



City Council Agenda Item Report

FROM: Ryan Cummins, City Manager

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposed Warming Station at Mize Rose Garden

DESCRIPTION:

The Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) has been evaluating initiatives to improve shoulder season traffic. The CVB has approached the City Council with a recommendation to add a warming station to the Mize Rose Garden area. The minutes from previous Council meetings summarize the prior review and discussions:

City Council Workshop – 9-3-25

Lisa Mize, CVB Director, presented a shoulder season initiative idea, which aims to boost activity in Saugatuck during the fall, spring, and winter months. Consultants were brought in to assess the area and recommend ways to attract more visitors outside the busy summer season. One key recommendation was to install warming stations or fire pits in central locations. The Rose Garden was identified as a preferred location for a permanent warming station, with ideas to replace the current fencing with a low brick wall to make the space more inviting and provide additional seating. Other possible locations, such as Wicks Park and Village Park, were also discussed. The majority of funding would come from the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), with potential contributions from the city. Council members expressed the need to respect any restrictions tied to the Rose Garden. Next steps include preparing renderings for multiple locations and presenting the options to the council for input.

City Council Regular Meeting – 11-10-25

Lisa Mize presented plans for a proposed warming station in the Rose Garden, emphasizing its carefully considered design to complement the existing landscape and improve accessibility for both residents and visitors throughout the year, including winter. She explained the station's location and features, including low brickwork, multiple new entryways, and its elevated design to accommodate people with mobility needs. Lisa noted positive feedback from local businesses and stakeholders and

mentioned that outreach was ongoing. She assured the council that existing roses and sculptures would largely remain unaffected, and the city's maintenance process would continue to involve contracted landscape professionals. Funding would come primarily from the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), with additional donations and possible in-kind contributions of materials, while final costs were yet to be determined.

City Council Workshop Meeting – 6-17-26

Executive Director of the CVB Ashley Siebelink explained that the CVB-led project was updated after the survey: they worked with the same metal fabricator that did the Holland Ice Rink fire pits to design a custom structure. She clarified that the overall layout remains similar—replacing the existing fence along the sidewalk with a concrete sitting wall, keeping the rose garden and existing plantings largely intact, and adding some exterior landscaping. Siebelink confirmed the CVB board has now voted to fund the entire project capital cost, with no upfront city dollars, and that design input has come from community members (including local business owners/designers Martin Horner and John Cannarsa). Some councilmembers emphasized that the concept aligns with shoulder-season goals, the business community survey responses were largely positive, and the CVB's willingness to fully fund construction makes it an attractive infrastructure amenity. It could create a welcoming gathering space in colder months without materially disrupting current priorities if the CVB manages the project and the city's role is limited to plan review, snow removal, and routine maintenance. They also noted that other communities like Holland and Fennville have similar amenities and that this fits a broader trend of CVBs investing assessment dollars in public infrastructure rather than just marketing. Some councilmembers voiced concerns such that the Rose/Mize Garden was originally intended as a quiet memorial space tied to the Mize family's donation. They questioned whether this project belongs in the city's current priority list, worried about underestimating future DPW time to keep the feature operating and presentable. Other concerns were that survey participation (171 respondents) may not fully reflect broader community sentiment. Alternative locations—particularly Village Square/Village Park—were suggested as potentially better fits to both respect the memorial garden and The conversation ended with a procedural consensus: thanked the CVB and Ashley for the work and generous funding offer, and send the updated Rose Garden concept back to the PPW committee for a new recommendation—particularly on location, fence treatment, and maintenance—followed by Historic District Commission review, then a return to council at a future workshop and, ultimately, a regular meeting vote.

Rose Garden Trust Language

In November I provided City Council with a copy of the Rose Garden trust language. The City Clerk was also able to find a box of documents for the Rose Garden. The Clerk, previous CVB Executive Director, and I all took a look at the documents. The Clerk also reviewed minutes from around the time the Rose Garden was approved. In short:

- Nothing from the donor requires fencing or prohibits a warming feature from being incorporated. The donation through the trust and estate simply required that a rose garden remain in perpetuity to honor Roxie Mize's brother and his wife. Other than that, the trust didn't specify a location or particular requirements. The City went on to develop various options through a committee.
- Through the committee process and recommendations of the city manager at the time, a fence was included as a security feature. However, the Clerk didn't find any specific motions or policies on fencing from City Council.

Survey Results

At the request of City Council, the CVB completed a survey and provided the attached results.

Parks and Public Works Committee Recommendation

The Parks and Public Works Committee has reviewed the plans several times. They recommended approval at their July meeting:

The committee discussed the proposal from the Visitors Bureau (presented by Ashley Siebelink), to install a gas-fired warming station and additional seating in the Rose Garden downtown as part of a larger shoulder-season initiative. The concept is to turn the Rose Garden into a more welcoming, multi-season gathering space, with a sculptural stone seating wall and a centrally located burner operated by a timer and emergency shut-off, designed in consultation with Chief Janik and a fire-protection contractor to meet safety and ADA requirements. The existing wrought-iron fence would be removed, making the garden more visually and physically accessible, while existing plantings would largely be preserved and enhanced in coordination with the current landscape contractor. Committee members supported the goal of more seating and extended use into the off-season but raised practical concerns about maintenance (trash, sticky spills, cigarette butts), gas costs, potential late-night behavior given nearby bars, and impacts on the Mize endowment and DPW workload. DPW Director Ondersma reported he had vetted the burner design, maintenance, and materials and was comfortable with the operational burden.

Motion by Thiel, supported by Charak, to move forward with the Rose Garden. Via voice vote, motion carried 4-0.

Historic District Commission Approval

The Historic District Commission reviewed the plans at their September 3 meeting and approved:

Motion by Patterson, second by Root to approve the applicant's request for a Historic District Permit for modifications to the Mize Rose Garden at the corner of Mason Street and Butler Street, including removal of the existing wrought iron fence and installation of

low-masonry seating walls, additional landscaping, two (2) brick paver entryways, and custom natural gas fire feature, as proposed, based on the application meeting the applicable Historic District Guidelines set forth in §152.07.

Motion carried 5-0, with Cannarsa abstaining.

Public Works Review

After conducting research regarding the proposed warming station, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has determined that the ongoing maintenance costs are expected to be minimal.

Following discussions with Total Fabrication Solutions regarding the design and materials to be used, it was determined that maintenance costs should remain low due to the use of stainless steel in construction. Stainless steel is durable, corrosion-resistant, and well suited for outdoor applications.

The log set supplied by Breck Iron Works will require seasonal rotation as part of its routine maintenance. The burner unit is also expected to require minimal maintenance.

Additionally, discussions with a local fireplace company indicated that one of the most common maintenance issues with similar units is cigarette butts being placed inside them. This issue can be addressed through appropriate signage and regular inspection as part of the station's routine maintenance program.

Estimated ongoing costs for gas consumption are being evaluated, and additional information will be provided at the workshop meeting.

Overall, based on the materials selected, the proposed design, and input from local professionals, the warming station is expected to have relatively low ongoing maintenance.

BUDGET ACTION:

None at this time. The CVB is managing the project. The CVB has proposed covering all construction costs.

LEGAL REVIEW:

Legal will be at your meeting if you have any questions.

