

A photograph of a forest floor covered in moss. Three dark, spherical objects, possibly art pieces, are placed on the moss. The background shows trees and foliage. The text "Earth Art Lab @ Dorothy Carnes Park" is overlaid in the upper right.

Earth Art Lab @ Dorothy Carnes Park

Curated by Anne Drehfal & Team
June – November 2016

Artist #1 Concept

Project Concept:

My concept is relatively small scale. I have a funny hobby of whittling gnomes out of wood. I would love to be able to incorporate my whimsical wooden gnomes into the Dorothy Carnes County Park Earth Art Lab project. My idea is to create small secret doors/entryways accompanied by paths/ladders and then place a gnome near the door entrance or hidden behind the door to engage visitors in their own curiosity and imagination. The paths and/or doors will be visible to visitors walking on the park's marked paths. I plan to use as many recycled materials (buttons, paint, glue) and earth materials (river stones, wood, sticks, moss) as possible. This installation would incorporate 3 wooden gnomes (I am still working on the 3rd).

Note: Request to remove recycled non-natural materials from list

Artist #1 Ideas & Works



← Concept (not actual work)



↑ Actual work

Artist #1 Sketch



Artist #2 Concept

Project Concept:

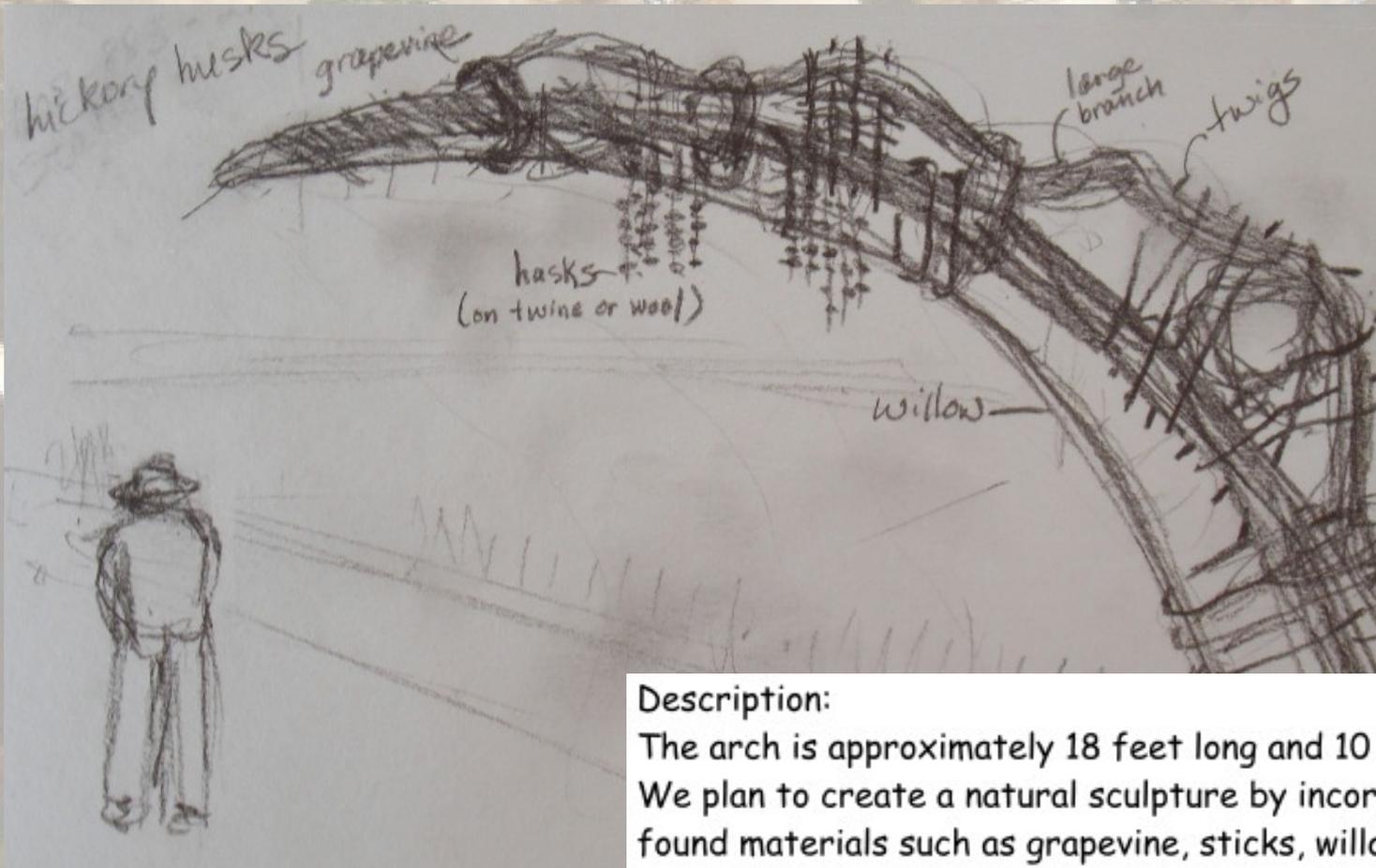
Turning right at the overlook, traveling about 50 feet, then turning and looking back, you will see a tree that curves into a natural arch next to the trail.

