

Foothills Underpass Narrative

The wall treatment for the Foothills Underpass provides a unique narrative that is specific to the project's location. Developed from a map view of South Boulder Creek within Boulder itself, three different, visually distinctive panels combine off-the-shelf concrete liner textures with custom, hand-carved textures that reference water, mapping, and the City's special location within the Colorado foothills.

Some of the visual field textures are made from impressions cast from actual stone. They become the background within the panels' picture plane, echoing the natural stone walls that are found in other parts of the Foothills Underpass project.

The wavy lined texture and spiral patterns represent the meandering flow of South Boulder Creek. A continuous, winding line that represents the Creek's path through the City becomes a reveal or boundary joint between panels. A crouching grasshopper, representing omnipresent nature, is located at the convergence of the three major flood plains within Boulder.

Three 10' by 10' panel prototypes will be fabricated at full-size with a maximum rustication depth of 2". Elastomeric material will be cast over the prototypes, and the resulting formliner will be used to cast the concrete, providing enhanced concrete surfaces during construction of the underpass elements. The individual panel forms will have an original orientation, but the intent is to use them in a modular fashion, so that they will be rotated to be right side up or upside down in specific ways to obscure the repeated pattern through the underpass.

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