

RESEARCH IN ACTION: THE HAYSBORO COMMUNITY PARK



ABSTRACT AND GOALS

Abstract

What is a natural playground? Is it the newest trend or could a return to old-fashioned ideology be the solution to a search for sustainable high quality play spaces?

How do you measure the success of a park? Wait, first you need to define park success. This symposium-“Research in Action: The Haysboro Community Park” is designed to leverage the evaluation of a playground revitalization project and to show how specific research strategies can be used to measure the success of future play and recreation projects.

The Haysboro Community Park Project is a community-driven initiative, revitalizing a City of Calgary playground into one of the first nature playgrounds in Calgary. Conceptual design began in 2014 with Phase One construction completed in November 2015 and Phase 2 underway in the fall of 2017. Two research projects have evaluated the success of this playground design using different quantitative methodologies to provide insights into usage data both before and after the revitalization.

By using this project as a case study, this symposium is designed to address three key themes; making a case for nature playgrounds, sharing lessons learned from this playground revitalization project, and demonstrating the value of research in measuring the success of a public park and recreational space.

Sharing the lessons learned from this project with the various departments within the City of Calgary and with other play focused organizations helps to ensure the success of future like projects.

Including targeted, quality research on park usage has proven both feasible and invaluable for this project and can be used as a model for future play projects. This symposium will present two proven methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness, utility, and thereby success of a community play space.

Goals of the Symposium

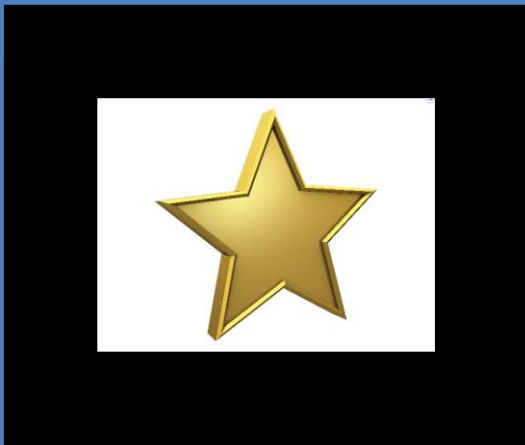
The goal of this symposium is to spark a conversation in Calgary about the use of research to drive play space design decisions, and to share data that supports the case for nature playgrounds as a worthy option.

Attendees will:

- Follow the process of designing a nature playground from conception, community input, design, construction, evaluation and Phase 2 planning.
- Gain insight into why nature playgrounds are a great choice for community parks.
- See the success of the Haysboro Community Park marked in measurable, objective, metrics.
- Gain a better understanding of the types of methodologies available to research and evaluate community play spaces.
- Understand how data can be used strategically to make design changes to parks, to increase usage, and to influence activity levels at parks.
- Participate in an open discussion about the future of research and nature play in community playgrounds.



HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF A PARK?



HAYSBORO COMMUNITY PARK PROJECT



"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

—Mr. Rogers



This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada



ORIGINAL PARK



WHO'S AT THE PARK?

- Local families
 - Young families, day homes
- Haysboro Preschool
 - Monday-Friday
 - 1-2 hrs/day
 - Included in Curriculum
- Jr High special needs class
 - Daily

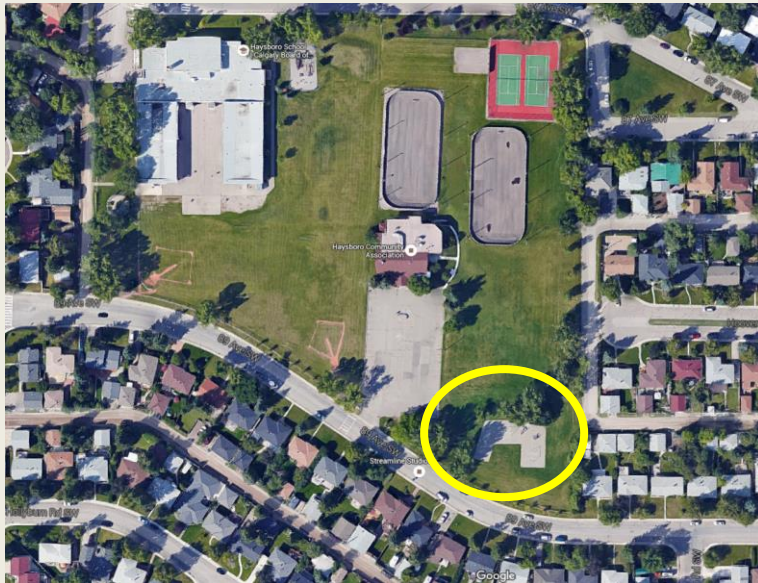


WHAT ARE ALL THE PLAY OPTIONS IN HAYSBORO?



PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

- City of Calgary
- Haysboro Community Association (HCA)
- Haysboro Community Preschool
- Haysboro Residents



ENGAGEMENT AND BRAINSTORMING

Cities have the capability of
providing something for everybody,
only because, and only when, they
are created by everybody.

— *Jane Jacobs* —

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

- 25 participants
 - Most lived in Haysboro
 - Everyone had played at the park at least once
- Majority had 3-5 year olds
- 80% would like to see swings remain, 75% for slides



Survey Results

Playgrounds We Love



Edworthy Park



Prince's Island Park



Helicopter Park



Kelvin Grove Woodland Park

FAVOURITE PARKS



WHAT FEATURES DO YOU LOVE?

- Creative, imaginative spaces
- Unique items, ziplines, bouldering wall, dome monkey bars, mobius strip
- Swings,
 - traditional, baby, and disc
- Climbing rope structures
- Boulders or logs of different shapes and sizes to jump between, climb on
- Paths
- Multiple ages including adults can play

**People travel the farthest for safe/fun parks
for younger aged children**

OUTCOME OF SURVEY

- Recognized that we have fantastic large playground structures in our community.
 - 3 elementary schools with playgrounds
- Lack of parks for the 0-2 and 3-5 age groups.
- Want and need:
 - a destination park
 - a community hub
 - a comfortable place to spend the day and meet our neighbours.



PLAYGROUND VISION

Happy, Healthy Children Play Outdoors

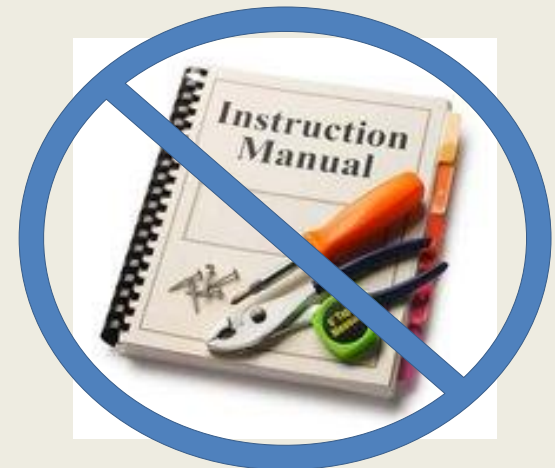


www.marghanita.com

Outdoors, children can run about and have a sense of freedom which otherwise they would not experience indoors

HOW DO WE MAKE OUR PLAYGROUND UNIQUE?

- There are many great playgrounds nearby, we want something different
- Let's look at what we like about other parks and try and create something even better at ours
- What are the newest developments in playground equipment and ideas
- Let's also revisit what was popular from our childhood and see what has stood the test of time





6-23 Months





2-5 Year Olds



6-12 Year Olds



WHERE DO WE PLAY BEST?



HOW DO WE MAKE OUR PLAYGROUNDS SUSTAINABLE?



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



THE DECISION: NATURE PLAYGROUND



"Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives." ~ Thomas Berry



MAKING A CASE FOR NATURE PLAYGROUNDS



Making the Case for Natural Playgrounds

by Adam Bienstock

"Natural Playgrounds should be the standard for all new playgrounds. They truly connect children with nature through play and are a great alternative for the real protection of environmental resources."



We've been designing and building playgrounds across North America for child care centers, schools and public parks and institutions for some time now. One early lesson learned: We were just making playgrounds out of the sand we played with when we were kids... sticks, logs, shells, dirt, sand, rocks, big trees... This began doing this in 1982 when they were called "playgrounds" or "natural playgrounds". The word, we called "wild, green, growing, and was considered a fringe movement. In the last decade everything changed. Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods* shows a bright light in the corner of... connecting children to nature and has made it along with the work of so many in the fringe, has moved us all into the mainstream.

Although natural playgrounds are still sensitive to environmental protection, now they are backed by an ever growing body of research that connects to the child's development and health.

1997 Playable & Nature, 2000 Playable 2000's organization and article (Harris & Wong, 1997; Lufthansa & Hoadly, 1998; Taylor et al., 1998; Wells & Evans, 2003; Bunting & Whelan, 2005; Gauding, 2007).

There is an increase in going through with adults more than we are speaking at conferences in building a design facilitator. It goes like this: first we set the vision of hands who sometimes playing unorganized in a natural setting with the intention to be better for design or before the investigation came on. Most people get up their hands. Then we ask who has children. Again, most people get up their hands. Finally, we ask how many would let their children not to play unorganized until the investigation came on. Everyone seriously laughs, and usually even people in the audience appreciatively just their hands. Then there is a moment to connect with each other.

