
Friends of Francis Field

2501 M Street NW #805
Washington, D.C. 20037

March 23, 2023

Kym Hall, Regional Director
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

Re: Opposition to “Transfer of Jurisdiction” of Reservation 360 Land on Francis Field

Dear Director Hall:

We write in opposition to the proposed transfer of a part of Francis Field from the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS) to the District of Columbia government. This letter constitutes a brief of one part the case we ask you to consider, and about which we request to be heard.

Rock Creek Park staff announced the proposed transfer at a public meeting on February 15, 2023. The plan shown in Figure 01 below was projected digitally, but the typography could not be read.¹

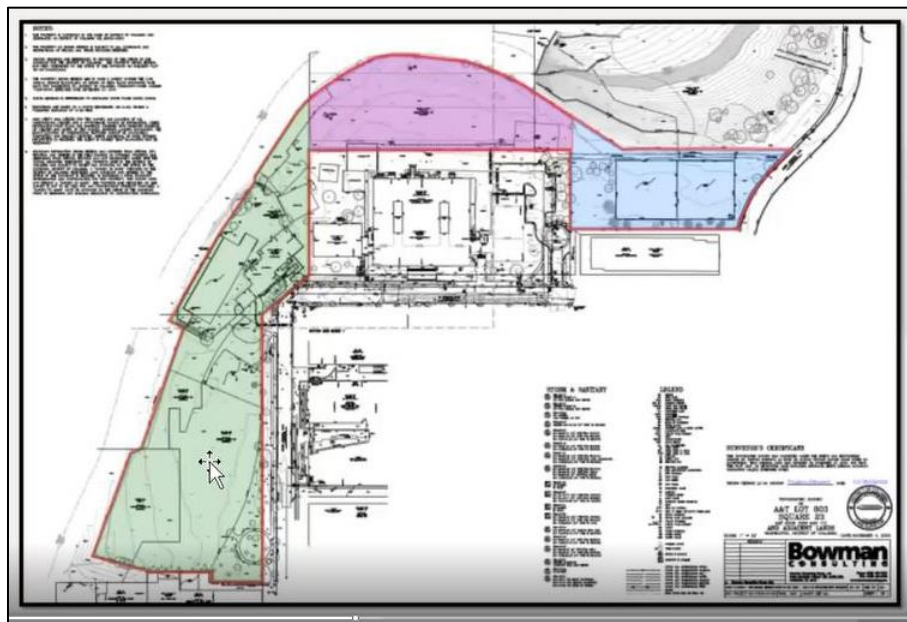


Figure 01. Diagrams showing the portion of Francis Field in District of Columbia jurisdiction in striped section.

While the transfer of jurisdiction that was described briefly at that meeting included several parts of Reservation 360, our opposition is limited solely to the transfer of NPS land which is a part of Francis Field.

That part is within the green area shown in Figure 01 above. We describe it more precisely below.

BOUNDARIES AND OWNERSHIP

The boundaries of Francis Field are well defined. A master plan for the field was ordered by the District of Columbia Zoning Commission in a 2007 case.²

The ownership and jurisdiction of the land were disputed and settled during the review of the first submission of that master plan, by the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), to the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) in January 2009.³

During that process, and after the plan had been presented at a meeting with six of the CFA commissioners present and asking questions, Adrienne Coleman, the Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, notified CFA, by letter, that DPR “did not do a thorough land record search” before “considering improvements on National Park Service property.”⁴

NPS issued two diagrams during that dispute.⁵ Both are shown in Figure 02 below. Both are identical in their depiction of the land that was then and is now in the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia government. It is shown as a striped irregular shape. The diagram on the right shows the land currently in the jurisdiction of NPS as a solid green irregular shape.



Figure 02. Diagrams of Francis Field, 2009, showing NPS land in green and DPR land in cross-lines.

The striped section in both diagrams in Figure 02 represents Reservation 639, which was acquired after the passage of the Capper-Cramton Act of 1930. That act provided funding for the “park, parkway, and playground system of the National Capital.”⁶ Reservation 639 was transferred benignly to the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia, with twelve other playgrounds and recreation centers, on October 18, 1971, early in the District’s transition to “home-rule” government.⁷

It is the land represented in the solid-green section of Figure 02 that NPS is considering transferring.

We ask you, as NPS regional director, and Julia Washburn, as superintendent of Rock Creek Park, to remove this section of Francis Field from any proposed transfer of jurisdiction, and retain it in the jurisdiction of NPS for the purposes and values for which it was acquired by Congress.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

As we will show, that land was acquired for the purposes of landscape architecture for connecting the two major parks of the National Capital, and for preventing the pollution of Rock Creek. It serves that purpose well today. Its park values have been clearly stated by its architect. NPS has respected and defended them.

The removal of the control of this land by NPS will not improve or enhance its effectiveness as a part of the landscape architecture of the National Capital.

Such a transfer would only subordinate its purpose and derogate its park value.

We call your attention to the fact—as you may already know—that representatives of DPR stated at a public meeting on March 2, 2023, that this transfer of jurisdiction would allow the expansion of an existing dog park, and facilitate the construction, now or in the future, of an irrigated, “FIFA regulation soccer field.”⁸

As you and Superintendent Washburn know—and we stress this here for others who may read it—each park in the National Park System is created by a specific and individual act of Congress.

This proposed transfer would be a contravention of the 1913 Act that created Reservation 360, which was then known as Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway by the U.S. Congress, as it had been since 1901. As we will show, its history is well-documented, and in parts, well-illustrated.

LOCATION AND VICINITY

A vicinity map of the part of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway in which Francis Field is located and is a functional part, is pointed out with a red arrow in Figure 03 below.

