

# CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE





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Centennial Park holds a special place in the history of Nashville and in the hearts of our citizens. The park was first created to hold the Centennial Exposition of 1897, a six-month event that brought nearly 2 million visitors to Nashville at a time when the city's population was barely 100,000. It was the start of not only Nashville's municipal park system, but public park systems across the state. Since then, Centennial Park has been a place where the people of our city gather and celebrate. The events held here throughout the years – large and small – have reflected the changing culture and values of our city.

The Centennial Park Master Plan is the result of two years of effort by the Centennial Park Master Plan Committee. This dedicated group of volunteers spent long hours deliberating and focusing their efforts so that we would have a distinctive plan that honors the history of the park and also accommodates modern uses that will stand the test of time. The committee recruited world-renowned landscape architects Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, and worked closely with Design Partner Kathryn Gustafson and her team to articulate a shared vision. They sought input from the community through a series of well-attended public sessions, and they made sure the vision and plan created reflected the users' desires.

Centennial Park is already one of our busiest and most frequented parks in Nashville. This master plan looks into the future and lays out a blueprint for the park to become a showpiece for the city and our region. Also it envisions careful change that maintains the essential character that our citizens love while making it an even more vibrant and compelling park and destination for visitors.

Centennial Park has been an essential part of the city's fabric for more than a century. It is my hope that this master plan will lay the course for Centennial Park to remain the crown jewel of our city's park system for the next century and beyond. It will continue to be a place for fun, a place for music, a place for art, and a place for the community to gather.

Thank you to all of you that have been part of this process.

Mayor Karl Dean

# MASTER PLAN INTRODUCTION

## 2

### The Centennial Park Master Plan

The Centennial Park Master Plan is an overview of the Park, its history, current state, and future legacy as the premier urban park for cultural, artistic, and educational events for Nashville and the surrounding communities.

The Master Plan team studied the cultural and the natural qualities that combine to create Centennial Park. They addressed reclaiming, preserving, and revitalizing those qualities and reestablishing their interplay to make Centennial Park a unique urban park environment.

The Master Plan presents a comprehensive design vision for Centennial Park. In contrast to a rigid plan or approach, it proposes a framework for achieving the design vision, over time, by defining and establishing the relationships necessary between the major and diverse elements that structure the experience of Centennial Park. It is anticipated that the design vision presented in the Master Plan will be realized over time, in incremental phases.

The Master Plan looked at many elements beyond a landscape of just plants and trees, including an initial in-depth analysis of sustainable stormwater management, traffic, and parking. The Master Plan also evaluated and assessed other aspects of the Park such as the programming, utilities, roads, sidewalks, facilities, and buildings. These assessments, while limited by the project's scope, were important factors in defining the Master Plan goals and influencing the design vision.

### Park Issues and Areas Requiring Further Study

One of the first steps of the Master Plan was to compile a list of the Park and landscape's issues. This compilation is based on the Design Team's site visits, original research, review of existing Park and City documents, interviews with stakeholders, and input from the public.

#### **Widely Popular And Heavily Used**

Centennial Park is a widely popular and heavily used urban park, both as a daily neighborhood park and as a special event destination park.

#### **No Comprehensive Master Plan**

Since the addition of the Park to the National Register of Historic Places and the renovation of the Parthenon, no comprehensive Master Plan has been in place.

#### **Role of the Park**

Given the Park's rich history, there is a need to evaluate the Park overall and the many elements that make it up. How can the Park re-define, re-focus or reinforce its role for Nashville and the neighboring communities for today and the future? Which Park elements should be preserved and improved? Which elements should be removed or added to the Park?

#### **Environmental Wear and Tear**

The environmental wear and tear on the Park is apparent, and is due to aging, heavy use, and occasional damage. The refurbishment of the Park's planting due to natural age and decline is of course an expected and ongoing task. The damage to the Park's distinctive canopy of larger trees during the 1998 tornado is still apparent. The Park's success as a venue, from festivals to weddings and celebrations to picnics, encourages increased programming and use with an increase in wear from the additional people, facilities and traffic.

#### **Monuments and Memorials**

The Park's historical and cultural legacy of monuments and memorials is important but risks being lost, overrun, or overgrown. Over time the Park's popularity resulted in it acting as a depository for additional markers or memorials, often unrelated to the Park's cultural or historical heritage. The Park's existing monuments and memorials are in need of interpretation, preservation, and evaluation of their role in Park.

#### **Accessibility**

There is a need to increase and improve physical access throughout Park for all people.

#### **Sustainability**

There is a need to increase sustainable and “green” opportunities in Park’s planning, design, operation, and management

#### **Traffic and Parking**

There is a need for a comprehensive look at the planning and layout of roads, paths and parking within the Park. The network of roads and parking can be confusing and cause conflicts for Park visitors in vehicles, on bikes or on foot. The ability to park almost anywhere and anytime emphasizes convenience but is ultimately frustrating and unappealing; resulting in additional signage and regulations, wear on lawns and soils, and increased maintenance and paving. The network of paved roads and paths, while extensive, appears underutilized and detracts from the desired visual and physical “park-like” character and qualities.

#### **Utilization of Park Space**

The increased desire and claims for cultural space within the Park from competing legacies and histories, programs and facilities, and vehicles and people puts pressure on the Park for creating, managing, and preserving “natural” spaces for trees and planting, lakes and stormwater, and habitat and wildlife.

#### **Facilities**

There is a need to evaluate existing Park buildings and pavilions regarding the suitability of their function, location and condition, and opportunities for growth or improvement in types of classes and programs offered as part of Park activities.

From these issues the Design Team developed the following goals for the Centennial Park Landscape Masterplan.

### **Master Plan Goals**

- 1** - Preserve the unique elements and qualities of the Park that contribute to its significance as a National Historic Place. Recognize this significance in all aspects of planning, maintaining, and operating the Park.
- 2** - Preserve the Park’s role as the “central park” serving local neighborhoods, Nashville, and the surrounding communities.
- 3** - Create a design vision that draws on the Park’s history, its Exposition legacy, and its prominent place in Nashville to guide the Park in becoming a signature landscape design and a destination urban park for the new century.
- 4** - Establish the Park as a leader in landscape stewardship and innovation among urban parks in sustainable planning, design, maintenance, and operation.
- 5** - Improve the functional, ecological, connectivity, and aesthetic relationships of park elements to each other as well as their relationships to the city.
- 6** - Improve the utilization of existing space within the Park landscape to achieve the best functional and aesthetic uses, and to create a diversity of spatial, natural and cultural environments, and experiences.
- 7** - Establish a clear and orderly hierarchy of circulation within the Park landscape for pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles. Improve accessibility within the Park and to its elements and facilities. Eliminate conflicts in circulation and competition for space within the Park between pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles.
- 8** - Establish a design vision and Master Plan that can be implemented over time in subsequent phases. The phasing will allow the Park to realize the design vision, maintain its operation, address future funding opportunities and revitalize and repair the Park’s natural and physical environment.



## CENTENNIAL PARK - MEMORY + COMMUNITY + CELEBRATION

3

3.1 PARK + HISTORY

3.2 PARK + PEOPLE

3.3 PARK + CONTEXT

3.4 PARK + SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

## 3.1 PARK + HISTORY

### The Park and its History by Carroll Van West

In 2008, Centennial Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This distinction is based on the Park's unique historical associations and architectural traditions. And while this honor recognizes the historical significance of the Park's past, it reminds us of the Park's important place in Nashville's future.

Nashvillians in the last 100 years have transformed Centennial Park into a uniquely special place within a larger, more hectic, more modern cityscape. How we have used these 110 acres over the decades has shaped what the park means today.

That history began with the city's first settlers. The Cockrills took this well-watered, fertile land and built a prosperous family farm near the entrance of the Natchez Trace, the city's first interstate roadway. Their legacy, appropriately enough, remains here, with Cockrill Spring still providing fresh water and the promise of nature.

Farming and transportation continued to shape the land as Nashville grew in the 19th century. Turnpikes crossed to the south while a distinctive railroad corridor defined the land to the north. By the century's last decades, development and suburbs reached this part of Nashville. A farm became a racetrack and where cattle, pigs, and sheep once roamed, expensive, beautiful thoroughbred horses stood in their covered stalls, awaiting their chance to bring glory to their owners, and wealth to the gamblers who bet fortunes on what happened on the racetrack.

For the first time, the land became a place of community gatherings, and celebrations. It was a fun, exciting place to be. Then that excitement grew exponentially when the land became home to the grand Tennessee Centennial Exposition in 1897. The contours and many landmarks that define the park today first took root during the Centennial celebration. The recreated Parthenon was viewed as the park's temporary heart, but Nashvillians wanted this embodiment of their own identity as the Athens of the South to be made permanent. And so it was, finished just as the first signs of the Great Depression gripped the city a generation later. The Parthenon added a classical sheen to the landscape, an image multiplied by many of the monuments that followed, from the salute to John W. Thomas, the railroad magnate who made the park possible, to the somber remembrance of sons lost in war.

The monumental landscape of Centennial Park, however, began to lose its identity by the mid-20th century, when it came close to being an outdoor community attic, where various objects and tributes to days since past were dropped here and there while roads and more roads, then parking lots, dotted the park. The clutter reflected that age's search for order and meaning, and introduced meaningful new traditions. The

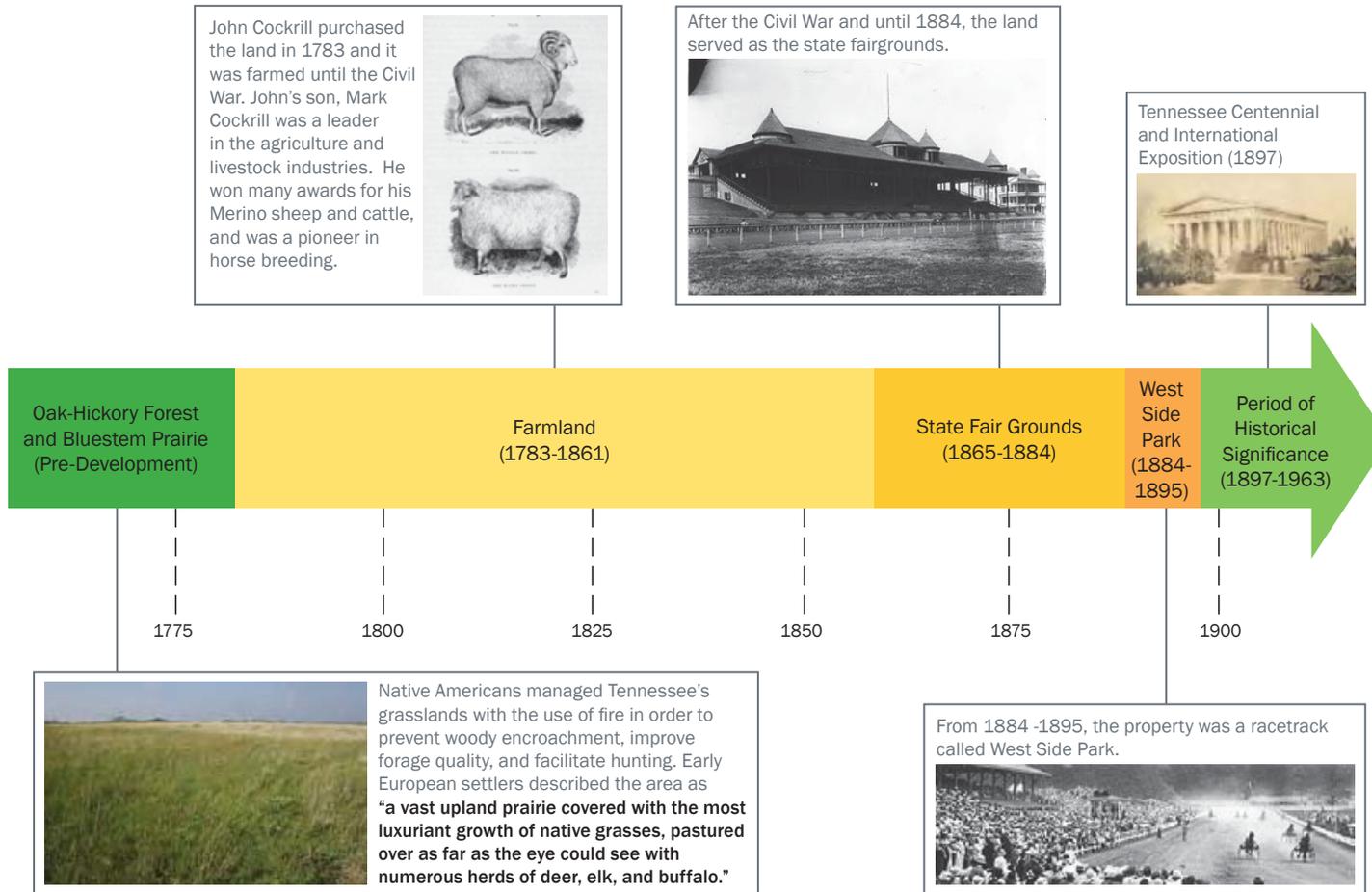
centers for recreation, arts, and music enriched what the park provided to a citizenry hungry for an open space respite from the daily realities of Cold War America. But that enrichment was severely limited because it excluded the city's African American residents from its programs, activities, and celebrations.

Not until that discrimination ended almost 50 years ago did Centennial Park achieve its full meaning as a park that embraced the reality of a diverse community, where traditions and celebrations from all walks, and colors, of life could enliven the land, its monuments, and buildings. We love Centennial Park today for what it became, not merely for what it was.

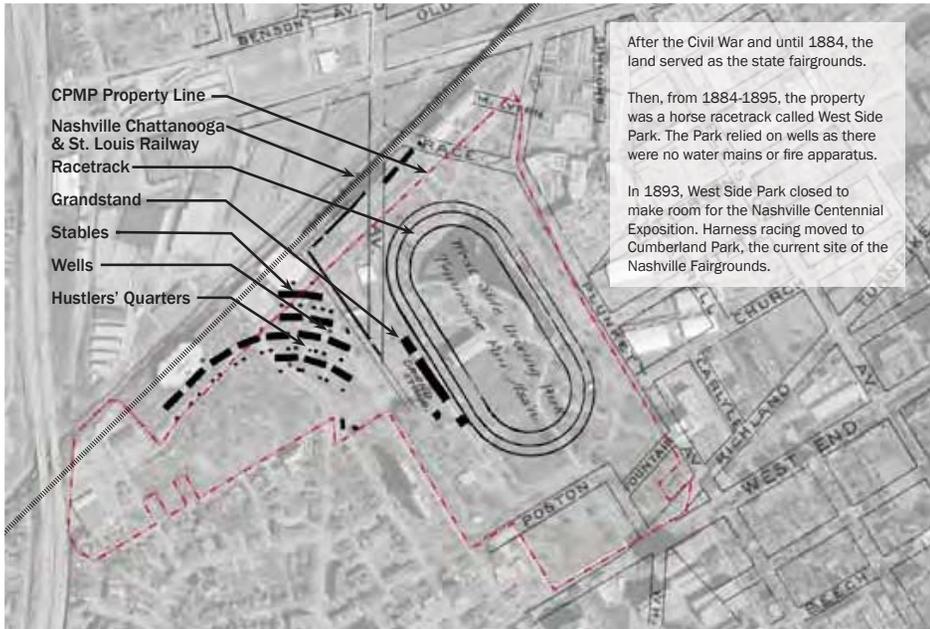
Celebration, classicism, diversity, community and memory: these words define what history brings to Centennial Park as a special place ready for renewal and rededication for another 100 years of community nourishment.



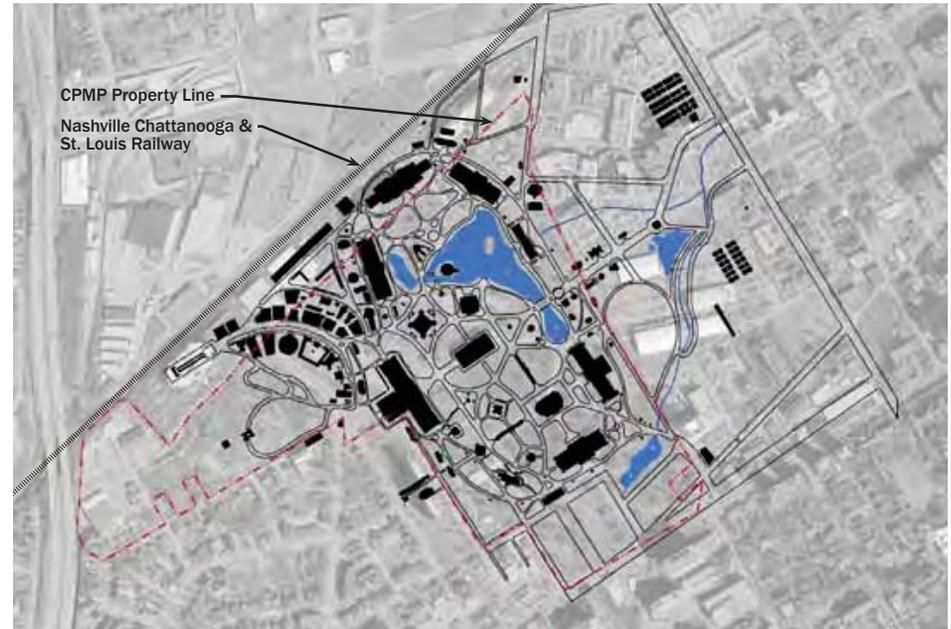
Centennial Park Site Timeline



# HISTORY OF CENTENNIAL PARK



1884 - 1895 West Side Park



1897 Tennessee Centennial and International Exposition

## Exposition Photos



Entry Gateway



Gourd Arbor



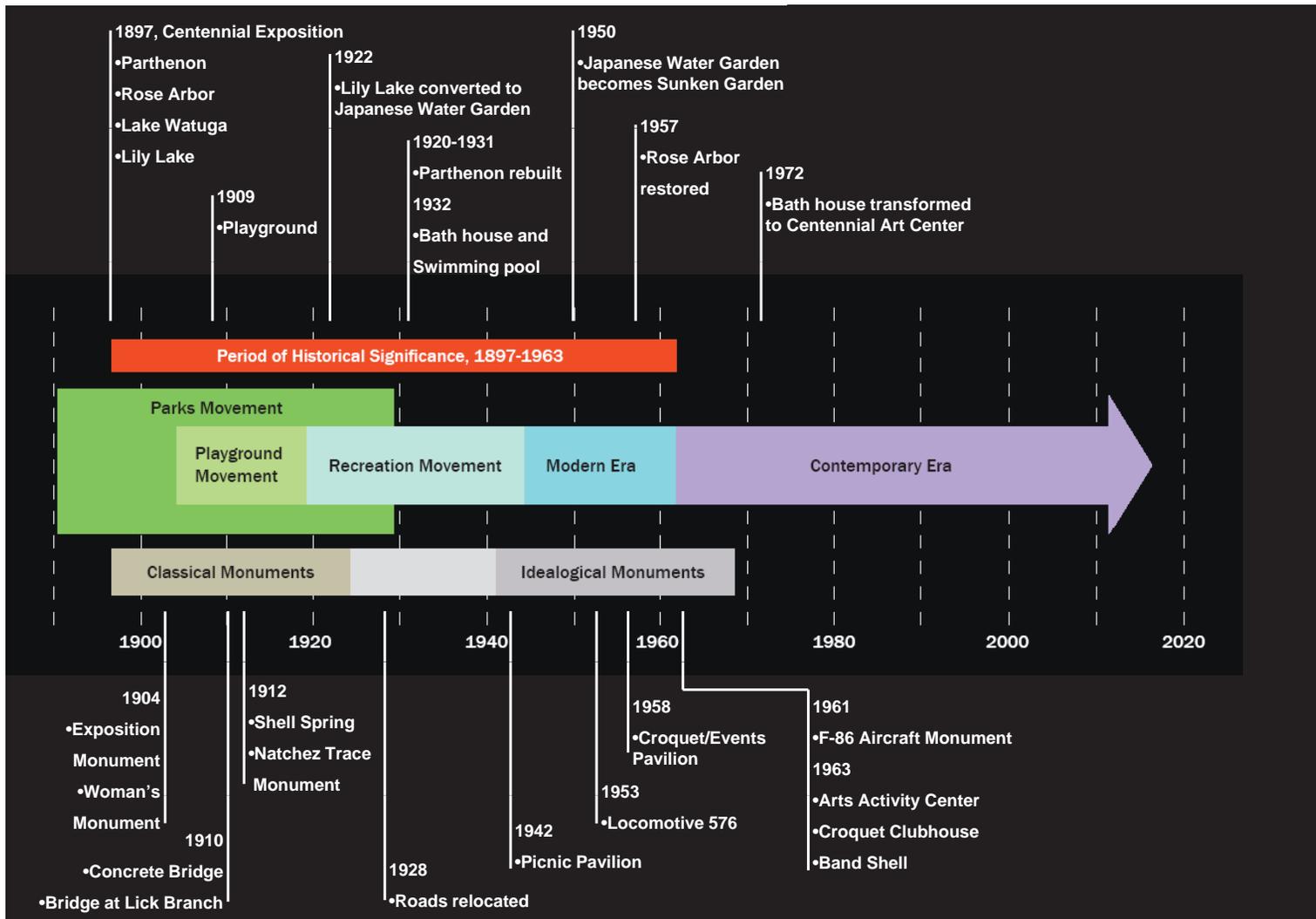
Water Fall



Rialto Bridge



Bridge at Branch Lick and TN Gunboat Monument



## 3.2 PARK + PEOPLE

Centennial Park possesses a diverse and devoted constituency of inhabitants: walkers, runners, artists, musicians, students, picnickers, brides and grooms, and the young and old. This constituency, from neighborhoods and communities close to and distant from the Park, is both local and regional.

