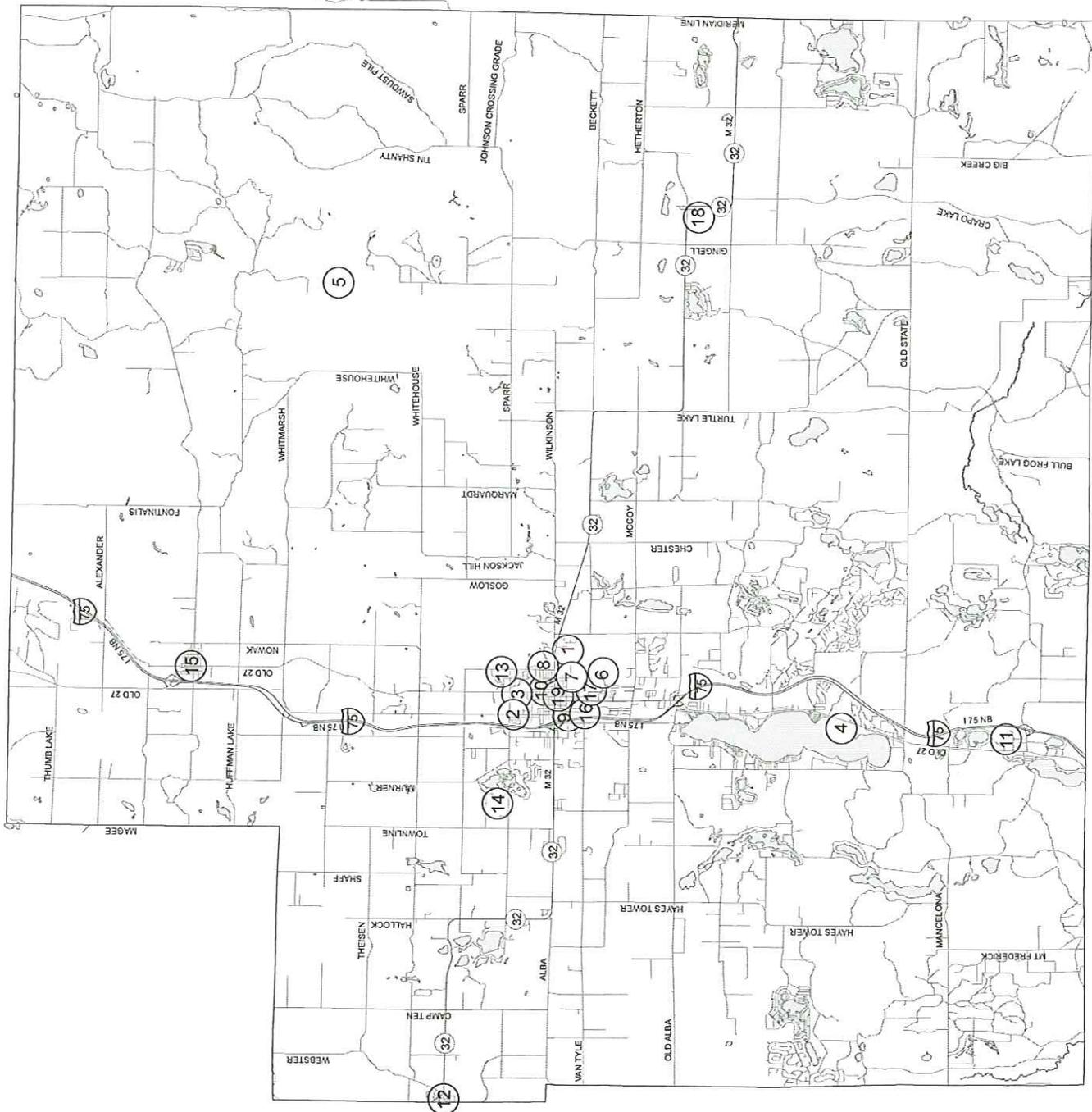


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ADDITIONAL COUNTY WIDE RECREATIONAL PARKS & FACILITIES

- 1 - HUTCHINS LITTLE LEAGUE PARK
- 2 - GAYLORD SOCCER COMPLEX
- 3 - OTSEGO COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
- 4 - OTSEGO LAKE STATE PARK
- 5 - PIGEON RIVER COUNTY STATE FOREST
- 6 - ASPEN PARK
- 7 - GEORGE DOUMAS MEMORIAL PARK
- 8 - FREEL MEMORIAL PARK
- 9 - JOSEPH N. HALE MEMORIAL PARK
- 10 - CLAUDE SHANNON PARK
- 11 - REMI & EDNA SCHOTTE MEMORIAL TOWNSHIP PARK
- 12 - ELMIRA TOWNSHIP PARK
- 13 - ALTERNATIVE LANDSCAPING GARDEN
- 14 - FIVE LAKES NATURAL AREA
- 15 - VANDERBILT MEMORIAL PARK
- 16 - GAYLORD RAMP PARK
- 17 - ELK VIEW PARK
- 18 - CHALRTON TOWNSHIP PARK
- 19 - OTSEGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE PLAZA



