

Hermantown City History

In 1872 August Kohlts was granted the first homestead in the Town of Herman. St. Louis County received its first taxes from the Town of Herman in 1872. By the turn of the century, the Town of Herman had a population of 625. With the result of rumors that the government would be building a new seaway connecting Duluth with the East Coast, the town had its first land boom. The land sold for \$250 an acre in 1897, compared to \$12.50 an acre forty years later. The township had grown by 300 people over the next ten years; the town then built three new two-room schools, and had a town hall in an old one room school. In 1918 the growth of the township was set back by the great forest fire of 1918. There was hardly a building left standing; among the buildings that were left were the three two-room schools, and a church. The Red Cross quickly helped rebuild the town, but in 1920 the population was down by 842 people.

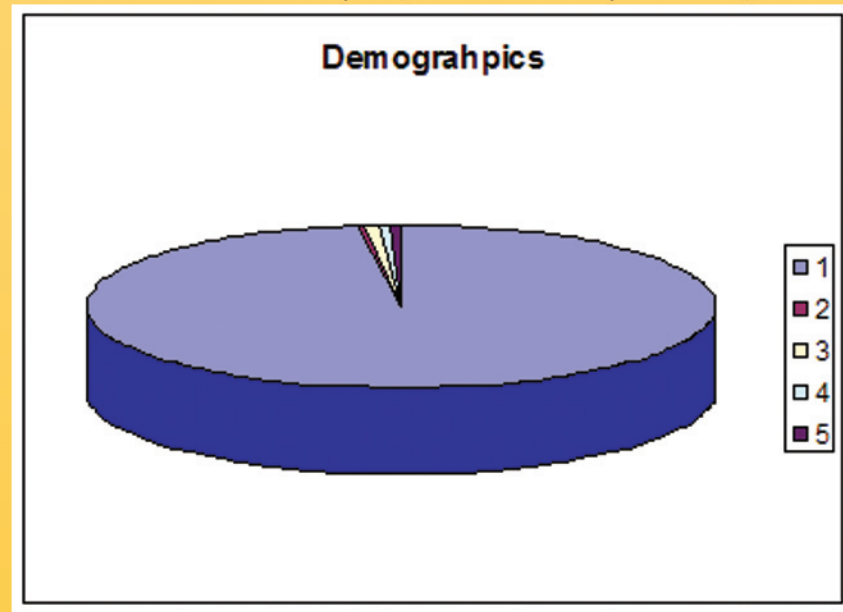
The Town of Herman would soon get another population boost from a new wave of homesteaders. In hard times of the Depression the government built about one hundred "subsistence homestead" projects. The idea was to move people trapped in poverty in the cities to new homes in rural or suburban locations. There were only two such projects assigned to Minnesota and one of them was in the Town of Herman. These homes were called the Jackson Project and were completed in 1937. The 84 homesteads had a brick veneer farmhouse and half had an addition of a garage-barn combination. Families would be able to raise its own food and use the profits from selling any surplus to work off debt to the government. These houses sold for an average price of about \$2,687.40 plus interest.

Twenty years later another wave of population growth came to the Town of Herman. They were suburbanites of the 1950's who came from Duluth for its low taxes, country living space and good school district. The Air Force also had a big influence on the growth of the town. The construction of a 105 family housing units on base brought 120 new students to Hermantown school district.

The Town of Herman was then influenced by a more local form of government in 1974. The neighboring city of Duluth announced its intention to annex two-thirds of the township in order to keep its population over the 100,000 mark and retain its first class city status. The town was outraged, because it was all ready to be designated a city. And on February 11, 1975 the Municipal Commission declared that on December 31st of that year the Town of Herman could become the City of Hermantown. As it stands today the population at the last census was at 7,448, and there is no population decrease in sight.

Site Description

The complex as it stands today is 360,000 sq. ft. The importance of this site is the location within the city limits of Hermantown that is rapidly growing. The population of the town is at 7,440 and the population of its neighboring city Duluth is 86,918. The whole metropolitan population of this area is about 244,000 people. Demographically the city of Hermantown is 1.) 97.3% White, 2.) .4% Black, 3.) .8% American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.) .5 % Asian, and 5.) .6% Hispanic.



In 1999 the existing football field on the North end of the site saw its final days as the city was proposing to create a new football field behind the high school. As this field stands today it is just an open turf area that occasionally gets used for youth soccer games and pick-up touch football. Fichtner Field is the primary attraction to this complex; it is the full sized baseball field located at the Southwest corner of the site. This field has seen better days and is in need of some renovation.



Existing Football Field



Existing Football Field



Existing Baseball Field



Existing Baseball Field

Goals & Objectives

- To provide a recreational facility that will comply for the comfort level and safety of the users as well as maintaining the standards of the community's new development trend.
- The athletic fields will be adequate to hold larger scale games to generate revenue and tourism to the community of Hermantown.
- The complex will provide a safe environment through proper circulation techniques to limit the number of possible injuries between pedestrians and vehicles.
- The use of native grasses and plants to beautify the site to make it more enjoyable for the everyday user.
- To provide more diverse recreational activities for the citizens of Hermantown.

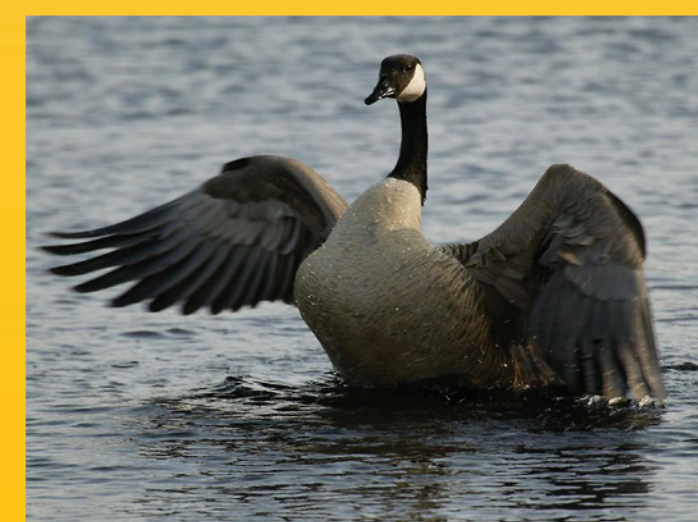
Site Orientation

Hermantown is located just west of Duluth in the Northern part of Minnesota. The existing complex named Fichtner Field complex is located by two major roads within the Hermantown city limits. It is located on the corner of Ugstad and Maple Grove Roads. These are major arteries located within Hermantown; Maple Grove Road connects Highway 2 to the major business district of Duluth, MN, and Hermantown High School and Middle School are located on Ugstad Road; just a couple of miles down from the existing complex.



