Design Refinements: Key Areas and Elements

Riverside Park

August 6, 2025

SHIFT

landscape architecture

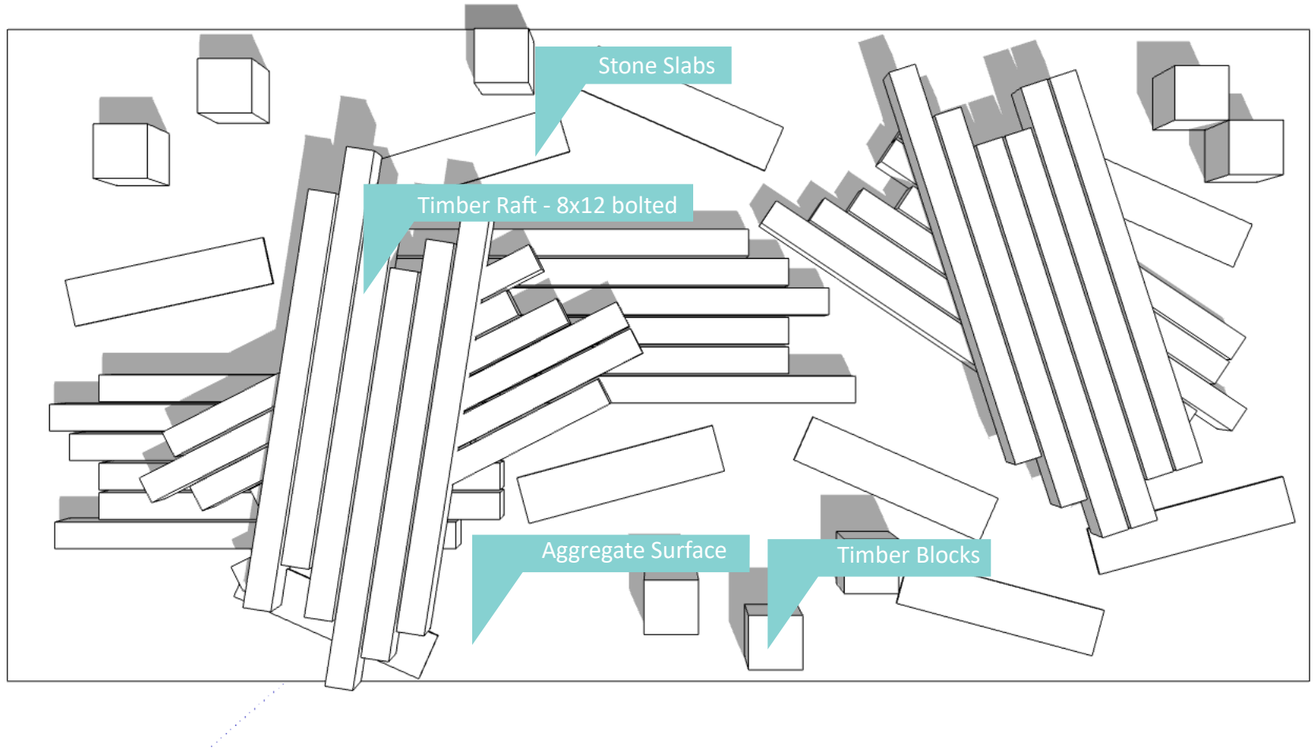
Log Jam

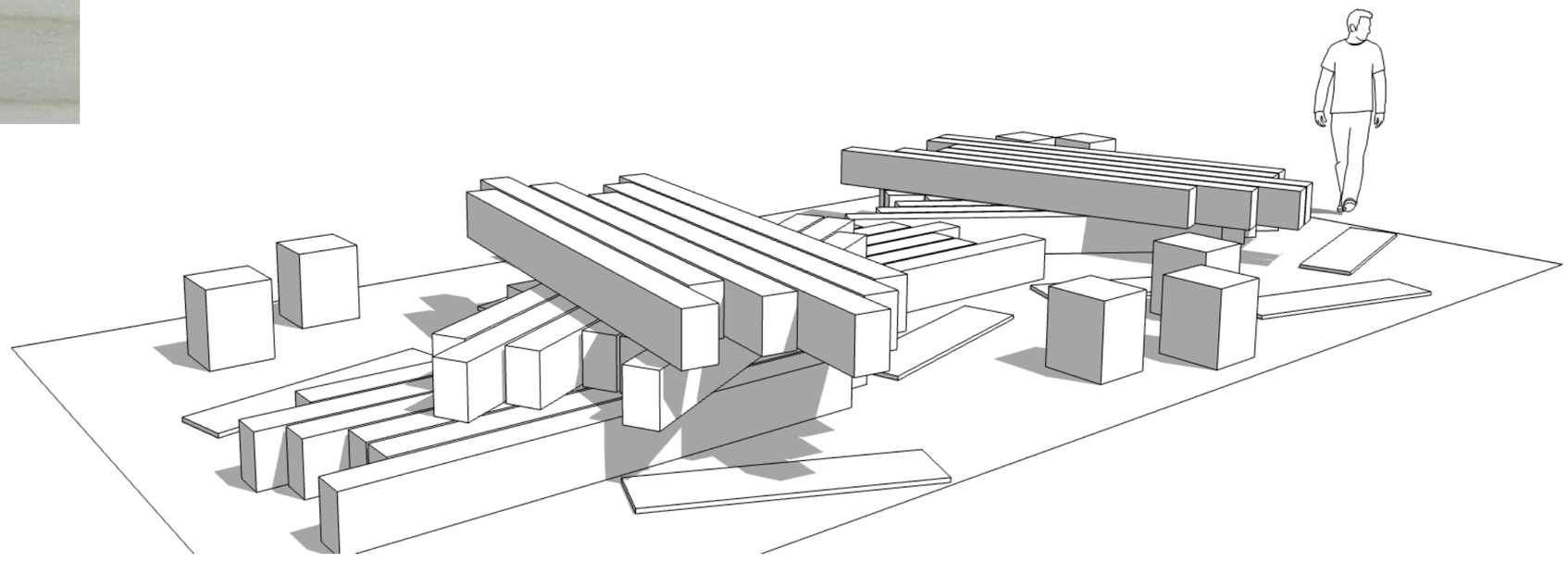
The Log Jam gathering space offers a tactile, evocative experience within Riverside Park. Set within a field of compacted crushed limestone, a series of ‘log rafts’ made from 8x12 timbers create an open framework for sitting, reclining, and exploration. Their loose arrangement invites movement and reinterpretation, what is a seat at one moment becomes a table the next, or in the hands of a child, a raft, a balance beam, a stage.

Around the rafts, scattered wooden blocks and limestone slabs lend a feeling of looseness and drift, echoing the natural scatter of debris that gathers in the eddies and banks of a river. The space feels at once deliberate and accidental, shaped by forces both human and natural.



