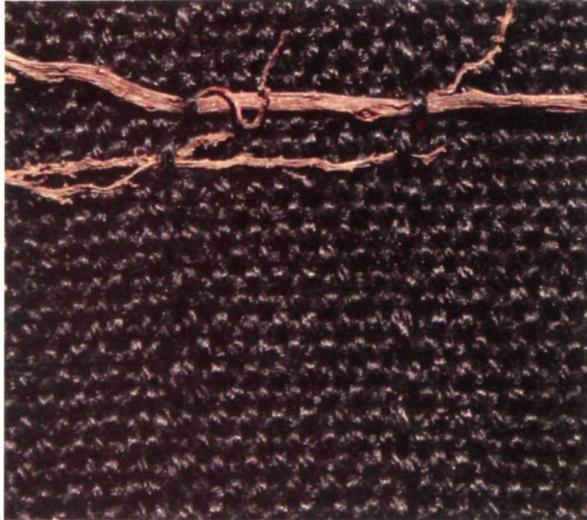


Art Community Landscapes

ArtCommunity Landscapes



A Partnership Project

National Endowment for the Arts
National Park Service
New England Foundation for the Arts

Prepared by

Valerie Bianchi and Charles Tracy
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, Northeast Region

Art & Community Landscapes Publication No. 1 / 2008

Cover: Norway Spruce

Elizabeth Billings, Conservation Stewardship Artist-in-Residence
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

Woven using a cotton ground with a supplementary warp attaching the roots and needles. The roots were collected from Norway spruce seedlings pruned just before planting. They were part of the first new planting at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in over 50 years. The needles were gathered from the largest Norway spruce in Vermont estimated at approximately 135 years and part of the first planting on the property.

Cover Image and page 2: Michael Sacca.

Environmental Engagement through the Arts

From early on the National Park Service has supported the role of artists as leaders and catalysts for change. The work of artists such as Albert Bierstadt, Carleton Watkins and Ansel Adams helped introduce American landscapes to the public and inspired the creation of our national park system itself. In a very modern sense, Art & Community Landscapes has reinvigorated the notion of environmental engagement through the arts.

Art & Community Landscapes has been successful in supporting site-based public art projects that bring together artists, organizations and whole communities. These projects introduced different perspectives and simultaneously inspired greater involvement in protection and enhancement of the natural environment. Through a variety of cross-disciplinary approaches, Art & Community Landscapes projects brought together artists and diverse community members to forge new connections between organizations and residents. At a time when stewardship of our planet is more important than ever, Art & Community Landscapes has helped advance environmental awareness through art making in communities.

The New England Foundation for the Arts jointly administered Art & Community Landscapes; coordinating artist selection and lending public art expertise, technical assistance and consultation for each artist residency. Through ongoing grant making and service to the field, the New England Foundation for the Arts will continue supporting community-engaging public art that fosters both change and challenge.

With its emphasis on civic engagement, Art & Community Landscapes challenges artists and communities to reevaluate the significance of their everyday environment.

Liesel Fenner
Manager of Public Art
Americans for the Arts

Rebecca Blunk
Executive Director
New England Foundation for the Arts

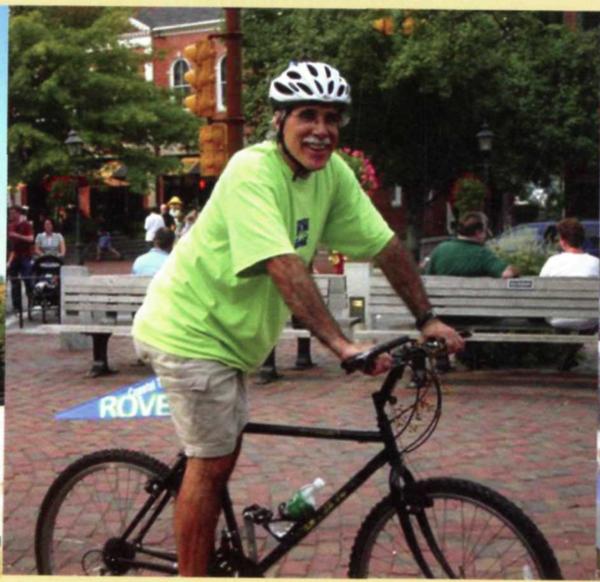
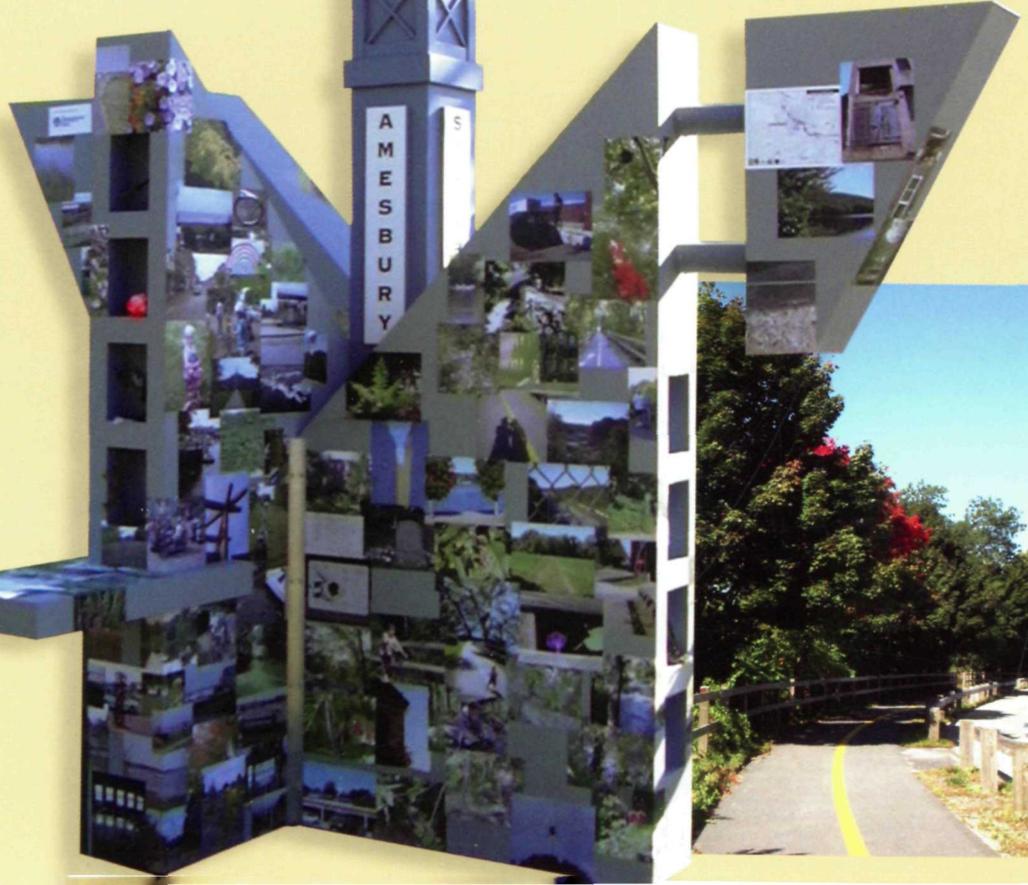
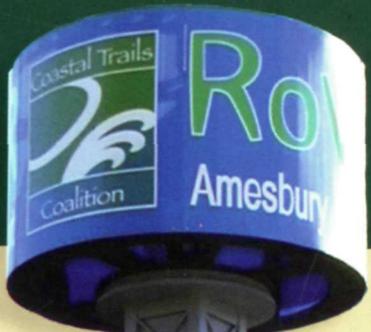
This is our first report on public art projects that creatively engage communities and national park visitors in addressing their relationship to the environment. The majority of these projects were supported by Art & Community Landscapes, a partnership between the New England Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service. The others were inspired by or reflect the partnership's goals: site-based public art as a catalyst for increased environmental awareness and stewardship. All were linked in some way to a larger environmental initiative (recreation, land conservation, habitat restoration) assisted by the National Park Service.

