

Centennial Park

Concept Plan

Metro Parks and the Conservancy for
Centennial Park and the Parthenon
Nashville TN
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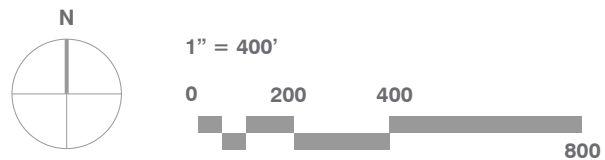
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1 Overall Master Plan

Master Plan

1. Parthenon
2. Lake Watauga
3. Cockrill Spring
4. Musicians' Corner
5. Parking Areas
6. Bandshell Events Pavilion
7. Lily Lake
8. Wedding Garden
9. Playground
10. Great Lawn
11. Flagpole Hill
12. Theater
13. Performing Arts Center
14. Visual Arts Center and Cafe
15. East Axis Building/Terrace
16. Picnic Shelter Renovation / Cafe
17. Reflecting Pool
18. Cockrill Spring Phase II
19. Events Ellipse
20. Sportsplex Campus
21. Maintenance Yard
22. Dog Parks
23. Skywalk / Promenade



Introduction

The concept plan clarifies and refines the vision established in the 2010 Centennial Park Master Plan. Through design explorations, the Centennial Park design team reorganizes and re-prioritizes the park's spaces to achieve two goals. The first goal is to accommodate the modern programmatic necessities as laid out in the design scope and programming discussions.

The second goal, equally important in this context, is to design these program elements to enrich the current user's experience by incorporating and highlighting the narratives that shaped this place. With these two goals, this concept plan envisions Centennial Park as a place where users can connect to a larger civic identity that is intimately tied to the rich natural and cultural history of Nashville.

NBW's research approach is one of narrative excavation, finding the stories to tell about Centennial Park that are relevant to the people of Nashville today. The existing forms and features in this land are a microcosm of features common to the Nashville area. The park is rich in physical clues as to how the geology, hydrology, ecology, human culture, urban development, and public health have shaped Nashville's culture and physical forms. These narratives of the City's formation are embedded in the physical features of Centennial Park. It is also a living park, where present-day Nashvillians go to experience their shared culture. Musical performances, arts programs, outdoor play, and recreation areas provide a space of public gathering and relief from the urbanizing landscape that surrounds the park.

The Concept Plan intends to provide functional, beautiful, and transcendent spaces for contemporary use that resonate with stories of the past. The design seeks to further reinforce Centennial's place as a cultural hub for the city. It aspires to provide a park experience rich in meaning, both personal and cultural.

Key principles of the design include:

- Organization of major spaces through the play between Beaux-Arts and Picturesque geometries. The Parthenon is respected as the cultural and spatial center of the park, with core areas of the park organized to provide axial arrangements to recall the 1897 exposition plan as well as oblique views emphasized in the Greek site layout for the original Parthenon
- Interpretation of narrative themes that highlight the unique history of the project site and the region. These themes include:
 - The formation of Nashville's physical and cultural fabric, tracing the development of physical geology to regional ecology to patterns of human settlement and culture
 - Development of Nashville's culture through interactions of various groups arriving to the Nashville area and the regional landscape
 - Innovative urban infrastructure as a key factor in Nashville's success and development as a city
 - The spirit of the 1897 Centennial Exposition, which presented the region as a forward-looking city rich in natural, civic, and cultural resources
 - Narrative of site water, interpreted as cultural, aesthetic, and functional features
 - Centennial Park's role in the city as a place to mark personal and community milestones
- Prioritization of elements of the park that promote the health of the individual, the community and the regional ecosystem including:
 - Providing infrastructure for individual physical health including verdant spaces for reflection and rejuvenation, an expanded trails network, and exercise opportunities for all ages.
 - Reconfiguring the site's water system to reduce potable water use. The plan proposes capturing storm and spring water for storage in Lake Watauga and use in site irrigation.
 - Using a diverse palette of native and adapted plants to provide habitat for native birds, pollinators, and aquatic species.
 - Tracking all projects through the Sustainable Sites Initiative ratings system.

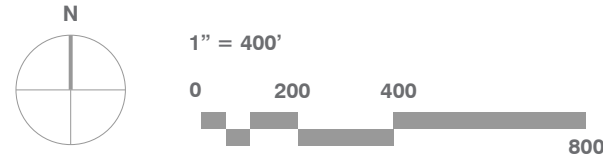
Organizing Geometries

Geometries Diagram



Legend

- Core Beaux Arts Geometries
- - - Core Beaux Arts Axis
- Picturesque Ramble



Geometries Narrative

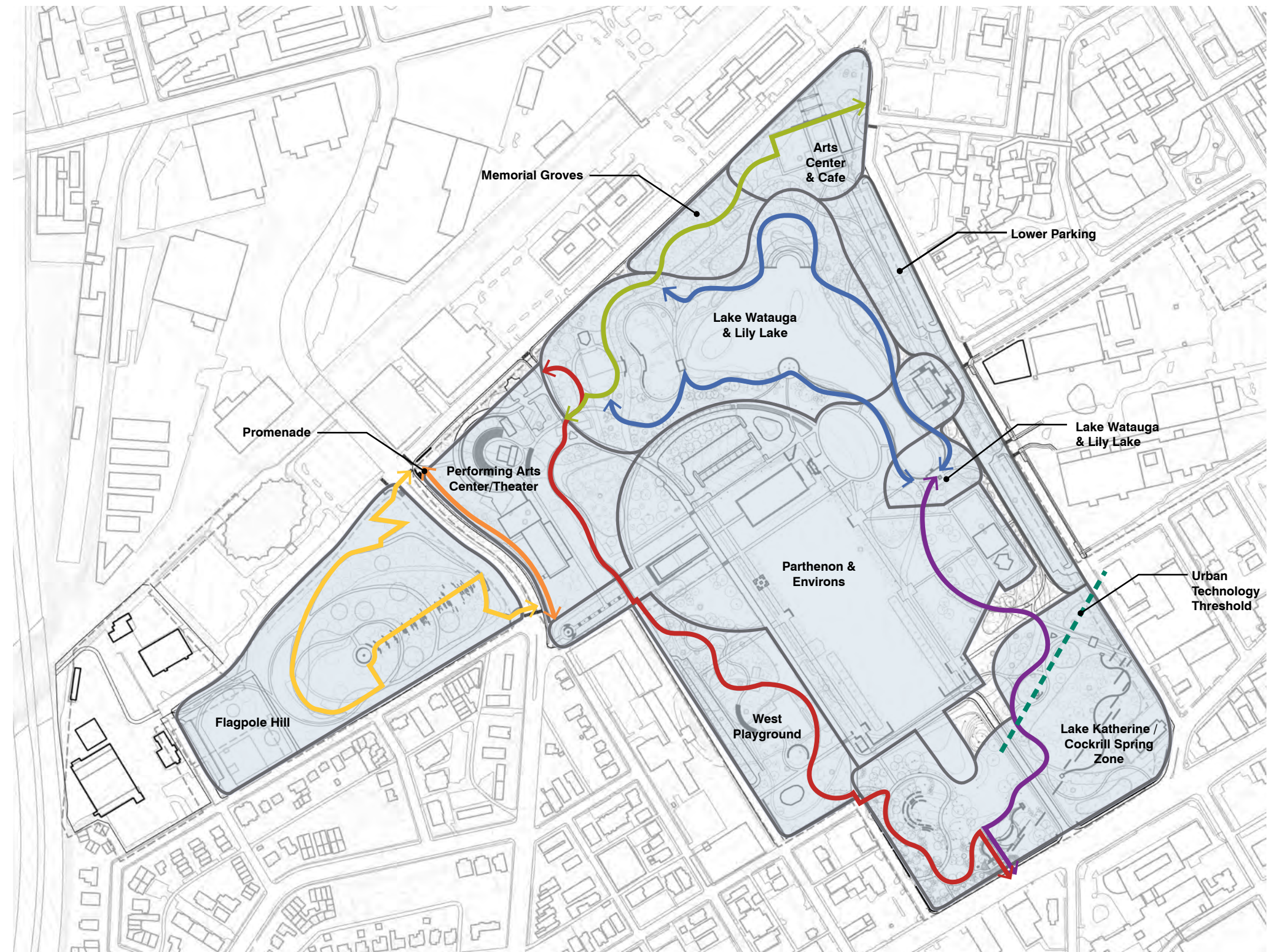
Two key organizational geometries, the Beaux-Arts and the Picturesque, are employed and reinterpreted in a contemporary manner in the arrangement of features in this Concept Plan. These strategies harken back to the era of Centennial Park's founding, but are modified to respond to today's park needs.

The Centennial Exposition Plan from 1897 showed a strongly Beaux-Arts style plan arrangement, with site features organized about major axes, and spaces arranged to provide key views to important structures like the Parthenon. The Concept Plan proposes that the areas proximate to the Parthenon and its major axes to the south, east, and west recall the orthogonal, highly ordered and geometrical layout evident in the Exposition plan.

Building on this history of Beaux-Arts geometries, several geometrical moves are proposed to organize the central spaces of the park. First, a large elliptical path inscribes a sacred precinct around the Parthenon. Widened paths and structured allee plantings surround the Great Lawn south of the Parthenon, defining it as the park's large recreational and events use zone. A new terrace or building at the terminus of the axis east of the Parthenon provides a new threshold to the site from 25th Avenue North. Finally, a destination terrace, planted axis, and reflecting pool extend along the West Axis of the Parthenon. This rearrangement of spaces responds to and provides a fitting formal context for the Parthenon for the first time since the Exposition itself.

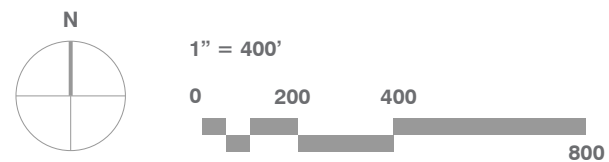
A second geometrical strategy, the Picturesque, is used to define the pathways and spaces that surround this geometrical core of the park. These are conceived of as part of a picturesque ramble of meandering paths that circulate around the site's edges. These areas serve as a foil to the structuring geometries of the park's core, providing a contrasting experience rich in varied views of park features, changing horticultural uses of native plants, and opportunities for experiencing the more intimate spaces of the park

Spatial Precinct and Narratives
Spatial Precinct and Narrative Diagram



Legend

- Urban Technologies Walk
- Lake Watauga and Lily Lake Walk
- Urban Technologies Threshold
- Culture Walk
- Civil War & Urban Prospect Walk
- Memorial Groves/Garden Walk



Narrative Themes

Narrative Themes:

From the main pedestrian entrance at West End Avenue, the visitor enters the phase 1 Cockrill Spring area, which interprets and highlights the early history of Centennial Park. From that point, paths moving north through the park will have two distinct narrative themes taking place along the east and west flanks of the park.

