



## Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: November 5, 2020

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Southern Expansion and U.S. Air Force Memorial Modification</b> Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8009
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of Defense United States Army Corps of Engineers	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.61(00.00)45214
<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Federal Projects in the Environs per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)	<b>APPLICANT'S REQUEST</b> Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans
	<b>PROPOSED ACTION</b> Approve preliminary and final site and building plans with comments
	<b>ACTION ITEM TYPE</b> Staff Presentation

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### PROJECT SUMMARY

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in conjunction with the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion (Southern Expansion) project which expands the boundary of Arlington National Cemetery (cemetery) to the south and integrates it with the U.S. Air Force Memorial (memorial). USACE presented the project to the Commission as an information presentation in October 2019 and submitted it as a concept design in December 2019. The Commission provided comments on the concept design and USACE addressed these comments with this submission. Staff will discuss this further in the analysis section.

The newly expanded area is called the south parcel and will include the integration of the United States Air Force Memorial into the secure boundary of the cemetery. The purpose of the expansion is to ultimately create more interment spaces for the cemetery; however, it will also improve operations and the visitor experience to both the memorial and the cemetery.

The south parcel is 70 acres and formerly housed the Navy Annex building and its associated parking areas adjacent to the memorial. The buildings and pavement on this property were demolished in 2012-2013 and returned to open green space. Currently, Columbia Pike, South Joyce Street, and Southgate Road traverse the parcel and are proposed to be realigned as part of a related project called the Defense Access Road (DAR) realignment. All of these roadways are owned by Arlington County. Led by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the project is in concurrent progression with the southern expansion project. This new alignment will enhance the memorial setting as a place for contemplation and commemoration undisturbed by vehicular traffic and fully integrated into the cemetery experience. The proposed DAR design also removes all unneeded driveways and parking areas while preserving the memorial's features. Columbia Pike is owned by the Arlington County government, and the realignment of this roadway was

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coordinated with Arlington County, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the local neighborhood, and the Federal Highway Administration. The Commission reviewed and approved the preliminary and final DAR project design at its June 2020 meeting.

The proposed concept for the south parcel is divided into two areas: the area north of the newly aligned Columbia Pike and the area south of the roadway. The area to the north, which includes the Air Force Memorial, will be contiguous with the existing cemetery following Columbia Pike's realignment. The northern area will be home to a new columbarium and committal service shelter, a large in-ground interment area, and supporting facilities (restrooms/storage). The proposal includes landscaping, retaining walls, boundary walls, secured vehicular/pedestrian entry points, vehicle access roads, pedestrian walkways, and security measures. The area to the south of the realigned Columbia Pike will house a new operations complex for the cemetery, and a visitor/employee parking garage for both the cemetery and the memorial.

## **KEY INFORMATION**

- Established in 1864, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) is one of the oldest military cemeteries in the country.
  - In 2013, ANC expanded with the addition of the former Navy Annex site, which is now known as the Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion. This site is bounded on the south by Interstate 395, on the north by Southgate Road, on the west by the Foxcroft Heights neighborhood and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Maintenance Yard, and on the east by Route 27.
  - If the Southern Expansion site had not been added to Arlington National Cemetery, the remaining capacity for interments for eligible veterans would have been exhausted for niche spaces by 2038 and 2043 for in-ground spaces according to the Center of Army Analysis report dated May 2015.
  - The Department of the Army and the Arlington County Government have been in discussion for several years concerning the disposition of Southgate Road, which is owned by the county and will need to be removed. Staff anticipates that this will be resolved by next summer. Columbia Pike and South Joyce Street are also owned by Arlington County.
  - In July 2013, the Commission approved the Millennium Expansion project, a 27-acre site that will add 27,000 interment spaces to the cemetery. The Southern Expansion will add over 60,000 additional spaces.
  - Since the U.S. Air Force Memorial will be surrounded by the cemetery property, the USACE and Air Force District Washington are working together in an effort to incorporate the U.S. Air Force Memorial into the boundary of ANC. Separating the memorial from the cemetery would have required the construction of a new fence or wall around the perimeter of the memorial.
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## RECOMMENDATION

**Approves** the preliminary and final site and building plan for the 70-acre Southern Expansion Project (with the exception of the vehicular entrance gate on Air Force Memorial Drive) as the plan creates several positive outcomes for Arlington National Cemetery and the Air Force Memorial including:

- The addition of contiguous interment/interment space for the cemetery;
- The consolidation of cemetery operations and back-of-house functions to the south and away from visitor/interment areas; and
- An improved memorial setting as a result of Columbia Pike's realignment.

**Finds** the Army has addressed the Commission's previous comments with regard to pedestrian safety, the columbarium, operation center, and Air Force Memorial design, and fully integrating the U.S. Air Force Memorial with the columbarium and cemetery.

**Requires the Army** to submit a revised design for the Air Force Memorial vehicular entrance gate to address the unwelcoming experience created by the 60-foot line of bollards and fencing adjacent to the official pedestrian entrance to the west.

**Recommends** the Army explore several changes that would improve the vehicular gate including:

- Enhancing the fence with posts/columns delineating the vehicular driveway;
- Integrating the bollards and new fencing; and/or
- Adding shrubs and landscaping to soften views of the fence and bollards.

## PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

<b>Previous actions</b>	<b>July 2015</b> – Arlington National Cemetery Final Master Plan <b>October 2019</b> – ANC Southern Expansion, Information Presentation <b>December 2019</b> – ANC Southern Expansion, Concept Design <b>June 2020</b> – Defense Access Road Project, Preliminary and Final Approval.
<b>Remaining actions</b> (anticipated)	– None

## PROJECT ANALYSIS

### Executive Summary

Staff is generally supportive of the USACE updated design for the Southern Expansion project as the Army has responded to the Commission's December 2019 comments on the concept design.

The major design change was the full integration of the existing U.S. Air Force Memorial with the expanded cemetery and columbarium. This move simplified the interface between these two elements, eliminating the two parallel roads while maintaining most of the major features of the U.S. Air Force Memorial. However staff believes one aspect of the design, the proposed vehicular entrance to the US Air Force Memorial from Columbia Pike, still needs further refinement as there are too many security elements visible at the front entrance with the bollards and new fence/gate. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission **approve the preliminary and final site and building plan for the 70-acre Southern Expansion Project (with the exception of the vehicular entrance gate on Air Force Memorial Drive) as the plan creates several positive outcomes for Arlington National Cemetery and the Air Force Memorial including:**

- **The addition of contiguous interment/interment space for the cemetery;**
- **The consolidation of cemetery operations and back-of-house functions to the south and away from visitor/interment areas; and**
- **An improved memorial setting as a result of Columbia Pike's realignment.**

Staff would also recommends the Commission **require the Army to submit a revised design for the Air Force Memorial vehicular entrance gate to address the unwelcoming experience created by the 60-foot line of bollards and fencing adjacent to the official pedestrian entrance to the west.** In addition, staff **recommends the Army explore several changes that would improve this vehicular gate including:**

- **Enhancing the fence with posts/columns delineating the vehicular driveway;**
- **Integrating the bollards and new fencing; and/or**
- **Adding shrubs and low landscaping to soften views of the fence and bollards.**

Staff reviewed the USACE response to the comments raised in the December 2019 concept design and provides its analysis below.

### **Analysis**

The Commission approved the concept design at its December 2019 meeting and provided comments and recommendations focused on improving a few areas: the new visitors entrance the cemetery and memorial; the operations center and columbarium and the U.S. Air Force Memorial. Staff has organized its review around these issues.

#### ***New Visitor Entrance to the Cemetery and Memorial***

At concept review, the Commission underscored the importance of the designs for three key elements:

- The Columbia Pike pedestrian crossing, which was still under development;
- The entrance sequence for the cemetery and memorial which was not clearly defined; and
- The vehicular entrance to the parking garage which needed further refinement.

- **Commission Action** – *Requests the applicant continue to work closely with Arlington County to address curbside management along Columbia Pike and ensure the pedestrian crossing of this road will be safe and clear via traffic calming measures such as incorporating a median, a signal, or other features to slow or stop traffic.*

**Staff analysis** – The USACE coordinated with the Arlington County Government and the FHWA and notes this crossing will utilize a pedestrian-activated traffic light (HAWK signal) that will stop vehicles in both directions allowing safe pedestrian crossing between the new cemetery entrance and the new parking garage. There will not be any drop-off at this entrance. Staff is very supportive of this proposed pedestrian activated signal that will permit safe crossing of Columbia Pike. Staff notes that the pedestrian activated signal is an element of the Defense Access Roadway project, a separate project overseen by the FHWA.

