
54. Improve areas not only in celebration square specifically the East Side of Saginaw. Through providing these resources, not simply policing and arresting citizens
55. Revitalize the waterfront.
56. More low cost or free activites for youth at the local parks
57. Bike trails galore! We need safe access to bike into the City and to neighboring bike trails to Bay City, Midland, and Birch Run
58. add more culture to the west side of Saginaw, Ojibway is beautiful but afraid to ride a bicycle or walk there by myself. Possible volunteers to walk the area and check for illegal activity, i.e. drug use.
59. I live in the 48601, and the police don't often come in my neighborhood. I am a Saginaw teacher, and I want the police to do their job.
60. These functions are a must. Saginaw has an excellent infrastructure in this Celebration Park area. The city planners are to be commended. The river needs to be utilized more. There should be a riverboat casino on the river. That will draw people to this very unique area and provide jobs. This region has had very excellent musicians that could assist in supporting a music environment--maybe a smaller scale than Branson, Mo.. This region needs people to come here. It has very affordable housing.

61. Safety should be the number one priority.
62. Develop Ojibway park ala Vets Park in Bay City, with a "boardwalk" with railings, fishing pier into the river, and boat tie-ups, create more annual events, festivals or other public draws , again, ala the pig gig, riverroar and Tall ship celebrations in Bay City, use Lake Linton for boat events such as an Old boat show or similar draw (dredge first if necessary) with docks, piers, maybe its own shell on the island facing Lake Linton for boater events, put in some bleachers at the tennis courts and advertise as a practice location for Midland's big tennis events, locate and develop a central spot for several hundred parking spots for these types of events, continue a Riverwalk from Ojibway island all the way along the east bank of the river south at least to Rust ave. and preferably further, with another 2 or 3 fishing piers into the river, and do the same thing along the west bank of the river from S. Niagara St to Lee St (in other words, get creative with a development plan for the River and Island in this area, make it an additional magnet, provide adequate parking for future crowds without damaging the aesthetics of the area, and make sure there are ties to other uses such as boaters, fishermen, the west side, etc. Come on, it doesn't take a genius to look around at what we have, look elsewhere, to neighbors near and far, to see what works and come up with a development plan both original and unique to the celebration square area to further develop its potential.
63. Bike Lanes on the roadways.
64. Bike trails. Arches over the streets like they have in downtown Flint.
65. All answers marked with a 5 are marked this way because they should be handled by the private sector.
66. Make Saginaw safe so that we can use bike trails and walk around safely
67. Lets spend our money on the west side ,this is where the money comes from. I dont feel as a tax payer Im getting much.
68. We need to worry about the violence more then anything!!!!!!
69. Recreation cannot be a priority. We need jobs and less taxes. We need to get rid of the welfare mentality.
70. Abandoned buildings should be brought up to code and rehabilitated, not removed. Both environmentally friendly and keeps history
71. Clean this area up. Make it look presentable, and safe.
72. please consider other parts of the city that need remodeling as well.... such as down Jefferson towards the south side, and down Washington. And why was there a turning lane for residents built on Brockway??
73. Find other uses for the blighted or abandoned bldgs, restaurants, condos, schools, museums, etc
74. People are afraid to go to these areas because of crime
75. I would say more concerts & fairs, but they cater so much to family and generalized themes I'm never really interested.
76. include public swimming facilities
77. include the Saginaw Rowing Club. The boats look great on our river and with help they could bring more people to the area.
78. i would hope safty is a concern with this
79. there are other areas in dire need that are more important
80. Encourage small business development that allows for residents to spend/keep their money in saginaw.
81. Maintain the facilities that are owned by the city!
82. much attention has already been given to this area, I think it is not used by a majority of people
83. Increase Police and Fire protection
84. more police on foot or bikes
85. Tie the facilities in with the Art Museum, Temple, Dow, Children's Museum, etc. with transportation (the old Trolley).
86. Encourage the development of specialty shops to encourage visitation to these areas

87. Expand Childrens Zoo, replace excess park areas with; condominiums, harness racing and casino, and restruants. Eaton manufacturing area would be a good place for a Walmart.
88. Restore Parks and Recreation in order to attract families to the City
89. Create a boathouse similar to Bay City's. Create parkland on the west side of the river where GM used to be.
90. Develop signage that is unique for the area, and assists in locating the various attractions.
91. Saginaw has always been behind time. The downtown area will not become upscale with having the Bancorft and Eddy building downtown.with the type of enviroment it presents. The building should have been condimium.
92. develop Riverwalk and business venues along the river, like Bay City has done
93. In order to increase walkability, you need to increase public safety and to change the minds of people, what they think about this area.
94. dredge opening near Ezra Rust so the water flows more easily around the island.
95. Work outside the river front more
96. As long as everything is affordable for the youth.
97. Lumberman park
98. Use jail inmates to do lawn maintence and landscaping
99. They have the river walk down there. Very ncie. Also love the YMCA, the little water park type place they have put in there in place of the Anderson Water Park as well as the Skate Park. Give some kind of positive recreational things for the young people to do.

Question 7 - Other strategies to maintain/stabilize the Old Town area.

1. turn the courthouse lawn into public parking so we don't have to walk a mile to get in there, and why does the sheffiff need 3 deputies at the metal detector?
2. This is the cool and funky part of town, definitely attracts an interesting young crowd that brings a unique vitality to the city. This area is also a destination retail area, with prime examples being Brasseurs Trains and the Stable. Other small business entrepreneurs ought to take notice, and land use/development strategies adopted by the city ought to tap into this potential. The Saginaw News moving to this area was an ingenious decision. I have hope for this part of the city.
3. Create a tax free zone for all businesses for the next 5 years.
4. Focus most on allowing everyone access to the riverfront via a pathway and narrow park and then develop condos, lofts etc on the other side of the pathway. That way the river is accessible to all residents not just those living in future condos.
5. Develop a means for promoting "Old Town" events via electronic means, physical signage in central area, etc.
6. More specialty stores (men's clothing, antiques, books, etc)
7. This should be done on both sides of the river and not just in this area but also include the Downtown area
8. Bid out naming rights to parks, etc., use volunteer groups for grass cutting, etc.
9. I live in this area and I know the commitment and care the people of this area have for Saginaw. They are ready, willing and able to help with improvments and future growth.
10. clean up the riverfront
11. Renovate abandon buildings near captains cove.
12. Saginaw has had zero vision where the waterfront was concerned. They have probably missed their chance.
13. we need to focus on main streets and neighborhoods coming into old town..landlords need to clean up and enforce renters to have pride in the home they live in
14. Better police protection with police that actually do a daily job enforcing the law
15. who would want a condo in an area not safe.... my son himself was standing on a corner near old town and someone in a car drove up and pulled a gun on him. he covered his face and started to get down and then the car drove off. they must of thought he was someone else. probably gang related.
16. we need to focus on what we have and not build more subsudized housing if that is what they may become. we need to better our comunity from the inside out. healthing the people and then making it look pretty.
17. Again look at Bay City as a good role model
18. I feel it would be very important for the city to increase the improvment of the river front area for use by the county's residents.
19. Encourage more 'destination' businesses with unique offerings like train store, not more ye old gift shoppe crap.
20. No, lets let everything go to hell and look like crap. Come on people.
21. add parking for special events
22. Parking strutures and quality housing could replace some abandoned buildings. This would encourage more walkability and business in this area.
23. RESIDENTIAL MOST IMPORTANT!
24. encourage walking traffic with new restaurants, coffee shops, bookstores, etc...give people more reasons to go to Old Town
25. Clean up the front of the Red Eye Cafe/Tattoo parlor.
26. Put a casino on the river-imagine the growth of the area
27. This are is where the City and County should focus on. This is where the casino should be.

28. I believe that this neighborhood needs 'livability' to create a space that folks are clamoring to be a part of. This should be a blend of young, middle and elders with neighborhood services that one can walk to and do business with.
29. The river is one of the defining borders of this sector of Saginaw and yet the river plays no part of the plan.
30. again it needs a face lift! this areas roads arent to bad but some areas withing need to be cleaned up and mowed
31. develop riverfront with riverfront type developments
32. Riverfront development is crucial, but would not sacrifice existing historical structures to build condos.
33. Court and Michigan are in horrible shape, rough to drive on, and the streets ruin cars. There is alot of crime in this area, it's just not safe for women and children.
34. Again, make more use of Saginaw's riverfront; clean it up and enhance it.
35. We can improve blighted area with incentive improvement
36. Again utilize the Saginaw River for special events and further development
37. bring a casino to old town
38. SAFETY...CLEAR OUT THE DRUGS AND THUGS
39. remove the top part of the parking garage on hamilton and open that up to the river and business down by niagara
40. Jobs that pay enough for people to update and take care of their homes.
41. Don't like that survey focuses on very limited areas of the city. We want these things city wide, not just in areas that are described in this survey.
42. the bridges should lift to allow visiting boaters to any business,residential available.
43. CASINO
44. Not a bike friendly area, it is unsafe.
45. Create angle parking on street to improve capacity and access to businesses two blocks north and south of Court along Michigan
46. The condominiums/lofts in Bay City are pretty, but hasn't helped Bay City, they have revenue problems also. It would be great for businesses to be built on the west side of the river and have the back of the store/restaurant be a view of Ojibway
47. Would rather have river as business development. There is plenty of housing availabe without using river area.
48. it will be hard to fill condos.....if safety is not addressed& there are no other places to go out to
49. Safety should be the most important.
50. See comments Re: Celebration Square. They apply equally here and could be tied directly to a plan for this area. Also, get a master plan for treemaintenance, not just here, not just in the celebration square area, and not just in other parks or the five areas the survey concentrates on, but throughout the city. The untrimmed trees throughout this city give the entire City a hangdog, unkempt, derelict appearance. They are inherently unattractive individually, they often obstruct the very views of attractive buildings, sites, and views of the city such as the river that you hope to highlight, they even often obstruct stop signs, stoplights, and other traffic signals, creating potential liability, and finally, particularly in areas where trash trees have been allowed over the decades to grow up along lot or fence lines and left untrimmed with weeds and brush growing up in tangles under them, they look as bad if not worse than the "eyesore" buildings being torn down between the lot lines. Will it cost? yes. But tearing down buildings won't do much if you don't clean up the surrounding blight from trees, brush, and weeds.
51. Bike Lanes on the roads. 2. If we encourage townhomes and condos, the resulting gentrification will *ruin* Old Town!
52. This area needs a strong leader to organize merchants and develop areas by promoting area hightlights to bring new businesses to the area with a concise and well thought out targeted plan

53. condos and lofts are a must on both sides of the river!!
54. I think there is a difference between abandoned buildings and condemned/blighted buildings. Saginaw should not demolish its historic buildings just because their not being used. Those buildings give oldtown/downtown its look and speak of its history. Putting both blighted/condemned buildings in the same questions/categories as abandoned/unused buildings will skew the results of this survey.
55. I would prefer to see a fully developed pedestrian river-walk area, not townhomes or condo's.
56. Riverfront development would be nice but who would be able to afford it?
57. instead of increasing patrols for drunk driving, maybe work with stars to have a bus system that runs at night, like in most major cities do to provide a safe, economical and mass transportaion to and from our business district, it would also make sence to team with SVSU to have these bus runs to bring in the college crowd into old town to increase the amount of people in oldtown during the bar hours. I also think that a increase in foot patrols or cops on a beat would be a welcomed presence in this and other areas, i think that this would greatly increase the sence of saftey thaqt concern some and would cut down on drunk and disorderally type incidents
58. build the casino the value of homes will go up
59. Again, recreation is not a priority in a city that has focused so heavily on supporting welfare.
60. We need less bars!
61. Again, abandoned and historic buildings should be rehabilitated and not torn down. Keeps history of city and environmentally sound.
62. Add more businesses make it look more like a downtown. Add more night life, like a late night movie theater.
63. provide affordable space for local artists, musicians, writers, to start businesses. They are the ones that often begin popular events here.
64. Restore historical bldgs and keep the historical aspects primary, put plaques or markers on sites
65. Affordable apartments and rentals for post college kids.
66. these areas are not that bad now,there are other areas of more importance, and in dire need.
67. Better Public Transportation
68. Regarding riverfront development: the city income tax is a huge reason why I, along with a lot of people, live outside the city.
69. Safety is the number one concern. People that earn their money will not move to an area unless crime is reduced.
70. Repair the sidewalks and station police officers in the area!
71. high fines for not keeping property up to code and visually pleasent
72. See prior remarks on transportation.
73. develop public areas along the river like Bay City, we don't need condos and lofts
74. Model this area and the opposite side of the river after Bay City. Restraunts, bars, boat slips, condo's, etc.
75. Flowers, Banners and more family type activites - not just Bar Crawls, and drinking events. Bring back the Raft Races, Running events, and move the CMH Consumers into City Highrises where they can get their needs met and medical care.
76. Enforce historic district provisions.
77. It seems that certain areas are being overlooked. Yes, the green area is being consider on the Northeast side, but also it we should look at developing a new enviroment like what was done in Chichago. Bring back young professional in the community. Building a new development, which will attract a new taxes payers.
78. More speciality retail stores in the area would offer something for the casual shopper
79. Definitely keep public safety up to encourage growth and development in this area, it could be very cool
80. Creating a "hip" neighborhood in this area is a good thought, but again, people's minds must be changed about this area of town.

81. Focus on saving the buildings we have and creating new structures that mimic the old styles. More riverfront walkability, plazas, all along the river.
82. crack down on the vagrants, they detour people from enjoying the area.
83. Adaptive reuse of older and historic buildings
84. Find ways to counter heavy alcohol consumption and related problems along Hamilton bar areas
85. It is a beautiful area that needs help
86. It is old town preserve and develop it
87. Dont tear down buildings. Dont keep making parking lots.
88. The people who own businesses and property in this area need all the support they can get. Re-pave Hamilton St. I use this are for my banking, eattng, shopping at least 3 times weekly.
89. Enforce all the laws.
90. Its a great place. I love that they took the place where the Iples Building was and made it into a little strip mall. The Court Street cafe is just what we needed and it is a great place. I dont think the concern for taking down old buildings is great. I would love to see some of them restored back to what they used to be. Saginaw has a lot to offer.

Question 8 - Other strategies to maintain/stabilize the Downtown area.

1. the improved I-675 access was a waste of money, so was the streetscaping on Genesee
2. I think on vacant store fronts there should be ads or displays to make it feel more inviting, saw this in San Antonio
3. This area is the city's entertainment district. It could be a regional draw for the tri county area if public safety measures were more intense and the exit areas were improved so that visitors felt more welcome and safe to Saginaw. The waterfront needs to be opened up in this area - it's too bad there is so much surface parking along the river, it could certainly be put to better use. City leaders shouldn't feel bad about the current situation of this area, global trends have forced companies to downsize or close all together, for example look what happened to Jacobsons. Also, the architecture in this area is really lacking, with so many blank walls (parking decks) and imposing faceless structures (local TV studio) that detract from a traditional urban fabric.
4. Obtain Federal Grant Monies to restore all historic buildings, especially the Bancroft Hotel. Convert the downtown to Tourist Attraction Region with amusement parks, Michigan Made Product gift shops, Outlet Stores, fishing dock, boat rides and a Riverboat Casino!
5. I see I-675 as one of the things that has caused the decline of Saginaw, it allows people to live further distances from the city and not live there. Unfortunately there is no easy solution. Perhaps the main objective be trying to reinvent downtown and old town areas by encouraging small business development.
6. business development efforts
7. Review current economic incentives to locate in downtown area as well as new incentives for bringing businesses to area.
8. Find Anchor Business such as department store or other retail
9. More law enforcement presence, city-wide.
10. offer affordable options to those who cannot afford to have grass mowed or snow removed
11. Bring new businesses to downtown (i.e. a variety of independent restaurants, shopping ect...) Give people a reason to want to be Downtown
12. The 675 access idea from Washington is a waste of taxpayer money. not needed, not wanted
13. I-675 access is adequate. Maybe better signage would help, be less much expensive
14. more restaurants and shops would be really nice--offer some kind of incentive to get people down here
15. Renovate facades of buildings near intersection of Washington and Genesee.
16. This area is dead give it up.
17. Downtown is a rat hole and no more money should be squandered there. Let private industry and investment rebuild it, not the taxpayers.
18. make the building owner clean up their properties or tear them down so we can start with new office, medical, trade schools that will bring restaurants and shopping
19. Better police protection with officers that enforce the law and stay in this area instead of trying to all get out of town like done daily
20. safety is first. I cannot believe how many people will not drive through downtown Saginaw after dark
21. this part of town is forgotten in a lot of ways. if we could bring more safety to the area then maybe this part of town can be what our parents and grandparents remember will be something that we can share with our future. a place of shopping and family owned business district.
22. IMMEDIATELY finish the E. Genessee construction project and 675 north & ramps
23. also the entrance to the parking ramp by the Dow Event Center causes major traffic issues. It there could be an alternate route to gain access to the ramp.
24. don't have construction on 1 street & also on the detours.. finish 675 construction

25. WHEN ENTERING SAG FROM THE EXITS, MAKE IT MOR INVITING
26. there have been some improvements in street repair ..keep it going please
27. this is the area I have worked in for almost 20 years , the river walk has been a great improvement and I can see where more picnic areas would help, also the Farmers Market is great and I think they have a great opportunity to improve this area even more. Our City parking along here is great although a little clean up would be nice. I think the Saginaw News areas could use a lot of help with looks if it is even still used.
28. Get a REAL restaurant downtown. French Qrtrs isn't really 'open' tho it seems to be. We need a business lunch spot (not Wally's) with tablecloths and quiet downtown.
29. if you improve saftey and quality of the area most things in the list will take care of itself ie property owners and public
30. I have an idea. Lets let the city just fall apart. No one wants it to be better !!!!! Turn it into a dump. Why are you even asking all these questions?
31. Public saftey is key in this area.
32. the access from I675 is prefectly fine there is no need to spend money on that when there are so many other things that need to be done in Saginaw. for instance making it a safer place to live and visit and get us off the negative lists as far as crime goes.
33. People do not always feel safe downtown. Improve safety!
34. DO NOT REMOVE the last intact corner of historic buildings in downtown (Genesee at Washington)
35. should start with a core area and try and get the buildings filled with tenants, both retail & office timed to open at the same time. a business opening here and there will not make the city attractive for people to come back to. Focus on a one block area at a time.
36. Rebuild this area as an entertainment hub, with the Temple and Dow right there, maybe add a movie theatre? There are not enough restaurants in the area - this would encourage people to eat in the city before a Dow event or a Temple event. Increase the bus traffic from SVSU to this area and Old Town. Saginaw is a college town that does not fully embrace the college in the city! The most business the city sees is on Hamilton street, there are many more opportunities to be had by shifting a business goal toward the students.
37. GET RID OF BANCROFT/EDDY Low Income Housing! It REALLY hurts the area. Also, ONLY if a building is beyond salvaging should it be razed.
38. Too close to low income area that is high in crime.
39. ACCESS TO I -675 IS CURRENTLY OKAY- IT'S THE PERCEPTION OF DOWNTOWN
40. I feel you need to focus on Beautification and Restoration of this area....
41. Highway access to Downtown continues to hamper development. NB exit #2 is a scary, unfamiliar, unwelcoming, and confusing way to get visitors to down town. SB Davenport/Michigan exit also very poor. The entrance to the city starts on I-675 for many visitors and we do a very poor job of making them feel welcome. Tall weeds everywhere, poor signage, pothole filled roads, general feeling of not being safe.
42. ? # 2/8 ARE DONE OR IN PROGRESS
43. Add more restaurants
44. improve visibility of signs with directions to downtown and increase the number of the signs through out city
45. i love downtown...just not much to do but walk around
46. develop riverfront with riverfront type developments like bay city
47. I WILL NOT go to any events at the event center, it just isn't safe. There's always trash on the ground. There's too many "gang-bangers" for me to feel safe.
48. Build upon Saginaw access and assets; it could be a perfect area for a conventional businesses besides just the Dow.

49. There isn't much left in this area. A lot of tax money has been poured into upgrading Washington and Genesee. Maybe it's time to look at other areas of the city with some remaining viability to support with federal (our tax dollars) money. A big thank you! to Dr. Shaheen for saving the Temple Theatre.
50. Incentive for medical community to start up in area, improve atmosphere for businesses to move in area
51. need to to have concerts every weekend in summer
52. I believe changing the access from I-675 is a total waste of taxpayer money. It works okay now.
53. We are well on our way with the improvement of the streets in the main downtown area. Wouldn't it be nice to see it brought back to what it once used to be. What a beautiful dream.
54. CLEAN OUT THE DRUGS AND GANGS....NOBODY GOES DOWNTOWN BUT THUGS
55. Tear down all abandoned buildings and those that are not worth updating.
56. appearances is literally everything where business and entertainment are
57. I've lived in Saginaw and remember when we walked downtown to go shopping, since the mall came into play, everyone left. The Bancroft was so nice, now looks trashy with the neon sign for the store in the bottom.
58. Keep all of the buildings that currently exist downtown. None should be razed. All should be mothballed/preserved/ sold to business people willing to restore them. Infill buildings with historic facades to return downtown to a historic look.
59. put in a casino....why should our monies go to MP & Standish.....lets improve down town. Use the old Jacobsen's building/.....ideal....has parking structure.....lets develop the area around there with restaurants and bring in the jobs!!!
60. Again Safety is the most important.
61. It's almost too late for the downtown, absent a "saviour" individual or company with bottomless pockets who chooses the downtown as his/its new business center and funds a complete rebuilding of the area. This is because the City has for far too long had the attitude that "if you tear it down, they'll come back". Well, no, they won't. Rather than making any real effort to preserve all, or at least most, of the historic structures that formed the backbone of the downtown, the city has instead relentlessly pursued a policy of wasting millions tearing down buildings rather than stepping in early enough to identify buildings at risk and investing time, energy and money in seeing that their owners, or new owners, or even the city or an entity created by the city to do so, strategically reroofed and mothballed buildings so entrepreneurs would have buildings to return to. Since that isn't much of a reality anymore, the city should focus on preserving the buildings that are left, come hell or high water, and using them as the anchor, together with the recent streetscaping, to draw new entrepreneurs. Two things have to happen to be successful. One, the subsidised housing has to stop being the huge negative that it is, either get rid of it or somehow make it insignificant, and develop the existing, and other, cultural draws downtown, with new events, activities, support for the symphony, the Temple, Event Center, Morley Plaza, etc, to continue to change the public's negative image of the area.
62. 1. Bike Lanes on streets. 2. Bike Racks. 3. Please Don't put cameras on every corner, like something from 1984.
63. Again a specific and targeted plan to promote the area and bring new and upwardly mobile business to the area including but not limited to retail with strong national presence. Also target restaurants & university programs
64. Once again, I think considering blighted buildings and abandoned buildings as the same thing is a mistake and will skew the results of this survey. Abandoned buildings with historic significance or architecture should be preserved even if they are going unused. Blighted/condemned buildings with not practical hope for repair or meeting safety standards should be an entirely different category.
65. keep and expand farmers market

66. Increase reasons for people to visit this area.
67. I believe that the idea of a casino in Saginaw is a absolutely wonderful idea....if we do it correctly. Take out some of the unused buildings such as the saginaw center to provide an open central area between the Temple, and event center, utilize some of the historic abandoned buildings such as the Bearinger building to house casinos. Many think that this will increase crime in the area and cause the poor to be in a worse situation. I think that people with gambling problems will continue to have them with or without a casino in Saginaw. What it will do is bring revenue and jobs to Saginaw, and with that will be a larger tax base that will allow for the hiring of more police and a larger police force is proven to lower crime, in my eyes it is a win/win for Saginaw
68. Public Safety should be increased during the times of special events including concerts and theater events
69. Its not safe at all in that area
70. Must greatly decrease the non-workers and the non-tax payers in this area. All we see is welfare. Welfare is the image of Saginaw-
71. Do not tear down historic buildings. Rehabilitate them...both environmentally sound and keeps history of city.
72. Make it look a bit more modern.
73. Just want to emphasize the historic buildings definitely need repair, and abandoned offices need to be accessible to young entrepreneurs.
74. A major change has to take place downtown. It needs to become a showplace, fountains, parks,sculptures
75. More events that attract younger people would increase business at the dow and temple theatre
76. The millions of dollars spent on the ramp was not beneficial to locals in the city and is a waste considering the poverty in the area.
77. It is vital to downtown Saginaw's growth and stability that middle-income residential housing take the place of government subsidized housing to bring persons with discretionary income to the downtown area, decrease crime and make downtown more vibrant.
78. lower cost at dow event center
79. OPEN I 675
80. teach people that small businesses here and in Court area should be DESTINATION, unique shops, not ye old gift shoppe or nail salons. More like electric train store, unique ethnic food, etc.
81. more eateries
82. this is one of the more important areas that really needed to be focused on
83. If by improve I-675 access to downtown, you mean re-open it, then yes.
84. Just don't go demolition crazy.
85. Traffic flow is a huge problem. At several intersections, there need to be protect left turns incorporated into the traffic light sequence. Johnson Street west of the Saginaw River (a main access to the highlighted area) is a complete mess. The traffic lights near the dow center are timed incorrectly...you sit too long waiting for your light to go green when there is no traffic on the cross streets while traffic builds. Having Section 8 project housing right in the heart of your downtown kills the downtown. As a result, it's one of the saddest downtowns I have ever seen. Those downtown buildings could be desirable downtown river view condos.
86. Encourage small business development in the area. Give people a reason to spend their money in the area after the main event is over. Also increase the safety of the area. After attending events at the Dow, people rush to leave the area because there is a lack of places to attend and they feel that the area is not safe after dark.
87. Keep Downtown Pride In Morley Park!!!! DO NOT TURN IT INTO A PARKING LOT!!!!!!!
88. improve or build better facility for the Farmer's Market
89. more landscaping, get master gardeners to help

90. Somewhere in the downtown area would be a good place for a Casino and a minor league baseball park.
91. Businesses will not thrive downtown unless you help move the CMH and DHS clients to facilities where they can be helped , both medically , mentally and financially, instead of loitering and standing around aimlessly. Yes, they are apart of our population but they are being taken advantaged of by others and the criminals who engage them in uncivil and criminal activities. they need to be protected from the outside predators!
92. Do not allow anymore buildings to be removed. Instead, focus on stabilizing those that remain. Put roofs on them. Any infill buildings must match look and sit at sidewalk, no setback like Rally's. Holland Michigan took their blighted, empty downtown and restored it completely in 15 years. Their mall now has only 3 stores left because everyone wants to be downtown now.
93. Address the challenges associated with the Bancroft and Eddy buildings. They present a significant obstacle to revitalizing the Downtown area. Because there is such a negative perception about the area, perhaps a different title, such as the Entertainment District, will assist in changing perception. The area now known as Celebration Square didn't originally have that title.
94. Road conditions and I-675 access aren't as problematic here as often cited. Streetscaping would help more than actual resurfacing and rerouting.
95. Pleawe remove the people that live in the Eddy Building and Bancroft. it appears that the downtown is a ghost town. We need to follow best practise and look at what others are doing in other cities. Develope condomiiums and a college look. Bring in new franchises.
96. What happened to the direct access ramp to the Dow event center??
97. Return the Eddy Building and Bancroft Hotel to their former glory. A grand hotel needs to be the Bancroft, just as the Amway Grand is in Grand Rapids. Section 8 housing is killing downtown.
98. Develop Main Street type marketing and development strategy (same with Old Town)
99. Downtown is dead
100. No coment right now
101. Need for small businesses to come in- both space and tax incentives
102. Restore Peir Marq. Station Do something there
103. Remove no more buildings downtown. Too much open space now.
104. Forget the 12.5 million to exit to downtown. Some ncie sinage would be a better buy. Do we really think moving the exit 2 blocks will bring in more people to this area? All hail to Joyce Seals.(her debt project)
105. Quit letting Bay City, Midland and Frankenmuth steal off all of our ideas.
106. The access I-675 is fine right now. Nothing that needs to be improved right at the moment. I do love the Temple Theater and the Dow Event Center, They have a lot of great attractions. Also during the summer they have the Friday Night Live, which is a great place for people to get together and do something.

Question 9 - Other strategies to maintain/stabilize the Court Street area.

1. Bike lanes on the street is too dangerous on this street. Saginaw is not a pedestrian or bicycle friendly environment
2. please keep the blvd grass cut
3. The entire length of Court Street should be redesigned to further enhance the boulevard and to incorporate bike lanes. This whole stretch is still fairly unique considering how it still serves the locals in the wonderful adjacent neighborhoods. Neighborhood retail is becoming a thing of the past, when considering how trends of the past 20 years saw massive suburbanization and growth in big box retail, all of which sucks the life out of these small businesses. The city needs to adopt policies to ensure the long-term stability of this area in the city.
4. build houses for homeless
5. Add police bike patrol.
6. Court Street is a busy street and I do see cyclists on there regularly. As a cyclist myself, I worry for them because cars drive faster then they should and do not give adequate space.
7. stimulate continued business development into those vacant buildings, if structurally sound.
8. preserve the historic homes along Court Street
9. More law enforcement presence, city-wide.
10. Best to keep bikes off Court Street and use parallel side streets.
11. this area needs more police patrols
12. The intersection of court and bay could be a great node or landmark. Currently it is an asphalt island with 3ft weeds. Don't lose MLS.
13. Saginaw should be ashamed of the poor condition of Court street.
14. Court street doesn't need Bike lanes. This is Michigan, Bike can be used at best 4-5 months of the year, why complicate traffic. Stupid idea. Make Court street passable for Cars first, bikes can use the more than ample side streets they should not compet with cars on major surface streets.
15. give building owners a discount on paint and rentals for ladders to paint or improve buildings or homes
16. Better police protection with officers that do a daily job
17. This is one area of Saginaw that draws people. You have to keep it up if you want to continue drawing people to Saginaw
18. Harden St. needs better marked speed limit and pedestrian crossing signs, possibly be made wider too. I can't tell you how many times I was almost ran over by cars speeding down there when I was in high school
19. i live in this area and the blight is terrible; junk cars, grass too many rentals or abandoned homes ..this are has gone downhill in the last 5yrs my property is unsellable..this area seems to have the least focus and we don't have an association to help bring attention. The police response to our crime has greatly improved, but we need more because there is alot drugs being sold on the street and people going into empty homes and doing drugs. Please try to help this area
20. Keep community police officers!!! Makes a huge difference in our neighborhood area of Butman-Fish even tho he's not assigned 100% to us.
21. repair Hardin Street
22. keeping the grass mowed on court and the trees trimmed would make it look a lot better, the grass was often not mowed until it looked bad and can't the weeds be cut or sprayed around the curbs on the island parts of Court. If is too much to maintain then take them all out like was done at Congress and Court for a left turn lane. Also Congress from Bay to Mackinaw could be repaved, it is bad.
23. Or just fix ALL curbs so bikes can use sidewalks

24. I live in this area and I would like to see it more safe. I am afraid to come home at night sometimes because there is no patrol or anything. beef up the law enforcement in the city and change will come
25. Maintain the historic character of the existing historic district and possible extend it
26. Should be included with Old Town Development
27. Everyone is talking about bike lanes and yet the usage in areas where they exist i.e. Frankenmuth has not be documented and confirmed. First you need the people living there and enjoying their community; then the bike lanes come as an investment and response to public need. Bike lanes will not draw people in alone.
28. This area is not going in the right direction. I would not want to walk down court street after dark. Not much positive to point to here.
29. cycle lanes are best left to rail trails for several reasons.
30. more streetlights, Goetz St is especially dark at night
31. extend the boulevard between state ending before bay street intersection all the way to court house area
32. Possibly find funds to help with the upkeep of the Court Street Theatre
33. Court St. used to be so beautiful. Now the road is damaged, and there's way too many "ghetto" businesses and "Gang-bangers" all over the place. You can't go to 7-11 or Speedway, because they get robbed all the time.
34. I would love to see small businesses providing necessity-type services (dry cleaner, bakery, etc.) move into this area. I am tired of having to drive to Saginaw Township to get the essentials of daily living.
35. Educate citizen to take pride in local area, Use, buy and support local business
36. bike lanes might be better through local neighborhood rather than Court Street
37. SAFETY IS THE MAIN CONCERN IN THIS CITY
38. Make school campus areas-for all schools, walking routes for students,the school campus areas clean and safe.
39. safety and streets improvement needed throughout,stop the rentals!!!!!!!!!!!!!!.
40. This is an area that needs to be preserved before it is too late.
41. How about bike lanes in the 48601 area.
42. Give historic home owners a property tax break, the theater is great but the only one in town, maybe some of the empty spaces could be used for more theaters within Saginaw city instead of going to the township
43. Safety is the most important
44. See comments Re: Celebration Square and downtown areas above.. All apply here as well.
45. Bike Lanes! Maybe even the kind with a divider between bikes and cars! And more racks! Yay!
46. I do not see this area being as crucial to the redevelopment and growth of Saginaw as Old Town and Downtown.l
47. aintain and cut grass on blvd sections of court street, often looks unkept and overgrown
48. There are sidewalks, why would you need bike lanes?
49. I think bike lanes are a very important aspect that needs to be looked at for the whole city, as well as some watch for pedestrian signs! As a person who rides their bike around the city, I see this first hand, people on bike are cut off and not noticed by those in cars, I have been swerved at, told to get out of the road, among other things. This city needs to be made into a nice place to live again and that can only be done through proactivity
50. The increase number of HUD houses in this area have brought home values down. The tax paying workers are moving out. If you want the area to be better you have to strong families and workers.
51. Bike lanes are needed on adams blvd.
52. restore and reuse bldgs.Make the drive enjoyable. Many houses have become businesses, zoning cng neede
53. this area is already one of the areas that has been focused on far too long, its time to move on to much more areas in need
54. The safety in this area is really declining. I don't really know why.

55. This area has a lot of potential to be beautiful. Start with a street rebuild. Incent owners to paint/improve their properties. If values go up, your tax base goes up...then you can tax less.
56. The area has an overall feeling of being unsafe. People are not going to visit the stores or participate in activities as long as this feeling persists.
57. Merge with the Old Town District
58. give tickets to persons on bikes breaking the laws
59. strongly ticket violaters on bikes
60. See prior comments on transportation.
61. Downtown housing problems are section 8 housing environment and lack of yard space. Improve these conditions and people will want city properties again.
62. Need more foot and bicycles patrols in this area. It's changing - too many renters that don't invest in their own homes and community.
63. Encourage home ownership, not rentals.
64. Focus on low-cost, high-impact strategies like code enforcement.
65. Please look at what other cities have done. For example, Grand Rapid and Kalamazoo.
66. Bike lanes!!!! No street in the city should be improved without bike lanes. M13 and Genesse new streets do not have bike lanes. Tsk Tsk
67. I'm not too concerned about improving Alexander St. Some potholes help keep the speeds under control.
68. The entire city needs to have curbs removed or repaired to be bike friendly
69. Suggestion: Rather than bike lanes, make the sidewalks more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. To encourage business growth in this area would be beneficial, more than just the Court St Theatre area and a few scattered businesses. More strips such as the Theatre would be better, then consider adding bicycle areas.
70. Make sure all homes are restored as this is a historic district.
71. keep all buildings as possible.
72. There are a number of tipping point houses in this area that are still viable tax producing homes. An Infusion of money and solutions to some of the problems with housing would be a good idea.
73. There is always improvement that needs to be done anywhere. But for the most part it is a great place to take a walk or go into Fuzzy's during the summer. I have some friends that live on Court Street right in this area and they seem to like it a lot.

Question 10 - Other strategies to maintain/stabilize the St. Mary's Area

1. if possible to move homes closer minimize the openness, then have green belts
2. Add brighter Street lighting and allow gated communities.
3. It would be nice to see improvements in this area in terms of pedestrian and bicycle friendliness as well.
4. Trim the trees and shrubs
5. More law enforcement presence, city-wide.
6. Not a safe area, I wouldn't go there unless I was in an ambulance.
7. enforce building codes on landlords
8. Once again better policing Saginaw police come up Janes to Washington and hurry out of town as fast as they can have them stay in town and do their job proper
9. this is a medical area...to encourage this you have to keep it up.
10. Improve the the Farmer's Market (parking area-paved) more welcoming area
11. STRONGLY encourage preservation of historic homes!
12. continue tax breaks for homeowners in this area
13. IMPROVE ON THE SIDEWALKS
14. The historic homes in this area make Saginaw Saginaw!
15. alot of focus seems to have been put on this area already
16. Like the \$50 annual rubbish fee, make all taxes the same for residential homestead owners. This might even bring in new homestead builders if they know they are not going to shoulder a proportionately higher tax burden.
17. I think that this district is very historical and could be beautiful if all the residents took pride in the area. It needs to be a safer place to be around in.
18. target gang and drug activity
19. Put in historic street lights and give tax breaks for restoring these old mansions where our city forefathers lived.
20. They money for preservation should not be based on yearly income. The money should be applied for and determined by the work needed to be done. ESPECIALLY if this is a NON-RENTAL property!
21. Focus here would be to put pressure on property owners (land lords) to increase their standards and improve their own property.
22. Encourage small business growth in this area.
23. Great improvement in this area over the last decade. The jobs created at the hospital are the reason for the success. The other named "areas" will continue to struggle unless the City treats business's that provide jobs like they are important. You need businesses to want to be located in Saginaw. Focus more on getting the jobs and less on preserving the buildings from the past.
24. give people that are buying in the city a chance with grants to repair houses
25. try to overcome the reputation of not being safe in this area
26. I would hope that "encourage" does not come at taxpayers expense.
27. Preservation of historic homes is important. Highlighting changes and area, like Jazz on Jefferson, would help foster the positive of the area.
28. This area is actually becoming better than it has been in the past. Encouraging homeowners to stay and keep their homes looking nice is a great way to keep people in the area. Homes for rent in this area should be highly taxed, they bring in the "wrong" type of people. (ie, "gang-bangers", drug dealers, etc.)
29. Help and encourage residents to preserve the historical home, clean up the area and make safer to live and work in the area.