The path through the peripheral spaces along the east side of the park connect the spring to the Robertson Memorial and interpret urban infrastructural technologies that enabled the City of Nashville to flourish. The rill from the Cockrill Spring zone will continue to the east side of 26th Avenue, into a quiet woodland. From that point, moving north, a threshold interpreting developing urban technologies leads towards Great Lawn overflow space. Existing features like the Shell Springs, and the Tennessee Gunboat Monument would remain in this zone. In the very long-term future, as the city's sewer system may eventually need renovation or replacement, the design suggests that segments of the existing brick sewer pipe be exhumed and displayed in this zone. This collection of technological relics will help put the existing Exposition-era entrance bridge into context, as the exposition was made possible only through these advances in urban technologies. This path would lead to the area surrounding the bandshell, a mid-century landmark that will be renovated and expanded to serve as an events pavilion. As the visitor approaches the Robertson Monument, the character of the walk will change once again. At this point, major paths circumnavigate the lake, providing spaces to revel in the aesthetic qualities of the Park's most prominent water feature and wetland plantings that will surround its edges.

Moving to the West, from Cockrill Spring around the periphery of the site, spaces will interpret the development of Nashville culture, landscape, and arts. Moving from the musician's corner amphitheater the rambling path will move past a café in the restored picnic pavilion and through a series of playground spaces that interpret the cultural development of Nashville through time. This walk will culminate in its connection the new Centennial Performing Arts Center and Theater, where Nashville's future culture makers are educated. At this point, this path will cross into the zone north of Lake Watauga along Park Plaza. This area is conceived as a quiet strolling garden planted with Memorial trees, where visitors can have a quiet and reflective experience.

Flagpole Hill will take on a different spatial character, as this area is divided from the rest of the park by 31st Avenue North. This concept plan proposes that existing dog parks be relocated to the west side of flagpole hill. The east side of the hill is then re-envisioned as a set of informal landscape steps and terraces that would provide stunning views back to the city skyline to the east. This woodland stair would also be a place to interpret flagpole hill's strategic position during the Civil War, and serve as a space for informal fitness training for adults.

Physical and Environmental Health:

The ties between designed landscapes and public health have been recognized since the late 19th century. As early as 1866, Olmsted and Vaux, designers of many influential park spaces in the United States, argued that public parks were necessary components of city infrastructure, fundamental to the health of an urban population:

*"the great advantage which a town finds in a park, lies in the addition to the health, strength, and morality which comes from it to its people, an advantage which is not only in itself very great and positive, but which as certainly results in an increase of material wealth... the reason is obvious: all wealth is the result of labor, and... without recuperation and recreation of force, the power of each individual to labor wisely and honestly is soon lost, and that, without the recuperation of force, the power of each individual to add to the wealth of the community is, as necessary consequence, also soon lost."*¹

As these men describe, parks are an essential component to any urban landscape, providing physical and aesthetic relief and respite from the density and industrial nature of the modern city.

This plan builds on this idea of the park as essential health infrastructure, expanding it to include contemporary conceptions of health. The proposed design incorporates modern knowledge of physical fitness and environmental health, and interprets past advances in public health that have enabled Nashville to thrive as a modern city.

First and most obviously, the concept design for the park introduces the physical infrastructure for improving individual health. The park is envisioned as a green oasis that provides visual and physical relief from the development of the rest of the city. Flagpole Hill is envisioned as a route for adult fitness activities, and playground areas along the west border of the site are dispersed to encourage movement for the whole family. Demonstration/food gardens at the new Visual Arts Center provide opportunities to interpret diet and healthful food. Trails are expanded from the current total of 2.35 miles to a total of almost 7 miles, by removing most vehicular circulation from the body of the park, and introducing a more intensive path system.

The plan also embraces contemporary best practices with regard to regional environmental health. With modern sanitation and sewer systems keeping deadly water borne diseases at bay, the design team seeks to step back from a 19th century approach that pipes all site water. A more modern concern is the tie between human health and the health of the larger environment on which human systems depend. The conservation of the region's water supply has a direct impact on the health of Nashvillians who depend on clean water. One of the biggest interventions proposed on site is to reveal and re-use existing site water from Cockrill Springs and other sources. This water is first daylit through rills and rain gardens so it can be seen and experienced by users on site. The plan proposes that this site water is retained for storage in Lake Watauga, for use in site irrigation of proposed landscape features. This will dramatically reduce the park's use of potable water for irrigation, and allow the park to contribute to the health of Nashville's water supply.

Related to this idea larger environmental health is also the concept of ecosystem health and habitat. This concept plan improves the site's capacity to provide habitat for native pollinators, birds, and aquatic species, and that a more diversified palette of mostly native plants be deployed to support the web of life in the park. Finally, the plan embraces current standards in sustainable building practices. The plan recommends that all phases of project work be tracked through the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SSI) rating system.

Conclusion:

The plan establishes and structures Centennial Park as a Living Legacy Landscape, a treasure stewarded by generations of Nashvillians which, like a family album, will reinforce personal and collective connections to the place. The Concept Plan will become the structural framework that allows the park continue to evolve as a touchstone of Nashville culture.

NBW, along with our talented design team, is honored to have been entrusted with the commission for design of the Concept plan for the Centennial Park site. We are delighted to continue the collaboration with Metro Parks and the Centennial Park Conservancy to propose a set of design solutions that prioritize cultural history, local ecology, environmental stewardship, and an enriched human experience of Centennial Park.

¹ Olmsted and Vaux, "Preliminary Report to the Commissioners for Laying out a Park in Brooklyn, New York: Being a Consideration of site and other Conditions Affecting the Design of Public Pleasure Grounds", 1866, 86





This area provides the opportunity to continue the design language begun in Phase I Cockrill Spring area. A rill feature would continue the language introduced on the west side of 26th Avenue, and suggest water flowing to the site's low point near the existing bridge at Lick Branch. Seat-height site walls would echo the Natchez trace wall that exists on the other side of 26th Avenue. Understory plantings would enliven an already impressive existing tree canopy. The road to the South of the funeral home would be removed, consolidating space for pedestrian access into the park from West End Avenue. Shell Spring, the existing bridge at Lick Branch, the Lick Branch sewer pipe, the Tennessee Gunboat monument, and the Gold Star monument would remain as relics of the era of public infrastructure improvements in Nashville.

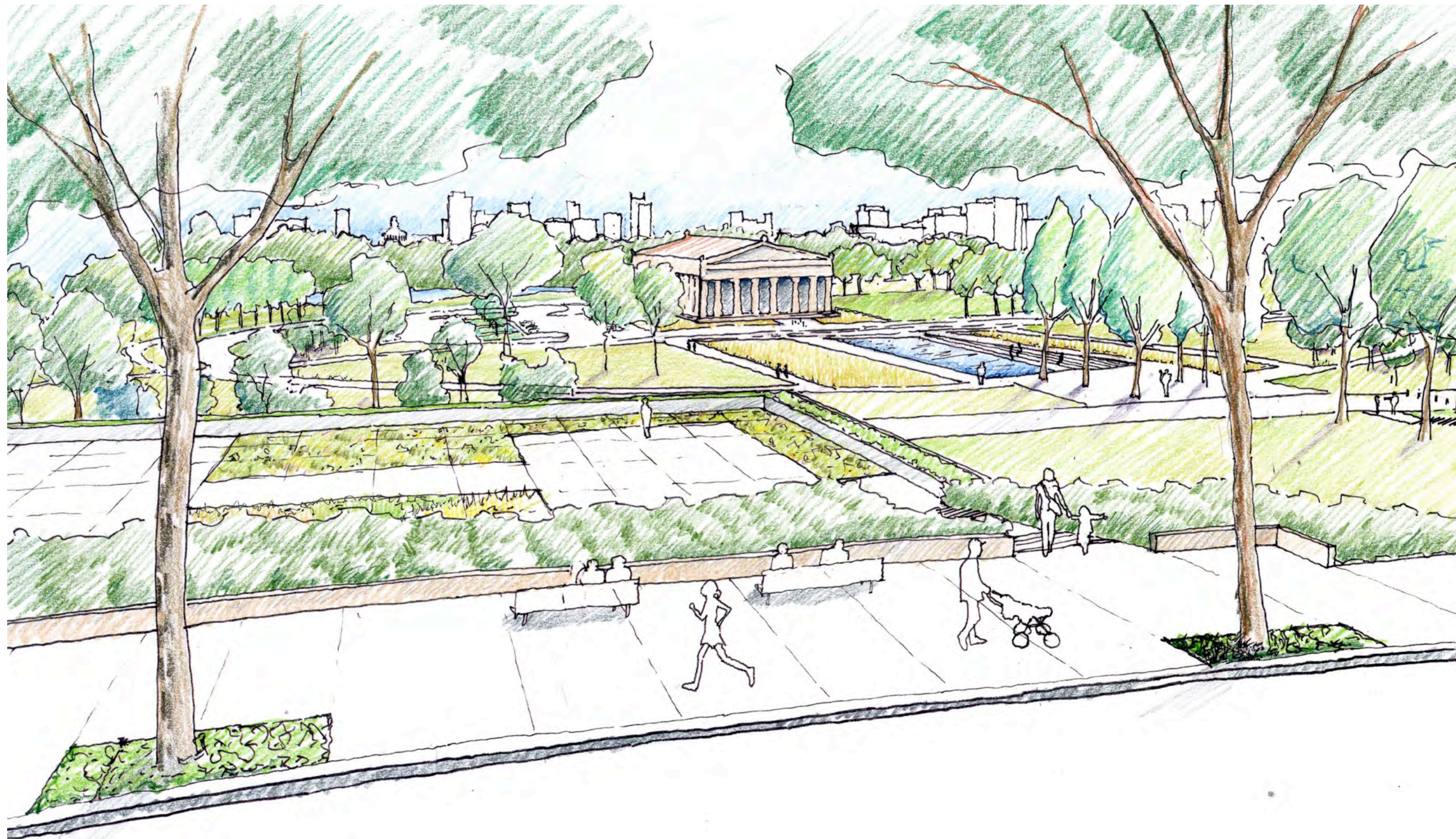


Rill at Rousham, Oxfordshire, England



Cockrill Spring rendering

Promenade at 31st Avenue



Playground





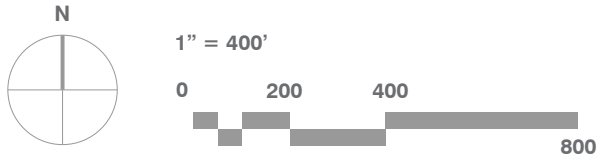
Path Distances

The concept plan seeks to prioritize pedestrian use of the park. The plan removes 1.7 miles of roads from the interior of the park, providing the opportunity to increase path distances from an existing 2.35 miles of trails to 7 miles.

