



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: October 3, 2019

PROJECT Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance National Mall Independence Avenue and Daniel French Drive, SW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8107
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.43(73.10)44998
REVIEW AUTHORITY Commemorative Works Act per 40 U.S.C. § 8905	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on concept plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve comments on concept plans
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Staff Presentation

PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Park Service, on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (KWVMF), has submitted the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance for concept review. The project entails adding a Wall of Remembrance to the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial to honor the 36,574 members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed or missing in action in the Korean War. In addition, the wall will list approximately 8,000 members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) in Korean alphabet. Organized by service and rank, the new engraved granite wall will include a total of 44,574 names, including US and KATUSA forces.

Dedicated on July 27, 1995, the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, the existing memorial is located to the southeast of the Lincoln Memorial on West Potomac Park. The memorial occupies 7.5 acres within Ash Woods. It is surrounded by Ash Road to the north, the US Park Police Stables to the east, Daniel French Drive to the west, and Independence Avenue to the south. The Korean War Veterans Memorial site has a symmetrical relationship to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site located on the north side of the Reflecting Pool.

On October 7, 2016, Congress enacted the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act” (Public Law 114–230). This legislation authorized the KWVMF to construct a Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The Act required that the wall include a list of names of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in the Korean War, as determined by the Secretary of Defense. The wall may include other information about the Korean War, including the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command who were prisoners of war, killed, wounded or

missing in action. This additional information will be included on the back of the existing mural wall.

In order to reduce impacts to the memorial and the National Mall, the preferred design concept has a minimal approach. The design consists of adding a low angled wall integrated into the landscape surrounding the original memorial; expanding the circular plaza outside the two rows of linden trees by nine feet to provide circulation around the new curvilinear wall; raising the existing berm from the surrounding landscape from four to ten percent to conceal most of the wall and maintain reciprocal views of the memorial and the National Mall; providing two new pedestrian paths to connect the Pool of Remembrance to Ash Road and Independence Avenue; and rehabilitating the existing memorial.

KEY INFORMATION

- NPS considered a total of seven alternatives. The submission focuses on the preferred concept. The alternatives that were dismissed have been included as an appendix.
- The concept design for the Wall of Remembrance has four guiding principles: 1) maintaining the integrity of the original memorial design; 2) minimizing the impact of the proposed wall as viewed from adjacent National Mall areas; 3) incorporating the new wall as if it had been part of the original design; and 4) limiting the area of names to less than the name area on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (VVM).
- Additional principles include providing a better edge to the circular plaza around the Pool of Remembrance, currently defined by a post and chain fence and two rows of shrubs, and formally incorporating the “desire lines” of pedestrian travel from the memorial to Ash Road and Independence Avenue.
- NPS analyzed the VVM wall surface area and determined that the wall area utilized for names at the Wall of Remembrance should be less than 2,600 square feet. All of the design alternatives pursued met this criterion.
- The proposed wall will have a length of 384 linear feet to accommodate the list the names of the fallen, including the US and KATUSA forces, while providing an enclosure to the memorial space.
- Construction will begin in April 2021. The project will be completed on July 27, 2022, the 69th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. NPS will keep portions of the memorial open to the public during the 15-month construction period.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Finds the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial composition has a strong geometry, sequence, narrative, and circulation organized into two distinctive areas, a triangular Field of Service and a circular Pool of Remembrance.

Notes that the National Park Service (NPS) considered several other design concepts for the Wall of Remembrance with differences in height, material, and composition that significantly changed the character of the memorial and the National Mall, created adverse visual impacts, and increased impervious surface. The applicant has selected the “low wall” option as the preferred concept consisting of a low, angled wall surrounding an expanded circular plaza.

Comments favorably on the preferred “low wall” concept because it is consistent with the original memorial design, is integrated into the landscape, and minimizes visual and environmental impacts to the National Mall, while improving access and circulation.

Circulation

Notes the only formal access to the memorial is from the west via two pathways.

Notes that NPS proposes two new connections to the memorial – one from Ash Road to the north and one from Independence Avenue to the south. Both connections would bring visitors directly into the circular Pool of Remembrance.

Finds that the proposed connection from Ash Road would improve the visitor experience and connectivity of the memorial with the surrounding context given Ash Road connects the Korean War Veterans Memorial to nearby memorials and attractions on the National Mall, including the soon-to-be-renovated US Park Police Stables located immediately to the east.

Finds that the proposed connection from Independence Avenue may have less use because it is located in between the only two crossings on Independence Avenue which already have (or will have with the stables project) formal paths to Ash Road. Visitors would likely follow these two paths to access the memorial from Ash Road as opposed to walking along the more traffic prone Independence Avenue.

Finds that the two proposed walkways leading directly into the Pool of Remembrance provide symmetry to the design. However, they may alter this quiet and secluded space and the sequence of the existing memorial.

Requests that NPS further evaluate how many visitors would be likely to access the memorial from the proposed Independence Avenue connection.

Proposed Wall

Finds that the proposed low, sloped wall is consistent with the geometry of the existing curbstone walls at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

Requests that the applicant address the following comments regarding the wall visibility, angle, and finish to improve the preferred concept design:

- Consider simplifying the wall profile to soften the transition into the landscape and maintain open views between the existing memorial components and the National Mall.
- Provide a mockup on-site of a segment of the proposed wall to evaluate how the reflective finish and angle impact glare and legibility, as well as visual impacts to the memorial and surrounding context.

Landscape and Visitor Experience

Notes that the memorial's landscape design reinforces its formal composition. It is characterized by a commemorative grove, composed of two rows of linden trees around the Pool of Remembrance, that create a circle of pleached trees, and a triangular field of low juniper bushes emerging from the forest.

Finds that any changes to the landscape should be minimal and avoid competing with the memorial's distinct and formal landscape.

Finds that the memorial has limited seating opportunities given the size of the overall memorial site. There are currently seven benches under the pleached linden trees.

Recommends that the applicant provide a landscape plan at preliminary review that incorporates the following components:

- Low impact development features integrated into the proposed berm to comply with federal and local stormwater management regulations.
- Benches along the proposed walkway that connects to Ash Road to allow for opportunities for rest and contemplation, and if possible, in areas of shade.

Other Comments

Requests that the applicant provide the following information:

- A lighting plan and night views of the proposed wall consistent with the overall lighting design for the memorial that respects the hierarchy of memorials, monuments, and important civic buildings and spaces in the nation's capital, with the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument the most prominent features in the nighttime skyline.
- Details showing the proposed improvements to the back side of the existing mural wall and how the Wall of Remembrance will terminate at the mural wall.
- Eye-level views from Independence Avenue looking north to better understand the impacts of the proposed design.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	June 24, 1993 – Approval of final plans for the Korean War Veterans Memorial, West Potomac Park (Ash Woods Site), Independence Avenue and Daniel Chester French Drive, SW (NCPC File No. 2815)
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– Review of preliminary site development plans – Review of final site development plans

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance will honor the 44,574 service members from the US forces and the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army killed or missing in action from the Korean War by adding their names to the existing memorial. Staff's analysis focuses on the Wall of Remembrance's consistency with the National Mall setting, the existing memorial character, circulation, landscape, and visitor experience. Overall, staff finds the proposed design appropriately integrates the new Wall of Remembrance into the memorial context, while minimizing visual impacts and limiting changes to the existing memorial elements. The design solution is responsive to the existing conditions. The project is generally consistent with the policies included in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. In particular, the Urban Design, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Visitor and Commemoration, and Parks and Open Space Elements.

Analysis

Existing Memorial

The memorial is composed of two simple geometries, a triangle and a circle. The key memorial elements include:

- **Field of Service:** Located to the west, it consists of a sunny and open triangular area characterized by the fragrant smell of juniper bushes. Nineteen stainless-steel soldiers, standing seven feet tall, are scattered across the length of the field. Narrow granite bands alternate with lines of low juniper shrubs. The sculptures represent an ethnic cross section of America, including servicemen from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. They emerge from a grove of trees, planted on the western end of the memorial, toward the American flag, the focal point of the memorial. The field, defined by two paths, gently rises towards the flagpole at the memorial's apex. A large granite triangle completes the field at the base of the flagpole where the memorial theme is inscribed.

- **Mural Wall:** A polished mural wall flanks the memorial's southern boundary. The wall consists of 41 panels extending approximately 164 feet in length. The mural wall is approximately 12 feet high at its west end and tapers to approximately five feet on the east end as a result of the topography. Viewed from the north pathway, the mural reflects an abstract landscape that resembles the mountain ranges of Korea. A composition of faces, military hardware, and scenes of service unfold when viewed from the south pathway. The images etched into polished granite panels embody over 2,500 faces taken from historic photographs who supported the soldiers in the field. The reflective quality of the academy black granite illustrates a total of 38 sculptures, symbolic of the 38th parallel and the 38 months of the war (1950-1953). The granite wall extending into the pool is inscribed with the words "Freedom is not Free."
- **United Nations Wall:** A curbstone aligned with the visual axis between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials along the north path inscribes the names of the 22 countries who contributed to the United Nations efforts during the Korean War. The names are arranged alphabetically.
- **Pool of Remembrance:** The field of service, mural wall, American flag, and two pathways converge into the commemorative grove and its quiet circular Pool of Remembrance at the top of the hill. Located to the east, it consists of a shaded and secluded circular plaza that fosters quiet reflection. The plaza has a radius of 64'- 6" and features a central fountain that buffers the noise of the surrounding traffic along Independence Avenue. The perimeter of the plaza is planted with two rows of pleached linden trees that provide shade, contribute to a microclimate, and strengthen the memorial composition and contemplative character. Circulation space and benches are provided beneath the grove of pleached linden trees.

Other memorial elements include a low granite curb defining an interior edge of the pool, which lists the number of the casualties from the war. In general, staff **finds the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial composition has a strong geometry, sequence, narrative, and circulation organized into two distinctive areas, a triangular Field of Service and a circular Pool of Remembrance.**

Alternative Design Concepts

The National Park Service (NPS) considered seven design options that were analyzed based on the design principles and technical criteria listed under the key information section of this report (See page 2). The alternatives explored walls with different height, materials, and composition. NPS considered the following alternatives:

- A. **Glass Wall:** It consisted of one-sided, eight-foot-tall glass wall enclosing the circular plaza. The proposed text sized was ½" extending down to 12" above grade. The wall provided openings for egress at the proposed pathways. This alternative created 4,810 square feet of additional hardscape. The proposed wall radius was 76 feet. It expanded the existing circular plaza by 11'- 6".
- B. **Radiating Walls:** It provided 29 radiating walls with text on both sides of the wall. It alternated long (eight-foot tall) and short (six-foot tall) walls. The proposed wall

material was stone or stainless steel. It created 13,580 additional hardscape. The proposed plaza radius was 95'-3". It expanded the circular plaza by 30'-9".

C. Low Walls:

1. Low Walls (three sided): It consisted of low walls with text on an angled horizontal surface. The proposed wall material was stone or stainless steel. It created 13,710 additional hardscape. The proposed plaza radius was 91'-10". It expanded the circular plaza by 24'-7".
 2. Low Walls (two sided): It consisted of low walls with text on an angled horizontal surface. The proposed wall materials included stone and blackened stainless-steel. This alternative resulted in 12,160 square feet of additional hardscape. The plaza radius increased by approximately 23'-10", from 64'-6" to 88'4". It included 714 linear feet for names and 2,620 square feet of text area.
 3. Low Walls (two sided): It consisted of low walls with text on an angled horizontal surface. The proposed wall materials included stone and blackened stainless-steel. This alternative resulted in 10,410 square feet of additional hardscape. The plaza radius increased by approximately 20'-4", from 64'-6" to 84'10". It included 721 linear feet for names and 2,646 square feet of text area.
- D. Korean Flag Trigram Pattern: This alternative provided a series of walls representing the pattern of the trigrams found on the South Korean flag. The walls decreased in height from eight to six feet as you move further from the Pool of Remembrance. The walls were organized in three rows, positioned twelve feet apart. It resulted in 12,000 square feet of additional hardscape.
- E. South Side Area of Remembrance: It consisted of a triangular paved area, similar in size to the Field of Service, located on the south side of the mural wall with a series of walls ranging in height from four to nine feet. The walls would be arranged in a north-south orientation with text on both sides of the wall. The proposed materials were stone or stainless-steel. Additional text could be engraved on the existing blank stone wall. This alternative resulted in 8,695 square feet of additional hardscape and 2,435 square feet of text area.

From the seven alternatives developed, the design team narrowed down to the Low Walls (C.2/C.3) and South Side Area of Remembrance options. NPS ultimately dismissed the South Side Area of Remembrance because it added a separate and distinct "room" to the original memorial with alternate circulation paths. Staff concurs that creating a new space, separate from the existing memorial, is problematic because it diminishes the character of the original memorial and the National Mall. Further, the proposed tall walls would greatly alter views of the existing memorial, as well as the National Mall. Therefore, staff **notes that the National Park Service (NPS) considered several other design concepts for the Wall of Remembrance with differences in height, material, and composition that significantly changed the character of the memorial and the National Mall, created adverse visual impacts, and increased impervious surface. The applicant has selected the "low wall" option as the preferred concept consisting of a low, angled wall surrounding an expanded circular plaza.**

Preferred Design Concept

The submission package focuses on the preferred alternative, which consists of a circular area surrounding the existing Pool of Remembrance defined by a low, angled wall at the edge. The new Wall of Remembrance will add approximately 7,638 square feet of hardscape to the existing memorial, including 1,494 square feet of paths and 6,144 square feet of Wall of Remembrance and paving. The limits of disturbance include 102,000 square feet.

The wall will measure approximately five feet and two inches (5' - 2") in width and three feet and nine inches (3' 9 ¼") in height. The names of the fallen will be located on the sloped wall facing the Pool of Remembrance while additional information will be incorporated on the south side of the existing mural wall. The proposed text consists of 7/16" high letters, arranged in columns that measure four feet and seven inches (4'-7") in height.

The paving around the Pool of Remembrance will be extended as the radius of the plaza will increase by nine feet from 64'-6" to 73'-6". The new paving and wall will be constructed of the same Academy Black granite used in the original memorial. However, the paving will be larger to differentiate the new addition. The wall finish will be polished with the names sandblasted into the finish to maximize the contrast between background and lettering. The granite wall will end at a modestly visible distance above the berm and have a simple granite "mow strip" around the outside as the berm transitions to the grass surrounding the Memorial. The landscape design strategy consists of raising the existing berm from the surrounding site to conceal most of the new wall while retaining views to the space under the linden trees and to the "Freedom is not Free" inscription wall.

As part of the project scope, NPS will rehabilitate the existing memorial. The rehabilitation efforts include repairing paving around the pool, replacing tree grates, repairing joints in and around the fountain, adding a pool water heater, replacing sandblasted country names and casualty curb information with stainless steel letters, refinishing the stainless-steel statues, replacing the juniper in the Field of Service with the originally specified plant material, addressing drainage issues at the west end of the memorial and replacing the existing memorial lighting with LED lamps.

The juniper located in the triangular field of service will be replaced with the dwarf juniper "blue pacific" species that was specified in the original memorial landscape plan. The original species was shorter and provided a better view of the narrow granite bands. NPS is consulting with arborists to limb up the linden trees in order to increase headroom at the memorial. Currently, the space under the canopy provides only six feet of head clearance.

When compared with the other options, the preferred design concept results in the least amount of environmental impacts to the memorial setting, including visual impacts to the memorial and the National Mall. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission **comment favorably on the preferred "low wall" concept because it is consistent with the original memorial design, is integrated into the landscape, and minimizes visual and environmental impacts to the National Mall, while improving access and circulation.**

Circulation

Staff **notes the only formal access to the memorial is from the west via two pathways.** The memorial is oriented towards the Lincoln Memorial. The scale and angle of the walkways attracts visitors walking along Ash Road or Daniel French Drive into the memorial. The primary entry to the memorial extends from the Lincoln Memorial. Additional access is provided through another pathway that extends eastward from French Drive. The existing pathways are approximately 16 feet wide. Both of these paths converge and extend into a circular memorial pool, forming a peninsula. The orientation of the sculptures, located in the field of service, encourage visitors to walk and make eye contact with the soldiers from west to east, reinforcing the arrival experience. The memorial is open and welcoming on the west and closed and secluded on the east. Visitors coming from the Washington Monument and World War II memorial must walk longer as the memorial lacks direct access from the east.

