

Xingguo Park : Practice of An Age-Friendly Park



VIDEO SCAN HERE



Project Statement

Community Engagement

The community's needs are identified and collective memories are built through interviews, workshops, and on-site investigations.

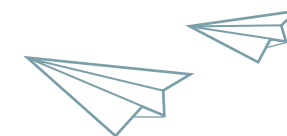
'Coffee' is seen as the medium to include each neighbor and increase their connection to the community.

Sustainability and Resilience

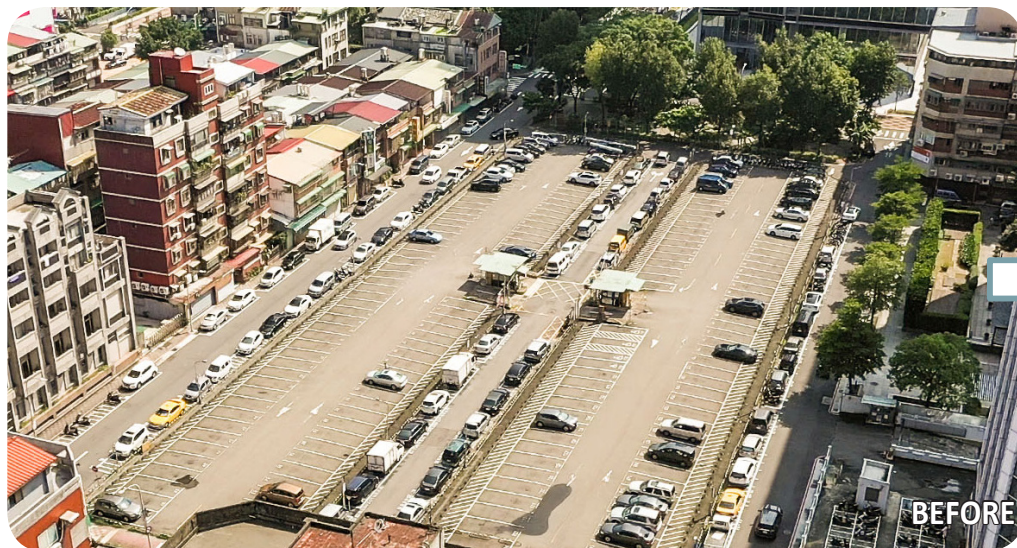
Nearby parks were taken into account to amplify the benefits from the site renovation. The new park is not only a place for people to enjoy, but also part of a network of blue-green infrastructure and wildlife habitats.

A Place for All

The park is designed to be inclusive and all-age friendly. It includes circular pathways, multifunctional seating, and diverse outdoor exercise equipment. Xingguo Park is now part of the daily life of neighbors, a place of ecological steppingstone and a place of health and wellbeing.

