

St. Alban's Boys
and Girls Club

Vermont Square Revitalization Project Proposal



St. Alban's Youth Council 2010

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Introduction

St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club has been a staple in the community for over 60 years. The Vermont Square Park has played a major role for the kids, youth and families from our club. We, the St. Alban's Youth Council, have spent the last few months researching, brainstorming, mapping and gathering ideas about what we would like to see in the new revitalized space. We have prepared, distributed and calculated results from the St. Alban's youth through a survey. We then researched the pros and cons, cost and space needed for numerous ideas that filtered through. Finally, we have narrowed it down to four main suggestions: Basketball court, soccer posts, performance stage and gazebo.

Suggestion 1: Basketball Court or Versacourt

Basketball was by far the first choice amongst youth at our club. A place to play sports outdoors in general was a continuing theme which led to us suggesting that more space be created to play (fewer hills and trees). So we are proposing a concrete basketball court or the low maintenance "VersaCourt" as a start. The VersaCourt is a fenced (optional) basketball court that has hockey/ soccer nets built in along with volleyball, badminton nets. Lights can be added to control when the court can be in use and when it's too late for play. These courts can therefore please the interests of multiple users.

PROS

- Good for all ages
- Bring more people to the community
- Helps with programming (St. Alban's, Bill Bolton, etc.)
- No outdoor courts in the vicinity right now

- VERSACOURT: multipurpose (basketball, hockey, soccer, volleyball, badminton, four squares, shuffle board, hopscotch, etc.)

Space needed: 50 x 100 ft (max)

Estimated cost: \$25,000 – \$50,000 (VersaCourt)

Resources: Versacourt.ca
Flexcourtcanada.ca

Suggestion 2: Soccer Posts

Soccer is another common sport amongst children, youth and adults in the area, therefore, soccer posts were another suggestion we received. We are not requesting a full soccer field as this is not practical, but just some form of goal posts whether it is soccer nets or just two single posts with no crossbar.

PROS

- Good for soccer or other sports (football, lacrosse, field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, etc.)
- Serve the community (Public, St. Alban's, Bill Bolton, Soccer Teams for practice, etc.)
- Draws others from outside the community

Space needed: Whatever can be afforded (nets can be 7x12 feet or up)

Estimated Cost: \$1,000–\$2,000 each net

Resources: WorldSoccerShop

Suggestion 3: Performance Stage

This was a late suggestion but another great one for bringing the community together, which is the ultimate goal. A simple raised platform would be sufficient enough so the community can come together and have a central place to gather and perform. For instance, if members of the community wanted to put on a picnic or a BBQ or a talent show, this would be an ideal space.

PROS

- Draw the community together for events (i.e. Street Jam, Vermont Square Party, picnics, talent shows, etc.)

- Everybody can use it
- A place for performances and to showcase what the community has to offer (drama, plays, singing talent, etc.)

Space needed: Whatever can be afforded (20ft x 30ft MAX)

Estimated Cost: Lumber/cement

Resources: none

Suggestion 4: Gazebo

This was another suggestion to help provide a space for the community to gather. This too does not have to be large or fancy. It can range from a circular roofed gazebo to a bigger rectangular shaped roofed area (like Christie Pits). It was also suggested to combine the Performance stage idea with the Gazebo. For instance, building a roof over a stage/flat surface where performance could still take place as well as provide shelter for picnic tables or gatherings.

PROS

- **Good for all seasons**
- **Bring new picnic tables/create more seating area**
- **Gathering place**

Space needed: Whatever can be afforded (20ft x 30ft MAX)

Estimated Cost: Lumber for large or \$5000 small gazebo

Resources: Home Depot Canada

Additional Suggestions: Park Benches and Barbeques

Finally, there were a few other suggestions made to help improve the park and increase its potential.

- More park benches (more seating and gathering space)
- BBQ's (if permitted)
- More flowers

Conclusion

This is a great opportunity to bring the community together and we, the Youth at St. Alban's, are very excited to play a role in it! We are expressing an interest in continuing to be invested in the project's progress and to help it in any way. The Youth Council have made it clear that we are willing to come out and help with the actual renovations themselves, whether that is building benches or even creating murals. We want to be involved in maximizing the benefits of our community park!

Thank you for your consideration!

St. Alban's Boys and Girls Club Youth Council