

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects Meeting

December 11, 2019
St. Stephens and St. Agnes Middle School
7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

7:00 p.m. -7:15 p.m.	Sign-In/Display Boards
7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.	Power Point Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">-<i>Accessible Parking</i>-<i>Picnic Shelter Access</i>-<i>Van Dorn Street Access</i>-<i>Playground Relocation</i>-<i>Interpretive Plan</i>
8:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Display Boards/Follow-up Q&A



Fort Ward Park Capital Project Updates

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Office of Historic Alexandria

December 11, 2019
Last Updated December 12, 2019

Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan

"The City of Alexandria affirms that significant parts of Fort Ward Park are hallowed ground. Fort Ward Park is home to significant historic and cultural resources, including sacred burial grounds of the families that lived there. The City of Alexandria recognizes that these sacred places and any other burial sites identified in the future shall be protected from disturbance and treated with respect and dignity. The Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan provides a sensitive approach to acknowledging, protecting and interpreting the resources on this property, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places along with guidelines for managing the area's natural resources and compatible passive recreation uses."

Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan

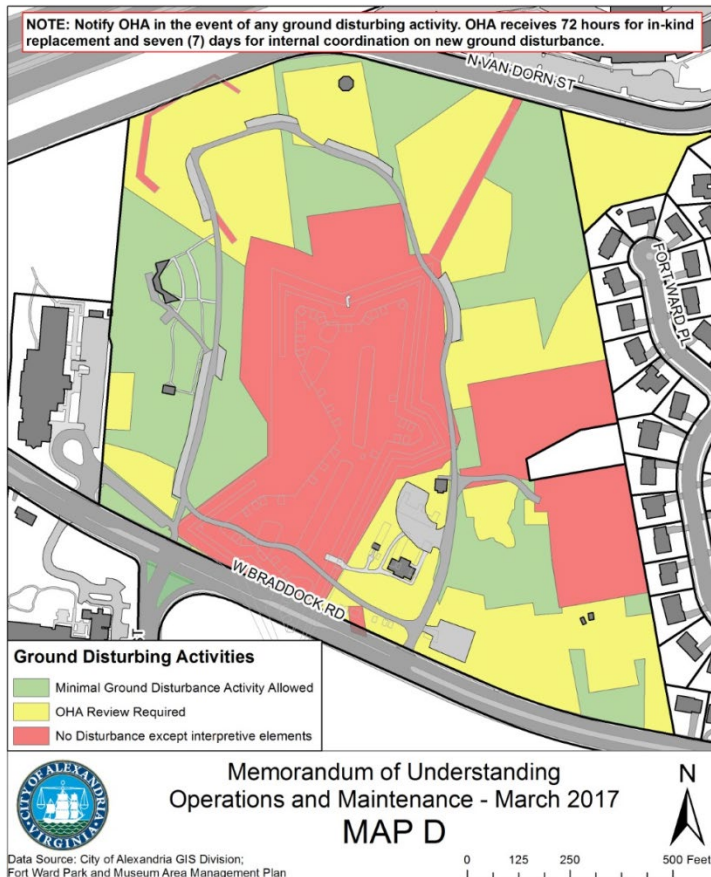


Five Plan Goals:

- ❖ *Collaborative Management and Equitable Funding*
- ❖ *Preserve, Protect, Repair and Maintain Resources*
- ❖ *Adopt Landscape Cultural Practices*
- ❖ *Educate and Engage Visitors*
- ❖ *Enhance Park Facilities*

