

Wayside.at

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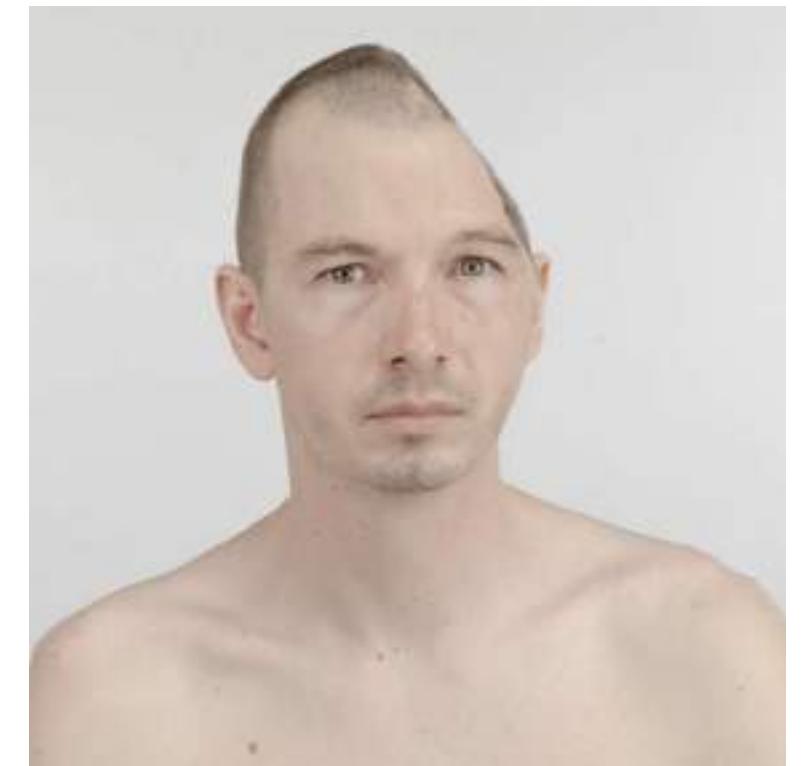
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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands of the ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank and the Piscataway People, who lived and thrived along the banks of the Potomac River.

We recognize their enduring relationship with this land and honor the strength, resilience, and contributions of all Indigenous peoples—past, present, and future—who continue to shape our region and beyond.

We also acknowledge the impact of colonization and affirm our commitment to working toward justice and equity for Indigenous communities.



Concept for wayside.at

Project Overview

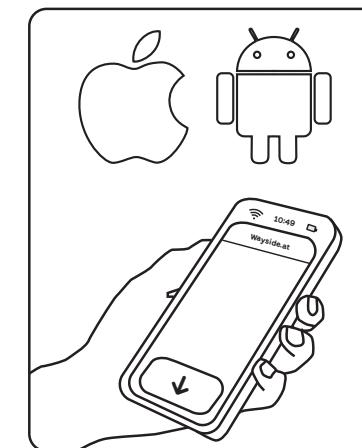
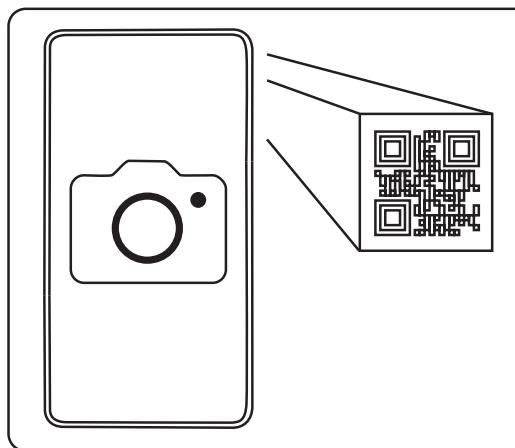
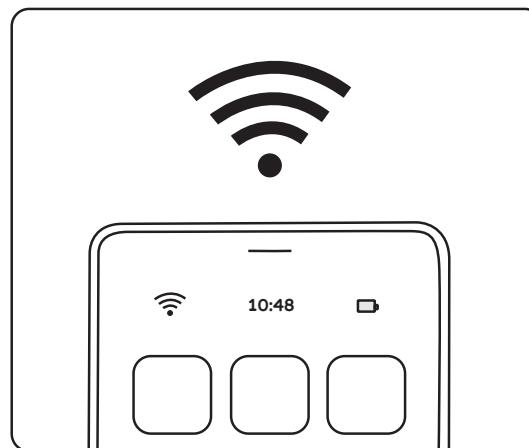
Andrew, an artist and stroke survivor, is developing an immersive AR app during his residency at Down to Earth. Always interested in universal communication, his work took on new urgency after his stroke, and resulting aphasia, as he seeks ways to design beyond words. This app transforms details about the park—some from existing waysides, some from outside research—into post-linguistic interactive AR experiences. The goal is simple: to connect visitors to the rich history, the present challenges the park faces, and what the future holds, in a more sensory and open-ended way.