SAMPLE MOTIONS:

Motion to **approve** the proposed Mize Rose Garden warming station and associated site improvements in accordance with the plans approved by the Historic District Commission and to:

1. Authorize the Convention and Visitors Bureau to continue managing the project and to be solely responsible for all third-party costs associated with the design, permitting,

construction, and completion of the project, with no City financial contribution toward such costs.

2. Authorize the City Manager to coordinate final City review and any necessary permits or approvals.
3. Authorize acceptance of the completed improvements as a donation to the City, subject to satisfactory completion and final inspection by City staff and/or the City Engineer.

Motion to **deny** the proposed Mize Rose Garden warming station and associated site improvements as presented.

Rose Garden Warming Station Proposal
Presented to the City of Saugatuck Parks & Public Works Committee
By the Saugatuck/Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Summary

The Saugatuck/Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) respectfully requests the Historic District Commission's approval to proceed with the installation of a permanent warming station at the entrance to the Mize Memorial Rose Garden.

Designed as a welcoming public gathering place, the warming station will encourage year-round use of one of Saugatuck's most beloved parks while thoughtfully preserving the character and beauty of the Rose Garden.

The funding for this project comes entirely from lodging assessments paid by overnight visitors, not local property taxes.

Project Vision

The vision for the Rose Garden Warming Station is simple: Create a beautiful, permanent public gathering space that encourages people to enjoy downtown Saugatuck throughout all four seasons.

Rather than serving solely as a fire feature, the warming station is intended to become a place where friends meet, families gather, visitors pause during winter walks, and residents enjoy the outdoors even on cooler days.

Respecting the Rose Garden

The Mize Memorial Rose Garden is one of Saugatuck's most treasured public spaces, and preserving its character has remained one of the project's highest priorities. Throughout the design process, the project team has worked to ensure the warming station complements rather than competes with the existing garden.

Feedback from the public consistently emphasized the importance of respecting the Rose Garden's legacy. Survey respondents specifically encouraged preserving existing plantings where possible, and maintaining the garden's historic character.

Project Design

The design of the warming station has been guided by a commitment to preserving and enhancing the Mize Memorial Rose Garden. Throughout the design process, Martin Horner, owner of Souci Horner Design Collective and a member of the Saugatuck/Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, has worked closely with John Cannarsa, owner of Cannarsa Structure & Design, to ensure the project complements the existing landscape while honoring the garden's original vision.

A custom natural gas fire feature will serve as the focal point of a new gathering area, surrounded by brick pavers and landscaping that integrates seamlessly with the existing park. As part of the project, the existing wrought iron fence will be removed and replaced with low masonry seating walls. This enhancement opens the garden visually, provides additional seating, and invites residents and visitors to pause, relax, and enjoy the space.

The design also improves accessibility by creating two new entrances into the Rose Garden, making the park easier to access from multiple directions and strengthening its connection to the surrounding sidewalks.

Rather than functioning solely as a warming station, the space is envisioned as a year-round gathering place. During the cooler months, the fire feature will provide warmth and encourage outdoor activity. Throughout the rest of the year, the seating walls, landscaping, and open design will continue to serve as an attractive public amenity that enhances one of Saugatuck's most cherished parks.

The proposed location and site layout are illustrated in the attached landscape plan.

Community Support

In November 2025, the CVB conducted a Community Support Survey regarding a warming station in downtown Saugatuck. The survey received **171 responses** representing residents, business owners, visitors, and other community stakeholders.

Overall Support

- **74.7%** Support
- **18.3%** Oppose
- **7.1%** Neutral/Unsure

Among business owners who expressed an opinion, support was overwhelmingly positive, with only four respondents indicating they believed the warming stations would negatively impact their business.

Common themes from public comments included:

- Creating a more welcoming downtown during winter
- Encouraging year-round activity
- Increasing community gathering opportunities
- Respecting the historic character of the Rose Garden
- Providing additional seating and thoughtful landscaping

A complete summary of the survey results is attached.

Project Funding

The Saugatuck/Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau has committed to funding the construction of the Rose Garden Warming Station.

Estimated Project Costs

Item	Cost
Masonry Construction	\$35,910
Fire Feature	\$12,565
Decorative Log Assembly	\$20,000
Landscaping	\$35,000
Estimated Total	\$103,475

Proposed Timeline

August 2026

- Historic District Commission Review

September 2026

- Saugatuck City Council Review

Fall 2026

- Construction

Prior to the Community Tree Lighting (11/27) and Whootville Parade (12/5)

- Project Completion
-

Requested Action

The Saugatuck/Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau respectfully requests that the Historic District Commission's approval of the Rose Garden Warming Station project so that it may proceed to the Historic District Commission for review.

The CVB appreciates the Commission's thoughtful consideration of this proposal and looks forward to continuing its partnership with the City of Saugatuck to invest visitor-generated revenue into projects that strengthen our community and improve public spaces for everyone.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN FOR:

SAUGATUCK WARMING STATION

MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN

145 BUTLER ST. SAUGATUCK, MI

DATE: 04/06/26

SCALE: 1" = 10'-0"

MASON STREET

CITY SIDEWALK

MASONRY SEATWALL
20" HT. X 18" WIDE

ADDED BRICK PAVER
PATH

20" HT.

ADDED BRICK PAVERS

FIRE PIT

BUTLER STREET

20" HT.

MASONRY SEATWALL
20" HT. X 18" WIDE

MASONRY SEATWALL
20" HT. X 18" WIDE

BOXWOOD SHRUB HEDGE

CITY
SIDEWALK

ADDED BRICK PAVER
PATH

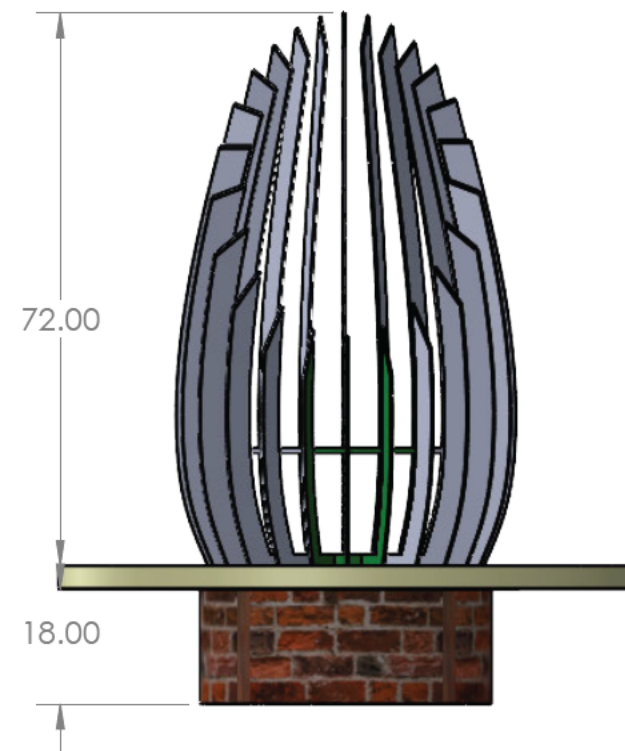
BUILDING:
249 MASON ST.

BUILDING:
141 BUTLER ST.

