

CITIES 4 WOMEN
महिला मैत्री शहर
Inclusive and Climate Resilient
Urbanization in Nepal

INTERNATIONAL URBAN DESIGN COMPETITION

***Reimagining Public Open Spaces for an Inclusive and
Climate-Resilient Future in Nepal***

June 2025



Implemented by



UNOPS



The Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project aims to support municipalities in solving challenges posed by rapid urban growth and increasing climate vulnerability by planning, designing and building gender-responsive, climate-resilient public open spaces. The project is co-funded by the European Union and Government of Finland and is being implemented by UNOPS, UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance in seven municipalities in Nepal – Dhangadhi and Hetauda Sub-metropolitan cities, Birendranagar, Chandragiri, Sunwal, Tansen and Tilottama municipalities.

The public open spaces identified for this competition are multi-functional spaces for social interaction, economic exchange, and cultural expression among a wide contribution to their respective cities. The different types of public open spaces include parks, playgrounds, squares, riverbanks, streets, markets and more. Public open spaces also contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, where the target 11.7 says that there should be universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public space, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Public open spaces are vital for community life, offering places for mental peace, social connections, physical activity, and access to green areas, among other benefits. However, not everyone can access and use them safely. The initial surveys conducted by the project mapped safety perception of women in public open spaces through workshops at the community level, and found that the participants, especially those facing additional marginalisation, often feel unsafe due to spaces being inadequately designed for their needs, having poor security, further increasing a fear of harassment and violence among the women. Safety, comfort and dignity for women, girls and vulnerable groups require inclusive, accessible, safe and gender responsive designs. Features like better lights, unobstructed vision, accessible toilets, safe surroundings and ramps makes public open spaces accessible for all.

The Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project aims to highlight these important matters and encourage architects, urban planners and designers worldwide to work to solve these issues using their critical design and thinking skills.

About the Competition

Public open spaces are the heartbeat of cities - places where people connect, cultures thrive, and communities come to spend their time safely. Yet, in rapidly urbanising areas, access to safe, inclusive, and climate-resilient public spaces remains a challenge. How can we design urban environments that empower women, persons with disabilities, encourage community, create opportunities for the young to the elderly, and promote an ecological balance?

The *International Urban Design Competition* is back for the second year running, with new sites in Nepal's municipalities, opportunities and challenges to creatively tackle. The Competition invites architects, urban designers, landscape architects, planners, and interdisciplinary teams to propose bold, innovative, and functional solutions that redefine public open spaces across Nepal's municipalities. This one-stage competition seeks visionary designs that are not only aesthetically inspiring but also socially and environmentally responsive to the distinct contexts of each location - spaces that serve as inclusive hubs of urban life while strengthening climate resilience.

Organised by the Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project, this competition aims to support municipalities by providing creative urban design solutions that are: *Inclusive* – designed for diverse users, including women, children, older persons, LGBTQIA+ and people with disabilities; *Climate-Resilient* – integrating nature-based solutions, adaptive design, sustainable infrastructure, and disaster preparedness; *Economically Viable* – fostering local economies and sustainable urban growth; and *Environmentally Friendly & Ecologically Sound* – promoting biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. This competition is an opportunity to push the boundaries of urban design and contribute to creating equitable, vibrant, and climate-adaptive public spaces that enhance the well-being of all citizens.

Eligibility Criteria, Important Dates and Deliverables

Both individual and team submissions are accepted. There is no number of maximum team members, however, at least one member of the team must be an architect, landscape architect, urban designer, urban planner or a student of the same.

Event Description	Dates
Public Launch of Competition	June 1, 2025
Submission Deadline	August 1, 2025
Announcement of Winners	August 25, 2025

Exhibition Opening & Awards Ceremony	October 6, 2025
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Submissions must include the following mandatory document at an appropriate scale (A1 formats, vertically oriented, metric system):

- Design concept note (minimum 500 words);
- Master Plan / Site Plan (A1, 1: 500);
- Plans of specific area (A1, 1:100);
- Minimum 2 sectional elevations of the site (A1, 1:200) and critical sections (A1, 1:100);
- 3D rendered images of the design (minimum 2 rendered images showing the entire site);
- Optional: Diagram, Sketches, illustration and other supporting drawings.

Please submit all documents as one PDF file via email to: cities4women@gmail.com. Note that all the drawings and other documents in the PDF file should not contain any personal information as the competition entries will be judged anonymously. In the body of the submission e-mail, please indicate names and last names of all team members, cities and countries of residence as well as educational background.

Competition Sites and Design Requirements

The *International Urban Design Competition* is a 'live competition', meaning that project sites are 'real sites', selected through a participatory process in municipalities (a participatory tool called Community Mapping was conducted in each municipality to identify and prioritise the sites in need of development as per community wishes). An individual or a team can select one or more sites to work on as part of the competition - as long as the design for each site is submitted separately. E.g. one site = one submission. The sites for the International Urban Design Competition are listed below:

No.	Municipality	Public Open Space Site & Location
1.	Dhanghadi	Kalika Sport Club Maidan
2.	Birendranagar	Bangeshimal Bal Uddyan
3.	Chandragiri	Radhe Radhe Park
4.	Sunwal	Bishnu Pandey Park
5.	Tansen	Greater Tudhikhel Area

We would like to provide guiding notes: Select one site per design submission; Design a space with a variety of uses and for different user groups; Design a safe public open space; Create multifunctional and adaptable spaces; Integrate contextually appropriate, local and environmentally friendly materials, technology and knowledge; Facilitate pedestrian movement and accessibility within the site and access to the public open space; Where public open space is bordered by motor traffic and primary vehicular roads, use design elements to ensure safety of public open space users, reduce noise pollution, attractive visual elements that detract from the aesthetic quality of the area etc.; Where deemed necessary and possible, the design should encourage socio-economic activities; The use of upcycling and recycling methods in the concept and design elements are encouraged.

