



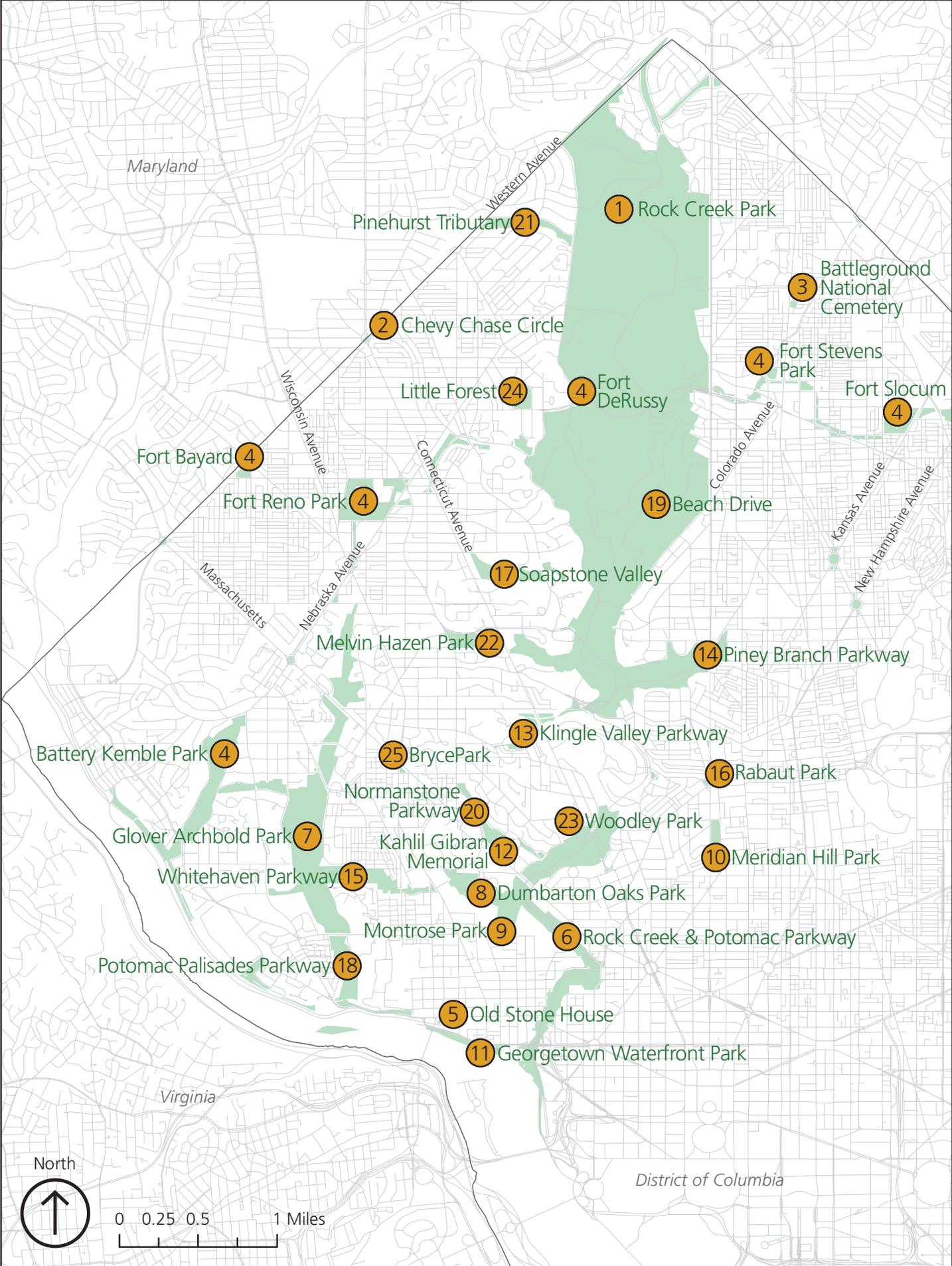
Foundation Document

Rock Creek Park

District of Columbia

September 2015

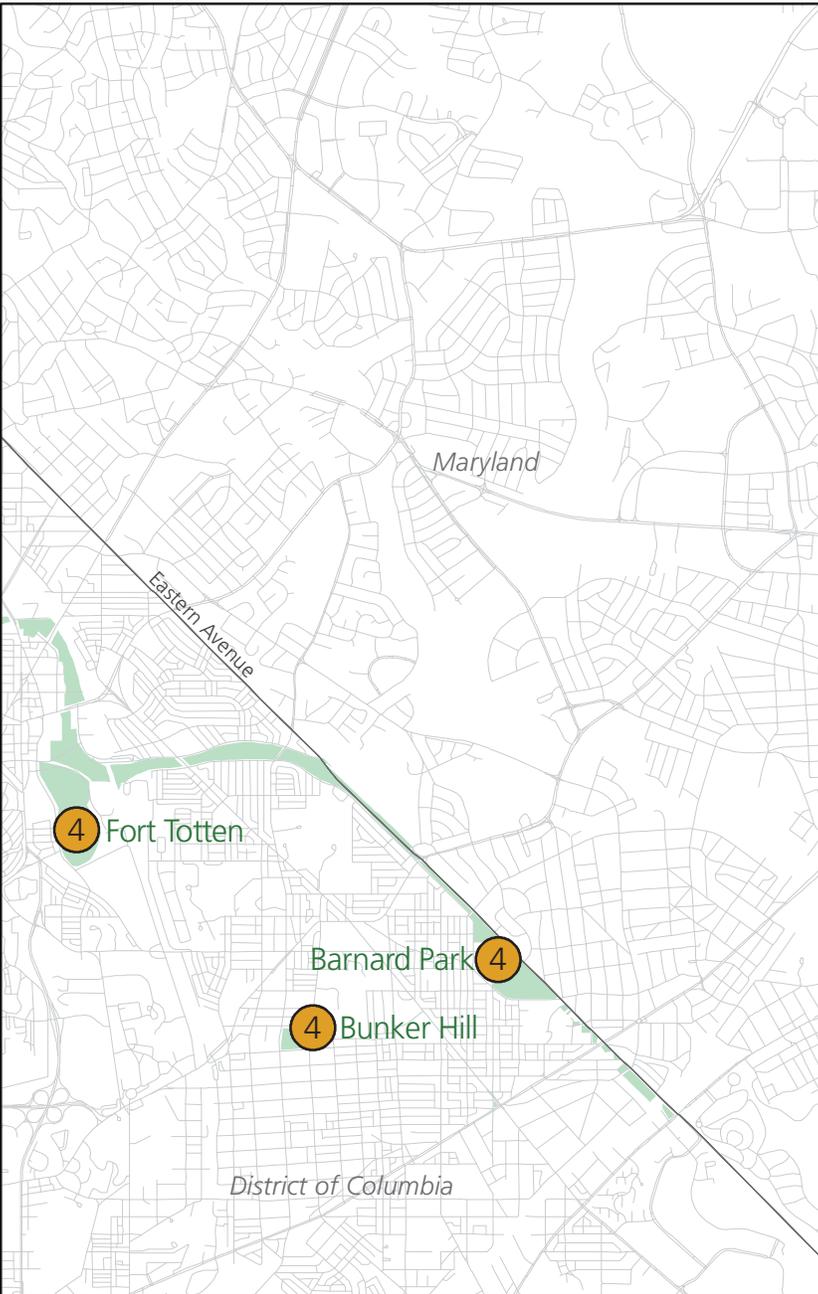




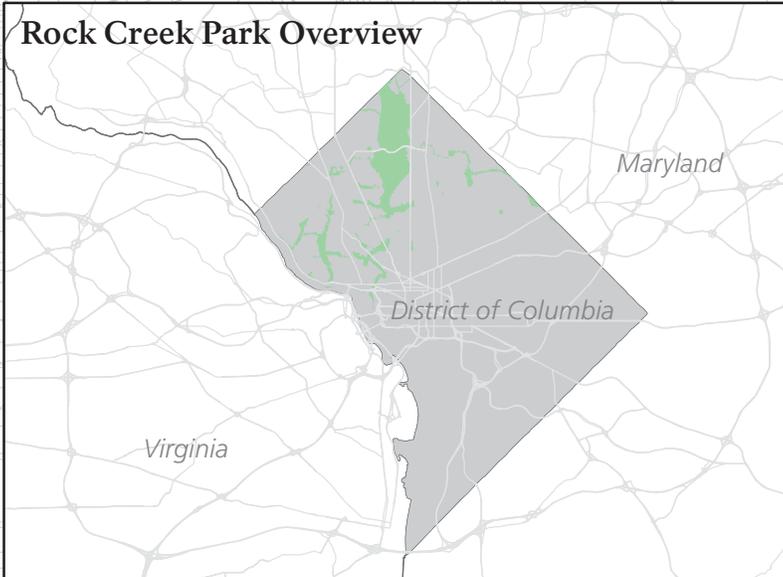
Rock Creek Park

District of Columbia

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Rock Creek Park Overview





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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Rock Creek Park can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of Rock Creek Park and Associated Units

Rock Creek Park administers 2,749 acres within the District of Columbia and is both an individual unit of the national park system as well as an administrative unit that oversees numerous park sites and resources beyond the original core of Rock Creek Park (US Reservation 339) addressed in the enabling legislation. The park administers a total of 99 areas, which include the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, the Old Stone House, part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington (CWDW), Dumbarton Oaks Park, Meridian Hill Park, and Glover Archbold Park. These sites were not included in the original enabling legislation of the park but were authorized for their own unique qualities (see appendix A for enabling legislation and a list of sites and resources managed by Rock Creek Park). This document contains analysis with specific guidance for planning and management of Rock Creek Park and its administrative park sites. The primary legislated and nonlegislated park sites are listed below. The remainder of managed sites are triangles, circles, and squares.

Legislated Park Unit Managed by Rock Creek Park

- Rock Creek Park

Associated Park Sites Managed by Rock Creek Park

- Battleground National Cemetery
- Civil War Defenses of Washington
- Old Stone House
- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway
- Glover Archbold Park
- Dumbarton Oaks Park
- Montrose Park
- Meridian Hill Park
- Georgetown Waterfront Park
- Klinge Valley Parkway
- Piney Branch Parkway
- Whitehaven Parkway
- Rabaut Park
- Soapstone Valley
- Potomac Palisades Parkway
- Beach Drive
- Normanstone Parkway
- Pinehurst Tributary
- Melvin Hazen Park
- Woodley Park
- Little Forest
- Bryce Park
- More than 40 circles, squares, and triangles around the city

Brief Description of Rock Creek Park and Associated Sites

- Rock Creek Park.** Rock Creek Park itself was first established in 1890 to protect the natural and historical landscape of the Rock Creek Valley in Washington, DC. Stretching from the Maryland state line to the National Zoo, Rock Creek Park exists as a green oasis amidst the dense urban development of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. The park was one of the first designated federal park units, and among these early parks was unique due to its proximity to an urban center. Its location makes it highly accessible for city residents and visitors alike to experience a tranquil natural setting for its own sake or in pursuit of any number of recreational activities. As stated in the enabling legislation, Rock Creek Park is “perpetually dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States,” which included the construction of driving roads and trails for horses and pedestrians, while preserving the park’s “timber, animals, and curiosities . . . in their natural condition, as nearly as possible.”

The main natural feature of Rock Creek Park is a 9.6-mile segment of Rock Creek. In the years after the initial park area was designated, several tributary land parcels were incrementally added to the park, which combine to protect more than 2,000 acres of the Rock Creek watershed. This area protects a natural landscape consisting of deciduous forests and meadows, which provide habitat for many plant and animal species, including fish, amphibians, mammals, and 180 species of birds. Wetlands and floodplains along Rock Creek and its tributaries are home to a large number of plant and animal species, and represent an important component of the biodiversity in the park.

Human presence in what is now Rock Creek Park spans thousands of years. The park includes a number of significant archeological sites, such as the Piney Branch Quarry Site, which provided important evidence in the debate over the history of human presence in the Americas, and others that continue to be discovered and studied. Sites connected to more recent human presence in the Rock Creek valley include Peirce Mill, representative of the active milling industry in the valley in the mid-19th century, and a number of sites related to the defense of Washington, DC, during the Civil War.

In addition to protection of important natural and cultural resources, Rock Creek Park offers an impressively wide range of opportunities for active recreation, education, and quiet refuge from the surrounding urban environment. Park visitors can walk, run, bicycle, ride on horseback, drive, or simply relax and enjoy a quiet natural atmosphere.

Concessioners provide lessons and rentals for popular activities such as kayaking, canoeing, rowing, paddleboarding, and bicycling. The park also features facilities for more organized activities, including ball fields, a golf course, and developed play areas. The park nature center hosts scheduled interpretive programs, including astronomical programs in the planetarium. Park staff also guide interpretive walks and talks throughout the park. The Carter Barron Amphitheatre provides a range of music and theater performances, offering an exceptional opportunity for cultural enrichment. All of these opportunities facilitate an exceptionally close connection between the park and surrounding community.



- **Civil War Defenses of Washington.** Of the 19 surviving features of the system of defenses termed the Civil War Defenses of Washington, Rock Creek Park administers 9: Forts Bunker Hill, Totten, Slocum, Stevens, DeRussy, Reno, Bayard, and Battery Kemble. In addition, Battleground National Cemetery is also administered by the park. The other ten defense sites administered by the National Park Service are part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and National Capital Parks East. These sites came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service under the authority of Public Law 71-284, the Capper-Cramton Act. Most of the forts had previously been under federal ownership, and during the first half of the 20th century, jurisdiction passed through several governing bodies within the federal government until they came to the National Park Service.

