



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: June 3, 2021

PROJECT Volleyball Courts Rehabilitation National Mall Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8275
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.71(00.00)45318
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary and final site development plans
REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Projects in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	PROPOSED ACTION Approve preliminary and final site development plans
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Park Service has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for the rehabilitation of the Lincoln Volleyball Courts located between Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, NW and Potomac Pkwy, NW in Washington, DC. The area that includes the volleyball courts is approximately 5.6-acres and consists of lawn, trees, walkways, eleven sand volleyball courts with one informational board, an area for a portable bathroom, and a drinking fountain. The volleyball courts currently have poor drainage, rendering the courts unplayable in the spring and after rain events. The ground around the courts is also deteriorating and needs attention.

The rehabilitation project includes removing, regrading and reinstalling the sand volleyball courts to provide for adequate drainage, while considering stormwater and maintenance best management practices; removal and replacement of some vegetation, including turf, shrubs and trees; removal and replacement of the chain-link fence on the north side of grounds; mill and overlaying a portion of the existing walkway; installing a foot washing station; installing a concrete foundation for a portable toilet; upgrading an existing drinking fountain to include a bottle filling station; and removing or replacing trash cans. The total area of disturbance is 1.86 acres. Construction will include the installation of a staging area, tree and turf protection, erosion and sediment control measures as well as rerouting the through walkway. The walkway will be returned after construction is complete.

KEY INFORMATION

- Eleven existing courts will be improved and slightly reconfigured within the project area.
- The volleyball courts have been in place since 1980 and are heavily used.
- The project will improve the condition of the courts and extend their use.

- Six trees will be removed and replaced with eleven new trees. The trees were assessed to be in poor condition by NPS.
- During construction, the walkway which bisects the site will be temporarily closed and pedestrians will be re-routed to a nearby sidewalk.
- The proposal will not alter or impacts views to/from the Lincoln Memorial.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary and final site development plans for the rehabilitation of volleyball courts located near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	None
Remaining actions (anticipated)	None

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Analysis

The rehabilitation project includes removing, regrading and reinstalling the sand volleyball courts to provide for adequate drainage, while considering stormwater and maintenance best management practices; removal and replacement of some vegetation including turf, shrubs and trees; removal and replacement of the chain-link fence on north side of grounds; mill and overlaying a portion of the existing walkway; installing a foot washing station; installing a concrete foundation for a portable toilet; upgrading an existing drinking fountain to include a bottle filling station; and removing or replacing trash cans. The total area of disturbance is 1.86 acres. Construction will include the installation of a staging area, tree and turf protection, erosion and sediment control measures as well as rerouting the through walkway. The walkway will be returned after construction is complete. The number of courts will not be altered, although they will be slightly reconfigured within the project site. Six trees will be removed that are too close to the courts or in inappropriate locations. NPS has assessed them to be in poor health. Eleven new trees will be installed with a variety of species to enhance diversity. The locations avoid conflicts with the courts.

Overall, staff finds the proposed improvements are necessary to allow continued use of the courts. The recreation facility is an important amenity that will be enhanced by the project. As such, staff recommends the **Commission approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the rehabilitation of volleyball courts located near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

The project is generally consistent with the policies set forth in the federal elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

National Historic Preservation Act

NPS and NCPC also have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NPS determined the project would not affect historic properties pursuant to a streamlined review under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA). NCPC has designated NPS the lead federal agency for the purposes of complying with Section 106 of the NHPA.

National Environmental Policy Act

NPS and NCPC each have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NPS applied categorical exclusion C.8, which pertains to the “replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.” NCPC staff has determined that categorical exclusion #2 applies, which includes the “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.” In this instance the project will repair and improve the existing courts and landscape. No new land uses will result. Staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances existed prior to applying the categorical exclusion.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposed transfer at their May 12, 2021 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed project to the Commission with the statement that the proposal was coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies included NPS, DDOT, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, the District of

Columbia State Historic Preservation Office, the General Services Administration, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the project on May 20, 2021.

