



Potomac Park Levee Project



US Army Corps of Engineers



National Capital Planning Commission



District of Columbia

Agenda

1. 6:00pm – 6:30pm

OPEN HOUSE

2. 6:30pm – 7:15pm

PRESENTATION

Project Background

Project Timeline

NEPA & Section 106 Process

Alternatives

Comment

3. 7:15pm – 8:00pm

QUESTION & ANSWER



Background



23rd Street

17th Street

14th Street

Constitution Ave NW

Independence Ave SW



Background

AREA OF IMPACT



This boundary delineates the area of the District that is at risk for flooding, according to the USACE, if the Potomac Park levee fails. The National Park Service (NPS), at present and by agreement, is the federal agency responsible for the closure of the levee at 17th street.



Background

PROJECT TEAM



National Park Service (NPS)

National Capital Region
National Mall and Memorial Parks



US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
District of Columbia



General Services Administration (GSA)

Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)

Smithsonian Institution

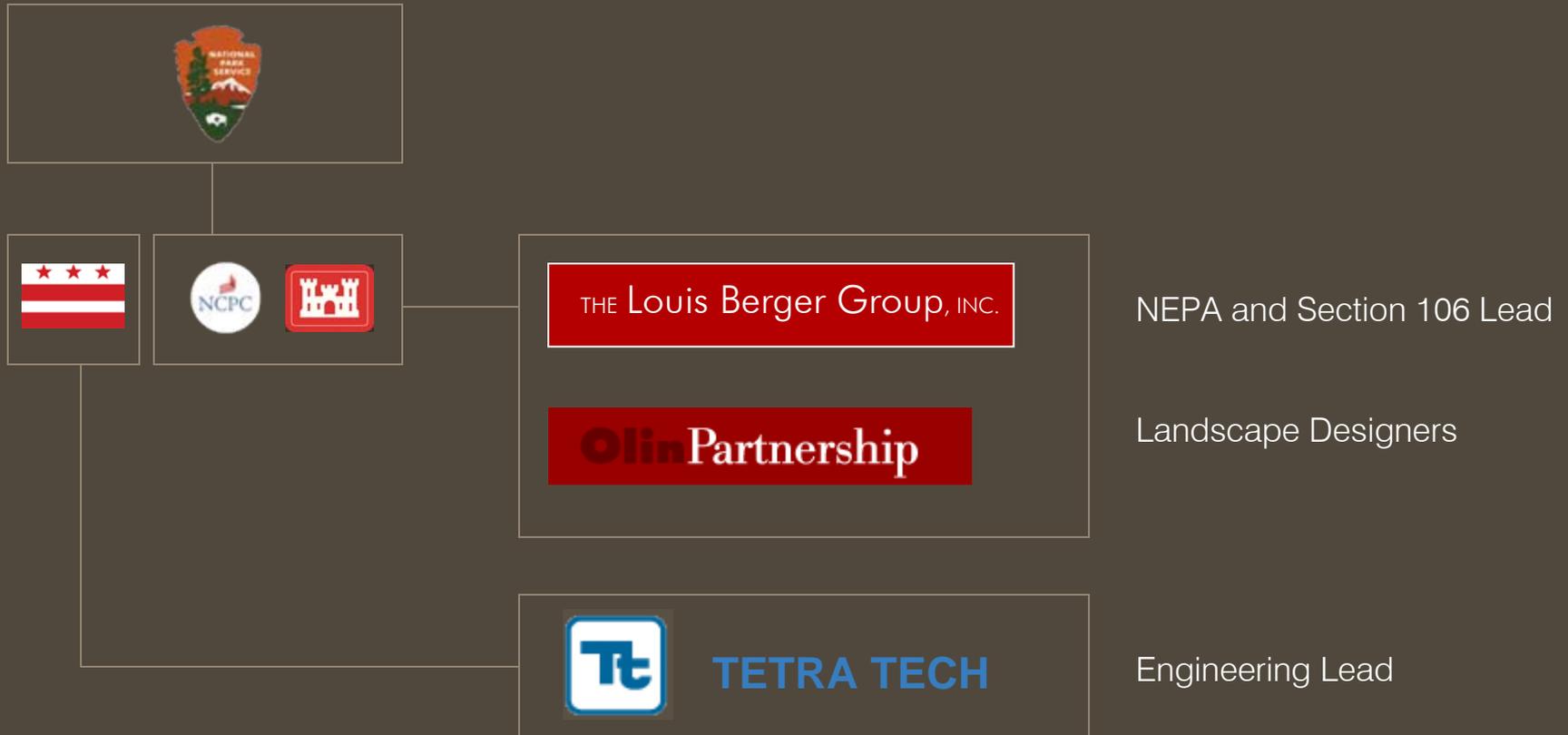
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC WASA)



