

Garden of We

Covid Memorial Proposal Hollywood, Florida

submitted by
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The Garden of We COVID Memorial Proposal

The "Garden of We" utilizes meaningful symbolic choices to create a memorial that references the shared experiences of Covid. A garden in the existing park transforms it into a visual space of reflection that honors all those who experienced the pandemic, particularly essential workers. Small flowering trees are centered in 6 foot circles referencing the distance we maintained during quarantine. Growth and healing are embodied in the use of natural flora. The trees provide oxygen while the flowers serve as a memorial for those who have passed. A space of reflection grounds the center of the space. Benches provide a resting place on the perimeter of a landscaped shape that references lungs. In the center sits 2 text panels. The incorporation of text reminds or educates future viewers about the experiences of the pandemic.

Much consideration went into this proposal including, how this place can: be made visual and meaningful, create a space of reflection, be specific to the place, connect with both those who experienced the event and to future generations, be affordable and durable, and so on. Consideration is also given to realities such as grounds maintenance, visitor safety, and potential vandalism.

Kiwanis Park is a small park. The memorial should be a welcome addition to the people who reside around the park, already visit, or pass through the park. The memorial should also create a destination in the park.

natural

local

environmental

appeals to the senses

durable

contemplative

experiential

visual

educational



Location

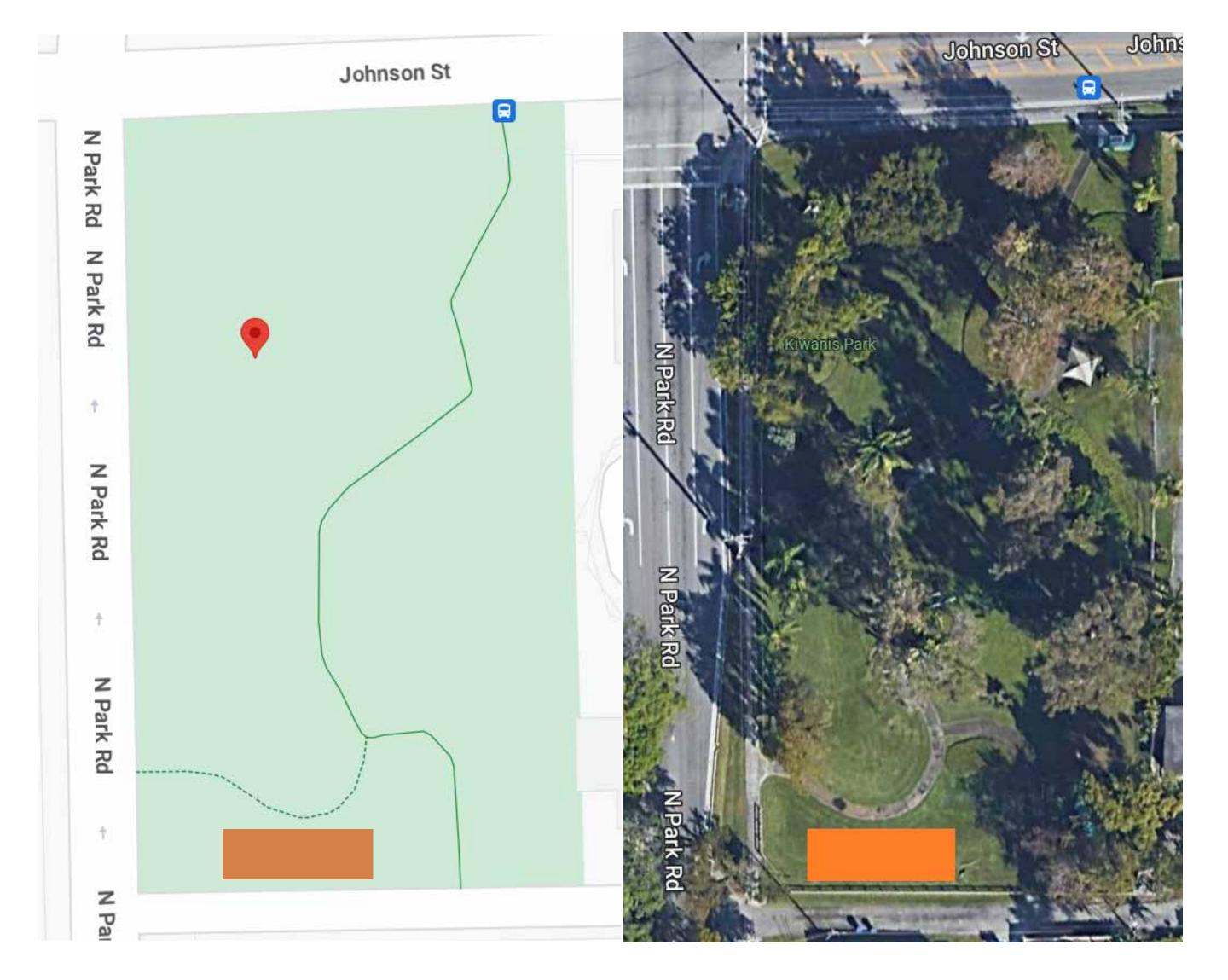
Kiwanis Park Hollywood, FL

Bordered by main roads, North Park Road and Johnson Street, adjacent to an alley and residential neighborhood. In close proximity to Memorial Regional Hospital, where many essential workers experienced the front lines of the pandemic.

50 x 25 feet area
Between existing path and fence
Grassy flat terrain

Existing Park Features:

- -flagpole and signage
- -multiple trees
- -paved paths
- -playground equipment
- -benches
- -small shade pavilion
- -bus stop



Memorial site indicated by orange rectangle.

