



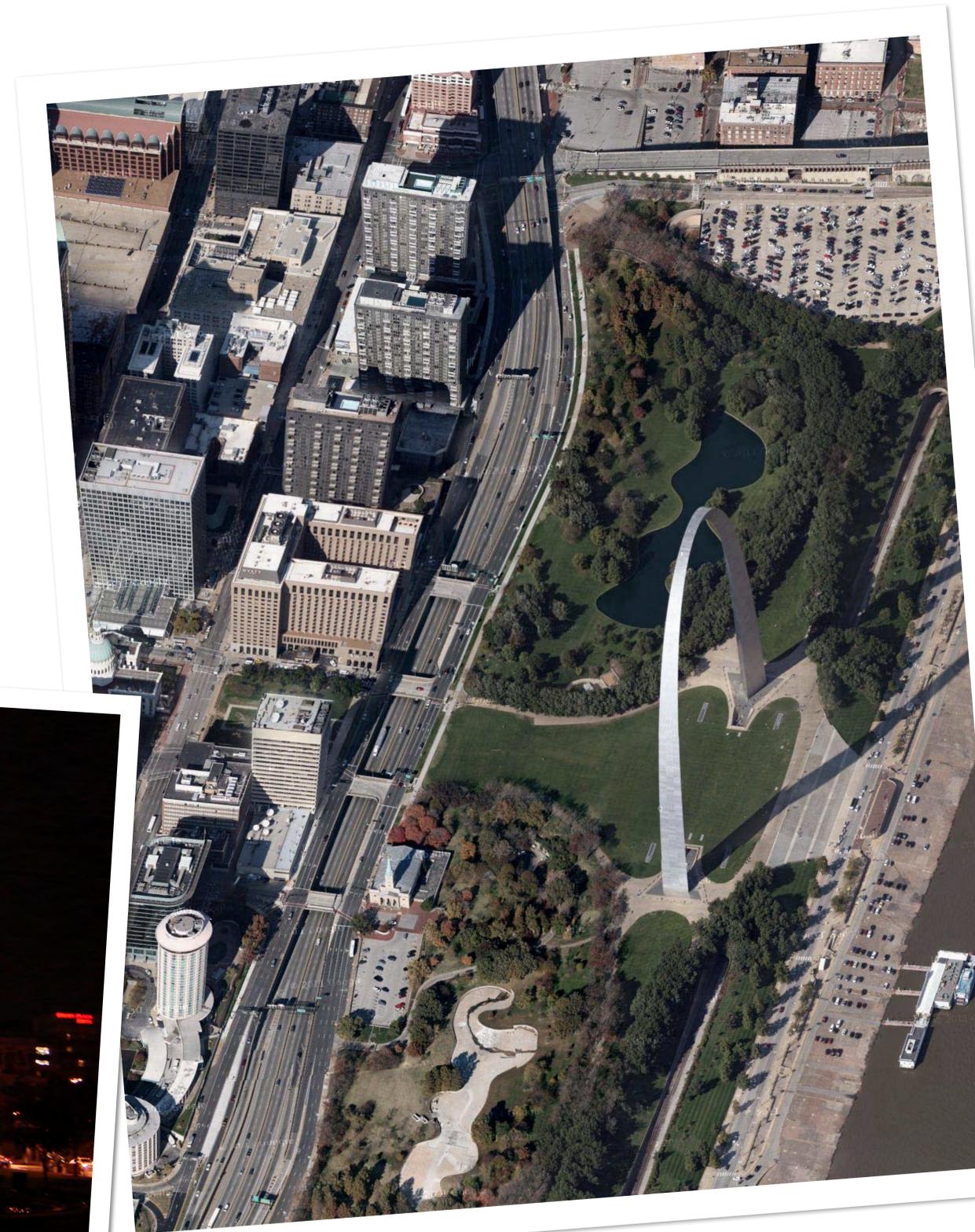
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

Environmental Assessment for Implementing CityArchRiver Initiative Elements

Welcome!

Open House for the
Environmental Assessment for Implementing
CityArchRiver Initiative Elements at
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
4 PM to 7 PM

Please sign-in here to get started.

