

WATER DREAM / WATER MEMORY MAP OF TROUT LAKE AS A DRY CREEKBED

Another aspect of the Trout Lake Community Mapping Project involved constructing a map of Trout Lake in the park using natural materials: plants, earth, and river rocks. The sculpture is an image of Trout Lake in a natural or restored state, with creeks flowing in and out. Engraved rocks incorporated into the sculpture are a "poem" that explores the meaning and magic of water.

The environment at Trout Lake is beautiful and nourishing. It is also radically simplified and overbuilt. Everywhere in the park, manufactured products substitute for natural systems. Parking lots and playing fields cover swamp. Drains and pipes replace fish-filled creeks. Sidewalks substitute for trails. The environment itself poses these questions: Can artwork be built in a way that models the restoration of natural systems? Can a piece of art not simply interpret nature, but actually support wildlife and recreate ecological communities? The scope of the Artist-in-Residence program is small. Could it nevertheless be used to create a tiny, complex piece of nature that could model and envision a larger restoration project?

Water Dream / Water Memory "flows" from Hull Street at 19th Avenue down to the marshy area at the southwest corner of Trout Lake. The sculpture is designed to provide habitat to a variety of small mammals, bird and amphibians. Grass in the area of the sculpture will be allowed to grow long. Native bird-friendly shrubs will be planted along the line of the sculpture near the lake.

The aim of this piece is to create a place within the park where human activity restores biological diversity, instead of undermining it. *Water Dream / Water Memory* is a map. It is an artwork. It is a place to see and to dream the intricate web of life.

Smooth rocks suitable for engraving were gathered, and engraving designed by Caffyn Kelley was done by Beth and John Nicolson. A special construction technique was required to anchor the engraved rocks and prevent them from being vandalized. Mearnie Summers undertook this construction phase of the project, with assistance from Will and Bill Egeland. At the end of November, fifteen tons of river rock were delivered to the park. Community volunteers assisted, and by December 2nd the piece had assumed its final shape on the land. As the grass in the area of the sculpture is allowed to grow long, and native plants grow tall, the piece will assume more value as habitat.

