A watercolor illustration of the Washington Monument and its surroundings. The monument is a tall, white, obelisk-like structure in the center. In the foreground, there are green lawns, trees, and a red-roofed building. In the background, there are more green fields and a line of trees. The sky is light blue with soft, grey clouds. The overall style is artistic and painterly.

INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

Washington Monument Visitor Security Screening

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

CONSULTANT TEAM

Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP

The Louis Berger Group, Inc.


Robinson & Associates, Inc.

Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers

Robert Silman Associates



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

- 
- The Washington Monument is a tall, white, obelisk-shaped structure that dominates the left side of the image. It is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The base of the monument is surrounded by a green lawn and a line of flags.
1. Project Background
 2. Update on Supporting Technical Studies
 3. Presentation of Alternatives
 4. Next Steps
 5. Questions & Answers
 6. Open House

1. Project Background



The purpose of this project is to improve the security and visitor flow at the Washington Monument in a manner that preserves the character and visitor experience of the Washington Monument and Grounds.



As the primary memorial to the nation's first president, the Monument is one of the most prominent icons in the nation and is toured by approximately one million visitors annually with millions more visiting the surrounding grounds. Its popularity, combined with its status as an icon, makes it a potential target for terrorist attack. A permanent perimeter vehicular barrier system was completed with landscape improvements in 2006. The project is needed because the existing visitor screening station, constructed at the Monument's base in 2001, was intended to be temporary and requires replacement in order to meet the long term security and cultural resource management requirements at the Monument.



These long term security and cultural resource management requirements at the Monument include:

- visitor screening outside the walls of the Monument in order to ensure protection of human life and the structure in the event of a security breach
- preservation of the fabric of the Monument, which is a historic property
- consistency with the Washington Monument and Grounds cultural landscape with regard to views and vistas, buildings and structures, and circulation; and
- visitor use that has, since 1888, included access to the top of the Monument for views of the city of Washington.

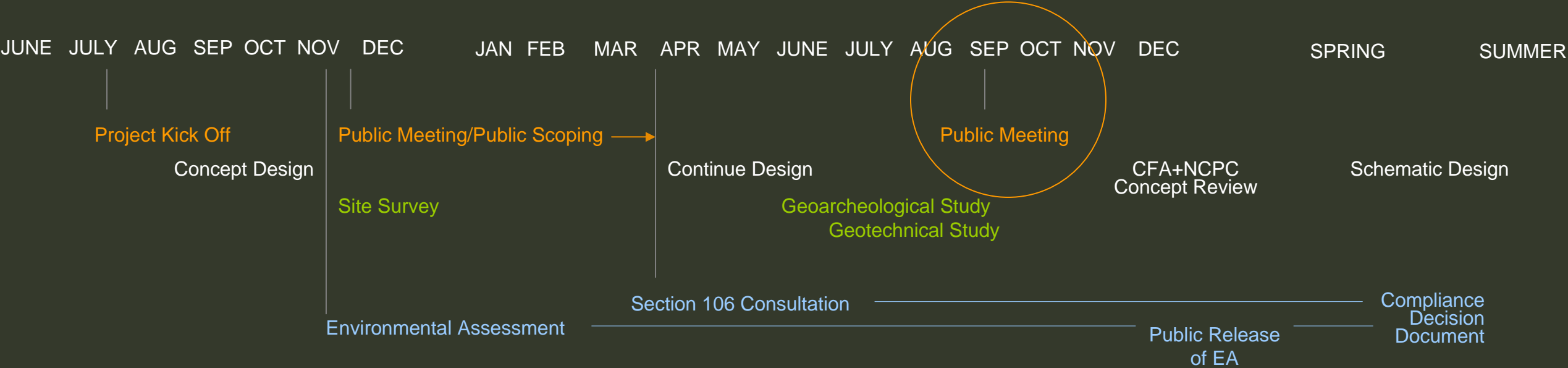


Project Timeline

2010

2011

2012



Regulations

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
(42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

CEQ Council on Environmental Quality

"Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of
NEPA" (40 CFR 1500-1508).

DO-12 Department of the Interior, Director's Order 12

Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental
Impact Analysis, and Decision-making

EA Process

1. Public Notification
2. Define Purpose & Need
3. Data Collection
4. Define Preliminary Alternatives
5. Internal and External Scoping
- 6. Public Scoping Meeting**
7. Finalize Alternatives
8. Prepare draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
9. Release Final EA
10. 30-day Public Comment Period
11. Review all public comments received on the EA and respond to comments
12. Decision Document



Regulations

NHPA National Historic Preservation Act

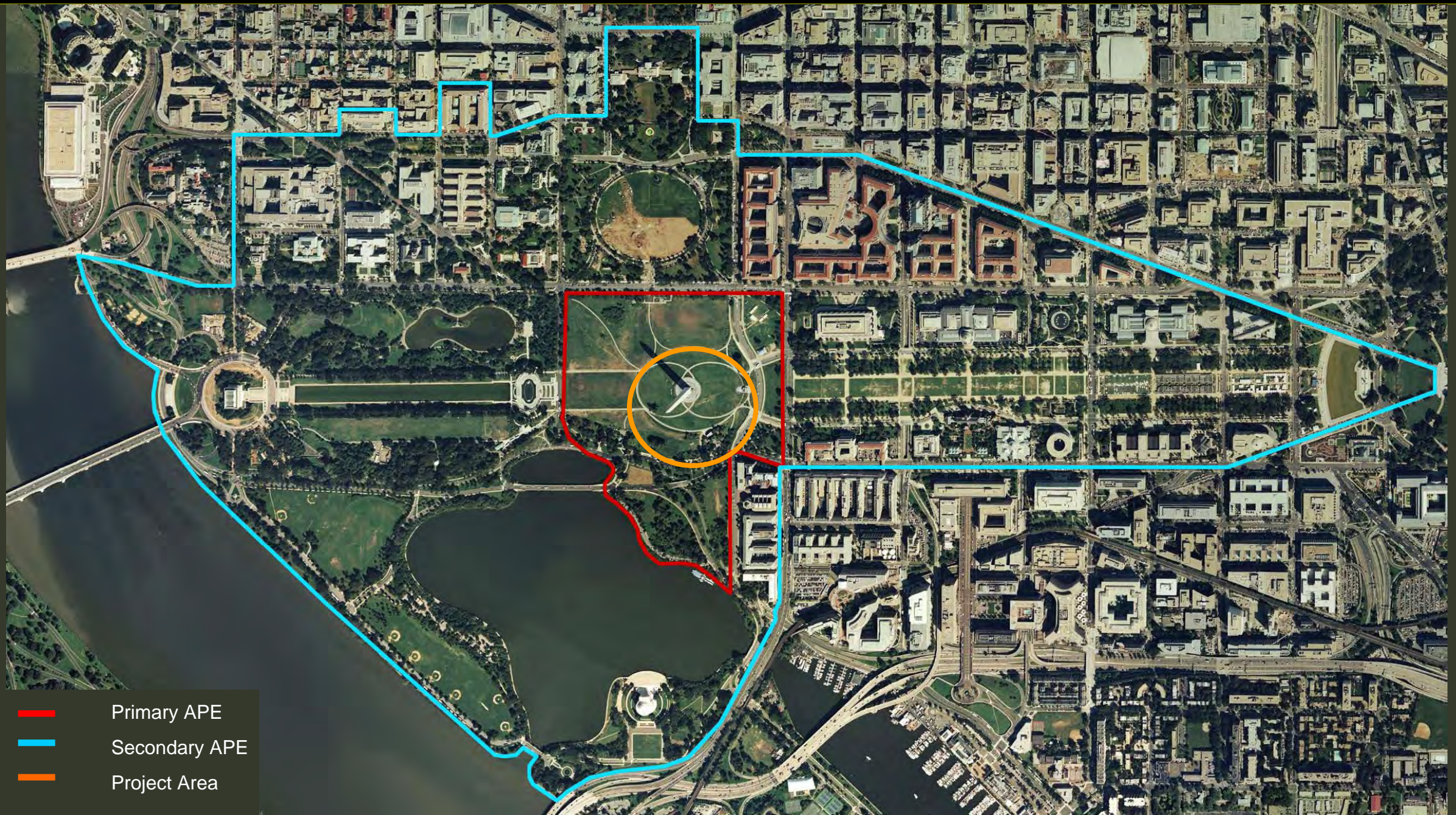
Section 106 regulations, 36 CFR Part 800

Process

1. Define Undertaking / Initiate Section 106
2. Identify Consulting Parties
3. Involve the Public
4. Define Area of Potential Effect (APE)
5. Identify Significant Cultural Resources in APE
6. Assess Effects on Significant Resources
7. Apply Criteria Of Adverse Effect
8. Continue Consultation
9. Draft Agreement Document, if needed



Area of Potential Effect



Washington Monument and Grounds Documentation

- National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1980
- L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington, D.C., National Register Nomination, 1997
- Washington Monument and Associated Structures: Historic Structures Report (HSR), 2004
- Washington Monument Grounds Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), 2008
- Washington Monument Grounds Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), 2009



A tall, white, obelisk-shaped monument stands prominently on the left side of the image. The monument is surrounded by a grassy field and a line of trees in the background. The sky is a clear, light blue with some wispy clouds. A small airplane is visible in the distance, flying across the sky. The overall scene is a wide-angle shot of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.

2. Update on Supporting Technical Supporting Studies

Geoarcheological Investigation



Prehistoric artifacts from the Washington Monument Site

Background Information

- Study area was on bank of Tiber Creek, an ancient waterway
- Prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the Monument Grounds in the 1880s, with artifacts indicating episodic Native American use of the for roughly 7000 years

Goals of the Geoarcheological Study

- Does the study area contain areas of natural landscape associated with the bank of the lower Tiber Creek?
- Is it likely that prehistoric or historic archeological resources are preserved in the study area?
- What effect have the processes of historic land use and formal landscaping of the Washington Monument grounds had on landscapes that might contain significant archeological resources?
- How extensive is the disturbance associated with existing utility lines in the study area?

Geoarcheological Investigation

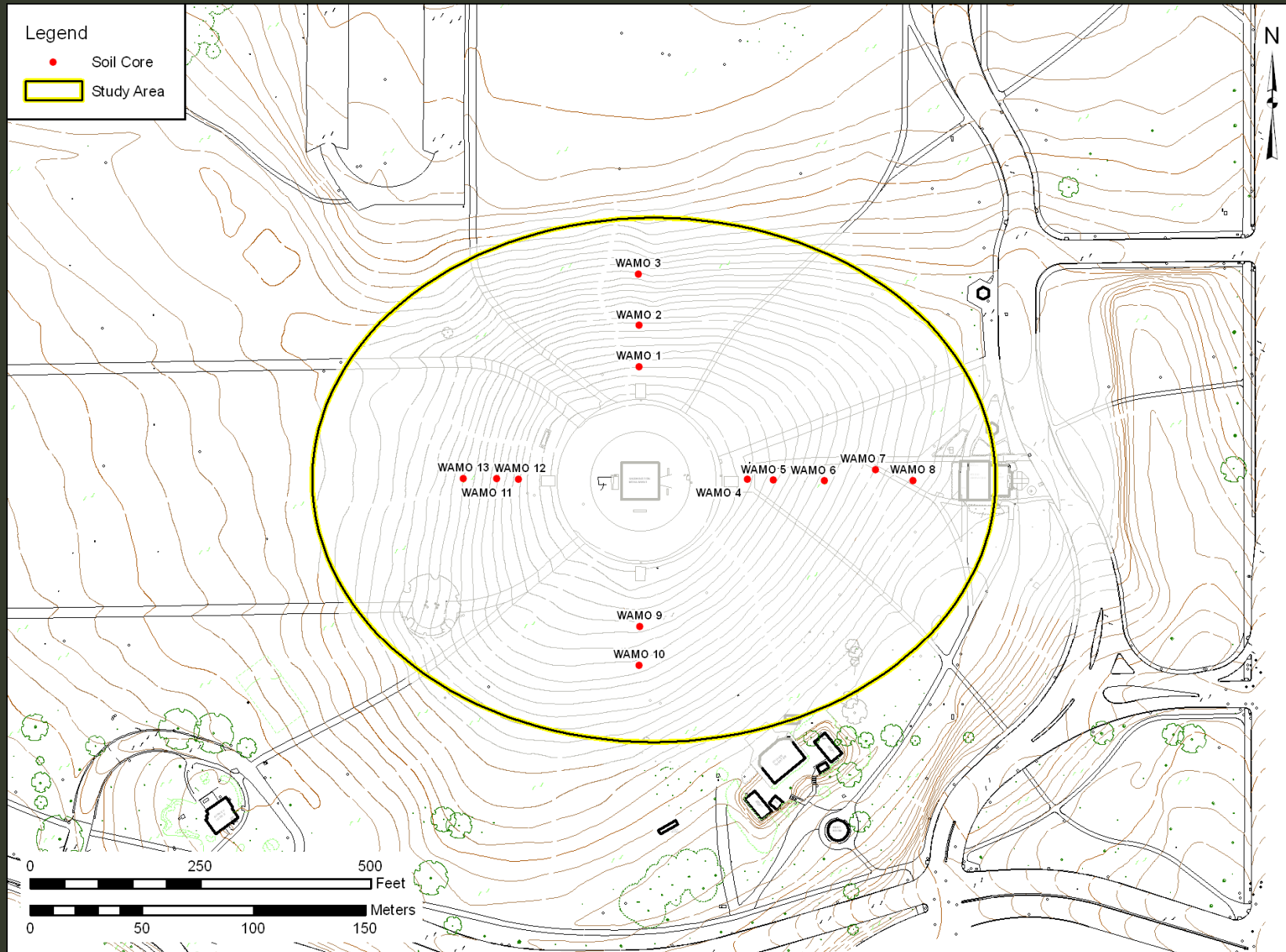


View of the Monument in 1880s, second phase of construction

Landscape History

- Monument constructed in two phases : 1848-1861 and 1880-1888
- After completion of foundation work in 1880, raised terraces were added
- Eventually the plaza and ground were expanded by the addition of large quantities of fill material
- During construction the site was crowded with shops and machinery
- Fills added to the grounds in the late 1800s creating lakes in the northwest area of the grounds
- Ponds were filled and grounds raised with filling of Potomac Flats
- Early twentieth-century landscape use featured swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, miniature golf, etc.
- 2004-2006 program for Visitor Security established elliptical security area surrounding monument; all areas within that area were re-graded and utilities were removed