- **Commission Action** - *Recommends the USACE create either a design element or wayfinding or both that helps to provide a sense of arrival and guidance for visitors to the cemetery or the memorial.*

**Staff analysis** – USACE notes they collaborated with Air Force District Washington (AFDW) in developing a more integrated design by removing a roadway proposed in the concept design, Delta Road, and using the existing Air Force Memorial Drive as part of the cemetery's internal roadway network. Staff is very supportive of this design change because it removes a duplicative roadway, which simplifies the overall design.

The next design change was to more clearly define a new pedestrian plaza north of the pedestrian access control point. The plaza is defined on one side by a new wall, created by using Pioneer Quotes from existing memorial elements. The other side will have seating and landscaping. Staff believes this change provides a better sense of arrival and guidance for visitors by creating a defined space north of the new pedestrian access control point and removing extraneous walls and landscaping that were part of the concept design.

- **Commission Action** - *Recommends the applicant either integrate the parking garage access control point into the topography or more closely associate this building with the architecture of the rest of ANC.*

**Staff analysis** – The proposed plan includes a new vehicle access control point which provides an entrance to the new parking garage located south of Columbia Pike and accessed via Joyce Street. In the revised design, USACE is proposing to use similar materials for elements like the new cemetery perimeter wall, new parking garage and new cemetery pedestrian entrance. The materials for these new structures will be: stainless steel panels, slate panels and dark masonry (dark granite and slate), light colored glazing and slender columns for the vehicle access control point, parking garage pavilion and new pedestrian access point. Stone will be used for the entry pillars for the new vehicular gate off Joyce Street and the new ANC perimeter wall along Columbia Pike. Staff supports this direction because the buildings/structures will now be visually compatible.

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Operation Center and Columbarium

The Operation Center and Columbarium are both integral parts of the design and are affected by topography. Earthwork and landform changes are important aspects of the design that can be best understood with site sections and perspective renderings. The concept design did not clearly demonstrate relationships between these areas, their visibility or the accessibility of these two areas.

- **Commission Action** - *Requests the USACE develop site sections through the columbarium area, both east/west and north south, to understand the grade changes in this area more fully. In addition, sections through the in-ground burial areas and through the Air Force Memorial would also be helpful to understand the visibility of and access to these areas.*

**Staff analysis** – The USACE will alter existing topography as part of this project by creating landforms east and north of the Air Force Memorial for in-ground burials. Creating these landforms is only possible because USACE is also proposing to remove soil located west of the memorial, from the old Navy Annex site. The effect of this earthwork will lower the columbarium level to the same existing level as the memorial. Staff finds the new sections and perspective renderings provide a clearer understanding of the project. The USACE also provided additional drawings for the Operations Center which will be constructed partially below grade and buffered with landscaping. Staff is supportive of the design.

Air Force Memorial

The US Air Force Memorial is an existing memorial that will be surrounded by and integrated with the Arlington National Cemetery once this project has been completed. The Commission was concerned with views from the new in-ground cemetery burial spaces and the existing memorial given its solemn nature.

- **Commission Action** - *Recommends the applicant evaluate landscape screening around the high retaining wall of the memorial overlook to soften the transition to adjacent burial areas.*

**Staff analysis** – The USACE notes that “...grading has been developed to minimize the height of the north end retaining wall while also trying to minimize the gradient to 10% of the interment area as it falls to meet the grade of the proposed Theta Drive north of the Air Force Memorial.” Since there are reciprocal views to and from the memorial, trees have been proposed for the landscape to help minimize impacts on both views. Staff is satisfied with this response.

- **Commission Action** - *Recommends the USACE further develop the plans to reduce the prominence of the vehicular gate and demonstrate how the driveway can serve as a pedestrian area when not used for vehicles.*

**Staff analysis** – The USACE notes the proposed memorial vehicular design includes a new fence and gate, incorporates existing bollards, and reuses existing paving, and will only be used for special events. It also notes the design will deter the general public from turning onto the driveway from Columbia Pike. Staff does not believe the proposed design, while an improvement on the concept design, is complete. Staff recommends the Army explore several changes that would improve this vehicular gate including:

- Enhancing the fence with posts/columns delineating the vehicular driveway
- Integrating the bollards and new fencing
- Adding shrubs and low landscaping to soften views of the fence and bollards

## **CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE**

### **Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital**

Staff finds that this project is not inconsistent with the relevant policies contained within the Urban Design, Transportation, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Visitors and Parks and Open Space Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital.

Policies within the Visitors Element of the Comprehensive Plan support the proposal to improve visitor amenities like adding information kiosks, improving the transportation center and developing an interpretive center. These policies encourage the use of federal facilities by the public, the inclusion of information kiosks at federal facilities, and the development of tour bus parking at federal facilities. Staff finds that while neither of the ANC expansions are specifically described in the Comprehensive Plan, the expansions conform to the policy about reusing existing federal land. Both the Millennium Expansion and the Southern Expansion are both federally owned sites.

While cemetery operation is not a topic specifically identified in the Comprehensive Plan, the policies in the Federal Workplace Element supports the reuse of existing federal land and the minimization of development on open space. This project includes the reuse of existing ANC land for cemetery operations that is not suitable for burial space. The project also discusses the further consolidation of these facilities as the new interment sites become available for use.

### **Arlington National Cemetery Real Property Master Plan**

The Commission approved the Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) in July 2015. It is a long-range exploration of future development, sustainment, and operations across all lines of effort for a 25-year period. The RPMP contains many major initiatives including the development of the former Navy Annex site for interment uses in effort to extend

the active life of ANC beyond the planning horizon for the RPMP. The development plan for the former Navy Annex site evolved into the current Southern Expansion Project. The RPMP guidance is for the property within the ANCSE to be developed in a manner that represents the best use of the land with consideration of mission requirements and environmental sustainability while promoting the serenity, beauty, iconic image, and tranquility found in the existing cemetery.

As part of the RPMP, ANC explored potential development options at the former Navy Annex site based on multiple scenarios at a conceptual planning level. The current design for the ANCSE is derived from the RPMP Full Development Scenario that assumed Columbia Pike has been realigned by Arlington County and the Southgate Road right-of-way would be acquired by ANC to create a large contiguous parcel of land for interment and cemetery uses north of a realigned Columbia Pike. The RPMP conceptually planned for the parcels south of Columbia Pike to be utilized for other cemetery uses such as a new administration building, spoils area and space for grounds maintenance contractors.

Staff finds that this project is consistent with this installation master plan.

### **National Historic Preservation Act**

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the USACE initiated Section 106 consultation in 2016. The USACE notes that this project will result in adverse effects to the Air Force Memorial Site and the ANC historic district. The historic district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The USACE notes the impacts include the removal of the boundary wall along Southgate Road, conversion of part of Patton Drive to a pedestrian trail and relocation of the Operations Complex, all contributing to the ANC NRHP-listed historic district; and modification of the Air Force Memorial site, which has been determined NRHP eligible. The adverse effects will be resolved through mitigation measures stipulated in a Memorandum of Agreement.

This mitigation consists of the following:

- installing an interpretive sign documenting the location, purposes, and composition of the Freeman's Village.
- developing interpretation showing the original design of the AFM including all its elements
- creating a webpage documenting cemetery expansion since its founding.

The Memorandum of Agreement is between the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Air Force District of Washington, and Arlington National Cemetery and resolves adverse effects to cultural and historical resources through these mitigation measures. As this project is located in the environs, NCPC does not have an independent Section 106 responsibility.

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

Pursuant to its responsibility under the National Environmental Policy Act, the USACE developed the *Environmental Assessment for the Southern Expansion and Associated Roadway Realignment*

to evaluate the impacts associated with this project. The stated purpose of this project is to "...meet the forecasted interment/inurnment demands of eligible veterans to preserve ANC as an active military cemetery, and to create an opportunity to increase multimodal capacity on this portion of Columbia Pike." The USACE considered four alternatives in the EA it developed for this project: a no action alternative; the preferred alternative which relocated Operations Complex south of Columbia Pike with underpass; the maintain the Operations Complex with underpass alternative; and the maintain the Operations Complex without underpass alternative. The preferred alternative allowed for the largest contiguous area for in-ground interments. As this project is located in the environs, NCPC does not have an independent NEPA responsibility.

