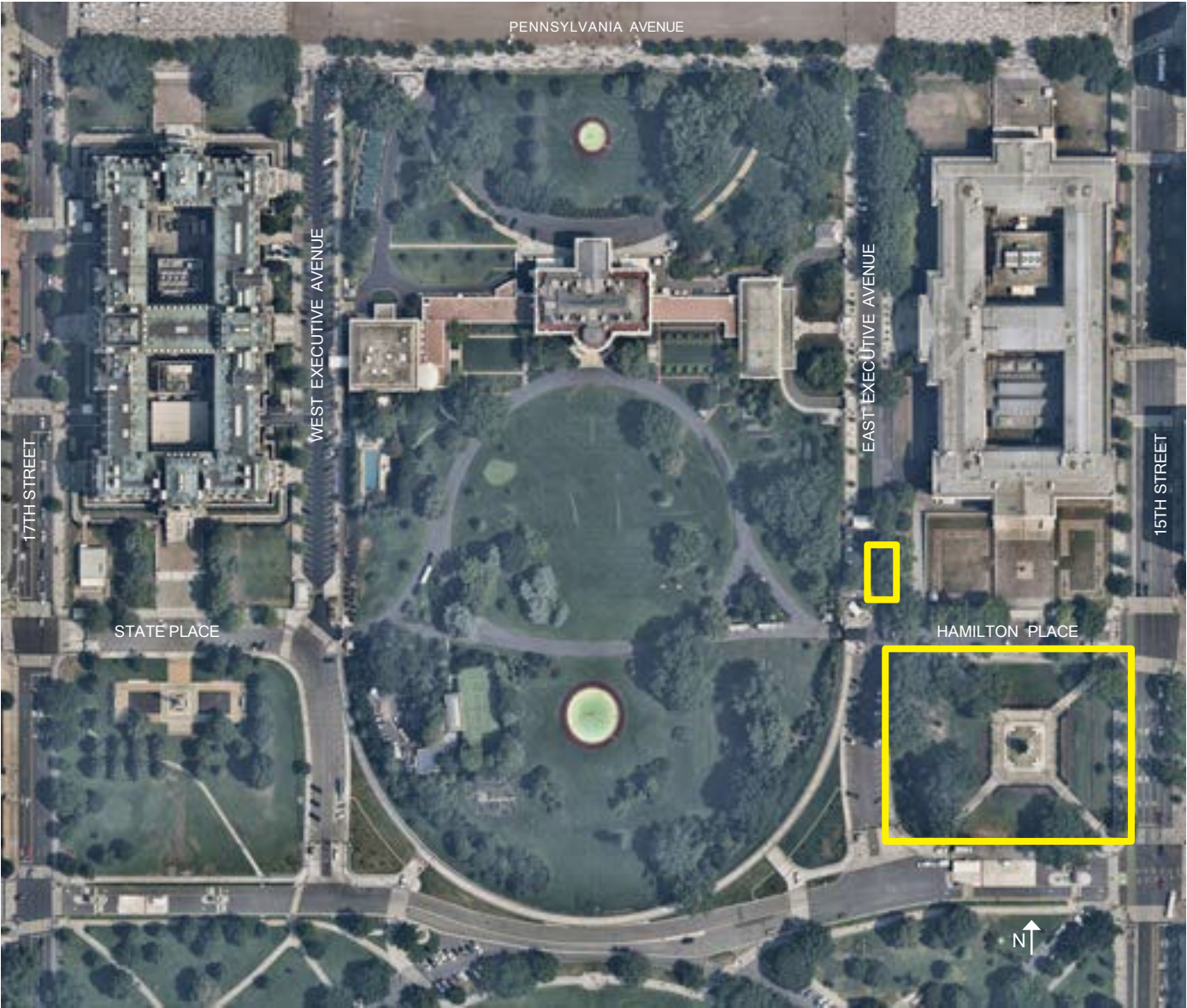


**U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS**  
**CONCEPT REVIEW SUBMISSION**

THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING  
FACILITY PROJECT

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/UNITED STATES  
SECRET SERVICE/ NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AECOM



Project Name

The White House Visitor Screening Facility

Design Team

AECOM - Civil, Architectural, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing,  
Fire Protection, Landscape Architecture, Section 106

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# 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

# 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## 1.1 AGENCIES AND PROJECT SUMMARY

The United States Secret Service (USSS) in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS), United States Department of the Interior (DOI), and Executive Office of the President proposes constructing a permanent security screening facility for visitors to the White House for tours and events. The facility will be located underneath Sherman Park, which is located Southeast of the White House.

