

7th Street Linear Micro Park





Promoting environment-friendly livable cities in Kampala. The health of the Ugandan population is greatly affected by the state of its urban areas. As Uganda tries to tackle major problems such as climate change, non-communicable diseases, road safety, water pollution, noise pollution and air pollution, ensuring cities are livable is critically important.



7th Street Linear Micro Park

There is a lack of green and open space in Kampala and unfortunately adding more spaces is proving challenging in the city. The open green space located along 8th and 7th streets in Namuwongo, however, provided us with a unique opportunity to add a linear micro park to the city. The space – about one kilometer from the city centre – is located along the railway line and is owned by the Uganda Railways Corporation but maintained by Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). It was a space that was largely unkept, but is regularly used by thousands of people both to access the city centre and to begin their walk back to their homes after work.

The space is surrounded by factories and offices and is close to Kibuli, an old neighbourhood inhabited mostly by low income residents. The space had the potential to become a place to rest, socialize, and buy from local vendors before beginning the walk back to their homes.

Through Advocates for Public Spaces' (APS) expertise in redesigning spaces and engaging the community, KCCA agreed to rehabilitate this space to make it more appealing to local workers and residents. The emphasis of the redesign was to add practical elements to the park to ensure its regular usage, rather than solely on beautification.



BEFORE INTERVENTION



Prior to our project, the site lacked lights and paved paths, was full of garbage, and had many plants and bushes that were unkept. Our focus was to make the area safe, especially for children and women. We focused on clearing the bushes, planting grass and trees for shade, installing paths through and around the space, and adding concrete seats that would make it attractive to use.



The project followed a participatory approach by involving local residents from the beginning.

Community engagement, capacity building and infrastructure change strategies were used to achieve our objectives.

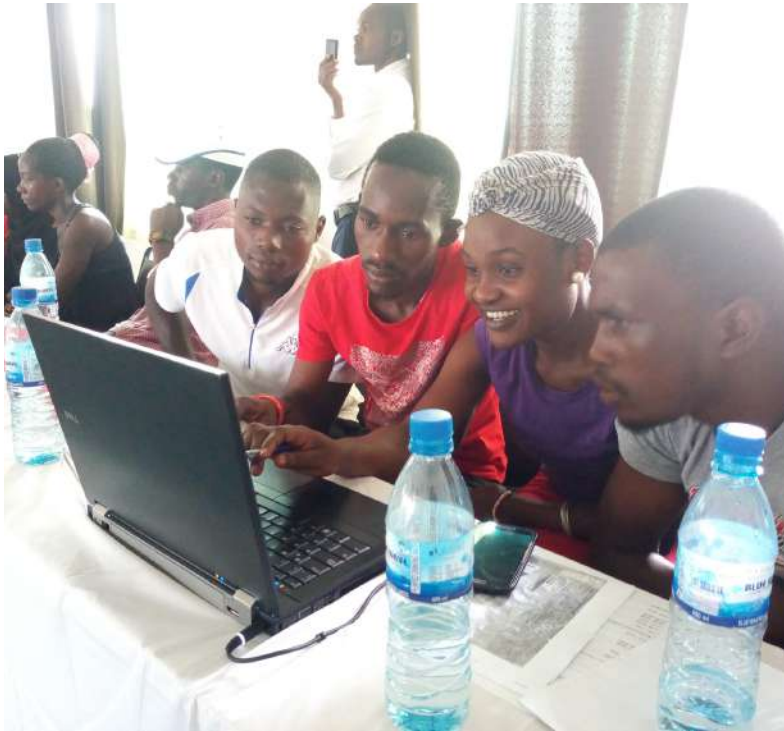
Activities included:

·1 Minecraft workshop with 26 members of the community participating including 15 men and 11 women . At the Minecraft workshop the residents used the program to develop the designs for the park improvements. The participants suggested paving walkways, planting trees, grass and flowers, creating zebra crossing points, street lights, covered gutters at drainage crossing points, and cleaning of the railway line



5 meetings were held with local leaders, Parish representatives, and local vendors participating. The purpose of many of these meetings was to create an understanding among the community about the importance of public space and the overall project. Community leaders and the local vendors who use the space were involved in supporting the changes to the site. KCCA, APS, and the contractor were on site to answer questions from the community.

In total we made 5 improvements and organized one major event for the community to participate in the changes to the park. In total 18 volunteers contributed 60 hours of volunteer time to the project.



Minecraft was used to design the linear micro park improvements.



Engagement and great design ideas happened at the Minecraft Workshop.



Infrastructure Changes



- 1 paved walkway
- 10 concrete seats built
- 104 plants
- 30 trees planted
- 1 wall painted
- 2 vendor areas

Infrastructure Changes



1 PAVED PATH



2 VENDOR AREAS



104 PLANTS



10 BENCHES



1 PAINTED WALL AND 30 TREES PLANTED





Our Results

The seats attracted people as soon as they were built and results show that people are now staying in the park to relax and socialize. As anticipated in the design of the project, the seats are fully occupied in the evening by people waiting for others before beginning to walk back to their homes after work. Workers from the nearby offices and workshops use the seats when having their lunch bought from the food vendors in the open space. Other people, especially the youth and children, use the seats to meet friends and socialize during day. The majority of people who use the improved micro-park are pedestrians of both sexes, youth and children – walking to and from

the city centre and are mostly low income urban residents that cannot afford public transport. The paved walkway is now wide enough to accommodate the thousands of pedestrians who walk through the micro-park and has helped to channel pedestrians through an organized walkway.

The city authorities have committed to maintain the space and have been very supportive of the project throughout all phases. They agreed to create the final design, supervised the contractor, and agreed to maintain the site into the future.

Users of space

Before Intervention

After Intervention

of people walking through
 # of people staying in space
 # of low income people total

4853
 34
 4887

4853
 246
 5099



