



TOWNSHIP OF
McGarry

Strategic Plan 2024-2029





Mission Statement

We will promote the attraction and retention of residents and business by supporting an affordable, attractive quality of life and pursuing local investment in a sustainable manner.

Vision Statement

We envision a proud, thriving, eco-friendly community that is safe and welcoming for all ages.

Strategic Goals

Over the next 5 years, McGarry will:



Promote the Township and build relationships to attract residential and economic investment.



Become an attractive Township to draw visitors and make residents proud.



Meet community needs for infrastructure and services.



Offer diverse opportunities and amenities for social and active living.



Strengthen Economic Resources and strategies for the Township.



Promote the Township and build relationships to attract residential and economic investment

The Township aspires to be a place for future investment for residents and business. We aim to develop strong networking and marketing to spread the word about McGarry and make the decision to relocate or invest locally as convenient as possible. We aim to learn from the challenges and successes of other municipalities and continue to develop local and regional partnerships.

Short Term Actions

Champions

1	Maintain a publicly available and online list of local properties available for redevelopment or rehabilitation with potential for in-demand local amenities, e.g. gas stations, grocery stores;	Staff, Community
2	Meet semi-regularly with local/regional municipalities to discuss economic development approaches, learnings, and opportunities for partnership to leverage common assets.	Staff, Council

Long Term Actions

Champions

3	Establish an Attraction and Retention Strategy to provide updated marketing to attract new residents based on affordability, access to nature, and sense of community;	Staff
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Possible Outcomes:

- Attracting new residents
- Population and economic growth
- New businesses for the community:
 - Coffee shops
 - Grocery, convenience, LCBO,
 - Clothing, sports equipment
 - Gas station, laundromat, and other amenities



Become an attractive Township to draw visitors and make residents proud

The Township aspires to be a place known for the beauty and history of the community and surrounding natural environment. This includes aspects of aesthetic attraction and property maintenance, as well as opportunities to attract visitors who come to appreciate the natural beauty of the area.

Short Term Actions		Champions
4	Begin plans to optimize the marina and lake pavilion space for seasonal and year-round use.	Staff
5	Meet semi-regularly with local/regional municipalities to discuss economic development approaches, learnings, and opportunities for partnership to leverage common assets.	Staff
6	Commission a 3D model of the community, or similar creative outputs, to visually communicate the history of the Township.	Staff
7	Set up a volunteer-run grass cutting service for seniors.	Community members

Long Term Actions		Champions
8	Work with the Province and other stakeholders to rehabilitate mine tailing areas around the beach;	Staff
9	Network with corporate sponsors to establish philanthropic donations or local promotional incentives to encourage landscaping, yard clean up, and maintenance on private or institutional properties. E.g., Sudbury’s Ugliest Schoolyard Competition makes use of in-kind donations from local corporations and volunteer labour to improve school yards through a friendly competition.	Staff, Council, Community members
10	Create updated marketing materials for tourist attractions to feature local historical and environmental attractions. E.g. Feature unique natural features, such as plant life or biodiversity, to attract niche areas of tourism.	Staff

Possible Outcomes:

- Residents are proud of their properties and municipal spaces
- Residents have more opportunities for support for rehabilitation or yard clean up
- Residents, newcomers, and visitors are more understanding of the mining history of the town and aware of how it affects their lives and properties today
- Increased community awareness of the indigenous history of the area, for incorporation into Council events and activities
- Increased commercial and recreational activity at the marina including a chip stand or restaurant

Meet community needs for infrastructure and services



The Township aspires to be a community which has the necessary infrastructure and access to services to provide residents with the amenities needed for a comfortable quality of life, across all three communities and the rural area within the Township. This includes the delivery of municipal and private services (water and roads are the priority, along with internet connectivity) as well as a level of infrastructure to support existing and attract new community and commercial services.

Short Term Actions	Champions
11 Maintain a publicly available and online list of local properties available for redevelopment or rehabilitation with potential for in-demand local amenities, e.g. gas stations, grocery stores;	Staff, Community
12 Meet semi-regularly with local/regional municipalities to discuss economic development approaches, learnings, and opportunities for partnership to leverage common assets.	Staff, Council
13 Establish an Attraction and Retention Strategy to provide updated marketing to attract new residents based on affordability, access to nature, and sense of community;	Staff

Long Term Actions	Champions
14 Update the Township’s Asset Management Plan and set capital funding targets needed to replace aging infrastructure and improve efficiencies;	Staff
15 Explore partnerships with neighbouring municipalities to develop a regional service or encourage a private-run service for shared transportation;	Council
16 Improve connectivity between the three communities with path repairs/ installation, signage, and wayfinding.	Staff

Possible Outcomes:

- Potholes repaired, smooth roads, comfortable to drive on;
- Reduced plumbing and sewage issues for residents;
- Medical and mental health services available;
- Transportation services available;
- More visibly equal investment across the three communities;
- Easy access for residents and visitors to get around and between all three communities on foot





Offer diverse opportunities and amenities for social and active living

The Township aspires to be a place where residents can safely and easily enjoy active lifestyles and socialization. We aim to work towards being a community where people feel welcome, have social opportunities to join, and can fully appreciate the recreational opportunities just outside their doorstep.

