

Centre in the Park ART

Prairie Walk

In 2010 the artist group *Tricycle* was invited by *ISL Engineering & Land Services Ltd.* to integrate public art along *Prairie Walk* —the promenade stretching from Volunteer Plaza to Festival Place in Sherwood Park's new *Centre in the Park*. *ISL* had already installed a brick pedestrian pathway with a simple geometric water-course running the length of its north side. Planting, lighting and seating areas were situated along the walkway. *Tricycle's* contribution was to expand and amplify the esthetic experience of *Prairie Walk* by awakening individual and shared memories and by helping to re-calibrate the senses of biological time. They achieved this by:

- creating three groupings of large boulders, individually selected, cut and placed to create seating areas that would provide stopping points and zones of contemplation along the pathway.
- transforming a large flat-cut boulder so that its mirror-polished metal surface reflected the ever dominant and changing prairie sky.
- integrating sound recorded from the prairie landscape, and feeding it through speakers strategically positioned at two of the stone groupings. *Tricycle* employed *Sonus Post Audio* to compose two "nature symphonies" — one consisting of prairie grassland sounds and the other of prairie wetland sounds. Each half-hour soundtrack loops continuously so that a listener seated in either of the two sound zones is transported by the unexpected resonance of birdsong, animal and insect life and prairie thunderstorms, transmitted during daylight hours, 365 days a year.

The final art installation on *Prairie Walk* will be a *Tricycle* sculpture entitled *Cross Section*, to be installed in Volunteer Plaza.

Description of Cross Section:

A large truncated conical volume over 4m. high. Curved steel plates suggesting an ancient building site, will support a raised plateau of natural prairie grasses. An opening in the sculpture will allow physical passage through the form and provide a dramatic experience of compression and release. The interior of the sculpture will be illuminated by natural light entering through an opening above and sounds will be hidden inside the walls, whispering to visitors as they enter and depart.



