

Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment

Fairfax County, Virginia - Environmental Assessment Public Review July 2015



Welcome

The purpose of tonight's open house is to review the findings of the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan Environmental Assessment (SDP/EA). The SDP/EA analyzed alternatives for Fort Hunt Park that were developed based on three rounds of public comments and additional analysis.



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Project Location



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Purpose and Need

Purpose

- The purpose of the Site Development Plan is to improve the visitor experience and define specific resource conditions to provide direction for park management.

Need

- Peak visitation periods exceed the park's carrying capacity, which creates a need to balance the different types of visitor use (recreation, permitted picnicking, interpretation) with resource protection.
- Recent discovery of the site's rich history has created expanded opportunities and a demand by the public for additional interpretation.
- The importance of existing park recreational uses and expanded interpretation have created a need for changes to existing facilities and/or the addition of new facilities.



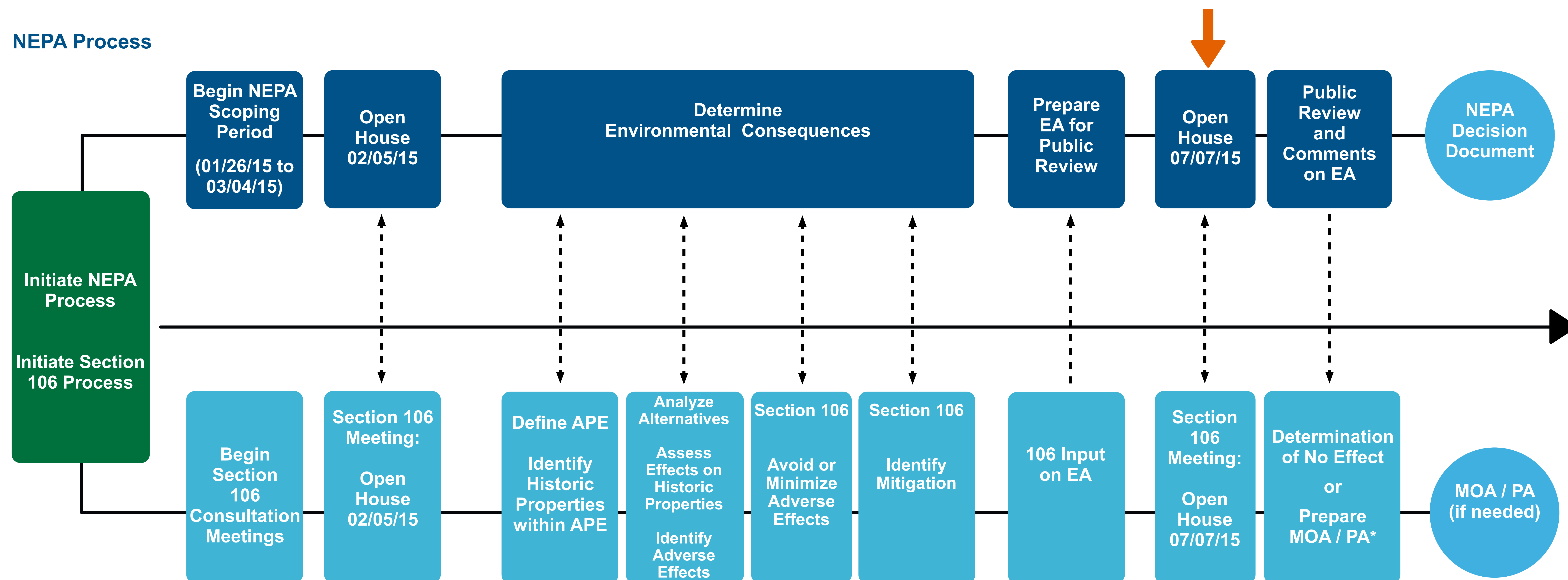
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NEPA and Section 106 Processes

NEPA Process



Section 106 Process

Winter 2015

Winter - Spring 2015

Summer 2015



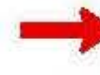



*Memorandum of Agreement / Programmatic Agreement

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Legend

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Ballfield |  Park Facilities |
|  Vehicular Circulation |  Historic Structures |
|  Historically Significant Tree Row |  Park Boundary |

Existing Conditions

FORT HUNT PARK
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

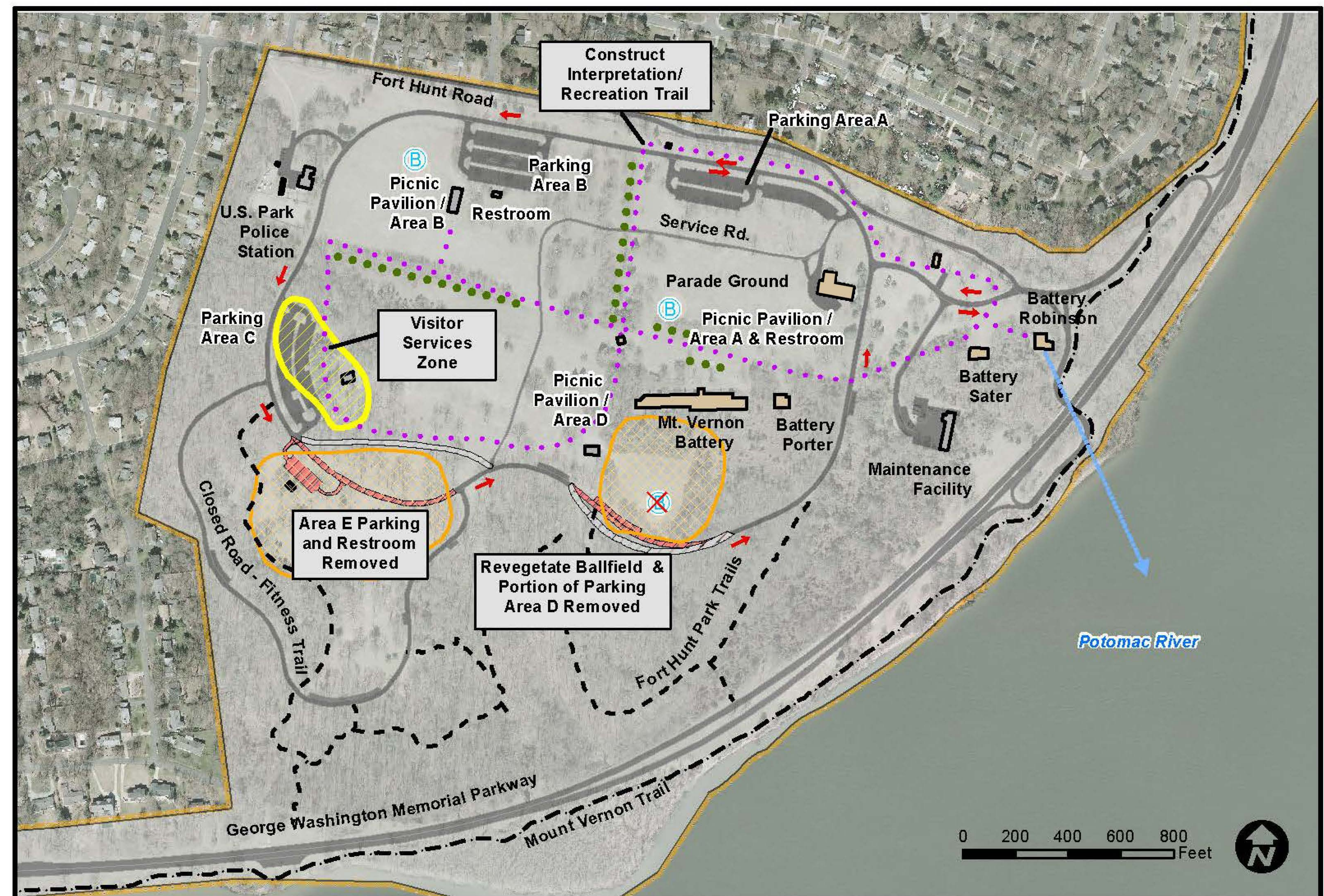
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Alternative 4: Interior Visitor Services

