

2.3 OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES THROUGH FOUR LANDSCAPES APPROACHES

4.2.1 AGROFRONT - Transformation of Leftovers to Public Open Space



GOAL:

The main goal of AgroFront concept is transformation of neglected Leftovers on City Edge to public open space, providing a transit zone between urban districts and agriculture fields.

FUNCTION:

The functional characteristics of AgroFront, can be regarded as a linear park that runs along the city edge and gives people the opportunity space for their needs. The park programme is flexible and correspond to existing landscape features, the particular urban situation and social demands like gardening and community activities.

ROLE ON CITY SCALE:

In the city scale the AgroFront park can be regarded as a link to Parco Agricolo Sud. Moreover, the AgroFront frame can provide a visible entrance to the large territory of Parco Sud open spaces, which today have no clear borders or access gates.

ENVIROMENTAL VALUE:

From the enviromental perspective, the AgroFront is a recovering project, that takes the abandoned and often damaged lands and find new ways of use for them.



Fig. 4.2.1 Agrofront Strategy

4.2.2 WATER ROUTES - Integration of Canals to the Public Open Space Network



GOAL:

The main goal of Water Routes concept is to give the citezens the possibility to explore the landscape potential of water elements in the South peripheral area of Milan.

FUNCTION:

The functional characteristics of Water Routes, can be regarded as a slowmobility network that provides access to large territory of Parco Agricolo Sub. It is also a recreation place, where people can enjoy the woods and natural landscape not going to far from the city.

ROLE ON CITY SCALE:

In the city scale the Water Routes can be regarded as a linking element that not only increase access, but also helps to "read" the surfaces. It connects strategic sites and places with high historical value.

ENVIROMENTAL VALUE:

From the enviromental perspective, the Water Routes are a part of the larger ecological network- the water valleys. Those green corridors starts north lakes of Como and Maggiore and go through Lombardy to the south dirrection. Empisying the sequence in the local scale the project can help to maintain the larger scale processes of flora and fauna existence.



Fig. 4.2.2 Water Routes Strategy

4.2.5- Landscape Strategies

In this chapter I present four landscape strategies for open space recovering, which based on information gained from the analytic part (follow the part 3)

It is important to remind, that each of the strategies also correspond to a larger scale landscape approach and touches the topics in the city scale. So, those layouts, that are presented here is just a little piece of a larger network, that has its goals and reasons (follow the chapter 2.2).

Moreover, those strategies trying also to give an answer to the local scale problems of neglected peripheral open spaces and the fragmentation problems (follow the chapter 2.1).

Each strategy complement the other and together they interact like a whole open space network. These strategies can be developed in parallel, however, each of them can become an individual project.

All the four strategies are considering landscape topics from different observations. Each of them have individual goal, the functional meaning in surface, the role on the city scale and the different environmental aspect (follow the comparison on Fig. 4.2.5).

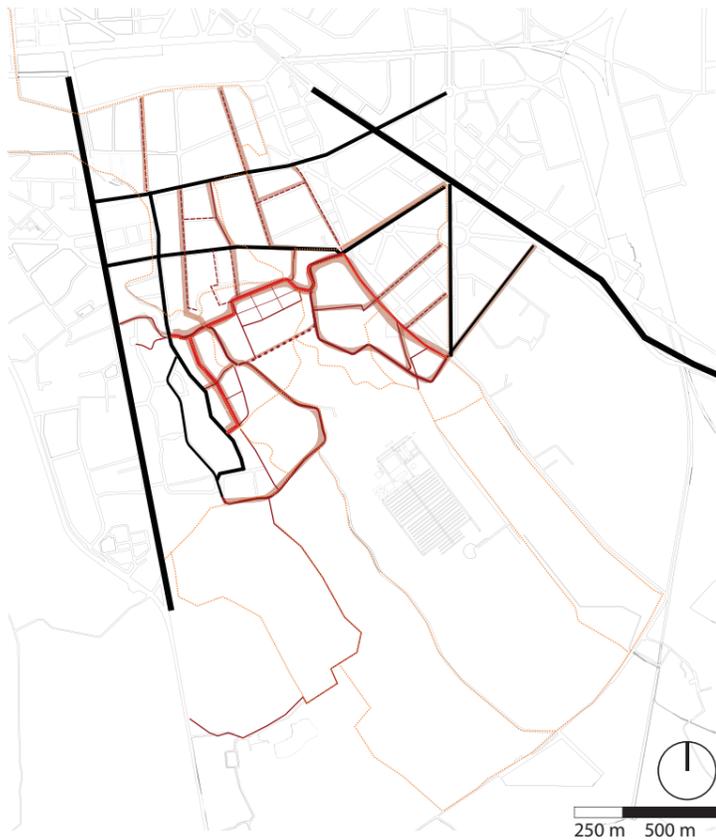


Fig. 4.2.3 Interval Space Strategy

4.2.3 INTERVAL SPACE - Improving habitability on the human scale

GOAL:

The main goal of Interval Space concept is to integrate the peripheral neighborhoods in the surroundings landscapes.

