

The Erie Harbor Public Enhancements Project

PHASE I

RIVERFRONT LINKAGES

Design and construction (2011-2012) of three public pedestrian access easments through the Erie Harbor residential development site.

MT. HOPE STREETScape

Design and construction (2011-2012) of streetscape improvements along Mt. Hope Avenue, including plantings and street trees.

PUBLIC ART

Public art component to be incorporated into the Phase I easment and streetscape improvements. Public art competition process (Request for Proposals) to be held in Fall 2011. Location(s) to be determined by individual artist proposals, with limits being the Phase I improvements areas.

PHASE II

GENESEE GATEWAY PARK & RIVER WALK

Phase II will bring new designs and improvements to the existing park land adjacent to the Erie Harbor residential development. The scope of the current project involves conceptual design and master plan development for these future improvements.

151 MT. HOPE AVENUE PARCEL

The parcel located at 151 Mt. Hope Avenue is not currently within the Erie Harbor Enhancements project scope, but it presents an important future opportunity to enhance the Mt. Hope streetscape and adjacent park lands. Any future development should be mixed-use and designed to coexist with the Phase II Erie Harbor Enhancements park improvements - bringing vibrant activity and safety to the adjacent public park lands.

GENESEE GATEWAY PARK (NORTH)

Phase II master plan includes improvements to this parkland parcel on the north side of the Hamilton Apartments. Anchoring the terminus of Alexander Street and with possible mixed-use developments on the north, the park will become an attractive "urban waterfront" experience for the neighborhood.

NORTHERN RIVERFRONT LINK

The northernmost pedestrian easment linking the neighborhood to the Genesee River will be located near the Hamilton Street and Mt. Hope Avenue intersection. While secondary to the Central Link, the design and materials will be complementary, reflecting the cultural history of the project site.

CENTRAL RIVERFRONT LINK

The central pedestrian easment linking the neighborhood to the Genesee River provides broad physical and visual access to the waterfront. Located at the Averill Avenue intersection, this pedestrian path will include seating plazas, substantial views, and lush planting. The design will reflect the cultural and industrial history of the site.

