

Open Skies Outdoor Classroom

New Minas Elementary School Project | Kings County

CONSTRAINTS & OPPORTUNITIES

River Opportunity

The river provides educational opportunities (fish release), recreational opportunities to connect with nature.

I read this quote in one of my books "We come from water; our bodies are largely water; and water plays a fundamental role in our psychology. We need constant access to water, all around us; and we cannot have it without reverence for water in all its forms. But everywhere in cities water is out of reach." (A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings Construction; Page 323; Found in Bold)

River Constraint

The way that the river can be considered a constraint to this site is due to that it acts like a barrier to a good deal of the site.

This constraint reminds me of a "Quiet Back". It states that everyone needs a quiet place to walk and to get away, for a little bit, from the noise of everyday activities. This would be a perfect place to build such an area.

Lighting Constraint

The light can be considered as a constraint due to there is no lighting down in the outdoor classroom or along the trail itself.

There is something I reading once and that was from an article that was called "Accessible Greens". This article talks about if the green space is accessible to the community and if people live within three minutes of that green space then they would use it.

Since there is no lighting down the trail or around the outdoor classroom then it is not accessible to the community after/around dusk or in the morning before the sun has even come up.

Slope Constraint

In these areas you will find fairly steep slope. These areas could be considered a constraint due to that the amount of slope cuts through the whole site and without a trail that correctly follows the slope no one can access the rest of the site.

The term "Quiet Backs" comes to mind once again; in this case the slope acts like a sound barrier, kind of like how buildings in a city can act like sound barriers to the green space located behind them.

Aalders Ave

Rail to Trail

Rail-to-Trail Constraint

Connecting the rail trail can be considered a constraint due to the fact that there are not many areas to enter the property on the north side, without negotiations with other land owners, which should be kept to a minimal.

In reading a book little while back I came across a few pages that talked about "Accessible Greens". These few pages talked about if people lived within three minutes of a green space that was easily accessible, would be more inclined to use that space. One section of this reading caught my attention. It said the following "People need green open places to go to; when they are close they use them. But if the greens are more than three minutes away, the distance overwhelms the need." (A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction; Page 305; Found in Bold)

Parking Opportunity

The existing parking is thought of as an opportunity due to that there is no need to build a new parking lot or having to walk a distance from your car to the trail/outdoor classroom.

There is a reading that comes to mind when thinking of this opportunity and that is the "Pools and Streams" reading. It talks about trying to keep cars away from the water ways. So, keeping the cars, or drivers who litter, away from the brook so it does not get polluted.

The reading goes on to say the following: "Preserve natural pools and streams and allow them to run through the city; make paths for people to walk along them and footbridges to cross them." (A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction; Page 326; Found in Bold)

Garden Opportunity

These gardens were planted by both the students and the faculty. By having the students involved with the process of planting and maintaining of these gardens, it will give them some responsibility. This will also show them how rewording it is to have vegetables from a garden that they have helped grow, it will show them how much work and the time that goes into creating something like a vegetable garden.

Main Road Constraint

The main road (Commercial Street) is considered a constraint due to the amount of traffic that travels that road during the day. There are also safety concerns when creating a trail in proximity of a major road way. There is a reading that I am reminded of when talking about major roads and brooks, it is a reading called "Pools and Streams". This reading talks about ways to preserve the natural pools and streams from pollution. This reading says to preserve the natural flow of the streams to build bridges over them and don't try to recreate the path that stream naturally made on its own.

Neighbor Constraint

Potential issue with neighboring landowners/residents who may be concerned about trespassing, etc.

In one of my readings, I read a short article called "Quiet Backs". This short article talks about using the buildings as sound barriers, and these sound barriers stop the noise from reaching the quiet backs, thus making them quiet and peaceful for those people who wish to get away from all the noise of work life and have a place to go to relax and clear the mind.

Trail Opportunity

The way that the trail can be considered an opportunity to this site is due to the access that it gives. This trail takes people from the playground down to the brooks edge. This trail has the opportunity to expand to reach the northern part of the property.

The reading that comes to mind when talking about trail and future trails reaching through the entire property is called "Accessible Greens". This reading talks about having accessible green spaces for the community to use and then take those trails and link them to other community trails.

Gazebo Opportunity

The gazebo is considered an opportunity due to that the school could always expand on that building and make it into something a little bit larger to hold more children. A reading comes to mind when thinking about this gazebo and where it is located. That reading is called "Quiet Backs", it talks about how to create a quiet area for people to go and just clear their mind and get away from the noise of everyday life. The gazebo gives people a place to sit and just think about things or watch their kids play.

