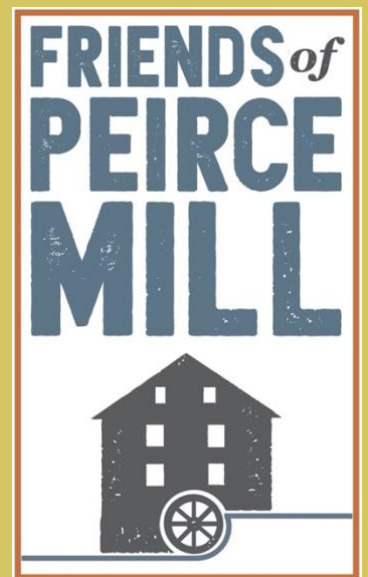




ROCK CREEK'S CROSSROADS

Strategic Plan
2022-2026



FRIENDS *of* PEIRCE MILL

Twenty-five years ago, the Friends of Peirce Mill began working with the National Park Service (NPS) to rebuild the mill's wooden machinery, which had broken several years earlier. A quarter century later, we've achieved many of our initial goals. Peirce Mill has been grinding grain since 2011, and we're currently restoring the building's upper floors and the historic Oliver Evans milling system.

In partnership with NPS, the Friends have also planted a historic fruit orchard, organized free public events, developed teacher resources, and hosted school field trips. In the past year and a half, we've offered many of our programs and resources online, continuing to engage and expand our audience even when in-person events weren't possible.

Yet, as Peirce Mill approaches its third century, we recognize that there's much more work to do. With funding from the National Park Foundation, the Friends have worked with LINK Strategic Partners, Rock Creek Park, and community stakeholders to develop this five-year strategic plan. We've identified four main goals:

- Continue to preserve, restore, and interpret Peirce Mill, Barn, and Orchard.
- Tell the full history of the Peirce Estate.
- Create a welcoming community in Rock Creek Park.
- Use 19th century-technology to engage 21st-century students.

These goals are described in greater detail in the following pages, but our intentions are summed up by this plan's title, "Rock Creek's Crossroads." We believe Peirce Mill is a place where communities come together—and a place where past and present meet.