What really unifies these 18 projects—12 in communities and 6 in units of the National Park Service—is a deeper engagement with the environment: through site-specific art, the artists invited, inspired and sometimes challenged communities and individuals to consider how they relate to their environment. The artists and their work have influenced the stories these communities tell about themselves and the places which are important to them.

What distinguishes these projects is a broad range of solutions. The art varies widely: it includes temporary and permanent art installations, festivals, exhibitions, interpretive media, and other works informed by community and place.







Coastal Trails Rover

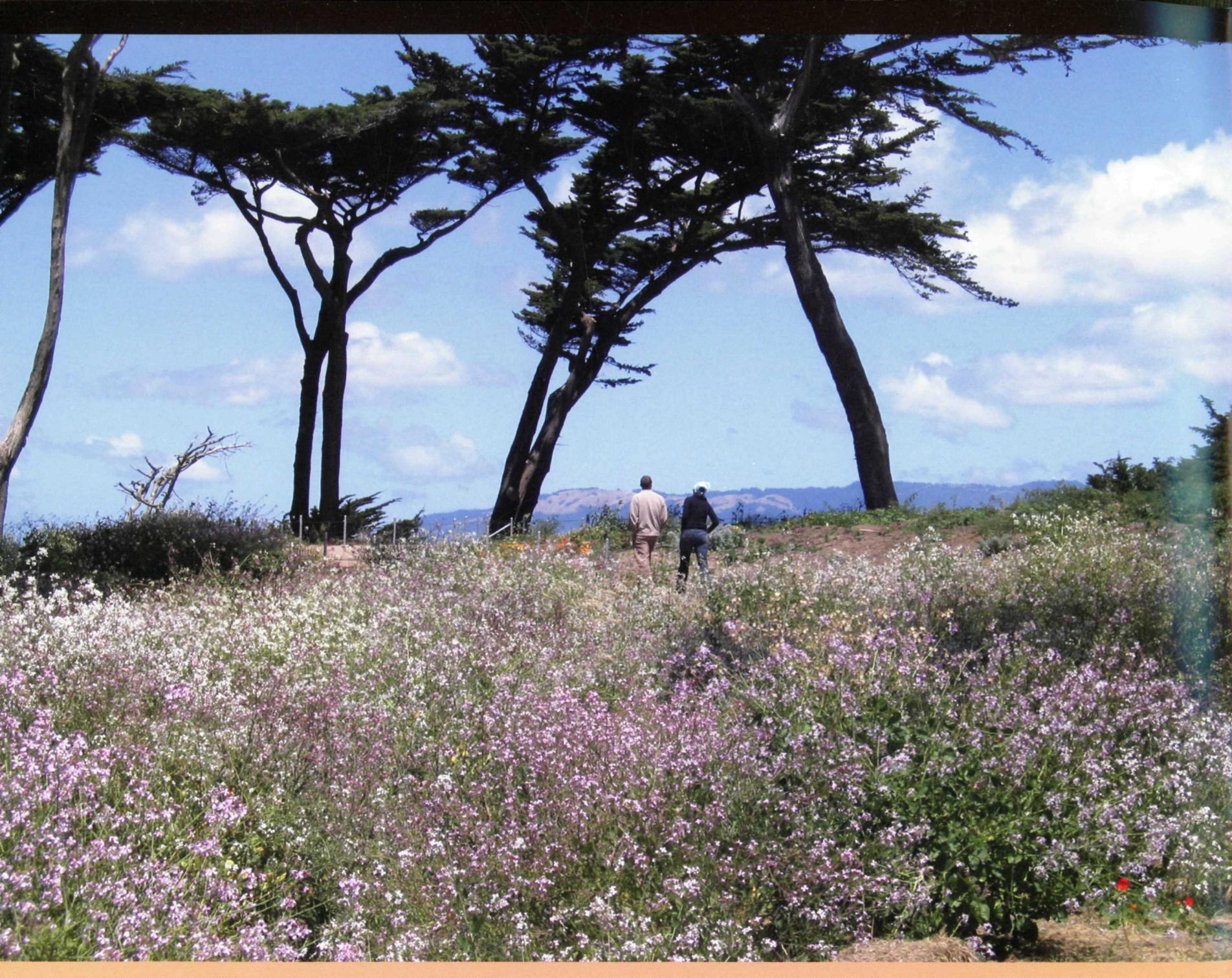
Dave Davies and Bert Snow

Essex National Heritage Area

Essex County, Massachusetts

The Coastal Trails Rover recruited bicyclists and walkers to explore potential routes for a new trail network linking the region's coastal features with town centers and transportation hubs within the Essex National Heritage Area. Explorers returned to base with digital images of their discoveries which were posted on the Rover sculpture. The portable four-sided sculpture itself was taken on tour and served as a rallying point for later trail events.





Comings and Goings

Jeannene Przyblyski

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

San Francisco, California

Years of experience with time travel suggest that it is generally a good idea to end where you started. To ensure maximum spatial-temporal stability, time travelers are advised to stay on the trail.

Comings and Goings is a site-specific time traveling project investigating the histories of habitation and conquest, militarization and recreation, and geological change at the western-most edge of San Francisco. Following the California Coastal Trail from Sutro Baths to Sea Cliff—and back again—participants were invited to retrace history along the trail, equipped with an audio podcast and reversible wayfinding guide.