Please find information packages and documentation for each site that is the subject of this call by following links in the Annex (7) of this call for the site analysis, climatic context, site drawings, photos and videos.

Criteria for Evaluation of Design Submissions

The Jury will evaluate the design submissions based on the following criteria:

No.	Description	%
1	Design requirements: clear spatial concept and solution recognisable for its main idea, functional, spatial distribution of intended use	20%
2	Contextual integration: Relation with the context, architectural and cultural heritage, character and quality of urban identity improvement	20%
3	Climate resilience and sustainability: Incorporation of features that enhance the space's resilience to climate change (e.g. nature based solutions, adaptive strategies, energy efficient solutions, eco design etc)	20%
4	Inclusivity and Urban Safety: Integration of inclusive design principles to cater to diverse users groups, safe public open space	20%
5	Innovation: Materials and technology	10%
6	Cost-effectiveness: Cost-effectiveness of the proposed solution	10%

The Jury comprises qualified and esteemed professionals in architecture, urban planning and design, landscape architecture and those being experts in inclusivity and safety. The Jury is chaired by Shrinkhala Khatiwada [Kathmandu, Nepal]. Members of the Jury panel are: Prof. Dr Alessandra Casu [Sassari, Italy]; Prof. Dr Aleksandra Djukic [Belgrade, Serbia]; Laxmi Shobha Maharjan [Kathmandu, Nepal]; Libas Phaiju [Kathmandu, Nepal]; Sunita Subedi [Kathmandu, Nepal]; Prof. Dr Riccardo M. Villa [Vienna, Austria]; Prof. Dr Manuel Wolff [Berlin, Germany].

Submissions will be evaluated anonymously by the Jury based on voting by its members. Jury decisions will be made by majority votes, with each design evaluated separately.

Awards & Certificates

Certifications of participation will be awarded to all individuals or teams that submit designs for the competition. Prizes, 1st and 2nd place, will be provided to the winning designs per project municipality. If individuals and the teams of winning designs are from Nepal, the award will be equivalent in NPR: 1st prize: USD 500, and 2nd prize: USD 250. In the case that winning designs are by foreign nationals residing out of Nepal, they will receive return air travel tickets to Nepal for one team representative to join one of the Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project design workshops in October 2025, in the place of a monetary prize.

All received designs will be displayed at a curated public exhibition in Kathmandu, Nepal in October 2025, and published in a catalogue of designs.

Additional Information

Three drop-in sessions will be held online to support interested participants on Friday 13 June 15:00-16:00, and Friday 20 June 11:00-12:00 (Nepal time).

Drop in session 1 - Friday 13 June 15:00-16:00

Google Meet joining info: <https://meet.google.com/brb-jwmz-cmz>

Drop in session 2 - Friday 20 June 11:00-12:00

Google Meet joining info: <https://meet.google.com/ujb-efyi-gyx>

For any questions about the competition, please contact: cities4women@gmail.com

Intellectual Property

- Participants retain the copyright to their designs. The Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project - organiser of the *International Urban Design Competition* - reserves the right to use the designs to inform and inspire future projects in municipalities.
- The Cities 4 Women: Inclusive and Climate Resilient Urbanization in Nepal project will publish a catalogue of designs and organise a public exhibition to showcase remarkable design entries for the competition. Each design will be properly acknowledged and credited.

Language

The official languages of this competition are Nepali and English - submissions can be done in any of those two.

Annex - Choosing Sites & Site Information

Site in Dhanghadi

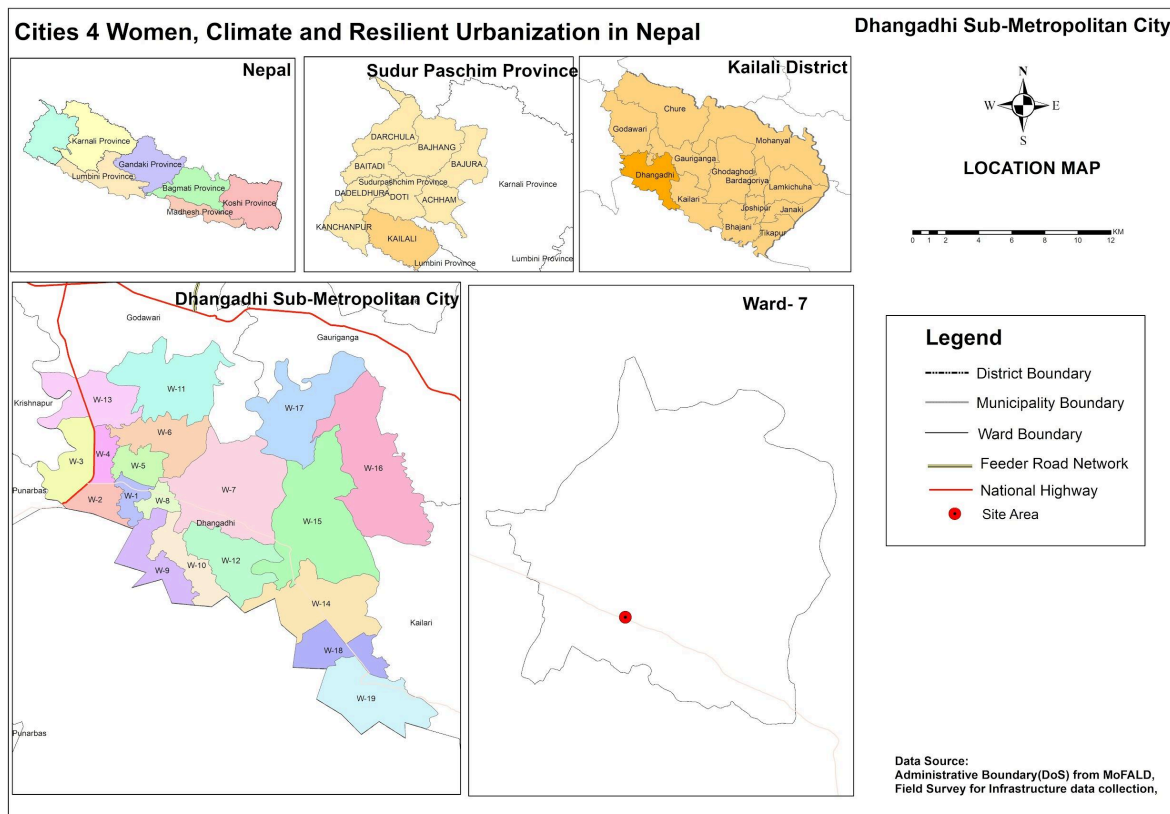
Kalika Sport Club - A dynamic public space for sports, culture and community