Healthy in Nature | BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

Nature Playgrounds

Healthy
in nature

How to Use this Information

This information will introduce you to nature playgrounds, their benefits and, in particular, design and safety considerations when building them.

Promote the concept!

Use this information to help promote and build awareness of nature playgrounds in your area.

Spread the news!

- Give this information to parents, members of the public, fellow staff members, municipal leaders, community partners and others.
- Incorporate this information into proposals, communication materials or correspondence with municipal council and community partners.

What is a Nature Playground?



Nature playgrounds have many names: natural playground, discovery play gardens, outdoor play space, naturescape or playscape. They refer to outdoor areas that are designed to provide a safe environment for play in a natural setting or with nature-based features. In a nature playground, it may not immediately be obvious how the playground elements should be used because it is up to children and adults to use their imagination as to how to best engage with what they find. The intention of nature playgrounds is to connect people to nature, expose the wonders and beauty of nature, and provide open-ended and creative play options. Nature playgrounds are ideal places for adults and children to spend time together in natural surroundings.^{1,2}

Benefits of Nature Playgrounds

Playing in nature playgrounds provides children with numerous physical, mental and social benefits. Physical benefits include increased motor skill development such as running, jumping, balancing and strength. Participation in nature playgrounds encourages emotional development and allows children to think critically, solve problems and make decisions. During their play in this setting, children learn to take and manage risks and overcome fears.³

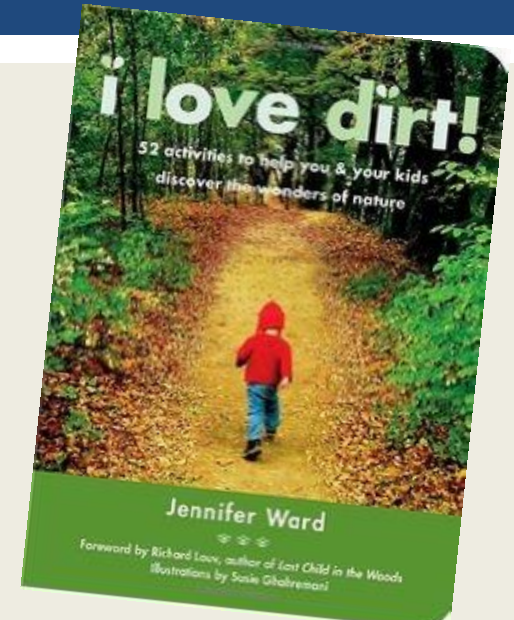
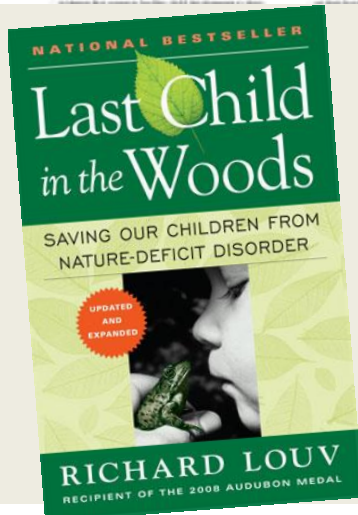
Playing in nature playgrounds:

- leads to increased concentration and attention.³
- nurtures collaborative skills and stimulates social interaction and cooperative play.³
- allows for free explorative play due to the varied and changeable environment.⁴
- provides opportunities for creative play, quiet space, music, art and nature.⁵



hin.bcrpa.bc.ca | bcrpa.bc.ca

children & nature
NETWORK



Child-led play is where the child takes the lead, so that they can follow their own play urges.

NaturePlay
www.nature-play.co.uk





IS A NATURAL PLAYGROUND AN OPTION?


- First of it's kind in Calgary
- City was willing to do this as a pilot project
- Maintenance was main concern
- Sourcing and approving vendors, CSA guidelines
- Concern with wood pieces & tunnels – slivers, starting fires, sleeping & ‘getting up to no good’
- Can we secure funding for this type of playground?



FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

HAYSBORO
COMMUNITY ASSOC.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
HAYSBORO COMMUNITY PARK



TARGET - \$300,000
BUILD DATE - SUMMER 2015
EACH COLOURED LEAF REPRESENTS \$1000 RAISED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

- RED LEAVES - CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS
- BLUE LEAVES - CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS
- YELLOW LEAVES - LEGACY BRICK CAMPAIGN
- GREEN LEAVES COLOURED BY HAYSBORO PRESCHOOL - HAYSBORO FUNDRAISING EFFORTS
- ALL ORANGE LEAVES - IN-KIND DONATIONS

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

Party for the PARK!
a fundraiser for the Haysboro Community Park

When: Saturday, November 29th, 7pm
Where: Calgary Atlantic Trap and Grill (near Studio 82 location)

Ticket info: \$20 each, on sale now
(includes 1 adult, 1 child, 1 drink, 1 appetizer, 1 hot, 1p, 1c, 1d)

RSVP to: Fiona, (403) 233-1563 or info@haysboro.org

One neighbour's trash is another's treasure!

Find hidden gems at the Haysboro Community Association's **Parade of Garage sales**

May 30th 9am-3pm at the Haysboro Community Hall, 1204 - 89th Ave SW

Participate
Bring a table to the event to display your items. You'll be part of a parade of treasure and your items will be sold to the benefit of the Haysboro Community Association. Proceeds from this event go to the Haysboro Community Park project.

For more info or to reserve your table online go to haysboro.org

Haysboro Legacy Bricks

The engraved bricks will represent you as community members and your relationship to the park.
You can leave a personal message or honour friends and loved ones.



Only 165 bricks are available at \$150 each.
Tax receipts available

Bricks are 3 1/2 x 7 1/2 - maximum two lines of 16 characters per line including spaces.



The Bricks will be placed within the labyrinth, a prominent feature of the Haysboro Community Park.

Brick order forms can be found at www.haysboro.org or stop by the Community Hall during office hours.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH • 6PM - 9PM
Let's Dance

Join us for an all ages family dance.

Haysboro Community Centre • 1204 - 89th Ave. S.W.
Doors open at 6pm. Come, get your groove on with DJ's Paul and Christina Mariett of Dance All Ways and be amazed by magician James Jordan.

Tickets start at \$15/family (2 adults and their kids) and \$10/singie. Early Bird pricing ends April 15th. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Cash bar and snack concessions. 50/50 draw and door prizes. Proceeds from this event go to the Haysboro Community Park project.

Space is limited so register now to reserve your spot! (then call and invite all your friends)

Tickets can be purchased at the Community Center Office (1204 89th Ave SW)
Monday-Friday 11:45am or call 403-233-1563 to order by phone or
buy your tickets online: Eventbrite.ca and search Haysboro.

For more information visit Haysboro.org

Please email play@haysboro.org if you are able to volunteer to help at the event.

February 7th
HAYSBORO COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Saturday February 7th 7:30pm

Tickets \$10 each on sale now until February 4th

Buy Tickets at the Hall Office M-F 11-4pm

Tickets also available online at Eventbrite.ca (search Haysboro)

Tickets include admission and a light appetizer buffet

Tickets Still Available!

Join us at Schube Sports Grill on Macleod Trail for fun, games and a silent auction to raise money for the new Haysboro Community Park.

golfgo Drive • Games • Silent Auction • Prizes

For more information: Haysboro.org or email info@haysboro.org

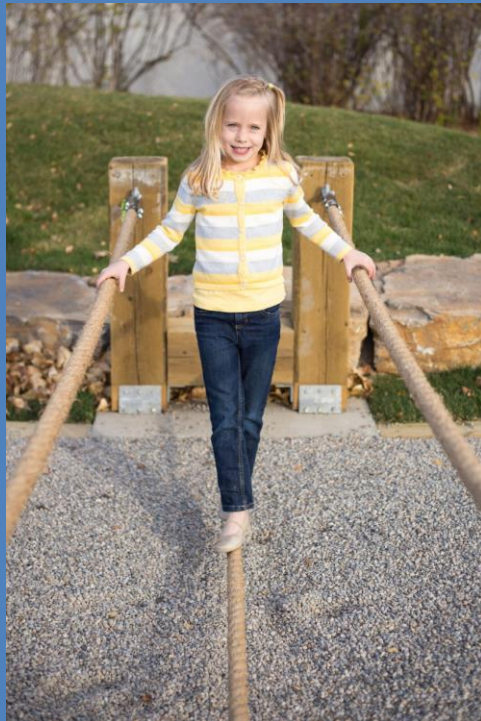
Follow us on Twitter @HaysboroPac And find us on Facebook

WHERE DID WE FIND THE FUNDS?



