

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment



What is a Cultural Landscape Report?

- **Reference document** guiding immediate and long-term treatment of cultural landscape.
- **Establishes preservation goals** based on:
 - Research
 - Inventory
 - Documentation
 - Analysis and Evaluation
- Clearly **identifies landscape characteristics** and features that make the cultural landscape historically significant, according to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Outlines the **history** and periods of **historical significance** of the site.
- Recommends treatment **guidelines** and **actions**



Naturalist and Tour Group, 1955 (Brochure, TR Center).

Project Area



Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment



Park Management Philosophy

Preserve and maintain Theodore Roosevelt Island's natural environment and historic features while providing public access, education, interpretation, and other low impact uses that are compatible with the cultural landscape and natural surroundings.



TRI Explorations, 1955 (National Park Service).

Project Purpose & Need

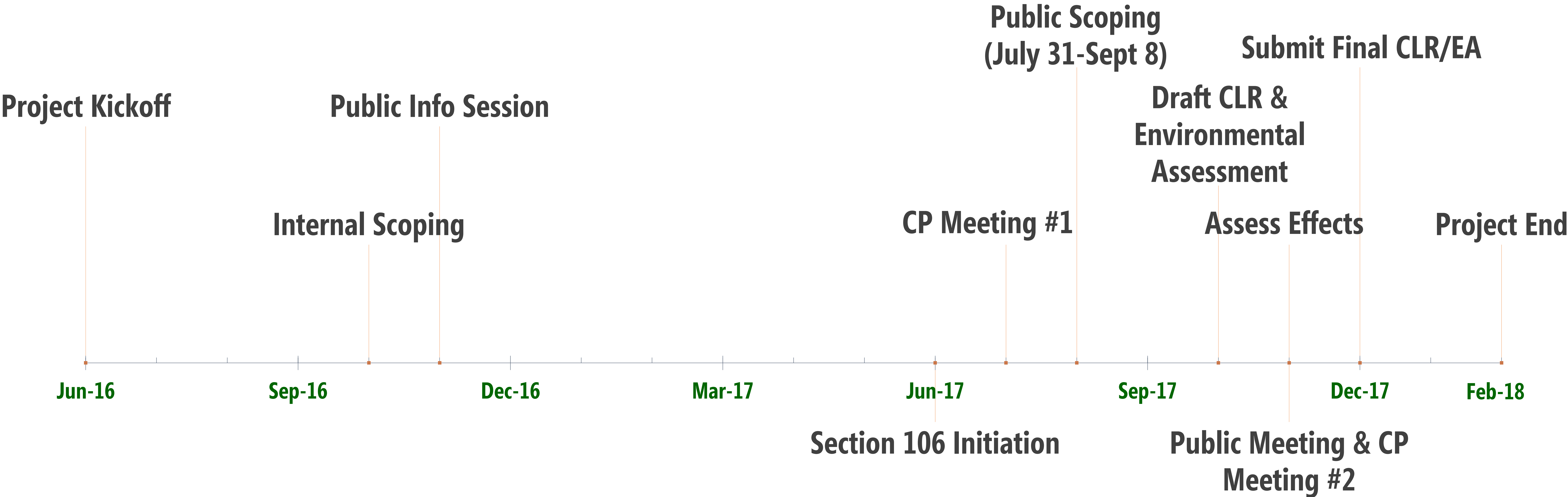
- **Provide guidance for preserving** the cultural landscape.
- **Identify and document** landscape characteristics, patterns, and features that convey historical significance.
- **Recommend a treatment approach** from the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (SOI Standards) to guide long-term stewardship.
- **Provide a framework** for NPS to appropriately **apply preservation measures** when planning updates at the site.
- Ensure the improvement planning process properly **considers the significance of the cultural landscape** and historical features of these sites so that the historical context may be preserved.
- **Promote a better visitor experience.**
- **Preserve** the park's historically significant features.
- **Improve and modernize** certain visitor amenities, access areas, and conditions.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment



Project Schedule



We Are Here

NEPA

- Identify proposed action
- Internal scoping

- Public scoping
- Identify alternatives

- Draft EA
- Public review

- Finalize EA

- Record of decision

INITIATE

IDENTIFY

ASSESS

RESOLVE

EXECUTE

Section 106

- Define undertaking
- Initiate Section 106
- Identify consulting parties
- Define APE

- Document historic properties

- Assess effects

- Draft agreement document (as needed)

- Execute preservation agreement document (as needed)

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Scoping Open House
August 3, 2017

Historic Periods of Significance

American Indian Period (to 1717)

