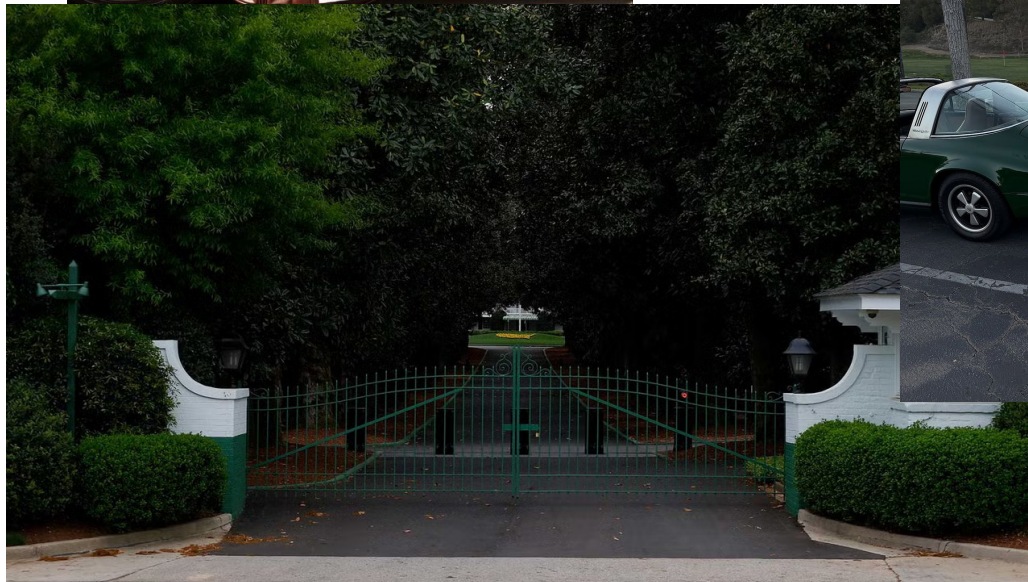


# *Gathering Commons*

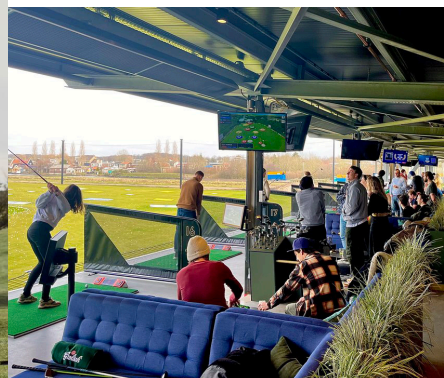
*Hybridized Third Spaces  
for Social Engagement  
of Young Adults*



# *Old School Golf*



# *A New Course*



*“Kolven, het plaisir om sig in  
dezelve te diverteren”*



***“Loved by all; young and  
old, poor and rich.”***  
*Spel en vermaak in het Oude Holland*

Played anywhere that would allow it.  
On the canals, the streets, the maliebaan  
the kolfbaan, the links land.

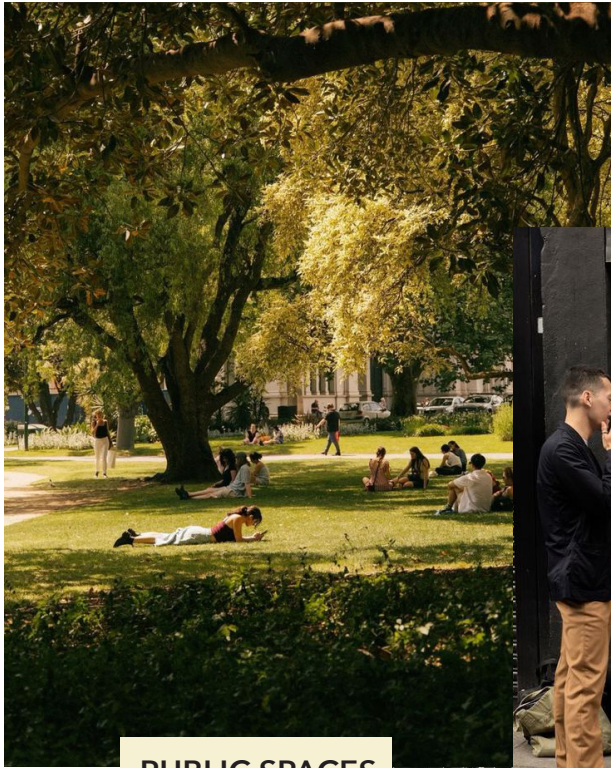
It unfolded within and around the built environment,  
woven into the daily life of society

# *The Theory*

## **Third Places**

Suburban Towns  
Social and Psychological needs  
Benefits of Nature

# Third Places



PUBLIC SPACES



COMMON  
GROUND

SURROUNDED  
BY OTHERS

SOCIALIZING

GATHERING



SHARING  
INTERESTS

SPORTS

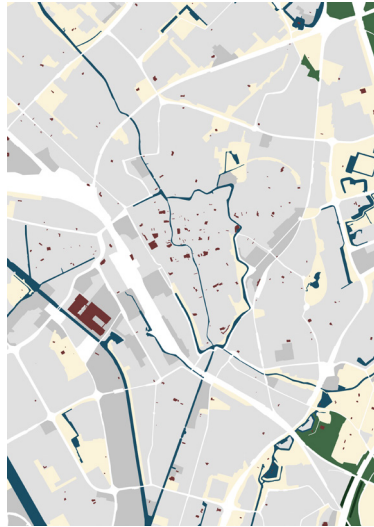


# *Third Places in suburban towns*

**Rotterdam**



**Utrecht**



**Den Haag**



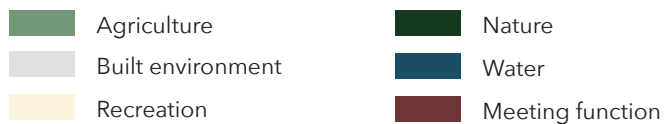
**Berkel en Rodenrijs**



**IJsselstein**



**Nootdorp**



## *Literature:*

*Suburban residents often rely on private vehicles or public transportation, which can impede spontaneous engagement and diminish the social vibrancy of these areas (Butler & Diaz, 2016).*

*Engaging with urban nature has been shown to yield mental and physical health benefits, further supporting the integration of natural landscapes into strategies for enhancing social infrastructure (Shanahan et al., 2015).*

*They often cater to specific demographics and do not inherently promote intergroup interaction, thereby limiting opportunities for broader community engagement (Oldenburg, 1999; Butler & Diaz, 2016).*

