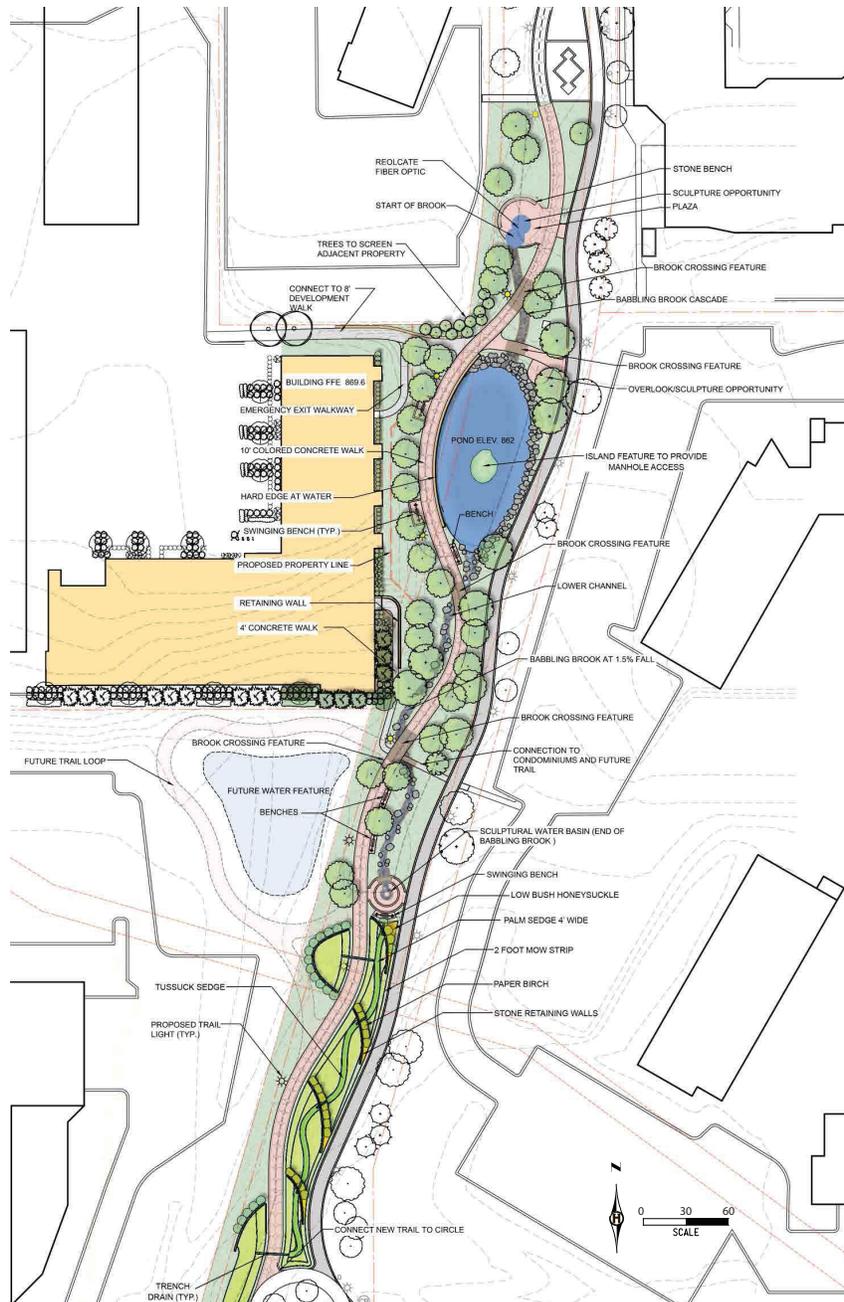


EDINA PROMENADE PHASE 4

Progress Report, April 7th, 2014



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Art consultant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Summary of Activities
- Development of ideas
- Recommendations at nodes
- Additional features
- Funding Sources
- Next Steps



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Edina Promenade Phase 4 project is the final phase of the Promenade Master Plan, which was envisioned in 2007. The Promenade design has been developed by URS in collaboration with the City of Edina. The vision for Phase 4 includes the integration of flood protection and water quality features and public art. The project has evolved to incorporate artful design into the infrastructure. As the art consultant, I am working with a small planning group to focus on particular nodes of experience along the Promenade that incorporate art, infrastructure, and water features with additional plantings of trees, shrubs, and perennials.

