

# PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE PARK

National Capital Planning Commission July 7, 2022



# PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE PARK

## Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (Foundation) propose to establish a permanent Peace Corps Commemorative Park (PCC Park) near the U.S. Capitol at a site bound by Louisiana Avenue NW and 1st and C Streets NW in Washington, DC (all streets referenced in this document are NW unless otherwise specified). Public Law (P.L.) 113-78 authorizes the Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of the PCC Park is to recognize and honor the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which it was founded. The planning, design, and construction of the PCC Park is being undertaken to address the current lack of a formal place commemorating the mission and values of the Peace Corps.

### **BACKGROUND AND PROJECT AREA**

After the congressional authorization of the development of the PCC Park in 2014, the Foundation conducted a site selection study to identify an appropriate location for the placement of a new memorial. The initial review considered approximately 25 potential sites. After presentations to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC), the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and NCPC, and a site selection scoping period to solicit comments from the public, the Foundation and NPS identified a preferred location. The project site, an approximately 0.15-acre area located at the intersection of Louisiana Avenue and C and 1st Streets, emerged as the preferred location. The site is owned by the United States, administered by the NPS and managed by National Mall and Memorial Parks.

The project site, Reservation 727, is located adjacent to the Robert A. Taft Memorial, which is part of the U.S. Capitol Grounds. Commercial buildings lie to the north and west of the site, while the U.S. Capitol lies two blocks to the southeast. The site is a grass panel with a small number of trees. Sidewalks and street trees border the site on all sides. Nearby visitor attractions include the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II and Union Station to the northeast along Louisiana Avenue and the National Gallery of Art to the southwest.

Page 3 provides photos of the existing conditions and a site context map with walking time radius.

# EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS AND SITE CONTEXT



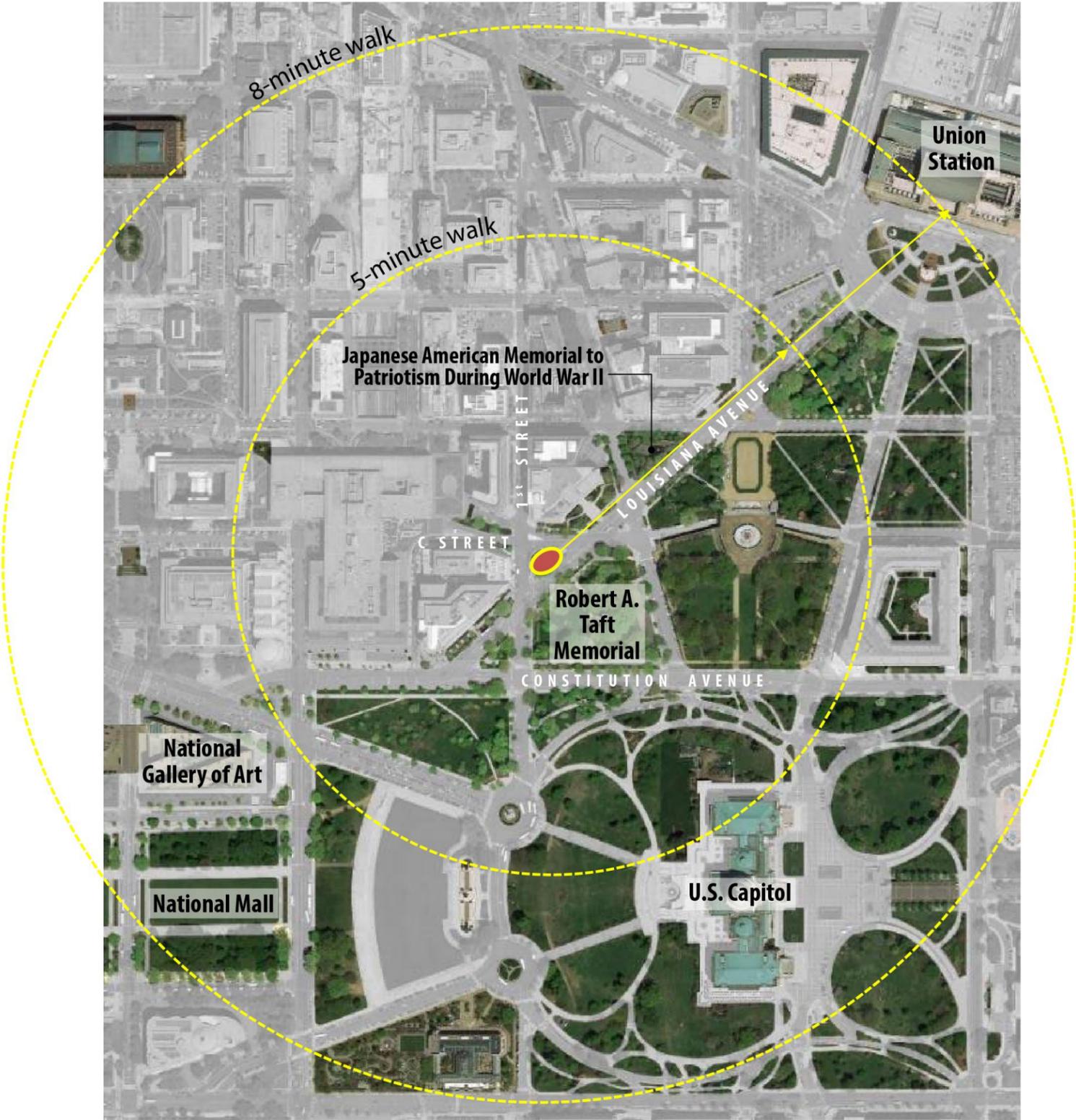
View along Louisiana Avenue, looking north