Themes

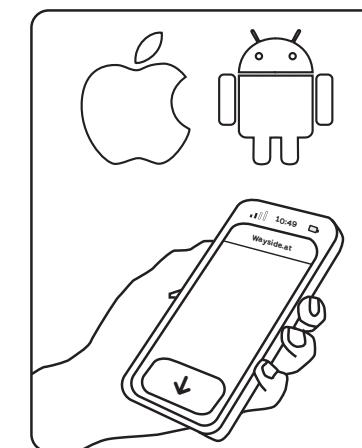
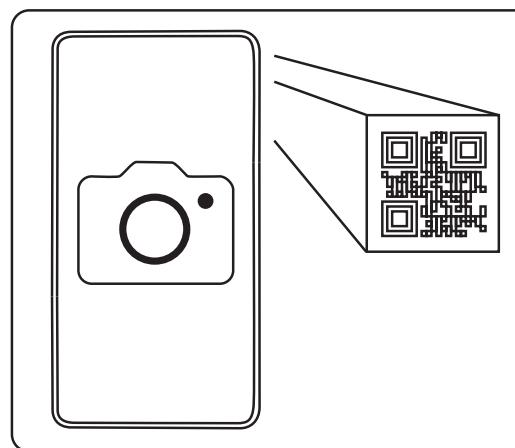
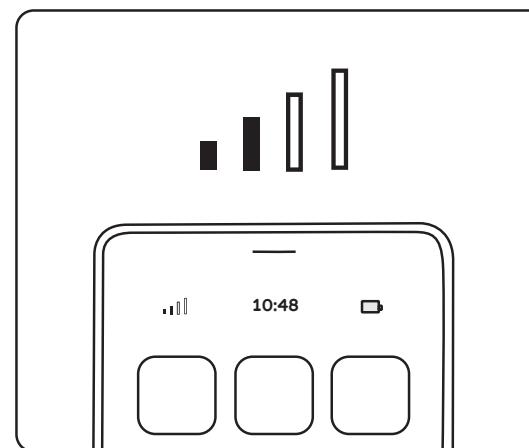
The AR experiences in wayside.at revolve around three distinct and important themes that shape the park: Time, Seasons, and Moments. Time traces the evolution of the park over the last 4000 years, from those who first inhabited this land to what this area will look like in the near future due to the dramatic effects of climate change. Seasons celebrates the park's rich biodiversity and showcases how certain key plant species transform throughout the year. Moments introduces visitors to the influential figures who have shaped Kenilworth and its ongoing legacy.

Visitor Experience

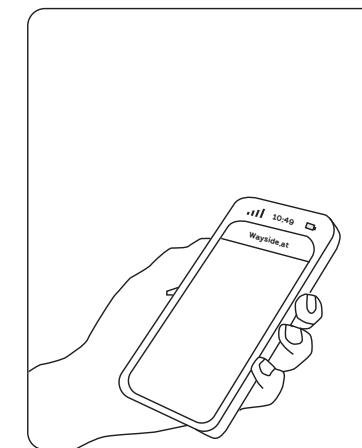
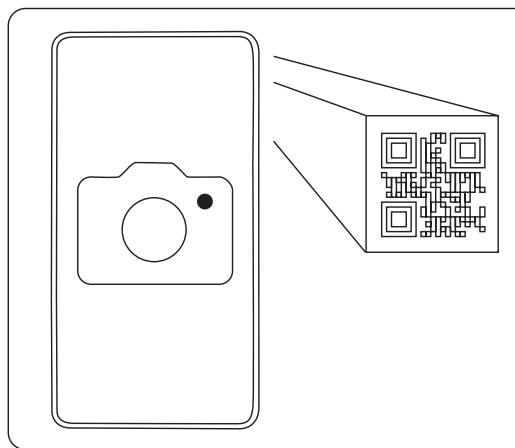
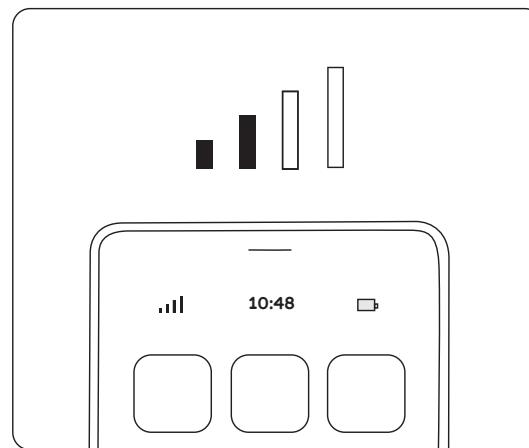
How it Works



