

To the Franklin Park Community:

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the District of Columbia, and the Downtown Business Improvement District is launching a collaborative comprehensive planning process to revitalize Franklin Park, one of the largest parks in downtown Washington, DC.

Franklin Park is located between K and I Streets N.W. and 13th and 14th Streets N.W. in downtown Washington, D.C. in a rapidly growing neighborhood of Center City DC. Currently the park does not meet the diverse needs of neighborhood residents, workers or visitors; however, there is the potential to transform Franklin Park into one of our nation's premier urban parks. To realize this dramatic transformation, NPS and its partners will investigate options for increasing recreational opportunities, adding services such as food and restrooms, increasing events and programs, restoring historic resources, incorporating sustainable and ecological sensitive materials and practices, enhancing surrounding streetscape and transportation connections, and using a public/private partnership to oversee the long-term maintenance and management of the park.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate these proposed actions. The EA will address the project background, the purpose and need for the proposed actions, a determination of environmental issues and potential impacts resulting from the alternatives considered (including the no action alternative), and public involvement and agency coordination.

The public scoping meeting will also provide the first opportunity for consultation on the project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 is the process by which federal agencies take into account the effect of undertakings upon historic resources on or eligible for the National Register for Historic Places.

We encourage you to participate in the planning process. Please join us for a public presentation and open house that will include a visioning and programming workshop to solicit your input. **The meeting will be held on November 7, 2013, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Four Points by Sheraton at 1201 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C.** At the meeting, the project team will be available to discuss the purpose and need, site characteristics, and other project information.

The NPS is inviting public comments during the 30-day public scoping period through November 22, 2013. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any ideas for the revitalization, and issues or concerns you may have with the proposed project so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the EA. You may submit comments electronically at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FranklinPark> or submit written comments to:

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Attn: Franklin Park Vision and Transformation Plan
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

If you require additional information or special assistance to attend and participate in this meeting, please contact Eliza Voigt, at the NPS at 202-245-4694.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.