



Environmental Assessment & Section 106 for the
Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Rehabilitation
Public Scoping Meeting



THE Louis Berger Group, INC.

Jill Cavanaugh
WELCOME

Agenda

<div>1.</div> <div>5:30pm – 6:00pm</div> <div>OPEN HOUSE</div>	<div>2.</div> <div>6:00pm – 6:30pm</div> <div>PRESENTATION</div>	<div>3.</div> <div>6:30 pm – 8:00pm</div> <div>QUESTION & ANSWER OPEN HOUSE</div>
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Project Background


Scope of the Proposed Actions


Project Timeline

NEPA & Section 106 Process

Alternatives

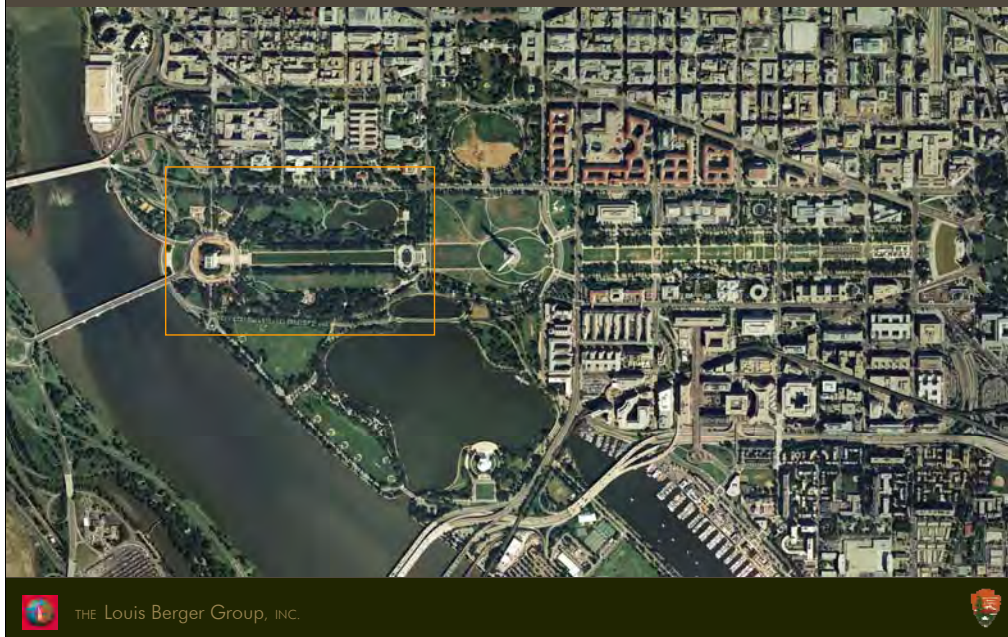
Comment

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Project Background



Doug/ Perry:

The National Park Service is undertaking an Environmental Assessment and Section 106 process to evaluate impacts on a range of alternatives for the rehabilitation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and surrounding area located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

This action is the largest ongoing NPS project under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the Recovery Act.

Project Background



Doug/ Perry:

- The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in 1922; the Reflecting Pool was completed two years later. Both elements were part of a formal landscape envisioned in the 1902 McMillan Plan for the city. The McMillan Plan foresaw a highly symbolic use for the project area, extending the central axis of the Mall to the Potomac River utilizing a public memorial and public park.
- The project area has arguably become the most important axis in the nation, one that has aligned several key national symbols including the U.S. Capitol and the WWII Memorial between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

Project Background

1939



1962



1967



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Doug/ Perry:

In the past 90 years since its construction, the project area has served as the backdrop to some of the country's most historic events, such as Marian Anderson's concert in 1939, Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream Speech" in 1963, the memorial service for President John F. Kennedy in 1963, and the anti-Vietnam War rally in 1967

Project Background

2009



Doug/ Perry:

Most recently in January 2009, the project area and other parts of the National Mall hosted the largest Presidential Inauguration in history, which introduced an unprecedented number of visitors to the area.