FUNCTION:

The functional characteristics of Interval Space, can be regarded as a new network of public transportation and streets recovering. The focus is on the everyday needs and physical barriers like time and way of access as well as visual appearance of roads services and their open spaces.

ROLE ON CITY SCALE:

In the city scale the Interval Space can be interpreted as a platform for urban fabric improvement on the peripheral areas. It starts from the small actions of reconnections and streets recovering. This strategy supports the other 3 by providing the backbone for their large landscape visions.

ENVIROMENTAL VALUE:

From the environmental perspective, the Interval Space can be seen as a energy save project, that use and improve the existing fabrics. Also the strategy has a focus on pedestrian oriented surface, which is also easily in use by public transport.



Fig. 4.2.4 Intermedium Policies Strategy

4.2.4 INTERMEDIUM POLICIES - Stitching the Open Spaces and Supporting the Large Visions

GOAL:

The main goal of Intermedium Policies concept filling the gap between current situation and large future projects.

FUNCTION:

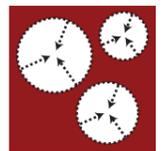
The functional characteristics of Intermedium Policies, can be regarded as a set of administrative actions that occur in the scale that lays in between the large park and small private yard. Those middle scale policies regards the new land distribution as well as the maintains division among different actors.

ROLE ON CITY SCALE:

In the city scale the Intermedium Policies can be regarded as a new guidelines for dealing with agriculture fields of Parco Agricolo Sud, especially on the city edge. The focus is made to improve the accessibility, the quality and the proportion of public spaces within the agricultural framework.

ENVIROMENTAL VALUE:

From the environmental perspective, the Intermedium Policies play a crucial role in stitching the open spaces within peripheral area to entire public open space network, they integrate together the various scale green areas, from small local parks, green squares, local streets and avenues to the larger open spaces parks as well as a future developments.



	AGROFRONT	INTERVAL SPACE	WATER ROUTES	INTERMEDIUM POLICIES
GOAL KEY	TRANSFORMING LEFTOVERS TO PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	INTEGRATE THE PERIPHERAL NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK	EXPLORE THE VALUES OF PARCO AGRICOLO LANDS THROUGH WATER PATHWAYS	FILLING THE GAPS IN LARGE SCALE VISIONS
OPEN SPACE FUNCTION KEY	PARK ALONG THE CITY EDGE Focus on local demands and social activities	NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION LINES- focus on street section recovering and its open space	SLOWMOBILITY NETWORK AND OASIS OF NATURE	SET OF ACTIONS AND PROGRAMS, like allotments for rent or space reorganization in agr. fields
IN THE CITY SCALE KEY	ATTRACTIVE ENTRANCE TO PARCO AGRICOLO SUD	PLATFORM FOR PERIPHERAL REGENERATION	ACCESSIBILITY AND GUIDE TO TERRITORY	GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC SPACES IN AGRICULTURE FRAMEWORK
ENVIROMENTAL APPROACH KEY	RECOVERING THE ABUSED AND ABANDONED LANDS	ENERGY SAFE ORIENTED Use and transformation of existing systems	SUPPORT OF LARGE SCALE ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS	STITCHING THE OPEN SPACES Existing and in development

Fig. 4.2.5- Comparison between open space strategies

4.3 STRATEGIES INTERACTION

OPEN SPACE AS AN ENTIRE PUBLIC NETWORK



Fig. 4.3.1- General Map of Location
3 km 6 km

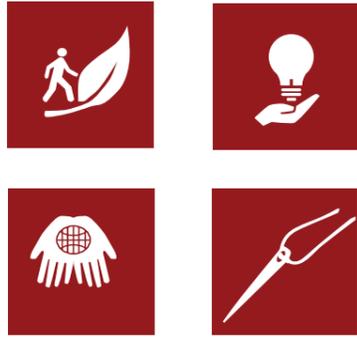


Fig. 4.3.2- Scheme of four environmental strategies (see chapter 4.2)



Fig. 4.3.3- Selected Area- Leftovers Transformation to the Open Space Network
500 m 1000 m



