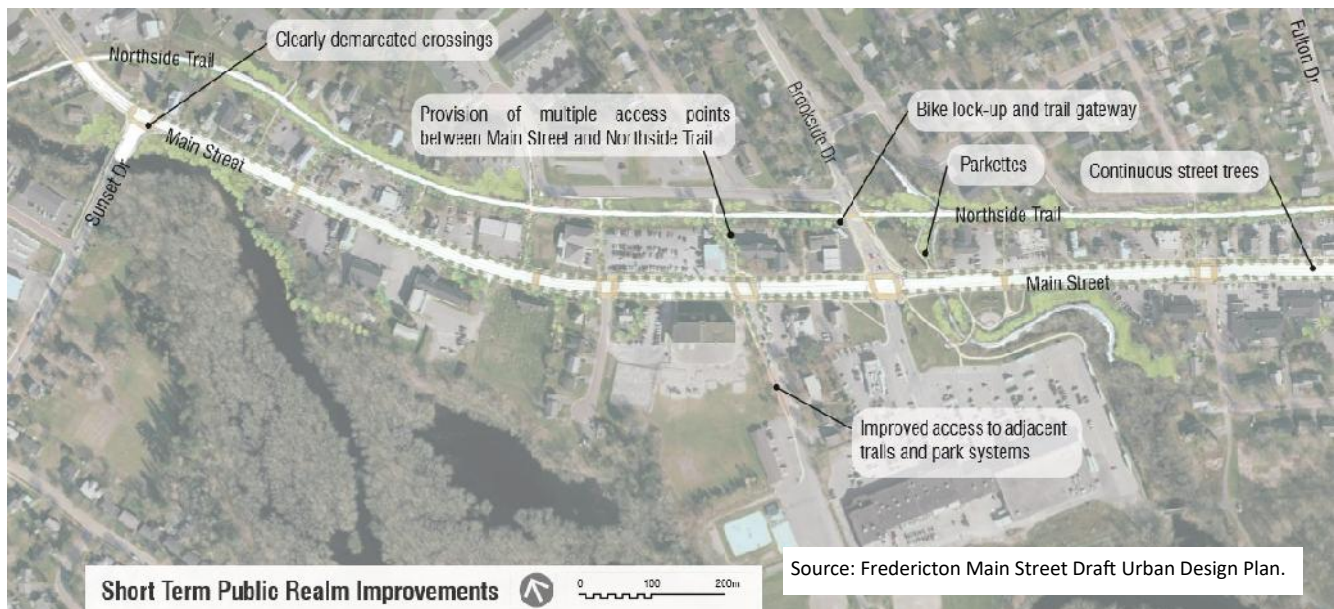


Smart Growth & Our Environment

"Smart growth" covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make our communities more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.¹

Smart growth principles include the following:

- Mixing land uses
- Employing compact building design
- Creating a range of housing choices
- Creating walkable, bicycle-friendly neighbourhoods
- Designing distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserving open space, farmland, and critical environmental areas
- Directing development towards existing communities
- Providing a variety of transportation choices
- Making development decisions fair, predictable, and cost-effective
- Encouraging community and stakeholder collaboration¹



An aerial photo of the north side of Fredericton (Main Street area) that shows changes that could be made in the short term to improve active transportation opportunities for residents and connectivity.

Many of these principles, including housing density, transit, active transportation networks and community collaboration, are also important to successful urban environmental goals. The principles noted can reduce GHG emissions by encouraging people to work and play close to where they live and use active or public transportation, and preserve parks and wooded areas, while remediating contaminated sites allows for more density and space to enjoy at the same time as sequestering greenhouse gases.

¹ Environmental Protection Agency <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/about-smart-growth>