# Social and psychological needs



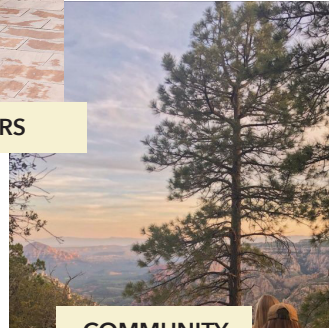
PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY



PRESENCE OF  
GREEN SPACES



SOCIAL  
INTERACTION

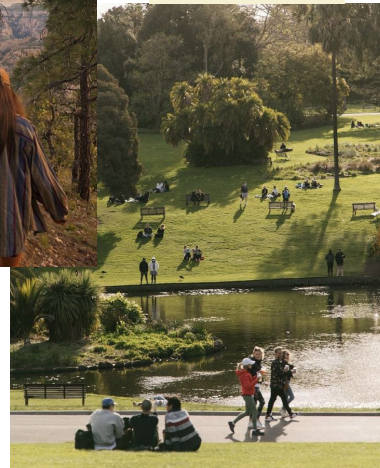


PEERS

BEING PART  
OF A GROUP



COMMUNITY  
BUILDING



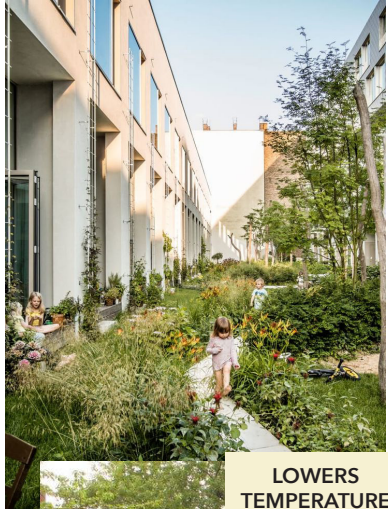
## Literature

*This deficiency is particularly impactful for young adults, who may find limited opportunities for casual social engagement in such settings (Kepkowicz, Lipińska, & Mantey, 2019)*

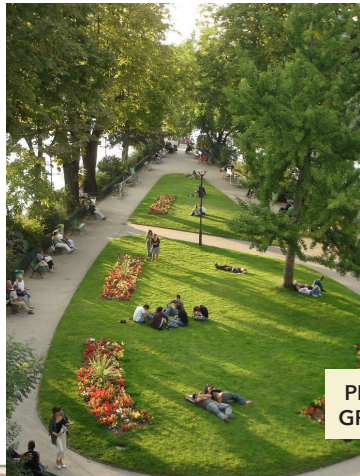
*Arnett (2000) refers to this life stage as “emerging adulthood,” a phase characterized by exploration, instability, and a heightened sensitivity to social belonging and validation.*

*Young adults often find it difficult to encounter peers outside of orchestrated settings, which can limit both their social network diversity and their sense of community attachment (Mehta & Bosson, 2010).*

# Benefits of nature



LOWERS  
TEMPERATURE



PRESENCE OF  
GREEN SPACES

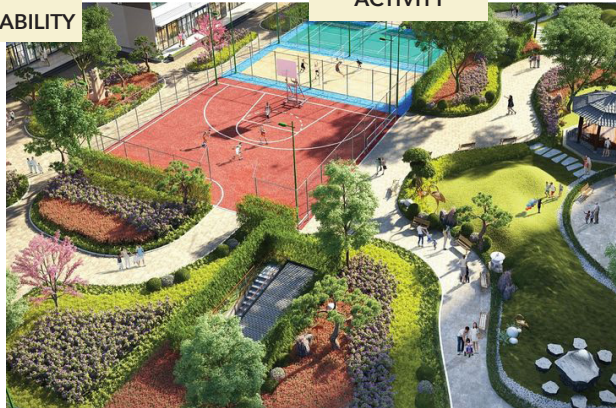


PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY



ENRICHES  
BIODIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY



## Literature

*From small parks to ecological corridors and multifunctional landscapes, nature in the urban fabric is no longer a luxury—it is a critical condition for livability (van den Bosch & Sang, 2017).*

*Green environments reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, improve immune function, and promote physical activity (Maas et al., 2006).*

*Biodiversity contributes to urban resilience by supporting pollination, improving air quality, regulating microclimates, and reducing the risk of flooding (Beatley, 2016).*

## *Problem Statement*

In suburban towns there is a notable ***deficit of third places particularly for young adults*** between the ages of 20 and 40. This age group faces increasing ***social isolation*** as living and working environments converge, leaving ***little room for spontaneous, unstructured social interaction.***

Without third spaces that foster community and enhance social wellbeing, suburban communities risk diminished social cohesion, reduced mental wellbeing, and a decline in opportunities for civic participation.