Lands End Sound Map

the ocean
traffic

The Tennessee Waltz, on a Seeburg style “K” Xylophone

a conversation in Japanese

a wooden ship rocking with the tide

a robin’s song

the ticking of a rather large clock

film running through a movie projector

a shovel digging in loose earth

a golf club slicing through the air

a short silence



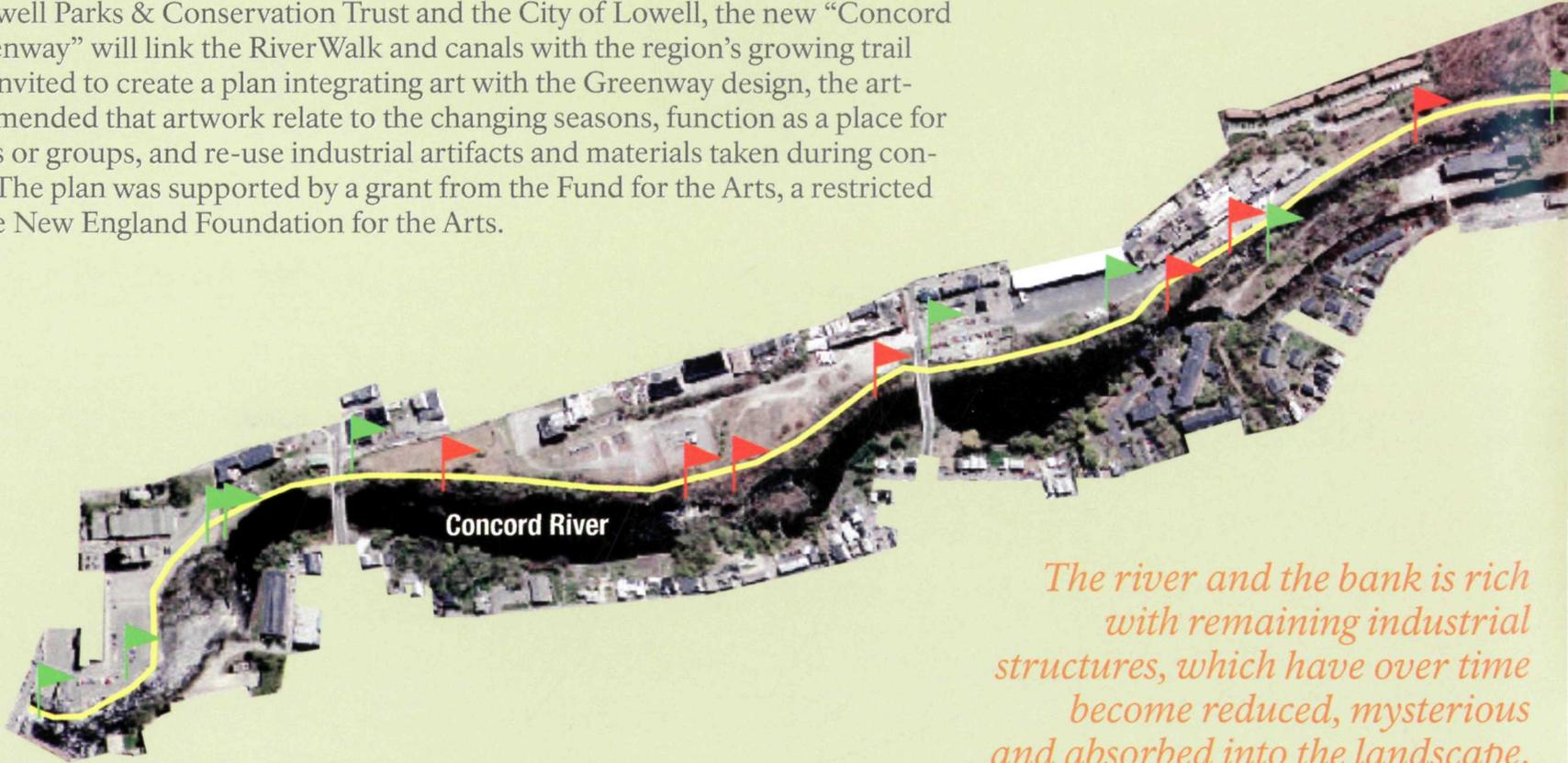
Concord River Greenway Art Plan

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder

Lowell National Historical Park

Lowell, Massachusetts

Led by Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust and the City of Lowell, the new “Concord River Greenway” will link the RiverWalk and canals with the region’s growing trail network. Invited to create a plan integrating art with the Greenway design, the artists recommended that artwork relate to the changing seasons, function as a place for individuals or groups, and re-use industrial artifacts and materials taken during construction. The plan was supported by a grant from the Fund for the Arts, a restricted fund of the New England Foundation for the Arts.



The river and the bank is rich with remaining industrial structures, which have over time become reduced, mysterious and absorbed into the landscape. We found many of them to be of great sculptural interest and rich catalysts for potential art or performance projects.

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder

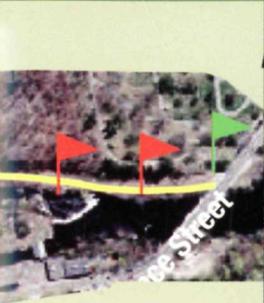
Where would you like to stop and spend more time?



Identified sites by 30+ community participants



Identified sites by the artists



Conservation Stewardship Artist-in-Residence

Elizabeth Billings

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

Woodstock, Vermont

Exploring and celebrating the historical and contemporary role of art in inspiring public awareness and support for conservation stewardship was the basis for an artist residency pilot program at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. The panels are woven using locally gathered natural materials such as stalks, stems, needles, grasses, and saplings.



*I love to weave.
I am not sure whether
it is the connection to
generations and cultures
before and around me, or in
response to our own oil driven
society, or the rhythm that takes
over during the process of weaving
and the freedom that creates within.*

Elizabeth Billings



Photography by Michael Sacca

Imaging Our Parks / Imagining Our Future

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites

Hyde Park, New York

Community members were invited to participate in a series of photographic expeditions, led by interpretive rangers and photographers from local art institutions, schools and the community. The expeditions provided a behind the scenes look into the history and beauty of Hyde Park's three national historic sites: Eleanor Roosevelt, Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Vanderbilt Mansion.



People who come to know special places through their own creative process come to understand that place with new meaning and a heightened reality.

