

Anastomose

Definition of anastomose (transitive verb): to connect or join by *anastomosis*.

Definition of anastomosis (adjective): a connection or opening between two things (especially cavities or passages) that are normally diverging or branching, such as between blood vessels, leaf veins, or streams.

Definition of anastomosing river pattern: the planform of splitting and rejoining channels that enclose variously shaped and sized islands of remnant floodplain or non-alluvial landforms.

“Water is a connective medium.” – *From site analysis notes, January 2022.*

Anastomose is a river story that explores the intersections and cross connections between community and waterway. The project examines the land adjacent to the Bow River and Memorial Drive between 14th street NW and Centre Street North. It is a site of high frequency of use, and due to its long and recent history of inundation is urgently in need of enhanced flood mitigation. It has been aptly identified as a landscape of memory.

Central to the project are three goals of (a) facilitating human and ecological flows, (b) providing an inclusive flood defense mechanism, and (c) telling the river story through visual cues, landscape narratives and moments of pause. The composition of interventions is inspired by river morphology – forks and fluctuations, channels and currents, places of collection. Streams of pedestrian and vehicular traffic twine with riverfront ecologies along a continuous thread of flood mitigation infrastructure, expanded by the closure of the two Southernmost lanes of Memorial Drive. The riparian corridor is transected at critical junctions by rigid anthropogenic axes, the linear connections by which the community reaches out beyond the barrier and touches the Bow.

Rather than ebb at the edge, human-hydrological intersections are celebrated as moments of reflection and redirection. Movement is slowed to a meander as visitors are compelled to circulate each encounter, absorbing trickles of the river story as the cultural surface is exposed. But just as the river divides and reunites around a stone, relentless flows wrap and reconnect before carrying on downstream, *anastomosing* along an undisclosed journey.