

## **National Capital Planning Commission Women's Suffrage National Monument Site Selection Study**

**October 2, 2025**

### **Supporting Information Regarding Agency Coordination and Regulatory Compliance**

The Women's Suffrage National Monument Site Selection Study outlines the project's background, goals and program of the monument, site selection criteria, and three rounds of site selection screening and analysis, ultimately concluding with a recommendation.

The selection of a site is the first of many steps in the memorial development process for the Women's Suffrage National Monument. Site selection will be followed by the regulatory compliance processes for the design phase and construction phase of the monument. Once a site has been secured, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation (WSNMF) plans to hold a design competition to identify and select a monument design. The goals and program described in the study will provide the basis for direction for the competition.

In addition to the attached Women's Suffrage National Monument Site Selection Study, the following information summarizes completed and future agency coordination and regulatory compliance processes.

#### **National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC)**

The WSNMF presented its site selection study and recommended a site for the establishment of the monument within the Reserve, as defined by the Commemorative Works Act (CWA), to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission on May 12, 2025 and June 23, 2025.

The CWA prohibits commemorative works within the Reserve unless authorized by specific legislation enacted after January 1, 2003. In the case of the Women's Suffrage National Monument, Congress passed H.R. 1318 with broad bipartisan support during the 118th Congress, directing that the memorial shall be located within the Reserve. This exception was formalized with the enactment of Public Law 118-226 on January 4, 2025.



The site selection study analyzed 14 potential monument sites for their suitability based on the WSNMF's monument themes, program, and selection criteria. Eight sites were shortlisted for consideration, from which four were selected for further study: Constitution Gardens West, Constitution Gardens East, Hockey Fields East, and Washington Monument South.

Below is a summary of the combined comments received on the four final sites.

- **Constitution Gardens West.** Commissioners agreed that Constitution Gardens West appears to be the most suitable site for the Women's Suffrage National Monument as it has a strong potential to support a meaningful commemorative experience. Considered the strongest of the four options, this site benefits from a strong thematic connection to foundational American ideals and key nearby national landmarks such as the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial and an opportunity to weave the memorial design into the existing landscape. They further stated that the topography and landscape of the site, as well as the linear layout of the site, would offer unique design opportunities, acknowledging that the site would require thoughtful and sensitive design.
- **Constitution Gardens East.** While the site has potential due to strong thematic connections and enhancement of underutilized space, the Trust for the National Mall has existing approved plans to program events and build a permanent structure on this site. These plans would limit the site's suitability for permanent commemorative development and introduces long-term constraints due to anticipated event and infrastructure use.
- **Hockey Fields East.** This site offers design flexibility and space for programming with strong visibility and access to key thematic connections. Its year-round recreational use and associated permit revenue for NPS present challenges in repurposing it for a memorial. It was also noted that the site feels disconnected and lacking in thematic connection.
- **Washington Monument South.** While the site offers high visibility, the site is constrained by planned improvements to the Sylvan Theater. Additionally, the monumental scale of the Washington Monument may visually overshadow the new memorial. The establishment of a new commemorative work could also set a precedent for new memorials on the Washington Monument grounds, which has historically been avoided.



#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The NPS and the WSNMF will initiate the 30-day public outreach period on September 9, 2025, which would extend to October 8, 2025. A public site selection meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2025. Public scoping for NEPA would occur separately for the design phase. The NPS and the WSNMF will produce an Environmental Assessment (EA) following the design scoping period.

#### National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The NPS and the WSNMF initiated consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on August 18, 2025. Initiation letters to tribal communities with an interest in the region will also be sent. The NPS and the WSNMF will notify the SHPO and tribal communities of the site selection public scoping period and provide access to the related materials for review. The NPS and the WSNMF will continue to consult with these and other interested parties as the project advances.



SITE SELECTION STUDY ✦ OCTOBER 2, 2025

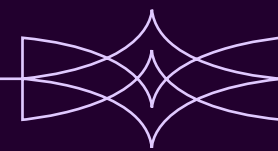
# Women's Suffrage National Monument

SUBMITTED TO ✦ NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Women's Suffrage  
National Monument  
FOUNDATION



# Introduction





# Overview

In 2020, the centennial year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, Congress asked itself this question: *“Why isn’t women’s fight for the vote, a critical chapter of American history, memorialized in our nation’s paramount commemorative corridor?”*

To answer that question, bipartisan leaders in the 116th Congress unanimously passed a bill establishing the Women’s Suffrage National Monument. Public Law 116-217 was signed by President Donald Trump on December 17, 2020, and charged the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation with building a monument in Washington, D.C. dedicated to commemorate *“the women’s suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.”*

To secure a prominent location for the monument on the National Mall, congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle came together again in the 118th Congress in overwhelming support of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act. Congress passed H.R. 1318, which mandated the Women’s Suffrage National Monument to be built in the heart of on the National Mall, in the area designated in the Commemorative Works Act as “the Reserve.” President Biden signed Public Law 118-226 on January 4, 2025.

Pictured:

The Women in the Senate during the 116th Congress wearing yellow roses at the U.S. Capitol in honor of the 100th anniversary of Senate passage of the 19th Amendment (June 4, 2019).







Pictured:  
President Trump in the Oval Office signing Public Law 116-217 which enacted H.R.473 and charged the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation with building the Women's Suffrage National Monument (December 17, 2020)



Pictured:  
President Biden in the Oval Office signing Public Law 118-226 which directed the monument to be built in a prominent location on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (Jan. 4, 2025)



# Goals

The goal of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation is to build a monument on the National Mall that:

**GOAL 01**  
Weaves the great women of American history in amongst the giants of our founding story;

**GOAL 02**  
Ensures every girl and woman who visits the National Mall sees herself represented in the commemorative fabric of the most visited National Park in the United States;

**GOAL 03**  
Ignites curiosity in American women’s history;

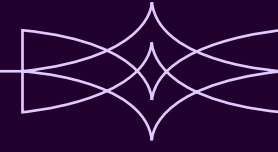
**GOAL 04**  
Fosters a deeper understanding of the women who shaped American democracy; and

**GOAL 05**  
Inspires future generations in the continued pursuit of liberty and equality.

Pictured:  
Suffrage envoys on their way to Washington, D.C. to present a petition to Congress containing more than 500,000 signatures, 1915.  
(Source: Library of Congress)







# *Historical* Background





# History of the Movement

As stated in the Commemorative Works Act, Sec 8905(b) (1), *“to the maximum extent possible, a commemorative work shall be located in surroundings that are relevant to the subject of the work.”*

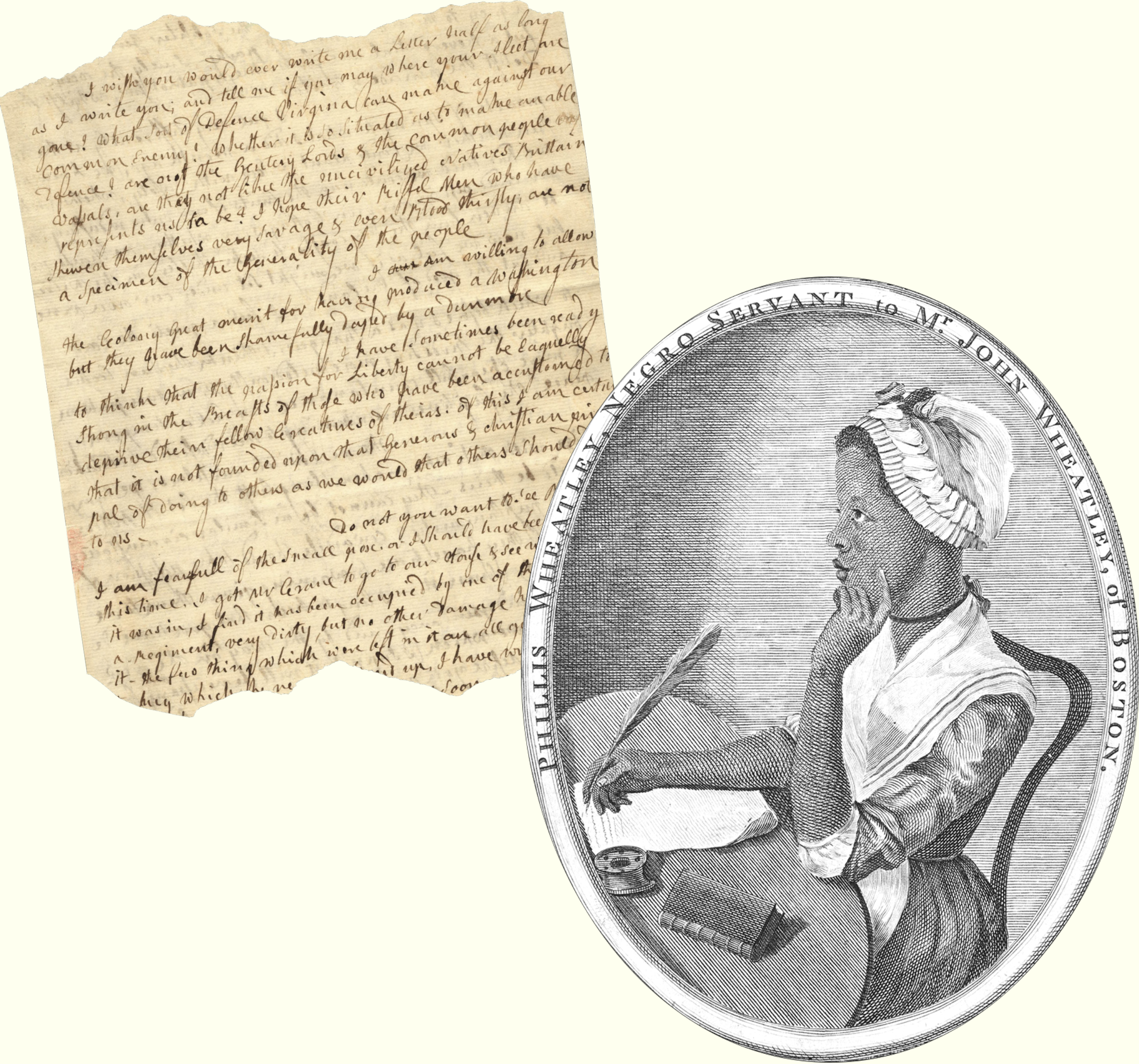
Therefore, in the following pages, we highlight the historical themes woven throughout this chapter of American history.

Pictured:

Section of Working Women's Picket February 17, 1917  
(Source: Library of Congress)







1776-1783+

# Early Republic

On March 31, 1776, three months before the signing of **the Declaration of Independence**, **Abigail Adams** wrote a letter to her husband, **John Adams**, urging him and his colleagues at the Continental Congress to “remember the ladies” in the “new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make.” She went on to add:

“If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and *will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.*”

After the American Revolution, which had just been fought and won over the principles of liberty, freedom, and political representation, women continued to be denied full person-hood. In most states, African women remained enslaved. In addition, coverture laws present in colonial America remained in place: white women, free Black women, and Women of Color could not own property, control their own money, sign legal documents, speak in public, hold political office, or vote.

Pictured:  
A portion of Abigail Adams’ letter to John Adams, dated March 31, 1776 (Source: Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society)  
Phillis Wheatley, c. 1773 (Source: Library of Congress)



1800-1900

# 19th Century

In July 1848, more than 300 women and men gathered at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, NY for the first Women’s Rights Convention. For two days, the delegates codified their demands for women’s equality – including the right to vote – into a document they would call **the Declaration of Sentiments**.

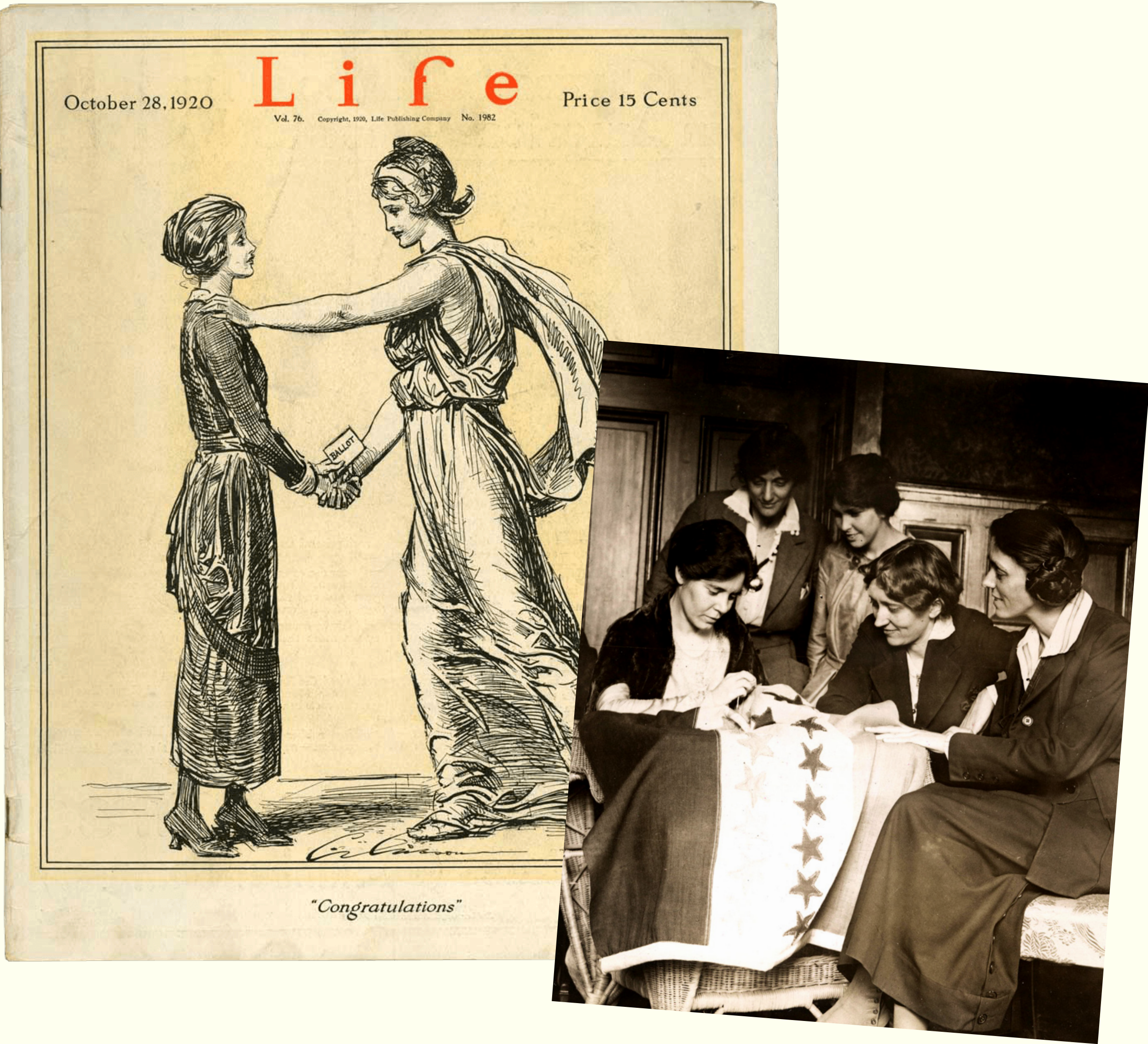
Authored primarily by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Declaration of Sentiments mirrored the Declaration of Independence, and included the radical declaration: *“we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal.”*

Although the gathering was not the first call for women’s equality in the newly formed United States, the Women’s Rights Convention of 1848 is considered the beginning of the organized movement for women’s suffrage.

Pictured:  
Signatories to the Declaration of Sentiments, July 19-20, 1848  
(Source: Library of Congress)  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
(Source: Library of Congress)







1919-1920

# The 19th Amendment

The **19th Amendment**, also known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, states that *“the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex,”* and was introduced in Congress every year from 1878 to 1919 (41 years in a row).

Following generations of organized activism, the Amendment passed Congress in June 1919. The 19th Amendment then went to the states, where it had to be ratified by 3/4ths of the-then-48 states to be added to the U.S. Constitution.

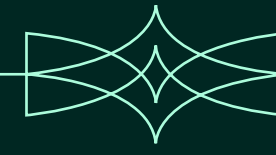
On August 26, 1920, having been ratified by the required 36 states, the 19th Amendment was certified into the U.S. Constitution. Overnight, 26 million women had been enfranchised. An unparalleled victory had been won, and one of the greatest chapters of America’s democratic history had been written.