After an initial meeting at Edina City Hall on January 15th to learn about the project, I was invited by Ross Bintner to facilitate the refinement of the aesthetic vision in relation to water quality as an art consultant for the Edina Promenade, Phase 4.

I had an initial meeting with Kathryn Ryan and Kurt Leuthold at Barr Engineering to look at the most recent version of the plan and to take into consideration some of the ideas developed at the meeting on February 11th, 2014. At that meeting, we were guided by the idea of telling the narrative of how water travels through a watershed.

I presented an overview of initial ideas to the Arts and Cultural Commission on February 25th. At that meeting, the committee agreed that we should form a small, nimble working group which includes Barbara La Valleur, Thomas Raeuchle, and Kitty O’Dea. This group would work closely with Michael Frey, Ross Bintner, Kurt Leuthold, Kathryn Ryan, and myself to further develop the vision. The working group met on both March 11th and March 25th to offer suggestions on the development of the plan and to make recommendations about other features, artists, and materials. I have done further research and have contacted individual artists about specific projects, costs, and availability. I have also been researching particular materials, structures, and “soft infrastructure” options.

My role as the Art Consultant in the Promenade, Phase 4 has included:

- Building on the existing Promenade Master Plan (2007)
- Guiding and coordinating an overarching thematic vision and the related artworks/artful infrastructure design
- Considering next steps in term of how art/artful features can continue to be integrated in the Promenade as funding opportunities become available in conjunction with the City of Edina Departments of Engineering and Parks and Recreation, the Art Center and the Arts and Culture Commission and its Public Art Working Group, URS and Barr Engineering, and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District



DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS

Guiding ideas of the Art/Artful Design Plan:

- Making the invisible visible
- Creating vivid, memorable, and educational experiences of water
- Attention to natural materials
- Attention to connections between the Promenade and the Centennial Lakes and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Specific ideas generated by the Edina Phase 4 Artful Design Working Group:

- Reflections and Reflective surfaces
- Stone as a predominant material (related to the history of the gravel pits)
- Water being audible and visible (but not splashing, reduced contact)
- Artful design incorporated into infrastructure (grates, runnels, manhole covers)
- Interactive features that encourage a sense of engagement and agency with water
- Natural aspects to the design (naturalized edges) and attention to the changes with time/seasons
- Softening the hard edges of the design along the Promenade and creating more gradual transitions between the hardscape and the landscape
- Visual indications of water quality (sandblasted images of macro- invertebrates, macrophytes, other creatures)
- Creating welcoming spaces that are comfortable (by providing shade, opportunities to sit, eat, park bikes, view and interact with sculpture)

Main opportunities of art/artful design opportunity:

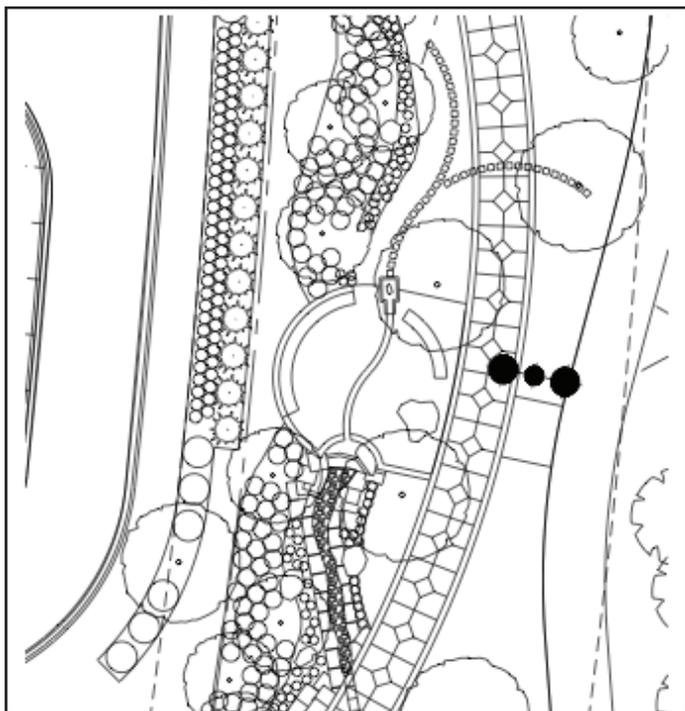
- The “source”
- The overlook/gathering space
- Edge of the shallow pond and in the “pond”
- Where the water disappears underground
- Images that could be dispersed around the site and connect to Centennial Lakes



RECOMMENDATIONS

The working group has discussed a number of ideas at particular nodes. The following includes these specific areas and ideas that could be incorporated to create a more welcoming and aesthetic experience that integrates art and water features.