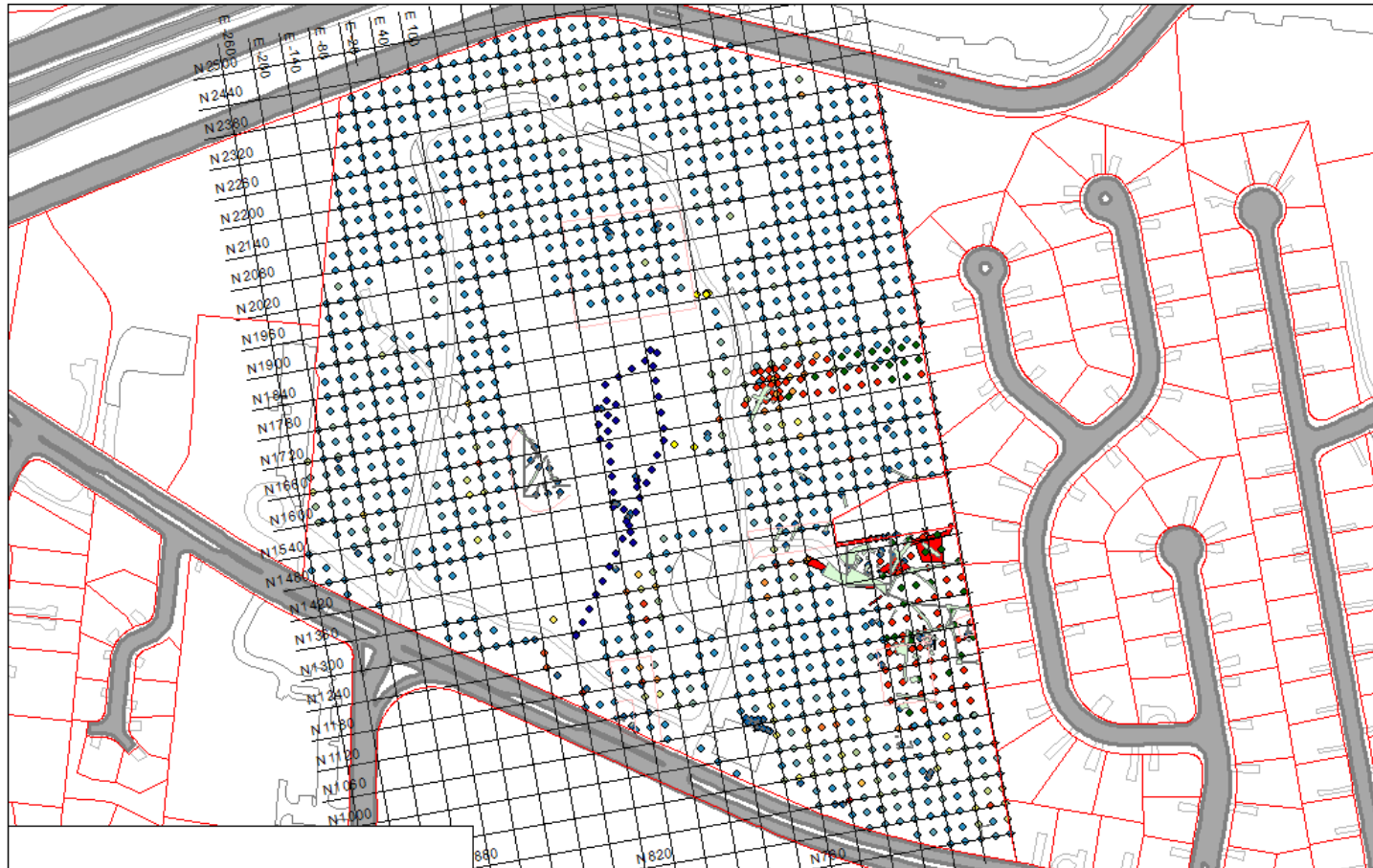
Alexandria City Council adopted the plan in January 2015

Fort Ward Ground Disturbance Protocols



- Minimal Ground Disturbing Activities (such as aeration, stump grinding, tree planting, and soft path construction)
- No Ground Disturbing Activities Allowed without further review by OHA
- No Ground Disturbing Activities Allowed except for placement of formal interpretive elements with archaeological review and investigation

Fort Ward Archaeological Investigations 2011-2019



Date: Saturday, December 7, 2019
Alexandria Archaeology Digital Atlas

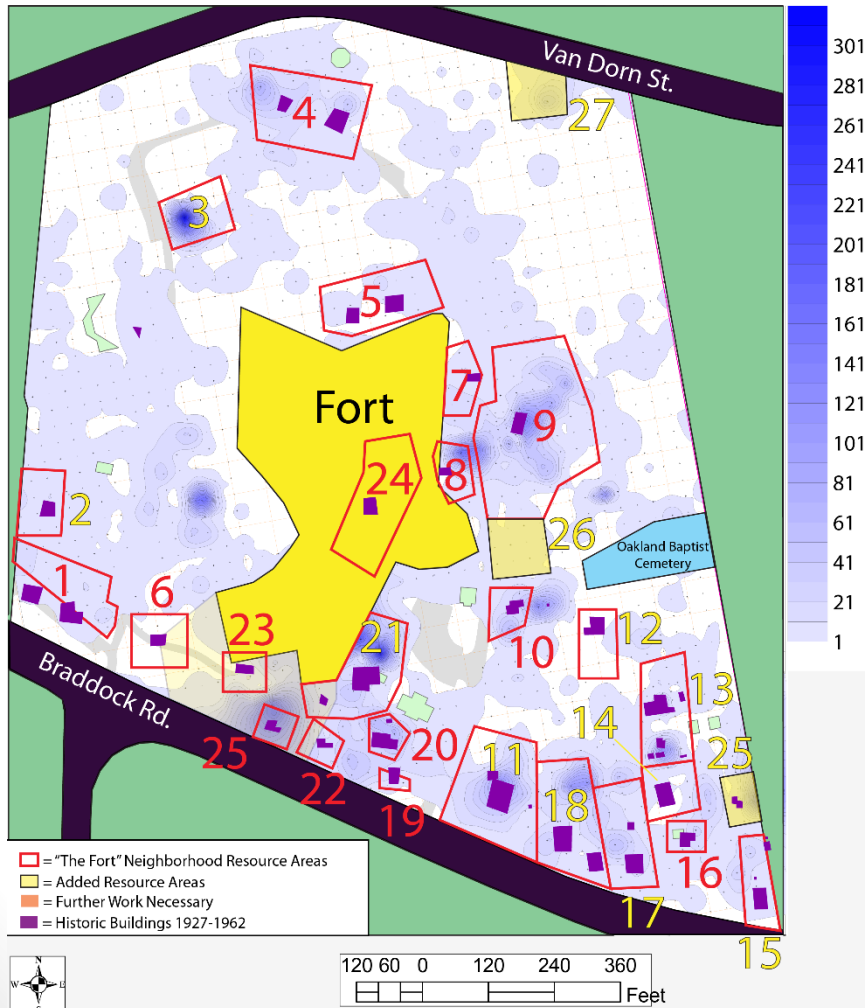
Archaeological Testing at Fort Ward Park 2011 - 2019

