

FORT LINCOLN PARK PROJECT OVERVIEW

EXISTING CONTEXT

Fort Lincoln Park is an approximately 29-acre Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) run public park located between Fort Lincoln Dr NE and Commodore Joshua Barney Dr NE in Washington DC. This submission includes the overall park, excluding the new community center building and associated landscape improvements on the northern approximately 4.7 acres of the site. Improvements to the community center and surrounding site are submitted under separate cover. Please see the Fort Lincoln Building submission for additional background information relevant to the community center project.

Fort Lincoln Park was conceived as part of the 1969 Fort Lincoln New Town planning efforts, measuring six-acres in its extent. The park possesses an extraordinary and unrivaled depth of history that can be evidenced from 68 former Civil War ramparts (now known as Fort Circle Parks), historic military earthworks, with contemporary layers that are also significant, most notably the post war design work undertaken by trailblazing Modernist landscape architect, M. Paul Friedberg (b. 1931). Friedberg was engaged in this commission just a few years after he appeared in LIFE magazine when he was recognized as a trailblazing landscape urbanist helping to reclaim cities with his work at Riis Park Plaza in Manhattan's Lower East Side. At Fort Lincoln, like Riis, play connected everything -- allowing for a magical self-exploration and freedom of movement for all. His designs for Fort Lincoln Park, and elsewhere were site-specific, aiming to serve children of all ages simultaneously and in different ways. Friedberg would blur the lines between playground, park, and plaza. Fences were banished, the site was delineated by changes in materials that were both living and non-living. No longer were play features sited in isolation. The building materials Friedberg used provided tactile and visual cues to invite and foster creative play – and not just for one child at a time, but different size groups of children spanning all ages.

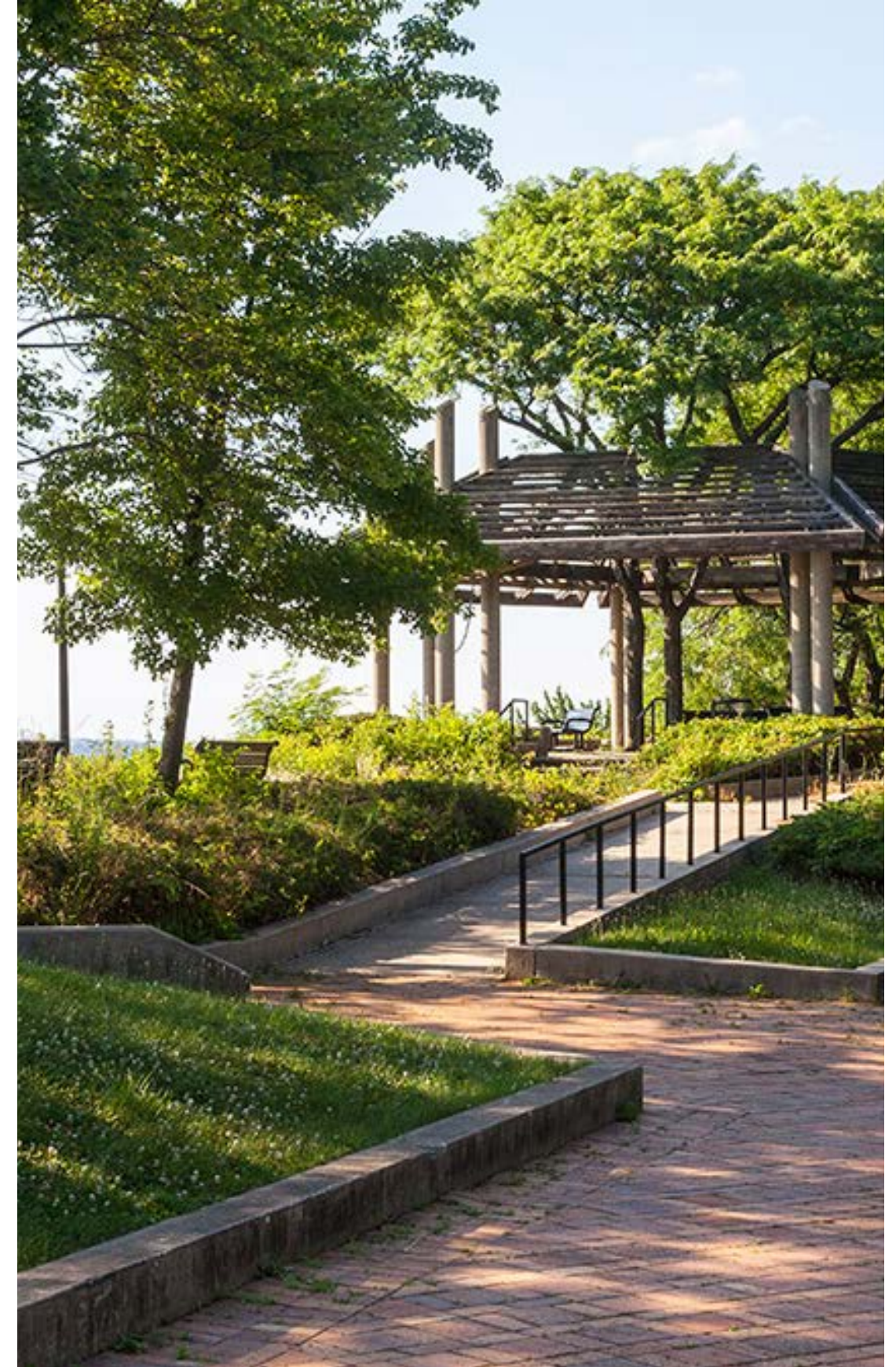
Fort Lincoln Park's topographic variation, which reached upwards of fifty feet, offers extraordinary near and distant views affording park users myriad opportunities to be both an active participant and an observer. Moreover, the extant physical fabric featuring Civil War-era earthworks rich in historical narrative provided a stage for experiential education where one could discover and unlock the landscape's hidden narrative, while creating unique opportunities for individual and collective discovery and exploration. At Fort Lincoln Park Friedberg would have an opportunity to link a variety of experiences – from open expanses to intimate secluded spaces. He created an opportunity to conceive a new landscape typology that would be a total play environment for all – a Park/Playground.

