

Shape the Sault Public Open House - Summary

Topics: Arts & culture, parks & recreation, and heritage protection

Where: Art Gallery of Algoma, 10 East St.

When: 2019 January 22 (Tuesday), 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Attendance:

- 75 people signed in on the sign-in sheet at the door.
- It was noted that some participants didn't sign in, so the total attendance is likely around 80 people.
- It was standing-room only during much of the first half of the evening.

What we did:

- **City Planning** staff presented information on **Shape the Sault** and the new **Official Plan**, focusing on the topics of parks, recreation, arts, culture, and heritage.
 - **FutureSSM** staff + **Lord Cultural Resources** presented information on FutureSSM and the new **Community Cultural Plan**.
 - Other resource staff in attendance:
 - Manager of Recreation and Culture, City of Sault Ste. Marie
 - The event was casual, come-and-go format with interactive displays around the room. Input was collected through conversations, sticky notes, dot-voting (FutureSSM), comment cards (heritage neighbourhoods), and feedback forms.
 - 187 sticky notes & 13 feedback forms were collected by end of the event.
 - Input is always still welcome - contact us through our website <https://www.shapethesault.ca> and via email planning@cityssm.on.ca.
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Sticky note comments/ideas

Parks in Sault Ste. Marie:

Regional parks, neighbourhood parks & linear parks. Active uses vs. passive uses. Urban parks vs. rural parks.

As an artist, I use the parks extensively for inspiration and repose.

Bicycle bike rental hub in parks would be great.

Bicycle path to Hiawatha Highlands.

Both! [*re: neighbourhood parks vs. linear parks*] Places to take families within walking distance. More trails that showcase surrounding area's natural beauty.

Establish unique games at each park which attract their usage such as Frisbee golf, roller blading, etc.

Finish building the skatepark.

Help in transporting people to the parks who do not have the means - how do they get to Strathclair to enjoy what the majority can (or Bellevue).

Horses - dogs - recreation. Both linear & urban. [*re: how do you use our parks (?)*]

I use the park to reconnect with nature, to meditate.

Kinsmen Park need better facilities, washrooms - new road to access park, better safer accessible to Falls.

Linear parks - won't they encourage a sense of connectedness throughout the community?

Make areas dog friendly.

More dog parks OR make 'Topsail Island' dog hours! i.e. 7 am - 9 am, 5 pm - 8 pm.

More time and money in keeping the mustard weed controlled in the Sutton Park area - off Wellington East.

Natural shade structures - trees are great but some areas require shade structures (built) for sun protection with picnic tables / benches to sit & relax.

Passive use - to escape from the city.

Set the Bellevue Park train free! Soo children should be free and safe to play on it. Uncage the train!

Set up chess boards.

The state of the soccer fields at Strathclair are dangerous. Many players injure themselves every season from lack of maintenance. Better care would promote more people to play + come to SSM to play.

We need both. [re: *neighbourhood parks vs. linear parks*]

Whole streets not just for cars. Copenhagenize.

Current Challenges:

Park design for safety and accessibility. School closures.

Add play structure + water park for Chapple area residents...

Encourage neighbourhoods to use as family outings.

Encourage use! Access to any type of green space should be as free of rules & regulations as possible.

Make dog parks at unused schools!!!

Remove unsafe or [?] equipment from abandoned schools and update existing spaces to better suit public needs.

Restoration of floodways as appropriate.

Some of us walk our dogs in the closed school space, therefore decrease crime. Please keep them & redevelop these green spaces.

Use the lands for more community gardens.

Utilize closed schools as community spaces & for community functions.

We need to address the drug crisis which is plaguing our city.

West end flood way - good trail opportunity.

Yes. [re: *Do we have the right ideas.*] Consider park & recreational space in school redevelopments but consider dog parks in some areas.

More Current Challenges:

Connectivity and distribution. Demographic changes and underutilization.

A community centre at Hiawatha Highlands for the public.

A Spring Fest in SSM: Bird watching (Whitefish Island), wild flowers, hiking (Hub Trail / Robertson Cliffs) - all guided. Presenters (photo workshops etc.). Promote ice caves north of town (they made New York Times list).

Agree active transportation.

Can we install chess boards?

Daily shuttle service to outskirts of town.

Enhance the parks not dispose of them. Example: MacDonald & Pine always busy.

Excited about use of floodways for more trails - great work!!

Have transit service to Bellevue Park in summer on a broader spectrum - so splash pad can be used. Horrible place for it.

Meadow Park - new young couples + older retiree mix.

Once parks are gone they are lost forever. Don't dispose. Find ways to connect - public transit etc.

Park land should be protected. Consider developing unused parks in ways that keep the park feel e.g. pump track, courts, etc.