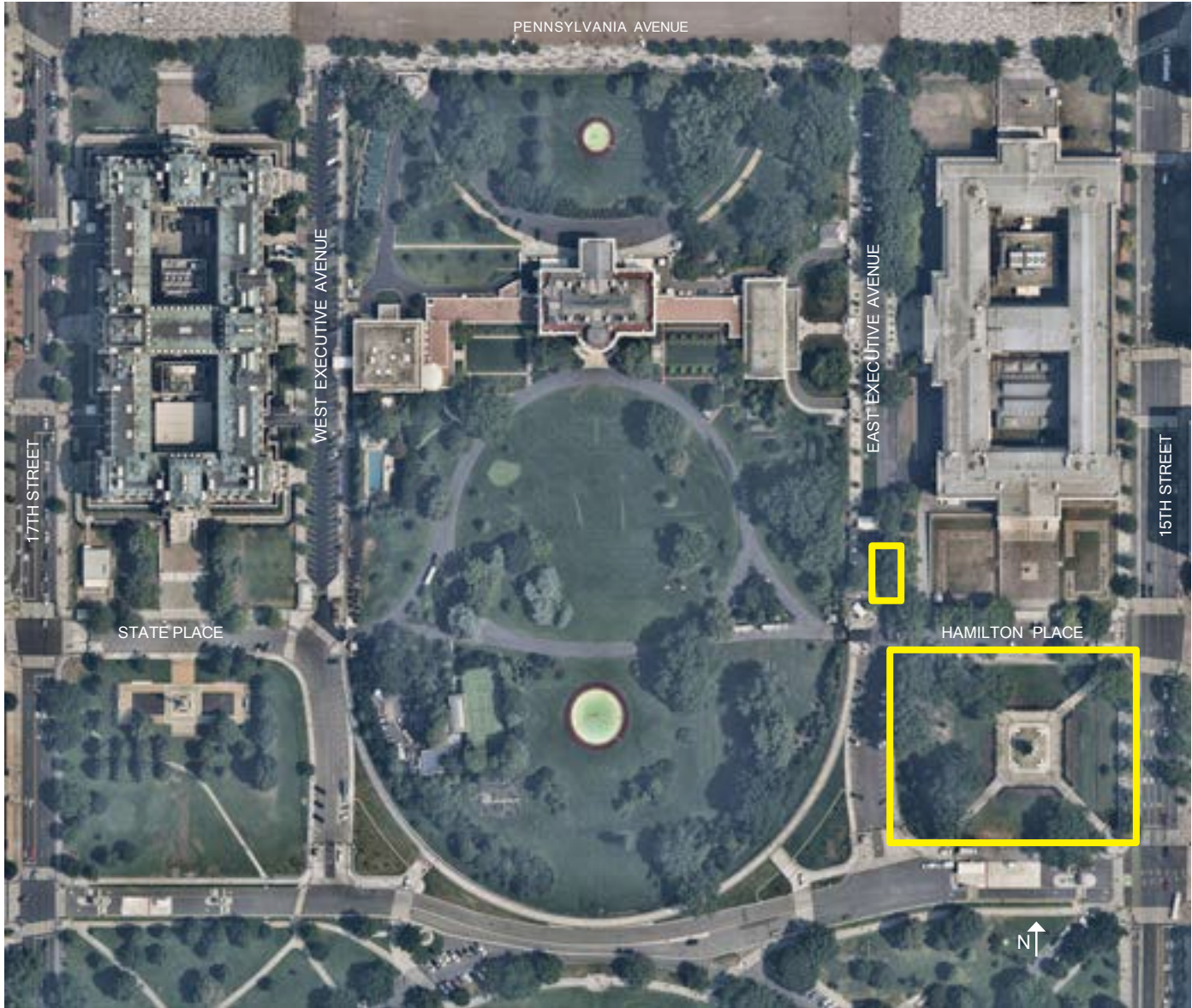


# 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## 1.2 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The project area falls within the Monumental Core of the District of Columbia (D.C.) and is at the heart of the Central Washington Planning Area of the National Capital Planning Commission’s (NCPC) Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital (Comprehensive Plan) adopted on June 6, 2024. The project location is entirely on federal land in President’s Park, an 82-acre park that serves as the setting for the White House and other federal buildings as well as memorials and monuments.

Jurisdictional control, stewardship, and oversight responsibilities for the White House and President’s Park are shared by various departments and the District of Columbia. East Executive Avenue to the West, E Street to the South and Alexander Hamilton Place to the North of the project area are managed by NPS. 15th Street on the east periphery of the park is managed by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT).



AERIAL SHOWING PROJECT AREA

# 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## 1.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The purpose for this project is to provide a permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility (VSF) for the United States Secret Service (USSS) that can support security screening needs for visitor tours, large-scale events, White House Staff, and Contractors. This new facility will expand the screening capacity/capabilities and eliminate the need for temporary screening tents for events. As a result, the permanent facility will strengthen campus security and enhance the overall visitor experience.

The project site is located in Sherman Park on the south side of the Treasury Building adjacent to proposed screening facility location included in the NPS led interagency Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park (CDP, 2000)

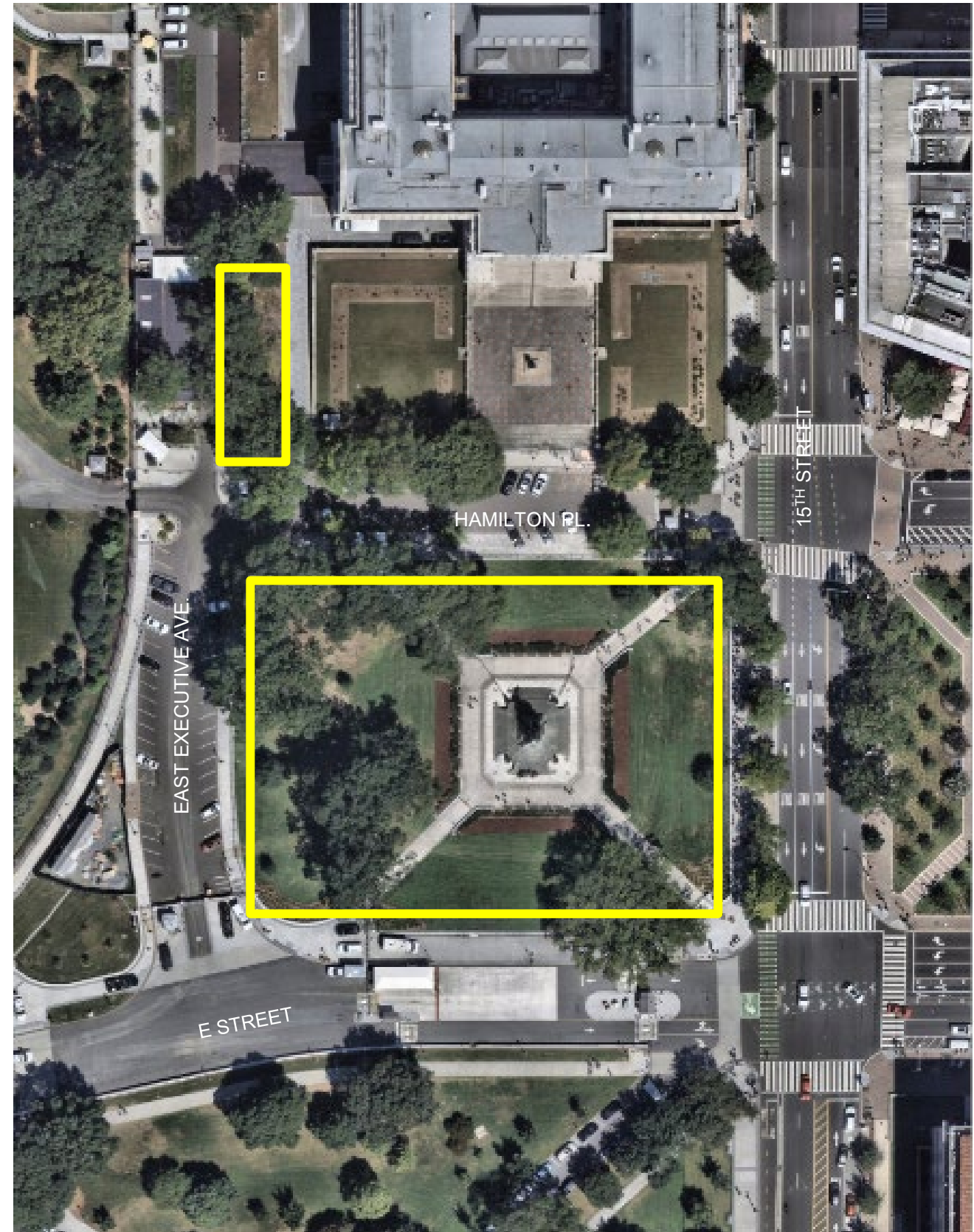
Most of the proposed structure is intentionally positioned below grade within the park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid infrastructure conflicts in the southeast corner of the park. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to reinstate and enhance the park's character.

The below grade portion of this facility is approximately 33,000 square feet .The depth of the building accounts for a 12'-0" clear floor to underside of structure, 2'-0" allocation for concrete structure, and a minimum of 3'-0 ground cover above.

Queuing would begin outside in the lower plaza, where visitors form entry lanes for the initial ID check at the vestibule. They then proceed through the lobby to a second ID checkpoint, followed by the pre-screening sequence.

The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial requirements necessary to achieve the throughput capacities established by USSS for large events. Primary screening is laid out as an open floor plan to provide maximum flexibility with the current screening process and equipment, and to support adaptation to evolving screening technologies and capabilities.

Upon successfully clearing primary screening, visitors proceed to the escalators that return them to grade level north of the secure fence line along East Executive Avenue.



AERIAL SHOWING PROJECT SITE AT SHERMAN PARK AND EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.

# 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

## 1.4 OUTREACH AND COORDINATION

The applicant has held one virtual project meeting with NCPC Staff as part of the Pre-Submission process. The meeting was held on February 23, 2026, jointly with representatives from NCPC and Commission of Fine Arts.

The applicant has held several virtual meetings with DC Department of Transportation (DDOT), who will act as the liaison for all other DC Government department reviews.