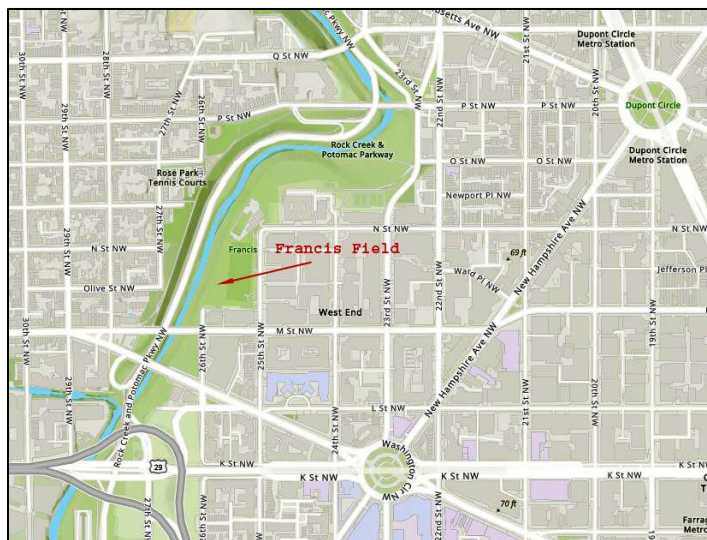


Figure 03. Location of Francis Field, bordering Rock Creek in the West End neighborhood.

The map detail in Figure 03 shows Francis Field north of M Street NW and west of 25th Street NW, and indicates that it is part of a system of park lands marked in green. Rock Creek is indicated in blue. It is the field’s western boundary.

Figure 04 below shows Francis Field and the border of trees and green space that makes up the landscaping of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway as seen from above.

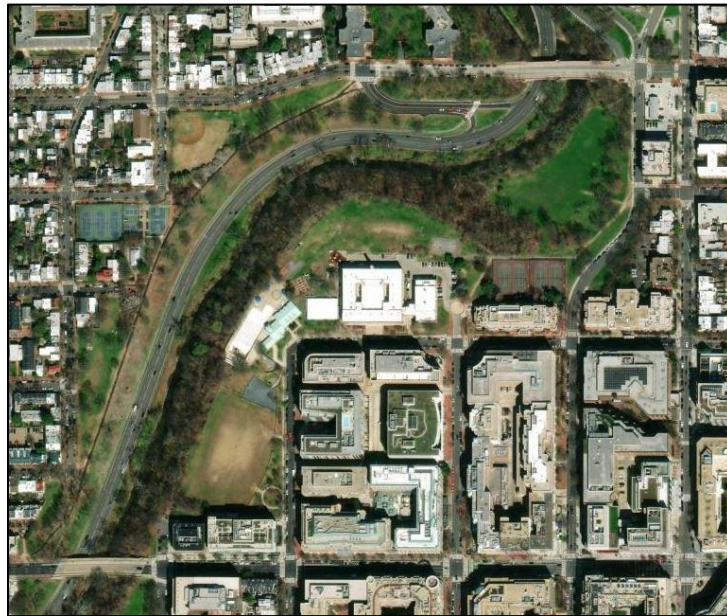


Figure 04. Aerial photograph of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway between P Street and M Street NW.

In this photograph, the M Street bridge to Georgetown is shown at the bottom left. Francis Field, with its bare dirt center, is bordered by the parkway on the west, and by 25th Street NW on the east.

Francis Swimming Pool is north of the field. The large group of buildings north of N Street is the former Francis Junior High School, known today as the Francis-Stevens Education Campus. The green parkland to the northeast is known as P Street Beach, just south of the P Street bridge.

In the public announcement of this proposed transfer, Superintendent Washburn stated that P Street Beach will be retrained in NPS jurisdiction. (In Figure 01, it is not entirely shown and what is shown is in gray.)

Viewed from above, the landscape architecture of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway—the last section of which opened in October 1935—is quite apparent.⁹ This is the work of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (1870-1957).¹⁰ It is also the northwest border of the L’Enfant Plan of 1791, and of the Ellicott Plan of 1792.¹¹ It is a special place in city planning where the hand of nature is still recognizable, and still respected in its landscaping.

THE 1913 LEGISLATION: ITS PURPOSES AND VALUES

The individual legislation that created Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, was named the Public Buildings Act, Section 22. It became law on the morning of March 4, 1913, the last half-day of President William Howard Taft’s term of office. Woodrow Wilson would begin his first term that afternoon.

Section 22 of The Public Buildings Act of 1913 authorized the sum of \$1.3 million to acquire, “by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise,” land on both sides of Rock Creek, “for the purpose of preventing

pollution and obstructions of Rock Creek and connecting Potomac Park with the Zoological Park and Rock Creek Park.” It is cited today as Pub. L. 62-432, 37 Stat. 885. (See full text reference in endnote.)¹²

