

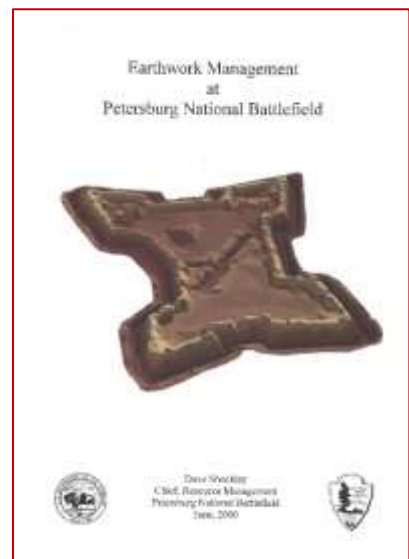
Fort Richardson Preservation

In September 2015 the trees on the Memorial Drive side of Fort Richardson were removed and the fort was sodded. Although the project had its genesis with those who wanted to improve the sight-line from the Clubhouse toward the Washington Monument, in the end the project was undertaken to help to preserve the fort. In other words, it was a “Win-Win-Win” in that the tree removal improved the aesthetics of the Red #9 green complex and opened the Clubhouse sight-lines while contributing to the preservation of the fort.

Fort Richardson Preservation

One of the first projects undertaken by the newly constituted Army Navy Country Club Foundation in 2013 was a study of Fort Richardson. Since the construction of the new Clubhouse a cadre of members had been lobbying to remove trees on Red #9 to improve the sight-lines from the Clubhouse toward the Washington Memorial. The Foundation, while generally supporting the concept, was concerned about the impact that removal of the trees would have on the fort. Our research of the preservation of earthen fortifications led us to the National Park Service and specifically to a June 2000 publication titled “Earthwork Management at the Petersburg National Battlefield” written by Dave Shockley, the Petersburg National Battlefield’s Resource Management Chief, <https://www.nps.gov/pete/learn/management/upload/Earthworks-Manual-2.pdf>. Bill Stahler was able to contact Dave Shockley and, to our pleasant surprise, found that not only was he interested in the Fort Richardson project, but that his National Park Service position description called for assisting with earthwork preservation/restoration beyond National Parks. As we were to learn, Dave Shockley was considered the world’s foremost expert on the preservation of earthen fortification, even being brought-in by the French government to consult on the preservation of Normandy earthworks.

The Foundation arranged for Mr. Shockley to visit ANCC in April 2014 to survey Fort Richardson. The following month Kent Maxfield, the then ANCC Foundation President, and Bill Stahler paid a return visit to the Petersburg National Battlefield and toured the earthen fortifications with Mr. Shockley. In all, Mr. Shockley paid three visits to ANCC Arlington and, working with Bob Wilbur, ANCC Arlington green superintendent, produced a plan of action that stayed within the \$37,000 budgeted by the Club for this purpose. The plan called for the removal of all the trees on and in the immediate vicinity of Fort Richardson’s parapets and the sodding of the parapets to minimize erosion. The removal of trees, as was previously accomplished at Petersburg, was considered essential because of the extensive damage done to the parapets whenever a tree was uprooted, something that was a real concern given that Fort Richardson is at the top of a hill (thus susceptible to windy conditions) and a number of the trees were growing precariously on the steeply sloped parapets.



After a one year delay in the funding, a contractor executed the plan for the parapets on the Memorial Drive side of the fort. With the subsequent removal of 35 trees in the vicinity of White #2 fairway and the Red #9 tee in January 2016 and the recent removal of additional trees in this same area, the sight lines and, more importantly, turf grass growing conditions have been significantly improved.

Then next ANCC Foundation initiative is the installation of a Fort Richardson interpretive display (somewhat like that at Fort Ethan Allen) between the Clubhouse and the Fort. The interpretive display project and additional long-term plans for the Fort will be addressed in next month's "Did You Know".