ONLINE REFERENCE

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

- Submission Package

Prepared by Matthew Flis
05/27/2021

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

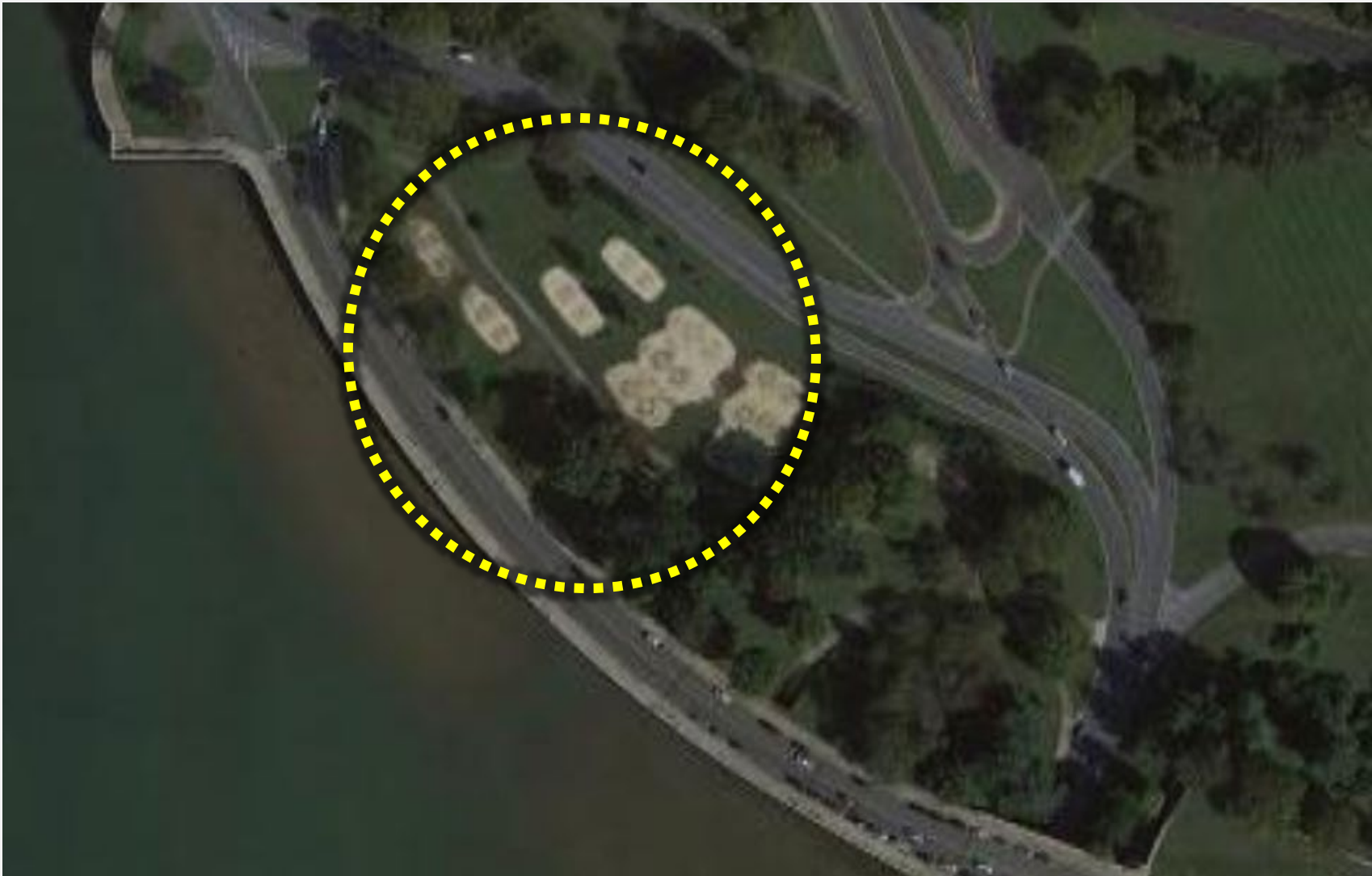
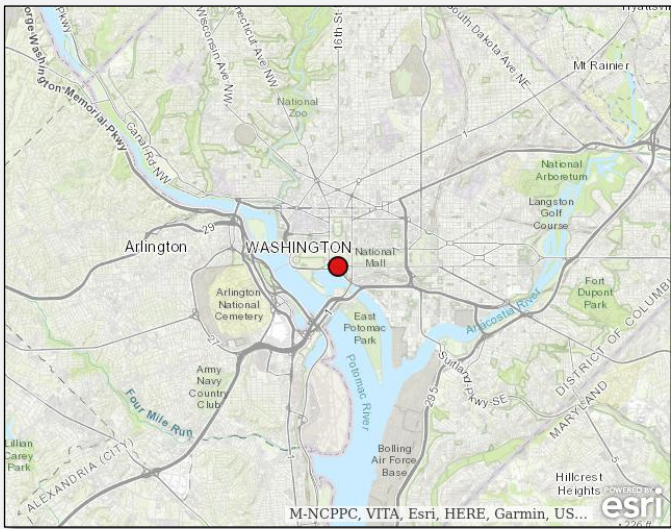
Rehabilitate Volleyball Courts - National Mall and Memorial Parks