Pay + Go bikes.

Protect parks. Can't get them back once gone. Instead use space for gardens.

Protect the park by: getting people there, transit issue, give activities, make them community gardens, use them for summer concerts - use our parks.

SHUTTLE BUS: Downtown, Clergue Park, Locks.

There used to be a bridge tourist bus, and a touring bus going to Hiawatha, etc. Do it again.

Transit issue - how to access area if a family or persons do not have a car.

Use natural land to best advantage to create play spaces for family members...

We need to continue connectivity to the Hub Trail with spokes / networks. Our west end residents need to have access to this great trail.

Yes! [re: *Do we have the right ideas.*] Call neighbourhood meeting to understand what the park means to the residents and how it adds to their lives recreationally.

YES! To improving transit!

Future Opportunities:

New uses for parks and facilities. Parkland dedication from development.

Add lights to Skating Trail. Rent skates. Continue food options / music...

Another dog park.

Can we install chess boards?

Continue public access to river and shoreline - include small business access!

Dog Parks at unused schools!!

Downtown kayak launch - [*which use*] lower "docks" (launch pad) than a canoe dock.

Finish building the Skatepark. It's too small. It would promote tourism.

How about a skating trail at Bellevue Park? (in addition to the one at Clergue Park)

How about some small waterfront shops. In 1948 Sault Michigan at Canal had the shops - same as what is there now.
Ice rink at Art Gallery excellent. Splash Pad should be there.
Make a history oriented park.
Make Queen St. open for people to mingle / connect. Allow street to have patios in summer.
More dog parks needed throughout city.
More dog parks.
More east + west. Currently downtown.
More exercise equipment outdoors in parks + on Hub Trail for <u>adults</u> .
More public art spaces: murals, outdoor sculptures, graffiti walls, benches along trails.
Need more community gardens near large apartment buildings.
Protect parks from special interest groups. Monument space <u>isn't</u> green space.
Public art installations are a great idea! But allow the artists to lead.
Skating Trail - have a demonstration of lights of all kinds of structures - e.g. Lafarge Lake in Vancouver, BC.
Snowmachining access - not an inviting city for snowmachine tourists.
Somewhere on the waterfront for residents to 'rent' storage for kayaks, canoes etc.
<u>Street Furniture</u> . <u>Beautification</u> . Make these areas worth visiting.
Too many facilities away from people - especially those who do not have cars. Need Dog Park in downtown core (e.g. Gateway site).
Whitefish Island development.
Would love more indoor rec facilities such as Northern Community Centre. Demand is high & prices are high which is a barrier to play. Many soccer players will stop playing if prices continue to increase at our only facility.

Map of public recreation in Sault Ste. Marie
Bay / [?] & make 2nd Line public. [re: where should we add new trails?]
BEACH [re: Bellevue Park]
Bike trails to Hiawatha park from Hub Trail.
City-owned? [re: Sault Ste. Marie Golf Club. Answer: no]
Develop existing single track multi use trails at Finn Hill.

Dog park for Gateway site - many people with dogs don't have car.
Downtown Waterfront Indoor <u>Beach</u> - with indoor walking path & climbing wall, food production, hotel & restaurant (rent for revenue), energy neutral, mental health.
Finish building the skatepark. [re: <i>John Rhodes / Queen Elizabeth Park</i>]
Glad to see flood planes [<i>channels?</i>] on your map!!
Great idea to make a skating rink on the river area.
Implement Cycling Master Plan.
Increase <u>indoor</u> soccer capabilities, need more fields.
Involve STAC [<i>i.e. Sault Trails Advocacy Committee</i>] in trail planning.
Keep Norgoma.
Keep your population in mind: families without a lot of disposable income who want to get out.
Movies in the summer outdoors?
Please create spoke to the Hub Trail for people in the west end.
Priority cycling link - Korah + 2nd Line Carmen's Way.
Protect our downtown green spaces. [re: <i>Clergue Park</i>]
Recreational / cultural activities - pop-up markets / food events -> focus on cultural diversity e.g. newcomer marketplace, Indigenous music / arts festival.
Relocate rubbish area. [re: <i>Bellevue Park</i>]
Sidewalk snow clearing criteria - proximity to recreation facilities i.e. parks, Hub Trail.
Sidewalks ARE a recreational facility.
Snowmachine from hotels to restaurants - we are an area with snow.
Snowmachining areas - we do not welcome the snowmachine recreation like stateside - why not?
Some parks and land holdings should be managed for sustainability. Establish demo of forest management. e.g. Sault College forest land.
Turn the old hospital into green space.
Unfortunately - most of old Finnish Community wiped out with new customs plaza - Albert St / Huron to Hudson etc.
Use the bandshell / stage at Bellevue Park for movies, music, plays, etc.
Voyageur Trail maintenance - not being maintained.
What good are sidewalks or trails if they are not cleared of snow? Winter is 4-6 months of year.