The memorial internal circulation starts at the triangular Field of Service along the United Nations Wall, continues around the circular Pool of Remembrance. Some visitors sit on the benches under the linden trees and walk along the path next to the mural wall, toward Daniel French Drive to the west. The existing pedestrian circulation will be maintained, with the additional option of walking along the Wall of Remembrance.

In order to improve the visitor experience and connectivity among nearby memorials, such as World War II and Martin Luther King, Jr, the design includes two new paths. The paths will be eight feet wide and match the adjacent concrete sidewalks. The new wall will have two breaks at the proposed paths to allow pedestrians access from Ash Road to the north and Independence Avenue to the south without stepping over plant materials, walls, or chains. Therefore, staff **notes that NPS proposes two new connections to the memorial – one from Ash Road to the north and one from Independence Avenue to the south. Both connections would bring visitors directly into the circular Pool of Remembrance.**

Ash Road Connection

Given the proposed US Park Police Stables (USPP) Replacement and Site Improvements (NCPC Project No. 8014) and new comfort station, NPS anticipates that approximately the same number of visitors will arrive from Ash Road and Daniel French Drive. It is difficult to make projections on visitation until the USPP stables project is complete. Staff **finds that the proposed connection from Ash Road would improve the visitor experience and connectivity of the memorial with the surrounding context given Ash Road connects the Korean War Veterans Memorial to nearby memorials and attractions on the National Mall, including the soon-to-be-renovated US Park Police Stables located immediately to the east.**

Independence Avenue Connection

NPS indicated that the proposed southern walkway was needed because visitors walking along Independence Avenue often take a shortcut across the grass to visit the memorial. The walkway also provides an additional exit in case of emergency. Since the proposed wall rises above walking

surface, people could feel trapped if an additional opening on the south side of the memorial is not provided. This path will also facilitate access from the service road. However, given the existing and future circulation patterns in the vicinity of the memorial, staff **finds that the proposed connection from Independence Avenue may have less use because it is located in between the only two crossings on Independence Avenue which already have (or will have with the stables project) formal paths to Ash Road. Visitors would likely follow these two paths to access the memorial from Ash Road as opposed to walking along the more traffic prone Independence Avenue.**

As mention above, the memorial pool area, framed by a formal planting of linden trees, provides a sense of enclosure and reflection. Staff **finds that the two proposed walkways leading directly into the Pool of Remembrance provide symmetry to the design. However, they may alter this quiet and secluded space and the sequence of the existing memorial.**

In order to minimize impacts to the memorial character and setting, staff **requests that NPS further evaluate how many visitors would be likely to access the memorial from the proposed Independence Avenue connection.**

Proposed Wall

One of the project design principles is limiting the area of names to less than the name area on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (VVM). As a result, the applicant conducted a wall surface area analysis to determine the adequate wall area for names at the Wall of Remembrance. The study considered text size, wall length, wall area, text area, and percentage of text of the existing VVM Wall and the proposed Wall of Remembrance concept. Based on the analysis, NPS determined that the text area at the Wall of Remembrance should be less than 2,600 square feet. The analysis assumes that names are arranged in columns rather than running text. The study assumes that Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) names are written in Hangul (Korean alphabet).

The VVM wall lists the names of 58,267 servicemen and women who gave their lives or remain missing in service in the Vietnam Conflict in chronological order. Dedicated in 1982, the simple, V-shaped, sunken wall of polished black granite reflects the images of the surrounding landscape and monuments. The VVM text is approximately 1/2" high. The design team considered different text heights from 5/8" down to 7/16" high. In order to avoid exceeding the text area of VVM, they determined that 1/2" high text was the maximum height that could be provided. The design team determined that by going to 7/16" high text, they could reduce the radius of the wall without significantly impacting the visibility of the names. By reducing the radius, the design also minimized the amount of new hardscape while maintaining an intimate connection between the Wall of Remembrance and the existing Pool of Remembrance.

Text Description	Text Size	Wall Length	Wall Area	Text Area	Percentage of Text
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	.48" high letters, wall height varies Names organized in chronological order of the date of casualty	493 -6"	3,003	2,613	87%
Korean War Veterans Memorial	7/16" high letters, 4 -7" columns Names organized by service and rank	384	2,047	1,760	86%

Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance - Surface Area Analysis

The existing memorial includes two low angled walls, including the 22 United Nations curbstone and the curb that defines an interior edge of the pool which lists the number of the casualties from the war. Initially, the design team determined the angle of the proposed Wall of Remembrance based on the slope of the existing UN curb. The design team adjusted the angle based on full size foam board mockups by testing the visibility from various vantage points, including wheelchairs. The applicant also took into account the visibility of the existing memorial from Ash Road and sought to minimize the height of the proposed wall. Therefore, staff **finds that the proposed low, sloped wall is consistent with the geometry of the existing curbstone walls at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.**

The proposed wall is approximately 3' 9 ¼" tall. The wall will be approximately eight inches higher than the proposed berm. The wall includes a black granite frame around the perimeter. Since the granite wall will be higher than the berm, it will be visible from Ash Road and the Reflective Pool. Therefore, staff **requests that the applicant address the following comments regarding the wall visibility, angle, and finish to improve the preferred concept design:**

- **Consider simplifying the wall profile to soften the transition into the landscape and maintain open views between the existing memorial components and the National Mall.**
- **Provide a mockup on-site of a segment of the proposed wall to evaluate how the reflective finish and angle impact glare and legibility, as well as visual impacts to the memorial and surrounding context.**

Landscape and Visitor Experience

The proposed design minimizes the amount of new hardscape and avoids impacts to existing trees. NPS will continue to study the slope of the berm taking into consideration maintenance equipment.

The memorial landscape design reinforces its formal composition. It is characterized by a commemorative grove, composed of two rows of linden trees around the Pool of Remembrance, that create a circle of pleached trees, and a triangular field of low juniper bushes emerging from the forest. Therefore, staff finds that the proposed landscape design should have a minimal approach and avoid competing with the memorial's formal landscape.

Stormwater Management

The project will disturb 102,000 square feet. As the project will disturb more than 5,000 square feet of land, it will trigger the requirements included in the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) Stormwater Management Guidebook of 2013, as well as Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). As the design evolves, NPS will determine the preferred means of accomplishing stormwater management.

The Federal Environment Element encourages federal agencies to develop stormwater management plans to meet federal and local requirements, and use pervious surfaces and bio-retention facilities, if appropriate to the site, to reduce stormwater runoff and impacts on off-site water quality. Therefore, staff recommends that the applicant **provide a landscape plan at preliminary review that incorporates low impact development features integrated into the proposed berm to comply with federal and local stormwater management regulations.**

The memorial has limited seating opportunities given the size of the overall memorial site. There are currently seven benches under the pleached linden trees. In order to improve the visitor experience, staff recommends that the applicant provide benches along the proposed walkway that connects to Ash Road to improve the visitor experience, if possible, in areas of shade.

Other Comments

Lighting

The lighting design for the Wall of Remembrance is ongoing and will be provided during preliminary review. NPS is currently looking at a couple of approaches: an overhead approach consisting of tall poles and a more integral approach where the lighting is integrated into the proposed wall. Staff recommends a more integral lighting approach and requests that the applicant **provide a lighting plan and night views of the proposed wall consistent with the memorial design that respects the hierarchy of memorials, monuments, and important civic buildings and spaces in the nation's capital, with the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument the most prominent features in the nighttime skyline.**

South Side of Mural Wall

According to the submission materials, the names of the fallen will be on the sloped wall facing the Pool of Remembrance while additional information will be incorporated on the south side of the existing mural wall.

On the south side of the mural wall, NPS is proposing to include additional information about the Korean War, including the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA), the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command. NPS is also proposing to include the United Nations Security Council Resolution as well as excerpts from the Armistice.

At this early stage, NPS does not know the exact text that will be etched on the south side of the mural wall, but they are planning on displaying the information within the 20 feet area that falls within the circular plaza. The mural wall is composed of a series of four-foot wide panels. The 20-foot allowance would provide a panel gap between the proposed text and the Wall of Remembrance and a panel gap between the text and the existing dedication panel. Therefore, staff requests that the applicant provide **details showing the proposed improvements to the back side of the existing mural wall and how the Wall of Remembrance will terminate at the mural wall.**

The existing memorial has a clear front and a back face. The back of the memorial facing Independence Avenue is characterized by blank walls and a green buffer. As the design evolves, staff recommends that the applicant **provide eye-level views from Independence Avenue looking north to better understand the impacts of the proposed design.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

As noted above, this project meets basic goals of the Comprehensive Plan. In particular, the Urban Design, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Visitor and Commemoration, and Parks and Open Space Elements. The Urban Design element encourages agencies to respect the National Mall's historic open space and monumental character for the benefit of future generations. The proposed design minimally increases the circular plaza to protect the experience of the National Mall as a public space within a parklike setting. The low wall respects existing lines of sight from the National Mall and the existing memorial. The project will increase access to a major destination.

The Historic Preservation Element encourages federal agencies to protect the settings, including viewsheds, greenspaces, and tree canopies, of historic properties, as integral parts of the property's historic character. The proposed Wall of Remembrance is compatible with the qualities and character of the existing memorial and the National Mall. The Visitors and Commemoration Element encourages agencies to enhance visual and functional connections to visitor attractions through well designed pathways, streetscaping, and programming. The proposed pathways will

improve access and circulation. In addition, the project is consistent with policies that encourage agencies to design commemorative works with durable materials and sustainable landscape features.

Lastly, the Parks and Open Space Element contains policies that aim to consider the original design intent when making adaptations or improvements to designed landscapes, and maintain and improve a strong physical and/or visual connectivity with the surrounding context. The proposed Wall of Remembrance is consistent with the original memorial design.

National Mall Plan

The project is generally consistent with the National Mall Plan, which was approved by the Commission in December 2010, because it will improve circulation. The National Mall plan proposed widening the walkways on the west side of the memorial to accommodate changing circulation patterns and group visitation.

Commemorative Works Act

The Commemorative Works Act (CWA) states that in considering site and design proposals, NCPC shall be guided by the following criteria: 1) surroundings, 2) location, 3) material, 4) landscape features, 5) museums, 6) site-specific guidelines, and 7) donor contributions. The applicable criteria for this proposal relate to materials and landscape. Based on the CWA, a commemorative work shall be constructed of durable materials suitable to the outdoor environment, while landscape features shall be compatible with the climate. Staff will continue to evaluate the design against these criteria as the design evolves.

National Historic Preservation Act

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a contributing site to the National Mall Historic District and is also within the boundaries of the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District. Both districts are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. NCPC and NPS each have an independent responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NPS formally initiated Section 106 consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office on August 5, 2019. Section 106 is ongoing.

National Environmental Policy Act

NCPC and NPS each have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); NCPC's responsibility stems from its approval authority over the project. Pursuant to Section 601.12 of NCPC's NEPA Regulations, NCPC staff has tentatively determined that the project could likely be categorically excluded from further environmental analysis based on categorical exclusion #2, which pertains to the "approval of the installation or restoration of minor site elements, such as but not limited to identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, curbs, retaining walls, landscaping, and trail or stream improvements." Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary

circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA Regulations under § 601.11. NPS will likely use a categorical exclusion. If an EA is warranted, scoping will initiate during the winter 2019/2020.

CONSULTATION

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

On September 14, 2011 the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) reviewed the legislation to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. As required under CWA, NPS will consult with the NCMAC on the memorial design in winter or spring 2020.

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its September 11, 2019 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed comments on concept plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the US General Services Administration; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the District Department of Energy and Environment.

The SHPO is coordinating on this project subject to completion of the Section 106 review process. DOEE requested that the applicant contact the agency to understand any stormwater management and floodplain requirements. The Committee noted that additional information should be requested from the applicant regarding the wall lighting, and the angle and height of the wall in relation to future public use, such as paper rubbings.

NPS has indicated that visitors will be allowed to interact with the names and make rubbings. Similar to the VVM, some portions of the wall will not be within reach. NPS will not be able to regularly station a ranger at the memorial to assist visitors.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

At its meeting on September 19, 2019, the US Commission of Fine Arts reviewed and approved the concept design for the Modifications to the Korean War Veterans Memoria for a Wall of Remembrance. A copy of the CFA letter is attached.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Vivian Lee
09/26/2019