The existing park features include: pavilions, a fountain feature, a bridge, amphitheaters, play spaces, ball fields and sports courts, the Hagans Community Center and out door pool, a restroom pavilion at the park entrance plaza, a community garden, walking pathways and seating areas.

The landscape character within the park includes canopy trees - primarily Honey Locust and Red Maple, and some evergreen trees. Open lawns expanses accentuate the hillsides and extend the vistas through the park. The northern, southern and a portion of the western perimeter are densely forested areas.

Future efforts at Fort Lincoln Park should balance change and continuity, while recognizing that:

- a) Because the park is historically significant, future modifications should not pose an adverse effect to the historic character and contributing resources of the historic designed landscape;
- b) Increased value will be placed on continuity of park uses, while prioritizing those spaces that can best accommodate flexibility for any contemporary or new uses,
- c) Where possible, recapture open spaces that accommodated maximum flexibility of use(s) while promoting freedom of movement, and
- d) Any proposed uses that are reversible, temporary, and lay lightly on the park will be valued over permanent uses that have an adverse effect.



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DESIGN SUMMARY

This project includes the rehabilitation of existing park features comprising of, the pavilion structures, the entrance restroom pavilion, the fort play area for all ages, the brick play plazas, and site lighting. In addition, new site elements include: a new fitness trail and circulation pathways, fitness stations, an expanded community garden, new site furnishings, and new diverse planting that will expand the vegetative ecosystems found within the park.

