

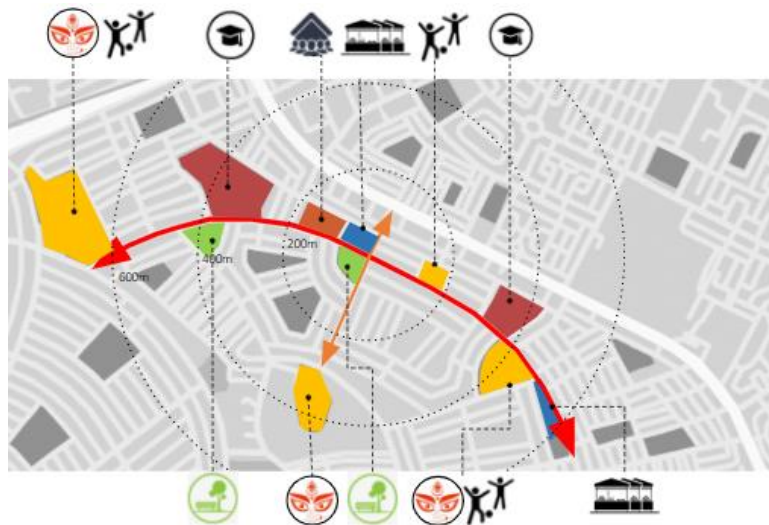
Concept note

Celebrating the essence of the neighbourhood through every day public spaces

Chittaranjan Park (CR Park) of New Delhi which has started as a refugee colony for people displaced from East Bengal has evolved into a close-knit cosmopolitan neighbourhood at present. Their everyday public spaces like markets, temples, tea-joints, parks etc. have evolved into a thriving hub with food, festivals and a lot more. These are the true symbol of their identity as a community.

The Bipin Chandra Pal Marg (BCP Marg) is a very important thread holding together most of its public spaces and institutional buildings. Starting from Udai Shankar Park to Mela ground and Market -2. Our design ideas have evolved around this concept where we looked at the BCP Marg as a spine of the CR park community. We have identified various Public nodes which forms a cluster of many public spaces & varied activities. The public node at Market-1 (Site-A) is an everyday public space of community as it has the market, fish market, eateries, sweet shops and park.

Adjoining it has community institutions like Deshbandhu Chittaranjan memorial Society and Chittaranjan Park Banjiya Samajh. People come here to shop, meet, interact, play and celebrate



together which acts as an essential backdrop of everyday celebration of life and community engagements.

Thus our design proposals aim at enhancing these public spaces by placemaking which would enrich the character & identity of these spaces of the community. This can be done by proposing temporary and permanent placemaking interventions by following the step by step scenarios.

Scenario-1: Minimum and Temporal interventions

Temporary public space on temporary occasions

This scenario is proposed in such a way that it can be implemented with minimal interventions and investment. Public spaces are best experienced when they are car-free and can hosts more activities and provide opportunities for interaction. We propose to temporarily close some parts of the BCP Marg for cars and open that space for pedestrian use and public activities on weekends and holidays by just putting temporary barricades. This will give people an opportunity to use this space on road for various activities and events with the trial for traffic reroute feasibility as well.

Along with this immediate interventions, we can start relooking at is the market area as it plays an important role at this public node. We propose to bring in the essence of Bengal here through various design elements like arcades, typical Bengali colours like red and white, windows styles & details, trams etc. The refurbishment of the market's building façade and by redesigning its edges will transform this public plaza giving a Temporary use of place and identity. More interactive edges of the market and park with organized zones for informal vendors will support the functional transformation in the minimum intervention.

We propose few permanent interventions to support the temporary activities like, signage, points on lamp posts to accommodate event lighting, QR Code on floors/walls for finding places & cuisine in the market, space designated for foldable stalls for a weekend flea market or festivals & seating spaces designed to accommodate different activities from eating food, reading newspaper and



- Temporary/ Weekend pedestrianisation
- Temporary/ Weekend traffic re-route

Scenario-2 Broadening of the public realm for pedestrians

Permanent public space for temporary and permanent occasions

This scenario is a next step towards reclaiming public realm to its optimum use. We propose to build permanent pedestrian plaza which will be already tried and tested in scenario-1 by closing some parts of the road for vehicular use & opening it for pedestrians. Thus the temporary node which is created at Market-1 can be designed as a pedestrian public plaza connecting the market area with the park, thus opening up a huge public space. This will establish the important public node along the BCP Marg.

As we design this node we also propose to have an underground public pay and park facility under the newly constructed plaza between the market & the park without affecting market building or large trees growing in the park.

The redesign of the park with more porous edges of the park will create interactive green spaces which will complement the everyday activities and interactions. This huge plaza can accommodate weekly markets, flea markets, local entrepreneur initiatives & community events promoting the culture of the space.

Once such many permanent public nodes are established along the BCP Marg, then we can think & experiment on the possibility of pedestrianizing the entire BCP marg. This will widen the opportunities of a pedestrian spine connecting large public nodes and creating spaces which are safe, vibrant and inclusive of many activities like food trails, cultural trails, heritage walks, food festivals, cultural festivals, sports, cycle or segway tours which will widen the community interaction with other citizens and travellers.

Along with this, we are also redesigning the fish market which is widely used by the people. The complete redesign is proposed as it facing major problems regarding the roofing system, flooring, iron supports, storage space & circulation space which be functional for the market shop owners and visitors.

Scenario-3 Reclaiming BCP Marg as a public spine signifying image of CR Park community

Permanent public space for permanent occasions

The Pedestrianization of entire BCP mark is an optimistic scenario and through step by step interventions and making permanent spaces based on learnings of temporary trials and community participation it is possible.

These are the proposed steps of pedestrianization

1. Temporary pedestrianization in few parts along the road, improve edge conditions for more interactions and visibility.
2. Permanent pedestrianization and transformation of places where step-1 is successfully working + temporary pedestrianization of full BCP Marg to check the traffic reroute feasibility and community response on weekends. (i.e. scenario2)

3. Establishing Public Nodes + Full BCP Marg Permeant pedestrianization + redesign adjoining public spaces and design parking.

In conclusion, our proposal is actually a process with possibilities and opportunities to involve the community. We believe that the community participation in the design process will create more humane and vibrant public spaces which people respect and celebrate as a part of their identity of togetherness.

Thank you.

Unique Identification Number is CRPRE059.