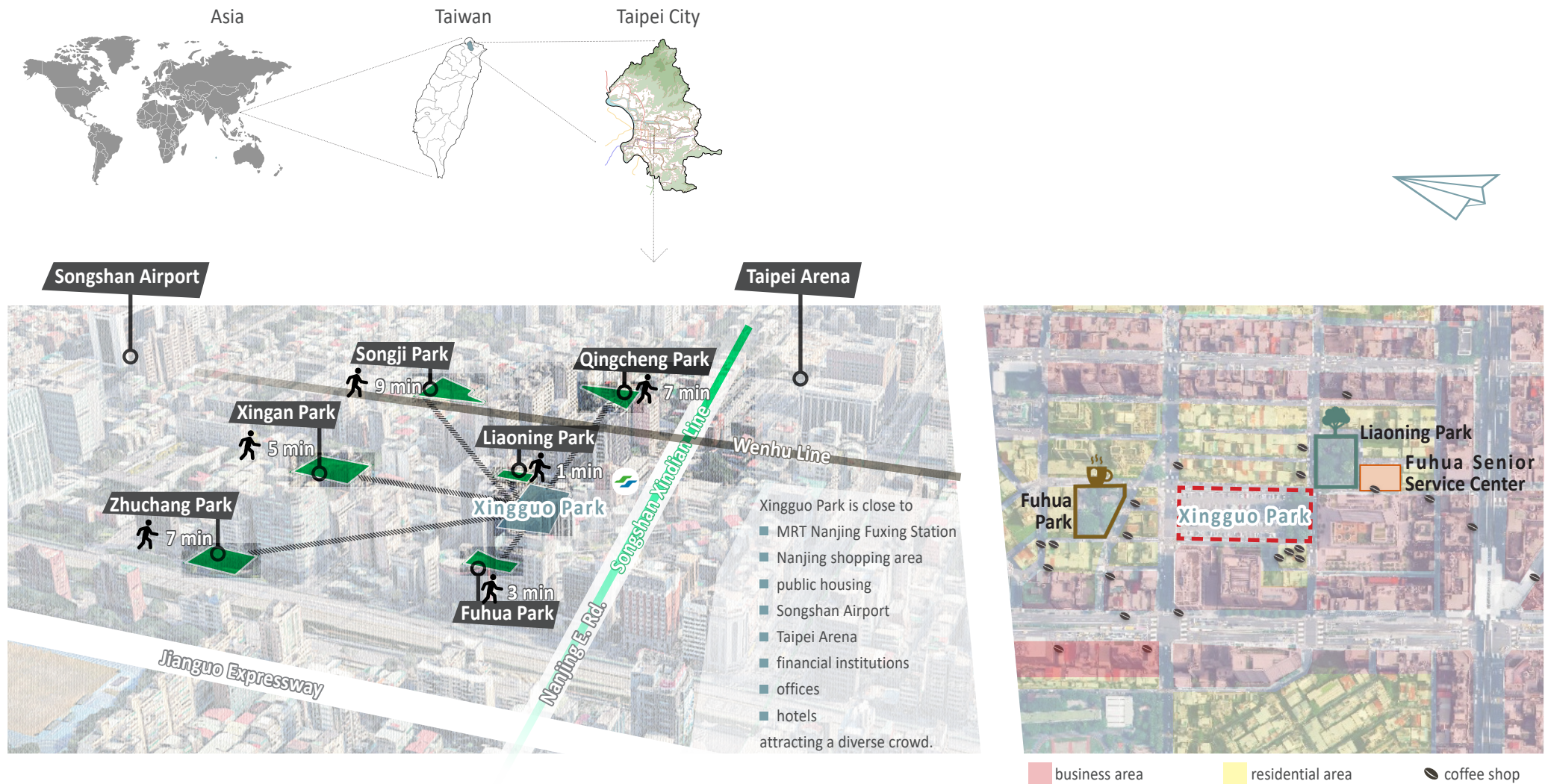


Location : Taipei City, Taiwan
Area : 7,766 m²
Year of Cpmpletion : 2022.12
Social and Community Health



Project Narrative and Contents

- The design goes beyond the site's street block but considers the urban context and history surrounding it.
- A coffee farm is established in the park in connection with the coffee festival held by the community and the cafes nearby.
- The park environment and the coffee farm are managed by the community now, new memories and cohesion can grow.



Community Memories

From a Japanese Military village to an Air Force dependents' village after WWII, the community has always been close. But as the houses aged and businesses grew around the area, the site became a parking lot.

Taipei Air Raid

Following the air raid in 1944, Japan was soon defeated and left Taiwan.

Building Canals

Once a Japanese Military Village, canals were built for agriculture.

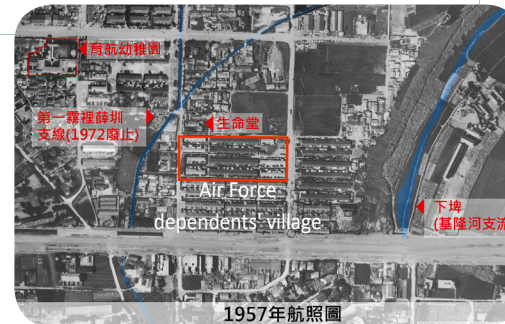


Air Force Dependents' Village

As the KMT came to Taiwan, the village was repurposed for housing Air Force dependents.