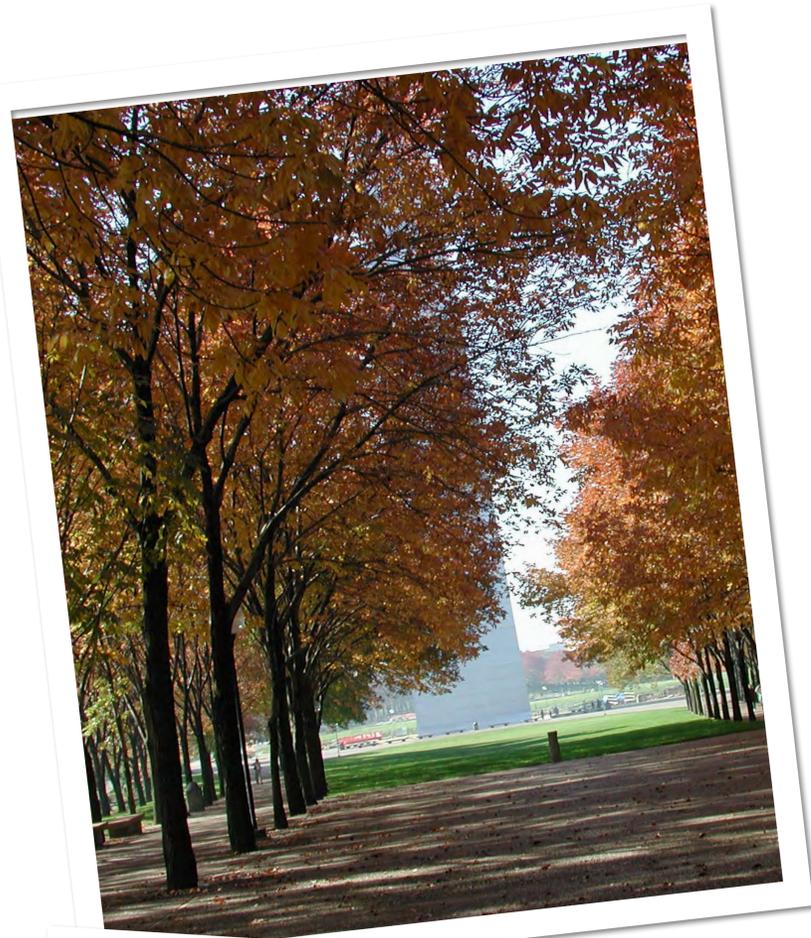




Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

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Project Timeline



Time Frame	Planning Activity
2008-2009	NPS develops and finalizes the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial General Management Plan
Winter 2010	NPS and partners initiate “Framing a Modern Masterpiece: The City + The Arch + The River 2015” design competition
Fall 2010	NPS and partners announce design competition winner
Summer 2011	NPS initiates public scoping for the Environmental Assessment for Implementing CityArchRiver 2015 Initiative Elements; Value Analysis conducted to refine alternatives
Fall 2011	NPS partners with Missouri Department of Transportation and Federal Highways Administration as cooperating agencies under NEPA
Winter 2011-Fall 2012	NPS and partners refine designs through a series of discussions with stakeholders, including consultation in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
Fall 2012	NPS develops alternatives and partners with Great Rivers Greenway District in preparation of the EA
Winter 2012	NPS finalizes EA with input from cooperating agencies and Great Rivers Greenway District
Winter 2013	NPS releases EA for review by the public, partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders from January 15 to March 1
Spring 2013	NPS analyzes public comments and prepares a decision document, including responses to public comments and identification of the selected alternative



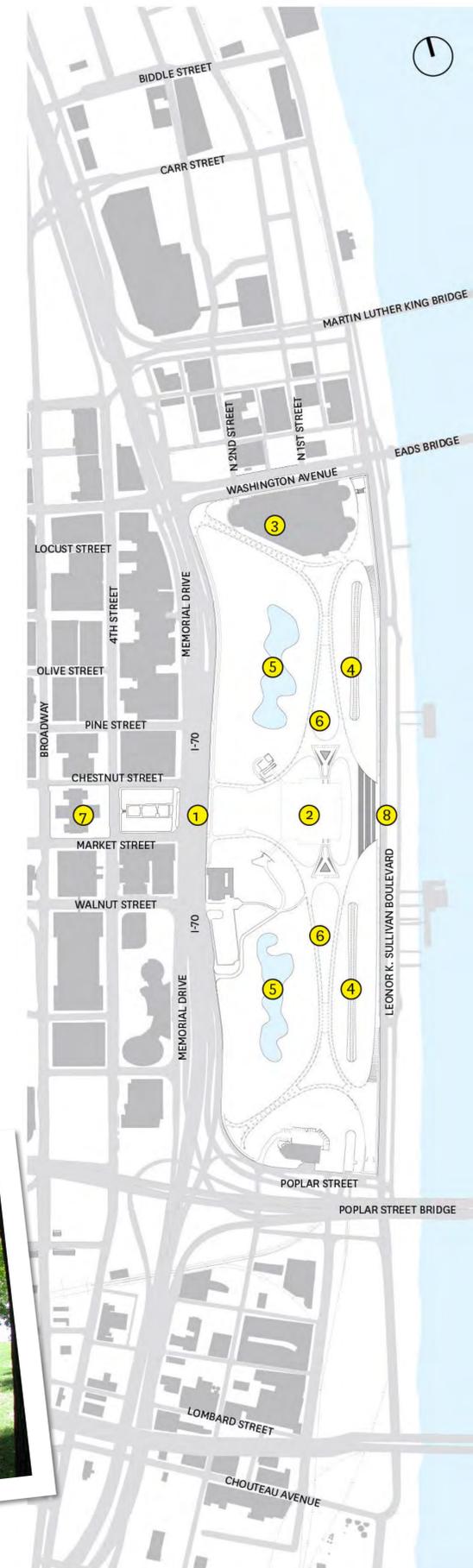
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Project Area

