

1                    **Agassiz Park Action Treatment Alternatives**

2  
3                    ***Vision Statement for Agassiz Park Action Treatment Alternatives:***

4                    In the action alternatives, Agassiz Park serves as an amenity for the community, and a link  
5                    between the historic downtown and the industrial core of Calumet.  
6

7                    ***Goals Common to All Agassiz Park Action Treatment Alternatives:***

- 8                    1. Improve the ability of the landscape to convey and represent its historic conditions and  
9                    the design intent of Warren Manning.  
10                    2. Preserve extant historic landscape features, in particular the paths and extant historic  
11                    trees.  
12                    3. Restore the statue of Alexander Agassiz to its original location.  
13                    4. Improve pedestrian and visual connections between the park and downtown Calumet as  
14                    well as the school grounds and industrial core.  
15                    5. Provide expanded opportunities for use of the park by visitors and the community.  
16

17                    ***Objectives Common to All Agassiz Park Action Treatment Alternatives:***

- 18                    1. Rehabilitate the Agassiz Park historic landscape and connections to other significant  
19                    landscape character areas within the Calumet Unit.  
20                    2. Provide parking for park visitors.  
21                    3. Provide overnight parking for downtown residents.  
22                    4. Provide parking for downtown merchants and customers.  
23                    5. Improve pedestrian circulation between downtown Calumet and Agassiz Park.  
24                    6. Improve the aesthetic appeal of Fourth Street.  
25

1 ***Agassiz Park Treatment Alternative B: Enhance Agassiz Park and Retain Existing Uses***

2 The primary difference between Alternative B and the no action alternative is that the statue of  
3 Alexander Agassiz would be restored to its historic location on the property. The parking lot  
4 would be removed and a small paved area would be established on the southeast side of Park  
5 Avenue for the statue. A service drive would be maintained for the Park Avenue Apartments.  
6 Crosswalks would be provided connecting the historic paths in Agassiz Park to the plaza with the  
7 statue.

8  
9 Historic park paths would be restored and the associated historic trees will be preserved and  
10 maintained. New trees, matching the species of those present along the paths, would be added to  
11 fill in gaps. This would result in multi-aged tree lines. Pedestrian links between the park and  
12 downtown Calumet would be improved by providing crosswalks at Portland and Oak Streets.  
13 The appearance of Fourth Street would be improved by adding a sidewalk and canopy trees  
14 along the western side of the street and adding shrubs in the median on the eastern side of the  
15 street. Pedestrian circulation between the park and the school grounds and industrial core would  
16 be improved by providing a small pedestrian plaza at the site of the Agassiz statue, and  
17 pedestrian sidewalks with links between the plaza and the school grounds, as well as the Red  
18 Jacket Road Corridor.

19  
20 Next page:

21 **Figure A- 19: Agassiz Park Treatment Alternative B**

22

# Calumet Unit

Keweenaw National Historical Park  
Cultural Landscape Report & Environmental Assessment

## Agassiz Park Rehabilitation Treatment Alternative B:

Enhance Agassiz Park and Retain Existing Uses

### Legend

- (A) Superior Boiler House
- (B) C-L-K Schools
- (C) C & H Gear House
- (D) C & H Warehouse #2
- (E) C & H Powder House
- (F) C & H Dry House
- (G) C & H Drill Shop
- (H) Park Avenue Townhouses
- (I) Sheds (Housing Commission)
- (J) Calumet Housing Commission  
Park Avenue Apartments
- (K) C-L-K School Sheds
- (L) The Colosseum
- (M) Farmers and Merchants Mutual  
Fire Insurance Company
- (N) KNHP Visitor Center  
(Union Building)
- (O) Keweenaw Heritage Center  
(St. Anne's)
- (P) Restrooms
- (Q) Grocery Store
- (R) C-L-K Schools Stadium and  
Outbuildings