Wildlife

The wild life on the site primarily consist of Canadian Geese that habitate the small pond located in the North East corner of the site, White Tail Deer and Sharp-Tailed Grouse as well as other small birds and animals.



Canadian Geese



White-Tail Deer



Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Project Justification

Hermantown's recreation facilities are starting to wear down from constant use from the community and are being overwhelmed by the growth of the city. This ideal design project will participate in the discourse about how Hermantown will adapt to the future of the city.

+ Hermantown's Recreational Opportunity:

Hermantown has a great opportunity to have a state of the art recreational facility. The constant use from the community is proof that this community needs a better recreational facility. The town is constantly growing and is just outside of Duluth; many residents are starting to move out of the city and into the surrounding towns. With this being the only recreational facility, the growth of the city is starting to overwhelm the area. The opportunity arises with the creation of better facilities for the kids in the area to help create more activities. By renovating this facility it will create more opportunities to host more events and activities at this site, by hosting more events and activities this will help generate revenue for the community and bring the community closer together.

+ Landscape Design Trend

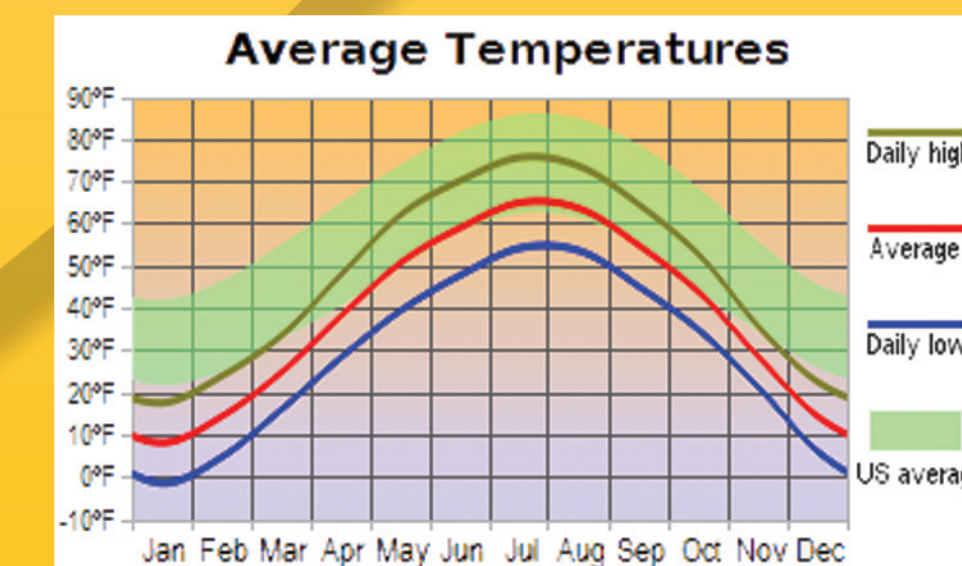
The opportunity of this recreational facility will provide more activities for the residents of Hermantown as well people visiting from other areas. The addition of a new skate park, larger and newer nature trails and community garden arouses interest along a broad spectrum of human interests. The existing ball fields are adequate enough to be played on however with the growth of the community it will benefit the town by being renovated to keep the facility state of the art. By keeping this area well maintained it will draw more attention and be considered to host larger events such as tournaments that will generate tourism and revenue to the community.

+ My Own Justification

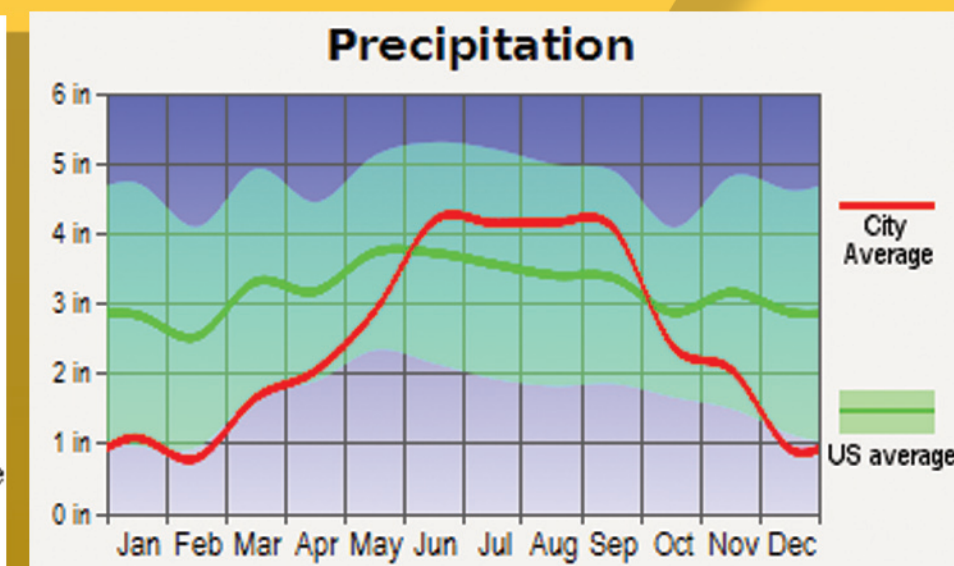
My personal background of this site is my main justification for this project. I grew up playing baseball on this facility and I had a lot of opportunities to visit many other facilities. By seeing other recreational facilities only made me realize how desperate the town is in need of a newly renovated park. I have always been intrigued by sports and have always wanted to design a baseball/recreational complex. This project will be beneficial for me in future job opportunities in designing parks and recreational facilities.

Climate

The climate of Hermantown, MN is considered humid continental. The average monthly temperature varies from a minimum in January of 1 degree F to a maximum July temperature of 75 degrees F. The average annual precipitation for the year is about 28 inches with the majority of precipitation falling from May until August.



Average Temperatures for the City of Hermantown.



Average Precipitation for the City of Hermantown.