Hollywood Covid Memorial Proposal. ©2023 Stephanie Cunningham

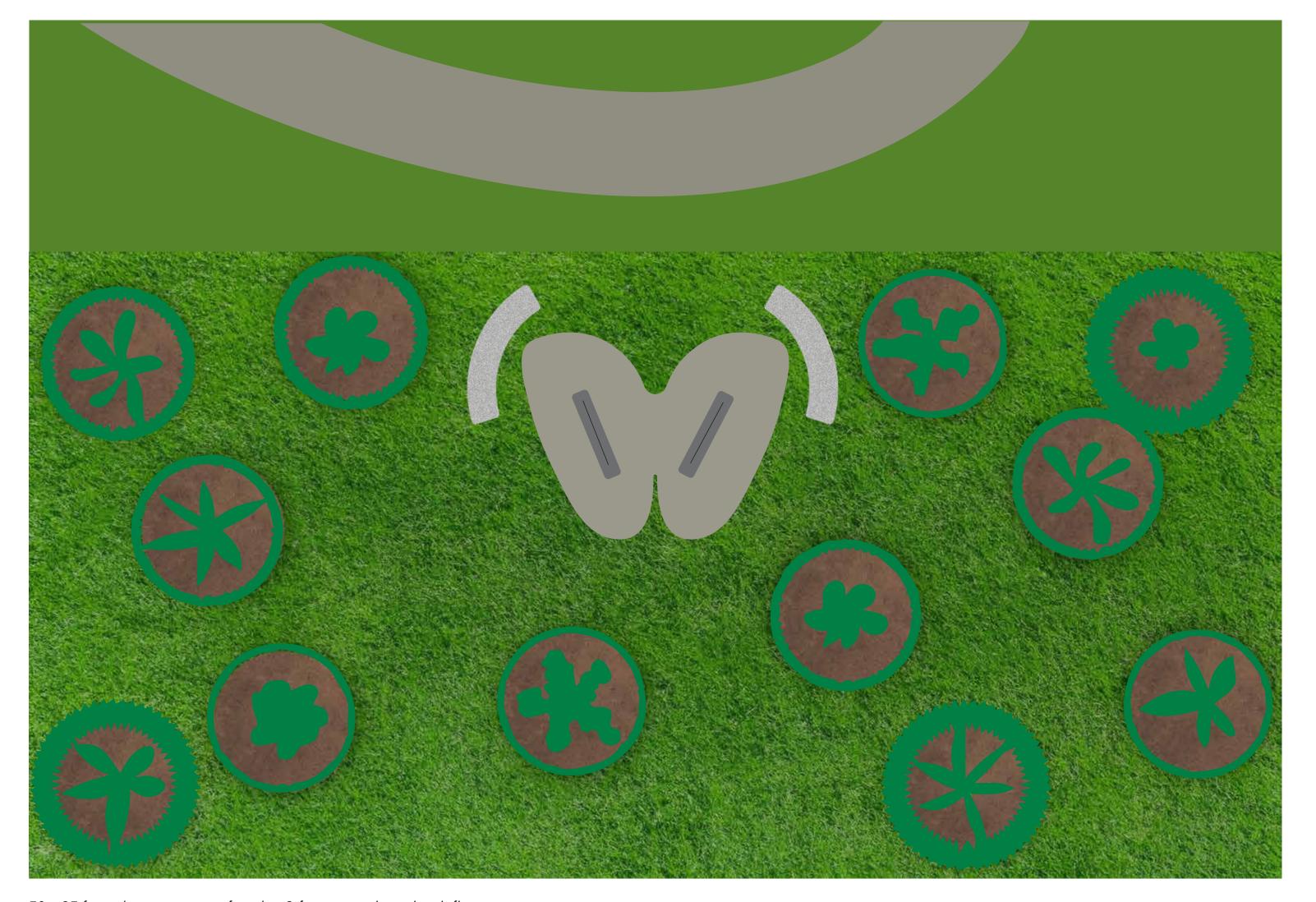
Site Plan Overview

The "Garden of We" is created with native plantings placed around a contemplative center.

The isolation of quarantine challenged many, particularly those separated from sick or vulnerable loved ones.

Many died alone without the presence of family members. Emergency workers faced barriers to their patients due to the unfamiliar protective barriers required in close proximity.

Twelve 6-foot landscape circles make reference to the social distance maintained during the Covid pandemic. The placement of the circles varies in an irregular pattern, with some adjacent and others distant.



50 x 25 ft garden consisting of twelve 6-foot rings planted with flowering trees.

Landscape: Circles

Each 6-foot tree area is defined by landscape mats, made from coir or recycled rubber mulch, that suppress weeds and retain water. This approach creates a soft scape that merges with the existing environment. This solution is affordable and environmentally-friendly while visually defining the 6-foot circles. The circumference of each circle can be planted with compatible border plantings. A landscaped edge may create a visual but permeable barrier.



Hollywood Covid Memorial Proposal. ©2023 Stephanie Cunningham

Landscape: Plants

Within each circle is a single flowering tree native to South Florida.* The trees represent isolation and stand as memorials to those who passed.

Over time, the diverse planting will grow to create a colorful and mature garden that offers a welcoming environment for park visitors. The cluster of flowering trees will appeal to visitors' sense of sight and smell. They will attract pollinators such as butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. The plants serve as a reminder of the healing power of time and the ability to overcome adversity.

Examples of small flowering trees:

- -Bridal Wreath Frangipani / white flowers
- -Desert Cassia / yellow flowers
- -Dwarf Ponciana / red flowers
- -Bougainvillea / multiple colors
- -Hibiscus / multiple colors
- -Dwarf Jatropha / red flowers
- -Geiger Tree / orange flowers



