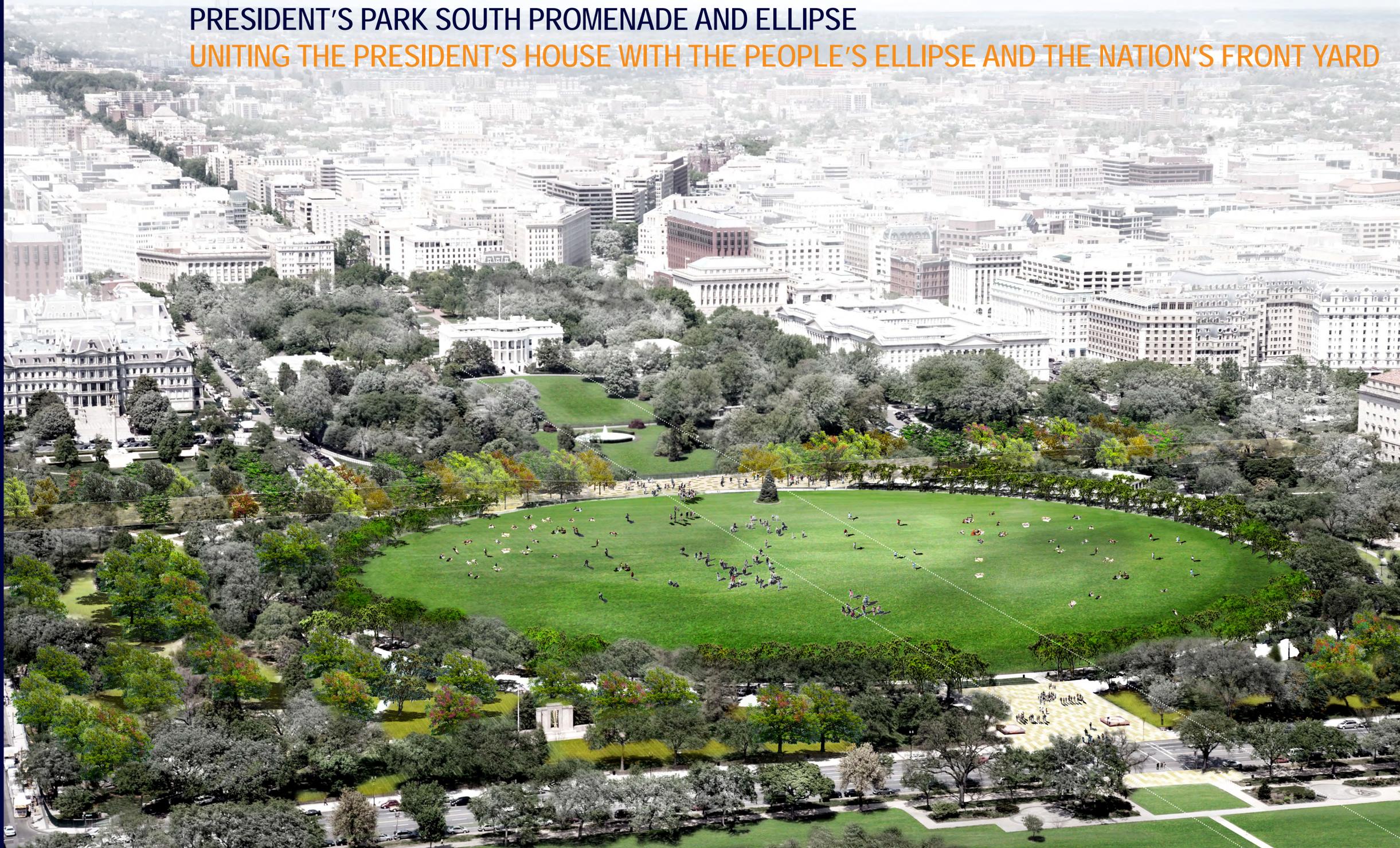




# PRESIDENT'S PARK SOUTH

## PRESIDENT'S PARK SOUTH PROMENADE AND ELLIPSE UNITING THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE WITH THE PEOPLE'S ELLIPSE AND THE NATION'S FRONT YARD



- PROJECT TEAM**
- Reed Hilderbrand Associates, Inc.
  - Architecture Research Office
  - Vanasse Hangen Brustlin
  - The Cultural Landscape Foundation
  - Weidinger Associates Consulting Engineers, PC
  - Jeffery L. Bruce Company
  - Ecological Landscape Management
  - Domingo Gonzalez Associates
  - DMS Construction Consulting Services, Inc.

