

Chinguacousy Park Skating Trail

City of Brampton / NAK Design Strategies / Baldwin & Franklin Architects
9030 Bramalea Road, Brampton, Ontario

New Landscape, Small Landscape



Since 1974, Chinguacousy Park has evolved as an eastern gateway to Brampton's Central Business District. The exciting redevelopment of the Chinguacousy Park Skating Trail and Reflecting Fountain feature adds to the significance of the Park, thereby enhancing the vibrancy of the local community and the City.

The design vision evolved as an extension of the existing park valley, ponds, heritage gardens and tea house while strengthening the north-south link between existing park activities and Queen Street. Critical to the design vision was the recognition of water as a dominant component, and its integral role in the year-round use of the new park feature.

The relationship to the existing park and heritage garden to the west was enhanced, extended and softened. Nestled into the existing topography, the new park building draws the realm of the heritage garden eastward. The setting of the building embraces the skate trail and water feature while creating a physical and visual backdrop to the new facility, simultaneously providing a respectful separation from the activities of the athletic fields to the east, and enhancing the streetscape views along Queen Street.

Chinguacousy skating trail breaks from the traditional unidirectional circuit skater mentality, by utilizing a multidirectional and irregular 'canal' style trail with enlarged areas and irregularities throughout. This design accommodates novice and specialized skaters, without impeding traditional straight line skaters, therein providing healthy exercise opportunities for skaters of all ages and skill levels.

Consideration for summertime uses further informed the facility design to create a friendly venue for both large community gatherings and performances as well as opportunities for contemplative respite. The summertime feature is a 2000 square meter, shallow reflecting fountain with an array of playful water displays along the edges. The inclusion of amphitheatre seating, lighting and sculptural shade opportunities serve to augment year-round planned and informal festivities.