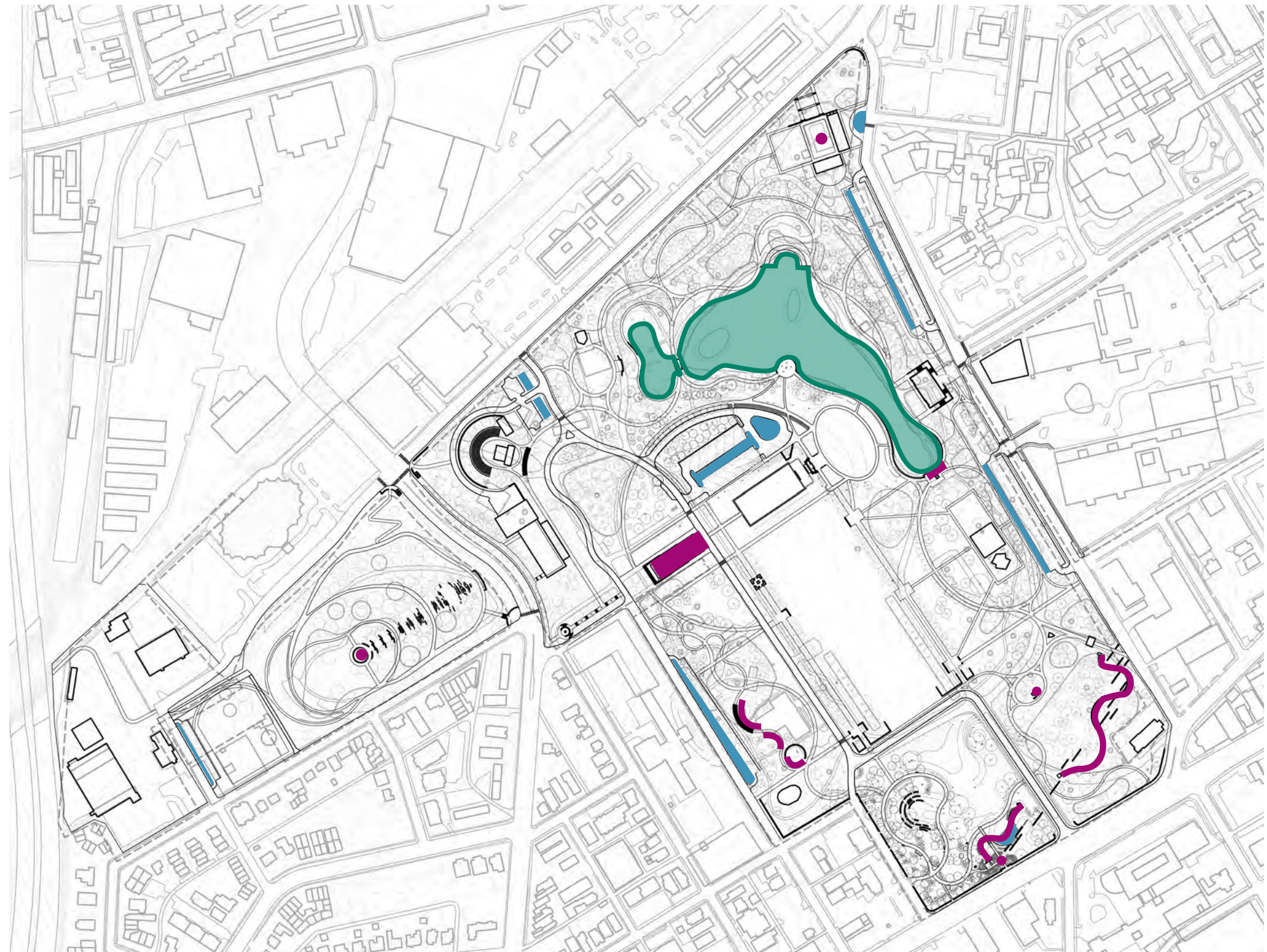


Legend




- 7 Miles of Pedestrian Paths
- - - 1 Mile Loop Path



Water Diagram

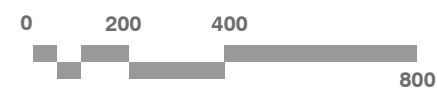


Legend

-  Rain Gardens
-  Fountains, Rills & Pools
-  Lake Watauga - aesthetic & water reuse feature



1" = 400'



Projects and Phasing

Overall Projects Diagram

Phase I (Under Construction)

- 1a. Parthenon Parking
- 1b. Cockrill Spring
- 1c. Lake Watauga Water Quality

Landscape Based Projects

- 2a. Great Lawn
- 2b. Parthenon Axis West
- 2c. East End Parking
- 2d. Lake Watauga Edges
- 2e. Bandshell Events Pavilion Grounds
- 3a. Lily Lake and Wedding Gardens
- 3b. Landscape Connector
- 4a. Playground
- 4b. CAAC Demolition
- 4c. Cockrill Spring Phase II
- 5. Flagpole Hill

Architectural Projects

- A. Theater
- B. Bandshell and Events Pavilion
- C. Performing Arts Center / Skywalk
- D. Visual Art Center and Cafe
- E. Parthenon Entrance Renovation and East Axis Building/Terrace
- G. Picnic Shelter Restoration and Cafe
- H. 440 Greenway
- I. Storage Building
- J. Sportsplex Parking Garage & 25th Ave. parking improvement

Centennial Park houses important landscape program of play, communing with nature, special events, formal lawns and gardens, and other uses. It also includes important architectural program elements for the City of Nashville including the Centennial Art Center, The Centennial Arts Activity Center, the existing Bandshell, Events Shelter, and the Parthenon. In order to evaluate a phasing and construction strategy for Centennial Park - both the landscape and architectural program need to be closely considered. The projects diagram describes a series of discrete, but in some cases interconnected projects and a phasing strategy.

The landscape projects have been grouped into a series of five phases which in some cases include subphases. The phasing of the landscape projects was considered to put the most impactful projects first, but if funding or partnerships become available, the order could certainly be reassessed.

Most of the plan’s architectural components will be more expensive to develop than the landscape projects and require special considerations. For these reasons, architectural projects are identified separately. Architecture projects H, I and J are located on adjunct metro parks properties, and are outside the scope of the concept plan.

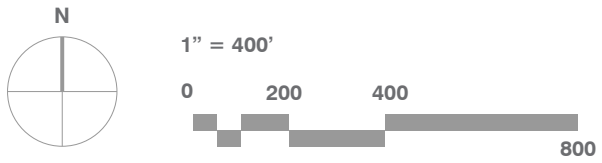
A few phases and projects are sequence-dependent. These are projects that impact or eliminate an existing facility or program. In order to minimize the disruption to existing park uses the replacement facility should be developed first or an alternate strategy or interim accommodation identified so that existing uses are not displaced. Sequence-dependent projects are as follows:

- Implementation of Phase 3a (Lily Lake) eliminates the existing Events Shelter. As a result, Architectural Project B (Bandshell Events Pavilion) should occur first. Because Architectural Project B (Bandshell Events Pavilion) requires adaptive re-use of the existing Bandshell from a performance venue to a special events pavilion, Architectural Project A should occur first.
- Phase 2d (Lake Watauga Edges) eliminates parking lots, so Phase 2c (East Parking) should occur first.
- Phase 4b (Playground) encompassed the footprint of the existing Arts Activity Center, so Project C (Performing Arts Center) should occur first.
- Architectural Project A (Theater) eliminates the existing Police Building and Theater Division storage, so Architectural Project BB (Storage Building) should occur first.
- Because D (Visual Art Center & Café) will require additional adjacent parking, Phase 2c (East Parking) should occur first.

Overall Projects cont.



- Legend**
- Phase 1 (Under Construction)
 - Phase 2
 - Phase 3
 - Phase 4
 - Phase 5
 - Architectural Projects
 - Adjunct Metro Parks Properties



Landscape Projects

2a. Great Lawn

This area is the main recreational and special events core for Centennial Park. The geometries of this area are clarified through the rearrangement of paths and newly planted allees that provide structuring planting to enclose the lawn. The existing allee trees on the southern section of the lawn remain. Lawn spaces are renovated and engineered to sustain heavy traffic and major events. Paths are sized to accommodate events and staging access for events.

1. Parthenon
2. Great Lawn
3. Thomas Monument
4. Wall
5. Existing Allee Trees
6. Proposed Allee Trees
7. Meadow

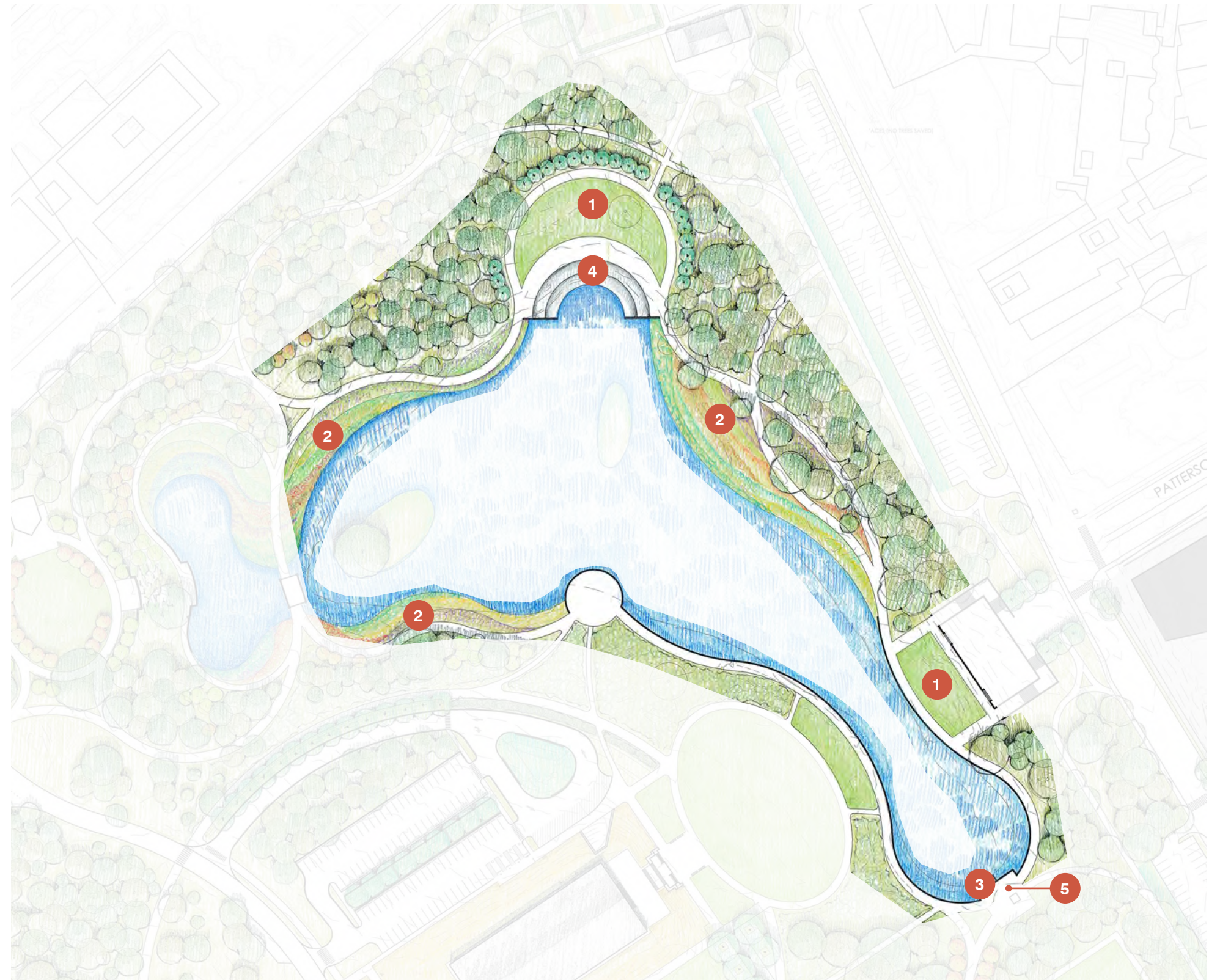


Landscape Projects (cont'd)

2d. Lake Watauga Edges

This area includes re-building of all edges of Lake Watauga, providing improved wall edges proximate to the Parthenon, Robertson Memorial. Planted edges are introduced in other areas along the lake perimeter allowing for free board water storage and improved habitat. The northeast corner of the lake is developed as a small gathering lawn, and provides steps down for access to the water's edge.