Pictured:

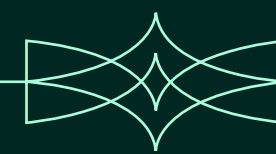
National Woman's Party activists watch Alice Paul sew a star onto the NWP Ratification Flag, representing another state's ratification of the 19th Amendment, 1919-1920 (Source: Library of Congress)

Life Magazine, October 28, 1920  
(Source: Maine State Museum Collection)





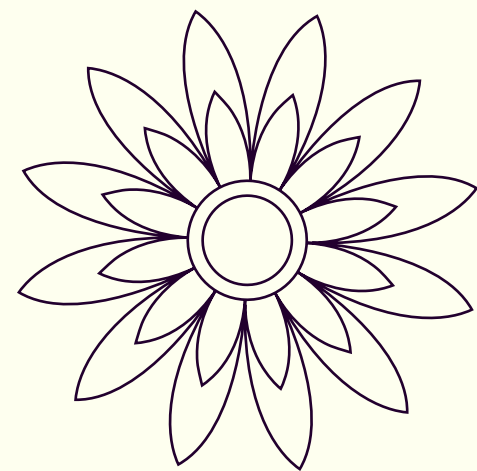
# *Monument* Program





# Overview of Themes

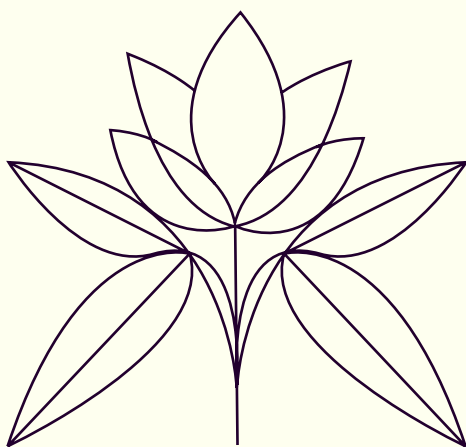
The following commemorative themes have been developed through consultation and coordination with the nation’s leading historians, artists, and educators.



# Monument Themes

THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT WILL ENHANCE THE NATIONAL MALL BY ESTABLISHING A MEMORIAL THAT:

- Weaves the great women of American history in amongst the giants of our national story;
- Stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the other renowned commemorative works on the National Mall;
- Inspires visitors to revere the role women played throughout American history in building, shaping, and expanding our democracy;
- Celebrates the role of our foremothers in building a more just and equal America;
- Tells a diverse and broad story of the fight for the 19th Amendment; and
- Encourages a continued investment in America’s constitutional promise of freedom, justice, and equality for all.



# Monument Program

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE MONUMENT, THE SITE SHOULD:

- Allow for landscaped garden that provides shade, flowers, seating, and gathering space for multigenerational groups;
- Accommodate true place-making and offer the opportunity to allow women’s stories to be woven into the monumental fabric on the National Mall;
- Allow visitors to safely visit and participate in programming during the day and at night;
- Accommodate public programming, including discussions, commemorations, concerts, group tours, and ceremonies;
- Facilitate a transformative experience for all visitors, but especially school groups, multi-generational families, and civic organizations; and
- Provide the ability to interact with, and move through, the memorial.

# Site Selection Criteria

SITE SELECTION CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
Program Suitability	The site should accommodate a landscaped design, including commemorative features, that tell the story of the women’s suffrage movement from a diversity of perspectives. The site should be bright and inviting. The site must be large enough to effectively accommodate the scope and scale of the story the monument will tell and welcome the high number of visitors expected.
Integration into Monumental Core	The site should be integrated into, and in conversation with, memorials that highlight founding constitutional history and democratic ideals of our Republic.
Thematic Nexus	The site should physically and thematically connect to the founding principles and history of the Nation’s democracy, while also conceptually bringing those ideas into modern times.
Addition to Washington, D.C.’s Commemorative Landscape	The placement of the monument should add to the commemorative fabric of Washington, D.C., invite visitors to better understand our Nation’s democracy, and broaden the telling of our country’s rich and diverse history without removing or diminishing established memorials.
Implementation Coordination	Allow for collaboration with other site stakeholders and be independent of other plans for the monument site that could substantially delay implementation.
Infrastructure	The site should require minimal new infrastructure, such as roadway improvements or utility extensions.
Safety & Security	The site should enable a welcome, celebratory, and safe experience, with special attention to families, school groups, and pedestrians.
Site Access	The public should be able to continually access the site, except for related special events. The site should not be closed off regularly due to security requirements.
Accessibility & Proximity to Transit	The site should be within a 20-minute walk of a Metrorail station. The site should be accessible to pedestrians, transit (tour buses, city buses, and Metrorail), and visitors to the Nation’s Capital.
Support Facilities	The site should be in proximity to support facilities, such as restrooms, food service, and event space.



# Site Selection Criteria

## PROGRAM SUITABILITY

The site should accommodate a landscaped design, including commemorative features that tell the story of the women’s suffrage movement from a diversity of perspectives. The site should be bright and inviting. The site should be large enough to effectively accommodate the scope and scale of the story and welcome the high number of visitors expected.

## INTEGRATION INTO MONUMENTAL CORE

The site should be integrated into, and in conversation with, memorials that highlight founding constitutional history and democratic ideals of our Republic.

## THEMATIC NEXUS

Women’s fight for the vote is the story of a great American movement for change that led our Nation ever closer to a more perfect union. It is a story—written by women—about democracy at work and the power and courage of the American spirit. This monument will highlight this critical chapter of American history, broadening and deepening our understanding of the ideals of equality, freedom, and justice so central to the founding of the Republic. Therefore, the site should physically and thematically connect to the founding principles and history of the Nation’s democracy, while also conceptually bringing those ideas into modern times.

## ADDITION TO WASHINGTON, D.C.’S COMMEMORATIVE LANDSCAPE

The placement of the monument should add to the commemorative fabric of Washington, D.C., invite visitors to better understand our Nation’s democracy, and broaden the telling of our country’s rich and diverse history. The monument should enhance public use without removing or diminishing established memorials.

## IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION

Allow for collaboration with other site stakeholders and be independent of other plans for the monument site that could substantially delay implementation.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

The site should require minimal new infrastructure, such as roadway improvements or utility extensions.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

The site should provide a safe environment for both visitors and memorial features. The site should enable a welcome, celebratory, and safe experience, including for pedestrians approaching. Visitors should be safe and feel safe at the site during the day and during the night. Visitors within the site should be able to focus on the commemorative experience rather than have safety concerns of nearby traffic.



**SITE ACCESS**

The public should be able to continually access the site, except for related special events. The site should not be closed off regularly due to security requirements.

**ACCESSIBILITY AND PROXIMITY TO TRANSIT**

The site should be within a 20-minute walk of a Metrorail station. The site should be accessible to pedestrians, transit (tour buses, city buses, and Metrorail), and visitors to the Nation’s Capital. The site should allow a commemorative work to meet the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS).

**SUPPORT FACILITIES**

The site should be in proximity to facilities that support the visitor experience. Restrooms should be within a five minute walk of the site. Food service and facilities available for events should also be in close proximity.

Pictured:  
National Mall Behind the Tulips  
(Source: Adobe Stock)





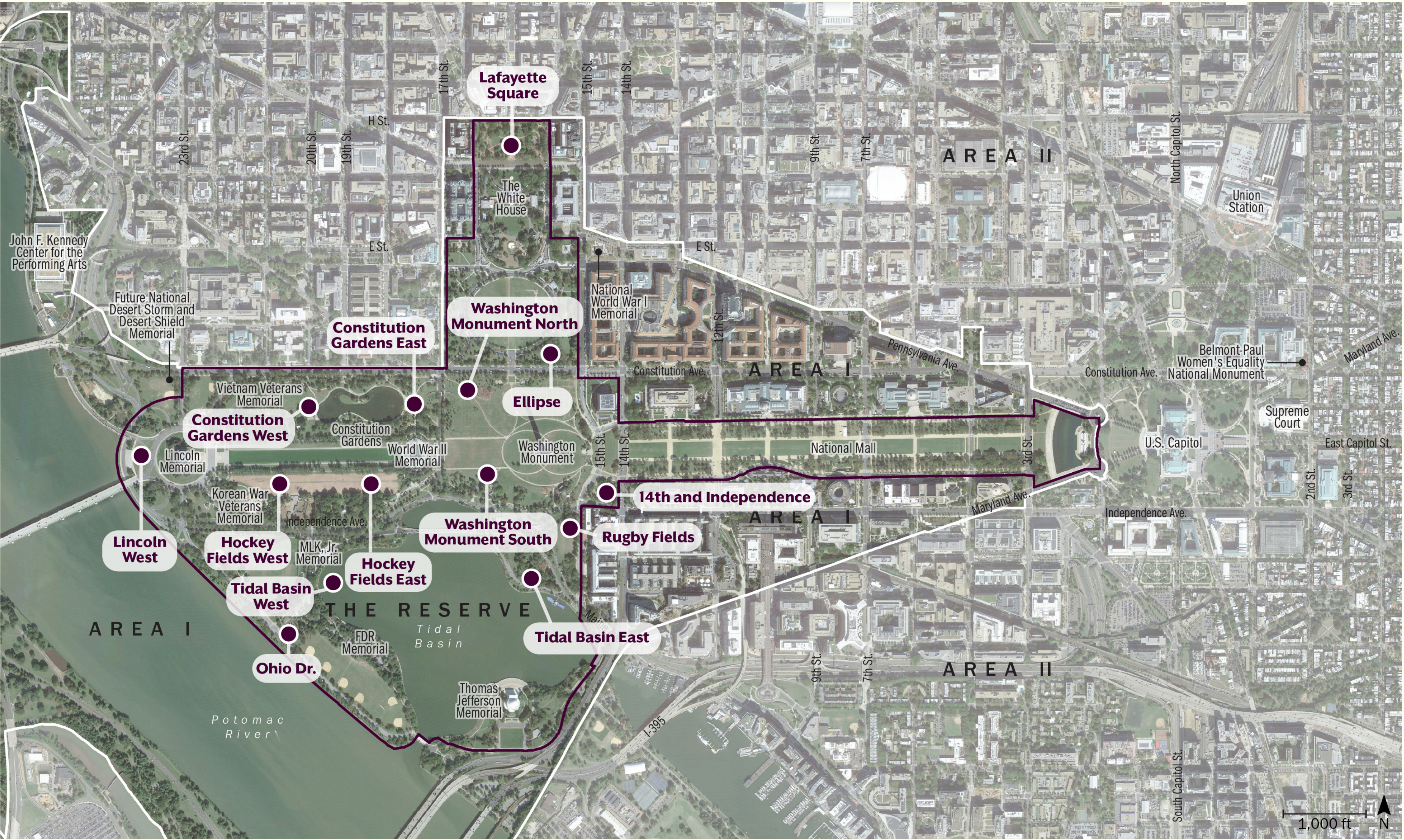


# Site *Selection*





# Initial Range of Potential Sites in the Reserve



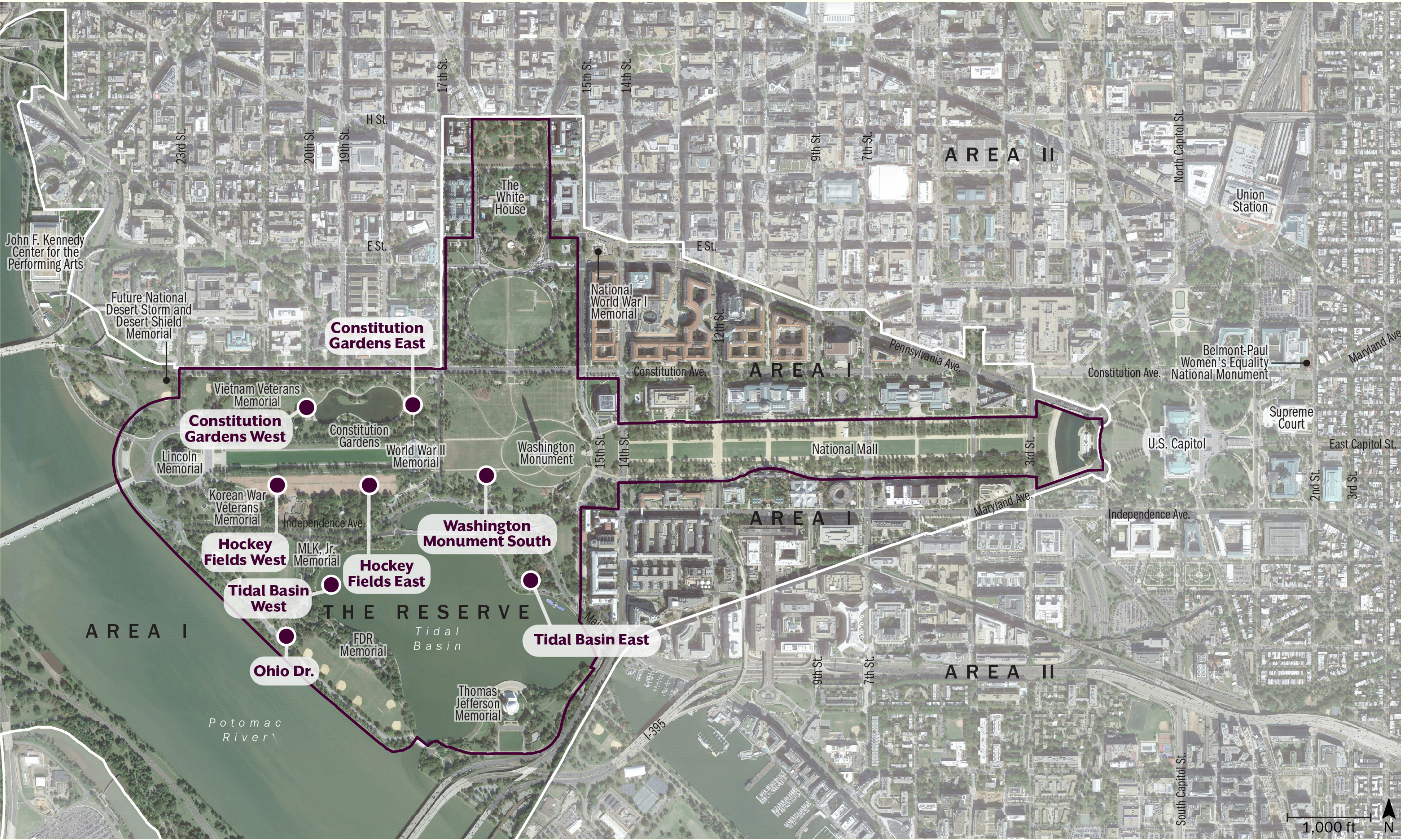


SITE	PROGRAM SUITABILITY	THEMATIC NEXUS	SITE ACCESS	ADDITION TO D.C. COMMEMORATIVE LANDSCAPE	INTEGRATION INTO MONUMENTAL CORE	IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION	NEW INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS	SAFETY AND SECURITY	ACCESSIBILITY AND PROXIMITY TO TRANSIT	SUPPORT FACILITIES
Constitution Gardens West	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●
Constitution Gardens East	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●	●	◐	●
Hockey Fields East	●	◐	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	◐
Washington Monument South	●	◐	●	◐	●	◐	●	●	◐	●
Tidal Basin East	◐	◐	●	◐	●	◐	○	○	◐	◐
Tidal Basin West	◐	◐	●	◐	●	◐	○	◐	○	◐
Ohio Drive	◐	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	○	○
Hockey Fields West	●	◐	●	◐	◐	●	●	●	●	◐
Washington Monument North	◐	◐	●	◐	●	◐	◐	●	◐	●
Ellipse	◐	◐	○	◐	◐	◐	●	●	◐	◐
Rugby Fields	◐	○	●	◐	◐	○	●	◐	●	◐
Lafayette Square	○	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	●	●	●	◐
14th and Independence	◐	◐	●	◐	○	○	○	○	●	◐
Lincoln West	○	◐	●	◐	○	◐	◐	○	◐	◐

KEY ♦ SUGGESTED RATINGS    ● Site Would Fully Provide    ◐ Site Would Partially Provide    ○ Site Would Not Provide



# Top Eight Sites for Consideration





# Hockey Fields West



# Hockey Fields West

- Provides clear visibility of Washington Monument;
- Connects to D.C. War Memorial, which commemorates an event that played a significant role in advancing the U.S. women's suffrage movement;
- Offers open and expansive area for program; and
- Presents site challenges due to close proximity to U.S. Park Police Horse Stables and Korean War Veterans Memorial.





# Hockey Fields West



View looking south towards U.S. Park Police Horse Stables



View looking west towards Lincoln Memorial and Korean Veterans War Memorial



View looking east towards Washington Monument



# Ohio Drive



# Ohio Drive

- Extends commemoration south towards the Potomac River;
- Presents challenges in commemorative planning due to constraints posed by the established commemorative tree grove; and
- Lacks clear thematic connections.





# Ohio Drive



View looking northeast from Ohio Drive



View looking south from West Basin Drive



View looking east from the intersection of Ohio Drive and West Basin Drive



# Tidal Basin West



# Tidal Basin West

- Introduces women among national leaders including Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- Places monument adjacent to White House-Thomas Jefferson Memorial View Corridor;
- Provides waterfront setting; and
- Requires large-scale capital improvements outside the scope of memorial sponsor capacity.





