

WATERDOWN MEMORIAL PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?



Artist BRANDON VICKERD *LIGHT/SWING*

SHORTLISTED PROPOSAL BOOKLET 5 OF 5

ARTIST STATEMENT

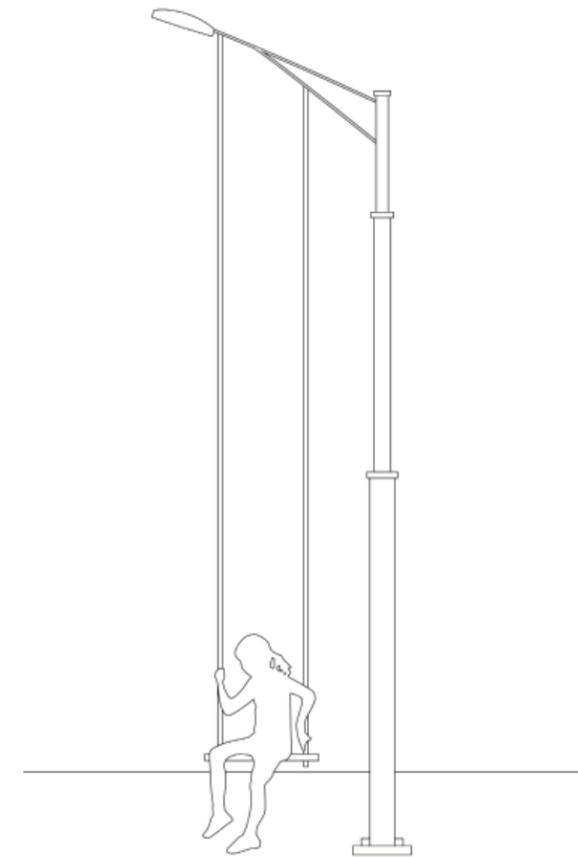
For the Waterdown Memorial Park public art project, I am proposing the creation of a multi-part installation titled *Light/Swing*. *Light/Swing* will consist of three functional lampposts redesigned to also function as a swing-sets. *Light/Swing* is a seemingly simple combination of two existing structures found in the Waterdown Memorial Park; however, the impact of the work is greater than the sum of its parts. *Light/Swing* asks the viewer to reimagine the role of play in constructing our understanding of the urban environment. What if the division between infrastructure (a lamppost) and play equipment (a swing) was fluid, rather than rigid, and objects could serve a dual purpose?

At its core, *Light/Swing* is invested in facilitating deep connections between strangers and cultivating community. As a viewer becomes an active participant through swinging, their relationship to the park and other citizens changes. *Light/Swing* draws heavily on the concepts of “body play” developed by Dr. Stuart Brown founder of the National Institute for Play. Brown describes “body play” as a spontaneous impulse to explore the effect of gravity on our bodies. The act of playing, in this case swinging, has been demonstrated to release endorphins, improving brain functionality, and stimulate social connections. Beyond exploring notions of play *Light/Swing* employs interactivity as a strategy of developing shared meaning between the artwork and the community, through the process of physical engagement. The work achieves its full potential when a viewer is using it as an object of play.

Light/Swing is ultimately about providing a positive experience that impacts the viewer’s emotional well-being. From the moment the viewer sees *Light/Swing* they will experience a sense of wonder from the juxtaposition of playground equipment seemingly grafted on to urban infrastructure. Normally lampposts are understood as functional devices that provide visibility via light in the urban environment, however the role of the lamppost in this artwork have been subverted by the inclusion of the swing. While both lamp and swing still function, the viewer is left with the question “what if all urban infrastructure had a dual purpose?” *Light/Swing* imagines a cityscape where play and physical engagement are taken as seriously as safety.

