

Purpose & Significance of Park

THE CONTEXT FOR ANY PROPOSED ACTION WITHIN PRESIDENT'S PARK IS BASED ON STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE AS OUTLINED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE DESIGN PLAN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT'S PARK (2000). THE STATEMENTS BELOW PERTAIN TO PRESIDENT'S PARK SOUTH.

PURPOSE

PRESERVE THE CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE WHITE HOUSE – ITS ARCHITECTURE, ARTIFACTS, LANDSCAPE DESIGN, GARDENS AND GROUNDS, AND THE SURROUNDING PARKLANDS – IN WAYS THAT FOSTER AND PRESERVE DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, WHILE STILL ALLOWING FOR THEIR USE.

PROVIDE A DIGNIFIED TRANSITION AREA FROM AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE ENVIRONS.

INTERPRET THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESIDENCY, THE WHITE HOUSE, AND PRESIDENT'S PARK, INCLUDING THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, OUR REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE GROWTH OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESERVE EXISTING HISTORIC MEMORIALS AS EXAMPLES OF MEMORIAL ART.

PROVIDE A LARGE OPEN AREA ASSOCIATED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE FOR FREEDOM OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS FOR PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT.

PROTECT AND ENHANCE VIEWS TO AND FROM THE WHITE HOUSE AND PROVIDE A SETTING FOR VIEWING THE WHITE HOUSE.

SIGNIFICANCE

PRESIDENT'S PARK REFLECTS THE GROWTH OF THE PRESIDENCY, AS WELL AS THE EVOLVING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES OF OUR NATION.

THE PARK IS THE OLDEST FEDERAL RESERVATION IN THE NATION, AND IT IS A NATIONAL SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC LANDSCAPE THAT CONTINUES TO REFLECT THE DESIGN PRINCIPLES OF PIERRE L'ENFANT IN 1791, ANDREW JACKSON DOWNING IN 1851, AND THE OLMSTED BROTHERS IN THE 1930S – DESIGN PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME.

PRESIDENT'S PARK IS INTEGRAL TO THE HISTORIC LAYOUT OF THE CITY, WHICH WAS INITIALLY DESIGNED TO PHYSICALLY REPRESENT THE FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THE THREE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT.

MEMORIALS THAT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMMEMORATE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE NATION'S HISTORY. THE WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS CONTAIN COMMEMORATIVE PLANTINGS BY PRESIDENTS AND FIRST LADIES.

THE WHITE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT'S PARK CONTAIN VALUABLE OPEN SPACE IN THE CENTER OF A DENSELY URBAN ENVIRONMENT. THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST FAMILY, AND THE PUBLIC. THE SURROUNDING PRESIDENT'S PARK, ALSO ALLOWS FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND ASSEMBLY CLOSE TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND IT SERVES AS A NATIONAL AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL STAGE FOR THE EXPRESSION OF FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS AND FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO PETITION THEIR GOVERNMENT.

AS A FOCUS OF NATIONAL EVENTS FOR OVER 200 YEARS, THE WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS AND PRESIDENT'S PARK CONTAIN IMPORTANT HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY AND TO THE HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

President's Park South Project



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE