

National Capital Planning Commission Submitted September 29 for action at the November 2 meeting

# WASHINGTON CANAL PARK **CONCEPT SUBMISSION**

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts Submitted October 5 for action at the October 19 meeting

Anacostia Waterfront Corporation

1100 New Jersey Avenue, SE Suite 700 Washington, DC 20003

### Project Name

Location

Area

Vicinity Map

Washington Canal Park

Three blocks bounded by 2nd St. SE, 1st St. SE, Canal Street & M St. SE

128,000 sq. ft.



Submitting Group & Point of Contact

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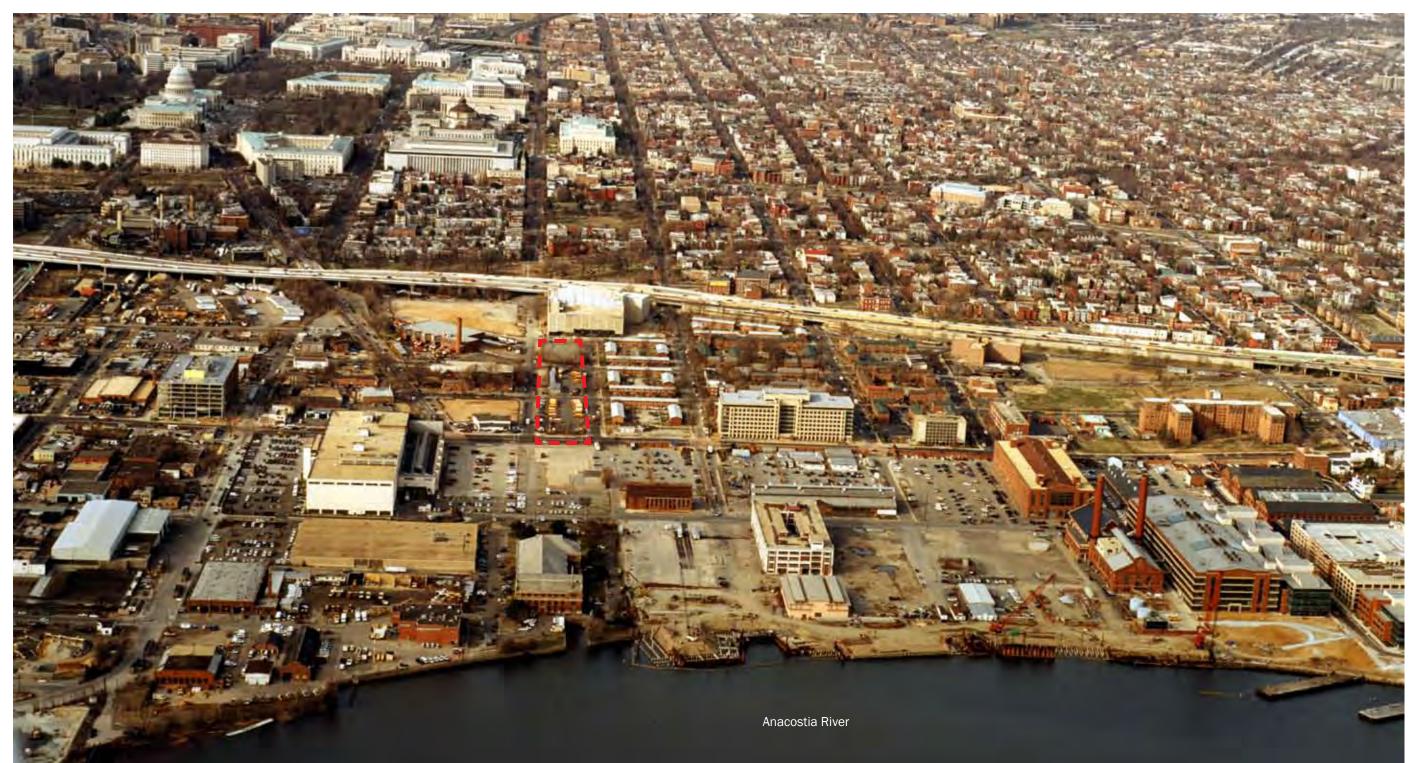
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Site in Context, 2004



Anacostia Waterfront Plan

### INTRODUCTION

### Background

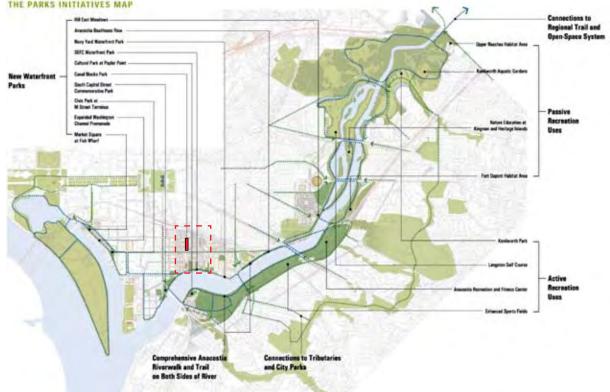
Washington Canal Park is part of the historic route of the Washington Canal that once connected the Anacostia River to the National Mall and the Potomac River. The park will be located on three narrow blocks between I and M Streets, one block from New Jersey Avenue, in the Southeast part of the District and will provide an essential link in an open space network connecting Garfield Park in Capitol Hill to Heritage Market Plaza at the new US DOT Headquarters, a waterfront park at the Southeast Federal Center, and the Anacostia RiverTrails. The park will be the first new public park built as part of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, a plan developed with the participation of District communities over several years by the DC Office of Planning.

The park is the product of a design competition funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and initiated by the DC Office of Planning in partnership with the Canal Park Development Association, a private non-profit organization established by surrounding landowners. More than 35 leading designers from around the world responded to the initial request for qualifications and four landscape architecture firms were selected to participate in the competition. The design brief required that the park reference the history of the Washington Canal and that the park incorporate state-of-the-art innovations in urban storm water management.

A jury of design professionals and community representatives selected the winning concept, submitted by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd from Seattle, Washington- a firm known for designs that emphasize the sculptural quality of the landscape. With the formation of the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation and establishment of a working budget of approximately \$6 million, the competition design is being carried forward with the intent of opening the park in the spring of 2008.

As a project of city-wide and national significance, the park will be a focal point for surrounding retail, residential, and office uses and a unique gathering space and centerpiece for the emerging Near Southeast waterfront neighborhood. Canal Park will feature distinctive water features and exceptional landscape design, recapturing the history of the neighborhood and using state of the art technology to transform urban storm water into a neighborhood amenity and international attraction. With input from the community, developers, and agency stakeholders, the schematic design is being finalized and submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission and the US Commission of Fine Arts for approval.





Parks Initiatives Map



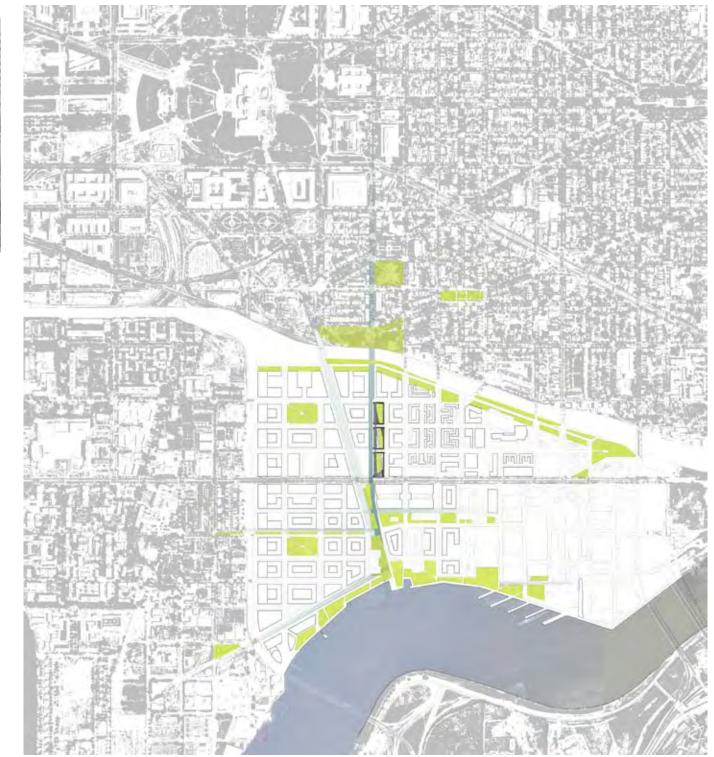
Existing north Canal Park block, looking south

"The park design brilliantly evokes the fascinating past of the Canal blocks and reveals a dynamic future. It creates a new public gathering place which will be truly welcoming and inspiring to all—neighborhood residents, workers in surrounding buildings, and visitors to this vibrant re-emerging Southeast neighborhood on the Anacostia."