Geoarcheological Investigation



Field Testing Plan

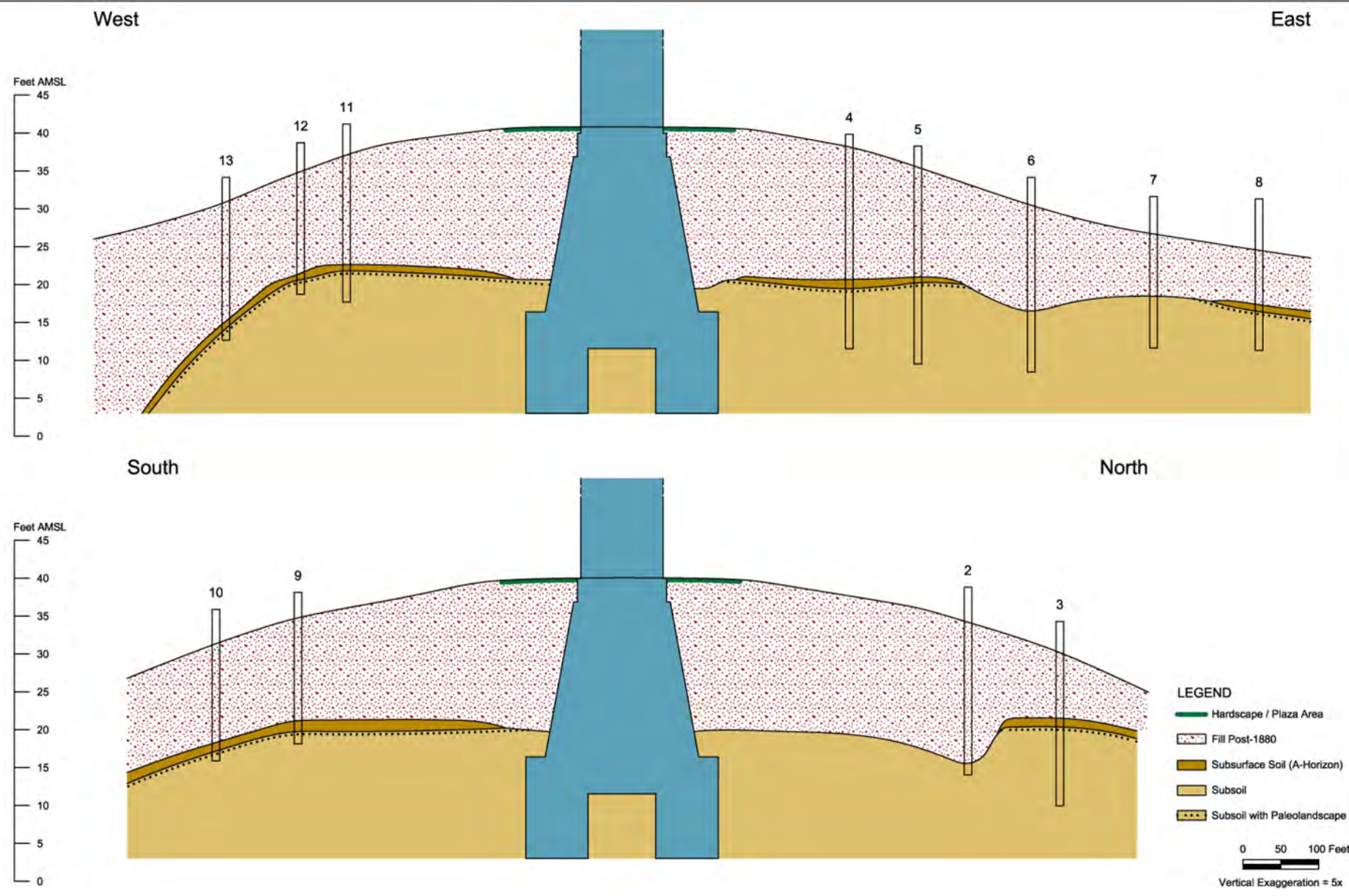
- Sample locations placed on north, east, west and south lines from monument
- More tests on east transect, between monument and lodge, to examine possible concourse
- Test locations adjusted to avoid utility lines—electric, gas, water, etc.
- A total of 12 cores were completed; one (WAMO-1) not excavated because of nearby water line that could not be precisely located
- No samples within plaza area

Field Testing Plan for Geoarcheological Investigation

Geoarcheological Investigation

Field Results

- Eight of 12 cores across site contained a buried landscape surface, the surface that would have existed in historic and prehistoric times
- The buried A-horizon is present beneath varying amounts of post-1880 fill material: 8-18 feet
- Also a possible “paleo-landscape” present
- Overall, results were surprising, given the landscape history of the monument grounds



Composite cross-sections across Monument Grounds, from geoarcheological coring

Geotechnical Investigation

1931

Geotechnical Report for US Grant 3rd to support modifications to the grounds

1962

Edward S. Barber to determine safe limitations on grading or new construction

1973

Geotechnical Study to support a proposed interpretive facility

1984

Settlement Analysis for an NPS improvement project

2002

Geotechnical Study to support the proposed underground security/screening visitor center

2011

AUGUST

4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31

SEPTEMBER

1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.9.10.11.12.13.14.15.16.17.18.19.20.21.22.23.24.25.26.27.28.29.30.31

Field Work
August 4-17

Geotechnical Analysis
August 22-September 16



Anticipated Subsurface Conditions near the Monument

- 20 to 25 feet of recent fill at surface and overlying Monument foundations; may be locally deeper adjacent to foundations
- Fill consists of loose to medium compact sand and silt and medium stiff clay
- 80 to 90 feet of Pleistocene-age Terrace deposits consisting of clay, sand and gravel beneath fill
- Decomposed rock below Terrace deposits
- Water at El. -6, or about 45 feet below plaza level


Anticipated Design Conditions

- Structures on plaza will derive their support from the fill
- Structures extending less than approximately 15 to 18 feet below grade will likely derive their support from the fill.
- Structures extending more than approximately 18 to 20 feet below grade could derive their support from the Terrace deposits.
- Structures within approximately 35 feet of any face of the Monument will bear on fill underlain by the foundations and buttresses of the Monument.
- For maximum structure depth of approximately 20 feet, groundwater will not be encountered.



A wide-angle photograph of the Washington Monument, a tall, white, obelisk-shaped structure, standing prominently on the left side of the frame. The monument is situated on a grassy field. In the background, a line of trees and a clear blue sky with some light clouds are visible. A small airplane can be seen flying in the distance. The text "3. Presentation of Alternatives" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

3. Presentation of Alternatives

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Washington Monument. The monument is a tall, white, obelisk-shaped structure that tapers towards the top. It stands on a grassy field. In the foreground, there is a line of trees and a fence. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is a wide-angle shot of the monument and its immediate surroundings.

3. Presentation of Alternatives – Five Themes

A. New Approach Through The Landscape

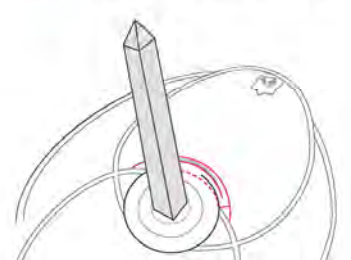
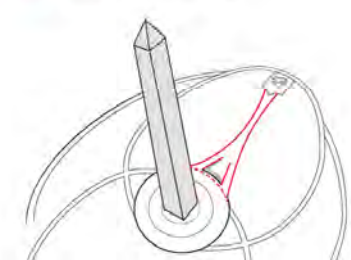
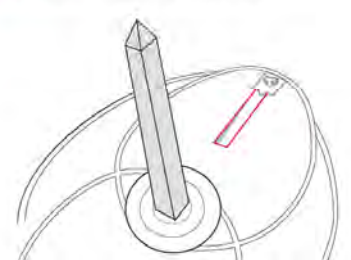
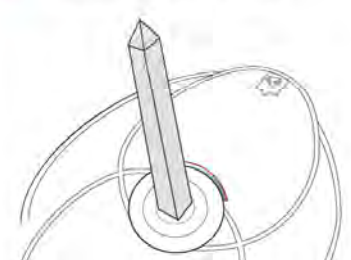
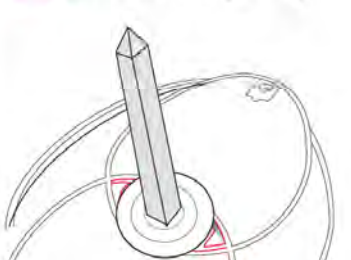
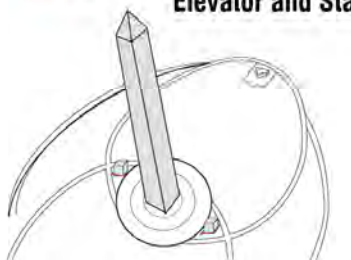
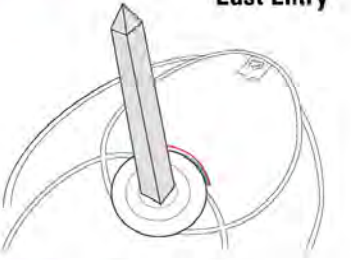
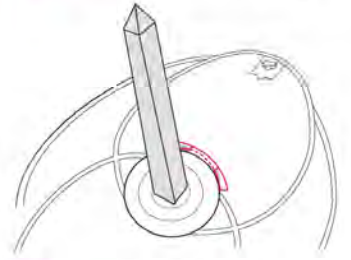
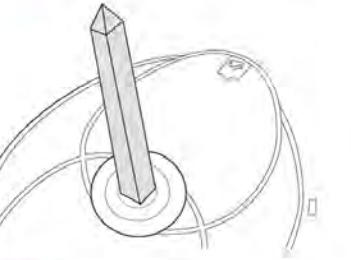
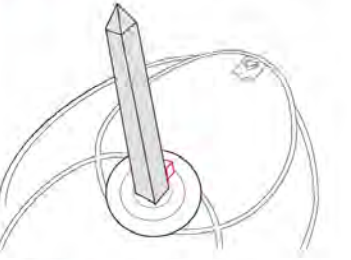
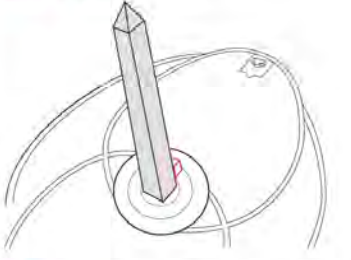
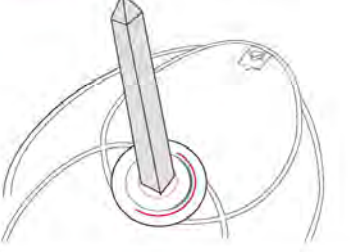
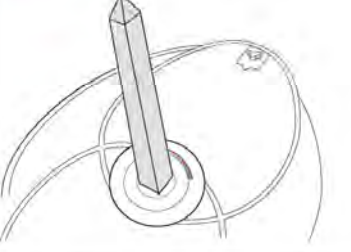
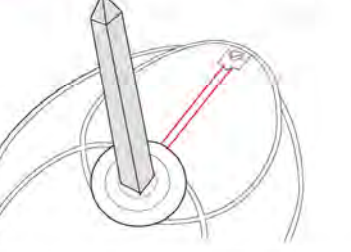
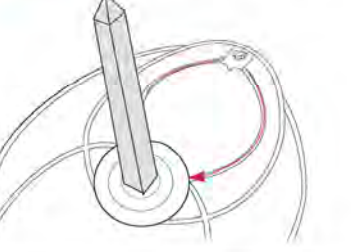
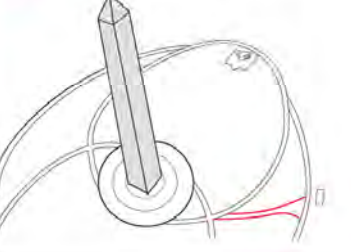
B. Visitor Screening On The Plaza