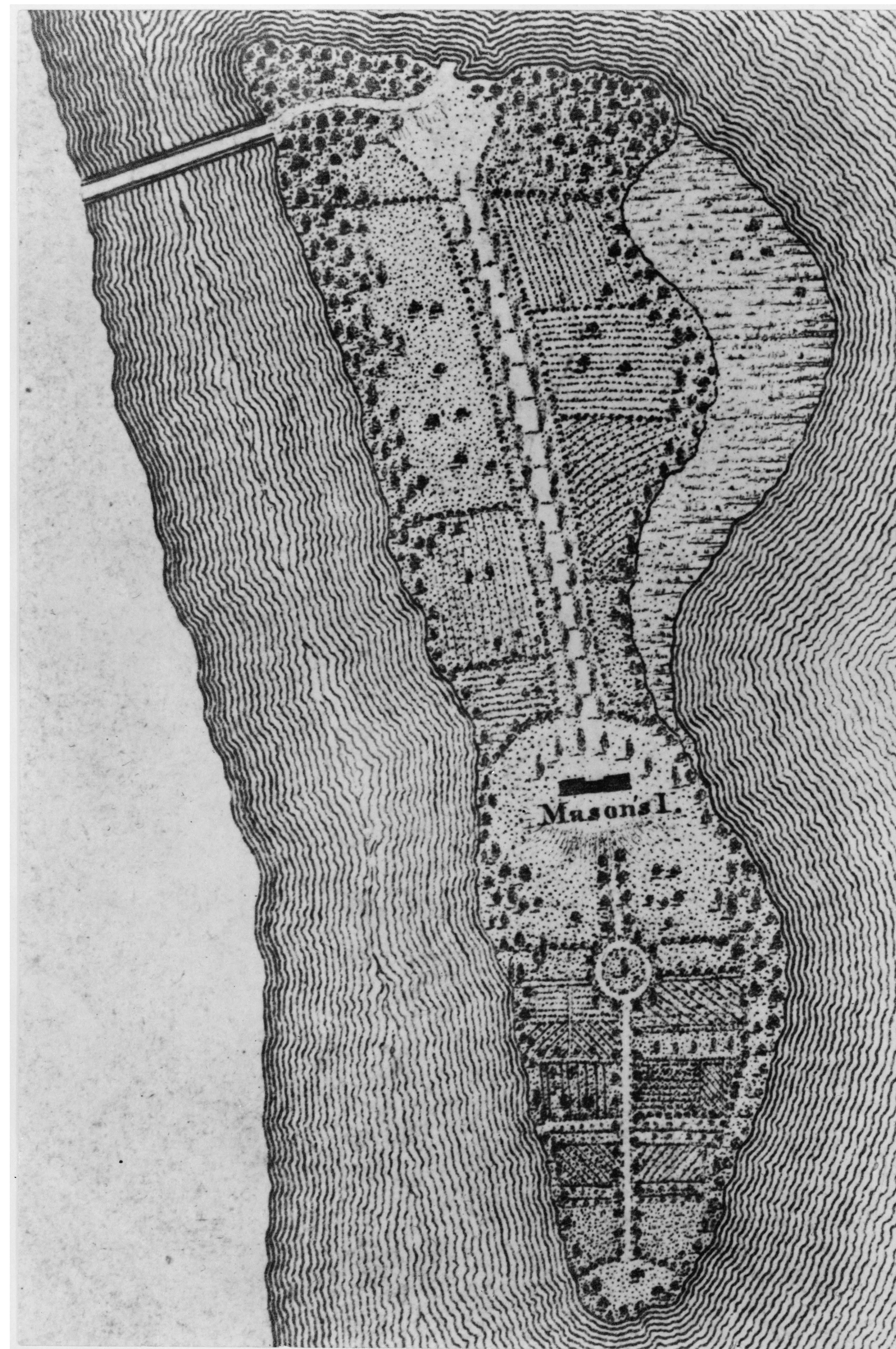


Capt. John Smith's Map of Virginia in 1612 (1624, Library of Congress).



