

National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial
Environmental Assessment & Section 106
DESIGN PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING



March 27, 2018

Agenda

Welcome and Purpose of Meeting

- ▶ National Park Service and Kyle Leggs, National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

Project Background

- ▶ Claire Sale, AECOM

NEPA and Section 106 Process and Issues

- ▶ Claire Sale, AECOM

Design Concepts

- ▶ Will Belcher, OLIN

Opportunity for Public Comment

WELCOME AND PURPOSE OF MEETING

Purpose of Meeting

- ▶ Conduct the second of two public scoping meetings and continue Section 106 consultation
- ▶ Determine a preferred site and design for the memorial
- ▶ Summarize comments received during site selection scoping
- ▶ Encourage public feedback on design concept alternatives

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Background

- ▶ Congress authorized establishment of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Public Law 113-291 on Federal land in the District of Columbia
- ▶ Congress authorized the location of the commemorative work in Public Law 115-18 within Area I as defined under the Commemorative Works Act
- ▶ Work must be consistent with the Commemorative Works Act; Construction of the memorial will be sponsored and funded by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association
- ▶ The memorial will be maintained by the National Park Service (NPS)

Site Selection Process



2015 - 2016

Site Selection Study

The Site Selection Study evaluated a total of 18 sites and included three rounds of evaluation.

Two sites, the Memorial Circle Area and Constitution Avenue Terminus Area sites, were selected as the most appropriate for further analysis.



Site Selection Scoping Period June 23, 2017 - July 24, 2017

July 13, 2017

1st Site Selection Review by NCPC

NCPC reviewed the Memorial Circle Area and Constitution Avenue Terminus Area sites for the Desert Storm Memorial.

The commissioners requested development of one or more alternative design concepts for both sites, including variations in scale, placement, and orientation.

July 20, 2017

1st Site Selection Review by CFA

CFA reviewed the Memorial Circle Area and Constitution Avenue Terminus Area sites for the Desert Storm Memorial.

The commissioners expressed concern about the suitability of the two sites and the scale of the memorial, emphasized the potential for different ways of creating thematic connections, and encouraged further study of potential sites.

Site Selection Process



October 19, 2017

2nd Site Selection Review by CFA

The Board found that the Memorial Circle Area site poses difficult challenges and removed the site from further consideration. The Board also conducted a new comprehensive evaluation of five sites, including the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site.

CFA endorsed the further exploration of the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area and E Street Corridor sites, as well as recommended that the Constitution Avenue Belvedere site be included in the next phase of site selection.



December 7, 2017

2nd Site Selection Review by NCPC

NCPC reviewed the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area, E Street Corridor, and Constitution Avenue Belvedere sites for the Desert Storm Memorial.

The commissioners supported the advancement of the three sites for further study and requested the Memorial team develop one or more alternative design concepts for the three sites.

March 13, 2018

Section 106 Design Scoping Period

The Board and NPS are exploring design options for three potential sites for the Desert Storm Memorial. The public is encouraged to comment. CFA and NCPC will also review initial design options during this period.

Sites considered during Site Selection Scoping

147 pieces of correspondence were received during the site selection scoping period. Comments were provided by members of the public and the following organizations:

- ▶ The Committee of 100 on the Federal City
- ▶ National Mall Coalition
- ▶ Veterans for Common Sense
- ▶ Casey Trees
- ▶ DC Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- ▶ DC Water
- ▶ NCPC
- ▶ CFA
- ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Overview of Site Selection Scoping Comments

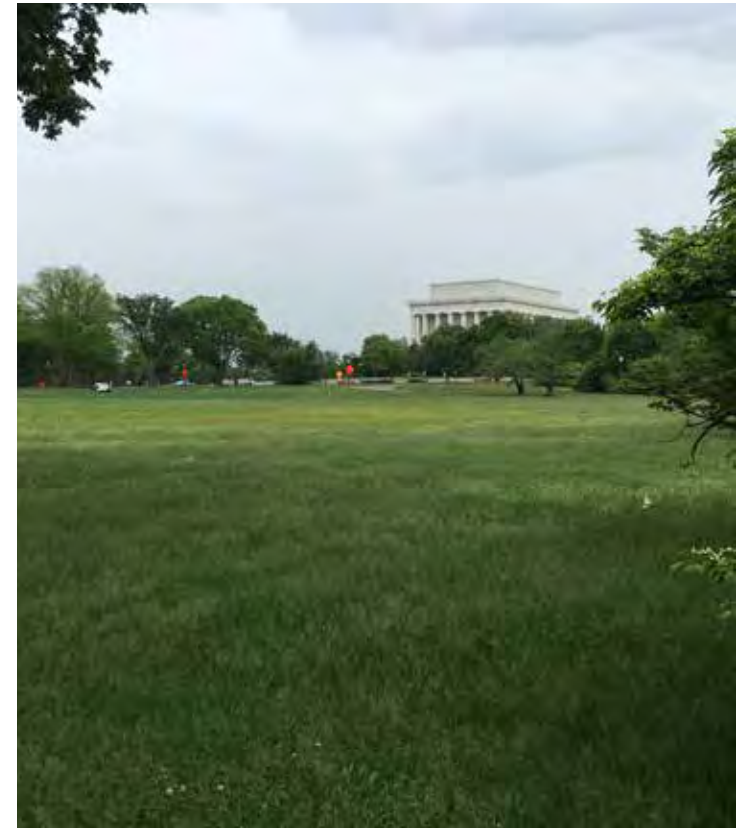
Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

An overwhelming majority of comments supported locating the Memorial at the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site. Commenters noted that the site provides the following:

- ▶ Proximity to other 20th Century war memorials
- ▶ Easy access
- ▶ Better exposure to visitors
- ▶ Thematic connection and proximity to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Some commenters opposed locating the Memorial at the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site noting:

- ▶ Geographic clustering of memorials would allow them to be more easily ignored
- ▶ The National Mall is becoming cluttered with memorials and should be preserved for other activities
- ▶ Heavy automobile traffic, airplane noise, planned flood control and levee construction, and an extensive sewer construction project compromise the site



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site

Overview of Site Selection Scoping Comments

Memorial Circle Area

11 comments supported locating the Memorial at the Memorial Circle Area site. Commenters noted that the site:

- ▶ Appears more tranquil
- ▶ Provides better accessibility and safety for disabled visitors

Some commenters opposed locating the Memorial at the Memorial Circle Area site noting:

- ▶ No mass transit or parking are available at the site
- ▶ The site is disconnected and isolated from other 20th Century War Memorials
- ▶ The site is layered with many other commemorative associations



Memorial Circle Area site

Overview of Site Selection Scoping Comments

Other Comments

Several agencies and groups provided memorial design considerations. Comments stated that the memorial design should:

- ▶ Consider bicycle parking
- ▶ Include variations in scale, placement, and orientation
- ▶ For the Constitution Avenue Terminus area site, consider:
 - Opportunities to extend existing bus loading area
 - Improvements to pedestrian crossings
 - Reestablishment of Constitution Avenue
 - Views to and from the Memorial
 - Visitor information and service needs in the general area
- ▶ For the Memorial Circle Area site, consider:
 - Tour bus and disabled parking access
 - Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Agencies and groups also provided comments on:

- ▶ Tree protection and tree canopy
- ▶ Site Selection process and site alternatives
- ▶ Potomac River Tunnel Project
- ▶ Environmental Assessment (EA) considerations
- ▶ Coordination with DDOT and other appropriate agencies



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site



Memorial Circle Area site

Current Sites Under Consideration



NEPA AND SECTION 106 PROCESS AND ISSUES

Purpose and Need

Purpose of the Memorial

- ▶ To commemorate and honor members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield

Need of the Memorial

- ▶ To carry out Public Law 113-291 and address the current lack of a formal place for commemoration of those who served during Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield



Organization

Project Sponsor



National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

Agencies



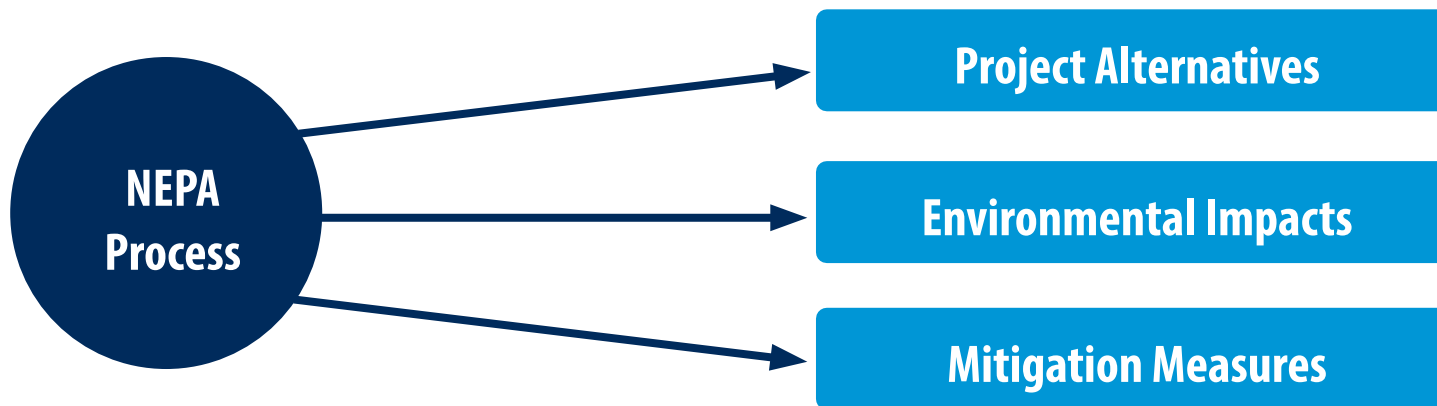
**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

What is NEPA?

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

(NEPA; Public Law 91-190; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*)

- ▶ Established a national policy for **protecting the environment** and requires evaluation of alternative actions
- ▶ Goal is to ensure **informed decision-making**
- ▶ Can conclude with an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)

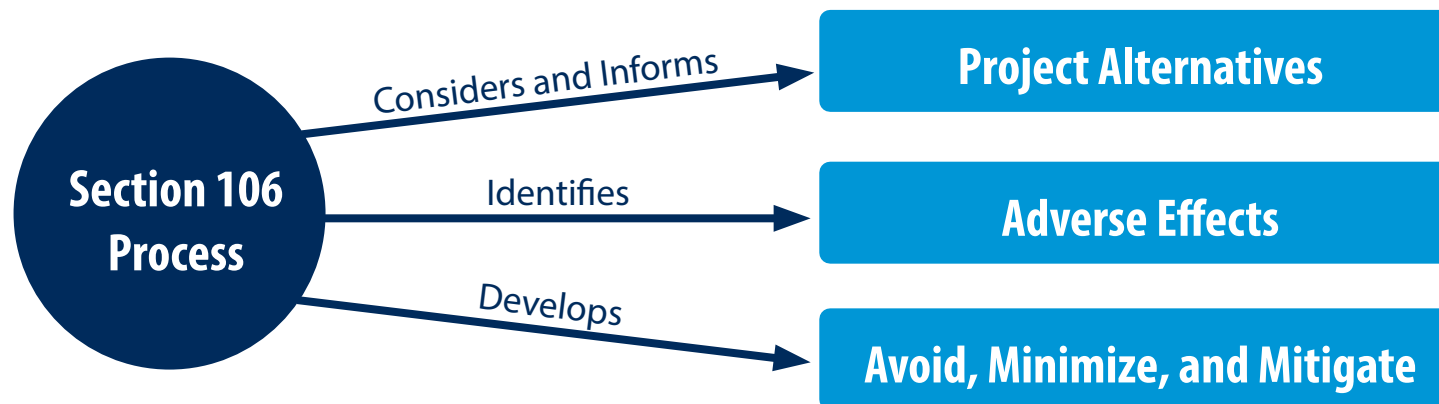


What is Section 106?

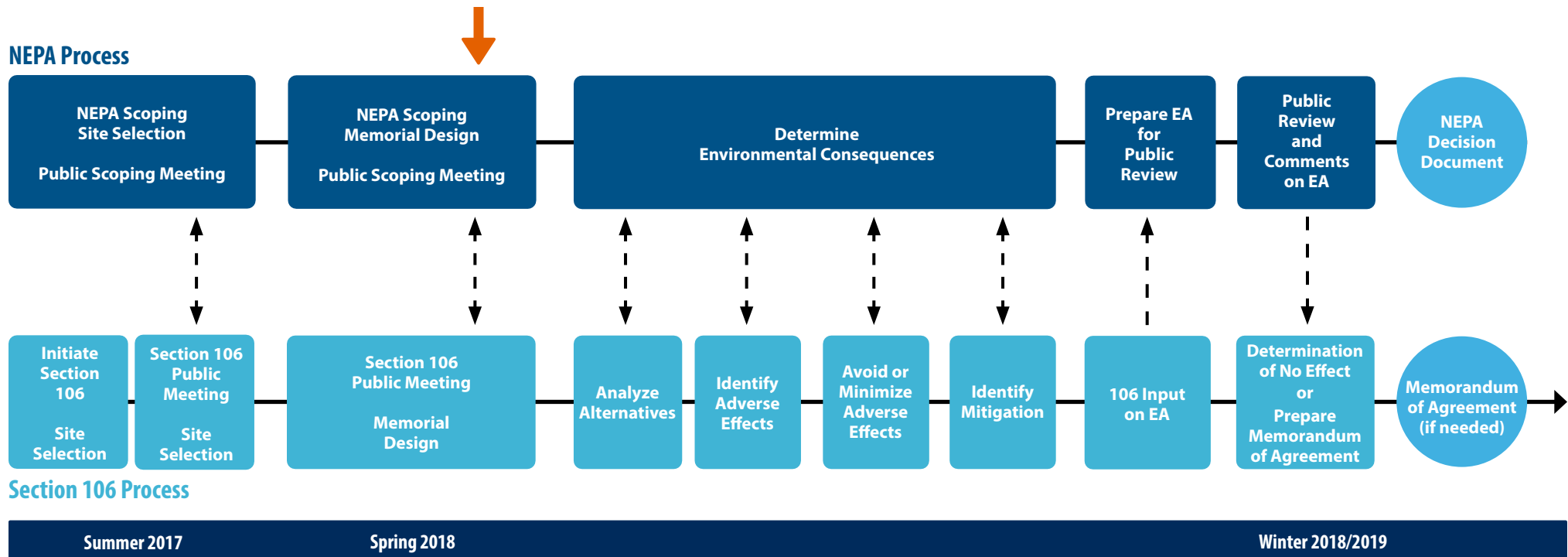
Component of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

(NHPA; Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

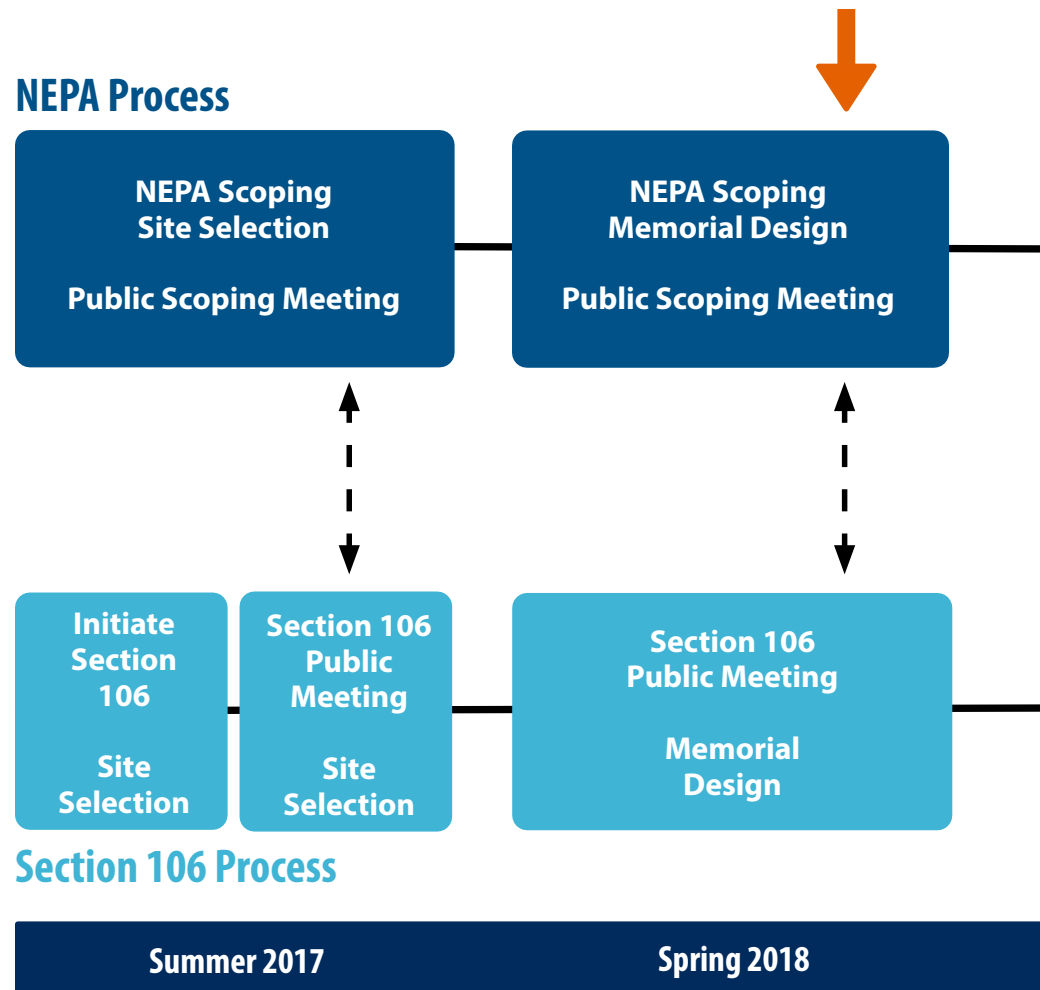
- ▶ Established a process to **protect resources** listed on, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and requires the consideration of alternatives if effects on historic resources are anticipated
- ▶ Goal is to **minimize potential harm** and damage to historic properties
- ▶ Can conclude in a Determination of No Adverse Effect or a Memorandum of Agreement with Consulting Parties



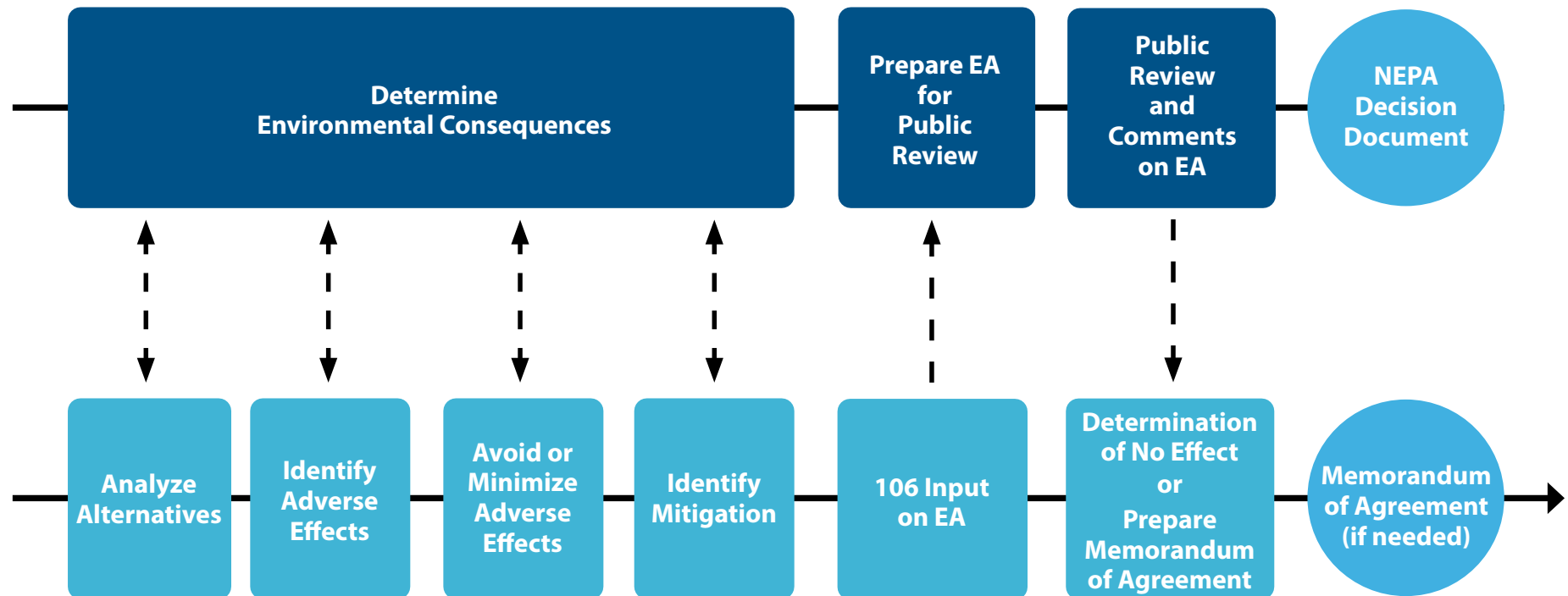
NEPA and Section 106 - A Coordinated Approach



NEPA and Section 106 - Summer 2017/Spring 2018



NEPA and Section 106 - Winter 2018/2019



Winter 2018/2019

What Issues will the EA Address?