Location and Context

The site is situated in the heart of Ward No. 7 in Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City. The Kalika Sports Club Maidan is currently a multi-use sports ground that also serves as a central public open space for the local community, catering to the city's growing need for inclusive recreation, sports, and community engagement. The site is 10,500 sq. m, government-owned land. It is located adjacent to the Ward Office (Government Office), meaning that it has high accessibility and visibility. The central location of the site, as well as good infrastructural road connections, makes it an accessible and highly frequented spot for the local community. The existing drainage infrastructure also means that the site holds some resilience against heavy rainfall, allowing people to continue to use the site despite rainy weather conditions. Operating throughout the day, the Maidan sees consistent usage across all demographics and functions as an urban park. The space is woven into the socio-cultural fabric of the city, hosting events, meetings, and community activities.



Site coordinates: 28.68960616281882, 80.63294221001273 ([location](#))



Site Features

The site is already divided into three main zones based on their functionality, these are: a dedicated training area for Wushu, preserving traditional martial arts and offering daily sessions; a badminton court, engaging both young and adult players; and a football ground, which serves as the epicenter for regional tournaments, drawing schools and sports clubs from across the region.

Community Needs

The community around Kalika Sport Club Maidan in Dhangadhi has expressed the need for several improvements to enhance the space's functionality and inclusivity. Key requirements include the installation of clean and accessible public toilets to serve children, families, and daily visitors. Shaded seating areas are also essential to provide comfort for bus commuters and spectators during events. Designated parking spaces for bicycles, motorcycles, and a limited number of cars would help manage traffic and encourage more people to visit. Establishing a children's play area with safe equipment would make the maidan more family-friendly. Organizing activities such as morning yoga sessions, fitness classes, or cultural events in the afternoons can make the space more lively and engaging throughout

the day. Improving the environment with green spaces, proper waste disposal systems, and adequate lighting would make the maidan more inviting and safe. By addressing these needs, the Kalika Sport Club Maidan can evolve into a more vibrant and multifunctional space that meets the diverse requirements of the local population.

Climatic consideration

Located in the flat Terai region (~109m altitude), Dhanghadi faces significant climate risks impacting the Kalika Sport Club Maidan. The primary concern is extreme heat. Temperatures have increased by 0.07°C per decade (1971-2020), with heatwaves exceeding 40°C recorded, making the open Maidan unusable and posing heatstroke risks, especially during peak hours. Annual rainfall decreased by 1.08% per decade (1971-2020), but projections suggest wetter monsoons, increasing flood risk (riverine and pluvial), a key concern identified in local assessments. This is worsened by inadequate drainage (often blocked open drains), leading to waterlogging, surface damage, and potential disease vector habitats. Drought is also a risk, potentially impacting vegetation. *Design Implications:* Prioritize heat adaptation: extensive shade (trees, structures), cooling elements, heat-reflective surfaces. Implement robust flood management: permeable surfaces, bioswales, rainwater harvesting, improved drainage. Use drought-resilient planting. Ensure safety and accessibility for all users (children, elderly, women, PWDs) with reliable lighting and universal design.

Design Challenges

The key design challenge in this context is to approach an already loved community space and functional sports ground through design to better serve the diverse local population, spanning different age groups, interests and sporting disciplines. The design should also incorporate ecological sensitivity, relating to the forest in close proximity, as well as being supported with appropriate public amenities and infrastructure for programming and users (consider toilets and washrooms, designed player facilities, crowd management and parking). Given the proximity of the forest, safety and security needs to be taken into consideration when proposing design.

More [DOCUMENTS](#)

