



HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

MASTER PLAN
2026 - 2036

CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

DC'S GREATEST UNDERTAKING



2026 - 2036 MASTER PLAN FOR

HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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JAMES H. HENDERSON
A SENATOR IN THE
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FROM THE STATE OF
TEXAS
BORN MAY 18, 1818
DIED APRIL 18, 1888

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1 INTRODUCTION

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 PURPOSE AND PROCESS

Founded in 1807 as the Washington Parish Burial Ground, today Congressional Cemetery is administered by the nonprofit Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC) and owned by Christ Church Episcopal, Washington Parish.

In 2023, the APHCC adopted its Strategic Plan 2024-2029. Among the goals identified in that plan was to complete a “board approved master plan to guide the growth and development of the cemetery as an active burial site and community amenity, and to ensure the integrity of its National Historic Landmark designation with insight from industry professionals. This master plan will guide and coordinate the Cemetery’s preservation work with additional capital projects that will help solve the Cemetery’s limited space and provide added revenue to address its preservation needs.”

Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc. (RHI), a landscape architecture, planning and urban design firm was selected to lead the master planning effort, aided by Hartman-Cox Architects, HNTB, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI), and Crawford Consulting Services. The project commenced in December 2024 with a kick-off meeting led by the Cemetery’s appointed Working Group. This meeting identified four priorities for the plan: enhance the visitor experience, propose locations and concepts for burial site expansion, improve green infrastructure, and address cemetery operations that occur from the Gatehouse.

Phase I was the Discovery Phase and included archival research, site visits, mapping exercises, and interviews with focus groups comprising people identified by the Working Group. A community meeting was held in February 2025 to solicit feedback from neighbors and stakeholders. Phase I culminated with the delivery of a Site Analysis Report, which was submitted in April 2025 and reproduced in the Appendix of this document.

Phase II was the Planning and Design Phase of the master planning process. Alternatives were developed to test how improvements and rehabilitation projects might interact with one another and to consider how phasing could influence implementation. During this period, Congressional Cemetery conducted a fast-track audit to reconcile interment and burial plot ownership records and to identify potential areas where infill burials may occur. A boundary survey was also conducted. Results of the burial audit and boundary survey were factored into the master plan alternatives.

Midway through this phase, the alternatives were presented to the community in a virtual format. Stakeholder feedback was then assessed, shared with the Working Group, and incorporated into the alternatives to create a composite of priorities. In November 2025, this composite was submitted to the APHCC board of directors as a draft master plan. At the same time, concepts for a new visitor center were devised and draft design principles were developed and submitted to the Working Group.

After refinements were made to the draft master plan, implementation plans were developed, and cost estimates were prepared, the master plan was finalized and delivered to the APHCC in February 2026.

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND



Historic Congressional Cemetery, 2025, courtesy Architect of the Capitol.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Congressional Cemetery is an active, nationally significant cemetery landscape and vibrant urban park that reflects American history. Founded in 1807, more than 70,000 people are interred or memorialized in the 35 acre grounds along Washington, D.C.'s Anacostia River. Congressional Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Today, the cemetery supports an agenda of diverse programming that caters to the local community and attracts a broad audience. Burial sites are still available to the public.

The cemetery was established by a private corporation of citizens to benefit the inhabitants of newly-founded Federal City. The cemetery inherited a broader civic purpose as plots were set aside for the interment of congressmen. Growing incrementally, the cemetery reflects the layout for the Federal City designed by Pierre L'Enfant, with its spatial organization based on the surrounding street grid. Congress appropriated funds in 1823 and 1876 for the cemetery's expansion and enhancement, resulting in the construction of the Public Vault, Congressional Cenotaphs, paving, and fencing.

Despite a period of slow decline in the twentieth century, the establishment of the nonprofit Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery in 1976 reversed this trend by overseeing investment and enabling rehabilitation of the burial ground. In 1997, the cemetery was listed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places" list. In 2003, a team of professionals led by Turk Tracey & Larry Architects, LLC provided a rich study of the historic landscape and prepared a master plan for the cemetery. Since that time, many of the recommendations presented in the 2003 master plan were implemented.

The 2026-2036 master plan represents the next phase in the cemetery's evolution.

Throughout the master planning process, the consultant team has collaborated with and solicited feedback from a range of cemetery staff, partners, Board representatives, and community members.

- In support of the master planning effort, the consultant team worked closely with Congressional Cemetery's leadership through regular meetings with a Working Group.
- Fact-finding meetings with five focus groups, whose members were selected by the Working Group, established a foundation of information that served as the basis of the site analysis.
- Two in-person community meetings were held at Christ Church and three virtual surveys were developed by the consultant team and disseminated by Congressional Cemetery to its constituents. Feedback from the participants has been synthesized by the consultant team and provided to Congressional Cemetery.
- Critical to the development of the draft master plan, the survey feedback and stakeholder demographics can also be used by Congressional Cemetery to prioritize programmatic considerations and outreach strategies.

An overview of these engagement efforts and feedback received have been documented separately and are included in the Appendix. Stakeholder feedback has been critical in the development of this master plan's recommendations and prioritizations. Inventories of existing conditions, evaluations of present needs and future goals, and careful study of recent work has also informed the process.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 - 2036 master plan focuses on enhancing the visitor experience through targeted interventions prioritized to improve safety, legibility, and integrity. Detailed implementation plans and cost estimates are included in this master plan. Results of a boundary survey conducted as part of the master planning process revealed that the cemetery owns more land to the north and east of the cemetery than previously thought, which provides opportunities to expand the grounds.

The master plan's recommendations begin with the repair or improvement of existing pedestrian circulation features such as formal paths and site stairs. Informal paths, commonly known as social trails, negatively impact the cemetery's historic resources and contribute to erosion in some places and compaction in others. The plan seeks to revegetate the existing social trails and establish a new perimeter trail that is laid out to avoid burials. Site lighting and signage are lacking or need improvement in many parts of the cemetery, and this master plan recommends that targeted design studies be prepared for both of these to enable much needed improvements. Other immediate projects include the fabrication of screens for portable toilets used on site, the enhancement of an existing scatter garden, and the reclamation of land and planting of vegetation to screen the adjacent correctional facility based on findings of the recently completed boundary survey. A baseline study of underground springs near the Family Vaults and a sitewide stormwater management investigation are recommended in the early phases of the master plan to prescribe and prioritize future projects in these realms, which range from selective grading to eliminate low spots to the installation of spring boxes to capture groundwater before it saturates burial plot areas. Finally, the design of a new visitor center, visitor kiosk, and expansion of the existing Gatehouse is a critical project that will inform capital campaigns and future projects.

These early projects represent the most critical work that needs to be implemented. Concurrent with these and ongoing throughout the next decade of improvements are conservation projects to correct or stabilize headstones and markers, enhance the tree canopy at the cemetery, and convert plants in existing Adopt-a-Plot areas to native and adapted pollinator species.

Future projects recommended in this master plan are intended to address aesthetic and functional deficiencies in the cemetery. These include the conversion of turf areas to drought tolerant fescues interplanted with pollinator plants, the maintenance of existing trees and the strategic introduction of new ones, the reconstruction of a historic gate on Prout Street, improvements to the spring pond - affectionately known as the Doggy Day Spa - to make this feature more pet friendly, rehabilitation of the roads, and the replacement of the existing chain link fence with a decorative metal fence. Construction of the visitor center and enlargement of the Gatehouse to address operations occur after the safety concerns are addressed and capital has been raised for construction.

The final stages of this ten-year master plan include the construction of cremation niches, the establishment of new scatter gardens, and a redesign of the existing maintenance yard at the east end of the site.

The proposed projects are designed to preserve and enhance the existing features of this National Historic Landmark while beautifying the site, accommodating a diversity of programs, and providing burial space for years to come.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.3 PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Congressional Cemetery's 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan articulates a mission and vision that are at the heart of the master plan's recommendations to improve the visitor experience, maximize available space for interments/inurnments, enhance green infrastructure to address stormwater concerns, and address space needs in the Gatehouse while moving visitor services functions to an exterior facility on the property.

Mission: Historic Congressional Cemetery seeks to preserve, promote, and protect our historic and active burial ground. We respectfully celebrate the legacy of those interred here through education, historic preservation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

Vision: To be a nationally recognized active cemetery that creates meaningful education programs about the history it preserves, provides innovative opportunities for community engagement with its neighbors and visitors, and offers a unique green space for respite and reflection that fully embraces the cycle of life.

The principles that have been developed as part of the master planning effort are meant to showcase and enhance the unique environment of the Congressional Cemetery landscape. Preservation projects and site improvements should respect the burial ground's historic character and its established aesthetics, protect significant cultural resources, contribute to sustainability goals, and advance the overall quality of the cemetery grounds. These principles are intended to guide the stewardship of existing site features and influence the design, construction, and maintenance of new features and vegetation.

Because of the cemetery's national significance, the planning principles were developed with a stewardship ethos:

- Consider the long-term impacts of any undertaking, whether it be the preservation of historic resources or the introduction of new features.
- Respect the national and local significance and irreplaceability of the site's historic and cultural resources.
- Reflect sensitive, cohesive planning efforts to optimize land utilization and harmonize with the existing context.
- Incorporate attitudes of resiliency, durability, and sustainability in environmental improvements.
- Promote the authentic, eclectic, and dynamic image that Congressional Cemetery is known for.
- Seek out solutions that are durable, low-maintenance, and fit to the site's topography and land patterns.
- Design to be accessible to the extent practicable.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.3 PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

This master plan's recommendations are organized into two primary parts. Section 2 describes key issues and proposed projects related to three of the priorities identified at the commencement of the planning effort: visitor experience, burial expansion, and stormwater management. Photographs and narrative descriptions provide background on these components and key projects are shown on diagrams. Section 3 consists of illustrative plans and rendered views of the three priorities overlaid on one another, along with concepts for the Gatehouse expansion, visitor center, and kiosk. Following these illustrative materials, implementation plans illustrate how these projects may be prioritized.

Several key recommendations are contained within these two sections. These include:

- As a locally and nationally significant site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark, critical projects include those that safeguard the historic features of the cemetery. Ongoing conservation practices of monuments, headstones, and memorials are of utmost importance. Seemingly small measures such as selective re-grading of collapsed burials will provide stable conditions for adjacent monuments that are presently at risk of toppling and the re-routing of some trails will help protect burials.
- Ensuring safe navigation of the cemetery and accommodating all abilities has been identified by stakeholders as a priority. Projects related to this include the rehabilitation of paved pedestrian routes, the installation of handrails at site stairs and the regularization of treads and landings, and the addition of adequate site lighting.
- Stormwater management projects are critical at the cemetery. These commence with additional study to determine the causes and extents of issues and to devise economical but effective solutions to runoff, erosion, and inundation. Related to this is the correction of road failures associated with improperly installed pavement subgrade and disconnected or non-existent drainage structures. Projects addressing groundwater seeps are also important to undertake.
- Vegetation is a dynamic feature in the landscape. Turf grass requires steep investment and is not resilient without constant upkeep. Dethatching lawns and overseeding with drought tolerant grasses and pollinator flowers is recommended. Mature trees should be well cared for and new trees planted to screen unwanted views and increase plant diversity.
- Aesthetic upgrades include the installation of cohesive signage for wayfinding, interpretation, and information; replacement of the chain link fence with a decorative metal one; and the screening of portable toilets with custom fabricated enclosures.
- Designing and constructing a welcome kiosk and a visitor center are high priority projects to help the cemetery meet its diverse programming needs and educational pursuits. Expanding the existing Gatehouse to better accommodate staff operations is a related project that is critical to staff retention and usability.
- Expanding burial opportunities by identifying vacant areas for traditional burial, enlarging the existing scatter garden, and strategically building columbariums for cremated remains will generate revenue for the cemetery and ensure that it continues to be an active burial ground.





2

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

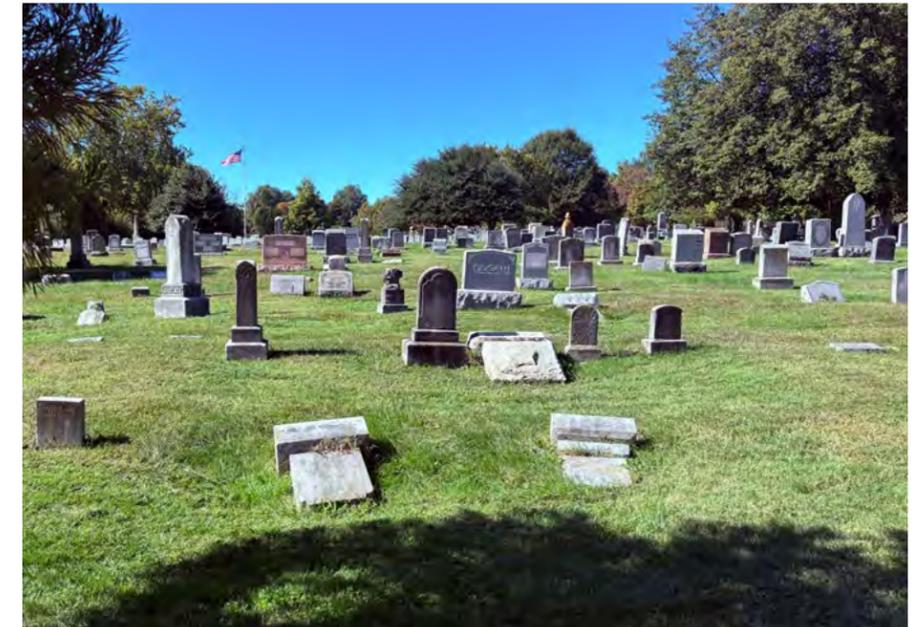
2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

As a historic and active cemetery that is viewed by the community as a neighborhood park that accommodates a wealth of diverse activities, the master plan prioritizes opportunities oriented at improving the visitor experience. These types of improvements include safety, wayfinding, and beautification.

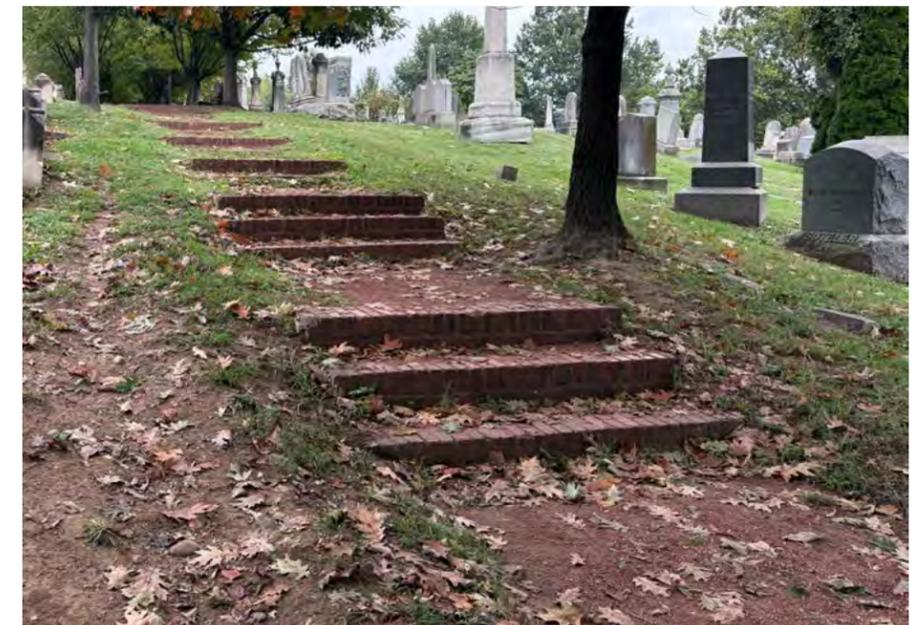
Major improvement opportunities related to the visitor experience should include the following general strategies:

1. Continue conservation of monuments and burial plots.
2. Improve all site stairs by regularizing treads, risers, and landings.
3. Install handrails at all site stairs.
4. Re-seed social paths where they tread across burial areas.
5. Improve signage design, planning, and location.
6. Install site lighting in selected areas.
7. Stabilize crushed stone paths and repair hardscaped areas.
8. Enhance tree plantings for screening, shade, and beautification, with an emphasis on continuing current efforts to gain arboretum accreditation.
9. Utilize resilient ground cover in lieu of traditional turf lawns where possible.
10. Address site aesthetics by replacing chain link fences and yard hydrants with products more in keeping with the cemetery's character and providing screening enclosures for portable toilets.
11. Expand into the property to the north and east with screening vegetation, columbariums, and a repositioned maintenance yard.

The following photographs illustrate existing conditions that the master plan recommends improving.



Cyclical and ongoing conservation of monuments and burial plots is needed.



Exterior stairs to be improved with the addition of handrails, repair or replacement of materials, and the regularization of treads and landings.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Replace the deteriorated chain link fence with a decorative metal picket fence.