Otsego County Courthouse Plaza

This courtyard plaza is on the County Courthouse lawn in downtown Gaylord. It serves as a recreational and gathering spot for visitors to the downtown. See Appendix A for details.

SIGNIFICANT NATURAL FEATURES

Pigeon River State Forest

The Pigeon River State Forest is a significant natural feature located in Otsego, Cheboygan and Montmorency Counties. This land was called the “pine barrens east of Vanderbilt” by author Ernest Hemingway and “The Big Wild” by Michigan pioneer conservationist P.S. Lovejoy. This forest provides some 105,000 acres of public land that is the home of the only free ranging elk her east of the Mississippi River. The State of Michigan began acquiring large pieces of land that would become the Pigeon River Forest in the 1910’s due to the abandonment of the lumber mills and farms and also neglect in paying taxes. This forest allows users to experience northern Michigan in its most natural state. The area is filled with an abundance of wildlife, including elk, and is a great place for hunting, fishing and camping. There are over 10-miles of unmarked pathways for hiking, backpacking, mushroom hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross country skiing or snowshoeing. The location of land owned by the State of Michigan is shown in Figure 3.5 on page 3-30.

Green Timbers is a 6,388 acre tract of land that was formerly owned by the McLouth Steel Company and used as a hunting and fishing retreat for their employees. In 1982 the State of Michigan took over the property and it became part of the Pigeon River Country State Forest. More than half of Green Timbers is covered with second growth forest of aspen, oak and other northern hardwoods along with both white and red pine. Two cabins remain today for public use, the Green Timbers Cabin and the Honeymoon Cabin. The Green Timbers area is closed to all motor vehicles including snowmobiles.

OTSEGO LAKE AND ROAD END ACCESS LOCATIONS

Otsego Lake is the County’s largest lake (1972 acres) and is a very significant natural feature within the County. Otsego Lake is a valuable economic and recreation resource not only for Otsego County, but for the region as well. The lake is approximately five miles long, has an average width of 0.7 miles (max. width is 1 mile) and a maximum depth of 23 feet. It is used by many for boating, fishing and swimming. There are two official Public Access Sites for the lake, Otsego Lake State Park and Otsego Lake County Park. However, there are many other road end access locations that allow public access. Those locations are as follows:

Appendix A

Parks and Recreation Plan Amendment

Otsego County Courthouse Plaza – City of Gaylord

The County of Otsego has been involved over the last two years in a community-wide process to improve the vibrancy and relevancy of the downtown for the City of Gaylord with a focus on reducing traffic and air pollution on M-32 which bisects downtown Gaylord, along with creating a unique pedestrian-friendly environment that will draw tourists and local citizens to the downtown. In conjunction with this project, representatives of the community and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources have been working with Lake State Railway to extend the North Central State recreational trail to the downtown just one block west of the County Courthouse and across the street. Additionally, the Otsego County Dog Park is two blocks south of the courthouse. The intention is to expand the park to include other recreational activities in the near future. The central downtown location of the Courthouse, taking up one-full city block, is the ideal location to create an activity center for people to gather when shopping or pursuing outdoor recreational activities in the area.

Numerous brainstorming and input opportunities for the courthouse lawn were provided to the public. A list of meetings, all open to the public, included:

- Downtown Gaylord Streetscape Revamp Meeting – February 2, 2012
- Downtown Gaylord Streetscape Revamp Meeting – February 29, 2012
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – April 24, 2012
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – May 31, 2012
- Design Charette – June 27, 2013 (public invited)
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – December 6, 2012
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – March 18, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – May 30, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – July 30, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – August 14, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – September 4, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – September 18, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – October 2, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – October 16, 2013
- Downtown Renaissance Committee Meeting – November 6, 2013
- Meeting with downtown businesses owners – November 13, 2013
- Community input meeting – November 20, 2013 (see newspaper article)

Dan Burden, a national walkability expert visited the community in August of 2012 to provide input concerning the downtown streetscape and courthouse lawn to the Downtown Renaissance Committee, and to the public, at a public meeting. Many of his suggestions were incorporated into the Courthouse Plaza design.

