



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



Mr. David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer
District of Columbia, Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite 650 East
Washington, D.C. 20024

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The National Park Service (NPS), under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, wishes to inform the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office of its intention to select the design option presented at the November 12, 2019 consulting parties meeting for the proposed National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial (NDSDSM) near the National Mall. The NPS formally initiated consultation on June 20, 2017.

On November 12, 2019, the NPS held a consulting parties meeting to review design options for the proposed NDSDSM, located on federal land at the Lincoln Memorial Grounds, at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street NW. At that time, the NPS presented a design concept for the NDSDSM. The NPS plans to pursue the presented design concept. The proposed project employs a landscape-based approach, using sloped berms to enclose a memorial featuring two bas-relief walls illustrating the service and sacrifice of armed service members and the change in public attitudes toward the military, as well as a central commemorative element emphasizing the effort's international coalition. The proposed project would also include figurative sculptures, new lighting, replacement of approximately three street trees along Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street NW, and alteration of topography to incorporate flood control systems. The placement of the memorial in the northwest corner of the site would continue to allow active recreation uses in the rest of the site's open space.

The consulting parties discussed the implications of the Memorial concept's height, vegetation, circulation, lighting, and materials. The proposed low height of the memorial berms would minimize the visual intrusion on the National Mall and the Lincoln Memorial. The memorial's design would impact and replace two existing trees in the allée along Constitution Avenue NW, as well as add new trees to the memorial's interior; additional trees would be planted consistent with the Lincoln Memorial's planting plan. The memorial is not anticipated to alter pedestrian or traffic patterns at the site. Nighttime lighting would be limited to the extent possible. While the design intent is to use sand-colored stone in the hardscape, the exact materials and amount of hardscape have not yet been determined.

The consulting parties also discussed the potential of the memorial to result in adverse effects on historic properties, including on the National Mall due to cumulative changes in its civic character. The NDSDSM introduces commemorative elements in an area that is currently open space and is sometimes used for active recreation. Participants raised the concern that the memorial features are inconsistent with the landscape character of the site, detract from certain aspects of the National Mall in the vicinity, and add to the cumulative effect of militarizing the western end of the National Mall. Consulting parties noted that the Reserve, as established in the Commemorative Works Act, is intended to address, in part, the concern of cumulative effects on the National Mall. Although other sites were considered in the memorial's site selection process, the Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street NW site was selected largely due to the site's proximity to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, given the thematic connections between the two conflicts.

Additionally, the National Mall also has a commemorative role. The consulting parties noted that the NDSDSM's low and discrete design would not result in a significant change in the area's landscape character. The NPS finds that the current design does not substantially alter the Lincoln Memorial Grounds, the National Mall, or other properties within the Area of Potential Effect.

At this time, the NPS finds that the undertaking would result in no adverse effect on historic properties. NPS will continue to study the wall height, berms, pathways, vegetation, lighting, and materials as the design advances. If any significant changes develop that may cause adverse effects to any historic resources, the NPS will notify you and the consulting parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management for NAMA at 202-245-4711 or via email at catherine_dewey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

