



Welcome

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:

- To provide you with the opportunity to comment on the proposed action and alternatives analyzed in the Environmental Assessment / Assessment of Effect for the proposed Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan.



Project goals include to enhance visitor experience, protect cultural and natural resources, and determine infrastructure /facilities needs.



Purpose and Need

Purpose:

- The purpose of the Site Development Plan is to identify an overall direction for park management by clearly defining specific resource conditions and the desired visitor experience.

Need:

- Peak visitation periods exceed the park's carrying capacity, which creates a need to balance the different types of visitor use (recreation, permitted picnicking, interpretation) with resource protection.
- Recent discovery of the site's rich history has created expanded opportunities and a demand by the public for additional interpretation.
- Changes in current park uses and expanded interpretation has created a need for changes to existing facilities and/or the addition of new facilities.





Site History



Other Historic Uses:

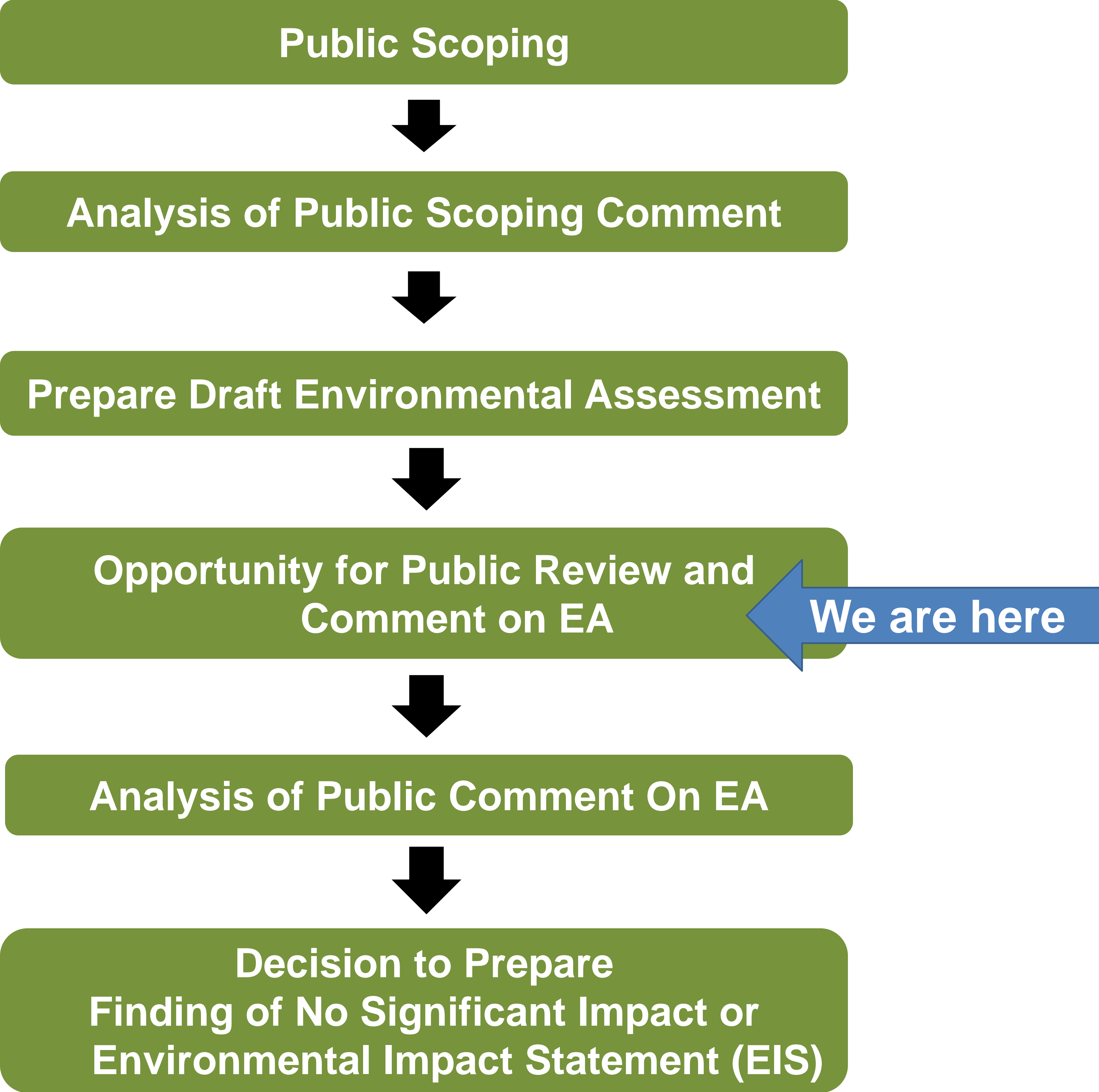
- Army finance school
- Brigade headquarters
- African American Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) training camp
- NPS exhibits lab
- Monitoring station for the Army Signal Corps
- Film storage vault for the National Archives