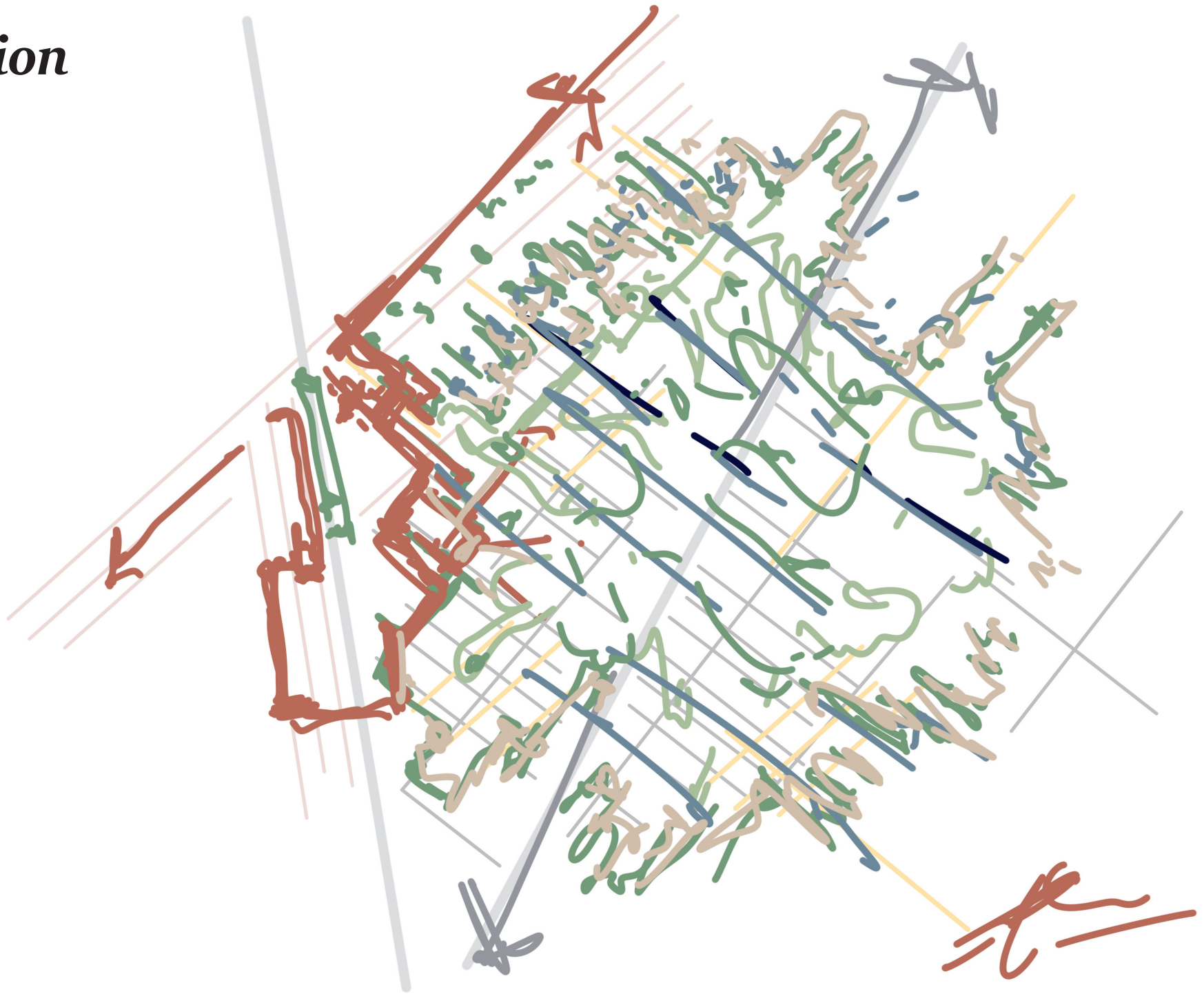
# *Gathering Commons*

*From Polder to Place*

A contemporary third place  
in a suburban setting; easily  
accessible and designed to  
foster spontaneous encounters,  
social interaction, and physical  
activity in a natural landscape



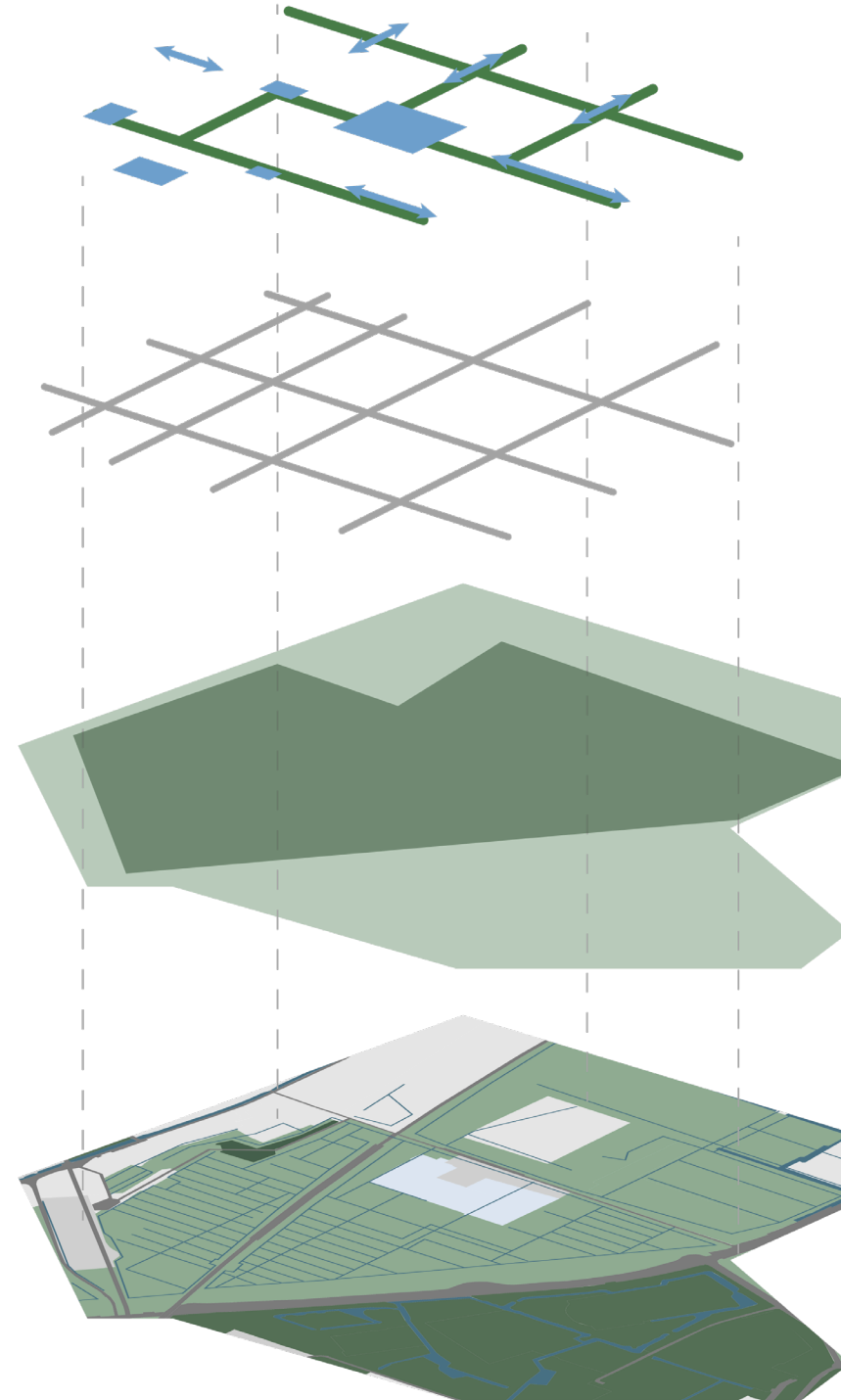
*Vision*



# *Activity grid*



Following the lines of the existing landscape to create a grid filled with programme and routing in and through the space.