To gather the views and hear the public's comments about Centennial Park and the development of the Master Plan, the Committee and Design Team established the Community Engagement and Public Input process recommended by Metro Parks for all of its publicly funded projects. This effort by the Design Team combined interviews, surveys, public meetings and presentations, and collected written and verbal commentaries.

The Design Team conducted interviews with perennial visitors of the Park, Metro Parks' staff, and other community and Park related stakeholders.

The Committee hosted three public input meetings at venues around Nashville, including one on a warm July night, in the Park, under the Event Pavilion.

Over 1,000 e-mail and other invitations were sent for each event. Several media outlets ran stories, and *The Tennessean* offered space in their Tennessee Voices feature for letters from historians and Committee members.

Attendees reminisced about their memories of holiday displays, courting, and the merry-go-round once showcased in the Park. Newcomers to Nashville gave their impressions of the current condition of the Park. The attendees' design ideas included additional features or modifications based on parks around the world.

Mayor Dean kicked off the first public meeting in the form of a video recorded several months earlier. He cited the importance of the Exposition and Park in Nashville's history as a basis for restoring and revitalizing the Park today. He described how the Committee's opportunity would parallel that of the Exposition leaders when they tried, during similar economic times to promote Nashville's progress in commerce and culture to the world. Legendary media icon and political advisor John Seigenthaler hosted the first meeting.

Public input also came in the form of a written survey developed to quantify responses to important design objectives. The questions asked about how the public uses and would like to use the Park, the amenities they need, and importantly, what the Park represents to Nashville.

Additional surveys and visits to the park revealed some hidden highs, a large percentage of patrons from outside Nashville as well as many first time visitors, and lows of the Park experience (the significant wear and tear from, and rampant, parking during large events.) Summaries of input from each meeting were offered to the media and public via Metro Park's website.

The third meeting offered the public their first look at how their input was shaping the Master Plan. The Committee and Design Team continued to accept input on the plan via website feedback and smaller focus groups.



Public Meeting Photo [above]  
Park Events + Users [below]





### 3.3 PARK + CONTEXT

Centennial Park is the largest and most historic of the city’s urban “in-town” parks. Evolving out of the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition, the Park continued the cultural and artistic heritage of the Exposition. Centennial is unique among Nashville’s parks in its role as a landscape dedicated to cultural, artistic, educational, and performance events.

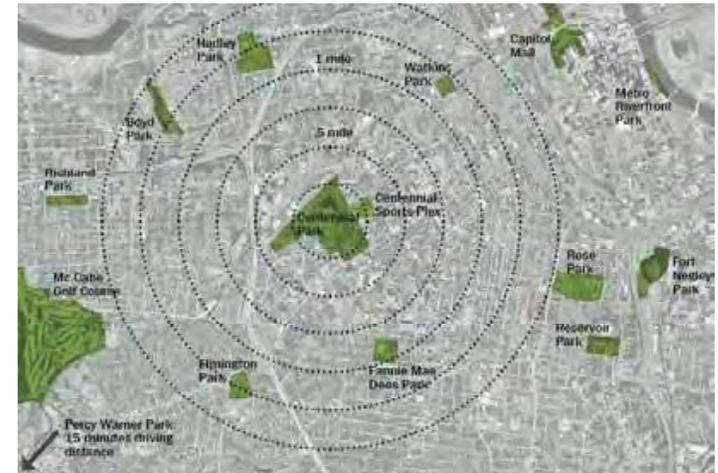
From the Exposition, the Park inherited its location, general boundaries and layout, and its classical and picturesque elements, including the Parthenon and Lake Watauga. The Parthenon was eventually rebuilt after the Exposition in more lasting materials. Other monuments and memorials within the Park were added later over time.

At the time the Park site was “out of town”, west of where the historical downtown, the State Capitol, and the commercial district developed along the riverfront. A rail line, integral to the success and siting of the Exposition, bordered the site to the north. The Park’s historical entrance was to the south near the meeting of the old Natchez Trace and West End Avenue, a main route into Nashville. For many passersby, the most familiar view of the Parthenon in the Park was and is still seen from West End Avenue.

The neighborhoods surrounding the Park are diverse and attest to the established central presence of the Park as the urban area continued to develop around it. To the south, across West End Avenue, is the northern edge of Vanderbilt University’s campus. To the north, along Park Plaza, occupying the strip of land between the rail lines and the Park, is a row of newer corporate buildings and parking lots belonging to the Hospital Corporation of America.

To the east, toward downtown, is a major hospital district including Centennial Medical Center and Baptist Hospital. The Centennial Sportsplex, a part of Centennial Park (but not part of this Master Plan) is across 25th Avenue from the Park. To the west, across 28th and 31st Avenues, are the Parthenon Tower apartments, the West End neighborhood, Flagpole Hill (an original and current part of the Park), and Metro Parks’ central offices and maintenance yard.

Today the Park is the center of an urban area of increasing development and density. It is encircled by roadways of which West End Avenue is a major and an extremely busy thoroughfare connecting downtown with expanding communities to the west. 31st Avenue, which currently runs through the Park and severing it in two at the base of Flagpole Hill, will become an even busier and faster roadway after it is extended from Park Plaza northward via a bridge over the rail lines to connect with 28th Avenue.



Surrounding Parks and Amenities Diagram

Park Name	Size	Amenities
Centennial Sports Plex	17 acres	15 outdoor Tennis Courts, 4 indoor Tennis Courts, 2 Indoor Swimming Pools, Olving Well, Fitness Center, 2 Ice Rinks
Fannie Mae Deas Park	6 acres	2 Playground, 3 Tennis Courts
Hadley Park	34 acres	13 Tennis courts, Playground, 2 Softball, Swimming
Boyd Park	14 acres	Playground, Basketball
Watkins Park	6.2 acres	3 Tennis Courts, Playground, 1 Basketball Court, 1 Softball Field
Elvington Park	13 acres	2 Tennis Courts, Playground, 1 Softball Field
Richland Park	10 acres	4 Tennis Courts
Rose Park	24 acres	2 Tennis Courts, Playground, Baseball, Swimming, Basketball
Mc Cable Golf Course	220 acres	27 Hole Golf Course



Neighborhood Diagram



Transportation Diagram

### 3.4 PARK + SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES

As Nashville's largest urban park, Centennial Park can become a center for innovation, education, and sustainable landscape through test plots, demonstration projects, and the actual design, construction and maintenance of the Park Master Plan.

For the Master Plan, the Design Team has looked in depth at one aspect of sustainability for the Park's Stormwater Management (See Section 5.4). The improved management of stormwater through onsite collection, infiltration, bio-filtration, and reuse will offer major benefits to the Park and the city in the design, maintenance and operation of the landscape while reducing the use of potable water for irrigation, and decreasing the runoff to city storm sewers.

Other sustainable strategies should be encouraged and developed in the design, maintenance, and operation of the Park as well.

These strategies should pertain to both new buildings and landscapes, such as selection of environmentally appropriate and locally sourced materials or the use of permeable unit paving.

Sustainable strategies should be applied to the construction, maintenance, and operation processes, such as employing integrated pest management to decrease the use of toxins, and the recycling or composting of materials salvaged in the Park's construction projects.

On the following chart are listed some current Park practices, and suggestions for improved practices to increase the Park's sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE ACTIONS	CURRENT PARK	PROPOSED MASTER PLAN DESIGN
Minimize use of motorized vehicles	Parking lots and access roads currently crisscross the park creating pedestrian safety hazards, increased air and noise pollution and are impervious surfaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing drive access through park lowers pollution levels</li> <li>- Reduce amount of impervious surfaces</li> <li>- Safer park due to less pedestrian and vehicle interaction</li> </ul>
Reuse water + manage water quality	There is no water treatment or water reuse in the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daylight Cockrill Springs</li> <li>- Reuse of grey water that is diverted from storm sewer or harvested on site for irrigation, water features, toilets</li> <li>- Treatment of polluted water from roads and parking areas</li> <li>- Reduced amount of lawn, partially replaced with native planting requiring less water</li> </ul>
Manage water quantity	Any excess water goes straight into the city combined storm-sewer system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manage run-off with pervious materials</li> <li>- Identify run-off collection and retention (refer to section 5.3)</li> <li>- Reduce amount of impervious surfaces</li> </ul>
Create wooded areas with understory vegetation	Centennial Park is comprised primarily of lawn and large mature trees with very little understory planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing understory planting in most areas of the park creates diversity of species and habitats</li> <li>- Native woodland habitat creation provides education opportunities for the community</li> </ul>
Designate low traffic, non-event areas	Events, people, and cars can go almost anywhere in the park creating maintenance and safety issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zoned and appropriately designed spaces for high use areas</li> <li>- The meadow can be mowed to expand events areas when needed. This prevents an oversized space</li> </ul>
Use local + sustainable building and plant materials	Not Applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase use of native and adaptive planting</li> <li>- Source local materials for planting and buildings</li> <li>- Utilize renewable resources as much as possible</li> <li>- Use of energy efficient lighting</li> </ul>
Designate “Dark Nights” areas	No special considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Areas of the park will be left unlit at night to increase habitat diversity and density</li> </ul>
Implement sustainable waste management practices	No special practices exist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start a recycling program</li> <li>- Create a composting area in the service yard</li> </ul>
Use sustainable maintenance practices	The park practices standard landscape maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use organic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides</li> <li>- Reuse site compost</li> </ul>



4.1 ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

4.2 MASTER PLAN PERSPECTIVES

4.1 ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

Proposed Plan with tree canopies



Proposed Plan without tree canopies



Proposed Park Features

1. Natchez Trace Monument
2. Cockrill Spring
3. West Musicians Corner
4. Lake Katherine
5. East Musician Corner
6. Gold Star Monument
7. Shell Spring
8. Gunboat TN Monument
9. Bridge at Lick Branch Sewer
10. Great Lawn
11. Movable Meadow
12. Events Pavilion + Restrooms
13. Robertson Monument
14. TN Centennial Expo. Marker
15. Lake Watauga Bridge
16. Lake Watauga
17. East Playground
18. Interactive Water Feature
19. CP Cafe East + Restrooms
20. Sculpture + Installation Garden
21. Art Center + Pool Area Garden
22. North East Picnic Area
23. Frist Memorial Garden
24. Locomotive 576+N.C.& SL Railway Monument
25. Rain Gardens
26. Woman's Monument
27. Confederate Private Monument
28. Lily Lake
29. Concrete Bridge
30. Cherry Blossom Walk
31. Events Terrace
32. Native Woodland
33. Large Dog Park
34. Small Dog Park
35. Service Area + Shared Parking
36. Flag Pole Hill Water Feature + Path
37. Terrace Ramps + Gardens
38. Winter Garden + Visitors Center
39. Formal Gardens + Arrival Plaza
40. Reflecting Pool
41. Parthenon Marker
42. Parthenon
43. Victims of Violence, Children's Memorial Garden
44. Thomas Monument
45. Rose Arbor + Gardens
46. Centennial Park Arts + Activities Center
47. Demonstration/Food Garden
48. West Playground
49. Cafe West + Restrooms
50. Picnic Pavilion
51. Parking Lots

**A** **B** Views (on following pages)

## 4.2 MASTER PLAN PERSPECTIVES



VIEW A - Looking East towards Lake Katherine, Musicians Corner East, and the renovated Shell Springs Monument



VIEW B - Looking Southeast toward the reflecting pool, formal gardens, and arrival plaza



5.1 MONUMENTS + BUILDINGS

5.2 LANDSCAPE + PLANTING

5.3 WATER FEATURES

5.4 WATER STRATEGIES

5.5 PROGRAMMING + EVENTS

5.6 CIRCULATION

## 5.1 MONUMENTS + BUILDINGS

The 1897 Exposition was the start of Centennial Parks' impressive history. The Park is characterized by its landscape as well as its structures, most notably the Parthenon and beginning in the early 1900s, a variety of monuments have been placed throughout the Park. Many of the structures of today contributed to Centennial Park's listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Master Plan looked at each of the Park's buildings and monuments, primarily to determine the significance of its function in the Park, to assess its relationship to other landscape features or structures and, finally, to evaluate its location. In some cases, an existing building's need for expansion of its programming suggested the buildings function would eventually outgrow or compromise its location in the Park.

The Master Plan proposes a layout for the Park's structures that it maintains significant historical qualities, it accommodates future programmatic expansion, and it improves the overall functional, spatial and aesthetic character of the Park.

The diagrams in this section illustrate the proposed Master Plan layout with buildings and monuments designated as:

**Preserve Existing**

An existing function and structure within the Park to remain in place.

**Restore**

To fix up or improve historical park elements.

**Relocated**

A new location for an existing park monument.

**Relocated + Replaced**

A new location and new structure for an existing function or program.

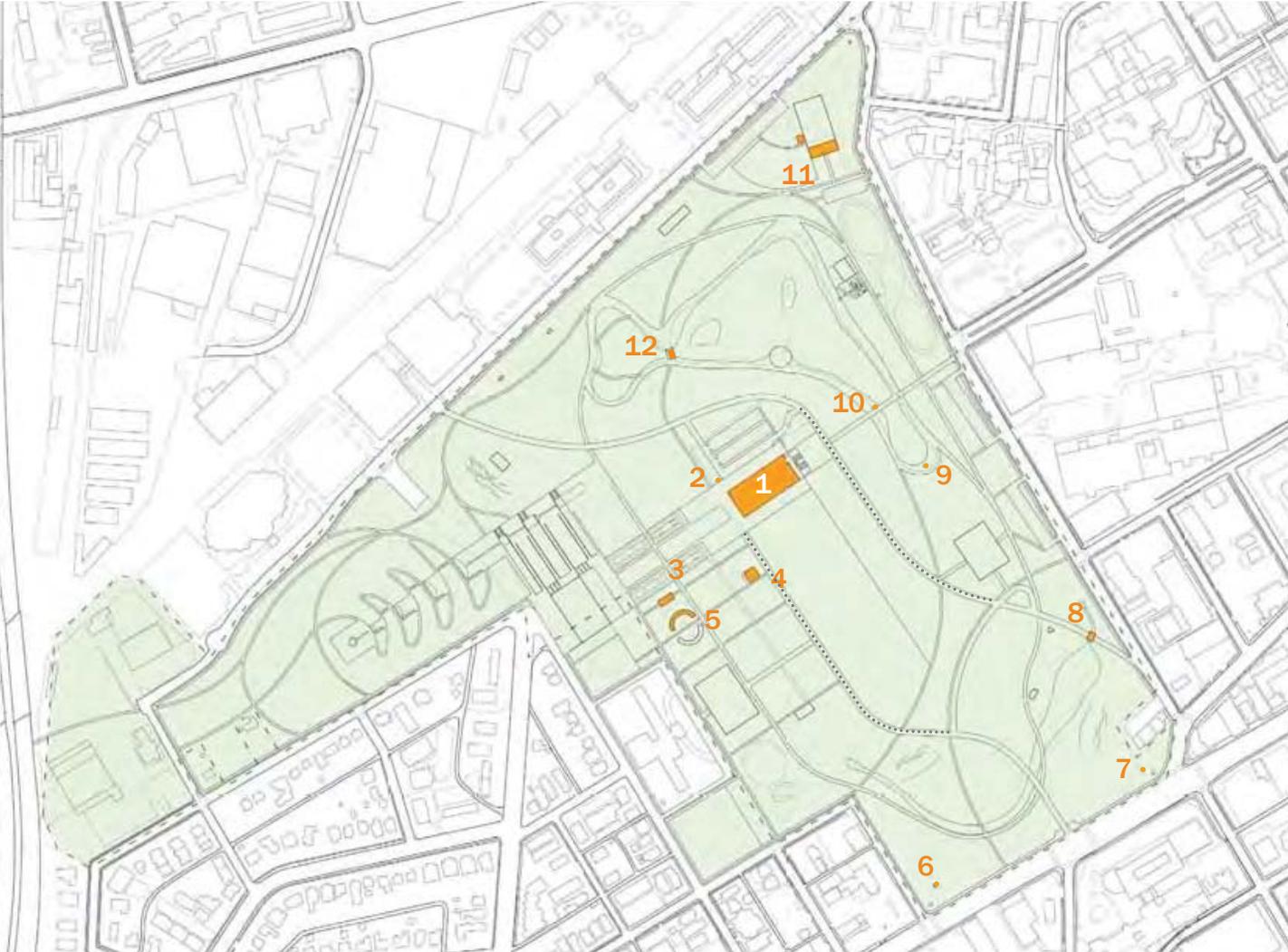
**Proposed**

A new structure for a new function or program not currently existing in the Park.



- 1 Preserve Existing
- 2 Restored / Relocated
- 3 Proposed

UNTOUCHED EXISTING STRUCTURES + MONUMENTS



	ISSUE	ACTION
1 - Parthenon	None	Preserve Existing
2 - Parthenon Marker	None	Preserve Existing
3 - Victims of Violence, Children's Memorial Garden	None	Preserve Existing
4 - Thomas Monument	None	Preserve Existing
5 - Rose Arbor	None	Preserve Existing
6 - Natchez Trace Monument	None	Preserve Existing
7 - Gold Star Monument	None	Preserve Existing
8 - Bridge at Lick Branch Sewer	None	Preserve Existing
9 - Robertson Monument	None	Preserve Existing
10 - TN Centennial Expo. Marker	None	Preserve Existing
11 - Art Center	None	Preserve Existing
12 - Concrete Bridge	None	Preserve Existing

**RENOVATED/RELOCATED/REPLACED EXISTING STRUCTURES + MONUMENTS**

\*Sizes of new structures are approximate and need further study to determine actual square footage need for each element.



	ACTION	ISSUE/NEED	DETAILS
1 - Shell Spring	Restore	Not structurally sound	Restore monument to original state
2 - Gunboat Tennessee Monument	Restore	Falling apart	Restore monument to original state
3 - Picnic Pavilion	Restore	Roof not historical	Replicate Historical Roof
4 - Centennial Park Arts + Activities Center	Relocated + Replaced	Too small for current & future programming Layout not appropriate for current functions Outdated equipment & amenities Need better drop off Need parking nearby	Design a new building that will serve both the present and future needs of the Centennial Park Arts + Activities Center. Use the most current technology and sustainable systems in the building. The new main entrance will be reoriented to face the new 28th Ave drop off. There will be two new surface parking lots/structures on either side of Parthenon Towers.
5 - West Centennial Cafe + Restrooms	Relocated + Replaced	Building is outdated Seasonal cafe seating is needed (shade, rain protection, etc.) Storage space needed for outdoor furniture Restrooms not open enough Restrooms hidden behind cafe	Design an new cafe and restroom building that includes an all season/weather outdoor seating area. Provide adequate outdoor storage space. Make sure the entrance to the restrooms is highly visible to address safety concerns.
6 - Events Pavilion	Relocated + Replaced	Does not work in all seasons Not enough space Outdated equipment Too much traffic noise from nearby road Noise conflict with new amphitheater	Create a flexible, open, airy all season pavilion that can open up and expand into the park as well as being able to close up and provide protection from the elements. Restrooms should be incorporated into the structure to serve both the pavilion and the park.
7 - Events Terrace/Band Shell	Relocated + Replaced	Bandshell facility and equipment is outdated High noise levels from hospital vehicles Not enough seating Restrooms not open when needed	Subtle land sculpting of lower Flag Pole Hill will create undulating lawn seating areas where people can bring their blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the shows. There will also be some built-in seating at the terrace. The theater landform will blend seamlessly into the hillside resembling a natural feature that has always been there. There will also be a structure built for the stage and backstage operations/storage of the theater.
8 - Woman's Monument	Relocated	Not Sited for a special reason	The monument will join the Locomotive 576 + N.C. & SL Railway Monument and the Confederate Private Monument along the North edge of the park to create monument row.
9 - Confederate Private Monument	Relocated	Not Sited for a special reason	The monument will join the Locomotive 576 + N.C. & SL Railway Monument and the Woman's Monument along the North edge of the park to create monument row.
10 - Locomotive 576+N.C. & Railway Monument	Relocated	Conflict with new Events Terrace location	Monument moved to the Northern portion of the park to create a main focal point for monument row. The monument will be closer and parallel to the historical track location.

**PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURES + MONUMENTS**

\*Sizes of new structures are approximate and need further study to determine actual square footage need for each element.



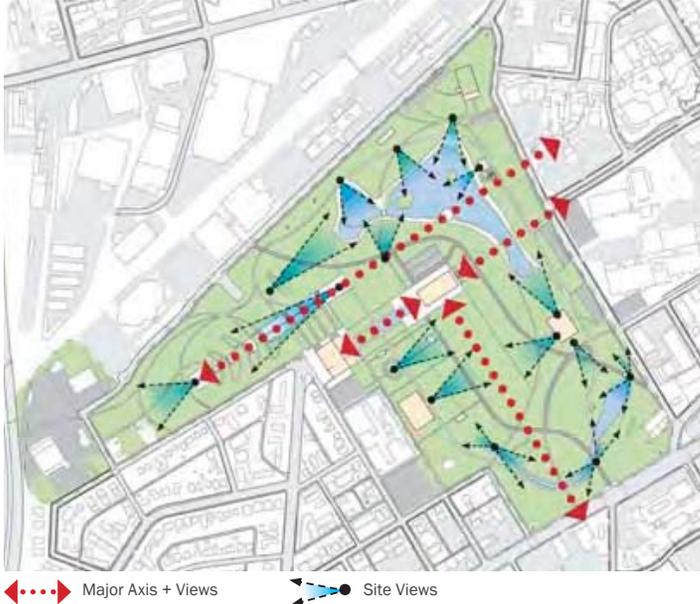
	ACTION	ISSUE/NEED	DETAILS
<b>1 - Winter Garden/Visitor Center</b>	Proposed	Currently no place to learn about the park Additional indoor event venue space needed Classroom/lecture/office space for Parthenon	The Visitors Center will be a place where park users can go to orient themselves and to find out what is happening in Centennial Park. The building will create another venue for indoor events in addition to the fully booked Parthenon. The light/ open structure will house a winter garden and optional cafe space with a terrace that expands into the ornamental garden toward the Parthenon. The building will create a lovely vista from the Parthenon and will block the current view of the 31st Avenue traffic.
<b>2 - Rose Arbor Expansion</b>	Proposed	Create a more distinctive formal rose garden with a mirrored replica of original rose arbor.	The expansion of the rose garden and second rose arbor will be designed to reclaim a significant horticultural role and place within the Park. The Rose Arbor and its new garden will be developed and designed to display a significant collection of rose varieties and other flowering plants.
<b>3 - West Musicians Corner</b>	Proposed	Casual space for people to play music	Musicians Corner provides a casual space for impromptu gatherings by musicians, actors, and everyday park users. Creating multiple Musicians Corners allows for events to happen simultaneously and leaves the possibility for future musical festivals at the park. Each space will be tucked into the landscape and will be integrated with the natural sloping grades of the site. There will be some built-in seating, a stage area, and electrical.
<b>4 - East Musicians Corner</b>	Proposed	Casual space for people to play music	Musicians Corner provides a casual space for impromptu gatherings by musicians, actors, and everyday park users. Creating multiple Musicians Corners allows for events to happen simultaneously and leaves the possibility for future musical festivals at the park. Each space will be tucked into the landscape and will be integrated with the natural sloping grades of the site. There will be some built-in seating, a stage area, and electrical.
<b>5 - Parthenon Bridge</b>	Proposed	Needed connection from 25th Avenue Entry and parking to Parthenon and center of Park	Construct a bridge over Lake Watauga connecting the 25th Avenue entry and parking to the Parthenon. During the Exposition there was a bridge that crossed over Lake Watauga to bring people from the edge to the center of the exposition grounds. The bridge is not meant to be a replica of the original bridge but will be in the same location.
<b>6 - East Centennial Cafe + Restrooms</b>	Proposed	Lack of services near the lake New playground creates a restroom need	Provide a second cafe and restrooms next to the new playground. Create a year-round all season outdoor seating area. This will be become a new hub of activity, a gathering spot, and a resting place for visitors
<b>7 - Sculptural Element</b>	Proposed	Integration of sculptural element into water feature and hillside climb destination space	A strong sculptural element sitting at the apex of the Flag Pole Hill water feature will spark visitors intrigue and will draw them up the hill.
<b>8 - Centennial Park Markers/Signage</b>	Proposed	Create entry and edge marker signage	The markers will be tall and very visible throughout the park. They will help with visitor orientation within the park as well as providing a strong visual identity for the park. The markers should be thought of as sculptural objects.

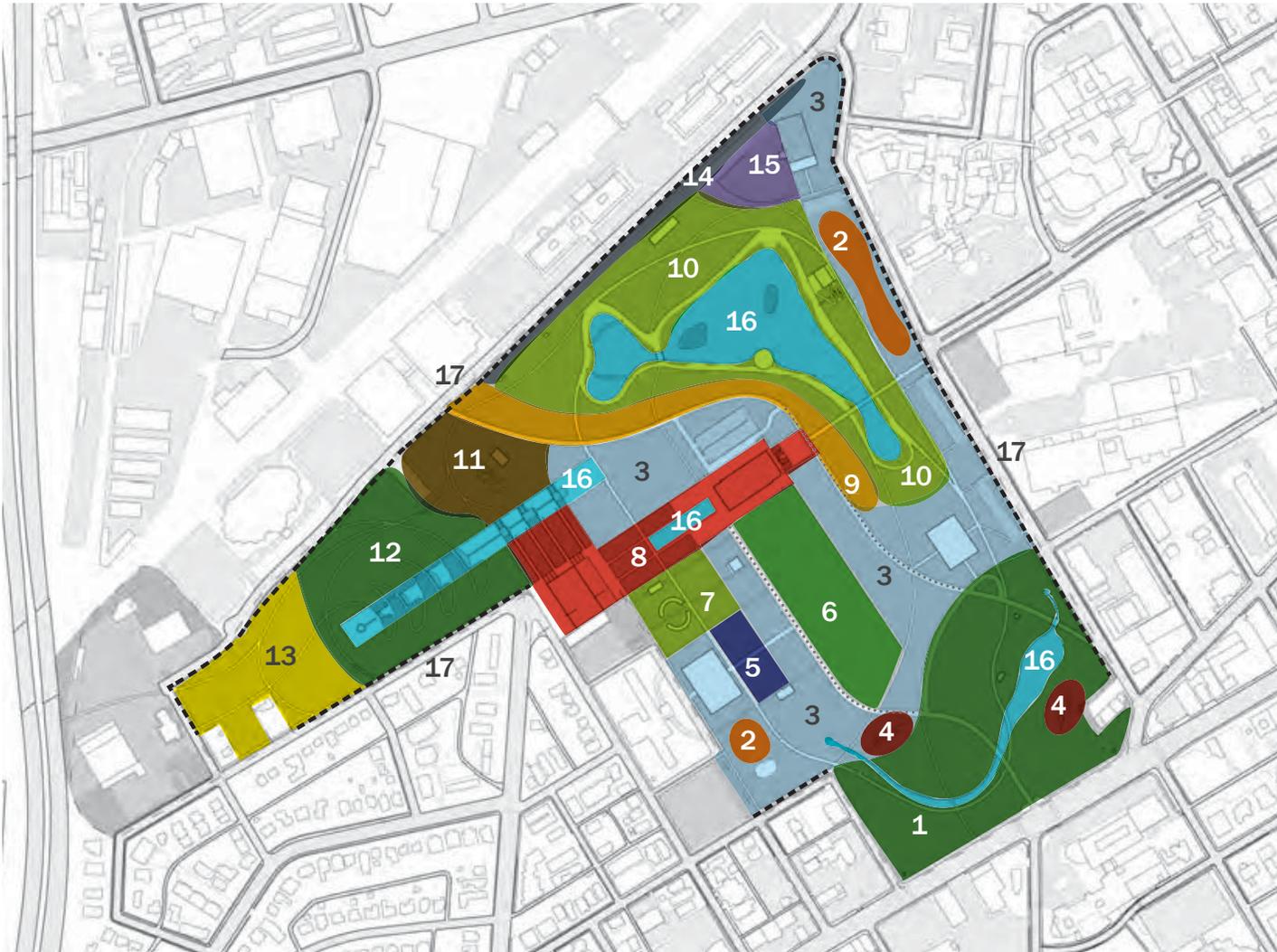
## 5.2 LANDSCAPE + PLANTING

The Master Plan revitalizes the landscape of Centennial Park by creating distinct yet complimentary areas of planting. This greater variety of planting will improve the ecological diversity, create better habitat and promote sustainability within the landscape of the Park. From formal gardens to naturalized areas, the Park will offer the visitor a more spatially dynamic and seasonally varied landscape throughout the year.

The Master Plan planting will expand the usable area within the Park by reclaiming under utilized pieces of the Park; areas that may have become poorly defined and seemingly “left-over” or feel “out of the way”. By framing prominent views and defining open and closed landscape spaces, the Master Plan will reinforce the important spatial, functional and conceptual relationships between the Park’s structures and landscapes.

Significant Views Diagram





### Landscape Elements

- 1** Lake Katherine + Cockrill Spring Zone
- 2** East + West Playground
- 3** Parkland / Picnic
- 4** East + West Musicians Corner
- 5** Demonstration Gardens
- 6** Great Lawn
- 7** Rose Garden
- 8** Formal Gardens + Entry Terrace
- 9** Cherry Blossom Walk
- 10** Lake Watauga + Lily Lake Zone
- 11** Events Terrace
- 12** Native Woodland
- 13** Small + Large Dog Parks
- 14** Rain Garden
- 15** Sculpture Garden
- 16** Water Features [see section 5.3]
- 17** Edge Condition

## Lake Katherine + Cockrill Springs Zone



The new Lake Katherine is created in the same area as the original from the 1897 Exposition. Lake Katherine will take advantage of the historic, existing and, as part of the Master Plan, “daylighted” Cockrill Springs as a water source. Lake Katherine will be set within existing lawns and groves of trees to provide a focal point at the southern end of the Park.

In contrast to Lake Watauga, Lake Katherine will be designed with more “naturalized” edges. The area around Lake Katherine and Cockrill Springs will be designed with a variety of lawn areas for seating, lounging, and picnics among new floral plantings, and a mixture of shade and flowering trees that complement the existing canopy trees.



## East + West Playground



The existing children’s playground, along 28th Avenue North, is an important and heavily used piece of Centennial Park. A new West Playground will replace it to create a larger, dedicated play area located between the new Centennial Arts and Activities Center and the renovated Picnic Pavilion, and south of the existing playground.

Across the Park, a new East Playground, located south of the Arts Center along 25th Avenue North., will provide additional play areas and be large enough to accommodate a children’s miniature train and track. The children’s train should commemorate the parks history and important relationship to the nearby rail lines.

The play areas and equipment should be the same high quality and design as the rest of the Park. The play areas should have a naturalized or sculptural quality and be designed to blend into the character of the Park landscape. The play equipment should be composed of high quality, sustainable, and non-toxic materials. Its appearance should be sculptural, distinctive, and visually pleasing.



## Parkland / Picnic / Mowable Meadow



The Parkland and Picnic area is a large meadow weaving throughout the park and connecting many of the open spaces. The meadow should be composed of native grasses and plants and should offer flexibility in its use throughout the seasons. It can be mown to expand the main event lawn, create new walking trails or to carve out smaller picnic pockets within.

The Parkland and Picnic Meadow should be managed through sustainable methods to maintain a diversity of species, programming flexibility, and health of the meadow.



## Musicians Corners



The Musicians Corners will be two new informal outdoor performance spaces allowing opportunities for spontaneous, unique, live performances, which can celebrate Nashville's history and future as Music City. Envisioned as a place within the Park where musicians gather each week, and attracting visitors through a mixture of programmed and non-programmed events, the Corners create a new destination space within the Park. The Musicians Corners can be paired up with the Events Terrace to create a larger festival venue.

Each Musicians Corner should be experienced as a place within the Park that blends with the landscape and character of the Park design. The Corners will be sited and designed to take advantage of the Park's landscape, its groves, open meadows and lakes as settings to frame and define the Corners.

Both Musicians Corners will be designed with a with a small, ground level, paved stage area with in-ground access to electrical power, a small amount of fixed amphitheater type seating and spaces for picnic blankets. The Corners should be well sited and designed to enhance audience sound and sight lines, and allow an up close and intimate relationship between audience and performers.



## Demonstration Garden



The new Demonstration Garden will provide opportunities for students and visitors to learn about growing and maintaining a vegetable garden and the economic, environmental, and health benefits possible from a fresh, local, and varied food source. Through programmed events, community participation, and educational outreach efforts students and visitors can be encouraged to start their own gardens and teach others in their communities. Food grown in the garden should be used in the Centennial Park Cafes to promote seasonal, healthy menu items.

The Garden will be designed to display a variety of traditional, new, and experimental examples of organic farming, composting, irrigation, and plant and soil types. The Garden should be designed to be visually appealing, programmatically flexible, and easily accessible.



## Great Lawn



The Great Lawn will retain its role as the signature public open space within the Park. While it is one of the most prominent and popular spaces in the Park for everyday uses like pick-up games and picnics or large programmed events like Tennessee Association of Craft Artists Fair (TACA) and the Festival of Cultures, the Great Lawn is not currently designed to withstand the wear and tear that comes with its high use.

The Great Lawn will be re-engineered to provide a high performance turf area, similar to that of a modern sports field, with a sub-surface system for drainage, improved soil aeration, weight bearing properties, and water efficient irrigation.



## Rose Arbor + Garden



The Rose Arbor and its new garden will be designed to reclaim a significant horticultural role and place within the Park. The existing Rose Arbor is a legacy from the 1897 Exposition. As the Park changed, the Arbor's planting became less distinctive and it became less of a clearly defined Park destination.

The Rose Arbor and its new garden will be developed and designed to display a significant collection of rose varieties and other flowering plants. The existing semi-circular Rose Arbor structure will be restored. A new complementary semi-circle arbor design will join it. Text and graphics will be designed to explain the horticultural and cultural histories of the roses in the collection.



## Winter Garden + Entry Plaza Gardens



The new Winter Garden will be set on axis west of the Parthenon near the intersection of Parthenon Place and 31st Avenue North. The Winter Garden will be designed to create a new Park entry fronting onto a street-level arrival plaza with terraced hillside gardens to the north. The Winter Garden will feature a horticultural greenhouse pavilion for displaying climate sensitive and exotic plants, and will include a visitor's center, a small cafe, event rooms, and outdoor terraces with views eastward to the Parthenon, the Park, and the downtown skyline. The Winter Garden should be designed as an architecturally significant structure on par with the Parthenon's refined qualities of form, scale, proportion and elegance.

East of the Winter Garden, a new formal lawn and paved plaza flanked by formal gardens extends to the Parthenon. The gardens will be designed as large outdoor "rooms" defined by a perimeter of low clipped hedges and filled with colorful, fragrant, and bold ornamental planting. As visitors wander the garden rooms and along the plaza, they will discover contemporary benches tucked into the hedges at intervals, providing places for rest and contemplation.



## Cherry Blossom Walk



The new Cherry Blossom Walk, bordering Lake Watauga to the west, will create seasonal interest. The Walk will be designed as a distinctive place within the Park, drawing locals and tourists alike. It will accommodate a range of everyday activities, from walking and jogging, people watching, eating, to larger seasonal events.

The cherry trees will be a linear grove of horticulturally significant varieties arranged to maximize the effects of color, bloom, and shape. Surface paving will be designed to be permeable, and durable enough to withstand vehicles and event staging. Contemporary garden and park seating, both fixed and moveable should be provided to encourage different types of gatherings.



## Lake Watauga Zone



Lake Watauga, a centerpiece of Centennial Park since the 1897 Exposition, will maintain its role as an important destination and a major element of the Park's landscape. Lily Lake, now the existing Sunken Garden, will be restored at its former site. New planting, paths, and paving will be designed to revitalize and complement the existing Lake edge. Areas around the Lake will be expanded to better accommodate pedestrian access and provide improved seating, walking, and picnic areas.

The Lake edges will be designed to frame and preserve views across the Lake to the Parthenon and into the Park. Plantings will be designed to create native habitat at the Lake edges, help improve the water quality of the lake and provide sustainable and seasonal interest. Materials should be of a high quality and designed to complement the historical qualities and significance of the lakes.



## Events Terrace



The new Events Terrace will replace the existing Bandshell venue, providing a place for plays, outdoor movies, and music. The Events Terrace will be designed to sit within the landscape and take advantage of the existing slope in this part of the Park. The landscape will be shaped and sculpted to create lawn terraces for informal lawn and fixed seating. The Events Terrace will include a new stage with access to lighting, power, and sound. The design will also create a sound abatement element to protect from sound pollution originating from adjacent streets.



## Native Woodland



The Native Woodland areas maintain, improve, and expand the woodlands that currently exist on Flag Pole Hill. Native trees and understory planting will be added to the existing vegetation to increase plant diversity, prevent erosion, and improve habitat. With the addition of informational signage and graphics, the Native Woodland provides an educational opportunity for park visitors to learn about the native flora of Nashville.



## Dog Parks (small + large)



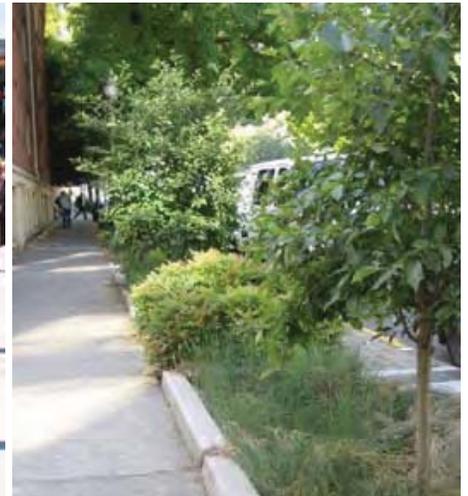
The existing Dog Parks, a popular feature, will continue to provide a place for dogs and dog lovers to gather in Centennial Park. The two Dog Parks, for small and large dogs, will be relocated to the west side of Flag Pole Hill, with improved access, more space, and with additional amenities for dogs and their people.



## Rain Gardens



The new Rain Gardens along the north edge of the Park will treat the existing stormwater runoff from Park Plaza. The Rain Gardens will provide innovative bio-filtration for water treatment as well as providing an educational opportunity for the community.



## Sculpture Installation Garden

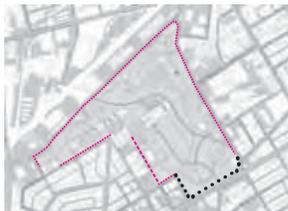


The new Sculpture Garden will provide a larger area for the Art Center to exhibit installations of art and sculpture, and accommodate rotating exhibits. The Garden will be designed as a series of outdoor “garden rooms” scaled to the landscape and the anticipated art. The perimeter of the garden rooms should be defined by clipped hedges of various heights to screen and frame views and create backdrops for the art.

Materials used will be of a high quality and designed to complement the quality of the art. Surface paving will be designed to be permeable, and durable enough to withstand art installation and exhibit staging, including heavy equipment. Contemporary moveable garden seating will be provided to encourage different types of gatherings. The Sculpture Installation Garden will have access to power and lighting.