## CONSULTATION

### U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts included this project on its October 17, 2019 agenda for concept review. At that meeting, the Commission "...commended the development of the project since the initial presentation, particularly the integration of the existing Air Force Memorial within the seventy-acre expansion of the cemetery landscape, which will include gravesites, a columbarium, and support features such as roadways, a parking garage, and a service complex."

CFA reviewed the project at its October 15, 2020 meeting and approved the final design and requested follow-up information to clarify the design of the committal structures and the columbaria.

## ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at [www.ncpc.gov](http://www.ncpc.gov):

- Submission Package

Prepared by Carlton Hart  
10/29/2020

## POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

# Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion and Air Force Memorial Modification Project

Arlington, Virginia

Approval of Preliminary and Final Site and Building Plans

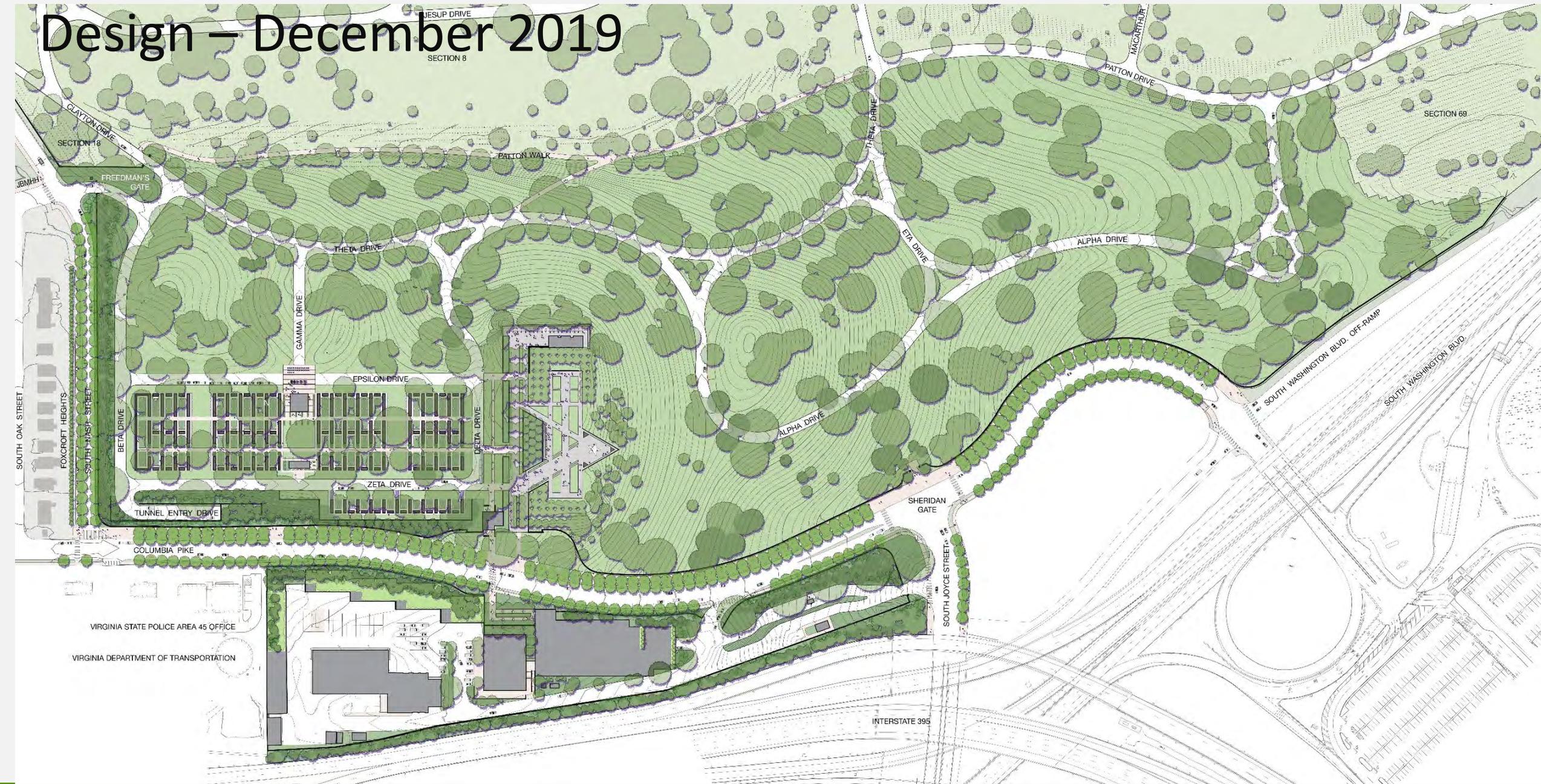
United States Department of Defense

# Site Location



Location Map

# Design – December 2019



# Final Design – November 2020



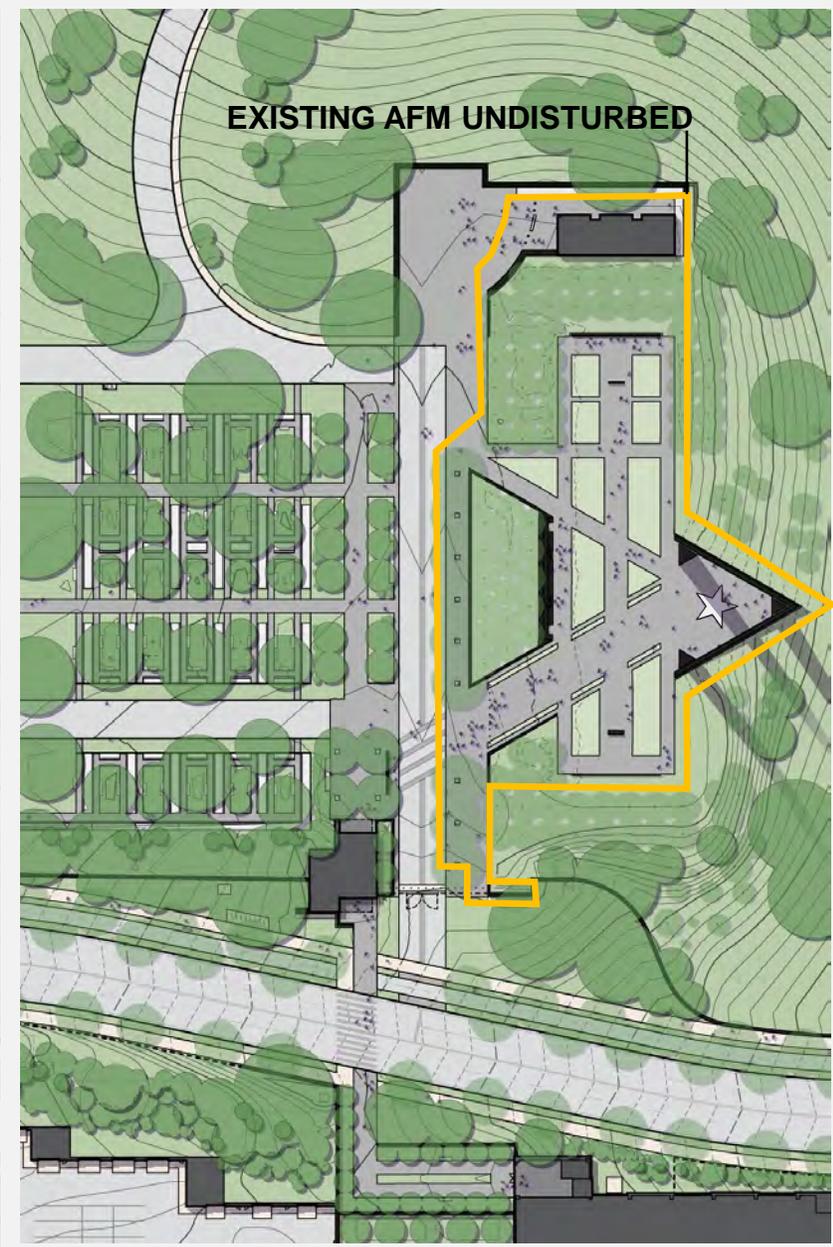
# Design Evolution



ILLUSTRATIVE DESIGN

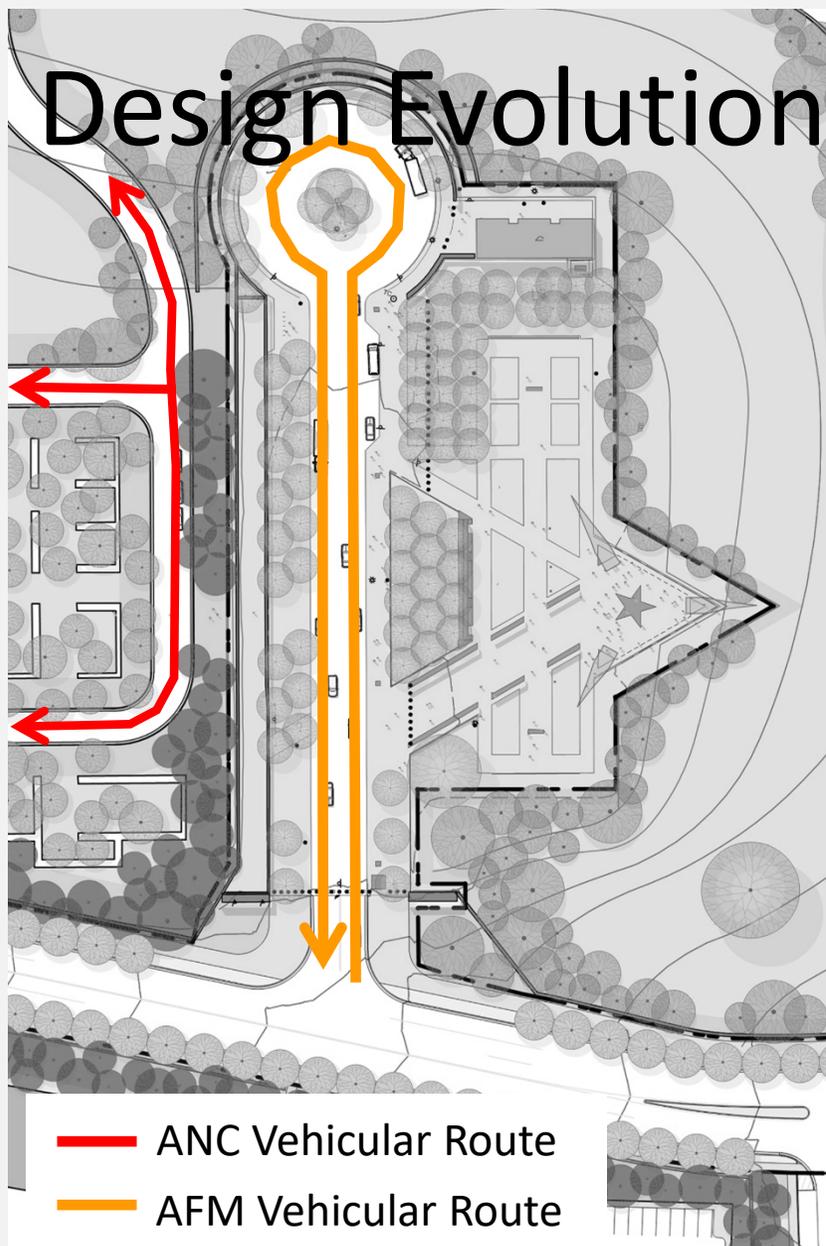


DECEMBER PROPOSAL

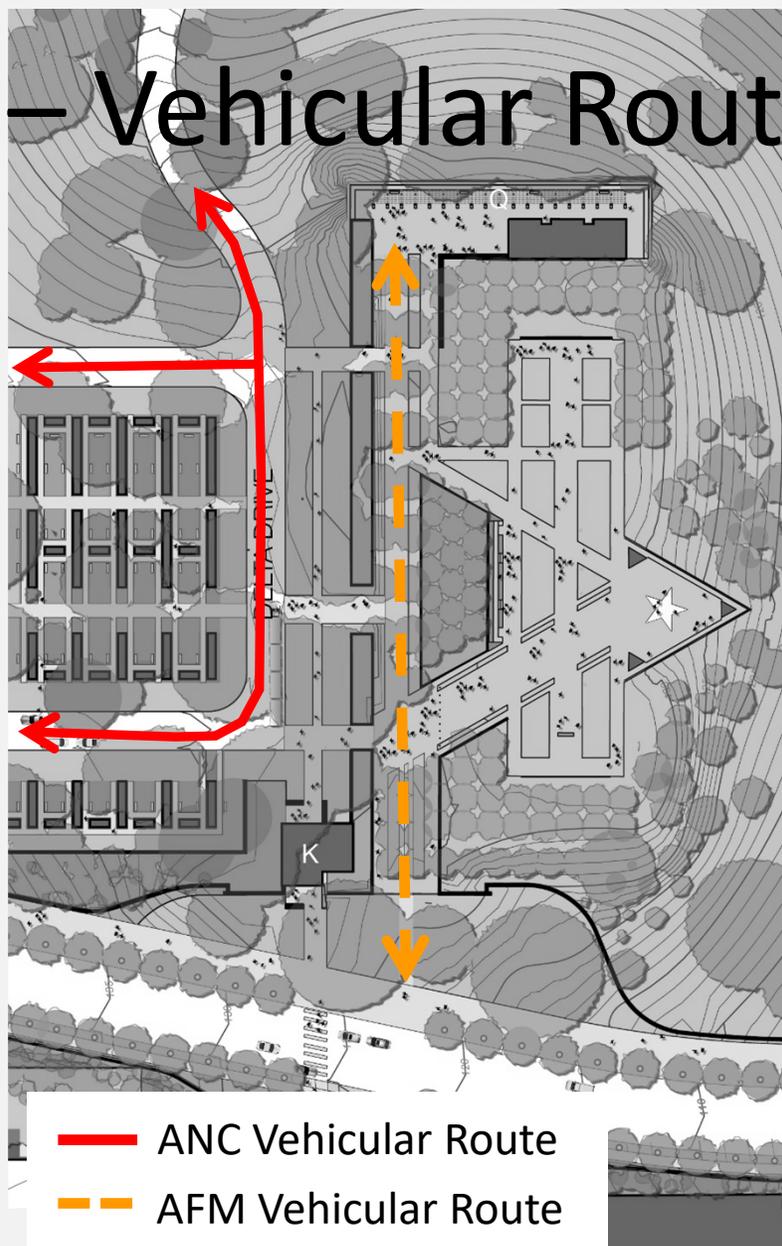


CURRENT PROPOSAL

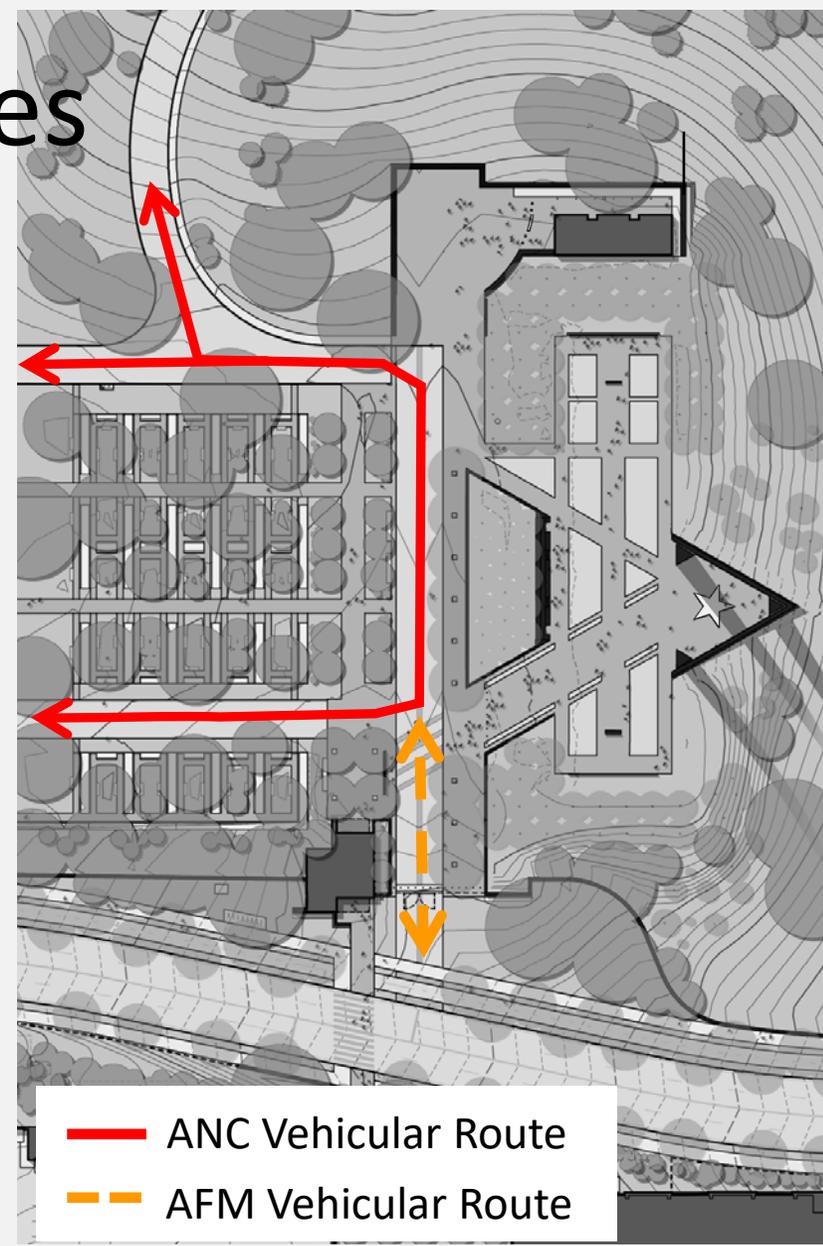
# Design Evolution – Vehicular Routes



ILLUSTRATIVE DESIGN



DECEMBER PROPOSAL



CURRENT PROPOSAL

# Aerial Rendering – Air Force Memorial



# Proposed Parking Garage with Entry Pavilion



# Proposed Garage Pavilion View



# Proposed Garage Arrival Plaza



# Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Looking South



# Proposed Pedestrian and AFM Vehicular Entrance



# Proposed Pedestrian and AFM Vehicular Entrance



# Aerial Rendering – South Joyce Street



GARAGE ENTRANCE AT SOUTH JOYCE STREET

# South Joyce Street Entrance Rendering



# Perspective Rendering – South Joyce Street



PARKING GARAGE

# Pedestrian Access Control Point



# New Pedestrian Entrance Plaza Looking North



# View of Pedestrian Access Point from AFM



# Air Force Memorial Drive Looking North



WE BETTER BE PREPARED TO DOMINATE THE SKIES ABOVE THE SURFACE  
OF THE EARTH OR BE PREPARED TO BE BURIED BENEATH IT.  
GENERAL CARL A. SPANFORD  
1942-2000

THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION IS FOREVER BOUND UP  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR POWER.  
GENERAL RICHARD THOMAS MITCHELL  
1914-1992

...OUR AIR FORCE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO COME FROM BANKS OF  
LABOR, MANAGEMENT, THE FARMS, THE STORES, THE PROFESSIONS AND COLLETS AND LEGISLATIVE HALLS.  
