

# Kingston Park Pavilion

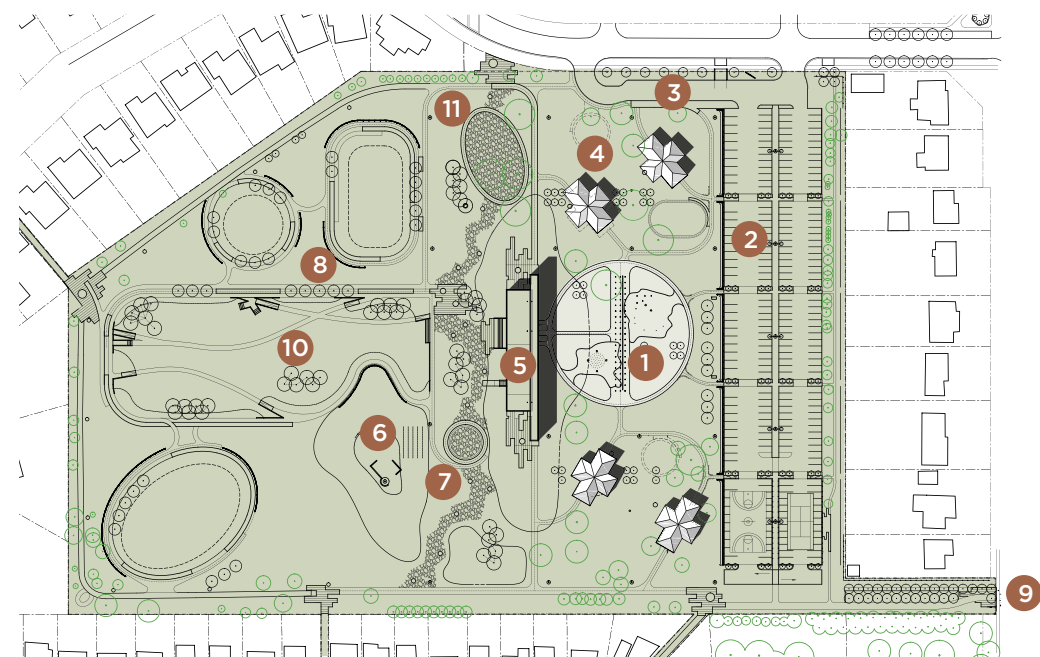
## Showcasing Salvaged Local Wood

With over 10 million trees in Toronto alone, GTA residents are fortunate to live in a thriving and mature urban forest that cleans our air, beautifies our streets and provides countless ecological and social benefits. While the urban forest is not threatened by fire or large-scale logging, it is currently being attacked by invasive species similar to the Mountain Pine Beetle, which recently devastated the forests of the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia.