- Grants - \$140k+
- Legacy Brick campaign - \$25k
- Community fundraisers - \$8k
- Sponsorships - \$9k
- In-Kind City Parks, labour & material - \$35k
- In-Kind Community Volunteers, labour - \$7k
- Haysboro Community Association - \$80k

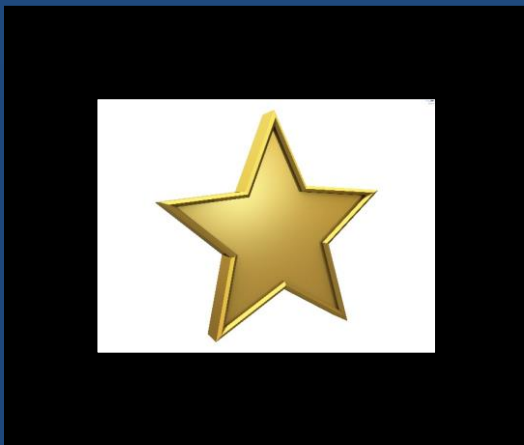
PHASE 1



Completed Fall 2015



HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF A PARK?



OUR PROJECT'S SUCCESS – SO FAR!

- **Community Ownership:**
 - 450 community volunteer build hours
 - 166 Legacy Bricks sold at \$150 each to create labyrinth
- **Comfortable:**
 - 2 picnic tables remain in original locations
 - Established tree locations maximized for shade
 - Accessible path through park
- **High Play Value, Traditional Pieces**
 - Swings, slides
- **Nature Elements installed:**
 - log slice obstacle course, rope bridge, log nest, labyrinth, 140 native plantings, river bed
- **All-season play value**
- **Increase use and average length of stay**
appears longer; usage data to be provided by local research team



