



<div>C 4</div> <div>Communication</div> <div>COUNCIL: <u>Sept 20/16</u></div> <div><u>CW</u> Rpt. No. <u>31</u> Item <u>35</u></div>
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DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

TO: HONOURABLE, MAURIZIO BEVILACQUA, MAYOR & MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: JOHN MACKENZIE – DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
PLANNING & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION – COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

ITEM NO. 35 REPORT NO. 31, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 7, 2016
VELMAR DOWNS PARK PROPOSED PARK RENAMING
WARD 3

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager of Planning and Growth Management and the Director of Parks Development in consultation with the City Clerk, the Deputy City Manager of Legal and Human Resources, the Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer and the Director of Transportation Services, Parks and Forestry Operations recommends:

1. That the request to rename Velmar Downs Park to Jordana Fiorini Rainbow Park be approved;
2. That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Fiorini family to guide the design, construction, operations and maintenance of proposed park and playground redevelopment works in a form acceptable to the Deputy City Manager of Planning and Growth Management and the Deputy City Manager of Legal and Human Resource Services and that conforms to City standards for parks development, construction and operations; and
3. That the Fiorini family be authorized to host an unveiling of the proposed park and playground redevelopment project at a special ceremony to be held at the park on October 1, 2016.

Background - Analysis and Options

Park Renaming Request

On September 7, 2016 Committee considered a request from the Fiorini family to rename Velmar Downs Park in memory of their daughter Jordana who passed away on January 22, 2016 at the age of 10. Following consideration of this item staff met with the Fiorini family and their landscape architect to discuss the details of their request which includes a proposal from the family to update the park and playground in memory of Jordana.

Proposed park improvements are planned to include the following:

- New park entrance feature with coloured concrete paving to accentuate the rainbow theme, architectural entry feature and signage, bicycle racks and site furnishings
- Updated playground area with new playground equipment, safety surfacing, walkways and a creative labyrinth/maze
- New central shade structure/gazebo as a focal point for the park and playground
- New benches, site furnishings, walkways, landscape planting and associated works



memorandum

The value of the proposed park improvements is estimated to be in the order of \$700,000 and is proposed to be completed by the family at no cost to the City of Vaughan. The family has committed to hiring the necessary consultants and contractors required to complete the works, and is agreeable to entering into an agreement with the City to guide the design, construction, operations and maintenance of the works. This agreement will include fulfilling City of Vaughan insurance requirements and providing performance securities, to the satisfaction of the City, and in compliance with Park Development and Operations standards.

The family is hoping to receive Council approval to proceed as they would like to host a ceremony at the park to unveil their proposal on Jordana's birthday October 1, 2016.

Park Naming Policy

The renaming of City parks is guided by Policy TPF-006 Naming of City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties. The policy allows for name designation in honor of individuals or groups based on criteria described as follows:

3.3 Criteria/Guidelines for Names Honouring Individuals or Groups

Names for consideration shall be those of distinguished persons, organizations, corporations, foundations or the families:

1. Where there has been a significant contribution to the quality of life, well-being of the City of Vaughan, to memorialize or otherwise recognize substantial donations and significant donors, and/or individuals designated by donors and is consistent with Vaughan Vision 20/20; or,
2. Where there is a strong historical or cultural connection to the City and has made a significant contribution to the historical or cultural preservation of the City; or,
3. Where there is a significant contribution (other than monetary) toward the environmental preservation, conservation or enhancement of the City consistent with Vaughan Vision 20/20 and/or Green Directions Vaughan; or,
4. Where there is a major contribution made to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land and/or building, in question and/or its subsequent development; or,
5. Where there is a direct relationship or association that exists between the place or former place of residence of the person or group and the facility/park/street to be named.

In this instance, the request for park renaming includes a major contribution to the redevelopment of the existing park and playground at Velmar Downs Park therefore meeting the intent of the above criteria. The proposed park improvements are to be completed at no cost to the City and will have a positive contribution to the quality of life, wellbeing of residents within the local neighbourhood and to the City of Vaughan as a whole.