Short Term Actions	Champions
17 Re-establish a welcome wagon to provide new residents information about the Township and establish a first local contact	Staff, Community members
18 Identify opportunities for small scale investments into “social infrastructure” to encourage residents to stop and talk or gather with others. E.g., One example is a “buddy bench” or other street furniture to encourage residents to linger and chat with each other.	Staff, Council
19 Put out a call for volunteers to establish a neighbourhood watch or similar local program.	Staff, Community members
Long Term Actions	Champions
20 Develop a Recreation Master Plan to outline longer-term plans for new facilities and recreation activities in the Township and establish capital funding needs.	Staff



Possible Outcomes:

- A dog park
- Walking paths
- Sports for all ages, e.g. baseball, basketball, pickleball, frisbee golf, mini golf, etc.
- Teen club house or social events, e.g. dances
- A buddy bench
- Build momentum to encourage local participation among residents
- Selected activities and facilities:
 - Ice skating paths and snowshoe trails
 - A domed outdoor rink
 - Soccer fields, station, laundromat, and other amenities

Strengthen Economic Resources and Strategies for the Township



The Township recognizes that strong governance, high quality services, and achievement of goals require substantial resources. We aim to build a complement of tools to strengthen economic development. This includes establishing effective strategies, networks, and skills sets to capitalize on economic opportunities and funding sources as they arise.

Short Term Actions	Champions
21 Assign a member of staff to lead research and pursuit of grants and funding opportunities for the Township.	Staff
22 Continue to strengthen relationships with mining industry for local employment, capital investment partnership, and philanthropic opportunities.	Staff, Council
23 Establish a community development committee for local business owners and operators and those interested in potential business pursuits to learn from each other and leverage opportunities. E.g., This might be modeled after the Kirkland and District Community Development Corporation.	Staff, Community
Long Term Actions	Champions
24 Develop a Recreation Master Plan to outline longer-term plans for new facilities and recreation activities in the Township and establish capital funding needs.	Staff, Council

Possible Outcomes:

- Greater access to government and private funding for municipal initiatives
- Increased entrepreneurship in the community
- Redevelopment of vacant businesses
- Increase in local jobs within mining and other industries
- Growth in public trust in council and staff



Challenges

Potential barriers include funding and the capacity of staff and Council to accomplish the long list of ideas generated. As with every municipality, Township resources are finite and the Township has legislated limitations on the ways it can generate and distribute resources within the community. In some cases, this will require Township staff to be creative with available resources. In others, this will require investments of time, energy, and ideas from members of the community. McGarry is well practiced with both of these strategies. It is also important to keep in mind that as the Township carries out the actions and builds momentum towards each goal, the many actions and ideas supporting each goal may change or be replaced over the timeline of this plan.

McGarry's long mining history also brings the potential of new mining operations in the long-term future. This introduces a degree of uncertainty for the Township's planning – long-term actions may ultimately be influenced by external economic factors. As such the Township should continue with open communication and collaboration where appropriate with resource development companies to work together towards a shared future.

It is the strong intent of Council to maintain good governance for the present and future of the Township. The strategic goals in this draft plan reflect the ideas and hopes of Council, staff, and residents towards a future in McGarry and ensure that, despite uncertainty, McGarry will continue to be a community offering high quality of life for residents and quality of experience for visitors.



Measurement and Monitoring

The Township has a Strategic Planning Committee who meet regularly to monitor activities from the previous strategic plan. Following final approval of the strategic plan, we recommend the Committee continue to act as the primary stewards of the plan, through regular meetings in addition to the following suggested activities:

- **Annual Fiscal Planning:** To best guide fiscal decision making towards municipal goals, the Strategic Plan should be aligned with annual municipal budget planning practices. We recommend an annual special committee meeting to determine the series of actions towards each goal to be carried out over the coming year, confirm a champion responsible for each action, and allocate financial resources. We suggest beginning these meetings with a summary of the successes of the previous year, to build on each year's momentum and learnings. Given the high interest in the strategic plan during the Council workshop and public open house, we suggest making this event public, for attendance, questions, and to continue to build interest in the Township's goals.
- **Staff Reports:** To keep the high-level Strategic Plan top of mind during implementation, we suggest incorporating it into regular staff reporting. For example, a brief section with a checklist of the five strategic goals could be added to staff report templates. Report writers can easily select which of the five goals each report's activities best corresponds to, with additional detail provided in the report as needed.
- **Quarterly Committee Reporting:** With support of the champions identified for each action, we recommend the committee prepare quarterly reports to Council to present updates of actions initiated and results realized to date, and next steps for the coming quarter. These more formal public reports could also be linked on the Township website's Strategic Plan webpage for easy public accessibility.