- Establish an enhanced visitor services zone within Area C; visitor services could range from a wayside, interactive information kiosk, and/or a visitor services facility
- Reservations in one of Area C picnic areas may be reduced; removal of a picnic pavilion would be contingent on further archeological study as well as determination of compatibility of uses
- Revegetate Ballfield D to create a multi-purpose, open recreational space
- Consider construction of a new restroom in Area C



Alternative 4

FORT HUNT PARK
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

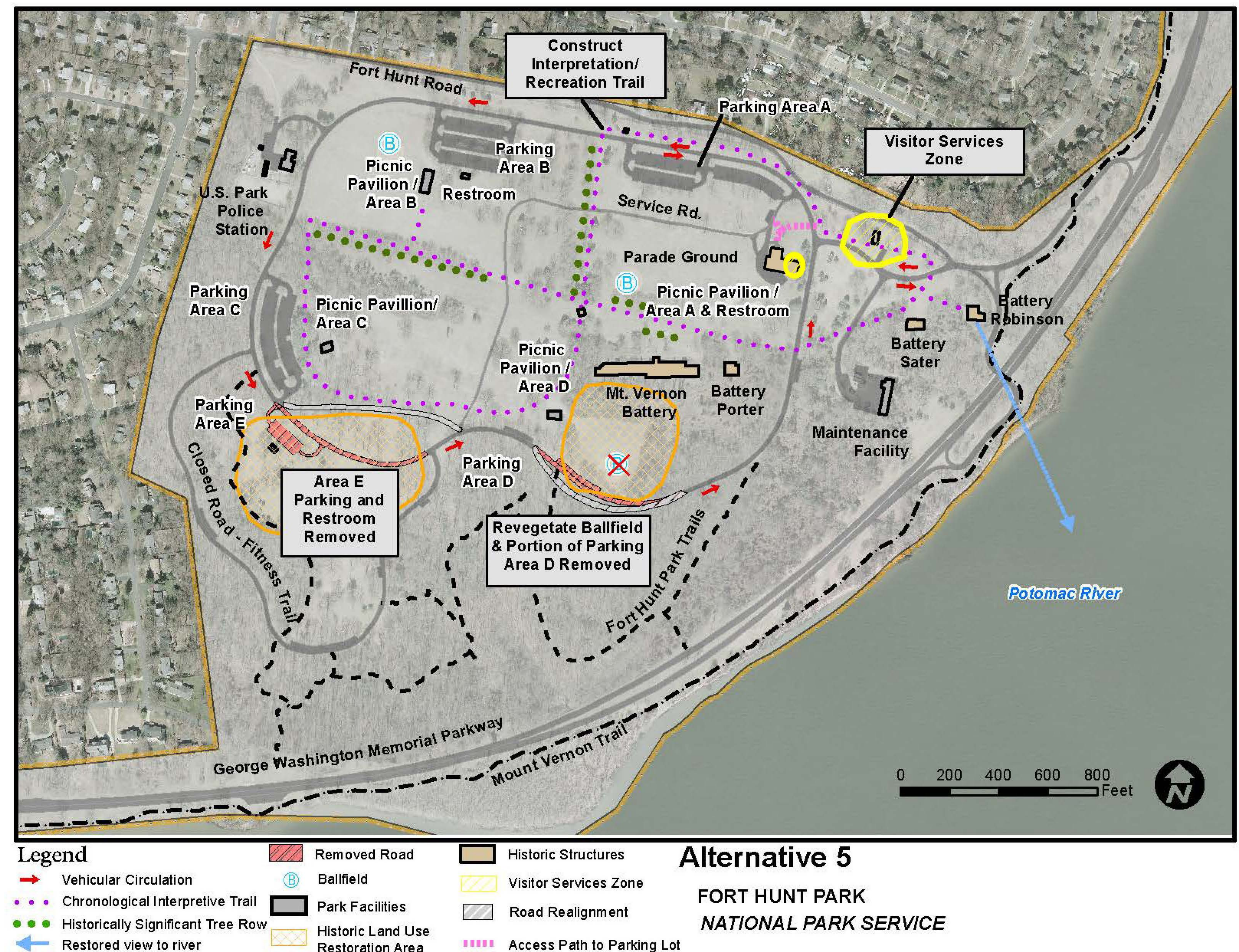
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Alternative 5: Gateway Visitor Services

- Establish a visitor services zone near the entrance to Fort Hunt that could include the historic NCO Quarters and current office space in Pavilion A to support a visitor services function
- Provide accessible pedestrian path to visitor services zone
 - Expand the current parking area near the NCO Quarters and an accessible path; and/or
 - Construct an accessible path from parking area A to current office space in Pavilion A
- Revegetate Ballfield D to create a multi-purpose, open recreational space



