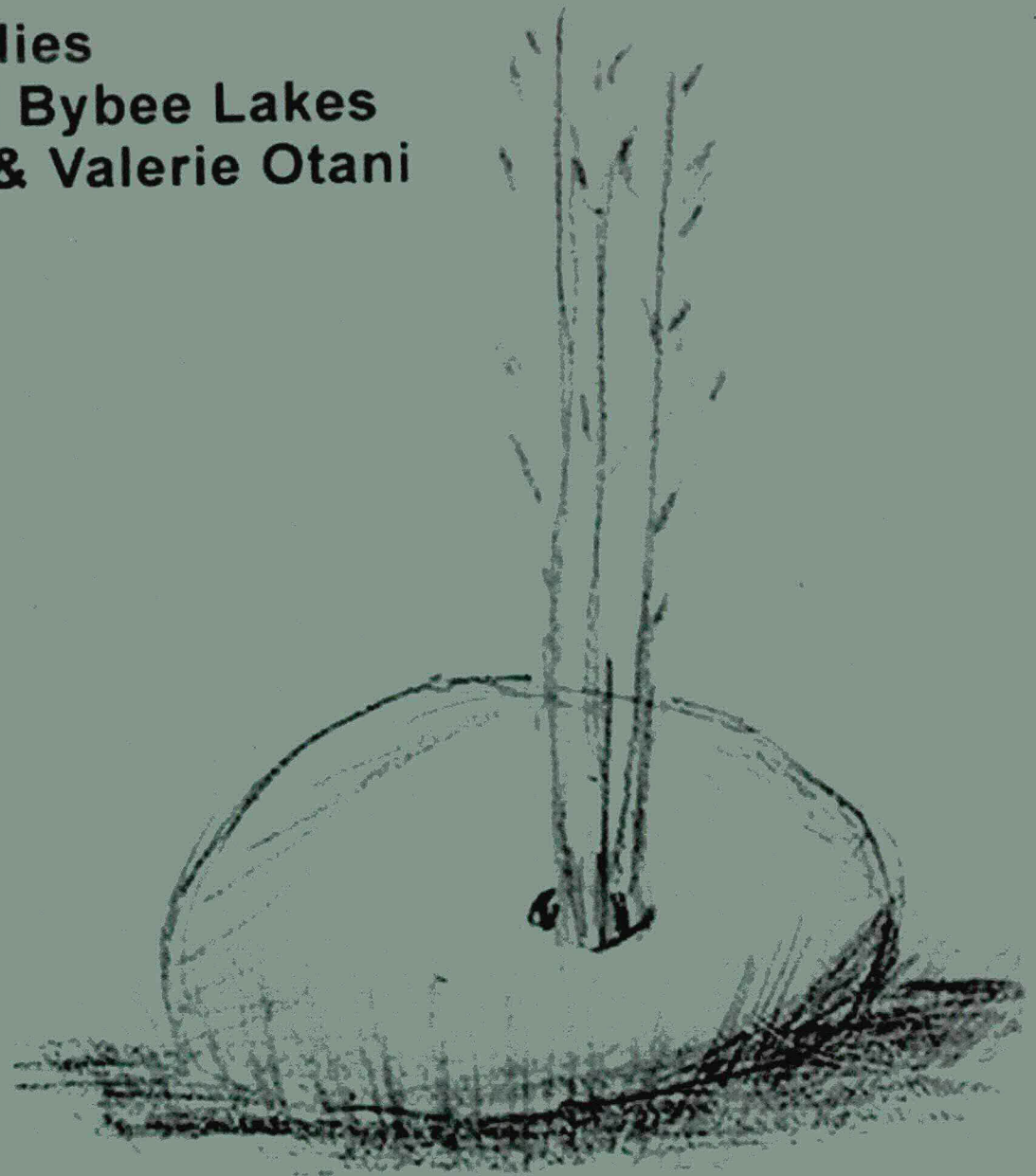

Flows and Eddies
Public Art for Smith and Bybee Lakes
By Fernanda D'Agostino & Valerie Otani



Conceptual Design Report 9/24/02

FLOWS AND EDDIES: Art for Smith and Bybee Lakes

Fernanda D'Agostino and Valerie Otani

The art and the landscape are intertwined in an approach that juxtaposes broad sweeping gestures on the land with more intimate experiences that detail the special qualities of the lakes and the natural preservation area. The sinuous but subtle curves of willow and other native plantings undulate through the site, alternately opening up to create vistas and narrowing down to create passages through green. The result adds a rhythmic, inhale and exhale to the journey through the site.