## 1.5 SCHEDULE

The project has an operational need date of July 2028.

The schedule below provides a summary of the intended project schedule with key phases and milestones:

- Start site Preparation - August 2026
- Start Excavation & Construction - Fall 2026
- Facility Operational - July 2028

## 2. DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

# 2.1 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, NORTHEAST CORNER.



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, EAST SIDE.



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST CORNER.



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, SOUTH SIDE.

# 2.1 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING VIEW OF SHAERMAN PARK, SOUTHWEST CORNER.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHAERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST SIDEWALK.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHERMAN PARK, SOUTH SIDE LAWN.



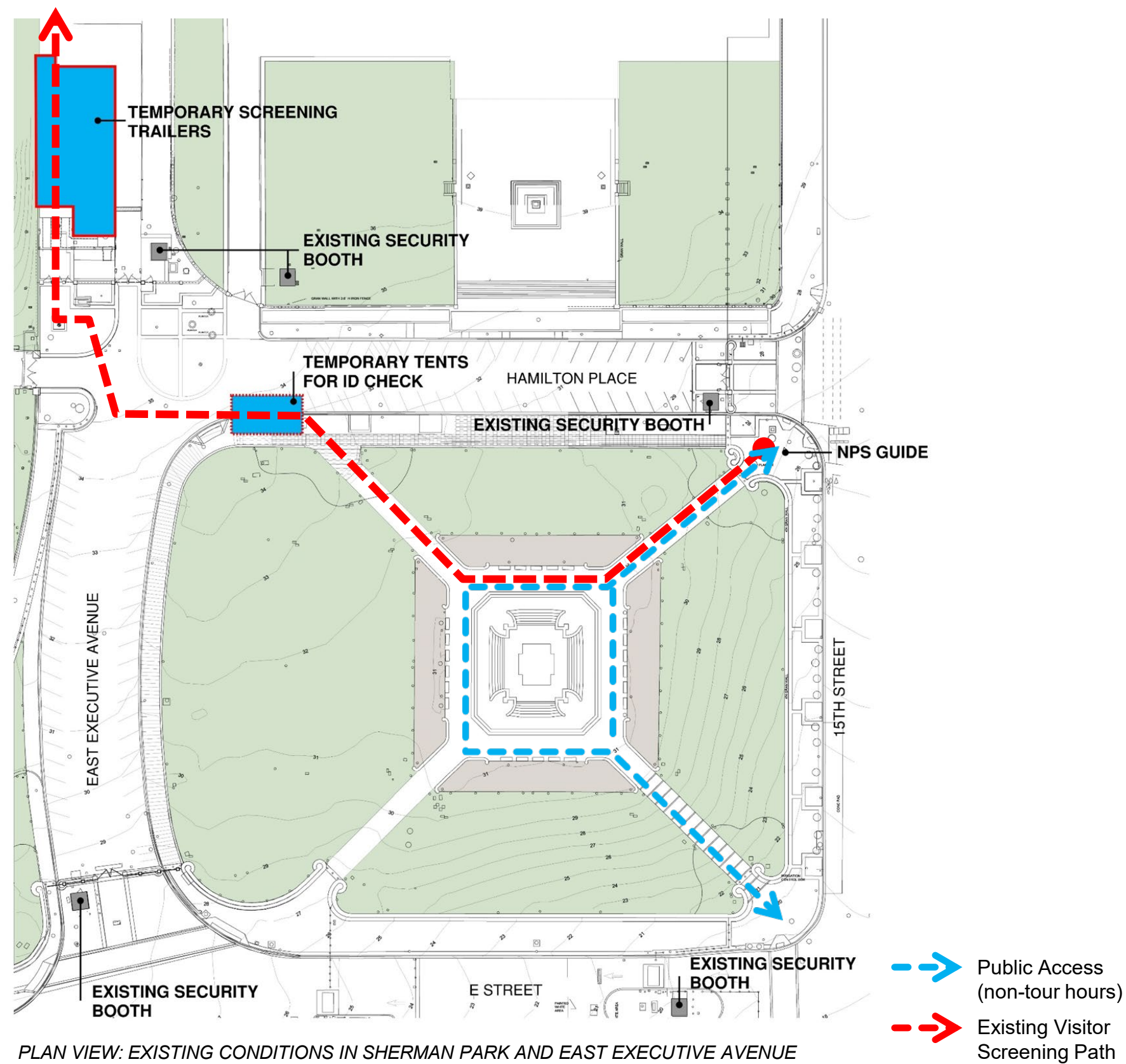
EXISTING VIEW IN SHERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST LAWN.

# 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## EXISTING SITE

Since 2005 USSS has utilized temporary trailers on East Executive Avenue for security screening of White House tours and event guests.

White House visitors would arrive at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Alexander Hamilton Place and begin queuing within the hardscape pathways within Sherman Park. Visitors would be processed through an initial security check point under temporary tent structures and proceed to East Executive Avenue for security processing. Visitors would enter a double-wide temporary trailer on East Executive Avenue and be processed through a single lane of security equipment. Once processed, visitors would exit the facility and walk northbound on East Executive Avenue to proceed to the East Wing.



# 2.1 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## EXISTING CONDITIONS



VIEW OF THE EXISTING VISITOR SCREENING TRAILER ENTRANCE ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.



VIEW OF THE EXISTING VISITOR SCREENING TRAILER EXIT ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.



VIEW OF TEMPORARY SCREENING TENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR LARGE EVENTS ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.



VIEW OF GUESTS BEING SCREENED THROUGH TEMPORARY TENTS ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.

2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY  
PROPOSED FACILITY



RENDERING SHOWS VIEW OF FACILITY ENTRANCE RAMP AT E STREET AND 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET ADJACENT TO SHERMAN PARK

# 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## PROPOSED FACILITY

Visitors to the White House will be instructed to arrive at the Southeast corner of 15th Street and E Street adjacent to Sherman Park. They will enter the facility via the exterior ramp into the sunken plaza to have their tickets and IDs checked.