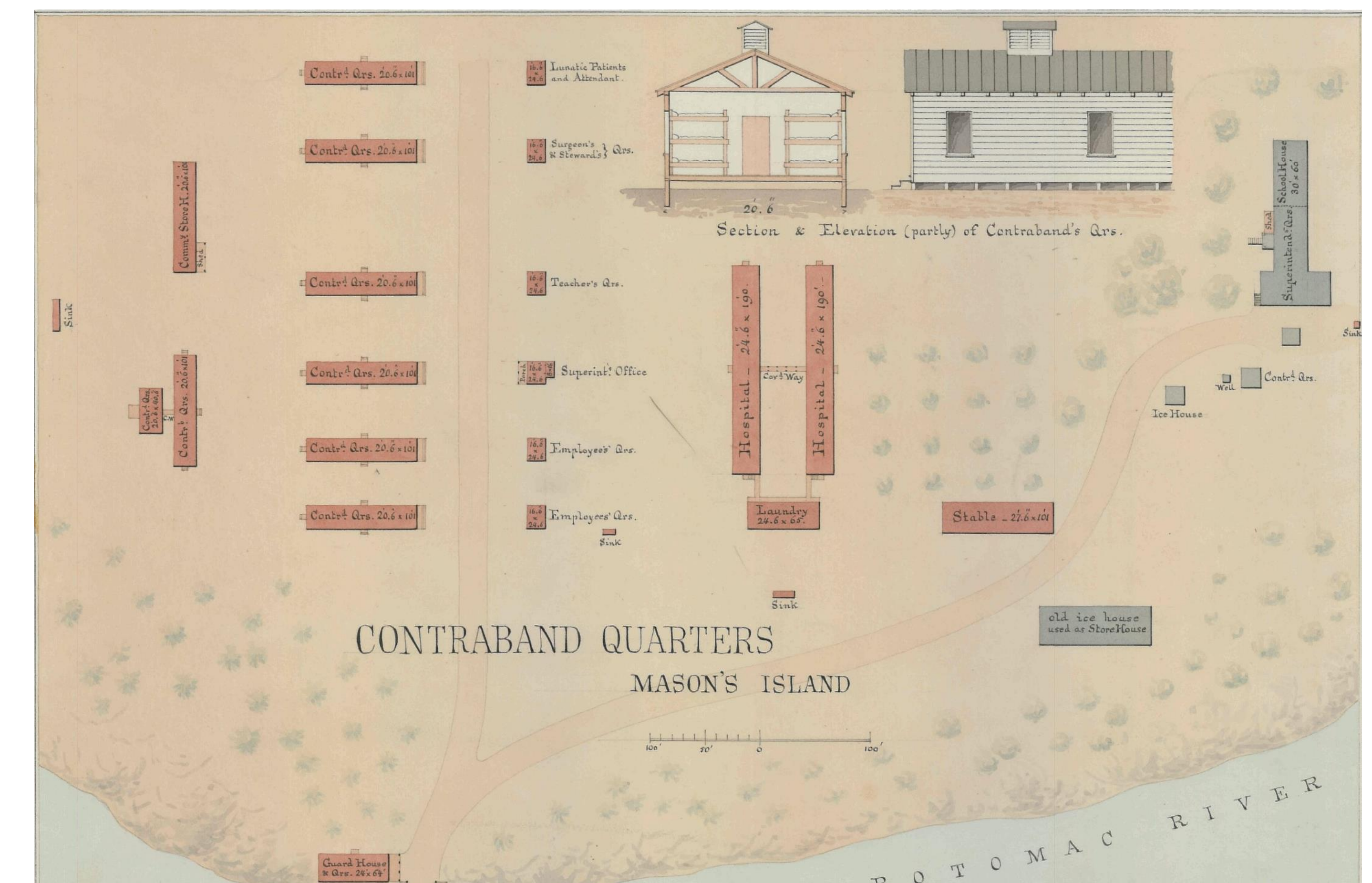
"Early Indian Life on Analostan Island," Auriel Bessemer, 1940.

Mason Family Ownership (1717-1833)

