



NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION PRESENTATION

**AECOM**

# Agenda

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National Desert Storm Veterans War Memorial Authorization

113TH CONGRESS  
2d Session


COMMITTEE PRINT

No. 4

CARL LEVIN AND HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

LEGISLATIVE TEXT  
AND  
JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

TO ACCOMPANY  
  
H.R. 3979  
  
PUBLIC LAW 113–291



DECEMBER 2014

Printed for the use of the Committee on  
Armed Services of the House of Representatives

SEC. 3093. NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association” means the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas and described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) MEMORIAL.—The term “memorial” means the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under subsection (b).

(b) MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Association may establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work, on Federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor those who, as a member of the Armed Forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

(2) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The establishment of the commemorative work shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

(3) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial. The Association shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial.

(4) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Association shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

(B) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Association shall transmit the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator (as appropriate) following the

process provided in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under section 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.

National Desert Storm Veterans War Memorial Site Selection Criteria

Criteria	Details
District of Columbia	Per the enabling legislation, the memorial must be established within the District of Columbia
Program Suitability	The site should be at least 1.5 acres in size, although sites of at least 2 acres are preferred. These sites would enable a memorial with a commemorative feature and educational element, and would accommodate a standing group of approximately 80-100 people for special events.*
Accessibility	The site should be accessible to pedestrians, transit (tour buses), and visitors to the nation’s capital. The site should meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS).
Site Prominence and Visibility	The site should be near other tourist destinations such as other memorials or visitor attractions. Similarly, the site should be easily seen by passersby.
Site Context	The site should be thematically connected to the memorial. Potential connections include proximity to other memorials or commemorative works and connections to the L’Enfant Plan.
Infrastructure Requirements	The site should require minimal infrastructure improvements. Changes, such as roadway improvements or relocated utility lines, would make potential sites more challenging.
Tranquility	The site should be a place that offers a tranquil environment for reflection. Conflicts with noise, traffic, and other potential distractions are not desirable.
Security & Maintenance	The site should provide a safe environment for both visitors and memorial features. The site should allow security elements, such as lighting and prominence. Additionally, the site should minimize potential maintenance issues of memorial features.
Resiliency & Sustainability	The site should be resilient to the environment. Additionally, the site should enable sustainable design practices.

\*Acreage includes buffer area around the memorial.

# First Round Site Selection

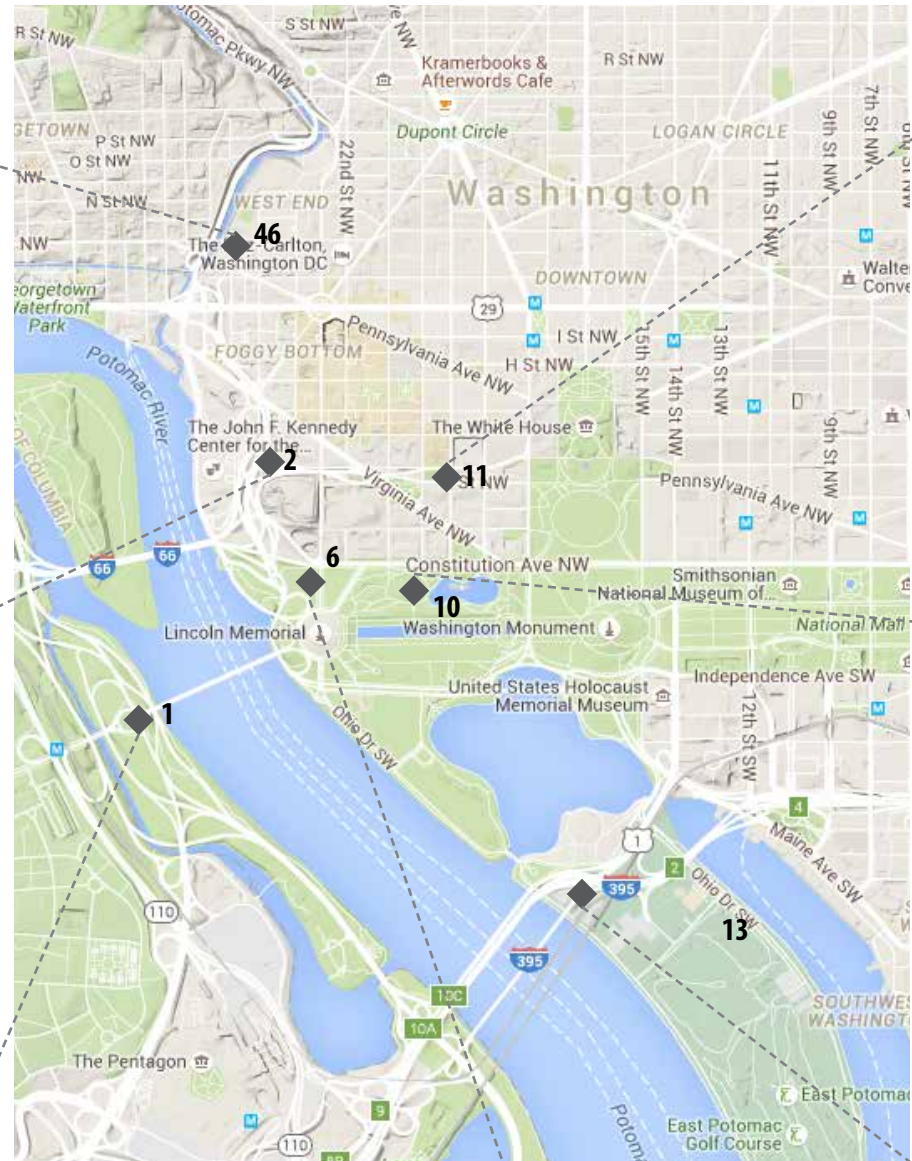
SITE 46: ROCK CREEK & POTOMAC PARKWAY AT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE



SITE 2: E STREET EXPRESSWAY



SITE 1: MEMORIAL CIRCLE AREA



SITE 6: CONSTITUTION AVENUE TERMINUS AREA



SITE 11: WALT WHITMAN PARK (E STREET CORRIDOR)



SITE 10: NATIONAL MALL



SITE 13: EAST POTOMAC PARK



First Round Site Selection

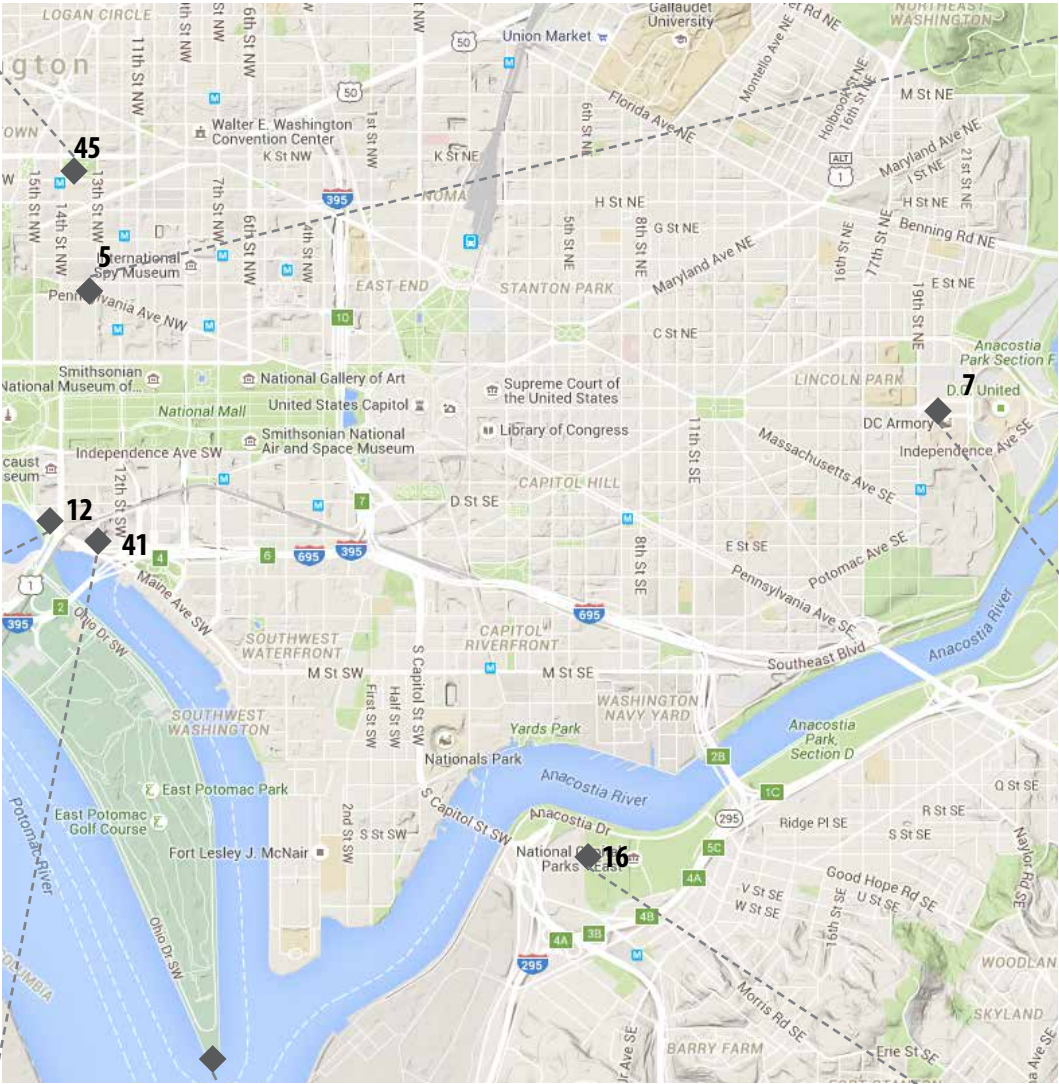
SITE 45: FRANKLIN SQUARE



SITE 12: FORMER LIBERTY LOAN



SITE 41: MARYLAND AVENUE



SITE 39/40: HAINS POINT AREA



SITE 5: FREEDOM PLAZA



SITE 7: RFK STADIUM VICINITY



SITE 16: ANACOSTIA PARK



First Round Site Selection: Consideration of Criteria

Site	Location	Program Suitability	Accessibility	Site Prominence & Visibility	Site Context	Infrastructure Requirements	Tranquility	Security & Maintenance	Resiliency & Sustainability	Location
1	Memorial Avenue at George Washington Memorial Parkway									Area I
2	E Street Expressway Interchange that is south-east of the Kennedy Center									Area I
5	Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 13th and 14th Streets									Area I
6	Western terminus area of Constitution Avenue									Area I
7	East Capitol Street east of 19th Street									Area II
10	Situated within the Reserve on the Mall between the Vietnam Memorial and Constitution Gardens									Reserve
11	Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor) E Street between 19th and 20th Streets NW									Area II
12	Former Liberty Loan building between Maine Avenue west of 14th Street, SW									Area I
13	In East Potomac Park on the Potomac River at the rail bridges and Ohio Dr.									Area I
16	Anacostia River waterfront south shore in Anacostia Park SE									Area II
39/40	Hains Point									Area II
41	On Maryland Avenue SW between 12th and 14th Streets SW									Area I/Area II
45	Franklin Square, between I, K, 13th and 14th Streets NW									Area II
46	Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway at Pennsylvania Avenue									Area II