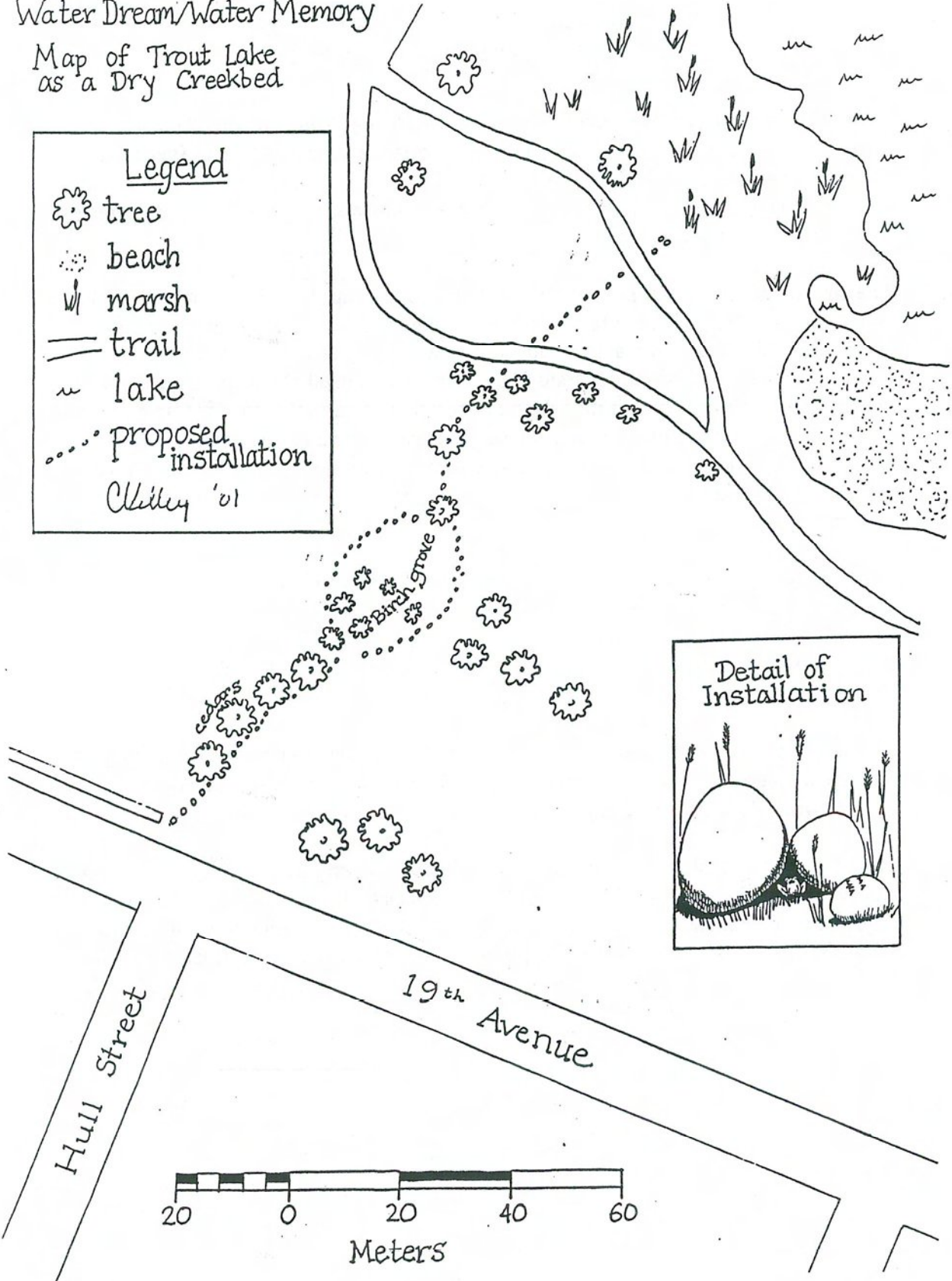
Water Dream/Water Memory

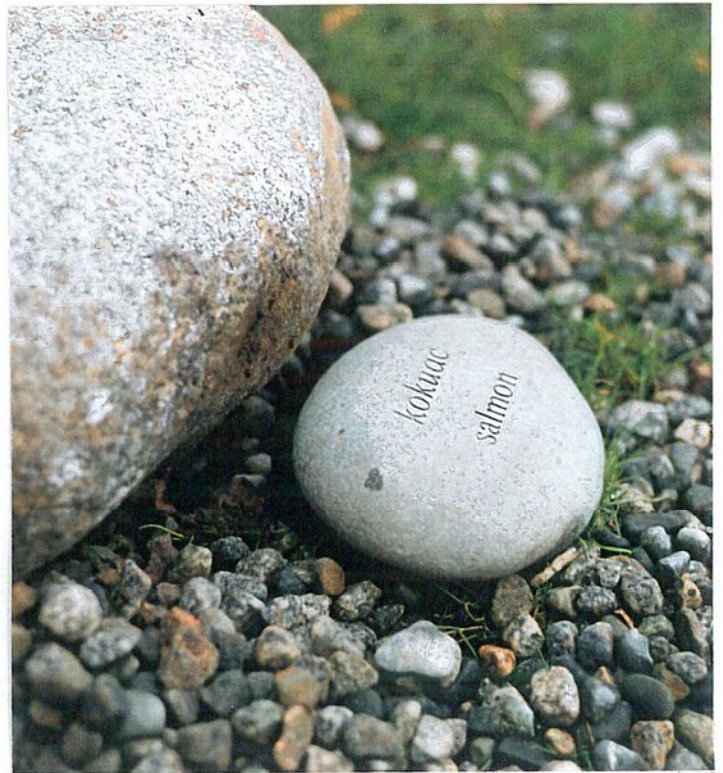
Map of Trout Lake
as a Dry Creekbed

Legend

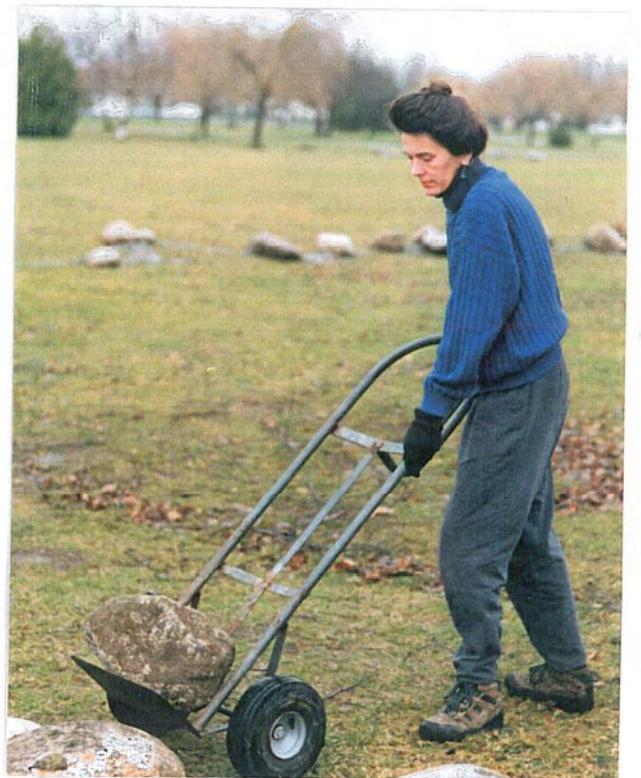
- tree
- beach
- marsh
- trail