Sarah Olson, Superintendent

Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites



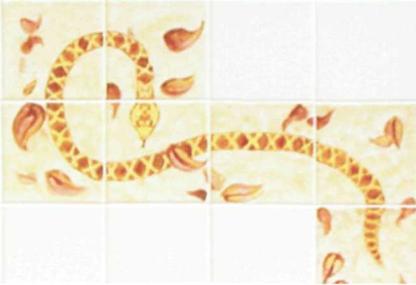
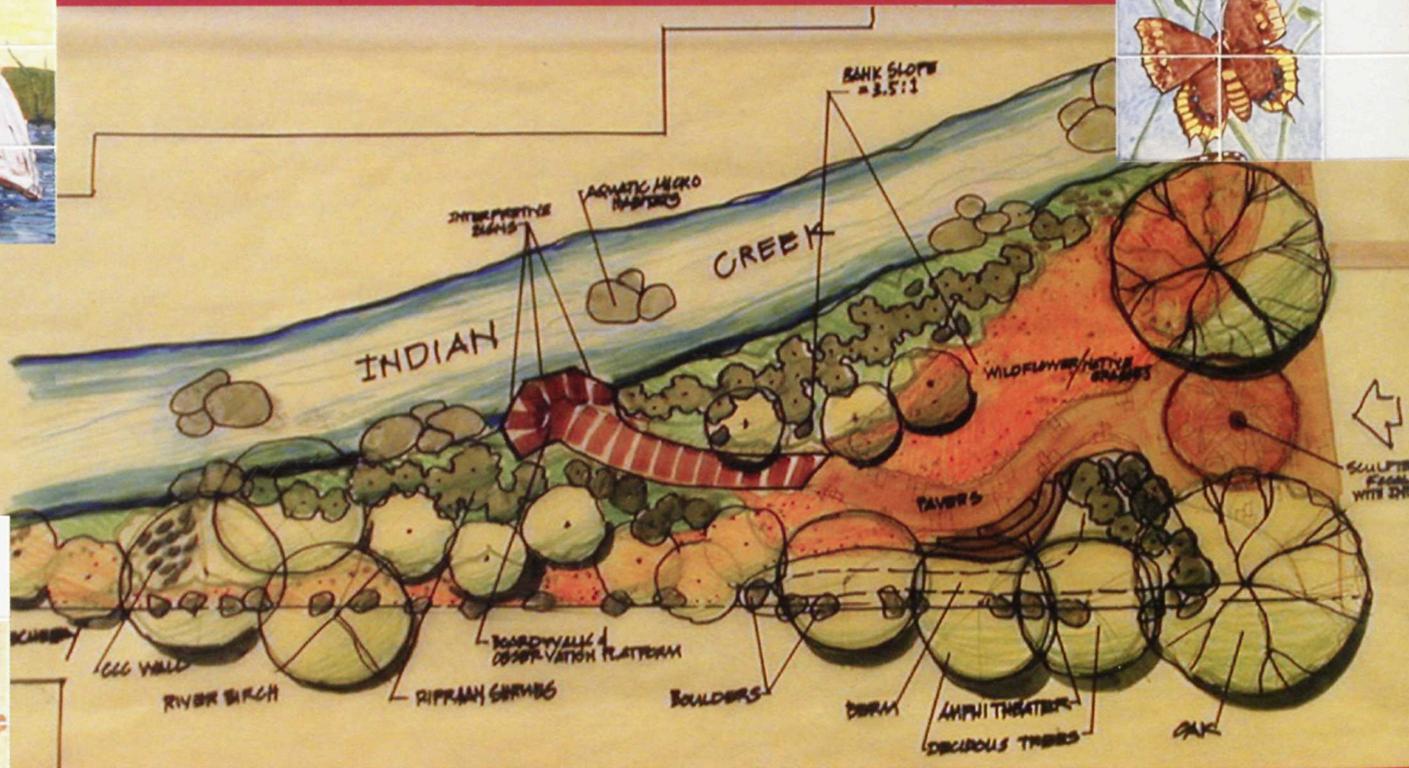
Ecosculptures and Festival

Jackie Brookner and Susan Steinman

Indian Creek Daylighting

Caldwell, Idaho

Supporting long term efforts to daylight Indian Creek as a valuable resource for downtown activity, Brookner and Steinman worked with local artists Ignacio Ramos and Juan Martinez, and the Caldwell Fine Arts and the Hispanic Cultural Center to create Caldwell's first public art. A tile mural and steel sculpture celebrate the life of Indian Creek. Through public participatory collaborations, the artists also created ecosculptures highlighting Creek restoration plans and worked with local groups on the first annual Indian Creek Festival.





George's
"JYP JOMT"
... GIFTS BOOKS MAGAZINES NEWSPAPERS ...

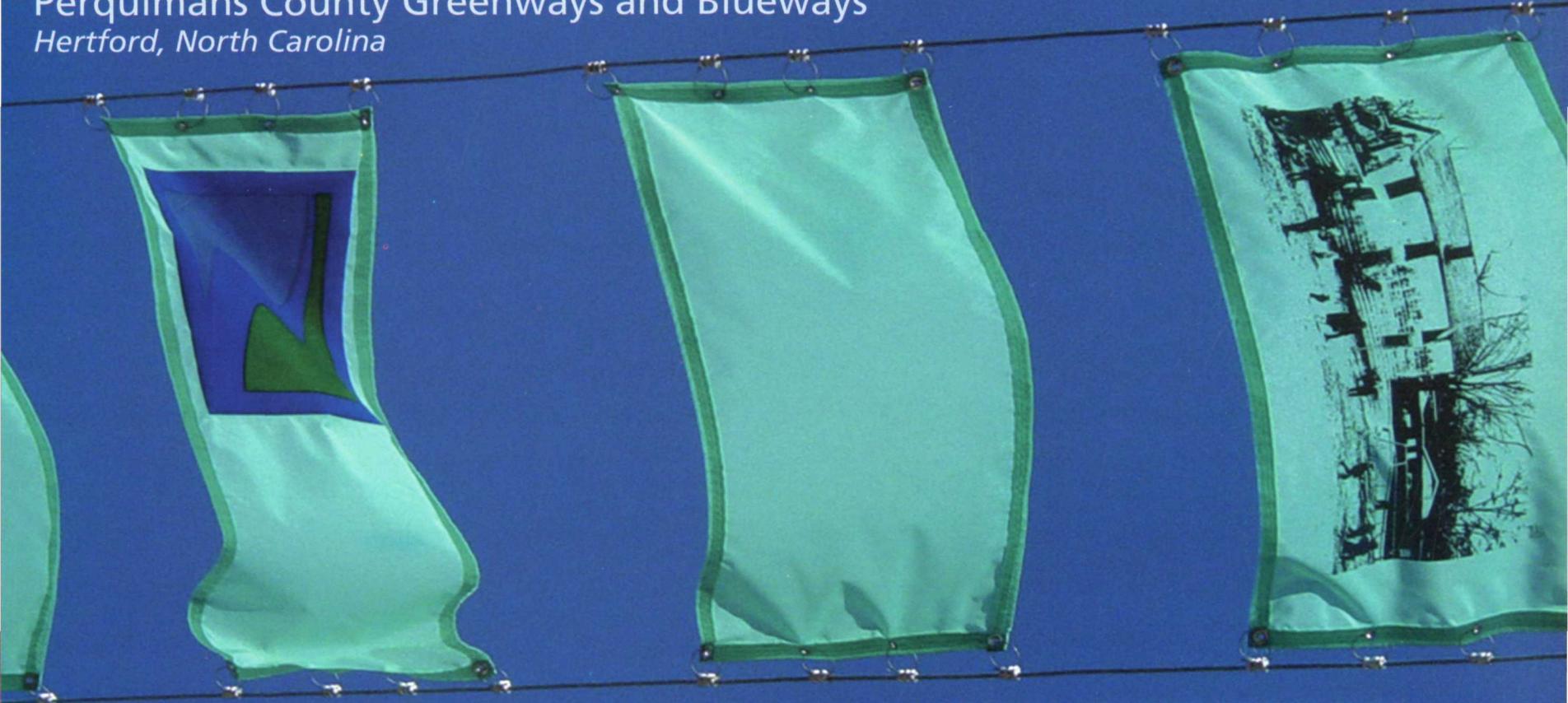
A City
of

Flotilla and Risers

Maura Bordes Cronin

Perquimans County Greenways and Blueways

Hertford, North Carolina



Two installations addressed the importance of ancestry and heritage and introduced the concept of a county-wide network of water and land trails. Highlighting the connectivity of the county's extensive creeks and rivers, Flotilla project students constructed small sailboats and then released them into the different waterways throughout the county, with the sail color representing the origin of launching. Risers integrated local historic images and drew attention to locations for new walking trails.







