DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Urbana Public Arts Commission

FROM: Christina McClelland, Public Arts Coordinator

DATE: October 6, 2011

SUBJECT: **Jack Mackie Phase I Preliminary Project Briefing**

Background

After completing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify an artist to work on the design team for the Boneyard Creek Beautification Project, Seattle artist Jack Mackie was selected by the Boneyard Creek subcommittee and City staff. This selection was approved by the Public Arts Commission at the August 9, 2011 meeting. City staff, in consultation with Foth Consultants and Wenk Associates, reached an agreement for design services with Mr. Mackie that was approved by City Council on October 4, 2011. As outlined in this agreement, Mr. Mackie submitted a Phase I Preliminary Project Briefing that summarized his initial research on the Boneyard Beautification Project and documented interviews held with individuals including community members, stakeholders, City Staff, and the design team during his trip to Urbana from September 14-16, 2011. He presented his Phase II Research and Concept Design to the Public Arts Commission during the October 11, 2011 meeting, which broadly outlined his ideas for wall treatments, tile work, and creek edge stone elements. The Public Arts Commission approved this initial concept and directed Mr. Mackie to continue developing these designs in collaboration with the design team.

Discussion

Mr. Mackie has been working closely with City staff, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, and Wenk Associates to design public art for the Boneyard project. He presented his Schematic Design to the design team during his trip to Urbana on November 29-30, 2011. Mr. Mackie also met with Public Arts Commission Chair Pat Sammann and the Boneyard Subcommittee to receive feedback on this Schematic Design, as the Boneyard Creek Improvements Project design is scheduled to be presented to City Council on Monday, December 12, 2011, one day before the Commission's monthly meeting.

Mr. Mackie's proposed design focuses public art elements to enhance the surfaces of the structural perimeter walls, walls associated with the Race Street and Railroad Trestle Bridges, and the Broadway Street Bridge; and to embed native diatom images into the limestone blocks set along the creek edge (Exhibit A). Structural and bridge walls would carry images derived

from botanical elements that are fundamental to the Creek's ecosystem. These images would be inset into the walls in relief through the use of concrete form-liners. One form-liner image is based on the seed shape of the Common Sedge Plant, an indigenous Prairie woodland creek-edge foundation plant. The other form-liner image is based on the Springtail (Collembola), which are very small hexapods that play an important positive role in the establishment of plant-fungal symbioses in Prairie top soil. Two walls, Wall 2 along the western edge of the park and Wall 19, the Broadway Bridge, at the eastern edge of the park, would receive applied tile treatments that are also reflective of the common sedge plant. The tiles in these treatments are composed approximately one half recycled material.

Diatoms, a major group of the Boneyard Creek algae and phytoplankton, play a key role in the regulation of the biogeochemical cycle of silicon in the Boneyard aquatic systems. For the Boneyard Creek Improvements Project, images of diatoms native to the creek will be substantially enlarged and sandblasted into limestone blocks set along the creek edge. These images will provide opportunity for discovery as park visitors walk along and engage the creek edge.

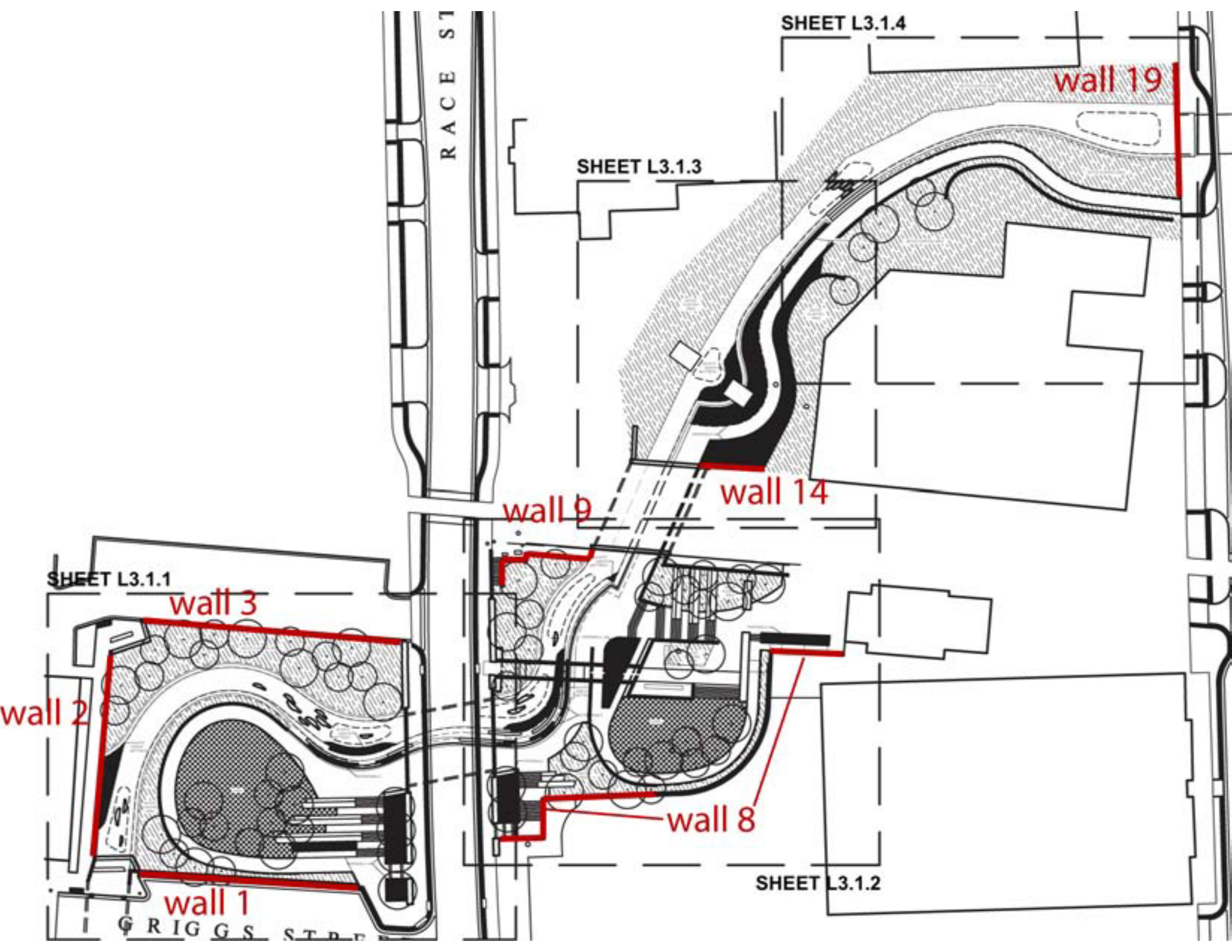
Mr. Mackie's design incorporates the public's feedback by representing the natural environment in the Boneyard Creek and the ecologically aware community in Urbana. By bringing attention to integral native species that often go unnoticed, such as the Common Sedge, Springtail, and various diatoms, his work will celebrate the Boneyard ecosystem, provide an opportunity for ecological education for all ages, and create an attraction for Downtown Urbana.