Completion of the proposed park improvements will also assist the City in avoiding future capital costs associated with redevelopment and improvements to park facilities that will be required in the near future such as playground equipment replacement, safety surfacing, walkways, basketball court and site furnishings.



memorandum

Public awareness of this project will be provided as a Notice of Project on the City's web page, at the park and/or via notification to area residents at the time of design and construction, consistent with current practice for parks development projects. In addition, local and regional emergency services will be apprised of the park name change when it occurs.

Historical Review of Current Park Name

The name Velmar Downs Park was approved by Council in 1999 based on a request from the Weston Downs Ratepayers Association since the working name for the park (Weston Downs North Park) was too similar to the existing Weston Downs Park. The name Velmar Downs Park corresponds to the adjacent street name consistent with the Park Naming Policy.

In 2009 Velmar Downs Park was adopted by Davis Orthodontics. The City's Adopt-A-Park Program is a public service program facilitated by Parks Operations for the purpose of promoting environmental stewardship and civic pride. Participating in the program is a way for environmentally responsible citizens to beautify their own neighbourhood. When adopting a park, family, friends and residents can take an active role in monitoring the park and organize events to add to the beauty of the park.

The proposed park renaming does not affect the current park adoption program. Staff have contacted Davis Orthodontics and have confirmed that they will continue their involvement with this program at the park in collaboration with Parks Operations staff.

Conclusion

The request to rename Velmar Downs Park adheres to the City's park naming policy TPF-006 Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties. Proposed park improvements associated with the request for park renaming will provide a significant upgrade and improvement to the park for the benefit of the local community and to the City as a whole. Staff recommend that the request to rename the park in memory of Jordana Fiorini be approved and that an agreement be prepared with the Fiorini family to the satisfaction of the City at the earliest opportunity taking into account the special ceremony date of October 1, 2016.

Attachment

1. Proposed Park and Playground Improvements Concept Plan and Images

Respectfully submitted,

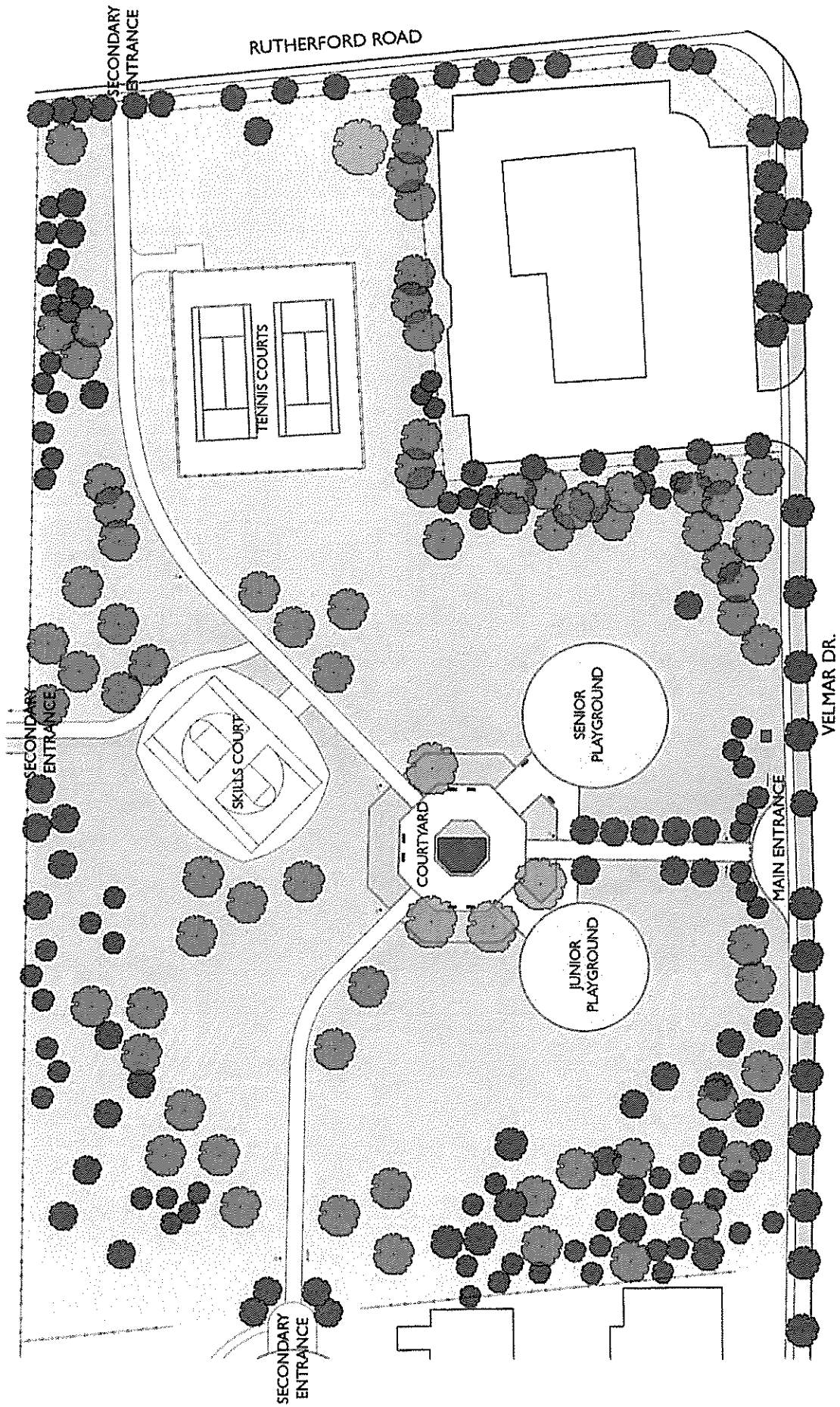
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John MacKenzie
Deputy City Manager
Planning and Growth Management

