

# Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial Stadium Demolition

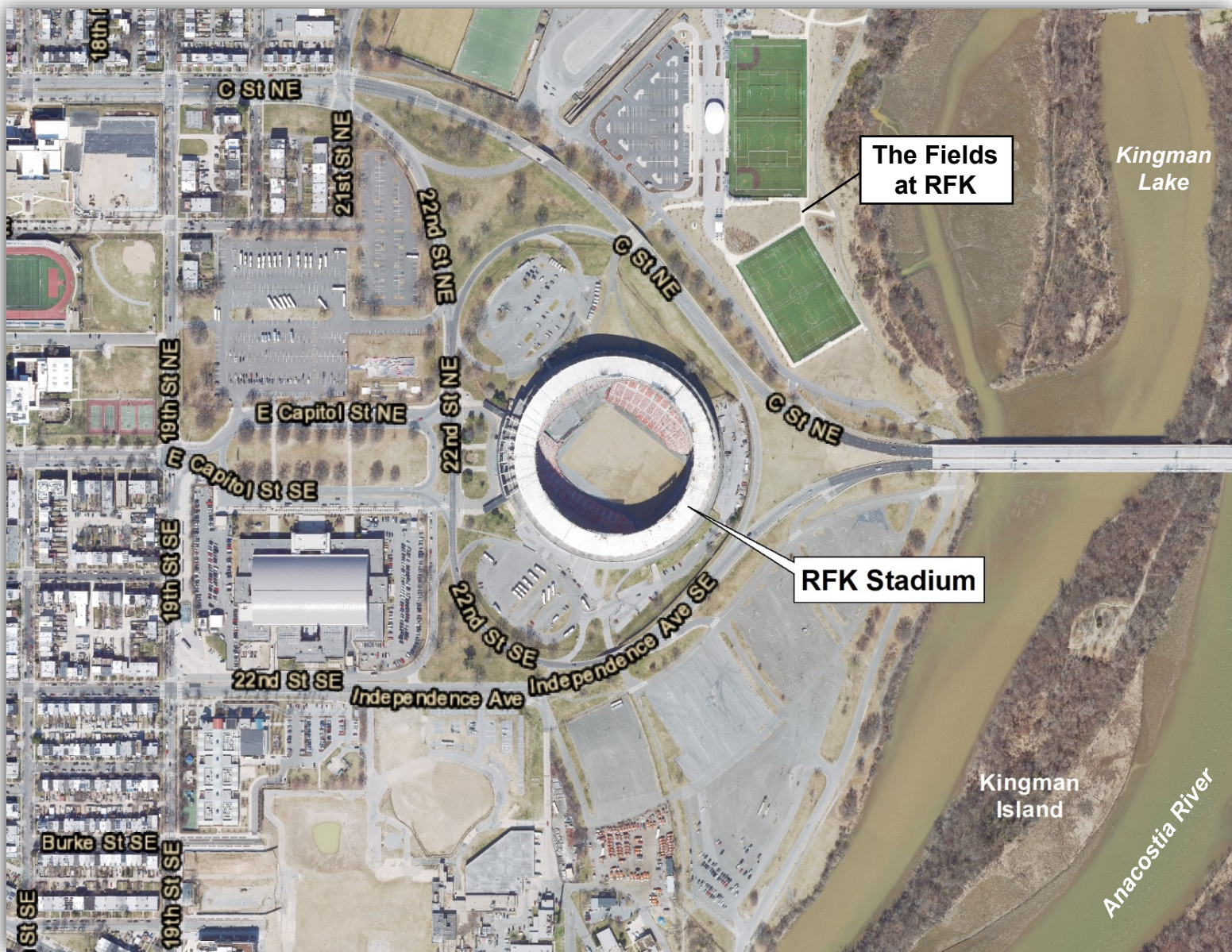


Photograph by Justin Scalera, 2023

Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting #1

June 6, 2023





2400 East Capitol Street NE



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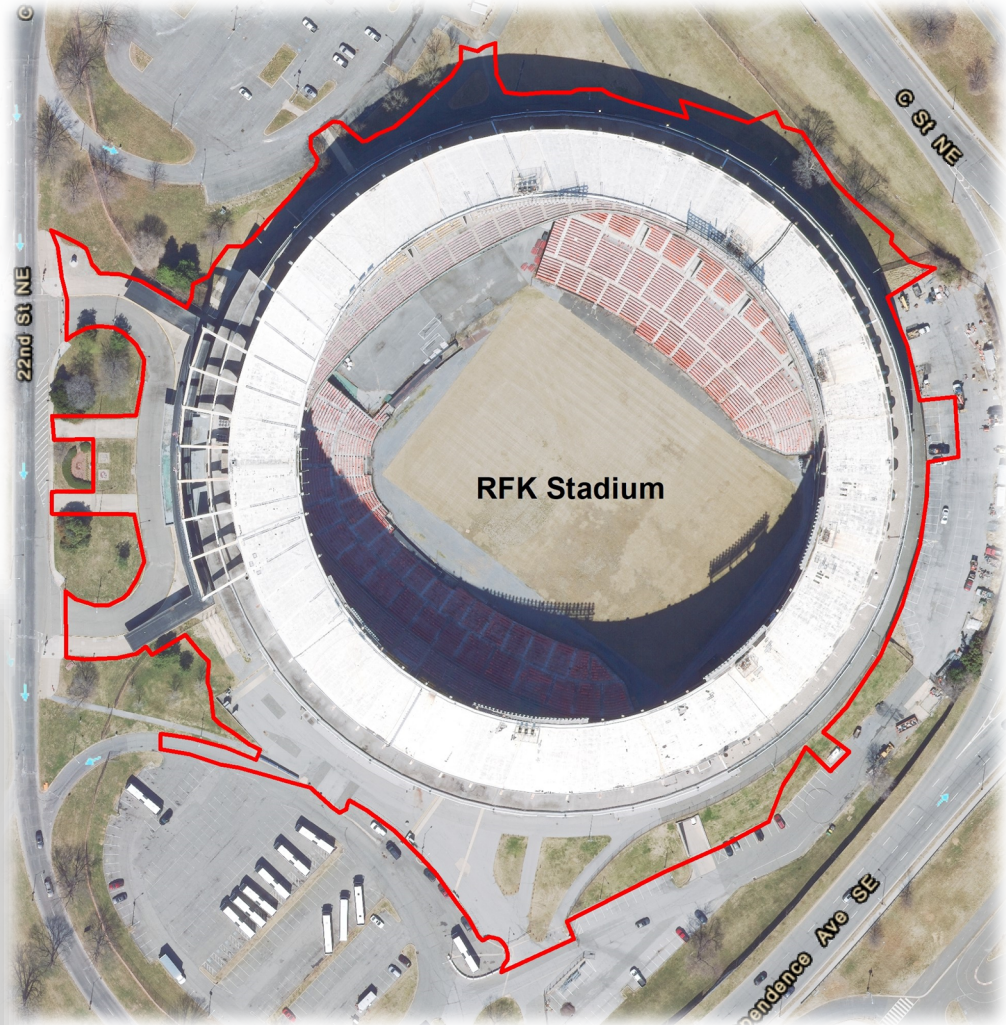




# RFK Stadium Demolition Project

## Four phases:

1. Hazardous materials abatement
2. Selective demolition of non-structural features (including furniture, equipment, interior partition walls, doors, windows, flooring, signage, etc.)
3. Structural demolition
4. Backfilling and site grading