Plans for the Plaza include an interactive water fountain, a gas fire pit, a recirculating stream, café style seating where people can use the free Wi-Fi internet access provided to use their lap tops, new picnic tables, and several screened seating areas. The plan also incorporates several existing elements (historic naval cannon, veteran memorial, several historic plaques, and an ice tree) that provide for a very unique year-round experience and activities for people of all ages. The plan, as proposed, would be an invaluable asset to the parks system throughout the County and draw more people downtown and to the North Central State Trail.

Location of North
Central State Rail
Trail Trailhead

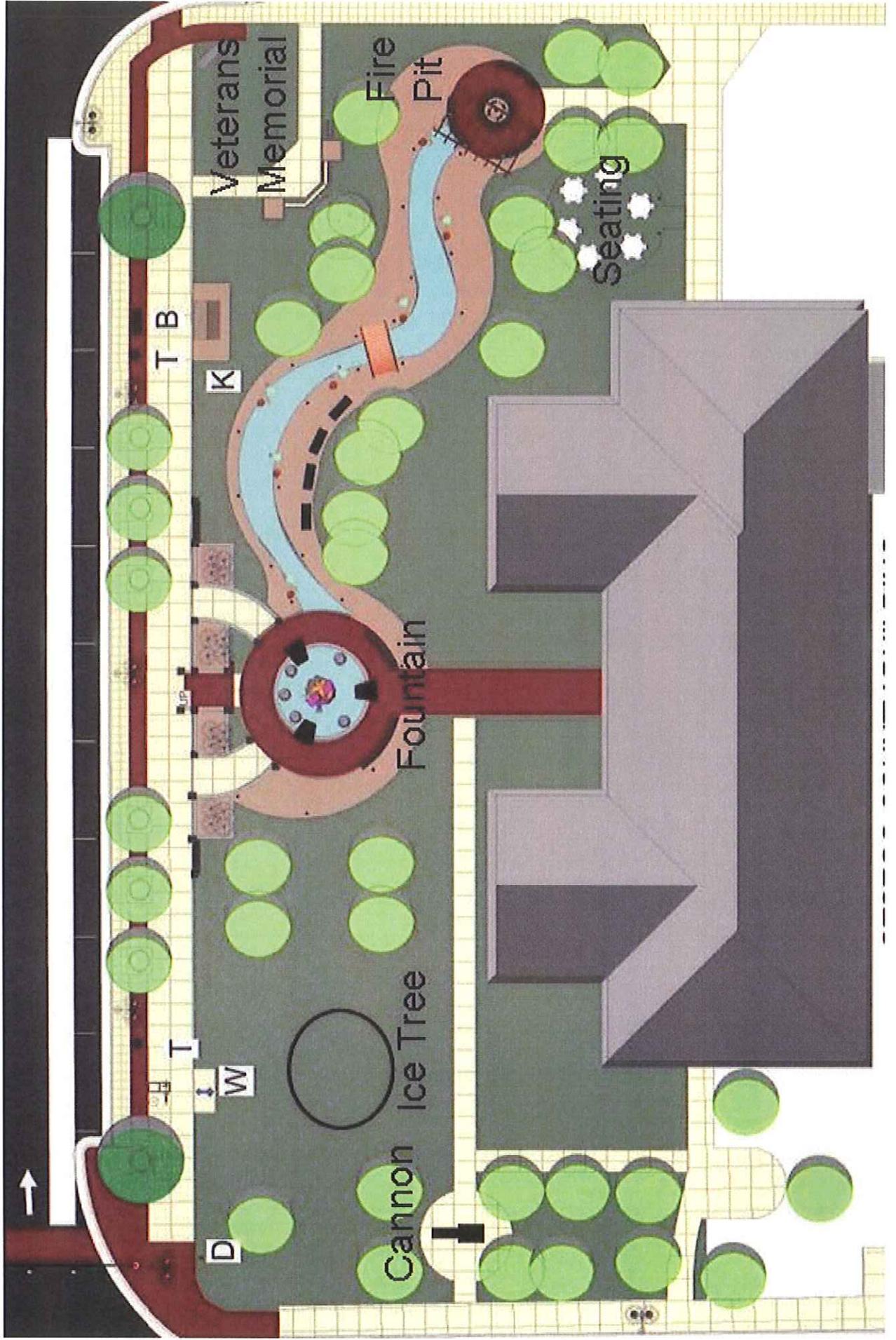
West End of Main Street
& Courthouse Plaza