View along C Street, looking west



View along 1st Street, looking south



Site Context with nearby visitor attractions and walking radii

# PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE PARK

## Design Overview

Since 2015, the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (PCCF) and its invited review committees have received hundreds of Commemorative design concept submissions from artists, architects and landscape architects, first through an open competition and then through invited solicitations. But until recently, no design concept adequately captured and successfully expressed visually the historic meanings and messages of this commemorative work on this challenging site. In 2018, the PCCF selected artist Larry Kirkland and Michael Vergason Landscape Architects to design an original concept that achieves the artistic and interpretive goals of this project. For this special site, the design concept blends abstraction and figuration in a cohesive composition. Through visual form and interpretive text, the ensemble would symbolically convey the Commemorative's messages.

### **PROPOSED DESIGN**

The proposed project would establish a new PCC Park, as authorized in P.L. 113-78, at Reservation 727 bound by Louisiana Avenue and 1st and C Streets. The approximately 0.15-acre memorial would include a central plaza inlaid with a world map, edged by three benches, with entry provided from the sidewalks (see pages 5 and 6). The curved benches with each end shaped to form an open hand, would be between approximately two to 3.5 feet in height and approximately 32 feet in length. Visitors would access the plaza via three pathways leading from approximately mid-block Louisiana Avenue, the intersection of 1st and C Streets, and mid-block C Street. Of the eight existing trees within the project site, seven would be replaced; approximately 19 new and replacement trees and new vegetated groundcover would be installed. The site would also include an approximately 1,600-square foot bioretention area to address stormwater runoff and new lighting. Pages 5 and 6 provide a site plan and an illustrative site plan, respectively.

Since the selection of the site, the design has advanced to define key memorial features. The NPS conducted a second scoping period to solicit public comment on the memorial design. Multiple agencies have reviewed the design concepts, including NCMAC, NCPC, and CFA. Consulting parties under Section 106 of the NHPA provided comments at one meeting regarding the design. Consultation will continue as additional site investigation advances. Although the memorial's overall design elements are now established, additional design advancement will occur and will receive additional review by NCPC and CFA.