The Civil War Defenses of Washington were constructed as a circle of fortifications on the high ground surrounding Washington, DC, to protect the city during the Civil War. The city had not been threatened militarily since the War of 1812, and was initially undefended against Confederate incursion as the Civil War began in 1861. This network of fortifications made Washington, DC, one of the most heavily fortified cities in the world and played an important role in deterring any Confederate plans to attack the nation's capital.

Beginning as early as 1872, several plans called for creating a continuous thread of public parks surrounding the city where the defenses had once kept watch. The 1902 McMillan Commission was a comprehensive planning document that called for the improvement of District of Columbia parks, including linking the city's Civil War fort-parks via a grand drive. Government acquisition of the Civil War defenses began between the establishment of Fort Dupont in 1916 and the work relief programs of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, providing an impetus for park design and reconstruction efforts at sites such as Fort Stevens, Fort Stanton, Bunker Hill, and others. Today, each of the historic fort sites plays an important role in its local community, both as an area for recreation and as a place to learn about the history of the Civil War in Washington, DC.

- **The Old Stone House.** The Old Stone House is one of the oldest standing structures on its original foundation in Washington, DC, and one of the last surviving examples of 18th century architecture in the city. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is also a contributing resource to the Georgetown Historic District.
- **Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.** The Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway occupies the gorge and rim of the lower Rock Creek Valley and a stretch of land along the Potomac riverfront. The parkway was built between 1923 and 1936, with some of the labor supplied by the Works Progress Administration during the later stages of construction, and was intended to replace a polluted river valley with a picturesque drive and bridle path linking Rock Creek Park to the National Mall area. The parkway is one of the best-preserved examples of the earliest design of motor parkway development.
- **Dumbarton Oaks Park.** Dumbarton Oaks Park, part of the estate of Mildred and Robert Bliss, was donated to the National Park Service in 1940. The naturalistic garden on the grounds was designed to create the illusion of country life within the city, and is considered one of the most important works by notable landscape architect Beatrix Farrand.

- **Montrose Park.** Montrose Park occupies land that belonged to rope-making magnate Robert Parrott during the early 19th century. Parrott generously allowed Georgetown residents to use his tract of land for picnics and meetings. The area became known as Parrott’s Woods and by the early 20th century it had fallen into disrepair. Sarah Louisa Rittenhouse spearheaded a group of women who petitioned Congress to buy the acreage and establish Montrose Park “for the recreation and pleasure of the people.”
- **Meridian Hill Park.** Meridian Hill Park is a national historic landmark and is considered one of the finest examples of Neoclassicist American park design in the United States, inspired by 16th and 17th century Italian villas. A notable feature is the cascading water fountain, which is one of the longest in North America, and John J. Earley’s innovative use of exposed aggregated concrete in its construction.
- **Glover Archbold Park.** Glover Archbold Park preserves the natural and cultural resources of the Foundry Branch Valley, which flows from upper Northwest Washington, DC, to the Potomac River. These 222 acres were acquired between 1924 and 1943 by the National Capital Park Commission through donation or purchase of parcels originally owned by Charles Carroll Glover and Anne Archbold. Glover played a key role in the creation of Rock Creek Park and other parks in the nation’s capital.
- **Georgetown Waterfront Park.** Georgetown Waterfront Park provides a green space for visitor recreation and contemplation. Cyclists, skaters, and pedestrians have their own car-free pathways with views of individual boaters, kayakers, and competitive crews as well as of Roosevelt Island and the magnificent Key Bridge. The park curves along 10 acres of the Potomac extending from the Washington Harbour complex to Key Bridge, creating the vital last link in 225 miles of parkland from Mt. Vernon, Virginia, to Cumberland, Maryland.





Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reasons for establishment of a particular park. Rock Creek Park is both an individual unit of the national park system as well as an administrative unit that oversees numerous park sites and resources beyond the original core of Rock Creek Park (US Reservation 339) addressed in the enabling legislation. See appendix A for enabling legislation and a list of sites and resources managed by Rock Creek Park. The purpose statement for Rock Creek was drafted through a careful analysis of the enabling legislation and consideration of sites added since its establishment. The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

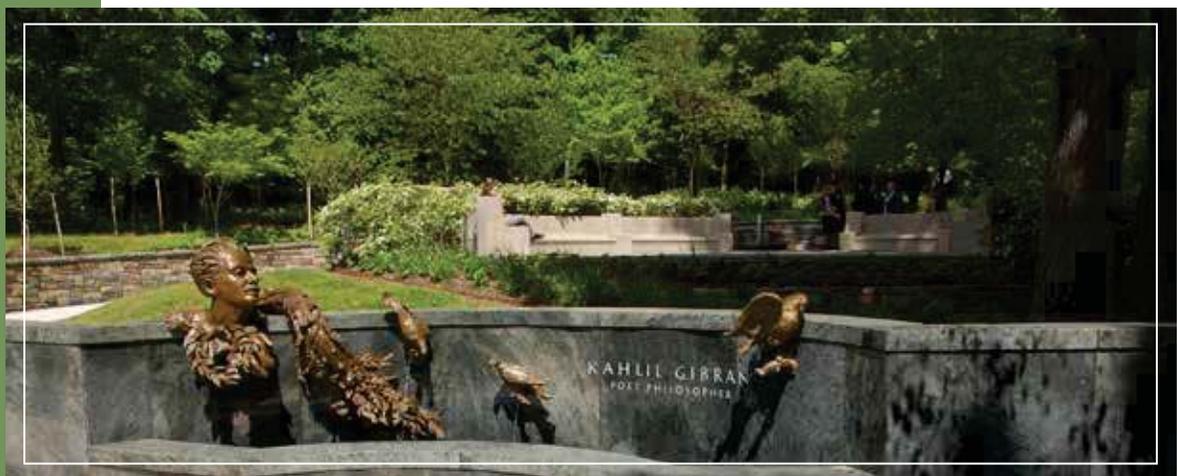
One of the first federal parks, established in 1890 for the benefit of the people of the United States, Rock Creek Park preserves the natural, archeological, and historic resources of the Rock Creek Valley and areas of northern Washington, DC, while providing visitors with compatible recreational opportunities and a respite within the nation's capital.

Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park’s resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Rock Creek Park, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Rock Creek Park and its associated sites. Some significance statements are related to particular administrative sites managed by Rock Creek Park. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. The core of Rock Creek Park, known as US Reservation 339, is one of the oldest and largest natural urban parks in the United States, and was established in 1890 as a result of the 19th century conservation movement to preserve natural scenic areas in the United States.
2. Rock Creek, its tributaries, and its springs, sustain a variety of fish and aquatic species, including the endangered Hay’s Spring amphipod, found nowhere else in the world.
3. Rock Creek Park preserves archeological resources that document 5,000 years of human history, including the nationally notable Piney Branch Quarry Site, which expanded knowledge and understanding of prehistoric human activities in the Washington, DC, area.
4. Rock Creek Park preserves nearly 3,000 acres of federal land within a highly urbanized area, including thousands of acres of forested habitat that provide protection and management for a diversity of plant and animal species.
5. Meridian Hill Park is a national historic landmark and is a nationally significant example of Neoclassicist American park design in the United States.
6. The Old Stone House, circa 1765, is one of the oldest structures in Washington, DC, preserving an example of mid-18th century residential and commercial architecture in Georgetown.



7. Rock Creek Park manages 9 of the 19 NPS-managed sites of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. These defenses protect and interpret the remnants of historic Civil War forts while preserving a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.

Additional significance topics have been identified for the Civil War Defenses of Washington managed by Rock Creek Park:

- The scale, inventive design, and speed of construction of the Civil War Defenses of Washington resulted in a system of forts, batteries, and rifle trenches that effectively deterred the invasion of the nation's capital by the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and are a tangible reminder of the capital city's rich Civil War history.
 - The defensive position of the forts on hills surrounding the city provides an outstanding opportunity to explore and understand the strategic interaction between the environment and cultural history.
 - The significant natural features and processes preserved by the Civil War Defenses of Washington provide viable corridors for both plant and wildlife diversity and exceptional recreational opportunities, which help create a healthier natural and human environment in the nation's capital.
 - The Civil War Defenses of Washington were havens of safety for the many contrabands and formerly enslaved Africans who fled to Washington during the Civil War and influenced African American settlement patterns in the nation's capital. ("Contraband" is a historical term that refers to individuals who escaped slavery and sought refuge behind Union lines).
 - The McMillan Commission's 1902 plan, as realized when the acquisition of fort sites began in the 1920s, represented visionary urban planning efforts for public recreation and preserved a scenic backdrop for the nation's capital.
 - The green space and extensive trail network protected by the Civil War Defenses of Washington help to shape, strengthen, and provide identity for communities in the city through recreation, cultural events, and neighborhood activities.
8. Battleground National Cemetery, established in 1864 following the Battle of Fort Stevens, is the final resting place of 41 Union soldiers who fought in the battle and serves as a memorial to honor their sacrifice.
 9. Once part of the larger Dumbarton Oaks estate, the 27-acre Dumbarton Oaks Park is an outstanding example of the work of pioneering landscape architect Beatrix Farrand, who designed the naturalistic garden.
 10. Montrose Park, the first public park in Georgetown, was designed by notable Washington, DC, architect Horace Peaslee and landscape architect George Burnap.
 11. The Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, authorized in 1913, was the first parkway in a metropolitan region and is an excellent example of early parkway design.
 12. Georgetown Waterfront Park is an excellent example of a successful public-private partnership, working for nearly 20 years to reclaim a former industrial area and complete the greenway of open space stretching along the Potomac River from Cumberland, Maryland, to Mount Vernon, Virginia.
 13. Glover Archbold Park, a forested urban area that became parkland through donations in 1924 and expanded with additional purchases through 1943, is an important component of the park system that creates a critical recreational greenway from upper Northwest Washington, DC, to the Potomac River, and commemorates the role of Charles Carroll Glover in the establishment of Rock Creek Park.

Fundamental Resources and Values

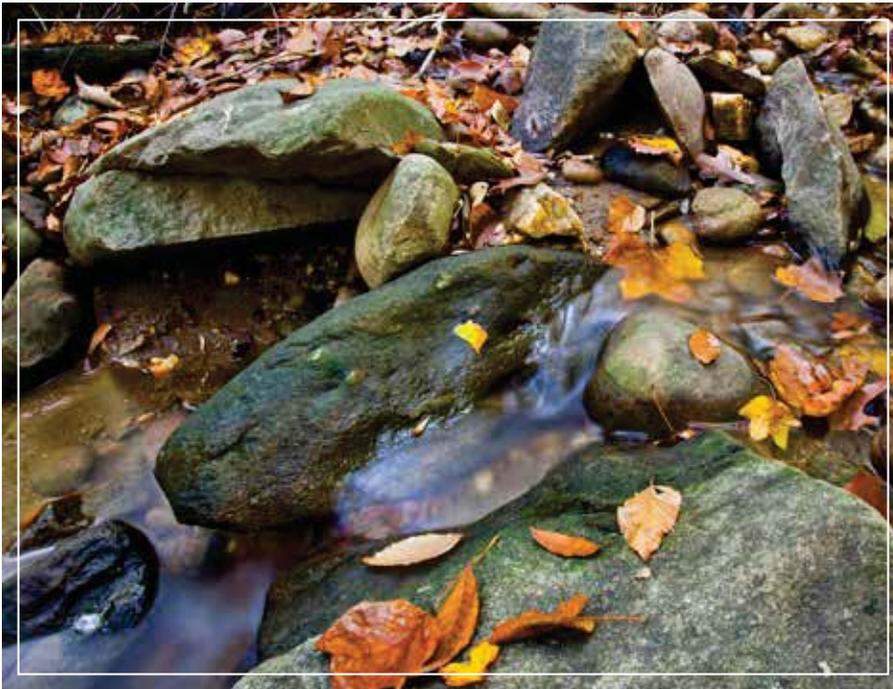
Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Rock Creek Park:

- **Rock Creek and Tributaries** – Rock Creek Park encompasses more than 2,000 acres of watershed within the Washington, DC, area, including portions of seven major tributaries to Rock Creek. Park management of these portions of the watershed is locally significant to preserve the flow of water in Rock Creek, minimize pollution of Rock Creek and the Potomac River, and preserve forests and natural scenery in the Washington, DC, area.
- **Ecological Communities** – Rock Creek Park preserves dynamic plant communities, including eastern deciduous forest, meadows, and wetlands that sustain a diversity of native animals including, insects, migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic species. Adding to the diverse ecological dynamics, floodplains along Rock Creek and its major tributaries support native riparian vegetation critical to stabilizing erosion and providing habitat for other plants and animals. For example, the park provides habitat for the federally endangered Hay's Spring amphipod, a colorless, shrimplike crustacean, approximately the size of a grain of rice, that is known to exist only within freshwater springs in the park.
- **Cultural Landscapes** – Rock Creek Park preserves 43 identified historically significant cultural landscapes that reflect the evolution of 18th, 19th, and 20th century land uses and social movements in the region, as well as designed landscapes that reflect changing American ideas of parks as natural and cultural landscapes. Areas of significance include, but are not limited to, the Peirce Mill complex, Dumbarton Oaks Park, Meridian Hill Park, Montrose Park, Georgetown Waterfront Park, Linnaean Hill, Glover Archbold Park, as well as nine sites within the Civil War Defenses of Washington and the trail system of Rock Creek Park.
- **Opportunities for Recreation and Respite** – Rock Creek Park offers an array of opportunities for recreation and respite within the nation's capital that are enjoyed by local and nonlocal users. Activity-specific facilities include tennis courts, athletic fields, playgrounds, a golf course, two boat houses, horse stables and bridle trails, picnic areas, paved multiuse trails and unpaved hiking trails, and the Carter Barron Amphitheatre. The park also offers a tranquil natural setting that allows visitors opportunities for personal contemplation and rejuvenation.