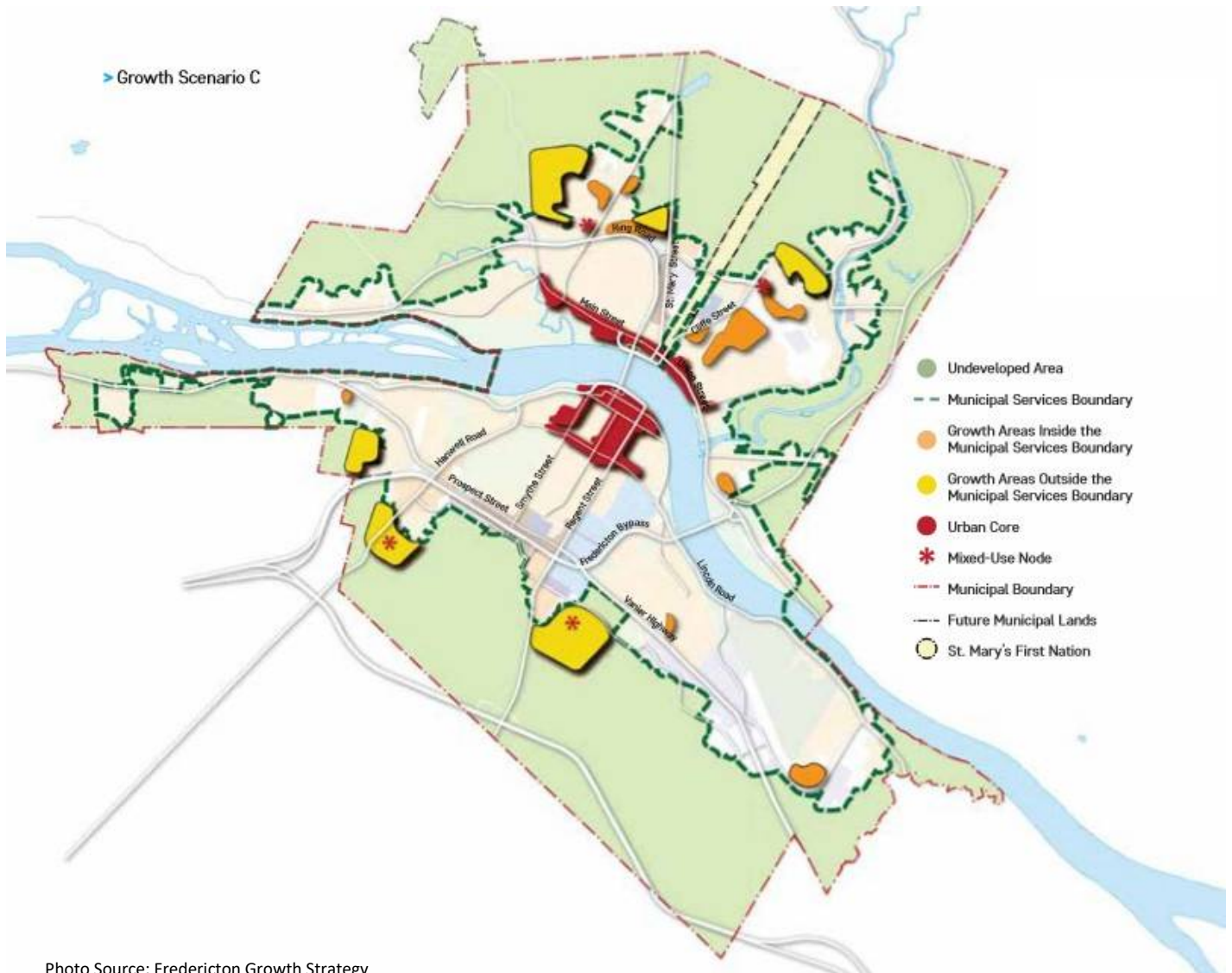


Photo Source: Fredericton Growth Strategy

The Fredericton Growth Strategy, released in 2017, provides a vision for how the City will grow as population increases over the next few decades. The plan prioritizes in-fill development, concentrating new growth in clustered areas close to established neighbourhoods, developing active transportation and transit networks, creating complete communities through mixed-use areas and maintaining greenspace and recreation space. These goals reflect Smart Growth goals and contribute to community-building in addition to a more environmentally-friendly community and development process.

One of the six 'Community Goals' in the Growth Strategy is 'Green and Healthy.' This goal includes principles such as maintaining the city's air, groundwater and surface water, remediating contaminated lands, valuing significant natural features, diversifying parks and greenspaces and increasing the tree canopy and number of tree-lined streets. Another Community Goal, 'Sustainable and Efficient' also includes environmental principles such as building infrastructure to mitigate and withstand climate change, producing less waste and designing buildings to be energy efficient.²

²Fredericton Growth Strategy," Imagine Fredericton, 2017.