Gathering Area



Gathering Space - image courtesy of URS

The small gathering plaza will include an artistic feature that represents the “source.” Flat rocks could indicate the flow of a stream under water above the source. (Figure 1) Kathryn Ryan has suggested that the water emerge between a “crevice” of two rectangular rocks and flow around a rock feature. (Figure 2)



Figure 1



Figure 2



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

The water will then flow under the small circular plaza beneath a decorative metal grate that represents waves. (Urban Accessories). (Figure 3)



Figure 3



Figure 4

A curved stone bench will provide seating and a sense of shelter. The working group has expressed a preference for small stones or a soft gravel surface within the circle to soften the hardscape. I am including examples from the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. (Figures 4 and 5)



Figure 5



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

Crushed granite could provide the surface for the gathering circle (Figure 6). I am including images of metal Corten frames that can serve as green “screens” (Figure 7) with vine growth



Figure 6



Figure 7

The water will exit at the far side of the plaza and cascade over rock or possibly a Corten scupper. (Figure 8). The water would then flow into a “creek bed” south of the gathering space. While the actual stream of water (babbling brook) would flow under the surface of the path, the representation of the stream would cross the existing path to indicate the continuation of the stream both north and south of the “pond.”

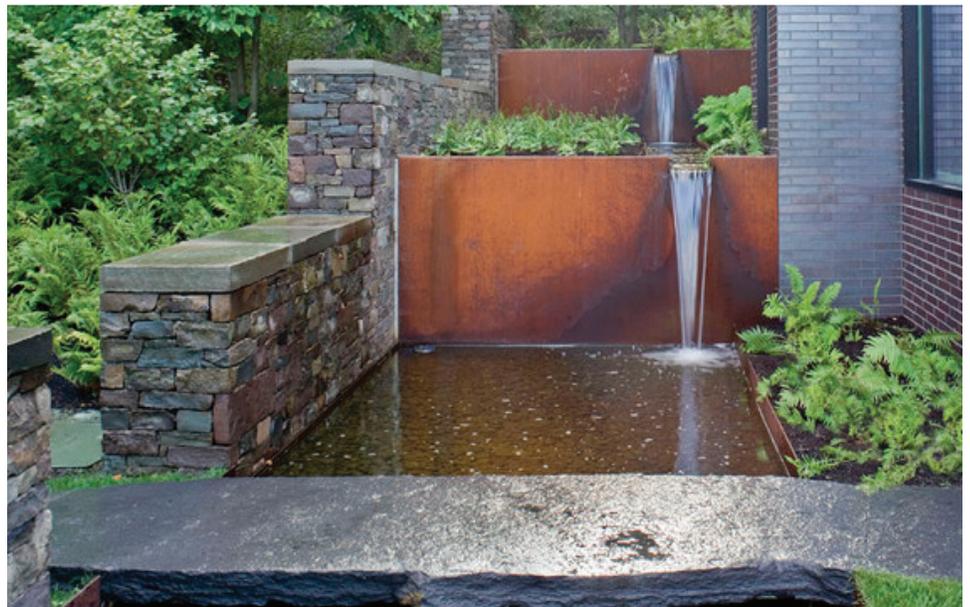


Figure 8



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

If manhole features are included, decorative covers could be designed. I have contacted Kate Burke, who designed the manhole covers for Nicollet Mall, and she would be interested in working on such a project. (Figure 9)



Figure 9

Pond

The pond area is an important amenity in the design, as it will provide a larger area of open water along the Promenade. The working group recommended that the edge be naturalized and softened through the incorporation of rock. This is similar to the design for Burnsville's Heart of the City. (Figure 10)



Figure 10



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

Rocks would be placed in a dispersed manner in the pond (reminiscent of a Japanese rock garden). (Figure 11) Some of these rocks could be plumbed so that, during warmer months, water could spout out of the rocks. (Figure 12) Ideally this would be an interactive dimension of the design. Visitors to the Promenade could pump water using hand pumps situated by the edge of the pond. (Figure 13)

Public sculpture could be incorporated into the pond, elevated on sculpture pads. The pond would be a water sculpture park in the summer and would transform into a winter sculpture garden when the pond is drained. Sculptures could be permanent while other



Figure 11



Figure 12



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.



