

City Park Skate Park

Tulane City Center | Project Report | Spring 2009



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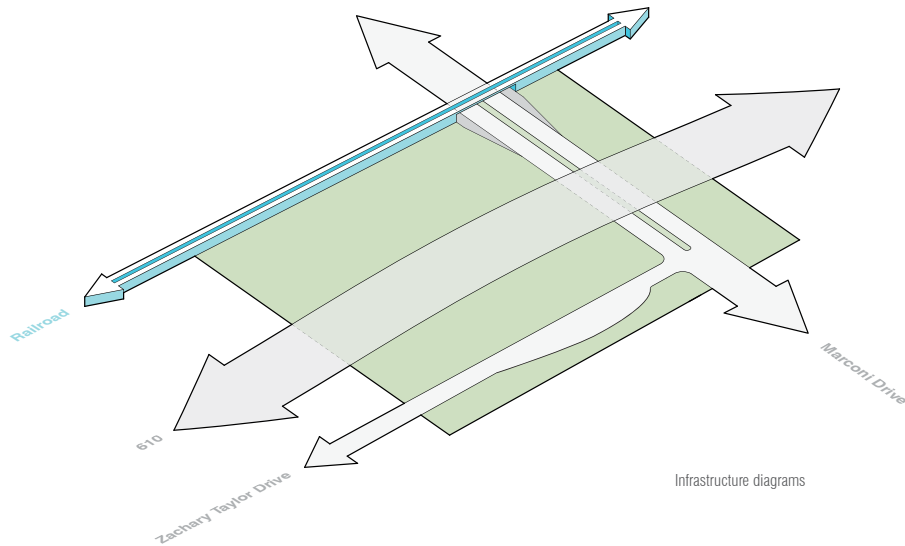


Aerial view of New Orleans



Plan of City Park

Vision



The (Sub) Urban Skateboard Park provides a year-round public skating facility to New Orleans skateboard enthusiasts of all ages and levels of experience through the reactivation of 3-acres of discarded land nested under the I-610 highway overpass at the southwest corner of New Orleans' majestic City Park. The surroundings are a mixture of tree filled park meadows and open fields dissected by the freeway overpass, railway tracks, a canal and pumping station. The design proposal is a direct response to the “mono-programmatic” characteristic of each of these urban infrastructures plowing through the bucolic setting of the Park. The skateboard park, infused with a variety of amenities such as observation areas, a pro shop/information kiosk, bathrooms and gardens, acts as a mediator between these diametrically opposing environments. Incorporating a variety of environments for skateboarders as well as non-skateboarders, the proposal provides a sustainable environment both from a communal and ecological standpoint.

The (Sub) Urban Skateboard Park finds itself under the overpass spilling out into the park as a series of circular dishes that are spatially defined by vegetal berms that act as programmatic brackets. Each bracket defines a dish shape providing different programmatic requirements with a variety of skating difficulties. These dishes mitigate the synthetic landscape of the skateboard park with green spaces that characterize most of the park. Grass seating areas for interested onlookers are coupled with a large variety of skateboard features that double as elements for remediation of the park's natural habitat creating a rich network of activities fusing natural and synthetic aspects of the site's context.

Overview

Like much of New Orleans, City Park, one of the nation's largest and oldest urban parks, must undergo extensive redevelopment after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The park's new Master Plan 2018 identifies and outlines many opportunities to rebuild and redefine the existing park landscape. Looking towards the future, City Park planners have recognized the need to add fresh program to the park that will attract a new generation of users. In order to embrace new cultures, City Park has allotted a strategic zone of the park for a new skating facility for use by both skateboarders and park goers in general. This step towards embracing new user groups, encouraging diversity and growth manifest the park's mission to preserve and improve park spaces for recreational, cultural and beautification purposes.

To foster awareness and raise funds for this new facility, the Tulane City Center has been asked to provide imaging and ideas for the new proposal. TCC has teamed up with City Park and the New Orleans skateboarding community in order to create the most versatile and authentic facility. The desire for a leading skate park in New Orleans has existed within the skating community for many years before Hurricane Katrina. Now, with the addition of supporting systems, this new skating facility has the potential to be one the premiere parks in the nations, attracting multi-generational users and tourists to the city and the park, as well as facilitating City Park's participation in the growing multi-billion dollar national skateboarding industry.