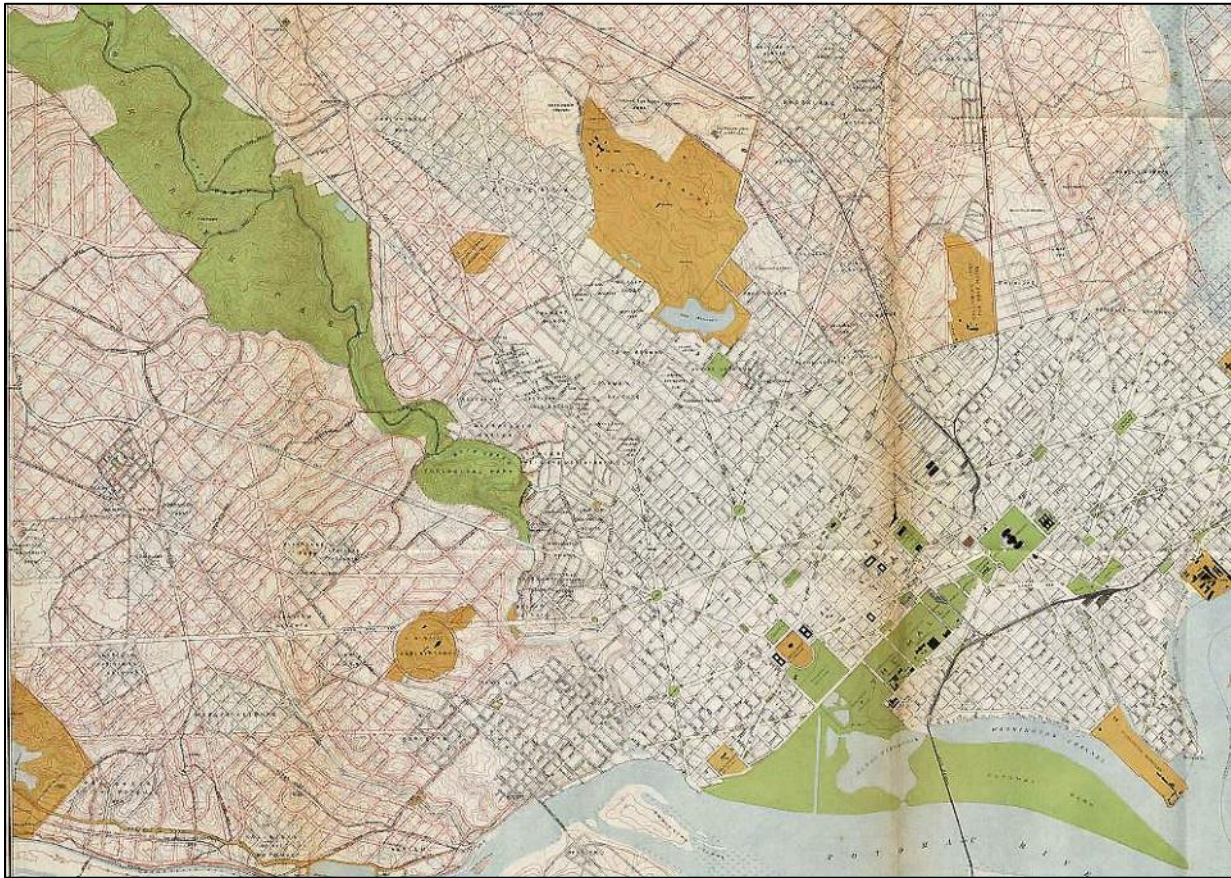


Figure 05. Map showing Rock Creek Park, the Zoological Park, and Potomac Park, 1902.

The parks to be linked are shown in green in Figure 05 above, with Rock Creek Park at upper left. Already connected to it, on its southern end, was The Zoological Park, which is labelled and legible on the full-size map. Two and a half miles southeast was Potomac Park, created largely from the reclaimed tidal flats of the Potomac River. Potomac Park shown at the lower right of Figure 05.

The plan to connect these parks with a parkway was not new with the 1913 legislation. The detail of the plan that is shown in color in Figure 05 above is from a pull-out sheet bound into a 1902 report of the U.S. Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, titled *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia*.¹³ That report used the name “Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.” The report described it, stated its purpose, and proposed its creation—but it did not fund it.

The report provided what it termed “a comprehensive plan” for the National Capital. It was figuratively and literally a monumental work in city planning and architecture, still well known today to students and professionals in those fields.

The publication is also known as the report of the Senate Park Commission, which was a group of leading professionals, organized by Senator James McMillan of Michigan. A 1953 history published by NPS calls it “the famous McMillan Plan of 1901.”¹⁴ The National Capital Planning Commission refers to the Senate Park Commission report as the “McMillan Plan 1901-1902,” in a large-format book published by the

Smithsonian Institution in 1977.¹⁵ The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts refers to it as “The 1901 to 1902 Senate Park Commission plan,” and refers to it as “among the most significant urban plans in American history” in a 2007 publication.¹⁶

It is probably most famous for its “City Beautiful Movement” treatment for the National Mall, which was published in that 1902 report as a fold-out sheet. It is shown below in Figure 06. While Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway is not a major feature of the Mall plan (and not labelled) the plan does illustrate it, connecting to the site proposed for the Lincoln Memorial, which had yet to be designed. The parkway is pointed out in Figure 06 below with red arrows.