PARK EVALUATION AND METRICS

PARK EVALUATION AND METRICS

- **SOPARC**

Tracey Martin

Vivo for Healthier Generations



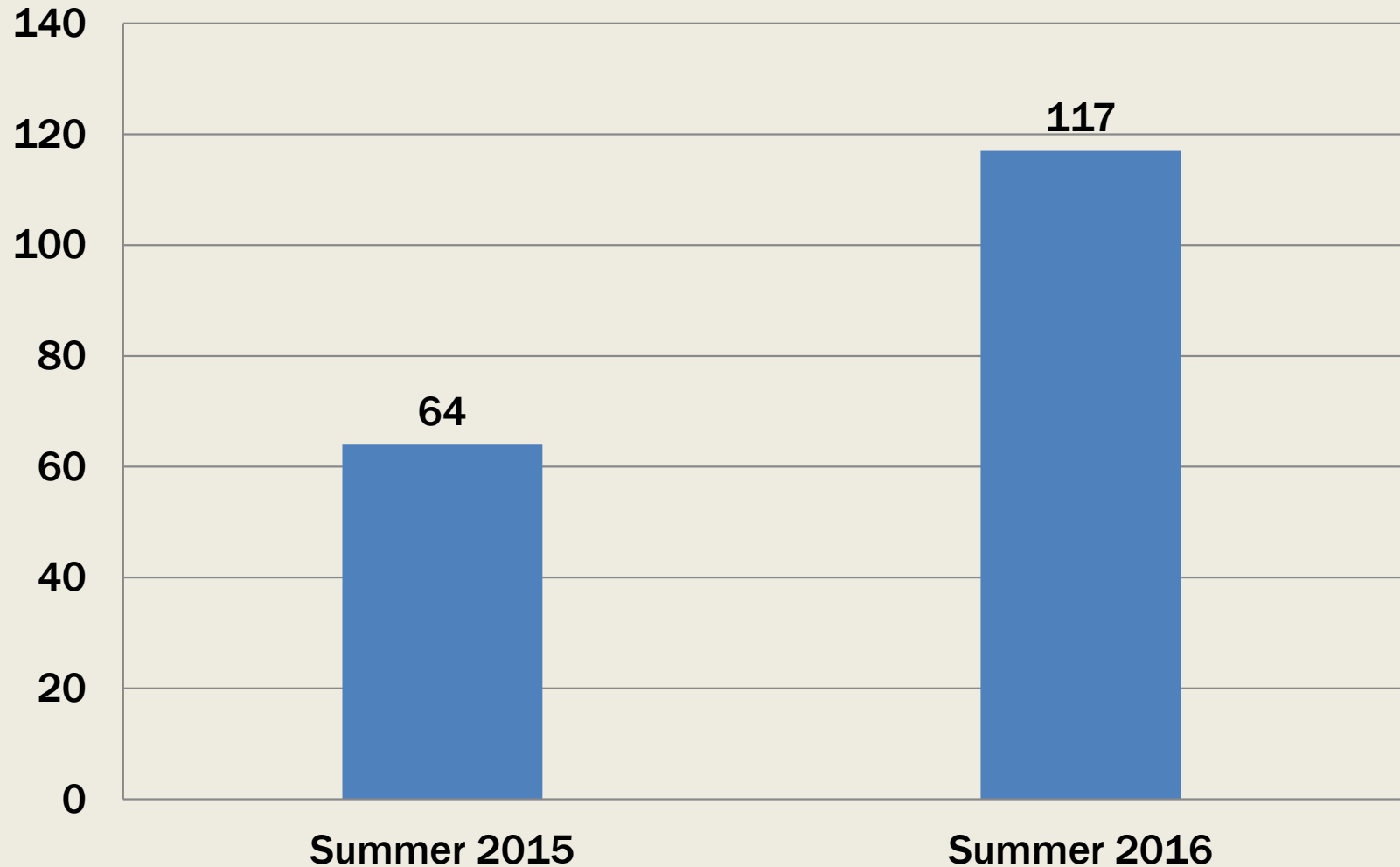
Dr. Dwayne Sheehan

Dr. Karim Youssef

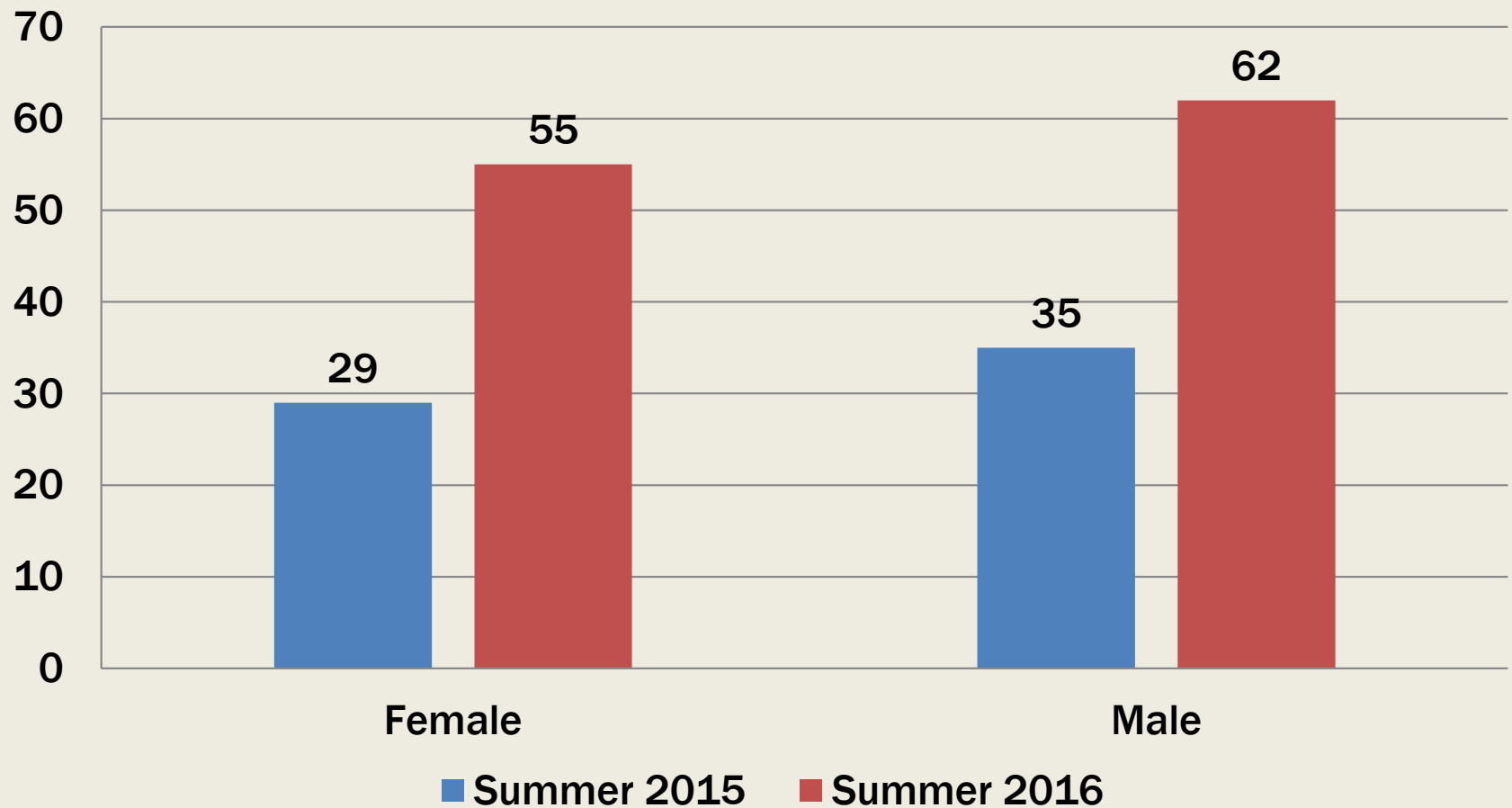
Mount Royal University



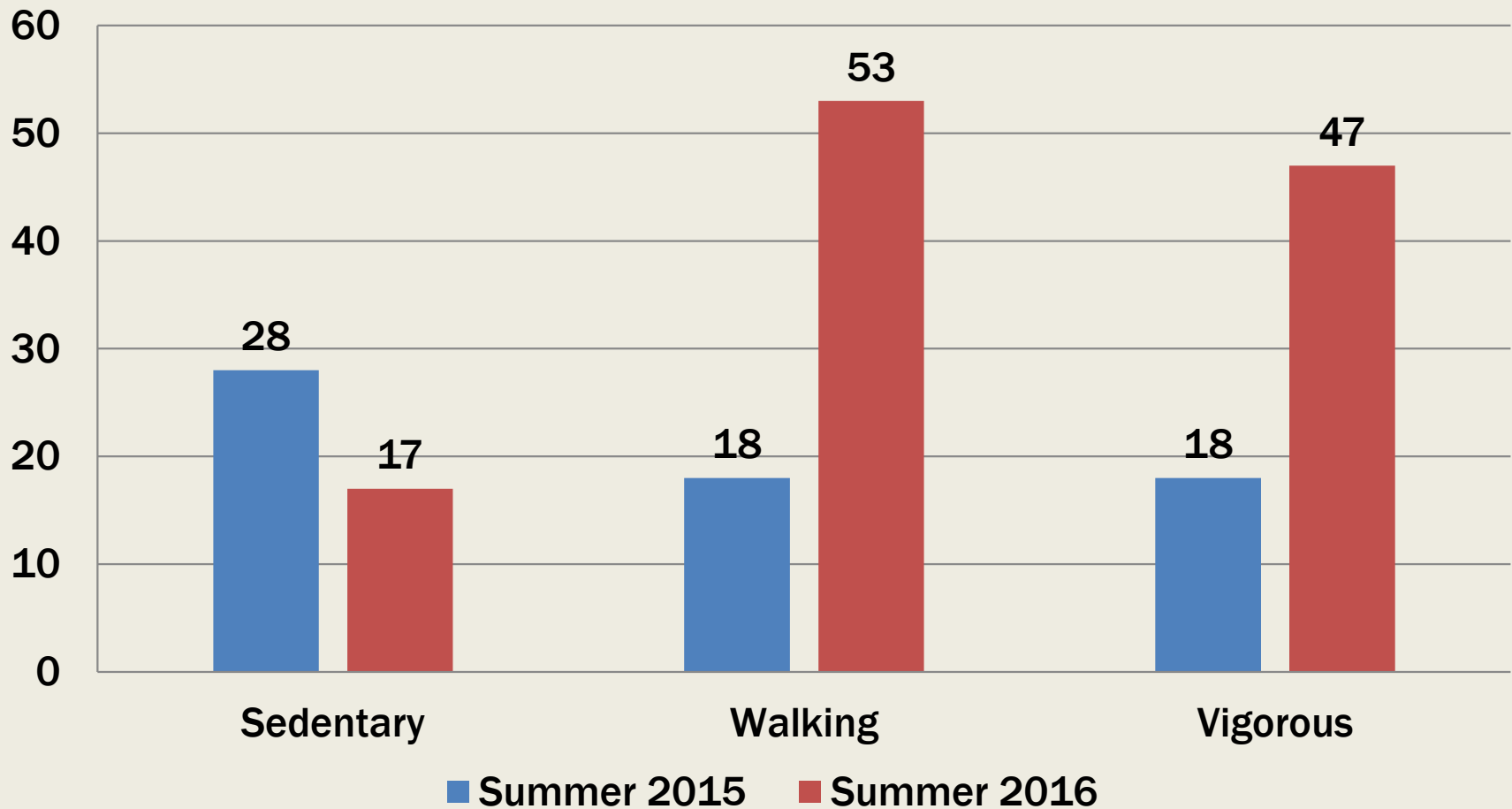
TOTAL OBSERVED USERS



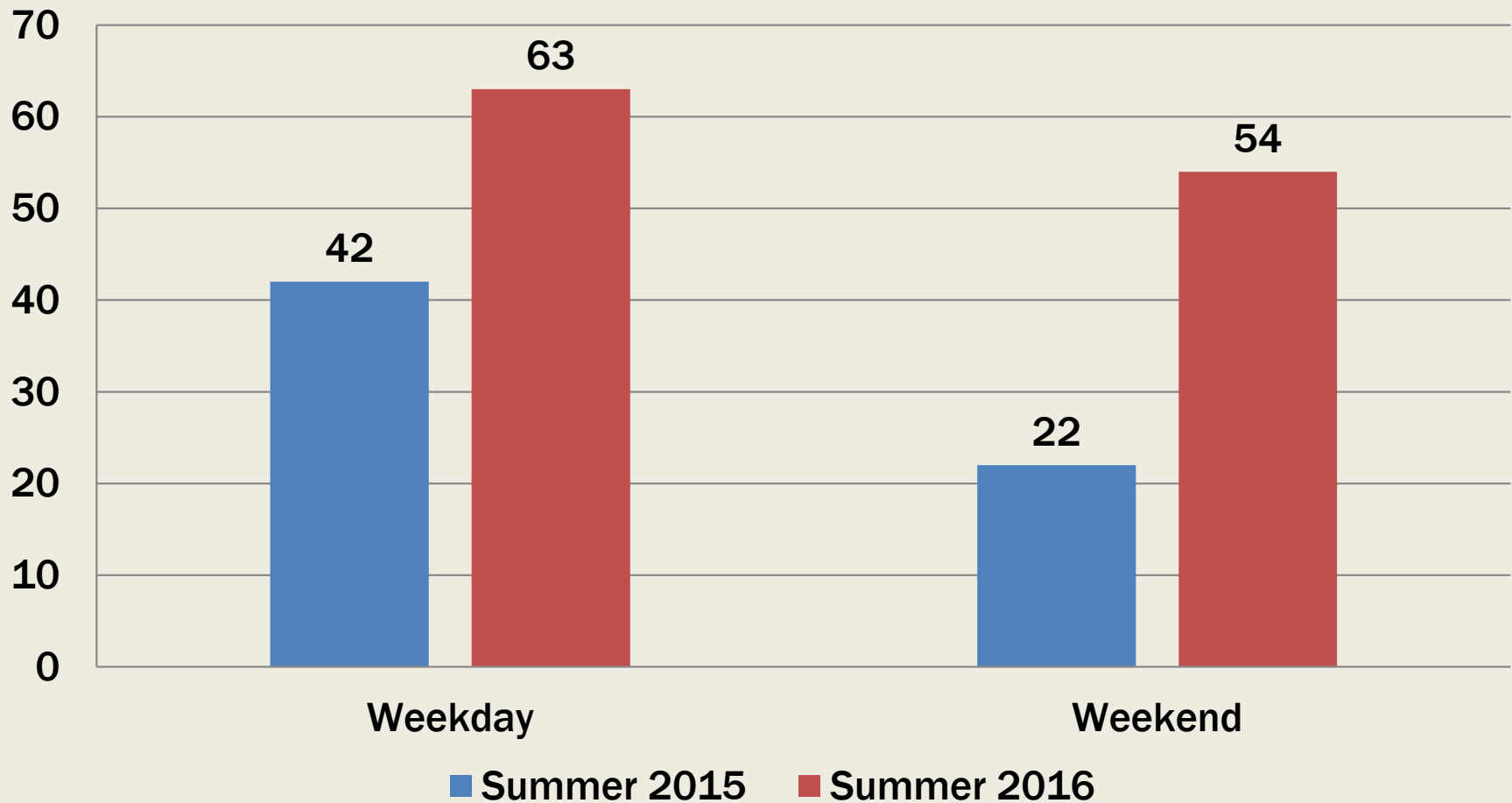
OBSERVED USERS BY GENDER



OBSERVED USERS BY ACTIVITY LEVEL



OBSERVED USERS BY DAY TYPE



PARK EVALUATION AND METRICS

- Targeted-Play Piece Research

Meg Kendall

Data and Metrics Specialist, Independent
Researcher and Haysboro Resident





FROM HERE TO WHERE?

What did we know?

- Completed space
- Stories
- SOPARC data

What did we need to know?

- How are people playing?
- What are people doing?
- How can Phase 2 add to our success?

WHAT DO YOU SEE?



OUR SPACE



OUR TEAM



OUR TOOLS



Summary: People Statistics

Look around The Park

How many people in total are in the Park?

Your answer

How many people are 0-5 years old?

Your answer

How many people are 6-10 years old?

Your answer

How many people are 11-15 years old?



Check which play pieces/areas are being used right now.