Nanjing East Road

Built in 1957, businesses grew soon after and it was the Wall Street of Taipei.



2004.09.20

Land Use Change

The parking lot and the road were reassigned as a park, connecting to the original small park.

Demolition

The village was demolished in 1986, and the site became a parking lot.



1895

2004

Build the Park with the Community

During interviews with old residents and key individuals, as well as the 'community old-time tales workshop', collective memories of Guangfu East Village were dug up from the participants' life experiences in the Air Force dependents' village.



2020/02/24

Interview Chief of Fuhua Village

2020/03/04

Interview Elderly from Guangfu East Village



2020/06/14

Hold consultation workshop

2020/06/15

Interview representative of Disabled Children's Rights and Advocacy Association



2020/11/08

Hold design briefing Session



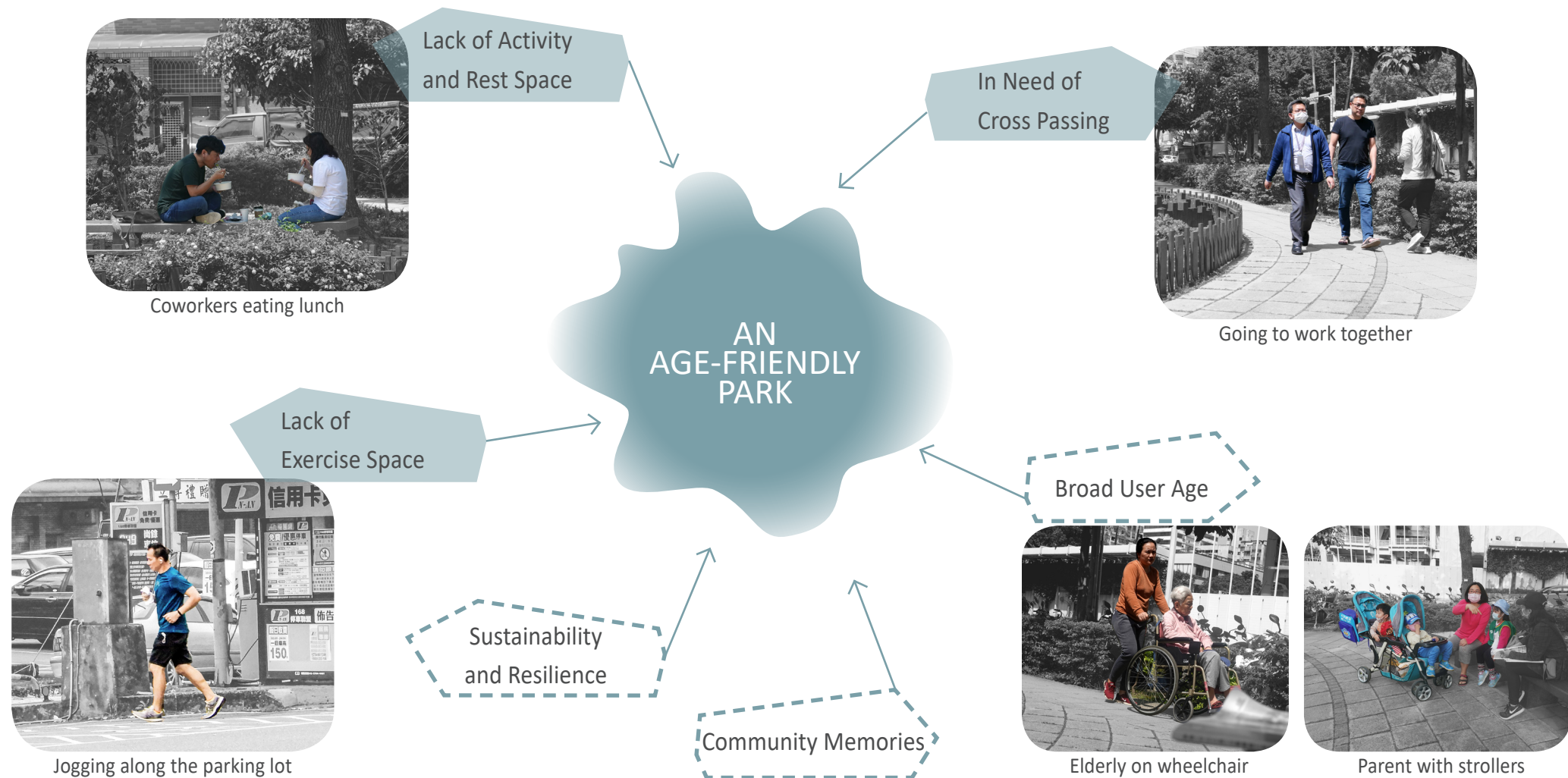
1 Briefing Session

1 Consultation Workshop

4 key individuals interviews

Site Conditions Before Renovation

The site consisted of a large parking lot and a small park. As the original park was small, the space for activities was insufficient. Most of the users stayed very briefly or simply just passing by the site. Among the users, most were adults and were employees from nearby office buildings. Apart from exercising in the park, there were also people walking and jogging along the edge of the parking lot.



Design Principles

Consensus from the Community

Six main principles were concluded from interviews and briefings.



