

Lands Garden

—An ecological garden that provides
nature education for people of all ages



Beijing, China

Project Statement

Lands Garden is located in Changping District, Beijing, with an area of about 0.13 km². The design is based on the concept of Low Impact Development. According to local conditions, the fish ponds that have been abandoned for more than 20 years there are transformed into nature education gardens suitable for all ages.

The reconstruction minimizes ecological interference, takes actions that suit local circumstances, makes full use of the original terrain, vegetation and structures, and uses local materials to enrich and ecologically transform the single environment and advocate traceless experience. The natural substrate is sorted out to divide the space, and then the garden places are arranged according to the process, including farms, forest playgrounds, fish ponds, wetlands, etc. People of any age coming here can freely choose a variety of nature education activities such as natural research, natural experience and family natural companionship, and experience the fun of ecology, science, art and exploration in the route of exquisite nature towards wild nature.

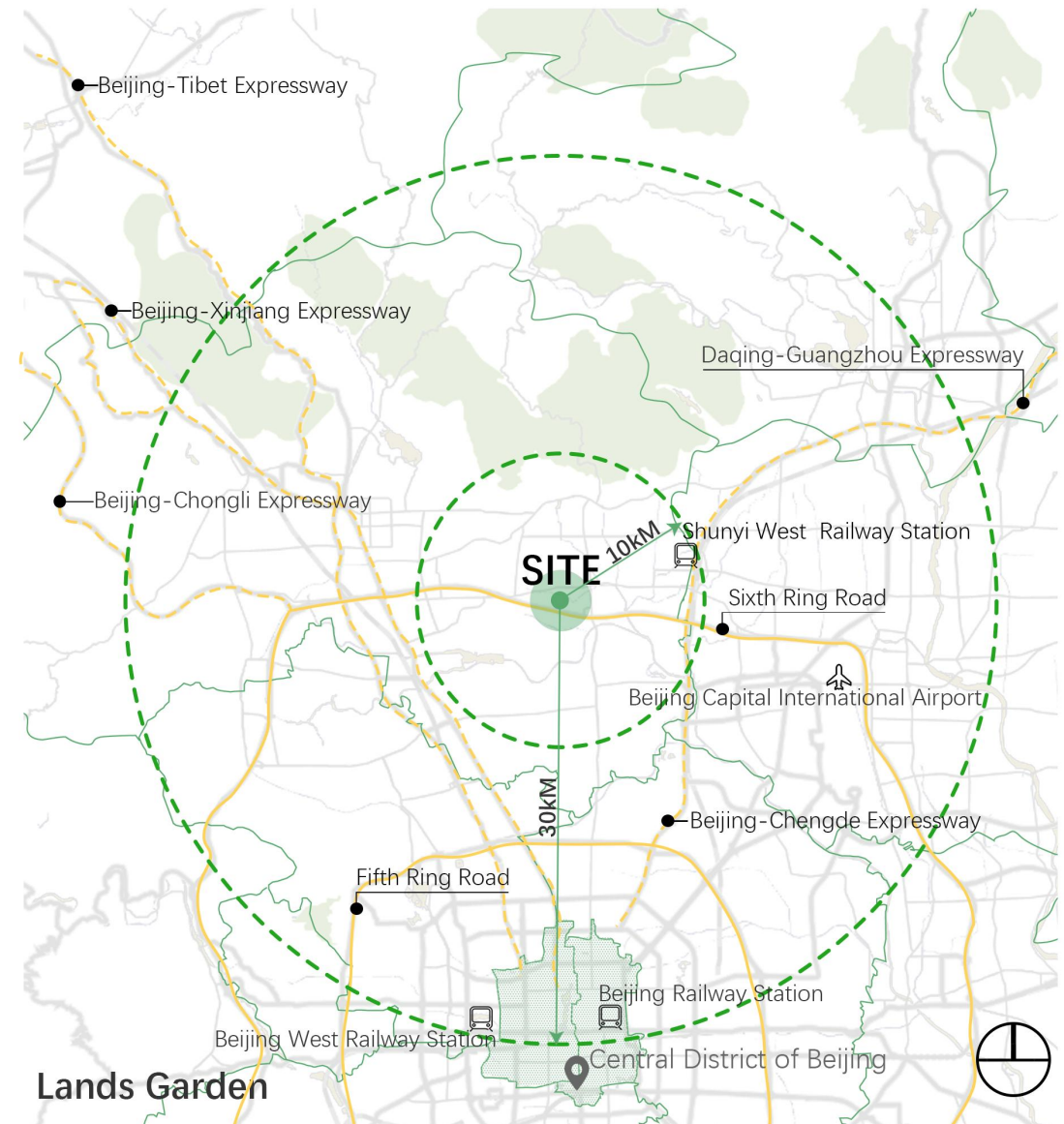
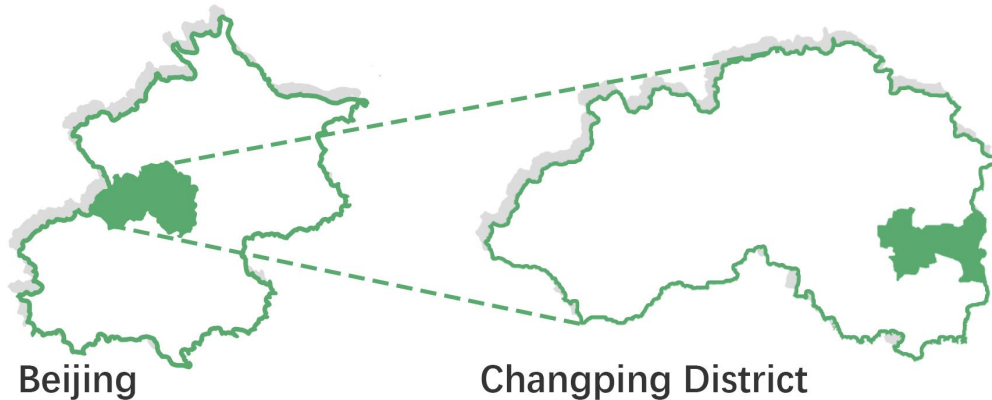
Nature education does not limit people or places. Lands Garden allows everyone to have an equal opportunity to receive nature education. The vivid presentation of the entire process of low impact development and transformation of abandoned fish ponds is undoubtedly the best natural education and experience.



