

# National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial

## U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

### SITE SELECTION PRESENTATION



October 19, 2017

# National Desert Storm War Memorial Board

President George H. W. Bush, *Honorary Chairman*

## **Executive Board**

Scott C. Stump, *President*

Bob Adams, *Vice President*

Bill Carragan, *Secretary*

Kyle Leggs, *Chair Design*

Jeff Kurczek, *Chair Finance*

## **Advisory Board**

Admiral Stanley Arthur, *USN*

Richard Lowry, *Historian & Author*

Jeff Miller, *Co-founder - Honor Flight*

Hershel (Woody) Williams, *CMOH recipient*

General Walter Boomer, *USMC*

General Fred Franks, *US Army*

## Table of Contents

- ▶ Desert Storm Historical Context
- ▶ Regulatory Framework for Site Selection
- ▶ Memorial Background & Site Evaluation
- ▶ Re-Evaluation of Sites
- ▶ Site Design Context

## ▶ **Desert Storm Historical Context**

- ▶ Regulatory Framework for Site Selection
- ▶ Memorial Background & Site Evaluation
- ▶ Re-Evaluation of Sites
- ▶ Site Design Context



## Desert Storm Historical Context

Multiple scholars have considered the role of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield within the broader geopolitical and social context of American history. These include the following:

- ▶ **Dr. Thomas Keaney**, Johns Hopkins University  
*Relationship to the Cold War, Context of 20th Century Warfare*
- ▶ **Dr. Richard Stoll**, Rice University  
*International Coalition, Perception of the Military*
- ▶ **Dr. Jeff Engle**, Southern Methodist University  
*International Coalition, Relationship to the Vietnam War*

Not present today but included in written submittal:

- ▶ **Dr. Bartholomew Sparrow**, University of Texas  
*Relationship to the Vietnam War, Sacrifice of Service*

- ▶ Desert Storm Historical Context

- ▶ **Regulatory Framework for Site Selection**

- ▶ Memorial Background & Site Evaluation

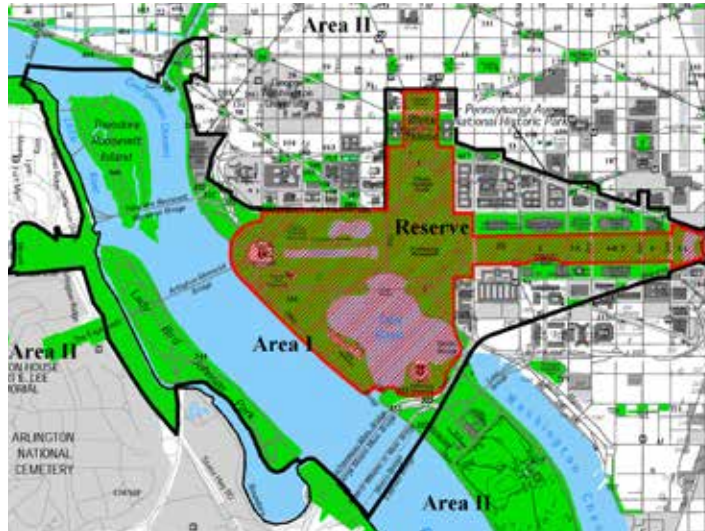
- ▶ Re-Evaluation of Sites

- ▶ Site Design Context

# Regulatory Framework

The Commemorative Works Act (CWA) of 1986 distinguished between where commemorative works of "preeminent historical and lasting significance" to the Nation may locate and areas outside this zone where works of "lasting historical significance" may locate. The CWA refers to these two mapped precincts as Area I and Area II.

The CWA governs the process for establishing commemorative works and provides guidelines for the content of commemorative works. The CWA states "to the maximum extent possible, a commemorative work shall be located in surroundings that are relevant to the subject of the work."



Commemorative Works Act (1986, amended 2003)



Extending the Legacy: Planning America's Capital for the 21st Century (1997)



Memorials and Museums Master Plan (2001)



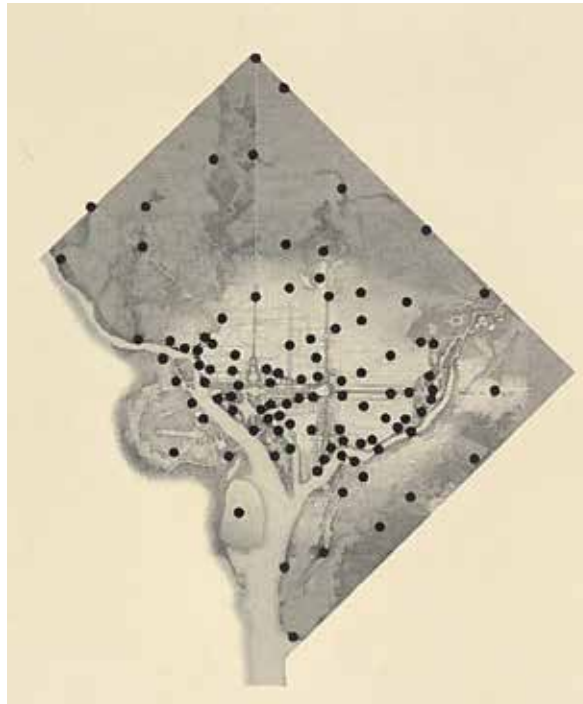
Monumental Core Framework Plan (2009)

# Memorials and Museums Master Plan (2001)



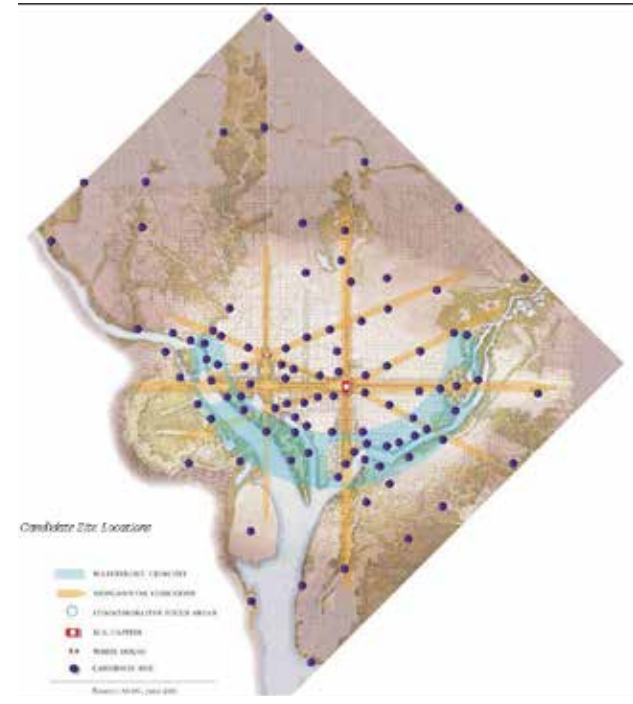
## Existing Sites

- Of the 228 existing museums and memorials in Washington (at the time when the *2M Plan* was developed), the majority were clustered in or near the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue. This had been the pattern for more than 100 years.



## Proposed Sites

- With the increased number of new museum and memorial proposals, the heart of the Mall, known as the Reserve, was declared off limits. Adjacent sites in Area I were and currently are restricted to works of "preeminent historic and national significance." The remaining sites identified in the *2M Plan* are spread throughout the city.

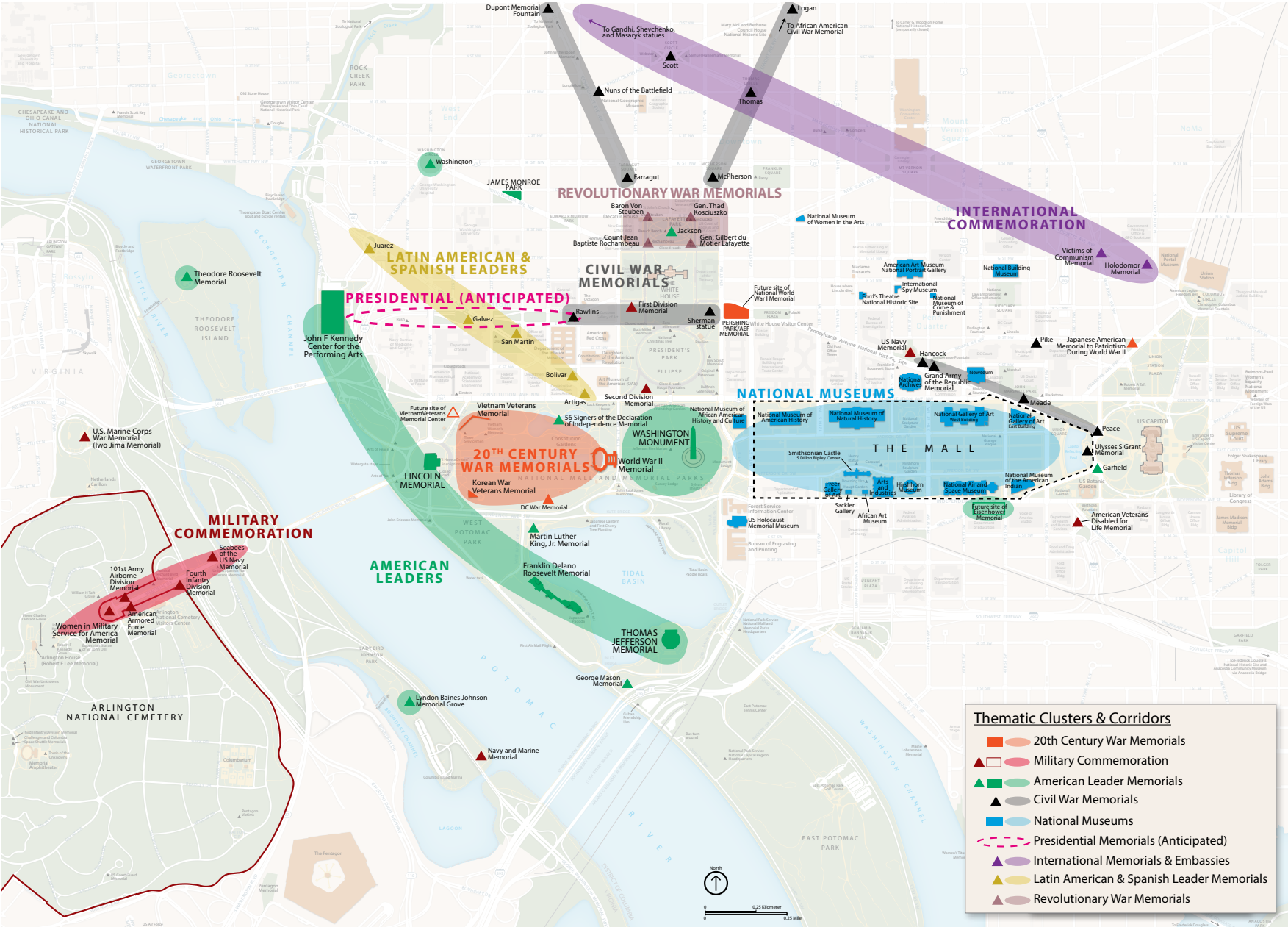


## Prime and Candidate Site Locations

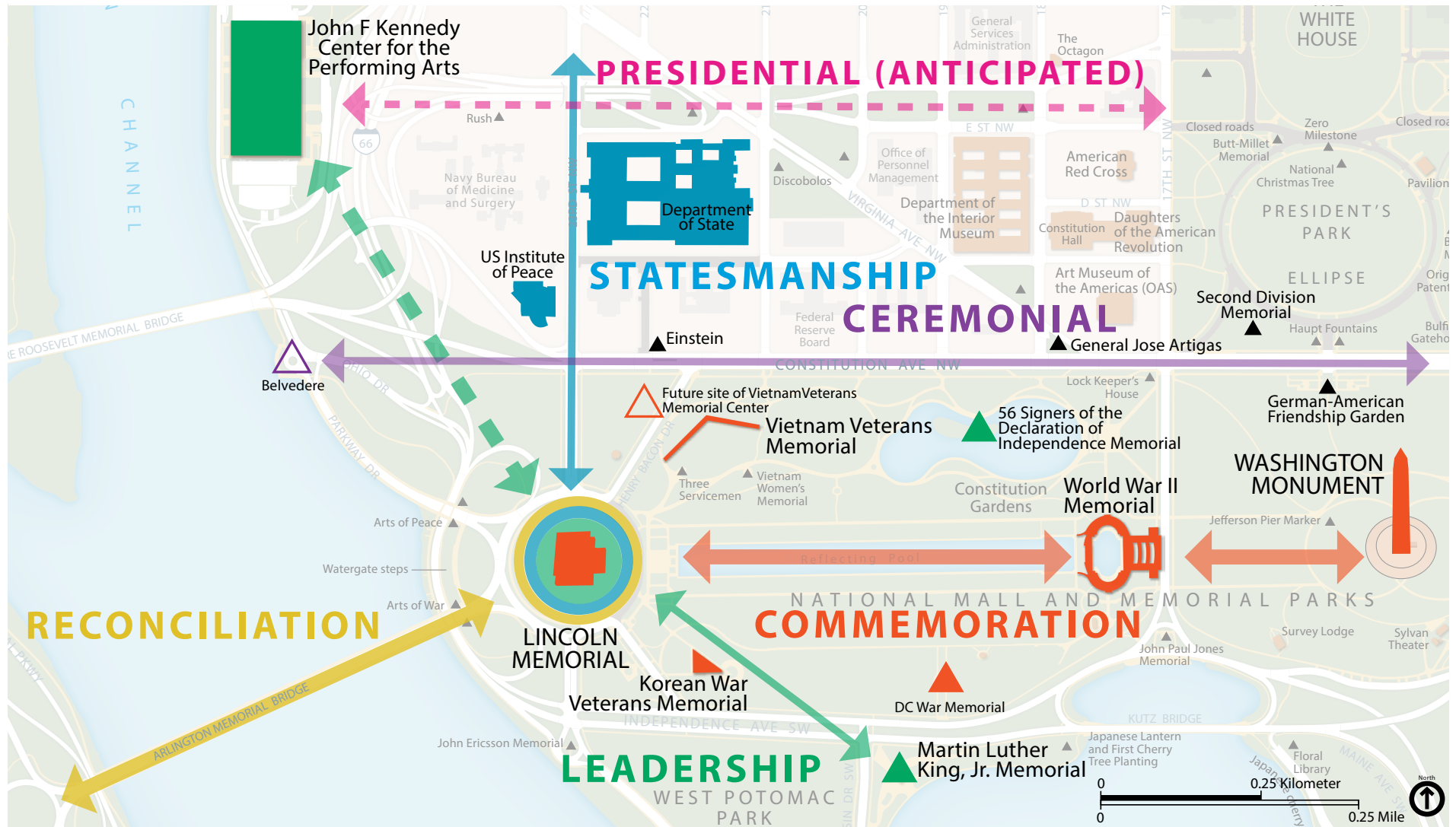
- The *2M Plan* established a framework for organizing the 100 candidate sites. This framework focused on the emerging waterfront and the key, radiating avenues of the L'Enfant plan. Twenty prime sites were identified for memorials of the highest order because of their high visibility and strong axial relationships with the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Six identified sites have been occupied by new memorials.