### Map Notes

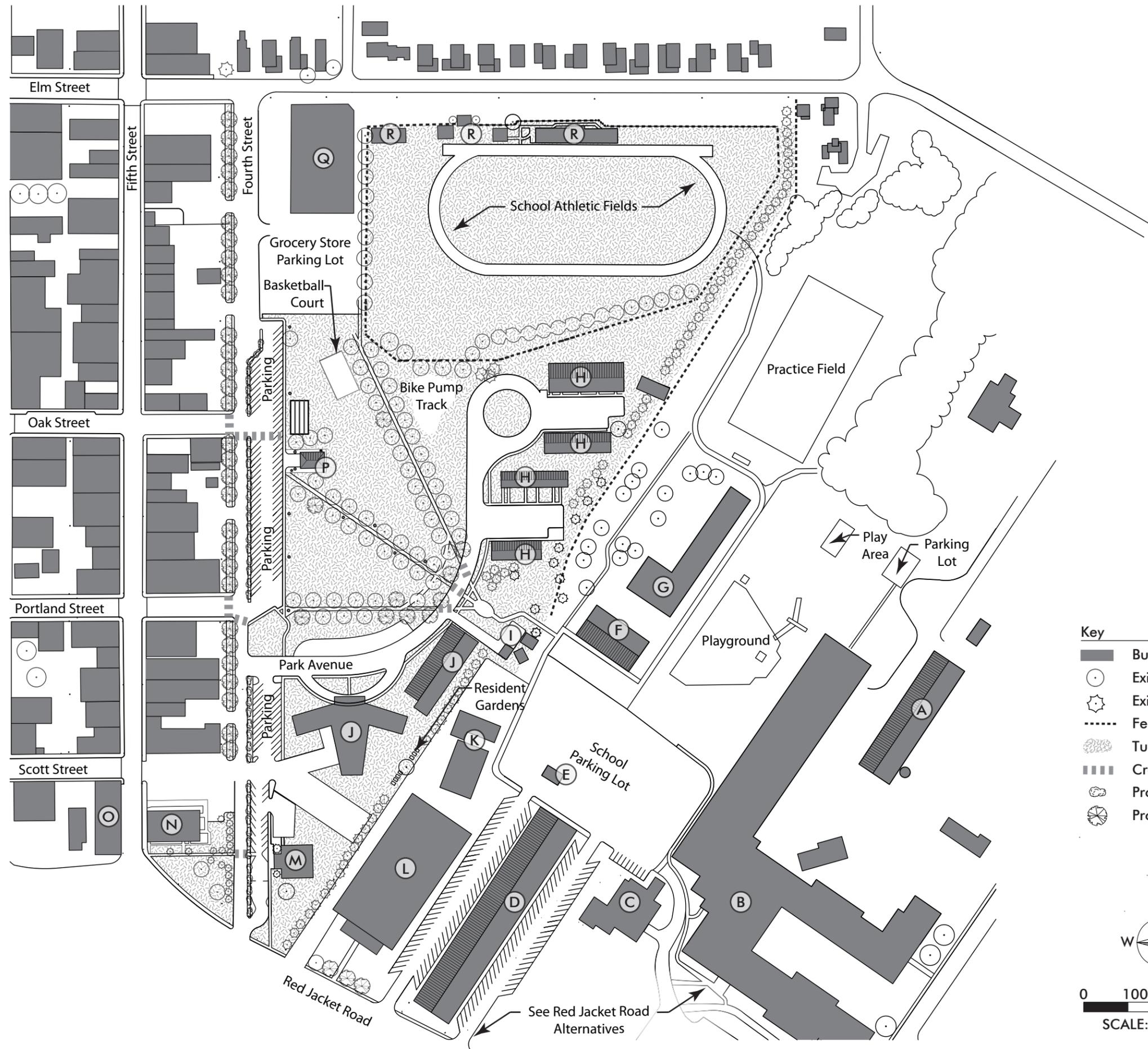
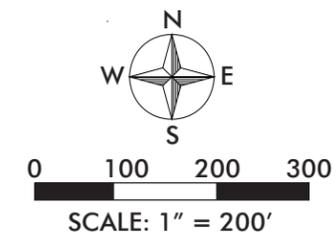
1. Plan sources are provided in the adjacent CLR narrative.