- 1 West Gateway:** encompasses Luther Ely Smith Square and the western entrance to the park, from North 4th Street at Luther Ely Smith Square across Memorial Drive/I-70 to the park.
- 2 Visitor Center/Museum:** includes the existing facilities and exhibits at the underground Visitor Center and Museum of Westward Expansion.
- 3 North Gateway:** is the area encompassed by the existing Arch Parking Garage, adjacent landscape, and Washington Avenue, up to the south face of the Eads Bridge.
- 4 East Slopes:** include the east side slopes that surround the railroad open cut walls and tunnels to the north and south of the sides of the Grand Staircase, parallel and adjacent to Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard.

- 5 Reflecting Ponds:** comprise the areas surrounding and including the north and south reflecting ponds located between I-70 and the Processional Walks.
- 6 Processional Walks:** include the existing system of pedestrian walkways and adjacent allées of trees.
- 7 Old Courthouse:** includes the block occupied by the Old Courthouse (bounded by Chestnut Street, North 4th Street, Market Street, and Broadway) as well as the Old Courthouse building.
- 8 Central Riverfront:** includes Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard from Chouteau Avenue to Biddle Street, the adjacent historic cobble levee along the Mississippi River, the sidewalks on both sides of Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard, and the infrastructure between the road and the historic levee. The area includes an existing floodwall/levee system regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers.





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Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action analyzed in this EA is to fulfill the goal of revitalizing Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, as called for by the selected action in the November 2009 Record of Decision (ROD) for the park's General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (GMP).

The NPS needs to evaluate projects proposed by the design competition winner and park partners which have the potential to cause physical changes to the park. Action is needed now so projects may be finished in time for the 50th anniversary of completion of the Gateway Arch (October 28, 2015).

Scope of this EA

- The CityArchRiver 2015 Initiative involves projects within and outside of the current boundaries of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial.
- This EA addresses alternatives for and impacts of those projects proposed within the park boundary, as well as projects proposed by the Great Rivers Greenway District along the Central Riverfront.
- Non-NPS projects (e.g., proposed changes to Kiener Plaza) and NPS projects on a longer-term planning horizon (e.g., expansion of the park to the east side of the river) are not considered in this EA because they are not federal projects and/or are not ready for a decision at this time.
- Agencies such as the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Federal Highways Administration are working with the NPS and its partners to plan for and implement projects such as the park Over the Highway and improvements to the Central Riverfront.

Objectives

GENERAL

- Ensure revitalization of the park reflects the iconic status of the Gateway Arch and embraces the Mississippi River, but does not violate requirements in the NPS Organic Act or NPS Management Policies 2006.
- Working with partners, catalyze increased vitality in the St. Louis region and create attractors to promote extended visitation to the Arch, the city, and the river.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Ensure that the revitalization of the park and improvements to the Central Riverfront preserves the integrity and honors the character-defining elements of the National Historic Landmark and National Register Historic District.
- Avoid unacceptable impacts on the cultural landscapes, historic resources, and archeological resources as a result of revitalizing the park and improving the Central Riverfront.

VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

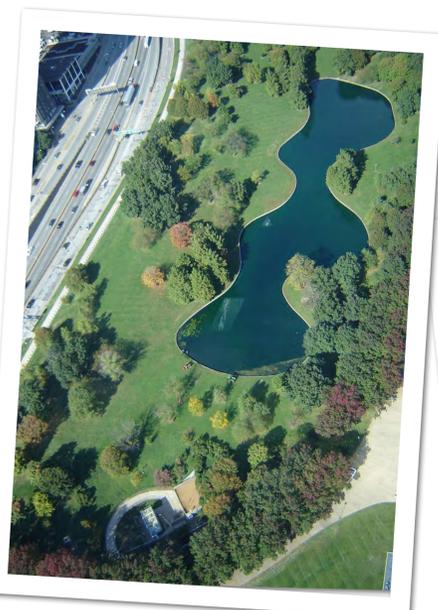
- Ensure that revitalization of the park and the Central Riverfront improves connections amongst the city, the park, and the river. generations certain historical, cultural and natural resources associated with the Historic District.
- Enhance the experience at the park and along the Central Riverfront and reduce the impacts from adjacent transportation systems.
- Ensure visitor safety and accessibility for people with disabilities is improved and the experience at the park and along the Central Riverfront is enhanced by creating a welcoming and accessible environment.

INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION

- Improve visitor understanding of the purpose of the park, including the story of St. Louis as the gateway to American westward expansion.
- Along the Central Riverfront, provide opportunities for education connected to the Mississippi River and historic levee.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

- Incorporate sustainable methods into park management and operations while minimizing impacts of revitalization on financial resources, staffing requirements, and long-term maintenance requirements. Improve Central Riverfront operations by reducing flood-related closures and cleanup activities.





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Issues + Impact Topics

Cultural Resources

Historic Buildings, Structures, Sites, Objects and Disticts
Cultural Landscapes
Archeological Resources
Museum Collections



Natural Resources

Vegetation
Soundscape
Water Quality / Water Resources / Stormwater Management
Floodplains



Visitor Use + Experience

Visitor Opportunities + Use
Pedestrian + Bicycle Circulation
Parking
Accessibility



Socioeconomics

Economic + Social Contributions
Employment + Economic Welfare

Operations + Management

Park Operations + Management
Energy Requirements + Conservation/Sustainability
Central Riverfront Operations + Management



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Alternative 1: No Action + Common to All Alternatives

Alternative 1 would include the following elements:

1 West Gateway

- Park Over the Highway installed providing access to the park from Luther Ely Smith Square across the landscaped structure.

2 Visitor Center/Museum

- Existing museum exhibit space retained and interpretive and educational programs continued.

3 North Gateway

- Arch Parking Garage, surrounding landscape, and ranger station retained.
- Part of Washington Avenue closed between 1st Street and Memorial Drive.
- Arch Parking Garage access provided via a slip lane off of I-70 onto Washington Avenue, as well as via Laclede's Landing and from Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard.

4 East Slopes

- East Slopes retained as presently configured.

5 Reflecting Ponds

- The plantings and turf around the ponds remain unchanged.

6 Processional Walks

- The processional walks maintained and Rosehill ash trees replaced with another species in accordance with the Emerald Ash Borer Environmental Assessment.

7 Old Courthouse

- Exhibits and access to the Old Courthouse remain unchanged.

8 Central Riverfront

- Existing roadway, sidewalks, lighting, and utility infrastructure along Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard remain unchanged.

Common to All Alternatives: Landscape “Park Over the Highway”

- Structural deck over depressed section of I-70 between Market and Chestnut Streets
- Creates safe and accessible pedestrian connection between the park and the city.
- Structure built and maintained by MoDOT
- NPS installs and maintains landscape





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Elements Common to Alternatives 2 + 3

Project Area Elements

Alternatives 2 and 3 would include the following elements, by Project Area:

4 East Slopes

- Two to four universally accessible paths integrated into East Slopes leading from the park to the Central Riverfront.
- The East Slopes planted with a combination of conservation mown areas and woodland planting.
- General form maintained.

5 Reflecting Ponds

- Universally accessible paths installed around the North and South ponds.
- Subtle grading, new paths, and new plantings installed to limit stormwater runoff.