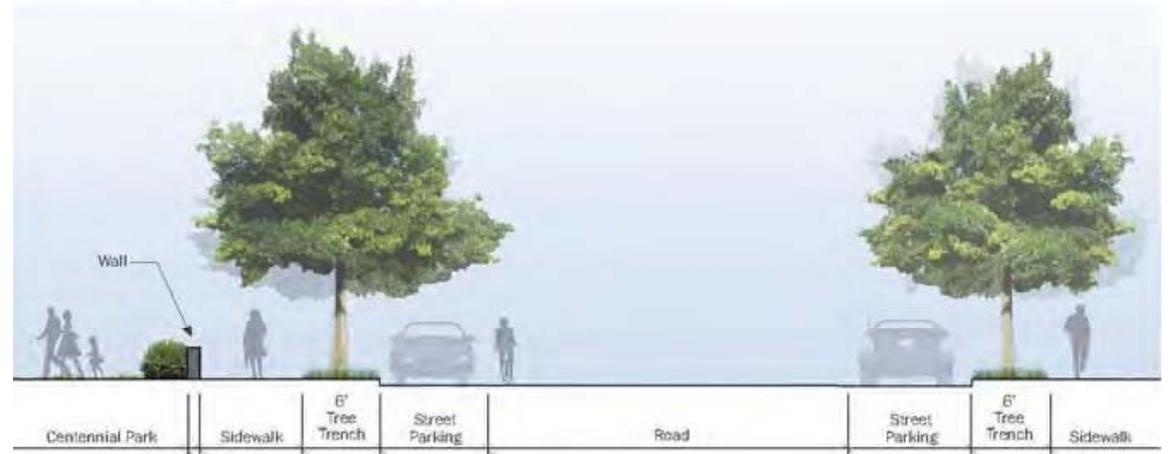


## Perimeter Edge Condition



Currently only a few areas of Centennial Park’s perimeter have any clear definition or consistent design approach to the surrounding streets and neighborhoods. Most of the Park’s perimeter lacks a functioning network of sidewalks, street trees, and curbs. With the Park Master Plan, visitors will be encouraged to use new, additional on-street parking available at the Parks edges.

The Park Perimeter will be designed with a formal and consistent edge along streets bordering the Park. The Perimeter will be designed to accommodate large street trees in planting strips between the curb and the sidewalk creating a buffer from the street. The planting strip will accommodate, “tree-soil trenches” to maximize potential root growth. The perimeter wall will be of a high quality and will complement the architecture and landscape of the Park. It will allow views into the Park while screening adjacent vehicles. The sidewalks will be designed to comply with City standards and graciously accommodate pedestrians walking side by side.



## PLANTING ZONES

The Master Plan creates several Planting Zones within Centennial Park. These zones will take advantage of existing and proposed features. The zones will have distinct and complementary planting, designed to enhance a unique quality or particular area of the Park through its ecology, microclimate, or character. Using the same types of plants in more than one zone will create continuity throughout the Park.



## Landscape Zones

- 1** Garden A [trees, shrubs, perennials, lawn]
- 2** Garden B [trees, shrubs, perennials, lawn]
- 3** Evergreen Hedge + Perimeter Planting
- 4** Engineered Turf
- 5** Mowable Meadow
- 6** Native Meadow
- 7** Aquatic Garden
- 8** Food Garden
- 9** Manicured Ornamental Garden

### 5.3 WATER FEATURES

Water has always been an important element in the Centennial Park landscape. With the discovery of Cockrill Springs, the area that became the Park evolved from farmland to racetrack and eventually became the grounds for the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

The Exposition landscape design made good use of the site's existing springs to create Lake Watauga and Lake Katherine. The springs and lakes portrayed the significant role of water as both a cultural and natural resource through their picturesque rendering and practical employment.

Drawing on this history the Master Plan restores water to significance. Through a sustainable landscape approach, the plan recasts the springs and lakes as prominent cultural and natural resources in Centennial Park.



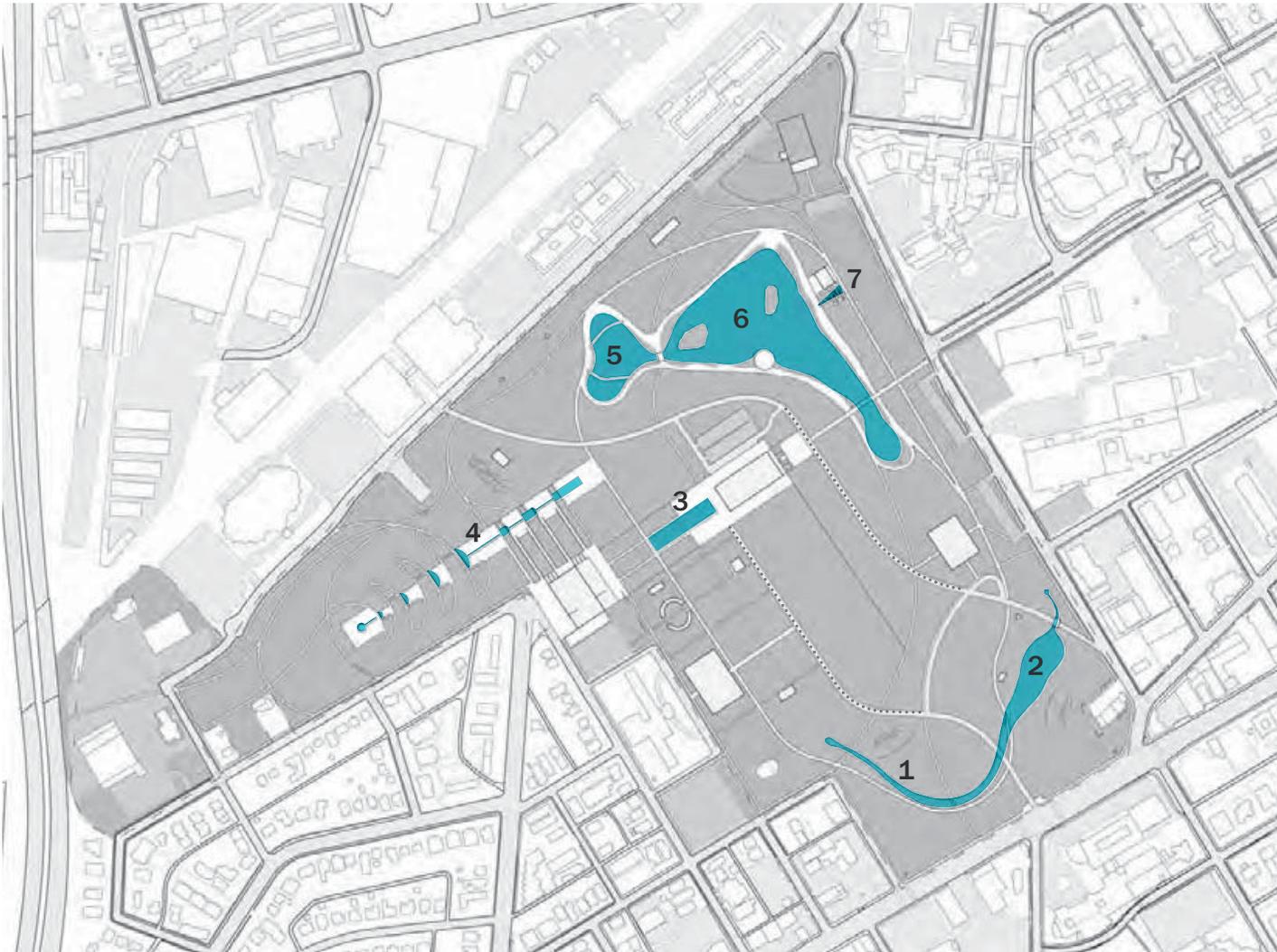
Lake Katherine



Japanese Garden - Sunken Garden - Lily Lake



Shell Springs



## Water Elements

- 1 Daylighting Cockrill Spring
- 2 Lake Katherine
- 3 Arrival Plaza Reflecting Pool
- 4 Flag Pole Hill Grottos + Lower Terrace Pools
- 5 Lily Lake
- 6 Lake Watauga
- 7 East Playground Interactive Water Feature

## Daylighting Cockrill Spring



The historic spring will be excavated, or “day lighted”, from underground pipes to restore the water’s flow to the surface. Rather than being diverted underground to the city sewer system, the Spring’s fresh water will be allowed to flow and run through the lakes and rills in the Park. Along the Spring’s new edges, native and adaptive plantings will be designed to improve the water quality, create new habitat and invite investigation from curious park visitors.



## Lake Katherine



Lake Katherine will be a new lake created on the former Lake Katherine site from the 1897 Exposition. It will provide a focal point for the south end of the Park and encourage gathering, strolling, and walking around its edges. Connected with Cockrill Springs, Lake Katherine will create a contemporary picturesque landscape telling the story of water in the Park.



## Reflecting Pool



The new Reflecting Pool will sit within the new plaza and formal gardens west of the Parthenon. The water will offer changing reflections of the sky and the Parthenon.

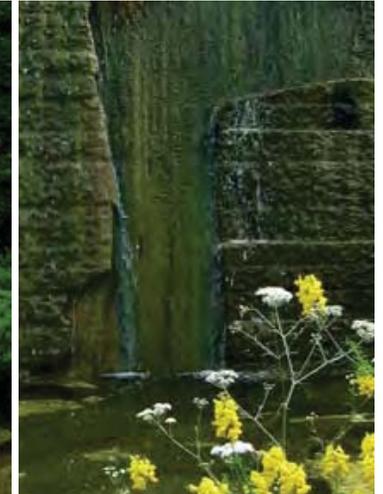
The Reflecting Pool will be designed to complement its location in the Park and relationship to the Parthenon and new Winter Garden. The Pool will require lighting. A remote pump room facility will be located in the lower floor of the Winter Garden structure.



## Flag Pole Hill Grottos + Lower Terrace Pools



The new Flag Pole Hill water feature will create a major focus and experience for the northwestern portion of the Park and will link Flag Pole Hill once again with the rest of Centennial Park. The subtle cascade fountains, seep walls, grotto spaces, and interactive water feature will be designed to offer a variety of possibilities for visitors to explore and interact with the water. These varied rich experiences will draw people up to the top of Flag Pole Hill. Areas for walking and sitting will be interspersed with areas for quiet gatherings and a few areas for active play. The feature will be designed to allow for prominent views across the Park and towards the city.



## Lily Lake



The new Lily Lake will be created to the west of Lake Watauga on the site of the existing Sunken Garden and former Japanese Garden. Lily Lake will be designed to reintroduce water and aquatic planting into this area of the Park. There will be two new pedestrian bridges crossing the lake allowing visitors to see the lilies and other aquatic plants up close and from different vantage points.



## Lake Watauga



Lake Watauga will remain and the Master Plan recommends connecting it to other water bodies in the Park to improve the flow and quality of its water.



## East Playground Interactive Water Feature



The new East Playground design will include an Interactive Water Feature to provide a place for children to play, explore, and experience water in the hot summer months. The water feature will be of high quality design and the materials will be sustainable, safe, and non-toxic.



## 5.4 WATER STRATEGIES

### Existing Water Resources + Systems

The Master Plan identified the following issues with the existing conditions in the Park:

**Existing Combined Sewers** - Currently, older, large brick combined sewers (carrying both sanitary and stormwater) cross through the southerly portion of the Park and near the northerly edge of Lake Watauga, running beneath the lake. Because of their age and construction, the existing combined sewers create issues as they are outdated and susceptible to crumbling and collapse.

**Cockrill Spring** - Cockrill Spring, located at the southerly edge of the Park near the Natchez Trace terminus, currently drains fresh water into a combined sewer. As a result, the clean spring water is needlessly directed to and treated at the City's sewer treatment plant thus increasing demand on the sanitary sewer system.

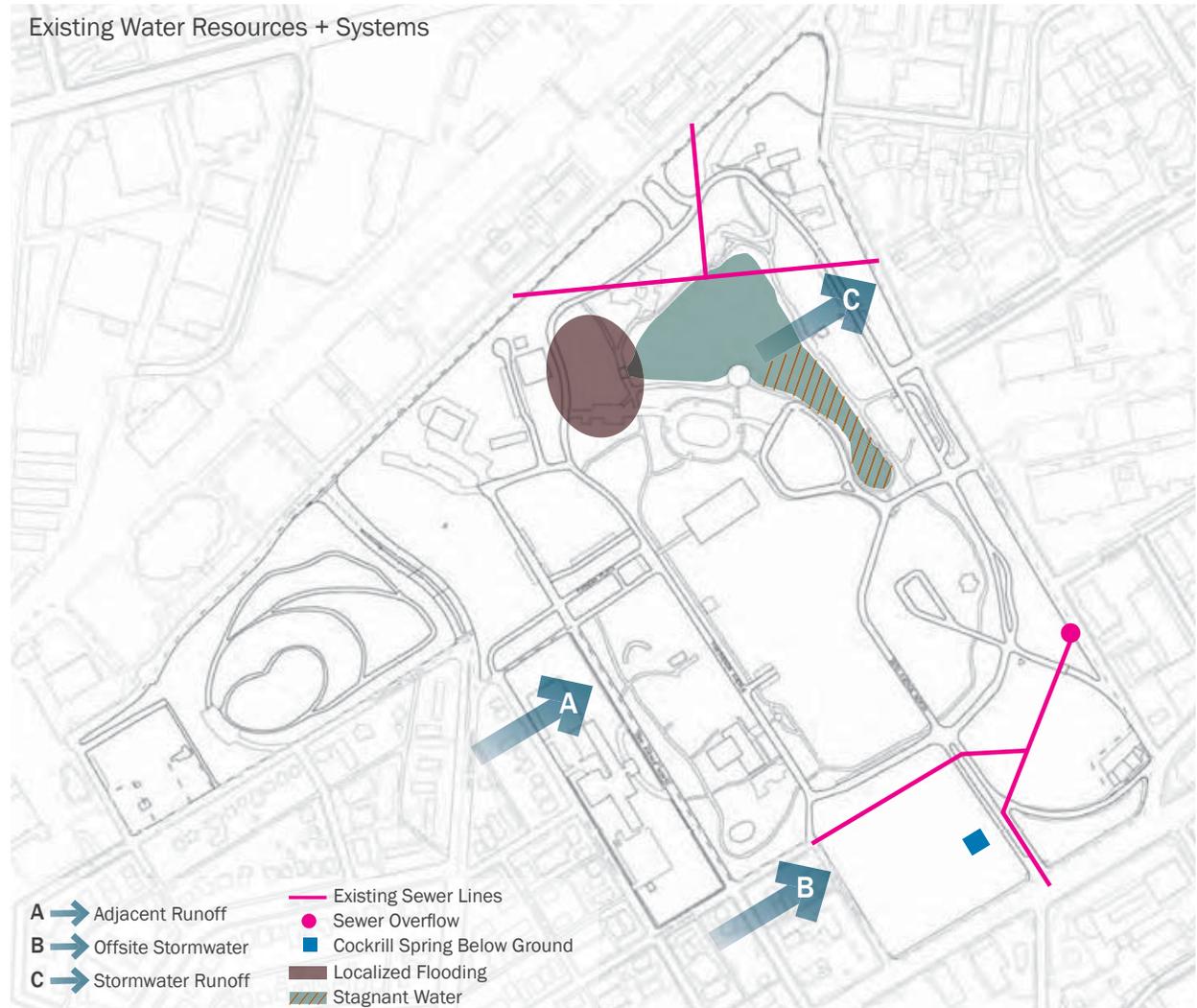
**Lake Watauga** - A collapse of the existing sewer under Lake Watauga would create the possibility for water from the Lake to gush into the combined sewer, affecting the Lake's water level and quality, and causing the combined sewers to overflow.

Portions of Lake Watauga do not have adequate water movement and as a result, the lake water becomes stagnant and threatens the lake inhabitants

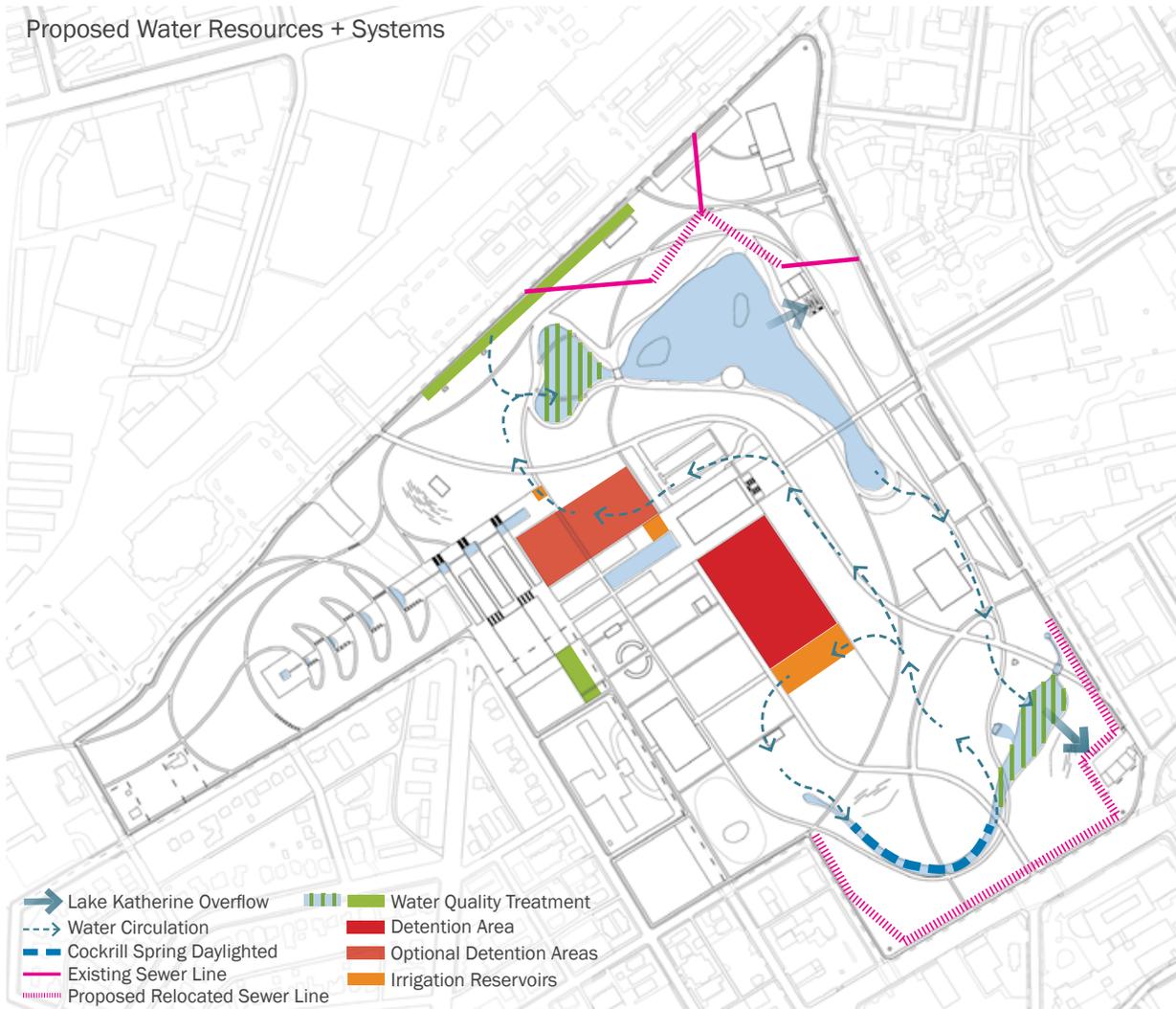
**Stormwater Control and Quality** - Upstream of the site, to the west of the Park, stormwater runoff from the neighborhoods is mixed with sanitary sewage resulting in local flooding during large storms. Stormwater runoff from the Park is not currently controlled which contributes to flooding downstream of the Park. Some of the flooding may include sewage from the combined sewers.

Stormwater runoff from the Park, adjacent streets, and upstream neighborhoods is not currently treated to improve water quality. Although the stormwater is currently treated at the treatment plant, it will likely need to be treated at the Park when stormwater is separated from sewage in the future.

Existing Water Resources + Systems



## Proposed Water Resources + Systems



## Proposed Sustainable Water Resources and Systems

The Master Plan proposes innovative sustainable systems for the Park to address the existing aging combined sewers, stormwater runoff, and water quality issues.

**Daylighting of Cockrill Spring** - "Daylighting" is the practice of uncovering natural water features like Cockrill Spring. Daylighting Cockrill Spring and using it as a source of water for irrigation and water features at the Park is a key sustainable component of the Master Plan.

This approach not only reduces loads at the sewer treatment plant but also reduces the demand for domestic water usage in the Park. Lake Katherine, a reconstruction of the historic exposition lake which is fed by Cockrill Springs, would be the primary reservoir for the irrigation and water feature supply system. Water from Lake Katherine would be pumped to underground storage areas throughout the park.

**Improving Lake Watauga Water Quality** - Cockrill Spring water can also be routed through Lake Watauga to provide better water movement and eliminate stagnation.

**Controlling and Improving Stormwater Runoff and Quality** - Controlling the peak flow rate of stormwater runoff with detention (storage) systems is another sustainable component. The detention systems can also function as infiltration facilities to help recharge groundwater.

Bioretention systems, interspersed throughout the Park and along its perimeter, can improve the water quality of Park and offsite polluted stormwater runoff.