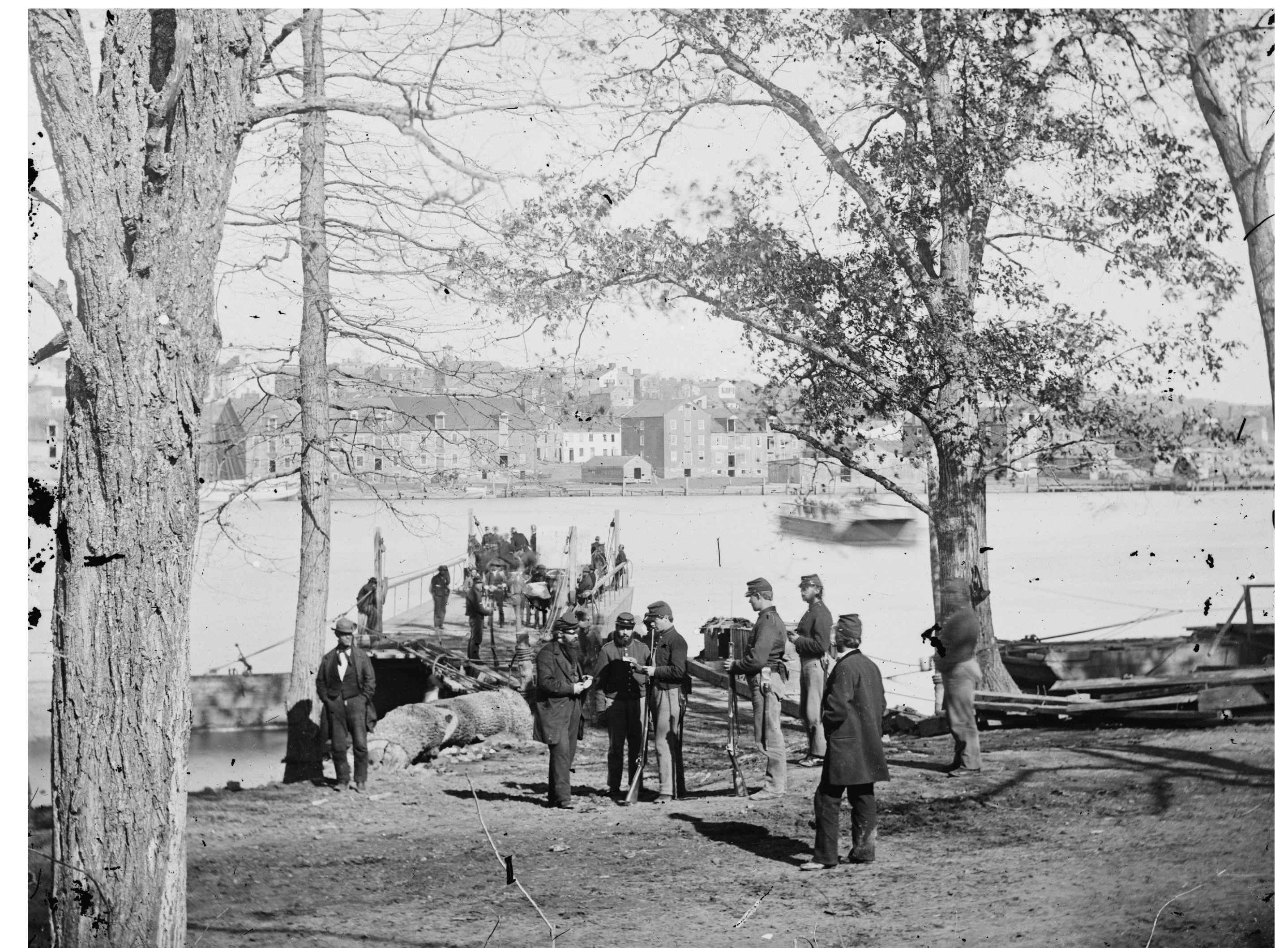


Robert King Map of Washington, 1818 (Library of Congress).

Civil War (1861-1865)



ca. 1863 (Library of Congress).



Soldiers at Ferry Landing, Matthew Brady, 1860-1865 (Library of Congress).

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

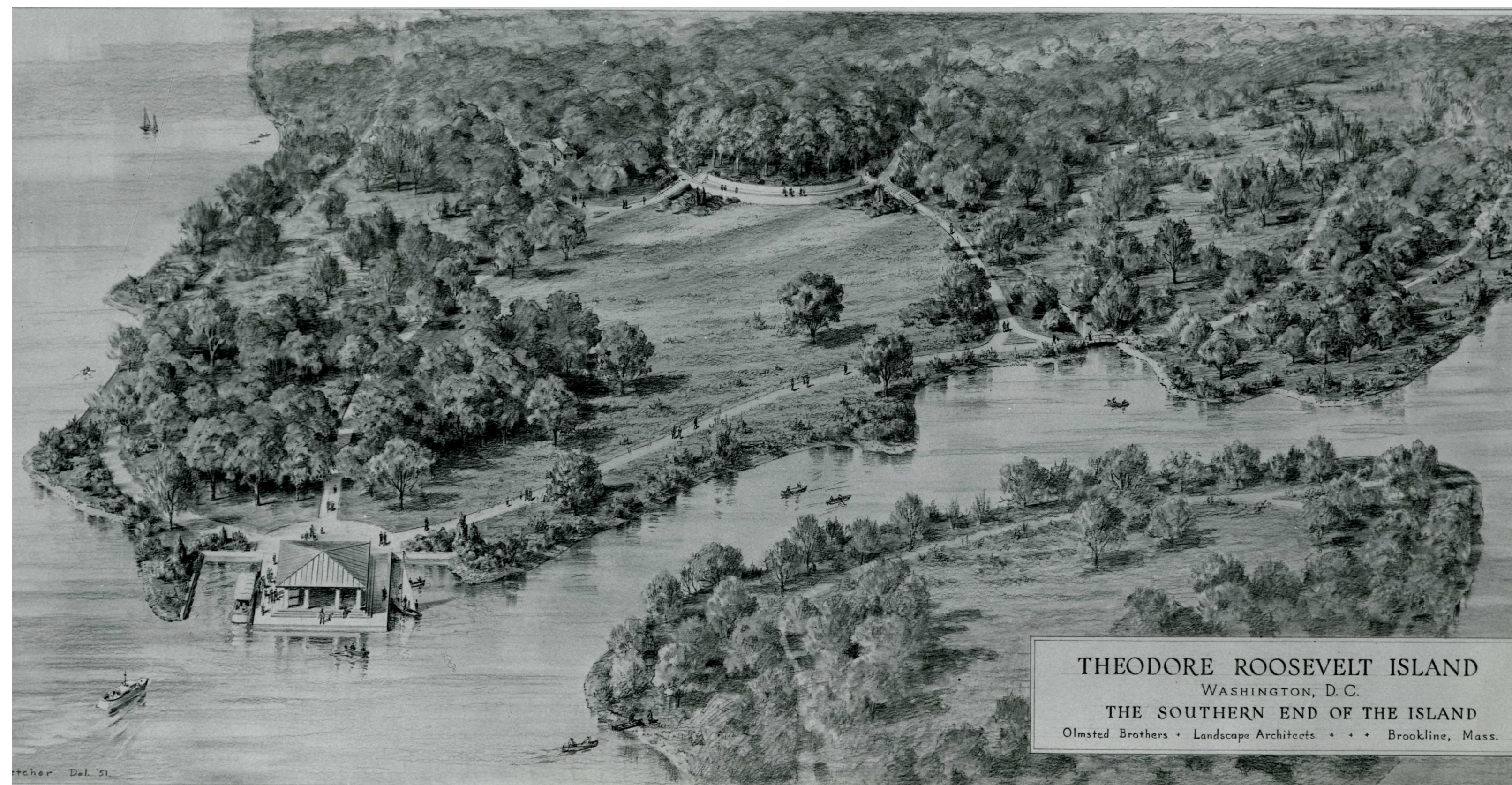


Public Scoping Open House
August 3, 2017

Historic Periods of Significance

Presidential Memorial (1931-1979)

*Olmsted Bros. and Civilian Conservation Corps
(1931-1947)*



Sketch of southern end of island, Olmsted Bros. (Olmsted NHS Archive).



