



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: June 6, 2019

PROJECT National Native American Veterans Memorial National Museum of the American Indian 4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8018
SUBMITTED BY Smithsonian Institution	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.41(38.00)44926
REVIEW AUTHORITY Pub. L. No. 103-384, §3 (c)(2), 108 Stat. 4067, 4068 (October 22, 1994), as amended and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary site development plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve preliminary site development plans
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Staff Presentation

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Smithsonian Institution has submitted preliminary site development plans for the National Native American Veterans Memorial located on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Constructed in 2004, the NMAI is located on the southeast end of the National Mall on a 4.25-acre trapezoidal site. The museum is bounded by Jefferson Drive to the north, Third Street to the east, Maryland and Independence Avenues to the south, and Fourth Street to the west. The East Wing of the National Gallery of Art is located to the north across the National Mall, the National Air and Space Museum is to the west, the United States Botanic Garden and the U.S. Capitol Building are located to the east. The NMAI is a contributing resource to the National Mall Historic District. Authorized by Congress in 1994, the memorial will “give all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States.” The memorial will be completed by Veterans Day 2020.

The Smithsonian provided a site visit and information presentation to the Commission in February 2019. The “Warrior’s Circle of Honor” will be located in the existing wooded area near the northeast corner of the museum grounds. The memorial is simple and powerful, timeless and inclusive. Supported by slender concrete piers, the memorial will cantilever above the existing wetlands water feature. The design consists of a circular contemplative gathering space that will measure forty-six feet and nine inches in diameter with a vertical stainless-steel ring centerpiece, which will be approximately 12 feet in height. The sacred circle serves as a symbol of unity among many Native veterans. The vertical sculpture will be located above a fountain that symbolizes a drum. Other memorial elements include an approach walk, a title wall with signage and the five seals of the Armed Forces etched into the granite cladding, an outer path of life, seat walls enclosing the memorial, four circular benches with accessible seating areas, four lances with bronze spears, an inner path of harmony, and a metal railing. The design incorporates water and

fire for sacred ceremonies and four stainless-steel lances with bronze feathers where veterans, family members, tribal leaders, and others can tie cloths for prayers and healing. The memorial also includes landscape and lighting improvements. The memorial includes the following design principles:

1. Encompass all Native communities and regions of the United States including Alaska and Hawaii.
2. Include women and men from all service branches of the Armed Forces.
3. Honor past, present, and future Native veterans and their families.
4. Create a contemplative area within the existing landscape by locating the memorial away from noisy Independence and Maryland Avenues, but accessible from the River Walk and the museum's main entrance.

KEY INFORMATION

- In 1994, Congress passed the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act (Public Law 103-384), which authorized the Smithsonian Institution (SI) to build and maintain a Native American Veterans Memorial inside the museum and hold a competition to select the design of the memorial. The Act also granted approval of the selected design to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.
 - In 2013, the Act was amended to allow the memorial to be located outside of the museum on the NMAI site as determined by the SI.
 - Due to the unique circumstances of the Act, NCPC does not have review authority for the design and location of the memorial; however, any related improvements that change the previously approved site plan (such as access to the memorial/changes to the landscape) will require NCPC approval under the National Capital Planning Act.
 - The Smithsonian conducted a two-stage design competition and received over 120 proposals from around the globe. The jury unanimously selected the "Warrior's Circle of Honor," designed by artist Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne Arapaho and Marine Corps Veteran) and Butzer Architects and Urbanism from Oklahoma.
 - In February 2019, the Commission participated in a site visit and information presentation. Given the memorial limited access from the northwest corner of the museum's grounds, existing vegetation and wetland water feature, the Commission comments focused on maximizing accessibility from the National Mall and reducing the memorial footprint.
 - The memorial will occupy a total of 2,837 square feet, including the memorial circle and surrounding path (1,717 square feet) and the approach walk (1,120 square feet).
 - The National Museum of the American Indian is one of the top ten most visited Smithsonian museums with an annual visitation of approximately 1.1 to 1.2 million people in recent years.
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RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary site development plans for the proposed National Native American Veterans Memorial located on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC.

Notes that the memorial will be served by two existing accessible routes, one from the northwest corner of the site at the intersection of Jefferson Drive and 4th Street, which is approximately 500 feet away from the memorial, and the other near the southeast corner of the site along Maryland Avenue, which is approximately 250 feet away. These also serve as the two main entryways to the museum.

Finds that a new midblock access point along Jefferson Drive could improve museum access because it would provide a more direct and visible connection from the National Mall.

Recommends the Smithsonian Institution analyze visitation increase and circulation patterns and evaluate whether an additional access point could improve access from the National Mall. A modest access point could be located in the vicinity of the existing amphitheater connecting the Jefferson Drive sidewalk with the River Walk to avoid disrupting the contemplative memorial experience and minimizing changes to the existing landscape.

Recommends that the applicant consider the following changes to improve the visitor experience and the environment:

- Simplify the railing design to minimize visual impacts and its heavy composition, and avoid competing with the memorial elements, landscape, and the museum's architecture.
- Protect and restore the wetland's edge biodiversity to enhance the site's ecological quality, scenic character, and prevent erosion.

Requests the applicant provide the following information as part of the submission for final review:

- A lighting plan and night views consistent with the overall lighting design for the National Museum of the American Indian that minimize light pollution and respect the hierarchy of memorials, monuments, and important civic buildings and spaces in the nation's capital, with the U.S. Capitol the most prominent feature in the nighttime skyline.
- A landscape plan that includes tree replacement to prevent net loss of tree canopy in accordance with the procedures established in the policies related to Tree Canopy and Vegetation in the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.
- A stormwater management plan, prepared in accordance with the Commission submission guidelines, that addresses compliance with the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) regulations.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	February 7, 2019 – Information presentation and site visit to memorial site. June 1, 2000 – Approval of final site and building plans for the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– Final approval of site development plans

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

The memorial location and design are consistent with the National Museum of the American Indian setting and the National Mall. The staff analysis focuses on the visitor experience and the environment. The project is consistent with the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*, in particular the Urban Design, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, and Visitors and Commemoration Elements. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission **approve the preliminary site development plans for the proposed National Native American Veterans Memorial located on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) at 4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC.**

Analysis

Over the last four months, the design team has refined the memorial design and provided more information about the proposed materials and landscape design. The submission includes additional views and details of the memorial components, including a refined seat wall with accessible seating, railing, title wall, lances, paving, and lighting design. The memorial will be design with durable materials such as stone, concrete, stainless steel, and bronze. The proposed landscape will be consistent with the existing native palette.

Previous Commission Comments

In February 2019, the Commission members participated in a site visit and information presentation. The Commission comments focused on the visitor experience, including accessibility and scale:

1. Given the lack of direct access from Jefferson Drive, the Commission comments focused on maximizing accessibility from the National Mall. The Commission recommended that the applicant explore a new midblock pedestrian connection along Jefferson Drive near the existing amphitheater.
2. The Commission supported the memorial location but recommended careful attention to the memorial program and scale to minimize its footprint and avoid overpowering the wetlands.

Visitor Experience

Access from the National Mall

Access to the memorial is provided only from the Welcome Circle due to the memorial design principles, symbolic landscape, topography, and budget constraints. The applicant has further noted that direct access to the memorial should be limited for a few reasons, including:

1. Creating a contemplative place, separated from the noise, fumes and activity of adjoining streets, particularly Jefferson Drive, is one of the memorial design principles established by project stakeholders, including Native Veterans groups and the competition jury.
2. Providing access from 3rd Street or Jefferson Drive would create a shortcut from buses to the museum entrance which the museum wishes to discourage.
3. Visiting the museum and the companion exhibit on Native veterans located on the second floor accessed from the east main entrance would be desirable for most visitors.
4. Limiting the removal of plant materials and maintaining the character of the designed landscape is an important goal.
5. Providing an accessible ramp from the sidewalk would require additional vegetation removal. The sidewalk at the corner of 3rd and Jefferson is about three feet lower than the level of the memorial.
6. Providing additional access would affect the project budget.

The museum has two entrances: the main entrance is located to the east facing the US Capitol, and a secondary entrance is located to the south at the intersection of Independence and Maryland Avenues. The main entrance can be accessed from the northwest corner of the site, near the intersection of Jefferson Drive and 4th Street through the River Walk; and the southeast corner of the site, near the intersection of Maryland Avenue and 3rd Street. Both entrances to the museum have accessible routes to accommodate wheelchairs and strollers.

Staff notes that **the memorial will be served by two existing accessible routes, one from the northwest corner of the site at the intersection of Jefferson Drive and 4th Street, which is approximately 500 feet away from the memorial, and the other near the southeast corner of the site along Maryland Avenue, which is approximately 250 feet away. These also serve as the two main entryways to the museum.**

The Smithsonian has provided valid reasons to justify the lack of direct access into the memorial area itself. Staff concurs that a direct access would detract from the memorial procession and contemplative character. In order to improve the visitor experience for the museum as a whole, staff believes that an additional pedestrian access from Jefferson Drive further west on the site should still be considered. Such an access would not need to connect directly to the memorial and could be accommodated in the future as a separate project.

The approach from the River Walk and Welcome Circle will be at grade and will allow an accessible path of travel. The majority of visitors to the NMAI arrive from the National Mall. The ADA access from the National Mall, located at the northwest corner of the site, consist of a 36-

inch wide opening between two bollards with a slope. While the ADA access route from Maryland Avenue is more generous and at grade.

The accessible route requirements included in the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (Section 206.2.1 Site Arrival Points) state that “at least one accessible route shall be provided within the site from public streets and sidewalks and public transportation stops to the accessible building or facility entrance they serve.” The Smithsonian’s Accessibility Program ensures that all visitors feel welcome by providing consistent, effortless access to the Institution’s programs, collections, and facilities. While the memorial will be served by the two existing ADA access routes, it will lack direct access from the National Mall.

Visitation Increase

The design team developed projections to estimate occupancy capacity within the memorial's pathways and seating areas. However, this occupancy analysis does not reflect the total number of visitors per day. For example, five tribes could bring 100 members each scheduled at five separate times for Memorial Day. Combining these numbers with a general public traffic flow of 25-50 visitors per hour, results in 500 to nearly 1,000 visitors a day wanting to gain access to the memorial during peak season and holidays. Given the nearly 15 years of experience with handling large crowds both indoors and on the museum grounds for public events and programs, the Smithsonian feels confident that they will be able to manage any increase in visitation.

The museum is expecting a significant increase in visitation from Dedication (November 11, 2020) until the beginning of 2021. Since the memorial will be outside, the Smithsonian anticipates a normal decrease in attendance due to weather starting in January of 2021. Peak visitation will probably occur again during spring 2021 (Cherry Blossom) and around the July 4, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day holidays.

Based on recent visitor statistics from the Smithsonian website (<https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/about/stats>), the National Museum of the American Indian is currently one of the top ten most visited Smithsonian museums with an annual visitation of approximately 1.1 to 1.2 million people in recent years.

The memorial will become a destination and attract new visitors to the NMAI. Therefore, staff **finds that a new midblock access point along Jefferson Drive could improve museum access because it would provide a more direct and visible connection from the National Mall, and recommends the Smithsonian Institution analyze visitation increase and circulation patterns and evaluate whether an additional access point could improve access from the National Mall. A modest access point could be located in the vicinity of the existing amphitheater connecting the Jefferson Drive sidewalk with the River Walk to avoid disrupting the contemplative memorial experience and minimizing changes to the existing landscape.** Staff recognizes the time and budget constraints of the memorial, and believes this analysis could lead to a future, separate project regarding site access.

Memorial Scale

The Commission recommended careful attention to the memorial scale to minimize impacts to the surrounding wetlands and consider reducing the memorial footprint if possible. The main change

since February entails reducing the diameter of the circular gathering space by three feet and three inches, from 50 feet to 46'-9" in order to address previous Commission comments.

The design balances intimacy and openness. The Smithsonian conducted an occupancy analysis and determined that the memorial is appropriately sized for its museum audiences. For large events, SI will supplement the memorial's capacity with the indoor Rasmuson Theatre (314 seats), the Potomac atrium (350 seated to 600 standing capacity), the Welcome plaza (300 standing capacity) or the outdoor amphitheater (100 capacity). For more crowded events, such as new museum groundbreakings or dedications, the Smithsonian has also been permitted by NPS to use areas of the National Mall.

The submission package includes occupancy diagrams that project how the memorial spaces will be used on a daily basis (25 visitors), during ceremonies (50 people), and holidays (100 people). Staff finds that the memorial scale is appropriate given its program and context.

Railing Design

The design includes a protective guardrail at the southern edge of the Approach Walk. The railing system is composed of horizontal metal rails with four-inch openings and secondary vertical members. A wooden handrail will be mounted at 36 inches in height. An intermittent path lighting will be integrated into the railing. The railing will be three feet and six inches in height (3'-6").

Inspired by the museum's architecture, the railing design recalls the flutter of falling leaves and glints of reflecting sun. Staff finds that the complex railing diminishes the memorial's simple, light, and elegant design. The busy composition is distracting and competes with the memorial vertical elements, landscape, and the building's distinctive curvilinear form and texture. The railing reflects harsh shadows on the walkways and appears heavy and dense. The railing should be lighter and more transparent to contrast with the solid title wall and seat walls. The railing should serve as a delicate veil that provides views to the surrounding context, similar to the existing landscape veil in front of the museum. Therefore, staff recommends that the applicant **simplify the railing design to minimize visual impacts and its heavy composition, and avoid competing with the memorial elements, landscape, and the museum's architecture**

Environment

Wetland Edge

Over the last 15 years, the wetland has grown beyond its original boundaries due to erosion at the banks. The wetland was originally 6,960 square feet based on the 2001 construction drawings. Based on a recent site survey, the wetland is currently 8,950 square feet, approximately 30 percent larger than the original design. The proposed design will reduce the wetland water feature to 7,850 square feet, which is a 12 percent reduction from existing conditions. However, the proposed wetland will be 890 square feet larger than the original 2001 design (12 percent increase).

The project will include edge stabilization to limit the erosion at the north edge of the pond through rocks and deep-rooted plantings. Smithsonian will address the other wetland edges as part of a follow-up wetland restoration and maintenance project within the next 5 years. Therefore, staff recommends that the applicant **protect and restore the wetland's edge biodiversity to enhance the site's ecological quality, scenic character, and prevent erosion.**

Tree Replacement

The landscape surrounding the project site at the NMAI is unique to the National Mall. The design intent is to preserve the integrity of this landscape and provide a natural framework to the memorial. The museum grounds feature more than 27,000 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. The proposed landscape will respect the existing design and select plant species from the original plant list. The landscape plan will include native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials including aquatic, and wet meadow plants. Disturbed areas will be replanted to seamlessly blend the new and existing material.

The project will remove five trees due to the location of the memorial. The trees to be removed include a Bald Cypress, two Sycamores, and two River Birches. The trees will be replaced in kind.

	Caliper	Type
1	305 mm – 12 inches	Bald Cypress
2	381mm – 15 inches	Sycamore
3	305 mm – 12 inches	River Birch
4	381mm – 15 inches	River Birch
5	356 mm – 15 inches	Sycamore

Tree Removal List

The landscape plan includes six new trees. Trees will be replaced with species from the building's original plant palette, including: River Birch, Black Gum, American Sycamore, and Pawpaw. The final design will provide appropriate tree size for each species to ensure long-term success. Staff requests the applicant **provide a landscape plan that includes tree replacement to prevent net loss of tree canopy in accordance with the procedures established in the policies related to Tree Canopy and Vegetation in the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.**

Stormwater Management

The expected area of disturbance is approximately 5,000 sf, which is the trigger for local and federal stormwater management regulations. Smithsonian has been coordinating with the District Department of Energy and Environment. As a result, the design team is proposing to incorporate a small bioretention area close to, but not within the actual memorial site. The bioretention area will be approximately 200-300 sf. This bioretention area would be set in among the existing trees and integrated with the existing landscape and plant palette along the north side of the museum site.