30. St. Mary's hospital does a good deal of work to support its surrounding community. What can be done to help their efforts? There are a few fine old homes remaining in this area. What can be done to support the people who have undertaken renovations of those homes and to attract additional people willing to revitalize others structures?
31. Minimize road / street closing
32. I work at St. Mary's of Michigan & would love to feel safer coming & going! Would love to see more beauty.
33. PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE CRIME IN SAGINAW
34. If have large employment companies, make area where they are top priority, safe and sound.
35. This is not a bike friendly area. I work at TRW and travel along hoyt to genesee and have many times felt my life was in danger.
36. give people a property tax break for owning historic homes.
37. Safety is the most important.
38. Save every salvageable home in this district! Don't do or let happen what the City did/let happen in the "First Ward" area over the last 30 years! Turn abandoned salvageable houses over to Habitat for Humanity under specific rehabilitation contracts that prohibit demolition, or the City should do it itself and put some people back to work in the process.
39. Demolish abandoned homes. Promote urban gardening. Build a couple of childrens parks (swings, monkey bars, etc) to give kids somewhere to go and play/excercise.
40. this is a tough neighborhood but very similar to other urban areas with a med hub in the center
41. Put signs up warning people to stay away....especially at night.
42. The quality of the citizenry makes the quality of the City--not just putting up pretty decorations and planning for entertainment.
43. Clean this place up its so beautiful!!!
44. Especially crime! This neighborhood is beautiful, but so much crime!!
45. keep fire stations in neighborhoods, talk to the people who live in that area, what do they want?
46. Immediately encourage residential redevelopment of S. Jefferson Avenue from Janes Street to the St. Mary's Campus. This area is historic, salvageable and already has a few "anchor" tenants already in place.
47. clean up the rift raft. there are a lot of humans that are worse then animals.
48. its ok to preserve, but is it cost effective,and /or smart just for the sake of history,that what time capsules and the museums are for,put more in the museum,to appreciate on display and to go view,for site seers and visitors and history buffs, you cant save everything.
49. There are nodes of hope here. Eliminate the income tax burden. Continue to work with the hospital to encourage workers to buy locally.
50. Beutification of the city should be a goal but it will mean nothing if the perception of crime persists.
51. Stop focusing solely on this area while you neglect the other neighborhoods in the city!
52. community gardens, let people use the vacant lots
53. Clear whole blocks, remove all buildings, and replace them with homes with larger yards. Make sure they are not section 8 approved!!!! There is a reason all the people moved to Saginaw Township and beyond. Lack of yard space and safety!!!!
54. With all the Baby Boomers getting older, St. Mary's needs to have some small Shuttle Buses for their patinets and their families. I would encourage St. Mary's to work more closely and together with the Cathedral Neighborhood Association and Ruben Daniels Middle School. I know that the Green and Emerson House is there in the community to use, but how much do they really include and ask for input from the residents of the area? If it were more of an "inclusive" forum on issues affecting everyone, you might find some or see some real leadership and allies develop for the betterment of the whole neighborhood.

55. Encourage any infill structures to be historically sympathetic to existing homes. Plant more trees, we're loosing so many.
56. This is a gem, but who is going to buy and live there without improving the safety of the neighborhood
57. All of our streets definitely need improvement. The ones that are fixed are great!!
58. There are a lot of run-down historic homes in this area, a cost/benefit analysis needs to be done to determine their preservation. Just because something is old, does not mean it is worth preserving.
59. I think there is an error with boundaries. The Cathedral District encompasses all the houses from Janes to Holland, not just at Hoyt.
60. See that the vacant school is restored and reused.
61. Improve parks allowing areas for recreation & walking
62. There are other ares of the city
63. Work to increase energy efficiency of large homes so people can afford to live in them. Make key homes on corners durable, use brick if feasible
64. Encourage home building restoration
65. make/connect railtrail using abanded railroads for a bike path
66. Plenty of time and money has been focused on this area. Time to focus on other areas that are viable.
67. Enough money has been spent here. Use it on Mackinaw from Michigan to state street
68. I think there has been to much done to this area already.
69. Find other places for smokers than the curbs and street corners
70. There so many BEAUTIFUL homes in this area. I currently attend Church at St. Mary's Catherdral and always feel safe. Also I use to live in the New Amador apartments and when i was there i never delt with any problems. Some of the homes in the area could use some love or someone with money to come in and renovate them to become the homes they once were. A few are being worked on but there are many more.

Question 11 - Other strategies to maintain/stabilize the Covenant area

1. Enforce all residential and rental building codes. Evict tenants in non-licensed rental units.
2. continue efforts to provide affordable owner-occupied housing. No more renters! Community events at Bliss Park?
3. Trim trees and shrubs
4. More law enforcement presence, city-wide.
5. North Michigan need resurfacing from Gratiot to Genesee
6. This area has become a slum
7. This area like most of Saginaw has gone to hell in a handbasket.
8. enforce kids off the streets by 10:00p.m. that area looks like a war zone
9. Figure a way improve traffic flow on Michigan near Cevenant.
10. Personal know this area in the last 10 years has become a terrible area to live or even travel through!!
11. POLICE PRESENCE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
12. Better enforcement of yard businesses, junk cars in yard and parked on lawns, upkeep of personal homes and yards and enforce landlords to take care of properties.
13. this area is in need of special attention for safety.
14. find a good use for the former North School Building-don't tear it down. Use it for a community center or something like that
15. MAKE NICE SIDEWALKS
16. Many roads very pitted and worn. Keep CPO's. Scott Bickel is GREAT!
17. Cooper St. needs improvement, for it is a main thoroughfair for ambulances
18. create a bike path
19. this area seems to be getting alittle better and they have a good neighborhood watch group
20. Covenant needs to keep their promise of upgrading Bliss Park. We kept our part of the bargain with the boulevard on Houghton.
21. increase public safety. The security guards there are not effective and have told people that they are just there to be a witness and will not assist if needed. People have been approached and assaulted on that property. I live close enough that I could walk there to work but it just isn't safe.
22. preserve buildings, why is it not here? is it not just as important as other old buildings? or is there preverence to who ever did this survey.
23. new senior citizen housing but NOT Section 8 housing!!
24. Identify and protect (through reuse/rehabilitation) of architecturally and historically significant properties
25. Again apply preasure on property owners to improve property and up standards.
26. Covenant does not 'play well' with other businesses. I understand that they are attempting to create a closed health care system. This arrogant attitude does not create a sense of community that stabilizes relationships.
27. Some progress but seems like less than around St. Mary's. There are some terrible looking areas inside these borders where lawns go unattended, windows are boarded up, and general blight. Safety concerns are high here.
28. continue a boulevard down through court street
29. public safety job #1
30. Have concerns over safety. Do not feel safe visiting friends in hospital after dark.
31. This area used to be just "okay". Now it just isn't safe. At all. I work in this area, and I'm considering getting my CCW permit and purchasing a handgun, I'm too afraid of getting robbed or raped. I'll admit to treating stop signs as if they are yield signs, because I'm too afraid to stop at intersections in these neighborhoods. There's

too many rental properties and not enough homeowners. This area is turning into some of the worst of Saginaw.

32. This area is deteriorating rapidly. Covenant Healthcare's Walk to Work program hasn't found many takers, probably due to safety concerns.
33. Improve transportation movement
34. increase night time lighting
35. LOWER THE CRIME RATE
36. Take down all of those old buildings that cannot be updated. Land is worth more than the houses. Need grocery store in city.
37. community center for youths
38. This area needs a lot of work. The majority should be cleared for gateway/greenspace, especially the 675 corridor.
39. This area is so large and a quite a bit of drug activity and was such a nice family area, still is, but has attracted the wrong type of families, it would be great to have two community police officers. Give people an incentive to have the home owner occupied instead of all the rental properties in this area that brings in undesirables.
40. Safety is the most important.
41. My comments above Re: the Cathedral district apply here.
42. Cops on bikes would be nice. Big-Brother cameras everywhere would be bad.
43. Public sculpture/art in Bliss park. Public sculpture (especially by notable artists) brings in tourists and tourist dollars. Encourage urban gardening.
44. get rid of the eyesore North Middle School, this area greets ALOT of visitors to saginaw
45. This is an area that needs to be of great concern in this city. This area has become a haven for crime and needs to be addressed before it is lost. My father lives in this area and over the last 10 or so years it has went downhill, more rentals than owned homes. My fathers house broken into twice and the garage once, newly planted trees broken and fence pickets kicked and broken. The incident that bothers me the most in one of an elderly lady two houses down who was drove from her home by young thugs, she was sitting on her porch enjoying the summer day while I picked berries in the back yard, when she was attacked by two young women who broke her fingers in an attempt to steal her rings and force her into the house where they demanded perscription drugs and money, this make me sad, but even more so makes me very mad, that this women was forced from her home in her twilight years, two weeks after this incident I went to the estate sale at her house and told her family I was very sorry at what had happened. Her family had decided that the neiborhood had become to dangerous for their mother to live alone there any longer so she would have to move to an apartment in a safer area... this is just unacceptable and this is why this area need to have some special attention and be taken back, maybe we could use a citizen police force ?
46. I believe the hospital and community service has done a lot to keep their neighborhood looking nice and I wish the home owners would continue with their plan too
47. Change the population and that will change the way things look. Working people take care of things.
48. develop a plan to help citizens hv friendly interactn with govt, police and FF at community events like festivals
49. this is covenant's area. leave it to them.
50. again this area has had alot of focus, when the hospital gets something done this area gets improvemnt to, so its not that important
51. Michigan needs a rebuild. State Street and Davenport, the main east-west corridor, has terrible flow. The traffic lights are timed poorly, impeding easy access in and out of the city. Either raise the speed, dead end several side streets and improve the light timing or build a spur from I-675 to Bay Road.
52. Use the spot shotter already!
53. more cpo and police patrols

54. increase cpo's and police patrols
55. ticket any kids walking on the streets and ticket any kids under 18 that are smoking
56. more streetscaping, give the area an identity, community gardening
57. This area needs improved lighting and a downtown hotel/motel (chain) for people visiting people in the hospitals.
58. This is a situation where I believe the hospital and the local neighborhood Assoc. are working together and it shows improvement in the area. It must continue to ongoing and become even stronger yet to help clean up the area with the help of the City, the Landlord Assoc. and the Police (and Code enforcement officers. Again, people working together and collaborating to make and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood plus the benefit of partnerships to secure Grants and other monies.
59. Replace trees that are dying or have been removed.
60. Strictly enforce all rental/landlord codes....the property turning into rentals has destroyed this neighborhood
61. Turn the old school into beautiful condos. This has been done extensively on the west coast of the state in Holland, South Haven, Grand Haven with great success. It's a beautiful building and should be used for that. I would consider living in such an upscale, historic structure and I know others would too.
62. Oops, I meant my previous comment about the school for this area
63. improve parks so that they can be used (eg. skateboard areas, dog parks, picnicing)
64. Reduce problem local liquor stores. Shorten hours in the evening. 10pm is curfew have those stores abide by that. Midnight and 2 am are way to late for a residential area.
65. Public Safety here. To many renters destroying this area
66. I own one 2 family homes in this area. The Churches and covenant have helped keep this area somewhat stable. The walk to work program makes sense. Some bad pockets of housing in this area.
67. Use some money from the east side
68. I live right across the street from North Middle School. It is now empty. I do not know who it belongs to but there is no up keep on it and it really makes the area right across from the hospital as well as my own home look terrible. They need to have someone from the city on a weekly basis cutting the grass and keeping it. Just because it is not being utilized does not mean it does not need to be taken care of. We want the city to have some appeal and right now it is an eye sore. Also the safety that needs to come in that area. It is not the neighborhood i once grew up it. Its looking pretty shabby right now.

Question 13 - Other strategies that the City might use in addressing the issues of a shrinking city

1. offer incentives for big box groceries stores to move back into the city
2. Small local rail lines should be considered to stimulate development at nodes (transit-oriented development) through linkages between job centers and neighborhoods.
3. Enforce strict licensing for all rental units.
4. study how other cities like Portland, Oregon and Milwaukee Wisconsin were struggling decaying cities and how they have once again become great cities again, attracting people, jobs etc.
5. Instead of large open areas, consolidate those areas into larger lots for new home construction as seen in other areas such as Freeland and Frankenmuth.
6. Turn large tracts into nature preserves/parks
7. Work with SVSU to develop some student housing in old town area/which would bring a spike to businesses in that area plus it would offer students to live in the more desirable "Urban" environment where they can walk to most everywhere they want to go
8. Quit overtaxing city residents, cut bloated city government by 50%, cut bloated salaries by 50%
9. How would #1 lead to reduction of city services?
10. Pay minimum wage and teach unemployed how to renovate homes.
11. Support urban farming/community gardens; create more park areas in vacant lots; encourage community/neighborhood associations to maintain gardens and parks
12. When offering adjacent lots at a reduced price be sure to include the code to be enforced to fight urban blight (landscaping and such).
13. I think these are all excellent ideas
14. I don't think abandoning streets is a good idea, nor the reduction of city services. When a bldg is torn down the property needs to be maintained so that it doesn't turn into a weeded mess.
15. all the above ideas have merit but i really would need more information. i am not sure i understand the first issue...creating large open spaces and how that would cause the city to abandon streets and service.
16. It's FEWER people, not LESS people.
17. quit offering incentives to companys, who pay there employees low wages and they make big profits
18. WOW! I'm excited that some of my best personal ideas are on your agenda already :o)
19. you're asking the same questions over and over.
20. Stop making the 55,000 pay taxes equal to the 98,000
21. unfortunatley, we must condemn, eminent domain some houses who hold out creating open spaces. this is important to create the large and open spaces. offer them just a little over reg price. people will hold out and try to soak us we cannot have any houses in the "park" not fair to the cities residents. close the streets is great idea. save money on maintenance too. 1 block is not to small. offer the neighborhood or churches to take ownership in cleaning and maintenance, but city owned
22. Where creating large open area, I think it would be wise to remove the streets to create a park-like setting. In regards to offering adjacent lots to existing homeowners ONLY if they improve them within a certain period of time. Not to have them sit there and get overgrown.
23. If buildings were to be demolished, go green, build windmills. Develop commercial services along the river: boardwalk with shops, restaurants, etc.
24. Urban homesteading AND commercial redevelopment must focus on rehabilitating existing properties or new infill and NOT creating more supply
25. Offer the small city parks that are everywhere to the nearest homeowner for a low fee. This would get the property back onto the tax roles AND would be off the list of areas that needed to be maintained by the city.
26. Casino!

27. urban farming is good, if the idiots will leave them alone and not destroy the gardens
28. last ? only if job creation is somewhat lasting and not a passing fancy
29. Urban farming sounds like a good idea to most people, but in reality there would be a few workers and a lot of takers.
30. Safety is a key issue here. If people don't feel safe (even INSIDE of their homes), people WILL NOT stay in Saginaw. The rental properties need to be taxed more. This will create the extra revenue this town needs. Stricter guidelines for renters, and neighborhood alliances, something where people won't get shot for "snitching" out the drug dealers that are so prevalent in Saginaw. Keep the crime away, and people will stay. IF they are employed, that is.
31. Downtown Saginaw need small business environment, Saginaw Plaza Hotel needs local support
32. bring a casino on river
33. Jobs are most important. Bring in any business that will create jobs.
34. issue no more rental licenses in the City of Saginaw
35. #1 People must be safe; nothing will help except to create jobs, stop letting Saginaw be the drug and game mecca. Revitalize the river front. Bring businesses back downtown and put police on the streets.
36. for any building that has a fire keep all insurance money until the building is taken under. go after landlords that give properties back to city
37. GM gave jobs but left city worse off after leaving-contaminated land, riverfront taken away-tax incentives to a certain extent.
38. Ensure ALL city residents pay property taxes and end the zones where homeowners are exempt from paying property tax
39. Offering adjacent lots may prevent further development in some areas. Leasing may be a better idea to keep it maintained' yet available for future.
40. put a lid on rentals in city,they are ghetto-izing our town,get hard on gangs,they sell in daylight hours wide open.
41. Offer grants/programs to encourage residents to maintain/upgrade their homes in the entire city, not just specific areas that are blighted. By encouraging well kept neighborhoods to stay well kept will prevent blight from creeping.
42. Eliminate the city income tax. Its stopping many from moving into the city and encourages others to leave.
43. no reduction of city services
44. My comments regarding all five districts above apply here as well, ESPECIALLY that vacant lot trees, trash, brush and fences, etc need to be taken out if the "large open spaces" approach is hoped to make things better.
45. I like the idea of urban homesteaders, but am unsure about doing this commercially and large-scale. Chiefly, I'm worried about fertilizer and pesticide run-off adding to river pollution.
46. We could be a leader in bicycling. People already are riding more, out of economic necessity. Bikes and gardens could turn Saginaw around!
47. I think a re-green'ing of Saginaw should be done carefully. Some neighborhoods are still viable but if you demolish too many homes that could have been restored/rented/sold than you make supporting the few remaining homeowners with city services more difficult to justify.
48. Westside taxes are obviously higher, and I think there needs to be a way to even the tax range for people who use things like the bus and barely pay a tax, or may even have back taxes.
49. Allowing bars, casinos, "adult" reaction has made cities, including ours unsafe and uninhabitable by families. Set a higher standard if we really want a better future.
50. densify inner areas of city, demolish on outer edges of city
51. I don't have the answers, but I don't like these.

52. Selectively restore historic buildings offering cheap office space to up and coming online/media/arts businesses. Crime needs to still be addressed in old town to help local businesses there. I have friends still being attacked or threatened at night.
53. its ok to offer te lots at a low price,if you dont baloon their property taxes later,and instead of having large vacant streetsbuild affordable housing that doesnt say poverty,or projects,meaning building apartment complexes in certain areas of the city for certain types of people in short build housing people will want to live and invest in no matter what their income status is. if you build with quality and care all people who want something nice will take more pride i having it and take better care of it
54. Instead of Tax incentives make the property available at a great lease price for 20 years with purchase after that period.
55. cleaning the saginaw river should be top priority to bring in more fishermen.
56. I suggest appealing to developers who otherwise look to agricultural//rural land, thereby expanding the "zero growth sprawl" of Saginaw Twp/Thomas Twp. Increase accessaibility by easy traffic flow. Incent with low tax rates. End the "passive acceptance" of the crime in the city.
57. Focus the city's resources on improving safety and encouraging business growth. The city of Saginaw taxes its residents at a higher level than the City of Midland, yet Midland is a cleaner and safer family friendly town.
58. This city must maintain its identity as a city. No urban farming or abandoning areas. Must revitalize!
59. Offer vacant parcels to the adjacent property owners for FREE
60. more police presence
61. offer tax incentives to home owners who move into city and improve existing homes . moratoriums on rentals
62. food co-op, encourage art/creative people to open shops
63. Areas where housing is in decline you should clear houses and rebuild new houses with bigger lots. No section 8!
64. Offer land to families who would be willing to build a home - instead of Renters
65. Remove the city income tax and the citizens will allow you to remove the cap on property taxes. But you can't have both.
66. /Develope a store. Saginaw need to become a part of the 20th Century where people want to live. Every body is not going to move to the Township. You need to look at all cultures and not just one culture. How would all benefit.
67. Follow "smart growth " principles
68. Focus more on increasing the working class and jobs and less on government handouts
69. The problem with getting rid of large areas of run-down housing is that some people who do live there and keep their homes nice will not want to leave. This creates ethical and planning issues.
70. Get rid of the city income tax. I can name a dozen or so people who won't move into the city because of it. Others have left because of it.
71. Bring more Arts and entertainment to the west side city/ township areas.
72. Educate the community about historic preservation tax credits
73. help for the current home owner's repairs, no matter what the income is!
74. open a casino
75. Urban farming- only if the city retains property and collects taxes on property
76. Reduce the liquor stroes to attract more nourishing type of businesses. Help problem stores to develop a more family friendly business.
77. Offer properties on deliquient tax rolls to adjacent home owners, tax reliefe to people fixing homes, offer homes to reputable landlords, not anyone with a parsol
78. quit letting other cities beat you up

79. The problem is the houses and not so much the buildings. There are so many houses that have been destroyed by renters. Boarded up windows and over grown lawn. Maybe an idea would be to sell these houses (at a VERY reasonable cost) to the home owners that live next to it and let them decided what to do with them. Way to many broken down homes sitting around and they need to either be sold or torn down.

Question 17 – What do you like about Saginaw?

1. Affordable houses, safe environment (those FBI statistics don't make sense to me).
2. Don't like the city as in previous years. Will be looking to leave. My family has been here almost a 100 years. Pretty soon we'll all have moved out. Way too much crime .A depressing place to live.
3. It is a modest sized city with major metropolitan amenities. It has wonderful parks - lovely affordable housing, magnificent historic structures (although some are in grave danger of neglect) and it has a rich history which has sadly been overshadowed by a seeming continuum of negativity. We should stop apologizing for having been a major manufacturing center and strut our stuff.
4. I like that it is small, but at the same time big. I like the cultural opportunities...plays, concerts, educational seminars, etc I like the friendliness of the people.
5. medical centers,
6. Its central location to medical services, shopping , highways and most important the residents , Friends and Neighbors.
7. the small town feel, with big city services
8. I grew up in Saginaw township. I am proud of the town I grew up in... Alot has changed. People in Saginaw do not seem to care about what is happening around them.
9. "Was a 'Great City' when Industry {Diversified} still prevailed. Much 'old money' began to leave the City after the civil uprising of 1967. Saginaw has a very rich history where it once was the 'economic hub' of Northeastern Michigan."
10. It has some old-city, historic feel to it but with all all the below in 18., it won't feel like that for long.
11. The city has good "bones" - it has all the streets, sidewalks, neighborhoods, amenities, and the infrastructure needed to make it a nice place live, work, and hang out.
12. Not much anymore! Seems like lots of problems in city government & police protection-increased crime. We need fun, new restaurants & things to do. Love the Farmers Market!!
13. Depends, along Bay Rd. and Tittabawassee Rd. there is a lot of places to eat and shop. There is even bowling and movies, Chuckie Cheese and Kokomos. As for the City of Saginaw really not much to visit, unless you need a hospital Of course there is Dow event Center, The Temple. and the Museum.
14. The River
15. The history and the riverfront are some of the greatest resources the city has. The hidden remnants of brick streets that are still seen in areas on Cass Street near Hamilton Street are amazing. Just imagine if these streets could be rehabilitated to their former glory. The nostalgia the brick streets would provide would showcase the history of the city. My father was at St. Mary's this past summer and I really enjoyed the river walk pathway as a way to bicycle to see him. The Hoyt Park I think is truly one of the most beautiful areas in the greater region.
16. Unfortunately alot of what was once enjoyed is long gone...I remember shopping in downtown Saginaw as a child. Ice skating and sledding at Hoyt park. Going to the fair at the fairgrounds on Genessee St. We felt safe doing so...after the riots in 1967, life in the city of Saginaw changed. On a positive note, the children's zoo has been able to stay alive during all this!!
17. historical buildings, the closeness of everything, the people
18. "Homes and neighborhoods with character. Viable music and arts scene Grass roots efforts that make a difference"
19. It used to be a great place and it will be again. There are a lot of people starting to band together to clean up and fix up. With some improvements to items listed in this survey, it can be a viable place to live and work.
20. Cultural opportunities, museums, libraries, events at Temple theater and Dow Event Center

21. I like the people of Saginaw. I like the events such as the Riverside Film Festival, concerts by the Saginaw Bay Orchestra, Friday Night Live, and Jazz at the Anderson Enrichment Center. I like that I don't have to drive far to go to events in the city.
22. It's diversity of activities and people.
23. It has been home for several generations. I like the river, the parks, the attitude that people can come together to affect change and can volunteer to bring about events and activities for the community to enjoy. It is easy to travel to destinations...I can be anywhere within 15 minutes. The bridges, the parks and the green space is attractive. We have a variety of cultural venues and facilities available in our community. We have a diverse community.
24. ???
25. It has a rich historic value and some businesses / organizations are taking advantage of it's uniqueness, however crime and safety concerns have overshadowed the few that are doing things right. I like Saginaw for its small city feel, yet large area. Everything is close, yet not on top of each other.
26. The historic buildings and potential to add new walking/running/biking paths along the riverfront and through the neighborhoods, making the city more friendly to those wishing to travel without cars
27. It is the city I grew up in, it has a rich history and is has potential to be successful in the future.
28. That it's affordable to live here.
29. family and friends reside here
30. Saginaw Spirit
31. riverfront downtown
32. It has the potential to have a great downtown/old town area. Cost of living is low (sometimes too low). I grew up in the Saginaw Area and feel a sense of pride about it and I would love to see it succeed.
33. Not much.
34. I like that there is history. The older buildings and museums, downtown, and other districts really give the city a cultural feel.
35. I like the zoo. I like the improvements to Wickes Park and Hoyt Park, the Anderson Celebration Center.
36. It's the only place I call home. Most people care for one another.
37. It's my home, good or bad. I like good streetlighting. easy access to businesses.lower property tax than the twp
38. The great walleye river we have running through it. Old Town, the people.
39. I think the city has a very interesting history. I like what has been done in the Court Street - Ippel Building area, and the improvements along the Washington Ave. Corridor. It's nice to see Saginaw's historic buildings refurbished and revitalized, and in use.
40. The people. Some of the kindest, hard working and effective people I have ever known live here. If a city is anything - it is it's people. We that have chosen to stay & work in the city are here for a reason, love of the city.
41. I can't come up with anything positive. Really poor culture here.
42. medical facilities
43. Not much any more. I was born and raised in the city (adams blvd area) and I now work downtown and have to say the roads are in horrible condition, ie cooper, genesee, holland etc the list goes on. This city has gone from being a beautiful city to a decaying, thug infested crime zone. Not sure what the answer is--i'm just glad I reside in the township now.
44. I like the fact that we are becoming leaders in the health care industry.
45. Cheap real estate. The trees. Old town. Libraries.
46. No Much that comes to mind, but I was raised here.

47. Saginaw has few feathers in its cap. This town has been turned into a post industrial wasteland. Get rid of the ghetto culture and gangs and it might have a chance.
48. not much
49. Diversity
50. Schools, location in state, cost of living, river.
51. Although the City has a bad reputation, I feel that it has a lot of potential to improve, attract more people, and grow into an area where people aren't scared to hang out. There are many residents, business owners, and non-resident workers who want this City to prosper and better its reputation not only locally but nation-wide.
52. "the city has a lot of great things about it. Chamber and the activities they generate create about the only activities that people attend Friday night live events Saginaw spirit brings people to downtown. It's too bad we couldn't incorporate Old Town Saginaw with the events at the Dow. This would bring people to downtown earlier for dinners / drinks before a hockey game or event, and maybe stay later with some improved night life"
53. NOT MUCH it's a crime ridden town that is filthy and no respect towards others property
54. This is my home. I would not live anywhere else. I have traveled to Hawaii, England, California etc. and they are nice places to visit but I am always glad to come home. To me this is a family community. I always hear people complain about Saginaw not having jobs the crime in the area which is all true, but we are not the only area going through this. I always defend Saginaw this is where my grandparents chose to start their family and I am proud of that. I feel that the changes that are happening would have happened no matter what and yet Saginaw is still striving. Great colleges and schools. Medical area has grown so much and has opened up many jobs. GM needed the changes that are happening not everyone agrees, but without change there is no improvement and everything needs improvement.
55. The Zoo, the Civic Center, close to shopping in Saginaw Charter Township, good unique restaurants.
56. "Its location is ideal for short and long distance travel for work opportunities. The variety of arts, entertainment, sports, family and recreational that are available or nearby."
57. Not much anymore, high crime, too much blight, no enforcement of codes -- parking vehicles in yards, trashy yards, abandoned buildings, long, long, long grass, noisy vehicles and just overall not the quiet nice looking city it was a few years ago.
58. I have always lived here-there are some great people who try to make a difference here.
59. The Farmers Market
60. There are lots of good restaurants, shopping, and recreation.
61. It's history and the strength/heart of the people
62. Historic with lots of beautiful old homes.
63. The Dow
64. Not much. It's dirty, falling apart and they keep putting money in most places that should be removed. You only build new homes for people one time when they let it go and it gets bad again and they almost always do, no more public money should be placed in that area.
65. I work in the City of Saginaw. I love the River Walk and use it daily on lunch hour.
66. I grew up in Saginaw and still love living here. The economy has hurt us so severely with GM closings but hopefully we can focus on the Medical Industry. We have wonderful doctors in this area.
67. I like the river area downtown.
68. this is my home.
69. The riverwalk area is very nice, looking much better in recent years, and I love the Farmers Market. Celebration Square and Old town are great also.
70. It's great that some of the concerts are offered at the Island, the fireworks, the preservation of some of the "old" signs (Bean Bunny, Ippel).
71. it's my hometown, the river, the people.

72. "Not much right now! Its location is great, you can easily get out of town with easy access to the highway, but what we need is people coming HERE!!!! we have no down town shopping!!! lets try make it more like the old days before malls. where people can be outside WALKING. over in England they have built glass ceilings over many streets to make some downtown areas under cover. we may be years away from that, but wouldn't it be beautiful if we could one day consider such a possibiltiy!!?? let's work on trying to give people from outlying areas a reason to come here and spend money rather than going to birch run all the time! Cheaper taxes but more payers volume may be the way ahead."
73. the diversity of people.
74. The historical buildings and the riverwalk.
75. I like that it's a small community (compared to where I'm from) nothing is far
76. It's home, my family is here.
77. I lived in the City of Saginaw when I was a child and went to school in the city. I have lived in Saginaw County my whole life and I believe we need to increase jobs here very badly. There are too many people who don't work and really don't care about the way their houses look and that is even spreading into the township. I want to continue to live in Saginaw although it is getting harder to think of a reason to stay when it is getting so bad
78. I like the idea of the festivals that the city is trying to bring in. That brings more family involvement
79. It's my home... I have roots here. You read and hear a lot about how bad it is.. but I don't see all of that... there are a lot of good people here.
80. eateries, farmer's market
81. my work location is close to my home.the farmers market is next to work.
82. easy to get around
83. temple, zoo, dow center, castle, art and children's museum; anderson enrichment; libraries, hoyt park ; pit and balcony ..churches and hospitals ..SASA and the educational opportunities in elementary and middle school. The willingness for many to grow our city.
84. It has a River that should be the focus, clean it up. There are so many opportunities to bring people here if the City were to be cleaned up. I love the Friday Night live events. the Event Center and the Temple Theater. We have great hospitals with great people working there.
85. The size.
86. Its old big beautiful trees and sidewalks. Its older housing - especially the Victorians in the historic and Cathedral Districts. Its cheap cost of living. Its manageable size. Its city council (NOT 'strong mayor') form of government with council people representing ENTIRE city, not wards. Being able to walk to Fuzzy's or the Court Street (family owned) theatre and Court St. shops from our home. Knowing my neighbors. Having an improving neighborhood association with a community police officer (who is assigned to the Adams Blvd area I think but makes sure to come to our meetings and keep us informed). Having a group 'clean up' day in our neighborhood.
87. "The police officers I have talked to seem to really care about making Saginaw a safer place. I have seen few abandoned homes removed in the area I work."
88. City environment; opportunity for closer community interaction; proximity to cultural events.
89. It is centrally located between Detroit and The Straits. It has well balanced population, access to medical care and is close to three colleges/universities. It has a great potential and a workforce available in the city and in the county. There is a lot of open office and commercial land available that could be used to lure companies to Michigan especially the Silicon Valley type of jobs. There is also a cultural base here that is complimented by the colleges. The only thing Saginaw lacks is jobs for the people and a generation of children who are nearly illiterate in some parts of the city.
90. I like the Hamilton Street area, local shops, the Dow events center.

91. nothing
92. It's very accessible and has some nice natural features and good food.
93. We are new to the area (2 1/2 years) and love our Golfside neighborhood and neighbors.
94. I just like the city. We just bought a home here, and we chose this city over Ann Arbor for several reasons. Price was a significant factor; but we really like that the city is actually racially diverse, centered around it's river, and I like to say that it's like moving to 1977: Neighbors chat over the fence, children play in the alley, and we go to the soda shop on Saturday afternoon. It's nice.
95. The City still shows hope for the future. It has a lot of devoted hard-working people that make Saginaw a better place to live. The arts and entertainment in this area gives people of all ages opportunities to participate and enriches are cutlural enrichment. It is a small town with big city options. It meets my needs.
96. on the river, historic value, parks,
97. Its people. Its arts and entertainment. Its hard workers.
98. The availability of hospitals, doctors and shopping
99. deversity, cultural events, ymca,
- 100.city has history and GOOD people!!!! They just need to open there eyes to the potential in each individual great or small when we act on a goal much can be acomplished including CHANGE !!!! Remeber we our Accountable for the choices we make good or bad! LETS MAKE GOOD RESPONSIBLE CHOICES OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!!!
- 101.the history
- 102.My JOB
- 103.The vast German-Lutheran underground. The German Lutherans in Saginaw quietly go about their business - obeying the law, doing their jobs, and helping their neighbors - even though they get practically no attention or reward for doing this (hence the term "underground"). This group was probably the most important one in the development of the city, and there are still many civic leaders, small business owners, and just fine neighbors from this group. Don't give special attention to this group, because they don't crave it. Just be thankful they are still around.
- 104.all the shootings, it makes great news and makes me thankfull I don't live there.
- 105.My family is here. There are lots of outdoor recreational activities nearby. There is a small-town "feel," people are mostly friendly. I like living in a diverse community. We have "city" advantages but still have many of the good things about country living, like hawks in my backyard.
- 106.The river, the parks,
- 107.Right now--not much. I like the historic structures, but that is about it. I'm furious about the amount of abandoned homes and blighted neighborhoods.
- 108.That as long as I dont speed past a police officer they wont pull me over. I have found that since saginaw in number one in crime cops don't have the time to give out traffic tickets.
- 109.Lived here twice for a total of 43 years. I like Saginaw less and less each year! I would move if I could afford to!!
- 110."Trees, river, sidewalks Close proximity to jobs, schools, stores Dow Event Center, Temple Theater are nice attractions Children Zoo, Spray Park, Children's Museum are top notch...can't say enough about them! Police/Fire Departments are solid Starting to tear down old houses and businesses...keep that up!"
- 111.I think the city is one of the prettier cities in the state. The improvements made to the main areas are really making things look so much better.
- 112.I like that it is city, but not a huge city like Detroit or Grand Rapids. I travel throughout the city and it is easy to navigate. Even though it is a city, it has a small-town feeling to me.
- 113."Tree lined streets Contains a variety of businesses Activities available for all age groups"
- 114.Diversity. It is a value added commodity for the City.

115. Saginaw has numerous important resources and amazing potential. Many of Saginaw's parks and outdoor spaces are spectacular, given the challenges the city has faced. Poor city management, in the past, has kept crime and poverty on the rise. The majority of people in this city are hungry for positive change. Saginaw is amazingly diverse and ready to shine in the 21st century. The medical care is fast becoming on par with the best in the country. The resolve of the people that live and work here is unmatched.
116. I like my house and where I live. I like bike riding and the YMCA. I really love the local library.
117. "It's home. It's reasonably priced to live and has access to my consumer & travel needs."
118. I used to like walking and not being afraid. It used to be pleasant to go downtown not any more.
119. Saginaw has the Temple theater, a beautiful structure. The health care industry is fantastic. We have a diverse culture that wishes to have a nice city with low crime. I live on the west side and have noticed, now that housing has become cheaper, that a lot of young families with children are moving in, which is a wonderful thing for the future of Saginaw. Let's do what we must to ensure they stay a very long time.
120. there are many cultural activities
121. There are quite a bit activities (free or inexpensive) to do in the summer as long as the weather is good. It is close to get to these events (film festival, lawn chair, concerts, mini art fairs, YMCA, Hoyt park, Dow Event Center, decent restaurants and bars, and decent walkability from my neighborhood to places in the city.
122. I like that it is very well-forested, it is quite visually appealing in that respect. In recent years there have been more attempts at bringing more events to downtown, and my area (around Bay & Court intersection) now looks much better than it did 5 years ago.
123. not much to like here, get a casino then i wouldnt have to drive 50 miles to one, and the money can help the city
124. Saginaw is a decent place. We need to work on making it better.
125. "Saginaw Bay Symphony Temple Theater"
126. the amount of medical things we have in the city
127. Nothing. There is nothing to do, have to go outside of the city.
128. the river front, if it was utilized better
129. It still has a good feel, not completely run down.
130. The diverse population, beautiful homes in many areas, the many activities that are available.
131. "Its desire to adapt to ongoing changes socially and in its infrastructure. Its intense desire to preserve. The people who are willing and happy to work for even the small changes that are positive in the city. The City Manager form of government is excellent. The endless possibilities ..."
132. We have so much history that we need to work with and not abandon. We have people with pride.
133. Small town atmosphere.
134. I love the Temple restoration! Beautiful homes in the Cathedral District that are being restored. Event Center attracts good entertainers.
135. not much anymore
136. Dow Events Center and the Saginaw Zoo
137. The creative elements, such as artists and musicians.
138. not very much
139. It's parks and green areas
140. Honestly, not much. I have lived there my whole life and can't wait to leave. I don't feel safe even in my own home. Everytime I turn around they want us to pay more taxes yet my land is decreasing because of all the crime and crap that has moved into my neighborhood.
141. has the opportunity to be more like Bay City. utilizing what resources it has on hand IE. old buildings restored, saginaw river,

142. Police and fire protection have increased dramatically. We seem to have a City Council that is finally working together yet has the independence to go their own way when need be.
143. The zoo, the event center, the Temple theatre.
144. Ease of access to businesses, near many popular tourist attractions, low housing costs
145. It's urban feel and proximity to Lake Huron. Like the historic, old buildings but wish there were more of them instead of the vacant land downtown and in old town.
146. not much
147. It's history...it needs to be preserved.
148. After a recent visit to Paris France, I saw the city's use of it's riverfront property and how the general population utilized the riverfront as a focal point of beauty, travel, exercise, visitation, friendship, History, Statues, Fountains, sports, play, sightseeing, etc. The river is the draw,...please do not ruin it with gambling and/or gaming enterprises that prey upon the weak, waste tax dollars with the lure of quick wealth, or with businesses who thrive in the Alcohol and Drug trade, promoting alcoholism and degradation of people at their desire for the dollar, and become a magnet for other seedy enterprises which will destroy rather than preserve the integrity of the PEOPLE of Saginaw. Remember the people, we are counting on you for our children and grandchildren, Please.
149. The diversity of activities and its size
150. I like the arts we have maintained: entertainment downtown at Temple and Dow and in Old Town, the art museum, Castle Museum, zoo. I applaud the neighborhood groups who are trying to take back the streets and some wonderful community police officers who truly care about the city, actually getting out of their cars to walk the streets, patrol and get to know residents. I like that many residents still care about the city and want to see it revitalized. I love the unique restaurants and shops that have remained in the city.
151. My family has been in Saginaw since the 1880's. I love the city but find it hard to keep defending my belief in the city. I think it is amazing that we have the things we have for such a small city - theatre, music, museums, symphony etc.....
152. It's home where I've raised my family.
153. Nothing. There is nothing to like about the City of Saginaw. I am afraid to even go there when I have to for an appointment or something like that.
154. My family lives there, and it's starting to get more activity.
155. THE CITY HAS COME A LONG WAY REGARDING CRIME PREVENTION.
156. The temple, dow event center, old town saginaw, children's zoo, children's museum the free summer concerts and friday night lives, the lawn chair festivals
157. I love that the downtown area used to be vibrant and fun. It can be that way again. We walked from Jacobson's to Granvilles and the Temple Theatre. Folks were on the streets and it was difficult to find a parking spot. I believe life can return to downtown and the Court St area but it will take a positive attitude, hard work and money. Saginaw can be a hub for the surrounding area.
158. It is small and really has a lot of potential to be a nice close knit family community.
159. "Historic buildings Old Town"
160. I bigger city with a home town community spirit. People willing to invest and try and make it a better place. The hospitals being a huge employer.
161. It is an excellent location in the state. Good people in leadership positions at locally owned businesses. High school sports. Cultural activities are abundant. Great medical facilities. A core of good people who want to see the area succeed and thrive again.
162. My family has had roots in the city since 1882, on the same corner, in the same house, the same family members living there after all of this time. We have a very personal history in our community and are praying

for a turn-around to bring safety and beauty back to every neighborhood. If we didn't like it here we would have left long ago.