AIR POWER WILL ALWAYS BE THE BUSINESS OF EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN.  
GENERAL MARK W. TAPSCOTT  
1918-2000

# Columbarium Looking East



# Columbarium Looking South



# Columbarium Looking East



# Columbarium Looking East



# Columbarium with Committal Structure



# Columbarium with Restroom Building



RESTROOM AND STORAGE BUILDING

# Exterior Materials



JET MIST (THERMAL)



JET MIST (HONED)



ABSOLUTE BLACK



STAINLESS STEEL  
(#4 BRUSHED)



STEELY GRAY PAINT  
SW7664



CHELMSFORD GRANITE (HONED)



WHITE MARBLE (HONED)



JET MIST (WATERJET)



CLEAR GLASS WITH FRIT



CLEAR GLASS



FROSTED GLASS

# December Commission Action

## New visitor's entrance to the cemetery and memorial

**Requests** the applicant continue to work closely with Arlington County to address curbside management along Columbia Pike and ensure the pedestrian crossing of this road will be safe and clear via traffic calming measures such as incorporating a median, a signal, or other features to slow or stop traffic.

**Staff Response** – *The USACE coordinated with the Arlington County Government and the FHWA and notes this crossing will utilize a pedestrian-activated traffic light (HAWK signal) that will stop vehicles in both directions allowing safe pedestrian crossing between the new cemetery entrance and the new parking garage. There will not be any drop-off at this entrance. Staff is very supportive of this proposed pedestrian activated signal that will permit safe crossing of Columbia Pike. Staff notes that the pedestrian activated signal is an element of the Defense Access Roadway project, a separate project overseen by the FHWA.*

# December Commission Action (continued)

## New visitor's entrance to the cemetery and memorial

**Recommends** the USACE further develop the plans to reduce the prominence of the vehicular gate and demonstrate how the driveway can serve as a pedestrian area when not used for vehicles.

**Staff Response** – *The USACE notes the proposed memorial vehicular design includes a new fence and gate, incorporates existing bollards, and reuses existing paving, and will only be used for special events. It also notes the design will deter the general public from turning onto the driveway from Columbia Pike. Staff does not believe the proposed design, while an improvement on the concept design, is complete.*

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# December Commission Action (continued)