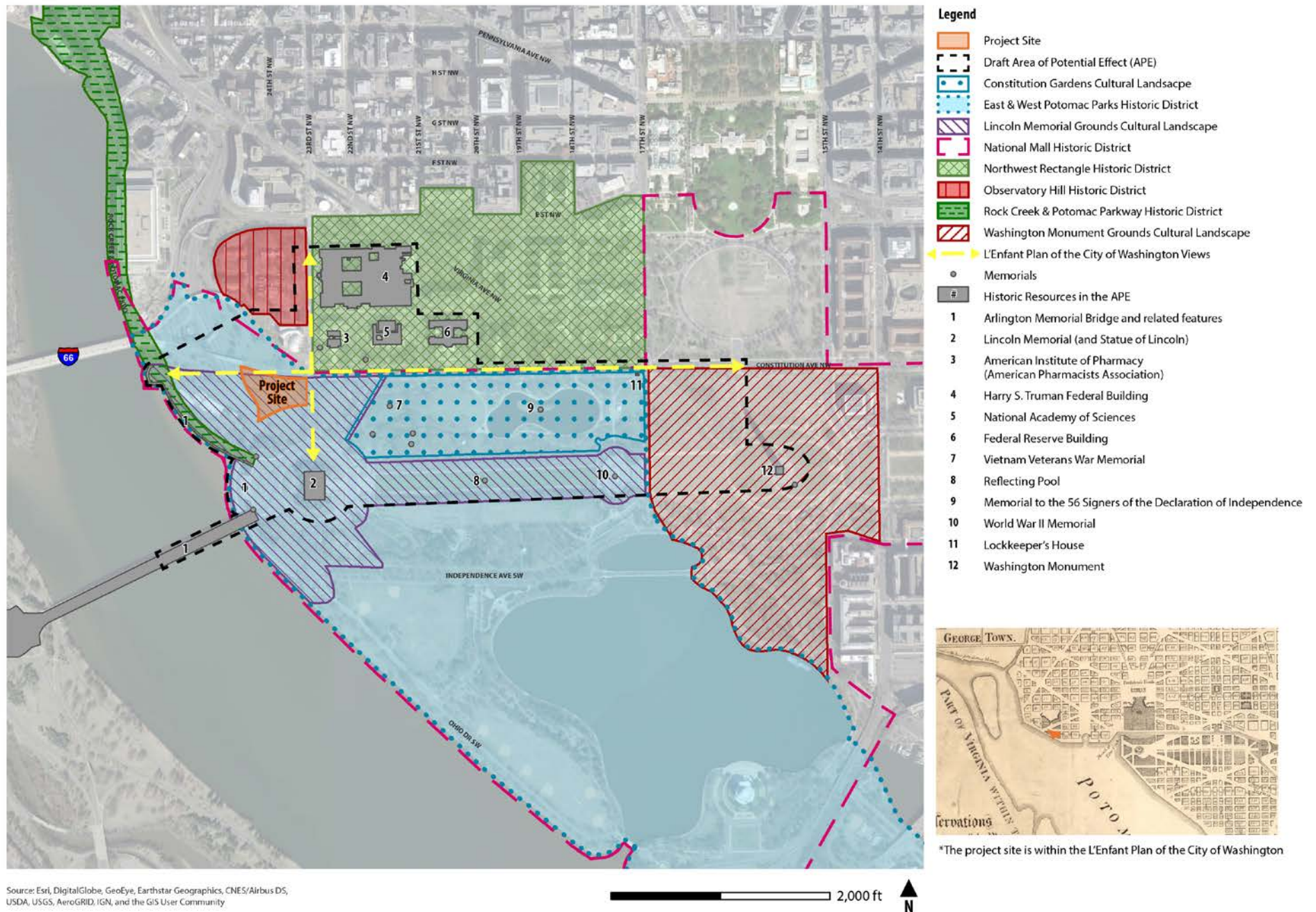
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey P. Reinbold', written over a large, stylized, handwritten 'J' that extends to the left.