New Urban Promenade



New Public Transportation line



New Allotments and Community Gardens

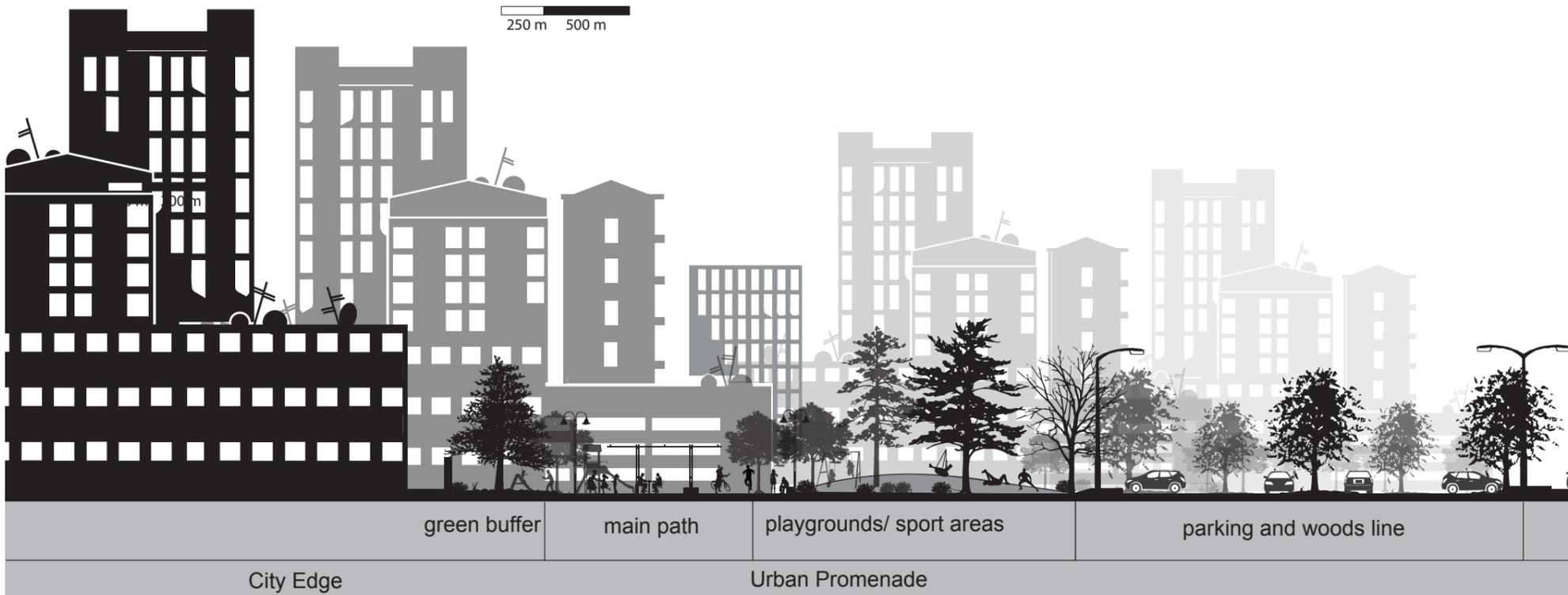


New Bicycle Path Through Recovered Water Landscape



Fig. 4.3.4- Concept Plan "Landscapes Interaction"
250 m 500 m

Fig. 4.3.5- Zoom in to The Concept Section



OPEN SPACE AS MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES

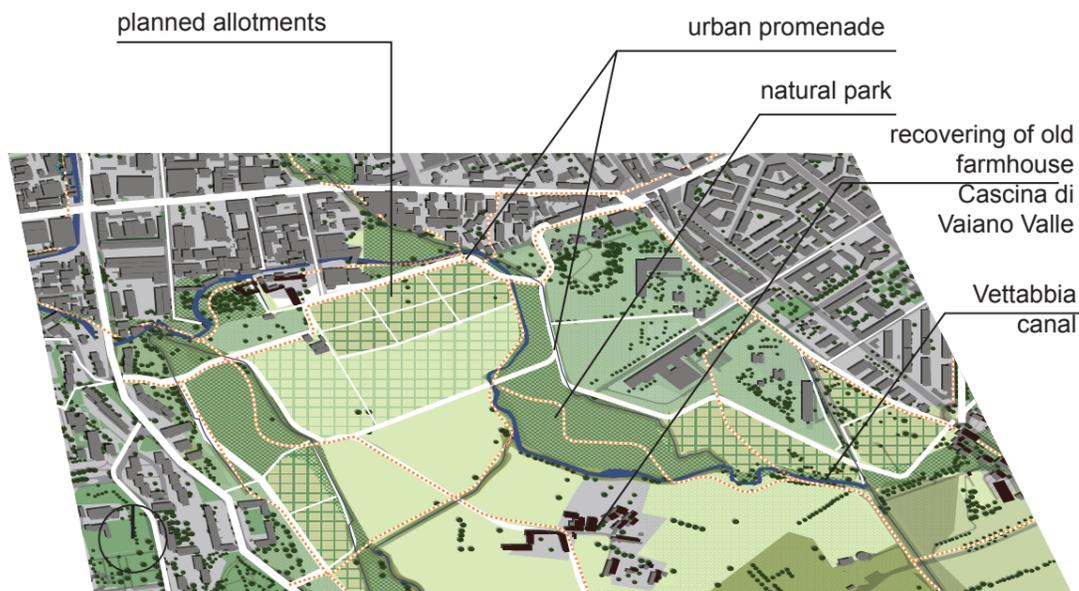
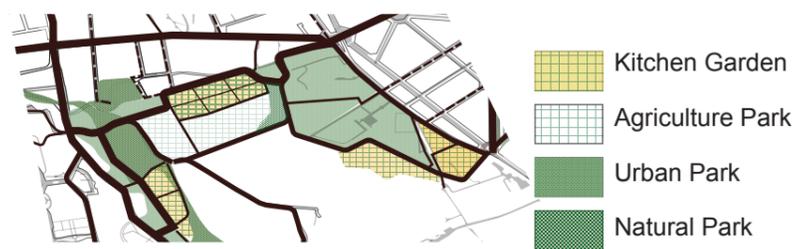