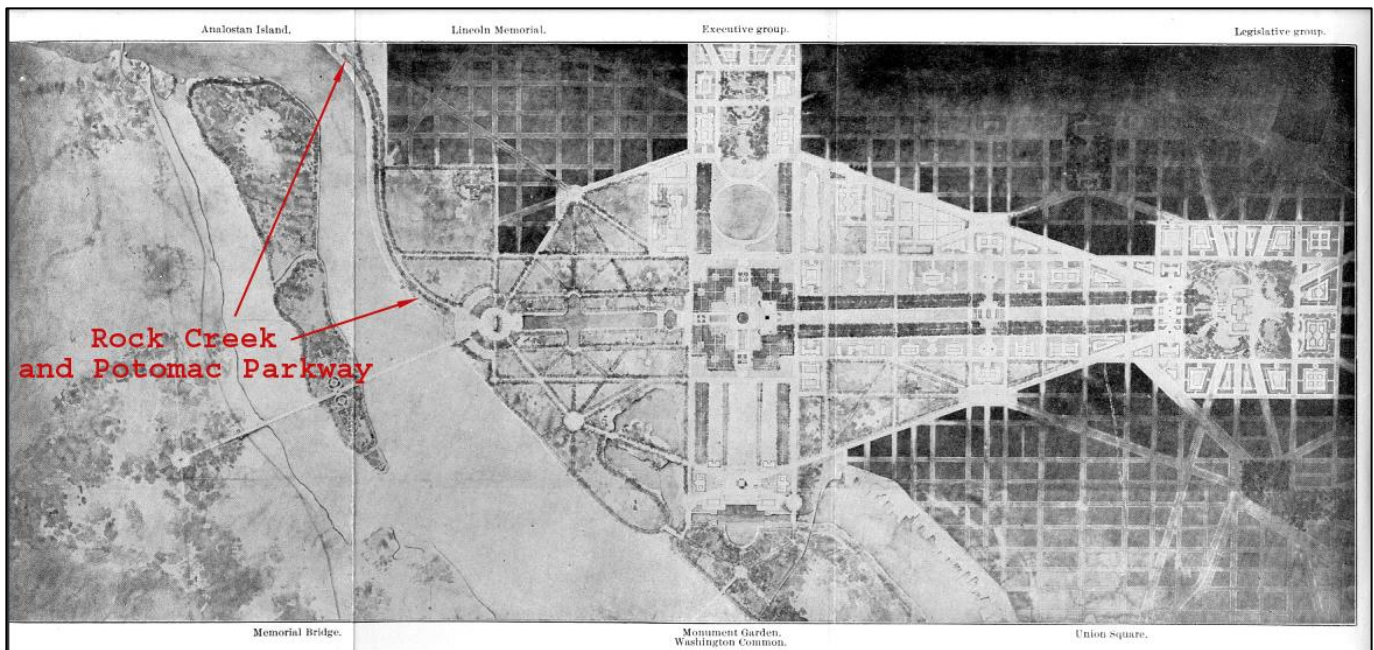


Figure 06. The Mall treatment by the Senate Park Committee, 1902, with parkway pointed out in red.

While the work of the Senate Park Commission was completed by the end of 1901, its report was not published until January 1902. Olmsted was one of its four expert members. The others were architects Daniel Burnham (1846-1912) and Charles McKim (1847-1909), and sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907). Charles Moore (1855-1942), the personal secretary of Senator McMillan, and clerk of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, became the editor of the report.

The report was richly illustrated for its time, with photographs of buildings and architectural spaces as examples of city planning and dignified buildings in Paris, Rome, Berlin, Budapest, and Boston. Other drawings, plans, models, and treatments were included, several as pull-out sections and folded maps.

The purpose of the Senate in “ordering a comprehensive plan” was to redesign the seat of government of the United States, and bring about the “improvement of the District of Columbia in a manner and to an extent commensurate with the dignity and resources of the American nation.”¹⁷

Olmsted, one of the experts who participated and traveled to Europe with three others to study the possibilities and discuss them together, took a large part in writing the text of the report, along with Moore, who had been a newspaper reporter in Detroit before coming to Washington.¹⁸

Not all the illustrations published in the report were pleasing. To connect the parks by a parkway built along Rock Creek, it would have to go through a very un-parklike area of the District. The report stated that “the sights of the inland region between Pennsylvania avenue and Q street are for the most part merely shabby, sordid and disagreeable.”¹⁹ The photograph in Figure 07 below was included to show the dumping of waste and other debris that made Rock Creek unpleasant.

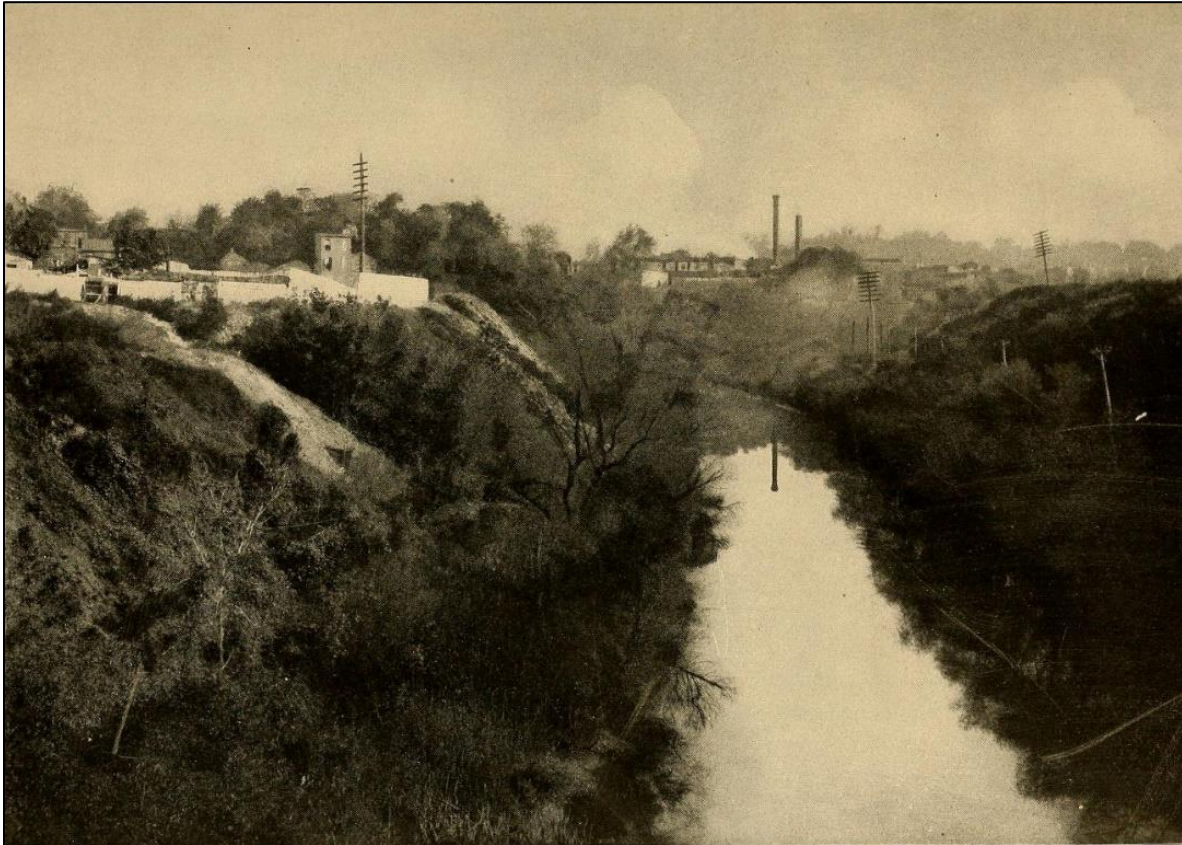


Figure 07. Photograph of Rock Creek taken from the M Street bridge, included in Senate Park Committee report.