President's Park South Promenade and the renewal of the Ellipse unify two fundamental goals that have in recent years emerged in conflict: on the one hand, the provision of unfailing, redundant security for the active center of the Executive branch of government; and on the other, an inspired visitor experience of the President's historic home and office. Our proposal integrates these dual aspirations, resulting in a direct expression of the people's freedom and dignity. The South Promenade clarifies and makes permanent the most effective and proven security strategies while creating a dignified pedestrian experience that is open, orderly, flexibly managed, and spatially unique. In this way, the Promenade unites and joins together two of the nation's most significant cultural landscapes: first, the South Lawn of the White House, variously shaped and occupied by every American President in residence since John Adams and notably refined by preeminent landscape architect and planner Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.; and second, the Ellipse, which embodies an evolving continuum of design shaped by some of America's most important landscape visionaries: George Washington, Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson Downing, and Olmsted, Jr.

### THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE REUNITE



Tidal Basin Cherry Blossoms, Washington, DC



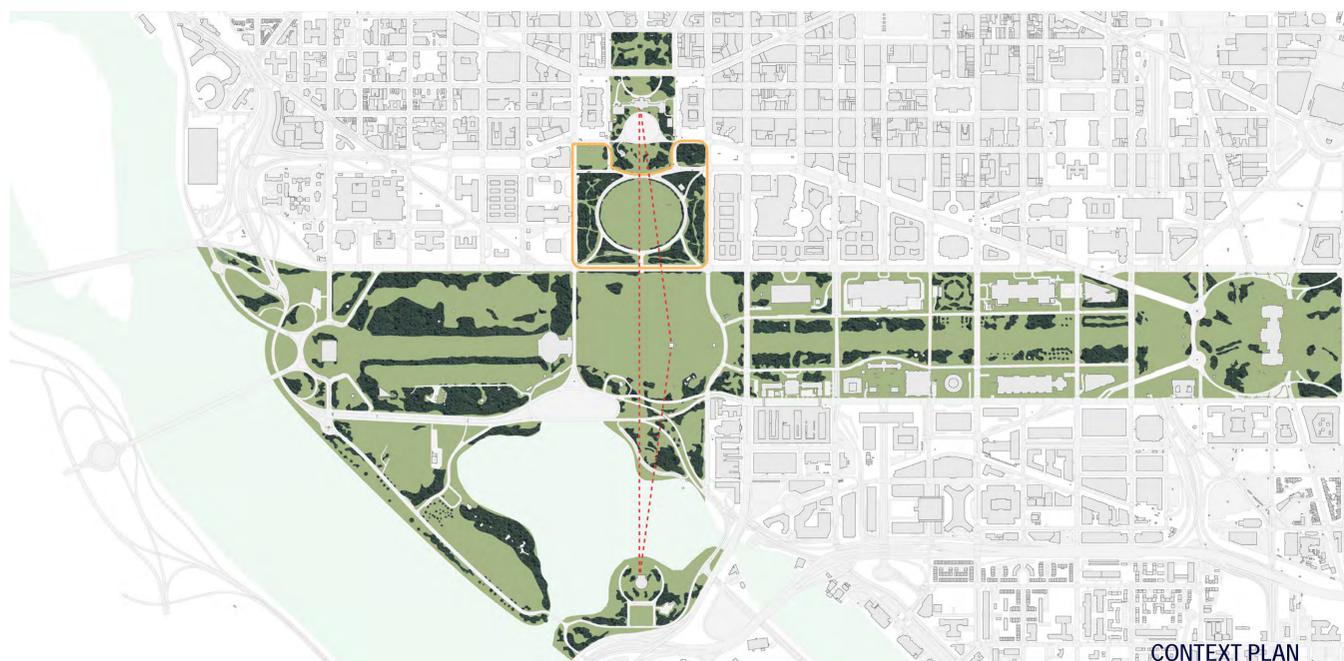
Central Park Mall, New York City



Place Des Vosges, Paris



Lincoln Memorial Elm Plantation, Washington, DC

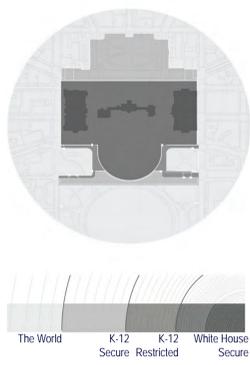


CONTEXT PLAN

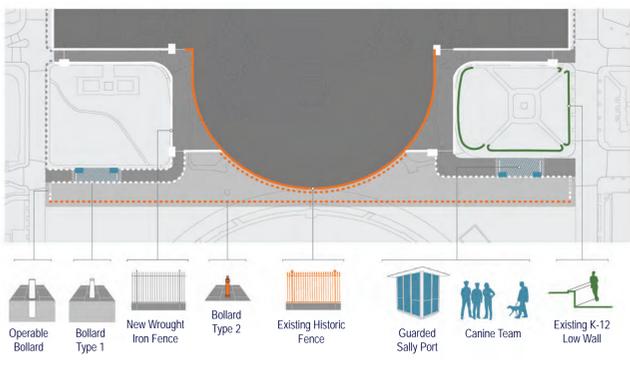


SECTION LOOKING EAST

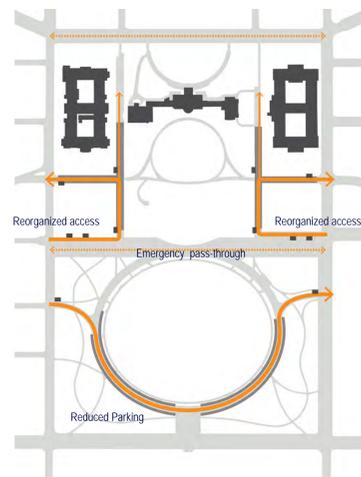
ZONING SECURITY



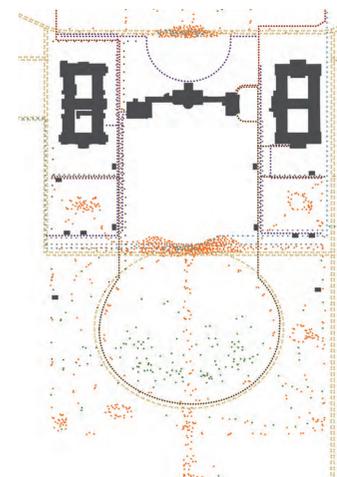
REORGANIZING BOUNDARIES



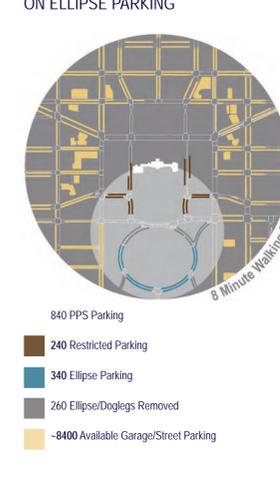
RECLAIMING THE ELLIPSE



ORDERING ACCESS AND FLOWS



REDUCING DEPENDANCE ON ELLIPSE PARKING

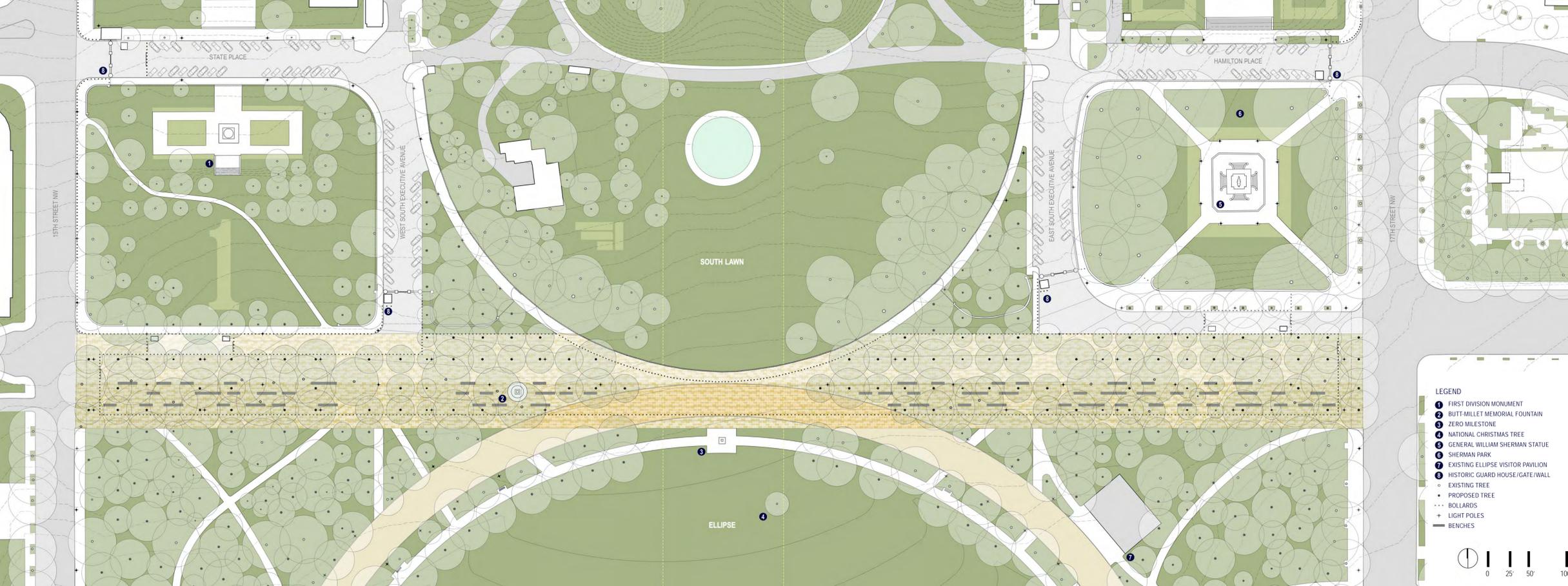


All Americans—and fellow global citizens—anticipate that a visit to the White House and President's Park would impart a visceral and personal connection with the special dignity, power, and grace the American Presidency has accumulated over the past two centuries. The President's Park South Promenade delivers this connection by optimizing security protocols and protections within a clear spatial order that is highly legible and flexibly managed. We do this not by inventing new devices or imposing further restrictions. We favor instead the simplicity and proven success of hardened bollards and fences, familiar park