We propose to enhance this arch by tying, weaving, and attaching natural and found materials, creating a structure within it.

We hope our piece will be an invitation to visually enter space and then see beyond.



Artist #2 Sketch & Description



Description:

The arch is approximately 18 feet long and 10 feet tall at the highest point. We plan to create a natural sculpture by incorporating a wide variety of found materials such as grapevine, sticks, willow, nuts, dogwood, twine and wool. Other additions may include stripped or burnt sticks to add color, contrast and variety. We will weave and tie these natural materials together to draw the viewer's eye up and through the arch.

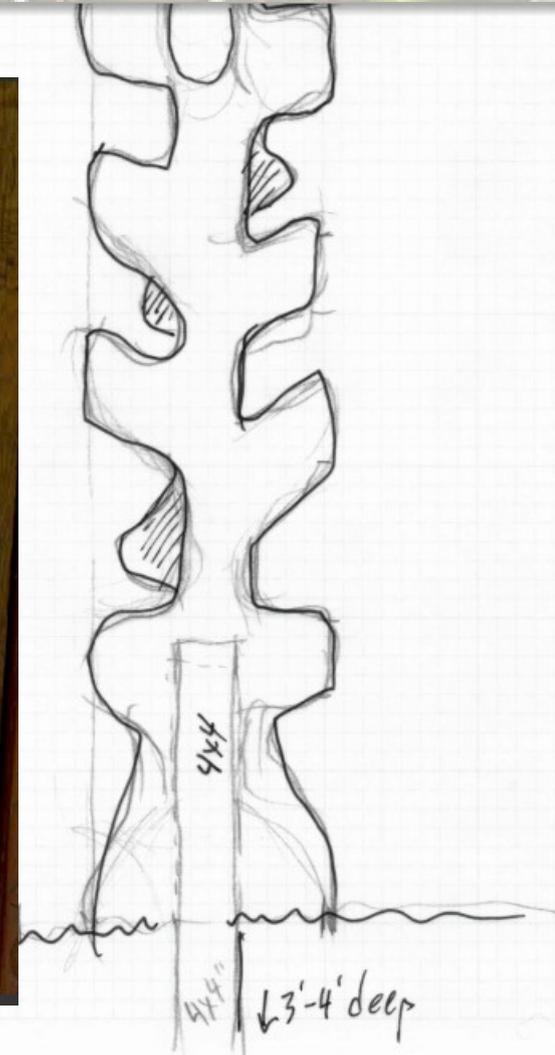
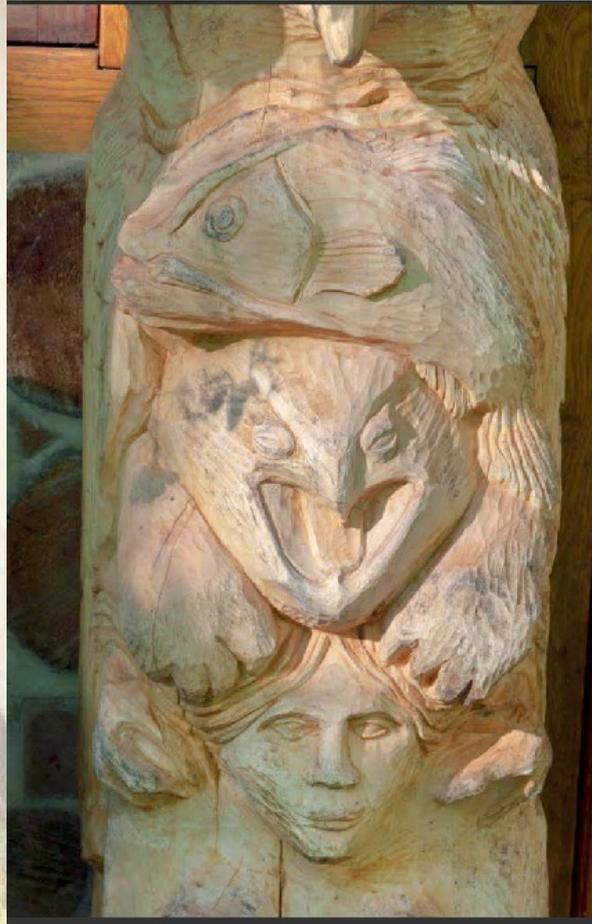
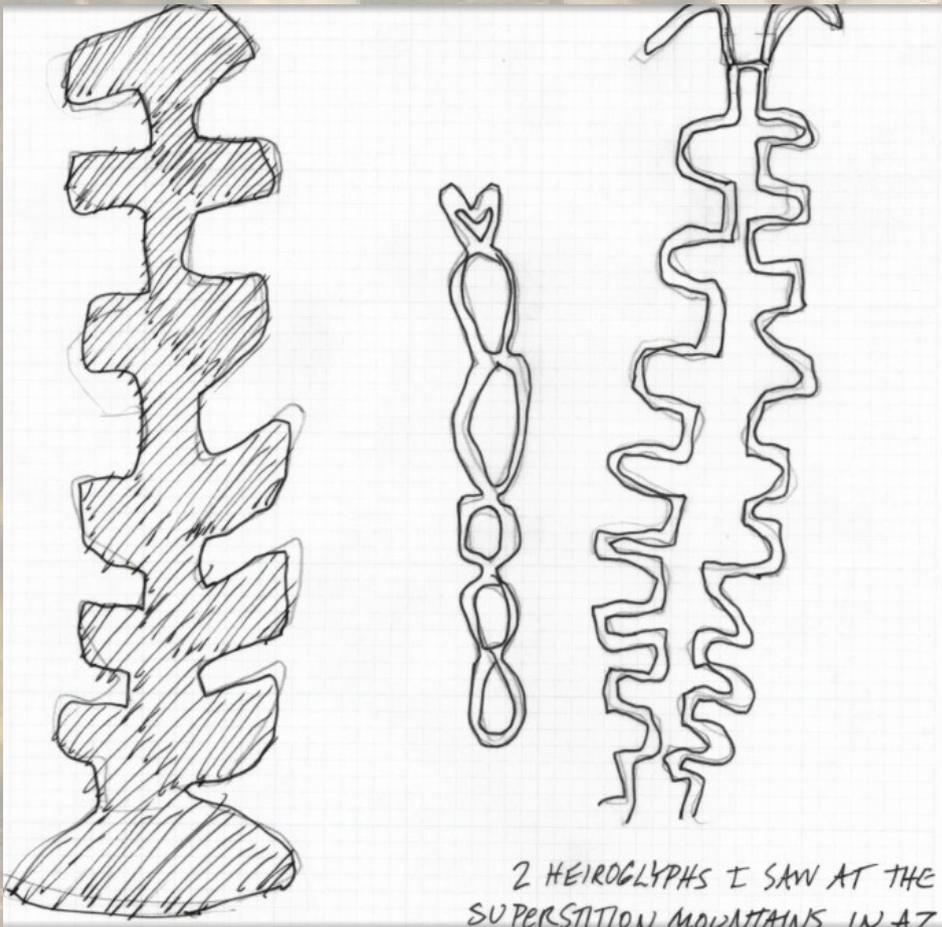
The sculpture will be assembled on site on the weekend of June 4th. Some parts will be assembled before hand with the final sculpture finished on site. Most materials will be sourced off site, other materials such as small sticks and nuts will be found on site.

