Advisory Group Journey – Meeting Summaries from January and February 2022

Meeting 1 – Walkshop (January 13, 2022)

This meeting was delayed because of harsh winter weather and high COVID numbers in the community. Once the group was able to meet up, they participated in a walk along the Annex Park Trail. The walkshop provided an opportunity for members of the group to spatialize potential wellness station locations along the trail and to reflect on the spaces along the trail that evoked feelings of wellbeing.

In conjunction with the walkshop, the group completed a survey, a few quotes from this survey are shared below:

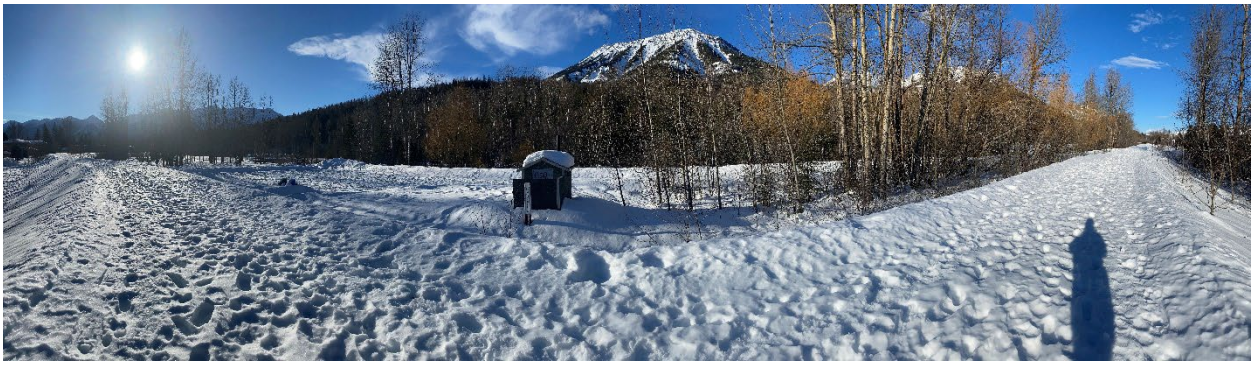
"In these complicated times because of Covid, I would like it to be a unifying project where the entire population of Fernie (regardless of age, fitness, culture...) feels good and wants to visit the annex park. And I want to encourage people to be outside as much as the can."

"I'm all about 'animating' the trail without making it gaudy. People experience the dyke trail for nature. Anything must fit and collaborate with Fernie's authenticity - history, culture, arts, nature, wellness in relation our environment, storytelling, our people/community."

"The Annex Park is a valued recreational park in Fernie. Naturalization protecting and restoring native species could improve the habitat quality of the park."







Meeting 2 – Advisory Group Meeting (January 20, 2022)

Fresh with ideas from the walkshop, the January 20th meeting was focused on the objective of defining wellness beyond the physical and expanding that definition to account for all members of the Fernie community.



The meeting started with a presentation from the City– the intent of this presentation was to provide the group with more clarity around the overlap that exists between the Annex Park suite of projects and what the specific priorities for the Advisory Group should be with regards to the wellness stations.

From there, the group evaluated the primary themes that were starting to take shape.

From these primary themes, the group participated in an exercise that explored these preliminary concepts from multiple perspectives (their own and an assigned perspective outside of their own experience).

While many expressions of wellness were discussed, a few themes are identified below:

- *Embracing a child's inherent curiosity and natural love of learning should be reflected in the wellness stations. For children, these stations should be fun, interactive, and inclusive. Ideas such as scavenger hunts, natural parkour, games, and interactive educational prompts were noted here.*
- *The wellness stations provide an opportunity to educate and share stories – stories that speak to the need to raise the dike (climate change), ecology, history/culture, and the river were highlighted.*
- *A demographically inclusive trail was noted as being a "must have" by all AG members – separation of users, seasonal maintenance of pathway, accessible design, and stations that incorporate elements that allow everybody to participate are key here.*
- *Connection to neighbours and community was desired by all AG members (especially as the community feels the impact of isolation during COVID-19). The wellness stations should be welcoming and provide opportunities for all generations of the community to gather.*
- *While specific locations were not discussed at this meeting, locations should align with the natural beauty that exists within and surrounds the town.*