Native American stone fish traps inspire the curving shapes of "habitat drifts". The flowing lines of willows and other native plants embrace focal points of sculpture or more concentrated areas of planting and stone. These "eddies" of landscape and art will include large carved stones. Simply carved in a way that evokes fossils or the stone implements of early man, the rocks will be inspired by the forms of seedpods, seeds or other elements found in the environment.

The curving landscape "habitat drifts" will also evoke tide lines, or the changing edge of the lakes through the seasons and years. The plantings are functional elements as well, serving to retain and cleanse water, provide habitat and screen views.

The art is intended to arouse curiosity and stimulate reflection on the special qualities of the lakes. The principles that inspire the art are:

The **dynamic changes** that will be affecting lakes as the water control structure and rehabilitation of the land proceed. The art elements are visual markers that interact with the environment to become subtle benchmarks of change.

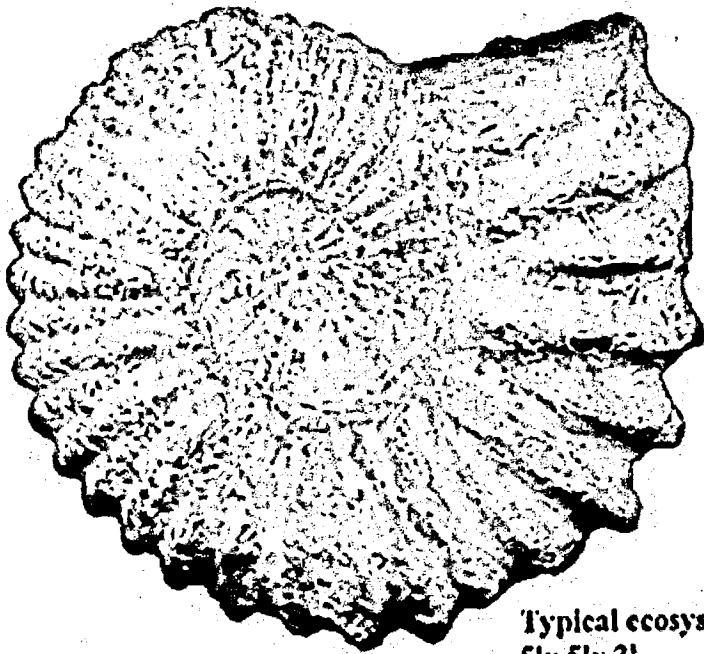
The **sense of "deep time"**, a connection to the pre-urban tranquility of the lakes. Poised on this moment of major change in the lakes habitat, the artwork evokes the many eras of time in the life of the lake, from fossils to Native American presence to the restoration of plants for the future health of the environment. This sense of the connection to past and future generations that resonate from the artwork reinforces the sense of stewardship for the land.

The **creation of habitat**. Bird and bat houses, raptor perches and nesting platforms are incorporated into the creation of the art elements. Willow plantings and lines of driftwood and rocks also create habitat.

Creating **gathering places and teaching landscapes** at many points throughout the site serve as focal points for interpretive tours, resting places and viewpoints to encourage visitors to spend more time absorbing the qualities of the place around them.