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

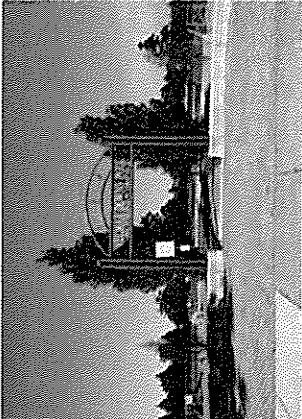
Jamie Bronsema
Director of Parks Development

Copy to: Jeffrey A. Abrams, City Clerk
Claudia Storto, Deputy City Manager of Legal and Human Resources
Laura Mirabella-Siddall, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer
Zoran Postic, Director of Transportation Services, Parks & Forestry Operations



VELMAR DOWNS PARK
EXISTING CONDITIONS
SCALE: 5m 20m
NAK design strategies

MAIN ENTRANCE



PLAYGROUND



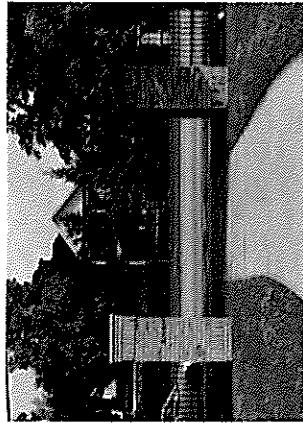
COURTYARD



SITE FURNISHING

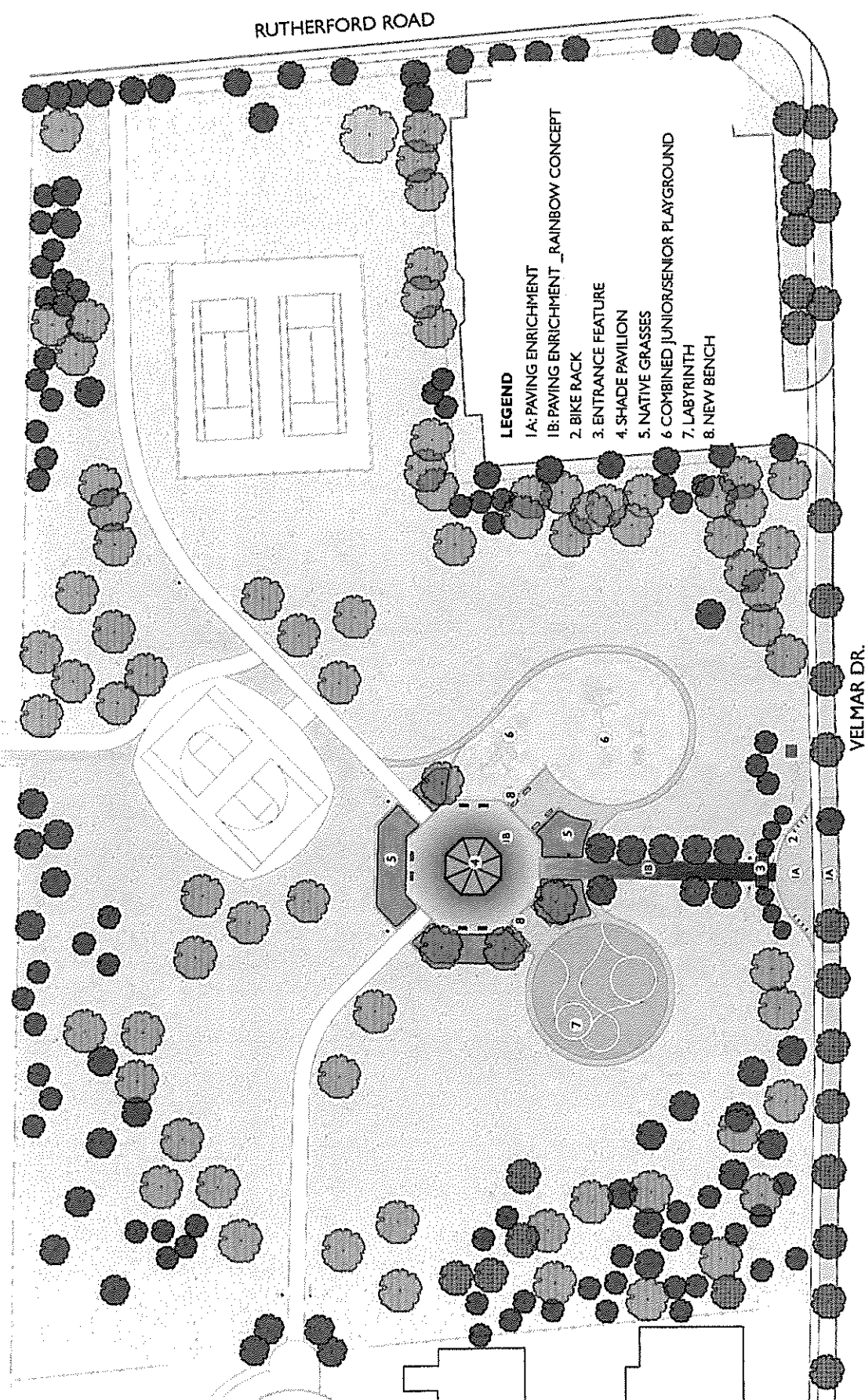


SECONDARY ENTRANCE



VELMAR DOWNS PARK
EXISTING CONDITIONS

NAK
design strategies
September 9th, 2016