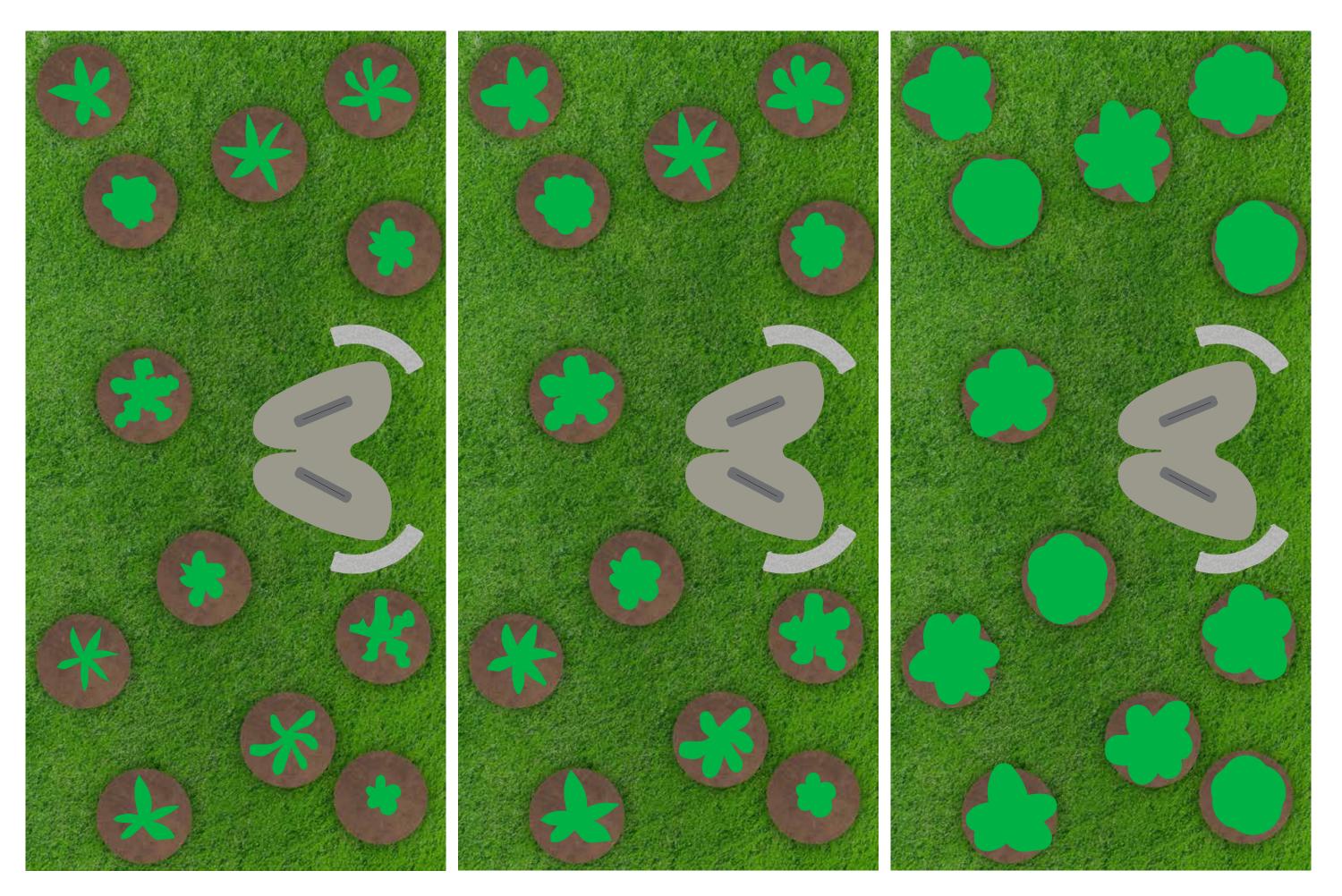
^{*}final selections to be made in consultation with Parks Department and horticulturists to determine appropriate selections.

Landscape: Growth

Covid robs the afflicted of oxygen; the plants give it back.

Over time, the plants reach for one another and grow together to link the rings of isolation. This action is intended to be symbolic of our own recovery.

The plantings signify our resilience in overcoming the pandemic. However, plants require care, just as humans do. They act as a reminder to take care of our community, our neighbors, and ourselves.



The flowering trees fill in and grow towards one another over time.

