

# Civil War Defenses of Washington General Management Plan Amendment

National Capital Region

Approval of Comments on Draft Master Plan

United States Department of the Interior

# Project Summary

**Commission Meeting Date:** June 4, 2026

**NCPC Review Authority:** 40 U.S.C. § 8722(a) and (b)(1)

**Applicant Request:** Approval of Comments on Draft Master Plan

**Session:** Staff Presentation

**NCPC Review Officer:** Laura Shipman

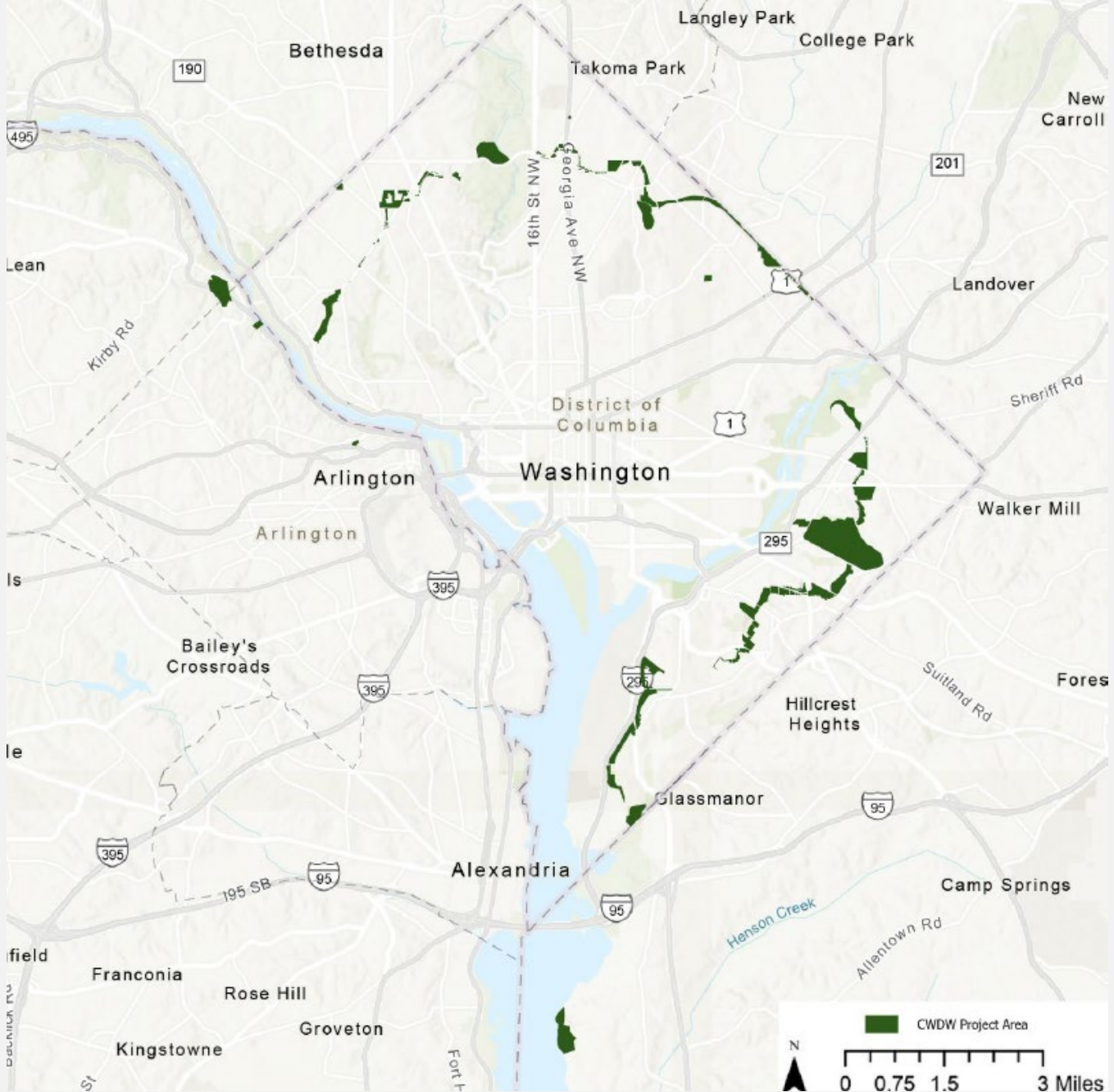
**NCPC File Number:** MP315

## Project Summary:

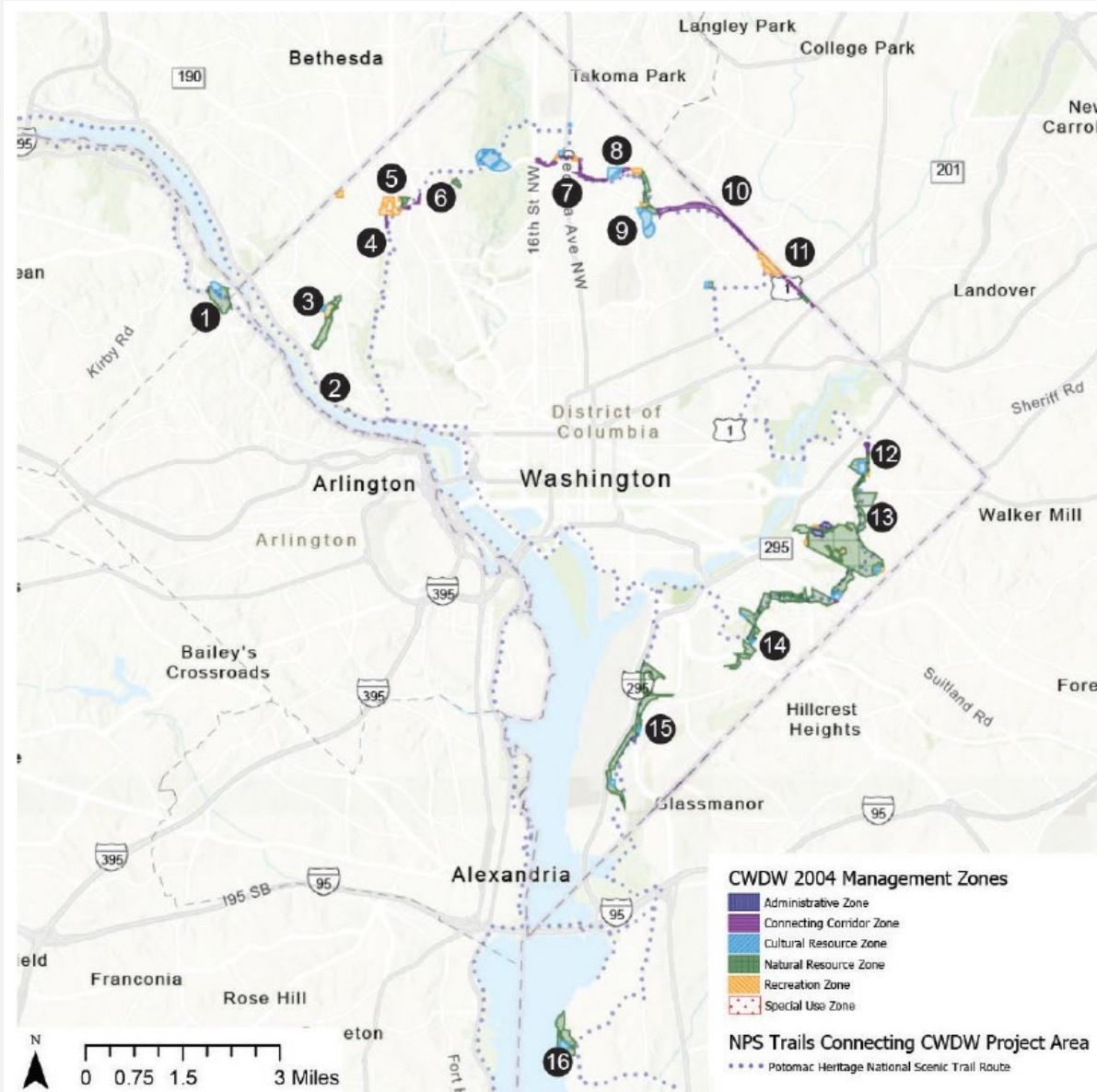
The National Park Service has submitted the Draft General Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Assessment for the Civil War Defenses of Washington (CWDW) also known as Fort Circle Parks. The CWDW were built as a circle of fortifications on high ground to protect Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. By the mid-20th century, remnants of these historic forts gained new meaning as federal parks, offering valuable public spaces for recreation and reflection. Today, the CWDW form a historic greenbelt with prominent views of the city, blending cultural heritage with civic and environmental infrastructure.

This plan is an amendment to the 2004 Fort Circle Parks General Management Plan to meet the current and future needs of the CWDW. Many of the open spaces within the CWDW are isolated and lack connectivity with other CWDW areas and to community facilities and resources outside of the CWDW. In addition, significant archeological and natural resources have been identified since 2004 that are located outside of cultural and natural resource zoning designations. Seventeen fort sites are administered by the NPS across approximately 1,315 acres in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Land use and management zoning were evaluated for all fort sites, Shepherd Parkway, and the greenbelt connecting corridor (Fort Circle Drive). The plan updates management zone definitions, management zone designations, and the boundaries of sites covered by management zones. New management zones are also added. These management zone updates are intended to enhance visitor experience, access, recreation opportunities, circulation, and interpretation while also protecting natural and cultural resources.