In the printed report, the caption under the photo began: “Rock Creek, looking north from M Street bridge....”²⁰

We stress that the heights on the right bank in Figure 07 are what is now Francis Field—and the very portion that NPS would now transfer. (See Figures 02, 04 and 10 for location of the M Street bridge.) The left bank is now Rose Park in Georgetown.

The original caption continued: “... showing landscape value of the open water surface and the foliage of the valley, and indicating the disagreeable character of the high-level surroundings.”²¹

Olmsted saw this as problem of landscape architecture to be solved and overcome. He recognized the possibility of eliminating the pollution and dumping by restoring the inherent “landscape value” of the waterway and its natural vegetation by remediating small sections that could be controlled by government ownership.

This solution was also illustrated in the *Senate Park Commission Report*. The drawing in Figure 08 below is probably not by Olmsted’s hand, but by an artist hired for the project.

The report stated: “It is ... a very fortunate opportunity that permits the seclusion of the parkway in a valley the immediate sides of which can be controlled and can be made to limit the view to a self-contained landscape, which may be beautiful even though restricted.”²²

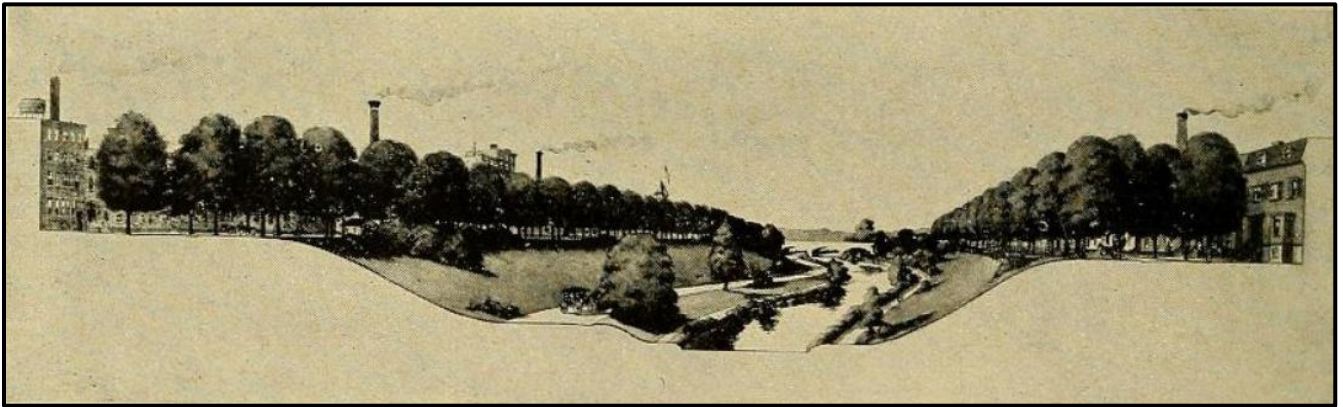


Figure 08. Senate Park Commission, *Section of Rock Creek Parkway--Treatment Recommended*, 1902.

Also included in the *Senate Park Commission Report* was a folded map of the District showing in green “areas recommended to be taken as necessary for new parks and park connections.” A detail of that map is shown in Figure 09 below, with red overprints. It illustrates that the whole of Square 13 did not need to be taken all the way east to 25th Street—only a thin section abutting Rock Creek was needed.

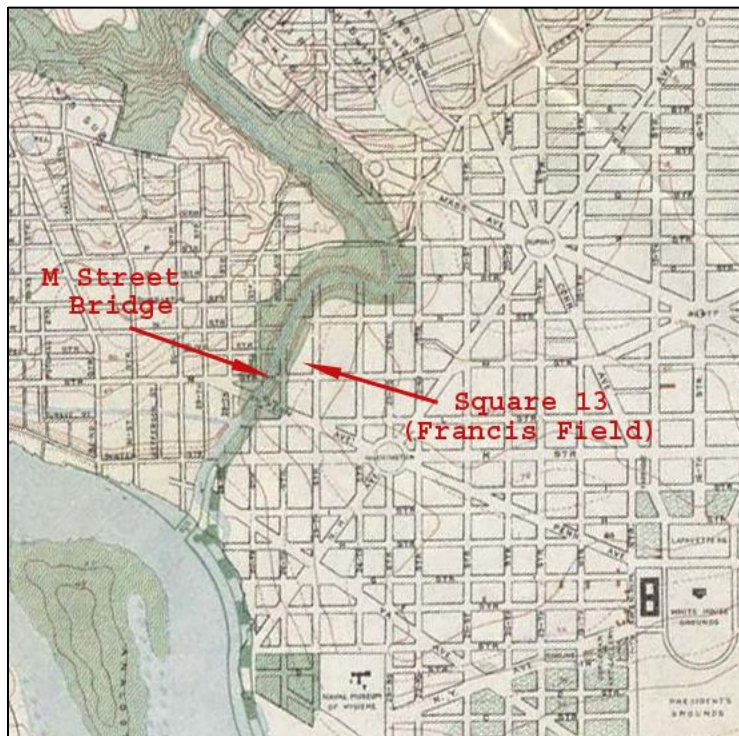


Figure 09. Detail of Senate Park Commission “taking” map for parkway, 1902.