Figure 13

Sculptures (or if unavailable, similar pieces) that fit into this context with water spouting rocks might include Oxymoron, Plunge, and Blue Heron. Eco Turtle could be effective near the edge. (Figures 14-18) If budget permits, Andrea Stanislav's Earth Mirrors might be incorporated into the design.



Figure 14



Figure 15



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.



Figure 16

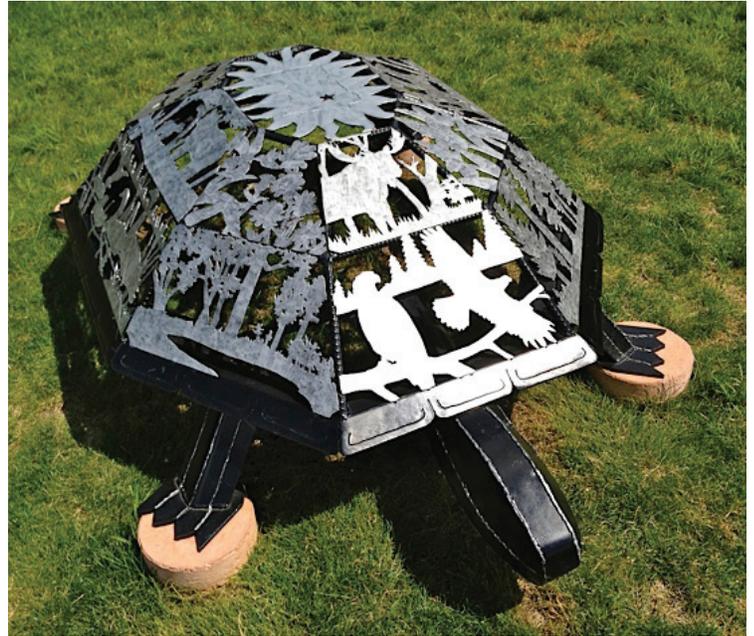


Figure 17



Figure 18



RECOMMENDATIONS CONT.

Area South of Pond

Originally, the idea for this area was to create plantings that would interpret the flow of water through the site. Barr Engineering is working with Nine Mile Creek to resolve soil issues. The result of these issues will determine the options for the design for the area directly to the south of the pond.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Sun sails for shade

Sun sails could be used near the gathering space or the pond to provide shade for visitors. (Figure 19)

Tenshon company:

<http://www.tenshon.com/>

<http://www.tenshon.com/photos.html>



Figure 19



ADDITIONAL FEATURES

Movable chairs and tables

Chairs and tables that can be moved by visitors are becoming increasingly popular in public spaces and parks. While there is a perception that these might be stolen, there has been surprisingly a low incidence of theft in places that movable chairs are being deployed. Currently there are plans for movable chairs in the upcoming redesign of the Nicollet Mall. (Figures 20, 21)

Articles about Movable chairs:

- <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/design/2012/10/power-movable-chair/3520/>
- <http://provocationutah.wordpress.com/2012/10/12/why-no-moveable-chairs/>

Example:

Venezia Folding Garden Arm Chair by Streetscapes:

<http://www.streetscapes.biz/index.php>



Figure 20



Figure 21



ADDITIONAL FEATURES



Figure 22



Figure 23

Water Bottle Filling Station and Dog Watering Feature

Another valuable amenity to the Promenade would be a water station where people could refill water bottles and dogs on a walk could get a drink. (Figure 24)

Bike Racks and Bike Shelters

Artistic bike racks/bike shelters could provide a valuable amenity, allowing people to take a break from biking and enjoy the Promenade on foot.

Bike racks could be designed by artists. There are also bike shelters that provide shelter from rain. (Figure 22, 23)



Figure 24



RELATED INITIATIVES

Possible collaborative project with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to develop a series of stone etchings based on local macro invertebrate/ microphyte imagery (Contingent upon approval of City of Edina). (Figures 25, 26)

- Time permitting, work with students or volunteers on collecting specimens from Centennial Lakes in a citizen science project
- Work with Mark Sanders at the University of Minnesota Imaging Centers to create original images from specimens
- Develop a series of templates for sandblasting into rock along Promenade and Centennial Lakes
- Work with local sandblasting company to etch images into rock
- Coordinate original artwork onsite
- Assist project team by coordinating the installation of artwork
- Explore potential interface of online education connected to the City of Edina website and the Nine Mile Creek website.