ATTACHMENTS

- Powerpoint
- Commission of Fine Arts Letter

Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance

Independence Avenue and Daniel French Drive, SW, Washington DC

Approval of Comments on Concept Plans

National Park Service

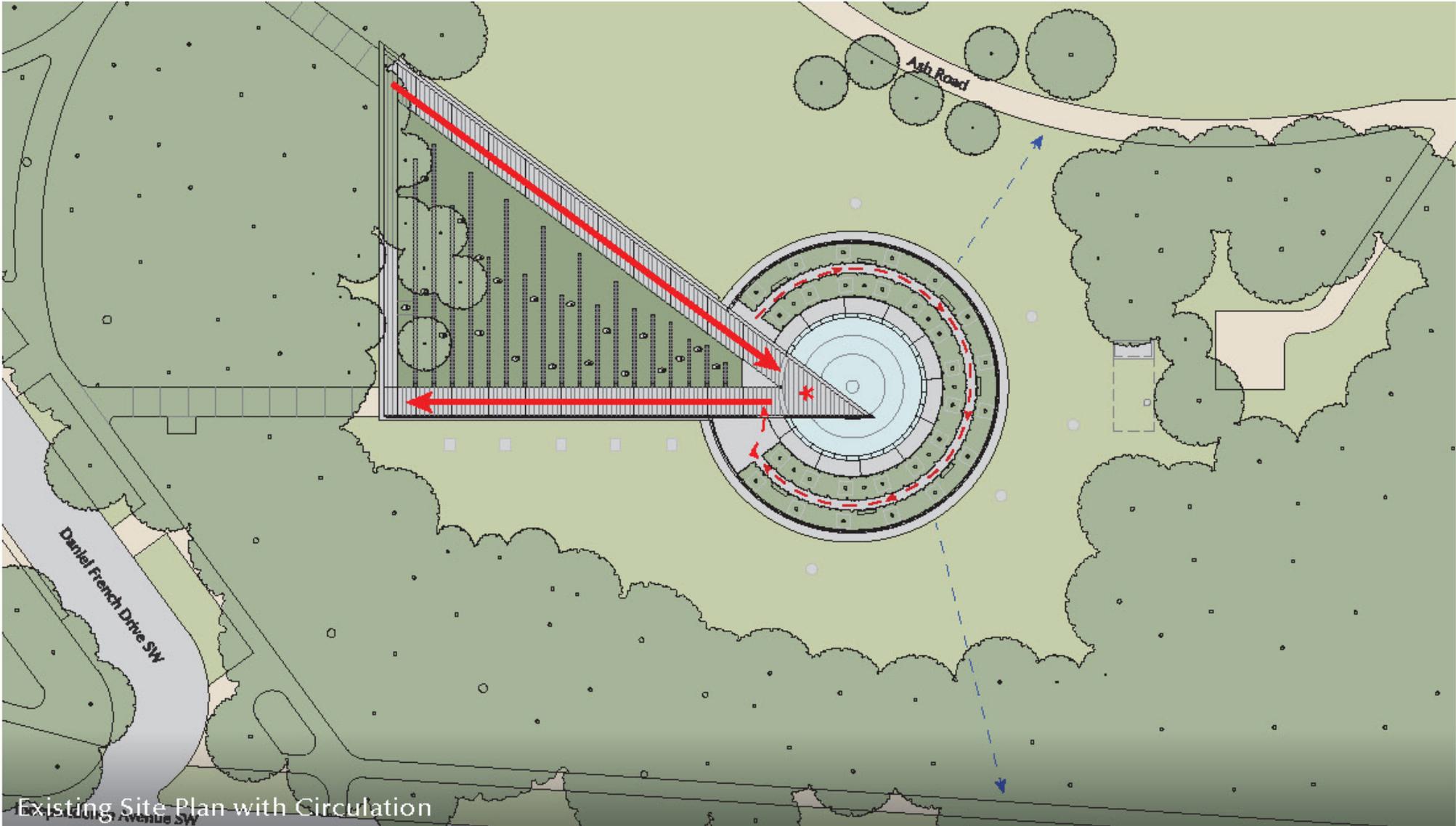
Location



Vicinity Map

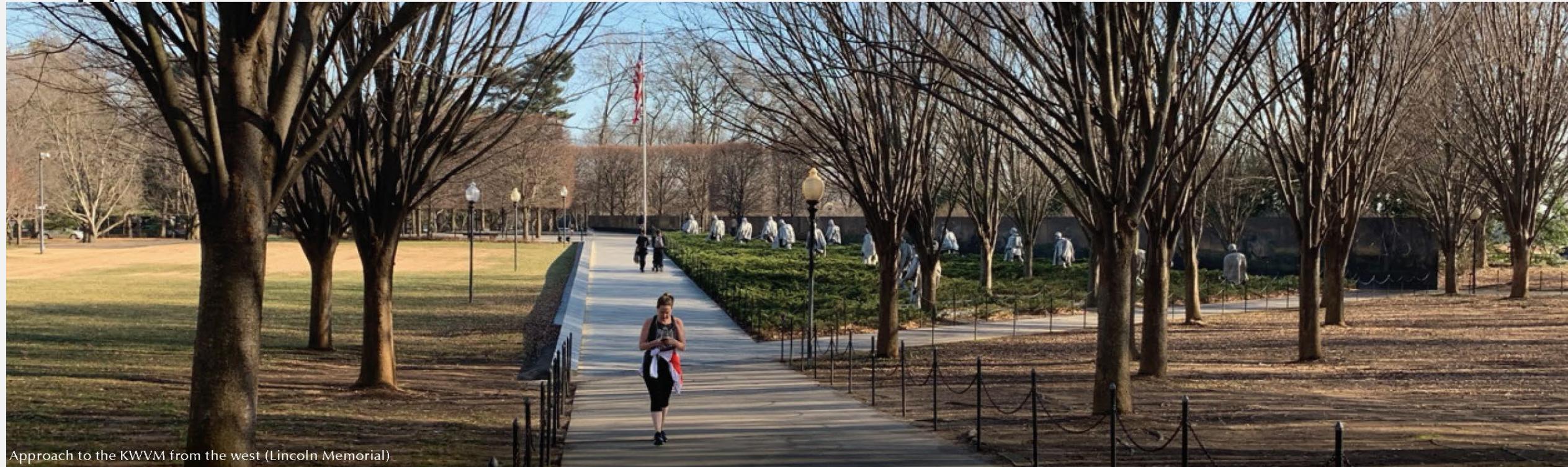


Existing Circulation



Existing Site Plan with Circulation

Approach to the KWVM



Approach to the KWVM from the west (Lincoln Memorial)

Existing Conditions



Pool of Remembrance



Plaza and benches under linden tree grove



Soldiers in the Field of Service

Existing Conditions



View from Northwest Memorial Entry



View from North Pathway Looking South



View of Pool of Remembrance



View from Pool of Remembrance Looking West



View from Ash Road



View from Southwest Memorial Entry

Existing Conditions



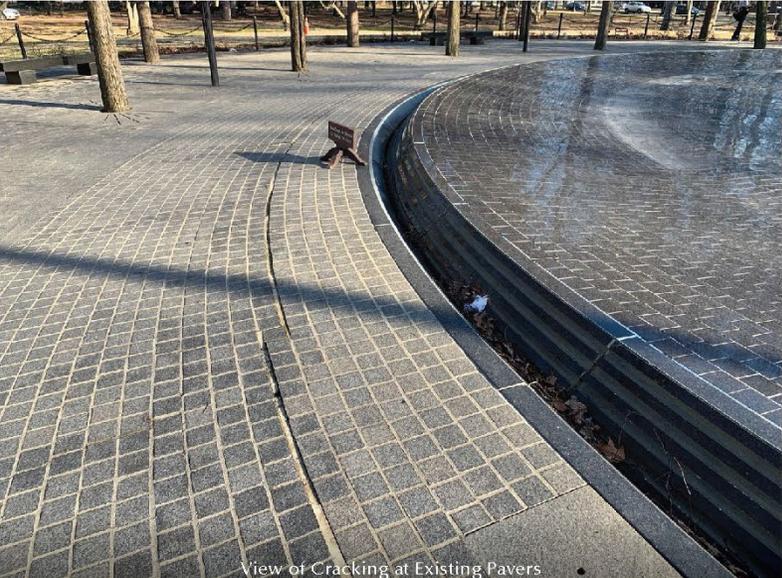
View of Southwest Memorial Entry



View from Independence Avenue Looking North



View from Ash Road Looking South



View of Cracking at Existing Pavers

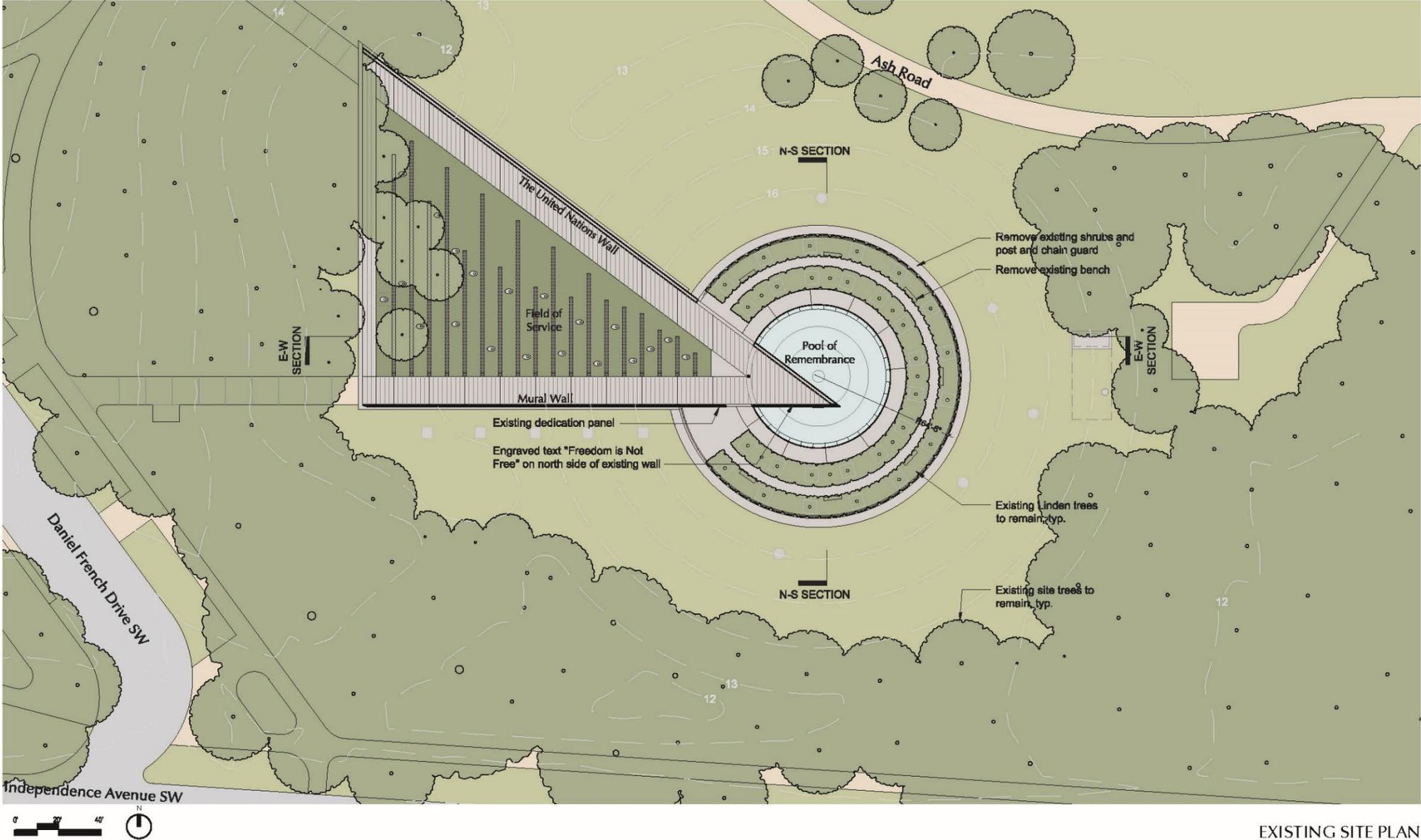


View of Cracking at Existing Pavers



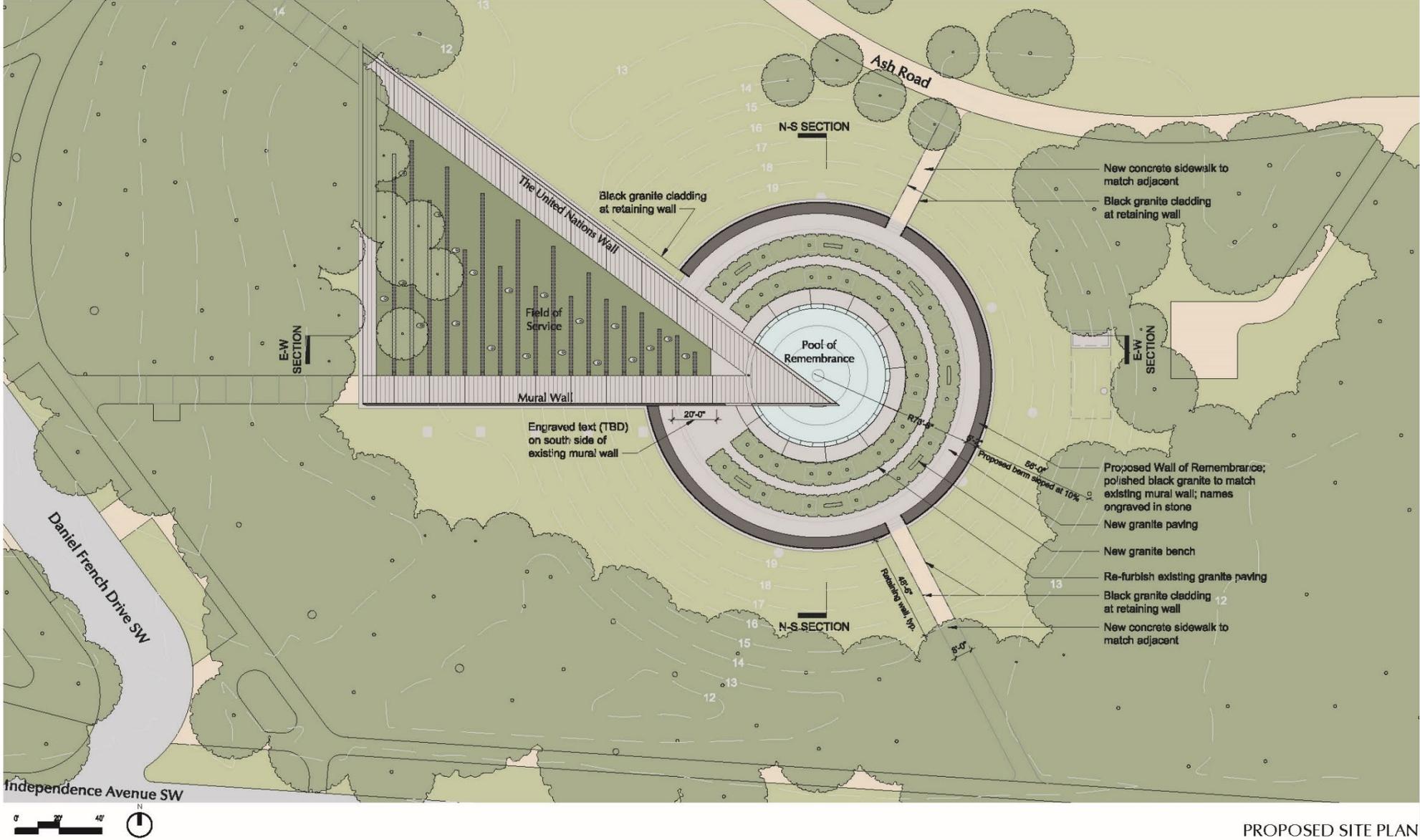
View of South Side of Existing Memorial Wall