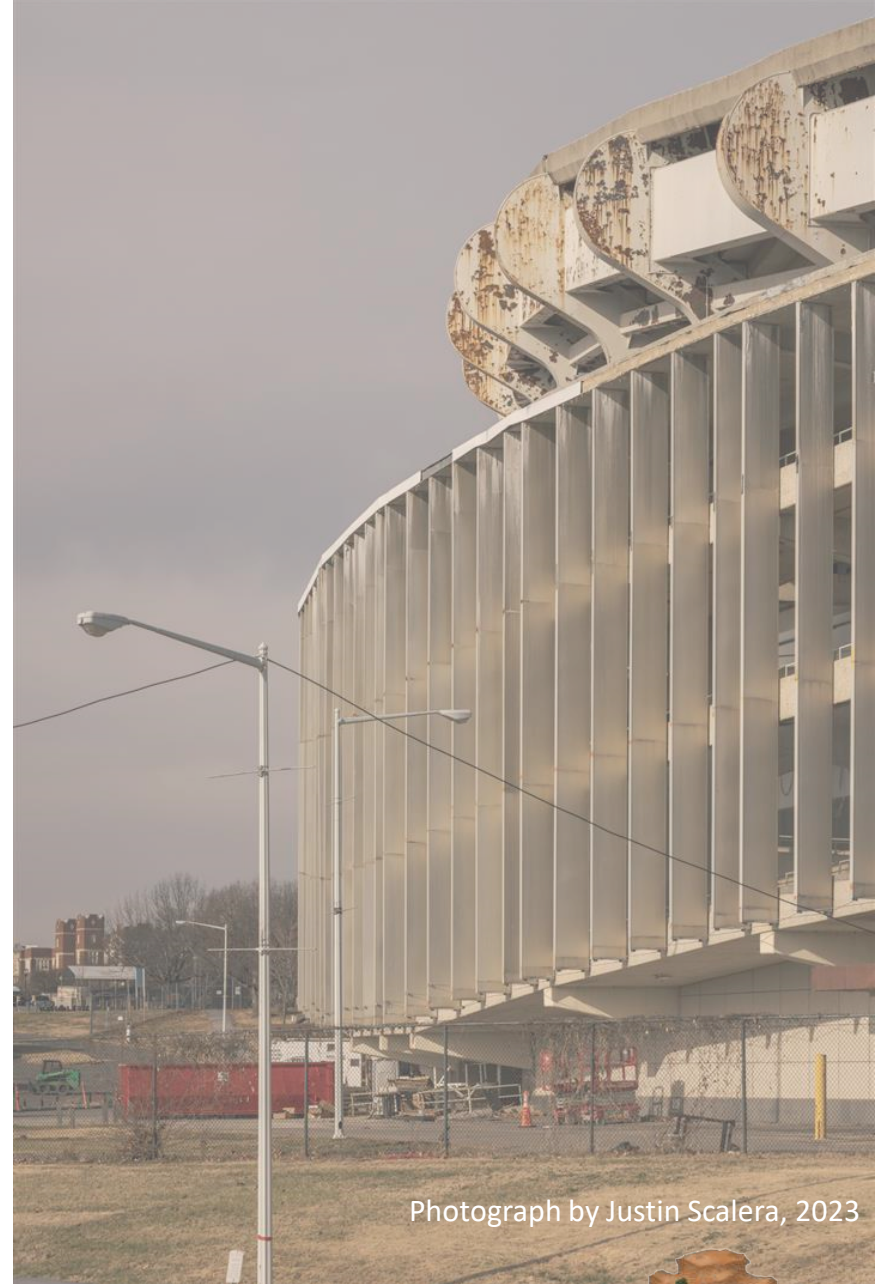
**Project Limits of Disturbance (LOD) depicted in red.**





# NEPA and Section 106

- RFK Stadium is owned by the District of Columbia, while the land is owned by the United States and under the control of the National Park Service (NPS)
- Coordination of NEPA and Section 106 processes
- NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared concurrent to Section 106 consultation
- Section 106 initiated
- Assessment of Effects is also being prepared