0 175 350 700 Feet



Fort Ward Archaeological Investigations 2011-2019

Artifact Concentrations



Archaeological Goals at Fort Ward

- Preserve and Protect Identified Archaeological Resources
- Design New Infrastructure to Avoid Resources
- Recover Archaeological Data Only When Avoidance Not Possible
- Designate Fort Ward as an Archaeological Reserve
- Oral History Collection

Management Plan Implementation 2015-2019

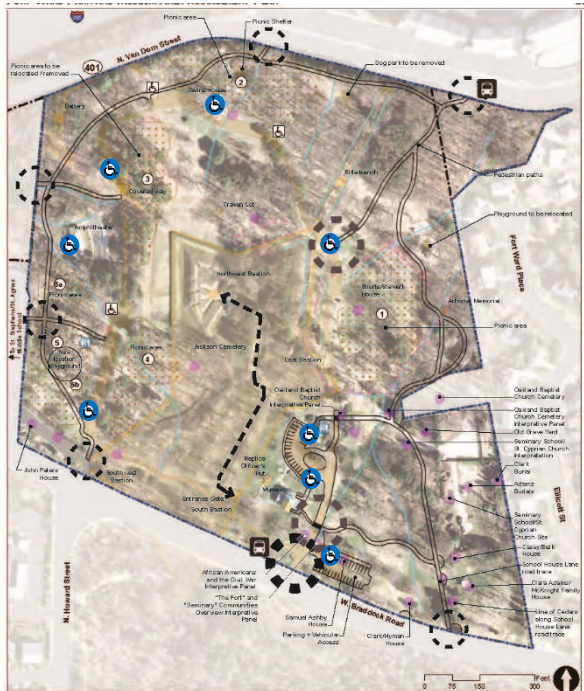


Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

- Projects identified were previously approved in prior year capital budgets
- Projects consistent with 2015 Management Plan and 2019 Interpretive Plan
- Projects incorporate accessibility requirements mandated by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Each project includes archaeological review, and investigation if applicable
- Project funding approved bi-annually through City Budget process: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget>
- Current capital funding level at \$720,000 over a ten-year period (from FY2020-FY2029)

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

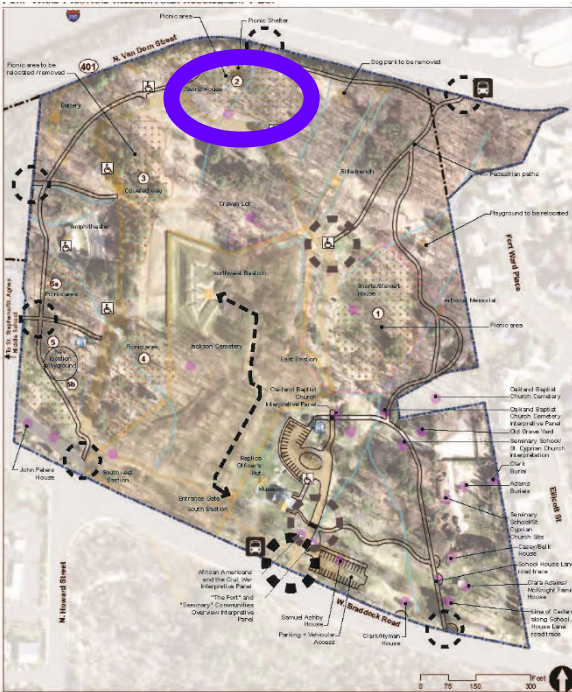
Accessible Parking Space Improvements



- At least one accessible van space per parking bay
- Each space must comply with ADA, including signage striping, and maximum allowable slopes (less than 2%)
- Improvements to front gravel lot, museum, Area 1, 2, and 5, and amphitheater. Work coordinated with other planned improvements (picnic shelter, playground)
- Design of gravel lot, museum, Area 1, and amphitheater are 50% complete. Construction anticipated in 2020.