Meeting 3 – Advisory Group Meeting (February 3, 2022)

As the group met on February 3rd, a more refined "Big Ideas Board" was reviewed (see below) and the discussion started to move from the high-level concept of wellness into a more tangible first cut at locations and physical expressions,

During the meeting, the group discussed the reality of snowfall in the community and the ability for the City to undertake maintenance along the pathway and in the proximity to the wellness stations. The City spoke to what other "winter communities" are doing with regards to plowing snow and there will be grooming of the trail to allow x-country skiers, walkers, and fat bikes to use the trails in the winter.

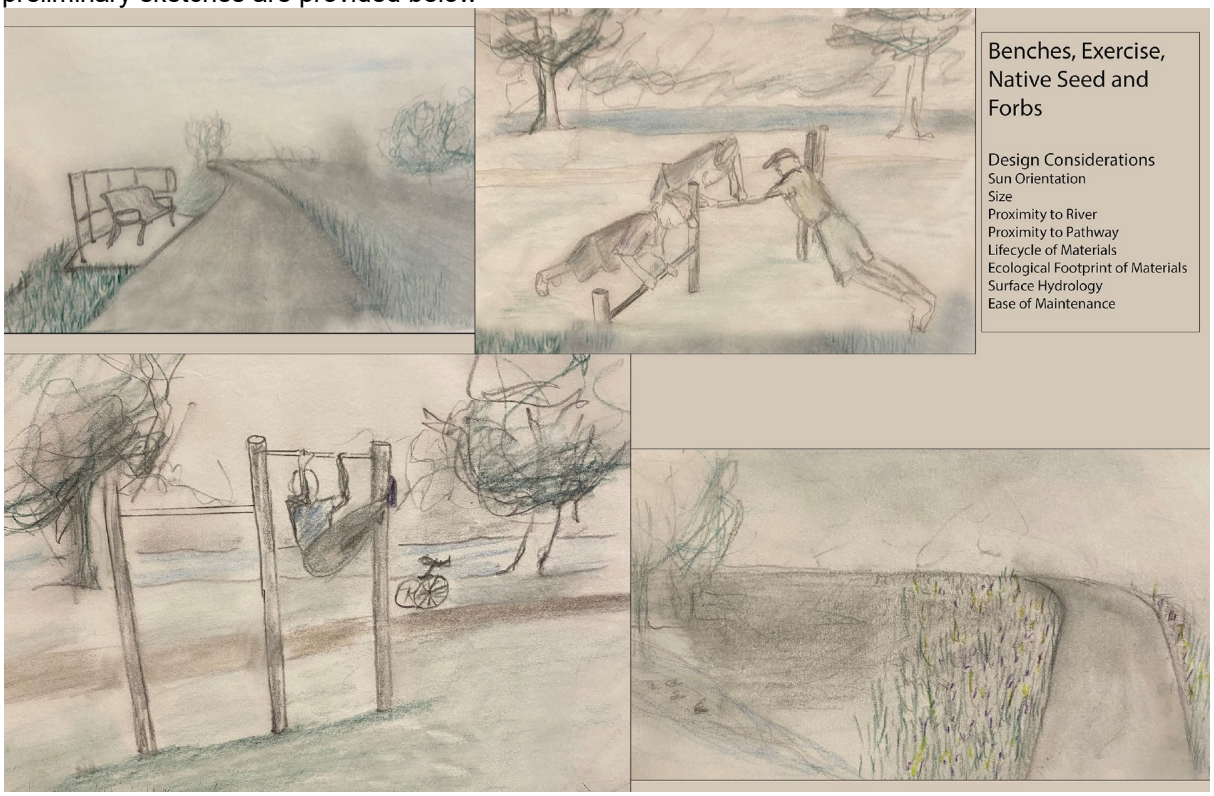
The group completed an exercise of plotting locations and physical expressions on a map. A screenshot of this exercise is presented below. Items noted in the "Parking Lot" were set aside for discussion at the subsequent meeting.