# Tidal Basin West



View looking southeast toward the Jefferson Memorial



View looking east from East Basin Drive



View looking north toward the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial



# Tidal Basin East



# Tidal Basin East

- Introduces women among historic national leaders including Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- Places monument adjacent to White House--Thomas Jefferson Memorial view corridor;
- Provides waterfront setting; and
- Requires large-scale capital improvements outside the scope of memorial sponsor capacity.





# Tidal Basin East



View looking southeast with the parking lot on the left side



View looking south across the Tidal Basin towards the Jefferson Memorial



View looking southeast towards Ohio Drive/East Basin Drive



# Washington Monument South



# Washington Monument South

- Incorporates women into the story of the country's founding;
- Locates commemorative work adjacent to the gathering and open recreation space around the Washington Monument;
- Provides access to nearby Sylvan Theater for programming; and
- Connects to nearby transit.





# Washington Monument South



View looking west towards World War II Memorial



View looking south toward Survey Lodge and Thomas Jefferson Memorial



View looking northeast towards Washington Monument



View of site in use for annual kite festival



# Hockey Fields East



# Hockey Fields East

- Provides clear visibility of Washington Monument;
- Connects to D.C. War Memorial, which commemorates an event that played a significant role in advancing the U.S. women's suffrage movement; and
- Offers open and expansive area for program.





# Hockey Fields East



View of site area in use for pickleball and other recreation



View looking southwest toward D.C. War Memorial and United States Park Police Horse Stables



View looking east towards the Washington Monument



# Constitution Gardens East



# Constitution Gardens East

- Thematically links the Women's Suffrage National Monument to the U.S. Constitution by allowing visitors to the National Mall to better understand the ideals of freedom, justice and equality enshrined in the U.S. Constitution;
- Highlights the historical connection between the Declaration of Sentiments, the founding document of the women's suffrage movement that was modeled after the Declaration of Independence, through proximity to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial;
- Situates a memorial dedicated to the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women's constitutional right to vote, in the area on the National Mall dedicated as a living legacy tribute to the U.S. Constitution;
- Provides waterfront setting;
- Offers an open landscape to accommodate monument program; and
- Trust for the National Mall plans to replace the plaza with a pavilion in the next phase of Constitution Gardens improvements.





# Constitution Gardens East



View of plaza with food trucks



View looking southeast from the plaza towards the Washington Monument



View looking west from the plaza towards the Constitution Gardens Lake



# Constitution Gardens West



# Constitution Gardens West

- Thematically links the Women's Suffrage National Monument to the U.S. Constitution by allowing visitors to the National Mall to better understand the ideals of freedom, justice and equality enshrined in the U.S. Constitution;
- Highlights the historical connection between the Declaration of Sentiments, the founding document of the women's suffrage movement that was modeled after the Declaration of Independence, through proximity to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial;
- Situates a memorial dedicated to the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women's constitutional right to vote, in the area on the National Mall dedicated as a living legacy tribute to the U.S. Constitution;
- Aligns with the intersection of 19th Street and Constitution Avenue, echoing the significance of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution;
- Provides waterfront setting;





# Constitution Gardens West

- Maximizes activation of Constitution Gardens by extending the revitalization plan to the western side of the lake;
- Utilizes the numerous planned event spaces in Constitution Gardens to accommodate monument program;
- Allows the memorial design to be integrated and woven into the existing landscape; and
- Provides a unique opportunity on the National Mall to build a highly landscaped memorial with multiple commemorative features that physically accommodates a long and trailblazing chapter of American history.





# Constitution Gardens West



Intersection of 19th Street and Constitution Avenue



View looking northeast from western path toward 19th St. and Constitution Ave. intersection

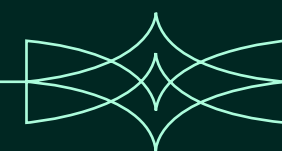


View looking east from the southwest paths towards the Washington Monument



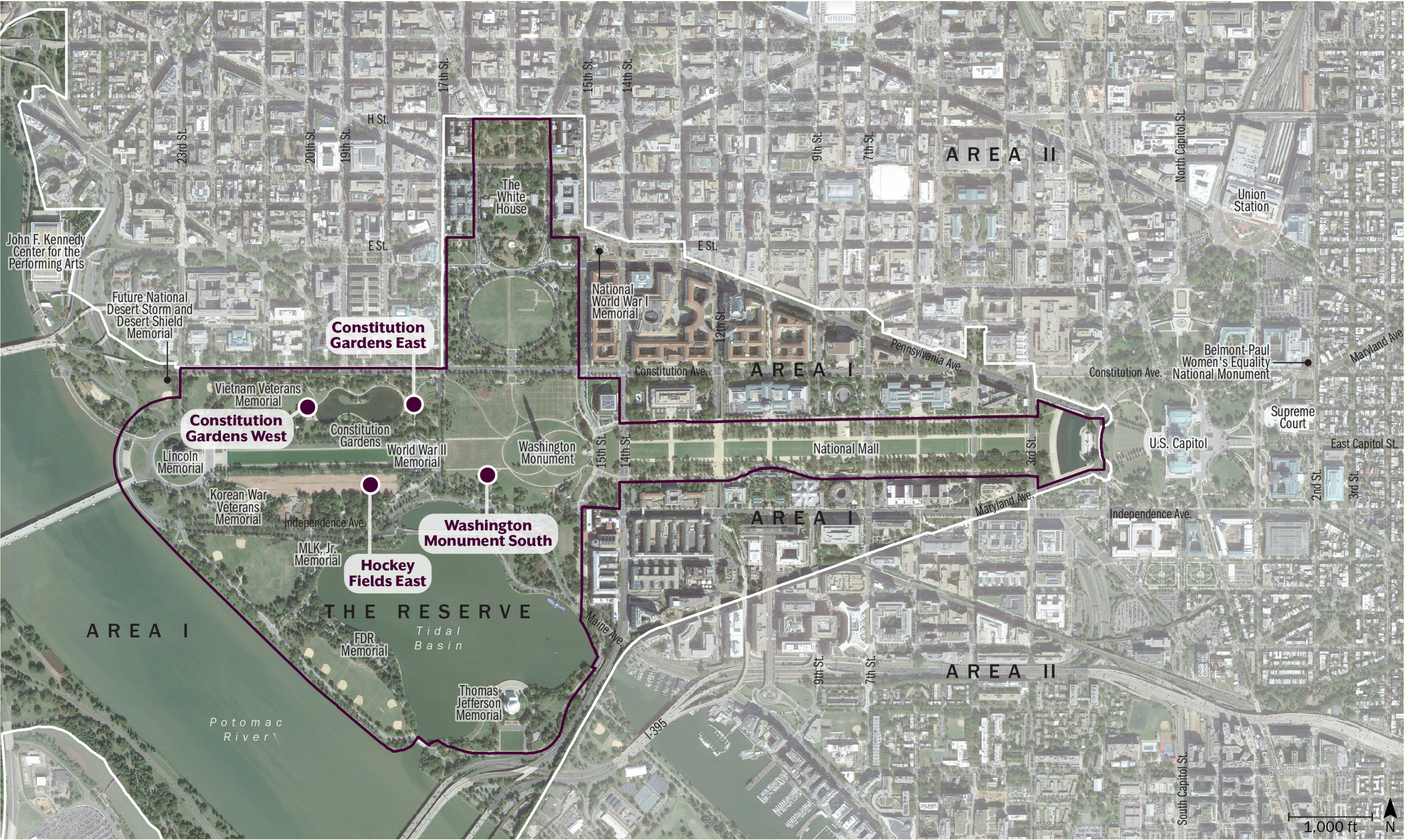


# Site *Studies*





# Final Four Sites for Analysis





# National Mall Commemorative Landscape





# Washington Monument South

The Washington Monument is the principal feature of the Washington Monument Grounds and is visible from multiple vantage points throughout the city and beyond.

At the base of the monument lies a broad plaza. The topography of the grounds is defined by a constructed knoll surrounded by open turf lawn, allowing for unobstructed views of other major landmarks and across the site.

Street trees line the perimeter roads, while additional vegetation includes groves of trees located at the southwest and southeast corners north of Independence Avenue. These plantings result from an amalgamation of several different landscape plans implemented over the years.



WASHINGTON MONUMENT SOUTH

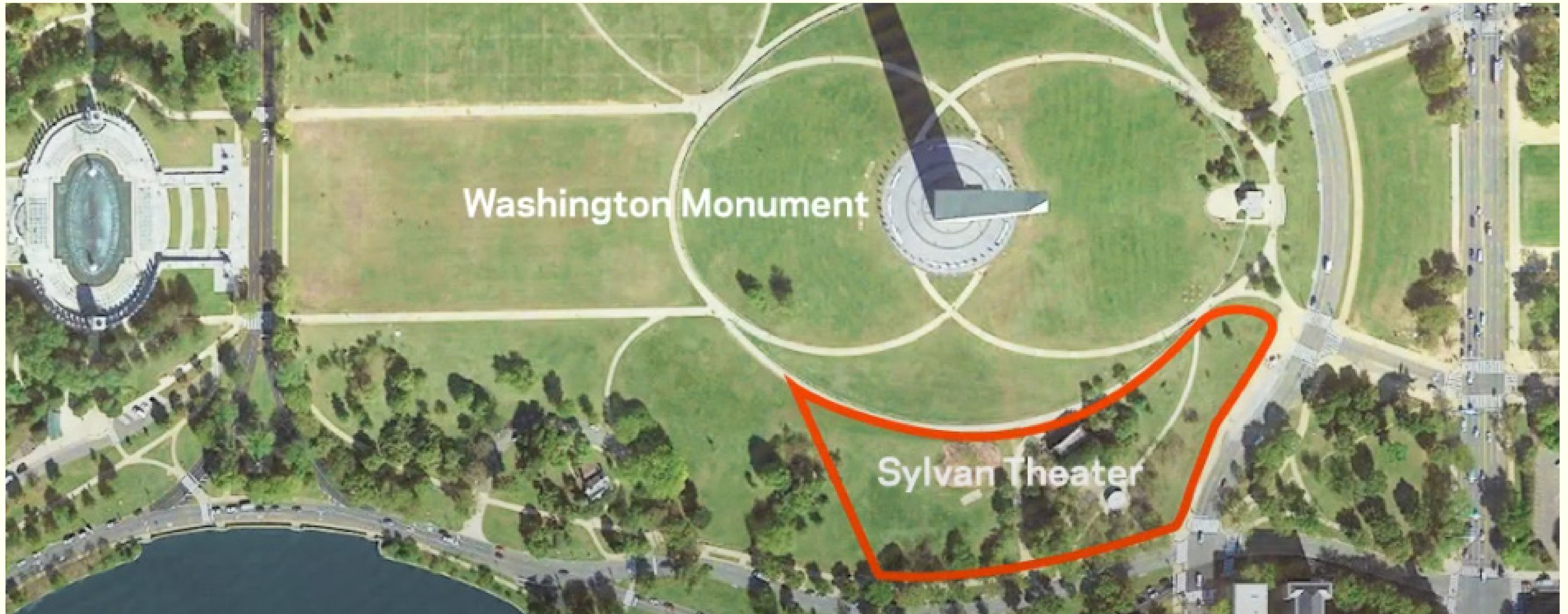
# Context





WASHINGTON MONUMENT SOUTH

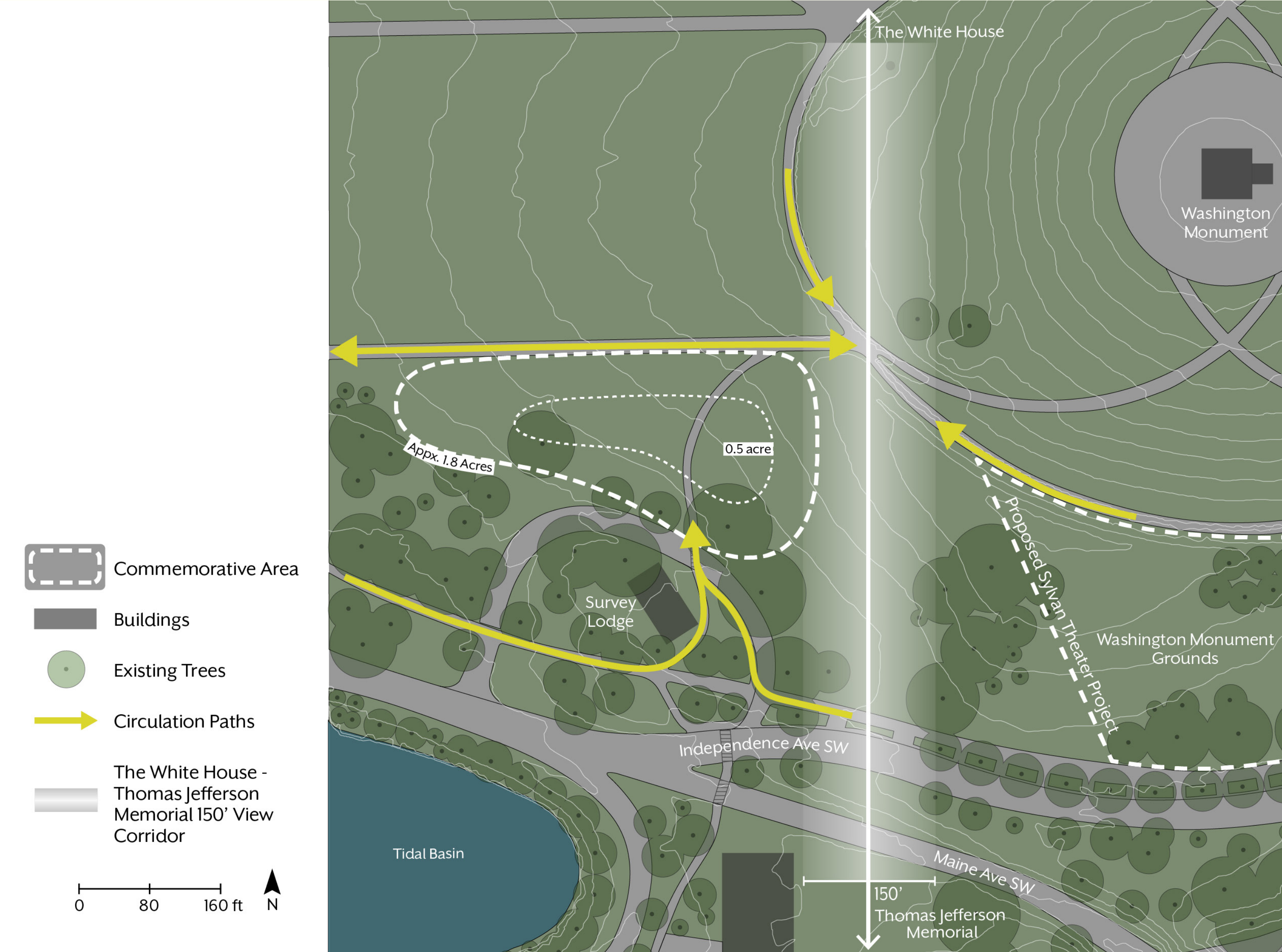
# Proposed Sylvan Theater Improvement Area





WASHINGTON MONUMENT SOUTH

# Site Analysis





WASHINGTON MONUMENT SOUTH

# Potential Design Approach





# Hockey Fields East

The JFK Hockey Fields lie north of Ash Woods and south of the Reflecting Pool.