Existing Site Plan



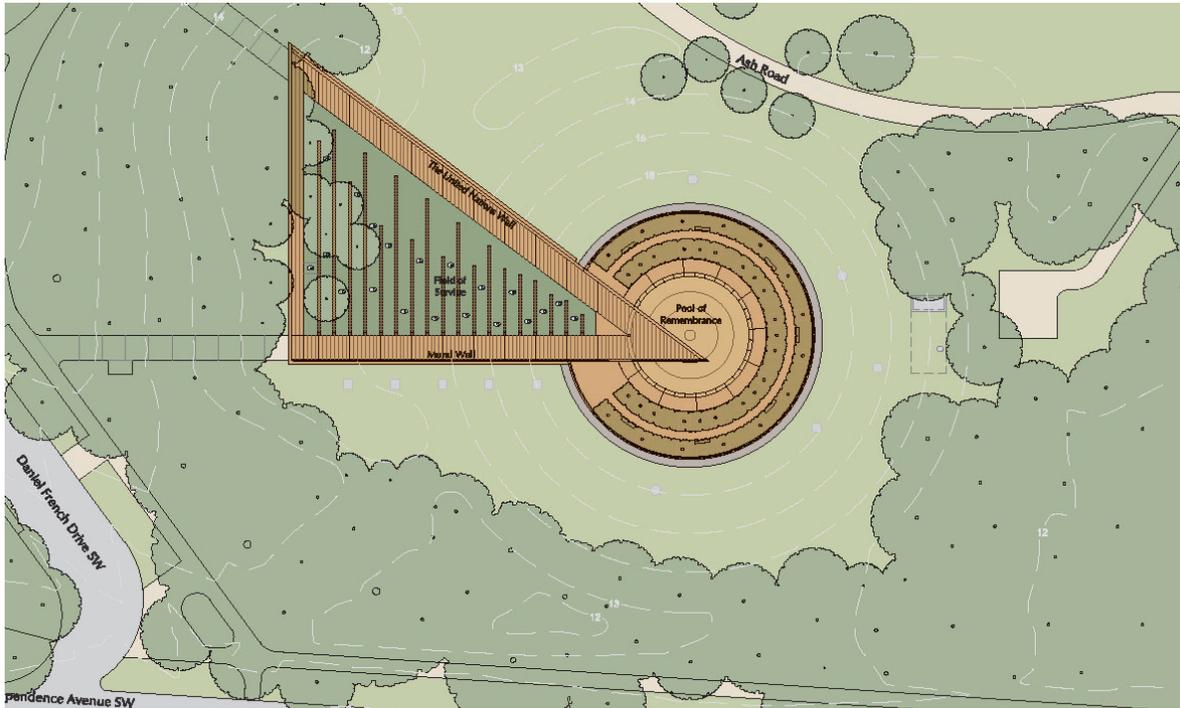
EXISTING SITE PLAN

Proposed Site Plan

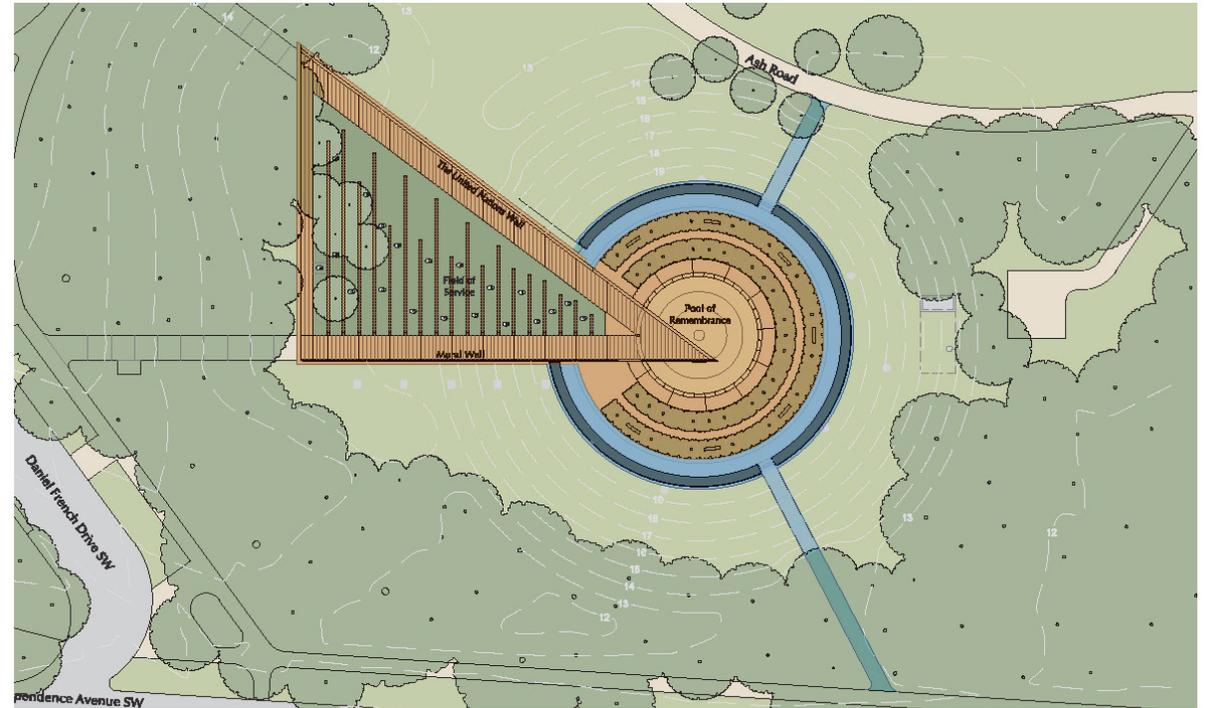


PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Impervious Area Diagrams



EXISTING SITE PLAN



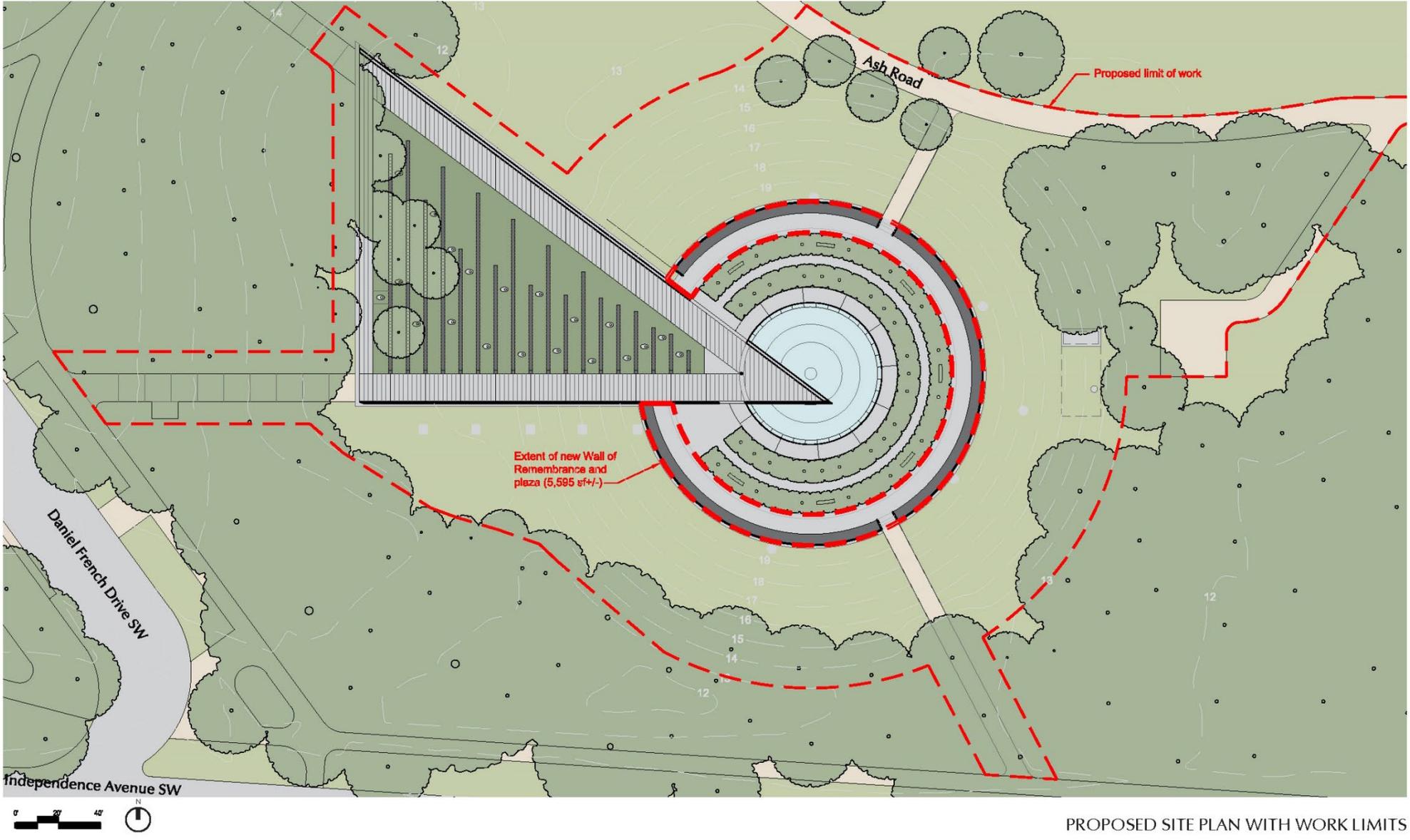
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

IMPERVIOUS AREA CALCULATIONS		
	EXISTING AREA	20,422 SF
	ADDITIONAL AREA (PROPOSED)	7,638 SF
	<i>PATHS</i>	1,494 SF
	<i>WALL OF REMEMBRANCE AND PAVING</i>	6,144 SF
	TOTAL IMPERVIOUS AREA	28,060 SF



IMPERVIOUS AREA DIAGRAMS

Proposed Site Plan with Works Limits



Surface Area Analysis



Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance - Surface Area Analysis

8/30/2019

TEXT DESCRIPTION	WALL LENGTH	WALL AREA	TEXT AREA	PERCENTAGE OF TEXT
Vietnam Veterans Memorial (.48" high letters)*	493'-6"	3,003	2,613	87%
Korean War Veterans Memorial Options				
<i>Low, Angled Wall Schemes</i>				
1 7/16" high letters, 4'-7" columns***, name only	378'	2,015	1,732	86%
2 7/16" high letters, 4'-7" columns, names organized by service & rank	384'	2,047	1,760	86%
3 7/16" high letters, 4'-7" columns, US+KATUSA integrated**, organized by service & rank	435'	2,320	1,994	86%
4 1/2" high letters, 3'-8" columns, name only	626'	2,504	2,297	92%
5 1/2" high letters, 5'-7" columns, name only	438'	2,628	2,446	93%
6 1/2" high letters, 3'-8" columns, names organized by service & rank	639'	2,556	2,345	92%
7 1/2" high letters, 3'-8" columns, US+KATUSA integrated**, organized by service & rank	728'	2,912	2,672	92%
<i>Vertical Wall Schemes</i>				
8 5/8" high letters, 5'-6" columns, rank+name+service	800'	6,400	4,400	69%
9 5/8" high letters, 6'-6" columns, rank+name+service	676'	5,408	4,394	81%
10 5/8" high letters, 5'-6" columns, name only	649'	5,192	3,570	69%
11 5/8" high letters, 6'-6" columns, name only	559'	4,472	3,634	81%

*Wall height of Vietnam Veterans Memorial varies.

**All options assume that Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) names are written out in Hangul (not Roman alphabet letters) with the exception of options 3 and 7. All options assume that KATUSA names will be grouped separately and organized by service and rank, except for options 3 and 7. Options 3 and 7 assume that both US names and KATUSA names are written out in Roman alphabet letters and integrated with each other. Note that arrangement and grouping of names is conceptual only.

*** This analysis assumes that names are arranged in columns rather than running text.

Surface Area Analysis Tabulation



Note: This is showing the current design concept. Font selection, layout of names, and indication of rank and service is still pending.



United States Killed in Action

Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA)

ENLARGED ELEVATION SHOWING LIST OF NAMES

Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance - Surface Area Analysis

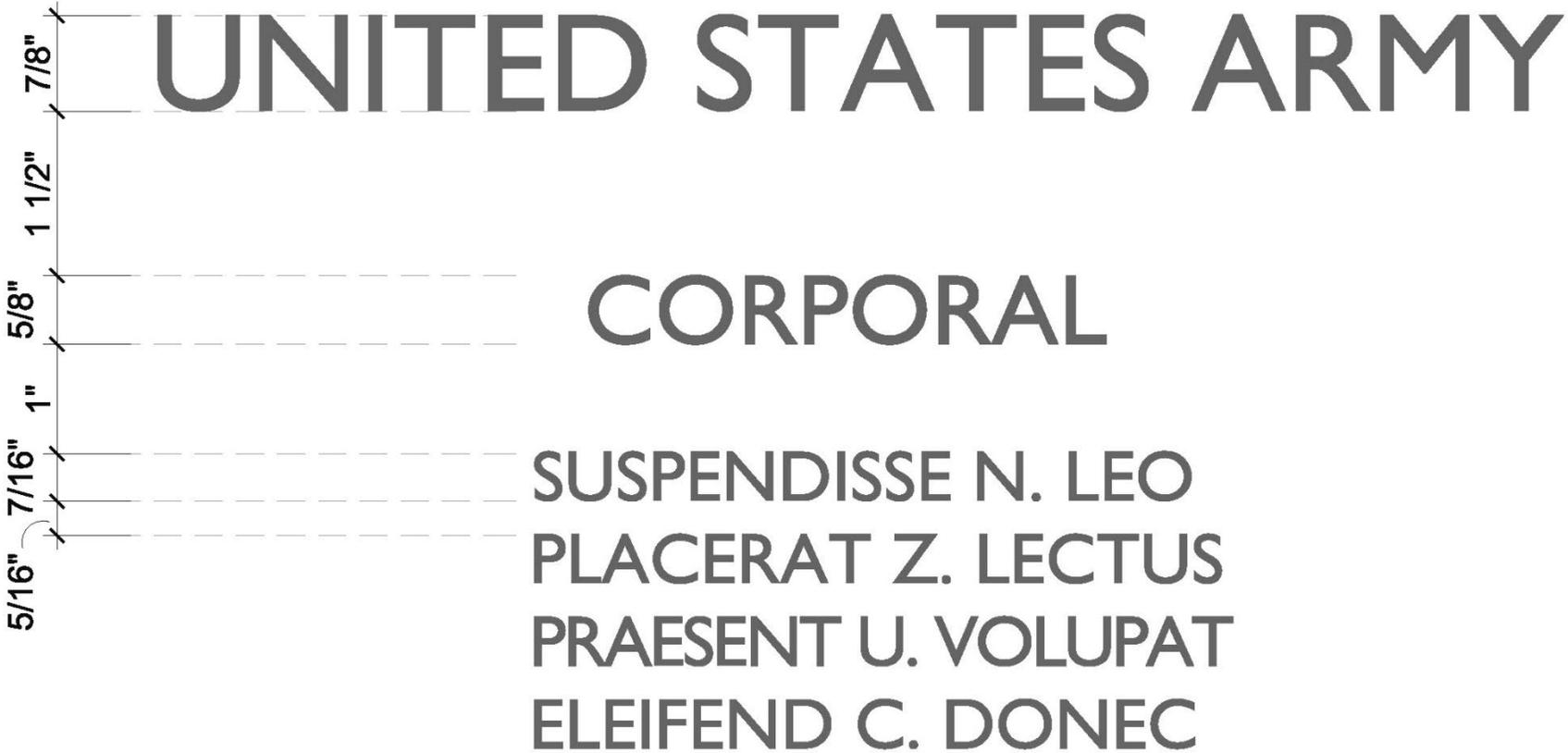
8/30/2019

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Proposed basis of design →

*Wall height of Vietnam Veterans Memorial varies.
 **All options assume that Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) names are written out in Hangeul (not Roman alphabet letters) with the exception of options 3 and 7. All options assume that KATUSA names will be grouped separately and organized by service and rank, except for options 3 and 7. Options 3 and 7 assume that both US names and KATUSA names are written out in Roman alphabet letters and integrated with each other. Note that arrangement and grouping of names is conceptual only.
 *** This analysis assumes that names are arranged in columns rather than running text.

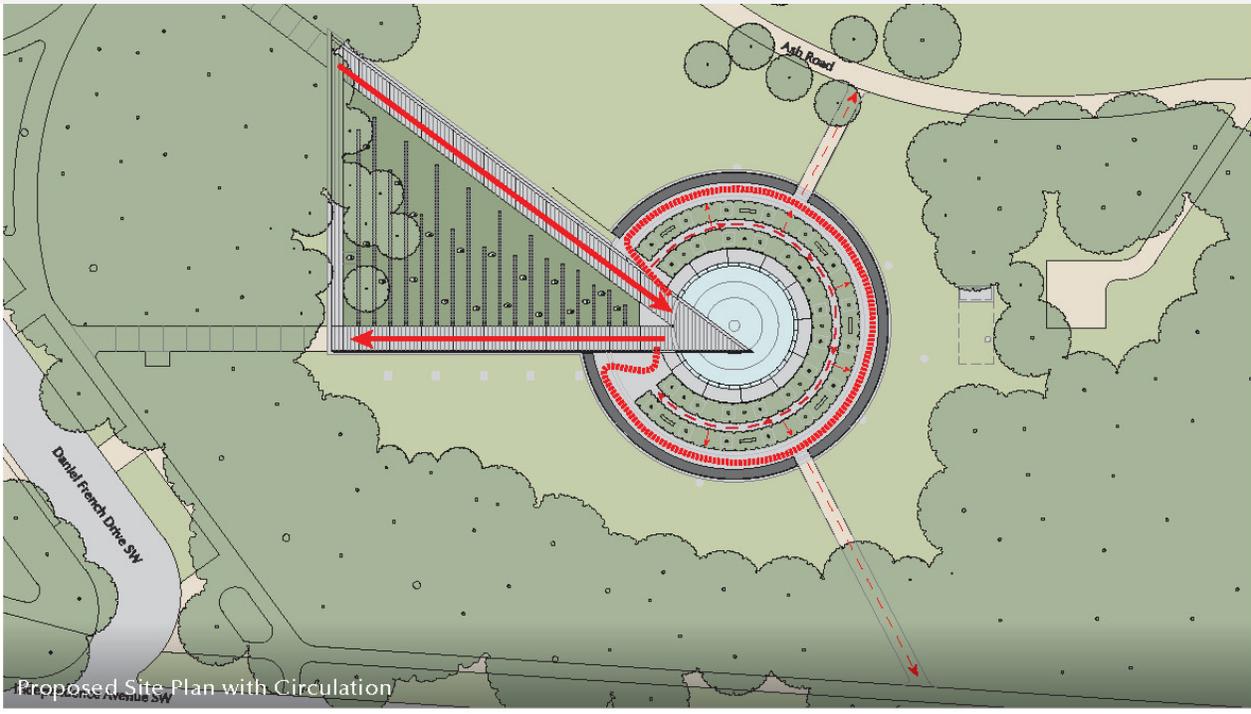
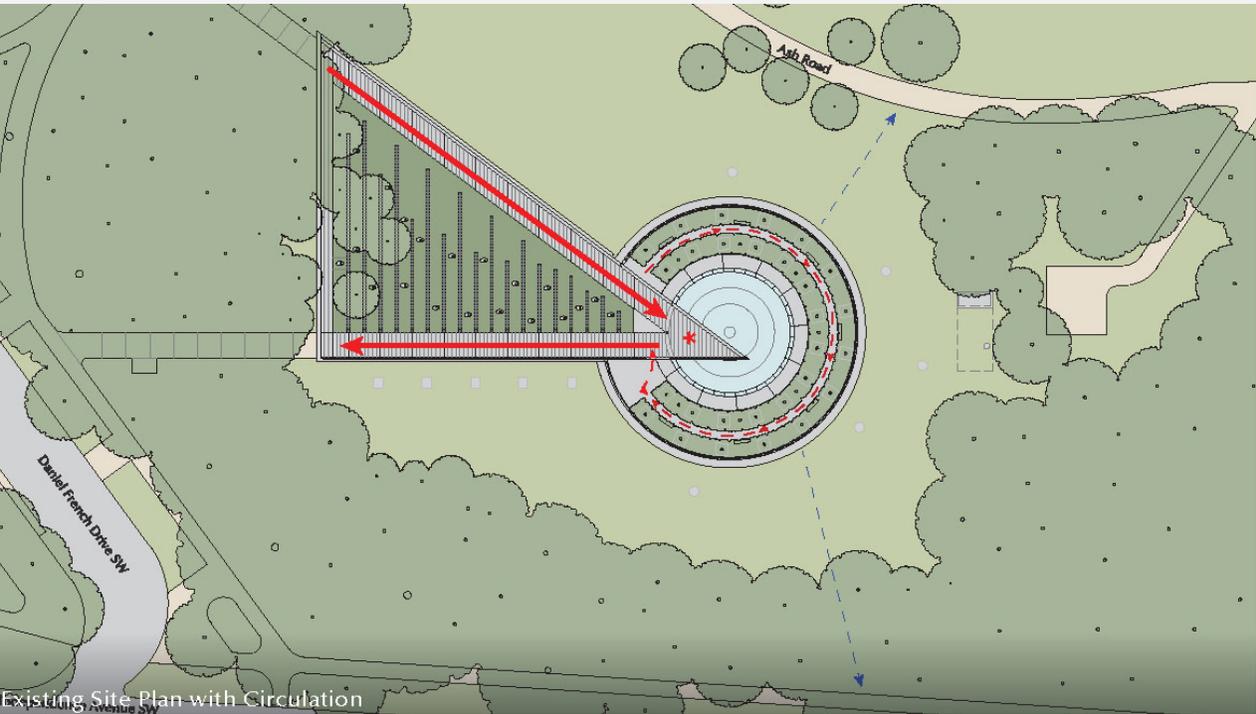
Full Size Example of Text