Although the proposed pavers will not be permeable, they will allow rainwater from the memorial to drain directly to the constructed wetland. The constructed wetland is partially fed from collected rainwater. The wetland has an overflow drain so that if rainwater exceeds a certain threshold, it feeds into the city's storm sewer. In addition, there is an existing cistern which provides stormwater management for the NMAI. Therefore, staff requests that the applicant **provide a stormwater management plan, prepared in accordance with the Commission submission guidelines, that**

addresses compliance with the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) regulations.

Lighting

The memorial includes lights set into the water-filled drum base to illuminate the circle and cast waving highlights onto its reflective surface. Lights within the fountain gleam upwards through the water and dance across the surfaces of the stainless-steel vertical ring. Concealed light fixtures along the base of the seat wall and guard rails of the Approach Walk will provide a soft glow on the ground beneath. Staff requests **a lighting plan and night views consistent with the overall lighting design for the National Museum of the American Indian that minimize light pollution and respect the hierarchy of memorials, monuments, and important civic buildings and spaces in the nation's capital, with the U.S. Capitol the most prominent feature in the nighttime skyline.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

As noted above, this project meets basic goals of the Comprehensive Plan. In particular the Urban Design, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, and Visitors and Commemoration Elements.

National Historic Preservation Act

The NMAI is a contributing resource to the National Mall Historic District. Both the Smithsonian and NCPC have an independent responsibility to satisfy the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NCPC has approval authority over federal projects located within the District of Columbia pursuant to the National Capital Planning Act. The Smithsonian Institution has informally consulted with the DC SHPO, and no historic preservation-related concerns are anticipated. The Smithsonian formally initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) on May 23, 2019.

National Environmental Policy Act

Due to the unique circumstances of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act, which granted approval of the selected design to the Board of Regents of the SI, NCPC does not have review authority for the design and location of the memorial; however, any related improvements that change the previously approved site plan (such as access to the memorial/changes to the landscape) will require NCPC approval under the National Capital Planning Act.

The Smithsonian Institution does not have an independent responsibility to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it is not considered a federal agency for purposes of NEPA. On June 1, 2000, the Commission approved the final site and building plans for the National Museum of the American Indian, on the Mall between Maryland Avenue, Third

Street, Jefferson Drive, and Fourth Street, SW. As a result of its approval authority over the changes to the previously approved site plan, NCPC does have an independent NEPA responsibility. Pursuant to Section 601.12 of NCPC's NEPA Regulations, staff has determined that the project can be categorically excluded from further environmental analysis based on categorical exclusion #2, which pertains to "approval of the installation or restoration of minor site elements, such as but not limited to identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, curbs, retaining walls, landscaping, and trail or stream improvements."

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its May 15, 2019 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary site and building plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the US General Services Administration; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the District Department of Energy and Environment.

The SHPO noted that the Smithsonian Institution has informally consulted with them, and no historic preservation-related concerns are anticipated; however, Smithsonian must formally initiate Section 106 with the SHPO to complete the review process.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

At its meeting on May 16, 2019, the US Commission of Fine Arts approved the concept design for the National Native American Veterans Memorial. A copy of the CFA letter is attached.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Vivian Lee
05/31/2019

ATTACHMENTS

- Powerpoint
- Commission of Fine Arts Letter

National Native American Veterans Memorial

National Museum of the American Indian
4th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC

Approval of Preliminary Site and Building Plans

Smithsonian Institution

Winning Design Team: Pratt-BAU



Harvey Pratt in Vietnam, Marine Corps Veteran



Artist Harvey Pratt, painting a veteran's composition



Hans E. Butzer, Butzer Architects and Urbanism (BAU)

Site Context



National Museum of American Indian, 2004



The National Museum of the American Indian from the east looking southwest, 2004. Image courtesy NMAI.

Existing Conditions: Landscape Veil from Jefferson Drive



View through landscape veil to the NMAI building from Jefferson Dr SW.

Existing Conditions: Northeast Corner (Jefferson Drive and 3rd Street)



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4



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Key Plan

PHOTO CREDIT: Google Earth

Existing Conditions: Welcome Plaza



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10



Key Plan

PHOTO CREDIT: Google Earth

Existing Conditions: River Walk



11



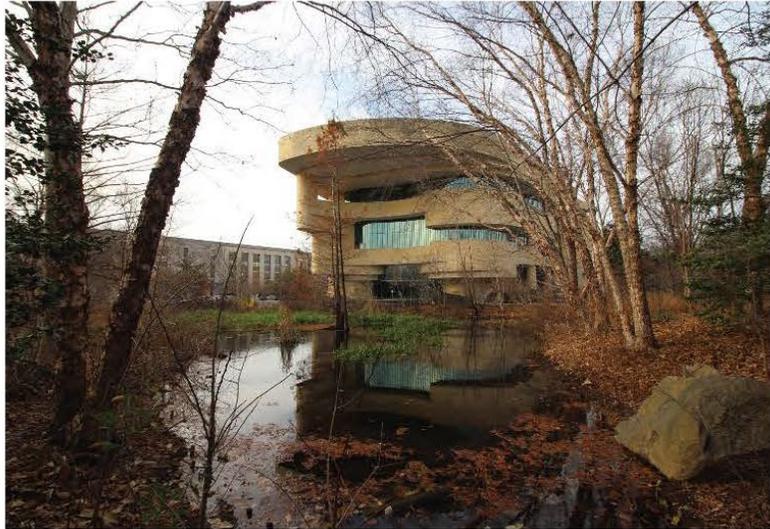
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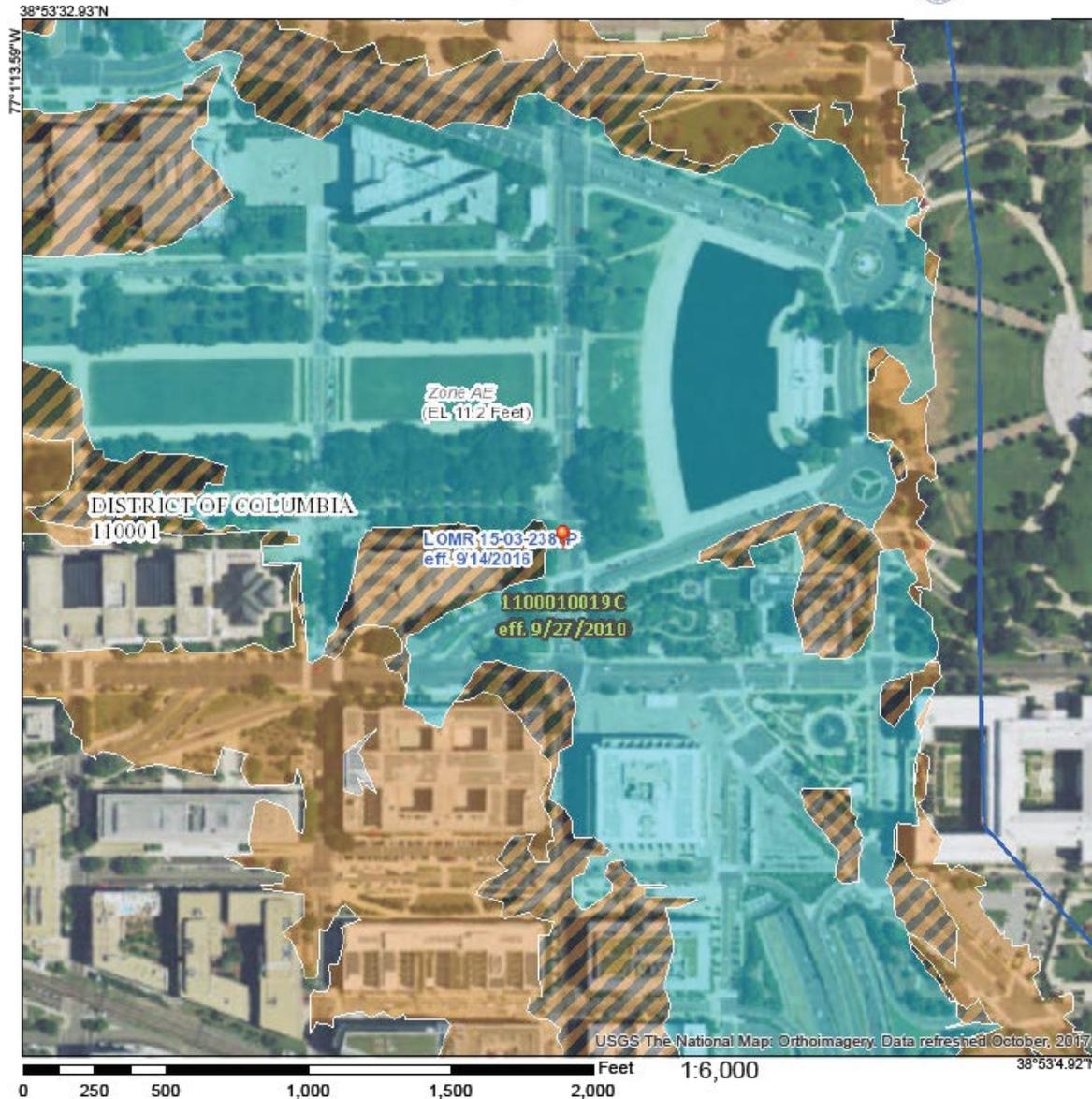


Key Plan

PHOTO CREDIT: Google Earth

Flooding

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMeTte



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

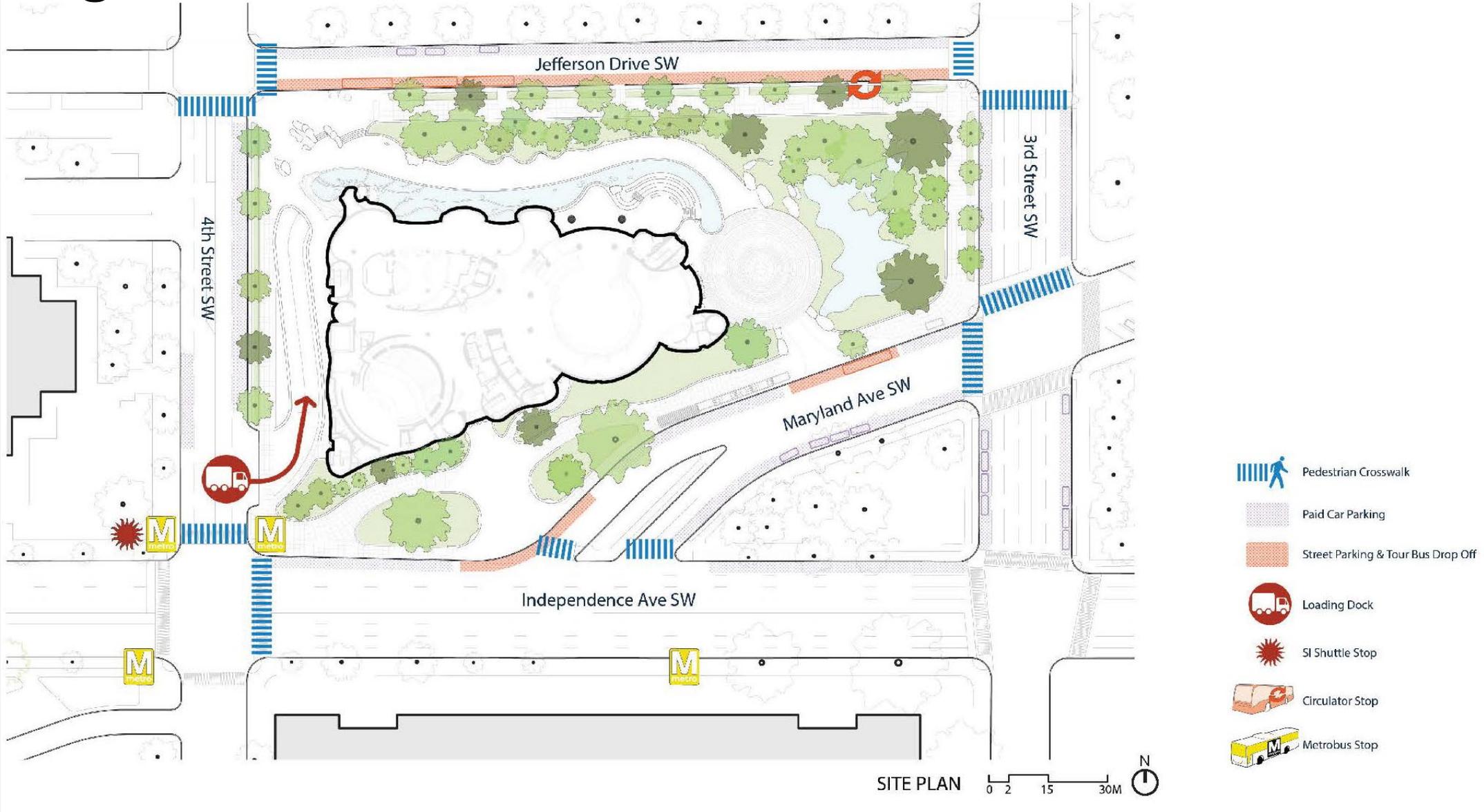
The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 4/11/2019 at 3:10:14 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