RESTORATION AND REVITALIZATION

This thesis project proposes the necessary requirement for expansion and renovation of the existing recreational facilities in Hermantown, MN. The addition of new fields, a new skate park and plantings will solve the requirement mentioned above. The existing facilities are being run down from constant use from the community and the facilities are starting to get overwhelmed by the growth of the city. A problem is starting to arise because of all the new development the city is doing makes the existing recreational facilities seem sub par and outdated. The proposed facility will create more opportunities for the city of Hermantown. It will provide more activities for kids and the renovation of the baseball and softball fields with the addition of a better concession area and new community garden will attract more attention. Opportunities to host tournaments will generate a lot of tourism to the area; which tourism brings in revenue for the city. The main issue will be the increasing the functionality and beautification of the site by creating better pathways and incorporating native plant and grass species. The master planning will also address a more functional parking area for the complex.

Project Emphasis:

The thesis will examine the necessity that humans have for recreation. A historical comparison with the past will be done to establish familiar threads with life today. The beautification of the site is the main emphasis of the project. In doing this connections throughout the site will create opportunities to beautify the site to make it more appealing to the user. Another emphasis will be the addition of larger concession areas and plazas and the renovation of the athletic fields on the site to generate greater notoriety to the site; hosting tournaments of larger scale games will be easier and will produce revenue and tourism for the city of Hermantown.

Design Emphasis:

In many designs of recreational complex's it seems that they just place the playing fields wherever there is room and the consideration of pedestrian traffic flow is not accounted for. Also the consideration of diverse activities for residents is not looked at. Today the pedestrian movement is a key design element in designing a functional recreational complex as well as providing a wide range of activities to accommodate most people's interests. One complex that I will focus on is Rio Vista Community Park located in Peoria, Arizona. This park's main focus is the addition of sporting and recreational facilities and the addition of passive pedestrian walkways and picnic areas. The following description of Rio Vista Community Park will explain the background and process of this project.

Background-

Situated in a prominent area in central Peoria between the Agua Fria Freeway and the New River Channel, this will be the city's first community park. This 52-acre site will be home to a wide array of parks and recreation facilities, including a 5-plex softball area, a soccer/multi-use field complex, a recreational center with a gymnasium and special events plazas, an urban lake, a skate park, multi-use trails, large and small group armadas, passive picnicking areas, and parking. The park will serve as a primary city activity center and as an example for future Peoria parks that incorporate highly diverse facilities.

Process-

Key design challenges include: balancing active and passive facilities, meeting intensive sports field needs, providing appropriate buffering between the park and the Loop 101 and between the park and adjacent residential areas, development of a new park entry and main access road adjacent to New River while addressing traffic issues, coordination of improvements with the Flood Control District, and providing sports field lighting that does not impact nearby residents. (Reference: www.oaconsulting.com)

Case Studies:

Case Study #1

Rio Vista Community Park
Peoria, Arizona



Description:
Rio Vista Community Park is a large scale recreational complex with many activities ranging from baseball/softball to skateboarding and plenty of trails for the hiking and biking enthusiasts.

Case Study #2

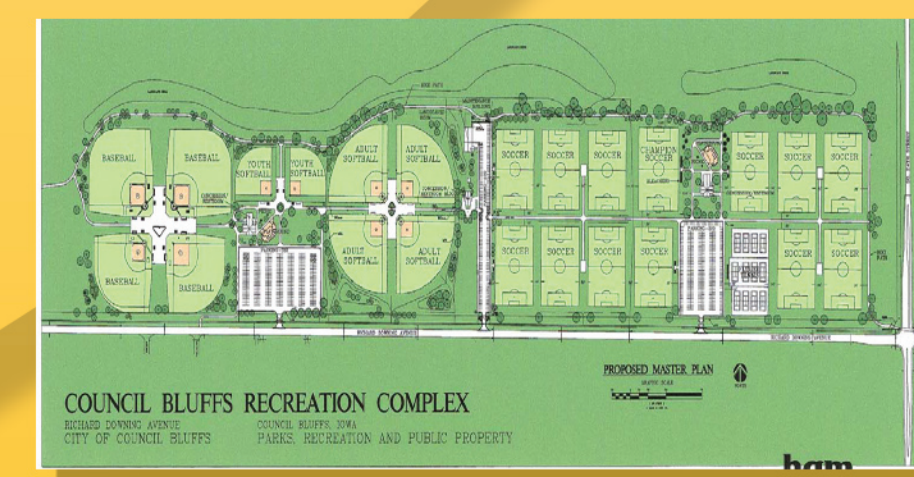
Colonel Francis J. Beatty Park
Mecklenburg County, NC



Description:
Colonel Francis J. Beatty Park is a 270 acre park with a man made lake, soccer and softball fields, tennis and volleyball courts, mountain biking trails, hiking and interpretive nature trails, playgrounds, and a park maintenance facility.

Case Study #3

Council Bluffs Recreational Complex
Council Bluffs, Iowa



Description:
This is an 83 acre complex which includes 8 full size soccer fields, 2 youth/fastpitch softball fields, 4 baseball fields, 2 concession restroom buildings, 1 playground area, 2 meeting rooms and a maintenance facility.

Case Study #4

Fargo Skate Park
Fargo, North Dakota



Description:
This facility is made of formed concrete and contains challenges for the beginner, intermediate, and advanced athletes.

Existing Vegetation:

There are numerous types of trees and grasses that are existing on the site now. There is a collaboration of Silver Maples, Lindens, Ashes, Oaks, Birches, Spruces and Pine trees located in the masses of existing trees on the site. The native grasses that are prominent on the site is an assortment of Indiangrass, Switchgrass and Canada Wild Rye. These are a tall dry grass that usually grow near creeks and streams.



Silver Maple



Scots Pine



Bur Oak



Paper Birch



Green Ash



American Linden



Colorado Spruce



Switchgrass



Indiangrass



Canada Wild Rye

Added Vegetation:

The additional vegetation that I will be adding to the site is an assortment of trees that are all ready existing on the site with the addition of the Spring Snow Crabapples that will be placed throughout the plazas. The addition of numerous wildflowers, roses, and tulips will also be added into the planting beds located throughout the community garden.