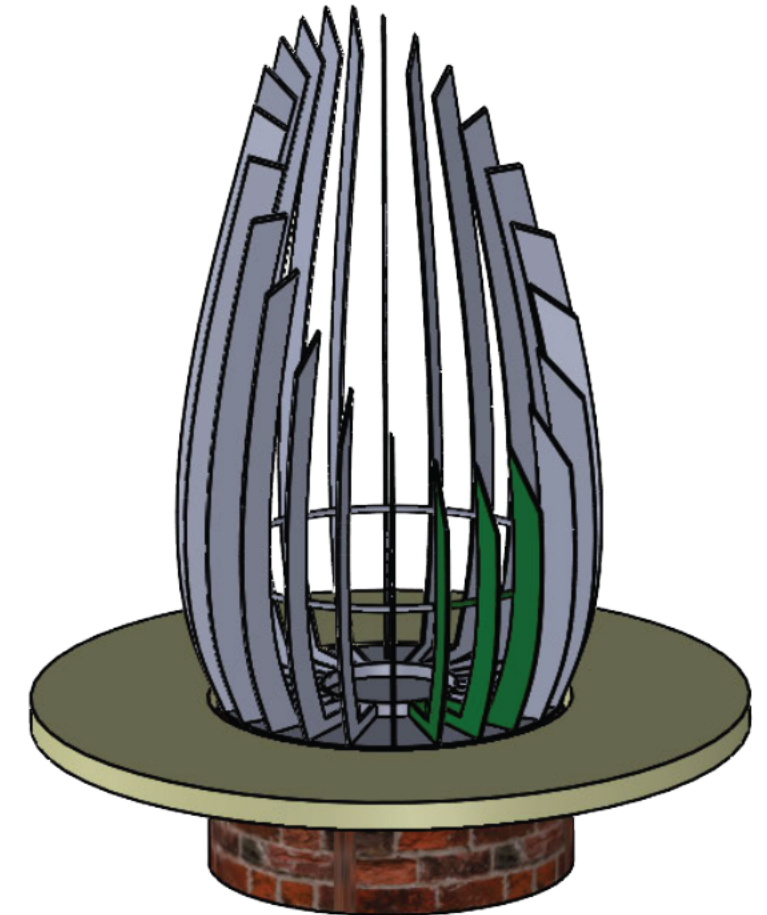
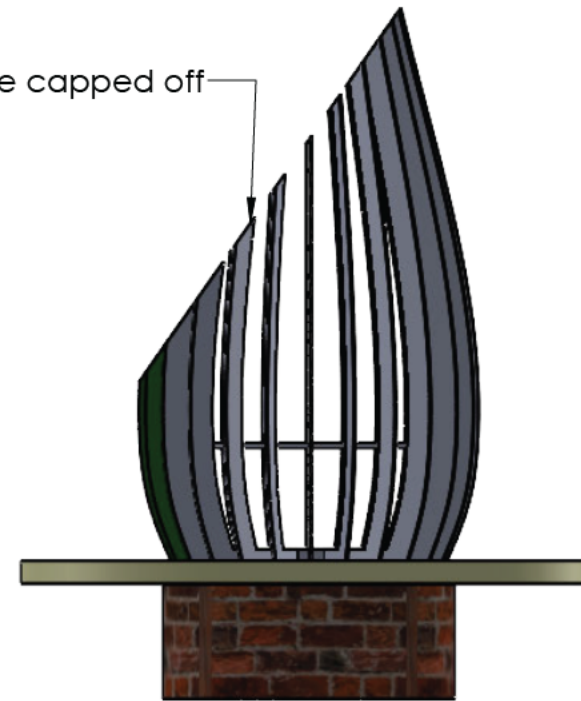


LANDSCAPE
DESIGN SERVICES

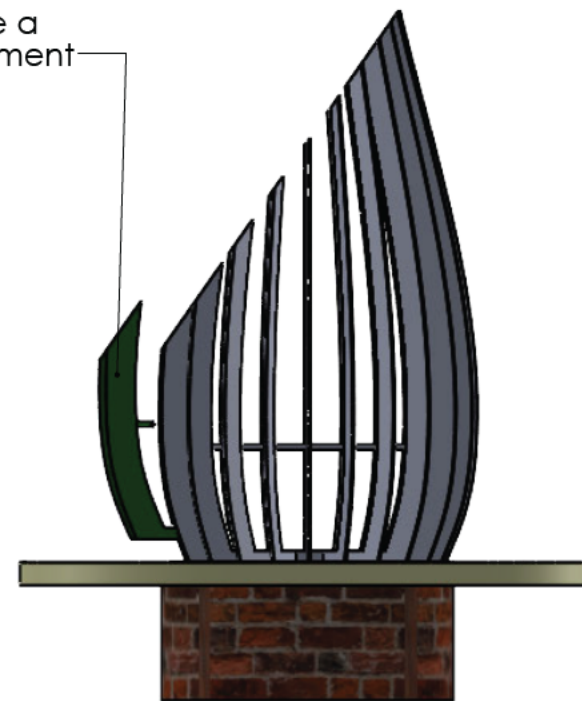
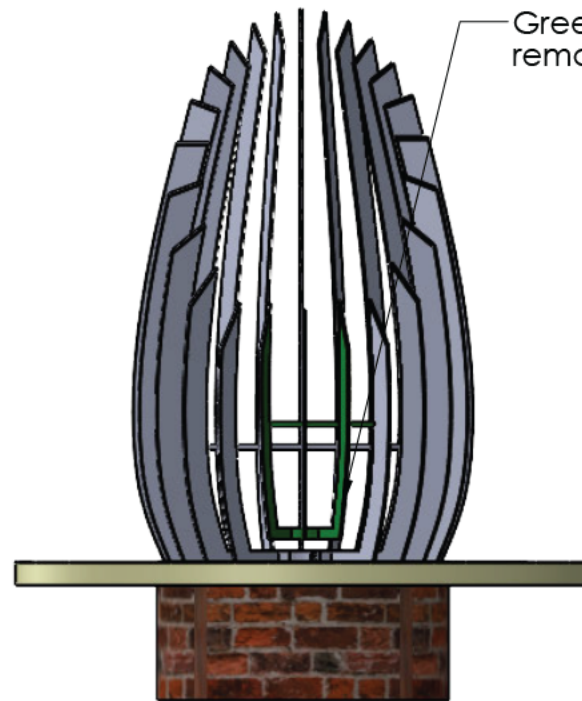
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Top to be capped off



Green Panels are a removable weldment



NOTE: Inside of firepit will be wrapped in either expanded metal or perforated sheet metal per fire code for the city.



