



2024
2028

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP

STRATEGIC PLAN



**OUR FUTURE
OUR VISION
OUR COMMUNITY**

“Vibrant community.”

“Friendly residents.”

“Tight-knit.”

“Small town culture.”

“A great place to live.”

That’s St. Clair Township.

Common phrases to describe St. Clair Township
from 45 community members engaged in a
strategic planning workshop in 2023.

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ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP

Home to approximately 15,000 residents in Southwestern Ontario, the Township of St. Clair is the perfect place to live, work and play.





St. Clair Township is a thriving community situated along the bank of the St. Clair River, south of the City of Sarnia. The beautiful natural setting, strong sense of community, and mix of amenities make it a place known for offering a high quality of life.



The Township is a blend of rural and urban neighbourhoods. Historically, the industrial base has focused on the petrochemical and refining sector. However, new opportunities have emerged over time with the economic base moving towards a broader mix of commerce, industrial development, and agriculture.



St. Clair Township was established in 2000 through the amalgamation of Moore and Sombra townships. Many of the communities within the Township retain their own unique identities and characteristics.



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“As a Township that connects its vibrant agriculture with access to water and adequate housing, St. Clair Township has found sustainability in an ever-changing world.”

Council heard from residents as part of the strategic planning process, and developed aspirational statements based on public feedback

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FALL 2023

In the fall of 2022, residents of St. Clair Township elected a new Council to provide leadership to the community. Council initiated a process to build a new Strategic Plan to guide decisions and actions -- and, importantly, to engage residents and Township staff in the process.

A community workshop and public input survey were hosted in the Fall 2023. A series of workshops engaging Council and Administration focused on listening to residents' feedback and building a shared plan for the future.

This **2024-2028 Strategic Plan** captures a shared ambition: our future, our vision, our community.

What does **success** mean for this Strategic Plan?

- **Satisfied and engaged residents** - residents feel valued, happy, and positive about life in our community; people come, stay and return to call our community home
- **Desired level of services** - maintain or improve service levels, meeting residents' expectations; make strategic investments in infrastructure as the community grows, including in recreation and public safety
- **Economic growth** - influx of residents, business activity, investment and jobs; balancing the needs of agriculture, small businesses and industry as the community grows
- **Proactive planning and development** - sustainable, well planned and capably managed growth, preserving the unique characteristics and 'vibe' of the community
- **Strong working relationships** - mutual trust and open communications between Council, staff and residents
- **Financial sustainability** - a vibrant plan for the future supported by a strong, long-term financial plan

MISSION & CORE VALUES

There is a lot to love about life in St. Clair Township. From golf to museums to camping and more, the community offers a mix of amenities and experiences. The charming blend of calm countryside and historic small towns with stunning waterfront vistas along the beautiful St. Clair River is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

As a municipality, the Township of St. Clair is in the quality of life business: focused on maintaining and investing in the things that matter most for the vitality of the community.

Our mission is to ensure that **St. Clair Township is a sustainable and vibrant community in which business and residents prosper.**

Through the strategic planning process, Council, Administration and residents identified several **shared core values** to guide behaviour.



- **Responsibility** - using tax dollars wisely and finding quick resolutions
- **Transparency** - ensuring open communications about decisions
- **Respect** - treating one another in a way that fosters collaboration
- **Trust** - believing in one another
- **Compassion** - dealing with others' issues as if they were our own
- **Community Safety** - fostering an environment where everyone feels safe in our community
- **Honesty** - being realistic and open in our communications
- **Hard-Work** - valuing the efforts of others including public servants
- **Accountability** - standing behind our decisions and actions
- **Financially Responsible** - stewarding public funds and resources
- **Equality** - fairness for everyone in the Township, including residents, staff and Council

PRIORITIES

2024-2028

Through the community workshop, public input survey, and strategic planning sessions for Council and Administration, the following **six priorities** have been identified for 2024-2028.



Invest in
Infrastructure



Plan for the
Future



Improve
Services



Financial
Sustainability



Reduce
**Bureaucratic
Barriers**



Promote &
Celebrate
Community

“Young people who grew up here will **want to stay here. Families will be able to afford their first homes and our smaller schools will stay open because of higher attendance.”**

A resident's perspective on what success would mean for the strategic planning process

INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE ACTION PLAN



Making strategic and well-planned investments in infrastructure was the top priority identified by Council, administration and the community alike. Our infrastructure is the foundation of a strong, vibrant community.



Between 2024-2028, we will work towards:

1	Planning for a sewage treatment plant expansion
2	Addressing shoreline erosion, particularly along the St. Clair Parkway
3	Establishing a commercial use along the waterfront
4	Reducing accessibility barriers for residents, including accessible parking at all municipal properties and facilities

PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

ACTION PLAN



In an era of disruption and change, all municipalities must ensure they are ready for the future by aligning plans and decision making.



Between 2024-2028, we will work towards:

1	Aligning all St. Clair Township activities to the Strategic Plan, ensuring transparency and efficient use of resources
2	Implementing the Asset Management Plan, ensuring alignment with the Strategic Plan
3	Monitoring capacity, including resources and legislative limitations, to ensure clear expectations are set for meeting targets and desired service levels
4	Together with the community, protecting valuable agricultural lands for future generations

IMPROVE SERVICES ACTION PLAN



Residents in St. Clair Township rely on municipal services every day, and improving these services over time to meet community needs -- and in a responsible and well-planned manner -- is an important part of ensuring a high quality of life in the community.



Between 2024-2028, we will work towards:

1	Lobbying for additional federal and provincial funds for key projects, including the wastewater treatment plant
2	Partnering to increase access to medical services and facilities, including developing a blood clinic
3	Enforcing by-laws, particularly to ensure consistency and that the community upholds its own standards

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN



The success of this strategic plan, and all St. Clair Township activities, rests on a strong financial foundation -- including careful annual budgets, appropriate taxation levels, and sound long-term planning.



Between 2024-2028, we will work towards:

1	Meeting the needs of a growing community through appropriate taxation levels
2	Reviewing and evaluating facilities, including their necessity and utilization
3	Repairing, replacing or removing assets in accordance with the Asset Management Plan
4	Investing more in reserves

REDUCE BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS ACTION PLAN



St. Clair Township works to ensure that all residents, businesses and visitors have positive experiences when engaging with the municipality -- and this requires an ongoing effort to reduce bureaucratic barriers for businesses and the community alike.



Between 2024-2028, we will work towards:

1	Adopting a customer service approach which includes timely responses to requests
2	Establishing social media pages for general Township news and information
3	Developing shared goals for Council and Administration to align efforts
4	Designating staff to social media and marketing

PROMOTE & CELEBRATE COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



St. Clair Township is an incredible community. We know it -- and, it's our job to work with residents and businesses to sing this message from the rooftops.



Between 2024-2028, we will work towards:

1	Establishing a Community Hall of Fame which extends beyond sport-related achievements
2	Continuing to review and improve communication methods, including the website

REPORTING ON PROGRESS



St. Clair Township’s **2024-2028 Strategic Plan** provides a mission, core values, priorities, and action plans for the community,



Progress towards this Plan will be examined and reported to the community on an annual basis, including periodic check-ins with residents about their experiences living in St. Clair Township and their ambitions for the future.



“The majority of residents are empowered to be community ambassadors, proud to be involved, and engaged in giving back to their community.”

A resident's perspective on what success would mean for the strategic planning process



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