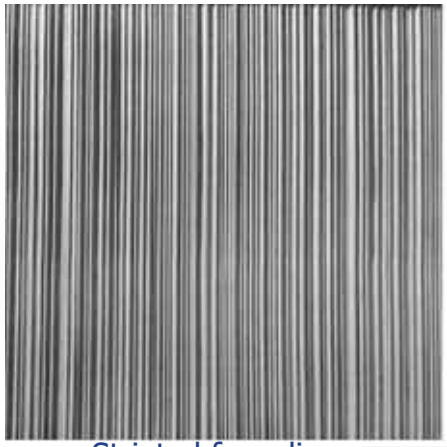
Recommendation

Mr. Mackie will present his design to the Public Arts Commission during the December meeting, and updates will be provided from the December 12, 2011 Committee of the Whole meeting. Public Arts Commissioners are also invited to attend the Boneyard Creek Improvements Project Public Meeting occurring immediately after the Public Arts Commission Meeting, from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Urbana Civic Center, on Tuesday December 13, 2011.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Jack Mackie Public Art Presentation Slides

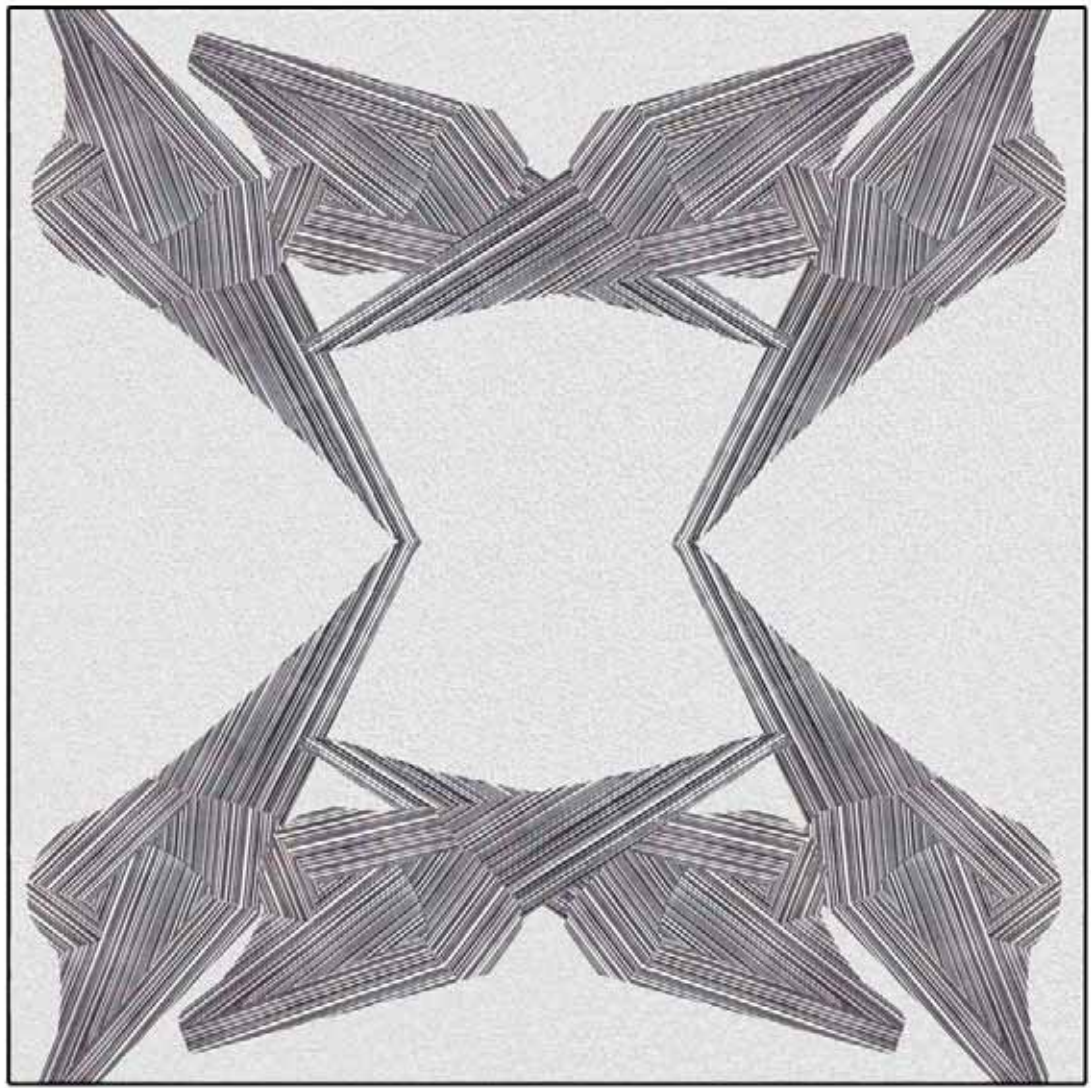

SHEET L3.1.4
wall 19
SHEET L3.1.3
wall 14
wall 9
SHEET L3.1.1
wall 3
wall 2
wall 8
wall 1
SHEET L3.1.2

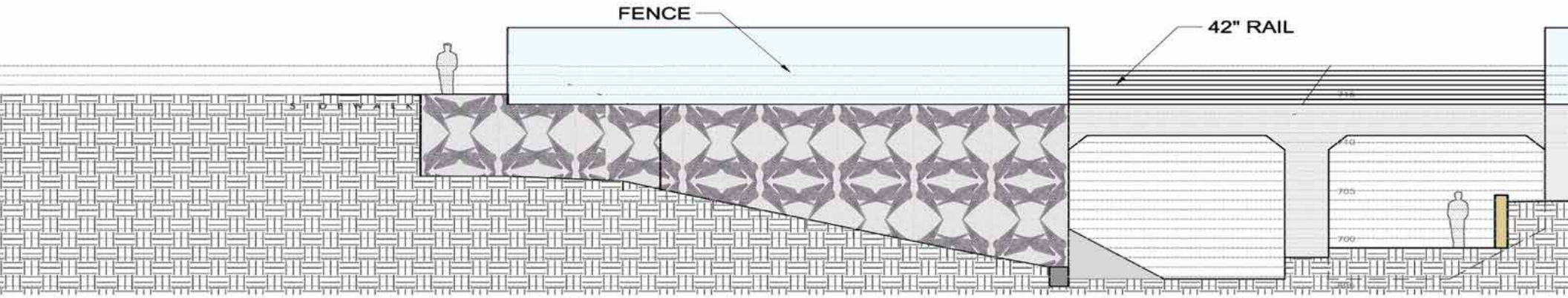


Striated form-liner

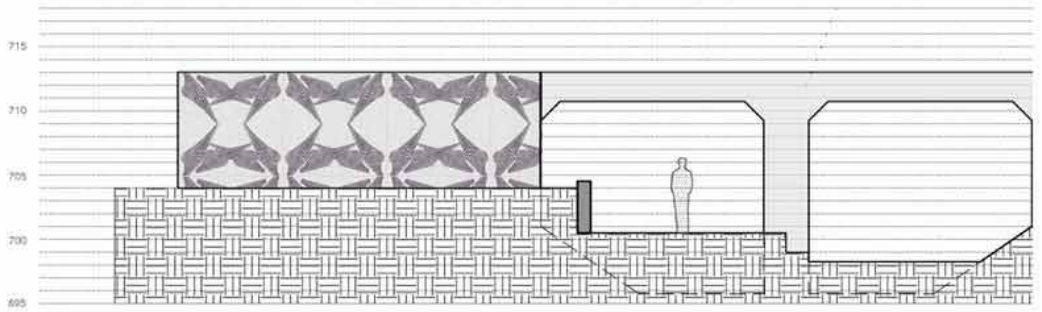
Common Sedge Plant

The seeds of the common sedge, a foundation plant for the Boneyard Creek edge, provides the image and shape for structural wall form-liners.

