



ROCK CREEK PARK GOLF COURSE REHABILITATION

WELCOME

to the

Virtual Public Scoping Meeting
Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting

January 2023



WELCOME!

- Welcome
- Public Meeting Logistics
- Presentation
 - Introduction
 - Site History
 - Existing Conditions
 - Proposed Action
 - Next Steps & How to Comment
- Question and Answer Session



VIRTUAL MEETING TOOLS

- You will be in listen-only mode for the presentation.
- You may type your question or add your comment at any time during the presentation.
- Look for the 'Q&A' and 'Raise Hand' icon in the bottom row of Zoom controls. We will be accepting hand raises for verbal questions at the end of the presentation.
 - Note that we will be accepting questions throughout the webinar and will be addressing them at the end.





QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Questions or comments submitted during this webinar will not be considered formal comments on the project.

To provide formal comments, please visit:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/rockcreekgolfplan>

Follow the link for this project and click
"Open for Comment"



INTRODUCTION

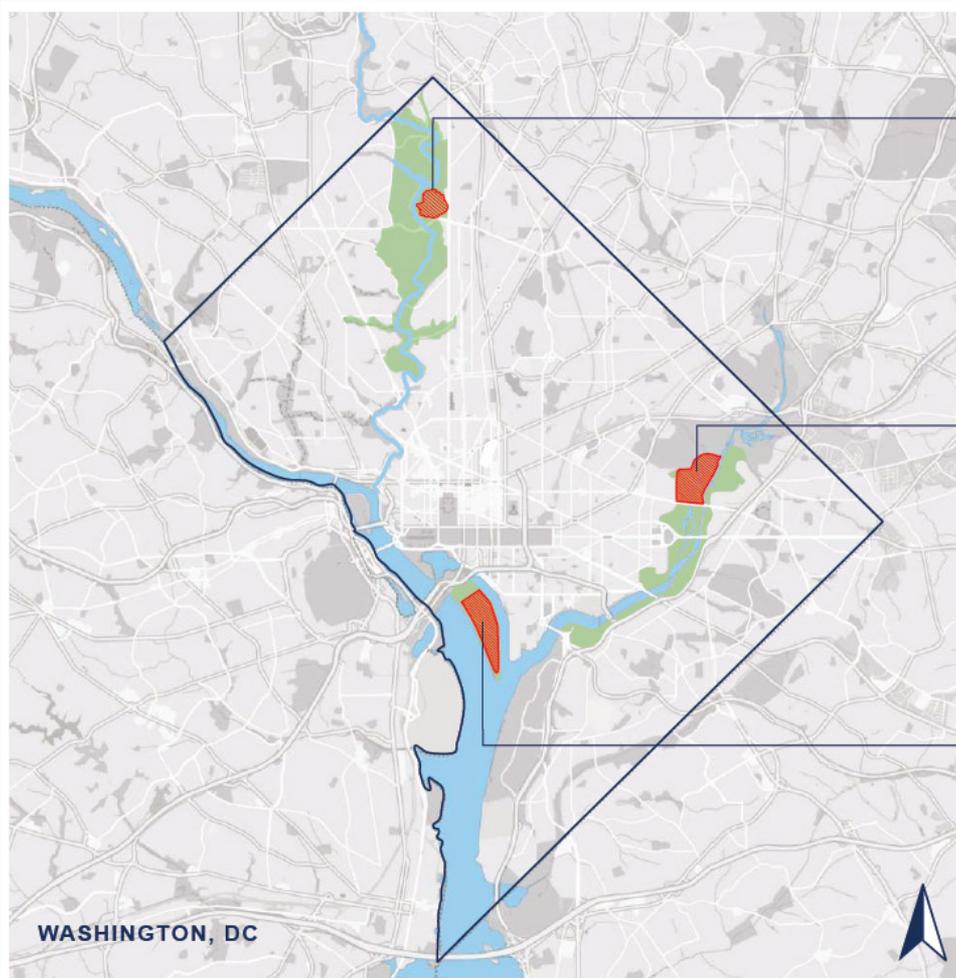


NATIONAL LINKS TRUST + NPS

- National Links Trust (NLT), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, signed a 50-year lease with the National Park Service (NPS) to operate three historic public golf courses in Washington, DC: East Potomac, Langston, and Rock Creek.
- Devoted to the improvement of recreational opportunities while providing broader benefits to the community.
- Committed to implementing a course of action that honors the past and ensures a bright future for Washington DC's three golf course facilities.
- Dedicated to providing affordable, accessible, and engaging golf at well-maintained and environmentally sustainable green spaces that are to the benefit of everyone, golfers and non-golfers alike.



THE DISTRICT'S THREE HISTORIC PUBLIC GOLF COURSES



1 ROCK CREEK PARK GOLF COURSE ROCK CREEK PARK



President Warren G. Harding putting at Rock Creek, 1923.

2 LANGSTON GOLF COURSE ANACOSTIA PARK



Golf Pro Al Green with local youth at Langston, 1979

3 EAST POTOMAC GOLF COURSE EAST POTOMAC PARK



Three women holding golf clubs East Potomac, 1923

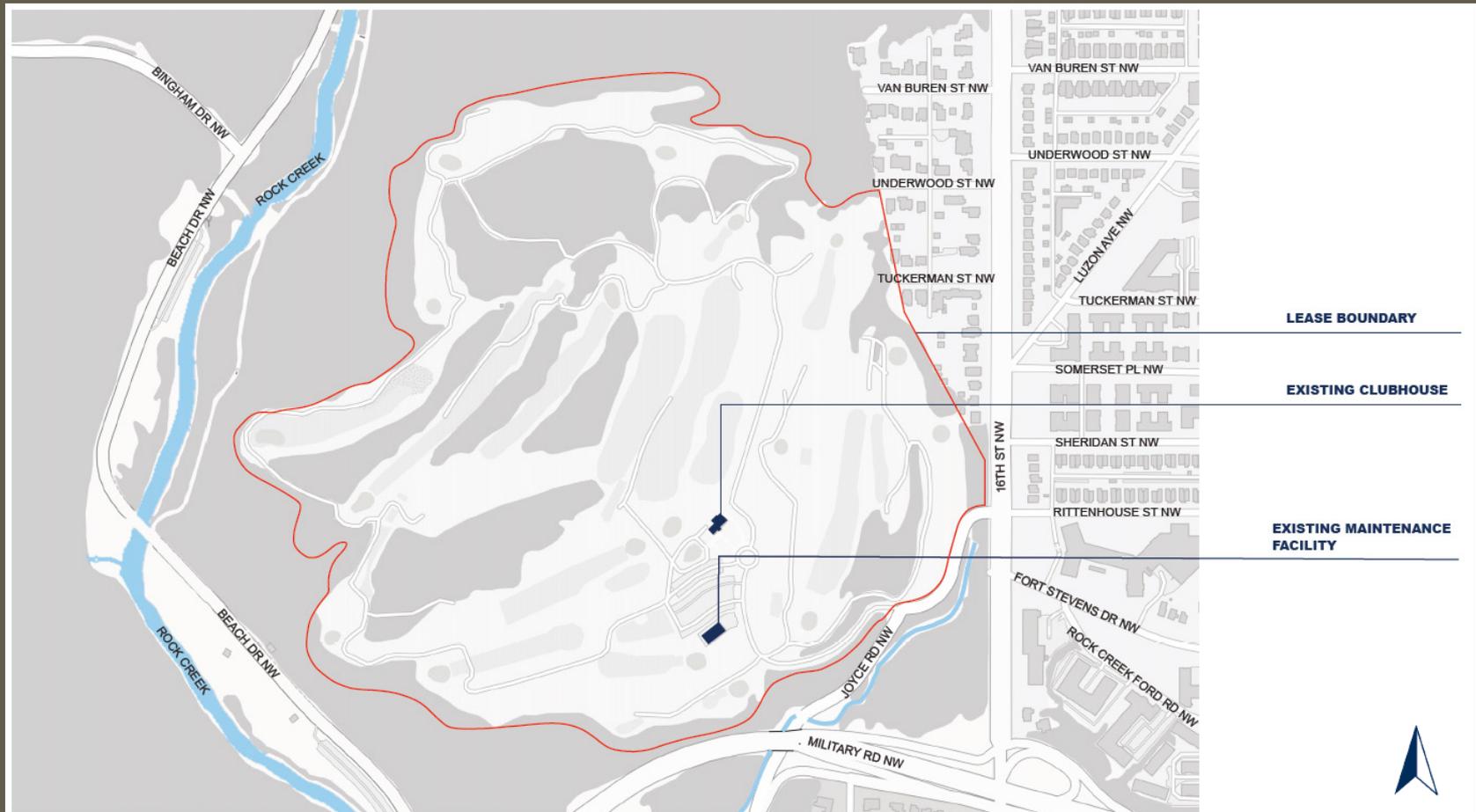


Rock Creek Park Golf Course Rehabilitation

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



ROCK CREEK PARK GOLF COURSE





PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

- Address deferred maintenance
- Increase playability
- Broaden course appeal to local community
- Achieve financial stability





NEED FOR THE PROJECT (1/2)

- The historic parkland-style course designed by William Flynn is currently not apparent.
- The current 18-hole course does not lend itself to players of varying skill levels.
- The lack of a driving range impacts the usership and financial viability of the golf course.
- The limited facilities of the existing clubhouse do not adequately support golf course operations, golfers, and non-golfers.



NEED FOR THE PROJECT (2/2)

- The dense overgrowth of the adjacent woodland and invasive vegetation encroaches on and narrows the existing fairways, resulting in decreased playability.
- Turfgrass is deteriorated due to traffic patterns, poor cart paths, poor drainage, poor irrigation, tree root competition, and shade from trees.
- Trails and paths used by both pedestrians and golf carts are ill-defined and infringe on views and playing areas.
- The maintenance facility is in a highly visible location and does not meet the needs of golf course operations.



PROJECT GOALS

- Historic Preservation
- Revival of Exemplary Golf Course Architecture
- Environmental Sustainability
- Growth in Golf Participation via Non-Traditional Golf Options
- Expanded Non-Golf Community Infrastructure and Programming



SITE HISTORY AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE



SITE HISTORY

- 8000 BC: Indigenous people began camping along Rock Creek
- 1680s AD: Europeans and Africans (enslaved and free) arrived in this area
- 1740: Families were living on farms within present day Rock Creek Park
- 1864: Battle of Fort Stevens
- 1906-07: DC Commissioners announce plans to establish the city's first public golf course at Rock Creek Park.

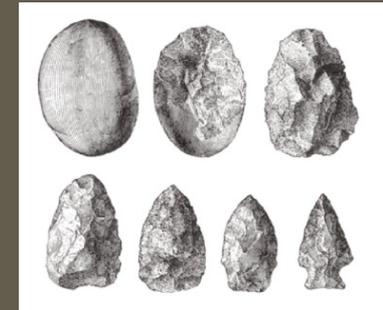


Illustration of Stone Working at Piney Branch Quarry (Holmes 1987)



Farmhouse on site that was used as the golf clubhouse from 1923-1964.



SITE HISTORY

- 1923: Completion of William Flynn 9-hole golf course
- 1927: An additional 9 holes added to create an 18-hole golf course and Golf Course Access Road constructed
- 1957-58: Military Road reconstructed into a four-lane freeway
- 1963: NPS receives necessary funds to build new clubhouse constructed in Mission 66 style
- 1970-75: Back nine deterioration requires managers to shorten holes



View from 11th green to the 11th tee showing erosion in front of tee, 1957.



Existing clubhouse under construction, 1964.



SITE HISTORY: FLYNN PLAN

- Flynn is most recognized for his parkland style designs, which are laid out across rolling terrain and typically incorporate mature trees. The steep topography and wooded environs of Rock Creek lent itself to the dramatic parkland-style for which Flynn was known.
- The course's continued use for almost 100 years is a testament to Flynn's desire to build courses that would stand the test of time.





HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

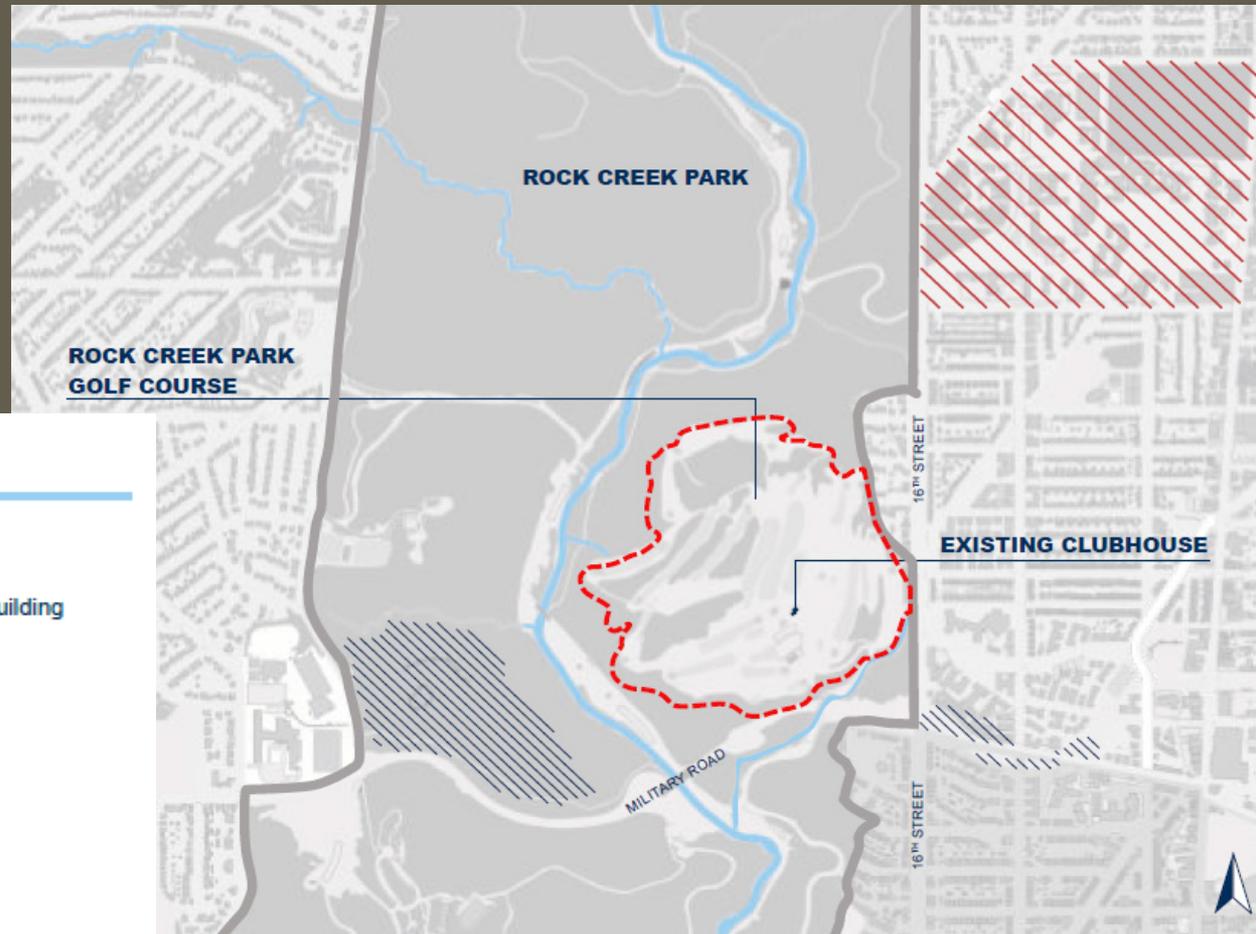
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource to the Rock Creek Park Historic District
- Criterion A (Events)
 - Urban recreation and development of public golf courses in the District
- Criterion C (Architecture)
 - Designed by golf architect William S. Flynn during the Golden Age of Golf (early 1900s to the Great Depression)
- Periods of Significance
 - 1921-1927 (original design by Flynn)
 - 1963-1964 (construction of the new clubhouse as part of Mission 66)

Rock Creek Park Golf Course Rehabilitation

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



ROCK CREEK PARK GOLF COURSE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT



KEY

-  Area of Potential Effect (APE)
-  Rock Creek Park Historic District Contributing Building
-  Rock Creek and Other Tributaries
-  Rock Creek Park Historic District Boundary
-  Fort Circle Parks Historic District
-  Former Walter Reed Army Medical Center



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Rock Creek Park

Golf Course Rehabilitation

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior



EXISTING SITE PLAN

- Located on east side of Rock Creek Park at the intersection of 16th and Military Road NW on approximately 100 acres.
- 14-hole course (four holes of the original back 9 are currently not in play) with a counterclockwise progression of play centered on the clubhouse.
- The front 9 holes are characterized by visually open spaces, gentle slopes, and wide fairways.
- The back 5 holes are characterized by narrow fairways, dense forests, and steep slopes.
- The course currently suffers from deferred maintenance that has impacted golf course facilities as well as the playability of the course.



Rock Creek Park Golf Course Rehabilitation



EXISTING SITE PLAN

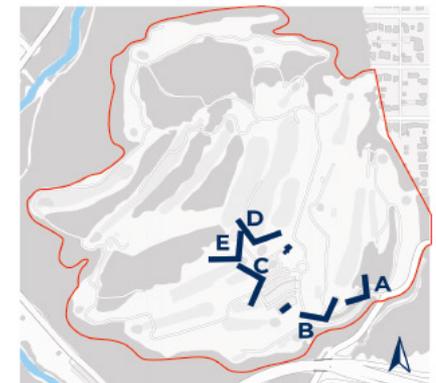
LEGEND

- 2022 Lease Boundary
- Building
- Road
- Pedestrian Path
- On Grade Golf Course Route
- Directional Vehicular Circulation
- Directional Pedestrian Circulation
- 1 Active Holes
- 12 Holes Not in Service Due to Deteriorating Circumstances





EXISTING CONDITIONS





EXISTING CONDITIONS

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TODAY'S CLUBHOUSE

- Is a contributing feature to the Rock Creek Park Historic District
- Built in 1964 in the NPS Mission 66 style
- Does not adequately support golf course operations
- Not accessible to persons with disabilities
- Not a good candidate for reuse due to its small size, lack of accessible facilities and routes, and extensive use of masonry interior partitions that make any floor plan changes costly and difficult





PROPOSED ACTION



GOLF COURSE REHABILITATION PROGRAM

- 9-hole regulation course
- 9-hole par 3 course
- Short game practice area
- 50 bay driving range
- Practice putting green
- Golf academy
- Restaurant & bar with indoor and outdoor seating
- Flexible meeting/event space
- Pro shop
- Accessibility Improvements
- Bike parking
- Community programming space
- Maintenance building and yard
- Park visitor parking
- Hiking trails
- Irrigation pond/pump house
- First Tee DC headquarters