- lake
- proposed installation

Cliffy '01

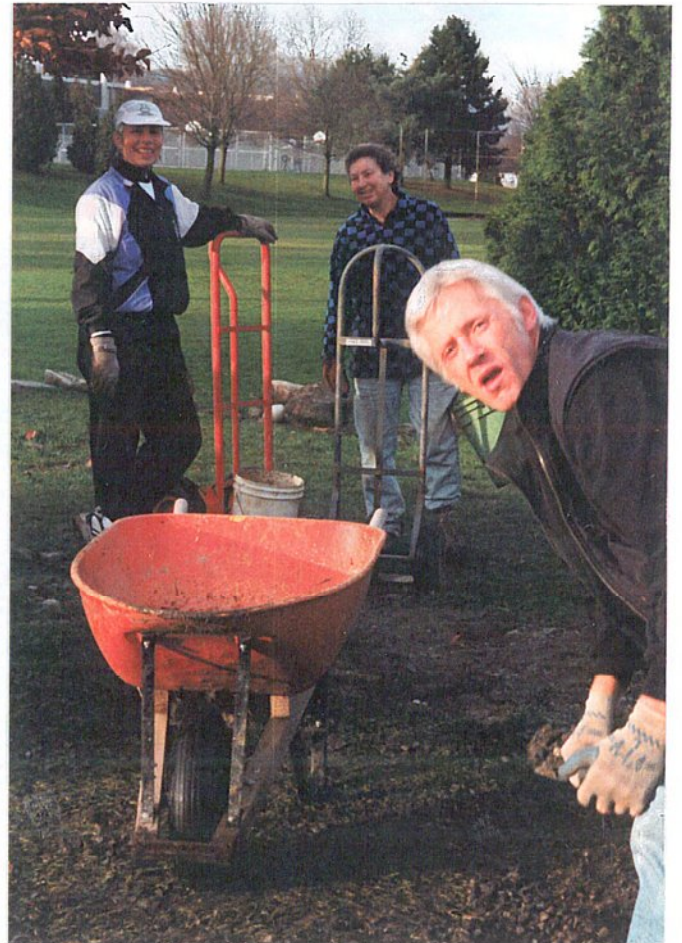




above: *Water Dream / Water Memory* at the birch grove; left: Mearnie Summers at work on sculpture construction; detail of engraved rock