National Mall, Washington DC

Approval of Preliminary and Final Site Development Plans

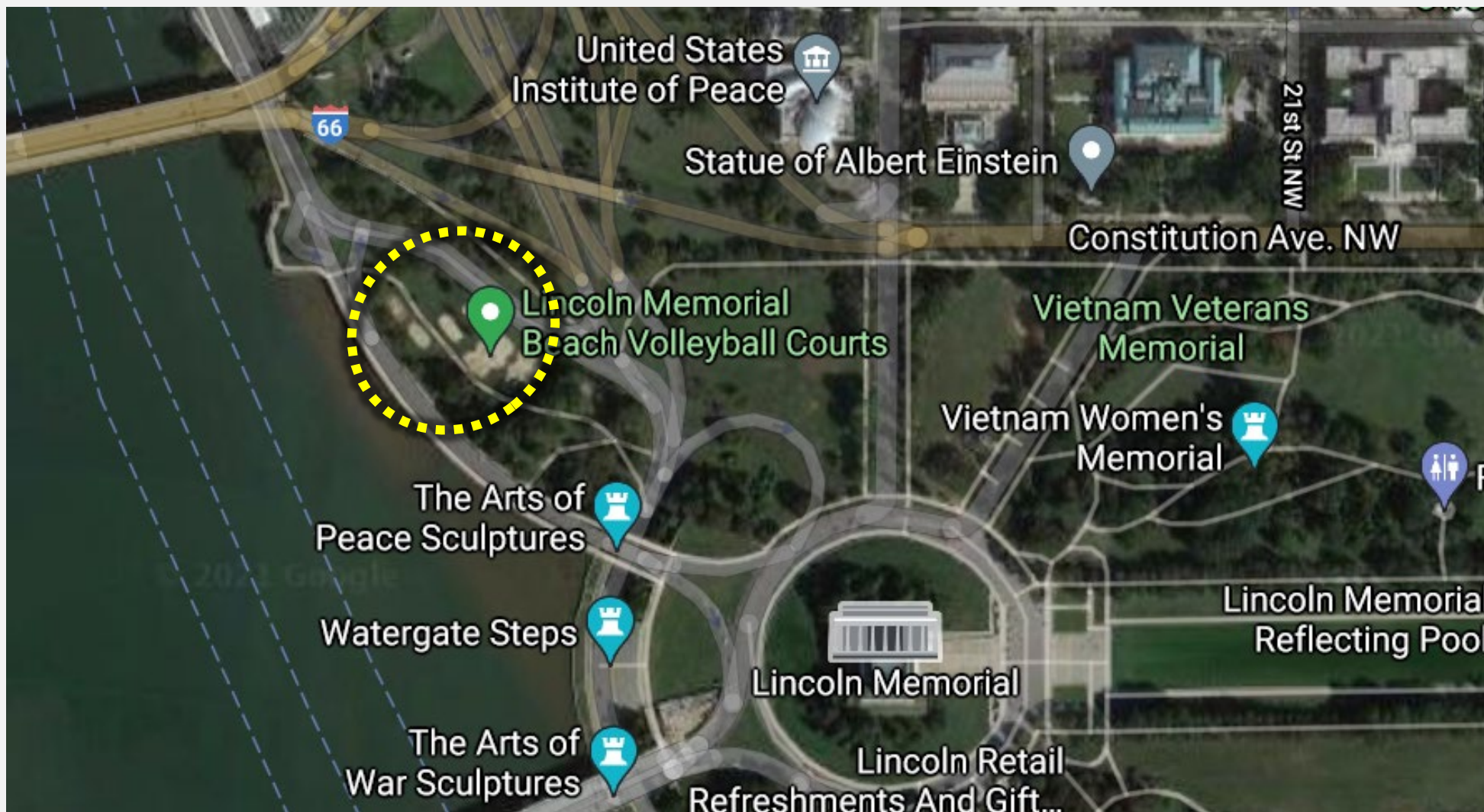
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Site Location