Site in Birendranagar

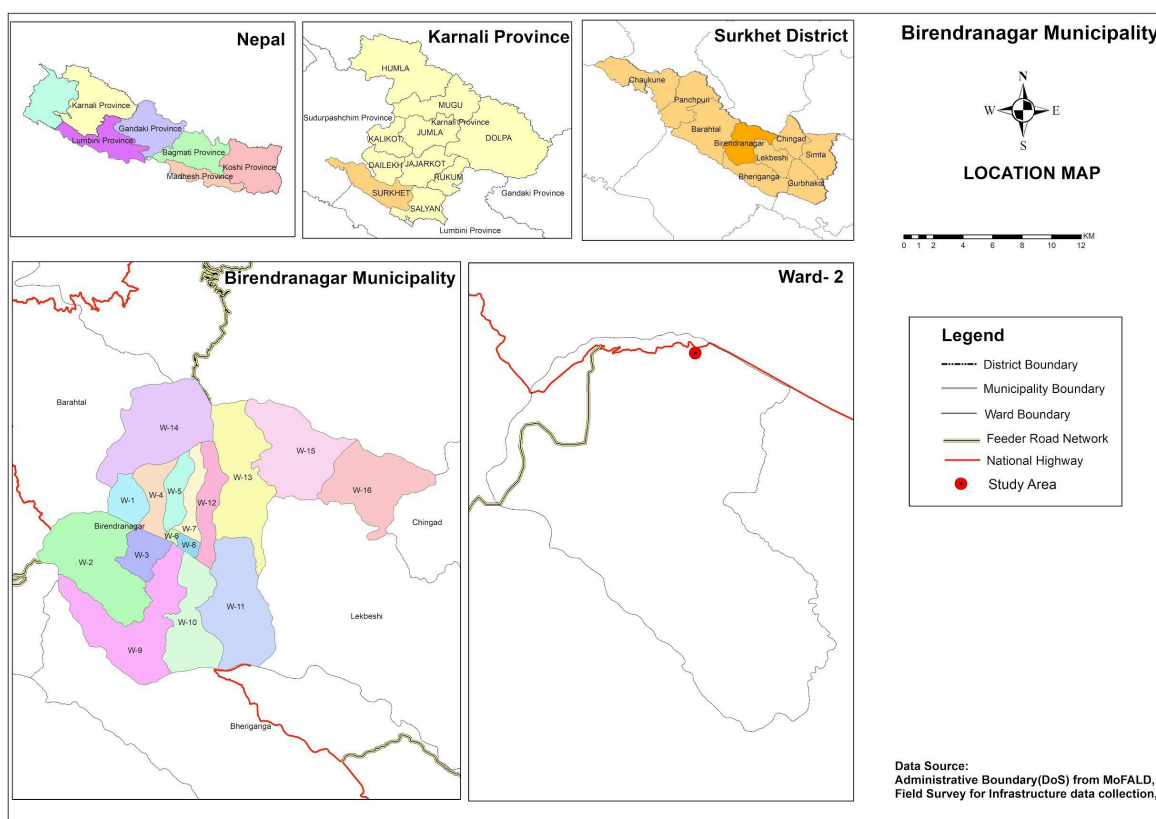
Bangeshimal Bal Uddyan - *Space of joy and creativity*

Location and Context

Birendranagar is the capital city of Karnali Province in western Nepal. The study area is easily accessible, being only 140 meters off the Ratna Rajya Highway which serves as a major gateway to the remote districts like Jumla and Mugu. An additional degree of security is provided by its proximity to the Nepal Armed Police Force Barrack. The land has a contoured terrain with an elevation difference of approximately 8 meters, offering a natural viewpoint to enjoy the cityscape. The area is a great place to relax and for recreation because of its beautiful scenery and quiet surroundings.



Site coordinates: 28.607861, 81.574179 ([Location](#))



Site Features

The site has a natural contour with sloped land, making the ground uneven in some areas. There are a few large *Pinus roxburghii* (Salla) trees along with some small *Dalbergia sissoo* (Sisau) trees that are growing. At the highest point of the site, there is a water supply tank with a demarcated boundary while at the lowest level, there is a deep water boring system. The site also has some rocks that are naturally part of the land and there is a shaded area. A clear fence surrounds the whole site as the site boundary. The fence is not in good condition but it is functional. Currently, the park is minimally equipped, with just a limited inventory of trees, few rocks and grassy areas to sit which are natural. No inventory has been added.

Community Needs

On its undulating landscape, Birendranagar needs a park that the whole community can enjoy, pathways that make exercise accessible despite the hilly terrain, making them suitable for jogging, walking and exercise. Anyone of any age or ability should feel accepted in this park. The community hopes to integrate traditional Nepali games. An inclusive public toilet is needed. The community suggested a safe rock-climbing play structure into one of the slopes for recreation. Above all, the park should provide beautiful landscapes to view the city and all of its features, including the benches and plants, should help people feel

connected to nature. Lighting and security cameras to make the visitors secure. Parking spaces for bicycles, motorcycles, cars, etc. would encourage more people to visit.

Climatic Issues

Birendranagar (~665m altitude), in the Surkhet Valley, faces multiple climate hazards affecting its public spaces. Flooding is a major issue in Birendranagar, intensifying hazards near rivers (Khorke, Itram, etc.) and due to rainfall, worsened by rapid urbanization (700% urban area increase 1989-2016) and poor drainage. Ward 9 has high flood exposure. Forest fires (175 occurrences 2010-2021) and increasing extreme heat (37.3°C recorded during one event) are also risks. These hazards reduce usability, block access, pose safety threats, and damage spaces. *Design Implications:* Leverage the Multi-Hazard Profile and endorsed Municipal Adaptation Plan which aims to increase the municipality's resilience to climate change impacts. Implement integrated hazard mitigation: Nature-based Solutions for landslide stabilization. Design for heat resilience (shade, cooling). Enhance safety: hazard-resistant features, clear evacuation routes, accessible safe assembly points.

Design Challenges

One of the main challenges is designing pathways, walkways or trails on sloped land without compromising local safety or damaging the soil. Additionally, managing surface water runoff and integrating the existing big rocks as a part of the design may require special treatment during construction.