It took several years for this 1901-1902 plan to become reality. The 1913 authorization of \$1,300,000 was only the first step.

The commission that was also created by the 1913 legislation was granted \$5,000 in a “sundry civic act” approved on March 3, 1915, to “survey the exact boundaries of the lands now desired to be embraced in a connecting parkway” according to a report it issued eleven months later.

That report also included the information that the plans had been given “careful consideration by the members of the National Commission of Fine Arts, in particular by Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted,” who was now the landscape member; and that the plans were also reported as approved.²³

The commission created by the 1913 legislation was named the “Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission,” made up of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of Agriculture, all of whom were appointed by the President of the United States. While those three members of the Cabinet held the authority, the work of the commission was handed off to the officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, who reported to the “Engineering Commissioner” on the three-member Commission on the District of Columbia.

The parkway commission’s 1916 report stated that from L Street to P Street—which included the Francis Field area of today—the natural features had been “almost entirely eliminated by the dumping of refuse ... ashes and other rubbish.”²⁴ As for Square 13 itself, 25 lots to be taken were listed in a table, with their square footage and current value from the assessor’s office, as well the price to be paid at two-thirds valuation and at full valuation. Figure 10 below is a detail from that table.

Square 13.										
5	Michael S. Cady, Julia A. Cady.	6,540	.15	981	.....	981	3,200	480	720	Part.
5	do.	5,270	.25	1,318	.....	1,318	2,400	600	900	Do.
6	Dennis Connor.	13,080	.10	1,308	100	1,408	13,080	1,308	1,962	All.
8	George Washington University.	25,651	.10	2,565	.....	2,565	25,651	2,565	3,847	Do.
9	Albert F. McDowell.	11,090	.25	2,773	.....	2,773	4,152	1,038	1,557	Part.
10	George Washington University.	11,090	.20	2,218	.....	2,218	400	80	120	Do.
11	Elias Travers.	7,492	.20	1,498	.....	1,498	900	180	270	Do.
11	Sarah E. Jones.	7,488	.20	1,494	1,600	3,094	225	45	67	Do.
15	Samuel Bensinger.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	All.
16	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
17	Edwin D. Flathers.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
18	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
19	Charles H. Stanley.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
20	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
21	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
22	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
23	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
24	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
25	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
26	Robt. A. Phillips.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
27	Chas. H. Stanley.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
28	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
29	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
30	do.	1,600	.05	80	.....	80	1,600	80	120	Do.
37	Joseph I. Leary.	1,600	.80	960	3,500	4,460	1,600	4,460	6,090	Do.
38	do.	5,500	.30	1,650	8,500	5,150	5,500	5,150	7,725	Do.
Total.....							82,708		25,778	

Figure 10. Table of lots and square footage for acquisition on Square 13, in report of 1916.

The report included a square-by-square narrative that accompanied the “taking” tables. It verifies that the parkway commission was not trying to acquire more land than necessary for the buffer areas that would shield the view of visitors to the parkway from the smokestacks and chimneys, and give control of the land to the government in order to prevent the dumping into Rock Creek that was occurring.

The fact that the parkway commission was not acquiring the land in large enough lots or in contiguous patterns for active recreation or specific activities was also confirmed in the square-by-square remarks in its report. Lot 5 on Square 13, for example, was noted as being unoccupied, and “as there would be a desirable lot left, facing the parkway, containing about 6,610 square feet ... there is justification for not

taking back of the parkway line.” Similarly, the report states that “Lot 11 is clipped so slightly that there is no reason for taking all, this applies to Lot 10 also.”²⁵

This supports and confirms that the commission was acquiring a narrow but continuous strip of land on both sides of the creek in order to prevent dumping and provide park-like landscaping in a parkway intended to link two existing parks. These were ecological and aesthetic values held by Olmsted, and which NPS is required to uphold today.

The acquisition of the Square 13 portion of the parkway went on for more than 16 years. The *Baist Real Estate Atlas* for 1932 indicates that this buffer strip was not quite completed by its publication date. Figure 11 below shows the cadastral progress graphically, with Reservation 360 land (and other government land, including sidewalks) printed in blue.²⁶

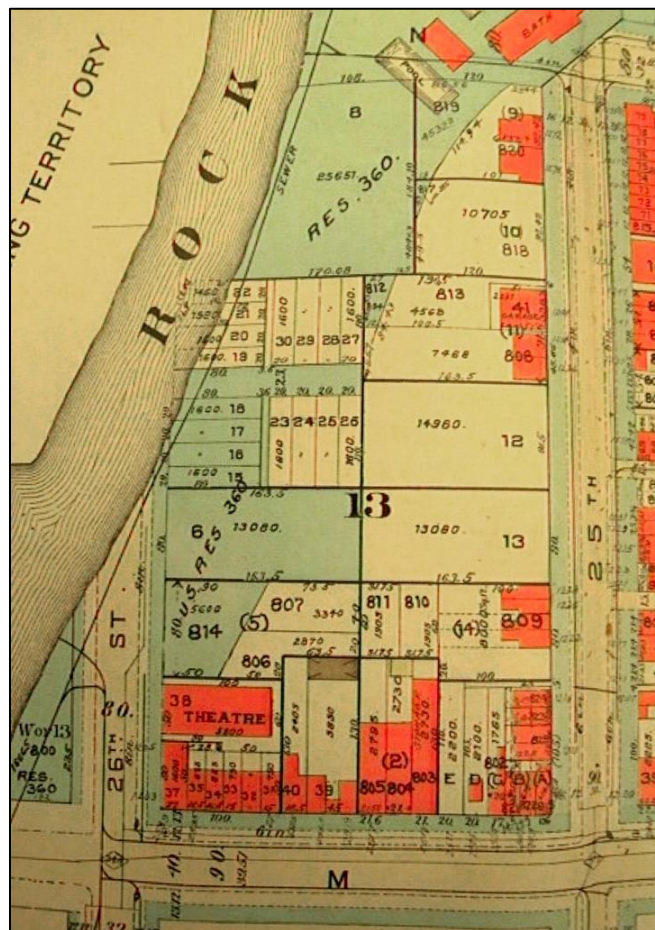


Figure 11. Baist Real Estate Atlas, 1932 showing progress of acquisition for Reservation 360.