vocabularies that merge seamlessly with the design language of the White House Grounds, the Ellipse, and the National Mall. We call upon the urban spatial tradition of the promenade—specifically invoked by L'Enfant and Downing—and interpret it for our own time. The clarity of a securable space for the Executive delivers essential freedom of passage and the opportunity for unhindered civic expression, while ultimately advancing the physical embodiment of American democracy.

**PRESIDENT'S PARK IS PROTECTED AND FREE**

SOUTH PROMENADE PLAN



- LEGEND
- 1 FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT
  - 2 BUTT-MILLET MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN
  - 3 ZERO MILESTONE
  - 4 NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE
  - 5 GENERAL WILLIAM SHERMAN STATUE
  - 6 SHERMAN PARK
  - 7 EXISTING ELLIPSE VISITOR PAVILION
  - 8 HISTORIC GUARD HOUSE/GATE/WALL
  - EXISTING TREE
  - PROPOSED TREE
  - BOLLARDS
  - LIGHT POLES
  - BENCHES

*I propose to keep the large area of this ground open, as a place for parade or military reviews, as well as public festivities or celebrations. A circular carriage drive 40 feet wide and nearly a mile long shaded by an avenue of Elms surrounds the Parade, while a series of foot-paths, 10 feet wide, winding through thickets of trees and shrubs, forms the boundary to this park, and would make an agreeable shaded promenade for pedestrians.*

