



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: March 27, 2009

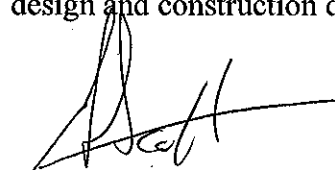
From: Greg Scott, P. Eng., LEED A.P.
Director, Major Projects

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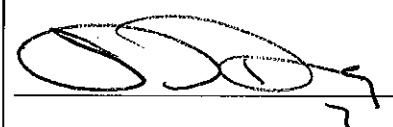
Re: Richmond Olympic Oval Dyke Works – Site Furnishings Public Art Concept

Staff Recommendation

1. That Council approve the integrated design concept for site furnishings, public art and landscape for the dyke area fronting the Richmond Olympic Oval site as outlined in this report; and
2. That Council authorize the Director of Major Projects to enter into contracts with artists, Javier Campos and Elspeth Pratt, and Consultant, Phillips Farevaag Smalberg, for detailed design and construction documents, in a combined amount not to exceed \$70,000.00.


Greg Scott, P. Eng., LEED A.P.
Director, Major Projects
(4372)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY			
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE	
Parks Design, Construction & Programs..		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Culture and Heritage.....		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Engineering		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Roads & Dykes		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
			
		REVIEWED BY CAO	
		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

As per the City's public art policy and guidelines set out in the Oval Precinct and Surrounding Area Art Plan approved by Council on May 23, 2006, the Lower Mainland artist team of Javier Campos and Elspeth Pratt were selected for the "Site Furnishings" public art opportunity. The Oval Art Plan process requires that Council approve the public art concept design in order to proceed to the detailed design and construction phase. This report presents the proposed concept.

The public artist proposes to integrate the artwork into the landscape design for the "Dyke Works", the dyke area fronting the Oval, an important component of the Oval site and of the Middle Arm open space system. The landscape design in this area was presented as part of the overall Oval site concept in the report entitled "Oval – Form and Character, Schematic Design," approved by Council on December 19, 2005.

Analysis

The one remaining part of the Oval site to be developed is the Dyke Works. The Oval Art Plan recommends public art be fully integrated with landscape development and building form. The artists have been working closely with landscape architects Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg, who are the lead design consultant on the Dyke Works (and who were an Oval Cannon Design Team member). The pairing of public art and site development budgets, and design efforts, will maximize the potential for a successful project.

The integrated design concept presented in this report is consistent with the goals and objectives of the City Centre Area Plan, the 2009 Waterfront Strategy and the concept design for the Middle Arm Greenway.

Concept Description

The public art concept represents a site-specific response to the Oval precinct and Middle Arm Trail environment, fully integrated into the landscape. The goal of the concept is to achieve the following:

- Engage people at multiple scales: the distant views that define our unique geography, the middle ground of river, bridges and urban context, the immediate context of shoreline, dyke path and Oval site, and a series of discrete elements that relate to the scale of the human body.
- Augment the presence of the Oval site as a part of the Middle Arm Dyke Trail. The steps, lawn, path and shoreline are interpreted as a single piece that will provide a pause along this section of the dyke trail.
- Create a distinct area that operates at an urban scale while providing a meaningful relationship to the river.

- Interpret the environmental, heritage, and cultural aspects of the site in an intuitive, visceral and experiential way.

Elements:

The concept provides a series of temporary destination markers or nodes at the scale of the dyke path. This is achieved by defining the path with a linear structure, a “seatwall”, reflecting the laying down of alluvium. The seatwall supports a series of indeterminate activities through the spontaneous interaction of the dyke path users who are presented with an ambiguous object. It provides reasons for people to naturally gravitate, and spaces in which to temporarily linger, play, sit, rest and reflect.

This seatwall is interrupted by a series of river platforms whose configurations reflect the terrain and artifacts that accumulate on the river’s edge. The platforms strengthen the relationship of the viewer to these typically overlooked shoreline elements, and to predetermined objects in the distance. By isolating the experience of these elements, a new and stronger relationship will be established that will bring on a deeper appreciation and connection to the river and dyke. This immediacy of perception of the flora and fauna supported by the dyke, of the transformative processes of the river and the shoreline, and of the accretion of materials brought by the flow of the river to the ocean, will engage viewers and allow them to comprehend the site. Portions of the platforms will be universally accessible.

