

# Wychwood Barns Final Proposal

**“Creating a park that accommodates every person and every season”**

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## Wychwood Barns Park Site Context

Historically, Wychwood Barns Park was used to house and repair streetcars. However, the barns were decommissioned in 1978, and Artscape was chosen to redevelop the barns in 2004. As of November 20th, 2008 the site has been reopened to the general public for usage.

The area to be revitalized is divided into 3 areas: zone A, zone B and zone C. Additionally, there is a wall located southwest of the zones in barn 5 which can be utilized in design plans.

Zone A is currently only accessible via a set of steps, and contains 3 picnic tables as well as a sandpit which is overlooked by a shade structure. There is also a concrete post housing a tap central to the sandpit. This area needs increased accessibility and shade provision.

Zone B is an active space, primarily occupied by water equipment to be used by families and children during the summer. This zone will not be altered drastically through this design project, although the adaptability of the space in the winter is going to be promoted with our design.

Playground structures and sandpit areas at Wychwood Barns Park are currently situated in zone C, as well as a single shade structure. The area is meant to be an active space for all ages, but is currently lacking in accessibility as well as shade availability. The sand is also often brought up into the neighbouring hardscape, making the paths sandy and possibly unsafe for pedestrians.



Current seating, equipment and shade availability in zone A and B



Current playground and shade availability in zone C; Wall in barn 5

Events currently hosted in the barns include galleries, festivals, non-profit organization meetings, daycare program activities and weekly farmers markets. These all increase site usage and traffic.

The large population of families in the area has generated a need for flexible communal spaces that are inclusive of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities. Our goal is to create a space that accommodates people with different needs, and to provide a design that pushes the adaptability of Wychwood Barns Park in all seasons.

When creating the plan for this proposal, adaptability and inclusiveness were our primary focal points. The goal of this is to increase overall usage of the Wychwood Barns site and playground. Therefore, several features of the proposal for the park include adaptable or inclusive amenities.

## **Wychwood Barns Park Site Users**

Site users of Wychwood Barns Park include various age groups. Toddlers, young children, families, youth and seniors are all primary users of the various zones. These groups have expressed concerns about the site including accessibility, safety, and shade availability.

The toddlers and young children that use the barns during the year are primarily from the Helene Comay Nursery School. Currently, they only use the sandpit, and not the playground, due to safety concerns. The slightly older kids that use the site are comprised of both children that visit the park with their families and campers from the summer camps held by Wychwood Barns.

Young adults who use the site mostly come from surrounding middle and high schools. Youth do not frequently use the amenities at the site because the majority of the barns' attractions are directed at younger kids. However, they have expressed their wishes in having a place to spend time with friends such as a basketball court.