C. New Entry Through The Plaza

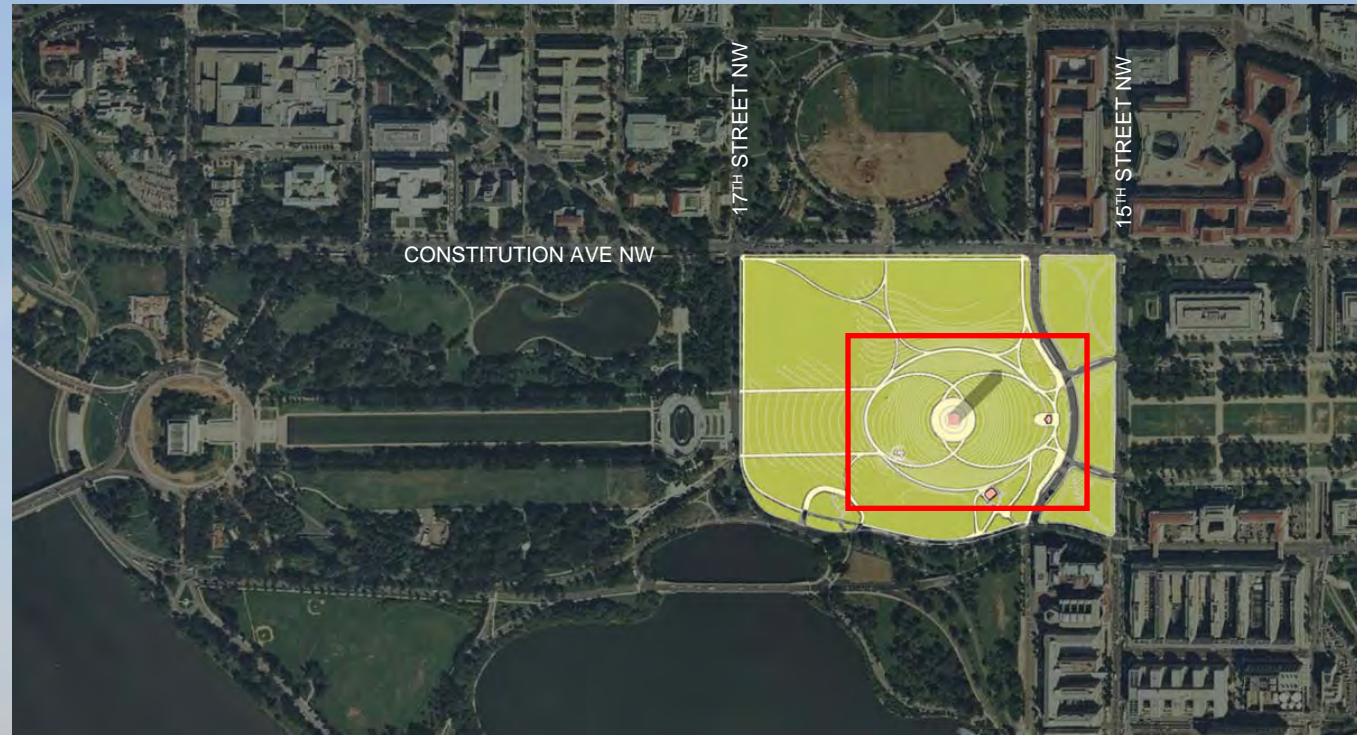
D. Escorted Visitor Entry

E. No Action Alternative

Summary of Alternatives

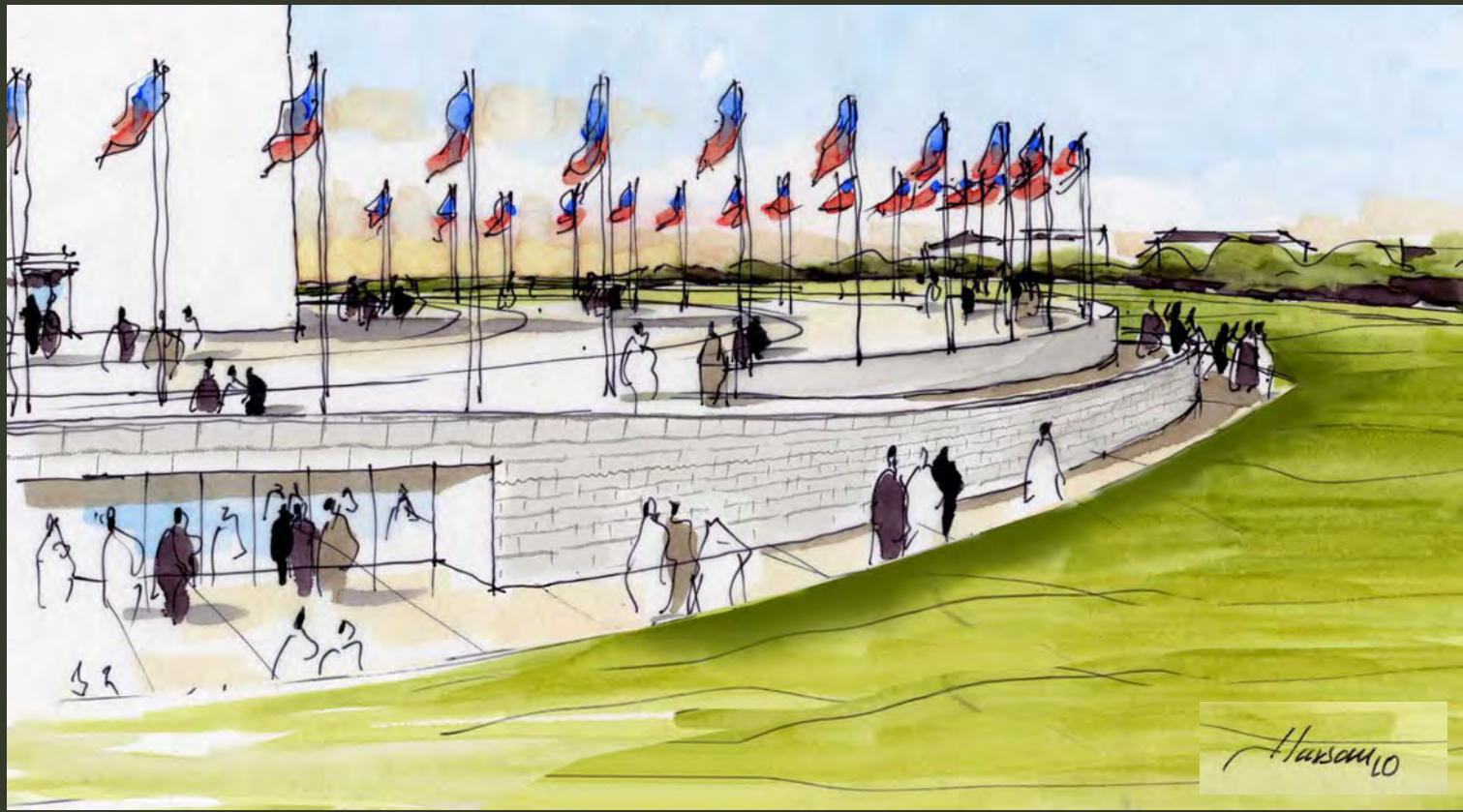
A.1 Recessed East Entry at Plaza 	A.2 East Axial Entry 	A.3 East Axial Concourse 	A.4 Recessed East Entry 	A.5 South Walkway Ramp 	A.6 Symmetrical Pavilions for Elevator and Stairs 
A.7 Asymmetrical Recessed East Entry 	A.8 Recessed East Entry 	A.9 Underground Concourse 	B.1 Glass Plaza Pavilion 	B.2 Plaza Pavilion 	
C.1 South Plaza Ramp 	C.2 East Plaza Ramp 	D.1 Pedestrian Thoroughfare 	D.2 Dedicated Motorized Route 	D.3 Dedicated Motorized Route 	