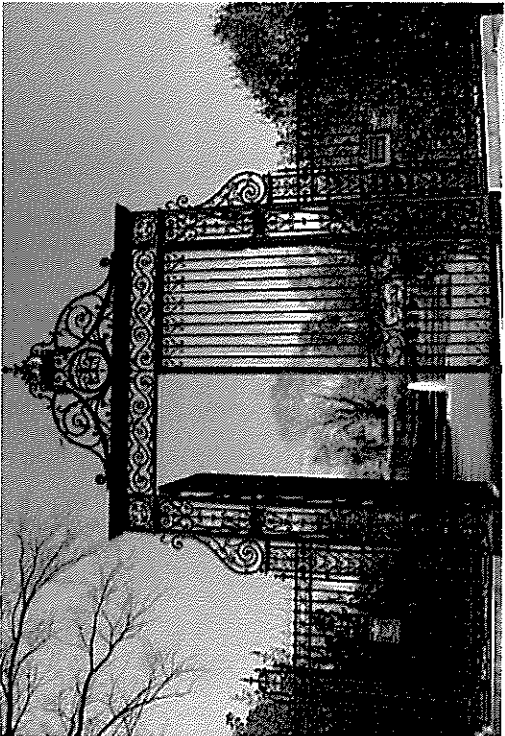
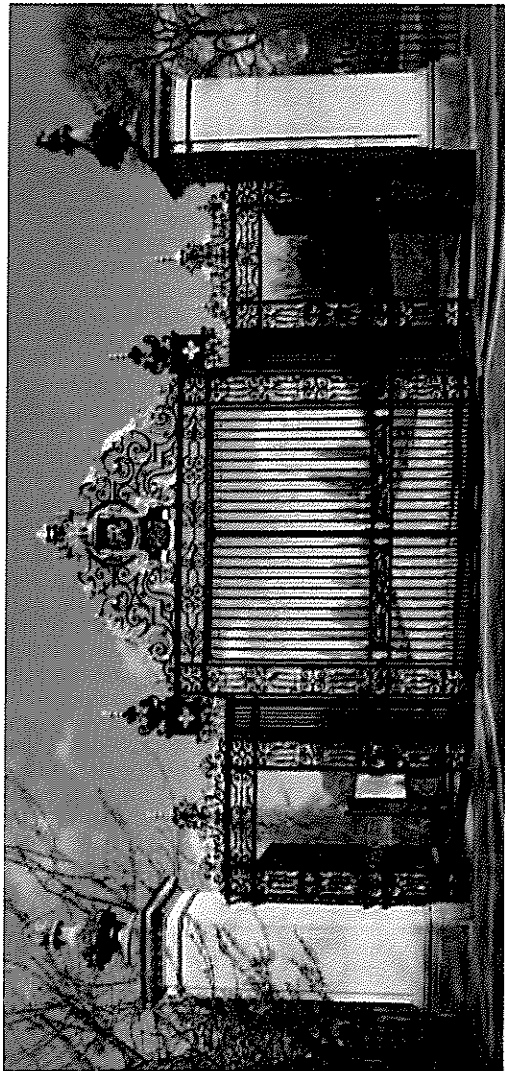
VELMAR DOWNS PARK

PARK IMPROVEMENT - REVISED OPTION

SCALE: 5m 20m

NAK design strategies

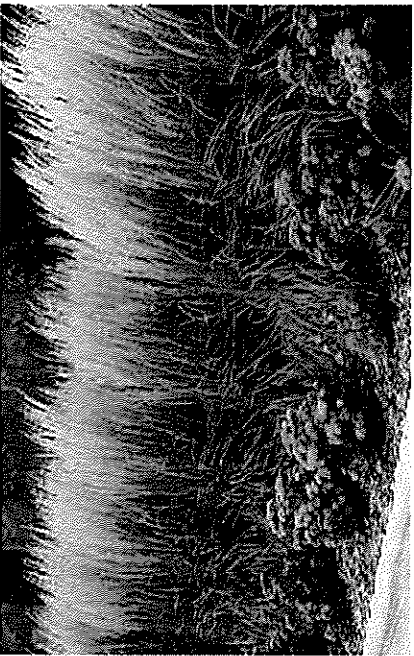
September 9th, 2016



ENTRANCE FEATURE



BENCH



PLANTING

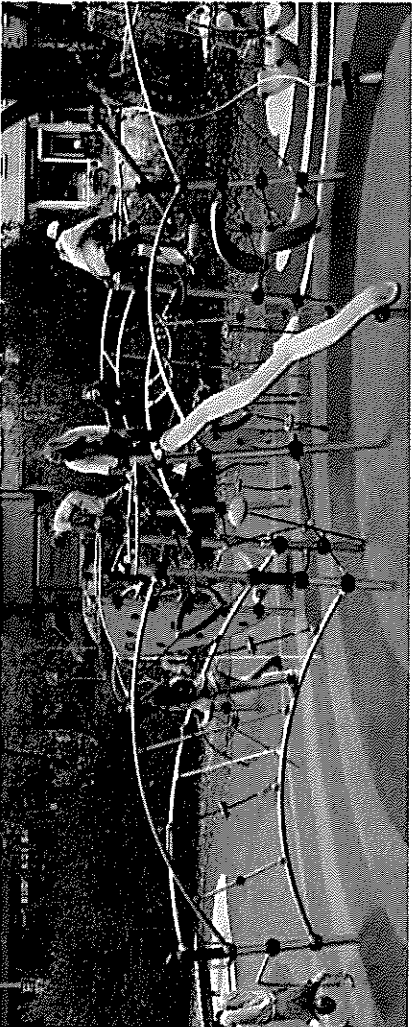
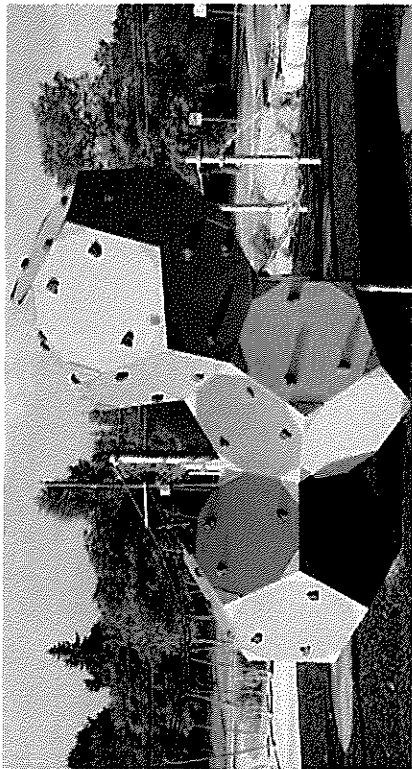


