

# OUR WEST BAYFRONT

## COMMUNITY PLAN

JUNE 29, 2016 DRAFT







# OUR WEST BAYFRONT COMMUNITY PLAN

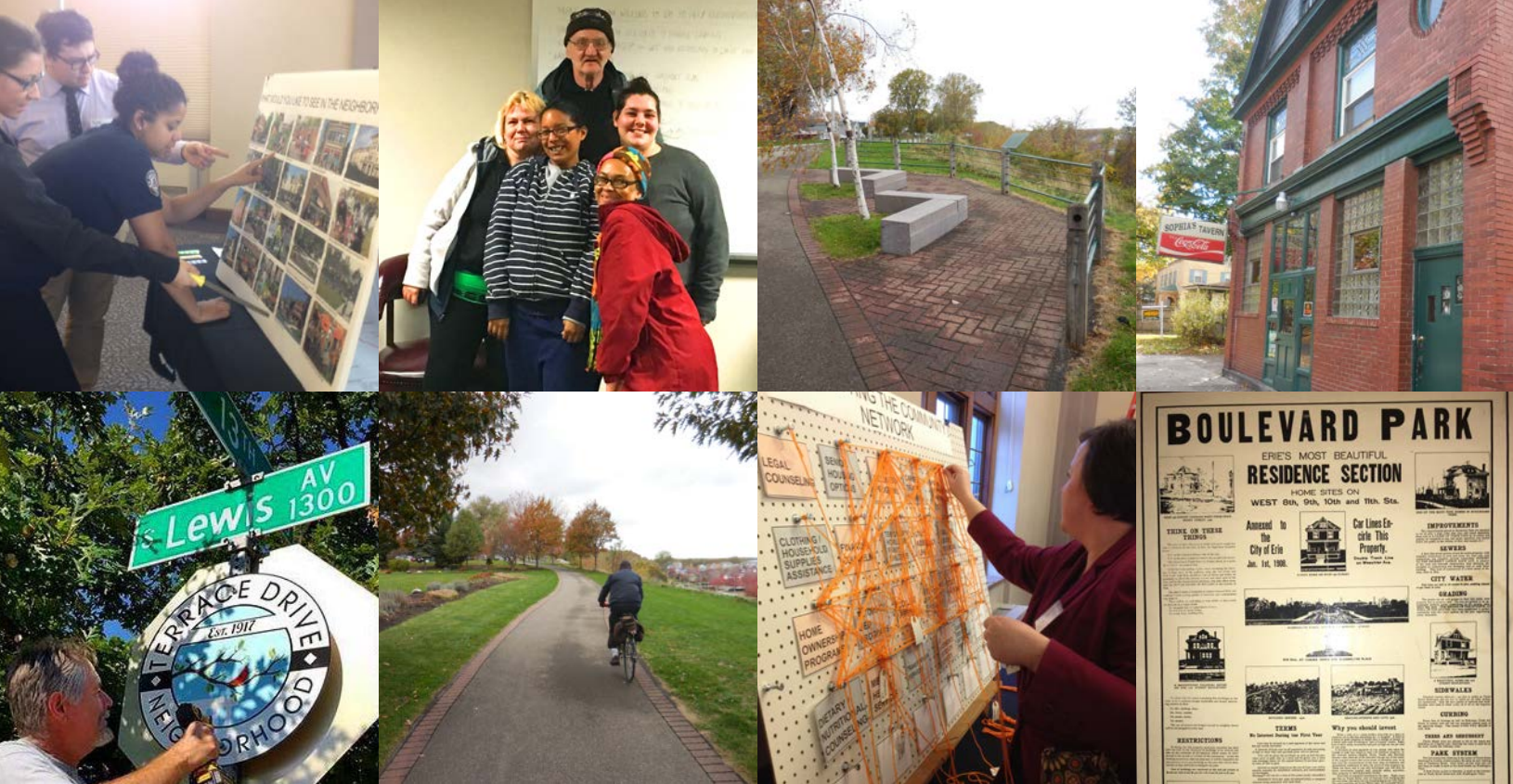
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## THE COMMUNITY'S VOICE

*A plan for residents, by residents*

The Our West Bayfront Community Plan is founded on resident voices & directives. Throughout the document specific quotes, heard during the process, are incorporated, reflecting residents' passion & commitment to "build a better bayfront".

*"Something transformational needs to happen. We need a plan that will inspire change."*

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1

# PLAN INTRODUCTION

SETTING THE FRAMEWORK



# Introduction

There are many unique attributes that provide Erie's West Bayfront community - a series of neighborhoods located to the west of the city's downtown - its character and identity. The Our West Bayfront Community Plan was initiated in the summer of 2015 to begin a focused approach to reversing recent trends of disinvestment and disconnection, and identifying a new path to a sustainable future. Founded on genuine community-outreach and feedback, the planning team's work was continuously directed and shaped by residents and stakeholders.

Many questions were asked, and responses were as diverse as the community's residents. What do you see here? Why do you live, work or play in the neighborhood? How can the area be improved? What is the West Bayfront's best kept secret? What needs to change? Below is a sampling of the responses and discussions heard throughout the 8-month process, and all helped shape the plan.

## Our West Bayfront is a....

*Shipbuilding site that influenced the Battle of Lake Erie.*

*Place of refuge and safety along the Underground Railroad.*

*Home to an early canal and center of commerce.*

*Community that supported wealthy and working class residents alike in vibrant neighborhoods through the 20th Century.*

*Great place to raise a family.*

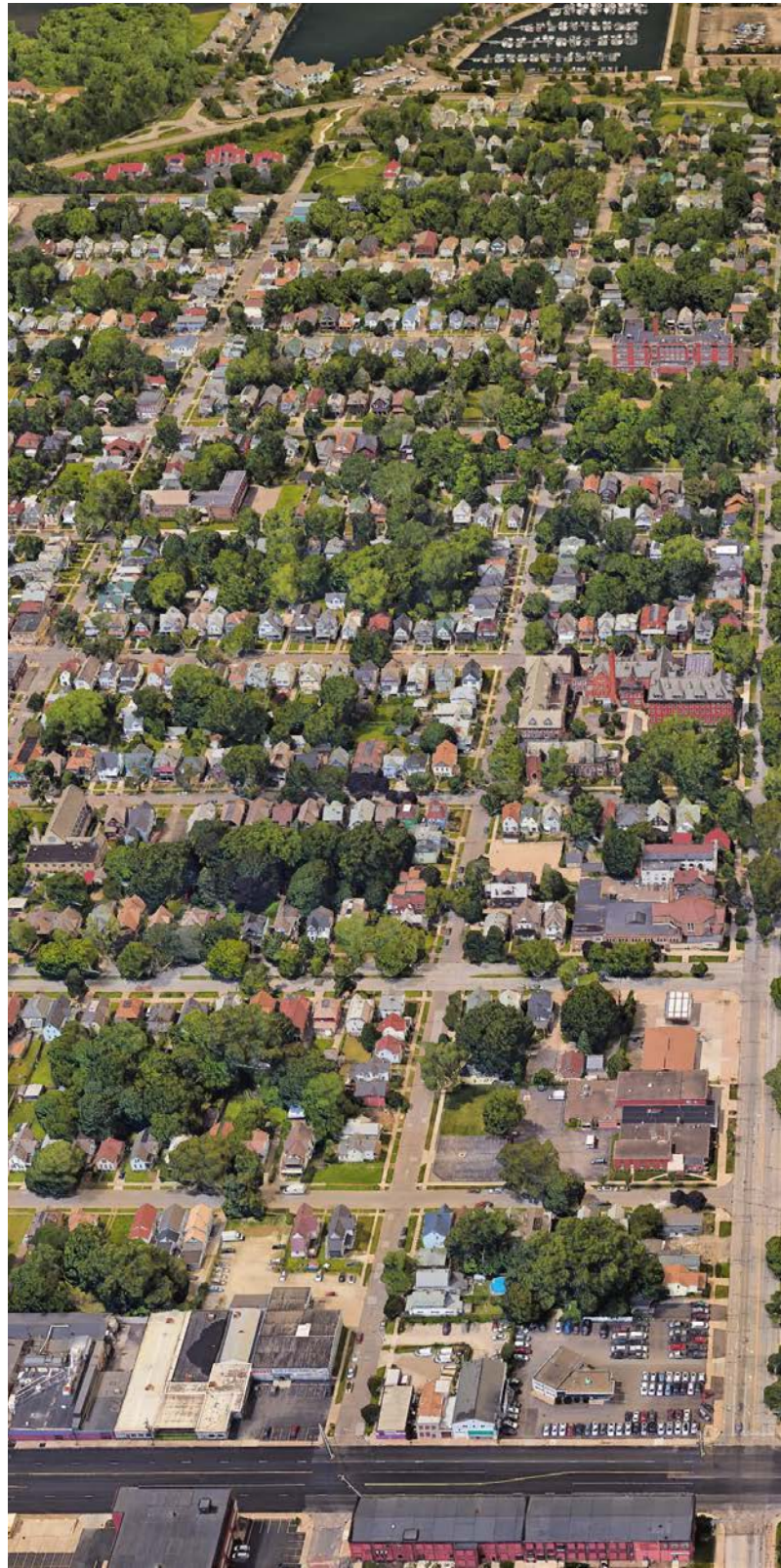
*Great place to grow up.*

*Home to strong institutions.*

*Place that is rich in culture and creativity.*

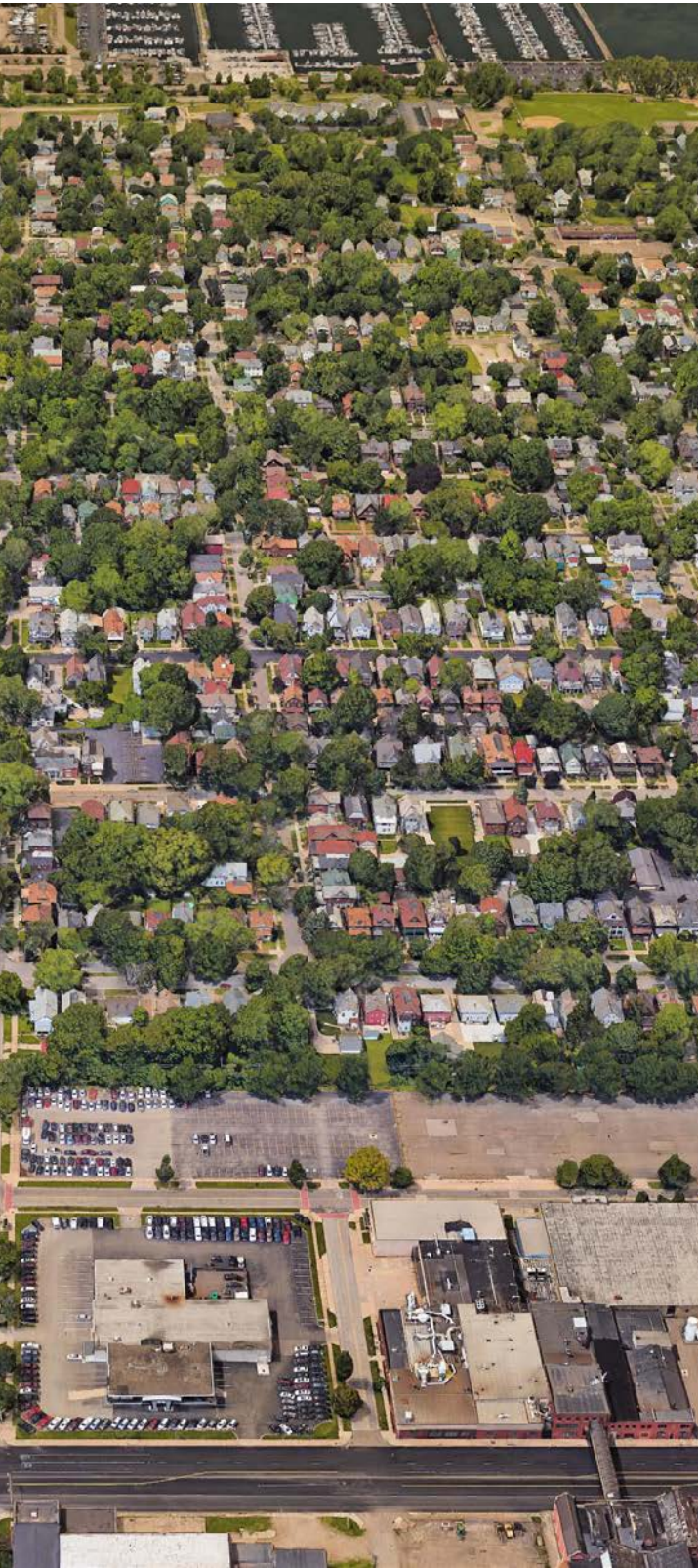
*Place that is struggling with disinvestment.*

What the team found through numerous conversations during this process was a community of people from different backgrounds who had something in common – their love and commitment to this place. For many, the memories of generations who have called this place home are what drives them – not to recreate the past, but to re-engage with those values and ensure that the things that make this place unique aren't lost. For newer members of the community it's the recognition of past vibrancy and an understanding of the potential inherent in the structures and spaces throughout the neighborhoods. For all of Erie, this is a place of important history and heritage. This can be a strong and thriving community again.





# *“I want this place to live.”*



All recognize that many challenges exist here, and that solving these challenges will take a multi-faceted effort with involvement by many organizations and individuals. Many have been working for years to protect and celebrate West Bayfront's assets and build community, and their hard work has created the exciting momentum that exists today. This must not be wasted.

It is our hope that a critical community dialogue has been initiated through this planning process, with a recognition that positive change must begin to occur. The Our West Bayfront Community Plan has sought to provide an outlet for the community's many voices, creating a road map for protecting, reconnecting and reinvigorating this place.

The Our West Bayfront Community Plan is organized in four primary sections, each with its specific role within the overall planning process:

**Plan Introduction** provides an overview of the planning process, the team's understanding phase, including research on the area's history, previous planning studies and physical analysis. This helps to identify how the community has evolved, as well as the physical patterns that have impacted its growth and change.

**Community Goals** describes the community engagement process that has guided the development of this plan. In addition to identifying the wide range of community groups and members who have been influential throughout the development of the plan, this section documents the emerging themes and aspirations.

**Recommendations** lays out a series of ideas and visions for the West Bayfront's revitalization. From community-wide initiatives to individual efforts, the planning team has attempted to create a far-reaching vision that can begin to engage the community and inspire positive change immediately.

**Implementation Strategies** seeks to guide the next steps that will be needed to bring these visions to life. This includes the provision of potential funding sources, project prioritization, and some preliminary cost information.

The goal of this plan is to provide the tools necessary to empower this community to determine its own future – something that the planning team feels is truly possible.



# Project Background

The Our West Bayfront Community Plan is a grass-roots planning approach to identifying opportunities for revitalizing the West Bayfront Community. The planning team was engaged by the Our West Bayfront organization to facilitate an inclusive process that would identify the concerns, hopes and goals of the community, explore opportunities to create positive and sustainable change and provide a road map for the people of West Bayfront to guide its growth in a manner consistent with their goals.

## A Community-Driven Plan

The process has been led by members of the community and has attempted to represent the voices of a diverse range of residents, workers, students and other groups to ensure that its recommendations are rooted in the values and aspirations of those who care for this place and want to find ways to support it. Through conversations with many people during the process, several tenets have become clear:

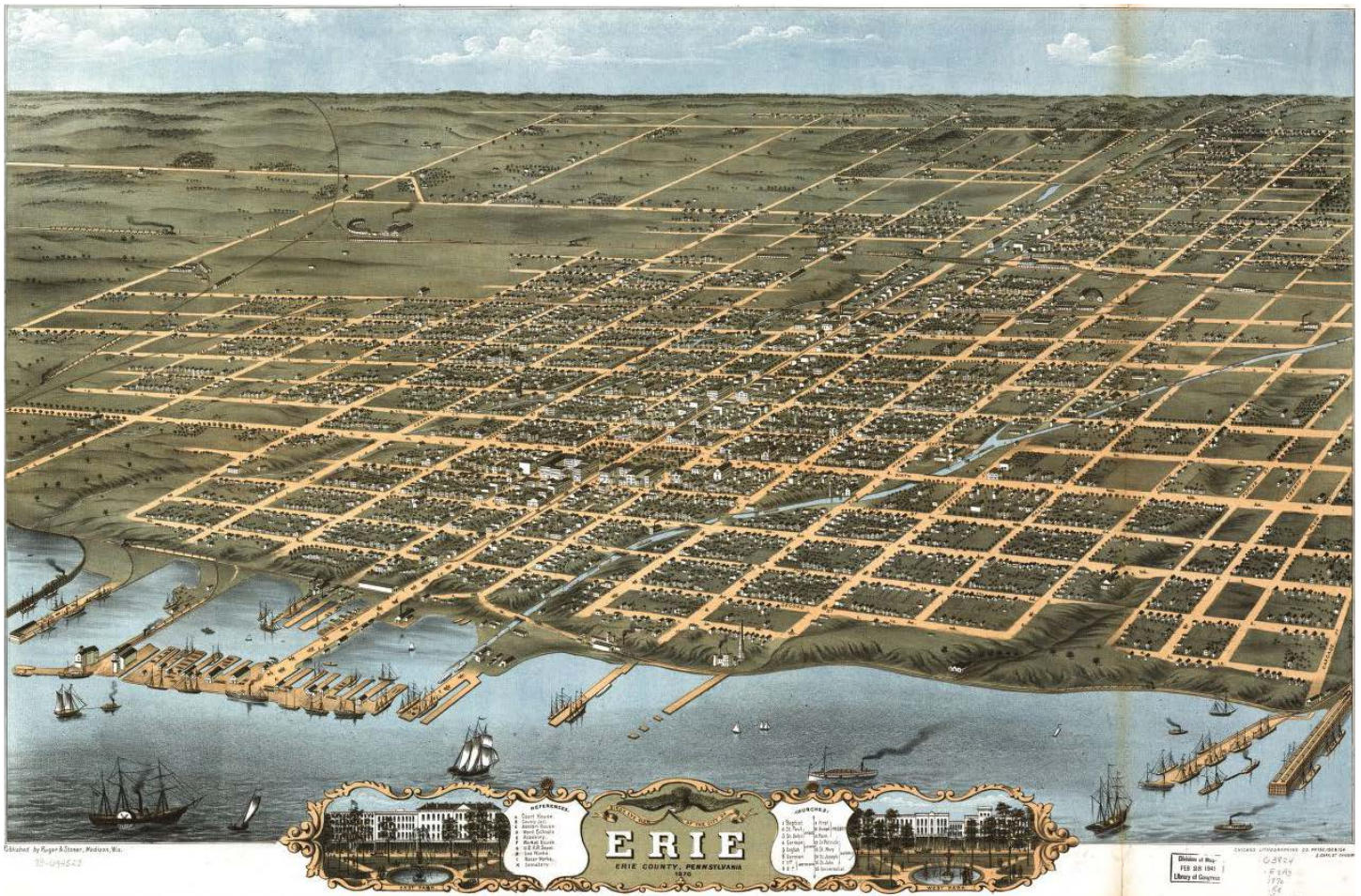
- *Our West Bayfront is a place with a tremendous sense of history that provides a unique character to its neighborhoods, streets and public spaces. This should not be lost as the community continues to evolve.*
- *There are a significant number of residents here who have spent their lives in West Bayfront and hope to regain the sense of community, neighborliness and care for its upkeep that seem to have been lost in recent years.*

*Residents of all types including homeowners and renters find value here and can contribute in a positive way to the community.*

- *Support for the people who have committed themselves to stabilizing and revitalizing the West Bayfront through recent and long-term personal investment is needed, in the form of infrastructure maintenance and improvements, code enforcement, basic neighborhood services (grocery store, drug store, coffee shops, etc.) and other features that can help to make it easier to continue to live here.*
- *Involved and invested people represent the community's backbone, and are its greatest champions. Their continued energy and support are critical to the positive growth of this community.*







## Community History

Erie's long-standing history as a waterfront community traces back to its incorporation in 1795 as the area's first settlers took residents on what is now known as "Presque Isle". Its connection to the water was strengthened as a shipbuilding powerhouse and as canal route that linked today's Sassafras Street to the Ohio River. The canal's connection helped establish Erie as a port and manufacturing center. The image above illustrates the "Conneaut Line"; which routed its way through the West Bayfront area. Today, the canal's path can be recognized in the depressions and topography in the neighborhood, notably between Chestnut and Myrtle streets. This important aspect of the city and region's history must not be forgotten.

Additionally, Erie's prominent role in the Underground Railroad, specifically in the West Bayfront area, must be told through narratives and the many public spaces that connect people with place. This planning document highlights opportunities and provides specific recommendations to help tell West Bayfront's "story".

## Our West Bayfront History

The Our West Bayfront organization ([ourwestbayfront.org](http://ourwestbayfront.org)), was created to provide a voice for residents, open up channels of communication between the various institutions and neighbors and ensure each neighborhood's identity was honored and protected.

### Founded with the mission statement:

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in Erie's West Bayfront neighborhoods by promoting civic involvement, thoughtful development, historical preservation and neighborhood pride.

The organization is comprised of a diverse Steering Committee. Ranging from residents, employees, city representatives, non-profit organizations, university liaisons, property owners and business operators, the committee meets monthly to organize events and strategize how the community's healthy future can be realized and planned. Their leadership and investment in the community is unwavering, as exhibited by their commitment to create this plan.



# Plan Influences

Numerous studies and recent plans were reviewed for their applicability to the Our West Bayfront community planning process. These plans reflect critical thinking and creative ideas for areas in and around the West Bayfront and it is important to recognize their influence on the area today. It is also important to build from the best concepts and continue to move forward with planning that reflects today's concerns and realities.

Several planning efforts in and around Erie and its downtown core have been underway during this planning process. It is helpful to understand the role that each one plays, to get a sense of how these efforts should complement one another and provide a focused approach to improvements throughout the area. At the time of this planning process, the City of Erie was conducting a Comprehensive Plan for city-wide initiatives, strategies and policies. The City of Erie's Comprehensive Plan and Community Decision-Making Guide, "*Erie Refocused*," designates the Our West Bayfront area as one of two neighborhoods included as part of the Core Strengthening Strategy. A world-class downtown and Bayfront surrounded on both sides by healthy neighborhoods will put the city in a strong financial position and support neighborhood revitalization and stabilization efforts city wide.

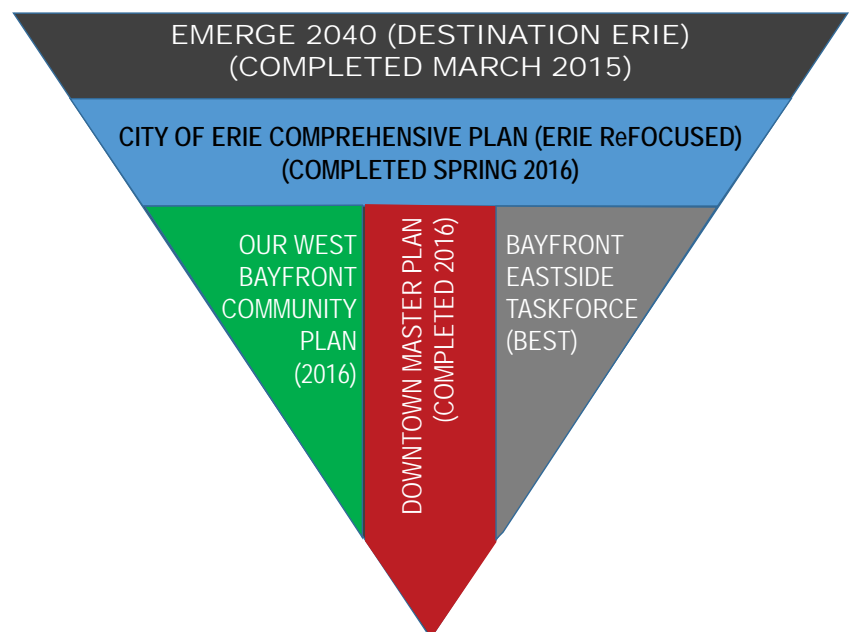
While this plan is organized and positioned to work within the Comprehensive Plan, its recommendations and visions are purely for the West Bayfront, and are intended to provide specific initiatives and projects that can be incrementally implemented to affect positive change in the community. As stated throughout this document, the West Bayfront Plan is a true neighborhood plan. Its role within the context of the region, City and other planning efforts is to provide additional detail - this plan outlines block-by-block proposals where others, for instance, the Comprehensive Plan, offer global considerations.

## Our West Bayfront Plan's Role

With a range of planning efforts happening concurrently, there has been discussion as to the role of each plan, and concern about redundancy. The diagram to the right demonstrates the basic organization of these efforts. The Emerge 2040 Plan is regional in nature, addressing more general themes and approaches to improve the area's marketability and livability. The recently completed Comprehensive Plan provides a framework for future growth while identifying areas in which attention is most urgently needed. West Bayfront was a priority community within this plan.

Like the Downtown Master Plan and planning for the BEST Neighborhood, the Our West Bayfront Community Plan is a more grass-roots effort, addressing details and issues at the community level. This is much more detail-oriented, providing specific recommendations throughout the community and addressing initiatives that can begin to be undertaken immediately.

While the Our West Bayfront Community Plan reflects a separate effort and process from the Comprehensive Plan, it aligns with the goals and general strategies of the plan.





## Plan Analysis & Coordination

The following plans were studied to gain an understanding of their influence and relevance to the Our West Bayfront planning process.

### City of Erie Comprehensive Plan - Erie Refocused

*Prepared by CZB for the City of Erie*

### Destination Erie: A Regional Vision

*Prepared by Peter J. Smith & Company for EmERGE 2040*

### Erie Downtown Master Plan

*Prepared by CMK Planning, Poggemeyer Design Group, Land Design Studio and CMoore Creative for the Erie Downtown Partnership*

### City of Erie Market Analysis

*Prepared by Urban Partners for the City of Erie*

### Gannon University Masterplan

*Prepared by WTW Architects for Gannon University*

### Gannon University Campus Identity and Wayfinding Plan

*Prepared for Gannon University*

### City of Erie Land Use Plan – 2000

*Prepared by the City of Erie; Assisted by Graney, Grossman, Ray and Associates*

### Erie County Community Action Plan – June, 2012

*Prepared by the Mercyhurst University Civic Institute on behalf of the Erie County Policy & Planning Council's Resource & Planning Subcommittee*

### Downtown Streetscape Master Plan – July 2010

*Prepared by Urban Engineers, AECOM, Dahlkemper Landscape Architects and Contractors*

### NSP Neighborhood Housing Market Analysis

*Prepared by Mullin & Loneragan Associates*

### Perry Square Master Plan – 2008

*Prepared by Burt, Hill*

### Erie Mid-Town Master Plan – 2007

*Prepared by LaQuatra Bonci Associates, Looney Ricks Kiss, Kidder Wachter Architecture & Design, Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin*

These studies demonstrate the active role that the city and region has undertaken in recent years to identify its needs and to chart a course for a viable and sustainable future. There are several key considerations and recommendations from these documents that have direct relevance to the West Bayfront community.

- Shore up the community's valuable historic resources by identifying ways to encourage property upkeep and reinvestment
- "Protect and revitalize Erie's city neighborhoods through targeted investment and building upon existing assets"
- Build upon marketable assets of walkability / bikeability of the area to create a model for the rest of Erie – great sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure are key
- "Make substantial streetscape upgrades at critical nodes and edges" – such as commercial hubs and neighborhood gateways"
- "Improve transportation, circulation and connectivity"
- Create a Neighborhood Improvement District to establish goals for the types of improvements that benefit the adjacent residential neighborhoods and downtown
- Support vibrant street life, sustainability and environmental responsibility and safety
- Strengthen the edges of campus





# Understanding / Analysis

## Study Area

To generate a comprehensive understanding of the West Bayfront community, the planning team completed a range of physical analysis studies to understand the area's basic structure / organization and influences. This included an initial multiple-day community walk-through as well as several follow-up visits by the planning team during different seasons to understand physical conditions and functionality through direct observation. Information gathered as a part of this was backed up through conversations with residents and stakeholders.