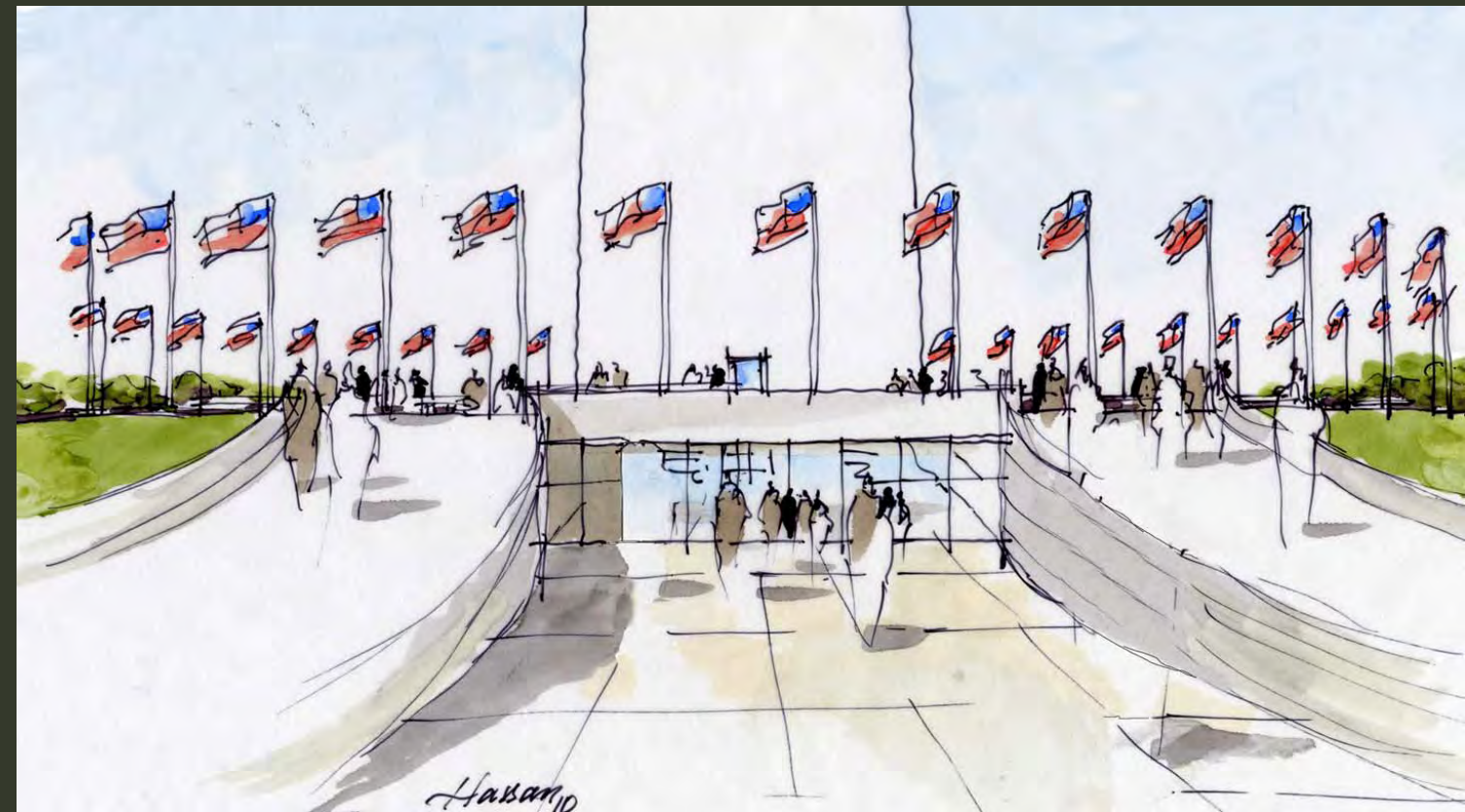
Location Map

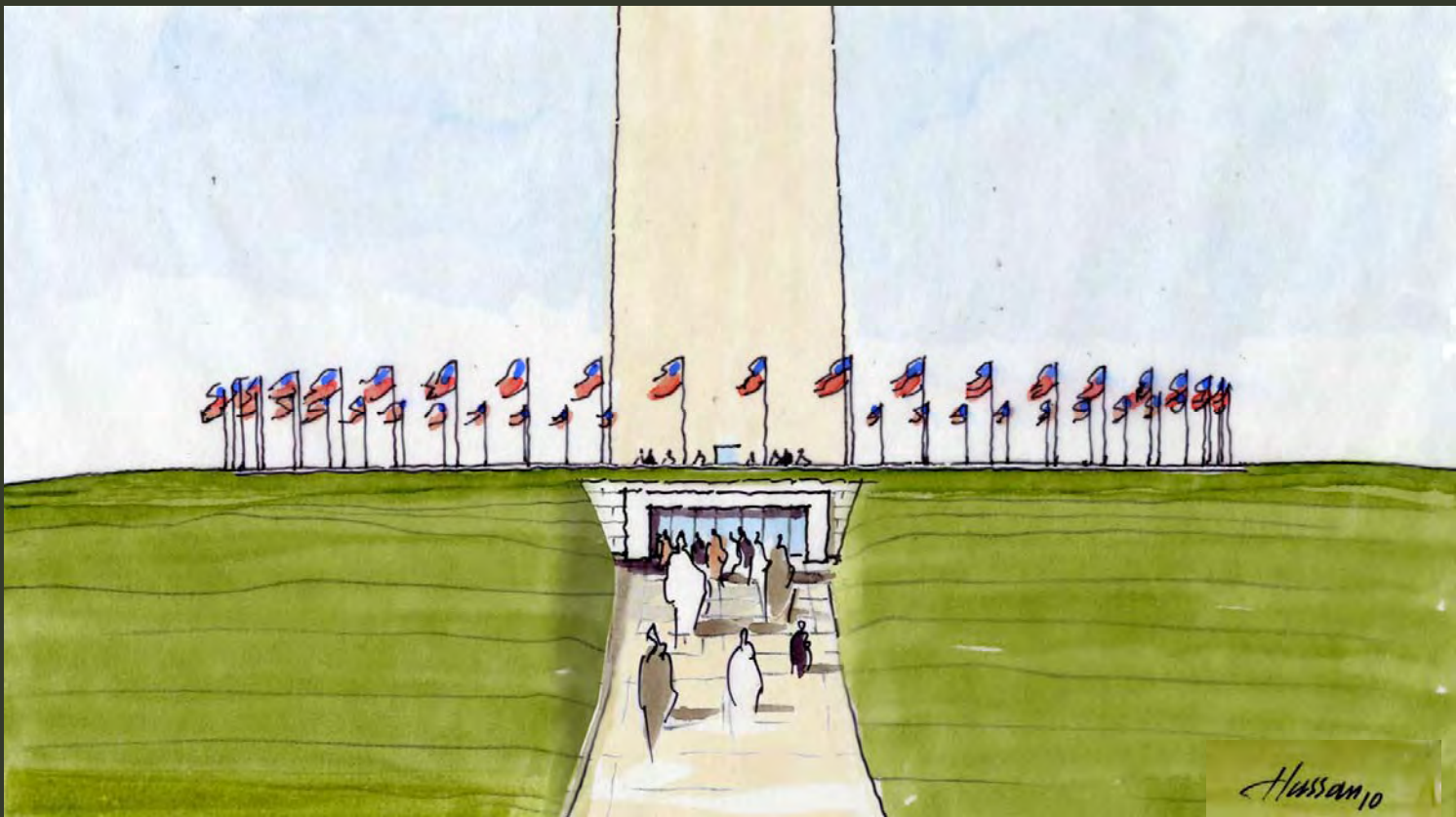


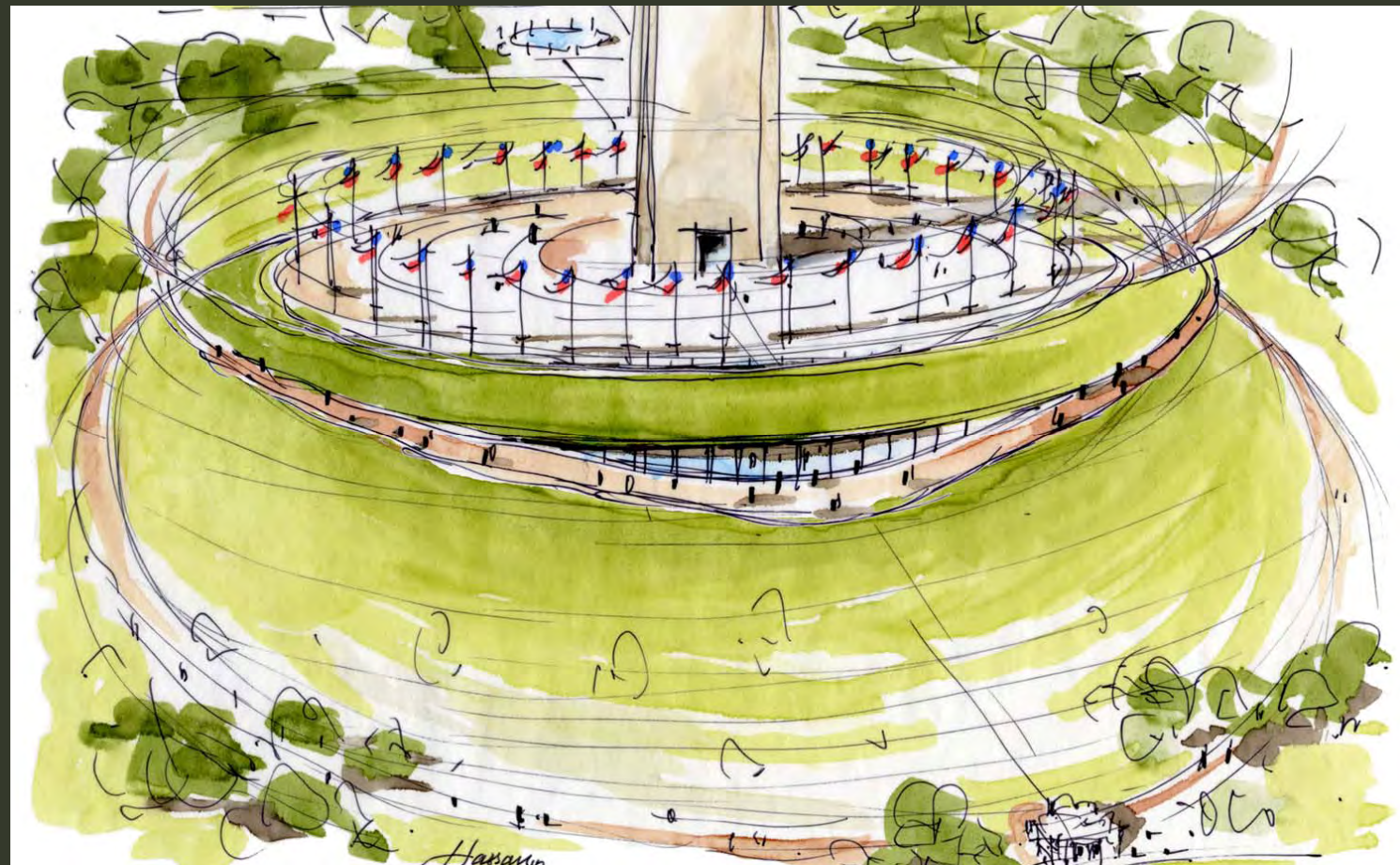
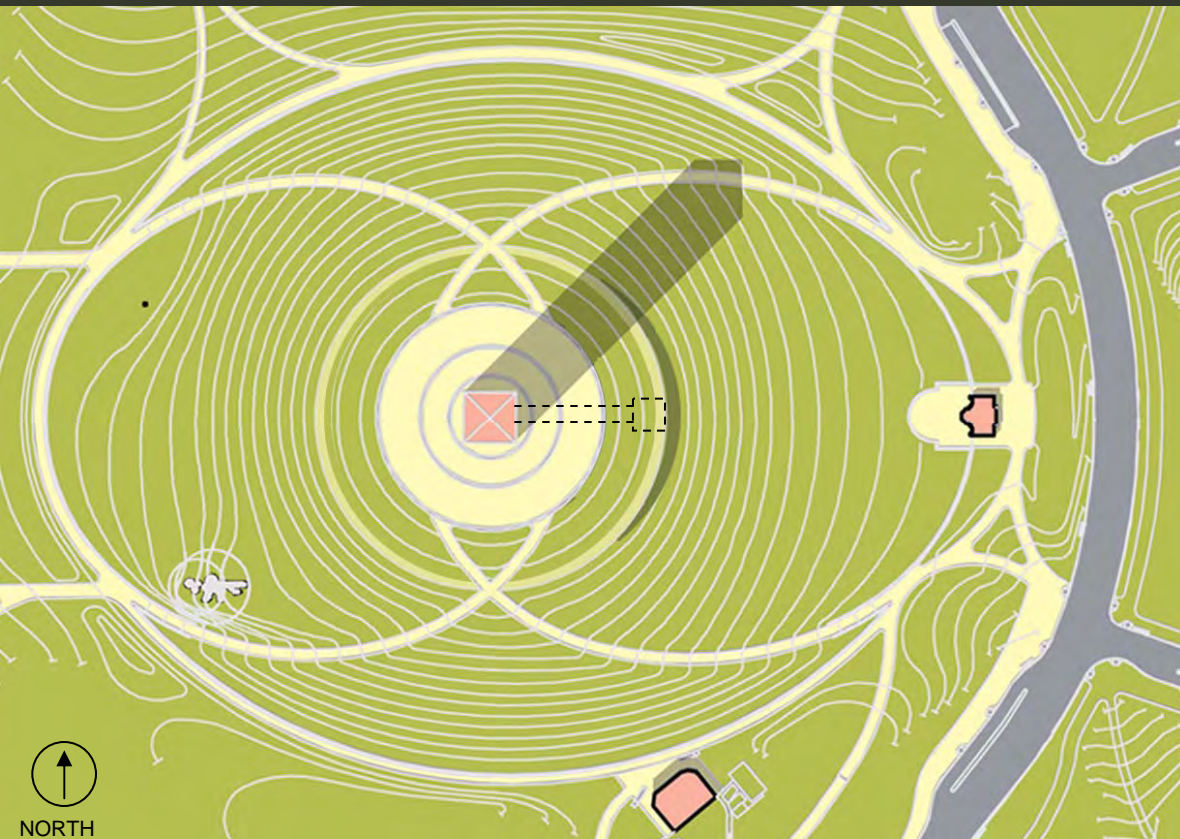
A. New Approach Through the Landscape