Kenduskeag Roots

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder

Kenduskeag Stream Trail

Bangor, Maine

A series of four sites along the stream used audio installations and components of trees felled by an ice storm. The first site, *Roots*, is at the confluence of the two rivers, where the settlement started and the sounds tell of historical events. Two other sites, *Logjam* and *Canopy*, included stories and sounds of logging and insect sounds. *Amphitheater* is made of sliced tree trunks, with the annular rings marking important dates and the sounds of the famous canoe race.



Lincoln Green Strip

Legge Lewis Legge

Allston-Brighton Green Spaces

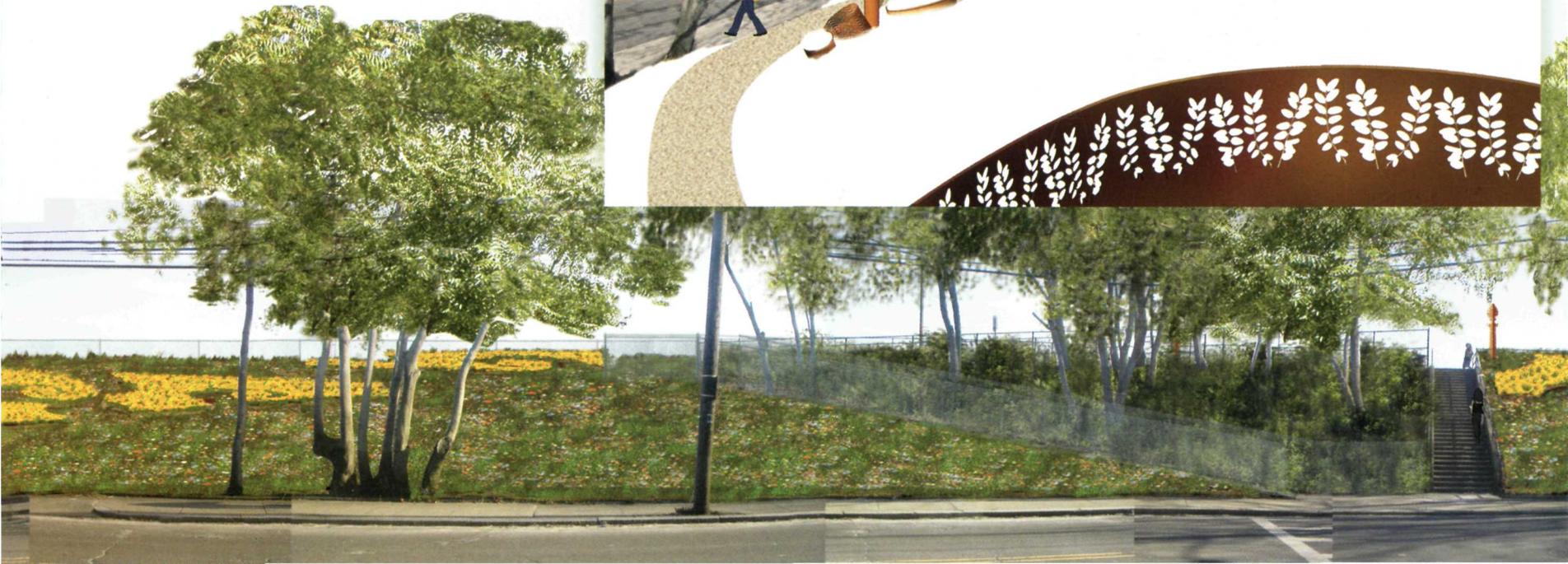
Boston, Massachusetts

The Lincoln Street Green Strip is a land parcel created in the 1960's when construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike physically divided Boston's Allston-Brighton neighborhood. The artist team of Legge Lewis Legge is working with the community to re-envision the Green Strip. The new design will transform derelict land that is adjacent to several major arteries and heavily used by cars, buses and pedestrians into an attractive neighborhood gateway and green space.



We developed a program of selective weeding to create an open urban meadow for the entire site, and we plan to install weathering steel ornaments and parterre-like planters that the community can cultivate and maintain or let alone to be elevated portions of urban meadow.

Legge Lewis Legge



Northern Forest Canoe Trail Projects

Stephen Dignazio, Evan Haynes, Ron Smith

Missisquoi River, Vermont

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail celebrates the rich human heritage and diverse natural environment of the Northern Forest by establishing and stewarding a 740-mile water trail tracing historic Native American travel routes across New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine. The artist team decided to undertake three projects on a single river, the Missisquoi, in order to focus on “reaffirming a sense of connectivity, not only to the river, but between communities along the river as well.”



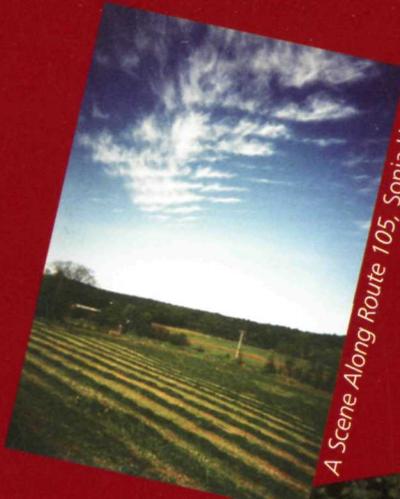




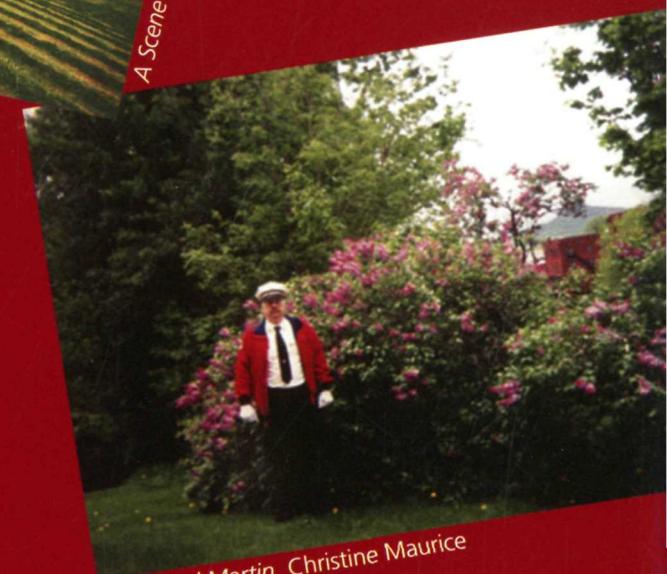
Community Portrait

Stephen Dignazio, Evan Haynes, Ron Smith
Richford, Vermont

Richford residents partnered with the artist team to photograph and write about the people, places, traditions, objects and activities that, to them, showed the most meaningful aspects of life in Richford. As a result, more than one thousand photographs were collected, providing an eclectic, comprehensive and sometimes surprising portrait of life in a rural New England community.



