

NCMAC | 05-02-2018

World War I Memorial



Sculptor
SABIN HOWARD

ARCHITECTS



Land
DAVID RUBIN

Collective

INTRODUCTION

Of the four major wars of the twentieth century, World War I alone has no national memorial in the nation's capital. There were more American casualties in World War I than in the Korean and Vietnam wars combined, with 116,516 Americans lost (53,402 Battle Deaths, and 63,114 Non-Theater Deaths) and 204,000 more wounded. In December 2014, President Obama signed legislation authorizing the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission (WWICC) to establish a new memorial. P.L.113-291, Section 3091 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015 re-designates Pershing Park in the District of Columbia, an existing memorial to General John J. Pershing, commander of American forces in World War I, as a national World War I Memorial, and authorizes the WWICC to further honor American servicemen and women in World War I:

a.(3) AUTHORITY TO ENHANCE COMMEMORATIVE WORK

(A) IN GENERAL. The Commission may enhance the General Pershing Commemorative Work by constructing on the land designated in paragraph (1) [Pershing Park] as a World War 1 Memorial appropriate sculptural and other commemorative elements, including landscaping, to further honor the service members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I.

The existing park is a 1.8-acre parcel bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue on the north and south, 15th Street NW on the west, and 14th Street NW on the east. P.L.84-461, approved in 1956 authorized the commemoration to General Pershing and those of the American Expeditionary Force under his command. The site, also the subject of this review, was approved for the Pershing commemorative work in 1957, and design efforts were undertaken. However, later efforts to improve Pennsylvania Avenue required that the plans for the avenue and plans for the commemoration be coordinated using the same parcel of ground.

The park was designed by M. Paul Friedburg and Partners in 1979-80 as a civic park with a large pool / ice rink and fountain as the dominant elements. In the southeast corner of the site sits a memorial to General John J. Pershing, designed by architect Wallace K. Harrison. Landscape architects Oehme van Sweden redesigned the park planting shortly after the park was constructed in 1981, supplementing and changing portions of the original Friedberg design.

The national World War I Memorial will serve dual functions, as a space of commemoration and as an urban park situated within the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. The memorial design must balance these two functions with great sensitivity, providing an expanded commemorative identity worthy of a National World War I Memorial while at the same time honoring the historic significance of the park and its greater context.

PROCESS

Design Competition:

WWICC initiated design competition in May 2015. Over 350 different designs received for Stage I of the Design Competition; WWICC selected five finalists. In January 2016, the WWICC selected a design concept from among the finalists.

Public Input through the NEPA and Section 106 Processes:

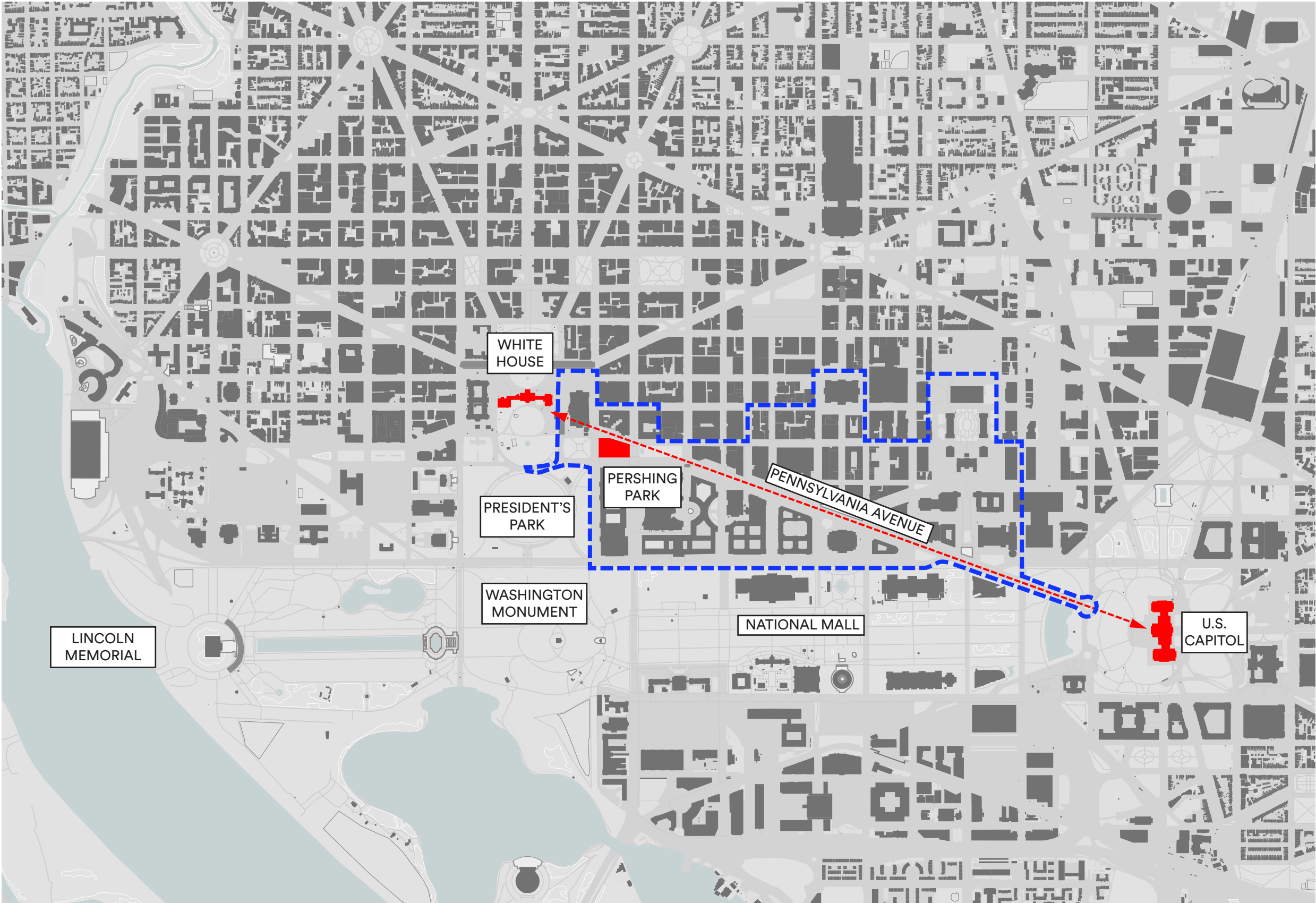
A public scoping period for Environmental Assessment (EA) for the memorial design was held in May 2015, coinciding with the initiation of the design competition. The public was invited to comment on the proposed establishment of the World War I Memorial within Pershing Park and to identify potential issues or concerns for consideration in the EA. At that time, WWICC and the National Park Service received comments from multiple organizations, as well as individuals. The WWICC and NPS are working to complete an EA for the establishment of the memorial.

In addition, the WWICC and NPS have held five Section 106 consulting parties meetings, the first of which occurred in December 2015, prior to the selection of a design concept. Since that time, the design concept has evolved to avoid and minimize adverse effects to contributing features of historic properties, including Pershing Park, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Consulting parties have reached consensus that an adverse effect to Pershing Park will occur; WWICC and the NPS are working to identify minimization and mitigation strategies and to draft a memorandum of agreement (MOA).

Agency Review:

Both the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) have reviewed the design concept on multiple occasions. NCPC has reviewed the project twice, in November 2016 and July 2017, providing comments. CFA has reviewed the design four times between December 2015 and February 2018, and granted concept approval in May 2017.

LOCATION AND CONTEXT



BALANCE OF TWO WORKS OF ART

FRIEDBERG’S 3 FOCAL POINTS

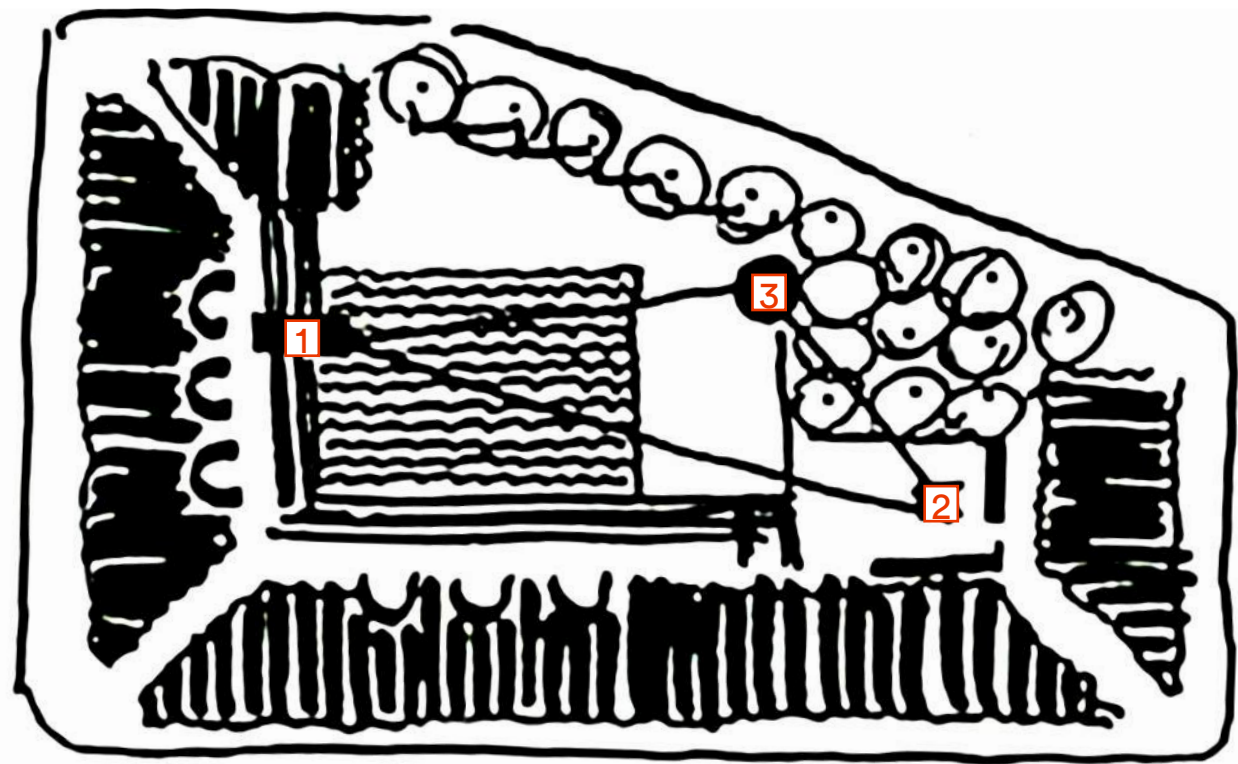
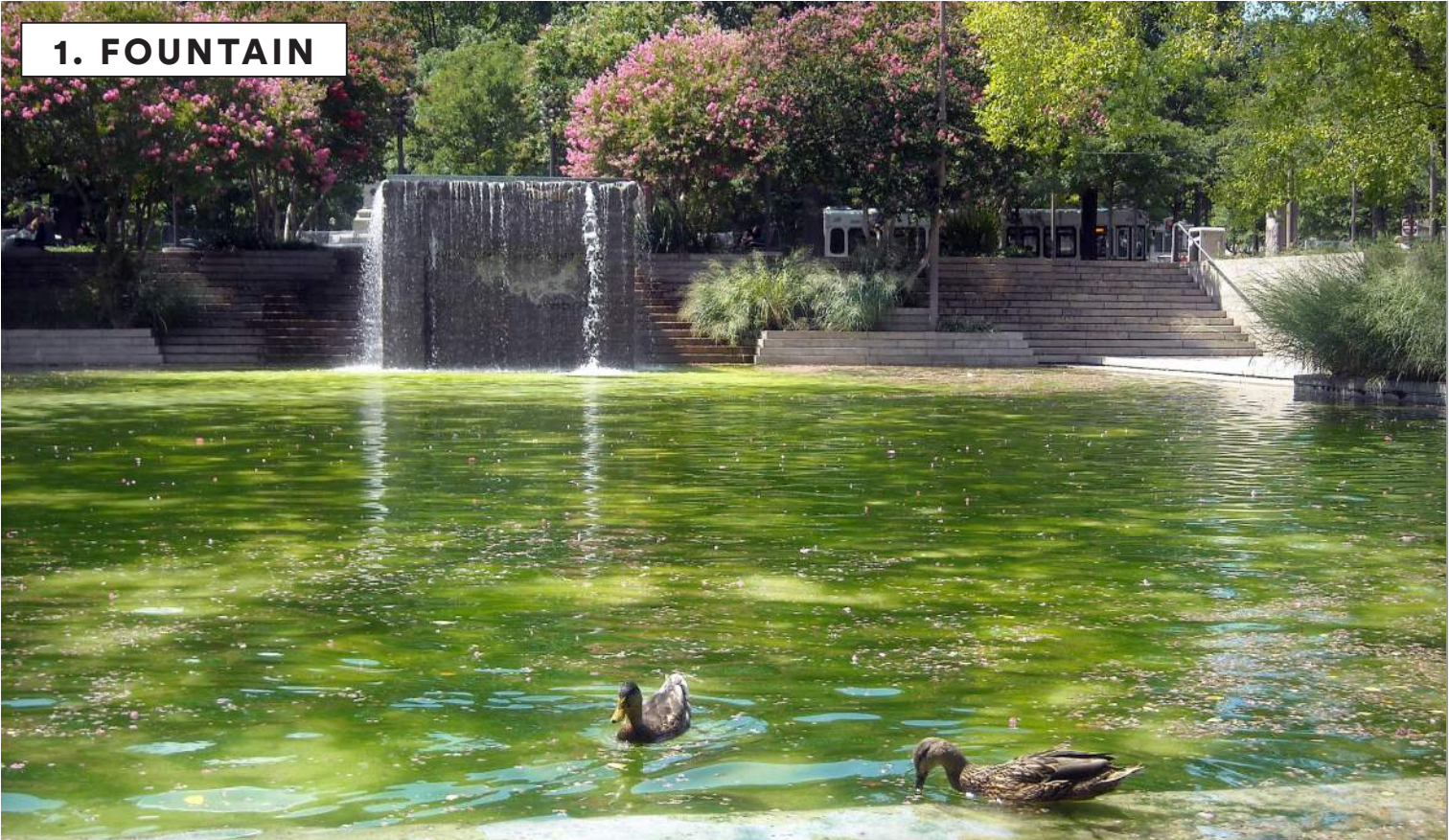