# Thematic Clusters & Corridors

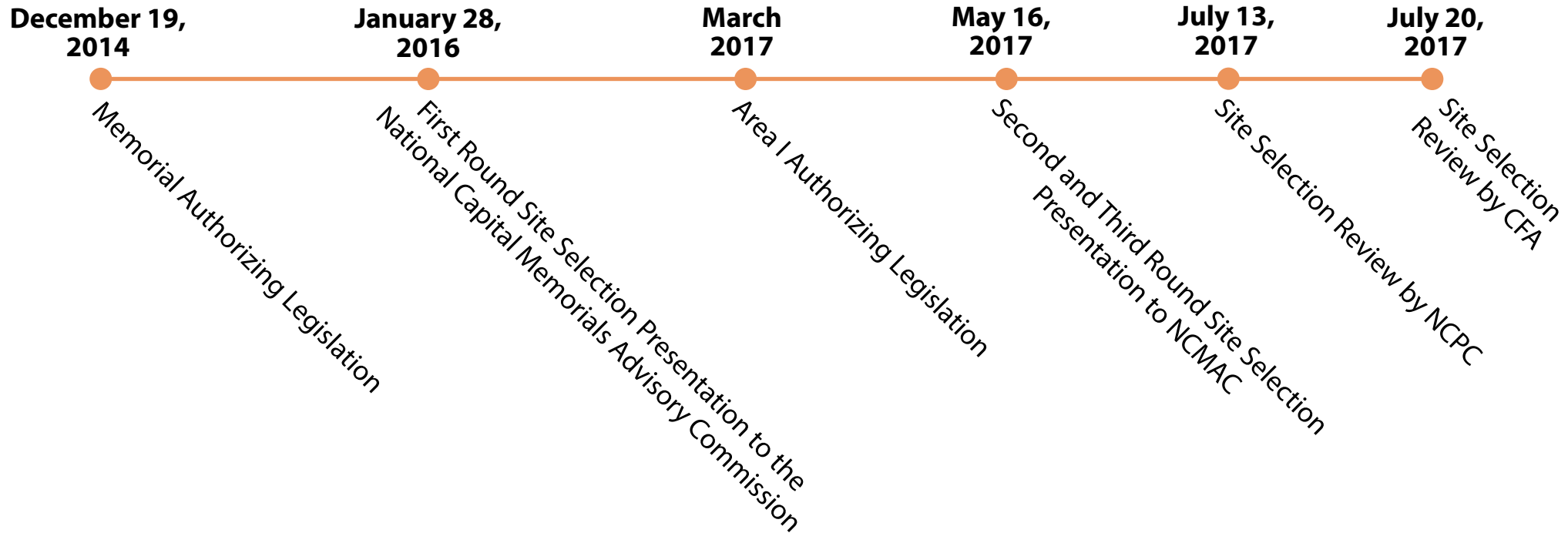


# Existing Thematic Framework



- ▶ Desert Storm Historical Context
- ▶ Regulatory Framework for Site Selection
- ▶ **Memorial Background & Site Evaluation**
- ▶ Re-Evaluation of Sites
- ▶ Site Design Context

## Timeline



*"The [NCPC] Commission...finds the Constitution Avenue site provides a pedestrian-accessible location in close proximity to the National Mall, along with a strong thematic connection to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "*

- July 13, 2017 NCPC Commission Action

*"...the [NCMAC] Commissioners noted that the presenters, as well as the accompanying written testimony, provided a strong case that the Memorial should be eligible for inclusion within Area I. By consensus, the Commission recommended inclusion within Area I..."*

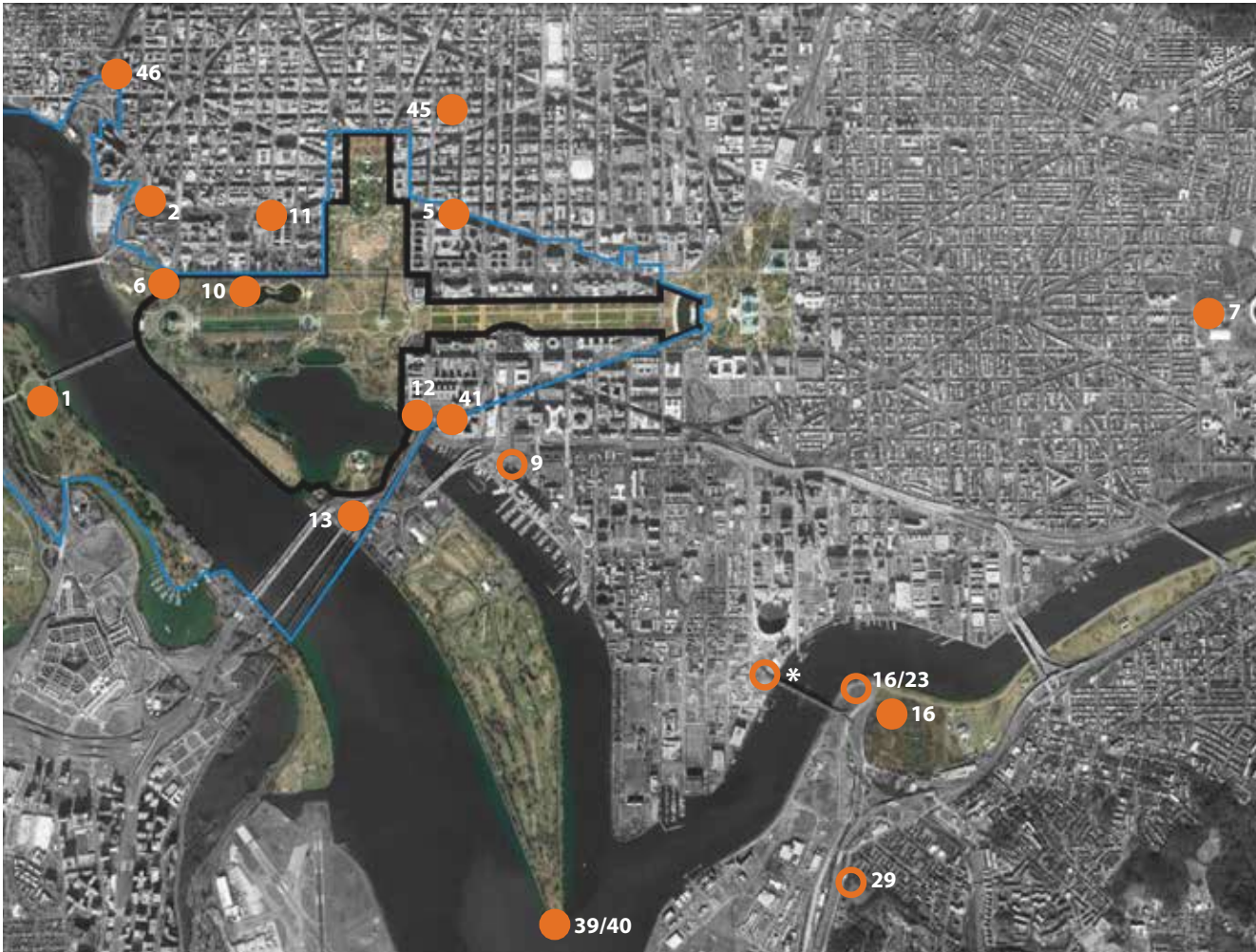
- April 28, 2016 NCMAC letter to the NDSWM Association



# First Round Site Identification (14 Initial Sites + 4 Additional Sites)

14 Initial Sites	
Site	Location
1	Memorial Circle area at George Washington Memorial Parkway
2	E Street Expressway Interchange that is southeast of the Kennedy Center
5	Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 13th and 14th Streets
6	Western terminus area of Constitution Avenue
7	East Capitol Street east of 19th Street
10	Situated within the Reserve on the National Mall between the Vietnam Memorial and Constitution Gardens.
11	Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor) E Street between 19th and 20th Streets NW
12	Former Liberty Loan building between Maine Avenue west of 14th Street, SW
13	In East Potomac Park on the Potomac River at the rail bridges and Ohio Drive
16	Anacostia River waterfront south shore in Anacostia Park SE
39/40	Hains Point Area
41	On Maryland Avenue SW between 12th and 14th Streets SW
45	Franklin Square, between I, K, 13th and 14th Streets NW
46	Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway at Pennsylvania Avenue

4 Additional Sites	
(Based on NCMAC Comments)	
Site	Location
9	10th Street Overlook/Banneker Park
16/23	Poplar Point
29	St Elizabeths
*NO SITE NUMBER	South Capitol Street Oval



- 14 INITIAL SITES
- 4 ADDITIONAL SITES (BASED ON NCMAC COMMENTS)

- THE RESERVE
- AREA I

Site numbers are from the Memorials and Museums Master Plan

# First Round Site Identification (18 Total Sites)

## Summary of Consideration of Criteria

Site	Location	Program Suitability	Accessibility	Site Prominence & Visibility	Site Context	Infrastructure Requirements	Tranquility	Security & Maintenance	Resiliency & Sustainability	Location
1	<b>Memorial Circle area at George Washington Memorial Parkway</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Area I
2	E Street Expressway Interchange that is southeast of the Kennedy Center	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	Area I
5	Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 13th and 14th Streets	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	Area I
6	<b>Western terminus area of Constitution Avenue</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Area I
7	East Capitol Street east of 19th Street	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	Area II
9	10th Street Overlook/Banneker Park	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	Area II
10	Situated within the Reserve on the National Mall between the Vietnam Memorial and Constitution Gardens	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Reserve
11	<b>Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor) E Street between 19th and 20th Streets NW</b>	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	Area II
12	Former Liberty Loan building between Maine Avenue west of 14th Street, SW	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	Area I
13	In East Potomac Park on the Potomac River at the rail bridges and Ohio Drive	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	○	Area I
16	Anacostia River waterfront south shore in Anacostia Park SE	●	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	Area II
16/23	Poplar Point	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	Area II
29	St Elizabeths	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	Area II
39/40	<b>Hains Point</b>	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	○	Area II
41	<b>On Maryland Avenue SW between 12th and 14th Streets SW</b>	○	●	○	○	●	○	●	●	Area I/Area II
45	Franklin Square, between I, K, 13th and 14th Streets NW	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	Area II
46	<b>Rock Creek &amp; Potomac Parkway at Pennsylvania Avenue</b>	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	Area II
*NO SITE NUMBER	South Capitol Street Oval	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	Area II

Site numbers are from the Memorials and Museums Master Plan

● Meets Criteria

● Partially Meets Criteria

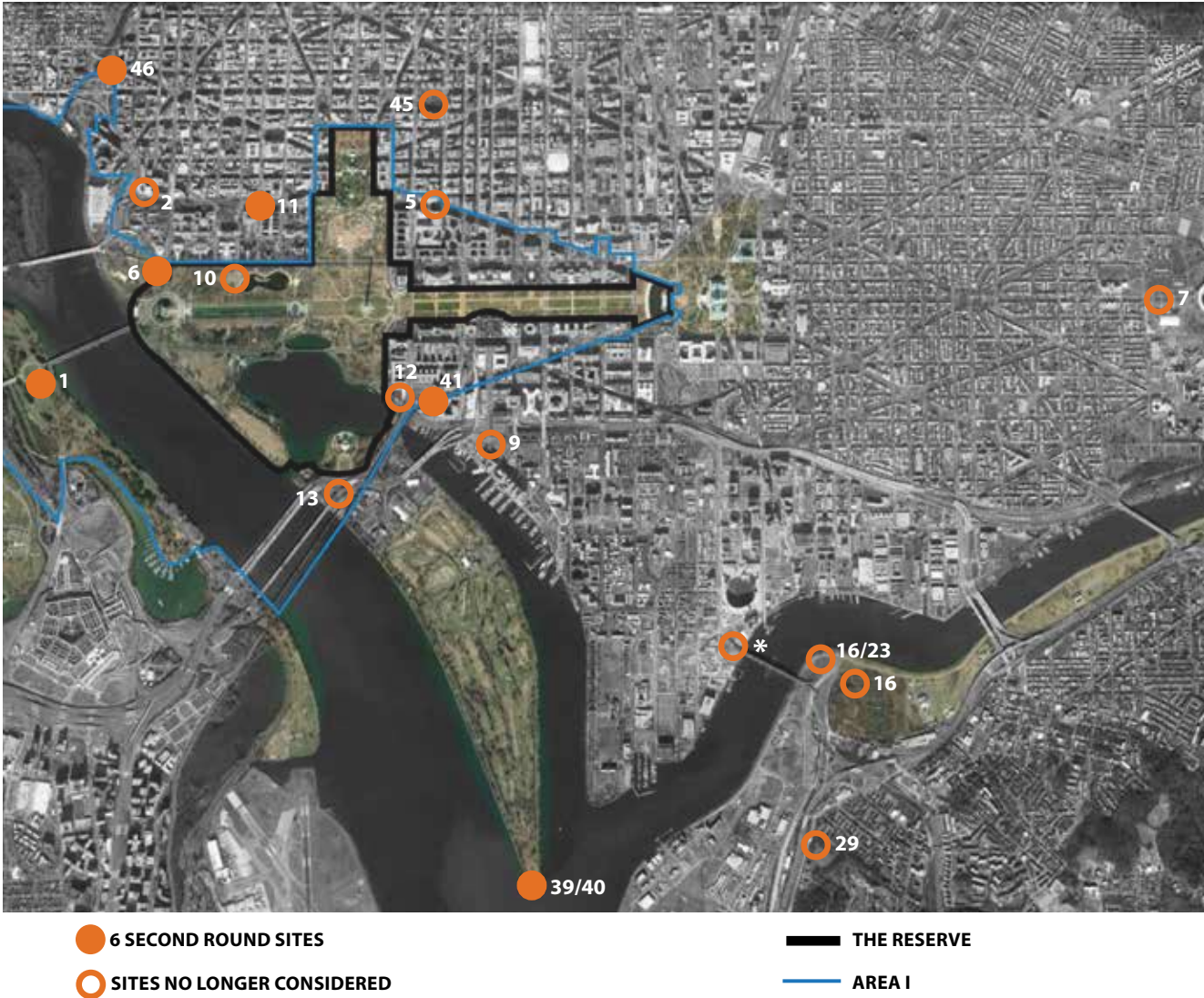
○ Does Not Meet Criteria



# Second Round Site Evaluation (6 Sites)

Site	Location
1	Memorial Circle area at George Washington Memorial Parkway
6	Western terminus area of Constitution Avenue
11	Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor) E Street between 19th and 20th Streets NW
39/40	Hains Point Area
41	On Maryland Avenue SW between 12th and 14th Streets SW
46	Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway at Pennsylvania Avenue

Site numbers are from the Memorials and Museums Master Plan





## Initial Third Round Detailed Site Analyses (3 Sites)





# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

## Visitor Context



## Thematic Context



- ▶ Desert Storm Historical Context
- ▶ Regulatory Framework for Site Selection
- ▶ Memorial Background & Site Evaluation
- ▶ **Re-Evaluation of Sites**
- ▶ Site Design Context



## Re-Evaluation of Sites (5 New and Reconsidered Sites)



 POTENTIAL NICHE AREAS EVALUATED

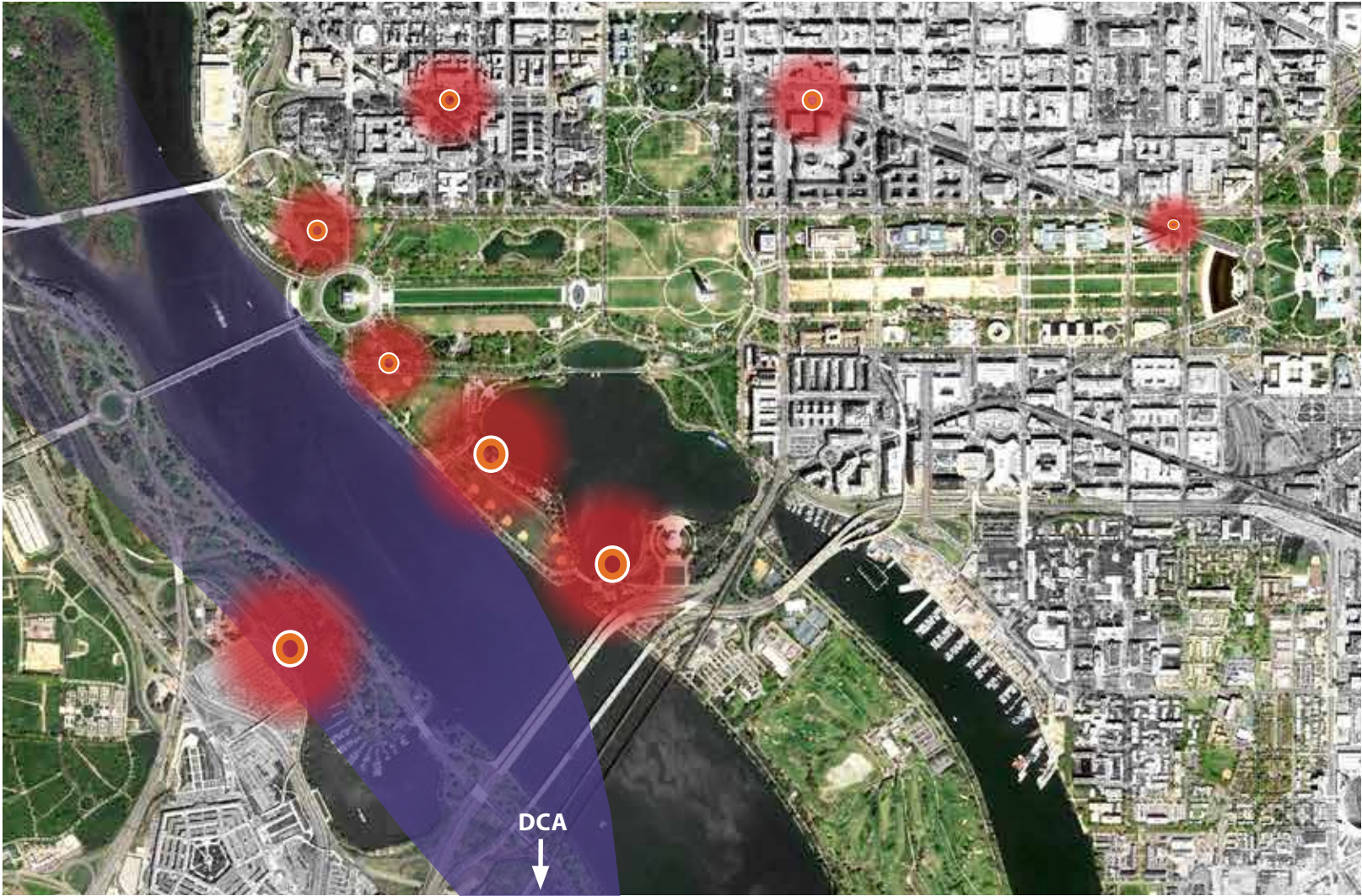
## Updated Evaluation Criteria

### The updated criteria would allow for a memorial that would:

- ▶ **Establish a prominent place of honor.** The site should be deemed a lasting and preeminent commemorative place suitable for recognizing the unique and historically significant role of Desert Shield/Desert Storm in history.
- ▶ **Complement existing attributes of the site.** These include topography and vegetation, notable surrounding and nearby buildings and monuments, views into and out of the site, pedestrian and vehicular access routes to/from the site, universal accessibility, drainage and floodplains, and solar and wind exposure.
- ▶ **Maintain the civic quality of open space.** The memorial should be sited so that open space can continue to serve the general public as gathering and/or recreation areas, rather than an area serving solely as a memorial precinct.
- ▶ **Respect the established context.** The site should recognize its existing historic context, viewsheds, and cultural landscapes while offering potential for integration of other commemorative associations; the site should not preclude the presence of future memorials.
- ▶ **Allow for future connections.** The site area should be adaptable to new physical and programmatic approaches to civic space, including open space, infrastructure, or ceremonial linkages.
- ▶ **Enable a compact design with a low, horizontal profile.** The scale and design of each alternative will be studied in relation to site attributes, but will occupy less than one-quarter of an acre.
- ▶ **Create an intimate visitor experience.** The memorial should include a meaningful, sacred space for reflection and healing; the sense of contemplation should be protected by sensitive buffers that minimize disruption to visual and acoustic quality.