Fig. 4.3.6- Zoom in- Concept Plan "Landscapes Interaction"

100 m 200 m

- Existing Open Public Spaces in Urban Fabric
- Urban Promenade- planned open spaces with attention to active recreation facilities (sport, playgrounds)
- Natural Park - planned woods areas recreating the nature landscape and emphasising water reservoirs
- Build Area
- Traditional Farms
- Allotments Sites- kitchen gardens for private rent and community gardens for public access
- Agriculture Parks- planned orchard and high accessibility
- Future Agriculture Parks
- Existing Agriculture Fields
- Bicycle Pathes
- Water- existing canals, streams and lakes

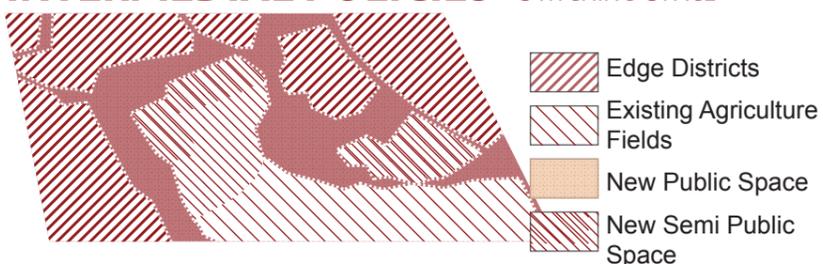
AGROFRONT-LEFTOVERS REORGANISATION



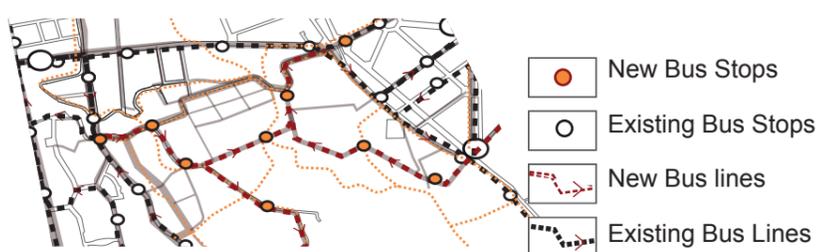
WATER ROUTES-NATURAL SEQUENCE



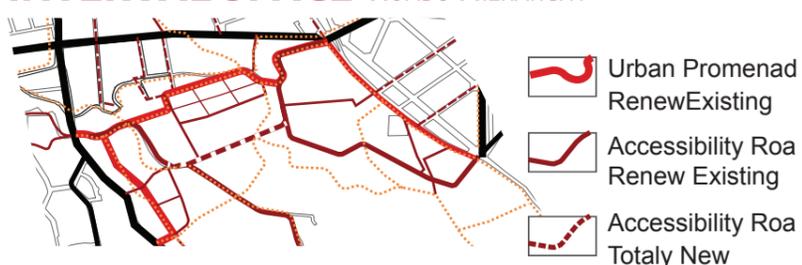
INTERMEDIAL POLICIES- STITCHING SPACE



INTERVAL SPACE-ACCESSIBILITY CHALLENGE



INTERVAL SPACE-ROADS HIERARCHY



CURRENT STATE-OPEN SPACE DETACHEMENT

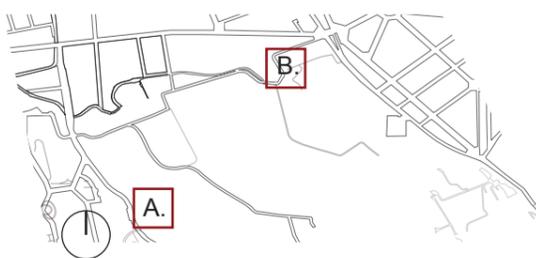


Fig. 4.3.7- Zoom in- Landscape Strategies

250 m 500 m

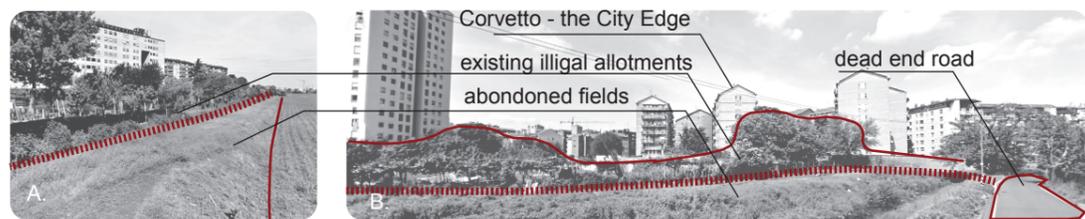


Fig. 4.3.8- The City edge Line - Current situation

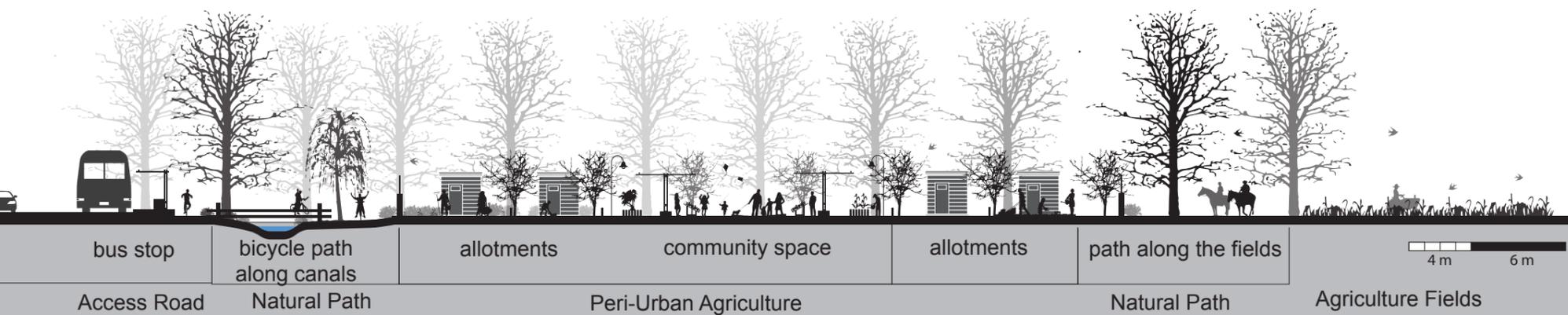


Fig. 4.3.9- Landscapes Interaction Conceptual Section A-A

4.4 STRATEGIES INTERACTIONS

PROGRAMME:

LANDSCAPING TYPE:

URBAN PROMENADE

The Urban Promenade, frames the city edge line, its lays between the existing districts and the open space. It helps to finish the streets and house line in a proper way, transforming the space from neglected back-side of neighborhood to its center of outdoor life.

Urban promenade provides the necessary public facilities, like playgrounds for kids and sport yards. The area is highly accessible by new public transportation and has a base preferences for pedestrian users.

Open Space Functionality

enviromental importance



85% land reuse
15% connect to existing open space network

private or semi private areas



75% commerce
20% education
5% sport centers

accessibility



55% pedestrian
30% public transp.
15% bicycle

active surfaces



75% sport areas
25% playgrounds

INTENSIVE GREEN

The examples of Intensive Green vegetation are flower beds, fields of grass, green sport camps, decorative ponds, fountains and other public water reservoirs, trees and bushes that should be shaped or need addition irrigation and care. This type of green is more artificial and expensive to construct and maintain, however, it can be necessary in some areas for emphasising the entrances, for keeping the sport and playground yards in their initial appearance and to create the official look to some central areas.