— Andrew Jackson Downing, 1851



PERSPECTIVE LOOKING WEST

STRATEGIC ENHANCEMENT OF TREE SPECIES DIVERSITY

TODAY'S ELMs: 58%  
FUTURE ELMs: 34%

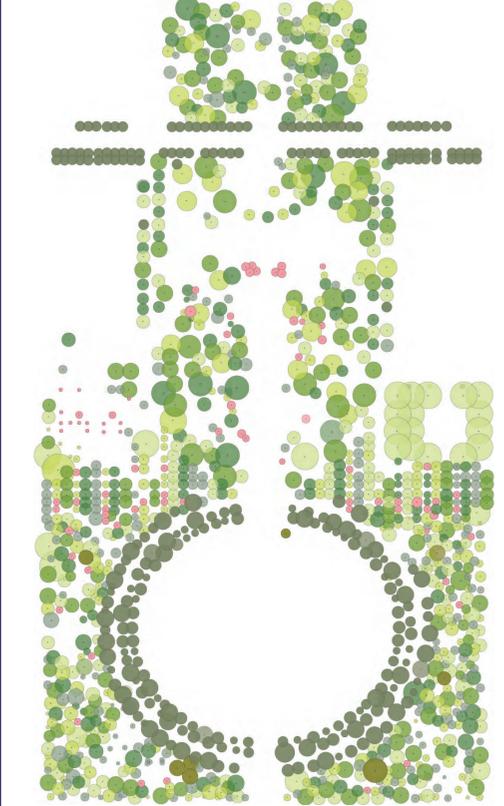


EXISTING CANOPY WITH PROPOSED TREES

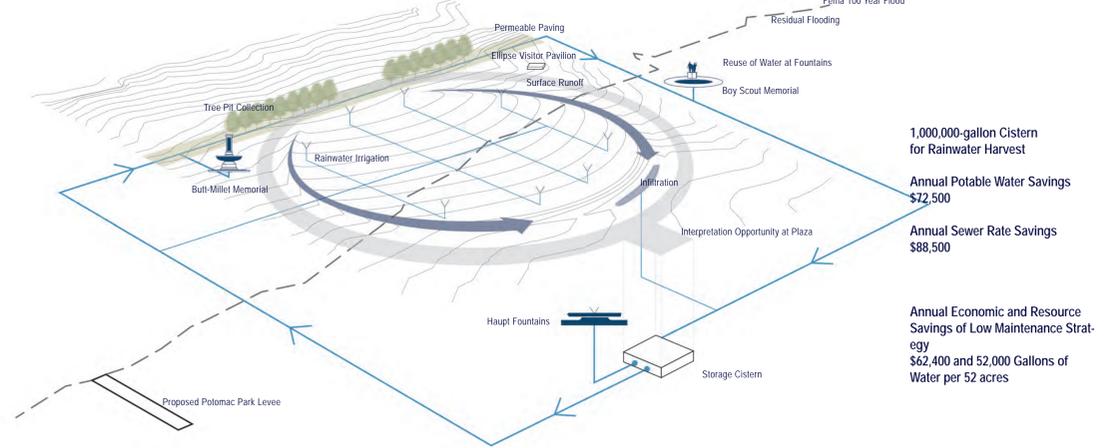
**PRESIDENT'S PARK'S ECOLOGICAL STRUCTURE SUSTAINS THE PEOPLE'S ELLIPSE**

The living landscape components of the South Promenade and the Ellipse extend the historic park legacy through their integration with the natural, cultural, scenic, and ecological values currently pursued in other projects within the Monumental Core. We propose to showcase these values and to lead by example. Our strategies include the reorganization of site hydrology to achieve net-zero water use for the park; the provision of high-performance soils that sustain active root-zone biology and support intensive use turf grasses; continued protection and amplification of the American elm plantation on the Ellipse, along with a more diverse and robust planting palette for the larger park landscape; and organic management regimes that improve growth, longevity, and performance in the urban tree canopy.

PROPOSED CANOPY DIVERSITY



NET-ZERO WATER USE



AERIAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

*It is clear that Downing felt that his plan for "The Public Grounds of Washington" should serve as a national model... It would be a "Public School of Instruction in every thing that relates to the tasteful arrangement of parks and grounds" with, as Downing advocated, "breathing space for pure air, recreation ground for healthful exercise, pleasant roads for riding or driving, or enjoyment of that lovely and refreshing beauty from which they have, in leaving the country, reluctantly expatriated themselves."*  
— Historian Cynthia Zaitzevsky, 1995