Background

CONSULTANT TEAM



Background

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

Washington, DC is subject to flooding when the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers receive overflow their stream banks, and from a tidal surge from the Chesapeake Bay, usually a hurricane, due to the winds of the storm and low atmospheric pressure



This is an image of the Washington Navy Yard during the 1936 Potomac River Flood



Background

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

1936

March Flood

Flood Control Act of 1936

1939

Flood levee components completed:

- concrete retaining wall along the length of the Reflecting Pool
- substantial fill from 17th Street to the raised earthen mound of the Washington Monument

1942

October Flood

1946

Flood Control Act



Background

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

1990

Section 106 finding of no adverse effect for the preferred alternatives by the DC HPO

1992

EA for Modifications to Washington, DC and Vicinity Flood Control Project

1996

Supplemental EA for additional modifications to Washington, DC and Vicinity Flood Control Project

2007

Project was re-evaluated and failed by the USACE

September, FEMA proposed modifying the base 100 year and 500 year floodplains



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

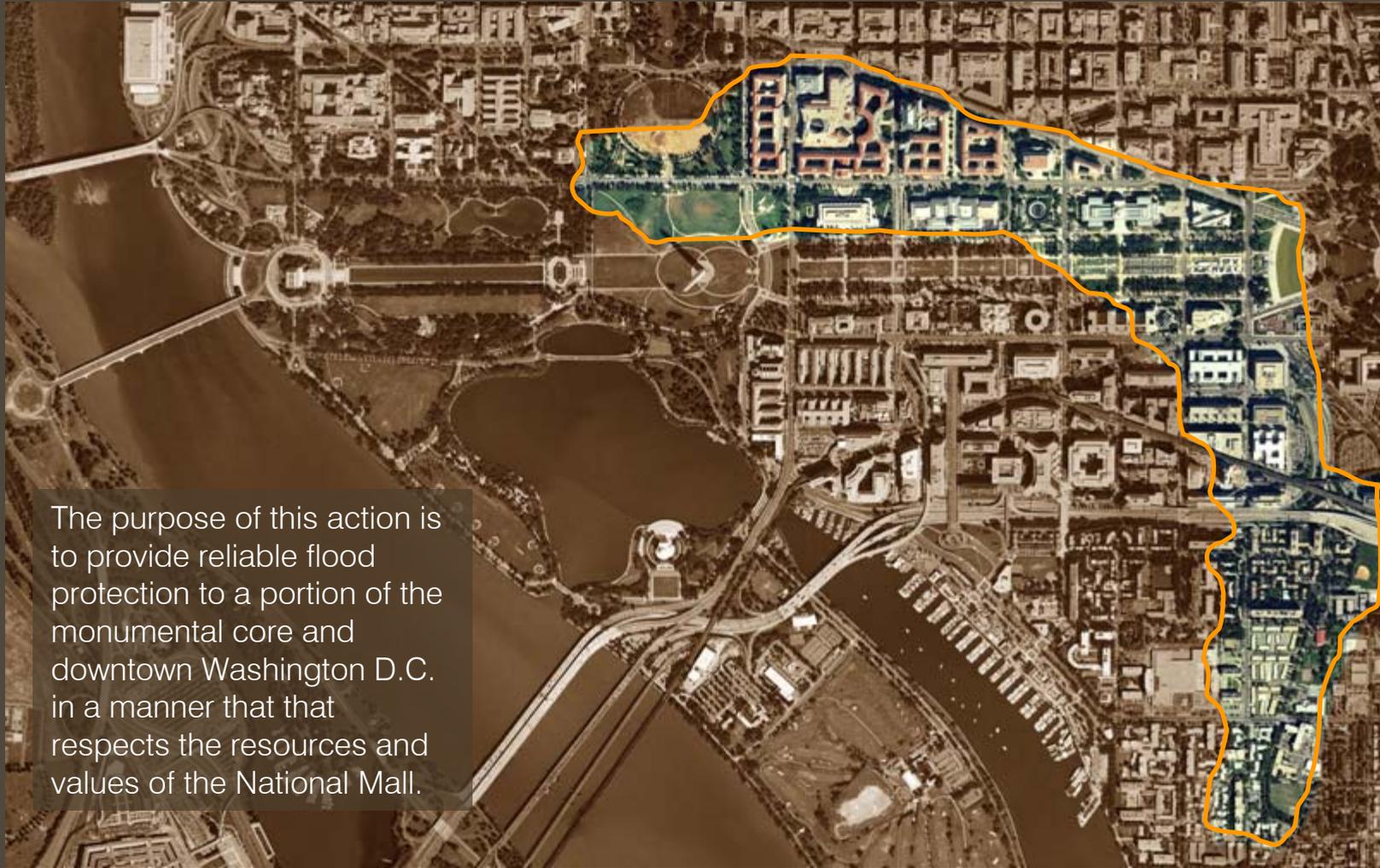
Director's Order #12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making

Process

1. Notice of Intent
2. Define Purpose & Need
3. Data Collection, Begin resource inventory and analysis
4. Define Preliminary Alternatives
5. Internal and External Scoping to introduce project and identify issues
6. **Public Scoping meeting to introduce alternatives**
7. Refine Alternatives
8. Affected Environment
9. Environmental Consequences
10. Prepare draft Environmental Assessment
11. Internal Agency review of draft Environmental Assessment
12. Release Environmental Assessment for 30-day Public Comment Period
13. Public Comment Period
14. Decision Document