Connect to WiFi
Scan QR
Landing page
Download app



Scan QR
Landing page
Download app



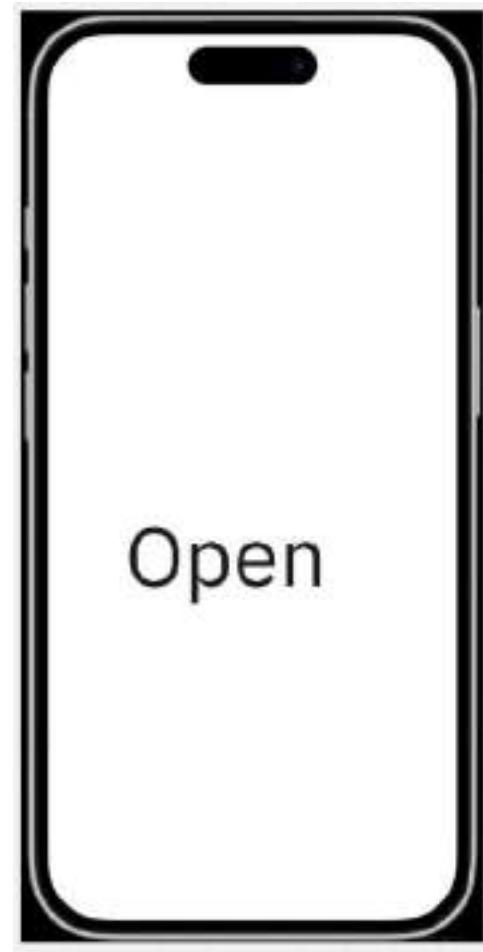
Scan QR
Website

Visitor Experience

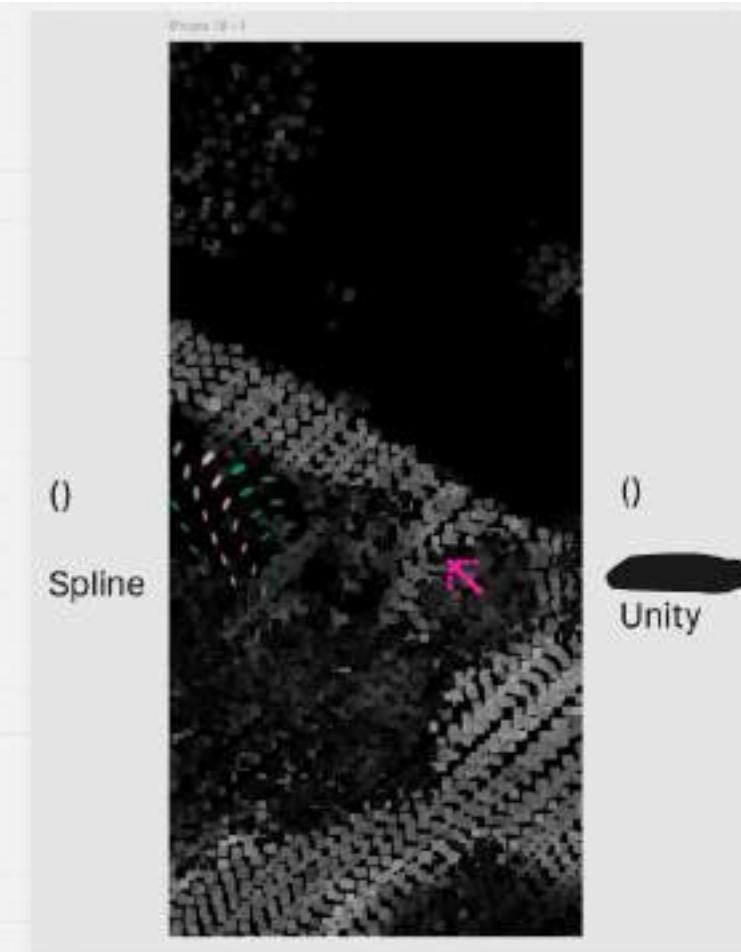
Interface

Apps

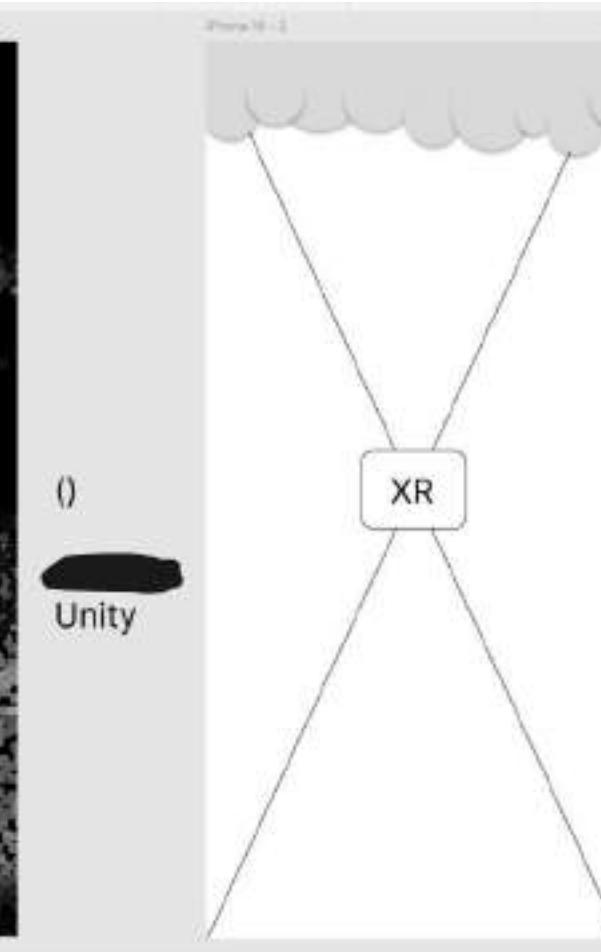
Visitors will first encounter wayside.at on an A-frame sign, and other signs, placed strategically around the park's entrances. This sign will invite the visitor to scan the brightly colored QR code, download an app, learn about the project, and begin the wayside.at adventure.



The landing page of the app gives an overview of the project, and of Andrew as an artist.