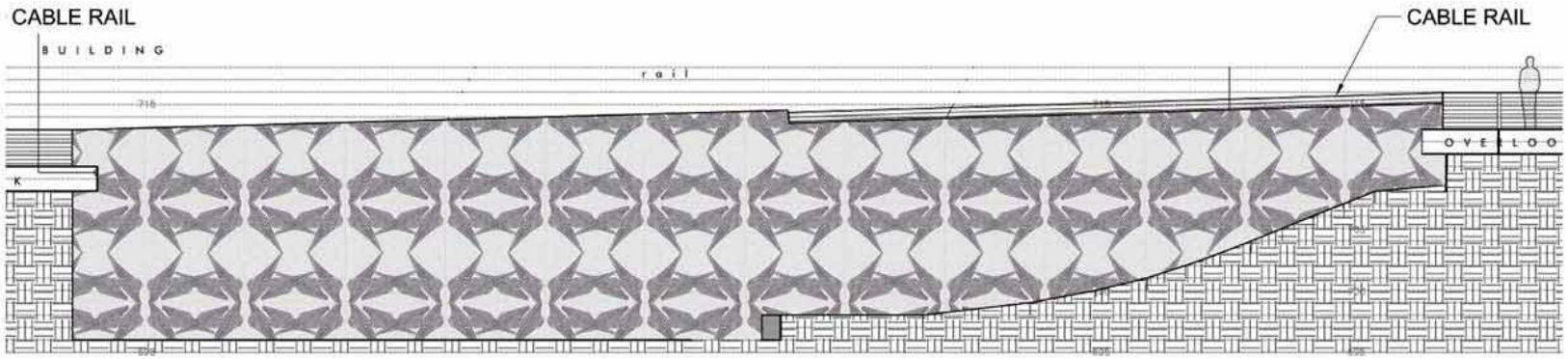




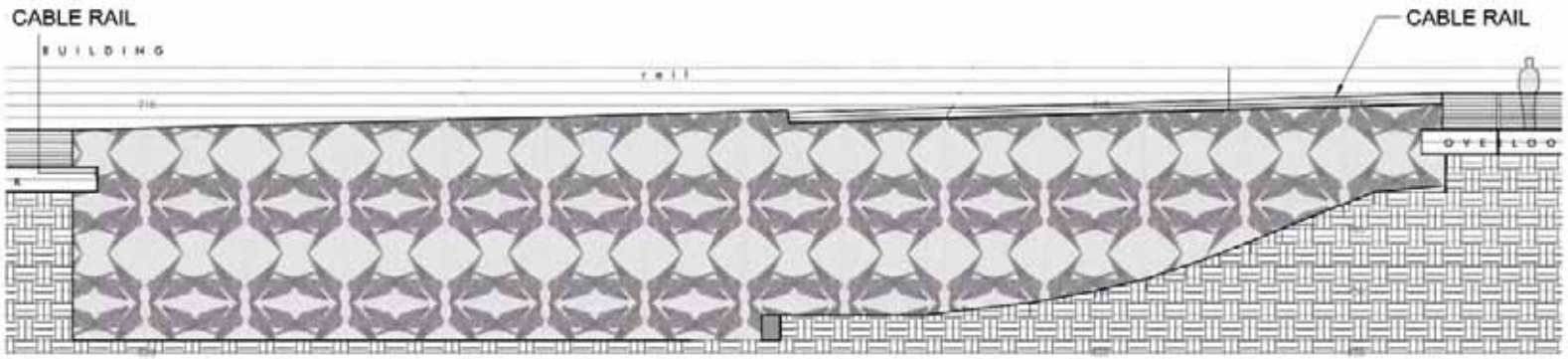
PERIMETER WALL 9



PERIMETER WALL 4

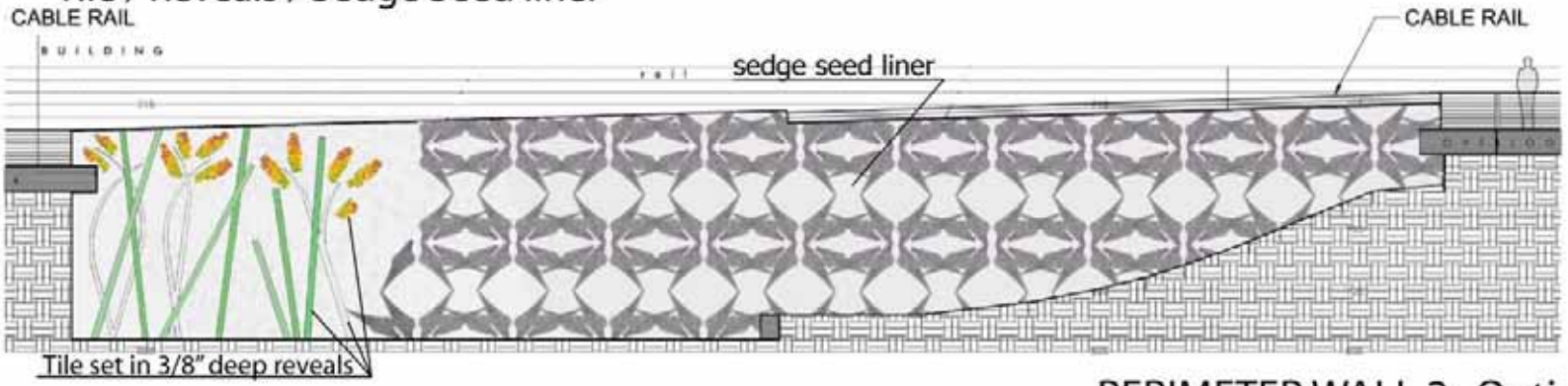


PERIMETER WALL 2~Option A



PERIMETER WALL 2~Option A

Tile / Reveals / Sedge Seed liner