Tulips



Roses



Assorted Wildflowers



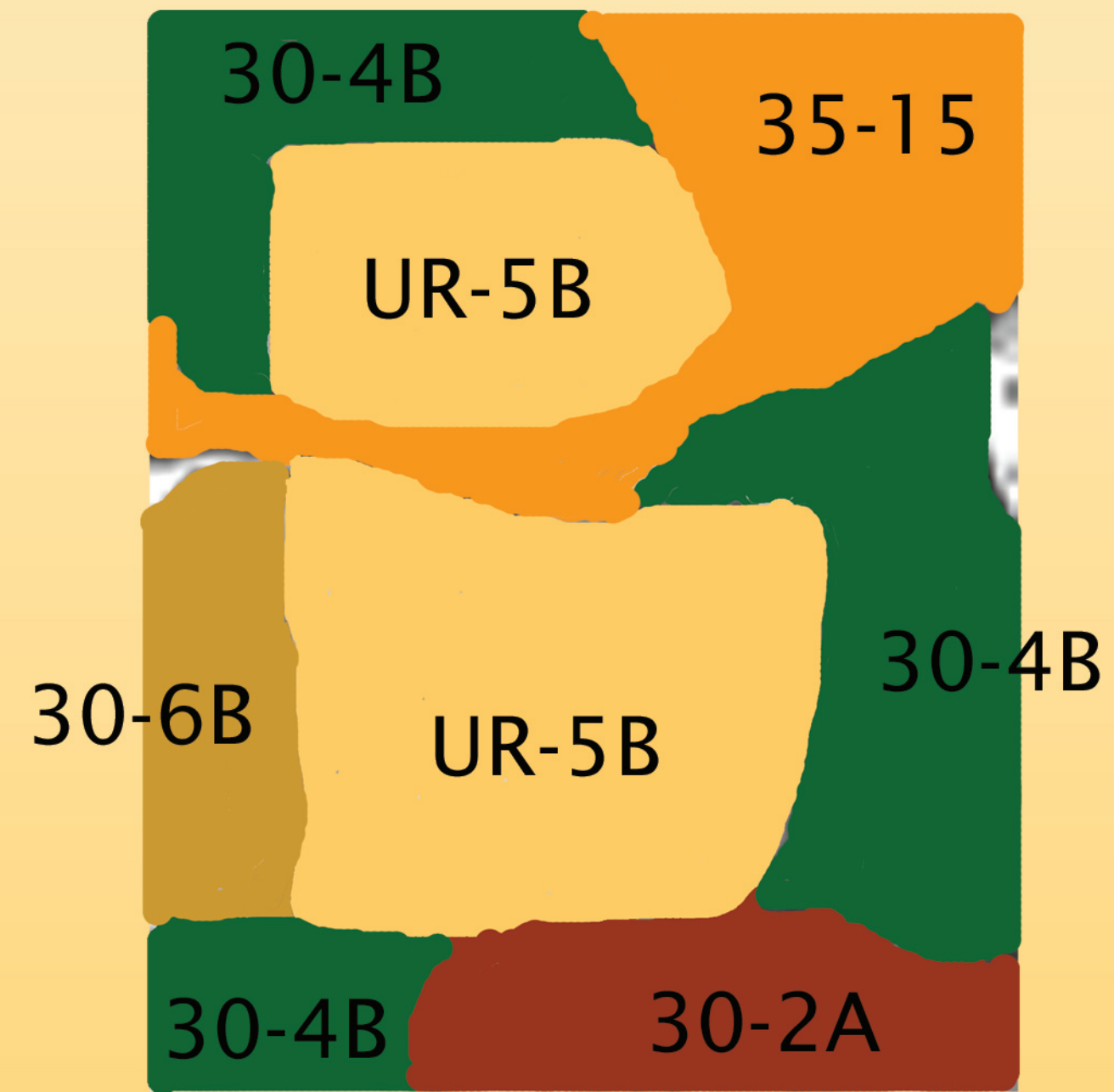
Spring Snow Crabapple

Hermantown Recreational Facility

Site Analysis & Inventory

RESTORATION AND REVITAL

Soils:



UR-5B- URBAN LAND-NORMANNA-CANOSIA COMPLEX, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES

30-4B- NORMANNA-CANOSIA COMPLEX, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES

30-2A- HERMANTOWN-CANOSIA-GIESE, DEPRESSIONAL COMPLEX, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES

30-6B- NORMANNA-ALDENLAKE-CANOSIA COMPLEX, 0 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES

35-15- BOWSTRING AND FLUVAQUENTS LOAMY, 0 TO 2 PERCENT SLOPES FREQUENTLY FLOODED

*Note- All of these soils have been disturbed from the existing ball fields and are not prone to flooding. The only soil that is prone to flooding is 35-15 which is located around the creek.

Opportunities:

Site Accessibility- This site lies on the intersection of two major roads in Hermantown. This makes this site easy to find and is very noticeable from these streets that see around 24,000 cars a day between the two.

Large Site- At approximately 360,000 sq. ft. this site has plenty of room for the addition of gardens, plazas and areas for activities to make this site more state of the art.

Soils- The soils throughout this site are impacted and drain very well which will help it from flooding in massive amounts rain. This site also dries up fast during the spring so people can utilize this site sooner than later.

Habitat- There is a good number of animals that inhabit this area which adds an extra element to the tranquility of the site.

Constraints:

Expense- This project could be costly with the addition of numerous paved trails and plazas, as well the placement of all ready developed trees and shrubs.



This area is the existing old football field that has an opportunity to turn into open field turf area. With proper maintenance this could be a nice turf area for a variety of outdoor activities.

This is the existing creek that runs through the north part of the site. This creek adds a nice tranquil element to this complex, however could pose a problem for flooding and wet soils.



The road running North and South is Ugstad Road and road running East and West is Maple Grove Road. These are two major roads that run through Hermantown. Maple Grove Road has an approximate average daily traffic of 10,000 to 12,000 cars a day and Ugstad Road sees approximately 7,000 to 8,000 cars a day. (Reference: www.dot.mn.us).