Jeffrey P. Reinbold

Superintendent

Attachments

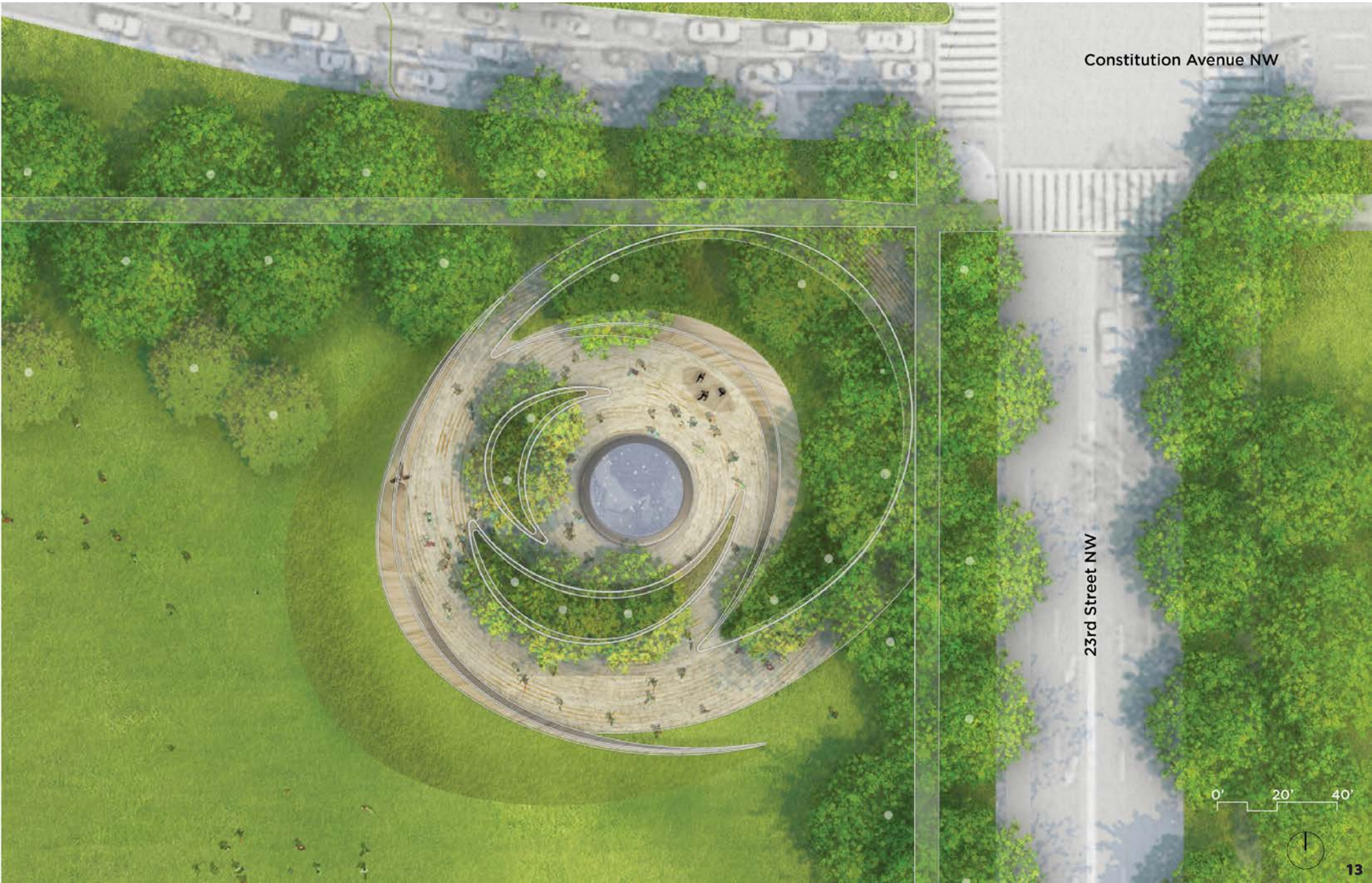
Draft Area of Potential Effect