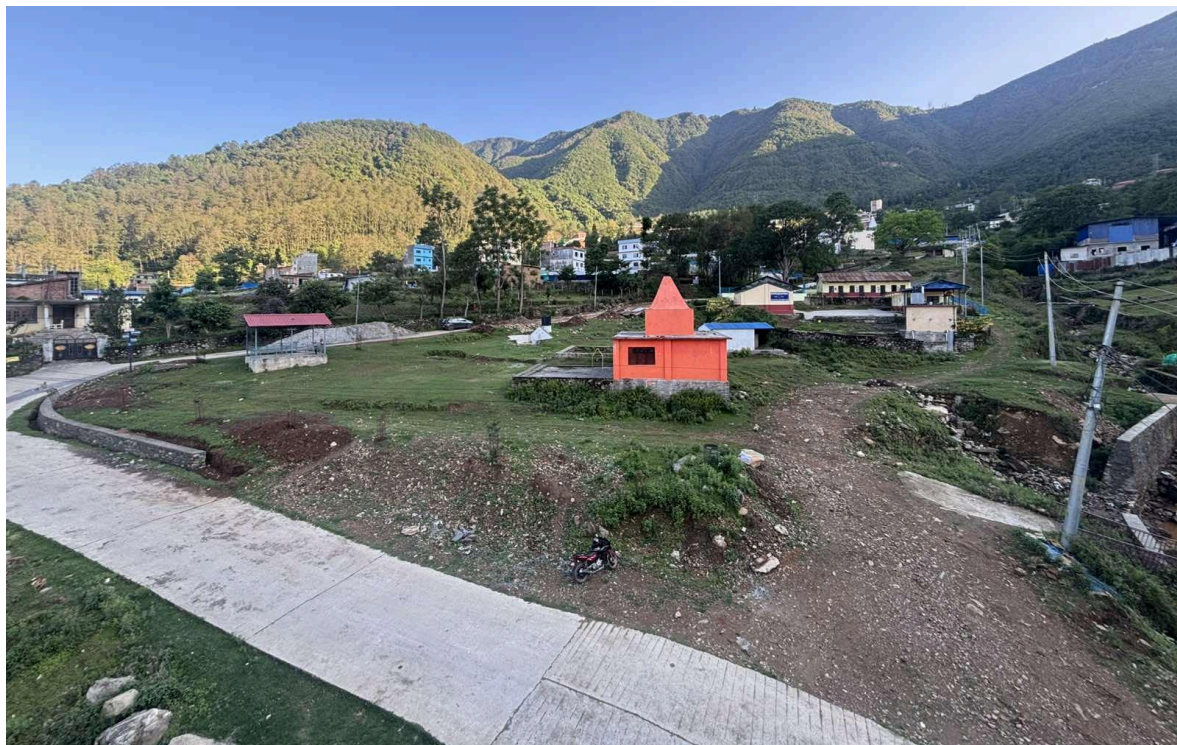
More [DOCUMENTS](#)

Site in Chandragiri

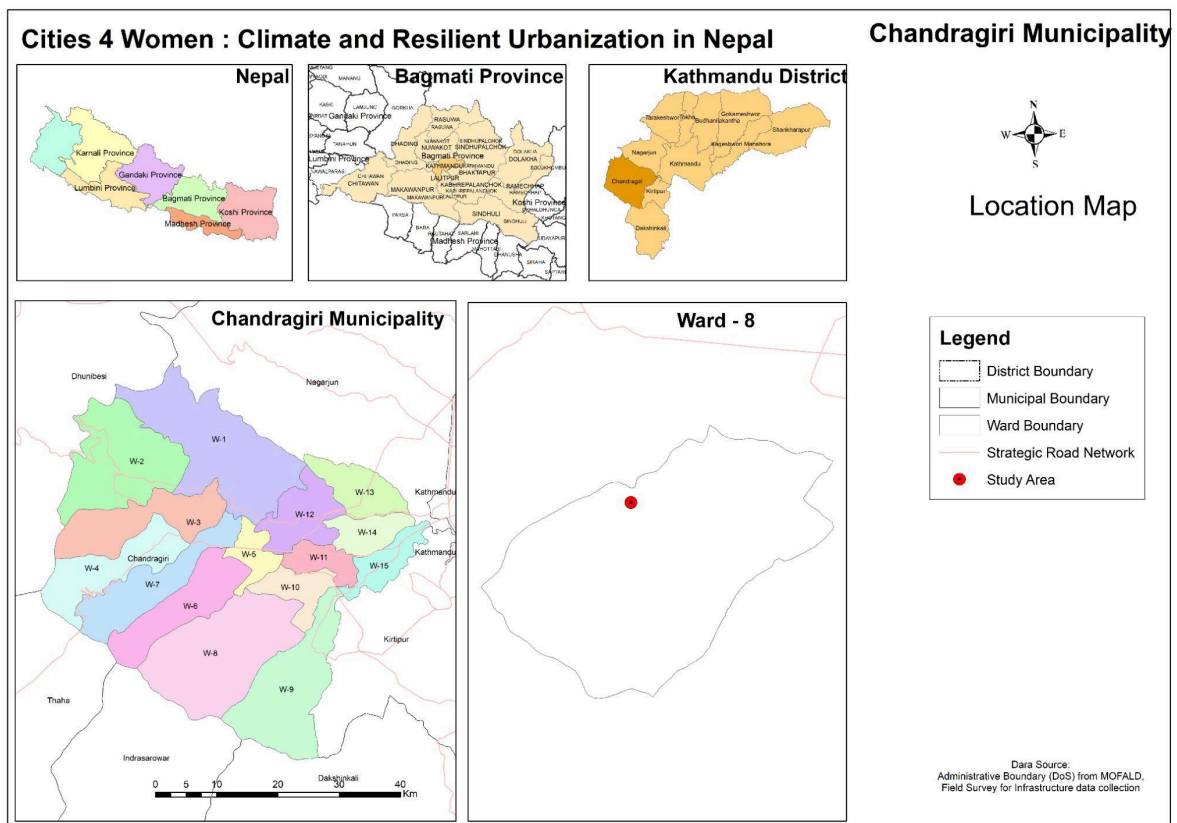
Radhe Radhe Park - *Celebrating Culture, Embracing Nature, Connecting People*

Location and Context

The Radhe Radhe Park is located in Ward No. 8 of Chandragiri municipality, around 3 km away from the Municipality Office. With a land area of around 1919 sq. m, the park is an important public open space for the community. The site is surrounded by a 5m road on the Northern and eastern side, a 4m road on the western side, and a primary school on the southern side. The site has a natural slope descending towards the western side. A river runs alongside the road on the western boundary of the site, which is also adjacent to a forest. As Chandragiri is predominantly characterized by hilly terrain and dense forests, this open space serves as a valuable public gathering area and plays a significant role in the community.