The map shows an overview of the park, and where each AR "Point" is located throughout the park.



Once a visitor arrives at an AR "Point" they can open the app and experience the AR artwork on their screen.



Visitor Experience

Circulation Path

The 9 AR "Points" developed in wayside.at are spread throughout the park
- see the below map and key for locations.



Visitor Experience

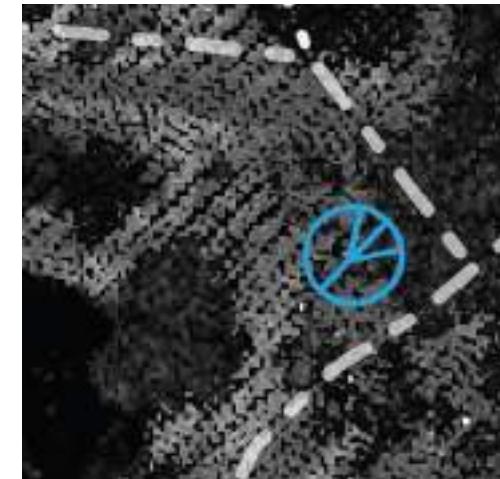
Each theme—Time, Seasons, and Moments—will have a specific icon assigned to it. Each point will be marked with its corresponding icon, indicating which theme the experience belongs to.