Photo Credit: “Pershing Park,” *Process Architecture* 82, 1989, 77”

1. FOUNTAIN



2. PERSHING MEMORIAL



3. KIOSK



BALANCE TWO WORKS OF ART

FRIEDBERG’S 3 FOCAL POINTS AS THE WWI MEMORIAL

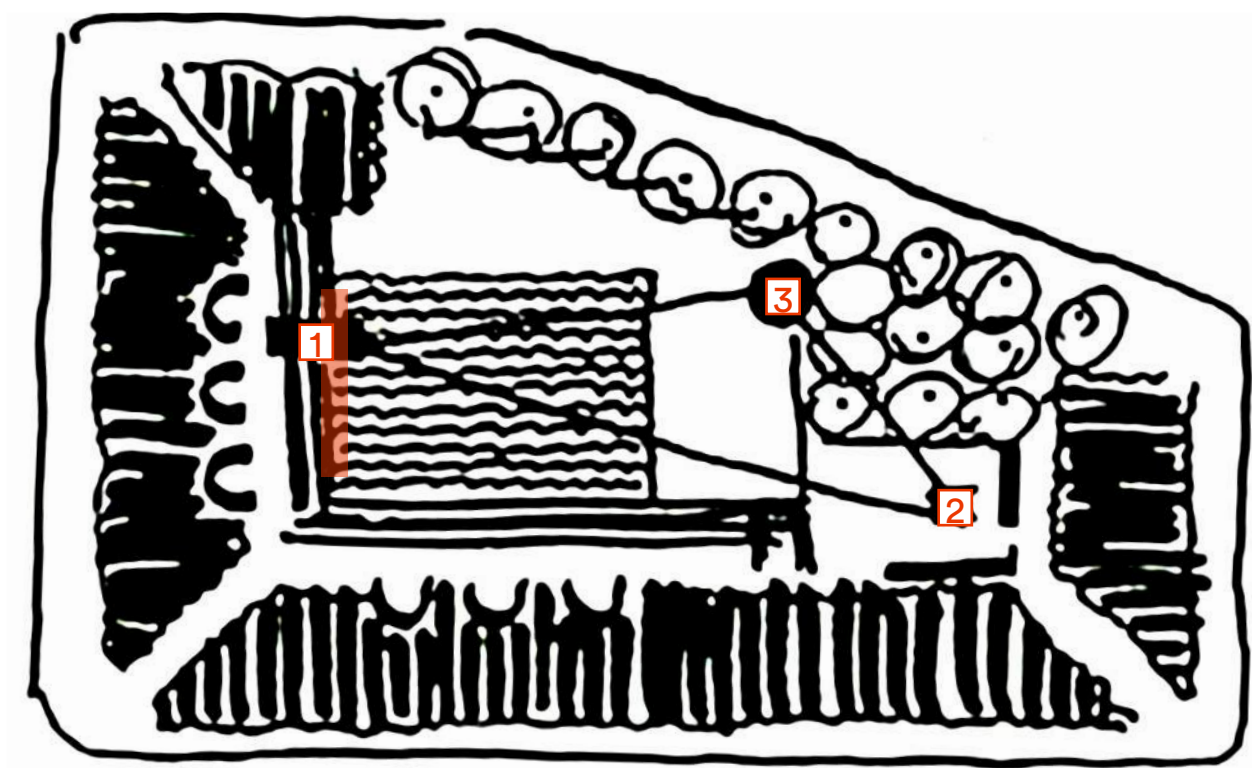


Photo Credit: “Pershing Park,” *Process Architecture* 82, 1989, 77”

1. SCULPTURE



2. PERSHING MEMORIAL



3. FLAGSTAFF

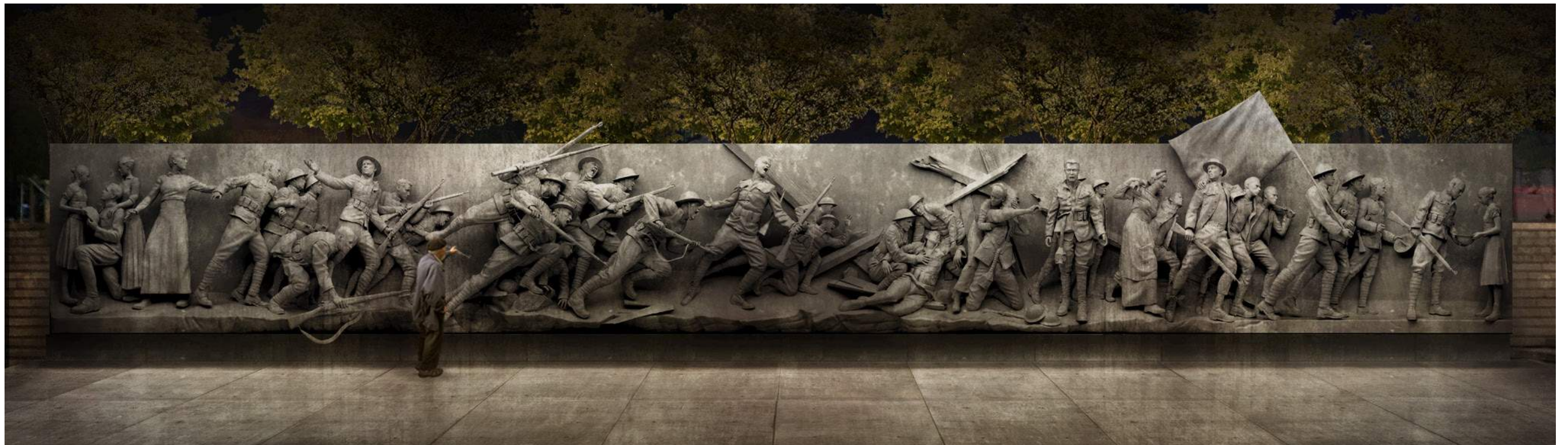


BALANCE TWO WORKS OF ART

SCULPTURE PROGRESS

Howard's sculpture design follows the structure outlined by Joseph Campbell's mono-myth "the hero's journey". The piece, "A Soldier's Journey", includes the five basic narrative elements: departure, initiation, ordeal, aftermath, and return. As with traditional story telling or even film media, each scene of the sculpture is integral to the ones before and after it, creating a single flowing composition that draws viewers in and out of the work in rhythm to the nearly perceivable motion of the figures. The result is a piece which develops points of tension and relief that swirl around the center tumult of battle – what Woodrow Wilson foresaw as "fiery trial and sacrifice" – the courage of American troops in desperate and violent situations. The journey of a recurring figure, an American soldier who appears throughout the sculpture, partakes in the most recognizable tableaux of the war effort. On a second level, the soldier also represents the American experience of World War I and the transition of the nation from political isolationism to a place on the world stage.

Throughout the entire work there is a strong effort to depict the role of all peoples involved in and affected by the war by depicting women, African-Americans and other ethnic groups, and families. Nearly all of the figures proposed appear at just over life scale to make them monumental yet relatable to the public, to keep them from appearing out of scale with the park, and to reduce the size of the sculpture when and where possible.



SCULPTURE PROGRESS



REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

LENGTH REDUCTION STUDIES PRIOR TO FEB 2018 CFA



January 2016 - 324' Commemorative Work

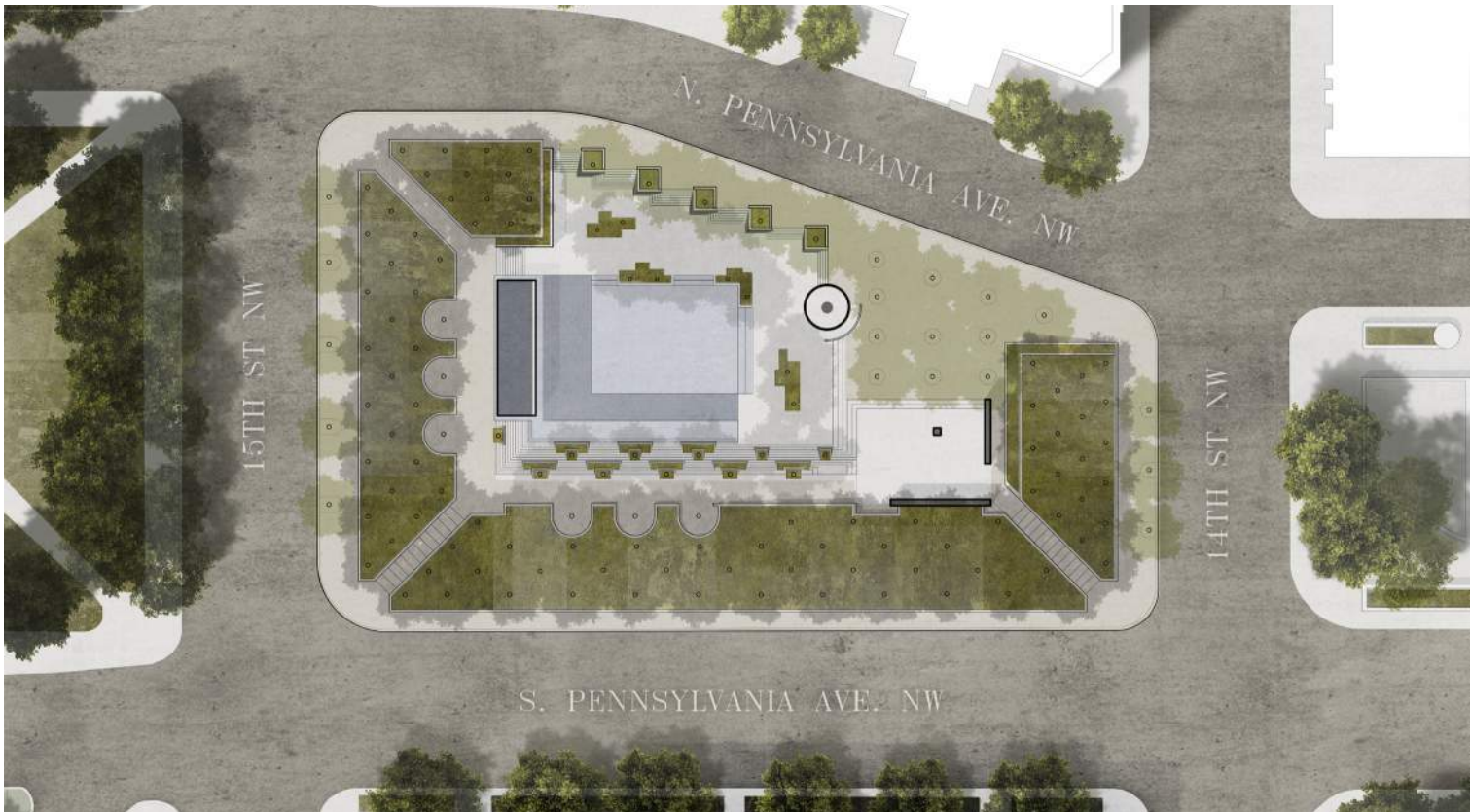


November 2016 - 116' Commemorative Work



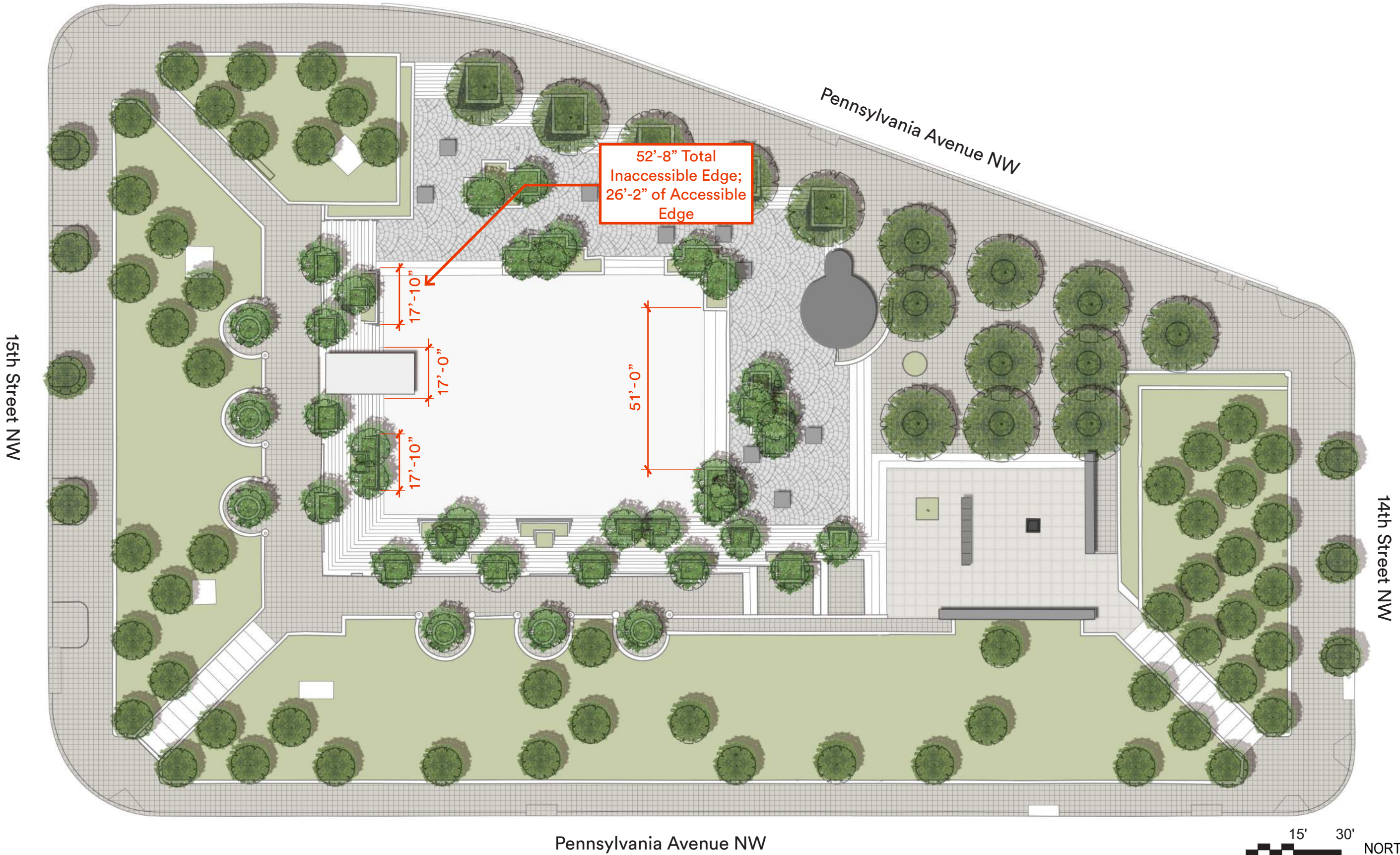
January / February 2017 - 90' Commemorative Work

REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

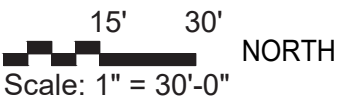


May 2017 - 65' Commemorative Work

IMPORTANT SITE DIMENSIONS FOR SCULPTURE REDUCTION AND ALIGNMENT



REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

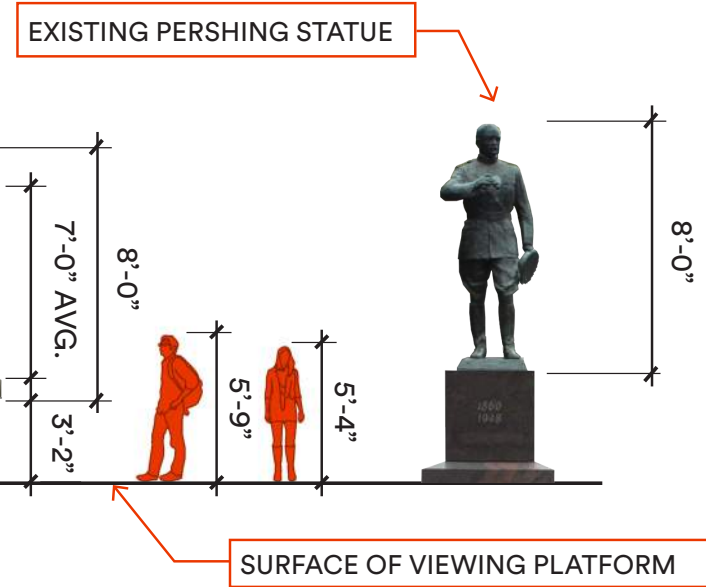


SCALING OF SCULPTURE

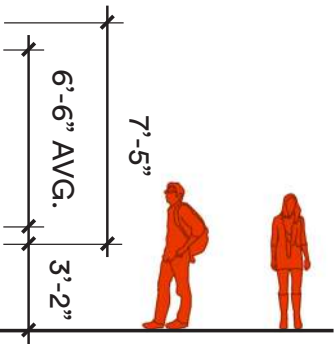
PERCEIVED MONUMENTALITY



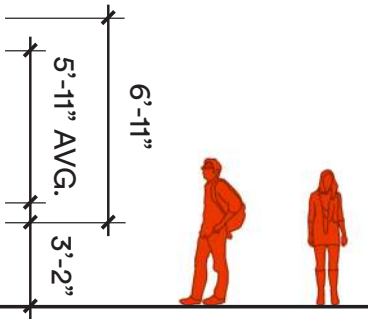
64'-6" Sculpture | 7'-0" Figures, February 2018 Submission (Monumental Scale Figures, Ideal)



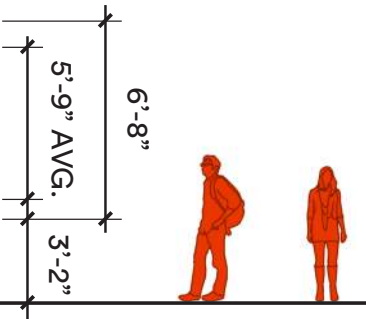
56'-6" Sculpture | 6'-6" Figures (Monumental Scale Figures, Minimum Height)



52'-8" Sculpture | 5'-11" Figures (Non-monumental Scale Figures, Not Appropriate)



51'-0" Sculpture | 5'-9" Figures (Non-monumental Scale Figures, Not Appropriate)



REDUCED MONUMENTALITY

REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

SCALING OF SCULPTURE - IMPACT ON MOUNTING HEIGHT

Comparison to other D.C. sculptures



UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL
BASE HEIGHT: 0'-4"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 7'-0"



GENERAL PERSHING MEMORIAL
BASE HEIGHT: 4'-0"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 8'-0"



DC COURTS - LINCOLN STATUE
BASE HEIGHT: 9'-4"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 9'-0"



JOHN MARSHALL PARK
BASE HEIGHT: 3'-2"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 8'-0"



KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL
BASE HEIGHT: 0'-0"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 7'-4"



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
BASE HEIGHT: 1'-0"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 8'-0"



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
BASE HEIGHT: 11'-0"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 6'-6"

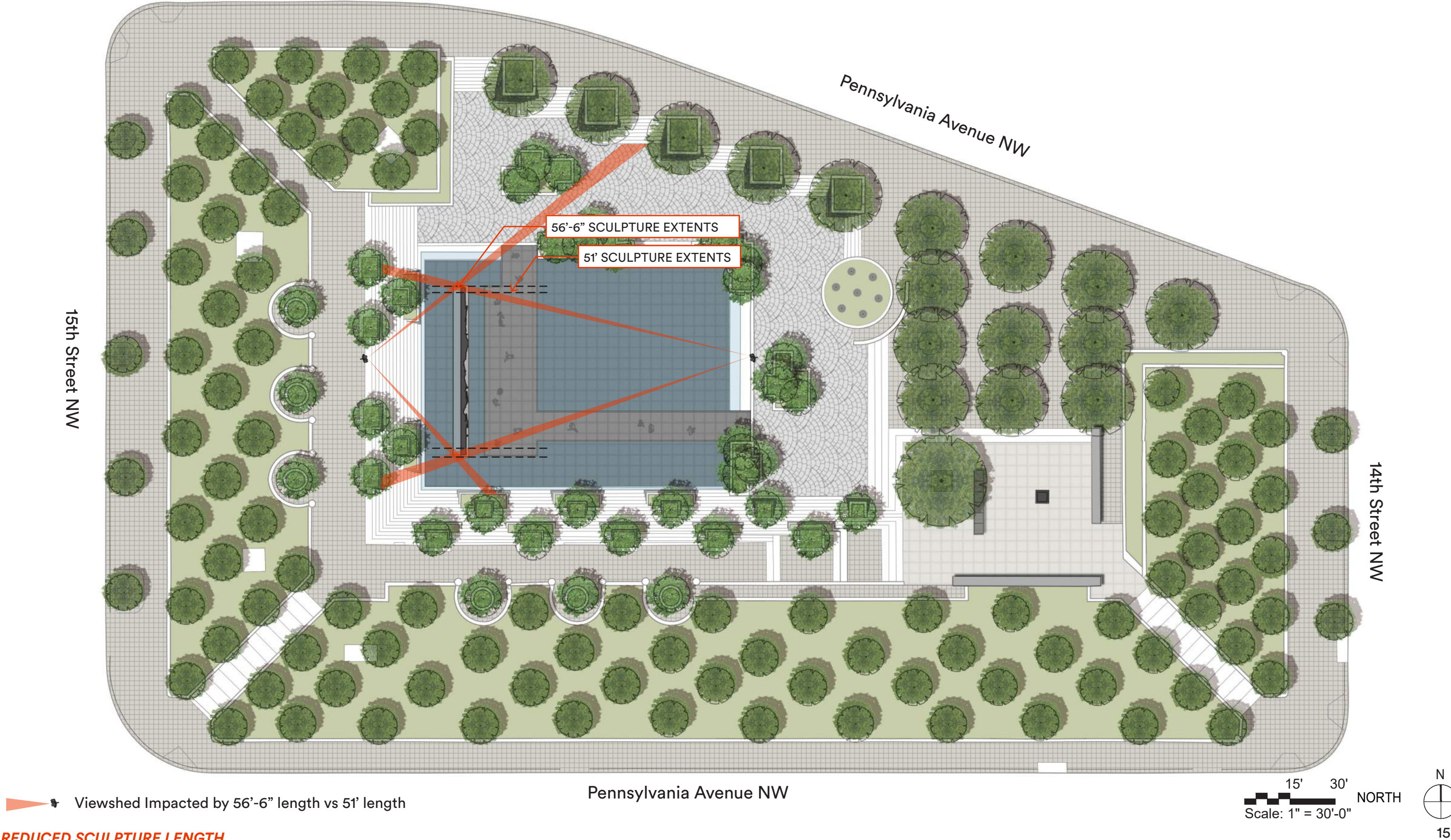


FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL
BASE HEIGHT: 0'-0"
FIGURE HEIGHT: 5'-10"

REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

IMPACT OF SCULPTURE LENGTH ON SITE (56'-6" VS 51')

Viewshed Analysis



VISUAL IMPACT OF SCULPTURE LENGTH ON SITE (56'-6" VS 51')

Viewshed Analysis



REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

VISUAL IMPACT OF SCULPTURE LENGTH ON SITE (56'-6" VS 51')

Viewshed Analysis



REDUCED SCULPTURE LENGTH

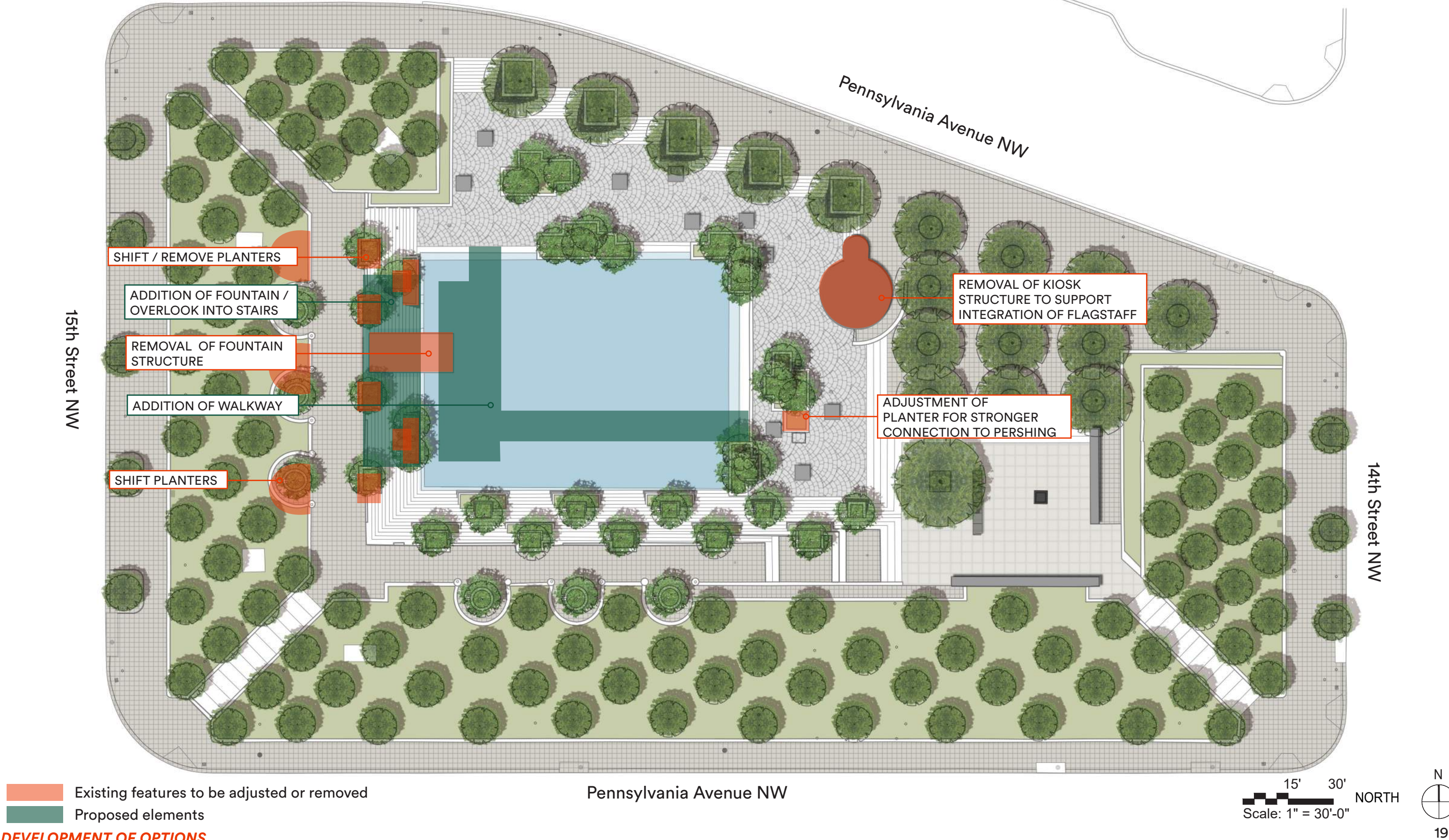
DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS

FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

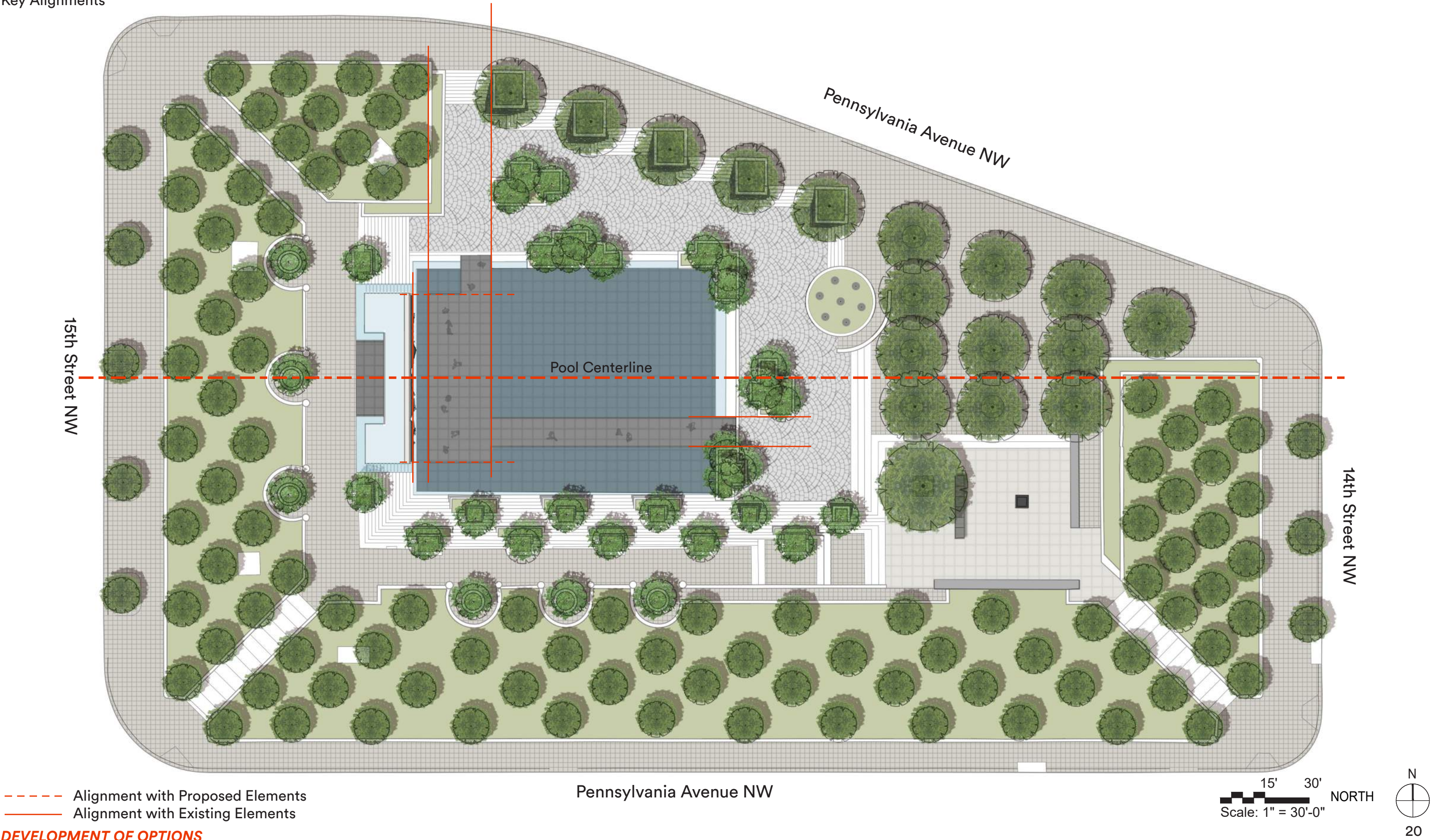
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Impact on Site



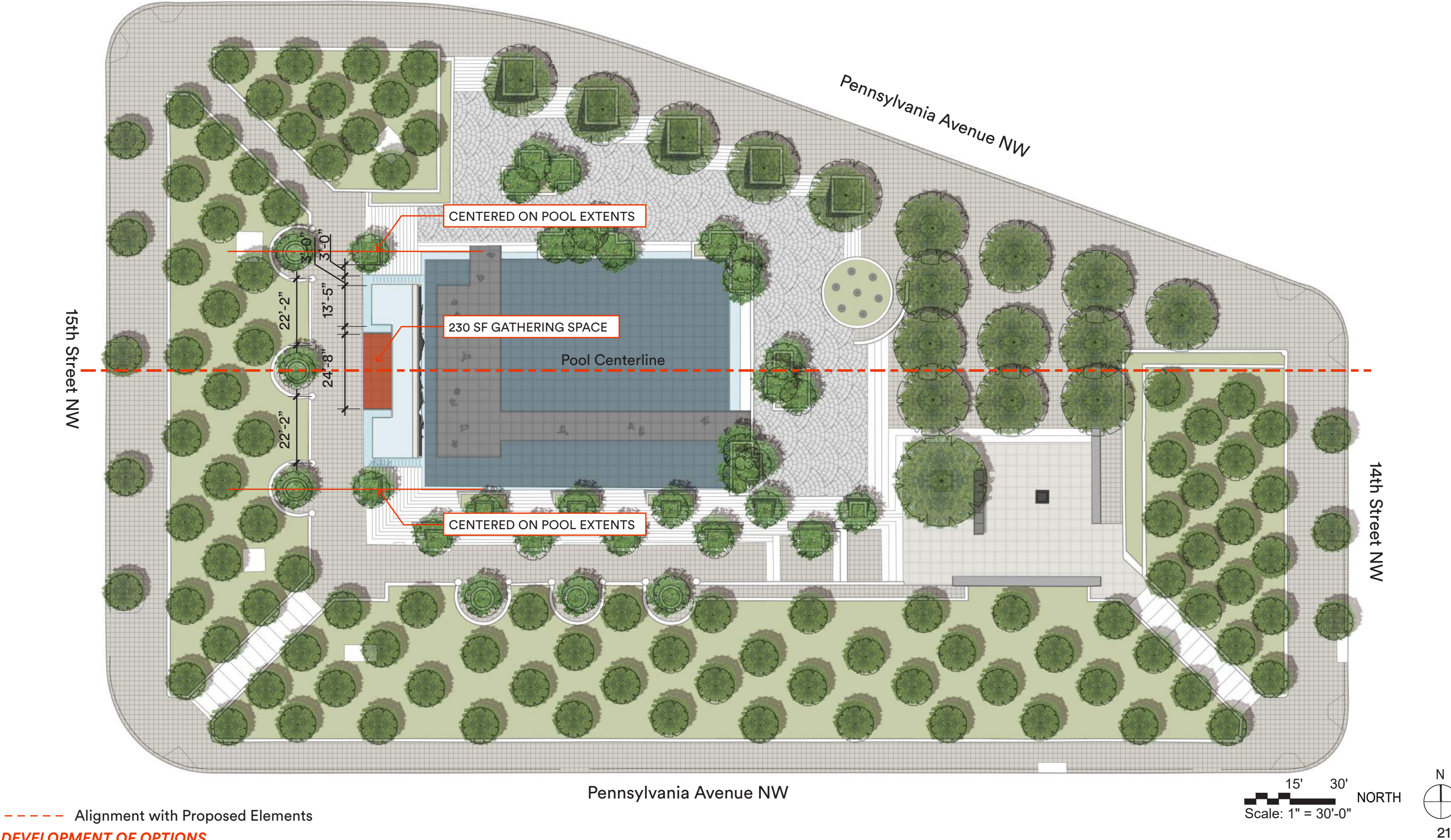
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Key Alignments



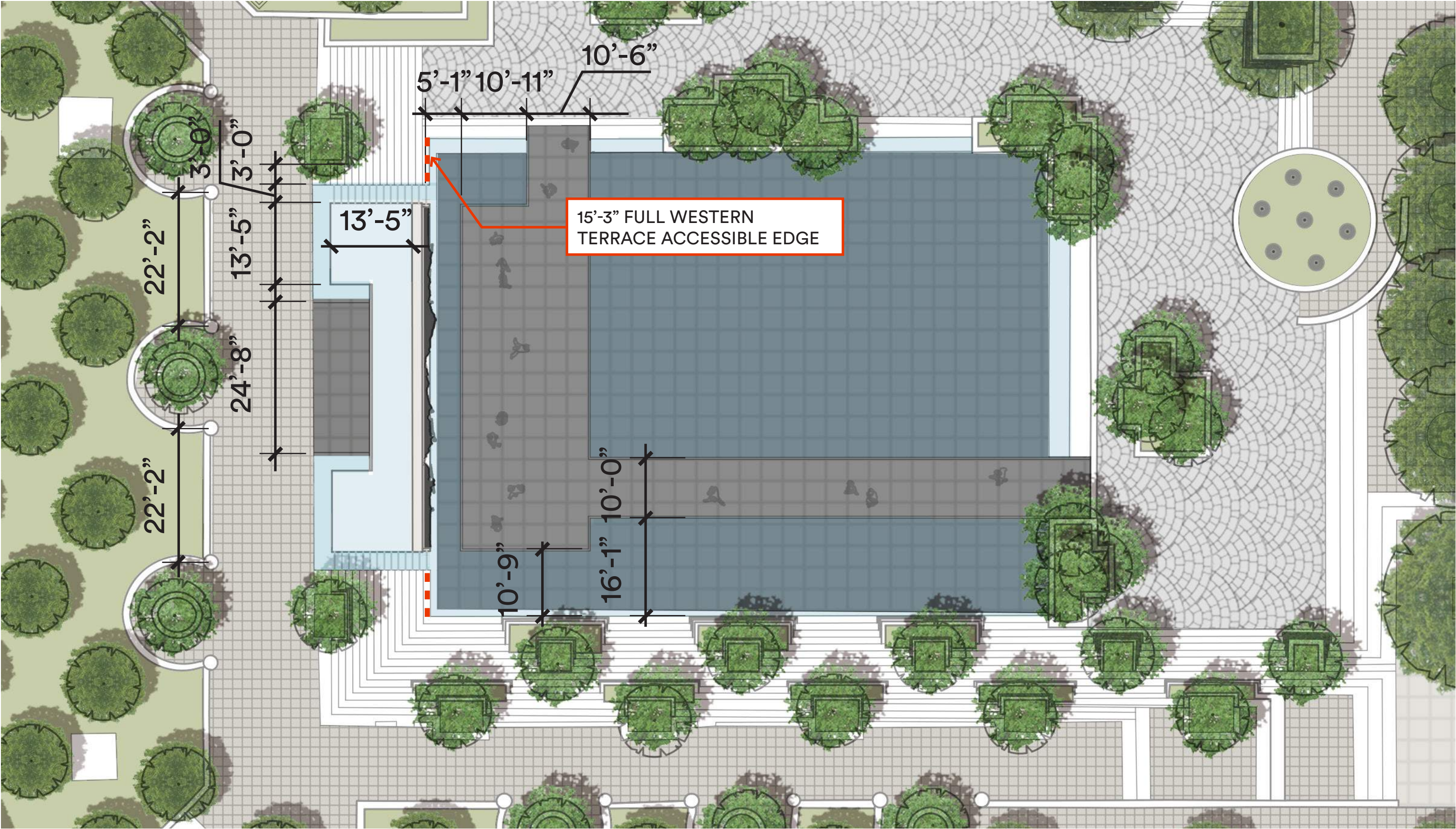
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

West Terrace Alignment



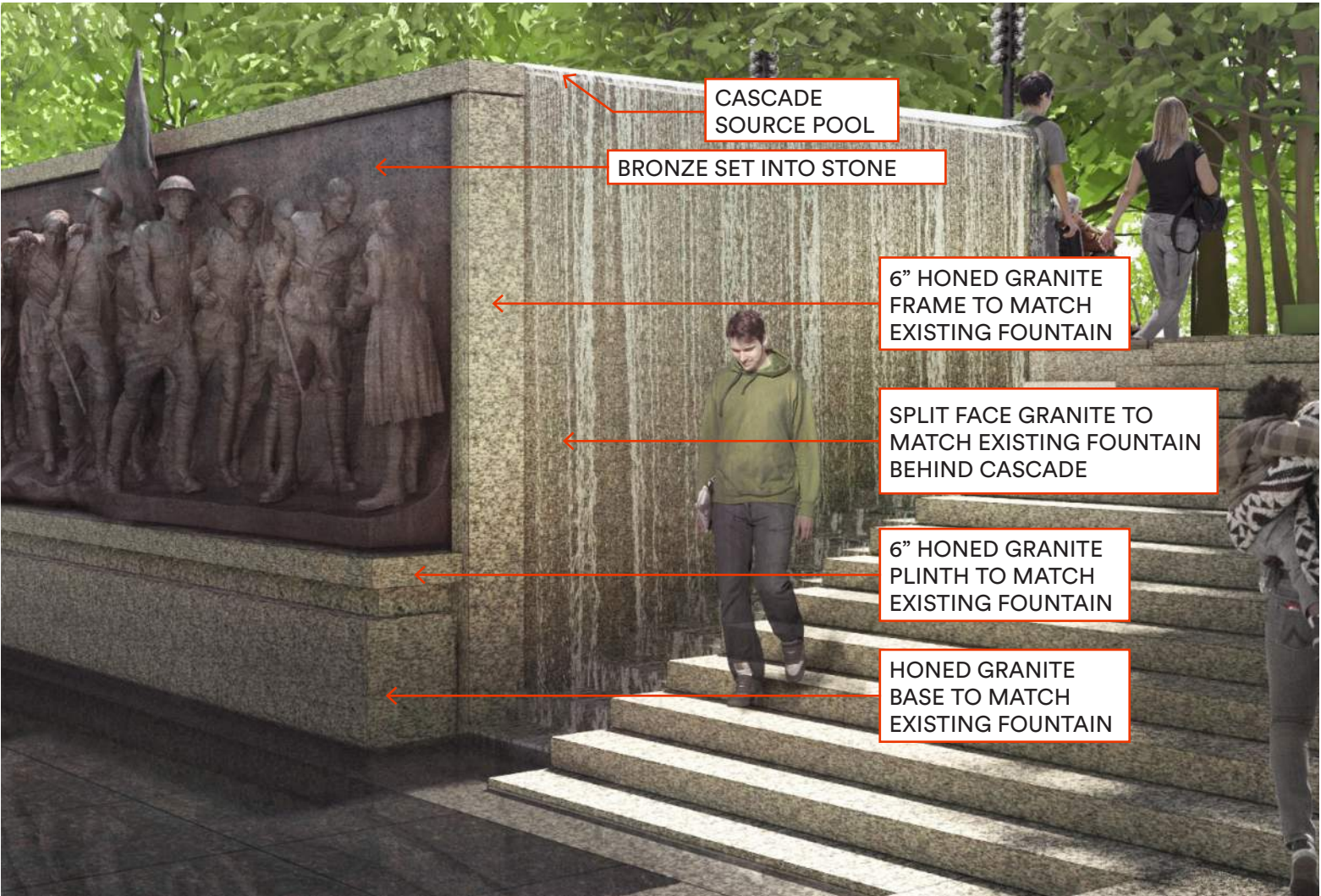
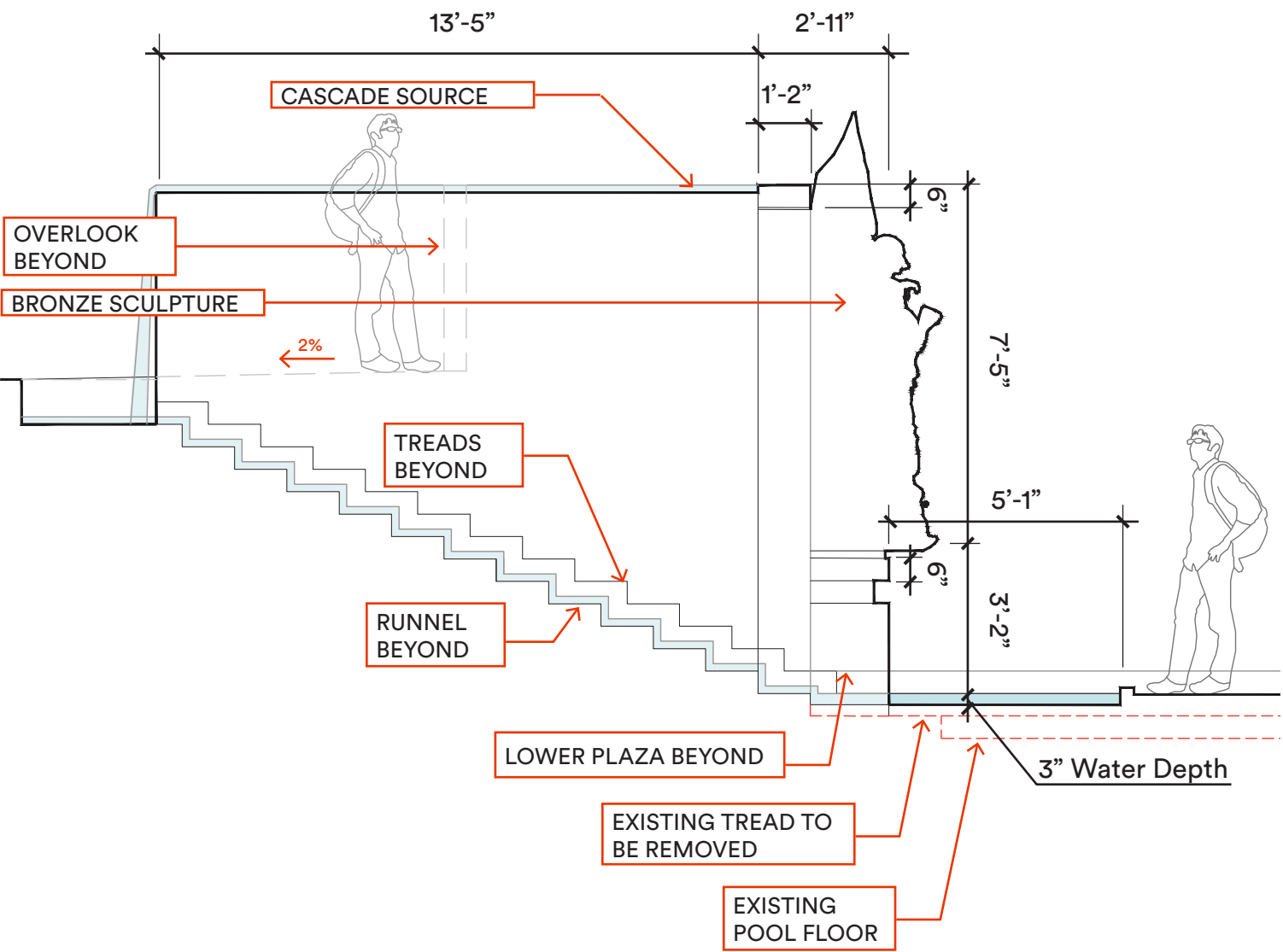
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Design Dimensions