NEPA Process



In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, an Assessment of Effect on cultural resources was prepared and included with the Environmental Assessment. NPS commits to additional S106 consultation as the plan elements are further developed.





Public Scoping Summary

- No new entrances
- Park police and maintenance facilities to remain in place
- Maintain recreational uses
- Visitor facility near entrance
- Safety and security
- Natural resources

George Washington Memorial Parkway

Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan

Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect

Fairfax County, Virginia Public Scoping – January 2011

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington's River Front Farm
1757

Army Post
1899

Spanish American War Era
1901

Bonus March Camp
1933

CCA Era
1935

WW II - P.O. Box 1142
1942

Scoping Newsletter

Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effects for the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) is in the process of developing the Site Development Plan (SDP) for the Fort Hunt Park Site, a park along the GWMP in Fairfax County, Virginia. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies, the NPS is initiating work on an Environmental Assessment and Assessment of Effects (EA/AoE) to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project to the natural, cultural, and human environments.

Project Background

Fort Hunt Park is a 105-acre national park located along the Potomac River in Fairfax County, Virginia. The park has a diverse history due to its close proximity to Washington, DC. Fort Hunt Park has been the scene of a constantly shifting panorama of people and activities that mirror the major social and political trends of the first half of

this century. During its relatively short life-time, the park has seen service as George Washington's farm; a coastal defense fort; an Army finance school; a supply depot; a brigade headquarters, a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) training camp; a hospital for indigent Bonus Marchers; a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp; an NPS exhibits lab; a monitoring station for the Army Signal Corps; a top secret interrogation center for WWII German prisoners of war; and a film storage vault for the National Archives (see timeline above).

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Fort Hunt Park Site Development Plan is to identify an overall direction for park management by clearly defining specific resource conditions and the desired visitor experience to be achieved at the park. The objectives of the Site Development Plan are to:

- provide a framework for park managers to use when making a decision on how to

enhance the park's visitor experience and manage use,

- identify ways to further protect the park's cultural and natural resources, and
- determine infrastructure and facilities needs for increased park operational efficiency and safety.

The purpose will be accomplished through the development of appropriate visitor media, facilities, and services. Also, current and future facilities at Fort Hunt Park will be planned in such a manner that balances recreational activities with resource protection and educational/research activities.

