

Creating Public Spaces in Tan Mai Ward, Hanoi





Promoting environment-friendly livable cities in Vietnam. We envision healthy, happy people living in cities with lots of fun and safe public spaces where people feel attached to their neighbourhoods and neighbours. We envision cities where people can walk and cycle easily with accessible public transit. We envision cities where people will have healthy and nutritious food. And we envision neighbourhoods that are designed to honour our traditional culture of daily life.

Tan Mai Ward

Tan Mai ward had a significant lack of functional public spaces, which prevented residents from fully participating in community life. Tan Mai ward is located in the Hoang Mai district, which is a lower-income area in the fast urbanizing city of Hanoi. Tan Mai ward double the city average of migrants from other provinces throughout Vietnam and has higher levels of poverty and informal workers. Local residents of the ward, especially women, children, elderly and people with disabilities, need public spaces to support their physical and mental health and active lifestyles.

Unfortunately, the ward lacked these spaces. There were neither parks nor public gardens in the ward and although there were several existing playgrounds in the ward, all of them were degraded. Nevertheless, Tan Mai ward has a dozen of land sites that could become quality public spaces with minimal effort and only small amount of investment. We worked intensively in Tan Mail Ward to demonstrate how a variety of small interventions can create better quality public spaces.





Activities

In order to create great public spaces, we used community engagement, capacity building and infrastructure change strategies to achieve our objectives.

Activities included:

- Four Minecraft workshops with 93 community members participating, which included 38 women, 24 children and youth, 55 adult men and 56 elderly. Residents used the program to develop five designs for the park improvements.
- Four validation meetings with approx. 60 local residents where the designs were reviewed and changes made to further reflect the needs from the community.
- Five public spaces improved. Organized a series of programs that allowed the community to participate in the building of the spaces.
- In total, 102 local residents participated in the construction and they contributed 2096 hours towards improving their community. Residents also contributed trees and other in-kind contributions worth more than 4,000,000 VND (~\$200 USD).



