Context

Jennings Lodge has long been recognized as a wooded, forested place. The former Jennings Lodge Camp and Retreat Center was defined by mature Douglas fir trees—many more than a century old.

The redevelopment of the site resulted in the loss of a significant number of these trees, an impact deeply felt by the community. The park design for Jennings Lodge acknowledges this history while investing in a new canopy for future generations.

Tree History & Loss

- The former site contained **326 trees** across **16.8 acres**, including many mature Douglas firs.
- The loss of these trees was significant to residents and is important to acknowledge.

Trails and Timbers Concept

The design for the park at Jennings Lodge Campus is grounded in respect for its forested history and the community's concerns. While it cannot recreate a century-old forest today, it commits to planting a diverse, healthy canopy that will shape the park for decades—balancing usability, legacy, and ecological resilience.

Trails and Timbers reflects both the history and future of Jennings Lodge:

- **Trails**: Represents movement, exploration, and connection throughout the park.
- **Timbers**: Represents the trees, forest character, and long-term legacy the design seeks to cultivate.

This concept is not intended to recreate a 100-year-old forest overnight, but instead to establish a thriving, resilient canopy over time.

New Tree Canopy Investment

- The design includes **114 new trees** on approximately **2 acres**.
- This represents an **unusually high tree-planting density** for a park of this size—**more trees per acre than the former Retreat Center**.
- Trees are intentionally planted at approximately 3-inch caliper sizes:
    - Large enough to establish successfully.
    - Small enough to promote long-term health and reduce early mortality.
    - They will not immediately replicate the shade or scale of century-old firs.

Planting Strategy & Ecological Resilience

- These are not ornamental plantings—they are the beginning of a new canopy.
- The design allows today's small trees to establish, grow, and gradually define the character of the park.
- The planting palette expands beyond a single-species forest:
    - A mix of deciduous and coniferous species.
    - Seasonal variation.
    - Greater resilience to pests, storms, and temperature extremes.

Park Usability During Tree Maturation

- Jennings Lodge is uniquely positioned with a large shade structure that supports daytime activities while trees grow.
- Unlike many parks (e.g., Concord Park), visitors will not need to wait for canopy maturity to enjoy shaded spaces.

Looking Forward: Canopy Replacement Over Time

- Canopy replacement is about long-term investment, not instant results.
- The community may not see the full benefit immediately, but future generations will.
- The goal is not to ignore or replace the past, but to honor the site's wooded legacy and create a new chapter that grows into its own identity.