Artist #3 Concept

CONCEPT:

After experiencing the Saguaro cacti and the Sonoran desert this March I am inspired to carve a totem form that stands in the landscape. I'm also inspired by hieroglyphs I saw in the Superstition mountains in AZ. They were playful and geometric. I'd like to carve a geometric totem pole. I have a piece of local basswood that is fourteen inches in diameter and six feet tall. I would hope to insert a 4x4 into the base of the log and have it go down into the ground 4' to stabilize the sculpture. I am open to any suggestions on what the best way to install this piece would be. I plan to finish the exterior of the carving by charring it, making it reminiscent of a lightning struck tree.

Artist #3 Sketch & Works



Note: Request to also use horizontal supports, to be buried beneath leaves/matter

Artist #4 Concept

We will create the image of a thirteen-lined ground squirrel by braiding and bundling prairie grasses or sedges. A thirteen-lined ground squirrel is a rodent native to Wisconsin, whose original habitat is prairie. The oversized squirrel we will create will contrast with the animal's small size and will remind park users that prairies, once the dominant landscape in the southern part of Wisconsin along with oak savanna, harbor a great deal of biodiversity, even if it is sometimes difficult to see.

The ideal location for this design would be a small hillside with the slope facing a trail in the prairie area of Dorothy Carnes park. If no hillside is available, a slightly elevated area that can be seen from a trail will be suitable. The grasses we will use will be a mixture of previous years' growth (if present) and 2016 growth. Most of the grasses will remain rooted, though some dead grasses will be gathered from around the park and added to the design. Stones from around the park will also be used to recreate markings on the ground squirrel. The dimensions of the squirrel will depend on the size of the hillside, and available grasses, though the length will be at least 6 feet and the width at least 4 feet.

Artist #4 Technique (not own)

The technique we will use to create our image will be braiding in a manner similar to that pictured below.