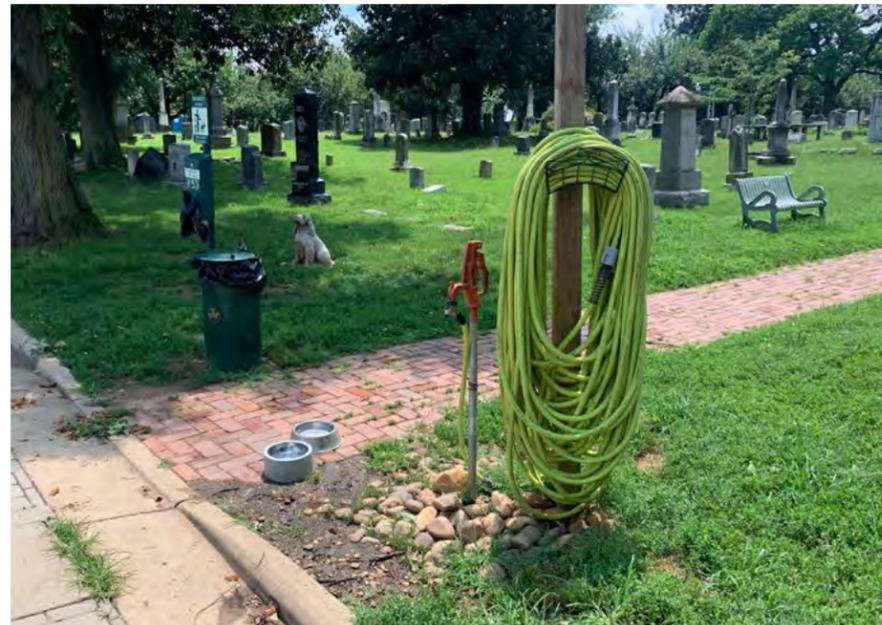
Upgrade the appearance of portable toilets near the Chapel.



Rehabilitate Slate Carriage Way.



Study the lighting needs of present and future programming to inform the selection and installation of new luminaires.



Address the aesthetics of hydrants, hose hangers, and waste receptacles.



Reroute social trails to mitigate impacts to burial sites and vegetated slopes.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

HEADSTONE CONSERVATION

Through engagement activities associated with this master planning process, the conservation of features associated with burials consistently ranked very high. This work includes the conservation of headstones, monuments, plot fencing and curbing, and addressing collapsed areas. Some community members expressed concern that they see headstones lying on the ground in what appears to be neglect. This master plan recommends that Congressional Cemetery continue to perform community outreach to communicate the ongoing efforts to perform conservation of monuments and burial features. These efforts can include posts on the website and signage describing the process of conservation and noting that some headstones are intentionally laid on the ground to protect them from further damage and to ensure the safety of visitors.

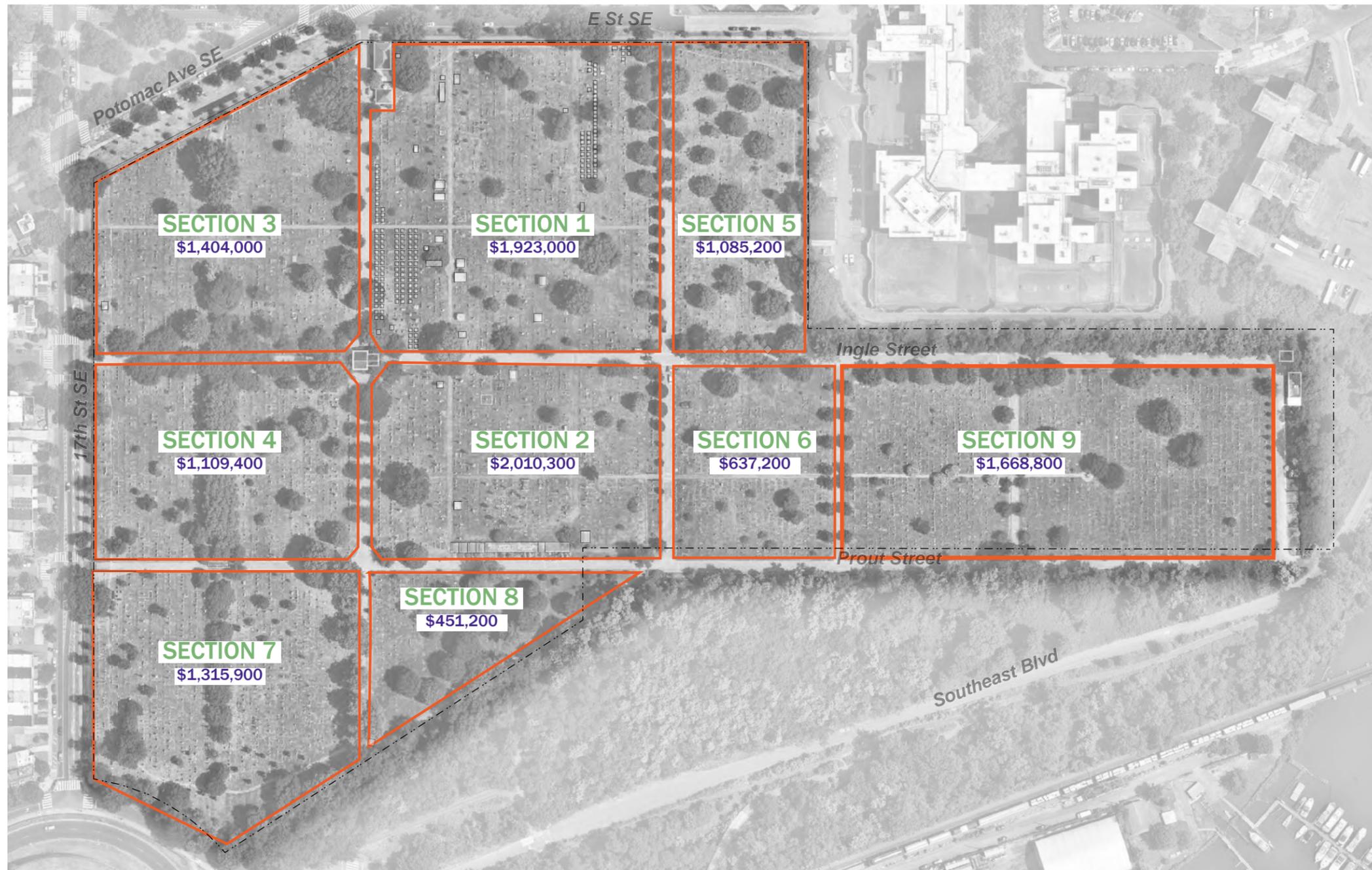
In 2022, Congressional Cemetery compiled a cost estimate for the conservation of every headstone in the cemetery (Table 2.1.1) and has performed repairs on more than 130 headstones (Figure 2.1.1).

TYPE	COUNT	COST PER UNIT
Cleaning Only, Corner Block Reset	3,051	\$100
Cenotaph Cleaning	67	\$100
Tablet/Footstone/Gov Re-level, Large Stone Cleaning	2,471	\$300
Broken Tablet, Tall Obelisk Cleaning, Simple Die on Base Repair, Coping Reset	3,260	\$1,000
Complicated Die on Base Repair	1,881	\$2,500
Ledger or Complicated Structure Repair	217	\$5,000
Table or Box Tomb Repair	42	\$7,000
High Profile Repair, Vault with Minimal Damage, Large Monument Repair	40	\$10,000
Mausoleum or Vault	18	\$45,000
Total Units to be Repaired	11,047	
Grand Total		\$11,605,000

Table 2.1.1, Cost estimates for headstone conservation developed in 2022.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE



HEADSTONE CONSERVATION LEGEND

3 SECTION NUMBER

\$ ESTIMATED COSTS OF REPAIRS (2022)

- **2023** - 41 headstones repaired as a cost of **\$84,800**
- **2024** - 42 headstones repaired as a cost of **\$80,000**
- **2025** - 53 headstones repaired as a cost of **\$95,000**

Figure 2.1.1, Headstone and monument conservation cost estimates developed in 2022 and status of efforts since that estimate.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

CEMETERY ENHANCEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Site enhancements related to improving the visitor experience comprise a diverse range of improvements and interventions (Figure 2.1.2). As a historic site listed in the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark, restraint must be exercised when proposing new elements. Design principles have been developed as part of the master plan and included in the Appendix. These consider treatment recommendations for character defining features and those that contribute to the historic designations and also provide guidance for more contemporary site features and future construction.

Site improvements should preference enhancements that address safety concerns and the protection of historic resources and graves. The improvements should also address visitor engagement with such interventions as enclosing portable toilets with decorative screens and replacing the existing chain link fence with a decorative metal fence at the south and west perimeters. The fence along Ingle Street and along the eastern side of the cemetery, somewhat set back from the main cemetery areas, may be a black vinyl-coated chain link fence.

Because the boundary survey has revealed that the eastern fence is approximately 55 feet inside the perimeter of the site, there are opportunities to expand the maintenance yard. These opportunities include relocating the conservation lab, adding a greenhouse or cutting garden, and reconfiguring the compost and soil bins so that they are more functional and less unsightly. A future project may include adding a purpose-built permanent restroom in this area, though because no sanitary sewage lines extend to this location that facility may require a vault toilet with routine servicing under a contract.

Another enhancement that addresses the visitor experience is the inclusion of public art at strategic locations. These would likely be temporary installations that would be associated with local art programs and initiatives. These site specific installations would help engage the repeat visitor by providing something novel in a site that this person frequents and would also bring new people to the cemetery as they seek out these types of installations. A recent successful example of this type of temporary art at Congressional Cemetery is *The Landscape Listens* installation (Tommy Bobo, 2024) comprising a “wind phone” and 150 reflective kinetic sculptures.

Hydrants used for irrigating plants and hydrating or cleaning dogs have received some attention in this master planning effort. Through community engagement efforts, some people expressed that the utilitarian aesthetic of the existing hydrants feels out of character with the cemetery and could be replaced with more decorative ones. The hose hangers, consisting of metal brackets and 4x5 timber units, could also be improved. Lastly, additional hydrants are proposed to ensure adequate coverage.

The spring pond, affectionately known as the “doggy day spa,” located at the intersection of Prout Street and Oliver Way is a popular natural water feature that has been enhanced with boulders, plants, an overflow drain, and lining. The pond is supplied by water that emanates from a natural underground spring nearby. The spring produces surplus water that inundates the burial plots in Section 8 below Prout Street, keeping this area perpetually saturated. As recommended in Section 2.3, studies are warranted to better understand this water with the intent of drying the saturated areas. As these studies advance, enhancements to the spring pond may be implemented or, if water can be removed through the use of spring boxes to protect cultural resources, the doggy day spa may be re-envisioned at a different location in the cemetery.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE



Decorative hydrant precedent image



Screening enclosure for portable toilets precedent image



Purpose-built permanent vault toilet structure precedent image

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

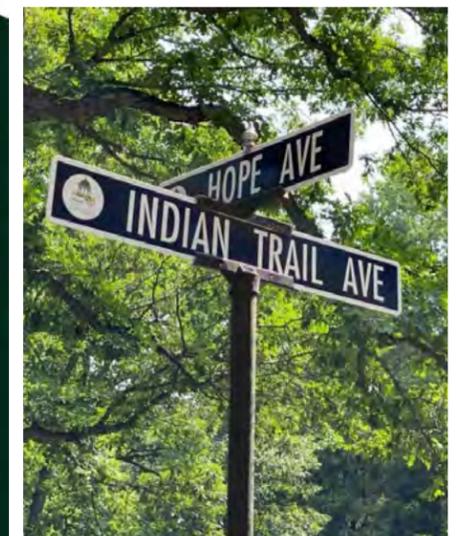
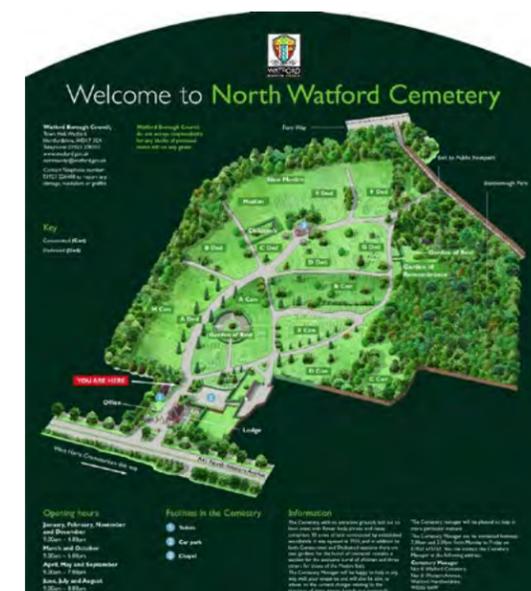
SITE LIGHTING AND SIGNAGE

Upgrading site lighting would improve the visitor experience at Congressional Cemetery. Existing site lighting is limited to solar powered pole luminaires located in various parts of the cemetery and recessed lighting in the curbs along the northern reach of Congress Street. Some of the poles are in poor condition and many of the fixtures are damaged. The existing fixtures are not adequate for nighttime programming and do not provide sufficient lighting for dog walkers who visit after dusk. Proposed lighting should be located strategically in the cemetery, would be selected to minimize light pollution, and could be motion activated to reduce energy costs and extraneous light when no one is present. It is recommended that Congressional Cemetery work with a lighting designer to select pole-mounted fixtures for some areas and bollard-type lighting for others to address the various needs across the site. Because the cemetery was not lit historically, it is recommended that contemporary fixtures be selected.

Signage improvements are another aspect of visitor experience that received attention during the discovery phase. A mix of sign typologies can be found throughout the site, used for information, for interpretation, and for wayfinding. These have been noted by community members as contributing to visual clutter and detracting from the visual character of the site. Although signage design is outside of the scope of this master plan, it is recommended that a future project be initiated to develop a signage plan and graphic guidelines for interpretive, informational, and wayfinding signs.



Contemporary luminaires from a lighting series will provide a cohesive look for diverse applications. The pictured fixtures are the Macaron bollard (left) and pole top fixture (right) available from Ligman Lighting.



Signage precedents for information (left) and wayfinding (right).

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

CEMETERY CIRCULATION

Circulation features also contribute to the visitor experience (see Figure 2.1.3 for proposed improvements). The master plan recommends that the historic circulation network of formal roads and paths be retained.

The roadway network currently requires significant repair to address widespread structural and functional deficiencies. Between 2006 and 2010, the cemetery's roads were reconstructed using concrete paver blocks however subgrade preparation proved to be inadequate. Construction failures have precipitated widespread pavement distress, most notably along Prout Street, where chronic ponding and rut depths of two to three inches now impede access. Other corridors exhibit subsidence and settlement. To mitigate future risk, the master plan mandates that roadway rehabilitation be informed by subsurface investigation to verify drainage conditions before reconstruction is designed—a methodology further described in Section 2.3.

Brick paths - Robert's Way and portions of Naylor Path - should be rehabilitated and, to provide a consistent material, the sections of Naylor Path that are currently crushed stone should be upgraded to brick, with stepping stones indicated west of Slate Carriage Way to protect burials while providing better footing for pedestrians. Crushed stone on the September 11th Memorial Path should be rehabilitated using compatible red crushed stone, and the edging should be repaired to prevent tripping and material migration.

All site stairs should be repaired to provide a safer pedestrian experience. Tread widths, riser heights, and landings in each stair run should be regularized using materials akin to those already in place at each location. Concrete stairs along Prout Street should be replaced with stone. At each stair run, handrails are needed. These should be fabricated from flat bar metal, painted black, and sized per accessibility guidelines.

Other improvements to existing paths include the rehabilitation of Slate Carriage Way. Because this route is occasionally used by vehicles and excavators during burials, it is recommended that new bluestone units of three inch thickness should be selected and installed on a concrete base slab to support this vehicular traffic. Where existing tree roots are present, a flexible paving material should be employed to avoid extensive excavation that may impact mature trees.

The perimeter trail is a social trail that has been established through repeated use, most likely related to people walking with dogs. In many places - especially near the brick wall that separates the cemetery from the correctional facility and on the steeper slope that leads down toward Barney Circle - repeated use of this trail has contributed to soil compaction and erosion and threatens burials and headstones. It is recommended that Congressional Cemetery engage with consultants including a landscape architect and an archaeologist to survey the perimeter and determine a formalized route for the proposed footpath in the buffer areas between plot ranges that avoids cultural resources. The formal perimeter path could be paved with crushed stone and stabilized, especially on slopes, using a binding agent.