Open Space Expenses

additional vegetation



45% totally new
45% new but local
10% existing

construction



100% public administration

maintenance



85% public administration
15% local authorities

LEGEND:
percentage quantity of examined characteristic
70% HIGH
LOW

NATURAL PARK

Natural Park takes place mainly in areas where the woods or water streams are already in presents. The goal is to make them accessible by public and to create a sequence of natural corridors. The park generally follows the water lines and cross the city edge area from north to south to the direction of Parco Agricolo Sud. The main function of such area is a recreation park, place for outdoor picnics, riding on horses or bicycle paths.

Open Space Functionality

enviromental importance



90% strength the ecological corridors
10% reducing pollution

private or semi private areas



100% open access

accessibility



15% pedestrial
15% public transp.
70% bicycle

active surfaces



100% bicycle pathes

EXTENSIVE GREEN

This kind of vegetation is based as much as possible on existing natural landscape, in the case of necessity to recover the landscape or to continue it, the additional plants are from the native flora. Extensive green need-scare only on the initial planting period, after this phase it growths and reproduces naturally. For the long term projects the cost is negligible. However, in order to recreate the diversity of plants to coexist naturally, there should be a strong analytic work done before the planting phase.

Open Space Expenses

additional vegetation



15% new but local
85% existing

construction



50% public administration
50% Parco Sud Org.

maintenance



15% public administration
15% Parco Sud Org.
70% self-sufficiency

PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE

This landscape strategy relates to the demand of social gardening, that is distinguished on the peripheral areas. In contrary to the current situation, the planned allotments area is not totally closed for public access, in contrary, it contains places and paths for group activities and community events. The goal is to make peri-urban agriculture as much as possible the public open space and to integrate it in the larger open space network as well as to connect it to bicycle paths and transportation system.