The West Bayfront study area is identified by the following boundaries:

- Waterfront to the north
- Bayfront Connector to the west
- West 12th Street to the south
- Sassafras Street to the east

This represents a significant land area, and more importantly, a series of neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has its own history, residents and identity. Many of the neighborhoods are shaped by their location and proximity to assets, whether those be the waterfront, beautiful views, public parks or significant streets / corridors.

## STUDY AREA:

Planning area – 843 acres

Population – 13,000 +/- residents (2010 census)

Number of structures – 4,459

Miles of roadway – 31.5 miles (166,617 lf)

Waterfront Views & Promenades

Public Parks & Gathering Spaces

Schools & Campuses

Proximity to Downtown Erie







PRESQUE ISLE

Y AREA BOUNDARY

GANNON  
UNIVERSITY

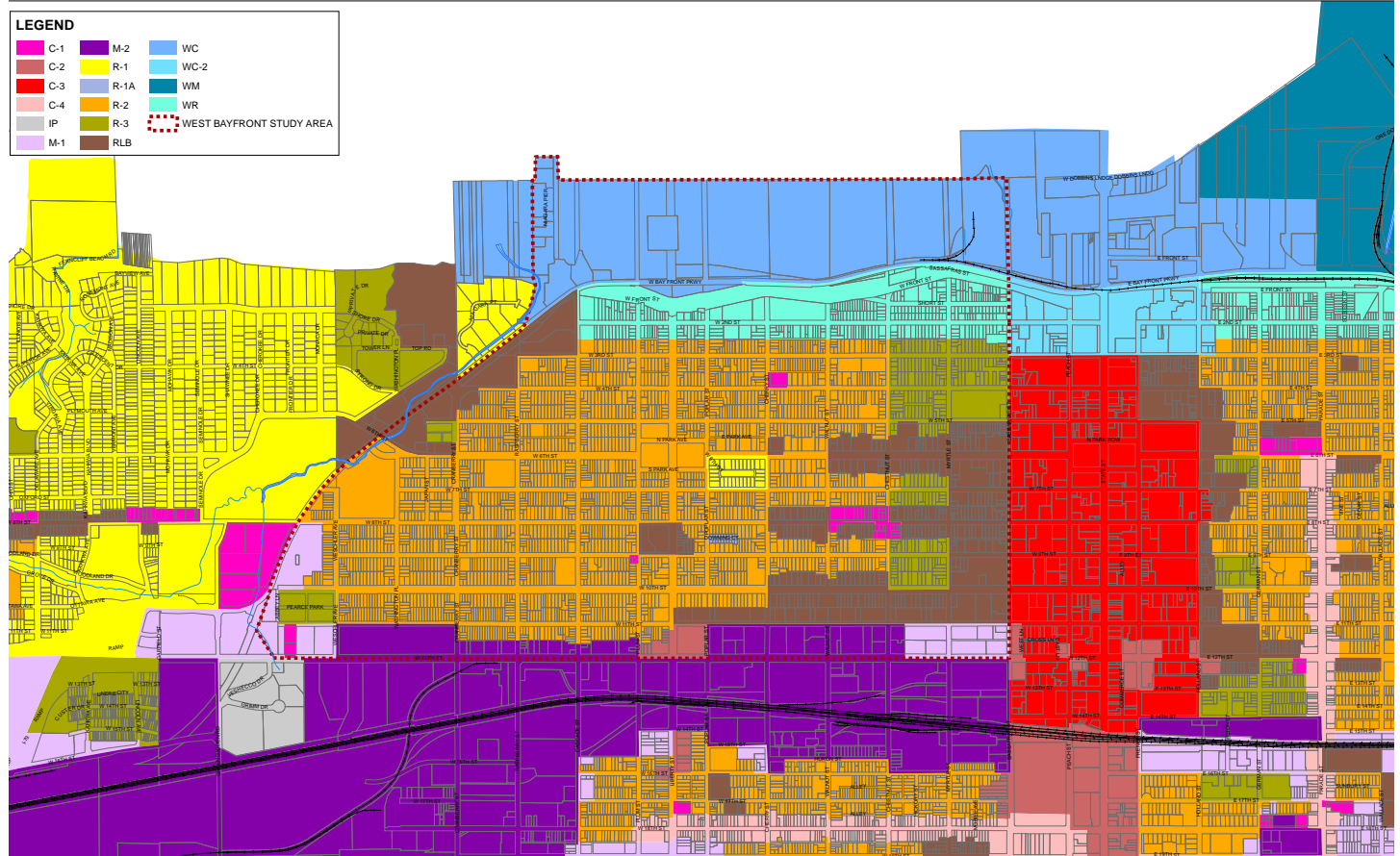
DOWNTOWN  
ERIE

GRIDLEY  
PARK

LITTLE  
ITALY



# Zoning Analysis & Research



## Zoning Classifications

- R-1 - Low Density Residential District – single family residential developments
- R-2 - Medium Density Residential District – one to four family residential developments
- R-3 - High Density Residential District – multiple-family residential developments
- RLB – Residential Limited Commercial District – residential uses, home occupations and limited commercial uses adjacent to Commercial or Manufacturing Districts
- C-1 – Local Commercial District – small scale retail shopping facilities and small scale business uses
- C-2 - General Commercial District – retail establishments without a size restriction, automobile-oriented businesses and corporate activities
- M-1 - Light Manufacturing District – very high standard precision industries in a protected environment
- M-2 - Heavy Manufacturing District – a wider range of manufacturing activities under conditions and standards that protect adjacent properties from adverse influences
- W-C - Waterfront Commercial District – residential, commercial, recreational and historical uses
- W-R - Waterfront Residential District – single-, two- and multiple-family dwellings of high density on valuable property

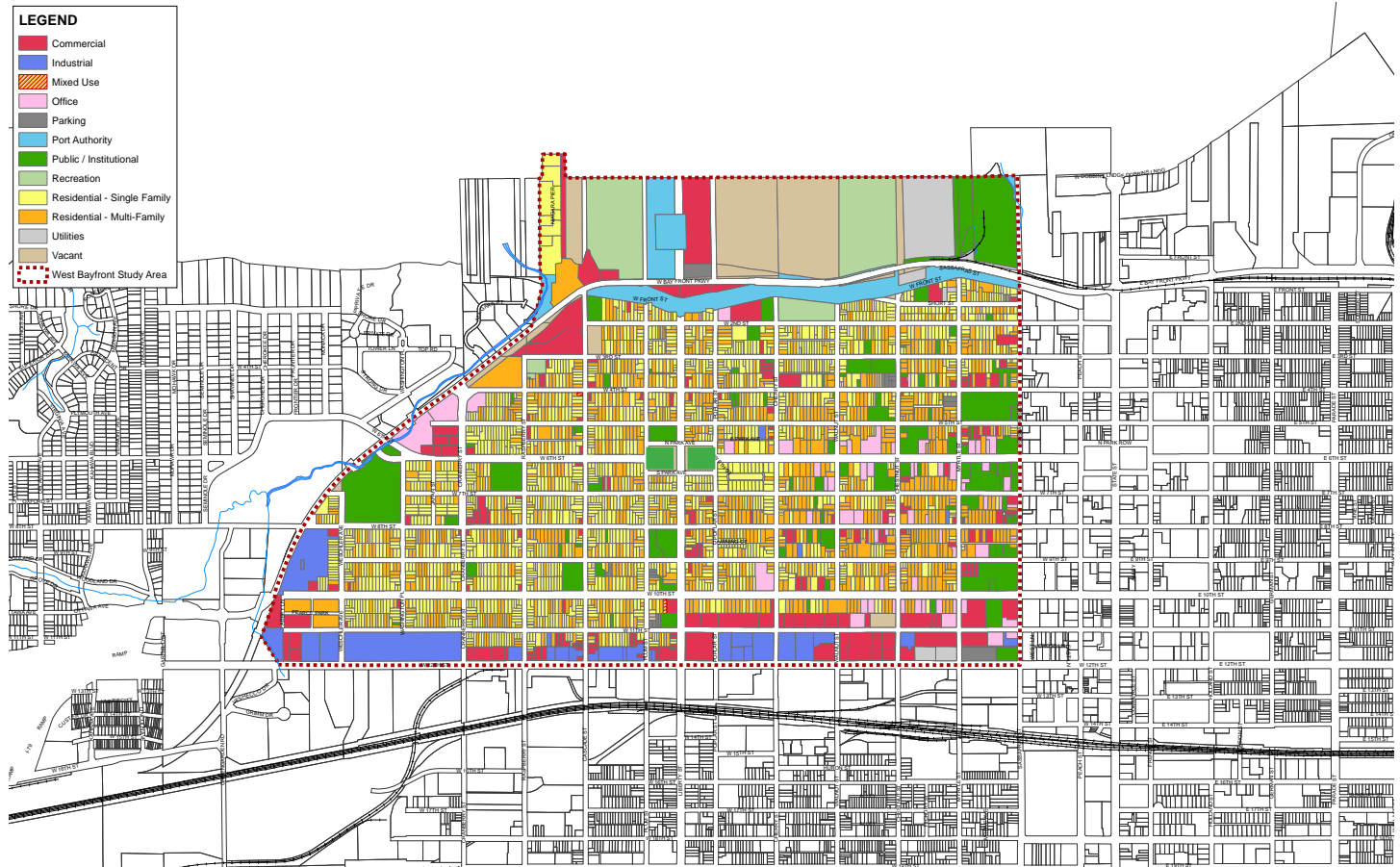
Source: City of Erie Zoning Ordinance

Zoning for the West Bayfront Neighborhood incorporates a mixture of uses and classifications that is fairly typical for urban mixed-use neighborhoods.

The Local Commercial District and Residential Limited Commercial District zoning along the West 8th Street Corridor support the idea of revitalizing a commercial corridor for the community. The Waterfront Residential District represents some of the most valuable property in the community and would benefit from focused attention on renovations and infill where appropriate.



# Land Use



## Land Use Patterns

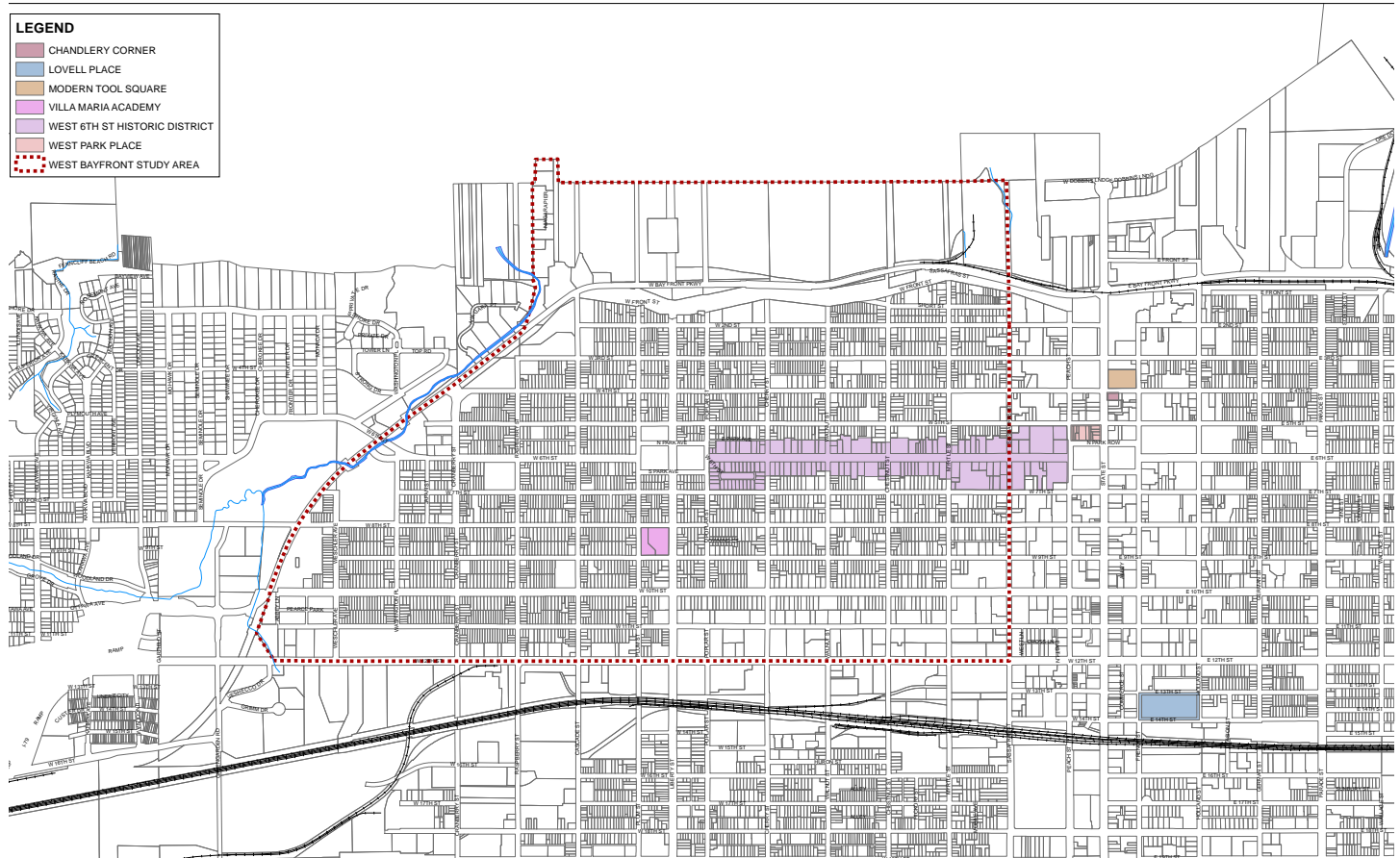
The West Bayfront is a dense, residential community with small pockets of neighborhood commercial uses, public spaces and institutional uses. Its edges take on additional uses with an institutional focus along the eastern edge (including Gannon University's campus, Cathedral Preparatory School and several churches), an industrial/commercial focus along the southern edge (the West 12th Street Industrial Corridor), and an institutional/commercial/office focus on its western edge. Areas that were historically dominated by single-family residential uses now incorporate large amounts of multi-family housing and institutional/office uses in converted older homes.

The diverse mixture of uses demonstrated in this map support the potential for the West Bayfront community to be a thriving and self-sufficient community.





# Historic Districts



## Historic Districts / Assets

One particularly notable feature of the West Bayfront Neighborhood is its inventory of well-maintained historic structures. The National Historic District along West 6th Street is a true asset – providing an excellent front door along this important community corridor, and hinting at the historic gems that exist within the neighborhoods here.

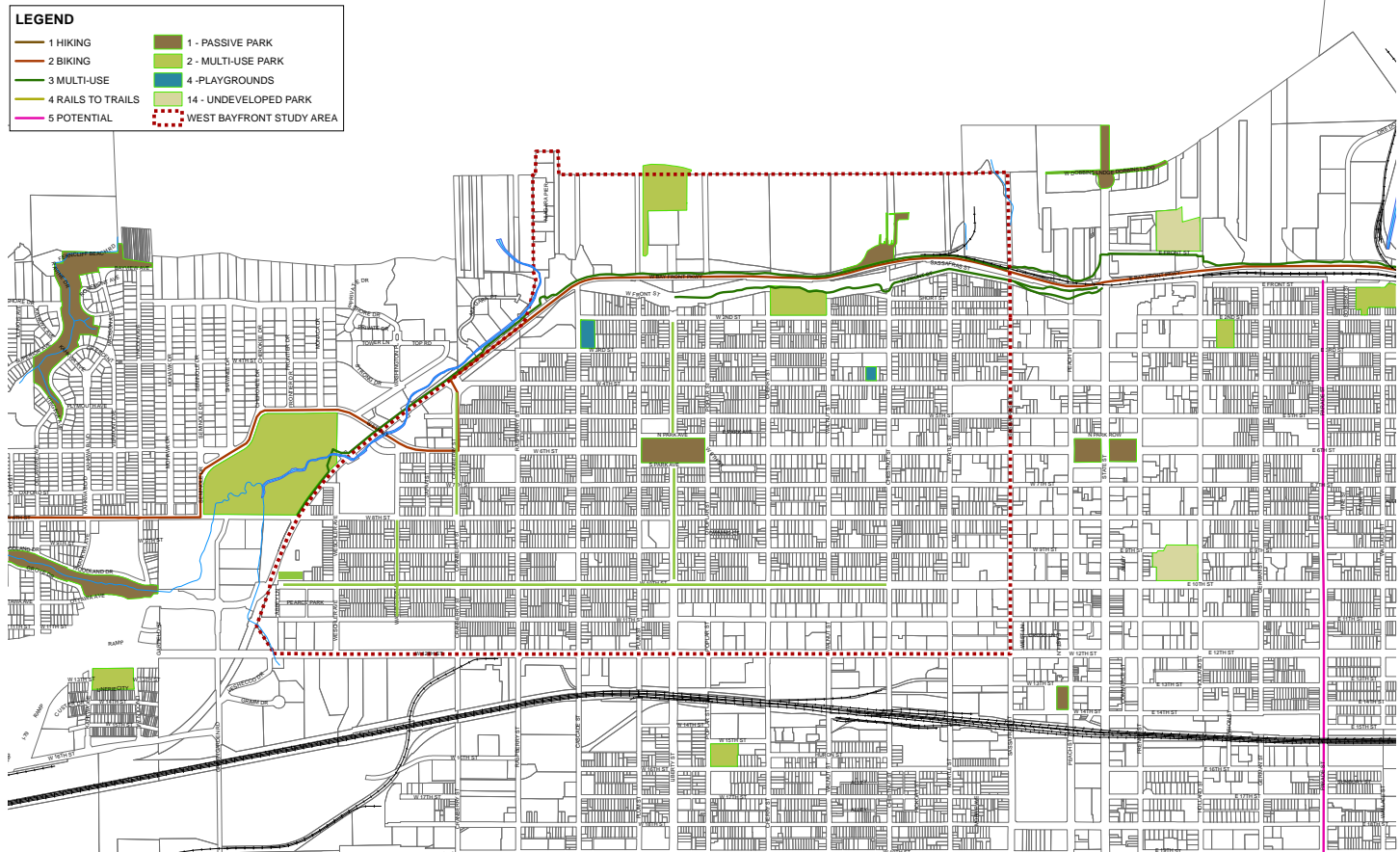
Historic institutional buildings are anchors throughout the community both visually and programmatically. Some of these assets are currently underutilized, and require physical attention to ensure they are not lost. These monuments of the community's heritage serve an important role of connecting the past with the present, and reinforcing the West Bayfront's authentic sense of place.

Adaptive re-use should be considered for buildings such as the chapel at Villa Maria Apartments, the former Emerson School Building and the Temple Anshe Hased. This approach can provide unique new spaces that are rich in character, allowing these beautiful and important structures to contribute to the greater community in new and valuable ways.

Consideration should also be given to creating a local historic property designation to help identify and protect the community's historic assets.



## Parks & Public Spaces



## Parks & Public Spaces

The West Bayfront boasts a range of parks and public spaces, with many focused on or near the waterfront. These include a combination of active parks (Bayview Park, the Promenade) and passive parks (Gridley Park, Cascade Park). The distribution or creation of new spaces for residents in the southern half of the neighborhood is needed. New types of spaces should be considered, to attract and maintain residents. Consideration should be given to options such as dog parks, community garden spaces (a great feature for renters and apartment dwellers), playgrounds for different age groups, spaces that support features and amenities for seniors, and new types of active uses that could attract visitors from other parts of the city (spray park, mini golf, observation tower, bocce courts, etc.).

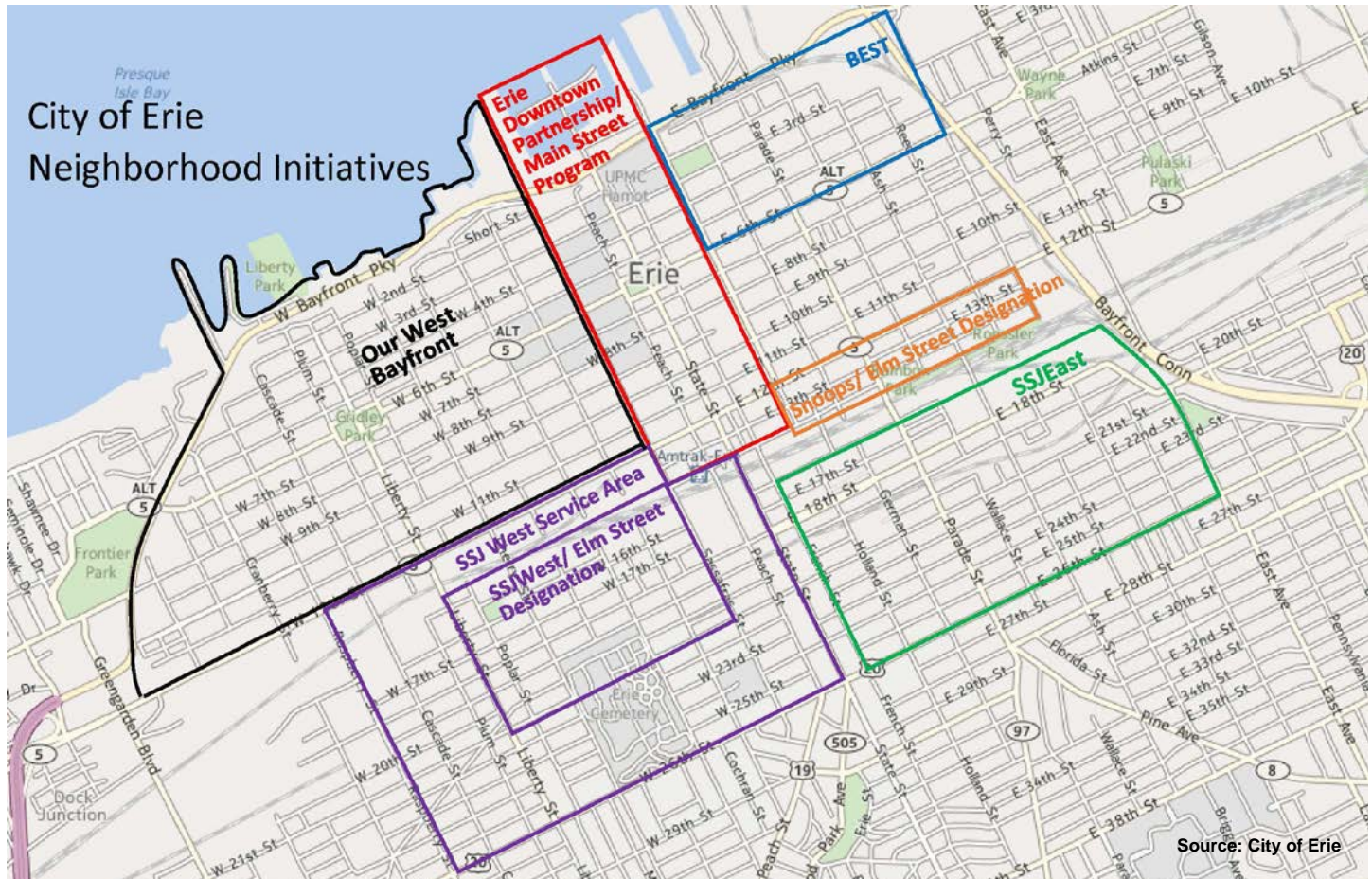
The development of a community bike trail or trail system can be beneficial for connecting residents to these park spaces as well as other important neighborhood amenities (schools, churches, etc.). This can take the form of a neighborhood loop or series of loops that connect spaces within the community in a logical manner while providing

important links to regional trail systems and adjacent parks. Frontier Park to the immediate west of the community is an excellent park and an important asset for West Bayfront residents. A combination of on-street bike lanes, trails and protected bike lanes should be explored.





## Community Context / Neighborhoods



## Community Context

West Bayfront's community adjacencies include the waterfront, Little Italy, SSJ West and Downtown. As a result of surrounding infrastructure and adjacencies to many downtown attractions, this is a community through which many people travel. Clear identification at the community's gateways and edges can help to strengthen awareness and overall recognition that this is a unique place within the greater Erie community.



## Block & Neighborhood Groups

# ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS 2014



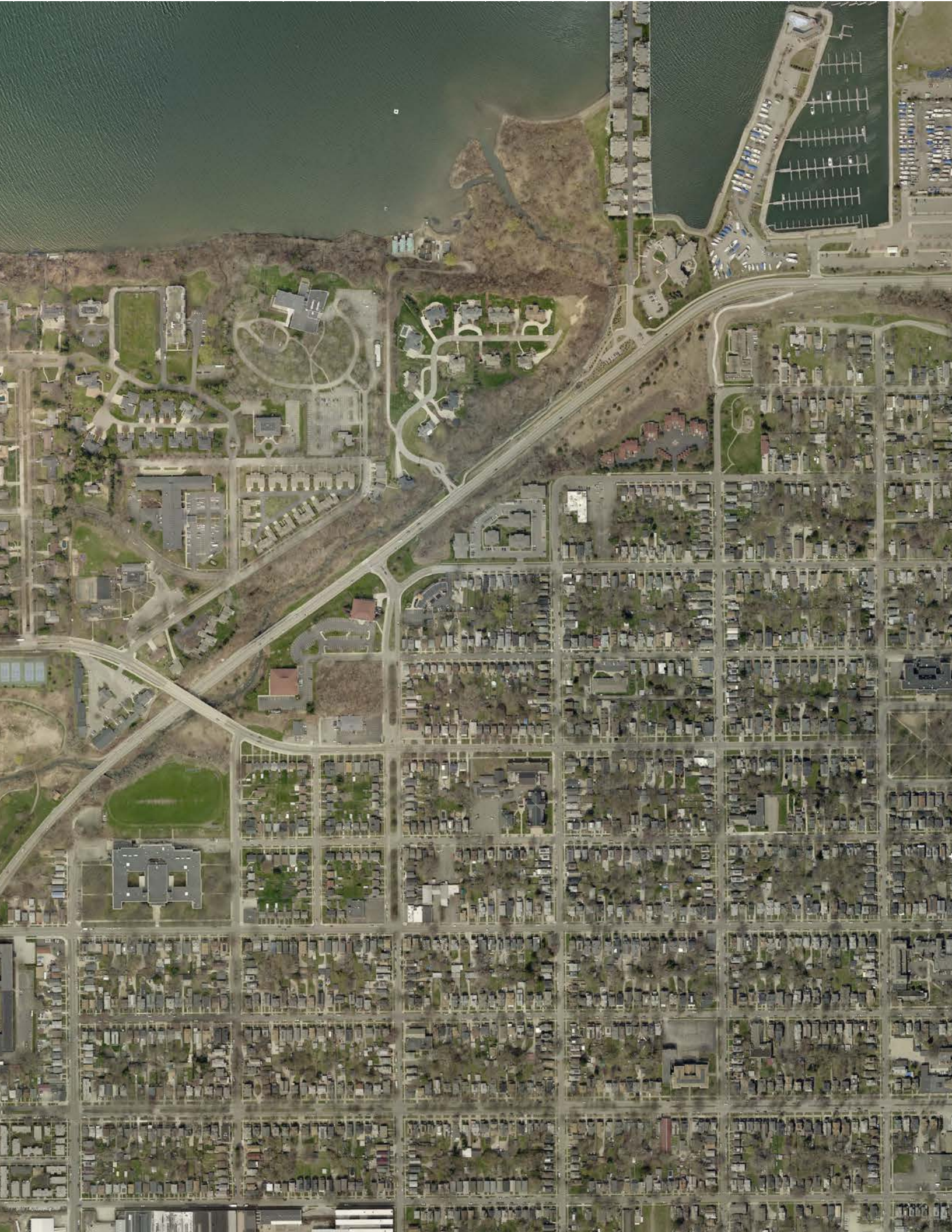
## Block & Neighborhood Groups

An important part of the community's strength lies in the existence of several strong neighborhood and block groups. These organizations of engaged citizen volunteers have played a significant role in supporting residents, serving as liaisons to City Hall, organizing a broad range of community events and service projects, and promoting greater safety within the community. This should be a consideration as Our West Bayfront takes on a more defined organizational role.