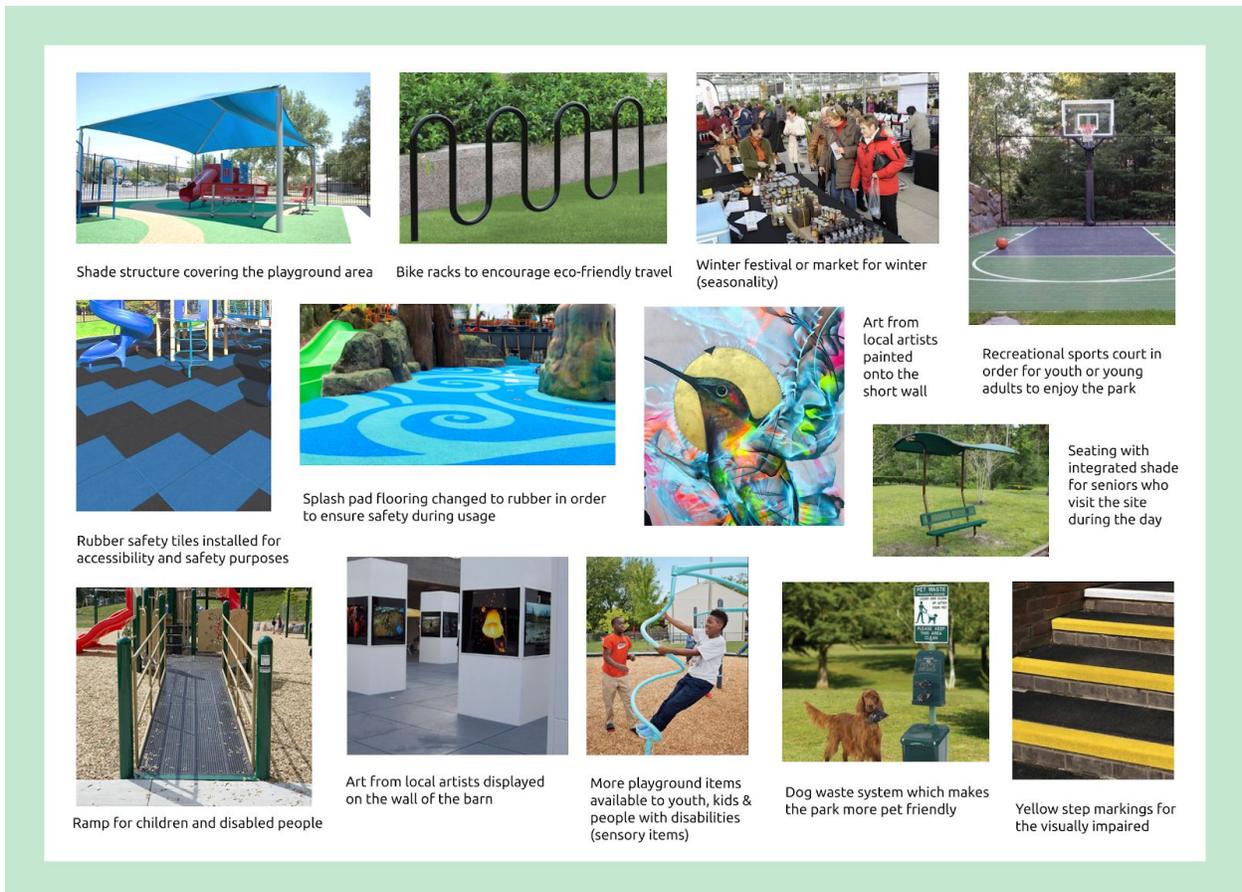
Seniors in the community often visit the site during the daytime in order to relax. They are usually looking for a place to sit that also has shade available. Shade is a large concern for this age group, and they have voiced that there is a need for more trees and shade structures.

It is important to note that the site also needs to make many improvements in order to cater to those with disabilities, severe injuries, vision and hearing impairments, and individuals who do not speak English fluently. Ultimately, this improvement plan aims to make the three zones more multi-generational, accessible, safe, and adaptable for usage in all seasons.

# Precedents



## Design vision board and key concepts



Images illustrating ideas of features to be incorporated in the design

This bench concept can be one of the benches next to the playground.



Basketball court turned into an skating rink in the winter.



This bench can be used to increase greenery, and it also provides shade and would look nice in a green area.



This bench concept is good for adaptability in the seating areas near the park.



This is an example of a playground that is more inclusive.



Adding more play structures like these encourage youth to be more inclusive and cater to all audiences.

Specific play structures and seating arrangements that will be incorporated

Adaptable and creative seating structures in the passive and active spaces including:

- Alterable benches that can change to fit the different seasons and people using it
- Sheltered seating area that provides greenery in warmer months and cover in colder seasons
- Log benches that promote environmental friendliness and nature based play

Adaptable and inclusive active spaces including:

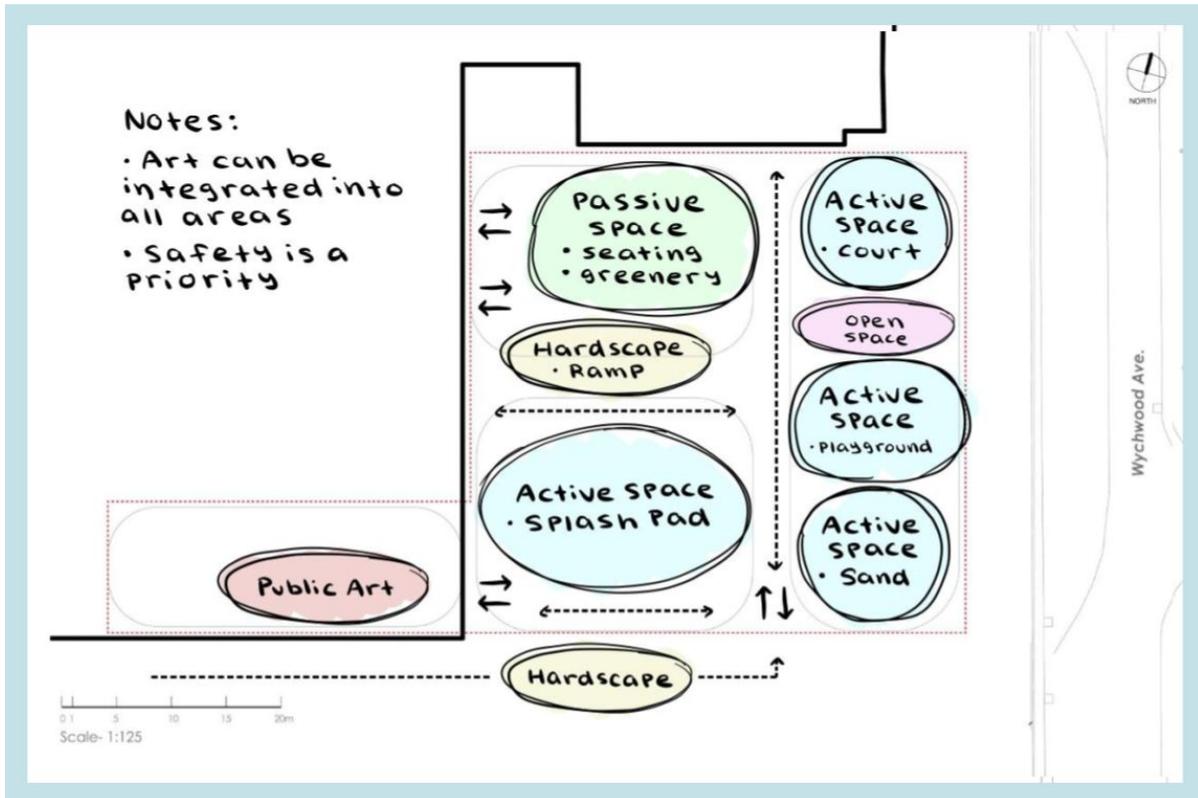
- Paved court with basketball net which can be used for any summer sport, in addition to being used for events and as open space for play and potentially ice skating in the winter
- Splash pad which can be filled in and constructed to be used as a skating rink for winter
- Play structures such as ramped structures and wheelchair swings accessible to those with physical disabilities, in addition to bright yellow markings on all steps for the visually impaired
- Shade tarps can be partially brought down and connected to a ring on the floor, acting as a wind blocker for colder months and therefore encouraging winter use

Art features which showcase local artists' work include:

- Various tall and short cement walls which local artists can paint murals on, changed once a year to promote more artists and bring a new design to Wychwood Barns Park
- Art wall at the entrance to barn 5 where artists can showcase their work, changed seasonally, so when members of the local area come and visit they are able to take a look at the work

It is our hope that these changes and features we have included will allow the space to be used more often and by more members of the community.

# Program



Bubble diagram of circulation and space usage

When redesigning Wychwood Barns Park, the circulation and space usage of the site was not greatly altered. Not only does this create familiarity for users who frequented the park prior to the redesign, but it also preserves the streetcar tiling on the hardscape, therefore preserving a part of the Wychwood Barns' history.

# Concept Plan

## Legend

- Original streetcar paving
- Pavement area
- Sandpit area
- Rubber playground flooring
- Planting area
- Tall cement mural wall
- Short cement mural wall
- Art display wall
- Wheelchair ramp
- (Recycling / Dog waste / Garbage) bin
- Potential winter market stall locations
- Bike racks
- Pre-existing shade structure with added seating
- Wood column benches
- Green archway seating
- Wheelchair inclusive playground
- Wheelchair inclusive playground
- Highly inclusive water fountain with refill station
- Active area shade tarp

