



## THE CONCOURSE / SOUTH MONTROSE GREENWAY Grand Prairie, Alberta

At EDA Collaborative in Edmonton, Erik Mustonen prepared concept and design development plans for a multi-level urban plaza adjacent to the new library and museum building as the northern portion of a planned civic centre development.



South Montrose Concourse is a linear series of paved plazas and soft landscape areas, about 30m x 180m total, south of the new Grande Prairie Art Gallery, Library, and Teresa Sargent Hall. The Concourse is to be part of a larger Civic and Cultural Precinct centered on a Town Square proposed for the area south of the Concourse.

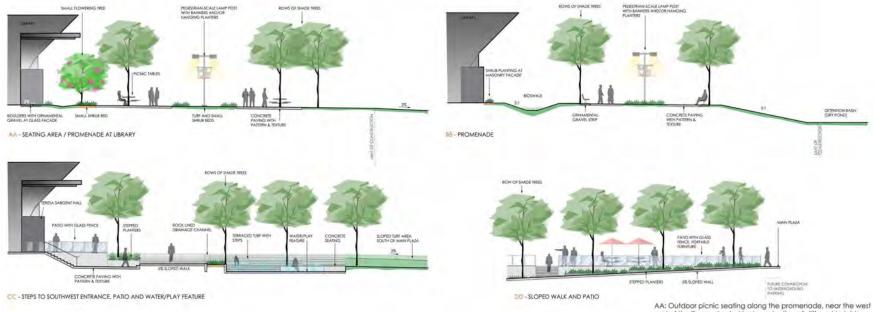
The site rises 2.0m from west to east. The design allows for a future underground vehicular connection between the existing parking under the library and future underground parking beneath a Town Square and cultural buildings to be developed to the south at a later date. Tree planting and other major components have not been placed over the area to be excavated later for the underground connection. Fill will be required to bring the main plaza, the patio and the promenade up to the level of the south entrance. Excavation for the dry pond provides some of this.

Tree planting provides shade in the summer, allows sun in the winter and breaks west winds. Hardy, low-maintenance species provide seasonal variety and interest, and the planting design conforms to the principles of CEPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.) The selection and placement of species avoids nuisance fruit drop and invasive roots. The water feature has no standing water, and is upwind from any nearby deciduous trees. Accent and holiday lighting of trees are incorporated into the design.

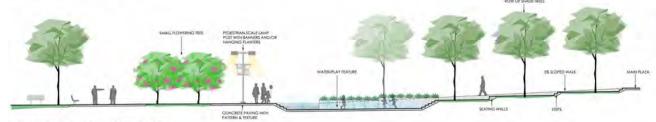
Street furniture is an integrated, expandable system of components including seating of various types such as free-standing benches, concrete seating walls and both fixed and moveable tables and chairs for the patio and picnic lunch area (for public and staff.) Trash receptacles, kiosks, signage, flagpoles, lamp posts, bollards and other furnishing are integral with the design.

East of the main plaza a series of quiet green spaces along a promenade leads to 98 Street. A connection from the eastern end of the promenade accommodates a pedestrian desire-line heading southwest from there to 101 Avenue. This connection transitions from the more formal promenade to less formal unit paving areas to patio pavers in grass to a path (until the Town Square is constructed.)

The Concourse is designed for phased construction. Site servicing provides for special event power and is sized to handle the full build-out. The design of the South Montrose Concourse sets the direction for a Civic and Cultural Precinct that will serve the people of Grande Prairie for generations to come.







F - WATER/PLAY FEATURE, SLOPED WALK TO MAIN PLAZA

EE - MAIN PLAZA AND SPECTATORS' SLOPE

AA: Outdoor picnic sealing along the promenade, near the wes end of the library, shaded by tree planting of different heights. Ornamental gravel and boulders resist reflected heaf from the glass focade.

BB: The quiet promenade with seating is flanked by a bio-swale to the north and a storm water dry pond to the south (likely to be re-worked to underground storm water storage in the future cultural precinct.)

CC and DD: A patio NW of the main plaza is accessible via a walkway at the same level, from the west door of Teresa Sargent Hall. It is protected by a glass fence that controls access and blacks winds, and can be closed off with gates, for private events but used at other limes as an outdoor area for the Esquires Coffee House and general public seating especially at lunch-time.