These neighborhood organizations have played a critical role for the community, providing stability and responsiveness while creating a strong sense of community. They are the building blocks for greater community connectedness.











2

# COMMUNITY GOALS

IDENTIFYING NEIGHBORHOOD ASPIRATIONS



# The Community's Voice

## An Engaging Process

The process for the Our West Bayfront Plan has been designed to function very much from the ground up - focusing on neighborhood desires and aspirations. The community's voice has driven the planning work and formed the foundation of recommendations included herein. The thoughts, concerns and visions of community members are critical in understanding the neighborhoods and creating responsive initiatives to support them. This is a place for people from a wide variety of backgrounds and a successful process must reflect their voices.

To ensure that the planning process was responsive, a significant amount of time and effort has been allocated to community engagement. A combination of small focus group meetings and larger community meetings / open houses provided numerous opportunities for participation. Following each of the project milestones, project information was provided on the Our West Bayfront website, with invitations for continued feedback. As a result, this process and its recommendations have been guided by the voices of the community.

Additionally, meetings between the planning team and the Steering and Advisory Committees assured the plan remained true to the neighborhoods, and was informed by the study area's current conditions - as they changed throughout the planning process.

Further details and the results of this interaction are provided in this section, in summary form. A full record of meeting minutes and community discussions are included in the Appendix. These summaries served as "report-outs" during the process, keeping all informed.

## Focus Group Meetings

The project's Steering Committee organized a series of small group discussions to address strengths, concerns and opportunities that exist throughout the community. These groups were conceived to engage participants in different geographic areas throughout the community as well as those with different backgrounds/areas of focus to provide as wide a variety of perspectives as possible. Work sessions were 90 minutes in length, with locations that varied depending on topic, and including churches, community centers and residents' homes. This more intimate setting allowed more open conversation on a wide range of topics. Participants were invited to speak candidly and they did - providing valuable insight into the challenges and rewards of living / working / going to school in the West Bayfront neighborhood.

The planning team then organized the materials to identify common themes and ideas. These discussion points have served as part of the plan's core - attempting to address multiple perspectives in neighborhood-wide initiatives and strategies

The planning process aimed to "meet people where they are". Multiple stakeholder meetings were conducted, and each were held in spaces and places where participants felt comfortable. Sessions were held in churches, community centers, restaurants / pubs, schools and residents' homes (around their dining room tables). Their honesty and candor shaped the plan and provided tremendous insight - and the resulting recommendations are ones they feel strongly about and will be invested in, taking the lead for their implementation.





# We asked & YOU said:

During the discussions, the planning team took notes to document the conversations and capture major topics. However, it should be noted that complete anonymity was promised to all participants. Their names are listed in the meetings' reports in the Appendix, but specific comments / quotes are not attributed to an individual - unless that individual asked that their comment be recorded as theirs.

During the process, the following Focus Group meetings were conducted:

- NW area residents
- Strong Vincent High School students
- SW area residents
- MHA residents and staff
- Gridley Park / Garden Court residents
- Non-profit organizations
- Small business owners
- Landlords
- Elected and government officials
- Gannon University students
- Erie Insurance employees
- West Bayfront religious institutions

## What do you like about the West Bayfront community?

- It is soulful and authentic
- It is multi-cultural
- It is a very walkable neighborhood with great proximity to downtown
- Views and proximity to the water
- Neighborhood diversity - buildings, people and places make this a great area
- The historic architecture is rich and varied

## What are some of the challenges?

- Crime has been increasing
- Low real estate values
- It has been difficult to connect with local government to address community needs
- Streets are dark due to untrimmed trees and not enough street lights
- Sidewalks are problematic and limit accessibility for some
- Tax rates are high
- Vehicles speeding through neighborhoods

## What is missing here?

- A grocery store
- A stronger system of neighborhood parks and programming at the parks
- Places / opportunities for neighbors to connect
- Activities and attractions for youth and young adults
- Better amenities for pedestrians and transit riders (bus stops, trash receptacles, etc.)

## Neighborhood aspirations (things we'd like to see here):

- Neighborhood grocery store
- Renovated housing
- Strong neighborhood businesses
- Farmer's market
- Direct connections to the waterfront
- More neighborhood parks / playgrounds
- Increased home ownership
- Personal services retail

## Priorities for physical improvements:

- Residential building maintenance
- Sidewalk repairs
- Park and public space improvements
- Building / sidewalk code enforcement
- Neighborhood lighting
- Traffic calming

## Services needed in the community:

- Job placement / job ready services
- Housing maintenance
- Grocery store / food options
- Home ownership programs
- Tutoring / GED programs

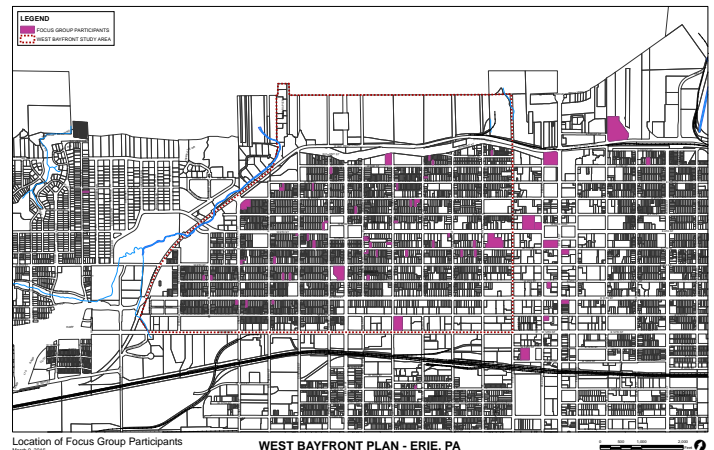




## Community Meetings

In addition to the Focus Group discussions, the planning process included a series of larger community meetings to ask questions, inspire discussion and receive feedback. These meetings were open to the general public and were incredibly valuable in providing a sense of community concerns and aspirations.

- An initial kick-off meeting in October introduced the planning process and began community-wide discussions.
- Meetings in January provided an opportunity for a wide range of community members to identify infrastructure and social service needs as well as aspirations and goals.
- Updates to the Our West Bayfront Plan were presented at Gannon University's annual Community Engagement Celebration. Feedback was provided by attendees and helped the planning team better understand a variety of perspectives for the study.
- Meetings in April provided an opportunity to discuss a series of potential focus areas within the community, and how these areas can begin to address community goals. Priority Focus Areas were also discussed and determined in order to provide additional direction for the plan's development.
- Meetings in May provided an opportunity to review an initial draft of the plan and provide feedback.
- A final meeting in June will provide an opportunity for the community to review the final draft of the community plan.



## Engaging a Broad Base

Our West Bayfront is not a single neighborhood, but rather a collection of neighborhoods with individual characters, histories and priorities. The ability to understand the unique needs of each area can only happen with a broad range of public involvement. This process sought to engage community members throughout Our West Bayfront at all levels of planning. Throughout the process the planning team asked participants to provide their location, as an indication of the geographic reach of involvement. The map above, while not fully representative of all who participated, provides a general cross-section of those who provided valuable input.

*“There are so many unusual subcultures here. It’s an artistic environment with a rich architectural setting.”*





*“What’s keeping others here are not the same things that appeal to young people. How do we connect with both?”*

## Guiding Committees

We would like to thank the committees and organizations that have worked tirelessly to support this community conversation and visioning process. This participation was critical in shaping the process and recommendations outlined in the Our West Bayfront Community Plan. Each participant offered unique perspectives, insight and, in many cases, resources to implement the plan.

Steering Committee Members attended 2 or more OWB monthly meetings during the planning process.

Advisory Committee Members (**in BOLD\***) volunteered at the October 2015 meeting to serve in this advanced capacity and have been actively involved in the decision-making process by providing input at milestones and regular meetings / conference project calls.

### Project Advisory & Steering Committee Members

Mark Alexa, Resident

Tim Althof, HANDS

**Lisa Austin, Resident & CIVITAS Erie\***

**Candace Battles, Resident\***

John Downey, Cathedral of St. Paul

Gretchen Fairley, Resident & Gannon University

Matthew Good, HANDS

Kim Green, City of Erie

**Mike Jaruszewicz, Resident & United Way of Erie County\***

Johnny Johnson, Resident

Linda King, Resident

Seph Kumer, Resident & First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

Bill Lechner, Resident & Business Owner

Laurie LeSuer, Resident

**Floyd McClure, Resident\***

Fabienne Mir, Emerson Gridley School

**Betsy Monsalve, Resident\***

**Marco Monsalve, Resident\***

**Sue Moyer, Resident\***

Sarah Nesbitt, Resident & Gannon University

**Ben Pratt, Resident\***

Matthew Puz, City of Erie

**Erika Ramalho, Gannon University\***

Jim Reim, First United Methodist Church

**Chuck Scalise, HANDS\***

**James Sherrod, Martin Luther King Center\***

Renae Trapp, County of Erie

Adam Trott, Resident

**Kathy Wyrosdick, County of Erie\***

Erin Wincek, Resident



#### WHAT PHYSICAL NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED HERE?

	STREET REPAIRS	
	SIDEWALK REPAIRS	
	PARKING IMPROVEMENTS	
	RESIDENTIAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
	COMMERCIAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	
	PARK & PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENTS	
	TRANSIT FACILITY UPGRADES	
	TRANSIT FACILITY UPGRADES	



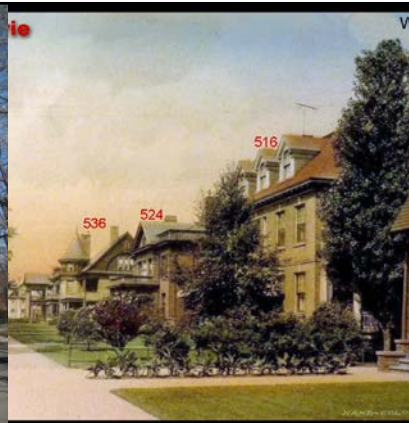
# Emerging Themes

The outreach and community engagement efforts identified several common concerns and aspirations. These “Emerging Themes” helped establish a basis for the plan’s recommendations. Overarching themes cover a wide array of topics - spanning from individual / physical interventions to global / social services and programming. They were

identified as critical “pieces of the West Bayfront.” The following summary statements capture topics and areas where concentrated efforts could be targeted to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. The following section, Recommendations, outlines specific locations for many of the topics identified as Emerging Themes.

## Better connections to the water / changes to the Bayfront Connector are needed.

- Waterfront access opens up the potential for more activities for families and youth.
- Most residents value the waterfront proximity – it is a draw that should be enhanced.



**Property tax increases resulting from loss of privately-owned property are placing an increasingly challenging burden on residents.**

**Infrastructure improvements are needed throughout the neighborhood – some lighting, sidewalks, roadways, traffic patterns, protected bike routes, attractive bus stops, tree trimming/removal/planting.**



**Better ways to connect with the City are needed (both generally and through the development of the comprehensive plan)**

- Most feel that the City is unresponsive and/or indifferent to the needs of the neighborhood.





*“This is a center and home for many artists - we should find more ways to partner throughout the neighborhoods with art projects and programs.”*



**The quality of housing stock is deteriorating due to lack of investment. Landlords of rental properties are not maintaining their property, and many homeowners cannot afford to maintain their property as needed.**

- Housing programs that support reinvestment are needed.
- Stronger code enforcement is needed.



**More programming is needed for youth, and activities/ businesses are needed that attract young people to the community.**



**The neighborhood feels less stable than it used to, but a series of community events and activities that bring people together would be helpful in creating stronger community ties.**

- Events should allow opportunities for intergenerational interaction.
- Gannon students can help to organize events and programming.



**It is getting harder and harder to live here, based on perceived lack of support at City Hall, increasing crime, maintenance concerns and the need for basic neighborhood services like a grocery store.**







DO NOT  
ENTER

ONE  
WAY  
→







3

# RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIVATING LONG-TERM CHANGE WITH IMMEDIATE INITIATIVES



# Plan Recommendations

This section is intended to act as a reflection of the community's values. Residents, employees and community representatives spoke, and we listened to the needs and aspirations expressed through these conversations. Recommendations for Our West Bayfront are provided in a number of ways. The information begins at the macro scale, addressing community-wide connectivity, identification and image, but it quickly gets to the details that can impact quality of life on a street-by-street and block-by-block basis.

## Assets and Corridors

Assets and corridors takes an overview of the community in an effort to understand and identify the things that are true neighborhood centers or focal points (assets), key areas of entry and community identification (gateways) and the routes that are critical for connecting the neighborhoods and their greater surroundings (corridors). A need for a clearer connectivity is explored through these recommendations.

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure recommendations address one-way streets, on-street parking limitations, sidewalk conditions, lighting and community signage. These recommendations are intended to have broad impact within and beyond the community by addressing the functionality of these components while addressing safety and accessibility.

## Recreational and Commuter Connections

This section takes a look at bike infrastructure and suggests the development of the Upper Bayfront Bike Trail – two loops that link existing bike paths at the edges of the community with a greater network of neighborhood streets on a route that could incorporate a combination of striped bike lanes, protected bike lanes and trails. By taking advantage of connections to existing bike trails, the 3-mile and 4-mile loops can also be a way to connect downtown office workers and residents with an easily accessible fitness option through the neighborhood.

## Focus Area Identification

The community indicated the need for more neighborhood center or hubs where people can connect and relations can be strengthened. The assets of the neighborhoods formed natural starting points for this approach. Focus areas were developed by creating a roughly 1/8 mile



Intersection of West 6th Street and Cascade



Boulevard on West 10th Street



Bike lane on West 6th Street



Strong Vincent High School



*“The neighborhoods here are diverse and complex. You can’t apply one single brand, and the differences should be celebrated.”*



New lighting near Gannon's campus



Neighborhood assets



Telling neighborhood stories



Promenade and bike trail

radius around an asset, which represents an approximately 5 minute walk. The idea is that focused attention around these hubs can create immediate change and catalyze other efforts through the community. The project team worked closely with community representatives to identify ten of these areas that are distributed throughout the West Bayfront.

## Project Strategies

Community discussions revealed a broad range of needs for the neighborhoods within Our West Bayfront – things that would support existing assets, strengthen identity, improve overall livability and create activities that would help to bring the community together. These details generally fell into six categories, which have been used to identify and organize neighborhood-level initiatives. These categories are Residential, Parks & Public Space, Infrastructure, Social / Programming, Local Business and Public Art.

## Focus Area Details

Each Focus Area was then studied in more detail. The team spent time in each to identify individual initiatives at a range of scales that would impact the appearance, quality and functionality of the area. The intent is to provide a series of strategies that can be undertaken by a range of community members and organizers. Everyone has a role to play in supporting and improving their community, and the Focus Area details provide a guide for initiating positive change. Within the ten areas, three were identified as Priority Focus Areas. Recognizing that starting to work on all ten areas at one time would be daunting and could dilute the impact of initial efforts, it was determined that the best approach would be to focus on a few of these areas at a time. An initial set of three priority areas were determined, with further study and design provided for each. The determination of the priority areas is not intended to lessen the importance or significance of the other areas, but rather to help focus initial efforts to maximize their impact. Every few years, a new selection of Priority Focus Areas should be identified.



# Assets & Corridors

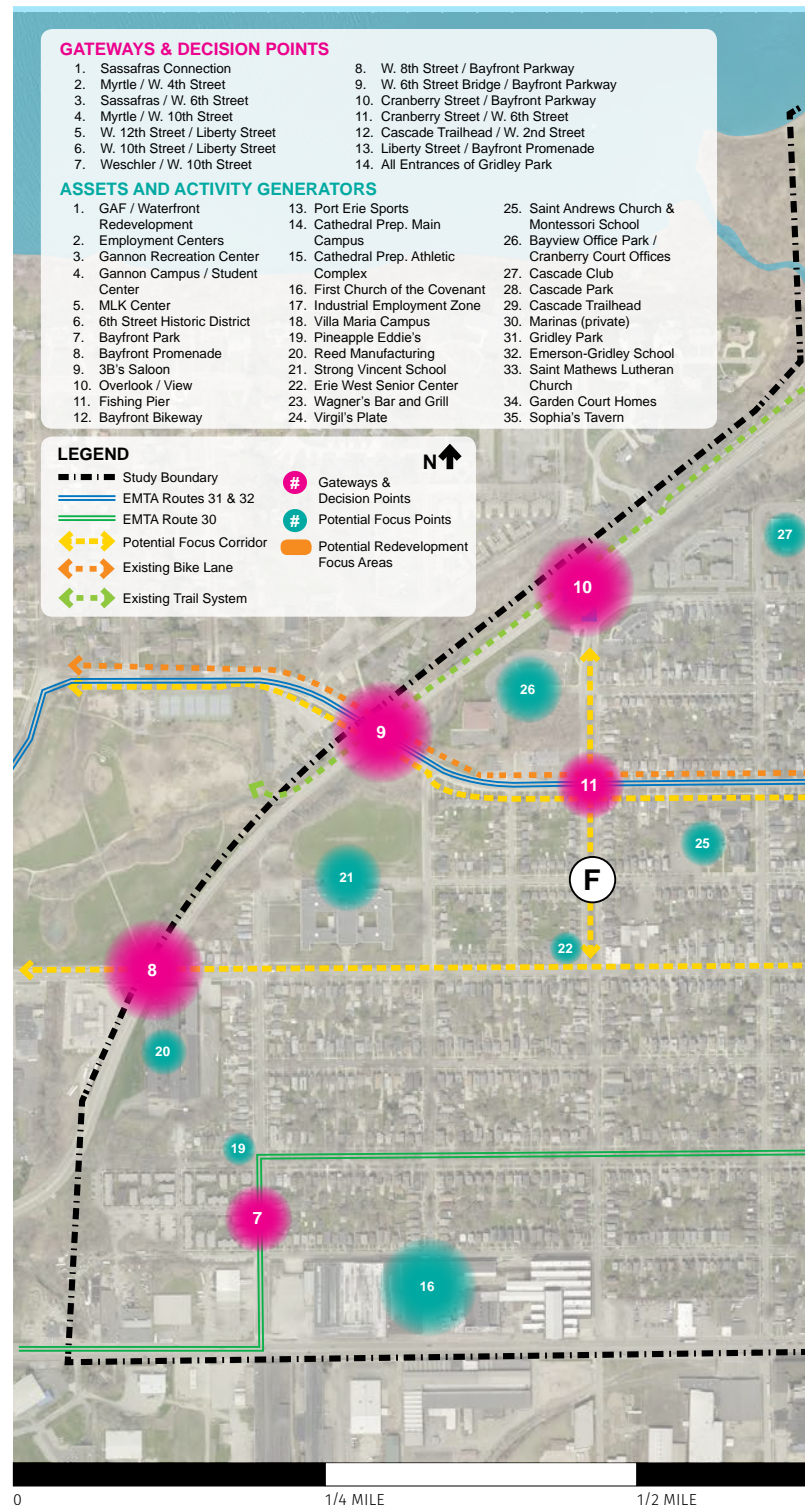
Our West Bayfront is a large study area, incorporating 843 acres (1.3 square miles), 13,000 +/- residents, 4,459 structures and 31.5 miles of roadway. It includes many neighborhoods with both historic and modern significance. There are tremendous assets and activity generators (noted by the teal circles) with the community that need to be highlighted and better connected to create logical paths of movement. Incorporating historic districts, neighborhood parks, a rich selection of institutional assets, a walkable scale and a variety of comfortable housing, the community has much to offer.

Entry points to Our West Bayfront and movement patterns through it do little to support the assets here in their current configurations. There is little in place to indicate arrival in the community. Existing one-way streets make travel through these neighborhoods confusing and inefficient, leading to frustration for first-time and regular visitors alike. Additionally, the one-way streets detract from the 8th and Walnut neighborhood commercial district. Traffic is limited, therefore potential customers / patrons are literally halved as traffic is limited to east-bound travel.

The process has identified key gateways and decision points (purple circles on the map) where a clear sense of direction and wayfinding is important. This should be accomplished through signage and streetscape design to create a series of clear and connected paths. A distinct sense of arrival and communication of neighborhood character should be emphasized at each of these points.

Primary east/west corridors (indicated by the yellow dashed lines) connect downtown and western communities through Our West Bayfront. West 6th Street and 8th Street are important spines that serve these roles and require special attention along their length. They serve as 'front doors' to the West Bayfront neighborhoods to the north and south. Liberty Street and Sassafras are key north/south corridors, connecting the waterfront to Erie's communities to the south. This waterfront connection should be felt from West 12th Street north.

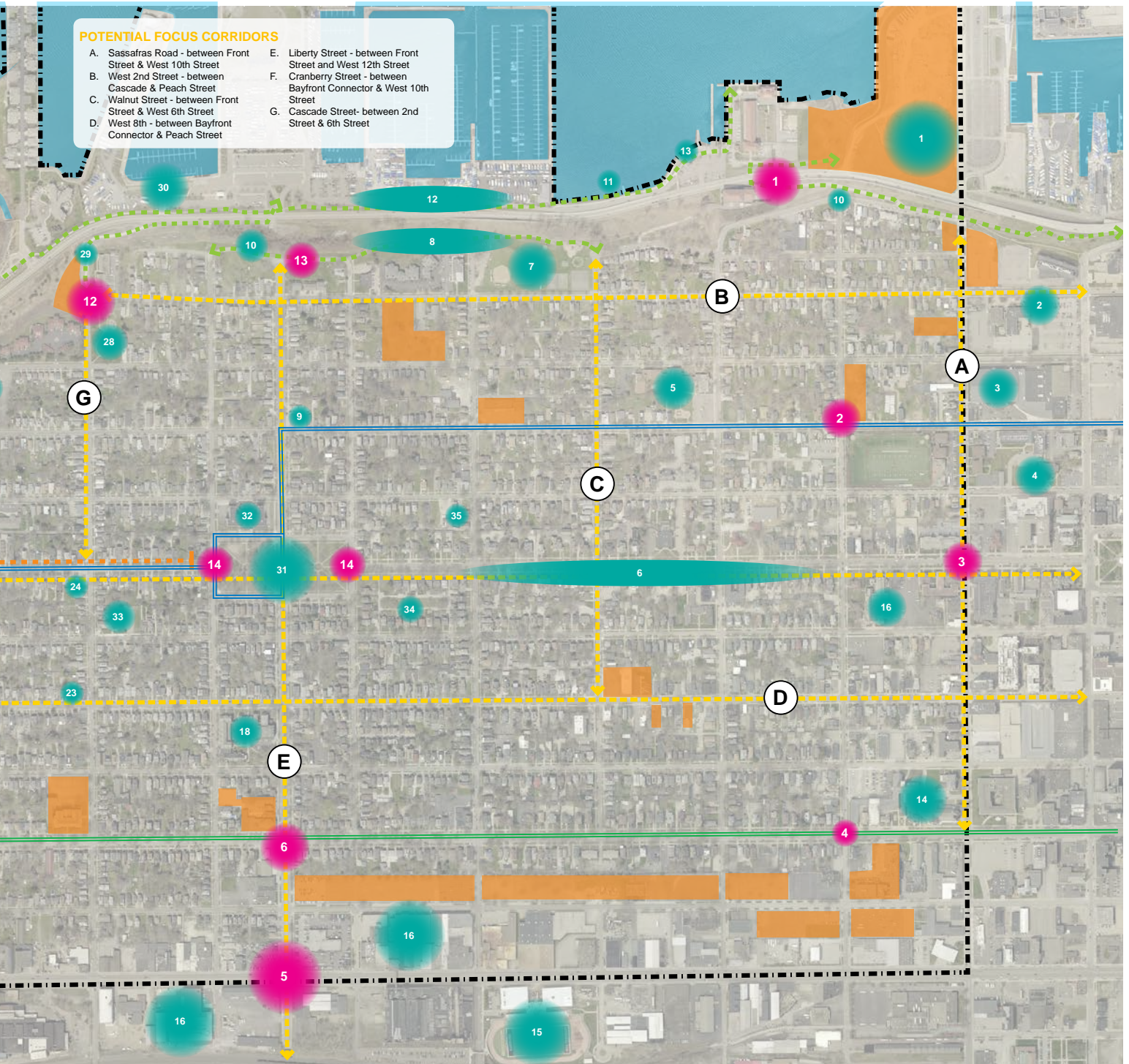
The resulting planning recommendations are founded on the opportunities uncovered by the map to the right. The planning team utilized this map, in evolving states, throughout the process, adding new layers of information, locations and corridors based on comments and direction. The Steering and Advisory Committees were adamant that the plan studied the entire Our West Bayfront area in an equitable approach. As the team began recognizing patterns and clusters of opportunities, the notion of Focus Areas emerged - providing a logical way to organize and concentrate specific recommendations.





# POTENTIAL FOCUS CORRIDORS

- A. Sassafras Road - between Front Street & West 10th Street
- B. West 2nd Street - between Cascade & Peach Street
- C. Walnut Street - between Front Street & West 6th Street
- D. West 8th - between Bayfront Connector & Peach Street
- E. Liberty Street - between Front Street and West 12th Street
- F. Cranberry Street - between Bayfront Connector & West 10th Street
- G. Cascade Street- between 2nd Street & 6th Street



1 MILE

1.85 MILES



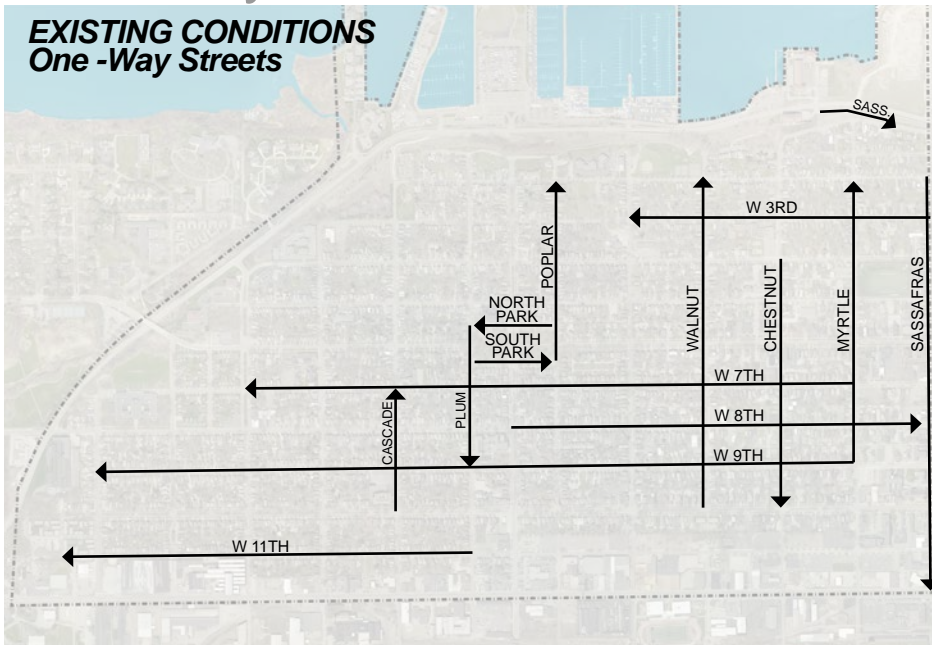
# Infrastructure

Throughout the course of the planning process, the core working group received feedback that focused on areas and components that did not relate directly to the Focus Areas. These initiatives are organized into an overarching category, Infrastructure, and are intended to help better relate the overall Our West Bayfront Neighborhood. Their impact extends beyond a singular Focus Area. Streetscape improvements,

lighting initiatives, traffic pattern & traffic calming strategies, multi-modal networks and other recommendations are included in the following section.