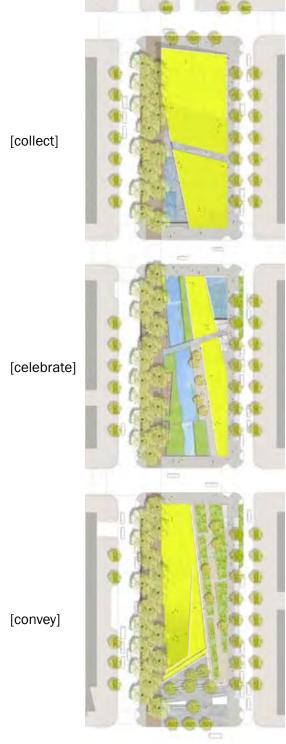
- Ken Greenberg, Competition Jury Member

"All of our citizens deserve great open spaces. Canal Park will become the heart of the mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood that is emerging in what was once a forgotten part of our city."

- Mayor Anthony A. Williams



Washington Canal Park in Context



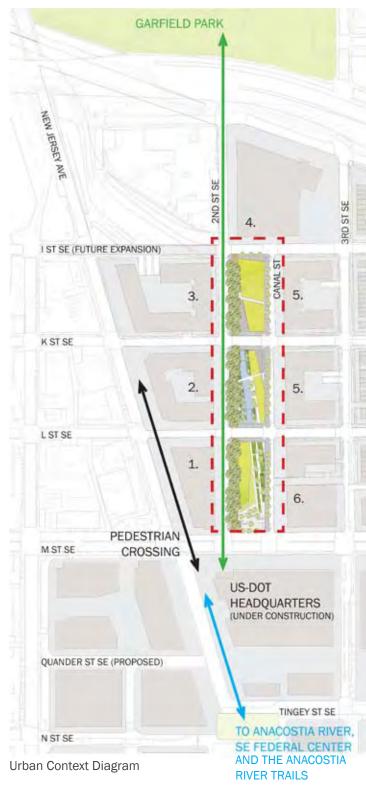
Rendered Site Plan

## **DESIGN NARRATIVE**

### **Park Design Intent**

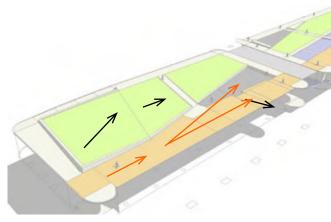
Washington Canal Park will act primarily as a foundation - a construction which grounds cultural space in an effective understanding of and connection to local and natural forces. Its design will integrate the larger needs of waterfront access and environmental quality with the local concerns of neighborhood open space and stormwater management. The park will establish vital pedestrian links between the Anacostia River waterfront and the larger park and trail networks associated with it.

The park will also offer a meaningful cultural space to the neighborhood. This space will help connect the emergent communities of the Southeast to both their local roots and the story of their larger urban setting. The identities of these communities will be additionally defined by new forms of infrastructure that highlight and improve the connection between local land use and the larger environmental quality of the Anacostia River Basin. Washington Canal Park will be a central piece in the larger efforts of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative to redefine the identity of neighborhoods surrounding the Anacostia River and their relation to the rest of the city. It will found larger visions of the city's past and future in the hidden narratives of its site, both human and natural.

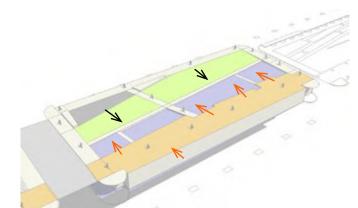




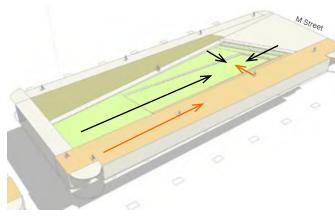




North Block Grading Study



Middle Block Grading Study



South Block Grading Study

### **General Approach**

The general design approach of Washington Canal Park integrates the human experience of the park with the presence, memory, and management of water in the larger urban landscape. Cultural spaces and amenities also function as components of the stormwater management system on site, and vice versa. More specifically, the movements of people and water through the three blocks of the park are choreographed through a series of physical and cultural gestures: convey, celebrate, and collect.

### 1. Convey

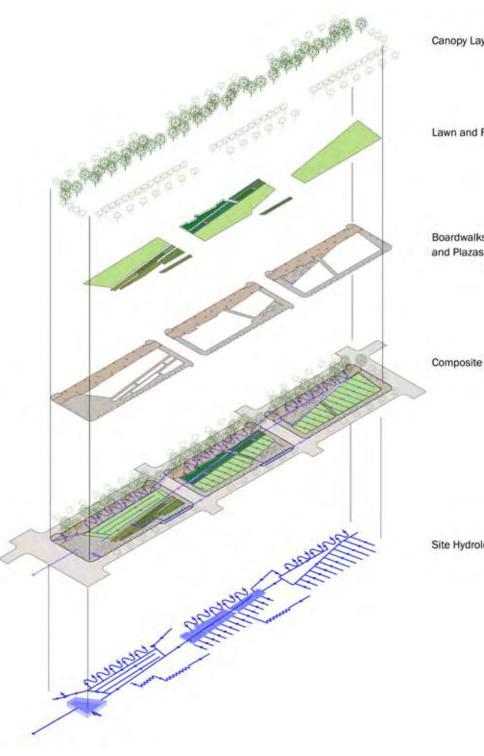
The northern block of the park serves as the conceptual starting point in the journey of people and water across the site. A raised landform at its northern end accentuates the existing slope of the site from north to south, and provides a broad swath of lawn as neighborhood open space for picnics and passive recreation. The boardwalk extending down its west edge conducts visitors through the site and connects the park with the larger pedestrian context of Capitol Hill, the redeveloped Anacostia Waterfront, and the National's Baseball Stadium.

### 2. Celebrate

The middle block celebrates the connection between site water and surrounding communities through a functionally engineered series of horticultural displays. These 'aquatic gardens' recirculate stormwater from rain events through the cleansing filters of aquatic and emergent vegetation.

### 3. Collect

The southern block collects people and water from diverse origins into common spaces. The intersection between neighborhood open space and the boardwalk expands to encompass the majority of the parcel with the spaces of the amphitheater and plaza at the park's southern terminus. Beneath the plaza, a cistern collects treated site water for irrigation of plants and recirculation through the bioretention cells on the middle block.



GGN Competition Diagram, 2004

Canopy Layer

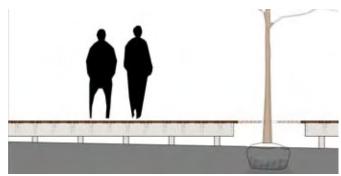
Lawn and Filtration Gardens

Boardwalks, Sidewalks, and Plazas

Site Hydrology



Looking south toward M Street and the DDOT HQ, GGN Competition Drawing



Boardwalk Conceptual Section







### **Design Elements**

#### Boardwalk

A boardwalk along the site's western edge facilitates the sheltered and continuous promenade of park users to the Anacostia waterfront and connects to a larger route of passage through the neighborhood from Garfield Park and Capitol Hill north of I-395. Its wooden material recalls the historic Canal and alludes to the waterfront character of the neighborhood. It is a porous surface, allowing rain to drain through to provide water to tree roots below. The wood used in the construction of the boardwalk will be an FSC-certified tropical hardwood such as Ipe or Jarrah. This will be guaranteed to be harvested from a renewable forest, and will provide the benefits of low-maintenance and a durability of greater than 40 years.

Stormwater runoff from the adjacent 2nd St SE will pass through openings in the curb along the boardwalk edge into a continuous bioretention planting trench under the boardwalk. The soil mix in this bioretention zone will be designed to slow, cool, and clean stormwater runoff from adjacent streets prior to incorporating this water into the larger hydrological systems of the site, in addition to providing a healthy growth medium for the canopy trees planted in this zone.

Seating along the edges of the boardwalk will be provided by custom benches which appear to fold out of the walking surface of the boardwalk itself. On the west edge of the boardwalk, these elements will take on a consistent modular form, while on the east (or inside) edge they will transform in relation to the adjacent areas of the park. Seating elements along the east edge of the boardwalk will provide a variety of different experiences and postures, ranging from a reclining platform to a stool height seat.

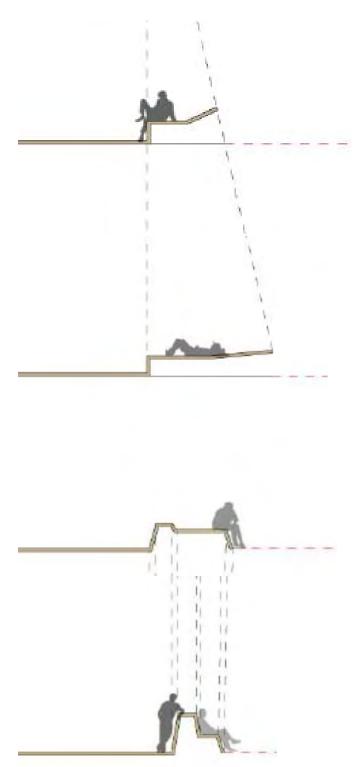




North Block Boardwalk Study Perspectives



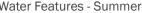
North Block Boardwalk Study Axonometric



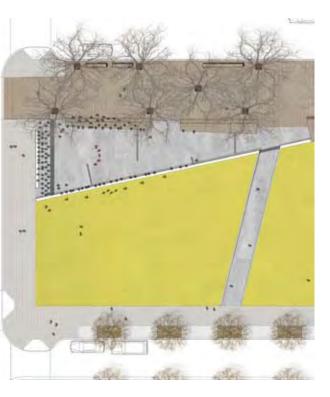
**Seating Studies** 

















#### Water Features

The water features of Washington Canal Park will provide areas for both active and intellectual engagement with water and the many forms and processes it takes as it moves through and across the urban landscape. They will reinforce the notion of water moving continuously through the spaces of the park but will remain functionally isolated with treated and recirculated water to ensure that the water which people are in contact with remains clean and safe.

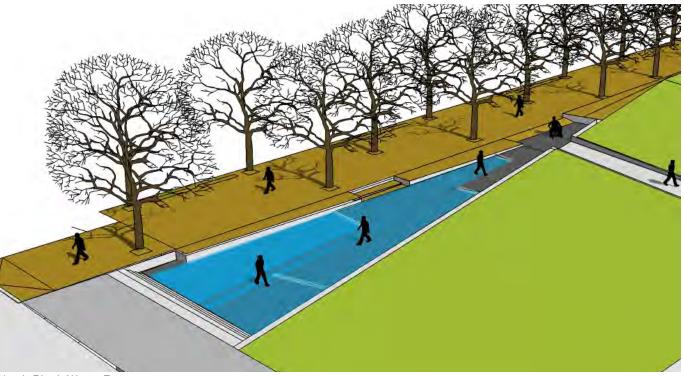
#### North Block

The north block water feature will enhance the sense of passage into the park from the north. Purified water emerges in horizontal jets from a series of low wedges and is conveyed in overlapping scrims across a sloping, dark stone surface. Children will be able to engage in both the jets and the scrims, while their parents watch from benches along the perimeter of the area, and from a series of steps separating the water feature from the sidewalk along K St.

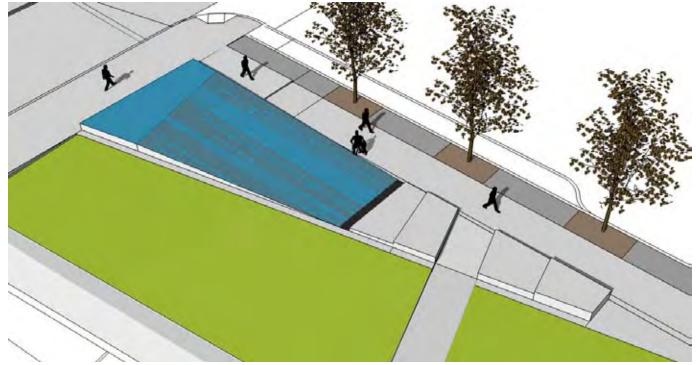
#### Middle Block

The 'emergent' waters of the North Block Water Feature are connected conceptually to a reciprocal water feature on the middle parcel which holds water in a raised basin before passing it across a sloped slab of stone, perforated with a field of jets. The pattern and sequence of the jets will create a dynamic interference with the scrims, taking on a similar appearance to raindrops falling on water. At the base of the sloped element, the water disappears into the ground from which it emerged through an expressively detailed drain.

Both the North and Middle Block Water Features suggest the continuity of flows of water across the site, its appearance from out of the ground, and its eventual disappearance into the ground. In the fall and winter, when water does not flow through the water features, they offer spaces for impromptu performance and gathering. Their sculptural forms relate to the larger landforms of the site, providing additional aesthetic interest even in the absence of water.

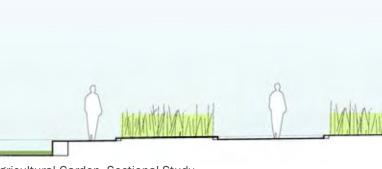


North Block Water Feature



Middle Block Water Feature

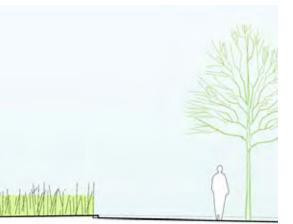




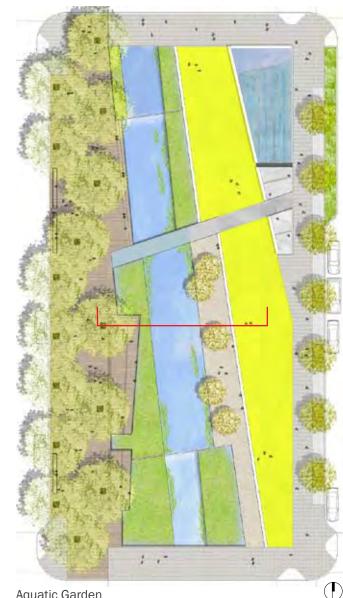
Agricultural Garden, Sectional Study











Aquatic Garden

100400	COLOR M	Marking Com	Managing Street M
1	200		

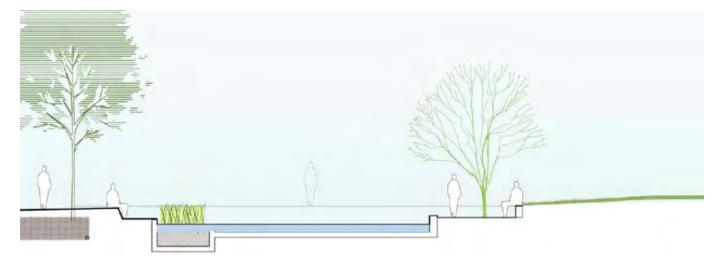
#### Aquatic Garden

The Aquatic Garden celebrates the connection between site water and the surrounding communities through a functionally engineered series of horticultural displays. Recalling both the historic presence of the area's swamps and the Washington Canal, this garden is composed of a flowing channel of water which is edged by a series of aquatic and emergent planting beds. Showcasing plants of local and seasonal significance and utility in the treatment of storm water, the floral displays of these beds serve as a horticultural interface between the community and the management of neighborhood storm water. The aquatic garden recirculates site water from storm events through the cleansing filters of aquatic and emergent vegetation. Fed by runoff from the park blocks, the water cirulating through the aquatic garden passes over two weirs to aid aeration and prevent the growth of algae and mosquito larvae prior to its return to the cistern at the site's southern terminus. The aquatic garden also offers the possibility of educational use and community involvement, centered around its ecological functions and horticultural elements.