Approved Site Plan - 2004



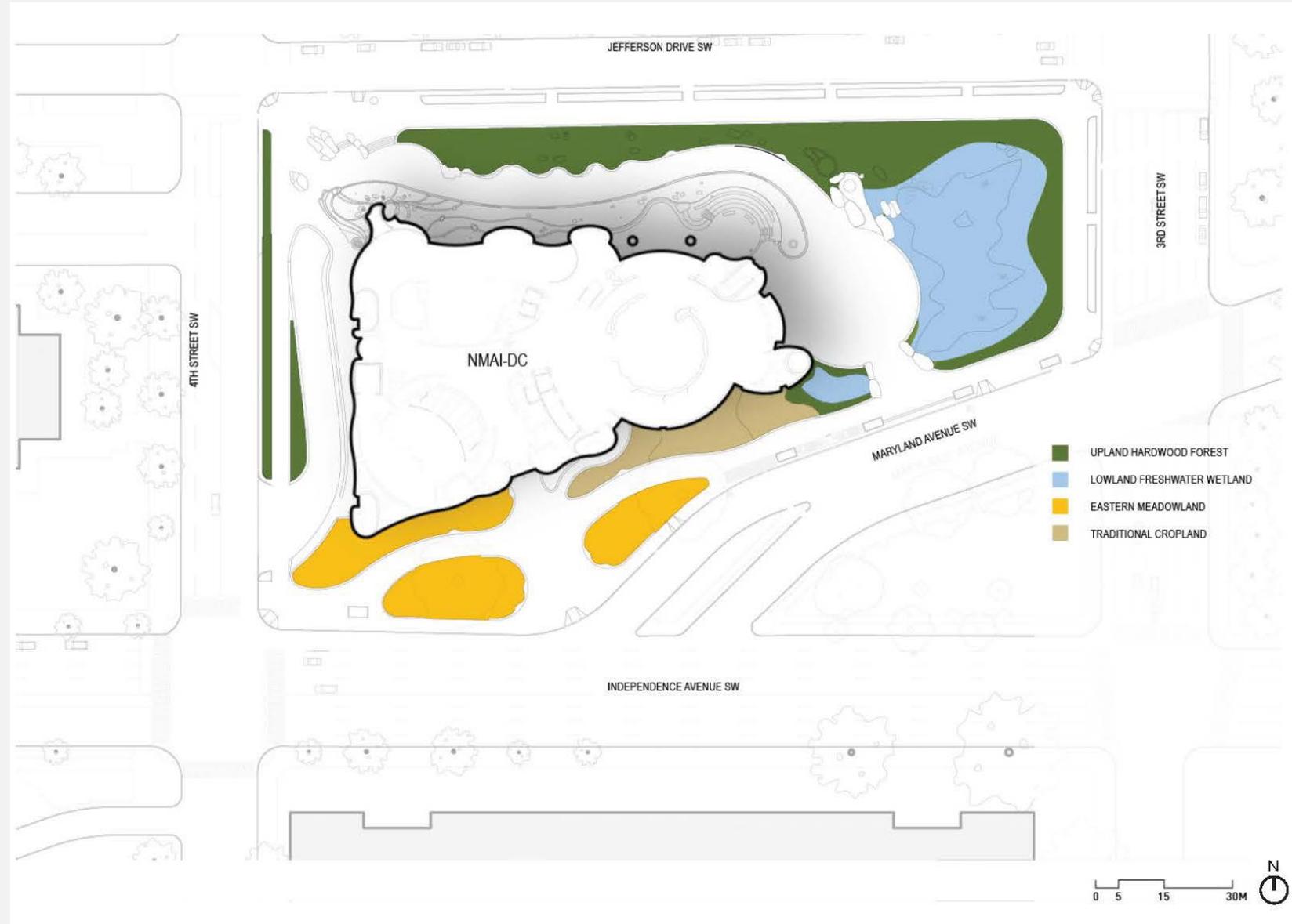
Existing Circulation



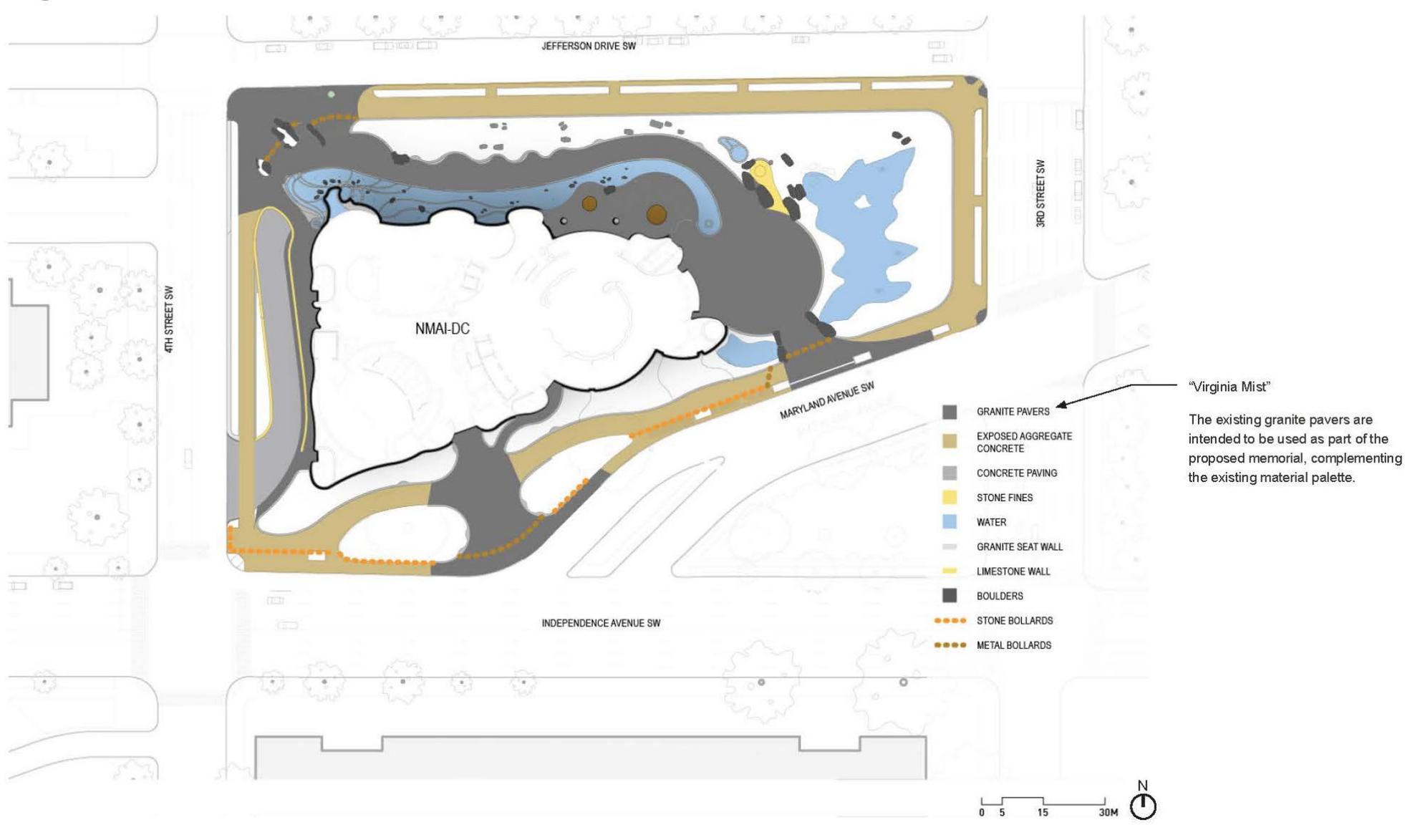
Existing Landscape

The original landscape design for NMAI recalls the Washington, DC area before European settlement, which consisted of:

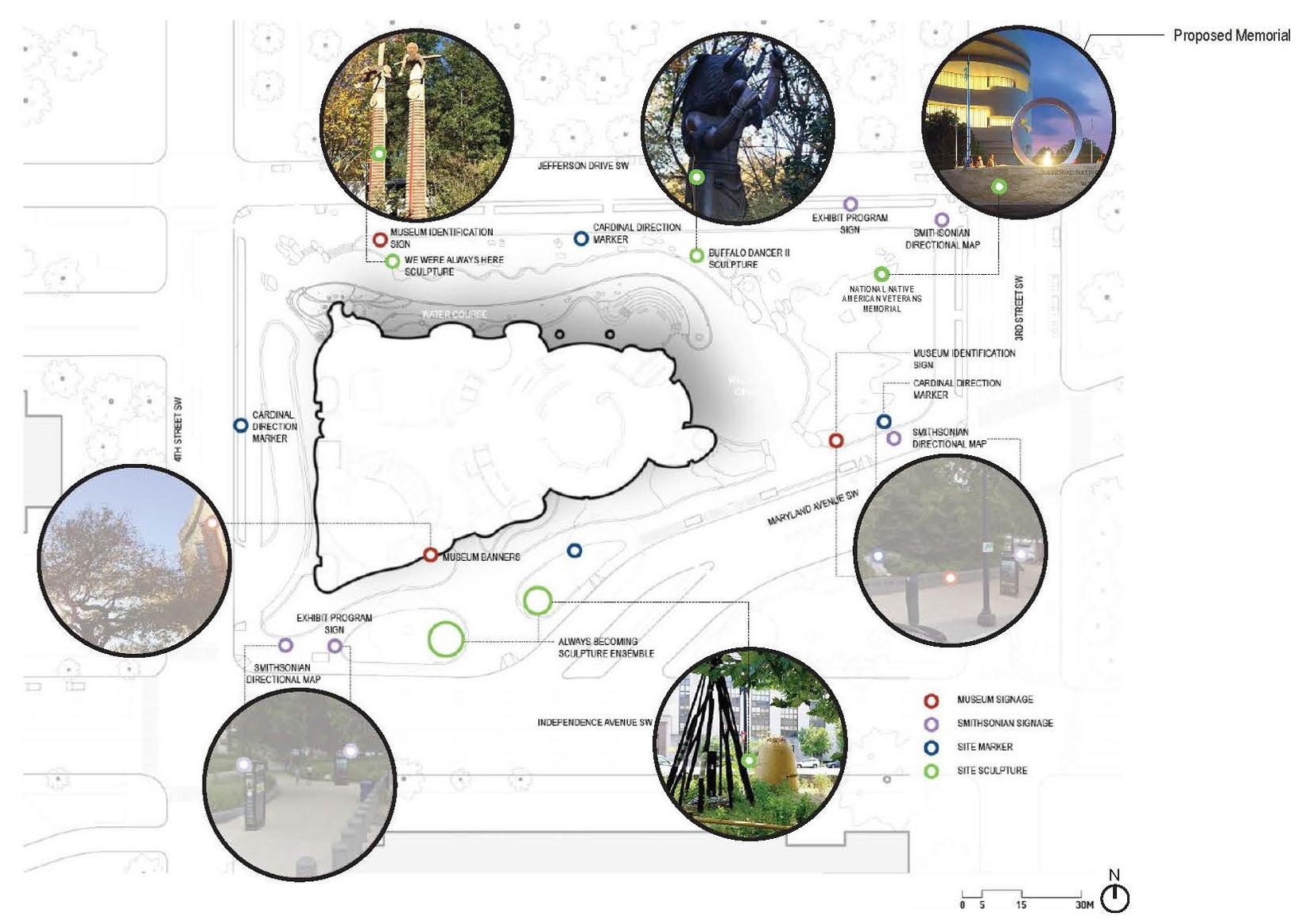
- forest
- meadows
- wetlands
- croplands, and
- freshwater tidal marsh, which was the original landscape of the NMAI-DC site