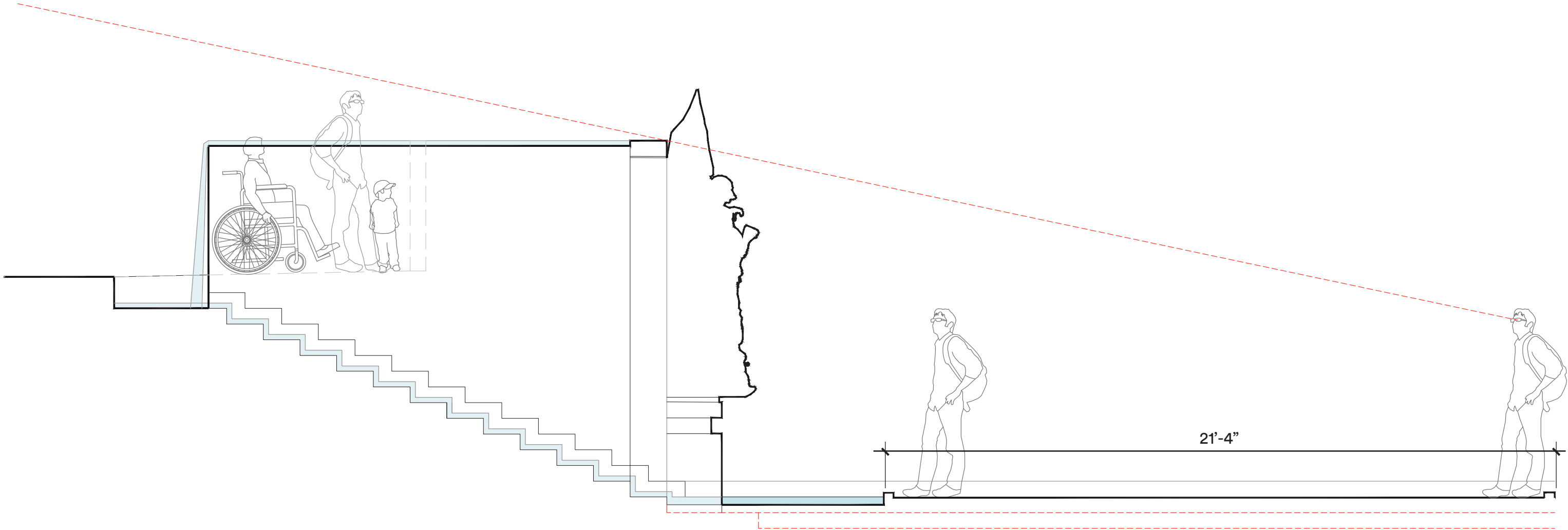
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Integration and Detailing



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Overlook Sight Lines



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: INTEGRATED (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)



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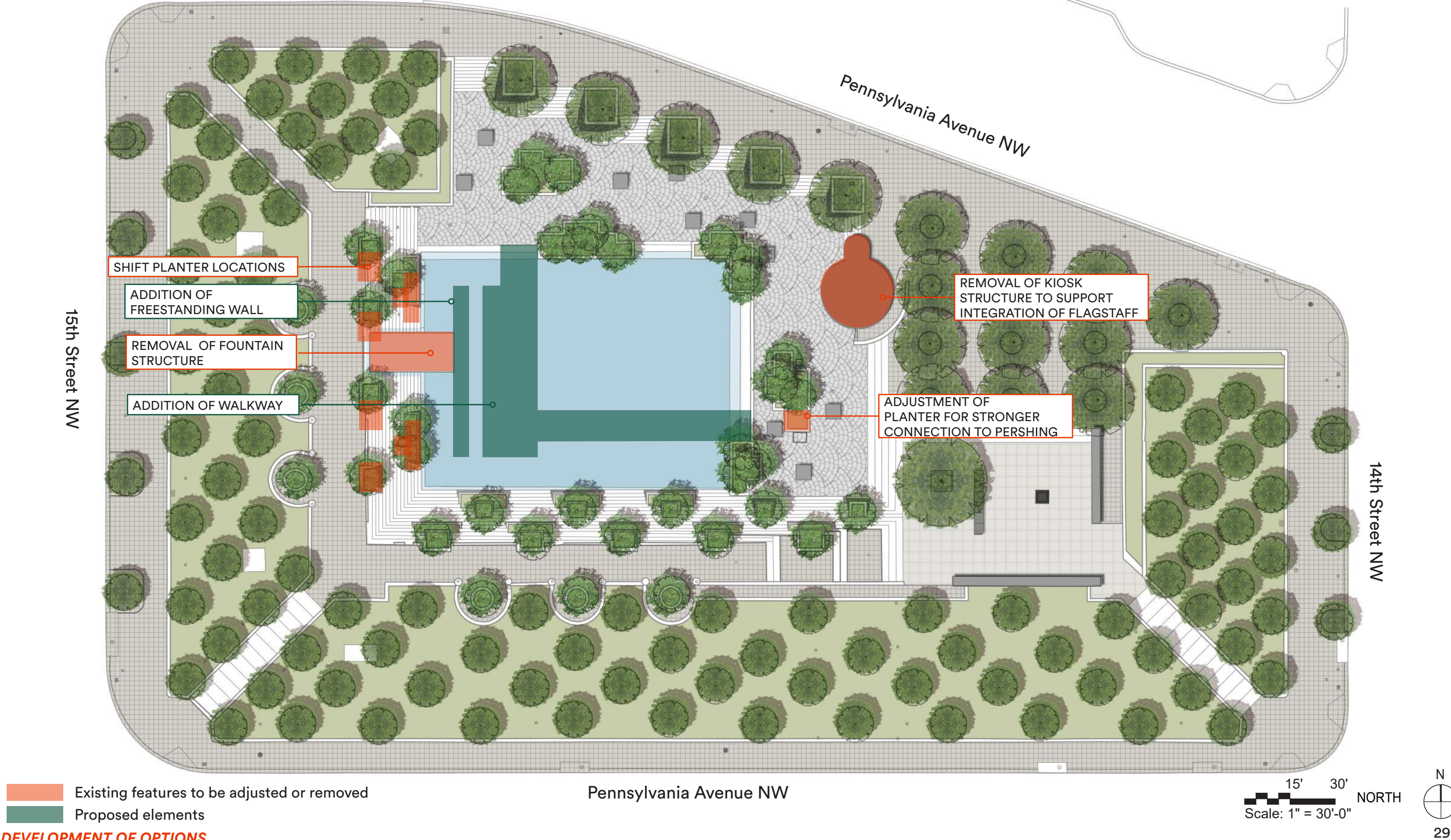


INTEGRATED: ALTERNATE OVERLOOK / PLANTING TREATMENT OPTIONS



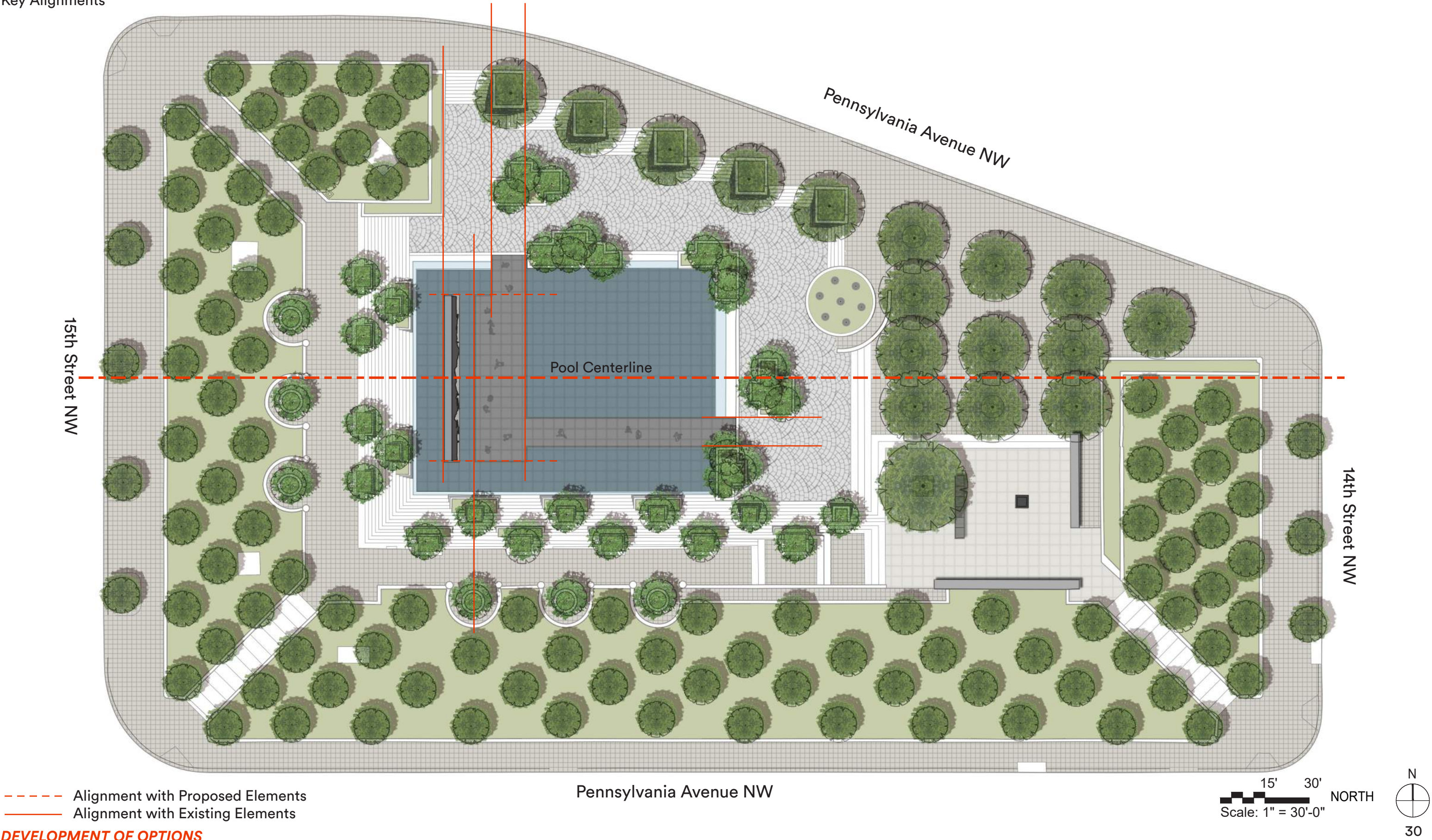
FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Impact on Site



