

Pleasant Hill Local Area Plan

Implementation Highlights



Housing Deterioration and Abandonment

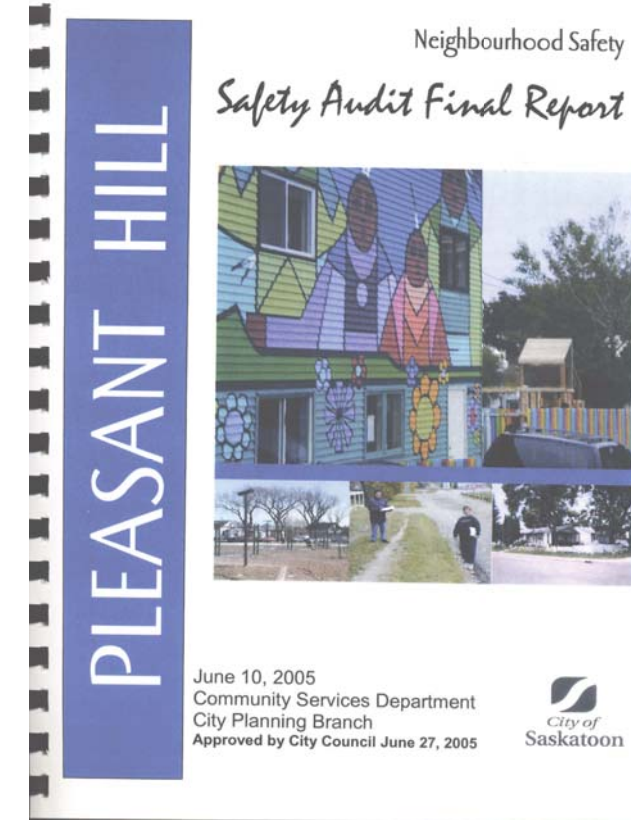
The City of Saskatoon has provided funding to numerous groups facilitating housing improvements in Pleasant Hill. To date, several houses and apartments have been improved strengthening residential stability and investor confidence.



In Fall 2005, Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services (SFPS) led a new City initiative called the Safe Housing Initiative aimed to improve the safety and quality of rental housing. Annually, SFPS receives 4000 property maintenance complaints, and completes 35,000 inspections that include back alleys, property maintenance, and fire inspection.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

From October through to November 2003, the Community Services Department and Police Services in partnership with the Pleasant Hill Community Association and other stakeholders conducted a series of Safety Audits using the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. The result was the creation of the Pleasant Hill Safety Audit Report that was approved by City Council on June 27th, 2005. An implementation schedule is currently being prepared.



The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Unit will improve community safety by empowering citizens to take back their neighbourhoods by reporting problem residences and businesses. It will also hold property owners accountable for threatening or disturbing activities regularly taking place on their property. To contact the Saskatoon Investigation Unit, call (306) 933-8373. Or call the toll free number at 1-866-51-SAFER.

Boulevard Beautification

Pleasant Hill residents wanted the opportunity to improve boulevards in the neighbourhood. Last summer the City of Saskatoon Parks Branch provided oak barrels, soil, and 200 ft. of hose for a group of Pleasant Hill residents to plant and maintain flowers on their boulevards. Avenue T never looked so good! Residents can contact #975-2607 for details.



Land Use Changes

On September 18, 2006, City Council approved all land use changes recommended in the Pleasant Hill Local Area Plan. These changes will assist with the long term land use sustainability and compatibility in the neighbourhood.

Pedestrian Activated Light

In June 2005, a active pedestrian corridor crosswalk was installed on Avenue P between 19th and 20th Street. In addition, a zebra crosswalk was added at the corner of 19th Street and Avenue P.



Pleasant Hill Revitalization Project

The Pleasant Hill Revitalization Project is a major opportunity to redevelop over two city blocks within the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood. The area consists of the St. Mary's School and grounds, and over 30 residential and commercial properties between 20th Street and the CPR Railway. A commitment by five orders of government – Federal, Provincial, Municipal, Department of Learning and Saskatoon Greater Catholic Schools has been made. The pillars for the reinvestment project are Housing, Education, Community Space, and Green Space. The project began with a community visioning and design workshop December 2, 2006. Watch for more exciting developments in 2007.



Pawnshops

Residents of the community expressed concern regarding the concentration of Pawn Shops in the neighbourhood. On October 31, 2005, City Council adopted zoning amendments to distribute pawnshops through separation distancing. A pawnshop shall not be located within 160 metres of another pawnshop. This will assist in lessening the concentration of pawnshops in the community over time.

United Nations World Urban Forum III

We are pleased to recognize the Pleasant Hill Local Area Planning process was used as a model for citizen-led planning at a networking session at the United Nations World Urban Forum III in Vancouver in June. The World Urban Forum examines the most pressing issues facing the world today including: rapid urbanization. For five days, 10,000 participants from more than 100 nations discussed, debated and shared experiences about how to make our cities better places to live.



CPR ROW Feasibility Study

During the Local Area Plan process the residents of Pleasant Hill and surrounding communities indicated they would like to see the CPR (Canadian Pacific Railway) line ROW (Right of Way) that follows the south boundary of the Pleasant Hill neighbourhood developed into a formal pedestrian right of way and bike path, connecting the west side neighbourhoods to Downtown. A preliminary survey of ROW users has been conducted as part of a "Rails with Trails" Feasibility Study.



Barricades

At the end of Avenue J and K temporary cement barricades were placed to prevent vehicles from accessing the CPR Right of Way. Residents recommended permanent barricades that are more aesthetically pleasing. In Fall 2003, boulders, trees and curbing were placed at Avenue K and boulders were placed at Avenue J.



Station 20 West

The City of Saskatoon acquired the site at 1120 - 20th Street West in December 2005. The City of Saskatoon now owns all three properties. The City of Saskatoon has been working with the QUINT Development Corporation, CHEP Good Food Inc., the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and the Saskatoon Library Board to redevelop the three sites as a single development opportunity. QUINT and CHEP named the development as "Station 20 West". Station 20 West is a development concept, which envisages using all three sites for a mixed-use 'community enterprise centre', which would include a grocery store, branch library, residential, complementary institutional, and office uses. Remediation of the site has been completed and housing construction is scheduled for 2007.



Bus Shelter

Pleasant Hill residents recommended the bus shelters be maintained and that they be recognized as valuable components of the community. In July 2003, the Adopt-a-shelter program was presented to the Pleasant Hill Local Civic Committee. St. George's Senior Citizens Group adopted a bus shelter on 20th Street & Avenue M. To adopt-a-shelter contact #975-3859.



In May 2005, The Pleasant Hill Local Area Plan won the FCM Sustainable Community Award for innovative citizen engagement.