# Noise Exposure



APPROXIMATE NOISE LEVELS INCLUDING AIR TRAFFIC



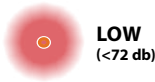
DCA FLIGHT PATHS



**HIGH**  
(>75 db)



**MEDIUM**  
(72-75 db)



**LOW**  
(<72 db)

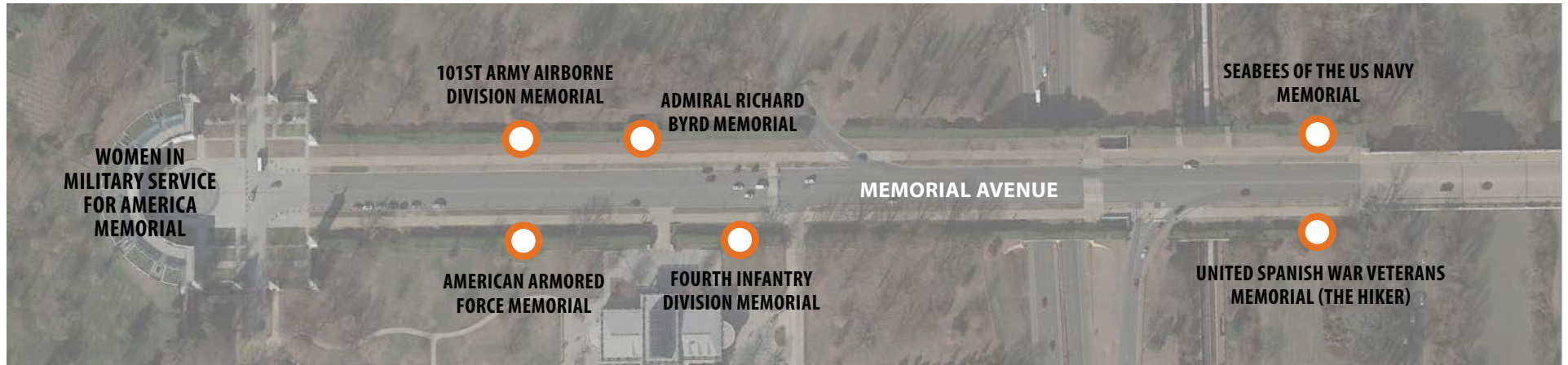
Note: Noise levels based on initial decibel readings at site visit



# Memorial Niches

## Memorial Avenue

Memorial Avenue provides an example of a commemorative corridor as a forecourt to Arlington National Cemetery.



*101st Army Airborne Division Memorial*



*United Spanish War Veterans Memorial (The Hiker)*



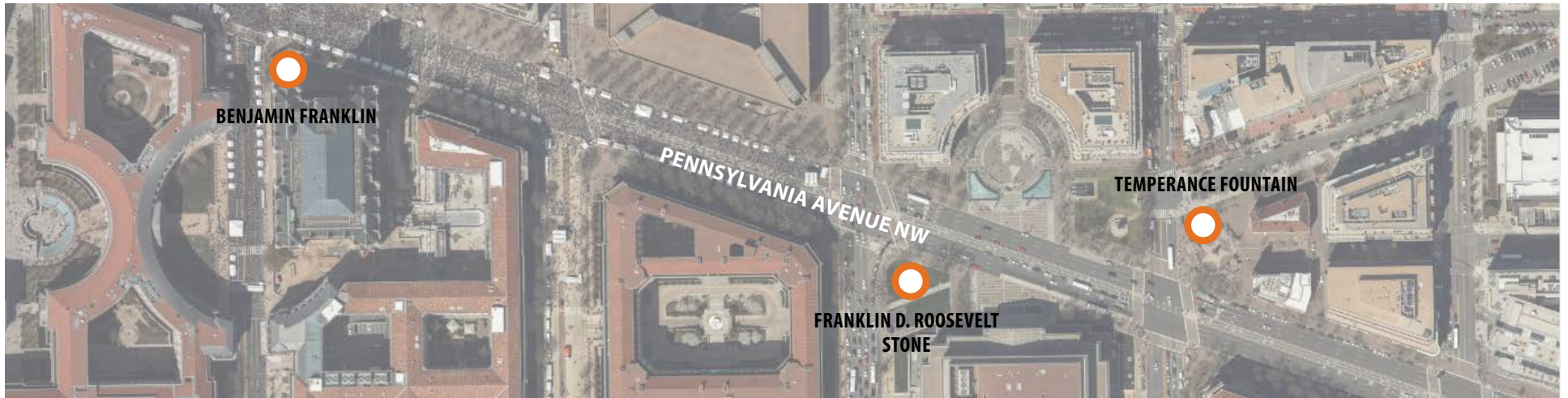
*Seabees of the US Navy Memorial*



# Memorial Niches

## Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Pennsylvania Avenue contains niche sites in a more dispersed pattern.



*Benjamin Franklin*



*Franklin D. Roosevelt Stone*



*Temperance Fountain*

# Memorial Niches

## Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	NOTES
Existing Site Attributes	Niche sites are extremely small and often disconnected from related thematic elements.
Civic Open Space	An additional niche memorial would enable corridors to maintain their civic function.
Integration of Other Memorials	Other commemorative works could be placed with or without relationship to the memorial.
Potential Connections	Niche locations would not preclude new physical improvements that could be proposed for the various corridors in the future.
Compact Memorial Design	Niche locations require an extremely compact memorial design due to placement within confined area.
Visitor Experience	Niche locations would offer a passer-by experience due to the recessed placement of memorial, rather than an intimate reflective experience.
Visual & Acoustic Buffers	Niche locations may be conducive to visual or acoustic buffer by allowing a backdrop to shield unwanted distractions.
Other Considerations	Memorial Drive is <b>not</b> within District of Columbia boundaries, as required by authorizing legislation; and due to its proximity to Arlington National Cemetery would result in a memorial associated with fallen soldiers, thereby diminishing the importance of the international coalition. Pennsylvania Avenue is intended as a ceremonial boulevard connecting two branches of government. Massachusetts Avenue is intended for international leaders and causes.
Conclusions	Niche locations would not provide the desired intimate, reflective visitor experience.



*Fourth Infantry Division Memorial*



*American Armored Force Memorial*



# Pennsylvania/Constitution Avenues Intersection



114 Intersection of Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues, NW Near 3rd Street, NW		Site 45	
<b>Location</b> 		<b>Site Description Summary</b> The highly prominent triangular park faces the National Gallery of Art East Wing and the U.S. Court House. It offers striking views of the Capitol and its location on Pennsylvania Avenue gives the site a high degree of visibility and urban design significance. Existing conditions are generally level, with established trees and landscape elements. The physical presence of the U.S. Capitol and the Pennsylvania Avenue Monumental Corridor greatly influence the site. Adjoining landscape elements generally offer open conditions that reinforce the dramatic visual impact of the Capitol and its extensive grounds. These visual connections to the Capitol provide design opportunities for physical improvements to the site. Potential site development is constrained by existing utilities.	
<b>Framework Context:</b> 		<b>Physical Characteristics:</b> Location: National Mall Environs Shape: Triangular Overall Character: Open/Landscaped Topography: Flat Adjoining Uses: Government, Office, Museum	
<b>Urban Design Framework:</b> Relative Prominence: Federal Context: Park (East) Monumental Corridor Framework Element: Consistent Pedestrian Proximity: Walk Potential Identity: Yes		<b>Visual Quality:</b> Prominent Views: Federal Elements Vistas: Federal Elements Setting: Same Potential Setting: Same Gateway Corridor: Yes	
<b>Vicinity:</b> 		<b>Historic &amp; Cultural Resources:</b> Historic Resources: Landmark, Special Street Cultural Resources: Building, Street, Landscape Historic District: Yes Archaeological District: No Embassy Proximity: 1 Museum Proximity: Walk	
<b>Site Access:</b> Monumental Corridor: Yes - Constitution National Proximity: Good - Arch / Navy Mem. Museum Proximity: Fair Pedestrian Access: Good Parking Availability: Good Intermodal Station Proximity: Yes - Metro/Circulator Circulator Node Proximity: No Water Access: No		<b>Site Image</b> 	
<b>Profile:</b> Development Term: Present Ownership: NPS Current Development Program: ANC NPS Reservation: 553 NPS Fee Status: TBD NPS Total Park Acreage: TBD		Highly prominent triangular parcel could support a future commemorative element that would complement the experience and ceremonial sequence of Pennsylvania Avenue.	



# Pennsylvania/Constitution Avenues Intersection

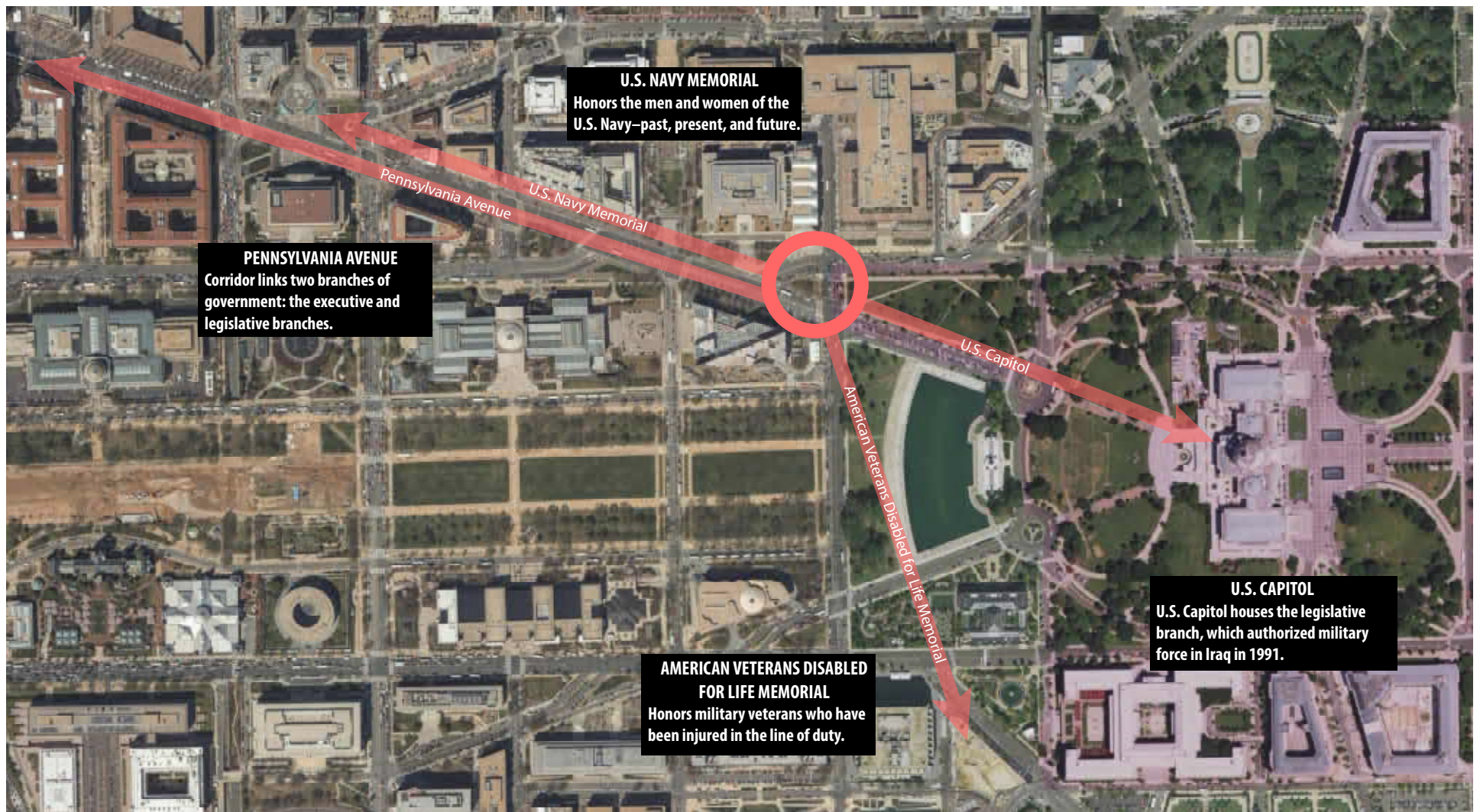
## Current Photograph





# Pennsylvania/Constitution Avenues Intersection

## Thematic Context





# Pennsylvania/Constitution Avenues Intersection

## Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	NOTES
Existing Site Attributes	Site would accommodate program; floodplain and existing roadway network pose challenges
Civic Open Space	Memorial would not diminish the site's civic open space character, which currently appears as a traffic island
Integration of Other Memorials	Site would not preclude integration of future memorials, although direct adjacency would be limited
Potential Connections	Site would not preclude future symbolic connections between Pennsylvania Avenue and the Mall
Compact Memorial Design	Site would accommodate a compact memorial design
Visitor Experience	Due to proximity to Congress, the creation of a meaningful visitor experience is available.
Visual & Acoustic Buffers	Flat site would require visual or acoustic buffers through vegetation
Other Considerations	Although the site could accommodate a compact memorial, the site would likely solely serve that function
Conclusions	Site enables a compact memorial design in a prominent location, but would not offer desired visitor experience; it would not preclude future improvements to the civic space and commemorative works in the District.



# Freedom Plaza



Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 13th and 14th Streets Site 5



**Site Description Summary**

Freedom Plaza is located on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House in the heart of the Downtown Core and Federal Triangle area. The site location is bounded generally by Pennsylvania Avenue and 13th, 14th, and E Streets, NW. The proposed site, which is long and narrow, is currently developed as a formal plaza. The site has an existing scaled reproduction of the L'Enfant Plan for Washington. In addition, there is a fountain on the western edge of the site, a memorial statue of General Casimir Pulaski in the tree-lined, recessed, northeast corner, and a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day time capsule under the plaza. The site area is less than two acres.

**Urban Design Conditions**

This site location, along a Monumental Corridor, is a centerpiece of the Urban Design Framework. The site location is within walking distance of both the White House and the Capitol, as well as the National Mall. The site area also offers numerous cultural resources, including the National Theatre, the John Wilson Building (the District's City Hall), the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and the Old Post Office. The site location offers a direct axial view down Pennsylvania Avenue (a Special Street) to the Capitol. The site location has been designated a Special Place and was highlighted as an urban square in both the L'Enfant and the McMillan Plans.

**Economic Conditions**

The Freedom Plaza site is in an active business district that also draws a substantial number of tourists, due to the nearby retail activities, theaters, and hotels. Much of the area is already economically mature. A memorial would likely rely on existing visitor patterns and spending behaviors in the area and not generate economic impacts independent of its neighbors. Greater street-level retail opportunities do exist in the area, but the site's strongest economic potential is likely as a mixed-use development with commemorative and commercial activities integrated on-site. The Navy Memorial mixed-use development could serve as a model for economic planning at the Freedom Plaza site.

**Transportation Conditions**

This site has an excellent supporting transportation system. The closest Metrol station is Metro Center (less than 1,000 feet), through which the Red, Blue and Orange lines can be accessed. The Federal Triangle Metrol Station (approximately 1,000 feet from the site) and the McPherson Square Metrol Station (approximately 2,000 feet from the site) both provide access to the Blue and Orange lines. There is also excellent vehicular access to this site complemented by numerous public parking garages and on-street parking opportunities. The Circulator might be routed near the plaza if demand dictates. Metrobus access is excellent.

**Environmental Conditions**

Due to the open, urban character of this location, there are few natural resources associated with the site. The landscaped plaza does not offer soil, water resources, or habitat for animal species. However, a few trees and planting beds line the northeastern edge of the plaza by the Pulaski statue. Although the site receives impacts from traffic along Pennsylvania Avenue, the site does not suffer from adverse air quality.

Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW between 13th and 14th Streets Site 5

**Commemorative Opportunity:**

**Jurisdiction: Federal – National Park Service**

Opportunities exist to redevelop either portions of the plaza or the entire plaza in conjunction with a new primary memorial and/or potential associated memorials. Developing this site location as a destination-type memorial could enhance the axial relationship between the White House and the U.S. Capitol, provide space for commemorative events, and cater to the nearby tourist market. Ultimately, development could transform the site into an important gateway to the Downtown area. A memorial at this location would be able to accommodate a large volume of visitors because of the public transportation capacity of the three nearby Metrol stations, numerous parking opportunities, and good regional roadway access.

Since the site is generally level, future memorial construction would not require major sitework other than removal of the existing plaza and lowering it to sidewalk level or below. However, developing the site for a higher use may require slight upgrades to utilities, especially lighting. The design principles of the L'Enfant Plan should be enhanced through the appropriate placement and design of a memorial at this location. The memorial should be oriented toward pedestrians and, if related in theme to nearby activities, could encourage additional activity.

**Design Considerations:**

1. Any future memorial should respect and relate to its location on Pennsylvania Avenue, and include a significant feature at this location. The original design concept for the plaza included two major pylons and sculpture representing the U.S. Capitol and the White House.

2. The opportunity exists to redevelop either portions of the plaza or the entire plaza in conjunction with a new memorial. The site could consist of a primary memorial with associated and smaller memorials. Any future memorial should incorporate existing reciprocal vistas along Pennsylvania Avenue. The mass and scale should not change the primary axial relationships along Pennsylvania Avenue, and should not overshadow the importance of the Wilson Building.