Purpose and Need



Doug/ Perry:

Today, the monuments, memorials, landscape features, and vistas within the project area constitute some of the most iconic and recognizable images commemorating presidential legacies and war veterans in the country, contributing to an annual estimated visitorship of approximately 4.5 million.

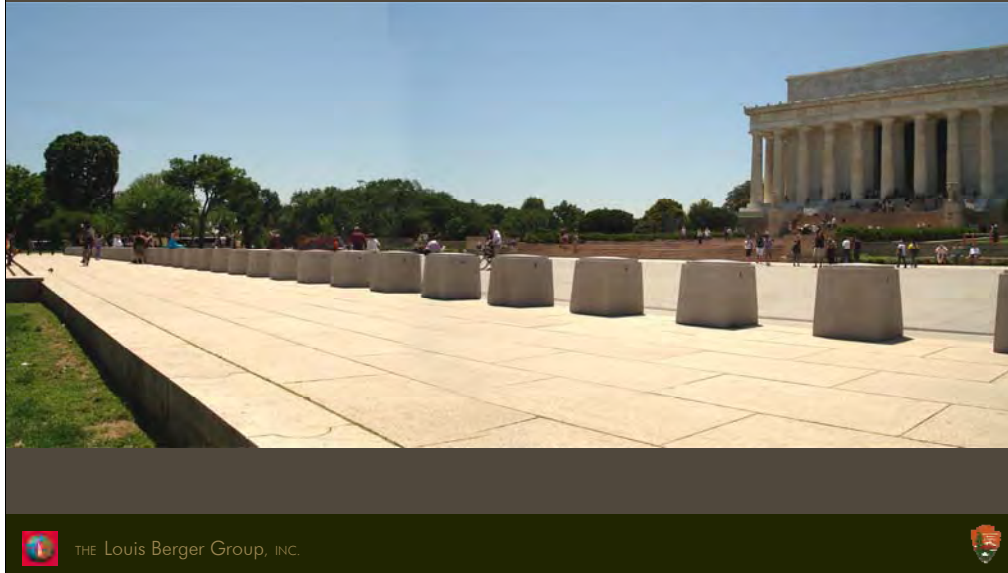
Purpose and Need



Doug/ Perry:

Nevertheless, the project area is being used far beyond capacity, and the physical condition of the infrastructure and circulation systems have deteriorated to such an extent that they are creating hazards for visitors and inefficiencies in park management and operations.

Purpose and Need



Doug/ Perry:

In addition, several components need to be upgraded to address issues that were not anticipated in the original planning and design of the project area, such as security, accessibility, and nighttime visitation.

Proposed Actions



Doug/ Perry:

This Environmental Assessment will analyze several action alternatives for multiple improvements to rehabilitate and enhance the infrastructure, circulation, accessibility, and historic resources at various locations around the Reflecting Pool.

Proposed Actions



Doug/ Perry:

- At the Reflecting Pool, upgrades are proposed both to improve its water supply, drainage, and structural system as well as to formalize walkways along the worn dirt paths created by visitors travelling between the World War II Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial.

Proposed Actions



Doug/ Perry:

To the north and south of the Reflecting Pool along the historic elm walks, the site furnishings would be reconfigured and the walkways would be upgraded to enhance visitor experience.

Proposed Actions



Doug/ Perry:

To the west end of the elm walks, improvements are proposed that integrate accessible pathways down to the Reflecting Pool with a permanent vehicular security system to replace the temporary concrete barriers at the center section of the Lincoln Memorial east plaza.

Project History

1920s

1922

The Lincoln Memorial is open to the public

1924

The Reflecting Pool is completed.

1929

The Reflecting Pool receives a reinforced concrete slab foundation due differential soil settlement.

1970s

In preparation for the Bicentennial celebration, improvements to several areas around the Lincoln Memorial are planned.

1972

The eastern portion of Lincoln Memorial Circle is closed to vehicular traffic for pedestrian safety.

1973-1974

Paving is added at the base of the Reflecting Pool steps to the pool; Elm walks are repaved with a bituminous paving rather than concrete.