The time is right for New Orleans to embrace the talents and energy of the skateboarding community. There is a demonstrated need for a skating facility, multiple precedents that demonstrate its economic development potential, clear public support, and an alignment with the priorities for City Park's future. The Tulane City Center is excited that the ideas outlined in this proposal will lead to the development of a skating facility of national excellence, further contributing to City Park's reputation as one of America's leading public parks.

Project Description

Project

City Park will provide a year round public skating facility to New Orleans skateboard enthusiasts of all ages and levels of experience. The project will offer a large variety of skateboard features including several large bowls, steep ramps, rails, ledges and quarter pipes. In addition, the facility will be equipped with observation areas, a pro shop/information kiosk, bathrooms and gardens. In the final phase, a 10,000 square foot a state of the art competition and meet stadium will complement the facility. Humidity Skateboards of New Orleans will offer skate courses and after school programs to promote active healthy lifestyles.

Location

The site for the skateboard park is approximately 3-acre site at the southwest corner of City Park where the interstate I-610 overpass crosses Marconi Drive. The site surroundings are defined by a mixture of tree filled park meadows and open fields dissected by railway tracks, the Orleans Outlet Canal and Pumping Station, as well as the I-610 freeway. The uncommon mixture of bucolic park-scape and urban infrastructure provide a unique opportunity for the skateboard park to serve as a mediator between these diametrically opposing environments.

Partners

The Tulane City Center, Humidity Skateboards, City Park of New Orleans

Goals

Provide activity based programs within City Park

Support the local skateboarding community by offering the first public facility in New Orleans

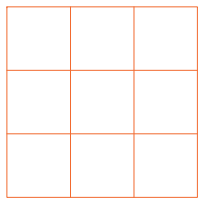
Respond to a range of environmental conditions such as noise pollution, water drainage, carbon emissions and derelict park space

Supply resources for skateboard training, practice and recreation

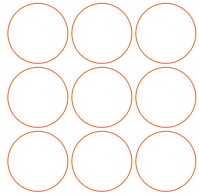
Use digital design and fabrication methods to produce innovative ecologically performant skateboarding surfaces



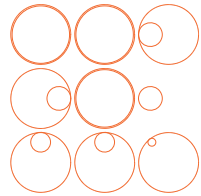
Organization Strategy



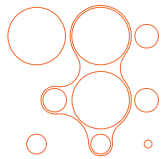
A



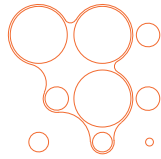
B



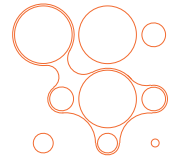
C



D



E



F

The plan is designed to allow the greatest amount of programmatic interface through the fostering of ecological remediation and community activity. Devised around the strategy of flexible programming and adaptive landforms/surfaces, the design features a series of sculpted ground formations in the form of berms. The berms act as brackets as they loosely emphasize the programmatic, the local site conditions and site to punctuate specific zones of the project design. role of the oscillating back and forth from an ecological subsystem for the battered park site to protrusions for skateboarders.