# SITE PLAN- Current



# RENDERED PLAN



146 ft

C STREET

3 HAND BENCHES

25 ft

35 ft

46 ft

136 ft

1ST STREET

192 ft

LOUISIANA AVENUE

PLANTING

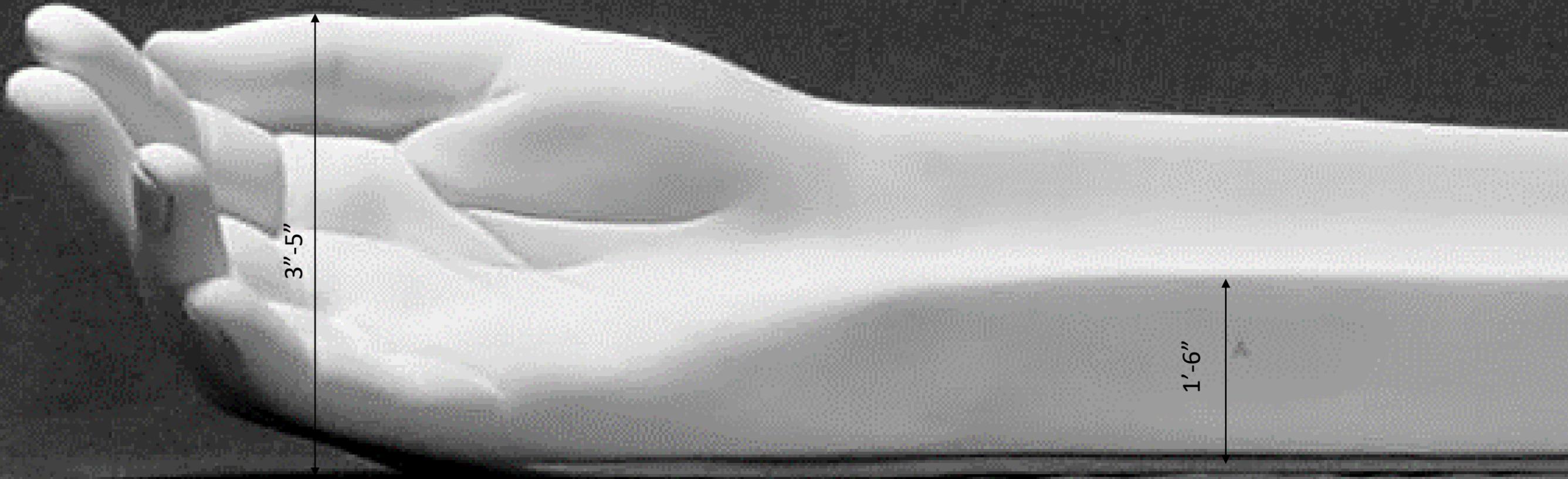
WORLD MAP

# PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE PARK

## Sculpture and Plaza

The Peace Corps Commemorative Park would include an interpretive ensemble of sculpted artwork, using black/white grained and textured granites (yet to be selected) and shown on Page 11, to occupy the center of the intimate park. The artwork would consist of a circular plaza embraced by three functional and symbolic bench-hand sculptures with simple inscriptions; and, at the circular plaza's center, a polar-projected world map showing the earth's oceans and continents but without geopolitical boundaries shown.

The three outreaching hands, at the end of the three sculptures surrounding the plaza, have been studied and configured to convey a sense of sharing, of giving as well as receiving, of teaching as well as learning. An appearance or implication of grabbing, grasping, beckoning or taking possession is purposely avoided. The different dimensions and hand configurations are shown on Pages 9 and 10, respectively.



3'-7"

3"-5"

1'-6"

## DIMENSIONS



**THREE HAND  
POSITIONS**

**BENCH PALETTE**

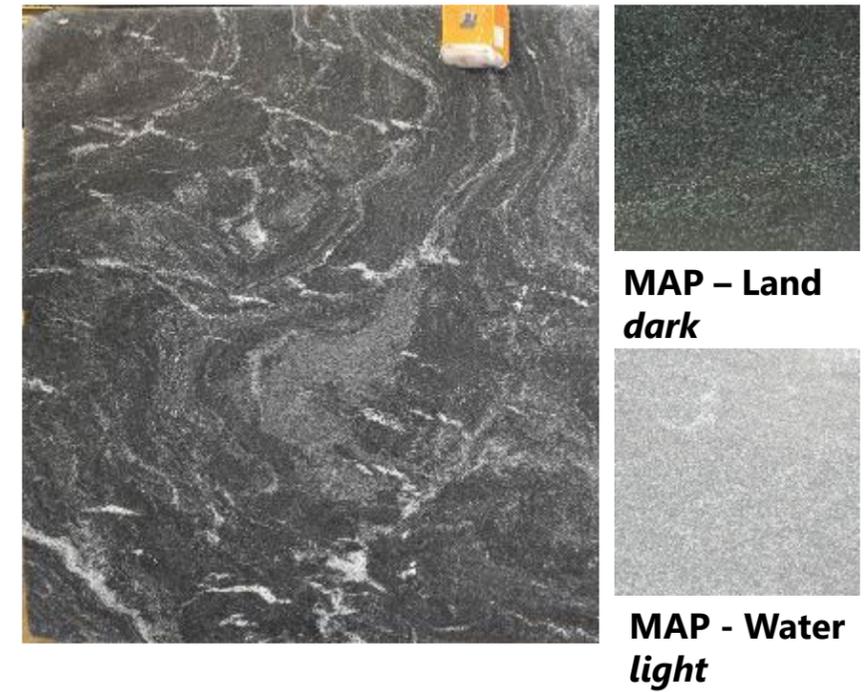
**Variegated monochromatic granite -  
Honed**



**DETAILS – STONE  
PALETTE**

**PAVING PALETTE**

**PLAZA, MAP, ENTRY WALKS -  
Thermal**



**PERIMETER SIDEWALK - Concrete Aggregate/Public**





This view northeast from entry on Louisiana Avenue illustrates the configuration of the sculptural benches with inscriptions, including identifiers for the park, around a central plaza

# PEACE CORPS COMMEMORATIVE PARK

## Inscriptions

### PEACE CORPS PARK

TO MEET WITH OTHER MEN AND WOMEN ON THE COMMON GROUND  
OF SERVICE TO HUMAN WELFARE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

SARGENT SHRIVER

PEACE CORPS - Founded 1961

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Identification, text and founding date - Louisiana Street

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

PEACE CORPS

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Text - 1st Street

RESPECTING ALL THE WORLD'S CITIZENS

PEACE CORPS

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Text - C Street

1 HONORING THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE

PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

2 TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES OF CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

HELPING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

3 PEACE CORPS SERVICE EMBODIES AMERICAN VALUES

GENEROSITY, COMPASSION, PERSEVERANCE

# PEACE CORPS PARK

TO MEET WITH OTHER MEN AND WOMEN ON THE COMMON GROUND  
OF SERVICE TO HUMAN WELFARE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