- ☐ River Bed
- ☐ Obstacle Course
- ☐ Swings
- ☐ Labyrinth
- ☐ Large Berm/Slide
- ☐ Small Berm/Slide
- ☐ Bird's Nest
- ☐ Rope Bridge
- ☐ Goat Trails
- ☐ Side Berm



	A	B	
1	Column Name	Possible Answers	Code
2	Date and Your Name	Write down the date and your name. This data from the survey to be pulled to m here.	
3	Person	Give the person a number that is unique collection. Don't worry about duplicating numbers.	
4	Gender	Male	
5		Female	
6	Age	0-5	
7		6-10	
8		11-18	
9		19-60	
10		60+	
11	Area	River Bed	
12		Obstacle Course	
13		Swings	
14		Labyrinth	



2017 Summer Haysboro Park Obser...



	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Person ID	Gender	Age	Area	Alternate Areas	Activity Type
2	1	1	4	2		
3	2	1	2	2		
4	3	1	2	2		
5	4	2	4	2		
6	5	1	4	2		
7	6	1	4	2		
8	7	2	3	2		
9	8	2	4	2		
10	9	2	4	2		



HCA Coding Sheet ▾

HCA Coding...

Haddon Road...

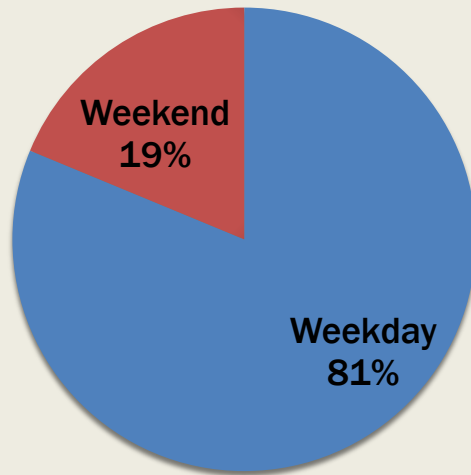
Haddon Roa



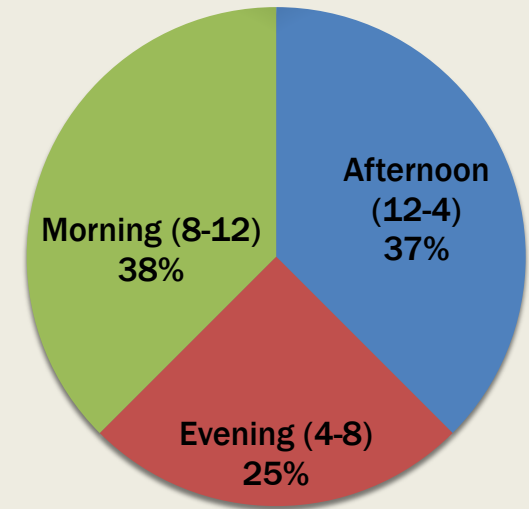
AN EXAMPLE: THE FIRST ROUND

■ August 8th- 22nd 2016; 7 Observers; 16 Observations

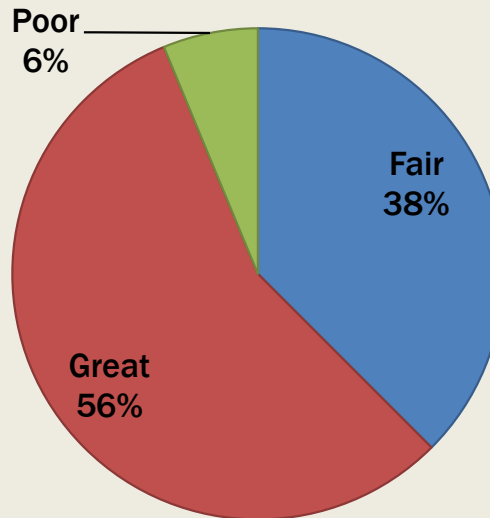
Day of the Week



Time of Day



Weather



RESEARCH PROJECTS TO DATE