CCC workers at TR Island, ca. 1935 (NPS).

*Memorial Plaza
(1961-1979)*



Plaza under construction, 1965 (Library of Congress).



Sketch of plaza, 1961 (NPS).

- Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt, 26th president of the U.S.
- **1931:** Purchased by Roosevelt Memorial Association and gifted to federal government for use as memorial.
- **1934-1937:** Olmsted Brothers created the plan and restored natural woodland to the island as a living memorial to Roosevelt, known as the "Great Conservationist."
- **ca. 1936:** Opened to public
- **1958:** Dedication
- **1967:** Memorial Plaza, designed by Paul Manship and Eric Gugler, constructed.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Scoping Open House
August 3, 2017

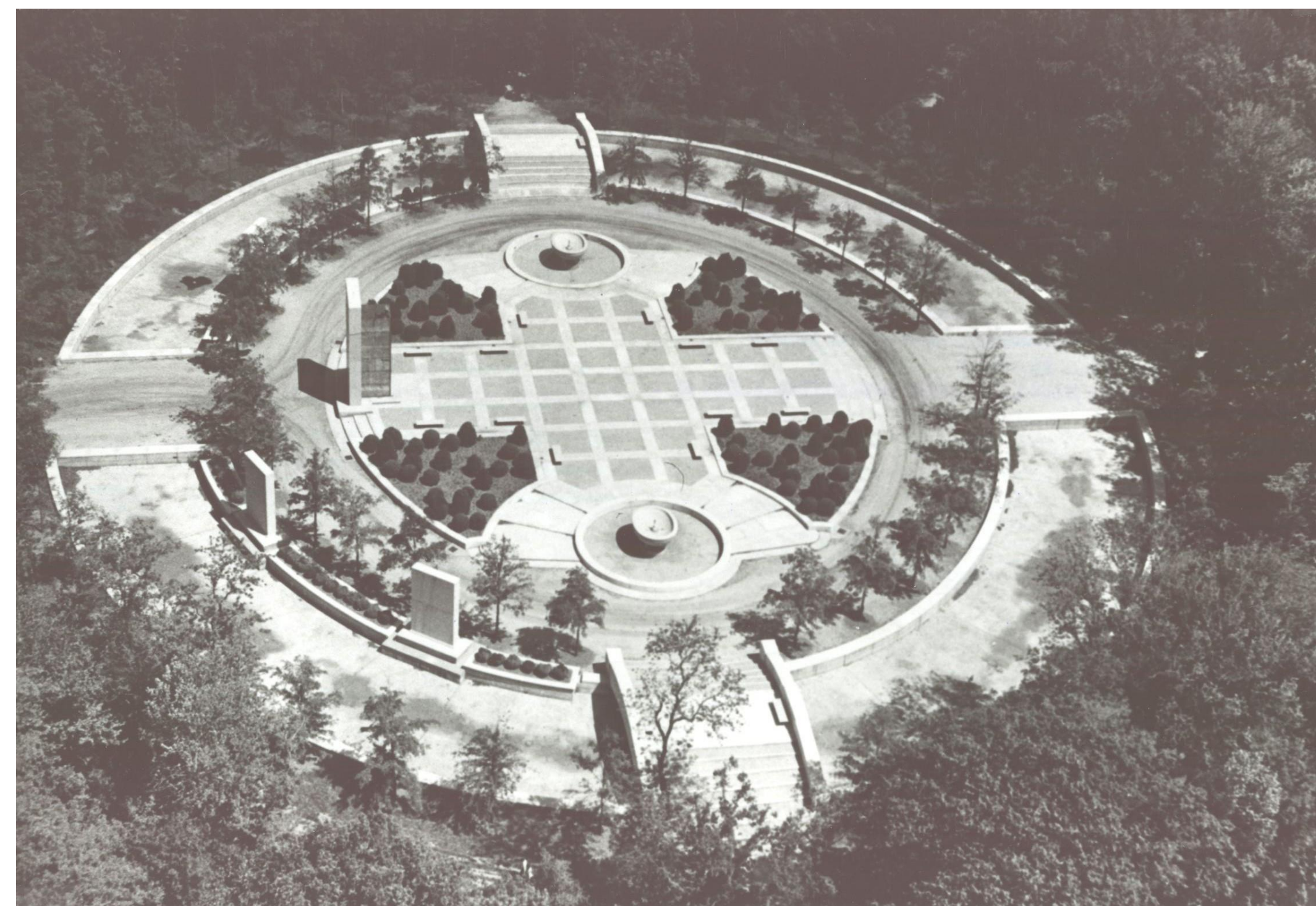
Cultural Landscape Characteristics

Archeology



Archeological resources include remains of past human life and activities on the island.

Buildings & Structures



Buildings and structures include the Memorial Plaza, the Comfort Station, the pedestrian bridge, and the ruins of the Mason mansion and icehouse.

Views & Vistas



There are historic views across the river to Georgetown and Virginia.