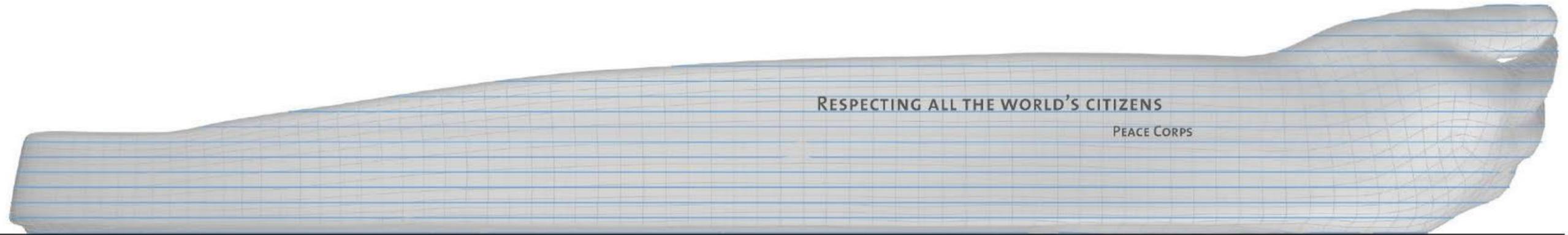
SARGENT SHRIVER

PEACE CORPS - Founded 1961

## DETAILS – EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS



Louisiana Avenue elevation



C Street



1st Street



View southwest from C Street illustrates the configuration of the sculptural benches with inscriptions and the visitor experience

# DETAILS –INTERIOR ELEVATIONS



HONORING THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE  
PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Louisiana Avenue elevation



TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES OF CULTURE AND LANGUAGE  
HELPING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

North elevation  
C Street



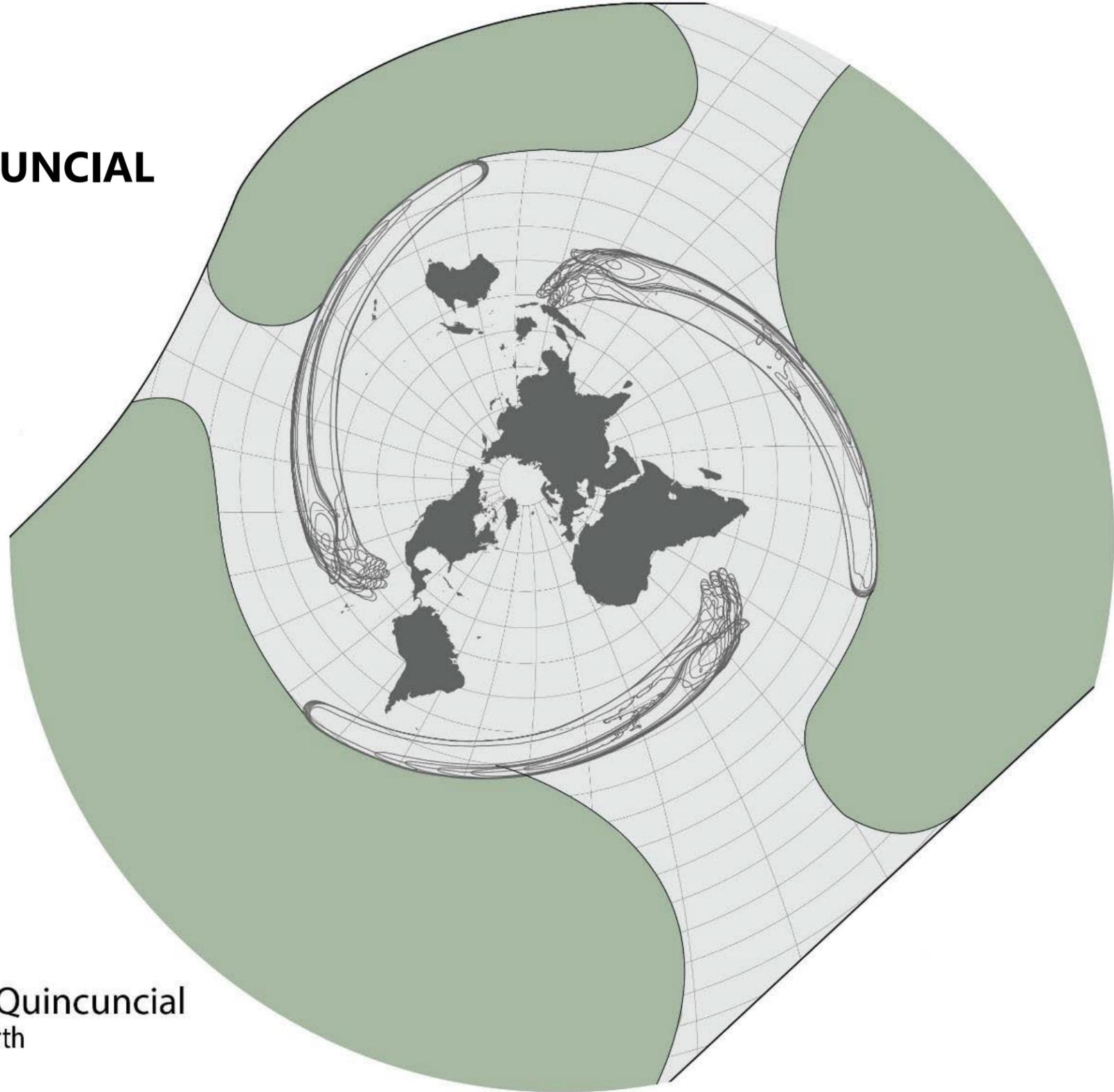
PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SERVICE SYMBOLIZES AMERICAN VALUES  
GENEROSITY, COMPASSION, PERSEVERANCE