Icons



Time

2030-2100



Curatorial Approach

coastal.climatecentral.org

Climate Central's sea level rise and coastal flood maps highlight areas at risk—including Kenilworth, which sits in a severely threatened zone. In the near future, these projections show significant flooding throughout the gardens, raising the question: what will happen to them by 2100—or even 2030?

Design Approach

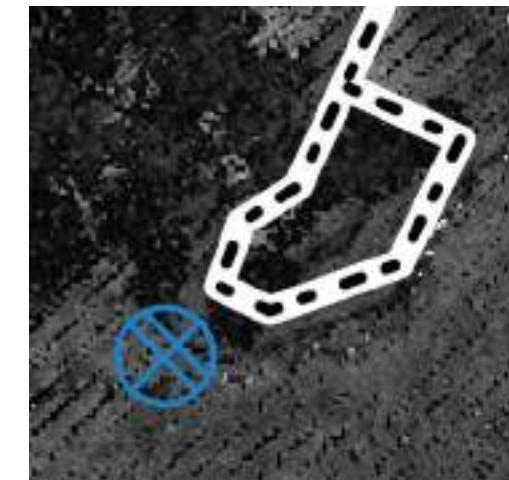
Animation/Point Cloud

This point demonstrates the threat of flooding due to climate change. As the years pass, the visitor sees the water level from the ponds below rising higher and higher.



Time

1968



Curatorial Approach

"Curator" A DC Neighborhood by the Anacostia River
by Joe Lapp

The Kenilworth Dump operated from 1942, burning up to 250,000 tons of garbage annually by the 1960s, creating significant air pollution. Local residents, including activists like Ethel White, protested the dump's impact, gaining attention amid growing national concern about urban air quality. After a tragic fire in 1968 claimed a young boy's life, public outrage pushed Mayor Walter Washington to stop the burning, marking the end of the dump's open-fire operations.



Design Approach

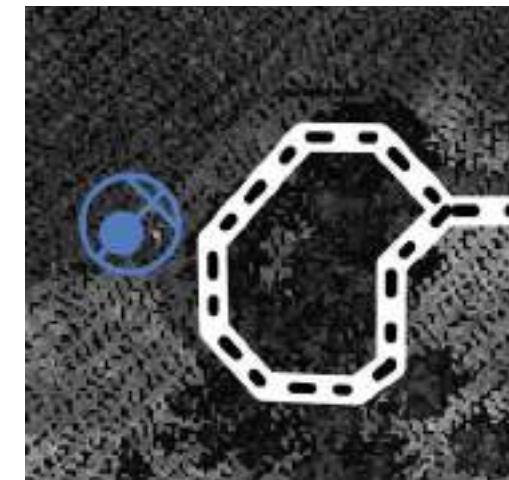
Animation/Point Cloud

At this point, the viewer sees an animated smoke cloud rising up from the horizon of the pond, representing the smoke that used to cover the area during this time of burning trash at the Kenilworth Dump.



Time

2200 BC



Curatorial Approach

National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2010

By 2200 BC the Savannah River people lived along the major rivers east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Rivers and waterways were important for trade and transportation, and would be affected by the cycles of the incoming and outgoing tides.