9 Ecology Stones

3 ½' – 5' in diameter
31.5% of budget

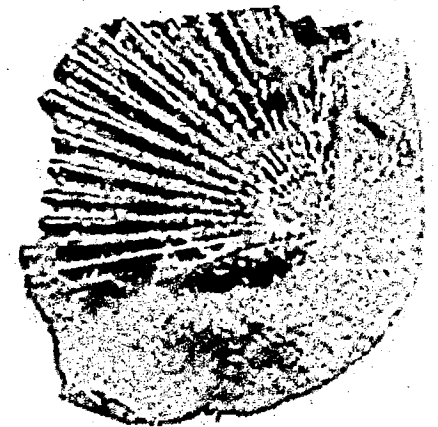
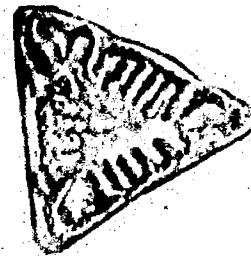


Typical ecosystem Stone
5'x 5'x 3'

Typical Microcosm Stones 40"x 40"x 40"

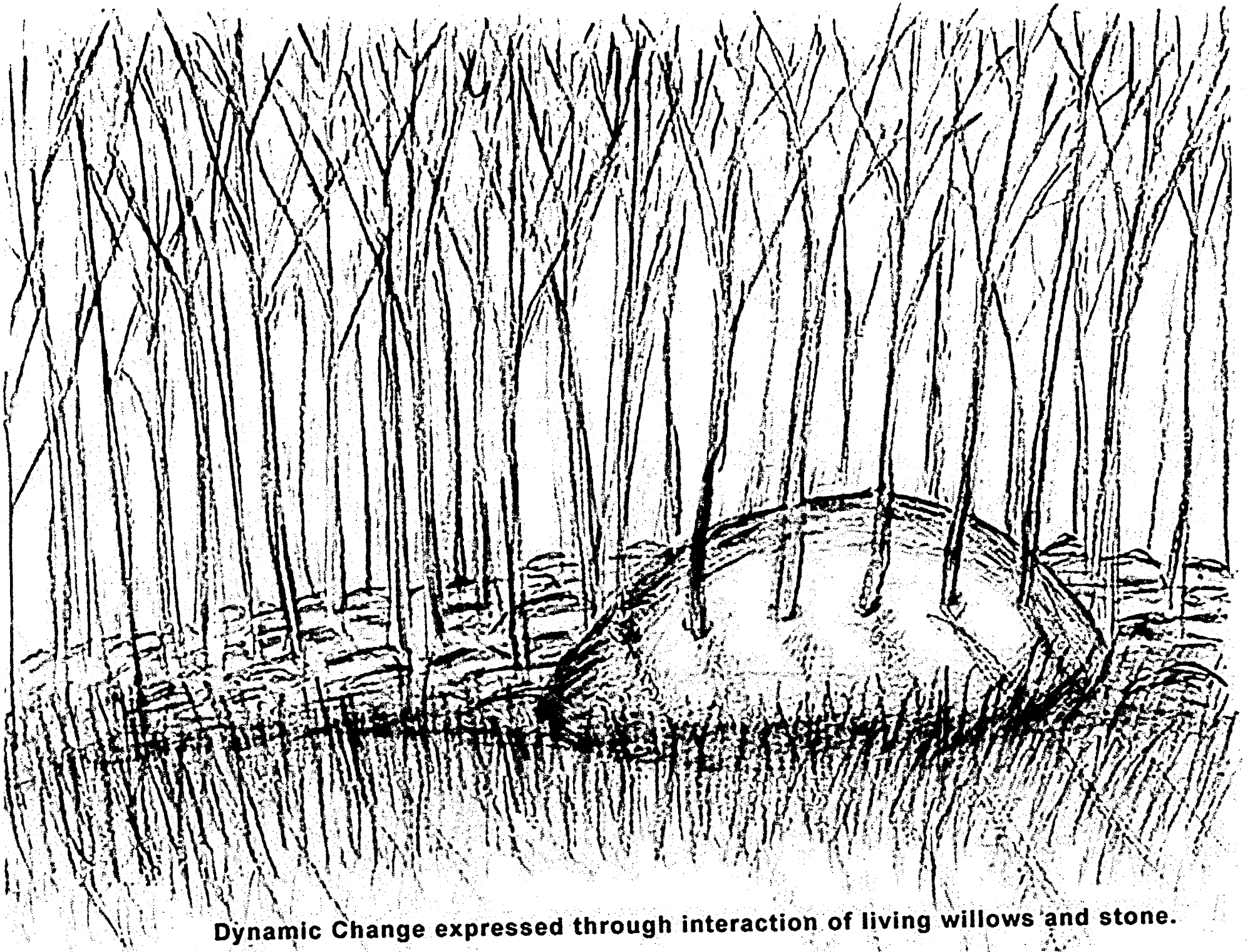


Typical ecosystem fragment stone-4'x4'x3'