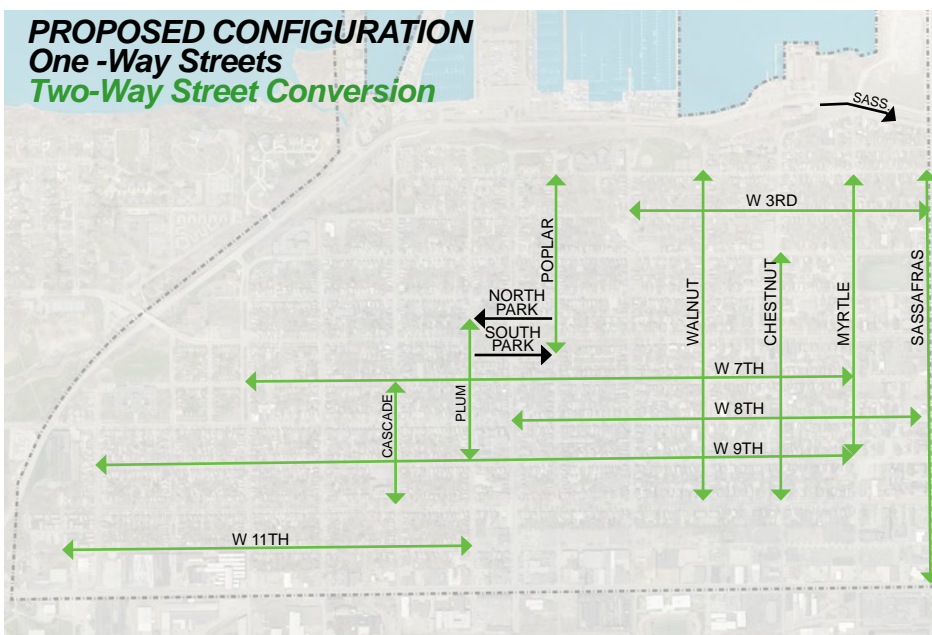
The plan does not intend to highlight every instance of needed infrastructure investment, but identifies locations and concepts that can serve as prototypical / priority initiatives, as identified by residents.

## Roadway Conditions



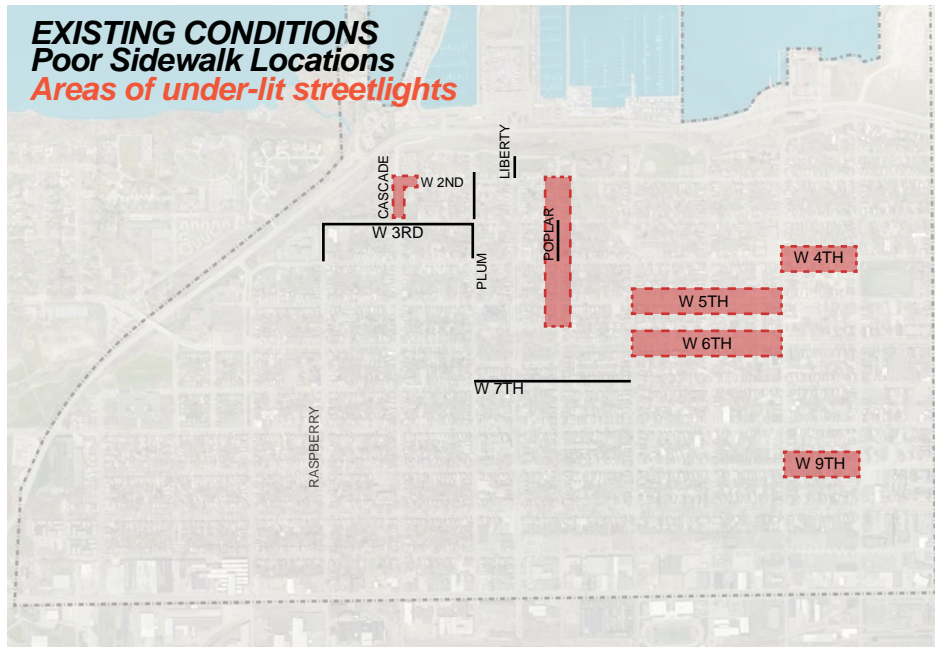
**Analysis:** One-way streets cause confusion, diminish from commercial districts & limit access to certain neighborhood areas.

**Recommendations:** Convert selected corridors to allow two-way traffic, remove parking restrictions (even v. odd days), only retain one-way if cartway width is limited





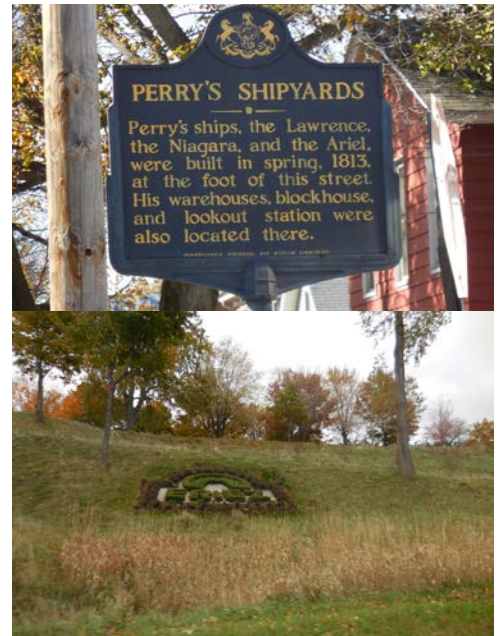
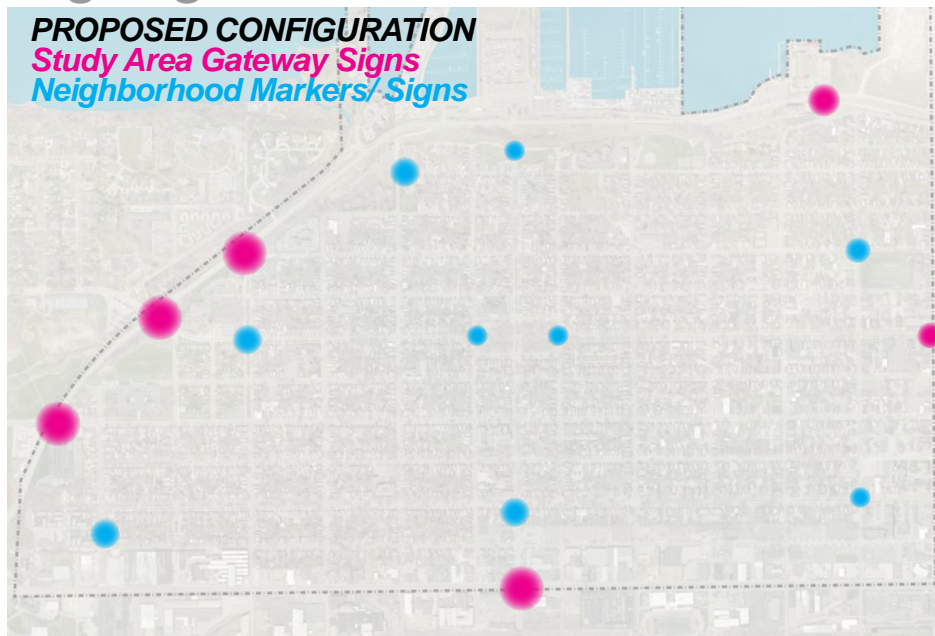
# Sidewalk / Lighting



**Analysis:** Poor sidewalk conditions are in limited areas, under-lit blocks are perceived in close proximity to Gannon University's campus & connecting to Gridley Park. Unmaintained tree canopy contributes to the light levels on neighborhood streets.

**Recommendations:** Create sidewalk replacement program, target lighting projects in high-trafficked areas, increase lighting adjacent to parks & public spaces

# Signage & Identification



**Analysis:** Existing signage is minimal, with some historic and neighborhood markers

**Recommendations:** Provide unique identification and wayfinding signage at key entry points, supplement with neighborhood signage to mark historic and neighborhood assets



# Recreational & Commuter Connections

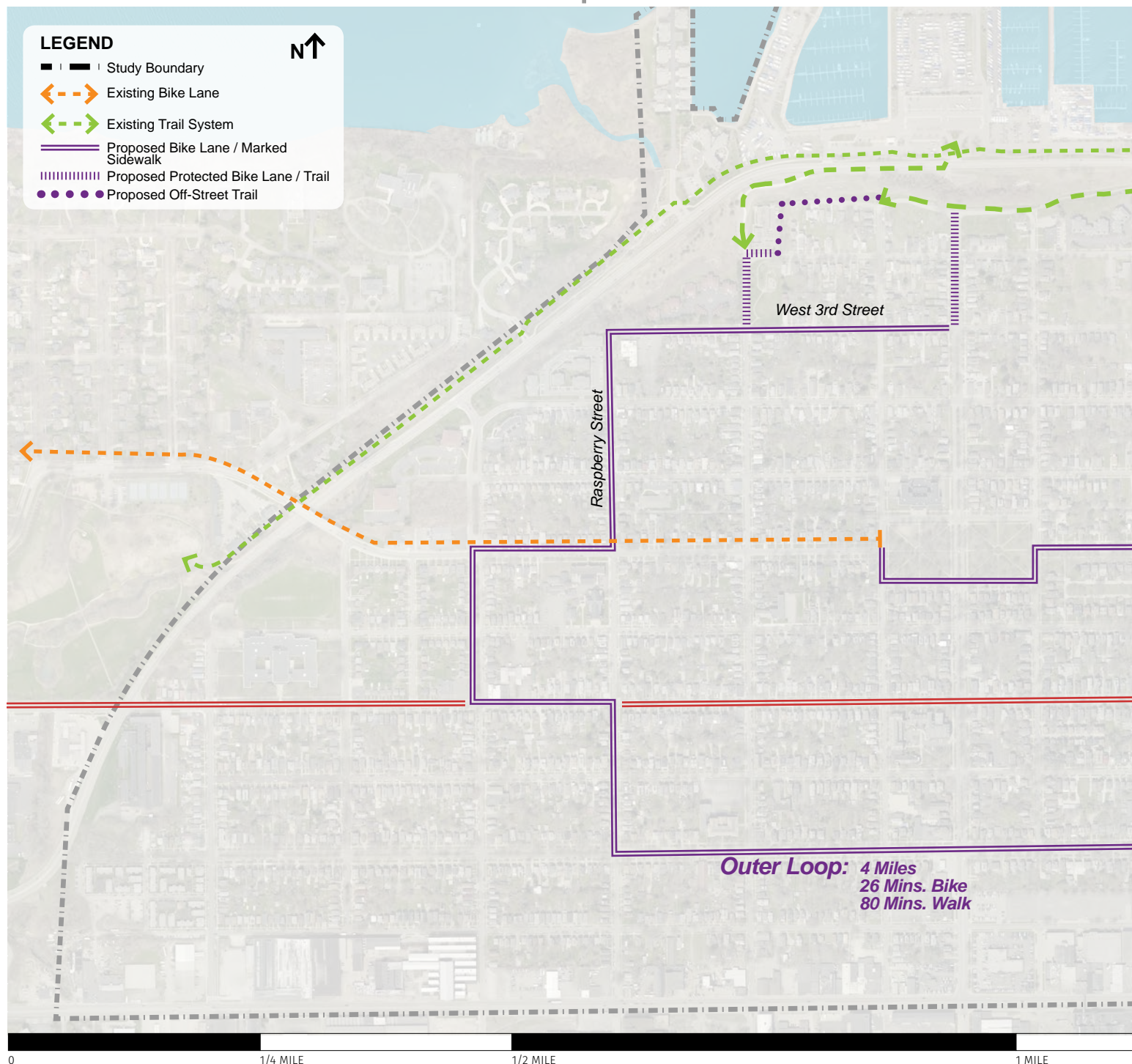
## *Increasing multi-modal options*

The Bayfront Trail (existing) and its connections to the shores of the Presque Isle Bay provide a true amenity for Erie residents and visitors. However, its continuation and connection to the study area is limited and focuses primarily on the Bayfront Promenade. It runs along the study area's northern edge, along the hillside bluff. A multi-modal network, emphasized by a newly identified multi-purpose trail can

extend recreational options while providing safe / protected commuter routes for residents, school children and others.

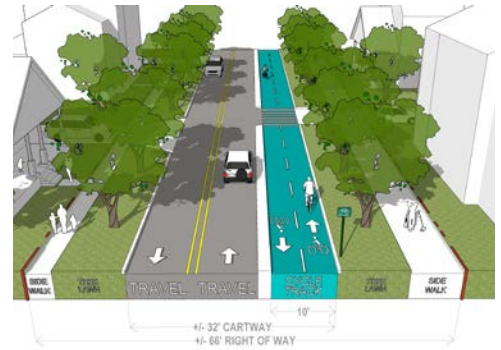
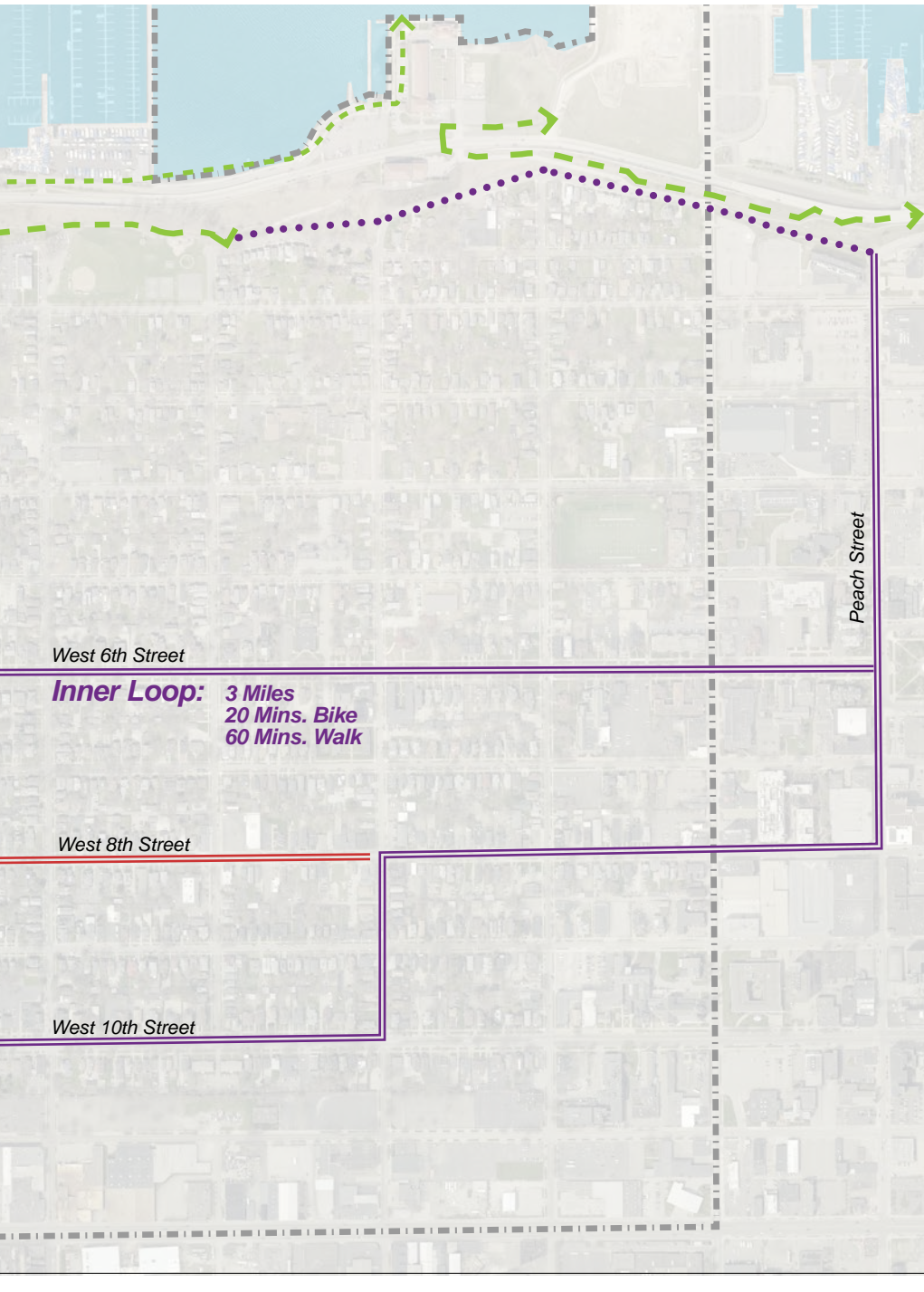
The trail (illustrated below) connects to the Promenade, effectively extending it throughout the study area. This 4 mile loop can serve residents as well, promoting healthy activities and can be highlighted with interpretive signage that helps "tell the story" of the West Bayfront.

## Bike & Pedestrian Multi-Purpose Trail Network

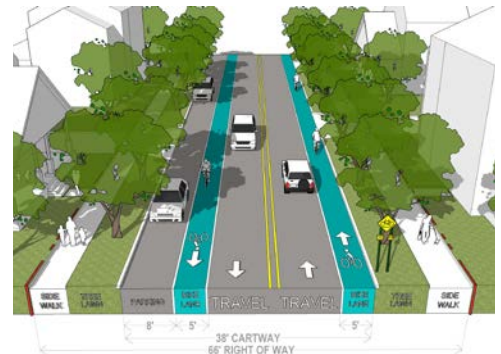




*“The central location of West Bayfront is a plus - I can be anywhere in 10 minutes.”*



Street section with protected bike lanes



Street section with bike lanes and on-street parking





# Focus Areas

The need for more places that support community interactions and connections to rebuild both the social and physical fabric of the neighborhood was raised in many conversations throughout the planning process. This led to the concept of identifying and emphasizing a series of neighborhood hubs or Focus Areas throughout Our West Bayfront.

Focus Areas are districts around an existing or proposed neighborhood asset. These become centers of activity where initial investments in new programming and physical improvements can have a catalytic effect on the greater surroundings. Shown as circles on the map, the area represents a roughly 1/8 mile radius around an asset, which correlates to a 2-3 minute walking distance from the center to the edge. Two of the areas represent a slightly larger footprint - Gridley Park and a combined pair of circles at Bayview Park and the MLK Center, both areas with assets that influence a larger geographical area. These focus areas are meant to be general guides, with activities and programming extending beyond the radius when possible.

An initial set of ten focus areas was identified, representing key locations within the community and potential or existing centers of activity. Based on information provided by the community, we have identified a range of potential initiatives aimed at addressing existing concerns and building strong neighborhood centers. These initiatives are identified on maps for each area, with example imagery to reinforce the ideas.

Once opportunities for the initial ten focus areas had been explored, three of the focus areas were chosen as priority locations where a more detailed approach to design was undertaken. The intent is to focus initial efforts on these priorities in terms of project implementation, moving on to a second round of priority areas when a substantial level of reinvestment is underway in the first. All ten focus areas are important, but not all ten can be undertaken at the same time. This approach is intended to help guide implementation strategies moving forward.









# Primary Strategies

The following guiding strategies have been generated through community discussions. These emerging categories help to direct the types of initiatives that are appropriate for each of the neighborhood Focus Areas. Initiatives are organized by these categories using their associated colors within the Focus Area diagrams.

## RESIDENTIAL

*renovation / adaptive re-use, new affordable and market-rate infill, paint programs, etc.*



Our West Bayfront is primarily a residential neighborhood. Its scale is walkable and its housing stock is varied. A range of residential initiatives are required to help boost the existing housing stock that forms the foundation of this area. These include addressing blighted and vacant homes, supporting renovation and preservation initiatives, and identifying opportunities for new infill construction.

## PARKS & PUBLIC SPACE

*new recreational facilities, community gardens, landscaping, park features and amenities, etc.*



The provision of recreation opportunities can help to build connections within the community and provide additional activities for portions of the population that are currently underserved. This can include the provision of new and upgraded facilities as well as the development of recreation-based programming for all ages in the community.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

*streets, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, pedestrian amenities, intersection enhancements, etc.*



Infrastructure improvements are critical for addressing movement throughout the community. This includes the consideration of upgrades to sidewalks and spaces for pedestrian movement, the provision of facilities for bicycles and transit users, and changes to roadway and traffic patterns to improve how people within and outside of the community experience its neighborhoods, parks and businesses.



## SOCIAL / PROGRAMMING

*community support, social services, youth programming, events, volunteer opportunities, etc.*



Neighborhood service strategies will focus on unmet needs within the neighborhood. These can be physical or programmatic in nature, and have the potential to incorporate a wide range of community needs. The ability to group multiple services in a specific area or building can support a more efficient use of resources.

## LOCAL BUSINESS

*business support programs, storefront enhancement, parking strategies, pop up markets, live/work, etc.*



It has been clear in discussions with community members that there is a need for additional commercial uses in the neighborhoods. Many expressed the challenges associated with having to travel long distances to get groceries and basics. The creation of a commercial corridor where investment can be focused, as well as programs to support small businesses (storefront programs, small business loans, etc.) can help the neighborhood to be a more complete and supportive place.

## PUBLIC ART

*community identification, signage, history markers, murals, etc.*



Public art is an important way to express community identity and create a unique sense of place. This community is rich with artists, which makes a robust approach to the inclusion of public art an appropriate one. Murals, gateway elements, neighborhood signage, history markers and similar pieces can involve a cross-section of the community to envision, develop and construct. This will help to create a sense of neighborhood pride and ownership.



# Focus Area A: Northeast Bayfront

This focus area is anchored by a proposed pedestrian bridge over the Bayfront Connector, to provide direct and safe access to the waterfront. It is characterized by a mix of housing types and styles and an emphasis on recreational activities along the upper Bayfront. It is an important point of visual connection to the community from downtown and the shoreline.

## *Primary considerations:*

- *key connection point to water*
- *use hillside to draw attention to neighborhood - signage, murals, planting, color*



Swings along hilltop



Sunset houses paint program

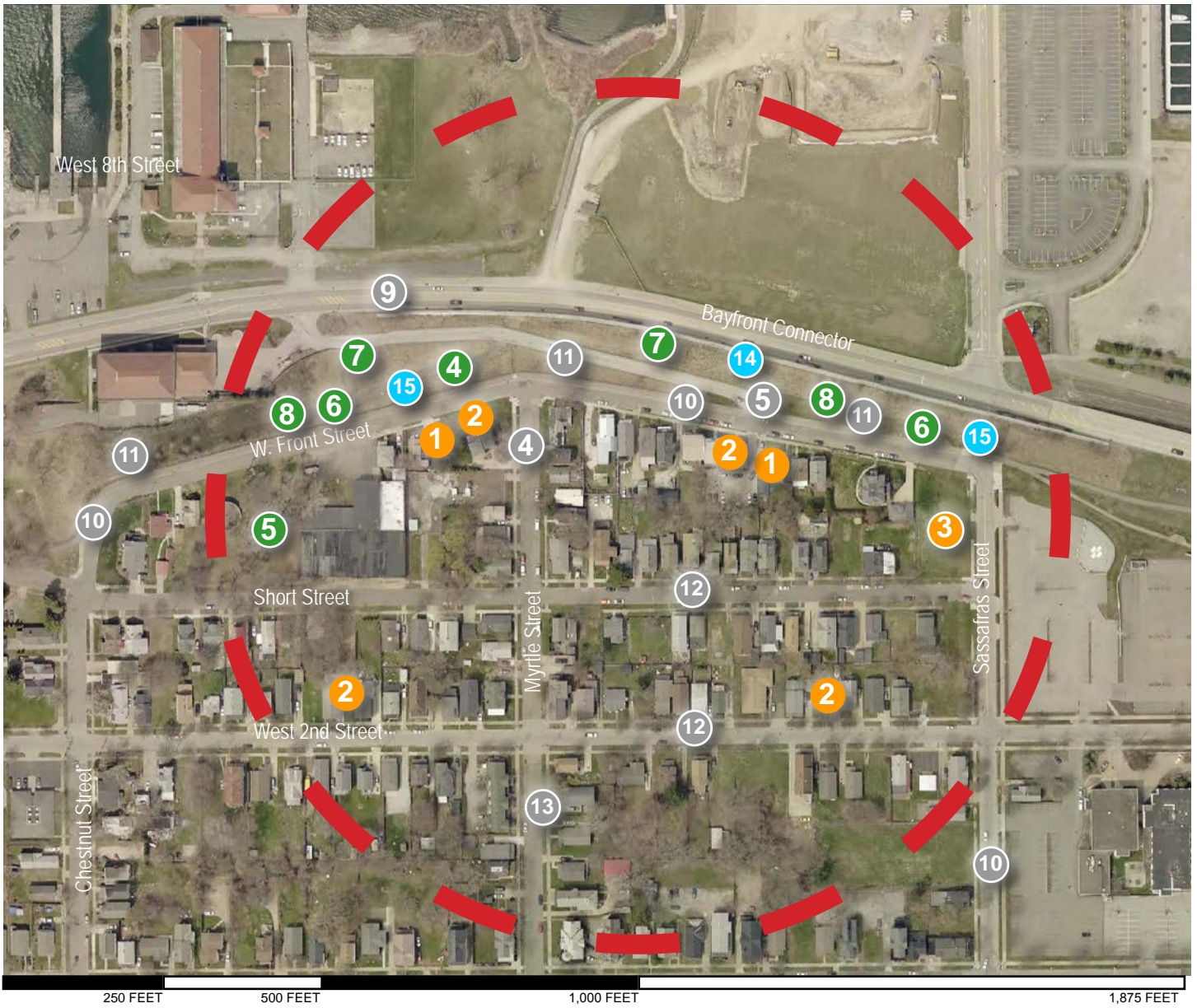
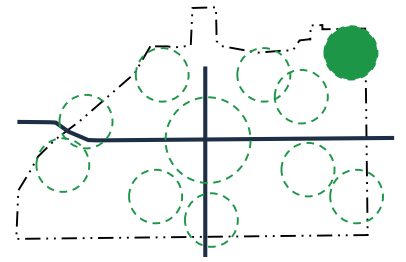


Hilltop lighting along Promenade

## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Sunset houses (paint palette program)
2. Renovation program (porches, paint, roofs)
3. New front-loaded townhomes at corner of W. Front & Sassafrass
4. Pedestrian path - down hill
5. Dog park
6. Fitness stations along path
7. Hillside planting
8. Porch swings along hilltop & promenade
9. Pedestrian bridge (potential PENNDOT initiative)
10. Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
11. Lighting (decorative, along Bayfront Promenade)
12. Sidewalk repairs - W. 2nd Street & Short Street
13. Change Myrtle to two-way street
14. Bayfront Connector retaining wall mural
15. Neighborhood flags (sails)







# Focus Area B: MLK Center & Bayview Park

This focus area has dual anchors – the MLK Center and Bayfront Park, addressing multiple community needs and opportunities in one area.

Gaps in the residential fabric create opportunities for infill development, and deteriorating housing stock along W. 2nd and W. 3rd make this a target area for housing maintenance initiatives. Great views and proximity to neighborhood services and recreational amenities should make this a very desirable location.