MT. HOPE STREETScape

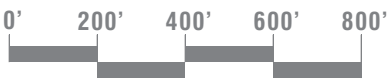
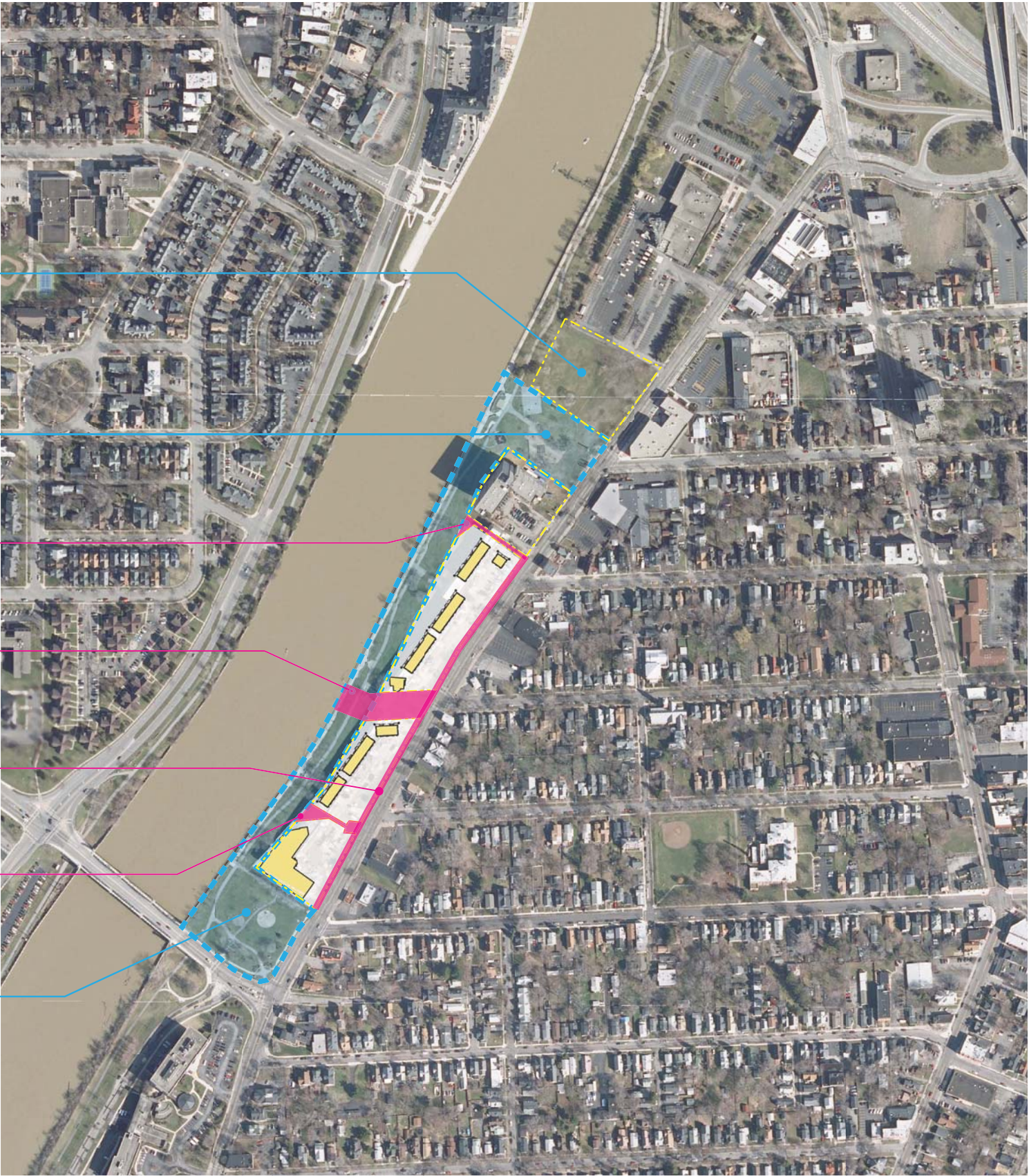
Improvements to the Mt. Hope Avenue streetscape include a sitting areas near easment entrances, a planting buffer extending 8' back from the sidewalk, street trees, and other improvements.

SOUTH RIVERFRONT LINK

The south pedestrian easment is located at the terminus of Hickory Street and functions as a prime view corridor through the development site to the river front and Ford Street Bridge. The link provides supplemental pedestrian access to the riverfront park lands.

GENESEE GATEWAY PARK (SOUTH)

Phase II master plan includes improvements to the southern parkland area adjacent to the Ford Street bridge. Underground fuel storage tanks were recently removed from the site and it is currently undergoing environmental soil remediation. The park functions as the gateway between the University of Rochester and Downtown portions of the River Walk.



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11 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND.

Natural History

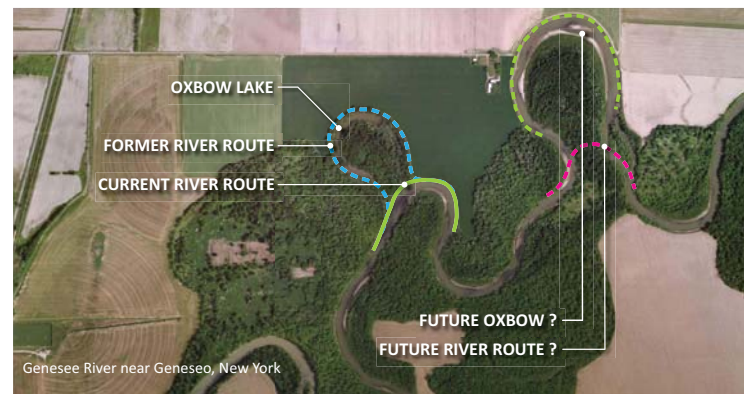
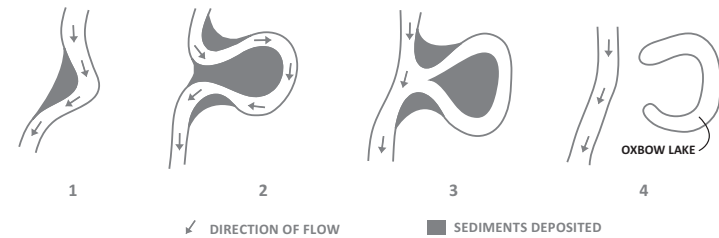