1. Lawn
2. Lake Edge Planting
3. Source Fountain
4. Lake Steps
5. Robertson Monument

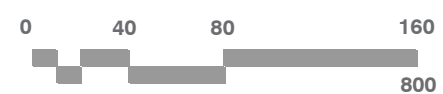


2e. Bandshell Events Pavilion Grounds

- 1. Lawn
- 2. Cherry Walk
- 3. Great Lawn Overflow



1" = 80'



This area is the landscape surrounding the existing bandshell. Paths are formalized to allow this area to serve as overflow space for events on the Great Lawn, and to define a gathering around the bandshell itself. A cherry walk divides the bandshell grounds from the Great Lawn, and provides an ornamental display of blooms in early spring.

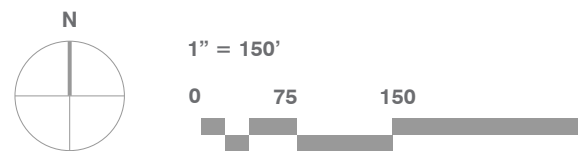


Existing Bandshell

Landscape Projects (cont'd)

3a. Lily Lake and Wedding Gardens & 3b, Landscape Connector

- 1. Lily Lake
- 2. Wedding Lawn
- 3. Memorial Groves
- 4. Overlook Terraces
- 5. Pavilion



This area entails the reintroduction of Lily Lake and the cascade into Lake Watauga at the existing Exposition-era bridge. The space of Lily Lake is conceived as a horticulturally rich aquatic garden with wetland perennial edges. Positioned to the northwest of Lily Lake, a special events lawn is proposed adjacent to the existing croquet pavilion. The lawn would be a space for small events like wedding ceremonies, with connections to overlook terraces with vistas to the picturesque beauty of Lake Watauga. The croquet pavilion would be renovated and repurposed as restrooms and event support space. With a new path, the landscape connector (involving the removal of an internal park access road), the north edge of the park is envisioned as a series of quiet gardens and memorial groves.



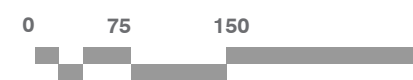
Landscape Projects (cont'd)

4a. Playground & 4b. CAAC Demolition

- 1. Existing Picnic Shelter
- 2. Play Lawn
- 3. Open Play Area
- 4. Tree-based Play Areas
- 5. Pergola
- 6. Great Lawn Overflow
- 7. Parking
- 8. Rain Garden



1" = 150'



Just east of 28th Avenue N. is a playground that takes advantage of existing large shade trees and proximity to parking on the west edge. The southern portion of the play areas would have a more open character, as fewer existing trees are present in this zone. As one moves north, garden structures like the pergola punctuate the space. In the northeastern section of this zone, tree-based play could take advantage of the remarkable character of the existing large trees. The eastern portion of this plan area serves as Great Lawn events overflow.

In order for this entire project to be completed, the Performing Arts Center must be completed and Centennial Arts Activity Center (CAAC) building demolished. If the CAAC remains during initial construction of this phase, most of the playground could be constructed, and the remaining fragment built when the CAAC is removed.



Evelyn Court Playground, London



West 110 St. Playground New York City



Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York City



Cow Hollow School Playground, San Francisco



Tumbling Bay Playground, London, England

Architectural Projects

A. Theater

- 1. Stage
- 2. Stage Support Building
- 3. Public Interface Building
- 4. Seating
- 5. Service Drive
- 6. Parking
- 7. Rain Garden
- 8. Pergola
- 9. Entry Wall



This outdoor theater will anchor the park's northwest corner at the 31st Avenue connector. This space will replace the bandshell as the park's primary venue for large performances like Shakespeare in the Park and will complement the more intimate Musician's Corner venue built in phase 1. The stage is surrounded by a large berm, which provides the height necessary to create good sight lines for audience members, and to buffer the performance space from the surrounding road sounds. Tiered seating on the berm would provide good views of the stage and park spaces beyond. A public interface building sits adjacent to the parking lot and provides ticketing, concessions, and restrooms, while a second building in the center of the theater space houses the stage and stage support.



Amphitheater at Swarthmore



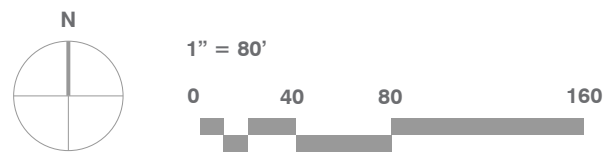
Outdoor Theater Rendering

Architectural Projects (cont'd)

B. Bandshell and Events Pavilion

This project adapts the existing mid-century bandshell into a large events space with the introduction of an additional covered structure. Events currently held in the Events Shelter (big band dances, etc.) would relocate to this new structure.

- 1. Bandshell
- 2. Events Pavilion



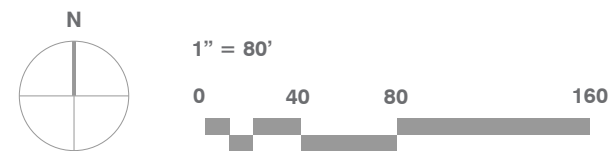
Architectural Projects (cont'd)

C. Performing Arts Center & Skywalk

This area centers around a new building that would accommodate programs currently housed at the Centennial Arts Activities Center including dance, theater, and music classes. The building would have a one-story portion, the roof of which would serve as a terrace that would be accessible from both the two-story portion of the building, and from pedestrian sidewalks along 31st Avenue.

To the west of the building, walkways along 31st would be wide, planted with large street trees and furnished with benches to allow that area to serve as a skywalk and promenade that would provide connections to pedestrian thresholds into the park and stunning views of the park and city skyline to the East. Fire access to the building would be provided by a 20' wide path east of the building. A service court would allow access to the building from the North.

1. Performing Arts Center (2-story section)
2. Performing Arts Center (1 story section with roof terrace above)
3. Promenade/Skywalk
4. Service Court
5. Ground Level Terrace
6. Fire / Service Access

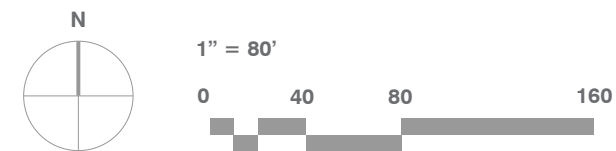


Architectural Projects (cont'd)

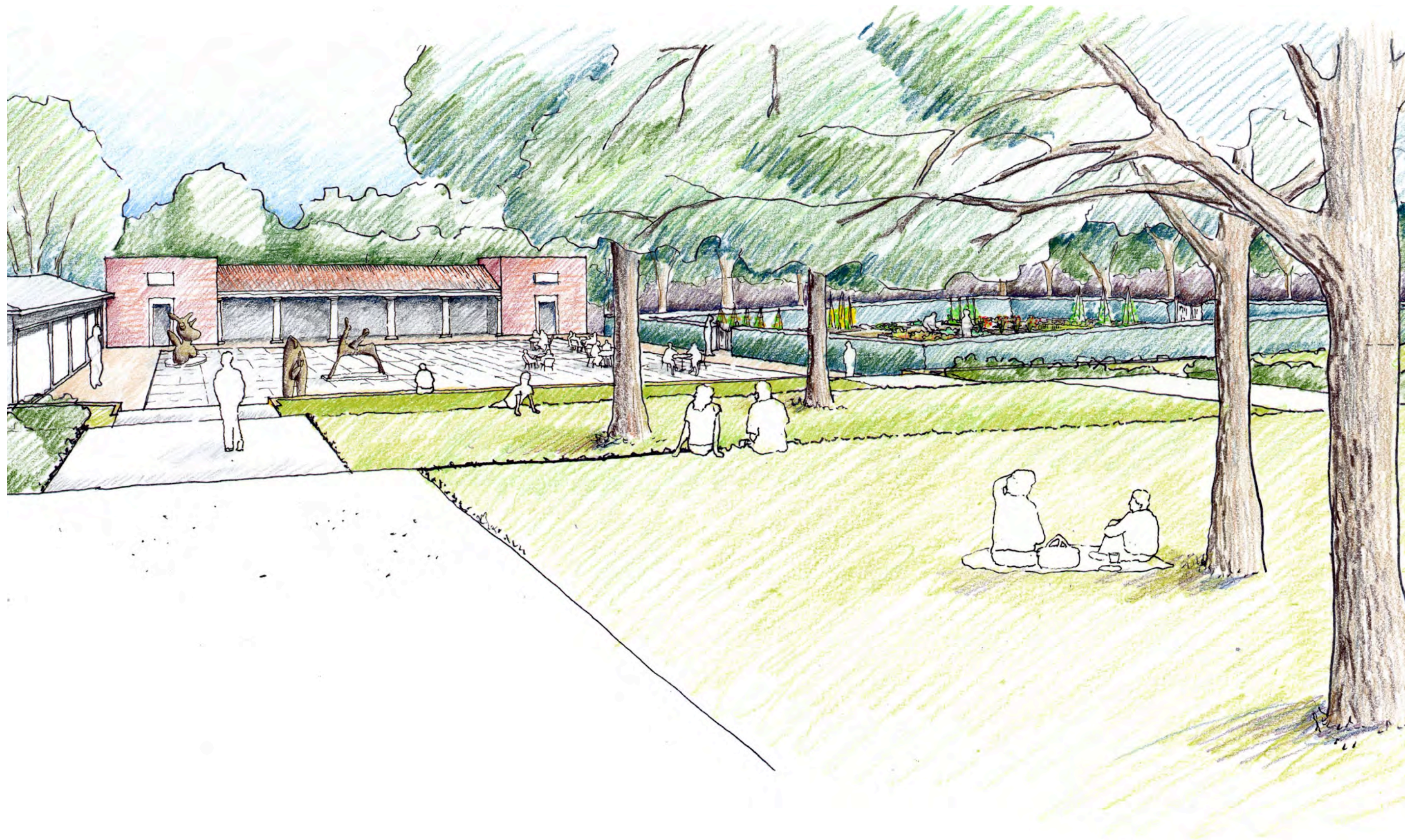
D. Art Center and Cafe

In this area, the existing historic Centennial Art Center (CAC) would be renovated for use as a café, and CAC program would be relocated to a new building to the northeast. The courtyard between these two buildings would become a space that recalls the footprint of the pool that was closed in the 1960s. The connection to Park Plaza will be strengthened by a set of terraced lawns to the north side of the court. A demonstration and food garden to the west of the courtyard would be used to supply some of the food for the café.

1. Arts Center
2. Cafe
3. Terrace With Water Feature
4. Dropoff
5. Rain Garden
6. Stepped Lawn
7. Demonstration / Food Garden



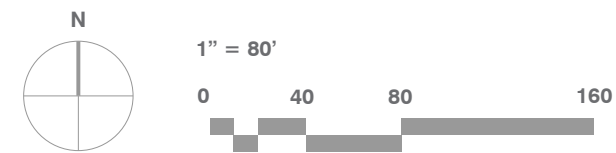
Art Center and Cafe



Architectural Projects (cont'd)

E. Parthenon Entrance Renovation and East Axis Building/Terrace

1. Terrace
2. East Axis Building and Terrace
3. Underground Parthenon Entrance
4. Parthenon Entrance Building
5. Restored Parthenon Stairs



This focus area contains two architectural projects. First is the new East Axis and terrace. The program for this structure is to be determined, but four possible scenarios for the configuration of this building exist:

1. Landscape Terrace at lake level (no building)
2. One story building at street level with roof terrace
3. Building at lake level
4. 2 story building (one at lake level and one at street level).

