

Roots to Resources: The Guelph Resource Hub

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- Red = Existing Parcel
- Blue = Water Shed
- Dark Green = Dense Forest
- Light Green = Open Green Space/ Agriculture
- Purple = Commercial
- Yellow = Residential

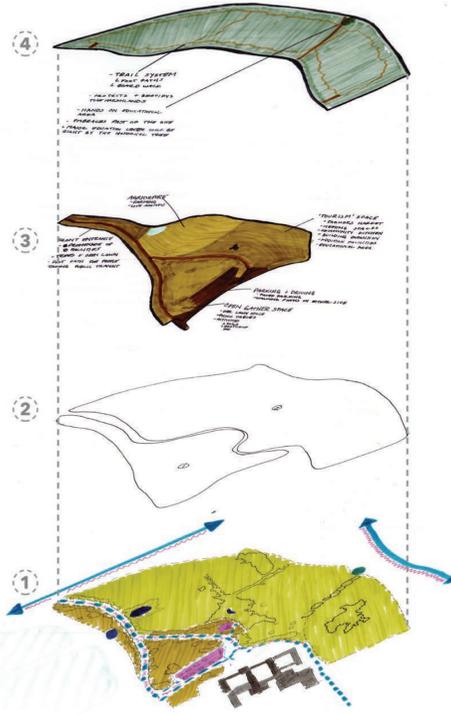
Surrounding Context

The image to the left is a schematic representation of the surrounding land use context, near the assigned parcel.

From looking at this context map, and understanding the land uses, the effects those land uses can be seen, as well as the proximity of the expected users of the site.

The site is also right off of a main road, York rd, with a public transit route, making the site much more accessible for those of a lower income that cant afford a car.

North-East of the site there are a fair amount of residential neighborhoods that would have local residents coming to visit the site.



Analysis and Site Breakdown

The concept of this site was broken down into two main sections, the more natural or ecological section, and then the more human use section.

(4) Naturalized Use

The northern half of the site had been left un maintained for a large majority of time, and had been allowed to naturalize. This naturalized area presented opportunities to implement trail networks and education opportunities, so close to an urban center

(3) Human Use

The southern half of the site housed the majority if the existing infrastructure, that would impact and compliment human use on the site for future design

(2) Site Breakdown

The site had a large amount of existing infrastructure, historical aspects, and used paths, that by looking at the site it could be seen that there that those existing features bisected the site into a northern and a southern half, both with obvious differences in their make ups

(1) Initial Analysis

The initial analysis of the site looks at the existing conditions within the given landscape, and they effect each other and planning for the programming and design of the site. The naturalized areas, and existing infrastructure were all analyzed.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of in the redesign of this site is to create a space that forms a sustainable cycle that supports local entrepreneurs and small business owners, relates back to the historical context of the parcel, and provides resources and out-reach programs to the local community members in need.

Another goal for this site is a constant educational program that takes use of the implemented trail systems, and learns about business and agricultural practices.

This site cycle (seen up above), is to be broken into four aspects, which are: Community outreach, Growing Product, Business Resources, and Direct Selling. Community outreach entails going into the local community, the ones who essentially support the site, and finding those entrepreneurs who just need a helping hand. Following that is the growing of the product or resources, which can be done on site year round and organically in one of the four green houses. The next is the offering of business resources, by having free and professional meeting and working spaces, as well as access to a small business counselor. The final step in this cycle would then be the direct selling of the product, done on site, in the bi-weekly artisan market.



Plant Communities

The redesign of this historical site goes beyond programming and infrastructure, and includes the restructuring of plant communities on the parcel to create a more diverse, strong and sustainable site, to keep the design timeless

Open Meadow

The planting of an open meadow fulfills the want of an aesthetically please site, for the visitors, but provides a low maintenance and ecologically sustainable plant community, that takes up almost one third of the site. With plantings that intend to assist with water filtration, this is an important aspect on a site that in the past had a large issue with soil and runoff contamination.

Plants that can be found in this plant community:

- Birdfoot violet**, *Viola pedata*
- Black-eyed susan**, *Rudbeckia hirta*
- Butterflyweed**, *Asclepias tuberosa*
- Coneflower**, *Echinacea*

- Smooth aster**, *Symphyotrichum laeve*
- Carolina lupine**, *Thermopsis villosa*
- Clover**, *Trifolium*
- Spiderwort**, *Tradescantia*

Forest

This plant community provides protection of the parcel from excess noise or wind pollution caused by the surrounding commercial site and main roads. Addition these forests, made up of canopy, sub canopy and herbaceous trees provide passage through the site to connecting flora passages for incoming and out going fauna

Wetland

The wetland plant community is found on the east and west sides of the site, and is due to the water drainage and collection within the site. This wetland would be comprised of mainly submergent, emergent and riparian plantings, providing structure and filtration within and on the edges of these wetlands.

MASTER PLAN



The Greenhouses:

Striving to connect back to original roots of the site, the newly proposed green houses in the central area of the site are intended to keep agricultural practices on site, such as the prisoners were tasked to originally take of. These 4 green houses will allow for year round growing, and will consist of more permanent crops owned by the green hub, as well as plots with in the houses that local entrepreneurs can apply or pay for to grow their own merchandise.