# Project Area



# Focus Areas



## George Washington Memorial Pkwy & Rock Creek Park West

1. Fort Marcy
2. Reservoir Battery #2
3. Battery Kemble & Palisades Park
4. Nebraska Avenue
5. Fort Reno
6. 36<sup>th</sup> Street NW

## Rock Creek Park East

7. Missouri Avenue Corridor
8. Fort Slocum
9. Fort Totten
10. Barnard Hill Park & Fort Totten Corridors
11. Barnard Hill Park

## National Capital Parks-East (North)

12. Fort Mahan
13. Fort Dupont Park
14. Fort Stanton

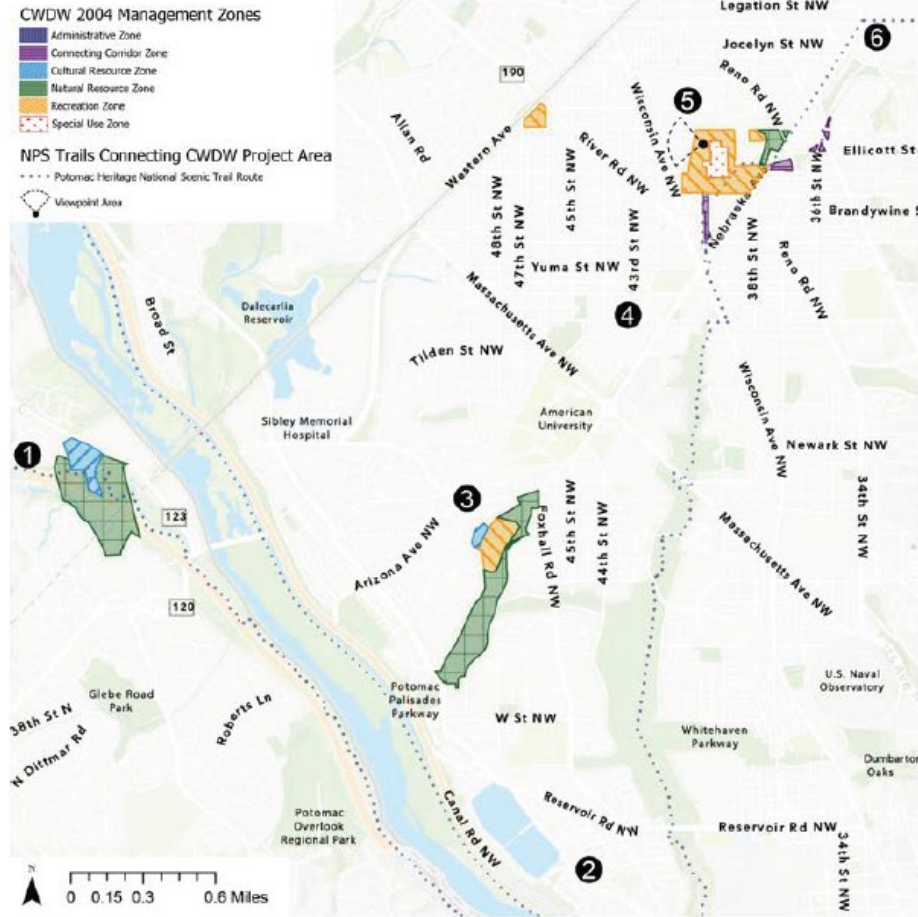
## National Capital Parks-East (South)