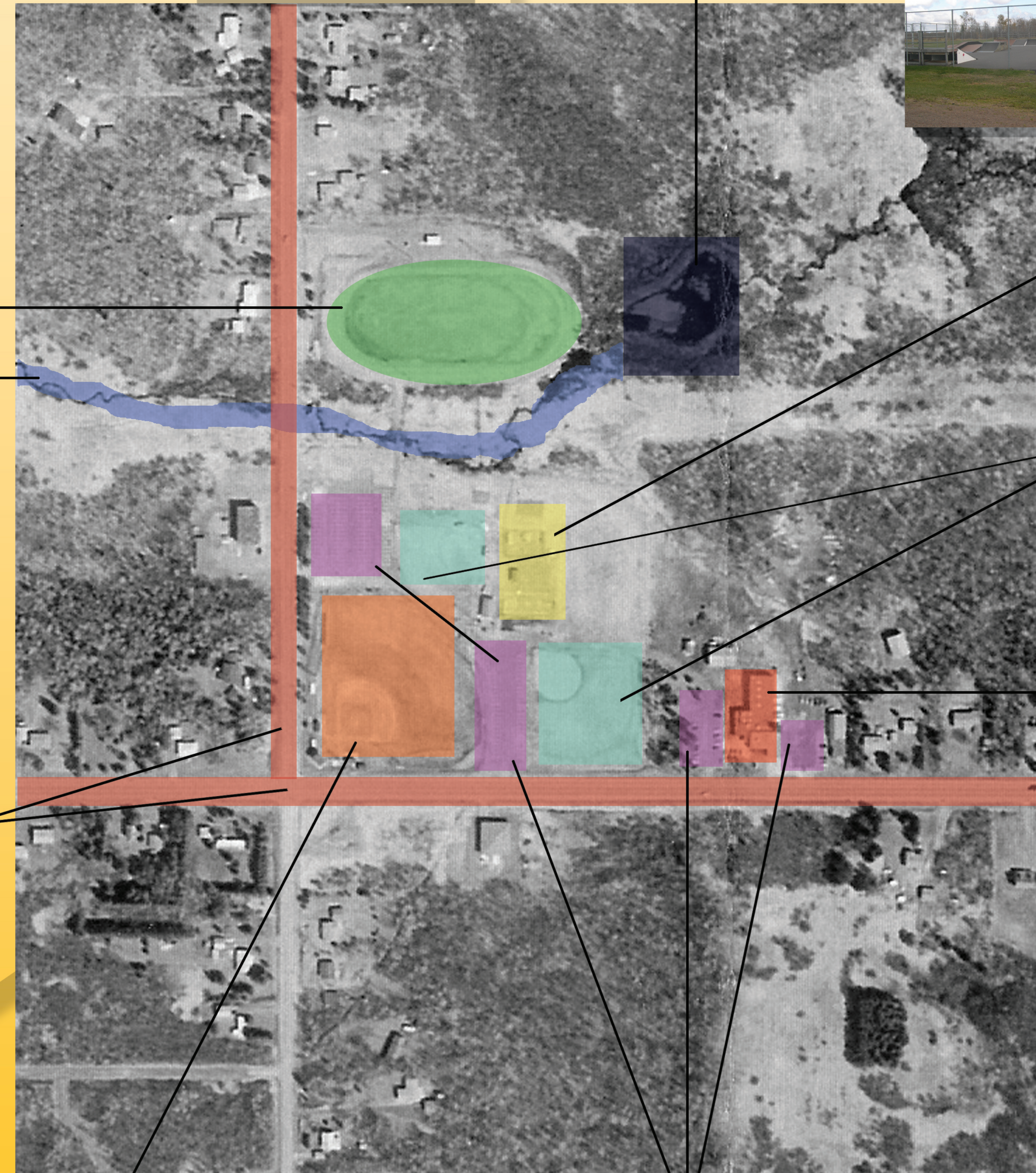
There is an existing pond on the site which is fairly small and could be expanded to make it a more prominent feature on the site. It could be utilized for fishing in the summer and could be turned into a skating rink in the winter.



This is the existing concession area and skate park. The concession area needs a new building as well as a large plaza to accommodate more people that visit the site. The existing skate park is just too small and there are not enough challenges for the beginner skateboarder as well as the advanced. A new skate park will be designed to handle the growth of the popularity of the sport

These two fields are the existing softball/little league fields located within the complex. Some renovation needs to be done to host more games and the addition of more bleachers to accommodate more people.

This building is the existing Hermantown City Hall and Public Works building. The city hall and public works building is moving a mile down the street along Maple Grove Rd. to a new building which will be a good opportunity to turn this building into an information building for the complex.



Fichtner Field is the existing baseball field located in the Southwest corner of the recreational complex site. For the most part this field is in good shape, however, there are some things that need improvement such as the fences, dugouts and some other aesthetic components to the field.



The existing parking lots need to be renovated; right now they are large slabs of asphalt with no character. The addition of medians and trees will give these parking lots a good look as well as shading cars in hot summer months.

