

An aerial photograph of the Langston Golf Course and Anacostia Park in Washington, D.C. The image shows a large, green golf course with several fairways and green areas, interspersed with dense clusters of trees. A prominent feature is a large, winding waterway, likely the Anacostia River, which flows through the park area. The water is dark blue, and the surrounding land is lush with green vegetation. In the background, some urban buildings and parking lots are visible, indicating the park's proximity to a city center. The overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and urban development.

# Langston Golf Course

## National Capital Parks | East Anacostia Park

Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
National Park Service

Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis  
University of Pennsylvania  
July 2017

# Table of Contents

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<b>Cultural Landscape Overview + Management Information</b>	<b>1</b>
Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan	<b>1</b>
Concurrence Status	<b>10</b>
Geographic Information and Location Map	<b>13</b>
Management Information	<b>17</b>
National Register Information	<b>19</b>
<b>Chronology &amp; Physical History</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Analysis &amp; Evaluation of Integrity</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Bibliography &amp; Supplemental Information</b>	<b>113</b>

Langston Golf Course | National Capital Parks | East  
Anacostia Park

# Cultural Landscape Overview + Management Information



Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
National Park Service

## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

###### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

*National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)).* Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

*Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003.* Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998.* Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))



*Management Policies 2006.* 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...

*Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28.* As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

**Connect People to Parks.** Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

**Advance the Education Mission.** Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

**Preserve America’s Special Places.** Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

*3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*

*4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*

*5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

#### Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

Langston Golf Course (part of Anacostia Park, Section G, Reservation 343, and part of the National Capital Parks-East [NACE] administrative unit) is a 145-acre recreational landscape located in Northeast Washington, D.C., approximately 2.15 miles northeast of the United States Capitol and approximately 3.47 miles southwest of Bladensburg, Maryland. The Langston Golf Course cultural landscape is bordered on the south by Benning Road NE, on the east by the Anacostia River, on the north by the United States National Arboretum, and on the west by 26th Street NE, I Street NE, and Maryland Avenue NE.

#### **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

The Langston Golf Course cultural landscape was created from the swampy marshland of the reclaimed Anacostia River flats in the early twentieth century. The reclamation project sought to address not only the clogged and unhygienic condition of the river, but also to tame its erratic—and occasionally destructive—tidal flow. The publication of the McMillan Plan in 1902 further bolstered the efforts to reclaim the flats north of the Benning Road Bridge, although the use of the reclaimed land was not confirmed until the 1930s. The McMillan Plan served as a master plan for the development of the city's recreational parkland, and it envisioned the future site of Langston Golf Course as a public amenity—Anacostia Park—on the banks of the Anacostia River.

The reclamation efforts for Anacostia Park coincided with the rise in popularity of public recreation—and golf in particular—in Washington, D.C.. By the late 1920s, it was well known that the construction of the approaches to the new Memorial Bridge across the Potomac River would require

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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the closure of the Lincoln Memorial golf course, the only course in the District of Columbia where African Americans could play. Other sites for a new course were considered and ultimately rejected for various reasons. Thus, the favored location for the new course and recommended by a planning committee was the newly-reclaimed area of Anacostia Park north of Benning Road, known as Section G. The committee considered the site to be well-suited for the course because it was near a section where a large number of African Americans lived, “namely, the area in the vicinity of Howard University, and from Florida Avenue, to the northeast corner of the District” (Board to Report on Colored Golf Course 1929). For these reasons, Section G was ultimately chosen for the new golf course.

In October 1935, National Capital Parks submitted the golf course project to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and by the following month, the WPA had accepted the project. At an estimated cost of \$150,000, it was the largest of six WPA projects in the District of Columbia. By June 1937, five holes had been built (Finnan 1937). In September 1937, the reclamation efforts in Section G of Anacostia Park were finally complete and 86 acres of land were transferred to the National Park Service (“Langston Golf Course History,” n.d.). By February 1938, the “36-acre tract of waste land” for the golf course was nearing completion by WPA and CCC workers. By the time the course opened in 1939, it included nine parkland-style holes, all placed on the west side of Kingman Lake.

While the Langston Golf Course was an improvement over the sand green course on the Lincoln Memorial grounds, it still suffered from poor conditions, even shortly after its construction. The conditions of the course led many of the course regulars, in particular members of the Royal Golf Club and Wake Robin Golf Club, to play elsewhere and to challenge the segregation of the public golf courses in the District of Columbia. In January 1944, with pressure mounting from African American golfers and a proposed highway project that would affect the course, the National Park Service asked Langston’s concessionaire to study the possibility of expanding the course to eighteen holes (Root 1944b). The expansion of the course was formally announced in January 1952 (The Evening Star, June 23, 1954: C1).

William F. Gordon and David W. Gordon designed the additional nine holes, which were completed in 1955. The new holes were arranged on Kingman Island, supplementing the existing holes that remained intact west of the lake. A new clubhouse was also constructed in 1950-1952 as part of the course expansion, replacing the original temporary clubhouse and located adjacent to the miniature golf course and putting green that were constructed in 1948.

Several projects threatened the existence of the Langston Golf Course in the latter decades of the twentieth century, including a new stadium constructed south of the course (now Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium) and a proposed inner-loop highway that would have passed directly through the course. The golf course survived both threats, but by the 1970s, the course had once again fallen into poor condition and faced numerous management issues as several successive concessionaires found it difficult to operate the course on a profit. Ultimately, the National Park Service shuttered Langston for a year, ceasing operations from 1975 to 1976.

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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The beleaguered Langston course caught the attention of PGA golfer Lee Elder, who was the first black golfer to play in the prestigious Masters Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in 1975. While Elder and Leoffler negotiated a settlement for the management of Langston, the National Park Service reopened the front nine of Langston's course in September of 1976 and the back nine in April 1977 (McCoubrey 1977: D10). Elder finally received the contract as concessionaire of the Langston Golf Course in 1978.

By that point, he had already invested \$10,000 into the project and estimated that it would take around \$250,000 over a four-year period to fully improve the course. Elder immediately set upon upgrading the course and by the spring of 1979, numerous improvements had already been made. During this period, a driving range was added in 1980 to Kingman Island, which required the rearrangement of several holes in the back nine.

Despite the popularity of Elder's course upgrades, the National Park Service closed Langston Golf Course in December 1981, citing apparent financial losses and the cancelation of Elder's insurance coverage for the course. The closure "came admit widespread reports that the golf course was again losing money, was in poor condition and was suffering a sharp drop in patronage" (Hodge 1981: C1). The Langston Golf Course remained closed until 1983, when Golf Course Specialists Inc. took over the concessions contract. In 1991, the Langston Golf Course Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, an effort led by the Committee to Save Langston to stymie plans for another stadium expansion in the area. Between 1999 and 2000, Golf Course Specialists oversaw the renovation of the back nine, including the addition of mounded bunkers at the perimeter of the driving range and around several holes, designed by local golf course architects Ault, Clark, and Associates.

Today, Langston Golf Course is an eighteen-hole parkland-style golf course. Its front nine is generally consistent with the original construction of the course, while the back nine has undergone several remodeling efforts, the most recent being the 1999-2000 alterations to the course. The eighteen-hole course is supplemented with a driving range, a putting green, and four practice greens, all of which are located north of Benning Road and arranged around Kingman Lake.

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Langston Golf Course Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The National Register nomination identifies the course's period of significance as 1939-1941, and the site is listed under National Register Criterion A for its significance in the area of Ethnic (Black) Heritage. This cultural landscape inventory argues that the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape is eligible under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Recreation and African American history, and that the period of significance should be expanded to include the years 1935-1955, encompassing the full period during which the course was planned, designed, and expanded. Extending the period of significance will recognize Langston's role in the development of public recreation in Washington, D.C., and the growth of golf as a recreational and professional sport for African Americans in the District of Columbia in the early-to-mid twentieth century.

#### ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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This cultural landscape inventory finds that Langston Golf Course cultural landscape retains integrity from its period of significance (1935-1955). The landscape retains most of the significant features associated with land use, topography, views and vistas, vegetation patterns, buildings and structures, spatial organization, and circulation from its period of significance. It does not retain any contributing small-scale features from its period of significance.

The landscape displays the seven aspects that determine integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association) through the retention of significant landscape characteristics and features. The front nine retains more physical integrity of design, materials, and workmanship than the back nine does, due to the 1999-2000 alterations to the course that affected the latter holes. However, the back nine retains the aspects of integrity that are significant to its use as a recreational landscape for African-Americans, including location, setting, feeling, and association.

Site Plan



Langston Golf Course site plan and existing conditions. For a larger view of this plan, see Appendix A. (Map produced by Fichman and Lester of University of Pennsylvania , 2017)

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

**Inventory Unit Name:** Langston Golf Course

**CLI Identification Number:** 976002

**Parent Landscape:** 600088

**Park Information**

**Park Name and Alpha Code:** National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park -NACE

**Park Organization Code:** 3560

**Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:** National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park - NACE

**Park Administrative Unit:** National Capital Parks-East

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was completed by Molly Lester, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania. This cultural landscape inventory was researched and written as part of a project to document National Park Service-owned golf courses in Washington, D.C.. The work of Patti Kuhn Babin, NPS Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, was integral to the completion of the Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory. Her Historic Resource Study (HRS), "Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, D.C.," provided the basis for much of the historic information included in this cultural landscape inventory. In addition to the HRS, primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories were consulted and are listed in the bibliography. Additional assistance was provided by: Daniel Weldon, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region; Vince Vase, Chief of Visitor Services, National Capital Parks- East, National Capital Region, Wanda Washington, Concession Management Specialist, National Capital Parks- East, National Capital Region, Kate Birmingham, Cultural Resources Program Manager, National Capital Parks- East, National Capital Region, Stephen Syphax, National Capital Parks- East, National Capital Region Jim Rosenstock, National Capital Parks- East, National Capital Region, Randall Mason, Associate Professor and Chair, Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania; Shannon Garrison, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania; Michael Fichman, GIS Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania; Ty Richardson, Cultural Landscapes Intern, University of Pennsylvania; and Mikayla Raymond, Cultural Landscapes Intern, University of Pennsylvania.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	07/19/2017
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory on INSERT DATE, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscape Inventory

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



**Statement of Concurrence  
Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory**

The preparation of this CLI for Langston Golf Course is part of the National Park Service's efforts to update cultural resource inventories, as required by Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- The D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer [DC SHPO] concurs with the overall findings of the Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape, including its proposed Period of Significance (POS) of 1939-1955, which reflects the Golf Course's growth from initial construction through expansion in the 1950s.
- However, the DC SHPO notes that the Langston Golf Course National Register nomination, prepared in 1991, establishes a POS that ends in 1941 (based on the National Register 50-year rule). The NR nomination identifies the Langston Golf Course Clubhouse as non-contributing because it was built in 1955 and falls outside of the POS. Conversely, the CLI identifies the clubhouse as contributing because it was built within the expanded POS. The DC SHPO concurs with the CLI recommendations while recognizing that it implies the need to update the National Register nomination to reflect the change in POS and Contributing/Non-Contributing status of its associated resources.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Maloney  
DC State Historic Preservation Officer

7/18/2017  
Date

*DC SHPO Concurrence with the findings of the Langston CLI. The document was signed on July 18th, 2017.*

Memorandum

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region  
From: Superintendent, National Capital Park-East  
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Tara Morrison, Superintendent of National Capital Park-East, concur with the findings of the Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape Inventory, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

**Good:** indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Fair:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Poor:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Langston Golf Course is hereby approved and accepted.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, National Capital Park-East

July 19, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Superintendent Concurrence with the original findings of the CLI. The document was signed on July 19th, 2018.*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Langston Golf Course (part of Anacostia Park, Section G, Reservation 343, and part of the National Capital Parks-East [NACE] administrative unit) is a 145-acre recreational landscape located in Northeast Washington, D.C., approximately 2.15 miles northeast of the United States Capitol and approximately 3.47 miles southwest of Bladensburg, Maryland. The Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape is bordered on the south by Benning Road, NE, on the east by the Anacostia River, on the north by the United States National Arboretum, and on the west by 26th Street, NE, I Street, NE, and Maryland Avenue, NE.

### State and County:

**State:** DC

**County:** District of Columbia

**Size (Acres):** 145.00

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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**Boundary Coordinates:**

<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-77.9574710000
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.9080380000
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-76.9623820000
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.8974540000
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-76.9702440000
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.8980440000
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-76.9701110000
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.9034120000
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-76.9720330000
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.9045540000
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Latitude:</b>	-76.9698060000
<b>Longitude:</b>	38.9055630000

Langston Golf Course  
National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Point

**Latitude:** -76.9649330000

**Longitude:** 38.9056200000

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

**Type of Point:** Point

**Latitude:** -76.9623060000

**Longitude:** 38.9095230000

**Location Map:**



*Location Map: The Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape is located approximately 2.15 miles east of the United States Capitol and 3.47 miles southwest of Bladensburg, Maryland.*

**Management Unit:** National Capital Parks- East

**Tract Numbers:** Reservation 343

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 07/19/2017

#### Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Langston Golf Course Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. The cultural landscape is located within the boundaries of Anacostia Park, Section G. It is managed by National Capital Parks-East and operated by a concessionaire.

The Management Category Date is the date this cultural landscape inventory was first approved by the park superintendent.

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

#### Management Agreement:

**Type of Agreement:** Concession Contract/Permit

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Presently, the golf course is under the management of Golf Course Specialist, LLC. However, a new management contract is expected to be awarded. Future CLIs will have to be updated accordingly to reflect these changes.

#### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

#### Public Access:

**Type of Access:** Other Restrictions

#### Explanatory Narrative:

The Langston Golf Course is open to the public from 6:00 am to 8 pm in the summer and 8 am to 3 pm in the winter. The course remains open on Monday holidays. The course is closed on Christmas Day, with early closures on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve. A green fees is required to play the course. At the time of the completion of the original CLI the rate was 18 dollars for 9 holes and 25 dollars for 18 holes.

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Contributing adjacent lands include Anacostia Park, which was created from the reclaimed Anacostia Flats in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The park represents the overall greening of Washington, D.C., in the early 20th century, as the city bolstered its recreational infrastructure with public parks and resources. Langston Golf Course falls within the boundaries of Anacostia Park, Section G (Reservation 343). Adjacent lands also include the neighborhood of Kingman Park and its proposed historic district, which includes the golf course in the draft nomination as a contributing feature. The proposed district is characterized by a mix of residential, governmental, and commercial properties (constructed primarily in the neo-classical and Federal styles) that were originally built as an African-American community.



## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Langston Golf Course was listed in the National Register in 1991 as the Langston Golf Course Historic District (NR #91001525). The National Register lists the district's period of significance as 1939 to 1941. It is designated for its significance for Ethnic (Black) Heritage "for its symbolic association with the development and desegregation of public golfing and recreational facilities in the greater Washington, D.C. area and with the growth of golf as a popular recreational and professional sport for African Americans." The nomination identifies one contributing site, which is the golf course. Per the National Register Historic District designation, non-contributing buildings include: the clubhouse, the maintenance shed, and the driving range hut. Six non-contributing structures include: two bridges over Kingman Lake (referred to elsewhere in this cultural landscape inventory as Bridges 1 and 2), two concrete piers and a concrete pump enclosure remaining from the Corps of Engineers, and a concrete remnant from the miniature golf course.

According to research conducted for this cultural landscape inventory and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the Langston Golf Course landscape is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation. While most of the landscape's major buildings and structures have been documented, important historic resources and features related to topography, land use, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, views and vistas, and small-scale features have not yet been determined eligible for the National Register. Therefore, for purposes of the cultural landscape inventory, the property is considered "Entered-Inadequately Documented."

This cultural landscape inventory maintains that the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape is eligible under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Recreation and African American history, and recommends that the period of significance be expanded to 1935-1955. This longer period of significance will recognize Langston's role in the development of parks and recreation for African American golfers in Washington, D.C., encompassing the initial planning and construction of the course's front nine and extending through the completion of the back nine in 1955.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

**Other Names:** Langston Golf Course Historic

### National Register Eligibility

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination  
**Contributing/Individual:** Contributing  
**National Register Classification:** District  
**Significance Level:** Local  
**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

### Period of Significance:

**Time Period:** CE 1935 - 1955  
**Historic Context Theme:** Creating Social Institutions and Movements  
**Subtheme:** Recreation  
**Facet:** Sports (Active)  
**Other Facet:** Golf Courses

### Area of Significance:

**Area of Significance Category:** Entertainment - Recreation

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Ethnic Heritage

### Statement of Significance:

The Langston Golf Course is located along the west banks of the Anacostia River, just north of the confluence with the Potomac River. It is part of Anacostia Park, Section G (US Reservation 343) and consists of an eighteen-hole parkland-style course, which was designed in two phases between 1935 and 1955. The course's front nine holes were designed in stages between 1935 and 1939 by various landscape professionals, with construction overseen by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). A "temporary" clubhouse, built c. 1938 (concurrent with first nine holes of the course), was replaced by the current clubhouse in 1952, and the course was expanded to eighteen holes in 1955. Several changes and improvements were subsequently made to the course, including the construction of the driving range (around 1980) under the management of famed African-American professional golfer Lee Elder and his wife Rose, and improvements to the back nine completed in 1999-2000 by the architectural firm of Ault, Clark, and Associates.

The Langston Golf Course Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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1991. The nomination lists the historic district under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic (Black) Heritage. Its period of significance begins in 1939 and ends in 1941. (The terminating date of 1941 was based on the National Register's 50-year guideline for eligibility, given the designation date of 1991.) The nomination considers the entire course to be a contributing site within the historic district.

Non-contributing features, as determined by the National Register nomination, include: the clubhouse (which was constructed in 1952); the maintenance shed; a hut at the driving range; two bridges over the waterways; two concrete piers and a concrete pump enclosure dating to the Army Corps of Engineers' reclamation projects; and a concrete remnant from the original miniature golf course (constructed in 1948).

This cultural landscape inventory finds that the Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, in the areas of Recreation and Ethnic (Black) Heritage. The Langston Golf Course is locally significant for its association with the creation of recreational facilities for black residents of Washington, D.C., and the growth of golf as a recreational and professional sport for African Americans in the District of Columbia in the early-to-mid 20th century. The proposed period of significance for this cultural landscape is 1935-1955, encompassing the initial planning and construction of the golf course's front nine holes and extending through the completion of the back nine holes in 1955. This expansion of the course in the 1950s, which included the addition of the clubhouse, represented the improvement of the course after continued efforts by the African-American community to have facilities that were equal to the other public courses in the District of Columbia.

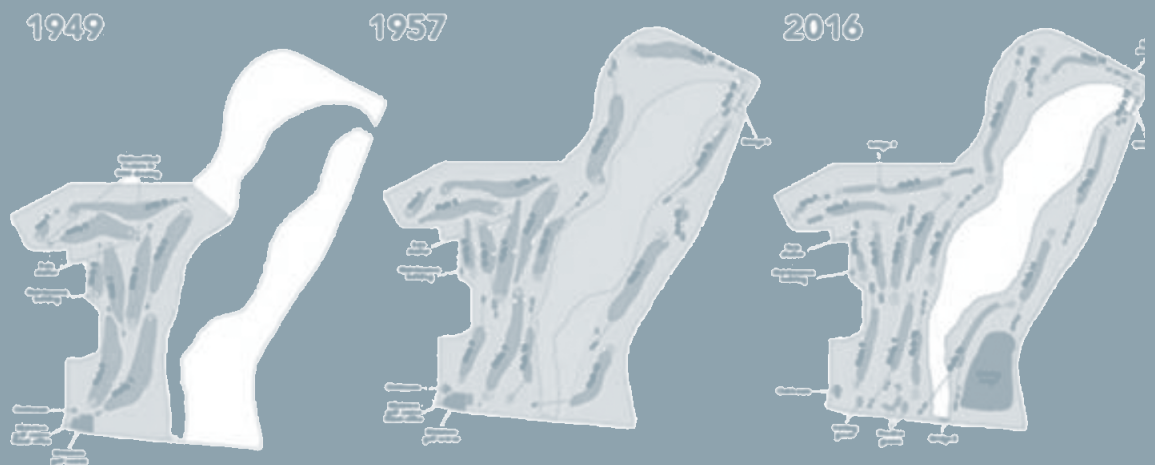
#### CRITERION A

Local: Recreation

National: African American History

The Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape derives local significance under Criterion A, in the areas of Recreation and Ethnic (Black) Heritage, for its role in the rise of golf as a popular recreational and professional sport in the District of Columbia and the establishment of public golf for black residents of the District of Columbia. As a federally-owned landscape, Langston Golf Course offered residents of DC—in particular, black residents—a relatively inexpensive opportunity to pursue a sport for leisure or professional competition. The landscape is locally significant as the second-oldest course in DC to be constructed for African-American golfers (The oldest course available to black golfers, located near the Lincoln Memorial, closed in 1939, when Langston Golf Course opened). The course was initially created under the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital as a deliberate investment in the green infrastructure for Washington, D.C., and it has served as a public amenity since its initial construction in 1935-1939. The selection of its site in Section G of Anacostia Park reflects the overall trend in Washington, DC during the early 20th century of locating recreation facilities for African Americans adjacent to predominately black schools and neighborhoods, reinforcing the de facto segregation of the city. When the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds chose Section G as the site of the golf course in the 1929, the area around Kingman Island and Section G, known as Kingman Park, was one of the only neighborhoods in Washington to offer single-family houses specifically for black families. New city infrastructure projects followed, including schools, public housing, and recreation facilities such as the Langton Golf Course. As the only golf course in DC available to black golfers at

# Chronology + Physical History



## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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the time it opened in the summer of 1939 and the only one sited for its proximity to predominantly-black neighborhoods, Langston Golf Course reinforced the racialized planning that segregated Washington, D.C.'s neighborhoods.

The Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape is also significant under Criterion A in the area of African-American History. The course was constructed specifically for black golfers, and its expansion and improvement in the 1950s was a direct response to continued efforts by the African-American community to gain equitable recreational facilities in the District of Columbia. (Although the course was built for black golfers, it was not legally blacks-only; rather, it was a de facto segregated landscape.) The course's resident golfer clubs, the Royal and Wake Robin golf clubs (men-only and women-only, respectively), were also responsible for challenging the segregation policies of other federally-owned golf courses in Washington, D.C., resulting in the desegregation of East Potomac Park Golf Course and other recreational facilities around the country.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Designed

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Golf Course

**Primary Current Use:** Golf Course

**Current and Historic Names:**

Name	Type of Name
Langston Golf Course	Both Current And Historic

### Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
9500 - 8000 BCE	Inhabited	Paleo-Indian peoples hunt in the Coastal Plain along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
8000 - 2200 BCE	Inhabited	Archaic-Indian peoples hunt, fish, and seasonally camp along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
2200 BCE - CE 1608	Farmed/Harvested	Native Americans, including the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe, cultivate crops and establish villages along the Potomac River.

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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CE 1608	Explored	Captain John Smith is first Englishman to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch
CE 1612	Platted	Captain John Smith publishes General Historie of Virginia, which maps his explorations along the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River).
CE 1632	Colonized	King Charles I conveys the land east of the Anacostia River to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore.
CE 1658	Established	Lord Baltimore establishes the County of Maryland, which includes the land east of the Anacostia River.
CE 1668	Colonized	By 1668, the Native American tribes living along the Eastern Branch were largely driven from the area by English settlers.
CE 1790	Planned	Pierre L'Enfant lays out the new federal city of the District of Columbia, sited between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and includes the land east of the Anacostia as a buffer for military defense purposes.
CE 1791	Land Transfer	President George Washington signs an agreement on March 30, 1791, that establishes the District of Columbia on land from fifteen property owners and two different states (Virginia and Maryland).
CE 1791 - 1889	Eroded	As the District of Columbia develops around the Anacostia River, the waterway remains a tidal (but not saline) flow. As urban development increases, however, runoff and deforestation begin to clog its flow with sediment and waste. Finally, a major flood in 1889 prompts new reclamation projects for the river.
CE 1890 - 1935	Built	In 1890, the United States Congress passes an act mandating the dredging of the Anacostia River, with the dredged material to be stockpiled on the adjacent flats. The Army Corps of Engineers leads the project, which continues into the 1930s. During this time, a portion of the future golf course site serves as a public dump.
CE 1902	Designed	The McMillan Plan calls for the creation of a new water park on the reclaimed land along the Anacostia River. Anacostia Park is established between 1902 and 1919.

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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CE 1920	Moved	The public dump on the Anacostia Flats is relocated to a different area of the future golf course landscape. The presence of this dump contributed to the infestation of the land and worsened the hygienic conditions, making later reclamation and grading efforts difficult.
CE 1934 - 1935	Planned	Washington, DC officials begin planning a nine-hole golf course for African Americans, to be located in Section G of Anacostia Park.
CE 1935 - 1939	Built	The nine-hole Langston Golf Course is designed and constructed. The course officially opens for play on June 11, 1939.
CE 1947	Built	A maintenance building is erected c. 1947 west of Hole no. 8, near the western boundary of the golf course.
CE 1948	Built	A miniature golf course is constructed at Langston Golf Course, replacing a previous circular putting green.
CE 1950	Built	A new teardrop-shaped putting green is inserted c. 1950 immediately east of the miniature golf course. The putting green is later altered to occupy a rectangular footprint.
CE 1950 - 1952	Built	The current clubhouse is constructed on the site on the original temporary clubhouse structure.
CE 1952 - 1955	Built	The Langston Golf Course is enlarged to 18 holes, with completion in 1955. William F. Gordon and David W. Gordon designed the additional holes. The expansion also includes the replacement of the former maintenance building and the installation of a rain shelter by Hole no. 3. This rain shelter was later removed at some point in the 1960s.
CE 1954	Built	A bridge is constructed at the northern mouth of Kingman Lake (between the current Holes 13 and 14) to allow golfers a return from the Kingman Island golf holes to the mainland part of the golf course.
CE 1957	Destroyed	The course's one-story storage building burns to the ground, destroying the structure and the maintenance equipment housed within. The building is replaced with a new maintenance structure.

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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CE 1960	Abandoned	The miniature golf course closed in the early 1960s due to lack of patronage.
CE 1963	Built	The National Park Service erects a fence around Langston Golf Course to prevent unauthorized access.
CE 1964 - 1965	Demolished	The miniature golf course is demolished, leaving a remnant from only one concrete foundation.
CE 1965 - 1968	Graded	A substantial amount of fill (over one million cubic yards) is added to Kingman Island on the east bank of Kingman Lake, alongside Hole nos. 10 and 11, as a way to dispose of incinerator waste.
CE 1974	Established	The Langston City Golf Corporation takes over the contract at Langston Golf Course.
CE 1974 - 1975	Neglected	The golf course deteriorates significantly under the management of the Langston City Golf Corporation, due to funding and management issues.
CE 1975 - 1977	Abandoned	The Langston Golf Course is closed when the Langston City Golf Corporation runs into management problems. The NPS reopened the Front 9 in September 1976 and the Back 9 in April 1977.
CE 1976	Established	The Front 9 of the Langston Golf Course reopens.
CE 1977	Established	The Back 9 holes of the Langston Golf Course reopens.
	Built	A second bridge is constructed on the course. This bridge is at the southern end of Kingman Lake and the Langston Golf Course, parallel to the Benning Road Bridge. It links the mainland portions of the golf course with the driving range and other holes east of Kingman Lake.



Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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CE 1978 - 1981	Altered	Lee Elder wins the concession contract for Langston Golf Course in 1978 and immediately invests \$100,000 in course and clubhouse improvements, including expanding the greens, redesigning the sand traps, and remodeling portions of the clubhouse. He also introduces golf carts to the course and constructs a golf cart shed addition on the clubhouse c. 1978. By 1981, the company invests another \$160,000 in improvements.
CE 1980	Built	A driving range is added to the Langston Golf Course, requiring fill along Kingman Lake and redesign and relocation of several holes in the Back 9.
CE 1981 - 1983	Abandoned	Amid disputes with Lee Elder`s management company, the National Park Service again closes Langston Golf Course to public use. It remains closed until a new concessions contract is awarded to Golf Course Specialists, Inc. in 1983.
CE 1983 - 1987	Established	Golf Course Specialists Inc. takes over the concessions contract at Langston Golf Course and invests in numerous improvements to the course, including the grooming of the roughs, resodding of the greens, clearing of trash from fairways and greens, and installation of small-scale features such as water coolers and portable toilets. GCS continues to operate the course today.
	Established	Golf Course Specialists Inc. takes over the concessions contract at Langston Golf Course and invests in numerous improvements to the course, including the grooming of the roughs, resodding of the greens, clearing of trash from fairways and greens, and installation of small-scale features such as water coolers and portable toilets. GCS continues to operate the course today.
CE 1985	Built	The driving range hut is constructed adjacent to the driving range.
	Built	The driving range hut is constructed adjacent to the driving range.

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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CE 1988 - 1994	Built	At some point between 1988 and 1994 (and possibly in conjunction with the 1991 designation of the site in the National Register of Historic Places), a new sign is embedded in the ground in front of the clubhouse. The sign features a concrete base and bricks that spell out the words "LANGSTON GC."
CE 1999 - 2000	Altered	Heavy rains wash away some fairways and greens on the Back 9. The holes are subsequently repaired and upgraded, and drainage systems were improved. Other alterations include: the redesign and relocation of Holes 10 through 15; the addition of large mounded bunkers throughout the Back 9; the probable reconstruction of Bridge no. 1; the addition of Bridge no. 2; the creation of a parking area for the driving range; the replacement of the maintenance building; and other changes.
	Altered	Heavy rains wash away some fairways and greens on the Back 9. The holes are subsequently repaired and upgraded, and drainage systems were improved. Other alterations include: the redesign and relocation of Holes 10 through 15; the addition of large mounded bunkers throughout the Back 9; the probable reconstruction of Bridge no. 1; the addition of Bridge no. 2; the creation of a parking area for the driving range; the replacement of the maintenance building; and other changes.
CE 2000 - 2003	Built	A putt-and-chip practice area and a four-hole course for novices are added to the course.
CE 2001	Established	The course opens an educational center in the clubhouse for local students.

**Physical History:**

The physical history for this cultural landscape inventory relies extensively on the research and contextual history found in the following Historic Resource Study: Patti Kuhn Babin, *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, D.C. (East Potomac Park, Langston, and Rock Creek Park)* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2017). Additional information on the social context of Langston Golf Course is available in that report.

**PRE-COLONIAL HISTORY AND NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT, 15,000 BCE TO 1607 CE**

Although the area that hosts the Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape did not exist as a permanent landscape until the early 20th century, it is located in a region that has been inhabited by humans since 15,000 BCE. (Berger 2015: 6-8). Though the landscape itself was non-existent until the 1890s, humans had arrived in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont by 11,000 BCE (Louis Berger 2016: 6). The Potomac River, meanwhile, has existed in the same approximate position for two million years. Approximately 33,000 years ago, it began incising the area below Great Falls on the west side of the current District of Columbia boundaries; this down-cutting ended around 8,000 years ago, coinciding with the sudden saline flux into the Chesapeake. The Lower Potomac River subsequently began to turn into a tidal estuary, with seawater mixing with fresh water and tides that affect the water level and currents (Louis Berger 2016: 9).

Beginning in approximately 11,000 BC and extending to c. 9600 BCE, the Paleoindian period was characterized by “small, highly mobile nomadic bands following a hunting and gathering subsistence pattern” (Louis Berger 2016: 11). Later, during the Early Archaic Period from 9600 to 7600 BCE, warming climates and rising sea levels forced native populations to adapt. They developed new technologies for hunting, fishing, and food preparation. Population density remained low. A recent study suggests that the territory of a single band of perhaps 150 to 250 people might have stretched from the Chesapeake Bay to the Blue Ridge, covering as much as half the state of Virginia (Custer 1990; Berger 2016: 13). Native American population growth during the Middle Archaic Period (7600 to 3800 cal BC) led to settlement in previously underutilized areas, and the development of new tools designed for woodworking, seed-grinding, and nut-cracking (Gardner 1987; Berger 2016: 13).

A series of thriving cultures developed throughout eastern North America in the Late Archaic Period (3800 to 2400 BCE). These cultures had higher population densities and were experts in exploiting the changing forest environment. Sometime between 4000 and 3500 BCE, as the climate grew warmer and drier, oak and hickory trees began to replace hemlock and pines in the Middle Atlantic forests. In the mountains, chestnuts multiplied. The appearance of the Halifax culture around present-day Washington, D.C. coincided with the development of oak-hickory and oak-chestnut forests. The Halifax people ranged widely across the landscape, gathering nuts and using readily available quartz to fashion weapons (Berger 2016: 14).

The Terminal Archaic Period (2400 to 1400 BC) is characterized by the establishment of

larger, more permanent settlements along the Coastal Plain. The pattern of sites suggests that people were spending much of the year in riverside base camps, moving less often, and using canoes (Berger 2016: 16). As the size and permanency of tribal populations grew throughout the Early Woodland Period (1400 to 700 BCE), local resource exploitation increased and new social hierarchies emerged. Native Americans began to experiment with ceramic technology, and pottery dating from this period has been recovered in quantity from sites throughout Washington (Berger 2016: 18).

Trade networks expanded out of the Middle Atlantic region during the Middle Woodland Period (700 BCE to CE 1000). Sustained cultural contact with tribes in the Ohio Valley has been demonstrated by massive caches of artifacts found in cremation burials on Maryland's western shore (Berger 2016: 20-22). These developments continued through the Late Woodland Period (CE 1000 to 1607) as Native Americans began to experiment with farming. They cultivated crops such as maize as early as AD 1000. A dramatic increase in the number of sites coincides with the onset of agriculture. Late Woodland sites feature evidence of diverse activities and substantial dwellings, including small permanent hamlets. During this period, ranked societies emerged, which developed into the complex tribes and chiefdoms encountered by the Europeans in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Fortified villages began to appear around AD 1200 to 1300 (Berger 2016: 22).

#### COLONIAL SETTLEMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND GROWTH OF THE FEDERAL CITY, 1607-1889

In the years immediately preceding European settlement, Eastern Algonquin tribes inhabited the area around present-day Washington (and the future Anacostia Flats, where the Langston Golf Course was later constructed). These people lived by combining agriculture with older traditions of hunting, fishing, and gathering. Their agricultural mainstay was corn, grown along with beans and squash, all plants imported originally from Mexico. Most of the tribes were centered on a single community of villages. By 1607, the tribes were coalescing into larger entities led by powerful chiefs, notably Powhatan, who ruled in southeastern Virginia and the Piscataway Tayac, or Emperor, who dominated eastern Maryland (Louis Berger 2016: 24).

English settler John Smith, who explored the entire Chesapeake in 1608, recorded information related to a village near the mouth of the Anacostia River that he called Nacotchtank, or Nacotchtant. Smith referred to the inhabitants as Necosts and estimated the Indians' strength in warriors at 80 men, indicating a total population of 200 to 300 (Louis Berger Group 2007: 24). From their base in the central Nacotchtank village, inhabitants of the area were ideally situated to take advantage of trade routes and various resources found along the rivers. The inner coastal plain of the Potomac River attracted a wide range of species, including herring, shad, salmon, and sturgeon, which sustained local tribes. Subsistence among Algonquin-speaking people also included hunting and foraging and slash-and-burn agriculture. Corn, beans, gourds, pumpkins, and other crops were cultivated. These practices continued before and after European contact (Louis Berger 2016: 24).

In 1612, Captain John Smith included the region on his 1612 map, which became the basis for many later navigational charts of the area's waterways. Smith also mentioned the Potomac

region and its Nacotchtank tribes and villages in his “General Historie of Virginia,” detailing his travels up the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (Burr 1920: 167). The English explorer Henry Fleet, who arrived in the Virginia colony in 1621 and is considered by some historians to be the first colonist to set foot on the land that is now Washington, D.C., observed hundreds of Native Americans in the vicinity “bartering furs and other wares” (Bushong 1990: 20).

Colonial settlement of this area continued into the eighteenth century, and with the resolution of the Revolutionary War in 1783, the new government of the United States resolved to move its capital from Philadelphia to the area around the convergence of the Eastern and Potomac Rivers. When Pierre L’Enfant laid out a design for the new capital city in 1790, the area between the two waterways was ceded by Maryland and included within the boundaries of the District of Columbia.

As the city developed around the Anacostia River, the waterway itself remained a tidal (but not saline) flow throughout the nineteenth century. With increased development, however, and the runoff and deforestation associated with heightened construction, the Anacostia River’s shorelines gradually transformed over the nineteenth century into large areas of marshy wetlands, dense grasses, and accumulated waste (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 147). In 1889, one particularly large flood of the Anacostia River accentuated the need to redress the river’s flow. By the late nineteenth century, the river’s condition was so deteriorated and contaminated that city and federal officials began to discuss the reclamation of the Anacostia River’s shorelines—including the future site of Anacostia Park and Langston Golf Course.

#### RECLAMATION AND INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANACOSTIA PARK, 1889-1929

##### The Anacostia Flats

Given the Anacostia River’s associations with unsightly, unnavigable, and unhygienic conditions, engineers began to seriously discuss the reclamation of the Anacostia’s riverbanks in the late nineteenth century. (Similar plans were undertaken for the Potomac River beginning in the mid nineteenth century.) The reclamation project sought to address not only the clogged and unhygienic condition of the river, but also to tame its erratic—and occasionally destructive—tidal flow. Floods wreaked havoc on the banks, bridges, and settlements along the Anacostia River; one particular flood in 1889 washed out the Benning Road Bridge, which forms the southern border of the Langston Golf Course today (The Washington Post [TWP], June 3, 1889: 2).

At an 1896 meeting of the Eastern Washington Citizens’ Association, a report from the association’s Special Committee tasked with planning the reclamation project summarized the objectives accordingly: “The most imperative demand for the improvement of these flats...is based on their unsanitary effects on the entire city, and particularly on persons living in their immediate vicinity.” According to that report, the vision for the reformed Anacostia River landscape sought to create “less unsanitary conditions, more wharfage, and deepening and widening of a navigable stream.” As the headline on the article proclaimed, these “Eastern Branch improvements would pay for themselves” (TWP, January 8, 1896: 8).

The report noted the potential indirect benefits of the flats’ reclamation, including increase d

development and “an addition of more than 1,000 acres of available public land, now useless, offensive, and deadly” around the reclaimed flats—an outcome borne out by the eventual siting of Anacostia Park and Langston Golf Course in this location (TWP, January 8, 1896: 8). Indeed, the committee recommended that any future congressional approval of the reclamation project should specify that “large portions of the reclaimed area above the railroad bridge shall be public parks” (TWP, January 8, 1896: 8). The “railroad bridge” in question likely referred to the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Bridge over the Anacostia River, approved in 1870; it is located immediately north of what is now the John Phillip Sousa Bridge (Washington, D.C. Chapter, National Railway Historical Society 2014).

In 1898, the United States Congress passed an act mandating the dredging of the Anacostia River, with the dredged material to be stockpiled on the adjacent flats. The stated purposes of the project was for land reclamation, sanitation, navigation, and commerce; plans did not yet explicitly call for the creation of a park (let alone a golf course) on the reclaimed land (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 147).

In its initial designs for the reclamation of the Anacostia’s waterfront, the Army Corps of Engineers focused its efforts on the lower six miles of the river, beginning at its confluence with the Potomac River and extending to the Navy Yard. The section of the river above Benning Road (and the future site of Langston Golf Course) was deferred until a later phase of the project. After the 1901/1902 publication of the McMillan Plan, which served as a master plan for the city’s recreational parkland, the reclamation work began in 1902 with the shoreline around the Navy Yard. The project also included the construction of a sea wall to retain the dredged material (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 147-8). Hydraulic dredging continued in the area until the 1930s.

The McMillan Plan and Public Recreation in Washington, D.C.

In 1902, the efforts to reclaim the Anacostia Flats as public land were bolstered by the publication of the McMillan Plan. Named for Senator James McMillan of Michigan, the McMillan Plan was spearheaded by the United States Senate Park Commission, which was founded in 1900 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the relocation of the national capital from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. (Robinson and Associates 2004: 48). With roots in the City Beautiful Movement, the McMillan Plan sought to realize sections of the city’s original L’Enfant plan that had never been implemented, and to reorient the city with a robust infrastructure of green spaces (National Park Service 2013).

Although the future site of Langston Golf Course was still, as of the publication of the McMillan Plan, a shifting landscape of marshes, wetlands, and waste (and not yet formally included within the scope of the reclamation project), the plan nevertheless highlighted the potential of the Anacostia River’s banks. It even featured a photograph of the very site that eventually accommodated Langston Golf Course; it was presented as a view of the “Anacostia marshes from Benning Bridge, looking north, showing malarial flats to be excavated” (Moore 1902: 104). The photograph confirms that at the beginning of the twentieth century, the landscape was generally devoid of trees, with the exception of the line of trees along the perimeter of the flats in some areas. The limited vegetation elsewhere on the landscape consisted of low-lying shrubs,

grasses, and marshland plants. There were no circulation features on the landscape at this time, and the topography was generally flat, with some small hillsides (Moore 1902: 105).

The McMillan Plan also offers photographic evidence of the physical condition of the (future) Langston Golf Course landscape in the early twentieth century, describing the “present outrageous condition” of the river around Langston’s site as follows:

Within the District of Columbia, the Anacostia is a fresh-water estuary with a normal tide of about 3 feet, which alternately covers and exposes to the sun a great area of reeking mud flats upon which the aquatic plants constantly entangle additional deposits of mud, slime, and putrifying organic matter. Those parts of the bottom not exposed at low water are for the most part shallow and support a vegetable growth that prevents a rapid and cleansing movement of the tide, while above ordinary high-water level there are broad marshes and meadows which are flooded at varying intervals, whenever the water of the Potomac is raised by flood or contrary winds above its normal level, and which retain after each flooding innumerable stagnant pools. No conditions could be more favorable to the development of malaria. (Moore 1902: 105)

Although the McMillan Plan noted that “the pressing sanitary problem is simply to do away with the low, amphibious areas which are alternately flooded and exposed, and to convert them either into deep water or into dry land,” it did reiterate that the reclamation efforts could result in a complementary public benefit: additional parkland. Thus, engineering plans that addressed the river’s silt buildup and flow could also provide reclaimed land and associated inland lakes for recreational use (Moore 1902: 105).

At the time of the McMillan Plan’s publication, the area of the Anacostia Flats located north of Benning Road—where Langston Golf Course was later placed—still represented a future phase of reclamation with an undetermined timeframe. Thus, the McMillan Plan did not undertake specific appropriations estimates and it did not lay out more specific design plans. Nevertheless, the plan represented one of the highest-profile appeals to-date for the reclamation of the Anacostia River flats, and those calls found further traction in the following decades (Moore 1902: 105).

#### Ongoing Reclamation and the Establishment of Anacostia Park

In 1902, the same year that the McMillan Plan was published, Representative Mudd of Maryland introduced a bill in the House, authorizing District Commissioners to expend up to \$1,800,000 to dredge the Anacostia River above the Pennsylvania Avenue bridge—a section that represented the slow northward progression of the reclamation project’s scope (TWP, March 12, 1902: 4). It does not appear that the bill was ultimately voted on or approved, but the bill marks the incremental expansion of the Anacostia Flats in the early twentieth century. That same year, Lieutenant Colonel Charles J. Allen, of the Army Corps of Engineers, announced that the Army Corps had begun to survey the entire span of the Anacostia River within the District of Columbia, from the confluence with the Potomac River at the southern end to the District line at the northern end (with the Benning Road Bridge as the rough midpoint of the survey) (TWP, August 20, 1902: 3). In 1905, citizens’ associations and business organizations

from the neighborhoods along the northern Anacostia River (within the District of Columbia) began to advocate for the dredging work to extend further upriver (TWP, November 16, 1905: S7).

Based on the numerous surveys, plans, and appropriations bills drawn up in the first two decades of the twentieth century, District of Columbia commissioners intended to “make a public park along the Anacostia flats, which, in future years, will become one of the most beautiful pleasure grounds of the Capitol” (TWP, November 16, 1905: S7). In order to realize that vision, engineers by this time were discussing the possibility of creating one or more artificial lakes along the riverbanks; Kingman Lake eventually became one such creation (TWP, November 5, 1905: 12). Yet in 1909, the landscape of the northern Anacostia Flats remained a “dreary and pestilential” marshland, despite a decade’s worth of surveys and discussion of the project (TWP, October 13, 1909: 6).

By 1914, the reclamation project’s objective officially shifted from a commercial interest in marketable riverfront land to a renewed recreational interest in the Anacostia Flats as a public park. This vision that dated back to both the recommendations of the Eastern Washington Citizens’ Association’s Special Committee in the 1890s and the McMillan Plan of 1902, and reflected years of lobbying by local residents who advocated for the reclaimed land to serve a public purpose, rather than as additional private property or commercial wharves. Thus, in 1914, the District of Columbia pushed through legal title settlements with property owners along the Anacostia Flats, allowing dredging engineers to accelerate their northward progression above the Navy Yard (TWP, May 24, 1914: R3). The McMillan Plan’s initial discussion of the Anacostia Water Park was echoed by the Commission of Fine Arts’ 1914 annual report, which included mention of a future “Anacostia Water Park,” spanning 1,100 acres. In 1918, Anacostia Park was officially established, spanning the east and west banks of the Anacostia River from the Navy Yard to the District Line (TWP, February 24, 1910: 4; Gutheim and Lee 2006: 148).

By 1920, the reclamation of the Anacostia flats around the “water park” was approximately half-complete. Maj. Gen. Lansing H. Beach, of the Army Corps of Engineers announced that the project would include an artificial lake (TWP, August 18, 1920: 3). Plans for the lake followed several different configurations, but by 1926, work on Kingman Lake was underway at the heart of the future golf course landscape (TWP, August 28, 1926: 22).

That same year, a city dump at Benning Road and Cool Spring Road (now Oklahoma Avenue) was relocated to a different location within the current cultural landscape boundaries (TWP, July 30, 1920: 1). The relocation of the dump was seen as a preliminary step toward converting the reclaimed Anacostia flats to parkland, since it freed the former dumping grounds downstream for reclamation. Moreover, some material that was hauled to the dump—including ashes and dirt—helped to build up the marshland around Benning Road (TWP, July 30, 1920: 1). Later accounts make clear, however, that the presence of the dump at 26th Street and Benning Road contributed to the infestation of the land and worsened the hygienic conditions, making later reclamation and grading efforts difficult (United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations 1933: 513, 520).

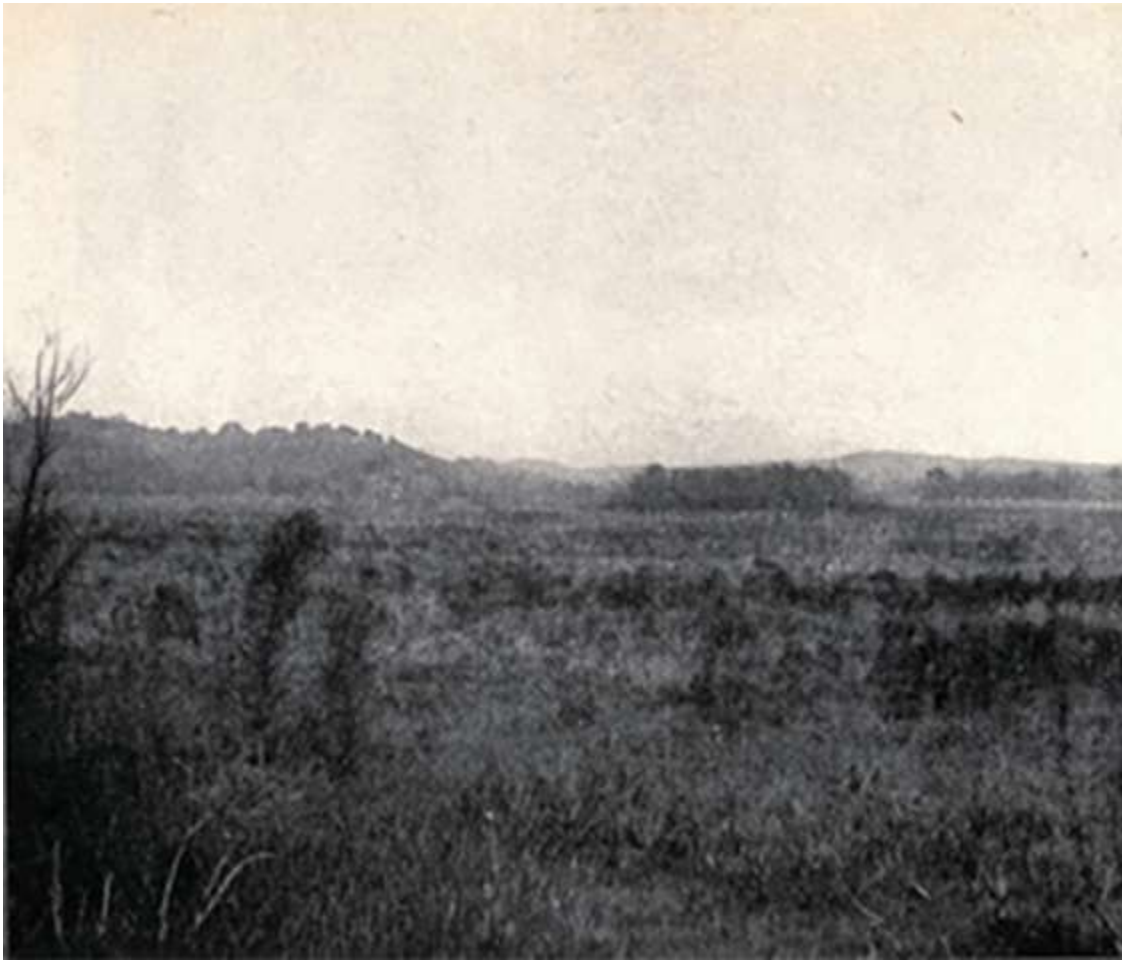


## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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With a new appropriation of funds in 1927, engineers began work on the lake, a navigation channel, fill, and clearance of an opening under Benning Bridge, as well as trenching, banking, and sea wall foundation work elsewhere in what was now referred to as Section G of Anacostia Park. It is unclear whether a sea wall was also constructed on the portion of Kingman Lake that falls within the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape; further research is necessary to determine the extent and integrity of any historic sea wall fabric. The project also included the construction of a culvert under Benning Road (TWP, December 6, 1927: 13). Ultimately, the Army Corps of Engineers created the six-foot-deep Kingman Lake upper basin along the western bank of the river, above the Benning Road Bridge. Along the east side of the lake was Kingman Island, which also extended below Benning Bridge. A channel along the eastern shore of the Anacostia River directed the flow of silt from upriver (Gutheim and Lee 2006: 148). By 1929, a concrete culvert connected the portions of Kingman Lake located north and south of the Benning Road Bridge (and known as the upper and lower basins), completing the first phase of the reclamation project (TWP, January 27, 1929: M19). Dredging of the river continued into the 1930s.



*The pre-reclamation Anacostia Flats as of the 1902 publication of the McMillan Plan.  
(Image from: Charles Moore, ed., *The Improvement of the Park System of the District of  
Columbia* [Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1902]: 105)*

#### PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANGSTON GOLF COURSE, 1929-1939

##### Site Selection and Racial Segregation in Anacostia Park

The reclamation efforts for Anacostia Park coincided with the rise in popularity of public recreation—and golf in particular—in Washington, D.C.. By the late 1920s, it was well known that the construction of the approaches to the new Memorial Bridge across the Potomac River would require the closure of the Lincoln Memorial golf course, the only course in the District of Columbia where African Americans could play. The Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital (successor of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds) responded by creating a special committee to study possible locations for a new course. Members of the committee included Irving Payne, landscape architect for the office, and Conrad L. Wirth, landscape architect for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Board to Report on Colored Golf Course 1929).

Other sites were considered and ultimately rejected for various reasons: one location along the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway in the vicinity around N and P streets (where a number of black residents lived) was rejected as too expensive; Section C of Anacostia Park, located between what is now the Frederick Douglass Bridge and the 11th Street Bridge, was too constricted for future expansion. (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1929; Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital 1929). It also felt that Section C was not near “any considerable center of colored population” and that it would not meet the approval of the Black community (Board to Report on Colored Golf Course 1929).

Thus, the favored location for the new course and recommended by the committee was the newly-reclaimed area of Anacostia Park north of Benning Road, known as Section G, which had not yet been turned over to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations 1933: 513, 520). Lt. Col. U.S. Grant, III, director of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, was reportedly anxious to “have a golf course as near the center of colored population as possible so that they may have as many golfing facilities as are given other golfers” (The Washington Evening Star [TWES], June 20, 1929: 17; TWES, March 20, 1930: B1). Section G of Anacostia Park fit this requirement; the committee considered the site to be well-suited for the course because it was near a section where a large number of African Americans lived, “namely, the area in the vicinity of Howard University, and from Florida Avenue, to the northeast corner of the District” (Board to Report on Colored Golf Course 1929).

For these reasons, Section G was ultimately chosen for the new golf course. This was despite the fact that, at the time of its selection, Section G of Anacostia Park remained a contaminated site. It was described as a former “mosquito infested” dump where “tin cans and battered automobile bodies vied with black mud and tangled marsh growth to create a public eye sore near Benning Road and Kingman Lake” (TWP, February 13, 1938: 4; The Evening Star [TES], February 13, 1938: B1). The reclamation of Section G was an extensive project, therefore, and the proposed course would not be able to be built until the completion of the larger reclamation project by the Army Corps of Engineers—an effort that was projected to take another ten to fifteen years to finish (Board to Report on Colored Golf Course 1929; Wirth 1922).

The selection of Section G as the site of the new golf course reflects the overall trend of segregation in Washington, D.C. to locate racially segregated schools, playgrounds, and other public facilities in neighborhoods that were predominately black. Charles Sager, a Washington, DC real estate developer, began building brick row houses on the vacant land around Kingman Island and Section G of Anacostia Park in 1927. When whites were not interested in buying the houses, Sager sold them to the city’s increasing African American residents, who struggled to find houses and were often confined to substandard, overcrowded housing because of restrictive deed covenants that prevented them from buying houses in certain neighborhoods (Knight 1988: E1; Prologue DC and Kraft 2015). Thus, the neighborhood, known as Kingman Park, became the first in Washington to offer single-family houses specifically for black families (Duggan 1991: D1). The expansion of the neighborhood prompted the construction of three new schools for black children: the Hugh M. Brown Junior High School (1930-1931), the

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Charles Young Elementary School (1931-1932), and the Seth L. Phelps Vocational School (1935), all located adjacent to Kingman Park and the proposed golf course in Anacostia Park (TWP, February 15, 1931: R1). This area was also designated in the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission's Recreation System Plan as a proposed "colored" neighborhood recreation center.