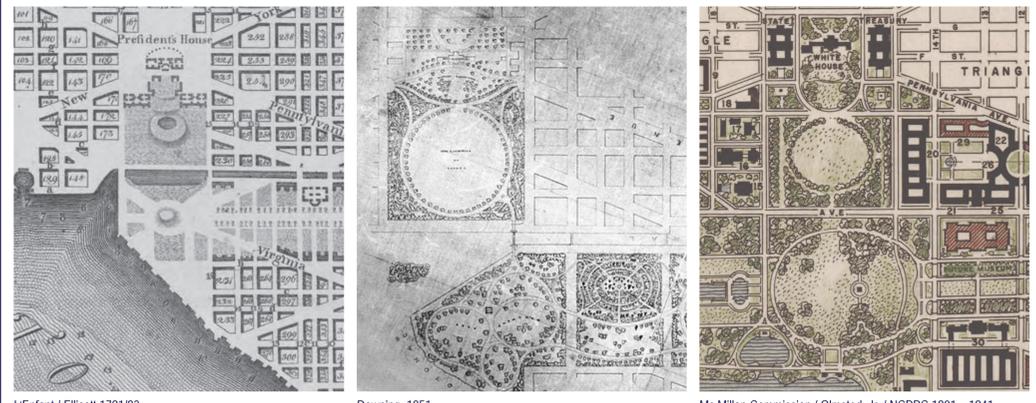
*The landscape of President's Park has evolved over time, responding to its functions as a private home, ceremonial residence, executive office park, military seat, tourist site and point of public assembly and recreation. . . . As a symbol of the American Presidency, which serves a dual administrative and ceremonial function, the landscape of President's Park is unique in the nation.*

*The Olmsted Brothers plan for the White House grounds was not a "restoration" . . . it is an early and model example of a plan that reconciles the preservation of existing historic landscape features with the adaptation of the landscape to modern conditions.*

—Historian Cynthia Zaitzevsky and NPS Cultural Specialist William Patrick O'Brien, 1995



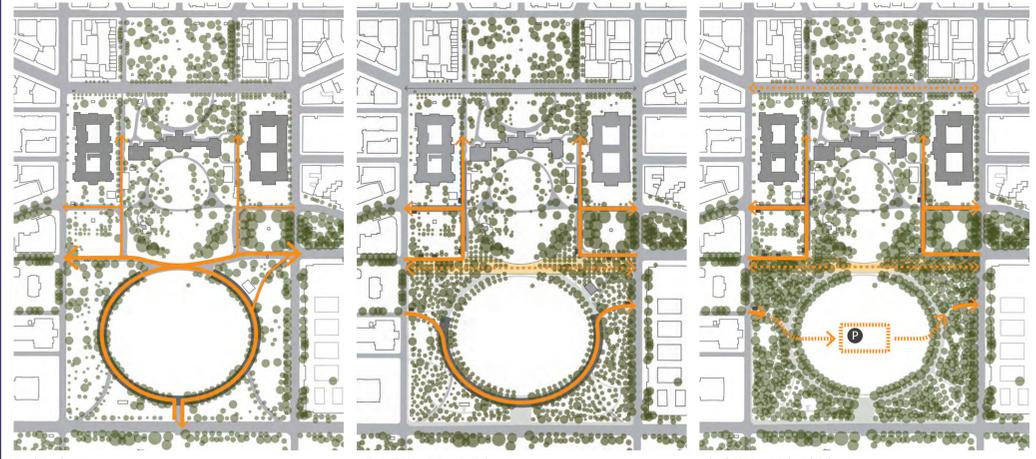
SITE SECTION LOOKING EAST



L'Enfant / Ellicott 1791/93

Downing, 1851

Mc Millan Commission / Olmsted, Jr. / NCPPC 1901 - 1941



EXISTING 2011

NEAR-TERM REALIZATION

LONG-TERM PROJECTION

Our South Promenade and Ellipse proposal unites, through a careful, limited intervention, some of the most powerful, ground-breaking forces in American landscape architecture heritage. The proposal expands the park's continuum of use, feeling, composition, materials, and association, while reuniting two essential parts of Washington's and L'Enfant's original Reservation No. 1, which have been long separated by traffic and defensive barriers. As proposed, the park promotes the continuation of a vastly differentiated program of use, where world leaders and ordinary citizens can participate in the American democracy through everyday experience. Whether an official visitor calling on the President, a traveler photographing family and friends before one of the signal icons of world leadership, citizens passionately defending First Amendment rights, locals bicycling across the District, neighbors joining a pick-up soccer game, revelers lighting the National Christmas Tree, children rolling eggs, NPS rangers interpreting cultural history—all are joined in a restorative, sustainable, and democratic work of design.



1900



SITE PLAN



**THE LEGACIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE ARE UNITED AND EXTENDED**