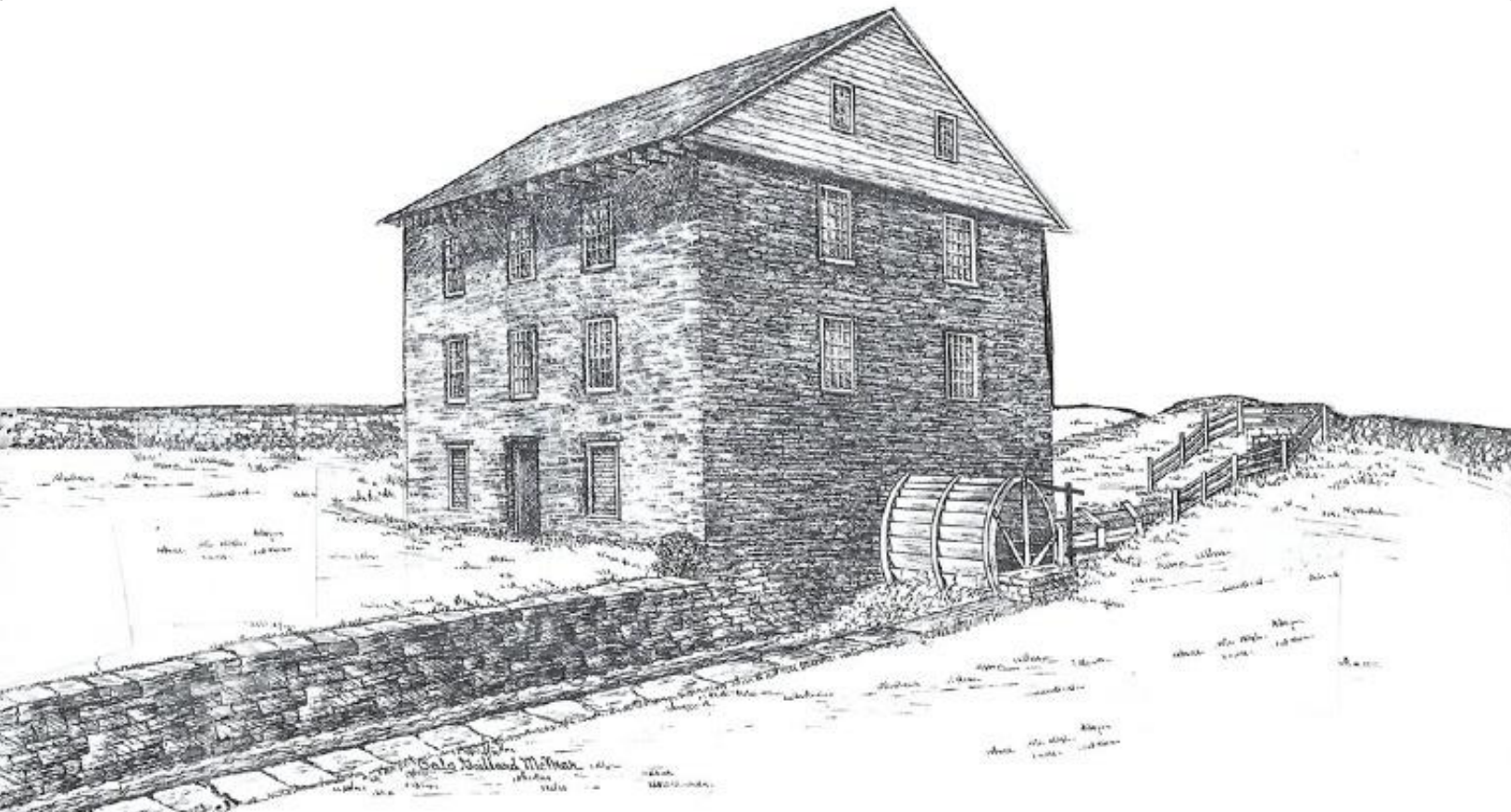
In the coming years, the Friends hope to bring people into Rock Creek Park to connect to the city's history and to each other. We hope you'll join us.

**Friends of Peirce Mill Board of Directors
November 2021**

www.friendsofpeircemill.org

MISSION

The Friends of Peirce Mill, in partnership with the National Park Service and the wider community, work to preserve, restore, and interpret the last working gristmill in Washington, DC for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all generations



VISION

The Friends of Peirce Mill envision the mill and its surroundings as a place where people actively engage in learning about history, engineering, horticulture, and the environment.

The Friends have partnered with NPS to develop innovative school programs and lively public events. Our dedicated volunteers welcome visitors to Rock Creek Park and care for our historic orchard.

But there are opportunities to do even more. Through hands-on workshops, cultural programs, and other free events, the Friends hope to connect visitors to everything Peirce Mill has to offer.

GOAL: Continue to Preserve, Restore, and Interpret Peirce Mill, Barn and Orchard.

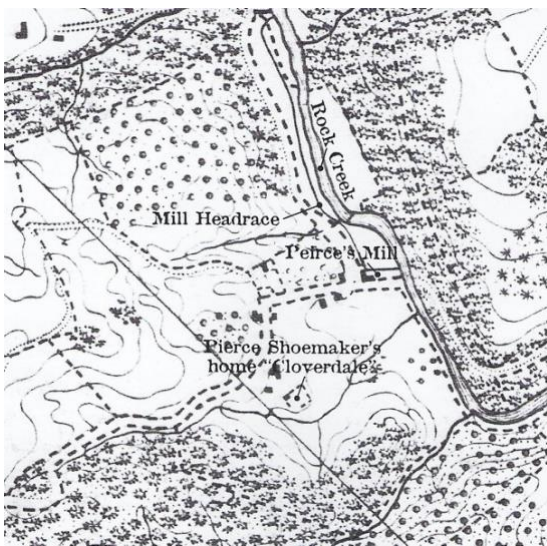


The Friends of Peirce Mill work with the National Park Service to preserve the mill and its surrounding cultural landscape. At the mill, we're restoring the historic Oliver Evans system: a giant, water-powered machine that turns grain into flour. Volunteer guides interpret the mill and help park visitors understand its complex machinery.