3. The location is near the White House Visitors Center and other sites that draw tourists and visitors. A memorial could draw visitors to the plaza and into Downtown through related museums or thematic connections.

4. The design of any future memorial should provide adequate space for commemorative ceremonies and casual gatherings. A memorial at this location could utilize a nearby building for a related museum. Any future memorial should utilize and take advantage of existing infrastructure, including existing street parking and Metrol and Metrobus access.

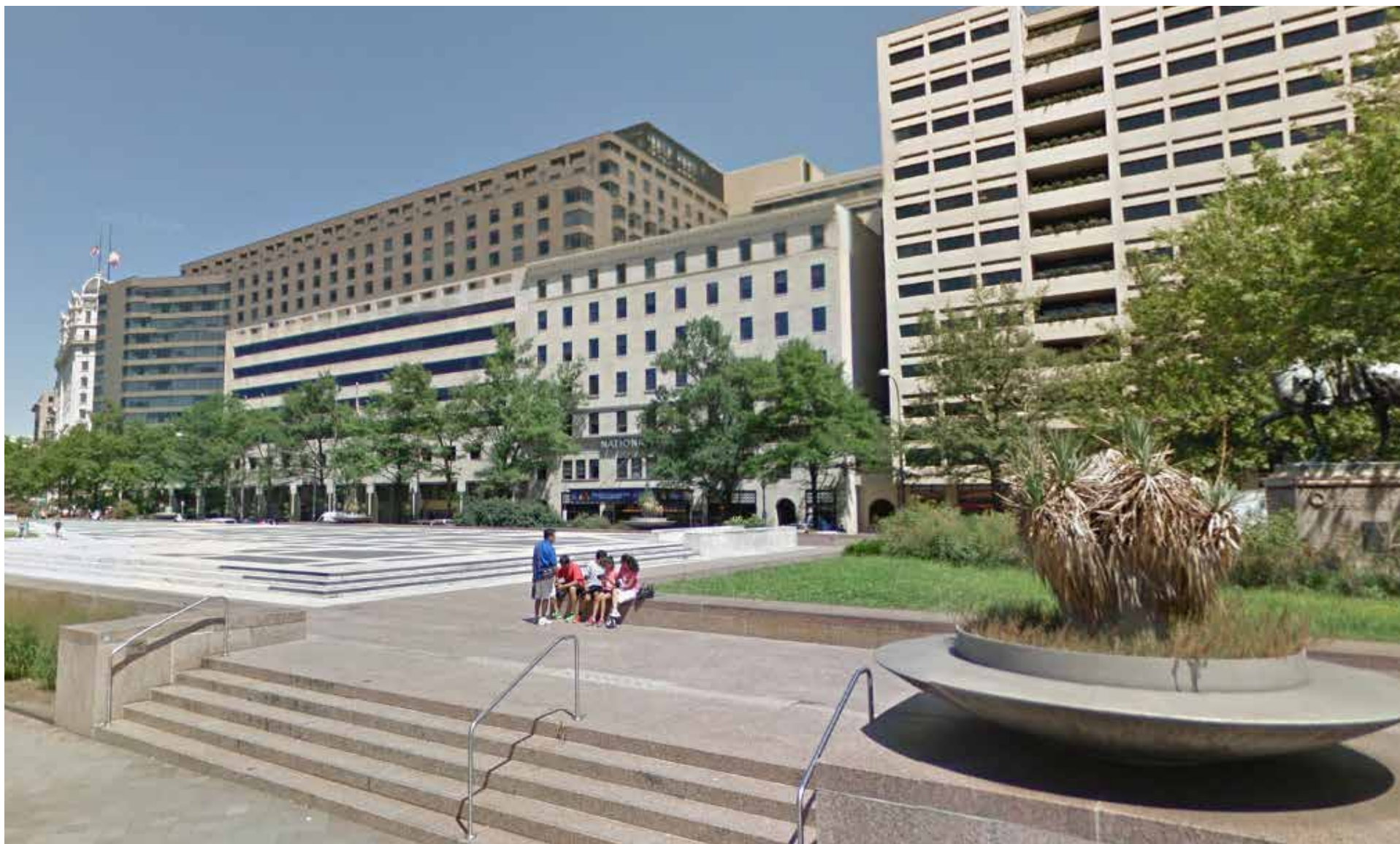
5. This site is not appropriate for a building. Amenities such as parking and visitor services, i.e., restrooms, gift shops, and parking, should not be located at this site. Any design should recognize the importance of the Wilson Building as the District of Columbia City Hall.





# Freedom Plaza

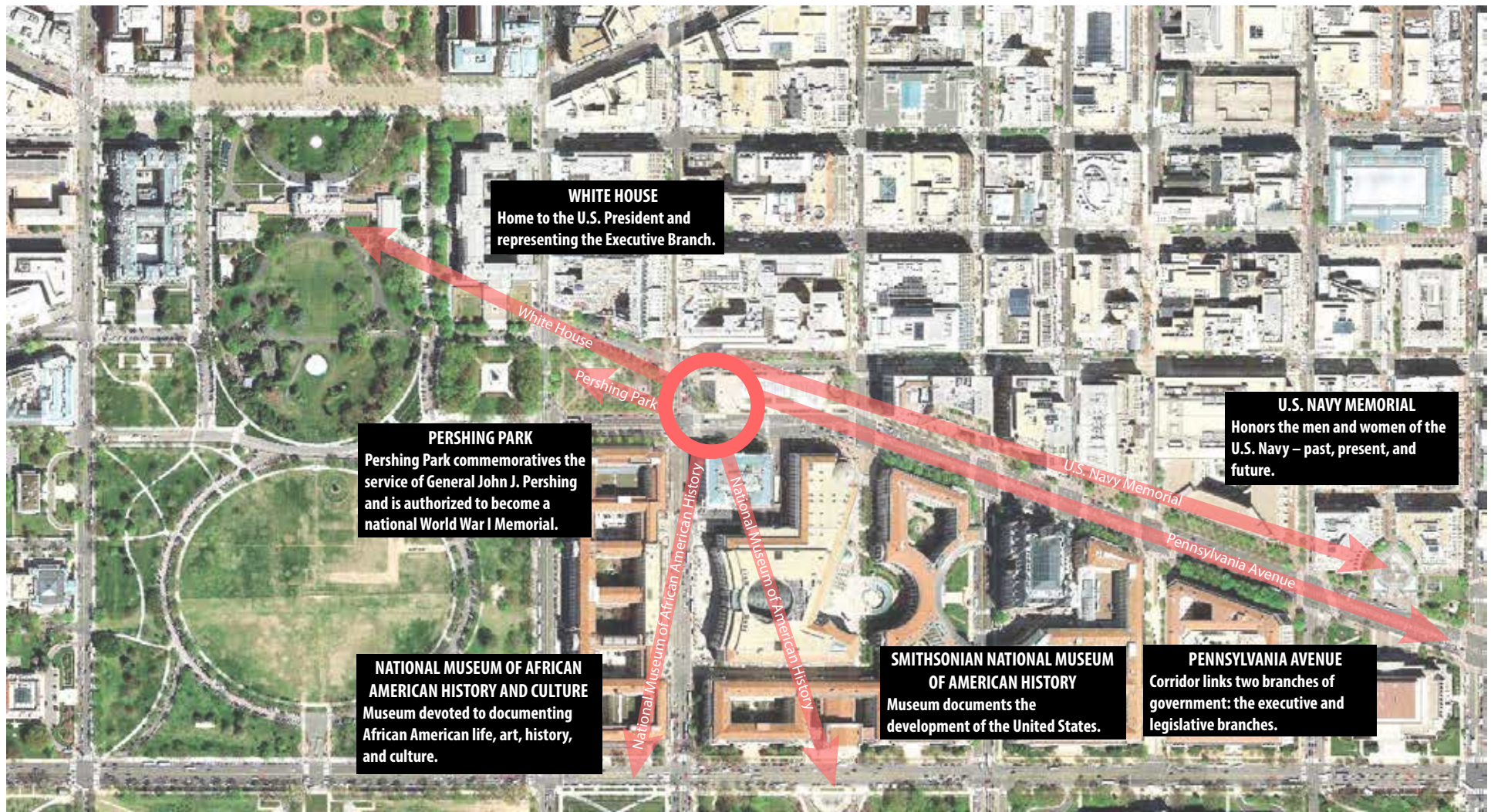
## Current Photograph





# Freedom Plaza

## Thematic Context





# Freedom Plaza

## Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	NOTES
Existing Site Attributes	Site would accommodate program; portions of site are within 500-year floodplain; and presence of existing infrastructure and other commemorative elements present challenges
Civic Open Space	Site could continue to serve as a civic gathering place with presence of Desert Storm Memorial
Integration of Other Memorials	Site would not preclude integration of future memorials, including the adjacent World War I memorial
Potential Connections	Site could preclude planned future connections if the entire parcel is re-imagined
Compact Memorial Design	Site would accommodate a compact memorial design
Visitor Experience	Due to prominence of the site, there is an opportunity to create meaningful visitor experience
Visual & Acoustic Buffers	Flat site would require visual or acoustic buffers through vegetation
Other Considerations	The site lies within the Pennsylvania Avenue view corridor, thereby constraining potential memorial locations within the site; the site is within a defined cultural landscape
Conclusions	Site enables a compact memorial design, but siting challenges would occur due to existing uses and the potential for future re-design of the entire parcel.





# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)



Walt Whitman Park, along E Street between 18th and 20th Streets, NW

Site 11

Location:

Site Description Summary

This site location, along E Street between 18th and 20th Streets, NW, is in the Foggy Bottom area west of the White House. The site location is along the E Street corridor at the point where the expressway emerges from its tunnel. The two-acre site has a slightly rolling topography and is primarily green with an open, urban feel. Known as Walt Whitman Park, the eastern quarter of this rectangular site is a playground, while the remainder is a landscaped lawn surrounded by a tree buffer.

Urban Design Conditions

Located at a designated Special Place at the intersection of Special Streets, this site location reinforces the Monumental Corridors component of the Urban Design Framework. The east end of the site has an indirect axial relationship with the White House via New York Avenue. Just west of the site is Virginia Avenue, which provides a direct relationship with the Washington Monument. The site location is within walking distance of other historic and cultural resources, including the Kennedy Center and architecturally significant federal office buildings, such as the historic Department of the Interior and the General Services Administration buildings.

Framework Context:

Economic Conditions

The Walt Whitman Park site location offers the potential to accommodate a feature that attracts high visitor traffic, such as a major memorial. However, the economic nature of the area, with existing office and State Department buildings, creates questions about how and where new economic activities would occur. With proper incentives and public/private investment, this site would be highly suitable for a commemorative feature, possibly in partnership with George Washington University. The office buildings presently provide daytime economic activity; the challenge would be to bring new economic benefits north of Virginia Avenue on evenings and weekends.

Transportation Conditions

This site has better passenger vehicle access than public transportation access. The park is located one block away from Virginia Avenue, a major vehicular corridor with nearby public parking facilities including both on-street and garage parking. There is poor Metrolink access with the closest station being Farragut West, located approximately 2,500 feet from the site. Metrolink is directly available. There is a possibility that the Circulator might be routed near the park if the demand is high, however, it is more likely that the route will be closer to the Mall.

Environmental Conditions

The site location features slightly rolling topography consisting of an open lawn area, with ornamental trees on the edges. There are no water resources near the site, and no adverse noise or air quality conditions are present. There also is no evidence of contamination on or near the site.

Vicinity:

JOINT TASK FORCE ON MEMORIALS

Walt Whitman Park, along E Street between 18th and 20th Streets, NW

Site 11

Commemorative Opportunity:

**Jurisdiction: Federal – National Park Service**

This location presents the opportunity to locate one or more small memorials in an existing urban park setting. The park area is approximately one acre in size. The E Street site to the west of 20th Street could also be developed as either a federal memorial location or as a District commemorative site, giving the precinct an attractive pedestrian-oriented park character.

Memorial development would enhance the current open, passive parkland setting of the site in addition to helping transform the E Street corridor into a memorial boulevard space. The transportation characteristics of this site are most compatible with a memorial that will generate a low to moderate number of visitors. A large number of visitors to this location would warrant the provision of additional public transportation facilities such as the Circulator.

Due to the topography, location, and surrounding uses in the area of the site, memorial development would likely require only minor site alterations, including limited grading and no excavation or utility improvements.

Any future memorial in this location should incorporate some form of interpretive resources related to the life and work of Walt Whitman.

Design Considerations:

This site is located within an established public parkland area that is defined by a perimeter of prominent federal and institutional office uses.

1. This location on a major transportation corridor is a gateway to Downtown and is near the White House and President's Park.
2. The E Street corridor has the potential to become a thematic memorial boulevard. This primary location could accommodate a major memorial on the boulevard.
3. The existing urban park is near an enclave of federal office buildings and a memorial could complement these uses. A memorial park would also provide relief to pedestrians and office workers in the area.
4. Memorial design and development in this location should retain and enhance the current urban park setting and open space character, and should respect the urban scale of the park and the surrounding buildings.
5. The opportunity exists to develop a pedestrian-oriented destination memorial at this location.
6. The design should complement the design of nearby Rawlins Park.
7. The site is located where the E Street tunnel rises to grade to become a wide boulevard. The opportunity exists to create a major feature at this point of arrival in the city.

The image above depicts a view looking east from Walt Whitman Park

The image above depicts a view looking east from Walt Whitman Park

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

33



## Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

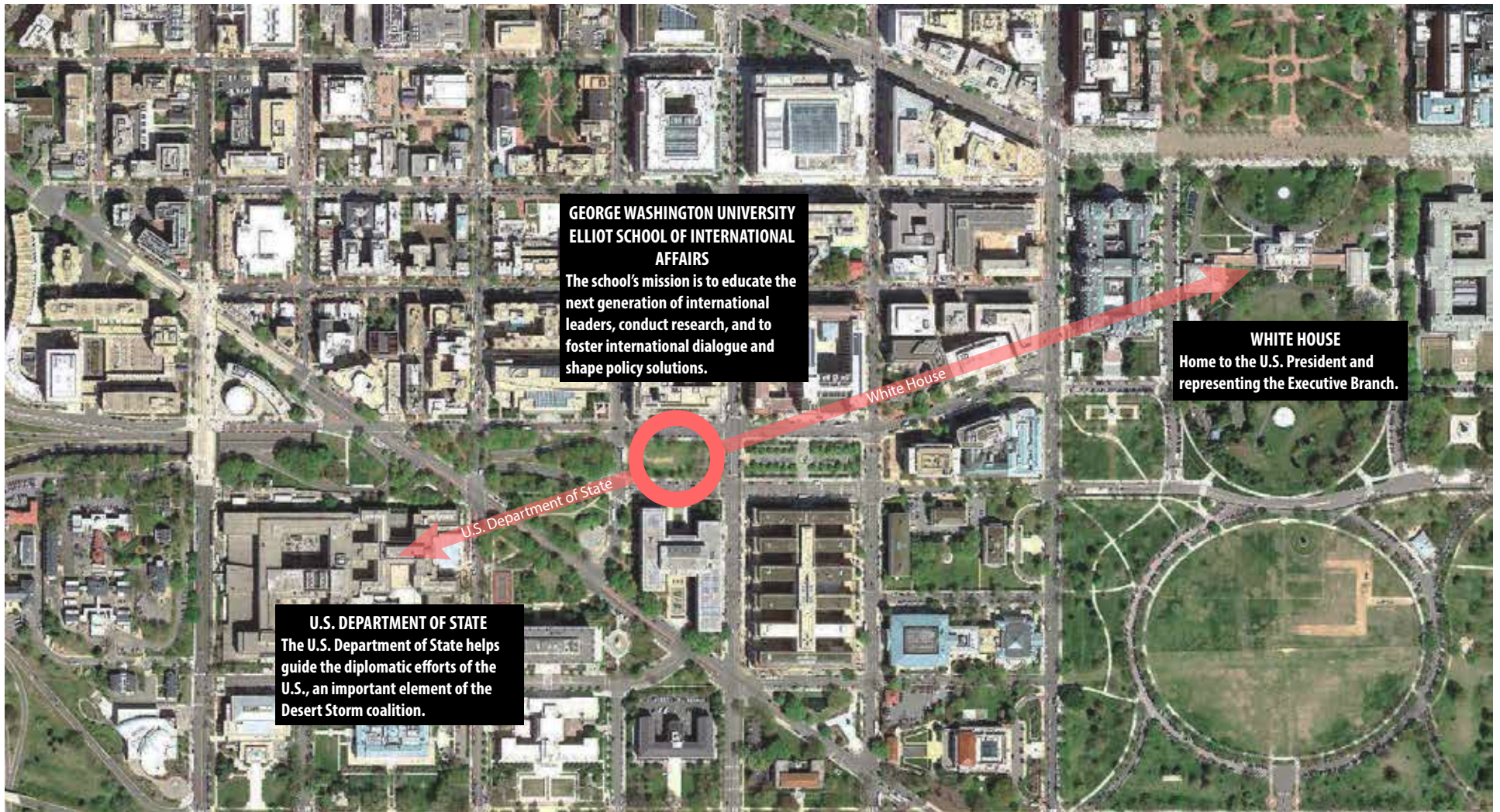
### Current Photograph





# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

## Thematic Context





# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

## Access from Landmarks





## Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

### Monumental Core Framework Plan: Proposed Vision

The Framework Plan proposes to "connect the Kennedy Center with the White House and President's Park by establishing the E Street corridor as a commemorative linear park."



# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

## Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	NOTES
Existing Site Attributes	Site would accommodate program, but is removed from existing visitor attractions
Civic Open Space	Memorial could minimally reduce the open space character of the area, but could maintain unprogrammed recreation space
Integration of Other Memorials	Site would not preclude integration of future memorials along the E Street corridor
Potential Connections	Site would not preclude future connections between the White House Grounds and the Kennedy Center
Compact Memorial Design	Site would accommodate a compact memorial design
Visitor Experience	Site could allow for an intimate visitor experience
Visual & Acoustic Buffers	Site would require visual and acoustic buffers through vegetation in area that receives moderate traffic activity
Other Considerations	Site is not proximate or directly linked to other visitor attractions and feels separated by an even greater distance
Conclusions	Site would accommodate memorial program but is removed from other, related memorials and attractions.





# Constitution Avenue Belvedere



48

Potomac River Waterfront on Rock Creek Parkway, south of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge

Site 6

Location:

Site Description Summary

This multiple site location is along Rock Creek Parkway, northwest of the Lincoln Memorial and in the National Mall environs. The primary site location is located on the Potomac River Waterfront between the Theodore Roosevelt and Arlington Memorial Bridges. Other potential sites include those located near the Constitution Avenue axis, the "belvedere" site at the terminus of Constitution Avenue on the Potomac, and a focal point site at the northeast terminus of the Roosevelt Bridge. The belvedere and parkway drive to the Lincoln Memorial are part of the design of Memorial Bridge and the related watergate steps.

Urban Design Conditions

This site location is consistent with the Commemorative Focus Area at the western edge of the Waterfront Crescent element of the Memorial Framework. The site location is situated between the Theodore Roosevelt and Arlington Memorial Bridges along Rock Creek Parkway and the Potomac River. It also is located along both sides of Constitution Avenue extended between the National Mall and the Kennedy Center. This location offers sweeping views of the Potomac River and Lincoln Memorial.

Framework Context:

Vicinity:

Economic Conditions

The sites at the eastern terminus of the Roosevelt Bridge offers a primary gateway opportunity, as does the belvedere site at the implied western end of the Constitution Avenue axis. The site's strategic location near many historic, cultural, and environmental resources offers the potential for both a major destination memorial and several smaller memorial opportunities. Most of these sites should be considered after the Roosevelt Bridge approach ramps are reconstructed in the future. These actions will potentially extend the alignment of Constitution Avenue to the Potomac River.

Transportation Conditions

The transportation nodes that would facilitate access to and from this site are passenger vehicles, the water transportation system, and the Circulator system. Parking is limited to on-street spaces. In order to encourage use of the water transportation system, wayfinding signs should be provided between the dock and the site. With limited pedestrian and parking facilities in the vicinity, the site may be suitable for a smaller, non-destination memorial. With potential future redesigned circulation systems, the access system for the site could be improved to accommodate a moderate scale memorial.

Environmental Conditions

The site location is a combination of an open, natural land area and roadway network. Specifically, the rolling lawns and tree groves along the Potomac River Waterfront merges with the roadway network of the Rock Creek Parkway and the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge. The traffic associated with this roadway creates some environmental impacts on the site, in the form of noise, noxious fumes, and adverse air quality.

JOINT TASK FORCE ON MEMORIALS

49

Potomac River Waterfront on Rock Creek Parkway, south of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge

Site 6

Commemorative Opportunity:

**Jurisdiction: Federal - National Park Service**

This location includes both current and future site opportunities of varying size in and around the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge ramps, including the existing "belvedere" at the visual terminus of Constitution Avenue at the Potomac River. The area around these sites includes developed parkland and informal multi-purpose recreational uses. Memorial site opportunities approximate 1/4 acre; the belvedere site is less than 1/4 acre. Due to close proximity of potential sites, the development of one site may preclude the future development of other adjoining sites.

Memorial development offers the potential to enhance this gateway entrance into the L'Enfant City from the Roosevelt Bridge, while respecting the zone of influence around the Lincoln Memorial. Development should enhance the surrounding natural and historic features and incorporate existing recreation areas. Development should also incorporate existing long-distance views across the Potomac River, as well as offer public access from the water to the site, possibly as a future water taxi stop. Depending on the specific placement, memorial development could necessitate limited grading/filling operations and utility improvements on the sites. If the sites were to be developed as destination memorials, a pedestrian crossing across the Rock Creek Parkway and an adequate sidewalk system would be necessary.

Design Considerations:

1. The existing belvedere is an appropriate site for memorial statuary or a sculptural element, such as a major fountain. Other future sites might accommodate a major landscape solution and, on one site, a possible memorial or museum building, as suggested in Legacy. These sites offer significant waterfront opportunities. Memorial design should preserve the passive and informal qualities of the waterfront, the open vistas across the Potomac River to Virginia and, the natural environment of Rock Creek and West Potomac Parks.

2. Memorial design and development should not compromise the public use of parkland and open space, eliminate multi-purpose recreational fields, or encroach upon or compete with the Lincoln or Vietnam Veterans Memorials. A future memorial presents the opportunity to identify the gateway entrance from the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge to the L'Enfant City and the Monumental Core.

3. Memorials should provide civic enhancement and complement the character of the waterfront parkland and Rock Creek Parkway. Waterfront memorials provide vistas across the river. Memorials here would take advantage of the water taxi at the Kennedy Center. Memorials should incorporate pedestrian-oriented amenities for casual gathering, as well as opportunities for viewing from nearby roadways. There are existing opportunities for pedestrian amenities and limited services for tourists at this end of West Potomac Park.

4. Existing buildings in this vicinity including the Naval Observatory, might provide opportunities for related educational or museum facilities.

THE NEW DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL

# Constitution Avenue Belvedere

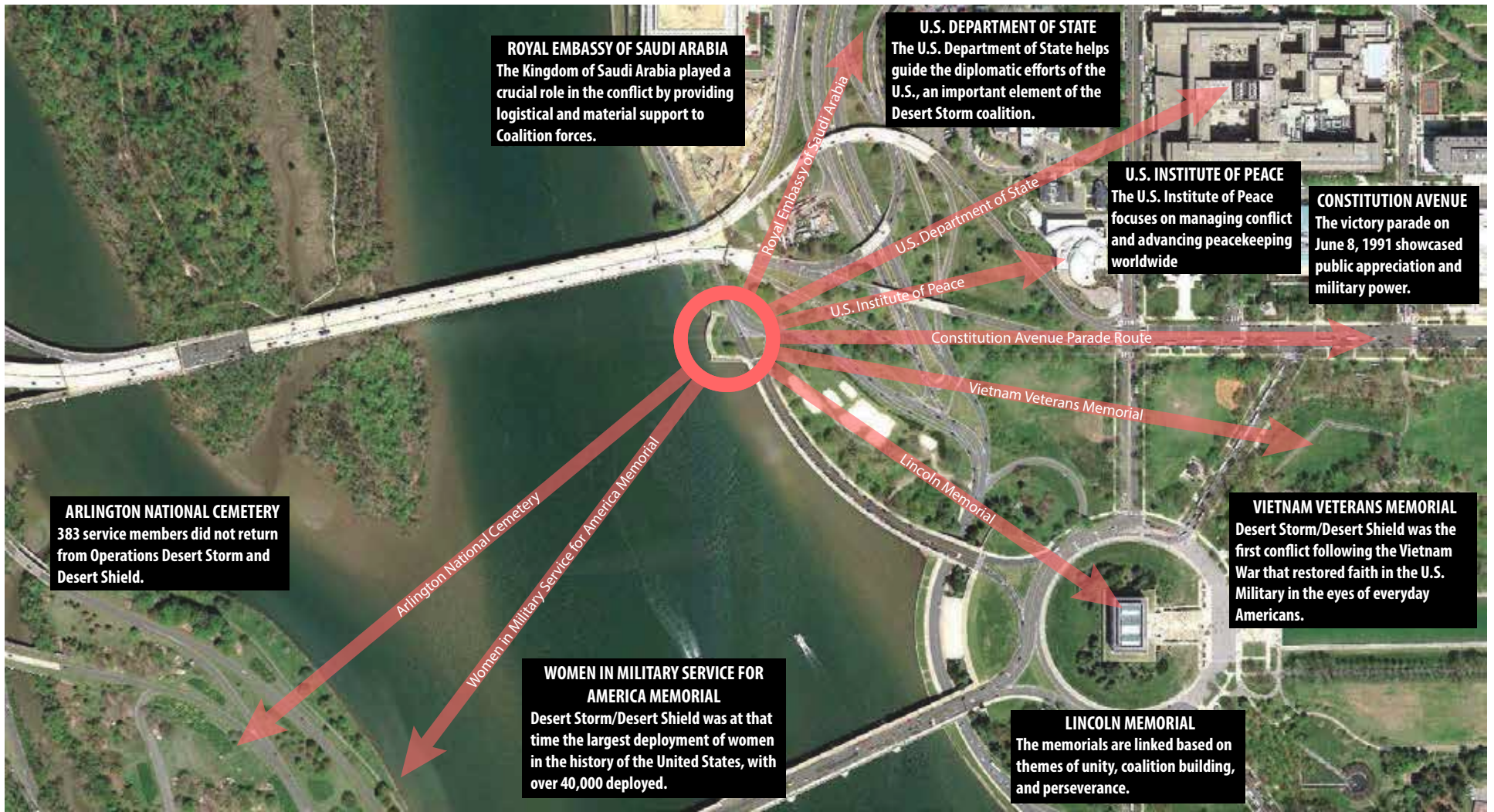
## Current Photograph





# Constitution Avenue Belvedere

## Thematic Context



# Constitution Avenue Belvedere

## Circulation and Constraints





# Constitution Avenue Belvedere

## Monumental Core Framework Plan: Proposed Vision

The Framework Plan proposes to "restore the historic terminus of Constitution Avenue at the belvedere" and states that the belvedere "is an important opportunity for a future memorial."



*Monumental Core Framework Plan proposed future conditions for Constitution Avenue Belvedere Area*



*Artist rendering from Monumental Core Framework Plan*

# Constitution Avenue Belvedere

## Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	NOTES
Existing Site Attributes	Site could accommodate program; floodplain, access, and existing roadway network pose challenges
Civic Open Space	Memorial would improve site's civic open space character, which is currently focused on transportation
Integration of Other Memorials	Site would not preclude integration of future memorials, although direct adjacency could be limited
Potential Connections	Site would not preclude future connections, and could serve as a fitting terminus for a reconfigured Constitution Avenue
Compact Memorial Design	Site would accommodate a compact memorial design
Visitor Experience	Due to proximity to roadway, the creation of a meaningful visitor experience would be challenging
Visual & Acoustic Buffers	Site offers no visual or acoustic buffers
Other Considerations	Site's riverfront location is not consistent with Desert Storm Memorial identity
Conclusions	Site enables a compact memorial design, but would not offer the desired visitor experience.





# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area



**Potomac River Waterfront on Rock Creek Parkway, south of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge**

**Location:**

**Site Description Summary:**

**Urban Design Conditions:**

**Framework Context:**

**Economic Conditions:**

**Transportation Conditions:**

**Vicinity:**

**Environmental Conditions:**

**Potomac River Waterfront on Rock Creek Parkway, south of the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge**

**Commemorative Opportunity:**

**Design Considerations:**

**1.** The existing belvedere is an appropriate site for memorial statuary or a sculptural element, such as a major fountain. Other future sites might accommodate a major landscape solution and, on one site, a possible memorial or museum building as suggested in Legacy. These sites offer significant waterfront opportunities. Memorial design should preserve the passive and informal qualities of the waterfront, the open vistas across the Potomac River to Virginia and, the natural environment of Rock Creek and West Potomac Parks.

**2.** Memorial design and development should not compromise the public's use of parkland and open space, eliminate multi-purpose recreational fields, or encroach upon or compete with the Lincoln or Vietnam Veterans Memorials. A future memorial presents the opportunity to identify the gateway entrance from the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge to the L'Enfant City and the Monumental Core.

**3.** Memorials should provide civic enhancement and complement the character of the waterfront parkland and Rock Creek Parkway. Waterfront memorials provide vistas across the river. Memorials here would take advantage of the water level at the Kennedy Center Memorials should incorporate pedestrian-oriented amenities for casual gathering, as well as opportunities for viewing from nearby roadways. There are existing opportunities for pedestrian amenities and limited services for tourists at this end of West Potomac Park.

**4.** Existing buildings in this vicinity including the Naval Observatory, might provide opportunities for related educational or museum facilities.



# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

## Thematic Context





# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

## Monumental Core Framework Plan: Proposed Vision

The Framework Plan proposes "a new ceremonial boulevard and commemorative landscape that will strengthen the visual and symbolic connection between the Kennedy Center and the Lincoln Memorial."



*Monumental Core Framework Plan proposed future conditions for Constitution Avenue Terminus Area*



*Artist rendering from Monumental Core Framework Plan*

# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

## Integration with DC Water

### Coordination

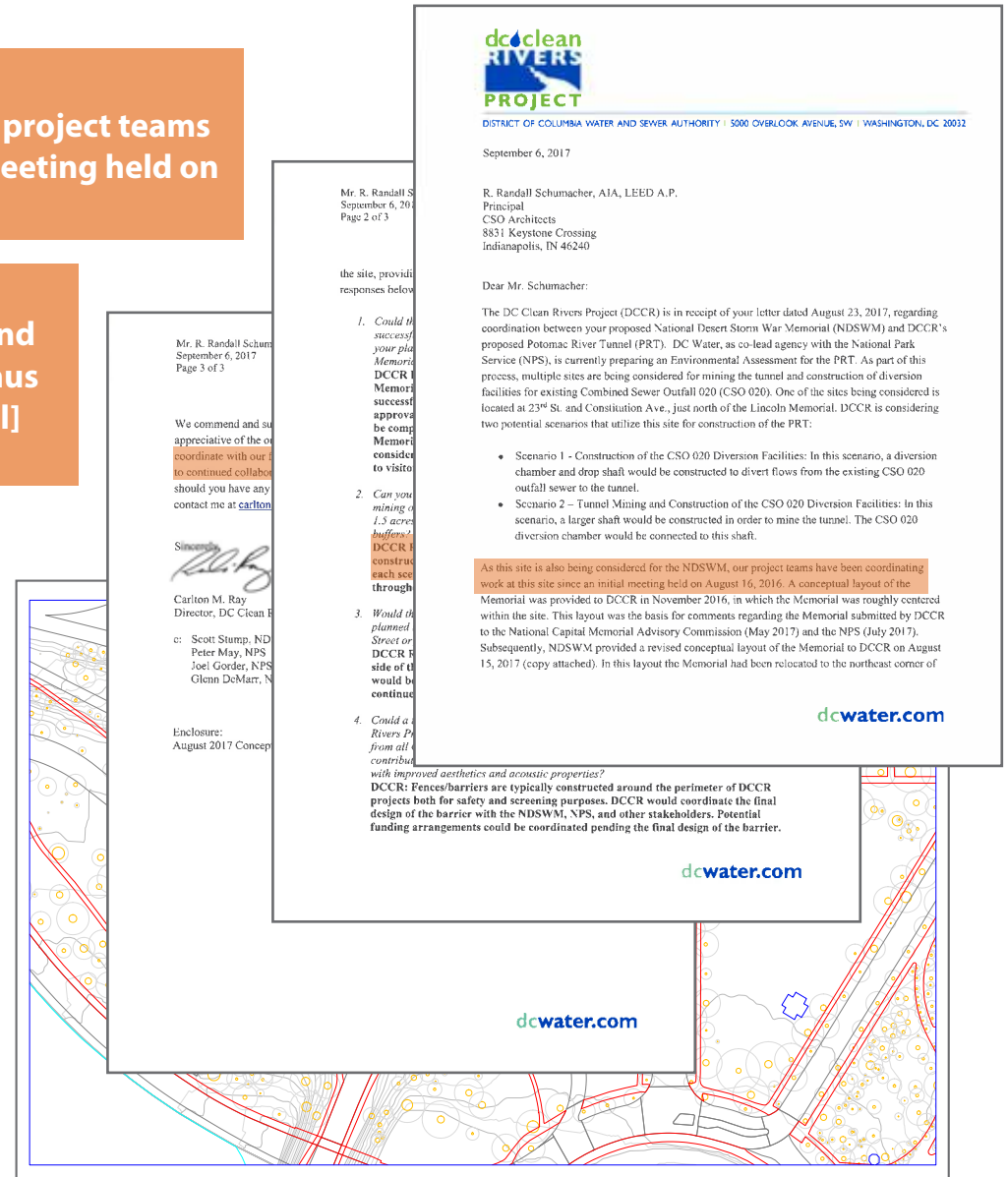
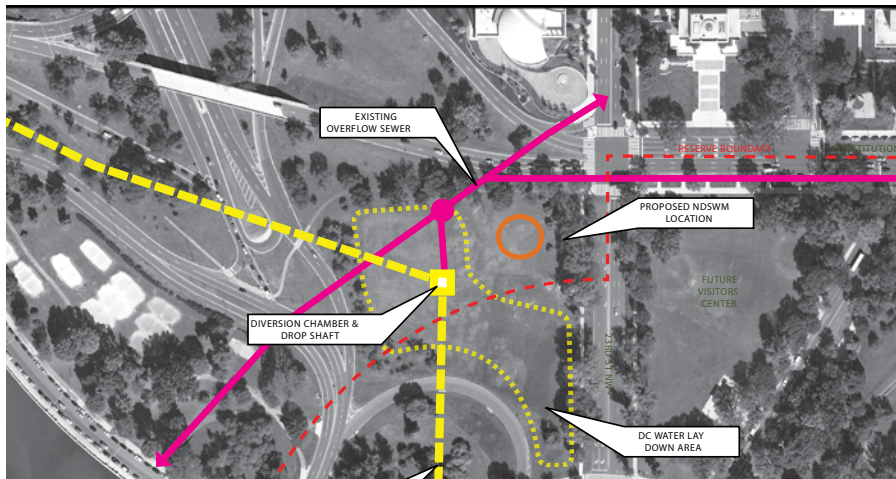
"As this site is also being considered for the NDSWM, our project teams have been coordinating work at this site since an initial meeting held on August 16, 2016."

