

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK



THOMPSON LOOP



MAKING NATURE IN URBAN SETTINGS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Thompson Loop is an accessible walkway "path" which is designed with the end user and environment in mind. This walkway "path" allows free accessibility to the greatest number of individuals to interact with a natural environment within the scope of an urban cityscape. Thompson Loop focuses on creating an accessible interactive experience for all by utilizing minimal infrastructure and materials to development and create a collaborative and tactile experience with the environment and user in mind.

Tommy Thompson Park, located on Toronto's waterfront, poses an excellent case study for this development due to its untapped potential as an urban greenspace, located literally steps away from the downtown Toronto core. This project focuses on creating accessible greenspaces experienced in an untapped conservation area without having to travel far from the reach of the city or greatly disturbing the natural environment in which it is located. Tommy Thompson park is one of Toronto's greatest hidden treasures with fascinating beaches of eroded masonry and natural marchlands. Many Torontonians themselves have not visited this site, perhaps because they are unaware of its existence or lack of accessibility. Thompson Loop looks to literally bridge this gap and allow more people the chance to share this experience with nature no matter their mobility needs. The materials used in this project reflects the environment in which it is located to accent natural elements as well as limit the number of materials that could potentially pose harm to the environment.

Due to the nature and setting of this project, all materials were chosen based on their level of durability and eco-friendly impact on the environment. All elements of the materials' life were considered, from the energy embodied, to the products' possible erosion and impact on the environment. Man-made materials used in this design include Corten steel, expanded Corten steel, Douglas fir (wood), and concrete. All fastening components would be made of stainless steel.

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PATHWAY SURFACE

The surface of the path is comprised of expanded Corten steel. Corten steel offers a weather-resistant and high-friction surface to reduce the possibility of slipping. Corten steel, an unfinished and naturally weather-resistant material. It is consistent with the eroded red masonry brick located in the environment, thus, unifying the design.

SAFETY FEATURES

Tactile incline warnings allow persons who are visually impaired and or bound to a wheelchair to have a tactile warning when the slope of the path changes.

MULTI USE STAIRS

Stair features integrated into the path allow for users to have a rest area. Individuals can also walk up to a higher elevation and choose which level on which they would like to rest.

BELOW GRADE TRAIL WITH RAMPS

The below grade dip in the walkway gives users the ability to reach the ground level and interact with the natural environment providing those who are bound to a wheelchair or other mobility assistive device to enjoy more of the environment. The pathway integrates lower sections, that reside below grade, to encourage users to get closer to the environment.

LANDMARK/SHELTER

The landmark rest feature is constructed of Corten steel plate and features a seating bench that utilizes Douglas fir wood slats for comfort. This feature is design to create an accessible shaded seating area for users of the path. This feature gives people the opportunity to rest along the way and enjoy the view. The landmark is designed in such a way that sound is reflected within the shelter creating a sensory sound experience. Users will hear the water breaking as the melodic sounds reverberate around and under the shelter in which the people are sitting or resting.

TRAIL SECTIONAL ELEVATION