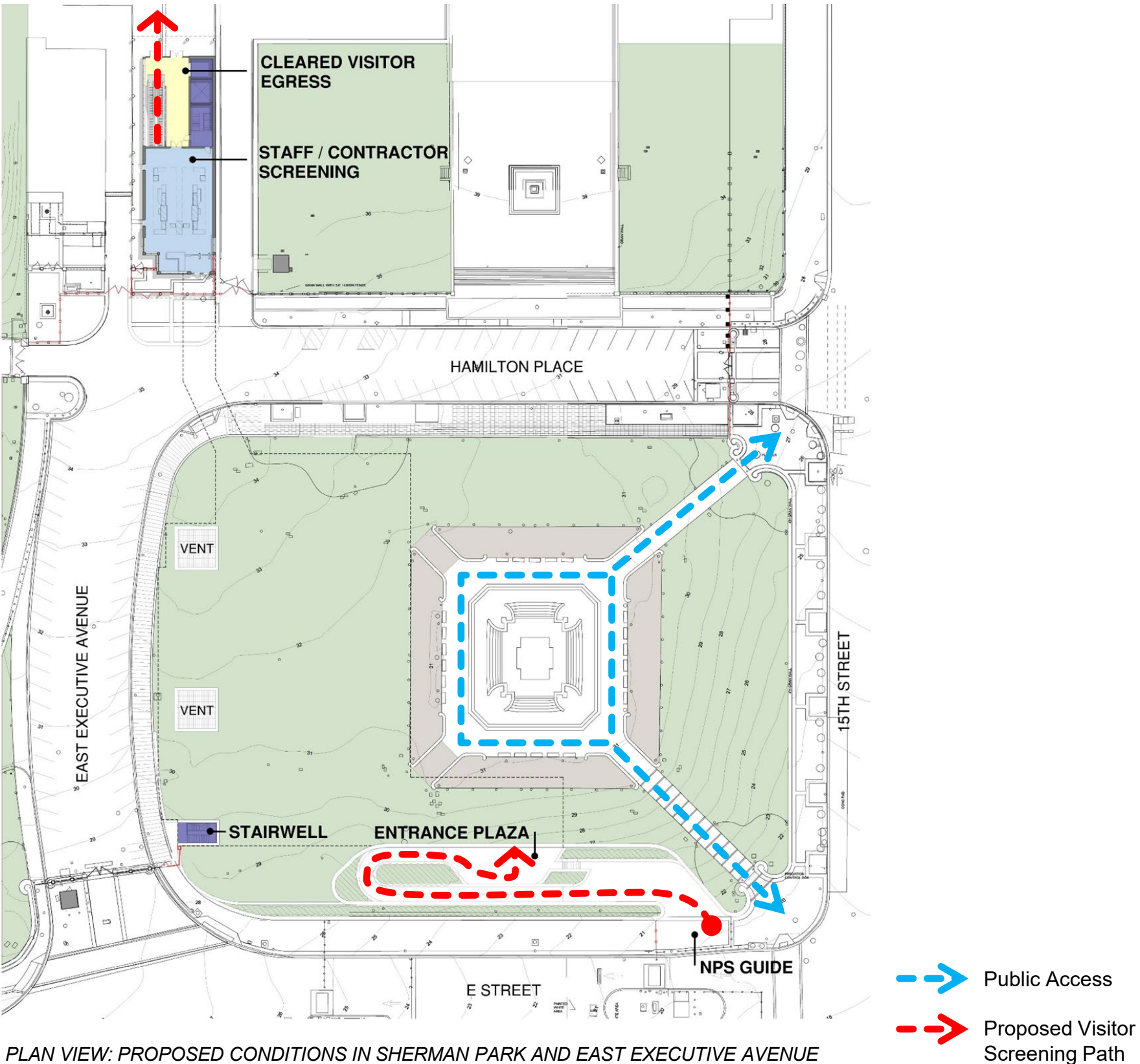
The south quadrant of the park sits at the lowest elevation. This location naturally provides an opportunity to enter the below grade building directly from the sidewalk with the least ramping required.

The 5,000 square foot recessed entry plaza provides a gathering space for visitors and allows queuing to begin along the ramp, helping to reduce congestion on the adjacent 15th Street sidewalk.

Badged staff and contractors will enter via an above-grade screening post integrated into a new 4,000 square foot building along East Executive Avenue. The north side of this building will also enclose the escalators from the below-grade program, serving as the exit point from the facility into the cleared side of the campus.

A stairwell located at the southwest corner of the park, immediately adjacent to the south gate of East Executive Avenue, will function as a badged access point for USSS and facility personnel, as well as an emergency egress from the below-grade building.

The monument at the center of the park will be protected in place. Upon completion of the project, the park will remain open to the public and accessible from the northeast and southeast pathways from 15th Street. Alexander Hamilton Place and E Street located north and south of the site respectively will remain restricted to authorized vehicles and pedestrians.



# 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

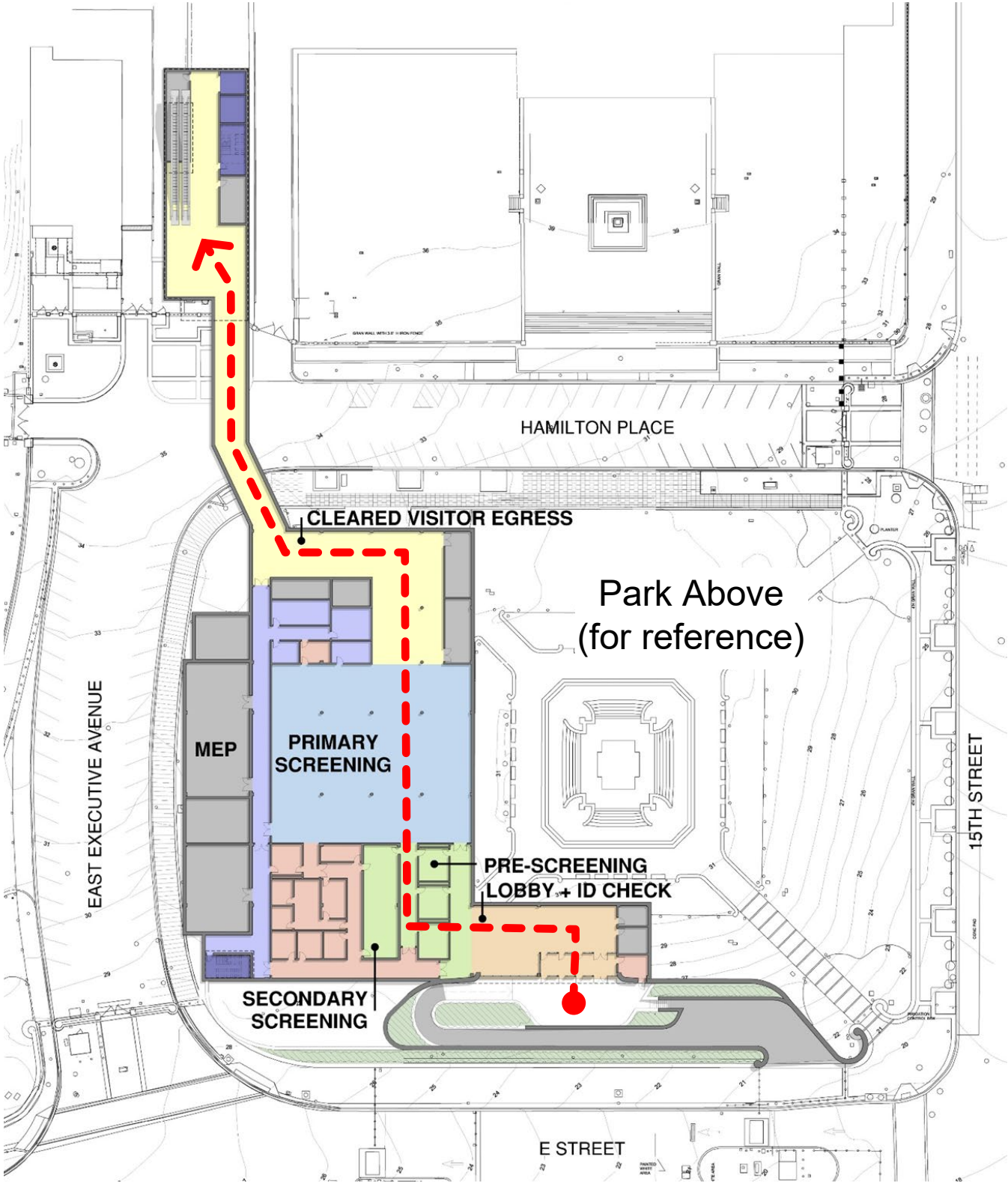
## PROPOSED FACILITY

Once in the facility, visitors will process through pre-screening, primary screening, traverse the tunnel to escalators and ascend to the exit structure within the secure fence line. From there they will proceed to their tour or event at the White House.