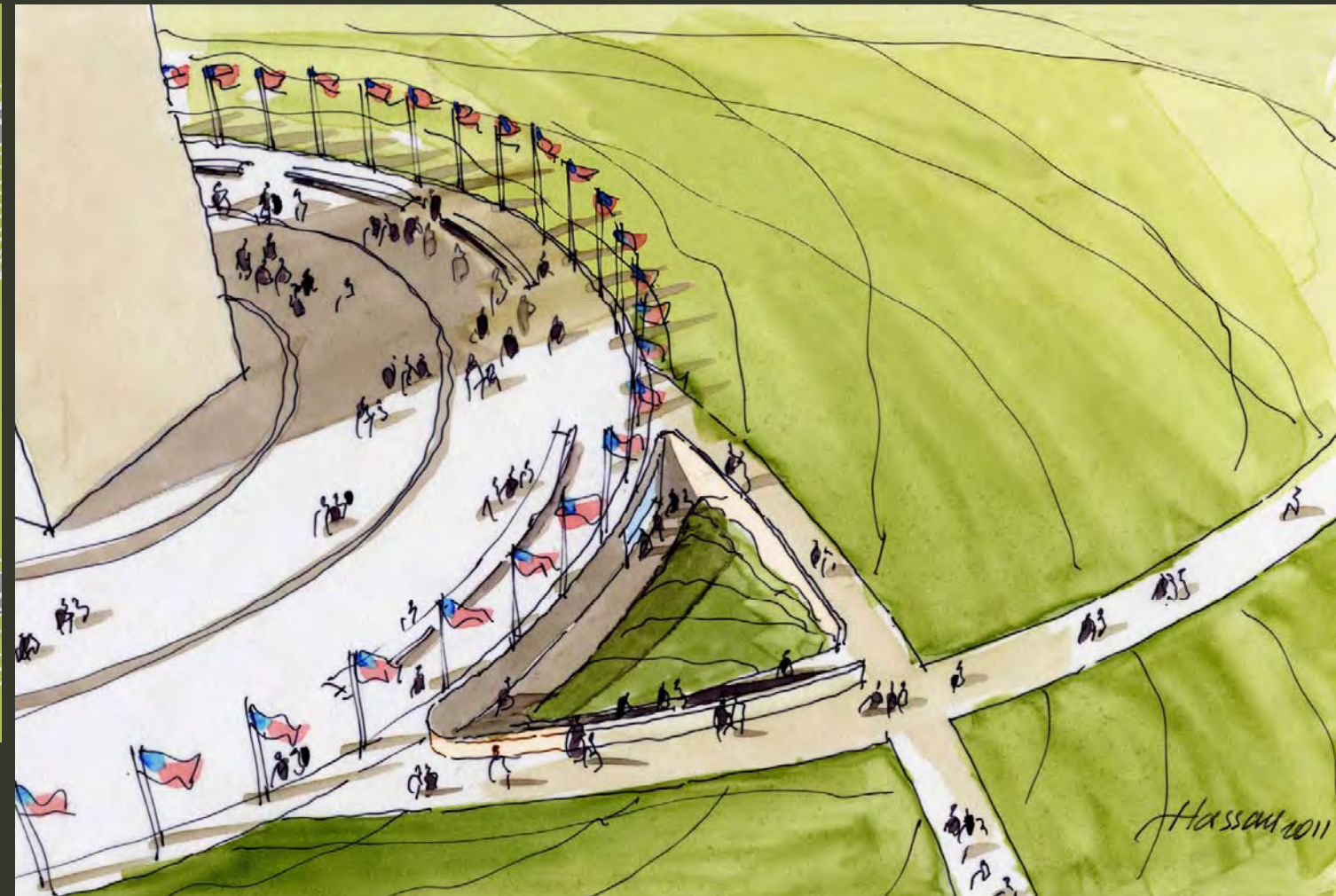




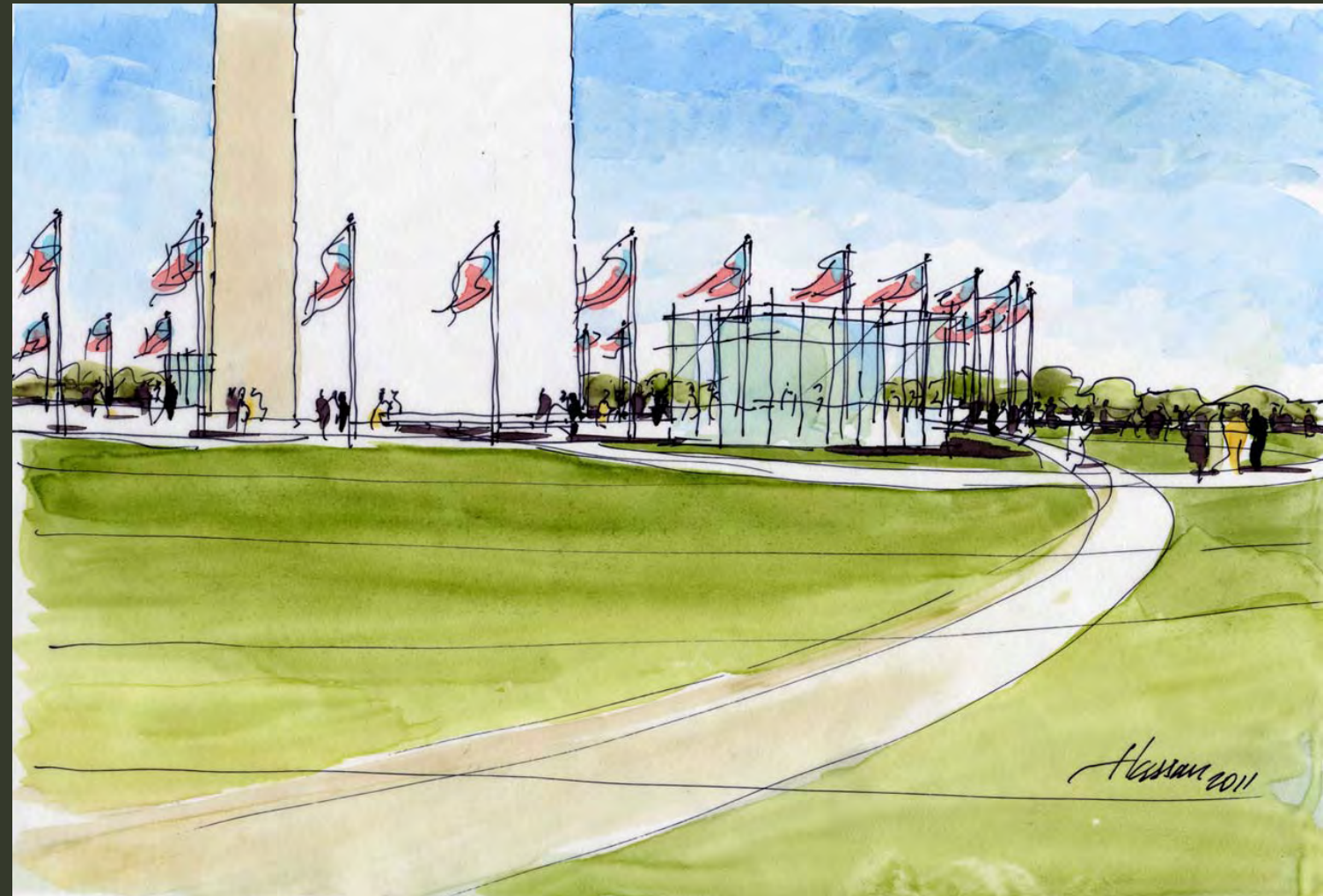
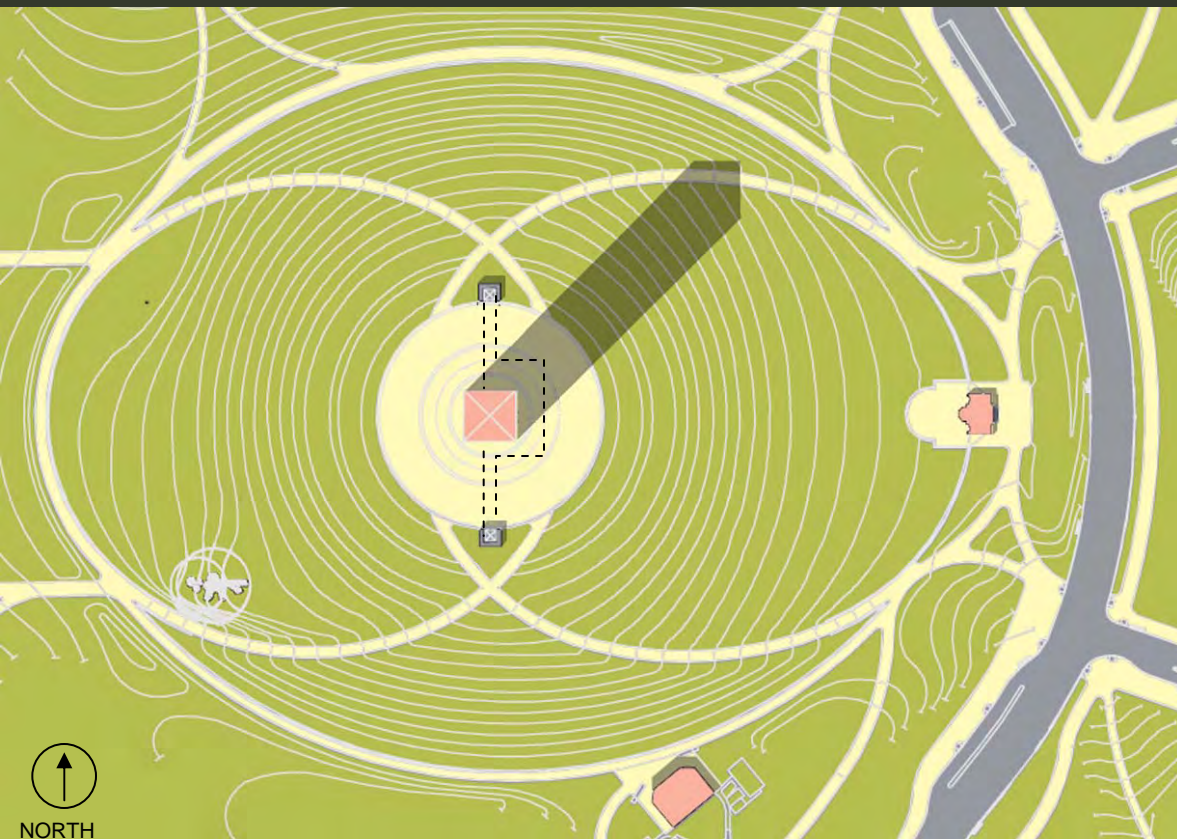