## New visitor's entrance to the cemetery and memorial

**Recommends** the applicant either integrate the parking garage access control point into the topography or more closely associate this building with the architecture of the rest of ANC.

**Staff Response** – *The proposed plan includes a new vehicle access control point which provides an entrance to the new parking garage located south of Columbia Pike and accessed via Joyce Street. In the revised design, USACE is proposing to use similar materials for elements like the new cemetery perimeter wall, new parking garage and new cemetery pedestrian entrance. The materials for these new structures will be: stainless steel panels, slate panels and dark masonry (dark granite and slate), light colored glazing and slender columns for the vehicle access control point, parking garage pavilion and new pedestrian access point. Stone will be used for the entry pillars for the new vehicular gate off Joyce Street and the new ANC perimeter wall along Columbia Pike. Staff supports this direction because the buildings/structures will now be visually compatible.*

# December Commission Action (Continued)

## **Recommendation**

Recommends that USACE create either a design element or wayfinding or both that helps to provide a sense of arrival and guidance for visitors to the cemetery or the memorial.

**Staff Response** – USACE notes they collaborated with Air Force District Washington (AFDW) in developing a more integrated design by removing a roadway proposed in the concept design, Delta Road, and using the existing Air Force Memorial Drive as part of the cemetery’s internal roadway network. Staff is very supportive of this design change because it removes a duplicative roadway, which simplifies the overall design.

*The next design change was to more clearly define a new pedestrian plaza north of the pedestrian access control point. The plaza is defined on one side by a new wall, created by using Pioneer Quotes from existing memorial elements. The other side will have seating and landscaping. Staff believes this change provides a better sense of arrival and guidance for visitors by creating a defined space north of the new pedestrian access control point and removing extraneous walls and landscaping that were part of the concept design.*

# December Commission Action (continued)

## Operation Center and Columbarium

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**Staff Response** – *The USACE will alter existing topography as part of this project by creating landforms east and north of the Air Force Memorial for in-ground burials. Creating these landforms is only possible because USACE is also proposing to remove soil located west of the memorial, from the old Navy Annex site. The effect of this earthwork will lower the columbarium level to the same existing level as the memorial. Staff finds the new sections and perspective renderings provide a clearer understanding of the project. The USACE also provided additional drawings for the Operations Center which will be constructed partially below grade and buffered with landscaping. Staff is supportive of the design.*