Cultural and Industrial History

The Changing River

In urban portions of Rochester we know the **Genesee River** as a channeled and regulated water body. Modern flood control and hydropower dams now normalize its seasonal crests and maintain flow within the channel – minimizing the threat to our built environment. However, in its natural state the Genesee River was much more varied and volatile force. Variations in discharge volume would fluctuate much more violently and the path of the river itself would shift and turn, both crafting new landscapes and erasing them over decades or even days.

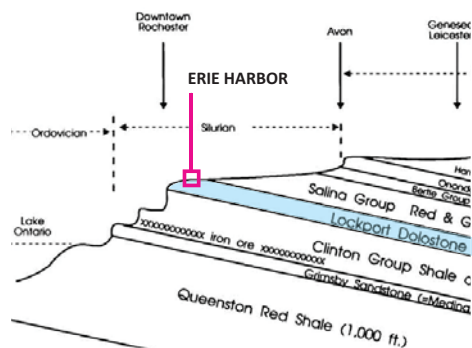
To celebrate the reconnection of the South Wedge to the Genesee River and to show reverence towards the natural hydrological process of the river landscape – the proposed public space designs for the public access easements and overall park master plan will incorporate stylized geometries referencing the “would-be” riparian river edge and oxbow process.



Materials of Significance



Dolomite



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Within Rochester the Genesee River washes over the geologic formation known as **Lockport Dolomite** – a magnesium-rich and erosion resistant sedimentary rock resembling limestone. It's this stone formation that makes the upper “shelf” of Rochester's High Falls and the exposed outcroppings visible from the Main Street bridge downtown. Locally, it's a commonly used natural resource for large and small scale site engineering projects.

A significant rock formation of this Dolomite group **was once exposed within the Genesee River** just north of where the University of Rochester's Interfaith Chapel is now located, creating a large and often impassable section of rapids. The exposed stone became a common fording point for land travelers during low water – contributing to settlement around Brooks Avenue.

By 1822 the State erected a dam at the rapids and constructed the **Genesee Feeder Canal** – conveying river water to the Erie Canal - which ran through the project site until 1918, when Barge Canal construction had obliterated the rapids by dynamite.

During excavation for the 2010 Erie Harbor construction, a significant stockpile of **dolomite boulders were found buried in the location of the old Genesee Feeder Canal**. It is thought that these massive stones were used to line the canal. One could imagine that they may be the very exposed stones blasted out of the Genesee River just upstream and reused. These stones have been stored on site and will be reused once again as amenities recalling the natural process of the river and our local geologic conditions.

Fueling Rochester

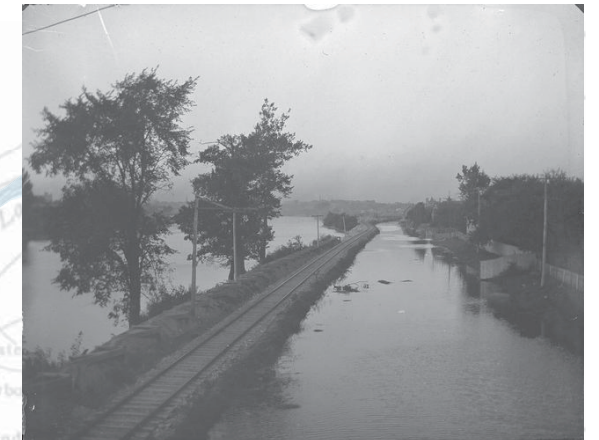
The **Lehigh Valley Railroad** was the last to establish itself in Rochester, reaching western New York in 1892. As with many railroad conglomerates of the day, the LVR owned coal related enterprises, pulling the **highest quality coal (anthracite)** out of Pennsylvania. With lines routing through spectacular scenery, the LVR soon added passenger service and hauled other goods and cargo to Rochester and beyond.