## Primary considerations:

- *strong cultural, historical and recreational focus*
- *shore up housing and infrastructure here to stabilize neighborhood*

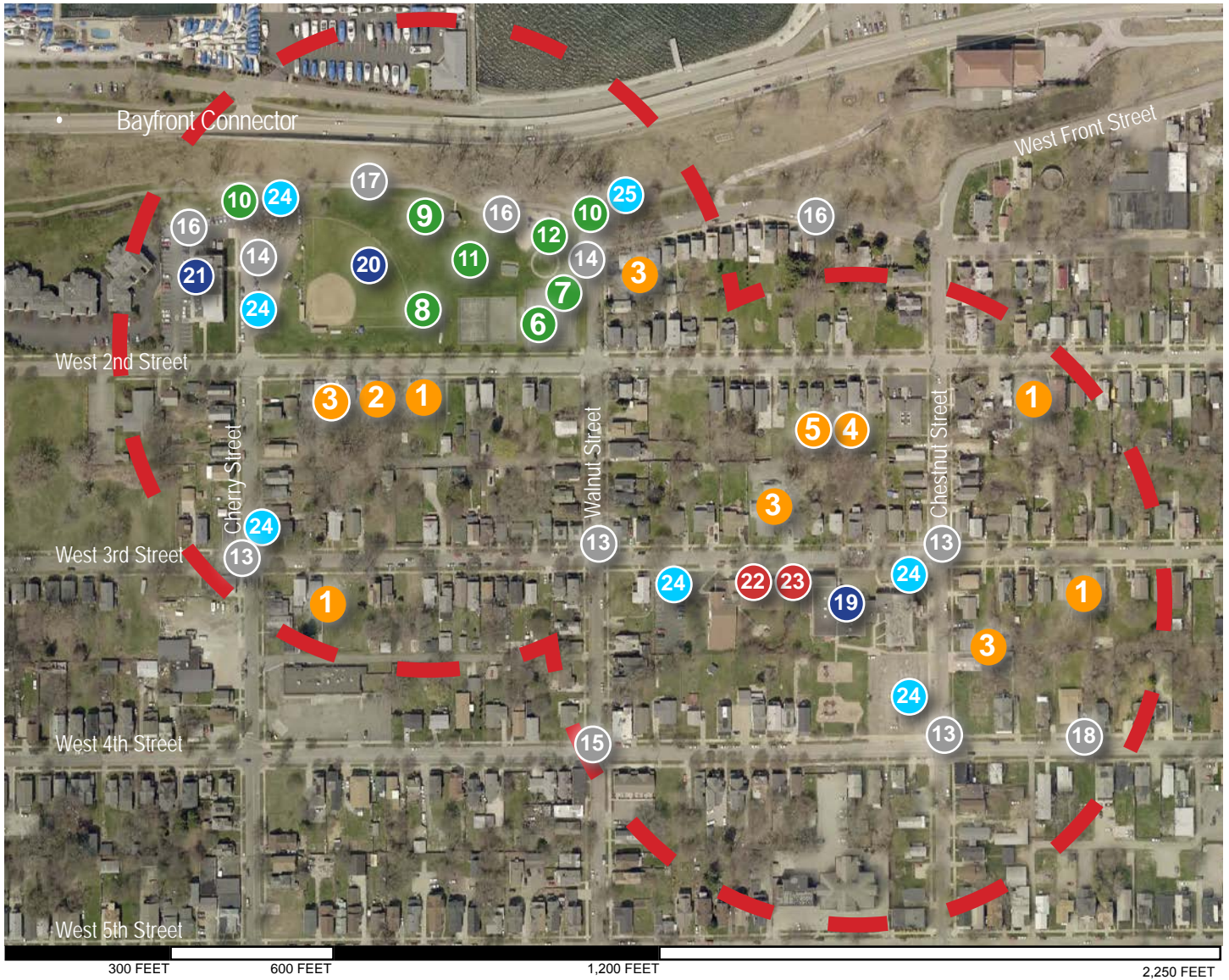
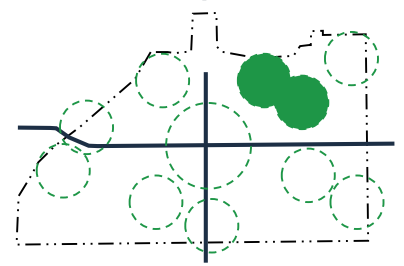


## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Affordable infill housing (sustainable & “green”)
2. Sunset houses (paint palette program)
3. Front porch program (West 2nd & surrounding MLK Center)
4. Housing renovation program (could be youth-driven or part of apprenticeships with local contractors)
5. Focused residential improvements in block bordered by W. 2nd, Walnut, W. 3rd and Chestnut (address blight)
6. Splash park – summer / ice skating – winter at decommissioned tennis courts
7. Skate park at decommissioned tennis courts
8. Park pavilions / picnic tables / shaded seating
9. Youth gardens
10. Enhanced ‘lookout’ points
11. Mini golf course
12. Seating near playground
13. Heritage Lane / Heritage Trail – streetscape improvements (sidewalks, crosswalks, art, benches, trash receptacles, amenities, history markers)
14. Improved parking near park (Cherry & Walnut/Front)
15. Improve intersection at W. 4th & Walnut (infrastructure & buildings)
16. Hilltop lighting - decorative, pedestrian scale through park
17. Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
18. Enhanced street lighting on W.4th between Chestnut & Myrtle
19. MLK center master/facilities plan
20. Youth recreational programming
21. Redevelop County Health Building as neighborhood fitness center
22. Pop-up coffee shop at MLK Center - community cafe
23. Neighborhood business center – available computers, copiers, fax machine, room for meeting, etc.
24. History murals / markers at park, MLK, etc.
25. Neighborhood flags along hilltop (sails)









# Focus Area B: MLK Center & Bayview Park

## PROGRAM PARK / EXTENSION OF MLK CENTER

BALLFIELDS; EVENTS; KITE FLYING; FITNESS CENTER / STATIONS

## HOUSING RENOVATION PROGRAM

APPRENTICESHIPS FOR YOUTH; INVOLVEMENT; PORCHES, ETC.

## HISTORIC MARKERS / MURALS / SCULPTURES

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD; AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

## "HERITAGE LANE / TRAIL"

STREETSCAPE; TELL THE WEST BAYFRONT HISTORY; SIGNAGE

## SPLASH PARK / REMOVE TENNIS COURTS

CREATE A COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

## IMPROVED PARKING AT PARK

FORMALIZE AND CLEAN UP; PARENTS ABLE TO WATCH CHILDREN

## BAYFRONT SAILS

RECOGNIZABLE ICONS FROM THE BAYFRONT CONNECTOR

## SUNSET HOUSES

COLOR SELECTION; COMMON PALETTE; FOCUSED INVESTMENT

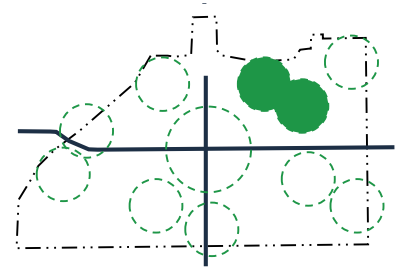
## ENHANCED "LOOK OUT" SPOTS

BENCHES; "PORCH SWINGS"; HIGHLIGHT VIEWS

## HILLTOP LIGHTING

DECORATIVE; ALONG BAYFRONT PROMENADE; BANNERS



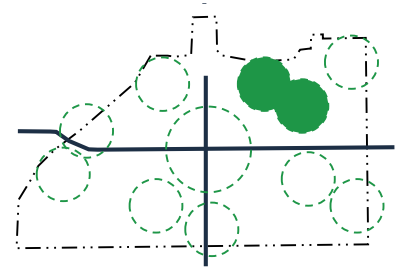




# Focus Area B: MLK Center & Bayview Park









# Focus Area C: Cathedral Preparatory School

This is a transitional area that bridges between downtown and Our West Bayfront. It is dominated by campus uses that have the potential to transition well. Infrastructure and property standards are important here, to create comfortable and engaging paths to and from the neighborhood.

## Primary considerations:

- *transition zone between downtown and neighborhood*
- *streetscape improvements*
- *parking lot screening*



## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Student rental property standards (parking on tree lawns, unit limitations, etc.)
2. Residential improvements along Chestnut (address blight)
3. Apply Historic District renovation standards
4. Parking lot screening standards (along 8th and major corridors)
5. Streetscape improvements (West 9th)
6. Streetscape improvements (West 10th)
7. Student paths (Safe routes to school)
8. Stormwater management demo project at parking lots
9. Improved transit waiting environments
10. Convert West 8th Street to 2-way traffic (increase access for struggling commercial)
11. Street tree program
12. Bike / pedestrian amenities
13. Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
14. Bike + walking distance signage – neighborhood amenities
15. Enhanced lighting on W. 9th between Chestnut & Myrtle
16. Neighborhood services center – storefront with info
17. Public library branch
18. Neighborhood business center – available computers, copiers, fax machine, room for meeting, etc.
19. Neighborhood signage and gateway elements (entry to Old Town district)



Safe and interesting pedestrian and bike paths

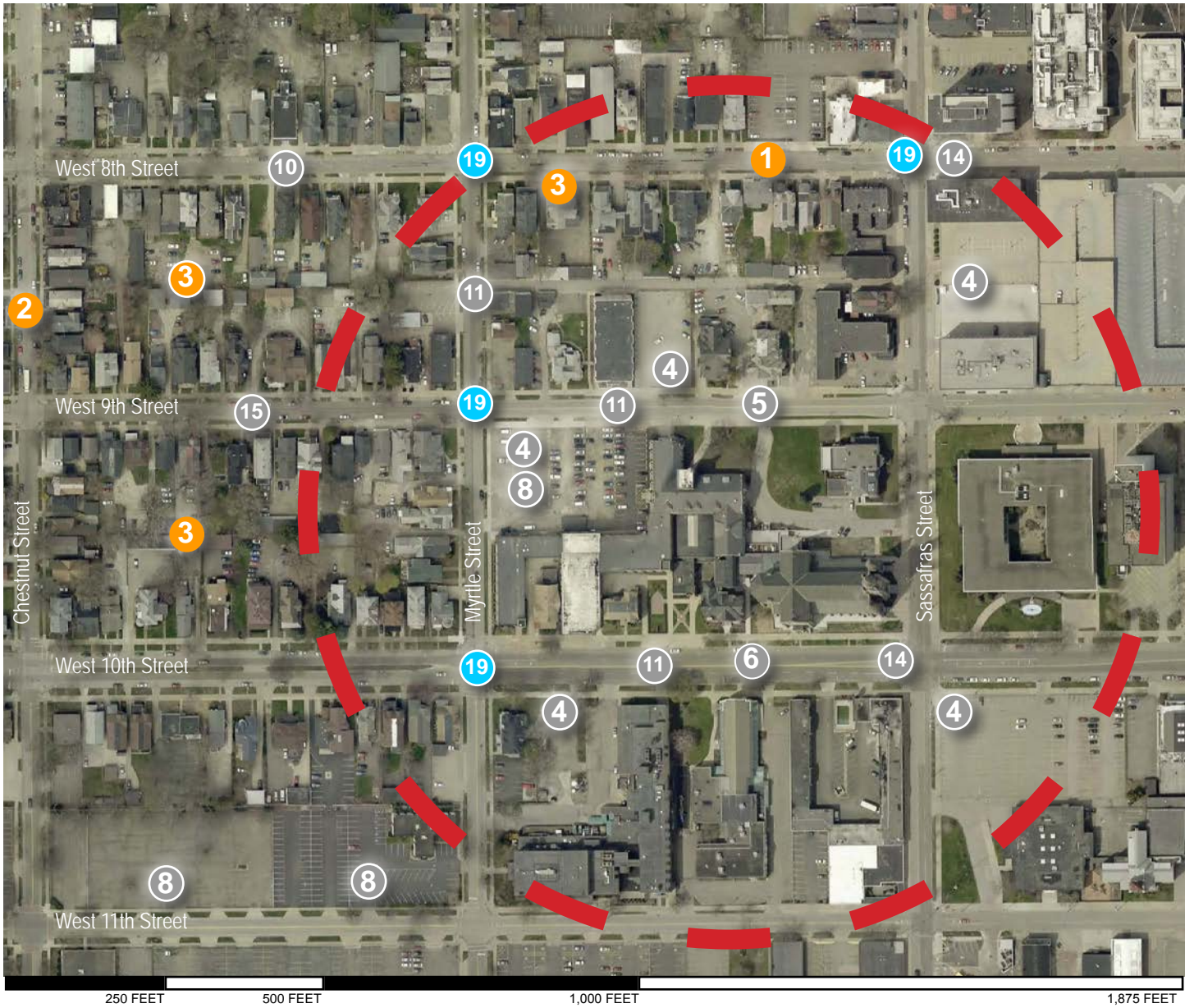
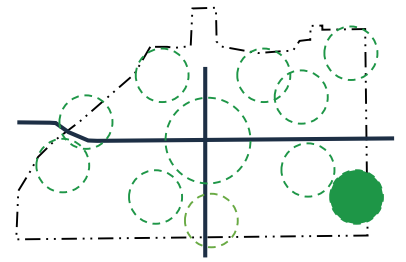


Parking lot screening and amenities



Front yard and front of building standards





Street trees



Intersection improvements



Green infrastructure



# Focus Area D: W. 8th & Walnut

The proposed focus of this area is the intersection of West 8th Street and Walnut Street. The community needs a neighborhood-scale commercial district, where resources can be focused on promoting and supporting businesses that both serve the neighborhood and attract those from outside of the area due to the unique neighborhood environment. The blocks along West 8th Street seem well suited to this in terms of structure, accessibility and concentration of small-scale commercial spaces, but attention is needed in terms of infrastructure and overall physical environment to create an identifiable character.

## Primary considerations:

- *create neighborhood commercial district*
- *streetscape improvements*
- *building conversions*

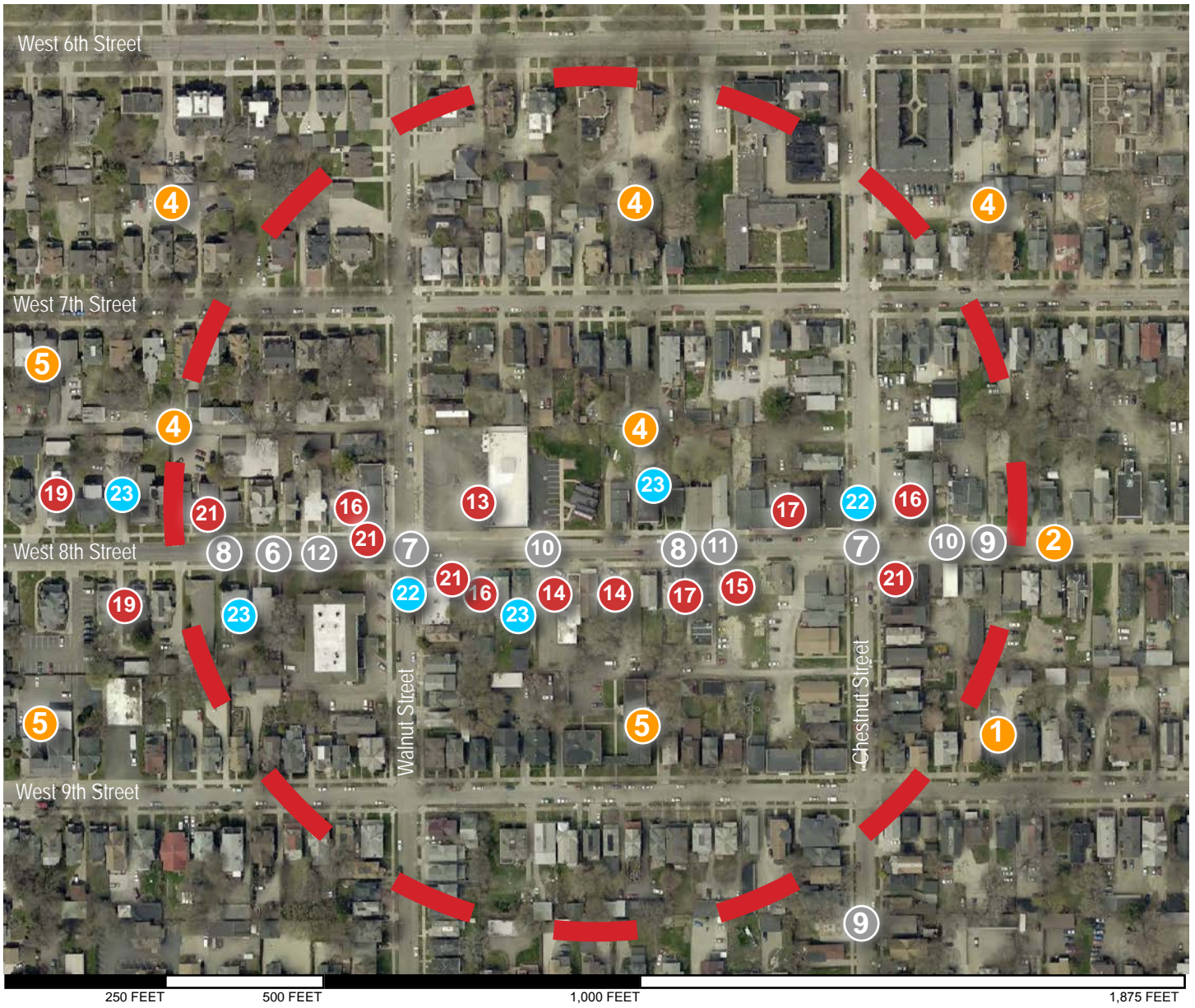
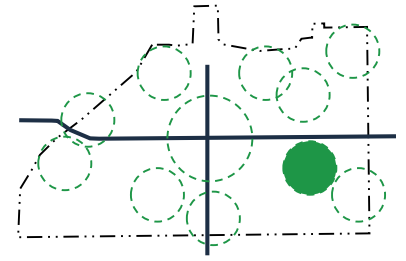


## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Housing maintenance / renovation strategies – Chestnut & West 9th
2. Façade improvements program for housing along West 8th
3. Downing Court signage / enhancement (can this become a special "place")
4. Promote historic preservation and residential building renovations throughout Old Town area
5. Building improvements in the blocks between Cherry, W. 7th, Chestnut & W. 9th (address blight)
6. Change West 8th Street to 2-way traffic
7. Intersection improvements - crosswalks, signage, gateway elements etc. at West 8th and Cherry, Walnut, Chestnut and Myrtle
8. Streetscape development along West 8th - street trees, lighting, bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, planters, hanging baskets
9. Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
10. District lighting (street lights + tree lights)
11. Parking meters
12. Curb replacement West 8th Street
13. Grocery store / market (activate vacated grocery store)
14. Commercial infill
15. Commercial parking lot
16. Storefront program
17. Commercial conversion program (convert ground floor apartments back to mixed-use)
18. Tax credit program for business relocation
19. Mansion conversions – restaurants, B&B – create B&B row that is identifiable
20. Neighborhood business incubator & assistance programs
21. Outdoor dining / seating areas
22. District signage / gateways / identification
23. Commercial district color palette









# Focus Area D: W. 8th & Walnut

## PROMOTE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

MAINTAIN MANSIONS; ADAPTIVELY RE-USE; "B&B ROW"

## ESTABLISH LOCAL DESIGN REVIEW

PROTECT INTEGRITY OF PLACE; SET STANDARDS

## CREATE 8TH STREET CORRIDOR DESIGN

COMMON ELEMENTS THAT TIE TOGETHER

## UPPER BAYFRONT BIKE TRAIL / LOOP

EXTEND TRAIL SYSTEM; CHANGE PERCEPTION; COMMUTER

## CONVERT 8TH STREET TO TWO-WAY

INCREASE RETAIL TRAFFIC; SLOW TRAFFIC; CREATE DISTRICT

## STOREFRONT PROGRAM

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS; AWNINGS; SIGNAGE; ETC.

## CONVERT GROUND FLOOR TO RETAIL

REVERSE RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION; ACTIVATE STOREFRONTS

## DISTRICT SIGNAGE / IDENTITY

CUSTOM BIKE RACKS; BANNERS; PAVING PATTERNS

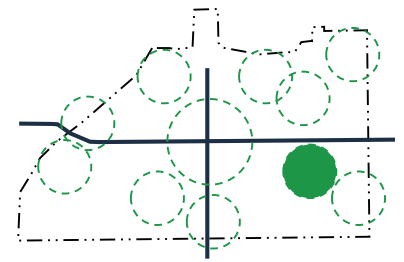
## INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

LIGHTING; SIGNAGE; BANNERS; ARTICULATED CROSSWALKS

## DETERMINE DISTRICT PARKING STRATEGY

USE SIDE-STREETS; CENTRAL LOT; SHARED PARKING LOTS



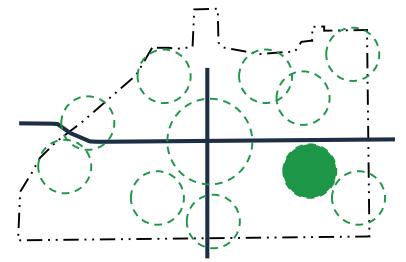




# Focus Area D: W. 8th & Walnut









# Focus Area E: Gridley Park

This larger focus area is anchored by Gridley Park. The radius was enlarged to extend 1/8 of a mile from the edges of the park. As Our West Bayfront's 'town square', this has the potential to serve as a hub for special events and community-based programming. Entry points are important to this district, as well as programming and the provision of facilities to support a broad range of activities. Housing that faces the park should be some of the most attractive in the neighborhood. Traffic patterns through the area should place pedestrians and bicycle traffic at the forefront. A strong connection to the waterfront should be perceived here.

## Primary considerations:

- *improvements to park amenities and surrounding infrastructure*
- *increased programming*
- *strengthen Liberty corridor*



## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Housing maintenance program around park perimeter
2. 'Painted Ladies' of the Park – house paint program – deep, rich colors
3. Adaptive re-use of school (if vacated) for market-rate housing
4. Building improvements in the blocks between Plum, W. 3rd, Cherry & W. 5th, and along W. 7th & W. 8th west of Plum (address blight)
5. Farmers market in park – close Liberty through the park on market days
6. Add pavilion in each section of park
7. Picnic tables and grills
8. Incorporate water elements in park - fountains
9. Standardize park furniture for greater continuity / stronger identity
10. Add festive / ornamental lighting throughout park
11. Signage at park entry points along W. 6th & Liberty
12. Develop "Niagara Square" (Commodore Perry reference) intersection at W. 6th & Cascade, move historical sign to center
13. Create outdoor dining area & pocket park at W. 6th & Cascade
14. Four-way stops at all intersections around park perimeter (traffic calming)
15. Angled parking around park perimeter (increases parking counts while calming traffic)
16. Liberty Street boulevard enhancements
17. Raised crosswalk at center along Liberty Street
18. Sidewalk repairs – W. 7th, Plum, Poplar
19. Streetscape enhancements around park – crosswalks, painted intersections
20. Improve bike lane along W. 6th Street
21. Improved transit waiting environments
22. Provide enhanced lighting throughout park and along Poplar
23. Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
24. Youth recreational programming
25. Community concert series / flea market / outdoor theater programs
26. Enhance outdoor classroom area / increase programming
27. Renovate Villa Maria former chapel with community use
28. Water elements (signage, banners, etc.)
29. Blue elements along Liberty corridor (inset tiles in sidewalk, public art, fencing, house painting program - sea glass palette)
30. Bike + walking distance signage



Special events / pop-up market

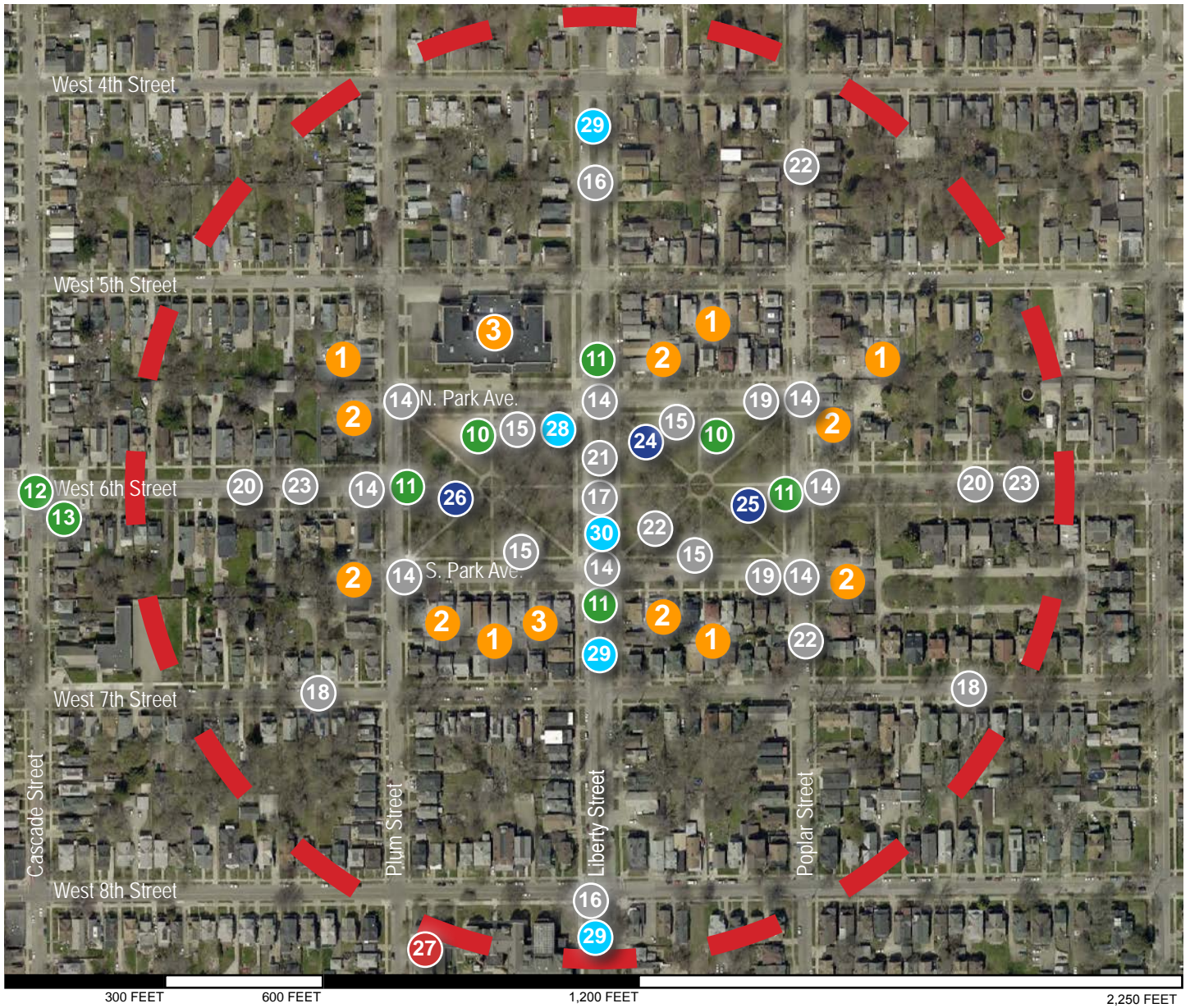
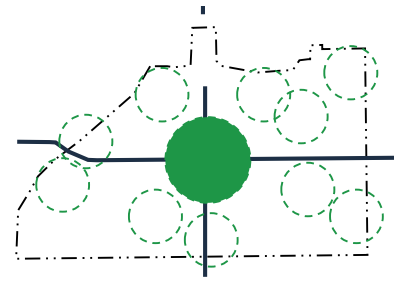


Gazebo / picnic shelter



Painted Ladies of the Park







# Focus Area E: Gridley Park

## PAINTED LADIES OF THE PARK

COLOR SELECTION; COMMON PALETTE; FOCUSED INVESTMENT

## LIBERTY AVE. "SEA GLASS PALETTE"

MULTIPLE SHADES OF BLUE; FENCING; ADDRESS NUMBERS; ETC.

## GRIDLEY FOUNTAIN

FOCAL POINT; NEW USES; COMMUNITY "PLACE"

## LIBERTY MARKET ROW

CLOSE STREET; REPOSITION PARK; CREATE A "BUZZ"

## PARK PAVILION / OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

FORMALIZE PROGRAMMING ONCE MOMENTUM; EVENT SPACE

## FOUR-WAY STOPS AT ALL CORNERS

CONTROL TRAFFIC; SIMPLIFY PATTERNS

## HEAD-IN PARKING AT PARK PERIMETER

CALM TRAFFIC; INCREASE PARKING; INCLUDE BUMP-OUTS

## ARTICULATED CROSSWALKS

LINK PARK WITH NEIGHBORHOOD; RAISED; TEXTURED; COLORS

## INCREASE LIGHTING IN PARK

FESTIVE; BANNERS; HANGING BASKETS

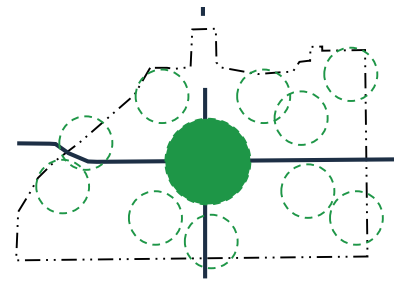
## GRIDLEY AMENITY PACKAGE

BENCHES; PLANTERS; SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## PUBLIC ART

TAP INTO NEIGHBORHOOD ARTISTS; STUDENTS



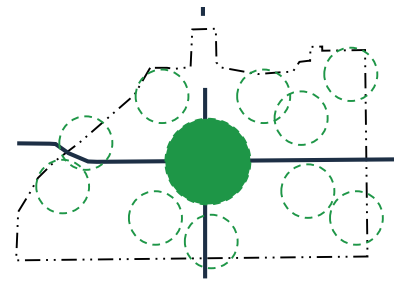




# Focus Area E: Gridley Park









# Focus Area F: Emerson School

The former Emerson School building is a visual and physical anchor for this area, with the potential to serve as a community focal point. The area serves as a bridge between the industrial uses to the south and the residential uses to the north. In some instances this combination is problematic, and a more formalized approach to how these uses meet is needed. The provision of community uses within the former school building could help to activate and stabilize this portion of the neighborhood.