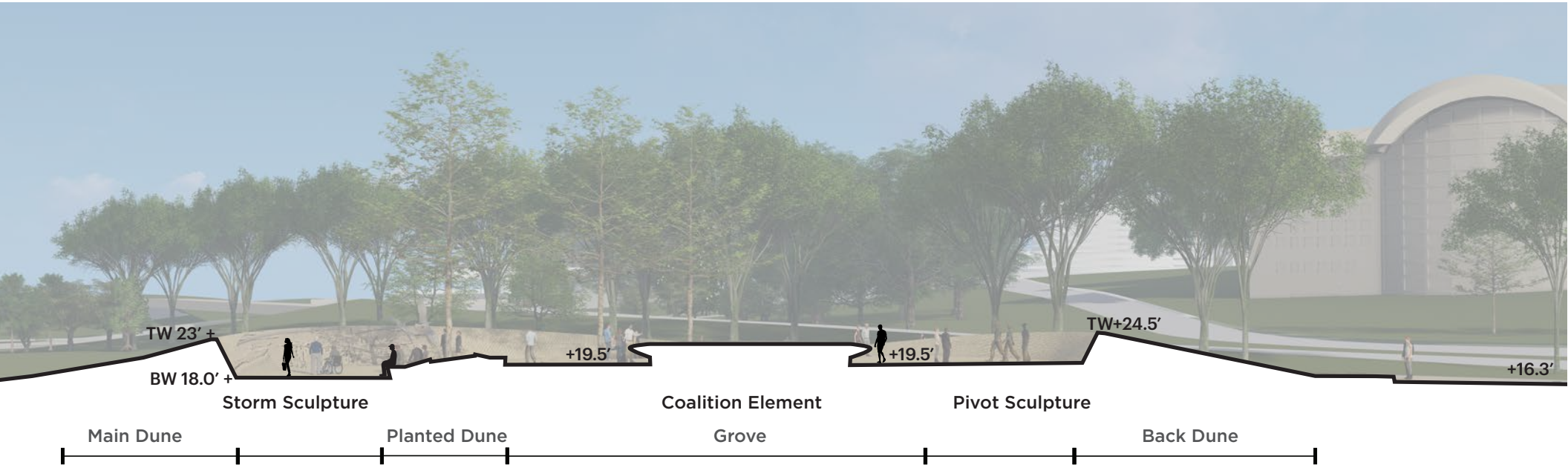
Current Concept - Overall Site Plan



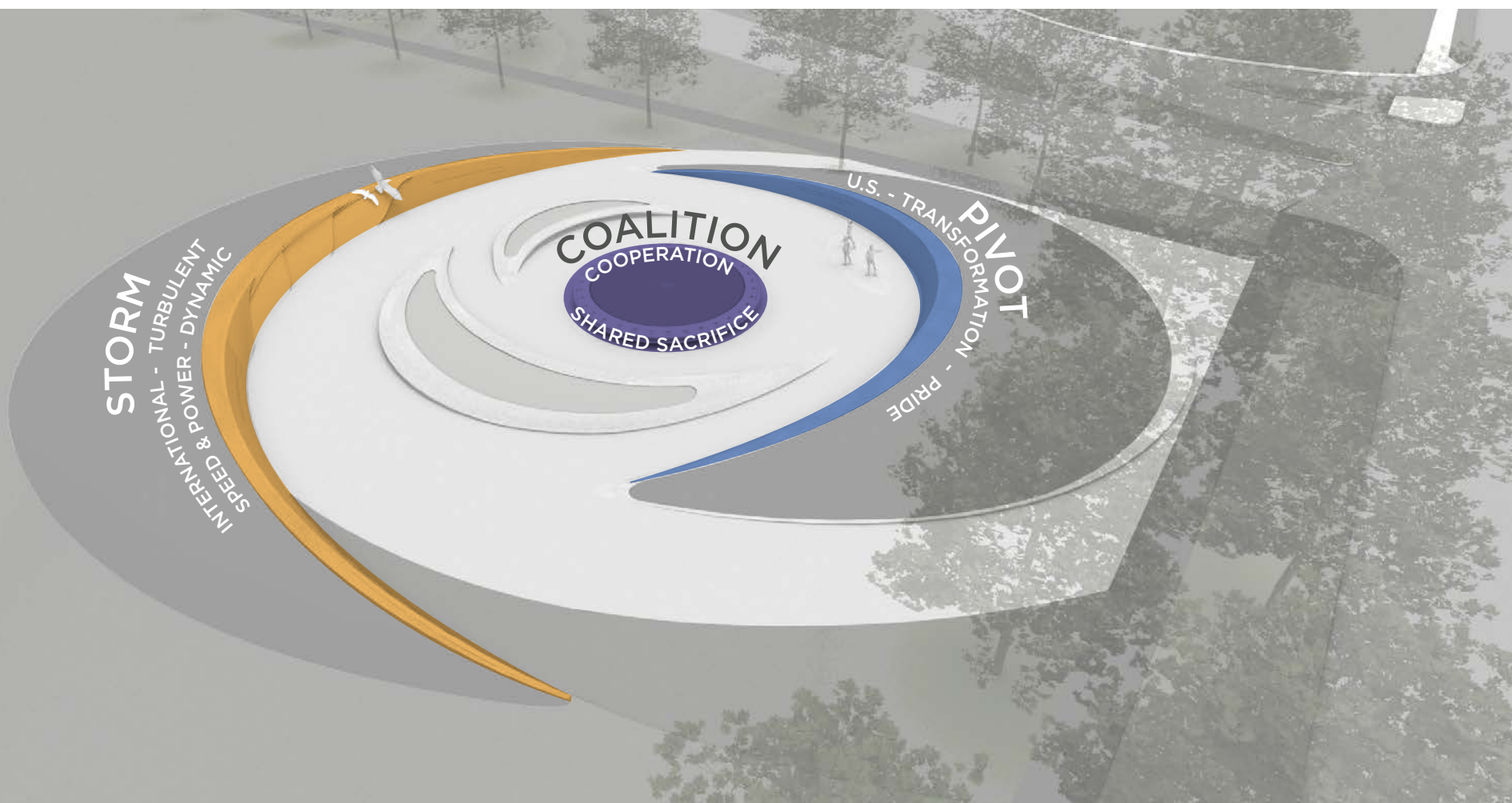