1981

A full Reflecting Pool reconstruction addresses water leakage, intake, and drainage.

Self-sustaining methods to clean and maintain the appearance of the pool are introduced.



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Doug/ Perry:

There have been periodic improvements to the project area since 1922.

Project History

1987

An Engineering report concludes that the Reflecting Pool structural system is failing.

2001

Following the Oklahoma City bombing, Jersey barriers are placed around the Lincoln Memorial.

2008

Installation of a permanent vehicle security barrier around the Lincoln Memorial completed, with the exception of temporary concrete barriers placed on the east side.

2009

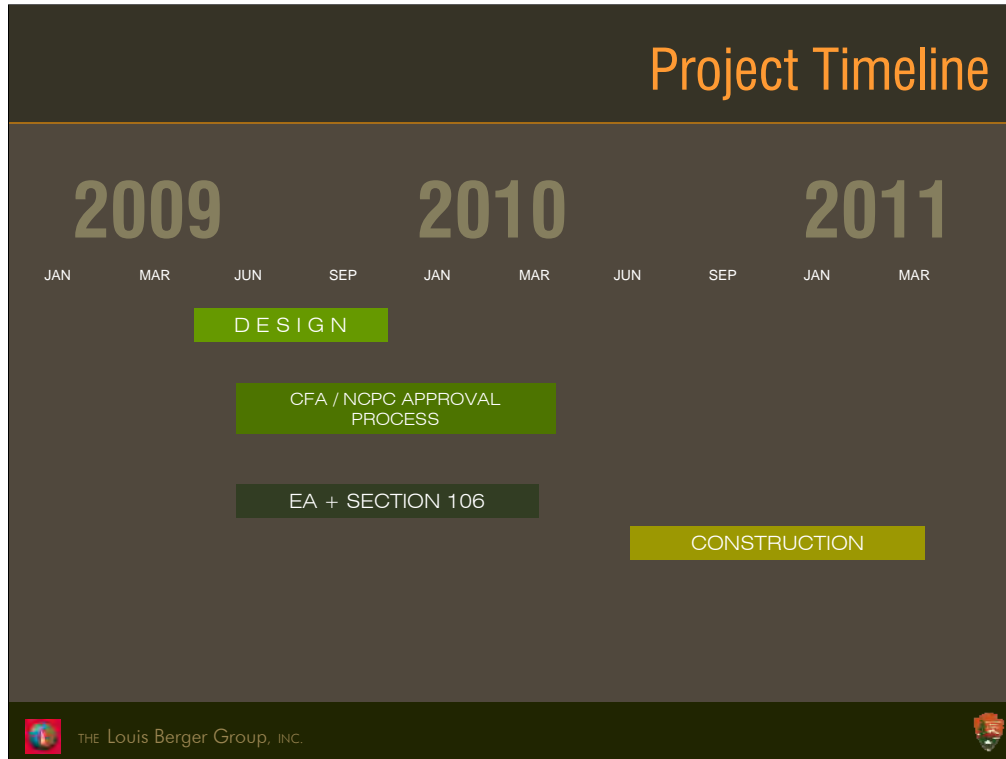
Upgrades to site infrastructure, walkways, and security are proposed.



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Doug/ Perry:



Doug/ Perry:

The design process is being led by Sasaski Associates, Inc. a landscape design firm based out of Watertown, MA and RTKL Architects Designers Planners Engineers Consultants. The NPS engaged the team to design landscape solutions for a permanent vehicle barrier system in the center portion of the Lincoln Memorial east plaza and integrate the solution with accessible pathways at the western end of the elm walks. They are also generating alternatives solutions for the water supply and drainage of the Reflecting Pool.

NCPC and CFA have approval authority over any modification or construction on the Mall; they will review and comment on the alternatives throughout the design process

The EA and Section 106 Process is being undertaken in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act Regulations and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The NPS has jurisdiction over the National Mall and is therefore the lead agency for this action.