Site coordinates: 27.672877, 85.228528 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/VUExbN5M84y4RAQq5>)



Site Features

The major existing features are: Temple - an old Krishna Temple located in the middle of the site. Initially, only a statue of Lord Krishna stood there, but around ten years ago, the municipality constructed a concrete temple structure around it; Toilet - a single toilet is on the site, which is not accessible for persons with disabilities and is poorly maintained. In addition, the structure to provide shade was constructed by the municipality in 2023. It serves as a space for community members to gather and interact.

Community Needs

Since the site is located near a forested area, it is important to respect the natural context. Therefore, the design should prioritize green landscapes over built structures. The community has expressed a desire for a multifunctional space where they can hold events such as ward meetings and other local gatherings. They also wish to enhance the traditional aesthetic of the existing Krishna temple and the *Kriyaputri* building (building for performing funeral rites). Although a recharge pond has already been constructed using concrete, the community would prefer it to be redesigned in a more natural and eco-friendly manner. Additionally, they have requested the inclusion of a play area for children. Overall, the community envisions a shared space that fosters social connection while harmonizing with the natural environment.

Climatic consideration

Chandragiri, in the hilly Kathmandu Valley, faces high multi-hazard risks impacting its public spaces (cultural sites, parks, squares). Key hazards identified in a 2023 study are earthquakes, landslides (significant risk Wards 4, 6, 7, 8, 9; north-facing slopes highly susceptible), flooding (Wards 5, 11, 12 highly susceptible near Balkhu River), and fires (high susceptibility in dense settlements). Rapid urbanization (386% built-up area increase in a valley 1990-2020) exacerbates flood and landslide risks. Urban Heat Island effects increase heat stress. Hazards destroy/block access, reduce usability, pose safety risks, and damage infrastructure. Vulnerable groups (elderly, PWDs, low-income residents, women) are disproportionately affected. Design Implications: Utilize Multi-Hazard Mapping. Focus on risk reduction: slope stabilization, green infrastructure for flood management, earthquake-resilient structures. Create safe, accessible evacuation routes/assembly points. Mitigate UHI/heat with green cover. Apply universal design and ensure cultural sensitivity.

Design Challenges

Natural slope towards the west poses challenges for creating universal accessibility for all users. Also, levelling or terracing usable spaces for seating, play, or gathering without damaging the terrain. The old Krishna temple is a key cultural asset that must be preserved and integrated sensitively. Designing near a river and forest zone demands sensitivity to ecological preservation and flood risk management. The concrete recharge pond is seen as unnatural and must be redesigned for ecological and visual harmony as well as the temple. Integrating necessary park elements (like toilets, seating, and play areas) while maintaining a predominantly green and natural character.

More [DOCUMENTS](#)

Sunwal

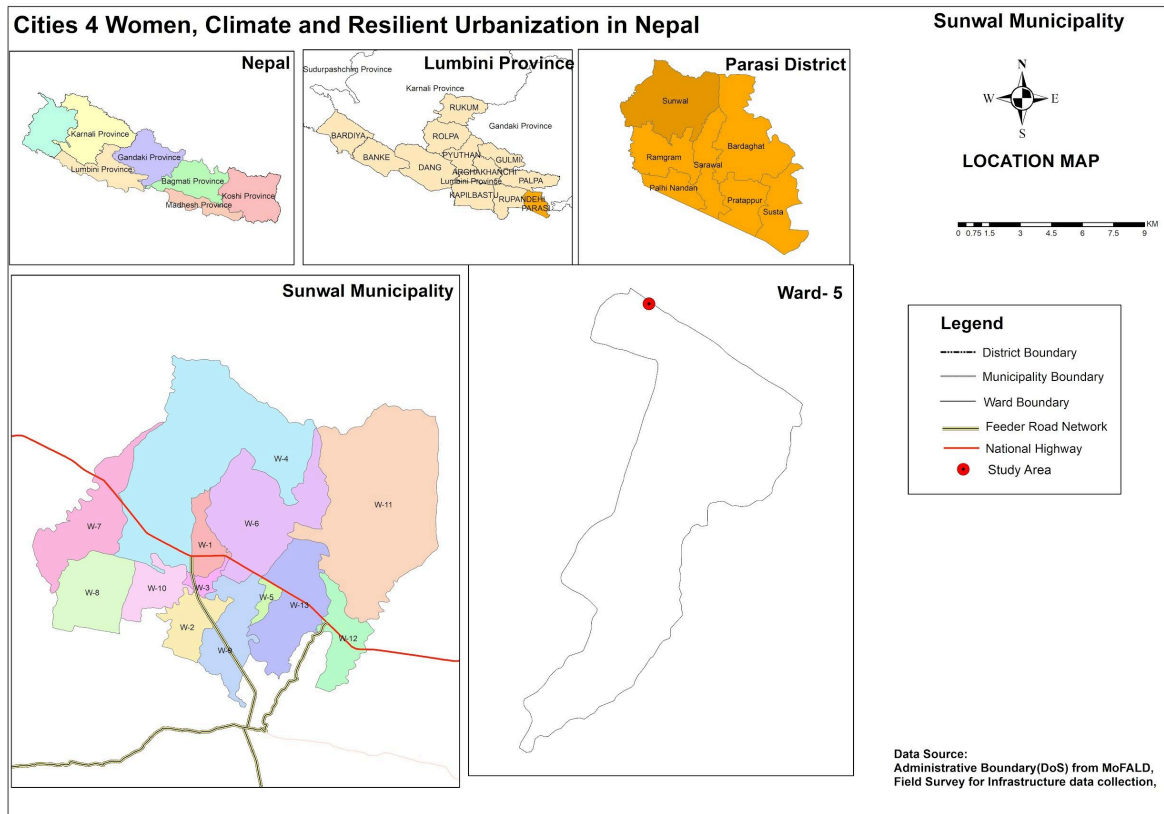
Bishnu Pandey Park - A Place of Memory, a Space for Everyone