Existing Materials



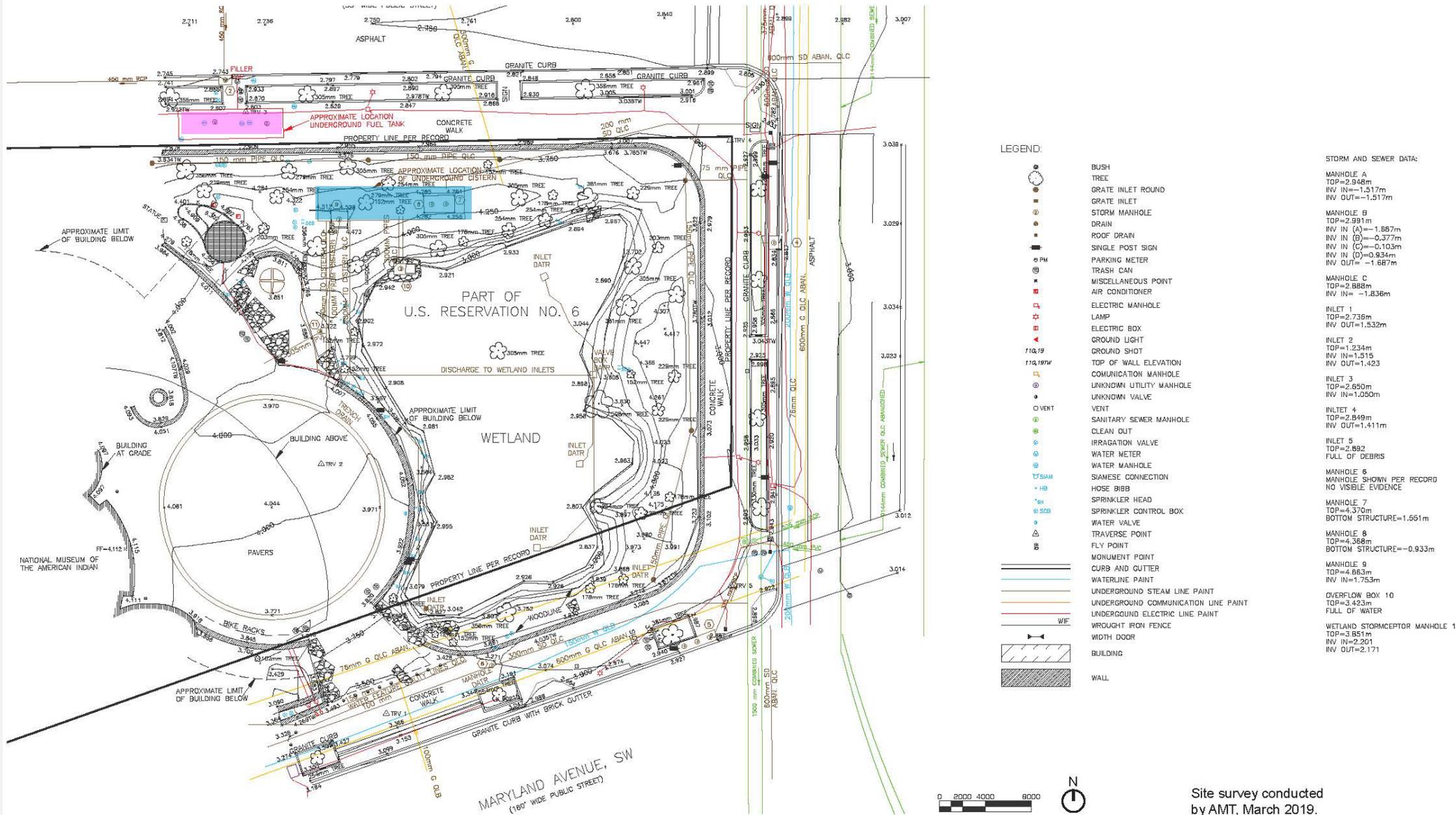
Existing Site Elements



Existing Program



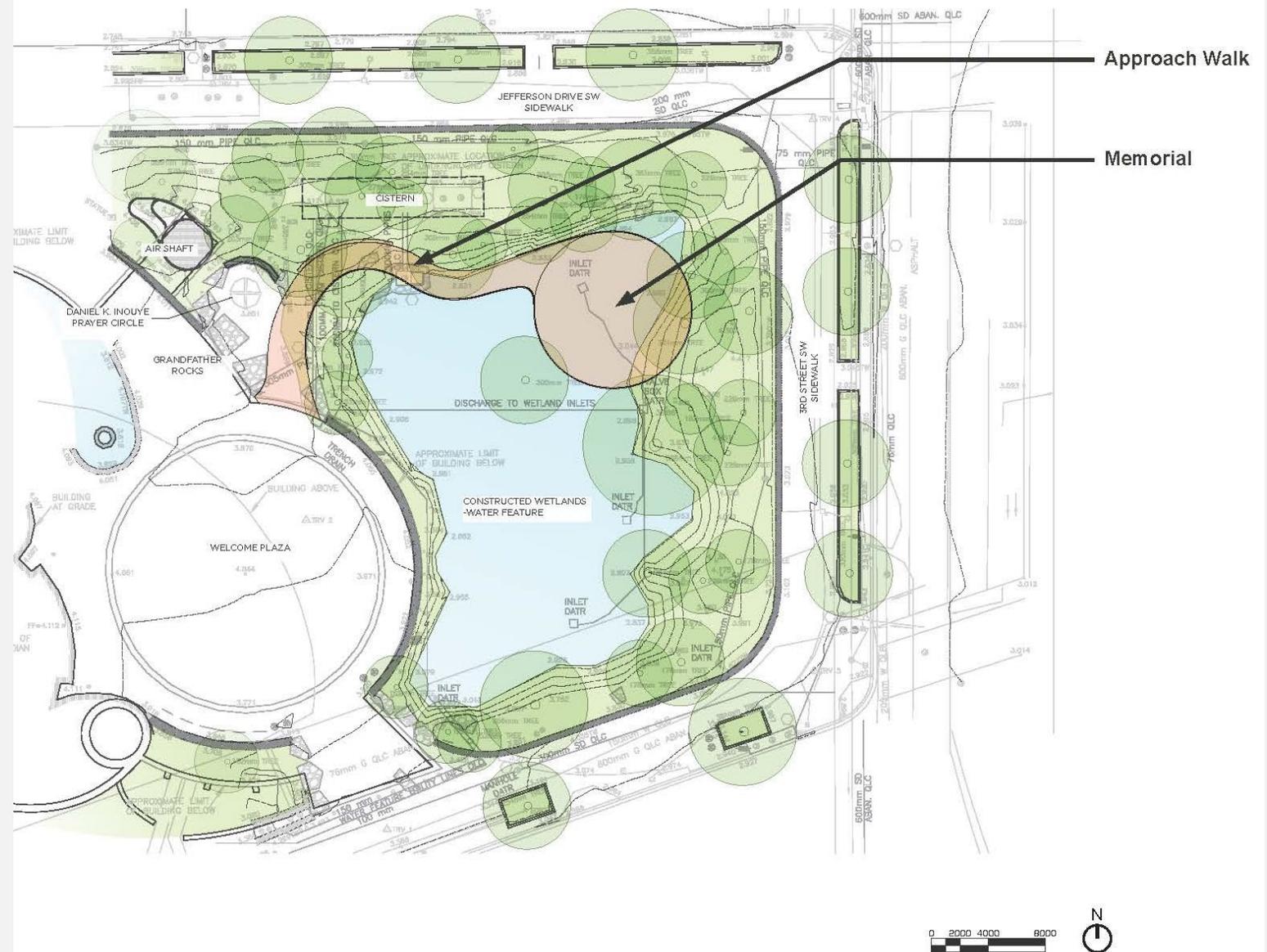
Existing Site Survey



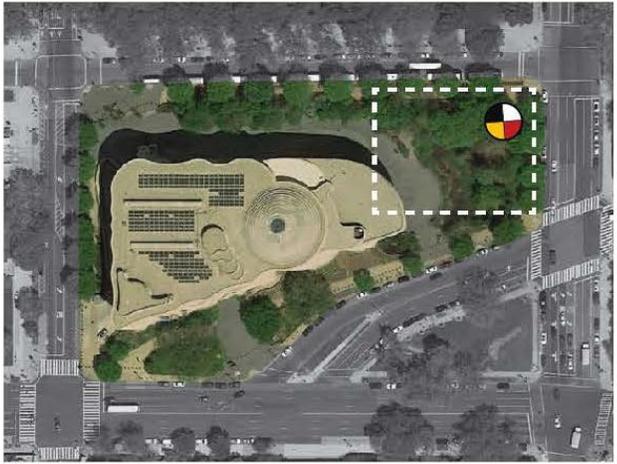
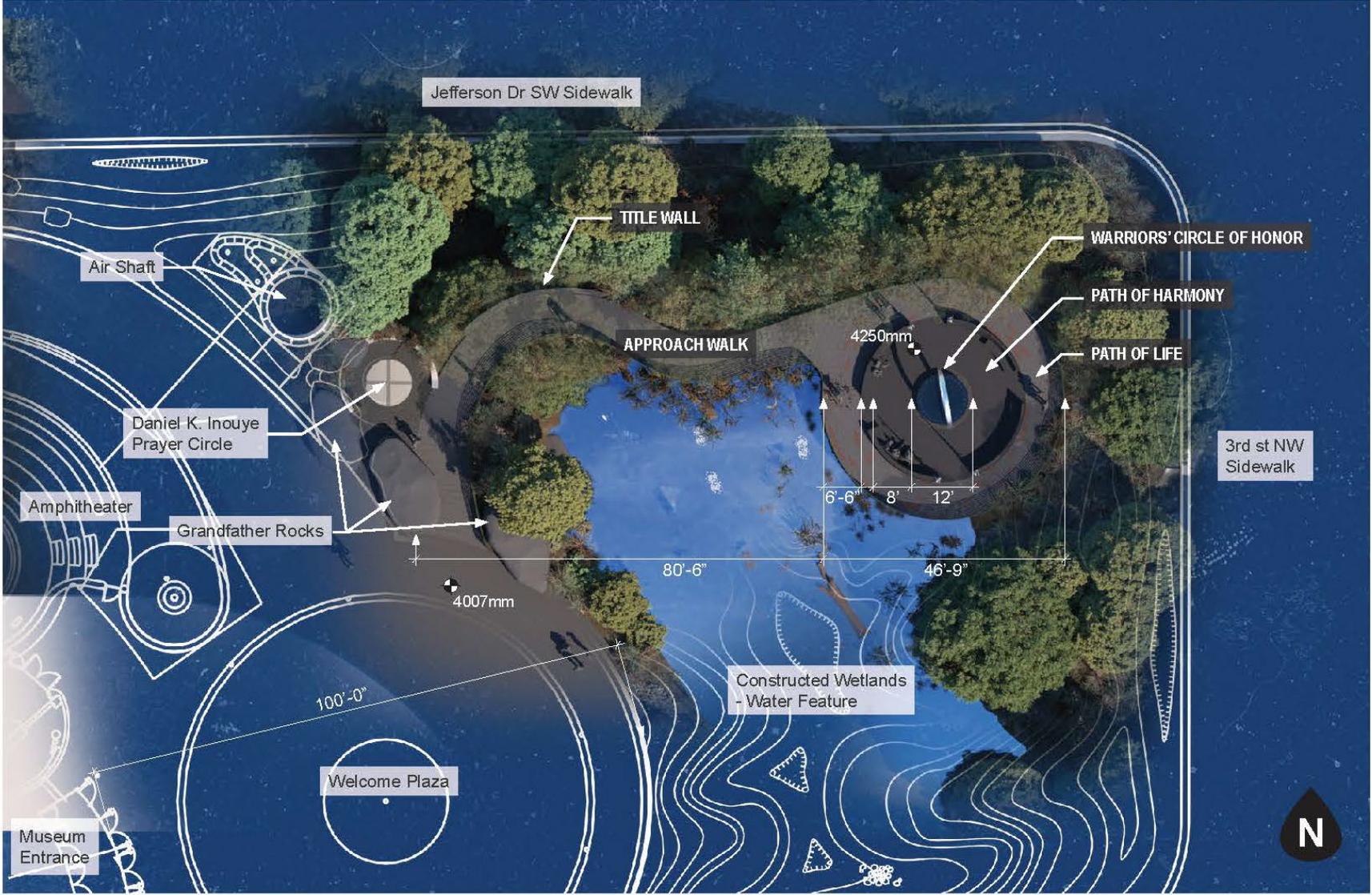
Existing Site Plan with Memorial Location

Memorial Location Goals:

- Separating from the noise and fumes from Jefferson Drive bus idling location and 3rd Street traffic;
- Maintaining the memorial identity as a destination instead of a pass-through;
- Respecting the original NMAI landscape design.



Proposed Site Plan



Key Plan

PHOTO CREDIT Google Earth

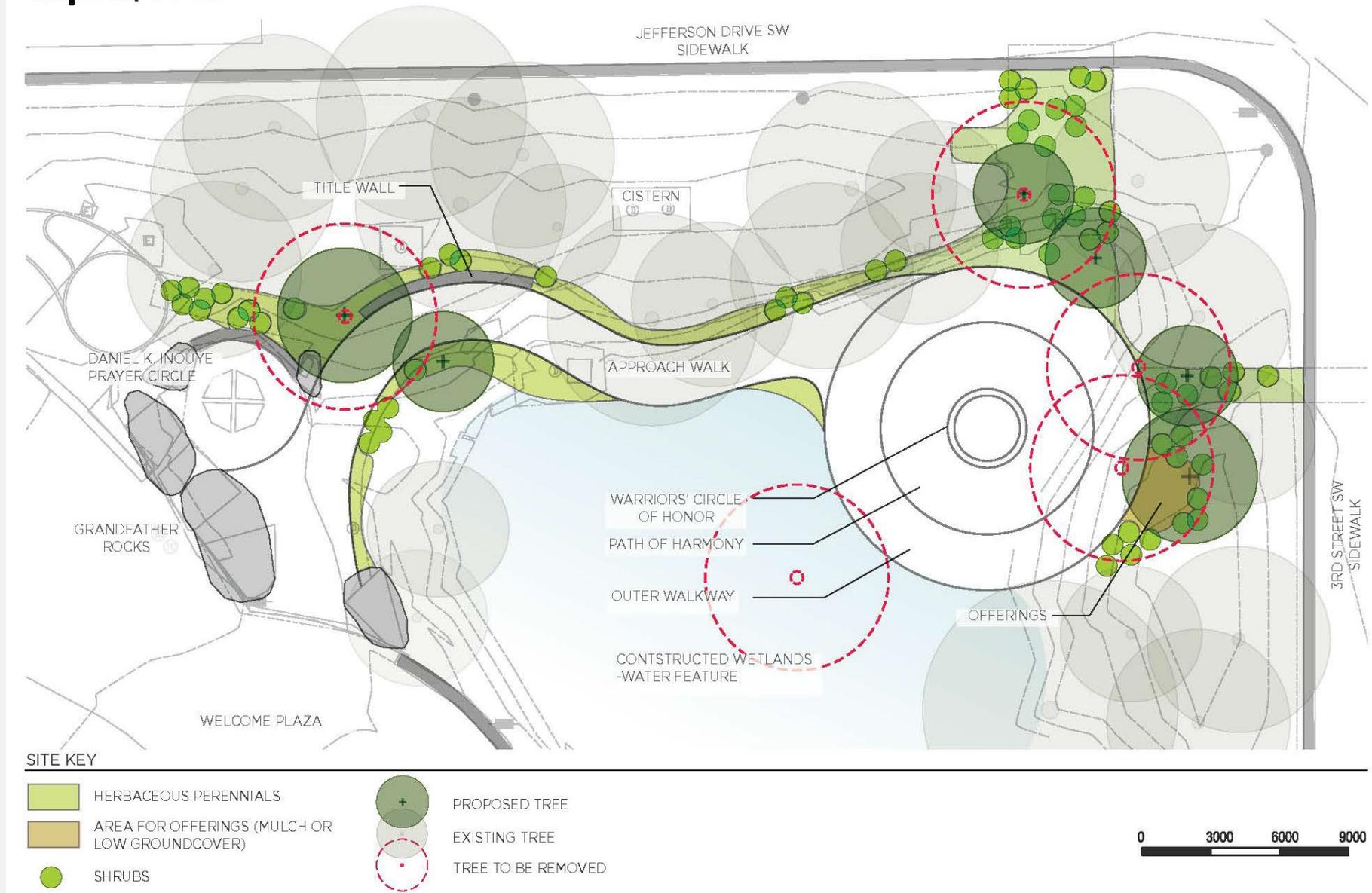
Proposed Landscape Plan

The landscape will be comprised of:

- native upland trees
- shrubs
- Herbaceous perennials, including lowland wet meadow plants, emergent plants, and aquatic plants

5 trees will be removed

6 new trees will be planted



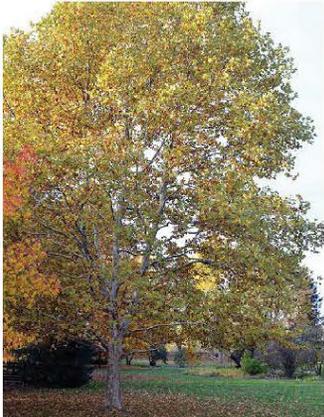
Planting Species



RIVER BIRCH
Betula nigra



BLACK GUM
Nyssa sylvatica



AMERICAN SYCAMORE
Platanus occidentalis



PAWPAW
Asimina triloba

TREES



HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY
Vaccinium corymbosum



SPICEBUSH
Lindera benzoin



STAGHORN SUMAC
Rhus typhina



ARROWWOOD VIBURNUM
Viburnum dentatum



SWEET PEPPERBUSH
Clethra alnifolia

SHRUBS

Planting Species

AQUATIC



COW-LILY
Nuphar lutea



WHITE WATERLILY
Nymphaea odorata

EMERGENT



ARROWHEAD
Sagittaria latifolia



BULRUSH
Scirpus spp.



SWEET FLAG
Acorus calamus



CARDINAL FLOWER
Lobelia cardinalis

WET MEADOW



THINLEAF SUNFLOWER
Helianthus decapetalus



FIRE PINK
Silene virginica



WILD ONION
Allium spp.



MANNA GRASS
Glyceria striata



JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT
Arisaema triphyllum



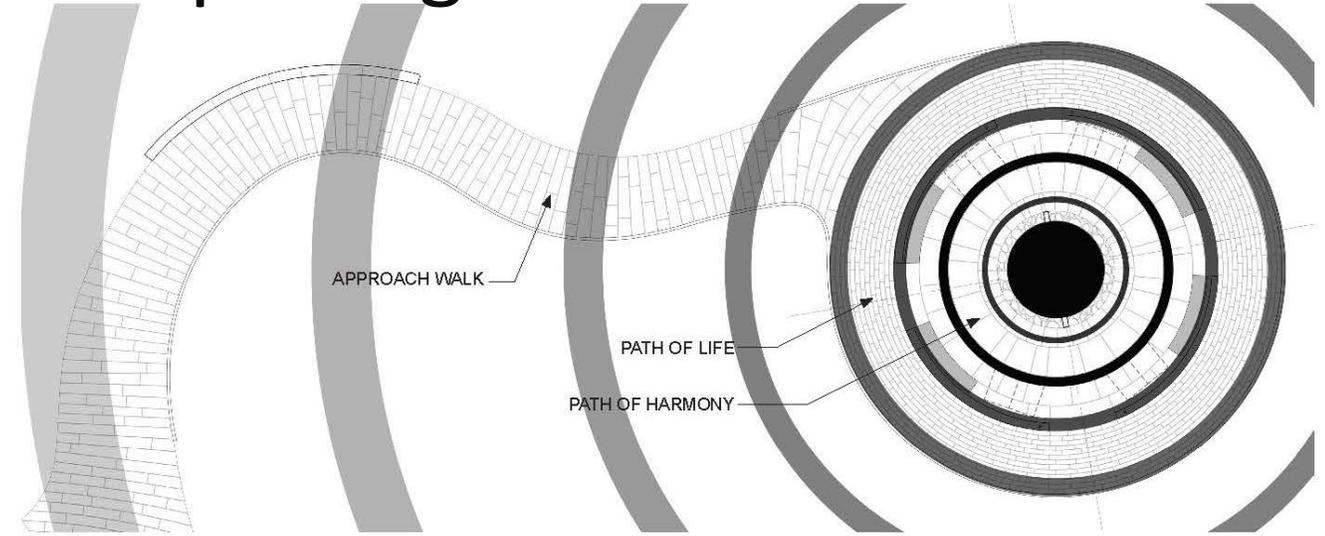
LIVERLEAF
Hepatica acutiloba



BLOODROOT
Sanguinaria canadensis

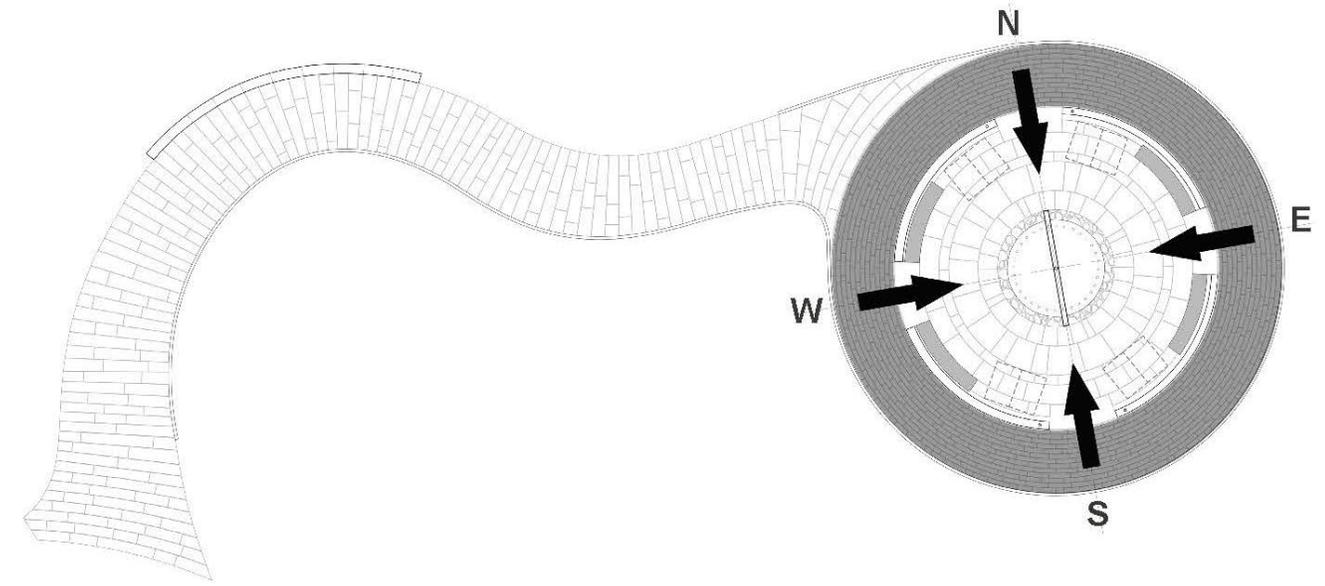
HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Concept Diagrams