- SYMBOL LEGEND**
- D = DOG WASTE STATION
 - B = BENCH
 - G = GATEWAY
 - K = KIOSK
 - T = TRASH
 - W = WATERING STATION



Courthouse Plaza

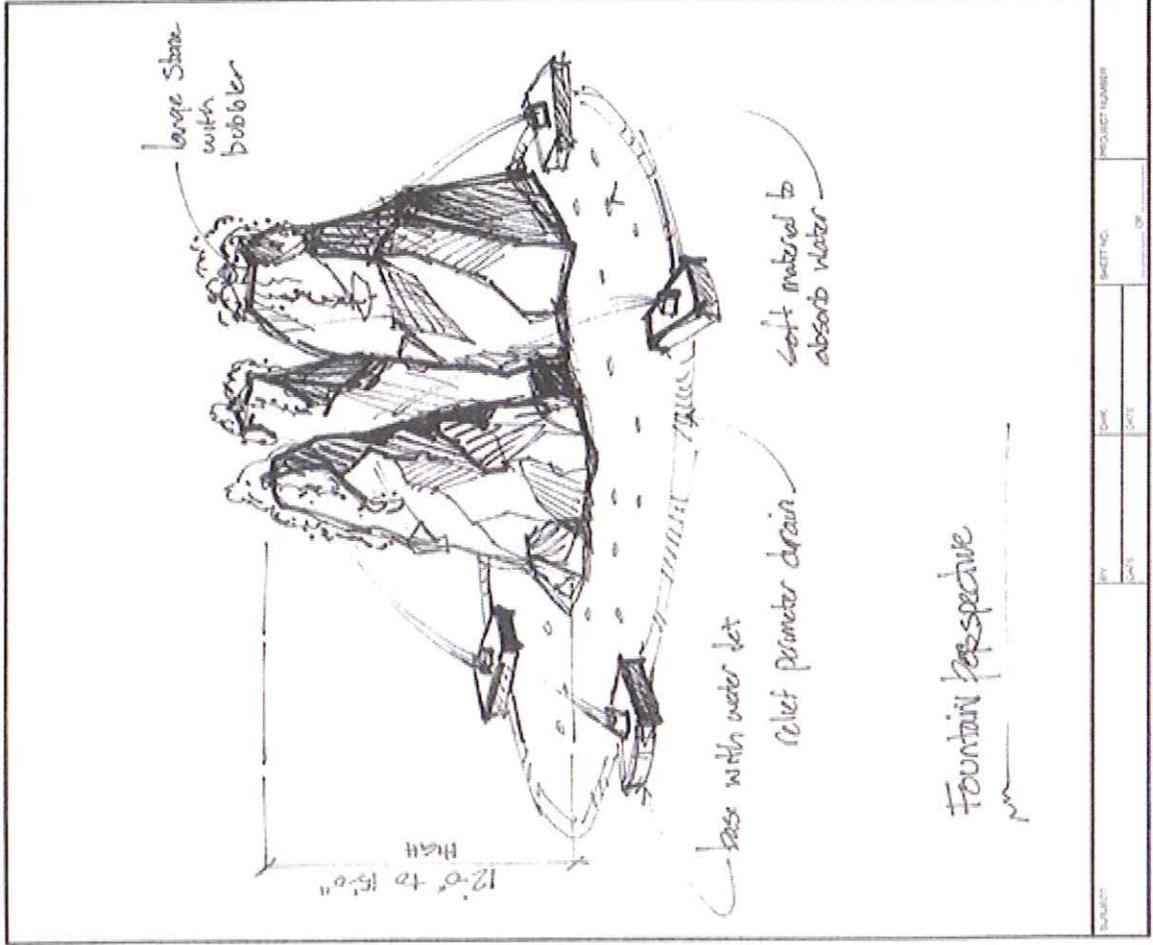


Courthouse Plaza Water Feature Concept

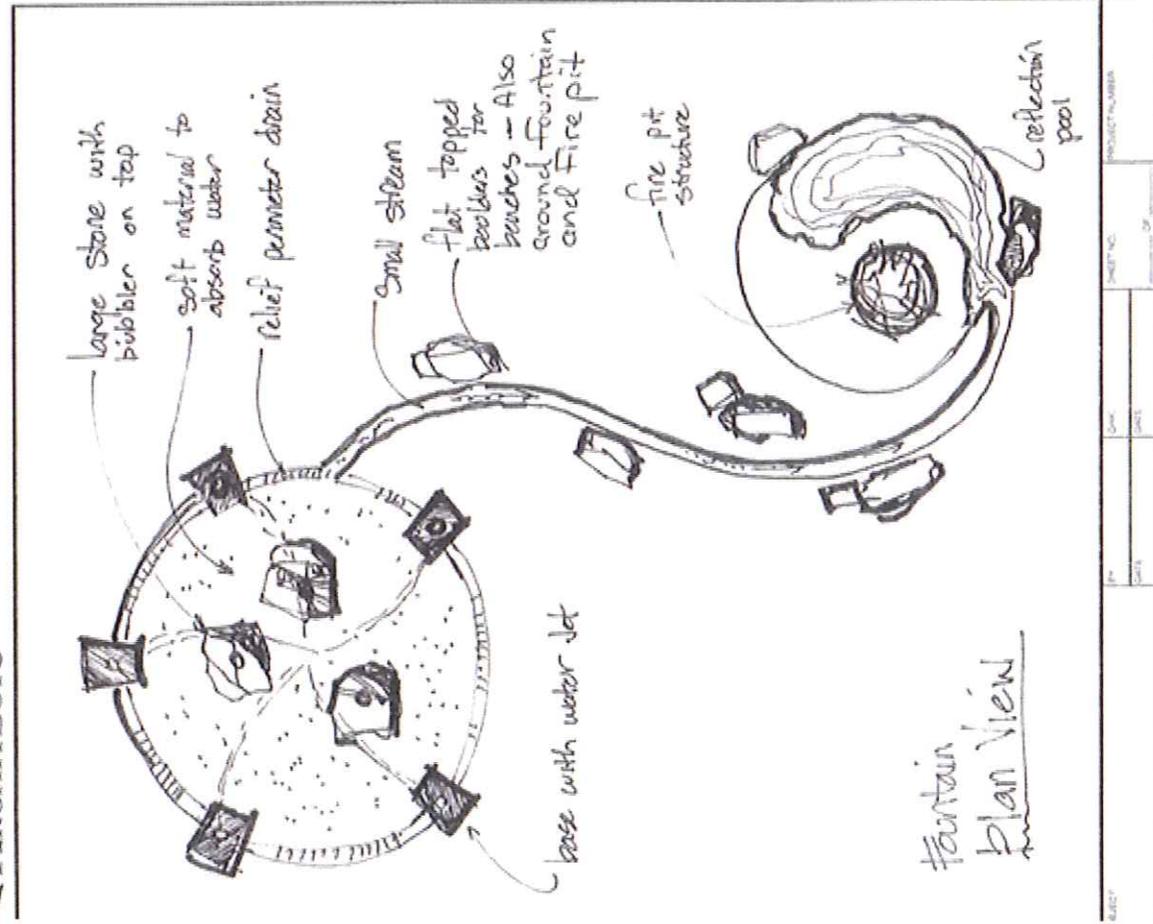
WORK SHEET



WORK SHEET

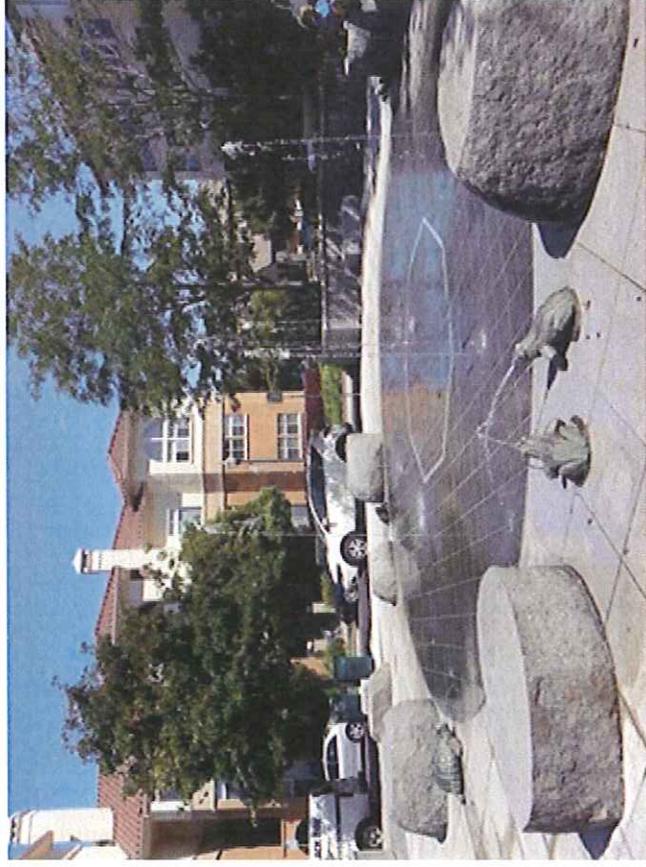