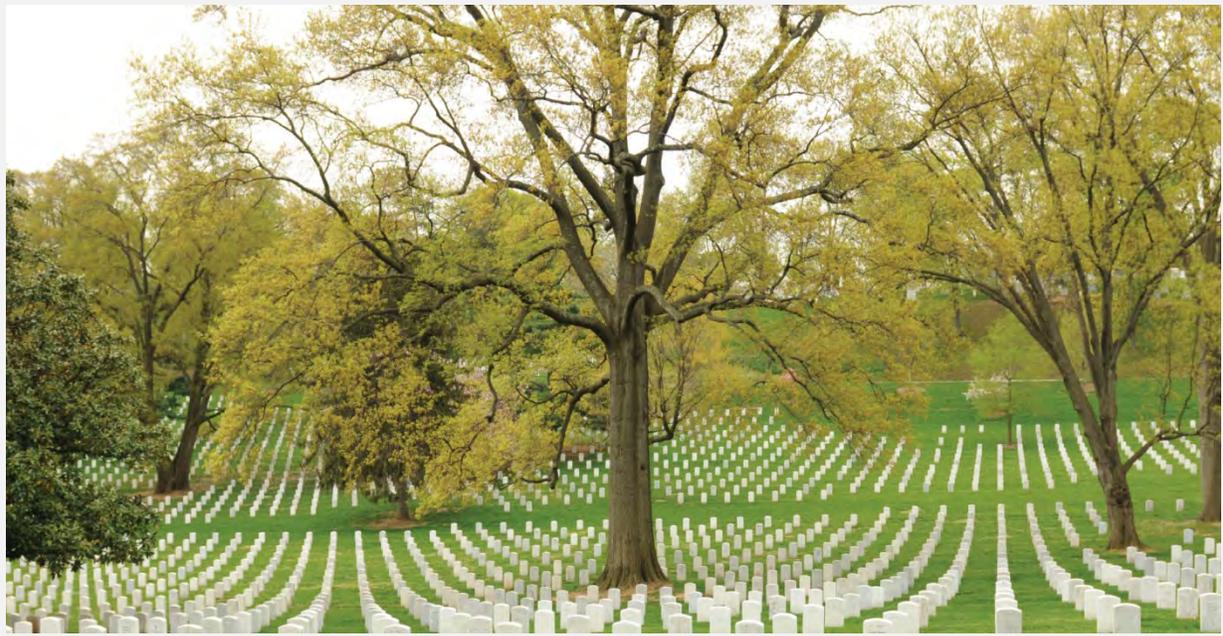
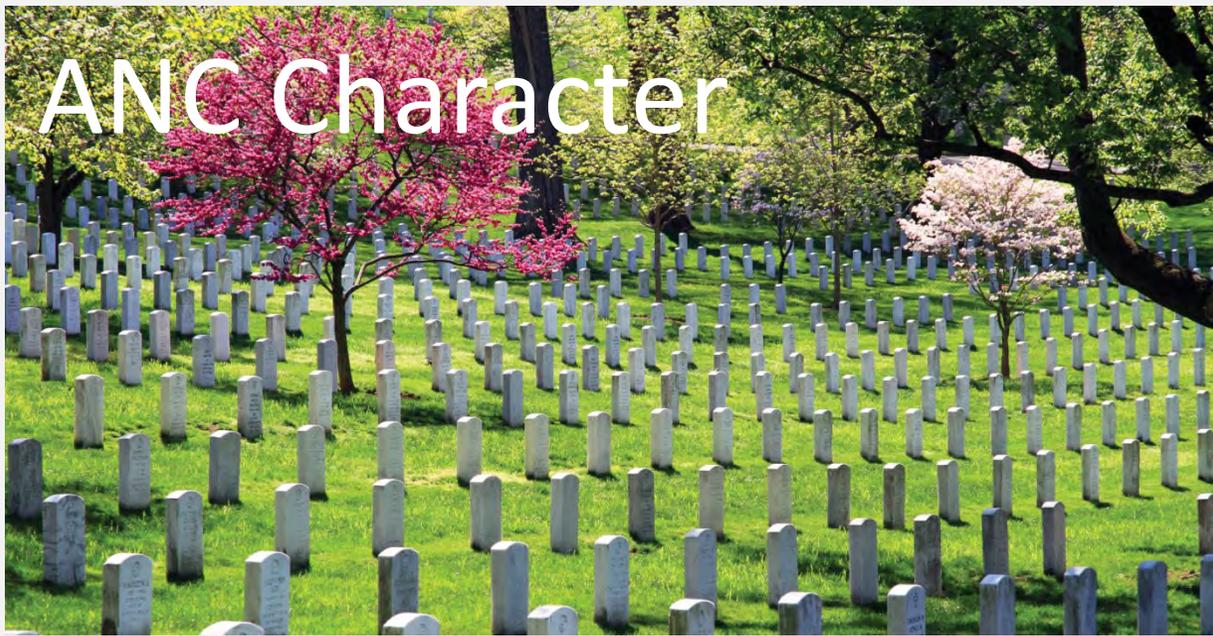
## Air Force Memorial

**Recommends** the applicant evaluate landscape screening around the high retaining wall of the memorial overlook to soften the transition to adjacent burial areas.

**Staff Response** – *The USACE notes that “...grading has been developed to minimize the height of the north end retaining wall while also trying to minimize the gradient to 10% of the interment area as it falls to meet the grade of the proposed Theta Drive north of the Air Force Memorial.” Since there are reciprocal views to and from the memorial, trees have been proposed for the landscape to help minimize impacts on both views. Staff is satisfied with this response.*

# Additional Design Elements

- Landscape Plan
  - Cemetery In-ground Sites Design
  - Columbarium Design
- Pathway Design