- 163."Saginaw is a really good community of people who care what destroys it is the level of crime and violence Removing it means removing those who cause it Getting rid of drugs or those who do drugs is a start Can we segregate that population legally? Start a housing project for those leaving prison for crime/Not just YMCA Will that really help?"
- 164.Medical centers, river
- 165.Convenient Locations. Low traffic. Easily navigation.
- 166.lately, not much, but what made me move my family here was the diversity.
- 167.Given the present conditions, we only have one way to go and that is upwards.
- 168."The PRIDE in the people. The events (Friday nights near Temple, fireworks, concerts, movies, zoo, etc.) The new improvements at Celebration Park (i.e. water park, playground, skate park). Thank you! All of the cultural and entertainment (i.e. zoo, museums, event center, japanese gardens, andersen enrichment center). Good road improvements (Genesee, Washington, Rust, Woodbridge, Williamson/Gallagher intersection), Sheridan, I-675---Thank you!! Fireworks are the BEST I've seen anywhere, ever!!!"
- 169.historic nature, trees and green areas with the river,theatres and venues downtown, old saginaw areas
- 170.There is always something to do if you look for things. You can easily get from one part of the city to another and there is rarely any traffic to speak of.
- 171.That it is rebounding! Better city council, now. Constant involvement of more citizens.
- 172.The diversity of people living here and the few recreational places to spend time at.
- 173.I like the proximity to everywhere I want to go.
- 174.The history of the area. We are close enough to great services and have libraries and the Dow Event Center as well as Friday Night Live in the summer. We have many problems but if we all work together it could be great again.
- 175.like Old Town district and am glad that it is busy usually, because then I feel safe....
- 176.Proximity to the river.Washington Ave. Cathedral District. Old Town. Health care. City lay-out in general
- 177.I like the history that is associated with saginaw. I do not live in saginaw, but I'm still proud to live near it! I am in saginaw almost every day if not for shopping, dining, casual meetings(pub), or just to take a drive! I think saginaw is heading in the right direction now, but I don't think its moving fast enough! I do love this city, but crime and just the look of saginaw needs to change fast! Thank you for listening
- 178.Seems like Saginaw has much more to offer (stores,eatries,entertainment, etc) than the surrounding cities of Bay and Midland.
- 179.nothing
- 180.There is a lot to do here.
- 181."has great potential convenient to many areas in Saginaw County"
- 182.An increasing number of entertainment venues; finally starting to focus on landscaping certain areas that are a draw to the visitors and the general public, it is my home.
- 183.i live here and it is close to work
- 184.the size and availability of a diverse amount of goods and recreation.
- 185.There is so much going on it is hard to decide which activities to do. It has been home to me since the 1960's, except for 5 years when I worked in the Chicago area. When I moved back I realized that Saginaw had as much to offer as Chicago, although on a smaller scale.
- 186.I like that they built a water park and a skateboarding place for the kids.
- 187.location and easy access to everything!
- 188.Easy to move about, close to other municipalities, worth saving.
- 189.Saginaw is a nice place to live, as long as u have a place to live.

- 190.it has potential
- 191.Shopping
- 192.I've lived in Saginaw County all of my life and like the people.
- 193.As of now I am losing all hope for the city. I currently can not see any positives about the city.
- 194.One catches glimpses of its past glory.
- 195.I like the smallness of this community..And who in most neighborhoods people watch out for everyone..And know everyone..
- 196.I love the historical feel of Saginaw
- 197.not a thing it has become a place were if you are a crook come here there are no prisons to put you in or police to stop you from doing anything wrong any how if you call the police they pick and chose what crimes to go to and as far as that goes it is the citys faulty they send money on everything but what they should then when they do not get there way they lay off the police
- 198.it houses my place of employment...
- 199.Today, not much. I enjoy the "Old Town" area, especially with the addition of the new Ippel building and Jake's restaurant. It adds a small touch of class. The little restaurants and bars and shops are nice. Other than that I really don't like it here. There's too many people that look and act like they're in gangs, and I don't feel safe at all, even in the middle of the day.
- 200.Not a whole lot. However, if the powers that be could restore it to the glories of the '40s & '50s, I'd love it. It used to be a great place to shop - before the wretched malls and the criminals.
- 201.I love it's diversity and the potential that it has.
- 202.The history and pride
- 203.This is where I was born and raised.. I love how we have holiday in the city and so on....
- 204.The city of Saginaw is a very affordable place to live. However I have never lived in the city, just the Township. The shopping in saginaw is the best in the state next to Detroit.
- 205.Medical facilities
- 206.nothing
- 207.Friday Nite Live, Famers Mkt., Easy access to downtown.
- 208.small city
- 209.I like that Saginaw finally seems serious about improving our city.
- 210.I like the people who live here and have not turned their back on the community. It is a large (small) enough city to offer big city options.
- 211.the City of Saginaw has a great history and neighborhood concept, As an urban core, it offers many opportunities for growth and development. It can serve to catalyze growth of the region if it is properly developed.
- 212.place to work
- 213."1Their Christmas decorations at the City Hall and Waterworks buildings. 2. The riverfront and the possibilities for development like Bay City has accomplished."
- 214.There are a number of people who have a larger, better vision of Saginaw. They put a tremendous amount of commitment and energy into that vision. The various PRIDE events, the Riverfront Film Festival, the Downtown Farmer's Market, the Lawnchair Film series, just to name a few, make Saginaw a better place to live and work. Churches and neighborhood organizations are also doing good work. Unfortunately, these positive aspects of Saginaw frequently get lost in the very real negatives our city has to face.
- 215.Nice, quiet, friendly city, Good public transportation, Proffessional Fire and Police services. Great medical facilities, Good parks and public facilitis, Great convention and meeting facility,
- 216.Easy access to roads leading out of town.

217. Libraries, Saginaw River, Parks, Children's Museum, Saginaw Museum, Castle Museum, Farmers market, People.
218. The farm market, the Christmas festival around Thanksgiving for the kids by the courthouse, the fireworks, parishoners on patrol, the new water park
219. I like the bocce courts at the new water park.
220. I like that the city is cracking down on deadbeat landlords. I like that we have community police officers that we can call and get action on problems in our neighborhood. I like that Saginaw IS a good place to raise a family.
221. I was raised here living in the city on Randolph and 23rd. I now now work in the city and have seen many changes-not many of them good. It pains me awful! It's not the land or the houses, nor the roads really that need to be changed but rather the people !!! Can you do that ?! Put our \$ where our hearts are, teach our children/people respect, love, integrity, how to share, believe, have hope, . . .
222. Not much at all.
223. that we have a large city feel, with small city issues
224. nothing
225. I like the diversity of the city and that it has a lot of history.
226. The ability to get around without much traffic, however having bike lanes would be helpful. Walkability is also a key ingredient. People on the Street, activity and activities.
227. Great place to raise my kids
228. I like small cities.
229. "Saginaw has many cultural opportunities such as Pit and Balcony, the Saginaw Art Museum, the Symphony, Chorale Society, Andersen Center, The Children's Zoo and many more. Citizens should cherish these opportunities for entertainment and betterment. Also, Saginaw has many fine leaders from all walks of life who should be able to carry us into a new era of semi-prosperity."
230. It has decent services and is fairly easy to get around. The parks system is also good.
231. It's easy to find your way around town.
232. In short I just like city living
233. it's central location in Michigan
234. I love the fact that I can call it home. Anywhere I go in and around Saginaw people know who I am and call me by my name. I love our hospitals, we have great Medical facilities.
235. Reasonable cost of housing but there are many pockets of blight.
236. The diversity of it's people.
237. "Affordable housing. There are some real gems in Saginaw (Children's Zoo, Temple Theater, Children's Museum) but the focus always tends to be on the negative. People who live here need to have more pride in what we do have."
238. I like my little street and neighbors and living so close to where I work.
239. I have lived in saginaw for over 40 years. i used to be able to play ball in the streets when I was a kid. Now in the same place they deal drugs and the houses are boarded up. Its pretty sad since they lifted the law making city worker live in the city. The city has gone down. The cops dont really care to go down the street they used to live in. The amazing thing about this is that i grew up on the corner of ames and N. webster. 4 blocks away from the court house and police station. i would like to see the cop and workers for saginaw take more pride in there jobs and the city they work for. I think saginaw could be great again. I have been restoring homes in saginaw and selling them at a good price. I think WE CAN BE GREAT
240. down town saginaw in the 50s and 60s used to be nice now there is nothing but crime and empty buildings
241. I like the parks, the riverfront, the libraries, the museums, fireworks, Children's Zoo. The traditions of the High Schools, the sidewalks, the people who care about the city and do many things to improve it . The breads-

- Spataz and Neopalinio? and bakeries, the post office, the large beautiful lumber baron mansions. The churches, with the steeples lit up, we have plenty of beautiful churches. The different trees, the good hospitals,
242. My parents and grandparents lived and worked here, and I still have pride in Saginaw,
243. It's home to me and I am proud to be a resident. It is a place where I choose to live. It is a city with potential but in need of smart leadership with integrity.
244. The history, the old building, the rich heritage... Many older residents can say "In Saginaw's hayday...." I would like to see Saginaw get back to its prime that I have heard so much about.
245. The way that Old Town is adding more businesses, and apartments, it is changing its atmosphere and offering more arts and entertainment.
246. On the rebound with great potential to continue doing so!
247. It is my Home Town
248. Potential for commercial, industrial, and creative industries is already in place. Location within the state of Michigan is focal - near highways, waterways, and natural areas.
249. It is my home. Saginaw was and can be a beautiful city.
250. It's home, for better or for worse. We have great neighborhoods with great people. Lots of entertainment opportunities for families.
251. It's my hometown, it was great once, even in my lifetime but has swiftly declined for years now, so there is that potential to be great again. Many of our historical buildings are unique and stylish, this adds class to the town, we are steeped in history, we can combine the new and the old as so many other towns do. Saginaw has great foliage when maintained, it adds a good aesthetic for the visitor.
252. Great architecture and history
253. I was born and raised here. It was once a great place and I believe it will be that again some day.
254. It is a bigger city than where I grew up with more cultural, entertainment, recreational, and other opportunities in the city and surrounding areas.
255. My neighbors
256. I LOVE MY CITY. HOWEVER I WORRY ABOUT IT NOW WITH THE BLIGHT AND DRUG TRADE.
257. It's where I grew up and where I've come back to. simply put.. it's home. I love the historic areas, farmers markets and the mom n' pop shops
258. It is home. Lots to do. Nicely located in the state. Libraries are wonderful... thanks to voters and Norman Maas.
259. I like the low cost of my home.
260. It's home. I can walk to and home from work and I have walked home many times without any one bothering me. It may be named as the city w/ the highest crime rate, the worst that ever happened to me was someone stealing my clothespins and a trash can.
261. Most activities are free during summer months.
262. Friendly people, many things to do, affordable housing, close to township, city needs to have a positive identity
263. Urban feel. Hate the mall. Hate strip malls. Don't like the idea of creating anything more like the Shaheen medical buildings on Washington. It looks like Saginaw township's bay road. I live in Saginaw, and if I wanted to see that kind of off street construction I'd live in Saginaw township.
264. The historic neighborhoods, proximity to the river and its potential uses, affordable housing.
265. The Dow Event Center. I've been to over 100 events since 2000 (from Broadway plays to the circus and Spirit hockey), I love what's been done there.
266. The "old fashion" look to the town, especially the Cathedral District.
267. Small community feel.

268. I love the history, the look and feel of historical buildings, I think it has so much potential.
269. You guys and your sponsors do a great job with all the family-centered festivals throughout the year.
270. The trees, the parks, and events like The Lawn Chair Film Festival and Friday Night Live. I also enjoy many of the small restaurants and shops.
271. It's a great City with excellent cultural, social and entertainment activities/events that City government neither appreciates, participates in nor supports or promotes enough. It has great historical structures, locations and connections that again, city government neither appreciates enough nor understands how to use to improve the City's image, to promote the city, or use as a focal point for interest in redevelopment of the city.
272. I like the history that it has kept about it.
273. I grew up in Saginaw. It is home. The people are wonderful. The character of many of the historic buildings is worth preserving. I see so much potential here.
274. The people are friendly, both on the east and west sides. Actually, I think that the poor people are often friendlier. We don't have much bigotry or racism, at least not nearly as much as Bay City, for instance. I've noticed more bicycles and more gardens each of the past few years. This is something that we should encourage more, because the outlay is small, and the economic, financial, health and social benefits are huge.
275. Many have a sense of community.
276. I like the parks and old town
277. I haven't been robbed as of yet in my neighborhood due to home owner vigilance and personal protection involvement.
278. "I like the beautiful homes and the unique way each one looks on each street, not like in developments. I like that we have a full time fire department, not volunteer. I like the beautiful old churches, they add great beauty to our skyline."
279. Saginaw has always been home. It was once a great city and has the potential to be a great city again. It can be a wonderful arts city, but it's also within driving distance of so many wonderful destinations in the state ("up north," Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, etc.). It's a great place to work and play, but also a great middle point to go visit other wonderful places in Michigan.
280. When I moved from Saginaw 6 years ago there was not much going on downtown. A great job has been done to promote the cultural activities downtown. Unfortunately that is it. No renovation of buildings or promotion to bring in new name brand business has occurred.
281. I was born and spent 43 years living in Saginaw and have 2 adult children and 7 grandchildren along with many friends that still live in Saginaw. I worked at the Home Dairy on E. Genesee for 7 years and have a strong interest in the East side from Water St. east to Holland Ave. I like what I see in the vintage homes along Hoyt St., around the old Central Jr. High school area. When in Saginaw always stop at the Castle Museum, farm market and drive around my childhood neighborhood of E. Genesee Ave. and Cherry St... Hoyt Library is a true treasure, was great when I was in school and still looks good... Like the improvements that Hayes Specialties have done to their building, some great old houses on E. Genesee that can still be salvaged.
282. It is close to my work, family and friends. There is a variety of places to go and it is not far from conveniences.
283. It's inexpensive to live here. There are spaces/activities for artsy bohemian types. The weather is seasonally diverse (snow in the winter, leaves change in the fall, spring blooming, warm summers). There are opportunities here that have not been exploited yet. Ideas that are taking off in similar size/situation cities across the countries that haven't been developed yet here.
284. Saginaw is located in a beautiful geographic area and has a wonderful history. Both of these items should be considered when planning for the future.
285. nothing
286. I do appreciate the efforts that a lot of people make for the city of Saginaw. It is a beautiful place. It is unfortunate that we have all the problems that we have. You see signs up everywhere for houses for sale.

Their are little jobs and to make things worse then you see houses left not kept up..etc. I think there is a lot of hope and a lot to offer here.. Very talented artists, amazing buildings, etc. Oh I have very mixed feeling about the future of Saginaw. i want to believe it will get better!!!!

287.Cheap

288.it is my home

289.The love of the people who come back to live work and play here. People who are educated and can afford to live somewhere else but choose to make Saginaw their home.

290.I like the Dow Event Center, Temple Theater, Childrens Zoo, Independence Day fireworks.

291.It is my home town. I like the island our trees.

292.convenience to services good neighbors

293.We have a very large and very long riverfront that has the potential to be the envy of most cities in our country. We also have wonderful trees. We also have some nice parks and the potential for many more. We also have very good public water, and lots of it. Small town feel with large-town conveniences.

294.The longer I live here I'm liking Saginaw less. The majority of people don't want to pay for anything. They don't take care of their property, and they want lower taxes. How can the city improve with no money?

295.the zoo and the new splash park Great job city of saginaw wish i could say more but its going to take some work keep up the GREAT JOB.

296.Saginaw had potential and has lost most of its momentum. Energy, and excitement need to accompany any strategies for redevelopment. You can't fix neighborhoods where the residents don't want to be fixed, or want everyone else to do it for them.

297.I grew up in Saginaw and my family is here. I wish it could be as safe as it was when I was growing up but time and technology has changed many aspects of the city. Some of the places in your survey are nice but people don't necessary know enough about them to use them. i. e. The JapaneseTea House, Anderson Enrichment Center, even the Art Museum.

298.This is where I work and my children go to school. Handley and SASA are wonderful schools exhibiting the benefits of integration and diversity. This is the spirit that should driver Saginaw.

299.I like the variety of people here. There are all sorts of people and most of them are open minded. Most them are still here because they see the beauty that most people over look...even if it sometimes only exists in smiling faces.

300.I like the city becuase it is where i have lived, worked , made friends and a life. I want to see this city restored to its greatness and once again be a great place to live work and play

301.The floating docks to fish! The Saginaw Zoo, The Mid Michigan's Children's museum, Neighborhood and Arson Watch brought to you by the concerned citizens who don't want to leave the city. The Farmer's Market

302.It is my home!

303.Nothing besides it's cheap to live here. This town is crap and will never rebound when it is run by idiots from the east side

304.I grew up in Saginaw over on Ames street and my gran lived 4 blocks from us on Harrison when i go past my old neighbor hood it depresses me !!!!! It is so sad because Saginaw use to be a cute and great place to live. Now i can't wait to get out of here.

305.It is located by a river.

306.THE ZOO. WALKING AT HOYT PARK, OJIBWAY, WATER WORKS AND ROSE GARDEN. THE RIVERWALK. THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE WATER WORKS AND THE LIGHTING CEREMONIES THE LAST COUPLE YEARS.

307.I grew up in saginaw, and loved the historic logging homes on the east side and the old town area. It would be a shame to tear down these historic buildings if they are abandoned. It seems that it would be better to rehabilitate the historic buildings and bring in new, local, and small businesses to these areas. I remember the school system being strong about 10 years ago, although I can't say what it is like today.

308. How easy it is to get to places from anywhere. How we have such a beautiful city! I like the location of Saginaw a lot.
309. I like that it's my home town .
310. I have lived in the City of Saginaw for the past 20+ years. It is the only place that my two daughters consider HOME. I live in one of the nicest areas still left in the city and as a neighborhood organization, we work very diligently to keep it that way. Saginaw is HOME to me, my family, and many of my neighbors. We don't want to leave. Saginaw along with Michigan has SO MUCH to offer! We just need to pray, believe and have faith as we work hard together as a community to recover our town.
311. Really I can't think of one thing that I like about Saginaw except the fact that my family resides here and I would not leave them.
312. I've always liked the wide variety of individuals in Saginaw. Saginaw has always reminded me of a mini, really mini, Detroit. Many young people want to see things happening in Detroit, but we struggle with convincing the city it is worth it. We have excellent talent here in Saginaw, from hip hop to writers to actors.
313. It was my hometown.
314. Restaurants and Entertainment, however I'd like more of both.
315. I like how the people of Saginaw try to increase activities in the city (ex. lawn chair film festival, art walks, music festivals) but because of the crime in the city some of these activities are being moved or reduced.
316. I love that it has potential to return as an industrial giant. We have old factories and warehouses sitting vacant that could be remodeled and used, plus we have a skilled work force sitting on their butts waiting for good jobs to return.
317. The area as a whole is not as conservative as Midland. There are many different and diverse areas. Potential to be a big fish in a small town. Saginaw Orchestra, Red Eye coffee house, The Music Lab, Manufacturing history and potential for future auto and energy businesses, Curry and Kabob restaurant, The Shaheens, Gourmet Deli on Bay Rd, Jacks Market, lawn chair film fest.
318. Living in Saginaw for so many years now I have always enjoyed a visit to The Children's Zoo each year. I enjoy festivals that have taken place over the years including the Court St. Art Fair (discontinued), Court St. Car Show, Lawn Chair Film Festival, Riverside Saginaw Film Festival, etc. A visit or two to the Temple Theater is always enjoyable also.
319. Saginaw has wonderful architecture and some beautiful historic areas. The Riverfront is gorgeous, but drastically under-utilized. Oldtown Saginaw and "The Grove" are both great areas and need to be protected from crime and promoted to travelers from outside the area. The Heritage Square area is very aesthetically pleasing and not only needs to be protected from blight and crime, but needs to be expanded and grow its beauty outward. The downtown area is holding on but needs a strong retail, restaurant presence to make it worthwhile for people to visit other than Temple Theatre and Dow Event Center trips.
320. I WAS BORN AND RAISED HERE OF 50 YEARS, AND I HAVE SEEN HOW THINGS WHAT GOTTEN WORSE, I LIKE THAT FACT THAT IT IS BEING DISCUSSED THAT WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO BRING SAGINAW BACK UP TO PAR, BUT AS FOR THE CITY ITSELF NOTHING.
321. ummmmm??????
322. Our city has a rich history and we should be proud of it. Yes, we have developed a bad name for our self but I think we can work past this. Saginaw is a great place to work and live. There is always something to do, no matter what the "nay sayers" say.
323. I love the people. Good-hearted, hard-working people!
324. nothing
325. nothing really

326. There are hundreds of people who give so freely of their time and monetary for the good of the city and its citizens. There are many events to take part in for many interest. So many of those events are free or of very low cost.
327. I like the centrous location in relation to the State.
328. There is a very active art scene here. I also love the historical buildings and the architecture of the old homes in the Cathedral District and throughout other parts of the city. The downtown farmer's market is great and so are the Friday Night Live events put on in the summer by PRIDE.
329. The willingness of individuals to make ongoing efforts to improve it. Its relatively low cost of living. The positive vibe in my neighborhood. My interactions with the city government and services have been positive.
330. I love the size. There is enough to have a metropolitan feel, but without the congestion of larger cities.
331. I like the fact that it isn't too big, but not too small. We have the downtown area, the old town area for nightlife/arts, unique neighborhoods, historic areas, solid medical establishments, and a few great places to relax along the river.
332. It seems that the people that care about the city's future far out weight the ignorants currently bringing it to the ground. There are many groups promoting Saginaw. I will back and trust one as soon as they begin to actually do something.
333. I love that shopping, restaurants, and entertainment is close by. I also love my friendly neighbors since I moved here about one year ago from manistee.
334. "I like where I work. I love the Riverwalk and that it's accessible in the winter. The guys I meet on the Riverwalk who work for the city are considerate and do solid work. I like all of the water and the multiple bridges that cross it. It's a fantastic resource to have a continuous ribbon of greenspace along the entire length of the river."
335. It gives off a very upbeat vibe, especially old town. I just fear there is a negative aura surrounding it.
336. It has the possibility of being a city people want to visit. The location of the city also gives the city the opportunity to bring jobs to the area.
337. The entertainment opportunities & variety.
338. Right now, there isn't a lot I like about this city. It's become a cess pool of thugs and drugs. I have lived here my whole life and Saginaw used to be a beautiful area, especially downtown, where there were gorgeous old homes and buildings. No one can enjoy them now because it's a bad area of town. I won't even drive down there during the day. It's sad.
339. The historic buildings and watching people rescue them and trun them back into the majestic sites they once were.
340. Saginaw has such a rich history. We have valuable resources (i.e. Saginaw River, I-675) that will allow a city like Saginaw to rebound. We have the infrastructure and housing stock to support a larger population, so we must work on bringing people back into the city and making it great once again.
341. It is where I grew up and still have family there. The city is unreconizable.. dirty, univiting, crime very depressing. Hoyt park was wonderful in the winter, ice skating, toboganning, sleding. Little league games in the summer .. now it's barren .. what do I like ... nothing
342. I like the long time residents of the city, they have made a commitment to their community and should not be slapped with higher taxes and decreased services in return. I love my nighborhood, I just hope that the neglect of the west side by the city does not continue, becuase if it does the west side will be devastated!
343. It is getting hard to find anything. Used to like seeing people skating at Hoyt Park. Shopping in a Central area, with various stores. (Not like a Wal-Mart) Miss the speciality shops. Bakerys. Provenzanos. Quality restaurants
344. The focus that is finally being placed on the Downtown area around the Event Centers!
345. Right now not alot!
346. cpo programs

- 347.the schools are improving,the police support of neighborhood associations
- 348.schools offer quaility education
- 349.No casinos very bad, more crime and poverty.
- 350.Friendliness, convenience, accessibility.
- 351.Easy to get around town, nice start on the cleaning up of the trash homes.
- 352.I regret that I moved here. I do love the temple theater and related entertainment offered at this facility, The waterfront is a wonderful asset but has been foolishly given to business and medical offices who do not use the river to attact people to the community. I enjoy historic old buildings and wish more was done to preserve them.
- 353."I love my neighborhood and my neighbors, Living in the city allows people to interact with each other. The population of Saginaw allows you the ability to recognize people in eating establishments but large enough for people not to know all of your business."
- 354.historic buildings, the size, Dow Event Centre, Friday Night Live, the Rose Garden
- 355.Its location to the Saginaw Bay and on the Saginaw River are its key assets. Its also a gateway of sorts to the Northern portion of Michigan.
- 356.The potential that Saginaw Promise has to bring people with children back to the city...
- 357.The diversity of its people and cultures. Inspite of what others say, a good, solid education can be attained in our schools in the City. The oppotunities are there, one just has to follow through and work for them.
- 358.Dow Event Center, Zoo, Free Concert at Ojibaway, Prides Family Night
- 359.They are trying to bring it back to what it was when it was thriving
- 360.Urban feel, though it needs to have infill structures downtown that look old but are new structures. Good river access.
- 361.It is my home. I like taking a walk every morning on it's sidewalks. I like the close proximity to libraries, celebration square etc. We have a lot of potential.
- 362.An outstanding medical community,that provides good-paying jobs. The Court Street and Old Town areas provide lots of oppotunity to walk to entertainment and shopping opportunities. The Riverfront and Celebration Square offer lots of wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities.
- 363.Its heritage.
- 364.Saginaw continues to function as the only "big city" in Saginaw County, even if it isn't that big anymore.
- 365.There is an increasing number of people and organizations willing to take steps to improve the area.
- 366."I like that I am able to connect with people who care about their community. More importantly, it is a place that gave me oppotunity to raise my children, and send them to college."
- 367.SASA is great. The community events like the Riverside and Lawn chair film festivals, Friday Night Live. The Temple and the Court and the Event Center. Holidays in the Heart of the City.
- 368.Saginaw I were i grew up at, I cant say its my first choice to live at.
- 369.I think people are finally working to take back the city, to clean it up, and to attract younger people. I think our police force and current city council is working hard to achieve this.
- 370.I wish that I could come up with positive comments. I have lived in the city for thirty years and own a home here, but will be leaving within the next two years. I wish I had never bought a home in the city because I will probably never be able to sell it. The decline of housing and neighborhoods all over the city makes me very sad. I no longer ride my bike outside of the Adams Blvd area, it is too dangerous, The amount of rental property in the city and the lack of enforcement of rental codes is depressing. Maintaining our blvds. and parks has become so bad that neighborhood residents often take it upon themselves to do this work. Recycling should be free and offered to all residents. I hate to say it but I look forward to no longer living in the city.

371. I think at the core is the people and diversity of Saginaw. I am not a Michigan native, and I think Saginaw has a lot to offer. However, in my work I hear about the plight and have to say I am fearful on a regular basis about crime, primarily robbery. I love where I live, I love my house. I believe the theatre arts both with the Dow Center and Pit and Balcony are a plus.
372. Saginaw is a small town that has good medical facilities, shopping centers, movies, churches, schools and postal system.
373. Economical place to live. My neighborhood is wonderful.
374. Close to all cultural events.
375. I've lived here all my life. I believe there could be more opportunities here if not for the tax cap which is crippling us.
376. The sense of community and the small-ish town feeling.
377. Not much. I find the city of Saginaw has gone down so much I ask myself every day why I am still here. Take a look at Bay City, what they have done, in comparison to Saginaw. Crime in Saginaw has increased to the point that it's out of control.
378. I like the diversity, the river and the many different opportunities we have for growth, now if we could just get some \$\$\$
379. It is located by a river that used to be beautiful and can be again
380. I think Saginaw is a great geographical area to reside in, you have and can use I-75 for travel and it offers easy access. I like Saginaw as a whole. I think Saginaw is a great place to live and to raise children as long as the children are supervised.
381. Its rich history
382. The new city streetscaping
383. I've lived here all my life and it has a lot to offer. I don't care where you live, there will always be crime. It isn't as nice a city as it used to be, but it isn't as bad as it is made out to be either.
384. The hope that it will redevelop into a wonderful urban shopping area downtown again. Theater district is getting stronger. Friday night live is wonderful.
385. Location. Old Town, Cathedral district.
386. The people are feisty and passionate. The architectural and historical resources are numerous and interesting. The proximity to natural resources. The diversity of its people.
387. Saturday nites in the summer, The zoo,
388. Its location in the state to travel to all parts of the state.
389. I love the river front areas. We can do so much with it.
390. Seems to be rebounding back
391. The old buildings. The community support. The history you feel everywhere. I love Saginaw and hate seeing the old buildings torn down.
392. The charm of old buildings and homes.
393. Celebration Square, YMCA, Farmers Market, Jazz on Jefferson, Hospitals, The Dow,, The Temple, Christmas in the City, Saginaw Choral Society Concerts, Churches,
394. The people who are nice and are working to improve our areas.
395. The people
396. Not much lately. Been in the city for 66 years
397. Police, mosquito control, fire protection from these agencies, entertainment events, castle museum history
398. The people are great. Many activities at The Dow, Pit and Balcony, The Temple, Pride.
399. Been raised here, Family
400. Its coming back. Its diversity. The old structures. Urban possibilities.
401. Old buildings, urban feel downtown and in old town

402. I have always lived here.

403. I was born here, raised here, educated here, earned a living here, and raised a family here. This town is my life.

404. Small community

405. Old time buildings

406. Heritage square, Hist. District, Otto Roeser Park, Ojibway island, riverwalk, Farmers Market, west side business district, Court St Theater, Zorbas, Fuzzy's, Civic center, parks. The people who still think progressively and are willing to do what it takes to get it done. West side civic nd Tom Trombly, Tom Mudd...yeah Saginaw.

407. This is where i was born in 1931. Lets clean it up. No pot plants, you stopped the smokers, now we allow pot??
This is really plays out good for our children, wow you can smoke pop but not cigarettes??

408. Small town atmosphere

409. I like Saginaw for the most part. There is a lot of history here and I have lived here all of my life. I love the new small businesses that come in and try to make some difference in the City. Saginaw use to be a GREAT place to live. There is a lot to do in the City as well like going to the Temple to see a play, or going to The Dow to watch a Spirit game. Or even going to support local resturants like Bringer Inn. And Hoyt park has the Memorial and now they let the mens soft ball teams play there again. It is comming along.

Question 18 – What would you do to improve Saginaw?

1. Urban farms, involve AmeriCorps in neighborhood organizing. Is there a way to build upon the story of the downtown 7-Eleven (they figured it would be a bust, instead it's a major store) to get any of the chains to at least put mini stores downtown. I get tired of seeing my wife drive out to Wal Mart but I don't try to stop her anymore.
2. Fight crime and blight. Offer it's citizens more. I have seen other things in cities such as; Lapeere Days, Freeland walleye festvile. Things of this nature bring money in and people together.
3. Continue to work on race relations. It is a problem. Seriously crack down on gang activity. Encourage black and white reinvestment in the downtown. And get serious about individual student progression in the education system. With the exception of SASA and Arthur Hill (which is on a precipice) the City's schools (buildings aside) are not producing students who can compete in tomorrow' Knowledge based economy. These children are our future and most can't read beyond a 3rd grade level, can't spell, can't do math or science - have no clue of history - no social skills and no hope. That is unacceptable.
4. Increase personal pride in all who live and work in Saginaw. Get everybody involved so they feel a part of decisions and what is going on.
5. Education with job oppourtunities for young people , infastructure.
6. improve gateways into the city and new housing development on the eastside of saginaw, encourage home ownership
7. People in Saginaw need to start standing up for their town. They need to get involved in their community. Saginaw will not change until people change.
8. In addition to 'health clinics' now in High Schools, the next needed area would be 'homeowner clinics' where residents would learn basic carpentry, painting and related maintainence repairs.
9. "Tear down every single abandoned/fire bombed house or building. Major landscaping needs to be done, esp on the east side. Increase police force (yes, I know this takes \$\$ so maybe throw in better financing by the city) City auditors take a closer look at budgets- I am sure mayor, presidents, city board members are overpaid. reduce their paychecks to better the city in which the live/work. Have more frequent/visible recycling centers for everything from paper to glass to light fixtures/toilets."
10. The city is at a tipping point. Public safety and strong schools are the two biggest issues that need to be addressed before Saginaw can move forward and become a great city once again.
11. Make it more like Bay City-they have done some great things on the river & other places as well!!
12. Try eliminating drugs and crime. It's easier said than done. Seems like a lot of corruption, with a bad economy and many shop closings. Selling drugs puts food on the table for a lot of people. It's just to bad this is what many have to do to survive. That and steal, home invasion, bank, gas station, convenient store robbery's. Some even commit a crime and go to jail, just for food and a bed. Probably not in Saginaw alone, other cities are like it.
13. Hire a new City Manager and New City Attorney, also a Progressive Public Relations firm to promote Saginaw as the new Frontier Fortress for New Green Growth and New District Developments!
14. The city of Saginaw has been given the short end of the stick in many regards, the decline of manufacturing, white flight, urban sprawl have all taken their toll. If I were in charge, first and foremost I would do my best to keep residents that are still living in the city to stay here. I would also try my best to develop ways to attract people into the city. I would encourage small businesses and at home businesses. Many people have financial hardships, many more may find it difficult to hold jobs that are increasingly further away. I would try to re-develop the city into a destination that has a variety of services that are convenient. That do not require long car rides, that are within walking distance and biking distance. As the economy continues to struggle it is important to have services that everyone can access rather they walk, bike or drive, I would keep

- this in mind when I'd encourage new businesses coming into the area. Many of your surrounding suburbs, the idea to make them more friendly by non-motorized means seems like an oxymoron. By design they cannot be made that more friendly because of their sprawled out nature. You on the other hand can, because your city was designed for higher density and mixed use can be adapted much more easily.
15. Increase awareness of public safety, street cops walking, on bikes or mopeds. Demolish arsoned and abandoned buildings. Job creation. Tax incentives for businesses to start up or relocate. With the vacant land that is created wind power can be considered. Let's get back to farming...the townships of saginaw county have destroyed our farming business, we can bring it back in the city. But and a big but, it needs to be made affordable. The reason most farms are gone is due to not making a living wage.
 16. get rid of the old vacant buildings and homes, clean up the area
 17. "1. Reduce crime through active neighborhood associations and community policing. 2. Ban future rentals and stimulate owner-occupied dwellings through creation of reborn neighborhoods that attract new home owners. 3. Start an image campaign. Many Saginaw residents are our own worst enemies. 4. Improve discipline in City public schools. It's too much about making the ""customers"" (parents)happy so the schools don't lose their state funding dollars rather than creating a proper learning environment. We need good schools to attract home owners to the city."
 18. Business needs to be brought into the city. With business comes families - schools in the city are terrible and need to be cleaned up and educational standards need to be improved. Until that happens, the city won't see a lot of improvement.
 19. Crime needs to be handled better, too many teens wandering the streets, blighted areas need to be cleaned up, landscaping and flowers to make the areas look better and more inviting, more cultural and other events that bring the City together.
 20. The roads are in bad shape and need to be fixed. At the same time the roads are being fixed, research-based strategies to slow down traffic could be added. I would keep up the efforts to reduce crime. I would encourage homeowners and renters to take pride in their homes and keep the shrubs trimmed, the grass mowed, and take the couches off the porches.
 21. Find ways to reduce crime and eliminate blight.
 22. "To begin with, measures that are already being taken have already made drastic improvements. I've lived my entire life in a central East Side neighborhood and have seen it go from drug dealers standing on corners and dilapidated housing to family homes, safe streets and blight removal. I'd improve Saginaw by continuing the trends of increased police presence where it's most needed, blight removal such as tearing down abandoned homes, and offering tax breaks to businesses that bring money and jobs to underutilized areas of the city. Additionally, the idea of urban farming intrigues me. The demolished homes have done a lot to improve things, but the lots require a lot of upkeep and could be put to use instead of lying fallow to become illegal dumping grounds. We have great millages in place to support police and libraries. Let's keep these in place! A good police department and excellent library system are some of the things that attract people to a city. They are essential to growth. Let's do all we can to make Saginaw attractive to outsiders considering a move and to businesses looking to expand or relocate. In the meantime, let's make Saginaw attractive to the people who already live here!"
 23. I will continue to volunteer to work on issues or events that will positively impact the quality of life and community. I as a taxpayer, would welcome incentives for businesses to build along the river...such as restaurants, medical, and other businesses. I would like outreach to organizers to introduce special events to fully utilize our river to attract people to Saginaw. I will continue to speak to the positives that we have in our community..
 24. Make it a safer community.