The intention is to install three lamppost/swing set hybrids and situate them throughout the park along the existing walkway pathways. This configuration will create a dynamic relationship with the pedestrian movement through the park, encouraging engagement with the surrounding landscape. *Light/Swing* will be constructed from off-the-shelf components, such as commercial grade lamp posts, with the swings and assorted riggings sourced from a play equipment distributor. An engineer will be hired to assess the structural integrity of the proposed artwork and evaluate whether internal reinforcement is required. Since the components are already existing, exterior grade elements, it is easy to ensure they meet the stringent material requirements for this project.

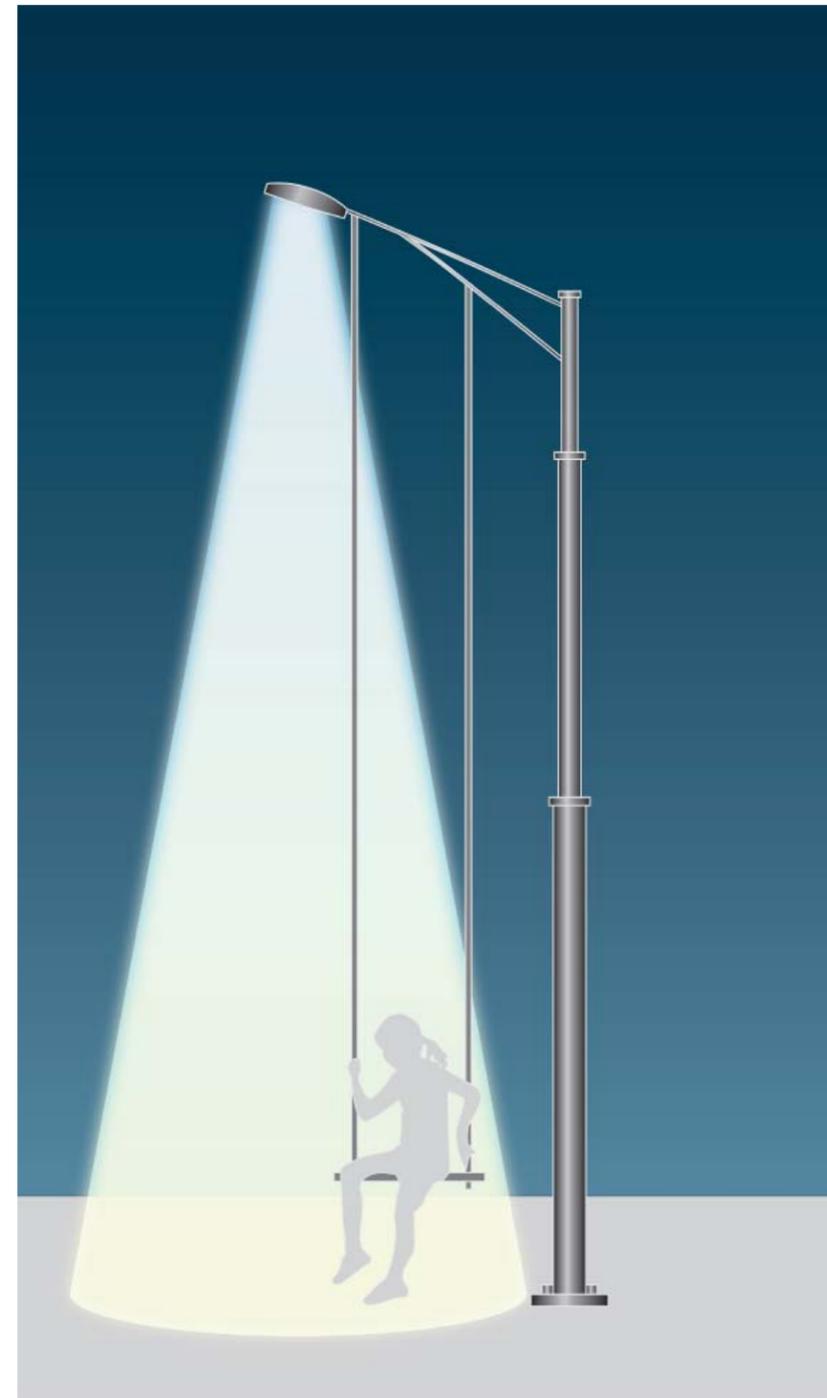
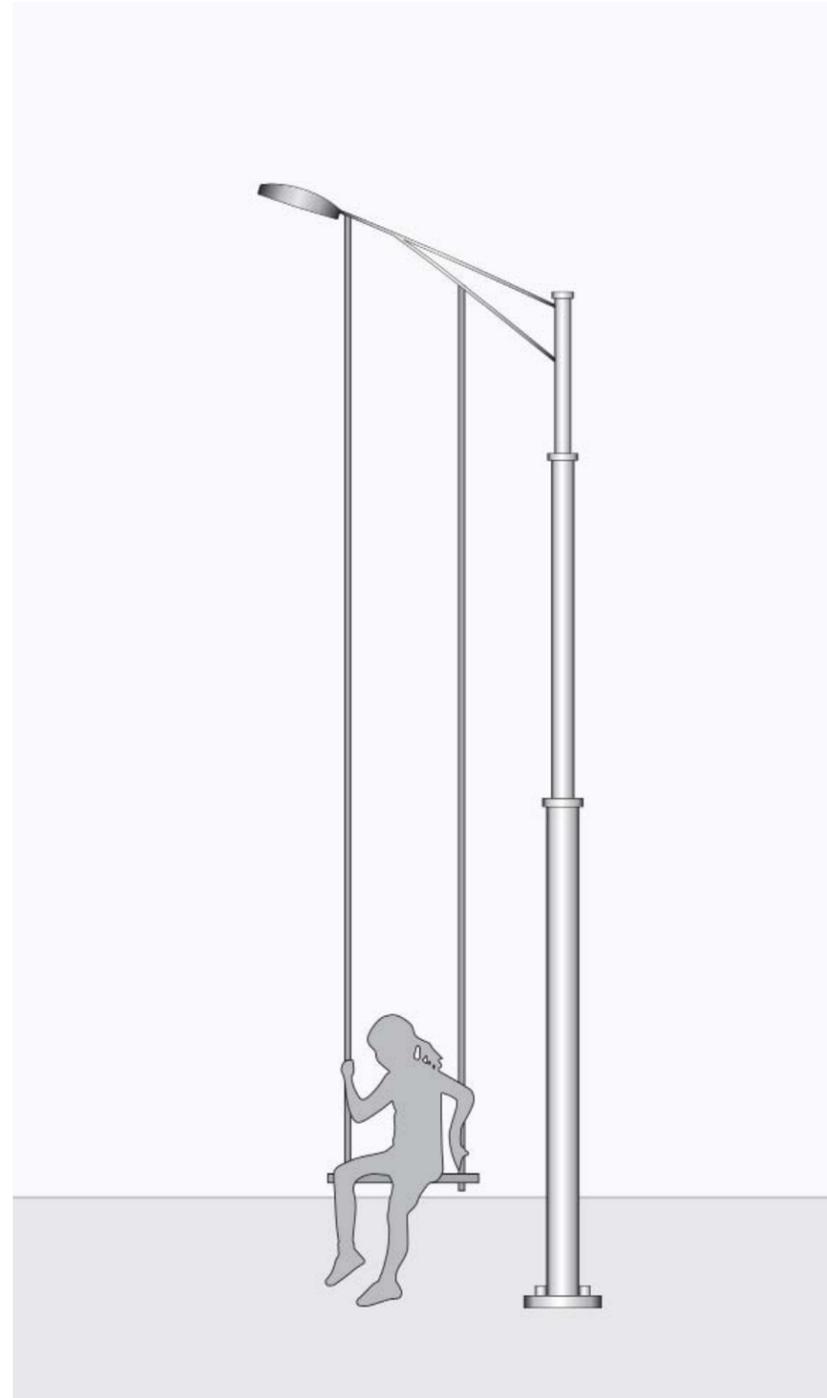
Brandon Vickerd



SITE PLAN



ELEVATION



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