Also overlapping with the planning and construction of the new golf course was the construction of a new public housing complex, Langston Terrace Dwellings, located directly west of Section G. Erected between 1935 and 1938 under the Public Works Administration (PWA), which was headed by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, the Langston Terrace Dwellings complex was built predominately by African Americans for African American families. The new modern housing complex opened in the spring of 1938 and was named after John Mercer Langston, the first black man to represent Virginia in the United States House of Representatives and the founder of the Howard University School of Law (Quinn 2007: 124).

As the closure of the Lincoln Memorial course became imminent and conditions worsened, the city's African American golfers wrote letters to and met with the Office of Public Buildings and Parks, deploring the condition of the course and petitioning for the construction of a new permanent course that met the same standards as the courses for white players. On August 17, 1929, 120 African Americans signed a petition to protest the unequal and squalid conditions of the Lincoln Memorial course and to request that a new course be built in East Potomac Park, Rock Creek Park, or Anacostia Park ("Petition to Col. Grant, August 17, 1929").

Advocates included members of the Washington, D.C.'s black golfing associations, including the men's Capital City Golf Club (established in 1925 as the Citizens Golf Club, an offshoot of the Riverside Golf Club that was established in 1924 and the first black golf club in the city). The Citizens Golf Club became the Capital City Golf Club in 1927, before ultimately changing its name to the Royal Golf Club in 1933. (For more information on the club, see Chapter 1.2 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, D.C.*)

#### Planning for Langston Golf Course

Preliminary plans for the grading of the site concentrated the course (comprising nine holes) on the west bank of Kingman Lake. The holes would be distributed along the mostly-flat land on the eastern portion of the site, with some holes ascending the slopes in the northwest corner of the site (Hausmann 1932). This topography is consistent with the current condition of the cultural landscape.

In 1933, the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was abolished, and the newly-reorganized National Park Service took over the management of all of the federal reservations and parks in the District of Columbia. Meanwhile, the members of the Royal Golf Club continued to meet with C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of National Capital Parks, and others, to promote the construction of a new course. In 1934, Finnan attempted to solve the lack of Congressional funding for the golf course by taking advantage of New Deal labor. Finnan hoped to acquire laborers from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Transient Relief Bureau and “turn them loose in Anacostia Park” to develop the first nine holes of the golf course in Section G (Finnan 1934b). Due to lack of transportation and suitable housing, the help of the bureau did not materialize (Finnan 1934a).

In September 1935, C. Marshall Finnan sent a letter to Director Cammerer, with a justification for the Langston Golf Course, which National Capital Parks was proposing for a public works project. Finnan stated,

We believe that this project has unusual merit and there are several reasons why construction should be started immediately. As you know, golf facilities for the colored in the District of Columbia are woefully inadequate, the only course available being a small nine hole makeshift affair in West Potomac Park. Not long ago Mrs. Roosevelt wrote to you asking if improvements for colored recreation could not be made in the Washington parks. This golf course would be the most important recreational contribution that could be to the colored residents of the District of Columbia (Finnan 1935b).

Future plans for the area adjacent to the golf course included a recreation center with a swimming pool and bathhouse, tennis courts, and a stadium, all to be located on public school property adjoining the tract (TWP, February 13, 1938: 4).

#### Design and Construction of Langston Golf Course’s Front Nine Holes

In October 1935, National Capital Parks submitted the golf course project to the Works Progress Administration (WPA), stating that it was “considered a most desirable project and adaptable to the use of emergency relief labor” (Finnan 1935a). At an estimated cost of \$150,000, it was the largest of six new WPA projects approved for the District (TWES, November 14, 1935: B6). By June 1937, five holes had been built (Finnan 1937). In September 1937, the reclamation efforts in Section G of Anacostia Park were finally complete and 86 acres of land were transferred to the Department of the Interior (“Langston Golf Course History,” n.d.). By February 1938, the “36-acre tract of waste land” for the golf course was nearing completion by WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers. The project reportedly required 65,000 yards of dirt to cover the public dump and 38,000 yards of topsoil (TWP, February 13, 1938: 4; TES, February 13, 1938: B1; Davidson and Jacobs 2004: 86). Relief workers also installed 3,360 linear feet of drain pipes and built 1,000 feet of concrete walks and a large parking area (Davidson and Jacobs 2004: 105).

By the time the course opened in 1939, it included nine holes, all placed on the west side of Kingman Lake. The parkland-style course accentuated the natural setting of the land around the lake, juxtaposing the generally flat fairways with the rising slopes of the course at the northwest corner of the site. Hazards generally consisted of greenside sand traps, rather than substantial mounded bunkers. In addition to the establishment of the fairways, greens, and tees, the construction of the course included planting several hundred trees along the fairways. This vegetation pattern was characteristic of parkland-style courses, in contrast with the sandy and bare (and typically coastal) landscape of links-style courses.

The southeast corner represented the lowest grade of the course, and the highest point was

located in the northwest corner of the course, where Hole 4 was arranged on the slope of a hill. Significant vistas from the original nine holes included general views toward Kingman Lake, and the spatial organization was oriented around the progression of play, which began in the southwest corner of the course and continued east and northeast along the eastern edge of the site, charting a counterclockwise route along the bank of the upper basin of Kingman Lake (or “Lake Kingman,” on some maps). Buildings and structures on the course at this time included the nine holes and associated sand traps and hazards, as well as a temporary clubhouse (erected c. 1938). It is unclear whether the course included any rain shelters, but 1944 drawings for new rain shelters at Langston suggest that there were none when the course was initially built (Haussmann 1944). Circulation features were minimal and generally informal, with the exception of the entrance driveways and the parking area for automobiles, located along the “school roadway” on the western edge of the course. Initial plans for the course did not include any other formal circulation features such as social trails or prescribed paths between holes (McGovern 1942). Further research is necessary to identify any small-scale features extant on the course during this period.

While other golf courses in the city—including the public courses at East Potomac Park and Rock Creek Park—were designed by renowned golf course architects, the designers of the Langston Golf Course did not receive as much attention. In fact, little is known about the architects of the first nine holes of the course, although several professionals are mentioned in various records from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Park Service. Minutes from a January meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and subsequent letters indicate that the Office of Buildings and Public Parks began consulting with landscape architect and city planner Earle Sumner Draper on the design and layout of the course in 1933 (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1933; Draper 1933). It is unknown how much of the later implemented design can be attributed to Draper. However, in February 1933, he wrote to Col. Grant, Director of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, regarding the location of the clubhouse and the general layout of the course. Draper also indicated that he was consulting with the office’s landscape architect, Irving Payne, and that he would be in Washington, D.C. in late February, “in the field checking over the work” (Draper 1933).

Six years later, when the National Capital Parks issued a press release announcing the opening of the Langston Golf Course in 1939, it noted that W. (Willard) W. McCollum (1901-1993), landscape engineer and architect, designed the course for National Capital Parks and that Irving W. Payne, who then worked as a landscape architect for National Capital Parks, was the greens designer (“Press Release, June 6, 1939”). For more information on the careers of Earle Draper, Willard McCollum, and Irving Payne, see Chapter 1.2 of *Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, D.C.*



*Langston Golf Course, 1949 condition. This map, adapted from plans of the course's first nine holes, indicates the design of the course as of 1949. For a larger view of this map, see Appendix A. (Map by Fichman and Lester, 2017, from data sources: "Golf C 1954)*

#### IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION, 1940-1955

##### Opening of the Course

The Evening Star reported that “for years the only course open to colored [people] has been a dinky little layout near the Lincoln Memorial,” and the new course would provide African Americans “with golf facilities equal to the best” (TWES, December 19, 1938: A18). In December 1938, the NPS awarded Severine G. Leoffler the contract to manage the new golf course (TWES, December 31, 1938: A11). After more than 10 years of lobbying effort from the city’s African American golfing community, the new golf course formally opened on June 11, 1939. When the course opened, it took the same name as the adjacent housing complex and was known as the Langston Golf Course.

At the dedication ceremony, the “course was doused with verbal champagne by an imposing array of speakers,” including Frank T. Gartside, assistant superintendent of National Capital Parks, Garnet C. Wilkinson, Superintendent of Schools, and Mrs. Jerenia Reid, treasurer of the Wake Robin Golf Club, which was founded in 1937 exclusively for African-American women. The Wake Robin Golf Club was primarily comprised of wives of Royal Golf Club members. Both the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club were active proponents and users of Langston Golf Course. (For more information on the club, see Chapter 1.2 of Links to the Past: A Historic Resource Study of National Park Service Golf Courses in Washington, D.C.) After the ceremony, an exhibition match was played by District amateur champion and former runner-up for the national championship Beltran Barker, John Thompson, Clyde Martin, and William Jones (Baltimore Afro-American [BAA], June 17, 1939: 21).

One year after its completion, the Langston Golf Course was the site of the Eastern Golf Association amateur championship in July 1940, attracting former boxing heavyweight champion Joe Louis, who had taken up the sport of golf in 1935. Around 2,000 spectators reportedly followed Louis around the course, many of whom “did not know where the course was located until news leaked out that Louis was in the tournament” (Gant 1940: 23). Joe Louis returned to play at the Langston Golf Course several times, including after he beat Buddy Baer at Washington, D.C.’s Griffith Stadium during the 17th defense of his heavyweight championship on May 23, 1941 (BAA, May 31, 1941: 20).

While the Langston Golf Course was an improvement over the sand green course on the Lincoln Memorial grounds, it still suffered from poor conditions, even shortly after its construction. A 1940 memo to the Chief of the National Capital Parks’ Park Operators Division



## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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described the conditions at Langston:

This course has the makings of a fine golf links but is in wretched condition. A great many fairways and green have no grass and are hard as stone. Drainage is very bad on many of the holes. Some of the greens are lower than the fairways which become flooded during and after a heavy rain. (“Memorandum for Mr. Gable” 1940)

In January 1940, members of the Royal and Wake Robin golf clubs met with concessionaire Severine Leoffler and the office of National Capital Parks to discuss the deficiencies at the Langston Golf Course. The group “unanimously agreed” that the course needed to be expanded to eighteen holes, particularly because the United Golf Association (UGA) and the Eastern Golf Association were not able to hold tournaments at the course because it was only nine holes. The course also lacked a driving range and practice putting green, making it difficult for the golf professional to provide proper instruction to players. Many golfers were forced to “go out of town to play after tiring of the long delay in starting and the unreasonable tie-ups on the tees” (Fisher 1949). While National Capital Parks concurred with this assessment and stated that they would be able to add a putting green during the upcoming season, funding was not available for the other improvements. Moreover, the urgent need of play facilities for the city’s children directed all available CCC and other labor to build recreation centers and playgrounds that year (Rogers 1940).

The conditions of the course led many of the course regulars, in particular members of the Royal Golf Club and Wake Robin Golf Club to play elsewhere and to challenge the segregation of the public golf courses in the District of Columbia. In 1941, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes wrote of Langston “[W]e have maintained a golf course for Negroes in Washington [Langston], but the cold fact is that we have not kept it up and it is not surprising that Negroes do not care to play on it” (Kirsch 1955: 563). During a House subcommittee hearing on the District’s recreation facilities in June 1941, Congress challenged Superintendent of National Capital Parks Irving C. Root’s statement that the Langston Course was in good condition based on the number of players who used the course.

Letters and memos suggest that National Capital Parks attempted to make improvements to and enlarge the course in the early 1940s. One such attempt was made in July 1941, when Acting Director of the National Park Service Arthur E. Demaray wrote to Conrad Wirth, landscape architect and assistance director of Land Planning for the National Park Service, requesting a meeting with J.B. McGovern, a design associate for the famed golf course architect Donald Ross. His letter stated:

In connection with the golf course being constructed in Fort Dupont Park...and the Negro golf course at Langston, it appears that we have not had very competent technical assistance. I understand that Mr. [J.B.] McGovern, a CCC employee who works out of the Harrisburg district, has had a wide experience in designing and constructing golf courses before he came to the CCC (Demaray 1941).

Demaray asked Wirth to arrange for McGovern to come to Washington “to go over our golf

course problems” with National Capital Parks superintendent Irving C. Root (Demaray 1941).

While it is unclear if McGovern’s expertise was used to improve the general design and conditions of the Langston Golf Course, existing drawings from 1942 and 1943 indicate that McGovern aided in a plan to reroute and expand the existing Langston Golf Course due to the proposed construction of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (McGovern 1942; McGovern 1943). Initial plans for the parkway included a connection to the Anacostia Freeway that would have bifurcated the original nine-hole course on the west side of Kingman Lake. McGovern’s design included filling a portion of the lake, rerouting several holes, and adding new holes on the east side of the lake (McGovern 1942). The connection between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and the Anacostia Freeway was never built, and McGovern’s plan was not executed.

With pressure mounting from African American golfers, and in the midst of the proposed Baltimore-Washington Parkway project, Superintendent Root asked Severine Leoffler in January of 1944 to study the possibility of expanding the course to eighteen holes. In particular, Root told Leoffler to seek the services of William S. Flynn, who had been retained to rehabilitate the District’s public golf courses (including the course at East Potomac Park) (Root 1944b).

In the interim, Root wrote to Helen Harris of the Wake Robin Golf Club in March 1944 to inform her of improvements underway at the Langston Golf Course. The plans included: general course cleanup; renovation of the fairways, greens, and tees; the installation of facilities for proper drainage; and general improvement of all the facilities as funding would permit. Root also noted that the contract for the operation of the course also provided for the rebuilding of two greens and provisions for ball washers and benches at the tees, and other improvements (Root 1944).

Following the success of the miniature golf course at East Potomac Park (which had been in operation for over a decade by the late 1940s), Severine Leoffler built a miniature golf course at Langston Golf Course in 1948. The Langston course and a second one at Anacostia Golf Course reportedly cost a total of \$25,000 to build. Further research is required to confirm the designer. (Leoffler also planned to open miniature golf courses at the Fort Dupont and Rock Creek courses, but they were never built.) (TWES, May 14, 1948: A7; BAA, June 3, 1950: 7) Langston’s eighteen-hole miniature golf course and ticket office were located at the southwest corner of the site, at the corner of 26th Street and Benning Road. It may have replaced a putting green that was included on 1944 plans of the site, although it is unclear whether that putting green was actually built as planned (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949).

In the years before the course was expanded to eighteen holes, the overall topography, views and vistas, spatial organization, and vegetation remained relatively consistent with the initial construction of the course in 1939. Buildings and structures on the course now included the front nine and associated hazards, the miniature golf course and its ticket office, a putting or practice green (adjacent to the miniature golf course), a maintenance building constructed c. 1947 (along the western edge of the site), and a rain shelter by the Green 5/Tee 6 (United

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949; “Utility Building, Parking Area, Langston Golf Course” 1947; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951). Circulation features remained minimal and generally informal and/or irregular. The few formal driveways and paths were concentrated in the southwest corner of the landscape, around the clubhouse, miniature golf course, and parking area. Other circulation features include fragments of informal social trails between and around holes; these paths were not continuous or paved. Extant small-scale features included segments of fencing around the perimeter of the landscape; there was no continuous boundary at this time.

#### Improvement and Expansion of the Course

Between 1950 and 1952, the current clubhouse was constructed on the site of the original temporary clubhouse structure (The Washington Sunday Star [TWSS], January 6, 1952: B4). In January 1952, the National Park Service announced that the Langston Golf Course would be expanded from nine to eighteen holes. The announcement was linked to the renewal of the concessionaire’s contract for another eight years (beginning in December 1955); with that extension, Leoffler was responsible for the management of Langston Golf Course through December 1963—the longest contract ever granted to Leoffler. As a condition of the agreement, Leoffler agreed to enlarge Langston’s course to eighteen holes, at a cost of around \$125,000 (TES, June 23, 1954: C1).

Leoffler and National Capital Parks hired William F. Gordon and David W. Gordon to design the additional nine holes. At that time, Gordon was involved in the plans to revamp all five of the National Capital Parks’ courses. In May 1952, *Golfdom Magazine* reported on Gordon’s involvement in the expansion of the Langston course, stating that the expansion project would make “it probably the finest course for Negroes in the world (Graffis 1952: 22). The additional nine holes at Langston were ultimately built between 1954 and 1955 at a cost of \$117,000, financed by Leoffler (Slay 1970: B5).

As part of the course’s expansion, the topography of Kingman Island’s northern section was likely altered with some fill and grading, in order to locate holes in that area. The general views to the lake were bolstered by the removal of several trees along the western shoreline of the river; views from the new back nine were generally toward the Anacostia River, east of the course. The expanded course supplemented the original spatial organization of the course, inserting holes east of Kingman Lake and on Kingman Island for the first time and adding a second counterclockwise loop to the course’s layout and progression of play. Vegetation was relatively consistent on the front nine, as the trees planted during the course’s original construction continued to mature along the fairways; the addition of the back nine required the large stand of trees north of Kingman Lake to be clearcut. Buildings and structures extant on the course by 1955 included: 18 parkland-style holes and associated sand traps; a new maintenance building (replacing the former building, in the same location); a rain shelter by Hole 3; the miniature golf course; and a small wooden pedestrian bridge spanning the northern mouth of Kingman Lake. As with the original layout of the course, circulation features comprised a combination of formal walkways and driveways (concentrated on the west side of the site, by the clubhouse and maintenance building) and segments of informal trails and paths throughout, connecting some of the holes. With the exception of fencing, which is visible in aerial

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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photography from this period, limited information is available about the small-scale features on the site during this period; additional research is necessary.



*Langston Golf Course, 1957 condition. This map, adapted from plans of the course's expansion to eighteen holes, indicates the design of the course by the end of the period of significance (1935-1955). For a larger view of this map, see Appendix A. (Map by Fichman and Lester, 2017, from data source: Gordon and Gordon 1954).*



*Langston Golf Course, 1951 (top) and 1957 (bottom). Aerial images of Langston Golf Course, taken just before and after its expansion to eighteen holes in 1955. The expanded course utilized Kingman Island and the land north of Kingman Lake for the first time. (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951, 1957)*

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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#### THREATS, NEW MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, 1961-1983

Several projects threatened the existence of the Langston Golf Course in the latter decades of the twentieth century. In 1961, a new “District of Columbia Stadium” (now Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium) was constructed south of the golf course along East Capital Street NE. Several parking areas were built on its north side between the stadium and the golf course.

In 1964, the National Park Service promised to preserve Langston after rumors spread that the course might be in jeopardy because of the planned eastern leg of the proposed 17.6-mile inner loop highway that would circulate within the center of Washington, D.C.. National Capital Parks Assistant Regional Director Raymond Freeman said that, while the new roadway might be built through the course, “a full blown golf course architect [would be] hired to rearrange Langston’s eighteen holes so that the golfers would not lose a day” (Roberts 1964: D6). Only the first two of the original five segments of the highway were built—the Southwest and Southeast legs, known today as the Southwest/Southeast Freeway—and Langston was spared (Ammon 2004: 111-12).

However, in 1969, the course faced a new threat. That year, the city government attempted to convince the federal government to turn over the Langston Golf Course property, together with other sites including the National Arboretum, to be redeveloped as large tracts of low-rent housing. The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee, Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin, observed that the federal tracts were “not being used for anything nearly so important as housing for the District” (Asher 1969: B1). Once again, the project fell through.

Despite (or perhaps because of) these threats to the future of Langston, the course saw some alterations in the 1960s. Between 1965 and 1968, a substantial amount of fill was added to Kingman Island on the east bank of Kingman Lake, alongside Holes 10 and 11, as a way to dispose of incinerator waste (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968; TWP, May 3, 1965: A3). The cultural landscape’s views and vistas remained consistent, and no major modifications were made to the course’s spatial organization. (Despite the presence of the new fill, the design and layout of the holes east of the lake were not altered until the 1980s [United States Geological Survey (NETR Online) 1964; United States Geological Survey (NETR Online) 1968]). There were no major changes to the overall vegetation pattern, and the overall design of Langston’s eighteen holes did not change during this time; both the front nine and the back nine remained consistent with the period of significance (1935-1955). There were some alterations to the front nine’s hazards, however, including the removal and relocation of several sand traps (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1963; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968). Leoffler closed the miniature golf course at Langston in the early 1960s due to lack of patronage (Jett 1963). It deteriorated over the next

few years and was demolished between 1964 and 1965, and its footprint was left vacant (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968; Heine 1965). The rain shelter by Hole 5 also appears to have been removed at some point in the 1960s; no other rain shelters are evident in aerial photographs during this time (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968). The only alteration to the circulation pattern during this time was the removal of some of the sidewalks around the former miniature golf course area, and the loss of some informal social trails. New small-scale features constructed during this period included a six-foot high chain-link fence bordering the golf course along Benning Road, which was constructed to keep local schoolchildren out of the course (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951; TWP, October 21, 1963: A3).

#### Changes in Management

Numerous management issues surrounded the Langston Golf Course, and several successive concessionaires found it difficult to operate the course on a profit. After being threatened by various redevelopment schemes in the 1960s, Langston had once again fallen into poor condition by 1970 (Ammon 2004: 111-12; Asher 1969: B1). Evening Star columnist Dick Slay said, “What really gets you about Langston Golf Course is the fairways. If it weren’t for dandelions and chickweed, you’d be playing the ball of bare dirt in most places.” One visiting golf pro said, “It’s a joke. And it’s too bad, too, because if they’d spend one nickel on maintenance, this could be a helluva golf course. You can see they have the soil here” (Slay 1970: B5).

After 35 years of management, Leoffler released control of Langston’s concessionaire contract in July of 1974. (His company continued to manage the East Potomac and Rock Creek courses.) In response, seven investors formed the Langston City Golf Corporation and took over the contract in 1974 (Addie 1975: H1). After only a year of managing the course, the Langston City Golf Corporation also ran into management problems, “lost a considerable amount of money,” and shuttered the course in 1975. As operations and maintenance ceased for a year, the course saw no new construction that would alter the significant features of the original course. However, the closure did exacerbate the deterioration of Langston in the 1970s (Huff 1976: C4).

#### Lee Elder and Alterations to the Golf Course

By the early 1970s, the beleaguered Langston course caught the attention of PGA golfer Lee Elder, who was the first black golfer to play in the prestigious Masters Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in 1975. Elder was interested in an extensive rebuilding program for Langston and wanted to make it a first-class base for his Lee Elder Celebrity Tournament and the location for his golf camps for inner-city children (Addie 1975: H1). While attempting to take over the management of Langston, Elder and his wife Rose invested \$3,000 of their own money for a survey by local golf architect Edmund “Eddie” Ault and two other well-known designers, Robert Von Hagge and Bruce Delvin, to provide ideas on how to improve the course.

While Elder and Leoffler negotiated a settlement for the management of Langston, the National

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Park Service reopened the front nine of Langston's course in September of 1976 and the back nine in April 1977 (McCoubrey 1977: D10). Eight years after his first negotiations to take over the course, Elder finally received the contract as concessionaire of the Langston Golf Course in 1978. By that point, he had already invested \$10,000 into the project and estimated that it would take around \$250,000 over a four-year period to fully improve the course. Elder had big plans for the course and said at that time, "Give me a year. Come back next year at this time and judge me. Someday I hope to have this baby...in good shape, a first-class public golf course." He wanted to experiment with different grasses, add a sprinkler system, and remodel the clubhouse "so the players can have a nice breakfast and lunch and also relax" (TWP, August 25, 1978: E1).

Elder immediately set upon upgrading the course and by the spring of 1979, numerous improvements had already been made. A reporter from the Evening Star noted that he was "still amazed at the drastic changes taking place in both the physical condition and the country club atmosphere of the many golfers moving around." Mrs. Elder said that "What improvements you see here are just beginning and with the wonderful cooperation I am getting from the many golfers and friends I feel sure that by mid-summer everyone, players, as well as visitors, can be proud my husband gave something back to golf that less fortunate golfers could only dream about." The Elders hired Joseph Cole, former director of the D.C. Department of Recreation, to serve as the director at Langston, and the pro-shop was managed by Washington golf professional Al Green (Covington 1979: 10).

Under the years of management by Lee and Rose Elder, the primary alterations to the cultural landscape were concentrated on spatial organization and buildings and structures, both as a result of the addition of a driving range to the course. However, the counterclockwise progression around the lake, beginning on the back nine with Hole 10, remained consistent with the original construction of the expanded course (Edmund B. Ault Ltd. 1973; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1977; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980). Elder's tenure included the resodding of the course; the vegetation pattern otherwise remained intact (The Evening Star, April 9, 1979: 36). Alterations to the course's buildings and structures included the addition of the driving range (constructed in 1980) and a driving-range hut (added in 1985), which necessitated the relocation and redesign of Holes 10 and 11 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1977; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth]; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994). The preexisting sand traps, putting green, clubhouse, and bridge remained intact. Other new structures erected during this period include: a second putting green; a golf cart shed, which was added to the southeast elevation of the clubhouse c. 1978; and a second bridge, constructed along the Benning Road Bridge to provide access to the new driving range (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; TES, April 9, 1979: 36; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; "Golf Cart Storage Building" 1978; TWS, October 12, 1980: D12; Longworth 1975). The research to date has not determined when electric golf carts were introduced to Langston Golf Course, but the construction of the golf cart shed c. 1978 suggests that electric carts were likely introduced at some point in the 1970s, and possibly under Lee and Rose Elder's management.

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Despite the popularity of Elder's course upgrades, the National Park Service closed Langston Golf Course in December 1981, citing apparent financial losses and the cancellation of Elder's insurance coverage for the course. The closure "came admit widespread reports that the golf course was again losing money, was in poor condition and was suffering a sharp drop in patronage" (Hodge 1981: C1). The Langston Golf Course remained closed until 1983, when Golf Course Specialists Inc. took over the concessions contract.



*Langston Golf Course, 1980 (top) and 1988 (bottom). Aerial views of the course before and after the driving range was inserted in the southeast corner of the course (on Kingman Island), resulting in the alteration of several holes in the back nine. (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1988)*

#### LANGSTON GOLF COURSE INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, 1983-2017

Within two years of Golf Course Specialists, Inc. assuming the management contract for Langston Golf Course, the National Park Service considered closing the course again due to poor conditions. Visitors complained that “the greens were terrible, the fairways were terrible, and it just wasn’t a fun place to play” (TWP, September 20, 1987: 41). However, when Wallace (Sarge) McCombs took over as manager of the course around 1985, he vowed to change the conditions of the course.

McCombs cleared all the trash off the greens and fairways and tackled the problem of crime at Langston. Customers no longer worried about their golf balls being stolen by neighborhood youths hiding in the woods along the 13th fairway. McCombs said, “I hired ‘em. Put ‘em to work shagging balls, and all of it stopped.” Slowly, people began to come back to playing at Langston and patronage increased from 20,000 after the course reopened to 33,000 in 1986 (Lancaster 1987:41).

