

# Did you know?

## Economy

- The City of Portage boasts the highest SEV (State Equalized Values) in the County
- The city has a diverse and balanced tax base derived from 55% residential, 23% commercial, and 22% industrial
- The Stryker Corporation employs approximately 2,300 people within the City of Portage. Other major employers in the city include:
  - Pfizer Corporation, a global manufacturer of pharmaceutical products whose primary U.S. manufacturing activities are located in Portage. The Pfizer Corporation employs approximately 2,100 people within the City of Portage;
  - Portage Public Schools, which employs 950 people;
  - State Farm Insurance Company also employs 950 people;
  - Meijer, Inc., a general merchandise/grocer employs approximately 600 people.
- The City of Portage facilitated the creation or retention of over 5,000 jobs since 1996

## Parks

- Eliason Nature Reserve - in 2011, a 123-acre parcel of land was donated to the City. This land, in combination with Schier Park, Bishop's Bog, South Westnedge Park, and the West Lake Nature Preserve provides over 400 acres of park land for passive and active recreation.
- Portage has 17 parks with a variety of high-quality active recreation components
- Portage also offers a refrigerated outdoor ice rink available during the winter season

## Education

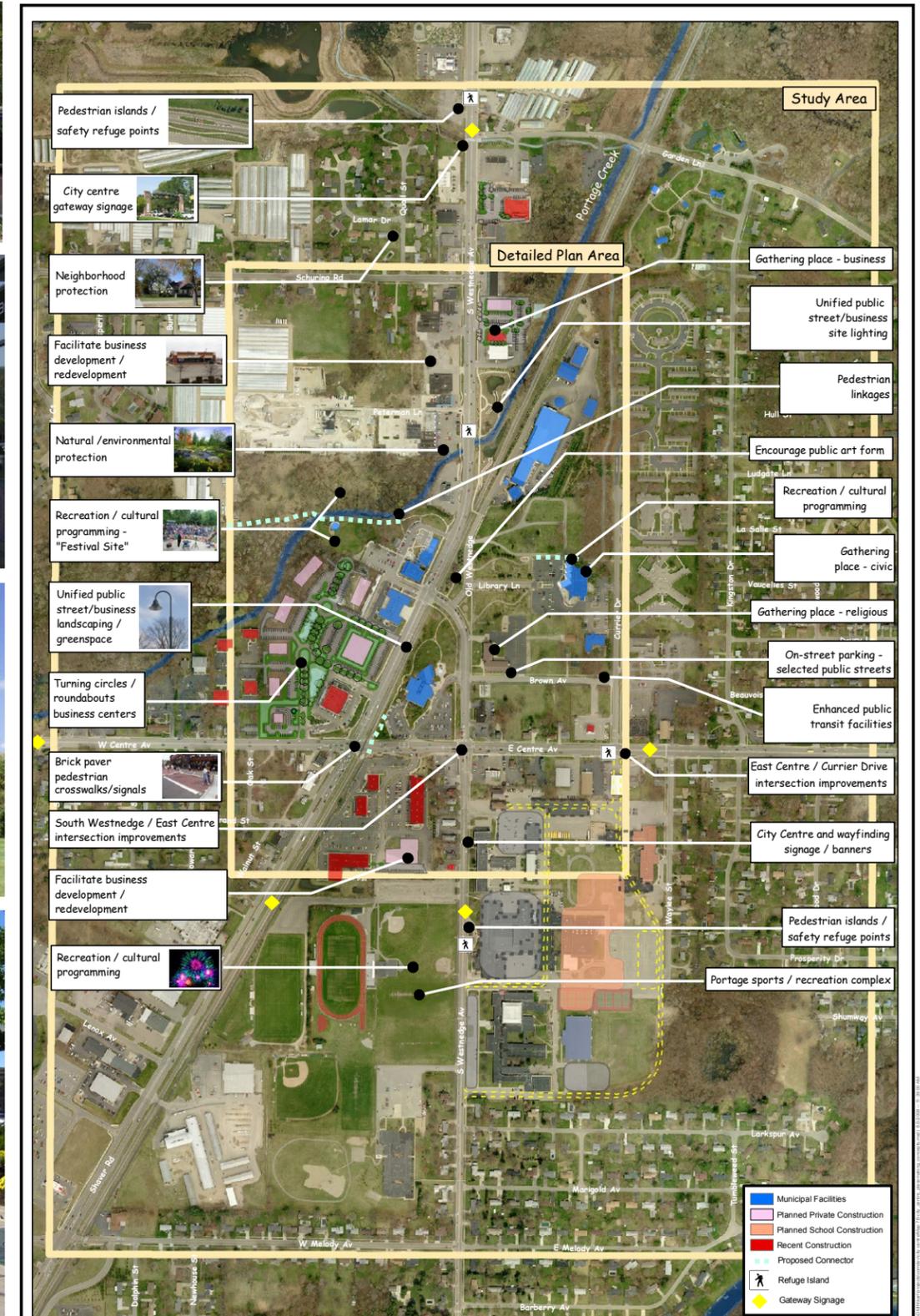
- New Portage Central and renovated Portage Northern opened in 2011, 12th Street Elementary School opened in 2009, Lake Center Elementary School in 2010
- Portage's high schools were deemed award-winning by the Washington Post
- 39% of people over 25 years have a bachelor's degree or higher, and 95% of the population are high school graduates

# City Centre

- 2008 City Centre Area Plan adopted
- Goal: Enhance sense of place
  - Municipal buildings
  - District Library
  - Parks, band shell, gathering places
  - Mixed-use development: residences or offices above retail
- Business development/redevelopment
- Streetscape improvements
- Public art



**About Placemaking**  
 The goals of placemaking are to create vibrant public places that people want to gather, live, work, and play. Ensuring that existing high quality character translates from Portage's residences to its public and commercial areas is a goal of this plan.



Map 7  
 City Centre Area Placemaking Concepts

# Keeping Portage Green

## What is Green Infrastructure?

- Interconnected greenspace throughout the city
- Connecting natural resources and linking them to human activity zones, recreation opportunities, and improving air and water quality
- Using more natural systems for stormwater management
- Wellhead protection to ensure safe drinking water



## Sustainability

- Access to green space
- Improving public health by encouraging active lifestyles
- Recycling/composting to reduce waste
- Encouraging green building
- Air quality, reducing emissions
- Local food
- Water conservation and reuse
- A stormwater management system that treats runoff on site rather than distributing it to a larger stormwater system



# Quality of Life Scorecard

## Fiscal Security

- Job growth + security
- Range of employment options
- Strong businesses, tax base

## Education

- Reputation
- Proximity
- Local opportunities for higher education or technical training

## Recreation

- Access to parks and natural areas
- Walking / biking opportunities
- Sports fields and programming



## Housing + Neighborhoods

- Range of housing choices
- Community events
- Diversity

## Health + Security

- Excellent police, fire, and emergency response
- Convenience to fitness centers/parks
- Access to health care and services

## Leisure + Culture

- Arts / music / performances
- Entertainment
- Shopping

## Transportation

- A system for all types of travel (vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles)
- Congestion-free
- Safe
- Public transit



***What are the best features that attract people and business to Portage?***