Design Approach

Animation/Point Cloud

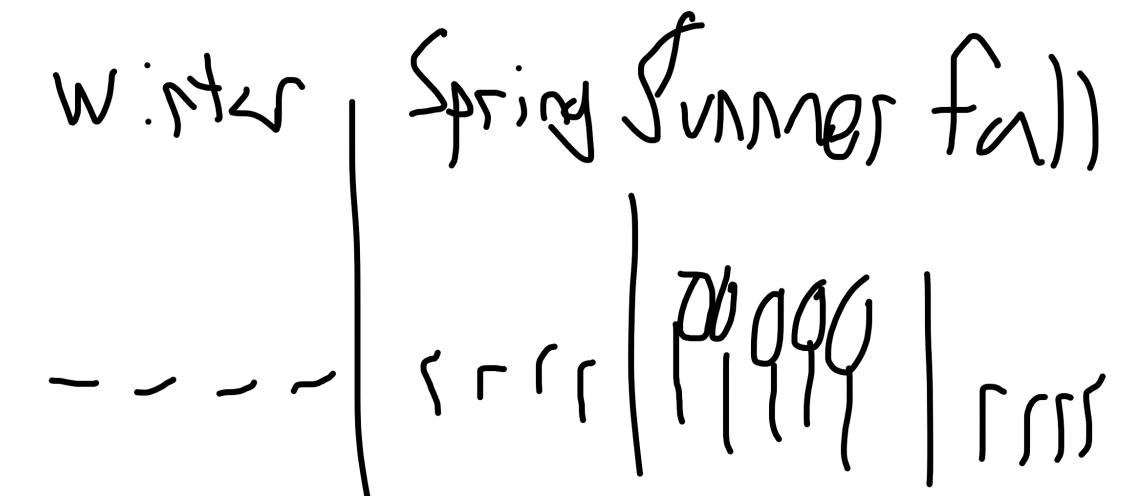
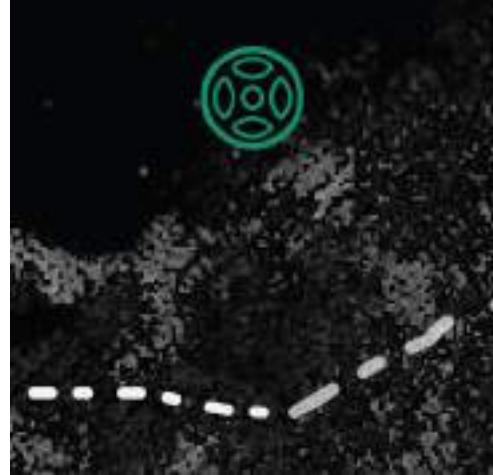
In this experience, the visitor sees a canoe gliding through the water at high tide. As the tide recedes, the canoe disappears as well.



Season

Lotus

The user will watch a lotus go through its life cycle throughout an entire year: Spring (Growth & Emergence), Summer (Maturity & Flowering), Autumn (Seed Dispersal & Energy Storage), Winter (Dormancy).



Design Approach

Point Cloud Animation

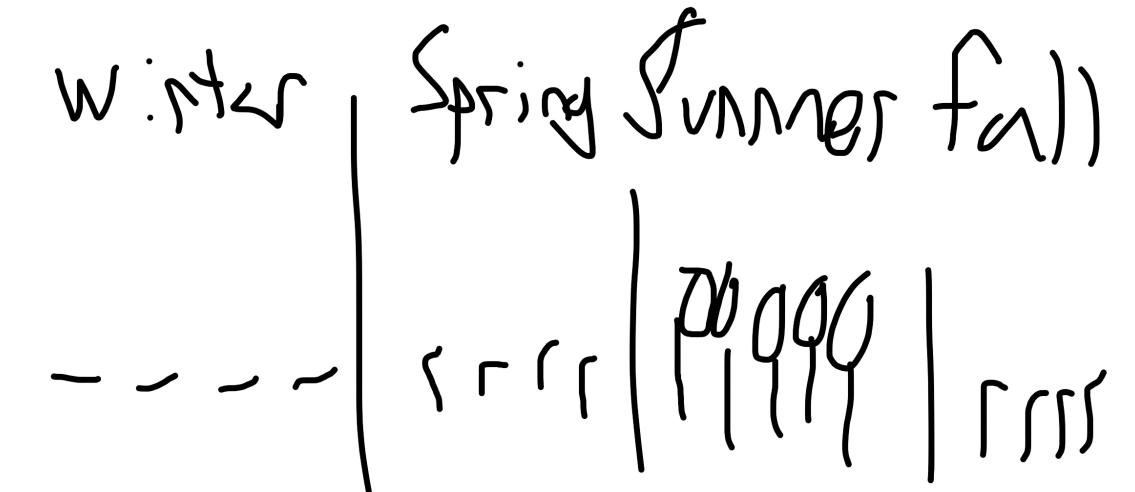
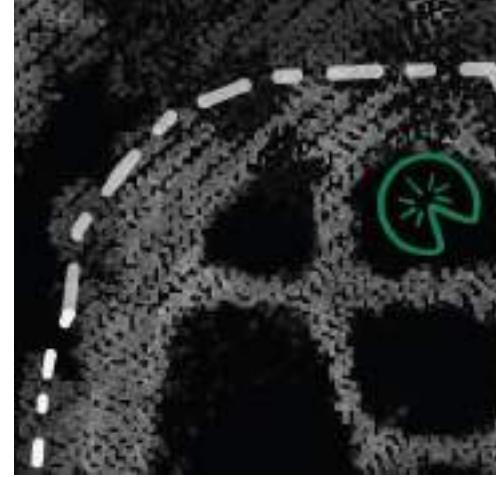
The AR experience is a 1.5 - 3 min long animated point cloud video which mimics a timelapse video. It depicts an abstracted representation of the colors of the life cycles of the Kenilworth plants.