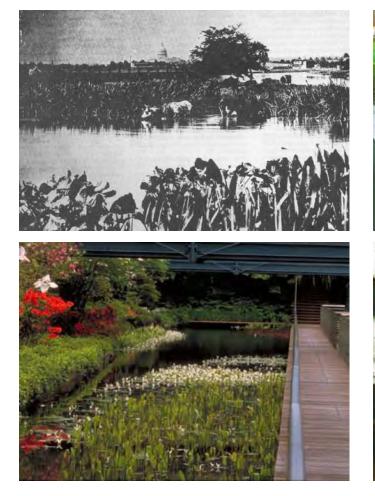
#### **Agricultural Garden**

In the south block, the planting and configuration of the Agricultural Garden evokes the seasonally shifting tale of the site's agricultural history, recalling the farms and subsistance gardens which occupied the areas surrounding the site at one time.

Composed of a pattern of beds set in a base of crushed stone, the drought-tolerant species of perennial flowers and grasses of the Agricultural Garden will be irrigated, when necessary, from the water stored in the cistern. Smaller gathering places, as well as seating, will be provided in the spaces between and along the edges of the beds. The Agricultural Garden will also offer a potential location for community involvement in the care of the Park, with the possibility of certain beds being allocated for use or care by residents of the adjacent buildings and neighborhood.

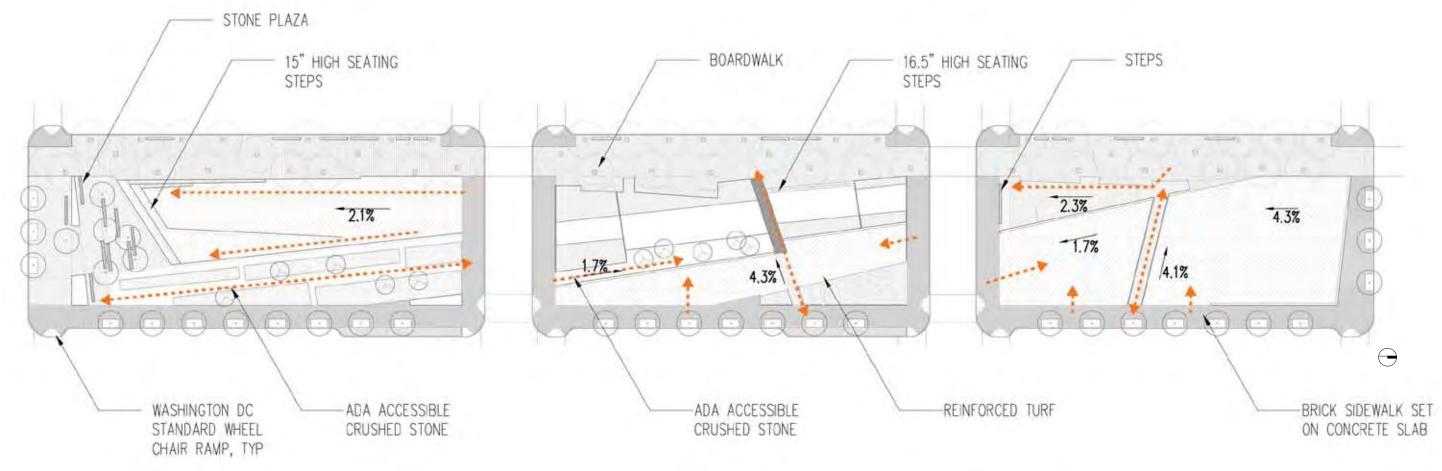


Aquatic Garden, Sectional Study









Accessibility Diagram

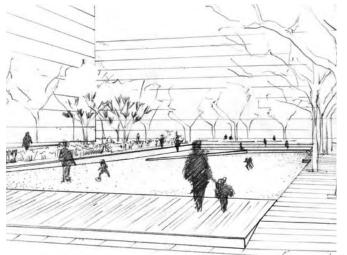


#### **Amphitheater & Plaza**

The amphitheater in the South Block will accomodate different types of performances by groups such as the locally-based U.S. Marine Band. The constructed topography of steps, terraces, and sloped planes will act as both seats and stages, depending on the scale of the performance and audience, with a maximum seated occupancy of 232. Electrical outlets will be integrated within site components such as walls, and areas will be sized to accommodate the spatial requirements of particular performance groups.

The Plaza along M Street in the South Block will be the most active and urban area of the Park. Its hardscape surface will accommodate a high level of use and provide a lid for a water storage cistern located beneath it. Located directly across the street from the new Federal DOT headquarters, this plaza will serve as an area for both office workers and neighborhood residents to congregate, eat lunch, and enjoy the out of doors. The plaza will incorporate a work of public art or water feature which will respond directly to environmental variations and reflect the presence of the water storage cistern below the plaza. Deciduous trees will help to shade the surface of the plaza in summer, but allow sunlight in the winter, helping to make it a more comfortable space in all seasons.







#### Park Programming

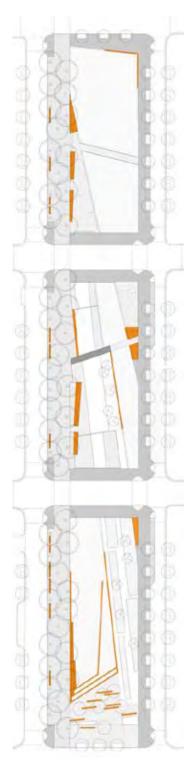
The programming of the park will be accommodated by both the overall area of the park, and by smaller areas which meet specific needs. In the former sense, the cross streets interior to the park - J and K - as well as Canal St along the park's Eastern Edge, may be closed for special events such as neigborhood street festivals. Smaller events such as concerts or performances by local groups such as the Marine Concert Band can be accommodated in a variety of spaces interior to the park, such as the sunken amphitheater in the south block, the raised landform on the north block, and the urban plaza along M st. Additionally, the potential location of memorials within the park site will be integrated within the existing design elements of the park, in forms such as engraved paving elements or benches.

#### Park Maintenance

The maintenance of the agricultural and aquatic gardens will require a dedicated staff of experienced organic gardeners. This staff will need to be supported by a partnership between local business and property owners and the District of Columbia. The maintenance of these gardens will follow principles of organic gardening, included but not limited to, the following:

- -Natural fertilization using compost and techniques such as grass-cycling.
- -Smart-watering and choice of drought tolerant re placement plants.
- -Organic mulch using compost and garden waste materials generated by the park itself.

Additionally, the innovative stormwater management techniques and technologies will require a partnership between City Infrastructure Maintenance Staff and Garden Staff, as these systems will frequently incorporate planted areas in the stormwater system.