EE: The main plaza in front of the south entrance of the library and hall is a large, unstructured paved area suitable for a variety of activities. Temporary canopies, tents and portable seating can be used for some events. The stoping grassy area to the south provides informal seating for performances.

FF: The Concourse rises from 99 Street past a water/play feature court recessed 0.6m with stepped seating, located near to but separate from, the main plaza. The west end includes space for a future sculpture garden. A sloped walkway (5%) climbs up to the main plaza level in front of the south entrance of the building. There are stepped turf terraces with seating benches, under the trees to the south.

The southern edge of the entire Concourse is to be soft to allow for connection to the future Town Square, underground parking and cultural buildings that have not yet been designed.





# The CONCOURSE

SOUTH MONTROSE GREENWAY

GRANDE & prairie &

The site rises 2.0m from west to east. The design needs to allow for a future underground vehicular connection between the existing parking under the library and future underground parking beneath a Town Square and cultural buildings to be developed to the south at a later date. Tree planting and other major components will not be placed over the area to be excavated later for the underground connection. Fill will be required to bring the main plaza, the patio and the promenade up to the level of the south entrance.

The preferred concept has the western part of the Concourse mostly at the level of 99 Street except for a slightly sunken water/play feature court surrounded by stepped seating, located near to but separate from, the main plaza. The west end of the Concourse will include space for a future sculpture garden.

A ramp (5% or less) will climb up to the main plaza level in front of the south entrance of the building. There may also be stepped turf terraces under the 6 trees south of the ramp. The main plaza in front of the south entrance of the library and hall will be a large, unstructured paved area suitable for a variety of activities. Temporary canopies, tents and portable seating will be used for some events. The sloping grassy area to the south will be used for informal seating for performances and other events spilling out into the site of the future Town Square.

A patio (7m x 20m) in the NW corner of the main plaza will be accessible via a walkway at the same level, from the door at the west side of Teresa Sargent Hall (the existing stairs will be moved south.) The Patio could be closed off with gates, for private events in the hall and used at other times as an outdoor area for the Esquires Coffee House and general public seating especially at lunch-time.

East of the main plaza there will be a series of quiet green spaces along a promenade leading to 98 Street. A connection from the eastern end of the promenade will accommodate a pedestrian desire-line heading southwest from there to 101 Avenue. This connection will be a transition from the more formal promenade to less formal unit paving areas to patio pavers in grass to a path (until the Town Square is constructed.)

### LEGEND

- 1. SCULPTURE GARDEN FUTURE
- 2. WATER/PLAY FEATURE
- 3. PATIO 7 X 20
- 4. MAIN PLAZA
- 5. PROMENADE











2. CONCEPT - COMPONENTS

### SKYLINE HILLS (MONTAGE) San Diego, California



Erik Mustonen led a team at SKA Landscape Architecture to develop the concept and produce a 69-sheet set of construction drawings for planting, irrigation and home owner association facilities such as the swimming pool. The dense planting on this intensively-developed site necessitated separate planting plans for shrubs vs. for trees and vines. He also coordinated with the engineering consultants to resolve grading, servicing and vehicular circulation challenges posed by the steep slopes.

## Markham Municipal Building Competition Markham, Ontario

# **The Canadian Architect**

Markham Municipal Building Competition Hamilton Arena Appraised Office & Atrium by Barry Johns



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### Program

In 1986, the Town of Markham, Ontario invited three architectural firms (Arthur Erickson Architects, Barton Myers Associates, and Moriyama & Teshima Architects) to participate in a 1-stage competition for the selection of a firm and design for the Markham Municipal Building. George Baird, of Baird/Sampson Architects acted as professional advisor. The jury members were Tom Januszewski, planning director for Markham, Ron Moran, regional councillor, Larry Richards, director of the School of Architecture, University of Waterloo, and architects Jim Strasman and Ron Thom. In September, it was announced that the firm of Arthur Erickson Architects had been selected. (see jury report). In this report, we show the three submissions, extracts from the jury report, and abridged versions of the architects' statements.

The rapidly developing Markham, with a population of 105,000, (175,000 estimated for 2001). encompasses farmlands, new residential areas, businesses, and industries. The civic centre will be the focus of an evolving complex which now includes Markham Theatre and Unionville High School, and will in future accommodate parklands and formal gardens. The gently sloping, untreed, 11.5 ha site is at the northwest corner of a busy intersection. The vacant area opposite is to be developed with office and research buildings, while on the northeast corner, a shopping centre will serve the residential area to the east.