Location and Context

The Sahid Bishnu Pandey Prathisthan Park is located in Bankatti, Ward No. 5 of Sunwal municipality, around 4km away from the Municipality Office. With a land area of around 93,000 sq m, the park is an important landmark for the local government as it is equipped with a few facilities and attracts a wide variety of people from the community. The forest area borders the park's eastern and northern boundaries, the East-West Highway to the south, and an internal road to the west. Its rectangular form extends from north to south. The geography of the site is flat with a few depressions. A straight path that begins at the southern entrance and finishes at the northern edge, with connecting routes that provide visitors a means to navigate. Partially back-topped and in the remaining area, paver blocks made of concrete are used in these pathways. Several old trees and natural grassland are on the remaining open ground. Many seating areas are installed around the walkways. The memorial statue, which honors the martyr Bishnu Pandey*, is a prominent feature in the park. The park is made more attractive by the existence of ponds, which improve its aesthetic appeal and create a refreshing atmosphere.



Site Coordinates: 27.596222543602785, 83.67292008038412
(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FPutYc9UbMkfhiJR8>)



Site Features

Bishnu Pandey Prathisthan Park consists of various features that reflect its identity as a public open space. The existing terrain is mostly flat with multiple depressions offering a useful recreational element. The feature ponds and trees add ecological value, a small open gym, a badminton court with children's play equipment, encourage physical activity and recreation. The site also features buildings like the Hall block for community gatherings, a toilet block, and picnic spots. The site also features a statue of Martyr Bishnu Pandey reflecting a commemorative importance. However, despite having such scattered elements/amenities, the park falls behind as an integrated space for the users, a thematic identity, and inclusive programs that satisfy the needs of diverse users. Many features are underutilized, lacking features like shaded seating, gender-sensitive facilities, and playful development of the landscape. These are some of the identified gaps that need thoughtful redesign, integrating the existing assets to better serve the community.

Community Needs

The site is located beside a national highway. The community aspires to attract people from all over Nepal who will travel through this route. They prefer to pay respect not only to Bishnu Pandey but also to other martyrs of Nepal. Martyr's Memorial Plaza with water features to encourage contemplation, light columns, and interpretive storytelling walls. This

could be around the entrance or existing memorial hall (which is empty at the moment), or any other location suitable. The community needs include: Cultural Stage or an Amphitheater for events, poetry, or national day activities, a Water fountain and other elements for the park, Shaded Resting areas to protect from the sun or rain. Pond with decks, pathways, and other essential things. Butterfly Garden, small zoo, or Native Habitat Zone to promote biodiversity. It will help to engage small children in the park. Usage of existing tall trees, land undulation for better public open space. If possible, connecting the ponds, creating new ponds in the land depressions, and boating along the water. Solar Lighting and tactile paving for safety and inclusivity. Cycling Path / Entry Parking Node with bicycle racks, EV charging station, or any other essential features.

Climatic Consideration

Key vulnerabilities include monsoon flooding and waterlogging, extreme heat, and potential drought. Fires are common during dry seasons. These hazards impact usability (heat, floods), accessibility, safety (heatstroke, disease vectors), and physical condition (erosion). Vulnerable users (children, the elderly, women, PWDs, informal settlers) face greater challenges. Design Implications: Enhance heat resilience (shade, cooling). Implement robust drainage (permeable surfaces, bioswales). Use climate-appropriate vegetation. Consider the park's role as a safe refuge.

Design Challenges

Memorial parks must be both useful places for the community and respectful of the person or event they honor. Maintaining this equilibrium will help the park to serve as a space for daily interaction as well as contemplation. Park use can be discouraged by safety issues like poor lighting, unclear layouts, and hideouts, particularly for women and other vulnerable people. Furthermore, park designs frequently fail to include accessibility for people with disability and the elderly. Because of the Terai region's environment, designs must be able to endure heat, monsoons, and other seasonal changes. Utilizing existing vegetation and putting in new vegetation, with sustainable drainage systems, is important. The park also needs to evolve; long-term relevance is ensured by creating adaptable environments that can change to meet future needs. Like, elderly people might favor peaceful meditation, and memorial value. Since today's children are tech-first, public areas lacking Wi-Fi, charging stations, or entertaining technology (AR overlays, interactive lighting) might seem obsolete to them. Future generations might anticipate inclusive places and feature more diversity (intercaste, interfaith, people with disability, LGBTQ+ individuals, etc.).

More [DOCUMENTS](#)