Memorial Plan



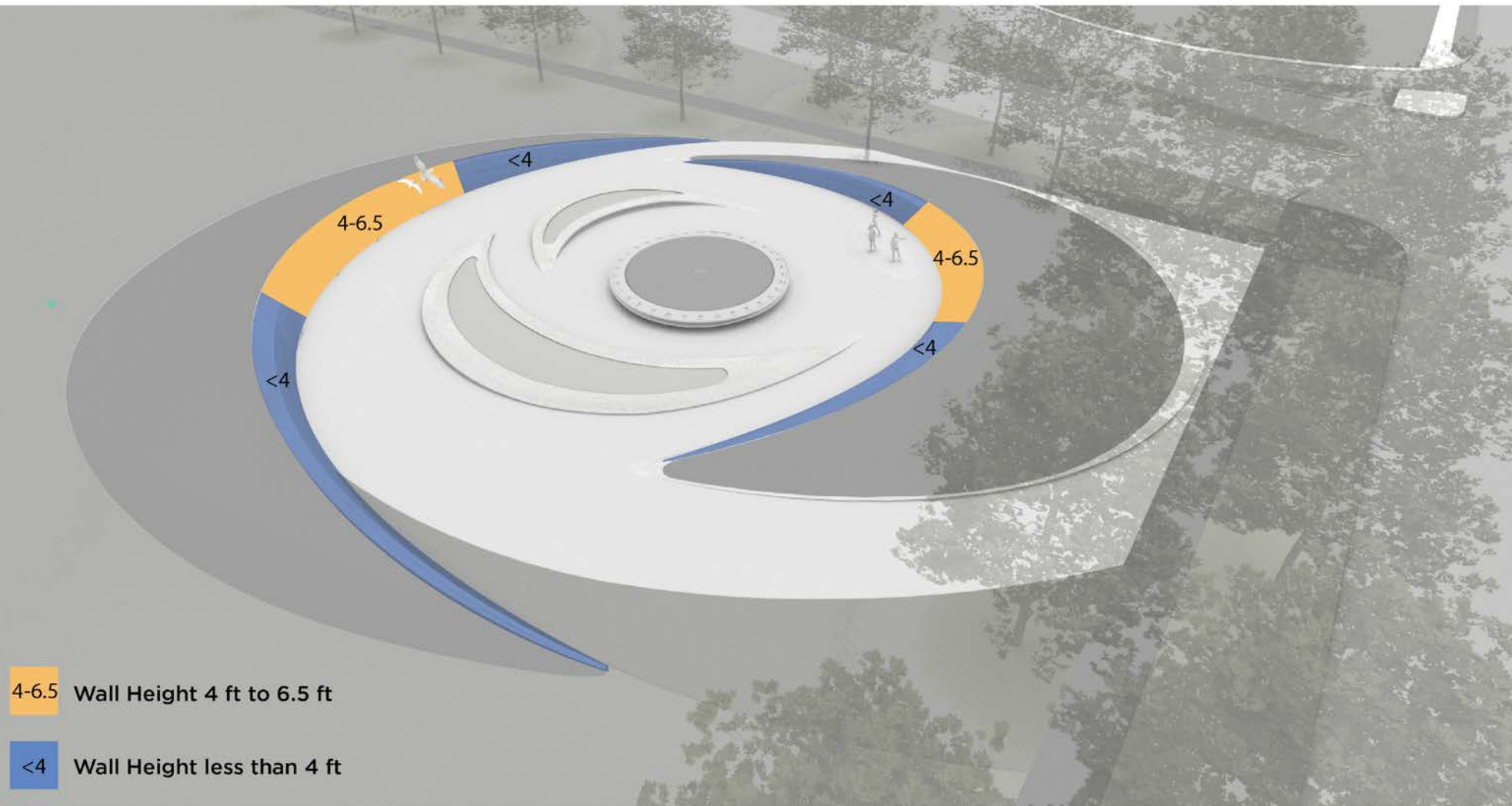
Section



Commemorative Themes and Framework