2 years

3 projects

2 practicum students

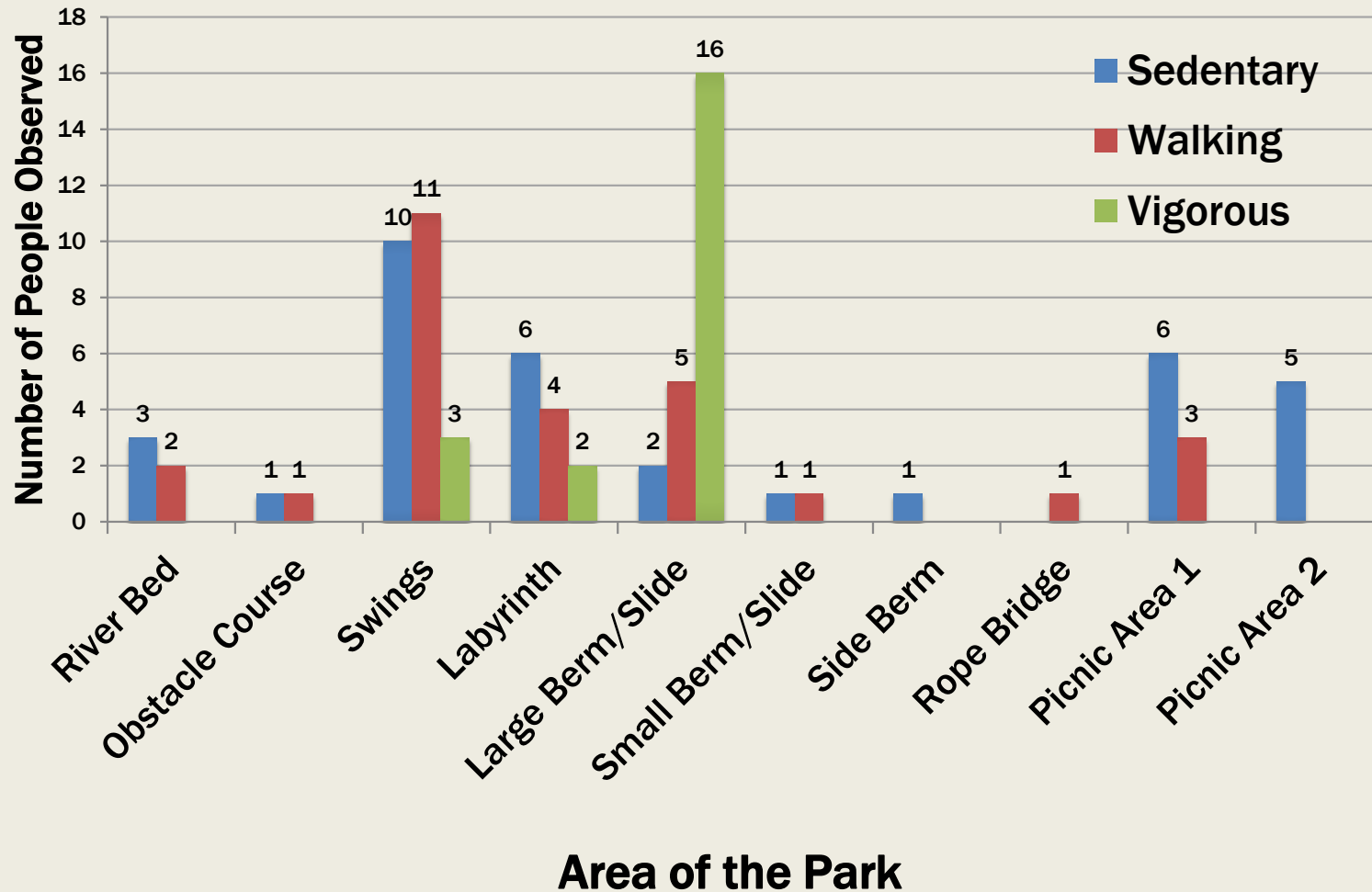
6 parks

2 hockey rinks

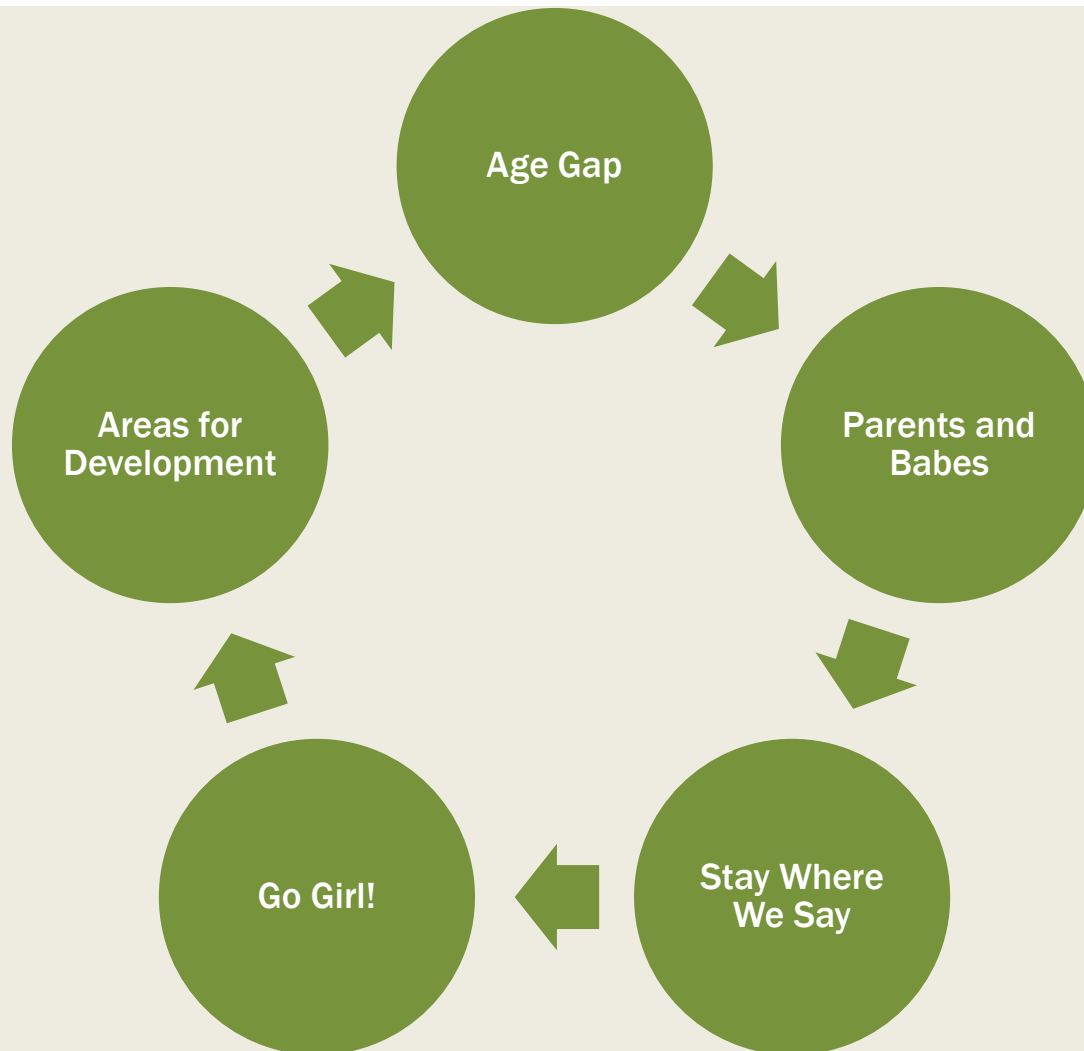
160 observations

631 people

DETAILS: ACTIVITY LEVEL BY PLAY PIECE



FIVE KEY FINDINGS



WHAT DO YOU SEE THIS TIME?



Phase 2

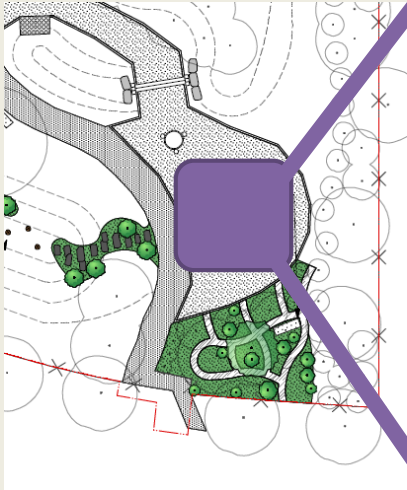


reGenerate
Design



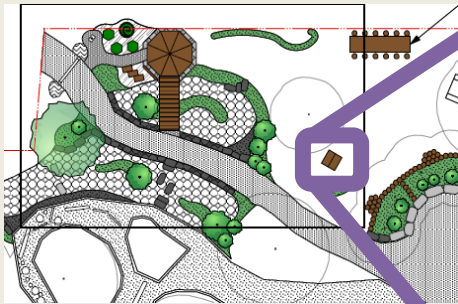
FULL BODY CLIMBER

(Macdonald & Lawrence Design)



PLAY HOUSE

(Habitat Design)



Playhouse

CHILD SIZE SEATING

(Habitat Design)

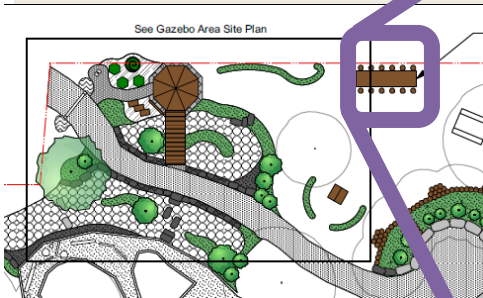


Table and Sitting Area

FOOD FOREST

(reGenerate Design)

Phase II Detailed Design	Sht-10	REV 1
Herbaceous Planting Plan 5	1:100	29/05/17
Haysboro Community Park 1204 89 Avenue SW, Calgary AB		

See Attached Herbaceous Plant List

Food Forest Area



LEGEND

Core Plant Functions

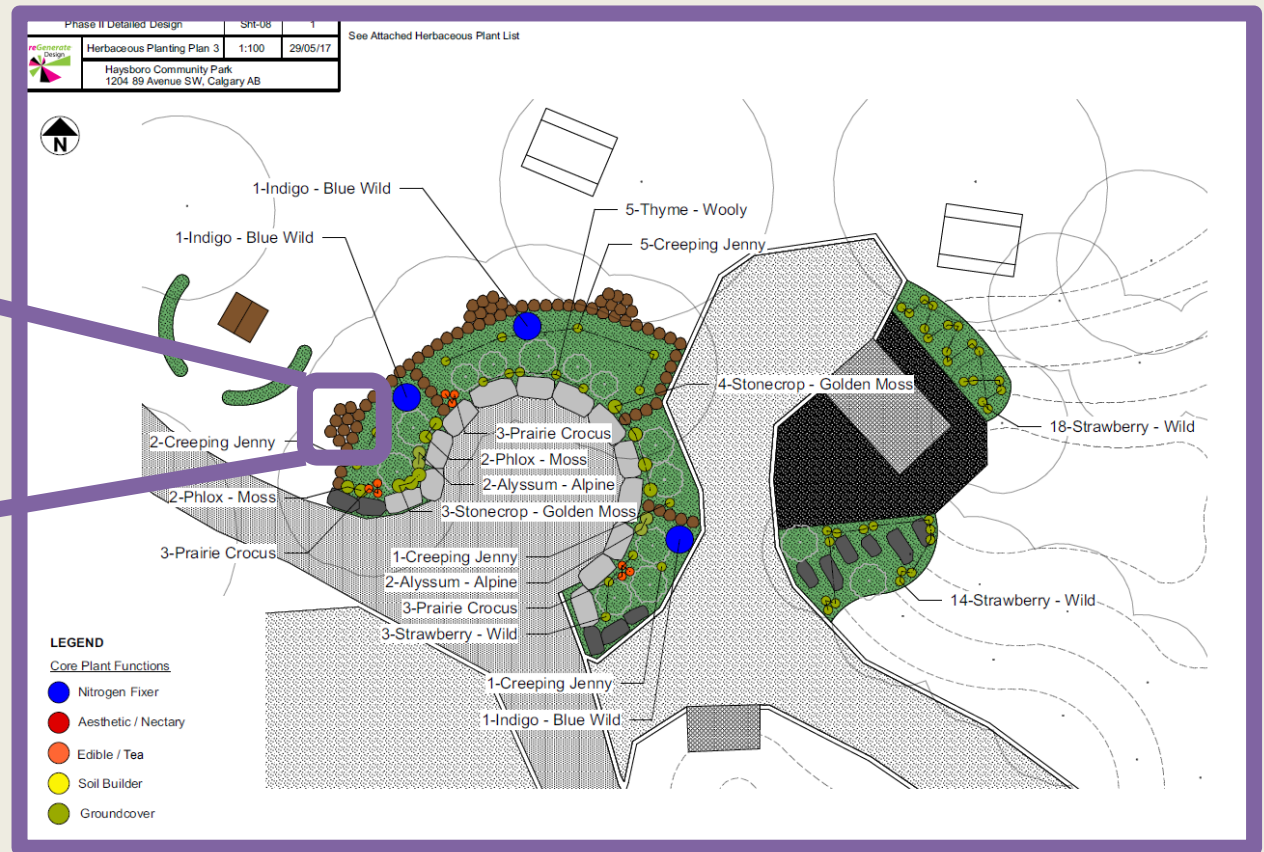
- Nitrogen Fixer
- Aesthetic / Nectary
- Edible / Tea
- Soil Builder
- Groundcover

Plant Guild Themes

- Lemon Heaven
- Aspire For Asparagus
- Strawberry Sensation
- Spice Up Your Life
- Don't Feel Sorrel For Yourself
- Tried And True
- Mint Condition
- Violet Vigour
- Made In The Shade