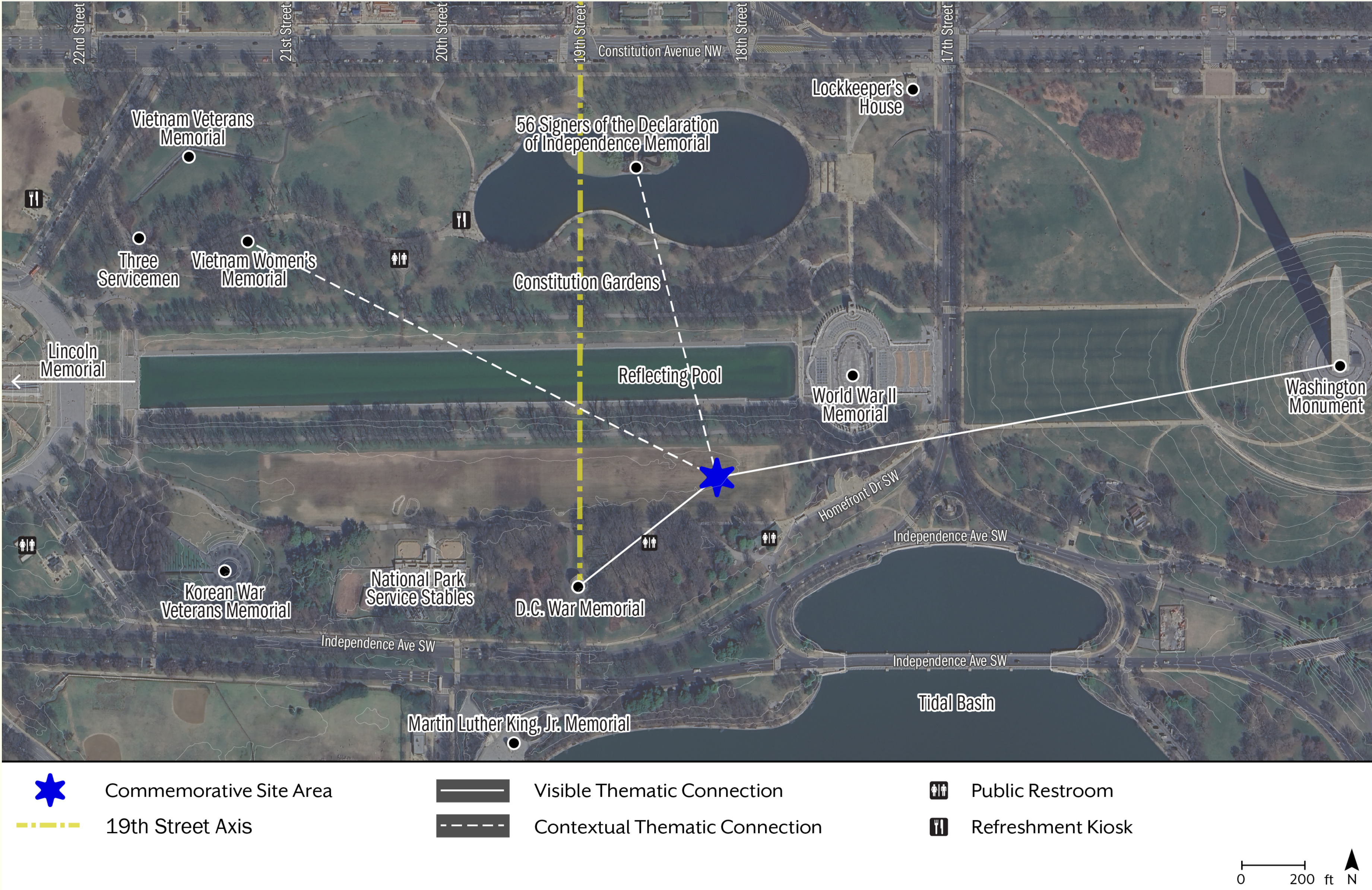
Part of the western portion of this open expanse was originally part of the West Potomac Park Golf Course which was removed when World War II temporary buildings “tempos” were built on the site in 1943.

The turf field offers informal recreation. Views that currently exist around the JFK Hockey Fields include the Lincoln Memorial, Reflecting Pool, World War II Memorial, the Washington Monument, the D.C. War Memorial, Ash Woods and the USPP Horse Stables, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Tidal Basin, and the Potomac River.



HOCKEY FIELDS EAST

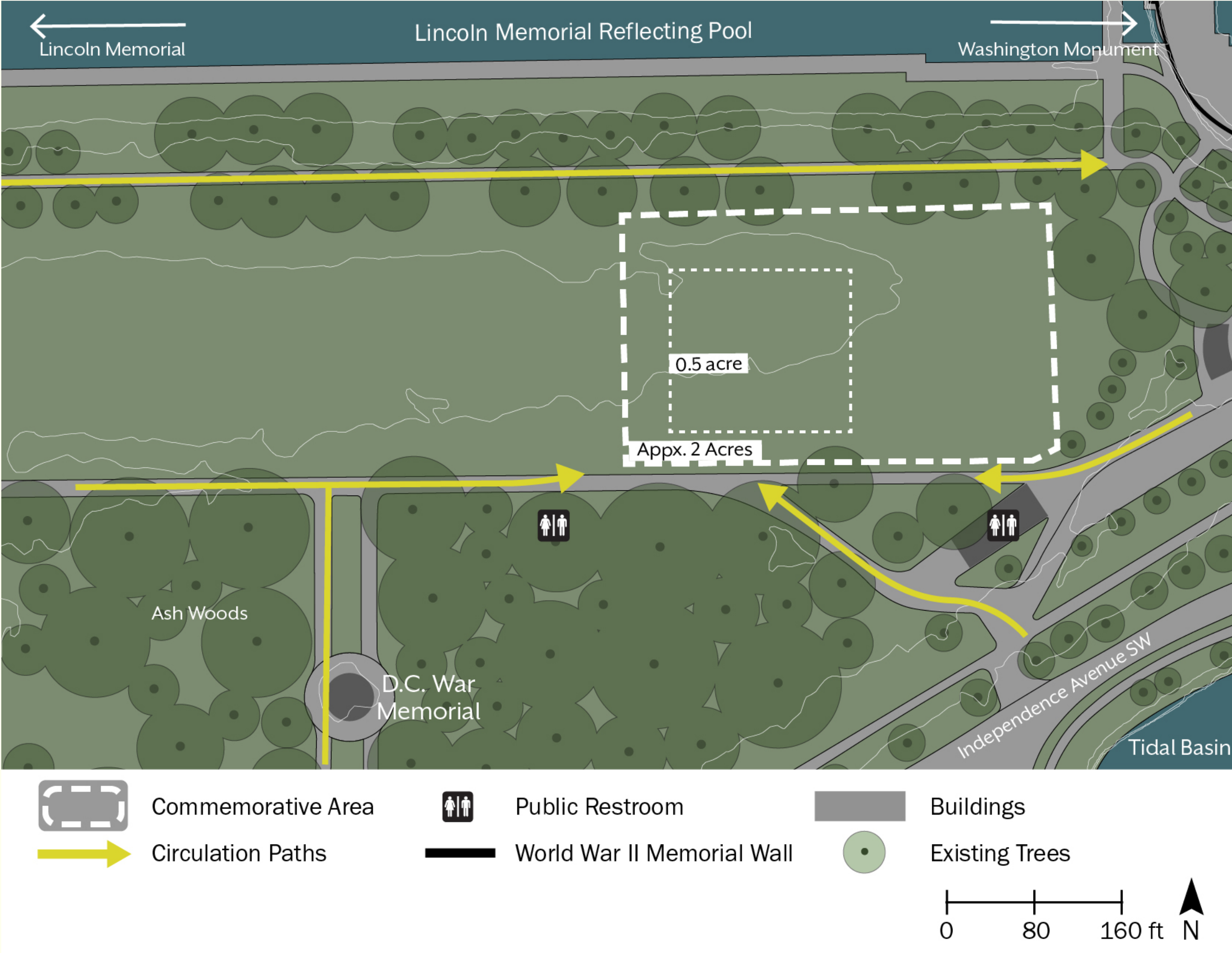
# Context





HOCKEY FIELDS EAST

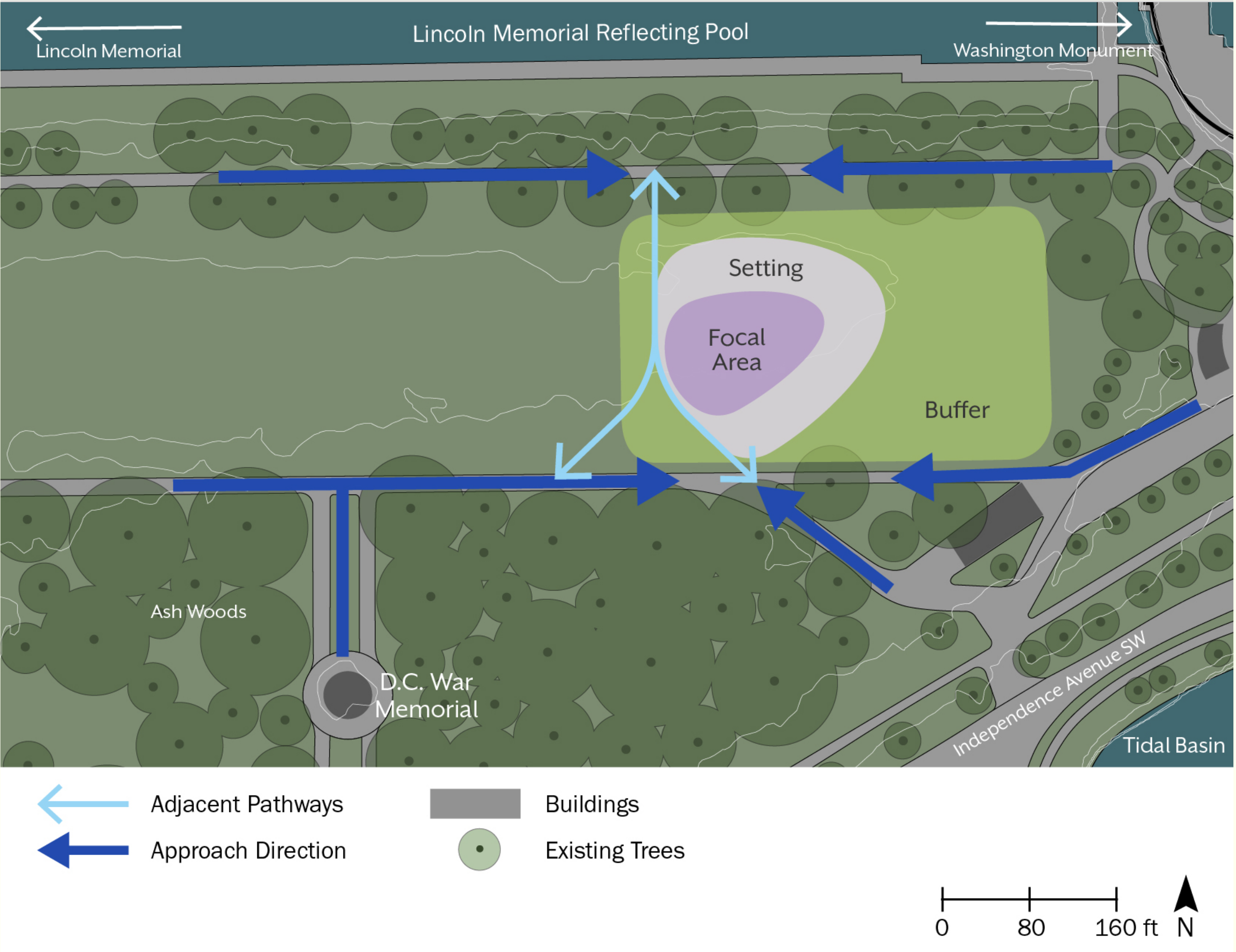
# Site Analysis





HOCKEY FIELDS EAST

Potential Design Approach





# Constitution Gardens

Constitution Gardens features gentle slopes, open meadows, informal tree massings, meandering paths, and a naturalistic lake, which distinguish it from the formal landscape of the Lincoln Memorial grounds to the south.

The park provides a pleasant route and naturalistic setting for pedestrians moving between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial and offers a less ceremonial alternative to the elm walks along the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Views east to the Washington Monument are prominent throughout the park.

Also significant are views from within the park to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and views from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Washington Monument; views to the Lincoln Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool area; periodic views looking north of the buildings along Constitution Avenue and looking east of the buildings on or near the Mall; and internal views of the lake and the 56 Signers Memorial and from the overlook terrace.





## CONSTITUTION GARDENS

# Historical Background

The original impetus for the designation of Constitution Gardens, the 50 acre site on the National Mall near the South Lawn of the White House that houses the **56 Signers to the Declaration of Independence Memorial**, arose out of President Nixon's plan to create a park on the National Mall to celebrate the **Nation's bicentennial** in Washington, D.C. What is now known as Constitution Gardens was officially dedicated in May 1976 as the Bicentennial Gardens to honor the 200 year anniversary of America's founding.

On July 2, 1984, the memorial to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence was unveiled in Bicentennial Gardens, a project supported by both Congress and then President Reagan to continue building upon the bicentennial's legacy.

And in 1986 on the 200 year anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, Reagan issued a proclamation renaming Bicentennial Gardens to Constitution Gardens, proclaiming the space to be a "*living legacy*" *tribute to the Constitution and the founding of the Republic*.

Pictured:

Fireworks over the White House during President Ronald Reagan's second term, 1985  
(Source: Adobe Stock)