**Supporting the Arts through Land Use:
Public art from private development. Live-work, studio and maker spaces.**

Approach Bay St. parking lot owners to place boards up along the north side of Bay for art installations.

Art warms the soul! Yes! Yes!

Cheaper studios needed to enhance neighbourhoods.

Co-op studio for fibre arts.

Create an Art in the Park for permanent outdoor public art.

Do we need more murals? Let's move public art into a richer dialogue.

Encourage graffiti alleys.

Group of Seven murals.

Implement more grants to support practicing artists.

Include 1% of budget be allocated to public art - with clear criteria.

Love the idea of more street art - potential for "live" painting social events or art classes for youth - specifically at risk / Indigenous youth.

Love this idea!

Love to see more but city has many issues.

Missed opportunity tonight to showcase local art.

More murals that tell our history!

More outdoor performance stages. Like the Bondar but doesn't have to be as big. Live bands outside would be amazing!

Murals for large walls e.g. Group of Seven murals in Huntsville.

Murals! And sculpture that includes lighting.

Promote meaningful, relevant & beautiful public art - where we can identify with it - forward thinking and contemporary.

Raise awareness among general public about benefits of the arts to life & public spaces - VALUATION.

Reduce rental costs to give more space to show our artists - create an artist walking route for tourists / cruises.

Shared space - excellent.

Street art can beautify some areas. Use some of our young talent.

Support more areas for local artists to display their work. Either show and/or sale.

Use some of our unoccupied spaces for artists / decorate some ugly store fronts.
Yes as much as possible include art of all kinds.
Yes more affordable shared art spaces.
Yes to public art in plans. Yes for better home businesses - see: Gabriola Island [<i>in BC</i>].
YES. [<i>re: murals for large walls like in Huntsville</i>]

Building Community Culture through Land Use: Creating community hubs. Downtown as the Sault's cultural core.
Abandoned buildings as gallery space. Artists' studios. Workshop spaces. Performance arts. Theatre stages.
Art Center run by Art Council.
Beer + bicycles + closed streets.
Build a big gazebo in the park.
Chess boards in the park!
Community Hubs based on nationalities e.g. Finns & the Albert St / Andrew / Huron [?] area.
Consider closed schools as hubs for neighbourhoods which don't have any.
Create a "piazza" (city square) off of Queen St for gathering & music. A good place would be in the Bingham St area.
Create a more natural and appealing connection between the waterfront & Queen Street e.g. the brewery block?
Cultural development places for all races / religions (Muslim, etc.).
Cultural hub / safe space for youth.
Decrease vehicle traffic on Queen Street to make room for pedestrians / cyclists & other non motorized traffic!
De-incentivize having empty spaces.
'Downtown' is not the only shopping and services area e.g. Wellington East & West, Trunk Road, Great Northern Road, Bruce, Korah.
Get transit to Community [<i>Theatre</i>] Centre (White Pines) when there is an event.
Give a tax [<i>incentive</i>] for people to set up art, culture, etc. Pick a part of the town like Gore St.
Have signage to educate on special places, things.
I ride the bus and there should be more convenient service on Great Northern.

Love this! [re: pictures in empty windows]
Make every empty office have pictures in windows instead of bleak emptiness.
Make transit passes accessible for organizations / groups doing community work.
More bicycle paths less sidewalks.
More Indigenous art + appreciation.
More performing arts for all ages...
Re-evaluate winter sidewalk plow schedule to ensure downtown is accessible for pedestrians (even those walking from nearby parking lots).
Reuse vacant property for housing.
Second [i.e. agree with] - plow sidewalks.
Sudbury's embrace of city art has had beautiful results.
Visit other popular downtowns and find out what makes it so popular that our own citizens leave and visit them - Why? Can't we create this vibe?
Yes to a piazza downtown!!
Yes!
Yes. It is a start!

Protecting Cultural Heritage & Archaeological Resources

Acknowledging our native culture with a museum.
Convert Norgoma into a gathering place with history - food, local beers, feature local artists/music, make the waterfront inviting something to do.
Convert old churches/schools in Havens for our homeless and activity areas for less fortunate who have no transportation to key park/activity places - help them and they can help back by volunteering, give them a place and purpose.
Create a UNESCO site given the Soo's history.
Group of Seven!!!
If I landed in the "Soo" from another city would there be any evidence of our cultural/heritage resources?
Indigenous collaboration.
Instead of Indigenous interests being considered, local First Nations, members should be actively consulted and involved in the protection of lands/heritage areas.
Keep Norgoma & consider it a heritage attraction - maybe a floating restaurant.
Keep the M.S. Norgoma.