Natural Systems & Features



Natural systems and features include the Potomac River, the marsh and swamp, deciduous forest, and the Atlantic Seaboard fall line.

Circulation



Circulation elements include the bridges, island trail system, Virginia trails, and water access.

Small Scale Features



Small scale features on the island include elements such as benches, signs, markers, and water fountains.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

Cultural Landscape Characteristics

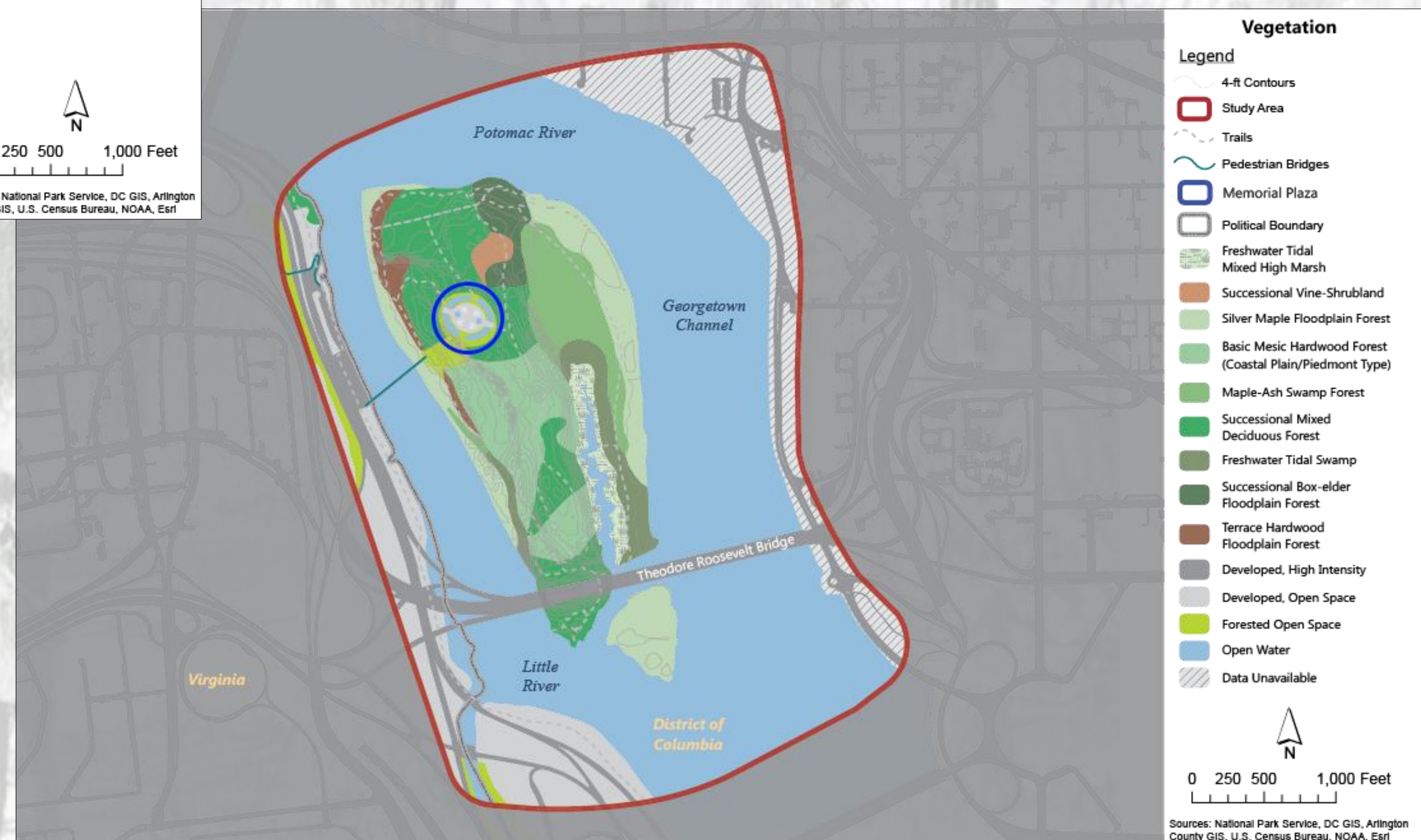


Spatial Organization & Land Use

Built memorial features among natural forests and wetlands connected by a path system were designed to provide visitors a presidential memorial experience in nature that honors President Theodore Roosevelt's conservation legacy.

Vegetation

TR Island's vegetation cover has changed over time; and its 11 different native plant communities and the Memorial Plaza's designed ornamental landscape fulfill Olmsted's vision for TR Island as a presidential memorial.



