

Valens Lake C.A. Lookout Platform



Conservation Advisory Board - December 2023

A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

Valens Lake Maser Plan – 2020

Masterplan noted replacement of some significant park features, including the lookout tower, that will need to be replaced within the next ten years



The lookout tower is a popular and well-used features at Valens



Replacement recommended as high priority project in the capital development plan

Existing Lookout Platform

Built in mid-1970's

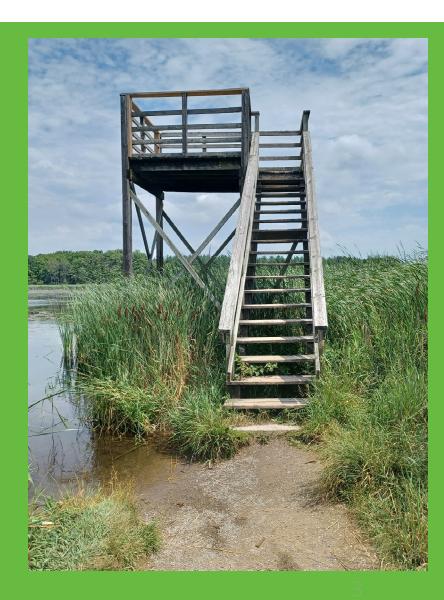
Approximately 100 sq. ft. deck area

Approximately 20 ft. high

Stair access only

All wood construction

Structure's condition requires full replacement

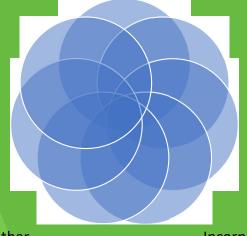


New Lookout Platform – Ideal Design Parameters

Utilize a similar sized footprint to the existing platform.

Fit within project budget.

Be a unique feature within the Conservation Area.



Be wheelchair accessible via ramp.

Use a combination of wood and steel material elements to extend structure's useable life.

Include weather protection measures for viewers.

Incorporate a second viewing deck for more user vantage points.

New Lookout Platform – Design Concepts

Concept A - "Like-for-Like"





New Lookout Platform – Design Concepts

Concept B – "Balanced-Approach"





New Lookout Platform – Design Concepts

Concept C – "Showpiece"







Design Concept – Pros & Cons

Concept A

- Not wheelchair accessible
- No secondary viewing deck
- Matches existing platform aesthetic not unique

For next two concepts:

• The two storey concepts were designed to allow for wheelchair access, while also maintaining the footprint of the structure to minimize environmental impacts to the surrounding area

Concept B

• Similar to existing platform aesthetic – balanced approach

Concept C

- May exceed project budget
- Would be a unique feature not only to Valens C.A. but across HCA Watershed and perhaps beyond
- This concept has been selected by HCA staff to move into Detailed Design and endorsed by Conservation Advisory board

Input from Conservation Advisory Board

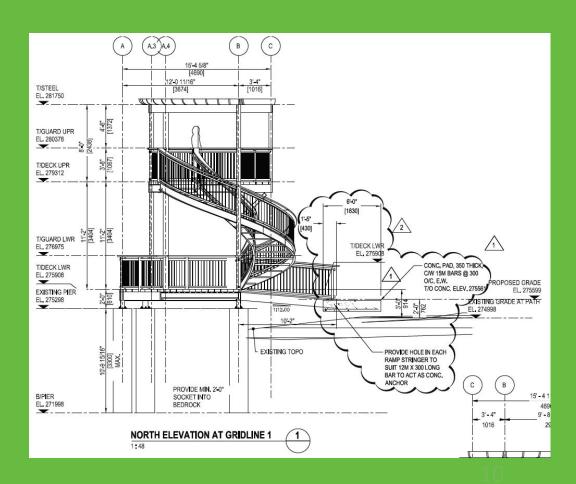
Suggested to try to maximize the viewing experience on the first level for accessibility and equity of experience for all users (those that can't physically go to the second level), while also maintaining the appropriate slope for accessibility to access tower.

Given that design changes will increase costs, suggested to approach the Hamilton Conservation Foundation for support once design finalized.

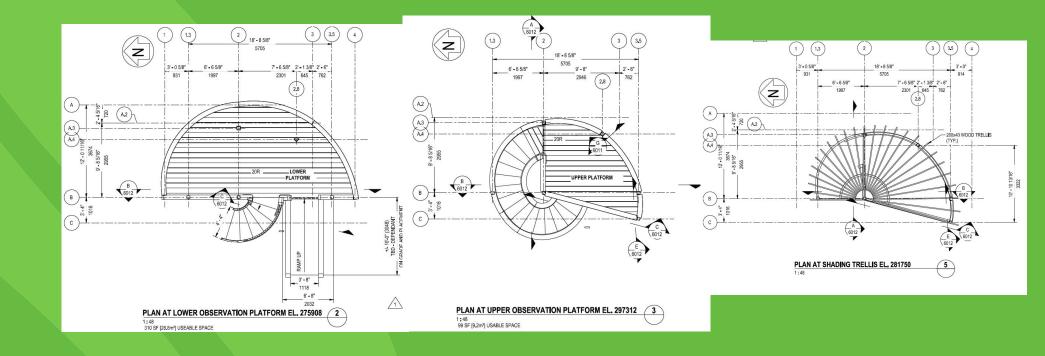
Final design now complete.

Detailed Design Highlights





Detailed Design Highlights



Potential Timeline

Obtaining Building Permit - Expected by March 2024

• This could change if Site Plan Approval is necessary.

Tendering & Procurement process – Completed Spring/Summer 2024

 Variable depending on tendering process required (may change if "In-Kind" material donation occurs).

Construction Period - Oct. to Dec. 2024

• Work must be completed during allowable "In-water" work periods and low-water level for reservoir (late Fall/Winter), also must fit HCA operational needs (i.e: Outside peak camping season)

Restoration/Deficiency Work – Spring 2025

• Some additional clean-up work may be required early 2025 to restore the site and trail connection to new platform.