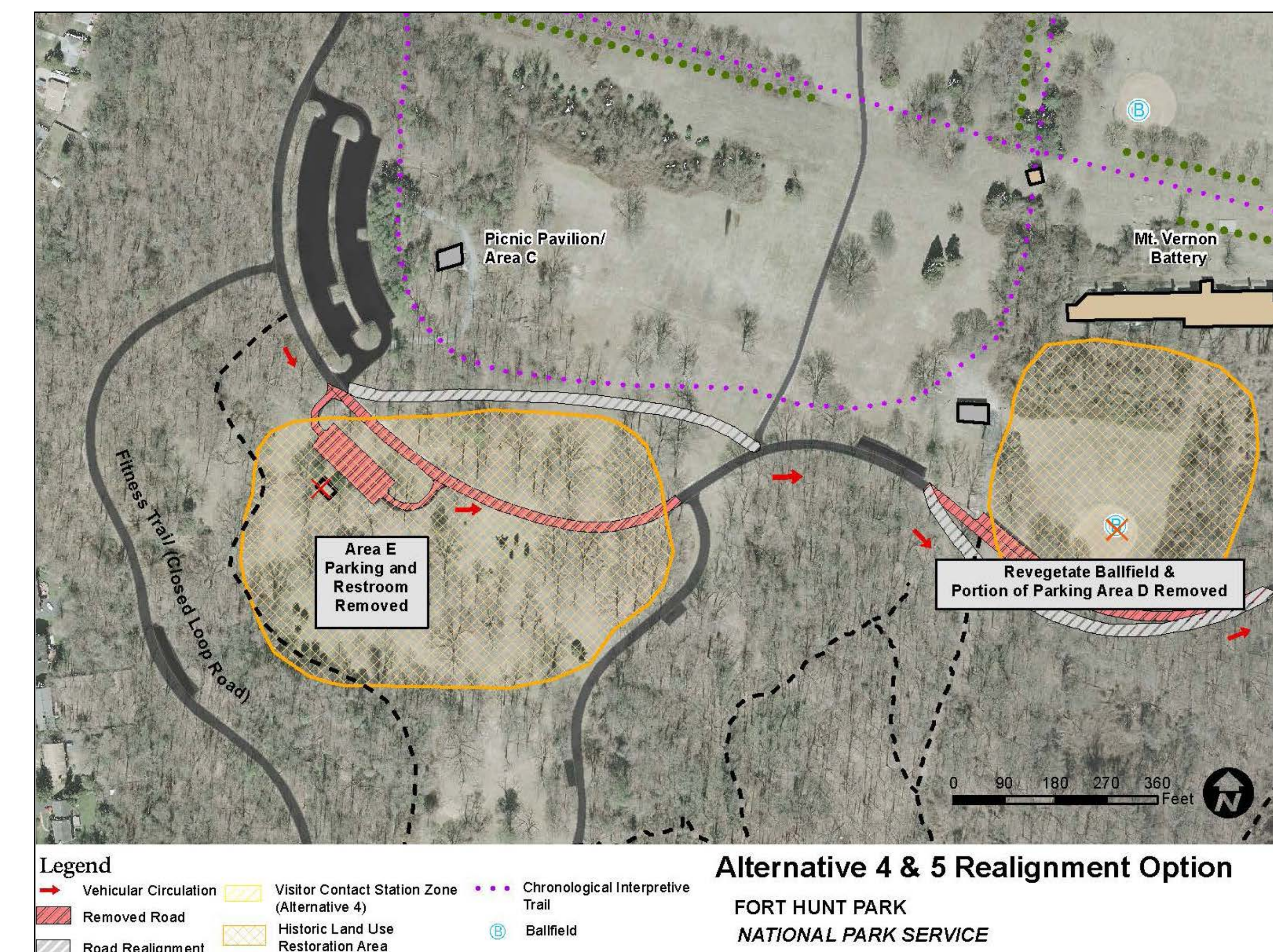
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Common to All Action Alternatives

- Establish Historic Land Use Restoration Areas, including the repurposing of the ballfield in Area D to accommodate multiple recreation types
- Remove Picnic Area E parking and restrooms and a portion of Area D parking; re-vegetate as appropriate
- Realign loop road: remove paved sections, pave new route to avoid Historic Land Use Restoration Areas, maintain one-way circulation and lane dedicated to bicyclists and pedestrians
- Consider ways to replace a portion of lost parking spaces: utilize previously disturbed areas near Parking Areas A, B, and C; reconfigure existing parking lots to increase spaces; and/or create parking along realigned sections of the loop road
- Construct ABAAS-compliant interpretative trail
- Restore historic sight line to Potomac River from Battery Robinson
- Enhance access and recreational amenities on lower shared use trail (closed lower road)
- Upgrade safety and accessibility of Area A playground equipment
- Maintain existing park access roadway with option for limited road removal and realignment
- Continue to maintain the Spanish-American War era batteries and the Battery Commander's Station
- Rehabilitate designated trails in the wooded areas, close some existing social trails and reseed them, maintain other social trails as designated trails