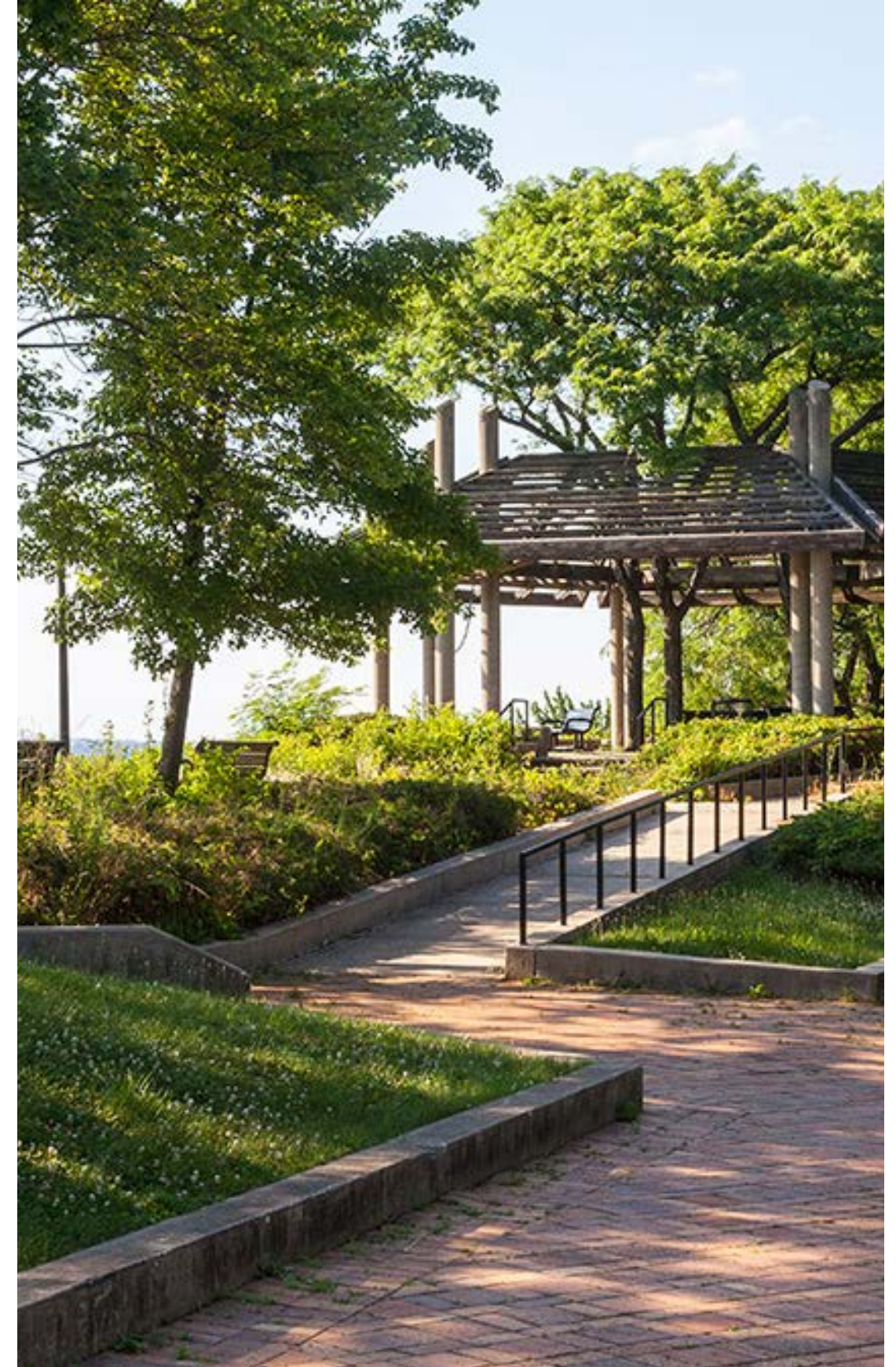
Cultural landscapes like Fort Lincoln Park are composed of a collection of features organized in space, from small-scale elements (e.g., benches and belvederes) to larger-scale open space and circulation networks (e.g., the park's grand entrance sequence of stairs opposite Cityscape Drive NE and along Fort Lincoln Road NE).

When assembled in their physical and historical contexts, these landscape features define how one experiences the park, from views and vistas to movement through the landscape. Individual landscape features should never be viewed in isolation, but rather as they relate to the park, its historic continuum, and its setting as a totality

As the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996) states, "it is the arrangement and inter-relationship of these character-defining features as they existed during the period of significance that is most critical to consider prior to treatment." Given Fort Lincoln Park's expansive and unique history, the following six guidelines, when combined with the previous overarching values, form a framework for future decision-making and holistic stewardship: (1) Spatial and Visual Relationships; (2) Topography; (3) Vegetation; (4) Circulation; (5) Water Features; and (6) Structures, Furnishings, and Objects.