Project Narrative

Project Location

Lands Garden is located near **Xiaotangshan, Changping District, Beijing**, outside the North Sixth Ring Road, 30 kilometers away from the city center and near the Hulu River to the north. The garden covers an area of 0.13 square kilometers.



Project Narrative

Background

The garden was originally **a fish pond abandoned for more than 20 years**, with silt accumulation and a single scene. Several management rooms have a history of more than 30 years. This is a site with both ecology and history. Xiaotangshan area is rich in water and grass, since Ming and Qing Dynasties has been the royal good husbandry office, profound farming culture. Therefore, the site has great potential to provide nature education activities for people who always live in the city, so that they can get close to nature.

Site conditions

Before



Abandoned fish pond

Before



Messy vegetation

Before



Ragged pavement

Remaining buildings of former aquaculture farms

Before



Vacant buildings

Before



Before



Waste materials

Before



Leftover bricks

Before



Previous tiles

Before



Abandoned machine parts

Project Narrative

Design Strategies and Process

Equal opportunities for natural education

Obtain raw material locally

Participatory construction

Advocate traceless experience

Provide to all ages

Support diverse activities

Deep natural experience

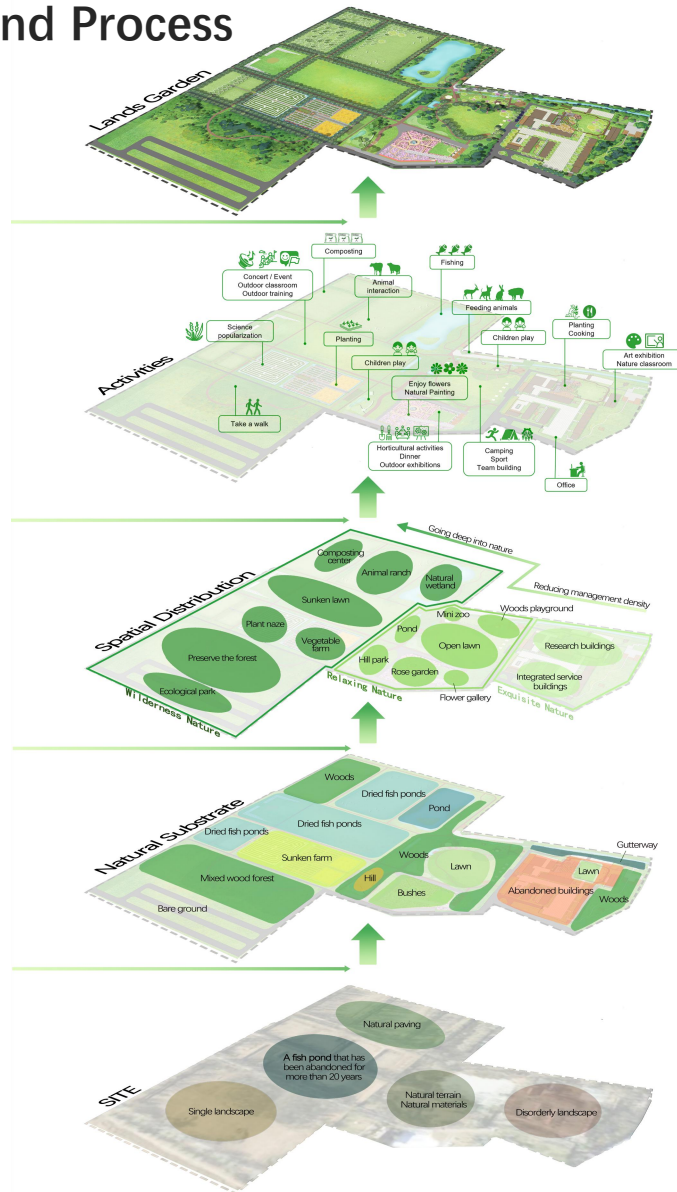
Creating diverse spaces

Fully utilize the original terrain, vegetation and structures

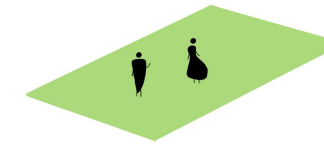
Adaptation to local condition

Low impact development

Divide natural bases

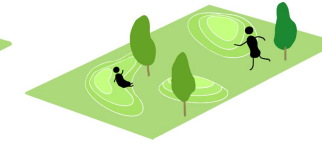


Diversity of Spaces



Open Lawn

People can run, jump, lie down, camp, picnic, and hold large events



Lawn + Micro Terrain

Use the original topography of the site to create a hill park



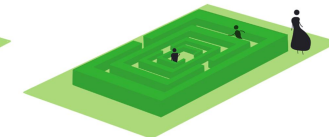
Ranch

Make full use of the natural conditions of the site to build natural pasture



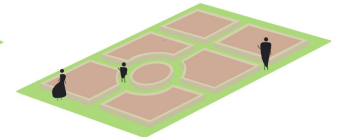
Shrubs and Sparse Forests

Preserve site native trees and shrubs



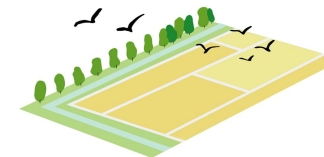
Hedge Maze

Enhancing the fun and improving nature science



Flowering Shrubs

Planting diverse new varieties of edible roses



Farmland

Preserve the texture of the farmland on the site and grow a variety of vegetables



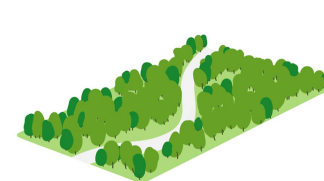
Wetland

Abandoned fish ponds are rich in organic matter and retain biodiversity



Creek

Improving ditch water quality and revitalizing forest space



Mixed Woods

Preserve the site's native tree species and install walking trails



Forest Playground

Create forest playgrounds in conjunction with the understory slopes of thinned forest areas



Courtyard+Small Lawn

Renovate old buildings, paint and graffiti building facades, preserve trees

The design is based on the concept of low impact development. Dividing the space by sorting out the natural base, creating a variety of space types of places and supporting a variety of nature education activities make the garden becomes a natural realm that citizens yearn for.