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Comparison of Alternatives

Park Facility	Alternative 1: No-Action	Alternative 4: Interior Visitor Services	Alternative 5: Gateway Visitor Services (Preferred Alternative)	Alternatives 4 and 5 - Road Limited Removal and Realignment Option
Interpretive Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visitors can explore exteriors of former gun batteries and Battery Commander's StationEight wayside exhibits interpret various aspects of site's history	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced visitor services function in Area C, with potential to construct visitor contact station within depicted zoneNew interpretive trail constructed linking to Area C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced visitor services function in NCO Quarters, potentially serving as visitor contact stationNew interpretive trail constructed linking to Area CEight wayside exhibits interpret various aspects of site's history	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced options for interpretation within Historic Land Use Restoration Areas
Recreational Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recreational facilities managed and maintained as they are todayPicnic Pavilions/ Areas A, B, C, and D available by reservation and Picnic Area E available on a first come basisBicycle/Pedestrian Trail as a shared lane provided on the loop road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential reduction of picnic facilities in Area C, pending further studyDesignated parking spaces for Picnic Area C permitted activities may be reducedPotential construction of new restroom in Area CEnhanced access, amenities, and fitness circuit on lower shared use trail (closed lower road)Upgrade Area A playgroundBallfield in Area D reprogrammed for multi-purpose recreationEnhanced walking/running opportunities on new interpretive trailEight wayside exhibits interpret various aspects of site's history	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No picnic areas would be closed; however, the number of people accommodated by reservations for Picnic Pavilion A may be reducedEnhanced access, amenities, and fitness circuit on lower shared use trail (closed lower road)Upgrade Area A playgroundBallfield in Area D reprogrammed for multi-purpose recreationEnhanced walking/running opportunities on new interpretive trailEight wayside exhibits interpret various aspects of site's history	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove Area E restrooms
Vehicular Circulation and Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Traffic circulates main loop road with two-way traffic from entrance to Area B and one-way for remainder of loopPaved lower road closed to vehicular trafficParking provided at five lots, near picnic pavilions and areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional traffic on main loop road due to enhanced visitor facilities in Area CPotential removal of Area C parkingAdditional demands on Area D parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Additional traffic between park entrance and Area A due to enhanced visitor facilities in NCO QuartersAdditional demands on Area A parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove portion of Area D parkingRemove Area E parkingRemove and realign sections of loop road to avoid restoration areasConsider ways to replace a portion of lost parking by utilizing disturbed areas
Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The gun batteries, Battery Commander's Station, Brick Storage Building and trails would continue to be maintained by the parkNCO Quarters would continue to be mothballedCultural landscape features such as the tree rows would not be impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NCO Quarters would continue to be mothballed until future undetermined treatmentRestored sight line to Potomac River from Battery RobinsonPotential for the removal of up to 23 treesContinuing efforts to remove invasive, exotic vegetation impacting cultural landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NCO Quarters rehabilitated and adaptively reused to serve visitor services functionRestored sight line to Potomac River from Battery RobinsonPotential for the removal of up to 23 treesContinuing efforts to remove invasive, exotic vegetation impacting cultural landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhanced protection of Historic Land Use Restoration Areas

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Recreation and Natural Resources

Resource	Alternative 1: No-Action	Alternative 4: Interior Visitor Services*	Alternative 5: Gateway Visitor Services (Preferred Alternative)*
Visitor Use and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Negligible long-term adverse impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beneficial long-term impacts through increased interpretationModerate long-term adverse impacts due to the reduction in picnic areas and parkingMinor short-term minor adverse impacts during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beneficial long-term impacts through increased interpretationMinor long-term adverse impacts due to the potential increase in parking demand near picnic areasMinor short-term adverse impacts during construction
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No impacts
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Negligible short- and long-term impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Negligible short- and long-term impacts
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No impacts due to continuation of native vegetation management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Negligible short-term adverse impacts on vegetation due to construction of loop road, with mitigationNegligible long-term impacts on vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Negligible short-term adverse impacts on vegetation due to construction of loop road, with mitigationNegligible long-term impacts on vegetation
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor long-term adverse impacts on soils due to soil compaction and erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor short-term impacts on soils due to construction, with mitigationMinor long-term adverse impacts due to soil disturbance and an increase in impervious surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor short-term impacts on soils due to construction, with mitigationMinor long-term adverse impacts due to soil disturbance and an increase in impervious surfaces
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cumulative impacts would occur at the same level of impact as described above, or lower		

*Environmental consequences for Alternatives 4 and 5 take into consideration the potential impacts resulting from the Road Limited Removal and Realignment Option.



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Cultural Resources Effects

Resource	Alternative 1: No-Action	Alternative 4: Interior Visitor Services*	Alternative 5: Gateway Visitor Services (Preferred Alternative)*
Historic Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor long-term adverse impacts to historic structures and districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term beneficial and minor adverse impacts on the Fort Hunt Park historic district due to the removal of non-contributing structures and restored viewsNegligible impacts on the GWMP and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway historic districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term moderate adverse and beneficial impacts on the Fort Hunt Park historic district due to reuse of the historic NCO Quarters and removal some non-contributing elements of the parkNegligible impacts on the GWMP and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway historic districts
Cultural Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minor long-term adverse impacts due to slow deterioration caused by ongoing visitor use and weathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape of Fort Hunt Park due to the removal of non-contributing features, the restoration of historic views, and the reuse of trail bedsPotential for moderate long-term adverse impacts due to the addition of new facilities in the Visitor Services Zone, new trails, and removal of potentially contributing features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term beneficial impacts to the cultural landscape of Fort Hunt Park due to the removal of non-contributing features, the restoration of historic views, and the reuse of trail bedsPotential minor long-term adverse impacts due to the addition of new facilities, parking, and adaptive re-use of the NCO Quarters in the Visitor Services Zone, new trails, and removal of potentially contributing features
Archeological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Long-term minor adverse impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential for moderate adverse impacts on archeological features at Fort Hunt Park due to construction activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potential for moderate adverse impacts on archeological features at Fort Hunt Park due to construction activities
Cumulative Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cumulative impacts would occur at the same level of impact as described above, or lower		

*Environmental consequences for Alternatives 4 and 5 take into consideration the potential impacts resulting from the Road Limited Removal and Realignment Option.



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How to Comment

Share Your Ideas Today

- Comments or questions can be provided tonight on the comment form.

Fill Out a Comment Form Online

- Submit comments or questions at the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>).

Submit a Comment Via Mail

Fort Hunt Park SDP/EA
Attn: Claire Rozdilski
National Park Service
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
c/o Turkey Run Park
McLean, VA 22101

Get a Copy of the EA

- Download a copy from:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>
- Review a hard copy at the Martha Washington Public Library (located at 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA) and at George Washington Memorial Parkway Headquarters at Turkey Run
- Request a copy in writing using the comment submittal address or by calling (703) 289-2540

**Mailed comments must be postmarked by
August 7, 2015 to receive consideration.**

Please Note: Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.



The following boards will not be displayed at the Open House on July 7, 2015.

They were displayed at the public scoping Open House in February 2015 and are included in this file for your information.