### Agreement

"There appears to be adequate space remaining south and west of the Memorial [at the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site] to construct either PRT [Potomac River Tunnel] scenario."

### Collaboration

"We look forward to continued collaboration to provide for the successful implementation of both projects."

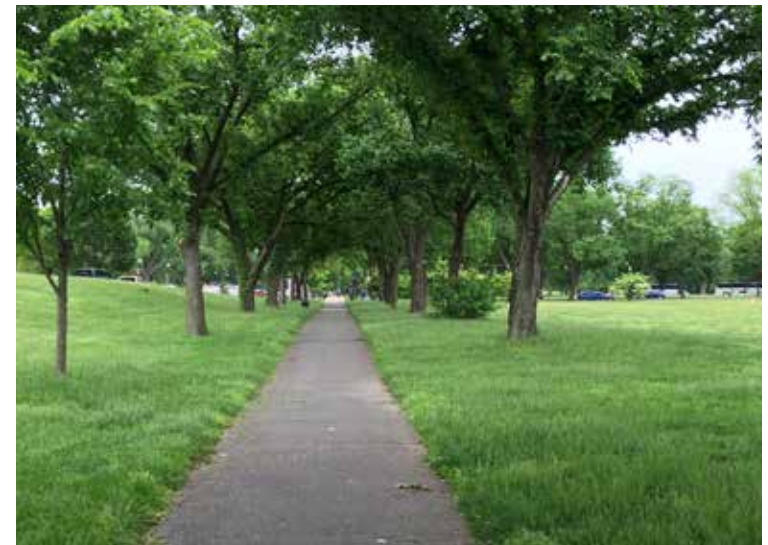




# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

## Summary

EVALUATION CRITERIA	NOTES
Existing Site Attributes	Site benefits from surrounding context, but site attributes pose modest challenges
Civic Open Space	Site would slightly reduce the area of civic open space behind the Lincoln Memorial
Integration of Other Memorials	Site would not preclude integration of future memorials within proximity of the Desert Storm Memorial
Potential Connections	Site would not preclude new connections between the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center as identified in the Monumental Core Framework Plan
Compact Memorial Design	Site would accommodate a compact memorial design
Visitor Experience	Site would enable a meaningful visitor experience
Visual & Acoustic Buffers	Site near roadway would require visual and modest acoustic buffer through topography and vegetation; upcoming levee design offers additional opportunity for buffering
Other Considerations	Site's potential infrastructure challenges (DC Water Clean Rivers and levee improvements) also serve as opportunities to address site holistically
Conclusions	Site would offer the desired visitor experience through a compact memorial design



## Site Selection Conclusions

In response to Commission feedback, the Desert Storm Memorial team conducted a thorough and meaningful re-evaluation of the entire project, including the scale of the Memorial. This re-evaluation also included a re-look at the Mall, revisions to the evaluation criteria, a re-thinking of the sites (old and new), and consultation with historic scholars. Based on this comprehensive re-evaluation, we have reached the following conclusions:

- ▶ Memorial Circle Area is not appropriate for Desert Storm Memorial due to the existing cultural landscape and context
- ▶ Hains Point Area and Constitution Avenue Belvedere, as waterfront sites, are not appropriate for a monument to Desert Storm
- ▶ Freedom Plaza site constrained by location within Pennsylvania Avenue and infrastructure challenges
- ▶ The Pennsylvania/Constitution Avenues Intersection site would not provide the desired visitor experience due to its unbuffered location between major roadways
- ▶ Niche locations would not accommodate desired program due to lack of gathering space and would not achieve the desired visitor experience
- ▶ Two sites provide appropriate settings and contexts for a compact and poignant memorial:
  - The **E Street Corridor** has thematic connections and would achieve program
  - The **Constitution Avenue Terminus Area Site** provides multiple thematic links, consists of an appropriate size in proximity to other 20th Century war memorials

Further information related to the design context for these two sites is provided on subsequent pages.



- ▶ Desert Storm Historical Context
- ▶ Regulatory Framework for Site Selection
- ▶ Memorial Background & Site Evaluation
- ▶ Re-Evaluation of Sites
- ▶ **Site Design Context**

## Scale

# WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE SCALE?



The vastness and distinct contours of the Kuwaiti desert landscape suggest that potential memorial landforms should be located near an open setting. However, the appropriate scale of the memorial can be derived through precinct comparisons.



# Scale Comparison

STUDY SITES



MEMORIAL CIRCLE  
SITE NORTH  
9.93 AC



MEMORIAL CIRCLE  
SITE SOUTH  
9.30 AC



HAINS POINT  
4.9 AC



CONSTITUTION AVE.  
3.8 AC



FREEDOM PLAZA  
2.08 AC



E STREET  
0.99 AC



BELVEDERE  
0.89 AC



PENNSYLVANIA &  
CONSTITUTION  
AVES INTERSECTION  
0.13AC

OTHER MEMORIALS



FDR MEMORIAL  
TOTAL SITE: 7.8 AC  
PAVED AREA: 2.4 AC



LBJ MEMORIAL  
TOTAL SITE: 7.5 AC  
PAVED AREA: 0.3 AC



VIETNAM MEMORIAL  
TOTAL SITE: 6.5 AC  
PAVED AREA: 0.25 AC



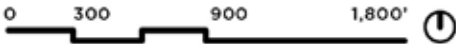
KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
TOTAL SITE: 4.9 AC  
PAVED AREA & SCULPTURE GARDEN:  
0.76 AC



WWII MEMORIAL  
TOTAL SITE: 4.0 AC  
PAVED AREA: 2.8 AC



MLK MEMORIAL  
TOTAL SITE: 3.2 AC  
PAVED AREA: 1.09 AC



## Constitution Avenue Terminus Area





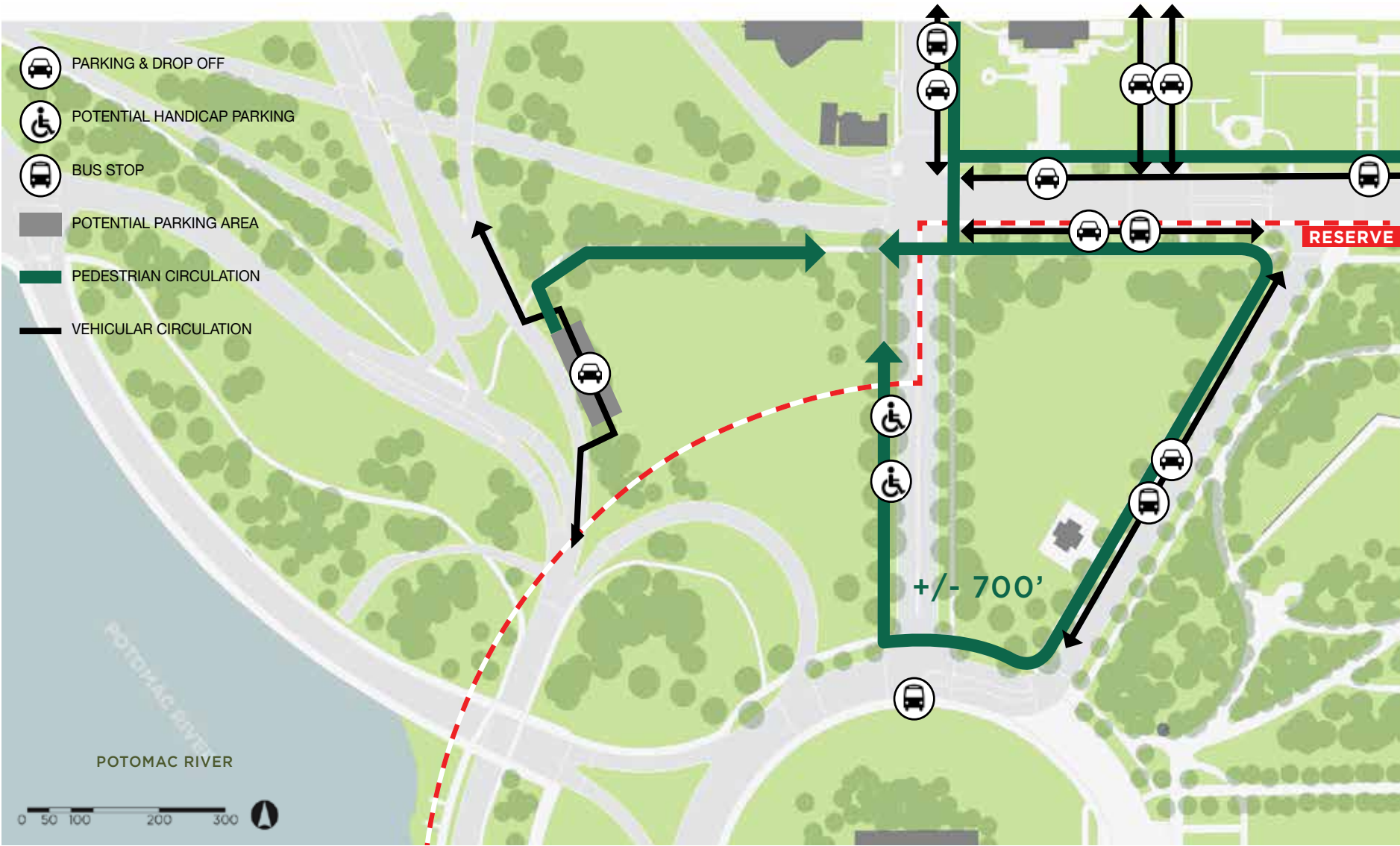
## Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

### Current Photograph



# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

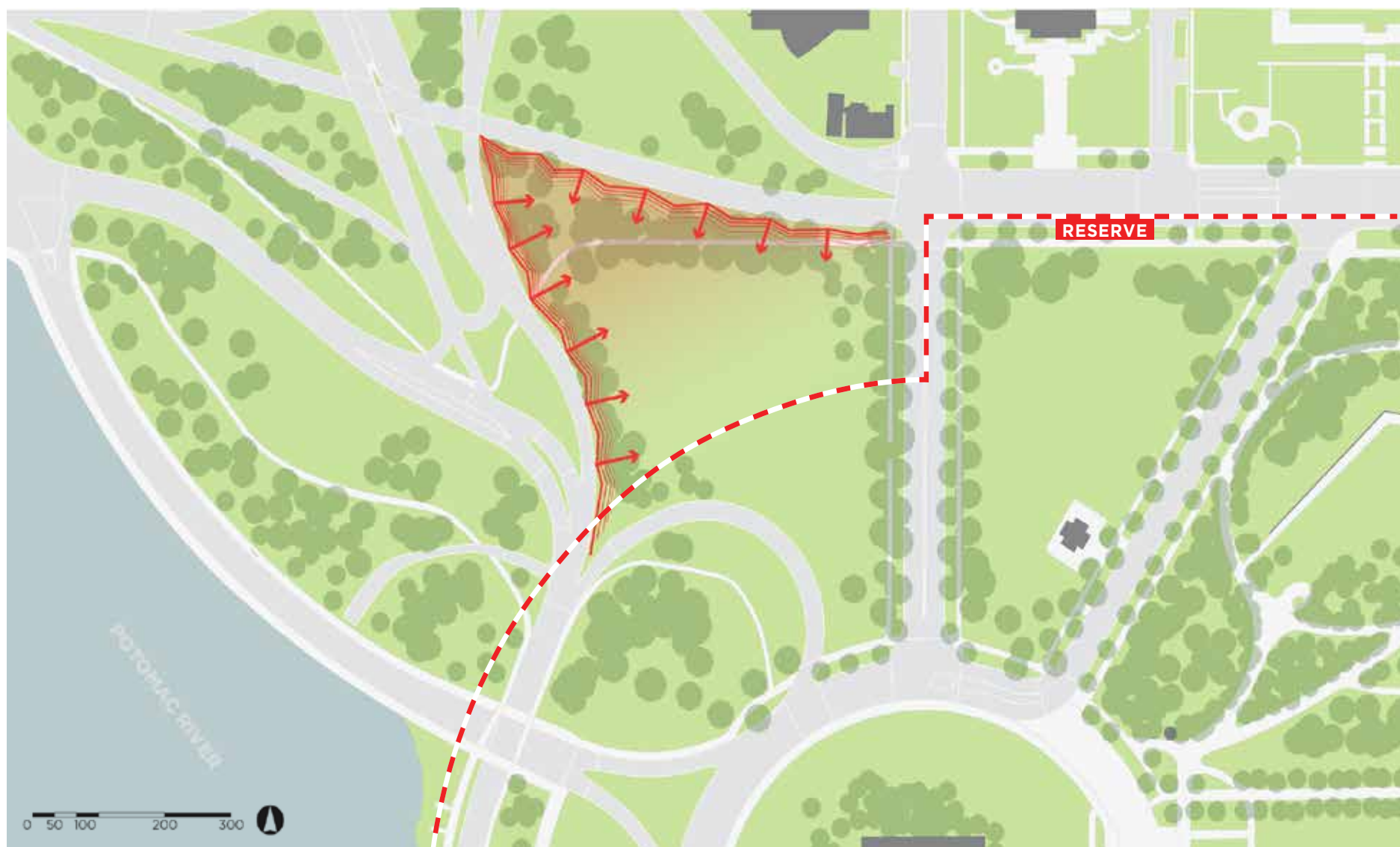
## Drop-Off/Parking Areas





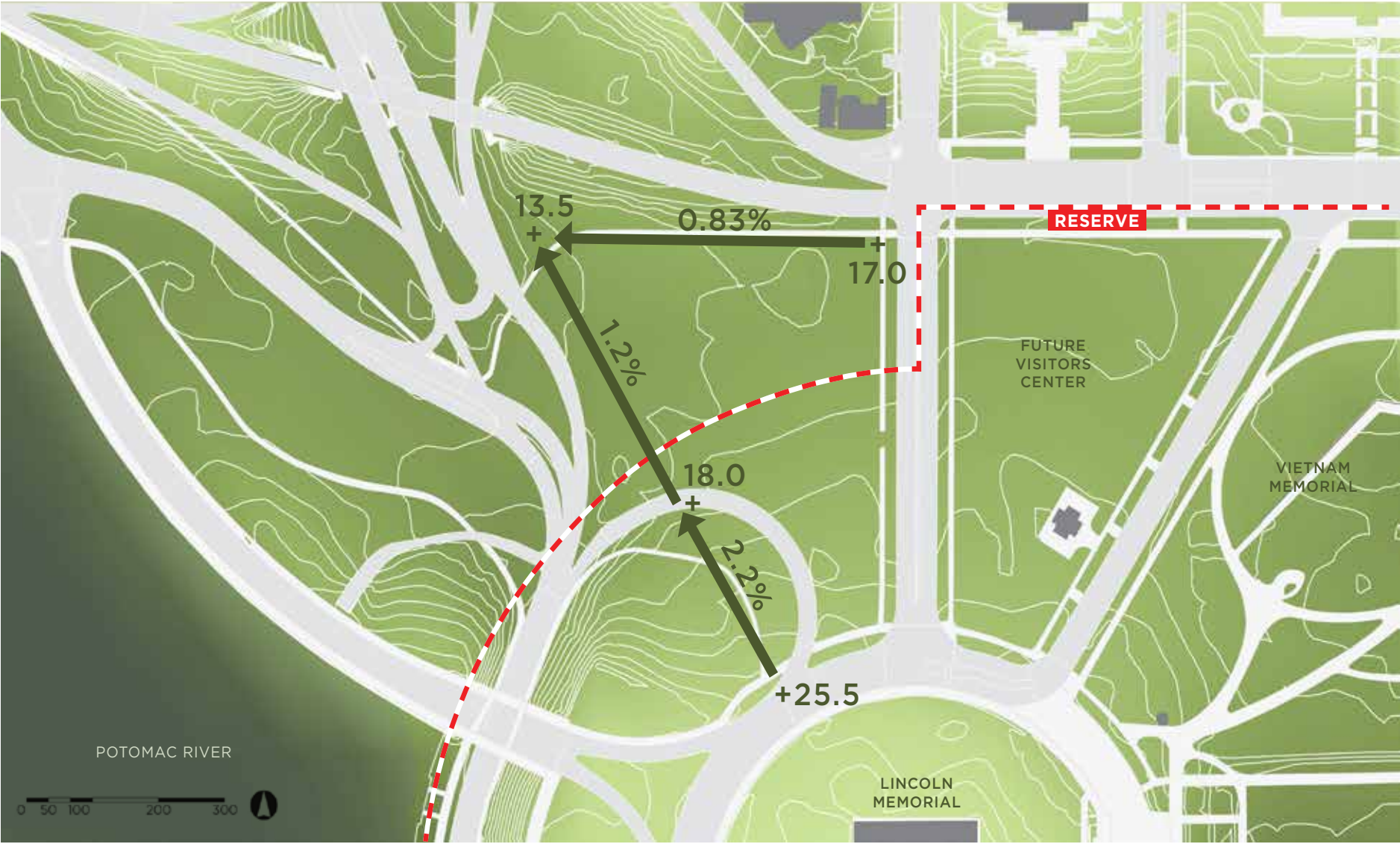
## Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

