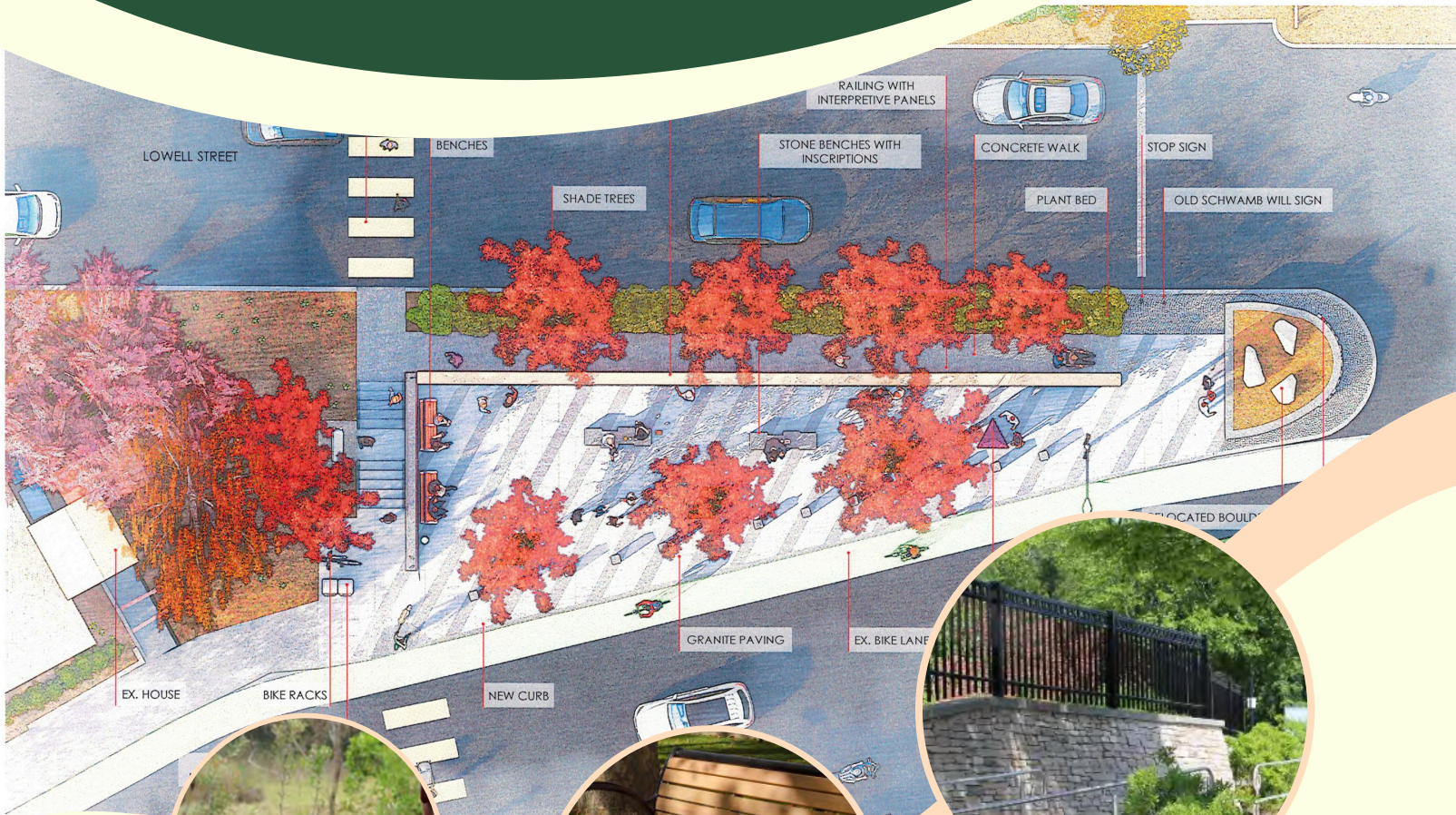


Arlington Foot of the Rocks Historic Monument Park

Submitted by Al
Tosti, TMM and
Chair of the
FoTR Working
Group

Re-envisioning an historic site while
highlighting untold stories



Interpretive signage and stone markers will be installed to tell the untold stories of the people that have lived in this community including women, enslaved and indigenous people

Street furniture, bike racks, water stations and planters will be added to allow the space to become a destination for visitors and a space for community gatherings.

ADA improvements will be added to make this space easier for community access, a retaining wall will be added to create a larger gathering space.



scan for
more info

Community gathering space for Arlington Heights

Foot of the Rocks is an historic site that played a significant role in the first day of the American Revolution which will soon celebrate the 250th anniversary

Significance of the Foot of the Rocks

On the afternoon of April 19, 1775, in Lexington, General Percy had relieved the exhausted soldiers of Colonel Smith who were retreating from Concord under constant fire from the enraged militia. General Percy reformed the troops to protect Colonel Smith's men and started the retreat to Boston. The fresh troops using flanking parties were able to move through East Lexington in relative safety. In mid-afternoon, the British were retreating into present day Arlington. They were moving down Pierce Hill when they were confronted at the "Foot of the Rocks" by over 1,700 militia representing 35 companies from towns throughout the area. The British were forced to set up the two field pieces they had brought from Boston and open fire on the militia to open the way for their retreat. This began the fight known as the "bloody mile" all the way to Arlington center, including the battle at the Jason Russell House. More British soldiers and American militia died in this stretch of road than in any other fighting of the day.

The Town is currently planning a redesign of Mass Ave and Appleton Street and this project fits into this plan at an ideal time. The improvements at the Foot of the Rocks Park will improve and rehabilitate an overlooked historically significant location within town while providing a space that will become accessible for all residents. The newly designed space will include sustainable storm water and landscape features as well as educational components that will tell the untold stories of the people living in Arlington, formerly known as Menotomy at the start of the American Revolution; including stories of women, enslaved people and indigenous people.

The project request is \$450,000 for the construction phase which will begin in July 2024 to be ready for the 250th Anniversary of the start of the American Revolution. There has been significant public outreach conducted to obtain feedback including two public meetings with major stakeholders, neighbors and interested parties to give their input on how to convert this ignored piece of land into something that the Town can be proud of.

A final public hearing was held on December 12, 2023. The architect presented the new design with some modifications from the Working Group and the public feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Foot of the Rocks Working Group

Al Tosti, Working Group Chair

Paul Fennelly, Historical Society

Angela Olszewski, Arlington Tourism and Economic Development

Michael Ruderman

Drake Pusey, Arlington Human Rights Commission Co-Chair

JoAnn Robinson, Historical Commission Chair