Stabilized crushed stone in use on a moderate slope.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

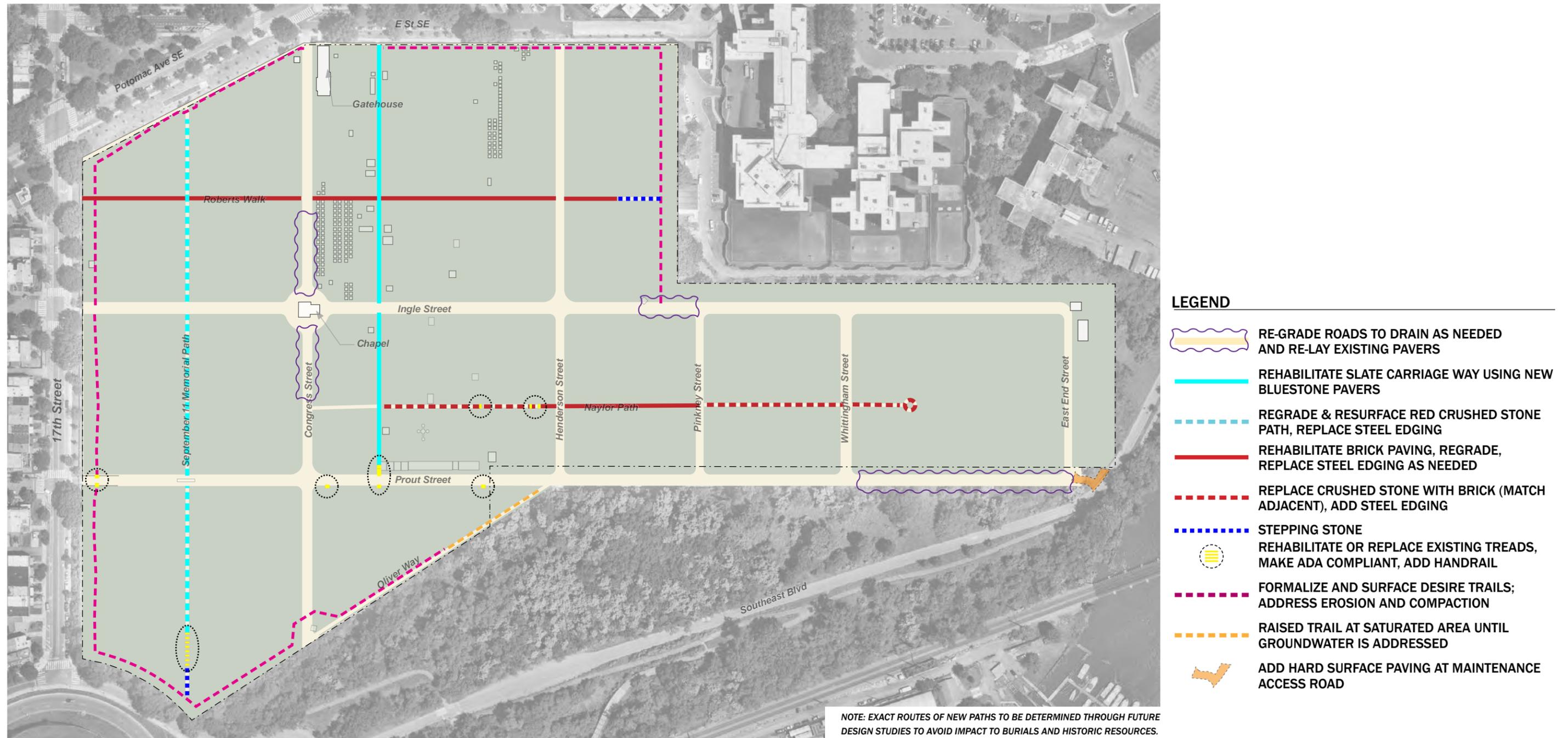


Figure 2.1.3, Proposed improvements for circulation routes.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

LAWNS

Congressional Cemetery is valued by the community for its vegetation, which contributes to visitors' appreciation of nature, enjoyment of cooling shade, and feelings of tranquility. Since 2014, volunteers with the Adopt-A-Plot program have contributed to the revitalization of ornamental plants in family plots. This master plan recommends promoting the use of pollinator plants in some of the Adopt-A-Plot areas by providing planting guidance to volunteers.

Much of the vegetated character of the cemetery is turf grass, but this has become weedy and patchy in some locations due to deferred maintenance. The master plan recommends that the plot areas should be dethatched to remove old growth and aerated to decompact the soil. The lawns should be overseeded with drought tolerant species. In some places, low-growing pollinator plants might be interplanted with the turf and accompanied by interpretive signage. As an extensive undertaking, these improvements should be phased to test the aesthetic results and growth habit while distributing the investment over a multi-year period. High priority areas include those that suffer from soil compaction and erosion due to steep slopes and overuse. Areas of Congressional Cemetery where veterans are buried and where the cenotaphs are present are managed by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), which imposes its own standards for turf management. These areas, identified in Figure 2.1.4, should be kept to the NCA standards and should be excluded from the pollinator lawn project.



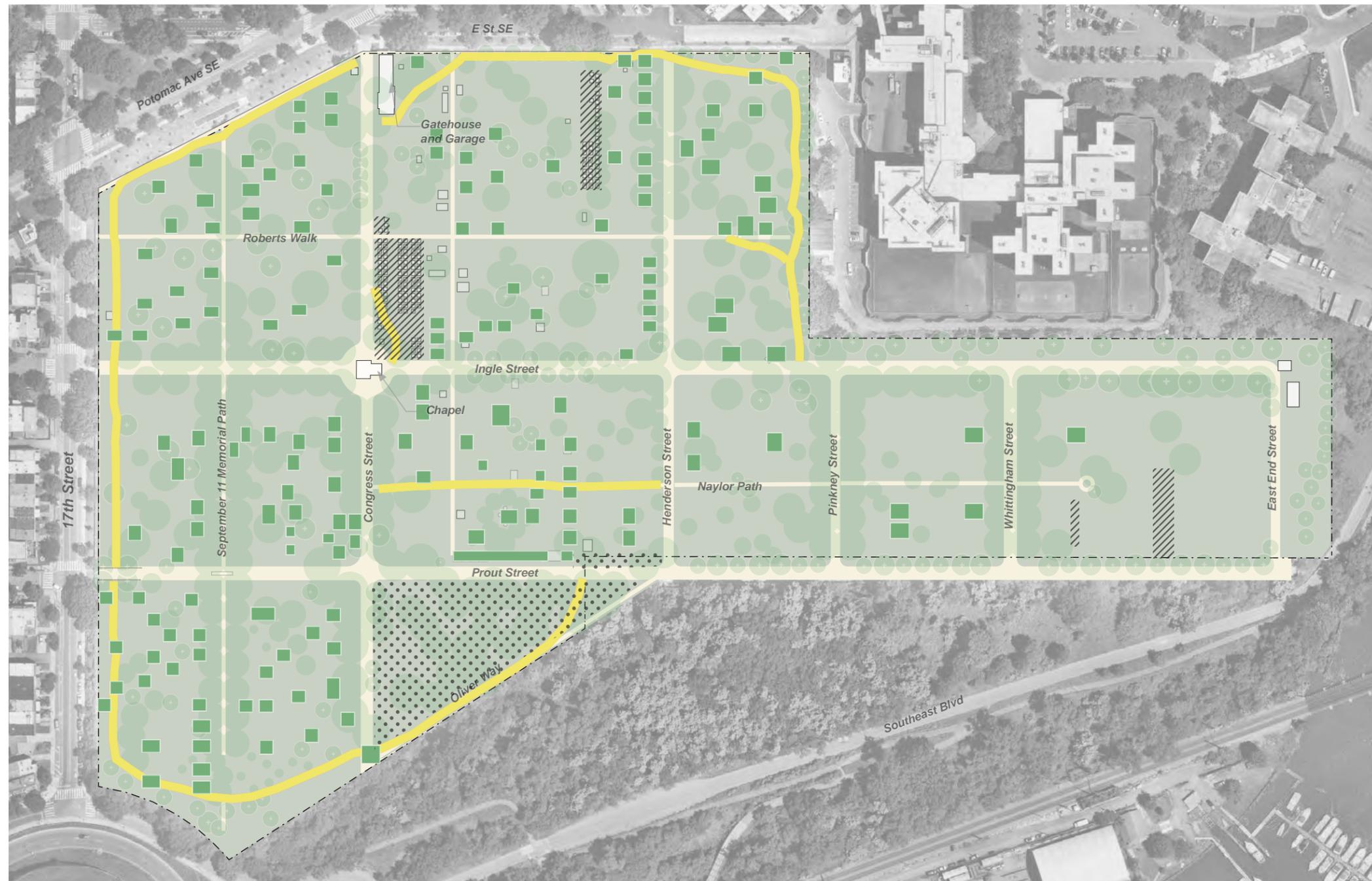
Flowering plants that provide forage for pollinators in use at Congressional Cemetery.



"Pollinator lawns" (precedent image) comprise low growing flowering plants interspersed with drought-tolerant fescue turf grass.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE



LEGEND

- AERATE AND DETHATCH - OVERSEED WITH FESCUE AND POLLINATOR PLANTS
- ADOPT-A-PLOT POLLINATOR GARDENS
- NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION LOTS: TURF ONLY
- AERATE AND DETHATCH - OVERSEED WITH MOISTURE AND SHADE TOLERANT PLANTS
- RESTORATION PLANTING: GROUNDCOVER

Figure 2.1.4, Proposed turf cover management and pollinator gardens.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

TREES

Over the past two decades, Congressional Cemetery has worked with Casey Trees to plant more than 500 trees. In 2024, the cemetery embarked on a project aimed at achieving arboretum accreditation (Level 1, a designation for small publicly accessible sites with at least 25 species of woody plants and an arboretum plan) from ArbNet, a global conservation network.

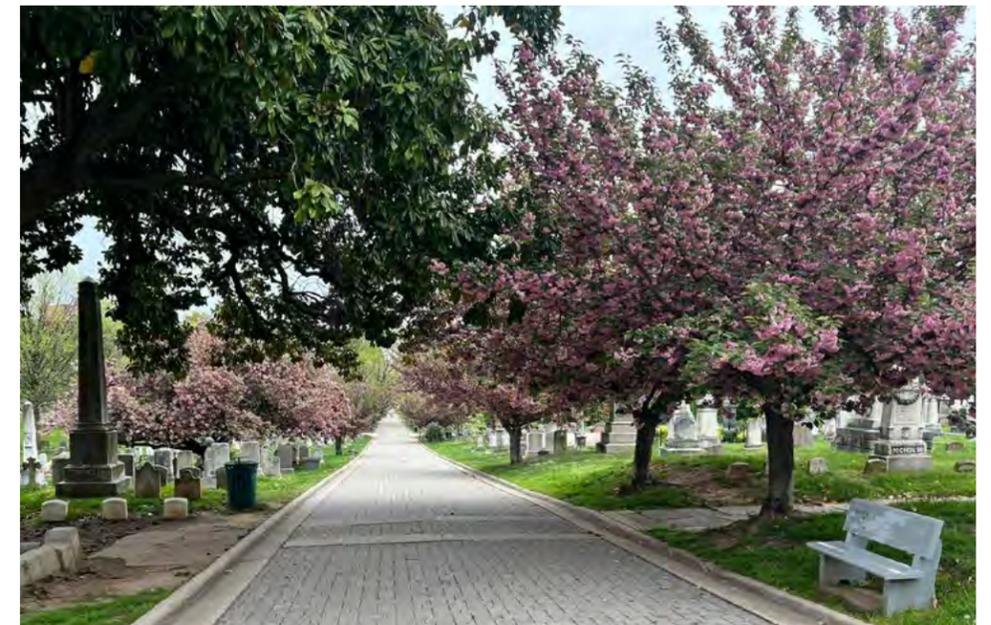
Routine care and maintenance of the cemetery's existing trees is a priority. Periodic inspection of the cemetery's trees by a qualified arborist is needed to continually assess condition and to address health concerns and to prescribe pruning regimens. Mature trees contribute to the site's sustainability and beauty and are greatly enjoyed by visitors. Maintenance regimes and structural pruning of young trees greatly reduces investments as these trees mature.

New trees should be added to the cemetery landscape through a process of thoughtful design in species selection and placement. A conceptual planting plan is illustrated in Figure 2.1.5 to convey an approach to enhancing the cemetery's trees. Future studies should be undertaken to coordinate tree selection and siting with existing cemetery resources and proposed improvement projects.

Trees should be both deciduous and evergreen, with some selected and sited to screen unwanted views of the nearby correctional detention facility. Trees may also be used in groves or allées to provide visual interest or can be designated as part of a future "memorial tree" program. Care needs to be taken that new trees do not impede cemetery operations or impose on burials.



A mix of mature canopy trees and evergreens in the southwestern part of the cemetery contribute to the arboretum accreditation.



The grove of flowering cherry trees in the western part of the cemetery provide dramatic visual interest and fodder for pollinators in early spring.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.1 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

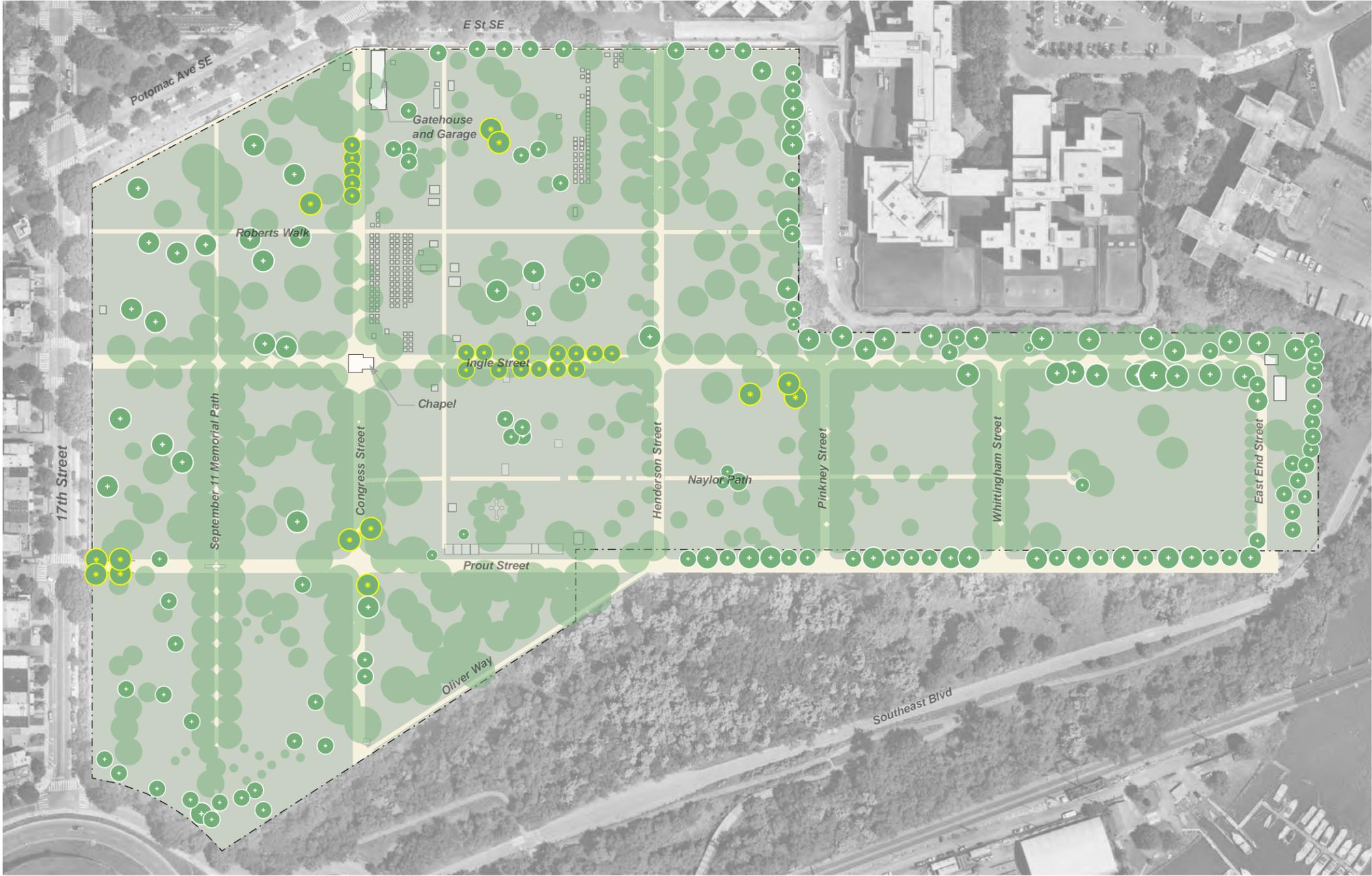


Figure 2.1.5, Conceptual tree planting diagram.



LEGEND

	EXISTING TREE
	PROPOSED TREE - SCREENING, SPECIMEN
	PROPOSED TREE - MEMORIAL

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION

One of the goals of Congressional Cemetery’s 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is to “have expanded to include new cremation and green burial spaces to accommodate, at minimum, twenty more years of availability to the public.”

EXISTING BURIAL PLOTS

In support of the master planning effort, Congressional Cemetery performed a “fast-track audit” to:

- Reconcile 4 sources that do not communicate to each other and have not been updated consistently over the course of 218 years. The focus is on unoccupied sites.
- Determine how many plots are available to be sold. These unoccupied sites are listed as not having an owner.
- Determine the last date of interaction with owners of unused plots to create a running list of plots that can be reclaimed periodically. These sites must be unoccupied without any interaction with the family in 75 years. Interaction can be anything from the purchase of the site to a letter or receipt in the file.

The results of the fast-track audit are illustrated in Figure 2.2.2. The preliminary findings are very encouraging with respect to the Strategic Plan goal of accommodating at least twenty years of continued use. These sites may be used for full burial of either traditional or green interment or may be utilized for other burial options such as cremation sites or memorial trees.

The next steps in this effort include:

- Field verify the sites that may be available to make sure there is not a tree or headstone that might prevent use.
- Create a list of sites available to sell.
- Make a list of sites available to reclaim each year.
- Complete the cemetery audit to find discrepancies associated with occupied sites.
- Resolve discrepancies between unoccupied and occupied sites.

Meeting the goal of continuing to serve as an active cemetery for at least twenty years appears to be very attainable. Table 2.2.1 shows the numbers of interments and inurnments over the past five years, averages these to illustrate the number on a yearly basis, and then projects this average out with the assumption that Congressional Cemetery may see a 20 percent growth in site sales over the coming years.

	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025	AVERAGE	TREND = 20% GROWTH
Scattering	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	0.875	1.05
Cremation (Ground)	11	6	12	25	19	28	15	6	15.25	18.3
Cremation (Bench)	1	1	1	1	4	6	9	1	3	3.6
Cremation (Niche)	4	2	3	9	11	5	8	3	5.625	6.75
Burial (Green)	1	1	5	1	2	6	8	7	3.875	4.65
Burial (Traditional)	9	9	10	12	14	8	9	5	9.5	11.4
Inground Unknown**	2	4	3	7	0	0	0	0	2	2.4
TOTAL	28	23	34	56	52	54	49	25	40.125	48.15

* 150+ sets of cremated remains were interred at 1 time in 2020 and 2021. These are counted as 1 in-ground cremation interment.