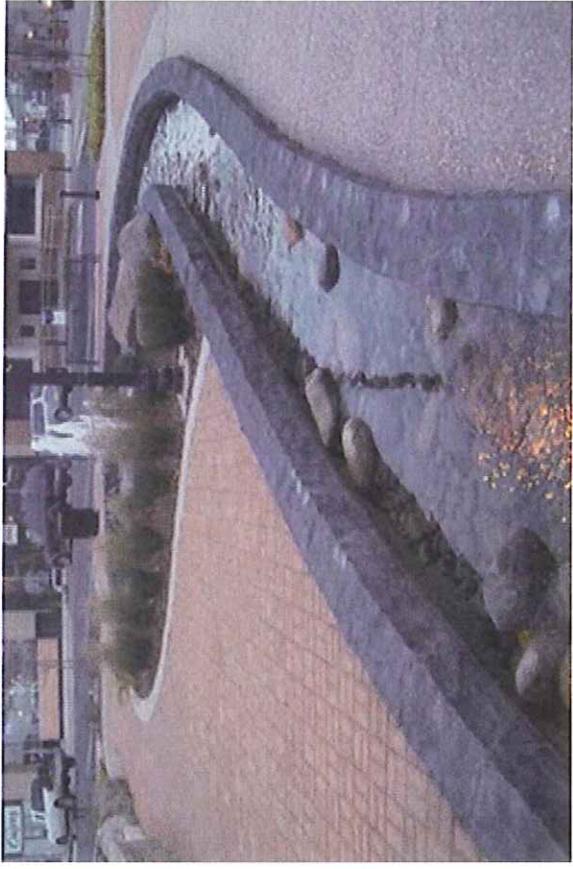
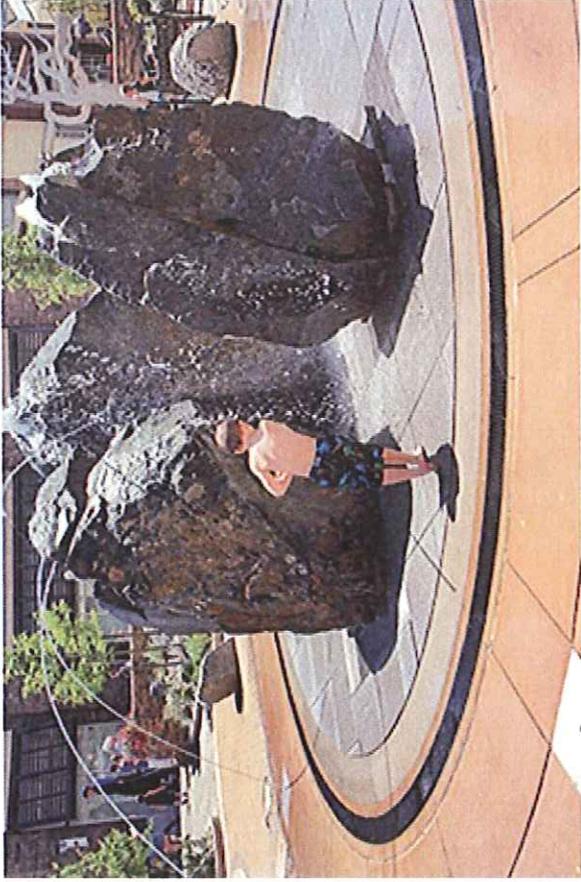


DATE	BY	PROJECT NUMBER	
		DATE	OF



DATE	BY	PROJECT NUMBER	
		DATE	OF

Courthouse Plaza Water Feature in Pictures



What we envision the fountain to look like – w/ 5 water jets and bubblers on each rock, flat rock seating around fountain and fire pit, and a re-circulating stream.

Courthouse Plaza Fire Pit



We envision a gas fire pit located at the end of our stream element with flat rock seating for special events in the fall and winter. Please note that the final model would have a shielding around the fire to prevent injury.