Open Space Functionality

enviromental importance



100% thematic connection to historical landscape

private or semi private areas



85% private allotments
15% semi open community spaces

accessibility



15% pedestrial
65% public transp.
20% bicycle

active surfaces



85% gardening areas
15% community events areas

CULTIVATED GREEN

Cultivated Green is the vegetation growth for food propose. This kind of agriculture landscape is traditional for Lombardy, however is not natural, and needs a lot of care and irrigation. The initial cost of construction is also expensive, because a lot of services should be provided, like water supply and electricity. Nevertheless, the maintenance cost can be divided between many public and private bodies, the users by themselves will keep the land at its best appearance, because they will have a straight interest on it.

Open Space Expenses

additional vegetation



75% totally new
15% new but local
10% existing

construction



85% public administration
15% allotment users

maintenance



15% public administration
15% local authorities
30% local communities
40% allotment users

4.4.1 - Strategies Interactions

In the nowadays period of financial crisis it is not possible to project the large scale green areas, that needs daily maintenance. Moreover it is not wise from ecological point of view, which teaches us to explore the existing values and use as much as possible the local native plants, in order to save the energy and prevent the expansion of foreign flora and fauna to local ecological niches. Moreover, planning of the green areas should take to account the natural landscape and to see the projectual area as a part of a bigger network and not as independent island.

Taking to consideration the financial and ecological aspects, the green open spaces of peripheral ope spaces should be based on existing landscape, the rest should be easy to construct and and self or cheap maintenance in the long period.

The Interaction of four Landscape Approaches gives a lot of possibilities of open space recomposition, however, it can be stressed to three main functional surfaces: **Urban Promenade**, **Natural Park** and **Peri-Urban Agriculture Park**. For each surface the different programme and facilities are provided.

In addition, there is a clear landscaping instruction for vegetation type. The three main types of green are: **Intensive**, **Extensive** and **Cultivated**. The types of vegetation are not strictly relate to the functional character of area, they are mixed and presented in different proportions in each area, however, the highest quantity of intensive green will be in Urban Promenade Part and Cultivated Green will be more in the Agriculture Part

The main expensive type is the intensive green, which would be used as less as possible. The dominant green will be the extensive, which is based on the use of local plants and already existing vegetation.

LANDSCAPE INTERACTIONS:

INTERACTION A- URBAN TYPE

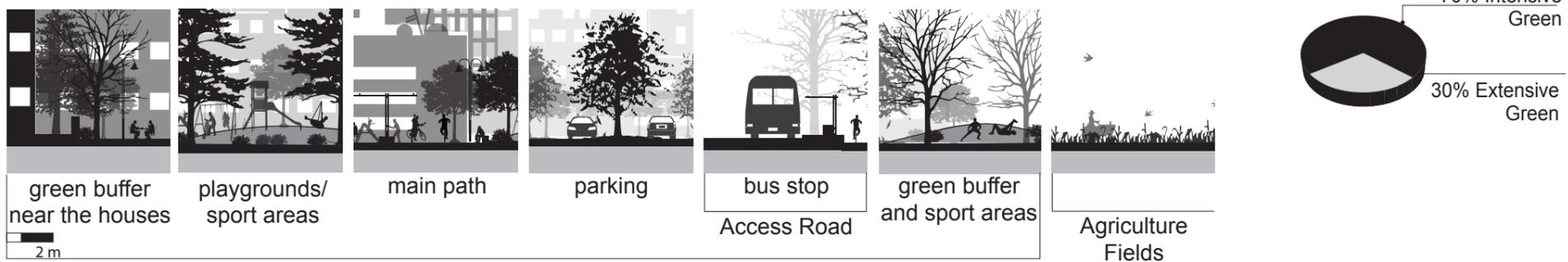


Fig. 4.4.1- Urban Section

INTERACTION B- AGRO TYPE

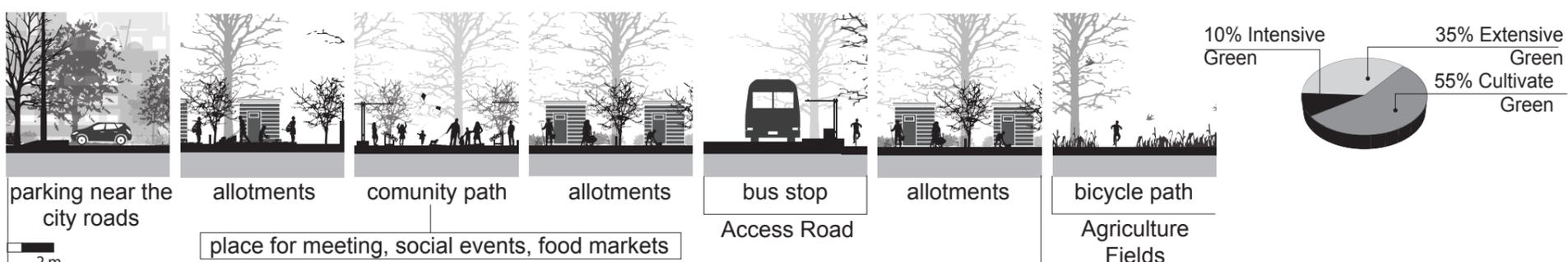


Fig. 4.4.2- Peri-Urban Agriculture Section

INTERACTION C- NATURAL TYPE

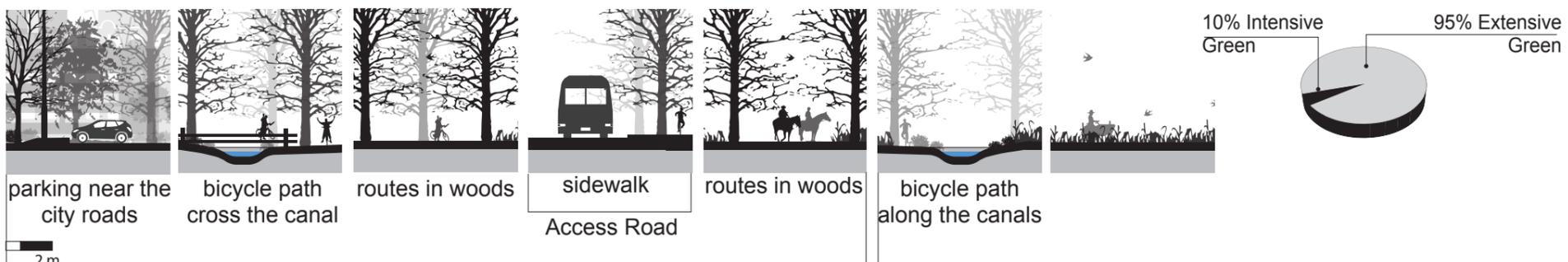


Fig. 4.4.3- Natural Area Section

INTERACTION D- MIXED TYPE

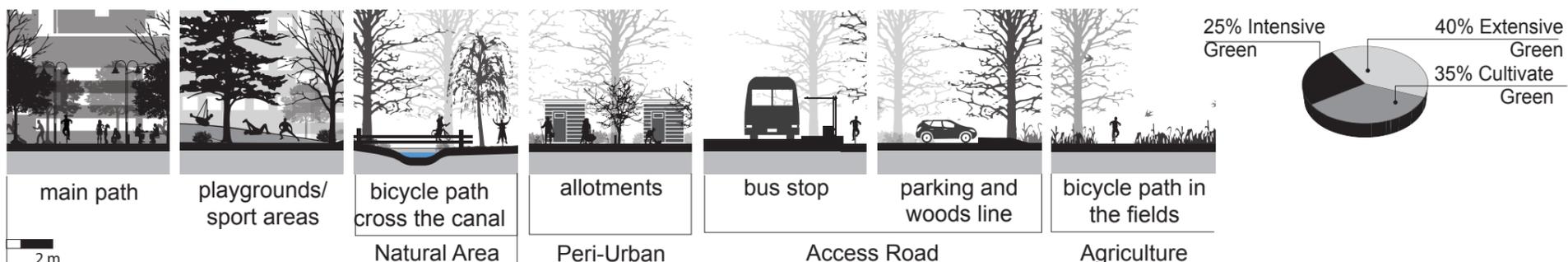


Fig. 4.4.4- Mix Landscapes Section

4.4.2 - Landscape Interactions- Combination of Different Open Space Types

In the following diagrams there is an example of possible space division, which present the mix type of landscapes and strategies. This example shows that the area is basically divided to three different level of maintenance the green surface. The intensive green takes here only 25%, while the extensive (natural) green is taking 40% and other surface is the cultivated green (allotments and community gardens, which are mainly on the self-public maintenance. This example is also explain that each landscaping type can have different areas and programs inside.

However, this division can be done in different way, according to needs, budget limits and local landscape feature. All the areas can get more extensive-natural look if it is necessary or the opposite.