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

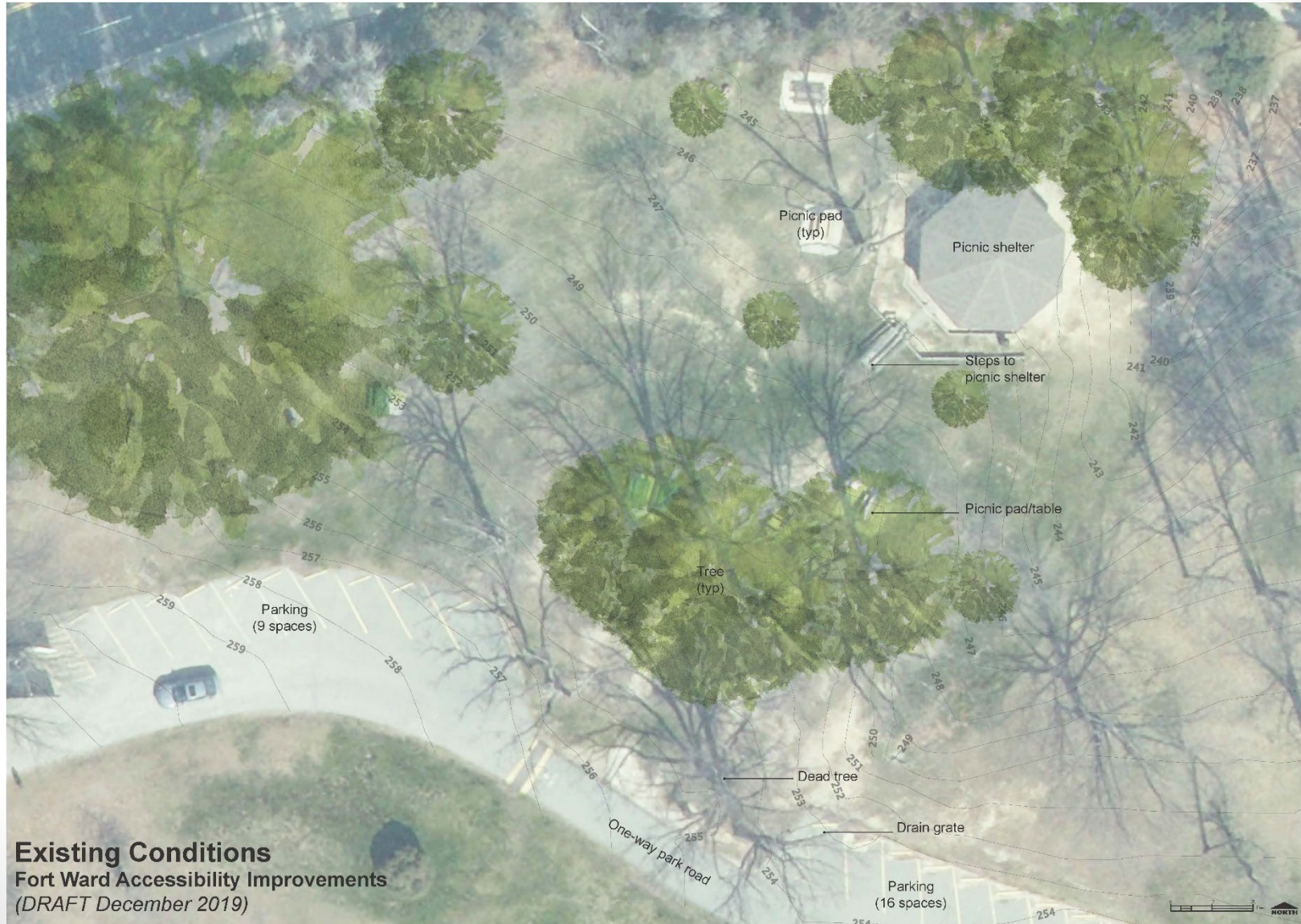
Picnic Shelter Access Improvements



- Fort Ward Management Plan, Capital Investment, Goal 5, recommends an accessible route connecting parking to the existing picnic shelter
- Include accessible parking
 - 1 van accessible space
 - 1 standard ADA space
- Path location responsive to known archaeological resources and existing trees
- Permit drawings, winter 2020
- Construction, anticipated to begin summer/fall 2020

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Picnic Shelter Access Improvements