Infrastructure Changes

SITE #1: COMMUNITY GARDEN

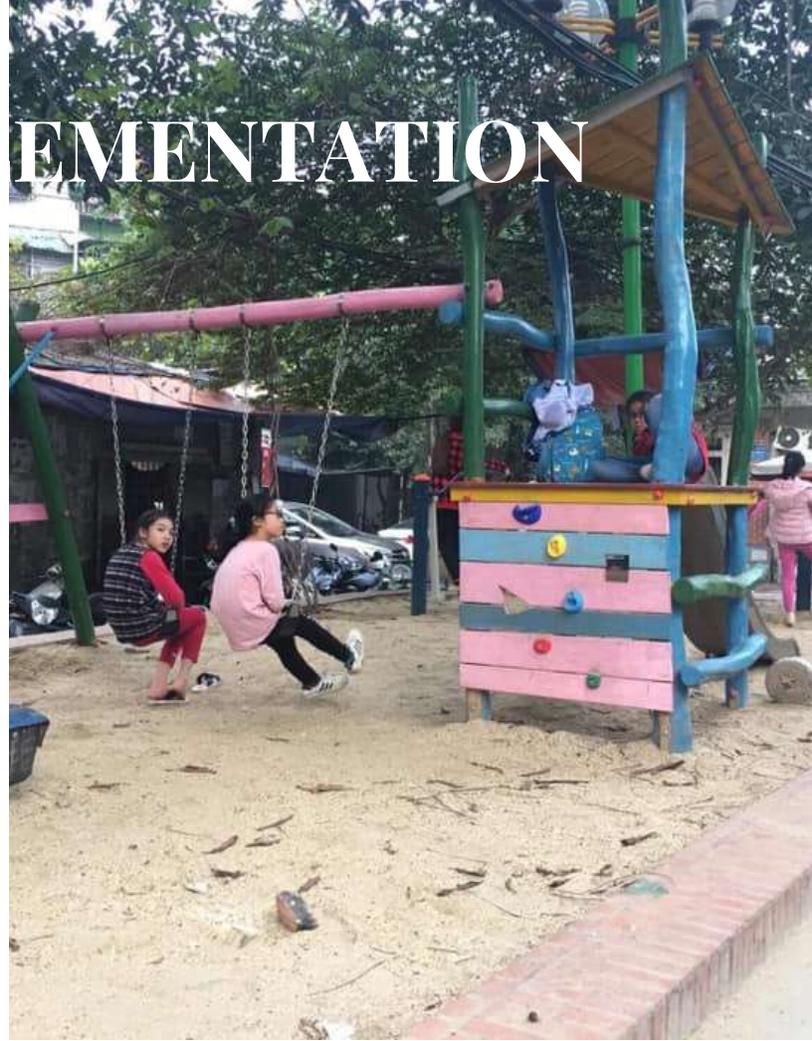


On a bank of Tan Mai lake there is small community space next to a cluster of about ten migrant households. We worked with residents and the local women's union to create a community garden in this space and provided training to local women on gardening. We also installed some seats and exercising and playing equipment next to the garden so that local women in the surrounding area can gather to chat, garden, and exercise while their children are playing. This is helping the migrant women to integrate into the community while improving the environment and promoting social interaction in the community. The improvement received the ASHUI Joint Effort Project 2019 award.

CONSTRUCTION



AFTER IMPLEMENTATION



SITE #2: INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND



In Tan Mai ward, there is a class for children with disabilities of Hoang Mai district community house. It has been very difficult for the children living with disabilities to visit the playground that is located 100 metres from the school because the pedestrian infrastructure surrounding the park is poor and inaccessible. In addition, once the children arrived there was no equipment and facilities suitable for them to play. The local Government created a walking path of 100m that leads from the class to the playground and we redesigned the playground to make it easy and accessible for the children with disability to visit and play. We added disability-specific rehabilitation equipment, which helps to reduce the severity of intellectual disabilities. This has increased opportunities for children with disabilities to integrate with other children in the community.