Green Space Opportunity

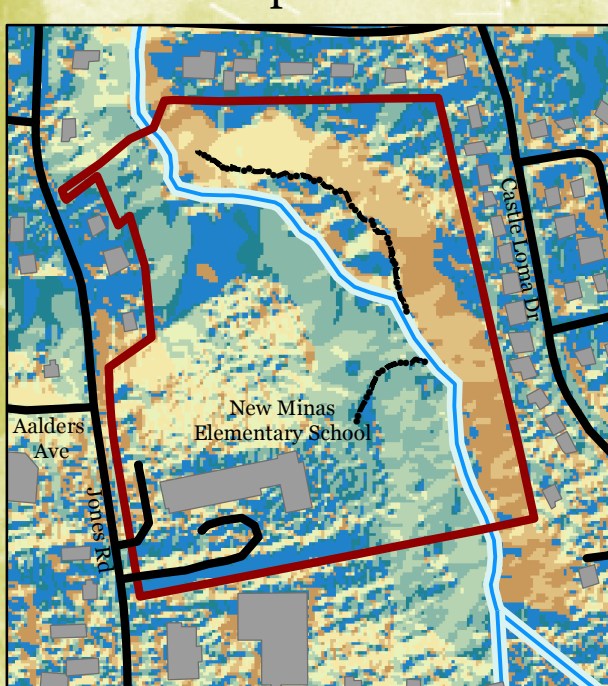
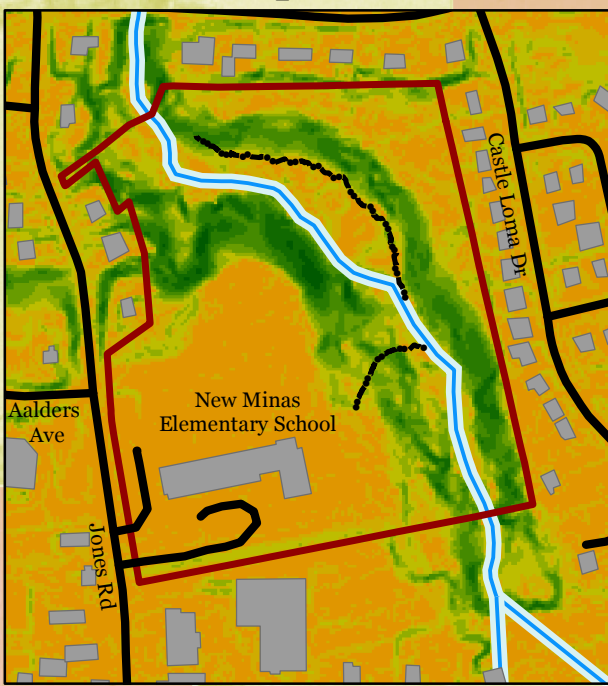
There is a large open green space at the head of the trail that was created. This large green space is an opportunity due to the size of the green space. There are many things that could be done with this large space.

I read this article called "Accessible Greens". This article talked about is people lived within three minutes of a green space then they are more inclined to use that green space.

Skate Park Property Opportunity

The skate park property is considered as an opportunity because there is an opportunity to link the community to either the existing trails or future trails. This linkage will allow for more community members to use the existing trails or the future trails as a form of exercise or as another mode of transportation.

The second reading that I am reminded of is that of "Accessible Greens". This reading talks about having green spaces linking to other green space and having trails going through all of them and linking communities that otherwise would not be linked what so ever.



Scale 1:5,000
0 125 250
Metres

- 1 Opportunity
- D Constraints

Map Scale 1:800



Base Source: Nova Scotia Topographic Database (NSTDB)
1:10000 Enhanced Topographic Data Base
Compliments of the Nova Scotia Geomatics Centre (NSGC)
Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
160 Willow Street
Amherst, N.S.

Source Map Sheets:
1045050064400
<http://www.nsgc.gov.ns.ca/>

Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 20 North
Datum: North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)
Correction: Canadian Spatial Reference System 1998 (CSRS98)

Magnetic North
February 2016
Calculated magnetic declination: 17° 33.90'W
Latitude: 45° 07' N
Longitude: 64° 45' W

This map is produced as a portion of the requirements of the Geographic Sciences Program at the Centre of Geographic Sciences, NSCC, Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia.
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Date: March 2016

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