15. Shepherd Parkway
16. Fort Foote Park

# Proposed Management Zone Changes

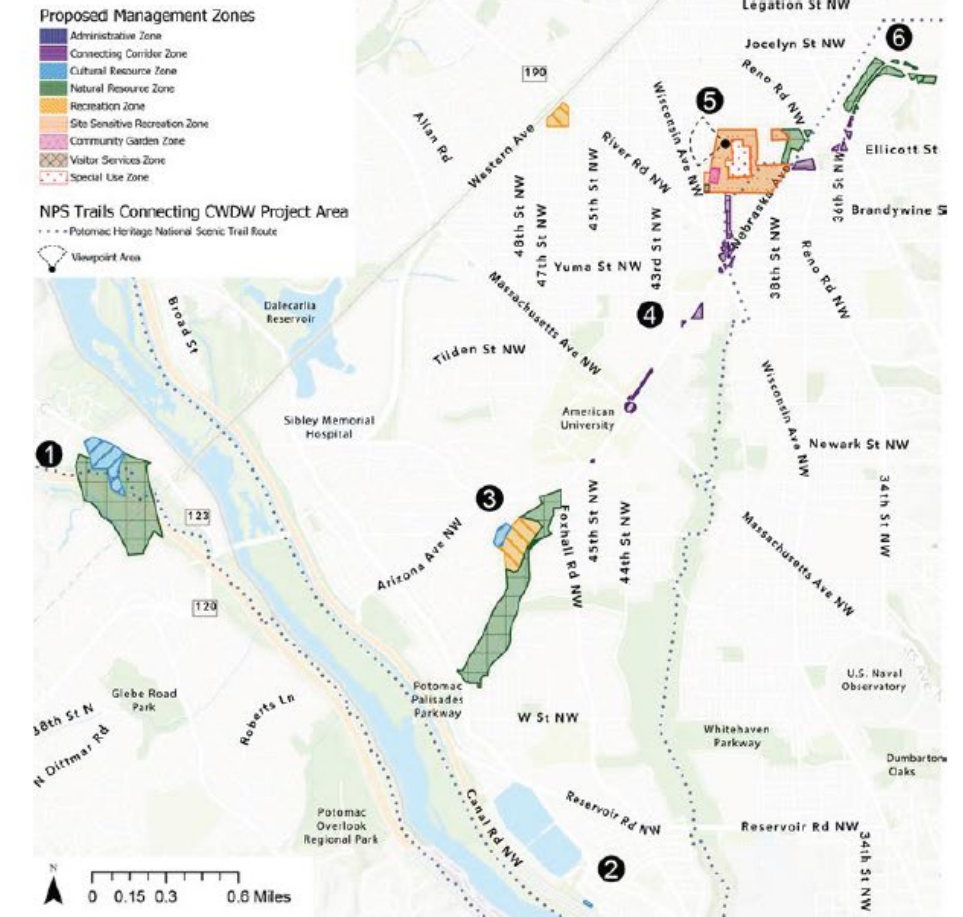
Management Zone	Changes to Management Zone Definition	Changes in Management Zone Application
<b>Cultural resource zone</b>	Expanded definition and use of interpretive media	Reservoir Battery #2
<b>Connecting corridor zone</b>	Potential meadow vegetation and avoidance of exotic vegetation  Interpretation of initiatives to create a “greenway” connecting the CWDW	Nebraska Avenue Corridor, Barnard Hill Park, Fort Dupont Park, Suitland Parkway, Shepherd Parkway
<b>Recreation zone</b>	Community gardens are separated as a distinct management zone  Expanded listing of amenities that could be provided	Missouri Avenue, Barnard Hill Park and Fort Totten Corridors, Connector between Fort Mahan and Fort Chaplin, Fort Chaplin South, Fort Dupont-Anacostia Park link, Fort Dupont Park, Parkland
<b>Site sensitive recreation zone</b>	New zone would accommodate recreation that does not result in ground-disturbing activities in areas with identified cultural resources	Fort Reno, Fort Totten, Barnard Hill Park, Fort Mahan, Fort Dupont Park, Fort Stanton, Shepherd Parkway, Fort Foote Park
<b>Community garden zone</b>	Separates community garden management zone from recreation management zone; notes recreation and other values of community gardens	Fort Reno, Missouri Avenue, Fort Totten, Fort Dupont
<b>Natural resource zone</b>	Identifies maintenance of forested ridgelines that serve as backdrop for the cityscape to be maintained as contiguous corridors	36th Street NW, Barnard Hill Park and Fort Totten Corridors, Barnard Hill Park
<b>Visitor services zone</b>	No change	Fort Reno
<b>Administrative zone</b>	Specified use of landscaping	Fort Dupont Park
<b>Special use zone</b>	Expanded definition of areas for potential inclusion	Fort Stanton

# George Washington Memorial Pkwy & Rock Creek Park West



## Existing Conditions

1. Fort Marcy (GWMP)
2. Reservoir Battery 2 (ROCR)
3. Battery Kemble & Palisades Park (ROCR)
4. Nebraska Avenue (ROCR)
5. Fort Reno (ROCR)
6. 36th Street NW (ROCR)