CONSTITUTION GARDENS

# Approved Gardens Lake Project

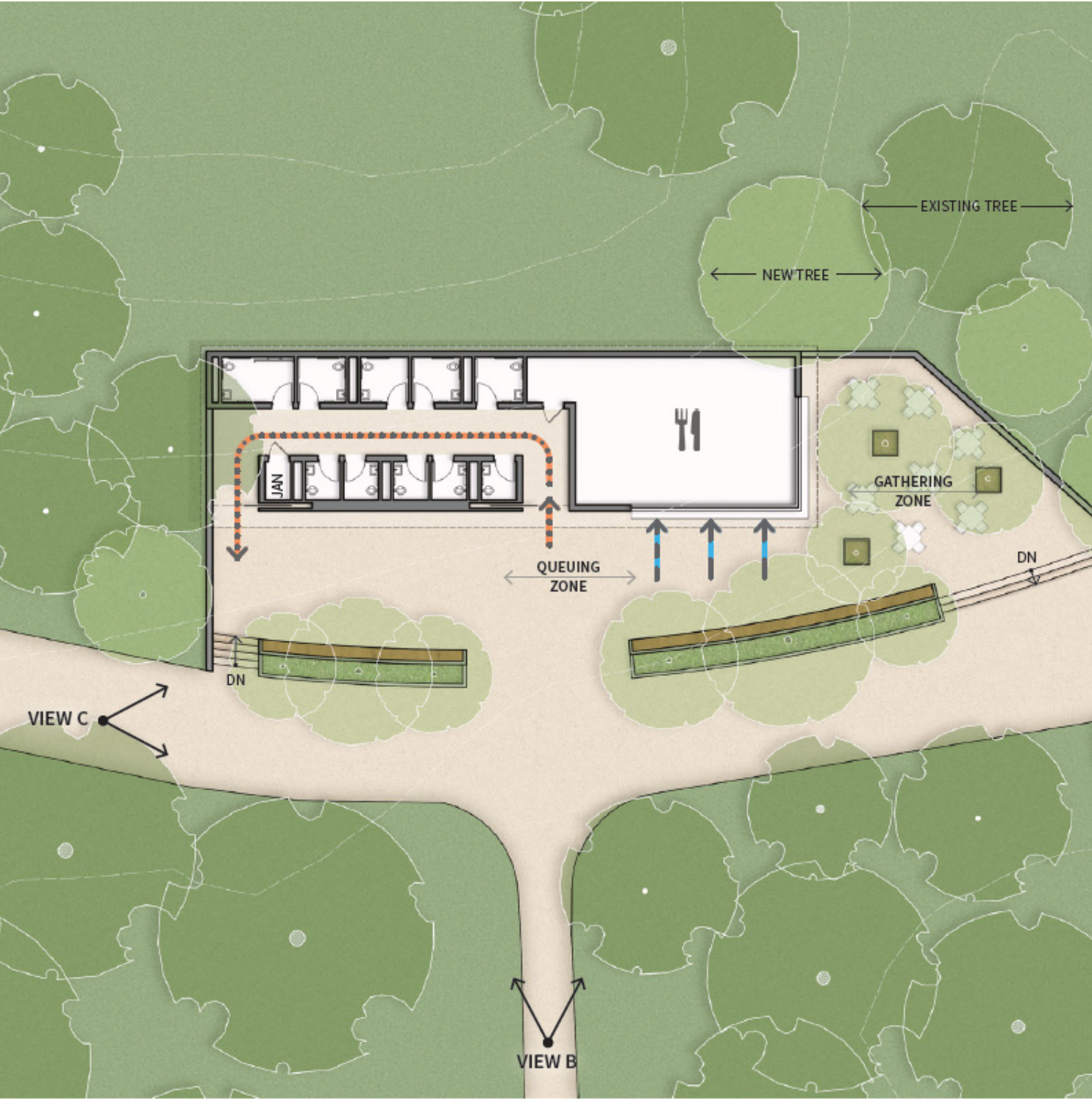


Source: Trust for the National Mall



CONSTITUTION GARDENS

# Ongoing Proposals



Proposed Comfort Station - Plan  
Source: NPS



Proposed Comfort Station - Design Rendering  
Source: NPS

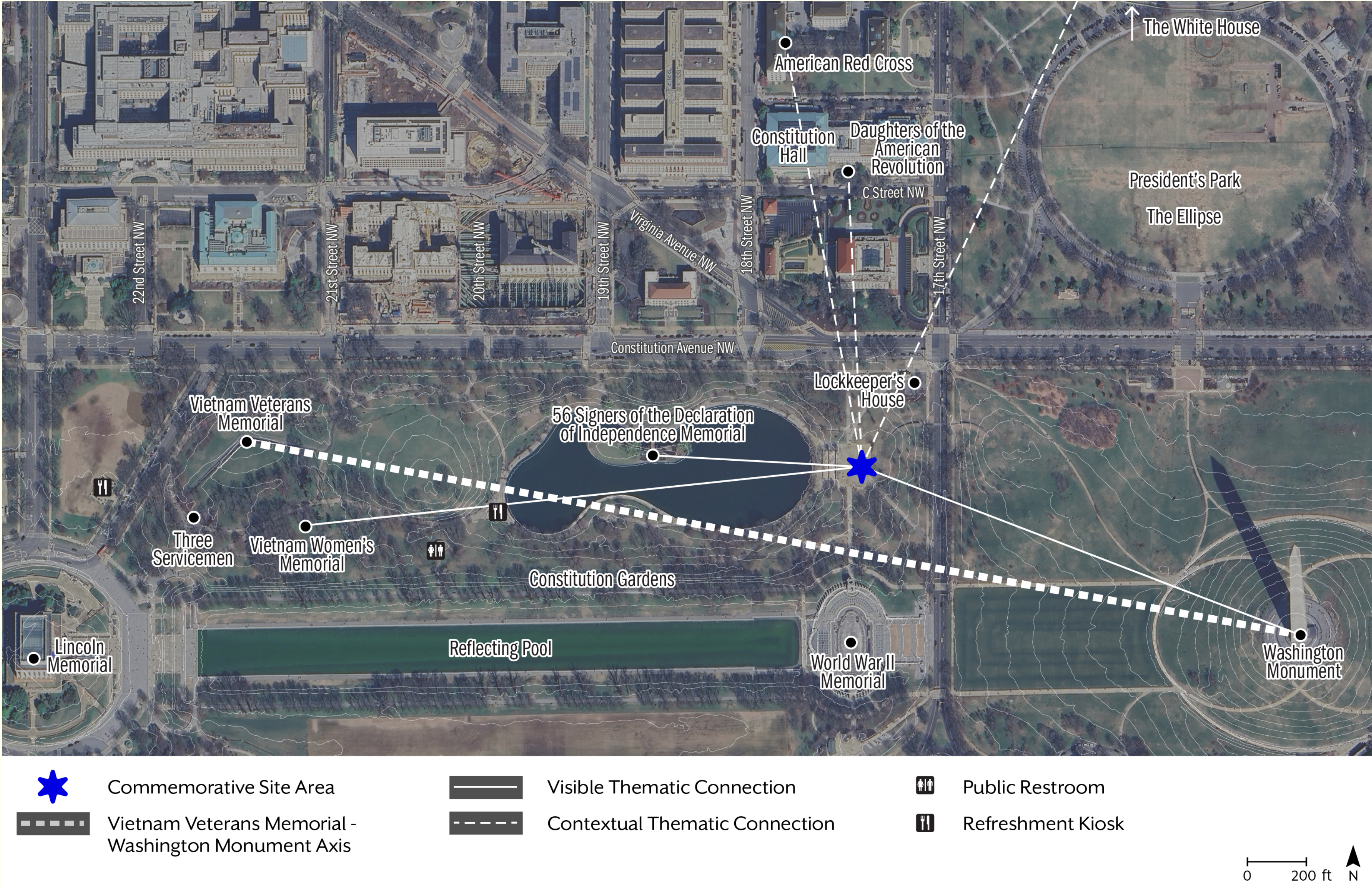


Design Rendering of Event Plaza at Constitution  
Gardens East  
Source: Trust for the National Mall



CONSTITUTION GARDENS EAST

# Context



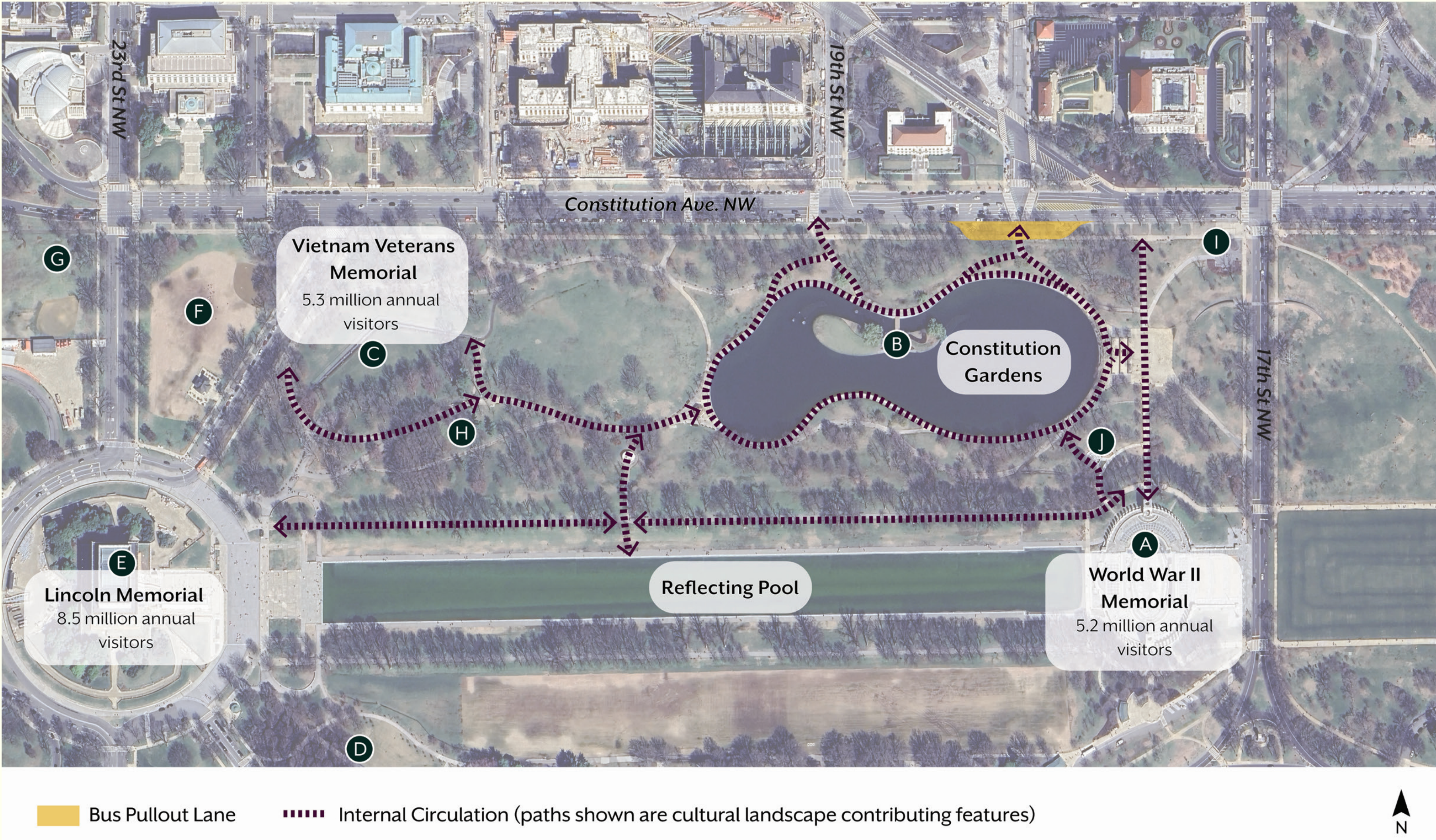


CONSTITUTION GARDENS

# Site Access and Pathway Circulation

Memorials and NPS Historic Building within 0.2 miles of Constitution Gardens:

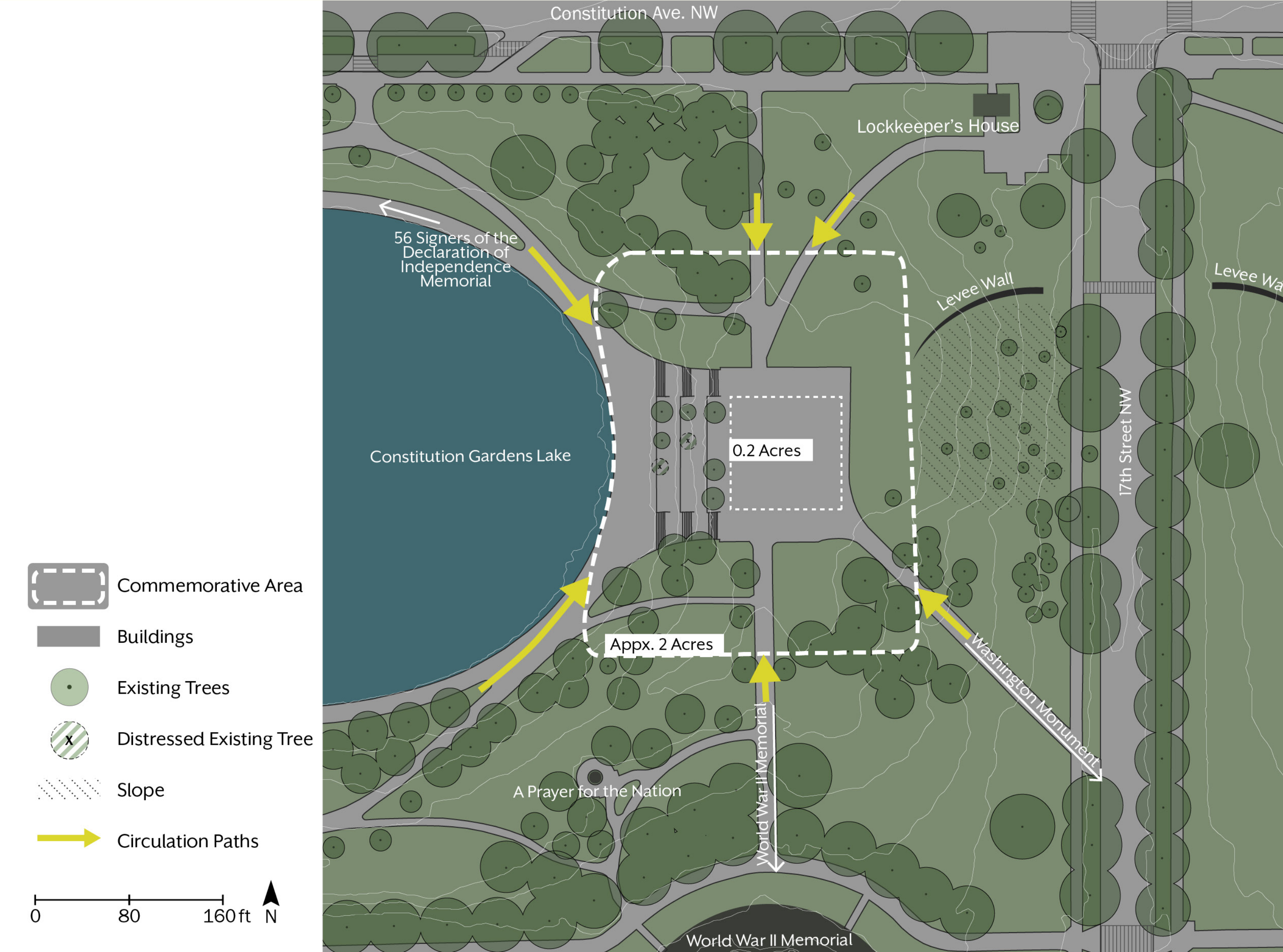
- A. World War II Memorial
- B. Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial
- C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- D. Korean War Veterans Memorial
- E. Lincoln Memorial
- F. Global War on Terrorism Memorial (Future)
- G. National Desert Shield and Desert Storm Memorial (Under Construction)
- H. Vietnam Women's Memorial
- I. Lockkeeper's House
- J. FDR D-Day Prayer Circle of Remembrance





CONSTITUTION GARDENS EAST

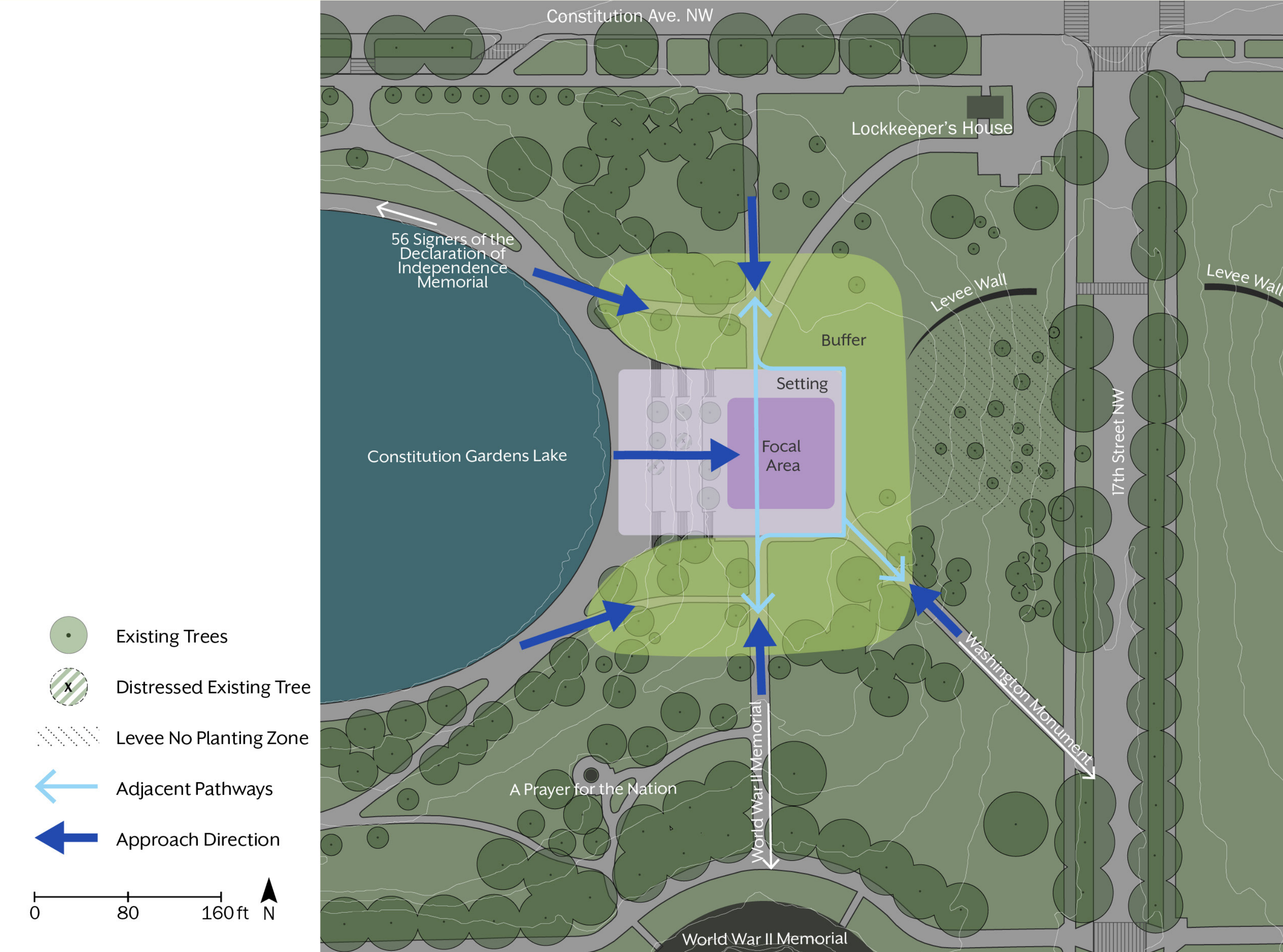
Site Analysis





CONSTITUTION GARDENS EAST

# Potential Design Approach





CONSTITUTION GARDENS EAST

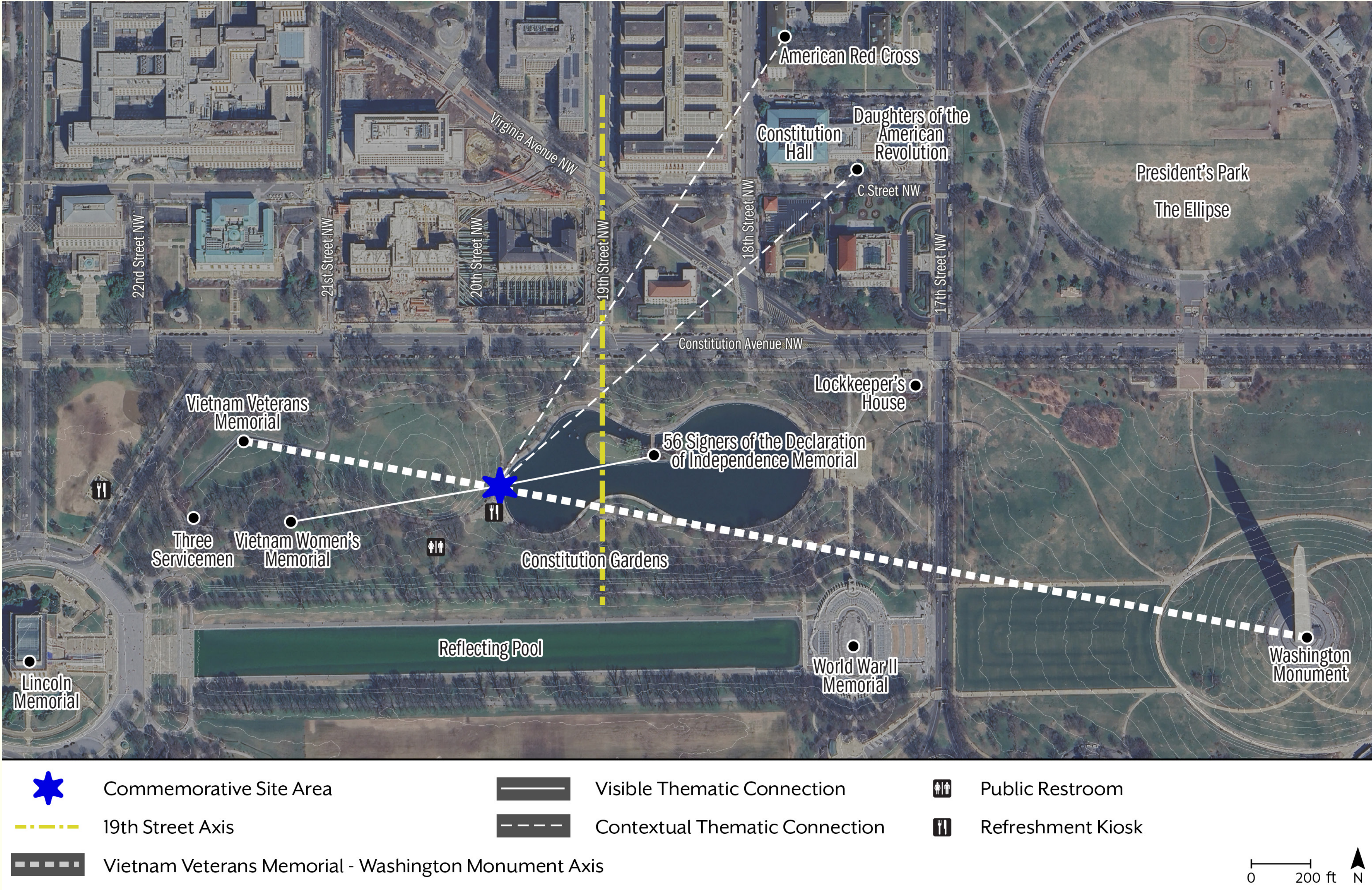
# Conceptual Overlay of Potential Design Approach