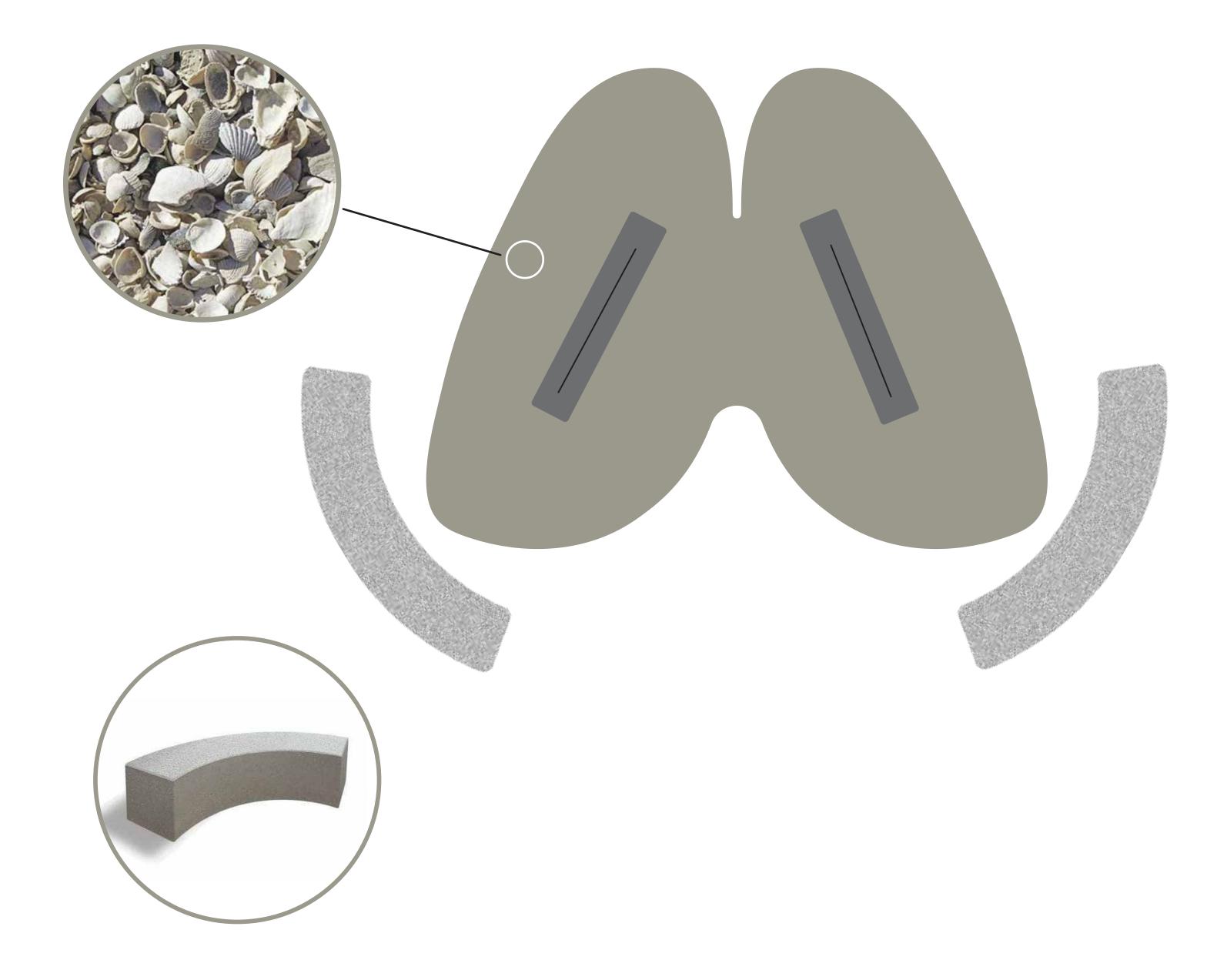
Centerpiece: Lung Area & Benches

The center of the garden features a lung-shaped area, 2 benches, and 2 centerpiece text panels.

The path is an abstract lung shape in reference to the respiratory system. The entrance is oriented to the existing park sidewalk. A crushed shell fill defines the lung area and creates a natural environment compatible with the surrounding benches and garden. The shells also allow for rainwater permeability.

Two benches sit on the perimeter of a path. The simple curved benches are prefabricated reinforced concrete. The shapes complement the path. The benches invite visitors to sit and contemplate the site.

Each side of the lung contains two 3 x 8 foot text panels.



Centerpiece: Text Panels

Each side of the symmetrical lung shape contains a 3 x 8 foot aluminum sheet cut through with a text tribute to the experiences of Covid. The panels stand out due to their material while the shadows they cast help to integrate them with the site.

The words focus on some of the experiences we shared despite our isolation. The typographic letter forms are made up of small holes that allow light to pass through and repeat the words as light and shadow on the ground. These cast words create a photographic moment for visitors. The words mingle with other dots that float free throughout the background to echo the planted circles. The text is configured so that the panels can be read from both sides.

Aluminum is durable and weathers well without ongoing maintenance. The 2 panels can be installed to hurricane specs. Their permeability—due to the holes—can assist in both wind and security issues on site.



36 x 96 inch overall size 3/8 inch aluminum sheet

x2 (same approach with different text)

Type is made from holes (see next page) that penetrate the alumnim sheet

Centerpiece: Text Panels

The words "we" serve as a unifying header for the text and theme for the project. "We" is cut twice to be readable on each side. The list of shared experiences alternates to be readable from either side. Twelve phrases read:

We...

stopped cooperated
feared created
masked connected
prayed learned

We...

cried healed

grieved remember

The first panel focuses on some of the difficulties. The second speaks to some of the positives we discovered while trying to cope. The text is written in the past tense until the final word, "remember."









Panel form 1: front and back

Panel form 2: front and back

Centerpiece: Panel Text Shadows

The perforated surface allows the sun to cast shadows that create legible text on other surfaces. The pieces become dynamic as the shadows move with the changing position of the sun throughout the day.



