

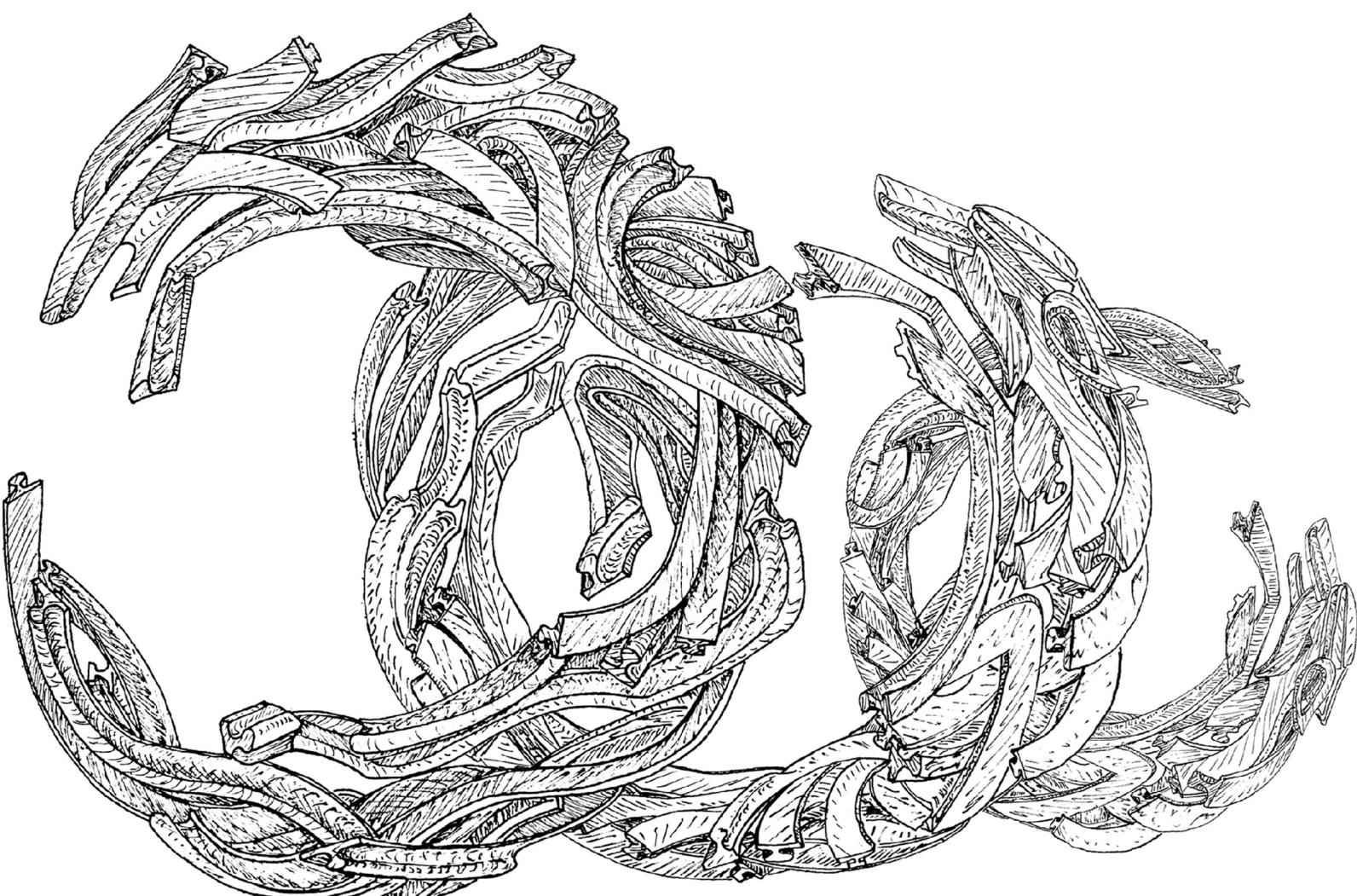
WARD CANYON PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT

ARTWORK PROPOSAL

BY CHRISTOPHER FENNELL



Cultural Affairs



Artist rendering of the artwork.