In conjunction with this new building, the entrance to the Parthenon itself would be renovated and reconfigured. The entry point would move to the North, proximate to the dropoff area, away from the main façade of the building. This would allow the east steps to be renovated to resemble the stair configuration during the exposition and strengthen the relationship between the Parthenon and the Events Lawn constructed in Phase One. Provision for introducing natural light into the subterranean entry building (such introduction of glass block in the floor above) is recommended.



Exposition-era Parthenon steps

Nashville springs and the Great Salt Lick

Nashville Natural Advantages

The geological substrate in Nashville also created special conditions that made the site an attractive place to both animals and people. The underlying limestone dissolves easily, creating ground that interacts with water in unusual ways. Nashville has numerous springs, which provided plentiful water sources and is on the banks of the Cumberland River. The porosity of the ground also meant wastes dissolved quickly into the ground water table.

Nashville was also the site of the Great Salt Lick, an area directly West of the Cumberland River, where mineral deposits attracted game in search of minerals missing from their regular diets. These herds of game in turn attracted people to hunt them. Signs of native people still exist in the Nashville area. Haunting mounds sites of the now vanished Mississippian culture still serve as signs of early human habitation in the area.

Features of Karst Topography

Karst Limestone formations result in landscape features that make Nashville an appealing place to settle: numerous springs and good infiltration

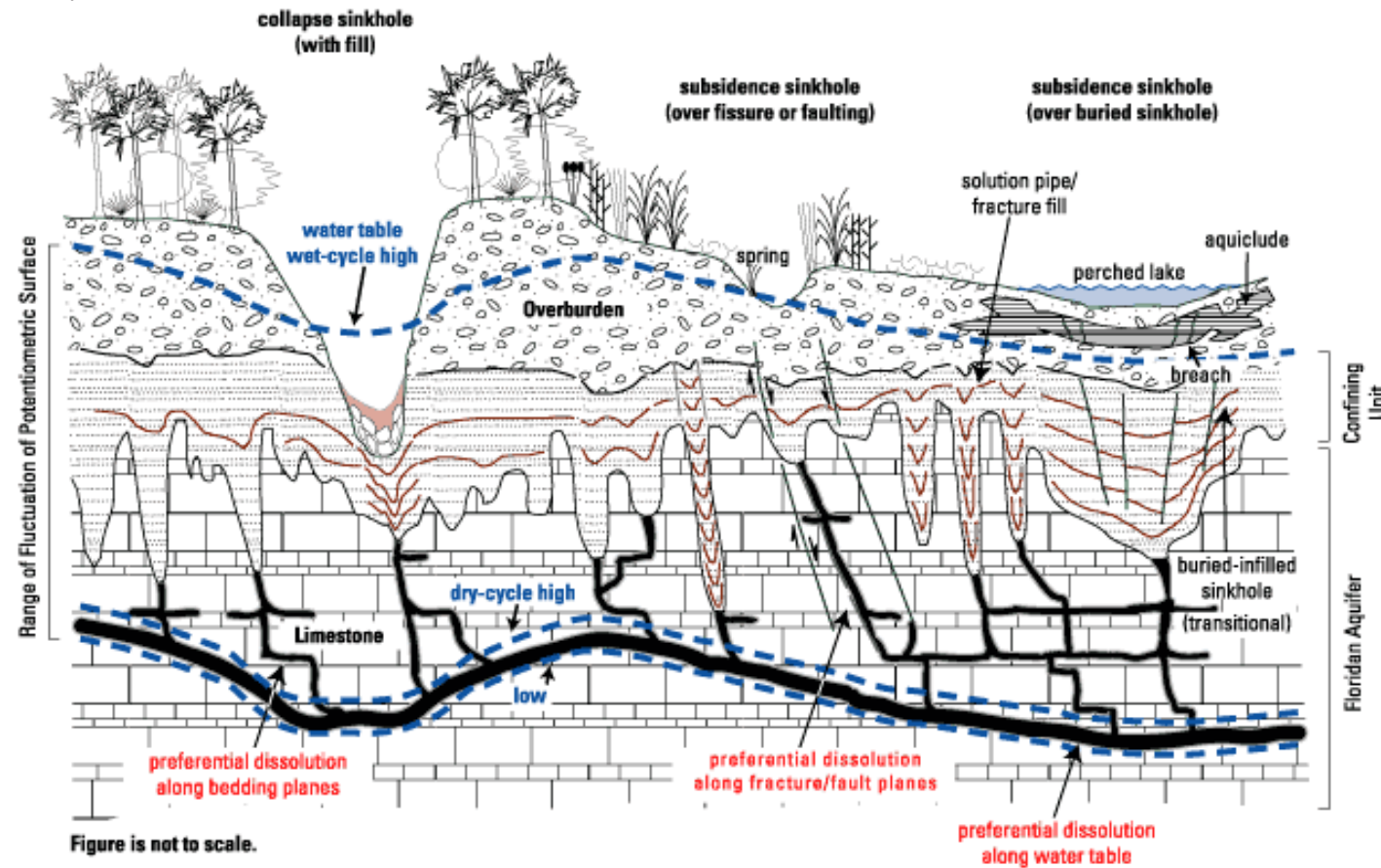


Image: http://www.nationalatlas.gov/articles/geology/a_karst.html

The Great Salt Lick

Nashville was once the site of a great salt lick on the South side of the Cumberland River, which attracted game in search of minerals missing from their regular diets.

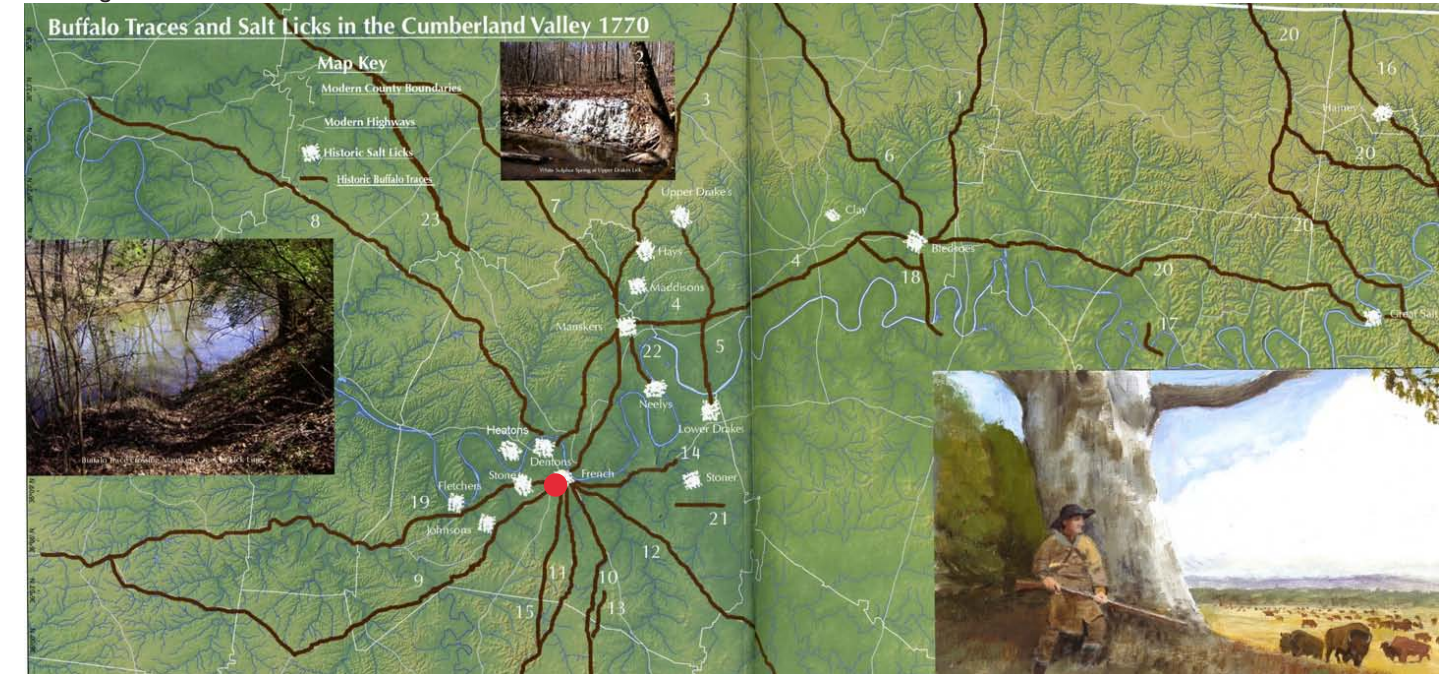


Image: *Founding of the Cumberland settlements: the first atlas, 1779-1804, pg 12-13*

● Project Site

Pre-colonial Settlement

Numerous locations along the game paths surrounding Nashville show signs of the Mississippian Mound building culture that vanished before European settlement



Image: <http://www.nps.gov/common/uploads/photogallery/akr/park/natr/299162B5-1DD8-B71C-07FA622EF67FAD35/299162B5-1DD8-B71C-07FA622EF67FAD35.jpg>

Connections to Water Systems

Nashville's siting along the Cumberland River hastened its development as a major regional urban center. The Cumberland flowed to the Ohio River, and then into the Mississippi, connecting the city to the port city of New Orleans, and consumer markets beyond. At the same time, Nashville's position on the Cumberland connected it to a vast hinterland of natural resources within Tennessee, with coal-rich regions in the East, iron-rich regions to the West, and large tracts of lumber and farmland within the watershed.