Figure 11 also illustrates that former Lot 5 was split diagonally into three lots: 814 for the buffer, and 806 and 807 which were not necessary for control. The former Lot 11 was split into Lot 812, which was taken, and 813 which was not. An even smaller sliver was taken of Lot 10, which was split into Lot 817 which was taken, and Lot 818 which was not.

The irregular shape of the taken land that resulted indicates that no particular shape was desired other than one that would appear natural, rather than formal, following the natural curvature of the creek rather than the rectangular pattern of the streets and lots.

We believe we have shown that the land on Francis Field was acquired for the purposes of preventing the further pollution of Rock Creek, and as landscape architecture to connect the two existing public park areas of the National Capital.

We argue in the next section that it should remain in NPS jurisdiction and under its protection in order to preserve and conserve the purpose and values for which it was acquired.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION FOR PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

As explained in an administrative history published by NPS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt abolished the Office of Public Building and Grounds, and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission by executive order in August 1933, and assigned their function to the “Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations,” in the Department of the Interior. That name, and its functions, were restored to the name “National Park Service” in March 1934.²⁷

As you and Superintendent Washburn know, the so-called Organic Act of 1916, that established NPS, gave it a mandate to conserve and protect each of its parks. This mandate was stated in part:

... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein ...
and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as
will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. (16 U.S.C. §1)

Further, the proposed transfer of jurisdiction would also contravene the 1978 Congressional reaffirmation of the Organic Act, which stated that the management of all NPS units:

... shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which the System
units have been established, except as directly and specifically provided by Congress.
(54 U.S.C. §100101)

And further still, this transfer of jurisdiction would endanger an essential landscaping component of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District—which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 5, 2005, as a “Designated Historic Landscape.” Among the National Register criteria for which it was determined significant were criteria A and C, for “Community Planning, Engineering, Landscape Architecture, and Recreation.”²⁸

Thus, this transfer of jurisdiction would also contravene the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and its policy directive to:

...administer federally owned, administered, or controlled historic property in a spirit
of stewardship for the inspiration of present and future generations.” (Pub. L. 89-655
and 54 U.S.C § 300101)

We fear that this historic feature of Francis Field—the “buffer area” that Superintendent Coleman so wisely protected in the 2009 CFA case—is again in peril, with the District of Columbia government again attempting to gain control of this landscaping element and change its use and values.

OUR REQUESTS

We also have a case to make on the program issues of the field, and on stewardship. We request additional time to prepare and file those.

Superintendent Washburn may remember the small projects we undertook together in 2017, first to plant 43 additional trees and then to re-green the field area. Figure 12 below is a photograph taken on May 27, 2018, after FFF's restoration of the natural turf of the field under a special use permit from Rock Creek Park, and a partnership agreement with DPR.



Figure 12. Francis Field May 27, 2018 after re-greening according to NPS standards.

NPS set the conditions for the its permit: No herbicides were to be used, only organic fertilizer, and a mixture of Kentucky Bluegrass and Tall Fescue in seeding the turf. The field was closed for nine months to allow the seed to grow. The project succeeded. We filed a donation agreement with Rock Creek Park, and an accounting, showing that we spent \$21,008 on the project, one half of which was for work on NPS property, and the other on DPR property.²⁹

Francis Field is not in need of drastic renovation that only a transfer of jurisdiction can achieve. It only needs to be managed more purposefully. The District government has seldom been able to balance the field's use and the routine maintenance that it requires.

Had Superintendent Adrienne Coleman not objected to DPR's claims in the 2009 CFA case, the area shown in Figure 12 above would today be covered with artificial turf. It would also still be lit after dark with stadium lights—as it once was when the District government under Mayor Marion Barry permitted George Washington University to convert it to an irrigated field for its varsity soccer and baseball teams in 1990.³⁰

As Figures 13 and 14 below demonstrate, when its park and landscape values are respected, Francis Field can fulfill its primary purpose as landscaping, while also providing safe, green, natural field space for elementary school and middle-school field sports that require only portable nets, and do not subordinate the property's park values in the same manner that adult-level, competitive sports have done in the past and would do again.



Figure 13. Elementary school pupils on Francis Field for after-school soccer practice, September 29, 2021.



Figure 14. Soccer practice for middle school students on Francis Field, October 15, 2021.

The NPS “buffer area” on the field makes up about half of the current playing field area. It has been the most important factor in keeping the field park-like, rather than being turned into an arena for sports competitions. NPS jurisdiction over the buffer area keeps Francis Field’s park values alive.

We believe that Francis Field is today one of the most successful of the border parks of Olmsted's Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway. The traffic on the parkway is screened from the border park, and the buildings that border the field on two sides are screened from the parkway, as Olmsted intended.

Francis Field is one of the largest open, green spaces in a high-density area of the Nation's Capital. It should continue to be preserved by NPS and the statutes enacted to protect it. The architect's words still show the way.

"One of the purposes which a large public park can serve," Olmsted wrote at the time he designed the parkway, "is to provide the citizens with a body of rural scenery which will offer in its quietness the greatest possible change from the normal conditions of town life ... When it is the adopted motif it is worse than folly to sacrifice its successful attainment to the occasional introduction of some other or conflicting motif"³¹

On behalf of our membership, our neighborhood, and our Nation's Capital, we ask NPS to continue to preserve Francis Field from those who would re-purpose it for entirely different uses and values than those for which it was created by Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Griffith".