The landscape treatment will anchor the public art within an authentic estuarine setting. It will feature native intertidal and upland plant species that provide a net gain of intertidal habitat planting, upland habitat value, framed views and experiential moments along the dyke trail.

Material descriptions:

- alluvial seatwall: to be made from cast-in-place concrete, 100 to 900mm high, cast in an accretion of pours that reflects the sedimentary nature of the alluvial flood plain
- river platforms: to be made of weathering (Cor-ten steel) and possibly wood, to integrate with the weathered dyke, the natural landscape and the river.
- pathway: to remain gravel. Eventual paved trail to east and west of site will connect to arced pathway through the Oval site
- dyke face: to consist of rip rap planted with native grass and woody shrub species, selected per site conditions, environmental value, dyke operations and maintenance considerations, and to provide a cover of vegetation over rip rap.

Technical Considerations:

- dyke crest will be at minimum elevation and width as per the City’s dyking requirements, and per the approval for work in this area received from the Provincial Ministry of Environment’s Dyking Authority.

- public art features will be designed to accommodate long-term future dyke raising either by adjustment and reinstallation, or through the addition of new materials integral with dyke raising construction
- public art features will be designed so as not to hinder access for emergency dyke repair.
- The project does not preclude possible future dock or pier structures at the Oval site.
- Proposed environmental enhancements will not change environmental classification of shoreline, since it is already coded Red (for maximum environmental sensitivity), under the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP).

Financial Impact

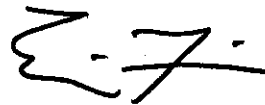
This recommendation has no financial impact. A total budget of \$295,000 allocated for site furnishings public art has been integrated into the Dyke Works project, which includes design fees, insurance, fabrication and installation of artwork. Funding for site furnishings public art was allocated in the 2008 Capital Budget for Oval Precinct Public Art.

Conclusion

This public art concept, integrated with the site design for the dyke fronting the Oval, is another collaborative outcome of a sound and effective public art process. Staff recommends that the concept as described in this report be approved, so that staff, the artist team of Javier Campos and Elspeth Pratt, and the site design team led by Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg, can proceed with the detailed design and construction phase.

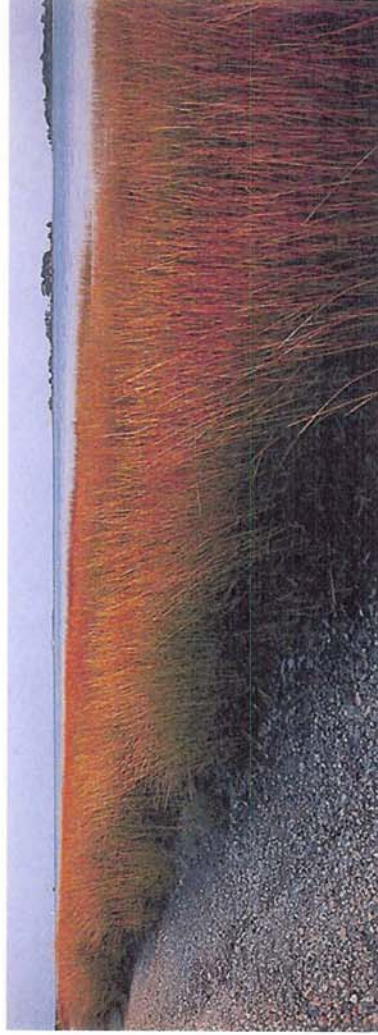


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Park Planner, Major Projects /
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DS:ds



Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works



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Phillips Farevaag Smollenberg
2327 Yew Street Vancouver BC V6K 3H1 | 604.736.5158