The program called for a building that would symbolize the town, which "comprises a series of historic communities, at the same time that it now houses an important group of contemporary technological industries." Public facilities required include a lobby, winter garden, council chamber, committee rooms, executive wing, chapel, library and archives,

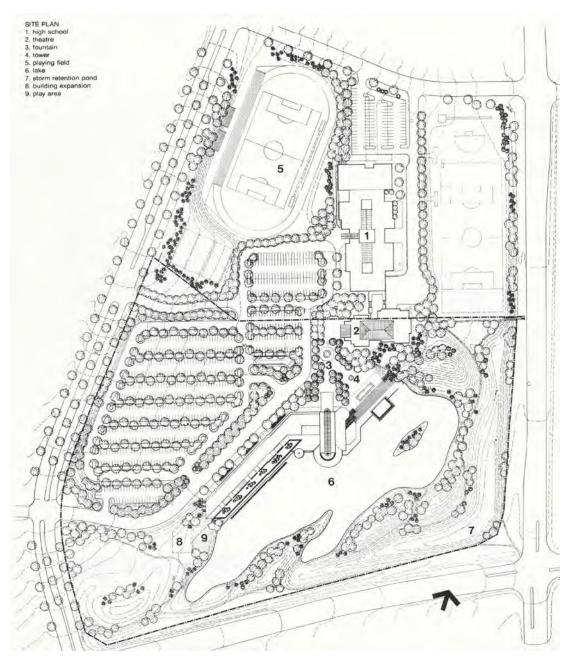
daycare, and fitness facilities. Numerous municipal departments are to be accommodated in spaces that are accessible to the public. Total building area is 12,118 m2. Outside spaces are to include a skating rink/reflecting pool, a daycare play area, and cafeteria terrace. Landscaping is to have pathways, benches, trees, grading, lighting, and grassed areas. Budget for base construction of the building is \$14.4 million, and for phase one of site development and landscaping, \$4.2 million. Budget for phase two of site development and landscaping, to be implemented later, is \$1 million.



LOCATION PLAN

### Jury Report

The jury felt that the winning scheme had many outstanding qualities, but was particularly impressed with its imaginative site planning strategy, superb landscape composition, and sensitive incorporation of existing buildings. The jury admired the sequences of views created for the passer-by and members of council and staff in their daily work. The scheme's symbolic image was also considered the most appropriate for the Town of Markham.



Site Plan

Erik Mustonen was the landscape architect on the project team of Arthur Erickson Architects' Toronto office on the competition. As the landscape architect on the winning team for this limited competition, he did the landscape design and hand-rendered the final site plan on mylar.

The water feature was developed into a lake, which as a major landscape element, acts as a reflecting pool and visually lends height to the building's south façade and the council chamber. In winter, the lake will also provide a large skating surface as an additional community amenity.

The landscaping of the public park is intended to be natural and informal. Man-made mounds were designed to create controlled views of the building from adjacent roads. Visual axes along the approach routes focus on the lake, the building, the building and the plaza. Parking areas are screened from the building and city streets by berms and planting. To incorporate the existing buildings into the overall scheme, a hard-landscaped civic square was created, linking them to the main ceremonial entrance. The space in the junction between the Markham Theatre and the municipal building was then developed into an amphitheatre stepping down to the water and serving as an outdoor gathering place for public functions.

The Jury Report noted in part, "the jury felt that the winning scheme had many outstanding qualities, but was particularly impressed with its imaginative site planning strategy, superb landscape composition, and sensitive incorporation of existing buildings." (The Canadian Architect, January 1987.)

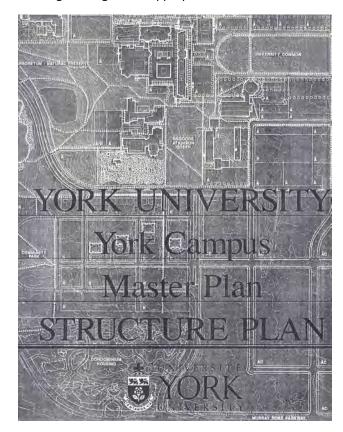
After the closure of Arthur Erickson's office, the design was implemented by others.