**Relocating and Improving Combined Sewers** - The existing combined sewers at the southerly portion of the Park can be relocated to the edge of the Park in a manner that will allow them to function as a separated sanitary sewer (low flow) and storm drain (high flow) system in the future. The combined sewer under Lake Watauga can be relocated around the lake.

**Larger Sustainable Goals** - With implementation of the Master Plan, space within the Park will become available to construct additional underground storage facilities allowing the Park to address stormwater needs of a larger area beyond its boundaries.

Approximately 250,000 cubic feet of storage will be provided for the Park's water and stormwater needs. Approximately 375,000 cubic feet of additional storage is available within the Park boundaries. Working with the City and other offsite stakeholders, storage systems could be constructed and managed in the Park to provide stormwater detention for new developments or water for irrigation or cooling towers.

## 5.5 PROGRAMMING + AMENITIES

The following diagrams illustrate the proposed Master Plan layout of Centennial Park's programs and functions. In the development of the Master Plan, two important aspects of the existing Park programming became clear, and they defined the two main issues addressed in the Master Plan proposal.

The first aspect was that the Park's current variety of program offerings, events, and functions are overwhelmingly popular and well supported by the Park's visitors. There was a strong consensus among the public that the official role of Centennial Park as a center for artistic, cultural, and educational programming should not change. There was an equally strong, and not completely contrary, consensus that the Park's unofficial role as a great place for Nashvillians and their guests to come to, relax in, and just have fun, also not change.

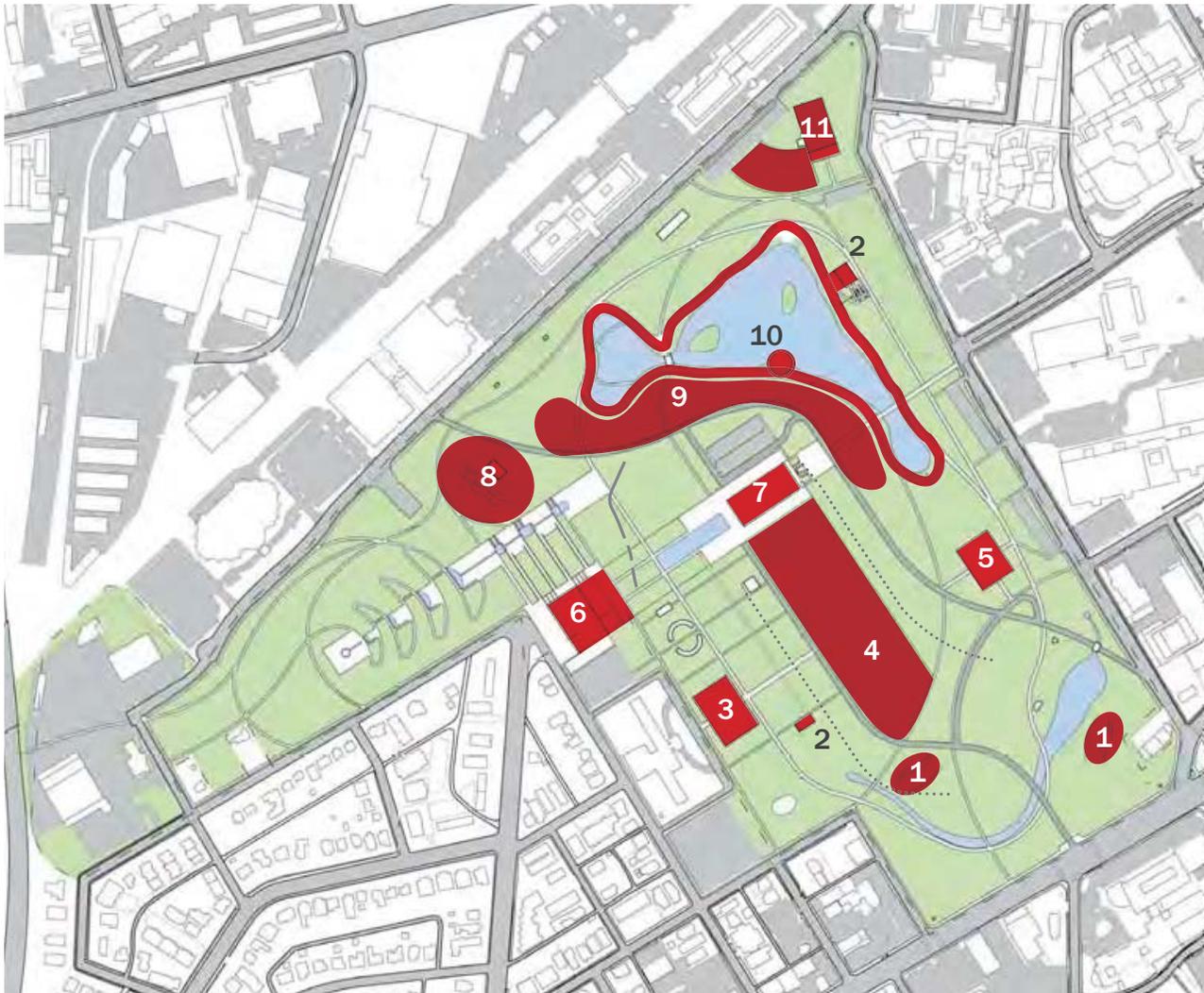
The second aspect became apparent when mapping all of Centennial Park's events, festivals, and programs. The mapping study showed that the majority of the many events and functions that occur in the Park do so in a concentrated area in the Park's center. This abundance of events occurring in the middle of the Park leaves the wide swath of the perimeter of the Park and large parts of Flag Pole Hill underutilized.

In the following diagrams, the proposed layout for programming in Centennial Park maintains all of the existing Park programs and functions. The Master Plan rearranges the relationship and location of some of these programs and functions to improve their performance and capacity, and to take advantage of more of the Park's underutilized areas.



Current Park Usage [above]  
Proposed Park Usage Expansion [below]





## Cultural + Arts + Educational Programs + Events

Venues	Selected Events
<b>1</b> - East + West Musician's Corners	- Band Performances - Readings
<b>2</b> - CP Cafe East + CP Cafe West	- Food service - Jazz bands
<b>3</b> - Centennial Art + Activities Center	- Dance Classes - Music Classes
<b>4</b> - Great Lawn	- Festival Space - Movies In the Park - Symphony - Earth Day
<b>5</b> - Events Pavilion	- Big Band Dances - Band Performances - Weddings - Corporate Picnics
<b>6</b> - Winter Garden + Visitors Center	- Park Information + Orientation - Weddings - Auditorium + Class Rooms - Sponsored Events
<b>7</b> - Parthenon	- Art Events - Weddings - Rotating Exhibits - Corporate Sponsored Events
<b>8</b> - Events Terrace	- Shakespeare Festival - Plays - Band Performances - Dance Performances - Movies
<b>9</b> - Cherry Blossom Walk	- Horticultural Event - Festival Space - Art/Craft/Food/Health Fairs
<b>10</b> - Lake Watauga + Lily Lake Edges	- Festival Space - Art/Craft/Food/Health Fairs
<b>11</b> - Centennial Art Center + Sculpture Garden	- Art Shows + Events - Temporary Art Installations

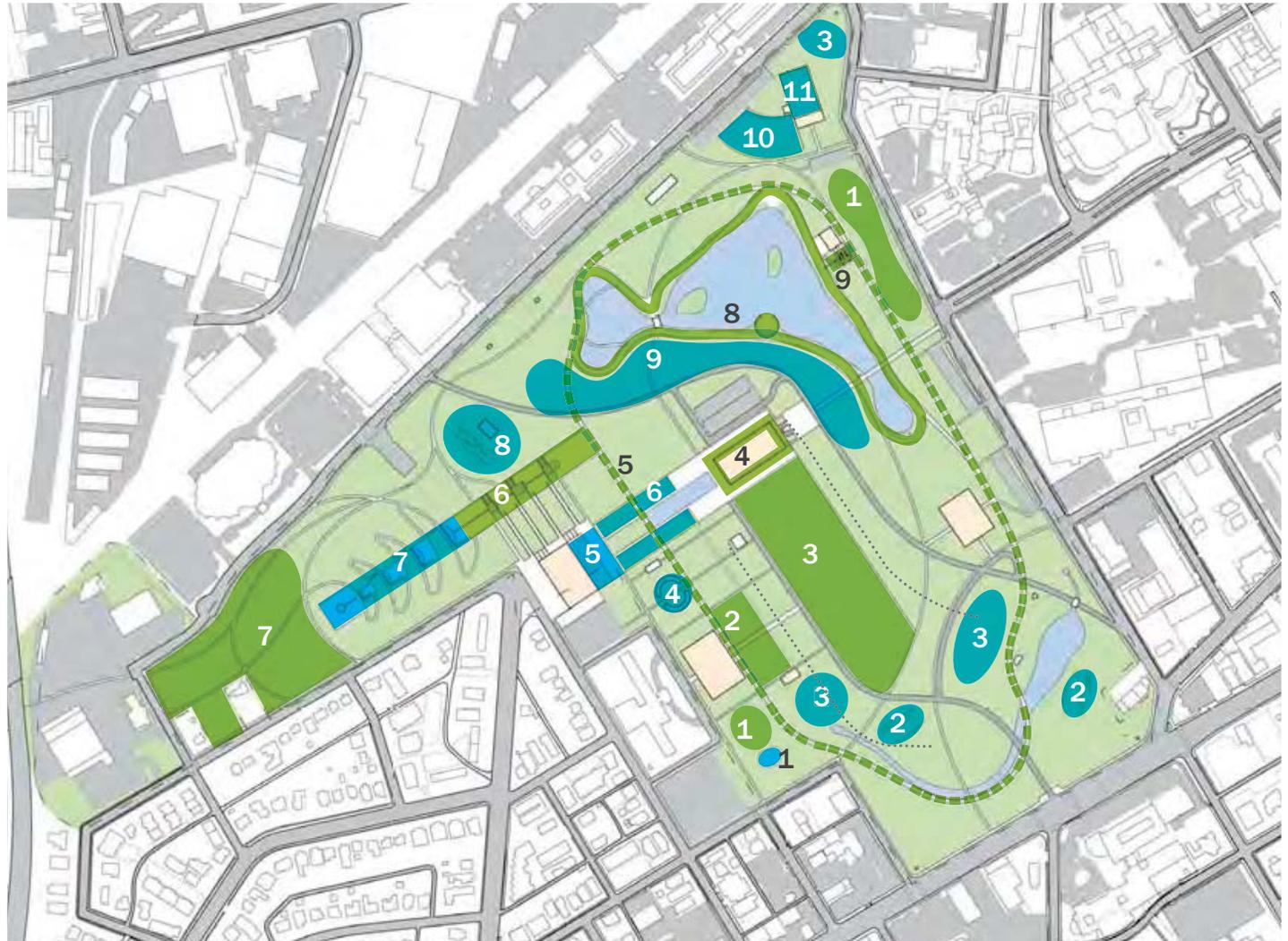
## Proposed Active + Passive Amenities

### Active Amenities

- 1 - East + West Playgrounds
- 2 - Demonstration/Food Garden
- 3 - Great Lawn
- 4 - Parthenon Plinth
- 5 - 1 Mile Loop
- 6 - Flag Pole Hill Water Feature
- 7 - Small + Large Dog Parks
- 8 - Lake Loop
- 9 - Interactive Water Feature

### Passive Amenities

- 1 - Picnic Pavilion
- 2 - East + West Musician's Corners
- 3 - Picnic Area
- 4 - Rose Arbor
- 5 - Winter Garden Terraces
- 6 - Formal Garden Seating
- 7 - Flag Pole Hill Water Feature
- 8 - Events Terrace
- 9 - Cherry Blossom Walk
- 10 - Sculpture Garden
- 11 - Centennial Art Center Garden



Active	Venues	Selected Events
	<b>1</b> - East + West Playgrounds	- Children's Play - Meeting Place
	<b>2</b> - Demonstration/Food Garden	- Gardening - Gathering Space
	<b>3</b> - Great Lawn	- Pick Up Games - Frisbee - Picnics
	<b>4</b> - Parthenon Plinth	- Exercise Classes - Seating - Reading
	<b>5</b> - 1 Mile Loop	- Jogging/Walking - Dog Walking
	<b>6</b> - Flag Pole Hill Water Feature	- Interactive Water Feature - Nature Walk
	<b>7</b> - Small + Large Dog Parks	- Dog Play - Meeting Place
	<b>8</b> - Lake Loop	- Walking/Jogging Loop - Dog walking
	<b>9</b> - East Playground Interactive Water Feature	- Children's Play

Passive	Venues	Selected Events
	<b>1</b> - Picnic Pavilion	- Picnics - Reading
	<b>2</b> - East + West Musician's Corners	- Place to Rest - Photo Spot - Meeting Place
	<b>3</b> - Picnic Area	- Picnics - Reading - Meeting Place
	<b>4</b> - Rose Arbor	- Place to Rest - Photo Spot
	<b>5</b> - Winter Garden Terraces	- Views - Seating
	<b>6</b> - Formal Garden Seating Areas	- Place to Rest - Photo Spot
	<b>7</b> - Flag Pole Hill Water Feature	- Views - Place to Relax - Nature Walk
	<b>8</b> - Events Terrace	- Picnics - Reading - Meeting Place
	<b>9</b> - Cherry Blossom Walk	- Place to Rest - Photo Spot - Meeting Place
	<b>10</b> - Sculpture + Installation Garden	- Photo Spot - Meeting Place
	<b>11</b> - Centennial Art Center Garden	- Place to Rest - Photo Spot - Meeting Place

## 5.6 CIRCULATION

By Jeff Hammond, P.E., Project Engineer, RPM Transportation Consultants

RPM reviewed the proposed Centennial Park Master Plan. The findings and recommendations regarding the circulation, parking, and modal access considerations of the Master Plan are summarized here.

### Existing Conditions

The existing Park circulation consists of a two-way road system throughout the Park connecting various facilities and many dispersed parking lots. The existing roads and parking are the result of incremental additions, deletions, and extensions over time.

The liberal allowance of access through the Park results in circulation that lacks a clear pattern for traffic and parking. Roadways within the Park result in numerous intersections and potential conflict points with pedestrian paths. In two cases, at 28th Avenue and 31st Avenue, city streets and traffic continue directly into or through the Park. 31st Avenue is especially noteworthy as a roadway that bisects the Park, limiting the interaction between eastern and western portions of the Park.

Currently, the Park roads are opened and closed as needed to accommodate the numerous special events and programming occurring in the Park. Traffic within the Park is redirected by temporary signage and barriers to alternate routes or entrances.

Twenty-two existing parking lots of various sizes and quality are located throughout the Park. Elsewhere within the Park, frequent unregulated “pull off” street side parking and parking on lawns is consistently degrading the soil, turf, planting and drainage.

### Vehicular Access

The most significant aspect of the Master Plan from a traffic standpoint is the reduction and reorganization of much of the Park’s internal roadways. Of the currently existing 3.1 miles of internal roadway, 0.62 miles (20%) would remain open. Another 0.43 miles (14%) would remain open under restricted conditions. Proposed internal roadways will primarily allow north-south movement into the park, with no continuous east-west movement through the park.

While the Master Plan maintains the major and historical entrances to the park, traffic access will be significantly changed due to the modified internal roadway and parking configuration. Currently, park visitors typically enter the park at the closest entrance based on their arrival, then use the existing network of internal roads to travel through the park to their destination. In the Master Plan, most visitors will be directed via new signage to use existing external streets surrounding the Park to get closer to their in-park destination before entering the park.

One notable change is the lessened role of the most visible park entrance at the intersection of West End Avenue and Natchez Trace. This entrance is maintained as the historic entry to the park, but will only serve as a drop-off point during typical night and weekend periods of use.

The Master Plan would not impact regular MTA bus service along West End or 25th

Avenue. Implementation of the plan may create opportunities for enhanced bus stops along these routes.

### Other Recommendations:

Area enhancements such as sidewalks on all streets adjacent to the park and pedestrian signals at signalized intersections are desirable as well.

A comprehensive, well designed and planned wayfinding signage system will be needed to provide direction to reconfigured parking lots and internal roadways. This may include relocating existing park signage to be more consistent with the new primary park entrances. Smaller, internal signage should also direct motorists and non-motorized users to in-park destinations, including parking.

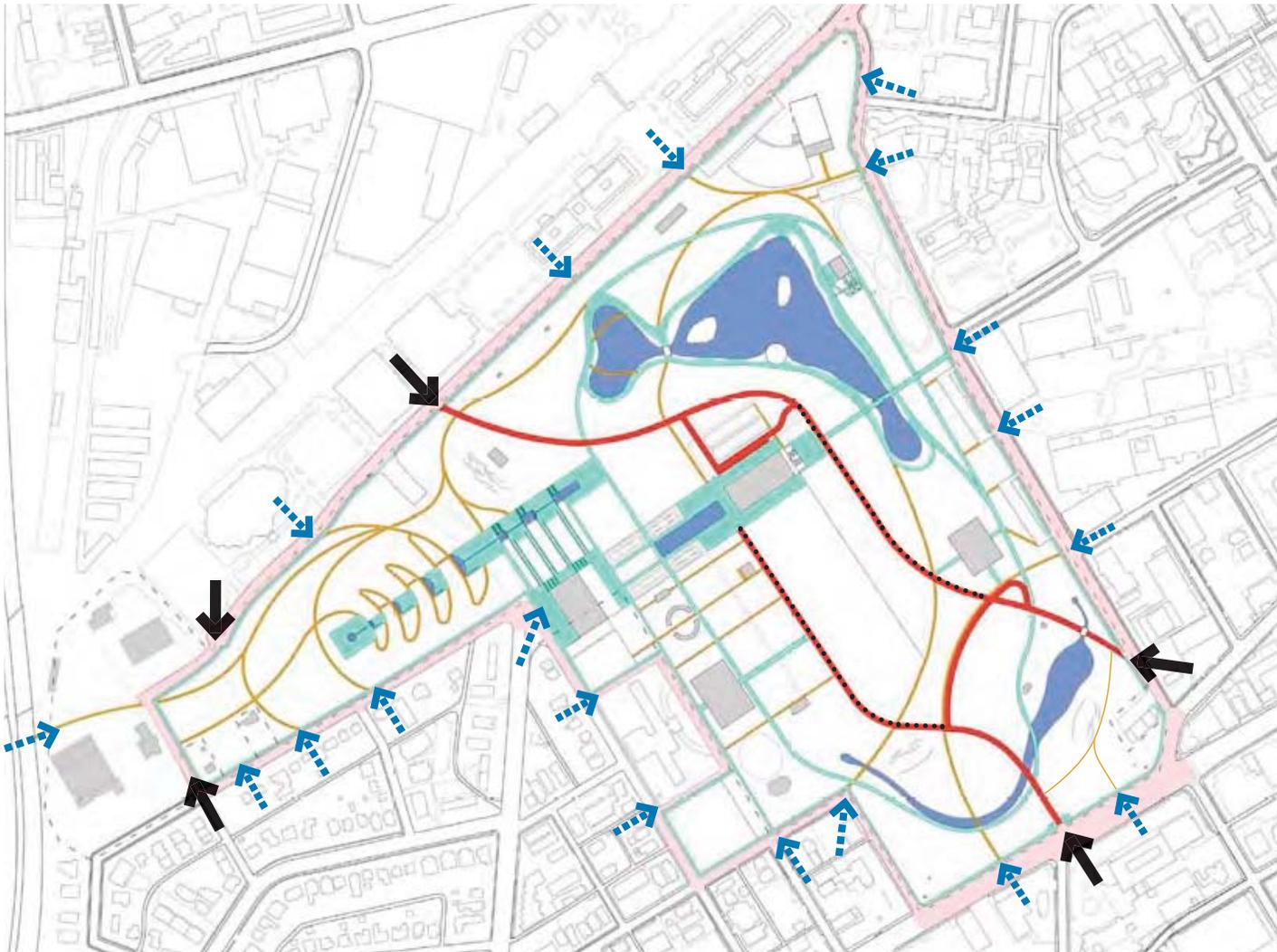
Create consistency in crosswalk treatments where pedestrian paths intersect roadways. This includes signage that is compliant with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Ensure that sight distances at these intersections are not limited or obstructed. Consider lighting at these intersections to make crosswalks more visible during dark conditions.

Bike parking should also be provided in certain areas of the park. Internal paths where bicycle traffic is expected should be at least 10 feet wide.

“Bike Share” initiatives are being undertaken in Nashville. This program allows users to “check out” a bicycle and return it later. It is possible that a bike share station could be installed within the park once that program becomes available.