Project Narrative

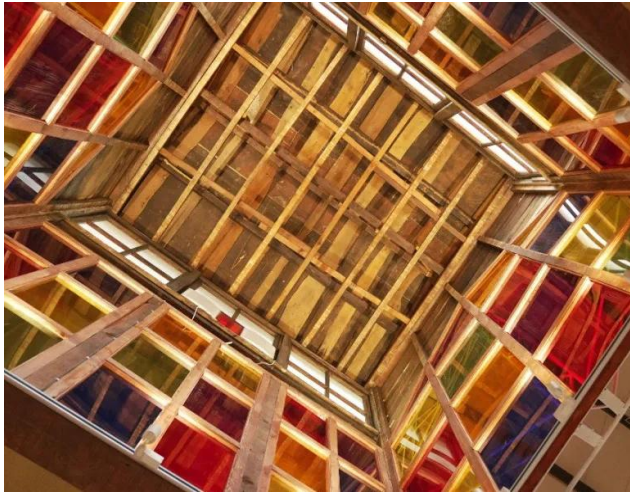


Going deep into the garden is a complete nature experience from exquisite nature to relaxing nature to wilderness nature.

Project Narrative



Exquisite Nature

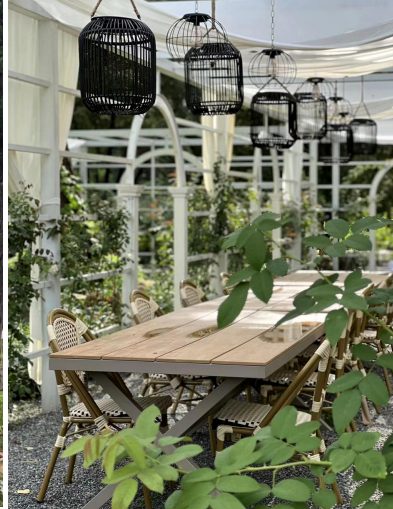


Exquisite Nature is the comprehensive service area of the garden, which is set in the area of the original building complex. Old buildings were transformed into functional buildings such as visitor center, art auditorium, nature workshop, study dormitory and idyllic dining bar. This area not only retains the historical beauty of the site but also shows the overall style and quality of the garden.

Project Narrative



Relaxing Nature

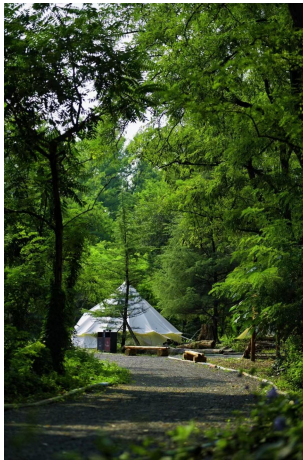


Relaxing nature area is the richest area for learning, creating a central lawn that provides ample space for outdoor learning, field training, camping and picnicking. The forest playground is built in the sparse forest area by combining the forest slope and wetland. By using the original terrain, adding facilities and slightly transforming, it will become a paradise for children to linger. An animal farm and a rose garden have also been established to increase the diversity of species in the area.