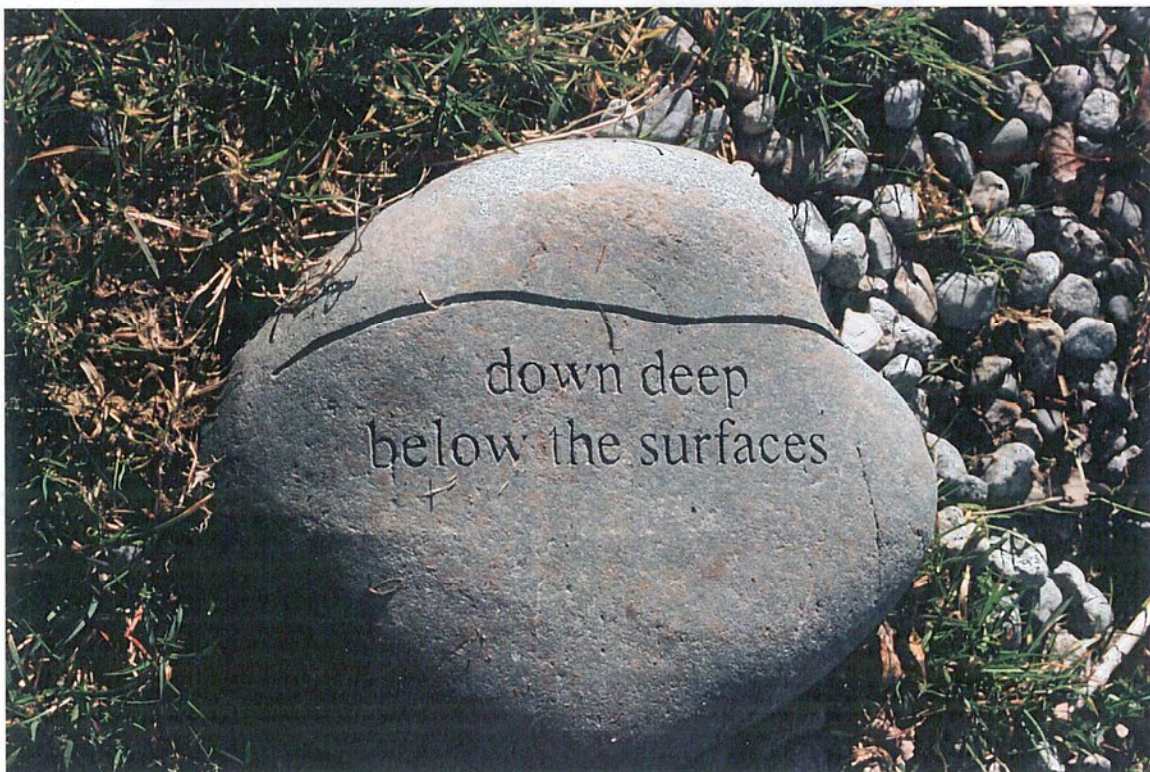
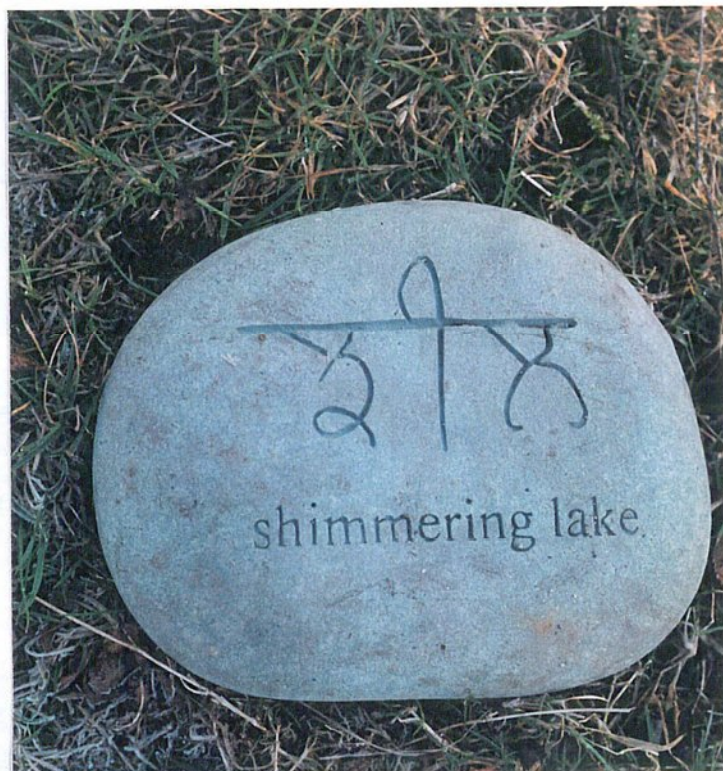
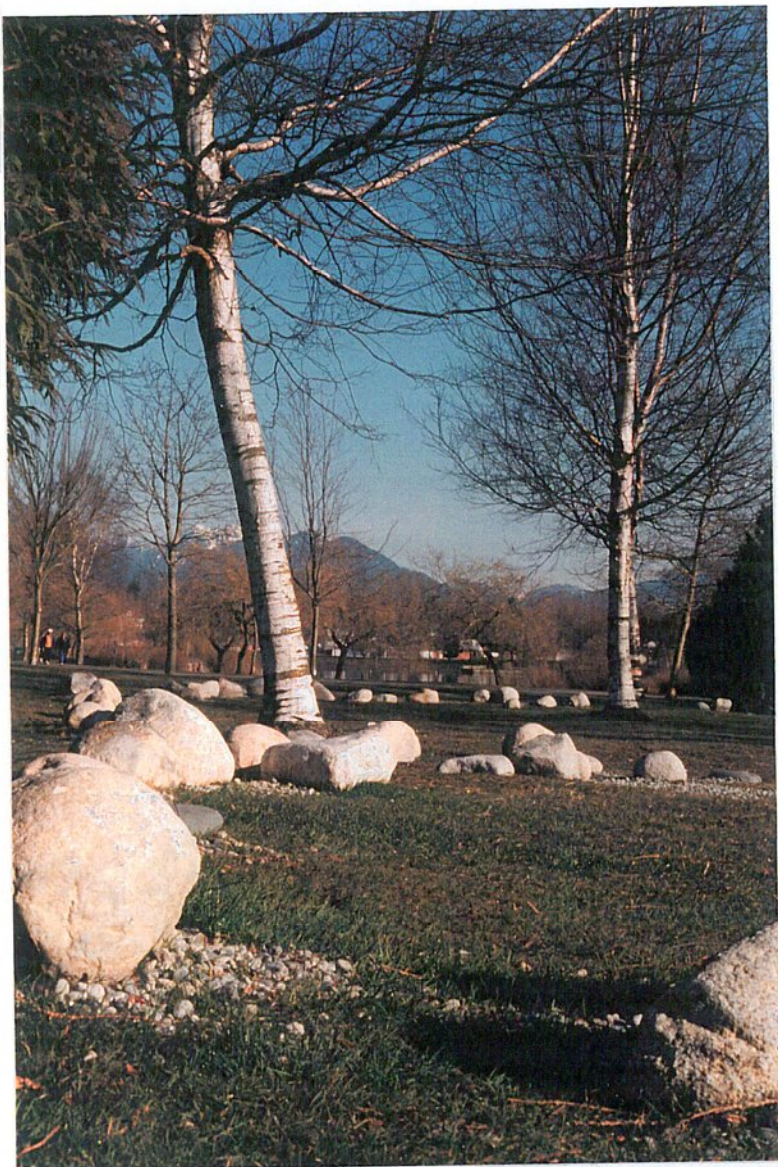
volunteers move a particularly heavy rock; detail of engraved rock; Caffyn Kelley at work on sculpture construction.