### Noise Impact



# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

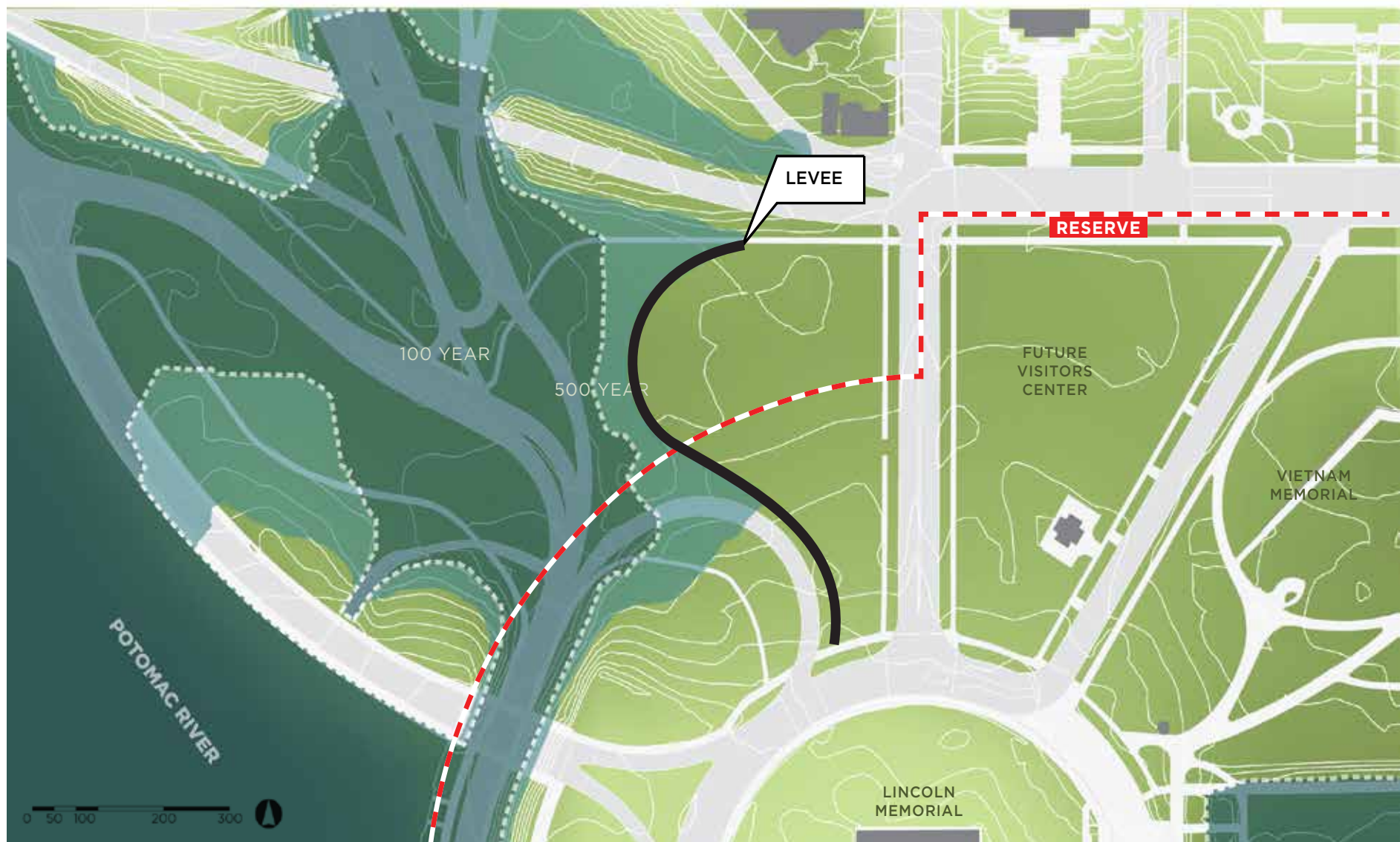
## Topography





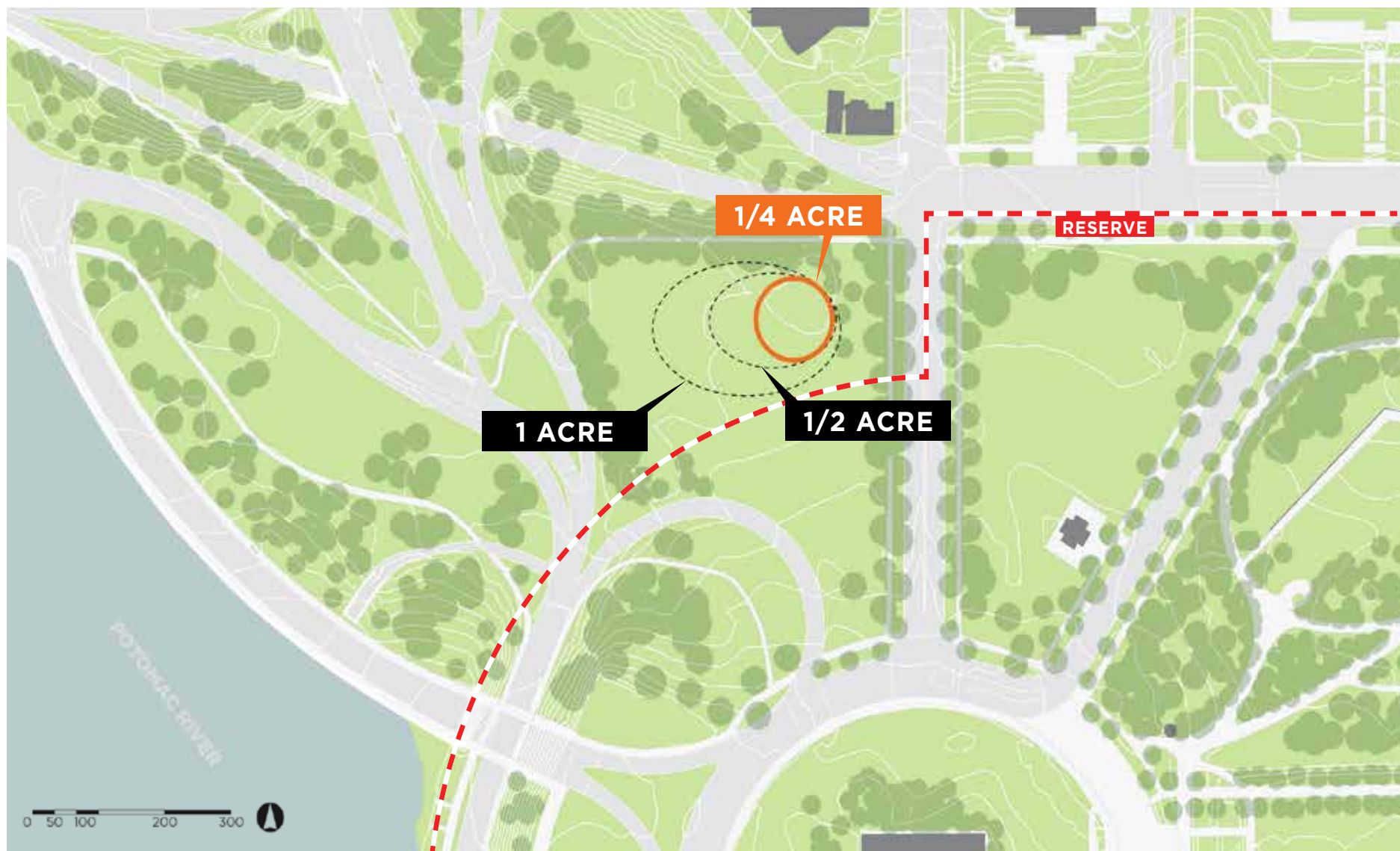
## Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

### Flood Levels Post Levee Work



# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

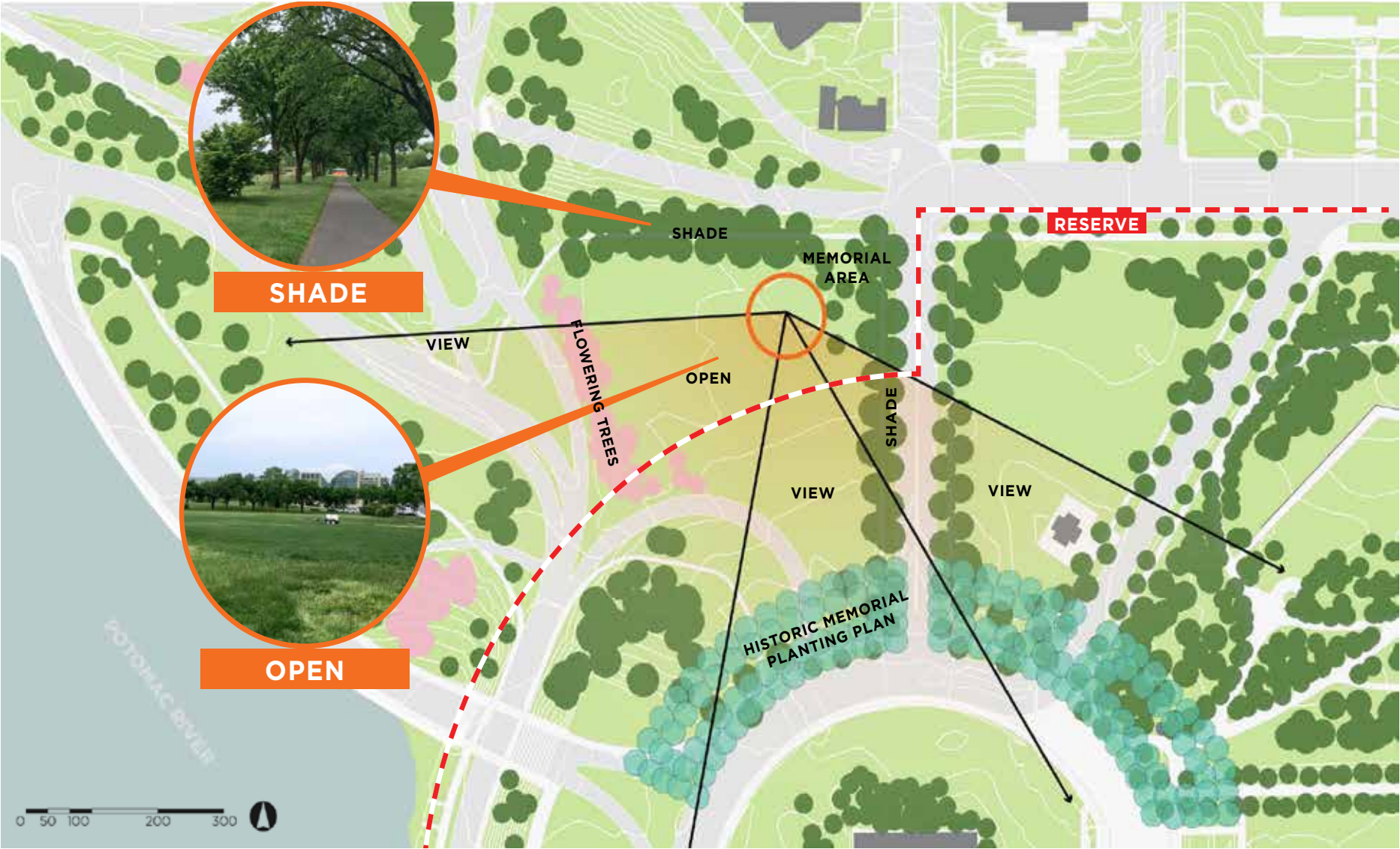
## Size Progression





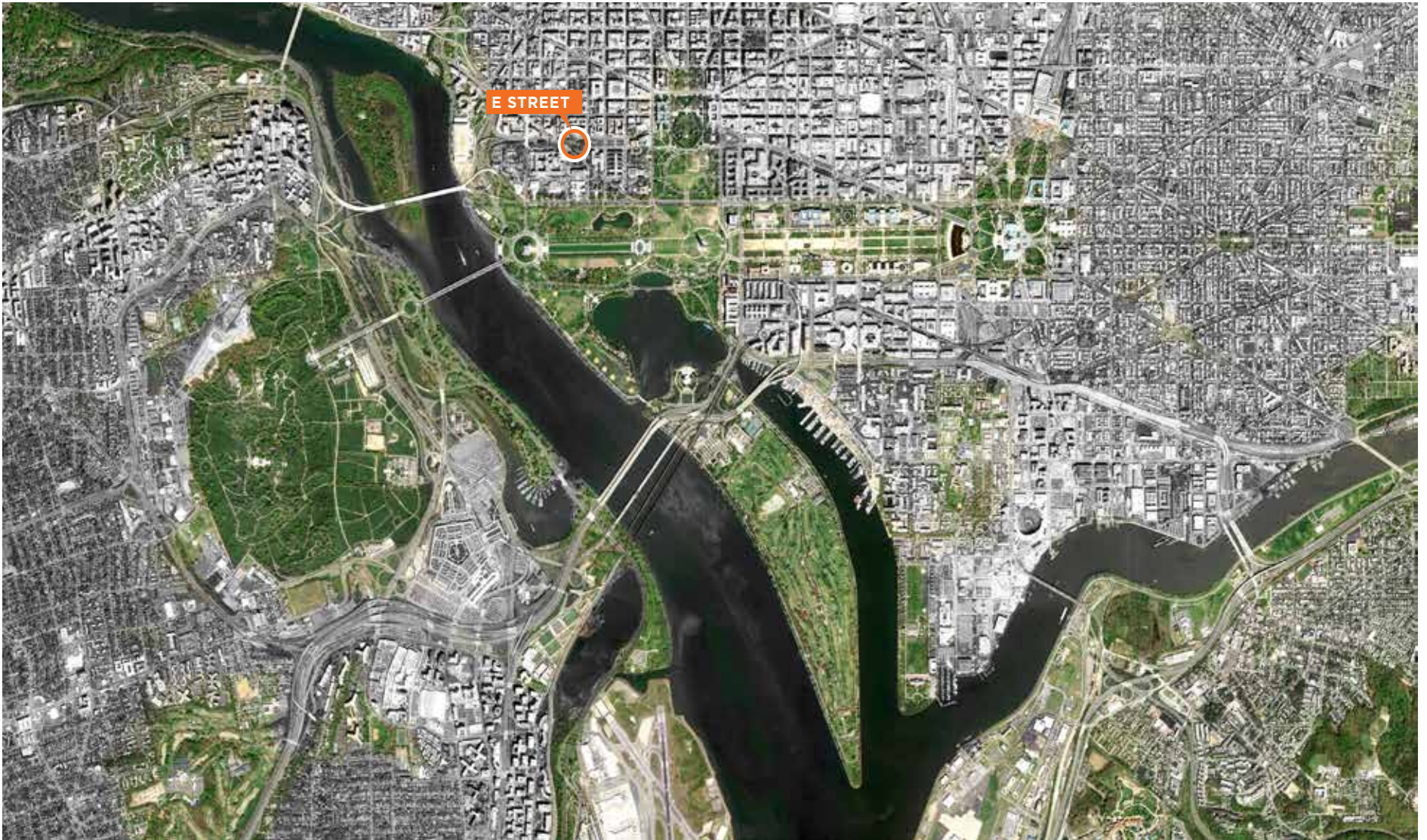
# Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

## Landscape Character





## Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)





## Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)





## Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

### Current Photograph





## Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

### Current Photograph



# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

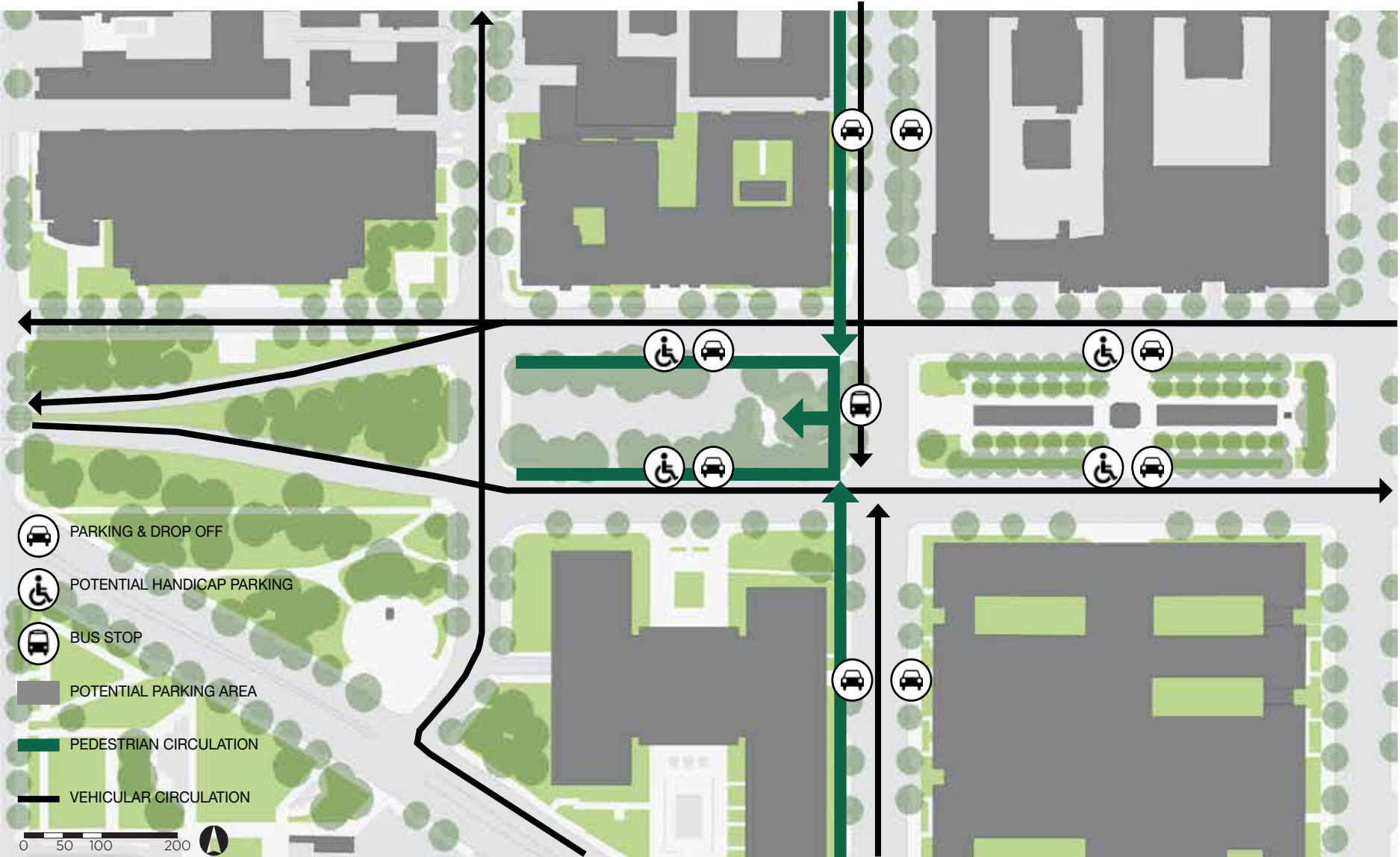
## Historical Photographs





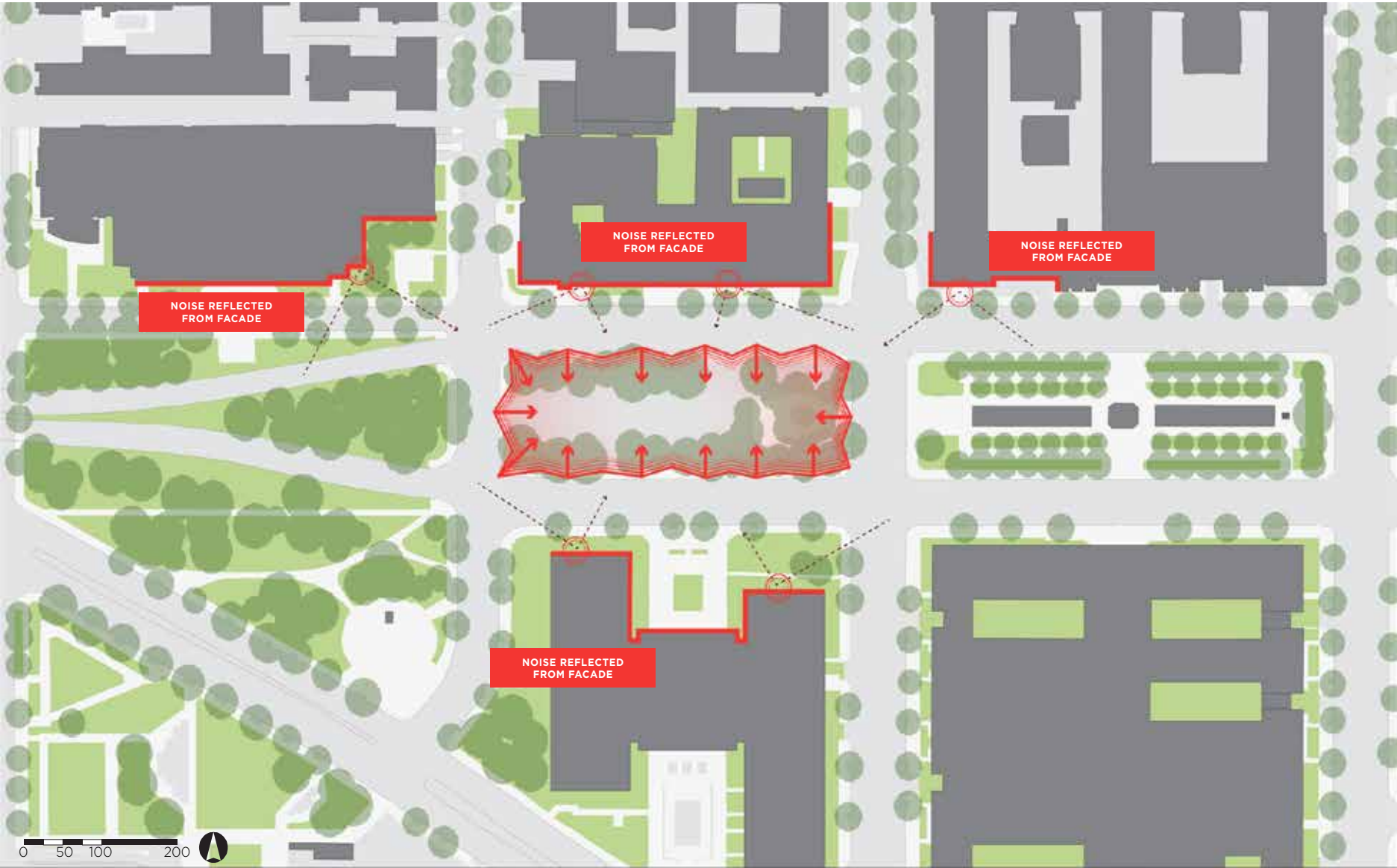
# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

## Drop-Off/Parking Areas



# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

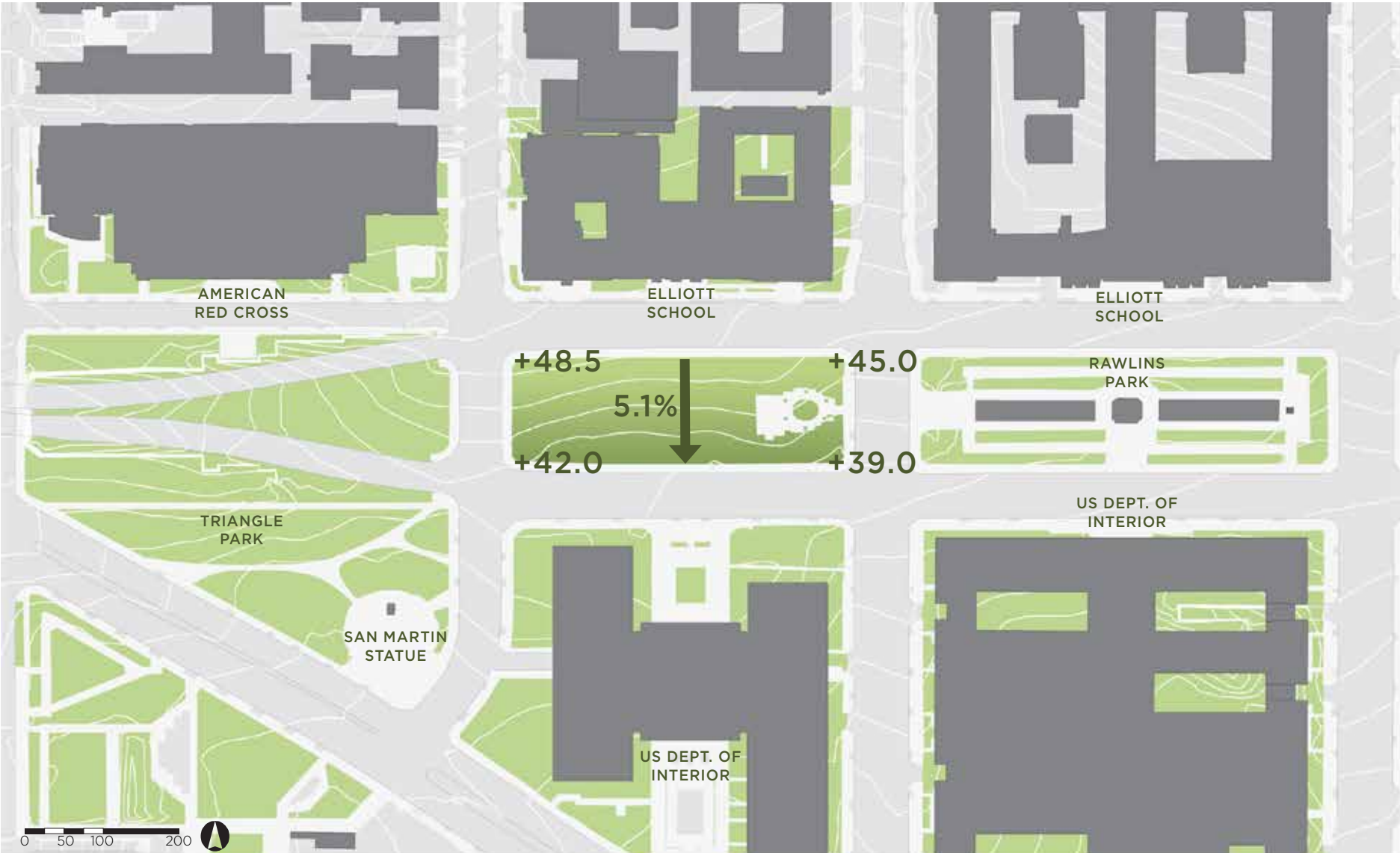
## Noise Impact





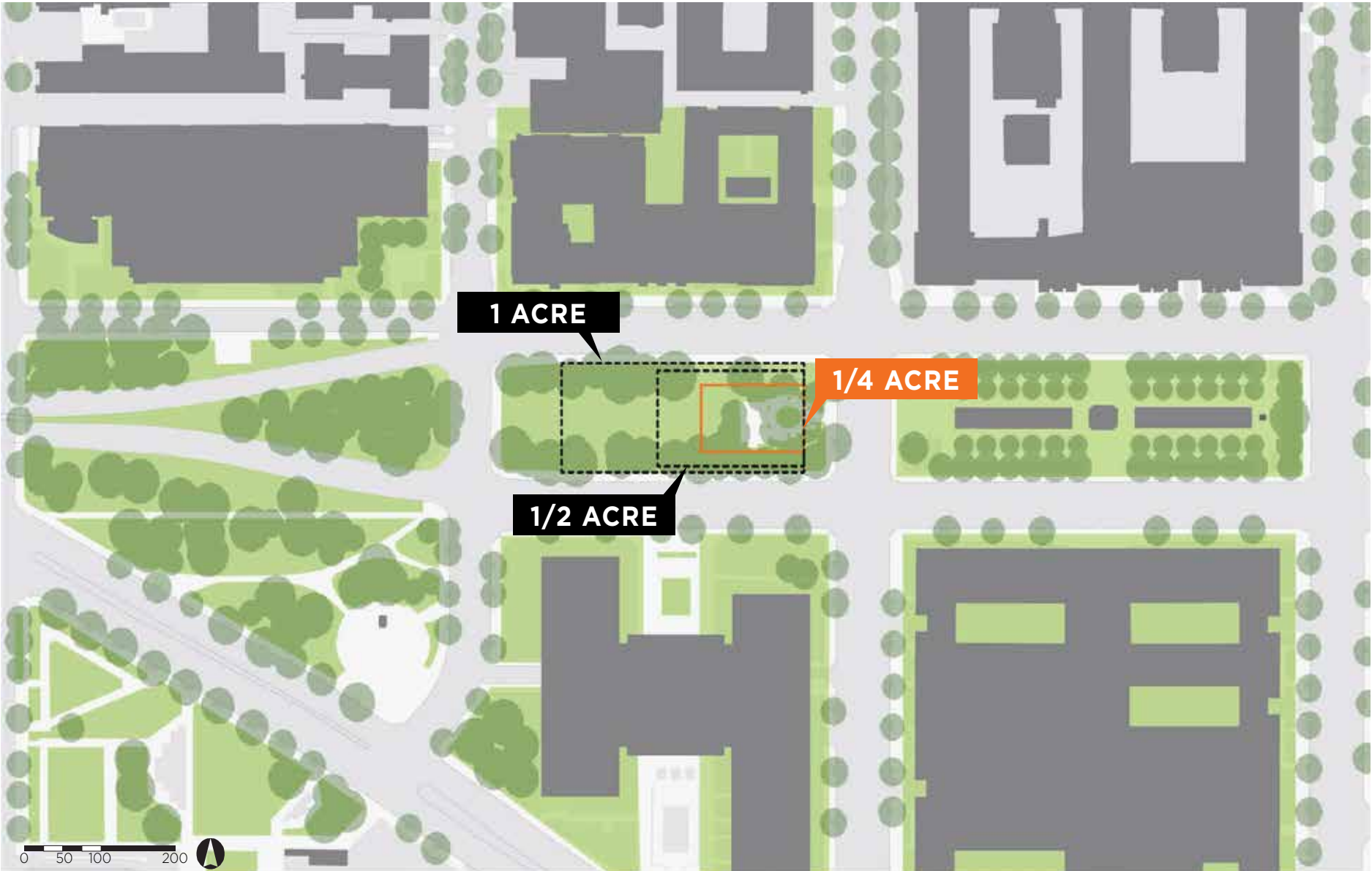
# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

## Topography



# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

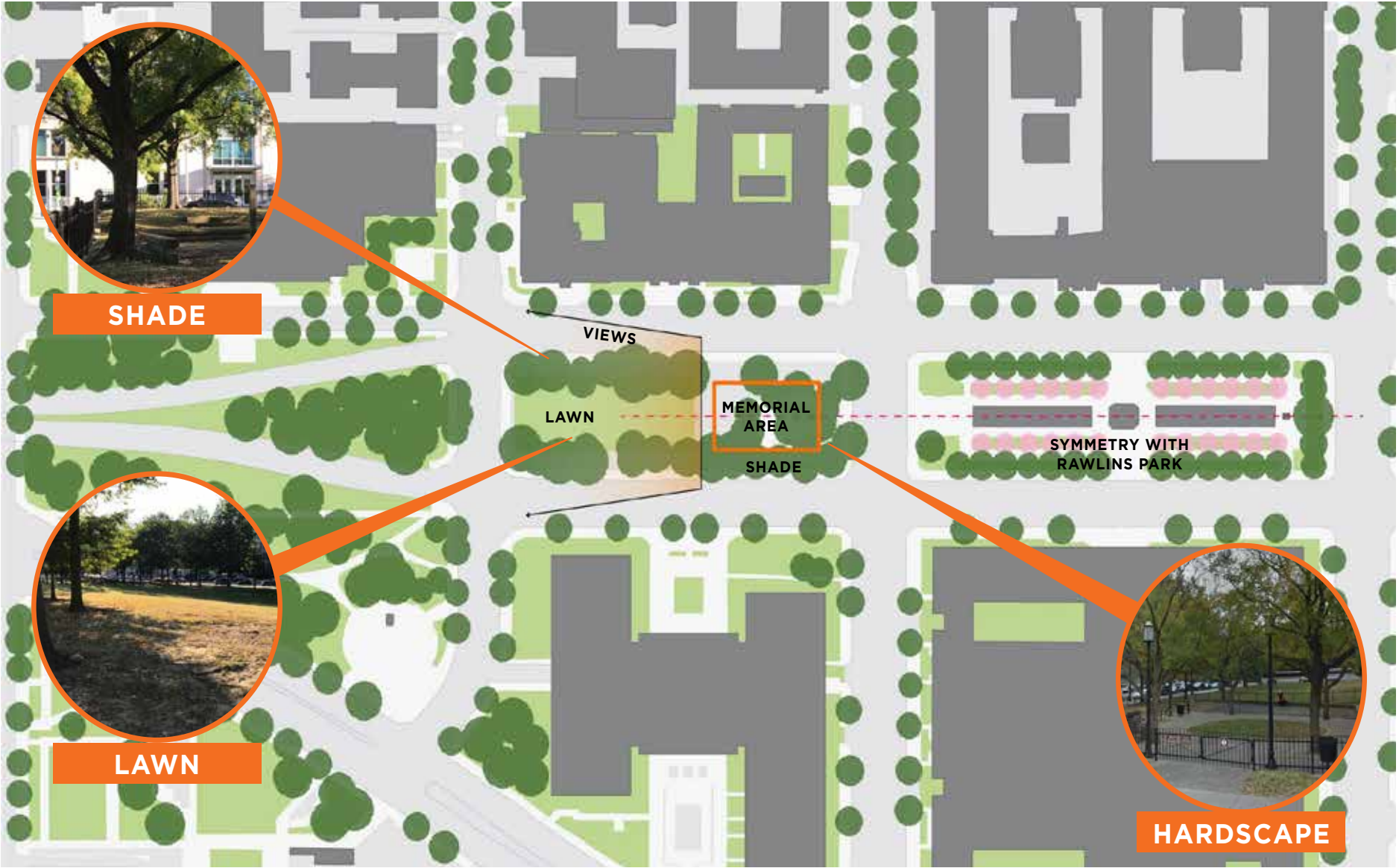
## Size Progression





# Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)

## Landscape Character



## Conclusion

The National Desert Storm Memorial Association requests approval to develop design concepts on two sites:

- ▶ E Street Corridor
- ▶ Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Thank you.