NEPA

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
4. Define Preliminary Alternatives
5. Scoping to introduce project and identify issues
6. Public Scoping meeting to introduce alternatives
7. Finalize Alternatives
8. Affected Environment
9. Environmental Consequences
10. Public Review of Draft Environmental Assessment
11. 30 day Public Comment Period
12. Decision Document


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Jill Cavanaugh

NEPA establishes policy requiring federal agencies to maintain a balance between use and preservation of natural and cultural resources. It also establishes the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to implement the policy set forth in NEPA. CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508) provide guidance to federal agencies in administering NEPA, and more specifically, in the preparation of environmental documents, as required under NEPA. Each federal agency may establish guidelines of their own to comply with NEPA and CEQ regulations. This project will be done in accordance with the National Park Service (NPS) NEPA guidelines. The NPS utilizes Director's Order 12, Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making, and Handbook 12 to establish these guidelines. Handbook 12 defines the steps within the NEPA process and outlines the necessary requirements and contents for environmental document preparation.

Impact Topics



1. Public Safety
2. Visitor Use & Experience
3. Cultural Resources
4. Visual/ Aesthetics
5. Park Management and Operations
6. Water Quality
7. Soils
8. Vegetation
9. Floodplains

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Jill Cavanaugh:

Within the NEPA process, an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement is undertaken so that federal agencies can assess the level of impact to surrounding resources in the project area. For the purposes of this project, several resource areas are likely to be affected by the range of proposed actions and are being included as impact topics.

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. Apply Criteria Of Adverse Effect
8. Continue Consultation
9. Draft Agreement Document, if needed

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Judy Robinson

Section 106 of the [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 \(NHPA\)](#) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The Section 106 task and the NEPA assessment need to be closely coordinated.

The proposed actions will obviously affect historic properties. In this location, the historic significance of nearly every building, structure, monument, and cultural landscape nearby is already well defined and documented. Establishing an Area of Potential Effect (APE) based upon the “scale and nature” of the project is important to assess how wide ranging the effects are and their significance.

Draft Area of Potential Effect



Judy Robinson

According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effects is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.

The NPS has proposed a preliminary APE consisting of the two historic public reservations, # 2 and #332. The east/west axis that runs down the centerline of the National Mall is an important feature to be considered in the APE since it is an essential historical and visual component

Section 106

NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS



Judy Robinson

- The project area falls within the West Potomac Park Historic District.
- The surrounding area has many important historic districts and individual historic sites.
- Significant contributing elements to this district include many major memorials and monuments.

Section 106

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES



Judy Robinson

Other historic resources are cultural landscapes in the area. A Cultural Landscape is a landscape designed and built over time by man, not just a natural resource. The importance of Cultural Landscapes has been fairly recently recognized, more than in earlier periods in which Reflecting Pool rehabilitation improvement projects were undertaken.

Design Alternatives



- Accessibility Concepts
- Vehicular Barriers: Existing Conditions
- Vehicular Barrier Concepts: PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
- New Vehicular Barrier Concepts
- Concept Design Alternatives



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Doug Jacobs:

Introduction of Design Alternatives

Accessibility Concepts



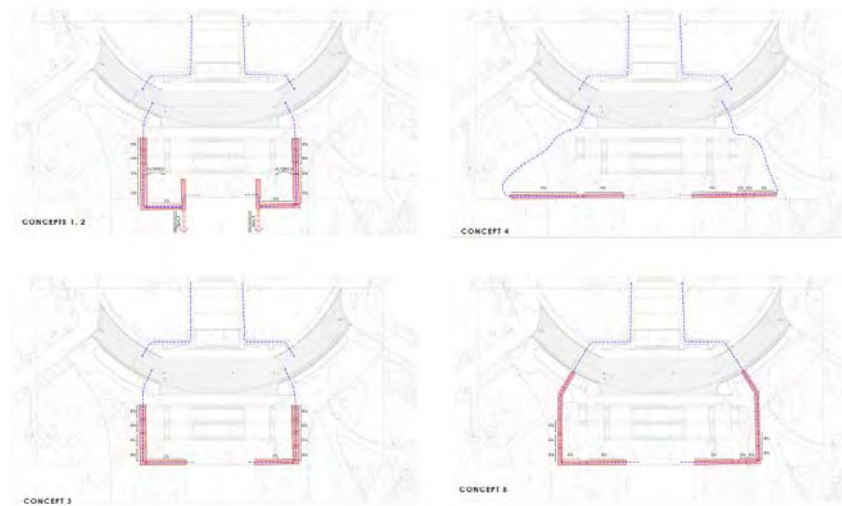
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Doug Jacobs:

The historically significant stairways, as currently configured, prohibit handicapped access from the lower plaza to the upper plaza

Accessibility Concepts

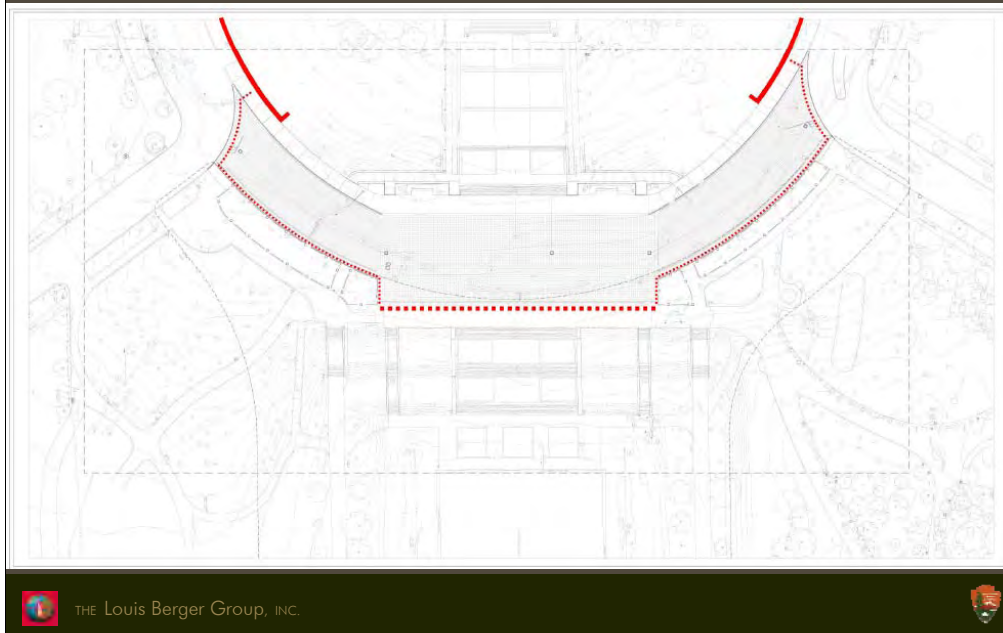


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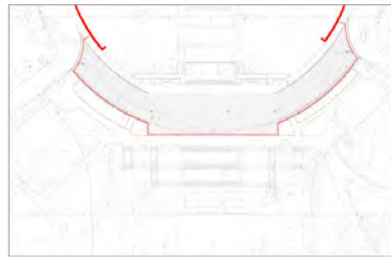
Doug Jacobs:

Vehicular Barriers – Existing Conditions



Doug Jacobs:

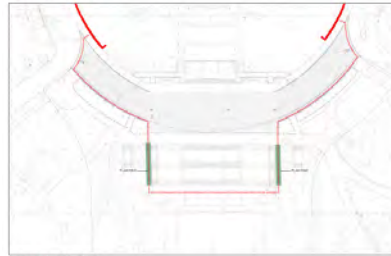
Vehicular Barriers Concepts Previously Considered and Rejected