25. Clean up Saginaw's reputation for crime and violence. Renovate historic buildings / build newer buildings. Saginaw really needs more things for people to do, but these things will not work unless people feel safe. Unfortunately, rarely do I feel safe in many areas of the city. Old run down houses and buildings are bringing down the value and overall feel of the area that they reside. Bring in new businesses and these improvements will be easier to make. Also, people are moving away from the city, we need to make the city safe again and get people to want to live in the city.
26. Focus on making Saginaw a community that attracts young professionals who are willing to look at the long-term consequences of tax policies, as well as invest for the future instead of always thinking short-term.
27. Aggressively address violent crime and drug-related crime by funding a capable police force and avoid plea bargains for these types of criminal.
28. I would create jobs, increase arts and entertainment, do a major make-over(construction).
29. limit the number of rentals!! or better yet, if you own a home and rent it out - live next door to it!!
30. Make it a safe place to hang out in. My family and I would rather drive to Bay City and Midland.
31. trade and train for the future
32. Urban/Loft living options downtown/old town, a larger variety of restaurants and bars. A Brewery! Change the attitudes of those who want to see it fail. See some new developments (largescale) going up in downtown. New hotel/convention centers (like J.W. Marriot in Downtown Grand Rapids) that would draw people to come and meet in this area. A greater sense of Public Safety.
33. "Increase police and fire protection. Improve the streets. (a lot of them are terrible) Spend the money we have and get more wisely than has been done in the past. Improve the schools."
34. I would increase safety first, esp. on the east side where there are hardly any police. I would also create jobs by bringing in industrial developers and hiring the local community to help rebuild the city. This will increase jobs, decrease crime and poverty, and increase overall community involvement. I would also STOP SHUTTING DOWN THE SCHOOLS! I understand that the city is running low on funds, but our schools are overflowing with students with not enough teachers and staff to compensate. Young people have a hard enough time in school as in, so we have to do something to turn the situation around.
35. Improve downtown and encourage downtown development. Have tougher regulation in regards to rental units. Increase Public Safety patrols.
36. Anything at this point...we need it badly...too many crimes..gangs..drugs...education is a joke...government is a joke
37. show some pride and clean up the waterside brush on Objibawa island, some places can't even see the water from the circle drive. Capitalize on local history. Perhaps a recreation of old fort saginaw and an objibwa village on the island. perhaps even a working sawmill. that island can be used for more that just growing brush.
38. I would vote to have everyone on the city council to take a pay cut.
39. I would like to see many of the abandoned homes and buildings removed. More eating establishments and development along Michigan Avenue for business people besides fast food.
40. I'm not a politician so it's easy for me to say, but it would seem that there is something wrong with our city management. Maybe some tweaking there is needed?
41. Start with the removal of the Sheriff, followed by city council. Get rid of the gangs.
42. tear down all old boarded up buildings causes crime and looks real bad
43. I would start by talking to the city planners in Bay City and see what they did and how we could implement similar ideas. Clearly Bay City draws the people in for all kinds of events and they have a beautiful downtown area with shops and restaurants. Here we have nothing to bring people down for. You have the Friday Live but as soon as that is over, people leave the area since there is nothing here to keep them downtown.

44. Quit having open enrollment. Whichever school district you live in is where your child should go to school unless you choose to send them to a parochial or private school at your cost.
45. More businesses.
46. I would get rid of our current city manager and city council. Saginaw has been ruined by special interests.
47. Bulldoze most of it.
48. i would make landlords clean up their propties mackincaw heights to start with no bbq on the front lawn.....get kids off the streets at night. the first step is clean up and fix up...maybe business will want to come back
49. Not much to keep people interested in coming or staying here (our violent crimes per capita ranking may scare people off as well).
50. After passage of a bond, move out of City Hall & restore the structure to an energy efficient symbol of this city like the water works building.
51. I would first begin by improving public safety. This does not necessarily mean to increase the police force/presence throughout the City. While a proactive police force is important, residents can also band together by creating more neighborhood watch programs. I would also work with neighborhood groups on beautification and other neighborhood-centered improvement projects to instill more pride in not only a specific portion of the City, but also to take pride in their City as a whole.
52. "Improve Streets remove blight and dilapitated houses"
53. Improve police presence in down town Saginaw, take the street s back from CRIME and make it SAFE to actually do things in SAGINAW
54. Start an urban renewal process of demolishing/clearing vacant, abandoned houses and building and coming up with a development plan for that space. Whether it be sell the land to a potential incoming business, or sell residential lots to adjacent land owners, or for that matter give the residential lots to adjacent land owners so they are responsible to maintain the lots.
55. Keep improving different areas in community, the schools, housing, I feel that we are going in the right direction. It does take time and there will be mistakes made but how else can we grow and improve.
56. The abandoned buildings in downtown absolutely must go. It's such a bad image. Also, Michigan Avenue from Ezra Rust to Genesee is LONG overdue for reconstruction.
57. Expand the public transportation systems a little along with joining Michigan's various bike routes that are interconnecting with surrounding cities throughout the state.
58. Enforce the codes, ALL codes. You can't have a lumberjack business in the middle of a residential area. That's what it's become.
59. "the downtown is scary (Genesee Ave) where there used to be a business community there are now less than businesses and store fronts that look awful. It would be great if the old buildings could be brought back, but I assume that would cost too much money as they are really in disrepair. More places to listen to live music, not just rock (that I like) but what about a jazz bar, or establishment of a wine bar with live music"
60. Try to restore the old business that have great architectural appreance.
61. Stop crime and demolish old abandoned buildings. Old buildings are too expensive to fix up.
62. Increase safety and utilize the river area
63. Would love to see it develop similar to downtown Bay City, just not sure it has the potential to do so. Crime and blight are probably the biggest problems.
64. Keep working to improve public safety and focus as much as possible on education. We need to focus on reducing crime, increasing jobs, and improving health care.
65. Police

66. City blocks that are empty should be broken in to very large lots and given to people who want to and are willing to build new single family housing and are willing to live in that housing for a predetermined amount of time. Having landlords is not the cure for rehabing any housing area.
67. Have stronger code enforcements. I have a daughter that lives in the City of Saginaw. The City needs a restriction on how many dogs a person can own per household. My daughter has a neighbor that has 4 Large dogs that have completely destroyed the back yard, dig there way out, and bark non-stop!
68. Remove abandoned buildings and keep it cleaned up. Downtown Saginaw looks so much better than it did. Keep improving.
69. clean it up and get rid of some of the abandoned areas...to bring in more business and residence.
70. i would like to see the pride in the community be restored and to feel safe.
71. These are all wonderful ideas in this survey and most would help, but above all we must feel safe or all the walking & bike paths and festivals in the world won't help bring people in. Our law enforcement and city officials need to do their jobs and stop posturing for votes.
72. The feeling or being more safe in the City. The majority of the Southwest City area is worsening especially in the area around Covenant. One of the larger grocery stores in the City (West Michigan-Craigs) is now closed. After it gets darker outside, people are less likely to stay outside and enjoy events.
73. Bring back curb side recycling.
74. if I could, eliminate crime, tear down ALL old buildings
75. "Offer greater incentives for home owners in saginaw. Instead of having homestead taxes for those with more than one home, encourage people to buy more homes by doing away with those additional taxes so we can at least generate some revenue that is currently lost on vacant homes. Make it easier for people to rent out homes, but ensure that the properties are well maintained and add value to the area. Maybe a required rental licenses could offset the costs of implementing code adherence. Offer tax breaks to homeowners who pay taxes on time for extended period of time such as 7 years, anything to build up some pride of owning a home in the city. Why not make it easier to demolish abandoned homes, to increase the value of homes for current residents, again building pride in the community and ultimately increasing value. Ultimately we as a community need to improve the culture of OUR community. The power of cultural behaviours will have a greater effect than pointlessly throwing more money away on useless projects. as people have more pride they will look after the city better reducing the amount of work required by the city itself. As poeple move to the area again we can then spend monies on recreational areas. Let's try get young innovative men and women on our council to give our city the direction we need. less of any particular cultural background but a great selection to represent our differing communities and ultimatley bridge some of the gaps that exist. why not have cultural quarters in our downtown area??!! Afircan American, Mexican, traditional american, native american, and i may be slightly biased but definitley an English quarter. lets just try bring this community back together so that we all want to work for eachother!!"
76. Need campaign to improve image.
77. Plan more festivals and entertainment..... get rid of all the bight, and improve the main areas such as Holland Ave.
78. I think putting all the drug addicts dead smack in the middle of downtown was a bad idea. Downtown should have been a major business district with upscale housing, but it became the total opposite of that. The Dow is beautiful, but it's surrounding areas are not. There are too many wasted buildings...Jacobsons, the hotel across the street from the Dow, the railroad on north of the Dow. These are areas that could create a good revenue stream for the city and they should be utilized as such.
79. I would focus a lot of energy on improving the Riverfront on both sides

80. Add more activities for young adults to participate in. I usually go to the Detroit area on weekends to go out with friends who live down there. It would be nice if they could come up here and have the same opportunities for entertainment.
81. Jobs plain and simple
82. Keep up and add more street lights. Hoping that having the streets lite up more, will decess crime and violence. Escecially in residential areas.
83. Cleaning up the blight is a good start.. and find other uses for the vacant areas. Educating people to learn to take pride in the area is important.
84. demolish abandoned/barely used bldgs that look unsitely
85. improve the river front like cleveland did; clean up the parks/old bldgs & renovate them for housing; give incentives for living in the city; make old blgs a place for teens so they arent just hanging around on the streets- to help eliminate gangs; bring back more police officers;
86. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE PRIDE AND THE CITY OFFICIALS TO GET ALONG...WHAT HAPPENED ABOUT THE STAGE AT MORLY PLAZE FOR FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE WAS DISGUSTING
87. less crime, no shooting
88. Get rid of the blight, increase safety, enforce our codes and the little things (parking on lawn, across sidewalk, the wrong way on streets) These things are small in comparison with the gang activity and crime but when the little things are not enforced the lead to what has happened. Somehow we have to instill some pride and respect for each other. I live in area with a lot of rental house. One house has been a rental for over 30 years. This landlord is a blessing and should be an example to others. He keeps his property immaculate, his tenants are good and he respects the neighborhood. I wish i could say that about the other rentals in my area. I could cry when i look out my kitchen window every morning. Neglected houses and yards with people living there who have no respect for the neighbors. It's sad because when we moved to this house in 1977 I also cried...with happiness as I looked out my kitchen window and saw my little 2 yr old sony playing in the sandbox. Things have changed and not for the better.
89. I would like to see the River front on the west side of the Saginaw River improved, put a Marina in along the River near the Genessee Bridge make that whole area downtown an areas for recreation and festivals to bring people from the county into Saginaw for entertainment. The Dow event center is there on the East side the Temple theater, I have been down town for the summer Friday night Live and it is great with how many people are enjoying themselves. Open it up so that people can bring their boats there . Give people a reason to enjoy Saginaw. There are beautiful empty buildings downtown that could be used to entertain people. use the river to bring people down town with people comes WORK for other people. Casino's, clubs , dinner and dancing... bring it on.
90. Try to lower the crime rate. Try to encourage more unity between the two sides of the bridges.
91. LIFT THE STUPID TAX CAP. This is a restriction put on the revenues in 1979 without indexing for inflation or adjustments for a shrinking revenue base. If you want a tax cap, fine - but make it FLEXIBLE so the 'real' dollars stay the same. No other city I know of has this tax cap. It sure hasn't made our city or citizens any more prosperous. Despite what they say, people aren't leaving or avoiding the city because of its taxes: it's the crime and blight, which taxes could fight, that drive people out.
92. Add more police officers to the force!
93. Greater presence of police on the streets; cut crime by 70%; make it safer to live and work.
94. I would court tech jobs from high tax states. Encourage the State legislature to cut the taxes on business and industry. Pass an ordinance that would keep single family dwellings, single family family dwellings. No more cutting old two story houses into three and four apartments.
95. Fix up the old large buildings downtown and try to find investors to turn them into river front condos.

96. try and lower the crime rates, find ways to get people to talk about what they see at crime scenes, we need to get rid of "street justice"
97. Traffic enforcement needs to be improved.
98. River opportunities, shopping/Nordstrom, and restaurants.
99. I would create a municipal level version of the Federal Homestead Act, either in name or practice. The city would offer vacant land and any structurally sound existing buildings to be homesteaded by any who wished to stake a claim. Homesteaders would file a claim; live on and improve/develop the property for seven years as a primary residence, keep the taxes current; then receive a clear deed to the property. There would be some important differences in this homesteading program though. The first and most important difference is that no one would be displaced. Secondly, this program would have a small business incubator to facilitate homesteaders creating businesses on their homesteads. Agricultural enterprises, and other small, locally owned businesses in a variety of industries would be developed and supported in their formative stages with business planning, funding and networking. Lastly, the program would ultimately be open to any that apply, but the first opportunity would go to current municipal residents, followed by State residents, then the general public. The participants would then undertake the work of redeveloping the property—each parcel in its own way—into a modern, sustainable, human-scale village.
100. "There are good people in this community and unfortunately the bad get the publicity. We need more positive publicity and reduce the negative sensational headlines. We need to bring the City Schools into an excellent resource to educate our youth for the future. We need parents to reinvest in public education and in their community. Good jobs and business commitment to this area are keys to enabling the reinvestment of people and this community. I would like to see more ethnic restaurants/delis/take-outs to give us more eating options."
101. tear down vacant houses, offer land to neighbors for cheap, do not build anything else!
102. Mackinaw needs to be repaved out to the city limits - especially in the Arthur Hill area and north.
103. Keep police, fire employees on a stable base. Keep safe and affordable residential buildings for senior citizens.
104. crime control, eliminate the income tax, try to get a county wide government
105. "MORE OUT REACH PROGRAMS!!! WE HAVE MANY TO REACH OUT TOO BAD CHOICES AND HABITS GOT US HERE!!! LETS CHANGE BEHAVIOR!! LIKE AN AFFLICTION WITHOUT INTERVENTION NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE!!!!"
106. get tough on crime, demolish as many abandoned buildings as possible, encourage home ownership, limit number of rental homes, overhaul the city council, preserve our parks
107. Bring in fresh "New Ideas" concerning jobs, Condos on the river. I used to live in Flint, I see Flint redeveloped their Downton area. It actually looks very nice. A lot of people in the Downton area now. Saginaw should do something like that. Concentrate on getting Businesses in the City instead of finding ways to cut Public Service. Without Public Service, would YOU want to live HERE?
108. Encourage more small businesses. Reduce crime by forcing juvenile offenders to do community service, such as pulling weeds, shoveling snow, raking leaves, and sweeping streets. Crime is one of the biggest problems in the city. The police do their part, but then the criminals are simply given a slap on the wrist and released. CRIMINALS MUST BE PUNISHED TO REDUCE CRIME! Without more decent jobs the city is doomed, but crime discourages businesses from coming to and staying in the city. Crime discourages people from being out and about. It's a vicious cycle. If more law abiding citizens were out on the streets, there would be less crime, but if you walk on the street you can easily become a victim of crime. The city needs to encourage walking and biking to encourage law abiding citizens to be outside. The city needs more small, local schools. Building big schools was a huge mistake. It is bad for the climate in the schools and it causes an increase in crime in the surrounding neighborhoods. The city also needs to start looking only at quality and ability, and not even

consider race at all, when deciding whom to hire and which organizations to support. Every government institution and every news outlet needs to totally ignore race-baiters. Don't pay any attention to them any more, don't even listen to them. City government leaders bend over backwards to give attention to one ethnic group because they are the ones that are always screaming. Then they wonder how they could make such a huge mistake as give money to the "parasol pastor". Listen up, city government leaders - it's because you are so desperate to appease one group that you put blinders on and don't even notice the obvious. The city council needs to make decisions that benefit city residents as a whole, not just one ethnic group. When any important position in this city needs to be filled, everyone knows that the person who gets the job is most likely going to be from one ethnic group. That's ridiculous and hurts the city. Just take the best person for the job and ignore race. Look at the content of character, not the color of skin. The city also needs to realize that it isn't the big projects that are going to benefit this city - keep everything on a small scale that's affordable. An example is Anderson Water Park. If there had been an affordable family swimming pool at this location instead of a water park, it would still be in existence. It's amazing that a city of this size has so few places to swim, but the reason is that Saginaw had to have a big, expensive facility. Did you really think it would attract tourists?

109. Have more of the Saginaw people shoot the Saginaw people, sort of a way to weed out the crap.
110. Reduce crime. Find ways to attract high tech industry so the people that fill the high tech jobs will want to come to Saginaw.
111. I am afraid of crime here and so go out less than I would like. I am new to the area and not sure which areas are "safe;" I would like to feel that I am safe throughout the city. I would like to see us get rid of vacant buildings and enforce code enforcement - I pass a house nearby where the back yard is piled high with brush, creating habitat for varmints. I feel uncertain about the mosquito spraying and would like to be reassured that it is safe for us to breathe, I worry that it is harming out children and elderly. I would like to see out schools be better funded and more patrol cars on the streets.
112. Control gangs and crime.
113. I wish the city would tear down all blighted areas and offer incentives to occupied blighted homes for the occupants to move, and then, tear down those homes too. Homes that have architectural/historic value should be maintained. I would also make for better use of tax money. I see no added value whatsoever to living in the city, yet I pay income tax to do so. Our water bills are too high--much higher than surrounding areas that do not have income taxes. Our neighborhoods are blighted. Crime is too high. Where is the tax money going? We cannot attract new businesses with the way the city currently looks. Who would want to relocate their business (tax incentive or not) to an area with decaying properties and high crime? If better care were taken to remove blighted areas, we might be able to attract people to the area. Furthermore, removal of blighted areas might have the effect of decreasing crime. Numerous studies have shown that the morale of people declines in decaying areas. Who can feel proud of their city and fight to keep it crime-free when they are constantly looking out the window at a boarded-up house or an ill-kept drug house?
114. From what i can see there are no businesses knocking down the door to locate to saginaw. My suggestion is that we go old school, start mining salt again. We have to do something to create jobs, or attract businesses to saginaw.
115. I would like to see the historical aspects of Saginaw restored.
116. "SCHOOLS!! - when I graduated from AHHS ('62), it was one of the 5 top academic high schools in Michigan, one of the top 50 in the nation! Now, AHHS and SHS can't meet minimum standards!! GOVERNMENT - too many people are elected or promoted because of race, not ability - unions should not be running city govt!"
117. "Redo Mackinaw, for a major street, its horrible! Keep removing old houses/buildings...that is making a difference Enforce curfew for minor's...there can be nothing good for them being out past curfew Include checking on minors that are walking around during school hours Enforce codes better about keeping a place

- clean, grass, trash, etc. Better sidewalks/curbs along major roads like Court St, Mackinaw, for better bicycling
 Do more with the river : add large businesses, homes, etc Bay City has done a good job with this Keep
 maintaining Police, that has made a difference"
118. Make the gateways into the city more inviting and less intimidating. More welcoming. Continue to remove the abandoned buildings which may open things up a bit and make things feel less crowded.
 119. better streets. fix the blight and demolish abandoned houses will go a long way.
 120. I think the streets need to be improved. I travel throughout the city and feel that my car is going to fall apart sometimes when I hit bump after bump. I would love to see the abandoned houses be demolished. They are such an eye sore to Saginaw. Neighborhood parks would be nice, especially on the East, North and South sides of the city.
 121. "Reevaluate the job descriptions of city employees Reduce the powers of the City Manager or give him more direction. Repair highly traveled streets"
 122. "The first thing I would do is to stimulate the growth of jobs and job opportunities. Second, I would encourage wholesale learning of financial matters. Expose the companies who are bilking people of what little they have. How does the Insurance companies work, medical costs - who pays, etc. Third, I would provide a campaign that educates the public on the necessity for taxes in the city. These things we want done cannot be done without taxes. The problem is, we don't let people know that you get what you pay for! Fourth, I would inform people about graft in the city, unnecessary spending in the city, misuse of funds in the city, etc. I believe people would develop a sense of responsibility in their jobs and we would find ourselves with more tax dollars to provide for the Wish List you propose on the other pages of this survey!"
 123. Increase law and code enforcement to allow people to feel safe and willing to come to the city before trying to plan events that no one is willing to attend due to fear.
 124. The city is currently in need of major increases in public safety. Saginaw should be nowhere near #1 in crime. Improving public safety will create jobs, and reduce blighted areas. I believe that business and population would increase if the city were a safer place to live. Second, health-care related jobs and industry are essential to Saginaw's growth. Third, the city's riverfront area is a great place to start encouraging responsible development of housing and business. Improving riverfront access and removal of blighted and abandoned buildings would help greatly. Fourth, Saginaw's 'east side' is widely known as the 'bad' part of town. Giving tax breaks to new businesses and those willing to relocate there (provided better public safety) could help revitalize the area. Additionally, focusing on education will lead to overall success for Saginaw's residents. Perhaps give incentives for area colleges/universities to develop, or even free use of land in the downtown and east of the river areas. All of these ideas will cost money to implement. Careful planning could produce continued growth and increased revenue for the city.
 125. I wish the trees and areas where people planted were maintained and not forgotten after being planted. I wish we would tear down the abandoned houses and fix up the yards that are over grown with grass and shubbery.
 126. "Add curb side recycling. Make City departments and services easier to contact as needed. Improve animal control and keep response to animal issues. Continue to demolish abandoned buildings. Fix State Street in city limits & Court Street. Create environment for Companies with job & training opportunities to move into city. Bring back the Carllton street bride"
 127. More police to get rid of the crime. We're number one in crime shame on us!
 128. The city has pushed or forced business out to the townships and lost a lot of revenue. Plus now to purchase anything we have to drive a distance to major stores. I remember when downtown was a day long fun filled activity.
 129. I would immediately demolish or repair all abandoned houses, create more child friendly parks. Tear down all the old useless buildings in downtown Saginaw to create new land for business. I say to heck with the

- preservationists who would keep these blighted buildings here for history. A prime example is the Potter st. train station. They preserved that and has anyone looked at that lately. It is a disgrace.
130. re-focus on a safe city. offer small business tax incentives and apply for grants that include areas never considered in these requests.
 131. Utilize the river front, get rid of residents that don't take care of their yards (fines), bring in more business opportunities, improve schools by spending more money in the classrooms and holding parents accountable for their children's education.
 132. The roads are in horrible disrepair, and I often feel unsafe walking the streets. There are few economic opportunities, and taxes are too high for the quality of services delivered.
 133. get a casino
 134. Reduce crime, work on education, bring in businesses, demolish empty buildings.
 135. see a casino built. It would increase the tax money for the city and also create more job which would cut down on crime. If people want to gamble they are going to go someplace and it might as well be Saginaw where we can stand to have some money come in for the city.
 136. change it's image from crime to a water playland. we have a valuable resource that isn't being used, just look at Bay City.
 137. get rid of the mayor
 138. BUILD THE CASINO....and they will come !!!!!!!
 139. Focus on renovation, removal of blight, increase public safety/crime prevention and add community pride events.
 140. Make the city income tax rate 1.5% for all who work or live in the city. The only exception is for city workers who live outside to pay 2% as their homestead taxes are not added to city coffers.
 141. "Key, key, key - demolish blight. Charge landlords, absentee or local, for demolition. Children should not have to live by vacant or boarded up houses which often solicit crime. Clean up the river. Make ourselves a destination which is what Bay City achieved. Go back to the halcyon days and see what issues we shared then and see if the city has made progress since. A way of consolidation of safety forces with a minimum wage and personnel change, if feasible. Schools are imperative. Keep the kids in school and keep responsibility at home even if it involves some sort of fee paid by parents if the kids don't abide by the rules. Solidify an agenda based upon information from this survey, local business people, educational representatives and the medical field. Act upon said agenda. There used to be Committee of 50 - check into it and see if something along those lines would work now. Keep the libraries open. Expand and enforce animal control laws. Finally, LIFT THE TAX CAP!! Never quit, never stall out. Saginaw is resilient and does have a great heart. It will survive if the stewardship is sensible."
 142. My husband and I tried to buy a building to move our family and business into in Old Town. The funding was impossible for housing and business. If we can't do it, how is the city ever going to get going with young people.
 143. Feeling of safety.
 144. Increase community policing. Seek funding to continue to demolish abandoned buildings. Try to mimic the riverside development of Bay City.
 145. the city needs to encourage more activities free or cheap that people might attend
 146. I would redevelop the riverfront like Bay City and add housing and even a casino.
 147. Allow small business owners access to affordable loans or grants.
 148. Strict code enforcement
 149. I would like to see the blight removed. I would like for landlords to face stronger penalties for renting to drug dealers and obnoxious people. If the homeowners who occupy their home are complaining about the renters some one should be held responsible. More law enforcement would be nice. Saginaw is not a safe

- place to live or work and it is only getting worse. Nobody seems to have any pride anymore. Homeowners should face fines if they insist on not keeping up their yards and homes.
150. create the large, I mean real large parks. Please do not let a few residents spoil it for all. We must take imminent domain of the hold out home owners and landlords. the parks will be a failure if there are homes to be allowed to stay. it will not be like a park or garden that we want people to use. it may be legally hard but is for the good for the majority.
 151. "Troop surge" against drugs and gangs. We need to look at the criminals as we do the enemy in Afghanistan and show absolutely no mercy. Keep trying to get the section 8 housing OUT of the Bancroft and Eddy buildings. Bring new food options to downtown - Starbucks, Panera Bread, etc. Look at downtown Royal Oak as a prime example of how to turn around a decaying downtown!
 152. It needs more businesses, more support for small/local businesses. More reasons for businesses to come here.
 153. More enforcement of city code, faster removal of condemned homes, more industrial and technology employment opportunities
 154. I would mothball or protect any old buildings in downtown and old town until business people come forward with a desire to purchase them. They should also be offered dirt cheap to those who have the desire to utilize them. Cities who have been successful in having their downtowns come back to life didn't remove them all. There is movement downtown right now but we have to encourage others to infill next to existing structures and the new buildings must be sited on the sidewalks and must have facades that look historic. Downtown Holland Michigan did this and their downtown is busting at the seams while their local mall has only three or four stores left. Everyone wants to be downtown. Their downtown looks old even though 1/3 of the buildings are new infill but their facades look like its the late 1800's.
 155. there is not much you can do with the most violent city in america .this has to be addressed before anything will work
 156. Develop the waterfront first & foremost. Try and get a handle on the violence--drive out the gangs.
 157. My suggestions were stated earlier in the survey
 158. I personally would capitalize upon the good and generous nature of the people of Saginaw and Saginaw Townships. There are many community and religious organizations who, if given the invitation, would work with their money and their might to improve Saginaw's neighborhoods, Parks, and other areas of upkeep to restore Saginaw to a vibrant, flourishing, attractive city, which would be a beautiful draw for any business to come and plant their roots to provide employment for our residents. I would also use the rich History of Saginaw's Lumber industry to tell the story in a visual way along the river, and advertise to invite product making industries to build or revitalize buildings in Saginaw.
 159. "Work harder to maintain our historic and architectural heritage; we've lost too much of our sense of "place" Take better advantage of the riverfront Continue to reduce the crime rate -- and the perception of crime"
 160. Crack down on slumlords. Unkempt rentals filled with residents who commit crime is a HUGE problem. Make sure landlords are licensed. Other HUGE problem is drugs, which contributes to gangs and violence. Conduct more fugitive round-ups. Make criminals do manual labor. Enforce truancy and the curfew consistently, and hit parents with heavy fines or jail time. Continue enforcing codes through SCENIC. HAVe more recycling drop offs throughout the city. Stop wasting money on useless ShotSpotter and put money toward live video cameras instead. Empower citizens to patrol their neighborhoods. Council needs to get priorities in order - major spending needs to go toward crime and blight before we throw money at beautification initiatives, sister cities, etc. City budget needs to be monitored. Stop wasting money on Plante Moran studies. Stop hiring assistants to people who don't do anything anyway. Stop creating new positions unless others are combined or eliminated.

161. "Fire Early. I honestly think that he has been very bad for the city. He applies for every job he can, I say let him go! He doesn't even live in the city! I think the city should require that ANY city employee live in the city limits! Fire, Police, Manager, city workers, ANYONE! For those that do not want to do it, get rid of them, there are hundreds if not thousands of police, firefighters, city workers and managers around the country that would LOVE to have a job! Lastly, I would vote for a lifting property tax cap ONLY if the city income tax was abolished."
162. Reduce crime. Demolish not only dilapidated houses but commercial buildings also - look at the area near E. Genesee and Webber, for example.
163. Better police protection. It is down right scary in the City of Saginaw. We for sure do not need a casino. If you won any money, you would need an armed guard to go to your vehicle or to even get out of the city. All it would do is bring more criminals to stalk the honest people going there to waste their money.
164. Find a way to make people less afraid of visiting it, (i.e. lowering crime, making enticing events)
165. Turn Old Town into a service district, much like Chicago or San Diego. Utilize the water front. There is already traffic in this area. Yes mostly at night, but that is more than the rest of the City is producing. Outside of a concert or Spirit game at the Dow, this is the only area with commercial traffic. This is the best area to put Casinos.
166. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE DEVELOPMENT IN ALL AREAS OF THE CITY-NOT JUST THE ONES LISTED IN THE SURVEY. THERE SHOULD AN INCREASE RETAIL , BIKE TRAILS, ETC,ETC THROUGHOUT THE CITY. THE PLAN SHOULD ON ALL DEMOGRAPHICS.
167. Make it more like Bay City's water front and Midland. Safety is the most important thing to this city and we have the worst reputation.
168. Shop, eat and play in Saginaw with friends and family. Currently we very rarely do any of this because there are no specialty shops and restaurants are predominantly chains. We enjoy unique. Now I go to shop in Bay City downtown, Ann Arbor, E. Lansing and Chicago. I would like to return to a Saginaw that has it all.
169. I would help and volunteer on community projects.
170. Level the abandoned buildings!
171. Clean up Saginaw's image with positive advertising. Create a positive attitude and a sense of responsibility in the city's residents.
172. Physical improvements may make the city more attractive, but Saginaw won't attract people (to live, work, play, etc.) without them having a reason to be there. Attempts should be made to recruit/retain businesses, entertainment, etc.
173. Public safety needs to continue to be a priority. The world is more violent and Saginaw is more impoverished. Those two things together spell danger. Very few restaurants other than fast food due to low incomes and safety concerns. Need more jobs in the area. We won't even be able to support the hospitals in the near future if we can't create and maintain jobs. I would like to see some population growth. As we reduce head counts we have less tax dollars and a very similar amount of infrastructure to maintain. The formula will not work for long if the population figures continue to spiral downward. The prevailing attitude of the general public in the Saginaw area is also a major downer. Virtually every comment in virtually every Saginaw story is negative. There is a sense of dis-pare amongst the constituents, many of whom are not informed on any of the issues. The negativity will hamper progress.
174. "Get the gangs and groups of kids off the streets. Even by Arthur Hill I see kids walking around neighborhoods during the day when they should be in school. And a HUGE thing to me is to make parents accountable for their children. That is where the problem starts. If parents had to pay fines when their kids roam around at 2 in the morning, it would make a bigger impact on the parent AND thus, the child. hopefully....."

175. Don't do business as usual. Think outside of the box. There must be someone who is more visionary than those already working/serving our city. Our city leaders must have connections/resources that can be utilized to bring our city into the present and then into the future. Bring more diversity in the work sector, improve our cultural interests, focus on our schools, We can't keep raising taxes and cutting services and crying "Oh, woe is me. This is not an easy task and not everyone can or will be pleased. JUST DO IT!
176. Allow a casino/casinos to build focus on attracting businesses to support that/ put on River build up surrounding areas/ create jobs/ It has been done in lots of places
177. A better image! I don't think it is as bad as it is always portrayed. There are a lot of good things going on that are sometimes never heard. The media could be more supportive, less combative. Keep people working together to solve problems in their neighborhood.
178. Cultural growth, arts & entertainment, improved riverfront, remove blight
179. Something to enhance entrepreneurs. Tax relief
180. better lit streets at night would be the first thing
181. Concentrate on eradicating crime, blight. This would help alter the present image hanging over our heads. New industry is very much needed as is a giant step as would the elevation of the current education system.
182. take out the blight. Reduce the crime rate to improve the public perception of the downtown area.
183. "Provide recreational opportunities for kids (give them something to do)---bring back the recreation department in the City. Define City and welcome people (gateways)----Improve entrances to the City. Provide effective wayfinding signage (maybe a cheaper and better solution to reconstructing the I-675 entrance/exit ramps). Image of the city has suffered greatly - no one from the outside wants to come here - that image needs to be changed - talk about the GOOD things - change the IMAGE, the perception that this is a bad place to be-----not saying we don't have work to do because it's not all good."
184. continue pressure on gang activity/violence. enforce codes in neighborhoods. Encourage block parties and neighborhood connection events. Increase response of police to take reports in person and actually investigate home robberies and auto thefts so people feel safe in their homes. Encourage banks to allow rentals/lowcost sales of repossessed properties so they do not go abandoned and then get vandalized/burned and become another vacant lot waiting to happen and reduce home values for neighbors.
185. Offer more opportunities for jobs and entertainment - the idea of a casino is great and could really boost the economy and help local businesses. Get rid of abandoned houses and the idea of community or urban gardens is great.
186. Hold landlords accountable for their properties. Look for ways to tie welfare and other aid programs into volunteerism, training and school attendance (for recipients children).
187. Strengthen neighborhood involvement, overhaul and upgrade school system using models which have proved effective elsewhere, keep removing blight, keep a downtown which will attract businesses.
188. eliminate all these baloney fees, such as readiness to serve on the water bill along with yearly trash bill, and there are numerous others they could remove, and in its stead tell people they will get rid of all these crap fees if they allow the city to remove the tax cap but the city needs to let people know just how much they will up the cap people will not just give the city carte blanche the people already have a hard time trusting council mayor or council.
189. Better crime control, improve untouched streets that haven't had anything done to them except patch work. More walking paths, and get rid of the blight. Then maybe others will want to build here.
190. demolish the vacant homes. bring businesses back to downtown Saginaw. use the river as a lure to businesses
191. curbside recycling, promote more growth of trees. Save money by doing away with street sweeping leaf removal. Create a dog park at the park on Weiss next to the VA Hospital. Trees need to be thinned out there so more light floods the dark recesses where druggies do their drugs during the day.

192. Encourage neighborhood associations that would teach people how to maintain their homes, do a workable budget, plan for the future. Work with the families to prepare children for school and keep them in school. I think it would be great to unite everyone and turn ourselves into one of the great cities to live instead of the most violent city.
193. Put away the thugs once and for all!!!!Break the entitlement mentality cycle.
194. A casino.. Saginaw made the biggest mistake when they failed to go with a riverboat gambling casino a few years ago. That marked the start of Saginaw's downward slide. Also a City Council that will do something, take action, and not just go through the motions. We need people with imagination
195. The obvious change needed is more police officers, but I understand that the resources are just not there! Another would be to "dress up" some areas. I did like the flower boxes on the river over passes! Next would be to use the river, give people a reason to want to go on a boat ride to saginaw!
196. Tear down all of the abandoned buildings.
197. I would get rid of the blight/abandon buildings and housing. Build a casino but clean that city up. Folks in Saginaw need to take pride in the development of the "New Saginaw City", being noted for their class not as a war zone. Saginaw is a weak link in the "Tri Cities" and Bay and Midland want your city to capitalize on opportunity, investment, development, and encourage the Tri not the Bi.
198. demolish it
199. We need to clean up our city and get rid of some of the crime!
200. "remove blight encourage investment from commercial concerns - bring jobs"
201. Try to develop the water front, similar to Bay City. Create as many urban gardens as possible on empty lots. Have more family oriented events.
202. bring in more jobs. tear down delapidated structures and build new. add more festivals and attractions to bring people out to the city. bring in some business, such as a major department store and restaurants
203. the safety
204. Earlier in the survey it was mentioned that Saginaw's population went from 98,000 to its current population at about 55,000. We need to know how many of those people have moved far away and how many have moved to the surrounding townships; and why they chose to do so. People need to feel safe and confident in their homes. The city government needs to encourage neighborhood associations and listen to the people who are moving into "problem" areas and trying to fix them. It feels as though there is some sort of disconnect between the people and the city government. Many homes in Saginaw are very salvageable but are scheduled to be demolished. It is sad to me that these buildings will be torn down when we are building many new mcmanions in Freeland. We need to have a better way of determining whether a building is salvageable or if it truly should be torn down. The ones we can save we need to encourage people to live in and fix up.
205. Quit tearing down commercial buildings and convert them to condos or apartments instead. Develop the riverfront the way San Antonio, Texas has done. That is a wonderful use of riverfront area.
206. Open up more businesses downtown and we need more lights downtown(like a mini Las Vegas),we also need more clothing stores like a Ashley Stewart and more restaurants like a lhop,Sonic and Chic Fil A,we also need more stores inside of green acres and we need to put some more businesses in the buena vista area.
207. Adding a casino would greater the jobs and bring more business to Saginaw.
208. Get rid of the blight. Stop trying to revive downtown. When the city is safe an clean, people will come back and the businesses will follow them here. The Federal building was going to save the city. Ciesin probaly not spelled right, was going to save the city, Now you think a casino will save the city. Clean the city up, and people will come back. Until then for grt about it.
209. I would create more jobs, and open more business.
210. try to become more of a "bedroom" community like zilwaukee/kochville.