The company continued to make land acquisitions along the Genesee River until approximately 1918 when the State demolished many Victorian-era houses fronting Mt. Hope Avenue – making way for an extensive **LVR rail yard, round house, coal storage infrastructure**, including related rail-cargo reliant businesses fronting Mt. Hope. The Lehigh Valley Railroad had cornered the market for anthracite in Rochester – effectively controlling the most valuable energy source for businesses, homes and institutions.

Lehigh Valley Gas-Electric cars #16 and #19 made **twelve round-trips daily** from Rochester to the LVR main line at Rochester Junction, near Honeoye Falls. These LVR workhorses hauled cargo and passenger cars inot Rochester until September of 1950, including riders of the famed Black Diamond Express passenger train.



Anthracite Coal



Genesee Feeder Canal



Coal Storage Trestle



Growing Rochester

Founded in 1840, the **Ellwanger and Barry nursery** once held more than 650 acres of land along Mt. Hope Avenue for the commercial propagation and cultivation of their vast selection of horticultural products.

At its peak, the nursery was **the largest commercial nursery in the world**, shipping fabulous plant selections across the globe for public parks and private gardens alike.

Both George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry were **advocates of the public park system**, with former nursery land forming the core of the Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Highland Park.

The nursery closed in 1918, somewhat simultaneous to the Lehigh Valley Railroad yard expansions on the banks of the Genesee River in the project site. Much of the nursery land

was converted to housing – forming the land basis for many of the adjacent residential neighborhoods.

The influence of Ellwanger and Barry on the park system, local horticultural traditions, and the development of nearby neighborhoods is worth celebrating with distinctive planting designs – **striking rows of plant species, suggestive of the commercial horticultural process.**





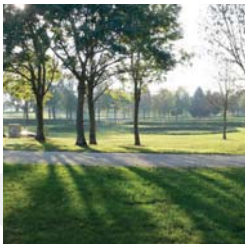
SCULPTED LANDSCAPE



Topography of park allows subtle sculpting of the landform to reflect adjacent "pinnacle range" hills and Mt. Hope landforms. Includes bermed viewing area with bridge, water and downtown views.

FORD ST (BRIDGE)

PASSIVE RECREATION PARK



Enjoy views and passive recreational activities on the "great lawn." The former brownfield site is currently undergoing soil cleanup / remediation and represents the community's commitment to revitalizing and transforming the Genesee River waterfront.

FUTURE PUBLIC ART



Future public art location and small "south-end" plaza with specialty paving and seating elements. Acts as the "gateway" to University of Rochester & Genesee Valley Park portion of river trail.

PATHWAY CONNECTIONS



Modify or remove steps and piers to create lower river walk access points closer to pedestrian easement junctions and preserve existing tree "groves".

OVERLOOK PLAZA



"Overlook" plaza and "river stone" theater seating in lawn slope will have spectacular views to downtown. Includes accessible connection from view plaza to lower river walk pathway. Selected under performing trees will be relocated to open up views.

PLAY



The waterfront park should incorporate play experiences for a wide range of user groups, including children and adults. A modern playground and interactive water feature would provide interest for families and individual users.

A SPACE FOR FLEXIBLE USE



Park will provide room for flexible programming and events. Peaceful grass and stone sitting areas provide waterfront relaxation and downtown views, while the broad plaza axis toward river may provide space for programming such as the South Wedge Farmers Market, small concerts, or arts events.