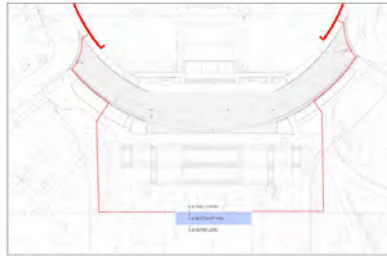
SECURITY OPTION 1



SECURITY OPTION 3



SECURITY OPTION 2



SECURITY OPTION 4

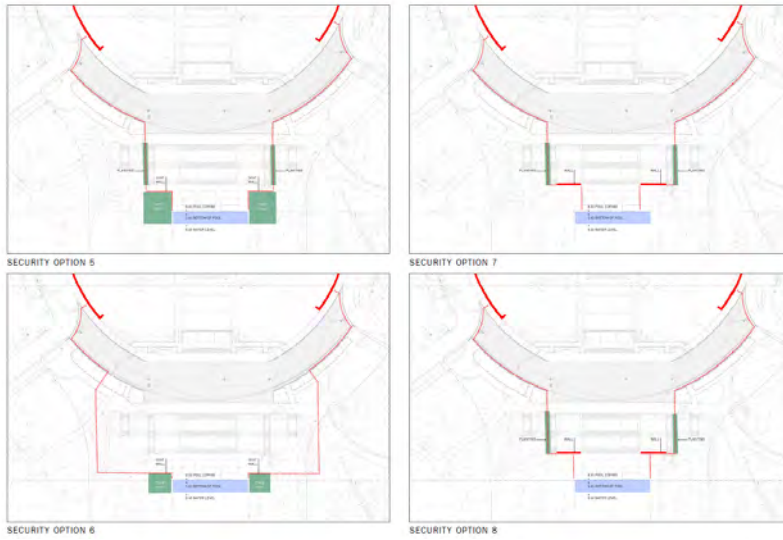


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Doug Jacobs:

New Vehicular Barrier Concepts



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Doug Jacobs:

Concept Design Alternatives



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Doug Jacobs:

Concept 1



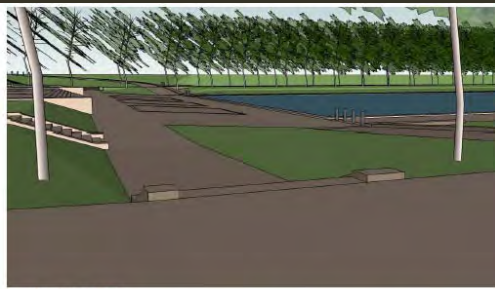
Doug Jacobs:

Concept 1 - The security wall aligns with the west pool coping, and stays on the outside of the large curved walk to make it less visible

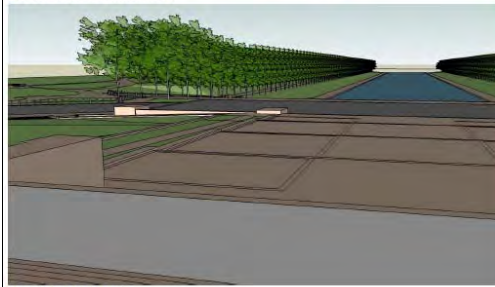
Concept 1



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF PROPOSED CONCEPT 1



VIEW NORTH OF LOWER PLAZA



VIEW EAST FROM UPPER PLAZA



VIEW EAST ALONG SOUTH ELM WALK



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Doug Jacobs:

Concept 2



Doug Jacobs:

Concept 2 - Bollards follow the whole length of the large curved walk, leaving it visually as open as possible

Concept 2



Doug Jacobs:

View Across Lower Plaza looking south

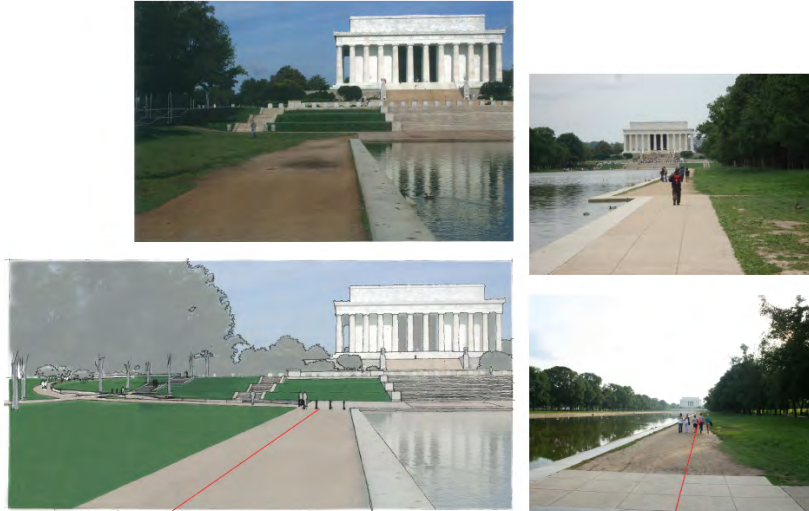


Doug Jacobs:

View across the lower Plaza looking South

- Proposed lower grade and walls are located in a transition zone between the reflecting pool topography and terraced landscape leading to the Lincoln Memorial.
- Wall shown at 36" high is divided into a 6" coping, 22" mid-section, and 8" curb.
- The wall may only need to be 30" tall based on security requirements.

Proposed Walks



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Doug Jacobs:

Proposed walks along edges of the reflecting Pool at coping

- The red lines in the sketches below illustrate a proposed 12 foot wide walk along the pool coping.

Concept 3



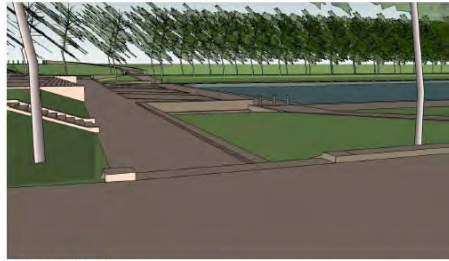
Doug Jacobs:

Concept 3- In this non-symmetrical scheme, retaining walls follow the large curved walk and set it into the grade of the flood berm on the north side

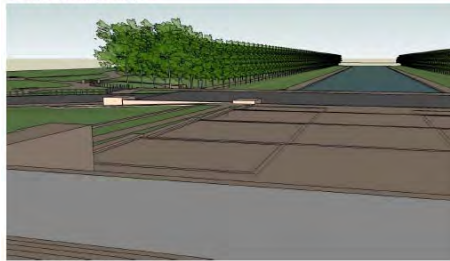
Concept 3



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF PROPOSED CONCEPT 3



VIEW NORTH OF LOWER PLAZA



VIEW EAST FROM UPPER PLAZA



VIEW EAST ALONG SOUTH ELM WALK



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Doug Jacobs:

New Curvilinear Walk



VIEW EAST TOWARD SOUTH H ELM WALK - WITH BOLLARDS



VIEW EAST TOWARD SOUTH H ELM WALK - WITH WALL



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Doug Jacobs:

View along North Elm Walk



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Doug Jacobs:

View Along North Elm Walk Toward Lincoln Memorial

- Proposed placement of lights, trash receptacles and benches facing the Reflecting Pool
- Proposed walks along edges of the reflecting Pool at coping The red lines in the sketches below illustrate a proposed 12 foot wide walk along the pool coping.

Comment

<h2>Electronic</h2> <p>http://parkplanning.nps.gov/</p> <p>And search for National Mall and Memorial Parks</p>	<h2>Written</h2> <p>202 401-0017 fax</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Terri Urbanowski Denver Service Center National Park Service 12795 West Alameda Parkway Lakewood, CO 80288-2838</p>
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In order for your comments to be considered as part of this phase of the project, all comments must be received by **August 14, 2009**.

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

- Design concepts submitted to NCPC and CFA in July and September can be viewed on the website
- There will be a public review of the Environmental Assessment in November 2009

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Jill Cavanaugh

Your comments are essential to this environmental assessment and the development of alternatives. We seek your comments on the scope of issues to be addressed and identifying any issues related to the proposed action by August 14, 2009.

You may submit comments on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment Site at the address listed here or fax or mail them to the listed contact information

Additional opportunities to provide comment on this project will occur during the public release of the EA later this Fall.

Thank You



Jill Cavanaugh

- Open House stations throughout the room are now open for more information on specific resource areas.
- Please ensure you sign in
- Comment forms are also available at the sign-in table.