Cumberland River Watershed

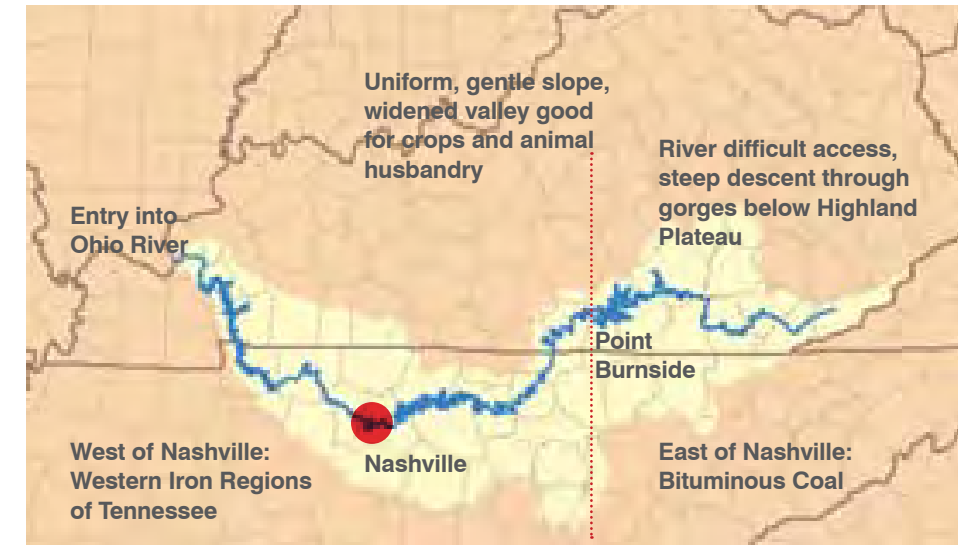


Image: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumberland_River

Mississippi River Watershed

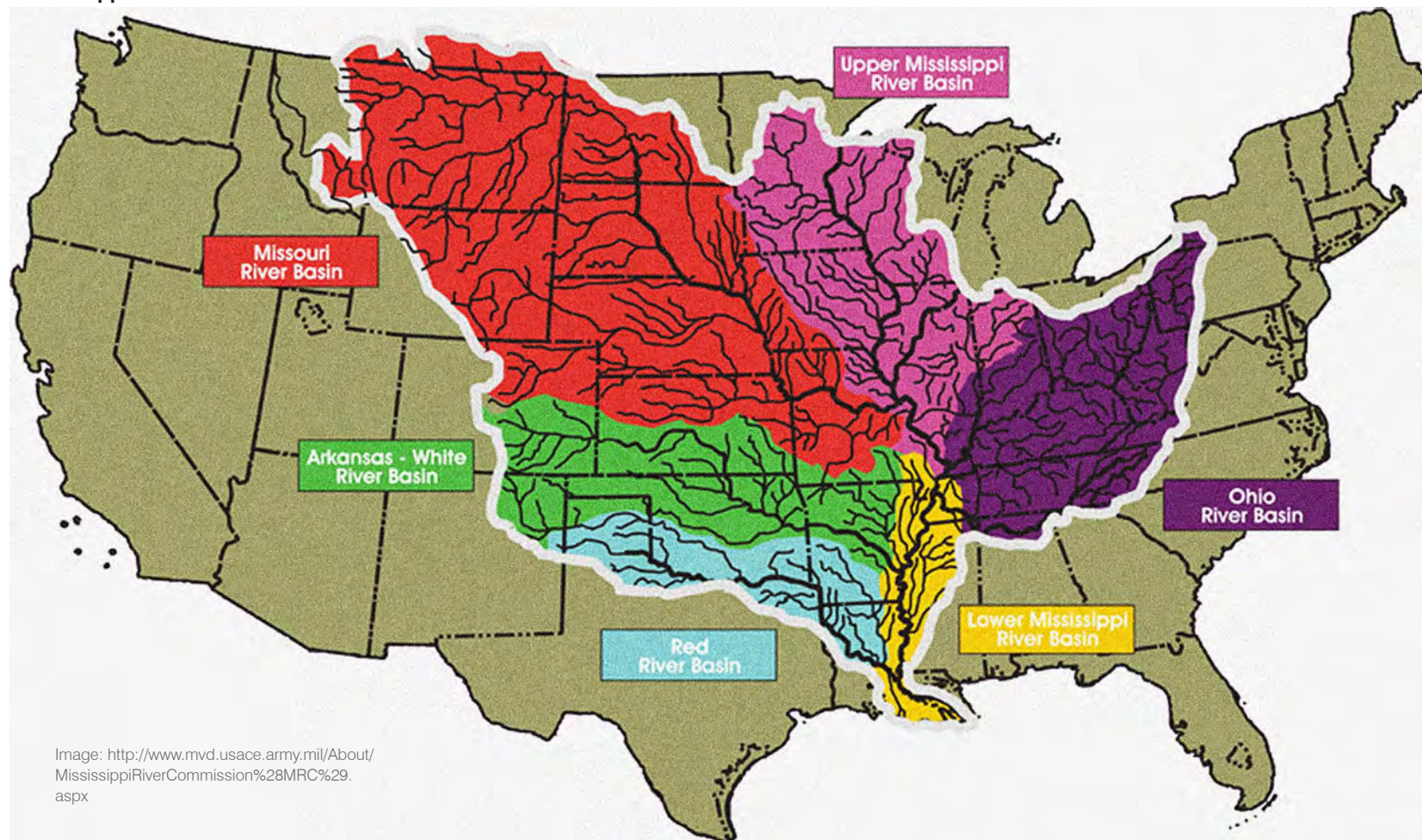


Image: <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/About/MississippiRiverCommission%28MRC%29.aspx>

The Natchez Trace and the Old Southwest Territories

Between 1783 and 1795, American territory expanded to the East bank of the Mississippi River, and shipping of goods via flatboat to New Orleans increased dramatically. Natchez, Mississippi became one of the southernmost cities within the U.S. territory.

Farmers and settlers from the Southwest Territories, including present-day Tennessee, would band together annually to build flatboats to ship their goods to market. Upon reaching their destination of either Natchez or New Orleans, the boats would be broken down and sold for lumber, leaving the Kaintucks, or boatmen, in need of an overland route back their homes to the Northeast. The Natchez Trace, which followed an old-game path along ridge lines between Natchez, Mississippi, and Nashville was the only reliable route overland for men returning East. Around 1800, the Federal Government approved improvement of this route to provide postal delivery service to lands in the new Southwest frontier.

As settlers began to populate the Southwest Territories from the late 18th century into the early 19th century, the Natchez Trace became a major route by which many goods and services traveled. Stands sprung up all along the trace to serve travelers along the path. As lands along the Trace became settled, the path was used by musicians, itinerant preachers, entertainers, and tinkers, facilitating the spread of culture between settlements in the region.

Map of the Natchez Trace, 1820

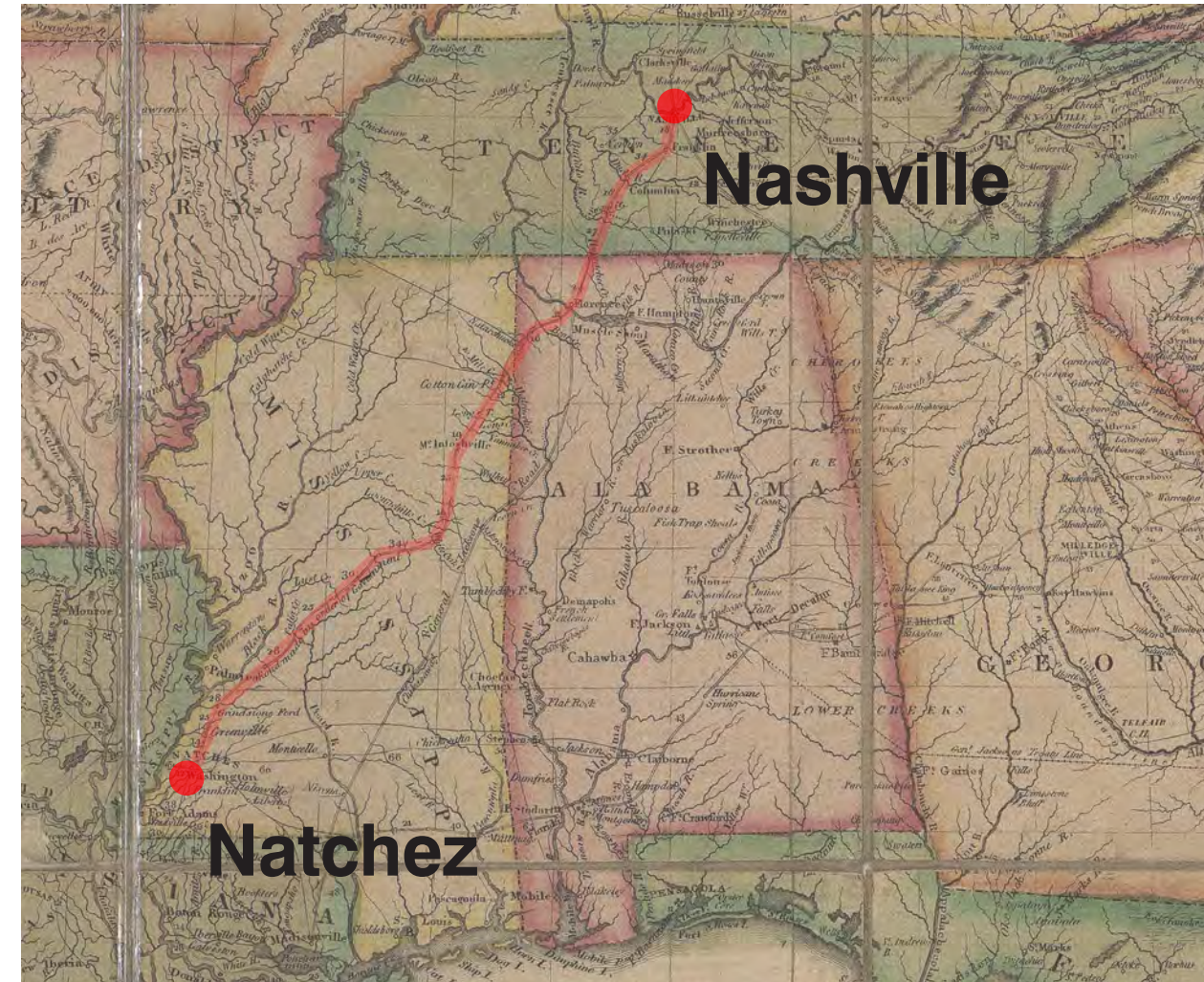


Image: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

1783 Map of Extents of the United States



Image: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Settlement History (1780s – 1830s) the Formation of Nashville (cont'd)

The Natchez Trace and the Old Southwest Territories

Cockrill Springs is still remembered in modern times as a moment of refreshment and respite along the Trace.



Image: <http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/tresorts/images/CockrillSpring.jpg>

The Natchez Trace was heavily used from 1800 to the late 1820s. It served kaintucks (river men) returning from flatboat transports down the Mississippi, settlers of the bottom lands of the Mississippi Valley, traveling preachers, and musicians.