Seating Diagram

## SUBMISSION DRAWINGS

Rendered Site Plan: South Block Rendered Site Plan: Middle Block Rendered Site Plan: North Block L101 Site/Materials Plan: South Block L102 Site/Materials Plan: Middle Block L103 Site/Materials Plan: North Block L121 Grading Plan: South Block L122 Grading Plan: Middle Block L123 Grading Plan: North Block L201 Sections: South Block L203 Sections: Middle Block L203 Sections: North Block



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### Rendered Site Plan: South Block



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### Rendered Site Plan: Middle Block





### Rendered Site Plan: North Block

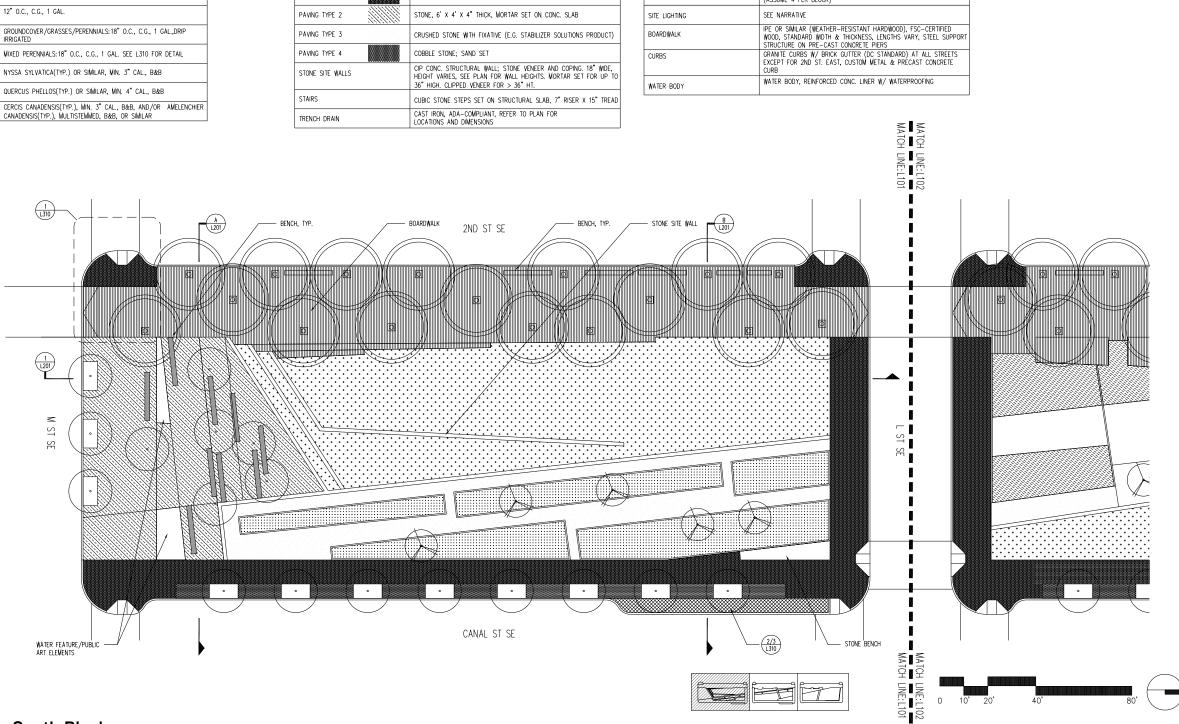
#### PLANTING NOTES

LEGEND		DESCRIPTION
REINFORCED TURF		NETLON SYSTEM, SOD, IRRIGATED
Aquatic and emergent Plant Mix		12" O.C., C.G., 1 GAL.
perennial Mix		GROUNDCOVER/GRASSES/PERENNIALS: 18" O.C., C.G., 1 GAL., DRIP IRRIGATED
BIORETENTION SWALE		MIXED PERENNIALS: 18" O.C., C.G., 1 GAL. SEE L310 FOR DETAIL
TREE TYPE 1	$\odot$	NYSSA SYLVATICA(TYP.) OR SIMILAR, MIN. 3" CAL., B&B
TREE TYPE 2	$\odot$	QUERCUS PHELLOS(TYP.) OR SIMILAR, MIN. 4" CAL., B&B
TREE TYPE 3	$\Diamond$	CERCIS CANADENSIS(TYP.), MIN. 3" CAL., B&B, AND/OR AMELENCHIER CANADENSIS(TYP.), MULTISTEMMED, B&B, OR SIMILAR

#### <u>Material notes</u>

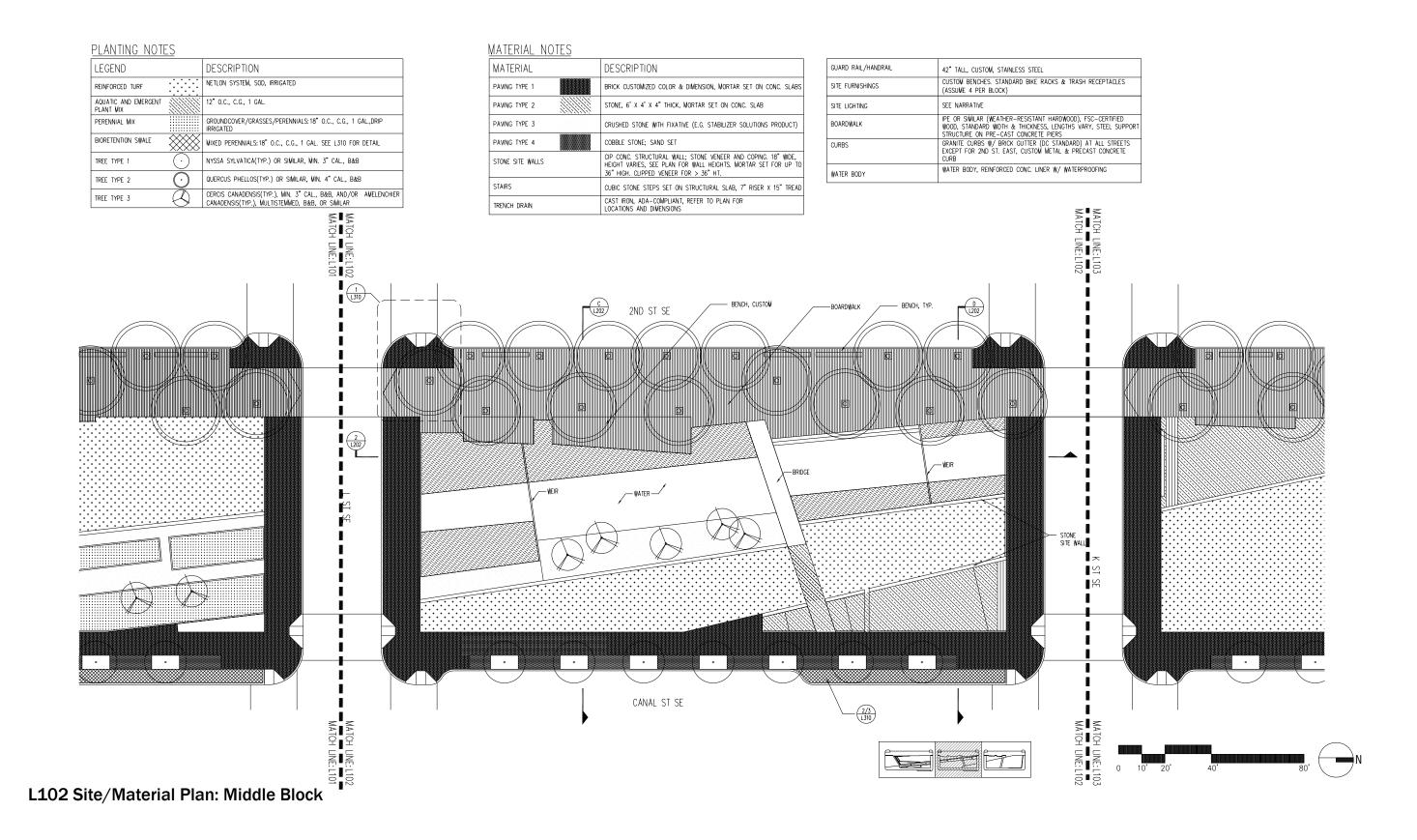
MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION
	DESCRIPTION
PAVING TYPE 1	BRICK CUSTOMIZED COLOR & DIMENSION, MORTAR SET ON CONC. SLABS
PAVING TYPE 2	STONE, 6' X 4' X 4" THICK, MORTAR SET ON CONC. SLAB
PAVING TYPE 3	CRUSHED STONE WITH FIXATIVE (E.G. STABILIZER SOLUTIONS PRODUCT)
PAVING TYPE 4	COBBLE STONE; SAND SET
STONE SITE WALLS	CIP CONC. STRUCTURAL WALL; STONE VENEER AND COPING. 18" WIDE, HEIGHT VARIES, SEE PLAN FOR WALL HEIGHTS. MORTAR SET FOR UP TO 36" HIGH. CLIPPED VENEER FOR $>$ 36" HT.
STAIRS	CUBIC STONE STEPS SET ON STRUCTURAL SLAB, 7" RISER X 15" TREAD
TRENCH DRAIN	CAST IRON, ADA-COMPLIANT, REFER TO PLAN FOR LOCATIONS AND DIMENSIONS