GREGORY STREET VIEWS



Rehabilitated landscape and new trees will maintain views through park of ford street bridge from Gregory Street.

MT. HOPE AVE. STREET TREES

New street trees and plantings along Mt. Hope Avenue will provide shade and enhanced streetscape through the corridor.

SOUTH END NEIGHBORHOOD LINK

"South" pedestrian access easement (Phase 1 construction) provides access to the waterfront and river walk trail at Hickory Street. See Phase I detailed plan "A".

CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD LINK

"Middle" pedestrian access easement includes wide physical and visual access to the Genesee River from the "South Wedge" neighborhood at the Averill Avenue and Mt. Hope Avenue intersection. See Phase I detailed plan "B" and supplemental graphics.

NORTH END NEIGHBORHOOD LINK

"North" pedestrian access easement provides access to river walk at Hamilton Street. See Phase I detailed plan "C".

PARK RE-USE / RECYCLE



The waterfront park design proposes to re-use existing elements of the current park, including concrete seat walls and the iconic pillars at the terminus of Alexander Street. Pillars can be rehabilitated / modified into a future community public art experience. The concrete walls will form the backbone of drumlin shaped "sunning berms" within the plaza.

A VIBRANT URBAN PARK AND REDEVELOPMENT



To support and compliment the active urban waterfront park experience, future development on the parcel at 151 Mt. Hope Avenue should be carefully designed to orient to the street, the river and the park. A mix of uses, including ground floor retail/commercial and upper floor residential and office will form a symbiotic relationship with future park improvements - providing a safe and vibrant urban waterfront experience.



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“South” pedestrian access easement access to the waterfront and river walk trail at Hickory Street.



“Middle” pedestrian access easement includes wide physical and visual access to the Genesee River from the “South Wedge” neighborhood at the Averill Avenue and Mt. Hope Avenue intersection.



“North” pedestrian access easement provides access to river walk at Hamilton Street.





Entry Plaza

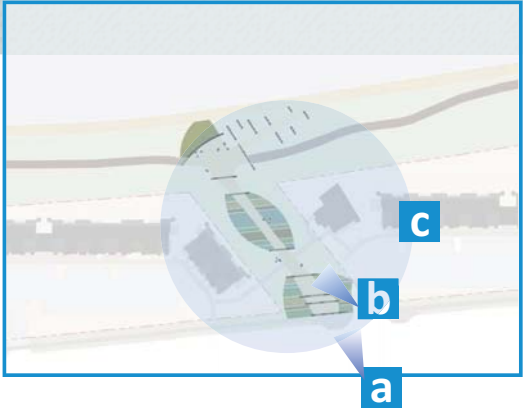
a

View from Mt. Hope Avenue looking west. Main Walkway in the Mid Easement is arranged as the straight extension of Averill Avenue. Slope is gradually going up approximately five to six feet towards the Overlook Plaza. Lines of shade and flowering trees and layers of stepped plants welcomes neighbors and visitors. Seating blocks and band pavement helps to define the entry space of the riverfront park.



Overlook of Central Space

Series of paving bands / blocks and lines of plantings celebrates the rich cultural and industrial past of the site and the neighborhood: Lehigh Valley Railroads and horticultural nurseries. Shade trees greatly enhance the atmosphere as a public space as well as the privacy for the residents of new condos.



c

b

a



Main Walk

Internal view of Main Walkway towards the Overlook Plaza. Trees in both sides of walkway provides shades for pedestrians and people sitting on the blocks or boulders.

b



Balcony View

Night view from one of balconies at the Building Three, looking towards city center. At the events of fireworks, some tenants will enjoy them from their properties. Open lawn and “Overlook” plaza / “River Stone” theater also provide gathering spaces for the particular events.