### York University Master Plan Toronto, Ontario

At IBI Group in Toronto, Erik Mustonen was project manager of a multi-disciplinary team consisting of an architect, an engineer, a planner and three other landscape architects, on a master plan study for the urbanization of the campus of York University, which had developed in a suburban style layout prior to the urbanization of the surrounding area.

The university had been on the periphery of the Toronto metropolitan area, but the surrounding region had grown increasingly urbanized. By selling off portions of the campus they could afford to construct new facilities while creating an image more appropriate to their location.



6.1 The population at York Campus is exposed to and ex otected open spaces and walkways. Concerns over personal curity are expressed due to the fear of the unprotected, thinly populated spaces and gaps between buildings.

#### 62 ANALYSIS

- · impact of halldings.

parking lot.

Accumulated snow area.

#### 6.3 MICROCLIMATIC PROBLEMS

Strong winds scour snow from playing fields.

Snow accumulates on leeward side of berm.

Strong northwest and southeast wind

Snow accumulates on feeward side of cut portion of

Snow accumulates on leeward side of out portion of

The primary problems are winds from the north and west, limit

protected by Ross. These spaces are currently used predominant

#### 6.4 MITIGATION OF MICROCLIMATIC PROBLEMS.

the new buildings and landscaping. This requires that attention be devoted to a series of suggested guidelines (6.5 below), and that further specific study be made of each new building within the context of the existing and emerging built environment. The

- 8. Open to prevailing winds.
- 10. Funneling winds. 11. Accelerating winds around corner.

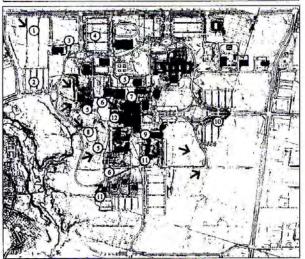
- 9. Strong porthwest upper-level winds
- 12. Debris blown to parking lot.

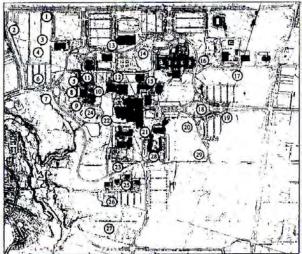
- open-air and weather-protected/chimate-controlle podestrian and handicapped circulation;
- · jogging, cycle and ski routes.
- sensitivity to interesting buildings such as Ifnove Homestead and Stong House

#### MICROCLIMATE CONDITIONS - MITIGATIVE MEASURES

- Maintain consistent building heights.
- Podium structure along north and west facades of proposed building on this site will improve pedestrial level wind conditions.
- Snow fencing should be upgraded as a temporary measur
- Orient buildings from east to west to avoid downwash
- Wall along west side of plaza.
- Increase conferous planting in this area.
- D. Complete enclosure of walkway will alleviate wind
- I. Tie in huildings with parking structure
- 12. Three- to four-storey structure on this site will reduce
- Install parapet and canopy over doors of existing

- 15. Install parapet wall or eavopy on Lumbers link
- 16. Increase landscaping and tree planting in this area.
- 17. Any east-west pedestrian walkway should be well
- 19. Building entrances in this area should be set back or
- protected from funneling winds with landscaping. 20. Structures on this site to shelter Central Common
- 21. Relatively good wind climate in this area.
- 22. This area well-spited for taller development
- 23. Low-rise structures most suitable in this area. 24. Continue Athoretum growth and development as rosection from high winds.
- 25. Low-rise structures to act as n
- graduate student towers. 26. Any residential development in southwest precinct would
- 27. Buildings should step up west to cast and south to north to minimize downwash effects.
- 28. Landscape treatment to improve wind conditions