A Scene Along Route 105, Sonia Holmes



Chief Paul Martin, Christine Maurice



Community Portrait Kit: disposable camera, invitation, maps, notebook



Connor Playing for the Cows, Colleen Pratt





Dam Warnings

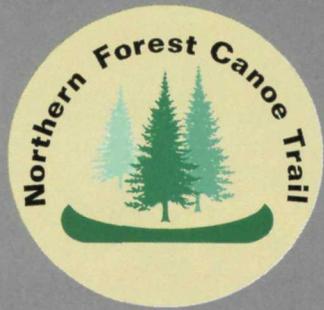
Stephen Dignazio, Evan Haynes, Ron Smith

Missisquoi River, Vermont

Floating barrels with paddles that rotate in the river current were strung across the Missisquoi River. On the barrels' paddles, the artists added colorful text that on the upstream side warned canoeists of the upcoming Swanton Dam. Viewed from downstream, the paddle text included written lines from a poem that would change as the paddles rotated in the river current.



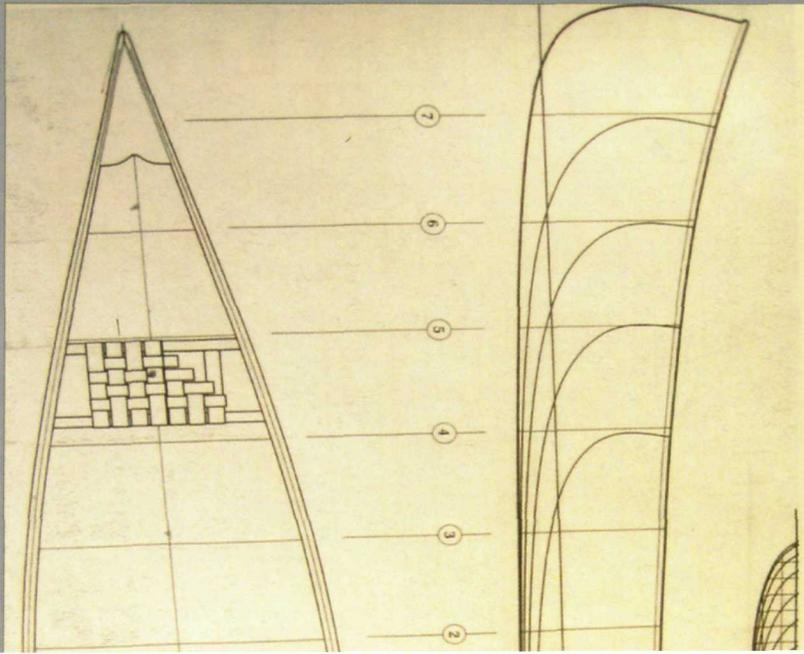
caught this instant and violins
the river each
clouds the ice
different DOOMED TO SPRING



Stone Canoe

Stephen Dignazio, Evan Haynes, Ron Smith
Swanton, Vermont

The Stone Canoe pays homage to the historical use of the river as a transportation corridor and to the natural resources that have provided life for the community of Swanton. An installation of "Swanton Red" local marble was carved into 15 individual stone seats that form the outline of a canoe. The idea evolved from the site's history as a portage and fishing site as well as the location of the former Barney Marble Mill that cut the locally quarried marble.







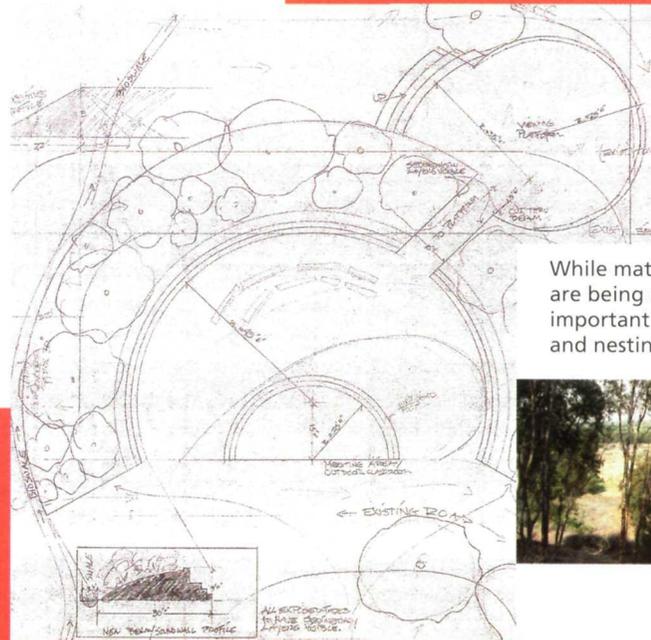
Puente Hills Amphitheater

Andreas Hessing and Kathryn Miller

Puente Hills Landfill
Whittier, California

The artists created a rammed earth amphitheater for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Authority in Whittier. The amphitheater serves as an outdoor classroom for interpretive programs and marks the port of entry into the wilderness area.

Using on-site left over materials can create seating possibilities throughout the park



While mature non-native trees on the site are being removed to plant native trees, it is important to continue to provide perching and nesting sites for birds.



Birds help revegetate an area by passing seeds through their droppings. A strategically placed perch helps localize this work and takes advantage of this natural process.

Re-storying Chelsea Creek

Mark Dannenhauer

Chelsea Creek Restoration Partnership

Chelsea and East Boston, Massachusetts

Using the concept of a story, Dannenhauer engaged local residents and businesses in a series of activities to re-tell the Creek's history and create new stories and opportunities for participation in its environmental restoration. The project included a series of public events and exhibits chronicling the Creek through photography, story gathering and puppet-making. These multi-dimensional stories contributed to the ongoing discussion about the Creek's future and support the work of the Chelsea Creek Restoration Partnership.