CONSTITUTION GARDENS WEST

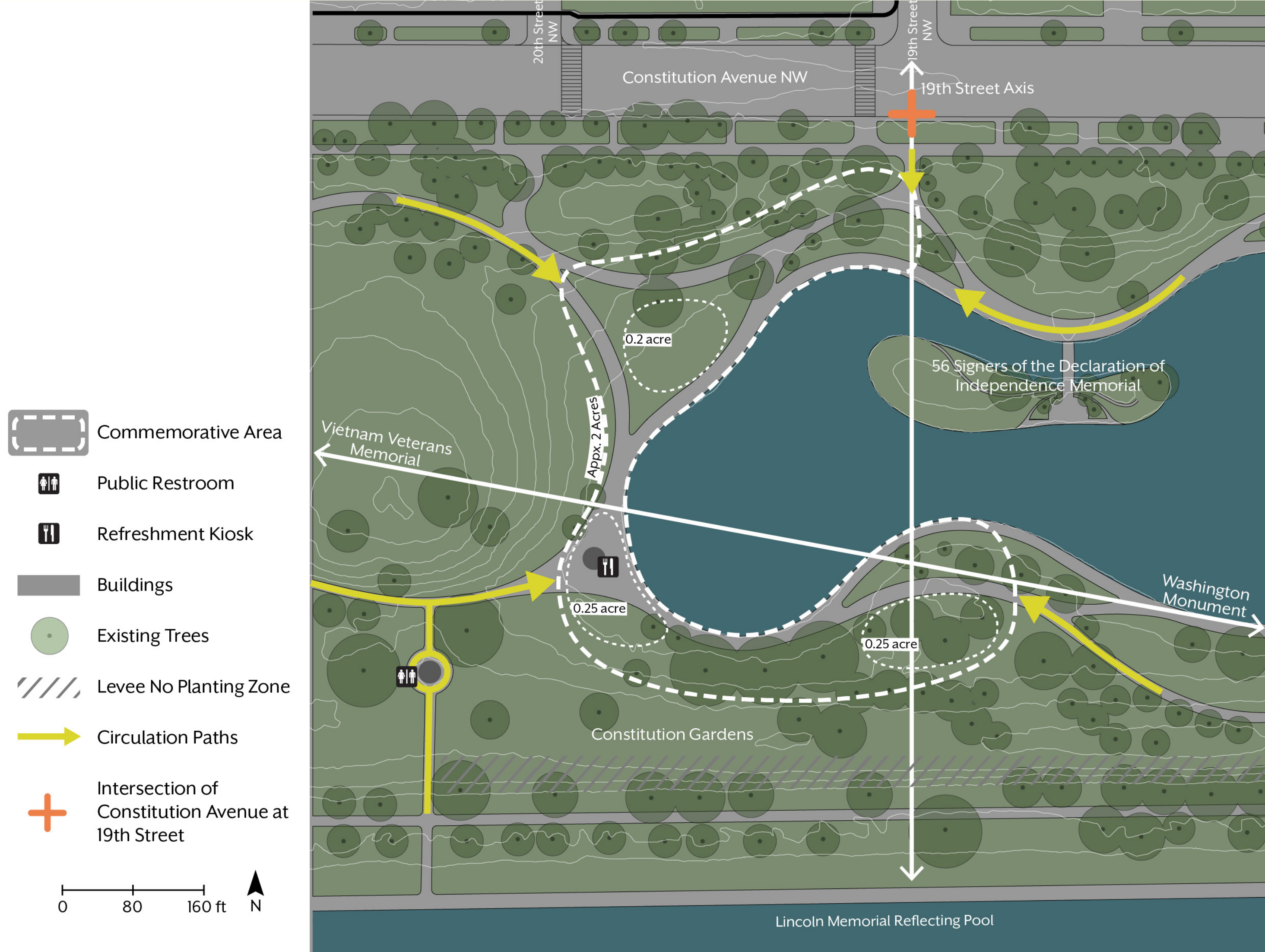
# Context





CONSTITUTION GARDENS WEST

# Site Analysis





CONSTITUTION GARDENS WEST

# Potential Design Approach



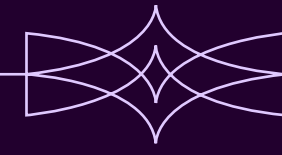


CONSTITUTION GARDENS WEST

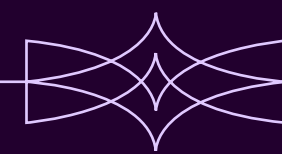
# Conceptual Overlay of Potential Design Approach