MICROCLIMATIC CONDITIONS - MILIGATIVE MEASURE 0:00



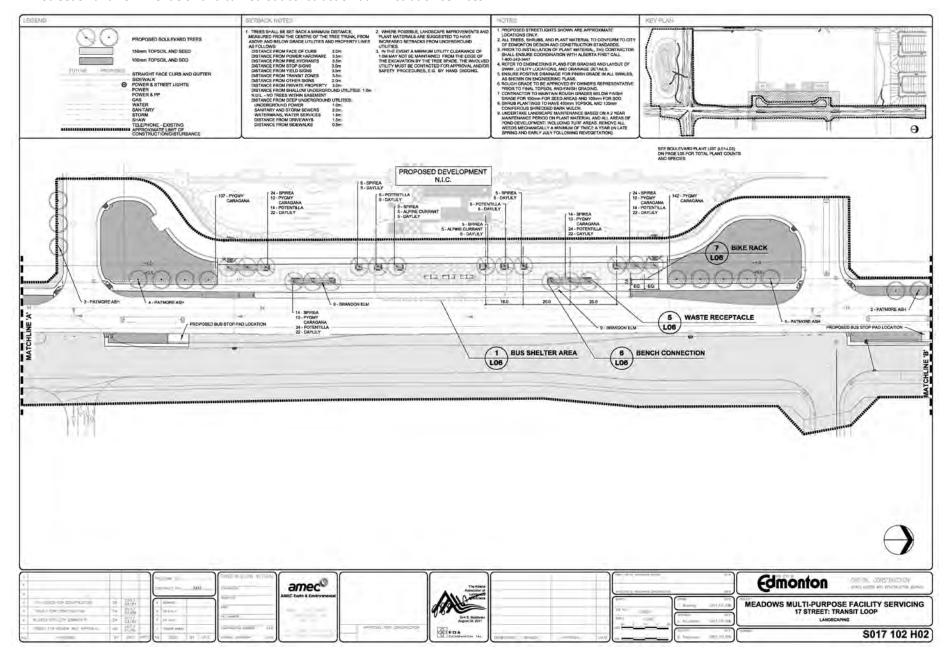
GENERAL PLANNING PRINCIPLES

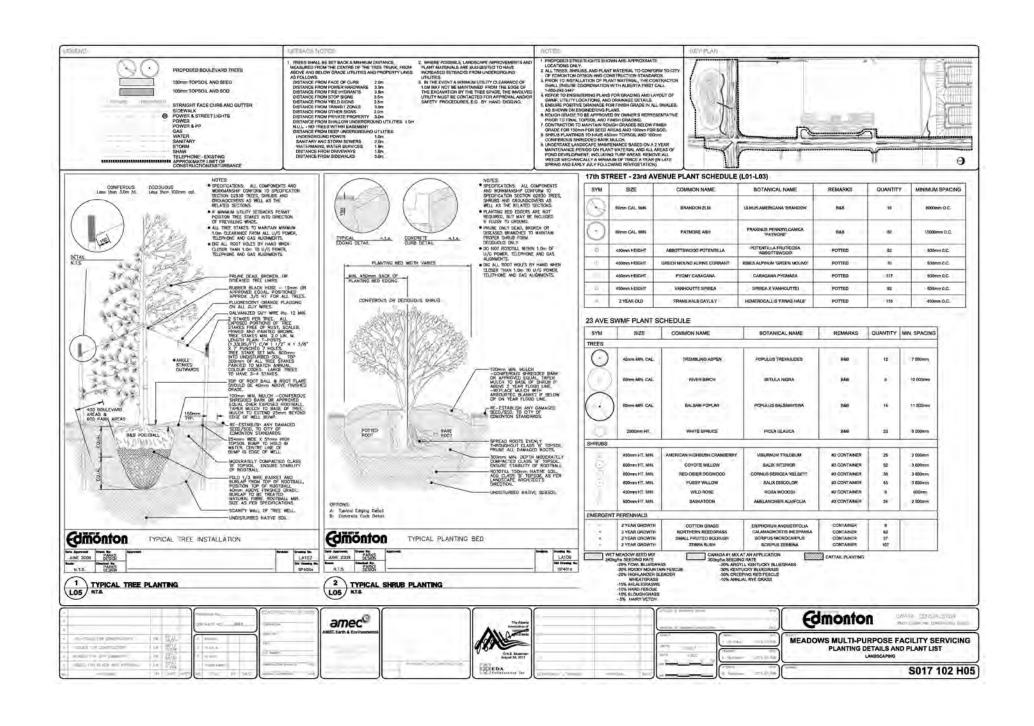


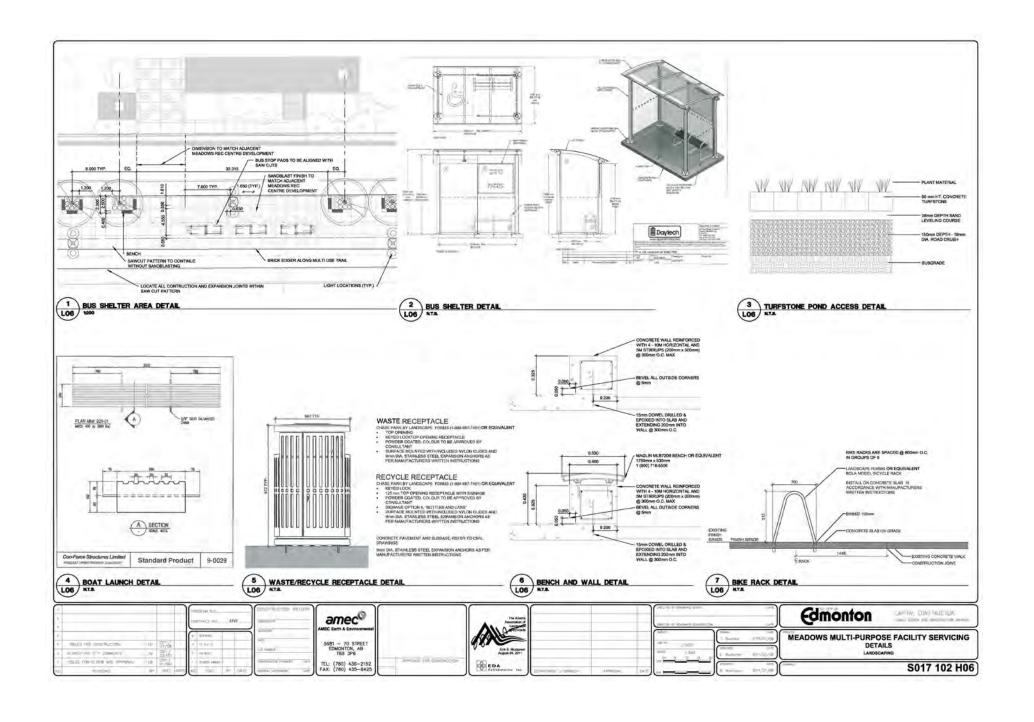
STRUCTURE PLAN

### Meadows Multi-Purpose Facility Servicing Edmonton, Alberta

At EDA Collaborative sub-consulting to Amec Engineering, Erik Mustonen designed street tree planting, storm water pond landscaping, and a transit plaza for this area of 17<sup>th</sup> Street SE and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE and carried out construction administration services.



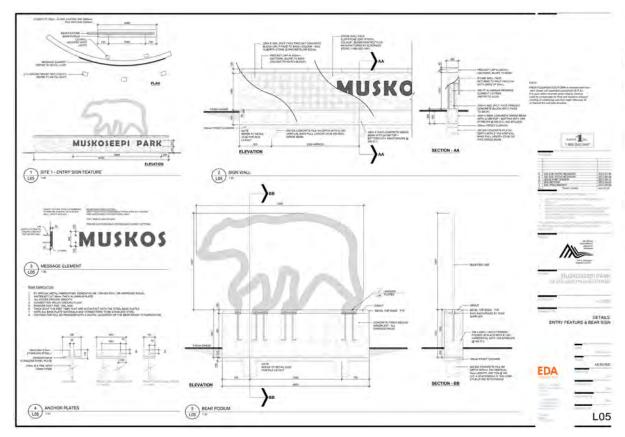




### MUSKOSEEPI PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES & ENTRIES Grande Prairie, Alberta

The City of Grande prairie retained EDA Collaborative in Edmonton, to prepare Design Guidelines for Muskoseepi Park adjacent to the downtown area, while concurrently developing designs and construction documents for the upgrading and updating of entry areas at 102 and 105 Avenues. Erik Mustonen prepared the Design Guidelines for park-wide furniture, lighting, wayfinding and other amenities. He also led the design team for the entry areas.

The name of Muskoseepi Park comes from *Muskwa Seepi* (Bear Creek) the Cree name for the creek running through the park,) The team created the bear logo, which was then pressure cut from 100 mm-thick aluminum to produce the 2.6 m x 4.6 m bear that was mounted on the main entry sign. It also appears on signage throughout the park, replacing the original Centennial Park signage, which was from the 1980s.



MUSKOSEEPI PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

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#### 5.1 Way-Finding System

#### 5.1.1 Park Entry

A way-finding system is necessary for a facility as large as Muskoseepi Park. The first thing that must be allowed for is whether information is being communicated to a motorist or a pedestrian/bicyclists. Motorists are moving at a higher rate of speed in vehicles, the windows of which restrict visibility somewhat, and they have to pay attention to the act of driving itself. Very little information can be conveyed, and it must be conveyed clearly. The old park entry sign illustrates the problem.