*Polder*

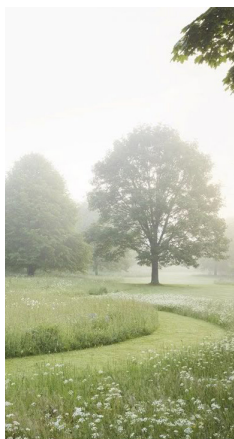
*Green  
Neighbourhood*

*Park*



***Polder***

Long lines  
Wild flowers  
Open view  
  
Heritage



***Park***

Open and closed  
Natural elements  
Changing perspectives



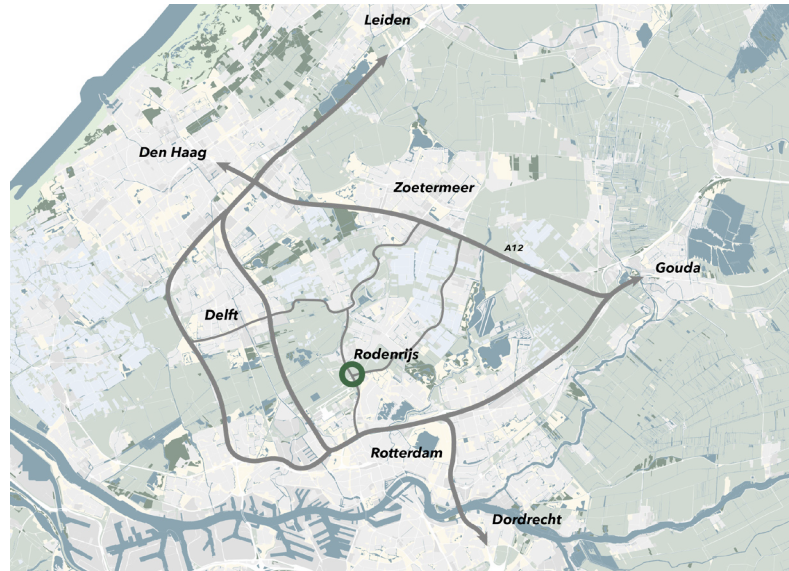
***Green  
neighbourhood***

Interaction  
Transition  
Connection

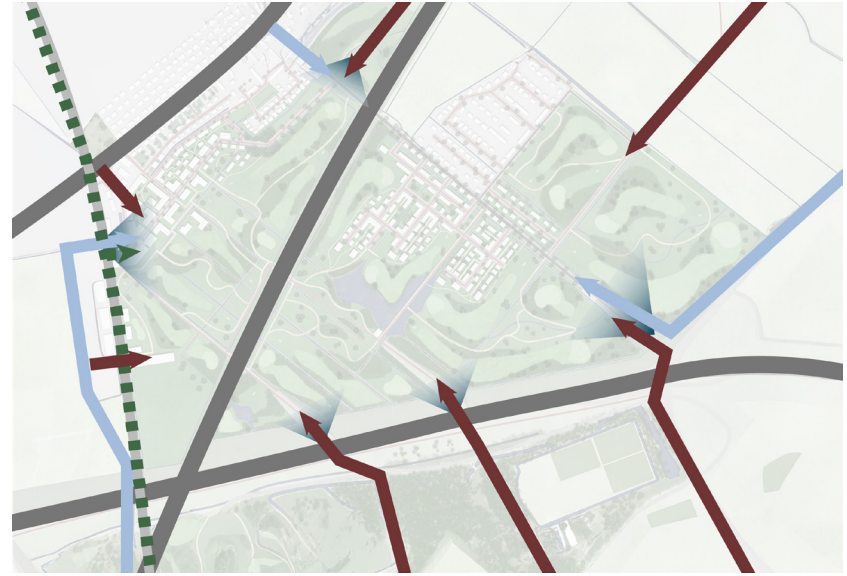
# *Shaping the landscape*

1. Accessibility
2. Vegetation
3. Building Typologies
4. Hybridity

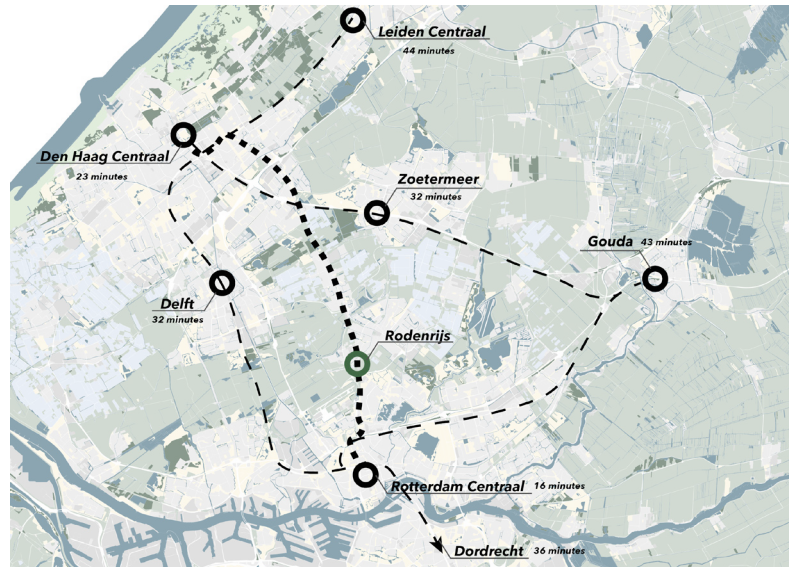
# Accessibility



**Car connection**



**Access towards**



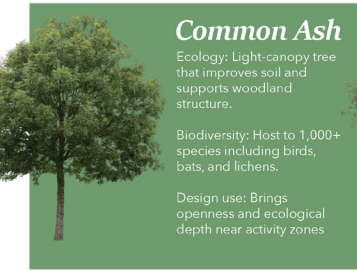
**Public transport connection**



**Access within**

# Vegetation

Native species that belong in this landscape. Ecologically sound, and part of the landscapes identity.

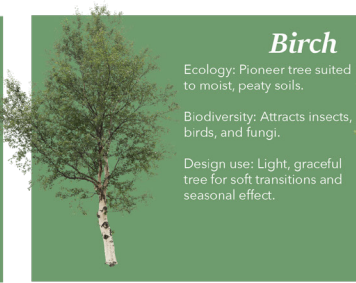


## Common Ash

Ecology: Light-canopy tree that improves soil and supports woodland structure.

Biodiversity: Host to 1,000+ species including birds, bats, and lichens.