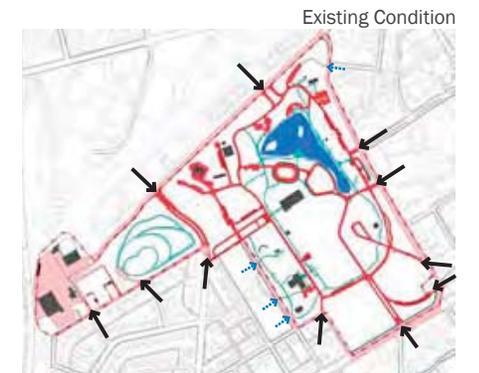
Nashville is among 16 U.S. cities selected as pilots for the EV Project, a national deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. Given that the average length of a user’s visit to Centennial Park is comparable to DC Fast Charging of electric vehicles, one or more charging terminals within the proposed parking lots should be considered.





### Proposed Plan

- **Vehicle Circulation (20' Wide)**  
 Pedestrian Traffic  
 Bicycles Allowed  
 Park Maintenance  
 VIP + ADA Drop Off  
 Emergency Vehicles  
 Delivery Trucks
- - - **Select Vehicle Access**  
 Closed Evenings / Weekends / Events
- **Major Pedestrian Circulation (12' Wide)**  
 Pedestrian Traffic  
 Jogging Loop - 1 mile  
 Bicycles Allowed  
 Park Maintenance
- **Minor Pedestrian Circulation (8' Wide)**  
 Pedestrian Path  
 Maintenance Path  
 Bicycles Prohibited  
 (reduce pedestrian/bike conflicts on narrow paths)
- ➔ **Vehicle Entries**
- - - ➔ **Pedestrian Entries**



## ACCESS + PARKING

### Parking

Parking for visitors to Centennial Park will also be reconfigured significantly and improved under the Master Plan. The existing 22 individual internal lots will be consolidated into 12 lots; five internal lots, two internal events lots, one shared lot, and four adjacent lots. All on-street parking on the Park's perimeter will remain unchanged and additional street parking will be added where possible.

Typical weekday parking capacity remains generally unchanged (a net loss of four spaces) when you add together the proposed internal parking lots along with the two adjacent lots to the west. With the addition of the two adjacent east lots the net unrestricted parking capacity is increased by at least 274 spaces (36%). Perhaps more significant is the special events parking increase of 1,164 spaces (153%) over current special event conditions.

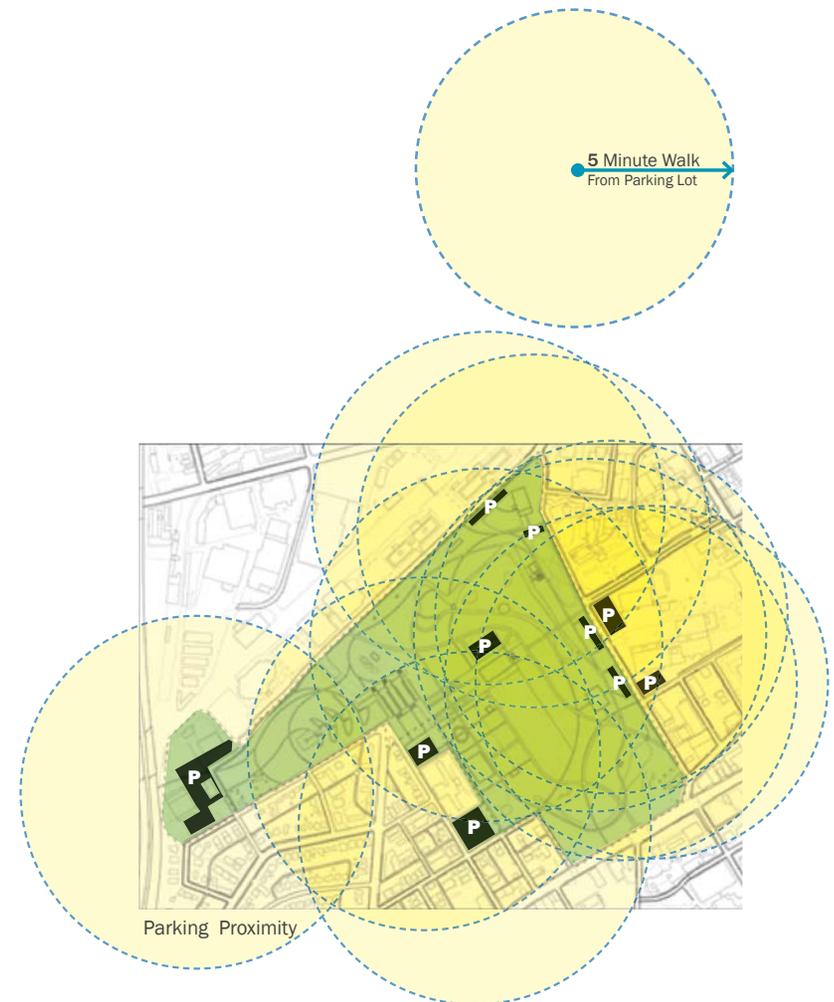
Location of parking is also of importance for the convenience of park users. With the Master Plan improvements, most parking is located on the park periphery, but is well distributed across the park. Consequently, all of Centennial Park and its primary destinations will be accessible within 1320 feet (0.25 mile, approximately a 5 minute walk) or less from a designated parking lot.

A comprehensive signage schedule should be developed to provide adequate direction to parking areas inside Centennial Park.

As use of the park continues to grow, there are opportunities for the parking capacity to increase even further. Expansion of surface lots on the east side of 25th Avenue (at Sportsplex) may be considered as a future phase to increase capacity. These lots, as well as the 29th Avenue lots, could be expanded to multi-story parking garages. Any future multi-story garage considerations would require additional detailed traffic, urban design and architectural studies and should be considerate of the character of abutting land uses and related infrastructure needs such as sidewalks.

The benefit of the traffic and parking improvements made in the Master Plan may be most apparent to park visitors traveling within the park on foot or by bicycle. The removal or restriction of much of the internal park roads will decrease conflicts with vehicles and allow increased freedom of movement and safety for non-motorized travelers inside the park.

Full implementation of the Master Plan should include careful design, layout and construction of sidewalks and bicycle lanes as part of internal park circulation as appropriate.





### Proposed Plan

- All Access Drive / Loop / Drop-Off
- - - Occasional Access Drive  
open - weekdays  
closed - events + weekends
- Event + Emergency Drive
- ||||| Drop-Off
- - - Street Parking
- P All Use Parking Lots
- P Shared Use Parking Lots  
evenings / weekends / events
- - - ■ P - - - Event Parking

Existing Condition - 22 Internal Parking Lots



## CONNECTING CENTENNIAL PARK

One of the major intentions of the Master Plan is to reconnect Flag Pole Hill across 31st Avenue and reunite the two pieces of the Park. The city is looking into options to improve pedestrian crossings for Park visitors while making sure that Flag Pole Hill does not become further removed from the rest of Centennial Park.

The Master Plan design team evaluated two options for creating safer pedestrian crossings at 31st Avenue and improving connections between Flag Pole Hill and the rest of the Park.

The first option would be to design a “landbridge” that could cross over the lowered traffic lanes allowing vehicles to pass beneath and pedestrians to pass over. In this option, vehicles on the street are completely separated from pedestrians in the Park and never come into potential conflict.

The second option would create at-grade crosswalks at 31st Avenue in the Park. In this option, crosswalk signals would stop vehicles and allow pedestrians to cross at timed intervals. For the Master Plan Design Team, this option is less favored, in the long term, as there would still be a potential for conflict between vehicles and pedestrians with increased use of the Park.



Proposed 31st Avenue At-Grade Crossing



Proposed 31st Avenue Landbridge Crossing



## PARK PHASING

# 6

The Centennial Park Master Plan assumes that improvements to the Park will occur over time. The following diagrams illustrate one proposal for achieving the Master Plan's goals by implementing them in phases.

The phases are illustrated in sequential order where one phase builds upon the progress of the previous phase. This sequence also bears in mind that existing Park features such as roads, parking or buildings must remain in operation until new facilities can be provided.

This Master Plan phasing is a proposed sequence based on achieving a large amount of the Master Plan goals in the central swath of the Park. Other phasing scenarios are also possible.

## PARK PHASING ELEMENTS

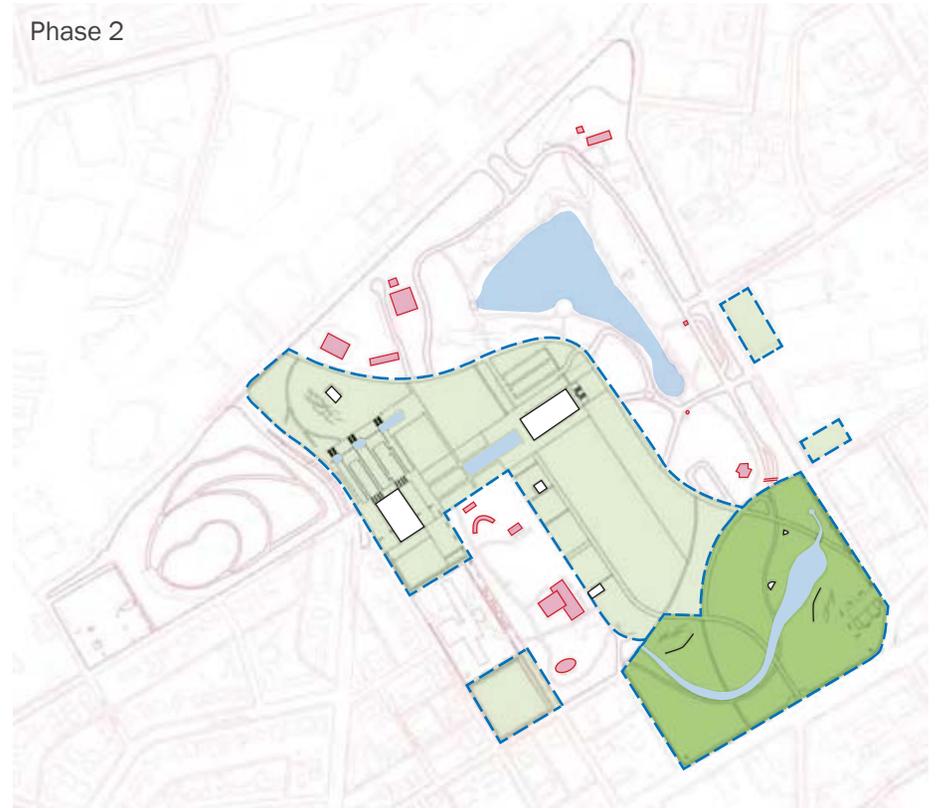
- PHASE 1**
- Great Lawn
  - Mowable Meadow - Lawn Expansion
  - Winter Garden + Visitors Center
  - Terraced Ramp Gardens
  - Formal Gardens + Entry Plaza
  - Lower Portion of Flag Pole Hill Water Feature
  - Events Terrace
  - Parthenon Parking Lot
  - Offsite Parking Lots (4)
  - Closure and Reconfiguration of 28th Ave
- PHASE 2**
- Daylighting of Cockrill Springs + Lake Katherine
  - Relocation + Separation of Sewer/Stormwater System
  - Musician's Corners East + West
  - Renovation of Shell Springs Monument
  - Renovation of Gunboat Monument
  - Picnic Area
- PHASE 3**
- Lake Watauga
  - Lily Lake
  - Events Pavilion
  - Events Pavilion Meadow
  - Relocation of Train Monument
  - Relocation of Woman's Monument
  - Relocation of Private Confederates Monument
  - Onsite Parking Lots (2)
- PHASE 4**
- New Centennial Arts + Activities Center
  - Rose Garden
  - Demonstration/Food Garden
  - West Playground
  - Renovation of Picnic Pavilion
  - Centennial Cafe West
- PHASE 5**
- Sculpture + Installation Garden
  - Renovation of Arts Center Pool Area
  - East Playground
  - Interactive Water feature
  - Centennial Cafe East
  - Onsite Parking Lots (2)
- PHASE 6**
- Upper Portion of Flag Pole Hill Climb & Water Feature
  - Native Garden
  - Relocation of Large Dog Park
  - Relocation of Small Dog Park



Phase 1



Phase 2



Key Plan

-  New Phase
-  Previously Built Phases
-  Existing Buildings
-  Existing/Renovated/New Buildings
-  Water

Phase 3



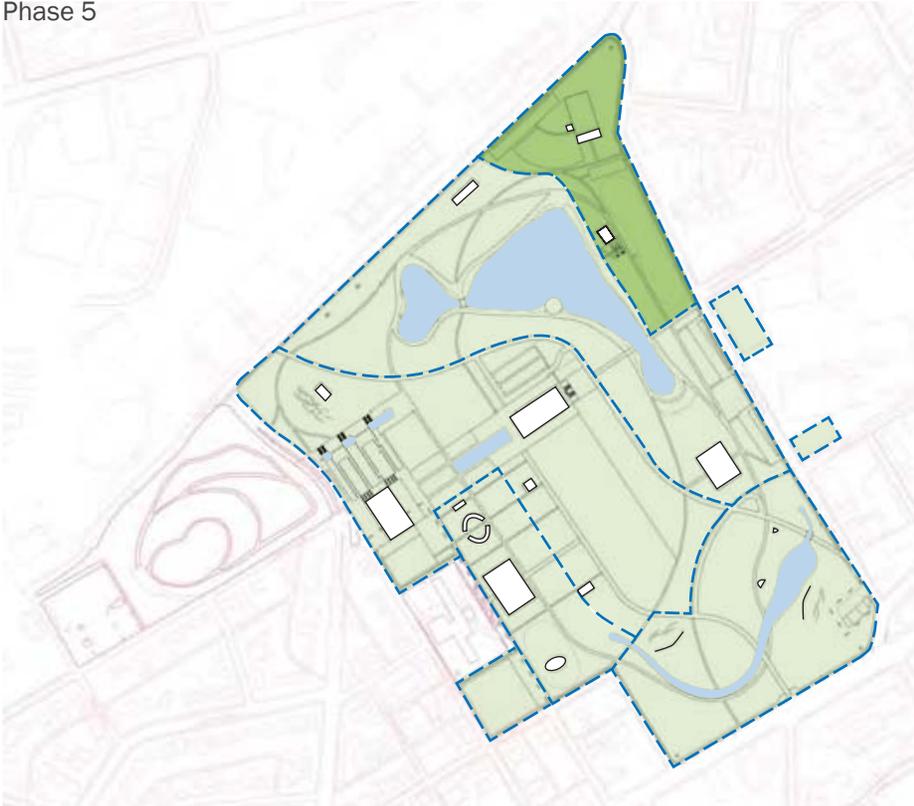
Phase 4



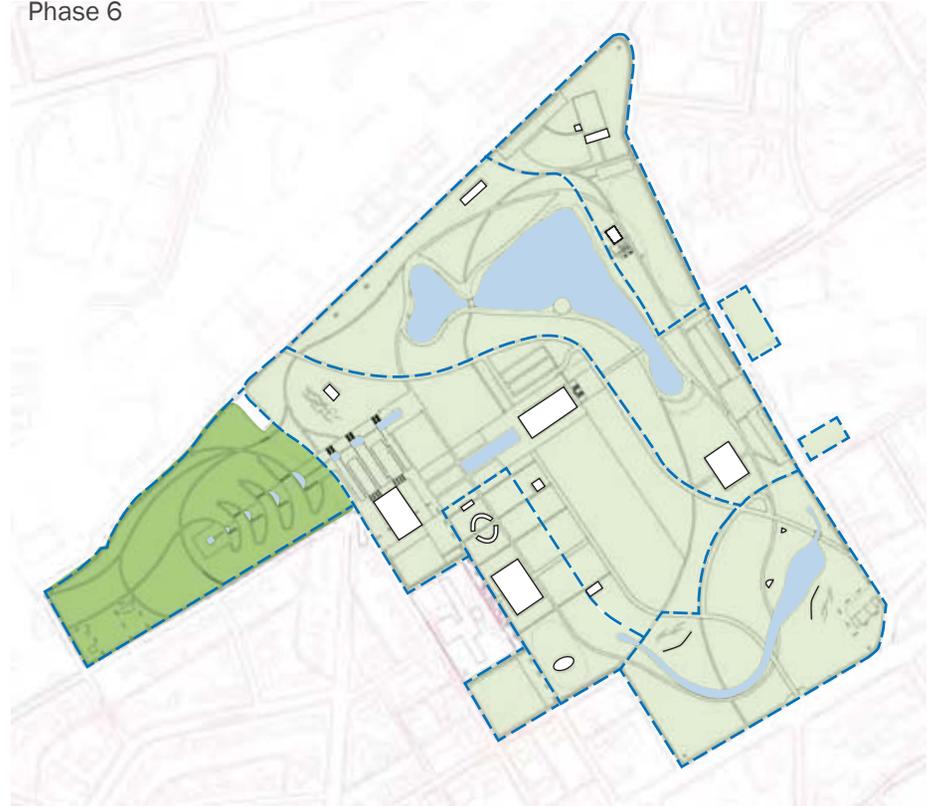
Key Plan

-  New Phase
-  Previously Built Phases
-  Existing Buildings
-  Existing/Renovated/New Buildings
-  Water

Phase 5



Phase 6



# PARK ROAD PHASING

Phase 1



Phase 2



Phase 3



**Key Plan**

- New roads + parking lots
- - - New roads with occasional vehicular access
- Roads + parking lots built in previous phases
- - - Roads built in previous phases with occasional vehicular access
- Existing roads to remain until future phases
- Existing roads to be closed  
(Ideally roads are demolished, decompacted, and grass seeded)
- Built Phases
- Existing Buildings
- Existing/Renovated/New Buildings
- Water

Phase 4



Phase 5



Phase 6





# TEAM + ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# 7

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### Master Plan Sponsors



### Special Thanks To:

- Tommy Lynch**, Metro Parks Director
- Curt Garrigan**, Metro Parks Assistant Director
- Jackie Jones**, Metro Parks Community Affairs
- Jim Hester**, Senior Advisor, Office of Mayor
- Hope Stringer**, Conservancy Board Chair
- Sylvia Rapoport**, Conservancy President



- I. DEFINING HISTORICAL + ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF CENTENNIAL PARK
- II. ADDITIONAL WATER STRATEGY INFORMATION AND GLOSSARY



# DEFINING HISTORICAL + ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS OF CENTENNIAL PARK

I.

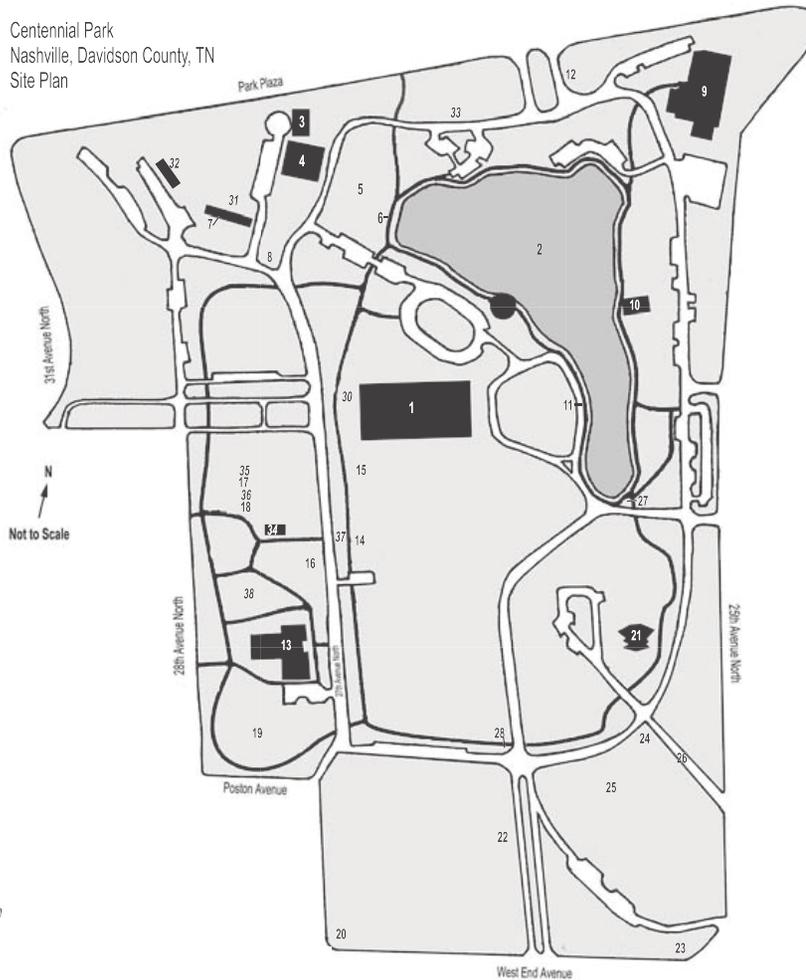
Centennial Park  
Nashville, Davidson County, TN  
Site Plan

Contributing Resources:

1. The Parthenon
2. Lake Watauga
3. Croquet Clubhouse
4. Croquet/Events Pavilion
5. Sunken Garden
6. Concrete Bridge
7. Locomotive 576
8. F-86 Aircraft Monument
9. Centennial Art Center
10. East Restrooms
11. Tennessee Centennial Exposition Marker
12. Powder Grinding Wheels
13. Centennial Park Arts Activity Center
14. Confederate Private Monument
15. Thomas Monument
16. Woman's Monument
17. Rose Arbor
18. Belgium Liberty Bell
19. Picnic Pavilion
20. Natchez Trace Monument
21. Band Shell
22. Ann Robertson Cockrill Monument
23. Gold Star Monument
24. Gunboat Tennessee Monument
25. Shell Spring
26. Bridge at Lick Branch Sewer
27. Robertson Monument
28. Timothy Monument
29. Park Landscape

Non-Contributing Resources:

30. Parthenon Marker
31. N.C. & S.L. Railway Monument
32. Park Police Complex
33. Frist Memorial Garden
34. Centennial Cafe Restaurant
35. Victims of Violence Children's Memorial Garden
36. Fulton Monument
37. ReLeaf Nashville Plaza
38. Centennial Park Playground



## Van West Recommendations on defining historical/architectural elements of the Park

Based on National Register nomination provided by Center for Historic Preservation to Metro Historical Commission, 9/2008

### 1. The Parthenon (c. 1920-1931, contributing building)

National Register Listed in 1972.