Theodore Roosevelt Island











Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment



Treatment Recommendations

Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (SOI Standards)

- **PRESERVATION:** sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property; maintain and repair
- **REHABILITATION:** make a compatible use possible while preserving features that convey historical or cultural value
- **RESTORATION:** depict the property as it appeared at a particular period of time
- **RECONSTRUCTION:** reconstruct non-surviving features to replicate the appearance of a site at a particular period of time

Image	Landscape Characteristic	Treatment Summary
	Archeology	Conserve, protect, and manage.
	Natural Systems	Protect or enhance Potomac River, river edge, and diverse island ecosystems.
	Vegetation	Protect and enhance the 11 diverse island vegetation zones; rehabilitate memorial landscape.
	Spatial Organization & Land Use	Preserve special relationships of natural areas to built areas. Maintain TRI as presidential memorial for public education & interpretation.
	Circulation	Preserve or enhance land trails, make portions ABA compliant; rehabilitate Bridge 31 of MVT; install soft shoreline landing(s) for small non-motorized watercraft.
	Buildings & Structures	Restore full-circle memorial experience. Address Historic Comfort Station.
	Constructed Water Features	Repair and maintain pools and fountains at plaza.
	Views & Vistas	Undertake select view and vista clearing to improve views; reinstate natural southern viewpoint.
	Topography	Preserve or enhance.
	Small Scale Features	Protect and preserve; introduce compatible benches and trail signage.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

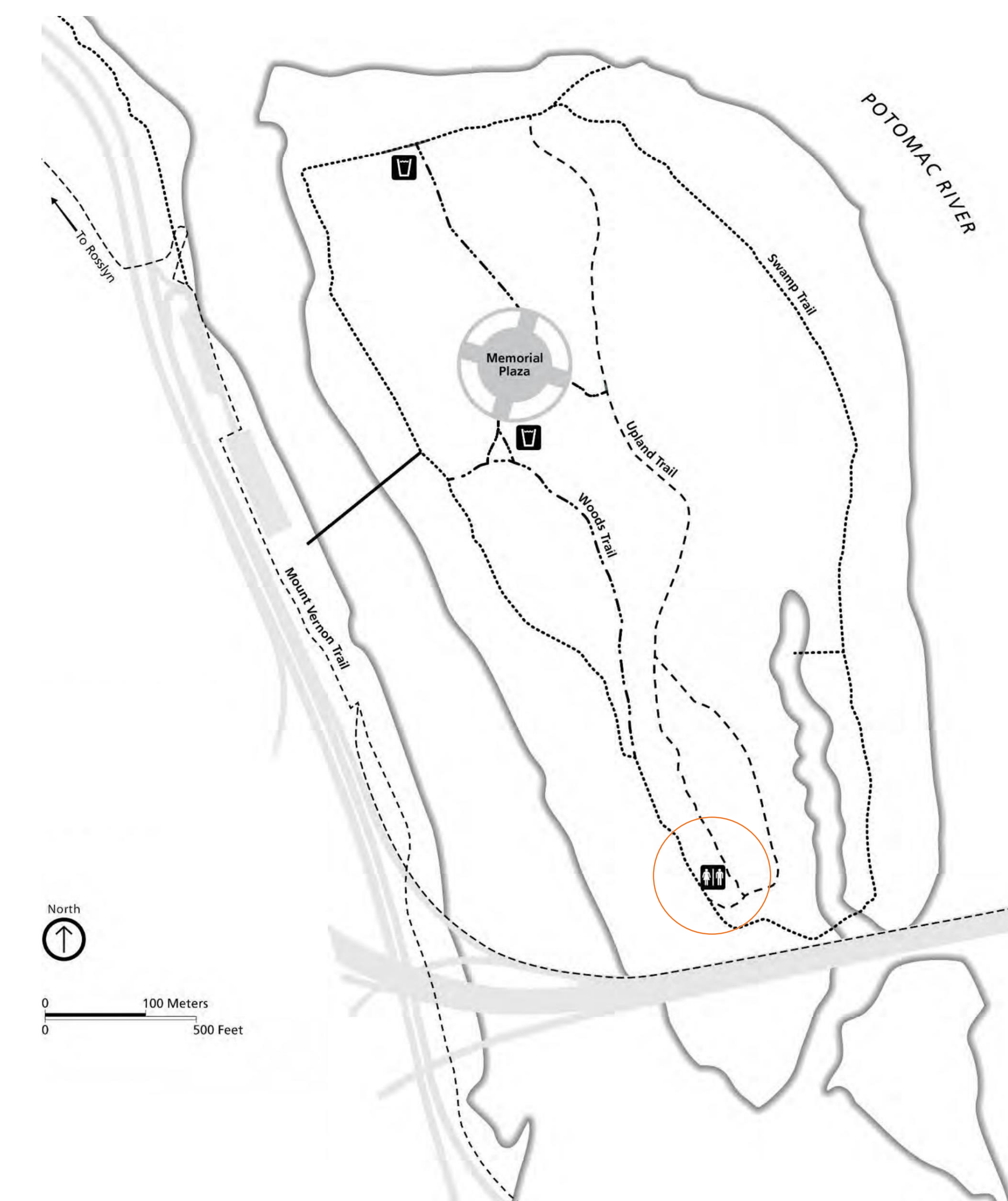
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Scoping Open House
August 3, 2017

Proposed Alternative Topic: Historic Comfort Station

1. No Action: maintain in existing, partially-functional condition.
2. Rehabilitate as fully functional, universally accessible, year-round facility.
3. Rehabilitate for adaptive reuse and build new restroom facility on mainland.
4. Rehabilitate as fully functional, universally accessible, year-round facility and build additional new facility on mainland.



View of Comfort Station; looking southwest, 2017 (Dana Litowitz).