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🕒 Site Plan

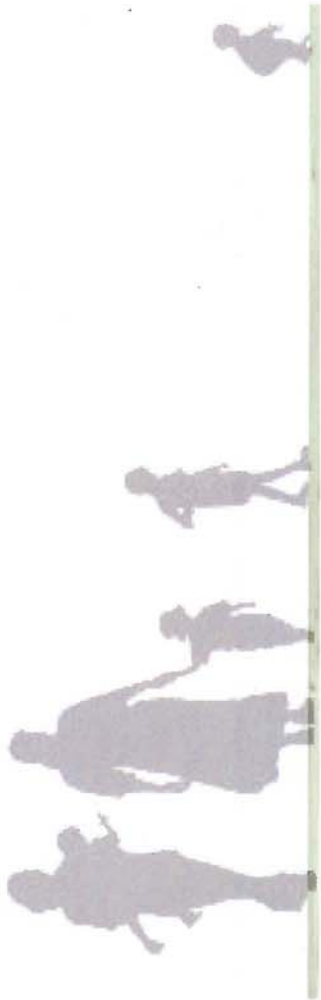
Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works



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Low Alluvial Seat Wall



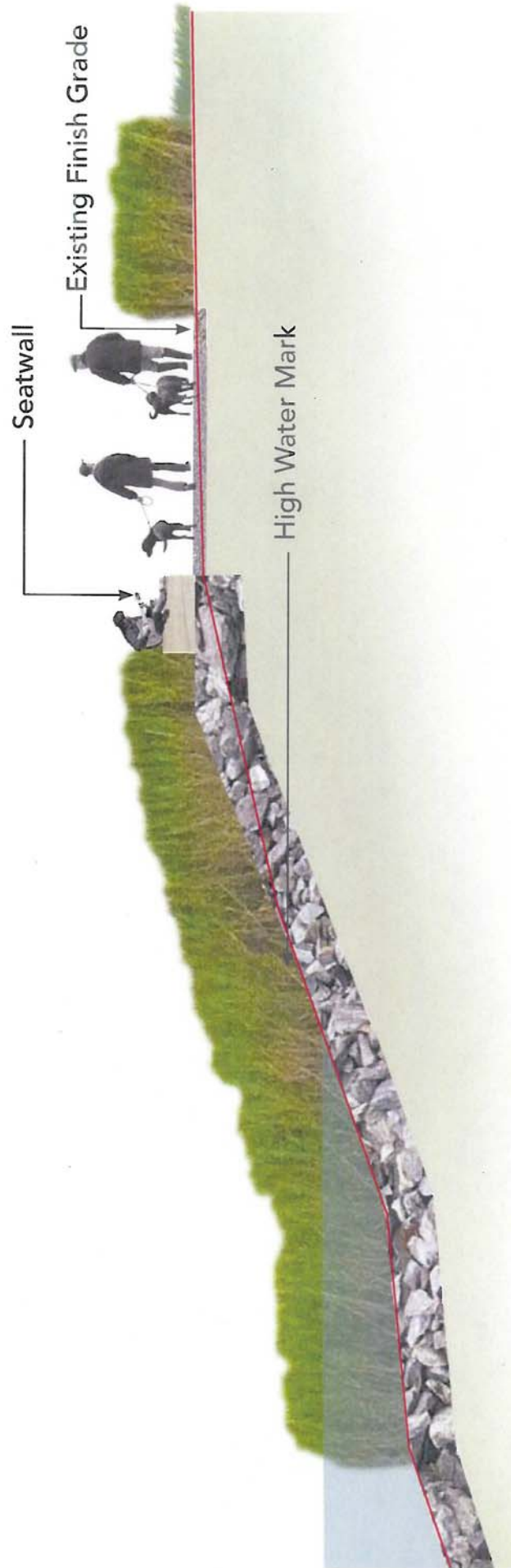
Medium Alluvial Seat Wall



High Alluvial Seat Wall

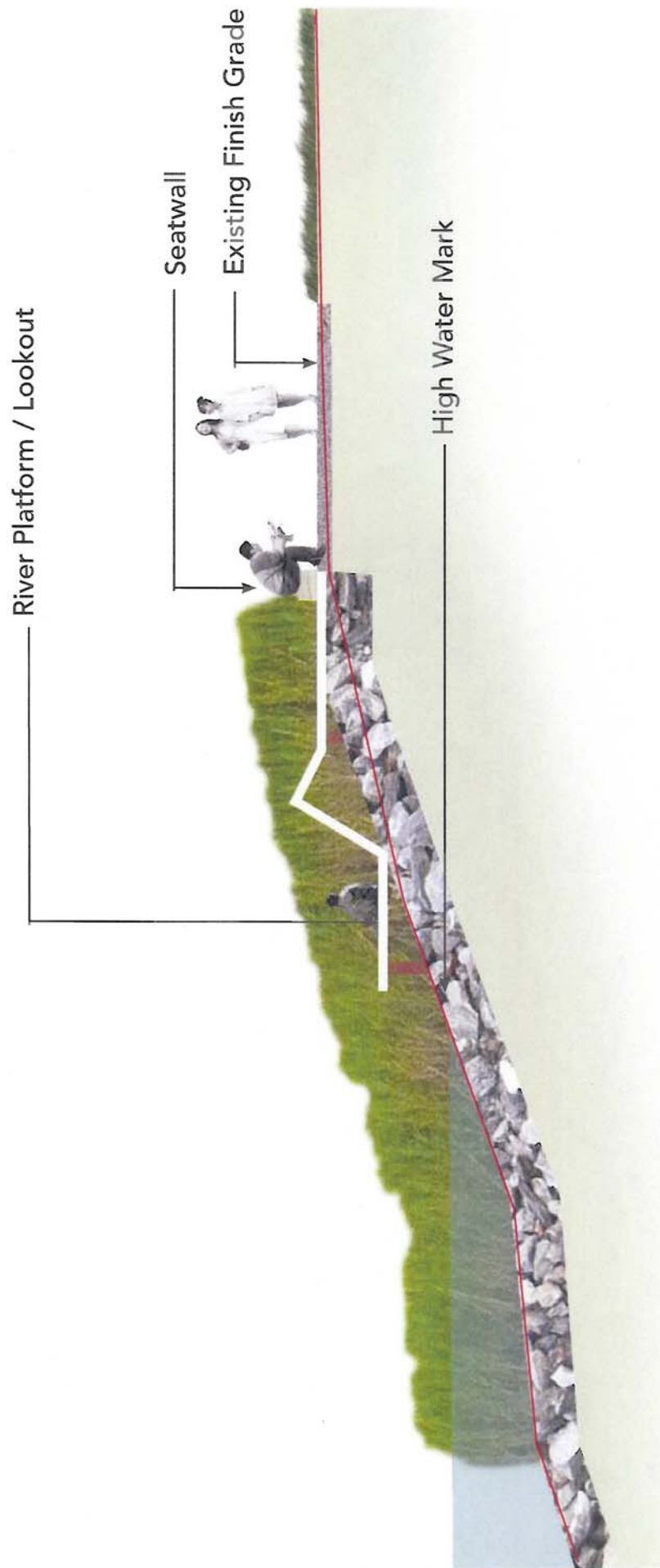
Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works