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Site History

Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Fort Hunt have identified:

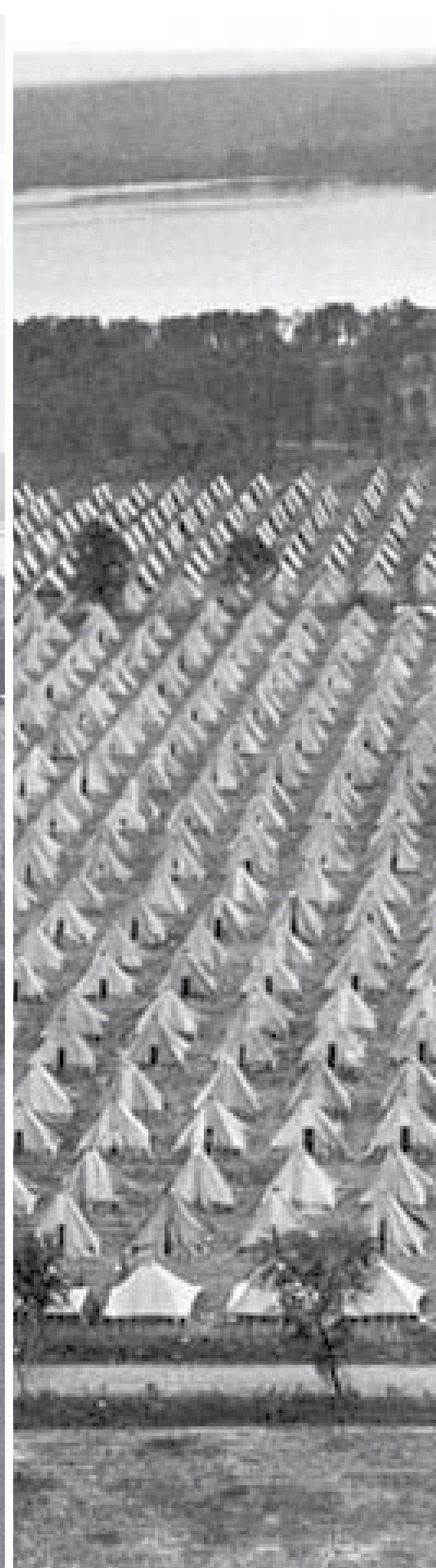
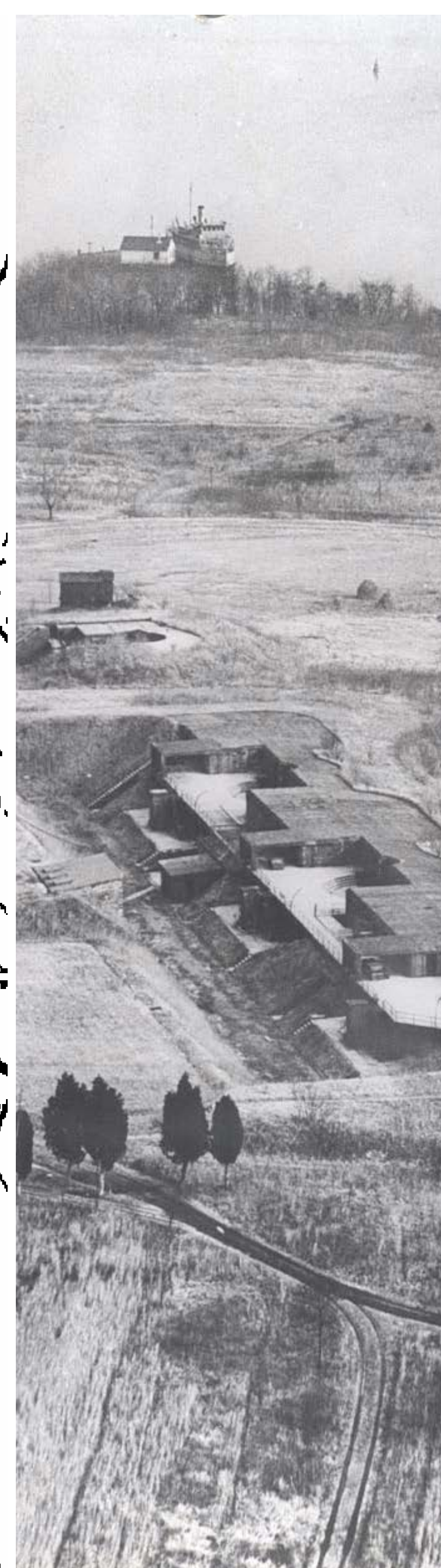
PaleoIndian and Archaic period occupations (7500-1000 BC)

Middle Woodland camps and villages (300 BC – AD1000)

A Late Woodland component (AD1000-contact)

Unidentified Woodland occupations

An unidentified pre-contact Native American site



Prehistoric
and early site
occupation

Washington's
River Farm

Spanish
American War /
Coastal Defense

African American
ROTC Training
Camp

Bonus March
Camp

Civilian
Conservation
Corps Camp Era

WW II
PO Box 1142

7500 BC - AD1600s

1760s to 1790s

1880s to 1900s

1930s

1933 to 1942

1942 to 1946

Other Historic Uses

- Coastal Defense Fort
- Army finance school
- Supply depot
- Brigade headquarters
- Monitoring station for the Army Signal Corps