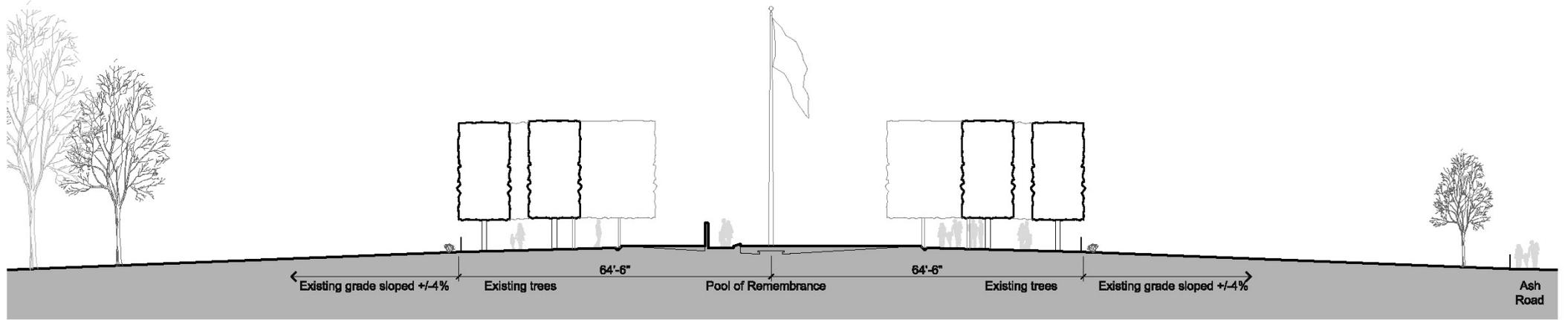
Note: This is showing the current design concept. Font selection, layout of names, and indication of rank and service is still pending.

FULL SIZE EXAMPLE OF TEXT

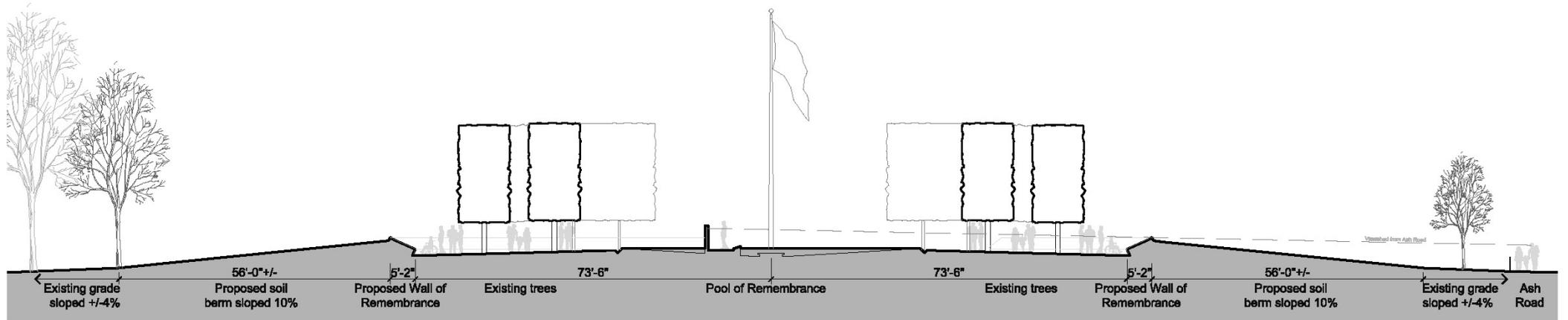
Existing and Proposed Circulation



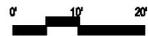
North-South Sections



EXISTING

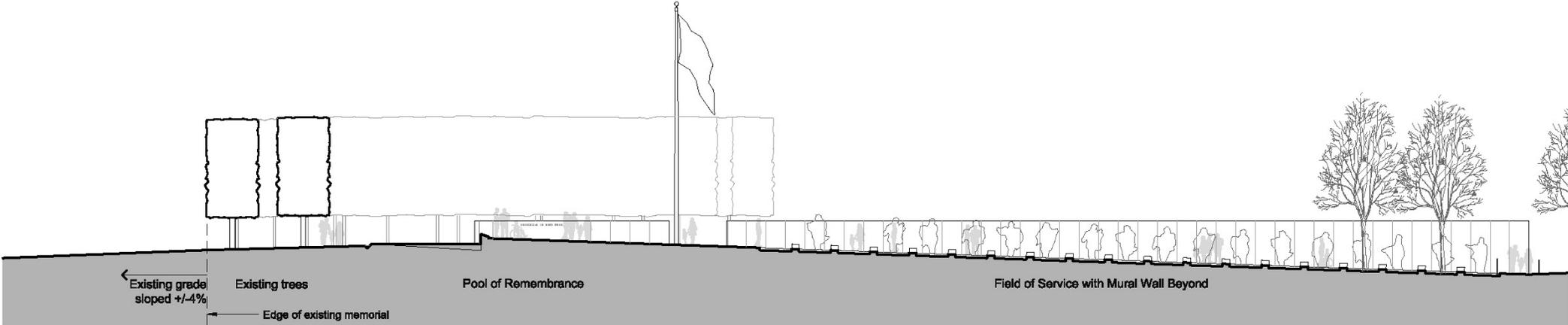


PROPOSED

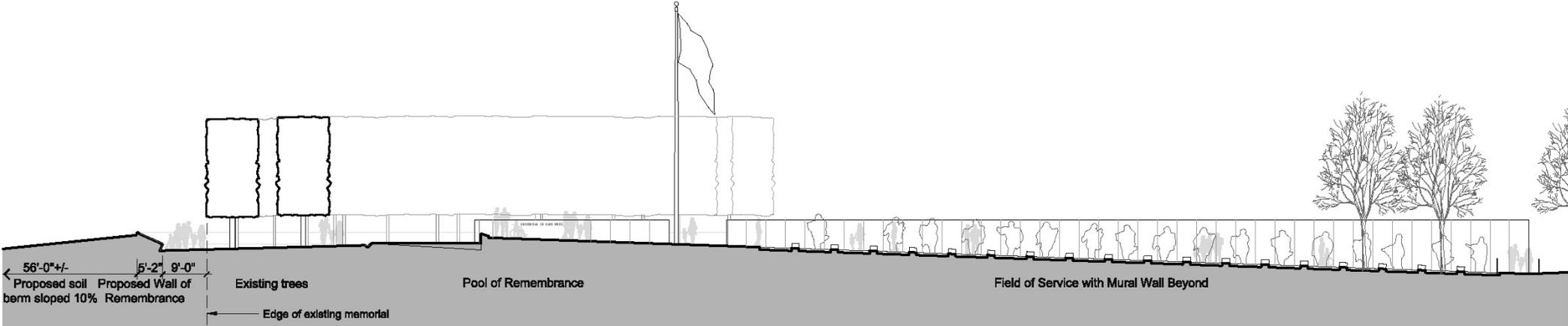


NORTH-SOUTH SITE SECTIONS THROUGH POOL OF REMEMBRANCE

East-West Sections



EXISTING

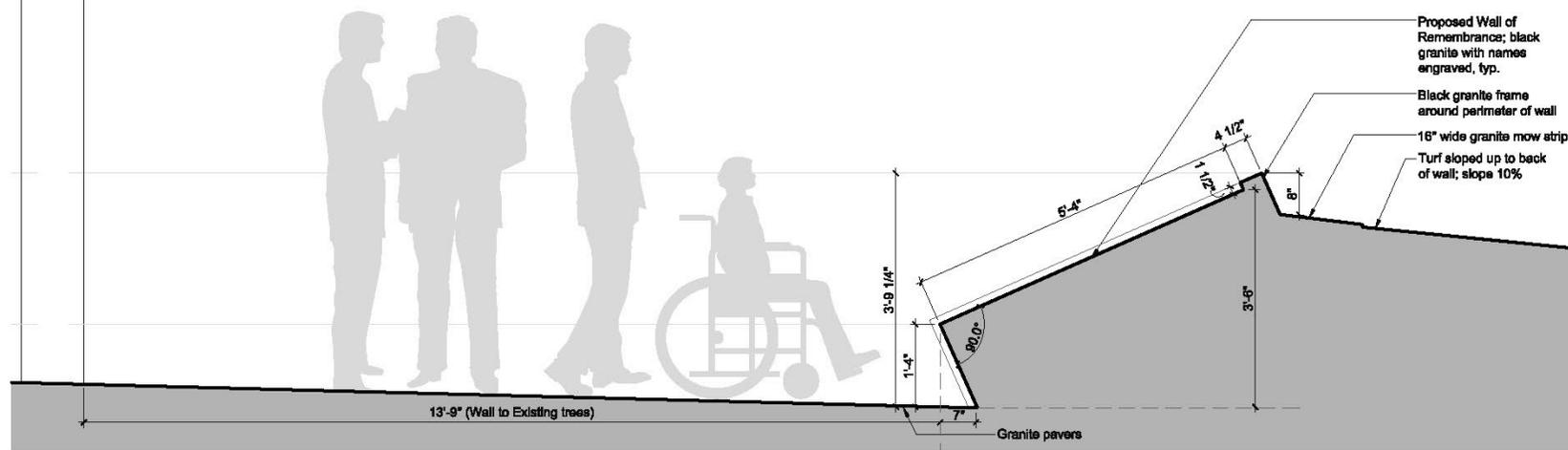


PROPOSED



EAST-WEST SITE SECTIONS

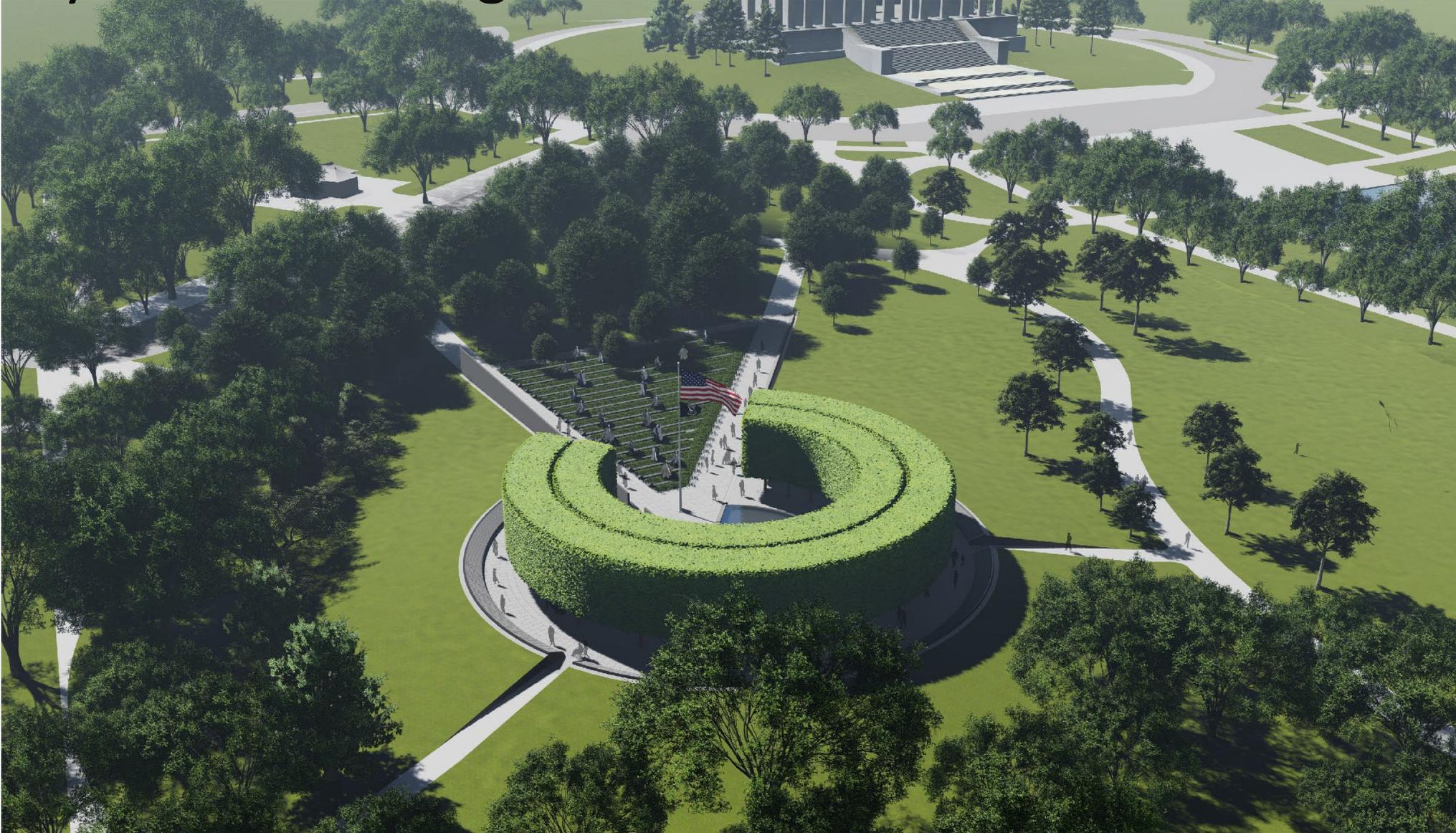
View of Engraved Names



PROPOSED SECTION THROUGH WALL OF REMEMBRANCE



Bird's Eye View Looking West



Bird's Eye View Looking East



View from Northwest Memorial Entry



View from Pool of Remembrance Looking North



View from within Wall of Remembrance



View from within Wall of Remembrance



View from Pool of Remembrance Looking West



View from Southwest Memorial Entry



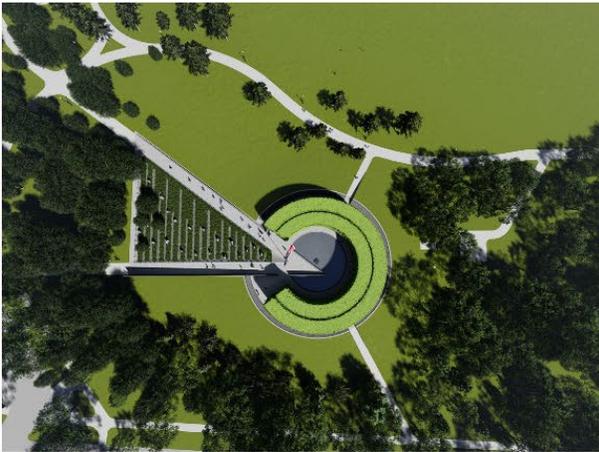
View from Ash Road



View from Ash Road



Solar Studies



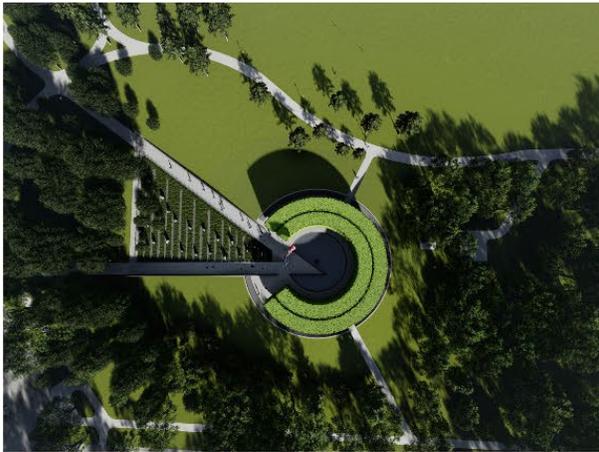
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JUNE 20 10:30AM