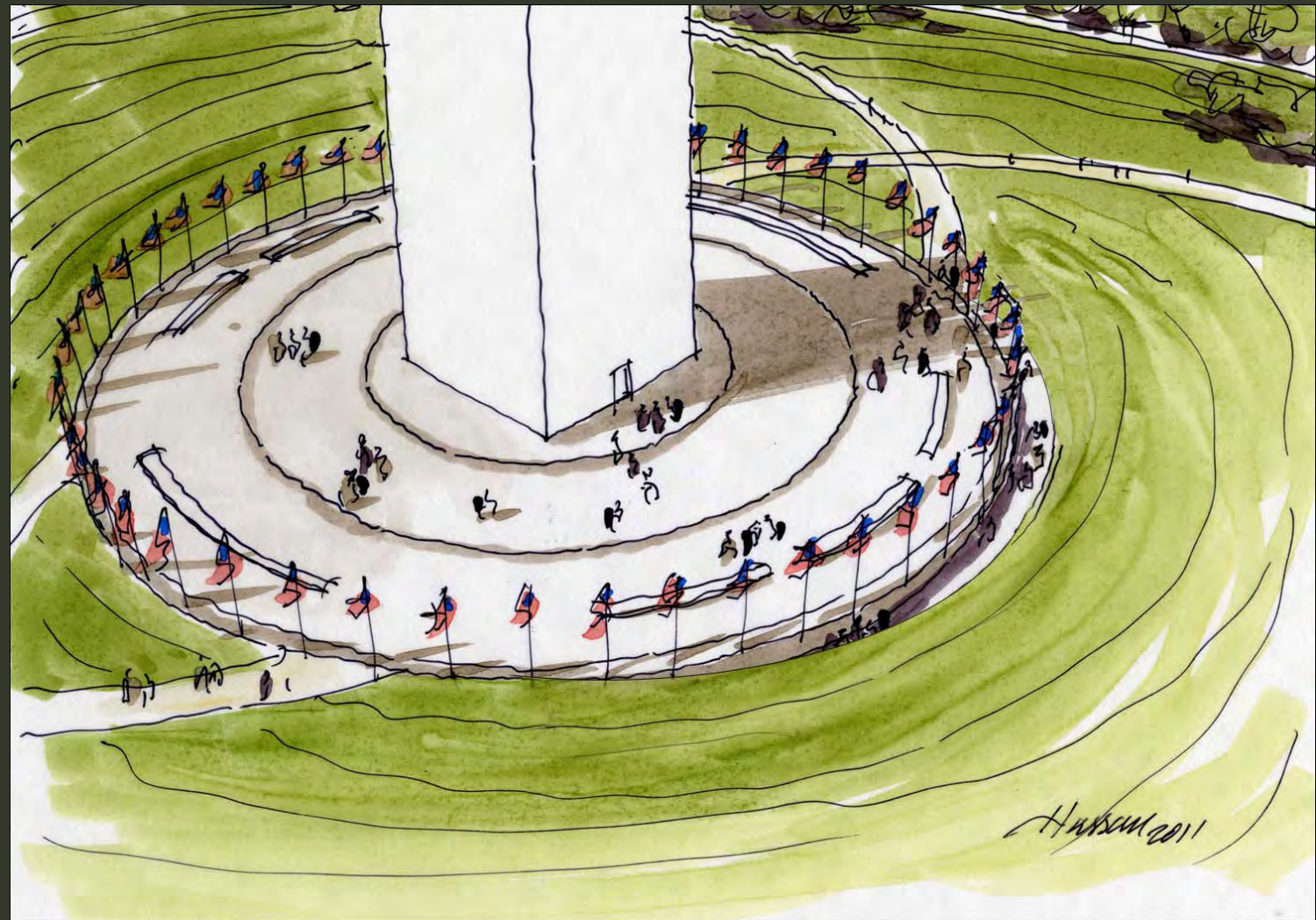


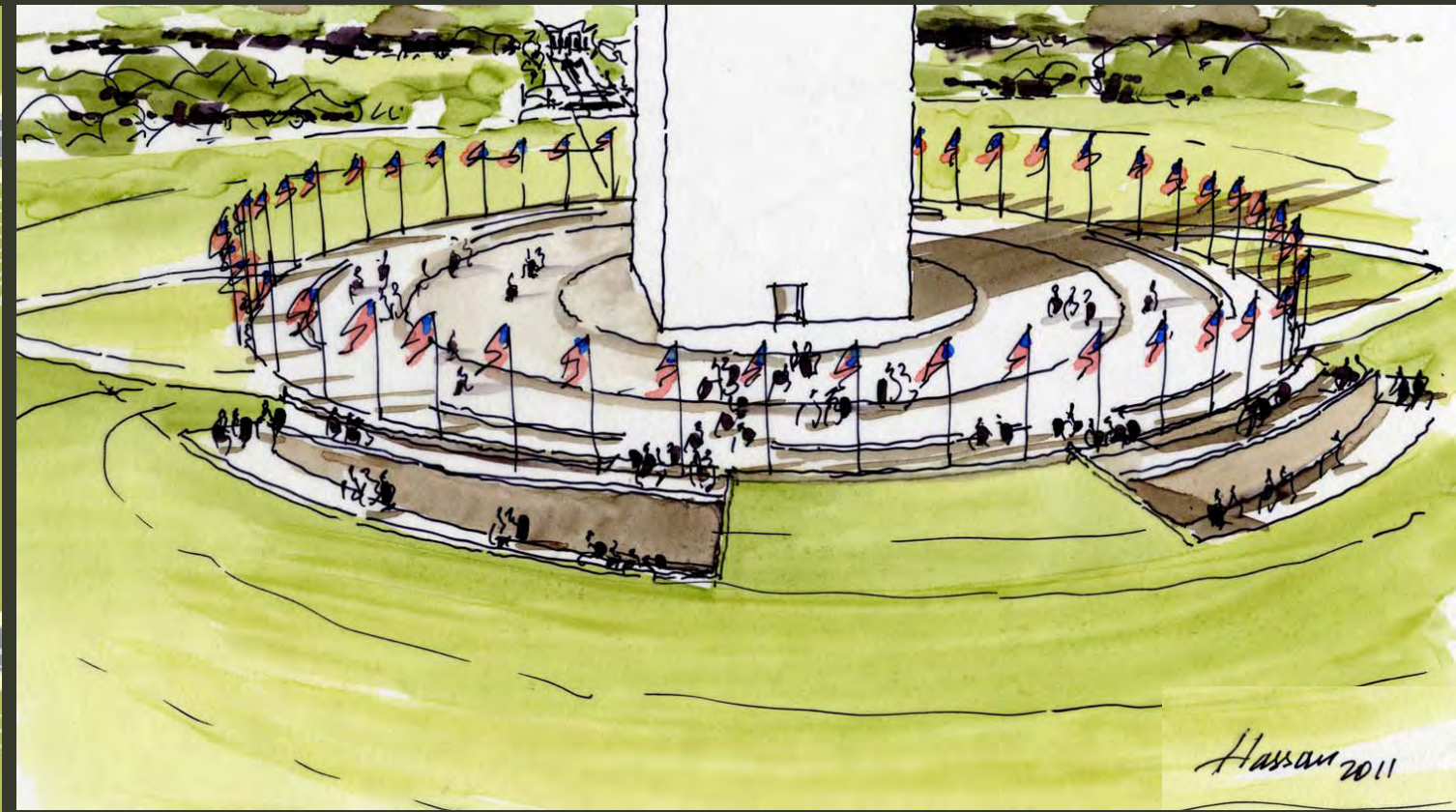


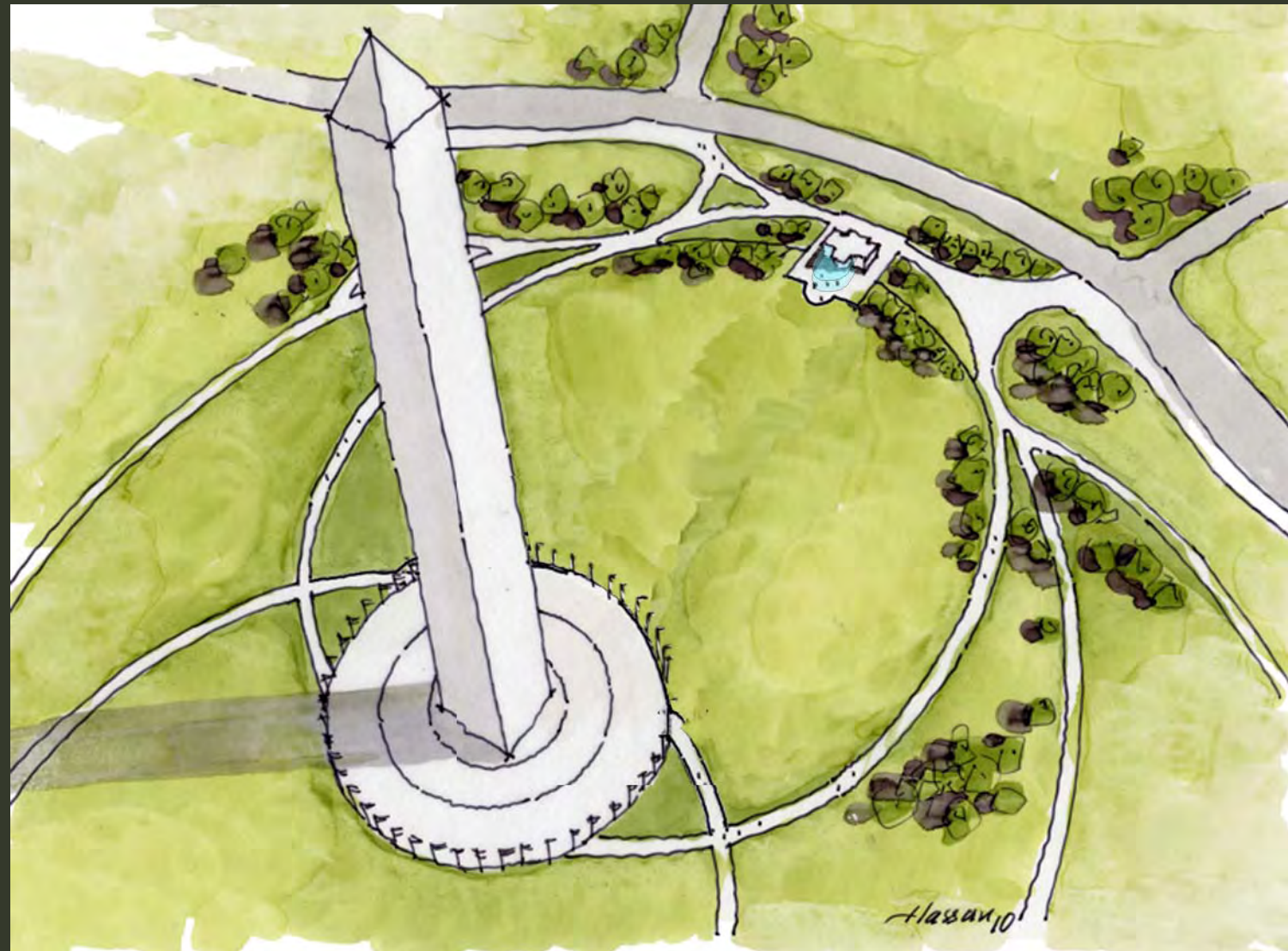
Symmetrical Pavilions for Elevator and Stairs A.6