## Primary considerations:

- *activate former Emerson School with new use*
- *create a neighborhood center*
- *transition between industrial and residential areas*

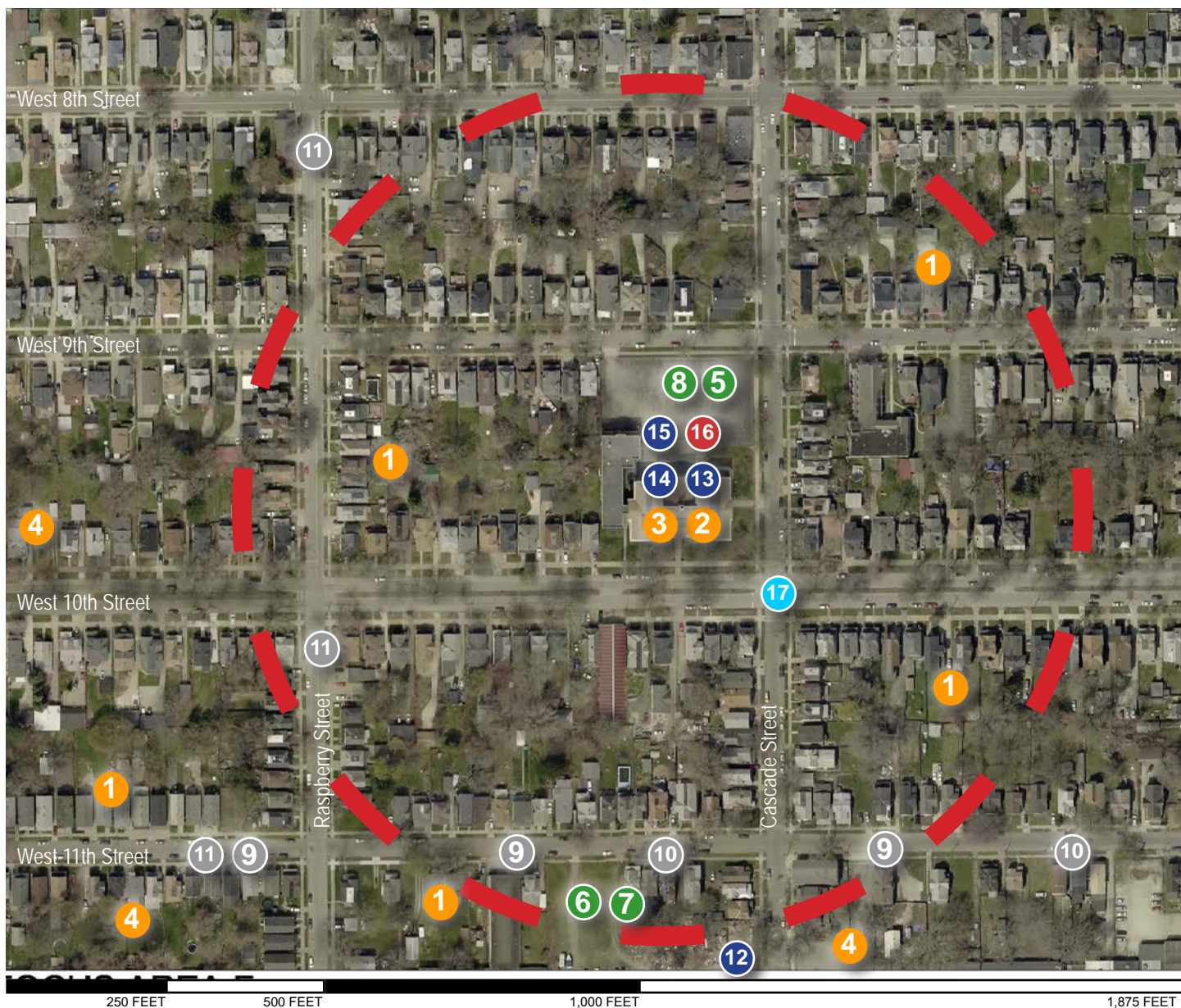
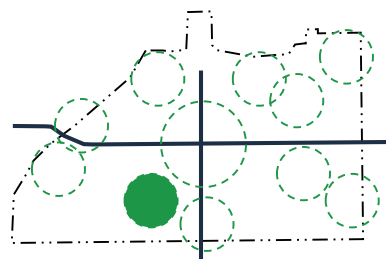


## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Housing stabilization program (porch, paint, roof)
2. Apartments in Emerson School
3. Live / work housing for artists / makers
4. Building improvements in the blocks between Cranberry, W. 10th, Cascade & W. 12th (address blight)
5. Playground / pocket park in Emerson School parking area
6. Green buffers for industrial uses / stormwater treatment initiatives (may qualify for funding)
7. Community gardens – south side of W. 11th
8. Community gardens at Emerson School
9. Street trees along W. 11th
10. W. 11th industrial transition area – parking / landscaping / etc.
11. Sidewalk repairs along Raspberry, W. 11th
12. Technical and trade job training program
13. Work training / support program at school
14. Neighborhood fitness center in Emerson School
15. Potential community library in Emerson School
16. Pop-up flea market / makers market at Emerson School
17. Focus intersection at W. 10th & Cascade – signage / public art (neighborhood gateway)









# Focus Area G: Cranberry Gateway

Key to this focus area is the neighborhood entry and arrival points that it provides from the west. This edge currently feels somewhat “back of house.” Connections at West Sixth Street and Cranberry (from the Bayfront Connector) must clearly communicate arrival in Our West Bayfront, and serve as front doors to the community. Infrastructure and signage initiatives are important here to provide a positive first impression. Housing feels pretty stable here, but some maintenance programs may be helpful.

## Primary considerations:

- *important community entry points*
- *focus on community identity and infrastructure improvements*



## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

- 1 Porch & paint program on W. 5th
- 2 Pocket park / additional landscaping at W. 4th Street & Cranberry
- 3 Streetscape improvements at entry points – trees, signage, landscaping
- 4 Enhance medians along Cranberry
- 5 Traffic signal at Cranberry & Bayfront Connector
- 6 Sidewalk at Cranberry & Bayfront Connector
- 7 Intersection enhancements at W. 6th & Cranberry
- 8 Parking lot screening standards along major corridors
- 9 Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
- 10 Improve connections to existing bike trail
- 11 Infill development sites
- 12 Support neighborhood business / commercial hub at entry point
- 13 Neighborhood identity / gateway elements
- 14 Mural along Bayfront Connector
- 15 Paint Strong Vincent Bridge as OWB indicator



Community signage

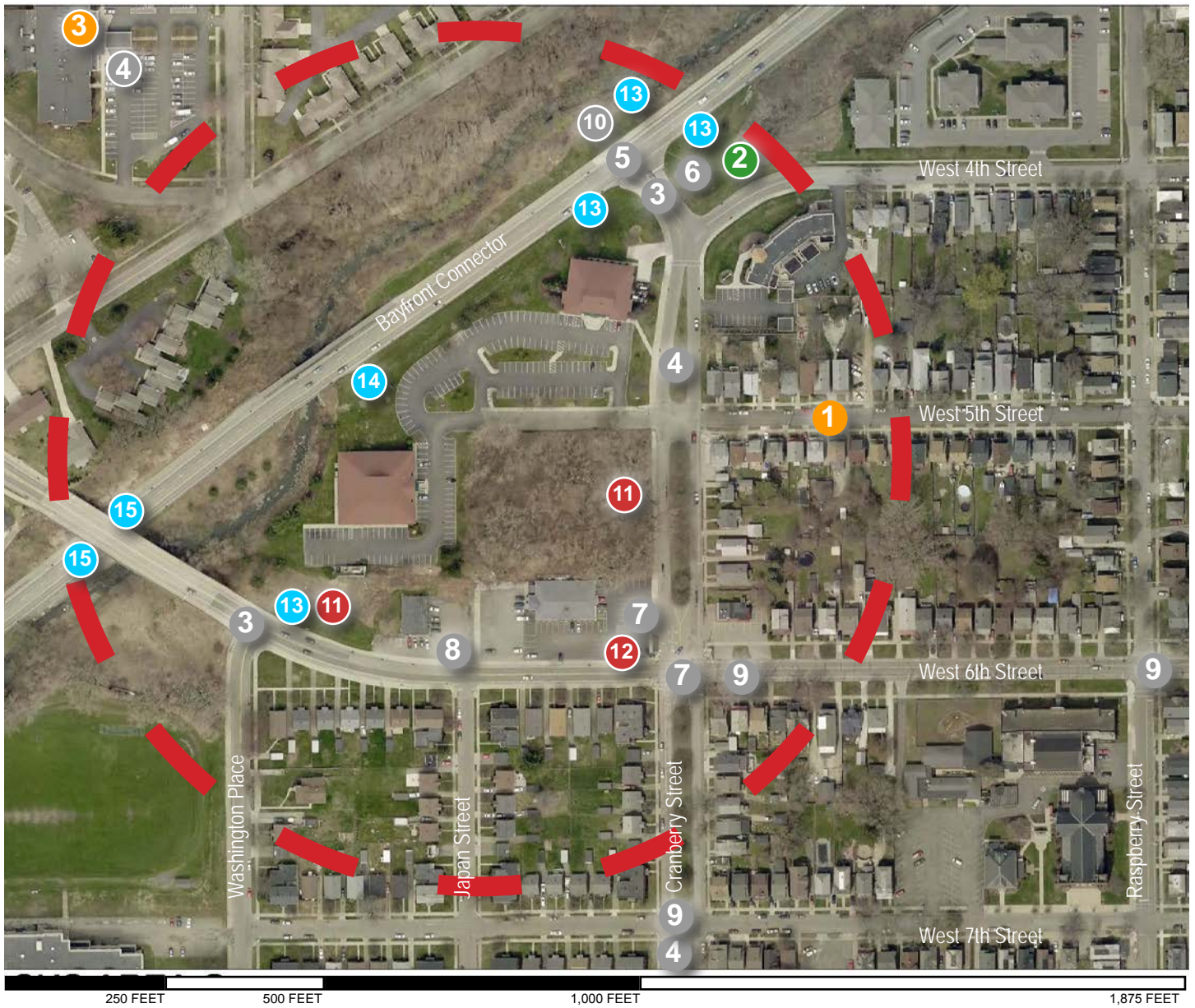
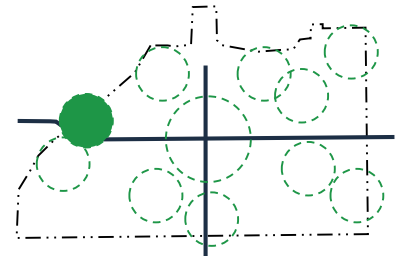


Boulevard improvements



Art on the bridge







# Focus Area H: Strong Vincent High School

Strong Vincent High School anchors this focus area and serves as a gateway to the neighborhood. The space and facilities here present unique potential in supporting a greater neighborhood role. Stable housing and infrastructure here allow the possibility of focusing on the creation of features and amenities aimed at enhancing the neighborhood for residents, students and those passing through on their way to or from downtown.

## *Primary considerations:*

- *strengthen key gateway and community asset*
- *support strong neighborhood center*

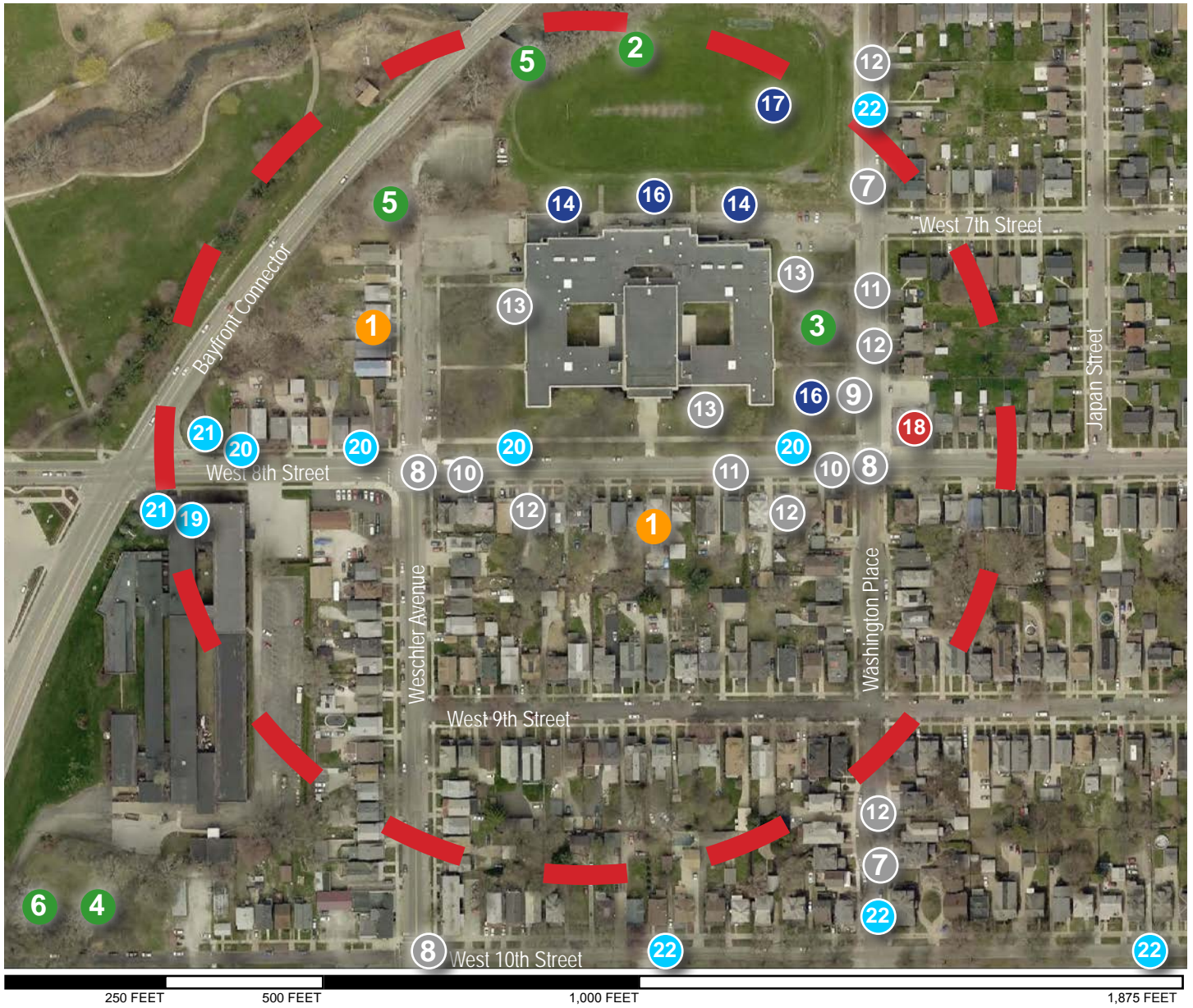
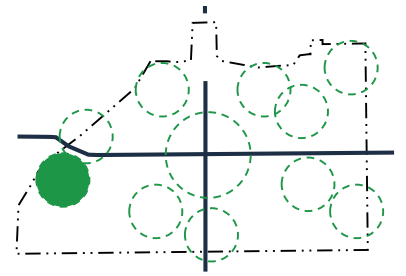


## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Porch & paint program along W. 8th Street & Weschler Avenue across from school
2. Jogging path around school property
3. Student-designed pocket park/playground on eastern edge of campus in school's "side yard"
4. Dog park at western end of W. 10th
5. Enhance Strong Vincent's "back yard" to create strong frontage along Bayfront Connector
6. Community gardens
7. Enhance medians along Washington (additional planting, signage, etc.)
8. Intersection enhancements at W. 8th & Weschler, W. 8th & Washington and W. 10th & Weschler
9. Head-in parking at eastern edge of school (along Washington)
10. Enhanced crosswalks at W. 8th & Weschler and W. 8th & Washington (safe routes to school)
11. Add bike lanes around school (safe routes to school)
12. Street trees on south side of W. 8th & along Washington Place
13. Bike racks near school
14. Solar demonstration project at back of school building
15. Hire a student program - property clean-up projects
16. Outdoor classroom
17. Additional recreational / athletic facilities at school – open to community for weekend/summer programming
18. Replace Bail Bond office with student-run corner store
19. Mural on Reed Manufacturing building
20. School banners along W. 8th (to Connector)
21. Neighborhood identification signage
22. Public art program in the neighborhood's boulevards









# Focus Area I: Cascade Park

This focus area is anchored by Cascade Park and the potential to create a stronger connection to the waterfront. Housing in this area is varied and could use some stabilization. Of particular concern is the condition of sidewalks throughout, especially as this serves as an entry point from the bike path. The reactivation of Cascade Park is critical in providing quality amenities while supporting livability. The potential to create a unique play area focused on shipbuilding history can serve as a draw to the district.

## Primary considerations:

- *key connection point to waterfront*
- *emphasize infrastructure improvements and new recreational uses*

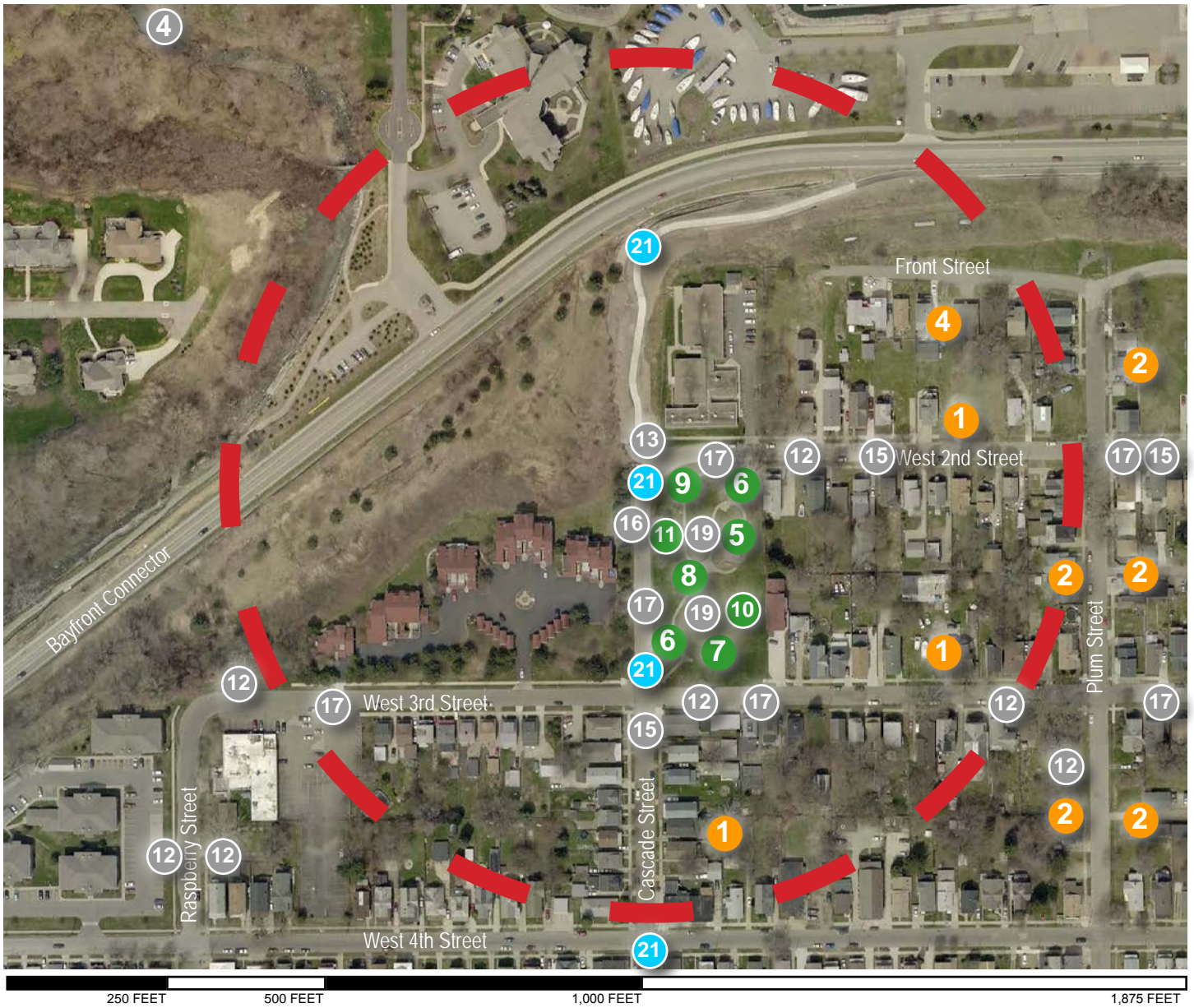
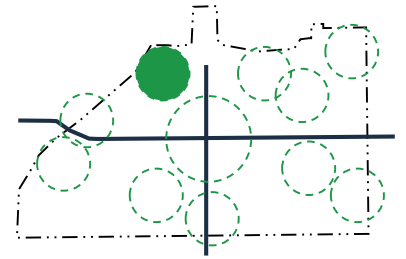


## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Housing maintenance programs
2. Housing renovation along Plum
3. Paint / porch program along w. 2nd & W. 3rd
4. Sunset houses (paint palette program) along Front Street
5. Playground with ship theme
6. Shaded seating areas, chess tables (focused toward apartments at the corner)
7. Picnic tables & grills
8. Benches, bike racks, trash receptacles
9. Vertical element – lighthouse, tower?
10. Horseshoe pits
11. Community gardens
12. Sidewalk construction / replacement throughout (especially W. 3rd, W. 2nd, Raspberry, Plum, Liberty)
13. Rebuild corner of Cascade & W. 2nd to provide better access to bike trail (formalize trailhead)
14. Head-in parking at northern end of Liberty
15. Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)
16. Protected bike lane along Cascade
17. Supplemental lighting on streets
18. Head-in parking at northern end of Liberty
19. Ornamental lighting around park
20. Create a Friends of the Park program - invite nearby residents, businesses to participate
21. Public art to tell the "Perry Story" (along Cascade Corridor, ending at park)









# Focus Area J: West 12th & Liberty Gateway

This focus area addresses a key entry point to the neighborhood from the south, along the West 12th Street Corridor. The Liberty Street Corridor should serve as the true Bayfront Connector with connections to the waterfront beginning here with signage, artwork and more, and building as one moves north through the neighborhood. West 10th Street and Liberty is a key neighborhood arrival point and represents a redevelopment opportunity.

## Primary considerations:

- *community gateway and key corridor from the south*
- *begin to identify connections to waterfront here*

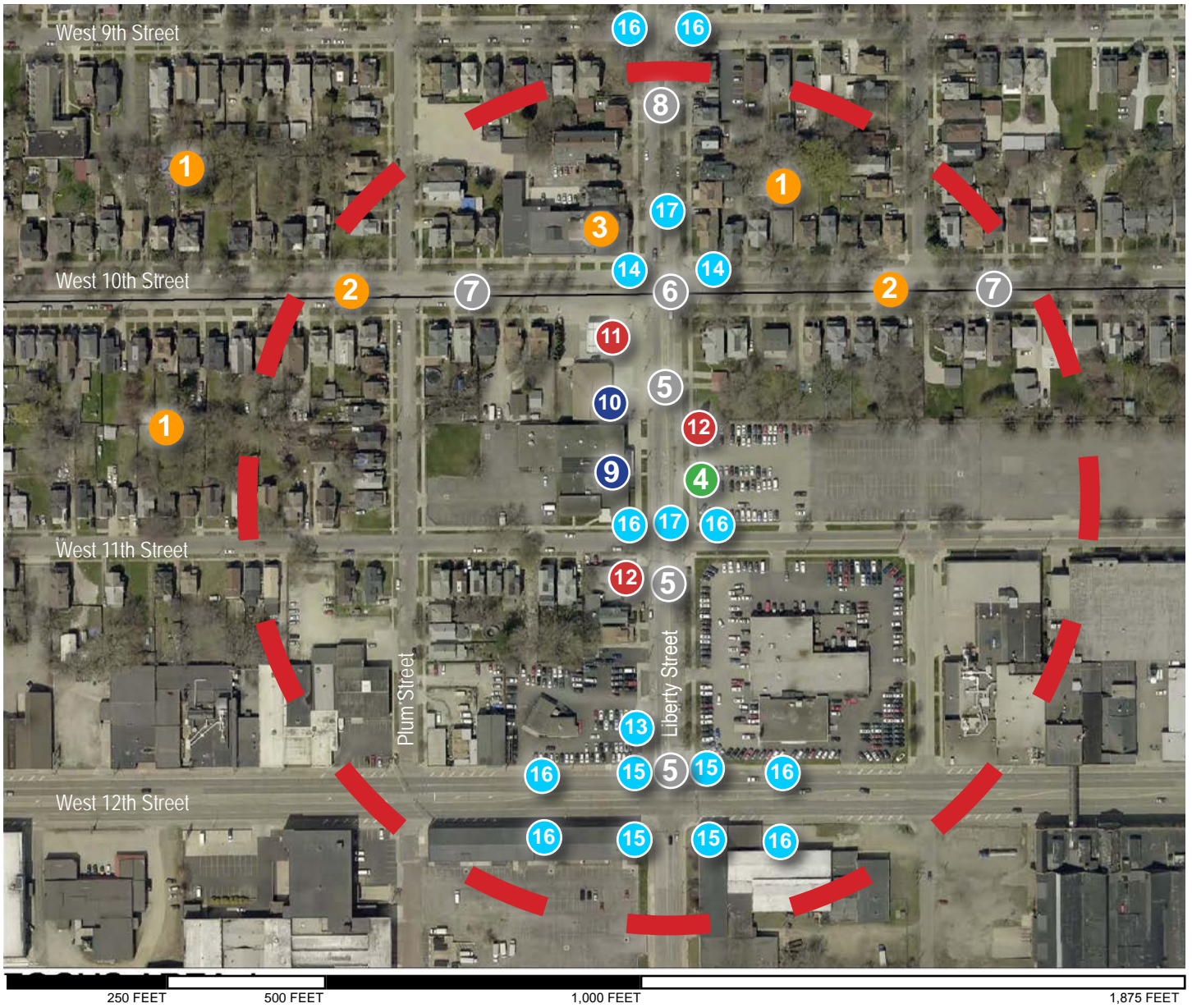
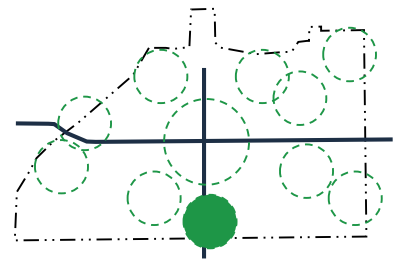


## DISTRICT INITIATIVES

1. Housing stabilization programs
2. Preservation program along W. 10th Street
3. Renovate / reuse soon-to-be-vacated temple (market-rate apartments?)
4. Pocket park at neighborhood entry point - green buffer to parking lots
5. Streetscape improvements (W. 12th to W. 10th)
6. Neighborhood arrival point at W. 10th & Liberty – intersection focus area
7. West 10th Street boulevard enhancements
8. Liberty Street boulevard enhancements
9. Strengthen Salvation Army property
10. Create a social services hub
11. Redevelopment site at gas station
12. Create small neighborhood business district to support industrial uses
13. Bike + walking distance signage – neighborhood amenities
14. Water elements (connecting the neighborhood with the bay)
15. Identification signage at Liberty & West 12th Street
16. Neighborhood banners
17. Blue elements along Liberty corridor (inset tiles in sidewalk, public art, fencing, house painting program - sea glass palette)















4

# IMPLEMENTATION

BUILDING THE SHARED-VISION



# Implementation Strategies

The Our West Bayfront Community Plan creates a guideline for the community's future by balancing big-picture planning, short term improvements and immediate initiatives that will help to support a vibrant and cohesive place. The planning process has demonstrated that there is considerable energy and creativity within the community, and a strong desire to begin to make positive change, now. This section of the plan is intended to provide basic information to support implementation – identifying the steps and recommendations for getting projects done.