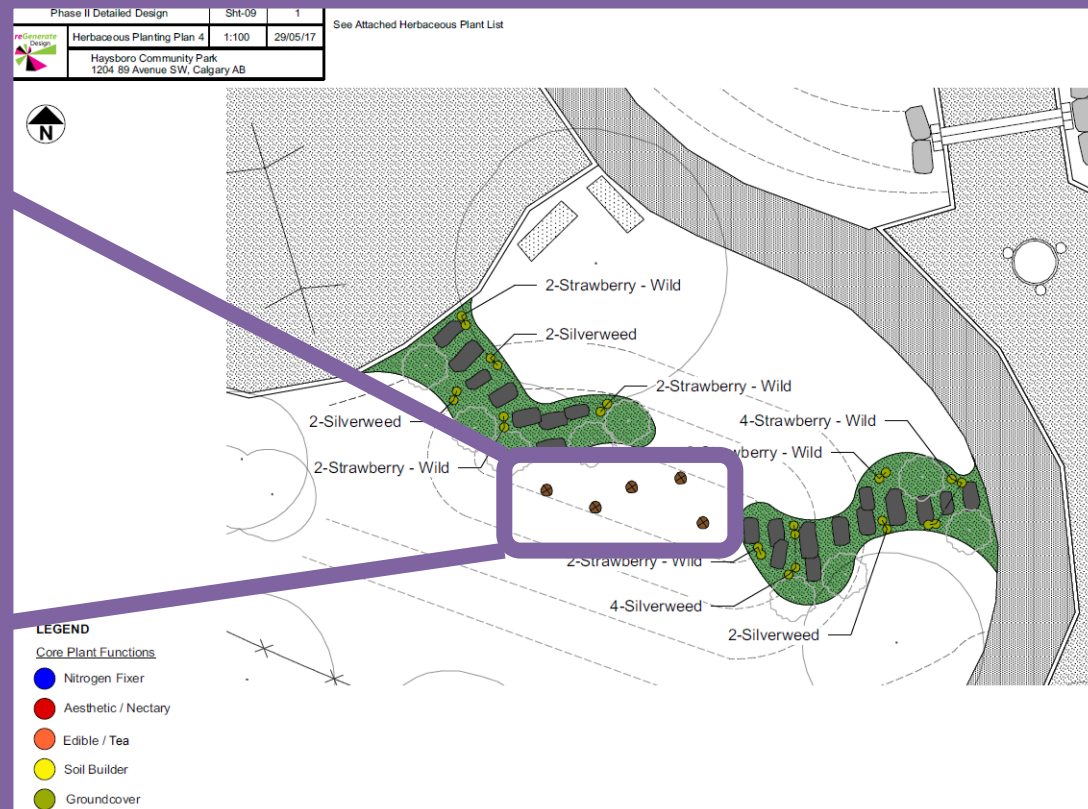


LABYRINTH & LARGE BERM IMPROVEMENTS (Habitat Design)



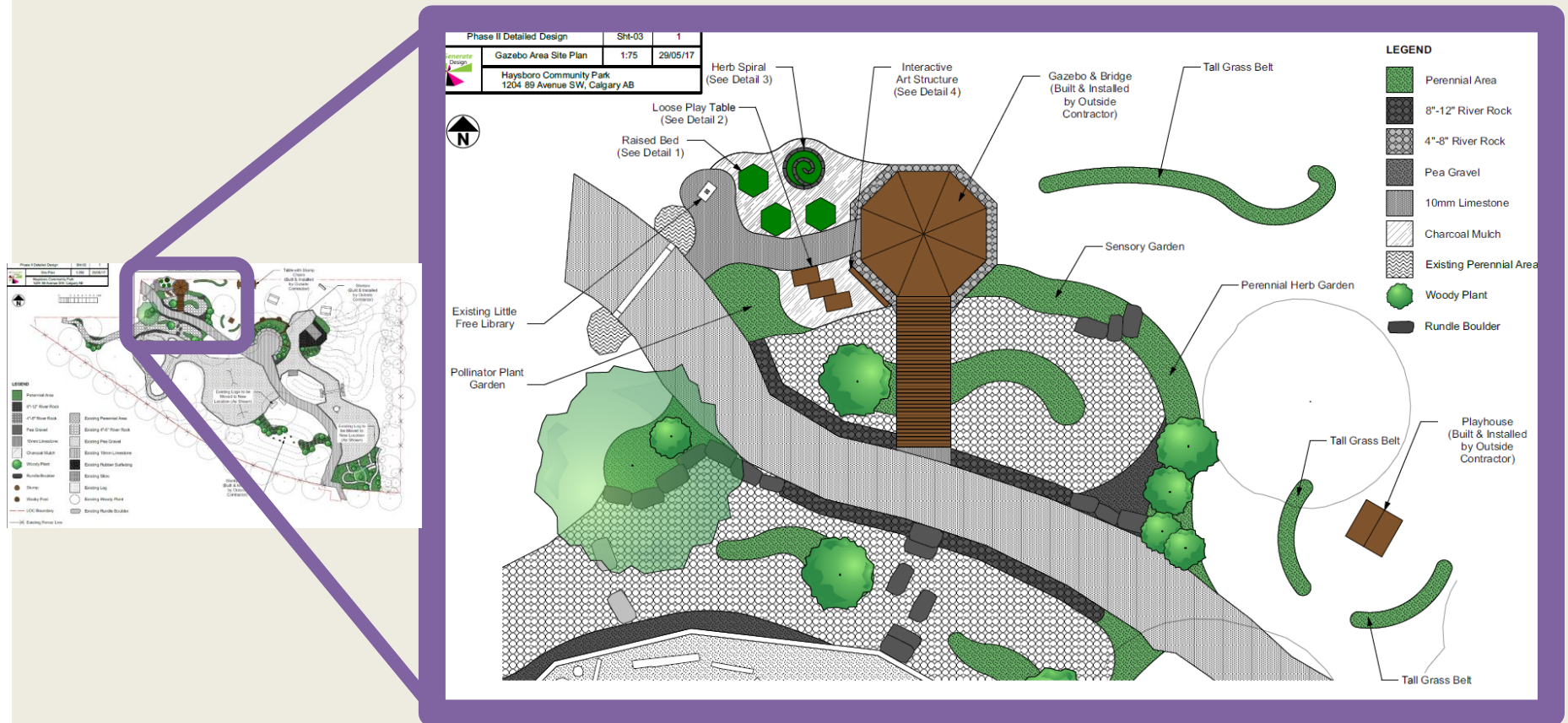
BERM PATHWAY

(Interpretive Forest, Habitat Design)



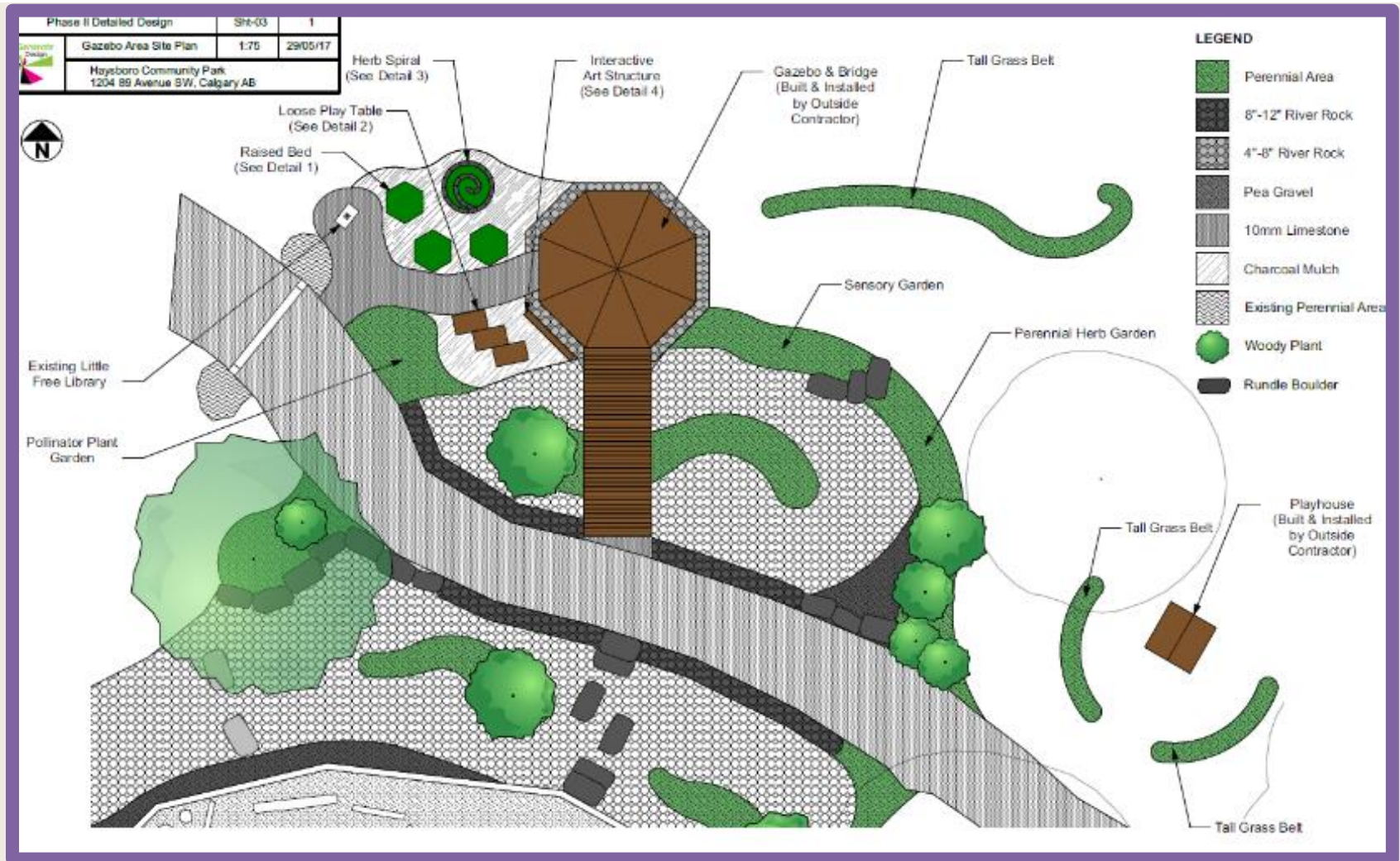
RAISED BEDS & LOOSE PART AREA

(PHASE 3)