As the condition of the course was improving, Langston was again threatened by development—this time for a new football stadium for the Washington Redskins. Team owner Jack Kent Cooke thought that the current Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (RFK Stadium) was too small and proposed to build a new stadium on the Langston Golf Course and move the course to an adjacent site. However, District of Columbia mayor Marion Barry rejected the proposal after receiving a negative reaction from golfers who played on the course (Solomon 1988:C01).

Plans moved forward to keep the golf course, but redesign a portion of it to make way for 18,000 parking spaces needed for the new stadium, which would be built adjacent to the existing RFK Stadium. The District of Columbia government’s Armory Board commissioned Rose Elder and Associates, a public relations, marketing, and promotions firm run by Rose Elder, to prepare a feasibility study for Langston in conjunction with the new stadium. In 1991, Elder reached out to several internationally renowned golf experts, including Jack Nicklaus, Charlie Sifford, Chi Chi Rodriguez, and Alice Dye to each design a signature hole for the envisioned course (Elder 1991; Barker 1991b: B3).

Many long-time players, however, did not support the redesign. In opposition, they formed the Committee to Save Langston. The Washington Post reported that the players were happy with the current layout and “did not want to play holes on small islands in Kingman Lake—one redesign being contemplated” (Barker 1991a). In 1991, the Langston Golf Course Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, an effort led by the Committee to Save Langston to stymie plans for the stadium. While talks on the proposed stadium continued, the NPS was reluctant to make any improvements to the Langston Golf Course until the plans were finalized. When Cook failed to meet Secretary of Interior Manuel Lujan Jr.’s deadline for

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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negotiations on the stadium site, Lujan instructed the NPS to move forward with the “long-delayed renovations” to Langston Golf Course (Barker 1992: A1). The new Washington Redskins stadium was eventually built in Landover, Maryland (today’s FedEx Field) (TWP, April 3, 1992: A1).

In 1998, the Capital Bicentennial Celebration proposed the Langston Family Golf Center as one of its capital projects. Designs included a modernized golf course with wildlife preservation zones and nature trails, a minority golf museum and community clubhouse, and a teaching and practice center with a three-hole instructional golf course. While the plan was not fully implemented, its proposals for the putt-and-chip area for junior golfers was adopted. The course also opened an educational center in the clubhouse in 2001 with donated funds, complete with computer stations, a small library, and study programs for local students. (Babin 2017: 191; TWP, June 26, 2003: T10).

Despite the failed proposal for the family golf center, Golf Course Specialists embarked on other redesigns and alterations for the course in 1998. The management company began stockpiling topsoil for certain portions of the golf course; eventually, 6,000 loads were purchased. The renovation and redesign of the back nine began in 1999 from designs by Brian Ault of Ault, Clark, and Associates (“Langston Golf Course History,” n.d.).

Alterations implemented between 1999 and 2000 include the regrading of the perimeter of the driving range, incorporating more slope into the topography of the range (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1999). Spatially, the counterclockwise progression of play around the lake did not change. However, the redesign did lengthen Holes 10, 11, 12, and 14, and shortened Holes 13 and 15; it also shifted their location on the land east and north of Kingman Lake. Changes in vegetation during this decade included the encroachment of the trees and growth at the edges of the cultural landscape—particularly along the northern boundary of the course. In addition, several large trees in the southwest corner of the site, around the clubhouse and former miniature golf course, were removed during these years (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1999, 2000). The primary alterations to the course during this period were concentrated on the relocation of Holes 10 through 15; these alterations brought the course to its current condition and layout. In 2000, four new practice greens were added near the tee box for Hole 1. Langston’s formal circulation features remained intact throughout this decade; by 1999, an expanded, unpaved parking area was added for the driving range (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1999). At some point between 1988 and 1994 (and possibly in conjunction with the 1991 designation of the site on the National Register of Historic Places), a new sign was embedded in the ground in front of the clubhouse. This sign remains in place and features a concrete base and bricks that spell out the words “LANGSTON GC” (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1988; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994).

Today, Langston Golf Course is an eighteen-hole parkland-style golf course. Its front nine is generally consistent with the original construction of the course, while the back nine is consistent with the 1999-2000 alterations to the course. The eighteen-hole course is

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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supplemented with a driving range, a putting green, and four practice greens, all of which are located north of Benning Road and arranged around Kingman Lake. The topography of the course is consistent with previous periods, including the fill that was added to the west side of Kingman Island in the 1960s. The course's significant views and vistas toward Kingman Lake and the Anacostia River have not changed in recent years. The current spatial organization of the course is consistent with the 1999-2000 redesign of the course, with the eighteen holes arranged in two counterclockwise loops that begin at the southwestern corner of the course. The front nine remains concentrated west of the lake, while the back nine is distributed around the full perimeter of the lake within the cultural landscape boundaries. Trees along the fairway and the perimeter of the lake have continued to mature, but there have been no other significant changes to the vegetation pattern in recent years. In recent years, the turf has generally comprised Bermuda grass and ryegrass (with groundskeeping efforts currently underway to choke out the rye grass).

The course's extant buildings and structures include the eighteen holes, a putting green and practice greens, two bridges (at the northern and southern mouths of the lake), a maintenance building, two new rain shelters, and a concrete remnant of one miniature golf course hole. The holes themselves have not been altered since the 1999-2000 renovations that partially redesigned the back nine. The cultural landscape's circulation features comprise a mix of sidewalks and driveways (concentrated around the clubhouse and driving range) and fragments of informal social trails throughout the site. The course includes several non-contributing small-scale elements throughout the course (and particularly around the clubhouse), including signage, fencing, utilities, and other non-historic features.





*Langston Golf Course, 2005. Aerial view of the course after the 1999-2000 alterations of the back nine. Large mounded bunkers are visible around the perimeter of the driving range and throughout Holes 10 through 18. (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth/DigitalGlobe] May 2005*

Langston Golf Course | National Capital Parks | East  
Anacostia Park

# Analysis + Evaluation of Integrity



Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
National Park Service

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity, landscape characteristics, and features of Langston Golf Course cultural landscape, as researched and surveyed between the summer of 2016 and spring of 2017. To document all visible above-ground features, on-the-ground field observations, and site research was used to supplement topographical surveys and GIS data. All field data was collected and converted into a database for the golf course. Existing conditions were then compared with those of landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1935-1955).

Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness.

Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance. Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance and retain integrity. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this cultural landscape inventory, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. As defined by the National Register, historic integrity is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register, a property must be shown to have significance under one or more criteria and retain integrity to the period of significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape are: spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, and views and vistas.

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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The spatial organization of the original nine-hole course arranged all nine holes on the west bank of Kingman Lake, with a counterclockwise progression of play that began and ended at the clubhouse in the southwest corner of the site. When the course was expanded to eighteen holes in the 1950s, the new holes were distributed around the east and north sides of the lake, maintaining the general counterclockwise routing of the course. The addition of the driving range in 1980 altered the design of some holes in the back nine, but their overall arrangement remained consistent with the period of significance. The site retains the integrity of its historic spatial organization.

The land that hosts Langston Golf Course was not a complete permanent landscape until the early 20th century, when most of the site was reclaimed from the Anacostia River flats and immediately constructed as a golf course. Prior, the western section of the site, near the intersection of 26th Street and Benning Road NE was used as a public dump. Thus, the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape has been used exclusively for public recreation as a golf course since its original reclamation and construction, and its use has not changed since the period of significance. Land use at Langston Golf Course retains a high degree of integrity.

The Langston Golf Course cultural landscape was created from the Anacostia River flats in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and its topography was further manipulated to create the parkland-style course in the 1930s. As a reclaimed landscape on the river's edge, the topography of the site is generally flat, with two hills in the northwest corner of the site. The topography of the back nine was altered with the addition of large mounded bunkers between 1999 and 2000, after the period of significance. The cultural landscape retains partial integrity of topography.

When Langston Golf Course was established in the 1930s, the construction of the course included planting of turf and several hundred trees (from varieties native to the area) along the fairways. This vegetation was planted to create a parkland-style course and to separate the greens and tees from adjacent holes. The historic vegetation pattern also included stands of trees around the perimeter of Kingman Lake, which remained generally intact even as the course was expanded to eighteen holes in the 1950s. By the end of the period of significance, the vegetation was generally consistent with the growth pattern of the course today. Mature trees are located along several fairways, and clusters of flowering trees and shrubs are concentrated around the clubhouse. Langston Golf Course's vegetation retains integrity from its period of significance.

Historic circulation at Langston Golf Course consists of the routing of the golf holes, vehicular roads, parking areas, and driveways, pedestrian circulation around the clubhouse, and social trails throughout the course. The routing of the golf holes remained consistent, even as the designs of individual holes in the back nine were altered over the course of the twentieth century. The roads, parking areas, and driveways have remained generally consistent since the original construction and expansion of the course; the social trails have changed continuously both during and since the period of significance. The cultural landscape retains partial integrity with respect to its circulation features.

The cultural landscape retains integrity of buildings and structures from the period of significance, although alterations to the back nine have detracted somewhat from the original design of Holes 10-18.

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Despite these changes, the overall course retains its significance as a structure, exhibiting the character-defining aspects of integrity from its original construction. Other significant buildings and structures include the clubhouse and the putting green, which date to the period of significance and have undergone few exterior changes since their initial construction. They retain their integrity and contribute to the cultural landscape's overall integrity of buildings and structures.

Based on the topography, spatial organization, and vegetation patterns of the site, significant vistas from the original nine holes included general views along the fairways toward the greens. The course also features general views toward Kingman Lake and from the back nine toward the Anacostia River. These views remained consistent throughout the period of significance, although the maturation of trees throughout the course limited the sightlines from some areas of the course. The views and vistas of the cultural landscape retain integrity.

Langston Golf Course's small-scale features have little to no integrity. Drawings from the period of significance illustrated few small-scale features, emphasizing only the location of several water fountains throughout the course; these water fountains are no longer present on the course. Langston's extant small-scale features were installed at the site after the period of significance and are non-contributing. These non-historic features include wayfinding signage and an interpretive plaque on the entrance gate, fencing, benches and picnic tables, water fountain stations, and a blind-hole bell at Hole 10. The small-scale features of Langston Golf Course therefore do not retain integrity or contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

#### INTEGRITY

**Location:** The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. Langston Golf Course retains the location and general boundaries (within Anacostia Park) of its original construction and expansion. Its boundaries have not been altered since the end of the period of significance.

**Design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Langston Golf Course's designed landscape includes the layout and form of individual holes, as well as the general arrangement and style of the overall course and its associated structures. The design of the front nine remains consistent with the historic plan for the course, exhibiting character-defining design features such as: the progression of play; the routing of the tee boxes, fairways, greens, and hazards; and the parkland-style character of the cultural landscape. The design and character of the back nine have been altered since the period of significance, including the addition of the driving range and the insertion of large mounded bunkers throughout Holes 10-18. This has diminished the design of the course overall, but the course retains sufficient design features on the front nine and the overall progression of play to preserve the essential integrity of design from the period of significance.

**Setting:** Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. Langston Golf Course was established within Anacostia Park to serve the residents of the park's surrounding neighborhoods. Although the area around Langston Golf Course has continued to develop since the

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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course's original construction, the landscape remains part of Anacostia Park, and it is still surrounded by residential neighborhoods, schools, and associated commercial corridors. The cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting from the period of significance.

**Material:** Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The tree plantings along the course fairways are consistent with the course's original construction, and the clubhouse has been minimally altered since the period of significance. (A golf cart shed addition was constructed c. 1978, but it disturbed minimal fabric on a secondary elevation of the building.) As repeated use of the course results in increased wear and deterioration, the turf grass for greens, fairways, and tee boxes must be replanted. This is typical of a recreational landscape, and does not detract from the character of the course. These alterations have not diminished Langston Golf Course's overall integrity of materials.

**Workmanship:** Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The features of the front nine, as well as the clubhouse and a limited number of holes in the back nine, demonstrate the craft and skills of the course's original construction. The workmanship of the historic course is particularly evidenced by the landscape's limited earthmoving capacity and the lack of dramatic human-made landscape features. Some holes in the back nine were altered in 1999-2000; these new forms (including mounded bunkers) reflect more modern construction methods. Langston Golf Course retains partial integrity of workmanship from the period of significance.

**Feeling:** Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. The feeling of the course as a recreational landscape along the Anacostia River remains consistent. The landscape remains a public amenity in the midst of an urban neighborhood, with the vegetation, buildings and structures, and views that contribute to and maintain the integrity of feeling from the period of significance. Langston Golf Course retains a high degree of integrity of feeling.

**Association:** Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Langston Golf Course is associated with African-American golfers and the creation of public recreational landscapes by the federal government in Washington, D.C. in the first half of the 20th century. Links to these historic users and movements are still evident at the course today, including the eighteen-hole course and clubhouse that were established for African Americans in an era when so many other public landscapes were segregated. Interpretive signage (on the entrance gate) for visitors provides documentation of this association with African-American history, and the course remains a federally-owned public recreational amenity for residents and visitors of the District of Columbia. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the period of significance and retains a high degree of integrity of association.

**Conclusion:** After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this cultural landscape inventory finds that the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape retains partial integrity from its period of significance (1935-1955). While there have been some changes to the landscape and several features have deteriorated, been demolished, and/or altered, the overall historic integrity of the property is intact.

<b>Aspects of Integrity:</b>	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Spatial Organization**

Historic Condition

The design for the original nine-hole course arranged all nine holes on the west bank of Kingman Lake, in keeping with the preliminary grading plans completed in the early 1930s. The progression of play for the front nine holes began and ended at the clubhouse, as was typical of public golf courses. It proceeded from the southwest corner of the course, where the tee box for Hole 1 was placed near the intersection of Benning Road and a “school roadway” running north-south (where 26th Street is located today). From Hole 1, the progression of play continued northeast along the eastern edge of the site, charting a counterclockwise route along the bank of Kingman Lake (or “Lake Kingman,” on some maps).

Aerial photographs taken of the golf course in the late 1940s offer evidence of the condition and design of Langston just before its expansion to eighteen holes. The constructed golf course landscape retained its historic location, concentrated on the western banks and the northern section (or upper basin) of Kingman Lake above Benning Road. The remaining land in the current golf course footprint, located north of the original front nine and east of the lake, remained undeveloped at this time (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951).

Initially, the 1952-1955 plans for the new, larger course intended to include the use of two small islands in Kingman Lake. Ultimately, however, the final design bypassed the islands, distributing the nine new holes on Kingman Island, on the east and north sides of Kingman Lake (TWP, March 24, 1963: C3; Gordon 1952; Gordon and Gordon 1954).

When the back nine holes were built between 1954 and 1955, Holes 10 through 13 were added on the east side of Kingman Lake on Kingman Island. Hole 14 began on Kingman Island and crossed the northern mouth of the lake, with the green located on the north side of the lake. Holes 15 through 18 were located on the west side of the lake, adjacent to the front nine (TWP, March 24, 1963: C4; TES, July 24, 1974; Gordon 1952; Gordon and Gordon 1954). The front nine was largely unaffected by the expanded configuration, and the new clubhouse in the southwest corner of the site (built in 1950-1952) remained both the start and end point for the progression of play. Thus, the spatial organization of, and route through, the course remained

generally counterclockwise, via two loops: one through the front nine, and a second loop around the lake through the back nine (Gordon and Gordon 1954). This constituted the overall spatial organization of the course by the end of the period of significance (1935-1955).

In the later decades of the 20th century, the configuration of individual holes on the eastern bank of the lake was altered. Most significantly, the insertion of the driving range in 1980 shifted the location of individual holes and created a second spatial anchor in the cultural landscape. In addition, a renovation campaign in 1999-2000 resulted in the creation of new hazards in the back nine.

These alterations reshaped the design and location of individual holes—in particular, Holes 10 through 15. However, the counterclockwise spatial organization of Holes 10-18 around Kingman Lake remained consistent. The changes made to the back nine did not affect the positioning of the clubhouse as the anchor of play for the course, nor did they alter the spatial relationship between the front nine and the back nine.

#### Existing Condition

Although the addition of the driving range and the 1999-2000 renovation campaign affected the design of the back nine, it did not affect the overall spatial organization of the course, which maintains the same progression of play as the period of significance. Golfers still proceed through the course in the same way, as the clubhouse in the southwest corner of the cultural landscape remains the start and end point of the eighteen-hole course. The progression of play maintains the same counterclockwise double-loop as the course had during the period of significance, with routing through the front nine on the western side of the lake, followed by a second loop through the back nine and around Kingman Lake.

The non-historic driving range, added to the southeast corner of the site in 1980, serves as a second anchor within the extant cultural landscape. The driving range is located on the east side of Kingman Lake. It is self-contained and relatively isolated from the rest of the course and the clubhouse. Its perimeter is demarcated from the back nine by large mounded bunkers around the edge of the green.

#### Analysis

Although the addition of the driving range altered the southeast corner of the cultural landscape, the overall spatial organization of Langston Golf Course remains consistent with the period of significance. The cultural landscape's spatial organization contributes to the historic character of the site.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Current layout and organization of holes in relation to Kingman Lake

Feature Identification Number: 180577

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude



Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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0.0000000000

Feature: Progression of Play

Feature Identification Number: 180579

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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*Spatial Organization, Historic (top) and Existing (bottom). The spatial organization of Langston Golf Course has not changed significantly from the end of the period of significance (top) to today (bottom). The bold green dot represents the starting point of play for the course, and the bold red dot indicates the ending point of play; the light red and light green dots represent the end of the front nine and the beginning of the back nine, respectively. The progression of play through the course still follows the same counterclockwise route through the front nine, with a second counterclockwise loop around Kingman Lake through the back nine. (Graphic by Lester 2017, from base imagery: [top] United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957; [bottom] United States Geological Survey [Google Earth/DigitalGlobe] 2013)*

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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### **Land Use**

#### Historic Condition

Land use refers to the principal activities conducted upon the landscape and how these uses organized, shaped, and formed the land. The land that hosts Langston Golf Course was not a permanent landscape until the early twentieth century, when several decades of reclamation projects for the Anacostia River flats converted the land west of the Anacostia River from marshy wetlands and a city dumping ground to public parkland. In particular, the land north of Benning Road and around Kingman Lake was finished in the 1930s. Upon completion, it was immediately constructed as a golf course. Thus, the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape has been used for public recreation since the 1930s. It served as a public recreational resource and a golf course throughout the period of significance (1935-1955), and its use has not changed at any point since.

#### Existing Condition

The first nine holes of Langston Golf Course opened to the public in 1939; the second nine holes were completed by 1955. Since that time, the land has consistently functioned as a public golf course. (The course ceased operations briefly during two different periods, from 1975 to 1977 and again from 1981 to 1983, but the land use did not change during those intervals.) Langston Golf Course remains a public recreational amenity today, serving golfers of all skill levels.

#### Analysis

The use and purpose of the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape has not changed since the period of significance, when the site was established as a public golf course. The site retains full integrity of land use.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Feature: Continual use as a golf course  
Feature Identification Number: 180583  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

#### Topography

##### Historic Condition

The lands that hosts Langston Golf Course was created between the 1880s and 1930s from the Anacostia River flats. As a reclaimed landscape on the river's edge, the topography of the site was generally flat, with some small hills further away from Kingman Lake and the Anacostia River. As a parkland-style course, the design of Langston Golf Course took advantage of the existing topography, making minimal alterations to the landscape (beyond typical grading procedures) in order to construct the front nine and later the back nine of the course. The use of the natural topography, with limited modification, was also characteristic of Langston's era of golf course construction, when earthmoving equipment was limited.

The site's lowest grade was its southeast corner, along Kingman Lake, located at approximately ten feet above sea level (Hausmann 1932). Its highest topography was at the northwest corner of the course, where Hole 4 was arranged on the slope of a hill. The highest point within the boundaries of the cultural landscape was historically located at approximately 55 feet above sea level (Hausmann 1932).

When the course was expanded to eighteen holes (1952-1955), the land east of Kingman Lake on Kingman Island was relatively flat, and the course design reflected that topography, with extended holes whose main hazards were sand traps, rather than dramatic topographical features. Further research is necessary to determine the scope of grading for the course expansion on Kingman Island, but the land north of Kingman Lake (separating the cultural landscape from M Street, historically) required some fill and grading in order to locate holes in that area ("Grading Plan for Refuse Dump" 1951). This represents the last likely alteration to the topography of the cultural landscape within the period of significance (1935-1955).

At some point between 1964 and 1968—after the period of significance—a substantial amount of fill was added to the land on the west side of Kingman Island alongside the original Hole 10 and Hole 11. The District of Columbia Sanitation Department had long struggled with where to dispose of the city's incinerator waste, finally settling on Kingman Lake to dump over a million cubic yards of refuse (The Washington Post-Times Herald, May 3, 1965: A3). This fill was apparently graded at a similar topography to the existing land east of Kingman Lake (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968).

When the course was renovated in the late 1990s, the perimeter of the driving range (constructed in 1980) was apparently regraded, incorporating more slope into the topography of

the range (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1999). It is likely that this renovation campaign was responsible for the large mounded bunkers found throughout the back nine today; aerial photography from 2003 indicates that these topographical features were extant by that time (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 2003).

#### Existing Condition

Langston Golf Course retains the overall topography of the period of significance, with the highest point on the course located in the northwest corner of the cultural landscape, and the lowest grade located by Hole 18, along Kingman Lake. Within the course, the topography has been altered somewhat to include several large mounded bunkers that are inconsistent with the original design and construction of the 18 hole-course during the period of significance. The driving range's topography reflects the 1990 alterations, with slopes around the perimeter of the green.

#### Analysis

The extant topography of Langston Golf Course is consistent overall with its historic condition. Its primary topographical features, including the slopes in the northwest corner of the cultural landscape and the lower grade around Kingman Lake, has not changed substantially. However, the addition of large bunkers throughout the back nine, with a concentration on current Holes 10 through 13 on the land east of Kingman Lake, represents an alteration to the topography of Langston Golf Course. These modifications are reversible, but in their current condition, they detract from the topographical integrity of the cultural landscape. Langston Golf Course retains partial integrity of topography from the period of significance.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Parkland-style topography of front nine, characterized by generally flat grading

Feature Identification Number: 180585

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-76.9675200000 38.9019240000

Feature: Slope at northwest corner of course, by Hole no. 4

Feature Identification Number: 180587

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Topography of the front nine, historic (top) and existing (bottom). The front nine retains the relatively flat, parkland-style topography of the course's original construction, as is evident in a comparison of the 1937 condition (top) and the current conditions (bottom). (Top: United States Army Air Service, Third Section 1937; Bottom: Lester 2016)*





*Topography of the back nine, existing conditions aerial (top) and perspective (bottom). The topography of the back nine was altered during the 1999-2000 renovations of the course. Large mounded bunkers are now present throughout Holes 10-18 and around the perimeter of the driving range. (Top: United States Geological Survey [Google Earth/DigitalGlobe] 2003; Bottom: Lester 2016)*



## Vegetation

### Historic Condition

Prior to the construction of Langston Golf Course, the landscape's vegetation consisted primarily of grassy open fields and marshland, with trees around the perimeter (Moore 1902: 104). The construction of the golf course, beginning in 1935-1939, necessitated the creation of a new vegetation pattern for the landscape. The fairways and greens were planted with turf for play, but the research to date has not identified what species were used.

In addition to the establishment of the fairways, greens, and tees, the construction of the course included planting several hundred trees along the fairways. In particular, two lines of trees were planted to separate the fairways of Holes 1 and 18, and Holes 2 and 17. The trees included varieties native to the area, such as willow oaks (*Quercus phellos*), tulip poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), sweet gums (*Liquidambar*), sycamores (*Plantanus occidentalis*), and American elms (*Ulmus americana*) (The Afro-American [TAA], June 10, 1939: 22). These trees continued to mature throughout the period of significance, creating stands of mature trees in some areas between holes.

In addition, clusters of mature trees were located in the following areas: adjacent to the tee box for Hole 1; on the highest area of the site, by Hole 4 at the northwest corner of the course; around the Hole 5 green; and between the fairway for Hole 5 and the green for Hole 7.

When the course was initially constructed between 1935 and 1939, the landscape north of the front nine was populated with clusters of vegetation—particularly around the northern shoreline of the lake—but Kingman Island was generally treeless, with the exception of a line of trees at the edge of the lake and along the Anacostia River banks (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949).

A line of regularly-spaced trees was located along Benning Road, between the golf course and the sidewalk. Larger stands of trees were located on the northern edge of the course, separating Langston from what was then Maryland Avenue NE and is now a driveway within the grounds of the United States National Arboretum (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951).

The vegetation of the front nine remained consistent from the course's original construction in 1935-1939 through completion of its back nine in 1955. The trees along the fairways continued to mature, including the line of trees between Holes 1 and 18, and Holes 2 and 17. Tree stands continued to mature in their locations consistent with the original construction of the front nine.

During the period of significance (1935-1955), the vegetation pattern on the front nine also included variety in the types of grass planted on the course. The strip of land running along the lake's western edge was not planted with the same grass or treated the same as the golf course's turf; a clear distinction is visible in the aerial photographs (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949). By 1951, a section of the rough between Holes 2, 3, and 6 was temporarily stripped of vegetation and ground cover; it was restored by 1957 (United States

Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

In addition to the grading and fill operations undertaken to expand the course to eighteen holes, the vegetation pattern required significant modification for the new holes. The most significant shift in the vegetation on the back nine was on the land north of Kingman Lake—an area largely covered with trees (and one large cleared tract) in the early years of Langston Golf Course. When holes were routed through that part of the site in the early 1950s, the land north and west of the lake was entirely clearcut for the expansion of the course. Several of the trees that previously lined the lake's western shoreline were also removed to allow for the insertion of Holes 17 and 18 (see below). Only the islands at the center of the lake retained their tree cover. On Kingman Island, where Holes 10 through 14 were slated to be built, the landscape was fairly consistent before and after the expansion. From the 1930s on, mature trees on this landmass were limited in number and scattered, with most trees concentrated in long lines along the banks of Kingman Lake and (to a lesser degree) the Anacostia River (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). The vegetation pattern remained consistent overall, even as the species shifted during the period of significance from scrub grasses and shrubs to manicured fairways and greens.

By the end of the period of significance in 1955, additional vegetation was concentrated around the clubhouse and the miniature golf course, and along Benning Road. New plantings were added c. 1952 around the new clubhouse, collected from the Mount Vernon Highway and the East Potomac Nursery. Species in the planting plan included: glossy abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*); evergreen azalea (*Azalea Hinomayo*) and snow azalea (*Azalea Snow*); English ivy (*Hedera helix*); American holly (*Ilex opaca*); glossy privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and California privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*); scarlet firethorn (*Pyracantha lalandei*); willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) (Stevens 1952). The golf course's parking area was landscaped with flowering forsythia (TAA, June 10, 1939:22).

In the 1960s, the turf appears to have deteriorated somewhat in several areas at various points. As a result, the fairways were less distinct at times from the rough around each hole (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968). However, there were no major changes to the overall vegetation pattern. Trees around the clubhouse and along the fairways and at the crest of the Hole 4 hill continued to mature, and the stands of trees remained extant along the northern edge of the course, the east and west (and particularly the west) edges of Kingman Lake, and on the Kingman Lake islands. The northern/northwestern stand in particular was denser by this time. As fill was added to the land east of the lake at the current location of Hole 10, some trees were removed from the stand along that shoreline (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968).