DRUM VIBRATIONS

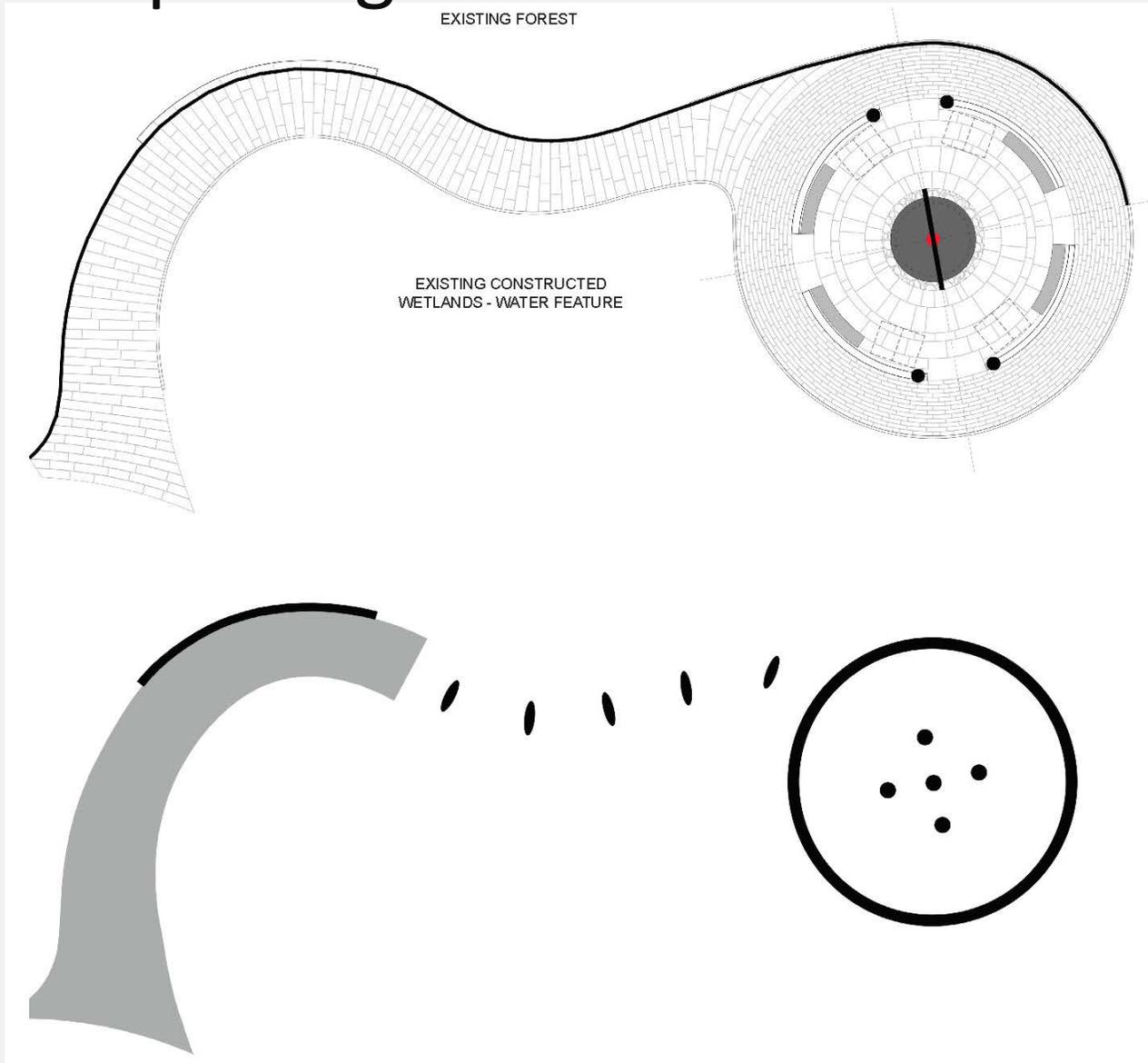
The beat of a drum has a similar effect to that of fire, as it encourages people to gather. These concentric circles in the ground plane, reminiscent of echoes, emanate from the drum and pulsing water. These circles are etched into the walking surface of the Path of Harmony, Path of Life, and Approach Walk. Echoes are a solemn reminder that we must not forget, and a permanent reminder at this memorial.



FOUR DIRECTIONS FROM THE PATH OF LIFE

The six directions (referring to magnetic north, south, east, west, skyward, and earthward) have great significance in the cultures of many Native communities. Visitors are able to circumnavigate their way along the Path of Life, before deciding from which cardinal direction they would choose to enter the Path of Harmony.

Concept Diagrams



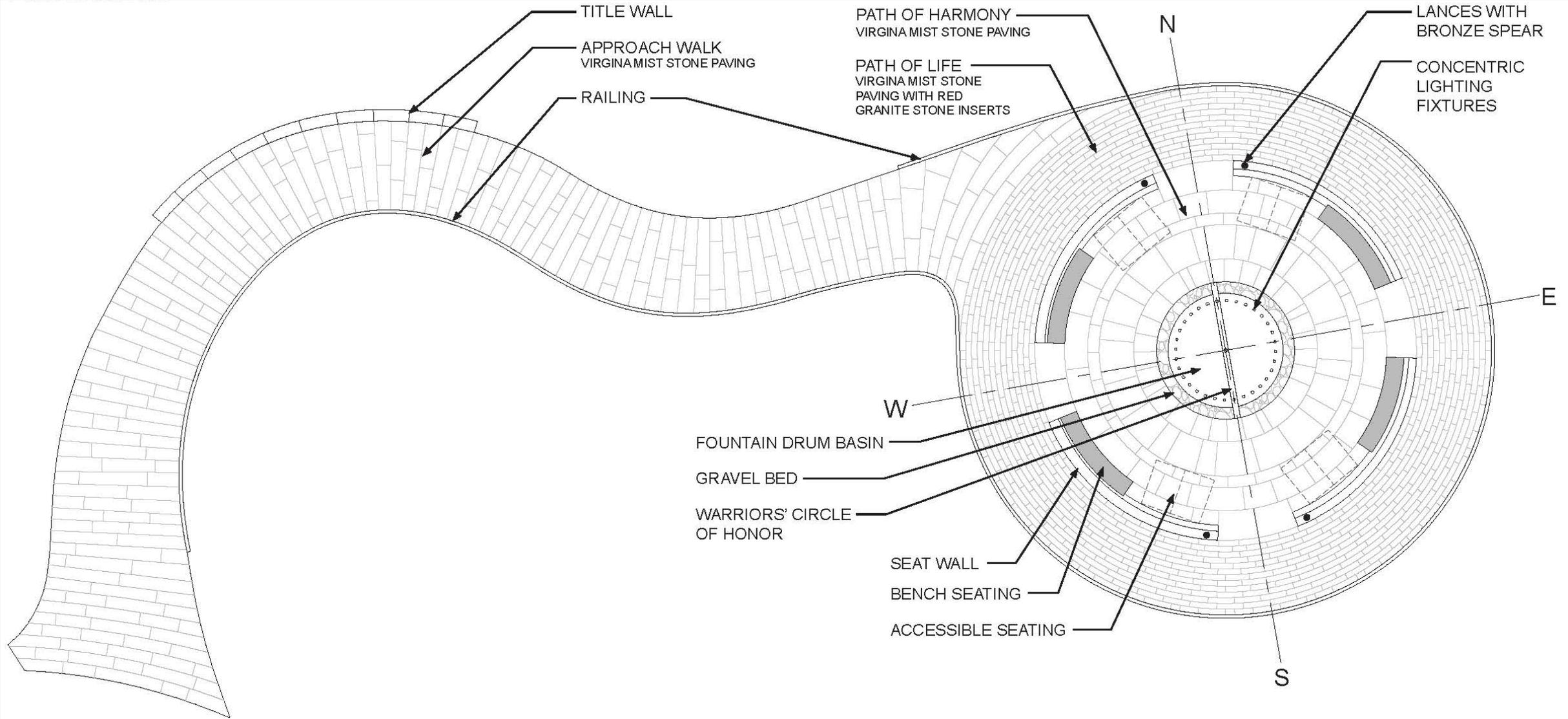
MOVEMENT

The many ways in which a diverse range of visitors may experience the memorial are inspired by Universal Design Guidelines. When visitors enter the memorial along the winding and gradually revealing path, they are gently greeted by an array of subtle sensory textures. The air resonates with the sounds of flowing water and waving leaves and branches. Wind activates the prayer cloths, attached to lances set atop the circular seat wall. The integrated lighting approach further supports the dancing movements observed throughout the design.

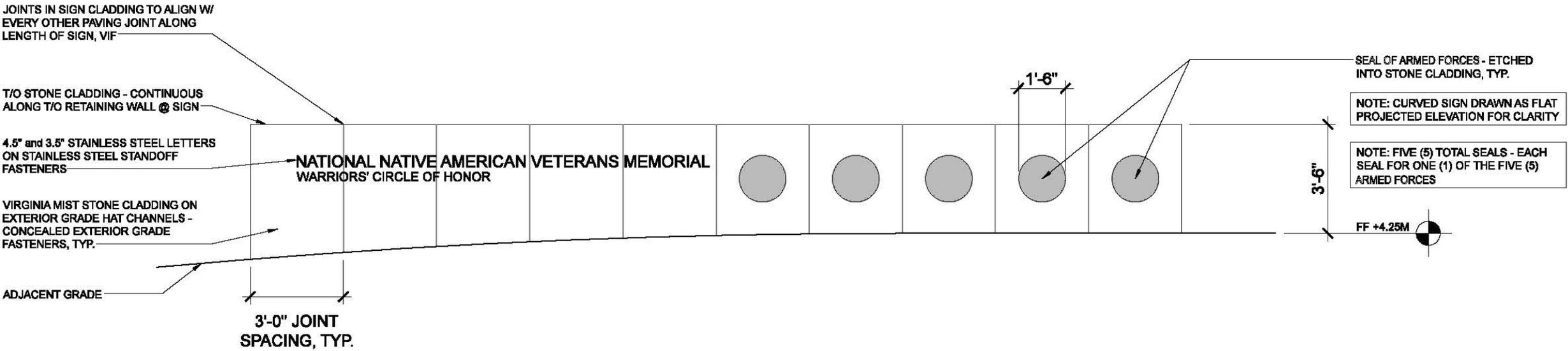
TOUCHING THE GROUND LIGHTLY

The configuration of the memorial's Approach Walk manifests an attempt to maintain as many trees as possible, while also offering visitors a sense of journey. Not only are many trees retained, but their spatial qualities are celebrated by how the path and memorial are situated amongst them. The structure of the Approach Walk and Warriors' Circle of Honor are conceived to touch the ground lightly. Slender concrete piers and minimized foundation walls allow the memorial to respect the landscape and reinforce the memorial's lightness and elegance.

Concept Diagram: Plan Elements

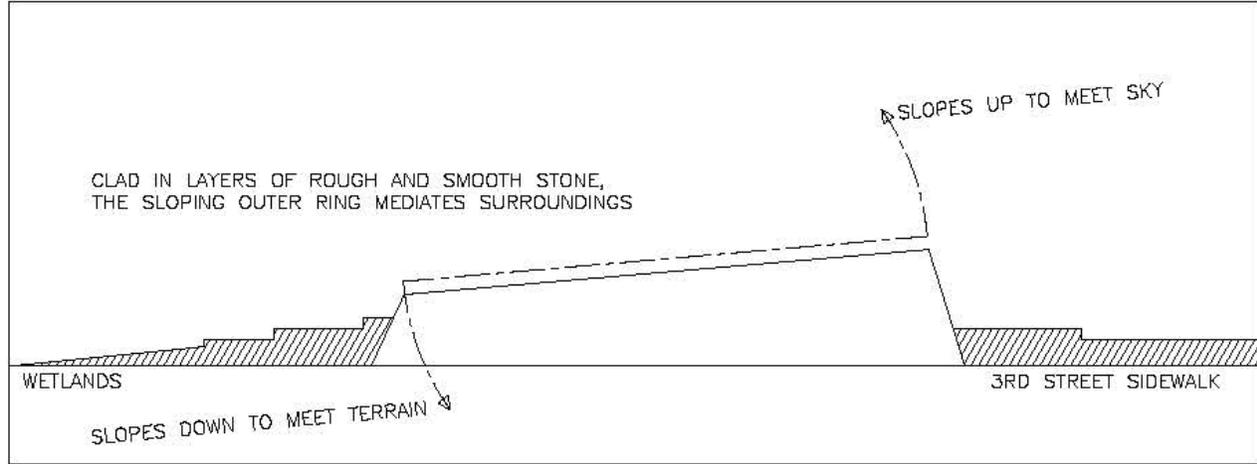


Title Wall Elevation

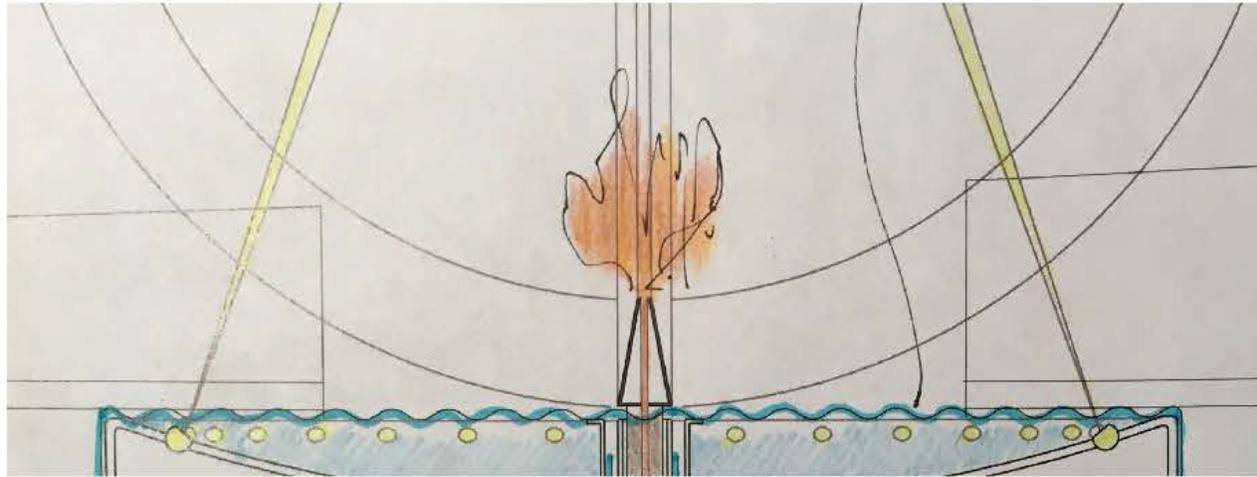


Seals of Armed Forces shown for reference only.