Will Egeland at work on sculpture construction;
view of sculpture; Faune Johnson and Alan Main
with Mearnie Summers



Karen Stanley at work on sculpture construction; above and overleaf: views and details of *Water Dream / Water Memory*





WATER DREAM / WATER MEMORY

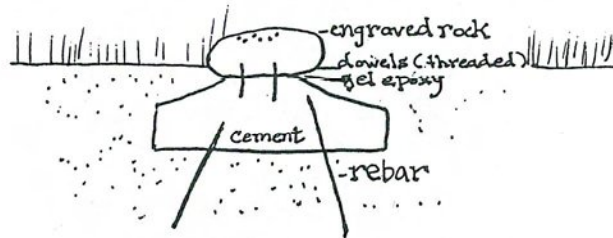
Construction Details

Engraved rocks

Approximately 40 rocks, especially selected for their suitability for engraving, will be incorporated into the sculpture. These rocks will range in size from 6 inches to 12 inches. Because of the danger of vandalism, these rocks will be drilled, a dowel will be inserted, and then they will be set into cement slabs with gel epoxy.

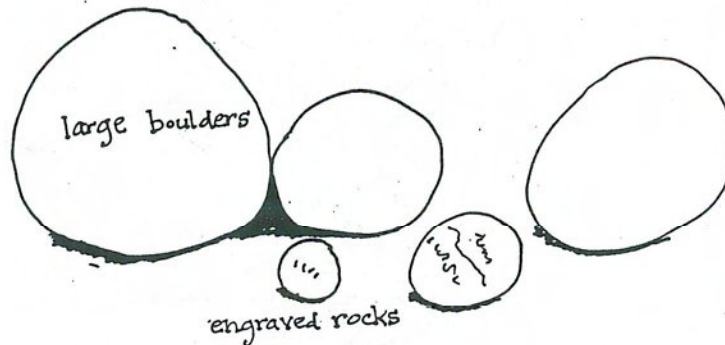
Cement will be poured into 16" diameter bio-degradable Redi-Forms. The hole for cement slabs will be hand-dug, with a depth of six inches, and a size of 18 inches square. Pre-mix cement will be hand-mixed to a very stiff consistency. The cement will be poured in a pyramid with a minimum depth of 3 inches. This will allow for dirt infill around each rock.

Two lengths of rebar will be added to each cement slab for additional security.



