

Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle



Arlington Memorial Bridge – Existing view from Lincoln Memorial

Triumphal Arch



Proposed Undertaking

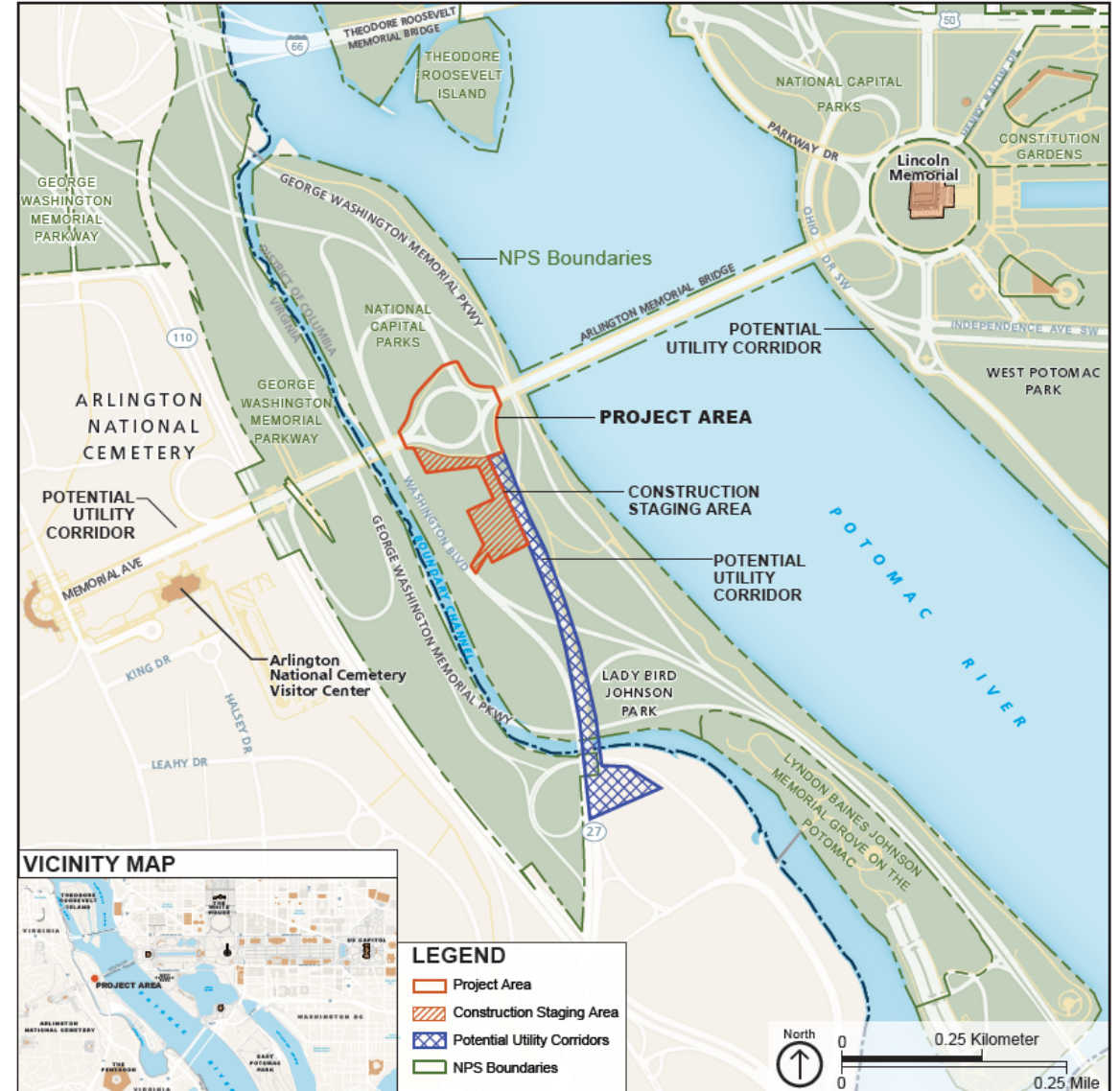
- Construction of an Arch within Memorial Circle at the intersection of Arlington Memorial Bridge and Memorial Avenue
- Associated plaza and landscape improvements
- Supporting utility and stormwater infrastructure
- Traffic and pedestrian circulation modifications
- Security features
- Lighting
- Temporary staging and laydown areas required for construction.