The Friends also help maintain the barn—one of the oldest agricultural buildings in DC—and hope to develop more public programs there. And we'll continue to cultivate our historic orchard, where we've planted some of the same varieties of apple and pear trees that the Peirce family once grew.



GOAL: Tell the Full History of the Peirce Estate.



As an organization devoted to interpreting our city's past, the Friends of Peirce Mill have a special obligation to tell a complete, honest, and inclusive story.

We're committed to addressing the painful legacy of enslavement at the Peirce Estate. Because we're one of the few agrarian landscapes left in DC, we have a unique opportunity to interpret the lives of enslaved people in Washington.

We also interpret the mill's 20th-century history, and will continue to tell the story of Hattie Sewell, an African American woman who ran the teahouse at Peirce Mill one hundred years ago.

GOAL: Create a Welcoming Community in Rock Creek Park.

Peirce Mill and its environs are an important refuge for residents of the District and the region, offering open, green space for gathering, reflection, and recreation.

But the Friends of Peirce Mill recognize that Rock Creek Park has been perceived as a dividing line between communities in Washington. We'd like to help to change that by bringing new voices into the conversation.

We'll seek partnership opportunities with cultural and community groups. Together with NPS, we'll make sure programs at Peirce Mill welcome diverse audiences.

The Friends and Rock Creek Park also understand that Peirce Mill should be accessible to everyone. We're committed to translating interpretive materials, captioning videos, removing physical barriers, and helping all visitors enjoy Peirce Mill.

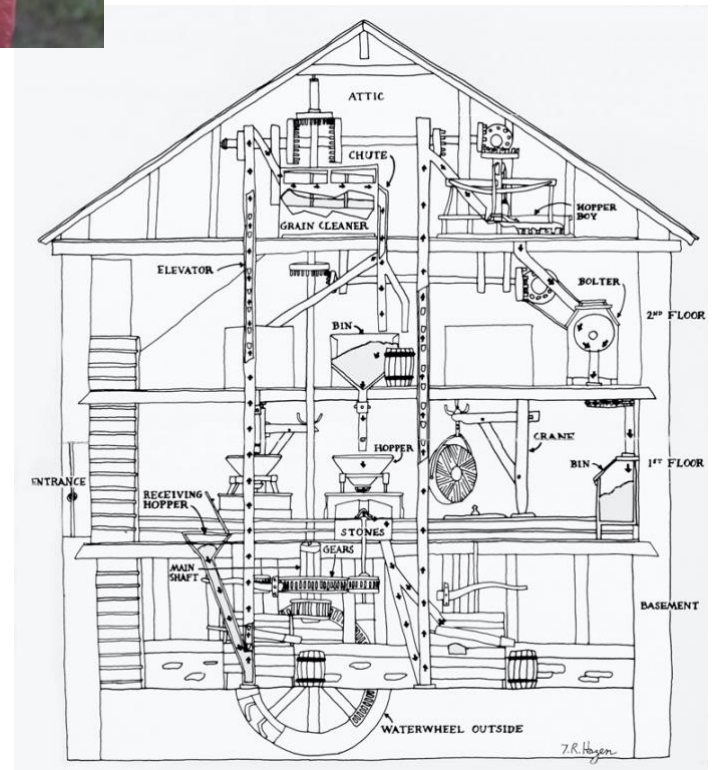


GOAL: Use 19th-Century Technology to Engage 21st-Century Students.



We believe that a 200-year-old mill can inspire the next generation of engineers. Modern machinery can sometimes seem mysterious, but at Peirce Mill, students see gears, levers, and wheels in action—and learn how these simple machines grind corn into cornmeal.

Students also see how Rock Creek once generated waterpower, and they begin to understand the complex relationships between food systems and energy usage. This fundamental environmental literacy will be essential as we make energy choices in the future.



To learn more, contact education@friendsofpeircemill.org.
Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).
Or sign up for [our mailing list](#).