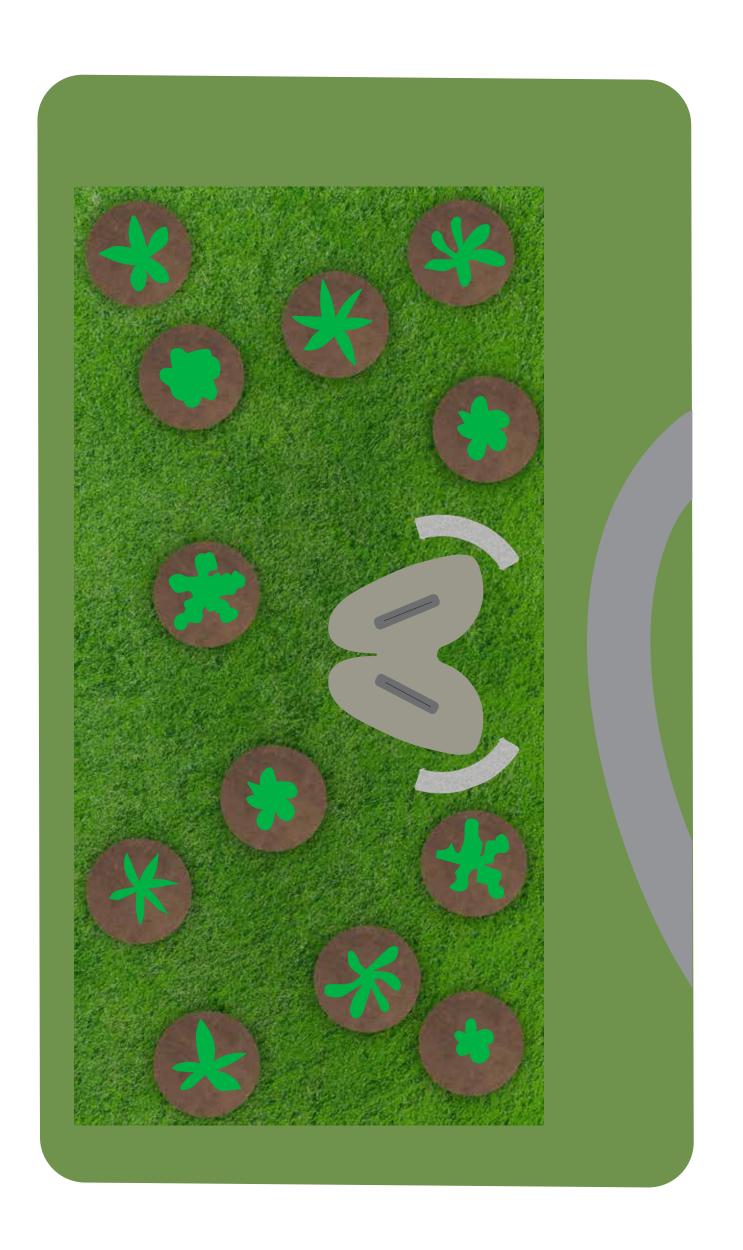
Centerpiece: Remembrance Rocks

The practice of stacking rocks on graves exists in many cultures. It traditionally marked and protected the burial site. It has evolved into a remembrance marking a visit to the grave. Painting rocks is one of the creative activities that became popular during Covid. It was common to leave them outside to be discovered and provide a moment of happiness. In this instance, the two are combined to both practice creativity, giving, and to honor those who passed.

The text panels require concrete footers. These will be designed to encourage visitors to leave rocks, painted or plain, as a tribute to those who passed during Covid.

Alternatively, the holes in the text panels allow visitors to place the stems of flowers from the trees.









Vicualizations

\$30,000 Budget Breakdown

Plants & Landscaping

- 12 native flowering trees
- 12 6-foot coir or recycled rubber landscape mats
- 12 perimeter plantings for all circles

\$10,000 estimated installed cost

Lung Shape & Benches

- 2 cubic yards washed shell fill + landscape edging \$2,000 cost with delivery
- 2 pre-fab reinforced concrete benches \$3,000 cost with delivery (8-10 weeks)

Text Walls (see original proposal)

- 2 3 x 8 foot aluminum text panels \$8,200
- 2 concrete footers \$800

Labor & Misc.

Excavation, equipment rental, bench installation, text panel mounting, labor and design fees, overages, etc..

\$5,000 estimated cost

\$9,000 estimated cost

\$6,000 estimated cost

THANK YOU

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