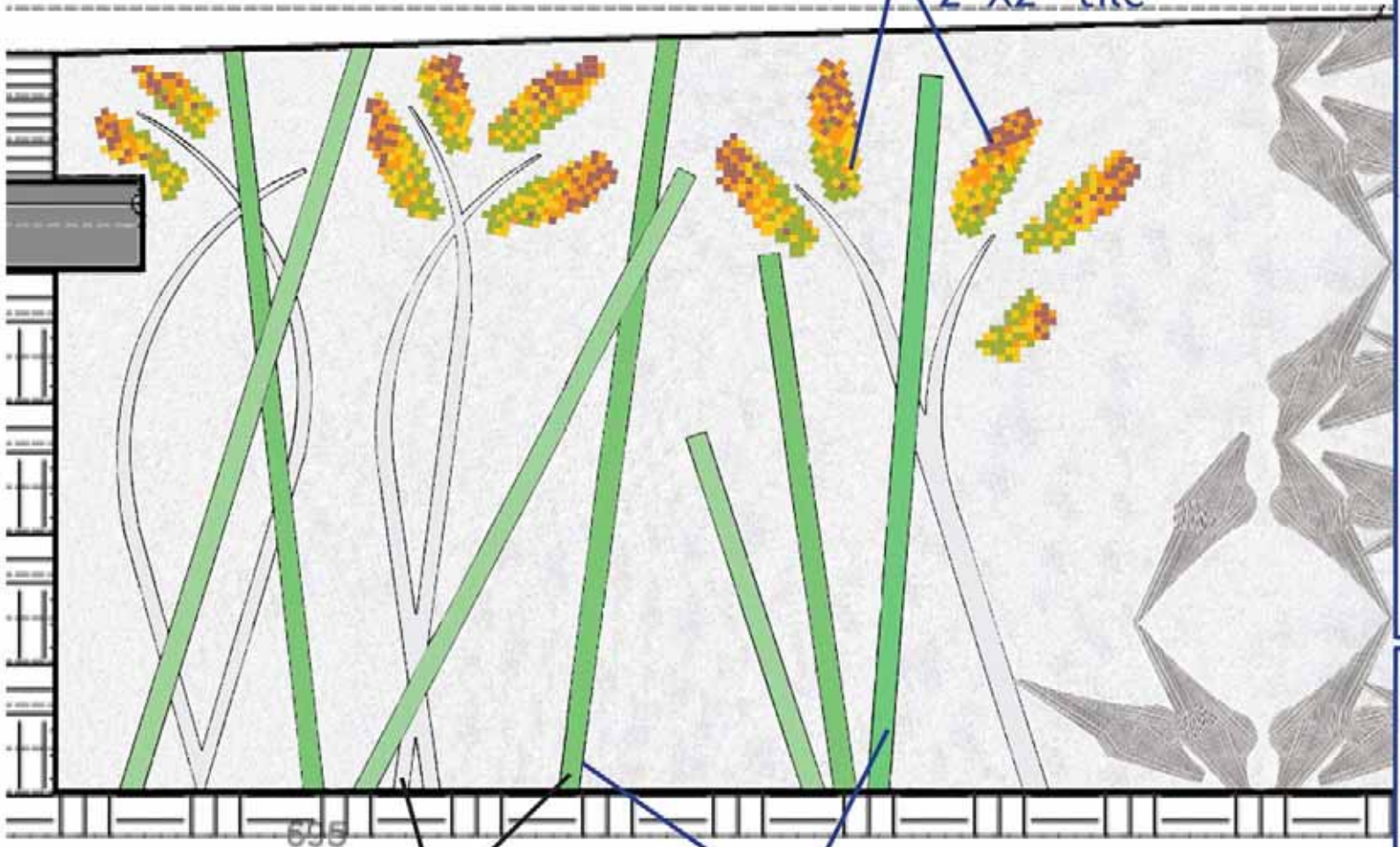


PERIMETER WALL 2~Option B

WALL 2 ~ Option B

715

DalTile Natural Hues
2”X2” tile



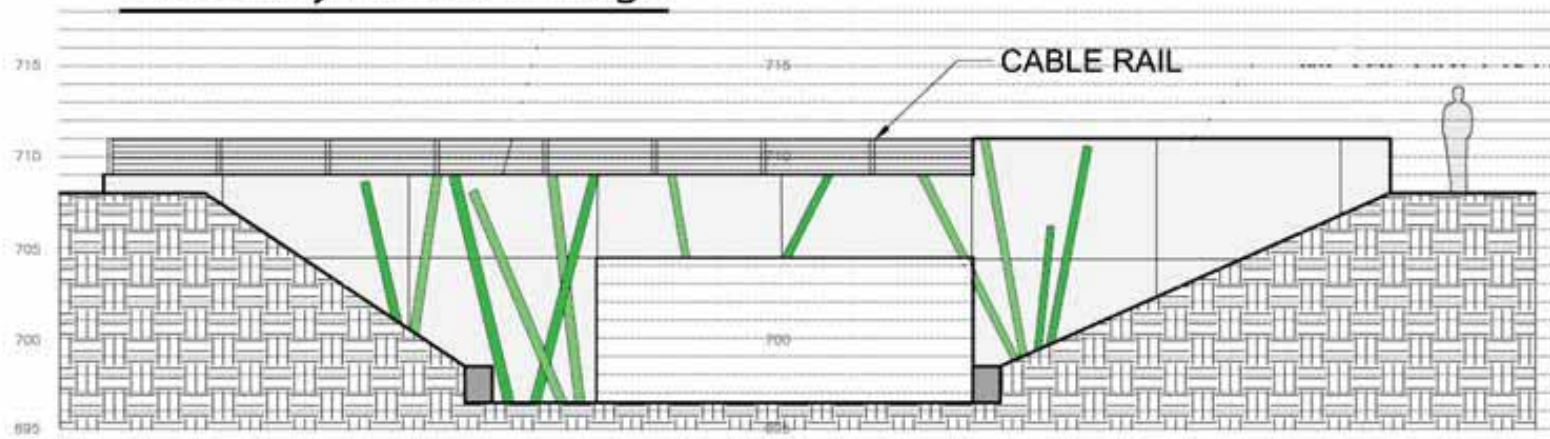
595

3/8” Reveals

A.SACKS *Trend/Brillante*
.85”X.85”

6”