Lemonade Berry
Rhus integrifolia

Station Stops

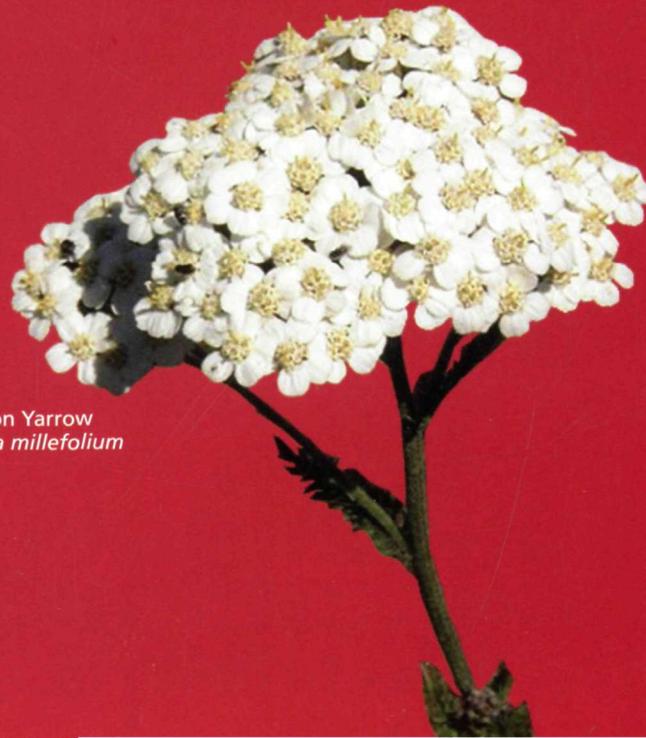
Andreas Hessing and Kathryn Miller

Whittier Greenway Trail

Whittier, California

Lined with California native plants and fruit trees, the community rail-to-trail conversion will connect visitors to landscapes that shaped the region in the early 1900s. A series of rest stops inspired by the former station stops that once dotted the railroad corridor provide a narrative of the city's history with interactive historical displays and interpretive exhibits, highlighting the key role water played in the region's development.

In 2005 the project received joint recognition by the American Society of Landscape Architects and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy for innovative design.



Common Yarrow
Achillea millefolium

Lemon
Citrus limonium

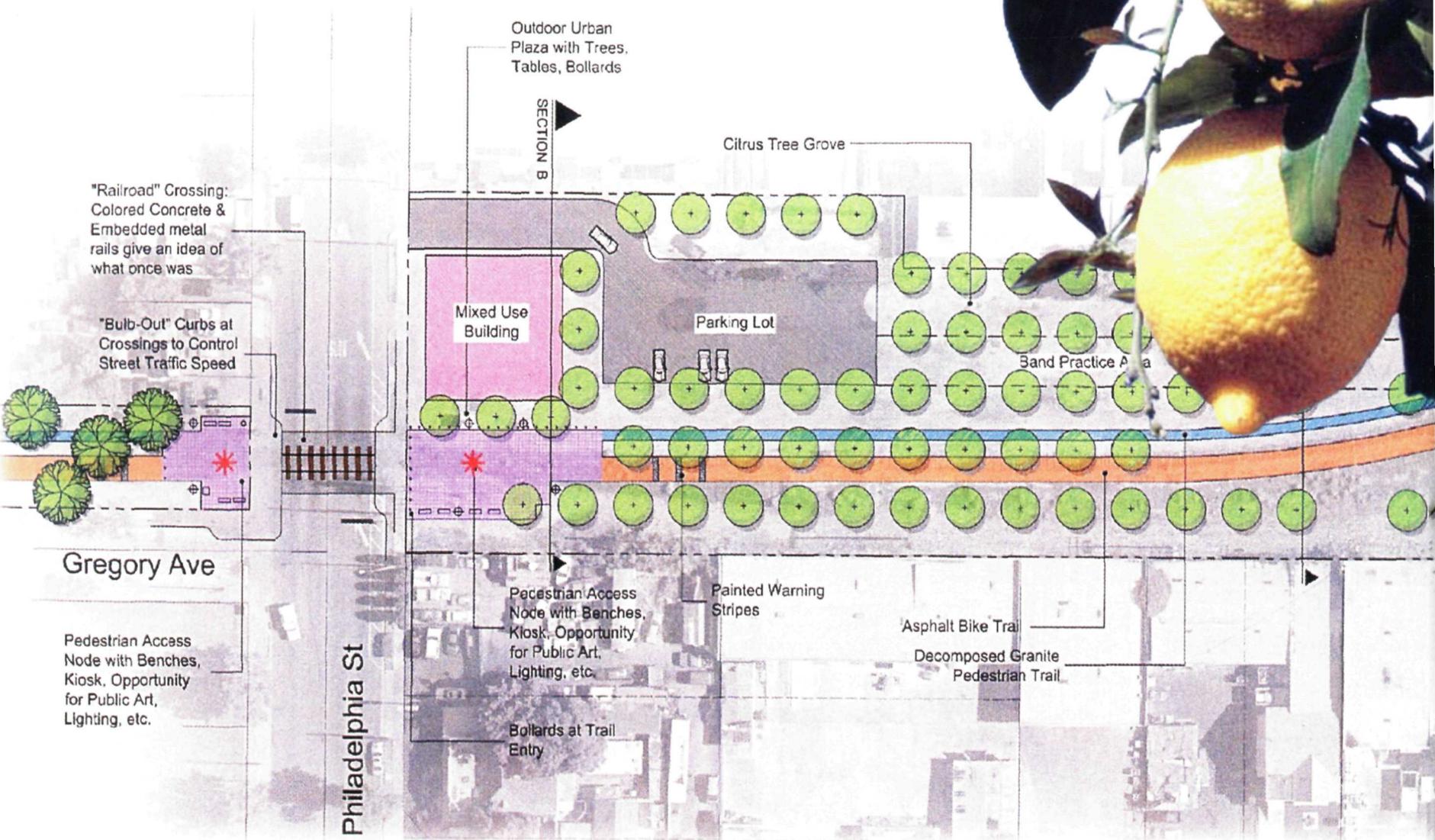
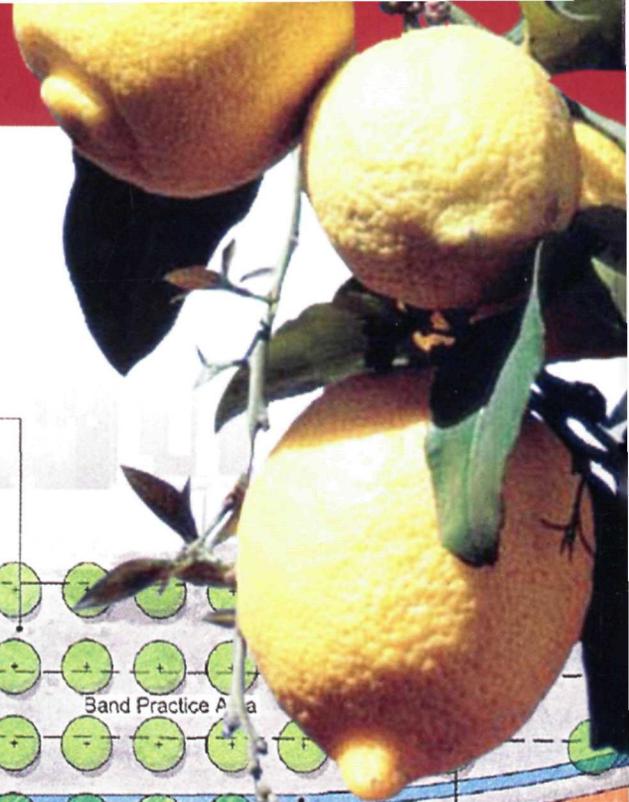