Purpose & Need

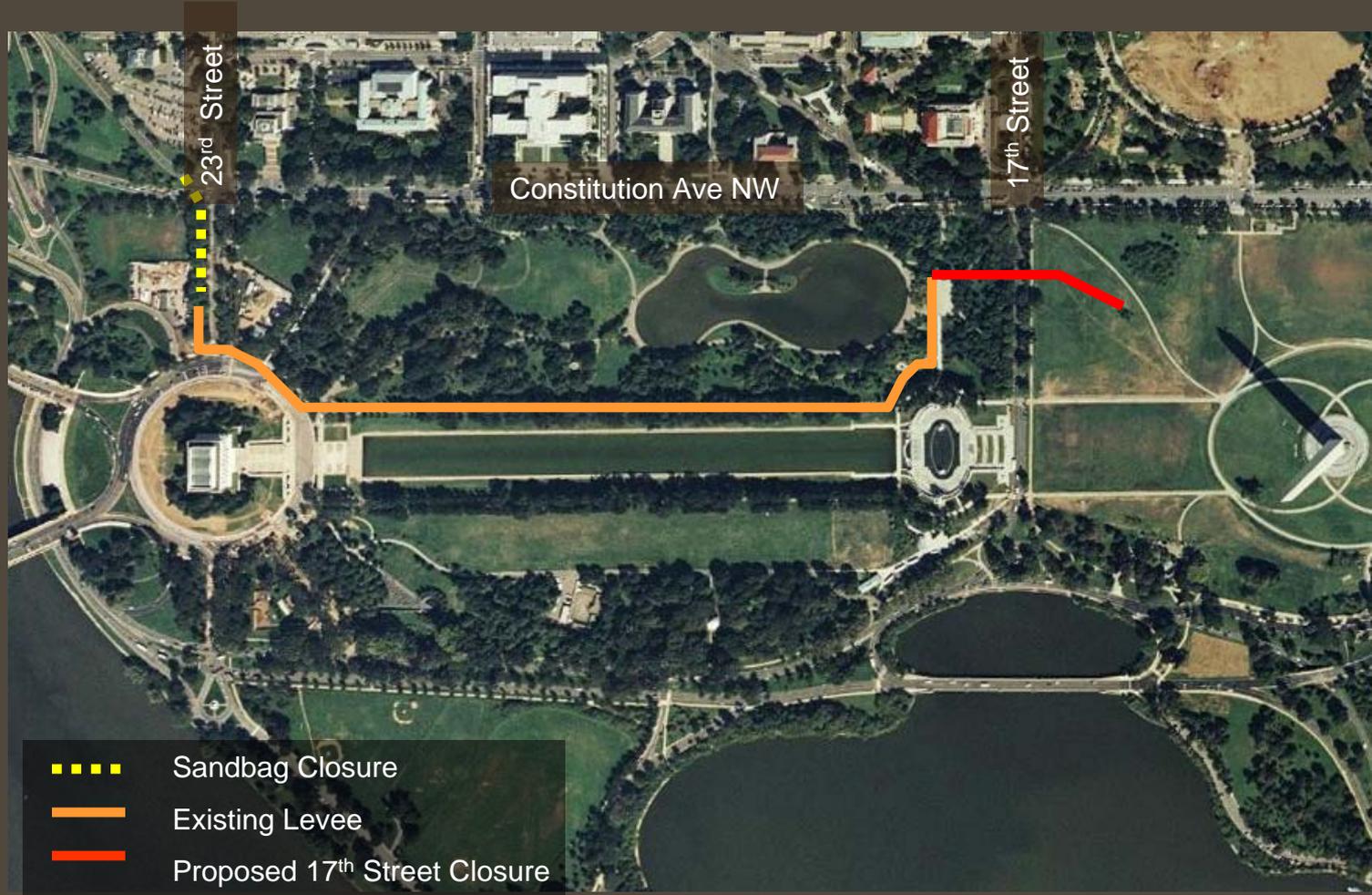


The purpose of this action is to provide reliable flood protection to a portion of the monumental core and downtown Washington D.C. in a manner that respects the resources and values of the National Mall.



Purpose & Need

BACKGROUND



The following objectives were identified by the planning team for this project:

- Protect downtown Washington D.C and the monumental core in the event of a 100-year storm, thereby meeting the National Flood Insurance Program requirements as administered by FEMA (interim level of protection).
- Ensure that the selected design can be easily modified or enhanced to meet the 185-year flood protection requirements (authorized or permanent level of protection)
- Minimize adverse impacts to the cultural landscapes, historic structures, and other cultural resources of the project area.
- Minimize adverse impacts to the viewsheds of the monumental core and the visual quality of the project area.
- Minimize disruption to visitor use and experience in the monumental core.
- Minimize adverse impacts to park management and operations and provide the NPS with the most effective and reliable closure system in advance of a flood event.
- Avoid additional costs of insurance or construction to property owners in the project area.
- Minimize disruption to traffic in the downtown Washington D.C. project area during construction



- Floodplains
- Vegetation (trees)
- Land use/Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Aesthetics
- Archeology Historic plans and structures
- Cultural landscapes
- Visitor use and experience
- Utilities and infrastructure
- Park management and operations
- Public safety