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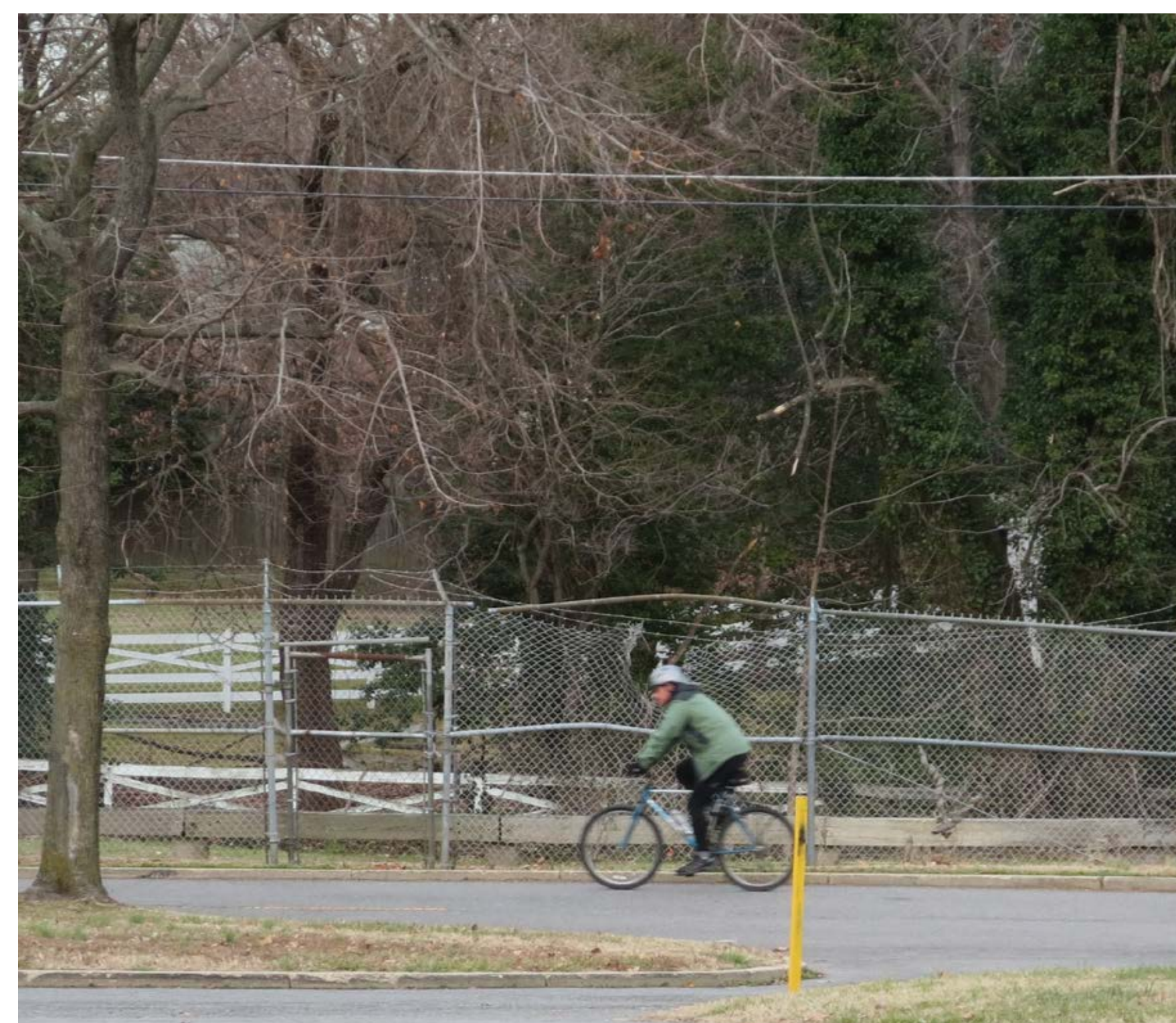
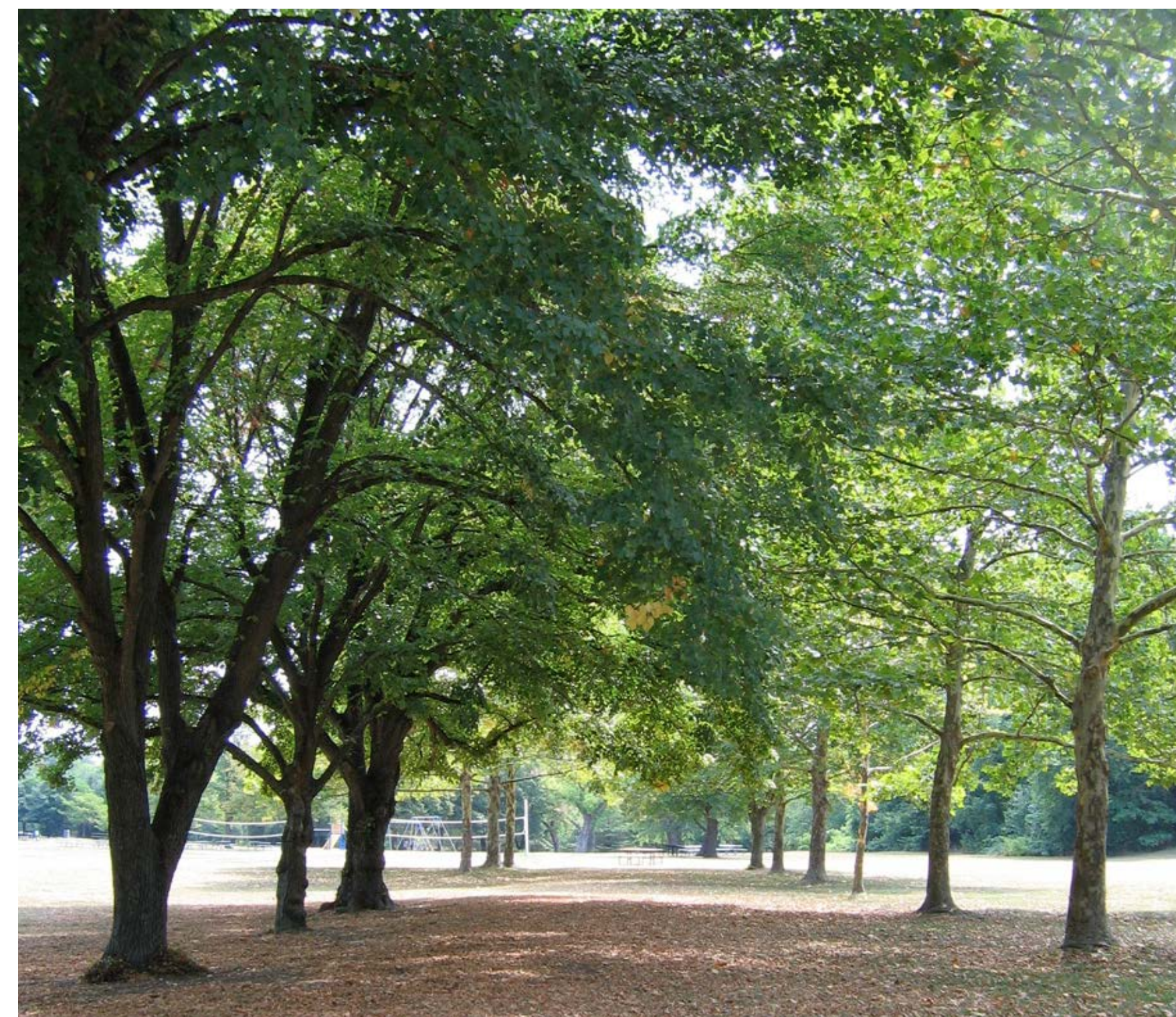
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Recreation and Natural Resources

Recreation Uses

- Picnicking
- Playground
- Ball fields
- Volleyball
- Bicycling
- Jogging
- Bird watching
- Nature trails



Natural Resources

- Bald eagle habitat
- Forest cover
- Forested wetlands
- Migratory forest birds
- Bat habitat