ENTRY SEQUENCE

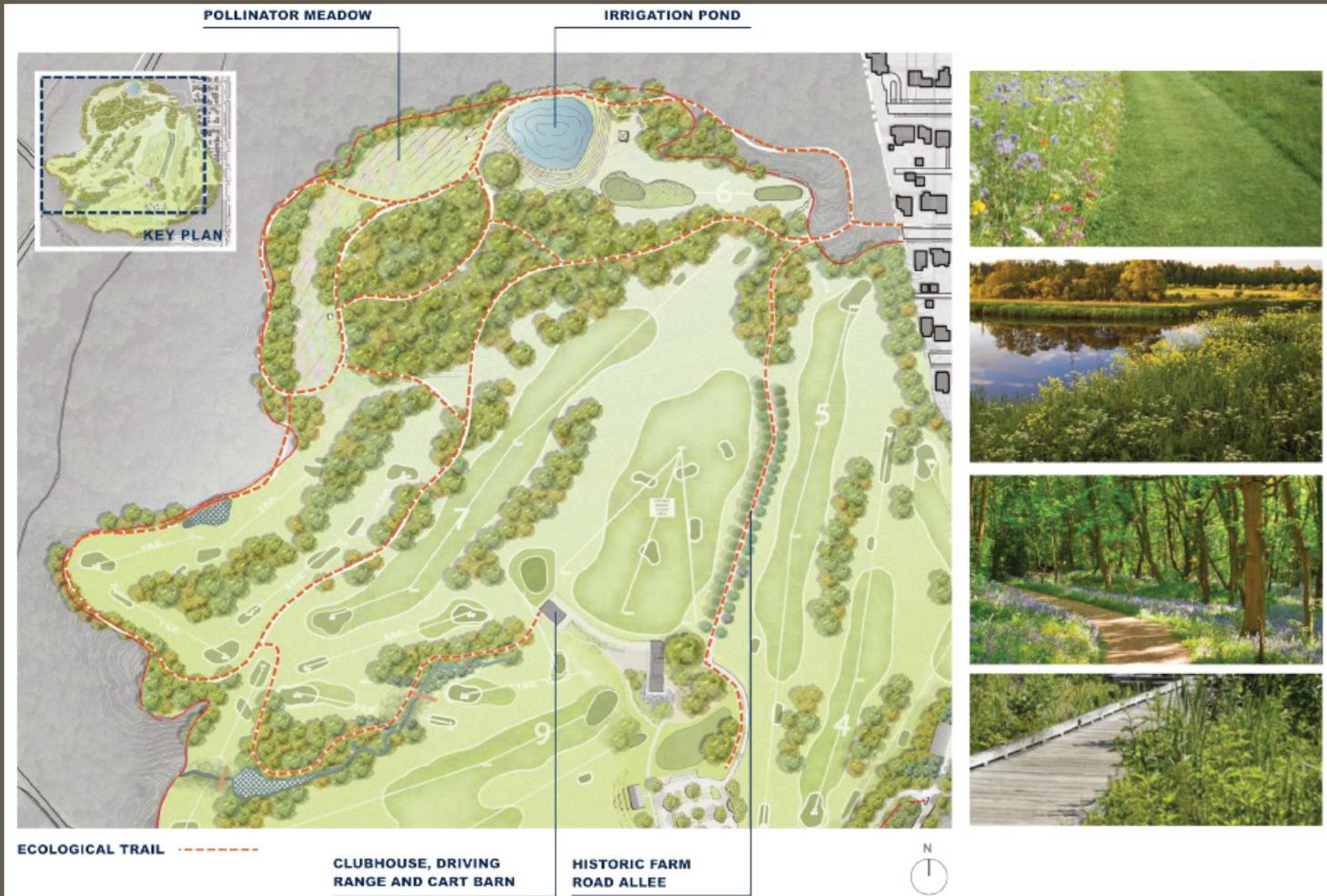


EXISTING VIEWS





ECOLOGICAL TRAIL





MAINTENANCE BUILDING & PAVILION



- MATERIALS STORAGE
- MAINTENANCE BUILDING
- MAINTENANCE PARKING
- VEGETATION SCREENING



KEY PLAN



- CLUBHOUSE
- TERRACING
- PARKING

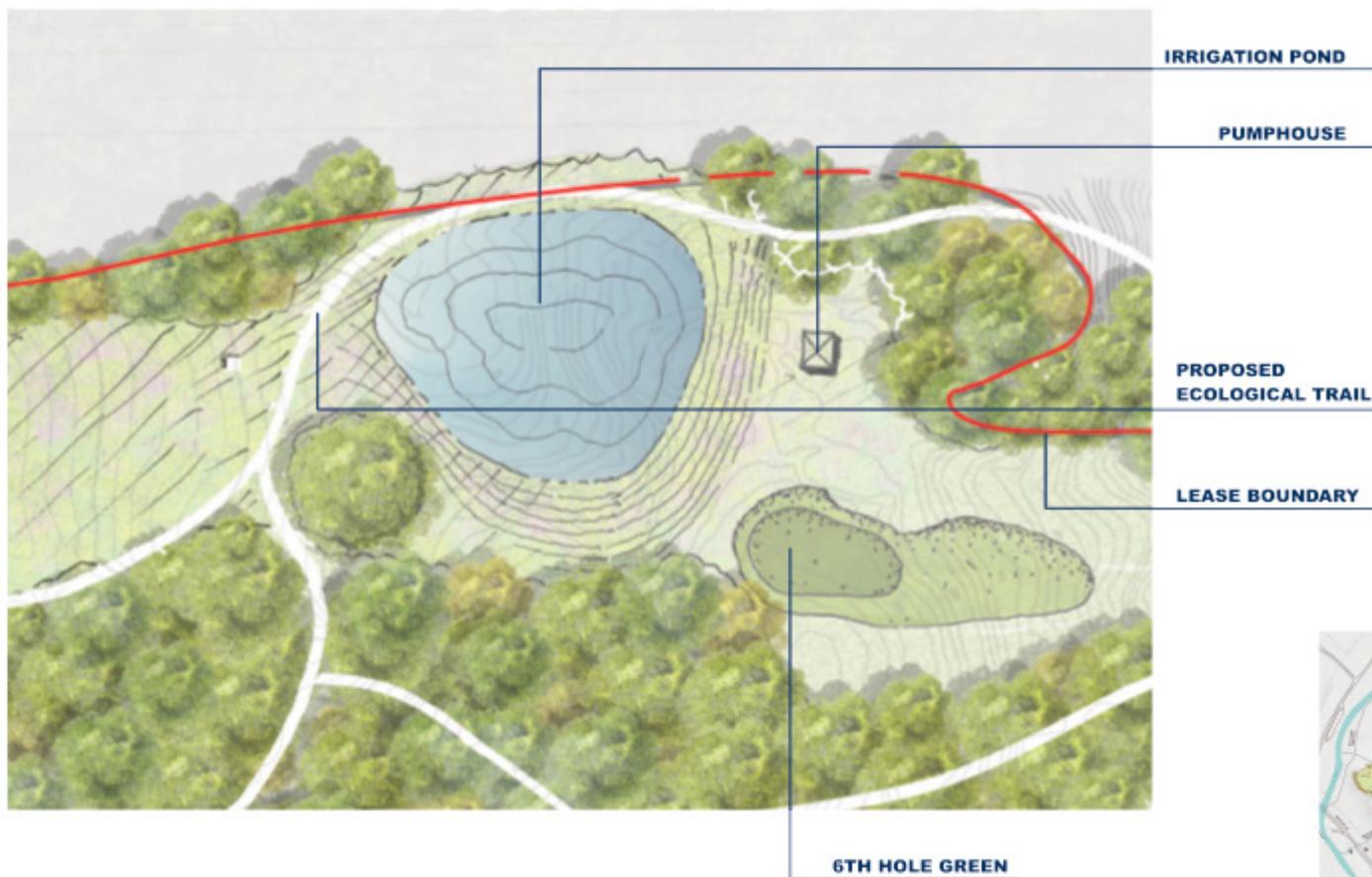
PAVILION



KEY PLAN

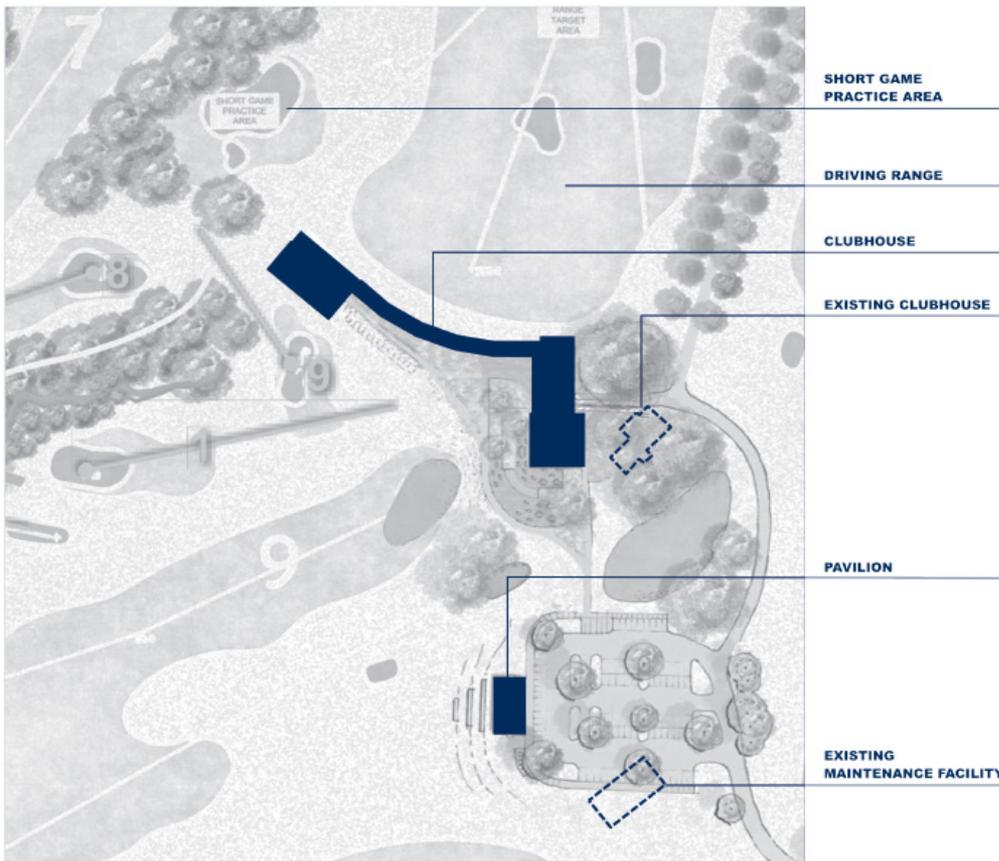


IRRIGATION POND



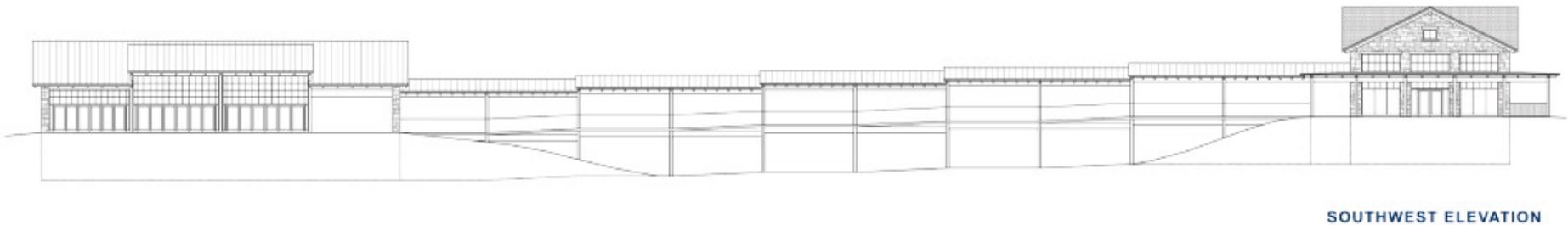


CLUBHOUSE





CLUBHOUSE

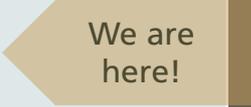




NEXT STEPS



PLANNING PROCESS

| Milestone | Targeted Schedule |
|---|--|
| Public and Agency Scoping | Early 2023  |
| Environmental Assessment/ Assessment of Effect | Spring 2023 |
| Public Review | Summer 2023 |
| Decision/Agreement Document | Autumn 2023 |



HOW TO COMMENT

Formal comments can be submitted two ways:

1. Submit comments electronically at:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/rockcreekgolfplan>

-- or --

2. Mail or hand-deliver written comments to park headquarters:

Superintendent
RE: Golf Course Rehab
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Ln NW
Washington, DC 20008

Please provide
comments by
February 8, 2023



THANK YOU!

We will now answer questions about the project and planning and compliance processes.

Please submit your questions via the [Q&A](#) or [hand-raise](#) buttons.