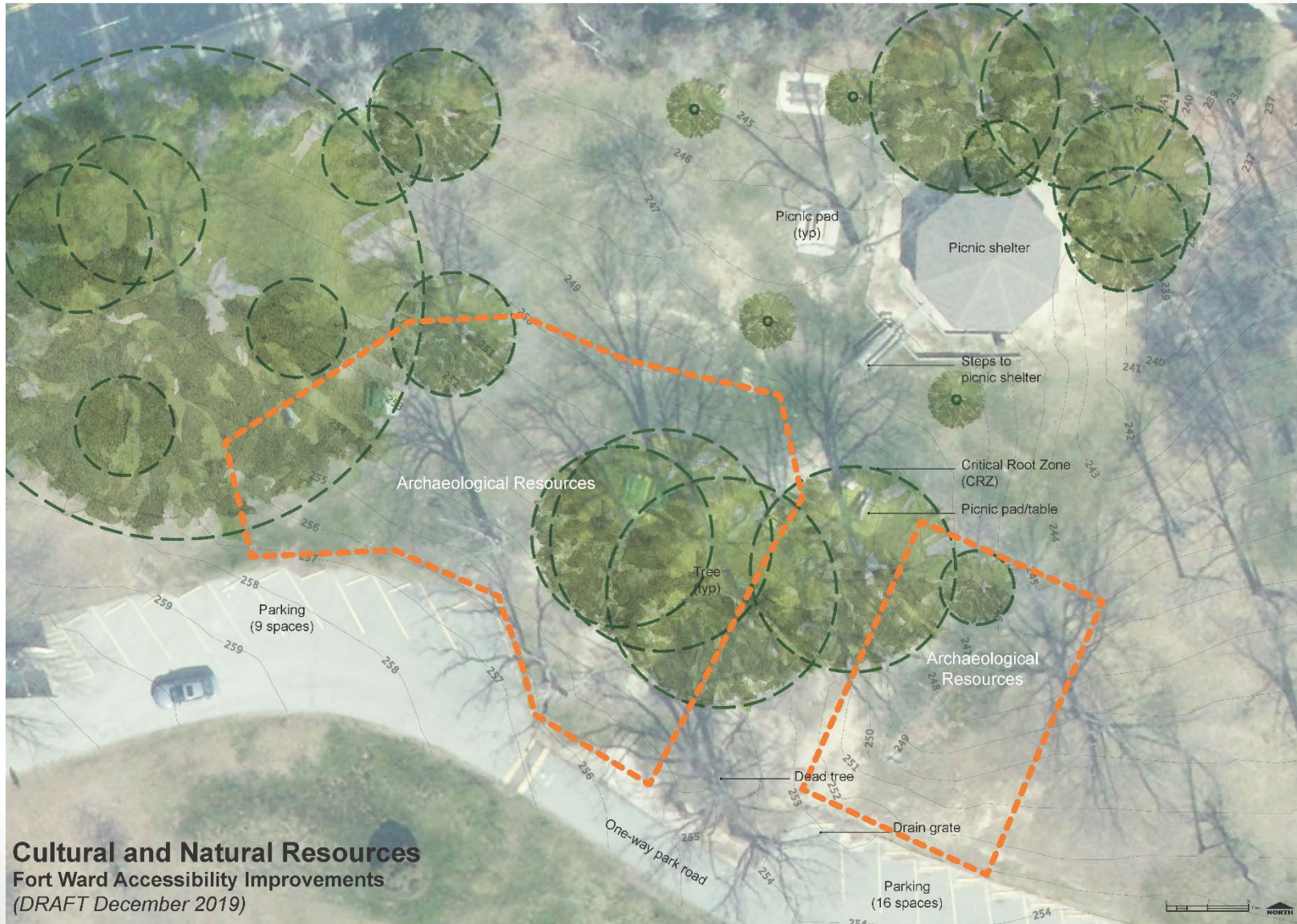


Existing Conditions

Fort Ward Accessibility Improvements
(DRAFT December 2019)

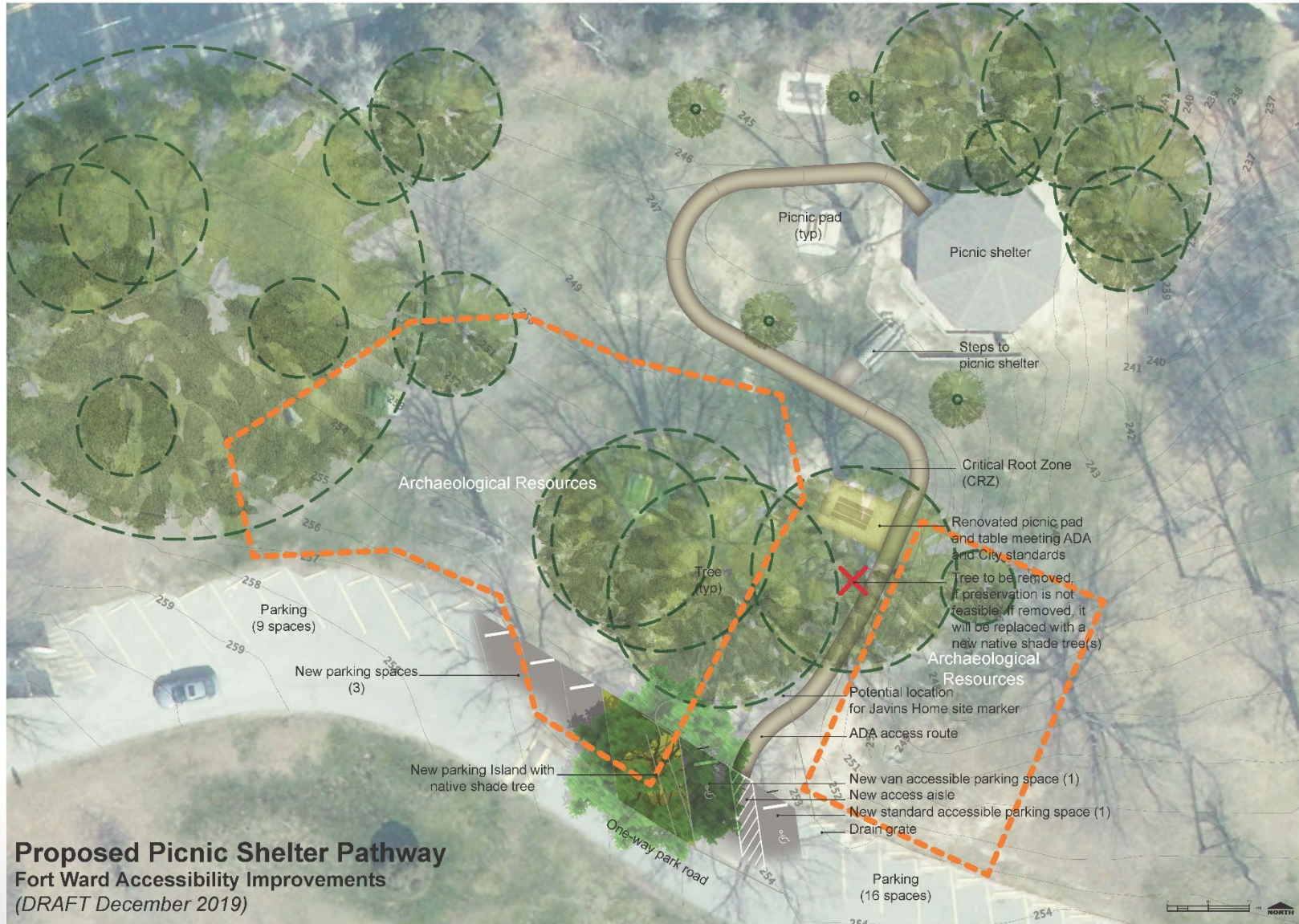
Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Picnic Shelter Access Improvements