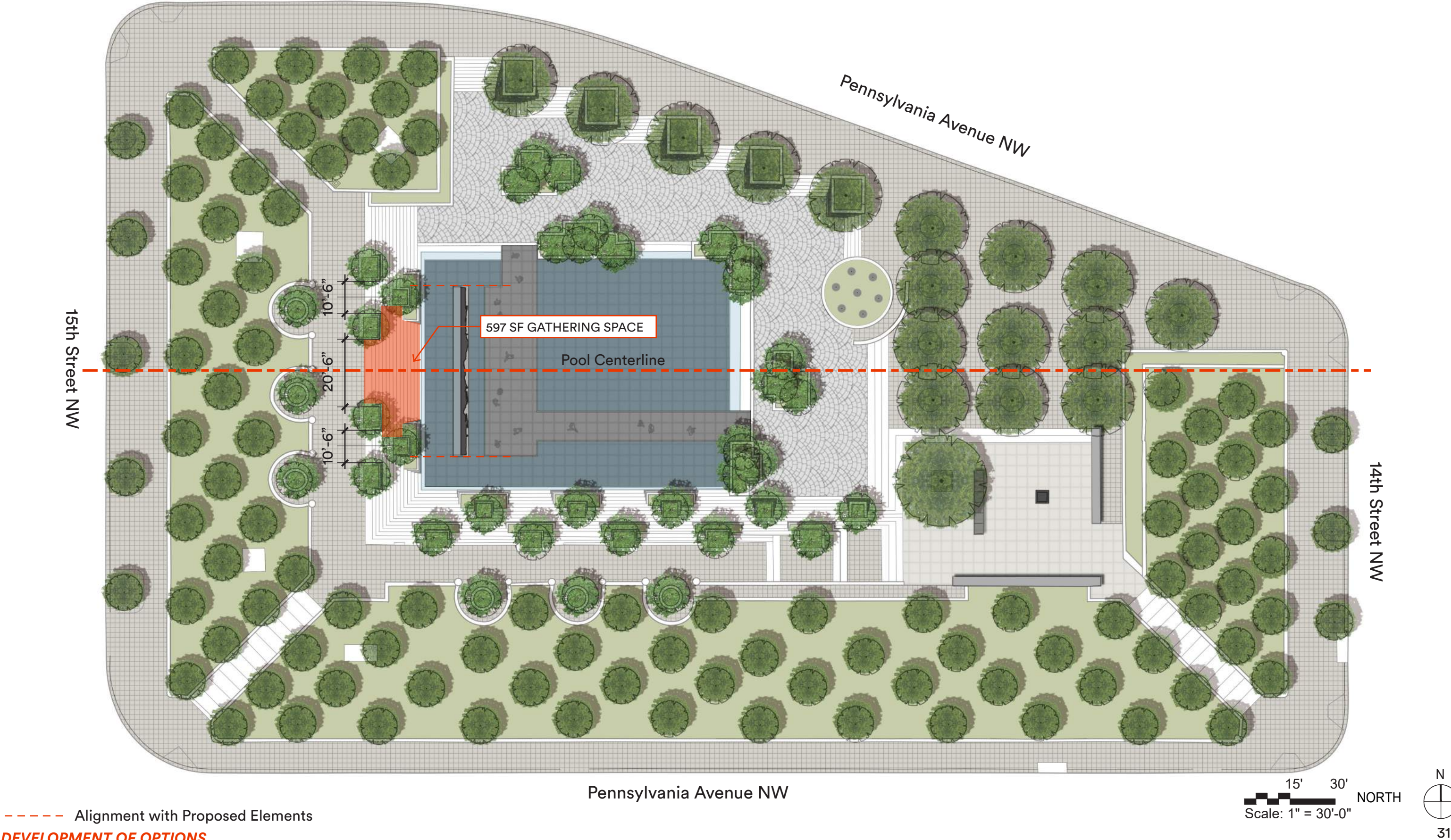
FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Key Alignments



FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

West Terrace Alignment

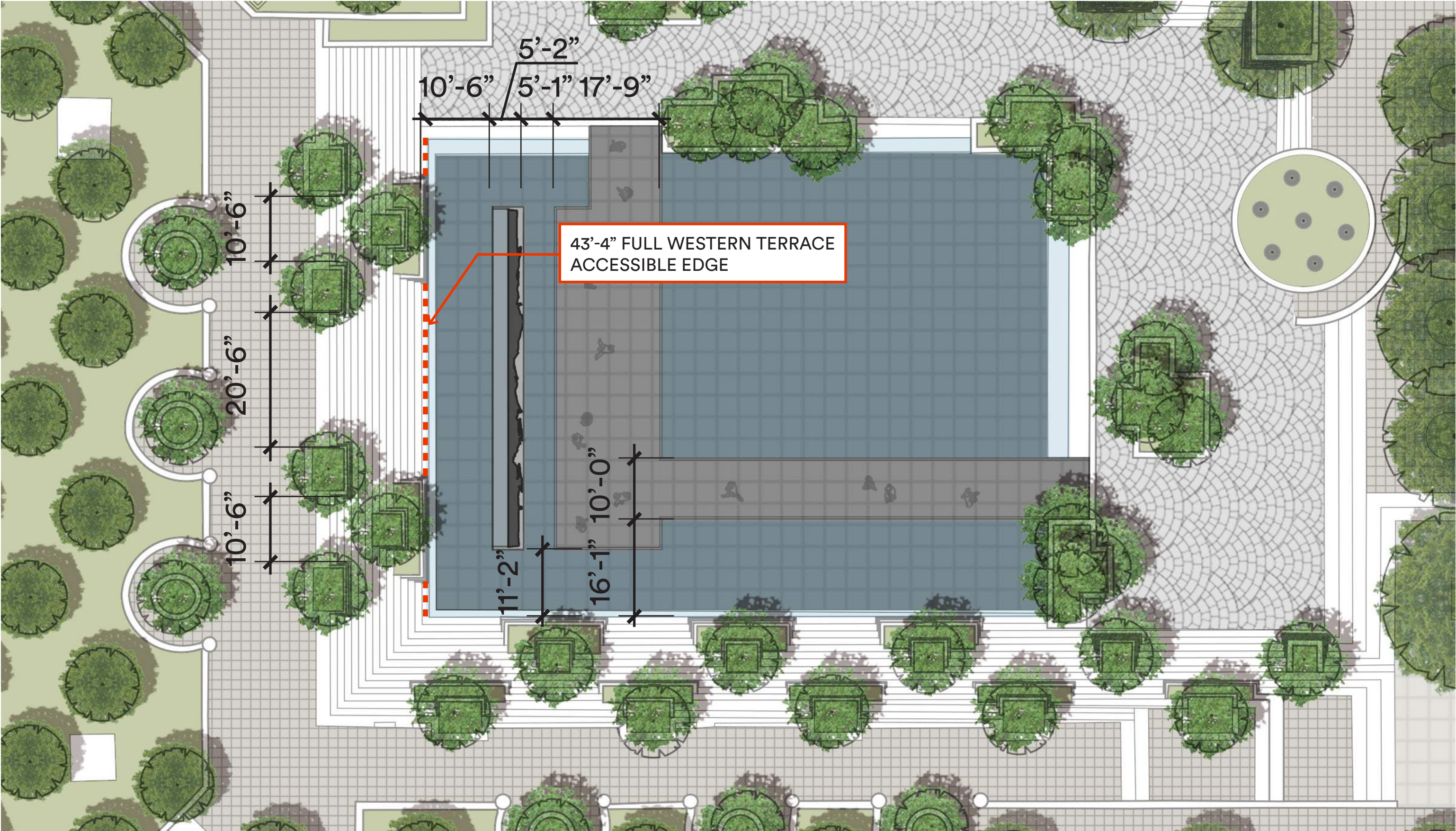


----- Alignment with Proposed Elements

DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS

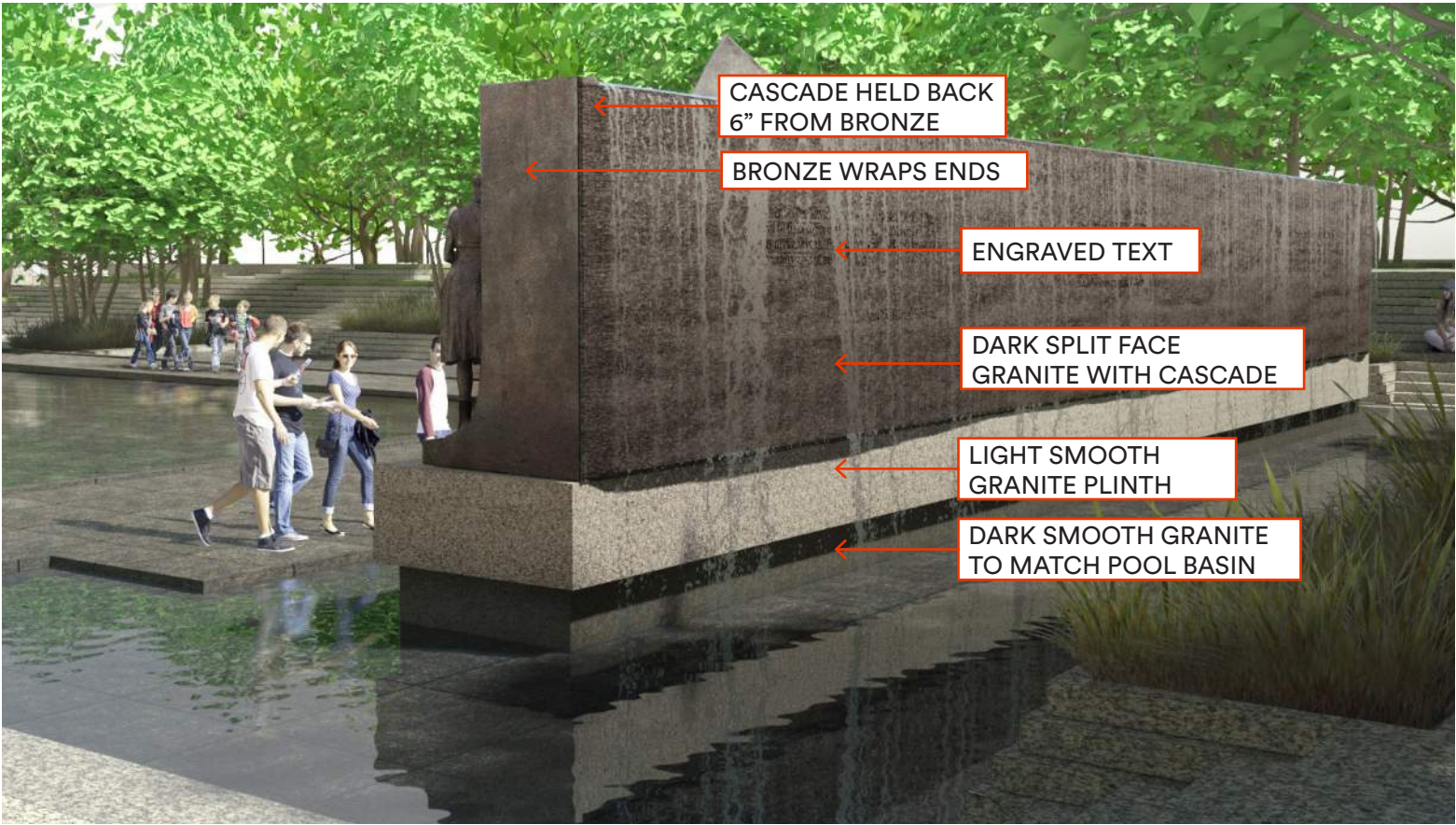
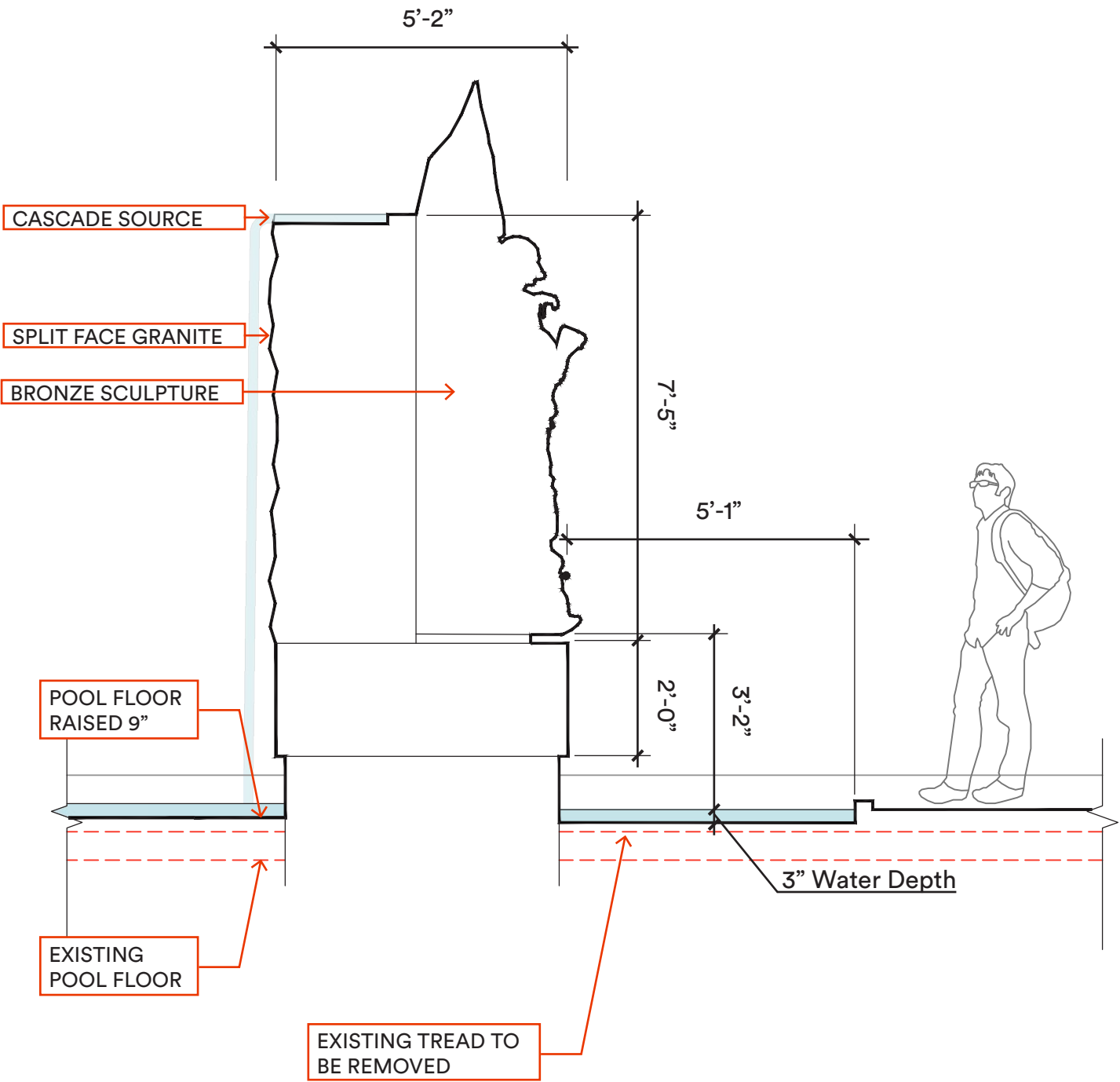
FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Design Dimensions



FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)

Integration and Detailing



FREESTANDING (6'-6" FIGURES, 56'-6" SCULPTURE)



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SUMMARY OF OPTIONS



Preferred Alternative: Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



Freestanding (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



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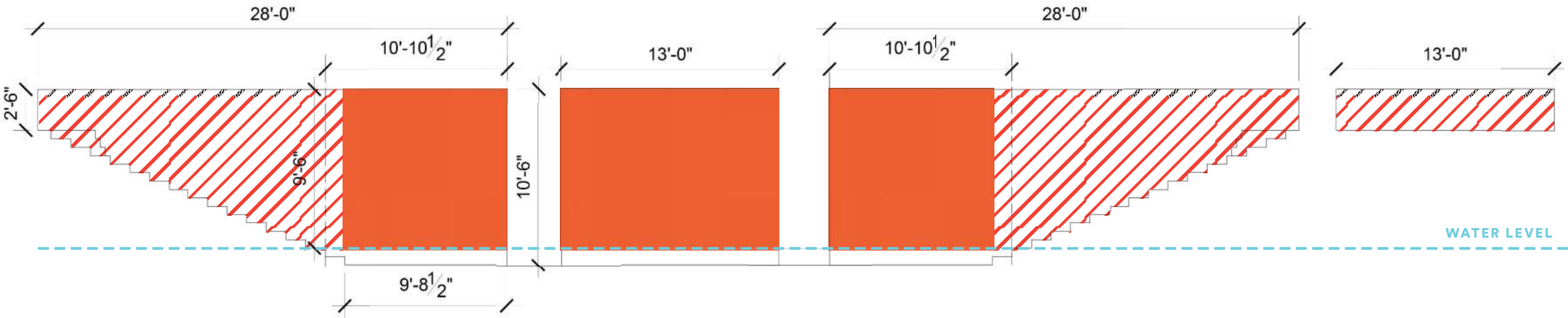


Freestanding (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)

CONSIDERATION OF THE FOUNTAIN

AUDIBLE EXPERIENCE

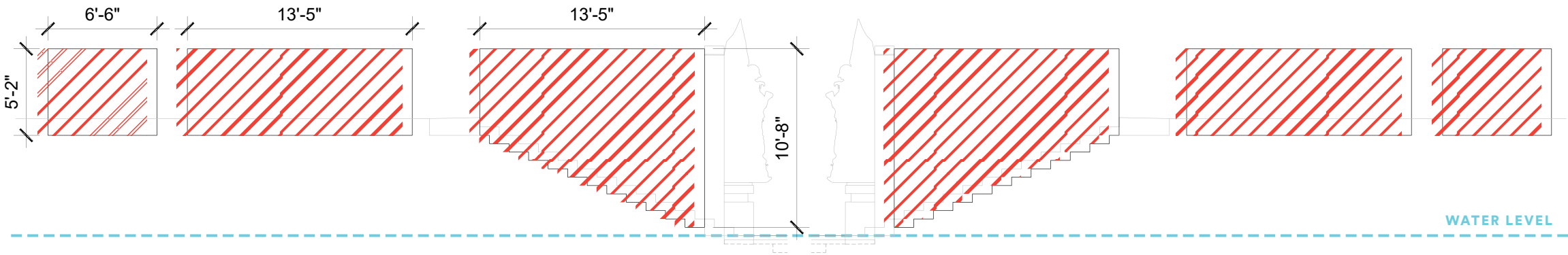
EXISTING CONDITION: COMBINATION CASCADE INTO POOL AND RUNNEL



Length of Cascade into Pool = 34'-9"
Length of Cascade into Runnel = 47'-3"

Area of Cascade into Pool = 372 sf
Area of Cascade into Runnel = 307 SF

INTEGRATED: ONLY INTO RUNNELS



Length of Cascade into Runnel = 66'-8"

Area of Cascade into Runnel = 422 SF

FREESTANDING: ALL INTO POOL



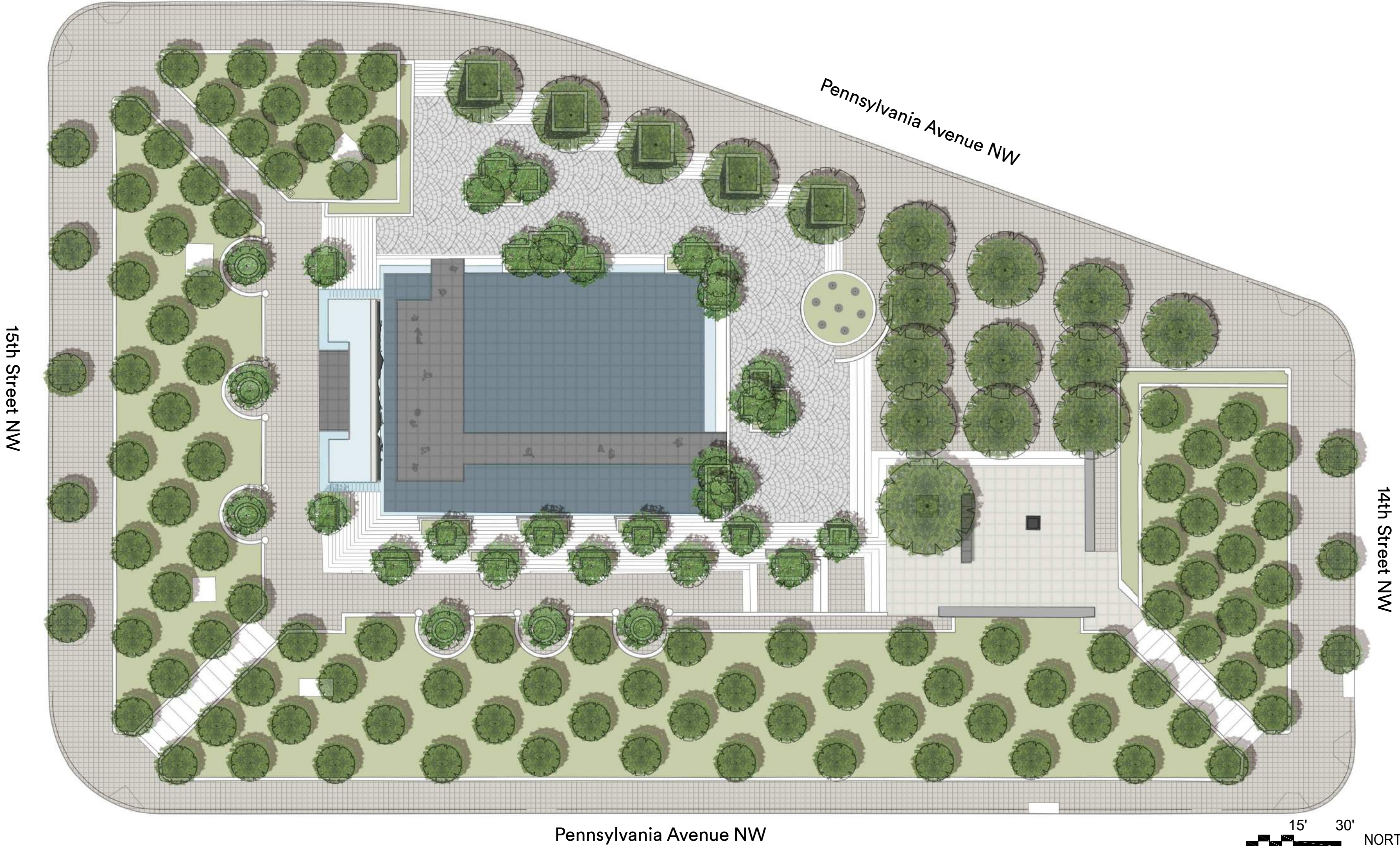
Length of Cascade into Pool = 55'-6"

Area of Cascade into Pool = 570 sf

RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

WALKWAY L

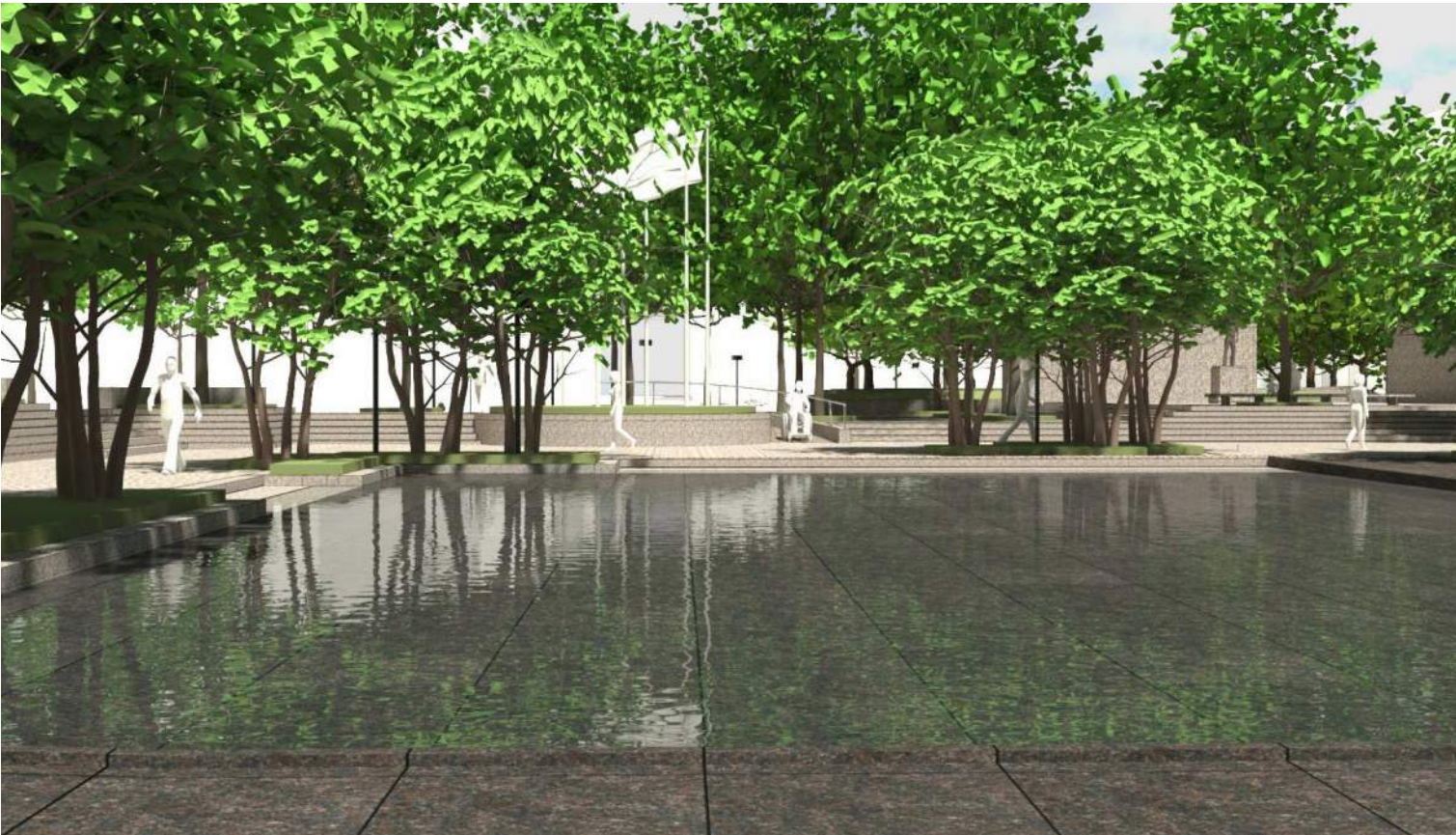
Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

WALKWAY L

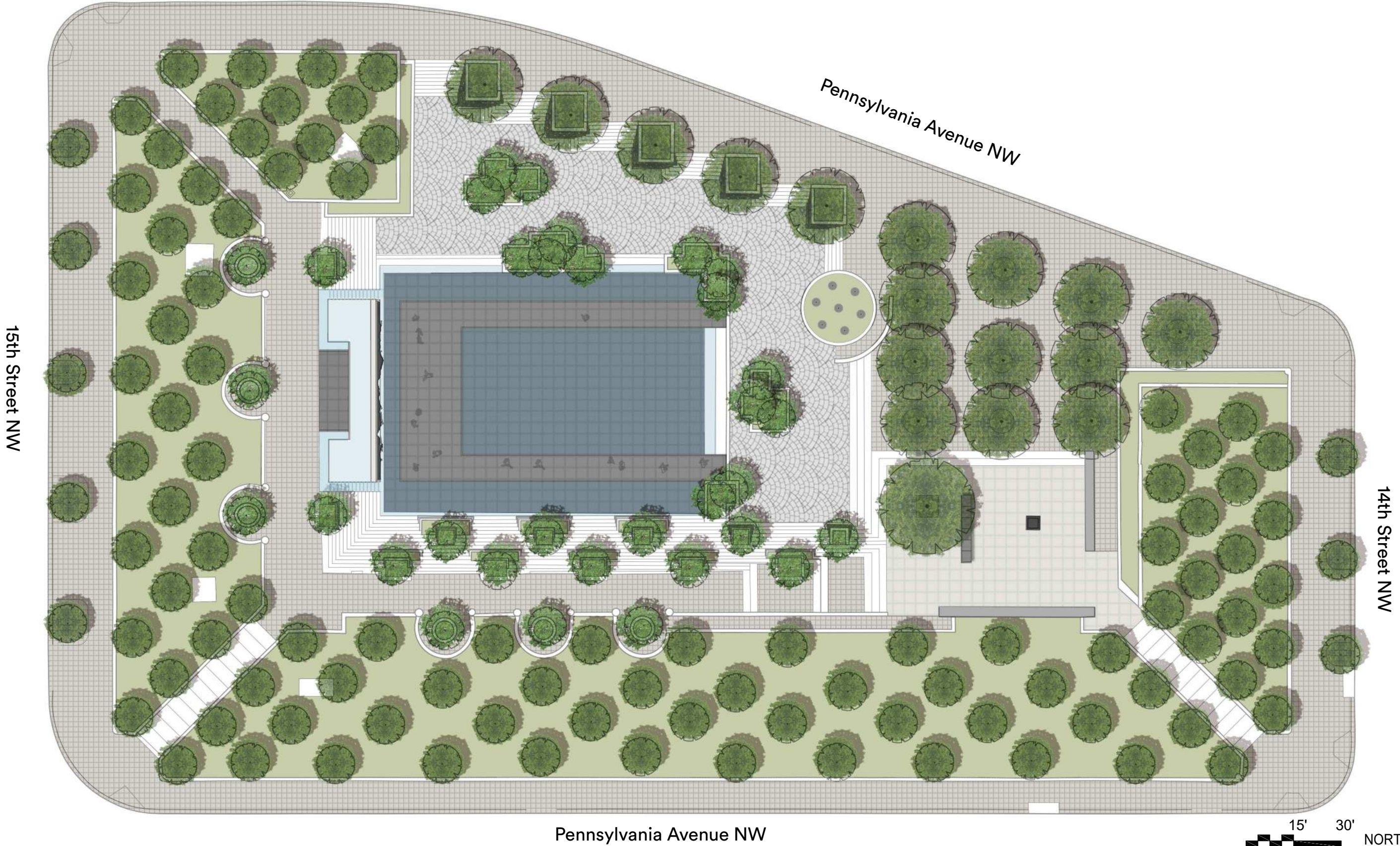
Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