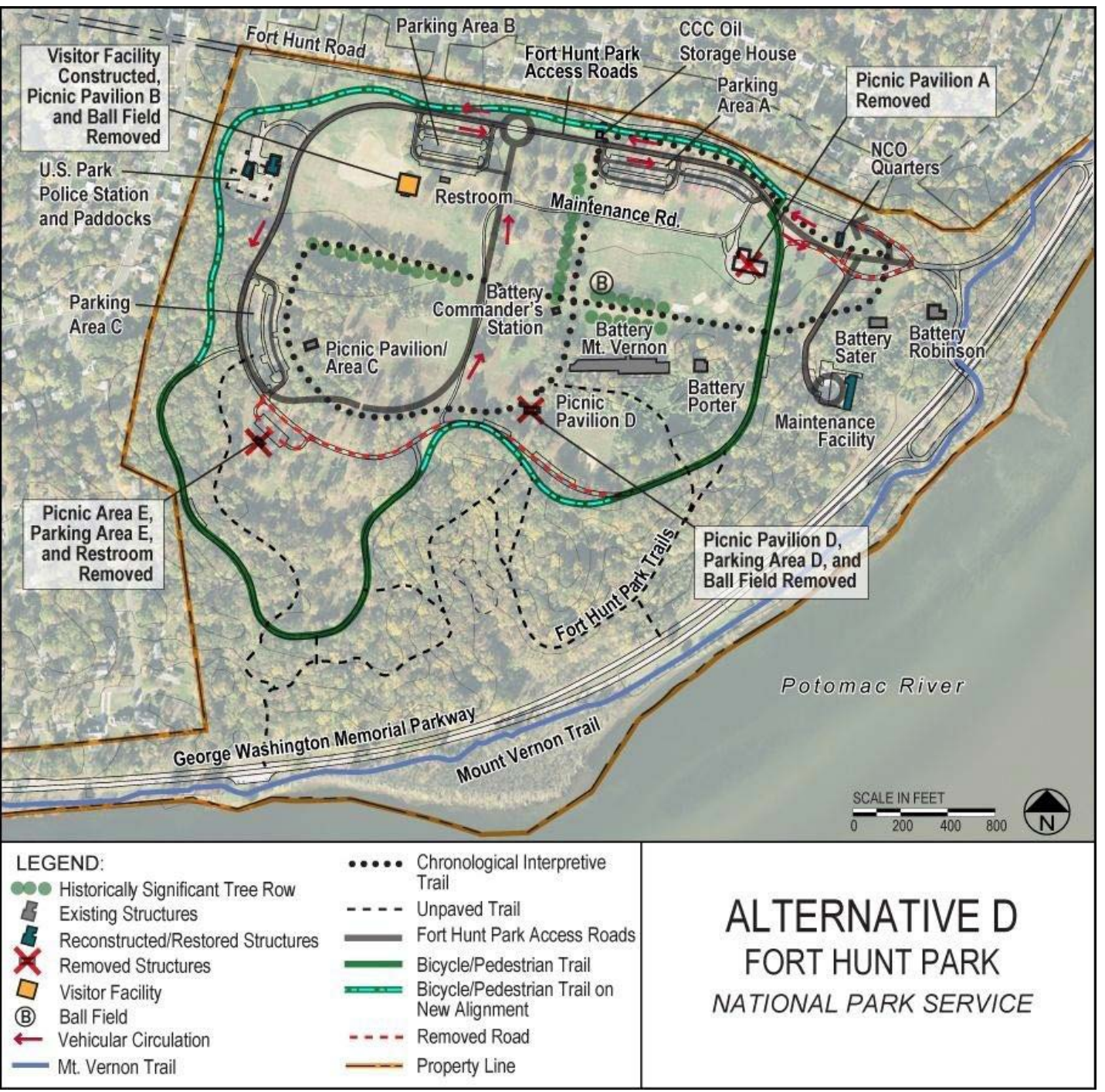
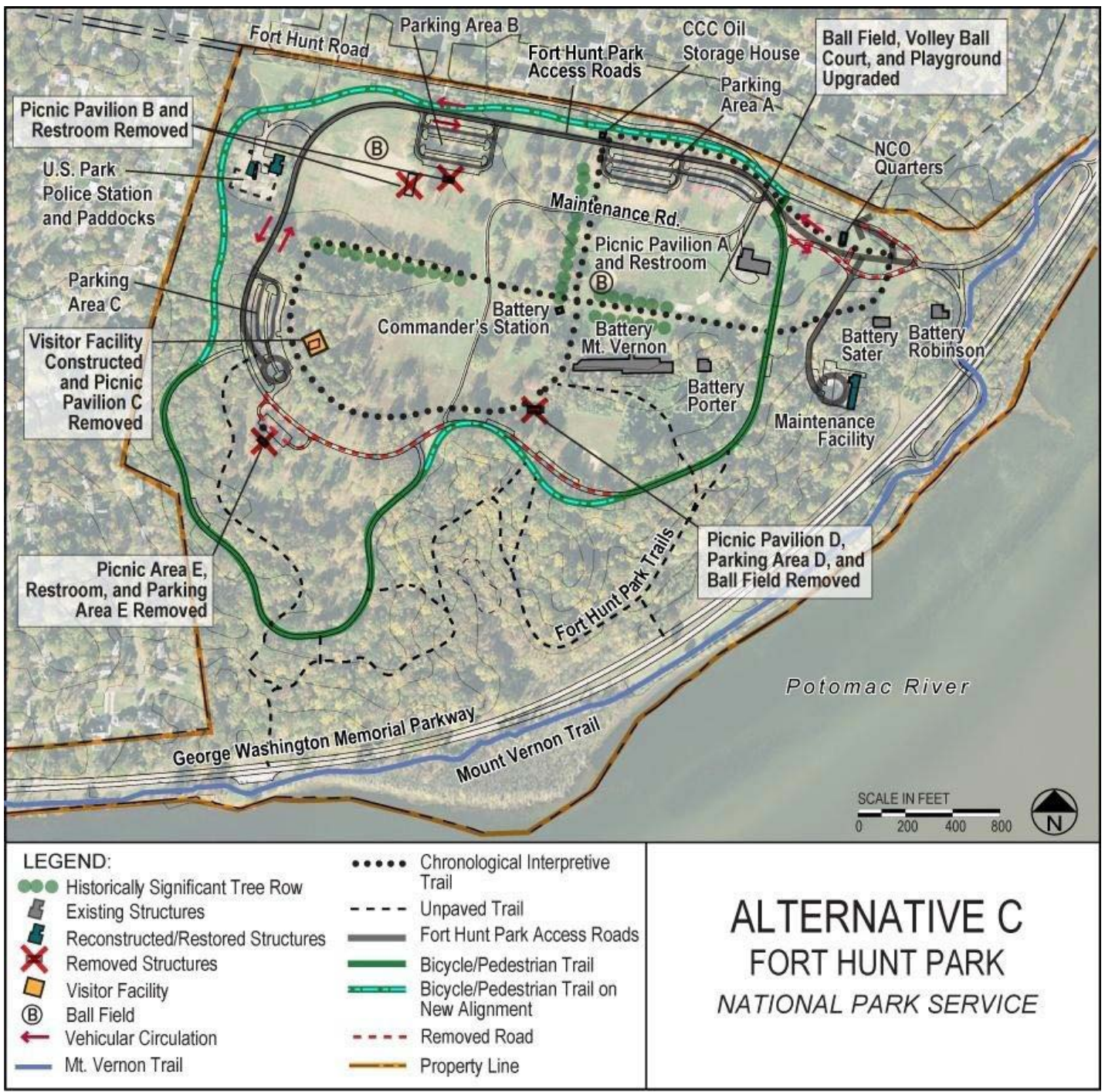
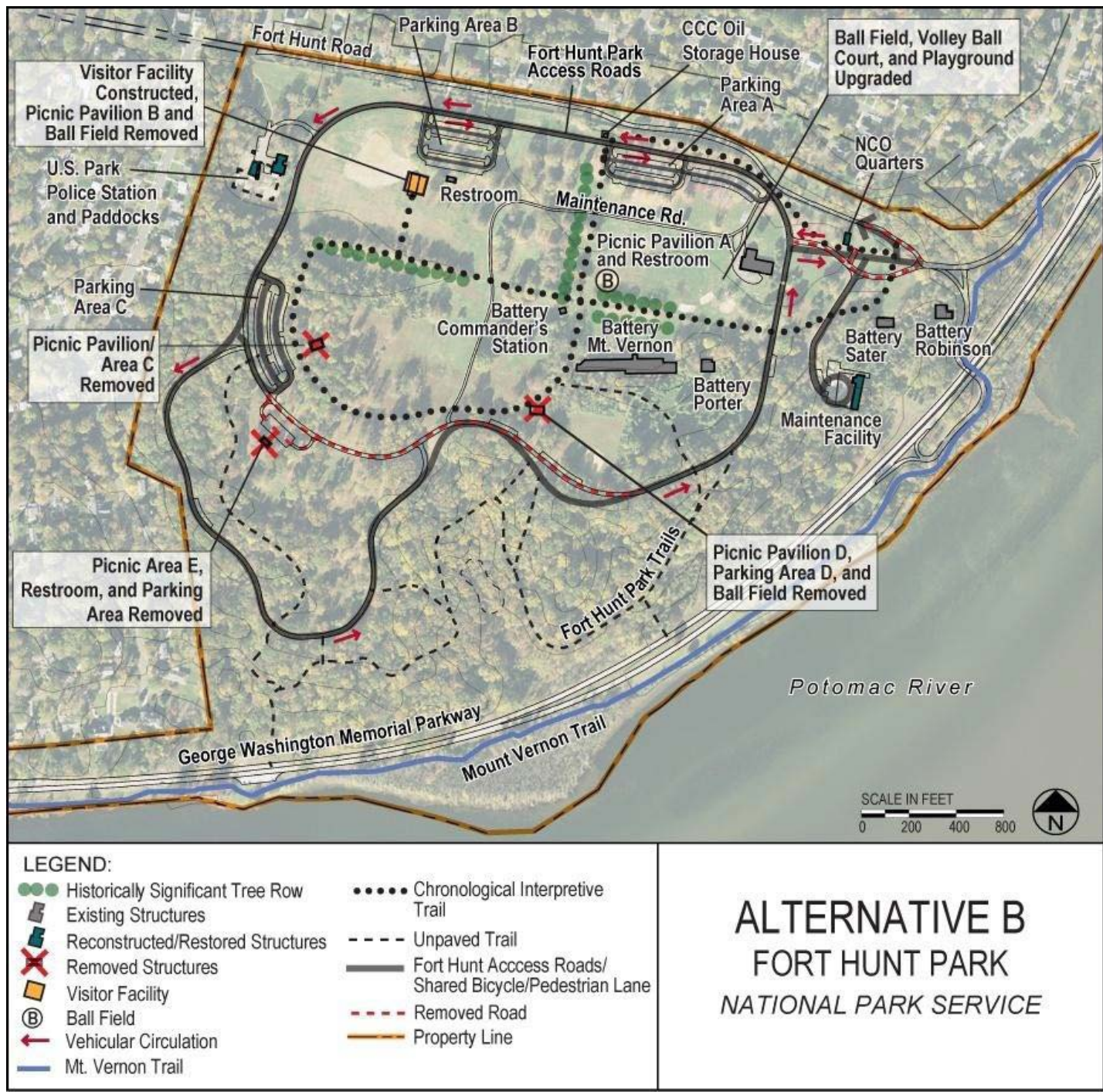
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Revised Alternative Concepts
Following Public Input and New Analysis