Sloping Seat Wall and Ceremonial Fire

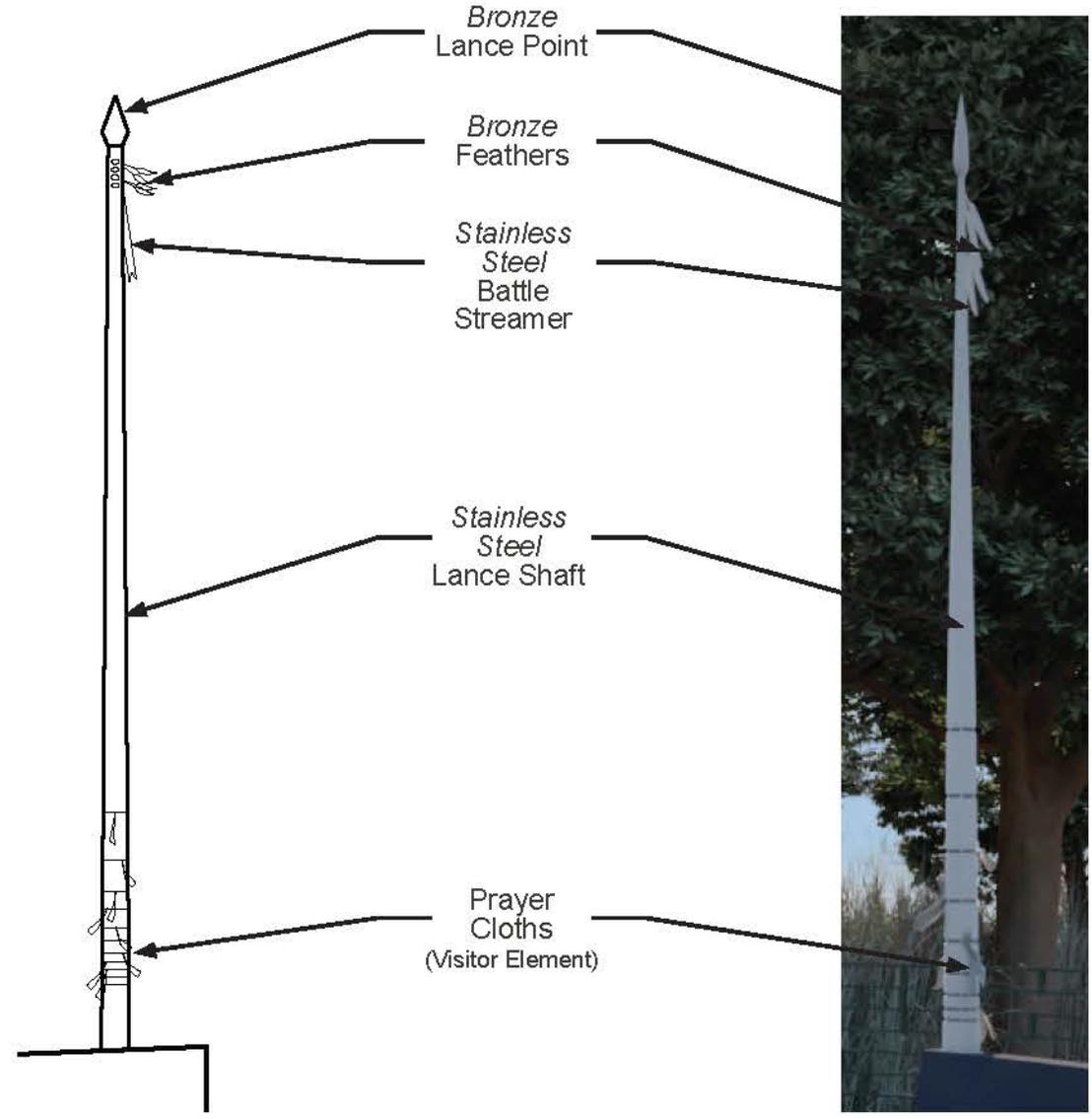


The top of the back of the seat wall for the memorial, located between the “Path of Life” and the “Path of Harmony”, is sloped in elevation, providing different view points from the visitors perspective.



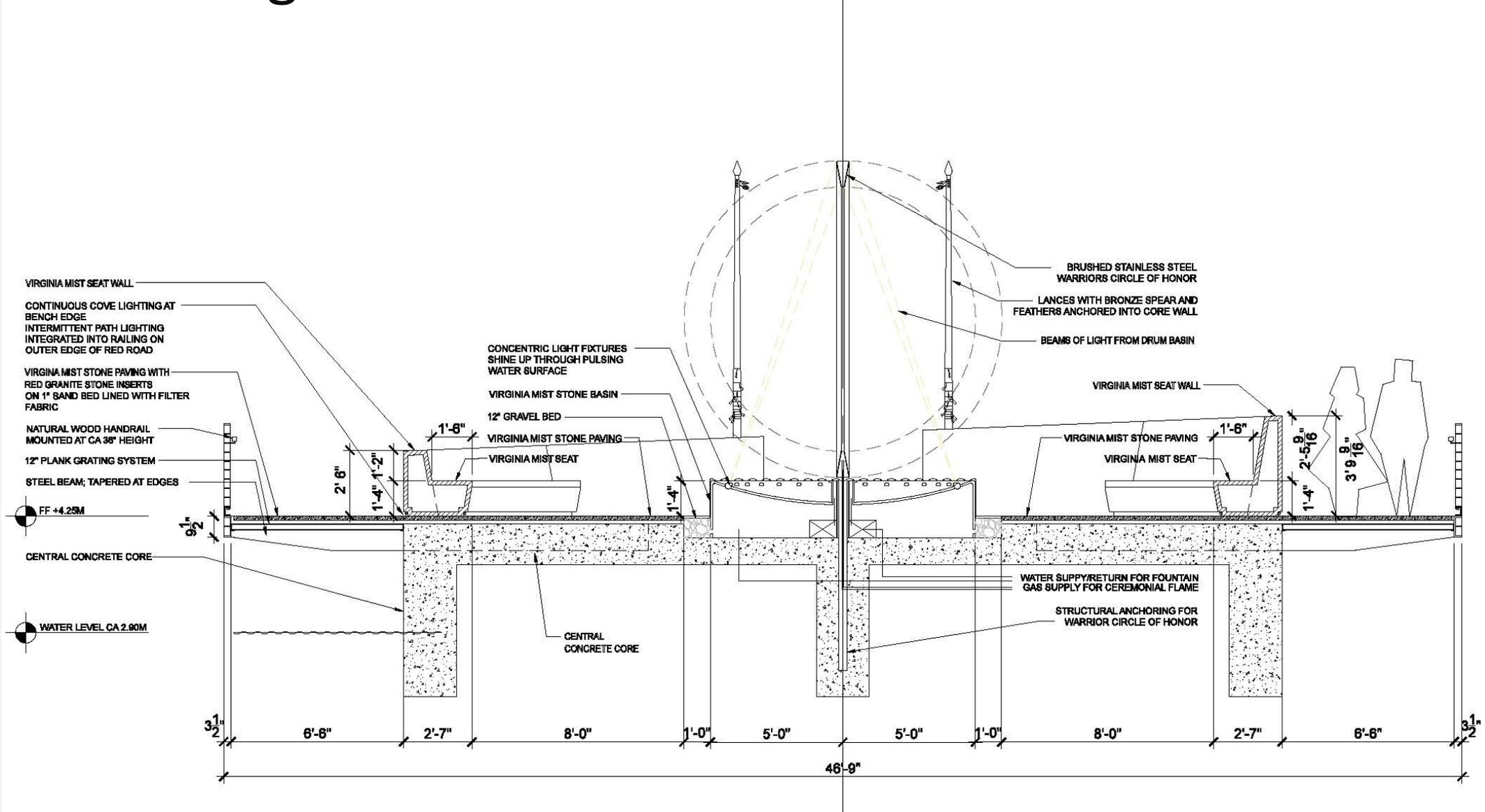
When the ceremonial fire is burning, the color of the flames will join in this dance of reflection.

Lance Shaft, Points, and Feathers

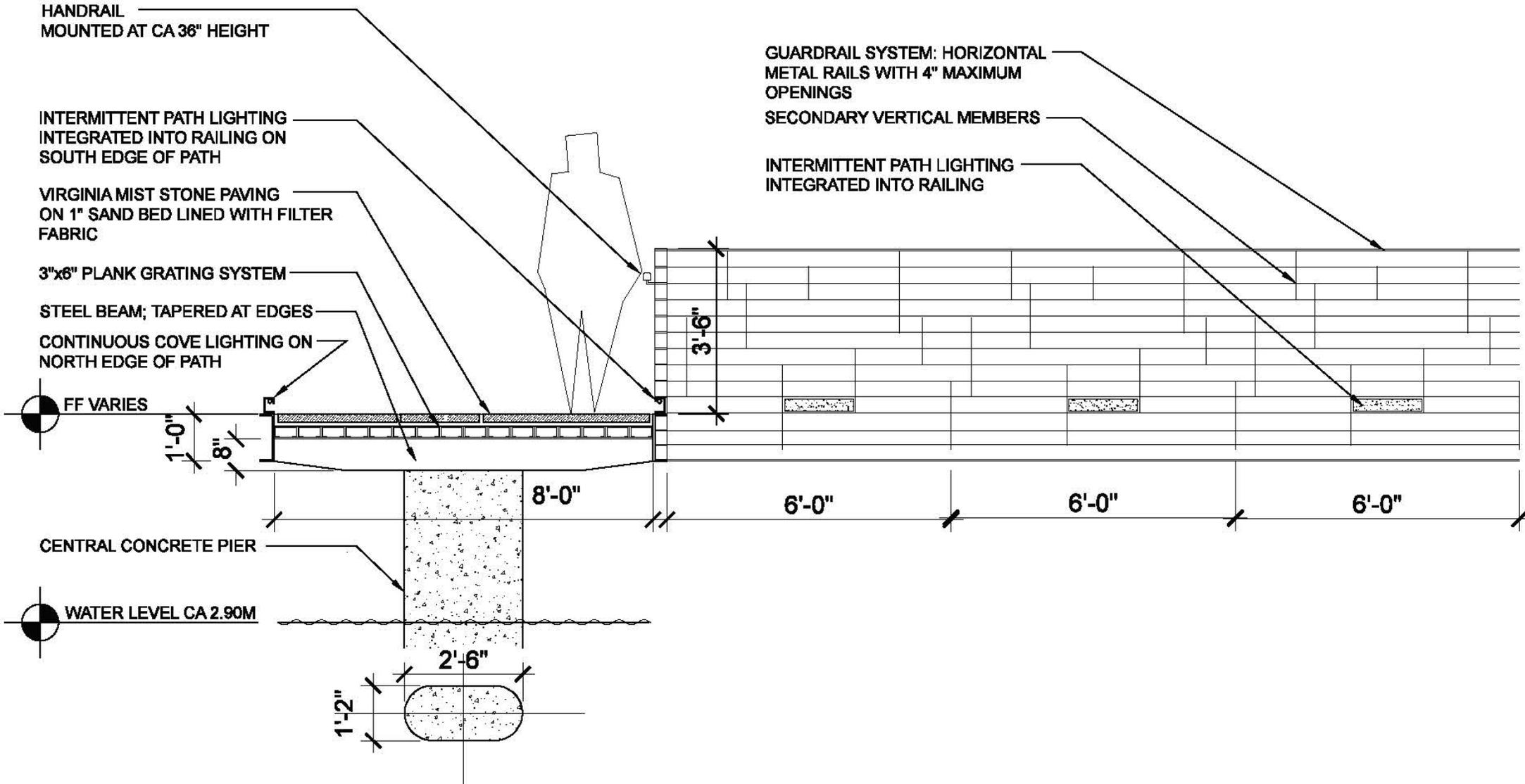


Mock-up clay models of lance points, and feathers, and battle streamer in progress.

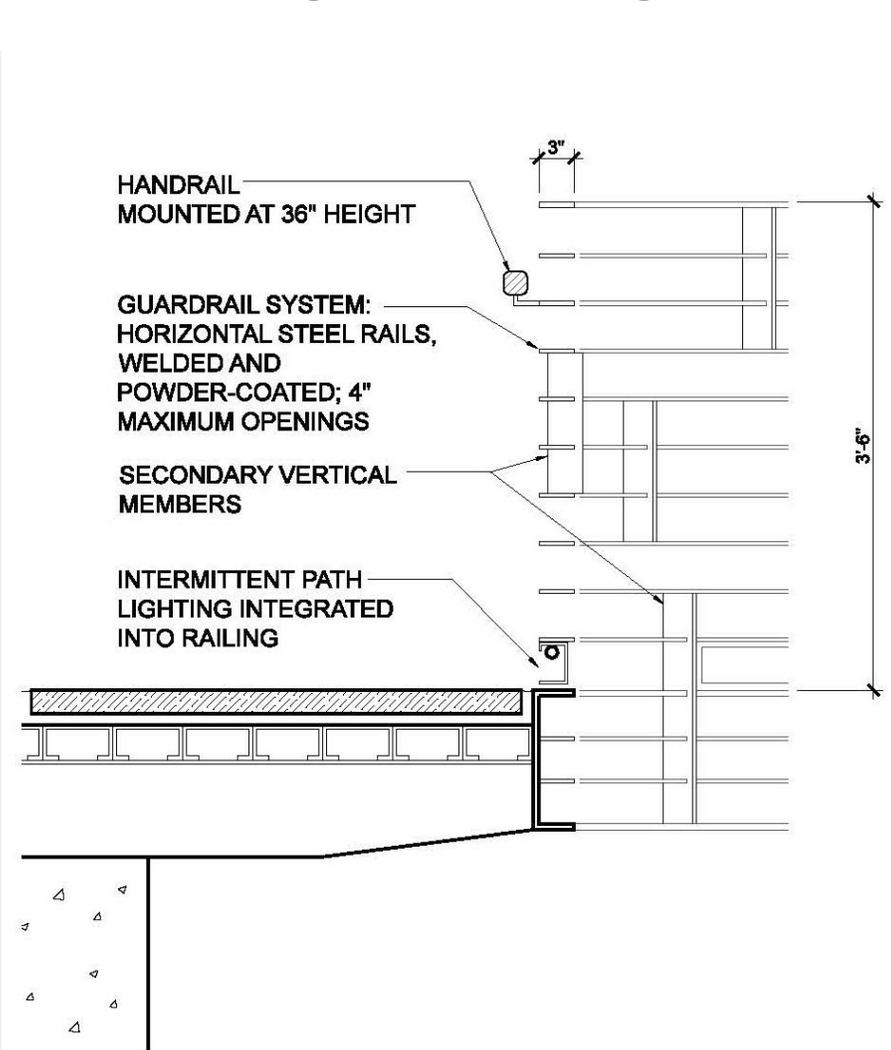
Section through Memorial Core



Section through Approach Walk

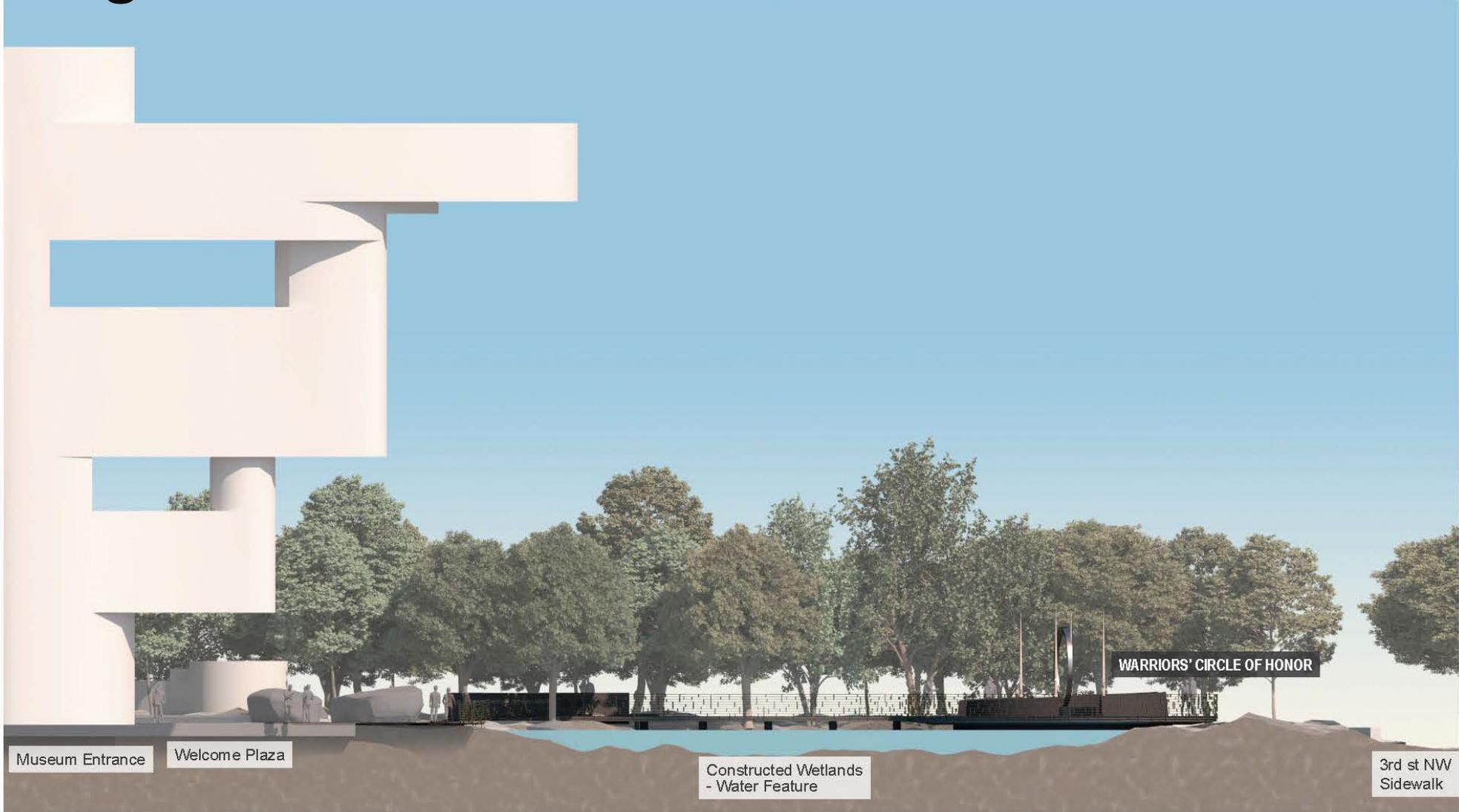


Section through Railing



Perspective view of guardrail at the Approach Walk.

Longitudinal Section

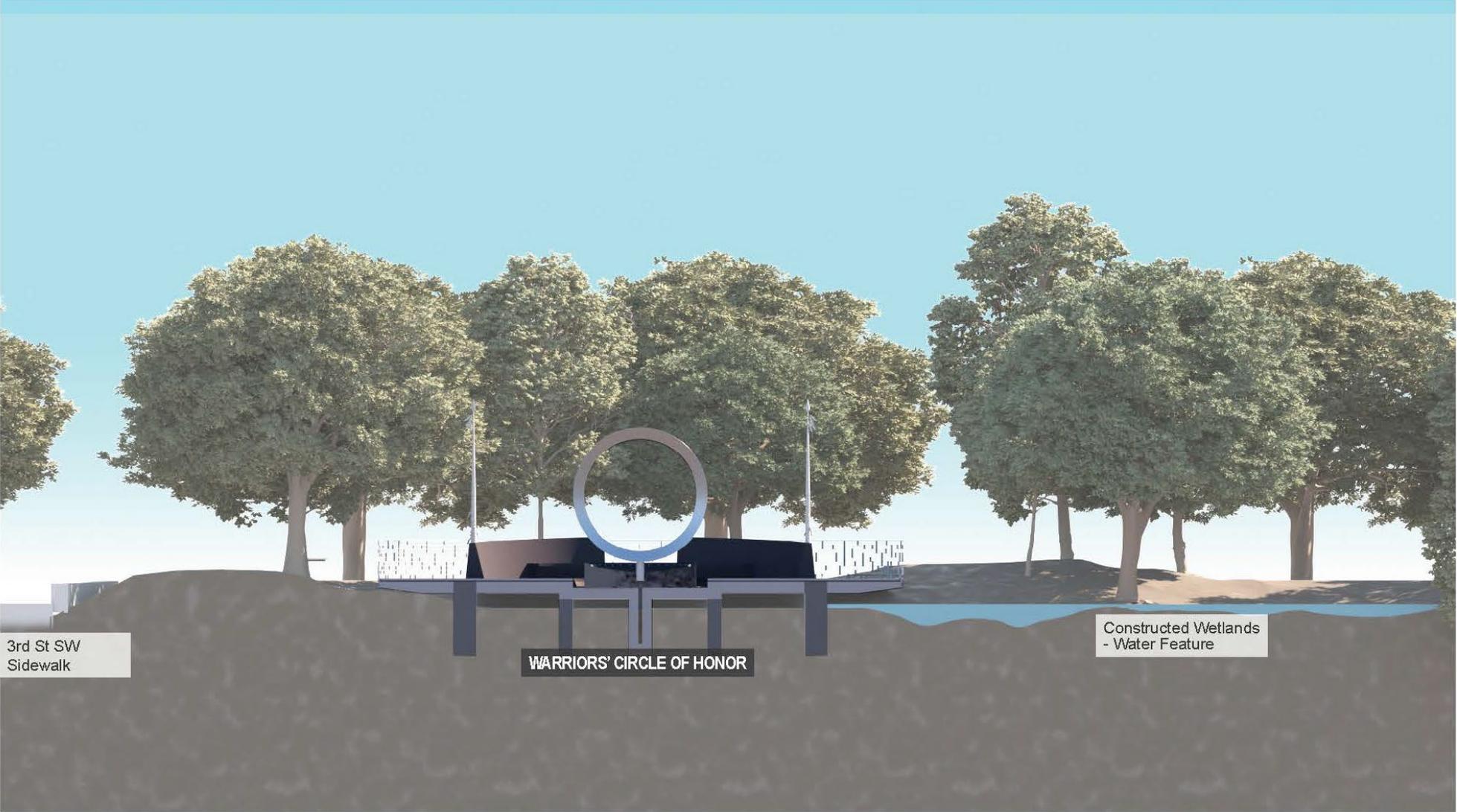


The National Native American Veterans Memorial is placed amidst the constructed wetland, reachable only from the NMAI's Welcome Plaza along a winding wooded path.



Key Plan

Transversal Section



The Memorial's careful placement encourages visitors to consider the sacrifice of Native American veterans within both a constructed American landscape and the formal framework of the National Mall.



Key Plan

View from Intersection of 3rd Street and Jefferson Drive, SW



The National Native American Veterans Memorial is both an object in the landscape relative to the NMAI landscape and a layer of the landscape through which views are framed to and from the NMAI's Welcome Plaza.



Key Plan

View from Welcome Circle



A view from the Welcome Plaza invites reflections of the memorial across the water. Its placement also captures the sun's light through the seasons.



Key Plan

View from Entry Approach



Visitors shall pass grandfather rocks and the Inouye Prayer Circle on their way to the memorial, experiencing the soft shadows of the forest and the sun's reflections across the constructed wetlands - water feature.



Key Plan

View from Approach



The Approach Walk is an 8' wide cantilevered accessible walkway, connecting the NMAI Welcome Plaza to the memorial. The approach is carefully located at the edge of the constructed wetlands and minimizes the removal of existing vegetation, allowing the visitors to fully immerse themselves into the living landscape exhibit as they approach the memorial.



Key Plan

View from Water Feature



The memorial is designed to harmoniously integrate into the existing landscape. The circular wall gracefully slopes towards the earth, a gesture of respect to the land upon which the memorial is constructed.



Key Plan

View from the Warrior's Circle



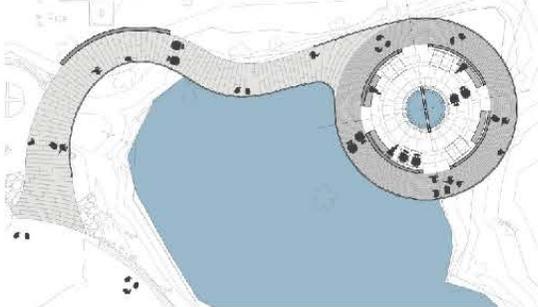
Visitors arrive at the Warriors' Circle, defined by sounds of flowing water, ceremonial fire on special occasions, the sun's glint on the edge of the sacred circle, the smells of sweet grasses and native plants, and four lances with prayer cloths dancing in the wind.