- **Connections to Community** – Rock Creek Park is an integral part of the Washington, DC, community. Fully enclosed by the District of Columbia and serving as the “backyard park” for city residents, it encourages a personal connection with park resources by providing gathering places, special events, and a variety of organized activities. This proximity, personal connection, activities, and natural landscape combine to provide residents with a unique sense of place when they visit the park. Community groups, friends groups, and volunteer outreach efforts work to foster stewardship among the park’s neighbors.
- **Historic Structures** – Rock Creek Park contains more than 265 historic structures that contribute to local and regional significance, including the pre-Revolutionary War era Old Stone House, the 19th century Peirce Mill complex and Klinge Mansion, Civil War defenses, Meridian Hill Park, bridges, and roadway networks.
- **Civil War Defenses of Washington** – Rock Creek Park manages nine sites of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, including Forts Bayard, Reno, DeRussy, Stevens, Slocum, Totten, and Bunker Hill; Battery Kemble; and Battleground National Cemetery. These sites preserve the remnants of forts, batteries, earthworks, and rifle trenches that made up the defensive system constructed during the Civil War, while the cemetery marks the final resting place of 41 Union soldiers who fought in the Battle of Fort Stevens. Today, these sites help Washington, DC, residents and visitors understand the Civil War history of the nation’s capital, preserve a significant amount of green space within the city, offer a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, and preserve cultural landscapes, including areas around the fortifications that were used by soldiers and contrabands (escaped slaves) as camps.



Other Important Resources and Values

Rock Creek Park contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Rock Creek Park:

- **Memorialization and Commemoration** – The park manages a number of nationally recognized monuments and memorials, as well as two cemeteries, that honor and recognize figures and events of historical significance. These sites offer visitors an opportunity to connect with history and their own heritage. It reflects the evolution of memorialization in the United States, capturing multiple eras.
- **First Amendment Rights Area at Meridian Hill Park** – The highly designed landscape at Meridian Hill Park is one of Rock Creek Park’s traditional sites for first amendment rights demonstrations. A historic location for demonstrating national struggles, such as civil rights efforts, Meridian Hill Park is often a starting point for many demonstrations and rallies.
- **Archeological Resources** – Rock Creek Park protects a number of archeological resources that document the presence of American Indians, colonial settlers, and Civil War engagements fought in Washington, DC. The Piney Branch Quarry Site is particularly notable, as the investigation of the site by William Henry Holmes of the Smithsonian Institution clarified the timeline of human presence in the Americas.



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Rock Creek Park:

- **Evolving American Ideas of Parks**

- Rock Creek Park reflects evolving American ideas of parks as natural and cultural landscapes.
- The changing value of parks in our culture.
- A work of art for the people to enjoy.
- Europe's influences and our borrowed traditions at Meridian Hill Park.
- Our desire and need to memorialize.
- Nature converted to cultural landscape.
- The Beatrix Farrand role at Dumbarton Oaks Park.
- Olmsted Brothers planning at Rock Creek Park.
- Innovative use of materials by John J. Earley at Meridian Hill Park.
- The role of the McMillan Commission and how the subsequent plan for open space, including the proposed Fort Drive, shaped the legacy of the Civil War Defenses of Washington.
- Differing views on nature.
- NPS cultural resource preservation movement started at Peirce Mill.

- **Window for Understanding the Natural World**

- Rock Creek Park is a window for understanding the natural world we live in, from the stars to the ecosystems that are embodied within the park.
- Rock Creek Park contains viable, yet vulnerable, urban streams that maintain diverse ecosystems, despite significant adverse impacts.
- Rock Creek Park preserves a remnant of the biodiversity of the eastern deciduous forest that once characterized the entire region.
- The integrity of Rock Creek Park's natural resources is threatened by the occurrence of nonnative species and human impacts, including climate change, noise, and light pollution.
- Rock Creek Park exhibits evidence of dynamic and even catastrophic geologic change.
- Rock Creek Park is a link in a global network of migratory routes, stopovers, and destinations important to the survival of a variety of species and resulting in an ever-changing faunal array.
- Rock Creek Park's open space/sky is an avenue for celestial observation and revelation leading to understanding.
- Rock Creek Park Planetarium is a tool for understanding the night sky and exploration of the heavens.

- **5,000 Years of Dynamic Cultural History**

- For 5,000 years, different groups of people have used the biological and physical resources of the Rock Creek Park area for survival and commerce, leaving evidence of changing technologies. These changes are preserved in the tangible evidence of human interaction with the natural environment.
- Locating the federal district at the boundary between the Piedmont and the coastal plain has resulted in diverse use of the Rock Creek Park area ranging from economic and agricultural development, military defense, and recreation. In turn, the Rock Creek Park area has influenced the development and character of the nation's capital.
- The rich cultural diversity of the nation's capital is reflected in the myriad ways in which people use and view the park.
- Geography and topography have shaped 5,000 years of dynamic cultural history in the Rock Creek Valley.
- Rock Creek Park is a living laboratory and museum of natural and cultural history that enriches human intellect, stimulates curiosity, and enables reflection upon individual and/or national values.

- **Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Wellbeing**

- The resources of Rock Creek Park provide opportunities for nurturing human physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. Rock Creek Park allows us to connect with nature and our past both physically and spiritually.
- Biophilia and the human need for green space.
- Our need for places to recreate.
- Gathering places for first amendment rights.
- Hearing natural sounds has health and wellness benefits.

- **Civil War Defenses of Washington**

- The Civil War Defenses of Washington was established as a corridor of forest and natural scenery as part of a comprehensive system of parks for recreation, preservation of substantial tracts of forests, and protection of source water in and around the nation's capital.
- In the nation's capital, tense with the daily presence of war, the Civil War Defenses of Washington effectively deterred the advance of the Confederate Army and the invasion of the capital, and served as a proving ground for military innovation.
- Formerly enslaved African Americans, sometimes called "contrabands," sought freedom and security within the military defenses of Washington. Many contrabands contributed to the further construction of the defenses, founded many of Washington's historically African American communities, inspired their own and future generations, and helped to redefine the citizenry of the United States.
- The preservation of the Civil War Defenses of Washington created significant natural corridors that provide exceptional views of the city, offer opportunities to learn about nature in an urban setting, support species and habitat diversity, and enhance environmental quality by contributing to stormwater runoff control, mitigating the effects of urban heat islands, mitigating effects of noise on the acoustic environment, shielding natural areas from artificial light, and providing tree canopies for shade and cleaner air.
- The Civil War Defenses of Washington sites represent visionary urban planning efforts at the turn of the 20th century aimed at providing recreational opportunities through public parks, preserving significant historical and natural resources, and using the parkway concept as a continuous linkage of preserved public spaces at the advent of motorized travel.
- The Civilian Conservation Corps operated locally out of Fort Dupont and completed several important projects throughout the Civil War Defenses of Washington, working to rebuild the nation during the Great Depression.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Rock Creek Park.

For more information about the existing commitments for Rock Creek Park, please see the inventory of administrative agreements in appendix C. There were no special mandates for Rock Creek Park at the time this foundation was published.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park's fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park's planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Rock Creek and Tributaries
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 2.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality is highly impacted by stormwater from park infrastructure and metro area construction and development activities. • Rock Creek does not meet Washington, DC, standards for swimmable and drinkable water. • Erosion is highly impacted by stormwater issues due to increased development in Montgomery County over the past 30–50 years (park needs additional data to substantiate specific impacts within). • The Broad Branch daylighting project, which is recreating a long-buried stream bed, is a model for city stormwater management. • The park works with the District Department of the Environment on stormwater mitigation projects, including stream bank and stream channel restoration, stream daylighting, and regenerative stormwater conveyances. • The park manages debris piles from flash flood and rapid stormwater flow events. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased precipitation could further complicate flash flood management challenges at the park. • Improved catch basins were constructed along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway between 2008 and 2013; catch basin improvements along Beach Drive were projected to begin in spring 2015.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined sewer overflows. The District Department of the Environment has a consent decree to mitigate combined sewer overflows, but several remain, including a large one at Piney Branch. • Management of flash floods and rapid stormwater flows. • Hydrology problems along Canal Road (e.g., overflows from drainage off hill adjacent to Canal Road and ice buildup on roads). <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of Oregon Avenue and Broad Branch Road will provide opportunities for innovative and improved stormwater management. • The Federal Highway Administration and the District Department of Transportation are installing a multiuse trail in Klinge Valley that will provide opportunities for stream restoration and improved stormwater management. • The park intends to help implement projects with lead agency, the District Department of the Environment, found in the 2010 “Rock Creek Watershed Implementation Plan.” • Continue to work with friends group at Dumbarton Oaks Park to mitigate stormwater impacts adjacent to park. Park to mitigate stormwater impacts.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive boundary survey. • Long-term monitoring for water quality and quantity, including climate change effects and changes in spring discharge rates. • Detailed water quality study to provide detailed water quality data related to pollutants in Rock Creek (herbicides and pesticides) and updated trend data (i.e., water quantity, flows, various water quality measures). • Climate change vulnerability assessment.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Rock Creek and Tributaries
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater management plan (including stormwater management; include Rock Creek Park and agency partners within the Rock Creek Valley, particularly Montgomery County and Washington, DC). • Trails management plan. • State of the park report. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Visitor use management plan. • Climate change scenario planning. • Fisheries management plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands" • Executive Order 13508, "Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration" • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC 4321) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 77: <i>Natural Resource Protection</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • (§2.1.2) "Scientific, Technical, and Scholarly Analysis," says decision makers and planners will use the best available scientific and technical information and scholarly analysis to identify appropriate management actions for protection and use of park resources • (§4.6.1) "Protection of Surface Waters and Groundwaters" • (§4.6.3) "Water Quality" • (§4.6.5) "Wetlands" • (§4.6.6) "Watershed and Stream Processes"



Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Communities
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 2 and 4.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <p>Forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little or no forest regeneration due to deer browsing; potential exists to shift community structure due to deer browsing impacts. • The emerald ash borer is expected to kill thousands of ash trees in the park, which make up approximately 5% of the park's trees. • The park is managing for hazardous trees parkwide due to both tree diseases and safety issues. <p>Meadows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Creek Park manages 16 meadows, including those at Dumbarton Oaks Park. The meadows in Dumbarton Oaks Park are undergoing restoration. • Invasive species pose management challenges – the park will continue to follow current management policies, including cutting meadows twice per year and continuing to educate the public through a new park brochure completed in 2012. <p>Native plants and animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are ancillary management challenges from deer overbrowsing, which impact native vegetation and other wildlife. • Active deer management is occurring according to the “Rock Creek Park Final White-Tailed Deer Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement” (2011). • Deer populations are currently four times what the park can naturally sustain. • The Hay's Spring amphipod's below-ground water habitat is nearly impossible to assess. <p>Birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a sharp decline in populations of certain species of migratory birds, although it is difficult to attribute this condition directly to park dynamics. • Deer browsing negatively impacts understory nesting birds. <p>Fish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash flooding activities in Rock Creek and its tributaries continue to impact fish. • Fish populations are not indicative of high water quality. <p>Wetlands and floodplains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The northern floodplain within the park is high in biodiversity. • The park must manage intensively in the northern floodplain area for nonnative, invasive species, such as fencing vernal pools to allow amphibians and other species to breed without the threat of predation from pets and humans. <p>Acoustic resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to high noise levels can disrupt wildlife physiologically (hearing loss, stress) and behaviorally (alert to predation, mating calls, social calls). <p>Nighttime photic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many species in the park are nocturnal. The condition of the photic environment at night can affect ecological processes including predator/prey relationships, reproduction, navigation, and migration.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Communities
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Trends</p> <p>Forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little or no regeneration of vegetation, currently representing a downward trend (future conditions are to be determined due to park’s active management of deer populations). <p>Meadows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a dramatic decline in monarch butterfly populations. <p>Native plants and animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native species have been negatively impacted by nonnative species, currently representing a downward trend. <p>Fish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park has documented fewer herring and alewife species, as well as other migratory species. <p>Wetlands and floodplains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park’s aggressive treatment of invasive species in the northern part of the park has allowed ephemeral species to regenerate and repopulate, representing an upward trend. <p>Acoustic resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise levels are consistent with urban areas but could increase with any changes in land use, industrialization, and population density. <p>Nighttime photic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environment is degraded but consistent with urban areas. Some areas could worsen if lighting output continues to increase; if unshielded lights, lights of cooler colors, and lights in areas where not needed are used at all hours.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer overpopulation adds to deer browsing impacts, which significantly decrease regeneration of native vegetation throughout the park and alter species composition. • Non-deer-related impacts include chestnut blight and woolly adelgid (threatens hemlock trees). • Invasive species displace and replace native communities and change community structure. • Proliferation of nonnative species from outside the park (e.g., bittersweet, porcelain berry, Japanese stiltgrass, English ivy, mile-a-minute weed, kudzu). • Nonnative snakehead, a predatory species, negatively impacts native fish populations. • Pollution and stormwater impacts can negatively impact ecological communities. • Increased impacts from erosion have been noted for wetlands and floodplains. • Dogs off leash harass wildlife, damage vernal pools, and destroy sensitive nesting and foraging habitat. • Encroachment from some private landowners adjacent to park. • Habitat degradation (e.g., damage to head springs, decreasing water quality and quantity, and general pollution) threaten Hay’s Spring amphipod. • A changing climate will accelerate terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem change. • Noise. • Artificial light.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Communities
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of white-tailed deer management plan should lead to a rebound in forest regeneration and improve plant and animal habitat. • Initiate public dogs-on-leash campaign and more actively enforce leash law. • Continue to take advantage of or expand invasive plant management programs: e.g., Weed Warriors; work with Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy and Rock Creek Conservancy. • Continue to identify projects and grant opportunities for stormwater management and invasive species mitigation projects with the District Department of the Environment and District Department of Transportation. • Close many social trails and formalize select social trails to contain off trail use. • Long-term monitoring protocols may be initiated by the National Capital Region Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) staff. • A District Department of the Environment grant application to retrofit Carter Barron Amphitheatre parking lot will assist in improving water quality. • Identify and implement projects that could reduce noise and artificial light in the park (e.g., infrastructure, purchasing, contracting).
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive park boundary survey. • Parkwide GIS “reservation” layer to show all park reservation areas. • Long-term water quality monitoring (including water quality trends; quantity trends in springs; impacts from climate change). • Visitor use and carrying capacity study. • Climate change vulnerability assessment. • Viewshed assessment. • Acoustic resources assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use management plan. • Trails management plan. • Stormwater management plan. • Fisheries management plan. • State of the park report. • Acoustic resources management plan. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Viewshed management plan. • Climate change scenario planning.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ecological Communities
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Order 11514, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality" • Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands" • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Executive Order 13508, "Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration" • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC 4321) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 77: <i>Natural Resource Protection</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • (§2.1.2) "Scientific, Technical, and Scholarly Analysis," decision makers and planners will use the best available scientific and technical information and scholarly analysis to identify appropriate management actions for protection and use of park resources • (§4.1) "General Management Concepts," manage natural resources to maintain all components and processes of naturally evolving park resources • (§4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources," requires the National Park Service to maintain as parts of the natural ecosystems of parks of all native plants and animals • (§4.4.2) "Management of Native Plants and Animals," states that whenever possible, natural processes will be relied upon to maintain native plant and animal species and influence natural fluctuations in populations of these species • (§4.9) "Soundscape Management" • (§4.10) "Lightscape Management"