Cultural Resources

- ▶ Historic Resources
- ▶ Cultural Landscapes

Other Issues

- ▶ Visitor Use and Experience

Natural and Physical Resources

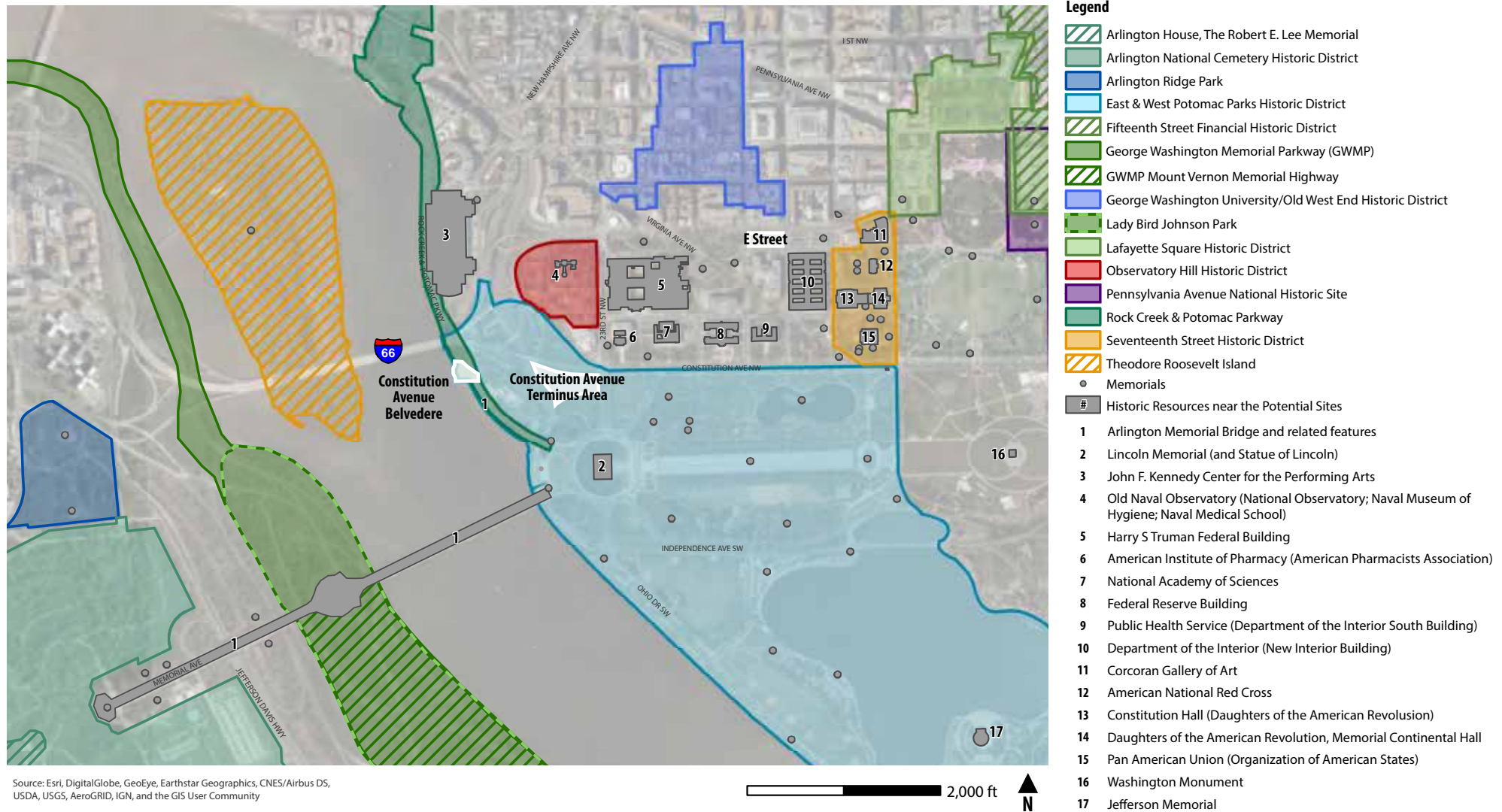
- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Stormwater
- ▶ Floodplains

Section 106 Participants

- ▶ District of Columbia and Virginia State Historic Preservation Offices
- ▶ National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
- ▶ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- ▶ National Capital Planning Commission
- ▶ U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
- ▶ Arlington National Cemetery
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ▶ Preservation Organizations and Other Interested Parties
- ▶ General Public



Historic Resources in the Vicinity of Sites Under Consideration



How Can You Submit Comments?

During this Meeting

- ▶ Comment Cards

After this Meeting

- ▶ **On-line:** Submit comments by **April 13, 2018** at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ndswm>

- ▶ **Written comments can be mailed to:**

Karen L. Cucurullo

Acting Superintendent

Attn: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial EA

National Park Service

National Mall and Memorial Parks

900 Ohio Dr. SW

Washington, DC 20024

- ▶ **Mailed comments** must be postmarked by **April 13, 2018** to receive consideration

Please Note:

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

DESIGN CONCEPTS

Memorial Themes

The Memorial's three themes:

- 1) **The Historic Pivot:** The restoration of the bond between the American people and the military, as illustrated in the 1991 National Victory Parade on Constitution Avenue
- 2) **The 34-nation coalition** and international diplomacy to liberate the country of Kuwait
- 3) **Commemoration** of the conflict and the Americans who served

It could be said that the "Pivot" took root in the National Victory Parade on Constitution Avenue

Memorial Design Elements

Potential Memorial design elements include:

- 1) **Walls:** Opportunities for enclosure, carved inscriptions, bas relief, stars, laser imaging, etc.
- 2) **Statuary/sculptures:** To convey the Memorial's narrative
- 3) Basic, maintainable **landscaping materials**, such as trees and grass
- 4) **Ramps, walks, processional**s
- 5) **Tall Vertical Element:** To terminate an important axis

Design Parameters: Primary Considerations

- ▶ Be compact and appropriate in size, related to the scale of the site
- ▶ Serve as more than a stand-alone object, provide a place of reflection
- ▶ Be integrated within and be complementary to the existing landscape
- ▶ Maintain existing trees, particularly designed rows of trees, to the extent practicable
- ▶ Utilize existing circulation resources (sidewalks, pathways, and parking) to the extent practicable

Site Location Map

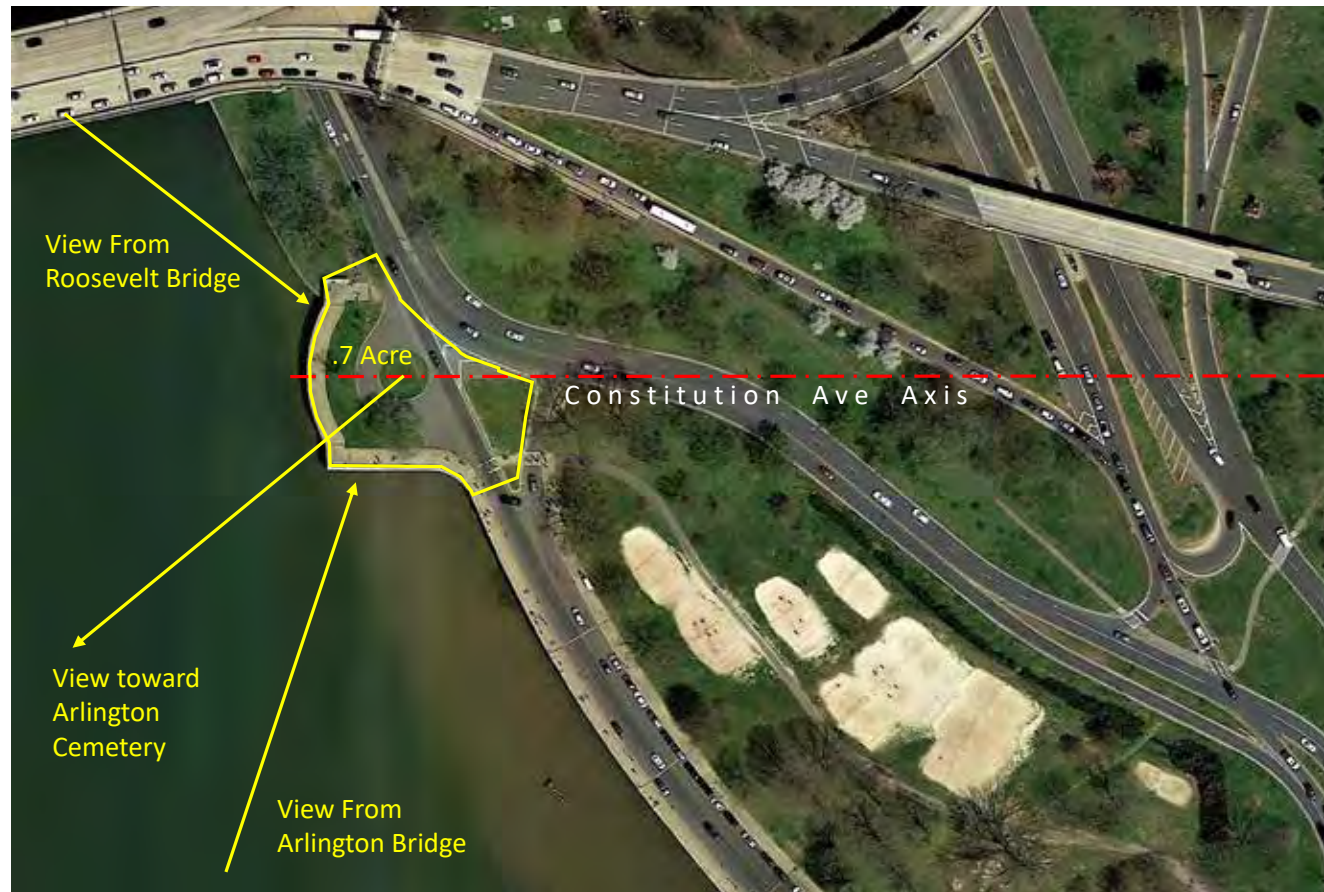


Constitution Avenue Belvedere

Site Character: "The Civic Landscape"
A visible, prominent site on the Potomac River