Design use: Brings openness and ecological depth near activity zones

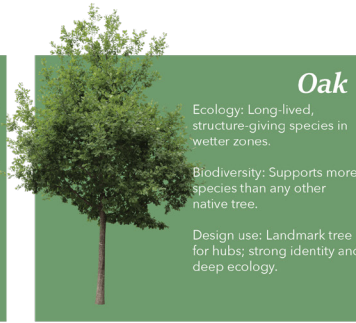


## Birch

Ecology: Pioneer tree suited to moist, peaty soils.

Biodiversity: Attracts insects, birds, and fungi.

Design use: Light, graceful tree for soft transitions and seasonal effect.



## Oak

Ecology: Long-lived, structure-giving species in wetter zones.

Biodiversity: Supports more species than any other native tree.

Design use: Landmark tree for hubs; strong identity and deep ecology.

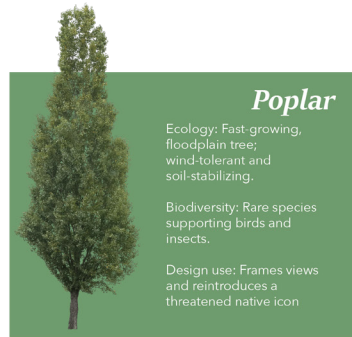


## Black Alder

Ecology: Thrives in wet soils; fixes nitrogen and stabilizes banks.

Biodiversity: Shelter for amphibians, birds, and water insects.

Design use: Planted along ditches and wetlands for function and habitat.

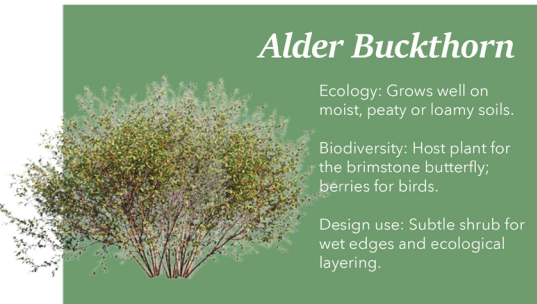


## Poplar

Ecology: Fast-growing, floodplain tree; wind-tolerant and soil-stabilizing.

Biodiversity: Rare species supporting birds and insects.

Design use: Frames views and reintroduces a threatened native icon

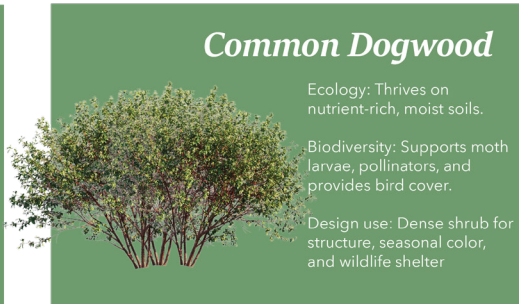


## Alder Buckthorn

Ecology: Grows well on moist, peaty or loamy soils.

Biodiversity: Host plant for the brimstone butterfly; berries for birds.

Design use: Subtle shrub for wet edges and ecological layering.

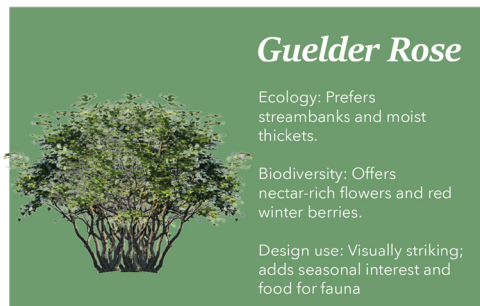


## Common Dogwood

Ecology: Thrives on nutrient-rich, moist soils.

Biodiversity: Supports moth larvae, pollinators, and provides bird cover.

Design use: Dense shrub for structure, seasonal color, and wildlife shelter



## Guelder Rose

Ecology: Prefers streambanks and moist thickets.

Biodiversity: Offers nectar-rich flowers and red winter berries.

Design use: Visually striking; adds seasonal interest and food for fauna



## Yellow Iris

Ecology: Grows in shallow water and wet soils; helps filter nutrients.

Biodiversity: Attracts pollinators and provides cover for amphibians.

Design use: Bold, sculptural accent along water edges; seasonal color



## Soft Rush

Ecology: Prefers moist, compacted soils; helps with water infiltration.

Biodiversity: Shelter for small invertebrates and amphibians.

Design use: Adds fine texture and structure in wet, informal plantings



## Lesser Pond Sedge

Ecology: Dense-forming sedge for marshy soils; stabilizes saturated ground.

Biodiversity: Valuable nesting and hiding spot for birds and insects.

Design use: Great for naturalistic planting in low, wet areas.



## Common Reed

Ecology: Dominant grass in marshes and wet ditches; stabilizes banks and filters water.

Biodiversity: Provides habitat for birds (e.g., reed warblers), insects, and amphibians.

Design use: Ideal for natural edges, visual softening, and wetland ecology enhancement.

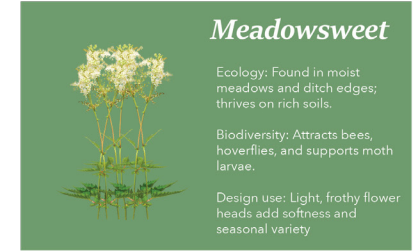


## Purple Loosestrife

Ecology: Thrives in wet meadows and marshes; tolerant of flooding.

Biodiversity: Excellent nectar source for bees and butterflies.

Design use: Adds vertical color and texture to biodiverse wetland zones.



## Meadowsweet

Ecology: Found in moist meadows and ditch edges; thrives on rich soils.

Biodiversity: Attracts bees, hoverflies, and supports moth larvae.

Design use: Light, frothy flower heads add softness and seasonal variety

# *Landscape Typologies*

1.



**Golf Course**

Short, intensively maintained turf for playability.

2.



**Grassland**

Taller, less-manicured grass typical of rough zones and edges.

3.



**Flowering Meadow**

Species-rich low vegetation with seasonal color and biodiversity

4.



**Shrubs landscape**

A natural buffer with mixed-height shrubs and taller ground cover.

5.



**Open Woodland Meadow**

Grassy meadow scattered with trees and understory planting.

6.



**Dense Woodland Meadow**

Denser tree grouping with layered vegetation and filtered light


7.