Under Lee and Rose Elder's management in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the course was resodded (TES, April 9, 1979: 36). The vegetation pattern otherwise remained intact, with both

individual trees along the fairways and stands of trees around the perimeter of the course retained in place. As new fill (added in the 1960s) was added to the land east of Kingman Lake, the line of trees that once lined the historic eastern shoreline were retained and allowed to mature within the course landscape. As a result, they constituted a substantial barrier between Hole 10 and the new driving range, added in 1980 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1988).

In the 1980s and early 1990s, Langston's trees continued to mature and the vegetation increasingly encroached on the course at the edges of the cultural landscape—particularly along the northern boundary of the course. In the late 1990s—likely during the 1999-2000 renovations to the course—some of the vegetation along this northern boundary was once again cut back; this was particularly true along the northern side of Holes 3 and 4. In addition, several large trees in the southwest corner of the site, around the clubhouse and former miniature golf course, were removed during these years (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1988; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994).

#### Existing Condition

The vegetation pattern is generally consistent with the final years of the period of significance, when the course was expanded to eighteen holes. The extant turf is dominated by ryegrass (*Lolium*) and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Turf managers are using the Bermuda grass to choke out the ryegrass. The native varieties of trees that were planted along the fairways have continued to mature, with two particularly prominent lines of trees along the fairways for Holes 1 and 18, and Holes 2 and 17. An additional cluster of trees is located at the northwest corner of the course, on the slope of the hill where Holes 3, 4, and 5 are located. The shorelines of Kingman Lake continue to be lined with dense vegetation in most areas (particularly on the east bank), consistent with vegetation conditions during the period of significance. Extant tree specimens throughout the site include: pin, willow, and white oaks (*Quercus palustris*, *Quercus phellos*, and *Quercus alba*); Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*); black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*); and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*).

The extant plants around the clubhouse are generally consistent with the 1950 planting plan, but several plantings from the original design have been removed. The clubhouse planting plan does not retain integrity.

#### Analysis

The extant vegetation pattern of Langston Golf Course is consistent with the period of significance. The turf material has been replaced over time, as is typical of a recreational landscape. However, the character of the landscape overall is consistent, with large open areas of grass and turf, and trees scattered throughout the course and clustered around the perimeter. Most of the mature trees throughout the course date to the course's original construction and expansion, and were part of the historic planting plan for the course's fairways. Therefore, the vegetation of the cultural landscape retains integrity.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Manicured turf, greens, and rough throughout 18-hole course

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Feature Identification Number: 180589

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Line of trees (willows, etc.) between Hole nos. 1 and 18, Hole nos. 2 and 17

Feature Identification Number: 180591

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-76.9683560000 38.8992250000

Feature: Tree stands around perimeter of Kingman Lake

Feature Identification Number: 180593

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-76.9647010000 38.9007530000

Feature: Planting plan around clubhouse

Feature Identification Number: 180595

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

-76.9696410000 38.8983340000

Feature: Tree stands throughout course, separating holes and framing viewsheds

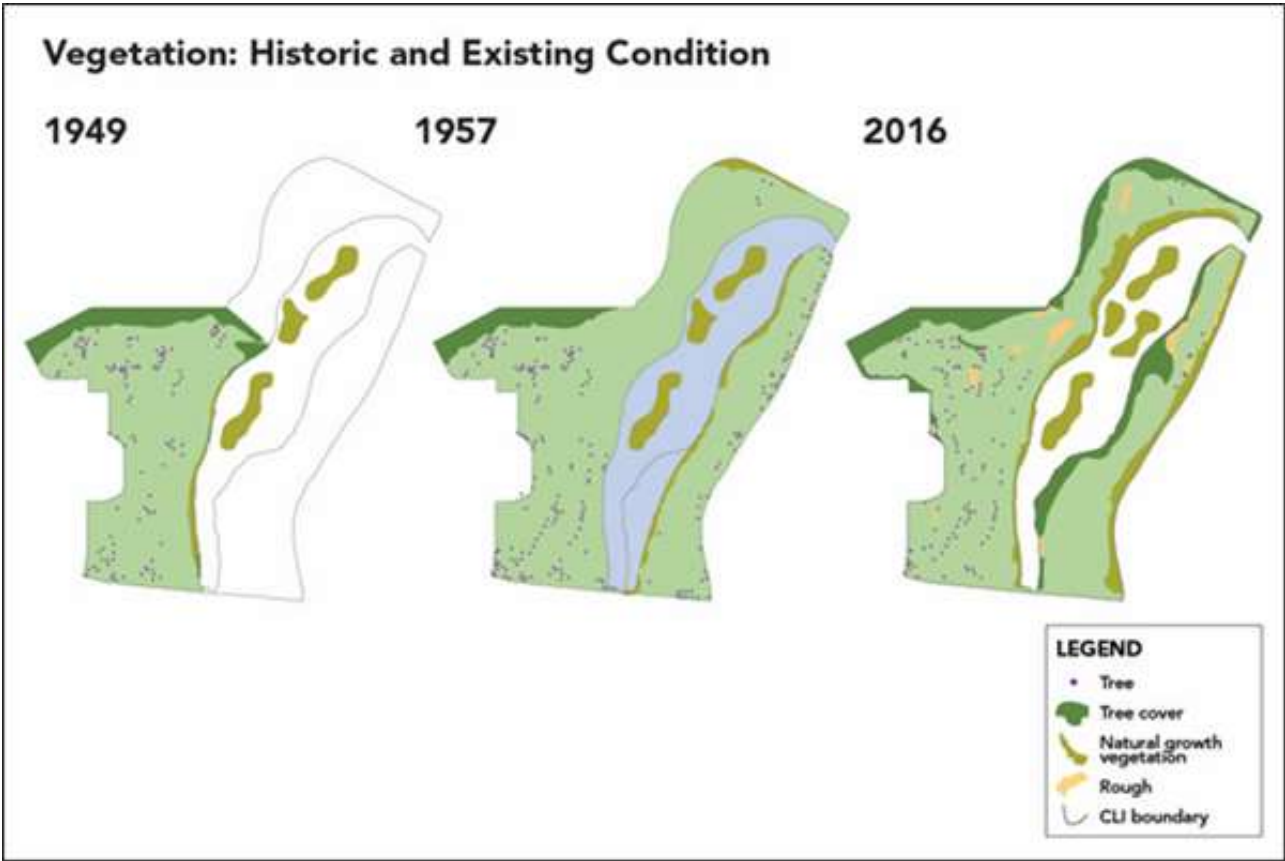
Feature Identification Number: 180597

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Historic and existing vegetation features. For a larger view of these maps, see Appendix A. (Fichman and Lester 2017)*



*Contributing vegetation features include: (top) the line of trees between Holes 1 and 18, and Holes 2 and 17; (middle) tree stands throughout the course that separate holes; (bottom) tree stands around most of the shoreline of Kingman Lake, demarcating the perimeter of the course. (Lester 2016)*

### **Circulation**

Circulation is defined by the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Historic circulation at Langston Golf Course consists of: the routing of the golf holes; vehicular circulation, in the form of roads, parking areas, and driveways; pedestrian circulation around the clubhouse, in the form of sidewalks; and social trails throughout the course.

#### Progression of Play

##### Historic Condition

Throughout the period of significance (1935-1955), the progression of play through the original front nine began at the southwest corner of the landscape, where the tee box for Hole 1 was located near the clubhouse, and continued in a generally counterclockwise loop. From the Hole 1 tee box, the playing corridor extended northeast before turning north at the midpoint of the fairway. The routing of Hole 2 continued in a primarily straight line along this northward trajectory; circulation through the long Hole 3 turned west, doglegging twice before reaching the northwest corner of the course. Players then proceeded through a short Hole 4, which was oriented northeast-southwest, and turned northeast again for Hole 5, which doglegged southeast. Circulation through Hole 6 was along a southward trajectory, while Hole 7 turned nearly 180 degrees and extended north. Hole 8 once again proceeded south in a straight line, and players concluded the original nine-hole course with Hole 9, which was routed southward before doglegging toward the southwest. Until the course's expansion in the early 1950s, circulation through the original course thus proceeded around nearly the entire cultural landscape west of Kingman Lake, beginning and ending at the clubhouse ("Golf Course Grading," 1936).

When the course was expanded between 1952 and 1955 (during the period of significance), the circulation pattern through the front nine remained largely unaltered. Where the original routing ended at Hole 9, however, the expanded course continued at Hole 10, which began along a northeast route on the western bank of Kingman Lake before jumping the lake and continuing north on the land east of the lake. Hole 11 was a long hole, directed north with two doglegs; Hole 12, in contrast, was a short hole that turned northwest. Hole 13 was routed northeast-north. Players then continued on to Hole 14, a short hole that crossed over a bridge at the northern mouth of Kingman Lake. Hole 15 was a long hole that proceeded generally westward. The progression of play then turned south for Holes 16, 17, and 18, which hugged the west side of the lake; each hole had at least one dogleg, but the routing proceeded along a generally consistent southern trajectory. The eighteen-hole course terminated near the clubhouse. This general progression of play remained consistent through the twentieth century, even as individual holes were relocated or redesigned (Gordon and Gordon 1956). The renovation campaign implemented between 1999 and 2000 resulted in the redesign of some hazards and holes in the back nine, but this did not affect the circulation route through the course.

#### Existing Condition

The progression of play at Langston Golf Course is generally consistent with the period of significance, although the design of some individual holes has changed in the intervening decades. The 1980s redesign of the back nine to accommodate the new driving range altered some holes in the back nine, shifting the trajectories of Holes 10 through 15—in particular, Holes 13, 14, and 15. However, the overall routing through both the front nine and back nine is largely intact.

#### Roads, Parking Areas, and Driveways

##### Historic Condition

Roads and sidewalks were minimal when the course was first constructed, and were generally concentrated around the clubhouse in the southwest corner of the course. Circulation features providing access to the site included two driveways from the school roadway along the course's western boundary, immediately north of the intersection with Benning Road. These driveways led to the parking area for automobiles, which was located in the southwest corner of the site, next to the temporary clubhouse (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

Initial plans for the course did not include any other vehicular circulation features (McGovern 1942). A 1936 plan of the course included a small "park drive" between the holes and the lake's shoreline, but this road appears to have been prospective and was never formalized beyond a social trail ("Golf Course Grading," 1936).

Throughout the 1940s and early 1950s, the driveways remained in place in the southwest corner of the landscape around the clubhouse, parking lot, and maintenance area. As of 1949, the driveway to the parking area began at the school roadway (later 26th Street), north of the intersection with Benning Road NE, and curved 90-degrees northeast into the site and its parking area. An exit driveway curved 90-degrees northwest back to the road at the northern end of the parking area (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

A secondary driveway emerged over time, leading north from the clubhouse and parking area to the maintenance building by Hole 8. This driveway does not appear on historic drawings of the original course design, and it does not appear to have been paved at any point during the period of significance (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). According to aerial photographs, only the northern section of this path/drive appears to have been surfaced with dirt or gravel; the southern portion is narrower and more sporadic, suggesting that it was an informal route from the parking area (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951).

This arrangement remained consistent through the expansion of the course to eighteen holes in the 1950s, and the end of the period of significance (1935-1955). The parking area was



## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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consistent in footprint with earlier conditions, although it appears to have been paved when the course was expanded. The same driveways from 26th Street provided access to and from the parking area, and the driveway to the maintenance area remained in place (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

In the decades after the period of significance, Langston's historic roads, parking area, and driveways remained consistent in location and general footprint. The primary parking lot was paved sometime between 1968 and 1980 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980). A second, unpaved parking area was added to the southeast corner of the course when the driving range was added in 1980; it was accessed via a driveway from Benning Road by Kingman Lake (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980).

#### Existing Condition

The extant roads and driveways remain concentrated in their historic locations along the western edge of the site. Today, the main parking lot is only accessed via one driveway, which serves as both the vehicular entrance and the exit for the course. The paved parking area occupies the same location and roughly the same footprint as it did during the period of significance, and its paved surface is consistent in footprint with aerial photographs beginning in 1980 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980). The driving range parking area and its access driveway remain consistent with its original installation in 1980; they feature a gravel surface.

The driveway to the maintenance area remains in its historic location; it is still unpaved. A second unpaved cart path begins at the clubhouse and extends southeast toward Hole 1 and continuing toward Bridge 2. The path is briefly paved before and after the bridge before returning to gravel as it connects with the driving range parking area.

The only paved cart path is located along the southern edge of the site, crossing Bridge 2 and connecting the driving range parking area with the network of sidewalks and paths around the clubhouse.

#### Clubhouse Circulation

##### Historic Condition

At the time of the course's original construction between 1935 and 1939, a walkway extended from the parking area to the temporary clubhouse. A second walkway began at the intersection of Benning Road and the school roadway/26th Street and curved into the site, terminating between the temporary clubhouse and the ticket office for the miniature golf course (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949). By 1951, when the putting green was extant east of the miniature golf course, an additional pathway ran along the northern and southern boundaries of the miniature golf area and continued around the full perimeter of the putting green.

By the end of the period of significance, a wider walkway extended from the parking area in front of the new clubhouse, with two additional paths radiating at an angle toward the first holes of the course (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). The sidewalks around the miniature golf course were consistent with the pre-expansion conditions, with a path beginning at 26th Street/Benning Road and curving into the site and around the buildings and structures in the southwest corner of the landscape. Where the putting green was slightly altered in footprint, the sidewalk was similarly modified to run around the revised perimeter (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

This network of sidewalks remained consistent throughout the twentieth century.

#### Existing Condition

A series of sidewalks still encompasses the clubhouse. One particularly prominent sidewalk runs southeast from the parking area and along the clubhouse patio on the northeast elevation of the building. This feature is the widest walkway in the cultural landscape and is consistent in location and trajectory with the period of significance. This concrete sidewalk transitions to a gravel cart path that leads toward Hole 1 and Bridge 2.

#### Social Trails

##### Historic Condition

Langston Golf Course's social trails, including any paths between holes, were informal and liminal throughout the period of significance. They were unpaved and generally dirt, and their location and trajectories have been irregular since the initial construction of the course between 1935 and 1939. Aerial photographs taken throughout the period of significance indicate a series of informal social trails that were clearly established through repeated use by pedestrians, rather than paved or otherwise formalized in the landscape.

These fragments of social trails and paths were not continuous or consistent from hole to hole (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). On the eastern edge of the front nine, two social trails began at Benning Road and ran north between Hole 1 and the western shoreline of Kingman Lake. They fade from aerial photographs somewhere near the Hole 1 green and the tee box for Hole 2, suggesting that they were unpaved and unofficial as trails (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949). The only additional paths or trails visible in aerial photographs at this time were mere fragments, likely created simply by repeated foot traffic. A series of informal social trails (clearly established through repeated use by pedestrians, based on aerial photographs) were located in the northwestern corner of the course, beginning at Maryland Ave NE and M Street NE and crossing into Langston Golf Course (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951).

This condition and character of the cultural landscape's social trails did not change in the latter decades of the 20th century. In subsequent decades, some paths receded as others were worn into the site based on changes in maintenance and use.

Existing Condition

The landscape's social trails continue to vary in width, material, and length. Most of the site's paths are unpaved fragments that extend only a short distance between or through holes. A limited number of social trails (now used by golf carts, but not paved) are more pronounced or substantial than other social trails: the gravel drive that runs east-west and connects the clubhouse to the driving range (crossing Bridge 2 over Kingman Lake); the gravel/dirt drive that begins at the clubhouse and branches toward the parking area before continuing north to the maintenance area and then toward the Hole 8 tee box; and an unpaved cart path that begins at the driving range parking area and hugs the Hole 10 green (proceeding north) before turning south and ending at the edge of the driving range. These paths are more considerable than other fragments of cart path and social trails throughout the site, but they are not demarcated, signed, or otherwise formalized in the landscape.

Analysis

Langston Golf Course retains partial integrity with respect to its circulation features. The cultural landscape's progression of play, roads, and driveways (both formal and informal) are contributing features, as they are consistent in location, footprint, and configuration with the period of significance. The social trails are non-contributing features, as they have changed continuously since the period of significance.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Course progression of play

Feature Identification Number: 180599

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.000000000

Feature: Pedestrian circulation around clubhouse, including perimeter sidewalks

Feature Identification Number: 180601

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.000000000

Feature: Main parking lot and access driveway

Feature Identification Number: 180603

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

-76.9698550000 38.8993540000

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Feature: Driving range parking lot and access driveway

Feature Identification Number: 180605

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

-79.9640730000 38.8977260000

Feature: Driveway to maintenance area

Feature Identification Number: 180607

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Social trails throughout course

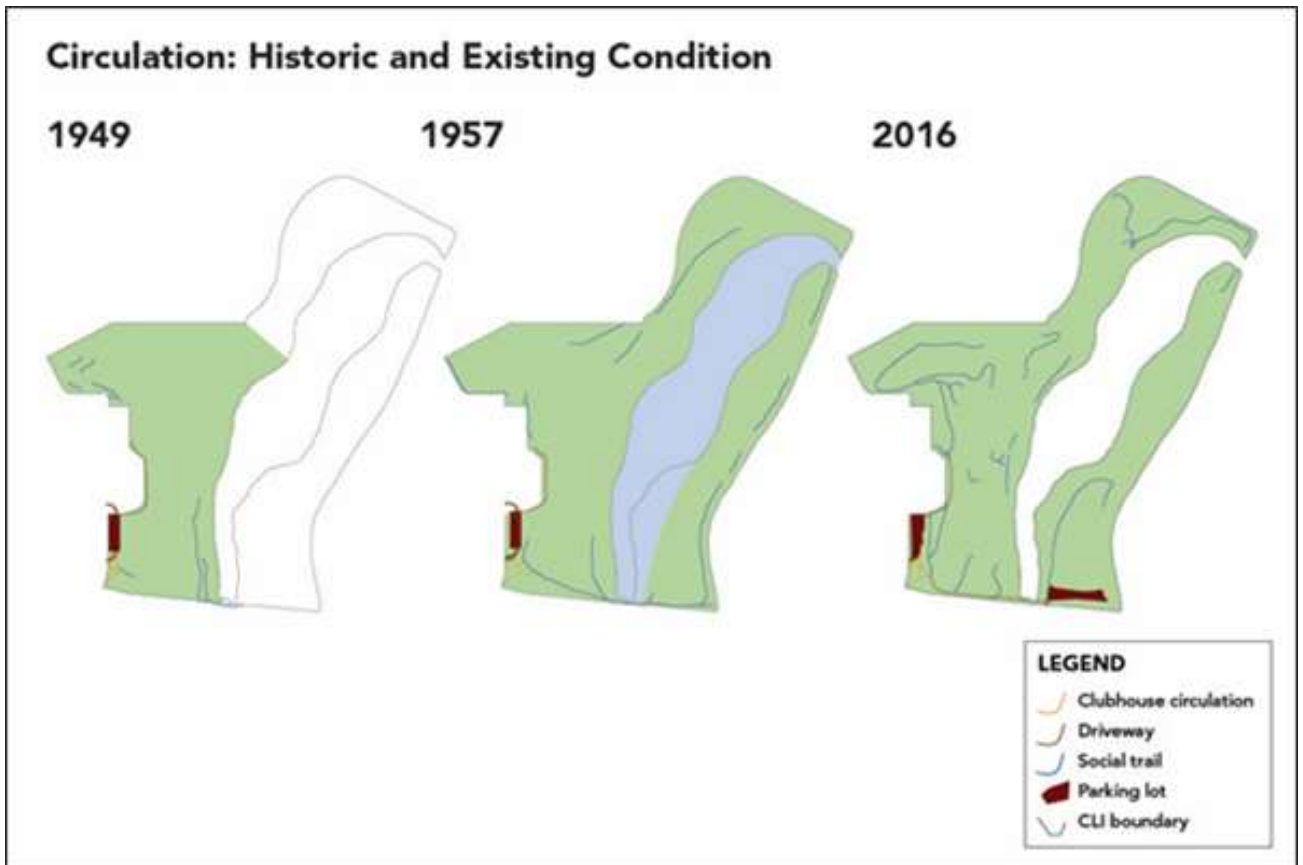
Feature Identification Number: 180609

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Existing and historic circulation features. For a larger view of these maps, see Appendix A. (Fichman and Lester 2017)*



*Existing circulation features include: (top) the parking area; (middle) clubhouse circulation; (bottom) social trails throughout the course. The parking area and clubhouse circulation are considered contributing; the cultural landscape's social trails are considered non-contributing. (Lester 2016)*

## **Buildings and Structures**

### Golf Course

#### Historic Condition

There were no buildings or structures on the site prior to the initial construction of the golf course. The first nine holes and a temporary clubhouse were constructed between 1935 and 1939; Holes 10 through 18 were constructed between 1952 and 1955. By the end of the period of significance in 1955, the total yardage of the original eighteen-hole course was 6,389 yards. Additional buildings and structures in place by the end of the period of significance included: a miniature golf course; a putting green; a maintenance/utility building; a rain shelter; and a bridge at the northern mouth of Kingman Lake.

At 443 yards, Hole 1 was one of the longest fairways in the original course, beginning at the southwest corner of the course and extending northeast before turning directly north. Next, Hole 2 extended northeast on a generally straight course for 385 yards, terminating with a green near the northeastern-most point on the site. The tee box for Hole 3 occupied the northeastern corner of the golf course, with a fairway that turned west to continue the counterclockwise arrangement of the first few holes. Hole 3's fairway was the longest of the original front nine holes, measuring 525 yards. It extended west with two jogs, including a 90-degree turn southwest toward the green, located on the slope in the northwest corner of the course. In contrast to Hole 3's length, Hole 4 was the shortest fairway of the original nine holes, extending just 126 yards. Its tee box occupied the highest point on the course, and its fairway extended southwest a short distance down the hill to a green on the southwestern slope. The tee box for Hole 5 was located along the western perimeter of the course, adjacent to the "school roadway." (Later plans refer to a "new fence" along this boundary, suggesting that at the time of the course's original construction, there was no formal fencing in this area.) Hole 5 turned back toward the lake, extending generally eastward for 310 yards, doglegging to the southeast near the midpoint of the fairway. From there, Hole 6 ran south in a straight line for 365 yards, alongside the western edge of Holes 2 and 1. Hole 7 (located immediately west of Hole 6) reversed direction, extending north in a straight line for 325 yards, parallel to the fairway of Hole 6. At 195 yards, Hole 8 was shorter than Hole 7 overall, but its fairway ran southward parallel to both the western boundary of the course and the fairway for Hole 7. The final hole on the original course, Hole 9, began at the green for Hole 8, along the western edge of the landscape, and ran due south until it turned southwest halfway down the fairway; in total, Hole 9 extended 370 yards. Its green is located near the southwestern corner of the site, adjacent to the tee box for Hole 1. Thus, with some exceptions at the center of the course, the design for the front nine holes followed a generally counterclockwise progression of one-directional (rather than reversible) play ("Golf Course Grading," 1936).

In addition to the nine holes, structures on the original Langston Golf Course included sand traps, but information about their design and placement is limited until the 1940s. A 1936 grading plan for the course notes that sand traps and bunkers would be constructed after the

grading projects were complete (“Golf Course Grading,” 1936). Subsequent plans prepared in the 1930s and early 1940s note only the presence of each hole’s tee box, fairway, and green, but aerial photographs taken between 1935 and 1937 offer partial views of the original nine holes of the course. These images document the presence of sand traps in the following locations: along the fairway and green of Hole 1; along the Hole 2 fairway; around the Hole 6 green; along the Hole 7 fairway; along the Hole 8 fairway; along the fairway and around the green of Hole 9. Holes 3, 4, and 5 are not visible in these aerial photographs (NCR MRCE Photographic Files S01-B002, 1937).

As of 1951, the general layout of the nine holes were consistent with the original design of the course. By this time, the following sand traps were incorporated into the course design as hazards: one small sand trap along the fairway and two large sand traps flanking the green for Hole 1; two small sand traps at the midpoint of the Hole 2 fairway, as well as two small sand traps by the Hole 2 green; two small sand traps by the Hole 3 green; two large sand traps by the Hole 4 green; a large sand trap on the south side of the Hole 5 green; one large sand trap on the east side of the Hole 6 fairway, and two additional sand traps by and near the Hole 6 green; two large sand traps on the fairway for Hole 7, as well as one large sand trap by the Hole 7 green; one sand trap on the fairway and a second by the green for Hole 8; one sand trap where the Hole 9 fairway turns westward, and one final sand trap by the Hole 9 green (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951).

When Langston Golf Course was expanded between 1952 and 1955, the original nine holes largely retained their original design. The exceptions were: Hole 1, which was slightly narrowed in order to make room for the new Hole 18; Hole 2, which remained in the same location overall (including the position of its green), but its fairway trajectory was slightly redirected; and Hole 6, whose fairway was somewhat narrowed to accommodate the adjusted Hole 2. New sand traps were added or expanded on the front nine in the following areas: one extant sand trap along Hole 2’s rerouted fairway was expanded, and one new sand trap was added; several small sand traps were added along the Hole 3 fairway; and one of the sand traps that was formerly a hazard on Hole 6 now fell within the fairway of the redesigned Hole 2. All other sand traps from the original front nine remained extant and consistent with their original design. For a chart of the historic course yardage and par in 1936 and 1954, see the appendices.

Hole 10 (par 4), the first of the new holes constructed in 1954-1955, began at the southeast corner of the front nine, east of the tee box for the relocated Hole 1. Its tee box was located on the west side of the lake, with the fairway and green placed on the east side. (Holes 10 through 14 were partially or fully located on Kingman Island.) Hole 10 extended a total of 410 yards, stretching northeast before angling north toward the green.

The tee box for Hole 11 (par 5) was located immediately west of the Hole 10 green, and its trajectory extended generally northward. At 503 yards, it was one of the longest holes on the eighteen-hole course.



## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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In contrast, Hole 12 (par 3) was among the shortest holes, at just 158 yards. Its fairway was straight, directed northwest from its tee box.

From Hole 12's northwestern route, Hole 13's fairway was directed to the northeast before turning north toward the northern mouth of Kingman Lake. In total, Hole 13 (par 4) measured 372 yards.

As with Hole 10, Hole 14's design jumped the lake, with the tee box on the southern side of the lake's mouth and the green located on the northern side of the water. From beginning to end, Hole 14 (par 3) extended 187 yards.

Located once again on the main landmass of the course, Hole 15 (par 4) curved for 425 yards along the northern edge of the lake.

Hole 16 (par 5) then turned south, making a few jogs as it extended 495 yards toward a green on the lake's western shoreline.

Hole 17 (par 4) was adjacent to Hole 2 (although it played south while Hole 2 played north). It measured 412 yards, hugging the western edge of the lake.

The final hole on the expanded course, Hole 18 (par 4), was constructed immediately east of Hole 1. Its fairway extended south for a total of 376 yards, with one westward jog on the fairway (Gordon and Gordon 1954; Gordon and Gordon 1956; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

Sand traps were constructed as hazards for the expanded course in the following locations on the back nine: three sand traps around the green of Hole 10; three sand traps around the green for Hole 11; two sand traps on the southern side of the Hole 12 green; a small sand trap along the fairway for Hole 13, and sand traps around the green; one small sand trap on the west side of the Hole 14 green; two sand traps around the Hole 15 green; three small sand traps around the Hole 16 green; three sand traps around the Hole 17 green; and two sand traps around the Hole 18 green (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

In the 1960s, the holes retained their historic location. There were some alterations to the front nine's hazards. These included: the removal of one fairway sand trap on Hole 2; the deterioration of the three small sand traps on Hole 3's fairway, and the removal of one of the sand traps by the green; and the addition of two new sand traps by the Hole 9 green. The hazards on the back nine were unaltered during the 1960s (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1963; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968).

