SNOWBOARDING GOOD USE or URBAN ABUSE?
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SITE INFORMATION

Weather is very important to this project because without weather, winter specifically, the project wouldn’t be possible. With one of the best snow years on record this year is a perfect example of why this type of project needs to become a reality. The lake effect also causes more severe weather as cold winds move across Lake Superior picking up water vapor and depositing it as snow.

CONCEPTUAL

Although the site is very limited in size, there is potential for something big. A snowboard park of this scale, within the city has never been done before. Many parks and open spaces become inactive during the long, cold winter months. Even without designing for such activities, they already take place on the site.

PROGRAMS USED - FINAL CUT PRO, SKETCHUP PRO, GARAGEBAND, AUTOCAD, ADOBE AFTER EFFECTS, ILLUSTRATOR, and PHOTOSHOP CS6

MASTER PLAN

This design makes the most use of the site and different features that can be ridden. While there will only be 3-5 features in a line depending on their size, 7-14 features can be set up across the width of each of the three open areas. Several features that would be ideal for the proposed buildings are a skate/snow shop, restaurant, park operations, office, and residential apartments. The places adjacent to the buildings are broken up by skill level, with the easiest park at the top and the most difficult park below. They are designed with circulation, on each level or between the three, as the main focus to make use of the small space. The Skierfeeler “carpet snowboarding” area can be used year round. A towrope is the most economical and efficient way to move people up the entire run lasting 30 seconds up to 1 minute. The park will have a variety of permanent handrails varying in size and level. The open space can be used for multiple purposes in summer, and set up with snowboarding park features during the winter.

FEATURE DETAILS

The features are designed to look permanent, but through various methods can be interchangeable. Skateboarding and snowboarding depend on progress, so it is important for the park to progress with the riders over time. One method for this can be seen below. Having permanent footings for handrails that can be changed out with a bolt or pin system. The different features will be broken into categories based on skill. It’s important to have a mix of features of varying sizes in a line.

Beginner features
- Height: 6’ - 12’
- Width: 6’ - 2’
- Length: 6’ - 15’
- Angle: 0 - 10 degrees

Intermediate features
- Height: 12’ - 36’
- Width: 2’ - 6’
- Length: 10’ - 30’
- Angle: 10’ - 18 degrees

Advanced features
- Height: 36’ +
- Width: 2’ or smaller
- Length: 20’ +
- Angle: 15’ - 40 degrees

There is slightly over 40 feet of vertical change across the site. Although there are many flat areas, which can be used for intermediate features, there is enough change in height to provide speed and other opportunities for snowboarders.

LEGEND
1  proposed buildings
2  bus stop
3  parking lot
4  skate plaza
5  snowfeeler snowboard park
6  towrope
7  open green space

Legend
- residential
- single use/weekday hours only
- multi use/open weekends
- parking lot
- bus stop
- food
- seating
- lighting
- permanent/movable
- snowboarding
- skateboarding

PRECISION

precipitation

Temperature

Wind

Lake Effect: "carpet snowboarding" area can be used year round. A towrope is the most economical and efficient way to move people up the entire run lasting 30 seconds up to 1 minute. The park will have a variety of permanent handrails varying in size and level. The open space can be used for multiple purposes in summer, and set up with snowboarding park features during the winter.

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THE PROBLEM

This project is as much about snowboarding and skateboarding culture as it is a project in urban design. Do you think that snowboarding needs to be done on a mountain or large civic area? In the Midwest you just need a couple hundred feet for the runs, some rails, and a tow rope.

Skateboarders have similar problems to snowboarders, bring another seasonal sport to the Midwest.

CASE STUDIES

Love Park in Philadelphia was once considered one of the best urban skate spots, but the city council has displaced the very people that brought worldwide recognition.

Every year professional snowboarders come to the Midwest, specifically Duluth for its unique sense of place. The negative stereotypes and illegal actions associated with both sports could be changed with revised rules and regulations.

Duluth, Minnesota is a very unique city. It has many opportunities for indoor and outdoor activities, has a thriving downtown and residential neighborhoods. Despite its close proximity to downtown and great views of Lake Superior, there are very few users of the park.

The site, which borders Lake Ave, is at the edge of the downtown and residential neighborhoods. Despite its close proximity to downtown and great views of Lake Superior, there are very few users of the park.

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One of three mountains near Duluth, Mont Du Lac is small, but their tow rope allows for hundreds of runs in a day.

With an estimated 80 million participants worldwide, snowboarding has become the largest winter sport, fueled by media exposure from events such as the Olympics and X Games.

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