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Proposed Undertaking

- Located within Memorial Circle and surrounding area within the George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Unit of the National Park System
- George Washington Memorial Parkway is 25-mile scenic and commemorative corridor along the Potomac River that integrates early twentieth century landscape design with transportation, cultural resources, and recreational access.
- Developed to honor President George Washington and to connect significant historic and cultural sites, it blends naturalistic plantings with sculptural features.



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Summary of Consultation

- **June 5–15, 2026** - Preliminary Assessment of Effects and draft Programmatic Agreement released for public review through PEPC.
 - **100,936 comments received**
- **July 10–30, 2026:** Public comment period reopened in response to additional public interest.
 - **6,254 additional comments received.**
- **July 10–19, 2026:** Consulting parties were specifically asked to comment on the June 5 historic-property list.
- **July 28–August 6, 2026:** NPS circulated a revised APE and updated historic-property list for additional consulting-party review.
- **August 28 – September 16:** NPS circulated a revised Assessment of Effects

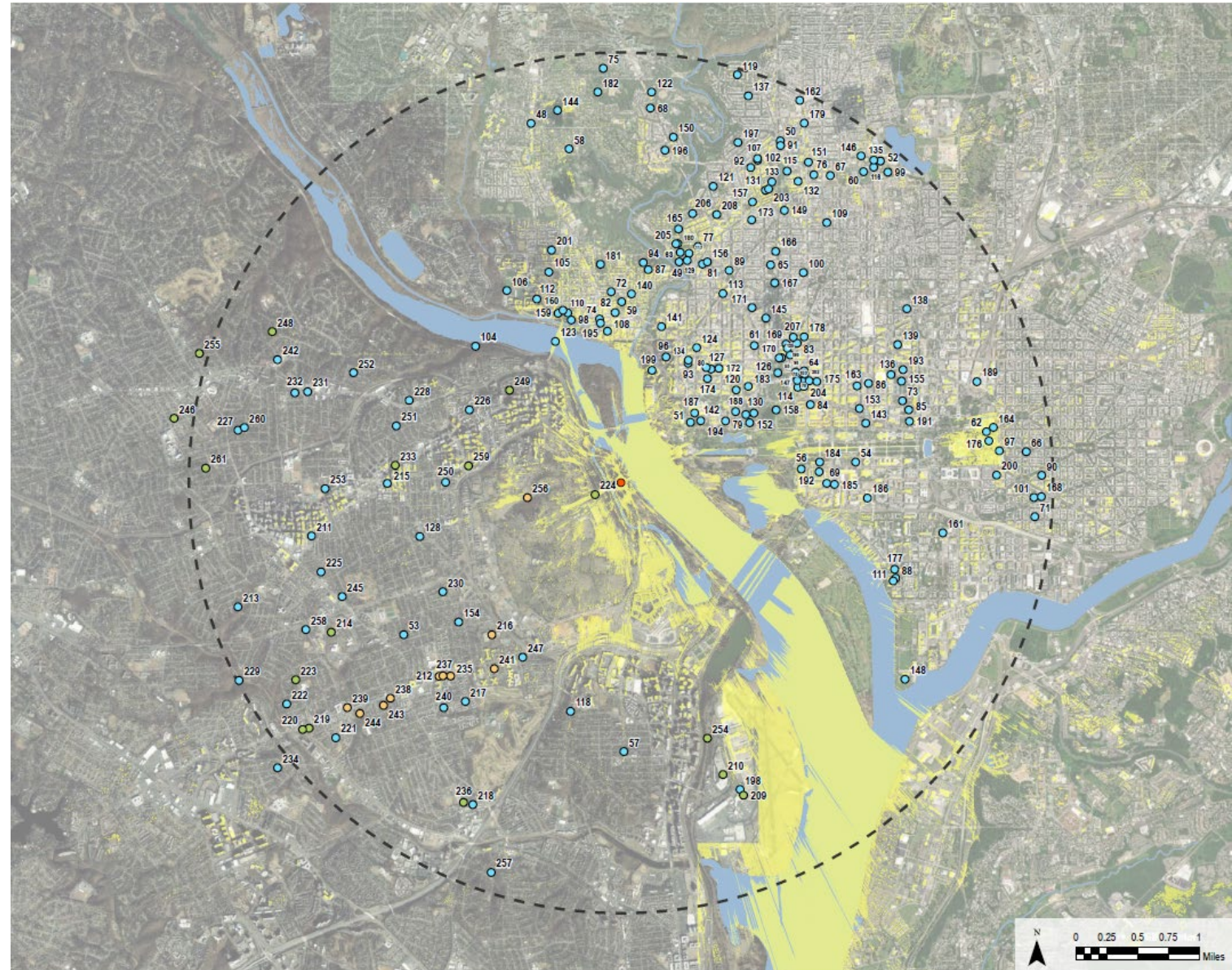
This map shows the Potomac River and surrounding areas in Washington, D.C. and Arlington, Virginia. The 'PROJECT AREA' is highlighted in black in Arlington, Virginia. Other areas of interest are outlined in various colors: Theodore Roosevelt Island (blue), Washington Monument (blue), National Mall (yellow), US Capitol (black), and several other areas (red, green, pink, orange, yellow-green). The map includes labels for major roads like Arlington Blvd, Constitution Ave NW, and various highways (66, 395, 295, 695). It also shows the Potomac River, Tidal Basin, and Anacostia River. A scale bar and north arrow are in the bottom right corner.