The visitor screening facility is approximately 33,000 square feet and will include the necessary security procedures, technology and support space to meet the USSS protective mission for screening all visitors entering the White House for tours and events.

The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial requirements necessary to achieve the throughput capacities established by USSS for large events. The space is organized as an open floor plan to provide maximum flexibility with 7 lanes to accommodate current screening processes and equipment, and to support adaptation to evolving screening technologies and capabilities.

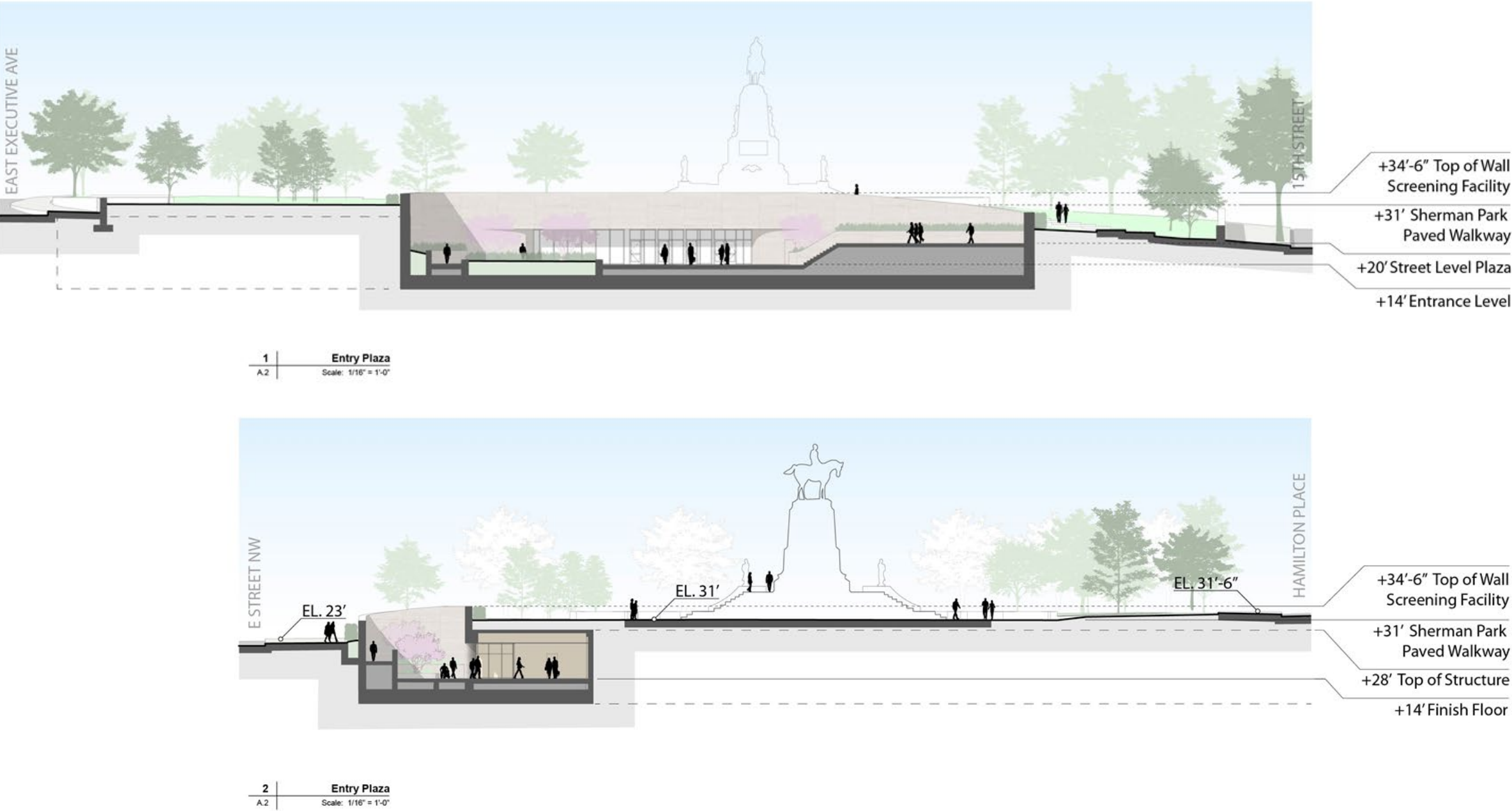
Upon successfully clearing primary screening, visitors proceed through a tunnel with opportunity for EOP and tour office to provide informational displays to enhance the visitor experience. Escalators return visitors to grade level north of the secure fence line along East Executive Avenue.