SEPTEMBER 23 10:30AM



DECEMBER 21 10:30AM



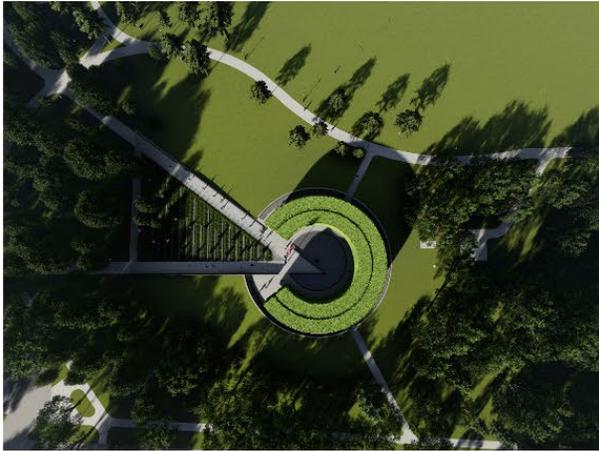
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JUNE 20 2:30PM

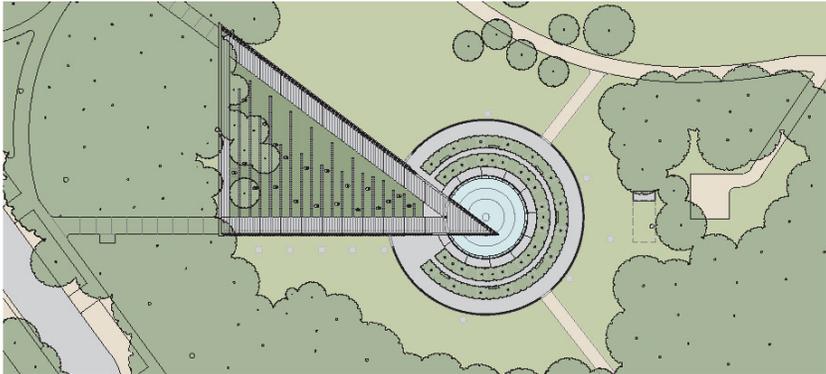


SEPTEMBER 23 2:30PM

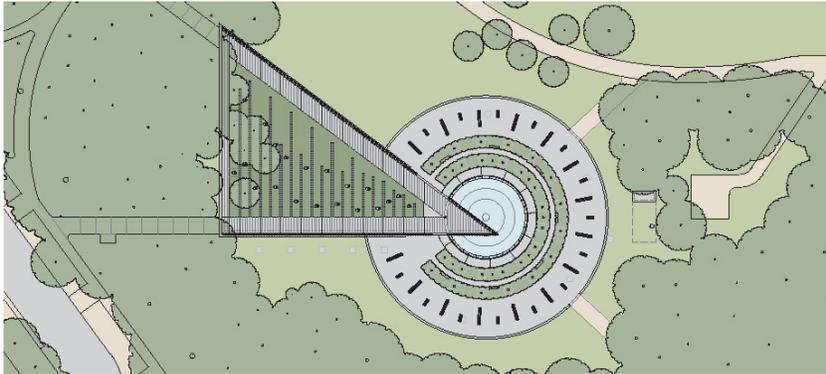


DECEMBER 21 2:30PM

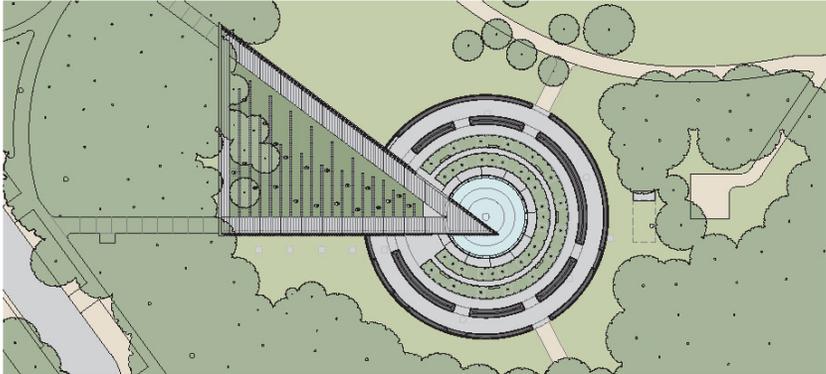
Design Options



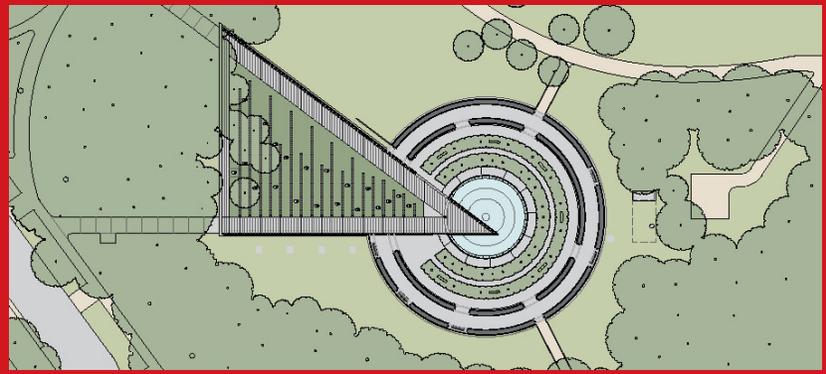
OPTION A.1 - Glass Wall



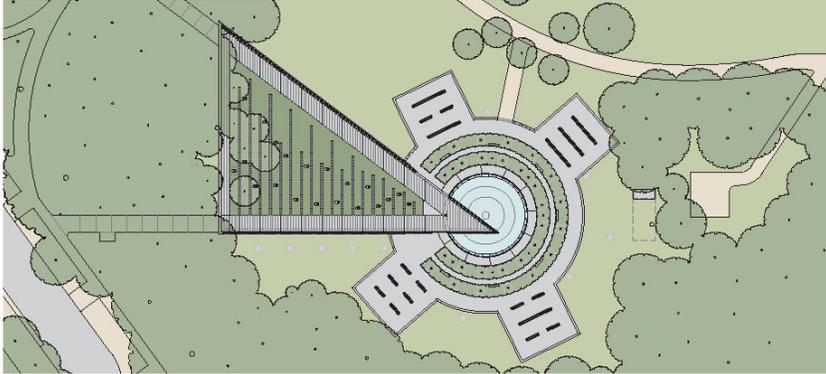
OPTION B.1 - Radiating Walls



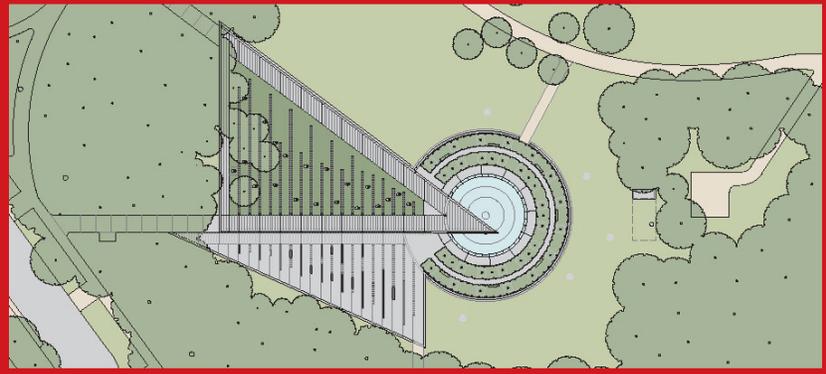
OPTION C.1 - Low Walls (Three Sided)



OPTION C.2 & C.3 - Low Walls (Two Sided)

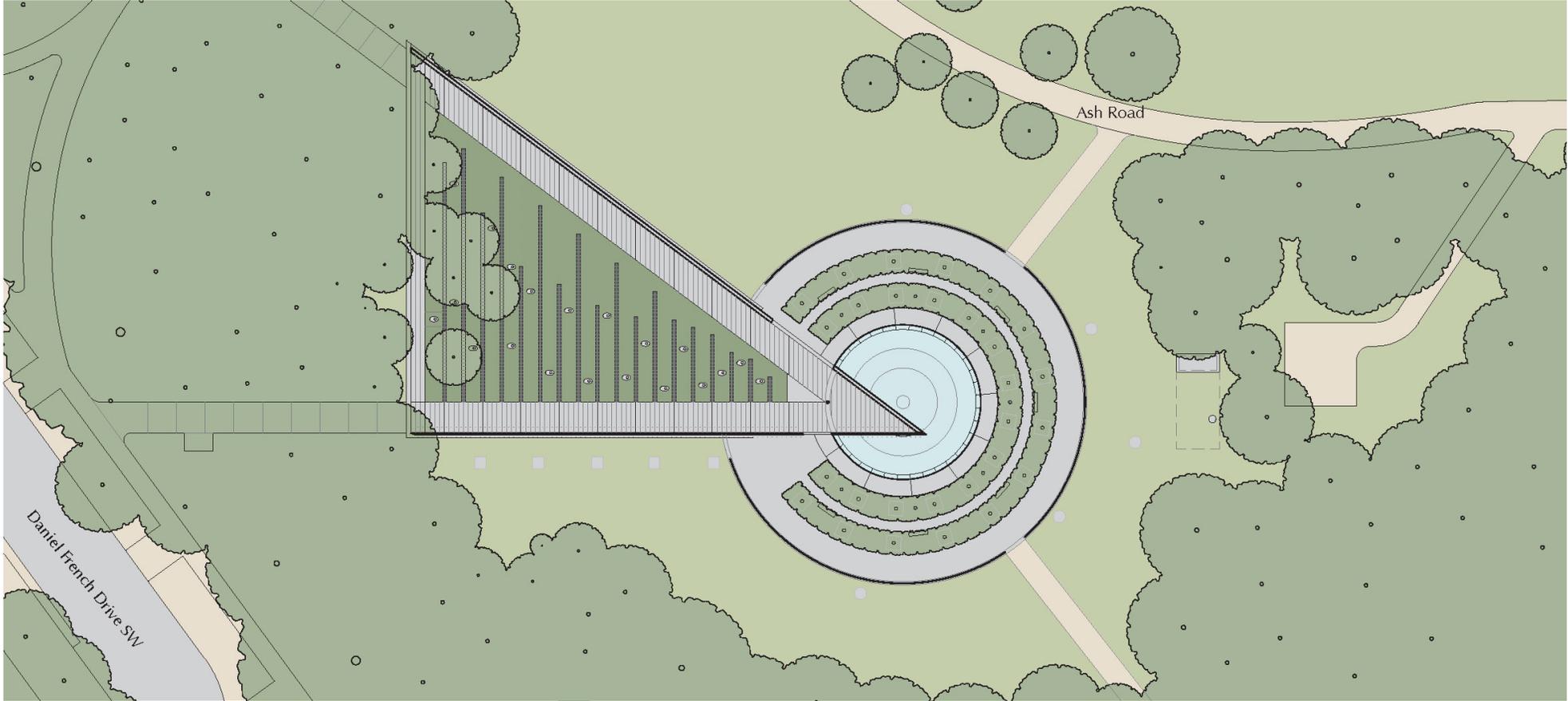


OPTION D.1 - Korean Flag Trigram Pattern

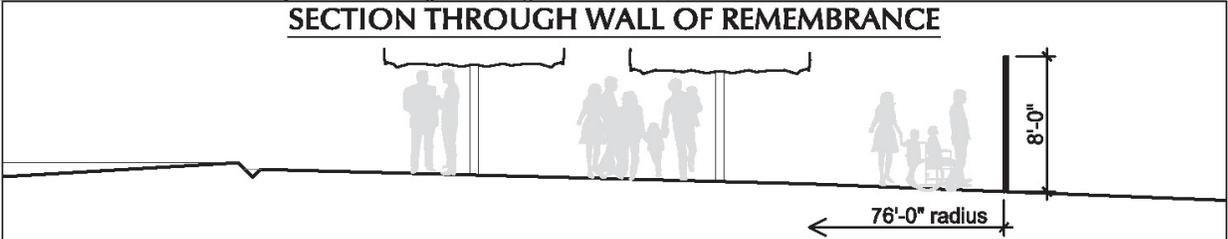


OPTION E.1 - South Side Area of Remembrance (Walls Oriented North-South)

Design Option: A1 – Glass Wall



- SUMMARY**
- One-sided, 8' tall glass wall
 - 1/2" text extending to down to 12" above grade
 - Openings provided for egress to pathways
 - Additional hardscape: 4,810 sf, Wall radius: 76'
 - Disadvantage: Visual impact on existing memorial



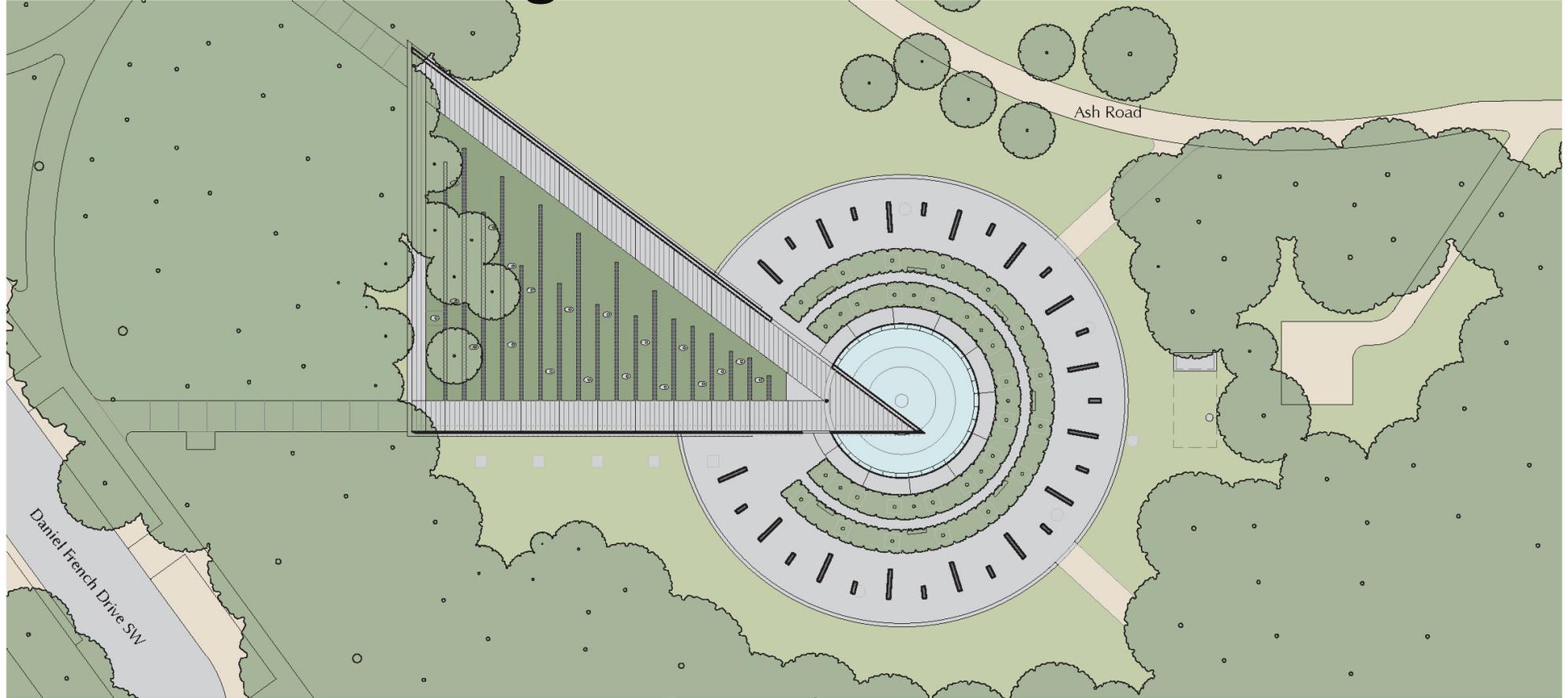
OPTION A.1 - GLASS WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