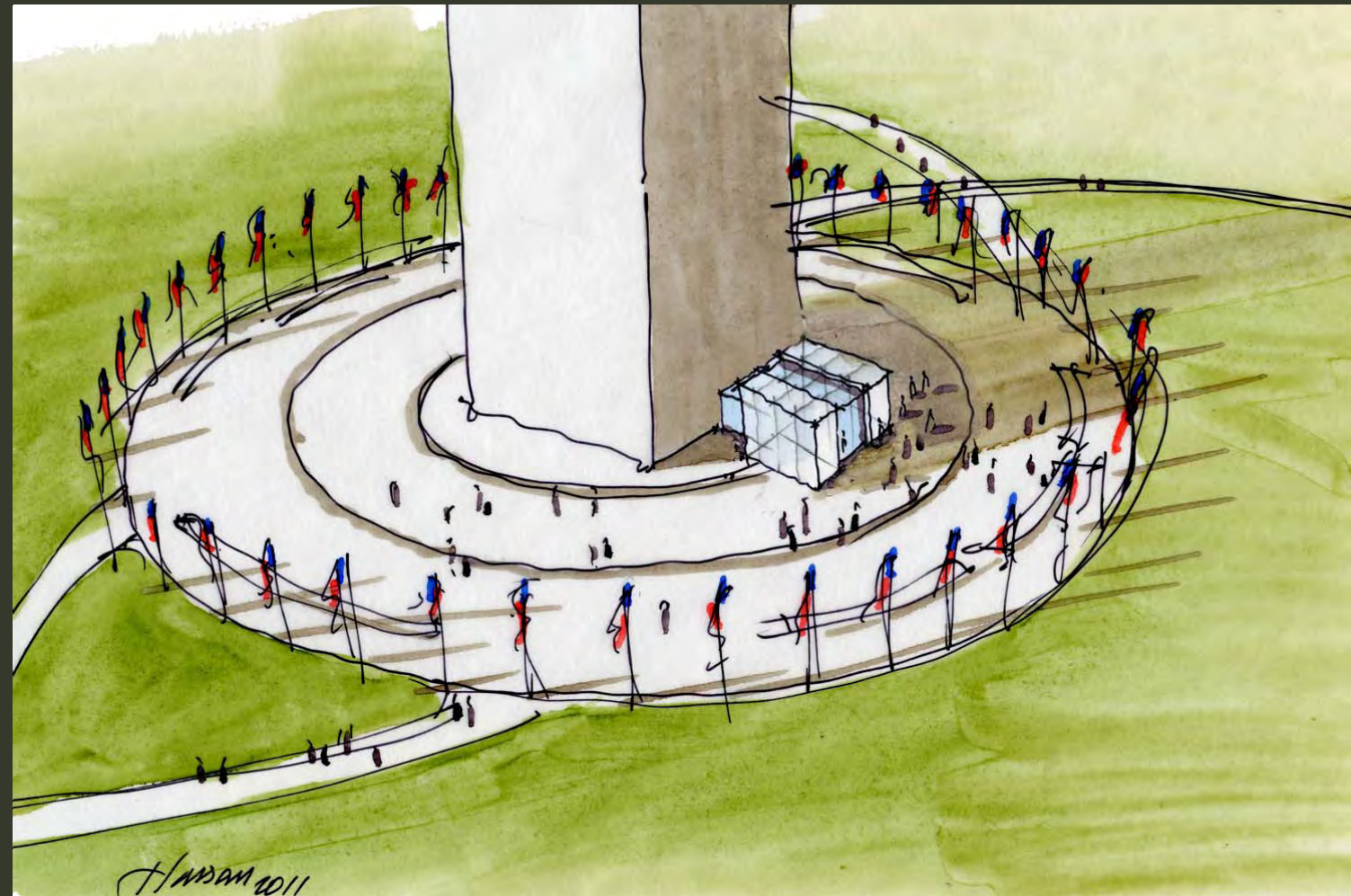
Asymmetrical Recessed East Entry A.7

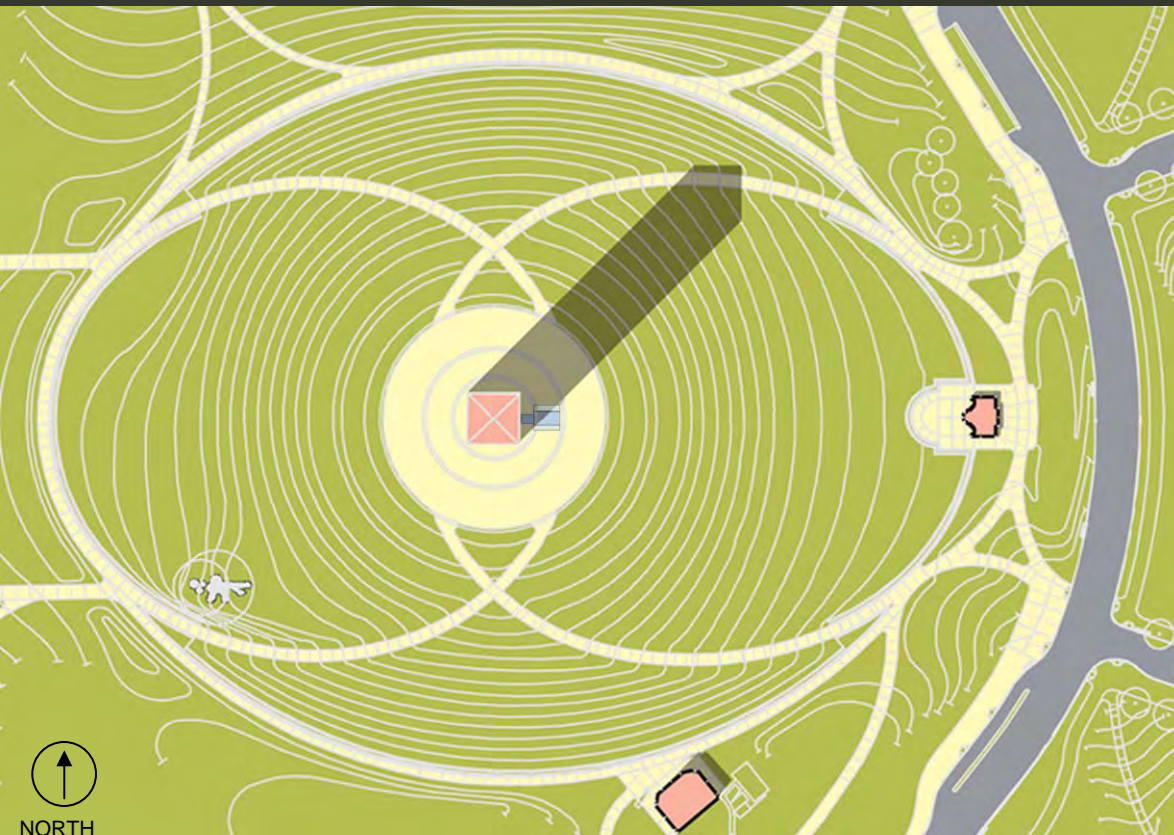






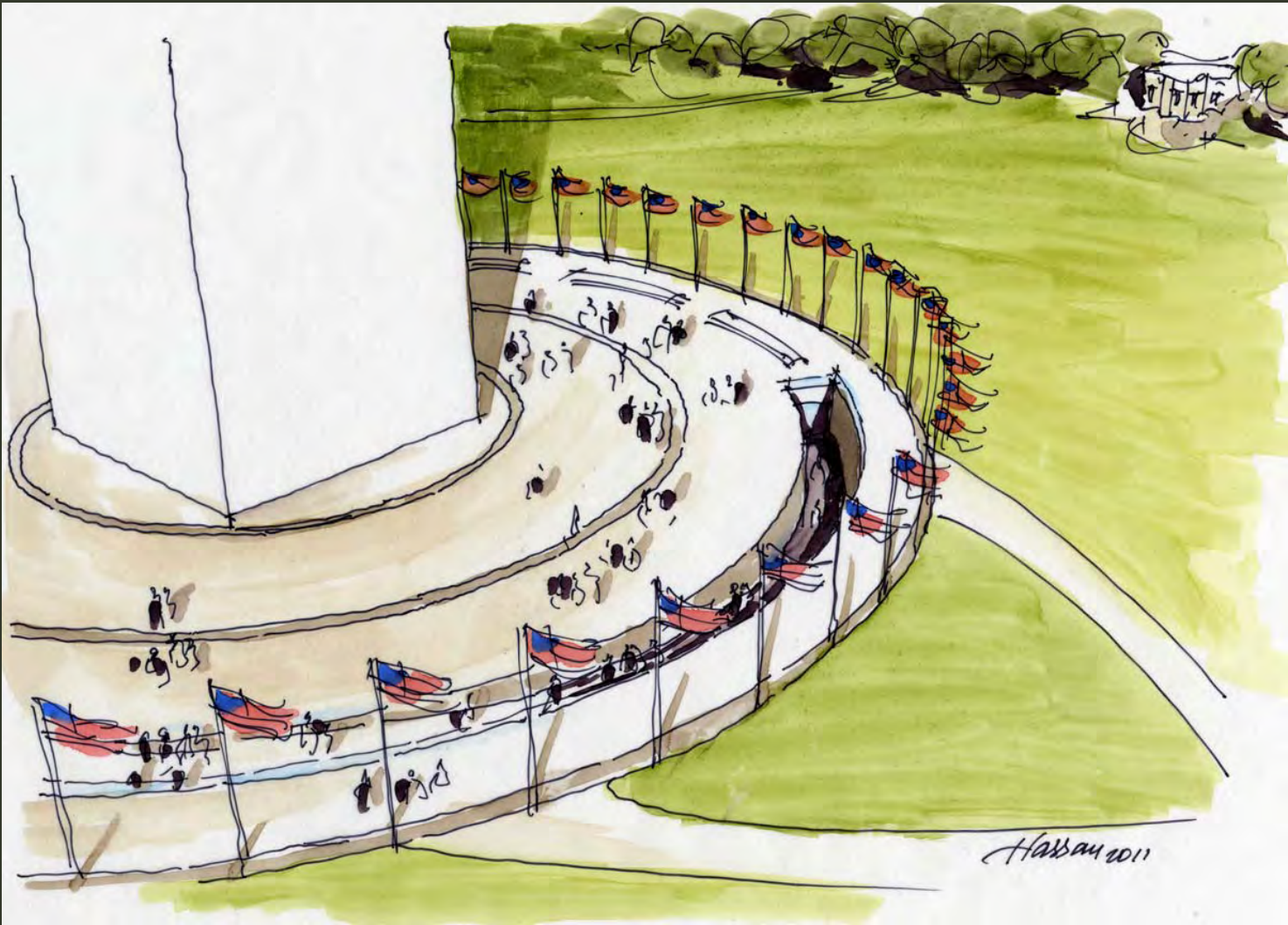
B. Visitor Screening On The Plaza

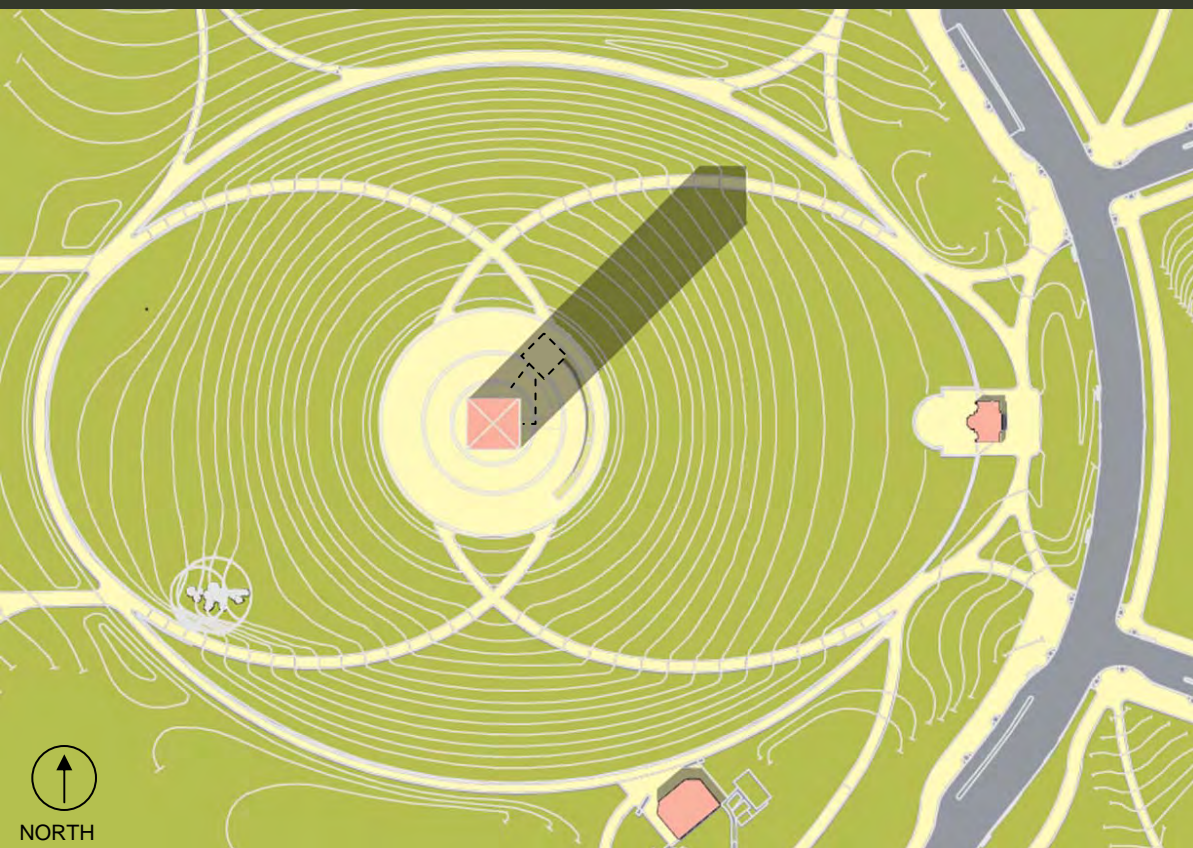




C. New Entry Through The Plaza

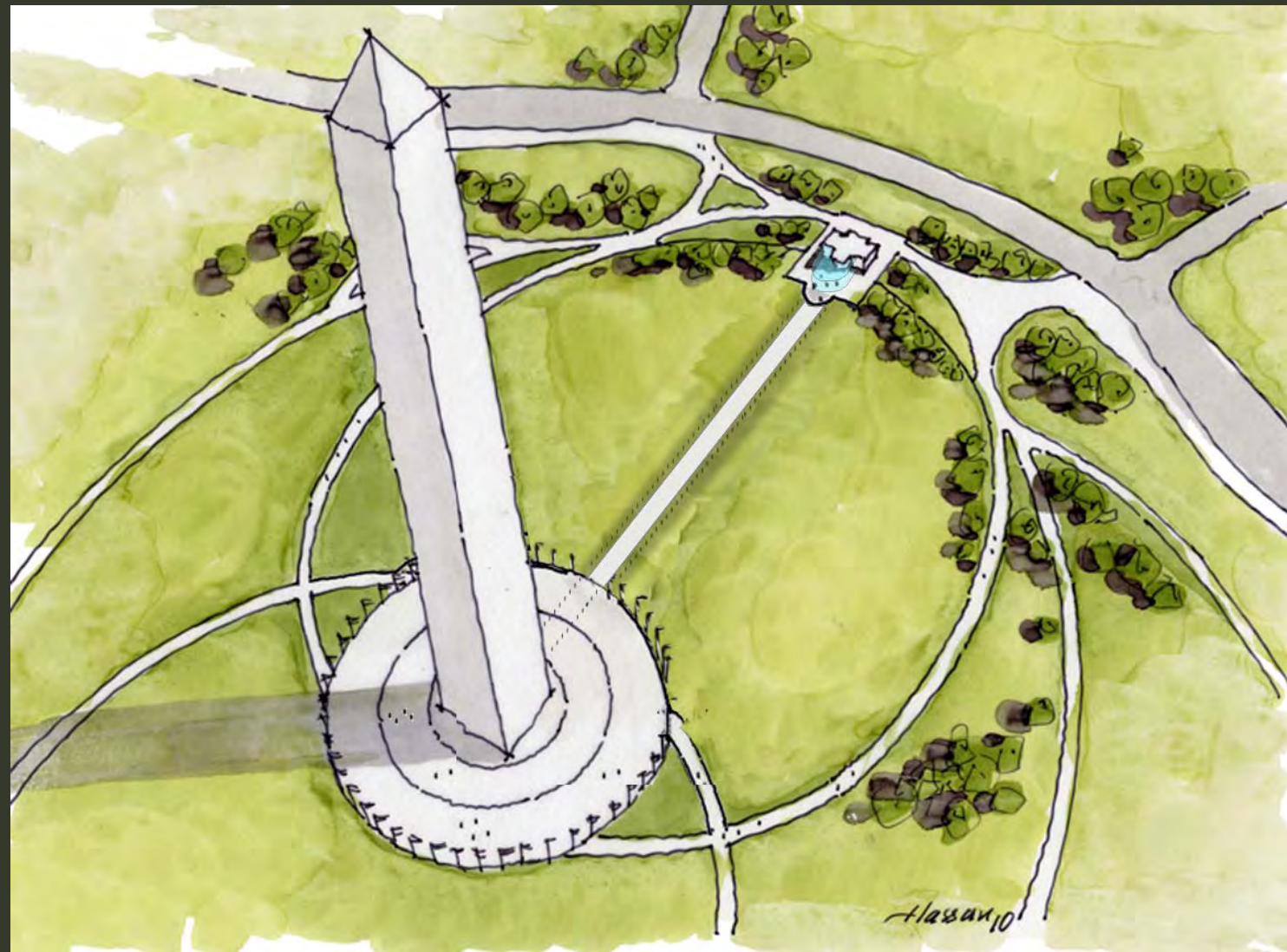
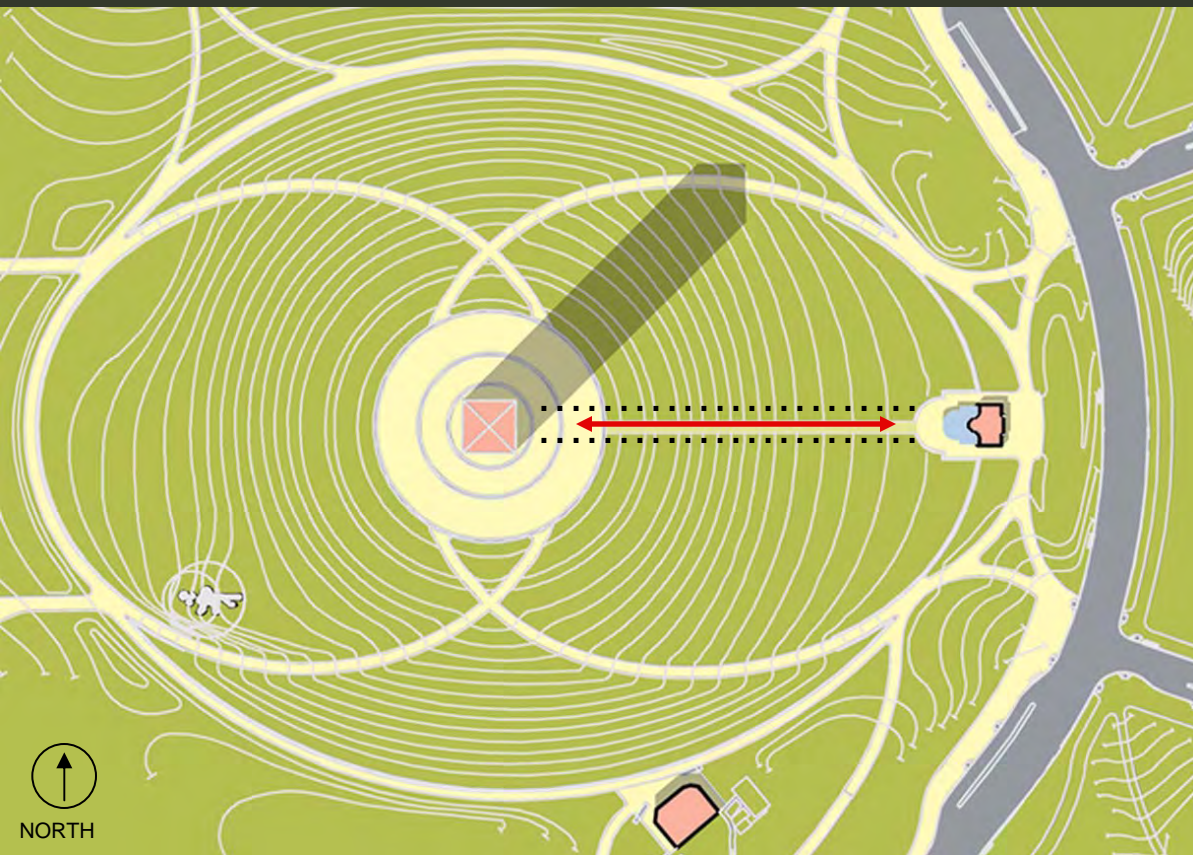