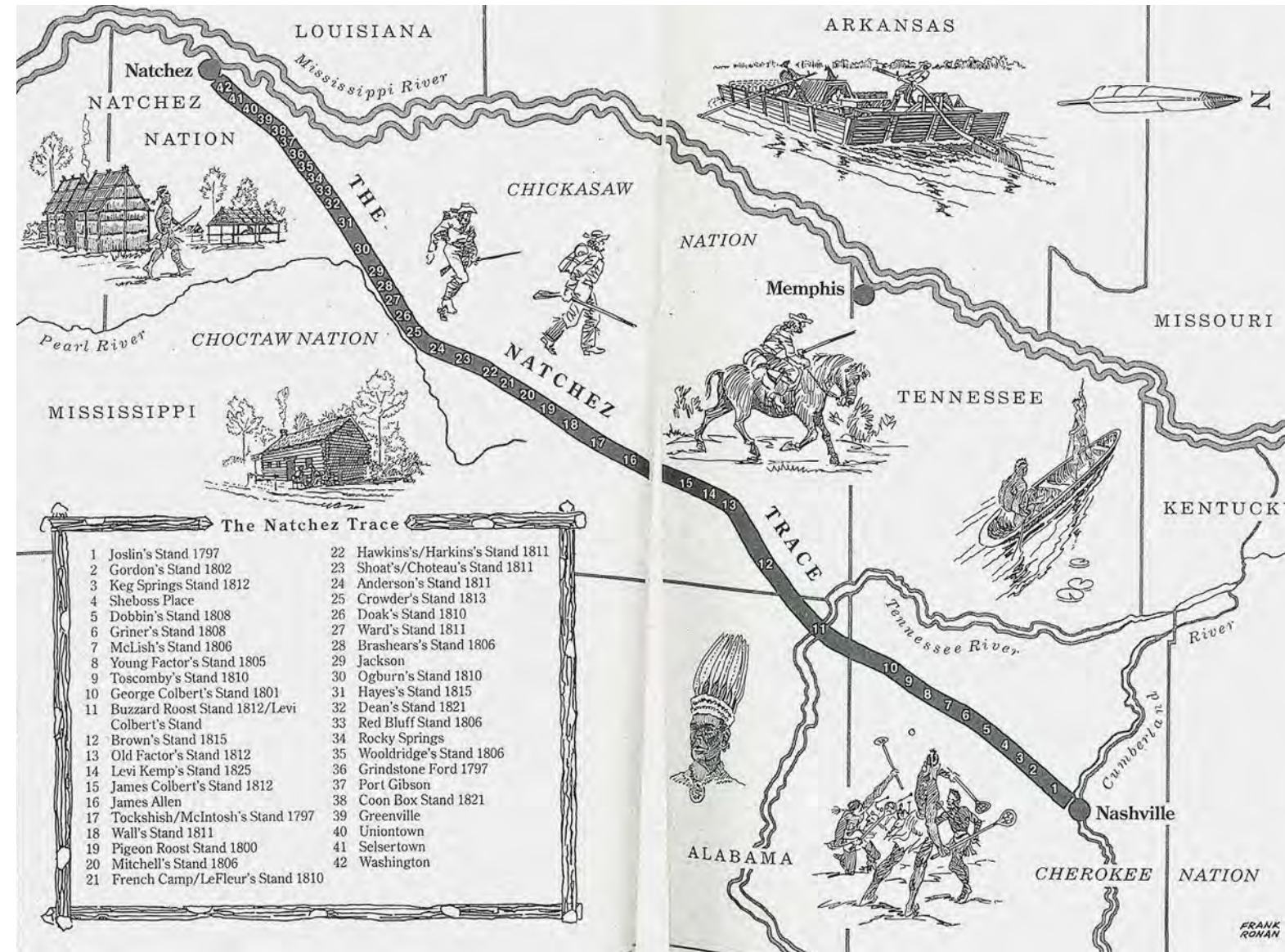


Image: A way through the wilderness: the Natchez Trace and the civilization of the southern frontier. Cover Image



It also served as the route of travel for Andrew Jackson's Tennessee troops during the war of 1812, launching his career as a national leader.

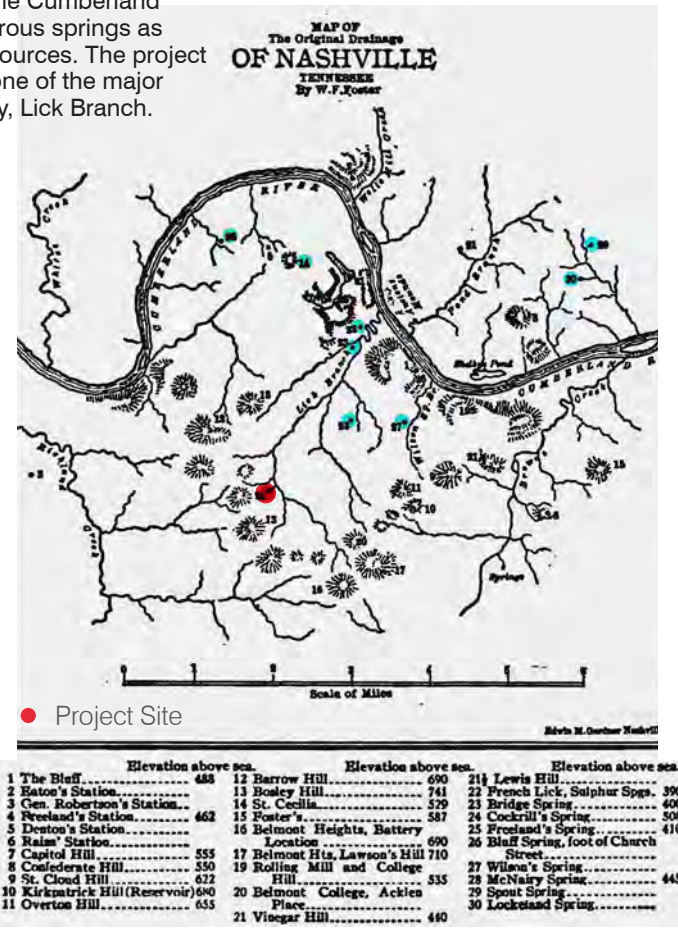
Water Systems and City Development

Nashville's urban structure developed in large part in conjunction with the existing natural water systems that existed in the area. Nashvillians used both the Cumberland River and the numerous existing springs as drinking water sources while relying on pits and waterways to dispose of wastewaters that were absorbed by Nashville's permeable limestone substrate. Early Nashvillians named city neighborhoods as divided by tributaries to the Cumberland, including Lick Branch, Wilson Branch, and Brown's Creek. The Centennial Park site was at the headwaters of Lick Branch, which ran through the center of the city.

As more and more people began to make Nashville their home, public health problems began to emerge as the capacity of the water system to sustain human use began to be overwhelmed. Cesspools and latrines were the most common disposal technique for sewage, and while the Karst topography allowed human wastes to drain away efficiently, this porosity also began to lead to contamination of groundwater and local springs. Along Lick Branch alone, both the slaughterhouses and the state penitentiary discharged wastes directly into the open stream. Finally, poorer, low-lying neighborhoods were frequently flooded with both water and wastes during annual spring freshets.

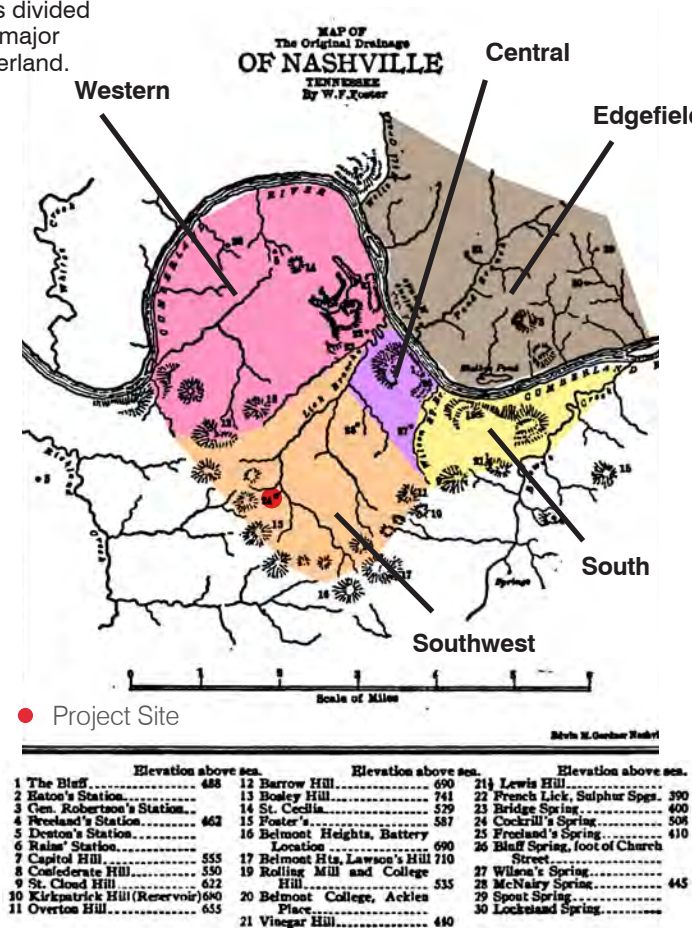
Spring Sites

In 1780 into the 19th Century, the city used both the Cumberland River and numerous springs as drinking water sources. The project site was along one of the major creeks in the city, Lick Branch.



Watershed-Based Neighborhoods

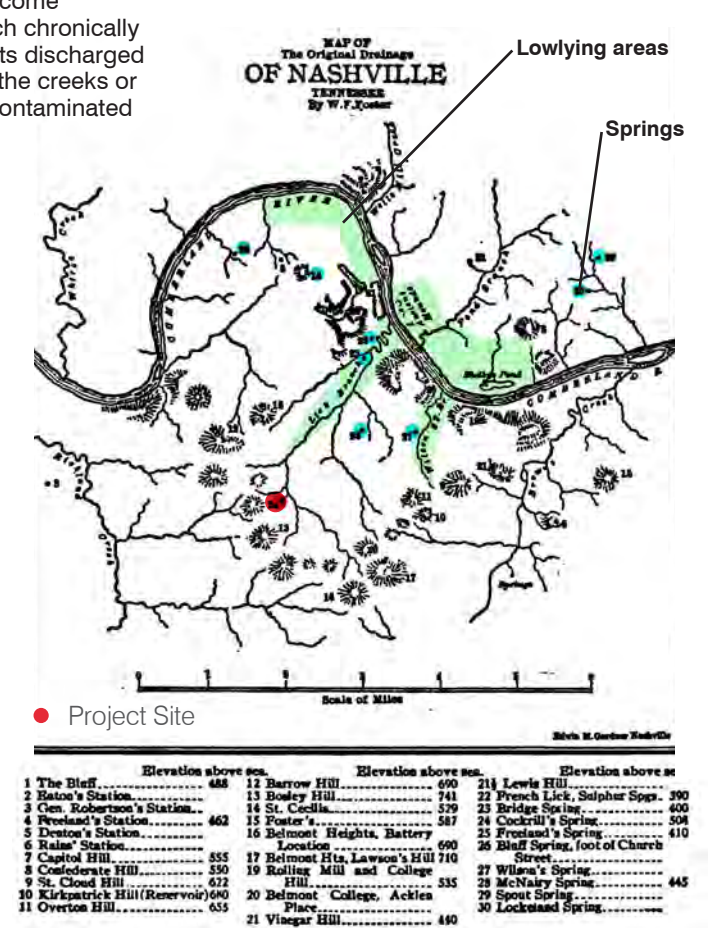
As the city developed, Nashvillians began to think of their city as divided into different districts by the major creeks running to the Cumberland.



Images: Elliott, Lizzie P. 1911. Early history of Nashville. Nashville: The Board of education.

Low Lying Areas

As the city expanded, low lying areas became low income neighborhoods, which chronically flooded. City residents discharged sewage directly into the creeks or into cesspools that contaminated ground water.



Public Health Crisis of the 19th Century

By the mid 1800s, management of the city's water and sewer systems led to repeated cholera outbreaks. Epidemics in 1849, 1873, and 1892 signaled that something had to be done to improve sanitary conditions in the city. The most notable outbreak occurred in 1873, during the Nashville Industrial Exposition, where numerous people were sickened and quick travel via railroad carried the disease to other cities. This health crisis became a turning point, spurring the city to improve its infrastructure to safely support its growing population.