Broadway Avenue Bridge



A.Sacks *Trend Brilliante*

6
L4.1.2

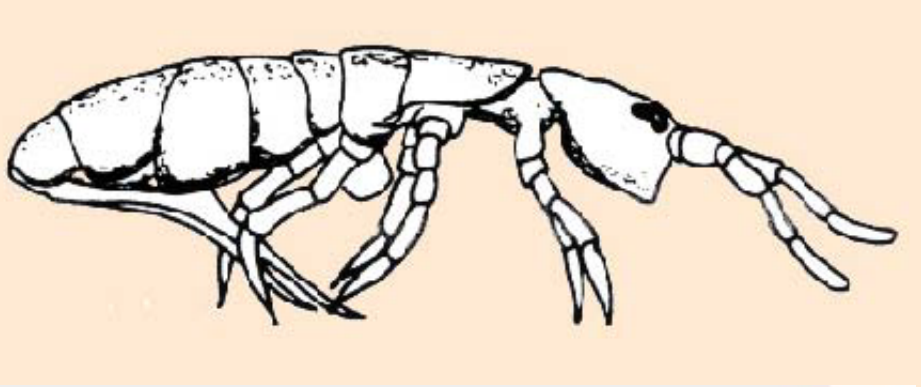
SITE WALL 19 Option 1

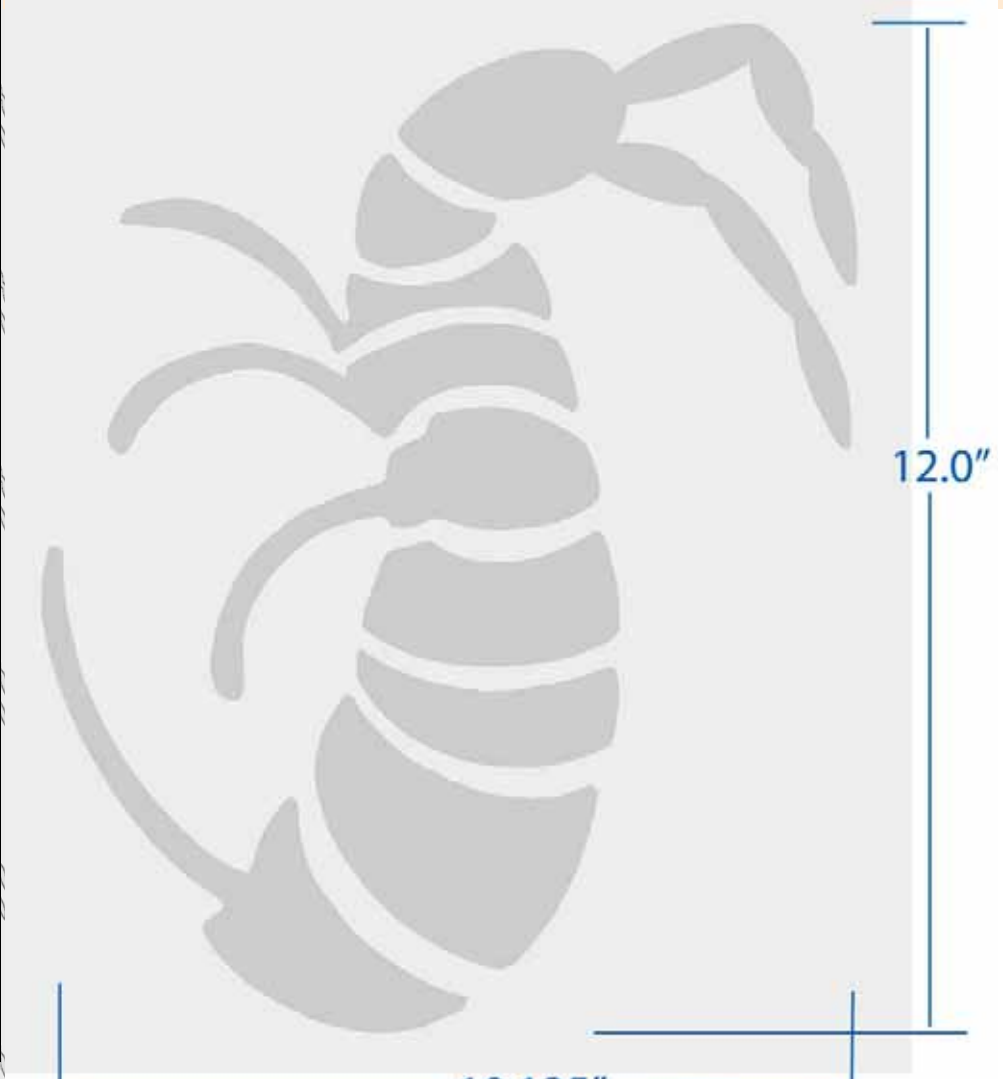
ELEVATION

Tile strips applied to patched and cleaned concrete wall.

Springtail

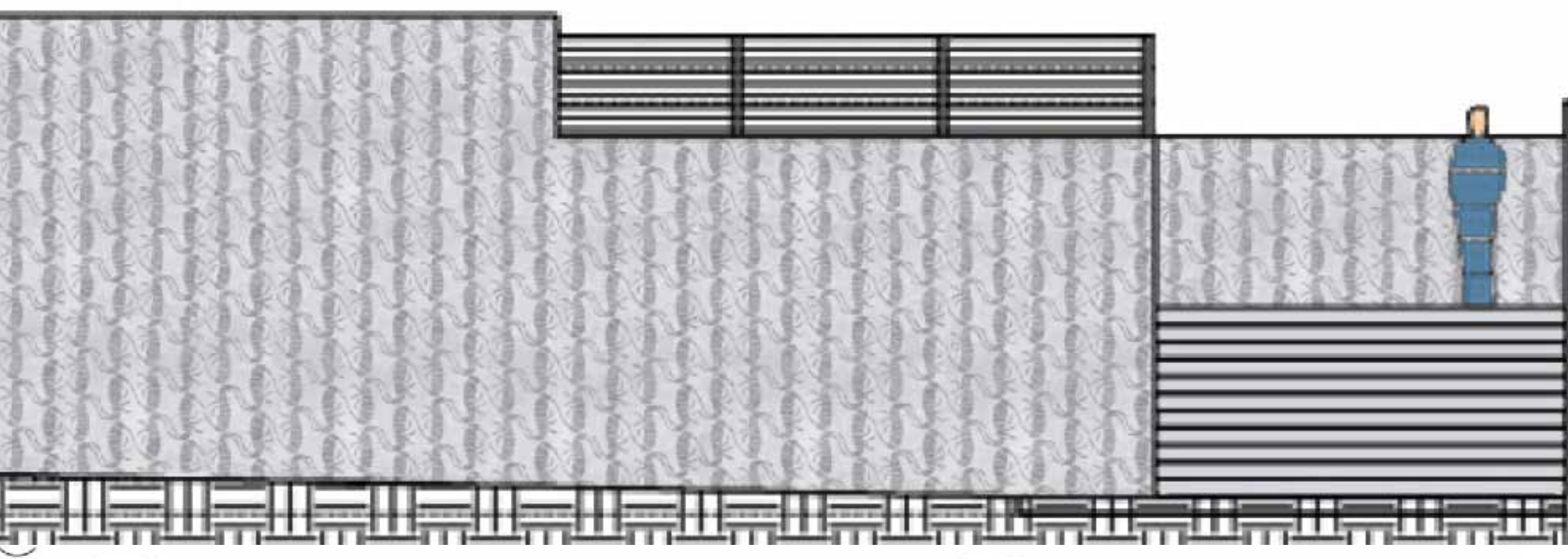
The Springtail, very small hexapods that play an important positive role in the establishment of plant-fungal sym-bioses in Prairie top soil, will provide formliner image for low concrete walls in the Boneyard Creek Park.