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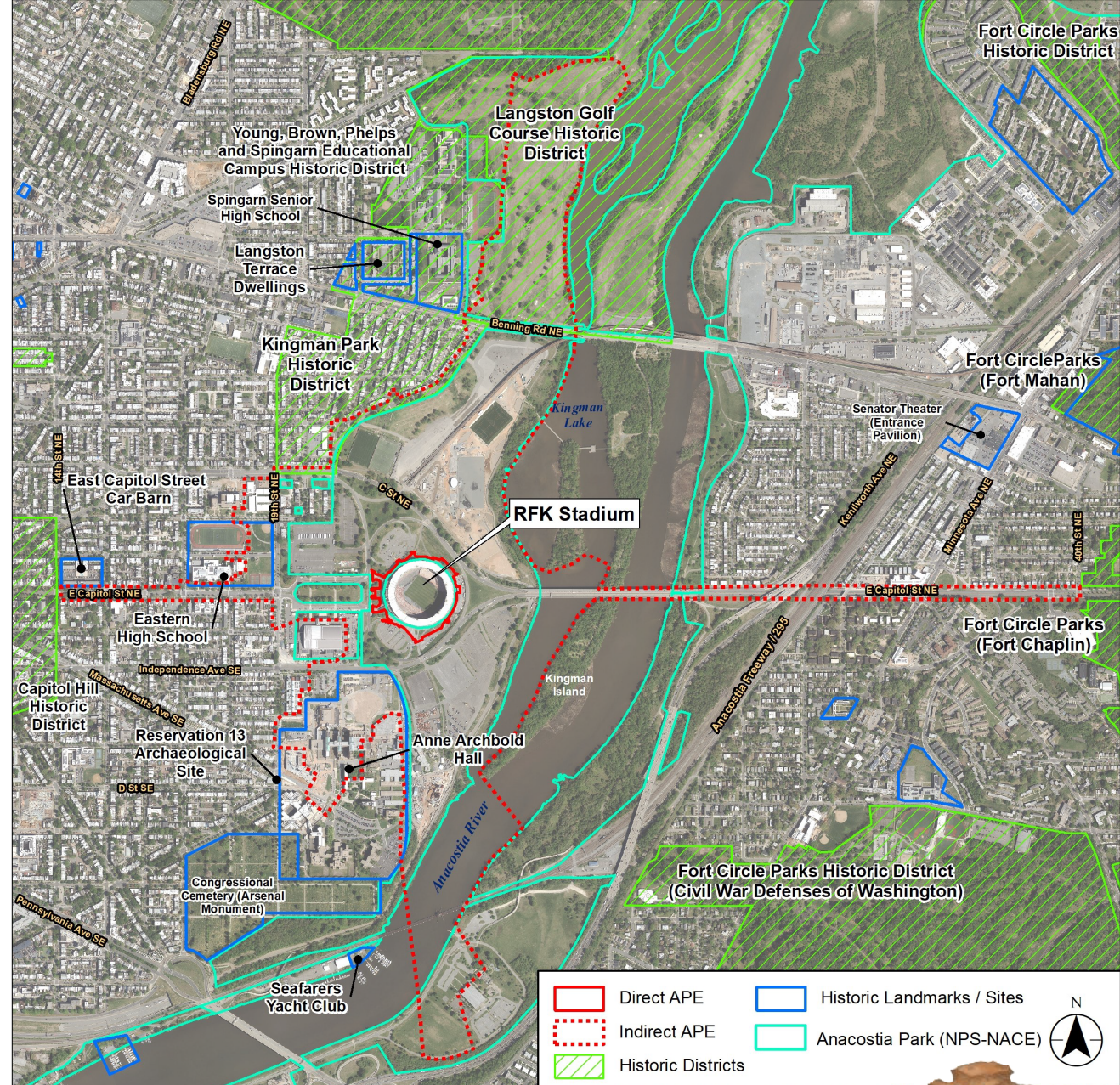
# Area of Potential Effects (APE)