When Lee and Rose Elder took over the management of Langston in the 1970s, they oversaw several additions and alterations to the course's buildings and structures. The most significant

alteration during the Lee Elder era began with the addition of a driving range on the east side of Kingman Lake—a new feature that required the relocation and reworking of several holes in the back nine of the course. The range was added to the southeast corner of the cultural landscape in 1980, and a driving-range hut was added in 1985 (Cole 1991). As a result of the driving range, Hole 10's fairway and green were shifted west, toward the shoreline of Kingman Lake, occupying the fill that was added in the late 1960s. Hole 11 was shortened and slightly rerouted, but its green remained in place. Holes 12 through 18 remained intact during this period and unaffected by the insertion of the driving range (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1977; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1988; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994). The rerouting of Holes 10 and 11 did not result in any new sand traps.

Between 1999 and 2000, Langston underwent new renovations. The primary alterations to the course during this period were concentrated on the relocation of Holes 10 through 15; these alterations brought the course to its current condition and layout. In addition, large mounded bunkers were added around the perimeter of the driving range and around the fairways and greens throughout the back nine (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 2003).

The redesigned Hole 10 still jumps Kingman Lake at the southern end of the course, as it did in the original design. Its renovated design, however, now extends 538 yards around the driving range along a northeast-north-east trajectory, occupying the land that was added as fill between 1965 and 1968. Hole 11 takes a generally straight path north, similar to its previous route but shorter in length overall; it measures 406 yards. Hole 12 was significantly lengthened from its previous iteration, which was short and straight. The redesigned Hole 12 has an irregular footprint, but its trajectory of 444 yards is generally due northward from the tee box to the green. Hole 13 replaced Hole 14, jumping the lake and occupying the same footprint and yardage (175 yards). The new Hole 14, now contained entirely on the land north of the lake, extends a total of 341 yards, doglegging from west to southwest at the midpoint of the fairway. The redesigned and relocated Hole 15 is short and direct, with a northward route that extends 203 yards. Holes 16 and 17 retain their earlier design. Hole 18 was altered so that the second half of the fairway doglegs southeast, rather than southwest. As a result, the hole hugs the shoreline of Kingman Lake for its full length of 383 yards (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 2003, 2006).

#### Existing Condition

Today, much of the front nine is consistent with the original design of the course and the minor alterations made to Holes 1, 2, and 6 during the period of significance when the course was expanded to eighteen holes. Several holes in the back nine have been altered since their original construction; the back nine is consistent with the most recent alterations to the course, implemented in 1999-2000. Several sand traps have been removed or altered throughout the course, and large mounded bunkers have been added throughout the back nine. For a chart of the current course yardage in comparison with the historic course yardage, see the appendices.

Hole 1 measures 472 yards and is a par 5. Its tee box is located immediately southeast of the clubhouse, and its fairway extends north along a generally straight trajectory. It features two sand traps; one is located at the midpoint of the fairway, while the second is placed on the southwest side of the green. The extant fairway and green are consistent with the period of significance.

Hole 2 measures 395 yards and is a par 4. Its tee box is located north of the Hole 1 green; its fairway curves toward the northeast. One sand trap is located on the west side of the green. The current hole design is generally consistent with the period of significance.

Hole 3 measures 525 yards and is a par 5. Its fairway is one of the longest in the current course, beginning at the tee box that is located northeast of the Hole 2 green and extending west toward the slopes in the northwest corner of the course. The fairway is generally straight and plays up the slope of the hill. There are no sand traps. The fairway has been minimally altered since the period of significance, and the extant hole retains its historic integrity.

Hole 4 measures 157 yards and is a par 3. It is located on the slope of the hill in the northwest corner of the site, consistent with its historic condition. The short, straight fairway extends southwest. Two sand traps frame the green. The hole retains its integrity from the period of significance.

Hole 5 measures 350 yards and is a par 4. The fairway is directed east and has a curved route. There are two sand traps: one is located on the north side of the fairway, near the green; the second is placed on the southern edge of the green. The fairway's routing has been minimally altered, and the hole retains its integrity from the period of significance.

Hole 6 measures 398 yards and is a par 4. The straight fairway extends south, with two sand traps along the fairway. The position and design of the hole is consistent with the period of significance.

Hole 7 measures 341 yards and is a par 4. The fairway follows a straight, northward trajectory. One sand trap is located on the east side of the fairway, and a second is placed on the southeastern edge of the green. The hole is consistent with the period of significance.

Hole 8 measures 205 yards and is a par 3. It is one of the shortest holes on the current course, with a straight fairway that faces south. The hole features two sand traps: one on the east side of the fairway, and a second on the west side of the green. The design of Hole 8 is consistent with the expanded historic design of the course.

Hole 9 measures 400 yards and is a par 4. The fairway begins by extending south before doglegging to the southwest. There is one sand trap along the fairway and two additional sand traps west of the green. The extant fairway and green are consistent with the period of

significance, and the hole retains its integrity.

Hole 10 measures 538 yards and is a par 5. The hole jumps Kingman Lake at the southern end of the course. Its extended-yardage tee box is located on the west side of the lake, while a second tee box for less experienced golfers is located on the east side of the lake. The fairway and green are placed along the eastern bank of the water. The fairway curves toward the northeast, following the lake's shoreline. There are three sand traps associated with this hole: one along the fairway, and two that frame the green. Generally, the hole's routing and direction of play are consistent with the period of significance, but the integrity of the original design has been adversely affected by the relocation of the fairway and the green.

Hole 11 measures 406 yards and is a par 4. The fairway is straight, with a northeastern trajectory. Several large mounded bunkers flank the fairway, and one sand trap is located south of the green. The hole has been redesigned and relocated since the period of significance; it does not retain integrity.

Hole 12 measures 444 yards and is a par 4. It has a straight fairway, directed north. Several mounded bunkers are positioned on the east side of the fairway, and two sand traps flank the green. The extant hole is not consistent with the period of significance, and does not retain integrity.

Hole 13 measures 175 yards and is a par 3. It jumps the northern mouth of Kingman Lake, with the tee box located south of the water and the green placed north of the mouth. There are no sand traps associated with this hole. The current hole is significantly altered from the original design; it does not retain integrity.

Hole 14 measures 341 yards and is a par 4. Its fairway is directed west before doglegging southwest. Two sand traps are located south of the fairway, and a third sand trap is adjacent to the green. Several large bunkers are arranged around the fairway as it approaches the green. The fairway and green have been completely redesigned and relocated since the period of significance. Hole 14 does not retain integrity.

Hole 15 measures 203 yards and is a par 3. It plays along a short, straight, northward fairway, and has two sand traps around the green. The green is framed by large bunkers. The extant hole is significantly different than the historic condition; it does not retain integrity from the period of significance.

Hole 16 measures 540 yards and is a par 5. The fairway is the longest at Langston, extending south for several hundred yards before curving eastward toward the green. There are two sand traps along the fairway and an additional two hazards on the north side of the green. The fairway and green are generally consistent with the period of significance, and the hole retains integrity.

## Langston Golf Course

### National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Hole 17 measures 396 yards and is a par 4. The fairway curves toward the south, hugging the west shoreline of Kingman Lake. There are several large bunkers along the west side of the fairway, and one large sand trap adjacent to the green. With the exception of the recent bunkers, the fairway and green have not been significantly altered since the original construction of the back nine. Hole 17 retains integrity to the period of significance.

Hole 18 measures 383 yards and is a par 4. The hole is routed south, with a straight fairway and three sand traps. The fairway and green are consistent with the period of significance, and the hole retains integrity.

#### Clubhouse

##### Historic Condition

By the time the course opened in 1939, buildings and structures on the original course included a temporary clubhouse erected c. 1938 (to be replaced by a permanent clubhouse at a later date) (Dawkins and Braddock II 2015: 65; BAA, June 10, 1939: 22). The temporary clubhouse occupied an L-shaped footprint and comprised tractor storage, tool storage, toilets, and a golf shop. The one-story, wood-frame building was finished on the exterior with weatherboard siding and a hipped, shingled roof (“Field House” 1938).

Between 1950 and 1952, the current one-story, brick clubhouse was constructed on the site of the original temporary clubhouse structure (TWSS, January 6, 1952: B4). The new building contained a large dining space and snack bar, a kitchen, women’s and men’s locker rooms, and a long wall of glass windows that looked out onto a covered porch and the golf course (National Park Service 1950).

Under the management of Lee and Rose Elder, a golf cart shed was added to the southeast elevation of the clubhouse c. 1978 (TES, April 9, 1979: 36; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1980; “Golf Cart Storage Building” 1978).

##### Existing Condition

The clubhouse is consistent with the building’s original construction, although its adjacent golf cart shed was added in recent decades. The building has not been substantially altered since its original construction. Its design, materials, and use are consistent with the period of significance.

#### Other Buildings and Structures

##### Historic Condition

The expansion of the course in the early 1950s required the construction of a small wooden pedestrian bridge (Bridge 1), spanning Kingman Lake’s northern mouth to the Anacostia River. It began by the green for Hole 13, and it connected the tee box for Hole 14 on the south side of the lake’s mouth to the Hole 14 green on the north side of the mouth (Gordon and Gordon 1954). The bridge was constructed in 1954, but it was likely replaced in 1999 during course renovations (National Capital Parks Engineering Branch, National Park Service 1954;

“Ineligible - National Register of Historic Places” 1999). A third bridge by Hole 3 appears to have been added during that same 1999-2000 renovation campaign; its short span crosses a creekbed that runs through the course toward Kingman Lake (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1999, 2000, 2003).

At the southern end of the newly-expanded course, the original back nine appears to have historically relied on a narrow sidewalk along Benning Road to circulate golfers. A bridge was not constructed in this location until 1979 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). Bridge 2 was a steel truss bridge with a concrete deck that carried golfers along the narrow part of Kingman Lake just north of, and parallel to, the Benning Road Bridge (The Ethel Kennedy Bridge). Designed by Greenhorne & O’Mara Architects and Engineers of Riverdale, Maryland, the bridge was constructed to provide access to the driving range from the clubhouse. The bridge had three spans and in its entirety measured 223’ 10” long. (TWS, October 12, 1980: D12; Longworth 1975). Aerial photographs suggest that at least one span one was widened, but further research is necessary to confirm (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1999).

A rain shelter was designed in 1944 and is visible in aerial photographs by 1949; it was located between the green for Hole 5 and the tee box for Hole 6. It had a small rectangular footprint and featured an open-sided design with spaced-out rough boards and a hipped roof with wood shingles (“Utility Building, Parking Area” 1947; Haussmann 1944). This rain shelter remained in place through the period of significance (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). It was removed during the 1960s (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1968). Two new rain shelters were installed on the course c. 2000. They are extant today by Holes 8 and 13.

A miniature golf course at Langston was constructed in 1948 at the southwest corner of the site, at the corner of 26th Street and Benning Road, where it replaced a putting green (Haussmann 1944; NCR MRCE Photographic Files S01-B002, 1937; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949). The miniature golf course consisted of eighteen holes clustered within a roughly rectangular area, with a ticket office building in the northwest corner, facing the (temporary) clubhouse. The holes were geometric in shape and were constructed on concrete foundations, with no paved pathways between them. (“Langston Miniature Golf Course” 1948; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1949). By the early 1950s, one flower bed within the miniature golf course was removed, and aerial photographs suggest that obstacles may have been added to some holes. Otherwise, the miniature golf course and its associated ticket office remained consistent in design and layout throughout the period of significance (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951). It was later demolished between 1963 and 1964, although a concrete remnant of one hole survives in its original location (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1963; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1964).

The driving range was added to Langston Golf Course in 1980. A driving range hut was

constructed in 1985. The range was inserted east of Kingman Lake, with the stalls at the southern end and the range directed north. In the 1999-2000 renovations of Langston, the perimeter of the driving range was altered to include a ring of large mounded bunkers.

A circular putting green was constructed southeast of the clubhouse shortly after the course opened (Hausmann 1944; United States Army Air Service, Third Section 1937; Rowe 1954). It was replaced by the miniature golf course in 1948. A new putting green was inserted c. 1950 immediately east of the miniature golf course. It occupied a teardrop-shaped footprint and included multiple practice holes (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951). The putting green remained in place through the period of significance, but was altered to occupy a rectangular footprint. In the later decades of the 20th century, the boundaries of the putting green were minimally modified, but the green remained extant in the same location. In 2000, three new practice greens were added in the interstitial landscape between the tee box for Hole 1, the green for Hole 18, and the tee box for Hole 10. The sand traps remained relatively consistent throughout the course, with the exception of the sand traps associated with the back nine holes that were overhauled during the 1999-2000 alterations. A limited number of sand traps were removed, including one sand trap south of the Hole 3 green. Otherwise, the sand traps remained intact into the 21st century.

A maintenance/utility building was constructed in the late 1940s, immediately west of the Hole 8 green. It occupied a rectangular footprint and was a simple utilitarian design, with concrete block walls and a pitched asphalt shingle roof (“Utility Building, Parking Area, Langston Golf Course” 1947). As of 1957 aerial photographs, the maintenance building on the western side of the site occupied a larger footprint than the structure extant before the course’s expansion. It was likely a new structure, replacing the previous shed that burned in a fire (The Washington Post and Times Herald, August 20, 1957: A11). However, further research is necessary to confirm whether it was simply an expanded version of the earlier building (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951; United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957; “Golf Club House, Langston Golf Course” 1949c). It was replaced in the same location during the 1999-2000 alterations of the course.

#### Existing Condition

There are two extant rain shelters on the course; both are recent additions to the golf course. In addition, several portable toilets (with wood screens) have been installed throughout the course in recent years.

The bridge across the northern mouth of Kingman Lake was constructed during the 1999-2000 alterations. Bridge 2 was constructed after the period of significance and appears to have been somewhat altered in recent years. A third bridge is extant on the fairway at Hole 3; its short span crosses the stream that passes through the course and terminates in Kingman Lake. Bridge 3 features a wood deck and metal railings.

The miniature golf course is no longer extant, but the concrete foundation from one miniature golf hole remains intact south of the clubhouse.

The driving range and driving range hut are extant east of Kingman Lake, consistent with the 1999-2000 alterations to the range. The mounded bunkers are extant around the perimeter of the driving range, which remains oriented from south to north.

The extant putting green is consistent with the period of significance. The practice greens were added in recent years.

The maintenance building is extant in the same location as the period of significance, but the building is a more recent replacement.

#### Analysis

As a single structure, the golf course retains overall integrity from the period of significance. The front nine retains more physical integrity than the back nine (including design, materials, and workmanship). However, despite the alterations to the back nine's design, the course nevertheless retains integrity of location, association, feeling, and setting. The integrity of individual holes has been diminished by alterations that postdate the period of significance, but the overall structure of the course is consistent with the character, layout, and use of the course's original construction and expansion. The putting green located southeast of the clubhouse is also a contributing structure that retains integrity from the period of significance.

The clubhouse is the only contributing building. It has been minimally altered since the period of significance; the addition of the golf cart shed does not detract from its overall integrity. The cultural landscape's remaining buildings were constructed outside the period of significance.

Non-contributing buildings and structures include: the maintenance building; the driving range and driving range hut; the portable toilets and screens; the rain shelters; Bridges 1, 2, and 3; and the practice greens. These features postdate the period of significance.

The buildings and structures constructed within the period of significance retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the cultural landscape.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Clubhouse
Feature Identification Number:	180611
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Latitude	Longitude
-76.9698980000	38.8985110000



Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Feature: Hole nos. 1-18  
Feature Identification Number: 180613  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Latitude Longitude  
-76.9677990000 38.9004820000

Feature: Putting green  
Feature Identification Number: 180615  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Latitude Longitude  
-76.9690130000 38.8981400000

Feature: Driving range  
Feature Identification Number: 180617  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing  
Latitude Longitude  
-76.9638160000 38.8989830000

Feature: Driving range hut  
Feature Identification Number: 180619  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing  
Latitude Longitude  
-76.9649290000 38.8978120000

Feature: Practice greens  
Feature Identification Number: 180621  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing  
Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Maintenance building  
Feature Identification Number: 180623  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Langston Golf Course  
National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Latitude Longitude  
-76.9692550000 38.9021090000

Feature: Miniature golf course remnant

Feature Identification Number: 180625

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
-76.9697120000 38.8984540000

Feature: Portable toilets and screens (by Hole no. 8, tee no. 14, and tee no. 18)

Feature Identification Number: 180643

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Rain shelters (by Hole nos. 8 and 13)

Feature Identification Number: 180645

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Bridge no. 1 (between Hole nos. 13 and 14)

Feature Identification Number: 180647

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
-76.9581050000 38.9072920000

Feature: Bridge no. 2 (along Benning Road)

Feature Identification Number: 180649

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
-76.9656000000 38.8974550000

Feature: Bridge no. 3 (on fairway of Hole no. 3)

Feature Identification Number: 180651

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

-76.9651680000

38.9037680000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Historic and existing buildings and structures. For a larger view of these maps, see Appendix A. (Fichman and Lester 2017)*



*The clubhouse has remained consistent from its original construction in 1950-1952 (top) to today (bottom). (Top: Rowe 1954; Bottom: Lester 2016)*



*Other existing buildings and structures at the Langston Golf Course cultural landscape include rain shelters (top), three bridges (middle) and a concrete foundation remnant from the miniature golf course. These features are considered non-contributing because they either postdate the period of significance or do not retain enough integrity to their original condition. (Lester 2016)*

### **Views and Vistas**

#### Historic Conditions

Based on the topography, spatial organization, and vegetation pattern of the site, significant vistas from the original nine holes emphasized interior views within the course, framing the sightlines down individual fairways with planted trees that lined the holes and surrounded the greens (TAA, June 10, 1939: 22). Additional views in the original course were available toward Kingman Lake, particularly from the slopes at the northwest corner of the course, but it is unclear whether these vistas were intentionally exploited for the original design of the course.

As part of the course expansion between 1952 and 1955, several trees were removed along the western shoreline of Kingman Lake; this restored and expanded views from the front nine to the lake. Holes 2 and 3 were closest to these expanded views, although views and vistas from the entire front nine benefited from the removal of the trees along Kingman Lake. (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). Significant views and vistas from the new back nine were focused towards the lake (in very limited areas) and the Anacostia River to the east (for a longer stretch of the shoreline). Views toward Kingman Lake were primarily concentrated at the northern mouth of the lake and at the midpoint of Kingman Island, allowing for limited vistas from Holes 11, 13, and 14. Vegetation along the shoreline generally obstructed any other views from these holes toward Kingman Lake. The view toward the Anacostia River was largely unobstructed by the end of the period of significance (1935-1955), with only a limited number of trees located along that shoreline; this allowed for general views to the Anacostia River from Holes 10 through 14 (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957).

The views and vistas were not significantly altered during the mid- to late-twentieth century, although the maturation of the trees along the Kingman Lake shoreline did obstruct the sightlines from various holes.

#### Existing Conditions

The course's fairway sightlines on the front nine are consistent with the period of significance, with the historic vegetation pattern that frames the sightlines toward the greens.

As is typical of a changing recreational landscape, the vegetation pattern has shifted somewhat over time, particularly along the Kingman Lake shorelines. However, the extant views throughout the course, and particularly on the back nine, reinforce the visual connections with Kingman Lake and the Anacostia River.

#### Analysis

Langston Golf Course Cultural Landscape retains its contributing views along the fairways of the front nine. The views from the back nine toward Kingman Lake and the Anacostia River have been minimally altered since the period of significance by changes to the vegetation



pattern around and within the cultural landscape. The course therefore retains integrity of its character-defining views and vistas.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: General views along fairways, framed by vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 180653

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views from Back 9 to Anacostia River

Feature Identification Number: 180655

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: General views to Kingman Lake

Feature Identification Number: 180657

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Views and vistas on the front nine are framed by trees that were planted along the fairways during the period of significance. (Lester 2016)*



Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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*Views and vistas on the back nine are somewhat obstructed by large mounded bunkers (top) that were added during the 1999-2000 renovations of the course. (Bottom) Tree stands along Kingman Lake and the Anacostia River bracket the edges of Holes 10 through 14 on Kingman Island. (Lester 2016)*

### **Small Scale Features**

#### Historic Condition

The research to date has not determined the design or location of any small-scale features on Langston Golf Course at the time of its original construction, but typical features at the time included hole markers, benches, and ball-washers. These features were likely moveable, however, and the only small-scale features documented in historic drawings (according to the research to date) are several water fountains that are included on a 1956 drawing of the expanded course. These water fountains are no longer extant.

Fences were the few features noted on plans or visible in aerial photographs. By 1951, some form of barrier was present along the southern boundary of the course, bordering Benning Road, but it is unclear how substantial or obstructive this fence or wall was (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951). Archival records indicate that Leoffler either replaced or increased the size of this fence later in the 1960s (TWP, October 21, 1963: A3). Given the number of informal points of access and social trails at the northwestern corner of the site, it is unlikely that any barrier (such as a fence or wall) was extant at this time along the Maryland Avenue NE or M Street NE boundaries (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1951).

By the time the course was expanded in 1955, aerial photographs document pronounced shadows along the sidewalks that radiate from the new clubhouse to the parking area and course, suggesting that there were short stretches of fencing along these formal paths (United States Geological Survey [NETR Online] 1957). No documentation of their profile or design has been found to date. An additional fence appears to be extant along the west edge of the path or drive to the maintenance area, separating Langston from the neighboring property and playing fields. The remaining perimeter of the site appears to have been demarcated primarily by vegetation, rather than fencing or walls.

In the late twentieth century, under the management of Golf Course Specialists, water stations were added at a limited number of (unspecified) tees throughout the course (TWP, September 20, 1987: 41). At some point between 1988 and 1994 (and possibly in conjunction with the 1991 designation of the site in the National Register of Historic Places), a new sign was embedded in the ground in front of the clubhouse. This sign features a concrete base and bricks that spell out the words "LANGSTON GC" (United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1988; United States Geological Survey [Google Earth] 1994).

#### Existing Condition

The cultural landscape features several non-contributing and/or non-historic small-scale features throughout the course (and particularly around the clubhouse). According to archival research and aerial photographs, none of the extant fencing (chain-link, split-rail, and wood) appears to date from the period of significance, although further research is necessary to

confirm this. Additional non-contributing small-scale features include: wayfinding signage and an interpretive plaque (on the entrance gate); benches; picnic tables; trash cans; a utility box by the practice greens; a defunct utility pole by Hole 16; water fountain stations throughout the course; rail-tie planting beds; and light stands by the driving range. In addition, a blind-hole bell is located along the Hole 10 fairway; because the green is not visible to golfers at the tee box, the bell allows golfers to signal to subsequent golfers that they have finished playing the hole.

There are no contributing small-scale features on the course today. Further research is necessary to determine if there are any contributing remnants of the Kingman Lake seawall constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers during the reclamation of the Anacostia Flats; this feature is considered undetermined.

#### Analysis

None of the existing small-scale features at Langston Golf Course date to the period of significance (with the possible exception of the undetermined seawall feature). Most of the current features, including the benches, ball washers, tee markers, and wayfinding signage, are owned by the course concessionaire and are not permanent. The remaining features, including interpretive signage and utilities, postdate the period of significance. These features are all non-contributing; however, because they are both moveable and compatible with the use of the landscape, they do not diminish the integrity of the course. Langston Golf Course does not retain integrity with respect to small-scale features.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Brick lettering of LANGSTON GC

Feature Identification Number: 180659

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: White split-rail fencing by clubhouse

Feature Identification Number: 180661

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: NPS wayfinding signage at Benning Road

Feature Identification Number: 180663

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Langston Golf Course  
National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: NPS regulatory signage  
Feature Identification Number: 180665  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Benches by clubhouse fence  
Feature Identification Number: 180667  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Picnic tables at clubhouse  
Feature Identification Number: 180669  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Trash cans  
Feature Identification Number: 180671  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Feature: Chain-link fencing  
Feature Identification Number: 180673  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude  
0.0000000000

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Feature: Utility box by Benning Road/practice greens

Feature Identification Number: 180675

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Water stations throughout course

Feature Identification Number: 180677

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Blind-hole bell at Hole 10 (Barracuda`s Bell)

Feature Identification Number: 180679

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Rail-tie planting bed perimeters

Feature Identification Number: 180681

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Driving range boundary posts

Feature Identification Number: 180683

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Driving range lightstands

Feature Identification Number: 180685

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Metal fence at Bridge no. 2

Feature Identification Number: 180687

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Wood fence at Bridge no. 2

Feature Identification Number: 180689

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Fence/screen by Hole no. 8

Feature Identification Number: 180691

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

Feature: Kingman Lake seawall, constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers

Feature Identification Number: 180693

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Latitude Longitude

0.0000000000

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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*There are no contributing small-scale features within the cultural landscape today. Extant non-contributing features include a sign for “Langston GC” (top), regulatory signage (middle), and various forms of non-historic fencing (bottom). (Lester 2016)*

Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East - Anacostia Park

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# Condition



## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/2017

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI.

An assessment of Fair indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition

This determination takes into account both the landscape and buildings situated therein. Although no immediate corrective action is needed at this time to maintain its current condition, the following impacts should be addressed in order to improve the cultural landscape to good condition.

- Routine maintenance should be conducted on contributing landscape features
- Social trails should be mitigated through the improvements of the circulation network of the cultural landscape
- Routine monitoring should be conducted

### Impacts

<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Visitation
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	The continuous use of Langston Golf Course throughout the year contributes to the deterioration of the landscape's vegetation—particularly the turf of the tee boxes, fairways, and greens.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Exposure To Elements
<b>External or Internal:</b>	External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	The landscape exhibits wear and tear that can be partially attributed to weather damage and exposure.