Project Narrative



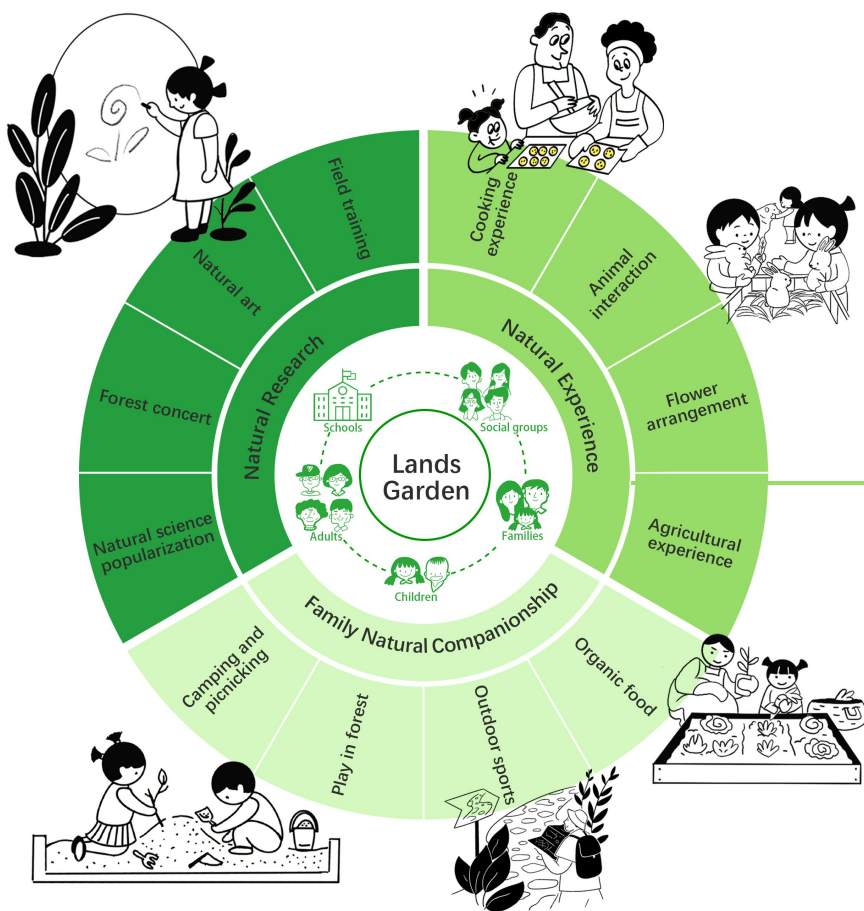
Wilderness Nature



Wilderness natural area includes organic farms, fish ponds and wetlands, sunken lawns, pastures, and composting centers to achieve all-organic, zero-emission management. Aquaculture is the foundation of history. With a comprehensive consideration of farming, landscape and aquatic plants, the joint agriculture and forestry institutions are used to explore the traditional farming culture of Xiaotangshan and create a characteristic geothermal farm, which will demonstrate farming civilization and provide a more natural and interesting activity space.

Project Narrative

Crowd Diversity & Scene Diversity



“An ecological garden that provides nature education for people of all ages”

Natural Research

Lands is an outdoor school and a natural science museum, where you can learn about nature science, enjoy natural art, and conduct field training.



Field training



Natural art



Forest concert



Natural science popularization

Natural Experience

Lands is a natural farm where you can experience the fun of planting, picking, arranging flowers and raising animals.



Cooking experience



Animal interaction



Flower arrangement



Agricultural experience

Family Natural Companionship

Lands is a family-friendly nature paradise where you can get a day of immersive nature experience.



Camping and picnicking



Play in forest



Outdoor sports



Organic food

Lands Garden serves people of all ages. Children, adults, families, social groups, schools and other types of users can get the opportunity to receive nature education here, covering natural research, natural experience and family natural companionship. Come to Lands garden to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Ecological Diversity



Plant Diversity

The garden retains the original mixed wood forest, such as the acacia forests around the central lawn, which are native tree species. A variety of locally edible roses are grown in the rose garden. The garden has also added an edible landscape, and farm crops are selected from traditional vegetables, fruit trees, and food crops from North China, such as apples, Jingxi rice, etc.



Local crops such as corn and Jingxi rice, as well as local flowers

Animal Diversity

A small number of common local livestock breeds such as sheep, cattle, chickens, ducks, geese, and highly interactive animals such as goats and rabbits are raised in the pasture. It also provides habitats for local wild animals such as hedgehogs, birds, and insects in nature.



Rich variety of farm animals and wildlife

Supporting ecological facilities can be found everywhere in the garden, such as insect hotels, bird guide houses, compost boxes and so on, which are produced by garden stakeholders through participatory workshops. Ecological diversity facilitates learning activities such as natural feeding and natural science popularization.

Project Process—Co-Construction & Material Reuse



Consult together

Listen to the opinions of various parties and fully explore the needs of the site.



Natural resources

Make full use of the original terrain, especially the fish pond concave farmland.



Material reuse

Local materials are preserved and a variety of natural materials are reused.



Participatory workshop

Through participatory workshops, the garden stakeholders created supporting ecological facilities in the garden.



Hold nature activities

Keep the original Beijing rice on the site and use it for a variety of activities.



The site of this project incorporates pro-environmental behavior (PEB) strategy according to local conditions from preliminary research, site planning and design, construction, maintenance and management in order to promote sustainable development and environmentally friendly concept practice.