Legacy trees.

Requiring new buildings to be consistent with heritage architecture e.g. Queen St.

Save the Norgoma.

The waterfront - keep the boat Norgoma as a tourist history-related item.

Trees/plants i.e. milkweed for monarch butterflies.

Feedback forms

What kind of parks should City focus on?	Tally (n=13)
Regional parks	5
Neighbourhood parks	9
Linear parks and trails	9
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe <u>theme</u> parks - specializing on specific attributes (vegetative, heritage, etc.)

How should the City plan for arts & culture, parks & recreation, and heritage protection in Sault Ste. Marie?

Have a comprehensive multi-year plan.

- Don't start by a simple example (one??) but rather a large splash to get wide attention.
- Establish a demo of sustainable forest land management - as a tourist attraction (e.g. Sault College forest).
- Have arboretum (2 already but people don't know about them).
- Establish a dog park downtown (e.g. Gateway site) as many older people don't drive (or have a car) to get to Second Line Dog Park or Bellevue Park.

I spoke at length to several people about a "wall mural collection" similar to Huntsville (Group of Seven) where they have 94 large murals within the town and along the Hwy 60 to Algonquin Park. We should have collection of locally important Group of Seven featured from Sault all the way up Hwy 17 through to Wawa, Terrace Bay and Rossport.

The Gallery & publicly-funded or public-serving arts organizations need a deeper look.

No gallery educator at AGA.

Arts Council not functioning well, 8 artists @ this year's AITP & L event, visual artists totally neglected by Arts Council this year. [note: *Arts in the Park & Lot - at Bondar Pavilion in August*]

Lack of connection / communication between Arts communities leads to lack of attendance, support, etc.

Public arts is secondary to ensuring arts community is healthy / functional.

More of a plan for arts besides a few murals / public artworks.

Protect arts & culture, parks & recreation by promoting - celebrating - growing - what we have. A variety of aesthetic approaches - between architects / artists / designers would be healthy.

I came here to bring up concerns I had regarding the soccer amenities in the Soo. I am an avid player that is frustrated by the state of the playing fields. Our outdoor fields (Strathclair) are most times dangerous. I and members of my team + league have become injured from lack of care to the fields. In terms of the (freezing cold!) indoor facility, only 2 fields means we get less playing time due to high demand and also the price is very expensive creating barriers to the many students + young professionals who play. Would love to see more indoor fields or some way to make it more accessible.

- Need higher visibility of our indigenous culture - would never know how rich this culture is here when drive or fly into.
- Too many 1 way streets directing people away from the downtown.
- Create an inviting downtown - walking route artists / cafes - check out popular places and find out what they are doing that makes them popular. Our waterfront is underutilized.
- Places for rent / boat docking etc. too high for this city - people cannot afford.
- Snowmachining trails none existent for tourists - food + hotels key for snowmachining.

- Protect greenspaces please, e.g. Clergue Park monument.
- Protect neighbourhoods from developers so that concerned residents are not pitted against by-law variance committee, e.g. planned development on lower Pim behind Algonquin was originally approved to be oversized in what the city now is wanting to call a heritage area.
- Make it easier for special interest + community groups to grow, communicate, and use spaces.
- Skating trail forever.
- Identify and work with community stakeholders (esp. land use).

We need to bring back Articulations newsletter.

Finish projects they start like finish building the skatepark.

Community consultations.

Help people exercise in their neighbourhoods by painting distance markers onto sidewalks.

Have "multi-pass" for (one pass for all):

1. Bushplane museum
2. Art Gallery
3. Museum
4. Ermatinger Old Stone House

Have prices as "4 for the price of 3". Have it available:

1. Online
2. At each location
3. At Soo tourism board (by bridge)
4. Station Mall

Have a SHUTTLE BUS for:

1. Downtown
2. Mill / locks
3. Bushplane
4. Clergue Park

For neighbourhoods highlighted, what about Steelton, with the rich Italian immigrant history? Will it be captured in another heritage neighbourhood?

And in terms of what do I do in the Sault, it's walking and cycling. Cycling however, can be quite dangerous without more bike trails. The more we can expand those, the better. For me personally, I live near People's Road, and I would never venture down People's Road to go to the Northern Community Centre. A bike trail would open that up tremendously.

Any general comments about today's event or Shape the Sault?

This is an excellent program you have put together - excellent format for gathering information - hope to see some of this come to fruition!

Feel free to reach out [*contact info*].

Well organized + informative, thanks!

Like the way it was presented. Allowing comments verbally and in writing.

Good event - Is there a way to see compiled feedback and eventually if/how it was incorporated?

Thank-you!

Interesting + needed.

Excellent!