The numerous blue and white icons are too small to be seen clearly by motorists, and many of the symbols on them are confusing. This type of detailed information would be better conveyed by other means such as on the City's website, in media advertisements, or on larger vehicular-oriented signs a block or two before the intersection so motorists would have time to take in the information before deciding to turn into the park. The lettering and logo are also problematic: vertically-stacked lettering is nearly impossible to read especially for a long word like "Centennial" (people have to take in one letter at a time, and then assemble the word in their minds,) and the logo is too small to be clearly perceived by motorists.



The recommended solution is to instead provide a clear, memorable image with minimal information (the name of the park) as an entry sign/feature for motorists and a separate, smaller information kiosk with detailed information for pedestrians.



Existing park entry signs other than at the 102 Avenue entrance, could be retro-fitted with the bear logo and easier-to-read lettering, on a durable plaque that could be mounted on the concrete pylon. A park map could be added on the back or in an adjacent map stand.

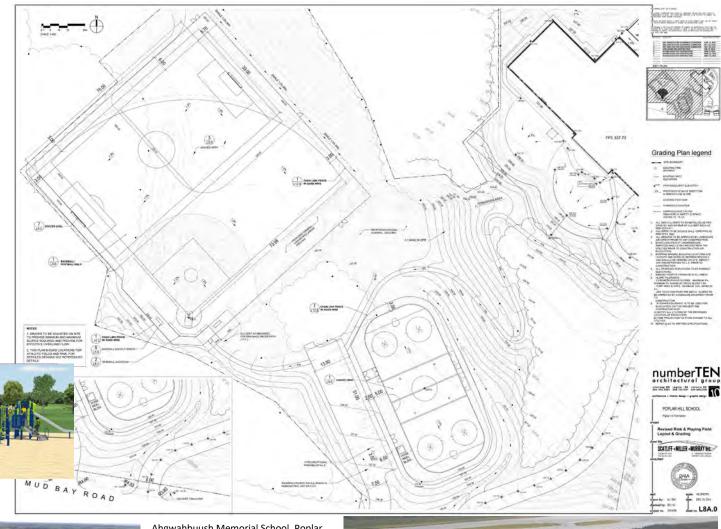


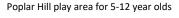
# First Nation Schools Poplar Hill, Pikangikum and Fort Severn First Nations, Ontario

The Poplar Hill, Pikangikum and Fort Severn First Nations are indigenous communities in isolated locations in the north-western corner of the province of Ontario.

As the Project Landscape Architect at Scatliff + Miller + Murray, Winnipeg, Erik Mustonen carried out a major redesign for the Ahgwahbuush Memorial School at Poplar Hill First Nation, to re-locate playing fields and a hockey rink to a new site.

Erik also coordinated with NDL, the design-build contractor, and Number TEN Architecture, in providing construction administration services for the schools at the Poplar Hill, Pikangikum and Fort Severn First Nations.







Ahgwahbuush Memorial School, Poplar Hill (above)

Eenchokay Birchstick School, Pikangikum First Nation (left)

Fort Severn First Nation (right)



### ALLOWAY ARCH The Forks, Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Winnipeg Foundation retained Scatliff + Miller + Murray and KGS Engineering, to create a free-standing arch with associated landscape development including a fountain, at a high-profile site between the Union Station (Via Rail) and the Museum for Human Rights at The Forks in Winnipeg. Erik Mustonen carried out construction administration including resolving design issues on the fly, on this fast track project to re-use historic stones from the former Alloway and Champion Bank (constructed 1910, demolished 1974.)

The fountain has three water jets symbolizing the three gold coins that were the initial contribution that led to the formation of the Winnipeg Foundation. The foundation's motto, "FOR GOOD FOREVER" appears in aluminum letters on the roof of the arch, visible from the tower of the museum across the road.

The Alloway Arch immediately became a dynamic civic monument framing the view of the Union Station east entrance. Together with the rows of elms, it creates two "outdoor rooms" that serve as gathering places and peaceful resting areas along the access to the fountain.









Alloway & Champion Bank Site Context at The Forks

Site Plan





















The construction process (above)

The fountain with the three jets (left)

The Promenade (right)