211. I would like to see the arts have more support- more community theatres/performances/etc...
212. Add a Casino, this would provide more jobs, more tax revenue for police and fire, and would bring in more traffic and money for all other businesses.
213. Clean up the crime, and deserted buildings
214. Jobs
215. Work to decrease crime. Remove vacant, abandoned, and condemned buildings.
216. "evaluate the city employees and the necessity for these jobs and their ability to do these jobs. Change the rules for rental properties, the landlords are not the problem, the tenants are."
217. Lift the tax cap.
218. Need more police and firefighters.
219. More neighborhood watches...If you see something going on that does not look right call the police..But they need to respond quicker..and more training for the police dept. They need to understand people better instead of judging playing God..More training with mental stability of people..And how to react to them..
220. I always compare Saginaw's riverfront to Bay City's. Saginaw has a great riverfront and has the same potential but we fail badly. I love the boutique and restaurants in Bay City and wonder why we can't do that in Saginaw. Part of it is the decay of the property/buildings and the other part is the safety concern. I feel "safe" in attending events at Dow and the Temple theater only because there are large groups of people doing the same thing. If there are no events, I don't even like driving in my car in that area after dark.
221. there is no way to improve it when companies try or people try the city taxes them to death so they have known chose but to leave saginaw for good
222. More downtown shopping... miss the old Jacobsons building...
223. Get rid of the young kids with guns. Hold the parents responsible for their children's actions. Develop the "Old Town" area, it has much potential. Raise taxes to an extreme level for owners of rental properties. These habitats trash and drug dealers. Enforce codes, and empower residents. Step up police patrols with police officers that don't just sit at the Tim Horton's at Michigan and State St. Try to get more businesses to open, and give them tax breaks, funded by the higher taxes on rental property. Add a casino! As much as gambling is a problem, the jobs it would create are a big enough argument in favor of it. The "flash" and attraction of a casino will bring in people from out of town as well. Do whatever it takes to improve this town, and the well being of it's citizens, or there won't be a Saginaw at all...
224. I would work hard to rid the downtown of broken buildings and insist that shop owners clean up their frontages. I would also work hard to improve the reputation of Saginaw; support small businesses to settle in the downtown near other current businesses. Try to persuade a company like Meijers to bring a small grocery store downtown.
225. Continue working with neighborhood groups and fostering the sense of pride and ownership of our city!
226. Build upon the city's assets, natural and cultural.
227. Our City Hall landscaping is horrible....I always say that you can tell right away if a city is successful by looking at their City Hall.....When I drive passed ours, it saddens me!
228. I would like to see the city cleaned up (demolish abandon houses) and encourage companies to come to Saginaw. The downtown can be beautiful but there is a lot of work to do
229. "Attract more medical improvements and innovations. A casino, properly placed, would help."
230. I think you'd have more people and businesses looking to move into the city if you could eliminate city income taxes
231. reparable
232. Downtown area needs more business, Theater.
233. CRIME!! FEELING UNSAFE WHEN OUTSIDE

234. As a novice real estate investor/developer I plan to bring new residential and commercial development projects to the city of Saginaw.
235. "Increase safety and encourage people to live and participate in what Saginaw City has to offer. Talk about tax incentives. We need to find ways to maintain or increase our property values. Blight is taking over the city."
236. The lack of recreational opportunities and positive activities for the youth of the city is a great problem. Families look for places where their children can be active and safe to locate to. The failure of the community to provide for youth is a great detriment.
237. Riverfront needs to model itself after Bay City. City offices need to listen to residents. Neighborhoods need to be cleaned up and residents need to be held accountable to maintain their property. City officials and leaders should be required to live in the city.
238. work on crime
239. Abandoned buildings, crime, poor streets
240. "1. Pave Court Street from Michigan to State Street. It is used heavily and has many business and the Court house. It is embarrassing to see it's condition! 2. Move the City Hall operations to a more efficient building and turn the building over to a private company for historical restoration."
241. Reduce crime. Nothing else matters if the crime rate and the perception of crime aren't effectively addressed. We were number one again this year. How discouraging is that?
242. Great medical facility, doctors office should be given incentive to relocate in Downtown Saginaw area. Senior or assisted living should be promoted in this area
243. CASINO
244. Increased code enforcement, and lower tolerance of deteriorating property.
245. We need good union jobs again. Failing that, a program like the CCCs and WPA. With full employment and no outsourcing, the people of the city would thrive. We need full funding for our schools and we mustn't use the punitive methods toward children and teachers so prevalent now.
246. the image of the city doesn't make it very appealing to come to. High crime rates and lack of restaurants and key events to draw people into the city are nonexistent or not very well advertised. Also the image of the leadership of the city looks at best, incompetent and lacking vision. There is a lot of infighting in the city leadership that leaves it looking like it has no clear direction. The city wants to be multiculturally inclusive, but, it isn't. This has been the way things have looked for a long time. Our economy should have been diversified a long time ago. It would be nice to have a city people would want to come to instead of running away from. Police and fire protection need to be a priority.
247. Reduction of crime and violence. I have been afraid to be in my own home at times. I wish I could give all the citizens of Saginaw a big dose of respect.
248. Get a casino My cousin has a restaurant in Detroit when they got the casino his business is booming. Casino bring jobs and help local business. I'm not a big gambler I go to Mt pleasant 1 year and when I win I spend money in that town.
249. I think Saginaw should focus on improving residential areas of the city by removing abandoned homes and offering the properties to neighbors. I think putting a little more space between neighbors would go a long way in improving neighborhoods and relationships between neighbors. The streets in a lot of areas need to be replaced. When city workers have to dig up a street to make repairs to water and sewer or whatever, I think more time has to be taken to make sure the street is returned to the same condition or better that it was in before the hole was dug. In many cases (ie N. Mason) a street is repaired or reworked and then in a few weeks workers are digging it up to fix a broken water main or whatever and when the repair is made the road pavement is not returned to its previous state and becomes as bad as a pothole.

250. I would concentrate on doing alot with & through the school children: get them involved in self-help classes, growing veggies for the community, giving to the elderly, sing/walk with the lonely in nursing homes on field trips, have the inmates clean up the city for free,
251. "1.) start with public safety. 2.) You have good ideas above, just put them to work. 3.) You have to fix the image of saginaw as a bad crime city before you do anything. 4.) Offer online services, to pay taxes, waterbill, anything. Get with the Times."
252. Community support, It seems that everybody want something but then nobody supports it... You have to support things for things to become sucessfull
253. add a casino
254. I would like to see the abandonned homes cleaned up and would also like to see more townhomes/condos in the area to encourage more young professionals to come to the area.
255. "The Streets The Cross-walks The Signaling The Walkability! Desitnations! The Council The Parks The River The Crime!"
256. Add Jobs
257. Increase employment opportunities
258. "Clone Dr. Shaheen Work on the school system and give special attention to at-risk kids Find sources of funding to keep arts groups viable. Provice recycling with the garbage pickup"
259. CASINO. My friends and I currently drive from Saginaw to Mt. Pleasant a few times a month. I would much prefer to stay closer to home and keep our economic dollars in Saginaw. Between our group of 4 we have spent about \$6000+ this year. This could all be money kept in Saginaw.
260. Use common sense when enforcing code violations. If the "offender is a senior citizen, Bring in the Boy Scout to cut the grass and clean up the lawn. If the problem is a "junk car" take into consideration that the "offender" may not have immediate funds to make repairs overnight. Don't make it a crime to be old or poor.
261. Try to find a way to improve the streets(surfaces). Bring businesses into the city.
262. Put a limit on the number of rental houses in the city. We have 70% rentals now which is a BAD situation. The city has let the rental properties take over especially on the west side and most of these are Section 8. The landlords (illegal or not) are renting to low-lifes because they are guaranteed their rent. This has got to stop. We have enough crime without letting all these undesirables live in our neighborhoods.
263. What has bought Saginaw down in the last 10 years has been the amount of rental property in the City. Now nearing 70 percent it has allowed the slumlords to control the city-they do that by putting in anyone who can qualify for section 8 housing without regards to criminal background. Look at bond 1800-1900 and Union 1200 and 1100 and the problems that they create for the people that live there. Just asked oficer Mata if you need an explanation. The city should have stopped giving out rental licenses when it hit 50 percent it is out of control now. In order to save city tax dollars they need to contract out the municipal garage. It cost to much to operate it. Scientific or Mid Michigan truck can do it at half the price. Close the garage and keep a couple mechanics in the streets div. for winter snowplowing.The foreman in the city make 28.00 to 36.00 dollars per hour, that is way to high. they should only be making about 10 percent higher than the people that they manage. they would be in the 23.00 to 25.00 dollar per hour tops.Contract the water and wastewater operations-other municipalities have done this and they are working fine at half the cost. A crew for water and sewer consisit of 3 people at 480.00 for the day plus a foreman at 35.00 hr subcontract that anf you are at 240.00 hour and that includes the foreman. there is way to much management either union or non union.in the water and sewer you have the crew leader who answers to the foreman who answeres to the chief foreman who answeres to the supervisor who answeres to the director w&s row who answeres to assistant city manager for row and he answeres to the city manager.This does not include benefit packages.

- wew don,t have to cut services we need to contract them out to save money. You could almost cut the operating budget in half by doing this.
264. All that has been mentioned in my response and also expand the public transportation network that would include longer hours of operation.
 265. I feel everything needs improving in our City. It is going to take a very long time to bring Saginaw back to a much higher standard that where we are at right now. I don't believe it can happen in the next 20 years, certainly not in my lifetime.
 266. Old town has potential to be so much more if businesses could be recruited, old buildings refurbished and began hosting festivals. It seems as I drive around that there are not many historic buildings in Saginaw that are salvageable so we should save all we can. I also am in favor of getting rid of the city income tax and increasing property taxes instead.
 267. Get rid of abandoned buildings; initiate an urban farming co-op; build more affordable housing.
 268. People need to come together to build a strong community. There are a lot of people who still fear coming to Saginaw. Those old stereo-types of Saginaw need to be crushed and replaced with a more positive image.
 269. Saginaw MUST improve the safety everywhere in this city. Nobody will want to visit, work or live here because of fear of the crime. Revitalize the river front.....study Bay City and see how they've developed recreational activities on the SAME river we have. Clean up the river. It's fantastic that Saginaw is tearing down drug infested, vacant homes. Saginaw needs more things for people to do.....cultural, recreational....bring back the ice skating at Hoyt Park....expand the zoo, if possible. Why can't Saginaw have arts and crafts shows and more concerts on Objway Island? Patrol the island....make Saginaw a safe place for boaters....make a safe marina like Bay City has with SECURITY....find an anchor store to invest in downtown...a Macy's.....look at some of the successful cities...they have Macy's downtown, Bloomingdales, gormet restaurants and speciality shops. Find a creative person who can revitalize and draw the younger crowds....a trendy restaurant....Bring back the concerts that used to come to the Dow. Saginaw lacks vision.....stop building all the rehab centers, the MPRI programs and activities geared towards bringing the criminals back here. The school system is the worst in the State.....what have you done to the schools? There are 40 kids in the classrooms at Arthur Hill, drugs and weapons all over the place, kids shooting craps in classes. Look at Detroit....they practically put police on every corner to curb the crime....and the city is slowly coming back to life. For goodness sakes, add the casino....anything that can bring a job to Saginaw, do it. Clean up the dioxin....nobody wants to live in toxic waste.
 270. To start cut the trees in the canal near Ojibway to make it an island again. It would also make it safer and more open. Take down the top level of the parking ramp on Hamilton and Court so the river and businesses down there would be more accessible and also for events. Repave Court Street. Let people buy vacant property/abandoned homes next to their property for \$100 a year. Or make some of them recycle centers. Quit letting landlords payoff the inspectors. Make sure all the rentals are known.
 271. Take down every single building that has no useful purpose to anyone. Take out anything of value in those buildings and resale them-fireplaces, light fixtures, doorknobs, wood, doors-. Cut the grass, put not movable trash containers on every block. Keep the parks part of the everyday life of those in the neighborhoods. Make the school areas -like a college campus-keep the neighborhood around them up, so a student can look out the window and see that someone cares, -Form letter writing campaign to encourage any company to locate to Saginaw. Have the railroad clean up their property. Have a train run from Saginaw to up north or to the college cities-Ann Arbor-Lansing-Kalamazoo-Big Rapids. That river is our lifeline back to the future.
 272. Better use of taxpayers money, more effecient workers, that look more presentable, and work harder, without the attitude.
 273. Strict code enforcment, demolition of abandoned or run down properties, urban farming, increase green spaces. Reduce the number of absent landlords and overall, a reduction in rental homes. Development of an

- urban plan that has a mix of affordable housing, apartments, condominiums, etc. Consolidation of city services, realignment of pension and health care costs for retirees and employees, understanding that the level of law enforcement should approximate the population, and a strong, competent city manager.
274. Stop the "slum" lords. They are making life miserable for everyone except for their tenants and themselves (they are raking in all the money from the government). Traffic enforcement needs to be escalated. Drivers are disobeying traffic laws (especially speeding, not stopping at stop signs, running red lights) all the time since there is no one to enforce the laws.
 275. Remove blight, restore and repurpose historical old building. Offer incentives to get more businesses in the area. Allow urban farming on vacant residential lots.
 276. "Continue working with programs such as SCENIC, neighborhood associations, and community policing. More programs and recreation for the youth in Saginaw."
 277. Develop more on the Riverfront like Bay City.
 278. Concentrate on encouraging new business and residential development opportunities.
 279. I recycle at my job, and at home. I offer recycling of paint to the public this is what i do now....
 280. Stop selling property to churches. They contribute nothing to the economy - no jobs, no taxes, no industry, no arts.
 281. Code enforcement is very important. Our city needs a very, very good cleaning. People may have to be forced to clean up there yards. Most people in Saginaw don't have a lot of money. But it does not cost anything to bend over and pick up the paper and garbage in your yard! Landlords have to be accountable also. One landlord may own 20-30 properties. They rent them and use them without any maintenance whatsoever, finally when they have been so neglected they abandon them and go buy another. One person(landlord) cannot possibly own that many properties and keep them maintained.
 282. The riverfront is the most under-utilized asset the city has. Development is critical. Also, moving the subsidized housing out of downtown (Bancroft House and Eddy Building). Take some lessons from Flint and the rebirth of its downtown.
 283. Stop the rentals!!!!...I was a renter but didn't destroy our home or yard,this is not happening. Our city is quickly becoming one big ghetto.It devalues our property and invites more of the same.Also,resurface our streets,the jumping-bumping-jerking-bouncing motions stop as soon as you leave town literally!!!!...Get us off the murder capital list for once,get hard on gangs,they run our schools,stand in open daylight and deal??? Don't see this elsewhere. Business would do better if people felt safe around town,it's scary now around Old Town drive-in for gosh sakes,people blocking streets,gangsters shuffling around everywhere,this is not a pretty picture to a visitor or business consultant,we must draw people to Saginaw not scare them away-duh????..Businesses provide jobs to end the poverty,keep the young here and improve quality of life!!!!...Stop homemade,spraypainted store signage,this looks ghetto and perpetuates this image...Enforce clean yard and business aesthetic,we have had a ghetto vacant house next to us for years now,no improvements, no yard mowing it brings down everything around here...I reiterate about the rentals,that's what this will be,bad house=bad residents,why do think people don't " stick it out" in there neighborhoods???....Thank-You....
 284. Have more recreational programs for the youths. ENFORCE curfew and truancy!! Why even have these rules if they are not enforced!!!
 285. Improve the school system and jobs.
 286. Crime rates decreased to provide a safe atmosphere
 287. more business. first we have to make it a place where people would want to come. the schools get bad ratings and we are high in crime. the police have cocky attitudes. they need sensitivity training. they don't live here anymore so they don't have their heart in the right place.

288. Reduce crime, eliminate or tear down abandoned housing, reduce the number of rental units and get those houses back into the hands of homeowners, more jobs, more recreational activities for youth in local parks, etc.
289. Lower water bill and government services that are outdated or can now be consolidated so we can be competitive with the adjoining towns. Rezone abandoned property, consolidate the parcels and develop them into commerce so the city can gain revenues. Most of the city of Saginaw is border line poverty. Offering bike routes and trails through out the city will help clean up the city image and save tax payers money and also help with deterring crime.
290. CLEAR THE BLIGHT. MORE COPS. MORE FIRE DEPT. PROMOTE THE CITY MORE. ESPECIALLY TO FILM MAKERS. MAKE PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF THEIR PROPERTIES.
291. remove abandoned buildings! remove the red tape for improvement loans! encourage business with tax incentives - cant tell you how many missed opportunities bay city missed out on by the 'no big business' attitude. we need jobs and safety... boot out the gangs and crack houses - lets clean it up!
292. "Streets are awful. City needs a forester again, the trees are a crisis waiting to happen. Merge public services....we need a metropolitan service area. The time has come, we cannot afford to continue as if this was 1954...we ARE a metropolitan area. We are holding onto old geopolitical boundaries for what purpose? Let's work our way out from the center and continue to incorporate townships. We totally failed at stopping sprawl...Spicer Master Plans in all the surrounding townships have perpetuated the decline of Saginaw. It's time to turn the train around."
293. I would love if the police would do their job, and come into the 48601 area. I am a tax paying teacher that lives in the 48601 area. I very seldom see the police in my neighborhood. Where are they. There is a lot of crimes that happen because they are not in this neighborhood. I call the police and report crimes, and sometimes they do not even come to see about the crime, or it takes them hours to get here. What a shame the police force is. And the city would like to hire someone to be in charge for fire and police. How about the police just do their job. And fire the fellow who would like to hire the extra person to run the police and the fire departments.
294. Attract grocery stores to come back to the city of Saginaw, many people don't have access to a car and go to party stores to buy food. Capitalize on the Healthcare Industry more.
295. Annex with township and call it SAGINAW, stop income tax, utilize river with entertainment district with riverboat casino as hub, there is already great infrastructure here to build on, market affordable housing, have as senior citizen retirement area with great hospital care already present.This area needs young people to settle and live here.
296. Get rid of the income tax. Put a stop to all the rentals in Saginaw. The city now has at least 50% rentals and no city can survive without a majority of home owners.
297. I think a casino wuld be a big improvement.....would bring outside people and money and jobs.....our people could stay in Saginaw.
298. Prioritize city services with public safety being number 1! Tear down vacant homes, address blight, offer tax incentives to viable businesses.
299. Eliminate the abandoned buildings and cut down on crime.
300. General clean up as far as population and environment. The crime rate needs to be decreased.
301. More code enforcement on rental property and home owners. Police writing tickets for speeding
302. Improve safety, remove abandoned buildings, enforce rules to keep homes and business looking nice. Create incentives for businesses to locate here.
303. So much is empty, I think a lot has to be done to remove the perception of emptiness. More events, activities. Fairs and festivals. I wish there were places for me to run safely on the sidewalk without getting scared. I think a lot of Saginaw's problem is the perception that people have. People have this idea that its

- unsafe and nasty. I don't agree with that whole-heartedly. Like I said, there are places where I feel uncomfortable, but altogether, I feel safe. I think you need to launch a campaign to bring people back. Most people have this idea of Saginaw without having visited the area in a great number of years.
304. I would mandate that programs like Circle of Love and Habitat for Humanity stop building NEW homes and just renovate or repair current homes that are up for sale and have been up for years. I would suggest a deep review of the budget to see where costs can be cut and where spending can be reduced, including an examination of City Council and their respective salaries to see if they can be reduced. I would get rid of the blighted homes and buildings and turn those lots into community-run gardens - always making sure to plant surplus for those walking by who need it.
 305. Remember it is all one city not just the eastside of the river.
 306. Overhaul the entire educational system to make it child-centered, offer free land to urban homesteaders and be laxer on some of the codes that keep people from building cheaper and more sustainable structures within the city limits (some friends and I want to do this, we'll have to leave the city to be successful) and set a city-wide minimum wage of at least \$10 an hour. People have no incentive to work instead of dealing drugs when working doesn't pay the bills.
 307. Stop tearing down potentially useful structures, useful either because of their location, historical or architectural appeal/significance, or uniqueness, (such few remaining as there are), that could be leveraged into things like arts and crafts areas, or small entrepreneurial areas, or even historic neighborhoods, to give anchor points to city redevelopment. Develop the riverfront, Objibay Island and Lake Linton for social and recreational activities, exploit the river's potential for boating and world class, recreational (walleye) fishing, Repurpose existing/historic structures on the river (again, unfortunately, what few are left) for residential apartments (a perfect example is the building on the river at Genesee and Water streets. Yes, it would cost, but it is a beautiful structure in a perfect place for such repurposing. Stop saying "it won't work" and MAKE it work. Show some backbone for a positive development for a change.
 308. I think overall the city has deteriorated due to the high crime rate. People who lived on the East side are moving to the West side and people who lived on the West side are moving into the Township to get away from crime and to protect their families. Taxpayers keep approving these Public Safety Mileages and don't really see any results or feel safer in their city.
 309. I suppose beautification projects, especially along the highway and other entry points for visitors, could be useful, but I am more interested in seeing real change in areas that affect the people who live here. Kalamazoo, for example, has a thriving downtown area, full of mixed-use loft apartments over cafes, banks, and boutiques that people actually visit. I would love to see something like it in Old Town, or have Downtown come to life again.
 310. reduce government waste and reduce government employees.
 311. Have I mentioned *Bike Lanes*? ...and a LOT more bike parking. A few bike exchanges, at least one on each side of the river, where one can take his bike, and get help fixing it, or building a new bike from old parts. More bus routes, running more often, and as close to 24/7 as possible, with a bike rack on *all* buses, and advertise to those who don't ride now.
 312. "Make the city safer. The schools safer and better education. Crack down more on the gang and drug problem. This seems to be coming to west-side of the city more over the past couple years. Definitely need road improvements!"
 313. I heartily believe that making the city more bike/walkable would be a big improvement, also improving public transportation would be good.
 314. Restrict rental properties in home owned neighborhoods
 315. "Clean up key areas like Hill st when you get off the ramp and approach Covenant. Now that the downtown streets are re-done have mini gatherings, like downtown Midland does on regular basis to keep people

- coming to downtown like they get used to when the summer concerts are going on. Create better parking with the open lots and incentives for business to locate in the City"
316. Saginaw, while it is a great place, needs a lot of work. The biggest problem facing Saginaw is the east/west division. West Saginaw seems to have a desire to improve, but East Saginaw seems to be declining more and more as gangs and their crime (drugs, murder, etc.) take hold. I think it's time to separate into East Saginaw and West Saginaw like it was before the state forced us to merge. West Saginaw cares, East doesn't. It's sad to say, but let's let them flounder. We also need to get over this entitlement attitude that has been brought in by Saginaw being such a union town. Everyone wants, but so few want to actually give something in return. Bottom line: if we want a city that will survive we need to put our money into police and fire/ If Saginaw is going to grow again, it needs to be a safe city. Build jails to put away gangs. Restore our fire and police squads. But this can't happen unless cuts are made at the top and taxes are slightly raised. I'd gladly pay higher taxes if I knew FOR SURE that money was going to POLICE AND FIRE, not government desk worker salary.
 317. Bring to Downtown new brand specific retail middle and upper scale and promote more art and cultural festivals/events on the main street areas of the city. Create a promotional plan, with a strong business/sales/commercial real estate leader in place and payed to build the downtown area into a vibrant city. Work with SVSU to build a university center & perhaps Covenant in the Downtown area to bring more people down and create foot traffic and an atmosphere of vibrancy.
 318. You have, in my opinion, one of the best designed train stations in Michigan on Potter St. Try to improve that area even so much as cutting weeds. So many of those buildings on Potter ST. need to be repaired or demolished...Greenpoint where the Saginaw and the Tittabawassee River meet was of great importance to many generations of people before us. Let people know of the history involving the Greenpoint area...Saginaw was a boomtown such as the world has seldom seen, yet most of the residents do not realize what a crucial role it played in the settlement of the United States. Let the people know how many logs floated down rivers, how many board feet of lumber was shipped out, how many millions of barrels of salt was shipped out, how many ships were built and how much pride people like BURT, HOYT, POTTER, LITTLE had in the community.
 319. Increase in the number of homeowners and an increase in the number of events for people to attend.
 320. WORK ON SAFETY MEASURES.
 321. Give artists and entrepreneurs more opportunities and resources. There are so many unutilized spaces in this city that a handful of people are sitting on waiting for a turn around. I think we're in a new time in the world/country that requires a new mentality and new gameplan. Things are going to 'turn around'. The world doesn't work like that anymore. Hanging on to all this land/property till there's some new industrial boom will only lead to failure. I would give unused/unutilized land and property (or at least use of it) to people/organizations with innovative ideas/programs/goals.
 322. Reduce crime. Reduce/limit the number of rental properties. Create common goals agreed upon by all ethnic groups. Create public parks and garden areas in blighted neighborhoods. Focus on world-class K-12 education and insist on participation by parents.
 323. get rid of vacant buildings, send bill to title holder. get more businesses here for job opportunities. get rid of wasteful spending
 324. Renovate some of the older homes and buildings like they are doing so proudly in the St. Marys district. There is so much history to be saved. Get rid of some of the junky homes and buildings that disfigure the area. I like the ideas of the urban gardens and trees etc.. Give people a chance to be proud of the area. Don't allow junky quick commercial buildings up in older looking areas. Please DO NOT allow commercial or residential (condos so on) building on the river. Get people more involved in the areas give kids opportunity to help and work together.

325. Force local, state, and federal authorities to end all interference with the free market. Force them all to focus only on crime prevention and other issues allowed by their respective constitutions and charters. Allow the private sector to handle all other issues. Sell off or grant out all unused public land.
326. flush the crime out of saginaw, make it less ghetto fab
327. I would love to see the city be a desirable place for people to want to visit. There are so many hidden treasures and amazing people here but its difficult to filter thru the bs and the poor attitudes of many of the people who feel stuck here in Saginaw.
328. I would increase police protection and make parents responsible for their child's actions in an effort to attract more people to come to the city to enjoy what it has to offer.
329. More trails
330. Reduce crime , more family type entertainment and more emphasis in general on family life. More jobs that will add to tax rolls
331. Reduce the "thug" mentality-make it un-cool to be a criminal-enlist greater assistance from organized groups, such as religious groups-make parents more accountable-make landlords more accountable, or make it more difficult to become a landlord-constrict city limits, make the city physically smaller-eliminate blighted buildings-offer land for little to no cost, just to get it back on the tax rolls
332. I have consistantly voted to remove the tax cap. I maintain my property. I think Saginaw must get crime under control, whatever it takes.
333. "BUILD A REC. CENTER FOR FOR THE KIDS AND ADULTS LIKE B.V AND CENTER COURTS. BUILD THE CASINO ON THE RIVER FRONT ALONG WITH CASINO BOATS THIS WILL MAKE THIS CITY TAKE OFF AND PUT US BACK ON THE MAP AND REDO OUR PARKS."
334. Increase reasons for people to visit Saginaw and move to Saginaw. Provide people in bad neighborhoods incentive to move from them so the entire neighborhood can be redeveloped and new, hardworking, people with some of the old "Puritan Ethic" should be encouraged to move in and make the neighborhood terrific.
335. Increase law enforcement, get rid of abandoned buildings, homes and clean up properties that are an embarssment and eyesoar to the community. Invest in the young people who will one day be running the city. Give them opportunities to grow and learn. That would mean investing in public education either by government means or business partnerships with schools. Educate people about the city and what it has to offer.
336. We need to get rid of townships and city and create a unified government for the area (look at Indianapolis and Unigov for an example of a city that cleaned up and rejuvenated itself). The area has to quit dividing and pointing fingers, and unify and tackle the problems for all of us.
337. First I would start by opening up all the land currently occupied by abandon houses. Sometimes there is one house on a city block. Let the person willing to buy that house also buy the land for nothing more than taxes because it's not doing anything sitting there empty anyways. That might make people start investing and start opening/building businesses. I also would like to see urban farming going on. Abandon buildings need to go and jobs need to come.
338. Keep city hall at city hall, continue demo on abandon homes and go after back taxes.
339. Stop paying a For a bus service that cant make a go of it. If I had a business that couldnt make a go of would you give me thousands of dollars to stay a float ???
340. Create more activities for children so they have a sense of community pride and increase the likelihood of having them stay in the area.
341. No hope, too late. Seriously what are you going to do that the citizens will not destroy? Who is going to move to Saginaw?
342. The violence is the main thing next all those abandoned house need to come down plus there needs to be something for our kids to do on the weekends like a dance hall that is affordable for everyone!!!!

343. Our leadership.
344. CREATE MORE PARKS AND BIKE PATHS, PLANT MORE TREES, BUILD A PERMANENT BUILDING/LOCATION FOR A YEAR ROUND FARMERS MARKET ON THE RIVERFRONT.
345. There are many people in Saginaw who do not drive, and making the city more pedestrian friendly and creating a strong public transportation system (few lines, but go to important business and health areas). Saginaw may have lost a lot of population, but the city continues to spread out into the adjacent areas. Slowing building growth on the outskirts, while encouraging businesses near the center of the city would make it easier for people to access businesses and increase public service efficiencies.
346. It really needs to be cleaned up. I think we need to make Saginaw feel safer and become safer to everyone. If it feels safer then maybe we can bring more events to the city like carnivals and festivals. I think it is very important that unused buildings are taken down. I also think there needs to be some community programs for the arts. Like a Youth choir and an adult choir that is free for everyone.
347. being more jobs and fix up and town .
348. I can only imagine how much revenue Bay City brings in by how much they take advantage of, and use, the river waterfront. I know that I spend alot of money in Bay City at restaurants, festivals, events, and functions that go on continuously along the waterfront. No, the water isn't clear or clean, but it is still water and people will always be soothed & comforted and led to relax when in the presence of water. It's a proven fact! I also believe that we need to get these abandoned, and boarded homes demolished and the land more effectively utilized to the goodness of all of Saginaw. The Detroit Garden idea, Hertz Farms or whatever that is called would be an amazing idea especially since our country cannot even produce or provide the required recommended fruits & vegetables that are recommended on a daily basis to our citizens. What an amazing useage of land that would provide to be.
349. TEAR DOWN ABANDONED BUILDINGS. It would be nice to feel safe. I would LOVE to see more law enforcement on foot with canine units in the neighborhoods, not just in cars. I would like it if Saginaw could continue in it's quest in the medical field.
350. The job opportunities! There is so little here now and the jobs that we do have dont have competitave wages anymore so as a result people are moving to try and support their family. Also there are great activites for our youth but not enough in the urban areas to keep kids out of trouble. Theres nothing for them to do except go to school and or cause trouble.
351. I understand that casinos can be determental to communities, but in this instance I think it would improve our city tremendously. Why not give back to our community by supporting a casino here, than supporting one an hour away. It would create hundreds of jobs in this city. Also, if a casino was put here beautifying the city would become a priority with revenue to do so. Cleaning up blight would be a priority. New businesses would be created around the casino of restaurants and such.
352. I want to see those with talent be provided funds for their skill. Many of these talented individuals cannot afford rent, and work hard at putting together galleries, shows, performances, but only get paid a lousy amount, or more than often, not at all.
353. "Put people to work in making the city attractive to draw potential businesses and make people feel good about living there. Help them feel proud of where they live, and how they are contributing to the future of the city and the people who will live there. Get neighborhoods involved as groups to take over projects. Have competitions.Boost their morale and pride in their town. Get national news coverage about what plans are being developed, how they are being funded, and what results are expected for the future. Have lots of before and after photos. Bring the people together to announce what is taking place by having a festival at Ojibway Island and also other areas that would be easy for them to get to, at the fairgrounds, downtown in the street, have a band playing marches, have people sign up to participate, have meetings continually for everyone. Make it a happy time.."

354. Make casinos, events And bring In Tourist.
355. Crime has got to be reduced. Abandoned buildings need to be demolished not only because they are eye sores but because they create places for homeless to dwell or for arsonist to make worse.
356. jobs, Jobs, JOBS!!
357. More local restaurants, more urban office spaces for twenty somethings trying out new ideas, more old town apartment rentals, reduce crime in old town, Less giant walmart like businesses, personalized help for small business owners in the city, remove city leaders looking to block medicinal marijuana, condense all these help saginaw websites and facebook pages, campaign to have residents spend money locally.
358. Saginaw, more than anything, needs to improve its use of the riverfront, and develop middle-class housing for young professionals in the downtown area . . . remember Cool Cities?.
359. LET THE PUBLIC HELP DECIDE ON SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED, DON'T ALWAYS LET COUNCIL DECIDE, BECAUSE THEIR THING IS ALWAY TO RAISE TAXES, AND DOING THINGS TO NOT HELP THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY.
360. "Have city, county and school district officials and leaders work together in developing the master plan. Bring back the recreation department--get some of our tax dollars from the county--they are reaping the benefit and we get nothing."
361. Saginaw needs to support our businesses. It is the only way to make the city better. They creat the Jobs and Money for the area. Yes the Medical comunity help, but we need to focus and bringing more privite sector job to the area. The more money we have in the area the more we have to make improvments and the better the city will be. But this can only be done by the privite sector, NOT LANSING OR DC. Also our mayor should run the city not the City Planner, and the need to be more accountable.
362. Crime rate needs to change.
363. there isn't much history here. start over.
364. i would go to diffrent cities and try to meet with some major successful businesses and try to get them to try our city.but you first have to make the city appealing to the residents who live here. first and foremost if you get the young people involved,give them something to do and some responsibility, something to look forward to then the rest would be a piece of cake, when you look at it the majority of our consumers now adays are the young people,give them outlets, give them jobs, and again responsibility,the young people will help bring this it back, get them involved, go to them, reach out to them dont wait for them to come to you. also give the american small business owners a tax brak, a loan break. you let foreigners come here, paying no taxes on their business for that first year, and they escape paying it at all because when that time come for them to pay it they claim to sell it, but really they just hand it over to another family, who in turn after their first year does the same thing, passes it on. and in the long run the money isnt staying in the community,helping to build it up, they are sending the money they make here back to their own homeland, the city isnt benefiting from this, we're loosing.
365. "I work in the city. I love all that Saginaw offers. I take part in all that I can. I also give of my time and support monetarily what I can. I regret I am not one that has the know-how to create job opportunities. Jobs is always the mayor issue."
366. Relax some of the old fogey business rules. These rules have destroyed free enterprize in the city. Do you realize that the city has not even one billiard parlor. What the hell is that all about?
367. I believe the future of Saginaw lies in downtown. Flint has recently been able to re-develop its downtown, and Bay City has a great downtown too. We need to make downtown a destination. Currently it is a destination for Spirit games and events at the Temple, but there are not enough businesses in the surrounding area to keep those visitors. We need more restaurants and stores. Perhaps a small market. I've heard the idea of casinos thrown around, and that would certainly be a draw to bring people downtown. We could also look to Cleveland to learn how to use vacant spaces for urban farming.

368. Make stronger ties between the city government and the Saginaw school district. Remove the tax cap so services can be restored and improved. Develop ways to increase home ownership and reduce rental properties. Increase community policing and the links with neighborhood associations.
369. We need better public safety. We don't have enough crime prevention/protection. People are afraid to come to Saginaw from our outlying rural neighbor cities.
370. Create more opportunities for businesses to come in and keep residents' money in the city as opposed to the township. The jobs are in the township, and if you want to spend money at the mall or supermarket, you almost have to go to the township, Bridgeport, or BV. It almost always feels like you're leaving the city if you want something.,
371. Hire more police officers. If they were brought back to an adequate sized force, the crime rate would drop dramatically. It really is that simple. We don't need manicured sidewalks on Washington Ave. No one walks there or notices them anyway because of the unsafe environment that has been created due to an insufficient police presence. Use the limited resources that Saginaw already has for a public NEED rather than a public luxury.
372. I would like to improve the saginaw river so that the fishing would improve. Crime is also a big concern of mine.
373. "1. Eliminate the Section 8 housing downtown and encourage development of those properties into condos and rentals for professionals. 2. Encourage people to move into the city by eliminating the income tax. 3. Improve flow. There are several intersections that need ""protected left"" green arrows as part of the traffic light sequence; further, lights along main thoroughfares need to be timed to allow uninterrupted travel. 4. Somehow, the city needs to get a handle on the crime. I hear too often that ""it's just the way it is."" Yet, in my mind, the shootings and the arson are at ""off the charts"" levels of incivility and are totally unacceptable. I have no idea how to cause a cultural shift, but Saginaw essentially needs one. Maybe someone needs to take the playbook from Rudy Giuliani: a hard-line, zero tolerance enforced approach to the law of the land."
374. More events for more positive press. Too much negativity is covered regarding the city.
375. Focus the city's resources on areas that are going to encourage business development and bring residents back to the city of Saginaw. Looking at my property tax bill, I nearly pay as much for a mass transportation system as I do for public safety. I believe we should outsource some of the city's services and divert those savings to public safety. The city can tear down houses and redevelop the areas, but if people don't feel that they are safe it will be for nothing. We also need to improve the school system, hard working families are going to continue to leave the area if they feel that their children will be unable to attend schools that are academically competitive and safe.
376. Safety and job opportunities for the under/unemployed.
377. I haven't a clue. There is so much to do. We need law enforcement that doesn't focus on making a quick buck for the city and deal with the real criminals.
378. Improved community policing and more activities for children and teens.
379. We cannot allow our history to be torn down and forgotten. Many of the old homes can be revitalized; they are truly treasures. We need to revitalize this city by bringing in industry. If we can bring jobs to the area, we can work on repopulating this city and getting full use of our housing stock. We should be trying to bring the city back, not shrink it.
380. CLEAN IT UP .. get rid of the abandoned buildings , fine people for not keeping up their yards , even if it is a rental . Take so pride in the city !
381. "1. KEEP CITY HALL where it is, repair it already! 2. Improve the only viable business district left, Old Town Saginaw. 3. Find out a way to renaissance zone the entire old town area! 4. Improve Gratiot/Brockway areas, work with MDOT to make this area more pedestrian friendly. 5. Stop wasting \$100,000 each on rehabbing

- houses, instead spend that money on new roofs for the occupied homes nearby - KEEP the housing stock we have left from disintegrating!"
382. Add enough law enforcement to deter the undesireables.
 383. Limit the number of rental homes available. We are losing people because bad landlords are allowing people into homes and then they abuse the property. Get the scum off the streets. Keep attacking crime, gangs, drugs. Bring back service jobs, so that those people without a lot of education can get work.
 384. Look into relocating the tenants of the Eddy and Bancroft out of the Downtown Proper area to allow for Riverfront Poperty to move forward with higher end properties and businesses to go hand in hand with the event centers and medical facilities.
 385. Increase our Police and Fire protection,First, bring our Voting system into the twentyfirst century.
 386. get tough on criminals and the young delinquents. INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE JAIL
 387. more police protection improve the snow removal ticket violators on bikes and enforce curfew
 388. make safer for the citizens of saginaw, increase police
 389. Tear down vacant houses.
 390. "Jobs. Improve schools. Support the Saginaw Promise Zone Authority! JOBS! Increase support for SCENIC and community policing (shout out for Scott Bickel--he's doing a great job). Did I say jobs?"
 391. Change its form of Grovement, To a mayor run not city manger.
 392. Develope Riverfront...so it may be enjoyed and bring business to the city. Do not foolishly give away prime property for use as offices. Follow the lead of other communities who have capitalized on their waterfront to bring more tourism to the community
 393. i would hope that in the future city employees would be able too focus more energy on positive or proactive planning and ideas rather than reactive solutions to negitive energy
 394. work on stablizing neighborhoods like Northmoor before it becomes blighted, forclosures have hit that area hard, get community involved in clean-up,
 395. Improve existing housing. Replace old city lots with improved housing with bigger lots, but not Section 8 housing. That kills property values. We need jobs. Casinos, Bars, outdoor venues such as harness racing, minor league ball parks, and higher priced condominiums along the river might work. Model Saginaw after other cities along rivers such as Nashville, TN.
 396. Attract businesses that will create job opportunities for our residents...
 397. It's nice to have all these events that bring people into the City but we need to attract folks to come live in the City - restore Parks and Recreation, develop family orientated activities, etc.
 398. I want people to come through my town on 675 saying what a beautiful city. Not, oh no... lock your car doors. I would not walk downtown it is very scary. The houses are very run down. There is no pride in our city.
 399. need to work with the citizens more and listen to their needs so they don't frustrate them and drive them away
 400. "Not allow 'advisors' to keep talking Saginaw officials into tearing down more downtown buildings. To focus on infill buildings that have no set-back (like Rally's and the CVI buildings on Washington). Holland Michigan did this and so many stores and shops want to be downtown that there are only three stores left operating in their large mall. Tie the river walk into other abandoned rail lines running through Saginaw and hook it up with the township rail trail and Bay City's. Allow docks off of downtown buildings like they are in Bay City. This is a big reason Holly's Landing went under. The restaurants in Bay City that have boat docks are doing fantastic."
 401. I would like to see the police officers do a better job. They say they are too busy, but I see alot of police officers not doing anything. I think they could be doing more about shootings, break-ins, etc. that would make more people want to live in the city.