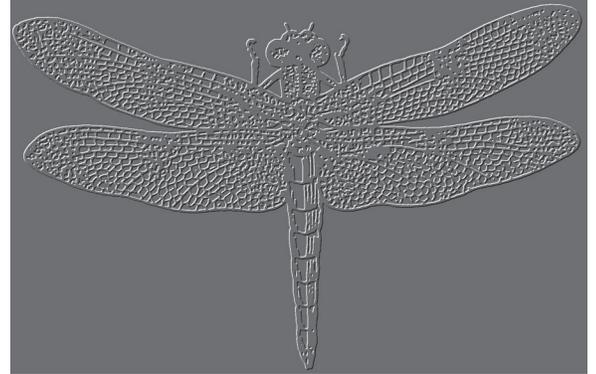


Figure 25

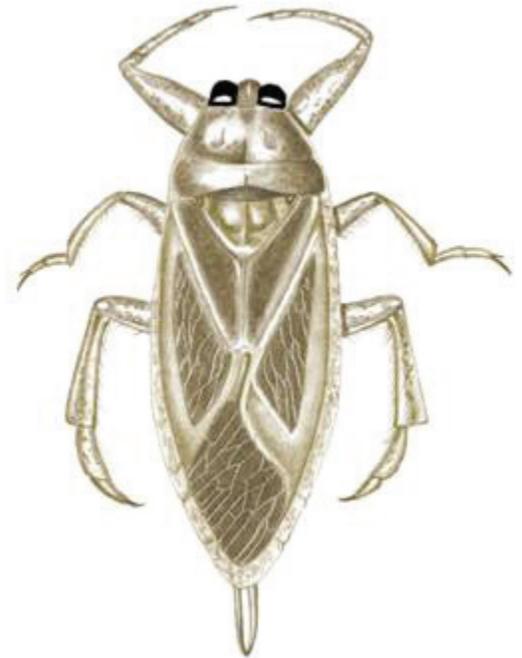


Figure 26



GRANTS

I would recommend investigating the NEA Our Town grant and Art Works grant for the funding of the project in 2015. (<http://arts.gov/grants/organizations-apply>)

Our Town

If you have questions about an Our Town application, please contact OT@arts.gov. Art works to improve the lives of America's citizens in many ways. Communities across our nation are leveraging the arts and engaging design to make their communities more livable with enhanced quality of life, increased creative activity, a distinct sense of place, and vibrant local economies that together capitalize on their existing assets. The NEA defines these efforts as the process of Creative Placemaking:

"In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, nonprofit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, tribe, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired."

Organizations may apply for creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core. An organization may request a grant amount from \$25,000 to \$200,000. The next round for Our Town is in January of 2015 (based on the deadline in 2014)

Art Works

We fund projects only. Projects may consist of one or more specific events or activities. Projects do not have to be new. Excellent existing projects can be just as competitive as new activities. Projects do not need to be big either; we welcome small projects that can make a difference in their community or field.

To support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. Matching grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Deadline: July 24, 2014

Notification: April 2015

Earliest Start Date: June 1, 2015

Art Place

Art Place is another place making grant. The letter of inquiry last year was in mid December.

<http://www.artplaceamerica.org/loi/>



NEXT STEPS

- Consult with Promenade Phase 4 Artful Design working group to prioritize features that the group wants to include on the site and make some specific selections/recommendations about artwork and amenities to be further pursued
- Research costs and get quotes on materials and desired features
- Connect with Kathryn Ryan on possible placement of features in which some infrastructure design needs to be in place (for example, sun sails, sculpture pads)
- Work with Kathryn Ryan about specific sourcing of materials (rock, gravel) to determine availability and cost
- Define next steps for commissioning art that could be incorporated into an overarching and coherent experience of the Edina Promenade, as funding becomes available and contact potential artists to find out costs of work to lease or purchase
- Create a final summary report of the ideas that relate to the infrastructure /landscape design of Promenade Phase 4
- If approved, develop demonstration project on stone etchings of water quality indicator species and explore connections with existing water education with Nine Mile Creek and local schools (may be an online education options connected to Edina)