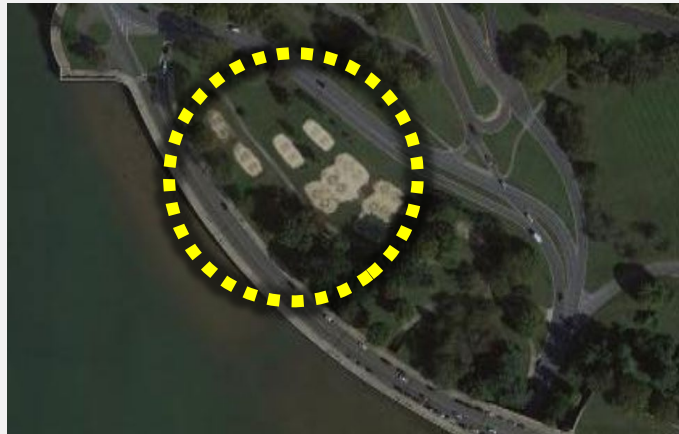


Location Map

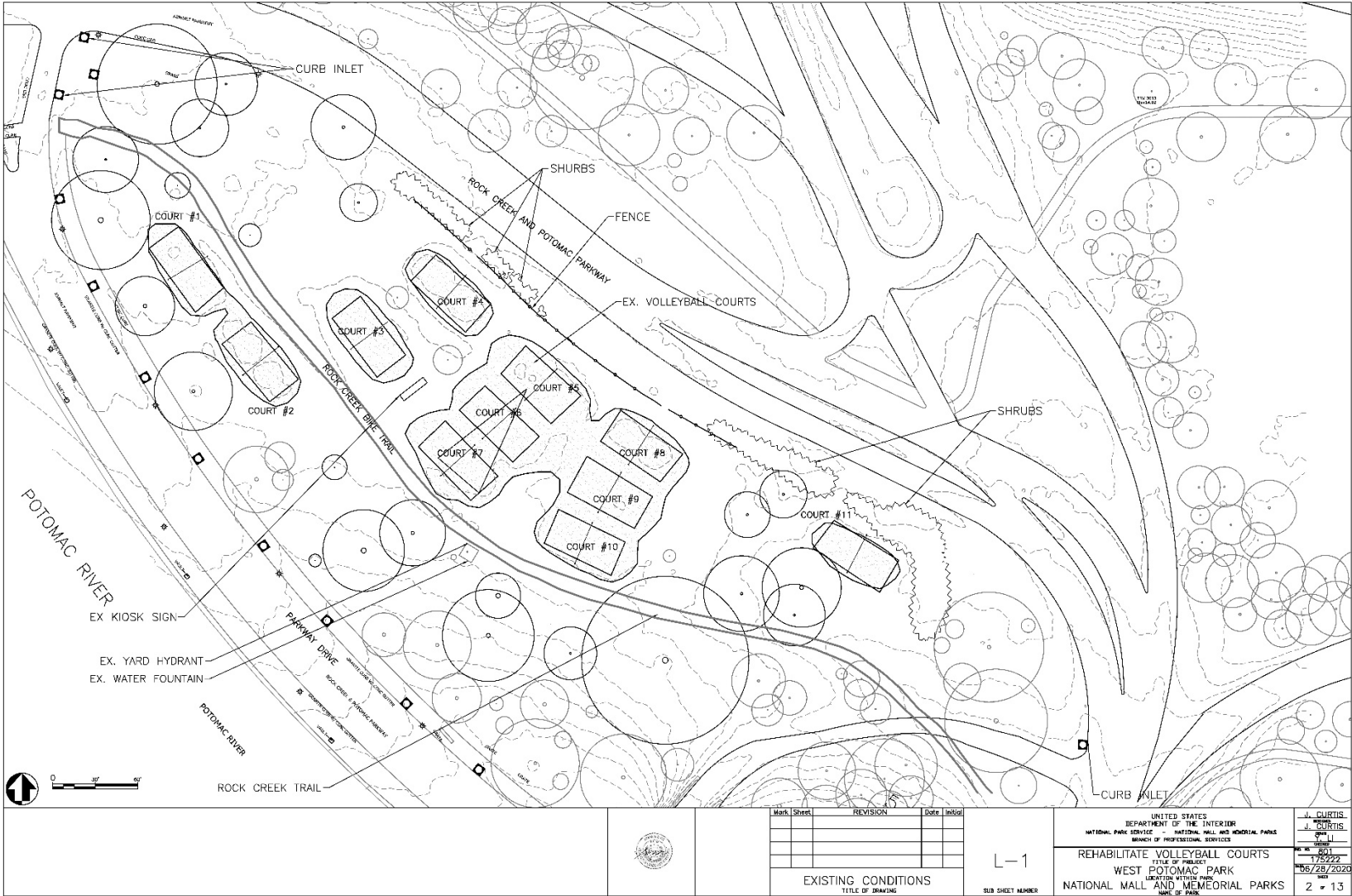
Project Location



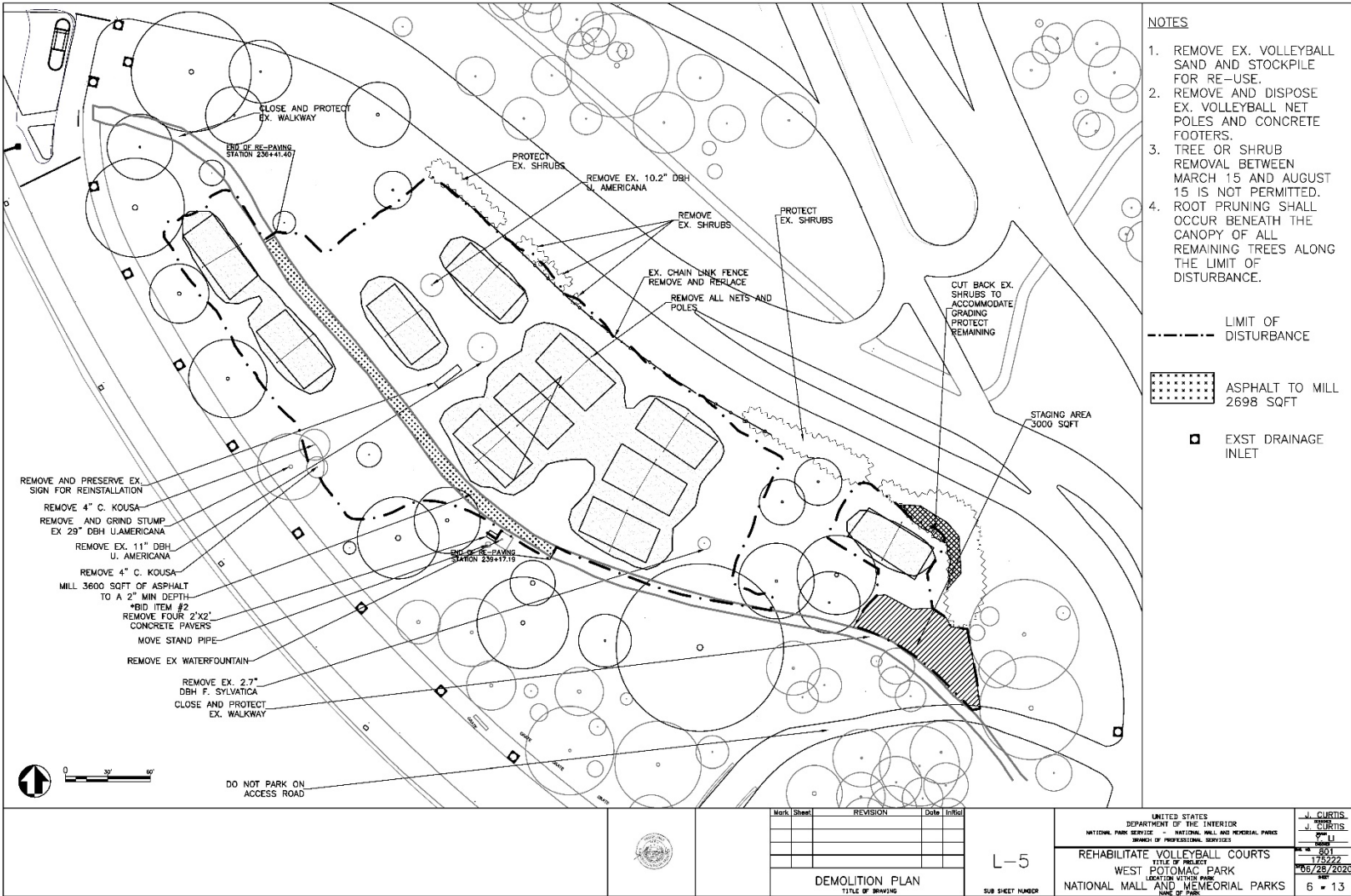
Existing Conditions



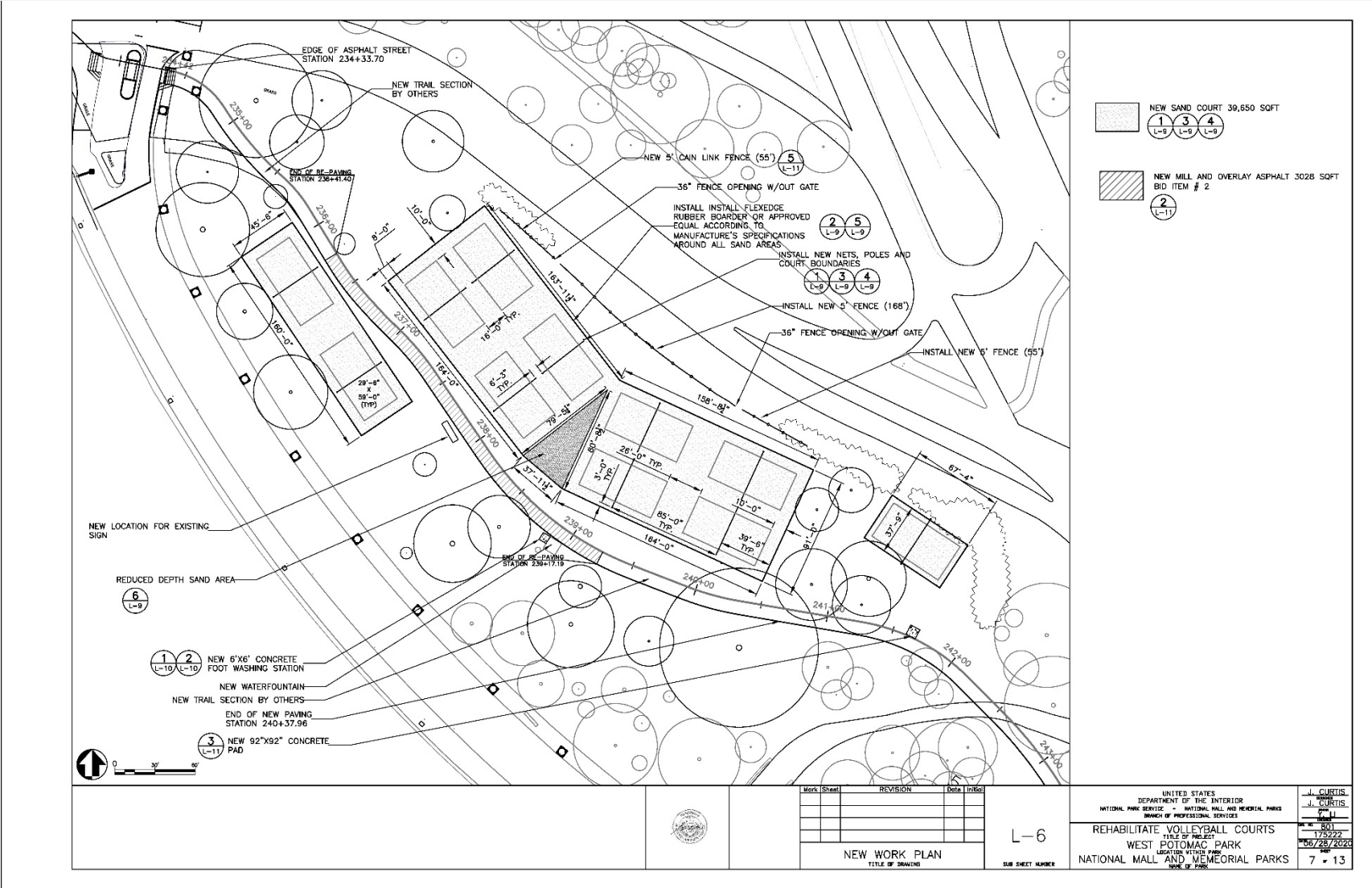
Existing Conditions



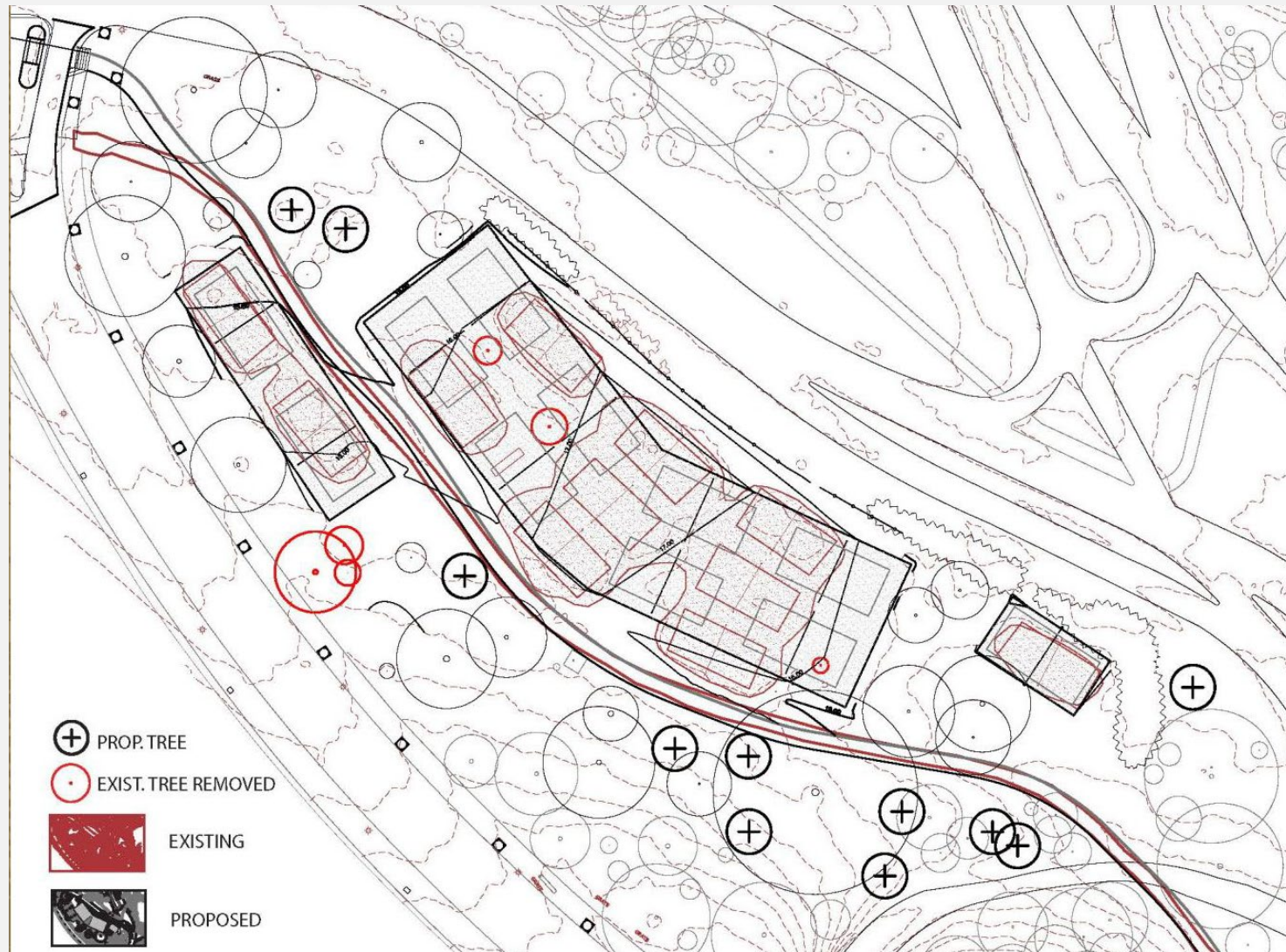
Demolition Plan



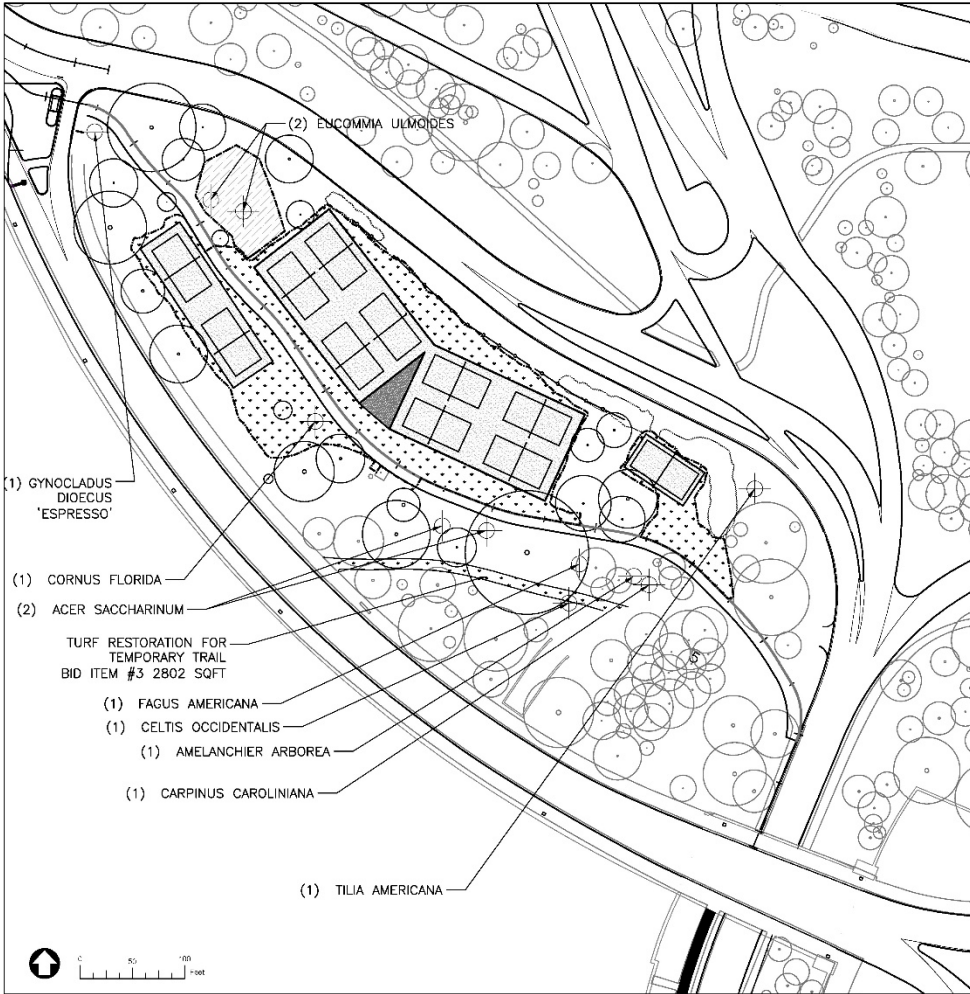
Proposed Project



Tree Removal/Replacement



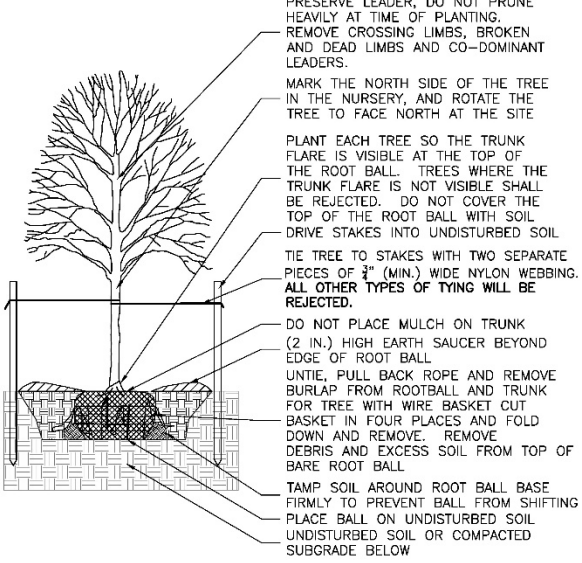
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PLANTING SCHEDULE				
SCI. SPECIE	COMMON SPECIE	SIZE	FORM	NUMBER
GYMNOCLADUS DIOECUS 'ESPRESSO'	KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE 'ESPRESSO'	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