**Parkland**

Regularly spaced trees with mown grass, offering openness and shade



- |   |                  |   |                |
|---|------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Golf course      |  | Open woodland  |
|  | Grassland        |  | Dense woodland |
|  | Flowering meadow |  | Parkland       |
|  | Shrubs           |   |                |

# *Building Typologies*

## *High Street Spine*



## *Landscape Hubs*

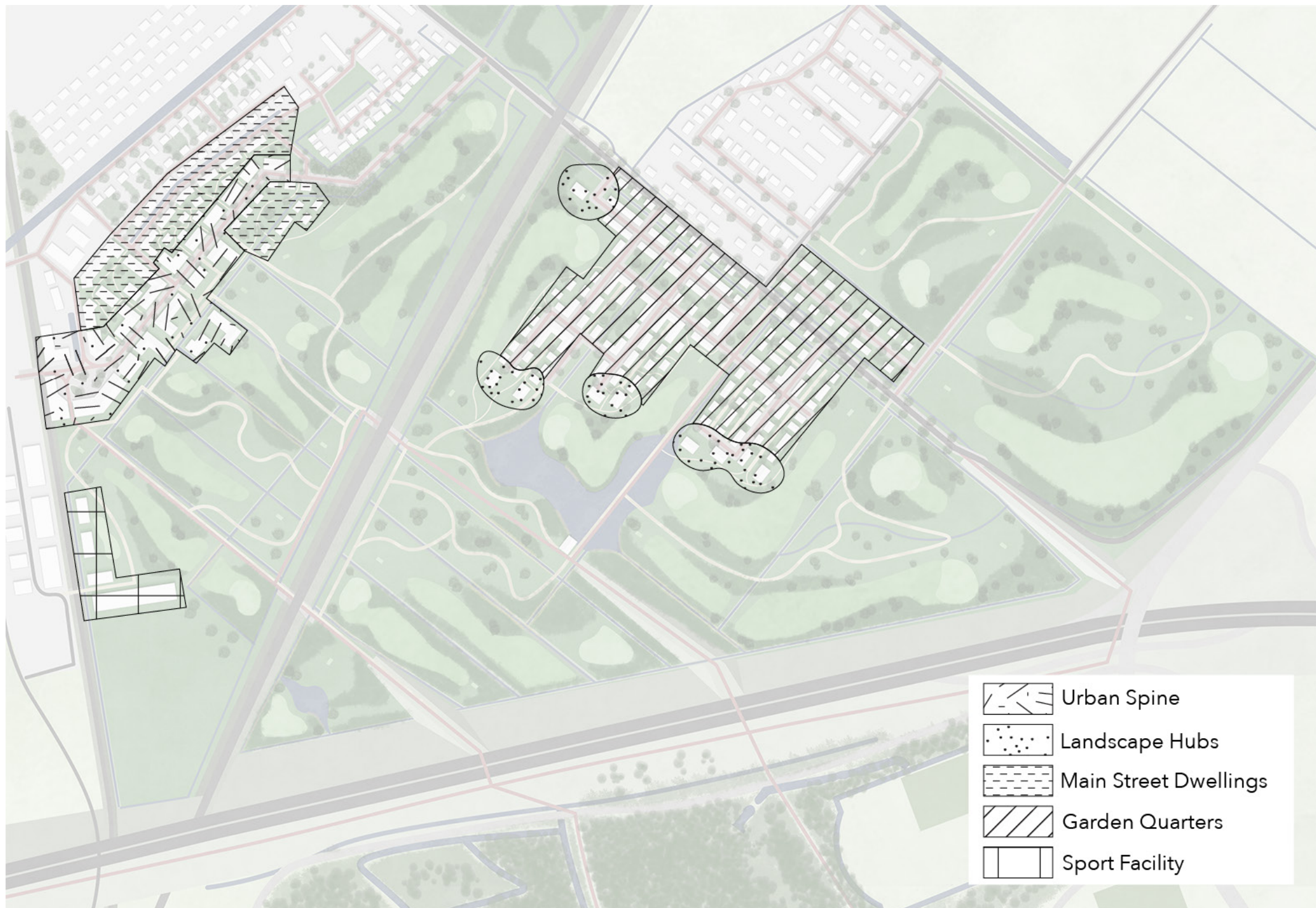


## *Main Street Dwellings*



## *Garden Quarters*





-  Urban Spine
-  Landscape Hubs
-  Main Street Dwellings
-  Garden Quarters
-  Sport Facility

# Hybridity

*Hybrid it its users*

Local

Athlete

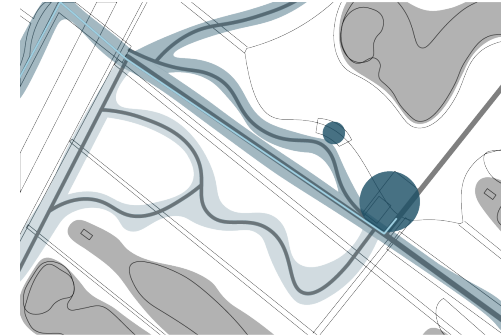
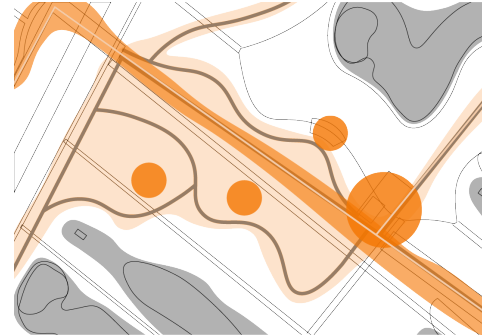
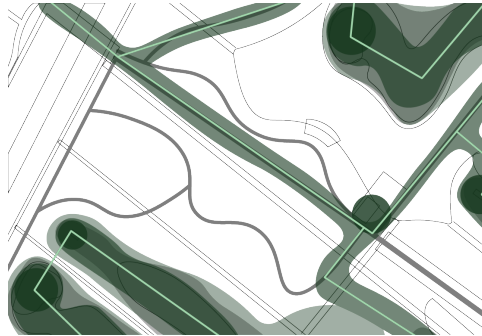
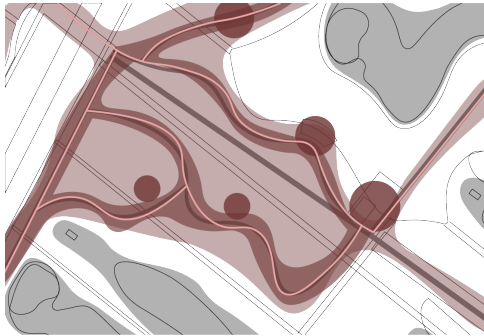
Day tripper