CONSTRUCTION



AFTER IMPLEMENTATION



SITE #3: PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION

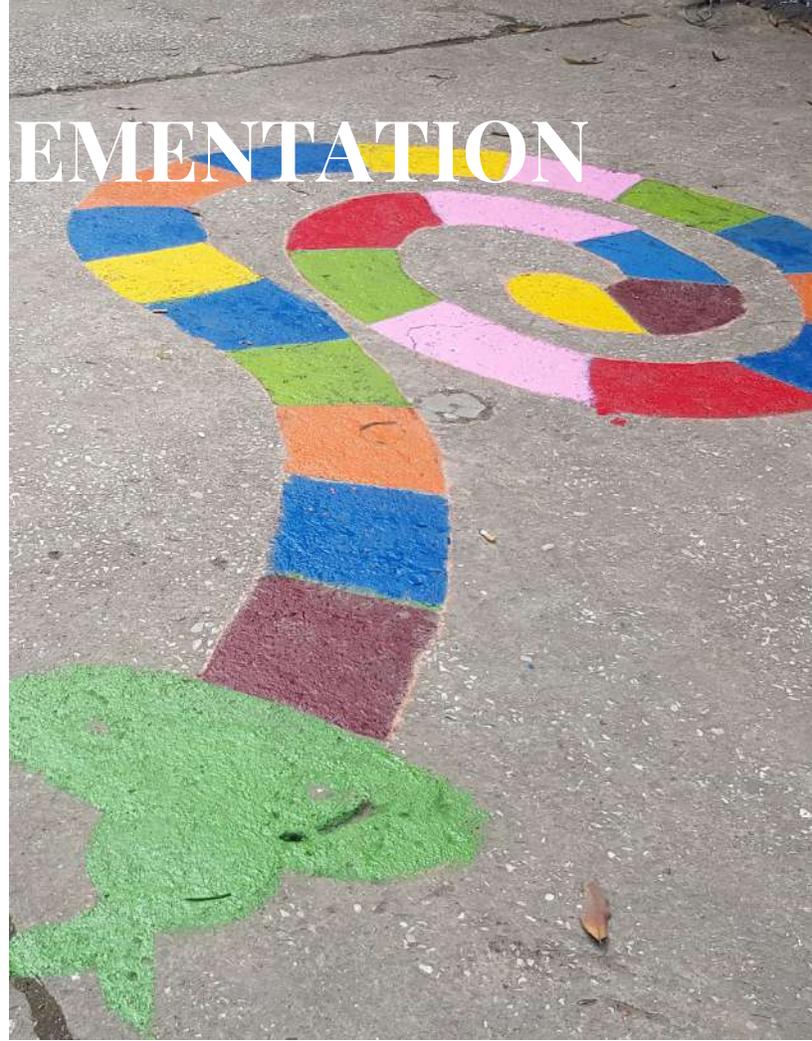


There was a degraded community space in a residential area that housed a large number of retired people and lower-income residents. The community yard was old and boring with almost no activity except motorbike parking. We worked with local residents and authorities to enrich the space by removing the motorbike parking and adding public art and seating. The community also contributed by painting on the gate and drawing games on the yard. This has made the space a more vital and loved space by local residents.

CONSTRUCTION



AFTER IMPLEMENTATION



TỔ BAN PHƯỜNG 4
THÔNG BÁO
KẾT QUẢ CỦA HOẠT ĐỘNG
LÀ ĐỂ TUYÊN ĐƯƠNG VÀO ANH HÙNG THỜI ĐẠI
THỜI HÒA BÌNH VÀO ĐOÀN ANH HÙNG
(Hàng tháng 1 lần)
CẢM ƠN CÁC SAU 150
ĐIỂM TUYÊN ĐƯƠNG
NEU CUA BINH ANH HÙNG
PHẠT 200.000
TRƯỜNG CHỈ NGƯỜI PHẠT ĐIỂM 10%
CÔNG 10% KINH DUY TỐ

SITE #4: PLAYGROUND AND SPORTS



In Area 11, Tan Mai ward, there was a large dumping site of more than 1000 m² with a lot of construction waste. There were signs that some surrounding families were occupying a part of the site for their private use. Meanwhile, over 2,000 residents with 300 children under the age of 15 in the community were in need of public spaces for physical activities and social interaction. We established a partnership with a local NGO, Live and Learn Education Center, to work with local authorities and the community to turn the dumping site into a multi-functional public space with a mini football field, a community garden, a badminton field and a small playground.

CONSTRUCTION



AFTER IMPLEMENTATION



SITE #5: PARKLET



The local authorities of Tan Mai ward recently filled a drainage sewer of about 80 meter long to prevent bad smells from the sewer. Right after the filling, this area became occupied for motorbikes and car parking. There were complaints from residents living in the surrounding area because this street has become unsafe as a result of the increased traffic. We worked with local residents by blocking this area from motorized vehicles and turned it into a parklet with seating and trees. The community was very excited with the concept and actively participated in the designing process, growing trees, painting the benches. The street parklet concept is quite new in Hanoi and this project is a great example for other districts in the city.

CONSTRUCTION



AFTER IMPLEMENTATION





Our Results

As a result of adding the play spaces, we have now created a series of public spaces in Tan Mai that allow local residents now have five safe, comfortable, attractive places to rest, socialize, play and enjoy. Of particular importance is that we now have over 1000 users to the sites each day.

In addition to the changes we made, the city government contributed \$89,579 to the project including venues and logistic costs for community meetings, official working hours and improvement of infrastructure, which included sidewalks and drainage systems.

Because city officials participated in every step of the project, they have a much better understanding of the participatory approach to developing public spaces and more skills to create inclusive public spaces for all. This has also helped encourage the government to improve other public spaces in the community and in 2020 they will work on redeveloping a street market in the ward with the help of HealthBridge, UN-Habitat, and Think Playgrounds.

The project was successful in introducing initiatives to improve community spaces, demonstrating how a variety of small and low-cost interventions can create better quality public spaces in Hanoi. A strong collaboration between HealthBridge, the local government, partners, and active participation of the community were the key for the success.