6 Processional Walks

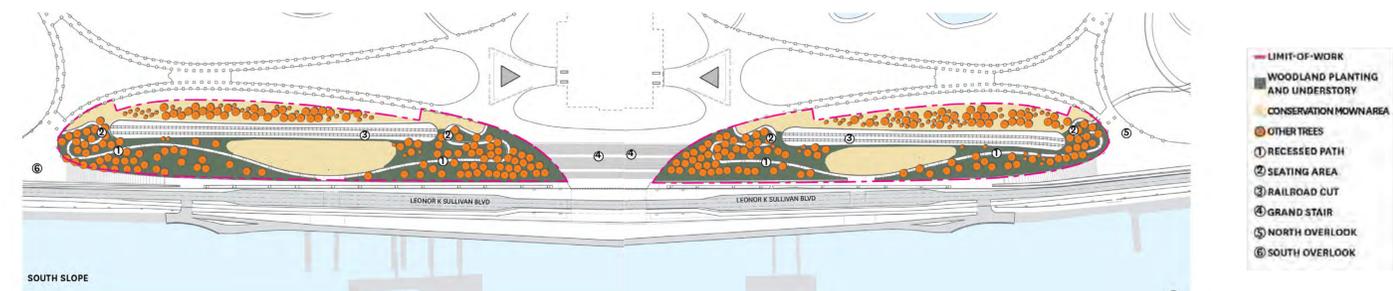
- Rosehill ash trees replaced with another species in phases.
- Soil, irrigation, and drainage systems repaired and amended.
- Aggregate concrete surface of the walks replaced.

7 Old Courthouse

- Galleries renovated and new exhibits installed on the first and second floors.
- Improved surrounding streetscape.
- Improved access to the first and second floors of the Old Courthouse via exterior ramps and interior elevators.

8 Central Riverfront

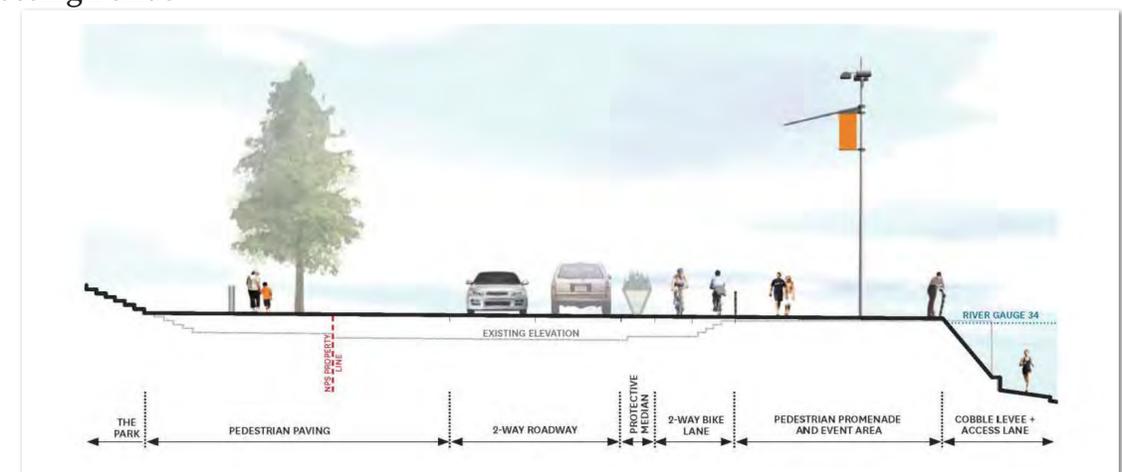
- Elevation of Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard raised to reduce the frequency and impact of flood events.
- Multi-modal roadway established with a two-way bike path, a pedestrian Promenade, and a two-lane roadway along Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard.



4 East Slopes



5 Reflecting Ponds



8 Central Riverfront



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Elements Common to Alternatives 2 + 3

Parkwide Strategies

Alternatives 2 and 3 would include the following parkwide strategies:

Security

- Continuous perimeter security through ram barrier walls and bollards
- Visual impact minimized by integrating security features within the landscape

Accessibility

- Improve access for persons with physical impairments
 - Selective regrading of existing routes
 - Integrate new, secondary network of paths into the historic landscape
 - Pathways, sidewalks, curb cuts, ramps and roadways meet or exceed accessibility requirements or guidelines
- Improve park programs for persons with other disabilities

Topography and Grading

- Changes made to enable access and reduce maintenance-related issues such as stormwater runoff, erosion and flooding at Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard
- Raise new sidewalks and re-grade East Slopes adjacent to Central Riverfront to meet new elevation of Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard

Planting

- Strengthen spatial organization as intended by original planting concepts
- Use compatible, sustainable management practices





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Alternative 2: Moderate Change

Alternative 2 would include the following elements:

1 West Gateway

- A major point of arrival for visitors to the park and a conceptual and literal bridge between the park, the Old Courthouse, and downtown St. Louis.
- At Luther Ely Smith Square, a large plaza leading down to a large east to west oriented sloping lawn to transition into the existing park.
- Outdoor spaces for group orientation and gathering and spaces for individual rest and relaxation.