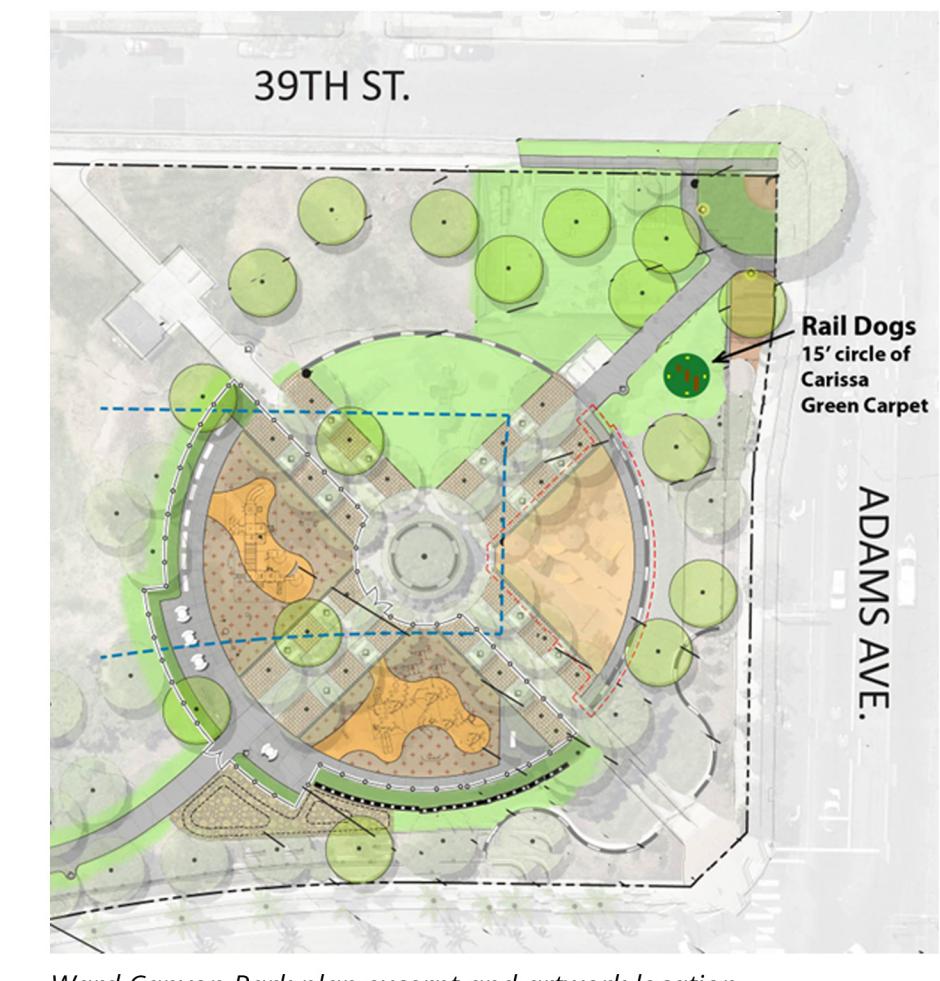
Artist Christopher Fennell has been developing an artwork proposal for Ward Canyon Park in Normal Heights. His proposal is a dynamic sculpture that responds to the history of the neighborhood, and the community's love of dogs.

The sculpture refers to the historic "Battle of Adams Avenue" that took place in the area. The story goes as follows: "The trolley line to Normal Heights was particularly important to residents. When work crews began tearing up the trolley tracks on Adams Avenue at midnight on Saturday, August 26, 1922, a "riot" erupted. Local Walter Church took his gun, and drove onto the tracks in order to stop the destruction. Work halted as the workmen took cover. Soon Mayor John L. Bacon appeared with a squad of police and arrested Hugo A. Kuehmsted, chief engineer of the San Diego Electric Railway Company. Mayor Bacon called an emergency meeting of the Common Council, and Judge C. N. Andrews ordered the company to restore tracks and service on Adams Avenue. Thus ended the "Battle of Adams Avenue" with trolley service restored that week.