The Our West Bayfront Neighborhood Plan has been developed using the PA Elm Street program as a foundation. According to the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the Elm Street program was created to strengthen older historic neighborhoods that are too often impacted by low property values, a negative image, and perceptions of poor public safety. Elm Street aims to improve Pennsylvania's urban residential neighborhoods while linking revitalization efforts to those in adjacent/ nearby Main Streets/downtowns, operating in parallel with existing downtown or commercial corridor revitalization programs. The Elm Street concept is structured around simultaneous actions in five focus areas, or the Five-Point Approach, integrated through a community-based strategic planning process. The elements of the Five-Point Approach include:

- Safe, Clean and Green
- Neighbors and Economy
- Design
- Image & Identity
- Sustainable Organization

Incorporating elements of the five focus areas, Our West Bayfront (OWB) has undertaken the Our West Bayfront Neighborhood Plan to become eligible to receive formal designation as an Elm Street community. The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) manages the Elm Street program and oversees the flow of state funding to communities receiving support for their Elm Street program. Upon successful completion of the plan and Elm Street associated designation, OWB is qualified to apply for DCED reinvestment grants dedicated to implementing projects in Elm Street-designated communities that can be used for physical and programmatic improvements in the neighborhood.

This section is organized to address an initial set of priority projects pulled from the initiatives list of the three Priority Focus Areas, with potential funding sources, timing and preliminary budgets. These fifteen initiatives represent the best first steps for community organizers and planners to begin to tackle. This will help to set up the initial catalytic projects that will demonstrate community growth and change.

Similar information is provided for all three Priority Focus Areas – to assist community leadership in undertaking those initiatives over the next 3-5 years. Along with potential funding information, the initiatives are also given a potential time-frame for completion, to assist with project order.

A thorough analysis of potential funding programs is provided, and organized by project category (residential, parks & public space, infrastructure, local business, social / programming and public art) to allow the Our West Bayfront team to proactively seek the funding needed to make these projects a reality. For each source listed, we have provided information on the source, what the funding can be used for, funding levels, eligibility, terms, application deadlines and contact information.

We have included some details to assist the community in making small but meaningful changes throughout. This includes paint palettes for the various neighborhood paint program areas described within the plan (Sunset Houses, Painted Ladies of the Park, Sea Glass Houses) and a selection of street / park furniture that can begin to be added to public spaces throughout the community.

Finally, our Next Steps section is intended to provide a useful guide to direct the community toward things that can begin to happen today, with many that can be undertaken by individuals and small groups. This is the community's plan, and we hope that through this, the community begins to feel empowered to make the changes that will build a revitalized Our West Bayfront.

We want this place to live.



# Information for Funding Source charts and listings on the following pages:

Sources are listed by three primary funding types

## Commonwealth of PA

(in some cases administering funds from the federal government)

- Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- Department of Transportation (PENNDOT)
- Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)

## Local Government

- City of Erie
- Erie County

## Private/Non-Profit/Foundation

- ArtPlace America
- Developers
- Erie Community Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Local Corporations
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Recreation and Park Association
- Surdna Foundation



Sunset view toward the bay

These codes are used for programs in the funding analysis documents on the next several pages

BOF: Business Opportunities Fund	KIZ: Keystone Innovation Zone
BPA: Building PA	LC: Local Corporations
CAG: Challenge America Grant	LERTA: Local Economic Revitalization
CBDP: Community and Business Development Program	Tax Assistance
CDBG: Community Development Block Grant	MLFP: Municipal Liquid Fuels Program
C2P2: Community Conservation and Partnerships Program	MTF: Multimodal Transportation Fund
DGPG: Developing Healthy Places Grants	NAP: Neighborhood Assistance Program
ECGP: Erie County Greenways Program	NCPG: National Creative Placemaking Fund
EZRLP: City of Erie Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Program	108: Section 108 Program
GTRP: Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program	OTG: Our Town Grant
GGII: Growing Greener II	PCAP: Pennsylvania Capital Access Program
GUPC: Great Urban Parks Campaign	PDE: Private Developer Equity
HLPG: Harvesting Leading Practices Grants	PennHOMES: PennHOMES Program
HPTC: Historic Preservation Tax Credit	PIB: Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank
HOME	PNAG: Pioneering New Approaches Grants
HTF: Housing Trust Fund	SCI: Sustainable Communities Initiative
HTG: Helping Today Grant	SEG: Sustainable Environments Grants
H2O: H2O PA – Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects	SEEC: Strong Local Economies Grants
JCTC: Job Creation Tax Credits	STG: Shaping Tomorrow Grant
KCP: Keystone Communities Program	TAP: Transportation Alternatives Program
KIN: Keystone Innovation Network	TCG: Thriving Cultures Grants
	T: Treevitalize



# Top Priority Projects

PRIORITY PROJECTS	Primary Implementation Factors				Planning Budget
Initiative Name / Location	Lead Entity	Supporting Entities	Timeframe	Applicable Potential Funding Sources	
<b>Residential</b>					
Sunset houses (paint palette program)	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations	Near-term	HLPG, LC	\$5,000/house
Front porch program (W. 2nd & surrounding MLK Center)	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLPG, LC, NAP	\$3,000/house
Building improvements in the blocks between Cherry, W. 7th, Chestnut, and W. 9th (address blight)	OWB	Contractors, Non-profits, City of Erie	Long-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108	\$12,000/house
Painted Ladies of the Park - paint program - deep, rich colors	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLPG, LC	\$5,000/house
<b>Parks &amp; Public Space</b>					
Standardize park furniture for greater continuity/stronger identity	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, LC, T	\$30,000 (25-30 items)
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Heritage Lane/Heritage Trail - streetscape improvements (sidewalks, crosswalks, art, benches, trash receptacles, amenities, history markers)	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	C2P2, CDBG, LC, MTF, TAP	\$600/lf, \$1.3 million
Hilltop lighting - decorative, pedestrian-scale through park	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations	Mid-term	HLPG, LC, MTF, TAP	\$5,000/light
Change W. 8th St. to 2-way traffic	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP	\$200/lf, \$1.1 million
Streetscape development along W. 8th - street trees, lighting, bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, planters, hanging baskets, etc.	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP	\$600/lf, \$1.2 million
District lighting (tree lights & other ornamental lighting)	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations	Near-term	LC, MTF, TAP	\$15,000
Four-way stops at all intersections around park perimeter (traffic calming)	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP	\$8,000
Angled parking around park perimeter (increases parking counts while calming traffic)	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	LC, PIB, TAP	\$1,000 - striping, \$1,500/bumpout x 8
<b>Social/Programming</b>					
MLK Center master/facilities plan	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLPG, HTG, KCP, LC, NAP	\$25,000
<b>Local Businesses</b>					
Farmers market in park - close Liberty through the park on market days	City of Erie	OWB, Business Owner	Mid-term	BOF, CDBP, EZRLP, GGII, JCTC, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, PDE, SLEG	\$40,000-\$60,000 annual budget
<b>Public Art</b>					
Blue elements along Liberty corridor (inset tiles in sidewalk, public art, fencing, house painting program - sea glass palette)	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CAG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG	\$20,000

## PRIORITY FOCUS AREA FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The following charts address initiatives identified for Priority Focus Areas B, D and E, as well as a compilation of the fifteen Top Priority Projects from these lists. The charts include the following information:

### Lead Entity

This is the organization that should take the lead role for the project

### Supporting Entities

Other organizations that would be helpful for project involvement.

### Timeframe

The anticipated timing for the project

Near-term = 0-1 years (immediate)

Mid-term = 2-4 years

Long-term = 5+ years

### Applicable Potential Funding Sources

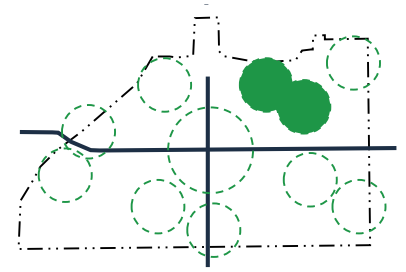
These funding sources address the range of programs under which potential funding for these initiatives may be sought.

### Planning Budget

A general budget estimate for project planning purposes. This information is only included for the fifteen Top Priority Projects



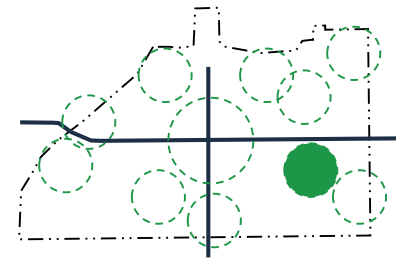
# Focus Area B



FOCUS AREA B		Primary Implementation Factors		
Initiative Name / Location	Lead Entity	Supporting Entities	Timeframe	Applicable Potential Funding Sources
<b>Residential</b>				
Affordable infill housing (sustainable & green)	City of Erie	OWB, Non-profits, Developers	Long-term	GGII, HOME, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PennHOMES, PDE, 108, SCI
Sunset houses (paint palette program)	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations	Near-term	HLPG, LC
Front porch program (W. 2nd & surrounding MLK Center)	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLPG, LC, NAP
Housing renovation program (could be youth-driven or part of apprenticeships with local contractors)	OWB	Contractors, Non-profits, City of Erie	Long-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
Focused residential improvements in block bordered by W. 2nd, Walnut, W. 3rd, and Chestnut Streets to address blight	OWB	Contractors, Non-profits, City of Erie	Mid-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
<b>Parks &amp; Public Space</b>				
Splash park (summer)/ice skating (winter) at decommissioned tennis courts	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CDBP, C2P2, LC
Skate park at decommissioned tennis courts	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CDBP, C2P2, LC
Park pavilions/picnic tables/shaded seating	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, LC, T
Youth gardens	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, GUPC, LC
Enhanced 'lookout points' along hilltop	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, GTRP, LC, T
Seating near playground	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, LC, T
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Heritage Lane/Heritage Trail - streetscape improvements (sidewalks, crosswalks, art, benches, trash receptacles, amenities, history markers)	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	C2P2, CDBG, LC, MTF, TAP
Improved parking near park (Cherry & Chestnut/Front Streets)	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	LC, PIB, TAP
Improved intersection at W. 4th & Walnut (infrastructure and buildings)	City of Erie	OWB	Long-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Hilltop lighting - decorative, pedestrian-scale through park	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations	Near-term	HLPG, LC, MTF, TAP
Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	C2P2, ECGP, GTRP, LC, MTF, TAP
Enhanced street lighting on W. 4th between Chestnut & Myrtle	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	LC, MTF, TAP
<b>Social/Programming</b>				
MLK Center master/facilities plan	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLPG, HTG, KCP, LC, NAP
Youth recreational programming	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLPG, LC, NAP
Redevelop County Health Building as neighborhood fitness center	City of Erie	OWB, Non-profits, Developers	Long-term	GGII, HTG, KCP, LC, NAP, 108
<b>Local Businesses</b>				
Pop-up coffee shop at MLK Center	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Mid-term	BOF, CDBP, HTG, SCI, PCAP, SLEG
Neighborhood business center - available computers, copiers, fax machine, room for meetings, etc.	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations	Mid-term	BOF, CDBP, HTG, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, SLEG
<b>Public Art</b>				
History murals/markers at park, MLK Center, etc.	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CAG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG
Neighborhood flags (sails)	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	CAG, HLPG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG



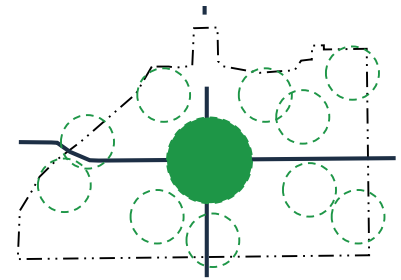
# Focus Area D



FOCUS AREA D		Primary Implementation Factors		
Initiative Name / Location	Lead Entity	Supporting Entities	Timeframe	Applicable Potential Funding Sources
<b>Residential</b>				
Housing maintenance/renovation strategies - Chestnut & W. 9th	OWB	City of Erie, Non-profits, Contractors	Mid-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
Facade improvement program for housing along W. 8th	OWB	City of Erie, Non-profits, Contractors	Near-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, 108
Downing Court signage/enhancement (can this become a special 'place')	OWB	City of Erie	Near-term	LC, MTF, TAP
Promote historic preservation and residential building renovations throughout Old Town area	OWB	Contractors, Non-profits, City of Erie	Near-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
Building improvements in the blocks between Cherry, W. 7th, Chestnut, and W. 9th (address blight)	OWB	Contractors, Non-profits, City of Erie	Long-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Change W. 8th St. to 2-way traffic	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Intersection improvements - crosswalks, signage, gateway elements, etc. at W. 8th & Cherry, Walnut, Chestnut, and Myrtle	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Streetscape development along W. 8th - street trees, lighting, bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, planters, hanging baskets, etc.	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	C2P2, ECGP, GTRP, LC, MTF, TAP
District lighting (tree lights & other ornamental lighting)	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations	Near-term	LC, MTF, TAP
Parking meters	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Curb replacement on W. 8th	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
<b>Local Businesses</b>				
Grocery store	City of Erie	OWB, Business Owner, Developer	Mid-term	BOF, CDBP, EZRLP, GGII, JCTC, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, PDE, SLEG
Commercial in-fill	City of Erie	OWB, Developer	Long-term	BOF, CDBP, EZRLP, GGII, JCTC, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, PDE, SLEG
Commercial parking lot	City of Erie	Business Owner	Near-term	LC, PCAP, PIB, TAP
Storefront program	City of Erie	OWB, Business Owner	Near-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, KCP, LERTA, LITC, NAP, PDE
Commercial conversion program (convert ground-floor apartments back to mixed-use)	City of Erie	OWB, Contractors	Mid-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, KCP, LERTA, LITC, NAP, PDE
Tax credit program for business relocation	City of Erie	OWB, Business Owner	Near-term	BOF, CDBP, JCTC, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, PDE, SLEG
Mansion conversions - restaurants, B&Bs - create B&B row that is identifiable	City of Erie	OWB, Contractors	Mid-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, KCP, LERTA, LITC, NAP, PDE
Neighborhood business incubator and assistance programs	OWB	City of Erie, Non-profits, Corporations	Near-term	BOF, CDBP, EZRLP, GGII, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, SLEG
Outdoor dining/seating areas	City of Erie	OWB, Business Owner	Near-term	BOF, PCAP
<b>Public Art</b>				
District signage/gateways/identification	City of Erie	OWB, Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Mid-term	CAG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG
Commercial district color palette	OWB		Near-term	HLPG, LC, OTG



# Focus Area E



FOCUS AREA E		Primary Implementation Factors		
Initiative Name / Location	Lead Entity	Supporting Entities	Timeframe	Applicable Potential Funding Sources
<b>Residential</b>				
Housing maintenance program around park perimeter	OWB	City of Erie, Non-profits, Contractors	Mid-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, 108
Painted Ladie of the Park - paint program - deep, rich colors	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLP, LC
Adaptive reuse of school (if vacated) for market-rate housing	City of Erie	OWB, Non-profits, Developers	Long-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
Building improvements in the blocks between Plum, W. 3rd, Cherry & W. 5th, and along W. 7th & W. 8th west of Plum (address blight)	OWB	Contractors, Non-profits, City of Erie	Long-term	CDBG, DHPG, HPTC, HTF, KCP, LITC, NAP, PDE, RRLP, 108
<b>Parks &amp; Public Space</b>				
Add pavilions in each section of park	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, LC, T
Picnic tables and grills	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, LC, T
Incorporate water elements in park - fountains	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CDBP, C2P2, LC
Standardize park furniture for greater continuity/stronger identity	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, LC, T
Add festive/ornamental lighting throughout park	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	HLP, LC, MTF, TAP
Signage at park entry points along W. 6th & Liberty	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CAG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG
Develop "Niagara Square" (Commodore Perry reference) intersection at W. 6th & Cascade, move historical sign to center	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Create outdoor dining area and pocket park at W. 6th & Cascade (demo blighted house at SE corner)	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CDBP, C2P2, ECGP, LC, T
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Four-way stops at all intersections around park perimeter (traffic calming)	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Angled parking around park perimeter (increases parking counts while calming traffic)	City of Erie	OWB	Near-term	LC, PIB, TAP
Liberty Street boulevard enhancements	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Raised crosswalk at center along Liberty Street	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Sidewalk repairs - W. 7th, Plum, Poplar	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Streetscape enhancements around park - crosswalks, painted intersections	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Improve bike lane along W. 6th	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Improved transit waiting environments	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Provide enhanced lighting throughout park and along Poplar	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	MTF, MLFP, PIB, TAP
Upper Bayfront bike trail (neighborhood bike loop)	City of Erie	OWB	Mid-term	C2P2, ECGP, GTRP, LC, MTF, TAP
<b>Social/Programming</b>				
Youth recreational programming	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLP, LC, NAP
Community concert series/flea market/outdoor theater programs	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLP, HTG, LC, NAP
Enhance outdoor classroom area/increase programming	OWB	Non-profits, Corporations, Gannon U.	Near-term	HLP, HTG, LC, NAP
Renovate Villa Maria former chapel with community use	City of Erie	OWB, Non-profits, Developers	Long-term	GGII, HTG, KCP, LC, NAP, 108
<b>Local Businesses</b>				
Farmers market in park - close Liberty through the park on market days	City of Erie	OWB, Business Owner	Near-term	BOF, CDBP, EZRLP, GGII, JCTC, KCP, KIN, LERTA, SCI, PCAP, PDE, SLEG
<b>Public Art</b>				
Water elements (signage, banners, etc.)	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CDBP, C2P2, LC
Blue elements along Liberty corridor (inset tiles in sidewalk, public art, fencing, house painting program - sea glass palette)	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Near-term	CAG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG
Bike and walking distance signage	City of Erie	OWB, Corporations, Non-profits	Mid-term	CAG, HTG, LC, NCPG, OTG, PNAG, TCG



# Potential Funding Sources by Project Category

## Residential

### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Source: HUD through DCED

Uses: Housing rehabilitation, façade improvements, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvement, development, and planning

Funding: Maximum \$750,000

Eligibility: Entitlement program provides annual funding to designated municipalities, competitive program available to all non-federal entitlement municipalities

Terms: 70% of each grant must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people

Application Deadline: Not accepting applications as of 6/16

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/community-development-block-grant-cdbg/#.V0id13n2a70>

### Developing Healthy Places Grants (DHPG)

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Supports activities that speed the adoption of programs, policies, and practices that promote safe, stable housing for vulnerable people

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations, government entities

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/health/developing-healthy-places>

### Growing Greener II (GGII)

Source: DCED

Uses: Capital improvement costs and costs directly related to such physical building improvements as acquisition and pre-development

Funding: No minimum or maximum but typically ranging between \$250,000 and \$500,000

Eligibility: Grants to municipalities and nonprofits to support community development, housing activities, downtown reinvestment, façade and anchor building activities, residential reinvestment, and business assistance

Terms: No required match level, but matching should be demonstrated

Application Deadline: Not accepting applications as of 6/16

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/growing-greener-ii/#.V0ikpnn2a70>

### Harvesting Leading Practices Grants (HLPG)

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Creative placemaking initiatives in underserved communities that cause economic, physical, social, and cultural changes; efforts that infuse arts and culture in urban revitalization, advancing opportunity and improving the conditions of marginalized populations including transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and open, green public spaces

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture/harvesting-leading-practices>

### Historic Preservation Tax Credit (HPTC)

Source: DCED

Uses: Tax credits, applied against the tax liability of a qualified taxpayer, to be used for the restoration of a qualified historic structure into an income-

producing property.

Funding: The total tax credits awarded to a qualified taxpayer may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year

Eligibility: Those eligible to apply are qualified taxpayers which include an individual, corporation, business trust, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any other form of legal business entity

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/historic-preservation-tax-credit-hptc/#.V0ivvnn2a70>

## HOME

Source: HUD through DCED

Uses: New construction, rehabilitation, financing mechanisms, acquisition of rental or sales housing, and rental assistance for low- and moderate-income families

Funding: Maximum grant is \$500,000

Eligibility: Local governments that are not HUD participating jurisdictions; local governments on behalf of private, non-profit, and for-profit housing development corporations

Terms: 25% local match on project costs from non-federal resources for rental housing is required

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/home/#.V02uZXn2a70>

### Housing Trust Fund (HTF)

Source: HUD through DCED

Uses: Complements existing federal, state, and local efforts to increase and preserve the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for extremely low- and very low-income households

Funding: Equity investments, loans, interest subsidies, grants

Eligibility: State-designated entities

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/htf/>

### Keystone Communities Program (KCP)

Source: DCED

Uses: Designates and funds communities implementing Main Street, Elm Street, and Enterprise Zone efforts, specifically community revitalization and economic development projects involving physical improvements to a specific area; revitalization of residential and mixed-use neighborhoods and downtowns; development of rehabilitation of housing; physical improvements supported by a downtown plan; acquisition costs and physical building improvements for a development project; competitive grants to loans for eligible businesses located in an enterprise zone; business development surveys; business development strategy/preparation; revolving loan funds; and adaptive modifications that increase the ability of persons with physical disabilities to remain in their homes

Funding: Grant with no maximum indicated

Eligibility: Units of local government such as counties, cities, boroughs, townships, towns, and home rule municipalities; redevelopment authorities; housing authorities; non-profit main street organizations; economic development organizations; neighborhood improvement districts, downtown



improvement districts, business improvement districts; and other non-profit corporations (with operational capacity)  
Terms: 25% local match on project costs from non-federal resources for rental housing is required  
Application Deadline: N/A  
Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/keystone-communities-program-kcp/#.V02wxnn2a70>

### Local Corporations (LC)

#### Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LITC)

Source: DCED  
Uses: An annual tax credit (dollar for dollar reduction in the taxpayer's federal taxes) used to assist in the creation and preservation of affordable housing for low-income households  
Funding: Tax credit, using a per capita formula, earned in the initial ten years following when units are placed in service assuming program requirements are met; developer markets the credits allocated to the development to investors whose contributions are used as equity in the developer's financing plan  
Eligibility: Those eligible to apply are qualified taxpayers which include an individual, corporation, business trust, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any other form of legal business entity  
Terms: Credit may be taken for a ten-year period provided the development remains in compliance with tax credit program  
Application Deadline: Rolling  
Website: <http://www.phfa.org/developers/developer/lihtc.aspx>

#### Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)

Source: DCED  
Uses: Tax credit program to improve distressed areas or support neighborhood conservation; projects must fall under one of the following categories: affordable housing, community services, crime prevention, education, job training, or neighborhood assistance; also supports the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP), Special Program Priorities (SPP), and Charitable Food Program (CFP)  
Funding: Tax credit  
Eligibility: Neighborhood organization  
Terms: N/A  
Application Deadline: Rolling  
Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/neighborhood-assistance-program-nap/#.V1HLAnn2a70>

#### PennHOMES Program (PennHOMES)

Source: PHFA  
Uses: Loan for housing developments that restrict one half of PennHOMES-assisted units for households with incomes at or below 50% of area's median income; the remaining units must be restricted for households with incomes at or below 60% of area's median income  
Funding: Loan  
Eligibility: Developer  
Terms: Loan has 0% interest rate, 30-year term, and repayment is made from excess cashflow; applicants are encouraged to maximize use of other public and private funding sources  
Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.phfa.org/developers/developer/developerloans.aspx>

### Private Developer Equity (PDE)

#### Renovate and Repair Loan Program (RRLP)

Source: PHFA  
Uses: Loan that can be used to pay for repairs and improvements that increase the basic livability of a home (including additions and construction) and make the home safer, more energy-efficient, or more accessible to people with disabilities; loan program will also cover conversions of multi-unit homes back to single-family residences; can also be used to remove or fix code violations and connect to water and sewer; as well as be used for emergency repairs  
Funding: Loan  
Eligibility: Homeowner with a combined household income no greater than 150% of statewide median income and adequate income to support monthly loan payment  
Terms: 10, 15, or 20-year loans  
Application Deadline: Rolling  
Website: [http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/renovate\\_repair/](http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/renovate_repair/)

#### Section 108 Program (108)

Source: HUD through DCED  
Uses: Enables local governments participating in CDBG program to obtain federally-guaranteed loans to fund large economic development projects and undertake revitalization activities including building acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation, clearance, site preparation, special economic development activities, improvements to public facilities, and housing construction  
Funding: Loan  
Eligibility: Local governments  
Terms: Variable  
Application Deadline: Rolling  
Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/section-108-program/#.V1H5hHn2a70>

#### Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI)

Source: HUD through DCED  
Uses: Supports two programs – the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program that supports locally-led collaborative efforts that bring together diverse interests from municipalities in a region to determine how to best target housing, economic and workforce development, and infrastructure investments to create more jobs; and the Community Challenge Grant Program that fosters reform and reduces barriers to achieving economically vital and sustainable communities through amending/replacing local master plans, zoning codes, and building codes to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, and the reuse of older buildings  
Funding: Grant  
Eligibility: Local governments  
Terms: N/A  
Application Deadline: N/A  
Website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/sci/>



## Parks and Public Space

### Community and Business Development Program (CDBP)

Source: DCED

Uses: Funding to improve the stability of the community; promote economic and community development; improve existing and/or develop new civic, cultural, recreational, and other facilities or activities; assist in business retention, expansion, creation, or attraction; promote the creation of jobs and employment activities; improve the health, welfare, and quality of life

Funding: Variable

Eligibility: Local government, municipal authorities, and non-profit organizations

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: [http://www.newpa.com/programs/community-business-development-program/#.V1R\\_sY-cHIU](http://www.newpa.com/programs/community-business-development-program/#.V1R_sY-cHIU)

### Community Conservation and Partnerships Program (C2P2)

Source: DCNR

Uses: Grant program that supports a variety of recreation-oriented projects, including trails (acquisition, planning, development, rehabilitation, or maintenance of designated trail routes for recreation activities, including equipment for trail construction); land acquisition and conservation (purchase of land for park and recreation areas, greenways, critical habitat and open space); park rehabilitation and development (including parks, recreation facilities, and greenways); and community recreation and conservation planning (plans for future land acquisition, and development of parks, recreational facilities, open space, and greenways)

Funding: Grants

Eligibility: Municipalities, municipal agencies, pre-qualified land trusts, and authorized organizations (tax-exempt non-profit)

Terms: 50% match required

Application Deadline: April 13, 2017

Website: <https://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/Dashboard/Grants#Trails>

### Erie County Greenways Program (ECGP)

Uses: Grant program funded by the Marcellus Legacy Fund to improve the quality of life in Erie County through the preservation and enhancement of the region's natural, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment; funds can be used for planning, acquisition, design, conservation, construction, development, repair, rehabilitation, or beautification of greenways, trails, open spaces, natural areas, community conservation and beautification, or community and heritage parks

Funding: Grant

Eligibility: Local governments, incorporated non-profit organizations, municipal or public authorities, educational institutions, and regional planning agencies

Terms: Up to \$50,000, with mini grants for \$2,000

Application Deadline: April 2017

Website: <http://www.eriecountypa.gov/county-services/county-offices/planning-department/grant-programs/erie-county-greenways-program.aspx>

### Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP)