Design Option: A1 – Glass Wall



RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION A.1

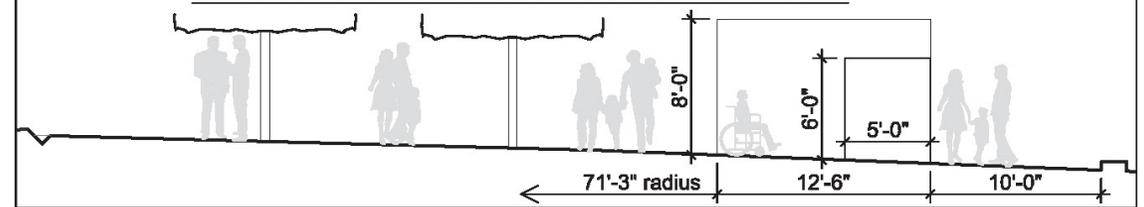
Design Option: B1 – Radiating Wall



SUMMARY

- Radiating walls with text on both sides of wall
- Longer walls are 8' tall, shorter walls are 6' tall
- Constructed of stone or stainless steel
- Multiple openings to allow for views of the Mall and connections to pathways
- Additional hardscape: 13,580 sf; Radius of hardscape: 95'-3"
- Disadvantage: Strong visual impact could detract from existing memorial

SECTION THROUGH WALL OF REMEMBRANCE



OPTION B.1 - RADIATING WALLS

Design Option: B1 – Radiating Wall



Birdseye View Looking West



Birdseye View Looking East



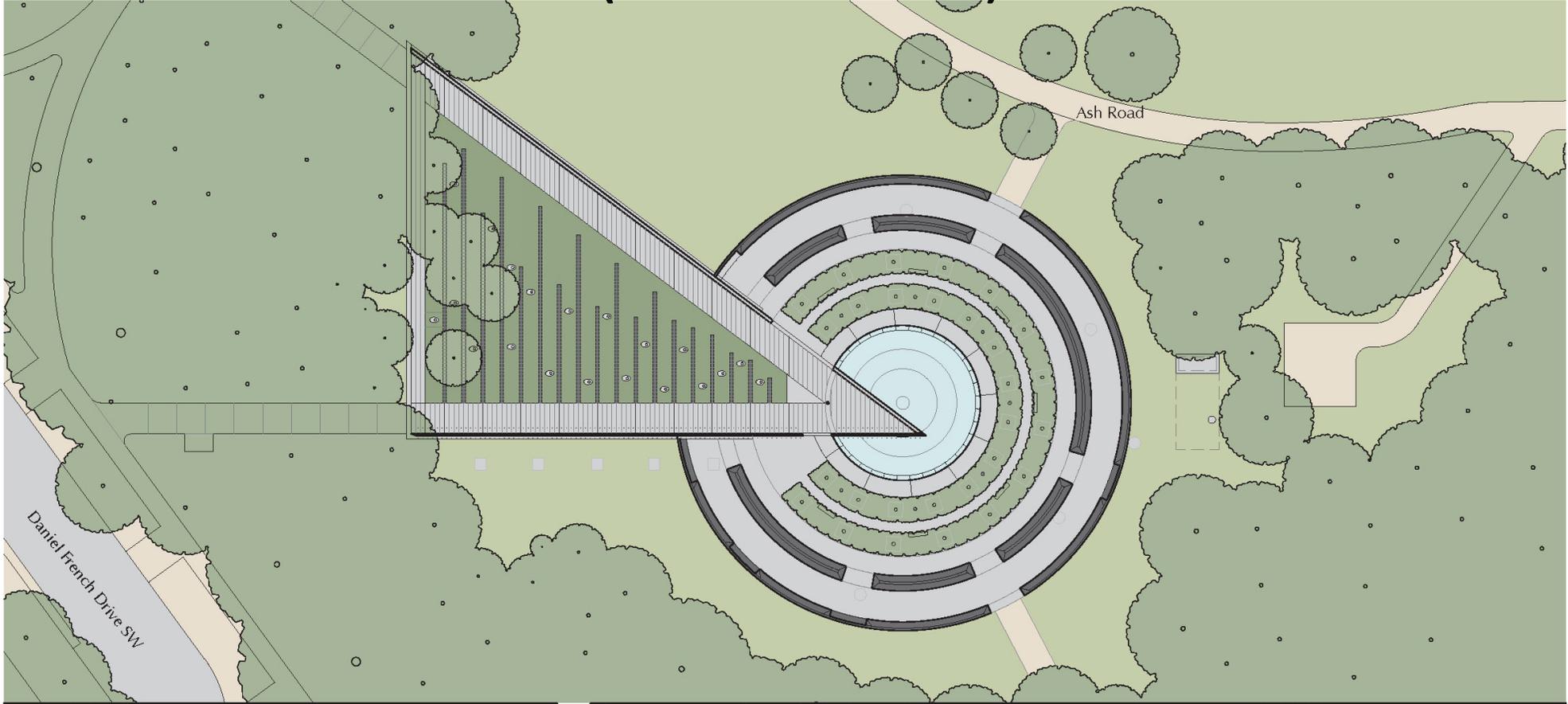
View from Northwest Memorial Entry



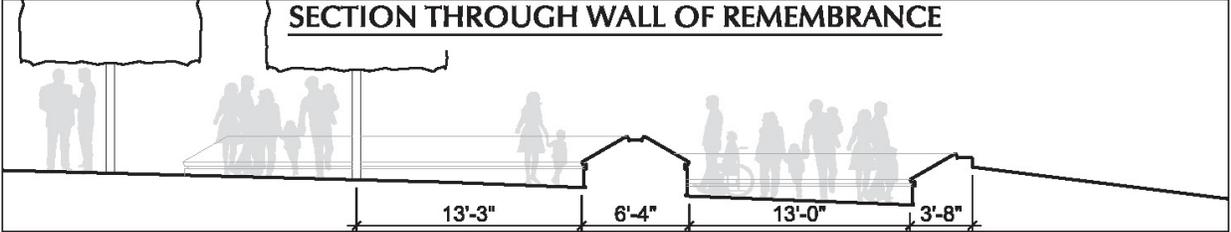
View from Ash Road

RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION B.1

Design Option: C1 – Low Walls (Three Sided)



- SUMMARY**
- Low walls with text on an angled horizontal surface
 - Constructed of stone or stainless steel
 - Additional hardscape: 13,710 sf, Radius at inner ring: 72'-6", Radius at outer ring: 91'10"
 - Walls are low enough that there is minimal visual impact to views of Mall and experience of original memorial



OPTION C.1 - LOW WALLS (THREE SIDED)

Design Option: C1 – Low Walls (Three Sided)



Birdseye View Looking West



Birdseye View Looking East



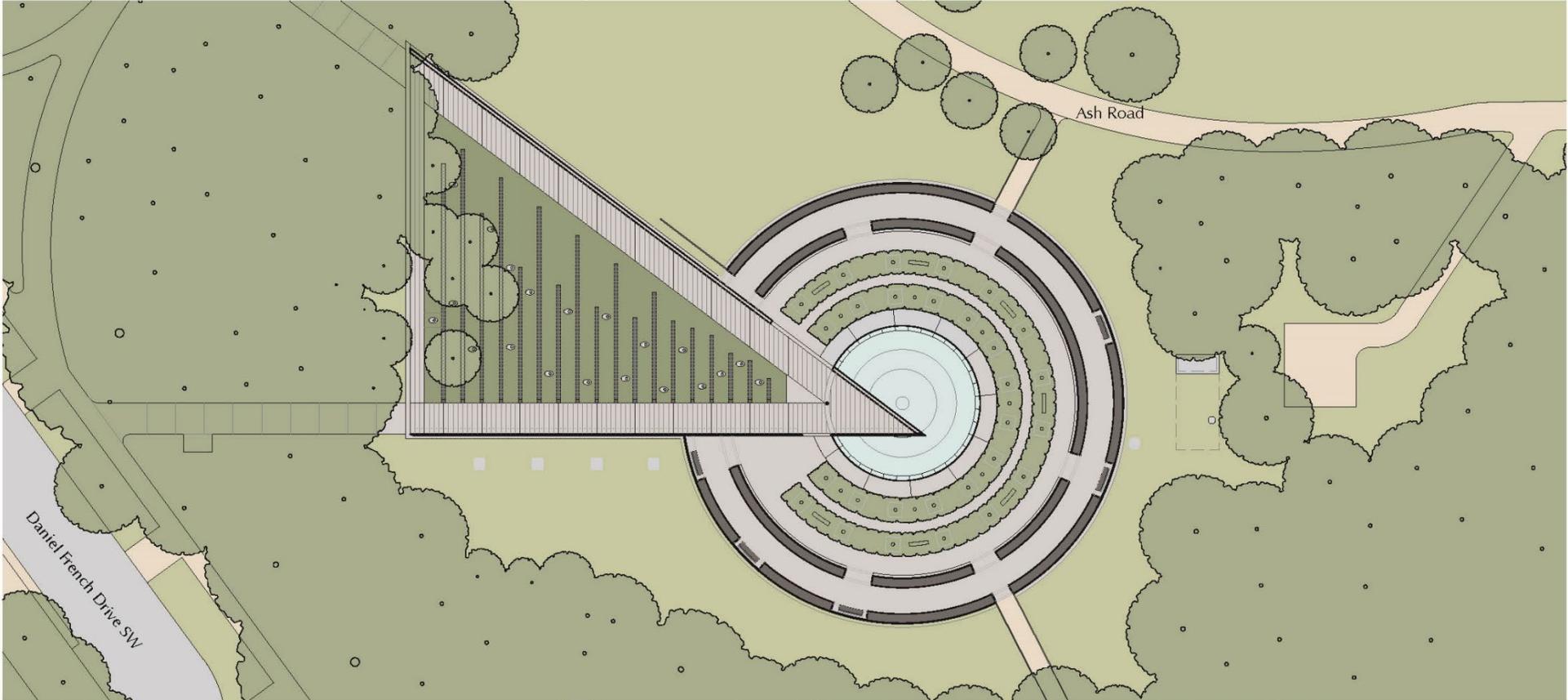
View from Northwest Memorial Entry



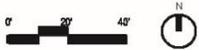
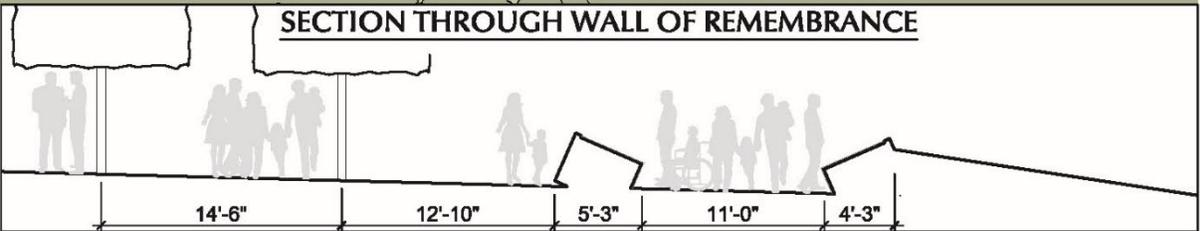
View from Ash Road

RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION C.1

Design Option: C2 – Low Walls (Two Sided)



- SUMMARY**
- Low walls with text on an angled horizontal surface
 - Constructed of stone and blackened stainless steel
 - Additional hardscape: 12,160 sf, Radius at inner ring: 72'-1", Radius at outer ring: 88'-4", 714 linear feet for names, 2,620 sf of text area (names only)
 - Walls are low enough that there is minimal visual impact to views of Mall and experience of original memorial



OPTION C.2 - LOW WALLS (TWO SIDED)

Design Option: C2 – Low Walls (Two Sided)



Birdseye View Looking West



Birdseye View Looking East



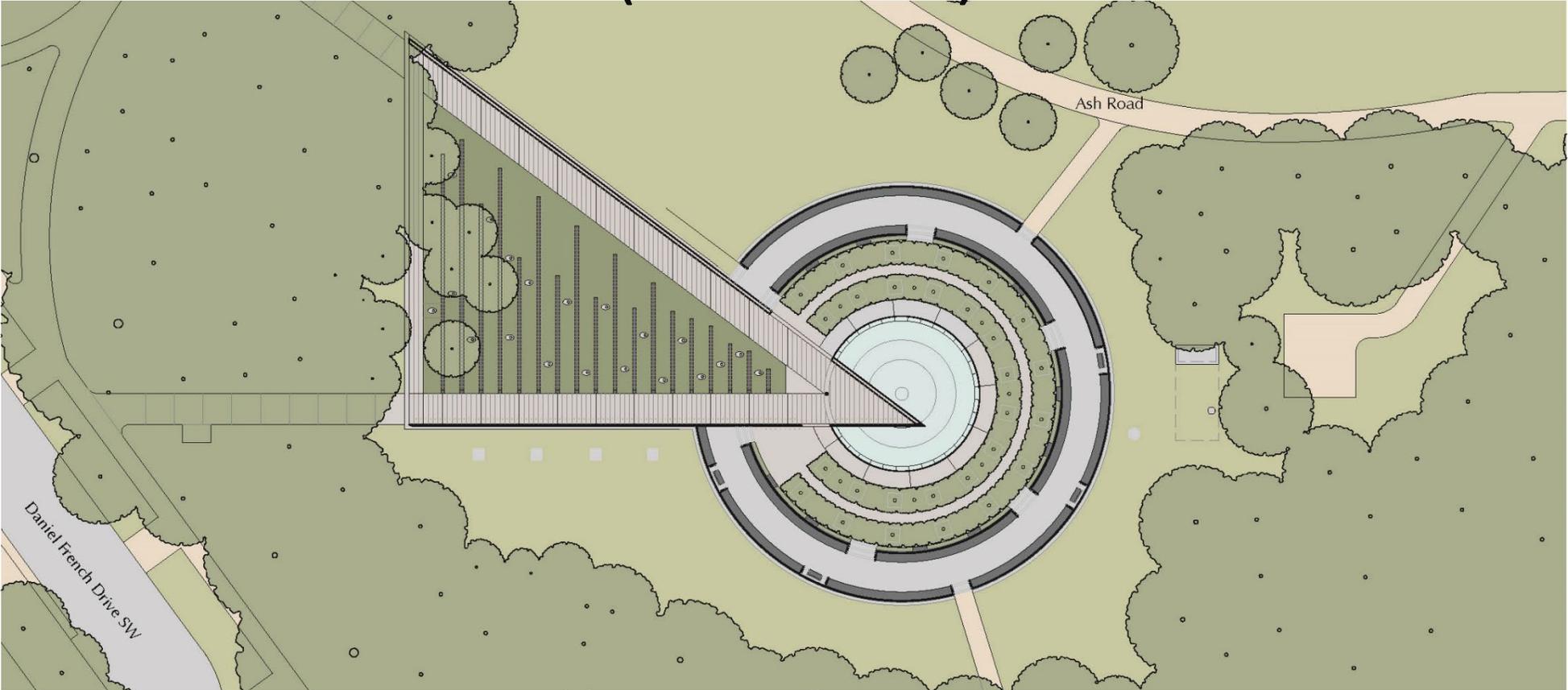
View from Northwest Memorial Entry



View from Ash Road

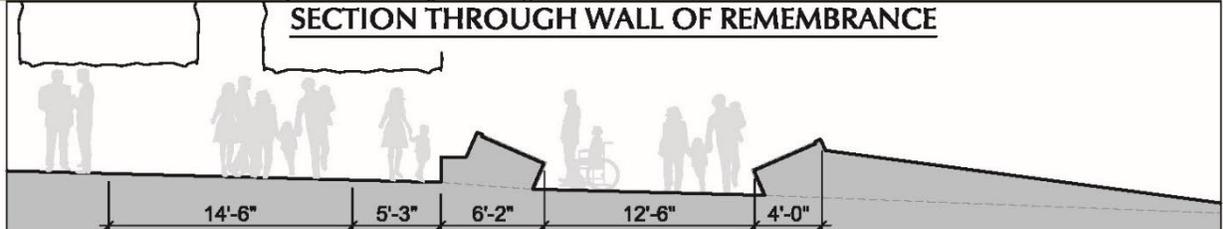
RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION C.2

