

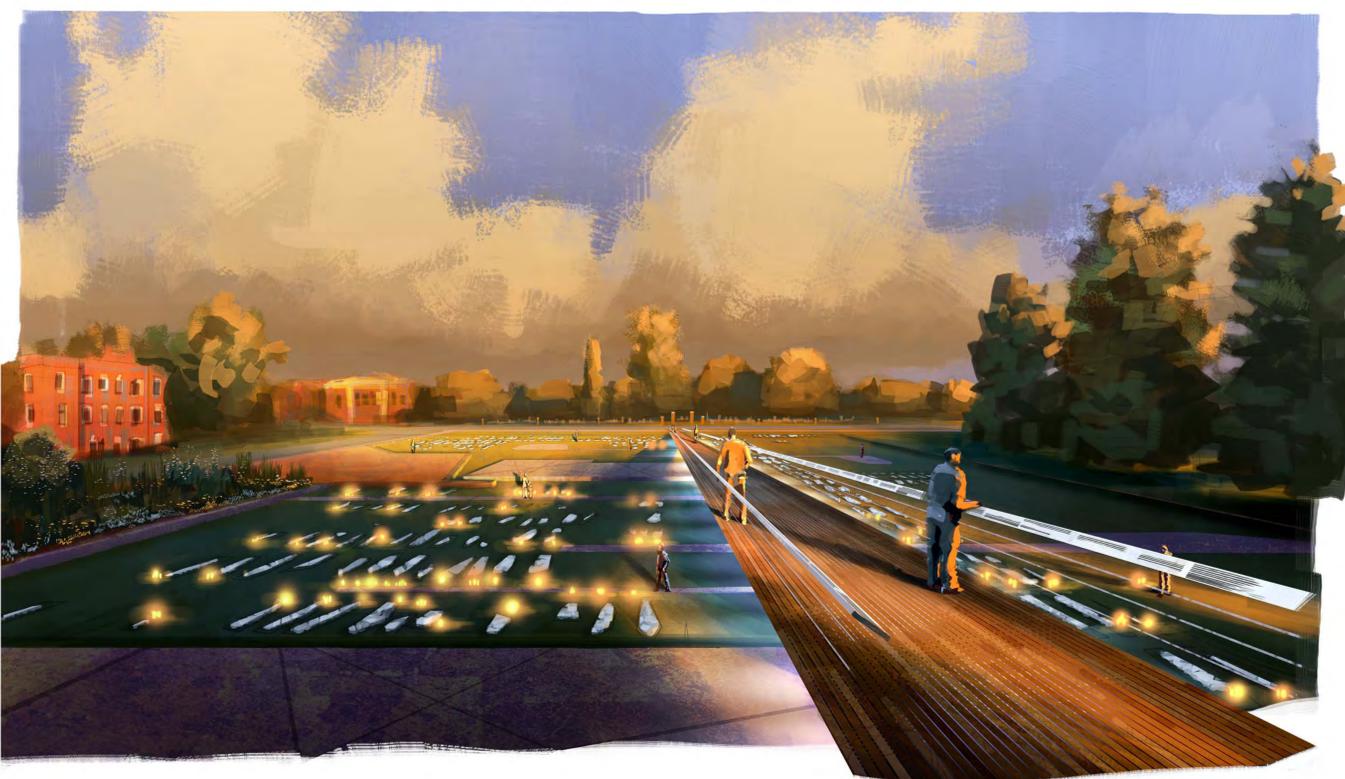


THE PATH AND THE PARK

Contraband and Freedmen's
Cemetery Memorial

Alexandria, Virginia

1. Entrance to community park
2. Existing White Pines and Silver Maples
3. Ring of Cherry Blossoms and alabaster benches
4. Grass mound: views of city and river, recalls historic bluff
5. Alabaster stone wall
6. Grove of new Maples on slope
7. "The Path": journey over cemetery
8. Handrail: depicts events, facts, figures, dates, and quotes
9. Brick and rubble seat wall, cemetery boundary demarcation
10. Existing retaining walls and slabs color etched, for gatherings and education
11. Ornamental garden
12. Gravel path
13. Brick paved plaza with wood benches
14. Grass and ground cover
15. Area of contemplation with seating
16. Grave markers: split slabs of alabaster
17. Wrought iron perimeter fence
18. Entrance to cemetery



The concept is designed around two ideas: to celebrate the **historical and spiritual** significance of the site, and to make the land a **gift** back to the community. These ideas are expressed through the Path and the Park.

The Path begins at the east, following the old cart path through the graves. The Path is built of wood and steel memorializing the coffins and grave markers that have long since disappeared. With the wood offering warmth and craft to the experience, the Path makes a respectful journey through the known excavated portion of the site. Off this central walk are secondary gravel trails that pass between graves reaching **areas of contemplation**. As the path crosses further west, it slopes up and rises off the ground which also begins to drop away – revealing the **magnitude of the surrounding cemetery**. Spiritually symbolic, the visitors become aware of their body being lifted as they cross over and through the memorial. The graves themselves are marked with split slabs of alabaster, a white luminous stone.

In The Park, as the visitors take the rising trek to the west side of the memorial, they cross over a grove of Maples and the ground rises up to meet them in the form of a **gentle grass mound**: the center of a new community park. In this public park, visitors will find a wall of alabaster blocks in which the **names of those buried** are inscribed, one name per block allowing for future inscriptions if possible.

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