Clusters of ecology stones -microscopic creatures

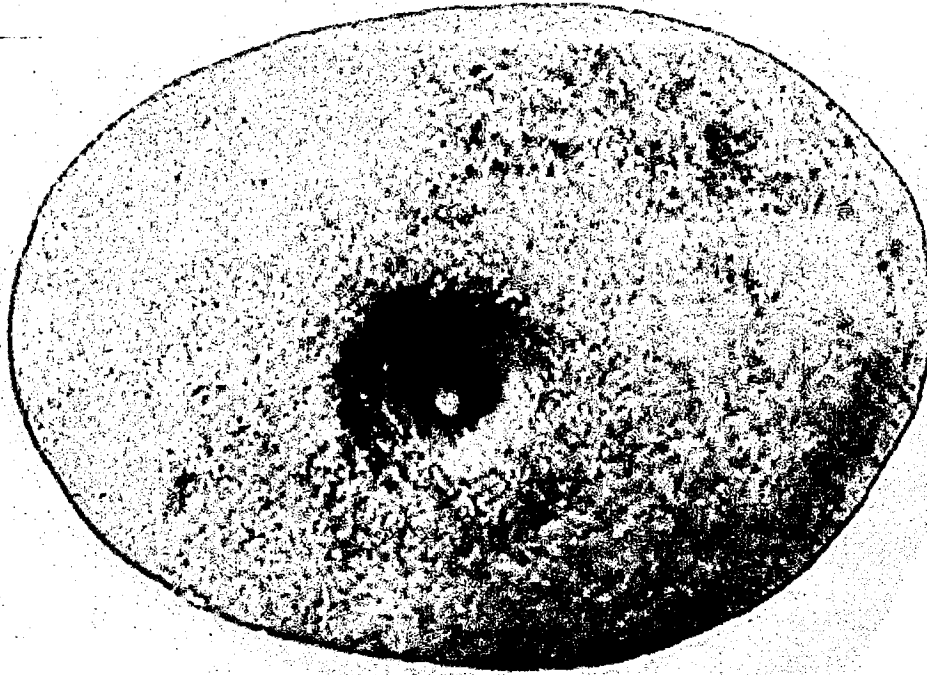
Large, simply carved stones will be placed in the landscape, cupped in the curves of the habitat drifts or as punctuation at the end of a line of plantings. The stones will have the character of large fossils, creating an intriguing change in scale as they are magnified to 3 to 5 feet. Seedpods, plants native to the area, or Native American tools will inspire their forms. The stones would be set in areas where they could be approached, touched and climbed on. Some stones will illustrate the principles of dynamic change. Large boulders drilled with holes will have trees planted through the holes. In time, the trees might overpower the rock, splitting them in two.



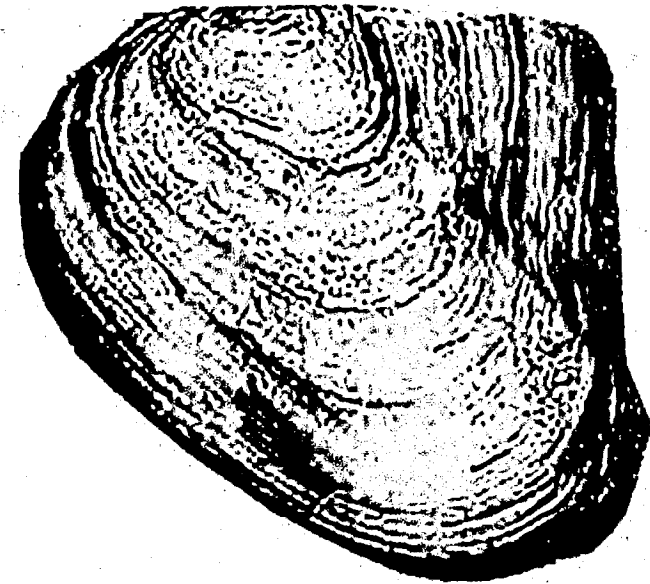
Dynamic Change expressed through interaction of living willows and stone.