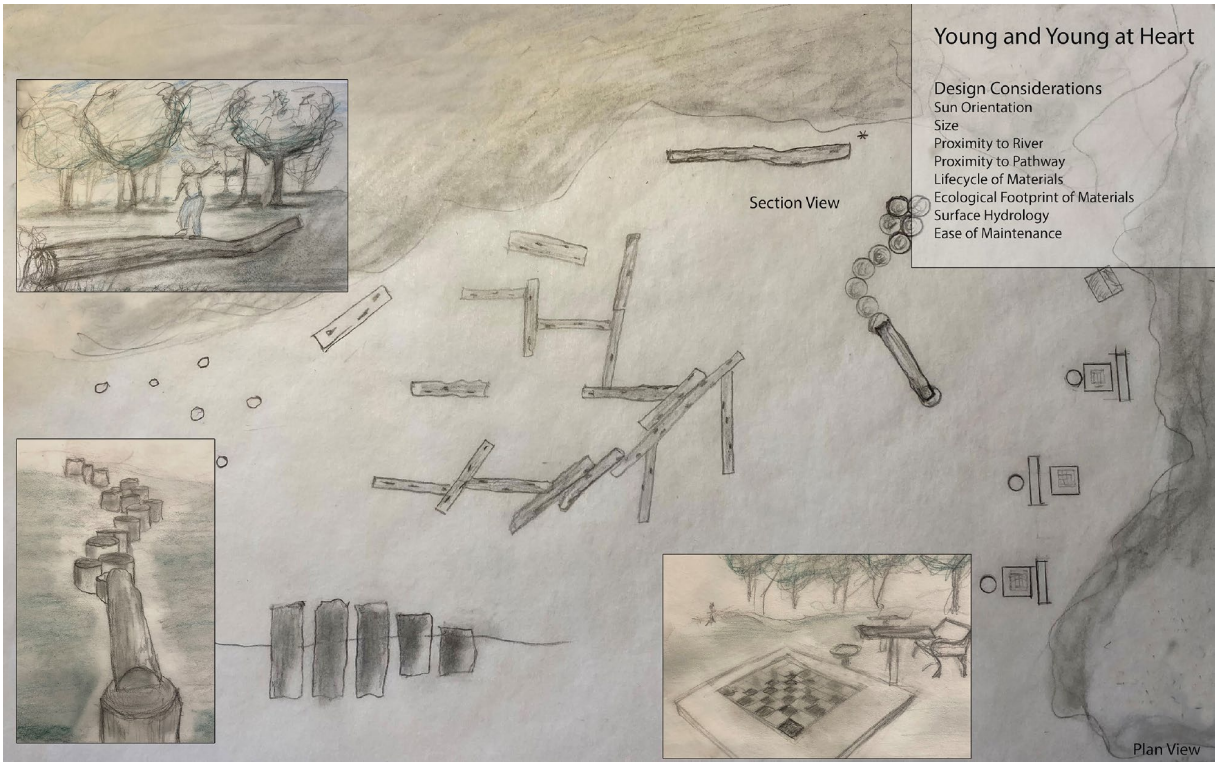


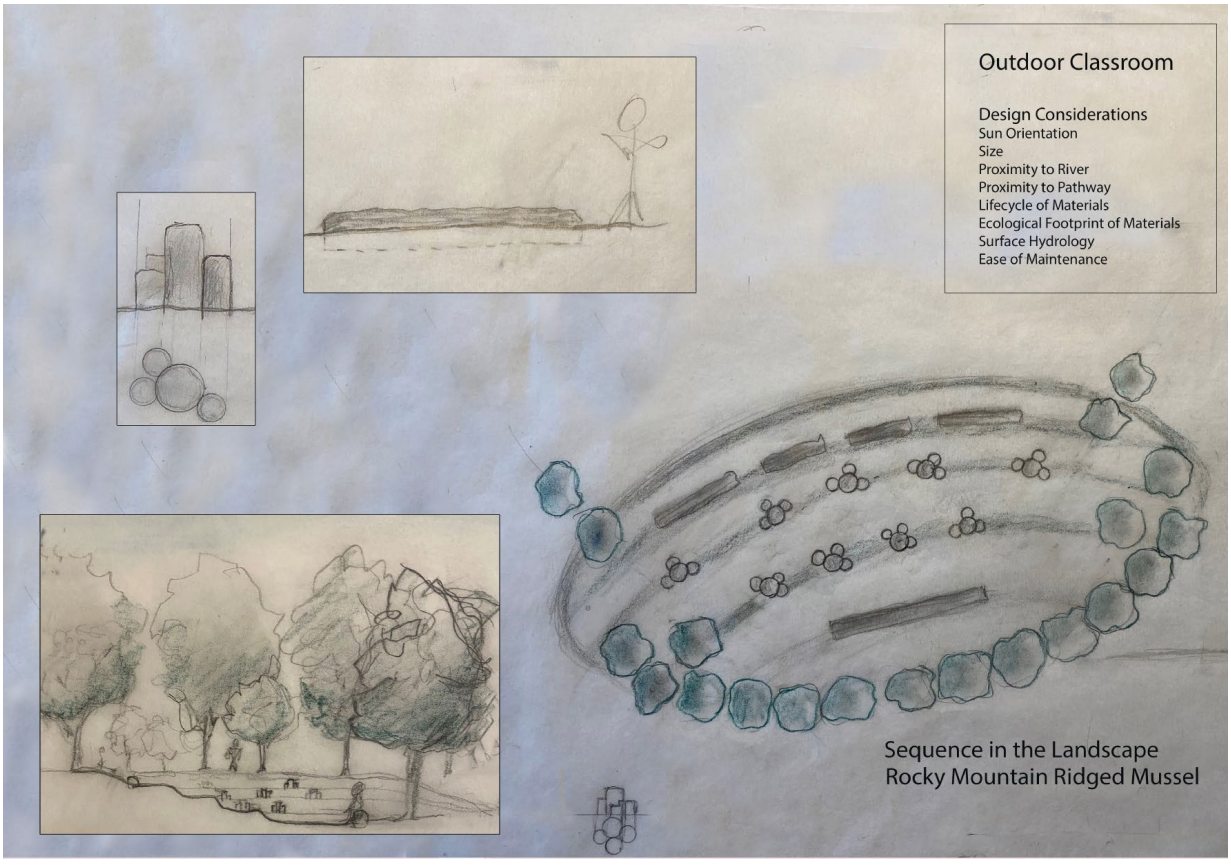
Meeting 4 – Advisory Group Meeting (February 17, 2022):

This meeting included discussion and review of timelines, budget, and preliminary concept sketches. At this stage, the group has proposed four distinct wellness stations: 1) fitness trail/equipment (physical focus); 2) young meeting the old/conversation station (mental focus); 3) labyrinth/yoga zone (emotional focus); and 4) outdoor classroom/parkour area (family focus). In addition to the four stations, there will be elements that fall along the trail such as plantings, signage, and benches (experiential focus). Some preliminary sketches are provided below






Young and Young at Heart
Design Considerations
Sun Orientation
Size
Proximity to River
Proximity to Pathway
Lifecycle of Materials
Ecological Footprint of Materials
Surface Hydrology
Ease of Maintenance
Section View
Plan View


Outdoor Classroom
Design Considerations
Sun Orientation
Size
Proximity to River
Proximity to Pathway
Lifecycle of Materials
Ecological Footprint of Materials
Surface Hydrology
Ease of Maintenance
Sequence in the Landscape
Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel

Next Steps:

The March 3 Advisory Group Meeting will be open to the broader public to attend virtually. While public feedback will not be accepted during the meeting, a guest book has been added to the Let's Talk Fernie project page for anyone who wishes to provide feedback on the preliminary concepts for the proposed wellness stations.