Tansen

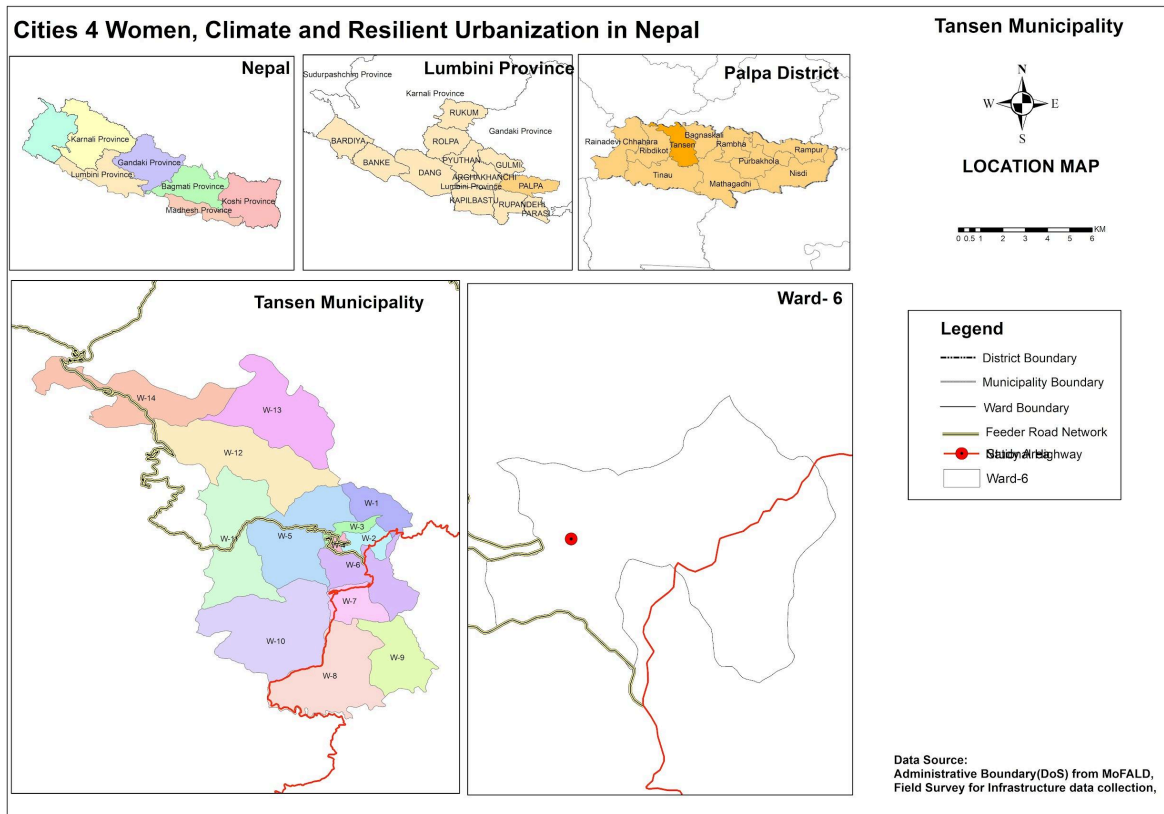
Greater Tudhikhel Area - *Play, Pause, and Connect*

Location and Context

Tudikhel is a prominent open space located in Ward No. 6 of Tansen Municipality, in the southeastern part of the town, adjacent to the main bus park. This location makes it one of the first public spaces encountered by visitors arriving in Tansen, serving as a gateway to the town. It is slightly detached from the dense historic core, offering a relief from the compact and steep urban environment that characterizes much of Tansen's built fabric. Its expansive, flat terrain contrasts with the surrounding hilly topography, making it an ideal location for gatherings, open-air events, and recreation. Historically, Tudikhel has served as a multi-functional civic ground, playing host to military parades, festivals, fairs, community gatherings, and sports events. As with other towns in Nepal that feature spaces named "Tudikhel," this area has long been associated with public life and cultural identity. In Tansen's case, it has historically functioned as both a ceremonial ground and an everyday open space for the community. Over time, it has developed into a flexible and inclusive space that adapts to seasonal and cultural needs.



Site coordinates: 27.865260, 83.549376 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/sCGapaPBXi4wzPin8>)



Site Features

The site features relatively flat terrain, ideal for large gatherings and open-air events. It is surrounded by gentle slopes and has panoramic views of the surrounding hills, adding visual value to the open space. Tudhikhel is dotted with trees, where chautari's are constructed, providing natural shade and contributing to the ecological balance of the area. The space has potential for enhancing biodiversity through native planting. Tudhikhel holds historical importance as a traditional ground for public gatherings, festivals, and sports. It is culturally embedded in the lives of Tansen residents, serving as a common ground for community events. Currently, Tudhikhel is divided into two parts: a senior citizen park and a large open field used for sports, informal markets, and events. The eastern part features a helipad, while the adjacent space near it is used by the army for training. This area also has a basketball court, public toilets, and seating areas. Around the open field, there are traditional chautaris and a historical stage, with a walking trail encircling the field. Although some seating and pathways exist, they need improvement. The space also lacks adequate lighting, proper drainage, and sufficient public toilets, which are essential for safety and accessibility, especially for women and girls. The open space is surrounded by mixed-use development including schools, health posts, and commercial areas. It is well-connected to the main roads and pedestrian networks, making it a potential hub for inclusive public activity.

Community Needs

The community needs Tudhikhel to be a safe, accessible, and well-maintained space that meets the diverse needs of all users, including women, children, elderly people, and people with disabilities. Improved lighting, clean, inclusive, and sufficient public toilets, and proper drainage are essential to make the area more comfortable and secure, especially during evening hours and rainy seasons. The existing seating, pathways, and recreational facilities, like the basketball court and walking trail, require upgrades to encourage greater use and inclusivity. Additionally, enhancing the senior citizen park and preserving cultural features like the historical stage can strengthen community connections and promote social interaction.

Climatic Consideration

Tansen (~1,350m altitude), a historic hill town, faces climate risks primarily linked to its topography. The Greater Tudhikhel Area is vulnerable to intense monsoon rainfall (average annual ~1600mm). Heavy rain can cause waterlogging on the Tudhikhel ground, disrupting events. Earthquakes are also a risk. These hazards reduce usability, severely impact accessibility, pose safety risks, and cause physical damage. Vulnerable groups face challenges accessing this key community space. *Design Implications:* Prioritize and implement effective drainage on the ground. Ensure safe, accessible pathways. Designate Tudikhel as a safe assembly point for emergencies (earthquakes), potentially with basic provisions. Respect the area's cultural significance.

Design Challenges

Balancing different uses in one space: Tudhikhel needs to support activities like sports, senior citizen relaxation, army training, markets, and cultural events without causing conflicts or overcrowding. Designing for all these uses requires careful zoning and flexible spaces. Ensuring safety and accessibility for everyone: The site must be safe and easy to use for women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This means proper lighting, clear pathways, and accessible facilities are essential. Preserving cultural and historical elements: Important features like the historical stage and traditional chautaris need to be respected and integrated into the new design so that the site maintains its cultural identity.

More [DOCUMENTS](#)



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