Site Characteristics:

- ▶ Historic terminus to Constitution Avenue
- ▶ Visible to and from multiple directions
- ▶ Adjacent to the Potomac River: boundlessness and floodplain
- ▶ Parallel parking on Potomac Parkway
- ▶ 1/2-mile walk to the National Mall and Lincoln Memorial
- ▶ Adjacent vehicular circulation
- ▶ Multi-use trail passes through the site



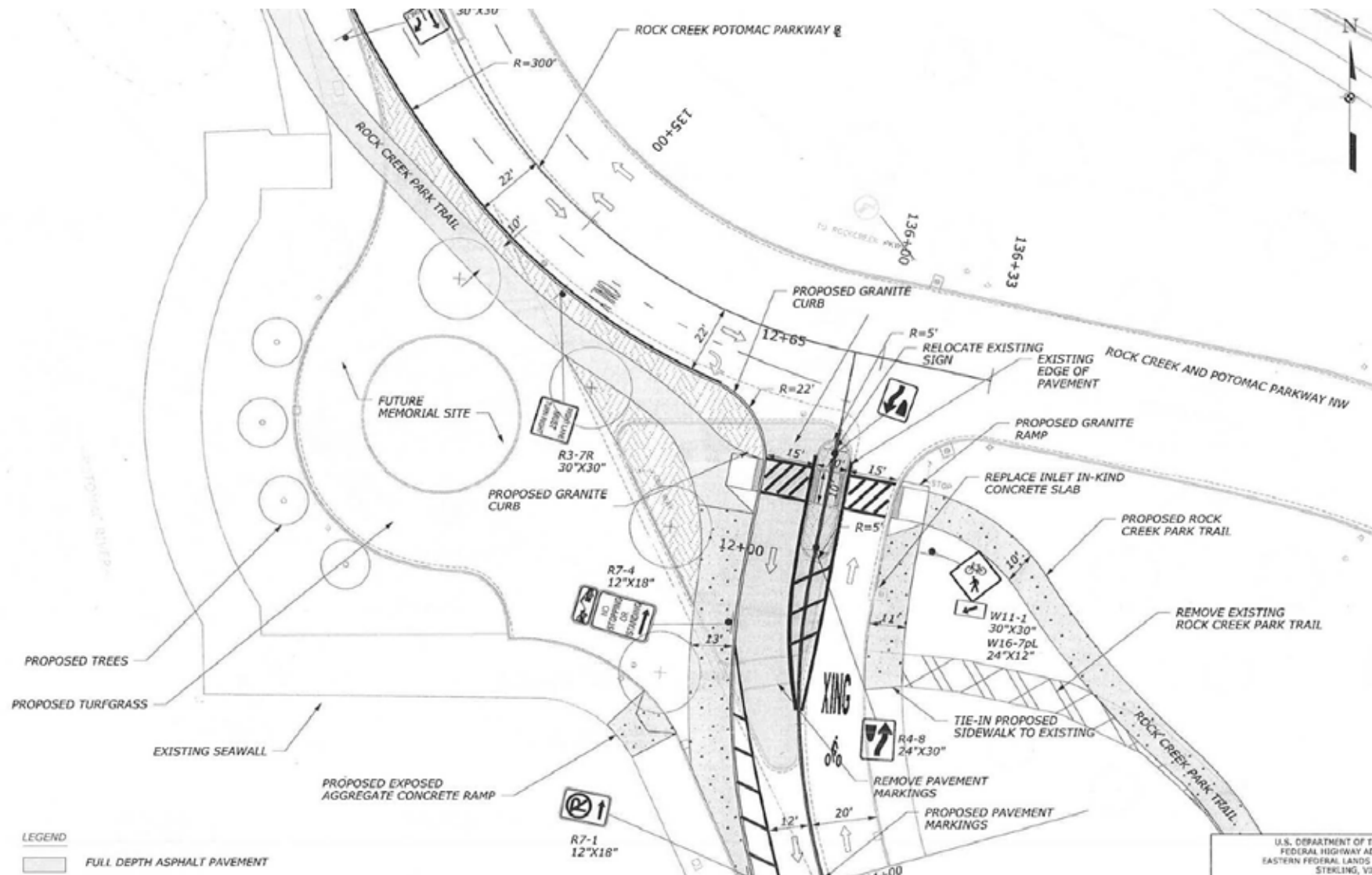
Constitution Avenue Belvedere

Current Photographs



Constitution Avenue Belvedere

Proposed Street Improvements



Constitution Avenue Belvedere

Scheme 1



Constitution Avenue Belvedere

Scheme 1

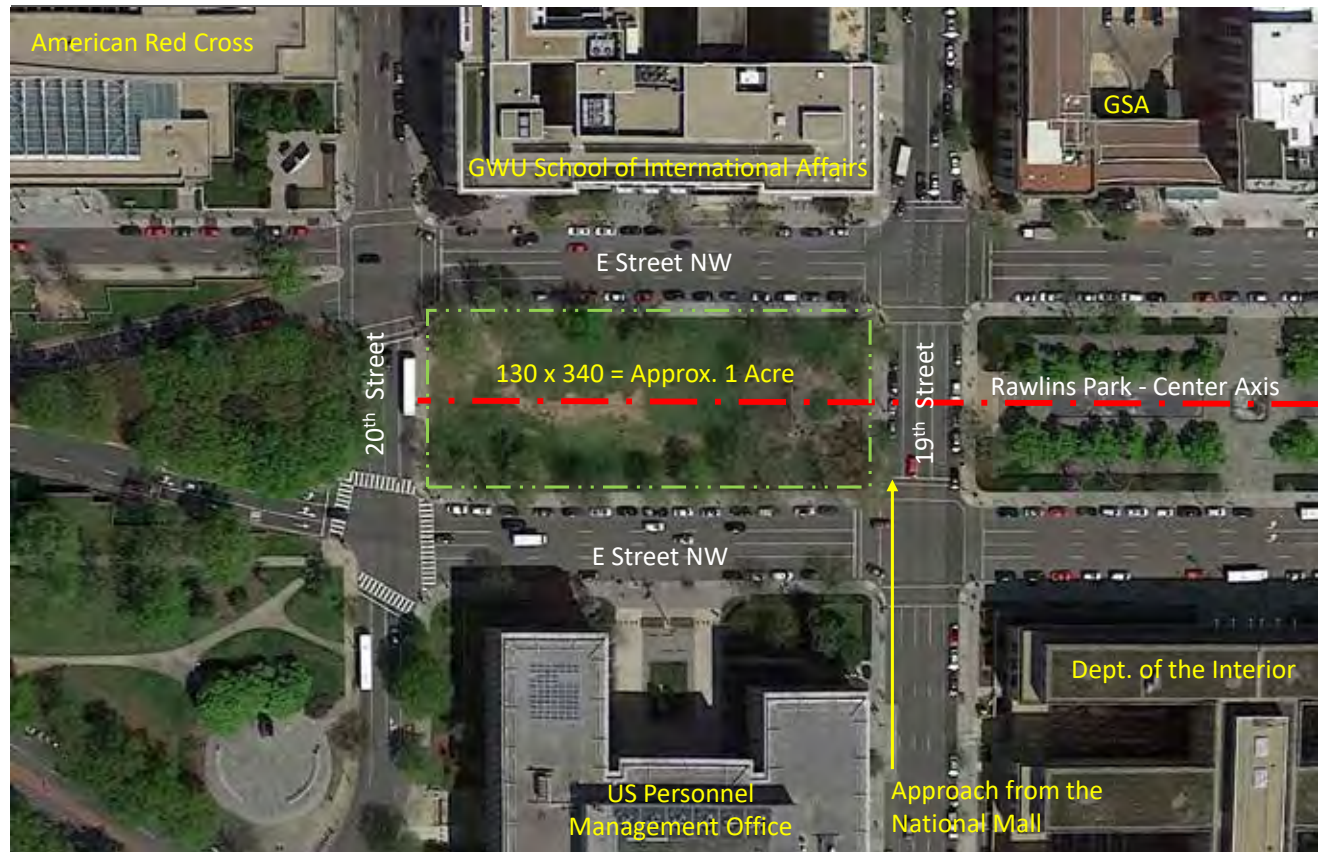


E Street

Site Character: "The Urban Landscape"
An urban green space

Site Characteristics:

- ▶ Urban character, zoned for mixed use (MU)
- ▶ Bounded by four streets and multi-story buildings
- ▶ Existing park occupies east portion of site
- ▶ Area II location level of prominence
- ▶ 1/4-mile to the National Mall via 19th Street
- ▶ Adjacent to Rawlins Park, with a shared center axis
- ▶ Within anticipated Presidential Corridor
- ▶ Pedestrian accessible
- ▶ On-street parking



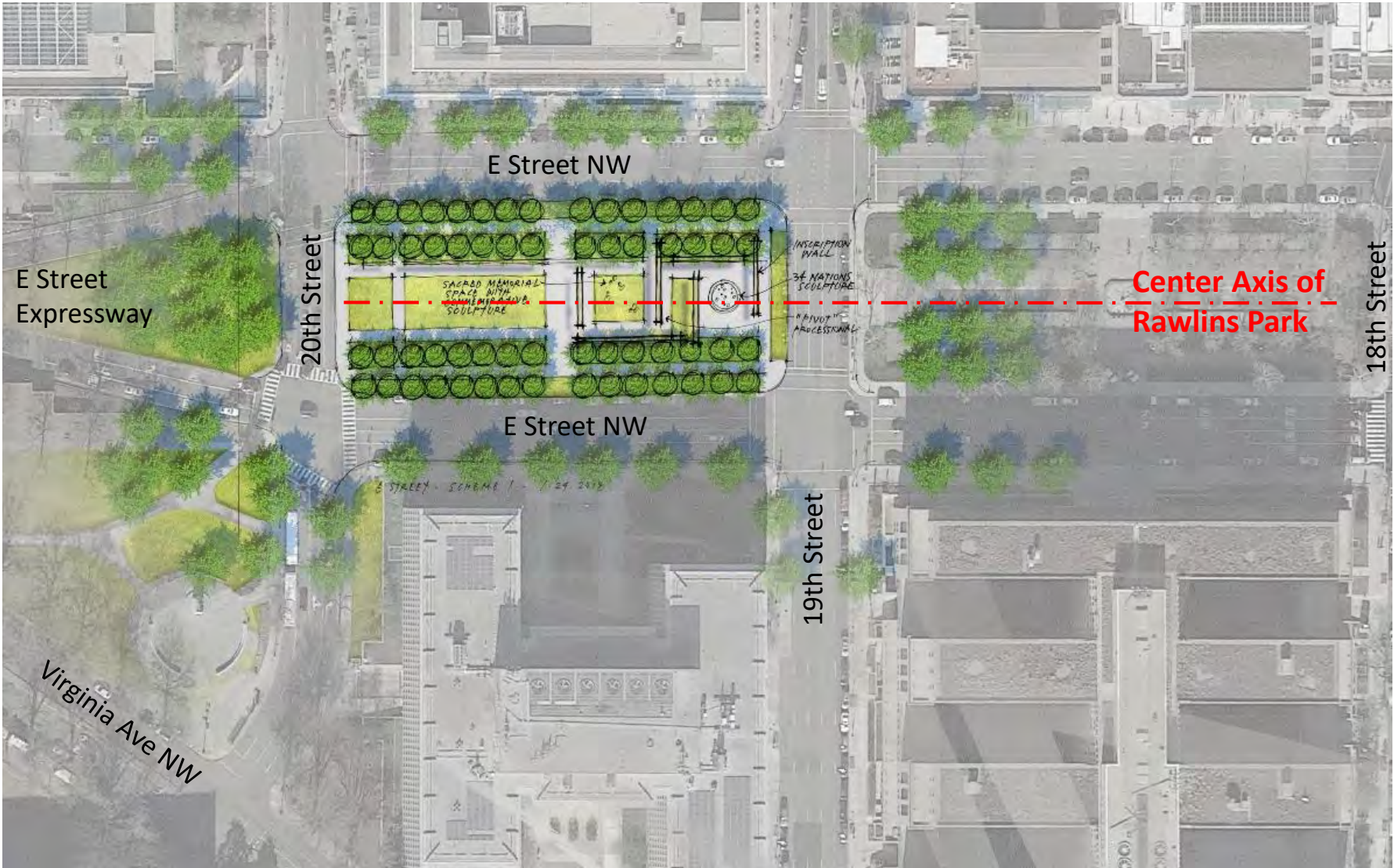
E Street

Current Photographs



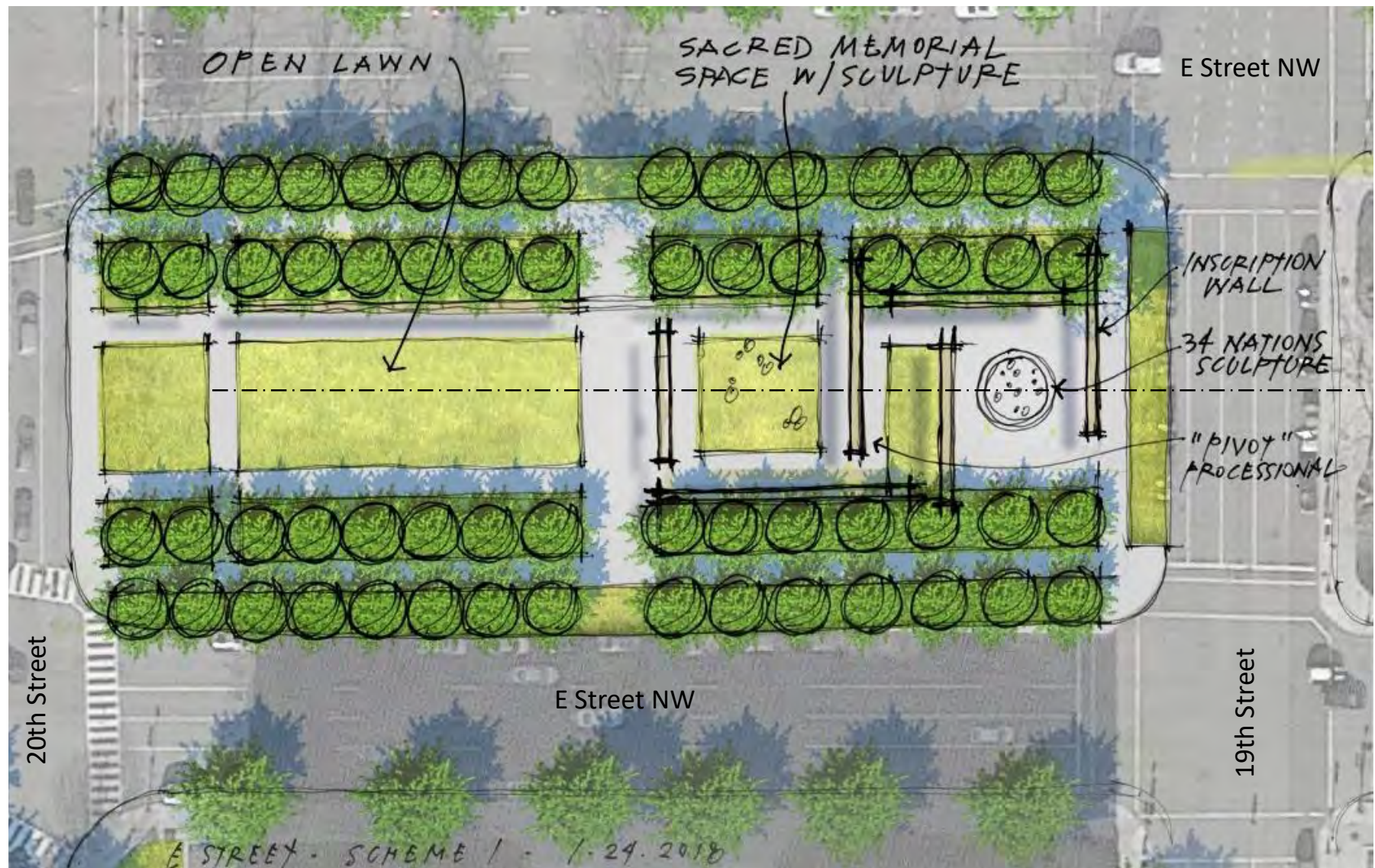
E Street

Scheme 1



E Street

Scheme 1



E Street

Scheme 2



E Street

Scheme 2