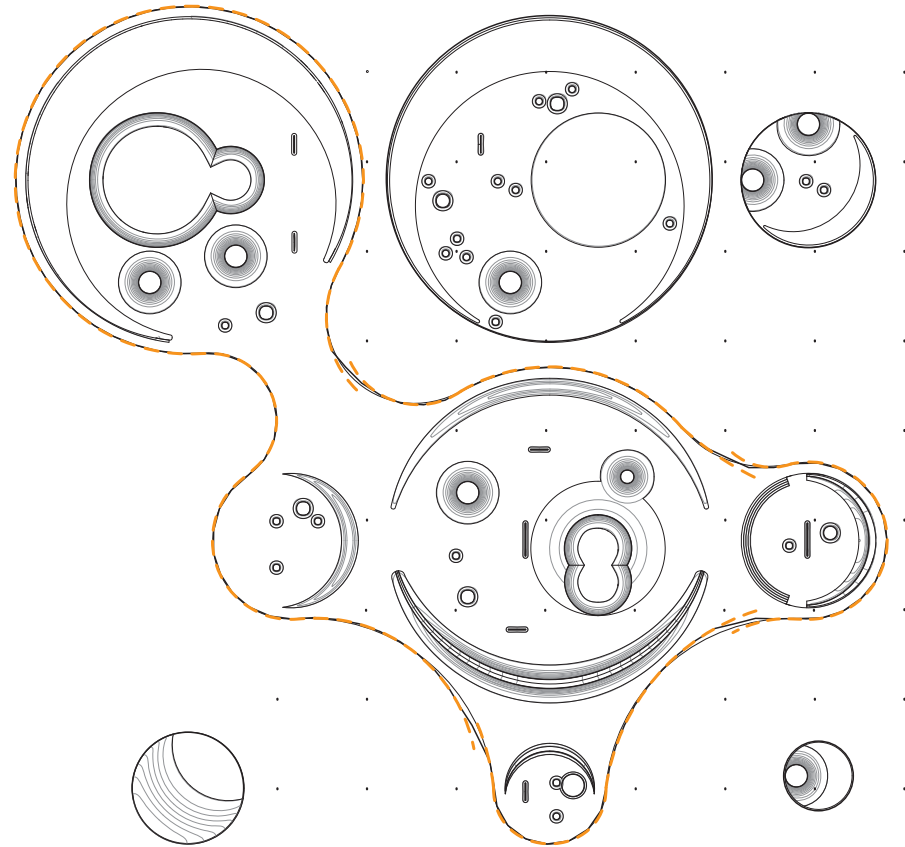
Site Plan



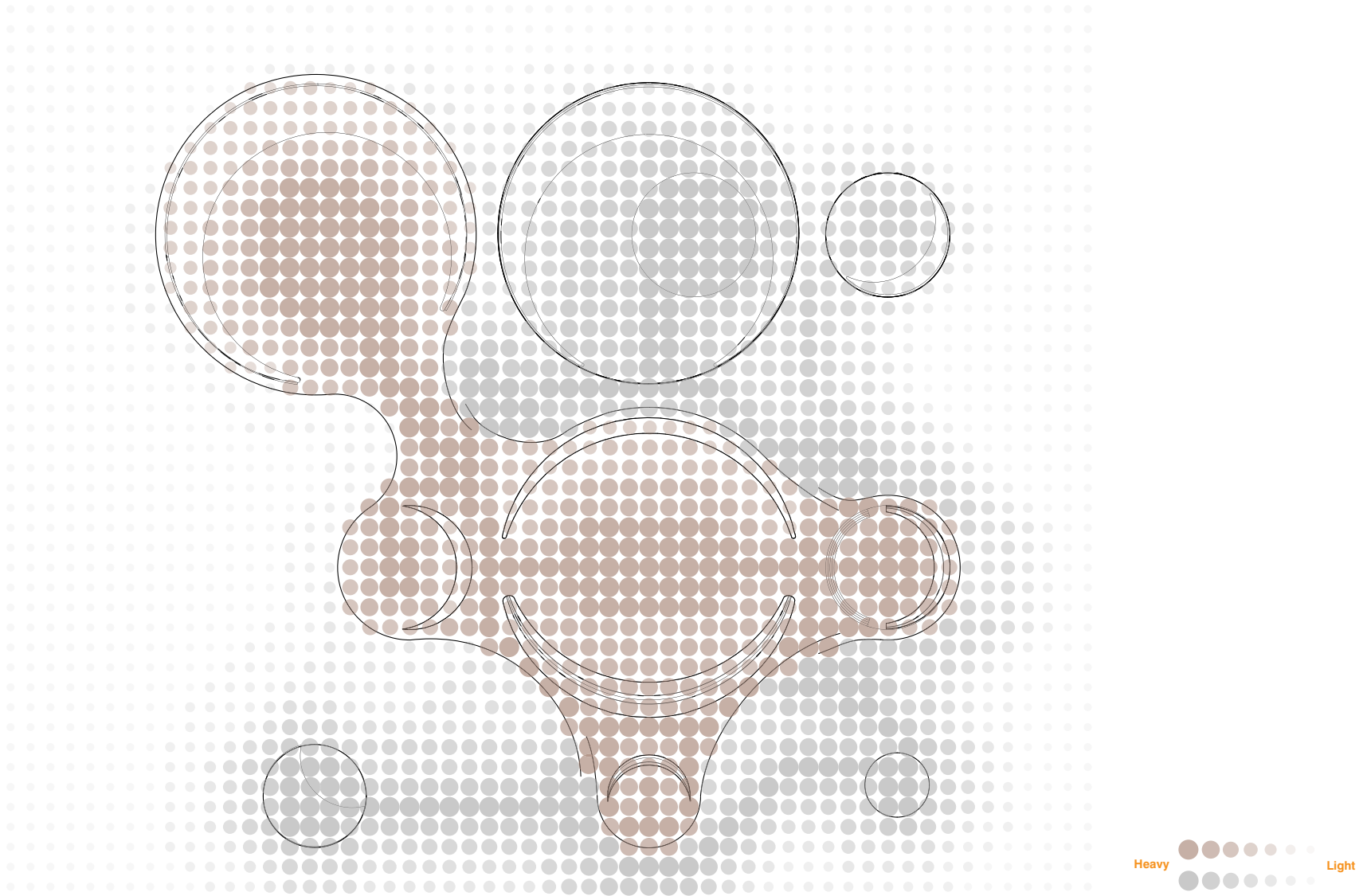
Legend

- 1_observation area
- 2_beginner skate
- 3_concessions
- 4_advanced skate
- 5_advanced skate
- 6_intermediate skate
- 7_competition area
- 8_picnic area
- 9_restrooms
- 10_meadow
- 11_parking
- 12_pumping station