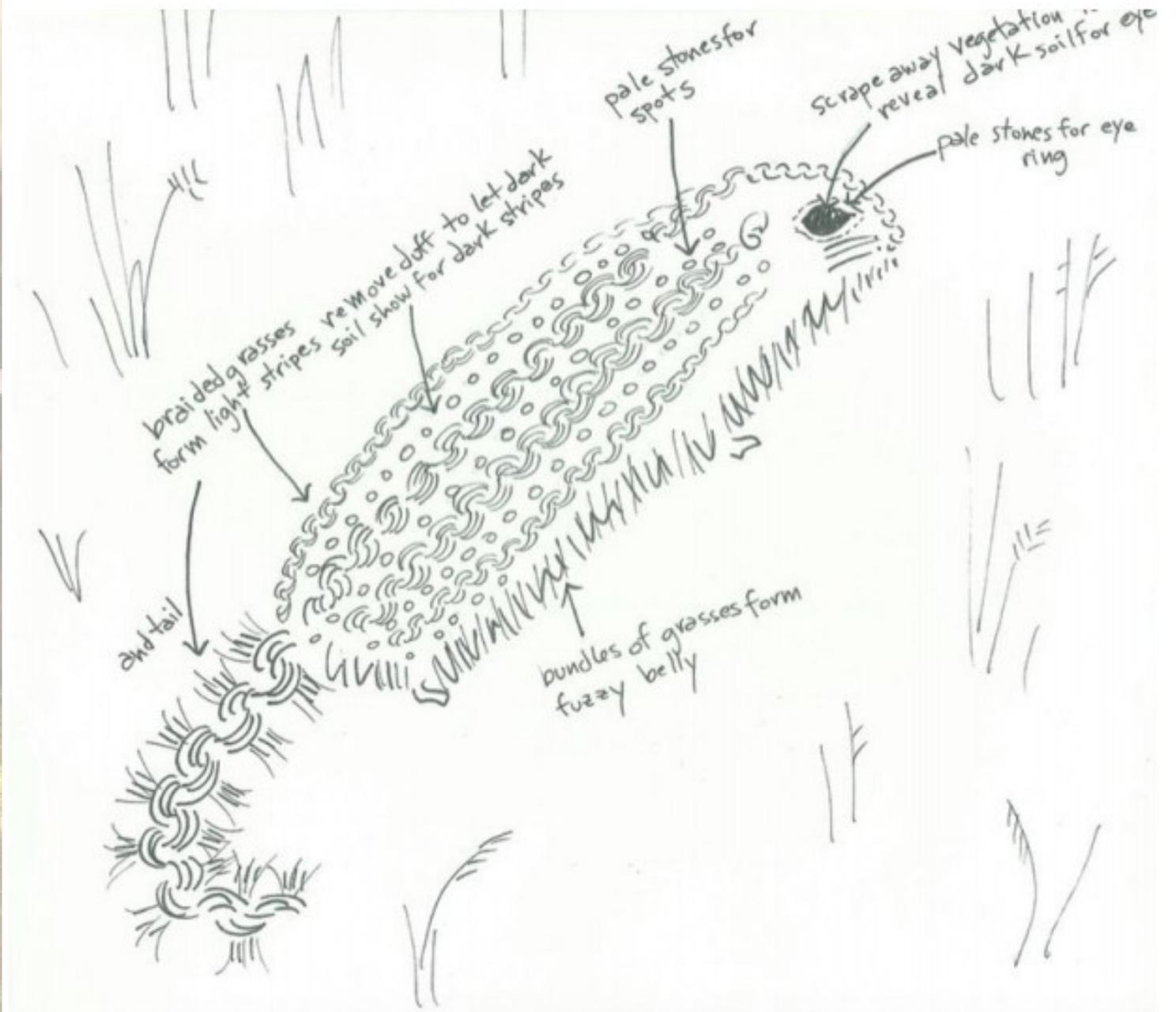


Retrieved April 21, 2016.

<http://wanderlustandlipstick.com/blogs/globalsnapshots/2013/07/02/inspired-in-seattle-braided-grass-at-the-smoke-farm/>

Artist #4 Sketch

The plan to create the ground squirrel out of grasses:



Artist #5 Concept

One of my favorite things about hiking and camping is being under large trees and looking up to see the sunlight reflecting through the gaps in the trees and branches. I absolutely love the beauty and peace that comes through. I find few things more grounding in nature. It's hard for me to put into words but it give me the feeling of how small I am compared to everything on earth but also

So my project will emulate this. I plan on having 3 horizontal "layers" each about 4'x4' that will be suspended so that people are able to stand under them and look up. Each layer will be about 6 inches above the other. The frame will be bamboo and will have yarn woven in a pattern. The yarn will have glass beads worked in throughout to catch the sunlight and highlight the beauty of the light shining through.

Materials used will be: bamboo sticks, wool yarn, glass beads, natural dye

Note: Earth Art Lab team uncomfortable with piece hanging over the trail, would prefer off-trail for safety concerns. Need more specific sketch and removing glass beads from materials list.