PLAN VIEW: PROPOSED CONDITIONS BELOW SHERMAN PARK AND EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

# 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

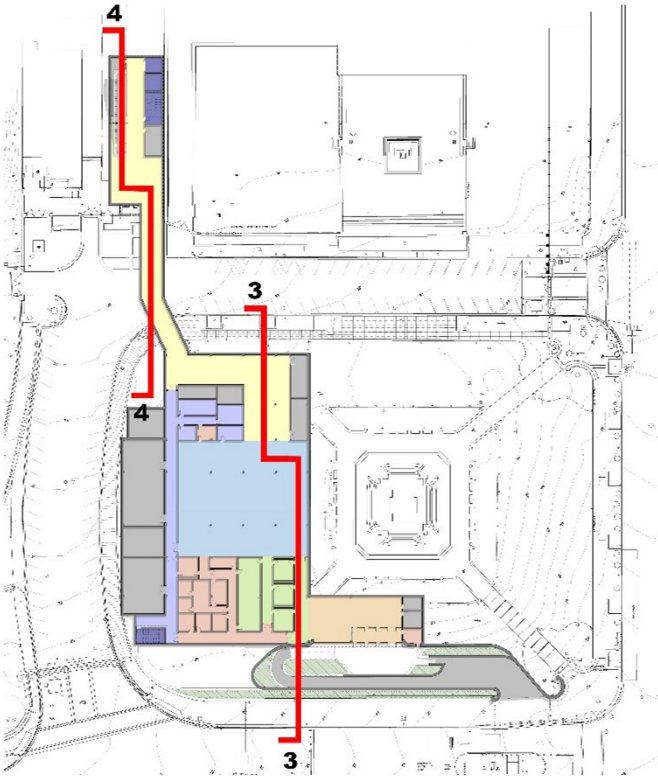
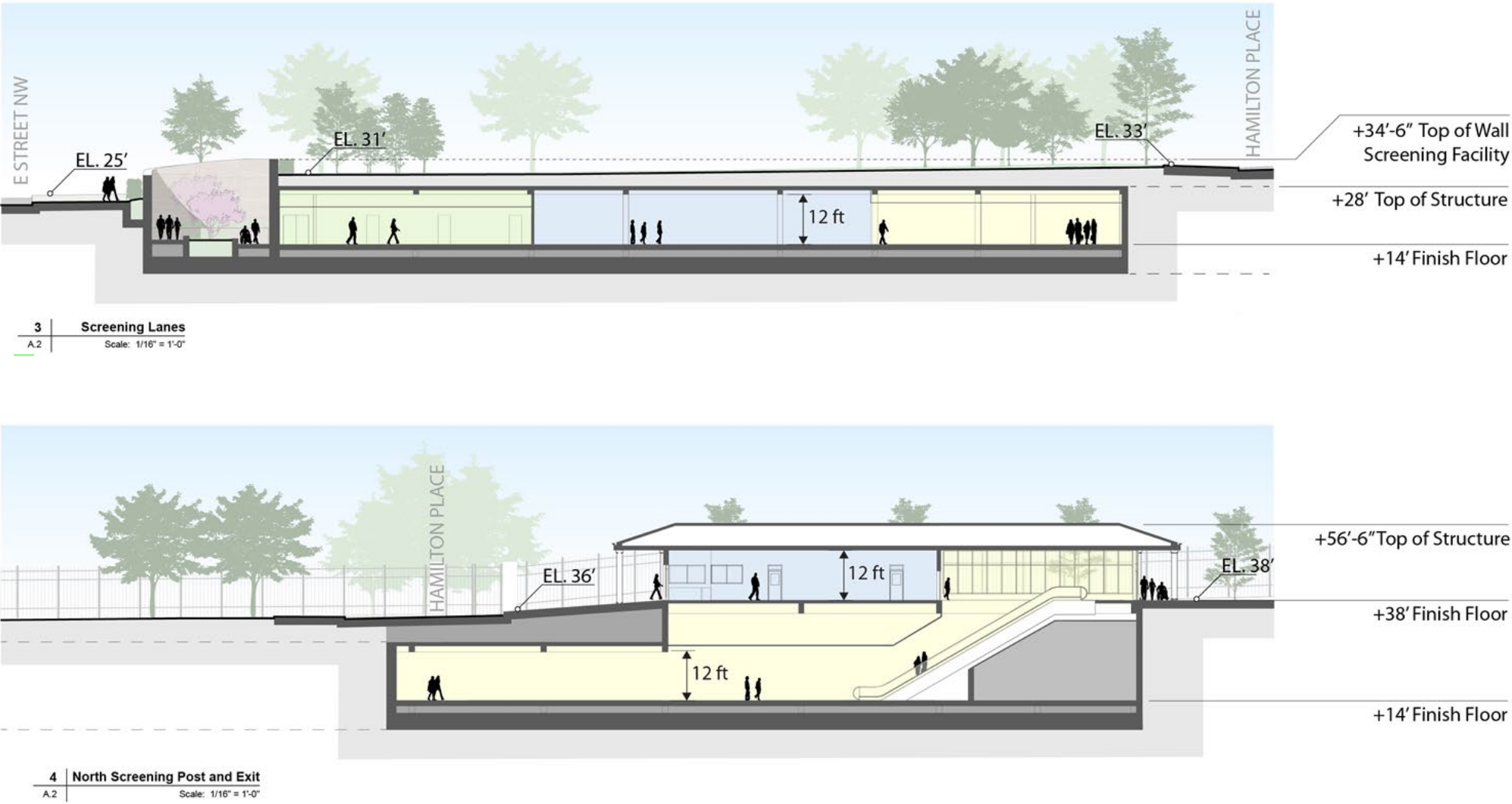
## PROPOSED FACILITY



SECTIONS SHOWING VIEW S THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERAMN PARK

# 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

PROPOSED FACILITY



LEGEND SHOWING WHERE SECTIONS ARE CUT THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERAMN PARK

SECTIONS SHOWING VIEW S THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERAMN PARK

# 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

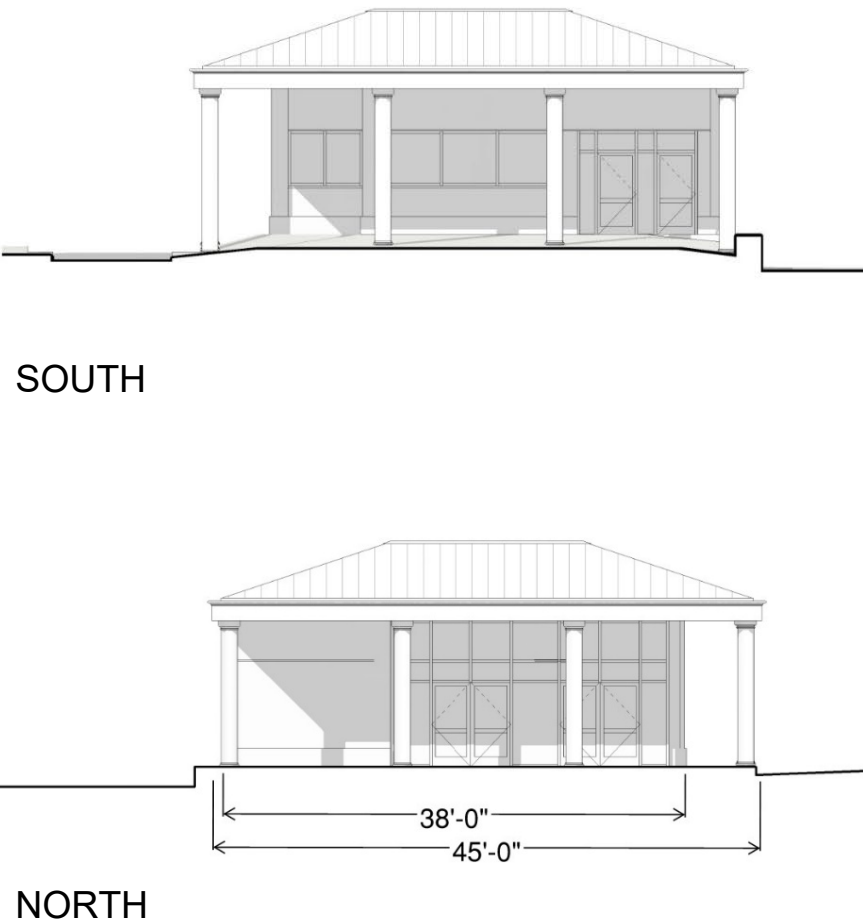
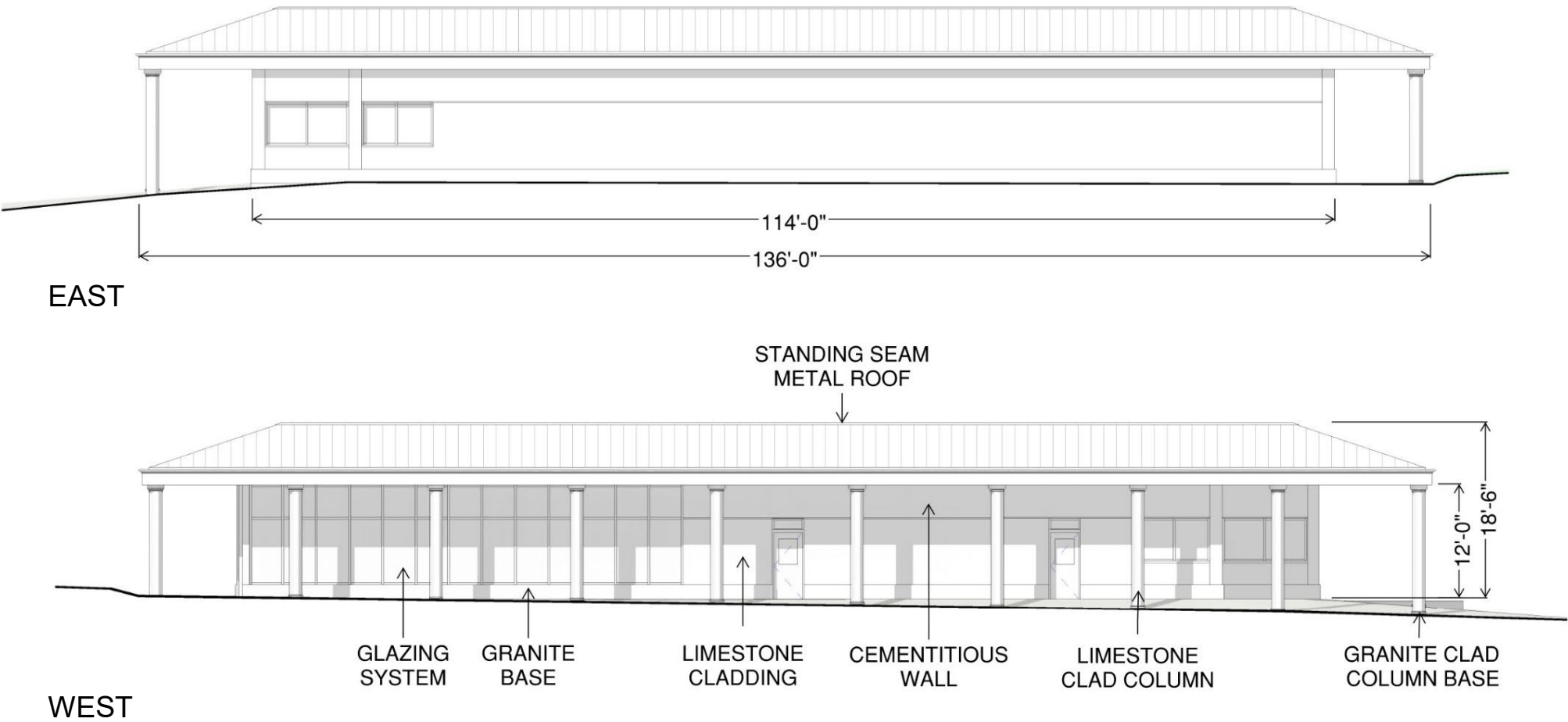
PROPOSED FACILITY