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Viewshed Analysis

- Used **Digital Surface Models (DSM)** to model visibility based on **topography, vegetation, and structures**.
- Incorporated **tree canopy data** to remove false visibility from treetop elevations.
- Results identify where visibility is **possible**, not where an unobstructed view is guaranteed; viewpoints of concern require further verification.
- For buildings, modeled visibility may reflect **rooftops, terraces, or upper floors**.
- The analysis directly informed the **expansion of the APE and identification of additional historic properties requiring assessment**.

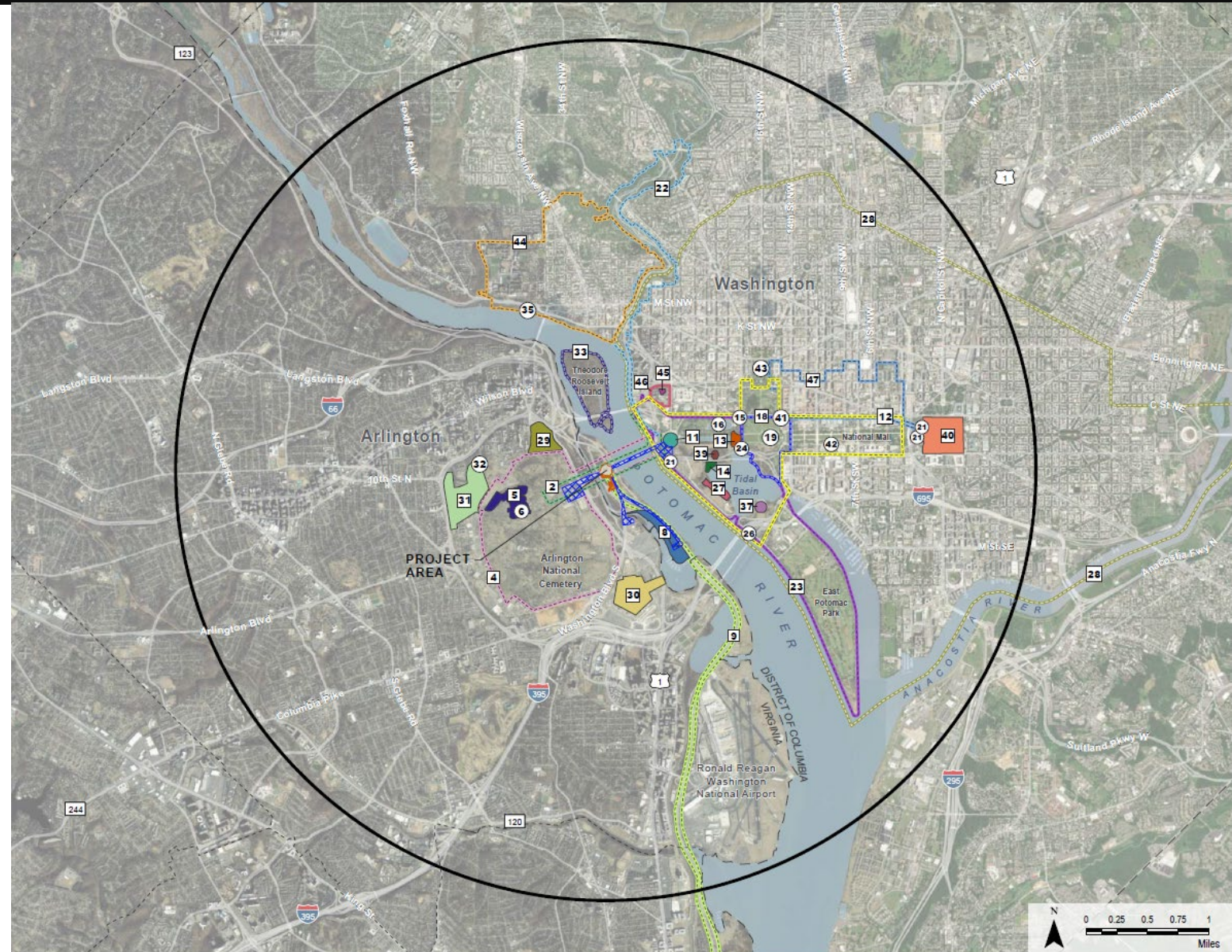


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Expanded APE

- The **3.5-mile limit** was selected because the urban, relatively flat landscape allows meaningful visibility through the middle-ground zone, while effects beyond that distance are substantially diminished.
- Historic properties within the 3.5-mile area that overlap the modeled viewshed were added to the **updated historic-property inventory and revised APE**.



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Historic Properties

	Total Assessed	Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect
National Historic Landmarks	31	6	25
Historic Districts	53	8	45
Cultural Landscapes	10	8	2
Individual / Other Historic Properties	167	20	147
TOTAL	261	42	219

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Historic Properties – Adverse Effect

National Historic Landmarks — 6

- Fort Myer NHL District
- Georgetown Historic District
- National War College
- Old Naval Observatory
- Pentagon
- United States Capitol

Historic Districts — 8

- Arlington National Cemetery Historic District
- Arlington House Historic District
- Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Historic District
- National Mall Site and National Mall Historic District
- Washington Monument and Grounds Historic District
- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Historic District
- East and West Potomac Park Historic District
- Observatory Hill Historic District

Cultural Landscapes — 8

- Memorial Avenue Corridor Cultural Landscape
- Lady Bird Johnson Park Cultural Landscape
- Arlington House Cultural Landscape
- Lincoln Memorial Cultural Landscape
- The Mall Cultural Landscape
- Washington Monument and Grounds Cultural Landscape
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial Cultural Landscape
- Mount Vernon Memorial Highway North Cultural Landscape Inventory