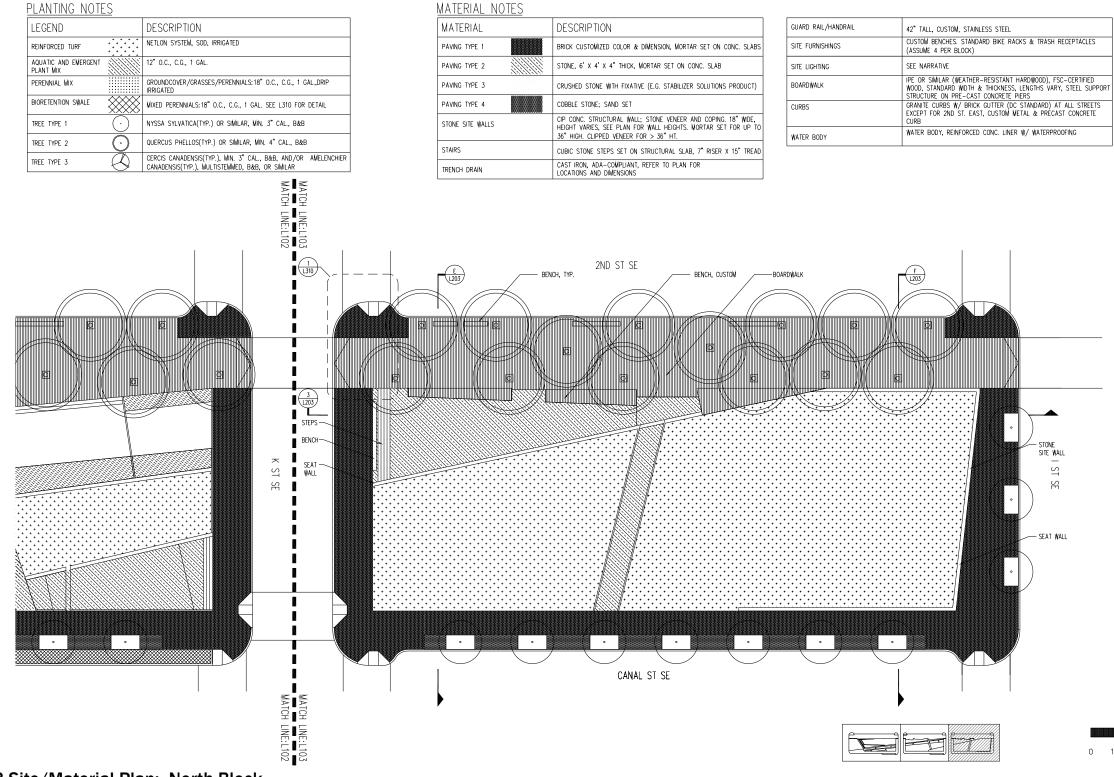
GUARD RAIL/HANDRAIL	42" TALL, CUSTOM, STAINLESS STEEL
SITE FURNISHINGS	CUSTOM BENCHES. STANDARD BIKE RACKS & TRASH RECEPTACLES (ASSUME 4 PER BLOCK)
SITE LIGHTING	SEE NARRATIVE
BOARDWALK	IPE OR SIMILAR (WEATHER-RESISTANT HARDWOOD), FSC-CERTIFIED WOOD, STANDARD WIDTH & THICKNESS, LENGTHS VARY, STEEL SUPPO STRUCTURE ON PRE-CAST CONCRETE PIERS
CURBS	GRANITE CURBS W/ BRICK GUTTER (DC STANDARD) AT ALL STREETS EXCEPT FOR 2ND ST. EAST, CUSTOM METAL & PRECAST CONCRETE CURB
WATER BODY	WATER BODY, REINFORCED CONC. LINER W/ WATERPROOFING