## Alternative Concept

**Fort Marcy:** No changes

**Reservoir Battery #2:** Adds Cultural Resource Zone

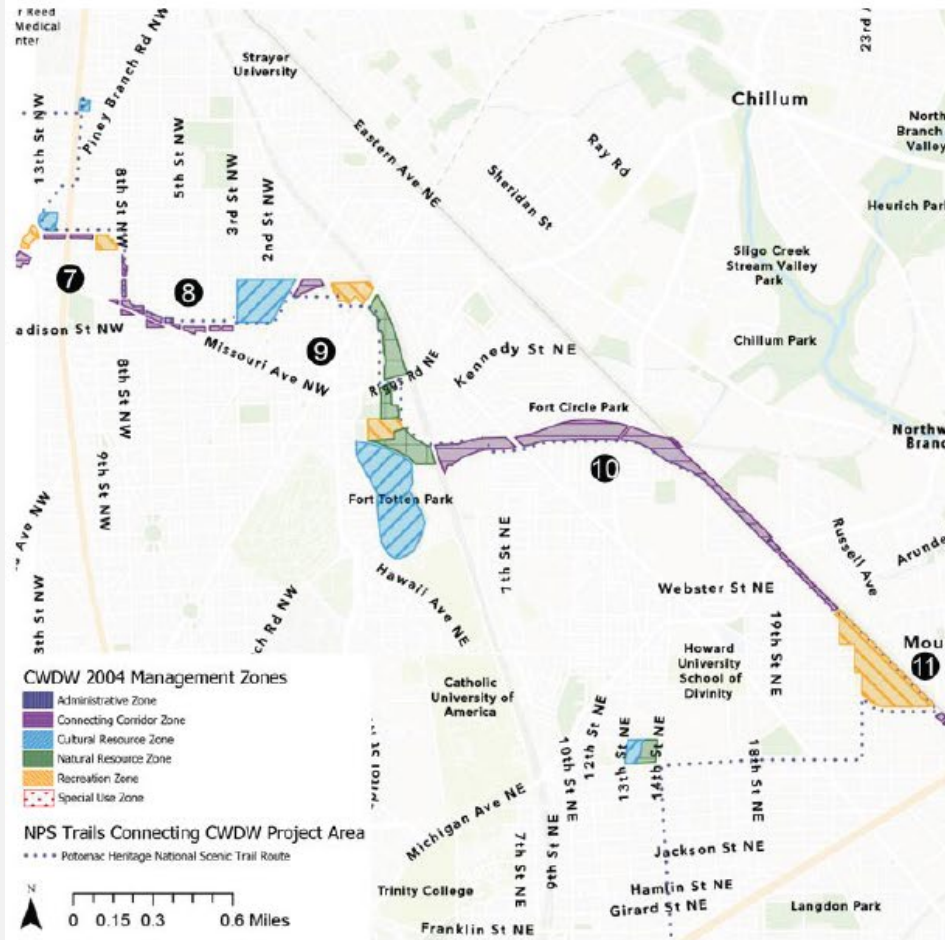
**Battery Kemble & Palisades Park:** No changes

**Nebraska Avenue:** Adds Connecting Corridor Zone

**Fort Reno:** Adds Site Sensitive Recreation Zone, Visitor Services Zone (southwest corner), Community Garden Zone (southwest), and enables hiking trail

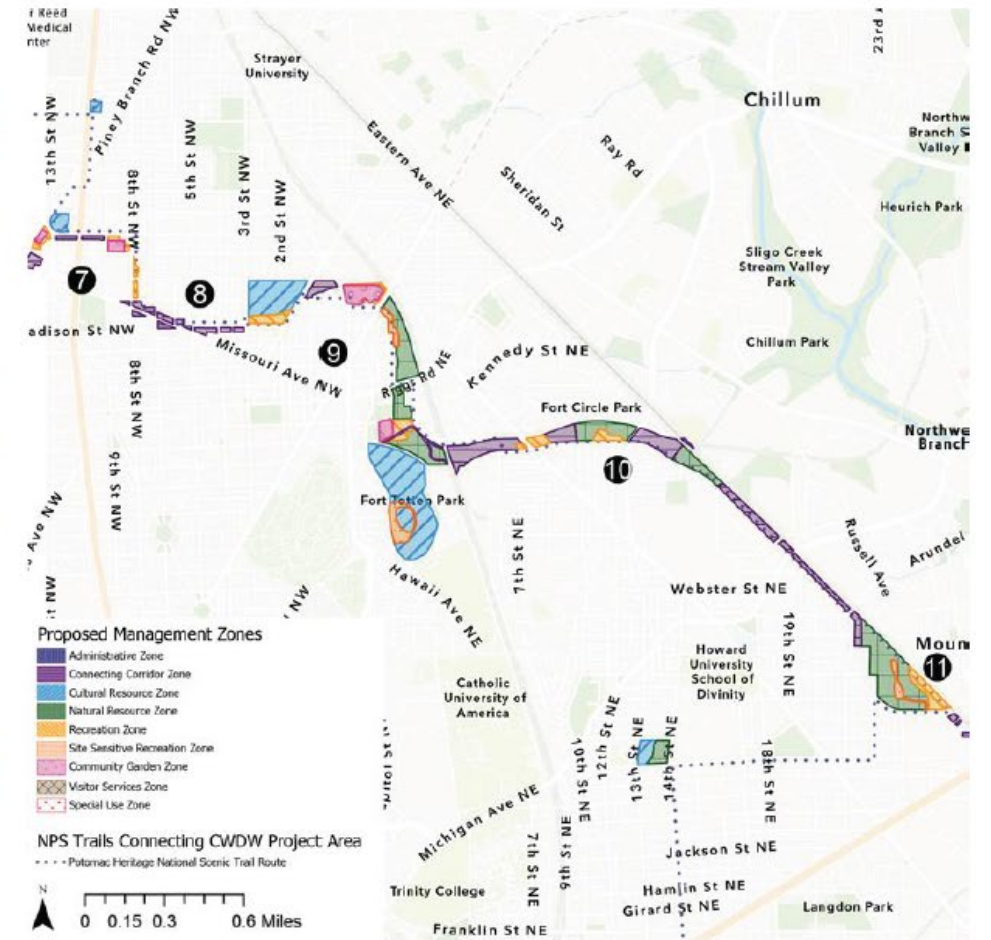
**36th Street:** Adds Natural Resource Zone

