

NORTH WATER BREWING COMPANY

During his 30-year career with The Austin Company, a design-build company located in Cleveland, Don Schjeldahl was lucky enough to travel the world for work. Wherever he traveled, he realized that craft breweries were revitalizing towns around the world. While working with Sierra Nevada to design, build and open their new brewery in Asheville, North Carolina, Don decided he would open a craft brewery in his current hometown of Kent.

The biggest challenge came when trying to find the ideal location in Kent. When the 100-year-old, 4,200 sq ft building on Crain Avenue became available, Don and his investors grabbed it. The building has a rich history opening as a car dealership in 1920 and eventually became an auto-collision shop. Don commented, "The open space, block construction and numerous windows make it the ideal space for a brewery." While planning renovations, Don knew he wanted to keep many of the historic elements of the building for a mid-century Industrial look. The interior will feature polished concrete floors, black metal window frames, and keep the exposed wrinkle tin ceiling.

Just feet from the bike and hike trail and close to the nearby kayak and canoe launch spots, the exterior 900 sq ft front patio was created for gathering. A multi-functional stone retaining wall was built for erosion control but is also used as a sitting wall so customers can enjoy the fire pit on cool evenings. Metal railing and signposts were salvaged from the original business and used to carry the industrial look outdoors.

Don stated, "Working with the Metis team members was an easy experience. Ed Fernandez and Rollin Gedney were patient and accommodating with last minute decisions." He continued, "They really helped with coordinating the subcontractors and making sure everything was done correctly and on-time."

This new community-based meeting place officially opened in November 2020 to an excited and supportive community. Metis thanks Don and his partners for allowing us to help bring their dream to life.