** Entries in HCC's Interment Log that are inground sites but no information to indicate if it is a full body burial or cremation in the plot.

Table 2.2.2 Interment Counts and Projections.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION



AUDIT LEGEND

37 ESTIMATED # OF AVAILABLE SITES

62 ESTIMATED # OF SITES TO RECLAIM

- **1,002** full burial sites that are available to sell, dependent on a location check because they are areas in varying degrees of suitability
- **1,993** full burial sites that can potentially be reclaimed, dependent on a location check
- **1,670** full burial sites that have burial count discrepancies with a last interaction date of 1950 or earlier. After further research, these sites have the potential to be eligible for reclamation in the future if the research proves they are unoccupied

Figure 2.2.2, Fast-track audit results by section.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION

CREMATION OPTIONS

Congressional Cemetery already offers in-ground inurnment sites throughout the burial ground. Cremated remains are also inurned in privately owned columbarium niches or one of the public columbariums. Memorial benches that accommodate cremation inurnment are plentiful in the cemetery, with many sites available at the perimeters of sections and along roads and pathways. Scattering of cremated remains is offered in a designated garden area surrounding an obelisk in the southern part of the cemetery.

Since 2010, Congressional Cemetery’s Grounds Improvement Committee has worked to identify diverse options for the burial of cremated remains. Upon initiating the master planning process,

Congressional Cemetery provided the consultant team a matrix (Table 2.2.2) of potential options keyed to a map (Figure 2.2.1) as well as design proposals for the proposed interventions. The design proposals are included in the Appendix of this report.

Reflecting on collaborative discussions with the Working Group and considering existing site constraints and feedback from various stakeholder engagement interactions, some of the previously submitted cremation options have been determined unsuitable for the Cemetery’s current character, context, and needs. Several other cremation options are recommended for further study, refinement, and implementation under a phased approach. These concepts have been incorporated into the illustrative master plan and are identified in the implementation plans based on anticipated need and assumed investment.

Cremation Options							
ID	Location	Type	# of Niches	Year of Proposal	Prepared by	Estimate	Notes
1	Potomac Ave	Inground	212	2010	Oehme, van Sweden	N/A	
2	17 th Street	Large Node	N/A	N/A	Moody Landscape	N/A	
3	Slate Path	Path	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Oak Hill Example
4	Naylor Path	Stairs	60	2013	Moody Landscape	N/A	
5	Prout Street	Wall	285	2010	Oehme, van Sweden	N/A	Near dog pond
6	Ivy Path	Wall with Portico	1,920	2022	The Eternal Niche	\$372,600	
7	Ingle Street	Wall with Setbacks	1,300	2010	Oehme, van Sweden	N/A	
8	Pinkney & Whittingham	Inground	1,384	2010	Oehme, van Sweden	N/A	
9	Pickney or Whittingham	Pergola	170	2022	The Eternal Niche	\$370,345	
10	Pinkney or Whittingham	Pilasters	134	2022	The Eternal Niche	\$268,324	
11	Pinkney & Whittingham	Endcap Walls	384	2010	Oehme, van Sweden	N/A	
12	Perimeter Wall Enclosure	Wall	N/A	2010	Oehme, van Sweden	N/A	

Table 2.2.2 Grounds Improvement Committee “Cremation Options” matrix. The highlighted ID numbers have been incorporated into the master plan’s recommendations for Burial Expansion.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION

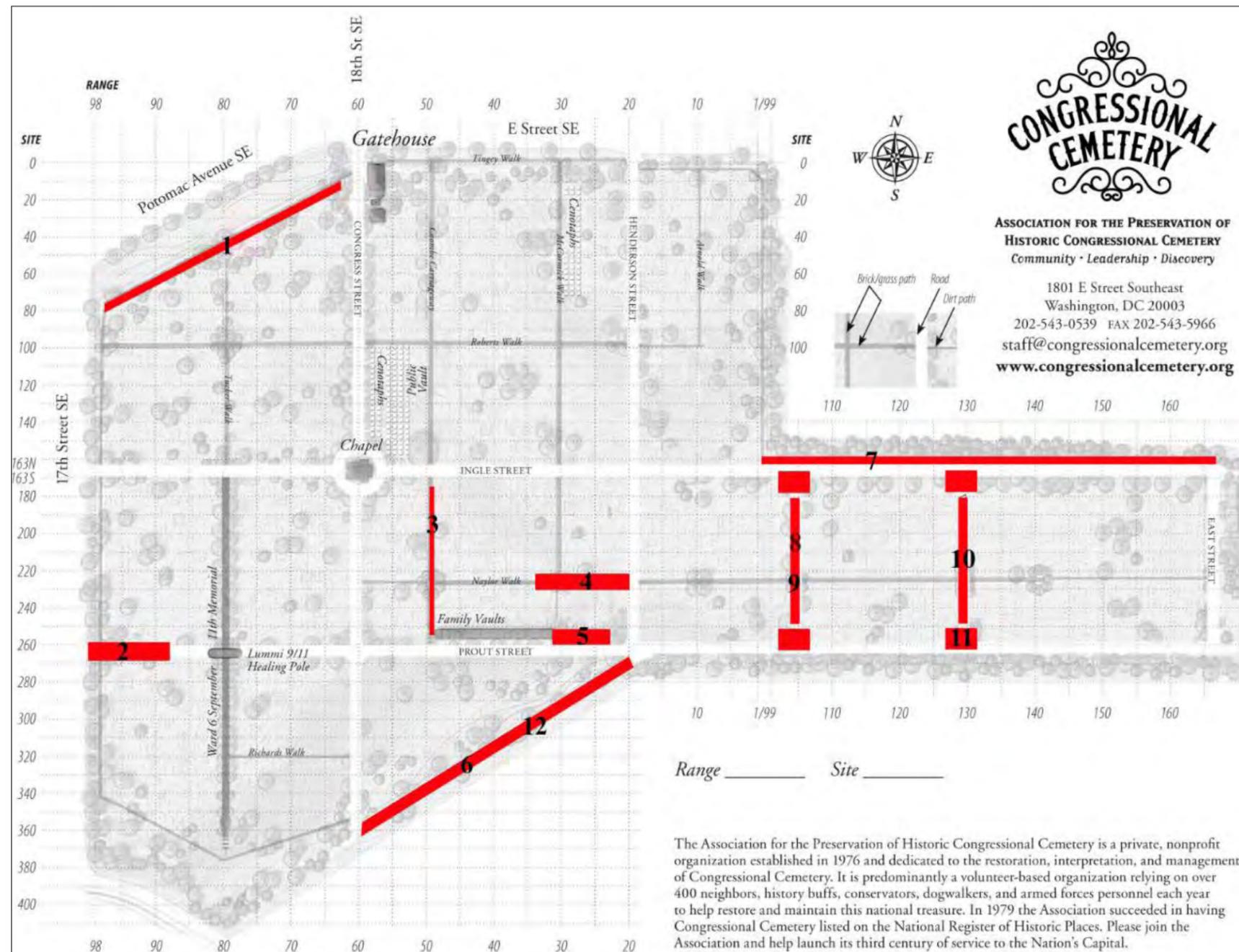


Figure 2.2.1 Grounds Improvement Committee “Cremation Options” map.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION

BURIAL EXPANSION RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the need for full body burials (traditional and green), this master plan recommends that Congressional Cemetery utilize sites available to sell or to reclaim based on the audit findings. It may be found through field verification that some sites will not be usable for full body interment but may be feasible for cremated remains.

It is also recommended that Congressional Cemetery continue to offer bench site rights at the perimeters of so-designated plots and to make full use of the Matlovich and Lockwood Columbariums.

As new sites become needed for cremated remains, the master plan recommends that Congressional Cemetery explore the design, funding, and construction of new structures. These could take the form of - or be inspired by - some of the Grounds Improvement Committee “Cremation Options” noted in Table 2.2.2 such as:

- Cremation Option 1, In-ground Niches at Potomac Avenue, or along E Street or at both locations
- Cremation Option 2, Large Node at 17th Street
- Cremation Option 4, Naylor Path, which could be employed at other site stairs as they are being improved per Section 2.1
- Cremation Option 5, Prout Street Wall
- Cremation Option 7, Wall with Setbacks at Ingle Street
- Cremation Option 12, Perimeter Wall Enclosure

Potential locations for these interventions are illustrated in Figure 2.2.3. Field verification would be needed to ensure that any proposed structure would not impose upon existing burials or already-purchased sites. Some options, such as in-ground niches, would need to be planned alongside any formalization of the perimeter path.

The boundary survey results showing that the perimeter near the correctional facility is expanded offers the opportunity to improve this location by constructing niche walls (Cremation Option 7, Wall with Setbacks at Ingle Street) after clearing some of the existing vegetation, as shown in Figure 2.2.4. The niche wall could be designed to include a new fence, or a new decorative metal fence could be constructed further up the berm at the property line. Niche walls could be mirrored to Prout Street once the boundary at the right-of-way is resolved and could be constructed along Oliver Way. At existing site stairs, wing walls with niches could be incorporated into new stair construction.

This master plan recommends that the existing scatter garden near the Congressional Grove Columbarium be expanded to the south, with care taken to avoid any existing burials, as illustrated in Figure 2.2.5. This might include the fabrication of a new enclosing fence and the planting of pollinator flowers to beautify the setting and provide a foil for the more wild vegetation in the National Park Service property to the south. New scatter gardens could be added to the reclaimed area near the correctional facility.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION



LEGEND

-  COLUMBARIA - FREESTANDING WALL
-  COLUMBARIA - RETAINING WALL
-  COLUMBARIA - STAIR WING WALL
-  LINEAR IN-GRADE NICHES
-  EXISTING BENCH SITE DESIGNATED AREA
-  EXPANDED PET BURIAL AREA
-  EXPANDED AND LANDSCAPED SCATTER GARDEN
-  NEW SCATTER GARDEN
-  NODE COLUMBARIA

Figure 2.2.3, Burial expansion options and proposed locations.



STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION



Figure 2.2.4, Visualization of Niche Wall along Ingle Street.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.2 BURIAL EXPANSION



Figure 2.2.5, Visualization of Expanded Existing Scatter Garden.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.3 STORMWATER AND SITE DRAINAGE

STORMWATER OVERVIEW

Stormwater management remains a persistent and defining challenge at Congressional Cemetery, driven by a complex interplay of variable topography, shallow groundwater tables, aging infrastructure, and the functional consequences of a failed modernization effort. Hydrologically, the site is characterized by a general northeast-to-south drainage gradient, discharging across the southern boundary into a National Park Service (NPS) conveyance ditch that ultimately feeds the Anacostia River. Prior to 2006, the site relied on a functional, albeit informal, overland flow regime. Vegetated turf and mature tree canopy provided essential interception and infiltration, while the natural topographic fall efficiently directed excess runoff to the southern boundary without inducing chronic flooding.

Between 2006 and 2010, the cemetery's roadway network was reconstructed with concrete paver blocks, curb-and-gutter systems, and modern drainage inlets intended to formalize this system. However, while design documents specified robust subsurface infrastructure—including storm mains, underdrains, and an upsized outfall—no as-built documentation exists to verify their installation. A 2011 investigation and subsequent analysis strongly suggest that critical subsurface components, specifically the Prout Street storm main and the outfall replacement, were never completed. Consequently, the construction disrupted the historic overland flow paths without providing a functional replacement system. The result is a fragmented drainage network operating at or below pre-construction performance levels, compounded by hardscape infrastructure that now actively impedes the sheet flow regime the site historically relied upon.

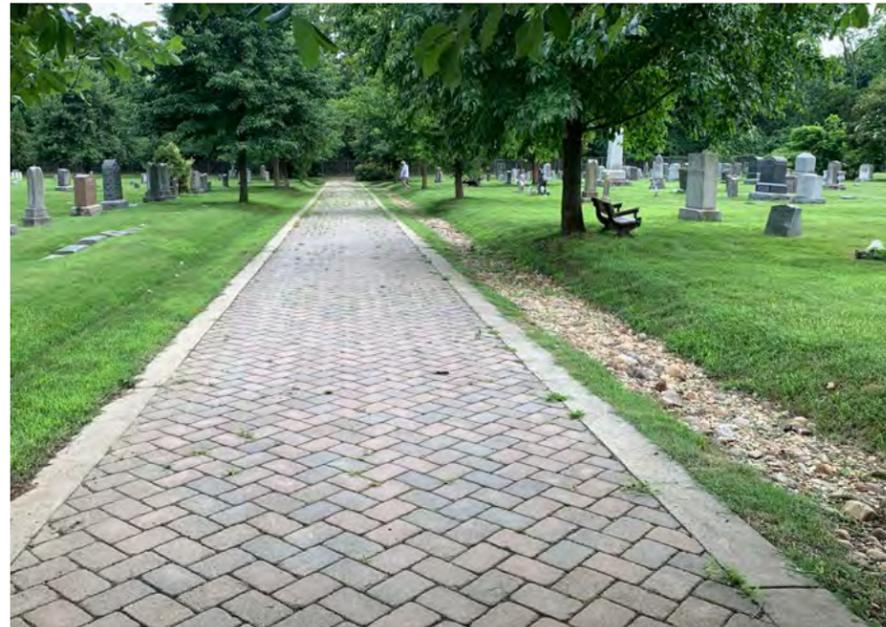
Field verification conducted in 2025 confirmed widespread system underperformance. The majority of existing inlets appear hydraulically disconnected, sediment-filled, or dry, indicating a systemic failure to capture surface runoff. Prout Street exhibits the most severe pavement distress, a direct symptom of subgrade saturation. Similarly, vegetated swales along Pinkney and Whittingham Streets appear to function in isolation, receiving little to no active flow. The existing outfall—likely still the original, undersized 15-inch corrugated metal pipe—remains a significant hydraulic bottleneck. Furthermore, persistent groundwater emergence near Family Vault Row, first documented in 2003, has intensified in the Boyle Site area, resulting in standing water, active sinkhole formation, and potential burial displacement.

To address these compounded issues, a comprehensive assessment of existing conditions—including a structure-by-structure inventory, reconciliation of construction-era records, and a scoped investigation program—is documented in Appendix 2.3-B. The resulting strategic framework for stormwater management and hydraulic remediation is detailed in Appendix 2.3-A.

The following photographs illustrate existing conditions that the master plan recommends improving.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

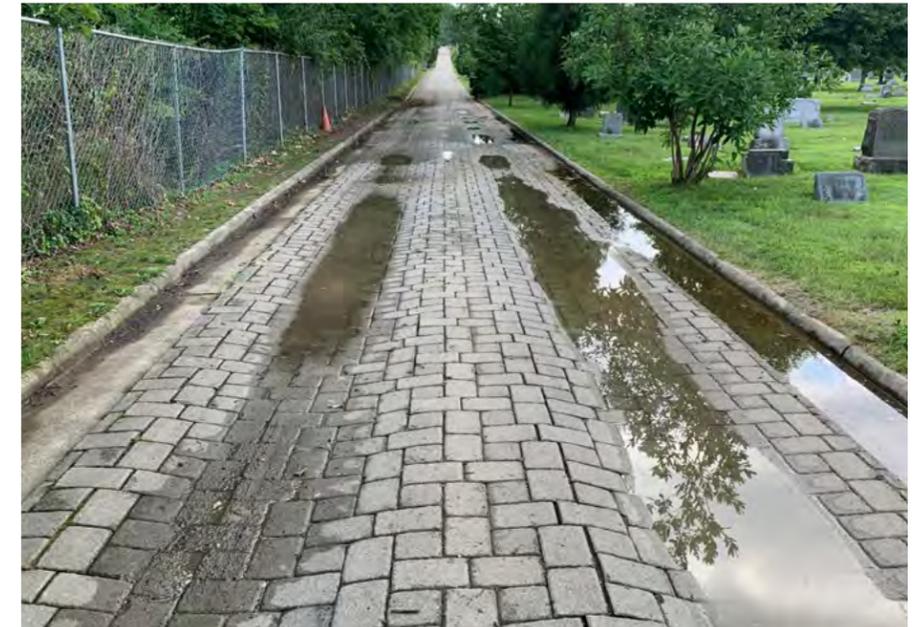
2.3 EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS



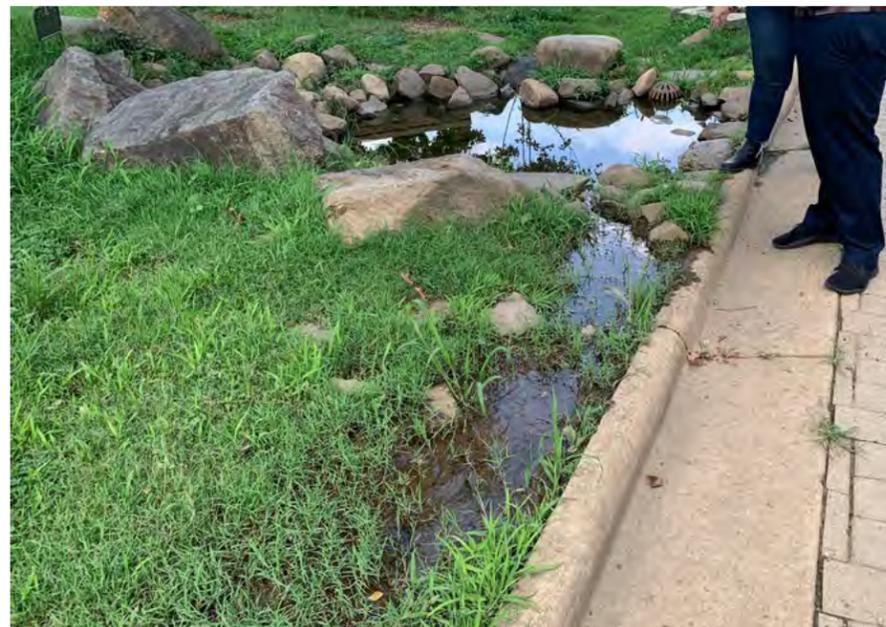
Concrete and cobble-lined drainage swale along Whittingham Street.