SHADE PAVILION

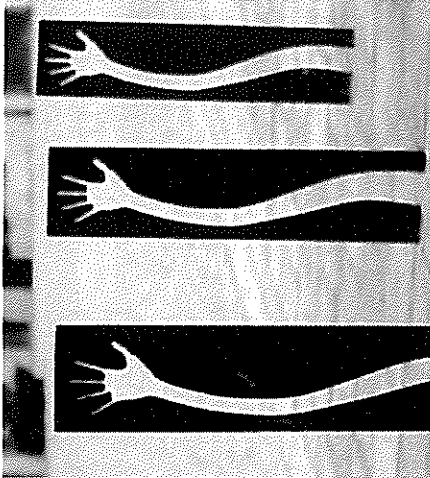
VELMAR DOWNS PARK

PRECEDENT IMAGES

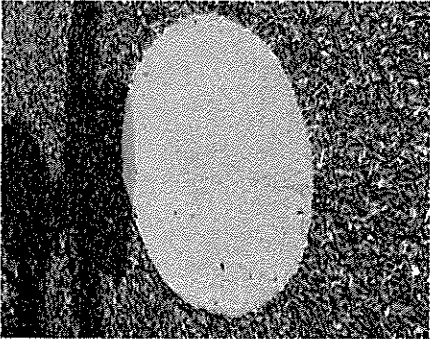
NAK
design strategies
September 9th, 2016



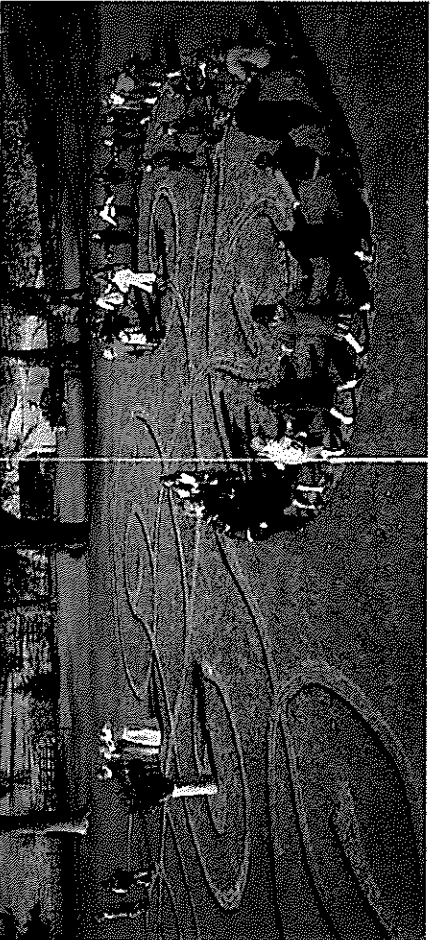
PLAY EQUIPMENT



BIKE RACK



RUBBER SURFACING



LABYRINTH

VELMAR DOWNS PARK

PRECEDENT IMAGES

NAK
design strategies
September 9th, 2016