Artist #5 Examples



Not own work



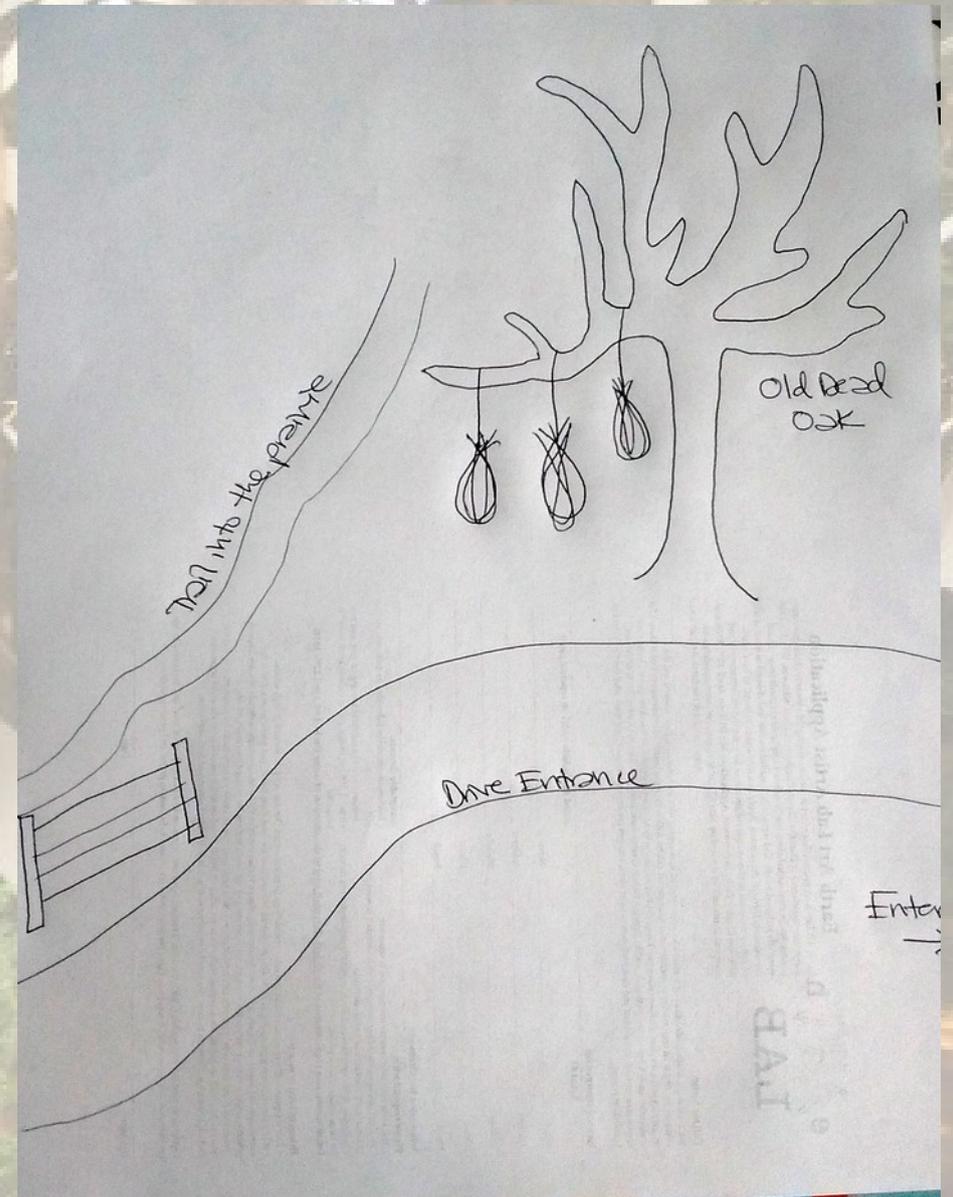
Artist #6 Concept

Project Concept:

As humans, I feel like we try to draw lines between nature and our world of technology & domestication, when in reality they are all intertwined.

I plan to form a series (likely 3) of teardrop shaped willow sculptures that mimic wicker bird cages. I envision hanging them in succession from the distinctive dead tree along the drive into the Dorothy Carnes Park adjacent to the prairie section of the trail inner loops, since this is a common thoroughfare for many of the park's songbirds. My hope is that they will find comfort in these new hanging structures and sit within them from time to time, making people question our relationship to the wildlife we share the space with. Have they chosen to cage themselves or have we?