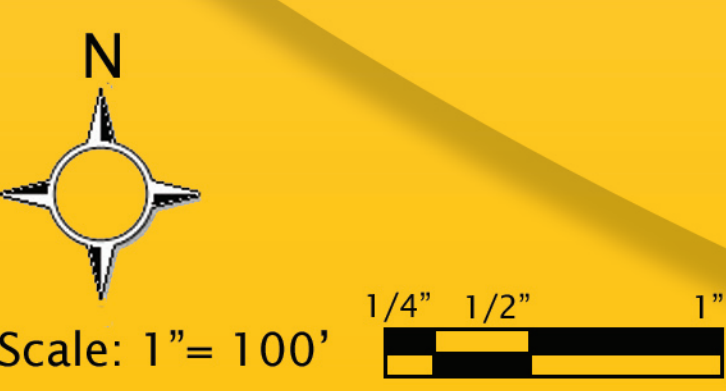


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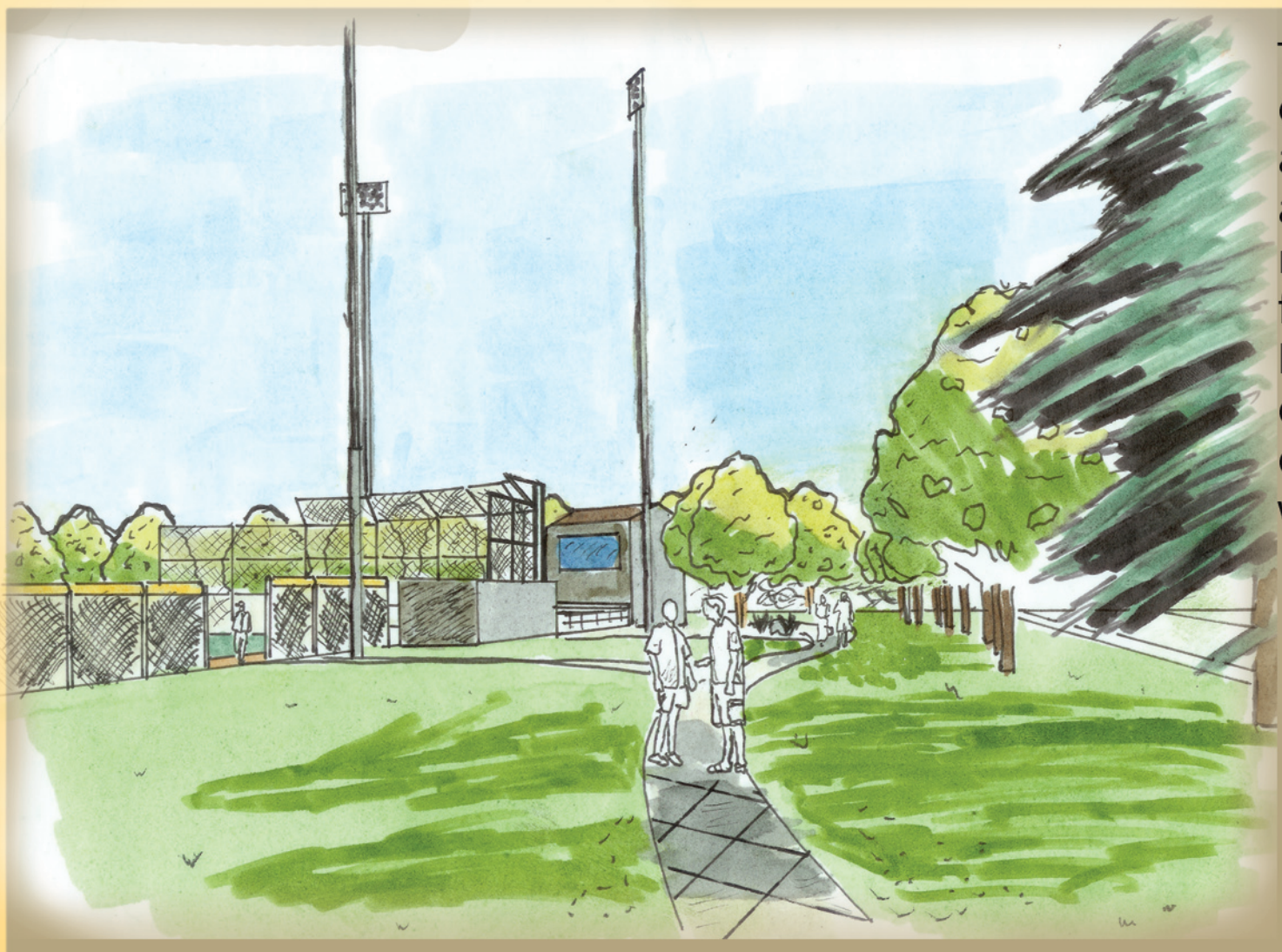


Design Intent

My design intent for this project was to restore and revitalize a recreational complex that is in desperate need of restoration. This project's main goal was to rehabilitate existing features and to better the functionality of the existing site. The project incorporates the expansion and beautification of the site. This project consists of the renovation of the existing baseball field with the addition of plantings around the site. The addition of a larger concession area with large plazas to accommodate more people will make it an area ideal for hosting tournaments. The renovation of the old football field will be turned into a large open turf area so it can be utilized by youth soccer and youth football games as well as a wide range of outdoor activities. The addition of a new skate park, to replace the drab old one to accommodate the increasing popularity of the sport among kids. On this site I also incorporated a large community garden to give the site an added feature to attract people with other interests rather than physical activities. The last item that I designed for this complex is a large discovery playground to entertain younger kids that are brought to this site. Furthermore, the master planning consists of better parking and pathways to make it easier for pedestrians to move around the complex. There will be 250 parking spots to accommodate numerous users for the different activities on the site. The parking lot consists of medians that will give the lot an attractive look but also uses numerous Green Ash trees to shade the parked cars on hot summer days.



Restoration and Revitalization



1. Perspective looking at Big League Field.

This is a perspective looking south at the existing Fichtner Field. The addition of a path will make it easier to move around the site. And the addition of more trees around the outside of the field will help frame the baseball field. Keeping the grass area near the field open is important; giving people the opportunity to see the playing field while entering the site.



3. Perspective of concession plaza

This is a perspective looking South through the concession plaza. This view shows the character added to the plaza with different paving patterns and the addition of planters giving the plaza new life.



8. Aerial of Skate Park.

This is an aerial view of the expanded skate park for the complex. This is a formed concrete park and has components that will challenge the beginner as well as the advanced skateboarder.



4. Aerial view of concession plaza.

This is an aerial view of the concession plaza. This view shows more character of the plaza as well as the connections to the small baseball field and the transformation from one plaza to another. This plaza has a friendly and inviting appearance and will hopefully encourage people to visit this site over and over again. With the water feature, canopies and tree planters that give the plaza and recreational complex a state of the art look, this will hopefully attract users from all over bringing more tourism to the city of Hermantown.