South East elevation  
1st Street



This rendering illustrates the visitor experience within Peace Corps Commemorative Park

# DETAILS – PEIRCE QUINCUNCIAL



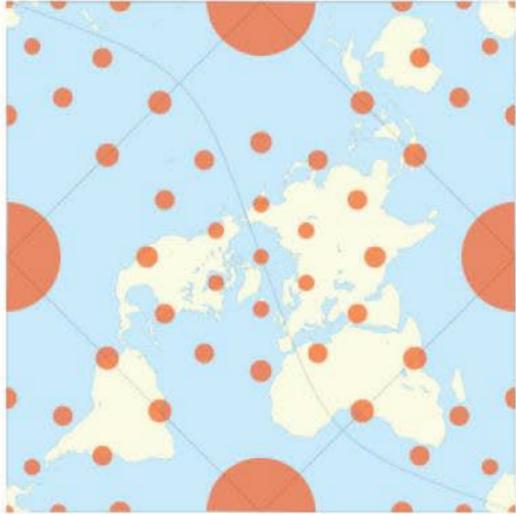
Peirce Quincuncial  
Offset North



The Peirce Quincuncial projection is a conformal map projection developed by Charles Sanders Peirce in 1879. The projection has the distinctive property that it can be tiled ad infinitum on the plane, with edge-crossings being completely smooth except for four singular points per tile.