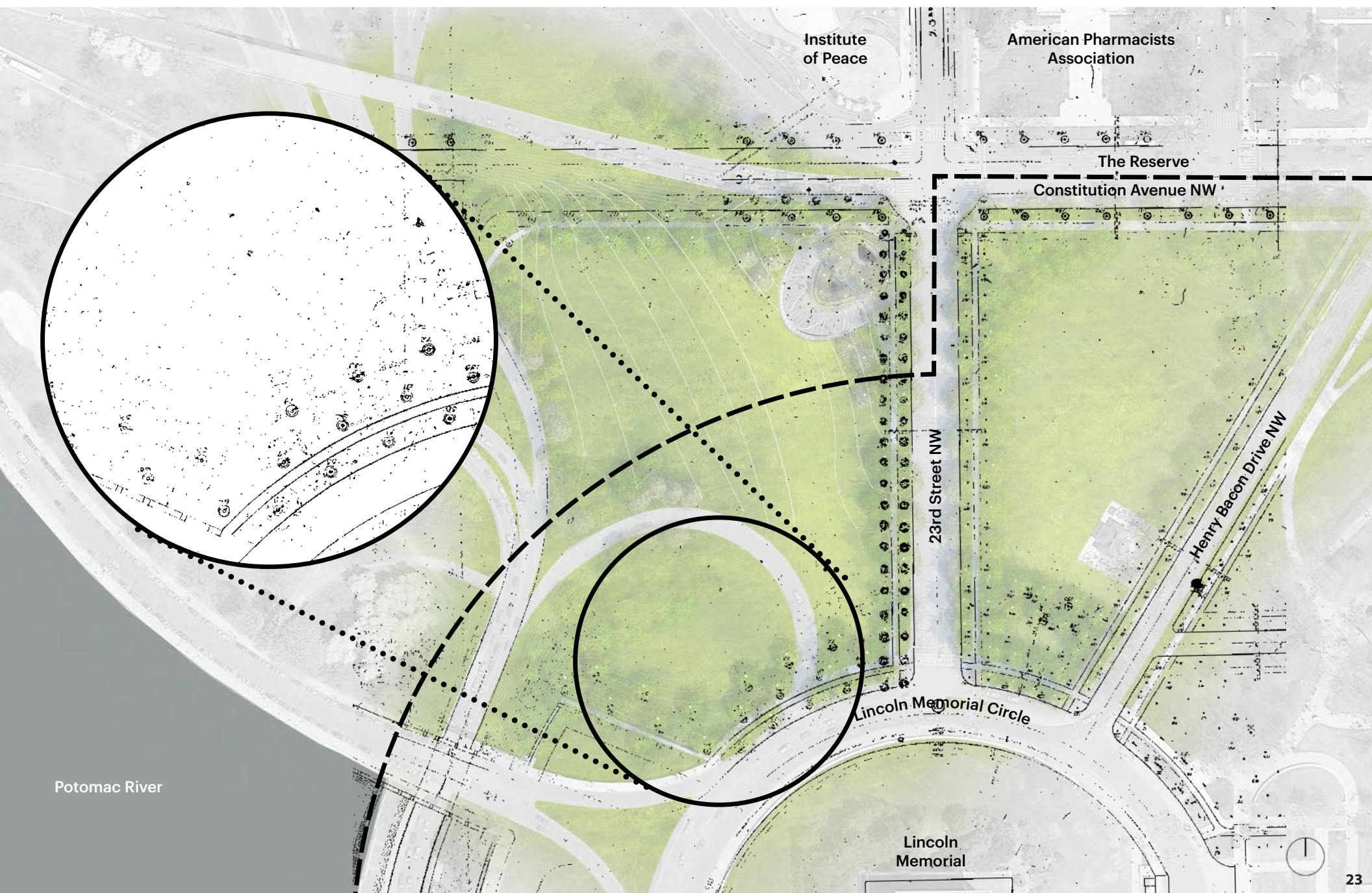


Wall Heights





Allée Tree Planting Plan - 1931



Allée Tree Planting - Proposed