Additional Rocks

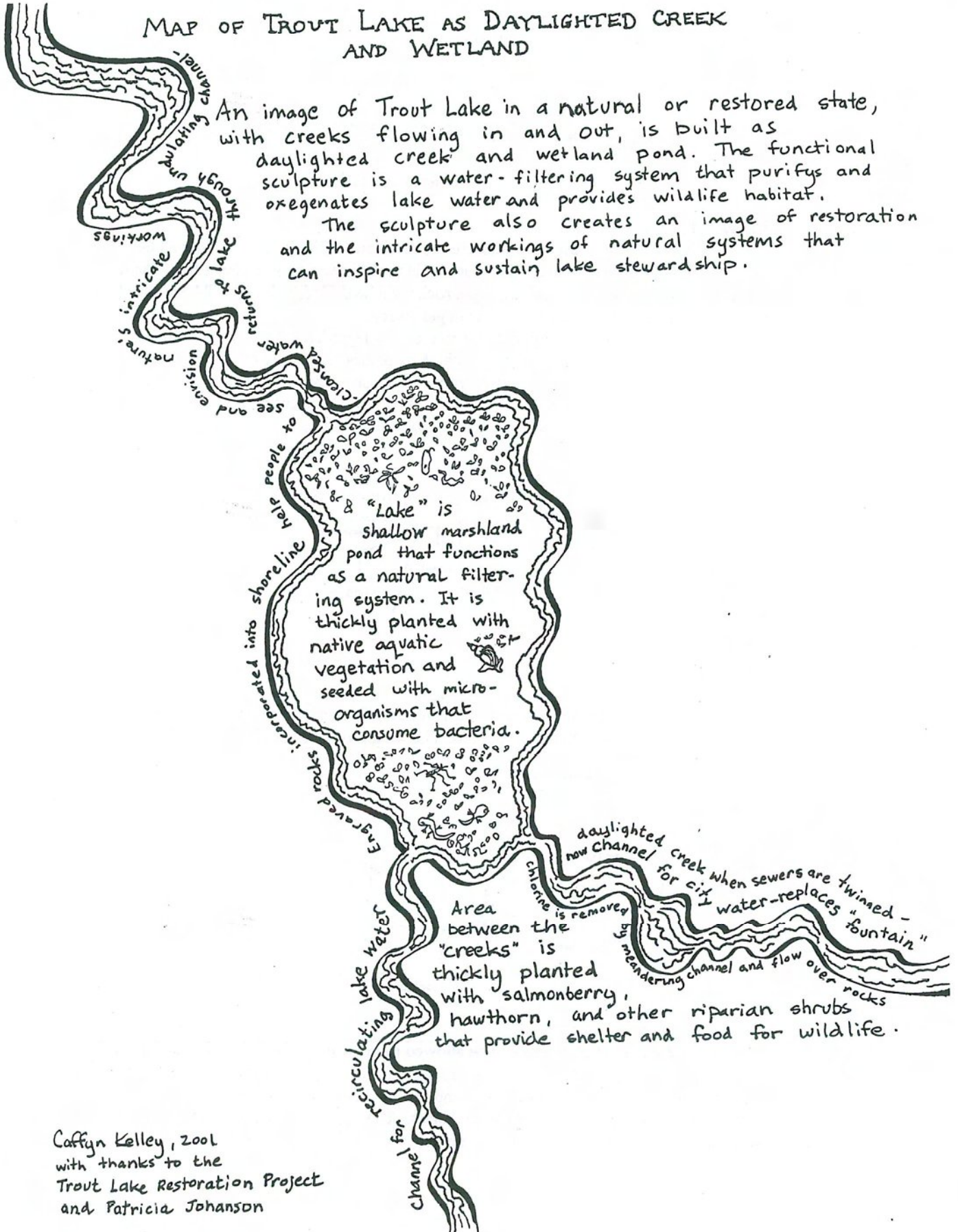
Additional rocks will define the line of the sculpture. These rocks will be large, round river rocks, with a weight of 100 to 150 pounds. The weight of these boulders should deter vandalism.



Habitat Features

Grass in the area of the sculpture will be allowed to grow long. With the advice of naturalists, some well-placed logs and driftwood pieces will be laid into the sculpture to provide cover and encourage insect communities that comprise the diet of insectivorous small mammals (e.g. shrews) as well as reptiles, amphibians and birds. The community will be invited to envision the sculpture as a location for planting native shrubs such as salmonberry and hazelnut.

MAP OF TROUT LAKE AS DAYLIGHTED CREEK AND WETLAND



An image of Trout Lake in a natural or restored state, with creeks flowing in and out, is built as daylighted creek and wetland pond. The functional sculpture is a water-filtering system that purifies and oxygenates lake water and provides wildlife habitat.

The sculpture also creates an image of restoration and the intricate workings of natural systems that can inspire and sustain lake stewardship.

& "Lake" is shallow marshland pond that functions as a natural filtering system. It is thickly planted with native aquatic vegetation and seeded with micro-organisms that consume bacteria.

Area between the "creeks" is thickly planted with salmonberry, hawthorn, and other riparian shrubs that provide shelter and food for wildlife.

Caffyn Kelley, 2001
with thanks to the
Trout Lake Restoration Project
and Patricia Johanson