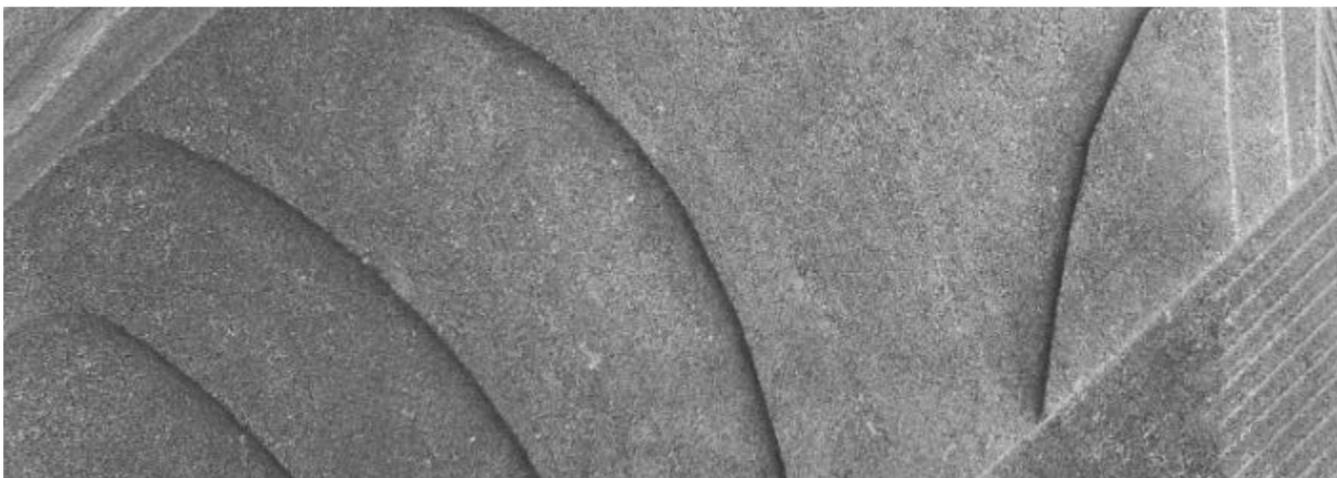
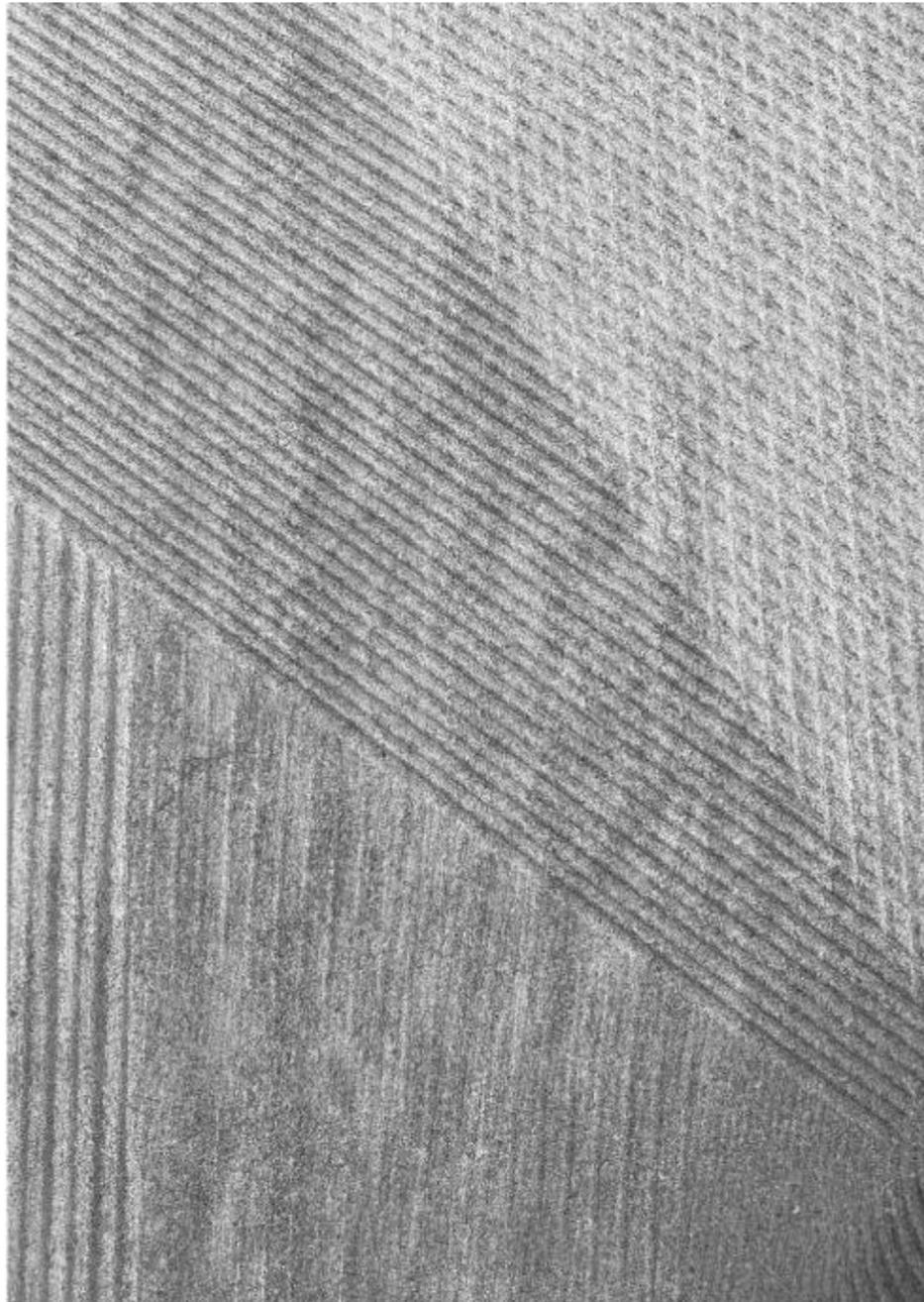
The description quincuncial refers to the arrangement of four quadrants of the globe around the center. hemisphere in an overall square pattern.

Typically the projection is oriented such that the north pole lies at the center.



The Peirce Quincuncial projection with  
Tissot's indicatrix of deformation

**DETAILS –  
STONE MAP  
FINISHES**





BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE  
PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS  
SYMBOLIZE