THE ARLINGTON CHARACTER

# Planting Design – Tree Hierarchy

**ICON/DIVA TREES**  
IN KEY LOCATIONS



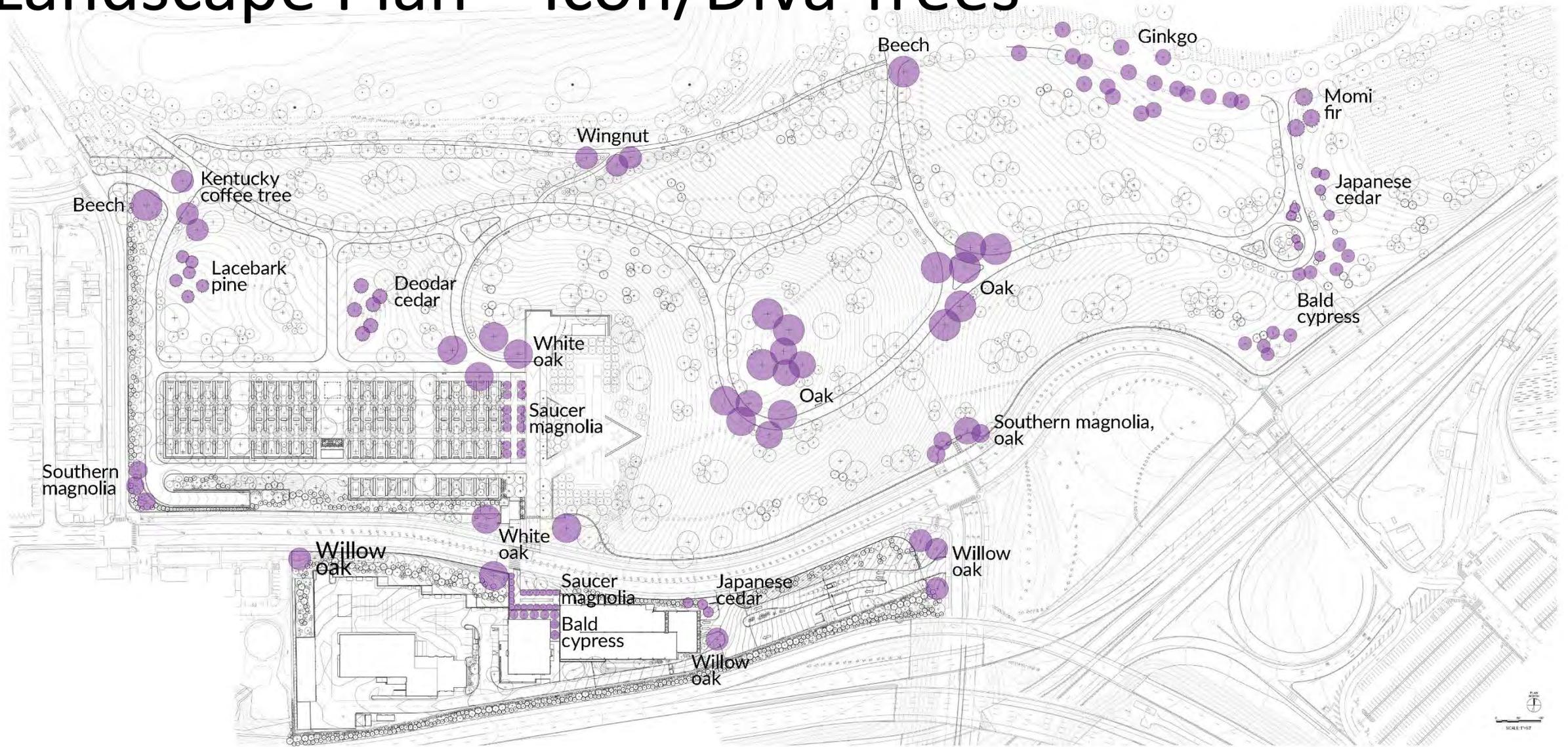
**LARGE CANOPY TREES**  
AS FILLER BETWEEN ICONS



**MID & UNDERSTORY TREES**  
IN CLUSTER ACROSS ENTIRE SITE



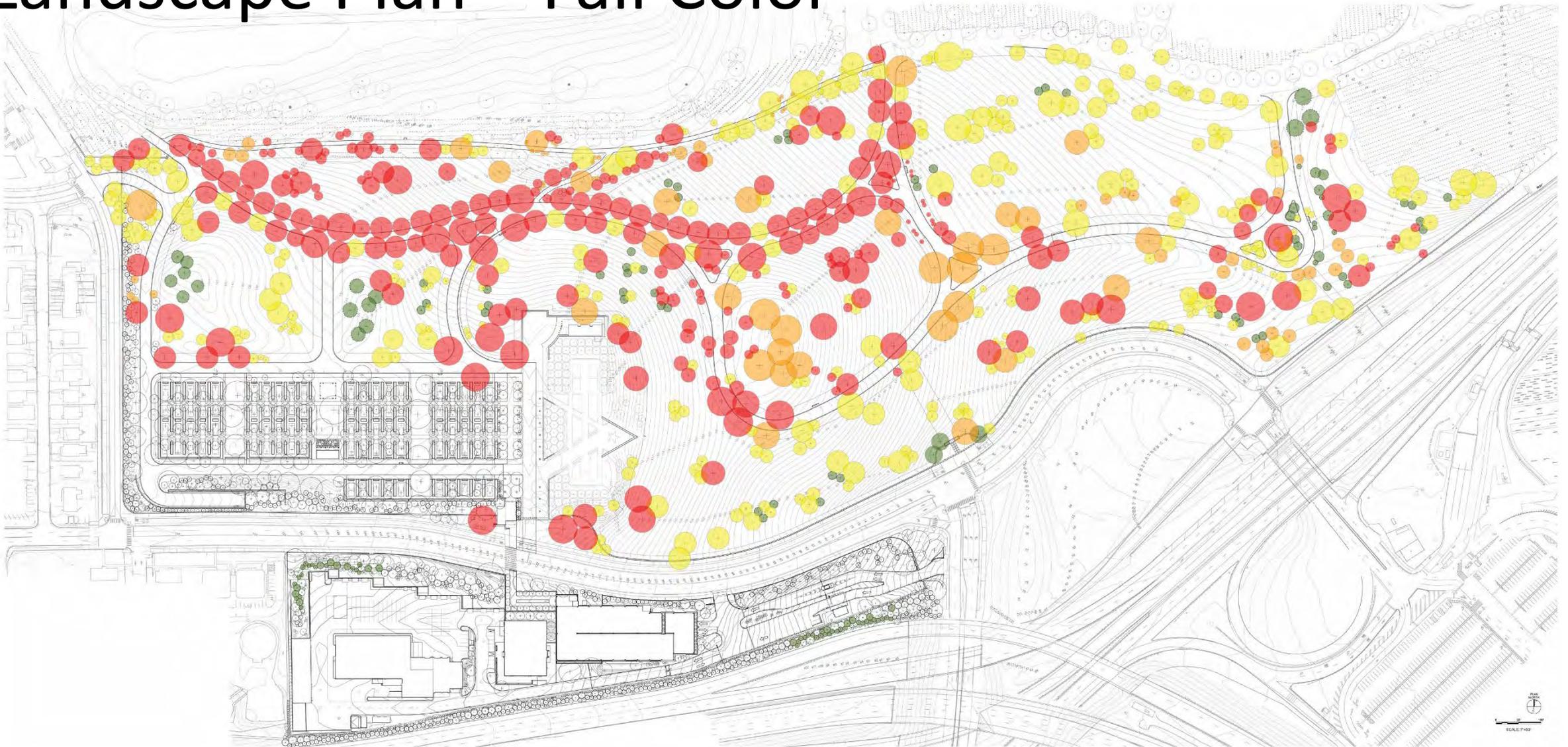
# Landscape Plan – Icon/Diva Trees







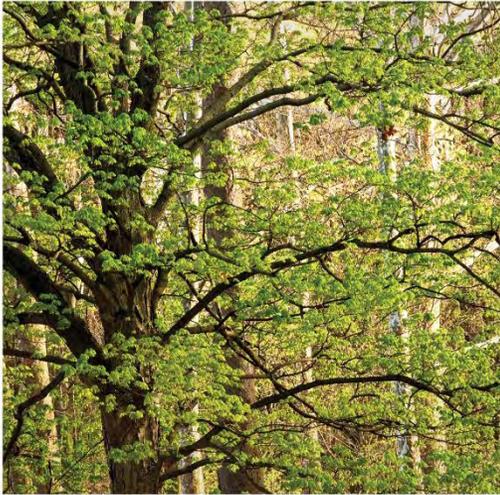
# Landscape Plan – Fall Color



# Columbarium – Landscape Plan



# Columbarium – Landscape Vision



## **A DISTINCTIVE PLACE**

Create an environment that is distinctive from others at ANC.

## **SHELTERING CANOPY**

Create a sheltering, uniting 'roof' over entire space with canopy trees. Allow spacious, open views that feel expansive, not cluttered.

## **ATMOSPHERIC SHRUBS**

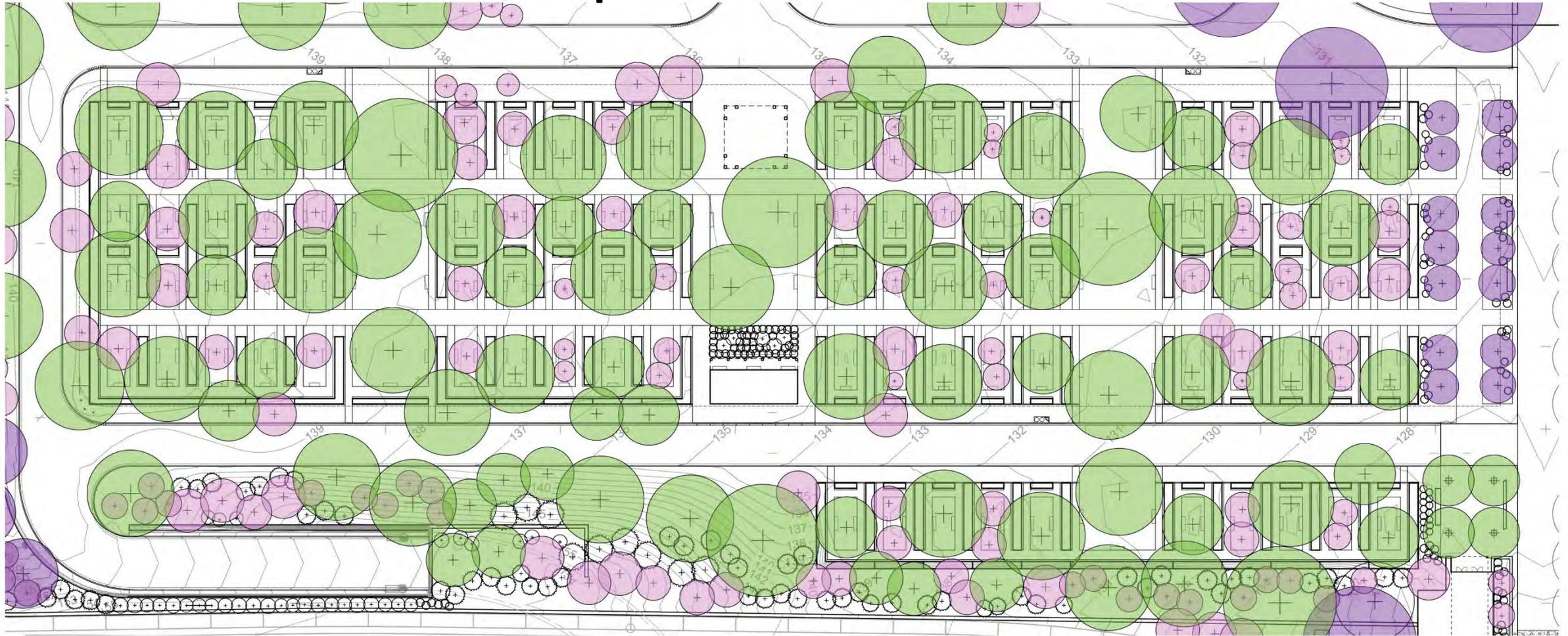
Select understory trees and shrubs with open branching and small leaves that allow maximum transparency at eye-level.