Worker

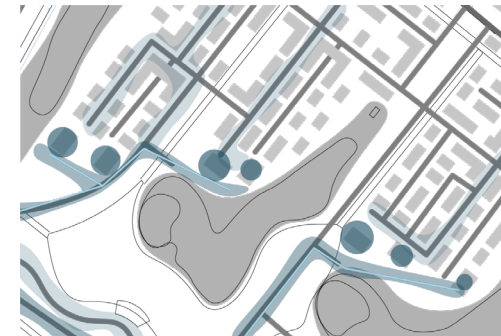
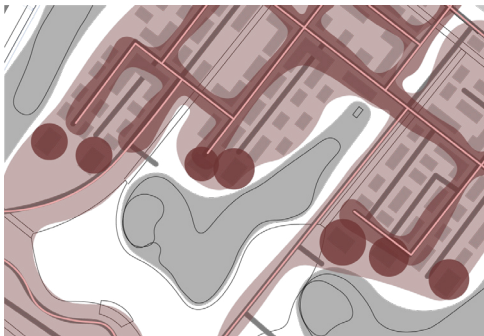
Main square



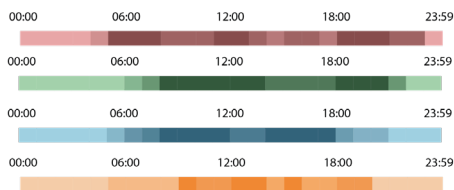
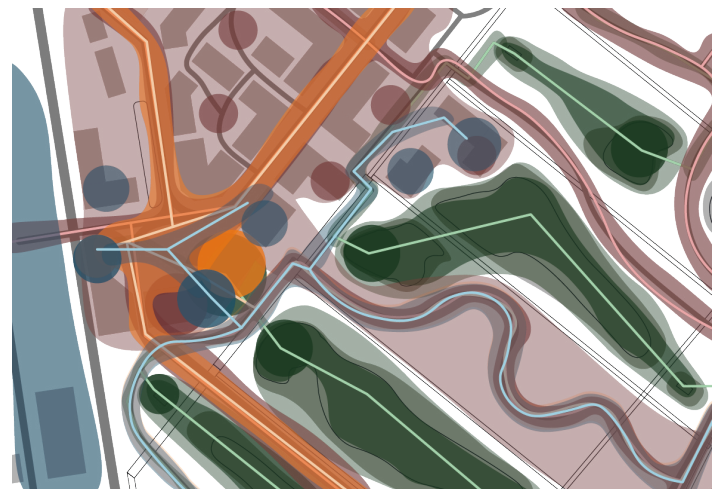
Halfway house



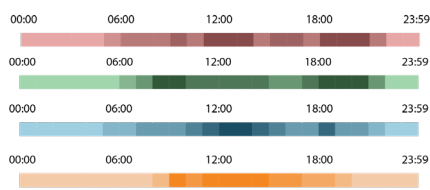
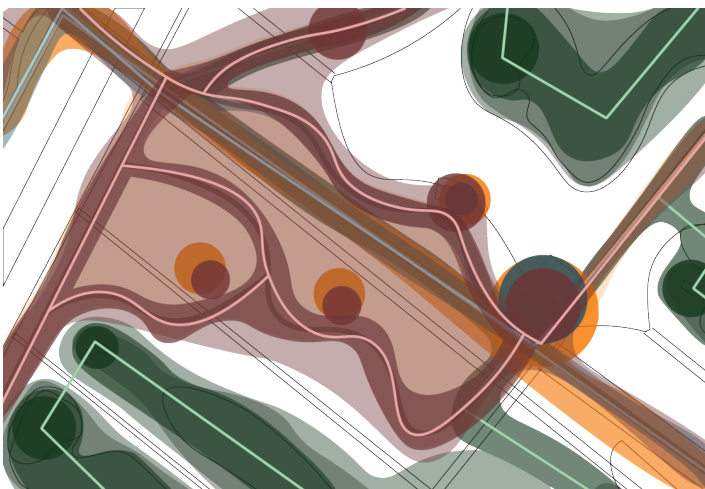
Neighbourhood edge



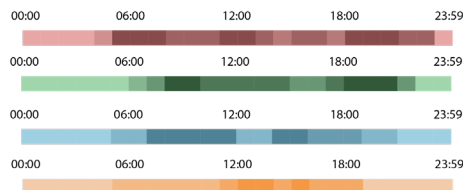
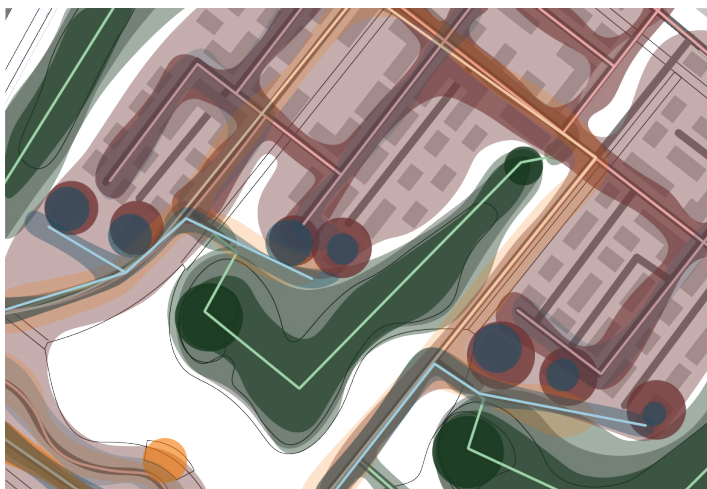
# Main Sqaure