2 Visitor Center/Museum

- Existing museum exhibit space renovated and exhibits updated.
- Interpretive and educational programs provided and updated.
- Accessible ingress/egress at the Arch legs to and from the Visitor Center/Museum.

3 North Gateway

- Arch Parking Garage and ranger station retained, with aesthetic improvements such as painting, planting, signage.
- Part of Washington Avenue closed between 1st Street and Memorial Drive.
- Arch Parking Garage access provided via a slip lane off of I-70 onto Washington Avenue, as well as via Laclede's Landing and from Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard.
- New pedestrian crossing created at the intersection of the new slip lane and Washington Avenue.



West Gateway



North Gateway



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Alternative 3: Maximum Change

Alternative 3 would include the following elements:

1 West Gateway

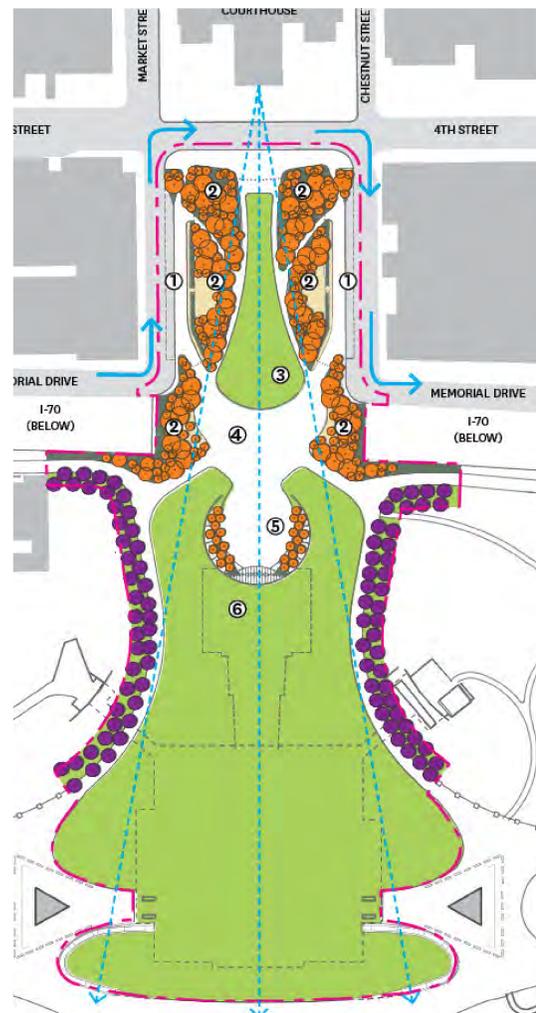
- A new primary entrance to the park created by an accessible, ground-level West Entrance to the Visitor Center/Museum.
- A central lawn at Luther Ely Smith Square between the Old Courthouse and the new plaza and West Entrance to the Visitor Center/Museum.
- Outdoor spaces for group orientation and gathering and spaces for individual rest and relaxation.

2 Visitor Center/Museum

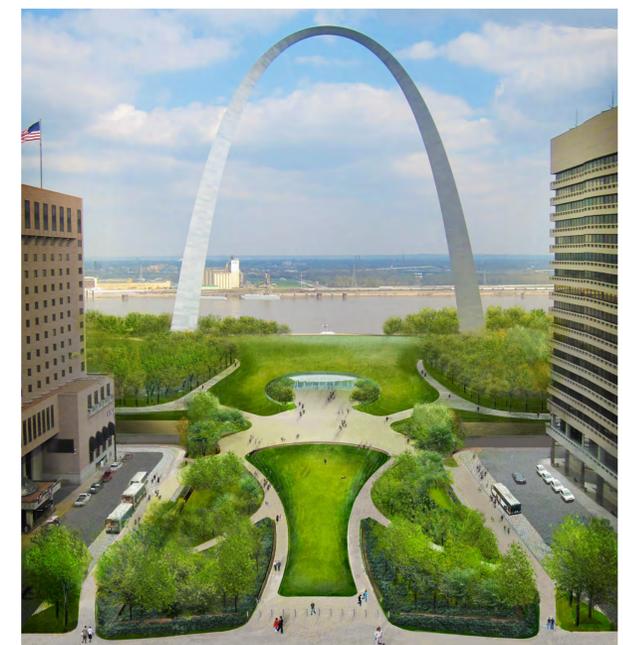
- An additional 35,000-50,000 square feet of visitor orientation, museum exhibit, and education space, with existing spaces selectively renovated.
- A glass façade on the new West Entrance to provide light to the lobby and a visual connection to the Old Courthouse.
- Ticketing, restrooms, and security located in the new lobby of the West Entrance.
- Entrances at Arch legs become dedicated accessible egress from the Visitor Center/Museum.