Fundamental Resource or Value	Cultural Landscapes
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes vary in condition and use. • Maintenance needs continue to be a challenge. • Some challenges related to vandalism, overuse, and incompatible use. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The needs and demands for preservation efforts and landscapes are increasing. • The park is incorporating sustainable practices where possible. • Changing environmental factors impact the integrity of individual cultural landscapes; invasive and nonnative species also have varying impacts. • Increased development forces deer into the park. • Social trails and unauthorized access points are increasing. • Erosion from visitor overuse, stormwater management challenges, extreme storm events, and combined sewer overflow events each have varying impacts.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes are in flood-prone areas. • Continual increases in impervious surfaces from development within the watershed threaten landscapes in Rock Creek and its tributaries. • Noise and artificial light continue to impact landscapes. • Climate change and air pollution threaten to accelerate weathering, deterioration, and loss of cultural resources and alter the vegetation composition and structure of the cultural landscapes. • Vandalism and damage from inappropriate use. • Deer browsing impacts vegetation and historic landscapes in the park. Browsing depletes the forest’s herbaceous and shrub vegetation, which adversely affects cultural landscape plantings. Deer browsing impacts Rock Creek Park / US Reservation 339, with particularly significant impacts on Dumbarton Oaks Park, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Glover Archbold Park, the Palisades, and at some CWDW sites. • Social trails are increasing in number and have adverse impacts. • Dogs off leash impact native vegetation, disturb nesting and foraging habitat for wildlife, create visitor safety issues, and impact earthworks. • Rat and rodent impacts on landscape vegetation, and on the safety and health of people, pets, and wildlife. • Sediment and pollution in creek. • Lack of routine skilled maintenance of landscape plantings and hardscapes. • Soil and vegetation loss. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts related to sustainability and energy efficient rehabilitation of park structures. • Increase partnerships to provide funding for rehabilitation. • Expand volunteerism for maintenance, planting, and the Master Gardener Program. • Expand youth engagement through groups such as the Student Conservation Association. • Improve interpretation of historic landscapes. • Identify cultural soundscapes and opportunities to reduce noise.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Cultural Landscapes
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape inventory for Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. • Cultural landscape inventory for Old Stone House. • Cultural landscape inventory for Glover Archbold Park. • Cultural landscape inventory for Westmoreland Circle, Kalorama Circle. • Cultural landscape inventory for Ward Circle. • Cultural landscape inventory for Francis Scott Key Park. • Cultural landscape inventories for CWDW sites under park management. • Cultural landscape inventory for miscellaneous reservations. • Cultural landscape inventory for the Palisades. • Cultural landscape inventory for community gardens. • Climate change vulnerability assessment. • Long-term water quality monitoring. • Acoustic resources assessment. • Viewshed assessment. • GIS: Identify access points and capacities, amenities parkwide.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report for Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway (treatment alternatives/ recommendations). Include ethnohistory of Colored Union Benevolence Association. • Cultural landscape report for Old Stone House. • Cultural landscape report for Klinge Mansion and Linnaean Hill. • Cultural landscape report for Glover Archbold Park. • Cultural landscape report for miscellaneous reservations. • Cultural landscape reports for individual CWDW sites. • Cultural landscape reports for traffic circles and triangles under park management. • Viewshed management plan. • Park partner action strategy. • Earthworks management plan. • Cemetery management plan. • Climate change scenario planning. • State of the park report. • Resource stewardship strategy.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director’s Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management,” including (§5.3.5.2) “Cultural Landscapes” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 7) “Interpretation and Education” • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Opportunities for Recreation and Respite
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 1.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recreational facilities in the park are in good to fair condition. • The overall condition of the park’s multiuse trail is fair. Sections north of Military Road are in good to excellent condition. Sections south of Broad Branch to the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway are in fair condition, with some sections in poor condition. The sections along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway are mostly in good to excellent condition. • The historic golf course has operations and maintenance issues, including hazards from compromised trees, excessive shading, competition for water, grass maintenance, poor drainage on the greens, and deer encroachment. • Several picnic groves are heavily used with little opportunity for turf rehabilitation, leaving many areas with bare, compacted soil and stressed trees due to compaction. • The nature center, which functions as the primary visitor contact point, is aging and needs updating. • Weekend motor vehicle closures of portions of Beach Drive and side roads allow multiple uses of the roadway. • Carter Barron Amphitheatre was built in 1950, and while a part of the facility was rehabilitated in 2004, other structural issues have been identified and are unresolved. • Some facilities are managed through concessioners, with varying fee and reservation requirements. • Sound levels and noise impacts in park areas are often lower than in the rest of urban Washington, DC. Existing sound levels in the park are estimated to be 7–17 decibels above what natural ambient sound levels would be. • The park offers better night sky conditions than other areas in the region and provides an important opportunity for millions of people to view night skies. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational use is heavy in certain sections of the park and at certain times of day, while other sections are lightly used. • Many constituents want Beach Drive closed permanently, while others want it open continuously. • Uses of park facilities have changed: Athletic fields have shifted from baseball to soccer (pick up and league play due to changes in community composition); the use of picnic areas has changed from smaller to larger groups; Thompson’s Boat Center is currently operating beyond its intended capacity; and Meridian Hill Park and Georgetown Waterfront Park and other park areas are used for unpermitted fitness and recreation activities. • There have been public calls for dog park facilities, playground amenities, and more gardens in the park.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Opportunities for Recreation and Respite
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter traffic and general traffic congestion impact visitor experience and mobility and safety for park contractors, crews, and staff. • Deteriorating park roadways. • Changing use patterns and greater intensity of use threaten to degrade the condition of park resources and facilities. • Natural resources are compromised by excessive use, dogs off leash, social trails, invasive and nonnative plants, and stormwater runoff. • There is inappropriate use at specific park sites, such as skateboarding and fitness activities at Meridian Hill Park, Georgetown Waterfront Park, and other sites. • Dogs off leash create visitor safety issues. • Deer overpopulation adds to deer browsing impacts, which significantly decrease regeneration of native vegetation throughout the park. • Vandalism and graffiti. • Visitor use conflicts. • Actual criminal incidents and perception of safety in the park impacts visitors’ use of the park. • Indifference to park resources, such as dumping waste on park lands, use of trees and other resources for exercise activities, or other inappropriate uses. • Increases in noise and artificial light. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships could be developed with new visitor use groups. • Develop a strategy to inform the public of nonmotorized and public transit access for the park’s multiuse trail. • The District Department of Parks and Recreation is new and currently developing a strategic plan; there is an opportunity to interface and collaborate, and possibly redirect certain inappropriate recreational uses to alternative sites managed by this department. • The park serves as a “Healthy Parks Healthy People” destination, connecting people to the parks. • Noise and artificial light can be reduced within the park as machinery, infrastructure, and activities adjust over time to options that are quieter and emit less light.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and carrying capacity study. • Demographic study. • Crime study, to synthesize incident data within park boundaries and adjacent neighborhoods (areas where crime may spill over the park boundary). • Visitor injury data. • Viewshed assessment. • Acoustic resources assessment. • Inventory and assessment of facilities and resources outside the park (e.g., skateboard parks, dog parks, playgrounds, fields) to redirect incompatible uses. • Cultural landscape inventory for community gardens. • Assessment of waysides. • Trail counts, modeling, including for parks without staff presence. • GIS: Identify access points, capacities, and amenities parkwide; update cultural resources layers.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Opportunities for Recreation and Respite
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use management plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Trails management plan. • Garden management plan. • Park partner action strategy. • Commercial services plan. • Sign and wayfinding plan. • Communication strategy. • Acoustic resources management plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • NPS Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • “Concession Contracts” (36 CFR Part 51) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.9) “Soundscape Management” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.10) “Lightscape Management” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§8.2) “Visitor Use” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§9.3) “Visitor Facilities” • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 10) “Commercial Visitor Services” • Director’s Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in NPS Programs, Facilities, and Services</i> • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards 2006 • Director’s Order 48A: <i>Concession Management</i> • Director’s Order 48B: <i>Commercial Use Authorizations</i> • NPS Transportation Planning Guidebook