# Halfway House



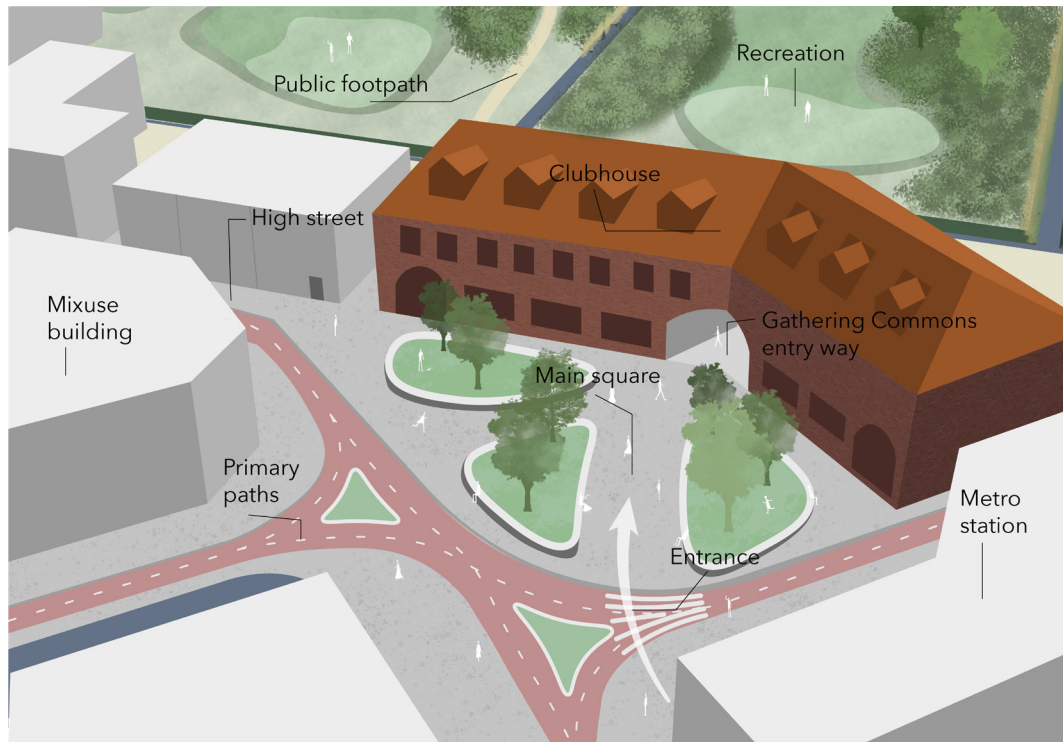
# Neighbourhood edge



# *Key Interventions*

Main Sqaure  
Halfway House  
Neighbourhood Edge  
The Lawns

# Main Square



Common ground

Starting point &  
destination

Multifunctional



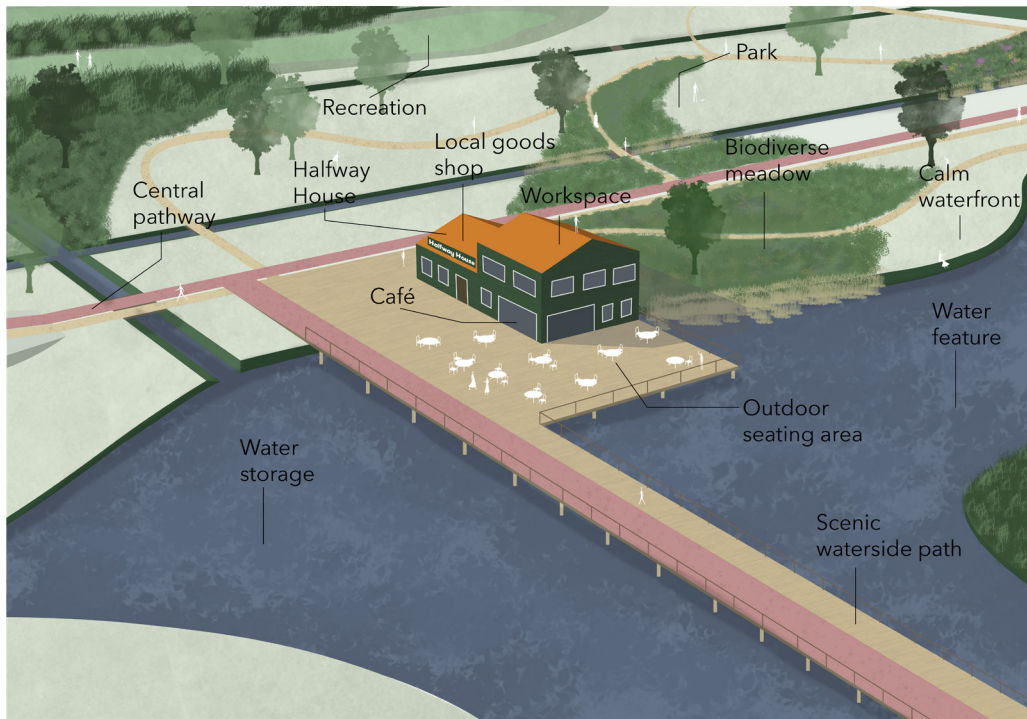
Entrance

View of what  
lies ahead

A place to land



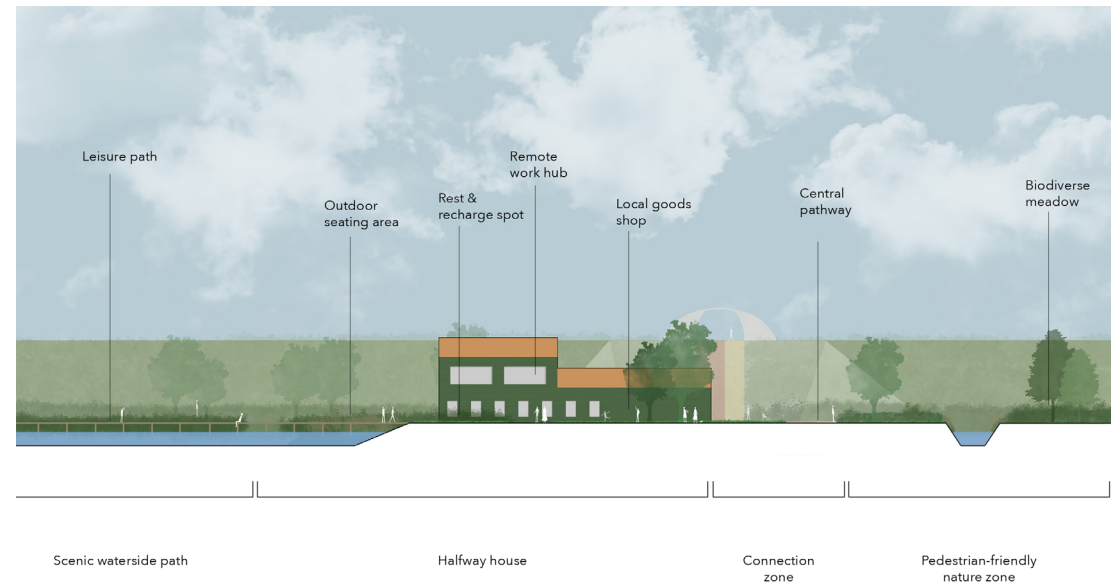
# Halfway House



Crossing of  
routes

Destination

Inviting



Native species

View of what  
lies ahead

A place to land



# *Neighbourhood Edges*





# *The Lawns*



# *Golf as a third place*



COMMON  
GROUND

GATHERING

SOCIALIZING



SURROUNDED  
BY OTHERS

SHARING  
INTERESTS

NATURAL  
SURROUNDINGS



SPORTS