View of Comfort Station; looking northeast, 2017 (Dana Litowitz).

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Scoping Open House
August 3, 2017

Proposed Alternative Topic: Circulation

Land Trails

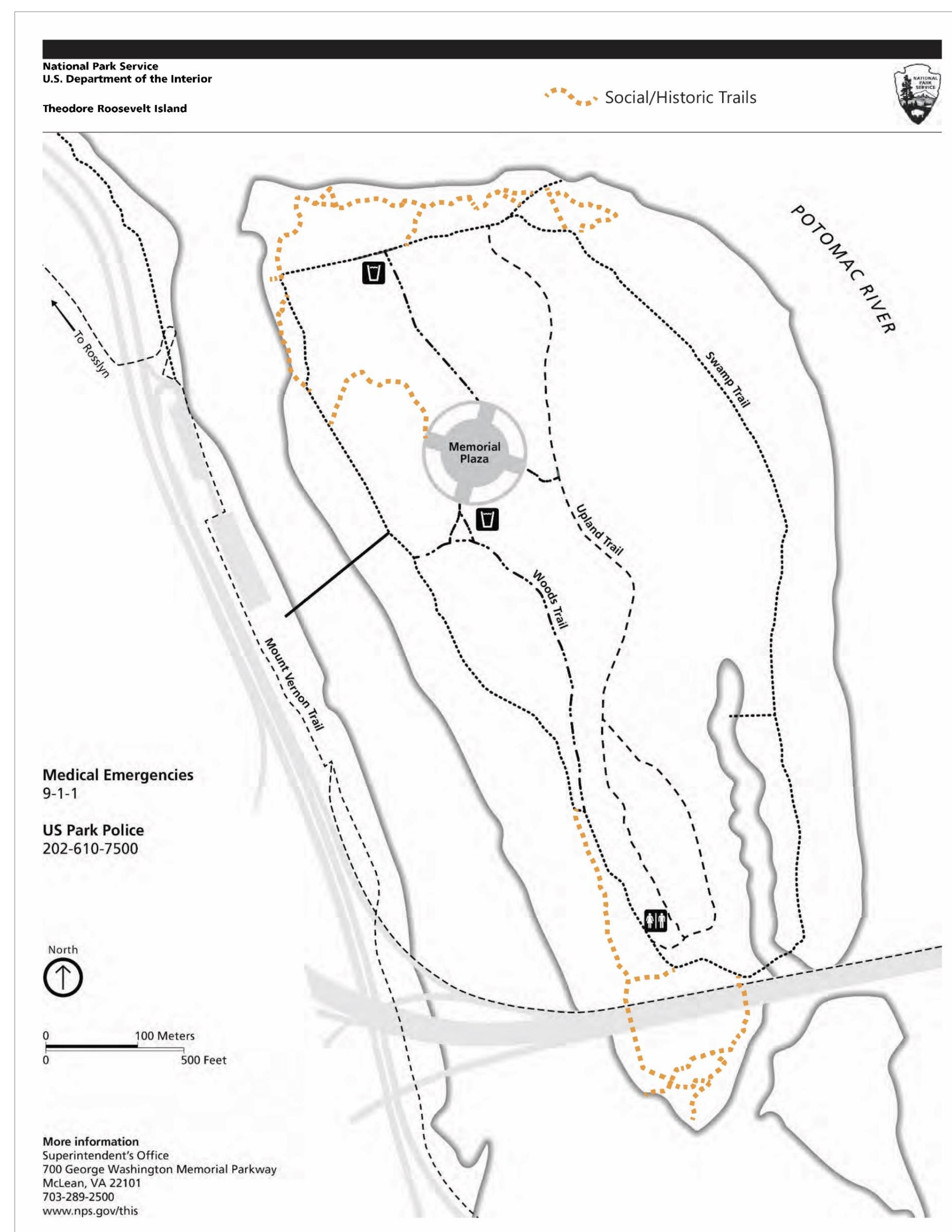
1. No Action: maintain trails in existing condition.
2. Improve existing trails.
3. Create new trails and/or viewpoints.
4. Rehabilitate Bridge 31 on Mt. Vernon Trail of the George Washington Memorial Parkway for safer pedestrian/bicycle travel.



TRI-wood duck launch and outboards on the Potomac. TRI wharf in background, 1958 (National Park Service).



Kayakers on the Potomac, 2016 (Dana Litowitz).



Theodore Roosevelt Island Social/Historic Trails Map (National Park Service).



View of Bridge 31 on Mount Vernon Trail, 2017 (Dana Litowitz).

Water Circulation

1. No Action: maintain existing condition of no formal water access or landings on island.
2. Re-establish boat landing/water circulation uses (which existed historically) by creating formal soft landing(s) for small nonmotorized craft.

Theodore Roosevelt Island

Cultural Landscape Report/ Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Public Scoping Open House
August 3, 2017

Public Comments

Tell us what you think!

Submit comments during the **Public Scoping Period:**

July 31 – September 8

Three Ways:

- Right here!
- Online: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/tri_clr_ea
- By Mail: Brenda Wasler
George Washington Memorial Parkway
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
c/o Turkey Run Park
McLean, Virginia 22101