Project Process——Natural research, Natural experience & Family natural companionship

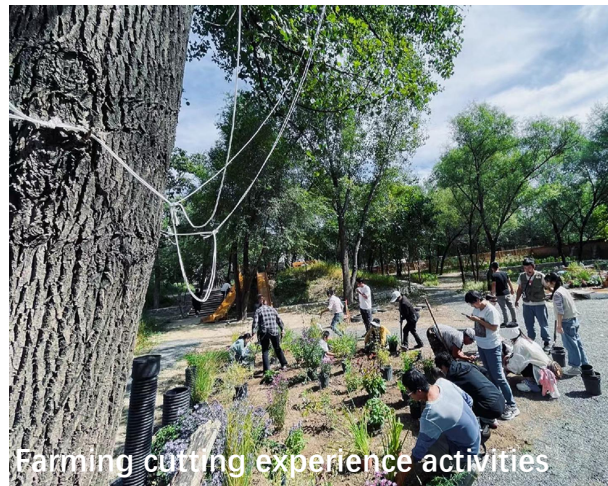
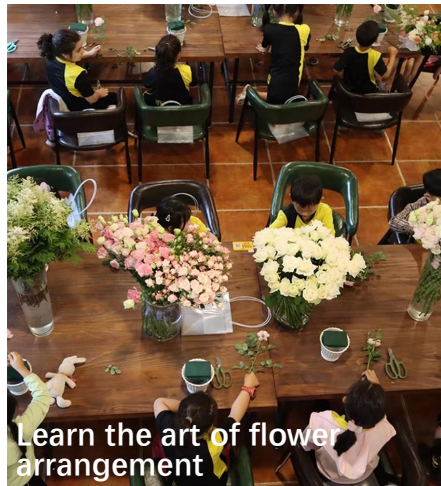
Natural research



People especially Children can participate in a variety of natural research activities in the site, including nature science, natural art, field training and so on, which can help children's all-round development.

Project Process——Natural research, Natural experience & Family natural companionship

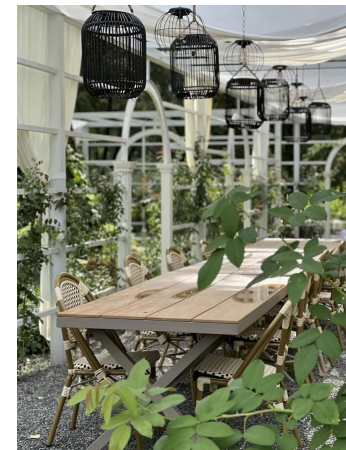
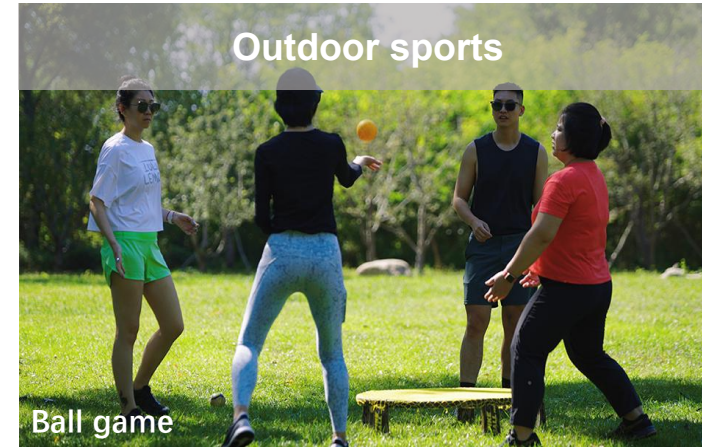
Natural experience



The site includes plenty of natural experiences, including agriculture, floriculture, animal interaction, etc, bringing a touch of natural vitality to the people in the city.

Project Process——Natural research, Natural experience & Family natural companionship

Family natural companionship



The site provides natural opportunities for families to interact with friends and family, including forest playgrounds, outdoor camping, outdoor sports, organic restaurants and so on. This Garden is no longer just a leisure garden, but to maximize the development and use of the elements and functions of the site, Integrating multiple types of activities into the site, in order to achieve a deep connection between people and the site.