# Rock Creek Park East



## Existing Conditions

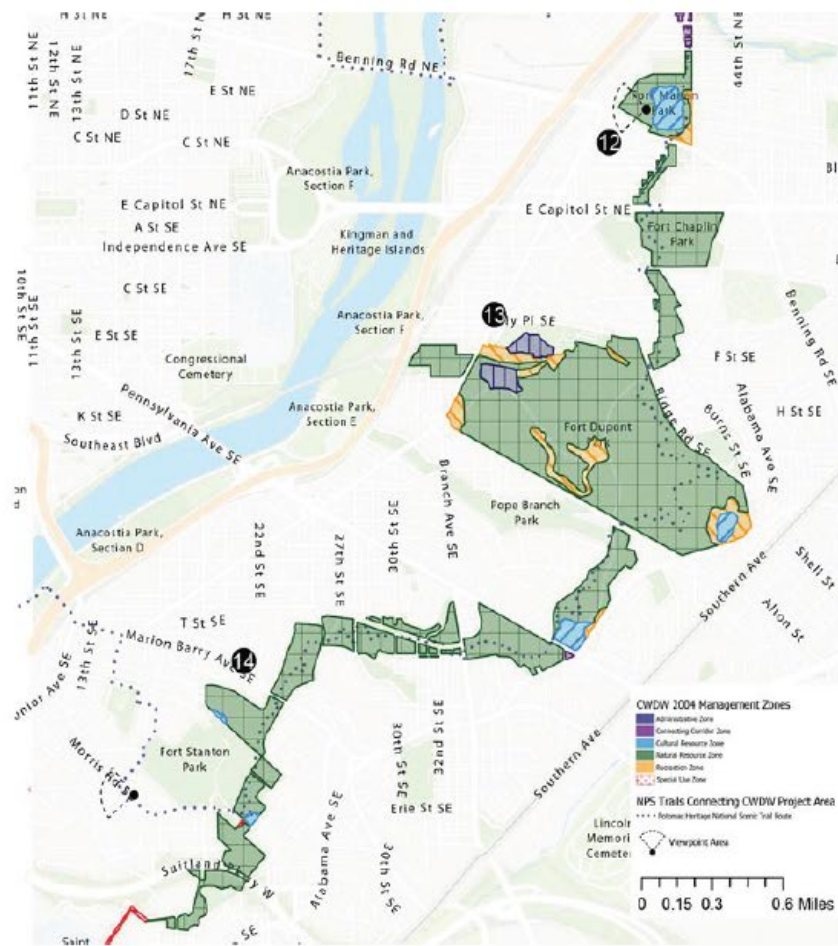
- 7. Missouri Ave. Corridor
- 8. Fort Slocum
- 9. Fort Totten
- 10. Barnard Hill Park & Fort Totten Corridors
- 11. Barnard Hill Park



## Alternative Concept

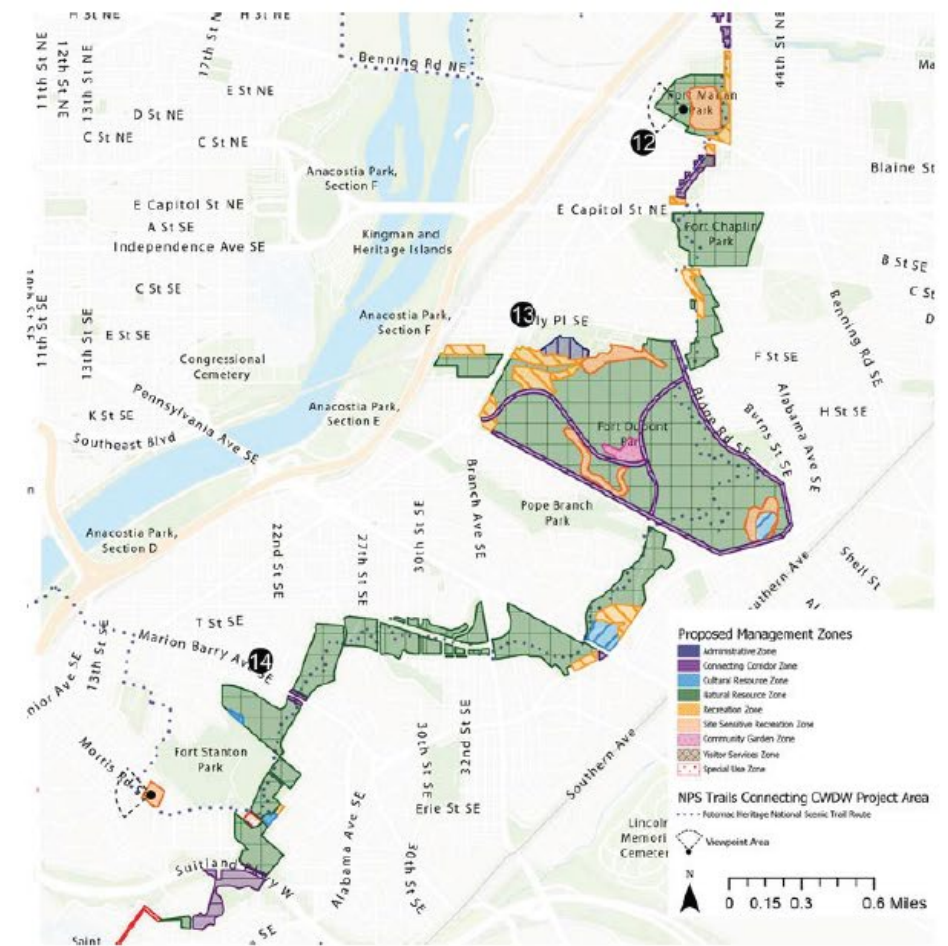
- 7. **Missouri Ave. Corridor:** Adds Recreation and Community Garden Zones
- 8. **Fort Slocum:** Adds Recreation Zone
- 9. **Fort Totten:** Adds Community Garden, Site Sensitive Recreation, and Connecting Corridor Zones
- 10. **Barnard Hill Park and Fort Totten Corridors:** Adds Natural Resource and Recreation Zones along the corridors
- 11. **Barnard Hill Park:** Adds Connecting Corridor, Natural Resource, and Site Sensitive Recreation Zones