Cross Section
NTS

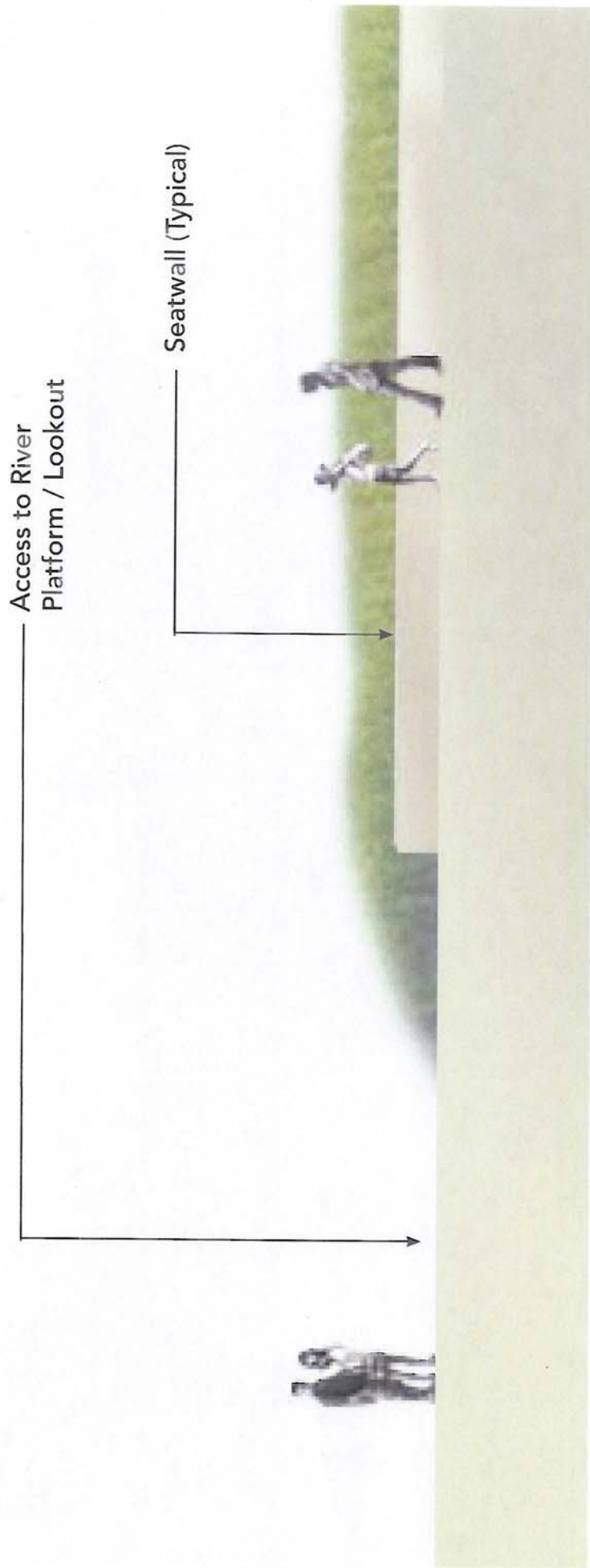




Cross Section NTS

Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works





Elevation Looking Towards Water NTS

Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works



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Seat Wall Precedent

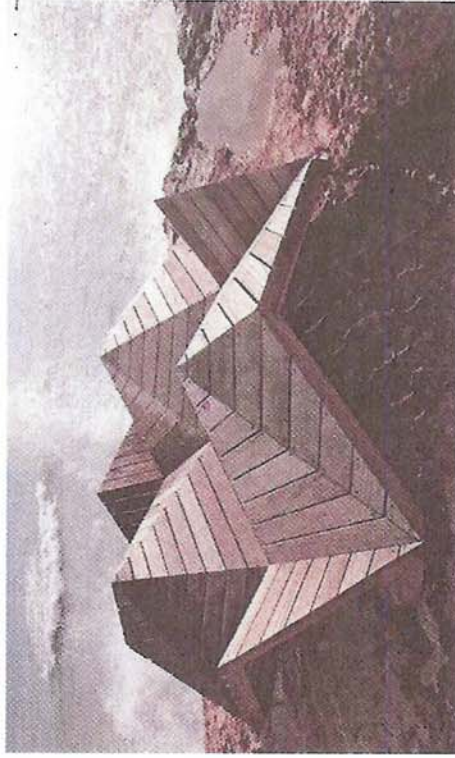
Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works



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Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works



River Platform / Lookout Precedent



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Alluvial Seat Wall

concrete with different aggregate mixes poured in layers to reflect a process of stratification of alluvium.
Size of the wall is to range from approximately 6" to 30" in height and 9" to 42" in width.

Foreshore Platforms

Viewing platforms made of various materials (wood, metal grating) laid down at various angles to support and encourage a number of activities that inter-relate with the shoreline and surrounding area. Platforms to be constructed at various scales to allow from a few users to 15 to 20 users at one time. Some platforms to be universally accessible.