Contour Plan

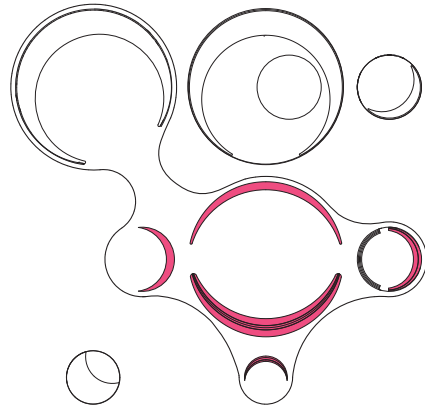


Material / Movement Diagram

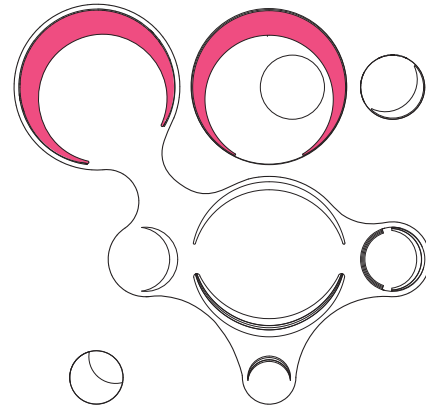


Diagrams

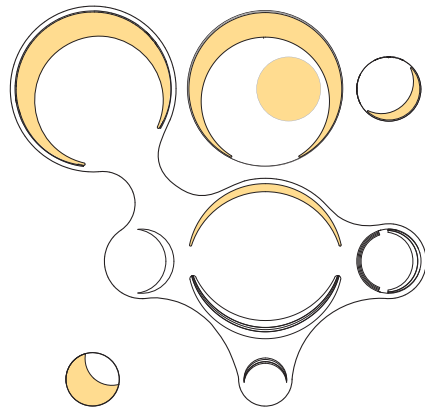
INTERNAL SOUND PROTECTION



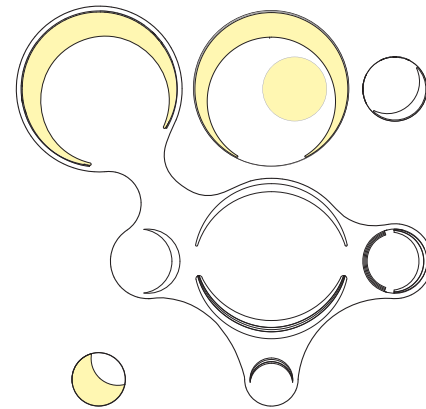
EXTERNAL SOUND ABSORPTION



WATER ABSORPTION



OBSERVATION SEATING



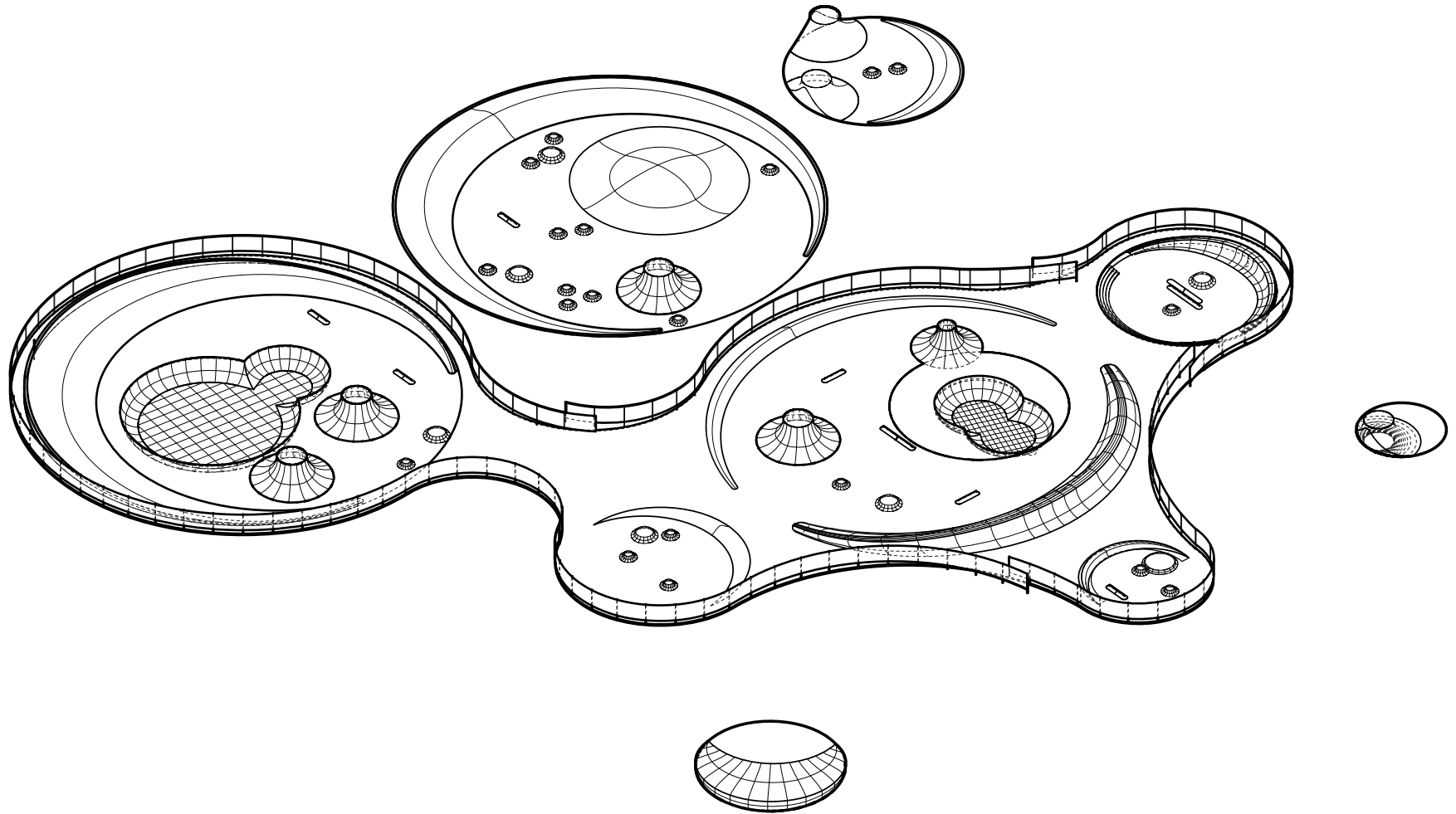
Site Sections



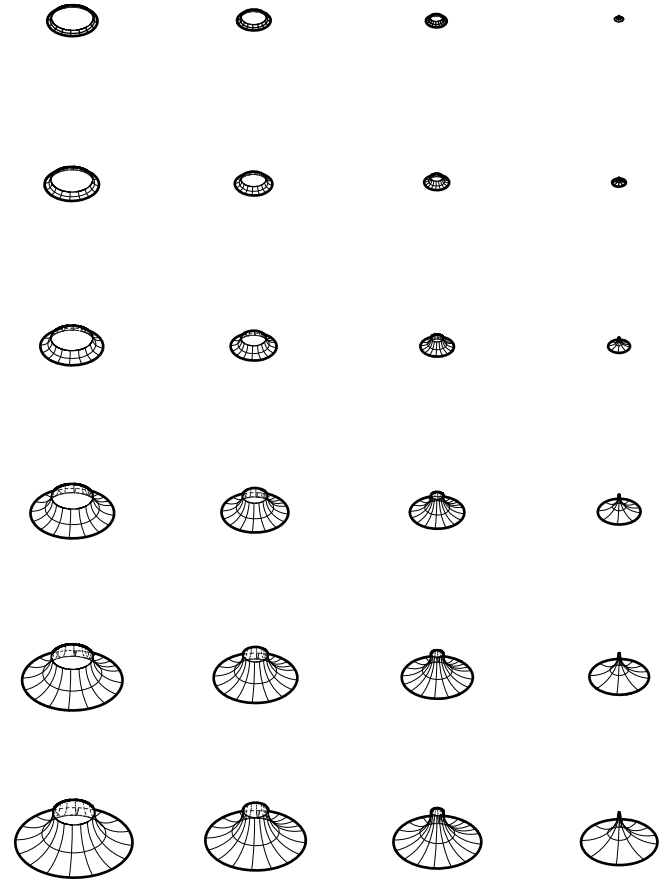




Wire Frame Axonometric



Topographical Features



Revenue Generating Strategies

Admission Revenue

Admission fees for access to more advanced parts of the facility are introduced in phase 1 and extended to features constructed in phase 2. After consultation with the user groups and after analysis of how this is handled in skate parks throughout the country we propose a small fee of \$5. Some of the local user groups expressed a concern that high fees would exclude enthusiastic young users from the facilities and pointed to other skate parks that generated revenue through other means. All groups however recognized the value of some separation of users; specifically providing an area for more advanced skaters and agreed that a small admission fee is an appropriate mechanism for such a purpose.

Concession Revenues

There is much potential for retail activity at Sub urban skate ranging from basic food and drink concessions to rental of equipment. With the likelihood of large-scale events periodically utilizing these facilities there is also much potential for revenue to be generated from commercial activity at these times. Many skate parks also negotiate arrangements with vending machine providers for sole rights to the site.

Event Hire

We anticipate sub urban skate park to generate significant revenue from facility rental for parties, competition meets, festivals etc. There is a demonstrated market nationally for private party use of skate park facilities and there is growing interest in extreme sports competitions that attract national sponsorship and television audiences. It is important to mention that this revenue stream is only fully available after the completion of phase 2 of the development proposal.

Supervised Instruction/Workshops

After completion of phase1, Sub urban skate park will be New Orleans' only facility equipped to offer supervised instructional workshops for people interested in skateboarding. This presents an opportunity for City Park to partner with the local skating community (particularly an established business such as Humidity Skateboards to offer this service for a fee. School holiday and after school programs could provide an ongoing revenue source as well as working towards the promotion of active healthy lifestyles.

Grants and Contributions

Given the national growth of the skate boarding industries, city Park is well positioned to access targeted grants and gifts for the development and maintenance of this facility. Successful businesses in the skateboarding industry in particular (shoe manufacturers, board manufacturers, magazines, etc.) have a strong track record of philanthropic support for such developments and ongoing support through event sponsorship and other mechanisms. Another factor to be considered is the active healthy lifestyle promotion associated with these activities and the funding sources available for these programs.

Cost Breakdown

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost Item	Cost
Demolition	5000	SF	\$10	\$50,000
Excavation and Grading (cut and fill)	125,000	SF	\$1	\$125,000
Concrete Paving	41,000	SF	\$5	\$205,000
Fencing	1,500	LF	\$5	\$7,500
Site Utilities	500	LF	\$5	\$2,500
Signage	10	EA	\$1200	\$12,000
Structures (restrooms and Concession)	1000	SF	\$50	\$5000
Landscaping	20,000	SF	\$10	\$200,000
Habitat Enhancement and Mitigation	64,000	SF	\$20	\$128,000
Site Furniture and Amenities	30	EA	\$600	\$18,000
Lighting	60	EA	1600	\$96,000
SUBTOTAL				\$849,000
Professional Design Services	15%			\$127,350
Contingency	15%			\$127,350
TOTAL				\$1,103,700