Fundamental Resource or Value	Connections to Community
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1 and 11.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park offers a variety of recreational, educational, and other opportunities for visitors. • The park is embedded in Washington, DC, surrounded by residential neighborhoods, international institutions, and the seat of the federal government. • Some parts of the park are used in a manner incompatible with the protection of park resources. • There is a long tradition of performances at Carter Barron Amphitheatre, which has built a constituency of patrons. • Local and regional residents visit the park frequently for personal enjoyment. • The park is used by dog walking groups, childcare providers, and fee-charging exercise groups. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population of Washington, DC, is growing. • Demographics and park use patterns are changing. • Visitors desire to use park resources for their own purposes. • There is increased commuter traffic passing through the park and a variety of modes of transportation. • There are more friends groups and volunteers supporting the park. • There is more scrutiny of park management from advocacy groups.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased development outside the park boundary. • There is a lack of awareness of the park and its resources as being a part of the national park system. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase outreach to local schools. • Increase cooperation with friends groups. • Improve branding of the park as a national park and improve knowledge of specific park sites and opportunities. • Cooperate with public transit agencies to expand transit opportunities to park sites. • Enhance park presence in the surrounding community by engaging informally through festivals and other events around the park, and formally through community council meetings. • Work with affinity groups to build understanding and foster stewardship of the park. • Develop strategies for fundraising, donations, and charitable events. • Use new technology, staff, partners, and interns to reach out to non-English speaking visitors. • Improve accessibility, both programmatic (program oriented, Harpers Ferry Center accessibility guide) and physical (Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard, trailheads, sidewalks) District Department of Transportation.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Connections to Community
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and carrying capacity study. • Demographic study. • Viewshed assessment. • Assessment of fundraising potential. • GIS: Identify access points and capacities, amenities parkwide. • Trail counts, modeling, including for parks without staff presence. • Ethnographic assessment / ethnohistory for Rock Creek Park and Meridian Hill Park.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use management plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Trails management plan. • Stormwater management plan. • Park partner action strategy. • Garden management plan. • Commercial services plan. • Sign and wayfinding plan. • Communication strategy. • Exhibit plans for Peirce Mill and Old Stone House. • Development concept plan for nature center.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC 4321) • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.7) "Civic Engagement" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§2.1.3) "Public Participation" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§7.3.4) "Interpretive and Educational Services Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§7.5) "Requirements for All Interpretive and Educational Services" • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in NPS Programs, Facilities, and Services</i> • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards 2006 • Director's Order 75A: <i>Civic Engagement and Public Involvement</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Structures
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of structures are in good condition while a few are in poor condition. These structures experience a variety of use. • Maintenance needs continue to be a challenge. • Most of the road bridges are in need of minor to moderate repairs indicating good to fair condition. There is one bridge rated in poor condition, according to bridge reports. • The historic district nomination is currently being updated, and Mission 66 structures in the park (including the nature center and planetarium) are now contributing but need to be added to the List of Classified Structures database. • Ornamental fountains are aging and leaking. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs and demands for preserving historic structures are increasing. • The park is incorporating sustainable practices where possible. • There is increased public interest in using these structures for meetings and other events.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some structures are in areas prone to flooding. • Increased risk of damage from storms and storm surge (flooding) are likely in the future. • Vandalism. • Skilled craftsmen are not always available to maintain structures. • Some historic materials are difficult to replace. • Financial and human resources are not adequate for management needs. • Climate change and air pollution continue to negatively impact structures by accelerating weathering, deterioration, and loss of resources. • Graffiti, vandalism, and inappropriate uses damage structures. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential reuses of historic structures through leasing. • Rehabilitation with infrastructure and equipment options that are more sustainable and emit less noise and artificial light. • Increase partnerships to fund rehabilitation efforts. • Expansion of volunteerism for skills development. • Engage neighbors to “care for the ...” program.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition assessment for the Buchanan Memorial at Meridian Hill Park. • National register nomination updates for Conduit Road Schoolhouse and Old Stone House. • National register nomination for Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium. • National register nomination for Whitehaven Parkway and associated reservations (outside L’Enfant plan area). • Engineering and structural assessments are needed for the nature center, Old Stone House, Conduit Road Schoolhouse, and D-3. • Climate change vulnerability assessment. • As park structures reach 50 years of age, determination of eligibility statements need to be updated. This is an ongoing need for the park.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Structures
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic structure report for Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium. • Historic structure report for the clubhouse at the golf course (a Mission 66 contributing structure). • Historic structure report for Klinge Mansion (park headquarters). • Earthworks management plan. • State of the park report. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Park partner action strategy. • Financial sustainability plan. • Exhibit plan for Peirce Mill and Old Stone House. • Development concept plan for nature center.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC 4321) • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Historic preservation guidelines and standards • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Civil War Defenses of Washington
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 7 and 8.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the sites are located on high ground, hills and ridgelines, around the city. They provide a natural forested backdrop to the cityscape. • Civil War Defenses of Washington sites are varied in use. • These sites are generally in fair condition. A number of sites, the earthworks in particular, suffer from erosion and/or damage from visitors, especially Fort Totten. • These sites are divided into three management areas (Rock Creek Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the National Capital Parks-East). • Regular maintenance at the sites continues to be a challenge for park staff. • Detailed conditions of these sites are documented in the associated cultural landscape inventories. • Tree cover is used to stabilize earthworks, which have eroded over time. • Stormwater runoff and extensive visitor use lead to erosion at many of the sites. Streams running through Battery Kemble and east of Fort Totten are damaged by extensive stormwater flows from impervious surfaces originating in the surrounding urban area. Recreational use at some sites has compacted soils, leading to increased stormwater runoff. • Viewsheds are obstructed and not possible to interpret, or lay outside of the park boundary. • Visitor services are very limited at most sites, with no restroom facilities, inadequate signage, and no onsite orientation. • Members of the local communities often use the sites for passive recreation, such as picnicking or play areas for their children. • There is a lack of visitor use data at many of the sites. Current visitor counts do not capture all visitation. • The Civil War collection is not managed as a single collection. It is divided among three NPS administrative units. • Items in the collection range from good to fair condition. • The majority of items in the Civil War collection are either small arms ammunition, pieces of military uniforms, or components of military equipment. • The vast majority of the items in the Civil War collection are not on display for the public. They are stored at the NPS Museum Resource Center. • There is no comprehensive inventory, or written inventory, of CCC features within the Civil War Defenses of Washington resources.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Civil War Defenses of Washington
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is increased need for preservation efforts. • There is increased demand for outdoor recreation areas, recreation facilities, and green space. • Increased urban development has intensified visitation pressures in the park. • An increase in adjacent residential communities results in more social trails and unauthorized access points. • Erosion from overuse, stormwater management, extreme storm events, and development has increased. • Urban development has fragmented these sites. • Most of the Civil War collection has not been interpreted or displayed for the general public. • Some of the CCC features have become overgrown with vegetation.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate recreational uses and overuse may reduce the vegetative cover throughout the sites, leading to increased erosion and stormwater runoff. • Improving accessibility at these sites is challenging due to site fragmentation. • Climate change and air pollution continue to negatively impact structures by accelerating weathering, deterioration, and loss of resources. • Increased risk of damage from storms (flooding) is likely in the future. • Vandalism and damage are caused by inappropriate use. • Deer overpopulation and deer browsing depletes the forest’s herbaceous and shrub vegetation, which adversely affects cultural landscape plantings. • Social trails cause resource damage. • Dogs off leash impact earthworks, create visitor safety issues, and destroy native vegetation. • Rat and rodent impacts on landscape vegetation, and on the safety and health of people, pets, and wildlife. • Soil and vegetation loss. • Aggressive invasive plants are a recurring problem that threatens native plant communities. • Homeless camping at the sites can damage natural resources. • There has been dumping of household and other wastes at many of the sites. • Lack of archeological data.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Civil War Defenses of Washington
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a comprehensive approach to manage the earthworks. This could help visitors understand that the earthworks made up a defensive chain around the nation’s capital during the Civil War. • New archeological assessments may reveal new artifacts and earthworks. • Archeological surveys could result in identification of artifacts that can contribute to the interpretation of site history. • Increase in public awareness from the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. • Pursue sustainability and energy efficient rehabilitation of the sites. • Improve connectivity between sites through partnerships with various agencies and organizations. • Improve Trail Ambassador Program. • Increase partnerships for funding of rehabilitation projects. • Recruit more volunteers to assist staff with interpretation, resource protection, and site maintenance. • Improve interpretation of historic landscapes. • Implement a comprehensive approach to management of earthworks and their interpretation. • Increase national awareness of the story of the Civil War Defenses of Washington and its impact on American history and culture. • Expand the story of how African Americans helped to construct the defensive works preserved in the CWDW sites, the establishment of “contraband” camps, and the post-war African American communities that developed near these works. • Increase the use of technology for interpretive programming, wayfinding, and branding. • Collect more accurate and comprehensive visitor use data to better understand the nature of visitation at the sites and determine whether additional facilities are needed.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree assessments for stability and removal. • Visitor use and carrying capacity study. • Climate change vulnerability assessment. • Viewshed assessment. • Identification and evaluation of archeological resources. • Cultural landscape inventories for sites managed by Rock Creek Park. • Archeological identification and evaluation. • Archeological overview and assessment. • Collections assessment and inventory.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change scenario planning. • Trails management plan. • Viewshed management plan. • Park partner action strategy. • Earthworks management plan. • Stormwater management plan. • Visitor use management plan. • Cemetery management plan. • Cultural landscape report. • Scope of collections statement.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Civil War Defenses of Washington
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC 4321) • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • Clean Water Act • Executive Order 11514, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality" • Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards" • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.4.4) "Management of Exotic Species" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.6.1) "Protection of Surface Waters and Groundwaters" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management," including (§5.3.5.1.6) "Earthworks" and (§5.3.5.4) "Historic and Prehistoric Structures" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 8) "Use of the Parks," including (§8.11) "Social Science Studies" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 9) "Park Facilities" • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in NPS Programs, Facilities, and Services</i> • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards 2006 • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77 • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i>



Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Memorialization and Commemoration
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<p>Significance statements 5, 7, and 8.</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These sites are distributed over a large geographic area, many of which are small stand-alone sites. • Generally, the sites are in good condition. • Specialized programs are conducted occasionally. • There is a lack of recognition of these sites, both in terms of their significance and their status as part of the national park system. • Site access can be challenging. • There is interest in specific sites from related organizations (e.g., Civil War history and Fort Stevens, Kahlil Gibran and Lebanese American organizations). • In the cases of Chevy Chase Circle and Westmoreland Circle, parts of the circles are in Maryland, but the National Park Service owns the entirety of both circles. • There is no coherent theme to the collection of memorialization and commemorative structures in the park. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorialization has evolved over time, with more thought given to the creation of a better visitor experience. • There is more consideration over who or what is memorialized, and where the memorials are located due to a decrease in the amount of available land. • There is concern over growing operations and maintenance costs associated with additional sites to manage, and the National Park Service is requiring upfront funds to cover these future costs. • There is a trend away from construction of physical memorials in favor of commemorative events and sites.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism. • Limited space remains for memorials versus external pressure to add more memorial sites. • Public knowledge of events and people currently commemorated in the park is limited. • Environmental influences degrade the condition of sites. • The safety of visitors attempting to access sites, and for staff performing site maintenance, is at risk. • Operations and maintenance are challenging due to the dispersal of sites; staff must negotiate city traffic congestion to reach sites, and operations and maintenance requirements for these sites could divert maintenance from other sites in the park. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monuments and memorials offer the means to introduce history to park visitors, opportunities to engage new audiences, and facilitate connections to the community. • Opportunities for “living” commemoration are compatible with the existing park environment. • The use of monuments and memorials can serve as a means of civic education, encouraging involvement in government and engagement as a citizen. • Partnerships can be established to serve as stewards of specific sites, such as “adoption” of a specific park area.

Other Important Resource or Value	Memorialization and Commemoration
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-D imagery of memorial sites can be used for inventory and placed online to enhance accessibility and facilitate virtual visitation. • Identification and evaluation of archeological resources.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the park report. • Resource stewardship strategy. • Historic structure reports. • Statue maintenance strategy. • Park partner action strategy. • Cultural landscape reports. • Earthworks management plan. • Cemetery management plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Parks, Forests, and Public Property” (36 CFR 7.96) (specific to National Capital Region, which regulates visitor use and permits) • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (42 USC 4321) • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Commemorative Works Act of 1986, as amended (89 USC 8901, section 8906(b)) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i>



Other Important Resource or Value	First Amendment Rights Area at Meridian Hill Park
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meridian Hill Park has traditionally been used as a First Amendment expression site. Meridian Hill Park is close to the other 16th Street parks managed by Rock Creek Park. Permits are required for demonstrations involving more than 25 people, and the size of permitted events can exceed 500 people. Demonstrations involving 25 people or fewer may be held without a permit. Meridian Hill Park is the starting place for many national political issue marches. There are at least 10 to 15 national-scope events per year. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marches have become more frequent, and Meridian Hill Park is known as a starting point for marches destined for downtown Washington, DC. There is interest in other locations for these activities that are more relevant to those specific events or causes.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the park by these and other groups causes damage to the lawn and facades and can leave litter behind that requires cleanup. Civil disobedience can require law enforcement actions and adversely affect others in the park and surrounding areas. There can be conflicts between protest groups and residents in the adjacent neighborhood. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide education to demonstrators and neighbors about First Amendment rights and the issues that lead to demonstrations to stimulate interest in these issues and provide civic education.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Parks, Forests, and Public Property” (36 CFR 7.96) (specific to National Capital Region, which regulates visitor use and permits) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPS Management Policies 2006 (§8.6.3) “First Amendment Activities”

Other Important Resource or Value	Archeological Resources
Related Significance Statements	Significance statement 3.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the 82 archeological sites in the park, 77 are in good condition. • A recently completed four-year archeological study surveyed 43% of the park land area. • The Piney Branch Quarry Site is of national importance. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sites will be discovered when section 106 compliance-driven projects require areas not included in the four-year study to be surveyed for potential archeological resources under the terms of the 2008 programmatic agreement. This agreement streamlines the approval process, as there is no need to go to the state historic preservation office for approval of each project. • Discovery of new sites requires additional research and surveying. • Requests for special use permits and easements are increasing.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion. • Vandalism. • Site impacts from social trails, dogs, and burrowing animals. • Site impacts from the collapse of hazardous trees (uprooting). • Invasive plants. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve interpretation, education, and public outreach to protect resources. • Enhance cooperation with partner groups to mitigate site impacts. • Reroute trails around sensitive sites. • Provide online access to museum collections.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional investigation around Fort DeRussy (Civil War Defenses of Washington). • On an as-needed basis driven by project work. • Climate change vulnerability assessment. • Identification and evaluation of archeological resources.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails management plan. • Climate change scenario planning.

Other Important Resource or Value	Archeological Resources
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Antiquities Act of 1906 • Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 USC §300101 et seq.) • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008)



Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Rock Creek Park and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Administrative structure** – Rock Creek Park is both an individual park unit as well as an administrative unit that oversees 99 management areas, ranging from large forested landscapes to traffic circles, scattered across northern and western Washington, DC. While this organizational structure is efficient in some respects, it also leads to difficulties in balancing the needs, priorities, and funding among the various sites managed by the park. In an era of reduced budgets and resources, the staff is spread thinly across the individual sites, making it more difficult for park staff to protect resources and provide positive visitor experiences.

Planning need: position management plan.

- **Increasing visitation and recreation demands** – In general, visitation is changing in intensity and variety. Recreational demand and use of facilities has evolved. For example, there are more commercial uses within the park (e.g., physical fitness specialists and dog walking services), and more public requests for dog parks, community gardens, and increased playground amenities. Greater intensity of use and increased vandalism in certain areas threaten to degrade park resources and facilities. The park lacks sufficient capacity to manage engagement efforts with neighbors, friends groups, and other visitors among the park's diverse and complex stakeholders.

Data need: visitor use and capacity study.

