

*title:* on the earth's fingerprints

*program:*

public green space, terrace, natural water collection pond, rain gardens, amphitheatre, sensory "fingerprints" boardwalk, café kiosk

*analysis:*

The site region lacks a public space to unify and gather people. The nearest public space is the river boardwalk that extends from Fox Point to College Street Bridge; however, no main public pedestrian connection exists between Water Street and uphill towards College Hill to unite other public spaces on S. & N. Main Street. This challenge is further met by College Hill's 5-12% slopes making the current site ADA uncompliant from all entrances. The site has a great potential to be a public gathering space with the high amount of organic foot traffic in the area.

*site program:*

The proposed design includes 2 main circulation routes at a 5% slope with a main retention basin and 4 rain gardens throughout the site. Large groups can gather on the terrace off S. Main Street or the amphitheatre, while small groups and/or individuals are invited to stroll through the sensory "fingerprints" walk. Inspired by ripple dynamics caused by tidal waves, the walk's design mimics the organic patterns of sand formations that resemble human fingerprints while imbedding information about the dynamics of this environment in the site's own topography.

It is important to note that each element's placement is inspired by the "topography" of a human hand: the circulation paths in a palm, the gathering space of a curled thumb, the pond cupped like water in a palm, and the sensory points of fingerprints of a hand holding the earth below.

*strategy:*

The concept was inspired by the resemblance of a topography lines to fingerprints. While the topography we design show proof of our own hands, I wonder how a site might look if inspired instead by the site itself. Furthermore, I wonder how this conceptual hand might transform once all physical and natural constraints have been put in place. This, I find, is a personal curiosity towards how a landscape truly feels and looks, even if entirely human-designed, as if one could read the earth's true hand.

Therefore, this concept aims to see the *real* landscape of the site no matter how far it deviates from the initial inspiration of a human hand. I hope to steer directly into the tangible challenges and reality of designing a real site with grade constraints, ADA standards, water management, and material considerations enough so for a true site to emerge. Once there is a tangible plan, I hope to see the real hand of the earth with its own fingerprints.