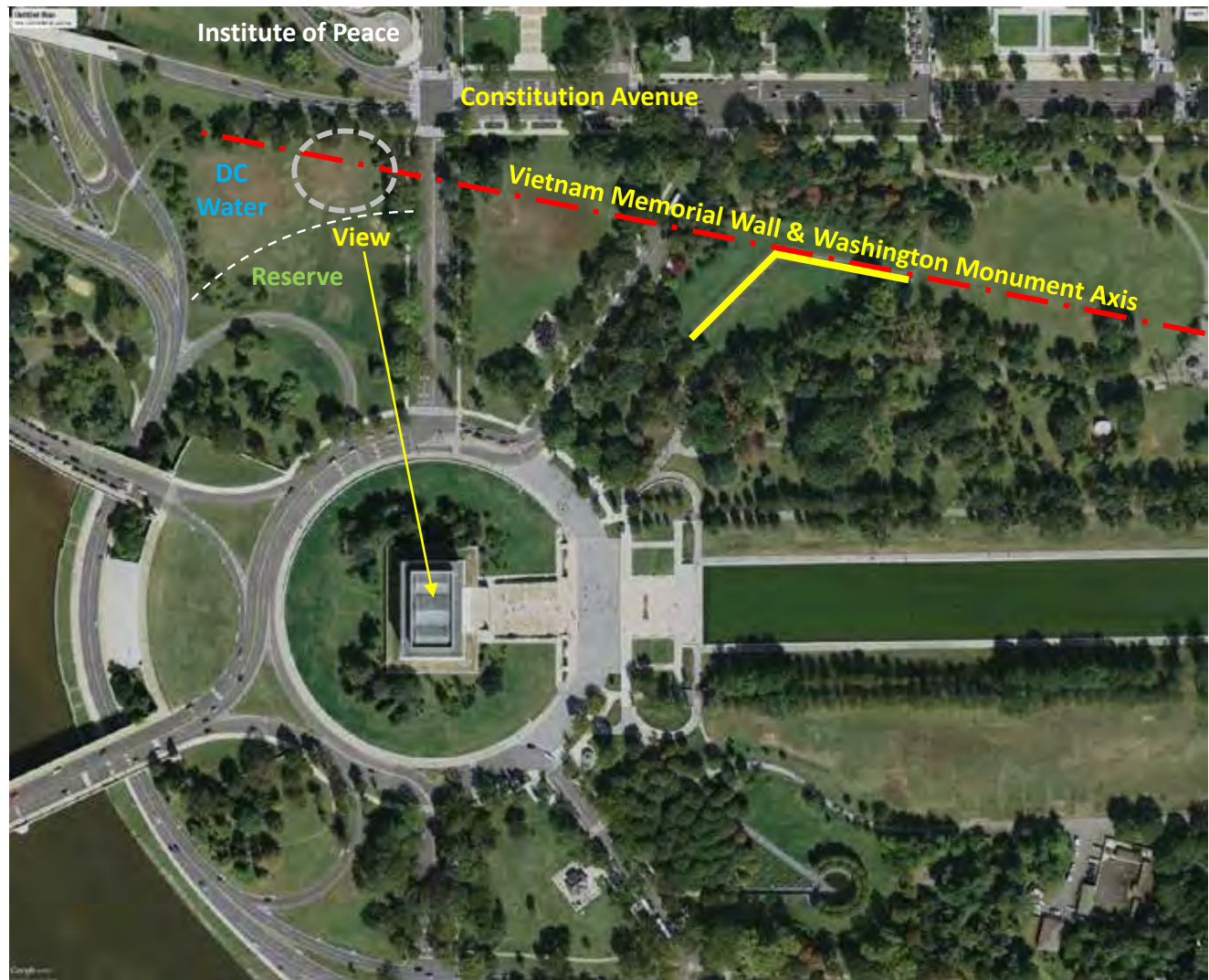


Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Site Character: "The Cultural Landscape"
Near the National Mall

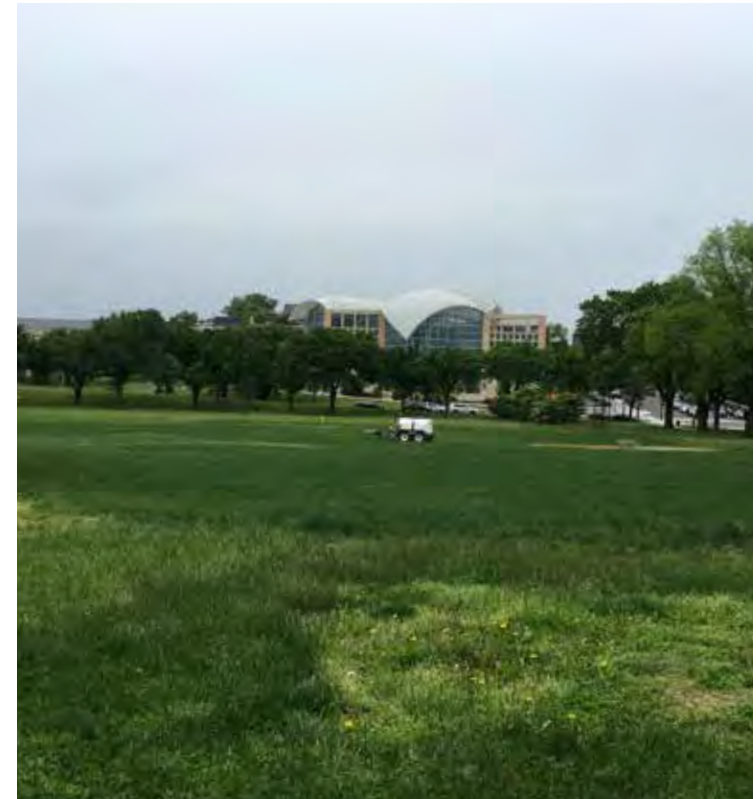
Site Characteristics:

- ▶ Adjacent to the National Mall
- ▶ Lincoln Memorial adjacency: A symbol of liberation and freedom
- ▶ Area I location, the Reserve is to the south
- ▶ Pedestrian accessible
- ▶ Connections to other national memorials
- ▶ On-street parking on Constitution Avenue
- ▶ Outside of the 100-year floodplain, within the 500-year floodplain
- ▶ Coordination with future DC Water and levee projects