Make-shift drain inlet cover where siltation frequently occurs.



Rutting of pavers on Prout Street producing areas of ponding after storm events.



"Doggy Day Spa" and seeps from ground water / spring.



Ponded water near the intersection of Oliver Way and Prout Street.



Inlet and drainage swale along Whittingham Street.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.3 STORMWATER AND SITE DRAINAGE

STORMWATER STRATEGY

The central lesson of the past two decades is clear: infrastructure initiatives executed without verified subsurface data result in compromised performance and wasted investment.

Accordingly, this master plan structures the stormwater strategy around immediate operational capabilities, critical pre-design investigations, and dependency-driven capital improvements. Rather than adhering to a fixed calendar timeline, recommendations are sequenced by technical dependency—ensuring that each phase establishes the necessary prerequisites for the next. The comprehensive analysis, investigation protocols, decision frameworks, and capital improvement pathways are detailed in the Appendix.

Immediate Actions

Several low-risk, high-value interventions can be implemented immediately by cemetery staff or maintenance contractors. These measures carry no risk of conflict with future capital projects and deliver tangible operational benefits without delay.

- Systematic clean out and photographic logging of all accessible inlets and catch basins, prioritizing Prout Street and the Chapel area where sediment accumulation is most critical. This effort restores marginal system capacity and establishes a practical field inventory.
- Targeted erosion control at specific locations where exposed soil is actively contributing sediment load to gutter lines and drainage structures.
- Empirical documentation of site depressions, low points, and observed drainage patterns during precipitation events to serve as a baseline for future grading and survey efforts.
- Strategic fill placement in verified non-burial depressions to restore positive surface drainage toward existing outlets or vegetated buffers. Grading priorities should be iteratively re-evaluated as investigation data becomes available.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.3 STORMWATER AND SITE DRAINAGE

Investigation Program

Prior to the design or construction of new drainage infrastructure, the cemetery must resolve fundamental uncertainties regarding the subsurface environment. The investigation program described in the Appendix is prioritized to close these critical data gaps.

- System connectivity testing and CCTV inspection to map hydraulic connections and pipe condition. This includes a specific evaluation of the historic brick storm sewer; if structurally viable, this feature represents a significant conveyance asset with capacity exceeding that of the modern piping.
- Outfall verification to confirm whether the site's discharge to the Anacostia River is controlled by the original 15-inch pipe or if the designed 30-inch replacement was completed. As the downstream boundary condition for the entire site, this pipe dictates the maximum capacity of all upstream improvements.

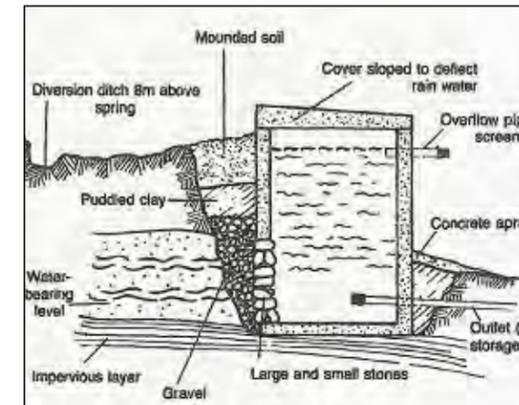
- Prout Street storm main and underdrain verification to determine if the subsurface infrastructure specified in the previous design was installed, and if so, whether it remains a candidate for rehabilitation.
- Spring seep source investigation to characterize the persistent groundwater discharge near Family Vault Row and the Boyle Site. Determining the source depth, flow rate, and lateral extent is essential to designing mitigation based on actual hydrogeologic conditions rather than assumptions.
- Structure survey and geotechnical assessment to capture the precise elevation, condition, and soil data required for accurate hydraulic modeling and roadway design.

These non-destructive and minimally invasive tasks can be phased to align with available funding, producing the foundational data required to responsibly scope all subsequent capital work.

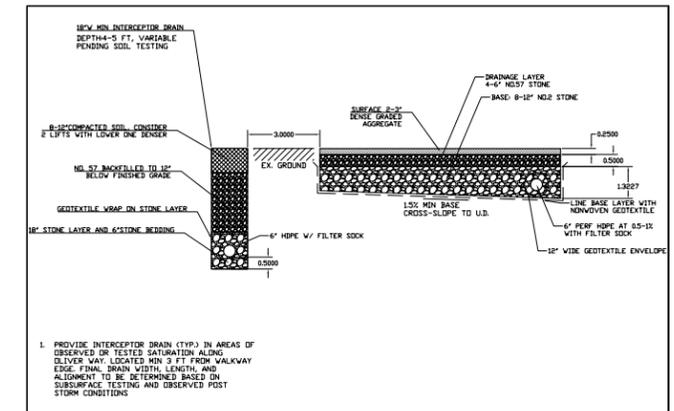
STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.3 STORMWATER AND SITE DRAINAGE

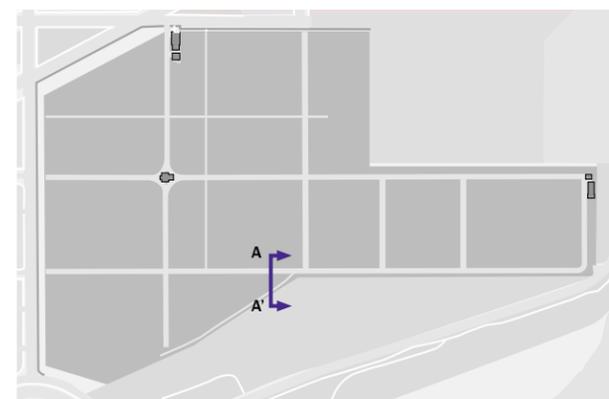
Concepts to address the ground water along Prout Street near Oliver Way are presented here to schematically illustrate the engineering that might be required to address the seeps as described in Stormwater Strategy.



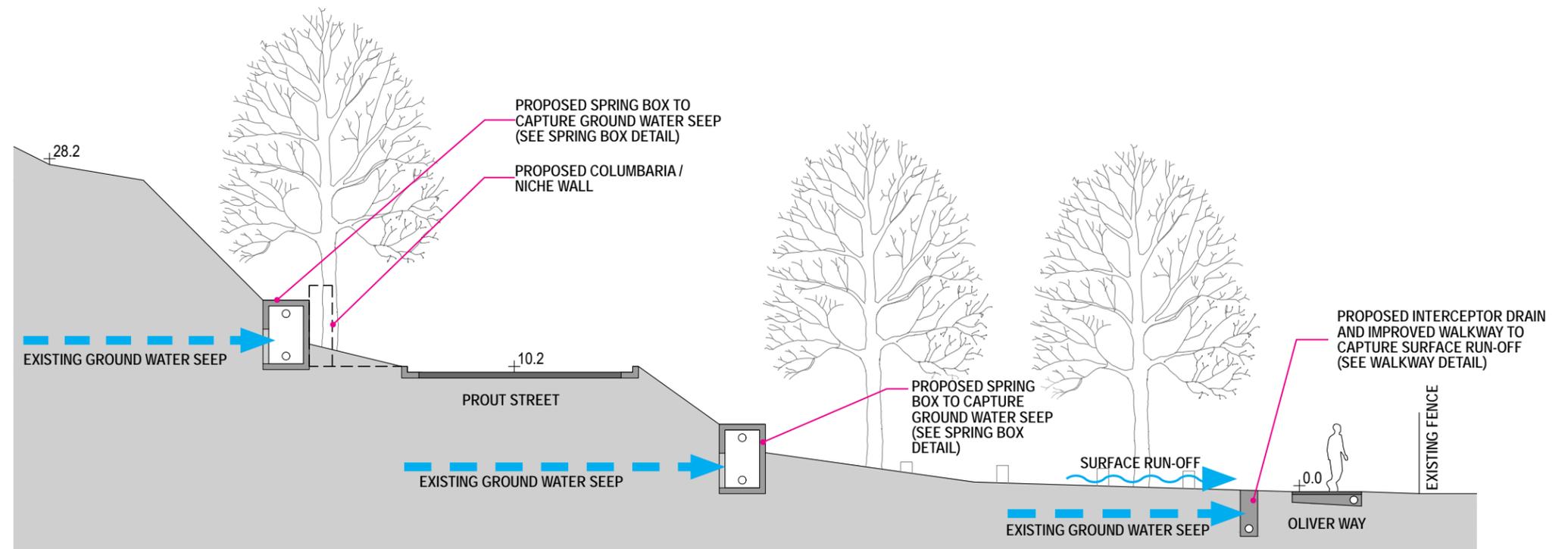
SPRING BOX DETAIL



WALKWAY DETAIL



KEY PLAN

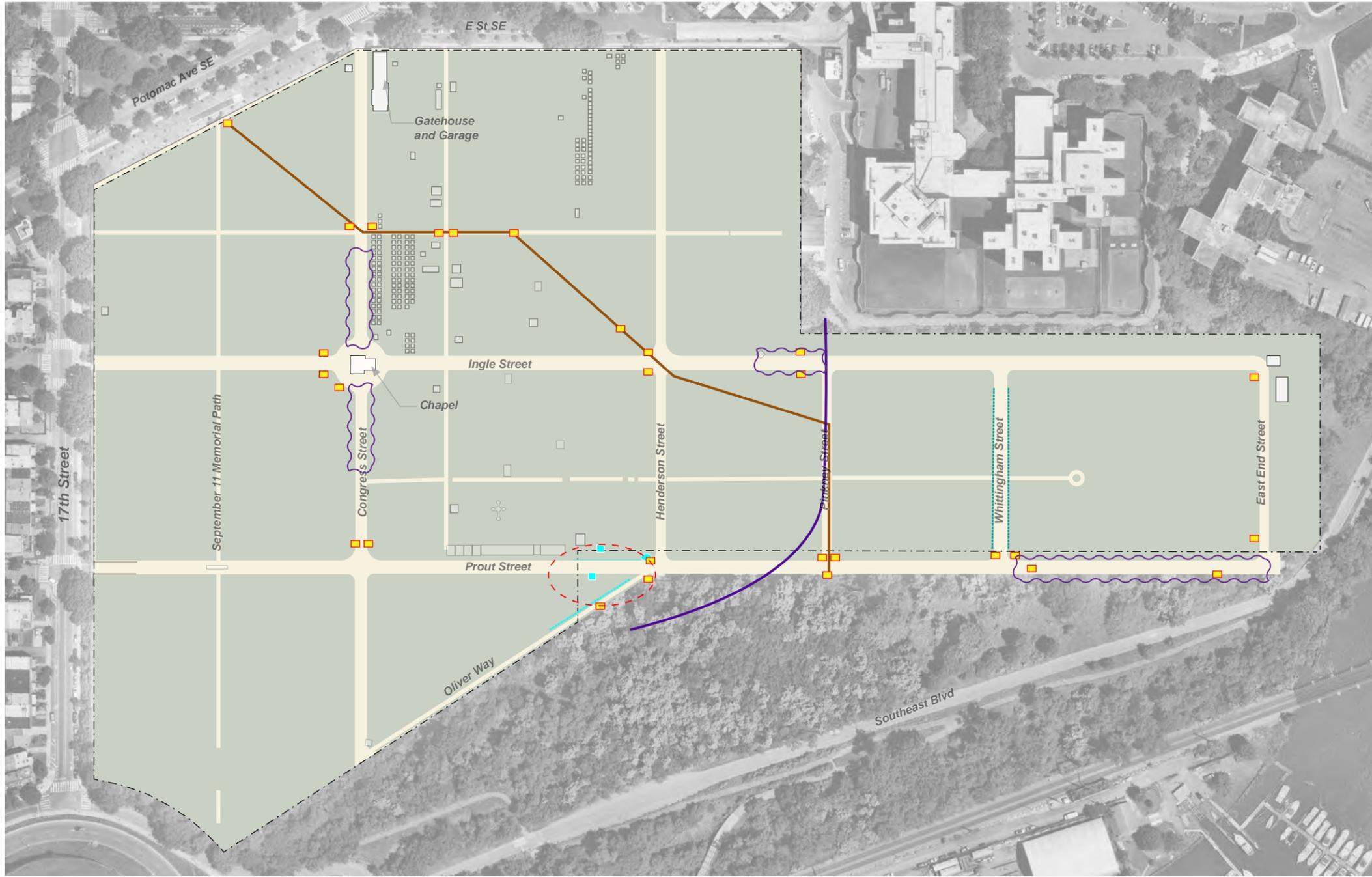


SECTION A-A'

Figure 2.3.1, Conceptual design for spring boxes to address ground water on Prout Street at Oliver Way. Final spring box design is contingent on hydrogeologic investigation confirming the groundwater source, depth, and flow characteristics.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

2.3 STORMWATER AND SITE DRAINAGE



LEGEND

- EXISTING STORMWATER DRAIN INLET - CLEAN/REPAIR/MAINTAIN
- PROPOSED SPRING BOX AT SPRING POND
- ⊖ GEOTECHNICAL STUDY TO ASSESS SEEP EXTENT AND PROPOSE SOLUTIONS
- ⊖ REPAIR HYDRAULIC SYSTEM, ADDRESS GRADING AND DRAIN FAILURE
- SANITARY / STORM DRAIN PIPE
- BRICK STORM DRAIN
- - - LINEAR DRAIN AND PERMEABLE PAVING AT OLIVER WAY
- - - EXISTING IMPERMEABLE SWALE AT WHITTINGHAM STREET - REMOVE LINING AND ADDRESS INFILTRATION + DRAINAGE

Figure 2.3.2, Proposed green infrastructure and stormwater management improvements.







3 MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN

3.1 OPPORTUNITIES

The proposed improvements related to **visitor experience**, **Gatehouse expansion and visitor center**, **burial expansion**, and **stormwater management** have been synthesized to illustrate the vision for Congressional Cemetery two decades into the future. Composites of the master plan's proposed improvements are illustrated on the following sheets, and design concepts for enlarging the Gatehouse and adding a visitor center and kiosk have been included (Section 3.2). A site scale illustrative plan depicts the major improvement projects (Figure 3.1.1) and is followed by four enlarged plans that provide additional detail.

Section 3.3 provides phased implementation plans that illustrate short-term priorities and long-term goals for the coming decade. The plans are accompanied by detailed tables that describe the projects, note any related projects that should be considered, and provide rough order of magnitude costs for each project and phase.



Aerial image of Congressional Cemetery, 2025. (NearMap)

MASTER PLAN

3.1 OPPORTUNITIES



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS LEGEND

- ① GATEHOUSE, VISITOR CENTER, WELCOME KIOSK
- ② REHABILITATED SLATE CARRIAGE WAY
- ③ FORMALIZED CRUSHED STONE PERIMETER PATH
- ④ REGRADED AND RESURFACED CRUSHED STONE PATH
- ⑤ REHABILITATED/NEW BRICK PAVING
- ⑥ STEPPING STONE PATH
- ⑦ REGRADED ROADS /RE-LAID ROADWAY PAVERS
- ⑧ RESTORED PROUT STREET GATE AND COLUMBARIA NODE
- ⑨ LINEAR IN-GRADE NICHES
- ⑩ IMPROVED AND EXPANDED SCATTER GARDEN
- ⑪ EXPANDED PET BURIAL AREA
- ⑫ RECONFIGURED MAINTENANCE YARD WITH CHAIN LINK BOUNDARY FENCE
- ⑬ GREENHOUSE, CUTTING GARDEN, AND APIARY
- ⑭ IMPROVED PAVING AT MAINTENANCE ENTRANCE
- ⑮ VEGETATED DRAINAGE SWALES
- ⑯ LINEAR DRAIN AND PERMEABLE PAVING AT PATH
- ☰ REHABILITATED STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS
- VINYL COATED CHAIN LINK
- ✕ ORNAMENTAL METAL FENCE
- ★ SCREENS FOR PORTABLE TOILETS
- ★ RESTROOM
- SPRING BOX AT SEEPS
- * PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY AREA
- PROPOSED TREE
- COLUMBARIA / NICHE WALL
- NEW/EXPANDED SCATTER GARDEN

Figure 3.1.1, Illustrative Master Plan with keyed improvements.



MASTER PLAN

3.1 OPPORTUNITIES



Figure 3.1.2, Illustrative Master Plan, Enlargement.

MASTER PLAN

3.1 OPPORTUNITIES



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS LEGEND

- ① REHABILITATED SLATE CARRIAGE WAY
- ② FORMALIZED CRUSHED STONE PERIMETER PATH
- ③ IMPROVED EXISTING SCATTER GARDEN
- ④ COLUMBARIA / NICHE WALL
- ⑤ REHABILITATED/NEW BRICK PAVING
- ⑥ ENHANCED SPRING POND
- ⑦ LINEAR DRAIN AND PERMEABLE PAVING AT PATH
- ✕ ORNAMENTAL METAL FENCE
- ≡ REHABILITATED STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS
- ▬ COLUMBARIA / NICHE WALL
- PROPOSED TREE
- SPRING BOX
- NEW HYDRANT
- UPGRADED EXISTING HYDRANT
- PROPOSED LIGHTED AREA

KEY PLAN

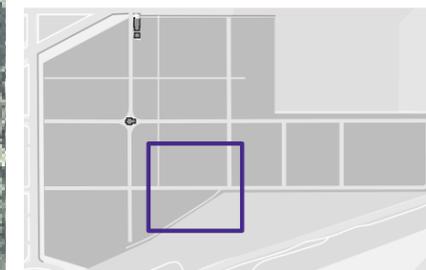


Figure 3.1.3, Illustrative Master Plan, Enlargement.