## **LUSH, SPARKLING GROUND VEGETATION**

Develop mixes of forbs to densely cover the ground below.



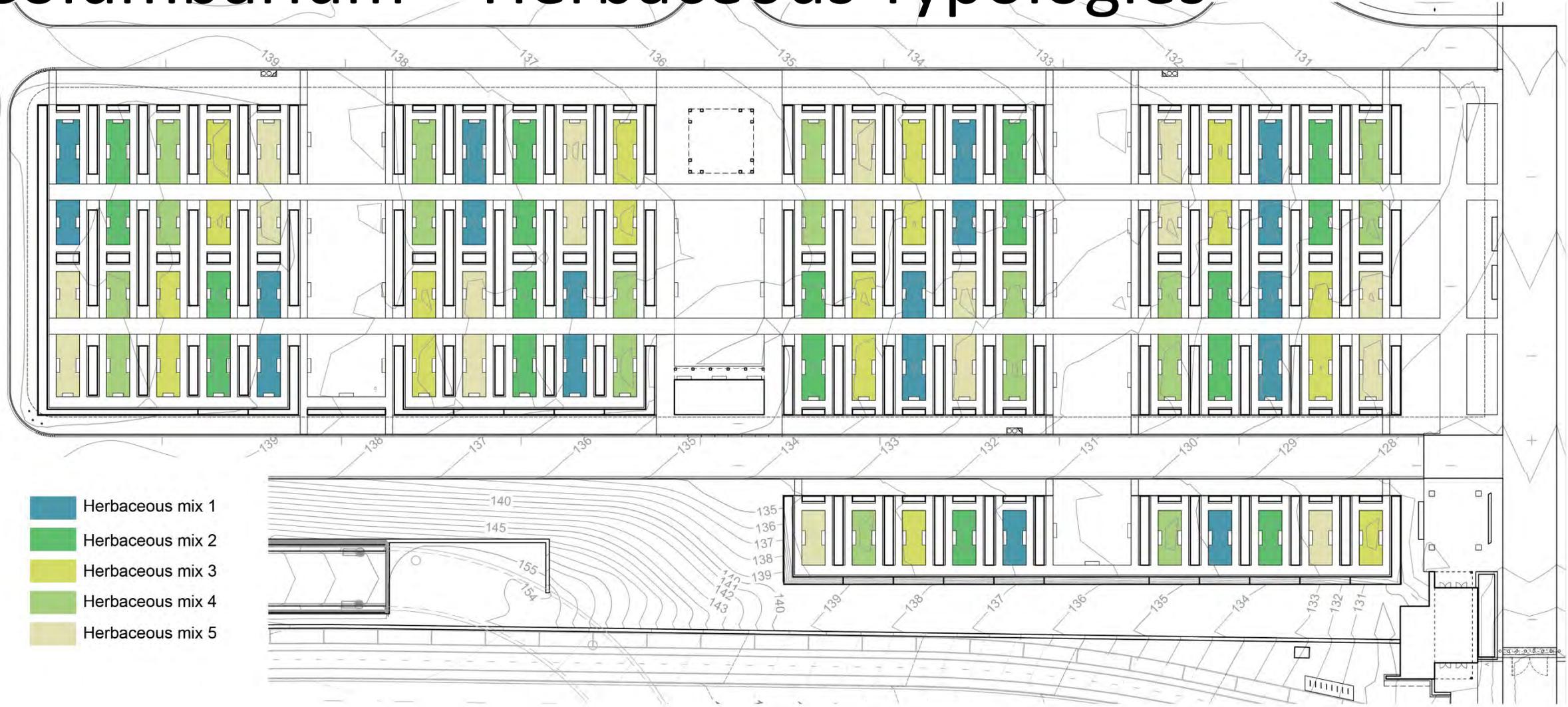
# Columbarium – Proposed Trees



- Icons
- Understory trees
- Shrubs
- Canopy trees
- Evergreens

COLUMBARIA - TREES

# Columbarium – Herbaceous Typologies



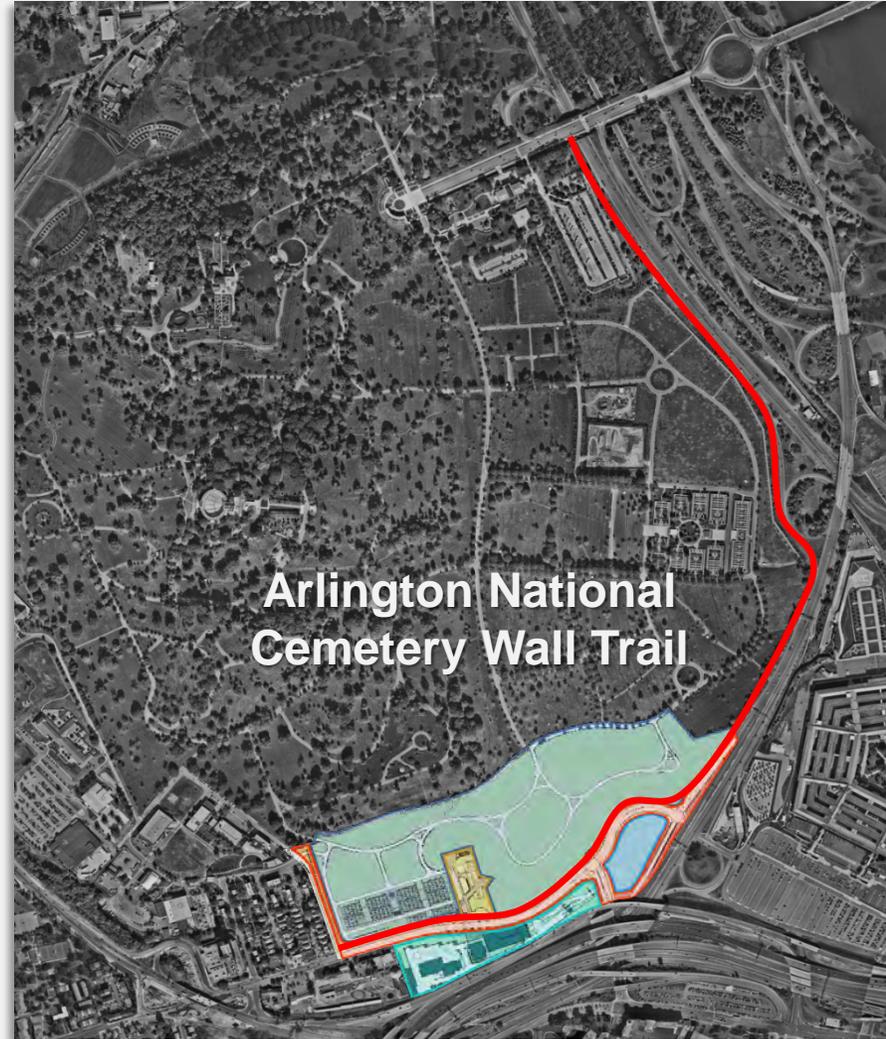
# Columbia Pike Looking East - Existing



# Columbia Pike Looking East - Proposed



# Future Pathway Connection



# Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

**Approves** the preliminary and final site and building plan for the 70-acre Southern Expansion Project (with the exception of the vehicular entrance gate on Air Force Memorial Drive) as the plan creates several positive outcomes for Arlington National Cemetery and the Air Force Memorial including:

- The addition of contiguous interment/interment space for the cemetery;
- The consolidation of cemetery operations and back-of-house functions to the south and away from visitor/interment areas; and
- An improved memorial setting as a result of Columbia Pike's realignment.

**Finds** the Army has addressed the Commission's previous comments with regard to pedestrian safety, the columbarium, operation center, and Air Force Memorial design, and fully integrating the U.S. Air Force Memorial with the columbarium and cemetery.

**Requires** the Army to submit a revised design for the Air Force Memorial vehicular entrance gate to address the unwelcoming experience created by the 60-foot line of bollards and fencing adjacent to the official pedestrian entrance to the west.

**Recommends** the Army explore several changes that would improve the vehicular gate including:

- Enhancing the fence with posts/columns delineating the vehicular driveway;
- Integrating the bollards and new fencing; and/or
- Adding shrubs and landscaping to soften views of the fence and bollards.