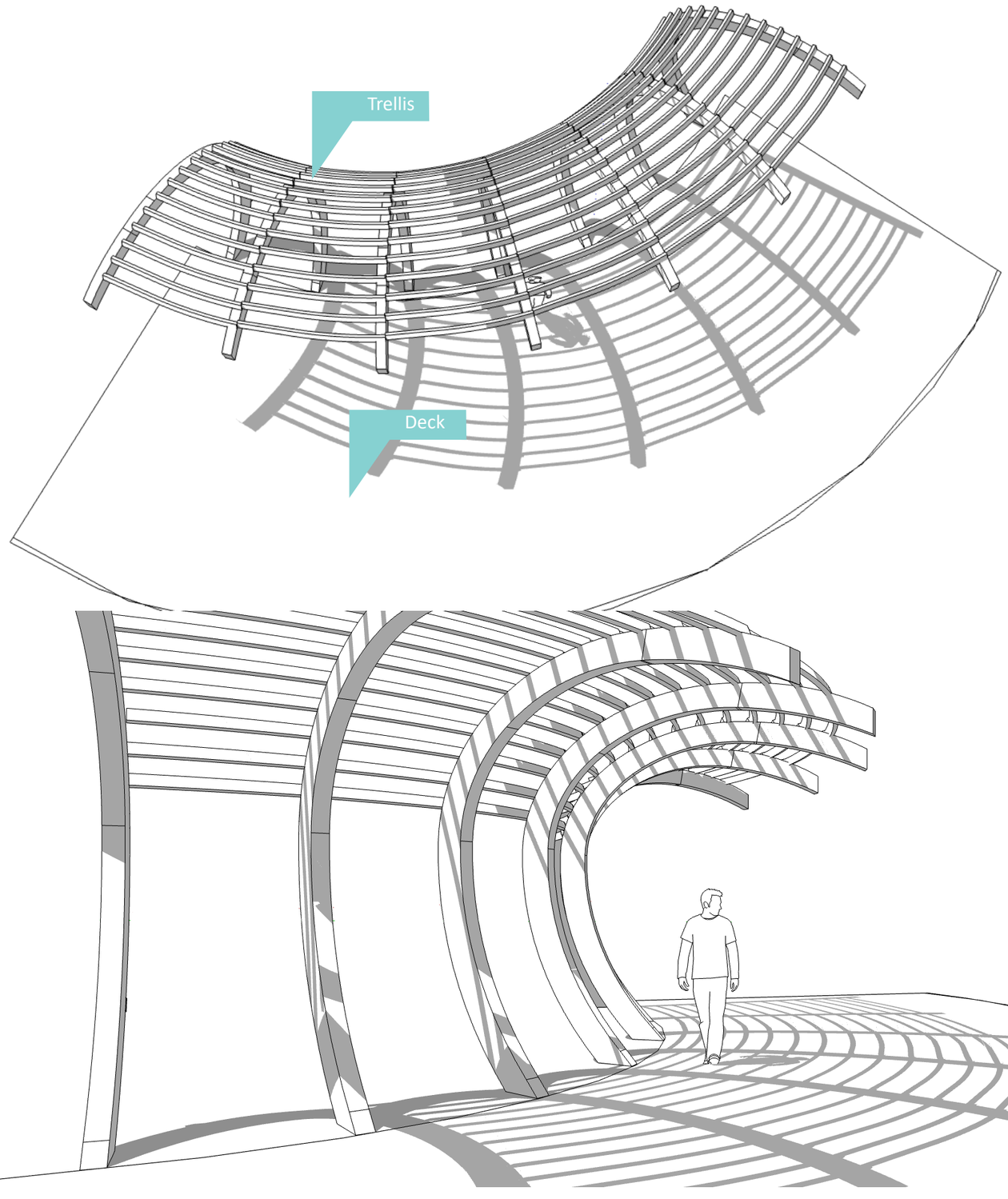






Upper Deck Shade Trellis

The shade trellis on the upper deck serves as a defining landmark within the park. A delicate lattice of timber, strung across Glulam beams, recalls the form of a canoe frame awaiting its skin. This sculptural structure offers generous shade while introducing warmth and texture through its natural materials, anchoring the space with both function and quiet symbolism.