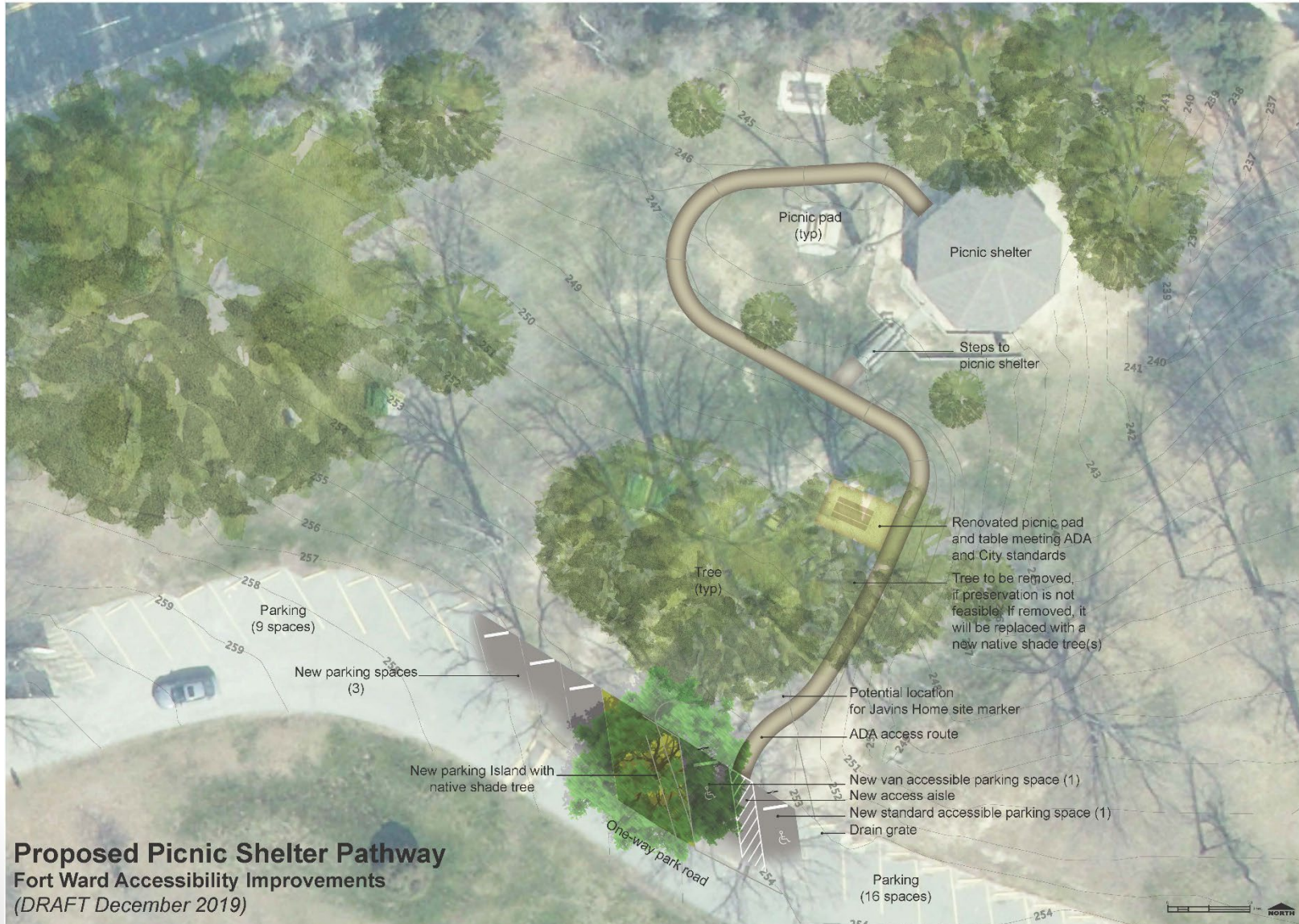
Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Picnic Shelter Access Improvements



Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Picnic Shelter Access Improvements

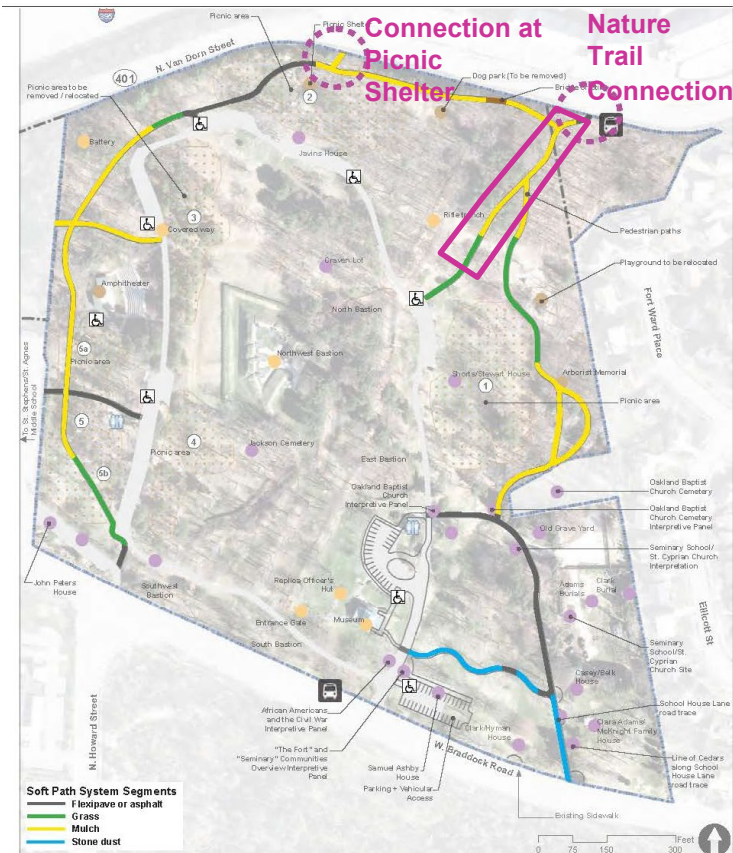


Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Park Access along Van Dorn Street