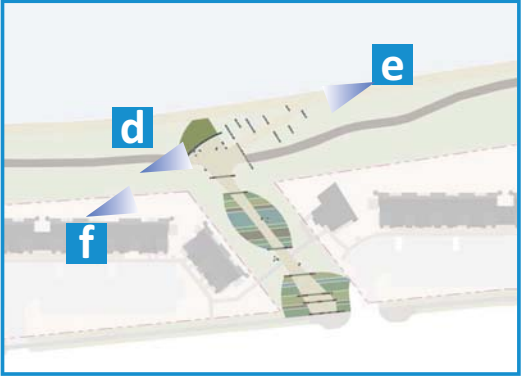
Overlook Plaza

View from “Overlook” plaza and “River stone” Theater towards Rochester downtown. The space will have spectacular views to Central Business District. Seating walls and some shade trees define the plaza space, and provides the comfortable seating spaces with a number of boulder stones. Native grass planting to the left continues to the existing river walk with slope. Mt. Hope Ave. entry to the right



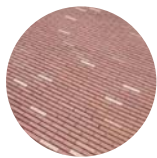
Rive Stone Theater

View of “River Stone” Theater Seating area from existing river walk, looking south (Ford Street Bridge). Existing piers and steps will be removed and replaced by slope walk meeting at existing river walk from the Overlook Plaza. It will not only enhance the pedestrian access but also provide the sufficient seating and ‘playful’ multi-use spaces. The theater will be a great venue at the fireworks events as well as rest point for the walker / bikers.



Materials

Band Pavements (All Easements)



Clay Brick



Stone Paver

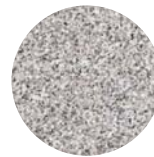


Brown Granite

Seating Blocks (All Easements)



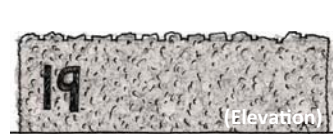
Brown Granite



Gray Granite



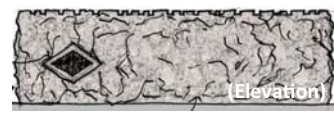
Orange Granite



(Elevation)



(Plan)



(Elevation)



(Plan)

Block Design Examples

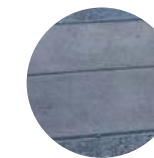
Pavement Patterns (All Easements)



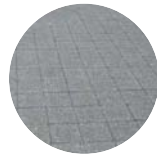
Precast Concrete



Concrete Exposed Aggregate



Sand Blast Finish Colored Concrete



Asphalt Block

Seating Stones (All Easements)

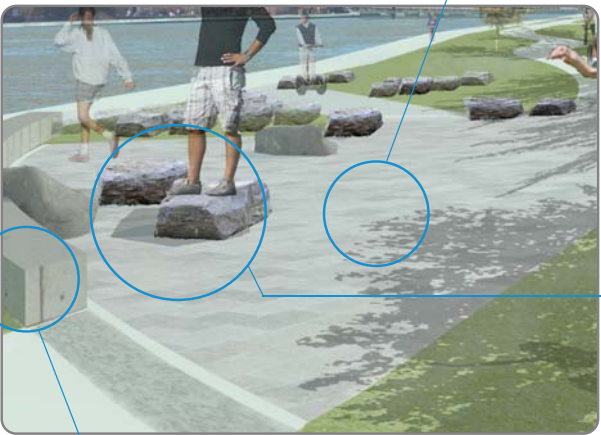


Boulders

Seating Wall (Central Easement)



Precast Concrete



Plantings

Plant Succession

1 year later

Shade trees: 15' to 20' tall
Flowering trees: 15' tall
Shrubs/Perennials/Grasses: vary (6" to 4')



15 years later

Shade trees: 20' to 25' tall
Flowering trees: 20' tall
Shrubs/Perennials/Grasses: vary (1' to 5')



30 years later

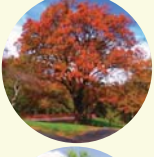
Shade trees: 25' to 35' tall
Flowering trees: 25' tall
Shrubs/Perennials/Grasses: vary (1' to 5')



Shade Trees

Flowering Trees

Shrubs / Perennials / Grasses



Plant Type Examples