Created/Revised \_\_\_\_\_

September 2012

### Key

-  Buildings
-  Existing Canopy Tree
-  Existing Evergreen Tree
-  Fence
-  Turf
-  Crosswalk
-  Proposed Small Shrub
-  Proposed Canopy Tree



1 **Agassiz Park Treatment Alternative C:**

2 **Rehabilitation with Interpretation of Selected Areas of the Cultural Landscape**

3 Agassiz Park is an important community resource that provides space for community activities  
4 and can serve as a strong link between downtown Calumet, C-L-K Schools, the Red Jacket Road  
5 corridor, and the new Calumet Visitor Center. The park's current conditions inhibit its appeal to  
6 the community and visitors. This alternative provides a long-term recommendation for  
7 improving the park as a vital community open space and increasing its representation of the  
8 historic conditions and Warren Manning's significant landscape design. Following the long-term  
9 recommended treatment, a short-term approach to rehabilitating the park is described. This  
10 phase one approach allows for immediate improvements to be made prior to the implementation  
11 of the entire long-term plan. The phased approach to rehabilitating the park provides for gradual  
12 improvements to be made as opportunities are available. The long-term plan includes restoration  
13 of a large portion of the historic park, as illustrated in Figure A-20 and described in the following  
14 section entitled "Agassiz Park Treatment Alternative C Long-Term Plan." An initial phase  
15 addressing improvements to the extant remnants of the park is described as "Agassiz Park  
16 Treatment Alternative C Phase One," and illustrated in Figure A-21.

17  
18 **Agassiz Park Treatment Alternative C Long-Term Plan**

19 The long-term treatment approach C for Agassiz Park includes recommendations that may take a  
20 decade or more to implement. The entire treatment is described in this section. Prepare a Master  
21 Plan for Agassiz Park to determine appropriate active and passive recreation features for the park  
22 and determine their locations. When decisions regarding the appropriate facilities have been  
23 made, address general issues related to lighting, utilities, site furniture and physical design. Also  
24 consider preparing a Preservation Maintenance Plan (PMP) for Agassiz Park to address  
25 protecting historic character, monitoring change, controlling growth, replacing missing elements,  
26 and minimizing disturbance in the landscape to ensure that significant historic features are not  
27 lost and the character of the park is not compromised. The plan should address both routine and  
28 cyclic maintenance.<sup>4</sup> Include recommendations of an urban forester for improving conditions  
29 within the park to enhance the trees and indicate specific tree species and varieties that are well  
30 suited to the site conditions.<sup>5</sup> Also provide a plan for improving the conditions of the exiting  
31 lawns and shrubs and for preparing planting medium for new plants within the park, including  
32 recommendations regarding irrigation. Include a snow removal and snow storage plan to address  
33 this important need. To enhance the overall conditions within the park, it is recommended that  
34 the National Park Service assists the Village with maintaining Agassiz Park.

35  
36 The most essential element in this plan is the replacement of the statue of Alexander Agassiz in  
37 its original location within the park. The park was designed to focus on the statue, and this focal  
38 point also served as a pivotal element for circulation and views within the park. The strong  
39 association of the memorial to the history of the community can be revived with the restoration

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<sup>4</sup> For information regarding the preparation of a Preservation Maintenance Plan, consult: Margaret Coffin and Regina M. Bellavia. *Guide to Developing a Preservation Maintenance Plan for a Historic Landscape, Cultural Landscape Publication No. 7* (Brookline, MA, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 1998 revised edition).

<sup>5</sup> Consider aerating and supplementing the soil, mulching around the trees, educating maintenance staff to reduce mower and trimmer damage of trees, watering during dry periods, installation of irrigation, pruning, and treatment or removal of hazardous or diseased trees.

1 of the statue to this location. In the long-term, the rehabilitation of the northeast corner of the  
2 park for active recreational use will improve outdoor active recreation opportunities in the  
3 community and further enhance character of this public open space.