A park that brings health and wellbeing into people's everyday life,



Leisure



- Playground
- Big lawn

Age-Friendliness



- Accessible paths
- Safety
- Rest

Health



- Stretch and exercise
- Circular paths

Sustainability



- Low carbon emission
- Diverse habitats and biodiversity

Disaster Prevention



- Permeable pavement
- flood detention lawn and tanks

Humanities



- Community cohesion
- Air Force dependents' village
- parking lot

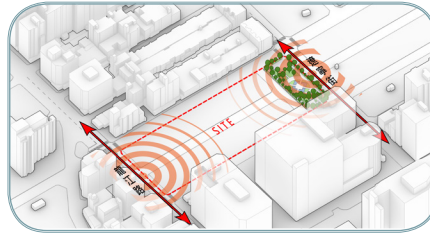
and an environment for all and the city to grow robustly.



Site Planning Strategies

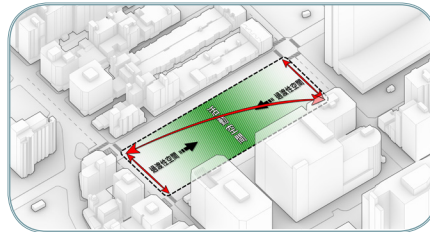
Enhance sustainable environment, community health and social wellbeing.

Site Condition



The site is surrounded by roads with heavy traffic - especially on the east and west sides. Traffic and noise result in unsuitable situations for the users to stay and rest.

Buffer Noise Concentrate Activities



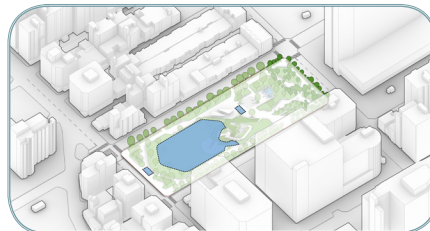
Activity spaces are concentrated in the center of the park, with only one crossing route in the middle. Therefore, the impact from traffic and noise is reduced. Trees in the original small park are retained and serve as green buffer zone.

Sunken Space for Stability



The green areas are covered with trees and vegetation that attract butterflies and birds. Parts of these areas are sunk 40-60 centimeters below the roads, to detain rainwater and create a sense of stability.

Flood Proof and Water Retention



Two water detention tanks are deployed beneath the park, and permeable pavement is adopted to prepare for heavy precipitation.