Section 106

Regulations

NHPA National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 regulations,
36 CFR Part 800

Process

1. Define Undertaking/ Initiate Sec 106
2. Identify Consulting Parties
3. Plan to Involve the Public
4. Define Area of Potential Effect (APE)
5. Identify Significant Cultural Resources in APE
6. Assess Effects on Significant Resources
7. Identify “Adverse” Effects, if any
8. Resolve Adverse Effects
9. Memorialize in an Agreement Document



Section 106

NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS



Northwest Rectangle
Historic District

17th
St

Federal
Triangle

West Potomac
Park

The National Mall

East Potomac
Park



Section 106

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES



President's
Park

Constitution
Gardens

Lincoln Memorial Grounds

Washington
Monument &
Grounds

The Mall

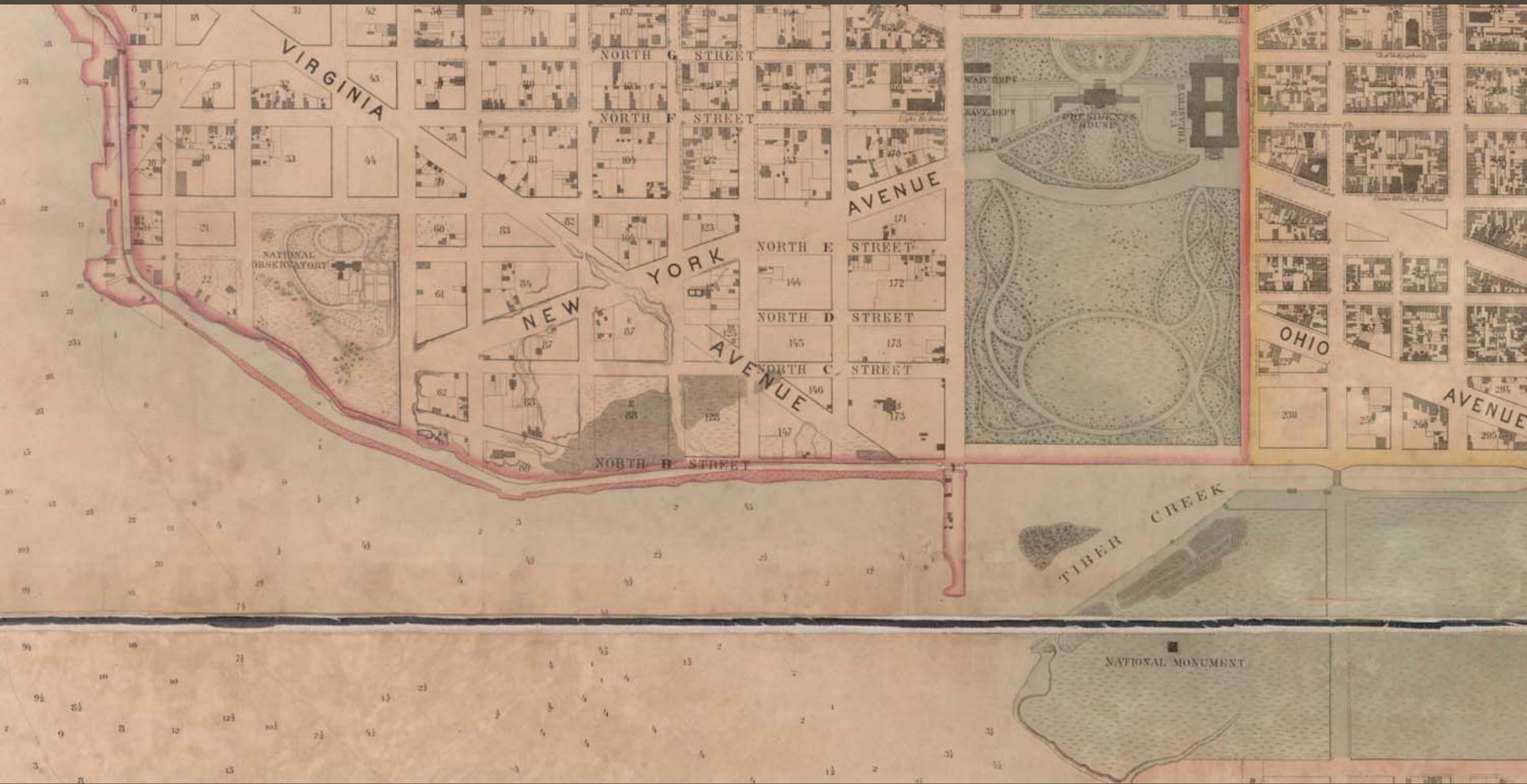
Union
Square

Thomas
Jefferson
Memorial



Section 106

THE BOSCHKE MAP OF 1857



Section 106

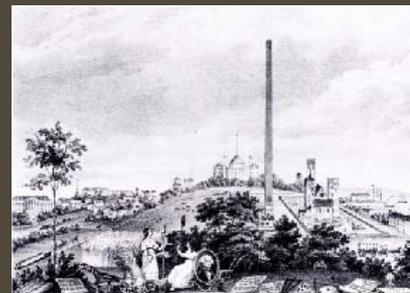
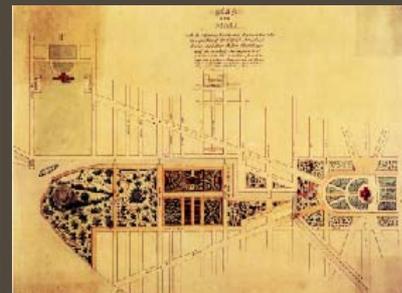
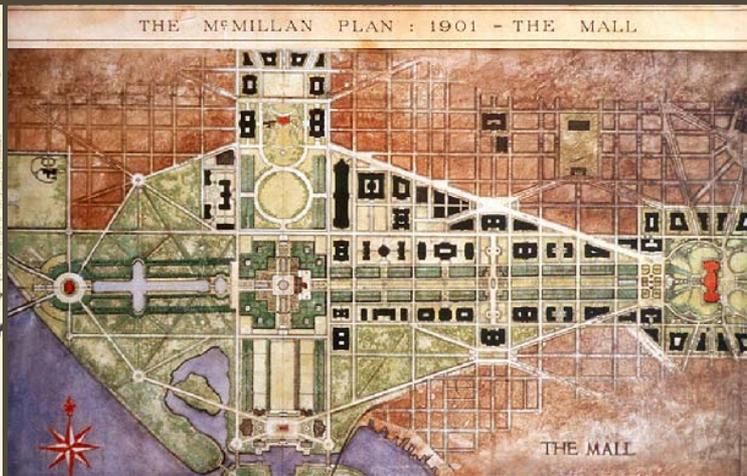
PRELIMINARY AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT



Design Opportunities



Design Opportunities



Design Opportunities



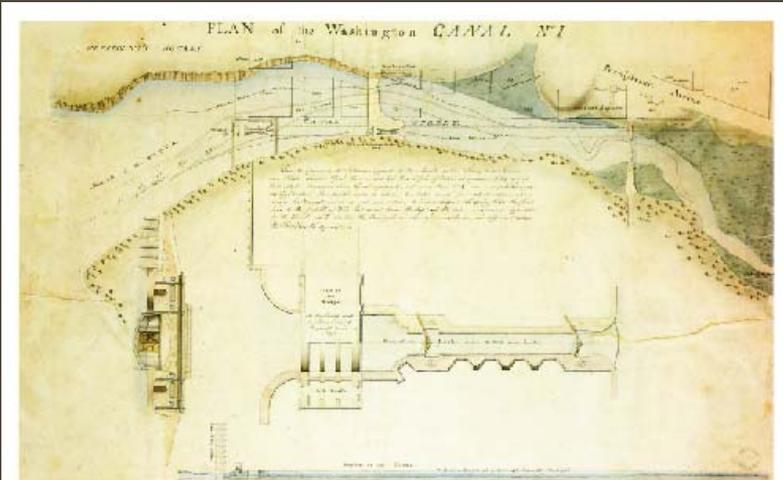
CITY OF WASHINGTON

1865



CITY OF WASHINGTON

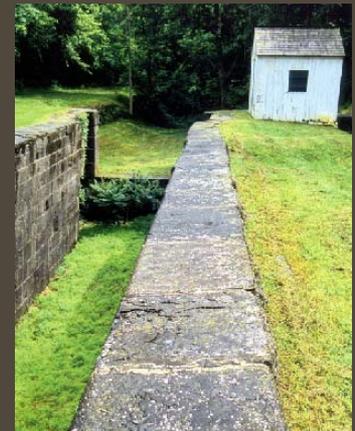
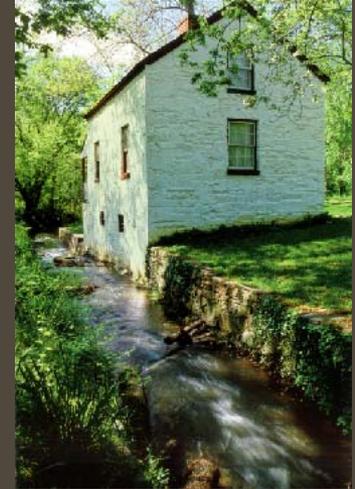
1994



Design Opportunities



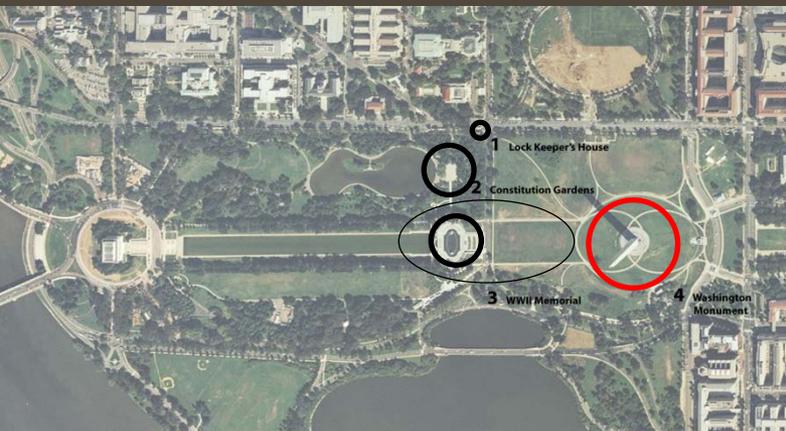
Design Opportunities



Design Opportunities



Design Opportunities



Design Opportunities

EXISTING SITE PHOTOS



Comment

Written

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Electronic

comments@potomaclevee.com

or go to:

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

And search for National Mall and Memorial Parks,
Environmental Assessment for Design
Alternatives for the Potomac Park Levee System

In order for your comments to be considered as part of this phase of the project, all comments must be received by **June 20, 2008**.

There will be additional opportunities to provide comments on this project:

- Design concepts submitted to NCPC, CFA and SHPO in August can be viewed on the website
- Public comments can be made at the NCPC and CFA hearings in September
- There will be a public review of the Environmental Assessment in September



Project Timeline

2008

JAN

MAR

JUNE

SEP

DEC

2009

MAR

JUNE

SEP

DEC



Environmental
Assessment &
Section 106



NCPC and
CFA review

Final
Design
Plans



Construction

FEMA Final
Determination
Map





Thank you for your participation in this process



US Army Corps of Engineers



National Capital Planning Commission



District of Columbia