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Customer: Saugutuck

Job Num:

Material: -- Select Material --

Gauge: -- Select Gauge --

Finish: -- Select Finish --

DWG: Firepit

Descrp:

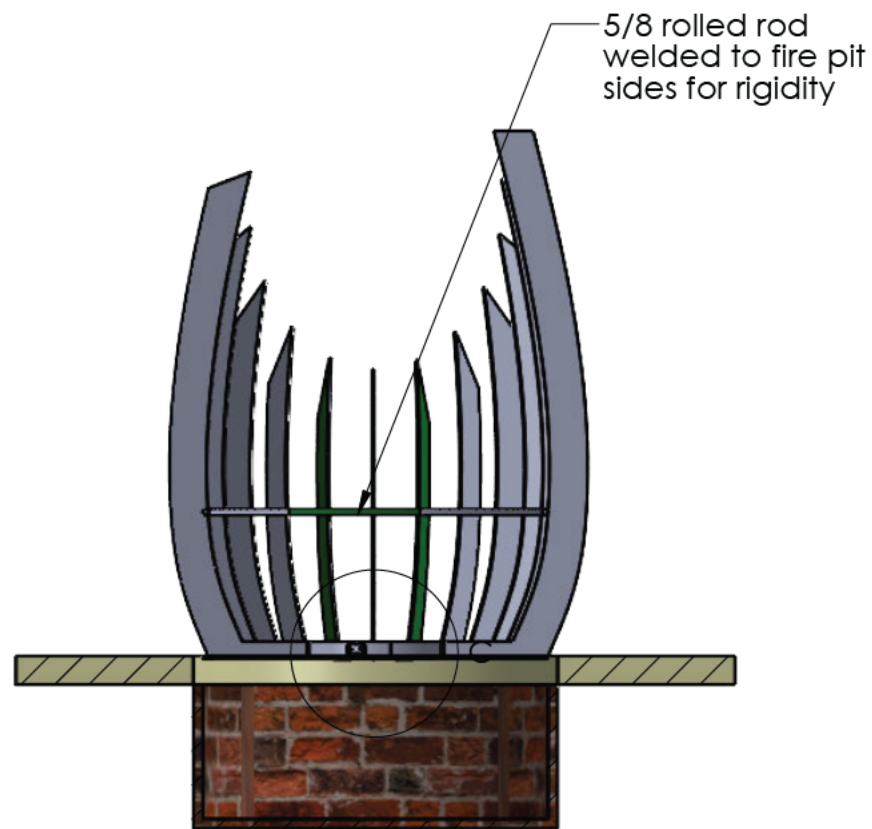
DWG BY: ZJH

DATE: 5/19/2026

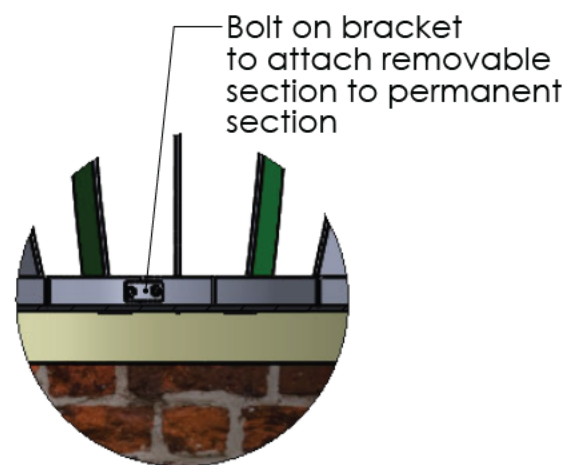
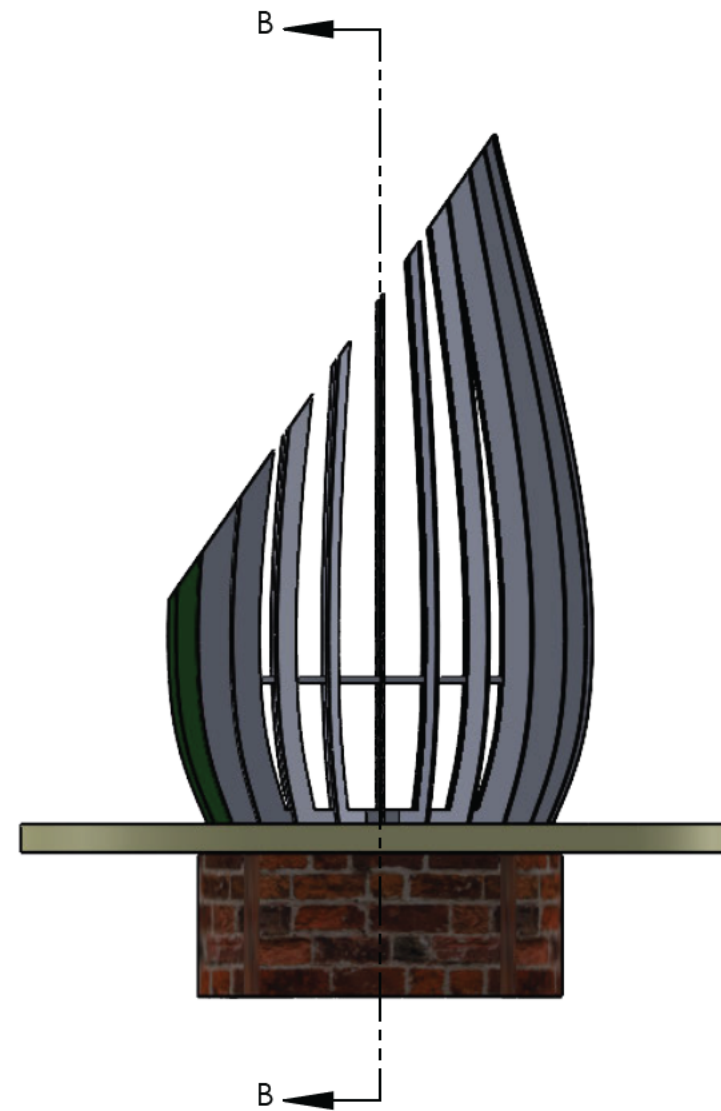
Quantity:

SCALE: NTS

SHEET 1 OF 3



SECTION B-B
SCALE 1 : 20



DETAIL C
SCALE 1 : 10

Customer:	Saugutuck
Job Num:	
Material:	-- Select Material --
Gauge:	-- Select Gauge --
Finish:	-- Select Finish --



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DWG: Firepit

Descrp:

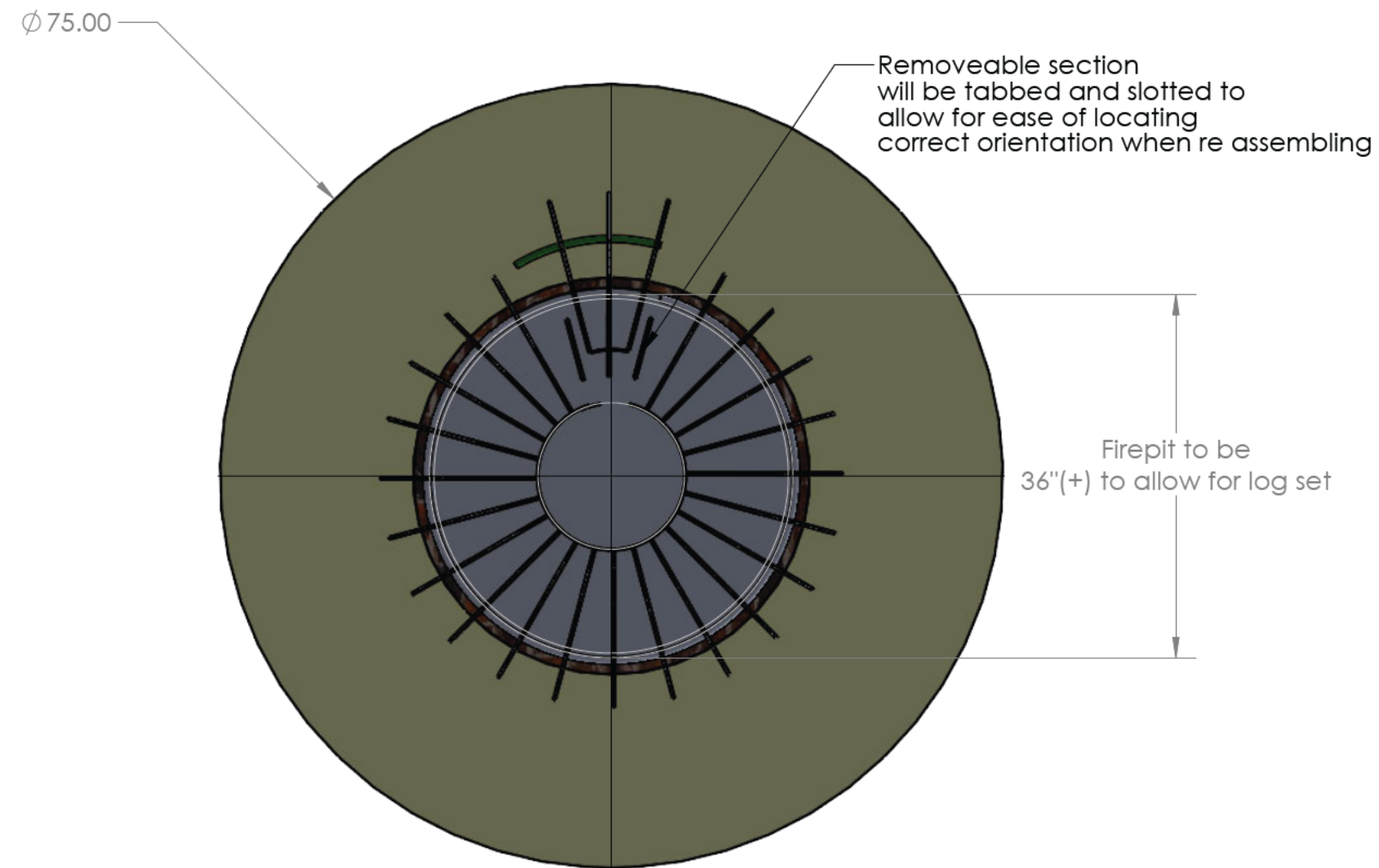
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Quantity:

SCALE: NTS

SHEET 2 OF 3



Customer:	Saugutuck
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Gauge:	-- Select Gauge --
Finish:	-- Select Finish --

 TOTAL FABRICATION SOLUTIONS		PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DRAWING IS THE SOLE PROPERTY OF <INSERT COMPANY NAME HERE>. ANY REPRODUCTION IN PART OR AS A WHOLE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF <INSERT COMPANY NAME HERE> IS PROHIBITED.	
DWG: Firepit			
Descrp:			
DWG BY: ZJH		DATE: 5/19/2026	
Quantity:		SCALE: NTS	SHEET 3 OF 3



**LANDSCAPE
DESIGN
SERVICES, INC.**

MATERIAL ORDER

DATE 8/24/2026

CUSTOMER Saugtatuck Visitors Bureau -

JOB NUMBER _____

PROJECT Saugtatuck Rose Garden-Warming Station

EMPLOYEE _____

ITEM NUMBER	MATERIAL NAME	SIZE	LOCATION	TAGGED Y/N	ORDER QTY.	SHIPPED QTY.
	Boxwood 'Winter Gem'	7 gal.			44	
	Geranium 'Max Frei'	1 gal.			20	
	Coral Bells 'Carmel'	1 gal.			10	
	Allium Millennium	1 gal.			10	

Warming Stations Community Support Survey Summary

Overview

The Warming Stations Community Support Survey was sent out in November 2025, and received 171 responses from residents, business owners, visitors, and other community stakeholders. Overall, the survey demonstrates strong support for installing winter warming stations (fire pits) in downtown Saugatuck and Douglas.

Respondent Profile

The majority of respondents identified as:

- Saugatuck residents: 105 responses (61%)
- Business owners in Saugatuck: 28 responses (16%)
- Visitors/non-residents: 10 responses (6%)
- Other respondents included Douglas residents, township residents, workers, taxpayers, and part-time residents.

Overall Support for Warming Stations

Response	Number	Percentage
Strongly Support	101	59.4%
Somewhat Support	26	15.3%
Neutral / Unsure	12	7.1%
Somewhat Oppose	12	7.1%
Strongly Oppose	19	11.2%

Key Finding

Nearly 75% of respondents (74.7%) support the project, while 18.3% oppose it and 7.1% remain neutral or unsure.

Business Impact

When asked whether warming stations would positively impact their business:

Response	Number
Yes, positively	36
Neutral / Unsure	14
No, negatively	4
Not a business owner	97

Among business owners who expressed an opinion, support was overwhelmingly positive, with only four respondents indicating they believed the warming stations would negatively impact their business.

Common Themes from Comments

A total of **100 respondents provided written comments**. Several clear themes emerged.

Positive Feedback

Many respondents described the project as:

- A "great idea" and a creative use of public space.
- A way to make downtown more welcoming during colder months.
- An amenity that could encourage people to spend more time downtown.
- A visual symbol of warmth, activity, and community during the winter season.
- An attractive feature similar to successful warming stations seen in neighboring communities.

Representative comments included:

"Such a great idea!"

"A great idea to bring people downtown during our quiet season."

"Whether/how much they are actually used, the visual is impactful—showing warmth, activity, and welcome even in cold weather."

Concerns and Suggestions

While support was strong, respondents also raised several thoughtful concerns:

Preservation of the Mize Rose Garden

The most common concern involved protecting the character and legacy of the Rose Garden.

Several respondents expressed support for the warming station concept while encouraging designers to:

- Preserve as many existing roses and plantings as possible.
- Maintain elements of the current garden layout.
- Respect the original donor intent behind the space.
- Avoid making the area feel overly hardscaped or "sterile."

Design Considerations

Some respondents suggested:

- Refining the fire pit design.
- Retaining portions of the existing fencing.
- Incorporating additional seating.
- Considering multiple warming stations throughout the community.

Operations and Safety

A few respondents requested additional information regarding:

- Fuel source and operation
- Hours of use
- Liability and safety considerations
- Ongoing maintenance responsibilities

Conclusion

The survey results indicate **broad community support for the installation of warming stations in downtown Saugatuck and Douglas**. Nearly three-quarters of respondents support the project, and business owners generally believe the warming stations will have a positive impact.

The strongest feedback centered on ensuring that the final designs preserve the character of existing public spaces—particularly the Mize Rose Garden—while creating welcoming gathering places that encourage year-round community activity.

Overall, respondents view warming stations as a positive enhancement that can help reinforce the area's reputation as a welcoming, four-season destination.