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Current Photographs



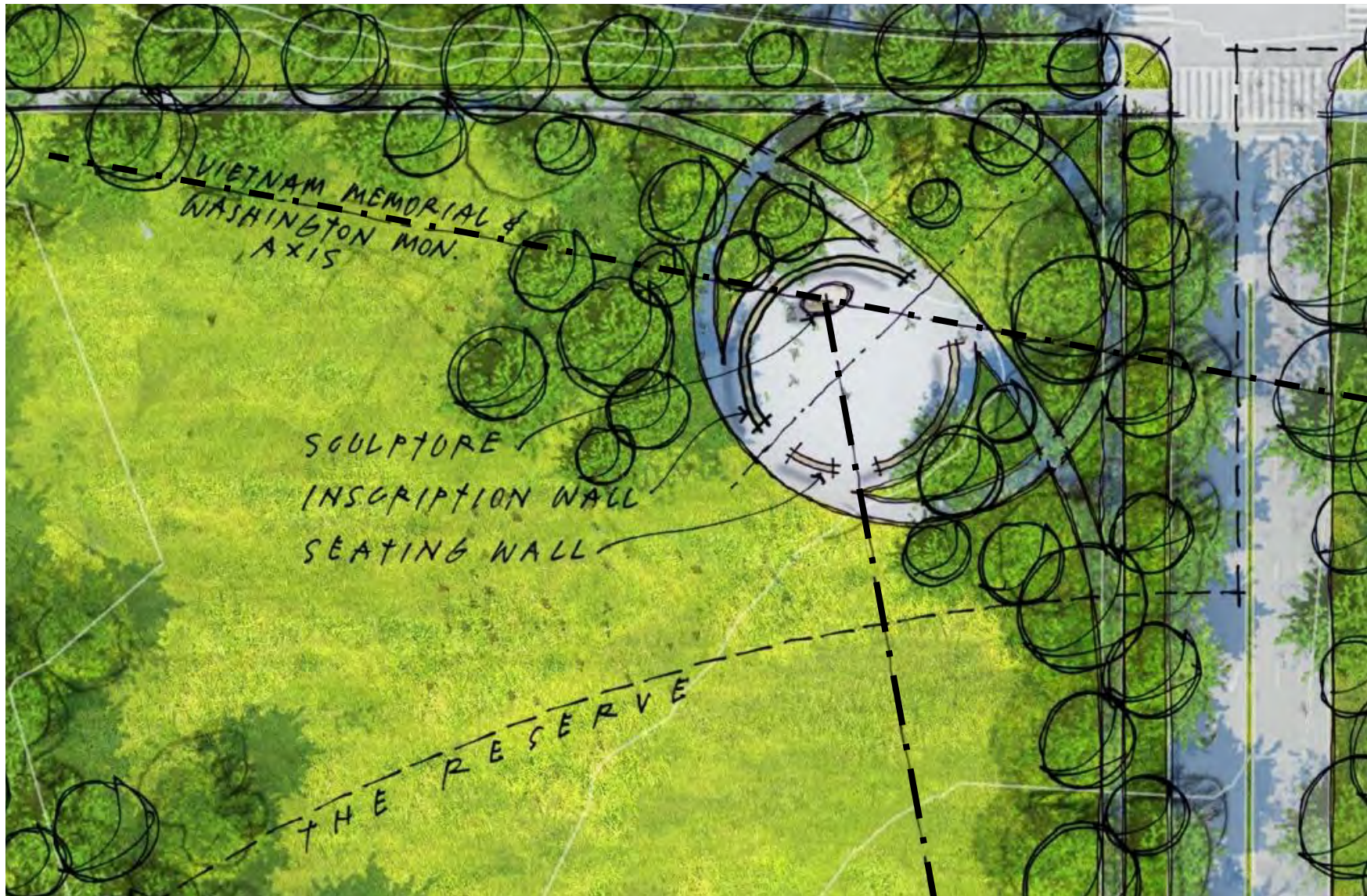
Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Scheme 1



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Scheme 1



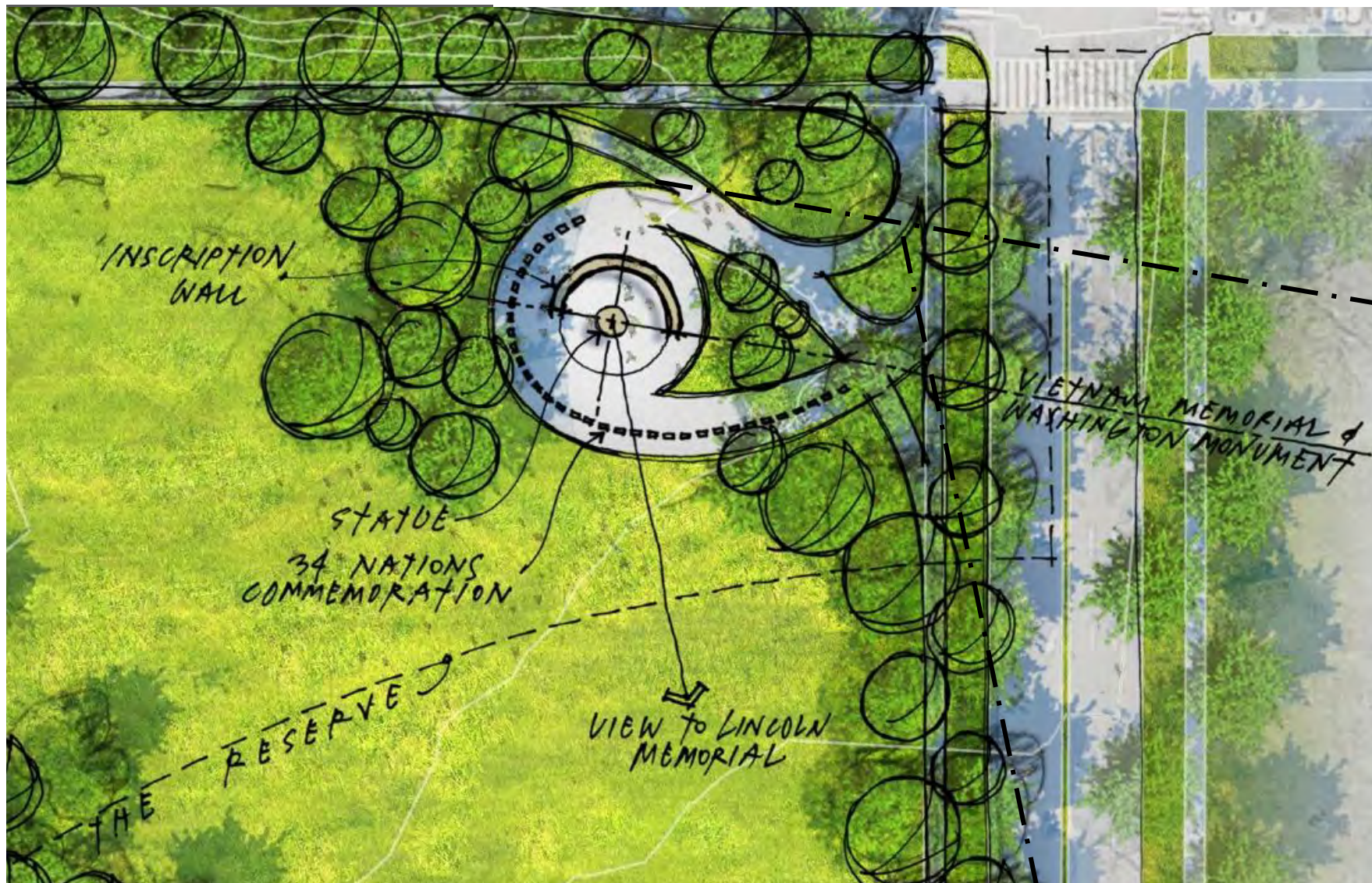
Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Scheme 2



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Scheme 2



Scheme 3



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Scheme 3



OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment Note

Please Note:

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

How Can You Submit Comments?

During this Meeting

- ▶ Comment Cards

After this Meeting

- ▶ **On-line:** Submit comments by **April 13, 2018** at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ndswm>

- ▶ **Written comments can be mailed to:**

Karen L. Cucurullo

Acting Superintendent

Attn: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial EA

National Park Service

National Mall and Memorial Parks

900 Ohio Dr. SW

Washington, DC 20024

- ▶ **Mailed comments** must be postmarked by **April 13, 2018** to receive consideration

Please Note:

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.