Artist #6 Sketch & Works



Artist #7 Concept

Concept:

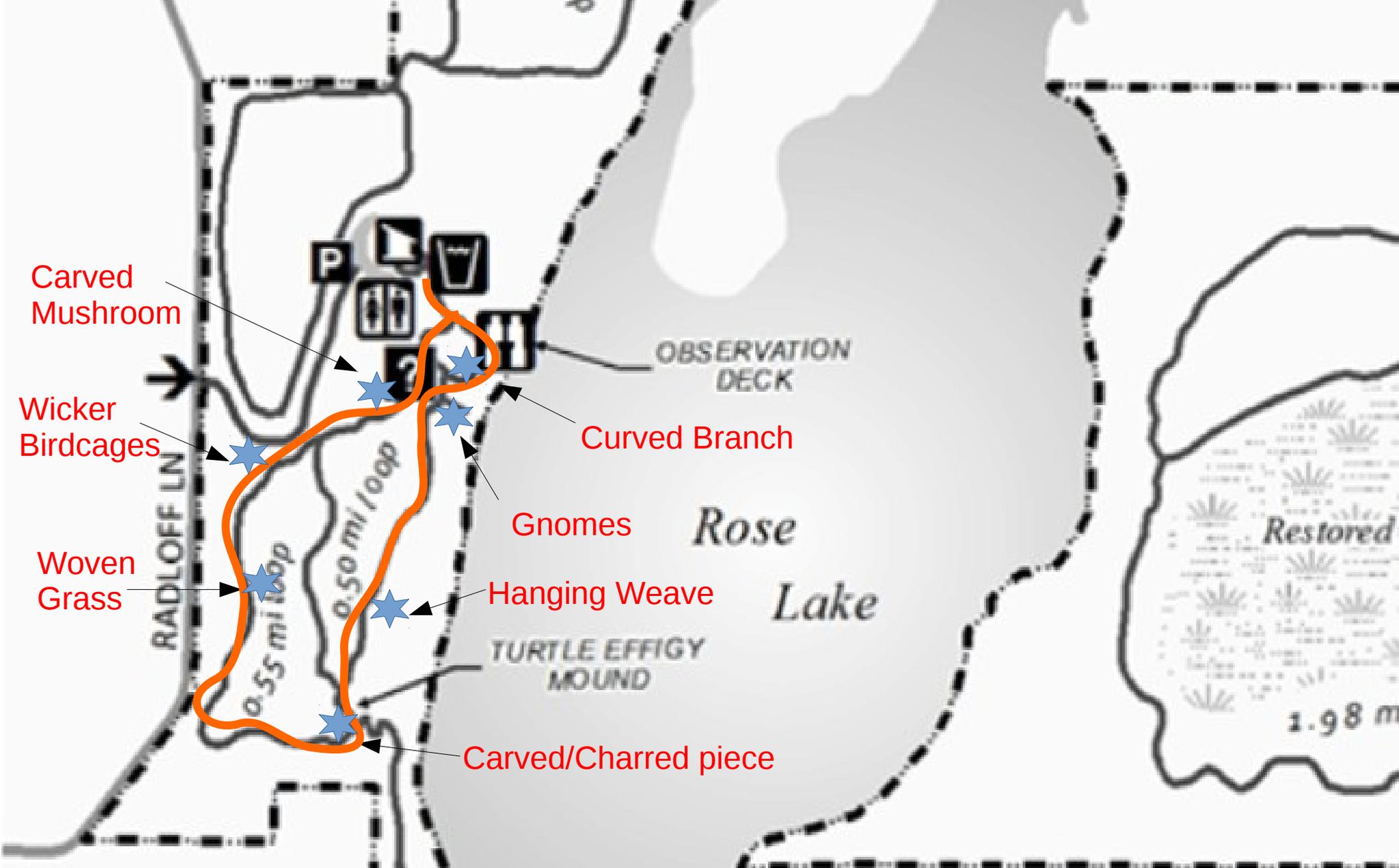
Carve a mushroom sculpture from a natural (in place) stump using a chainsaw, drawknife, chisels, mallet, and torch. Many mushroom varieties grow naturally from decaying stumps.

Finished piece can be left on site or removed as required.

Note: Walk (April 27th) on the proposed 'art loop' did not yield any stumps that meet this artist's need – going to suggest that one is found off-site and brought in. Making it less permanent, and more within guidelines.

Artist #7 Works





Suggested Art Placement

Timeline

April - May 2016 – Applications for sculptures due; decide on participants

Mid-May - June 2016 – Installations begin

Mid-June 2016 – Open House and exhibit opens – **Date TBA (6/11, 6/25, or 7/9)**

Early November 2016 – Artists remove artwork