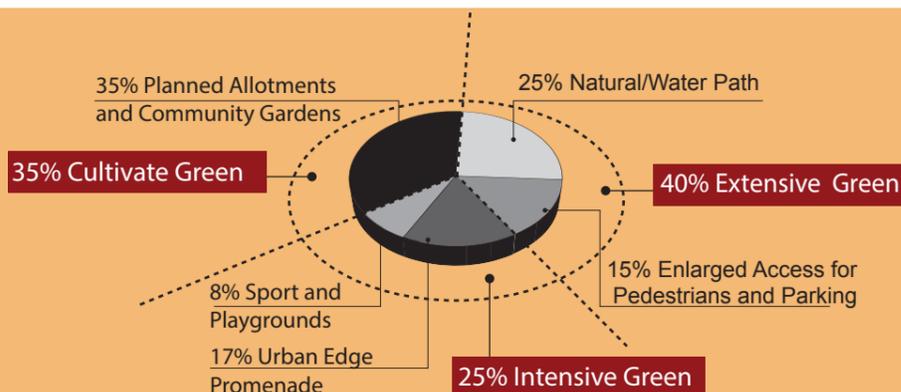


Fig. 4.4.5- Diagram of Open Space Functions within the Landscaping Type

4.5 CATALOGUE OF LANDSCAPE STRATEGIES

VISUAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AREAS

URBAN PROMENADE as a stitching park



The linear urban park along the districts border. The main purpose is to improve public facilities like playground and sport areas. It functions as transit zone between houses and agriculture fields, which stitches the territory and transform the city edge to the attractive place.

INTEGRATION OF EXISTING LANDSCAPES as a key element for open space recovering



The area is full of existing woods or other pieces of nature, that are detached from the current landscape network. The aim is to provide the accessibility opportunity as well as logical connection to the main public space. This strategy is using light tools, sometimes by adding just a sign for pedestrian access or a banch in the right place.

WATER ROUTES as a public space



The south periphery is reach of water streams and canals, their current open space role is mainly as a green buffer between the fields. By little changes in the canal area section, the water lines can enrich the volume and become a place for public recreation as well as a pathways for bicycles.

NEW ACCESS ROAD as a backbone for land use



Creation new road for new public transportation lines, cars access and bicycle path. This road has a better capacity and easier for pedestrian use, besides its location is strategic for providing access both for new urban promenade and for Parco Agricolo Sud

STREET VOLUME as an axis to larger open spaces



The current function of streets in the city edge is dead ends. The amount and quality of facilities is low, as well as the commodity of public open space services for pedestals and bicycle users. This strategy proceeds the urban transformation in this area as a consequence of future perspectives of Parco Agricolo. The city edge streets will became the gates to the park and should transform accordingly.

PARKING AREA as an integrative part of landscapes



Providing parking facilities is a basic condition for public open space existence. The current situation of parking lots in the city edge is unordered and their visual value is low, mainly presenting as fields of concrete without any green. First of all the parking lots should correspond the land programme and public demand. Second, it should relate to the landscape type where it located.(see next page landscape types)

COMUNITY SPACE as a platform for social activities



Various pathways, squares and other covered and open areas for temporal events and community use, like food markets, celebrations, students education on open air and etc. Those areas are mainly located closer to city edge and within the allotments frame.

ALLOTMENTS as a public space



Distribution of some areas for gardening propose. In the current situation there are a lot of illegal kitchen gardens, located in dismissed lands. The new allotments should be easily accessible and have an attractive appearance. Moreover, they should become an integrative part of a public open space network.

BICYCLE NETWORKS as an opportunity to explore the hidden values



The goal of this strategy is to provide a bicycle access in peripheral open spaces, make it easy and reasanable to use. Besides, the bicycle routs would cross the city edge and connect the urban tissue with the agriculture lands of Parco agricolo Sud. By small changes and local actions, the sites of Parco Agricolo will get much more visitors and users.

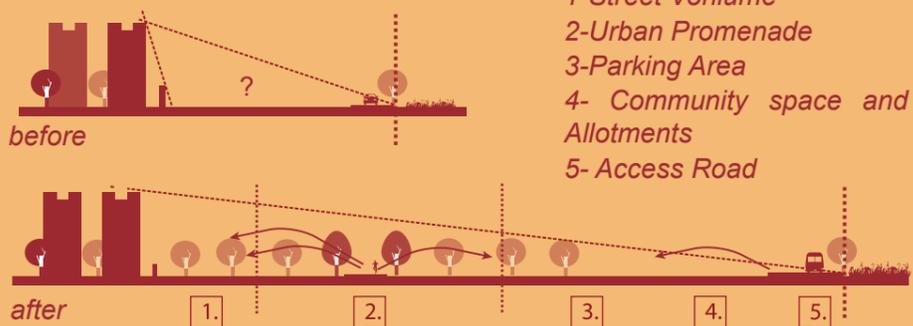
Fig. 4.5.1- Catalogue of Landscape Strategies

4.5.1 - Catalogue of Landscapes as a Synteses of Stategies

The starting point of this work was a conceptual division of the territorial field to four main landscape topics. By the end of the work, after the four strategies were presented, the territory was transformed again to the entire network. While the strategies were created from different point of views, the interaction of them in one specific area gives a lot of intersections. It can be considered that the landscape strategies support each other, however can be developed also independently.

This Catalogue of Landscapes is a synthesis of all the strategies together, its explain and give necessary tools for city edge recovering that can be used in other places of with similar peripheral conditions.

Enlarging The Opportunity Space:



- 1-Street Vonlume
- 2-Urban Promenade
- 3-Parking Area
- 4- Community space and Allotments
- 5- Access Road