Individual / Other Historic Properties — 20

- Arlington Memorial Bridge and Associated Features
- Arlington House (Robert E. Lee Memorial)
- Lyndon B. Johnson Memorial Grove
- Lincoln Memorial
- World War II Memorial
- Washington Monument
- L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington, District of Columbia
- Arlington Ridge Park
- George Mason Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Alban Towers Apartment Building
- American Institute of Pharmacy Building
- George Washington Memorial Parkway
- Halcyon House
- Francis Scott Key Bridge
- National Cathedral
- Vigilant Firehouse
- Bridge #5020 / State Bridge #5020
- Old Warehouse Area and Ground Maintenance Complex
- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site

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Section 110(f) – National Historic Landmarks

Heightened Standard

- Applies when a federal undertaking may directly and adversely affect a National Historic Landmark
- Requires the agency, “to the maximum extent possible,” to undertake planning and actions necessary to minimize harm to the NHL

Determination of Effect

- 31 NHL-designated properties were evaluated
- 6 NHLs were determined to have adverse effects
- Adverse effects are visual and spatial, including during nighttime, rather than physical alteration
- Effects result from changes to contributing views, vistas, setting, feeling, association, and historic relationships within the monumental landscape

NPS Avoidance / Minimization Analysis

Considered:

- Smaller Arch heights
- Relocation
- No-build / elimination of the vertical feature

Determined those options either:

- would create greater impacts to historic properties, or
- would not meet the undertaking’s location-dependent purpose and need

Minimizing Harm

- Viewshed and cultural landscape documentation
- Lighting controls
- Construction-period protections
- Archeological investigation and treatment
- Landscape restoration
- Interpretation and visitor wayfinding
- Other NHL-specific mitigation commitments developed through consultation

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Archeological resources

- Phase 1A has been completed
- Phase 1B work plan is being discussed with DC SHPO

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Summary of Adverse Effects to Historic Properties

- Introduces a prominent new vertical element into nationally significant historic and commemorative landscapes
- Alters character-defining views, vistas, axial relationships, and reciprocal sightlines
- Changes setting, feeling, association, spatial organization, and design continuity
- Affects historic circulation and contributing landscape features at Memorial Circle and Memorial Avenue
- Creates additional nighttime visual effects through illumination
- Most substantial effects occur along the Lincoln Memorial–Arlington Memorial Bridge–Arlington National Cemetery/Arlington House commemorative axis
- More distant adverse effects are primarily visual and related to changes in historic setting and viewsheds



MAY 7, 2026

TRIUMPHAL ARCH - WASHINGTON, DC
VIEW FROM HEMICYCLE - AFTER

HARRISON
DESIGN

Avoidance

- Exploration of different heights
 - Smaller blocked views
- Arlington Memorial Bridge Act
 - Location specific
 - Vertical elements at Memorial Circle
 - Different location does not fulfill the same purpose
- Design changes
 - Elliptical plaza, cross-axes, monumental pavilions, and two columns representing national reunion were evaluated and never realized
 - Current design meets the project purpose and need and fulfilling the intentions of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission Report (1924)
- No reasonable avoidance alternative

Minimization / Mitigation

Construction Protection

Examples

vibration monitoring, noise controls, temporary lighting, screening, work-hour limits, ceremonial-route protection, pedestrian access, dust/BMPs

Archeological Resources

Phase IB testing, geoarchaeology, utility corridor investigations, monitoring, treatment/data recovery, inadvertent discoveries

Historic Landscape Improvements

Memorial Avenue rehabilitation, Arlington Memorial Bridge approaches, visitor wayfinding

Documentation

HALS/HABS, historic viewshed documentation, LiDAR/3D model, archival photography, oral histories, LBJ Park history

Interpretation

Lincoln–Arlington House axis, viewshed exhibits, waysides, webpages, archaeology interpretation, Native peoples/Potomac interpretation

Resolution of Adverse Effects (Discussion)

- APE
- Historic Properties
- Effects Determination
- Avoidance / Minimization / Mitigation
- Resolution of Effects – Memorandum of Agreement



Discussion / Questions