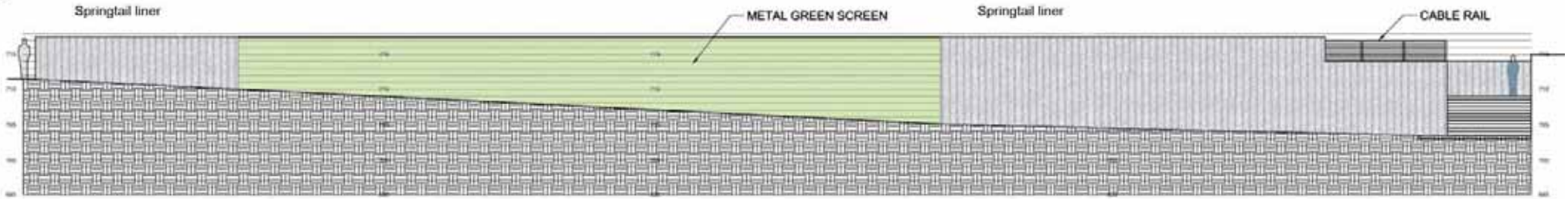




Springtail single mold
BONEYARD CREEK

Backgroud texture Scott Systems
120 Sandblast #2

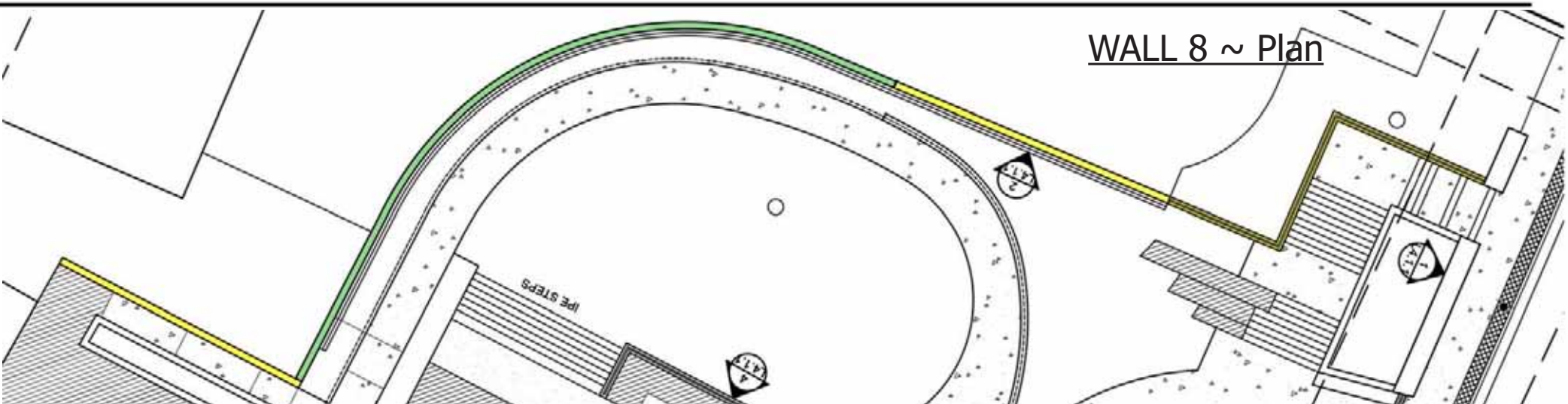


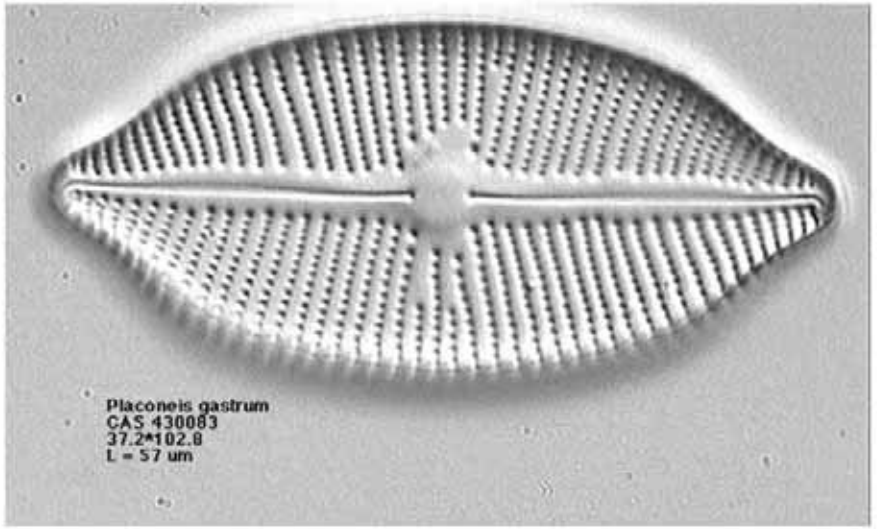


SPRINGTAIL LINER

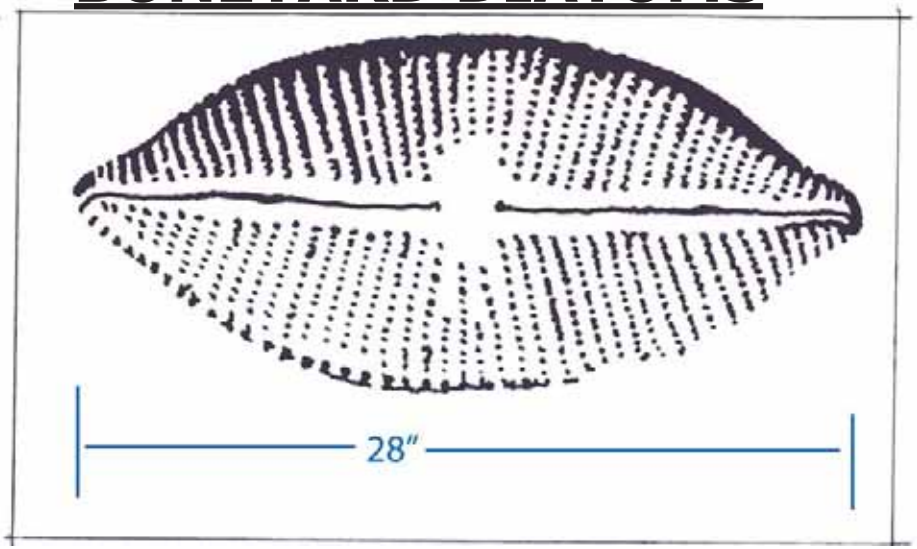
WALL 8 ~ Elevation

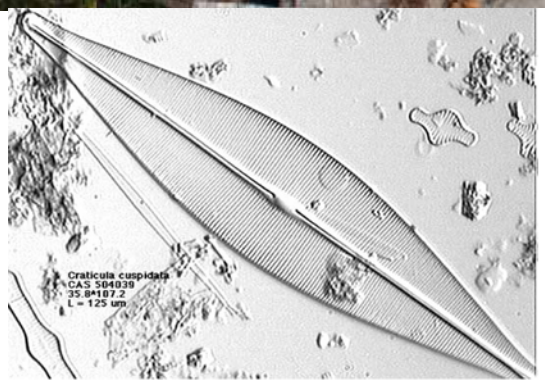
WALL 8 ~ Plan

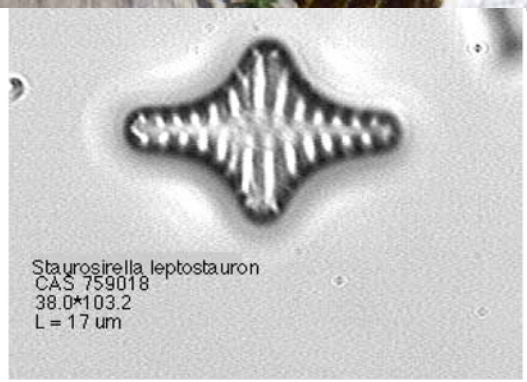


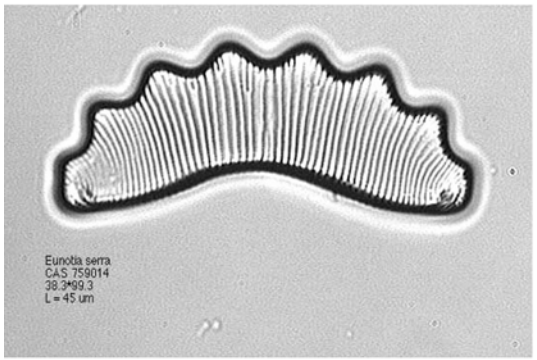


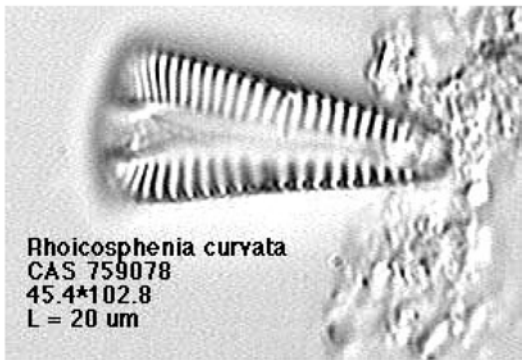
BONEYARD DIATOMS











Diatoms, a major group of the Boneyard Creek algae and phytoplankton, play a key role in the regulation of the biogeochemical cycle of silicon in the Boneyard aquatic systems. Extremely small, diatoms show in fossil record dating to the Jurassic period. For the Boneyard restoration, images of diatoms native to the creek will be substantially enlarged and sandblasted into limestone blocks set along the creek edge. These images will provide opportunity for discovery as park visitors walk along and engage the creek edge.