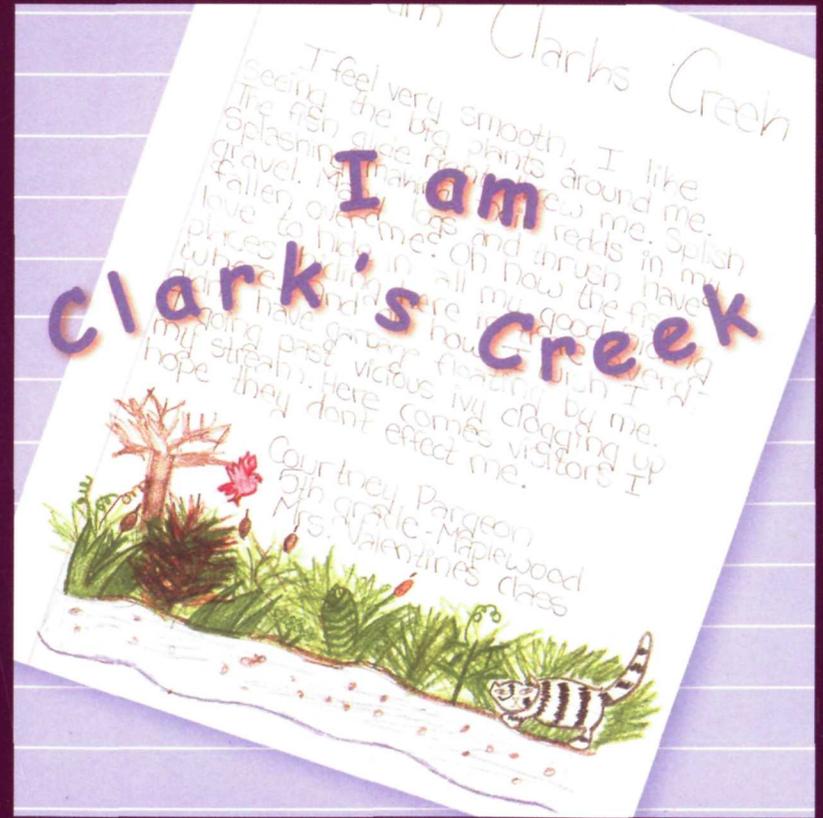
FIGURE 7-5
PLAN VIEW AT CITRUS STATION



Tabletop Watershed

Jackie Brookner and Susan Steinman
Clark's Creek Greenway
Puyallup, Washington

Understanding watershed ecology through art was the focus of the Clark's Creek Greenway. The artists created an interactive, portable, tabletop watershed model to illustrate the Creek's role within the town, homes, and farmland and a guide to watershed protection written by 5th graders from the Creek's point of view to promote environmental stewardship and the creation of a public greenway.



The Golden Ball

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder

Bronx River Restoration and Greenway

Bronx River, New York

In 1999, the Golden Ball floated down the Bronx River from Bronxville to the South Bronx. Originally commissioned by the National Park Service, it was conceived by artists Mags Harries and Lajos Héder as a multi-media art event reconnecting the fractured experience of the Bronx River. The Golden Ball proved to be a potent catalyst in the formation of the Bronx River Alliance. The Golden Ball Festival is now part of the Alliance's annual celebration of the Bronx River's environmental stewardship and restoration.

In 2007, a beaver was discovered swimming in the Bronx River. "Having beavers back in the Bronx River is certainly one of our proudest achievements," said Linda Cox, executive director of the Bronx River Alliance, "It's proof positive that our efforts to bring the river back to ecological health have been successful."





REMODELED IN
ET SHAPE & PATTERN

HOUQUARTEN INTERPRET

PARK REMODEL CO
RIPRAP BOARDWALK WITH



"LANDING

Trail Ecosculptures

Jackie Brookner and Susan Steinman

Hoquarton Slough Trail

Tillamook, Oregon

Hoquarton Slough served as a water route for fishermen entering Tillamook from the Pacific Ocean, and provided hunting and fishing grounds for the Tillamook Indian Tribe. An interpretive trail along the banks of the slough will connect the city with the bay and highlight the town's natural, cultural and historic resources. Site-specific ecosculptures were created along the trail which filtered and cleaned tidal waters through native mosses and wetland plantings. The trail supports the restoration work of the Tillamook Estuary Partnership.



Watershed Installations

Andreas Hessing and Kathryn Miller

Arroyo Seco Watershed

Pasadena, California

A series of site-specific installations at outfalls along the Arroyo Seco called attention to restoring the region's native landscape and protecting existing water resources. This is one of three projects completed in the Los Angeles area with this grant.

The event is a race using remote controlled toy tractors, dump trucks and earth movers that travel down the concrete channel.

This activity could be used by the Arts Foundation to open or punctuate a big event relating to the Arroyo.



As a public spectacle it would involve as many community members interested in the fate of the river as we could supply equipment for. The races anticipate the eventual concrete removal in parts of the Arroyo.

Objects regularly found in the channel like rocks, supermarket carts, mashed computers and general trash would increase difficulty of the course.







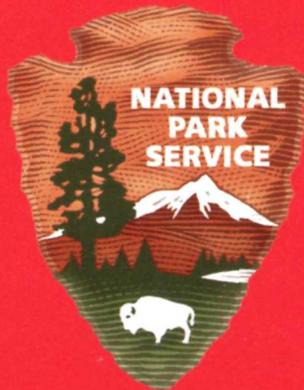


NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

A great nation
deserves great art.



New England
Foundation
for the Arts



The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information visit www.nea.gov

The New England Foundation for the Arts creatively supports the movement of people, ideas, and resources in the arts within New England and beyond, makes vital connections between artists and audiences, and builds the strength, knowledge, and leadership of the region's creative sector. NEFA is a nonprofit organization that operates with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England state arts agencies, and from corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information visit www.nefa.org

The National Park Service cares for national parks, a network of nearly 400 natural, cultural and recreational sites across the nation. Beyond national parks, the National Park Service, through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, helps communities across America preserve and enhance important local heritage and close-to-home recreational opportunities; create community parks and local recreation facilities; conserve rivers and streams, and develop trails and greenways. For more information visit www.nps.gov/rtca



Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
National Park Service
www.nps.gov/rtca