Planning needs: visitor use management plan, financial sustainability plan, position management plan, commercial services plan, development concept plan for nature center.

- **Invasive species** – Nonnative and invasive species present management challenges to preserving the park's natural and cultural resources. Nonnative invasive plant species have overgrown several areas in the park, threatening native plant species and biodiversity. Coupled with lack of native species regeneration due to deer browsing impacts, invasive species (e.g., some derived from landscaping activities in surrounding urban areas) outcompete native plants and pose a key threat to park ecosystems. In addition, the emerald ash borer beetle exists within the park and continues to kill local ash trees.

Planning note: invasive plant management plan development is underway. The environmental assessment for the plan is in the public scoping phase (as of June 2015).

Planning needs: resource stewardship strategy, state of the park report.

- **Role as a commuter route** – Several major commuter routes that are either located within or that cross park boundaries provide connections to Washington, DC. In particular, Beach Drive and Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway have become major commuter routes from Maryland into the heart of the city. The traffic volume on these roads presents a significant challenge in maintaining the park’s roadway infrastructure, ensuring driver, bicyclist, employee, and contractor safety, and protecting natural and cultural resources. There is also a need to better develop connections with mass transit systems in Washington, DC, to encourage visitation without cars.

Planning need: transportation plan.

- **Wayfinding** – Signage along some park roads and trails is limited and often confusing to visitors. Comprehensive signage improvements are needed to ensure visitors do not spend undue amounts of time wayfinding to get to their desired points of interest.

Planning needs: sign and wayfinding plan, trails management plan.

- **Access** – There are numerous safety concerns for visitors attempting to access certain sites, as well as for staff performing site maintenance. Access challenges also exist at the Civil War Defenses of Washington locations that the park manages due to their fragmented nature.

Planning need: trail management plan.

- **Partnerships** – Due to the number of sites and diversity of resources within its boundaries, Rock Creek Park works in partnership with a wide variety of stakeholders and other groups ranging from nonprofit organizations to federal, state, and local agencies. The park works collaboratively with a number of partnership groups. With current budget and staffing challenges, expansion of these efforts is a critical component of the park’s overall strategy to protect its resources and engage nearby communities.

Planning need: park partner action strategy.

- **Stormwater management** – The park is prone to impacts from flash flooding and extreme storm events, which can cause severe erosion and impact cultural and natural resources. Areas of the park that receive heavy visitation—particularly near steep hillsides or flood zones—need improved stormwater management. Adding to flooding and storm events, the park is also vulnerable to combined sewer overflows from local wastewater management systems. Pollution impacts due in large part to inadequate existing stormwater infrastructure are intensified near areas of new development within and adjacent to the park.

Planning need: stormwater management plan, resource stewardship strategy, state of the park report.

- **Dogs off leash** – Dogs off leash are a significant management issue throughout Rock Creek Park. Dogs contribute to erosion by running into the creek and streams. They trample native vegetation and impact cultural landscapes. Dogs off leash disturb wildlife, particularly small animals, and destroy sensitive nesting and foraging habitat. Dogs off leash can also create employee and visitor safety issues requiring law enforcement intervention.

Planning need: initiate public dogs-on-leash campaign.

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.



Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority	Notes
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community, Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Archeological Resources, Parkwide	Trails management plan	High	Need to develop an approach to improve visitor safety on and use of park trails, develop a comprehensive maintenance strategy, and resolve visitor use issues (e.g., mountain biking on nonpaved trails).
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities, Connections to Community, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Parkwide	Visitor use management plan	High	Use data from visitor use study to develop a plan to manage visitation that is changing in intensity and variety. Develop indicators and standards to improve visitor experience.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community, Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Memorialization and Commemoration	Park partner action strategy	High	Develop a tangible action strategy with park partners that align goals and define the future direction for these partnerships. The strategy would clarify park and partner roles and would identify mutually beneficial strategies, actions, and tools for implementation.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community, Parkwide	Sign and wayfinding plan	High	Signage along some park roads and trails is limited and can be confusing to visitors. Develop a comprehensive sign and wayfinding plan to ensure visitors do not spend undue amounts of time wayfinding to get to their desired points of interest.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Communication strategy	High	The communication strategy would provide a comprehensive approach to communications for external (community, public, and partner) and internal (NPS) audiences. This plan would have a strong focus on the development of social media and other digital communication resources.
Parkwide	Position management plan	High	A position management plan would focus on improved recruitment, development, and retention of park staff. It would be tied into a parkwide work plan.
Memorialization and Commemoration, Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes, Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities	Resource stewardship strategy	High	Process will establish indicators to track status of park resources and identify key issues for park management, including funding priorities to maintain or improve the condition of park resources and values.
Memorialization and Commemoration, Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes, Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities	State of the park report	High	The report will document the status and trends in the condition of the most important resources and values in the park, summarize resource and operational information, describe stewardship efforts of park staff to maintain or improve the condition of park resources, and identify key issues and challenges facing park managers.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority	Notes
Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities, Connections to Community, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Parkwide	Stormwater management plan	High	Plan would include stormwater management components, including Rock Creek Park and agency partners within the Rock Creek Valley, particularly Montgomery County and Washington, DC.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Commercial services plan	High	Fee structure analysis for cost recovery, concessioner pricing.
Connections to Community, Cultural Landscapes, Historic Structures	Development concept plan for nature center	High	The plan would help address visitor use at the site and incorporate sustainable design practices to help protect park resources.
Historic Structures, Parkwide	Financial sustainability plan	Medium	Planning process involving staff from all divisions and programs will develop an approach to allocation of funding and staff to most critical park needs. The plan could also address leasing and other non-NPS use of historic structures.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Transportation plan	Medium	Plan to manage increasing volume of commuter traffic, as well as develop connections with mass transit in Washington, DC, to encourage visitation and commuting without cars.
Memorialization and Commemoration	Historic structure reports (multiple)	Medium	Gather updated information related to the history and condition of critical historic structures in the park to ensure preservation of character-defining features and materials, which will inform future management decisions regarding maintenance, adaptive reuse, etc. Reports are needed for the nature center and planetarium, golf course clubhouse, and Klinge Mansion.
Memorialization and Commemoration, Cultural Landscapes, Civil War Defenses of Washington	Cultural landscape reports (multiple)	Medium	Reports would cover Rock Creek Park and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Old Stone House, Linnaean Hill, Glover Archbold Park, miscellaneous reservations, some CWDW sites, and would also include the park's circles and triangles. These reports would develop a management and treatment approach for several critical cultural landscapes in the park through improved understanding of their history, evolution, and significance.
Civil War Defenses of Washington, Historic Structures, Memorialization and Commemoration, Cultural Landscapes	Earthworks management plan	Medium	The plan would cover all CWDW units within Rock Creek Park. The plan would determine the appropriate cover for earthworks based on the context and conditions at each site, and also address the appropriate level of preservation, invasive plant management, and interpretation. Any management strategy would be designed to enhance the public's understanding of the Civil War Defenses of Washington as a single, integrated system.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Needs	Priority	Notes
Civil War Defenses of Washington	Scope of collections statement	Medium	Identifies what the collection includes, what to add, what not to add, and what may need to be removed from the collection.
Cultural Landscapes, Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities, Archeological Resources, Civil War Defenses of Washington	Climate change scenario planning	Low	Need to understand range of possible impacts of climate change on Rock Creek watershed, ecosystems, and cultural landscapes and develop appropriate management strategies. Climate change scenario planning enables managers to explore critical uncertainties in climate, ecology, and sociopolitical factors and a broad range of plausible future conditions.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Ecological Communities	Acoustic resources management plan	Low	The plan would include natural and cultural sounds description, assessment of current conditions, management objectives, thresholds and standards for management, and opportunities to improve conditions.
Memorialization and Commemoration, Cultural Landscapes, Civil War Defenses of Washington	Cemetery management plan	Low	A cemetery management plan would serve as the guiding document for the park unit's cemeteries, including Battleground National Cemetery as well as the Colored Union Benevolent Cemetery in Walter Peirce Park. The plan would provide guidance on vegetation management and as a planting plan for these grounds.
Connections to Community, Historic Structures	Exhibit plan	Low	Old Stone House exhibit plan is in PMIS and has not been developed.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Long-range interpretive plan (update)	Low	Updates would be provided to the 2010 long-range interpretive plan.
Cultural Landscapes, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Ecological Communities	Viewshed management plan	Low	The plan would help protect park views from vantages within identified cultural landscapes.
Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities	Fisheries management plan	Low	The plan would address the long-term viability of the park's fisheries. It would include management goals and objectives, status of the relevant fish stocks, stock assessments for fish species, and fishery habitat and water quality considerations (management of dam and fish ladder).
Memorialization and Commemoration	Statue maintenance strategy	Low	The plan would provide comprehensive maintenance guidance for select park unit statues.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Garden management plan	Low	Plan would assist management of community gardens.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority	Notes
Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities	Comprehensive boundary survey	High	Complex and fragmented geography of the park combined with development encroachment and other urban pressure.
Civil War Defenses of Washington	Tree assessments for stability and removal	High	Falling trees pose a safety risk to visitors and staff; caused by tree age, disease, and insect damage (emerald ash borer).
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community, Ecological Communities, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Parkwide	Visitor use and carrying capacity study	High	Fewer staff available to provide visitor contact, interpretation, and protection. Need baseline information on who uses the park, when, and how, plus future trends.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite	Assessment of waysides	High	Many park waysides are old and obsolete, and require updating to reflect contemporary knowledge and understanding of park resources.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Trail counts, modeling, including for parks without staff presence	High	Understanding of the intensity of use at specific sites will help the park best allocate staff, maintenance funds, and other resources. At present, many sites do not have staff present during periods of heavy use to monitor use and impacts.
Cultural Landscapes, Civil War Defenses of Washington	Cultural landscape inventories	Medium	Produce cultural landscape inventories for Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Old Stone House, Glover Archbold Park, Westmoreland Circle, Kalorama Circle, Ward Circle, Francis Scott Key Park, CWDW sites under park management, miscellaneous reservations, and the Palisades. These will support cultural landscape reports.
Historic Structures	Condition assessment for Buchanan Memorial	Medium	Perform condition assessment for Buchanan Memorial to inform preservation strategy.
Historic Structures	National register nomination updates	Medium	Update nominations for Conduit Road Schoolhouse and Old Stone House.
Historic Structures	National register nominations	Medium	Produce nominations for Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Planetarium, Whitehaven Parkway, and associated reservations.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community, Cultural Landscapes, Ecological Communities, Civil War Defenses of Washington	Viewshed assessment	Medium	Park viewsheds are affected by the surrounding urban area, and an assessment can help understand and prioritize efforts to protect and enhance them.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority	Notes
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community, Cultural Landscapes	GIS: Identify access points, capacities, and amenities parkwide; update cultural resources layers; multiuse trail	Medium	Gather and analyze geospatial data to understand access points, capacities, and amenities, and use with related visitor use data to develop strategies to managed overused areas.
Rock Creek and Tributaries	Detailed water quality study of pollutants in Rock Creek (e.g., herbicides and pesticides)	Medium	The District Department of the Environment, NPS Department of Environment, NPS I&M staff, and the US Geological Survey currently monitor certain water quality data for Rock Creek.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite	Visitor injury data	Medium	Analyze visitor injury data to determine need for redeployment of park staff or repairs or improvements to park facilities.
Civil War Defenses of Washington	Archeological identification and evaluation	Medium	Identifies, evaluates, and documents the significance of any archeological resources within the fortifications. The results of the survey could enhance the park’s interpretive programs.
Civil War Defenses of Washington	Archeological overview and assessment	Medium	Report would enhance the archeological resources management program.
Civil War Defenses of Washington	Collections assessment and inventory	Medium	Comprehensive inventory would identify the items in the collection, their condition, and their location.
Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities, Cultural Landscapes	Long-term water quality monitoring (trends / quantity trends in springs; impacts from climate change)	Low	Long-term data will help identify trends affecting water quality and quantity that could have important impacts on ecosystems.
Ecological Communities, Parkwide	Parkwide GIS reservation layer for overall data needs	Low	Recording digital imagery will help develop an archival record of memorial sites, which can be used to develop virtual visitation programs as well as assist future repair and restoration projects.
Memorialization and Commemoration	3-D imagery of memorial sites	Low	Imagery of memorial sites can be used for inventory and placed online to enhance accessibility and facilitate virtual visitation.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Connections to Community	Demographic study	Low	Improve understanding of the composition of the population around the park to better direct outreach efforts and future development plans. Data would support the visitor use management plan.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority	Notes
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite	Crime study	Low	Determine location of crime “hot spots” close to the park boundary to better deploy park law enforcement.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite	Survey of recreational facilities outside park	Low	Direct activities incompatible with park resources and values to suitable sites outside of the park.
Connections to Community	Assessment of fundraising potential	Low	Assess the fundraising potential from local and national donors to support park needs.
Civil War Defenses of Washington, Memorialization and Commemoration, Archeological Resources	Identification and evaluation of archeological resources	Low	The survey would identify, evaluate, and document the significance of any archeological resources at the park-managed Civil War Defenses of Washington. Results of the survey could enhance the park’s interpretive programs.
Historic Structures	Engineering and structural assessments for historic structures	Low	Engineering and structural assessments are needed for the nature center, Old Stone House, Conduit Road Schoolhouse, and D-3. These structures are the highest priority from a maintenance perspective.
Historic Structures, Cultural Landscapes, Civil War Defenses of Washington, Rock Creek and Tributaries, Ecological Communities, Archeological Resources	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Low	Data would support climate change scenario planning efforts. Climate change vulnerability assessments for cultural and natural resources will also help managers better understand which resources within the park may be most at risk from climate change and will facilitate prioritization of monitoring and management actions.
Historic Structures	Determination of eligibility statements	Low	As structures reach 50 years of age, determination of eligibility statements must be updated for potential designation of historic status.
Opportunities for Recreation and Respite, Cultural Landscapes	Cultural landscape inventory for community gardens	Low	Report would include background research and attempt to fill information gaps on community gardens.
Connections to Community	Ethnographic assessment / ethnohistory for Rock Creek Park and Meridian Hill Park	Low	Assessment would describe the park’s cultural and historical context and identify important ethnographic resources.
Archeological Resources	Fort DeRussy investigation	Low	Perform detailed investigation around the site of Fort DeRussy to inventory archeological resources.
Cultural Landscapes, Ecological Communities, Opportunities for Recreation and Respite	Acoustic resources assessment	Low	Identify sources and intensities of noise from traffic, park visitors, or surrounding urban areas that disrupt the tranquil atmosphere of the park.