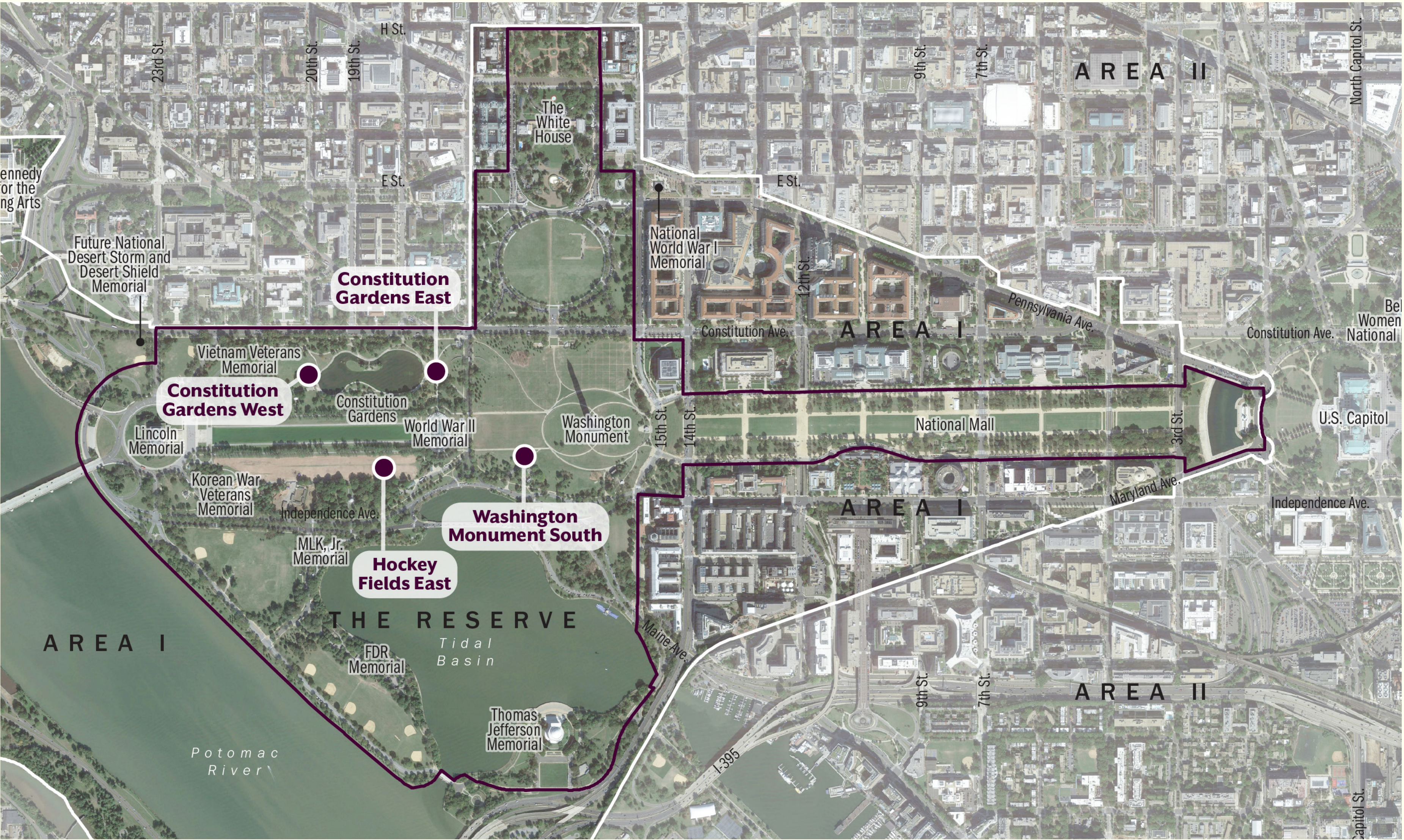


# Conclusion





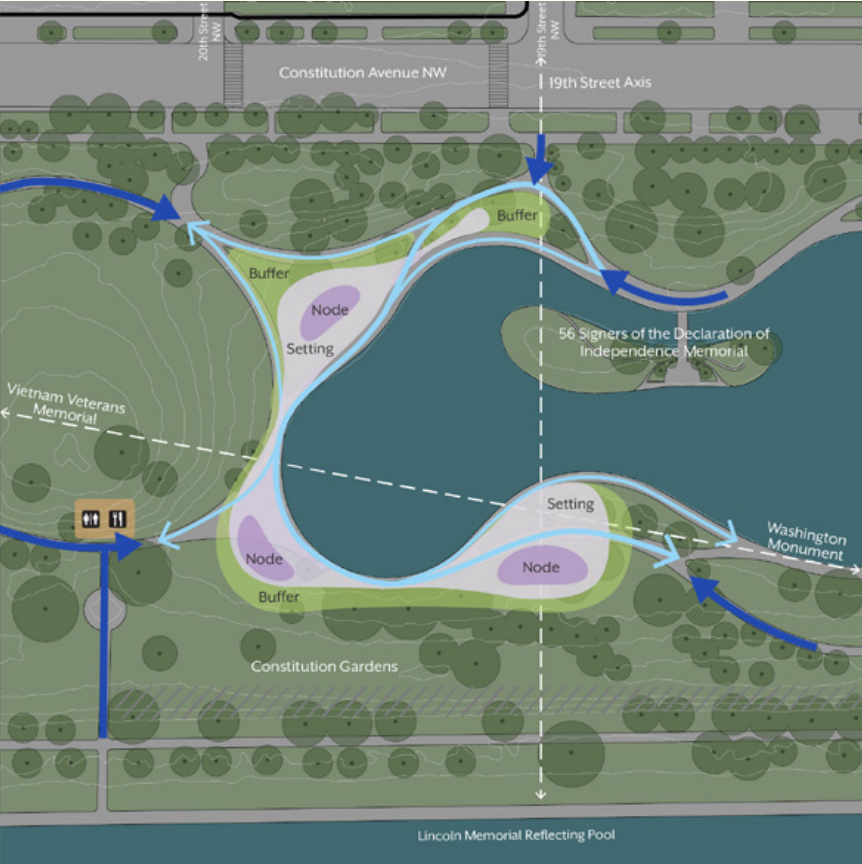
# Final Four Sites for Analysis



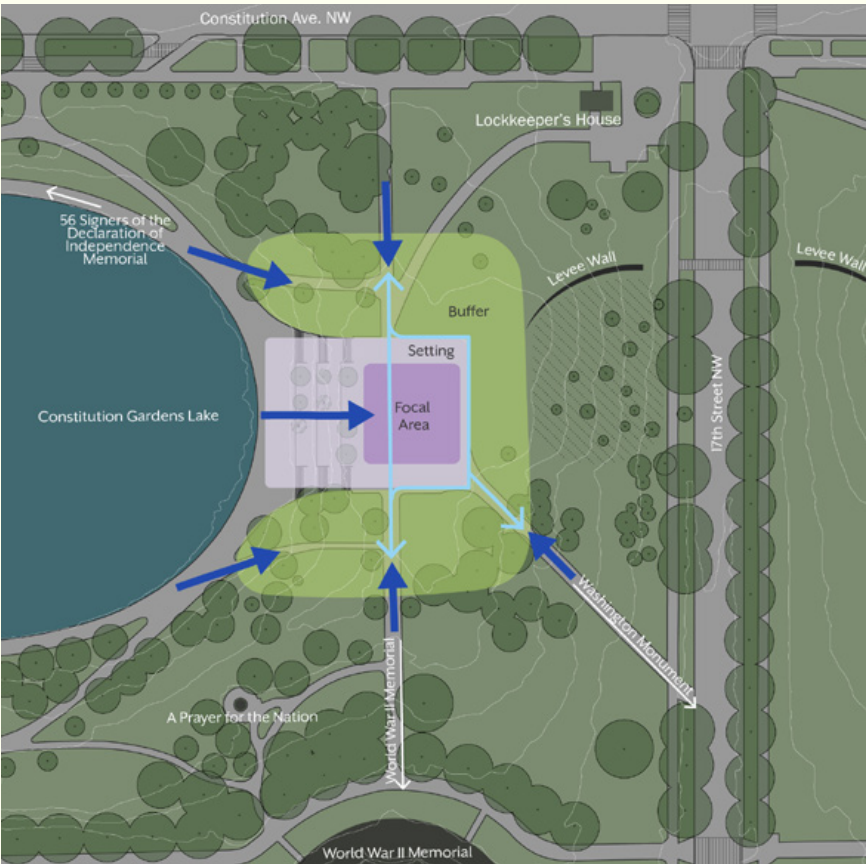


FINAL FOUR SITES

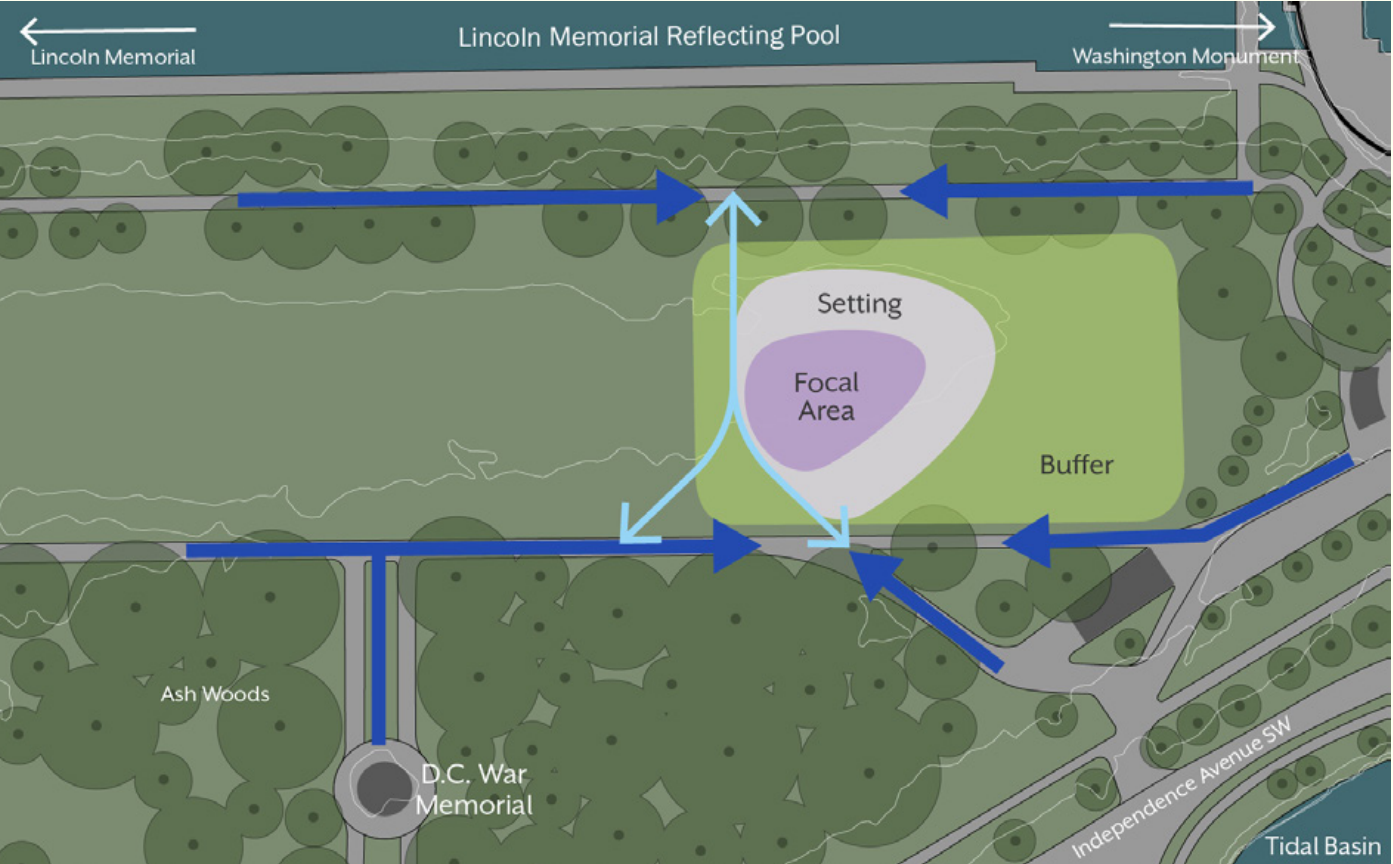
Potential Design Approaches



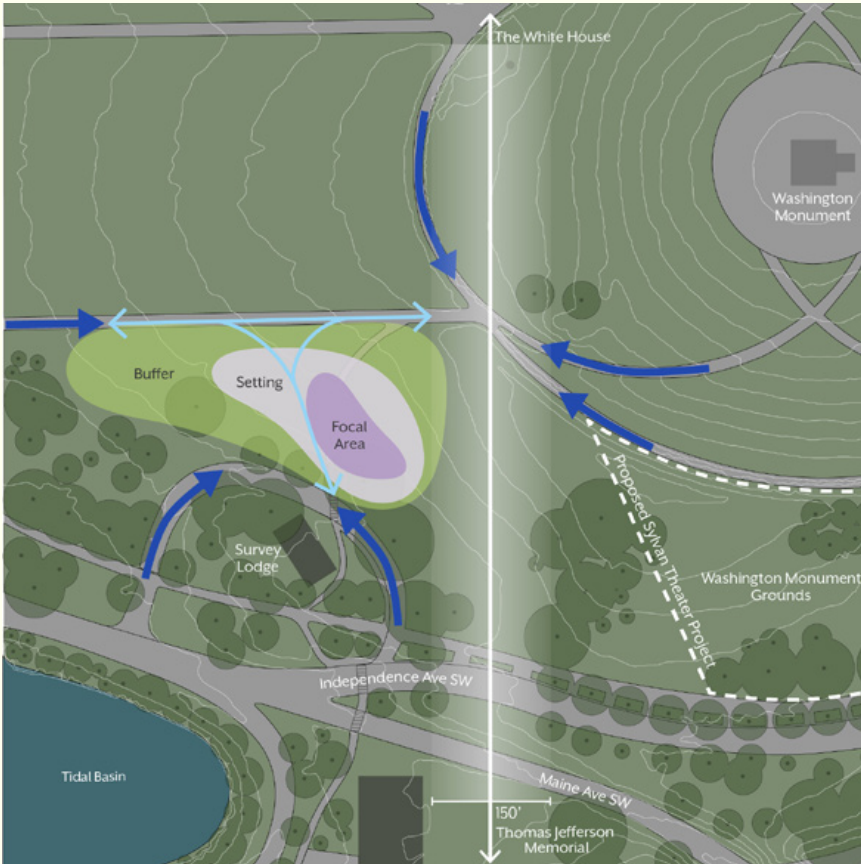
Constitution  
Gardens West



Constitution  
Gardens East



Hockey Fields East



Washington  
Monument South



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FINAL FOUR SITES

SITE	OPPORTUNITIES	CONSTRAINTS
Constitution Gardens West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishes strong thematic connections to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial, Vietnam Women’s Memorial, and Washington Monument</li><li>Provides the opportunity to align with strategic fundraising initiatives by the Trust for the National Mall</li><li>Reinforces the significance of the 19th Amendment due to proximity to the intersection of 19th Street and Constitution Avenue</li><li>Provides an open, uninterrupted landscape for memorial planning as a result of the proposed comfort station project by NPS, which includes the relocation and combination of the existing restrooms and kiosk</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Requires coordination between kiosk relocation, Constitution Gardens rehabilitation, and memorial development timelines</li></ul>
Constitution Gardens East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishes strong thematic connections to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial, Vietnam Women’s Memorial, and Washington Monument</li><li>Features an elevated, central location within an open landscape</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overlaps with future location of approved event plaza under the Gardens Lake Project</li><li>Limits commemorative site development due to intended future use for events and temporary structures</li></ul>
Hockey Fields East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allows flexibility in planning and design through large open space</li><li>Offers expansive views and thematic connections to the Washington Monument and D.C. War Memorial</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Impacts existing recreation use, which is an important element of the site</li><li>Eliminates permit fee income currently generated by the park</li><li>Disrupts the intended character of the commemorative work due to close proximity to restrooms and transit</li><li>Creates a perceived separation from the monumental core of the National Mall</li></ul>
Washington Monument South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Offers Prominent location with high visibility and access</li><li>Incorporates women into the landscape honoring the Nation’s founding</li><li>Provides strong transit connections</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limits acceptable treatments due to proposed Sylvan Theater improvements and the 150-ft view corridor between the White House and the Jefferson Memorial, pushing the commemorative site westward toward the Survey Lodge</li><li>Diminishes the character and essence of the new commemorative work due to the Washington Monument, which features a classically masculine object</li></ul>





# Recommendation

The Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation recommends establishing the monument at **Constitution Gardens West**.

As the site of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument, Constitution Gardens West would: 1) weave the monument into commemorative thematic connections that best contextualize the story of women’s contributions to American democracy; 2) best accommodate the desired program; and 3) best integrate the monument into the existing commemorative landscape of the National Mall.

Pictured: 1776 - Retouching an Old Masterpiece, 1915



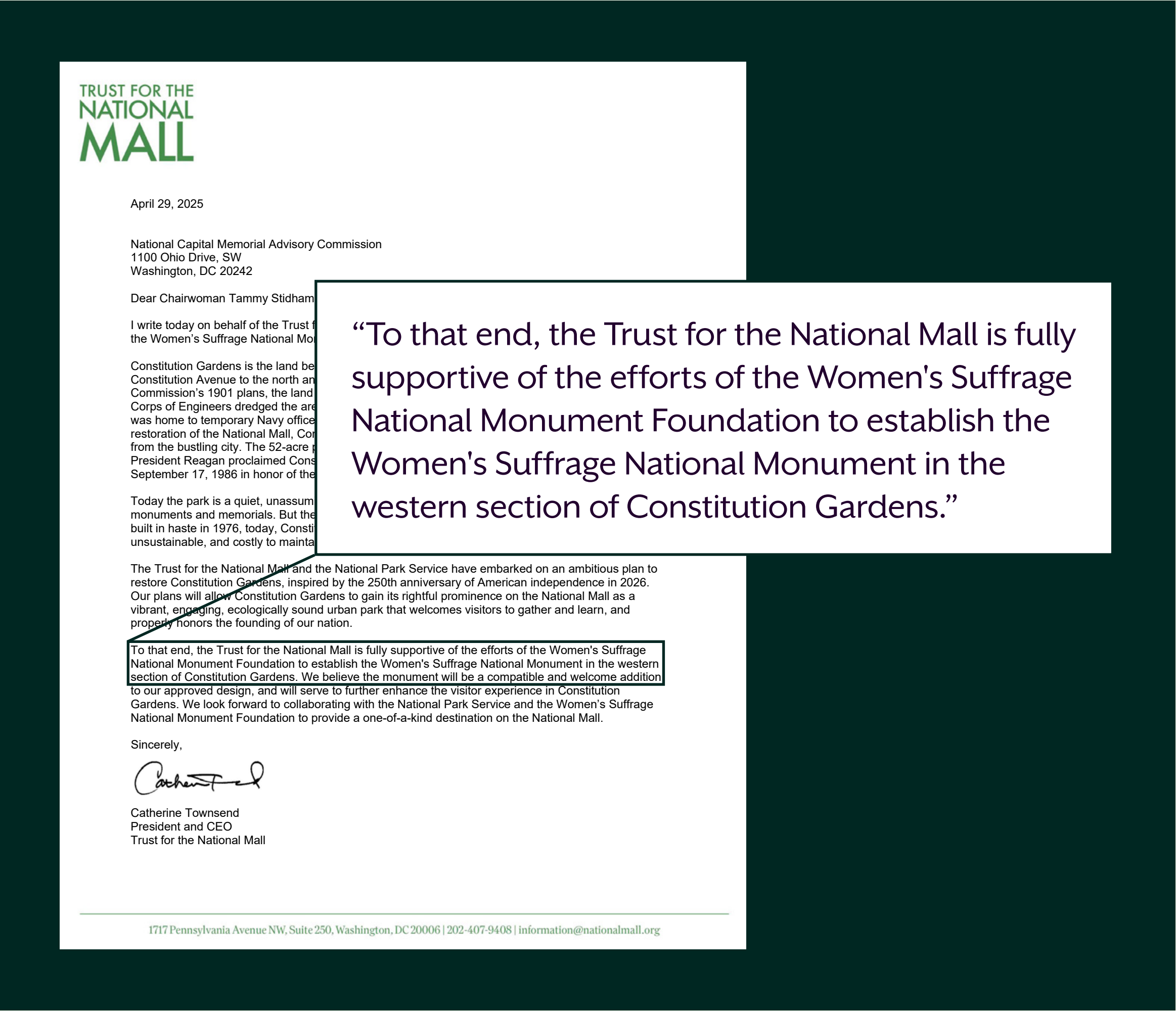
# An Opportunity for Collaboration

Integrating the Women's Suffrage National Monument into Constitution Gardens would not only introduce a meaningful commemorative site but also elevate the role of the Gardens as a vital, symbolic, and active civic space.

As we prepare to honor the 250th anniversary of American democracy, the creation of the Women's Suffrage National Monument offers the rare and well-timed opportunity for the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation to coordinate closely with the Trust for the National Mall, which has launched strategic fundraising initiatives focused on revitalizing the infrastructure and landscape of Constitution Gardens for the semiquincentennial.

The Trust is currently advancing major plans to restore ecological health, improve visitor amenities, strengthen public spaces, and renew the symbolic role of Constitution Gardens within the broader National Mall. Coordination with the Trust's efforts would allow the Women's Suffrage National Monument to align with ongoing investments, planning frameworks, and stewardship strategies, helping both initiatives achieve greater visibility, fundraising momentum, and long-term sustainability.





Pictured:  
April 29, 2025 letter of support from Trust for the National Mall to NCMAC Chairwomen Tammy Steidham



Pictured:  
Constitution Gardens West



# Bipartisan Congressional Support for Constitution Gardens



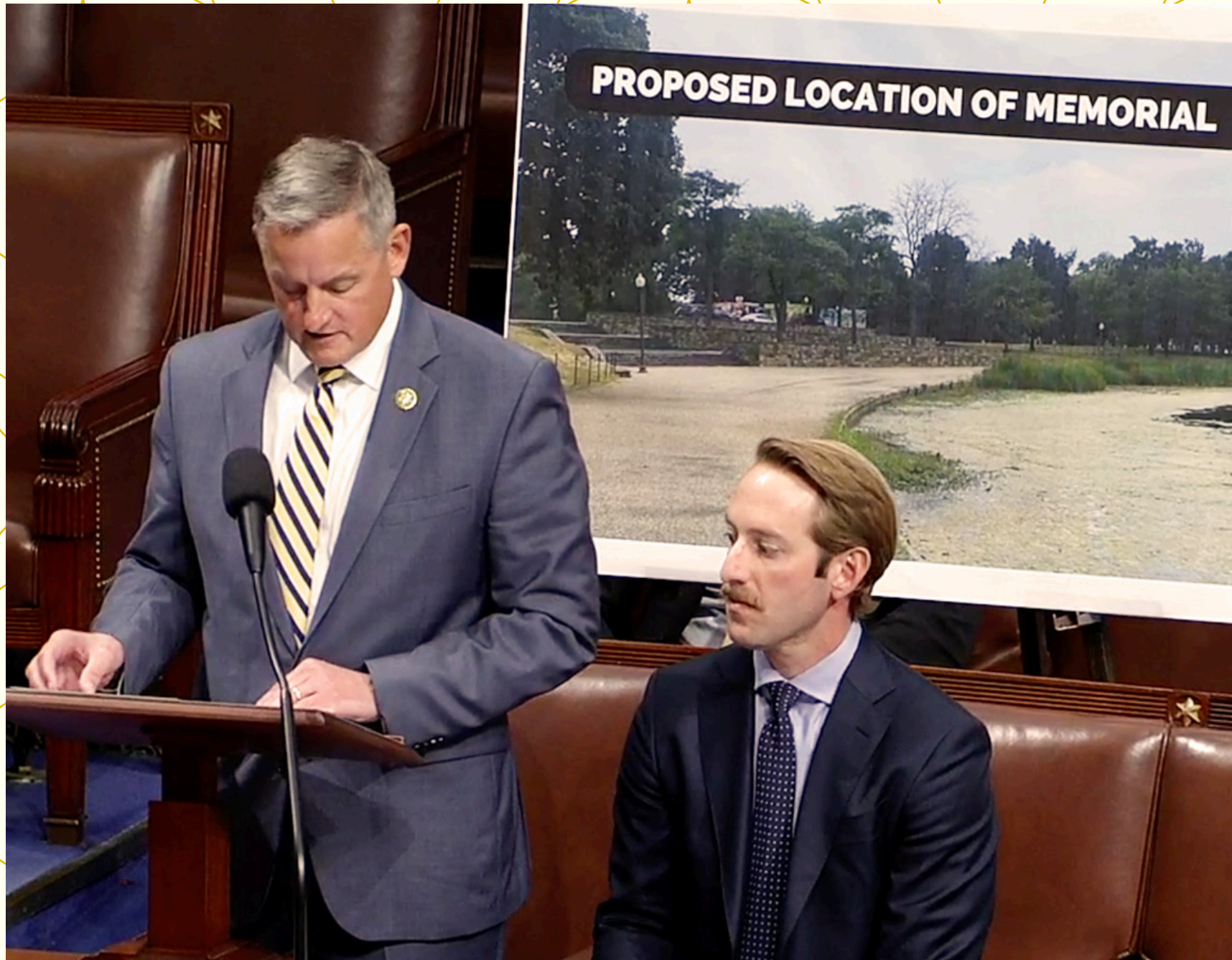
“In November, a unanimous House passed legislation permitting the Women’s Suffrage National Monument to be placed in Constitution Gardens, a 50-acre space dedicated during the nation’s bicentennial celebrations as a living memorial to the founding of the republic. It is only fitting that the monument to honor our foremothers’ role in expanding our democracy through the 19th Amendment be placed there, alongside the memorial that honors our Founding Fathers.”

*Senators Blackburn, R-TN, Hyde-Smith, R-MS, Lummis, R-WY, and Britt, R-AL*

Pictured:  
Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) with Anna Laymon, President and CEO of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation at an event in the U.S. Capitol in honor of the Women's Suffrage National Monument and the 19th Amendment (June 4, 2024)







As millions of Americans and visitors from around the world journey to our Nation’s capital to learn about the history of the United States, the National Mall serves as a central location for commemorating our country’s journey. The monuments and memorials situated here form an essential part of our historical narrative. Including a new memorial honoring the legacy of the women’s suffrage movement on the National Mall will further enrich the story of our Nation’s growth and progress.”