The map inset within the plaza features a polar projection

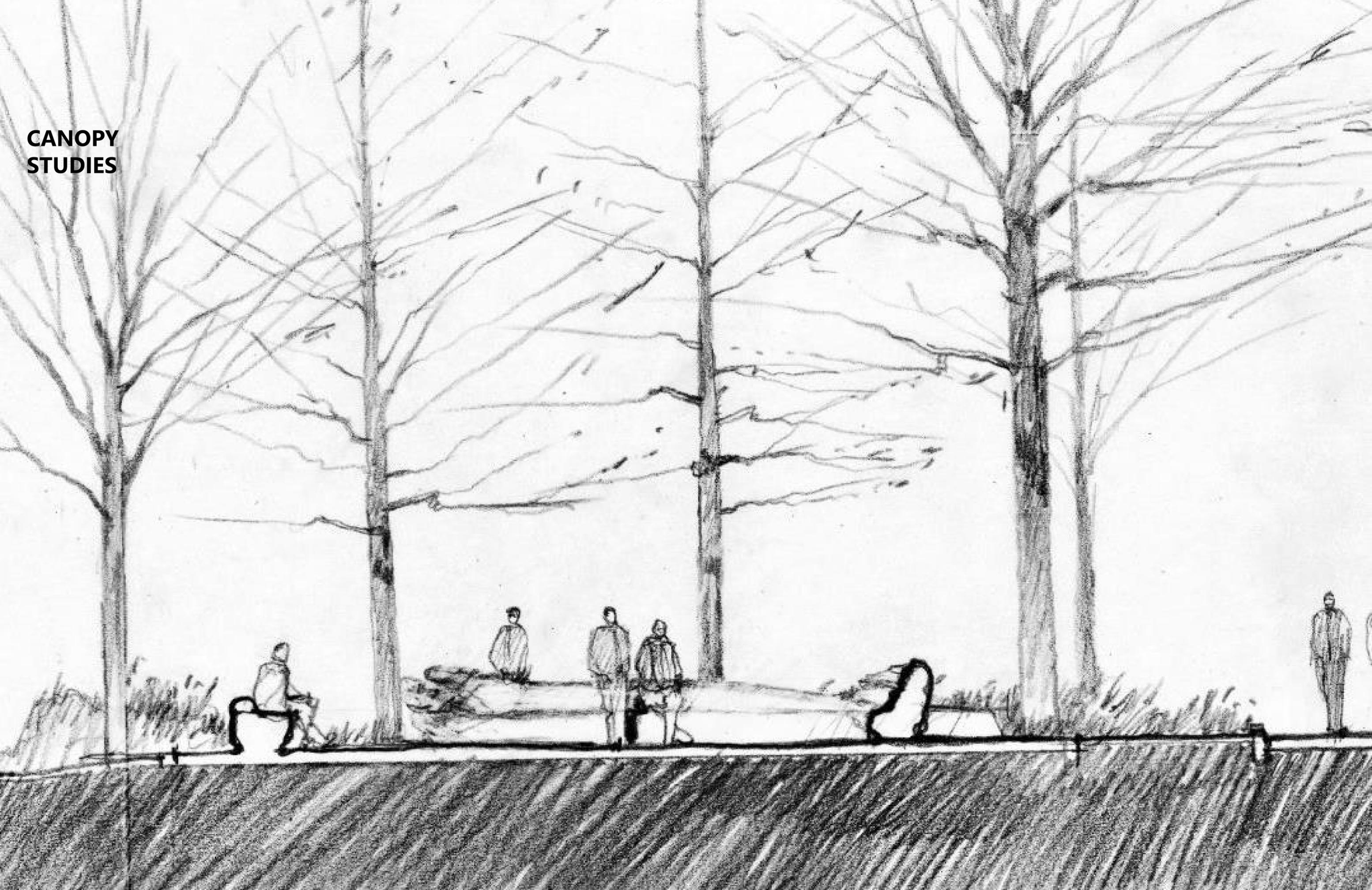
# LANDSCAPE APPROACH

The landscape approach seeks to complement and complete the vegetated landscape of the U.S. Capitol Grounds.



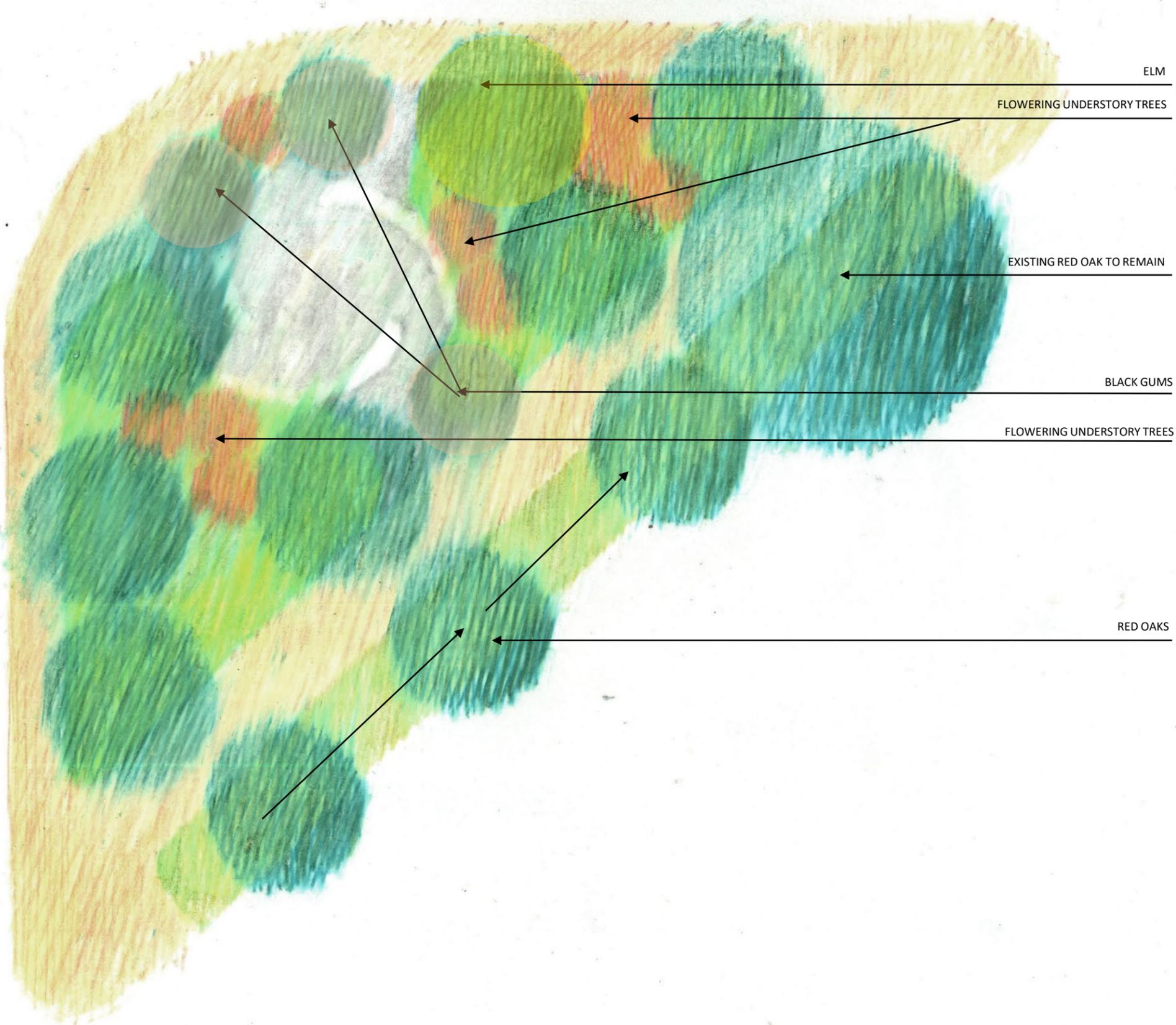
- Site building frame - - -
- Site landscape connection - - -
- Site lines - - -