Two pedestrian connections along Van Dorn Street:

- Nature trail connection, near existing bus stop
 - Replace existing wood steps
 - Replenish woodchip trail surface
 - Add new bench
 - Installation spring/summer 2020
- Accessible connection near picnic shelter and existing crosswalk
 - Connect to picnic shelter accessible path
 - Concept design to be completed early 2020
 - Construction anticipated to begin fall 2020



Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan

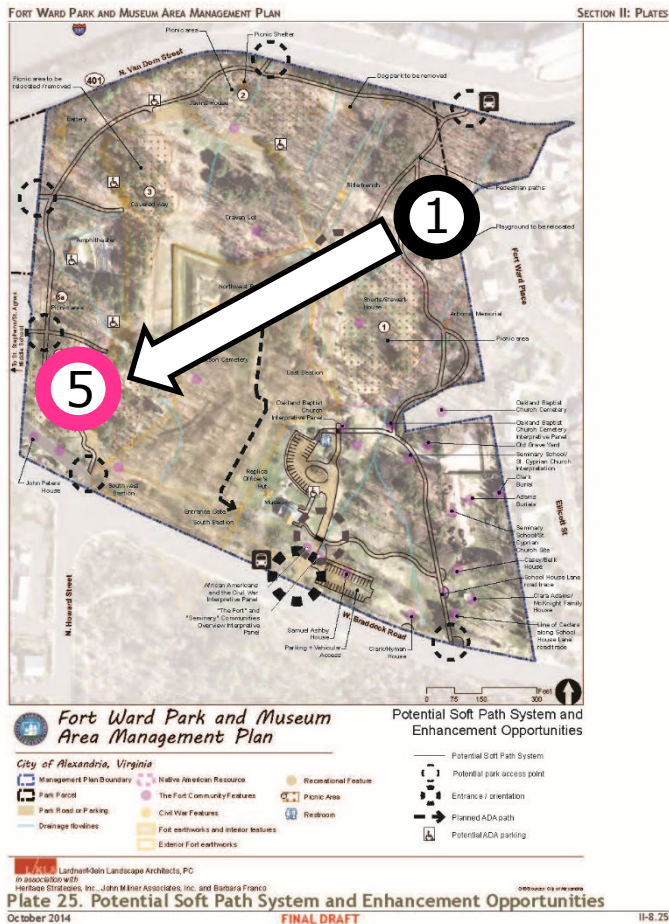
Soft Path System

City of Alexandria, Virginia

- Management Plan Boundary
- Park Parcel
- Park Road or Parking
- The Fort Community Features
- Civil War Features
- Recreational Feature
- Picnic Area
- Restroom

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

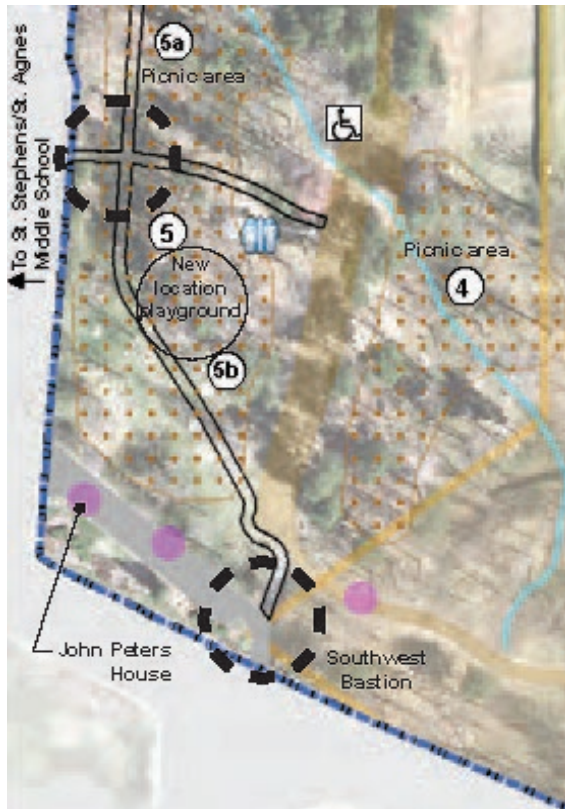
Relocation of Existing Playground



- Fort Ward Management Plan recommends relocation of existing playground to Area 5
- Some existing playground equipment will be re-installed in Area 5. The old playground area will be restored to grade and re-planted and stabilized with trees and groundcover
- Concept design, to be complete winter 2020. Community meeting to be scheduled in early 2020 to present concept design
- Construction, anticipated to start fall 2020

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

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Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Relocation of Existing Playground