Season

Water Lily

The user will watch a water lily go through its life cycle throughout an entire year: Spring (Growth & Emergence), Summer (Maturity & Flowering), Autumn (Seed Dispersal & Energy Storage), Winter (Dormancy).



Design Approach

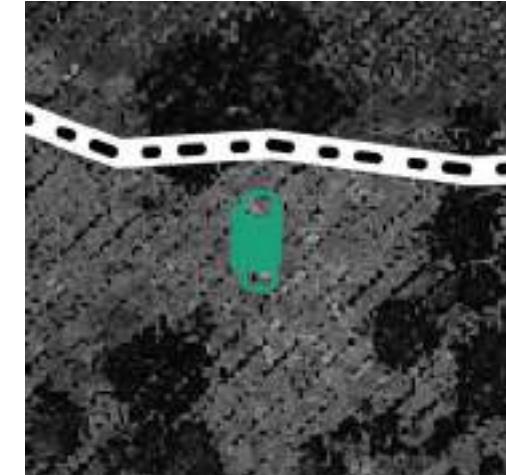
Point Cloud Animation

The AR experience is a 1.5 - 3 min long animated point cloud video which mimics a timelapse video. It depicts an abstracted representation of the colors of the life cycles of the Kenilworth plants.



The AR image rendered will be an animation of a **water lily** moving through its lifecycle over one year.

Season



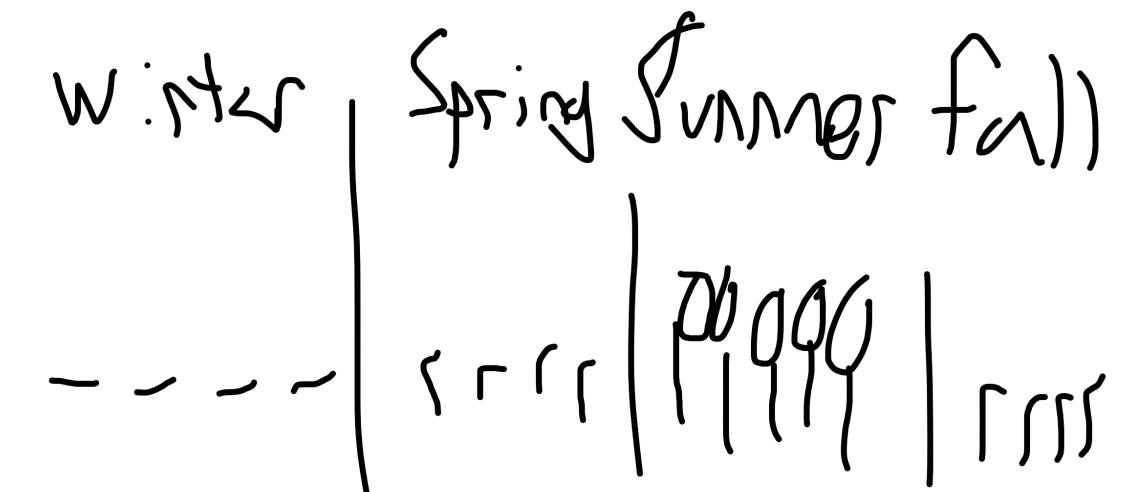
Cattail

The user will watch a cattail go through its life cycle throughout an entire year: Spring (Growth & Emergence), Summer (Maturity & Flowering), Autumn (Seed Dispersal & Energy Storage), Winter (Dormancy).