*Congressman Westerman, R-AR*

CHAIRMAN OF U.S. HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF LOCATING THE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN CONSTITUTION GARDENS, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

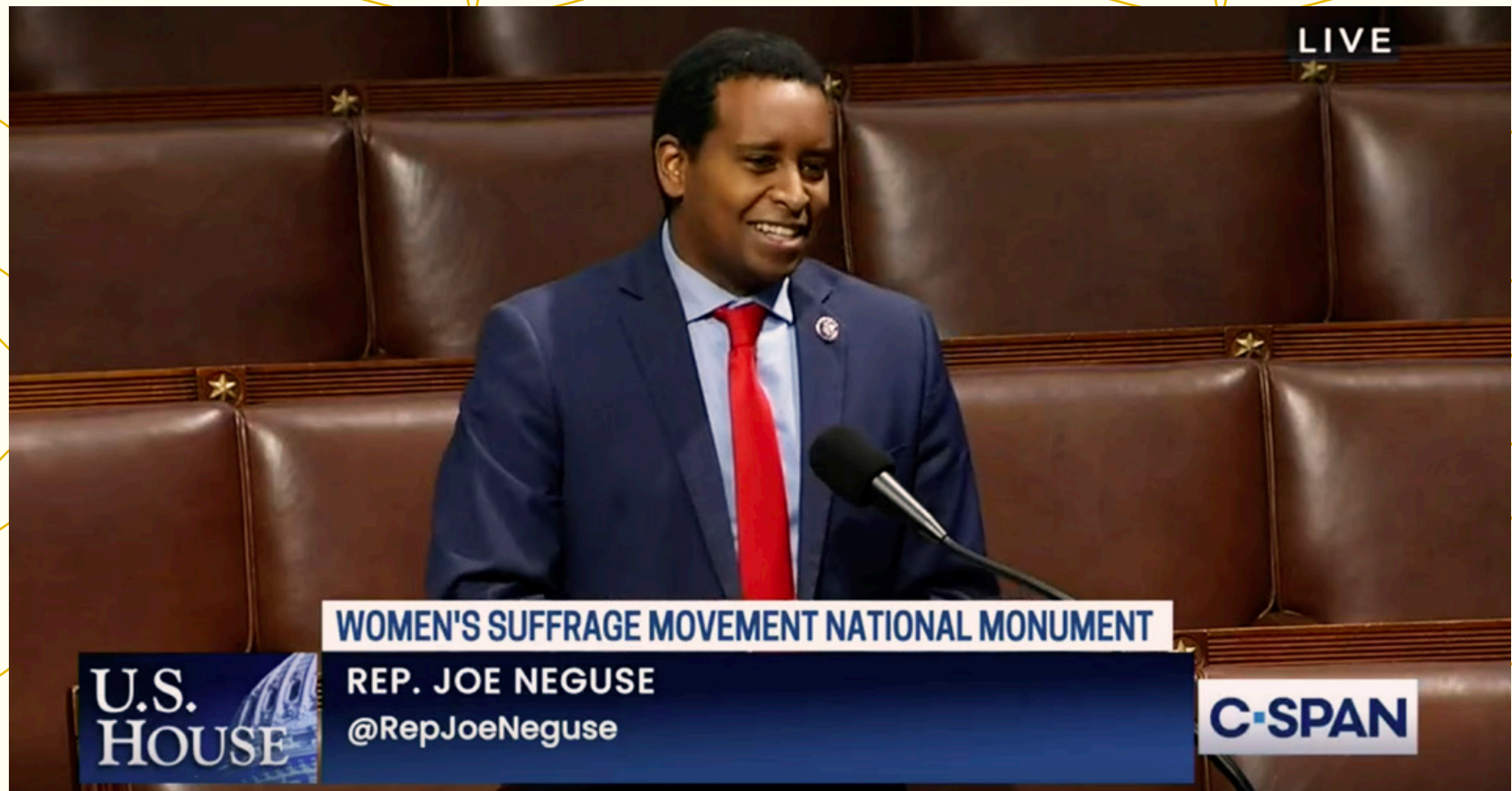


“As our Nation prepares to honor the 250th year of American democracy, it is more urgent than ever that the monuments and memorials on the National Mall fully reflect the richness of the American story. **The Women’s Suffrage National Monument belongs in Constitution Gardens.**”

*Representative Lesko, R-AZ*





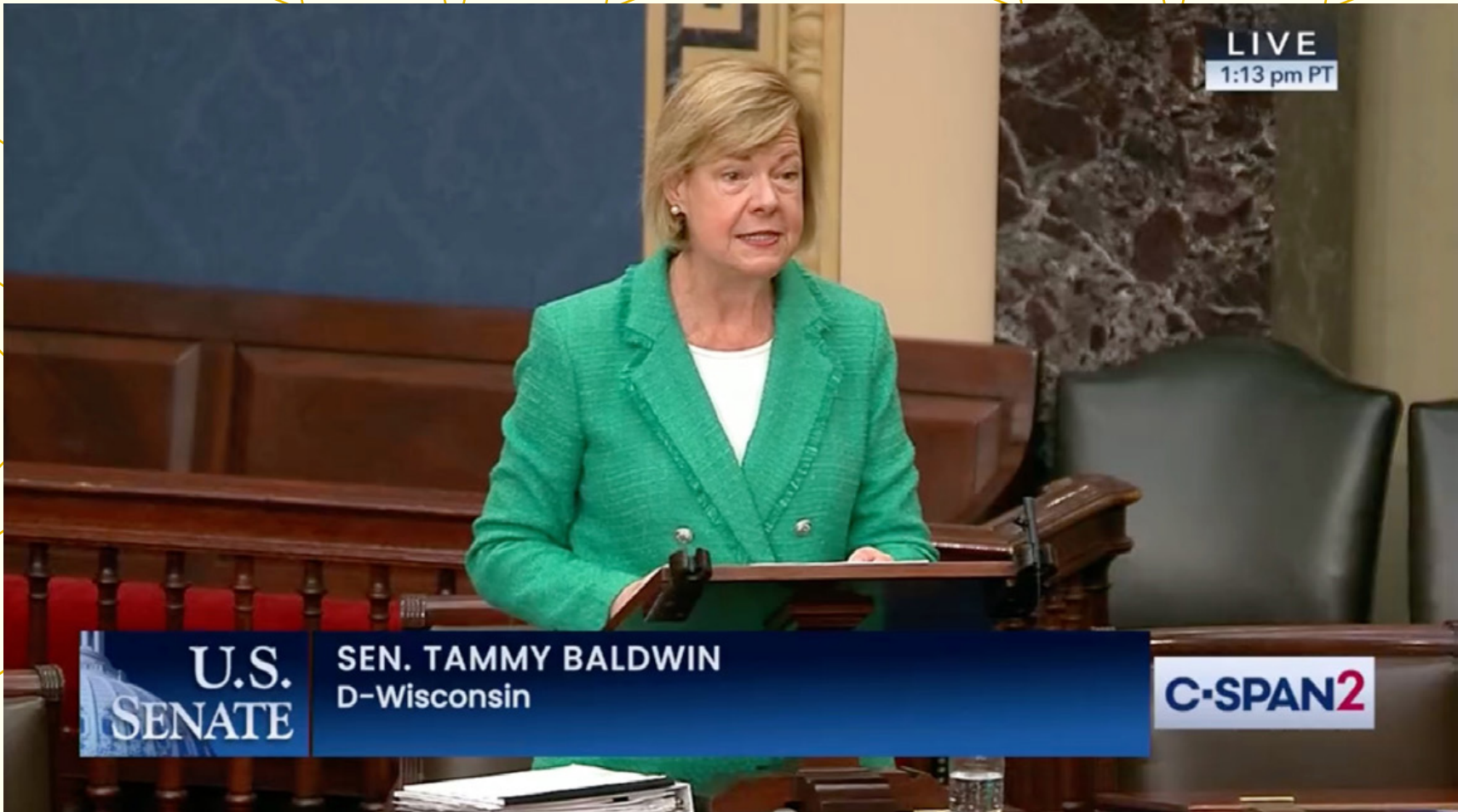


I, like many of my colleagues, am a father and I have a 5 year old daughter and a 5 month old son. I simply cannot wait for her to one day come to Washington, D.C. to see women’s history reflected in the monuments and memorials that are at the core of our Nation’s capital. Not just her, but all children, all Americans."

*Congressman Neguse, D-CO*

RANKING MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS,  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ASSISTANT  
DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES





“Every young girl, every child, and every adult who travels to our Nation’s Capital should see themselves reflected there. They should know that they belong in the halls of government, and their stories belong in our Nation’s history, and that they belong on the National Mall.”

*Senator Baldwin, D-WI*

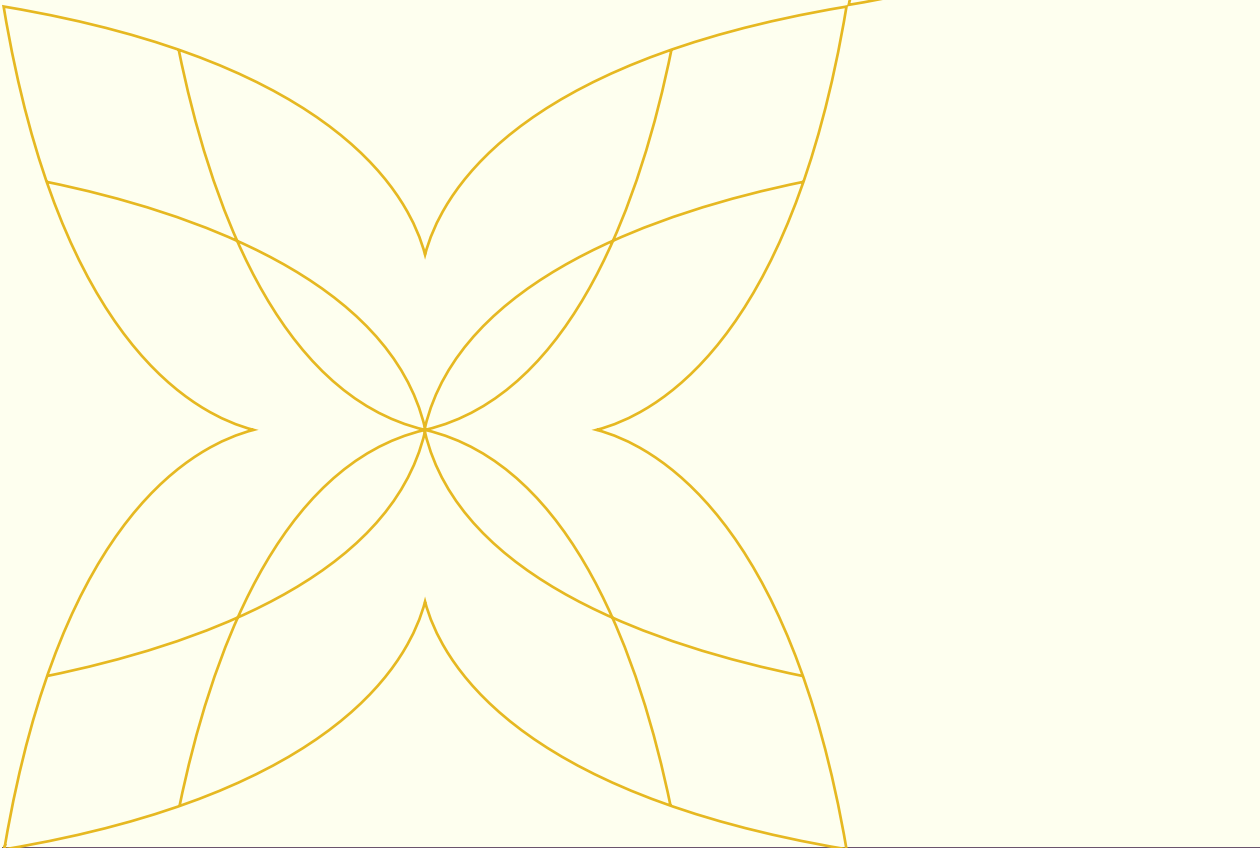
SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN ON THE FLOOR OF THE U.S. SENATE REQUESTING PASSAGE OF H.R. 1318, THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT LOCATION ACT, DECEMBER 20, 2024





Pictured:

Transcript from Congressional Record, December 20, 2024.





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Vol. 170WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024No. 190

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## Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, December 16, 2024)

December 20, 2024

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S7275

absent from this portrayal of our Nation's history, however, is the story of women's suffrage. In fact, the National Mall receives over 24 million visitors annually, and despite there being 40 commemorative works on the National Mall, none of these are dedicated to women. We have introduced this legislation to correct this glaring omission on the National Mall.

Women's suffrage was only made possible through the fight of multiple generations of activists of all backgrounds, who joined together with the steadfast belief that our country must live up to its highest democratic ideals.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848, where they declared "that all men and women are created equal."

Sojourner Truth gave her famous "Ain't I a woman" speech in 1851, where she challenged the women's suffrage movement to include Black women.

Susan B. Anthony was arrested in 1872 for violating the law and daring to cast her vote at the ballot box and went on to help found the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890.

Carrie Chapman Catt, born in Ripon, WI, took up the helm of that organization after Anthony and traveled around the country, organizing for the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Inez Milholland led on horseback more than 8,000 marchers in the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC.

Ida B. Wells and Mary Church Terrell demanded that the movement include women of color by refusing to march at the back of that very demonstration.

Alice Paul and Lucy Burns led acts of peaceful civil disobedience, including "Silent Sentinels," who picketed at the White House continuously from 1917 to 1919.

There are countless other women who fought and continue to fight for true equality for women in this country. Without the story of how women fought to secure our rightful participation in our democracy, our National Mall is incomplete.

This monument is just as much about honoring our past as it is about inspiring our future. Every young girl, every child, and every adult who travels to our Nation's Capital should see themselves reflected there. They should know that they belong in the halls of government, and their stories belong in our Nation's history, and that they belong on the National Mall.

With that, I would yield to the senior Senator from Tennessee, Senator BLACKBURN.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I thank my colleague for her wonderful work on this issue.

Since 2020, we have worked to recognize that 100-year celebration of women achieving the right to vote and to tell

these stories. As she said, her State was the first. Tennessee was the 36th State.

Our colleagues who have read about the War of the Roses and that summer of 1920, when suffragists descended on the capital in Nashville. Those who were for suffrage wore a yellow rose. Those who were anti—as they were called—wore a red rose.

Carrie Chapman Catt, Anne Dallas Dudley, and Ida B. Wells led this fight. And what a fight it was. And, finally, they pushed forward with the 36th State granting ratification.

The histories in our States are rich on this issue, and we want all Americans to appreciate the work that went into women gaining that right to vote.

My colleague mentioned that there are 40 monuments, memorials, statues, and historic sites on the Mall. Not a single one of these 40 are specific to women; while 22 are dedicated to individual men, 10 to military history and veterans, 3 to foreign relations, 2 to private organizations, 1 to U.S. postal history, 1 to the history of the U.S. canals, and 1 to the history of horses. All of these have found their way onto the mall.

What we have done is to work with the Park Service, find a place that would be perfect: The Mall's Constitution Gardens. It is a 50-acre space dedicated during our Nation's bicentennial as a living memorial to the founding of the Republic. In this garden, it is appropriate that we recognize the work of women to help preserve the freedoms and the liberties that we have here in this Nation.

I thank my colleagues for passing this legislation. The House passed it unanimously last year, so it is appropriate as we finish and complete this 118th Congress, that we set aside time and that we pass this legislation to recognize the work—the powerful work—of women who gave so much of their life to support freedom, liberty, and voting rights.

Ms. BALDWIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, as if in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6395, and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following bills: Calendar No. 596, which is S. 3195, and H.R. 6395.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged of the relevant

bill, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills passed.

DESIGNATING GEORGE C. MARSHALL IN THE CONSTITUTION GARDENS, AS ONE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The bill (S. 3195) of the General George C. Marshall, affiliated area of the National Park System, and had been reported on Energy and an amendment relating to the following: The following: SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL AFFILIATED AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall House in the established as an Park System (referred to in this section as the "Secretary").

(b) DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall House in the map entitled "Proposed Affiliated Area", numbered 999/189,974, and dated September 2023.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The affiliated area shall be managed in a manner consistent with—

(1) this section; and

(2) any law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(d) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The George C. Marshall International Center shall be the management entity for the affiliated area.

(e) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the "Secretary")—

(1) may provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity designated by subsection (d) for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the marketing, marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated area; and

(2) shall enter into an agreement with the management entity designated by subsection (d) that describes the roles and responsibilities for the management of the affiliated area consistent with the policies and standards that apply to units of the National Park System.

(f) LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary—

(1) to acquire property at the affiliated area; or

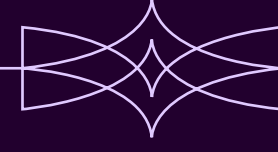
(2) to assume overall financial responsibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of the affiliated area.

The committee-reported substitute amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

What we have done is to work with the Park Service, find a place that would be perfect: The Mall's Constitution Gardens. It is a 50-acre space dedicated during our Nation's bicentennial as a living memorial to the founding of the Republic. In this garden, it is appropriate that we recognize the work of women to help preserve the freedoms and the liberties that we have here in this Nation.

SENATOR BLACKBURN





Thank *You!*