2 Gathering Stones

Approximately 9' x 6' x 2'
12% of budget



Creation Myth Stone; 9'x 6'



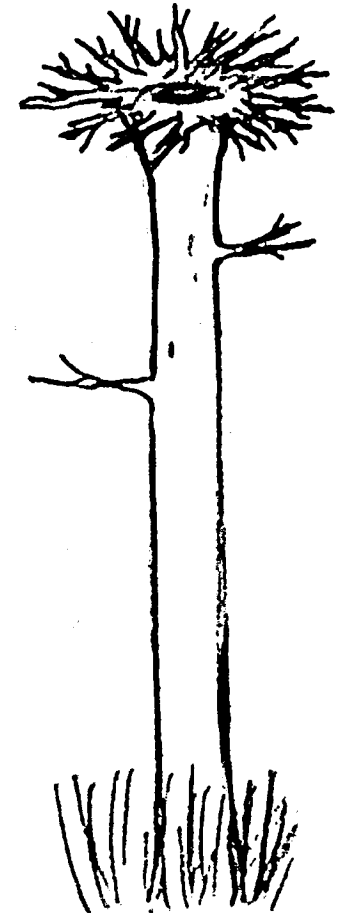
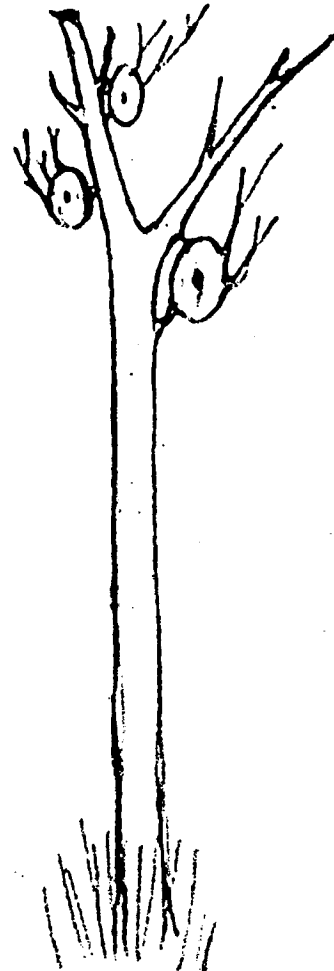
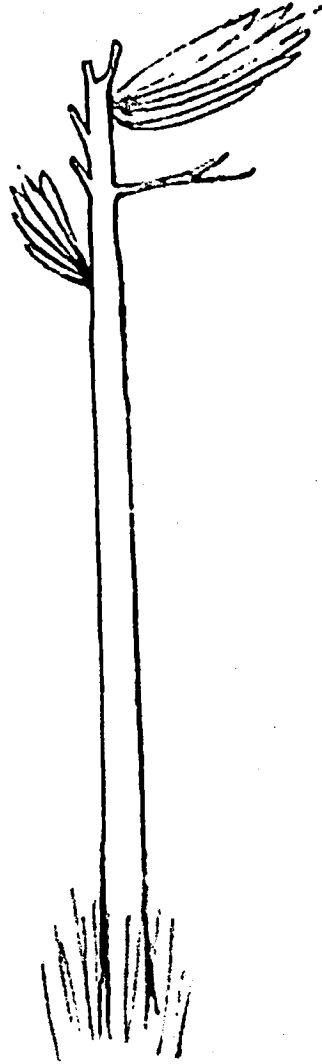
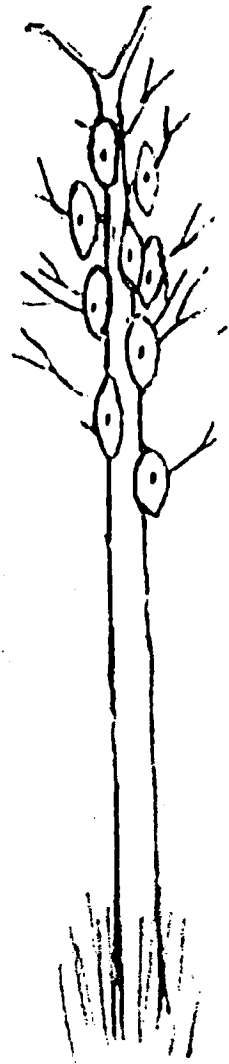
Mussel Shell Time Lines and Tide Lines Stone