Design Approach

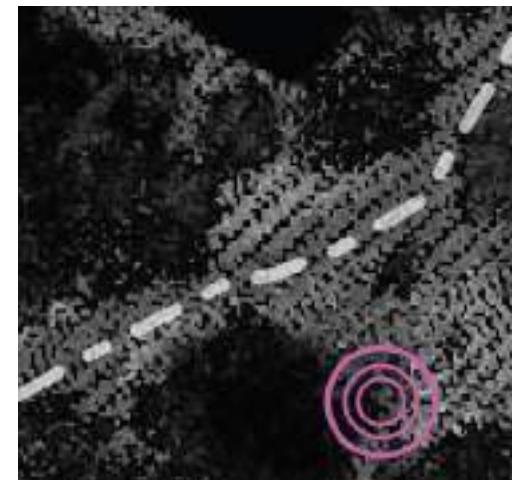
Point Cloud Animation

The AR experience is a 1.5 - 3 min long animated point cloud video which mimics a timelapse video. It depicts an abstracted representation of the colors of the life cycles of the Kenilworth plants.



The AR image rendered will be an animation of a **cattail** moving through its lifecycle over one year.

Moments



Ranger Mac

Photographs help capture and document influential figures in the park. Local residents have also become influential rangers here. One being Walter McDowney, winner of the 1985 NPS Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation. Growing up, Walter, "Ranger Mac" to visitors, often explored these gardens on his own and through ranger-led activities. Then, in 1968, he was hired as one of the first African American national park rangers. He inspired everyone with his love of nature.

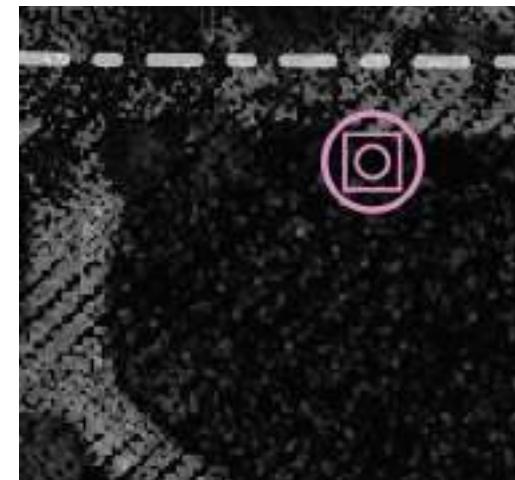
Design Approach

2D photograph to 3D AR model

Photographs help capture and document these influential figures in the park. At each of these points, the visitor will get to experience the 2D image rendered into 3D, bringing the moment to life.

All photos pending permission to use.

Moments



Helen Fowler

Photographs help capture and document influential figures in the park. The visitor will get to experience the 2D image of Helen Fowler posing with her workers on one of the pond paths, rendered into 3D, bringing this moment to life. The photograph was taken circa 1910 to 1930. In addition to being women-owned, Helen Fowler employed a number of local African American residents. She was the first woman in Washington D.C. to have a commercial driver's license.

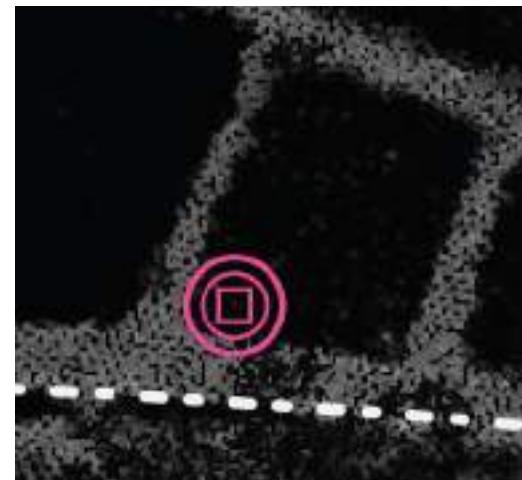
Design Approach

2D photograph to 3D AR model

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All photos pending permission to use.

Moments



Volunteers

The visitor will get to experience the 2D image of modern-day volunteers rendered into 3D, showing the love and support that still pours in from the local community today.



Design Approach

2D photograph to 3D AR model

Photographs help capture and document these influential figures in the park. At each of these points, the visitor will get to experience the 2D image rendered into 3D, bringing the moment to life.

All photos pending permission to use.

Artist Bio

Andrew Kastner is a digital media and environmental artist. His work is both a reflection of his longtime interest in human relations to the natural and material world... and a life-altering stroke in 2022 that left him with severe aphasia and limitations with dexterity. Andrew has used photography, lidar scans, and extended reality technology to evolve his pre-stroke practice. While he always aspired to connect people to each other and their environment through his artistic translations, his efforts now have a new power; they are creating new-wordless-means of communication that tie all of us—human and non-human—together.