Design Options: C3 – Low Walls (Two Sided)



SUMMARY

- Low walls with text on an angled horizontal surface
- Constructed of stone and blackened stainless steel
- Additional hardscape: 10,410 sf, Radius at inner ring: 69', Radius at outer ring: 84'-10", 721 linear feet for names, 2,646 sf of text area



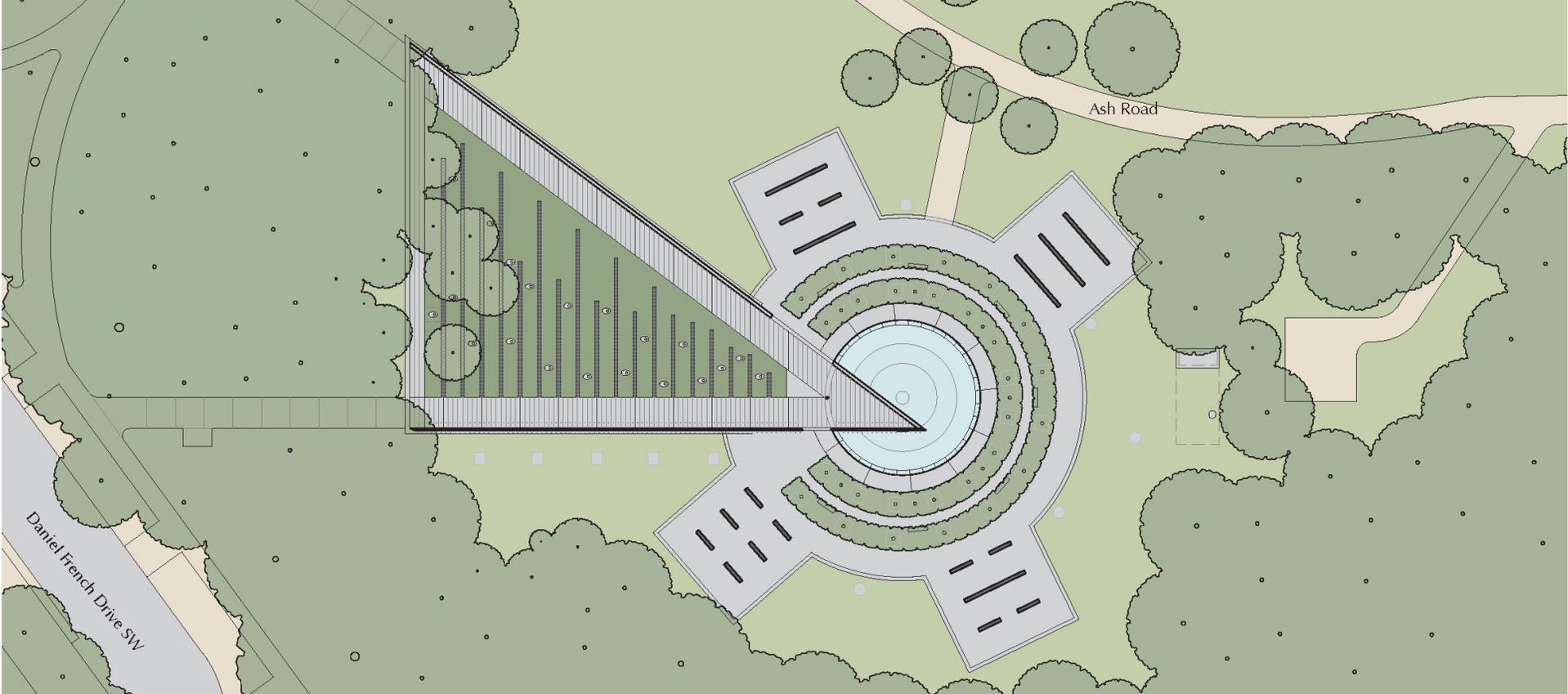
OPTION C.3 - LOW WALLS (TWO SIDED)

Design Option: C3 – Low Walls (Two Sided)



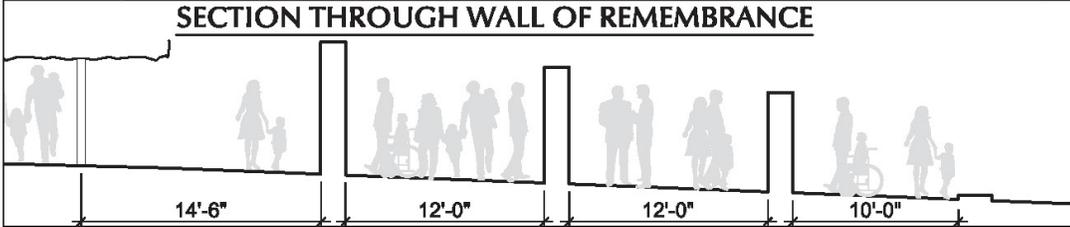
RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION C.3

Design Option: D1 – Korean Flag Trigram Pattern



SUMMARY

- Walls in the pattern of the trigrams found on the South Korean flag; text on both sides of wall
- Walls decrease in height (8', 7', 6') as you move further from the Pool of Remembrance
- Additional hardscape: 12,000 sf
- Disadvantage: Strong visual impact could detract from existing memorial



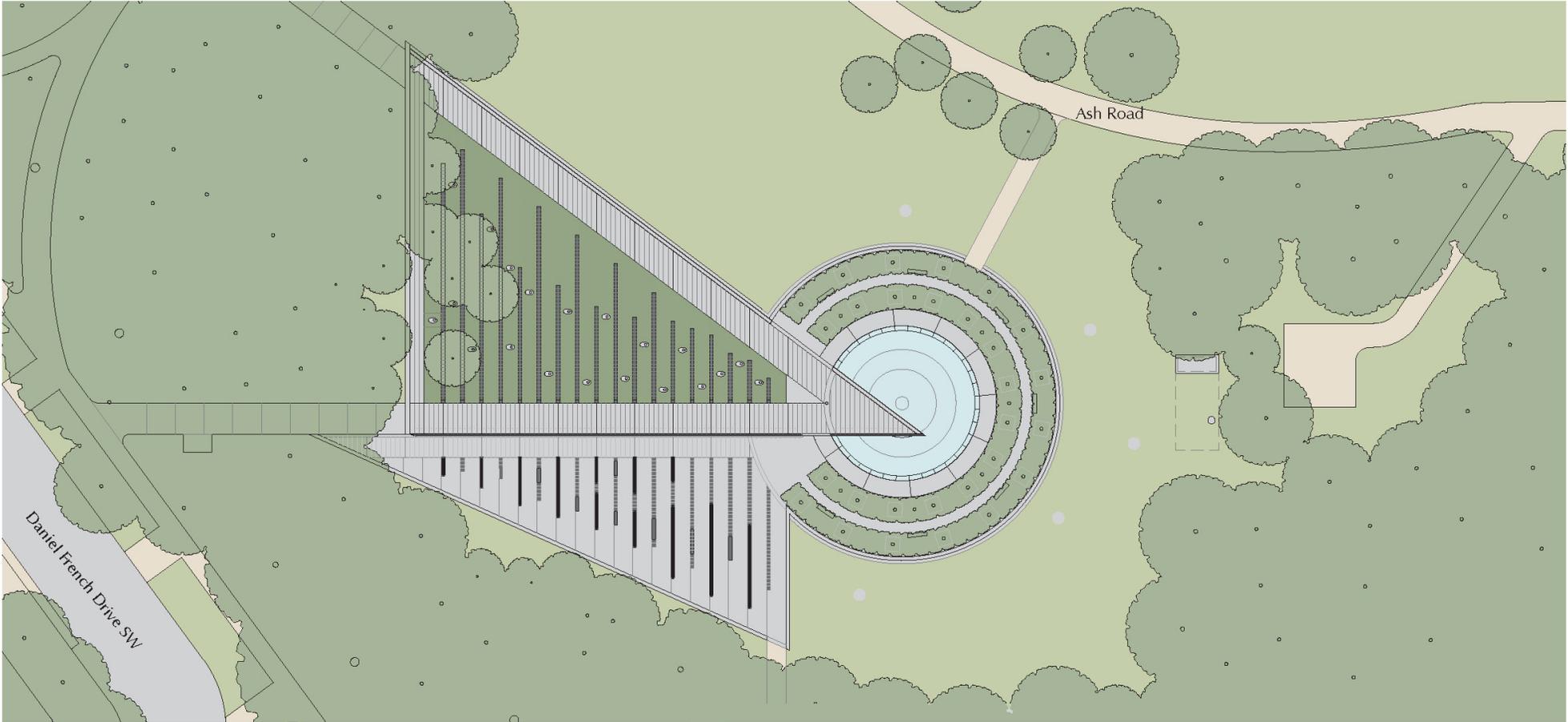
OPTION D.1 - KOREAN FLAG TRIGRAM PATTERN

Design Option: D1 – Korean Flag Trigram Pattern



RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION D.1

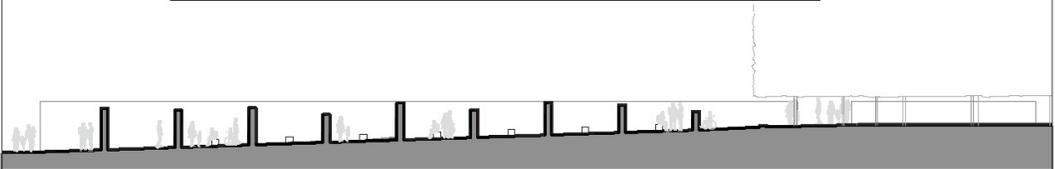
Design Option: E1 – South Side Area of Remembrance



SUMMARY

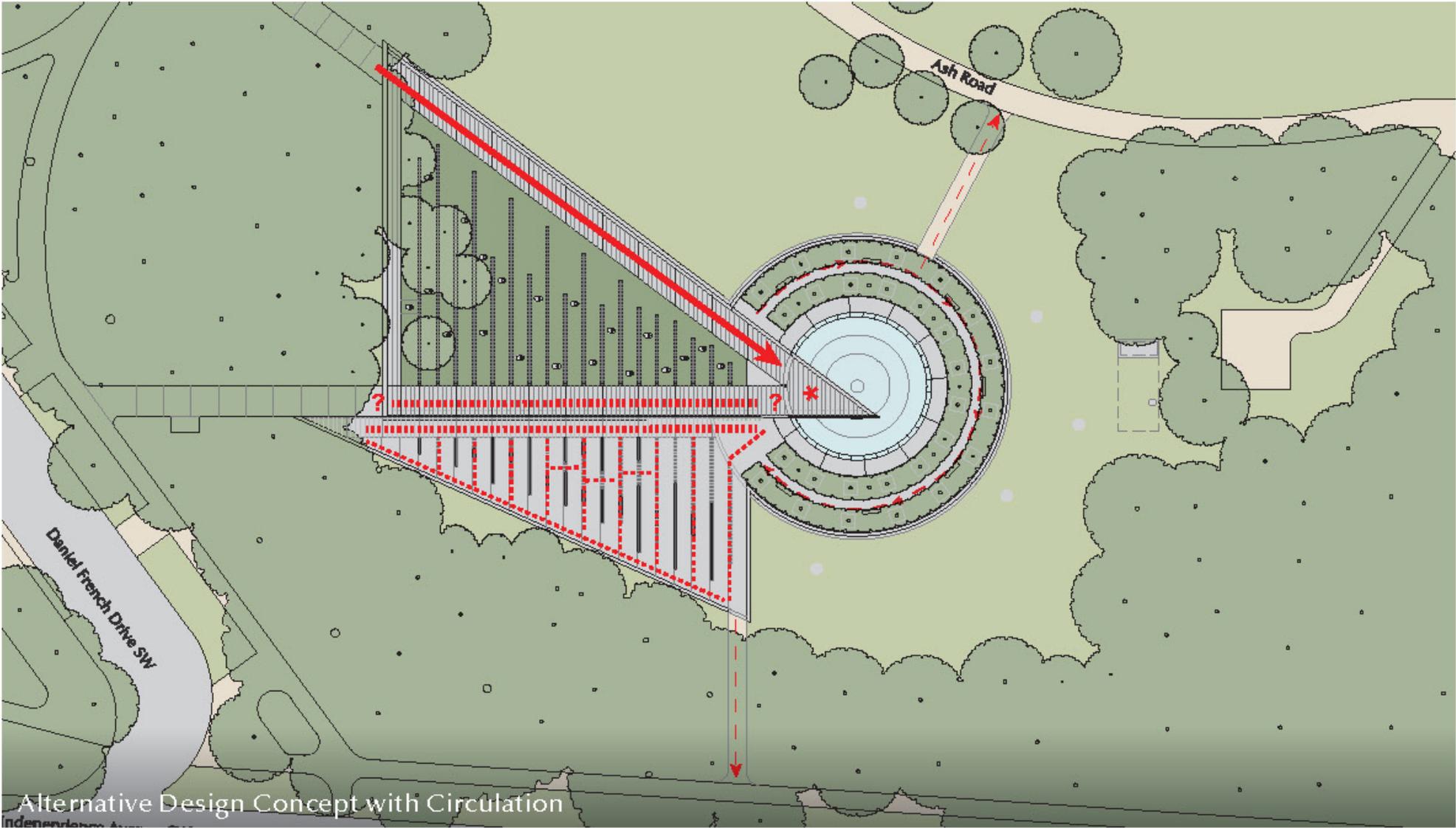
- Stone or stainless steel walls, varied in height from 4' to 9', arranged in a north-south orientation to align with the parallels; text on both sides of wall
- Additional text can be engraved on existing blank stone wall
- Creates a separate space for viewing the Wall of Remembrance
- Visual impact of original memorial is virtually unaltered from north side
- Additional hardscape: 8,695 sf additional hardscape; 2,435sf of text area

SECTION THROUGH WALL OF REMEMBRANCE



OPTION E.1 - SOUTH SIDE AREA OF REMEMBRANCE

Design Option: E1 – South Side Area of Remembrance



Alternative Design Concept with Circulation

Design Option: E1 – South Side Area of Remembrance



RENDERED VIEWS OF OPTION E.1

U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

401 F STREET NW SUITE 312 WASHINGTON DC 20001-2728 202-504-2200 FAX 202-504-2195 WWW.CFA.GOV

27 September 2019

Dear Ms. Mendelson-Ielmini:

In its meeting of 19 September, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a concept submission for a new Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, located near Independence Avenue in West Potomac Park. The Commission approved the concept design with the following comments.

The Commission members commended the proposal for its careful integration of the new wall with the memorial's historic design and for its responsiveness to current conditions. They requested further refinement of how the new wall meets the existing mural wall, suggesting that this might be treated as a deliberate gap or reveal. They expressed support for the addition of a gradual berm behind the new wall, which they said will make the landscape and memorial a more coherent composition. Finally, they questioned the proposal to list the names of the dead according to military rank and branch of service, suggesting that a less hierarchical arrangement may be preferable.

The Commission looks forward to the review of the final design of this addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial. As always, the staff is available to assist you in the further development of the concept design.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini, Acting Regional Director
National Park Service, National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Mary Kay Lanzillotta, Hartman-Cox Architects