Architectural form and materiality will be based upon existing security booth vocabulary used throughout the campus. Details will be enhanced to improve the visitor experience.

The building composition incorporates a sloped standing-seam metal roof with extended overhangs supported by columns, along with stone cladding and granite base. Glazing systems maintain visual continuity for security purposes and connection to the East Wing as visitor exit the facility.



EXISTING A1 SECURITY BOOTH



ELEVATIONS OF EXIT STRUCTURE ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

# 2.3 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

The proposed location for the Visitor Screening Facility at Sherman Park was strategically selected with consideration to multiple factors including, but not limited to security, functionality, visitor flow, aesthetics, and cost. Siting the facility was performed in a manner to mitigate the permanent impact to the surrounding areas as much as possible. Alternate locations around the complex have been considered extensively.

### Lily Triangle / Below East Exec and E Street

Challenges:

- Additional below grade square footage required to reach exit location on East Exec Ave within the secure perimeter.
- Major disruption of Campus operations with Lower East Exec Ave not available 30 months due to facility constructed underneath.
- Closer to the White House view shed
- No direct access from public sidewalk, would require crossing closed E street without additional tunnel to the south.

### North Treasury - Below Ground Plaza / Partial Courtyard Infill

Challenges:

- The North Courtyard site has several subterranean conflicts with major existing utilities, structural upgrade issues with Treasury Moat walls,
- Screening capacity only allows for 5 lanes and not adaptable for evolving screening technologies and capabilities.
- Significant change to Treasury entrance plaza, main entrance steps, and reduction of grass courtyards.
- A visible structure parallel to Pennsylvania Ave is necessary to connect over the Annex tunnel.
- Badged staff for White House and Treasury would use the same entry point as visitors.
- Does not provide screening for staff who park on the Ellipse or Sherman Park.

### Sherman Park - Below Ground Facility - North Entry Plaza

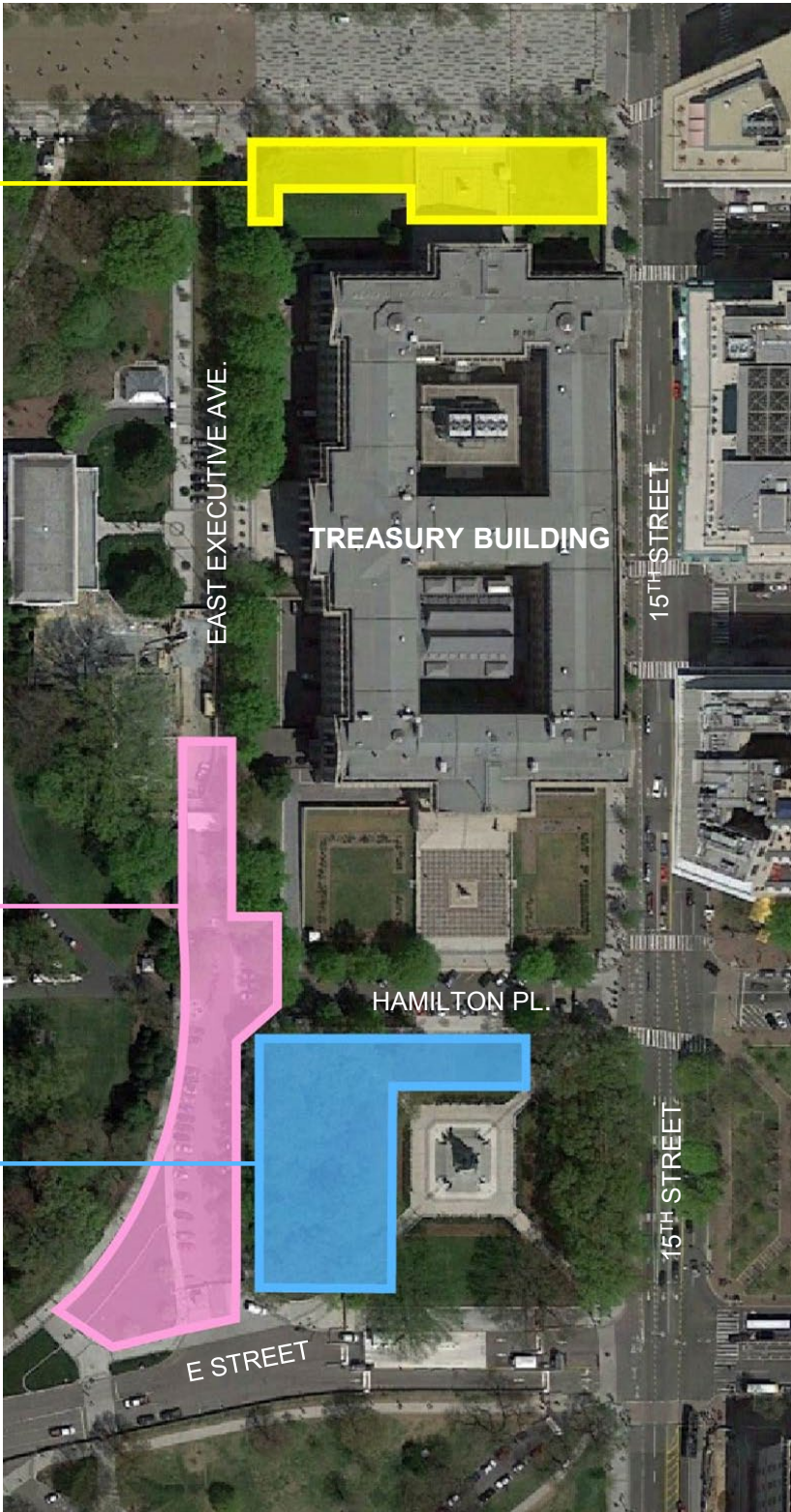
Challenges:

- The north quadrant is at the highest elevation within the park, and substantial excavation and ramping would be required to reach the depth needed to place the entire facility below ground without significantly altering the park’s aesthetics.
- Circulation pinch point as visitors must descend into the west quadrant of the park (below ground) and then ascend to the tunnel connection at the East Executive Avenue egress building, complicating flow and operational efficiency.
- Potential Treasury archeological site in North side of Park.