1. **Spatial and Visual Relationships:** These three-dimensional patterns and spaces should:

- a) Guide current work as well as inform all future park planning, improvements, management, and day-to-day maintenance operations;
- b) Be preserved and protected by committing to a zero-net gain of incompatible structures or hardscape in the park going forward;
- c) Be protected from encroachment and outside development, while reinforcing and improving visual access into and from the park; and
- d) Be preserved and protected by avoiding the introduction of permanent incompatible uses. Instead, priority should be given to temporary and reversible uses, such as those for special events and active recreation, which do not have a long-term or permanent impact, should be encouraged over other uses.



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2. **Topography:** The shape and contours of the ground plane are both naturally occurring and man-made. In managing the park's topography, every effort should be made to:

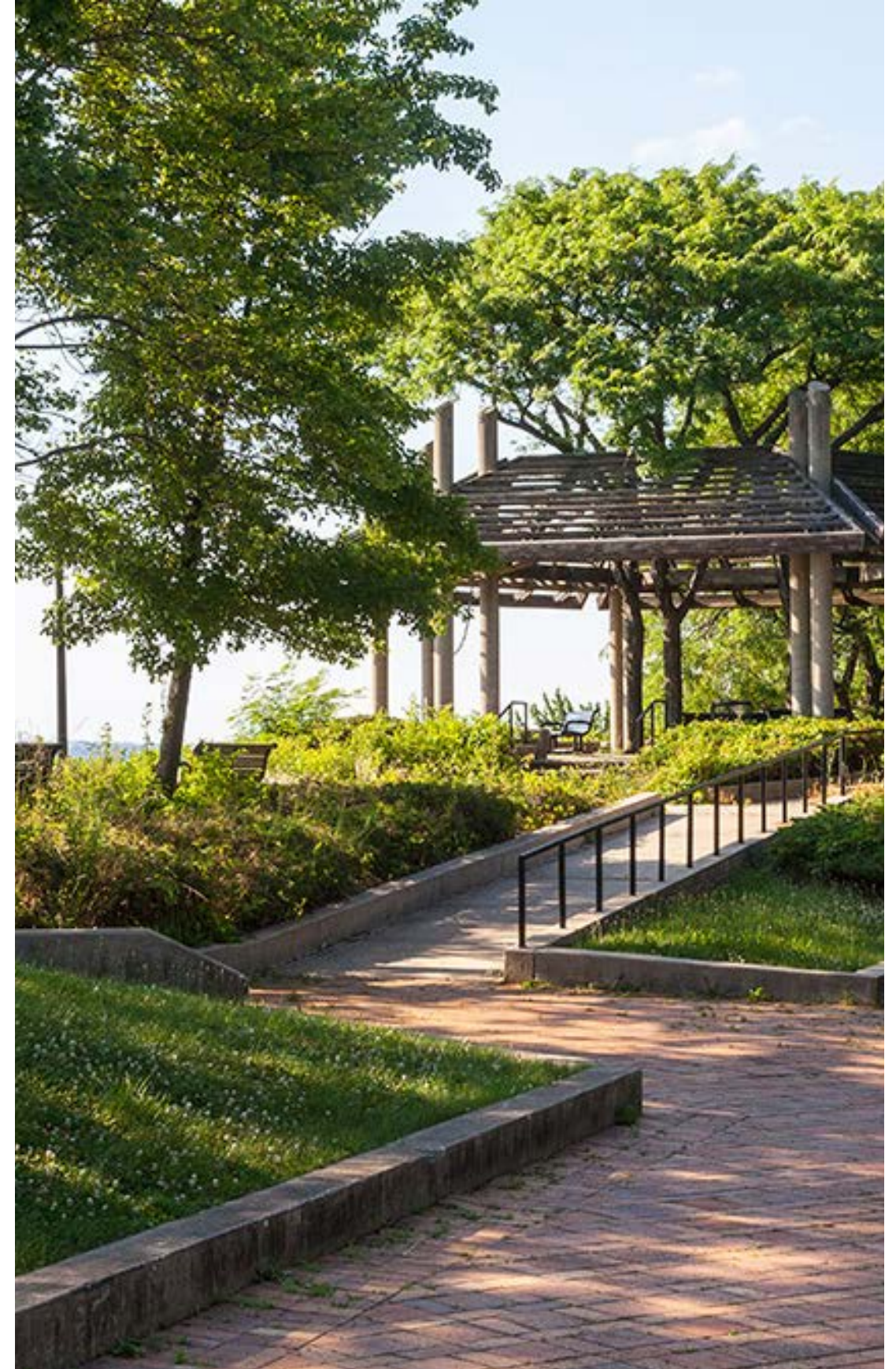
- a. Preserve and protect historic topographic features and work within the framework of their design intent as reflected in the design by M. Paul Friedberg;
- b. Recognize that topography as inherent character-defining qualities in the park that should be preserved (e.g. strong ground plane lines that co-existed with the sky should not be disturbed when possible, e.g. photo top left);
- c. Recognize that urban soils are an important component in stormwater management, use, and protection. (see photo bottom right). As such, park soils should be rejuvenated with the goal of good infiltration and permeability; and
- d. Preserve and protect below-grade archaeological resources.