Gary Griffith
Director and Past President
Friends of Francis Field

cc: Julia Washburn, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park
Brian Joyner, Deputy Superintendent, Rock Creek Park
Tammy Stidham, Deputy Associate Regional Director, NPS National Capital Region
Peter May, Associate Regional Director, NPS National Capital Region

Notes

¹ This presentation was shown a regular meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A, held on February 15, 2023, at the West End Branch of the District of Columbia Public Library, and by Zoom videoconference. Present for National Park Service were Rock Creek Park superintendent Julia Washburn, deputy superintendent Brian Joyner, and Tammy Stidham from the National Capital Region.

² District of Columbia Zoning Commission, *ZC Order No. 06-35*, July 9, 2007, p.8. This is the order for a Planned Unit Development allowing the alteration of three office buildings at 1227-1231 25th Street NW, commonly referred to as the BNA buildings. The third building has not been altered, but can be in the future. See pages 15 and 16 for Francis Field improvements ordered.

³ The 2009 Commission of Fine Arts review was held before the full commission on January 22, 2009, as case number CFA22/Jan/09-4. The final submission, with revisions, was approved on September 24, 2009, as CFA 17/Sep/09-8. The updated master plan was approved with no objection on March 19, 2020, as CFA 19/Mar/20-e.

⁴ Adrienne A. Coleman, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park, to Thomas Luebke, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, undated, but stamped as “Received Feb 17, 2009” by Commission of Fine Arts.

⁵ These diagrams were shown to representatives of Friends of Francis Field and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A on April 29, 2009, and copies provided, at Rock Creek Park headquarters by Superintendent Coleman. Peter May of NPS National Capital Region also participated in that meeting.

⁶ Act of May 29, 1930 (46 Stat. 482).

⁷ The transfer of jurisdiction for Reservation 639 and 12 others was recorded by the Office of the Surveyor, District of Columbia, on October 18, 1971, in Book 158, page 11, according to letter of T. Edward Koch, Jr, Acting Surveyor, to General Superintendent, Office of National Capital Parks, October 19, 1971.

⁸ The DPR representatives at this meeting at the West End Public Library were Christopher Dyer, Community Engagement Manager, and Peter Nohrden, Capital Projects, Planning and Design. Mr. Nohrden stated that the proposed TOJ would accommodate both an expanded dog park and a “FIFA regulation soccer field.”

⁹ The date of completion of the parkway is from Barry Mackintosh, *Rock Creek Park: An Administrative History* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1985), p. 63.

¹⁰ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (1870-1957) was the son of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1822-1903). We use “Olmsted” in this letter to refer to the son. The father played no active role in the creation of Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway.

¹¹ L’Enfant Plan remains in the Library of Congress map division. The Ellicott Plan may also be found there. See also Iris Miller, *Washington in Maps, 1806-2000* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, 2002), pp. 34-35, 44-45.

¹² The citation we use for the 1913 Public Buildings Act is from Timothy Davis, *Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway: History and Description* (Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, 1991-92), p. 67. A more contemporary citation, as well as the full text of Chapter 22 of that Act, is provided in *Report of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission, 1916* (H. Doc. 114, 64th Cong., 1st Session, 1916), p. 20.

¹³ Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, Charles Moore, ed., *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia* (S. Doc. 166, 57th Cong., 1st Session, 1902). Hereafter referred to as *Senate Park Commission Report, 1902*.

¹⁴ Cornelius W. Heine, *A History of National Capital Parks*, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1953) p. 12. NPC [See pdf copy on NPS website] website: <http://npshistory.com/publications/nace/adhi/chap2.htm>

¹⁵ National Capital Planning Commission, *Worthy of the Nation: The History of Planning for the National Capital* (Smithsonian Institution, 1977), p. 113-33.

¹⁶ Sue Kohler and Pamela Scott, eds., *Designing the Nation’s Capital: The 1901 Plan for Washington, D.C.* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, 2006. [NPS website]

¹⁷ *Senate Park Commission Report, 1902*, pp. 7-8,10.

¹⁸ John W. Reps, *Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital Center* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1967), pp. 100, 139.

¹⁹ *Senate Park Commission Report, 1902*, p. 86.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, unnumbered page facing p. 86.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 86, and unnumbered facing page.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 86.

²³ *Report of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission, 1916*, *op. cit.* p. 42. Hereafter referred to as *Parkway Commission Report, 1916*.

²⁴ *Parkway Commission Report, 1916*, p. 17.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 42.

²⁶ *Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Washington, D.C.* (Philadelphia: G.W. Baist, 1932), vol. 1, plate 1.

²⁷ Mackintosh, op. cit., p. 70.

²⁸ "Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District," (National Park Service: National Register of Historic Places, registration form and certification, March 18, 2005), Items 3,4,6,7,8.

²⁹ FFF to Julia Washburn, "Donation related to Francis Field improvements under Special Use Permit # NCR ROCR 9500 287," March 20, 2018.

³⁰ Jessica Portner, "GWU Repairs City-Owned Field in Unique Agreement," *Washington Post*, 08 Nov 1990, p. B2; and Ed McKee, "Francis Field Is New Home for Colonials Soccer and Baseball Teams," [press release] George Washington University, 10 Oct 1990. The latter states that "Francis Field boasts a new irrigation and sprinkler system, new fencing ... bleacher seating for 250 fans" and that the reconstruction of the field provided "a first-class playing field for the recreational athletes in this area--as well as for our Colonial men's and women's intercollegiate teams."

³¹ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., "Landscape in Connection with Public Buildings in Washington," in Glenn Brown, ed., *Papers Related to the Improvement of the City of Washington* (S. Doc. 94, 56th Cong. 2nd Session, 1901), p. 33.