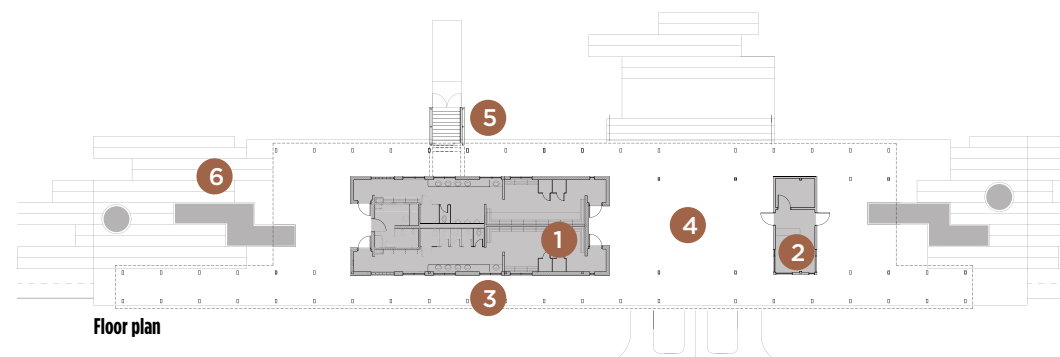
By Geoffrey Gibson

### PROJECT TEAM

**CLIENT** Municipality of Chatham-Kent **ARCHITECTURE AND PARK/SITE DESIGN** Brown + Storey Architects Inc. Office for Responsive Environments **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT** Scott Torrance Landscape Architect Inc.  
**WATER FEATURE DESIGN** Dan Euser Waterarchitecture **STRUCTURAL ENGINEER** Y. C. Liu Engineering **MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL** Vanderwesten Rutherford Mantecon **CIVIL ENGINEERING** Thames Valley Engineering  
**GENERAL CONTRACTORS** Phase 1 Site Services: Clark Drainage Limited, Phase 2 Pavilions + Landscape: Intrepid General Limited



- 1 Washroom building
- 2 Park office
- 3 Loggia
- 4 Common covered space
- 5 Stairs to basement
- 6 Garden terrace



USING SALVAGED ASH WAS CENTRAL TO THE KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW PAVILION, WHICH ARCHITECT KIM STOREY DESCRIBED AS "TO TURN AROUND THE STANDARD UTILITARIAN IMAGE OF THE 'CONCRETE BLOCK FIELD HOUSES' [1]. WEST ELEVATION OF THE PAVILION [2]. THE WATER PLAY AREA MAKES KINGSTON PARK A POPULAR COMMUNITY ATTRACTION [3].

A native to Asia and Eastern Russia, the Emerald Ash Borer [EAB] was discovered in North America in 2002 and in Toronto in 2007. Attacking the bark and feeding systems of healthy Green and White Ash trees, the EAB has already killed an estimated 50 to 100 million trees in North America, and is expected to kill nearly all of the 860,000 Ash trees which line Toronto's streets, parks and backyards by 2020. This die off will have a significant impact on the urban ecosystem in the GTA, yet it provides an opportunity to incorporate local heritage into our buildings.

Ash is a very strong hardwood, ideal for use in furniture but tougher to work with as a building material than cedar, for example. However, this toughness means it is durable to both human and natural impacts and is excellent for use as siding, flooring, soffit, fascia and much more. [Continues p.24]



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THE DESIGN MIMICS THE CORN CRIBS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE CHATHAM-KENT LANDSCAPE, GIVING THE PARK A STRONGER VISUAL CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY [4].

Chatham-Kent was one of the first municipalities hit by the EAB in Ontario, and in partnership with architecture firm Brown and Storey they incorporated salvaged local ash into the redesign of the Kingston Park Pavilion, which won a Wood Works award for excellence in wood building in 2011.

Salvaged ash was central to the key objective of the new Pavilion, which architect Kim Storey described as “to turn around the standard utilitarian image of the ‘concrete block field houses’ that seem to proliferate through city parks”. Since the redesign, Kingston Park is now the most popular park in Chatham-Kent with over 1,000 visitors daily in a city of 30,000.

Deborah Veccia of the Chatham-Kent Parks Department credits the ash with giving the Pavilion a much softer design and feel than you would typically have in a municipal park. As well, the wood and design were intended to mimic the corn cribs found throughout the Chatham-Kent landscape and have given the park a stronger visual connection to its community and surroundings.

“The loss of the ash trees in Southwestern Ontario was tragic” says Storey, and in Kingston Park instead of going to Ontario’s strained landfills, this innovative approach gave the ash “a second life”. In addition, the new park pathways use recycled concrete paving slabs from old pool decks demolished in the park, upon which you can still see the yellow ‘No Running’ warnings. Storey says this also memorializes the “thousands of children’s feet ‘not running’ across the pool deck and now running across Kingston Park”.

The on-going devastation of the GTA’s Ash trees is tragic yet through salvaging and re-use, this part of our natural heritage can be saved and incorporated into buildings throughout the region to give us a stronger sense of place, to prevent our forests from going to landfill, and to bring us closer to our trees upon which we depend for a healthy and green urban environment.

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Geoffrey Gibson; Green Sector Research Coordinator,  
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