3. **Vegetation:** These features range from individual specimen trees to broad sweeps of understory planting. Stewardship of this most dynamic aspect of the park's landscape should be based on a careful analysis of original planting plans and current best practices that:

- a. Aim to preserve and extend the life of historically significant trees by investing in arboriculture;
- b. Recapture Friedberg's original planting design intent. For example, re-instate a vegetative frame of perimeter street trees, framed views inside and outside of the park, dappled shade in nodal/seating areas, thematic parkland tree groupings, etc.
- c. Implement a short-term and ongoing management policy regarding all trees, shrubs, and flowering plantings that convey the park's historic design intent.

4. **Circulation:** These features include park roads, drives, parking areas, and pedestrian paths. They are defined by their width, alignment, surface, and edge treatments:

- a. When possible, historic circulation features, taking into account their width, alignment, materials and paving patterns should be preserved and restored;
- b. In special situations, such as key park entrances where the need exists to widen park paths this should be done in accordance with the Standards for Rehabilitation (e.g. At the straight path with one section of stairs off of Fort Lincoln Drive, this path should be widened to twice the length replicating/mirroring the existing concrete scoring and brick edging); and,
- c. Paving should be in harmony with the park's historic character. For example, the introduction of inappropriate and generic off-the-shelf modular paving materials should be avoided, while areas that have unique paving patterns should be preserved and honored.



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5. **Water Features:** These are both functional and aesthetic components of the Fort Lincoln Park landscape. As such:

- a. The Fort Lincoln Park water feature on the upper terrace should be rehabilitated and restored to be in good working order and animated in a way that is consistent with its historic design intent;
- b. The new work should meet health and safety standards without significantly diminishing its design integrity;
- c. The Fountain should continue to serve as the dominant animating and iconic decorative feature on the upper terrace in the park, reinforced by preserving and restoring its historic visual and spatial relationships within the park; and
- d. Significant brick work associated with the fountain should be preserved and restored to maintain its appearance during the period of significance.

6. **Structures, Site Furnishings, and Objects:** These include enclosed open-air pavilions, public art (timberform), playgrounds and their associated equipment, benches, lights, and bollards. When managing these features, both historic and new, every effort should be made to:

- a. Assess the condition of historically significant structures, site furnishings, and objects, thus informing their ongoing preservation and rehabilitation;
- b. Develop a comprehensive, park-wide furnishings and signage palette in concert with any associated directional signage and wayfinding that leads visitors to the park;
- c. Avoid the construction of new structures, site furnishings, and objects that will have an adverse effect on historic visual and spatial relationships;
- d. Consider the reintroduction of significant lost features that are important to the overall visual and spatial relationships of the park as they existed during the period of significance;
- e. Develop an overall furnishing palette that addresses lights, benches, trash receptacles, bollards, etc., in a comprehensive way to inform future management and maintenance decisions;
- f. Through long-term planning, consider phasing out non-historic structures and features that have a negative impact on the park's visual and spatial relationships; and
- g. Accommodate accessibility to any historic structure in a sensitive manner, ensuring that all visitors have dignified access.

PROJECT SCHEDULE & BUDGET

Construction complete, Fall 2022.

8M Total Project Budget