- ADA compliant seating, picnic tables, and drinking fountain will be added
- 1 standard ADA space
- Accessible route to connect ADA parking with playground
- Existing trees to be preserved, with exception of dying or invasive species

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Relocation of Existing Playground

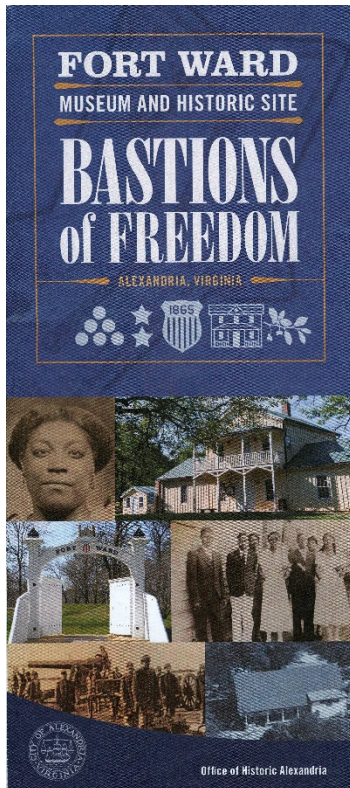


- Playground location responsive to known archaeological resources
- Two concepts in development
 - Elevated playground to minimize ground disturbance and to protect in place cultural resources
 - At-grade placement, will require more significant excavation

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Interpretive Plan Projects

- New Fort Ward brochure, available in early 2020
- Museum exhibit on Fort Ward's Civil War & Fort community history under development in 2020
- 2021 Installation



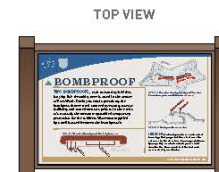
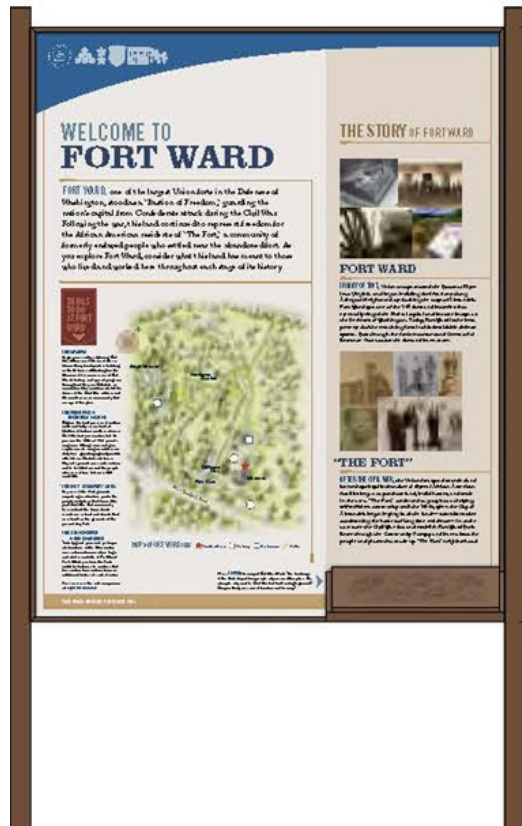
MUSEUM ENHANCEMENTS: EXHIBIT



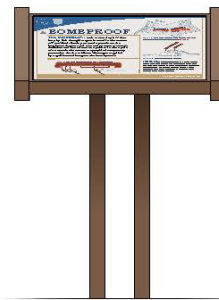
Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Interpretive Plan Projects

- Two Park Orientation Stations
- Fall 2020 installation
- Historic Site Markers Phase 1: Replacement of Civil War Fort Markers
- Spring 2021 installation



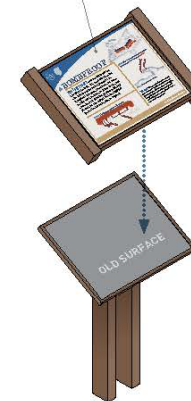
TOP VIEW



FRONT VIEW



New graphic framework with end bars mounts to old graphic surface



ISOMETRIC VIEW

Fort Ward Park Capital Projects

Fort Ward Interpretive Soft Trail

- Phased planning and production
- New markers for Fort community trail

COMMEMORATION SPACE

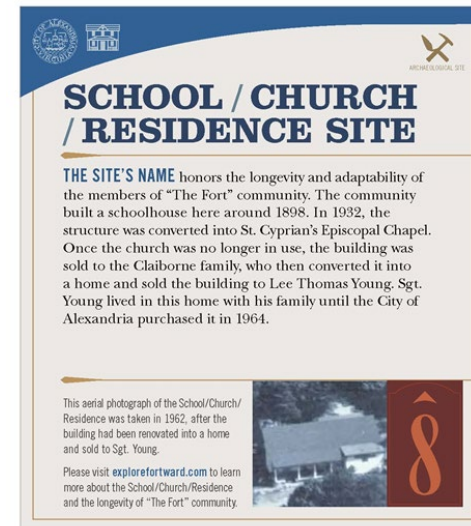
Element 6



At center of space, long plank-like stones with inscribed quotes or names / embedded in ground

Simple, long bench forms for rest and reflection surround space and mimic "planks" in length

Perimeter of the defined space is suggestive of a floorplan of a community home



- Schoolhouse/chapel interpretive area
- Commemorative area
- FY2023 CIP Funding Request

Fort Ward Project Updates

Management Plan

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=29638>

Interpretive Plan

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/fortward/default.aspx?id=102532>