



### Tanner Springs Park, Portland

With surgical artistry, the urban skin of one downtown block, 80 x 80 metres (200 by 200 feet) is peeled back. Time is reversed and the story of land development wound back to predevelopment days. The park is like a view port to the past. The long forgotten wetland habitat is restored to the full glory of its plants and animals. Little springs bubble up at the top of a large open grassy meadow, trickling down to a wetland pond, sunken 1.8 metres below street level. A floating pontoon crosses the water, literally swimming across its invisible and varying depths. Symbolic of the old city fabric, historic railroad tracks form a wave-wall along one side of the pond. Called the 'Art Wall', there is a harmonious contrast between the static strength of the rail tracks and the lithe and flowing movement of the wall as it oscillates in and out, the top also rising and falling. The verticality of the rail tracks is surprisingly filigree. The movement of the wall is doubled in the reflection in the water. Lawn terraces run down the two sides of the park, providing lots of lunch-time seating and vantage points to enjoy the park.



Events at the official park opening were much enjoyed by the public.



Space for contemplation in the middle of a bustling city

Informal, paved paths lead into the park, creating flowing transitions, a design theme found throughout the park.



Children absorbed in play. The park was adopted by children straight from the start.



A spring trickles across the biotope, meandering into the water.



A planting succession from dry to wet follows the slope of the park down to the water.

Oscillating historic railroad tracks form the Art Wall, a 'skin from the past'.