**Treatment**

**Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined  
**Approved Treatment Document:** Cultural Landscape Report

**Approved Treatment Costs**

**Level of Estimate:** B - Preliminary Plans/HSR-CLR



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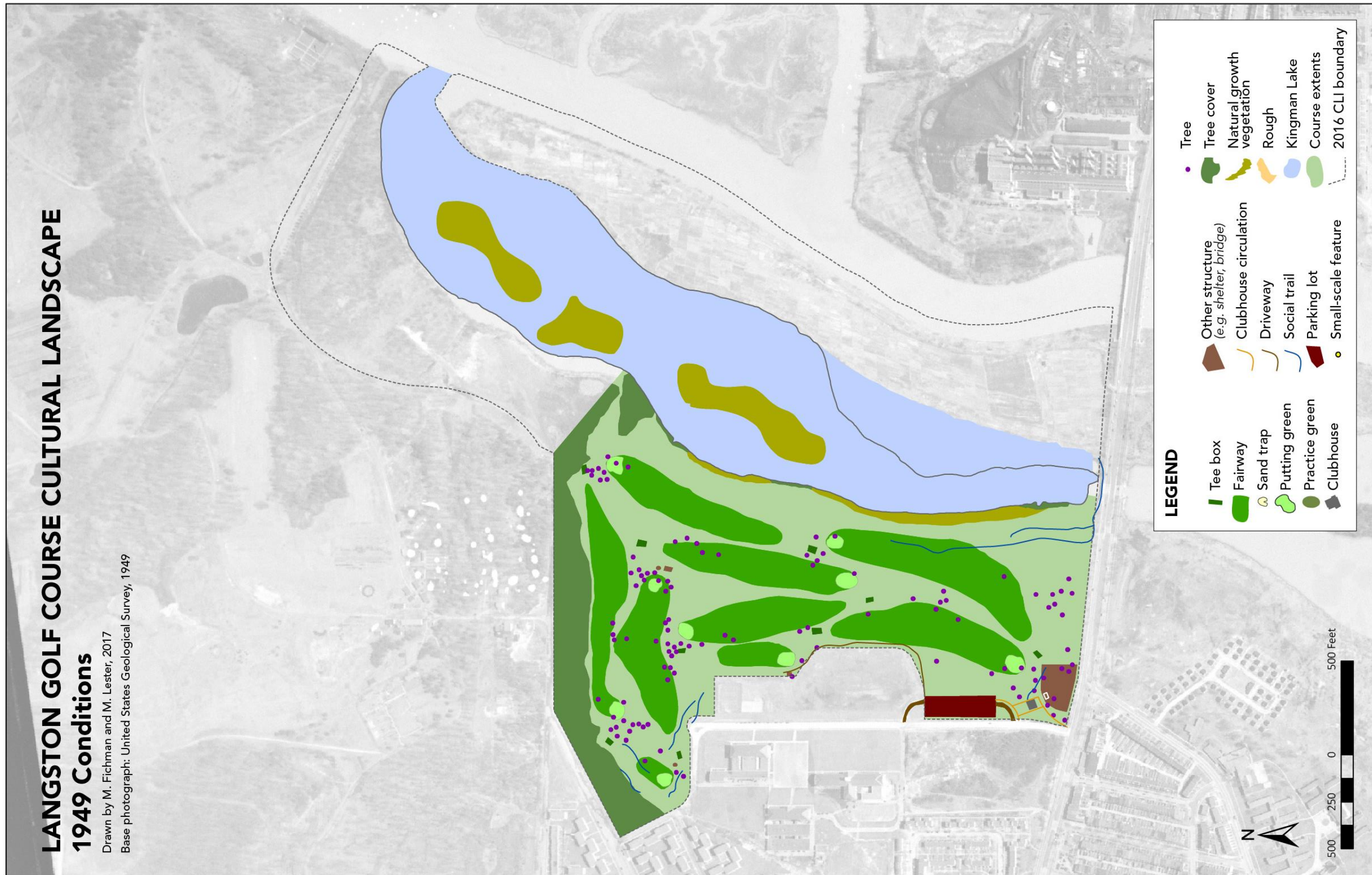
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**Year of Publication:** 1952  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Sunday Star, Washington, DC
- Citation Author:** Trescott, Jacqueline  
**Citation Title:** Practice Swings, Hopeful Putts: Big Names Galore at Ninth Annual Lee Elder Celebrity Pro-Am  
**Year of Publication:** 1979  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC
- Citation Author:** United States Army Air Service, Third Section  
**Citation Title:** NCR MRCE Photographic Files S01-B002  
**Year of Publication:** 1937  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Army Air Service, Washington, DC
- Citation Author:** United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations  
**Citation Title:** District of Columbia Appropriation Bill for 1934, Hearings Before the Subcommittee of House Committee on Appropriations, HR 14643  
**Year of Publication:** 1933  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC

- Citation Author:** United States Geological Survey  
**Citation Title:** Satellite Photography of Washington, DC  
**Citation Publisher:** NETR Online/Nationwide Environmental Title Research LLC;  
www.historicaerials.com
- Citation Author:** United States Geological Survey  
**Citation Title:** Satellite Photography of Washington, DC  
**Citation Publisher:** Google Earth/DigitalGlobe, Mountain View, CA
- Citation Author:** United States of America, Bureau of the Census  
**Citation Title:** 1940 United States Federal Census  
**Year of Publication:** 1940  
**Citation Publisher:** Ancestry.com, Provo, UT
- Citation Author:** United States, Selective Service System  
**Citation Title:** World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards,  
1917, Pennsylvania  
**Year of Publication:** 1917  
**Citation Publisher:** Ancestry.com, Provo, UT
- Citation Author:** Washington, DC Chapter, National Railway Historical Society  
**Citation Title:** Timeline of Washington, DC Railroad History  
**Year of Publication:** 2014  
**Citation Publisher:** DC Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Washington,  
DC; <http://www.dcnr>
- Citation Author:** Wirth, C.L.  
**Citation Title:** Letter from C. L. Wirth to Col. Grant  
**Year of Publication:** 1929  
**Citation Publisher:** Unpublished manuscript

Appendix A: Mapping Analysis





# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 1957 Conditions

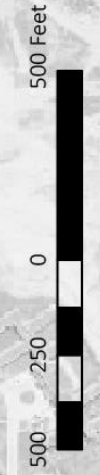
Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017  
Base photograph: United States Geological Survey, 1957

(Missing data in source image)



**LEGEND**

Tee box	Other structure (e.g. shelter, bridge)	Tree
Fairway	Clubhouse circulation	Tree cover
Sand trap	Driveway	Natural growth vegetation
Putting green	Social trail	Rough
Practice green	Parking lot	Kingman Lake
Clubhouse	Small-scale feature	Course extents
		2016 CLI boundary





# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE Existing Conditions (2016)

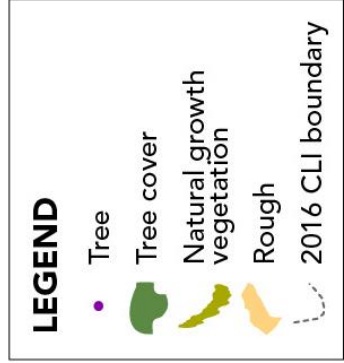
Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017





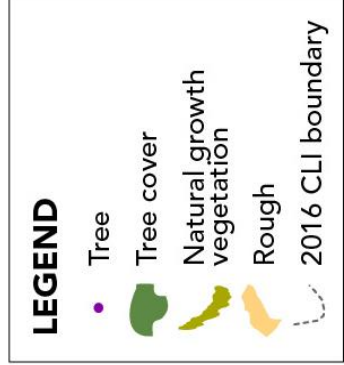
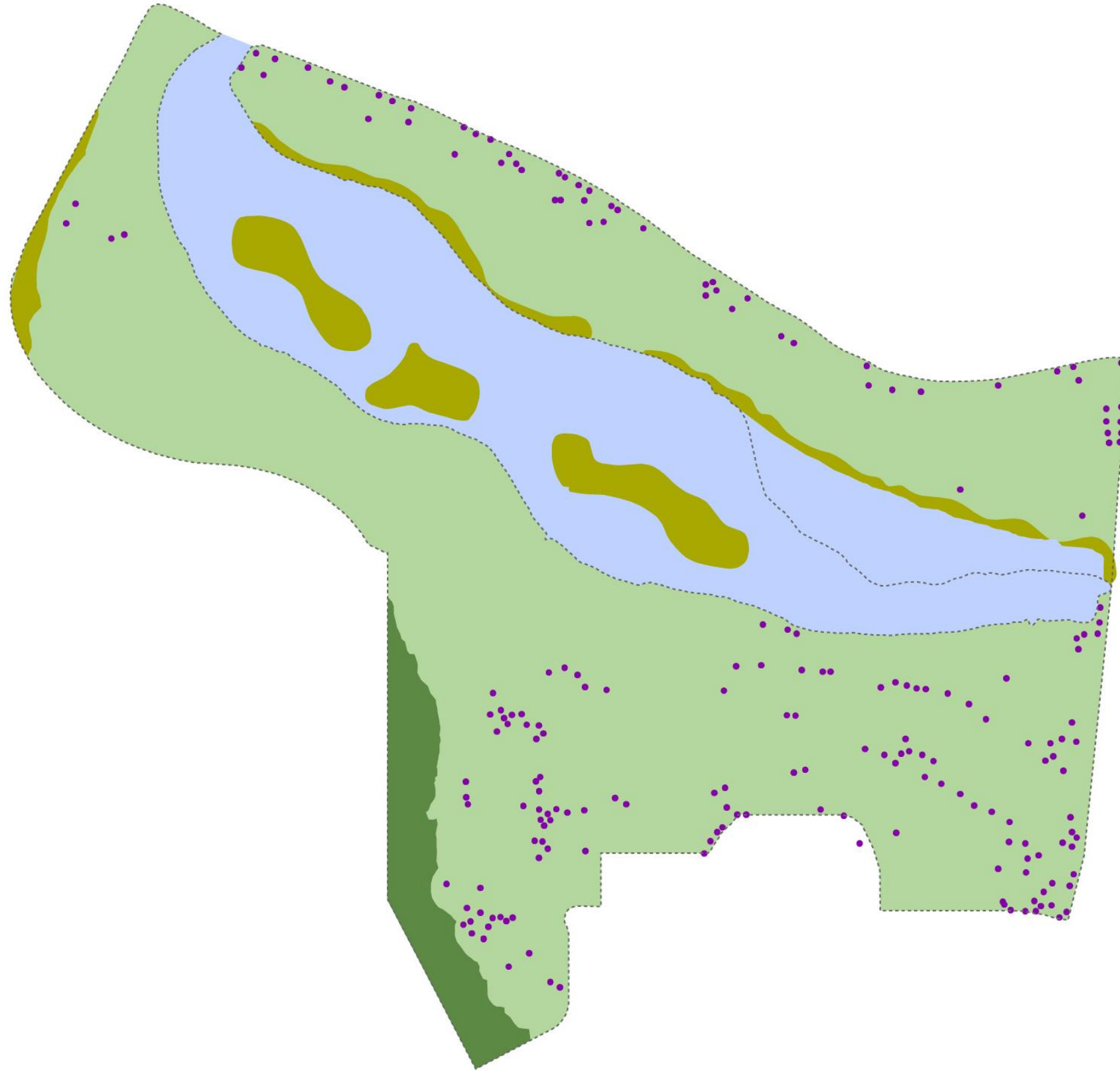
# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 1949 Vegetation

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



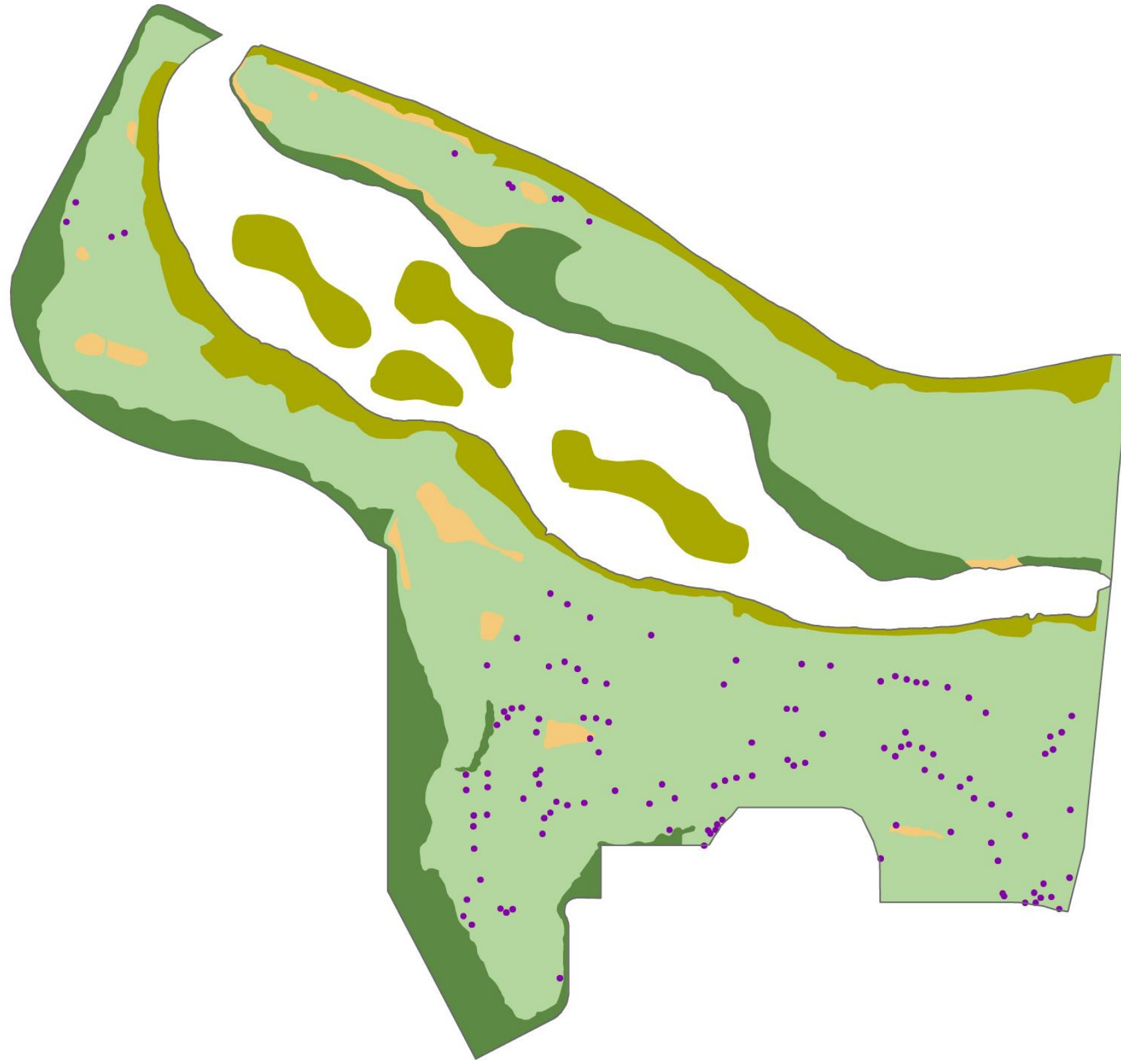
# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 1957 Vegetation

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 2016 Vegetation

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



**LEGEND**

- Tree (purple dot)
- Tree cover (dark green)
- Natural growth vegetation (light green)
- Rough (orange)
- CLI boundary (black line)

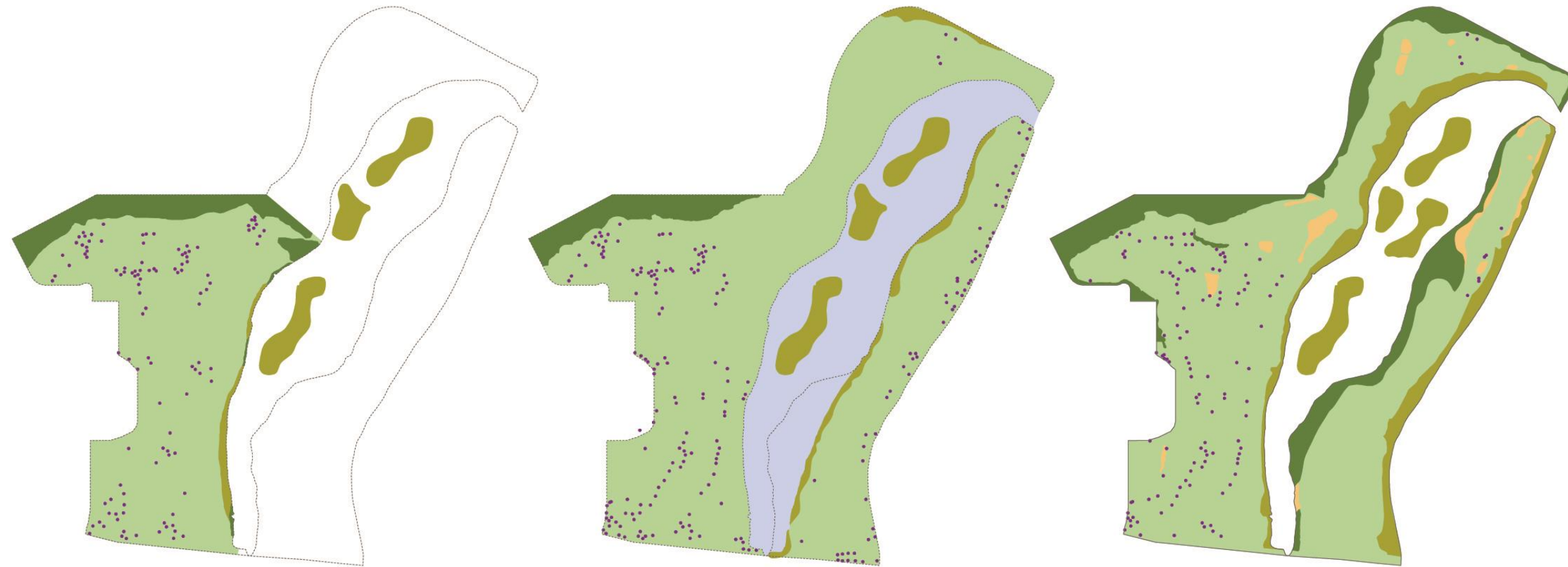


# Vegetation: Historic and Existing Condition

1949

1957

2016



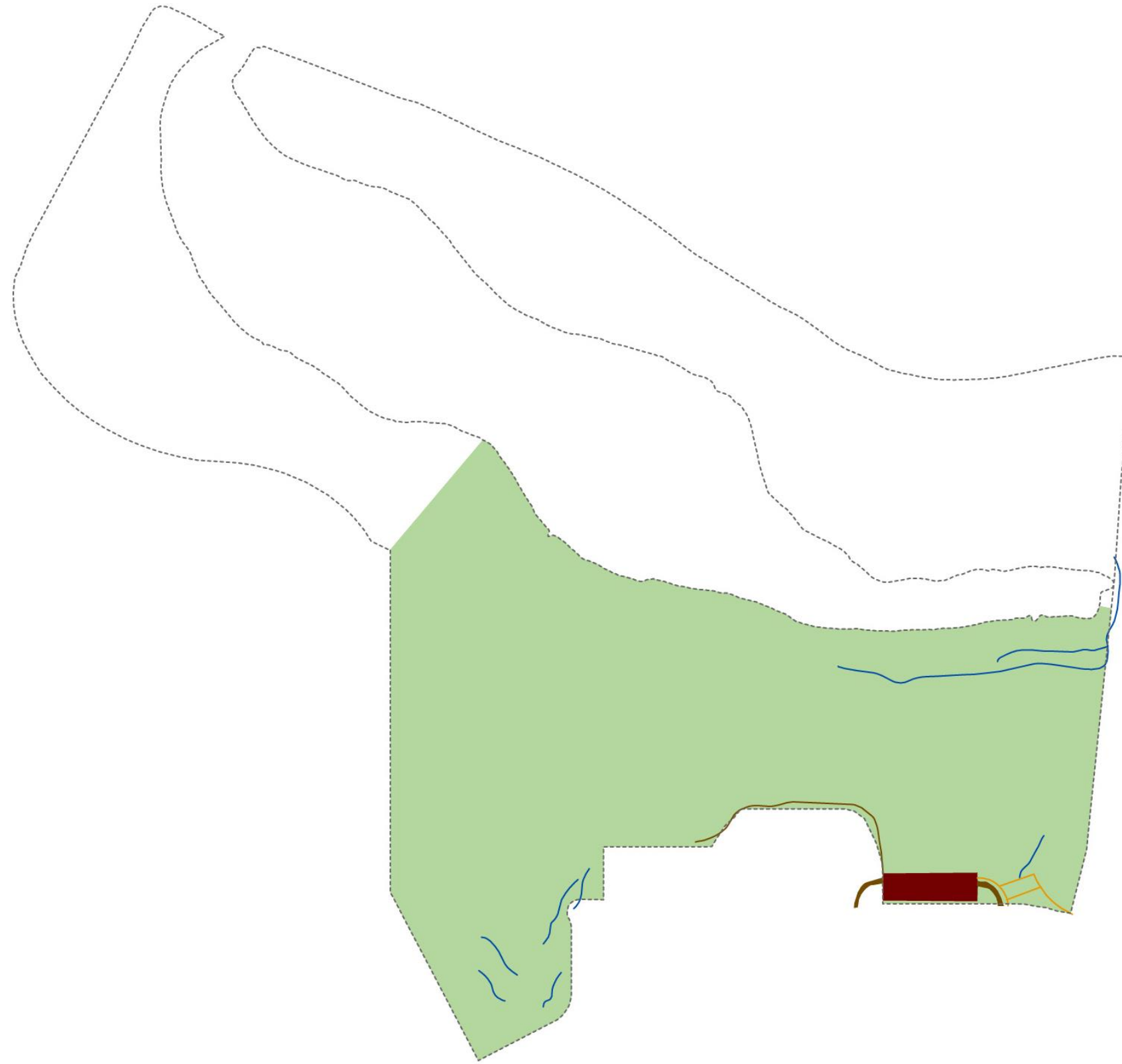
**LEGEND**

- Tree
- Tree cover
- Natural growth vegetation
- Rough
- ┌ CLI boundary



# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 1949 Circulation

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



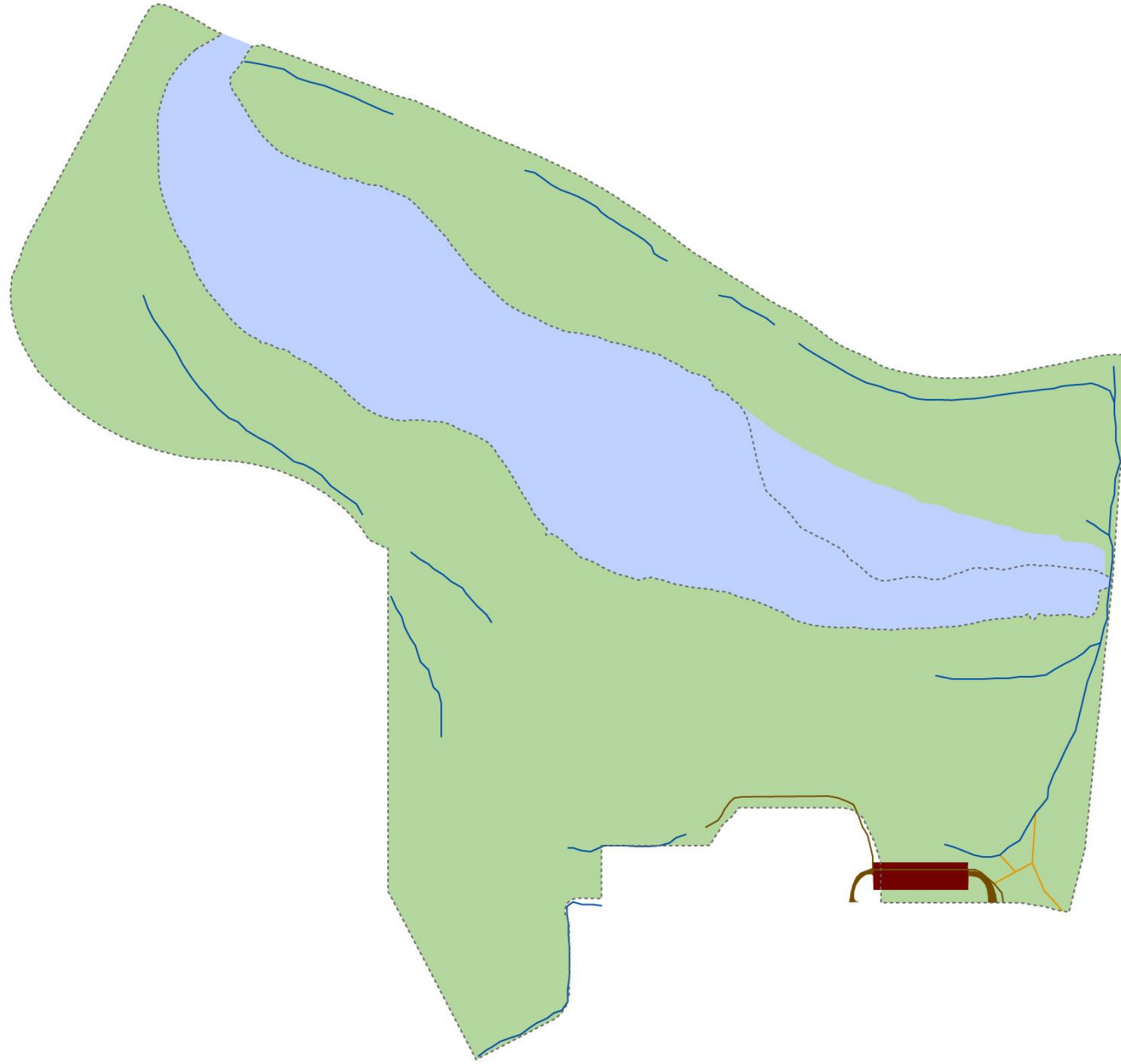
**LEGEND**

- Clubhouse circulation
- Driveway
- Social trail
- Parking lot
- 2016 CLI boundary



# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 1957 Circulation

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



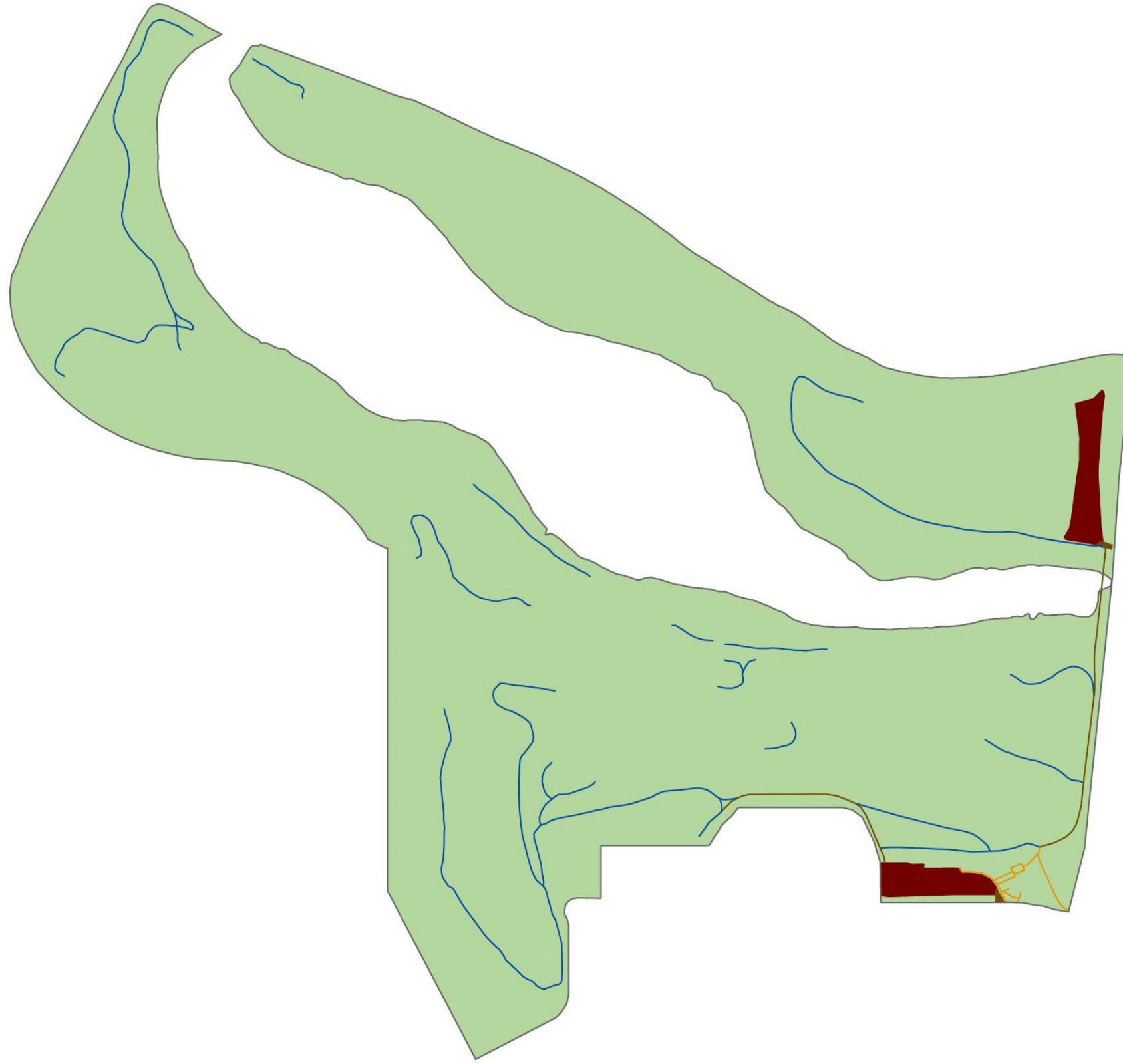
**LEGEND**

- Clubhouse circulation
- Driveway
- Social trail
- Parking lot
- 2016 CLI boundary



# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE 2016 Circulation

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



**LEGEND**

- Clubhouse circulation
- Driveway
- Social trail
- Parking lot
- CLI boundary



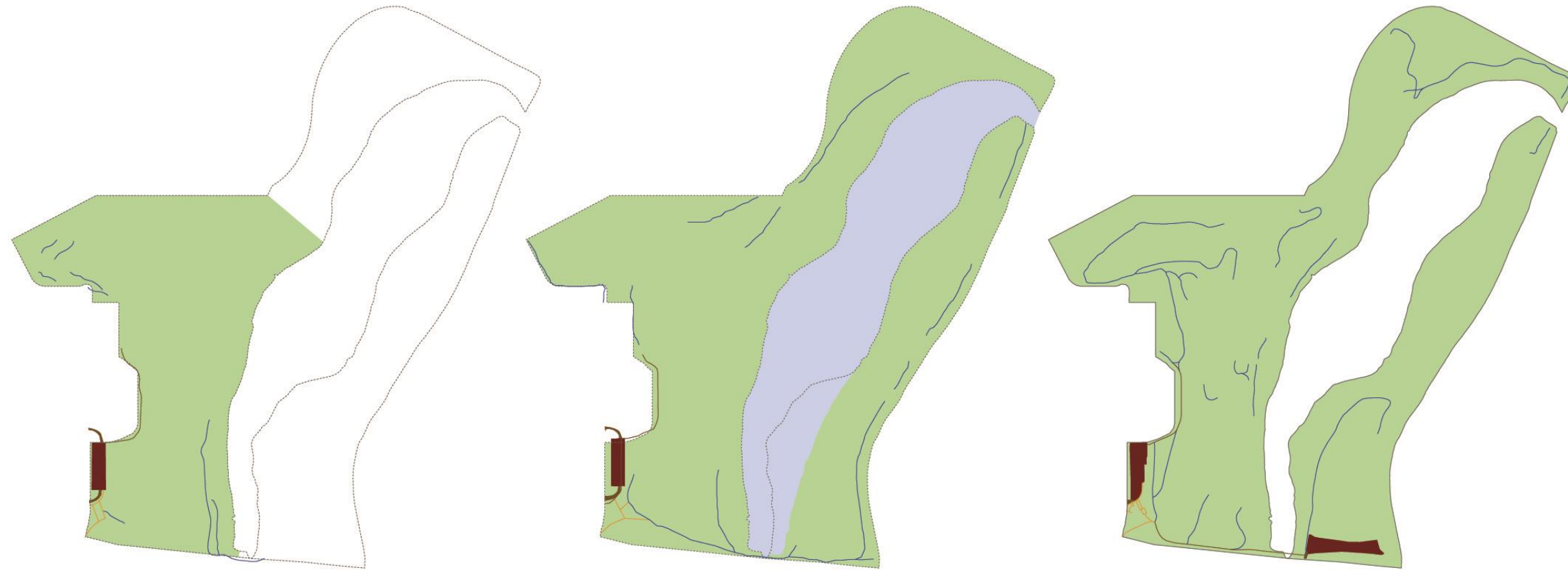


# Circulation: Historic and Existing Condition

1949

1957

2016



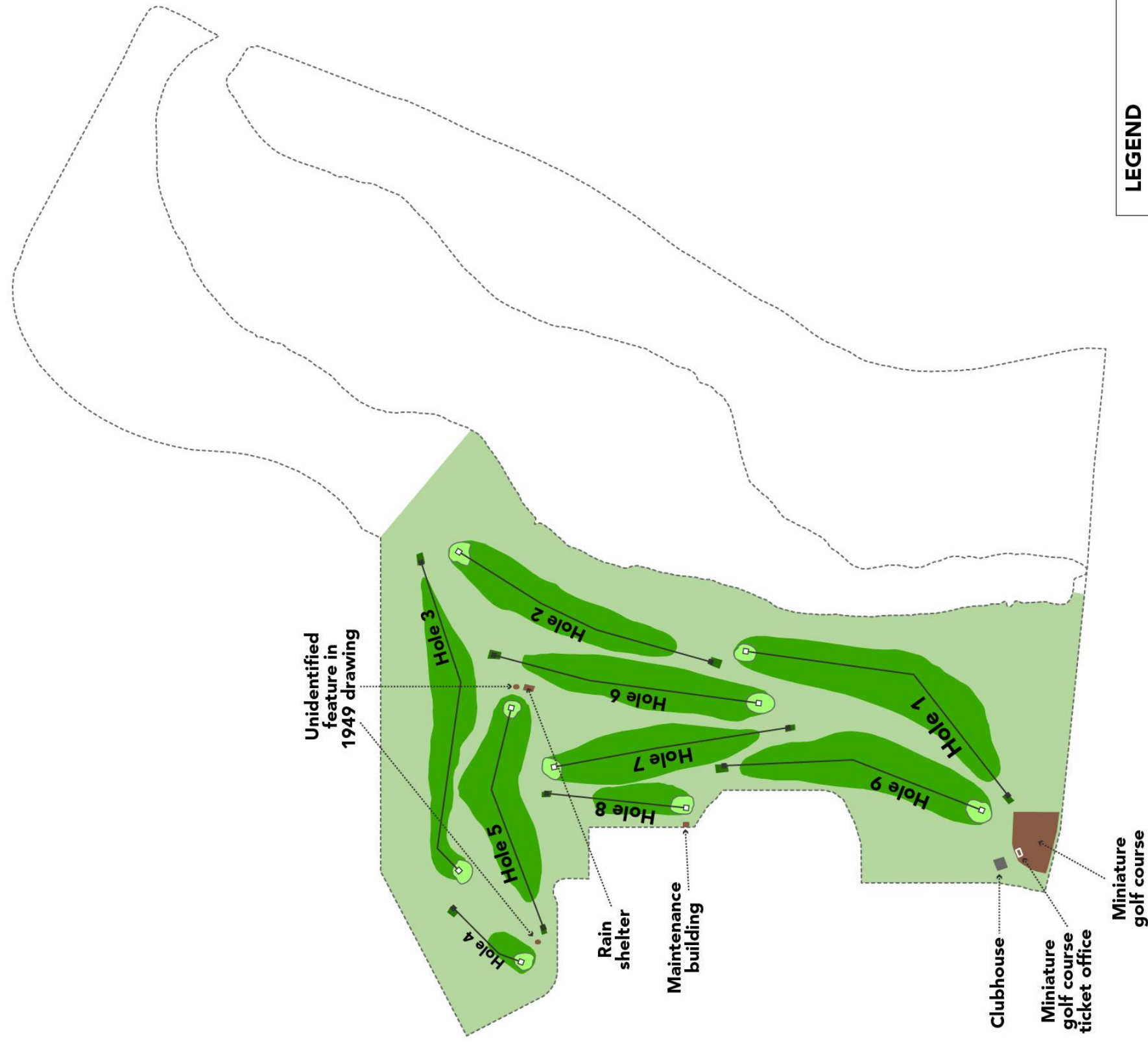
## LEGEND

- Clubhouse circulation
- Driveway
- Social trail
- Parking lot
- CLI boundary

# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

## 1949 Buildings and Structures

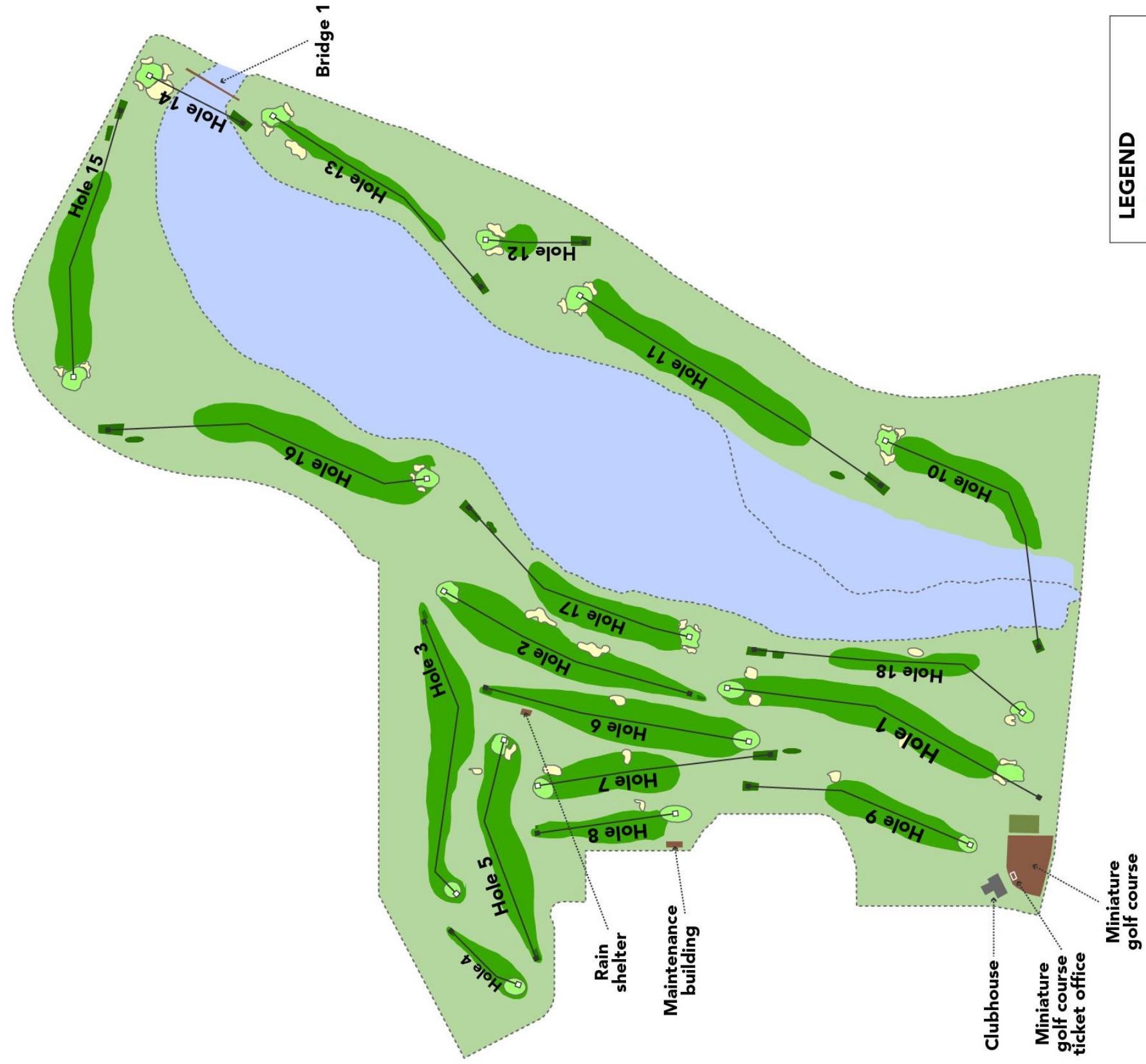
Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

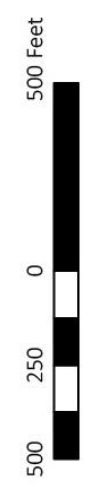
## 1957 Buildings and Structures

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



**LEGEND**

- Tee box
- Fairway
- Sand trap
- Putting green
- Practice green
- Clubhouse
- Other structure (e.g. shelter, bridge)
- 2016 CLI boundary





# LANGSTON GOLF COURSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

## 2016 Buildings and Structures

Drawn by M. Fichman and M. Lester, 2017



# Buildings and Structures: Historic and Existing Condition

1949

1957

2016



**LEGEND**

- Tee box
- Fairway
- Sand trap
- Putting green
- Practice green
- Clubhouse
- Other structure (e.g. shelter, bridge)

## Appendix B: Analysis and Evaluation, Buildings and Structures

### *Golf Course* Historic Condition

<b>Historic Course Yardage and Par</b>				
	<b>1936</b>		<b>1954</b>	
	("Golf Course Grading," 1936)		(Gordon and Gordon 1954)	
	<i>Yardage</i>	<i>Par</i>	<i>Yardage</i>	<i>Par</i>
Hole 1	443	n/a	445	4
Hole 2	385	n/a	385	4
Hole 3	525	n/a	500	5
Hole 4	126	n/a	126	3
Hole 5	310	n/a	310	4
Hole 6	365	n/a	365	4
Hole 7	325	n/a	325	4
Hole 8	195	n/a	195	3
Hole 9	370	n/a	395	4
Hole 10	n/a	n/a	415	4
Hole 11	n/a	n/a	510	5
Hole 12	n/a	n/a	158	3
Hole 13	n/a	n/a	390	4
Hole 14	n/a	n/a	190	3
Hole 15	n/a	n/a	420	4
Hole 16	n/a	n/a	505	5
Hole 17	n/a	n/a	380	4
Hole 18	n/a	n/a	375	4
Total	3,044 yards	n/a	6,389 yards	71

### Existing Condition

	Course Yardage: Period of Significance		Current Course Yardage
	1936 ("Golf Course Grading" 1936)	1954 (Gordon and Gordon 1954)	2016 (from blue tees)
Hole 1	443	445	472
Hole 2	385	385	395
Hole 3	525	500	508
Hole 4	126	126	157
Hole 5	310	310	350
Hole 6	365	365	398
Hole 7	325	325	341
Hole 8	195	195	205
Hole 9	370	395	400
Hole 10	n/a	415	538
Hole 11	n/a	510	406
Hole 12	n/a	158	444
Hole 13	n/a	390	175
Hole 14	n/a	190	341
Hole 15	n/a	420	203
Hole 16	n/a	505	540
Hole 17	n/a	380	396
Hole 18	n/a	375	383
Total	3,044 yards	6,389 yards	6,652 yards

## Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

*Note: The following terms were primarily taken from PGA, "Golf Glossary and Golf Terms," accessed February 22, 2017, at <http://www.pga.com/golf-instruction/instruction-feature/fundamentals/golf-glossary-and-golf-terms>; "Murdo Frazer Golf Course, Golf Glossary," accessed February 22, 2017, at <http://murdofrazer.com/golf-glossary>; Forrest Richardson & Assoc., Golf Course Architects, "Golf Course Terminology," accessed February 22, 2017, at [http://www.golfgroupltd.com/golf\\_course\\_terms.html#l](http://www.golfgroupltd.com/golf_course_terms.html#l)*

### A

**Amateur:** Amateurs or amateur golfers in golf play for pleasure, so they don't earn their keep as golfer. They are not even allowed to accept money for any activity, so nor for tournament winnings, neither for teaching golf sports. As a result it is the direct opposite to professional players who do so.

**Approach:** A shot hit towards the green or towards the hole.

**Artificial feature:** A feature created by construction means.

**Artificial hazard:** Any hazard created by construction means.

**Artificial hole:** A golf hole constructed entirely, or nearly so, by shaping or earthmoving efforts as opposed to being configured into a naturally occurring landscape with minimal or almost no grading effort.

### B

**Back Nine:** In an 18-hole course the last nine holes a golfer plays are called back nine, back side or last nine. Most of the time the round starts at hole one, so the back nine are the holes 10-18.

**Bent:** Used in British Isles to refer to clumps and areas of sea lyme grass growing with or without other varieties of links grasses intermixed.

**Biarritz green:** A biarritz, or biarritz green, is a putting green that features a deep gully, or swale, bisecting its middle. The name "biarritz" come from the golf course in France where the first-known biarritz was constructed, Biarritz Golf Club.

**Bump and run:** A pitch shot around the green in which the player hits the ball into a slope to deaden its speed before settling on the green and rolling towards the hole.

**Bunker:** A hollow comprised of sand or grass or both that exists as an obstacle and, in some cases, a hazard.

### C

**Caddie:** A person hired to carry clubs and provide other assistance.

**Carry:** The distance a ball will fly in the air, usually to carry a hazard or safely reach a target.

**Cart path:** Improved surface on which motorized carts are intended to travel; typically gravel, asphalt or concrete.

**Chip and run:** A low-running shot played around the greens where the ball spends more time on the ground than in the air.

**Chocolate drop:** A mound with a pointed index resembling a drop of chocolate but much larger.

**Country club:** Private club that only allows members and their guests to use facilities.

**Course furnishings:** The equipment used on a golf course for the purpose of playing the game of golf; examples are tee markers, flagsticks, flags, ball washers, hazard markers, etc.



**Course par:** The score standard for a golf course comprised of the total of all of the pars assigned to each hole; the number of strokes that a scratch player may be expected to take in order to complete a round.

**Cross-bunker:** Sand bunker that lies at a ninety-degree angle to the line of play, usually requiring a shot to carry it.

## D

**Divot:** The turf displaced when the club strikes the ball on a descending path. (Her divot flew into the pond.) It also refers to the hole left after play.

**Dog-leg:** Descriptive of the shape of a dog's leg used to communicate the angled alignment of a golf hole.

**Drive:** A shot played from the tee to start a golf hole to any fairway other than that of par-3 hole.

**Driving range:** Another term for a practice area. Also known as a golf range, practice range or learning center.

**Duffer:** A person inexperienced at something, especially at playing golf.

## E

**Earthwork:** All operations that include the act of moving or shaping earth.

**Executive-length course:** Courses with an 18-hole par between 55 and 68; derived from the expectation that "executives" would be able to enjoy a round of golf within the business day and still meet their commitments.

## F

**Fairway:** Expanse of grass which serves as the connection between a tee and a green; the primary target for any shot that is not an approach shot to a green.

**Fairway bunker:** Sand bunker that has a direct impact on the play of a golf shot other than an approach to the green

**Feature:** Any hazard, mound, depression, natural condition, area or portion of a golf hole or course which may be individually referenced.

**Fore:** Occurring before another, or coming before; warning yelled by golfers when a struck ball may endanger another golfer or spectator on a golf course.

**Forward tee:** The tee of a golf hole which is closest to the green (used now to replace "ladies tee", a mostly archaic term).

**Front nine:** The first nine holes of an 18-hole golf course; derived from the holes position on the "front" of a scorecard.

## G

**Geometric:** Term used to describe the look of many American golf course designs with their angular and hard-edged slopes and feature shaping; typically prior to 1915.

**Golden Age of Golf Course Architecture:** Began with the opening of The National Golf Links in 1911 by C.B. Macdonald and lasted until stock market crash of 1929.

**Grading:** The process of relocating dirt from one place to another with mechanized or hand tools; the result of such activity.

**Green:** Smooth grassy area at the end of a fairway especially prepared for putting and positioning the hole; all ground of a hole which is specifically prepared for putting.

**Green-side bunker:** Sand bunker that has a direct strategic or penal impact on the play of a shot to a green

**Greenkeeper:** An older, outdated term for the course superintendent.

## **H**

**Hazard:** Area of a golf course containing water, sand or other terrain which is subject to The Rules of Golf pertaining to play from such areas; also a term used loosely to describe features which are in the path of a shot (i.e., trees, hillsides, etc.).

**Heathland:** An expansive area of interior land, usually wasteland that is relatively flat and poorly drained.

**Hole length:** The distance as measured along the centerline of a given hole from any tee center point to the green center point.

**Hollow:** Depressed or low point of a surface; small valley or basin; usually subtle and fitting harmoniously into surrounding slopes or mounds; hollows are not always fully depressed and may drain to other areas.

**Hump:** An abrupt rise in elevation concentrated on an isolated area.

## **I**

**Inland golf course:** Golf course not located within the vicinity of a sea or ocean.

## **L**

**Links:** A seaside golf course constructed on a natural sandy landscape that has been shaped by the wind and receding tides (from the Old English “lincas”, meaning the plural of a ridge, a Scottish term to mean the undulating sandy ground near a shore); also used more generally as a synonym for a “seaside golf course” or a golf course that is configured with nine holes extending outward and nine holes returning to the clubhouse; often incorrectly used to describe any golf course. The Old Course at St. Andrews is the most famous links in the world.

**Linksland:** Land located proximal to an open sea, or bay connected directly to an open sea, and possessing the characteristics of dunes or seaside vegetation that is composed of naturally rolling sand dunes formed by the wind and the ocean.

## **M**

**Maintenance facility:** The entirety of the facilities required to care for a golf course; usually a building and grounds for storage of equipment and supplies, and space for offices and maintenance of equipment

**Maintenance road:** Improved road or path alignment developed only for use by maintenance personnel for their access to and around the golf course and maintenance facility.

**Mashie:** Classic golf term for a middle iron with the loft of a 5, 6 or 7-iron.

**Mound:** A single raised area of earth created by shaping; seldom used in reference to a natural rise in the ground, unless specifically a “natural mound.”

**Municipal golf course:** Golf facility owned by local or city government and open to the public.

## N

**Natural feature:** Any individual feature or collective features of a course or hole which was not manufactured

**Natural hazard:** Feature that existed on the site before the construction of the golf course and was incorporated into the design as a hazard; usually a body of water or natural sandy area.

## O

**Obstacle:** Any feature, tree or condition in the way of a golfer's pursuit of a target or lower score.

**Old course:** Shorter and common reference to Royal St. Andrews Golf Links Old Course.

## P

**Par:** The score an accomplished player is expected to make on a hole, either a three, four or five.

**Parkland:** Land located inland and partially wooded, but open enough to resemble a park area.

**Parkland course:** Course located on parkland or in such a setting.

**Partial paths:** Cart trails which are limited to only certain parts of a course and require use of fairways and roughs for cart traffic, such as from greens to tees.

**Penal design:** Golf course design focusing on penalizing a golfer for a poor or miss-hit shot in the form of either forced carries or fairways lined with hazards; a penal design is characterized by a lack of strategic concept other than to not miss-hit.

**Philadelphia School of Design:** Born out of a supply of talented golfers in the Philadelphia area with little or no skilled golf course architects; considered one of the more daring and creative schools; architects: Billy Bell, George Crump, William S. Flynn, A.W. Tillinghast, George Thomas, Hugh and Merion Wilson.

**Pitch-and-putt course:** A course on which all of the holes are significantly shorter than most par-3 holes and require "pitch" shots to reach a green or area defined for putting; such courses generally have holes ranging from 10 to 100 yards.

**Pitch-and-run:** A shot from around the green, usually with a middle or short iron, where the ball carries in the air for a short distance before running towards the hole.

**Pitch shot:** A "pitch shot" (or just "pitch") is a shot played with a highly lofted club that is designed to go a relatively short distance with a steep ascent and steep descent. Pitch shots are played into the green, typically from 40-50 yards and closer.

**Pot bunker:** Small and round, especially deep sand bunker.

**Putt:** Stroking a golf ball in such a manner that it rolls the entire distance it travels, usually in an attempt to achieve the final goal of hitting the ball into the hole either from the surface of a putting green or near proximity to one.

**Putting green:** An improved surface for putting (see "green"); often used to refer to a practice green for putting, but the term can mean any green where putting takes place.

## **R**

**Railroad tie embankment:** A wall or slope stabilized with railroad ties which creates a formal appearance along a bunker or other slope.

**Rain shelter:** A small structure provided in regions prone to rain outbursts in order to provide refuge to golfers during a round; typically located in areas accessible from multiple holes and often provided every few holes.

**Redesign:** A hole or course that undergoes a new design.

**Renovation:** Change(s) made to a golf course or hole to improve conditions.

**Restoration:** Careful rebuilding of a golf course, hole or area to return it to the form and character as designed and constructed originally.

**Roughs:** All parts of a golf course excluding greens, tees, fairways, hazards, and areas out-of-bonus which, with the tees and tee banks, greens and green banks, fairways, sand traps and lakes make up the total area of the golf course.

**Routing:** The path of golf holes from the first tee of the first hole to the last green of the last hole of a given golf course; also used to describe the alignment of cart paths.

**Run-up:** A shot played purposefully to run along the ground and “up” to the green.

## **S**

**Sand green:** Putting surface constructed of compacted sand and no turf, the surface is often oiled to keep the sand in place; sand greens are constructed where no water is available or where no means exist to finance standard turfgrass greens.

**Sand trap:** Sand-filled depression strategically placed as a hazard and a deterrent to making an unimpeded recovery shot; term used regionally in place of bunker (see “bunker”).

**Short course:** Usually a par-3 or executive-length course, but occasionally a regulation course that is shorter than average.

**Strategic design:** Golf course design concept focusing on alternate routes from which a golfer may choose to proceed based on risk versus the reward; this approach also allows for players with different skills to negotiate a hole commensurate with their particular skill level.

**Stolonizing:** The process of taking the stolon of the turfgrass plant which is a reproductive structure and spreading them over the surface of the dirt much like seeding. This type of propagation only works with grasses that are stoloniferous. The most common stoloniferous grass is the Bermuda grass and bent grass.

## **T**

**Target:** An area at which the golfer is expected to aim, land or end up; sometimes used interchangeably with “pin” or “flag.”

**Target golf:** Coined in mid-1960s to define courses on which play is from area to area and the emphasis on the roll of the ball is diminished as a result of such lush conditions; also interchanged now with “target course.”

**Tee box:** The area where players tee to start a hole.

**Temporary green:** A green or moderately improved area delineated for use as a green under the rules of golf that is temporary in play while the regular green is repaired or altered.

**Tile drainage:** Drainage by means of a series of tile lines laid at a specific depth and grade.

**Tree line:** The edge of a group of trees that defines a wooded area, especially so after clearing for a fairway or following growth of planted trees to maturity.

**Tree lined:** A fairway lined with dense trees.

**Turfgrass:** Grass specifically developed to serve as a playing surface for a recreational activity or for a residential or commercial law.

## V

**Variety:** The quality or state of having different forms or types of views, strategies and experiences on a course.

## W

**Well-Trapped:** Hole, green or fairway that has many bunkers or bunkers which are especially well place.

**Woodlands:** Land covered with trees and shrubs (woody vegetation); usually a forest, but also plantations, farmland and other lands on which woody vegetation is established and maintained for any purpose.

## Y

**Yardage:** Length of a golf hole or point to point measurement on a golf course or golf facility.