4  
5 The Park Avenue Townhouses require a high level of ongoing maintenance that is expected to  
6 increase as the buildings continue to age.<sup>6</sup> In addition, the residents of the townhouses are  
7 removed from the rest of the community and there is a stigma associated with living in the  
8 townhouses.<sup>7</sup> The construction of Park Avenue and the townhouses decimated a large part of  
9 Agassiz Park and changed the character of the area. The Village of Calumet contains many  
10 historic dwellings that are currently vacant as well as former building sites that are now vacant  
11 lots. When the Park Avenue Townhouses are in need of replacement, it is recommended that the  
12 housing use they are designed to fulfill be shifted to rehabilitated dwellings or historically  
13 sensitive in-fill developments within the Village of Calumet. This will allow for the removal of  
14 a large portion of Park Avenue, associated parking lots, and the townhouse buildings from the  
15 park, allowing for the long-term rehabilitation of the park illustrated in figure A-20. The area  
16 indicated for active recreation will include those facilities identified as appropriate in the  
17 recommended Agassiz Park Master Plan.<sup>8</sup> This plan encourages the redevelopment of affordable  
18 housing within existing residential neighborhoods in the village and provides an opportunity for  
19 enhancing Agassiz Park and reviving it as an appealing destination in the community.

20  
21 Historic paths are restored and the associated historic trees preserved and maintained. New trees,  
22 matching the species of those specified by Warren Manning, are added to fill in gaps along the  
23 paths (see A-14). Varieties identified in the PMP as appropriate for the conditions in the park  
24 will be used. Infilling trees will result in multi-aged tree lines and mixed species. Interpretive  
25 waysides with historic information about the park are provided at the memorial plaza and at the  
26 park entrance directly across from Oak Street (see A-14).

27  
28 Pedestrian links between Agassiz Park and downtown Calumet are improved by providing  
29 improved sidewalk connections and crosswalks at Portland and Oak Streets and by improving  
30 the conditions along Fourth Street. The western side of Agassiz Park becomes more welcoming  
31 with a tree-lined sidewalk, rather than parking lots. The appearance of Fourth Street is improved  
32 by realigning the street, parking, sidewalks, and adding more trees. In the blocks between Elm  
33 Street and Portland Street, a row of canopy trees and sidewalk along the eastern edge of the road  
34 (at the western edge of the Agassiz Park) are added. One lane of north-bound traffic is edged on  
35 the west by a median with canopy trees. One lane of south-bound traffic is located on the other  
36 side of the median, and south-facing angled parking is adjacent to a sidewalk and canopy trees  
37 along the western edge of the corridor. Curb cuts are provided for access to parking, back  
38 entrances, and service areas at the backs of the Fifth Street buildings.

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<sup>6</sup> Discussions with the Calumet Housing Authority indicated that the townhouse buildings are in constant need of repair and take a disproportionate amount of time and expense from the overall property's maintenance activities.

<sup>7</sup> This was mentioned frequently by participants in stakeholder and public meetings.

<sup>8</sup> Note that the plan does not show basketball courts, horseshoe pits, and other elements as it is recommended that a park master plan be prepared to determine the active recreational features that are most appropriate for the park, and their locations within the active recreation area.

1  
2 The southern portion of Agassiz Park continues to house affordable elderly housing administered  
3 by the Calumet Housing Authority. Parking for the facility is reorganized and sidewalks,  
4 ornamental plants, and paved plazas are added to provide more outdoor activity areas for  
5 residents. Resident gardens are maintained, and more are added if interest is shown.

6  
7 The south end of Fourth Street near the intersection with Red Jacket Road is revised to provide  
8 parallel parking on both sides of Fourth Street, as well as two-way traffic. The parking lot  
9 between Fourth Street and the Farmers & Merchants Mutual Fire Insurance Company is revised  
10 to accommodate the street revisions and parking lots are added on either side of the building.  
11 Sidewalks are provided along the south end of Fourth Street and a pedestrian plaza enhances the  
12 entrance to the Farmers & Merchants Mutual Fire Insurance Company building. Alternately,  
13 should the private parking lot south of Scott Street and north of the visitor center become  
14 available for purchase, it would serve the NPS well to consider acquisition. This lot could better  
15 serve visitors and reduce infrastructure development costs related to parking and circulation.

16  
17