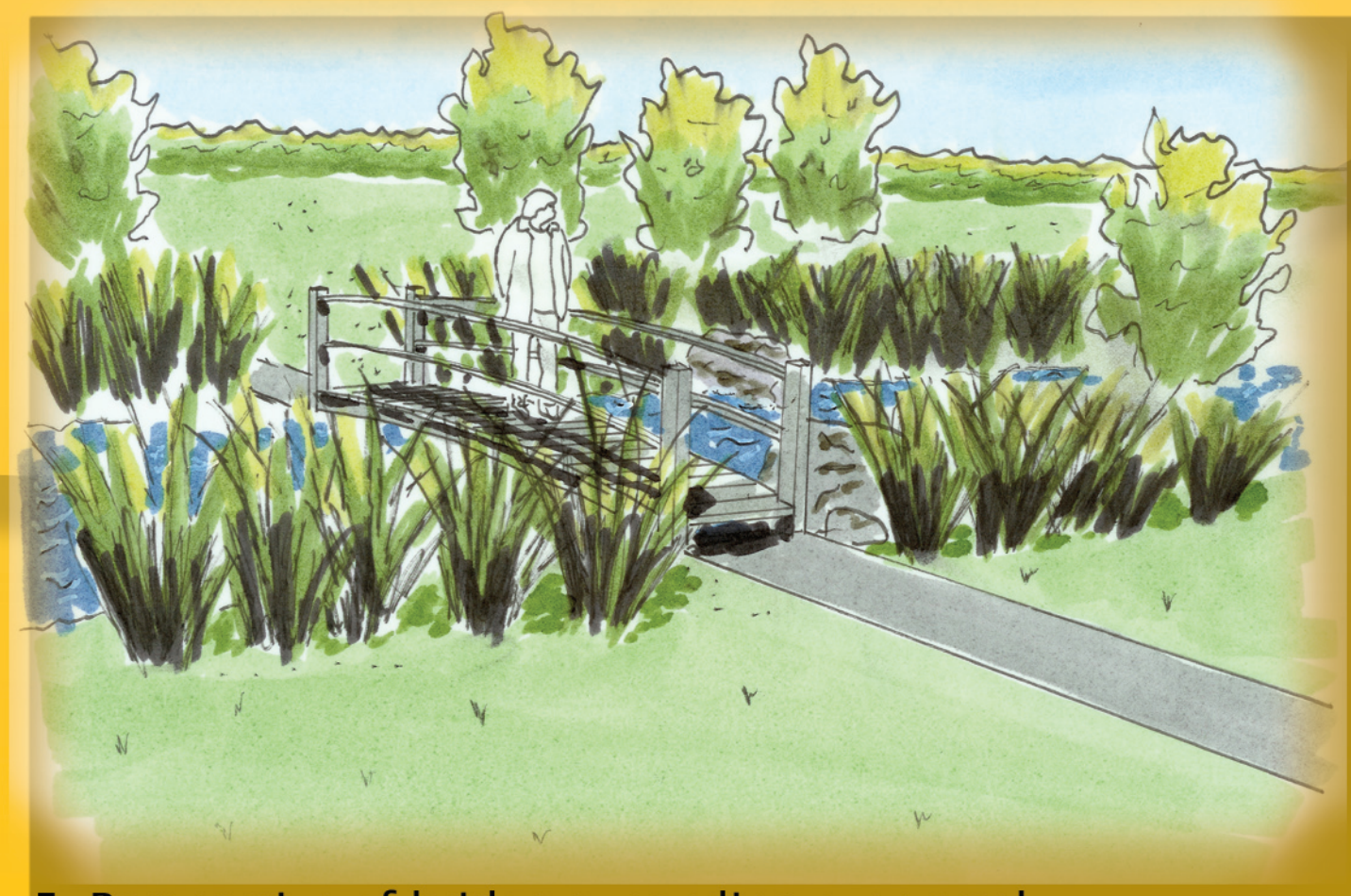
7. Perspective looking through the discovery garden.

This perspective looking through the discovery garden shows the idea behind giving children a large play area to keep them busy. Children can use their imagination and expand their mental growth by playing with natural materials such as trees and rocks as well as playing on your standard jungle gym to improve their physical growth. This playground will keep kids busy while their big brother or sister is playing sports on the larger fields.



2. Perspective of parking lot connection.

This is a perspective looking North East through the parking connection between the big league field and the little league field. This area was once open for through traffic but the decision to close it off was made to limit the interaction between pedestrians and vehicles.



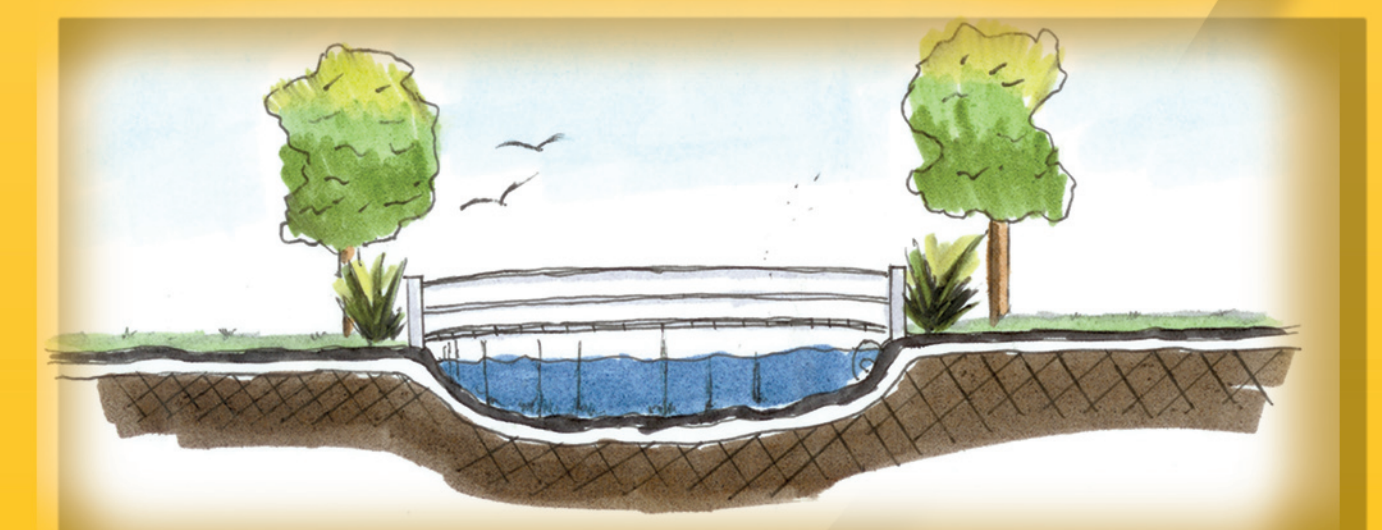
5. Perspective of bridge expanding over creek.

This is a perspective looking at the bridge crossing over miller creek that runs through the site. This is a nice feature to the site and this perspective shows the nice vegetation and the soothing look that the creek creates.



6. Perspective of community garden plaza

This is a perspective looking North East through the community garden plaza. This plaza adds a nice feature and pronounced entrance into the community garden. The community garden is a series of paths that runs through planted trees and shrubs to give this complex another feature to attract people to this site