WALKWAY LOOP

Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

WALKWAY LOOP

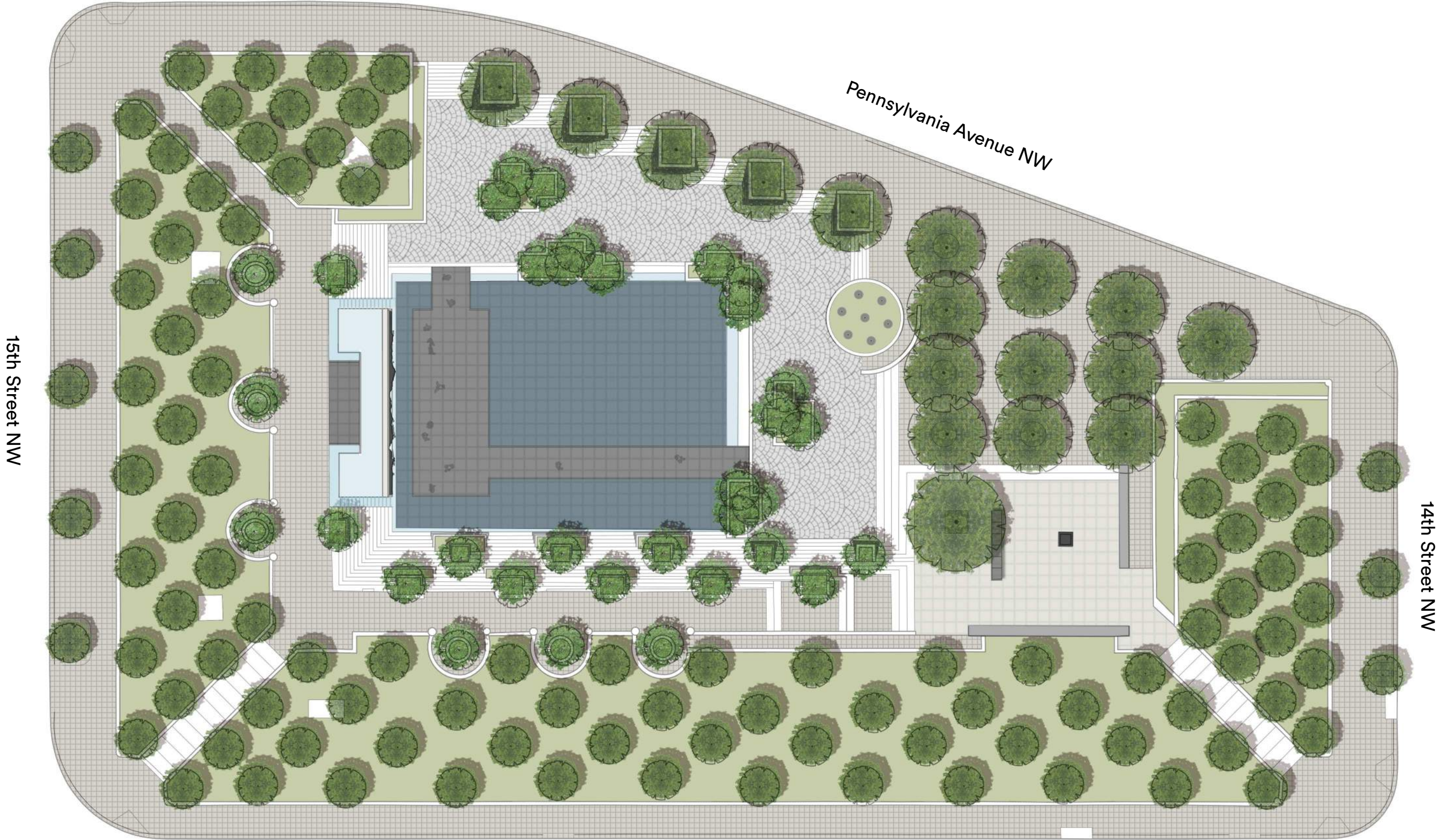
Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



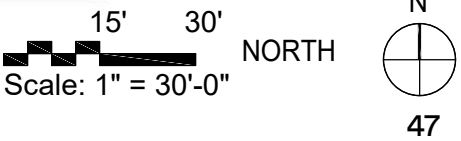
RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

WALKWAY PLATFORM

Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY



WALKWAY PLATFORM

Integrated (6'-6" Figures, 56'-6" Sculpture)



RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

WALKWAY SUMMARY

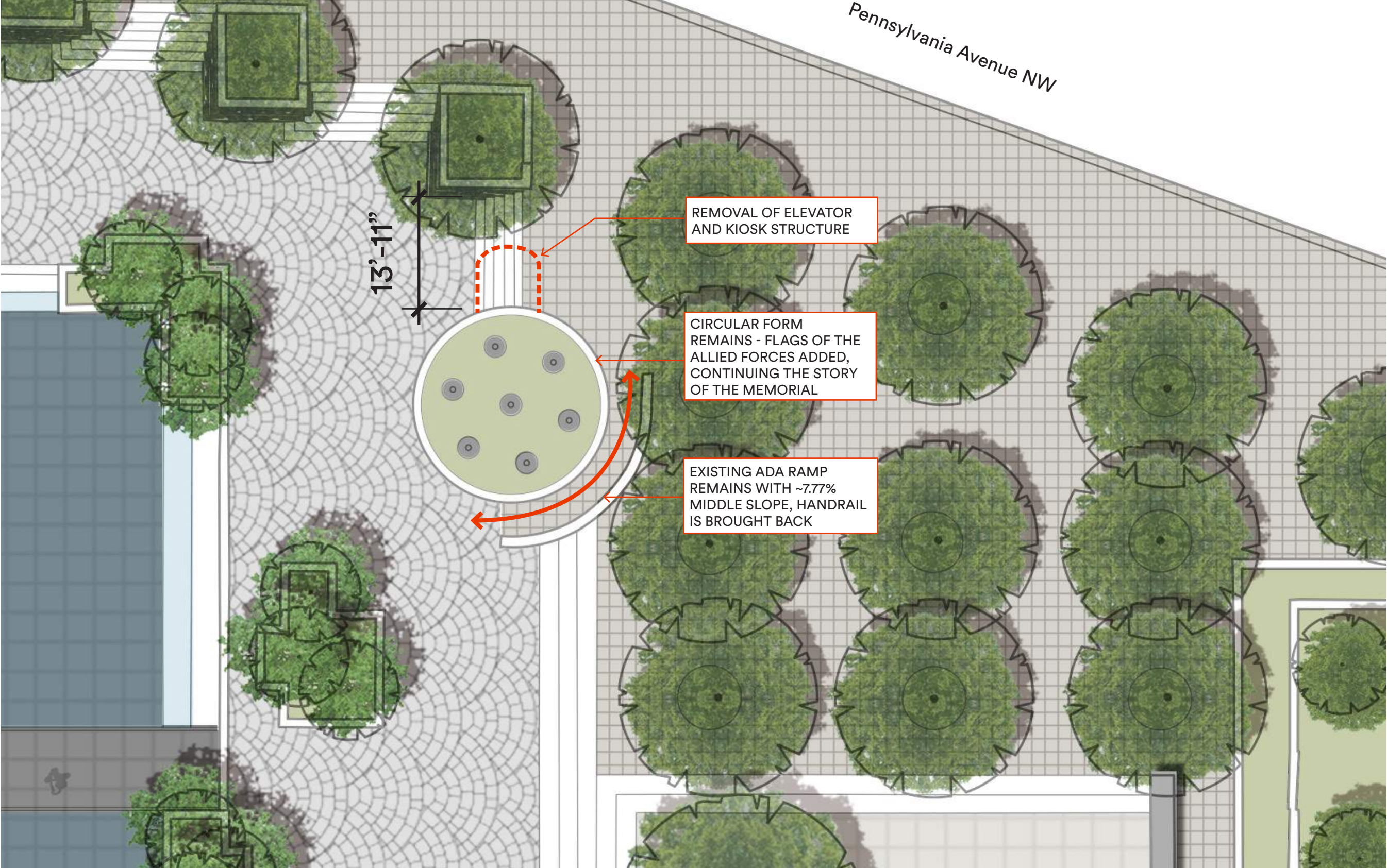


RELATIONSHIP OF WALKWAYS TO POOL EDGES AND REFINEMENT OF WALKWAY

FURTHER STUDY OF THE KIOSK

ROUND FLAGSTAFF

7 Flags



↔ Accessible Ramps

FURTHER STUDY OF THE KIOSK

ROUND FLAGSTAFF

7 Flags



FURTHER STUDY OF THE KIOSK

ROUND FLAGSTAFF

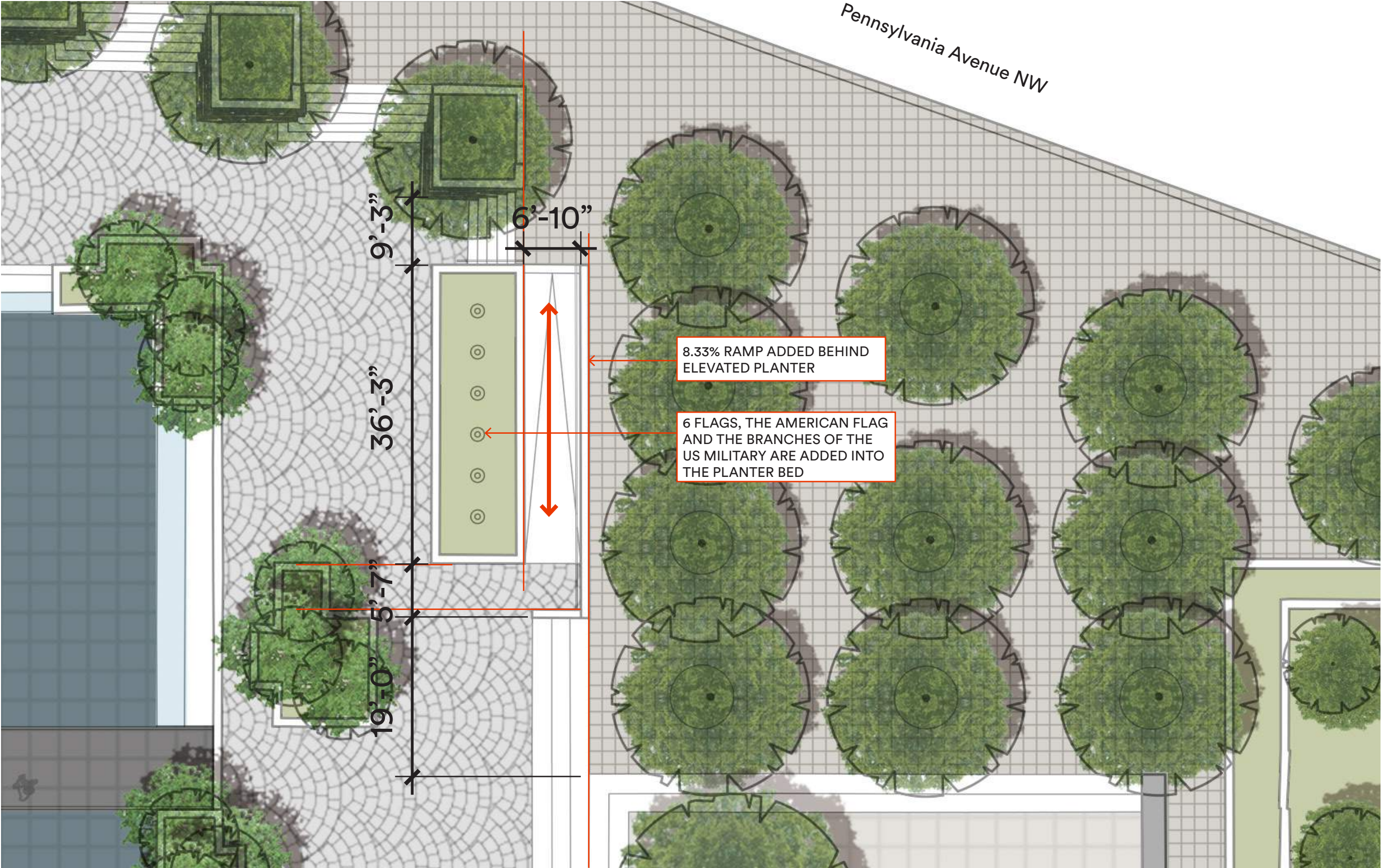
7 Flags



FURTHER STUDY OF THE KIOSK

RECTANGULAR FLAGSTAFF

6 Flags



↔ Accessible Ramps
— Alignment with Existing Elements
FURTHER STUDY OF THE KIOSK

RECTANGULAR FLAGSTAFF ALTERNATE

6 Flags



RECTANGULAR FLAGSTAFF ALTERNATE

6 Flags



FURTHER STUDY OF THE KIOSK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

EXISTING CONDITIONS

TREE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY

EXISTING CONDITIONS



TREE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY