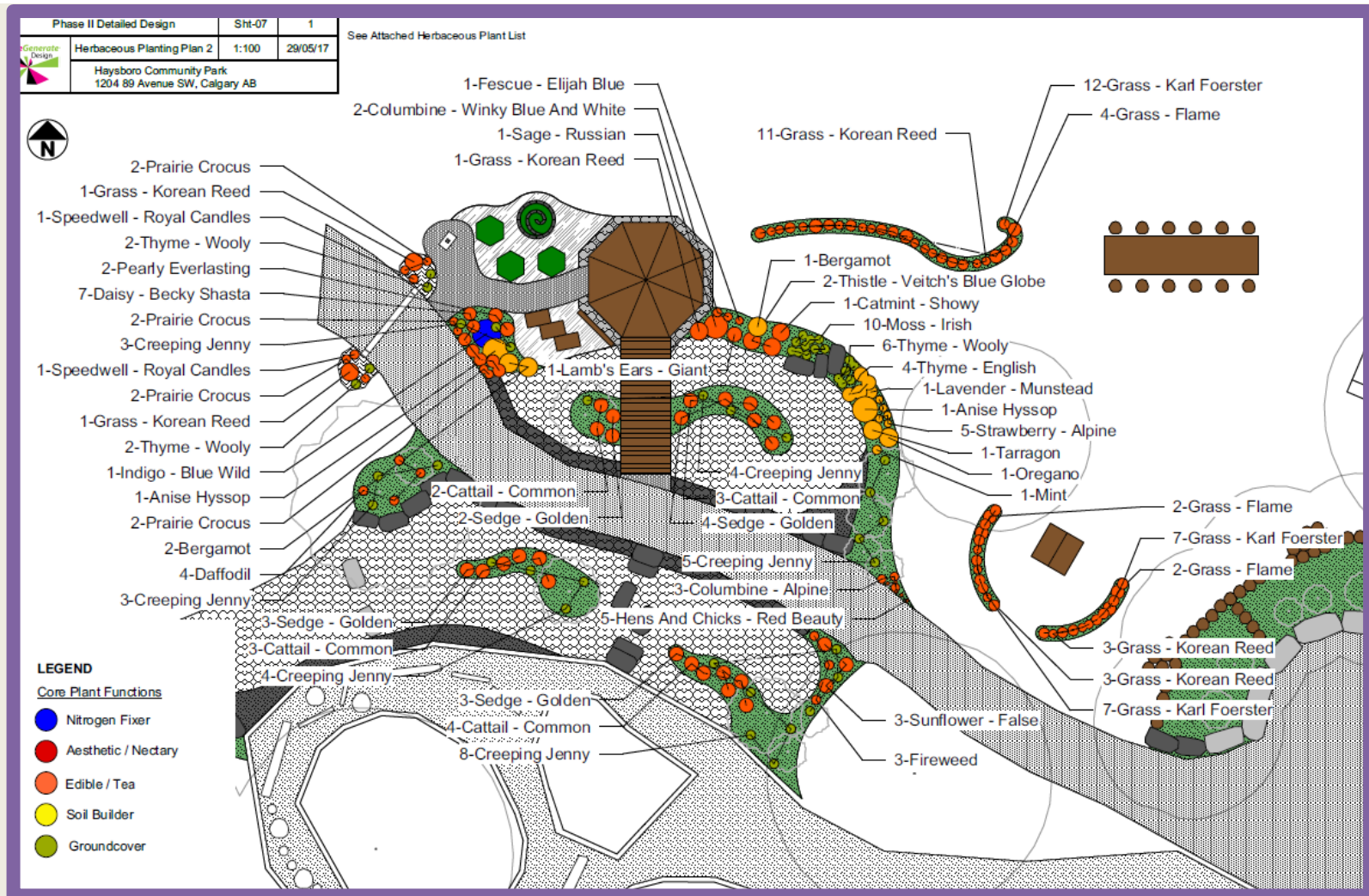


GAZEBO & BOARDWALK

(PHASE 3)



ADDITIONAL NATIVE PERENNIAL PLANTINGS (PHASE 3)



MUSICAL & MANIPULATIVE PIECES

(PHASE 3)



COMMUNITY ART INSTALLMENT

(PHASE 3)



– THE FUTURE OF PLAY & RESEARCH IN THE CITY OF CALGARY

Play Charter

Play Value

Risky Play

*Adventure
Playground*

Physical Literacy

Community Hub

Play Strategy

Generation H



SHARING OUR WORK

- Gathering information, best practise & play initiatives - *successful projects, play networks, conferences, workshops*
- Where do we play? - *defining parks, playgrounds and play spaces*
- Defining park success - *values, principles, guidelines, play value*
- Measuring park success - *research, strategies, user experience*
- Play Strategy & Play Charters - *what is in the works, how do we support and share*
- Funding for Play Initiatives - *grants, funding streams,*
- Play Coalition & Play Networks - *Who Document our stories, celebrate successes and build off our energy?*

SUMMER 2017

FREE HAYSBORO PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Haysboro Community Summer Outdoor Playgroup

Thursday mornings from 10:15am-Noon
Starting June 22nd and running until August 31st.

The Haysboro Community Preschool will host this weekly event. We'll be rotating through various facilitators, including the First 2000 Days Southwest Coalition, the Calgary Public Library, and our Preschool Teachers. The focus is on outdoor play and building community.

The first half will be programmed circle time and fun, development oriented games to be played by you and your preschooler together.

The second half will be unstructured free play and snack time.
(Please bring your own picnic blanket & nut-free snacks)

Check the Haysboro Community Facebook page
or @HaysboroCA for last minute cancellations
due to extreme weather.

Haysboro Community Hall • 1204 89th Ave. SW

HAYSBORO
COMMUNITY ASSOC.

f/Haysboro

@Haysboroca

HAVE YOU EVER BUILT & DESIGNED YOUR VERY OWN CARDBOARD FORTRESS?

JULY & AUGUST • EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 5PM - 8PM • EVERY WEDNESDAY 11AM - 2PM

play
ambassador
vivo.ca

Check out the Vivo Play Ambassadors near you, with their extra-ordinary equipment, loose parts and captivating energy! In this free access, all ages, outdoor, play based pop up, you will be encouraged to show your exhilarating personality and make the impossible possible!

Share your Play Ambassador experience using #Playedtoday

For more information check out vivo.ca/pages/playedtoday.asp

Haysboro Community Park, 1204 89 Ave SW

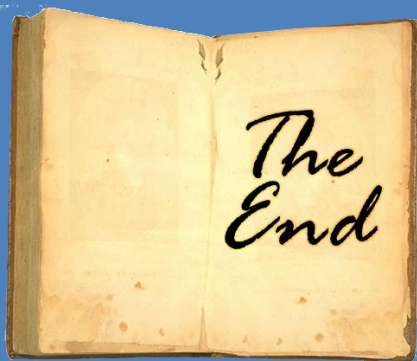
©VivoYourLife vivo.ca

LAWSON
FOUNDATION

HAYSBORO
COMMUNITY ASSOC.

vivo
your life your world

HOW CAN THIS STORY BE USED AND NOT JUST TOLD?



VOICE



EVIDENCE



STORY



Stories.
Connect.
People.

THANK YOU & PLAY ON

Presenters

- **Sonja Sahlen** – Director Planning & Development Haysboro Community Association, PM Park Project
- **Meg Kendall** – Data and Metrics Specialist, Independent Researcher and Haysboro Resident
- **Tracey Martin** – Senior Manager, Innovation, Vivo for Healthier Generations

Contributors

- **Dr. Dwayne Sheehan** - Associate Professor of Health and Physical Education, Faculty of Health, Community and Education, Mount Royal University
- **Dr. Karim Youssef** – PhD Environmental Design, Faculty of Health, Community and Education, Mount Royal University
- **Matt LeBaron** – MRU Research Practicum Student
- **Andrew Crickmore** – MRU Research Practicum Student

Let's connect:
play@haysboro.org
tmartin@vivo.ca