402. Eliminate the current use of the Bancroft and Eddy buildings. Establish a position to recruit and establish new commercial businesses in Old Town and Downtown. Saginaw Future does an outstanding job of expanding current manufacturing business, as well as recruiting businesses to locate in Saginaw, but there is no one who is focused on encouraging new retail.
403. shrink the infrastructure and housing stock.
404. In reference to Saginaw continuing to serve as a "big city," more positive attention needs to be drawn toward downtown Saginaw. I'm an outsider who lives in Midland County, but from the outside looking in, Saginaw truly is very interesting and I want to have a reason to spend time here/there... but NOT in terms of concerts, hockey games and big events. Rather, the ability to run a festival downtown that would close off some streets, would draw me in. The condition of the roads themselves isn't a significant problem; actually, I think as Michiganders we've gotten used to crummy roads. With that said, fancy streetscaping - nice lights, greenery, etc, would make the downtown streets seem much more appealing and safer.
405. I would focus on removing blight and have more festivals, concerts, etc. to involve the community and bring tourism.
406. First, I would improve the image of the downtown. I would give incentive for franchises to move downtown. I would get rid of the old fashion look and become more upscale. The Bancroft building, the people would have to go, and also I would put a walmark or a K-mart downtown. I would create a college atmosphere, through working with a top University to move downtown. I would put a resident Inn downtown. I would build homes downtown, do a unual development along Washington Street and other areas downtown, the way Charlotte North Carolina look. Start off with 10 houses. i would add a upscale Grocery store. We are behind time. We need to do what Chicago is doing. Building upscale condo and homes downtown.
407. Fight crime and social decay much more aggressively. Demand stronger discipline in the schools. Create jobs at all costs. Beg Dow and others to build a plant in the city.
408. I would get a proactive neighbor watch system in place with volunteers doing patrols to help stop the bleeding of crime. we need presents in the neighborhood to push the undesirable out. The area I live in has went down hill bad in the past 5 years, with rentals popping up everywhere and renting to just anyone to make a buck not giving 2 cents with what its doing to the neighborhood.
409. Continue to clean up crime
410. "STOP ALLOWING SO MANY RENTALS..... ENFORCE CODES GET RID OF THE TAX CAP....THIS ALONE HAS KEPT THIS CITY FROM GROWING AND PROSPERING FIGURE OUT A WAY TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THEY ARE DANGEROUS NOW"
411. Crime, particularly that of the young people. I see quite a few young people roaming streets, and "hanging out." It would be great if we could work with the townships--and not consider the city a separate entity. It is time to work together--I see it as a cost savings and an issue of unity. I used to work and live in Saginaw Township--we needed the city to survive. It's time we recognize that--and the divisivness ended.
412. Vote and try to elect the best qualified persons to lead the city.
413. Even small improvements can be perceived as huge indicators of how caring a city is of its residents. Clean streets, cut grass etc. will encourage people to consider this a place to live.
414. There has to be viable things is the city for people to do. We need the people living outside of Saginaw to frequent the city besides the Temple and the Dow Event Center. Saginaw is an unsafe place to live and that must change. You can have a new industry within city limits that offers new jobs but people will choose to live in Saginaw or Kochville Township.
415. It is frustrating to see how poverty is taking over the city. Most people who can afford to are moving out of the city. We need to have a stronger school system and to work harder to change the perception that the city is unsafe. I think that the large number of landlords who own property in the city are keeping us from moving forward.

416. Keep developing a sense of community pride and responsibility. Encourage and develop opportunities for volunteers to help steer and maintain our city, its parks and neighborhoods.
417. Get tough on crime. That is the number one thing on everyones mind, that is were the money needs to go.
418. Develop the riverfront, bring some long term businesses into the city. Ojibway is an awesome venue, we should utilize it more.
419. cut the red tape....do your job....or get out....for all city officials.
420. Stop the government hand outs that have increased the welfare population and have increased the crime rate. When the working class has increased income they can afford to put in their own gardens, and provide their own entertainment or even purchase tickets to attend events. LOWER MY PROPERTY TAXES--no wonder so many are abandoning their homes. The workers can't afford to keep supporting the non workers.
421. More entertainment opportunitites, mroe projects for youth under five. I also strongly believe that until Saginaw residents begin to see the greater picture and that there is more than just individuals, the city will prosper again. There are too may problems with people centering on themselves and the not collective thinking. This is true with many non-profits and other organizations too.
422. develop downtown areas, increase attractions to bring more people to the city. offer business/industry incentives to locate to Saginaw. remove tax cap to increase city funding, increase police and fire so the public feels safer and more people will want to live in the city.
423. The first thing that needs to improve are the attitudes of those who live and work in Saginaw about areas of the city that you are looking at re-developing. Many areas are very nice and are not utilized nearly as much by the locals as they could be because attitudes about safety and crime. Working in the Celebration Square area and spending time in other areas of the City, I usually feel safe, and happy. Attitudes must be changed first in order for people to use the new plans.
424. Demolish blighted vacant buildings, start a casino, utilize the riverfront similar to Bay City and Midland, highly visible police patrol (i.e., bikes, scooters, foot), relocate Bancroft & Eddy tenants to area outside downtown and invite all universities/colleges to offer their classes in these buildings (Uof M, CMU, SVSU, NU, Delta, FSU, etc.), FREE unlimited parking on streets in downtown
425. Diversify the economy.....auto industry is probably gone forever from our city, but hospitals are growing.
426. "Phase out the income tax. If that is proposed the citizens will probably vote to remove the tax cap. Remove section 8 housing from the downtown. It doesn't belong there and is the single biggest issue preventing the resurgence of downtown Saginaw, hands down."
427. Crack down on crime, tougher penalties for the youth that are out of control! Stop the bussing from the east side to Arthur Hill to save money and clean-up Saginaw high.
428. "Build more community spirit. Get people involved and invested in their neighborhods and the city as a whole."
429. Increase awareness of the importance of historic preservation to the future economic viability of the city. Connect people to resources. Make sure that Saginaw becomes a Certified Local Government in order to capture grant and other monies. Stop planning like it's 1963 and start focusing on the central city. Focus on small capital investment in the city to jump start small business and other start-ups. Implement a program of import replacement and small capital financing, including zero-interest loans in order to stimulate the economy.
430. I feel the parks system needs improvement, People need a place to go to. Kids could use supervised activities, scateboard parks, perhaps some competative activities. Adults could use safe areas to walk & exersize.
431. Support for home owner not near the river
432. keep public safety staffing at current levels and do not cut staffing levels. We need to make people feel safe when they visit our city. Our streets need a lot of improving, they are some of the worst streets in the Tri-Cities!!!

433. open a casino
434. Smaller is better. Down size the city.
435. Get More Jobs
436. Forget about downtown. Waste of money.
437. Try to work and getting more involved with government improvement in schools for student learning.
438. Have TV5 stop concentrating on the East side's negative. Putting more store fronts for small businesses. Bike paths on all streets. Turn the warehouse on Genesee and Water into a farmers market.
439. Stop tearing down homes, fix them up then raffle them off. Get taxes from them.
440. Remove the City Tax Cap
441. More riverfront development. More good grocery stores, , more places to shop for clothing, Antiques, Botiques
442. Reduce crime, drug and alcohol related problems
443. More businesses breaks for us business owners who break our backs and wallets for the City of Saginaw
444. Have people take more pride in their neighborhood and blocks.
445. Eliminate the rental housing!!!!
446. More police.
447. People be more respectful, friendly, courtesy, taught in school and families.
448. Reduce crime to where people feel safe and they will stay or move back into the City.
449. Get rid of city income tax. Give more business help, increase home values to recap the loss income.
450. Begin to fill in the buildings in old town and downtown that will mimic historic facades of the past. There are many cities that have done this and some are Indianapolis, Douglas, Michigan and Holland Michigan
451. A swimming place like the Anderson Water Park
452. Harmony among all races and everyone know their neighbors.
453. Parks and recreation.
454. Focus on loud music and the curfew
455. Clean up the neighborhoods. More events that are free
456. Fire city manager. New city council members. Look at what other cities have done to help them through some of the problems they were experiencing.
457. Clean house at city hall. Let them take a cut in pay and move into the city. Our money does not stay here in the city. It goes out to Midland Bay City Standish and Frankenmuth. NONE comes back.
458. Put a casino on Genesee downtown
459. Continue with the improvements already started
460. "Well there are so many things that I would like to see done with this City. 1. ENFORCE Curfew. There is no reason that this should NOT be enforced...and it is NOT. 2. Either start selling these abandoned houses or tear them down. It makes the city look Dumpy and it is an eye sore. There are way to many. 3. Having people use the sidewalks to walk on. There is no reason that they should be walking in the street. If it were up to me (which its not but a good idea to bring in money) They should be ticketed just like i would be if i were to park my car over a sidewalk blocking it. Tired of the city picking and choosing what ""They"" want to do. 4. Restoring homes that need love like over on the Eastside. The eastside could be a wonderful place to live on, but i would not move there due to the way it looks. I dont want to live somewhere where it looks like trash and the west side is starting to become that way as well. . Maybe in the winter time being more winter activities here. As a kid i use to love to go sledding and ice skating over at Hoyt Park. They took that away....would there be a way to bring it back?"

Question 19 – Other comments?

1. Good survey
2. The problems for this City are complex - I think the suggested strategies/actions were too simplistic to gather anything other than a broad-based generalized document.
3. The choices given in the survey are incredibly generic and cookie cutter...reminds me of Jim Kunstler's comments regarding "Anywhere USA". All involve some financial support yet you did not ask one question regarding support of taxes/fees/etc. to support these strategies. Without a reality check a master plan just becomes another plan to put on a shelf. Also I don't think that you should state that the purpose of this survey is to meet a state requirement...is that the only reason that the city is asking for our input? if so.....shame on the city!
4. to late to save a lot of homes etc.,already gone.
5. Good survey. It lived IN the city of Saginaw 1944 - 1978 and attended K-12. It was a Great and safe city during the time I lived there. The City of Saginaw will NOT recover from the ills of employment / Industrial loss UNLESS unfavorable trade policy is ammended at the FEDERAL level. Poor people out of work can not / will not rebuild the economic vitality UNLESS jobs come back from overseas.
6. Better education/better parenting will reduce idle minds, which will reduce crime. More classes or educational opportunities need to be available for youth as well as parents so that they aren't making trouble. If the city would get its finances together, Saginaw could put together a better and bigger police force to actually combat crime. I never lived in the city but the outskirts were bad enough. I have a lot of history to Saginaw so I think my input is valid and should be taken seriously.
7. Economic development today relies on tapping into creative entrepreneurs. Saginaw can no longer depend on the old 19th and 20th century industrial regime of job creation and wealth. Today, we're competing with China, India, Brazil, and Russia. Saginaw needs to re-invent itself in order to attract, develop, and support educated and creative talent in order to be globally competitive.
8. Power Wash the Saginaw County Court House.....inside and out! It's filthy!
9. I currently volunteer through the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Green Point Environmental Nature Center. I would like the former foundry area to be redeveloped into a variety of uses. I think some sort of pathway could be developed in the area that would ultimately link with the East Side's Riverwalk creating a more complete recreation system in the city. It would also be nice to see Wickes Park Drive repaved with bike/pedestrian lanes so that people can enjoy the beauty of the area. I understand the money has to come from somewhere and budgets are tight , but it would be nice to see that scenic road resurfaced... the only problem would be is enforcing the 15 mph speed limit. Thank you for your time.
10. My family migrated to Saginaw from Germany in the late 1800's and they invested in creating Saginaw as a thriving mecca back in the early 1900's. Many of our descendents flighted into the outlying townships or left the county, such as myslef as it was no longer safe to work and live in the city of Saginaw. My first sign was the hammer murder at Perry Drugs on the corner of Michigan and Genessee. Then the gangs move in. I left Saginaw in 1993 to escape the crime.
11. I remember when downtown Saginaw was "the place" to go shopping and have lunch on a Saturday with my Mom. I want that to come back, nice stores and small places to eat and feel safe.
12. Thanks for the opportunity. Good Luck.
13. Try to model what Bay City has done with their riverfront area. Bring in businesses and artsy shops like Bay City's riverfront shopping area. Need more things for people to do in Downtown Saginaw so it is not just a place for drug users and gangs to hang out on street corners. Need to do something about the Bancroft Hotel. The corner of Washington & Genessee always has nasty people hanging around. It is not showing a good impression to people coming into our City.

14. The public school system must improve if the city is to attract professionals.
15. "Despite it's reputation, I feel safer in Saginaw now than ever before. My neighborhood used to be one of the worst in the city. It's now cleared of drug dealers and gangs- grants have allowed all of the abandoned homes to be torn down, and I no longer avoid my front porch out of fear. In previous years, you couldn't have paid me to spend time in Old Town, but now I try to attend all of the events, patronize the businesses, and spend most of my free time there. I think the city has come a long way in the past 15 or so years and look forward to the next 15!"
16. Question pertaining to status of neighborhood should have provided opportunity for comments...I had to indicate stayed the same. Our neighborhood does not have vacant homes, and people have maintained a strong sense of neighborhood and maintain housing and appearance of neighborhood.
17. I love Saginaw! We need to get people motivated to contribute to the greater cause and make it the city that it once was and should be!
18. Saginaw has reached a tipping point and quality of life is declining at a rapid pace. Don;t wast resources on "feel good" projects like park renewals or landscaping projects, focus on the basics (public safety, rule of law, employment).
19. It seems to me based on these survey questions that City leaders know what actions need to be taken. It is a matter of getting these "ideas" off the paper and putting them into action that will make a difference. It doesn't take a degree in "City Planning" to see the obvious changes that must take place in order to make this a better place to live... it does take a lot more planning and effort, however, to implement them! Good luck!
20. This survey should have been done 40 years ago. We should have taxed GM and the others for the improvements. Saginaw had no foresight and leadership for 50 years. Its too late. It's a dead horse town.
21. I appreciate you taking the time to send out these surveys and ask for the people's opinion. This shows that at least some people care about this city.
22. Forgo your salaries if u want to process you REALLY care about our future
23. can the city manager and other overpaid bureaucrats. Their pay cannot be justified with a shrinking population. need a realistic look at what this size population really needs in government and services, both in the existing multilayers of bloated management and overpaid city employees. cut pay by 50% and those that really care about the city will stay
24. No more fluoride in the water!
25. on the question about cleaning the saginaw river i feel that the city should be getting help from dow because of the chemicals that are found in the water and they are polluting our rivers also i don not care for the cultural (event center) keep putting my tax dollars into it feel if you want to have that then who wants it can pay for it unsafe area going down hill
26. I really do think the answer lies in talking with Bay City and probably Midland also and find out what they do and follow in their footsteps. Get some people that are willing to think outside the box and take a risk and start improving things. I would start on the riverfront and clean up the blight.
27. stop spending money on silly ideas....one project at a time forcus saginaw forus.... we look like a big trash can and know one is putting the trash in the can
28. Good luck! The City of Saginaw has great potential. If residents, business owners and their employees, and City leaders work together, Saginaw can once again achieve the status it once held in the past as a great place to live, work, and play.
29. Until this town corrects its crime problem and has more police presence seen and streets safe to walk again nothing will come to or relocate to this town
30. "Focus more on RE-developing areas with abandoned buildings/facilities and less on simply demolishing them. More service based companies to intermingle with existing companies."

31. "We need to be able at the curbside in the City. It should not cost those of us who have stuck it out and bought houses in the City more money for garbage removal and water. What we pay for water per month is outrageous! Thanks for asking!"
32. I feel safe working in the City of Saginaw, I would like to see more jobs brought here and housing for the people who transfer here from other cities.
33. not having to pay for parking (or a very minimal)when there are so many empty parking lots \$90.00 per quarter is tooo much
34. I'm fairly new to the area..only work here. I would like to feel safer.
35. i believe that the community needs to be healed within. community outreach programs, drug rehab centers, better schools(smaller is better), and we need as a community to support our law in enforcement. but our law enforcement also needs to have more respect for its community(not every situation is black and white). and the churches should have more support!!!
36. Sadly enough, the police department sitting in Tim Hortons just prior to the end of their shift change doesn't give the community the feeling that they are actually protecting and serving the public. Long response time from the police department need to be reviewed. SASA and Handley are the only schools that offer any value to the Saginaw School district-this needs to change. The City as a whole needs to look at areas that used to be nice districts what are now becoming run down. In the winter, the roads in the City don't get plowed other than Washington. Our family prefers to support businesses in the City but there are fewer of them to choose from. While it's great that concerts are offered at Objibway Island, it's sad to see that the grass that is in the strip between Ezra Rust is so unkept.
37. Though I live on the West Side of the City I believe building up the East Side, especially the poorest areas are vital in bringing Saginaw to a point of increased respectability.
38. more restaurants
39. thank you for trying to make Saginaw a better place.
40. Put peopel to work and clean up the city. It will help to bring more industry here to put our children to work.
41. Saginaw is a beautiful city. It just needs to be kept and promoted. There needs to be more thing sfor children and young adults to do.
42. Seems to me like the honeymoon for Darnell Earley ended four years ago. Two years ago, he was still able to pluck 'low hanging fruit'. Now, it seems like he's mad all the time at everybody, and doesn't know his friends from his enemies. He was great in Flint, and he WAS great in Saginaw, but he needs to plan for his succession, grow a replacement, and move on.
43. Thanks for the oppportunity!
44. The green jobs is a non-sustainable industry base. Without Federal or State subsidies they cannot stay in business. Part of the job mining in other states should be to promote the four seasons activities that are available to citizens. The city and county should consolidate departments and offices in the old Saginaw News building. This would show the commitment of the City and the County to Saginaw. Pass an ordinance that would prohibit
45. i live just outside of the westside district and our neightboorhood has gone to the dogs, crime and drugs are everywhere and no one in saginaw obeys the speed limits. they need to put traffic camera at every stoplight and get the people who run all the red lights
46. Thank you
47. Thanks so much for asking!
48. we need a dog park in downtown saginaw somewhere
49. It is great that you are asking Saginaw citizens for their thoughts and advice for Saginaw's future.
50. IT Takes A Village to Rasie A Child!! Lets Make Saginaw A place You Want To raise ONE!!!!

51. Get rid of PSO thoughts, If it doesn't work, how many \$\$\$\$ would be wasted? That money could have been used for something else....
52. This was a stupid survey. People have been elected and hired to make things better. Why in the hell are you asking if you want us to have you do your job and make things better? Saginaw is a shooting range because of stupid people with nothing better to do than set around and ask if we should try to make things better. Lets not make it better until we see if the public wants it better. You stupid smucks.
53. It is more expensive to live in the city of Saginaw than in other areas. I have lived in Ann Arbor, Saginaw township, and Freeland. In all those areas, my water bills were cheaper and I didn't have to pay a local income tax. I live here, because I have loyalty to the area and pride in Saginaw's history, but I am not proud of our present and I fear for our future. It would be cheaper for me to live elsewhere, yet I moved back to the area after growing up in the city. Please make me feel that I am receiving some added value for paying more. Whomever reads this, please pass on this message--I will be moving soon if things do not change. I am one of the many professionals who makes a sizable income and pays a good deal in income taxes. If people like me leave, the city will really be screwed. The city needs to come up with feasible ideas for improvement that are relevant and required by its citizens. If the current people in charge cannot or will not accept this task, then we need to recall those people and hire new ones.
54. IS THERE A PLAN TO HAVE SAGINAW NOT BE NUMBER ONE IN VIOLENT CRIMES THIS YEAR????????? WTF ARE WE PAYING TAXES FOR IT SURE IS HELL ISN'T PUBLIC SAFETY. DRUG DEALERS RUN THE STREETS. Also, I was very upset about how the first public safety tax money was misused by Joyce Seals. That's why I voted against the renewal. I am also very pissed off that every year the city tries to raise my property taxes when my SEV is basically at a free fall. WTF!!!! I am starting to believe the USA Today article that had Saginaw ranked third in the nation of cities beyond repair. As soon as my house sells I'm gone. This city has been mis-managed for WAY too long....
55. Perception of the City council is more positive the last few years. Keep it up!
56. Continue the efforts to beautify the city and clean things up.
57. Saginaw has the potential to be a great city, we just need everybody to put in an effort to make it a great place!
58. I could go on, but I won't! Work prevents me from coming to either meeting. I teach from 4:00 - 7:00 pm on both days.
59. Thank you for the opportunity to submit opinions and comments. I look forward to a bright future for Saginaw.
60. I would love to volunteer to help with outdoor work but people often don't want volunteers cause of liability issues
61. "A magnifying glass is needed to read out paper-postcard water bill! Improve print size and provide alternative payments options. Parking prices in downtown are too high and a thorn in the side of anyone who works in area and has to pay them. Unfairly focused on a few companies and their employees. I675 access to downtown is confusing and has been a bad idea from the very start!"
62. When ever anything is built or remodeled, it doesn't take long for the gangs to destroy it or chase the people away.
63. Make Saginaw be and feel safe!
64. We have to do something about the gangs and violence!
65. years ago the city had boat races on the river. With vendors on the Island, the city charged so high fees to them no profit was seen!
66. I am trying to understand why I pay more for my water when the township users pay for three months what I pay for one. I am a resident of the city. I would think our water could be a little cheaper. Another thing that

might help also is if your city workers took a class on how to treat customers also. I know that if I talked to patients the way your city workers address the residents of this town i would be fired.

67. casino is a GREAT idea. think of the revenue the city could reap and help the local merchants as well.
68. -
69. Communication is the key, bringing the surrounding towns and cities around Saginaw onboard in whatever ways they can will make us truly "The Saginaw Valley" instead of just the small City of Saginaw where only some work and few play because of fear for Safety, and lack of capital investment to repair and expand with a larger vision. Don't bite on the hook for quick success from large gambling facilities who want to get a better and closer venue, utilizing our beautiful river for a draw. Real success takes hard work and I believe the Good PEOPLE of Saginaw are not only ready, but they are chomping at the bit to be involved in something big!!! Will you lead us?
70. Saginaw people can not afford to go to the casino, why tempt them! Bad enough to have one in Standish and Mt. Pleasant. Enough already!
71. Someone needs to find a way to make the City of Saginaw less sketchy and more approachable.
72. This should not be just a city project, the County, and State should be involved and supportive.
73. Be more friendly to businesses. Reverse legacy costs. Think outside the box. Don't be afraid to try something different. Stop paying consultants big money to tell us what we already know. Make the improvements and celebrate the improvements, one block at a time, one building at a time, one job at a time.
74. Thanks and good luck.
75. "Reconstruct the following streets: Williamson Rd. (Sheridan to Washington), particularly near Hess/Gallagher, Mackinaw between Michigan, and CongressHess / Gallagher. These streets don't fall within your specified zones, but are important to the City, particularly those that are the SE entrance to the City."
76. CITY EMPLOYEES NEED TO BE LIVING IN THE CITY, GET THE RESIDENCY RULE BACK! AND MAKE SURE IT APPLIES TO ANY AND ALL CITY EMPLOYEES INCLUDING CITY MANAGER!
77. Really need to flood Hoyt park again in the winter time. Flooding a plot of land in front of the courthouse isn't the same. City needs to capitalize on its, 'diamonds in the rough' so that people stay and spend money here at home. Model other cities successes.
78. I pray everyday that Saginaw will be saved !!
79. The city is moving forward, it just needs a little more push! Thanks for listening! Your doing a great job
80. Good Luck Saginaw. I'm a dreamer and believer that you can make your city GREAT!
81. Fix the streets along court street from the river to State Street.
82. More advanced notice on the dates of the City-wide community input meetings would have been nice!
83. People who have bought in the city need some help in maintaining there houses or there will be more houses on the chopping block. The grants should be raised to help everyone in need,not just a few. the way it stands, people are suffering with bills and no increase in pay and there is know way they can afford the repairs
84. "I am strongly opposed to any casinos. Once casinos are established, pawn shops start popping up all over. And those are not very attractive to the city. Crime rates go up with casinos. People need real jobs that create goods and services that people really need and use. Unfortunately, many of the great city beautification ideas listed in your survey will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. According to your statistics of 55,000 residents, how many of those people have a job and pay taxes? The city cannot afford to make many improvements until the economy turns around and the unemployed have jobs."
85. The raods are horrific. The city employees are rude and just don't seem to care.
86. I feel if every man who fathered a child in this county to orginize and take charge of those children..Go through their rooms, cars, and look for weapons-drugs..Discuss with them jail and prison take responsibilty of their children...Maybe like a campaign--IF IT DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU DO NOT TOUCH IT....ALL OF THE NOUNS--PERSON -PLACE-ANIMAL OR THING...GUILTY BY ASSOCIATION...2 little rules to live by..

87. I appreciate the opportunity to take this survey, it makes me feel, at least, like I have somewhat of a voice.
88. We need a Dog Park in the city! Dog owners are responsible people who take pride in things....they would be willing to pay to enter and maintain it... Good people bring about more good people...it's inevitable!
89. Very little minority participation, in entertainment venues and sporting events.
90. When a business closes it always move to the westside of town or township. We need to keep business in Saginaw. Like Saginaw News. I think a Casino would be great. It would bring in developers to build hotels, restaurants, Even a good Sports Lounge by the Dow would be great. Sports is what people love. Develop something for kids and adults.
91. I have been hearing and working on this for over 20 years. Can't wait to see what comes out of this one.
92. The branding "Great Lakes Bay region" is a slap in the face to the City of Saginaw and Saginaw County. The effort is to eliminate the use of the word Saginaw in any of the branding.
93. Saginaw Plaza Hotel needs help to survive.
94. I would love to see a community without prejudice. A community with an emphasis on education where children can excel- where the children can turn our Saginaw into the community it deserves to be.
95. I think the abandoned railroad beds in the city should be made into rail trails that connect to the various other rail trails in the county.
96. "Stop wasting money on the east side, it is already a total loss, nobody is going to go down there. Start with the west side where people do go now. make it safe and enjoyable. Don't lose what you already have going for you. Fix up the old town district first and make it safe. They could always use more parking down there."
97. Build Better Business Base
98. The city needs to check property owner records to make sure that they are not rental properties that have been hidden from the city so that the landlords don't have to pay their fees. Also, these fees need to be increased.
99. see 18
100. It's a shame that Saginaw had to turn out the way it has. I never thought in my wildest dreams I would have to lock my doors to my house. Have an alarm system on our home. Not have any faith in our police department or officers. It's sad that the parents of today aren't parents like we all had 60-70- even 50 years ago. We would all be better off. I feel the whole world needs fixing and I know I can't do it alone. I don't know if I could trust those who say they can fix things even with our help.
101. A good model for Saginaw to follow would be that of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids used to have a significant housing blight problem and Downtown wasn't very appealing to business and residents. It has since turned the perception around and my generation flocks there. They have the same core healthcare services facilities as their flagship businesses so Saginaw should build on that.
102. Please do something to make Saginaw a little safer. I have voted yes on every safety millage. Please think of another way to get money to support the police and add police by the dozens....the home owner cannot do it all. Tax something else like alcohol, guns, and fines on drugs....let the renters and thugs foot the bill also. If the burden continues to fall completely on the backs of the homeowners, more people will leave the city. Think about it.....the city is rated the worst in the nation, there are few jobs, the schools are the worst in the state, and the homeowners that are left have to pay for the crime. Maybe put a cap on the rentals? It has got to change....I believe Saginaw could help itself better if more people were involved instead of handing out everything free to the thugs. I see one of the times to offer suggestions is October 14 at Hoyt Library.....sadly, I can't come after work because the area around the library just isn't safe.
103. Enforce the ban on cell phone use and texting by police officers. Why are they always sitting in parking lots together doing nothing. Why does it take one city worker to fix something and nine more to stand around watching?
104. a casino would be a good idea

105. Start Alumni Clubs for Saginaw High and Arthur Hill High Schools, thousands of students have graduated from those schools and they could use some help right now. Face and work through the east side/ west side racial divide. We have to work through the past to get through the present and on to the future all together. Houses down, School areas cleaned up, grass and litter taken care of. Parks kept alive, libraries expanded, river made use of, without pollution, lighting for safety, ask, police and family assistance people what they would do to help Saginaw. Mental health, drug and alcohol assistance, smaller new housing. Make bricks again-promote sugarbeets and sugar outside this region, beans, we have plenty of sugar, can't we have a candy company. Roses grow great in the city, let's plant some of them. Holland has tulips, we can have roses. Could there be some white pines in the river that can be harvested? Can we have some fountains that serve as water filters for the river? Jobs, jobs, jobs.
106. Thank you for the opportunity.
107. It appears that the survey is overly focused on a few pet projects of city government. Why not focus on improving the city as a whole, which includes the urban area located on the East Side of Saginaw. I am talking about improvement that does not include the targeting of this population by police enforcement. But improvements that would allow people who live ALL OVER the city to feel good about their communities, not just the areas identified in this survey.
108. I only work in the city, I do not live there, so my opinions are only in the downtown, oldtown, celebration square areas.
109. "More should be done to encourage small business growth in the city. Riverfront property could be utilized for condominiums, casino, and already has excellent fishing opportunities. Look at cities with similar features and find out what works for them."
110. Thanks for the opportunity to comment!
111. A casino would be an awesome addition to the City!!
112. There is hope and potential here. We need to recognize our problems and deal with them instead of making excuses for them.
113. I think the casino idea is getting a bad rap. Saginaw always misses out on opportunity because of ignorance. They should post both sides in the news. Heck if people have gambling problems they will just go elsewhere or play the lotto, go to bingo or have poker parties.
114. With courage this city could be one of the great places in Michigan. It would be nice to see good news come from Saginaw area for a change!
115. Preserve City Hall. Invest in the rehabilitation needed.
116. I will be moving as soon as I can get enough money to move.
117. Build an entertainment area. Coordinate with Bay City. Utilize river with boat cruises to Bay. There is so much this area can be. It has WATER and that will be in great demand in the next generation.
118. It doesn't matter what you do in Saginaw if there is a safety issue and people won't go down town.
119. We have the Shiver on the River, why not try something like that in the spring as soon as the walleye season opens. A lot of walleye fishermen don't particularly care for ice fishing.
120. Have a flat tax for public safety so everybody pays the same amount like the rubbish fee, rental units pay per unit and businesses pay the same as everyone else. We all use public safety police & fire
121. Please create incentives for companies to locate here and stay here. Jobs and safety are the most important items.
122. What about the areas not covered in your survey? We pay taxes also a rather large amount, but yet we are not included in the plan!
123. Don't ask for any more experts to come up with a plan. Get city government itself to dig in, get its hands dirty, use what buildings we have left, and the features the city has been gifted with all along but that have

remained unappreciated and unused, and ACT, knowing that incremental steps are what will work in the long run, not some monumental design or plan.

124. I put "do not know" for many of the questions about street improvements. This does not mean I don't think potholes should be filled in and streets fixed in those areas! But I am not in favor of attempts to get traffic to flow in different ways (i.e. traffic circles and other methods that are supposedly "pedestrian-friendly" but wind up just confusing pedestrians and drivers.)
125. get rid of our nutty sheriff
126. This is the second time I've heard talk about "improving" Old Town by means of gentrification. That scares me. Old Town is one of the best things in Saginaw, and gentrification would *destroy* it. We could use more *real* old-style shops. Letting Coy's Comics move out, as well as two thrift shops, was a mistake.
127. Reduce taxes and water/sewage costs to reflect the size of the populace not revenue for pet projects. Reduce City Government drastically.
128. I'm currently serving an internship in a church in the middle of Detroit. I see how bad a city can look. I hope Saginaw never looks the way Detroit does. Even the good parts look rough. If Saginaw doesn't improve fire and police and curtail crime, this is where we're headed in the next couple of years. Nevertheless, I want to see a strong Saginaw. I pray I can come back to Saginaw once my education is completed. It's always been home and always will be.
129. Create a code for new buildings that includes mandatory green energy implementation.
130. I love this city. It's taught me the harsh realities of the living in an urban setting (violence, poverty, disparities in living conditions and opportunities between different social classes and races) but it's also small-town enough to not leave me so jaded as to feel no connection to my fellow man. It's not too big or too small. A small town (Frankenmuth, Birch Run) fix won't solve its problems, neither will a big city (Detroit, Chicago, New York) fix.
131. Take this work very seriously. Stop giving away the city to investors. Stop giving tax breaks to new/existing business. In the long run did GM do us any favors? The blight we are left with is the result of not creating a city people WANT to come to.
132. For a very long time I had a hard time believing in the people who are supposed to be calling the shots in this stuff. I like that you are trying to get feedback from those of us living and working here and caring.
133. I was born and raised in Saginaw. I brought my family back here to live. I am educated, make good money and have choices. I chose to return and want to help be part of the solution. I want my kids to grow up remembering the hospitality and family closeness of our friend Jim, at Bill's Party store, to eat Pasong's amazing Asian cuisine and to feel safe while playing tennis at Garber courts. Saginaw has so much to offer...we just have to recover from losing the economic auto industry and get back on our feet.
134. We need to make Saginaw Family Friendly. It needs to be a safe city for everyone. We need to enforce the noise and litter ordinance and find people who do not keep up their yards.
135. WE NEED RECREATION CENTERS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES LIKE BURNING TREE AND CENTER COURTS
136. You can't improve people who have no desire to improve. Just like teachers can't learn for their students. We need to find a way to deal with people's attitudes and feelings towards re-developing entire neighborhoods.
137. Tear down all the empty houses and buildings unless historic, bring in jobs
138. I grew up in the City of Saginaw and I went to Saginaw Public Schools. I feel the city needs to concentrate on run-down, abandoned housing and drugs and crime. In reality if we could focus on just 3 or 4 things the city would look and people would feel better about living here. The city also needs to have safe places for our young people to go and hang out. Places where they won't be afraid to express their differences and maybe even foster artistic talents. Of course Saginaw needs to bring back businesses to the city but right now it's hard to find businesses that see Saginaw as a place with something to offer their employees and clients.
139. We need to work together, not divide.