Source: DCED

Uses: Grant program funded by the Marcellus Legacy Fund for planning, acquisition, development, repair and rehabilitation of greenways, trails, open spaces, parks, and beautification projects

Funding: Grant

Eligibility: For-profit businesses, municipalities, councils of governments, authorized organization, institute of higher education, watershed organization

Terms: Grants shall not exceed \$250,000 for any project with a 15% match of total costs required

Application Deadline: June 30, 2016

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-program-gtrp/#.V1Rgh4-cHIU>

### Great Urban Parks Campaign (GUPC)

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Uses: Grant seeks to increase public access to recreational activities via parks in underserved communities, improve environmental quality, and create green infrastructure solutions to improve stormwater management; grant covers educational resources to increase knowledge on how to implement green infrastructure projects, as well as pilot projects in local parks such as green roofs, rain gardens, and improved stormwater infrastructure

Funding: Three to five grants awarded of \$350,000 to \$575,000

Eligibility: Municipalities and non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: April 2017

Website: <http://www.nrpa.org/greeninfrastructure/>

### Harvesting Leading Practices Grants (HLPG)

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Creative placemaking initiatives in underserved communities that cause economic, physical, social, and cultural changes; efforts that infuse arts and culture in urban revitalization, advancing opportunity and improving the conditions of marginalized populations including transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and open, green public spaces

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture/harvesting-leading-practices>

### Helping Today Grant (HTG)

Source: Erie Community Foundation

Uses: Current projects of non-profit partners that improve quality of life in the region including program expansion; capital, facilities, or system needs; communication/marketing; and technology

Funding: Maximum \$30,000

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations located within Erie County or servicing a majority of the population in the County

Application Deadline: 2/1, 5/1, 8/1, 11/1 of each year

Website: <http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/files/grant-history/2016-grant-guidelines.pdf>

### Local Corporations (LC)

### Shaping Tomorrow Grant (STG)

Source: Erie Community Foundation

Uses: Multi-year projects that offer a high probability of transformational and sustainable community change primarily in the areas of health, education, and economy

Funding: Up to \$4,000,000 per year for all grants

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations located within Erie County or servicing a majority of the population in the County

Application Deadline: Letter of Interest – 3/1, Full proposal – 8/15 of each year



Website: <http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/files/grant-history/2016-grant-guidelines.pdf>

### **Treevitalize (T)**

Source: DCNR

Uses: Grant program that supports the planting of trees in urban environments across Pennsylvania to increase urban tree coverage on city streets, parks, and public property with the goal of improving environmental quality and property values

Funding: Grants

Eligibility: Municipalities, municipal agencies, and educational institutions

Terms: Match typically provided by local corporations and foundations

Application Deadline: September 1, 2016

Website: <http://www.treevitalize.net/SubGrant.aspx>

## **Infrastructure**

### **Building PA (BPA)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Provides capital for developers for real estate assets in Pennsylvania communities

Funding: Loan that cannot exceed amount of equity in the project

Eligibility: Developers

Terms: No more than 10 years with a 25-year amortization

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/building-pa/#.V1Rono-cHIU>

### **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Source: HUD through DCED

Uses: Housing rehabilitation, public services, community facilities, infrastructure improvement, development, and planning

Funding: Grant with maximum \$750,000

Eligibility: Entitlement program provides annual funding to designated municipalities, competitive program available to all non-federal entitlement municipalities

Terms: 70% of each grant must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people

Application Deadline: Not accepting applications as of 6/16

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/community-development-block-grant-cdbg/#.V0id13n2a70>

### **Growing Greener II (GGII)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Capital improvement costs and costs directly related to such physical building improvements as acquisition and pre-development

Funding: Grant - no minimum or maximum but typically ranging between \$250,000 and \$500,000

Eligibility: Municipalities and nonprofits to support community development, housing activities, downtown reinvestment, façade and anchor building activities, residential reinvestment, and business assistance

Terms: No required match level, but matching should be demonstrated

Application Deadline: Not accepting applications as of 6/16

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/growing-greener-ii/#.V0ikpnn2a70>

### **H2O PA – Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects (H2O)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Grants to assist with the construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater projects

Funding: Grant for a minimum of \$500,000 and maximum of \$20,000,000 for any project

Eligibility: Municipalities

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/h2o-pa-water-supply-sanitary-sewer-storm-water-projects/#.V1RxiY-cHIU>

### **Local Corporations (LC)**

### **Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Grants to encourage economic development and ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available to the residents of the Commonwealth; can be used for the development, rehabilitation, and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets, and transit-oriented development

Funding: Grant

Eligibility: Municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: December 2016

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/multimodal-transportation-fund/#.V1RzB4-cHIU>

### **Municipal Liquid Fuels Program (MLFP)**

Source: PENNDOT

Uses: Grants that fund a range of projects to support construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and repair of public roads and streets

Funding: Grant

Eligibility: Municipalities

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.penndot.gov/Doing-Business/LocalGovernment/LiquidFuels/MunicipalLiquidFuelsProgram/Pages/default.aspx#.V1R3GY-cHIU>

### **Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Loans for the design, engineering, right-of-way, and repair, reconstruction, and construction of public highways, bridges, railroads, and public transportation systems including road/bridge repair and construction, traffic signals, drainage improvements, railroad track, and public transportation capital facilities and purchase

Funding: Loan with no set minimum or maximum; up to 100% of eligible costs; construction receives the highest priority

Eligibility: Municipalities

Terms: Maximum loan term is 10 years at a fixed rate

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/pennsylvania-infrastructure-bank-pib/#.V1R5V4-cHIU>



### **Sustainable Environments Grants (SEG)**

Source: Surdna Foundation

Uses: Grants that support clean, affordable, equitable, high-quality and efficient transportation and land use development that better connects critical services, jobs, schools, housing, and other destinations; efforts to help people make homes, businesses, and buildings more energy efficient; efforts to capture stormwater and slowly release it into the existing network or reuse it

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://surdna.org/what-we-fund/strong-local-economies.html>

### **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

Source: PENNDOT

Uses: Grants for funding programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation, trails that serve a transportation purpose, and safe routes to school projects

Funding: Grant for projects with a cost of at least \$50,000 but may not exceed \$1 million

Eligibility: Municipalities, councils of government, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: January 2017

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/pennsylvania-infrastructure-bank-pib/#.V1R5V4-cHIU>

## **Social/Programming**

### **Growing Greener II (GGII)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Capital improvement costs and costs directly related to such physical building improvements as acquisition and pre-development

Funding: Grant - no minimum or maximum but typically ranging between \$250,000 and \$500,000

Eligibility: Municipalities and nonprofits to support community development, housing activities, downtown reinvestment, façade and anchor building activities, residential reinvestment, and business assistance

Terms: No required match level, but matching should be demonstrated

Application Deadline: Not accepting applications as of 6/16

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/growing-greener-ii/#.V0ikpnn2a70>

### **Harvesting Leading Practices Grants (HLPG)**

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Creative placemaking initiatives in underserved communities that cause economic, physical, social, and cultural changes; efforts that infuse arts and culture in urban revitalization, advancing opportunity and improving the conditions of marginalized populations including transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and open, green public spaces

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture/harvesting-leading-practices>

### **Helping Today Grant (HTG)**

Source: Erie Community Foundation

Uses: Current projects of non-profit partners that improve quality of life in the region including program expansion; capital, facilities, or system needs; communication/marketing; technology

Funding: Maximum \$30,000

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations located within Erie County or servicing a majority of the population in the County

Application Deadline: 2/1, 5/1, 8/1, 11/1 of each year

Website: <http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/files/grant-history/2016-grant-guidelines.pdf>

### **Keystone Communities Program (KCP)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Designates and funds communities implementing Main Street, Elm Street, and Enterprise Zone efforts, specifically community revitalization and economic development projects involving physical improvements to a specific area; revitalization of residential and mixed-use neighborhoods and downtowns; development of rehabilitation of housing; physical improvements supported by a downtown plan; acquisition costs and physical building improvements for a development project; competitive grants to loans for eligible businesses located in an enterprise zone; business development surveys; business development strategy/preparation; revolving loan funds; and adaptive modifications that increase the ability of persons with physical disabilities to remain in their homes

Funding: Grant with no maximum indicated

Eligibility: Units of local government such as counties, cities, boroughs, townships, towns, and home rule municipalities; redevelopment authorities; housing authorities; non-profit main street organizations; economic development organizations; neighborhood improvement districts, downtown improvement districts, business improvement districts; and other non-profit corporations (with operational capacity)

Terms: 25% local match on project costs from non-federal resources for rental housing is required

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/keystone-communities-program-kcp/#.V02wxnn2a70>

### **Local Corporations (LC)**

### **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Tax credit program to improve distressed areas or support neighborhood conservation; projects must fall under one of the following categories: affordable housing, community services, crime prevention, education, job training, or neighborhood assistance; also supports the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP), Special Program Priorities (SPP), and Charitable Food Program (CFP)

Funding: Tax credit

Eligibility: Neighborhood organization

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/neighborhood-assistance-program-nap/#.V1HLAnn2a70>

### **Section 108 Program (108)**

Source: HUD through DCED

Uses: Enables local governments participating in CDBG program to obtain



federally-guaranteed loans to fund large economic development projects and undertake revitalization activities including building acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation, clearance, site preparation, special economic development activities, improvements to public facilities, and housing construction

Funding: Loan

Eligibility: Local governments

Terms: Variable

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/section-108-program/#.V1H5hHn2a70>

## Local Business

### Business Opportunities Fund (BOF)

Source: DCED

Uses: Working capital loans that fund most business operation and expansion expenses, including equipment, improvements, and acquisition of owner-occupied real estate

Funding: Loan with no minimum or maximum

Eligibility: Any small business but program will give priority to small businesses requiring capital and technical assistance to compete for governmental and private sector grants

Terms: Interest rates determined by participating community development financial institutions

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/business-opportunities-fund-bof/#.V1R-V4-cHIU>

### Community and Business Development Program (CDBP)

Source: DCED

Uses: Funding to improve the stability of the community; promote economic and community development; improve existing and/or develop new civic, cultural, recreational, and other facilities or activities; assist in business retention, expansion, creation, or attraction; promote the creation of jobs and employment activities; improve the health, welfare, and quality of life

Funding: Variable

Eligibility: Local government, municipal authorities, and non-profit organizations

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: [http://www.newpa.com/programs/community-business-development-program/#.V1R\\_sY-cHIU](http://www.newpa.com/programs/community-business-development-program/#.V1R_sY-cHIU)

### City of Erie Enterprise Zone Revolving Loan Program (EZRLP)

Uses: Low-interest financing to credit-worthy businesses that contribute significantly to the area's economy; covers land and building acquisition, construction and renovations, machinery and equipment purchases, and other expansion projects

Funding: Loan of up to \$500,000

Eligibility: Approved businesses

Terms: Fixed interest rate between 3 and 4% for 5 to 15 years

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.erie.pa.us/Departments/EconomicandCommunityDevelopment/EconomicDevelopment.aspx>

### Growing Greener II (GGII)

Source: DCED

Uses: Capital improvement costs and costs directly related to such physical building improvements as acquisition and pre-development

Funding: Grant - no minimum or maximum but typically ranging between \$250,000 and \$500,000

Eligibility: Municipalities and nonprofits to support community development, housing activities, downtown reinvestment, façade and anchor building activities, residential reinvestment, and business assistance

Terms: No required match level, but matching should be demonstrated

Application Deadline: Not accepting applications as of 6/16

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/growing-greener-ii/#.V0ikpnn2a70>

### Harvesting Leading Practices Grants (HLPG)

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Creative placemaking initiatives in underserved communities that cause economic, physical, social, and cultural changes; efforts that infuse arts and culture in urban revitalization, advancing opportunity and improving the conditions of marginalized populations including transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and open, green public spaces

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture/harvesting-leading-practices>

### Job Creation Tax Credits (JCTC)

Source: DCED

Uses: Tax credit for businesses to create new jobs; offsets business tax liabilities

Funding: \$1,000-per-job tax credit to approved businesses that agree to create jobs within three years

Eligibility: Approved businesses

Terms: Tax credits cannot be used by business until jobs are created

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/job-creation-tax-credits-jctc/#.V1SDTI-cHIU>

### Keystone Communities Program (KCP)

Source: DCED

Uses: Designates and funds communities implementing Main Street, Elm Street, and Enterprise Zone efforts, specifically community revitalization and economic development projects involving physical improvements to a specific area; revitalization of residential and mixed-use neighborhoods and downtowns; development of rehabilitation of housing; physical improvements supported by a downtown plan; acquisition costs and physical building improvements for a development project; competitive grants to loans for eligible businesses located in an enterprise zone; business development surveys; business development strategy/preparation; revolving loan funds; and adaptive modifications that increase the ability of persons with physical disabilities to remain in their homes

Funding: Grant with no maximum indicated

Eligibility: Units of local government such as counties, cities, boroughs, townships, towns, and home rule municipalities; redevelopment authorities; housing authorities; non-profit main street organizations; economic development organizations; neighborhood improvement districts, downtown improvement districts, business improvement districts; and other non-profit corporations (with operational capacity)



Terms: 25% local match on project costs from non-federal resources for rental housing is required  
Application Deadline: N/A  
Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/keystone-communities-program-kcp/#.V02wxnn2a70>

### **Keystone Innovation Network (KIN)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Leverages prior state investments in Keystone Innovation Zones (KIZ) and Innovation Grant programs; provides improved level of access to technology and resources to grow firms with services that include the acceleration of technology commercialization, the development of technology transfer infrastructure, the leveraging of university research faculty and intellectual property, tax incentives, funding and other supportive services that foster further growth in companies and the communities where they are established; funding can be used for strategic planning, personnel costs, hiring of consultants, and administration of the zone  
Funding: Grant for 10-12 projects totalling \$2 million; one-to-one cash match required

Eligibility: KIZs and institutions of higher education (which must apply through one of the 29 certified KIZs).

Terms: Partnership must meet definition and required members; zone must define industry sector focus, geographically identified, and include an institution of higher education with research capabilities

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/keystone-innovation-network-kin/#.V024nHn2a70>

### **Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Provides tax credits to for-profit companies less than eight years old operating within specific targeted industries within a Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ); tax credits must be applied against the tax liability of the KIZ company for up to five years from date tax credit was issued

Funding: Tax credit equal to 50% of increase in KIZ company's gross revenues in the immediately preceding and second taxable year attributable to activities in the KIZ; tax credit is limited to \$100,000 annually per KIZ company

Eligibility: For-profit business entities located within geographic boundaries of KIZ, operating less than eight years, and operating within one of the KIZ targeted industry segments

Terms: Tax credit must first be applied against the KIZ company's own tax liability; unused tax credits may be applied against the tax liability of the company for up to five years or sold to another taxpayer

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/keystone-innovation-zone-tax-credit-program/#.V0286nn2a71>

### **Local Corporations (LC)**

#### **Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA)**

Uses: Tax abatement covering increase in real estate taxes resulting from improvements to deteriorated commercial property as well as new construction; meant to encourage business expansion

Funding: Tax abatement

Eligibility: For-profit business entities

Terms: Property/business owner pays base amount of tax based on existing assessment; for new construction, no taxes are assessed on the new building

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: [http://www.eriepa.com/files/do-business/wae\\_financeincentive419.pdf](http://www.eriepa.com/files/do-business/wae_financeincentive419.pdf)

### **Pennsylvania Capital Access Program (PCAP)**

Source: DCED

Uses: Loan guarantee to be used to support a wide variety of business purposes, including land, building, equipment, and working capital

Funding: Loans up to \$500,000 guaranteed through participating banks

Eligibility: Approved businesses

Terms: Negotiated with bank

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://www.newpa.com/programs/pennsylvania-capital-access-program-penncap/#.V1SGio-chIU>

### **Strong Local Economies Grants (SLEG)**

Source: Surdna Foundation

Uses: Grants that support the development of robust and sustainable economies that include diversity of businesses and access to quality jobs; funds business development and acceleration, equitable economic development, and improving job quality and incomes

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: Rolling

Website: <http://surdna.org/what-we-fund/strong-local-economies.html>

### **Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI)**

Source: HUD through DCED

Uses: Supports two programs – the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program that supports locally-led collaborative efforts that bring together diverse interests from municipalities in a region to determine how to best target housing, economic and workforce development, and infrastructure investments to create more jobs; and the Community Challenge Grant Program that fosters reform and reduces barriers to achieving economically vital and sustainable communities through amending/replacing local master plans, zoning codes, and building codes to promote mixed-use development, affordable housing, and the reuse of older buildings

Funding: Grant

Eligibility: Local governments

Terms: N/A

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/sci/>

## **Public Art**

### **Challenge America Grant (CAG)**

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

Uses: Supports projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations; grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development  
Funding: \$10,000 grants with a required minimum \$10,000 match



Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: April 2017

Website: <https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description>

### **Harvesting Leading Practices Grants (HLPG)**

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Cross-sector/cross-disciplinary projects that embed arts and culture into local systems such as municipal departments, community financial networks, comprehensive planning efforts, human services networks, and regional food hubs

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations, arts/cultural institutions, nonprofit community partners, and non-profit artist collaboratives

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture/pioneering-new-approaches>

### **Helping Today Grant (HTG)**

Source: Erie Community Foundation

Uses: Current projects of non-profit partners that improve quality of life in the region including program expansion; capital, facilities, or system needs; communication/marketing; technology

Funding: Maximum \$30,000

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations located within Erie County or servicing a majority of the population in the County

Application Deadline: 2/1, 5/1, 8/1, 11/1 of each year

Website: <http://www.eriecommunityfoundation.org/files/grant-history/2016-grant-guidelines.pdf>

## **Local Corporations**

### **National Creative Placemaking Fund (NCPG)**

Source: ArtPlace America

Uses: Creative placemaking initiatives in underserved communities that address community planning and development challenges through the arts; can be focused on a site, or neighborhood- or city-wide

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations or individuals

Application Deadline: March 2017

Website: <http://www.artplaceamerica.org/our-work/national-creative-placemaking-fund/introduction>

### **Our Town Grant (OTG)**

Source: National Endowment for the Arts

Uses: Supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core; supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for existing residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place

Funding: \$25,000 to \$200,000 grants with a required match

Eligibility: Non-profit arts organizations with partnerships with government, other non-profit entities, and private entities

Application Deadline: September 2016

Website: <https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/challenge-america/grant-program-description>

### **Pioneering New Approaches Grants (PNAG)**

Source: Kresge Foundation

Uses: Creative placemaking initiatives in underserved communities that cause economic, physical, social, and cultural changes; efforts that infuse arts and culture in urban revitalization, advancing opportunity and improving the conditions of marginalized populations including transit-oriented development, affordable housing, and open, green public spaces

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: N/A

Website: <http://kresge.org/programs/arts-culture/harvesting-leading-practices>

### **Thriving Cultures Grants (TCG)**

Source: Surdna Foundation

Uses: Grants that support efforts to involve artists, architects, and designers in community-engaged problem-solving and development efforts; efforts that provide artists with business training and other financial resources that enable them to be valuable economic assets to the community; and support the potential of artists to be the catalysts for social change in their communities

Funding: Depends on application

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

Application Deadline: Rolling

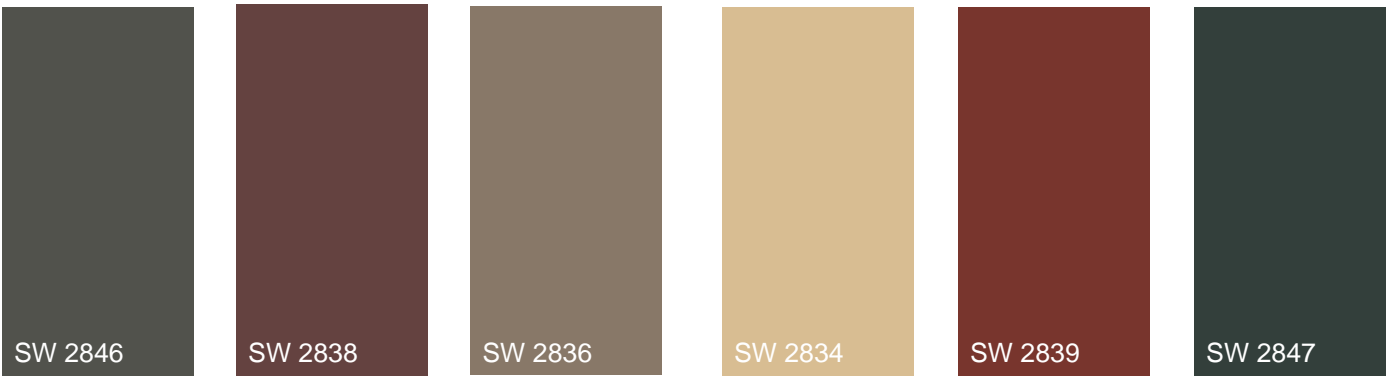
Website: <http://surdna.org/what-we-fund/strong-local-economies.html>



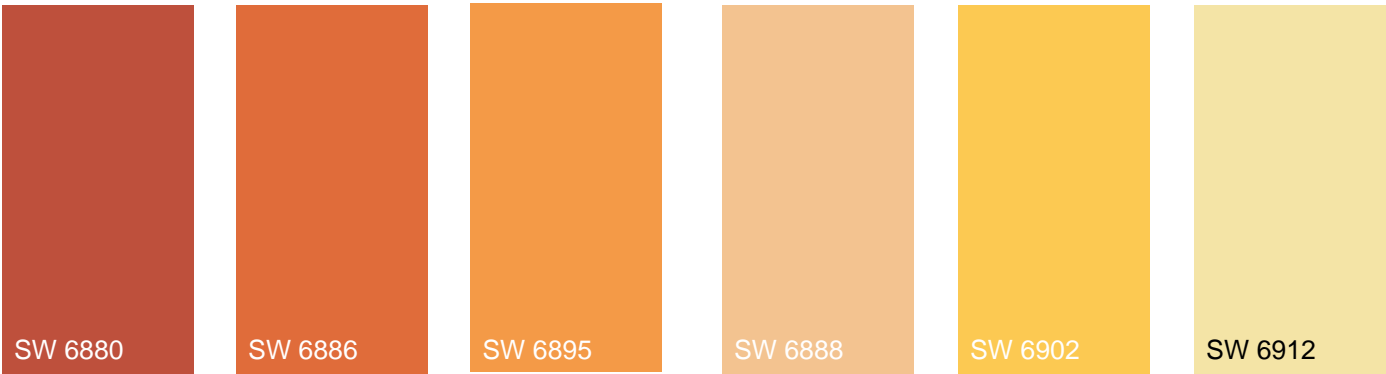
# Implementation - Details

This coordinated community amenities package can begin to be applied now to emphasize identity and create immediate change. These details include recommended paint colors for specific areas of West Bayfront as described in the plan as well as a selection of park and streetscape furniture can be installed in public spaces throughout the community. They will become recognizable details that communicate the unique spirit of Our West Bayfront.

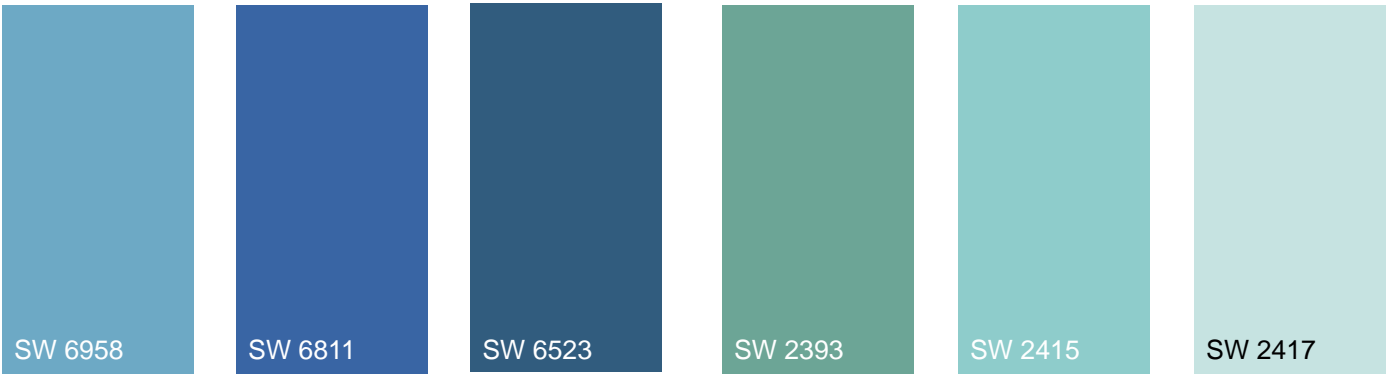
## Painted Ladies of the Park - Exterior Color Palettes



## Sunset Houses - Exterior Color Palettes



## Sea Glass Houses - Exterior Color Palettes





## Site furniture and amenities

- 1 Breakwater Bench (6 feet): Keystone Ridge (BW26)
- 2 Reading Bike Rack (6 feet): Keystone Ridge (RE108)
- 3 Penn Trash Receptacle: Keystone Ridge (PN3-22)
- 4 Plaza Planter: Keystone Ridge (P24-21)
- 5 Breakwater Backless Bench (6 feet): Keystone Ridge (BW16)
- 6 Breakwater Picnic Table: Keystone Ridge (BW6-6)
- 7 Fixit Bike Service Station with Air Kit 2: DERO Bike

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# Next Steps

The Our West Bayfront Community Plan is intended to serve as a guide for community action and reinvestment. As described throughout the document, these initiatives represent a wide range in terms of scale and complexity. The following are a series of next steps that can be utilized to continue the significant momentum that has developed through the planning process.

## Formalize Neighborhood Organization:

- Continue to support the Neighborhood Association's immediate role in connecting residents and businesses, serving as the voice of the community, and increasing community identity.
- Formalize Our West Bayfront as a community development corporation.
- Hire an executive director for the organization.
- Establish the organization as a 501c3.
- Formalize the governing structure and board.
- Hire a grant writer to help pursue funding for projects and programs.

## Volunteer Initiatives:

- Create a Friends of the Park organization for the three primary park spaces to organize programming and maintenance activities.
- Start a front porch light campaign so that streets will feel less dark.
- Initiate a young leaders of West Bayfront group to engage young professionals and community leaders in working toward change for the neighborhood.

## Policy Directives:

- Identify a neighborhood liaison to City Hall.
- Organize a small group of concerned citizens who can review current City policies that limit programming within the neighborhood and work to change the policies.
- Work with PennDOT and the City of Erie to determine the feasibility of changing one-way streets throughout the neighborhood to two-way streets, per the details of this plan.
- Support efforts toward the development of a County Land Bank

- Generate a code enforcement priorities list
- Generate a tree maintenance / trimming priority list

## Community Marketing & Identity:

- Delineate and clearly identify all of the neighborhoods within Our West Bayfront. Develop neighborhood branding / marketing / identification approach for each to provide another layer of the West Bayfront story
- Develop social media approach and campaign for spreading the word about Our West Bayfront events, meetings and positive news. Change the conversation.
- Start a community-based e-newsletter and use it to spread the news about community activities. Profile business owners, Strong Vincent students, Neighborhood Block Group leaders and other community members to begin to rebuild the idea of knowing your neighbors.
- Keep an up-to-date community calendar on the Our West Bayfront website with activity listings

## Planning & Programming:

- Generate a public art masterplan for Our West Bayfront. Organize a team of local artists to identify potential projects, costs, timelines, etc.
- Create a youth programming team (including students from Strong Vincent and Gannon University) to plan and organize activities for young people in the community. This can also be the basis for the "hire a student" program for yard work, shoveling, etc.
- Once an initial set of improvements are underway, identify the next three priority focus areas to begin exploration of funding sources, planning and design work.
- Develop a streetscape and intersection plan for the Heritage Trail area as a pilot project. Identify 3-5 pilot projects per year.
- Plan an annual event that recognizes and celebrates the work of the community – accomplishments and next steps.
- Begin a community conversation regarding the MLK Center and planning for its future.