Multifunctional and All-Age Friendly



Made to be flexible and suitable for users of different ages or conditions, the design aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and better community connection.

Site Plan

All-Age Happiness



Green Sustainability



Community Bonding



Family



Health



Water Detention



Incorporating the Image of Air Force Dependents' Village

- The playground in the park is designed with a military theme to reflect the history of the site. The topography of the playground mimics a military base and bunkers and is cleverly disguised with plantations around it.
- The canopies next to the playground are shaped like paper airplanes soaring around the military base.



Unlike other parks, the exercise facilities are incorporated into the canopy, making them stylish and easy to access.



Considering children's needs, provide them with different routes to enhance the challenge and diversity.



All-Age Friendly Environment

The user-oriented design values the differences between different users (including children, elderly, and people with disabilities) and their needs in safety, friendliness, and convenience. The equipment and facilities in the park are not designed toward certain users but letting all kinds of users to use them in their own way.



All-Age Happiness and Health

After the pandemic of COVID-19, society has re-recognized the importance of outdoor exercise. User behavior before the site renovation also shows the need for this. Circular pathways and multifunctional seats are designed to provide people with diverse and flexible outdoor exercise spaces.



Sustainable Environment

Every existing tree in the park before the renovation is cherished and retained. Even more native species trees are planted to attract birds and butterflies to establish a comfortable environment. The original pond is transformed into a water garden to memorize the old canal. Pond plants and rocks inside the pond combined with rainwater recycling function create a place for biodiversity and environmental education.

The pathways are arranged along the existing trees, creating pocket spaces for office workers and neighbors to stay and socialize.



The pebbles are not just for the water, but also for kids to play with.

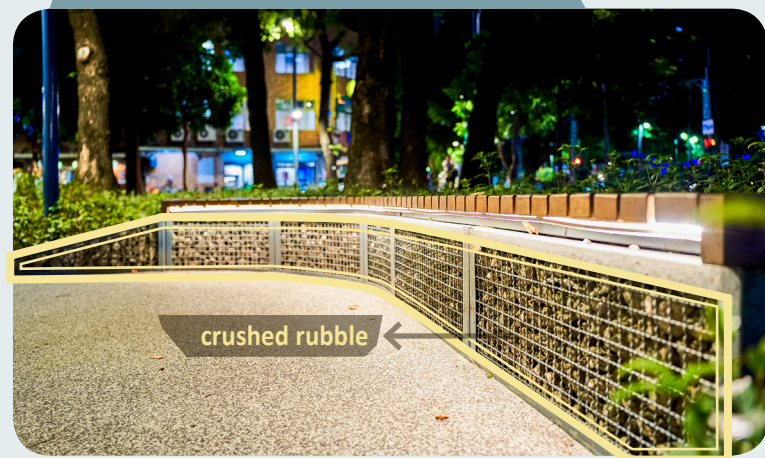


add in kumquat to attract butterflies

The concrete rubble from the demolition of previous structures is also crushed and recycled for building benches and playground hills.

With carbon fixation enhanced and air pollution and light pollution mitigated, research has been conducted by ecologists. It indicates that sixteen kinds of insects and eighteen kinds of birds were found on site. The research also suggests adjustment to environmental management to ensure biodiversity and sustainability.

BENCHES recycled 8.62 m³



PLAYGROUND HILLS recycled 54.76 m³



recycled 63.38 m³



Reduce lighting in greenery areas to mitigate interference with wildlife.