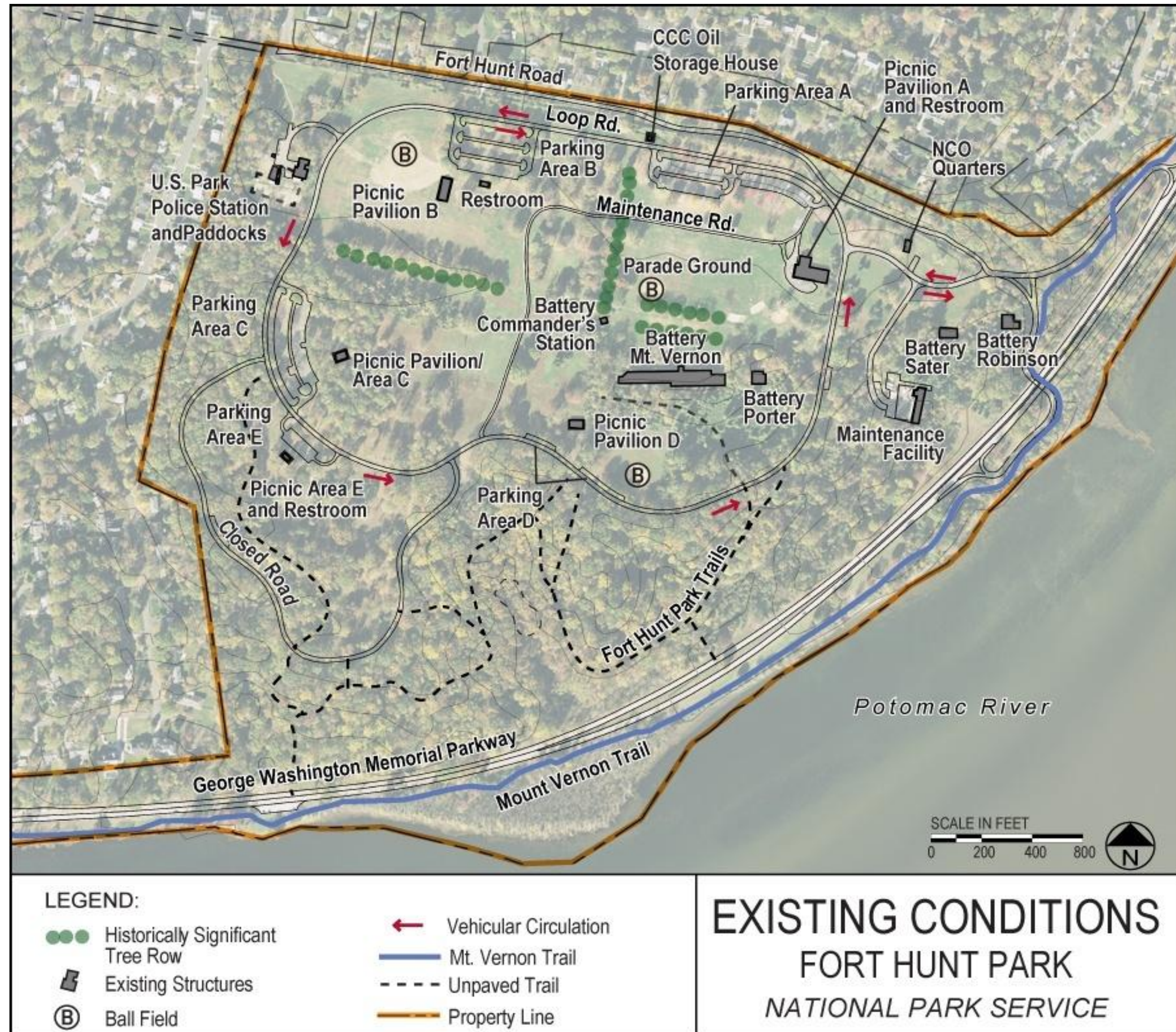
The Site Development Plan is needed because of an increase in park visitation, causing competing park uses; education and interpretive materials only tell a portion of the site's history and former uses; recent new discovery of the site history; changing park uses; and aging infrastructure.

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Alternative A (No Action)

- Continuation of present management operations
- No change to existing conditions
- Provides basis for comparison with other alternatives





Action Alternatives in Brief

- Interpretation
- Picnic Areas
- Circulation
- Reduction in pavement
- Bikes and pedestrians





Alternative B

Highlights:

- Visitor facility added to Area B
- Picnic Pavilion A remains
- Maintains most vehicular circulation amongst action alternatives
- Net decrease of approximately 4,300 square feet of pavement
- Chronological interpretive trail system added
- Includes bicycle/pedestrian lane around loop access road





Alternative C (Preferred Alternative)

Highlights:

- Visitor facility added to Area C
- Picnic Pavilion A remains
- Most reduced vehicular circulation amongst action alternatives
- Net decrease of approximately 56,700 square feet of pavement
- Chronological interpretive trail system added
- Includes dedicated bicycle/pedestrian loop trail





Alternative D

Highlights:

- Visitor facility added to Area B
- Picnic Pavilion C remains
- Moderate reduction of vehicular circulation
- Net decrease of approximately 5,500 square feet of pavement
- Chronological interpretive trail system added
- Includes dedicated bicycle/pedestrian trail





Project Schedule / Next Steps

Preparation of the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect (EA/AoE)	April through August 2011
EA/AoE Public Comment Period	September 6 to October 6, 2011
Public Meeting	September 21, 2011
Analysis of Public Comments	October 2011
Preparation of Decision Document	Late October 2011
Complete Site Development Plan	Late November 2011





How to Comment

- The public is invited to comment on the proposed action and alternatives analyzed in the Environmental Assessment / Assessment of Effect
- Comments or questions can be provided tonight on the comment form.
- You may access the document and submit comments electronically at the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/forthunt>.
- Written comments may be mailed to:
Superintendent
George Washington Memorial Parkway,
Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101
- Mailed comments must be postmarked by **October 6, 2011** to receive consideration.