## Direct APE:

- Includes potential areas of surface and subsurface disturbance
- Equivalent to project's Limits of Disturbance (LOD)

## Indirect APE:

- Includes areas from which the demolition project may be *reasonably* visible





# Historic Properties within / adjacent to APE

## Direct APE

- RFK Memorial Stadium (considered eligible for listing in the NRHP)

## Indirect APE (listed in or eligible for listing in NRHP and/or DC Inventory of Historic Sites)

- Anacostia Park
- Kingman Park Historic District
- Langston Golf Course Historic District
- Young, Brown, Phelps, and Spingarn Educational Campus Historic District
- Capitol Hill Historic District
- Fort Circle Parks Historic District (Civil War Defenses of Washington) – Fort Mahan & Fort Chaplin
- Eastern High School
- Anne Archbold Hall (Gallinger Hospital Nurses' Residence)
- Reservation 13 Archaeological Site
- East Capitol Street Car Barn (Metropolitan Railroad Company Car Barn)



Anne Archbold Hall, ca. 2010  
(Credit: DC Preservation League)

East Capitol Street Car Bar, 1973  
(Credit: Wm. Edmund Barrett, NCPC)



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# Preliminary Assessment of Effects for RFK Stadium

- Designed by Texas-based architect, George Dahl, in a circular plan; its slope and façade creates the perception of waving lines, as if in motion.



- Dahl's utilitarian design lacked architectural detail or ornamentation and did not attempt to align with the architecture of surrounding neighborhoods or nearby government buildings.
- Opened in 1961 as one of the first multi-use stadiums in the country, it was designed to host both baseball and football games and has since hosted a wide range of major sporting events and countless musical concerts and other performances.
- Originally named the District of Columbia Stadium (or DC Stadium), it was renamed in 1969 in honor of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy after his assassination.
- RFK Stadium retains its overall integrity as a historic property.
  - Alterations have not impacted its original massing or its limited architectural details.

The demolition of RFK Stadium will result in an *adverse effect* to a historic property.



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# Preliminary Assessment of Effects for Indirect APE

- Demolition of RFK Stadium would result in a change in the views from *above-ground* historic properties in the Indirect APE
  - Reservation 13 Archaeological Site: No subsurface disturbance as a result of the demolition; therefore, there will be ***no adverse effects*** to this site.
- Short-term impacts to historic properties during demolition activities will not permanently alter their historic characteristics.
- Views of RFK Stadium are not contributing features to any of the historic properties.
- The stadium's year of construction (1961) does not fall within the periods of significance of the historic properties.
- After demolition, the views from the historic properties towards the stadium site will be more aligned with views during their periods of significance.

The demolition of RFK Stadium will have ***no adverse effects*** on historic properties within or adjacent to the project's indirect APE.





# Effects on Unidentified Archaeological Resources

- Demolition activities within the direct APE are not expected to impact undisturbed ground.
- There is limited potential for the presence of archaeological resources within the direct APE.

The demolition of RFK Stadium will have ***no adverse effect*** on archaeological resources.

- Proposed construction activities for *future* development could have the potential to impact archaeological resources. Additional consultation with the DC SHPO and an assessment of archaeological potential would likely be needed.



Archaeology in DC (Credit: Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.)



# Section 106 Resolution of Adverse Effects

The demolition of RFK Stadium will result in an ***adverse effect*** to the stadium itself, which can not be avoided or minimized.

**Agreement Document:** A document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the adverse effects of an undertaking upon historic properties.

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with signatories to be determined through consultation

## Potential Mitigation Measures

- Documentation of the RFK Stadium property (interior and exterior) following the **Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)** standards and guidelines.
- A **Historic Resource Study (HRS)** for RFK Stadium to cover topics including, but not limited to, its design and construction, historic context, key events, legislation, the reclamation of the land, etc.
- Other possible mitigation to be determined.





# Conclusions & Next Steps



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