Creation Stone

The Chinook peoples have a creation story in which women are born from a hole in a rock. We would create a large 9' x 6' ovoid stone with a hole from which would swirl images of local species. The stone, placed in the central plaza of the parking lot would be a gathering place, the logical "landing pad" for school groups or interpretive walks. The large scale accented with the intrigue of the hole and the detail of the imagery would create a major focal point for beginning the walk through the natural area.

Mussel Shell Time Lines

A large carved stone based on the fresh water mussels found in the lake will identify the canoe launch. The lines of the shell form are an opportunity to refer to the natural history of the site with engraved lines of text. The stone provides another gathering place for naturalist's talks and orientation before boating on the lake.

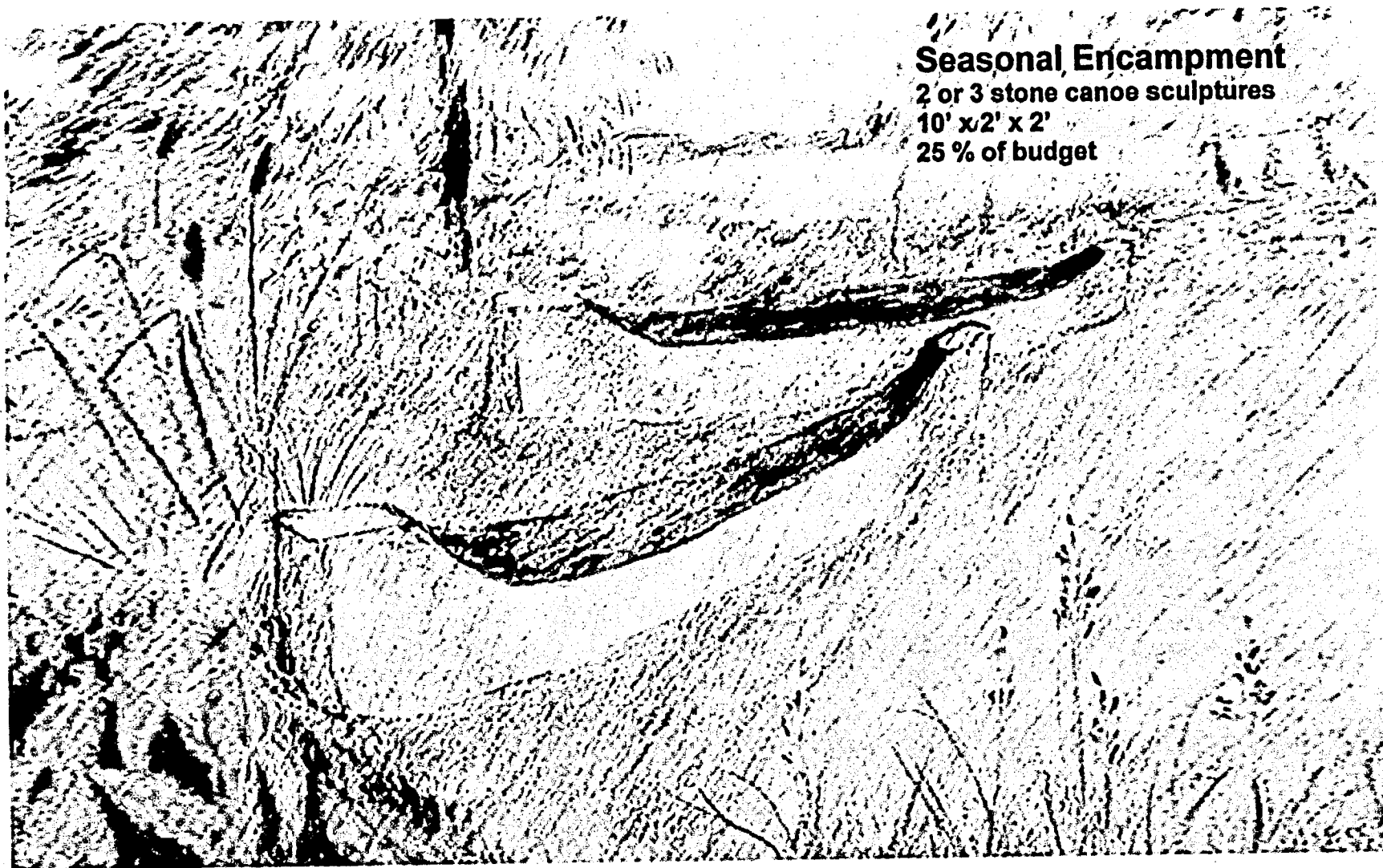


7 Habitat Trees

16' – 22' tall

25% of budget

Sculptural wooden poles will be visually intriguing to humans and also create habitat for birds and bats. For her poles at the Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Nanda worked with naturalists to create nesting cavities within the sculptures that would be attractive to birds. Here, too, the designs will create perches and cavities attractive to local species. The sculptures will be of a family related to those at the Plant, but be different in form. The sculptural forms would reflect things that are found on site, and they would be placed in open areas backed by woods to give people a clue to the varied users of the habitat. Multiple pods for purple martin colonies, an osprey perch and bat houses are among those planned.



Seasonal Encampment

2 or 3 stone canoe sculptures

10' x 2' x 2'