Timestamp	Who are you? (select one)	Overall, do you support installing winter warming stations (fire pits) in downtown Saugatuck and Douglas?	If you are a business owner, do you believe warming stations would positively impact your business?	Do you have any additional comments, compliments, or concerns regarding the warming stations?
11/21/2025 16:19:02	work here	Strongly support		this is a great idea and use of this space. It will be more inviting and I believe will get more use.
11/21/2025 16:19:33	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/21/2025 16:32:21	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:33:45	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose		This "improvement" is not needed. There are no outdoor winter activities in the city requiring "warming." And the Rose Garden shouldn't be redeveloped in this way.
11/21/2025 16:33:57	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose		
11/21/2025 16:34:05	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support		
11/21/2025 16:34:42	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Think it is a great idea for the Rose Garden. My support of others depends on location, but yes, we do enjoy them in Holland.
11/21/2025 16:35:12	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:35:26	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:35:37	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	A great idea to bring people downtown during our quiet season
11/21/2025 16:35:45				
11/21/2025 16:35:51	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:36:08	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	This is great and a much better use of that space!
11/21/2025 16:36:42	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	What a great use for that aspace in the cooler months.
11/21/2025 16:38:21	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Such a great idea!
11/21/2025 16:38:32	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose		
11/21/2025 16:39:30	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:42:26	Saugatuck homeowner and tax	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:44:02	Saugatuck Twp part time reside	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I think it would bring more visitors to Saugatuck in colder months
11/21/2025 16:44:20	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:46:09	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:46:48	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:46:58	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 16:55:24	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/21/2025 16:57:23	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	If many restaurants are closed in winter what good is a warming station?

Timestamp	Who are you? (select one)	Overall, do you support installing winter warming stations (fire pits) in downtown Saugatuck and Douglas?	If you are a business owner, do you believe warming stations would positively impact your business?	Do you have any additional comments, compliments, or concerns regarding the warming stations?
11/21/2025 17:01:24	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Don't love the design of the firepit in the rendering, but I like the idea. I do think doing away with the fence around the garden (and installing the low walls that could be used for seating) would make it more user friendly. Hopefully they can save a lot of the plants that are already there. No need to tear everything out.
11/21/2025 17:08:25	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly oppose	No, negatively	This is a passive feature- CVB should work on doing active events/ features to draw customers to the area in Q4 and Q1. Enlist the SCA to use their stages. Enlist businesses in shopping / dining features (restaurant week / shopping promotions). The flowers by the Butler is a passive thing and a failure-most of the flowers are no longer lit.
11/21/2025 17:10:05	Visitor / non-resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 17:10:59	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	Neutral / Unsure	This is not a reason to visit or stay longer in winter months. I do not see this having an impact on shoulder season visitors. Take a page from Holland and all the well-organized events they do.
11/21/2025 17:11:30	Douglas resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I think they are a great addition to a downtown area.
11/21/2025 17:12:01	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly oppose	No, negatively	
11/21/2025 17:15:49	Douglas resident.	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Need more than one in Each town. Douglas location would be great at beery field corner and at the post office.
11/21/2025 17:17:09	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 17:19:05	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support		I'm concerned about losing the beauty of the Mize Rose Garden—the drawings make it look pretty antiseptic. If you can keep the majority of the garden as it is, I'm all for a fire pit.
11/21/2025 17:23:15	Douglas resident/business ovr	Strongly support	Yes, positively	Whether/how much they are actually used, the visual is impactful - showing warmth/activity/welcome even in cold weather.
11/21/2025 17:23:22	Douglas resident (year round)	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Nice use of that corner
11/21/2025 17:23:42	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Neutral / Unsure	The conceptual plan shows the warming station with some shrubs as a back drop. The Mize's gave a large, generous amount of money for a rose garden in memory of his sister. I love the idea of a warming area, but please make sure the original use for this space does not get forgotten. Also I don't feel it necessary to remove all the fencing. To selectively leave part of it creates a feeling of enclosure, but does not confine. Thank you. Ruth A. Johnson, Landscape Designer
11/21/2025 17:26:38	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 17:27:07	Saugatuck Twp resident	Strongly support		
11/21/2025 17:28:19	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose		Issue of liability to the City for fire-related injuries (especially if after dark), no mention as to type of fire fuel (assume natural gas), hours of operation, and finally when does Saugatuck (and apparently the CVB) say that enough is enough when it comes to public "art" installations? The beauty of the rose garden is its simplicity which by the way already has a sculpture.
11/21/2025 17:34:07	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose	I'm not a business owner	If this project requires taxpayer funding, I think it needs to compete with. other proposals the city is considering.

Timestamp	Who are you? (select one)	Overall, do you support installing winter warming stations (fire pits) in downtown Saugatuck and Douglas?	If you are a business owner, do you believe warming stations would positively impact your business?	Do you have any additional comments, compliments, or concerns regarding the warming stations?
11/21/2025 17:37:12	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/21/2025 17:40:54	Taxpayer	Strongly support		The whole garden does not need redesign to add the warming. Prefer an additional location like by one of the river parks then redoing the garden.
11/21/2025 17:41:05	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Great job!
11/21/2025 17:42:34	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Great idea. Do it!
11/21/2025 17:42:54	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	If the fire pit is gas- fine. But please, no more wood fire pits adding to air pollution.
11/21/2025 18:12:38	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	It is a fabulous idea!
11/21/2025 18:17:27		Neutral / Unsure	Neutral / Unsure	
11/21/2025 18:22:42	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 18:32:21	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Does it really need 4 entrances? It's a really small park
11/21/2025 18:49:13	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 18:51:00	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly oppose	No, negatively	There is no one here during the winter week days ! Newly issued Urban St. Holiday calendar of events covering Saugatuck area does NOT list the Christmas Parade or Tree Lighting! As of 11/20 the CVB billboard on 196 still has fall ad ! The Shoreline guide distributed up and down the Lakeshore has only 1 advertised business ...Millpond. let's get it together. Once you can bring shoppers here, then you can bring on the warming stations!!
11/21/2025 18:53:03	Township	Strongly support	Yes, positively	If you do it, make sure it puts off good heat. Don't skimp on the fire
11/21/2025 18:54:55	Douglas Resident	Neutral / Unsure	Neutral / Unsure	Less concrete, One designated warming area with preserved green space!
11/21/2025 19:14:36	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Does the Rose Garden Trust permit this? Will Trust be tapped for future costs of maintenance? How much of Rose Garden will be lost to cement/paving and structure? Seems another location would be more appropriate for this
11/21/2025 19:37:01	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 19:54:22	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Extending the tourist season is more of interest to the business community Interesting to hear what local non-business owners think ... I'm supportive although not a business owner
11/21/2025 20:20:08	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	The illustrations look as if you are ruining the rose garden. We have restaurants and shops for warming
11/21/2025 20:23:53	Visitor / non-resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	I like this idea but the renderings make it look like a lot of plants would be removed. I don't like that as an option. That burst of greenery and color in the summer (&shade) is very welcome on warm summer days. I'd be more supportive if the general park plan didn't change much.
11/21/2025 20:27:55	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 20:42:57	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Love this!! Thank you!