MASTER PLAN

3.1 OPPORTUNITIES

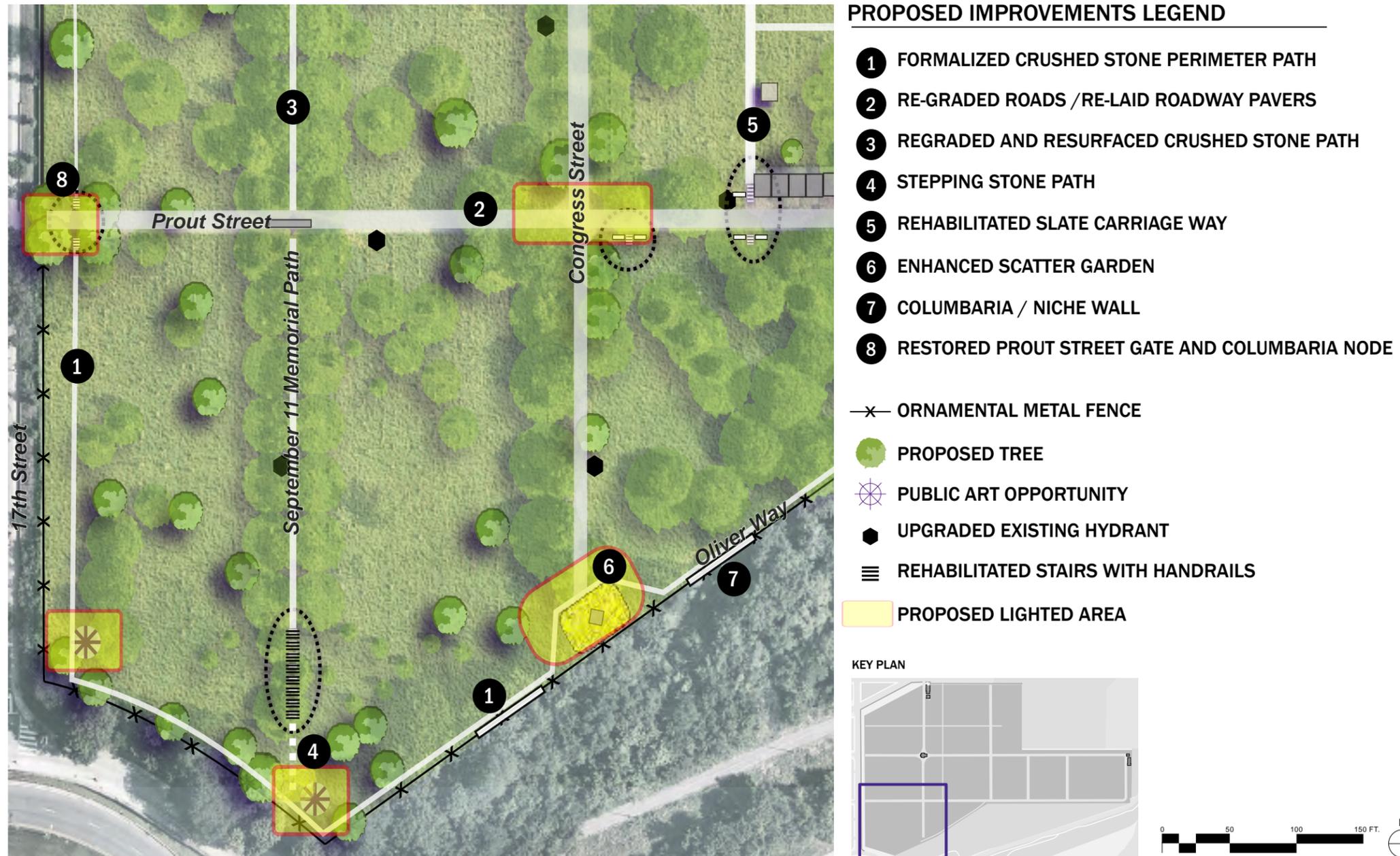
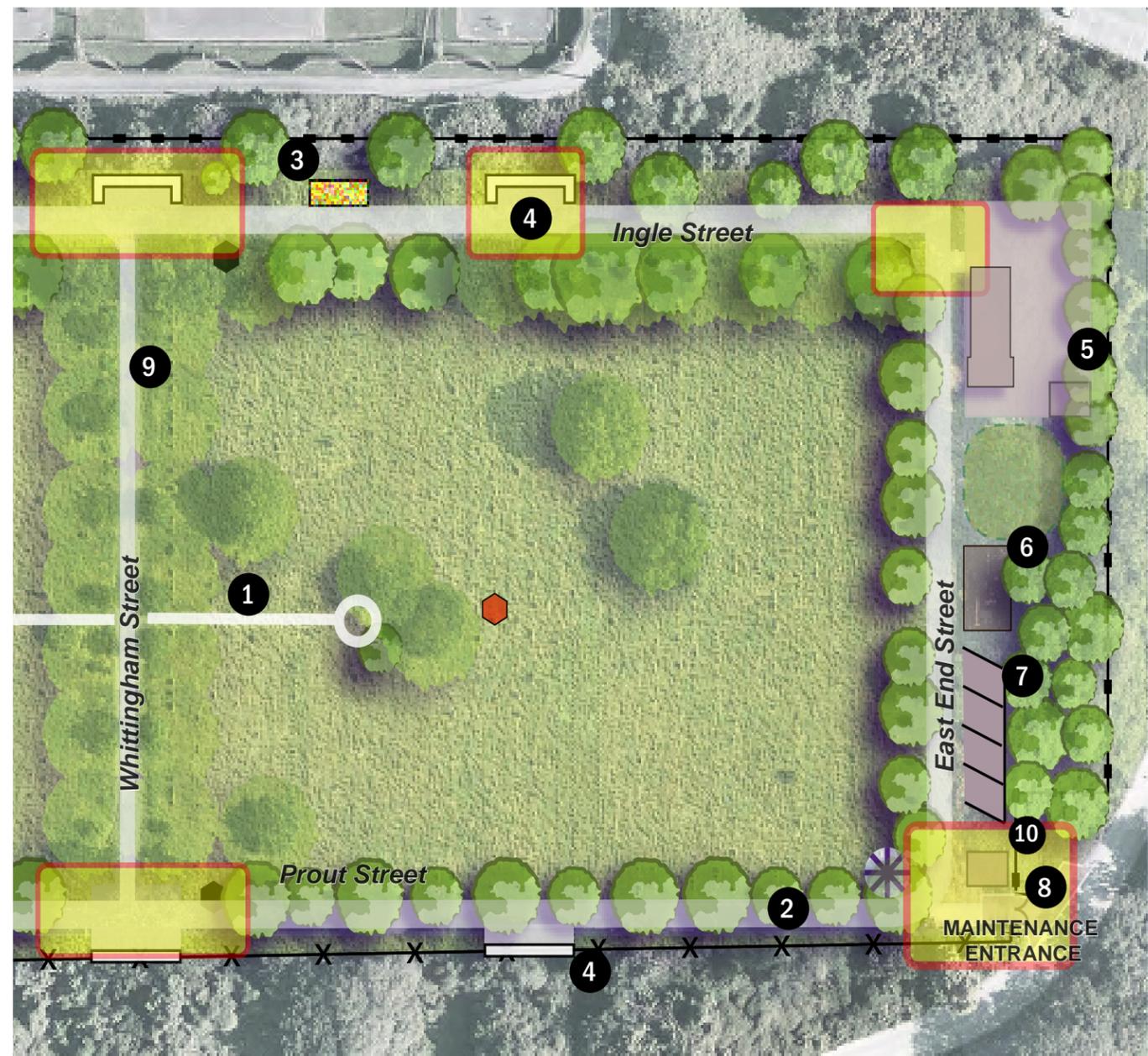


Figure 3.1.4, Illustrative Master Plan, Enlargement.

MASTER PLAN

3.1 OPPORTUNITIES



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS LEGEND

- 1 REHABILITATED/NEW BRICK PAVING
- 2 RE-GRADED ROADS /RE-LAID ROADWAY PAVERS
- 3 NEW SCATTER GARDEN
- 4 COLUMBARIA / NICHE WALL
- 5 ENLARGED MAINTENANCE YARD, RELOCATED LAB, NEW CHAIN LINK FENCE
- 6 GREENHOUSE, CUTTING GARDEN, APIARY
- 7 RECONFIGURED / IMPROVED MAINTENANCE BINS
- 8 IMPROVED PAVING AT MAINTENANCE ENTRANCE
- 9 VEGETATED DRAINAGE SWALES
- 10 RESTROOM
- PROPOSED TREE
- ORNAMENTAL METAL FENCE
- VINYL COATED CHAIN LINK
- NEW HYDRANT
- UPGRADED EXISTING HYDRANT
- PROPOSED LIGHTED AREA
- PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY

KEY PLAN

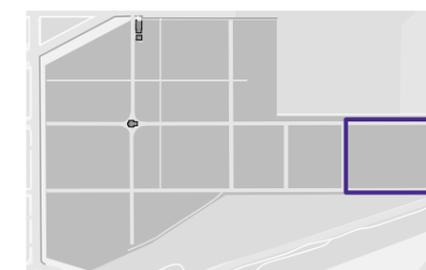


Figure 3.1.5, Illustrative Master Plan, Enlargement.

MASTER PLAN

3.2 GATEHOUSE, VISITOR CENTER, AND KIOSK

PROGRAMMING EXERCISE AND CONCEPT DESIGN

As a part of the master planning effort, the consultant team undertook a programming exercise of the existing Gatehouse and conceptual design for a Gatehouse visitor's center. The design team met with staff to discuss how they use the current Gatehouse and what spatial needs they expect to have in the future. This also identified some use conflicts within the current building. The meeting minutes from the programming workshop and the agreed-upon program for a future Gatehouse are included in the Appendix.

The Gatehouse was built in 1923 on the site of the former Gatehouse as a modernization effort in the cemetery. It has functioned as a single-family residence and front office for the cemetery from its construction until as recently as the early 2000s. It is a two-story building with a separate rear garage that contains the only public restrooms for the cemetery. The Gatehouse is currently used as office space for the cemetery's thirteen full- and part-time staff members as well as flexible spaces for guest contributors.

The second floor is a center hall four-bedroom plan with the only bathroom in the original house. This area is tightly filled with desks and is nonfunctional. The first floor is used for mixed functions. The site sales and funerals department occupies the front half of the building, while the back half is used for front gate checking, meeting space for public and private meetings, the gift shop, and the only pantry space in the building.

The existing site grade slopes approximately three feet over the length of the Gatehouse and garage footprint and cannot be modified due to adjacent burial sites. Additionally, because of the site constraints and adjacent burial sites, expansion of the Gatehouse beyond its current footprint is not possible. The proposed Gatehouse renovation stays within this existing footprint and locates the accessible entrance where it meets grade.

To accommodate the agreed-upon program for a future Gatehouse, the design team has proposed demolishing the existing garage structure and rear porch. The first floor will be expanded with an addition that covers the current area of the garage. The second floor will be expanded over the original masonry walls of the first floor, and the interior walls will be removed to provide a more functional office layout. A private bathroom for staff, collaborative meeting spaces, and a separate staff pantry will be located on this floor, and it will have limited public access.

The first-floor addition to the south of the Gatehouse will include a new accessible entrance to the visitor's center from inside the cemetery. From the new entrance there will be an interpretive display space, public restrooms, and access to the new multipurpose events space. The events space will include associated support spaces such as catering prep and furniture storage rooms. The proposed project will make the first level fully accessible.

The relocation of the main entrance to the addition allows for physical separation between events-based visitors and the office space for burial site sales and meetings with bereaved families.

The gate-checking responsibilities and gift shop have been moved out of the Gatehouse and into a separate structure across the lane that will operate as a welcome kiosk. This will be staffed full-time to function as a way-finding port of entry for the cemetery and will include walking tour brochures and a meeting place for volunteer docents.

The functionality of the garage has been maintained in the new design via an open-air covered parking area next to the kiosk. The open-air meeting space of the former porch has been reincorporated as a terrace that wraps around the multipurpose meeting space.

The proposed visitor's center addition has left opportunities for donors to be memorialized on the building. There is a low landscape wall along the front elevation of the new addition where donor plaques are intended to be placed, and there are opportunities for larger signage should it be needed.

The concept has been presented to the DC Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO) and the Capitol Hill 6B Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC6B) in informational consultation meetings. The cemetery has engaged community stakeholders early to receive comments and encourage community support for when the project moves forward into design and construction. The meeting minutes for the informational DCHPO meetings are included in this report's Appendix.



Figure 2.4.1, Conceptual rendered view showing proposed Visitor Center, Gatehouse addition, and Kiosk

MASTER PLAN

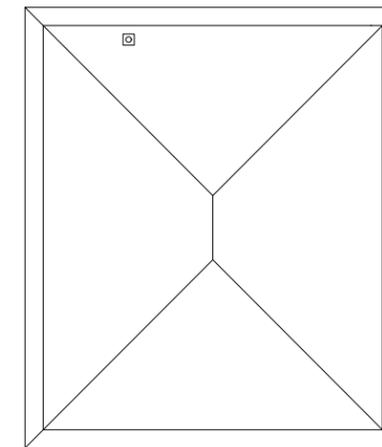
3.2 GATEHOUSE, VISITOR CENTER, AND KIOSK



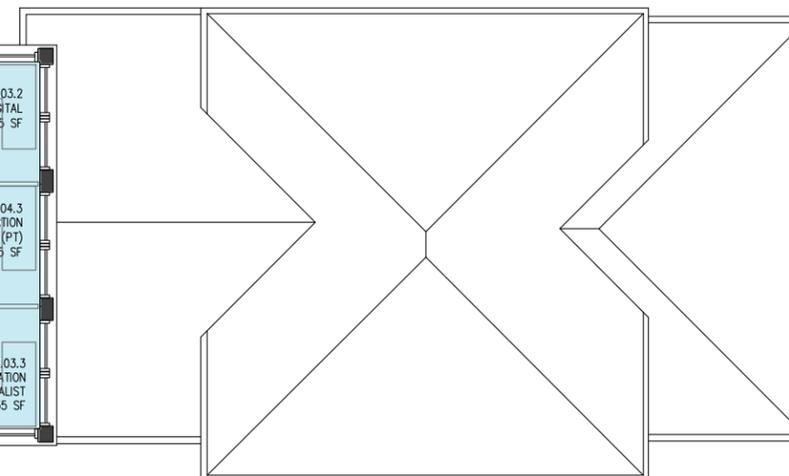
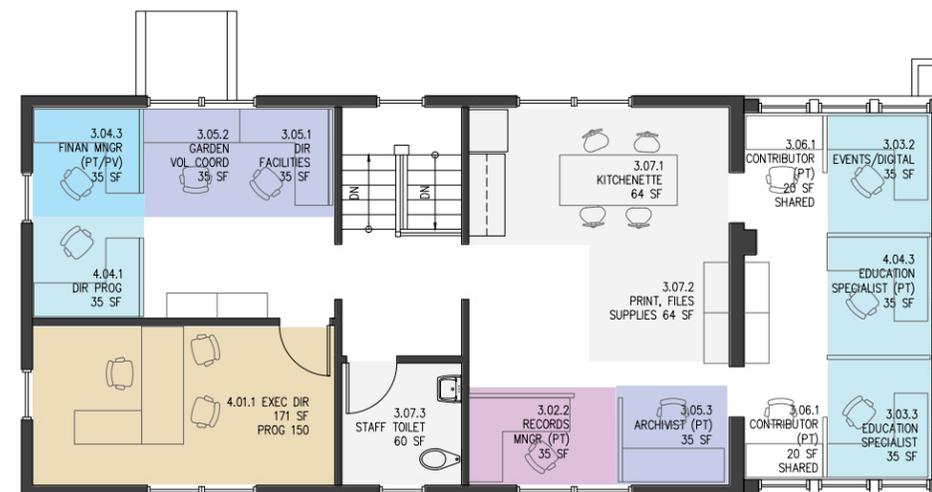
Figure 2.4.2, Floor plans showing existing and conceptual floor plans of Gatehouse addition and Visitor Center

MASTER PLAN

3.2 GATEHOUSE, VISITOR CENTER, AND KIOSK



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED

- LEADERSHIP
- SITE SALES AND FUNERALS
- FRONT OFFICE / ADMIN
- PROGRAMS, EVENTS, EDUCATION
- GROUNDS AND FACILITIES
- SHARED FACILITY

Figure 2.4.3, Floor plans showing existing and conceptual floor plans of Gatehouse addition and Visitor Center

MASTER PLAN

3.2 GATEHOUSE, VISITOR CENTER, AND KIOSK



Figure 2.4.4, Conceptual rendered view showing proposed Visitor Center and Gatehouse addition



Figure 2.4.5, Conceptual rendered view showing proposed Kiosk

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

Realizing the vision for the master plan includes ongoing improvements - some of which are already underway at the cemetery - as well as distinct projects ranging from easily implemented, low-cost efforts to larger initiatives that require additional planning and capital. Five phases of development are articulated in the following tables and diagrams. The tables include references to related projects where applicable and provide rough order of magnitude pricing.