### L101 Site/Material Plan: South Block





L103 Site/Material Plan: North Block

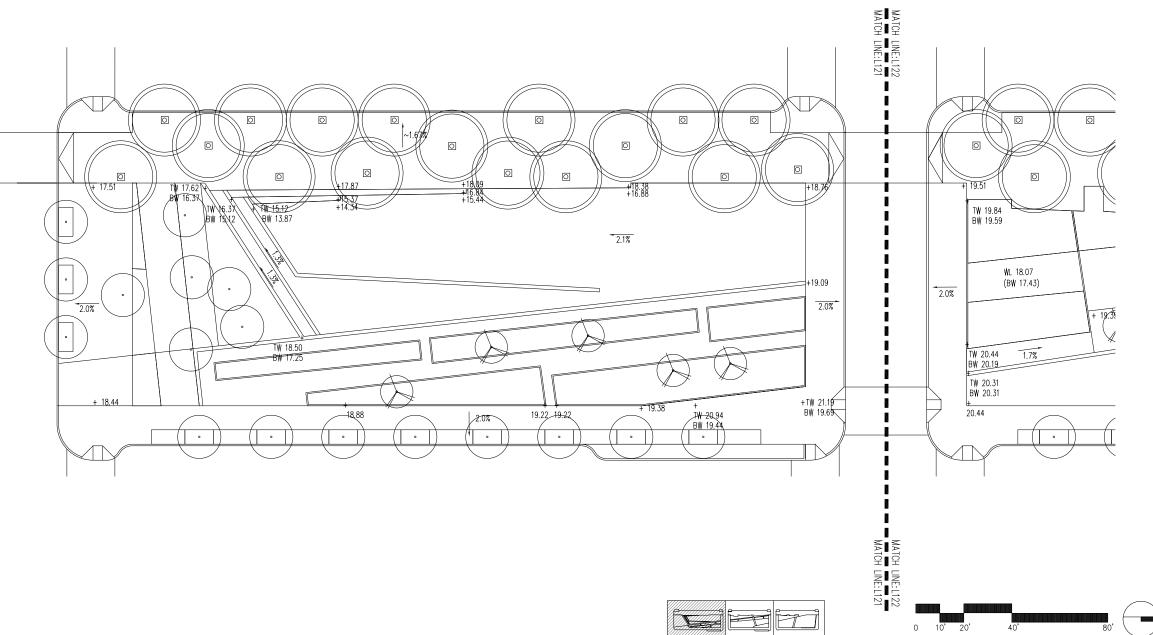
- STONE SITE WALL

ST

R

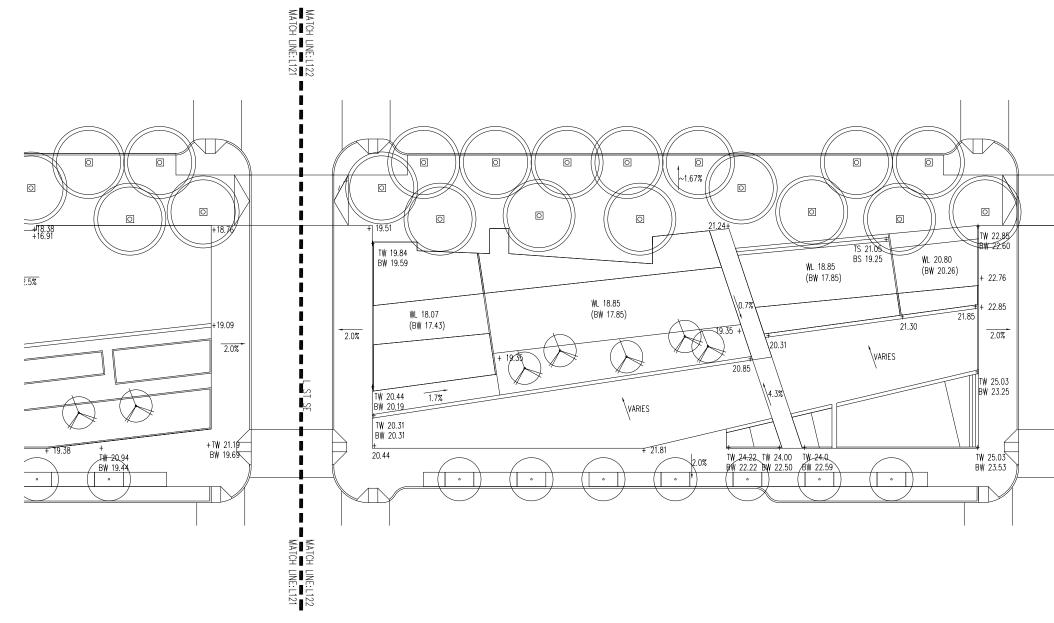
SEAT WALL





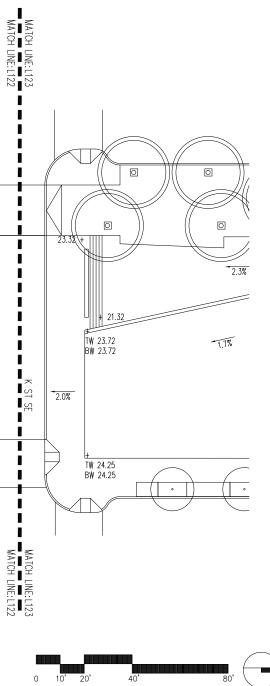
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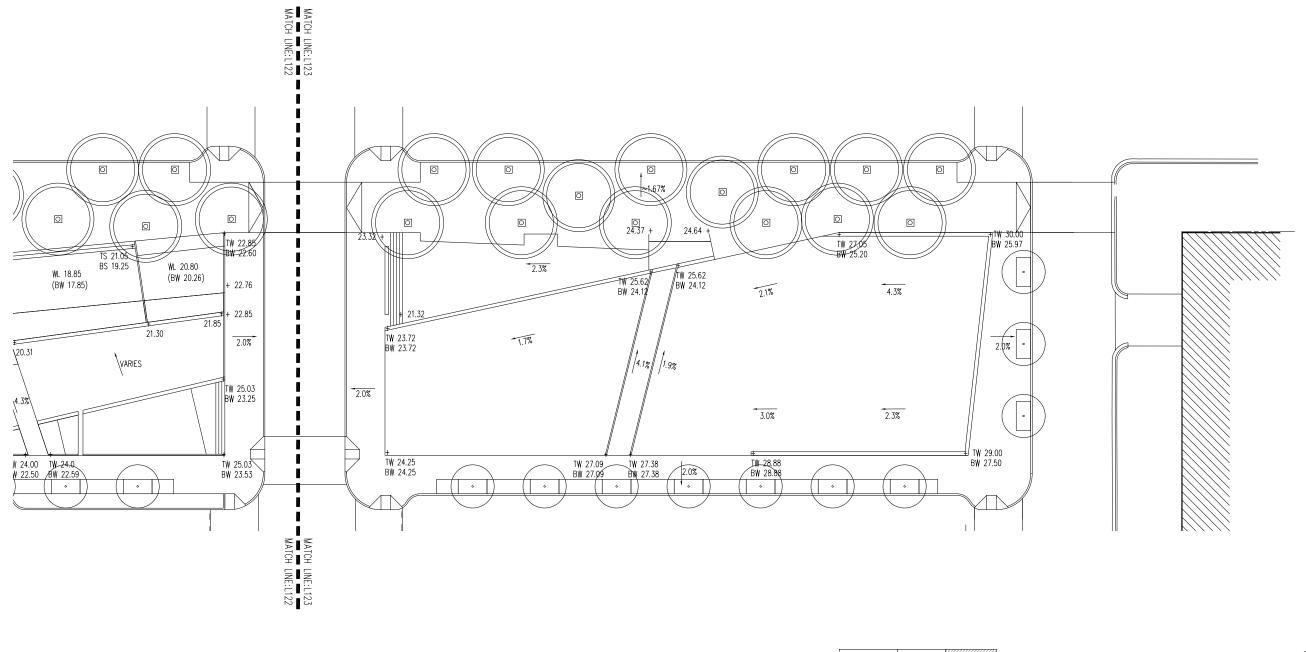
### L121 Grading Plan: South Block

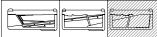


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### L122 Grading Plan: Middle Block