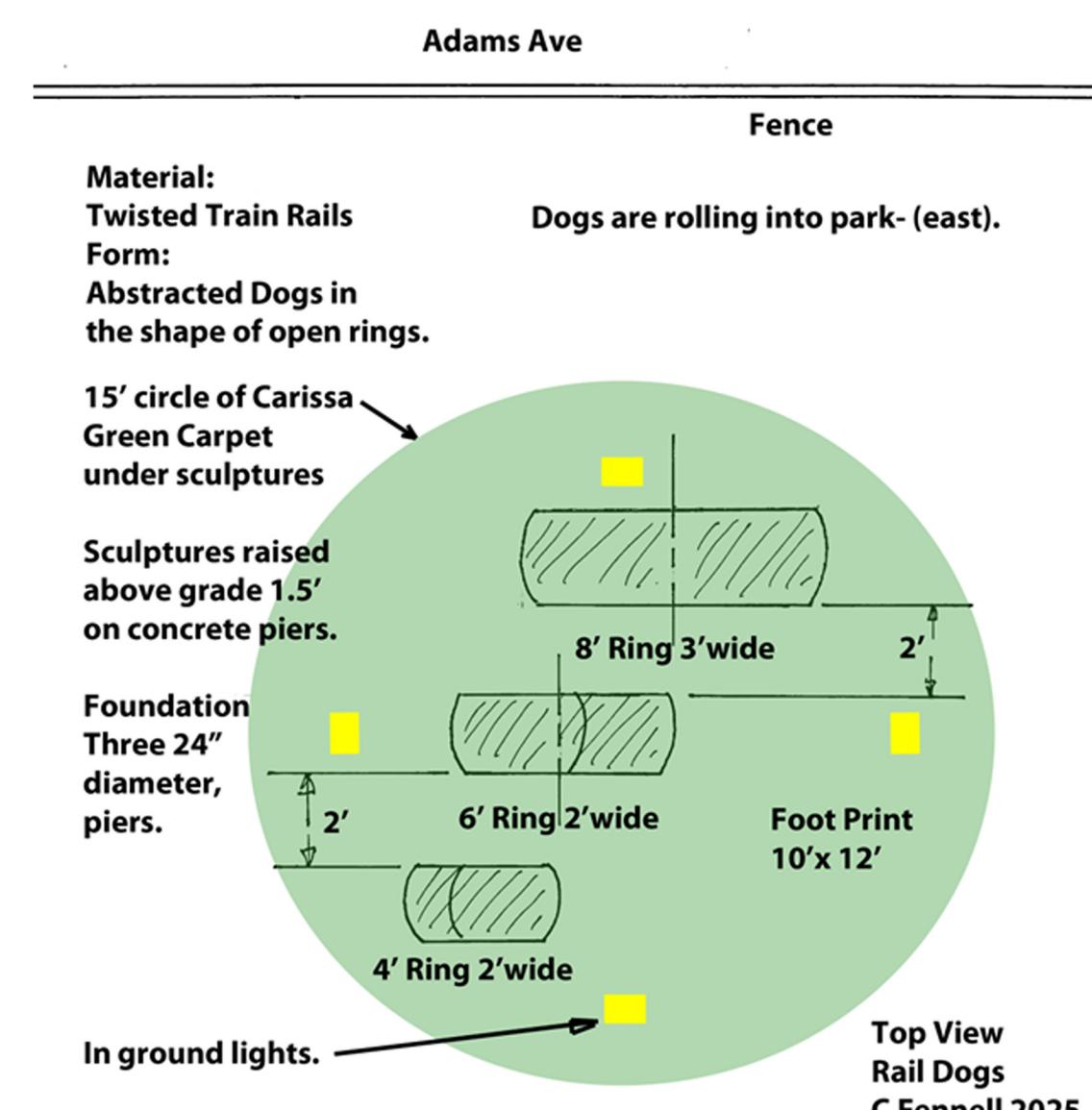
The sculpture will be constructed from twisted train rails as a nod to the resilience of the community.



Artist Rendering of frontal view of artwork



Ward Canyon Park plan excerpt and artwork location



Top View
Rail Dogs
C Fennell 2025

The largest dog is 8' tall, the middle one 6' and last one is 4'. The dogs will be arranged 2' apart. The sculpture will have in-ground lighting.

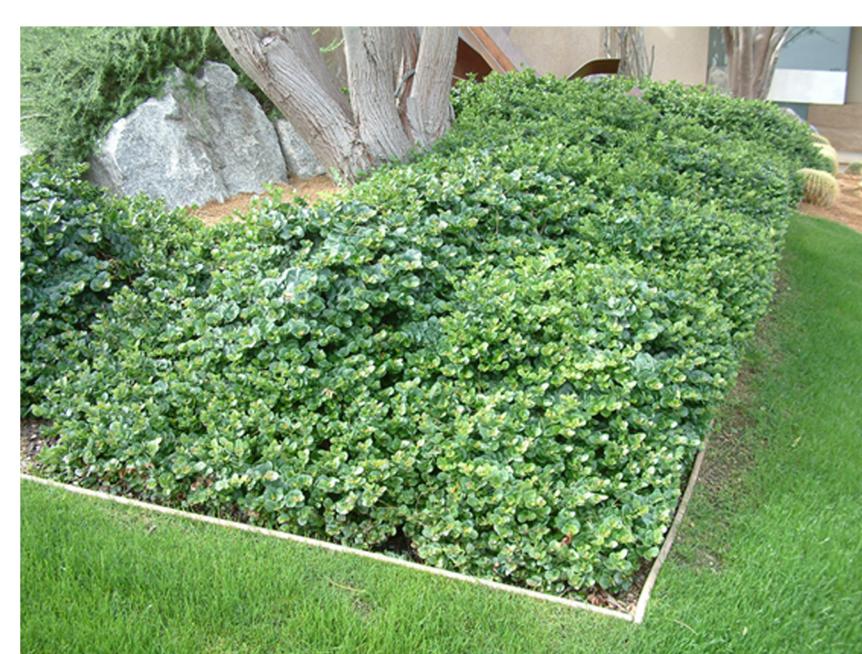


Artist rendering of the artwork.

The rails themselves will be in the shape of dogs playfully rolling. The artist chose to create dogs from the importance of dogs to the community as indicated by residents as well as a nod to the new dog park that will be created for the Ward Canyon Park. The sculpture seen from the road appears as three steel rings rolling across lawn, and up close one will notice dogs in the abstraction.



Example of a train rail sculpture with patina for reference.



Example of Carissa Green Carpet for reference.

The sculpture will be floated above Carissa Green Carpet, a shrub that was recommended by the landscape architects and grows approx. 1.5 feet tall. It works well with the climate and is known for its heartiness and fire-resistance, which responds to the community input reflecting the resilience of the community and the importance of nature in the canyon.



Artist rendering of the artwork.