

Vergennes River Basin

Design Notes – April 2015

First Impressions:

Add steps for access to boardwalk from N side of sewer pump station

Add trellis around pump station- planted with vines

Look out N of Pump House

Resurrect the footprint of old foundations

Ruins – playful

Think stone boulders – sitting stones, stones to play, jumps from- exercise area, natural ‘playground’

Fit trail - <http://www.fittrail.com/10station.html>

Think gathering space – recognizing its history, with whimsy

Rebuild corner stone foundation wall as community project?

Community garden- as rain/cutting garden?

Surfaces & Paths-

Path changes surfaces to designate transition into various spaces- moving from boardwalk to woodchips to ruins, etc

Path zigzags around trees & roots where necessary

Bare ground made visible by snow melt=clue to higher ground, dryer surface

Following natural pattern of snow melt- boardwalk could zigzag

Planting & Building-

Conscious to be least disruptive to land as possible; Remove as little as possible

Considering grade, erosion concerns - Planting to help along wet area – river bank

Need a management/ maintenance plan

Keep standing dead trees- called ‘snags’ - they provide sustenance & shelter to insects, mammals & birds. Trees w/ hollow trunks, cavities & dead limbs are essential to wildlife

Plants-

Canopy – oak, beech, maple, ironwood, dogwood

Shrubbery – Dogwood, Pussy willow, swamp azalea

Path-

Aesthetically this boardwalk/ path route will change with the seasons- dependent on fluctuating water levels –

 Appearing more elevated in dry summer

 Skimming the top in wet spring

 Disappearing or ‘ground’ level in winter

Benches at riverside – summer only

Up Next:

Tree inventory & placement on plan

Seasonal photos thru the year as documentation

Water level assessment – stake & gauge

Stake area for possible boardwalk layout