

Perennial Past, Perennial Future creates a dynamic monument for the city of San Jose powered by both the community and the environment.

The form of the poppy monument comes from San Jose's history and environment. Each petal is representative of one of the four main historical eras of the city: The Thamen Ohlone period, the mission period, the agricultural period (Valley of Heart's Delight), and the Silicon Valley Period. The poppy of course is very common in the Bay Area and colors the surrounding hills for half of the year. The poppy monument blooms daily with the opening and closing of its petals according to the sunrise and sunset. This movement is powered by the sun and connected to the flows of the river. The petals of the monument open to their widest extent when river flow is at its highest. During the day, visitors can ride the elevator up to the top of the poppy and experience views of the surrounding mountains, downtown, the sky, and Silicon Valley. At night, the petals wrap around the observation deck, creating a more enclosed space for events. Hidden windows in the petals' surfaces provide views even at night. The poppy is minimally lit at night so that it will not disturb the existing rhythms of the wildlife at the park.

An elevated series of decks and boardwalks at the base of the monument allow visitors to view the swale system below that highlight the interdependence the monument and the surrounding city have with the river. These swales take the form of a poppy's leaves and are arranged along the poppy's "stem". Before leading into the monument, the elevated walks lead to a series of pavilions which share the petal form except as shade structures. These pavilions serve as community art exhibition areas and waiting areas for the monument. The art that will be displayed here comes in the form of the hummingbird sculptures. These sculptures will be decorated by different community groups throughout the city and added to the park over time. New sculptures will be rotated through the pavilions monthly for various events before being added to the park. At night, the pavilions and hummingbirds will be lit from below. These sculptures foster community participation and ownership of the park. In this way, the hummingbirds represent the "pollinators" of the culture and history represented by the Poppy monument.