Part 3: Contributors

Rock Creek Park

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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Authorizations for Rock Creek Park

26 Stat 492 Establishment of Rock Creek Park

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FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS. SESS. I. CH. 1001. 1890.

September 27, 1890. **CHAP. 1001.**—An act authorizing the establishing of a public park in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a tract of land lying on both sides of Rock Creek, beginning at Klinge Ford Bridge, and running northwardly, following the course of said creek, of a width not less at any point than six hundred feet, nor more than twelve hundred feet, including the bed of the creek, of which not less than two hundred feet shall be on either side of said creek, south of Broad Branch road and Blagden Mill road and of such greater width north of said roads as the commissioners designated in this act may select, shall be secured, as hereinafter set out, and be perpetually dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States, to be known by the name of Rock Creek Park: *Provided, however,* That the whole tract so to be selected and condemned under the provisions of this act shall not exceed two thousand acres nor the total cost thereof exceed the amount of money herein appropriated.

SEC. 2. That the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and three citizens to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, be, and they are hereby, created a commission to select the land for said park, of the quantity and within the limits aforesaid, and to have the same surveyed by the assistant to the said Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia in charge of public highways, which said assistant shall also act as executive officer to the said commission.

SEC. 3. That the said commission shall cause to be made an accurate map of said Rock Creek Park, showing the location, quantity, and character of each parcel of private property to be taken for such purpose, with the names of the respective owners inscribed thereon, which map shall be filed and recorded in the public records of the District of Columbia, and from and after the date of filing said map the several tracts and parcels of land embraced in said Rock Creek Park shall be held as condemned for public uses, and the title thereof vested in the United States, subject to the payment of just compensation, to be determined by said commission, and approved by the President of the United States: *Provided,* That such compensation be accepted by the owner or owners of the several parcels of land.

That if the said commission shall be unable by agreement with the respective owners to purchase all of the land so selected and condemned within thirty days after such condemnation, at the price approved by the President of the United States, it shall, at the expiration of such period of thirty days, make application to the supreme court of the District of Columbia, by petition, at a general or special term, for an assessment of the value of such land as it has been unable to purchase.

Said petition shall contain a particular description of the property selected and condemned, with the name of the owner or owners thereof, if known, and their residences, as far as the same may be ascertained, together with a copy of the recorded map of the park; and the said court is hereby authorized and required, upon such application, without delay, to notify the owners and occupants of the land, if known, by personal service, and if unknown, by service by publication, and to ascertain and assess the value of the land so selected and condemned, by appointing three competent and disinterested commissioners to appraise the value or values thereof, and to return the appraisement to the court; and when the value or values of such land are thus ascertained, and the President of the United States shall decide the same to be reasonable, said value or values shall be paid to the owner or owners, and the United States shall be deemed to have a valid title to said land; and if in any case

District of Columbia. **Rock Creek Park established.**
Location.
Description.
Dedication.
Proviso.
Maximum size and cost.
Commission to be appointed.
Duties.
Executive officer.
Map to be filed.
Condemnation.
Title.
Compensation.
Proviso.
Acceptance by owners.
Failure to agree.
Judicial procedure.
Application for assessment.
Petition and map.
Notification.
Appraisal commission.
Ascertainment of value.
Payment.
Title.

the owner or owners of any portion of said land shall refuse or neglect, after the appraisal of the cash value of said lands and improvements, to demand or receive the same from said court, upon depositing the appraised value in said court to the credit of such owner or owners, respectively, the fee-simple shall in like manner be vested in the United States.

SEC. 4. That said court may direct the time and manner in which possession of the property condemned shall be taken or delivered, and may, if necessary, enforce any order or issue any process for giving possession.

SEC. 5. That no delay in making an assessment of compensation, or in taking possession, shall be occasioned by any doubt which may arise as to the ownership of the property, or any part thereof, or as to the interests of the respective owners. In such cases the court shall require a deposit of the money allowed as compensation for the whole property or the part in dispute. In all cases as soon as the said commission shall have paid the compensation assessed, or secured its payment by a deposit of money under the order of the court, possession of the property may be taken. All proceedings hereunder shall be in the name of the United States of America and managed by the commission.

SEC. 6. That the commission having ascertained the cost of the land, including expenses, shall assess such proportion of such cost and expenses upon the lands, lots, and blocks situated in the District of Columbia specially benefited by reason of the location and improvement of said park, as nearly as may be, in proportion to the benefits resulting to such real estate.

If said commission shall find that the real estate in said District directly benefited by reason of the location of the park is not benefited to the full extent of the estimated cost and expenses, then they shall assess each tract or parcel of land specially benefited to the extent of such benefits as they shall deem the said real estate specially benefited. The commission shall give at least ten days' notice, in one daily newspaper published in the city of Washington, of the time and place of their meeting for the purpose of making such assessment and may adjourn from time to time till the same be completed. In making the assessment the real estate benefited shall be assessed by the description as appears of record in the District on the day of the first meeting; but no error in description shall vitiate the assessment: *Provided*, That the premises are described with substantial accuracy. The commission shall estimate the value of the different parcels of real estate benefited as aforesaid and the amount assessed against each tract or parcel, and enter all in an assessment book. All persons interested may appear and be heard. When the assessment shall be completed it shall be signed by the commission, or a majority (which majority shall have power always to act), and be filed in the office of the clerk of the supreme court of the District of Columbia. The commission shall apply to the court for a confirmation of said assessment, giving at least ten days' notice of the time thereof by publication in one daily newspaper published in the city of Washington, which notice shall state in general terms the subject and the object of the application.

The said court shall have power, after said notice shall have been duly given, to hear and determine all matters connected with said assessment; and may revise, correct, amend, and confirm said assessment, in whole or in part, or order a new assessment, in whole or in part, with or without further notice or on such notice as it shall prescribe; but no order for a new assessment in part, or any partial adverse action, shall hinder or delay confirmation of the residue, or collection of the assessment thereon. Confirmation of any part of the assessment shall make the same a lien on the real estate assessed.

Possession.
Process.

No delay in assessment, etc.

Disputed claims.

Possession.

Proceedings.

Proportionate assessment of cost, etc., on benefited lands.

Notice by publication.

Adjournments of commission.

Record description.
Errors.
Proviso.
Substantial accuracy.

Entries in assessment book.
Hearings.
Commission to file assessment.

Application for confirmation.
Notice.

Powers of court in determining, etc.

Confirmation.

Lien.

Payment of assessment by installments, etc.	The assessment, when confirmed, shall be divided into four equal installments, and may be paid by any party interested in full or in one, two, three, and four years, on or before which times all shall be payable, with six per centum annual interest on all deferred payments. All payments shall be made to the Treasurer of the United States, who shall keep the account as a separate fund. The orders of the court shall be conclusive evidence of the regularity of all previous proceedings necessary to the validity thereof, and of all matters recited in said orders. The clerk of said court shall keep a record of all proceedings in regard to said assessment and confirmation.
Interest. Separate Treasury fund.	The commission shall furnish the said clerk with a duplicate of its assessment book, and in both shall be entered any change made or ordered by the court as to any real estate. Such book filed with the clerk when completed and certified shall be prima facie evidence of all facts recited therein. In case assessments are not paid as aforesaid the book of assessments certified by the clerk of the court shall be delivered to the officer charged by law with the duty of collecting delinquent taxes in the District of Columbia, who shall proceed to collect the same as delinquent real estate taxes are collected. No sale for any installment of assessment shall discharge the real estate from any subsequent installment; and proceedings for subsequent installments shall be as if no default had been made in prior ones.
Validity of proceedings. Court record.	All money so collected may be paid by the Treasurer on the order of the commission to any persons entitled thereto as compensation for land or services. Such order on the Treasurer shall be signed by a majority of the commission and shall specify fully the purpose for which it is drawn. If the proceeds of assessment exceed the cost of the park the excess shall be used in its improvement, under the direction of the officers named in section eight, if such excess shall not exceed the amount of ten thousand dollars. If it shall exceed that amount that part above ten thousand dollars shall be refunded ratably. Public officers performing any duty hereunder shall be allowed such fees and compensation as they would be entitled to in like cases of collecting taxes. The civilian members of the commission shall be allowed ten dollars per day each for each day of actual service. Deeds made to purchasers at sales for delinquent assessments hereunder shall be prima facie evidence of the right of the purchaser, and any one claiming under him, that the real estate was subject to assessment and directly benefited, and that the assessment was regularly made; that the assessment was not paid; that due advertisement had been made; that the grantee in the deed was the purchaser or assignee of the purchaser, and that the sale was conducted legally.
Duplicate assessment book to be filed.	Any judgment for the sale of any real estate for unpaid assessments shall be conclusive evidence of its regularity and validity in all collateral proceedings except when the assessment was actually paid, and the judgment shall estop all persons from raising any objection thereto, or to any sale or deed based thereon, which existed at the date of its rendition, and could have been presented as a defense to the application for such judgment.
Evidence of recited facts. Delinquent assessments.	To pay the expenses of inquiry, survey, assessment, cost of lands taken, and all other necessary expenses incidental thereto, the sum of one million two hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated: <i>Provided</i> , That one-half of said sum of one million two hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be expended, shall be re-imbursed to the Treasury of the United States out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, in four equal annual installments, with interest at the rate of three per centum per annum upon the deferred payments: <i>And provided further</i> , That one-half of the sum which shall be annually appropriated and expended for the maintenance and improvement of said
Collection.	Compensation of public officers.
Payment of compensation by Treasurer.	Compensation of civilian commissioners.
Commission orders.	Delinquent assessment sale deeds.
Proceeds in excess of cost.	Evidence of.
Compensation of public officers.	Judgment of sale.
Compensation of civilian commissioners.	Estoppel, etc.
Delinquent assessment sale deeds.	Appropriation. For total cost, etc.
Evidence of.	Provisos. Half from the District revenues.
Judgment of sale.	Reimbursed in installments. Interest. Maintenance, etc. Half from District revenues.
Estoppel, etc.	Reimbursed in installments. Interest. Maintenance, etc. Half from District revenues.
Appropriation. For total cost, etc.	Reimbursed in installments. Interest. Maintenance, etc. Half from District revenues.
Provisos. Half from the District revenues.	Reimbursed in installments. Interest. Maintenance, etc. Half from District revenues.
Reimbursed in installments. Interest. Maintenance, etc. Half from District revenues.	Reimbursed in installments. Interest. Maintenance, etc. Half from District revenues.

lands as a public park shall be charged against and paid out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, in the manner now provided by law in respect to other appropriations for the District of Columbia, and the other half shall be appropriated out of the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 7. That the public park authorized and established by this act shall be under the joint control of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, whose duty it shall be, as soon as practicable, to lay out and prepare roadways and bridle paths, to be used for driving and for horseback riding, respectively, and footways for pedestrians; and whose duty it shall also be to make and publish such regulations as they deem necessary or proper for the care and management of the same. Such regulations shall provide for the preservation from injury or spoliation of all timber, animals, or curiosities within said park, and their retention in their natural condition, as nearly as possible.

Control, etc., of park.

Regulations, etc.

Approved, September 27, 1890.

Authorizations for sites and resources managed by Rock Creek Park

Note: The National Capital Parks reorganization in the 1970s and 1980s increased the number of areas administered by Rock Creek Park to include Glover Archbold Park, Montrose Park, Dumbarton Oaks Park, Meridian Hill Park, and sections of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Each was authorized for its own unique features and was not part of the original Rock Creek Park legislation. The following authorizations reference most of the sites and resources not included in the 1890 Rock Creek Park enabling legislation.

Authorization of Meridian Hill Park

1911 PL 61-480 / 36 Stat. 1289

1310

SIXTY-FIRST CONGRESS. SESS. III. CH. 240. 1911.

Meridian Hill Park,
D. C.

MERIDIAN HILL PARK.

Condemnation ex-
penses.
Ante, p. 700.

Condemnation of land for park purposes in the District of Columbia included between Euclid Street, Columbia Avenue or Fifteenth Street, W Street or Florida Avenue, and Sixteenth Street extended, in Hall and Elvan's subdivision of Meridian Hill: To enable the Secretary of the Interior to carry into effect the provisions of section thirty-six of an Act of Congress entitled "An Act to increase the limit of cost of certain public buildings, to authorize the enlargement, extension, remodeling, or improvement of certain public buildings, to authorize the erection and completion of public buildings, to authorize the purchase of sites for public buildings, and for other purposes," four hundred and ninety thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary; one-half of which sum, or so much thereof as may be expended, shall be reimbursed to the Treasury of the United States, as required in said section thirty-six, out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, in four equal annual installments, beginning with the fiscal year nineteen hundred and twelve, with interest at the rate of three per centum per annum upon the deferred payments.