NORTH TREASURY – BELOW GROUND PLAZA SITE

LILY TRIANGLE – BELOW EAST EXEC AVE SITE

SHERMAN PARK – BELOW GROUND SITE, NORTH ENTRY



SCREENING FACILITY ALTERNATIVES

# 2.3 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

## ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

### Sherman Park - Below Ground Facility - East Entry Plaza

Challenges:

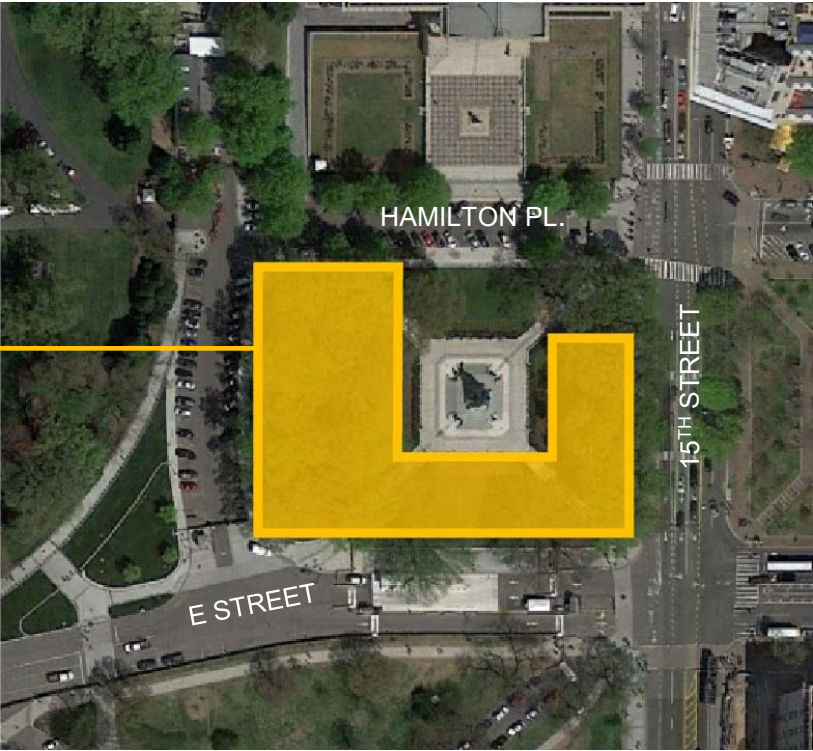
- Three quadrants of the park would be affected by implementing an east entry.
- Reaching the necessary depth to enter the facility is not feasible due to a large sewer tunnel traversing the southeast quadrant of the park.
- Additional below grade square footage required to reach primary screening area under west side.

### Sherman Park - Above Ground

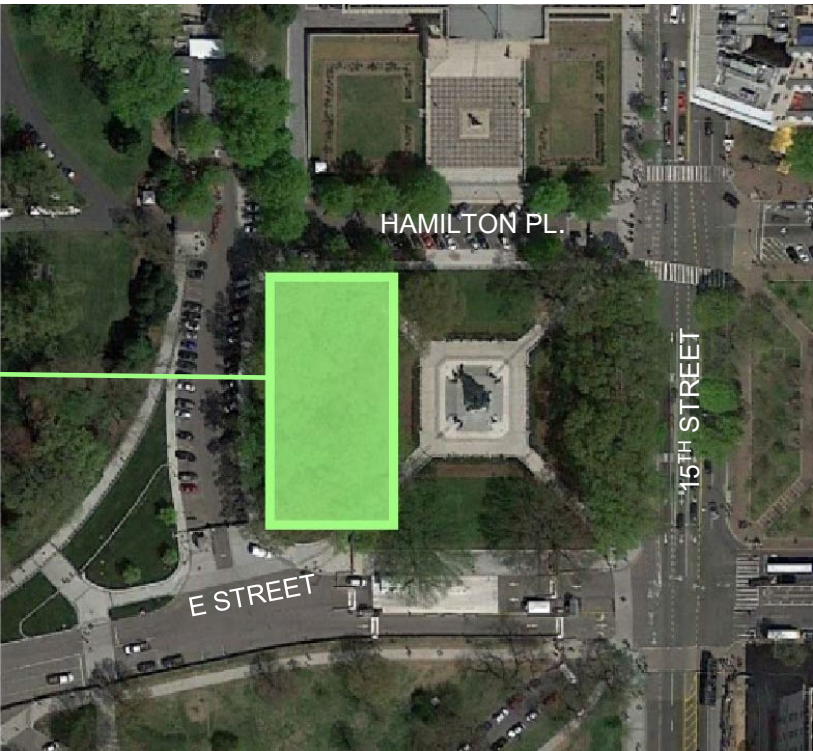
Challenges:

- The building would be highly visible from the park and the surrounding public spaces.
- Complete removal of existing trees in the west quadrant, with no available space to introduce replacement plantings.
- Without a dedicated plaza area, visitors would queue throughout the park and along the 15th Street sidewalks.
- Entry into the screening facility would occur inside the current security perimeter.
- Cleared visitors would exit into Sherman Park, which remains on the non-secure side of the complex.
- Additional USSS personnel would be required to monitor all individuals exiting the screening facility to verify who has been cleared prior to entering the East Executive Avenue gate.

SHERMAN PARK –  
BELOW GROUND  
SITE, EAST  
ENTRY



SHERMAN PARK –  
ABOVE GROUND  
SITE



SCREENING FACILITY ALTERNATIVES

### 3. HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS

# 3. HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS

## 3.1 HISTORIC PRESERVATION - DESIGN APPROACH

President's Park is a nationally significant cultural landscape in the monumental core of Washington, D.C. The design team will work with DC SHPO and other consulting parties to minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic resources.

The project has been designed to minimize cultural, visual, and environmental impacts to the extent practicable.

- Site selection was carefully considered to ensure new elements blend with the park's historic fabric and the city's architectural character. The project will be situated to the west of Sherman Statue and will preserve existing contours and historic viewsheds.
- NEPA and Section 106 processes are currently underway.
  - The project is being developed in accordance with NEPA to evaluate potential environmental impacts and provide an informed and transparent decision-making process.
  - The project would adhere to Section 106 of the NHPA and coordinate with the SHPO as appropriate to actively avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on historic properties and cultural landscapes.
- The project takes into consideration visitor use and aesthetic appeal by maintaining public access through key park corners and avoiding the introduction of incongruent visible structures that would detract from the surrounding national buildings and monuments.
- While approximately six trees would be removed, these would be replaced with suitable native species and landscaping in accordance with the NCPD Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy.
- In addition, construction activities would follow guidelines in The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: The Federal Environmental Element to minimize impacts related to stormwater runoff, noise disturbance, and air quality, and utilize BMPs to the extent practicable.