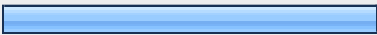


140. Maybe taxes should be based on square footage rather than location, That way everyone would have an equal share.
141. I really don't want to live Saginaw but its no longer safe to live here theres no jobs the schools suck and there's nothing to do unless you have a crap load of money
142. You harvest what you plant. We have consistently planted "welfare supportive government" therefore we are harvesting welfare fruits: crime, laziness, poverty, blight. Plant different seeds and you'll get a different crop.
143. I WORK IN DOWNTOWN. PLEASE TEAR DOWN THOSE OLD VACANT DECREPIT BUILDINGS ... NOW INCLUDING THE SAGINAW NEWS. NEED MORE RESTAURANTS AND AFTER 5:00 PLACES TO GO EAT/DRINK.
144. I think if the city gets cleaned up I would be more likely stay here. But at the rate it is going now i just don't see a future for me here. I want to raise my children somewhere i feel is safe. I don't want to be afraid to let them go to certain parts of town. This whole city really needs to be united on one thing and that is getting this city thriving again.
145. Thank you for all of your continued efforts to recover and restore our beautiful City/Town of SAGINAW!!!! Whatever happend to the colorful little pin that my husband used to wear on his police uniform that represented "WE ARE SAGINAW"???? With the passage of that pin has also come the passage of our unified community spirit! May God Help us!
146. I challenge people who oppose a casino to go. The one is Mt. Pleasant is family oriented. People pain their vacations there. The holy rollers must get off their high horses and quit thinking about themselves and start thinking about the community as a whole. No one is asking these people who oppose a casino to step in it. If you don't like them, don't go. It's as simple as that.
147. I would also love to see a connection between both sides of the Saginaw river. I've lived here all my life, and the city is still divided.
148. Thank you for the work you are doing. It is long in coming but so welcome. We come to Saginaw often and appreciate the professional and expert workers that you have at Spicer. We know the firm from when we lived there and it is great to see how they have progressed in their business.
149. THE CITY OF SAGINAW CAN BE A NICE PLACE TO LIVE IF IT WAS FIXED UP, AND THE CRIME RATE NOT SO HIGH.
150. I would focus on one area each year and really do a nice overhaul so that the community can see the large progress. Make a 5 year plan of improvements so the community can watch the progress! It is a great city let's show the rest of the world too!
151. gangs and crime has taken over. people are scared. yet the gangs are running the city. as long as you let them, there is no city of saginaw.
152. as for the casino, why not bring it here people go to other cities to the ones there, and me personally if its generating revenue, and if there wer stipulations that the only people they can employ, are the people who have lived here for more than a couple of years, that way guranteeing that the residents of this city would have jobs, and be citizens of the us for more than five years, therefore being able to speak and understand english. and the only reason alot of people would not want it in this city is because it would be tempting and embarrassing for them to due to their possible double standard, not saying that its everyone. but we're talking about the growth of the city, and its future. going t other major states and cities, seeing somewhat how they operate, i find that the people here in this city have become to laxidazical in their positions, being in their position for so long not really caring anymore, but just going through the motions. people here arent really personable anymore, they dont answer phones on the job you just get the machines and hope for a return call, no matter how important it maybe, this is not a friendly city, it needs to change; and the future is our children, you take care of and do for the children, you get your city back, simple, now what are you gonig to do?
153. There is much good happening in Saginaw. It is a peeve of mine that people come to Saginaw from surrounding areas, take, and take and in return only give back negative thoughts and words.

- 154.Thanks for this opportunity
- 155.Our City Hall appears to be overstaffed, especially the Water Dept. where one hand doesn't know what the other is doing. We could offer an easier way to pay bills, such as with debit/credit cards. Payments take too long to post manually.
- 156.I am against building a casino. I am from Manistee and I have seen all the bad things that a casino can do to a community. The casino will take the business of hotels and restaurants. Manistee is now a ghost town because of the casino.
- 157.Thank you for considering my input. Best of luck!
- 158.Thanks for asking. I work for Saginaw Public Schools.
- 159.I would love to visit more often but driving in the city makes me feel like I could be attacked at any moment .It's not a pleasant site
- 160.
- 161.Demolish the buildings between S Washington and S Franklin and E Genesee and Federal to make way for a new modern safer cleaner complex like the Ippel on the west and call it the Savoy and give the Savoy first choice of lease area in the complex to keep them downtown.
- 162.TOUGH LAWS ON THE LAW BREAKERS
- 163.clean up the Saginaw river by suing polluters to recover cost make landlords responsible for their properties with larger fines for violators
- 164.n/a
- 165.Definitely no casinos or put in on the ballot.
- 166.Hold a special meeting and specifically invite the dweebs who keep knocking the city. Tell them to put up or shut up, and if they don't get involved, ignore them.
- 167.Preserve City Hall
- 168.I don't think we should have bought that apartment building, sorry it's a waste of too much money! Don't try such grandiose things (remember the water slide!) Concentrate on small projects that make sense for Saginaw, when I think of all the pie in the sky things of the past and the wasted money it makes me angry. Also leave the medical marijuana people alone, pursuing people for pot is a waste of tax dollars.
- 169.The downtown area near the Temple theatre and Dow Event Center need to be seriously evaluated!!!! I drive through that area on my way to work each day. The Section 8 housing there creates a very bad impression. I have stopped at the light on Washington and Genessee many times to be propositioned with one offer or another many times. The majority of the people in the surrounding communities (most of which have money) would be repelled by this and avoid this area at all costs. If we need to provide low cost housing for these people place them in a less traveled area. Maybe an area in the city in which the houses are abandoned. Just think about it. You have a wedding party going on at the temple and one block away you have people sitting on the front stoop drinking alcohol and doing who knows what else. Very Bad!
- 170."Landlords need to be held accountable for their buildings and properties. The LL Assoc. needs to work and partner with the powers that be to help us keep our City looking good by being good citizens."
- 171.Create a permanent Farmers Market building on the river. Great views, great site. We need a year round structure like Flint's. Flint's is consistently rated as one of the top 10 farmers markets in the USA.
- 172.Thanks for including the comments of us "outsiders." I know that I don't pay taxes in the City of Saginaw, or live there; however, it is people like my family that Saginaw needs to appeal to in order to bring that tax base back in, so I appreciate my thoughts being heard.
- 173.I believe that the City of Saginaw is not an open mind city. The people in office are close minded and self center. We need to look at the City as a whole. When people first arrive in Saginaw they start to look at the diversity, the school system and who is always getting a piece of the pie. It is time that we stop giving us busy work, such as this input Survey, and of course you already know what you will do. It is pure discrimination to

develop other areas and continue to not have a vision for others who want the same opportunities such as businesses, new taxes based community, and also a government that feels that all cultures deserve a piece of the pie. Saginaw, needs to stop playing politics and do what God would want them to do. Be fair with all cultures.

174. There is far too much emphasis with the NSP money in particular on the areas around the hospitals. Much more focus needs to go to stabilizing the areas in and AROUND Adams and Delaware Boulevards and the Heritage Square neighborhoods. The hospitals can't really leave town, but neighborhood residents will flee when social and physical decay affects their quality of life.
175. I feel that the cutting of officers and firefighters is one of the worse decisions the city has made, if budget cuts need to be made I think looking at a different avenue would be better. Taking an officer off the streets just gave the criminals the green light.
176. If Bay City can become a fun vibrant city there is no reason that Saginaw can't learn from them and maybe adopt some of their strategies. Use the river as they have started to do...make it a focus of the city.
177. Why am I paying for the Dow event center in my taxes when I can't even afford to purchase any ticket to attend anything that goes on there?? Seems like those on welfare are given free tickets and yet me and my friends who have to pay over 100 hours from our take home pay for summer taxes and another 100 hours of our take home pay for winter taxes can't afford to buy tickets for anything. In fact I am in the process of having to cut my basic cable. You are demonstrating to people that it is better to be indigent and lazy and suck off other than to be a working responsible citizen. Please change who you cater to.
178. This survey should be sent to everyone who lives and works in Saginaw.
179. The entire riverfront should be open space, docks, restaurants with docks at them, riverwalks on both sides of the river.
180. Crack down on renters and landlords who don't maintain their properties and create disturbances that ruin the quality of life and safety of the other neighbors!
181. We are continuing to put new money after "new" improvements that have not worked in the past. Sorry I missed the meetings.
182. We need a job strategy open to save Saginaw.
183. I really appreciate very much the opportunity to give this kind of feedback.
184. Have renters take more pride in the place they live
185. Keep the historic buildings. It is our heritage and a lot that makes us look different than any township in the USA
186. No casinos. This will only take money out of people's pockets who can't afford it only to support a few jobs. It's a bad trade off.
187. We people on the west side pay more taxes because we keep our property up. Eastside almost another shame on us.
188. A little long for the average citizen
189. I think this City has a lot of potential and could become something like it used to. I think the neighborhoods need to get together and start helping each other out. Such as keeping an EYE on things. When neighbors were like that many years ago we didn't have so many problems that we do today. I would LOVE to see Saginaw grown and become a great City where people want to come and live and have a family once again. It was like that before and we can do it again.




1. Which of the following best describes your relationship to the City of Saginaw? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
I live in Saginaw 	62.1%	445
I work in Saginaw 	56.6%	406
I attend school in Saginaw 	4.5%	32
None of the above 	9.3%	67
answered question		717
skipped question		3






2. How long have you lived in Saginaw?

	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 5 years 	5.8%	41
6 - 10 years 	5.9%	42
11 - 20 years 	9.7%	69
21 or more years 	50.3%	358
Do not live in Saginaw 	28.4%	202
answered question		712
skipped question		8

3. What is your residential status?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Own a home in Saginaw 	56.6%	401
Rent in Saginaw 	9.5%	67
Do not live in Saginaw 	33.9%	240
answered question		708
skipped question		12

4. What is your age?

	Response Percent	Response Count
under 18 	0.1%	1
18 - 24 	5.0%	36
25 - 44 	40.1%	287
45 - 64 	44.4%	318
65 & over 	10.3%	74
answered question		716
skipped question		4

5. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following issues when considering the future of Saginaw.

	1	2	3	4	5	don't know	Response Count
Job creation and economic development	83.5% (582)	6.0% (42)	1.3% (9)	0.9% (6)	8.2% (57)	0.1% (1)	697
Preservation of historic buildings and areas	34.2% (239)	20.3% (142)	26.4% (184)	10.7% (75)	8.0% (56)	0.3% (2)	698
Creating a walkable, pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly city	37.5% (261)	25.1% (175)	18.4% (128)	10.1% (70)	8.3% (58)	0.6% (4)	696
Demolition of abandoned and condemned buildings	62.5% (434)	16.7% (116)	10.1% (70)	3.9% (27)	6.5% (45)	0.3% (2)	694
Maintaining Saginaw's position as a high-quality regional health care provider	59.7% (414)	21.8% (151)	7.9% (55)	3.7% (26)	6.6% (46)	0.3% (2)	694
Developing large open areas where vacant and condemned buildings have been demolished	31.8% (221)	26.1% (181)	22.8% (158)	9.9% (69)	6.9% (48)	2.4% (17)	694
Operating and maintaining a variety of well-kept parks and recreation facilities	37.3% (259)	30.6% (213)	19.9% (138)	6.9% (48)	4.7% (33)	0.6% (4)	695
Offering a variety of cultural and entertainment facilities such as museums and theaters	35.8% (249)	29.2% (203)	19.7% (137)	7.9% (55)	6.5% (45)	0.9% (6)	695
Providing quality schools and educational opportunities	69.2% (480)	16.6% (115)	4.2% (29)	2.7% (19)	7.1% (49)	0.3% (2)	694
Providing recycling opportunities	34.3% (238)	26.0% (180)	20.3% (141)	8.8% (61)	9.8% (68)	0.7% (5)	693
						answered question	699
						skipped question	21

6. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Celebration Square area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	Response Count
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	52.1% (359)	28.6% (197)	10.2% (70)	3.9% (27)	4.9% (34)	0.3% (2)	689
Improve streets in this area.	43.3% (297)	29.7% (204)	15.7% (108)	6.7% (46)	3.5% (24)	1.0% (7)	686
Increase public safety measures.	68.8% (472)	15.3% (105)	5.2% (36)	3.4% (23)	6.6% (45)	0.7% (5)	686
Remove nearby blighted and abandoned buildings.	63.1% (435)	18.0% (124)	9.9% (68)	3.0% (21)	5.7% (39)	0.3% (2)	689
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.)	43.2% (297)	27.2% (187)	16.0% (110)	5.8% (40)	7.3% (50)	0.4% (3)	687
Restore and preserve historic buildings.	33.5% (230)	26.1% (179)	20.4% (140)	9.6% (66)	9.3% (64)	1.0% (7)	686
Improve walkability (more sidewalks and pathways)	39.3% (262)	25.5% (170)	19.9% (133)	7.5% (50)	6.6% (44)	1.2% (8)	667
						Other (please specify)	99
						answered question	690
						skipped question	30

7. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate how important each of the following strategies is to maintain/stabilize the Old Town Saginaw area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	Response Count
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	52.9% (358)	29.2% (198)	9.0% (61)	4.4% (30)	4.1% (28)	0.3% (2)	677
Improve streets in this area.	45.8% (310)	30.0% (203)	14.6% (99)	5.2% (35)	3.8% (26)	0.6% (4)	677
Increase public safety measures.	66.4% (450)	15.6% (106)	7.7% (52)	4.9% (33)	5.0% (34)	0.4% (3)	678
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	57.4% (387)	21.1% (142)	10.5% (71)	4.5% (30)	6.1% (41)	0.4% (3)	674
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	54.3% (367)	23.5% (159)	12.6% (85)	4.1% (28)	5.2% (35)	0.3% (2)	676
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.).	44.1% (297)	24.9% (168)	15.6% (105)	6.4% (43)	8.3% (56)	0.7% (5)	674
Encourage residential riverfront development such as townhomes, condominiums, and lofts.	53.3% (358)	19.3% (130)	10.6% (71)	6.0% (40)	9.8% (66)	1.0% (7)	672
						Other (please specify)	90
						answered question	678
						skipped question	42

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Downtown area.

	1	2	3	4	5	don't know	Response Count
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	51.6% (346)	26.2% (176)	11.6% (78)	5.1% (34)	5.2% (35)	0.3% (2)	671
Improve streets in this area.	41.4% (276)	25.6% (171)	18.4% (123)	8.5% (57)	5.5% (37)	0.4% (3)	667
Increase public safety measures.	68.8% (457)	14.2% (94)	6.0% (40)	3.5% (23)	7.1% (47)	0.5% (3)	664
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	64.3% (428)	16.4% (109)	7.4% (49)	4.5% (30)	7.1% (47)	0.5% (3)	666
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	54.5% (366)	21.8% (146)	12.7% (85)	5.2% (35)	5.2% (35)	0.6% (4)	671
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.).	43.9% (294)	22.9% (153)	15.1% (101)	8.8% (59)	8.5% (57)	0.7% (5)	669
Restore and preserve historic buildings.	42.9% (287)	20.8% (139)	16.0% (107)	8.7% (58)	11.2% (75)	0.4% (3)	669
Improve I-675 access to downtown Saginaw.	42.1% (278)	20.2% (133)	15.5% (102)	9.2% (61)	11.5% (76)	1.5% (10)	660
						Other (please specify)	106
						answered question	672
						skipped question	48

9. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate how important each of the following strategies is to maintain/stabilize the Court Street business district area?

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	Response Count
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	52.7% (346)	28.2% (185)	9.5% (62)	4.1% (27)	4.0% (26)	1.5% (10)	656
Improve streets in this area.	48.2% (316)	25.0% (164)	16.3% (107)	4.9% (32)	4.1% (27)	1.5% (10)	656
Increase public safety measures.	63.0% (414)	17.0% (112)	8.2% (54)	4.7% (31)	5.3% (35)	1.7% (11)	657
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	56.3% (369)	20.6% (135)	11.3% (74)	5.0% (33)	4.9% (32)	2.0% (13)	656
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	52.5% (345)	23.7% (156)	12.3% (81)	4.4% (29)	5.5% (36)	1.5% (10)	657
Add bike lanes on Court Street.	33.1% (216)	19.8% (129)	19.9% (130)	10.3% (67)	14.4% (94)	2.5% (16)	652
						Other (please specify)	73
						answered question	657
						skipped question	63

10. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the St. Mary's Medical Center Cathedral District area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	Response Count
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	51.1% (333)	23.6% (154)	13.2% (86)	4.9% (32)	5.7% (37)	1.5% (10)	652
Improve streets in this area.	45.6% (298)	21.6% (141)	17.6% (115)	7.5% (49)	5.2% (34)	2.5% (16)	653
Increase public safety measures.	69.0% (451)	12.1% (79)	7.6% (50)	3.4% (22)	6.6% (43)	1.4% (9)	654
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	65.2% (425)	16.0% (104)	8.7% (57)	3.4% (22)	5.8% (38)	0.9% (6)	652
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	60.2% (393)	17.6% (115)	11.2% (73)	3.4% (22)	6.4% (42)	1.2% (8)	653
Encourage preservation of historic homes.	47.9% (312)	18.0% (117)	14.7% (96)	8.1% (53)	9.8% (64)	1.4% (9)	651
						Other (please specify)	70
						answered question	655
						skipped question	65

11. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Covenant Medical Center neighborhood.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know	Response Count
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	53.2% (345)	25.3% (164)	12.6% (82)	3.5% (23)	4.5% (29)	0.9% (6)	649
Improve streets in this area.	48.5% (314)	24.9% (161)	15.0% (97)	5.7% (37)	4.3% (28)	1.5% (10)	647
Increase public safety measures.	70.0% (455)	13.1% (85)	6.0% (39)	3.2% (21)	6.8% (44)	0.9% (6)	650
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	65.8% (426)	16.4% (106)	8.7% (56)	2.9% (19)	5.1% (33)	1.1% (7)	647
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	61.5% (395)	17.8% (114)	10.9% (70)	3.7% (24)	5.1% (33)	0.9% (6)	642
						Other (please specify)	68
						answered question	650
						skipped question	70

12. When you consider the previous key areas, how do you feel that each has grown or changed over the past 5 to 10 years

	Better	About the same	Worse	Don't know	Response Count
Celebration Square (Zoo, Hoyt Park, Tennis Courts, Ojibway Island area)	55.1% (356)	30.0% (194)	10.5% (68)	4.3% (28)	646
Old Town Saginaw (Courthouse, Hamilton Street, Court Street and Michigan Avenue area)	37.7% (243)	41.9% (270)	16.6% (107)	3.9% (25)	645
Downtown Saginaw (Genesee Street, Johnson Street, and Washington Avenue area, Dow Event Center, Temple Theatre area)	27.9% (180)	35.8% (231)	32.2% (208)	4.2% (27)	646
Court Street Business District (along Court Street from Bond to north of Bay Road)	11.6% (75)	55.0% (356)	28.7% (186)	4.6% (30)	647
St. Mary's Medical Center Cathedral District	34.0% (219)	38.4% (248)	19.1% (123)	8.5% (55)	645
Covenant Medical Center District	23.6% (151)	38.0% (243)	31.4% (201)	7.0% (45)	640
				answered question	648
				skipped question	72

13. At its peak, Saginaw had a population of about 98,000 people. Today the population is about 55,000. This decline has led to an oversupply of housing, vacant and abandoned land, and an aging infrastructure system that must be supported by less people. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate each of the following strategies that the City might use in addressing these issues.

	1	2	3	4	5	don't know	Response Count
Create large open areas where most buildings would be demolished. This strategy may include abandoning streets and reduction of city services.	35.3% (223)	22.6% (143)	20.4% (129)	6.8% (43)	8.4% (53)	6.5% (41)	632
Offer adjacent vacant lots to existing homeowners at a reduced price.	57.8% (367)	22.4% (142)	10.4% (66)	3.5% (22)	5.2% (33)	0.8% (5)	635
Begin urban farming on large unused parcels of land in the City.	42.0% (267)	21.1% (134)	20.1% (128)	6.6% (42)	8.2% (52)	2.0% (13)	636
Offer land to urban homesteaders and developers who are willing to relocate and pay taxes in the City.	50.0% (317)	27.8% (176)	11.5% (73)	3.2% (20)	4.6% (29)	3.0% (19)	634
Offer tax incentives to commercial and industrial developers who relocate or add jobs in the City.	63.3% (401)	20.1% (127)	7.9% (50)	2.7% (17)	5.5% (35)	0.5% (3)	633
							Other suggestions (please specify) 79
						answered question	638
						skipped question	82

14. The Saginaw River is an important natural resource in the City of Saginaw. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate each of the following strategies that the City might use to take advantage of the Saginaw Riverfront.

	1	2	3	4	5	don't know	Response Count
Add more special events and festivals on or near the river.	54.3% (344)	23.3% (148)	11.0% (70)	4.6% (29)	5.8% (37)	0.9% (6)	634
Increase efforts to clean the Saginaw River.	64.7% (411)	17.8% (113)	10.4% (66)	2.7% (17)	3.9% (25)	0.5% (3)	635
Add residential development along the Saginaw River.	46.9% (296)	24.1% (152)	15.5% (98)	6.2% (39)	6.0% (38)	1.3% (8)	631
Increase recreational opportunities on the riverfront such as biking and walking paths, fishing, picnicking, and parks.	58.6% (369)	22.9% (144)	9.5% (60)	3.5% (22)	5.4% (34)	0.2% (1)	630
Remove vacant and abandoned buildings on the riverfront.	74.3% (469)	12.5% (79)	5.2% (33)	1.7% (11)	4.9% (31)	1.3% (8)	631
<i>answered question</i>							636
<i>skipped question</i>							84

15. Please evaluate the following aspects of the neighborhood where you live or work in Saginaw and how it has changed in recent years.

	Increased	About the Same	Decreased	Response Count
Vacant Houses	74.6% (459)	22.3% (137)	3.1% (19)	615
Rental Homes	59.4% (362)	36.9% (225)	3.6% (22)	609
Community Spirit/Togetherness/Pride	18.3% (112)	39.8% (243)	41.9% (256)	611
Crime	60.7% (372)	32.1% (197)	7.2% (44)	613
Strong neighborhood associations	27.8% (168)	44.5% (269)	27.6% (167)	604
			answered question	619
			skipped question	101

16. Should Saginaw plan for any of the following land uses?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Response Count
Wind energy generation	65.3% (412)	21.6% (136)	13.2% (83)	631
Solar energy generation	77.4% (489)	13.3% (84)	9.3% (59)	632
Community gardens	75.5% (478)	15.5% (98)	9.0% (57)	633
Urban farming	68.2% (431)	17.7% (112)	14.1% (89)	632
Senior housing	67.4% (421)	20.2% (126)	12.5% (78)	625
Casinos	40.5% (255)	50.9% (320)	8.6% (54)	629
Industrial redevelopment	80.7% (507)	11.1% (70)	8.1% (51)	628
Arts and entertainment district	81.0% (513)	12.2% (77)	6.8% (43)	633
Increased parks and recreational opportunities	78.8% (495)	13.4% (84)	7.8% (49)	628
			answered question	637
			skipped question	83

17. What do you like about the City of Saginaw?

	Response Count
	409
<i>answered question</i>	409
<i>skipped question</i>	311

18. What would you do to improve the City of Saginaw?

	Response Count
	460
<i>answered question</i>	460
<i>skipped question</i>	260

19. Other comments?

	Response Count
	189
<i>answered question</i>	189
<i>skipped question</i>	531



News from the

City of Saginaw

For immediate release

September 29, 2010

City of Saginaw Offers Online Survey for Master Plan Input Meetings Planned

SAGINAW – The City of Saginaw wants to hear from its residents as part of a master planning process. Consultants for the City have developed an online community input survey that can be found at **www.SaginawMasterPlan.com**. “The survey is brief and should only take about 10 minutes to complete,” says City Associate Planner Stephanie Harden. “We want to hear from those who live and work in Saginaw, and other interested parties that want to make a difference on how we can enhance and secure the future of the City.”

The City is hosting two community input meetings which are open to the public. The first is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 5th at Butman-Fish Library**, 1716 Hancock (N. Charles and Hancock Streets) **from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** The second community input meeting will be held at **Hoyt Library**, 505 Janes Avenue (Janes Avenue between S. Jefferson and S. Warren) on **Thursday, October 14th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

“The community input meetings will be in an ‘Open House’ format,” Harden explained. “Visitors are encouraged to stop by for 10 to 15 minutes to learn about the city, view maps and other information, and take a survey. City staff, officials, and facilitators will be available to discuss ideas about the future of Saginaw.”

There will be an additional four input meetings throughout the City for specially targeted groups. These include the business community, students and neighborhood associations. Invitations will be sent to those groups in the coming weeks.

The City began the Master Plan process in June. It is a year-long effort by the City of Saginaw Planning Commission to update the current City Master Plan. The main purpose of a Master Plan is to guide and enable a community to establish a future direction for its development. The updated Master Plan will offer a future land use map and broad goals that will be used to guide planning and zoning decisions in the future.

END

Contact:

**Stephanie Harden, Associate Planner
City of Saginaw Planning and Zoning Department**

1315 S. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI 48601 (989) 759-1303, Fax: (989) 759-1607

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

The City of Saginaw Planning Commission is seeking the opinions of residents, property owners, students, and those who work in Saginaw to determine how the City should plan for change in the next 5 to 20 years. Please read the following questions and check the answer that best describes your opinion. This information is necessary to complete a Master Plan for the City, as required by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Responses will be reviewed by the Saginaw City Planning Commission and the City Council in public meetings.

The survey focuses on how land should be used in the City, and it should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.



Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

KEY AREAS

The next series of questions asks about six specific key areas in the City. We want to know what you think about the types of strategies that might be used to stabilize and maintain these areas.

Celebration Square

Celebration Square is a collection of unique recreational and cultural attractions located along the Saginaw River in the general vicinity of Washington Avenue, Ezra Rust, and Court Street. Included are the Children's Zoo, Hoyt Park, Ojibway Island, Andersen Enrichment Center, Garber Tennis Courts, Celebration Park, the Japanese Cultural Center and Tea House, the YMCA, Crayola Park, and Wickes Park.



6. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Celebration Square area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve streets in this area.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase public safety measures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remove nearby blighted and abandoned buildings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restore and preserve historic buildings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve walkability (more sidewalks and pathways)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

Old Town Saginaw/Courthouse District

Old Town Saginaw is the area near the Courthouse and includes the restaurants and entertainment venues on Hamilton, Court, and Michigan.



7. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate how important each of the following strategies is to maintain/stabilize the Old Town Saginaw area.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Improve streets in this area.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Increase public safety measures.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.).	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Encourage residential riverfront development such as townhomes, condominiums, and lofts.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

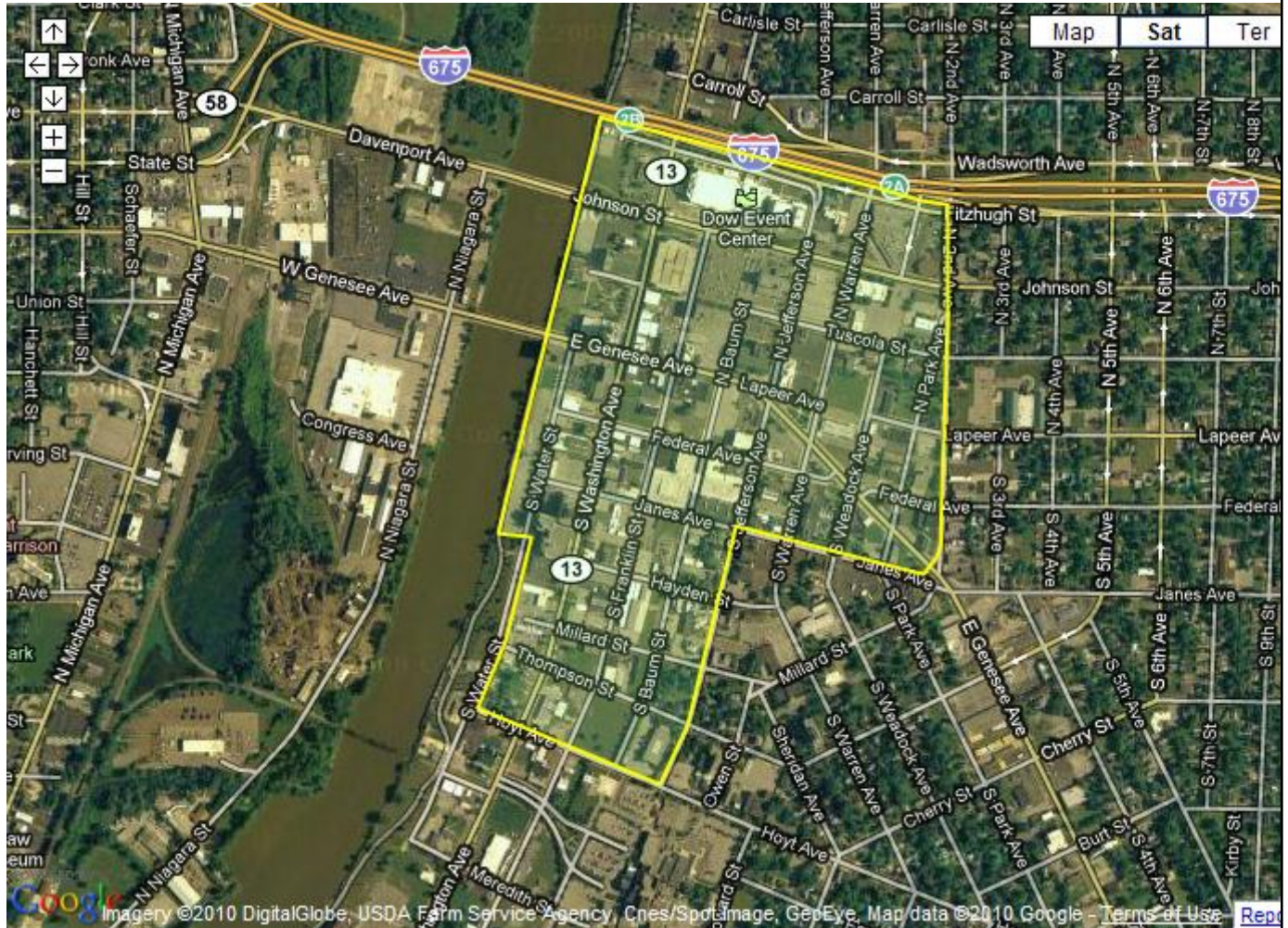
Other (please specify)

5
6

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

Downtown Saginaw

Downtown Saginaw includes the Genesee Street, Washington Avenue, and Johnson Street area. It was the traditional business and commercial district for the area. Today, this area also includes the Temple Theatre and Dow Event Center entertainment venues.



8. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Downtown area.

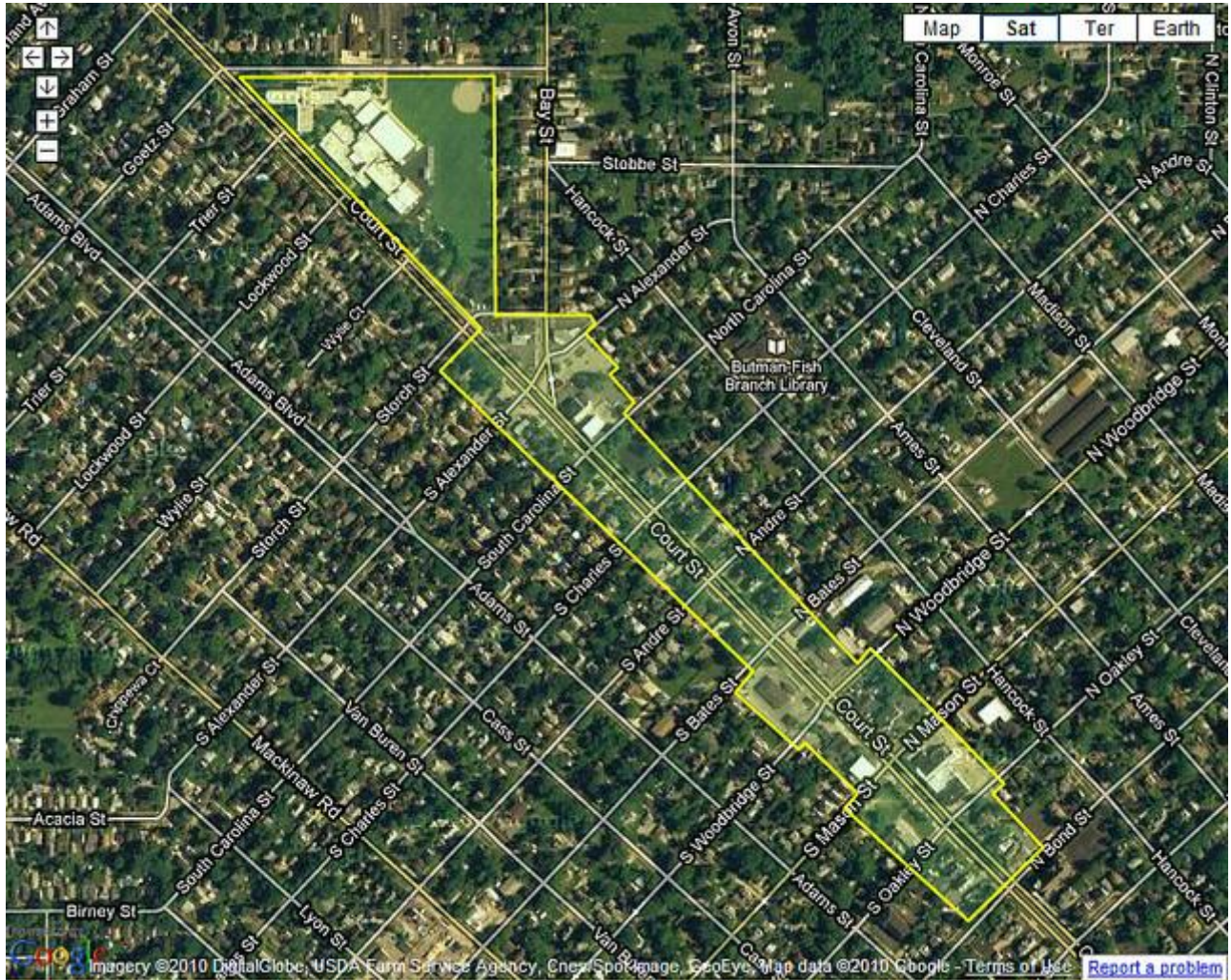
	1	2	3	4	5	don't know
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve streets in this area.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase public safety measures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add more special events (concerts, art fairs, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restore and preserve historic buildings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve I-675 access to downtown Saginaw.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

Court Street Business District

The Court Street Business District runs along Court Street from Bond to north of Bay Road, including Michigan Lutheran Seminary. It includes some neighborhood commercial businesses, restaurants, and a neighborhood theater.



9. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate how important each of the following strategies is to maintain/stabilize the Court Street business district area?

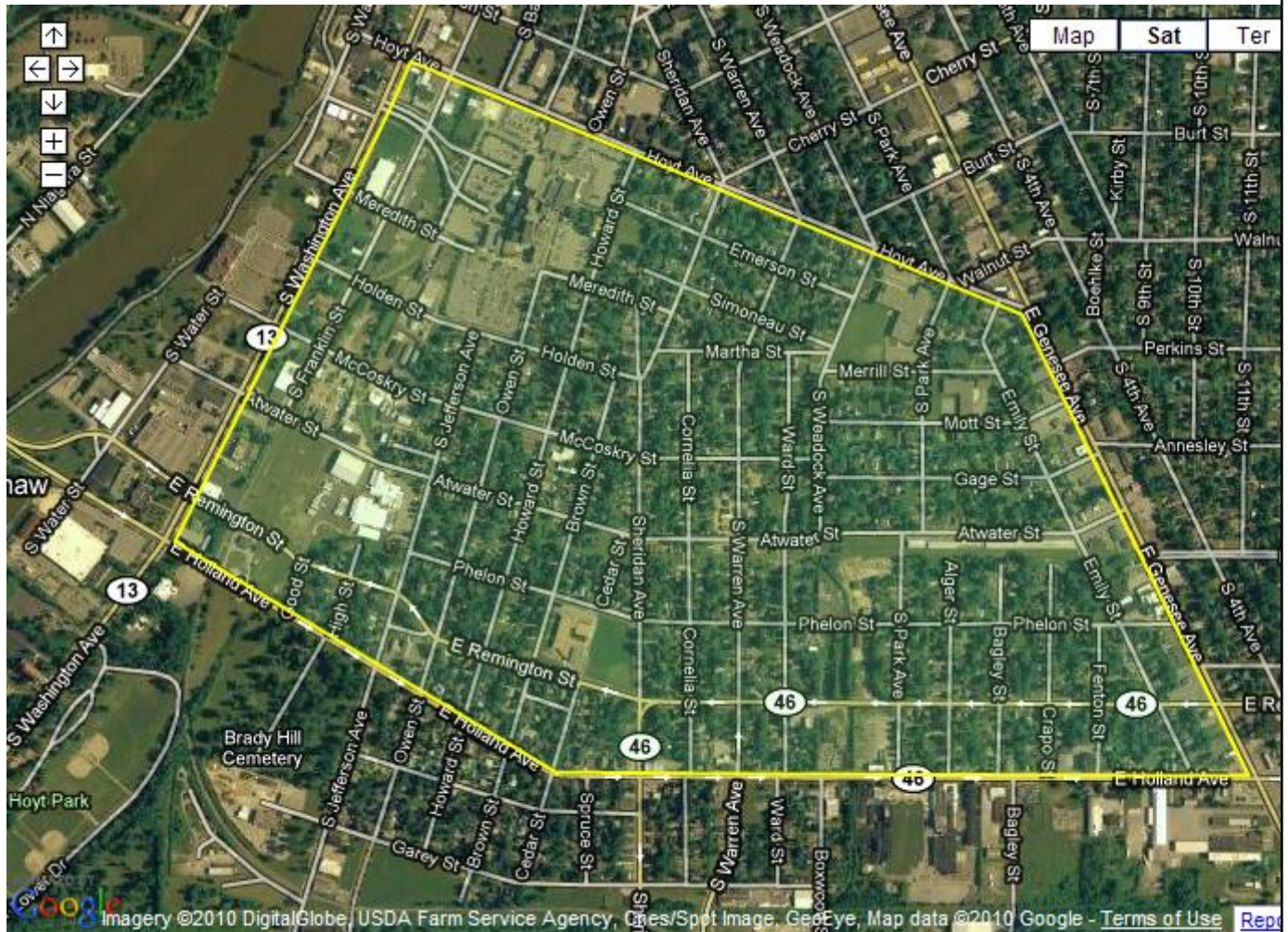
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve streets in this area.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase public safety measures.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add bike lanes on Court Street.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

St. Mary's Medical Center Cathedral District

The St. Mary's Medical Center District includes St. Mary's Medical Center, Washington Avenue from Holland to Hoyt, and the neighborhoods around the Medical Center.



10. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the St. Mary's Medical Center Cathedral District area.