Timestamp	Who are you? (select one)	Overall, do you support installing winter warming stations (fire pits) in downtown Saugatuck and Douglas?	If you are a business owner, do you believe warming stations would positively impact your business?	Do you have any additional comments, compliments, or concerns regarding the warming stations?
11/21/2025 20:43:50	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	A wonderful idea and hopefully can be funded through grants and sponsorships
11/21/2025 20:47:35	Township	Strongly support		
11/21/2025 20:49:42	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose	I'm not a business owner	Gas fired? \$\$\$\$ & wasteful. Warmth of an open fire is illusionary.
11/21/2025 20:57:19	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I live in Holland and the warming station downtown is so nice. It is used all the time and adds a warm touch to our thriving downtown
11/21/2025 21:05:54	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Without cost and environmental information, it is too easy to say 'Yes!' More context would be helpful.
11/21/2025 21:06:40	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Great idea!
11/21/2025 21:22:45	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose	Neutral / Unsure	I am concern with the stipulations that the Mize family wishes were. I'm concerned about the public leaving the bar then going to the warming station
11/21/2025 21:24:17	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	great idea! do it
11/21/2025 21:26:53	Douglas resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Love this idea!
11/21/2025 21:34:11	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	I like the idea but this is too drastic of a change.
11/21/2025 21:43:13	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 21:44:21	Son of residents	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	I don't know how often I'll sit at the warming station but I think it's nice. Moreso, I like the idea of opening up the garden more. Currently feels closed off/non-public
11/21/2025 21:45:01	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 21:45:05	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	No one is going to hang around the rose garden getting warm they will go to a store or restaurant and the design is ugly.
11/21/2025 21:53:00	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support		
11/21/2025 22:18:24	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/21/2025 22:20:02	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	Holland has fire features around the downtown area.They are always enjoyed by my friends and family while shopping.
11/21/2025 22:45:21	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	This is not an identified priority for city financial resources. This Mize Rose Garden is a dedicated and deeded memorial and should remain untouched. A warming station should only be considered as part of a larger downtown streetscape project.
11/21/2025 23:38:19	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	Yes, positively	
11/21/2025 23:38:44	Business owner in Saugatuck	Somewhat oppose	Neutral / Unsure	Liability, supervision, people come into shops to get warm!
11/22/2025 0:18:21	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/22/2025 0:54:25	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/22/2025 1:10:40	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	

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11/22/2025 1:12:10	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/22/2025 2:08:12	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose	I'm not a business owner	
11/22/2025 2:10:20	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support		
11/22/2025 2:15:54	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	As someone who has word downtown for the last 25 years. You need more heads in beds. I would rather see money spent on a winter festival.
11/22/2025 5:34:01	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/22/2025 6:12:57	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support		I believe the warming station would be a great addition to the downtown and provide a refresh to a very popular corner of town.
11/22/2025 6:43:38	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/22/2025 7:42:24	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	Love the idea of the warming station and think the proposed location is wonderful. Question is whether the design is final and consideration will be given to complimenting the current village aesthetic of downtown. Nice work CVB
11/22/2025 7:51:20	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Put it at another park. Leave the garden as is.
11/22/2025 7:52:54	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	I've lived here for 2 decades. I marked "neutral" because I think the rose garden is the wrong place, given the paving over of garden growing space that would be required. The village green would be a much better location, for several reasons, including the fact that the rest rooms and playground are right there and there is a lot of room, including space newly created by killing many grand old rhododendrons. Thank you for all you do and for asking.
11/22/2025 8:06:29	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Would be nice to see seating with backs but otherwise its a wonderful idea. Will these be gas firepits?
11/22/2025 8:06:33	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I think it will add a missing component to make downtown cozy and welcoming in the cold months. Please consider some seating. Look at the Holland version at the corner of 8th and College.
11/22/2025 8:15:06	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/22/2025 8:27:40	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Great design! A welcoming space in a part of downtown sorely in need of a public space to hang out
11/22/2025 8:30:25	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support		This looks like a great plan and idea.
11/22/2025 8:39:49	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/22/2025 8:46:47	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I think the renderings are beautiful and strongly support the effort.
11/22/2025 8:51:57	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose		Inviting to look at, but as a stand alone, it is not a reason to go downtown. As a resident I can't ever imagine I would use it. When I'm outside in the winter, I want to be active to stay warm. Or maybe something original or playful or an interactive art installation?
11/22/2025 8:53:59	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Like rectangle fire pits better than round

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11/22/2025 9:17:43	Saugatuck Township resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I think it's a great idea! I often see the one downtown Holland utilized.
11/22/2025 9:58:58	Township resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	It is a municipal plaza, not a warming station. Cities stopped paving over green spaces long ago because the open plaza with low brick walls, they are in no way classic, because the spaces were never used. It could not be more out of character for our small town. The present rose garden as is fits perfectly with the Victorian aesthetic of the town and offers a more reflective space than a gimmicky "Instagram" spot. If this is how spaces that were made using large specific donations are disposed of a few years later I would expect no future such donations will be made. Can we please stop trying to emulate other towns and cities with projects that are more about an organization trying to stay relevant than an actual attempt to improve the town.
11/22/2025 10:04:10	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	We don't need it. The garden was a gift to the city. Why ruin it with a tacky warming.
11/22/2025 10:12:43	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Warming stations work in Holland because sidewalks are clear.
11/22/2025 10:46:13	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure		Please preserve as much of the green space of existing rose garden as possible
11/22/2025 11:12:31	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/22/2025 11:52:21	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	The design is excellent.
11/22/2025 12:10:49	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	I support the fire pits and warming stations, but would also like to know more about the larger plan. For example, I think 2 warming stations, North and South of Butler gives people different chances at it, maybe one in the public square though I know why the Rose Garden was suggested. Additionally, what is the overall comprehensive plan, put fire in and people will come? It would be great to see a comprehensive plan like hot chocolate trolleys, craft stations for kids, something that really draws people in and can entertain for a bit. The local singing groups, or Christmas Carol players can do small performances. I am suggesting this so they are just not a waystation between bars. ie I wonder if Saugataco could do Mexican hot chocolate, or Base Camp do hot chocolate. I guess what I am suggesting is that we do a better job of doing 1 and done, but think larger and more long term for reputation, economic development and charm of the town.
11/22/2025 12:32:36	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/22/2025 12:50:26	Visitor / non-resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	It just isn't necessary. Having all of that concrete space just distracts from the quaint feel of the downtown area. This isn't maintaining the character of the downtown area. I could see something like this in a more metropolitan city or town, but it just doesn't fit Saugatuck and I would hate to see it installed..
11/22/2025 13:39:26	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Anything we can do to promote visiting Saugatuck year-round is great. The plan looks clean and nice too.
11/22/2025 15:21:54	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose		What a waste of time. This will not bring new people to town - especially when this feature is in a dark park next to a boozy locals bar. No thanks.
11/22/2025 15:40:16	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/22/2025 16:32:10	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	love the idea for both towns and the rose garden is a great location

