Anchorage Museum Common at Rasmuson Center

Image Summary

Image 1
Site plan.

Image 2
Axonometric image shows the hardscape and plantscape layers of the project.

Image 3
This aerial view of The Common shows both the increasing density of birch trees from the museum building and the angular geometry of the walkway superimposed over the curvilinear Walk of the Birches. The grass “rooms” are cut into the birch forest and native shrubs and groundcovers. The grid is the extended grid from columns of the building.

Image 4
Fall happens very quickly in this region, and no tree displays the season quite like the native birch. The “Green” is directly in front of the new entry to the museum and is a flexible open space.

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Image 6
This secondary entrance to the park shows the increased density of birch trees with summer season annual flowers. From this vantage point, where the trees are planted most closely and the grid is barely discernible. The salvaged birches are unique individuals, like the people of Alaska!
Image 7

The ground plane of the park is covered with a rich native mix of groundcover plants with traditional lawn for the “rooms” cut into the birch forest. These groundcovers were envisioned to have cow paths through it as people would develop their own routes as off the grid!

Image 8

Anchorage has a great tradition of extravagant annual flowering planting. These flowerbeds are kept to long linear strips as a counterpoint to the native planting in the other 80 percent of the park.

Image 9

The “Green” is a gathering place for community activities. It is designed to be flooded for ice-skating. Benches line one side for “perching.”

Image 10

Traversing the lighted allée in wintertime leads to the completely snow free (heated) promenade.