Authorization of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway

1913 PL 62-432 / 372 Stat. 866

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS. SESS. III. CH. 147. 1913.

885

SEC. 22. That for the purpose of preventing the pollution and obstruction of Rock Creek and of connecting Potomac Park with the Zoological Park and Rock Creek Park, a commission, to be composed of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of Agriculture, is hereby authorized and directed to acquire, by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, such land and premises as are not now the property of the United States in the District of Columbia shown on the map on file in the office of the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, dated May seventeenth, nineteen hundred and eleven, and lying on both sides of Rock Creek, including such portion of the creek bed as may be in private ownership, between the Zoological Park and Potomac Park; and the sum of \$1,300,000 is hereby authorized to be expended toward the requirement of such land. That all lands now belonging to the United States or to the District of Columbia lying within the exterior boundaries of the land to be acquired by this act as shown and designated on said map are hereby appropriated to and made a part of the parkway herein authorized to be acquired. One-half of the cost of the said lands shall be reimbursed to the Treasury of the United States out of the revenues of the District of Columbia in eight equal annual installments, with interest at the rate of three per centum per annum upon the deferred payments. That should the commission decide to institute condemnation proceedings in order to secure any or all of the land herein authorized to be acquired, such proceedings shall be in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved August thirtieth, eighteen hundred and ninety, providing a site for the enlargement of the Government Printing Office (United States Statutes at Large, volume twenty-six, chapter eight hundred and thirty-seven).

Washington, D. C.
Commission to acquire land adjoining Rock Creek to connect Zoological and Potomac Parks.

Amount authorized.

Public lands added.

One-half of cost from District revenue, in installments.

Condemnation proceedings.

Vol. 26, p. 412.

Montrose Park and Dumbarton Oaks Park additions to Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway

1911 PL 61-444 / 36 Stat. 1005

Appropriations made in 1911 for Montrose Park; Montrose Park became contiguous with the parkway in 1940 when a private landowner deeded adjoining land (Dumbarton Oaks Park) to the National Park Service.

Authorization of Old Stone House

1950 PL 81-836 / 64 Stat. 1033

[CHAPTER 1029]

AN ACT

To provide for the acquisition and preservation, as a part of the National Capital Parks system, of the Old Stone House in the District of Columbia.

September 25, 1950
[H. R. 7722]
[Public Law 836]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to acquire, on behalf of the United States, by gift or purchase, a historic building of great pre-Revolutionary architectural merit known as the Old Stone House, located at 3051 M Street Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, together with the site on which it stands, more particularly described as lot 859, square 1209, containing approximately twenty thousand and forty-eight square feet. In the event the Secretary of the Interior is unable to acquire the property at a price deemed by him to be reasonable, he is authorized and directed to acquire such property by condemnation under the provisions of the Act of March 1, 1929 (45 Stat. 1415).

Old Stone House,
D. C.
Acquisition.

D. C. Code § 16-619
et seq.

SEC. 2. The property acquired under the provision of section 1 of this Act shall be renovated, stabilized, maintained, and preserved as one of the outstanding remaining examples in the city of Washington of eighteenth century architecture, by the Secretary of the Interior, as a part of the National Capital Parks system, subject to the provisions of the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). The Secretary is authorized to establish a museum on the premises for relics and records pertaining to the early history of Georgetown and the city of Washington and he may accept, on behalf of the United States, for installation such museum articles which may be offered as additions to the museum.

16 U. S. C. § 461
et seq.

SEC. 3. All Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SEC. 4. There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Appropriation au-
thorized.

Approved September 25, 1950.

Legislation (or dedications) for the following monuments, statues, and memorials managed by Rock Creek Park include:

James Buchanan Memorial at Meridian Hill Park

- June 27, 1918 (40 Stat. 632)

Dante statue at Meridian Hill Park

- February 14, 1922 (42 Stat. 366)

Joan of Arc statue at Meridian Hill Park

- March 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 468)

Serenity statue at Meridian Hill Park

- March 12, 1924 (43 Stat. 21)

Francis Asbury statue in the 16th Street area

- February 28, 1919 (40 Stat. 1213)

Guglielmo Marconi memorial in the 16th Street area

- April 13, 1938 (52 Stat. 217)

James Cardinal Gibbons statue in the 16th Street area

- April 23, 1928 (45 Stat. 453)

Fort Stevens monument and marker

- Dedicated July 12, 1920

25th New York Volunteer Cavalry monument at Battleground National Cemetery

- Dedicated September 18, 1914

122nd New York Volunteer monument at Battleground National Cemetery

- Dedicated July 12, 1904

98th Pennsylvania Volunteer monument at Battleground National Cemetery

- Dedicated in 1891

Senator Francis Newlands statue at Chevy Chase Circle

- April 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 78)

Peter Muhlenberg memorial at Connecticut Avenue at 36th and Ellicott Streets, NW

- Dedicated October 26, 1980

Major-General Artemas Ward statue at Ward Circle, Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, NW

- 1938 (45 Stat. 689)

Sarah Rittenhouse memorial (armillary sphere) at Montrose Park

- July 27, 1953 (67 Stat.196)

Major-General George B. McClellan statue at Connecticut Avenue and California Street, NW

- March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1174)

Jean Jules Jusserand memorial at Beach Drive, south of Pierce Mill, NW

- June 17, 1935 (49 Stat. 386)

Francis Scott Key Memorial Park

- October 27, 1986 (100 Stat. 3022)

Kahlil Gibran Memorial

- October 19, 1984 (98 Stat. 2715)

Appendix B: Related Federal Legislation, Regulations, and Executive Orders

Legislation and Acts

- Archeological and Historical Preservation Act – 1974
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act – 1979
- Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) – 1984, as amended
- Department of Transportation Act – 1966
- Endangered Species Act – 1973
- Historic Sites Act – 1935
- National Environmental Policy Act – 1969
- National Historic Preservation Act – 1966, as amended
- National Parks Omnibus Management Act – 1998
- National Park Service Organic Act – 1916
- National Trust Act – 1949
- Redwood Act, Amending the NPS Organic Act – 1978

Code of Federal Regulations

- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, General Provisions
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 2, Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 4, Vehicles and Traffic Safety
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 5, Commercial and Private Operations

Executive Orders

- Executive Order 11514, “Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality”
- Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”
- Executive Order 11988, “Floodplain Management”
- Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands”
- Executive Order 12003, “Energy Policy and Conservation”
- Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards”
- Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”
- Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species”
- Executive Order 13186, “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds”
- Executive Order 13352, “Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation”
- Executive Order 13423, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management”
- Executive Order 13658, “Establishing a Minimum Wage for Contractors”

Appendix C: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Administrative Commitments

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
29 scenic easements	Covenant	Perpetual	Perpetual	Adjacent landowners	Protect park viewsheds, provide visitor access.
Utility rights-of-way, exact number undermined	Right-of-way; authorized by legislation	Varies	Varies	Utilities	Allow utilities to cross park boundaries.
Snow removal	Snow removal from park roads	Perpetual	Perpetual	NPS, District of Columbia Department of Transportation	Rock Creek Park maintains as open during snow events Beach Drive, Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Joyce Road, Wise Road, West Beach Drive, Grant Road, Stables Road, Waterside Drive, and Glover Road to the maintenance yard as well as access to Edgewater stables, public stables, nature center, D-3, Center for Urban Ecology.
Maintenance of triangle, 41st and Davenport streets NW	District of Columbia Zoning Commission Order 904, Case No. 98-21c	September 13, 1999	Perpetual	4717-4727 Wisconsin Avenue, NW (DC PUD)	To construct and maintain landscaping in the Fort Circle Park area of 41st and Davenport streets, NW.
Fort Reno Athletic Field	General agreement	2003	No expiration date	District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation	Provides terms and conditions for operation of athletic field adjacent to Chesapeake Street NW, in Fort Reno Park.

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
Permitting of NPS athletic fields and other properties	DC code ann. sections 10-201 to 10-226 (2001)	1949	No expiration date	District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation, NPS	Governs the relative roles and responsibilities of the NPS and DC, which allow the permitting by DPR of NPS athletic fields at 16th and Kennedy streets, NW.
Exotic Plant Management Team / Cooperative Weed Management Area	Memorandum of understanding	2013	2018	NPS Exotic Plant Management Team, ROCR, Various NPS NCR units, District of Columbia government agencies	To establish the District of Columbia Cooperative Weed Management Area (DC-CWMA) by creating a framework of cooperation to address the effects of invasive plants on native plants, wildlife, and habitats.
Metropolitan Branch Trail Memorandum of Agreement	Memorandum of agreement	2014	2024	District of Columbia Department of Transportation	Design and maintenance of the Metropolitan Branch Trail.
Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park	Basic fundraising agreement	2014	2016	Friends of Georgetown Waterfront Park	Allow for fundraising and other limited activities with friends group.
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Friends Agreement	Friends agreement	In process of finalization (2015)		Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy	Sets terms for fundraising pending completion of friends agreement.
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy Basic Fundraising Agreement	Basic fundraising agreement	2014	2015	Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy	Allow for fundraising and other limited activities with friends group.
Friends of Peirce Mill Friends Agreement	Friends agreement	2014	2019	Friends of Peirce Mill	Governs educational and fundraising activities.
Washington Tennis and Education Foundation	Friends agreement	2014	2019	Washington Tennis and Education Foundation	Governs the activities of the foundation, which bases operations and offers programs at the Rock Creek Tennis Center facility.

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Memorandum of Understanding	Memorandum of understanding	2009	2014; one year extension to 2015	Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	Guides cooperation for the maintenance of a system of public hiking trails in Rock Creek Park and jurisdictional areas within Washington, DC.
Divine Science Church	Rental agreement	1956		Divine Science Church of the Healing Christ	Originally a temporary use pending demolition of the structure.
Eastern National	Cooperating association (national agreement)	2011	2016	Eastern National	Provides various services, primarily by procuring, distributing, and selling educational material in retail outlets located in national parks.
Broad Branch Daylighting Special Use Permit	Special use permit	2014	2019	District of Columbia Department of the Environment	Maintenance of a stream daylighting project on Civil War Defenses of Washington property.
Weed Warrior special use permits	Special use permit	Varies	Renewed annually	Volunteers in Parks	Sets terms and conditions for invasive plant removal by trained and certified individuals parkwide.
Community gardens special use permits	Special use permits	Varies	Renewed annually	Community garden associations	Sets terms and conditions for the operation of community garden associations in nine locations parkwide.
Frager Enterprises, Inc. (trading as Capitol River Cruises)	Commercial use agreement (2 total)	4/25/2015	4/25/2016	Individual	Boat tours.
Potomac Riverboat Company	Commercial use agreement (5 total)	4/24/2015	4/24/2016	Individual	Boat tours.
Boomerang Boat Tours, LLC and Boomerang Tours 2	Commercial use agreement (3 total)	4/1/2015	4/1/2016	Individual	Boat tours.

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose
Potomac Belle Yacht Charters	Commercial use agreement	Pending	Pending	Individual	Boat tours.
Yoga Hikes LLC	Commercial use agreement	4/29/2015	4/29/2016	Individual	Outdoor fitness.
DC Cruises LLC	Commercial use agreement (2 Total)	4/25/2015	4/25/2016	Individual	Boat tours.
National River Tours Company	Commercial use agreement	4/18/2015	4/18/2016	Individual	Boat tours.
Golf Course Specialists, Inc.	Commercial use agreement	1/1/2009	Pending extension to 12/31/2016	Individual	Provides golf course management services, including lessons, rentals, and retail services.
Guest Services, Inc.	Commercial use agreement	4/8/2013	Pending extension to 12/31/2016	Individual	Provides various hospitality management services throughout the park.
B&G Outdoor Recreation, Inc.	Commercial use agreement	4/8/2013	12/31/2015	Individual	Provides boat storage and various services, including canoe, kayak, and standup paddleboard rentals and instruction.
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club	General agreement		12/31/15		New agreement pending.
Wilderness Voyageurs Outfitters, Inc.	Commercial use agreement	5/23/2015	5/23/2016	Individual	Bike tours.
DC Speedboat Cruises	Commercial use agreement	4/1/2015	4/1/2016	Individual	Boat tours.
Georgetown Heritage	Friends agreement	2014	8/28/19	Georgetown Heritage; Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park; Rock Creek Park	Provides fundraising and other limited activities with friends groups.
REI, Inc	Commercial use agreement	Pending	Pending	Individual	Guided tours and classes

National Capital Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Rock Creek Park
September 2015

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the National Capital Regional Director.

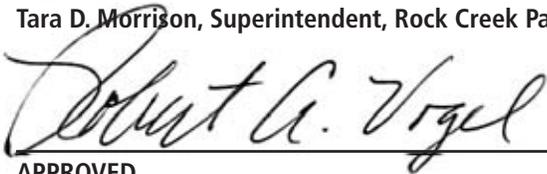


9/21/15

RECOMMENDED

Tara D. Morrison, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park

Date



9/21/15

APPROVED

Robert A. Vogel, Regional Director, National Capital Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

ROCR 821/129743

September 2015

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