# National Capital Parks-East (North)



Existing Conditions

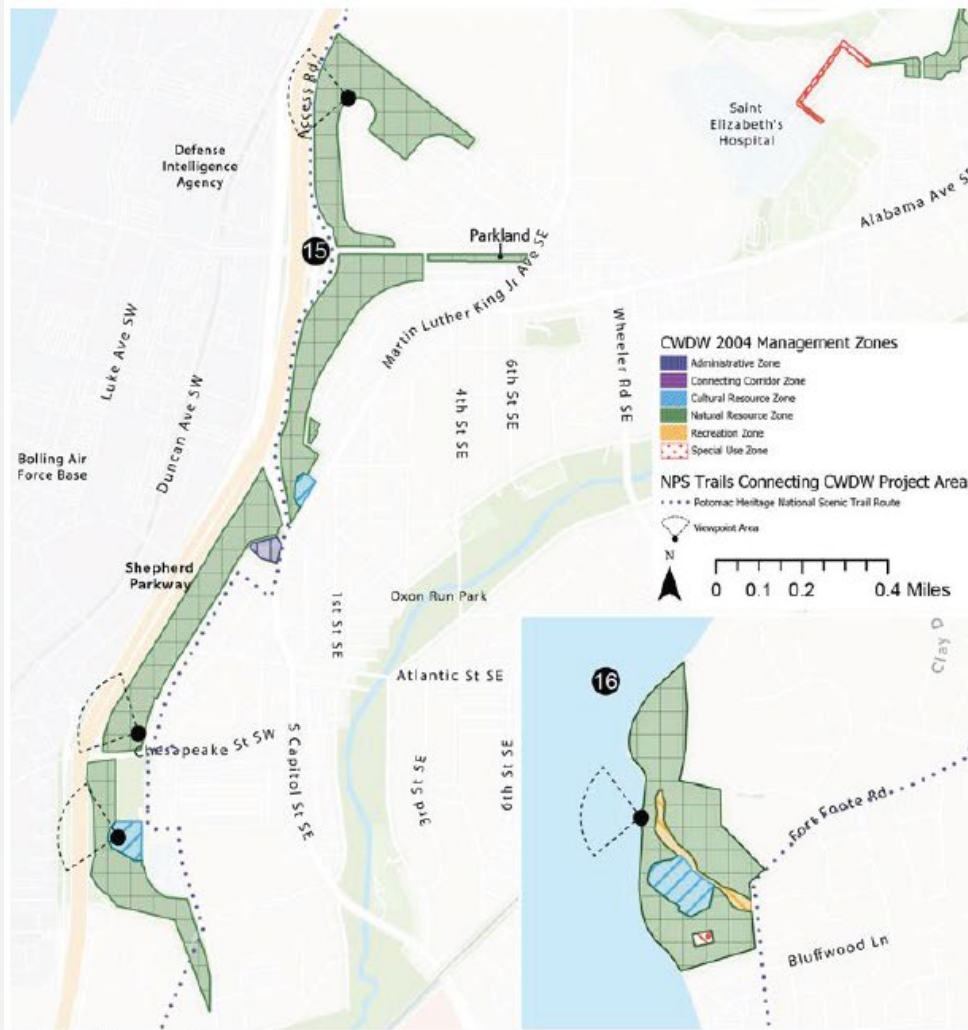
- 12. Fort Mahan
- 13. Fort Dupont Park
- 14. Fort Stanton