Gravel Path

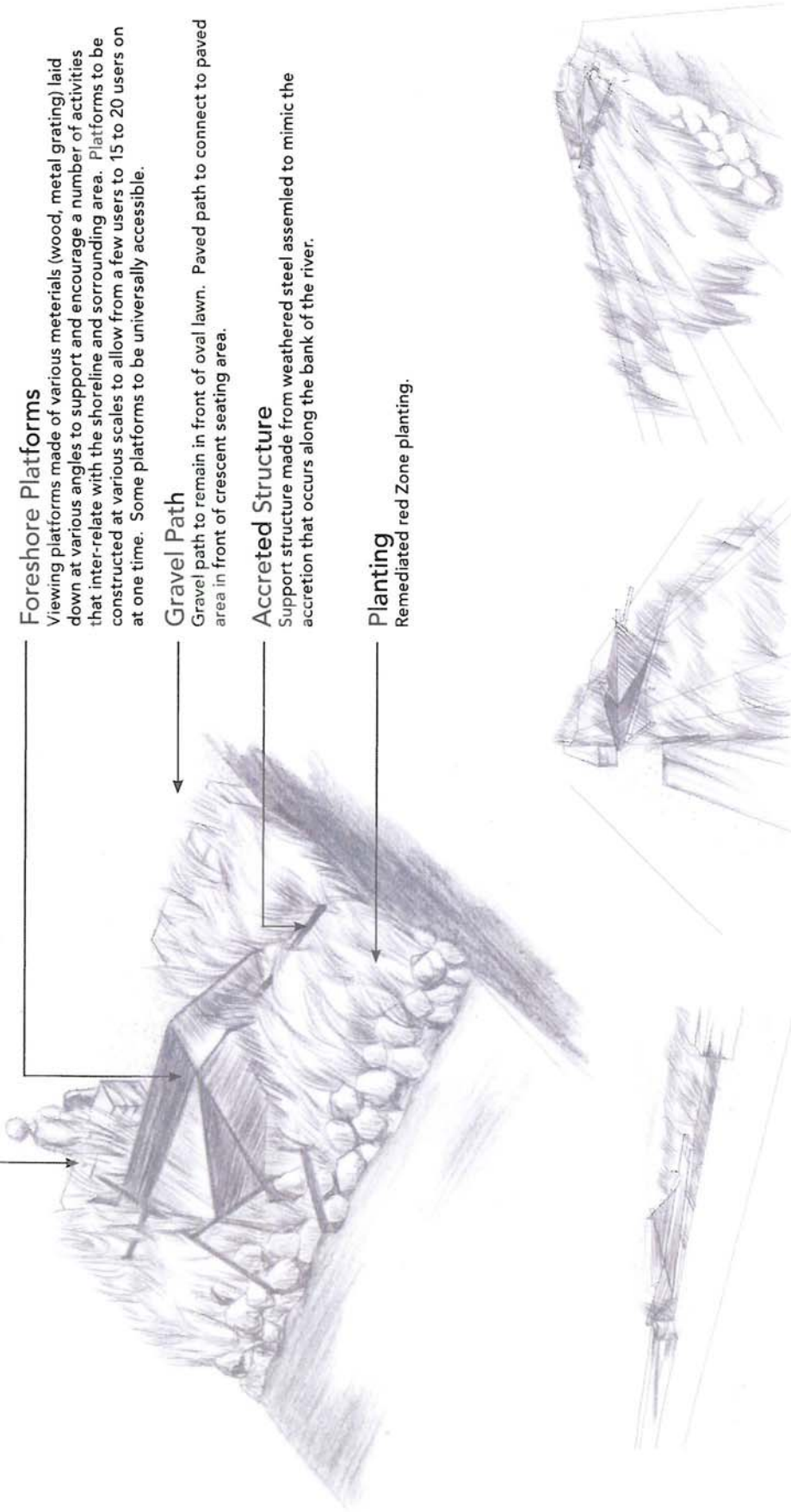
Gravel path to remain in front of oval lawn. Paved path to connect to paved area in front of crescent seating area.

Accreted Structure

Support structure made from weathered steel assembled to mimic the accretion that occurs along the bank of the river.

Planting

Remediated red zone planting.



Preliminary Design Ideas

Richmond Olympic Oval Middle Arm Dyke Works



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