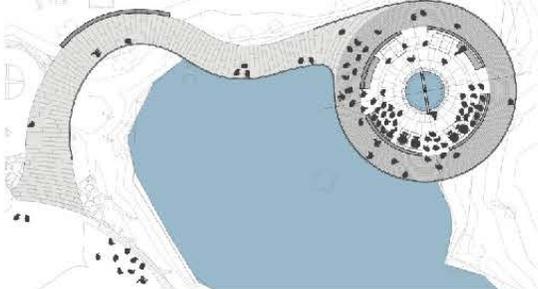
Key Plan

Occupancy Analysis: Memorial Use Diagrams

Memorial Use Diagrams



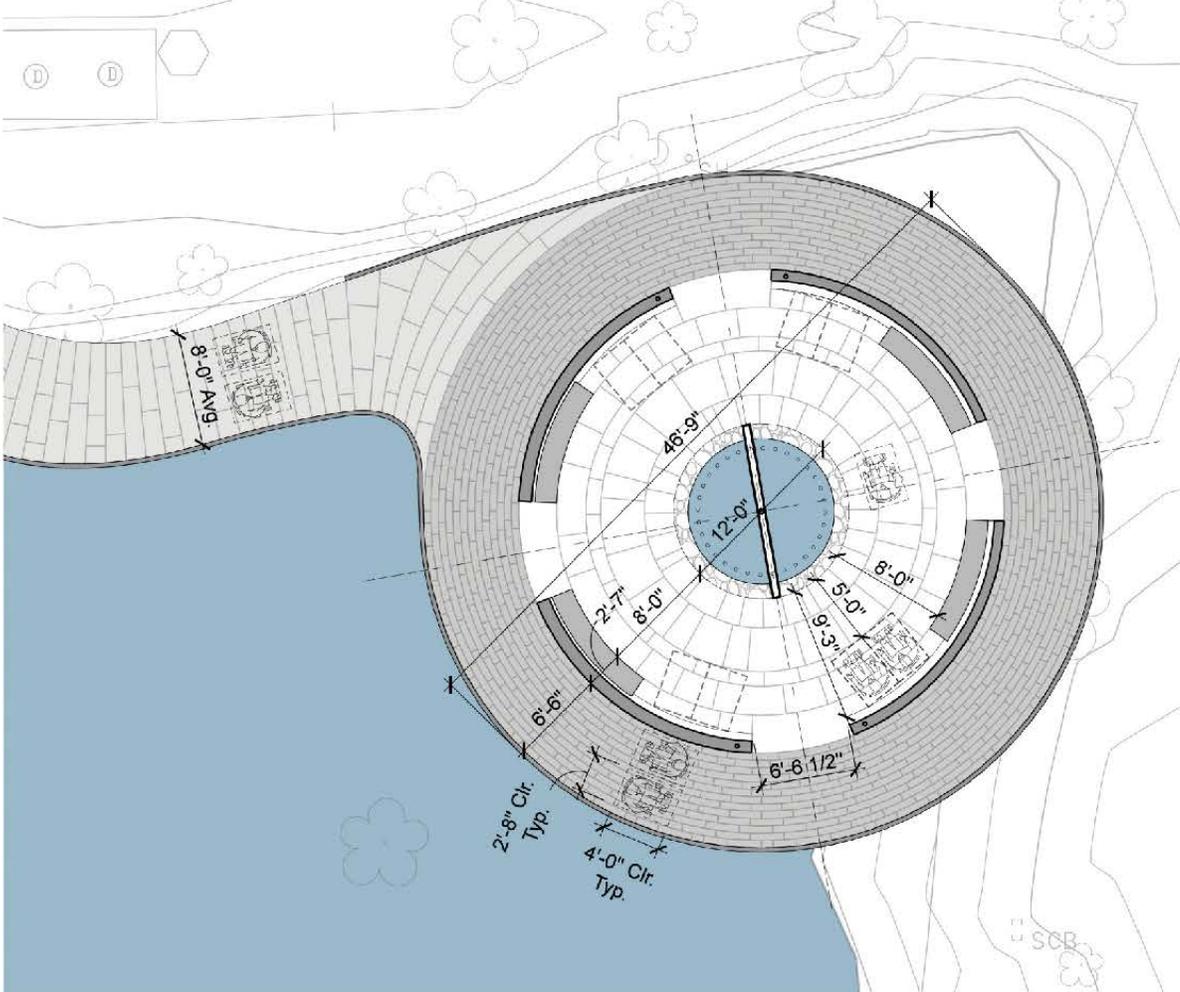
Typical Day



Ceremonial Day

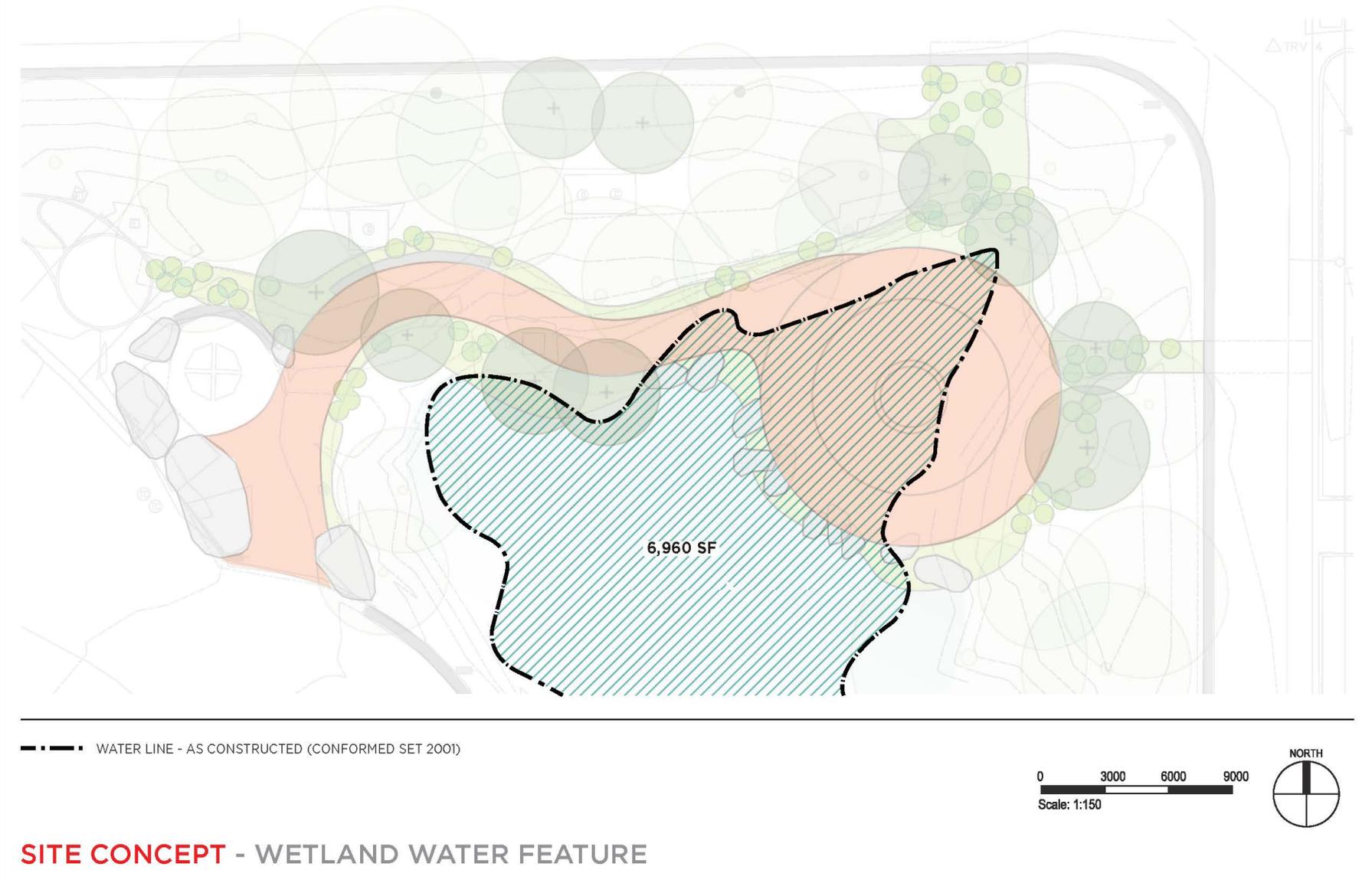


Holiday

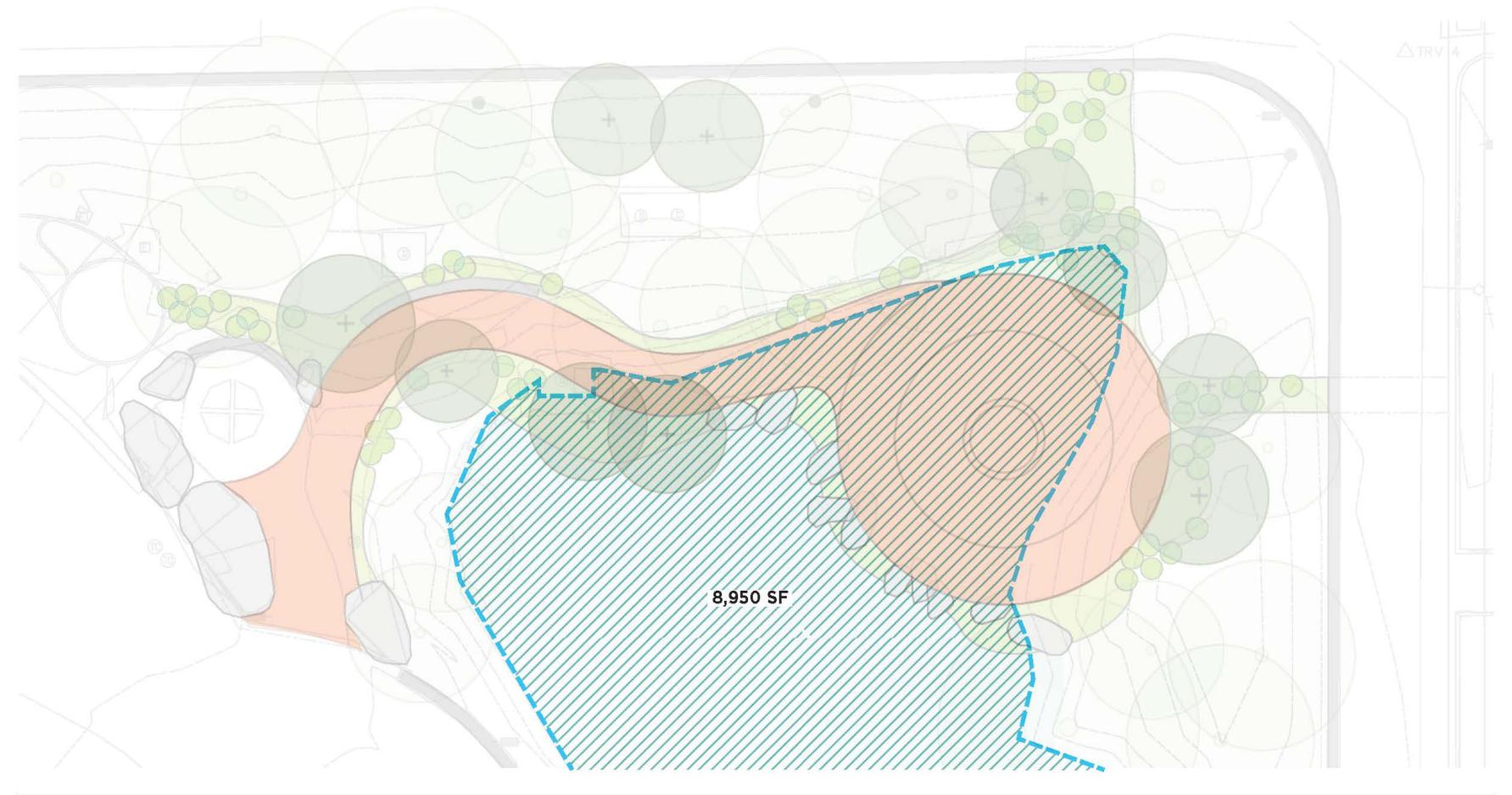


Accommodating Accessibility

Wetland Water Feature: As Constructed in 2004



Wetland Water Feature: Existing Conditions



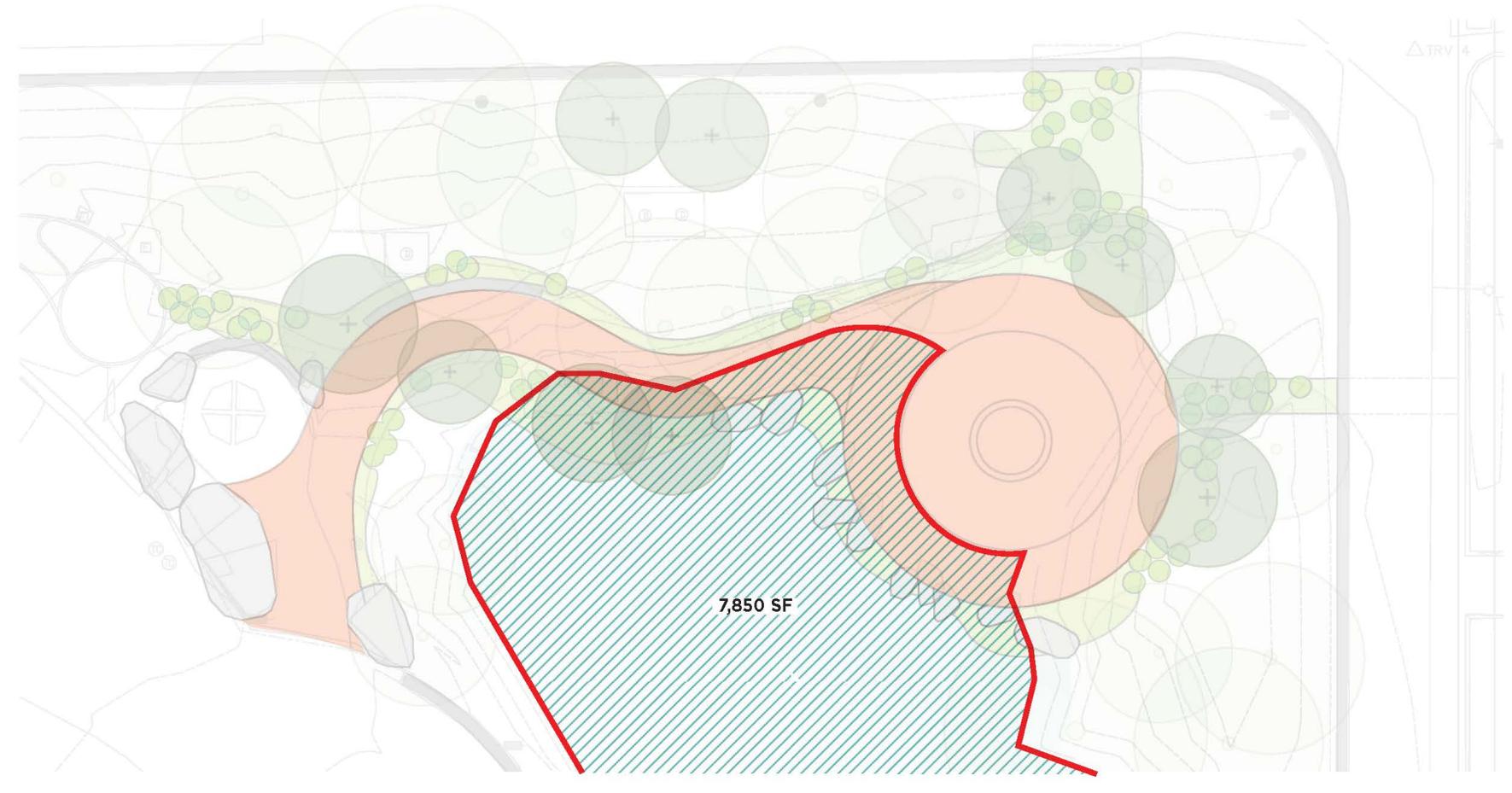
--- WATER LINE - EXISTING (SURVEY 2019)

0 3000 6000 9000
Scale: 1:150

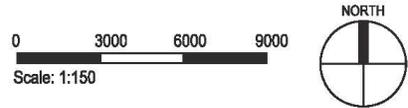


SITE CONCEPT - WETLAND WATER FEATURE

Wetland Water Feature: Proposed Conditions

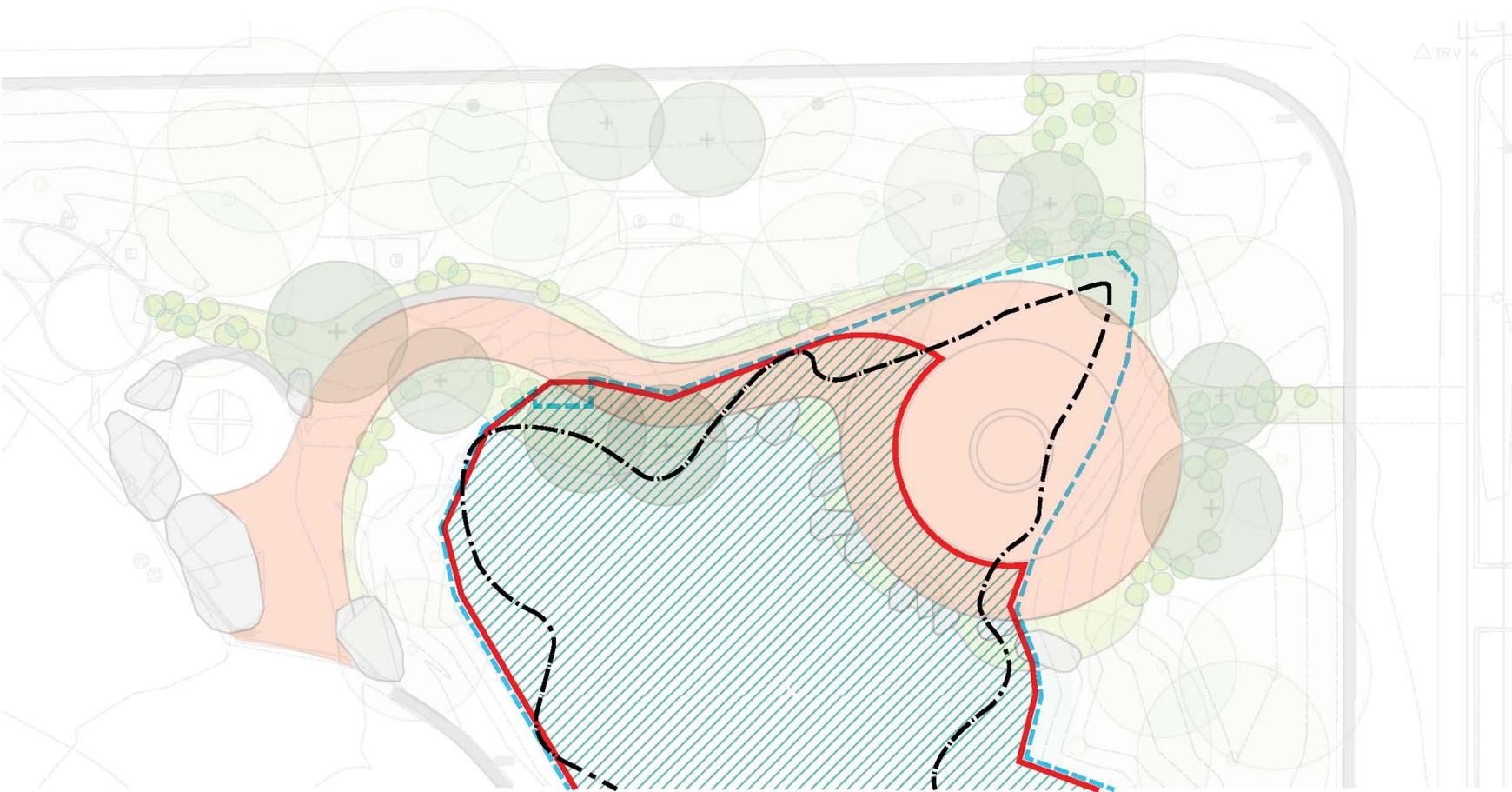


— WATER LINE - PROPOSED (SCHEMATIC DESIGN 2019)



SITE CONCEPT - WETLAND WATER FEATURE

Wetland Water Feature: Evolution



--- WATER LINE - AS CONSTRUCTED (CONFORMED SET 2001)	6,960 SF
- - - WATER LINE - EXISTING (SURVEY 2019)	8,950 SF
— WATER LINE - PROPOSED (SCHEMATIC DESIGN 2019)	7,850 SF (+890 SF MORE THAN ORIGINAL DESIGN)



SITE CONCEPT - WETLAND WATER FEATURE

U. S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

401 F STREET NW SUITE 312 WASHINGTON DC 20001-2728 202-504-2200 FAX 202-504-2195 WWW.CFA.GOV

23 May 2019

Dear Mr. Gover:

In its meeting of 16 May, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a concept submission for the National Native American Veterans Memorial, to be constructed on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian at Maryland Avenue and 3rd Street, SW. The Commission approved the design with the following recommendations.

The Commission members expressed appreciation for the beauty and layered symbolism of the proposed memorial. They observed that the designed landscape of the museum grounds has matured into a complex ecosystem supporting a variety of animal and plant life, and they emphasized the importance of continuing to support this rich biodiversity, in part by augmenting the plantings in conjunction with the new memorial. They agreed that the memorial should be secluded to enhance its contemplative character, commenting that the overgrown view of the memorial site from the Welcome Circle should be modestly pruned while retaining the character of the view as being partially veiled by vegetation. Noting the proximity of the site to the intersection of Jefferson Drive and 3rd Street, they recommended increasing the massed vegetation to provide a sense of privacy and to obscure adjacent traffic. Concerning the approach path to the memorial, they commented that the proposed railing along the inside edge would appear too dominant; they recommended simplifying its design and installing denser buffers of vegetation along the path. Commenting that the path appears too wide and regular, they advised varying its width with a minimum of less than six feet, creating a delicate and biomorphic quality for this pathway through the landscape.

The Commission members expressed enthusiasm for many of the memorial's proposed details, and they made several suggestions for further study. They recommended slightly increasing the sloping line of the backs of the circular array of benches to better define the memorial precinct. Noting that the memorial is intended to symbolize the four elements of earth, air, fire, and water, they suggested indicating earth more clearly, perhaps through the use of rougher textures on some of the bench surfaces. For the central memorial element, they suggested studying the choice of metal for the large vertical ring and the level of abstraction appropriate for its supporting drum in relation to the other features of the memorial.

The Commission looks forward to further review of this project. As always, the staff is available to assist you with the next submission.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Kevin Gover, Director
National Museum of the American Indian
P.O. Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013-7012

cc: Harvey Pratt, Harvey Phillip Pratt Art
Hans Butzer, Butzer Architects and Urbanism
Elliot Rhodeside, Rhodeside & Harwell