Scenario Planning Workshops

How would you create a more sustainable future for Buffalo Niagara?

Community Congress Fall 2013 Meeting #3
November 14, 2013, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Parkdale Elementary School, East Aurora, NY

This Meeting

This summary provides an overview of Meeting #3 of the second set of One Region Forward Community Congress sessions, where citizens worked in groups to map their future vision for Buffalo Niagara.

Who Participated?

73 in attendance

Representatives from 15 different ZIP Codes and 34 different community or civic organizations

Attendees were asked to identify themselves with a local community organization if they choose. The following organizations were represented:

Aurora Planning Board
Aurora Zoning Board of Appeals
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
Buffalo Philharmonic
Citizens for Regional Transit
Colden Citizens for a Community Trail
Concord Planning Board

The Community Congress

Because no plan for sustainable development can succeed without the creative contribution and informed support of our region’s citizens, the Community Congress has been created as a regular forum for all citizens in our region to guide and shape the One Region Forward process.

One Region Forward

One Region Forward is supported by a broad-based collaborative effort of local elected officials, businesses, community groups, and citizens at-large – all working together to move our region towards a more prosperous and sustainable future.
What Did They Say?

Mapping a Future Approach to Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Food Access, and Climate Change Action for Our Region.

Participants at this meeting had a hands-on opportunity to show precisely where and how they think Buffalo Niagara should grow between now and the mid-21st century in order to fulfill the region’s shared vision and values. Residents first viewed a brief introductory video about the challenges and opportunities that our region faces, and a presentation about how to engage in scenario planning. They were then asked to indicate on a map of the Erie and Niagara counties what they wanted to keep and change in their neighborhoods, towns, cities, villages, and region.

Working in small groups with large scale maps of Buffalo Niagara, citizens showed graphically where and how they think housing, jobs, transportation infrastructure, food resources, and climate change measures should be established.

Participants were asked to give their map a title and write down the principles and ideas that guided their mapping decisions. Below are the pictures, titles, principles, and comments of the 10 maps that residents created at this Community Congress.
East Aurora # 1
TITLE: Slowly to the Future
DECISION PRINCIPLES:
1. Save farmland. Hold the line on suburban sprawl. Revitalize urban areas.
4. Urban gardens for food.
5. Preserve and revive traditional neighborhoods.
NOTES:
- Windmill farm (along S. Buffalo waterfront).
- A bikeable city.
- Convert ex-waterfront industrial areas to parks and recreation.
- Conserve open land and forests.
- Roundabouts can be used to ease congestion (refers to arrows pointing to Transit Rd in S. Lockport/E Amherst).
- Erie-Cattaraugus Rail Trail on abandoned B+P Railroad line (2.7 miles from Orchard Park to Ashford).
- I want to see parks.
East Aurora # 2
TITLE: <UNTITLED>
DECISION PRINCIPLES:
1. Connecting urban areas to downtown.
2. Preserve farmland and watersheds.
3. Revitalize urban areas and Niagara Falls.
4. Preserve Lake Erie and beaches.
5. Job creation.
NOTES:
- Renewing economy through development.
- Reinforce “valley walls” (with arrows pointing to steep slopes in Holland and Wales).
- Protect farms.
East Aurora #3
TITLE: Urban Smart Growth

DESIGN PRINCIPALS:
1. Centralize to avoid sprawl
2. Transportation – hubs into urban centers
3. Concentrate population
4. Preserve natural resources

NOTES:
- Limit growth near Love Canal
- East Aurora: preserve existing and future park space and wetlands
- Springville: preserve parkland, open space and wetlands
East Aurora #4
TITLE: Buff-Utopia Niagara

DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

1. Preserve green space, optimize farmland, and calculate number of jobs created through preservation.
2. Increase public transportation and non-auto forms of transit
3. Re-purpose existing structures and preserve historic ones – historic architecture
4. Encourage sustainable design in office and residential areas
5. Focus recreation activities on the waterfront

NOTES:

- Optimize blue economy- Economic revitalization is based on the restoration of the health and integrity of watershed
- Public access to waterfront
- Green buffers along waterfronts
- Height restrictions along waterfront
- Clean manufacturing industries
- Outer harbor land optimized for green space and public access
- Green infrastructure applied to all development
- # of jobs increased through farmland production
- Rails to trails
- LEED certified design
- Make waste management state of the art
- Reforest area north of Lockport
- Preserve Ontario waterfront in Niagara County
East Aurora #5
TITLE: Strengthen the City
DESIGN PRINCIPALS:

1. Improved public transit lines – commuter lines to Niagara Falls, UB North and the airport
2. Make Buffalo more livable, improve public education, create more high quality jobs, address crime
3. Create safe family-friendly bike paths from East Aurora to Lake Erie – protect Quality of Life
4. Capitalize on waterfront – create parks and integrate businesses, clean up the lake for recreation
5. Restrict new growth, contain it to the city of Buffalo, preserve village centers

NOTES:
- Improve Niagara Falls education
- Improve Buffalo education
- Preserve park areas
- Connect central terminal to Amtrak for development of Buffalo’s East Side
East Aurora # 6
TITLE: Work With What You Have!
DECISION PRINCIPLES:
1. Protect farmland and open land.
2. Expand light rail and other public transportation. Encourage multi-modal transit.
3. Revitalize urban core.
4. Preserve village centers and concentrate development within the current developed area.
5. Enhance waterfronts of Buffalo and Niagara Falls with green space and local business/enterprise.
NOTES:
- Build off of our existing assets.
- Convert 198 near Forest Lawn from highway to multi-modal transit.
- Farms = Food.
- More fruit and vegetable production in Erie and Niagara.
- Value public transportation for an aging population to replace cars as gas prices trend upwards.
East Aurora # 7
TITLE: Metropolitan Revolution
DECISION PRINCIPLES:
1. Redevelop our vacant urban areas, particularly on Buffalo’s East Side.
2. Protect and restore our parks.
3. Protect our nationally registered and nationally historic landmarks. Protect historic areas.
4. Protect farmers and our farmland and reclaim where possible.
NOTES:
- Where are the National Historic Register and National Landmarks outlined?
- Restore the Olmsted parks.
- More urban gardens.
- So rich 100 years ago. Thank you. Too poor to tear it down. (placed along Lackawanna waterfront)
- Restore and rebuild the East Side of Buffalo.
- Maintain and restore parks.
- Enhance green spaces through land conservation.
- Redevelopment for residential subdivisions in Buffalo.
- Restore parks.
East Aurora #8
TITLE: Rebuild Buffalo
DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

1. Protect green space and farmland. Protect rural communities.
2. Maintain strong village centers.
4. Restore, reinvest and revitalize existing housing stock. Strengthen and infill urban centers.
5. Make suburban strip areas walkable and accessible to pedestrians.

NOTES:
- Lockport Center Canalway Trail and invest along bike path.
- Use Go Bike, Car Share and Commuter Scooter to get from transit hubs to employment.
- Connect parks with paths and bikeways.
- More community gardens.
- Restore existing housing.
- Connect rapid transit to UB North and airport to waterfront.
- Preserve rail corridors, expand metro rail.
- Protect parks and enhance Olmsted Parks.
- Office/Industrial along transit lines.
- Protect Orchard Park Village and create village center surrounding it.
- Enhance and concentrate development in village centers.
East Aurora #9
TITLE: Better WNY

DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

1. Identify and protect existing critical green infrastructure networks
2. Connecting existing urban centers (e.g. Elmwood, Hertel, etc.) with neighborhoods. Expand job opportunities in those areas.
3. Retain village centers!

NOTES:
- Headwater forest protection
- Look to villages for better decision making
- Connect Chestnut Ridge with pedestrian trails/hiking trails to waterfront
- Protect and expand small-scale farming
- Bring back the trains
- Preserve existing business corridors (e.g. Southgate Plaza)
- Bring pedestrian access and open space back to the waterfront
- Reuse with rules not replace
- Improve flow between the I-90 and the 219 between the borders of Lackawanna and Blasdell.
- Better NFTA service everywhere
- More parks along the waterfront
- Preserve the Onondaga aquifer/headwater recharge areas
- Protect farmland in Wilson and Newfane
东拱波第10号

标题：更新核心

设计原则：
1. 利用现有基础设施
2. 扩展公共交通系统
3. 扩展自行车路径并连接现有路径
4. 保护农田
5. 继续沿水岸发展，保持公共使用权

笔记：
- 恩里奇-卡特铁路
- 安全的行人/自行车路线，通往东拱波高中的学校
- 东拱波到布法罗的现有铁路
- 连接公园和感兴趣的地方
- 中央车站——连接现有铁路到东拱波，延长H铁线