Phase 1 (2026-2028) and Phase 2 (2028-2030) comprise projects that will immediately improve the visitor experience in the short term, directly addressing many of the issues that Congressional Cemetery’s stakeholders raised through the master planning process and demonstrating early progress in implementing the master plan. These projects address visitor experience issues such as safety, wayfinding, comfort, and visual appreciation. Design of the new visitor center, kiosk and the expanded Gatehouse to address use conflicts will occur in Phase 1, with construction of the kiosk in Phase 2.

Phase 3 (2030-2032) includes aesthetic improvements at the perimeter fence along the west and south perimeter, paving upgrades outside of primary pathways, increased scatter garden options, enhancements at the spring pond, and turf rehabilitation.

Phase 4 (2032-2034) sees the construction of the visitor center and the expansion of the Gatehouse, as well as burial expansion via new niche walls.

In Phase 5 (2034-2036), additional niches will be installed, the maintenance yard will be expanded to the east and reconfigured, and a restroom may be built at the east end of the cemetery.

Concurrent with these five distinct phases, some sitewide projects will be ongoing. These are identified in the table below.

ONGOING [2026 - 2036]

ID#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY
A	HEADSTONE AND MONUMENT CONSERVATION (Sitewide)	Medium
B	MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING TREES (Sitewide)	Medium
C	PLANTING OF NEW TREES AND SHRUBS (Sitewide)	Medium
D	CONVERSION OF ADOPT-A-PLOTS TO POLLINATOR PLANTS (Sitewide)	Medium
E	INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC ART (Selected locations as indicated in plans)	Medium

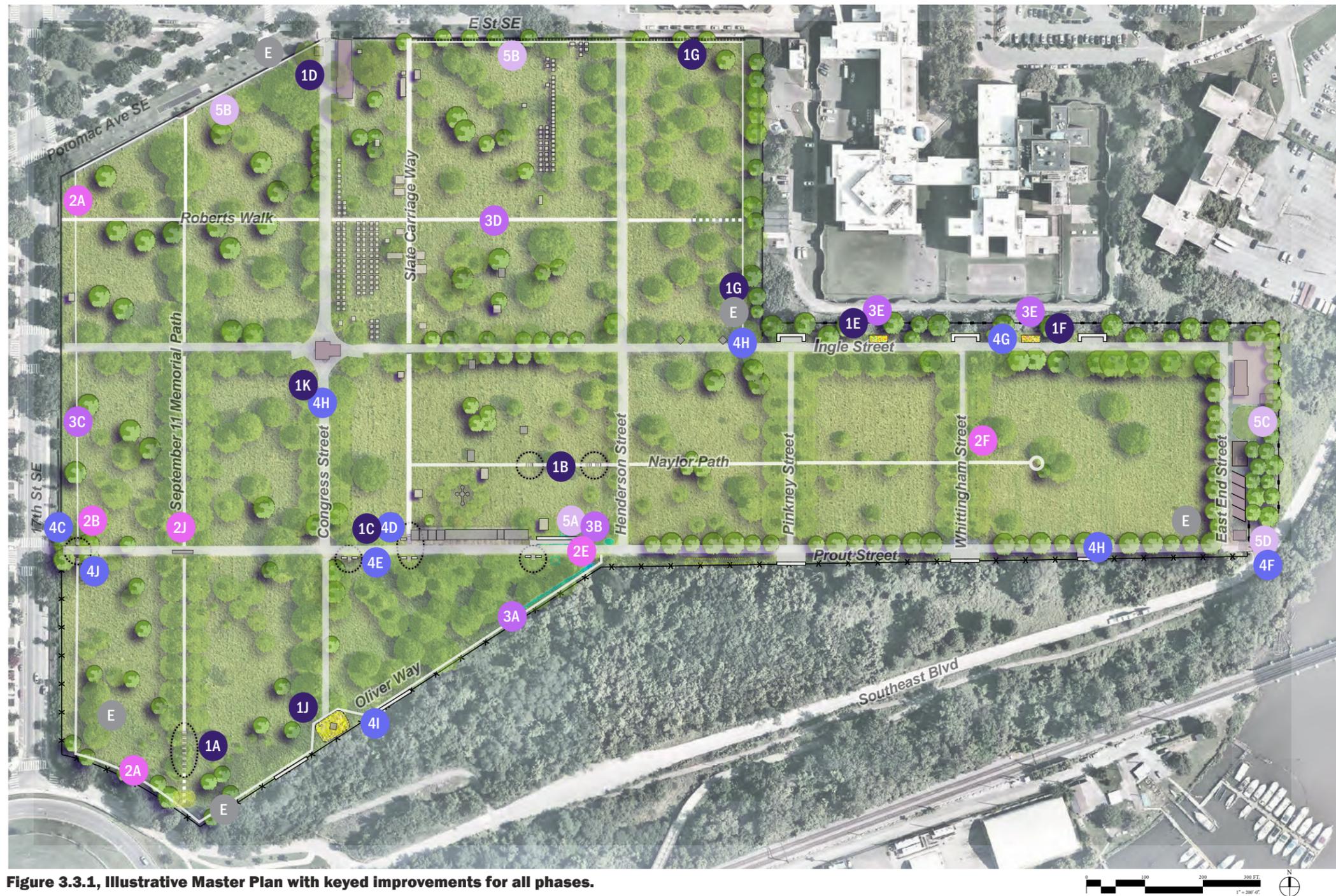


Figure 3.3.1, Illustrative Master Plan with keyed improvements for all phases.

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

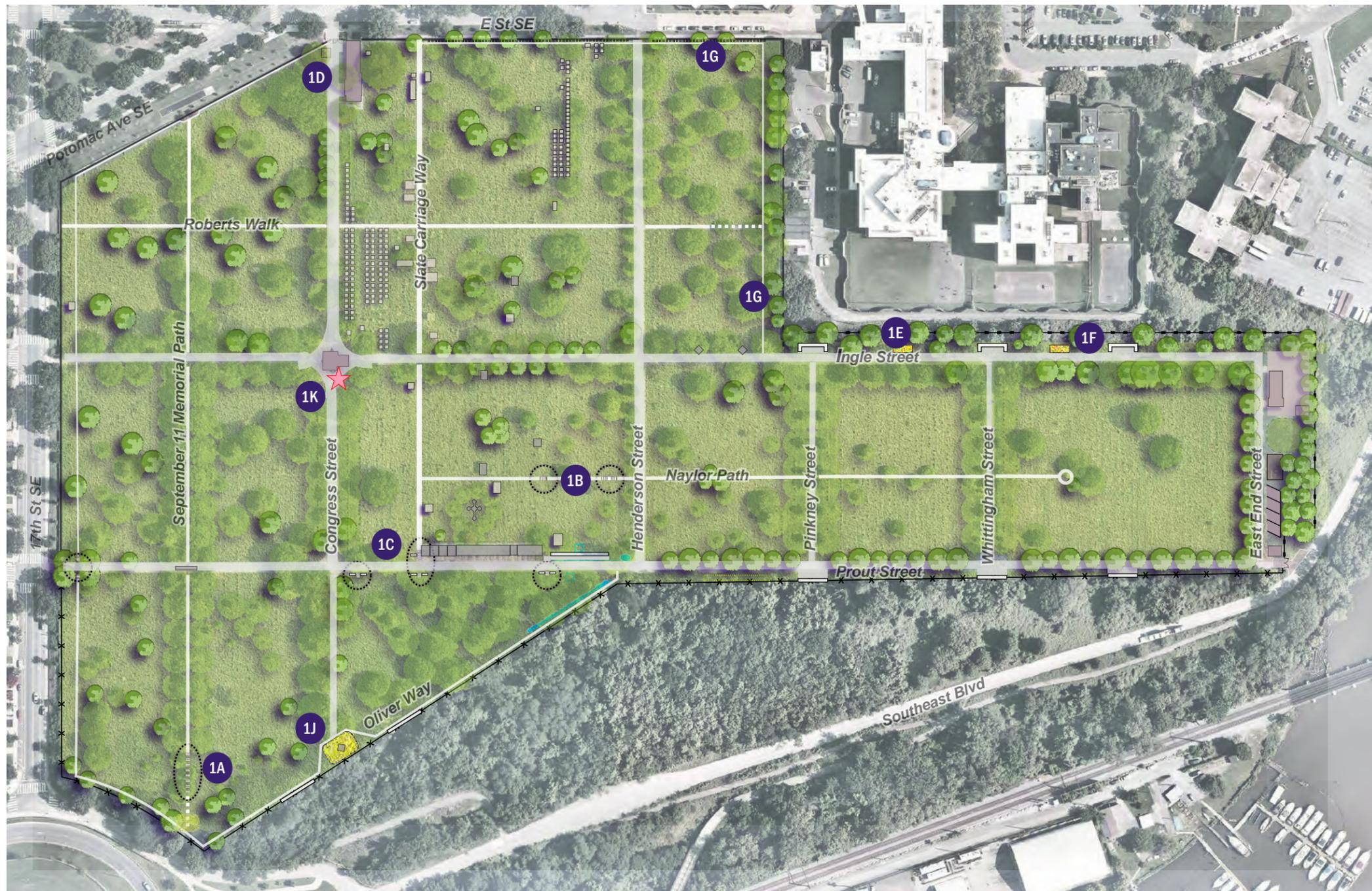
PHASE 1 (2026 - 2028)

ID#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	RELATED PROJECT	PRIORITY
1A	IMPROVED BRICK STAIRS Repair or replace brick pavers, reconfigure landings and treads, install handrails	September 11th Memorial Path	Crushed Stone Path Rehabilitation (2J)	High
1B	IMPROVED BRICK STAIRS Repair or replace brick pavers, reconfigure landings and treads, install handrails	Naylor Path		High
1C	IMPROVED STONE STAIRS Repair or replace stone treads, reconfigure landings and treads, install handrails	Slate Carriage Way at Prout Street		High
1D	KIOSK, VISITOR CENTER, AND GATEHOUSE EXPANSION DESIGN Includes refinements to adjacent paving and planting areas	Congress Street Entrance	Construct Kiosk and Pergola (2D)	High
1E	FENCE REPLACEMENT Black vinyl-clad chain link fence	North property line at Correctional Detention Facility (CDF)	Planting design and Installation (1G)	High
1F	PLANTING DESIGN AND INSTALLATION Screening and slope stabilization	North property line at Correctional Detention Facility (CDF)	Fence Replacement (1F)	High
1G	FORMALIZED PERIMETER PATH Install crushed stone; address compaction/erosion on existing desire paths and revegetate	Northeast (adjacent to E Street and the Correctional Facility perimeter wall)	Topographic micrograding (2G, 2H)	High
1H	YARD HYDRANTS Add 5 new hydrants; upgrade 22 existing hydrants, hose hangers, and gravel splash pads	Sitewide		High
1I	FOUNDATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTIGATION Geotechnical, topographic, and drain structure studies with recommendations for improvements	Sitewide, with focus on seep near Prout Street and Oliver Way	Spring box (2E)	High
1J	ENHANCED SCATTER GARDEN Enlarge existing and add plants, paving, and 30" tall fence	Oliver Way	Formalize Perimeter Path (2A)	Medium
1K	PORTABLE TOILET SCREENS Design and fabricate screens for 2 portable toilets	South of Chapel		Medium
1L	SITE SIGNAGE Design and designate locations for interpretive, informational, and wayfinding signs	Sitewide	Install Site Signage (2K)	Medium
1M	SITE LIGHTING Design and designate locations for pole, bollard, and recessed lighting; provide event power	Sitewide	Install Site Lighting (2L)	Medium

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 1 [2026 - 2028]



- 1A BRICK STAIR AT SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL PATH
- 1B BRICK STAIR AT NAYLOR PATH
- 1C STONE STAIR AT SLATE CARRIAGE WAY AND PROUT STREET
- 1D DESIGN KIOSK AND PERGOLA AT CONGRESS STREET
- 1E FENCE REPLACEMENT AT CDF
- 1F PLANTING DESIGN AND INSTALLATION AT CDF
- 1G FORMALIZE PERIMETER PATH
- 1H YARD HYDRANTS, SITEWIDE
- 1I FOUNDATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTIGATION, SITEWIDE
- 1J ENHANCE SCATTER GARDEN AT OLIVER WAY
- 1K PORTABLE TOILET SCREENING AT CHAPEL
- 1L SIGNAGE DESIGN, SITEWIDE
- 1M LIGHTING DESIGN, SITEWIDE

Note: Projects indicated as "Site-wide" are not keyed to specific locations on the plan.

Figure 3.3.2, Illustrative Master Plan with Phase 1 keyed improvements.



MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

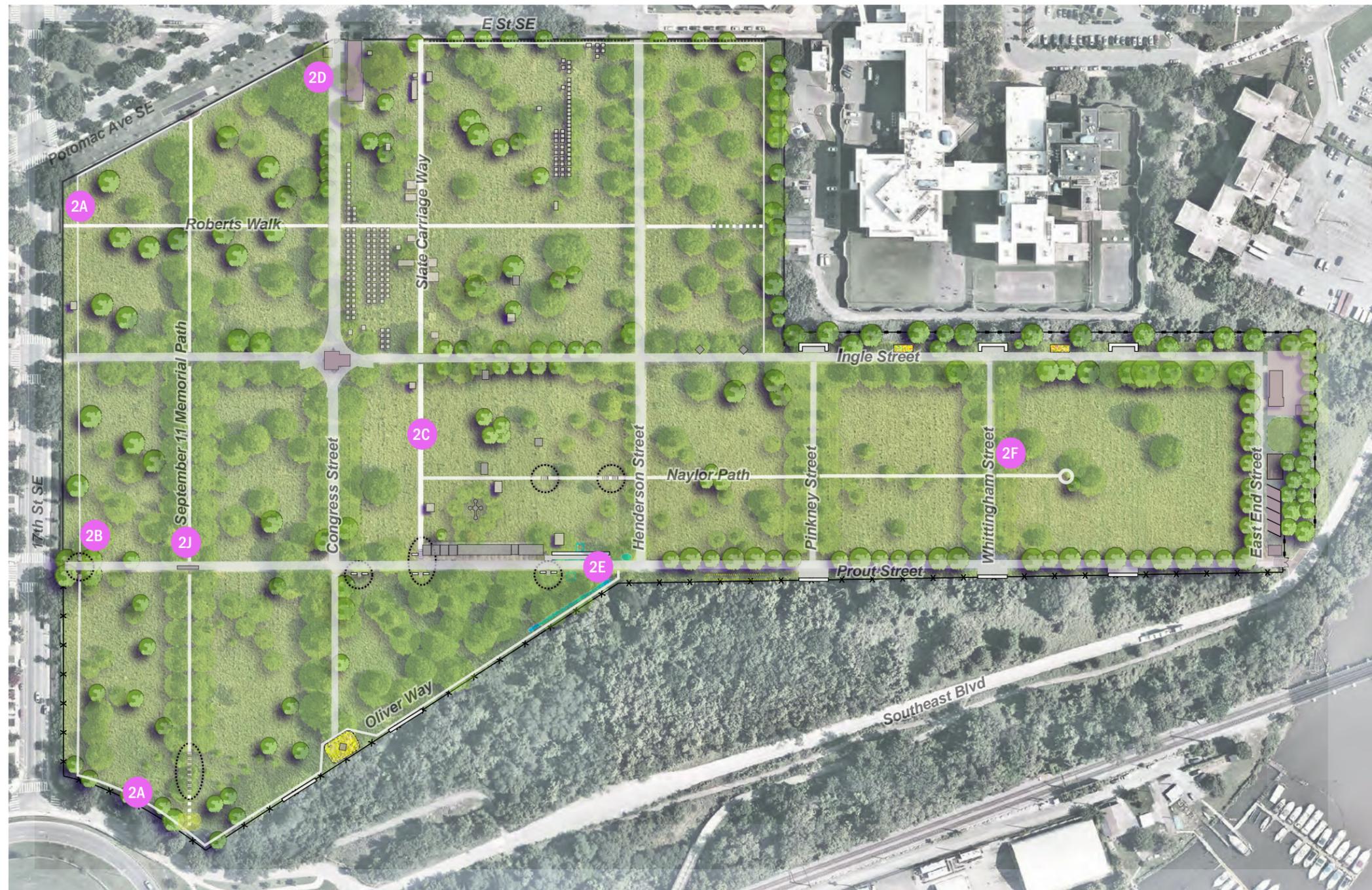
PHASE 2 (2028 - 2030)

ID#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	RELATED PROJECT	PRIORITY
2A	FORMALIZED PERIMETER PATH Install crushed stone; address compaction/erosion on existing desire paths and revegetate	Northwest (adjacent to Potomac Ave), west (17th St.), and south (Oliver Way)	Enhance Scatter Garden (1J), Brick Stair (2B)	High
2B	IMPROVED BRICK STAIRS Repair or replace brick pavers, reconfigure landings and treads, install handrails	Perimeter Path (adjacent to 17th St.)	Perimeter Path (2A)	High
2C	REPLACED BLUESTONE PAVING Specify stone and base material to support excavation equipment used for burials	Slate Carriage Way at Prout Street		High
2D	KIOSK AND PERGOLA CONSTRUCTION Includes adjustments to adjacent paving	Congress Street Entrance	Design Kiosk and Pergola (1D)	High
2E	SPRING BOX(ES) Install as appropriate to reduce saturation of grounds	Prout Street at Oliver Way	Foundational Infrastructure Investigation (1I)	High
2F	SHALLOW SWALES Remove concrete and cobbles, re-grade for drainage patterns, vegetate with appropriate plantings	Whitingham Street	Micrograding for Stormwater (2G)	High
2G	MICROGRADING FOR STORMWATER Address ponding and restore flow paths to outlets and vegetated discharge areas	Sitewide	Foundational Infrastructure Investigation (1I), Turf Rehabilitation (3G)	High
2H	MICROGRADING FOR BURIAL COLLAPSE Address isolated areas where subsidence threatens the physical integrity of headstones	Sitewide	Foundational Infrastructure Investigation (1I), Turf Rehabilitation (3F)	High
2I	STORM DRAINS REHABILITATION Based on site analysis, clean out and/or repair existing inlets, culverts, and conveyance structures	Sitewide	Foundational Infrastructure Investigation (1I)	High
2J	CRUSHED STONE PATH REHABILITATION Address grading, restore surfacing and edge restraints; rearrange commemorative bricks	September 11th Memorial Path / Tucker's Carriage Way	Micrograding for Stormwater (2G)	Medium
2K	SITE SIGNAGE Install interpretive, informational, and wayfinding signs	Sitewide	Design Site Signage (1L)	Medium
2L	SITE LIGHTING Install pole, bollard, and recessed lighting; provide event power	Sitewide	Design Site Lighting (1M)	Medium

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 2 [2028 - 2030]



- 2A FORMALIZE PERIMETER PATH
- 2B BRICK STAIR AT PERIMETER PATH AND PROUT STREET
- 2C REPLACE BLUESTONE PAVING AT SLATE CARRIAGE WAY
- 2D CONSTRUCT KIOSK AND PERGOLA AT CONGRESS STREET
- 2E SPRING BOXES AT PROUT STREET AND OLIVER WAY
- 2F SHALLOW SWALES AT WHITTINGHAM STREET
- 2G MICROGRADING FOR STORMWATER, SITEWIDE
- 2H MICROGRADING FOR BURIAL COLLAPSE, SITEWIDE
- 2I REHABILITATE STORM DRAINS, SITEWIDE
- 2J CRUSHED STONE PATH REHAB AT 9/11 PATH
- 2K INSTALL SITE SIGNAGE, SITEWIDE
- 2L INSTALL LIGHTING, SITEWIDE

Note: Projects indicated as "Sitewide" are not keyed to specific locations on the plan.