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11/22/2025 16:36:09	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	It is a great idea. With Saugatuck having the social district it will be a nice place to have a drink while waiting for a dinner reservation
11/22/2025 17:42:46	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/23/2025 5:25:21	Worker	Somewhat support	Neutral / Unsure	Never heard of a warming station, seems like a cool concept and idea!
11/23/2025 8:53:40	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	
11/23/2025 9:58:25	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/23/2025 10:24:46	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/23/2025 13:12:14	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure		Any public fire feature needs to be absolutely safe. The new rendering proposed for the rose garden, which replaces vegetation with bricks and cement, may make it look more like an urban plaza or a commercial space rather than a natural garden setting.
11/23/2025 14:17:47	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	I am not sure what marketing identified the need for a warming pit. The designs have a number of draw backs including the low bring fence (great for siting mostly empty containers) the removal of plants and art and increase of maintenance cost.
11/24/2025 2:38:35	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose	I'm not a business owner	The Mize rose garden is there for a reason! This design is very bland and uninteresting. 'there must be a better place to put a warming station if you really want one. this is not the location!!!
11/24/2025 9:19:28	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Neutral / Unsure	What about putting one in the puppet park (village square) across from the bathrooms instead?
11/24/2025 9:21:14	South Haven Resident, works in	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/24/2025 9:21:19	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	Would love more winter amenities and events to pull / keep people in town. Holland does a great job of this - would strongly welcome efforts to do the same in Saugatuck
11/24/2025 9:23:22	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/24/2025 9:25:47	Work in Douglas/Saugatuck Area	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/24/2025 9:37:23	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Neutral / Unsure	Super excited about these! I dont know that they will necessarily bring people into town but they will definitely add to the winter aesthetic. One step closer to becoming a year round destination!
11/24/2025 9:48:43	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	I love the idea! Just something to think about - I would suggest building the seating as close as code lets them. If they are too far away you may not feel the heat.
11/24/2025 10:01:07	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/24/2025 10:11:12	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/24/2025 10:15:15	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	The brick wall concept is fantastic. Will make the garden appear more accessible and will improve the overall downtown feel

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11/24/2025 10:38:00	Business owner in Saugatuck	Somewhat oppose	No, negatively	No one comes to a town because they have a warming station. Try planning actual events centered around shopping like downtown Holland does for 4th and 1st quarter. This discussion has been had for years yet you continue to do nothing. Even the Coastal Christmas one was thrown together last minute and not by your employee. It was an employee at Glik's.
11/24/2025 10:59:03	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Neutral / Unsure	Great idea! I truly hope the city will support this.
11/24/2025 12:13:59	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	The Rose Garden has always seemed cut off because of the fence. This brings it to life!
11/24/2025 12:48:06	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Will are be integrated as part of this and we just redid this garden after years of neglect, how will that be considered with this project?
11/24/2025 12:50:20	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	This is a good example of how to encourage shoppers during the shoulder seasons.
11/24/2025 12:56:19	Business manager in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/24/2025 13:07:29	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/24/2025 13:09:34	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	Love this
11/24/2025 15:38:20	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Update to my original survey. The wrought iron fence looks so pretty, especially decorated for Christmas. If it could be incorporated into the plan that would be great.
11/24/2025 16:52:29	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	Love this! Good for the businesses. Good for the residents. Good aesthetically for the space. Happy to be helpful. Terry Walker, Lulu Cadieux.
11/24/2025 17:25:32	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	This is great, anything the city can do to bring in winter customers is a vote for us.
11/24/2025 19:59:24	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/24/2025 23:17:31	Resident and business owners	Strongly support	Yes, positively	I think the tall iron fencing is unwelcoming and should be removed. It would be nice to have the garden to be more welcoming.
11/25/2025 14:10:26	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	I treasure the Rose Garden. This idea isn't really needed and it will damage the peace and serenity of the garden.
11/25/2025 14:21:42	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	Piped in music would be fun.
11/25/2025 14:47:40	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	
11/25/2025 15:57:04	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/25/2025 17:19:34	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/25/2025 21:10:28	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support		
11/25/2025 22:49:41	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat support	Neutral / Unsure	
11/26/2025 10:30:58	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	

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11/26/2025 13:28:26	Saugatuck resident	Strongly oppose	I'm not a business owner	Why do you insist we need a 'modern' warming station on in the most congested part of downtown. ?leave the current pRk alone. The designed warming station does not reflect our downtown image. ng station that has nothing in common with our rose garden?You are destroying a peaceful retreat and quiet for dedicated park. The 'modern' design will look out of place. Put it in Coghlin Park or a Water Street park! The business owners need your support. Why not partner with them to find out how to improve their crazy lives! DONE!
11/26/2025 13:57:27	Property Owner	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	
11/28/2025 2:59:15	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
11/28/2025 3:18:42	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
11/29/2025 11:00:18	Saugatuck resident	Neutral / Unsure	Neutral / Unsure	I am concern what the Mize family intent was for the Rose Garden.
11/30/2025 16:07:08	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Neutral / Unsure	ANYTHING to bring more winter guests like neighboring communities do-we miss such a HUGE opportunity to help our businesses in the off season, especially over the holidays
12/1/2025 18:52:51	Part-time resident. Own a secor	Neutral / Unsure	I'm not a business owner	I do not agree with the redesigning of the Victorian Rose Garden. Only a short 25 years ago, Mize donated nearly half a million dollars. The city readily accepted her generous donation with the intent to create a memorial Victorian Rose Garden on a corner of town that needed beautification. Saugatuck was incorporated in 1868 - in the Victorian Era. Many town buildings were built in that era. By definition, Victorian gardens are characterized by bold color, exotic plants, often laid out in formal,symmetrical flowerbeds key features usually include ornate elements like statues and fencing and shaded pathways. I would guess that her intention with her generous donation was not to have it all deconstructed years later with a trendy fire pit and brick sitting wall. How does this design complement a Victorian garden and the character of our downtown? What is so wrong with having a tranquil park where one can seek solace amongst the thousands of tourists that flock to our town? City council and the Parks Commission need to leave the Rose Garden in its' intended serene form. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Especially when a generous donor expected the city to be a good steward of that donation. City council and the Parks Commission need to consider incorporating the firepit in the future redesigning of the Village Square Park near the empty green space by the Burr Tillstrom statue.
12/5/2025 17:20:34	Business owner in Saugatuck	Strongly support	Yes, positively	
12/8/2025 14:36:55	Douglas resident	Somewhat support	I'm not a business owner	Not this design and not this location
12/9/2025 8:35:27	Business owner in Saugatuck	Somewhat support	Yes, positively	
12/10/2025 10:01:37	I live 10 min from down town.	Somewhat oppose	I'm not a business owner	I was early this week and the only person using the warming station was a homeless man with his buggy. I see the warming station as a smoking station for the bars in the winter and for the homeless. I have seen men pee and puke in the rose garden.

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12/10/2025 10:06:30	Saugatuck resident	Somewhat oppose	Neutral / Unsure	While your schematic's are lovely, none of the drawings convey roses. Only low maintenance greens are shown. The project will absorb a cost beyond that which is in the general fund to care for the garden in the future. Are those monies being misused to remove the fence etc. Who is to maintain the garden now? I understand, the donor left approximately one hundred thousand for the continued care of the garden. Over the years the city has neglected drawings display roses. The intent of the gift was to establish a rose garden honoring the parents of the donor. Monies were put into the General Fund to maintain the rose garden. Will those monies be absorbed for this redo? Will the outside landscape firm be retained? The donation from the CVB will hardly cover the project. Yesterday, I and a employee passed the warming station in Holland. The only individual warming was a homeless man on a bicycle. The proximity of the Sandbar also invites potential lude activity as the fence is gone. Have consideration been given to these issues. The city failed to address the individual living at the Gazebo all summer. The issue was waited out for the weather to change. No leadership there for sure. While there is some merit in updating the garden there are many other projects that are more pertinent. What about Park street concerns, the easement repairs at the Butler Pantry, the proposed rest room at the south part of town???? While these projects are not sexy, they need to be addressed!
12/15/2025 10:40:14	Saugatuck resident	Strongly support	I'm not a business owner	
12/16/2025 11:44:05	Saugatuck Township resident	Strongly support	Yes, positively	