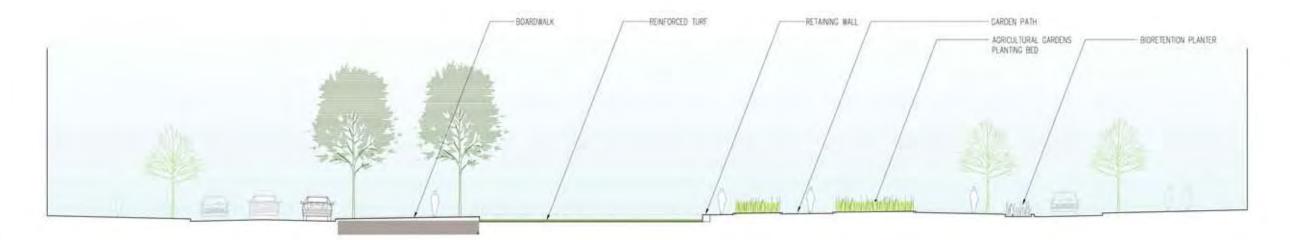




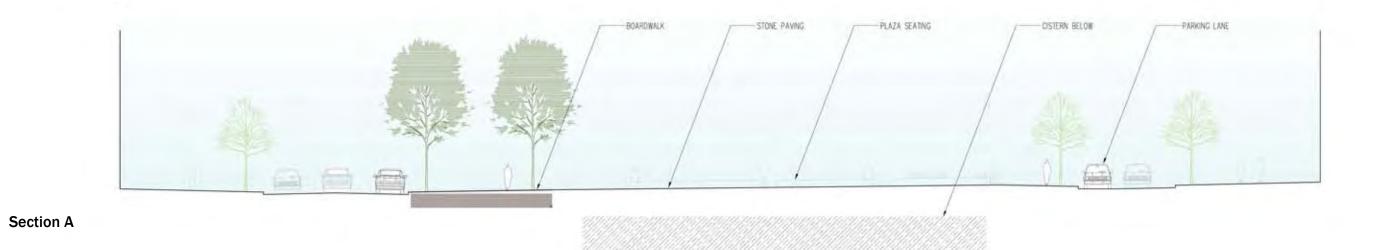


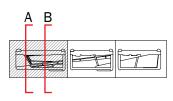
### L123 Grading Plan: North Block





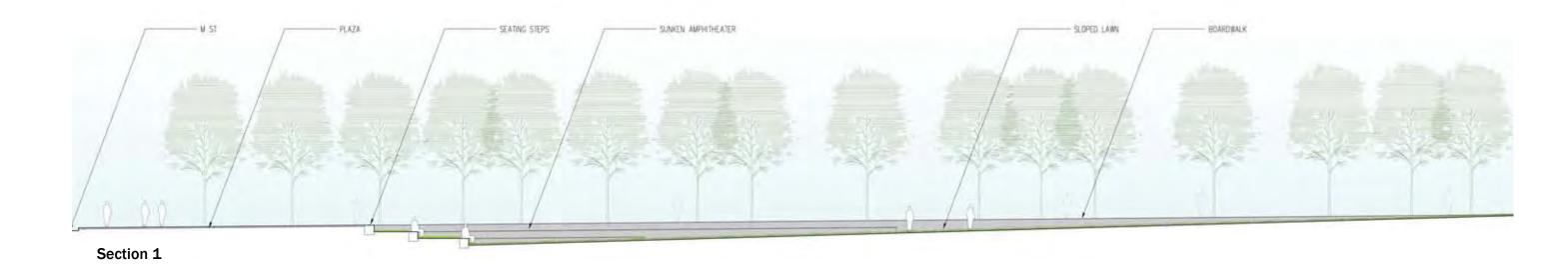
Section B



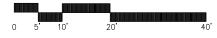


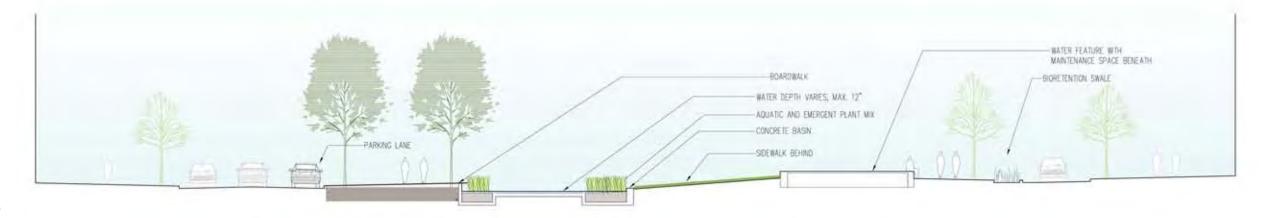
### L201 Sections: South Block



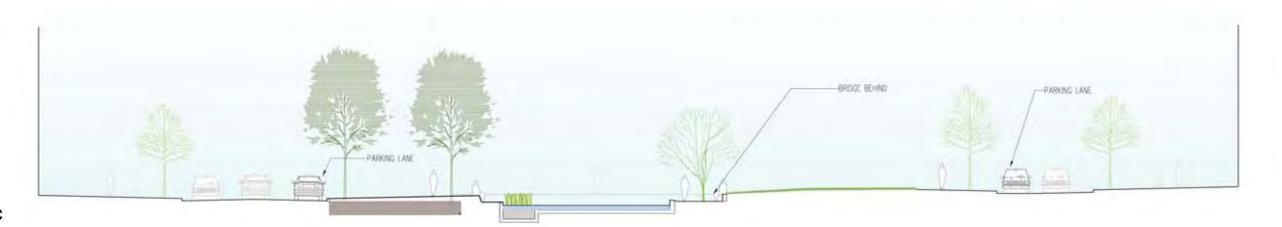


### L201 Sections: South Block





Section D

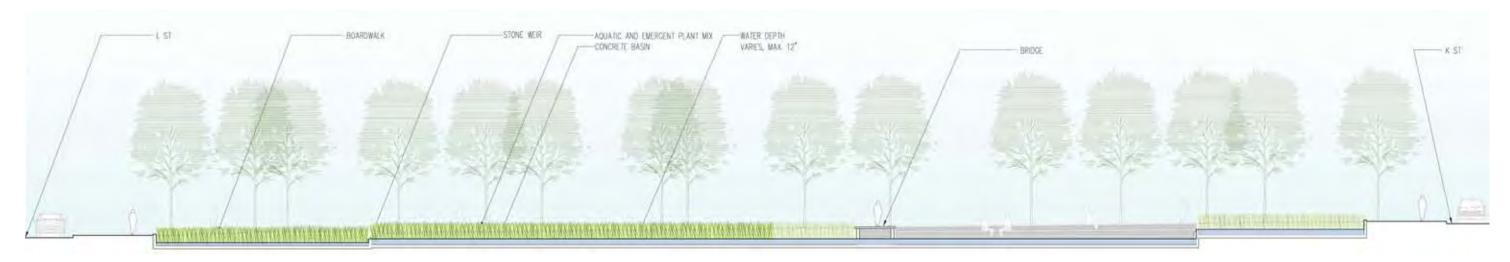


Section C

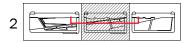
### L202 Sections: Middle Block



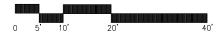
<u>C</u> D

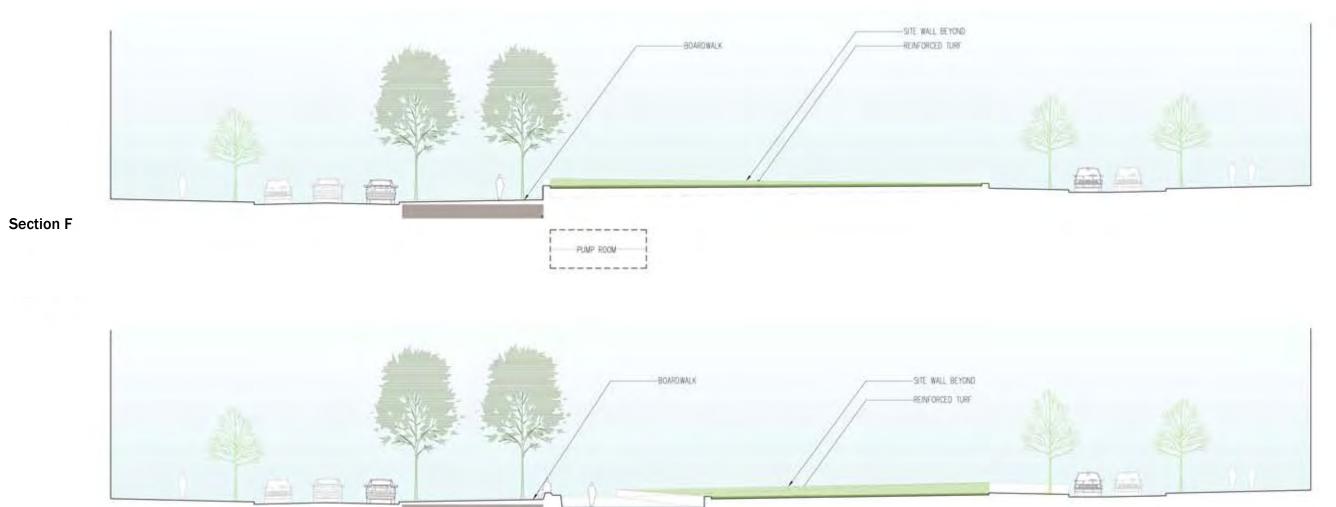


Section 2



### L202 Sections: Middle Block





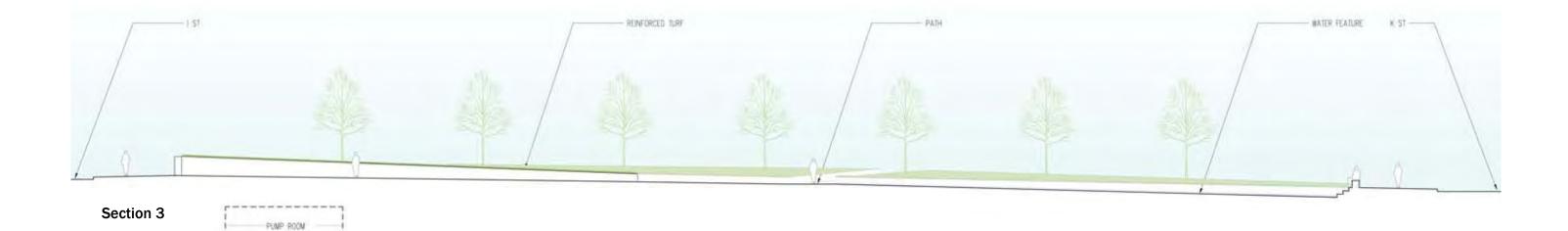
Section E

### L203 Sections: North Block



EF

F



# 3

### L203 Sections: North Block

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