**The Community Park**

mediating the intermediate through a people's place

The Community Park entails the creation of new public open and green spaces, prioritising the community and physical activity. Its location in Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq possesses the potential to increase the connection between the residential zone and the sea-coast interface; a connection currently forgotten due to contemporary man-made impositions. Today, we find ourselves in a battle of connection and separation; initiating from the re-design and expansion of the main vehicular road – the Coast Road - affecting both physical and visual connections.

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Giving such a space back to the people may lead to a more successful coastal town - a place for both residents and visitors. Therefore, the Community Park aims to achieve this overall aim through seven dependent objectives: rerouting traffic to an underground vehicular traffic; introducing a new vehicular ring road around the residential town; pedestrian priority local streets with green corridors connecting to the public open space; new links, paths, and connections across the new Community Park; improving community facilities; bettering the community well-being by introducing new outdoor sports and recreational area; improving the green character of town through an addition of local vegetation and green open spaces used leisurely or to walk through.

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The Community Park is presented as a series of six pockets of space, each with its own characteristics and uses, yet all coming together to form one cohesive place for all. With the *Rapid Route* allocated below ground to cater for the heavy vehicular movement expected in an arterial road, the ground level is left to be enjoyed as a car-free, pedestrianised space. The *Local Passages* lead visitors from the quiet residential zone to the coastal activity hub, whilst the *Central Trail* allows them to walk around the Community Park through a direct loop – linking together different spaces of activities. One of the stops within the park is the *Urban Meadow*, used as an informal picnic leisure spot – designed with high vegetation for shading and low grass for seating. The more formal areas are presented as the *Recreational Field* – a large, low grass, outdoor sports area – and the *Community House* – an indoor community gathering space.