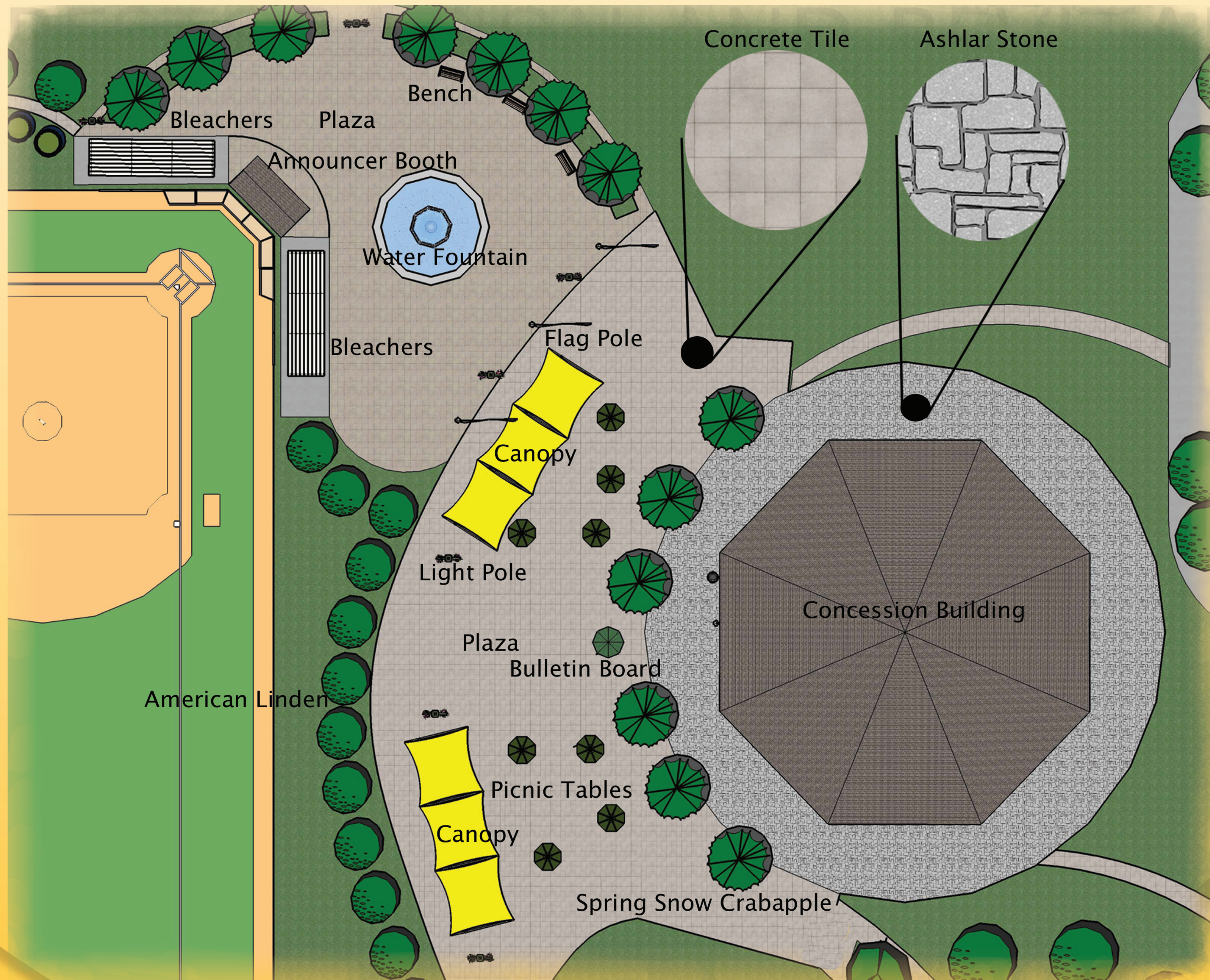


9. Section looking west of bridge and creek. Scale: 1/8" = 1'

This section shows the constructed wood bridge that crosses over the creek on the North part of the site.

Hermantown Recreational Facility

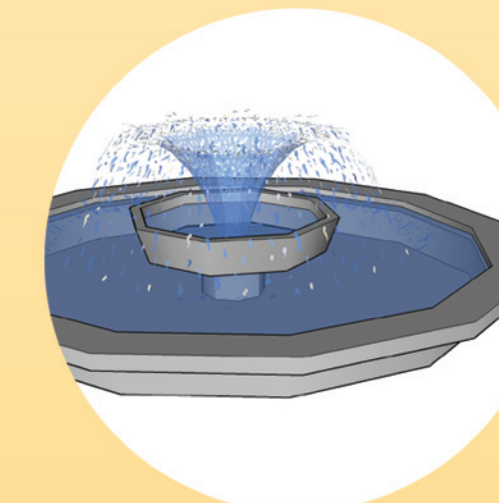
Concession Detail



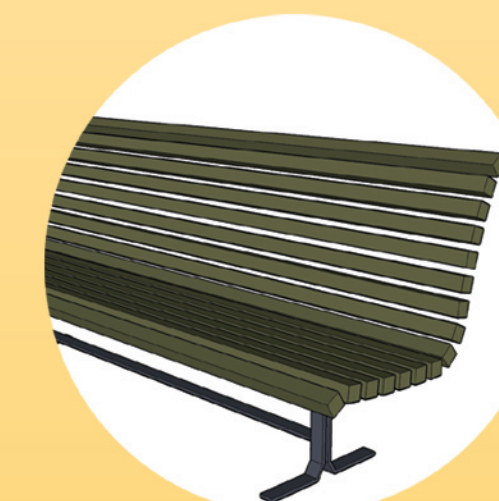
CONCRETIZATION



Concession Stand and Announcer Booth
-Salmon and Slate Split Face Concrete Blocks



Concrete Water Fountain



Cedar Wood Bench



Cast Aluminum Street Light
-High Pressure Sodium Metal Halide Bulb



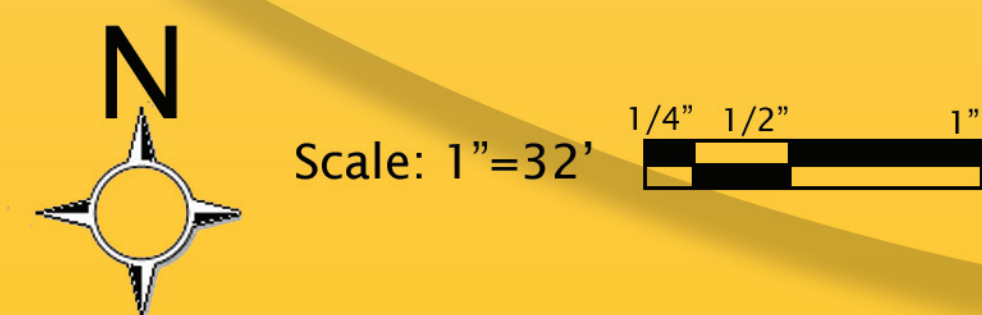
Concrete Picnic Tables
-Concrete Base with Commercial Grade "A" 8oz Poly 600 Thread Count 3M Scotchgard Umbrella



Aluminum Bleachers



Seasonal Canopy
-Aluminum Frame and Commercial Grade "A" 8oz Poly 600 Thread Count 3M Scotchgard Canopy



Pavement Detail: Scale: 2" = 1'