EUCOMMIA ULMOIDES	HARDY RUBBER TREE	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	2
CORNUS FLORIDA	FLOWERING DOGWOOD	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
ACER SACCHARINUM	SILVER MAPLE	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	2
CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS	COMMON HACKBERRY	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
FAGUS AMERICANA	AMERICAN BEECH	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
CARPINUS CAROLINIANA	AMERICAN HORNBEEAM	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
TILIA AMERICANA	AMERICAN BASSWOOD	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
AMELANCHIER ARBOREA	DOWNY SERVICEBERRY	2-3" CALIPER	BALLED AND BURLAP	1
TOTAL				11

NOTES:
1. FINAL PLANTING LOCATIONS SHALL BE MARKED BY COR

 TURF RESTORATION AREA
29,985 SQFT BID ITEM #
2802 SQFT BID ITEM #3



Metric Sheet		REVISION	Date (Initial)	L-12	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	J. CURTIS J. CURTIS CUT BY DATE 06/28/2022 REV # 13
				PANTING PLAIN TITLE OF DRAWING	REHABILITATE VOLLEYBALL COURTS TITLE OF PROJECT WEST POTOMAC PARK LOCATED WITHIN PARK NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS	
				SUB SHEET NUMBER		

View Before and After – Rock Creek Parkway



 Viewpoint

View from Lincoln Memorial



U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

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27 May 2021

Dear Ms. Hall:

In its public meeting of 20 May conducted by videoconference, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed and approved a final design for the rehabilitation of the Lincoln Memorial Volleyball Courts, located northwest of the Lincoln Memorial along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The Commission approved the design with the following comments.

The Commission members commended the proposed rehabilitation of the volleyball courts for its minimal intrusion into the existing West Potomac Park setting for the Lincoln Memorial, calling the design a sensitive and attractive approach to mixing recreational and commemorative purposes. They supported the small increase in height for the barrier fence along the north side of the courts, and they recommended selecting an appropriately robust shrub species for the hedge proposed along the outside of the fence; this hedge should be extended along the entire fence to provide an effective visual screen from the roadway, while leaving the opening to the courts clearly visible.

The Commission looks forward to the review of other projects that will enhance this important national landscape. As always, the staff is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Luebke', with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Kym A. Hall, Area Director
Region 1–National Capital Area
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Diane Sullivan, National Capital Planning Commission
Sean Kennealy, National Park Service