Community Kitchen:

Having the opportunity to grow organic produce right on site gives the opportunity to have almost zero cost workshops in a kitchen in the superintendent's house to give back to those in the community who need some extra help, or teach groups within the community how to better help those in need.



The Expansion Building:

The only existing building on the given parcel with the existing superintendents house, which although gives access to a kitchen and small gathering space, lacks the ability to be changed due to historical significance. The expansion building achieves the goal of having a space to provide to these small business owners who lack the ability to access resources. The expansion building will have meeting rooms that can be signed out and reserved, computers with higher end software, and advice for running a small business.



Parking, Open Recreation, and Bioswale:

This section of the site is the least altered in regards to the original layout. The roads and the parking lot, for the most part, remain the same but the material has been replaced; a permeable paver has been chosen over the existing asphalt to reduce run off and allow for better drainage. A bioswale with larger deciduous trees has also been implemented in the middle of the parking lot to help catch and filtrate the run off from the parking lot, as well to as help diminish the heat island effect caused by the parking material



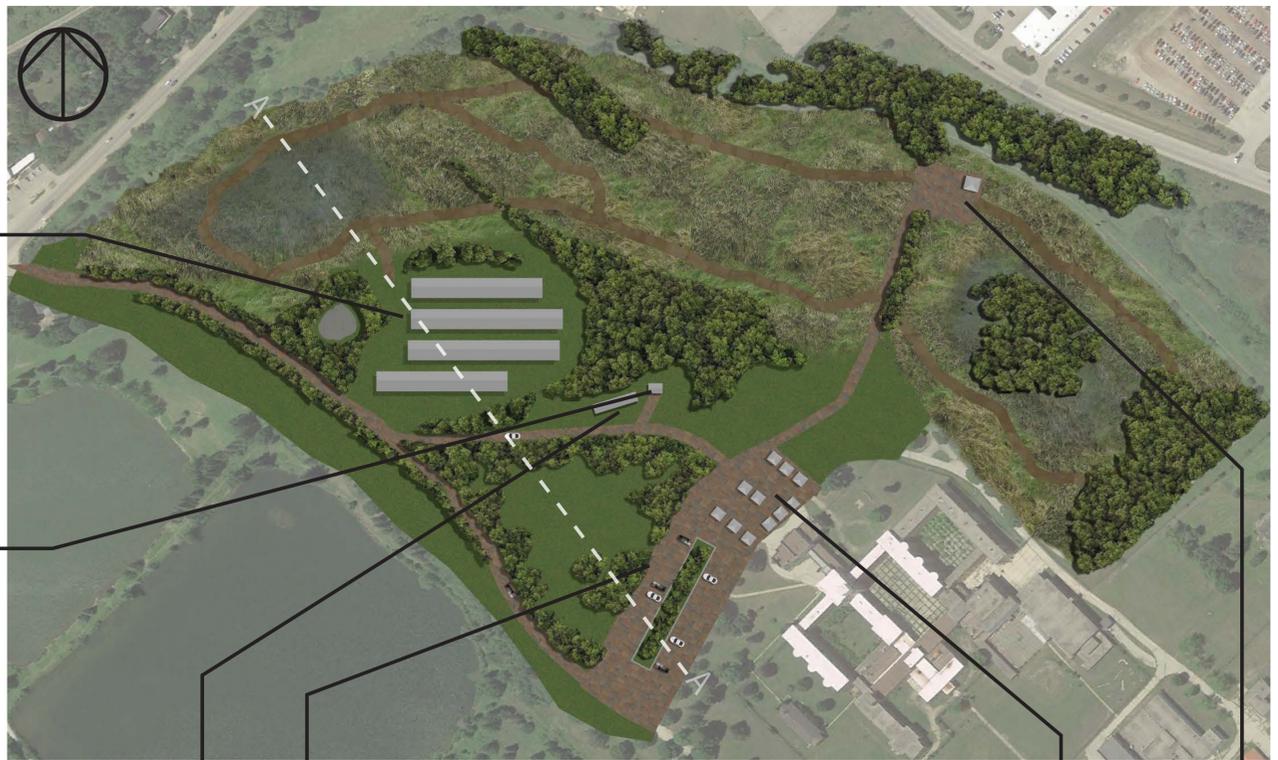
Artisan Market:

The aim of a direct to consumer selling practice is to eliminate the 'middle man' and allow the business owner to collect more profit, and continue to build their business. At the green hub, this artisan market goes beyond the typical farmer's market by having smaller handmade business' display and taste or test their products. From small brewers, fresh made pasta, or handmade sauce, these business' would be given the opportunity to share their passion and creativity with their products at these markets.



Educational Trail System and Resources:

Due to the naturalization and rehabilitation of the northern half of the site, it was possible to achieve the goal of establishing an educational program with trail systems that go through the forests, meadows and wetlands. In addition there is a proposed building for an indoor classroom to keep the students separate from the general public during the education programs, and allow for the program to run during any weather.



SECTION



Section AA

The section to the left is intended to show the planting communities and the grade change between that area, and the newly proposed agriculture area made up of green houses. This grade change is necessary to allow for the large buildings to be put in place.

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