

Applicant's Submission

Project Brief

The park space is located in the mixed-use, mixed-density Beltline neighbourhood. Nearby residential buildings range from two to twelve stories, the exception being the 32-storey Bosa development abutting the eastern edge of the park parcel. The park design addresses the context of the surrounding neighbourhood and feels like an amenity for all, despite the scale of the neighbouring development.

To create a welcoming amenity, the edges of the park are activated with multiple entry points. Seating opportunities and soft landscaping elements animate the edges, providing a sense of human scale, and encourage entry into the park. The design ensures that site lines remain open into the park, while the park space is framed with denser plantings along the inaccessible back edges.

Five-metre tall columns are utilized within the park as lighting features. Bollard lighting further accentuates the park entrances and creates a high level of visibility and safety throughout the site into the evening. The design of the lighting focuses on ambiance, striking a balance between safety, minimizing glare, and respecting adjacent residences.

Although the park is small, gathering spaces of varying sizes and activity levels have been provided to accommodate diverse uses and users. Passive and active spaces are intermingled as well as set in isolation from one another, serving a variety of park users simultaneously. There are also transformable areas with movable furnishings to facilitate small events or performances. This provides a high degree of flexibility within the space.

A hierarchy of pathways was created within the park design to intersect a variety of park spaces, drawing people in through visual interest or activity, and providing a high degree of connectivity and integration. The main diagonal spine that runs through the site is positioned to facilitate primary movements, as well as connect users to other park areas. The paving of the main spine is deliberately simple when compared to the other pavement areas to orient the user and draw the eye through the site. In anticipation of a high volume of users moving through the park in all seasons, paving of the spine is intentionally dark to facilitate rapid melting in the winter by retaining its heat. A tertiary pathway that connects the park to the abutting development has also been provided. Incorporating a direct connection to the neighbouring building encourages additional use of the public amenity space and benefits the park by encouraging more use and providing more "eyes on the park" from a safety perspective.

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Minimal slopes (~2%) have been incorporated into the park to facilitate positive drainage and the movement of water from hard surfaces into soft landscape areas. All pathways and hardscaped plaza areas within the park are fully accessible.

The park has a lot of sun through most of the year. By analyzing the sun/shade for the site, it was determined that during the winter there is shade for most of the day, except mid-day along the north and west sides of the site. Seating has strategically been located in areas of the park that would be sunny during the winter months. Additional seating options are integrated throughout the park: traditional seats with backs and armrests, social seating, intimate seating, and lounge seating – creating diverse opportunities for both passive and active park recreation.

In addition to being designed for their function and aesthetics, the site features are designed with creativity, sustainability, durability, and life-cycle in mind. Most furnishings will be locally fabricated, contributing to the local economy and reducing emissions from shipping. The wood used will be Accoya, a modified timber treated with similar properties to traditional pressure-treatment but without the harmful chemicals. This product resists rot, defies the elements, and lasts for long periods of time. Metals used on site will be powder coated, resistant to salt and extreme weather, to ensure a long lifespan.

Large swaths of planting, irrigated and with advantageous exposure, minimizes the need for maintenance and watering, providing a sustainable and durable approach to the park. The plant palette focuses on fine grain and broad textures, colour relationships and plant variability over the seasons, all of which helps to animate the space and provide multi-season interest at a human scale. Plantings have been strategically positioned to maintain sightlines across/through the park, creating a safe and welcoming environment for all park users.

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