**CANOPY  
STUDIES**



# DETAILS – CANOPY PLANTING CONCEPT

The landscape pallet includes canopy planting with flowering understory trees and groundcover.



# DETAILS - PLANTING PALETTE

Shade trees and flowering understory trees would provide comprehensive cover for the site.

## CANOPY STRATEGY- MIXED SHADE TREES



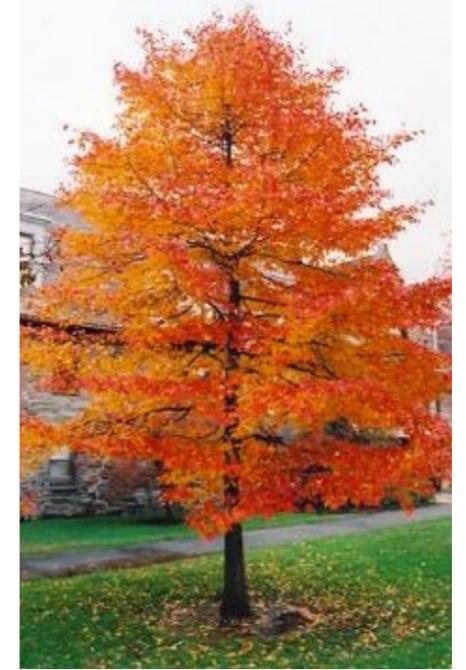
RED/SCARLET OAK  
*Quercus rubra/coccinea*



OVERCUP OAK  
*Quercus lyrata*



AMERICAN ELM  
*Ulmus americana*



BLACK GUM  
*Nyssa sylvatica*

## UNDERSTORY - FLOWERING TREES



White Flowering Dogwood  
*Cornus florida*



Sweetbay Magnolia  
*Magnolia virginiana*



Eastern Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis*

# DETAILS - PLANTING PALETTE

Flowering plants would be interspersed between the groundcover and bioretention area plantings.

## GROUND PLANE - PLANTING STRATEGY



Prairie Dropseed  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*

## BIORETENTION



Common Rush  
*Juncus effusus*



Blue Flag  
*Iris versicolor*

## INTERPLANTED



Coneflower  
*Echinacea purpurea*



Daffodil  
*Narcissus sp.*

# CROSS SECTION

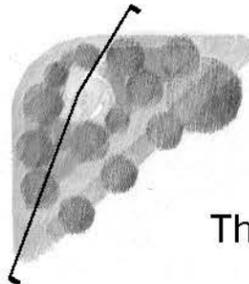


**C STREET ENTRY**

**SCULPTURAL BENCHES AND WORLD MAP**

**GROVE AND BIORETENTION PLANTING**

**LOUISIANA AND 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET CORNER**



The southwest to northeast cross section illustrates the slope from north to south.

# LIGHTING

The lighting design for the park is underway. The intent for the lighting design is to use the existing ambient lighting to the extent possible, with illuminated commemorative features and pathways to allow safe circulation. The design would be subordinate to other features within the Monumental Core.



View along Louisiana Avenue, looking north



View from Louisiana Avenue, looking north



View along C Street, looking west



View along C Street, looking southwest



View illustrates the northeast entry to the Park



View illustrates the northwest entry to the Park



View illustrates the plaza

View illustrating the view from C Street across the park toward the U.S. Capitol