Alternative Concept

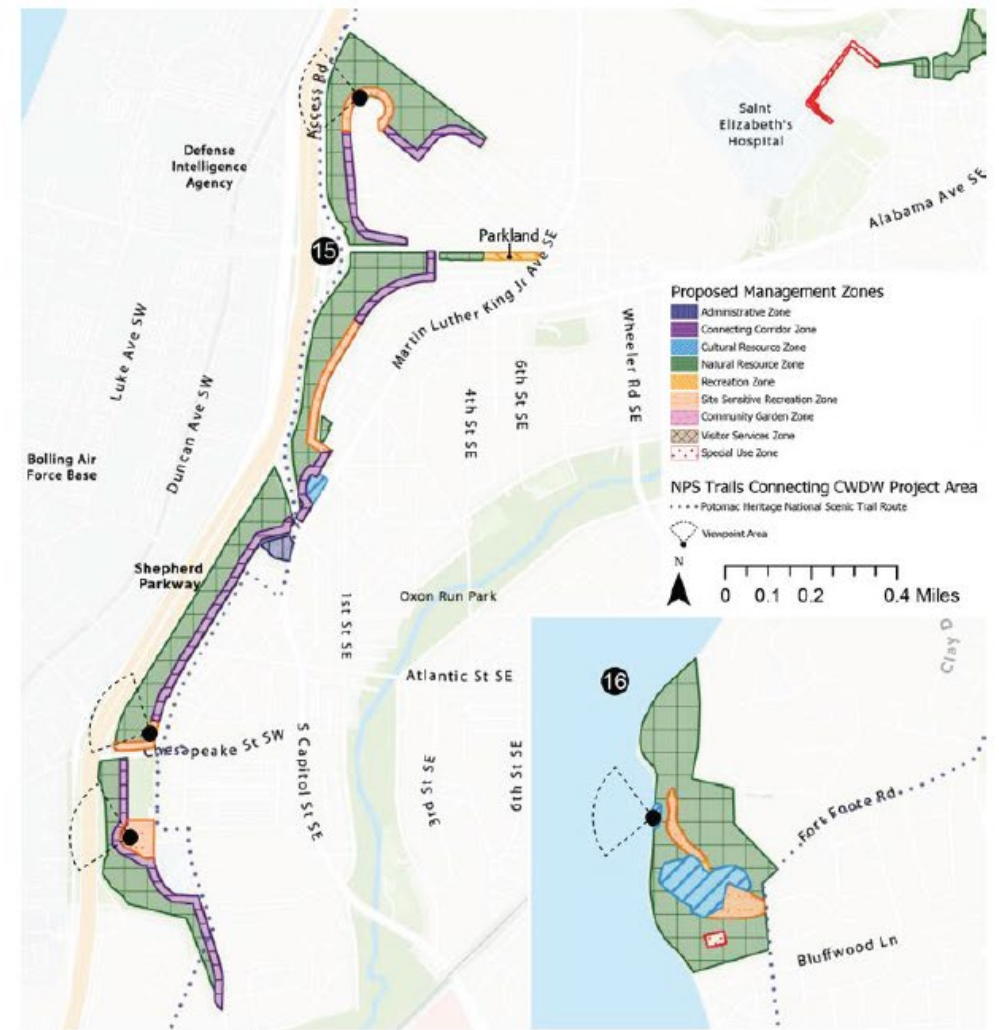
- 12. **Fort Mahan:** Adds Site Sensitive Recreation Zone and expands Recreation Zone
- Connector between Fort Mahan and Fort Chaplin:** Adds Recreation Zone to the northern and southern edges, changes to Connecting Corridor Zone from Natural Resource area
- 13. **Fort Chaplin South:** Adds Recreation Zone along Burns St SE and 40th PI SE and access point along C St SE
- Fort Dupont-Anacostia link:** Changes area along northern edge to Recreation Zone
- 14. **Fort Dupont Park:** Adds Recreation, Site Sensitive Recreation, Community Garden, and Connecting Corridor Zones
- Fort Stanton:** Adds Site Sensitive Recreation Zone and changes eastern edge to Recreation Zone
- Anacostia Community Museum:** Changes area at Erie St SE to Special Use Zone
- Suitland Parkway:** Changes to Connecting Corridor Zone

# National Capital Parks-East (South)



Existing Conditions

- 15. Shepherd Parkway
- 16. Fort Foote Park



Alternative Concept

- 15. **Shepherd Parkway (excluding Parkland):** Adds Connecting Corridor and Site Sensitive Recreation Zone to eastern edge and Site Sensitive Recreation Zone at Fort Greble
- Parkland:** Adds Recreation Zone
- 16. **Fort Foote Park:** Adds Site Sensitive Recreation and Cultural Resource zones and enables internal trail