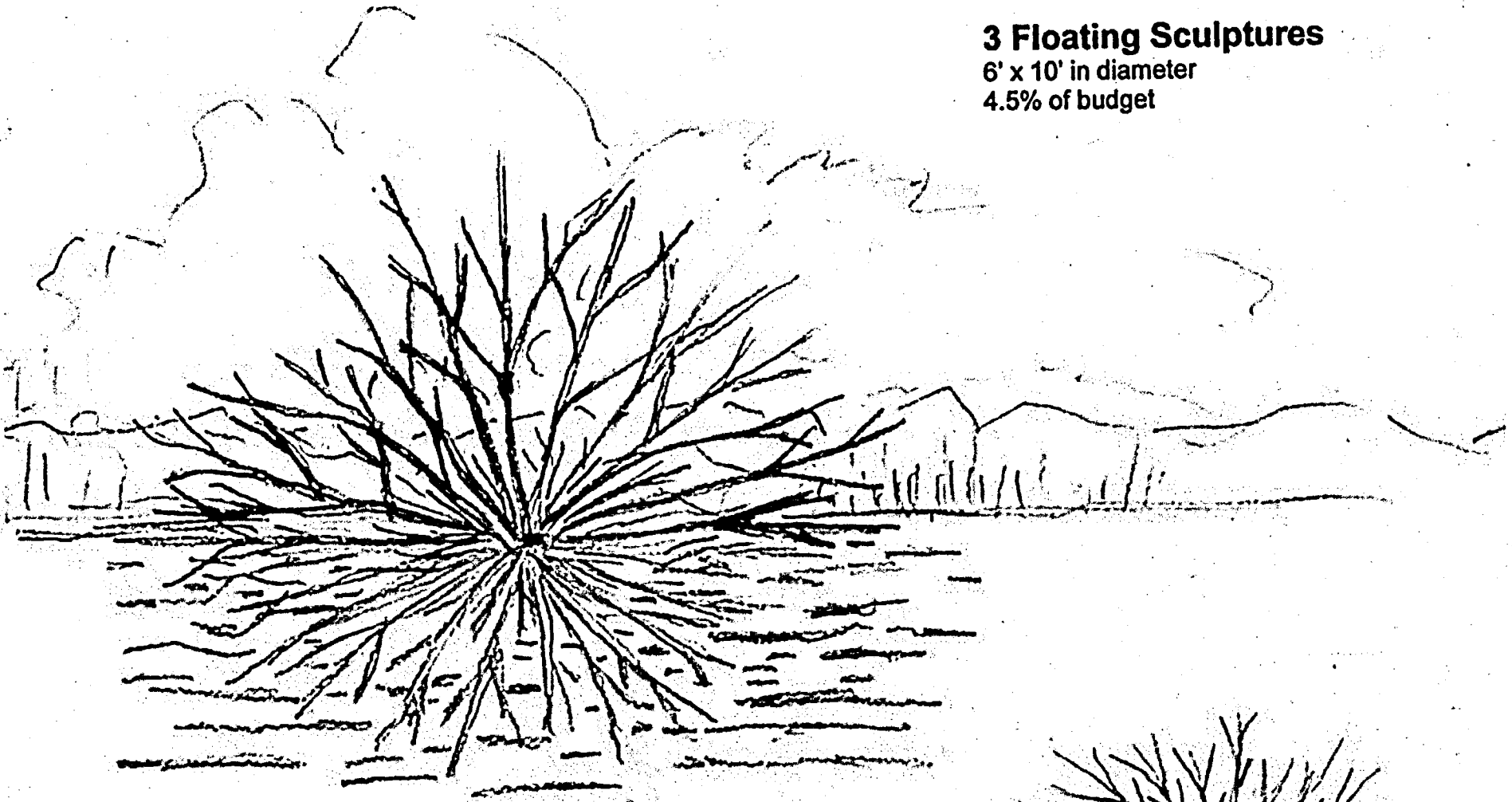
25 % of budget

The detention ponds offer a wonderful opportunity to create multi-dimensional orientation point for experiencing the lakes. The twin ponds mirror our two lakes. There are vistas of Smith Lake and the hills beyond, and the opportunity to see up close plants at the water's edge. The pond area is an opportunity to create a teaching landscape, establishing plants like wapato, camas and nettles that were important to Native Americans for food, cordage or basket making. A sculptural grouping inspired by the forms of Chinook canoes carved from columnar basalt will evoke the use of the lake as a seasonal encampment for fishing and harvesting. The Chinook were famous for their dugout canoes that propelled them to establish an extensive trading network throughout the Columbia River basin. Canoes were also used in harvesting wapato in the lakes. The casual grouping of canoe forms will evoke an interrupted moment in daily life, and create an emotional connection between past and present.

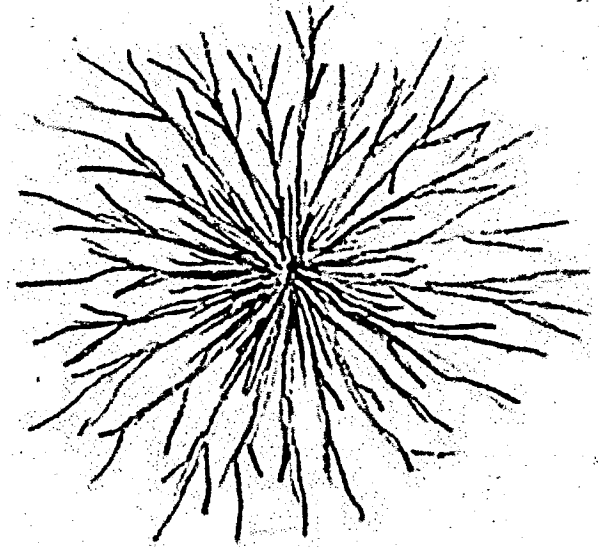
3 Floating Sculptures

6' x 10' in diameter

4.5% of budget



The dynamic changes that will be taking place in the lakes will be brought into focus with twig "habitat islands" floating on the lake. Like a signal buoy that helps mark the path back to the canoe launch, the sculptures will rise and fall with fluctuations in water level and change in scale as plants around the lake grow in size. The corona of twigs will create perches for flocks of tree swallows or cormorants drying their wings. The nest-like islands will allude to the many birds, from grebes to canvasbacks and coots, who build floating nests. In one or two seasons, the islands, made of natural materials, will disintegrate into woody debris, but the existence of the islands will mark the opening of the restored areas and create another way to embed the experience of the lake in our experiential memory.



Port of Portland Entrance

Mirroring the entry at Marine Drive, a grouping of Habitat Trees and Ecology Stones would be embraced by the landscape. As at Marine Drive, the combination of vertical and earthbound elements would create a landmark entryway on a scale in keeping with the natural site. Themes for the art elements would reflect life on the water and marine history.

9/24/02