3 North Gateway

- Arch Parking Garage removed, contingent on the implementation of an alternative parking strategy to provide access to nearby, acceptable parking.
- Area redeveloped with new landscape including an orientation/event lawn, a welcome center, a heritage-themed explorers garden, and a shared pedestrian/bicycle path.
- Washington Avenue east of Memorial Drive closed to through traffic and a drop-off area established.



1 West Gateway



3 North Gateway





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Findings of the EA

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 3

The NPS has identified alternative 3 as the preferred alternative because it:

- Incorporates the most elements from the winning entry in the design competition called for by the park's recently completed GMP
- Best accomplishes the goals set out in the GMP to revitalize the park
- Best meets the purpose, need, and objectives for taking action
- Enhances sustainability of park operations and contributes to socioeconomic benefits

Impacts of the preferred alternative

- Construction of the project elements would cause short-term disturbances to resources at the park and along the Central Riverfront, such as to *cultural resources (including unknown archeological resources), natural resources, visitor use and experience, and operations and management.
- The new West Entrance to the park would improve the visitor experience with a more direct connection to downtown, a more welcoming experience, and more efficient entry to the Visitor Center/Museum.
- New and expanded exhibits, orientation, and educational spaces would provide increased opportunities for visitors to experience the park's stories and interpretive themes.
- Access for persons with physical impairments would be improved around the park, including into the Old Courthouse, the Visitor Center/Museum, the North Gateway, and to the Central Riverfront.



- Increased and improved visitor facilities and infrastructure, expanded opportunities for visitor access and programming, and pedestrian improvements would contribute overall socioeconomic benefits.
- The changes to the Central Riverfront would minimize the impacts of flooding and would not alter the nature of the development in the floodplain or its functions and values.
- More sustainable landscape and facility management practices would improve the health of vegetation and stormwater management at the park, and reduce the impact of the proposed projects on water/energy consumption and long-term operation/maintenance needs.
- Although mitigated by the Section 106 process, alternative 3 would cause some impacts to cultural resources, including to the integrity of the designed landscape and some historic structures due to changes in vegetation, topography, and structures.



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Section 106

- Agencies that have direct or indirect jurisdiction over historic properties are required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, (Section 106) to take into account the effect of any undertaking on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Over the last two years, the NPS has consulted with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Tribal Governments, and other consulting parties.
- Consultation under Section 106 has been a separate, but concurrent, process with this EA.
- The NPS and its consulting parties entered into a programmatic agreement (PA) which establishes a process to review site specific design as it becomes available and to assess and resolve adverse effects on historic properties.
- GRG has pursued Section 106 compliance for the Central Riverfront improvements separately from the process for projects covered by the PA. Consultation and coordination between GRG and NPS are ongoing for this process, and documentation of the results will be included in the NEPA decision document.



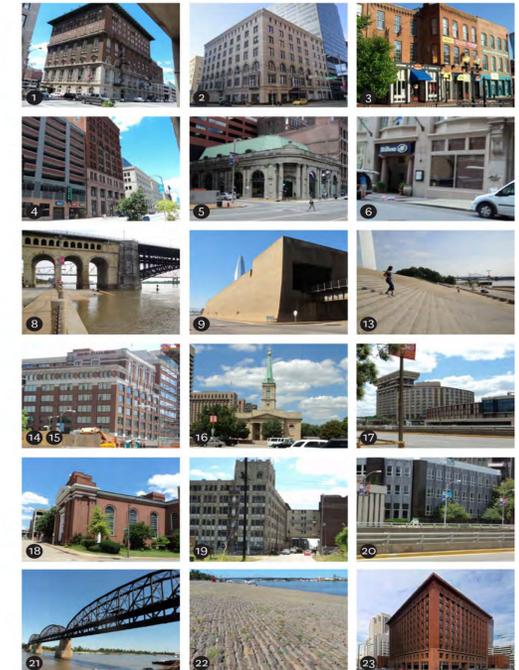
Area of Potential Effects (APE)