Originally constructed for the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition, the Parthenon is a replica of that of ancient Athens, Greece. The Nashville Parthenon saw an almost complete reconstruction in the 1920s in an effort to make permanent what was originally intended to be a temporary Exposition structure. The architect for the reconstruction was the Nashville firm, Hart, Freeland, and Roberts, while the contractor was the Nashville company of Foster and Creighton. The north and south elevations of the Parthenon measure 228' while the east and west elevations measure 101'. The structure is 65' tall and is composed of reinforced White Portland Cement produced by the Atlas Portland Cement Company based in New York.<sup>1</sup> The entire exterior is surrounded by columns, with seventeen columns each on the north and south elevations and six columns each on the east and west elevations. The columns are not equally spaced; in fact, none of the columns are the exact same distance from each other. The columns measure approximately six feet in diameter around the base and have an average spacing of eight feet. Sculptor George Zolnay created the models that were used in the frieze that surrounds all four elevations of the structure. The east and west elevations have large pediments that contain images of Greek gods and goddesses that were sculpted by Nashville native Belle Kinney and her Austrian husband Leopold Scholz. The structure rests on a base that is composed of three massive concrete steps that run the length of all four elevations.<sup>2</sup> The Parthenon historically and currently serves as an art gallery.

Within the Parthenon are the Lewis Marker and the Smith Memorial. The Lewis Marker, dedicated to Eugene Castner Lewis, Director General of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, dates to 1934 and is a bronze table of Greek design located in the wall of the gift shop in the basement of the Parthenon. The Smith Memorial (c. 1903, moved 1944) is a small bronze plate dedicated to Colonel William C. Smith, the architect of the temporary Parthenon structure at the Centennial Exposition. It is located in the Art Gallery of the Parthenon Building.

### 2. Lake Watauga (c. 1897, contributing structure)

Lake Watauga is located east-northeast of the Parthenon and was constructed for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897. It covers approximately five acres and is irregularly shaped. Lake Watauga serves as a focal point of the northeast section of the park with a mile-long scenic path wrapping around the lake. Although the scenic path has been repaved with concrete and asphalt over time, it follows closely the original 1897 path around the lake. The lake also contains a small island that is covered with trees, shrubbery, and various types of flora at its north end. Two small fountains are located in the south section of the lake and appear to date to the early period of the park. Much of the rough-cut stone that lines the edge of the lake appears to be original, although some changes have been made where a boat dock once sat on the east side of the lake.

<sup>1</sup> "The Atlas Portland Cement Company," advertisement, *Garden Magazine* 40, no. 6 (Feb 1925).

<sup>2</sup> Herbert L. Harper, National Register of Historic Places Nomination for The Parthenon, 1971 and Wilbur Creighton, *The Parthenon in Nashville: Athens of the South*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Nashville: privately published, 1996), 20-36.

## Historical + Architectural Park Elements (cont.)

### 3. Croquet Clubhouse (1963, contributing building)

The Croquet Clubhouse is a one-story, irregular plan, modern brick structure with a concrete slab foundation. The façade of the structure is angled and forms an apex at the south end. Metal awning windows are located on the east and west elevations and in the triangular bay. Twenty windows (five vertical x four horizontal) are in each of the east and west elevations. On either side of the bay are fifteen windows (five vertical x three horizontal). The pitched roof of the structure is composed of composite shingles and also comes to a point at the front façade. The structure also features a brick interior chimney. Restrooms are located on either side of the building. This building was built for the Centennial Park Croquet Club.

### 4. Croquet/ Events Pavilion (c. 1958, contributing building)

The Croquet/Events Pavilion is located in the northwest section of the park. It is an open-air structure composed of a concrete slab foundation and metal posts supporting a low-pitched metal roof. It functions as a shelter for various park picnics and events. According to minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners, it appears that this structure was constructed around 1958 and has undergone few changes since its construction.

### 5. Sunken Garden (1897, 1922, c. 1951-1959 contributing structure)

The Sunken Garden is located west of Lake Watauga and north of the Parthenon in the northwest section of the park. It is approximately one-half acre, is set slightly below ground level in a roughly rectangular shaped plot, and contains a landscaped garden of various plantings. Originally constructed for the 1897 Centennial Exposition, it was called Lily Lake until 1922. At that time, it was converted into a Japanese water garden and remained so until 1949. Then, in the 1950s it became the Sunken Garden, as it currently is known. Although plantings have changed over time and with seasonal variations, it contains many of the same types and general layout as originally planted in the 1950s. A set of c. 1950s rocks steps, forming a small bridge over plantings and drainage leads down into the east side of the garden. Metal handrails have been added to either side of the steps. On the west side of the sunken garden, c. 1950s concrete steps lead up and out of the garden. A small marker labeling it as the Sunken Garden was placed on the ground near the east entrance to the garden in 1974.<sup>3</sup>

### 6. Concrete Bridge (1910, contributing structure)

The Concrete Bridge is located in the northwest section of the park between the Sunken Garden and Lake Watauga. The bridge was constructed in 1910 by Wilbur Creighton, Sr., of Foster and Creighton Company, to replace a wooden bridge over the lake. This is one of the company's first reinforced concrete bridges. The bridge measures 39.5 feet long and 25.0 feet wide. It has one closed spandrel arch with a design incised in the spandrel area. The parapet rails each contain ten incised rectangular panels. The four end posts are crenellated and also contain incised rectangular panels. It remains unaltered from its original construction in 1910.<sup>4</sup> The Tennessee Department of Transportation identified this as the Duck Pond Bridge and found it eligible for the National Register as an early pre-1946 filled spandrel arch bridge in Tennessee.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Leland R. Johnson, *The Parks of Nashville: A History of the Board of Parks and Recreation* (Nashville: Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Board of Recreation, 1986), 235.

<sup>4</sup> Martha Carver, *Survey Report for Historic Highway Bridges (draft copy)* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Transportation), 443-444.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 248.

### 7. Locomotive 576 (1942, 1953, contributing object)

Locomotive 576 was originally built in 1942 as a modern steam engine for use on the N C & SL Railway for the movement of military personnel and equipment during World War II. It was placed in the park in 1953 after electric power completely replaced steam engines on the N C & SL Railway. This large black steam engine is located southwest of the Croquet Clubhouse and Pavilion in the northwest section of the park. It is sheltered by an open-air pavilion with a concrete slab foundation and slender metal posts supporting a double-gabled, metal roof. It is highly probable that this pavilion was placed in the park at the same time that Locomotive 576 was placed in the park, as the railroad would not agree to donate the engine unless a suitable building would be provided to house it.<sup>6</sup> In 1987, a small concrete marker to Bascom F. Jones was placed at the southwest corner of the Locomotive.

### 8. F-86 Aircraft Monument (1961, refurbished and moved 1981, contributing object)

The F-86 Aircraft Monument was originally placed in park in 1961. The plane was acquired by Mayor Ben West and Councilman Charles Bramwell as Air Force surplus. It originally served as play equipment for children in the park. In 1981, the 118<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, restored it according to its original design, placed it on a stand, and moved it to its current location south of the Croquet Clubhouse in the northwest section of the park.<sup>7</sup> Although the plane has been moved and no longer serves as play equipment, it maintains the same representational function as a military monument as when initially placed in the park. It stands to reflect the shift taking place in the 1950s and 1960s from classically-inspired monument to more modern symbols of technology.

### 9. Centennial Art Center (1932, 1972, contributing building)

Originally the Centennial Park bath house and swimming pool, this facility was constructed in 1932, AND THE POOL WAS FILLED IN 1962 TO IMPEDE THE PUBLIC INTEGRATION OF THE FACILITY and transformed into the Centennial Art Center in 1972, with the main adaptation being the transformation of the former swimming pool and pool deck area into a sculpture display garden and pond with courtyard.<sup>8</sup> The building was used as a bathroom with restrooms and changing facilities. The actual structural components of the building itself remains much the same as when it was originally constructed in 1932.

It is a one-story, brick, H-shaped building that faces south in the northeast corner of the park. The east and west sections of the building have a flat roof while the center of the structure has a flat-on-gable Spanish tile roof. The south façade of the structure has a recessed entry bay with two Doric columns supporting the roof of the recessed opening. Flanking the entryway are horizontal bands of four fixed metal-and-glass windows. The north elevation of the building is visible from within the sculpture garden. It consists of a central recessed porch with six fluted Doric columns supporting the Spanish tile roof. The east and west bays of the north elevation each have a single metal-and-glass door with a classical wood surround.

An enclosed courtyard lies to the rear, or south, of the building. Enclosing the courtyard to the south, east, and west of the building is a brick wall with slender vertical window openings. The sculpture garden is located in the center of the courtyard and is accessed

<sup>6</sup> *Board of Park Commissioners Minutes*, XII, 281.

<sup>7</sup> Johnson, 269.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 235 and "Centennial Art Center," Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation pamphlet.

via concrete steps leading down into the former pool. Enclosing the sunken sculpture garden are brick walls, circa 1972. On the west side of the courtyard is a covered pavilion with half-height brick walls and a reinforced concrete awning supported by a single central reinforced concrete post. The only major change in 1972 converted the pool into a sunken sculpture garden, and, although no longer a pool, the sunken sculpture garden maintains the feeling of a pool.

**10. East Restrooms (c. 1955, contributing building)**

The East Restrooms are housed in a one-story, brick building located east of Lake Watauga in the northeast section of the park. It is a simple brick structure with a composite shingle gable-on-hip roof. Wood vents are located in the gable ends. The structure is divided in two, east to west, to accommodate males on one side and females on the other. Just below the roofline are wood, horizontal band openings that allow for ventilation.

**11. Tennessee Centennial Exposition Monument (1904, contributing object)**

A marker for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition is located on the west bank of Lake Watauga in the northeast section of the park. It is composed of a metal plate on top of a flat stone with inscriptions commemorating the event, government officials, committees, architects, boards, and departments of the exposition. The flat stone was originally the base of the large granite shaft, now a part of the Robertson Monument that was on display during the Centennial Exposition by a company in Georgia.<sup>9</sup> From postcards of the Exposition, it appears that the shaft and base were located just southwest of the Parthenon, approximately where the Thomas Monument currently stands. In 1904, the flat stone became the base for the Exposition Monument on the west side of Lake Watauga. The metal Centennial Memorial Tablet was attached to the flat stone, which was purchased for ten dollars by Major E. C. Lewis.

**12. Powder Grinding Wheels (1897, 1968, contributing object)**

The Powder Grinding Wheels are located near Park Plaza in the northeast section of the park. These wheels have been present in various locations in the park since the 1897 Exposition and have occupied this site since 1968. They were originally made in England and were used by Confederate troops to grind gunpowder in Augusta, Georgia. After the war, they were purchased and used by the Sycamore Powder Mills in Cheatham County.<sup>10</sup> Next to this object is a standard historical marker erected by the Historical Commission of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County in 1968.

**13. Centennial Park Arts Activity Center (circa 1959-1963,<sup>11</sup> contributing building)**

The Centennial Park Arts Activity Center is a brick building with a concrete foundation located in the southwest section of the park. The structure is a one-story, modern, T-shaped building facing east. The north-south stretching section of the building is one story with a flat roof. The east-west section extends west toward the rear of the building and has a gabled roof rising higher than that of the front section of the building. The front, or east, façade of the building has a recessed entryway of metal-and-glass windows and entry doors. Concrete steps lead up to the entryway. Flanking the entryway, along the rest of the façade, are horizontal bands of two-light awning windows

stretching just below the roofline. A concrete barrier-free ramp with metal handrails stretches south of the entryway along the façade of the building. This building has undergone few alterations since its construction.

**14. Confederate Private Monument (1904, contributing object)**

The Confederate Private Monument, a sculpture by George Zolnay, is located about five hundred feet southwest of the Parthenon in the southwest section of the park and is dedicated to the heroism of the Confederate private. It has a concrete base that contains inscriptions on all four sides with a list of names of the Frank Cheatham Bivouac, Number 1, Association of Confederate Soldiers, Camp Number 35, United Confederate Veterans of Nashville inscribed on the metal plate on the west side. The focal point of the monument is a bronze statue of a Confederate private sitting atop a boulder holding a rifle.

**15. Thomas Monument (1907, contributing object)**

The Thomas Monument is located about one hundred feet southwest of the Parthenon in the southwest section of the park. It has a concrete foundation and eight benches, two on each side to form a balustrade around the focal point of the monument, a bronze statue of John W. Thomas that was sculpted by Enid Yandell. Steps lead up on all four sides to the statue. The base of the statue contains four metal plates: the three on the west, north, and south sides contain bas-relief figures while the metal plate on the east side contains an inscription to John W. Thomas. A standing figure of Thomas is atop this base. The concrete benches surround the statue: the outsides of the benches are inscribed with the words LAW, TRAFFIC, MECHANICAL, TRANSPORTATION, ROADWAY, ACCOUNTING, ADMINISTRATION, and EXECUTIVE; and the insides of the benches contain the words JUSTICE, CHARITY, DEVOTION, PROMPTNESS, INTEGRITY, COURAGE, PATRIOTISM, and WISDOM. Freestanding fluted columns are at each corner holding lamps.

**16. Woman's Monument (1904, 1928, contributing object)**

The Woman's Monument is located about four hundred feet southwest of the Parthenon in the southwest section of the park. It is a twelve-foot tall stone monument composed of a granite shaft and a large granite sphere. The sphere is thought to be the one displayed at the 1897 Exposition by the Southern Marble Company of Marblehill, Georgia. A metal plaque is attached to the shaft and recognizes the Woman's Department and Woman's Building at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. The monument was erected in 1904 to mark the site of the Woman's Building, but was moved when the roads were relocated in 1928.<sup>12</sup>

**17. Rose Arbor (1897, 1957, contributing structure)**

The Rose Arbor is located north of the Centennial Park Arts Activity Center in the southwest section of the park. The structure is curved to form a semicircle and is composed of stone columns that support wooden trellis framework. The Rose Arbor was originally constructed for the 1897 Centennial Exposition. Much of the wooden trellis framework was replaced c. 1957 due to deterioration, but it was replaced to match the original and the majority of the stone columns are original.<sup>13</sup> The Rose Arbor maintains its original appearance and location.

<sup>9</sup> Johnson, 285.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 282.

<sup>11</sup> 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual report of Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation, Metro Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee Fiscal year July 1 1962- June 31 1963, and email correspondence with Wesley Paine.

<sup>12</sup> Johnson, 288.

<sup>13</sup> The Superintendent reported to the Board of Park Commissioners on March 7, 1957, that it needed "replacing". He stated that the stone columns were in good condition but that it would be necessary to replace

## Historical + Architectural Park Elements (cont.)

### 18. Belgium Liberty Bell (1961, contributing object)

The Belgium Liberty Bell is located near the Rose Arbor in the southwest section of the park. Three large, approximately twenty foot tall steel posts rest on small concrete blocks and join together at the top to suspend the bell from a small platform.

### 19. Picnic Pavilion (c. 1942, 1957, contributing building)

The Picnic Pavilion is located in the southwest corner of the park near Poston Avenue. It has a decahedron footprint and is an open-air structure composed of two rings of large stone columns, one ring of tapered rough-cut stone columns on the interior that supports a small gabled roof, and another set of tapered rough-cut stone columns on the exterior of the pavilion that support the ten-sided flat roof, contributing structure. A photograph of this building with a simple pitched roof appears in a 1942 engineering report and the 1957 minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners suggest the replacement of the "high roof" with a flat roof, which is present on the structure today. This structure provides space for picnic and events within the park.

### 20. Natchez Trace Monument (1912, contributing object)

The Natchez Trace Monument is located along the roadside of West End Avenue in the southwest corner of the park to mark the point where General Andrew Jackson and his army started their march over the Natchez Trace.<sup>14</sup> It is composed of granite and is five feet tall with small metal inscription plaque reading "NATCHEZ TRACE: Nashville, Tenn.—Natchez, Miss. Five Hundred and One Miles." It was erected by the Cumberland, Campbell, and McCrory chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

### 21. Band Shell (circa 1963, contributing structure)

The Centennial Park Band Shell, designed by Nashville architects Earl Swenson and Joe Kott, is located north of the entrance to the park from Elliston Place in the southeast section of the park. It is a modern structure composed of brick and concrete with a concrete foundation. The walls of the structure are brick and angle outward from the center to form a fan-shaped plan. The fan shape of the building was intended to accelerate acoustics. The brick walls angle upward to support the concrete roof. The back of the stage is a concrete wall that curves as it becomes the roof. The concrete roof is higher at the front of the stage and forms a triangular point at its apex. In front of the stage is an area with benches for the audience.

### 22. Ann Robertson Cockrill Monument (1946, contributing object)

The Cockrill Monument is located near the entrance to the park from West End Avenue in the southeast section of the park. The monument is composed of a four-foot tall granite boulder with an attached metal inscription plate. A bas-relief carving on the metal plate shows a woman holding a book teaching children outside of Fort Nashborough. The inscription below recognizes Ann Robertson Cockrill's efforts in establishing Nashville's first school after her arrival in 1780. This monument was erected by the school children of Nashville and Davidson County and the Tennessee Historical Commission in 1946.

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the wooden framework. While the wooden trellis framework has needed replacing, at least some of the stone support columns are original to the structure. (Johnson, 283-284, and *Mins.*, XIV, 47).

<sup>14</sup> Johnson, 280.

### 23. Gold Star Monument (1922, 1967, contributing object)

The Gold Star Monument is located in the southeast section of the park by the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and West End Avenue. Sculpted by George Zolnay, it is dedicated to the members of the armed forces from Davidson County who died during World War I. Its base is composed of concrete and has metal plaques on the east and west sides containing the names of the dead. Inscribed in the concrete on the south side is: I GAVE MY BEST TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD 1917-1918; and on the north side: ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF DAVIDSON COUNTY TENNESSEE. 1923 NASHVILLE KIWANIS SPONSOR. On top of the concrete base is a bronze statue of a fallen soldier who is being tended to by an allegorical figure. According to Leland Johnson, Wilbur Creighton restored and refurbished the monument in 1967.

### 24. Gunboat Tennessee Monument (1910, contributing object)

The Gunboat Tennessee Monument is located south of the band shell at the entrance to the park from Elliston Place in the southeast section of the park. This large bronze ship's prow is a replica of that of the Gunboat Tennessee and displays the figurehead of the boat. The figurehead contains an eagle, thirteen stars and beautiful scrollwork, and was on display at the 1909 Seattle World's Fair. Major E. C. Lewis designed and directed the construction of a concrete ship's prow to hold the figurehead in 1910. Circa 1956 some repairs were made to the gunboat Tennessee replica. At the August 10, 1956, Board of Park Commissioners meeting the issue of repairing the replica was discussed. The Board approved repairs to the battleship replica and instructed the Superintendent to secure bids before a contract was awarded.<sup>15</sup> These repairs do not appear to have altered the overall appearance of the monument.