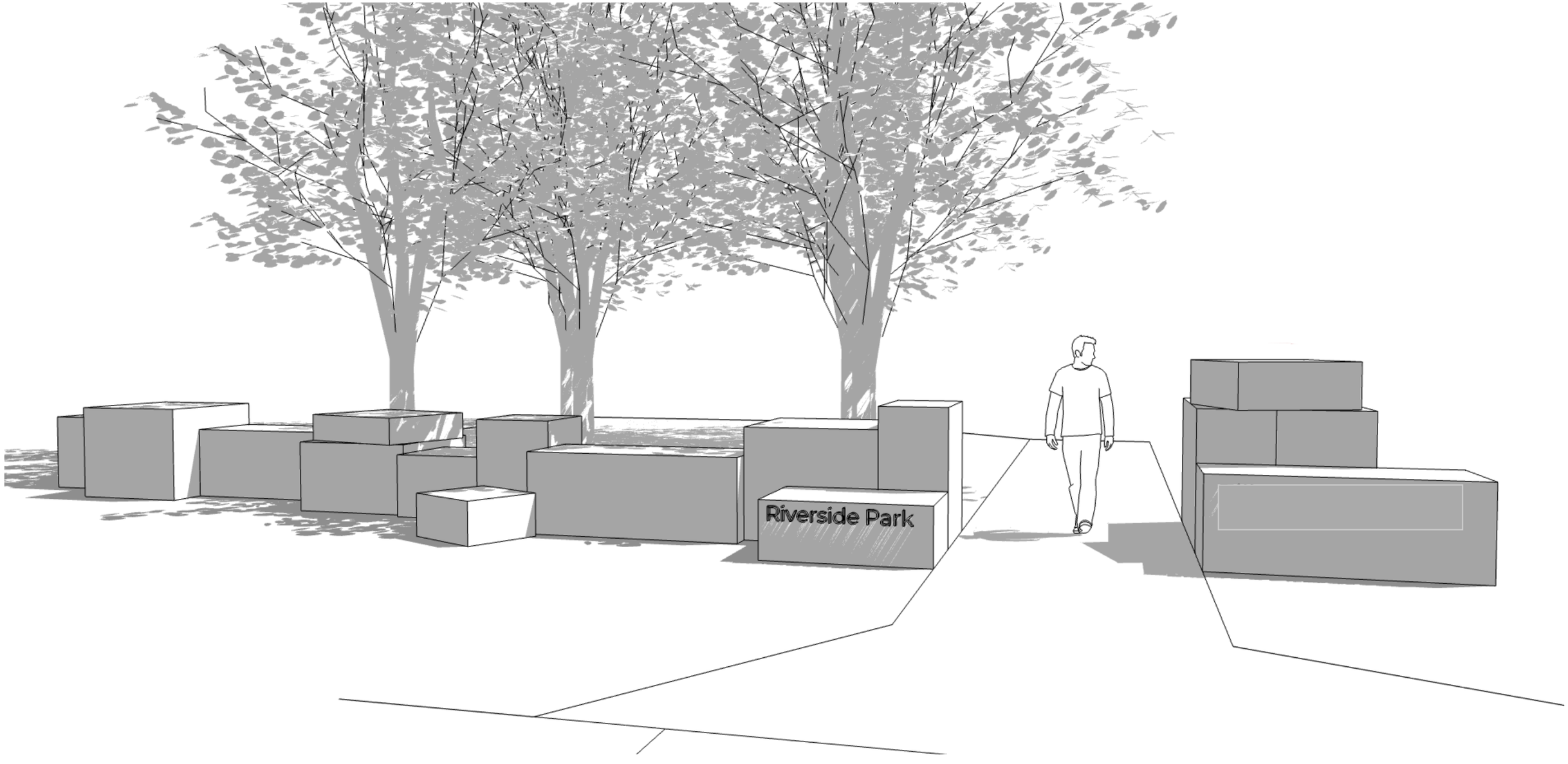


Park Entry

The pedestrian entry from the street marks a clear threshold, signaling a shift from the surrounding suburban context to a more natural, immersive landscape. Large stone blocks, arranged in a loose and seemingly random pattern, suggest fluidity despite their weight and solidity. These stones will take on different qualities with the changing weather, catching light and shadow, accumulating snow, and becoming sculptural in winter.

As you move inward, a garden of birch trees set within a mass of hardy groundcover reinforces the sense of arrival into a distinct environment. An informal path winds through the planting, offering access toward the parking area. Scattered pieces of stone extend the language of the entry wall into the site, offering informal places to sit and pause along the way.





Edge of the Bank Periscopes

At the terminus of the entry path, near the upper deck and trellis, three sculptural periscopes invite exploration. Each is named for the view it frames: River, Sky, and Trees. Positioned to offer distinct vantage points on the surrounding landscape, the periscopes are designed to rotate 45 degrees in either direction *(to be determined)*, creating an immersive and playful experience for visitors of all ages.

Through these lenses, users are encouraged not only to look but to reflect; to see familiar elements from unfamiliar angles, and to consider their relationship to the land, the water, and the broader ecological context of the park.