	2011	2012	2015
Picnic Pavilions / Visitor Services	Removed picnic pavilions B and D; some alternatives included removal of pavilion C; one alternative included removal of pavilion A	A visitor contact station was sited in and around parking areas A or B and possibly have created conflict with Pavilion A and B users	Picnic pavilions A, B and D would remain. One of 3 picnic areas in Area C may be removed if Alternative Concept 4 is selected and a visitor facility is selected as an option, at which point additional review would be undertaken. A visitor services zone would be established in and around Area A or within Area C.
Ballfields	Removed ballfields in area B and D	Removed ballfields in Area B and D	Ballfield in Area B would remain; ballfield in Area D would be revegetated and repurposed as a multi-purpose open space.
Loop Road	Removed part of current loop road between Areas E and D; one alternative created a smaller loop road for vehicular traffic	—	Road would not be removed; both action alternative concepts include an option to realign the road to protect resources.
Lower Loop Road	One alternative reopened lower loop road to vehicular traffic; other alternatives narrowed the road	—	Lower loop road would remain closed to vehicular traffic. The current width would be retained and fitness amenities would be added to paved areas previously used for parking.
Restrooms	—	Concern that a new restroom in Area E would be dangerous	The restroom in Area E would be removed. A new restroom in Area C would be considered as an option in Alternative Concept 4.

2011 Alternatives



2012 Alternatives