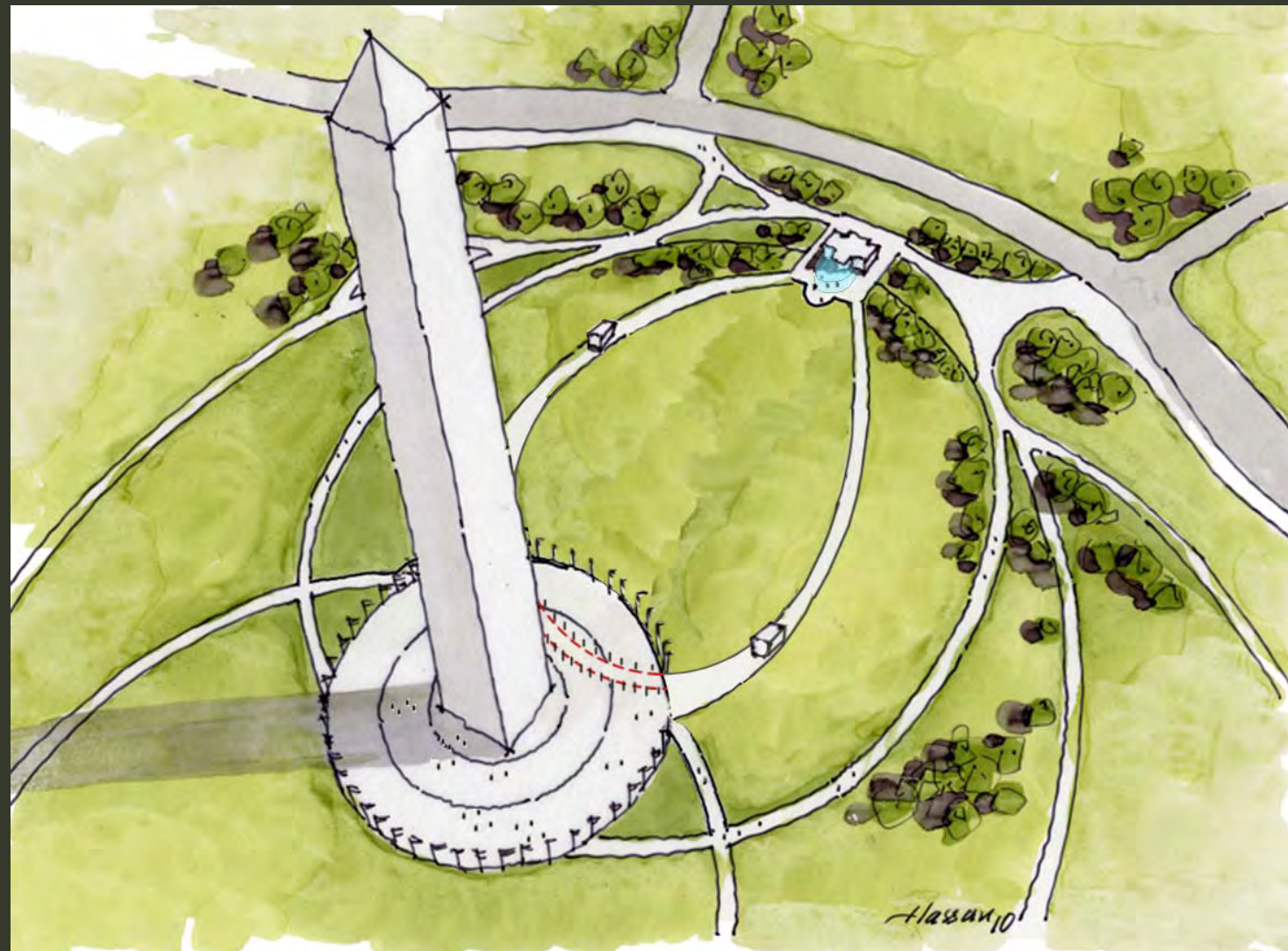




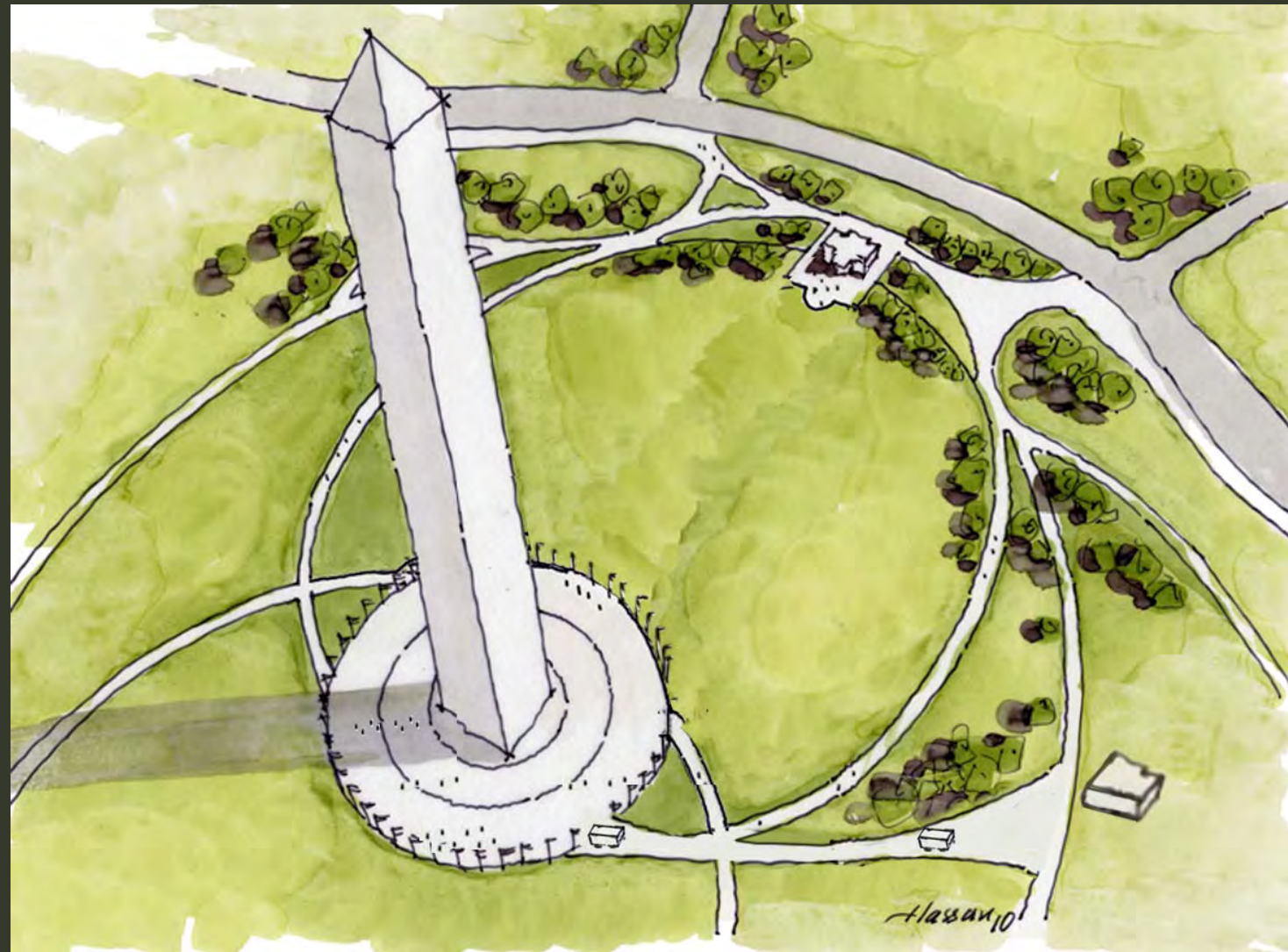
D. Escorted Visitor Entry





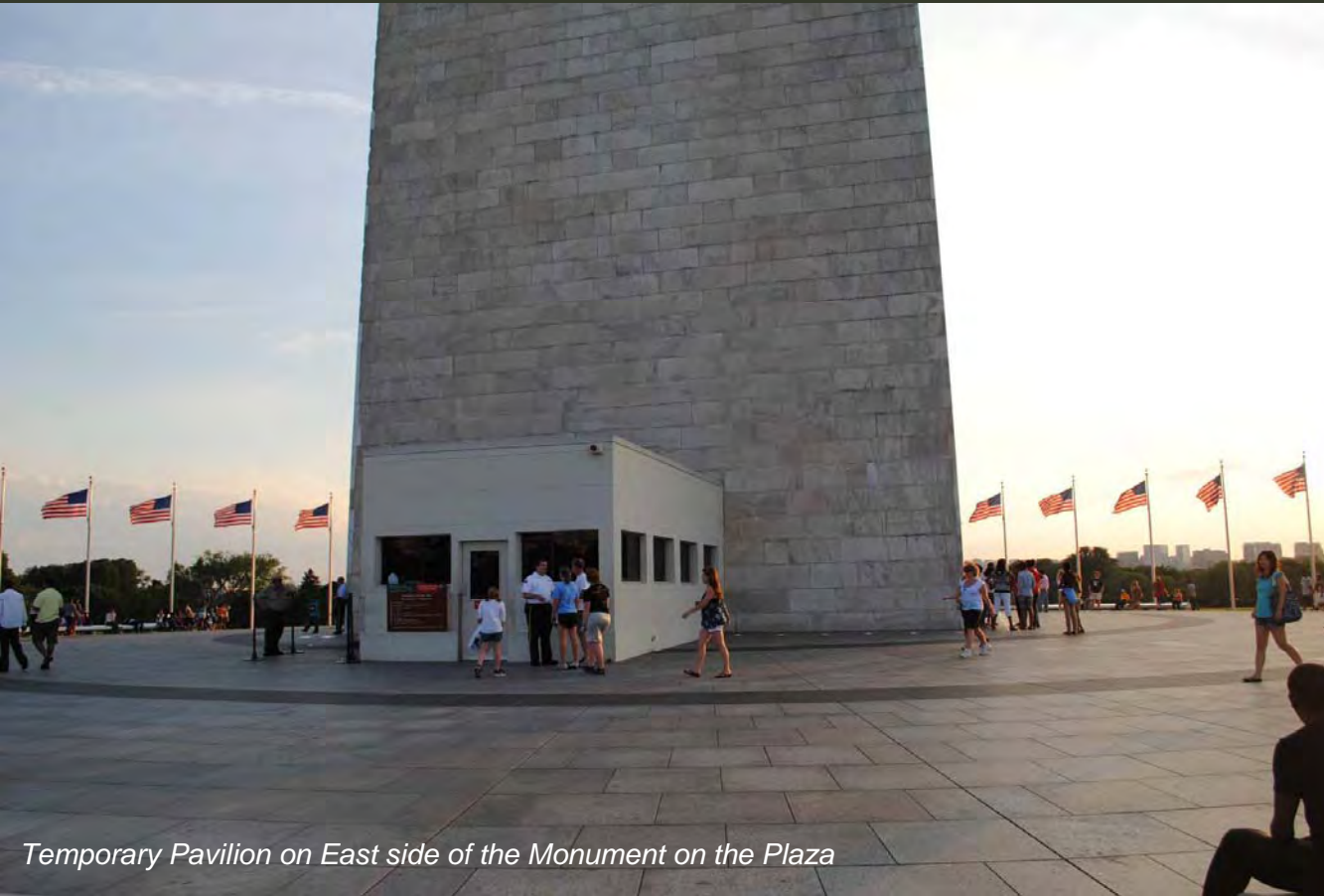


Dedicated Motorized Route from Sylvan Theater D.3



E. No Action Alternative





Temporary Pavilion on East side of the Monument on the Plaza



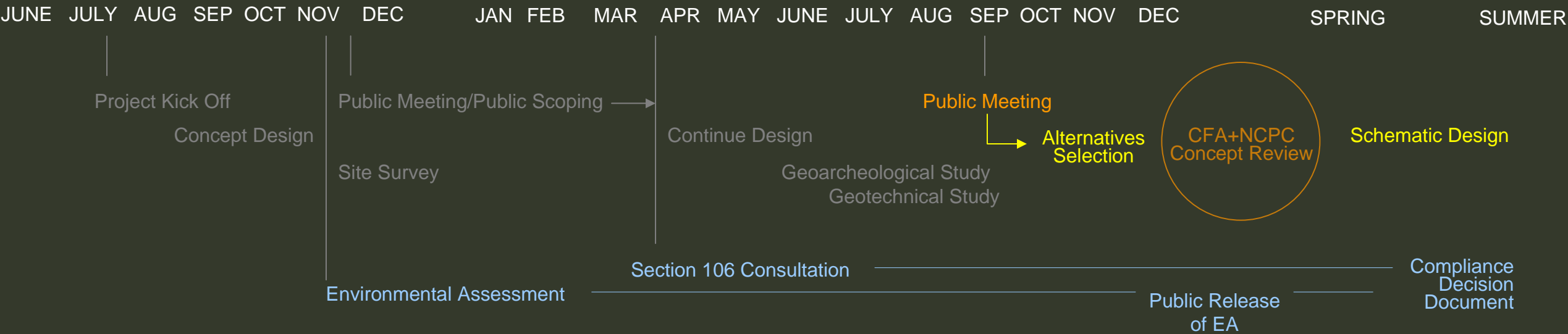
Visitors Queuing on the Plaza

Existing Conditions

2010

2011

2012



NPS welcomes
comments by
October 23, 2011

Online:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NAMA>

Email:

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