

2023

# STONE HOUSES FALL REPORT



# INTRODUCTION

With the first movement of dirt this month, the Stone Houses project has moved into its next exciting phase. The team will spend the next several months grading, making utilities connections, and performing flatwork such as paths, courtyards, and stepping stones.

New construction will begin on the public restroom, extending out from the existing basement of the Superintendent's House and more than doubling the deck space of that building.

Inside the structures, the team is completing rough-in work and once inspected, will begin closing up walls, ceilings, and floors.

Astute park-goers may have noticed some improvements to date, but the most recognizable improvements are just beginning.



The Stone Houses site in context in Dix Park. The Greg Poole Jr. All Faiths Chapel is just off this image to the left.

# RECOGNITION & THANKS

Dix Park Conservancy is able to renovate the Stone Houses thanks to a \$3MM gift from the State Employees' Credit Union and a \$2MM gift from the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation. Their contribution both preserves a significant part of the park's history and creates a welcoming entrance to the park, better accessibility and amenities for visitors, and spaces for community use, park interpretation and education.

The Stone Houses are a perfect fit for the State Employees' Credit Union. For over a century, the State of North Carolina employed countless physicians, nurses, therapists, and support staff throughout the Dorothea Dix Hospital campus to serve the mental health needs of its patients. Many hospital staff lived on the campus, including in the Superintendent's, Physician's, and Gatekeeper's Houses. **With their generous support, State Employees' Credit Union honors the former hospital employees and all state employees who have served the people of North Carolina.**



SECU Foundation leadership touring the construction progress.

# EXTERIOR WORK SUMMARY

1

Site prep work continues as on-site, pre-construction meetings have been completed. Before major site work begins, below is an aerial image of the existing site before major site work begins, with the existing path down the hill to the top of the image. With the addition of the public restroom plaza, the ADA pathway, and the outdoor classroom, the site will see significant changes in the next several months.



2

Grading and earthwork has begun, with the first dirt moved on the site to prepare for construction of the public restroom. These future restrooms will be accessible in between the Physicians' and the Superintendents' houses and will be the first outdoor, park restrooms serving greenway & park traffic alike.



# EXTERIOR WORK SUMMARY

3

The landscape and site team, led by Stewart Engineering and overseen by Sarah Reeves of the Dix Park Legacy Committee and Dix Park Community Committee, has developed an impressive planting plan to augment the hardscape plan elements. This plan is being finalized and plant sourcing has begun.

# INTERIOR WORK SUMMARY

- 4 The majority of rough-ins for our trades (electrical, mechanical, plumbing) are complete and are being inspected. Once inspected, the team will begin closing up walls, either with drywall or plaster applications, depending on the structure. The team has been careful to preserve existing trim, particularly plaster, to maintain that historic element of the structures.



Slight adjustments to framing elements, such as the relocation of a door, will facilitate the new office-use of the building. Electrical and plumbing rough-ins are almost entirely complete.

# INTERIOR WORK SUMMARY

5 The architectural and owners team, led by Maurer Architecture, have been focused on making furniture and finishes selections including lighting, paint, wallpaper, built-ins, desks and cabinetry.

6 A working group comprised of Conservancy Board, Committee, and Staff, City of Raleigh Staff, and members of the Dix Park Community Committee have been engaged in developing the exhibit design for the Gatekeepers Visitors Center. The guiding principles for this 'touch-down' space include: 'Be welcoming', 'Be accessible', 'Be participatory', and 'Be flexible'. The exhibit will provide important visitor experience information, an introduction to park and property history and legacy, and an overview of the vision of the Dix Park project and Dix Park Conservancy.



# PROJECT LOOK AHEAD

## CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES AHEAD:

### OCT - NOV

- Site Grading, Utilities work in progress.
- Building Trade Finals expected.
- Site Flatwork & Paving underway, irrigation completed.

### DEC - JAN

- Building Final and Certificate of Occupancy expected.
- Building Punchlist and Occupation in January.
- Site Landscape installation, site punch list in January.

## RIBBON CUTTING IN EARLY 2024

We are anticipating project completion in early 2024 and a public opening and Ribbon Cutting in late winter/early spring 2024.