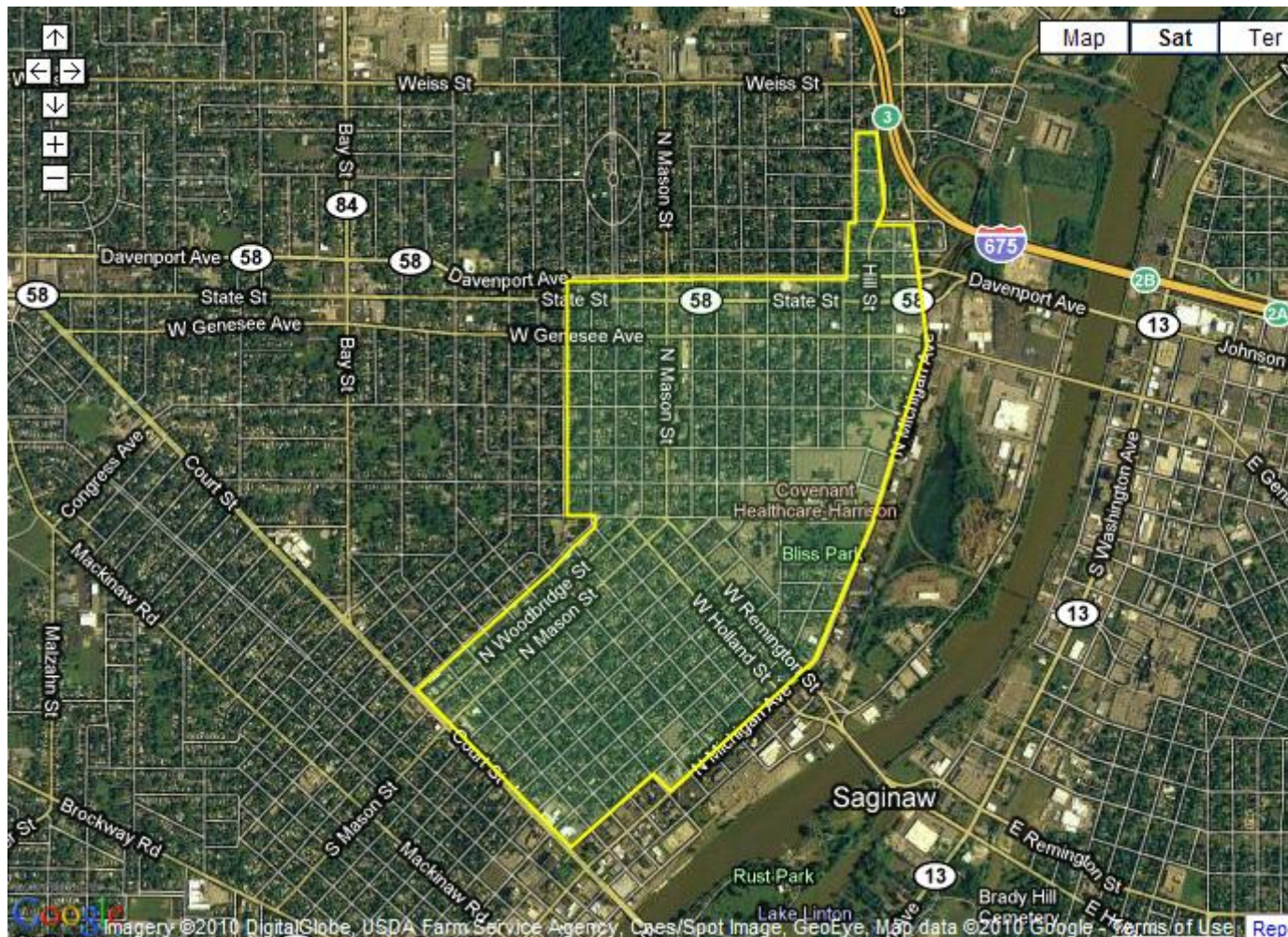
	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Improve streets in this area.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Increase public safety measures.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Encourage preservation of historic homes.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0

Other (please specify)

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

Covenant Medical Center Neighborhood

The Covenant Medical Center Neighborhood includes the hospital and associated medical buildings, the restaurants and other business on N. Michigan across from the hospital, Bliss Park, and the neighborhoods around the medical center.



11. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate the importance of each of the following strategies to maintain/stabilize the Covenant Medical Center neighborhood.

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
Keep the public areas looking nice with seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Improve streets in this area.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Increase public safety measures.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Remove blighted and abandoned buildings.	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0
Focus on code enforcement (remove junk cars, mow grass, etc.).	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0	j0

Other (please specify)

	5
	6

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

12. When you consider the previous key areas, how do you feel that each has grown or changed over the past 5 to 10 years

	Better	About the same	Worse	Don't know
Celebration Square (Zoo, Hoyt Park, Tennis Courts, Ojibway Island area)	jn	jn	jn	jn
Old Town Saginaw (Courthouse, Hamilton Street, Court Street and Michigan Avenue area)	jn	jn	jn	jn
Downtown Saginaw (Genesee Street, Johnson Street, and Washington Avenue area, Dow Event Center, Temple Theatre area)	jn	jn	jn	jn
Court Street Business District (along Court Street from Bond to north of Bay Road)	jn	jn	jn	jn
St. Mary's Medical Center Cathedral District	jn	jn	jn	jn
Covenant Medical Center District	jn	jn	jn	jn

The next few questions ask for your opinion on various issues related to future land use in Saginaw.

13. At its peak, Saginaw had a population of about 98,000 people. Today the population is about 55,000. This decline has led to an oversupply of housing, vacant and abandoned land, and an aging infrastructure system that must be supported by less people.

On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate each of the following strategies that the City might use in addressing these issues.

	1	2	3	4	5	don't know
Create large open areas where most buildings would be demolished. This strategy may include abandoning streets and reduction of city services.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Offer adjacent vacant lots to existing homeowners at a reduced price.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Begin urban farming on large unused parcels of land in the City.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Offer land to urban homesteaders and developers who are willing to relocate and pay taxes in the City.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Offer tax incentives to commercial and industrial developers who relocate or add jobs in the City.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Other suggestions (please specify)

14. The Saginaw River is an important natural resource in the City of Saginaw. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is important and 5 is not important, please rate each of the following strategies that the City might use to take advantage of the Saginaw Riverfront.

	1	2	3	4	5	don't know
Add more special events and festivals on or near the river.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Increase efforts to clean the Saginaw River.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Add residential development along the Saginaw River.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Increase recreational opportunities on the riverfront such as biking and walking paths, fishing, picnicking, and parks.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
Remove vacant and abandoned buildings on the riverfront.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Input Survey for Saginaw - Print Version

15. Please evaluate the following aspects of the neighborhood where you live or work in Saginaw and how it has changed in recent years.

	Increased	About the Same	Decreased
Vacant Houses	jn	jn	jn
Rental Homes	jn	jn	jn
Community Spirit/Togetherness/Pride	jn	jn	jn
Crime	jn	jn	jn
Strong neighborhood associations	jn	jn	jn

16. Should Saginaw plan for any of the following land uses?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Wind energy generation	jn	jn	jn
Solar energy generation	jn	jn	jn
Community gardens	jn	jn	jn
Urban farming	jn	jn	jn
Senior housing	jn	jn	jn
Casinos	jn	jn	jn
Industrial redevelopment	jn	jn	jn
Arts and entertainment district	jn	jn	jn
Increased parks and recreational opportunities	jn	jn	jn

17. What do you like about the City of Saginaw?

5
6

18. What would you do to improve the City of Saginaw?

5
6

19. Other comments?

5
6

Thanks for completing our survey!

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Community Input Open House at Butman-Fish Library

Tuesday | October 5, 2010 | 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

- 20 people attended.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Think city within a city concept.
- Possible malleable foundry area.
- Riverside condos – High end.
- Riverside shopping – Make it a destination.
- Possible arts and entertainment district downtown.
- Elderly complex – With services nearby.
- Central public safety building – Combined City Hall, fire, police.
- Use Best Practices from Midland, Bay City and Flint.
 - i.e. Riverfront in Bay City.
 - Clear and orderly Midland.
 - Build around university like Flint.
- Need good restaurants.
- Nice / permanent Farmers Market.
- Need good hotels.
- City has many good things:
 - River.
 - Excellent hospitals.
 - Ojibway Island.
 - Castle Museum.
 - Beautiful churches.
 - Fireworks.
 - Concerts.
 - Symphony.

- Demolish old buildings downtown.
- Identify if there is a demand for things.
- City is pretty clean and orderly, doing pretty good.
- Put an emphasis on one particular place.
- Increase walkability and concentration of services.
- Take advantage of SVSU – Get them into town – Cater to student body.
- De-annex areas.
- Put some room between houses – Neighbors too close.
- Would like to see riverfront development along Old Town area.

- Would like other development – i.e. casino.
- Support a casino.
- For casino(s) – On Ojibway and/or casino riverboats.
 - PROS:
 - Bring jobs.
 - Relieve tax burden.
 - Improve economy.
 - CONS:
 - Crime rates.
 - Affects other small businesses/entertainment venues.
 - Problem gamblers.

- Bring back stuff we no longer do:
 - Raft races.
 - Sledding.
 - Skating.
- Tear down bad houses.
- What can we do to keep parks from being vandalized?
- City have tool library.
- City is perceived as unsafe.
- Make City look better.
- Need more value for taxes.
- Love historic value of City.
- Like local restaurants.
- Water cost too high.
- Eliminate areas that make us seem unvaluable.
- Blight – #1 problem.
- Blight leads to crime.
- Demolish all abandoned buildings.
- Pick and choose what buildings historically need to stay.
- Recycle older building products.
- Area by Stone School needs help.
- Can there be help for citizens that want to fix up their houses and yards?
- Don't want a casino.
- Need to know hospital's long term plans.
- Consider relocating rail in front of St. Mary's.
- Relocate college/university to City.
- Possible loan money for business start up – Must stay.
- Public safety – 1st issue.
- Need a bigger Civic Center.

- What should the public transportation system look like?
- Community is aging.
- Possible riverboat.
- Restaurants, hotels, museums – Good Hoyt Park.
- Have people adopt-a-park.
- Fix up Veterans Memorial Parkway.
- Need to invest in less populated areas – Retail center, restaurants, readdress potential adopt-a-park options.
- Cope for all areas.
- No casino!
- Refocus on river.
- Build neighborhoods around parks and green space.
- Need to build community.
 - Identity
 - Identity for neighborhoods
- Look at Best Practices throughout nation, but keep its own identity.
- Like to see Metro-Police/Fire departments county-wide.
- Citizens on patrol – Support to the policing.
- Event Center – Keep it open – Need to find private owner.
- Events – Bring back raft races.
- City Hall:
 - Old building
 - Sell to private sector
 - Consider renovation vs. new location.
- Don't need a hotel – Support existing hotel.
- Need new stores in downtown.
- Downtown is dead!
- Need public support – Use local service and stores.
- Support local.
- Fix areas little by little.
- Need good signage.

- Good:
 - Johnson Street
 - Temple
 - Dow
 - Washington

- How to pay for City services?
- Seek ways to coordinate services (i.e. lawn mowing of vacant buildings) with neighborhood associations and community.
- Need more police officers walking the streets.
- Code enforcement works in the City when working with neighborhood groups.
- Improved public safety is the key first step to transforming the City.
- Improve roads in the northeast area → everything from re-surfacing to streetscapes.
- Need more neighborhood-based commercial services → if not, need improved transit.
- Transform current vacant areas into “green” opportunity areas.
- Need more parks in the northeast area; in partnership with neighborhood associations.

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Community Input Open House

Thursday, October 14, 2010

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Hoyt Library

ATTENDANCE

- 26 people attended.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Restore historic homes.
- Need programs to encourage home restoration vs. demolition.
- City bureaucracy difficult.
- Architecture needs to fit historic areas downtown.
- Residential design guidelines.
- Vacant lots to parking lots can be an issue in terms of adjacent land uses.

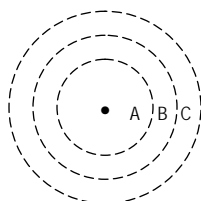
- Not much incentive for younger grads to stick around – Missed opportunity.
- Need more events.
 - Lawn Chair Film Festival
 - Friday Night Live
- People go elsewhere to do this that they could do here.
- Keep City building historic connection alive. Revitalize older historic buildings with character.
- Use vacant building – Studio space?

- Need a culinary school at SVSU to encourage young grads to invest in downtown Saginaw (many vacant storefronts) and start their own unique restaurants.

- Follow Mayor Julliani's lead. Focused on removing graffiti and cleaning New York City first. When people appreciate the plan they live, they take pride in it and crime naturally declines.
- Clean City constantly, pride follows, crime will reduce!!!
- Lower City taxes. Give people incentives to more to the City, not leave it.
- Give incentives to real estate investors to redo the area.
- Help them (real estate investors) to put money into the area rather than City taxes.

- Public image positive.
 - Community partnerships.
 - Historic structure.
 - Downtown Saginaw.
- Less rentals.
- Assets:
 - Zoo.
 - Temple Theater.
 - Children's Museum.
 - Dow Event Center.
 - Andersen Enrichment.
 - Ojibway.
 - Hoyt Park.
 - Washington corridor.
 - Medical facilities.
 - Programs.
 - Museum and Library.
 - SASA (Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy).
- River.
 - Improvements across River.
- Needs.
 - Police and Fire – Response time/presence.
 - Stores.
 - Safety.
- Image.
 - Current – East side crime.
 - Future – Friendly, honest, safe
 - Incentives – No tax cap.
- Assets.
 - Zoo.
 - Parks.
 - Dow Event Center.
- River.
 - More development.
 - Public amenities – Park (seating/grass/shade).
- Transportation.
 - STARS doing well.
 - Not walkable – Lights.
- Save blight not destroy.
- Vacant property incentives to private individuals.
- Amenities are available – But effort is required to seek them out.
- Needs?
 - NO casino.
 - Youth center.
 - Fair.
 - STARS is doing well.
 - Enforce current ordinances – Property upkeep.
 - Animal control.
 - Community/neighborhood parks.

- A dying City.
- Need to refocus.
- We have affordable housing.
- Discontinue City income tax – Creates demise.
- Need a casino riverboat.
- We have great music talent in region.
- Exceptional health industry.
- Join City and Township – Make one!
- Create a wireless venue.
- Focus on River.
 - Boat rides.
- Restaurants and entertainment on River.
- Car race track – Maybe at old Fairgrounds.
- Need something to bring people here.
- Exceptional survey and web site – You (Spicer Group) are doing a good job!
- Focus on area where Court and Bay meet – Enhance area.
- Old buildings Downtown – Turn into community college facilities.
- Make buildings into middle income housing.
- Entertainment District in Temple/Dow area
 - Thursday-Saturday hours
 - Restaurants, bars, etc.
- Need a good bike path – Multi-use path loop!
- Clean up facades.
- Get more Downtown.
- Change crime perception.
- Move Bancroft housing!
- Concentrated low income housing in City center not conducive to building area.
- Need better River access – Morley plaza.
- Entertainment District with trolley.
- Join Pit & Balcony, Art Museum, and Arts groups, in same area.
- We have no good identity.
- Need to make rapid changes in how we attract people.
- Good infrastructure to build on.
- Excellent opportunities – Senior citizens homes.
- Affordable housing.
- Excellent college, community college.
- Make sidewalks more friendly – Ramps vs. curbs.
- Clean up facades downtown.
- Connect Westside Old Town to cross Court Street with pedestrian connection.
- Share services – City/Township/County.
- Create circular City – Core incentives with varying rates/levels.



- Buildings and housing for artists.
- City is good size – Good diversity.
- Good school opportunities:
 - SVSU.
 - Delta.
- More affordable to live here.
- Paint murals on blank building walls.
- More public art.
 - Local artists.
 - National artist.
- Use art to make younger people feel like they belong – People need to have a positive connection to community.
- Possible across over streets welcoming people (i.e. Flint).

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Neighborhood Association Input

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Saginaw City Hall

THINGS YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

9 Votes

- Cooperation with City: SCENIC and community policing.

8 Votes

- Community police officer.
- Well-maintained homes and yards.
- Owner-occupied homes.

7 Votes

- Good neighborhood associations.

6 Votes

- Good sense of public safety.

5 Votes

- Improved roads.
- Neighborhood gardens.

4 Votes

- Near Schools
- Strong neighborhood associations.

3 Votes

- Quiet enjoyable neighborhoods.
- Community center (social functions). Schools, churches, libraries.
- Sub-standard housing has been removed.
- Older, beautiful homes.
- Greenpoint Nature Center.

2 Votes

- Neighborhood-oriented parks.
- Close to highway exits.
- Nice neighbors, I know my neighbors.
- Close to employment (hospitals, etc.)
- Diversity, cultural activities.
- Trees.

1 Vote

- Conveniently located shopping areas.
- People invest and improve their homes.
- Easy to access river (boating, etc.).

- Rich legacy, history.
- Festivals.

No Votes

- New construction.
- Small town feeling.
- People are out-and-about, on streets, walking dogs, riding bikes, etc
- Nice boulevard – Adds to neighborhood feeling.

THINGS YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

14 Votes

- Absentee landlords.

12 Votes

- Many rental properties.

11 Votes

- Crime, drug deals.

7 Votes

- Need decent commercial services – Grocery, hardware, etc. (need more business development).

6 Votes

- Unleashed dogs.

5 Votes

- Unkempt properties.
- Need infrastructure improvements – sewer, roads, etc.

4 Votes

- People walking in streets, not on the sidewalk.
- Vacant lots and demolition.
- Negative perception of City.
- Traffic too fast, speeding.
- Homes used for illegal activity.
- Need more community police officers.
- Maintenance at the recycling center.

3 Votes

- Youth out after 10:00 p.m.
- Deterioration of properties.
- Streets need to be re-surfaced, improved.

2 Votes

- Many bad habits of some neighbors.

1 Votes

- Land use conflicts with nearby parking lots.
- Neighborhood party stores need patrons to buy everyday items.
- Non-working street lights.
- Empty school buildings.
- Need more community-oriented parks.

No Votes

- Where I live does not feel like a neighborhood.
- No community center.
- After-hours gathering places.

STRATEGIES

17 Votes

- Create a demolition fund whereby landlords and rental property owners contribute to offset potential future demolitions.

11 Votes

- More community policing.

10 Votes

- Street improvements.

9 Votes

- More code enforcement.
- Court system reform.

8 Votes

- Vacant lot program to offer them to adjacent owners, to encourage wider lots.
- Utilize the City's exceptional water quality resources.

7 Votes

- Update zoning ordinance to encourage more neighborhood-oriented businesses.
- Encourage walkability through improved and new sidewalks.

6 Votes

- Invest in education to improve education quality.

No Votes

- Accelerate demolition program.

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Open House for Neighborhood Input

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Hoyt Library

ATTENDANCE

- 10 people attended.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- No stores left in the Downtown Area.
- Plants closed down.
- No clothing stores in the Downtown Area.
- Resurveying Historic Districts
 - What are contributing features?
 - ≈14
- Will form an Advisory Group
- Need local incentives for historic preservation.
- Need infill to initiate renaissance with no setbacks.
- Set design guidelines for Downtown.
- Too many rentals!
- Need a permanent building for the Farmers Market on the river.
- Share survey data on website – Possible article too.
- Need to address the high crime rate in the City of Saginaw.
- Need support for Promise Zone will impact economic development similar to Kalamazoo program.
- Continue to foster programs with colleges in area – SVSU, Delta, Davenport.
 - Library offers tutoring program.
 - Possible partner for SVSU housing.
- Celebration Square – activities good.
- Big concern – Housing
 - Landlords walk away from spent buildings.
- Youth out after 10:00 p.m. – Often.
 - A problem.

- Feels like Saginaw has two downtowns, and in terms of development, it feels like they complete.
- The effort to make Saginaw a better place for residents will take a lot of work.
- Saginaw News/Media could do better job of promoting positive events in the City.
- Need a better structure for the Farmers Market.
- Farmers Market is an awesome resource for the City.
- Lots of walking traffic to the Farmers Market.
- Grocery stores (those that remain) in the City raise prices at the beginning of the month when Bridge card disbursements are made.
- Saginaw needs to be more bicycle-friendly.
- Would like to see bike lanes.

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Input from the Blog

www.saginawmasterplan.com

APPROVED COMMENTS

- Submitted on 2010/09/28 at 1:41pm: I have some ideas. I think the City has a lot of old, abandoned buildings (both residential and commercial) that are beyond repair and are just eye sores, not to mention places for illegalities to occur. So, I would suggest pushing the demolition of these structures (which is already happening to some extent) and replacing them with parks, gardens, or even just trees. Maybe the city could purchase these delinquent properties for pennies on the dollar (a little is better than nothing if you are the rightful owner). Then, over time as these areas have a chance to mature, the areas may turn into places where businesses or residents want to relocate to, maybe. Having more places for kids to play, spend their time or even work to spruce up or harvest whatever is planted in these areas would give the kids a sense of purpose, pride and would maybe be a small step in improving the city's overall image. Not sure if the City has heard of this, but here is a link to Hantz Farms in Detroit in which is a great idea, although somewhat lofty! <http://hantzfarmsdetroit.com/introduction.html>
- Submitted on 2010/09/30 at 3:47pm: We are working on a proposal to do just that. Vegetable gardens to help teach and to help feed our neighbors. Beautiful flower gardens to brighten up the area. You are right, it can be done for little money, plus we are now a non-profit so we have the added bonus of providing local jobs and engaging youth in a positive direction.
- Submitted on 2010/09/30 at 4:06pm: I also think the delapidated buildings should be torn down and trees planted. However, buildings like the city hall, hoyt library and beautiful big old homes that can be renovated should be. Let's not just tear everything down for the sake of tearing down.
- Submitted on 2010/10/01 at 1:24am: I think that resurfacing Michigan Av. from the South/ West Michigan intersection State St. should be repaved and a median should be added with some foliage. I think this would greatly benefit the west side of Saginaw. In addition to this, Court St. from the bridge to State St. should also be repaved, along with decorative traffic lights. The kind of lights that are on a pole suspended over the intersection, much like the ones in place along S. Washington Av. The same ones should be used along N. Michigan at Stephens, Williams, Gratiot, Cass, Court, Hancock, Houghton and Cooper. Also, a police officer that patrols on foot, as well as on a bike should patrol both the old town, and downtown districts. I think that the current city hall should be closed and used as a historical site. City hall should move to one of the shuttered elementary schools, such as John Moore for instance.
- Submitted on 2010/10/01 at 8:38am: I envision a whole transformation. A thriving economy area where couples and families go for dining, shopping and entertainment. An area where people feel safe and can enjoy the water. Bay City is a great example of what we can become.
- Submitted on 2010/10/01 at 9:56am: Driving into the city of Saginaw each morning, is not very glamorous. So much more could be done. I see tall weeds never taken care of, eyesores such as

boarded up buildings,run down homes. Certain elementary schools might want to take on a project like planting flowers in spring, or maybe scout troops, other cities have done that. That way they earn their merit badges and the city gets beautified. Everyone wins.

- Submitted on 2010/10/01 at 11:49am: why dont the city invest in more habitat houses in the city where older houses were before,there are a lot of vacant lots on the westside and eastsides ,northsides,there are a lot of low incme families who would be glad to have affordable housing
- Submitted on 2010/10/04 at 6:46am: Genesee road should be paved all the way out to Hess. Michigan needs repavement. Repair railroad crossings. Continue to remove condemned houses. Bring in more shopping back into downtown. Consider a casino. Hotel into downtown for events at the Dow Event Center.
- Submitted on 2010/10/04 at 5:26pm: It would be nice to see something done with railroad crossings in saginaw especially the one near the old potter street train station,maybe an overpass for the vehicles ,tired of waiting upto 30+ minutes for a train (s) just sitting on tracks not moving. also they should take the boulevard on court street between state and bay street/alexander intersection and extend it through to michigan by the court house.
- Submitted on 2010/10/05 at 7:42am: Create incentives for small businesses, but not a casino. Casinos are not only gaudy, but so are the pawn shops that pop up all over when a one comes to town. Casinos have a corrupting influence. Lets focus on cleaning up Saginaw with a family friendly environment.
- Submitted on 2010/10/05 at 7:44am: @Sandy - Notice, Bay City does not have a casino.
- Submitted on 2010/10/05 at 5:03pm: To improve downtown one must suport and make it people friendly, have small businesses to move in area with public incentive. Use and shop local, improve trafic with less closer of street. improve directional signs from city and highway dept. more meeting, shows etc. at DOW and Temple Theater. Bring back pride of Saginaw Downtown
- Submitted on 2010/10/05 at 11:26pm: Fordney street bewteen M-46 and Ezra Rust needs to be completely torn up and redone.
- Submitted on 2010/10/07 at 12:45pm: Before doing anything with Saginaw they need to start enforcing curfew and truancy!! That right there would improve the safety of Saginaw.
- Submitted on 2010/10/07 at 2:44pm: Bike routes and trails, a lot of people in the city can't buy cars and the bus system is too high. Cycling can be done all year and it helps deter crime.
- Submitted on 2010/10/07 at 9:46pm: @anonymous - Just to be clear...the Hoyt library has been completely renovated just 10 yrs ago and there are absolutely no plans to tear it down, in fact, if you visit it today, you will find many updates happening at the facility. The Hoyt library is operated by the Public Libraries of Saginaw...a district library supported by millage and is not beholden to city government or their whims.
- Submitted on 2010/10/12 at 3:40pm: I work downtown. I would like to see the riverwalk expanded northward. I think a permanent structure should be built for the Friday nite live acts. All the vacant buildings in downtown need to be torn down. More business's are needed that cater to eating/drinking and entertainment after 5:00. And finally, build a permanent structure to house a year round farmers market on the river. London, Ontario has a fantastic year round indoor farmers market.
- Submitted on 2010/10/13 at 1:06pm: I totally am for a casino in this city. I think it would revitalize this city. The creation of jobs, businesses, hotels and other entertainment events would be properous to this city. By putting a Casino here in this city it would clean it up per say. Focus would be on beautifying it and taking care of our blight situations. THAT would become a priority to this city. A Casino would generate the revenue to do these types of things. Really people, what is the difference if a Casino is here in Saginaw or an hour away. The people that want to visit it will and the ones that don't, won't. Also, Love, love, love the idea of a permanent structure like Bay City has for outdoor concerts for out Friday Night Live series. A permanent faciltity for our Farmer's Market also sounds like a fabulous idea. I keep saying to myself, just like the movie Field of Dreams. "If you build it, they will come". And so will alot of wonderful oportunites to boot.

- Submitted on 2010/10/14 at 4:02pm: I think the city of Saginaw needs a Casino and Walmart within its boundaries to bring in cash revenue. We also need to address the problems the city is experiencing with Raccoons,groundhogs,skunks and other nusiance rodents. Among the input already expressed about the eye soars of abandoned and vacant homes, the city needs to continue to beautify our city by all means, and do whatever we have to, to avoid crime. We really need more job openings, the city itself needs, jobs,jobs,jobs.
- Submitted on 2010/10/15 at 12:56am: i live here in saginaw ,grew up here, this isnt the friendly town it used to be, alot of things need to go, its ok to have liquor stores but limit how many can be in an area, make stricter gidelines for them to sell it, no sales on sunday,and early cut of during the week. cleanup the east side,the majoriy of those on the westside started out and grew up here on the eastside before they gained their socalled want to be status, give it its pride back, th city workers are told to focus on the westside when it comes to cleanup and snow removale first,thats not fair give it its beauty back, if you focus on the whole city, you regain your city,give these children something to do.
- Submitted on 2010/10/15 at 1:01am: @Jason - I couldn't agree more with Jason, the city could join other cities in the state Like Houghton, Marquette and Ann Arbor and become bicycle friendly and empower people with limited resources inexpensive transportation options. Also agreed with Kyle's comment to replace the span-wire traffic signals with easier to see and significantly more aesthetically pleasing mast arm style traffic signals. Also, the gradual phase in of full cutoff street lighting would not only reduce energy costs, but improve visibility, reduce glare and improve the night sky. I agree with Pat against Casinos there are other ways to improve our community. The extension of a median on Court Street to Michigan would really make the area look nicer.
- Submitted on 2010/10/19 at 8:22pm: As a former resident of Saginaw , I am shocked at the current state of this once SAFE and CLEAN city . I transferred to the east coast 15 years ago and visit Saginaw at least three times a year . It has declined steadily, Bay City is much more appealing . Saginaw should take a look at Bay City's riverfront , Saginaw has so much potenial and you close your eyes to it ! Condos , parks , boat ramps . offices and yes.. even a Casino . Has the Casino destroyed Mount Pleasant ?? I don't think so ...You need something on that scale to draw people in and spend their money in your back yard . It will create jobs , small businesses and a tax base . It could be a destination for people from all over the area . You are in the middle of the state. Build it and they will come ! Don't stay stagnant... have a vision and embrace it .
- Submitted on 2010/11/01 at 9:03pm: Enforce curfew and city codes. Cars parked all over the yards, front and side yards. Trash out on curbs or front porches all the time. Maintain yards and homes. We need to make sure this is being covered in all areas of the city. Focus has been in targeted areas while areas that were once nice are now getting run down.

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy – Mr. Olvera

10:50 a.m. to 11:40 p.m.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. What is city planning?
3. The Saginaw Master Plan project
4. Discuss photo activity
 - Due Friday Dec 10

City of Saginaw Master Plan

Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy – Mr. Olvera

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Names: _____ Camera # _____

Photo Log of Likes, Dislikes, and Things Uniquely Saginaw

Photo# _____ Like: _____ Dislike: _____ Unique: _____

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Please return cameras and photo log to Mr. Olvera by Friday, December 10, 2010.

Saginaw Master Plan » Student Input and Participation - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Spicer Group, Inc.

http://www.saginawmasterplan.com/

Wikipedia (en)

Saginaw Master Plan » Student Input and Particip...

Saginaw Master Plan

Planning the future of Saginaw, Michigan

Home About Share Your Input Maps

Type text to search here...

Home > Ideas, Input, Pictures & Places > Student Input and Participation

Student Input and Participation

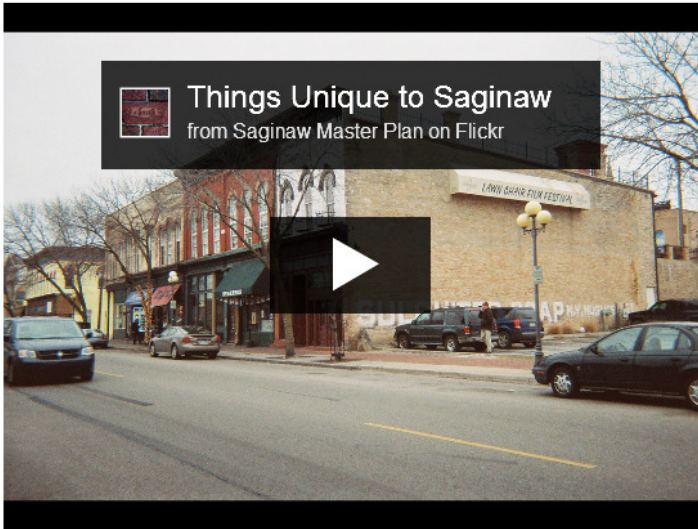
January 12th, 2011

[Go to comments](#) [Leave a comment](#) [Edit](#)


On Tuesday, November 23, 2010, Spicer Group visited Mr. Olvera's AP Government Class at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy to discuss the Saginaw Master Plan project. We wanted to introduce the students to city planning and get their input on how the City of Saginaw should plan for a better City. We gave each student a disposable camera and asked them to go around town and take pictures of likes, dislikes, and things they thought were unique to Saginaw.


These are the pictures they took.

The following three slideshows showcase their insights. Our aim is to incorporate their unique perspective into the planning process for the Saginaw Master Plan.




Things Unique to Saginaw: 29 pictures highlighting the things the students think are unique to Saginaw.






Welcome!

Be a part of Saginaw's future! Whether you live, work, learn, visit the City's museums, visit the Dow Event Center, or catch a performance at Pit & Balcony or the Temple Theater, you can help plan the future of Saginaw!





Saginaw Master Plan on Facebook

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Resources

- [Cities of Promise](#)
- [City of Saginaw Official Website](#)
- [City of Saginaw Saginaw Planning Commission](#)
- [Saginaw Arts & Enrichment Commission](#)
- [Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [Saginaw Future](#)
- [Saginaw Housing Commission](#)
- [Saginaw Neighborhood Stabilization Program](#)
- [Saginaw Public Schools](#)
- [Saginaw Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Saginaw's Neighborhood Associations](#)

City of Saginaw Master Plan



Business Community Input

Thursday, December 2, 2010, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Hoyt Library

What could help business locate and expand in the City of Saginaw?

- More frequent public communication of Saginaw's improving crime/safety status.
- Shovel-ready sites.
- Removal of City income tax.
- Improve crime statistics.
- Better image of community and safety.
- Tax incentives.
- Economic development opportunities.
- More quality pre-developed locations, ideally on waterfront.
- Public safety is the #1 concern for those outside of the City.
- Taxes across the board, living and working in the City should not be the most expensive in the County.

What else needs to be changed or improved upon?

- The appearance of main entry roads into the city. For example, Hill/Schaeffer Streets heading south off I-675 toward covenant.
- Relocate Bancroft/Eddy housing stock.
- Improved governmental approach.
- Aid to help homeowners keep up their property and to fight blight.
- Patrol of streets – safety a huge issue for new business to attract customers.
- As a County, we have too much infrastructure, too many managers, clerks, etc – we need a “County Government”, not individual city, village, and township entities.
- City is pretty good to work with, but some staff “don't get it.”

facebook

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Saginaw Master Plan is on Facebook
Sign up for Facebook to connect with Saginaw Master Plan.

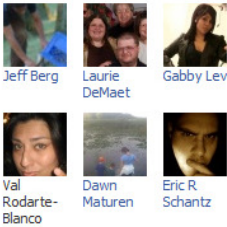


Be a part of Saginaw's future!
Whether you live, work, learn, visit the City's museums, visit the Dow Event Center, or catch a performance at Pit & Balcony or the Temple Theater, you can help plan the future of Saginaw!

Information

Founded:
2010

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Events

1 upcoming event [See All](#)

U.S. Census Bureau to Release...
Online via webcast @ census.gov
Tomorrow, December 21 at 11:00am

Saginaw Master Plan

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[Filters](#)



Saginaw Master Plan Monday Morning Linkage, Part 3 of 3. This blog posting in this link is by Brenna Moloney, the Preservation Specialist working in Saginaw. She advises city employees on historic preservation, and works to educate the community on the importance and benefits of historic preservation.



A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever: Rightsizing in Saginaw

blog.preservationnation.org

Make no mistake: What has happened to Saginaw is a tremendous tragedy, and it is a tragedy that is being duplicated in city after city across Middle America. The challenges are daunting, but now is not the time for preservationists to remain silent. Now, more than ever, we should fight for the place...

5 hours ago · [Like](#) · [Comment](#) · [View Feedback \(4\)](#)



Saginaw Master Plan Monday Morning Linkage, Part 2 of 3



Cathedral District Neighborhood Association of Saginaw

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Saginaw Master Plan Monday Morning Linkage, Part 1 of 3



Preservation Saginaw

Preservation Saginaw advocates for the preservation of Saginaw's historic resources. We seek to strengthen neighborhoods, share resources, communicate, connect and educate on the importance of historic preservation to Saginaw's future.

Page: [94 people like this.](#)



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Get short, timely messages from Saginaw Master Plan.

Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information. It's easy to stay updated on an incredibly wide variety of topics. **Join today** and **follow @saginawplanning**.

Sign Up

Get updates via SMS by texting **follow saginawplanning** to **40404** in the United States
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saginawplanning

Name Saginaw Master Plan
Location Saginaw, Michigan
Web <http://www.sagina...>
Bio Planning the future of Saginaw, Michigan

27 following 20 followers 1 listed

Tweets 97

Favorites

Following



RSS feed of saginawplanning's tweets

Type in your zip code and the ESRI Tapestry Segmentation engine will classify your area into three of 65 unique... <http://fb.me/Vle42X5F>

7:06 AM Apr 10th via Facebook

From AdAge, with some interesting insights, this one: "Americans may complain about urban problems but the..." <http://fb.me/RCzywtA>

1:05 PM Apr 8th via Facebook

"Every metro area has good suburbs, but if you don't have a strong downtown and close-in neighborhoods, then..." <http://fb.me/WZEK0U0q>

10:41 AM Apr 4th via Facebook

Why does placemaking matter? From the Lansing State Journal, "It matters because we live in a global new economy...." <http://fb.me/XPsxQp00>

9:10 AM Mar 30th via Facebook

Nice set of commentators contribute to this "Room for Debate" feature, "...a shrinking city is not a new..." <http://fb.me/S7GG06AP>

9:06 AM Mar 29th via Facebook

We embedded a map on the project website to show how the population changed in the City. There's quite a bit of..." <http://fb.me/Nvgzi5ZY>

12:07 PM Mar 24th via Facebook

We gave an informal update and presentation to the Saginaw Planning Commission on Tuesday regarding the status of...

Appendix B

Adoption Documentation





RESOLUTION APPROVING MASTER PLAN

Councilman Virciglio offered and moved adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Councilman Scharffe:

WHEREAS, the City of Saginaw has elected to draft, review and adopt a Master Plan pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 2008, No. 33; MCL 125.3801, et seq; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saginaw has observed all the procedures, provided notices to the involved jurisdictions and held the required public hearings; and

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission has recommended approval and adoption of the Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Saginaw hereby approves and adopts the Master Plan, pursuant to MCL 125.3843; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Planning Commission shall submit copies of the adopted Master Plan to the entities to which copies of the proposed Master Plan were submitted.

Adopted unanimously.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF SAGINAW)
CITY OF SAGINAW)

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF SAGINAW

I, Diane M. Herman, City Clerk of the City of Saginaw, County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that I have compared the above copy of the resolution adopted by the Saginaw City Council at the regular meeting of Monday, September 26, 2011, approving and adopting the Master Plan for the City of Saginaw, pursuant to MCL 125.3843, with the original on file in the office of the City Clerk and that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original.

**In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed the Corporate Seal of the City of Saginaw, Michigan, this
4th day of October 2011**

Diane M. Herman

CITY CLERK