### 25. Shell Spring (1906-1912, contributing structure)

The Shell Spring is located south of the band shell and the Gunboat Tennessee Monument in the southeast section of the park. This large concrete seashell was erected over a spring near the Lick Branch Sewer. Local legend has it that it was designed by Major E.C. Lewis from a seashell found on a Florida beach.<sup>16</sup> Although the spring has dried up, the shell remains in its original location to mark the place of the spring; however, it is now surrounded by a fence due to its fragile condition.

### 26. Bridge at Lick Branch Sewer (c. 1910, contributing structure)

The bridge at Lick Branch sewer is located just east of Shell Spring in the southeast section of the park. This is a concrete bridge with regularly spaced openings in the parapet rails. The four end posts have an incised panel on each exterior side. Each of the four posts also has a concrete planter atop it that is a recent addition; however, these planters are very similar to those that are shown in historic sketches of the bridge. Leading west from the bridge are rough-cut stone retention walls that mark the water source to the former spring. Underneath the bridge is an opening composed of rough-cut stone surrounding a large pipe that remains from the water source that led to the spring.

### 27. Robertson Monument (1903, contributing object)

The Robertson Monument is located at the south end of Lake Watauga. It is composed of granite, the shaft and base combined rise fifty feet in the air, and metal plaques are on all four sides of the base. The granite of the shaft was quarried at Stone Mountain, Georgia by Venerable Brothers of Atlanta and was brought to Nashville to be displayed

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<sup>15</sup> *Mins.*, XIII, 424

<sup>16</sup> Johnson, 284.

at the 1897 Exposition. From postcards of the Exposition, it appears that the shaft sat just southwest of the Parthenon where the Thomas Monument now stands. In 1902, the shaft was moved and erected atop a granite base on the south side of Lake Watauga as a monument to James Robertson.<sup>17</sup> There is no evidence to suggest that the shaft left the park between the closing of the Exposition and 1902. Metal plaques containing inscriptions to Robertson are on the north, west, and south sides of the base; and one with an inscription to his wife, Charlotte Reeves is on the east side of the base. The monument was completed in 1903.

#### 28. Timothy Monument (1919, contributing object)

The Timothy Monument is located in the southeast section of the park, approximately one thousand feet from the entrance to the park from West End Avenue. It is composed of concrete, is approximately three feet tall, and has a bronze plate that contains an inscription to Lieutenant James Simmons Timothy, who was the first Tennessee officer to lose his life in World War I. At the same time as the construction of the concrete and bronze marker, a tree was planted to honor Lieutenant Simmons by the Catholic children of Nashville. The tree still stands just north of the marker.

#### 29. Park Landscape (c. 1897-1963, contributing site)

The Park Landscape as a whole defines Centennial Park as a public municipal park composed of roadways, pathways, vegetation, gates, and fences located within the park. The various elements of the park represent the activities and functions of the park over its more than 100-year history. From the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, to the early municipal scenic and leisure park, to the playground movement and recreation movement of the first half of the twentieth century, and finally the post-WWII history of the park, the extant landscape features of the park are physical representations of the evolution of the property.

Although the roadways and pathways have been altered over the years to accommodate for the many changes that have taken place over the long and fascinating history of Centennial Park, the changes have not been significant enough to detract from the overall feel of the park atmosphere. The main instance of alteration of roadways and pathways occurred in 1928, as discussed by Leland R. Johnson in *The Parks of Nashville: A History of the Board of Parks and Recreation*.<sup>18</sup> It is plausible that these changes in the roadways and pathways were timed to coincide with the completion of the reconstruction of the Parthenon, which occurred c. 1930.<sup>19</sup> However, the growth of the national recreation movement should not be underestimated; therefore, it is also possible that these changes in the drives in Centennial Park were the results of the shift from the idea of the park as a place of scenic and isolated relaxation to the concept of the park as a place for active recreation and play, highlighted by the increased proliferation of automobiles.

The park contains a c. 1910 rough-cut stone fence spanning the park boundary on West End Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. **IN MY OPINION, THE STONE FENCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A HISTORIC FEATURE OF SIGNIFICANCE AS WELL AS THE LIGHT POSTS.** Historic iron light posts sit at regular intervals atop the fence. Plantings and trees also

contribute to the historic landscape and are scattered throughout the park. Trees are also planted in regular intervals along roadways in the park.

**IN THIS ASSESSMENT, NOTE THE SENTENCE, "MOST ARE REMOVABLE AND MOVABLE OBJECTS"** Centennial Park also contains several small, minimal elements such as swings, water fountains, picnic tables, concrete pads and blocks, benches, and planters that, according to National Register Bulletin 16A, are too small in scale to count as contributing or non-contributing resources. Several of these are historic, but do not substantially add to the significance of the landscape, such as the 1937 water fountain and the 1950s curved benches. Most are removable or movable objects and act as functional park elements that are scattered throughout the park landscape. These include concrete pads for swings, swings, small planters, and small markers to label trees. There are also examples of recent public art, as seen with the sculpture of the fish by the East Restroom. These elements do not necessarily add or detract from the historical integrity of the park landscape, they are merely objects that are functional for the users of a park.

Also located within the park are five Tennessee Historical Markers erected by the Tennessee Historical Commission, including those for the Parthenon, Anne Dallas Dudley, Cockrill Spring, the N C & SL Railway, and the Battle of Nashville Federal Defenses. In addition to these state markers, the Metropolitan Historical Commission has erected three markers to Major Wilbur Fisk Foster, the Powder-Grinding Wheels, and United Nations Visit to Nashville. These eight markers are small, inconspicuous, and scattered throughout the park and do not detract from the overall integrity of the park landscape.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 283.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 288.

<sup>19</sup> Wilbur F. Creighton, Jr. and Leland R. Johnson, *The Parthenon in Nashville: Athens of the South*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Privately Published, 1996), 27 and 35.



## ADDITIONAL WATER STRATEGY INFORMATION

### II.

#### Existing Conditions

Centennial Park, within the Master Plan limits, includes approximately 104 acres of developed area ranging from meadows with trees to buildings and other impervious surfaces. The park is surrounded by residential and commercial developments including single and multi-family residences, commercial retail and offices, hospital(s), sports facilities, and Vanderbilt University.

Stormwater runoff is collected and conveyed in a combined sewer system that outfalls to a sewer treatment plant. Water quality treatment of stormwater runoff occurs predominantly not at the source but at the treatment plant. The area to the west of the park and portions of the park flood during some storm events and as a result, raw sewage surfaces during these events. There is little stormwater detention in the area except the existing sanitary sewer system west of the site which functions as a flow control structure, ultimately causing the flooding.

Cockrill Spring, near the southerly edge of the park and located between 26th Avenue South and 27th Avenue North, ultimately drains to the combined sewer system. The stormwater runoff and spring water are treated at the regional sewer treatment plant, adding to operations and maintenance costs for the plant and increasing the likelihood of combined sewer overflows in the area.

#### Sustainable Systems for Water Resources

Regional benefits from the Master Plan water resources concept include:

- A reduction in the volume of water and stormwater conveyed to the sewer treatment plant resulting in a reduction in costs and energy for operations and maintenance at the plant.
- A reduction in the flow rate of stormwater runoff conveyed to the combined sewer system that may result in a reduction in the number of combined sewer overflows in the region.
- A reduction in the volume of water that will be used from the domestic water supply resulting in a reduced use of a valuable resource and the cost and energy associated with that use.

Domestic water is currently used for irrigation at the park. The Master Plan includes the use of Cockrill Spring water and precipitation (rain) instead of domestic water for irrigation and water features. This can be achieved by constructing storage facilities in the park to hold water when excess water is available and withdraw water from the storage facilities when irrigation and water feature demands are high.

The water resources concept of the Centennial Park Master Plan includes a reservoir at the low point of the system, Lake Katherine, and circulation of water from the reservoir throughout the site for irrigation and water features. Water will be pumped from Lake Katherine with a small force main to feed storage reservoirs. Sensors and valves at the storage reservoirs will inform the pump and force main when to provide water to the reservoirs. Flow control structures will limit but also provide a constant source of water to the creek segment at the headwater of Lake Katherine and to and from Lake Watauga. An overflow at Lake Katherine, connected to a relocated combined sewer (future storm drain), will release excess water when the storage reservoirs and lakes are at full capacity.

Stormwater detention will also be provided to reduce peak flows of stormwater runoff from the park. Shallow subsurface stone galleries, consisting of crushed rock with perforated dispersal pipes, will be constructed to hold water and also function as a stable subgrade for site surfaces including pavements and lawn or meadow. The stone galleries, approximately two feet in depth with 35-percent void space, will be lined where water is stored for reservoirs and unlined where stormwater is stored for detention to allow for some infiltration.

The Master Plan includes water quality treatment of stormwater runoff as source treatment rather than depending on treatment at the sewer treatment plant. Water quality treatment will be required for stormwater runoff when stormwater systems are separated from sanitary sewer systems in the future. A key limitation to separation will be available space for a regional water quality treatment facility. As a result, source treatment systems throughout the region will likely be needed for separation to occur. The park will help provide the first steps for stormwater and sewage separation in the region by not only treating the stormwater runoff from the park but also from adjacent streets. Which can be treated by providing curb cuts at strategic locations and directing runoff to natural systems such as bioretention facilities.

#### Additional Optional Storage

Space is available within the park to provide additional storage for both regional water storage and stormwater detention. Water could be stored on site and used for irrigation in adjacent neighborhoods, similar to an irrigation district. Water could also be stored on site and used for process water at adjacent facilities such as cooling towers for sports facilities and/or hospitals or other commercial developments. Additional stormwater detention could be provided to allow stormwater, when separated from the Parthenon sewer system, to be routed to the site and stored prior to release to the downstream system(s).

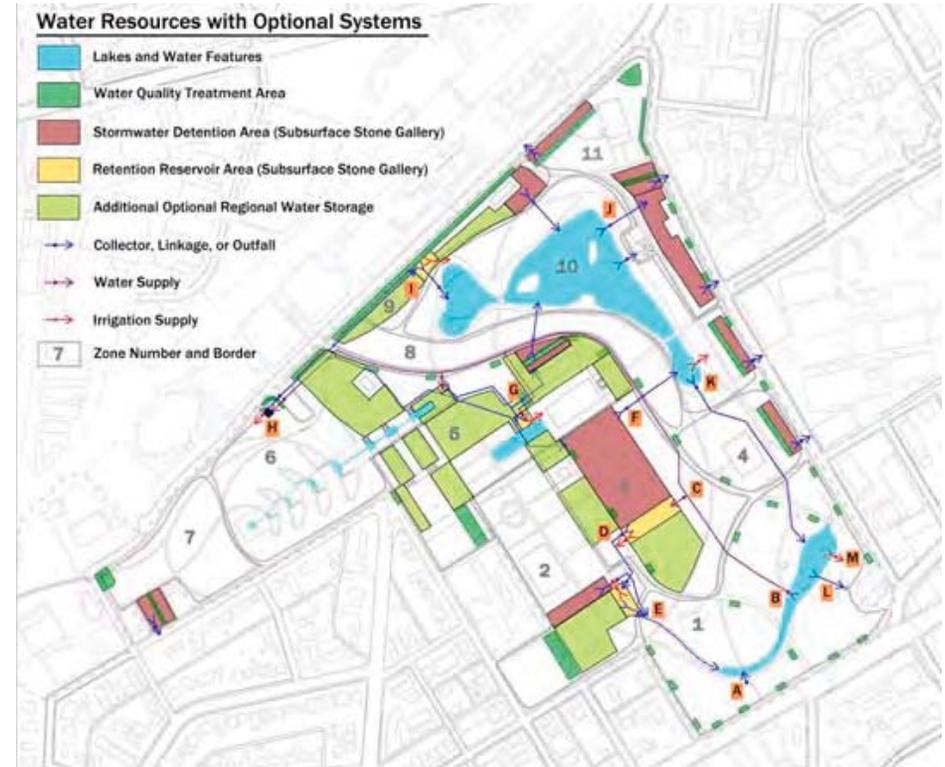
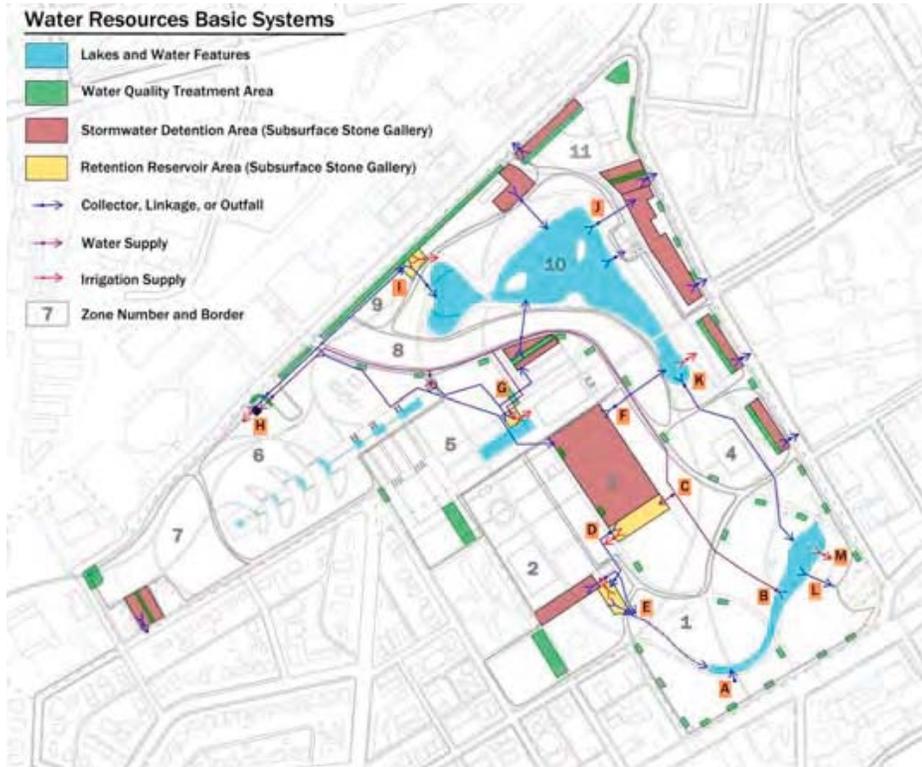
#### Sustainable Systems for Sanitary and Combined Sewers

Regional benefits from the Master Plan sanitary and combined sewer concept include:

- A sewer system that will provide a link for separated stormwater and sewage between the adjacent upstream and downstream areas of the park.
- Improved movement of low flows through the sewer that may result in less odor problems within the region and a lower level of septic sewage at the sewer treatment plant.

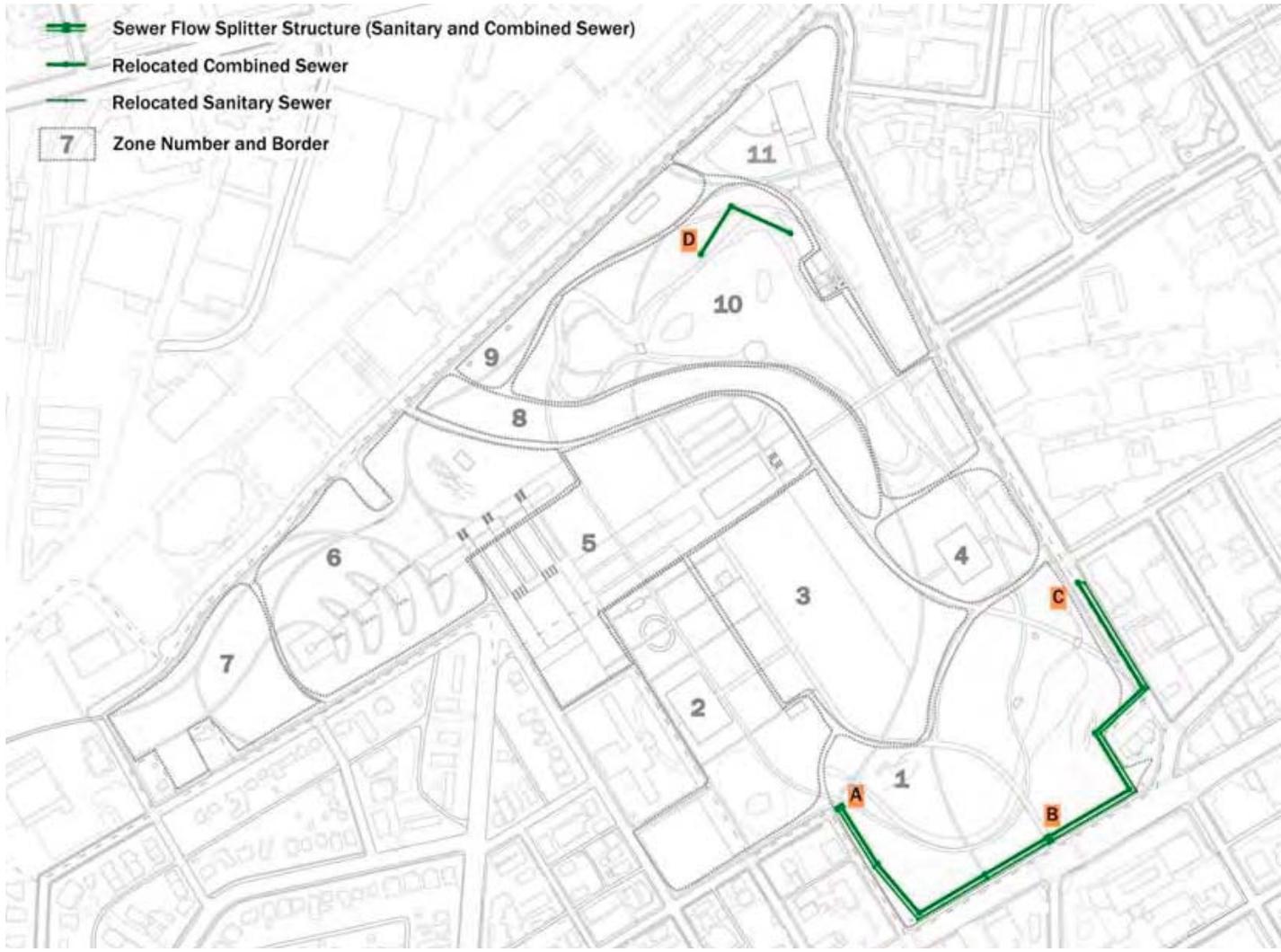
The existing combined sewers crossing the park are in disrepair and probably need to be replaced. The combined sewers crossing the park also need to be relocated to construct the park improvements identified in the Master Plan. As part of the relocation, the sewers will be constructed to allow low flows to pass through a small pipe and high flows to pass through a large pipe. The hydraulic section in the small pipe will allow low flows to promptly pass through the pipe rather than turn septic by remaining in the combined sewer for an extended period of time. The small pipe will function as a sanitary sewer in both the short- and long-terms. The large pipe will convey combined sewer flows in the interim but could function as a separated storm drain when separation within the region is achieved.

The portion of the combined sewer crossing under Lake Watauga will be relocated around the lake. The existing sewer under the lake will be filled and capped so that lake water does not infiltrate into the combined sewer in the future.



- A**- Existing Cockrill Spring Drains to Lake Katherine
- B**- Water from Lake Katherine Pumped Via Force Main to Reservoirs
- C**- Manholes with Sensors and Valves Control Water to Reservoirs, typ
- D**- Manholes with Sensors and Valves Link/Control Water Levels, typ
- E**- Manhole with Flow Control Device Limits Release of Water to Creek
- F**- Manholes with Flow Control Devices Limit Release of Water, typ
- G**- Excess Water (Rain on Water Features) Overflows to Detention, typ

- H**- Excess Water (Rain from Flag Pole Hill) Overflows to Reservoir
- I**- Manhole with Flow Control Device Limits Release of Water to Lake
- J**- Excess Water (Rain on Lake Watauga) Overflows to Detention
- K**- Excess Water from Lake Watauga Overflows to Lake Katherine
- L**- Excess Water from Lake Katherine Overflows to Relocated Sewer
- M**- Water for Irrigation Supply Pumped from Lake/Reservoir, typ



- A** - Parthenon District Sewer Flows are Split and Conveyed Through Relocated Sewers (Low Flows to Sanitary Sewer and High Flows to Interim Combined Sewer/Future Separated Storm Drain)
- B** - Vanderbilt District Sewer Flows are Split and Conveyed Through Relocated Sewers (Low Flows to Sanitary Sewer and High Flows to Interim Combined Sewer/Future Separated Storm Drain)
- C** - Relocated Sanitary and Combined Sewers Reconnect to Existing Combined Sewer
- D** - Combined Sewer is Relocated Around Lake Watauga