Figure 3.3.3, Illustrative Master Plan with Phase 2 keyed improvements.



MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 3 (2030 - 2032)

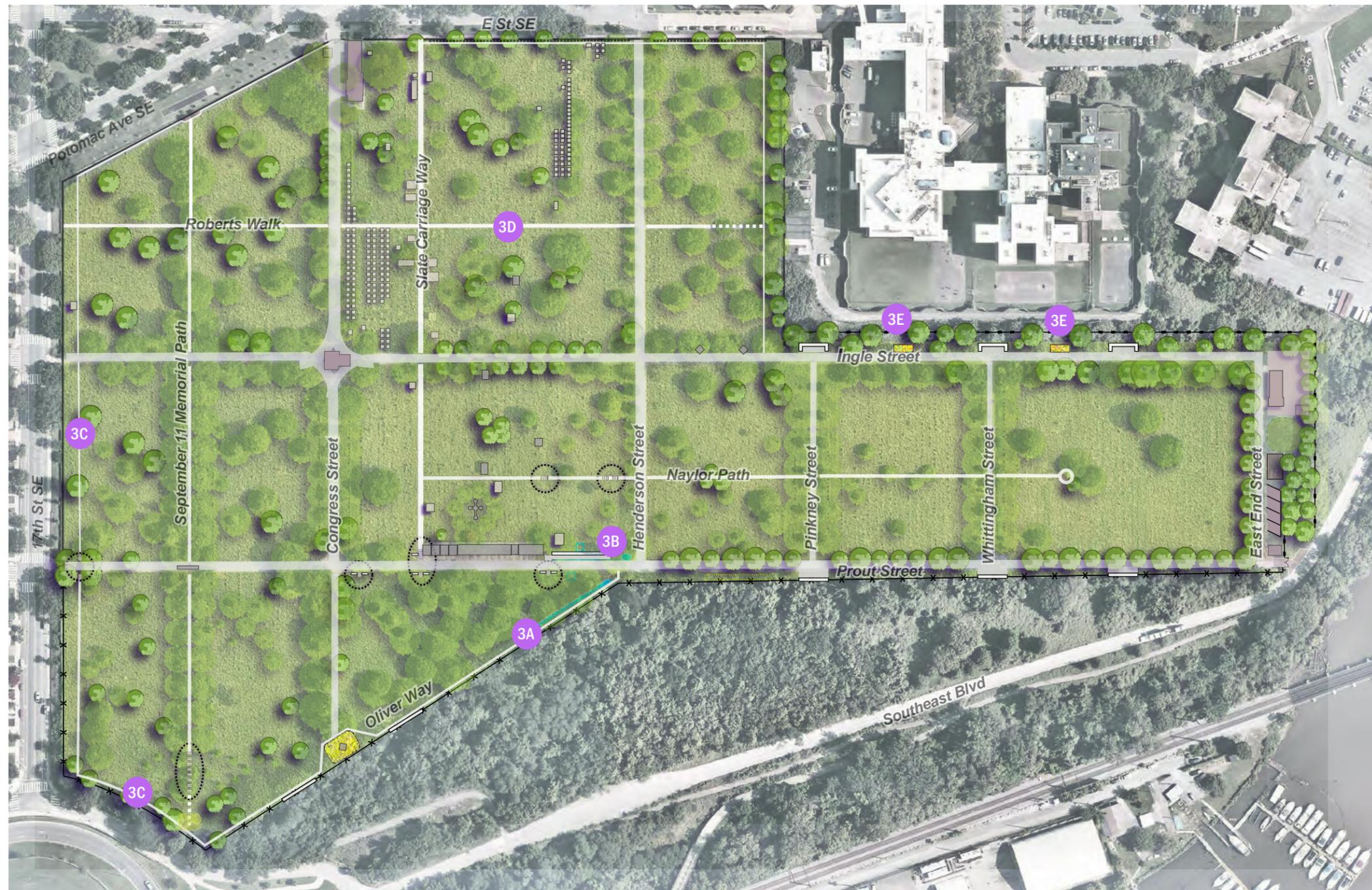
ID#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	RELATED PROJECT	PRIORITY
3A	OLIVER WAY IMPROVEMENTS Enhance pedestrian experience by installing permeable paving and infiltration trench	Oliver Way	Enhance Scatter Garden (1J), Brick Stair (2B)	High
3B	SPRING POND Improve water quality in pond, expand / enhance pond area	Prout Street at Oliver Way	Foundational Infrastructure Investigation (1I), Spring Box(es) (2E), Niches (5A)	Medium
3C	CHAIN LINK FENCE REPLACEMENT Remove existing fence and install decorative metal picket fence (6-ft-tall)	South and West Perimeters	Prout Street Gate Reconstruction (4C)	Medium
3D	REPLACED BRICK PAVING Specify tumbled brick and base material to support excavation equipment used for burials	Roberts Walk		Medium
3E	NEW SCATTER GARDENS Design and construct two gardens to include plants, paving, seating, and 30" tall fence	Along Ingle Street east of Pinkney Street	Fence Replacement (1E) and Planting Design and Installation (1F)	Medium
3F	TURF REHABILITATION Phased dethatching and reseeding of plot areas with pollinator lawns	Sitewide	Micrograding for Stormwater (2G) and Burial Collapse (2H)	Medium

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 3 [2030 - 2032]

- 3A OLIVER WAY IMPROVEMENTS
- 3B ENHANCE SPRING POND
- 3C REPLACE CHAIN LINK FENCE AT SOUTH AND WEST PERIMETERS
- 3D REPLACE BRICK PAVING AT ROBERTS WALK
- 3E NEW SCATTER GARDENS AT INGLE EAST OF PINKNEY STREET
- 3F TURF RESTORATION, SITEWIDE



Note: Projects indicated as "Sitewide" are not keyed to specific locations on the plan.

Figure 3.3.4, Illustrative Master Plan with Phase 3 keyed improvements.

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 4 (2032 - 2034)

ID#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	RELATED PROJECT	PRIORITY
4A	CONSTRUCT VISITOR CENTER AND GATEHOUSE EXPANSION Includes hardscape and landscape work; need to temporarily relocate staff and operations	Gatehouse	Design Kiosk, Visitor Center, and Gatehouse (1D), Construct Kiosk (2D)	High
4B	BRICK WALK Replace crushed stone and existing brick with new brick	Naylor Path	Brick Stair (1B), Micrograding for Stormwater (2G), Turf Rehabilitation (3F)	High
4C	PROUT STREET GATE RECONSTRUCTION New gate fabrication to match historic gate, to be designed from archival research	Prout Street at 17th Street	Brick Stair (2B), Replace Chain Link Fence (3C)	Medium
4D	STONE STAIR Repair or replace stone treads, reconfigure landings and treads, install handrails (three stair runs)	Prout Street to north side of Section 8		Medium
4E	NICHES Stair Wingwalls	Prout Street to north side of Section 8 and at Slate Carriage Way stair	Stone Stair (1C and 4D)	Medium
4F	MAINTENANCE AREA ACCESS ROAD Replace existing gravel access road with asphalt	Prout Street at East End Street	Micrograding for Stormwater (2G)	Medium
4G	NICHES Freestanding walls with special paving and benches	Along Ingle Street east of Pinkney Street	Fence Replacement (1E), Planting (1F), New Scatter Gardens (3F)	Medium
4H	ROAD REHABILITATION Address isolated areas of compaction, improve drainage, re-set existing pavers	Prout Street, Ingle Street, and Congress Street	Rehabilitate Storm Drains (2I)	Medium
4I	NICHES Freestanding walls with special paving and benches	Oliver Way	Oliver Way Improvements (3A), Replace Chain Link Fence (3C)	Low
4J	NODE COLUMBARIA Freestanding walls with special paving and benches	Prout Street at 17th Street	Brick Stair (2B), Replace Chain Link Fence (3C) Prout Street Gate (4C)	Low

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 4 2032 - 2034

- 4A CONSTRUCT VISITOR CENTER AND GATEHOUSE EXPANSION
- 4B BRICK WALK AT NAYLOR PATH
- 4C PROUT STREET GATE RECONSTRUCTION
- 4D STONE STAIR AT SLATE CARRIAGE WAY AND PROUT STREET
- 4E NICHES IN WINGWALLS AT PROUT STREET STAIRS
- 4F MAINTENANCE AREA GATE ACCESS ROAD
- 4G NICHES ALONG INGLE EAST OF PINKNEY STREET
- 4H ROAD REHAB AT CONGRESS, PROUT, AND INGLE STREETS
- 4I NICHES ALONG OLIVER WAY
- 4J NODE COLUMBARIA AT PROUT STREET AND 17TH STREET

Note: Projects indicated as "Sitewide" are not keyed to specific locations on the plan.

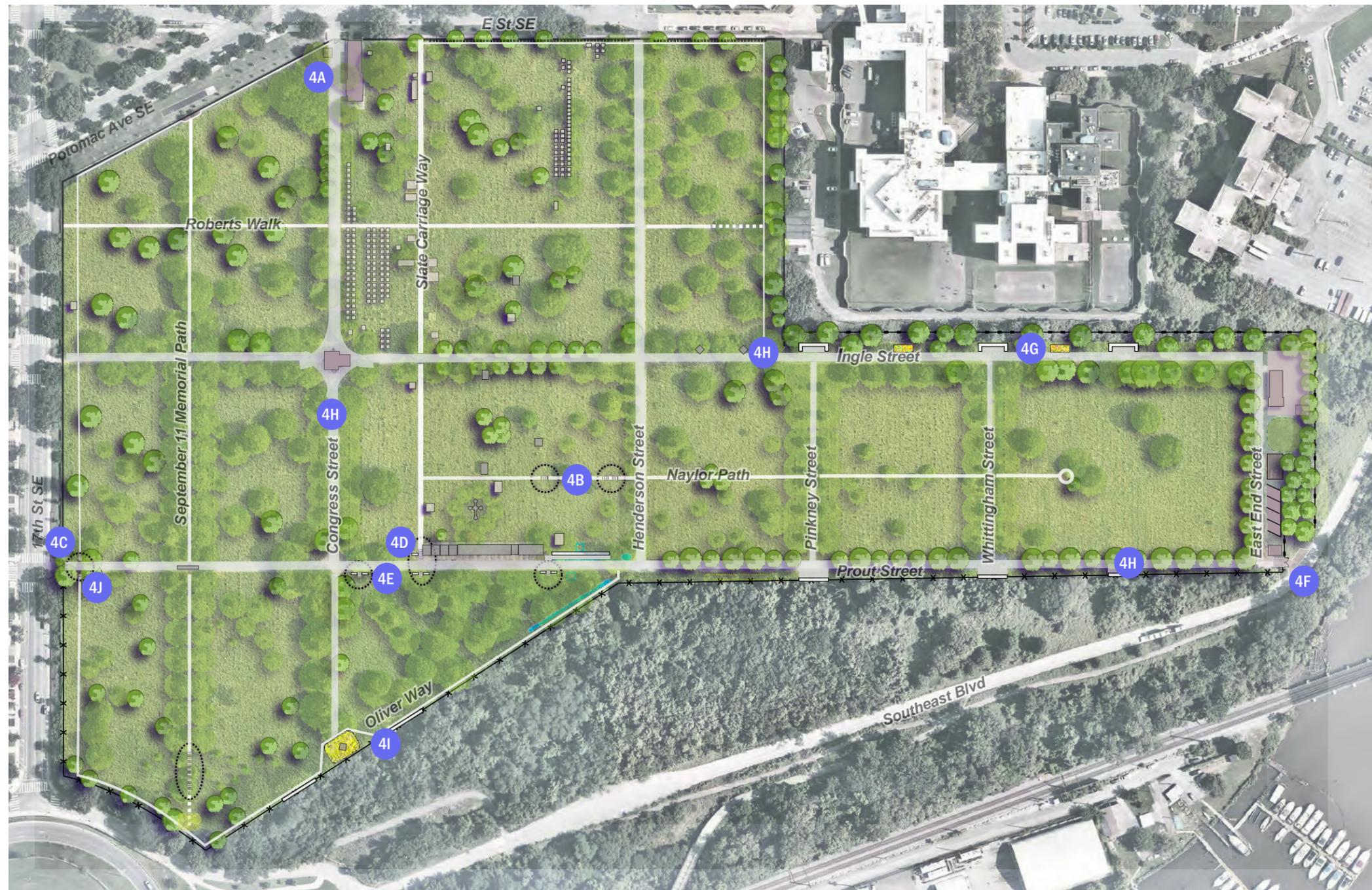


Figure 3.3.5, Illustrative Master Plan with Phase 2 keyed improvements.

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 5 (2034 - 2036)

ID#	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	RELATED PROJECT	PRIORITY
5A	NICHES Retaining wall with special paving and benches	Prout Street to East of Family Vaults	Spring Box(es) (2E), Spring Pond (3B)	Medium
5B	NICHES Linear in-ground niches	North Perimeter along Potomac Ave and E Street	Micrograding for Stormwater (2G), Turf Rehabilitation (3F)	Medium
5C	MAINTENANCE AREA Expand east; add greenhouse & cutting garden, relocate Conservation Lab, install vinyl-clad chain link fence, rebuild maintenance bins	East Side	Maintenance Area Gate (4F)	Medium
5D	RESTROOM Construct restroom facility	East Side	Maintenance Area Gate (4F), Restroom (5D)	Low
5E	NEW SCATTER GARDENS Design and construct interspersed gardens to include plants, paving, seating, and 30" tall fences	Selectively Sitewide	Micrograding for Stormwater (2G), Burial Collapse (2H), Turf Rehabilitation (3F)	Low

MASTER PLAN

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND PHASING

PHASE 5 [2034 - 2036]

- 5A NICHES IN RETAINING WALL ALONG PROUT STREET
- 5B NICHES, IN-GRADE ALONG NORTH PERIMETER
- 5C EXPAND MAINTENANCE AREA
- 5D CONSTRUCT RESTROOM AT EAST END OF CEMETERY
- 5E DESIGN AND INSTALL SCATTER GARDENS, SITEWIDE AT SELECT LOCATIONS



Note: Projects indicated as "Sitewide" are not keyed to specific locations on the plan.

Figure 3.3.6, Illustrative Master Plan with Phase 2 keyed improvements.

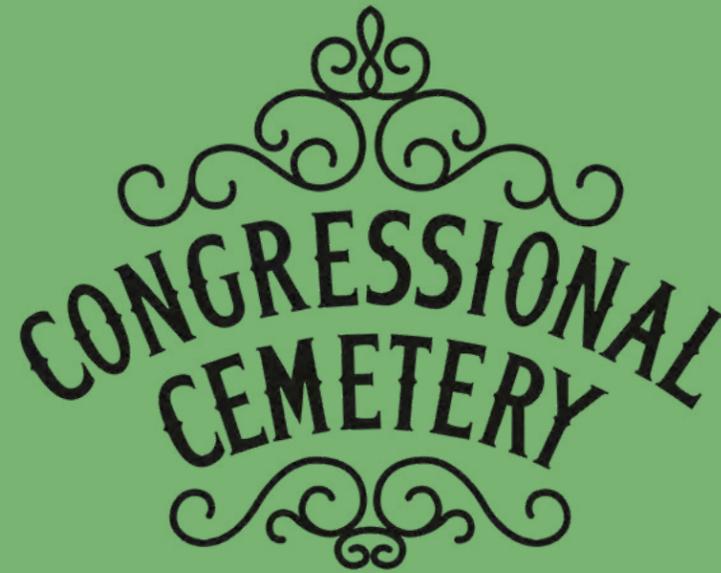






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