total reduce 1123.72 (KG/CO₂e) Carbon Footprint



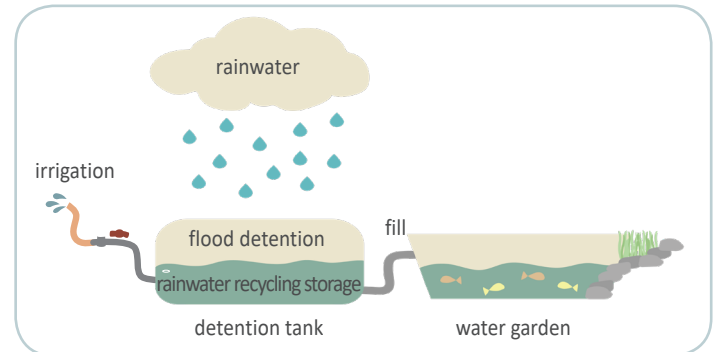
Resilient Sponge City

The water retention strategies include permeable pavement, a detention basin and detention tanks. When heavy rainfall occurs, water would be retained in the park and then slowly released into the public drainage system. The detention tanks also serve as rainwater recycling storage, which would be used for daily irrigation and the water garden.

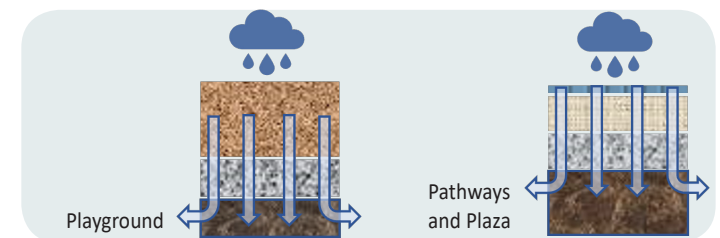
This system helps the city improve its ability to withstand severe weather conditions and prevent floods.



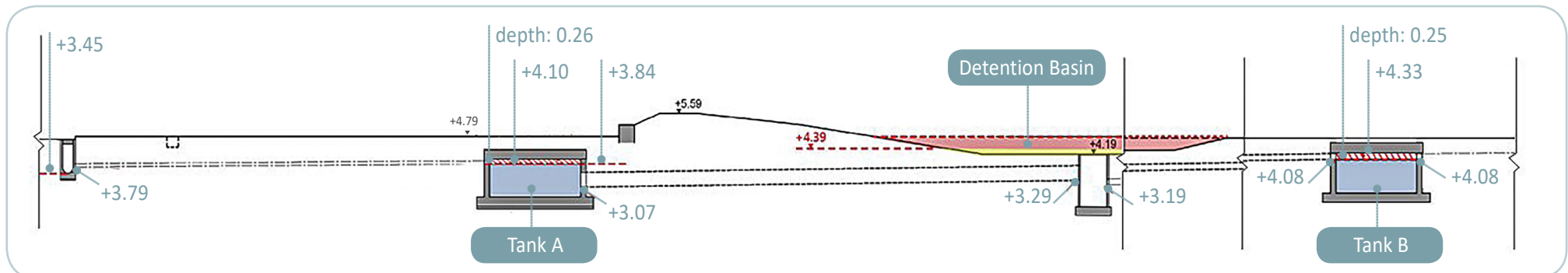
Water Recycle



Permeable Pavement



Water Detention Measure



A Park for the Community

The neighbors spontaneously take on the responsibility to take care of the park and maintain its environment, enhancing the bondage between the community and the park. The large lawn allows them to continue holding local coffee festival and all kinds of new activities. The coffee trees are planted as an edible landscape. As the community takes care of them and grows closer to the park, locality and humanities emerged.



Volunteers maintain the environment and water the coffee trees.

Festival on the lawn.



Plant coffee trees together.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



In line with 8 SDGs

Achieve through promoting wellbeing across all ages, providing inclusive and accessible public green space, strengthening sustainability and resilience through recycling rainwater and preparing for possible floods, and promoting biodiversity and native species with sustainable management.



An urban oasis of diversity and locality.
A sustainable park for health and wellbeing.

BEFORE

AFTER



The park is ecologically sustainable while incorporating community-based maintenance.

Xingguo Park is an urban oasis of diversity and locality which is co-created by the people living and working in the neighborhood.

A place that welcomes everyone and brings nature into their everyday life.

It is a sustainable and all-age friendly park that realizes social and community health and wellbeing.