Nashville Cholera Outbreak Map, 1873

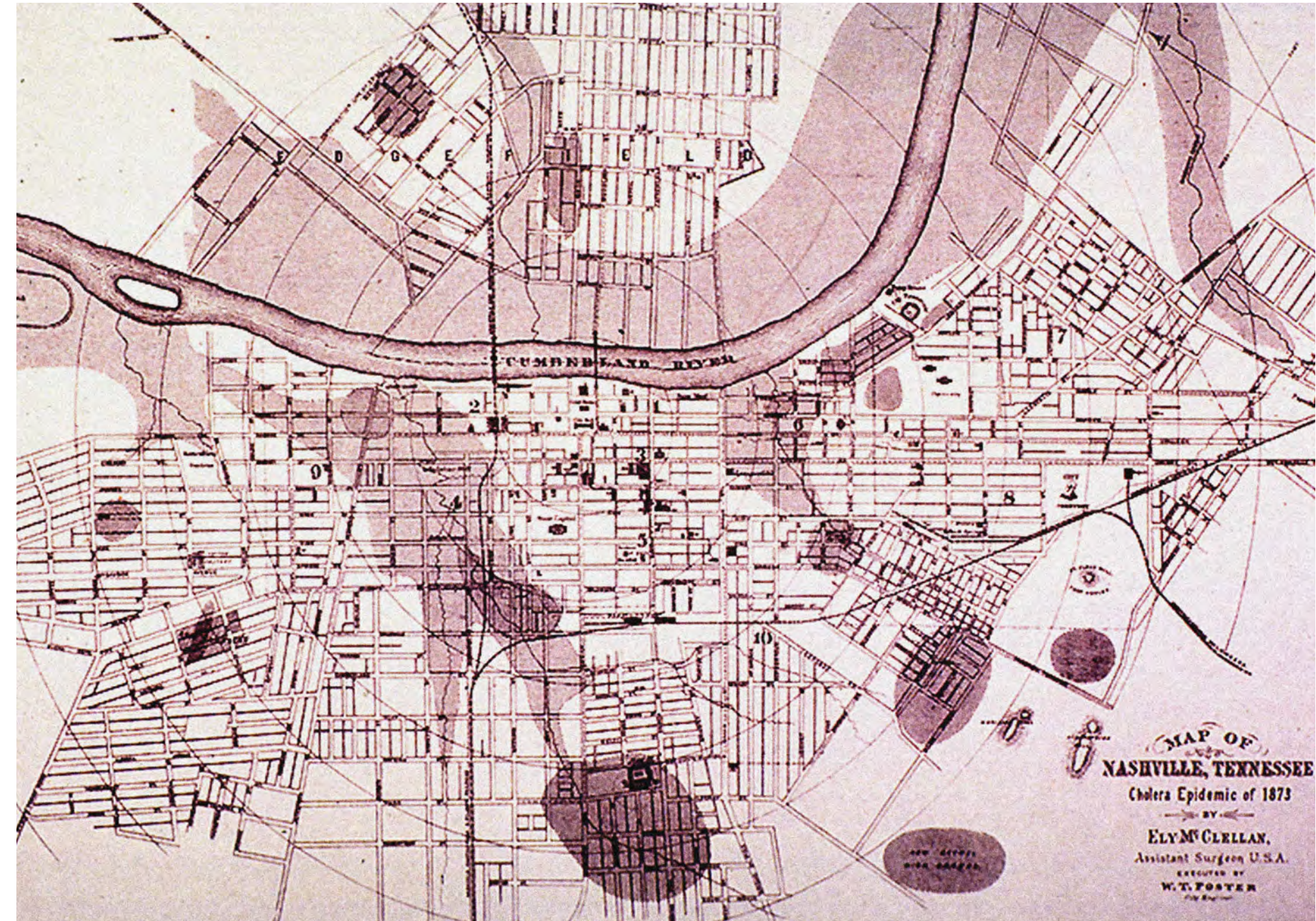


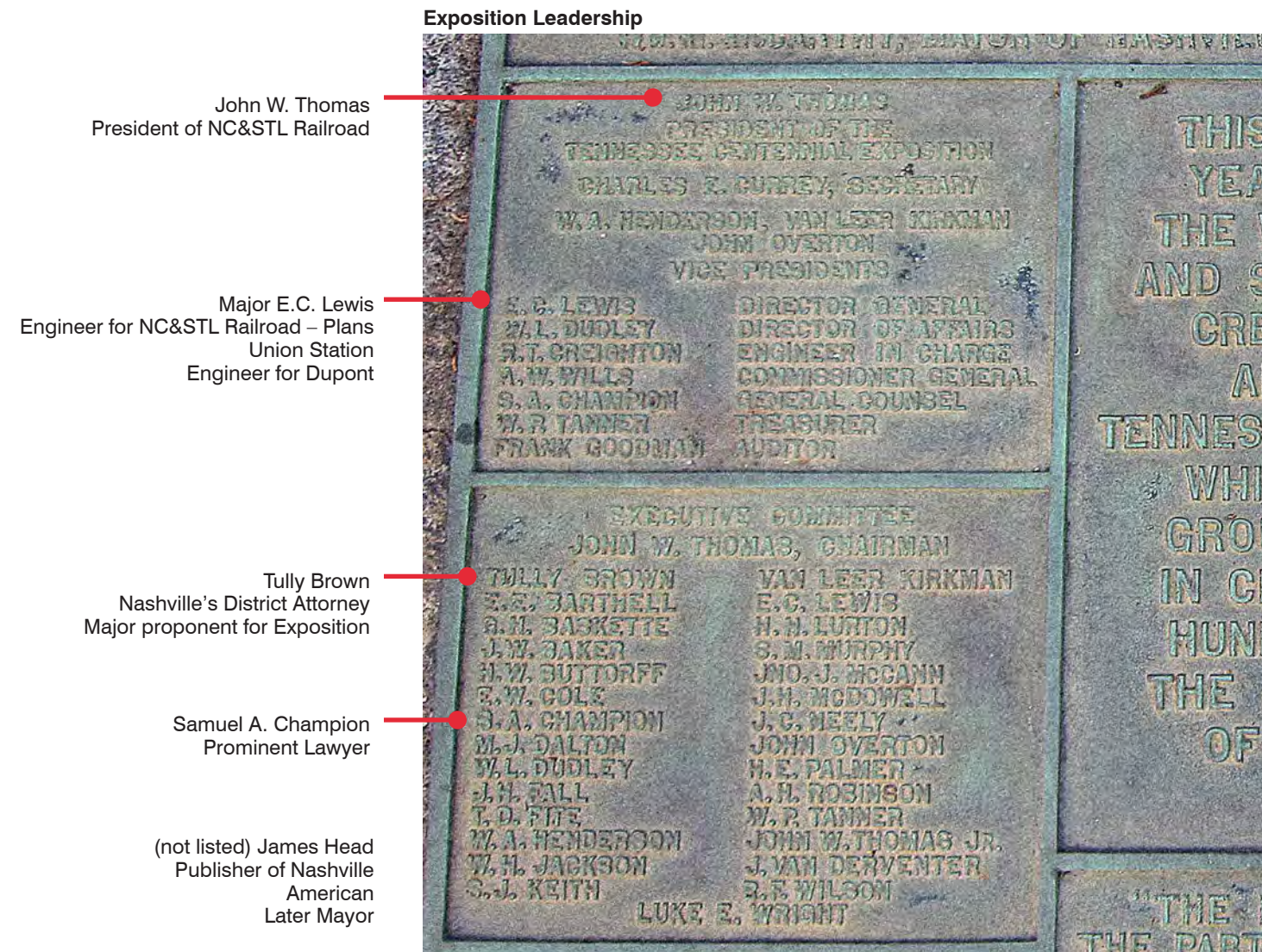
Image: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/cholera/images/a024226.jpg>

Overview

In the late 1800s, fairs in many major cities became a way to not only promote growing cities for development, but also a way for the nation to elaborate a vision for itself in the face of changing technologies and growing industrialization.

The Exposition in Nashville provided both a reflection on the past and an inspirational view of the future modern city driven by cutting edge infrastructure and technology.

Many titans of Nashville industry and society were major players in organizing the 1897 Exposition.



1897 Exposition Plan



Image: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tennessee_Centennial_Exposition_1897_%28LOC_ppmsca.03354%29.jpg

Women in Nashville

Since the initial settlement of Nashville, the site of Centennial Park has been an important place in the evolution of the roles of women in Tennessee and the United States as a whole. The area around Cockrill Spring had been granted in title to Anne Cockrill for her bravery protecting a Fort. The state of North Carolina granted the land in her name, the first such grant for a woman in the area.

Later, the Women's Pavilion was a main building on the grounds of the Exposition. Susan B. Anthony spoke at the Exposition. 1897 marked the 50 year anniversary of the Seneca Falls convention of 1848, as such the lecture of that year was mostly likely tracking the improvements in women's rights but also stressing the need for the women's vote.

It was at one of these public speaking events that Anne Dallas Dudley was volunteering and heard Susan B. Anthony speak. Anne Dallas Dudley became a major leader in the Tennessee suffragette movement, and in 1914 led a parade of over 60 vehicles from the state Capital to the steps of the Parthenon where she spoke of the importance of woman being granted the right to vote.

In 1920 Tennessee became a pivotal player the suffrage movement, as states across the nation voted on the 19th Amendment. Tennessee became the 36th to vote on the amendment, and was the state to cement ratification of the law. In a close battle, in the Tennessee Legislature, Representative Harry T. Burn cast the deciding vote in favor of ratification. Though Burn had previously been opposed the amendment, it was the personal letter from a representative's mother changed the representative's mind. Excerpts from Representative Burn's mother are below:

Dear Son:

Hurrah, and vote for suffrage! Don't keep them in doubt. I notice some of the speeches against. They were bitter. I have been watching to see how you stood, but have not noticed anything yet.

Don't forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the "rat" in ratification. Your Mother.

Justi, Herman. Official History of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition: Opened May 1, and Closed October 30, 1897. Press of the Brandon Printing Company, 1898.



Anne Dallas Dudley with her children, this was considered an important image at the time, depiction Dudley as a mother and an advocate

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/exhibits/suffrage/images/33859.jpg>

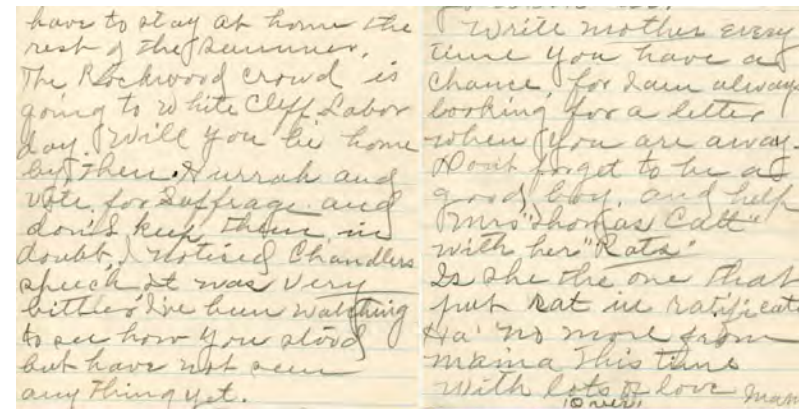


Nashville suffragettes take to the streets to gather support, a parade similar to this in 1914 began at the State Capital and ended at the Parthenon



http://www.interestingamerica.com/2013-01-19-Nashville-Parthenon_by_Grignonis.html

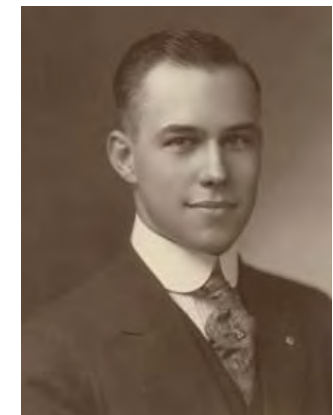
The Women's Building at the Exposition, where Susan B. Anthony spoke in 1897



Part of the letter that Febb E. Burn wrote to her son, 22 year old Representative Harry T. Burn



Febb E. Burn



Harry T. Burn