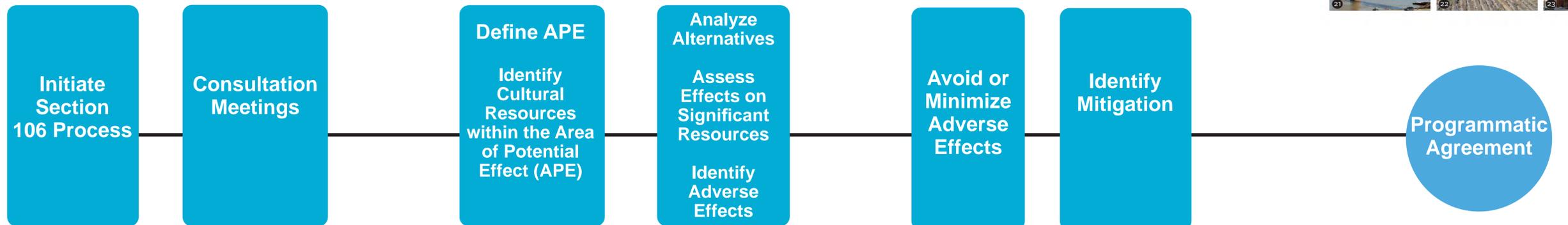
0 1/4 mile

LEGEND

- Area of Potential Effect
- Park Boundary
- JNEM NHL Boundary
- Project Areas
- 1 Missouri Athletic Club Building
- 2 J. Kennard and Sons Carpet Company Building
- 3 Laclede's Landing Historic District
- 4 Security Building
- 5 Mississippi Valley Trust Company Building
- 6 Laclede Building
- 7 Old Courthouse, fountain and sundial
- 8 Eads Bridge
- 9 North and South Overlooks
- 10 Railroad tunnel cuts
- 11 Gateway Arch
- 12 Museum of Westward Expansion
- 13 Grand Staircase
- 14 International Fur Exchange
- 15 American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company Building
- 16 Old Cathedral
- 17 Pet Plaza
- 18 St. Mary of Victories Church
- 19 Crunden-Martin Manufacturing Company Historic District
- 20 Peabody Coal Company National Headquarters
- 21 MacArthur Bridge
- 22 Cobble Levee
- 23 Wainwright Building
- St Louis Mound Group (not shown)



Section 106 Process Timeline



Winter 2011

Summer 2011

Summer 2012



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How to Comment + How to Get a Copy of the EA

Share Your Ideas Today

Fill out a comment form or record your comments on a flip chart at tonight's meeting.

Fill out a Comment Form Online (preferred method)

Please visit: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/jeff_ea_public_review

Hand-Deliver or Submit a Comment Via Mail

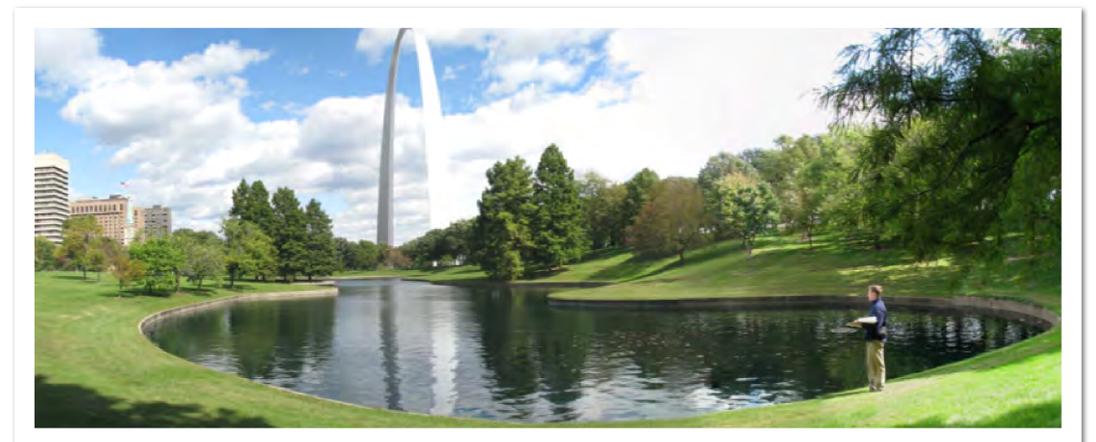
Use the following address to submit comments via mail; you can also take a comment form with you tonight and mail it in from home.

Superintendent
Re: EA for Implementing CityArchRiver Initiative Elements
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
11 North 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102

Get a Copy of the EA

- Download a copy from:
http://parkplanning.nps.gov/jeff_ea_public_review
- Review a hardcopy at the park's library, located in the Old Courthouse at 11 North 4th Street, St. Louis, MO 63102
- Request a copy in writing at the following address or by calling (314) 655-1611

Superintendent
Re: EA for Implementing CityArchRiver Initiative Elements
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
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St. Louis, MO 63102



The comment period will be open through March 1, 2013