Meets Criteria



Partially Meets Criteria



Does Not Meet Criteria

# Second Round Site Selection

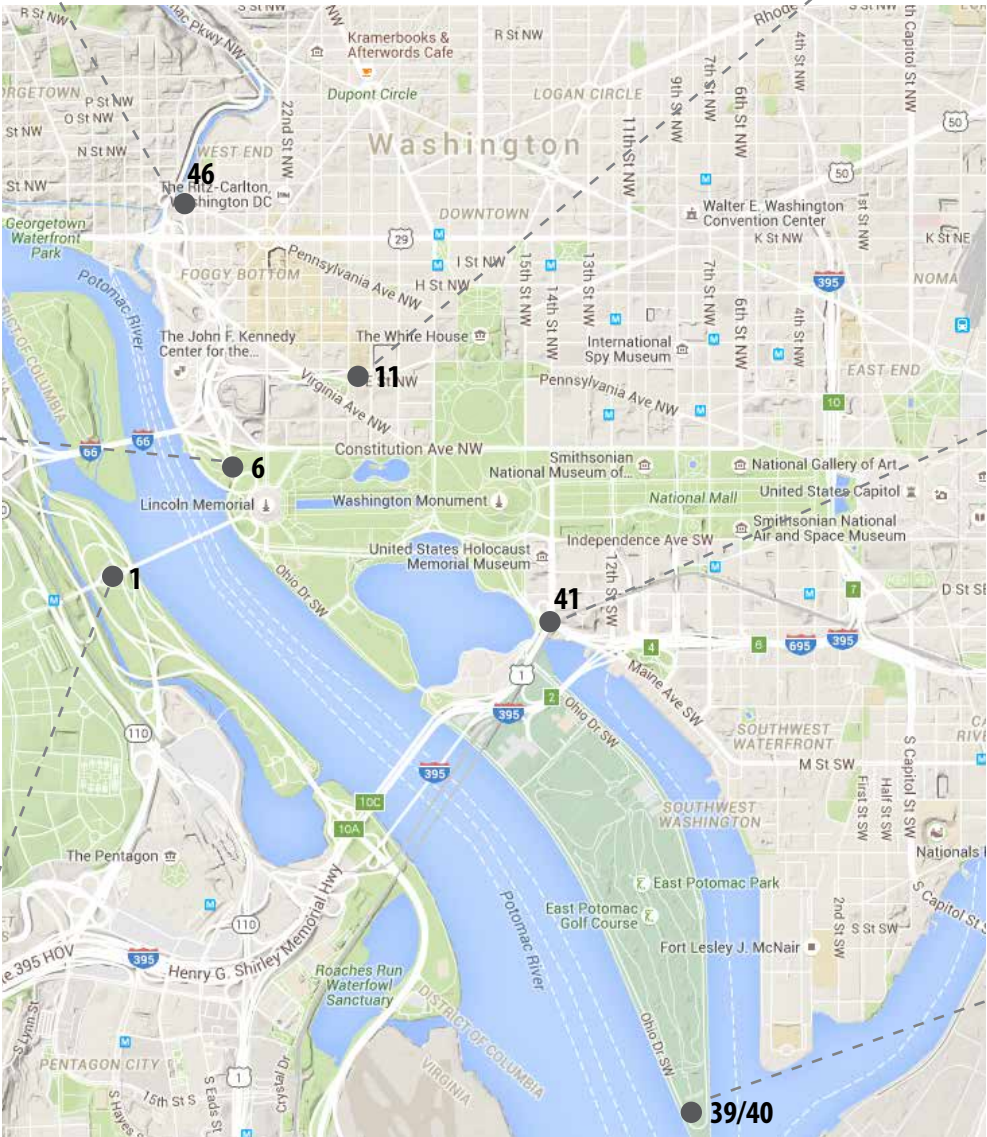
SITE 46: ROCK CREEK & POTOMAC PARKWAY AT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE



SITE 6: CONSTITUTION AVENUE TERMINUS AREA



SITE 1: MEMORIAL CIRCLE AREA



SITE 11: WALT WHITMAN PARK (E STREET CORRIDOR)



SITE 41: MARYLAND AVENUE



SITE 39/40: HAINS POINT AREA



Site 6: Constitution Avenue Terminus Area



Site 6: Constitution Avenue Terminus Area



Looking southeast from US-50

SITE 6 CRITERIA	NOTES
Program Suitability	Site may be reconfigured.
Accessibility	Site is located very near the National Mall and the Lincoln Memorial.
Site Prominence & Visibility	Area offers opportunity to be near prominent sites, including the Lincoln Memorial and Constitution Ave. Further west and south, the area contains more highway infrastructure.
Site Context	Portions of area are adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial and in close proximity to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; also consistent with parade route for Desert Storm parade.
Infrastructure Requirements	Minimal changes would be needed for the area closest to the Lincoln Memorial. Roadway reconfiguration may be desirable at areas closer to Ohio Drive and I-66 ramp.
Tranquility	Area closest to the Lincoln Memorial is relatively quiet, but other areas closer to Ohio Drive and the I-66 on-ramp are more highly trafficked.
Security & Maintenance	Site is in a high-visibility area currently maintained by NPS.
Resiliency & Sustainability	Portions of the site are within the 100-year floodplain.
Other Considerations	Site is near the National Mall, outside of the Reserve, but is within Area I. Would require additional Congressional approval.

Site 1: Memorial Circle Area



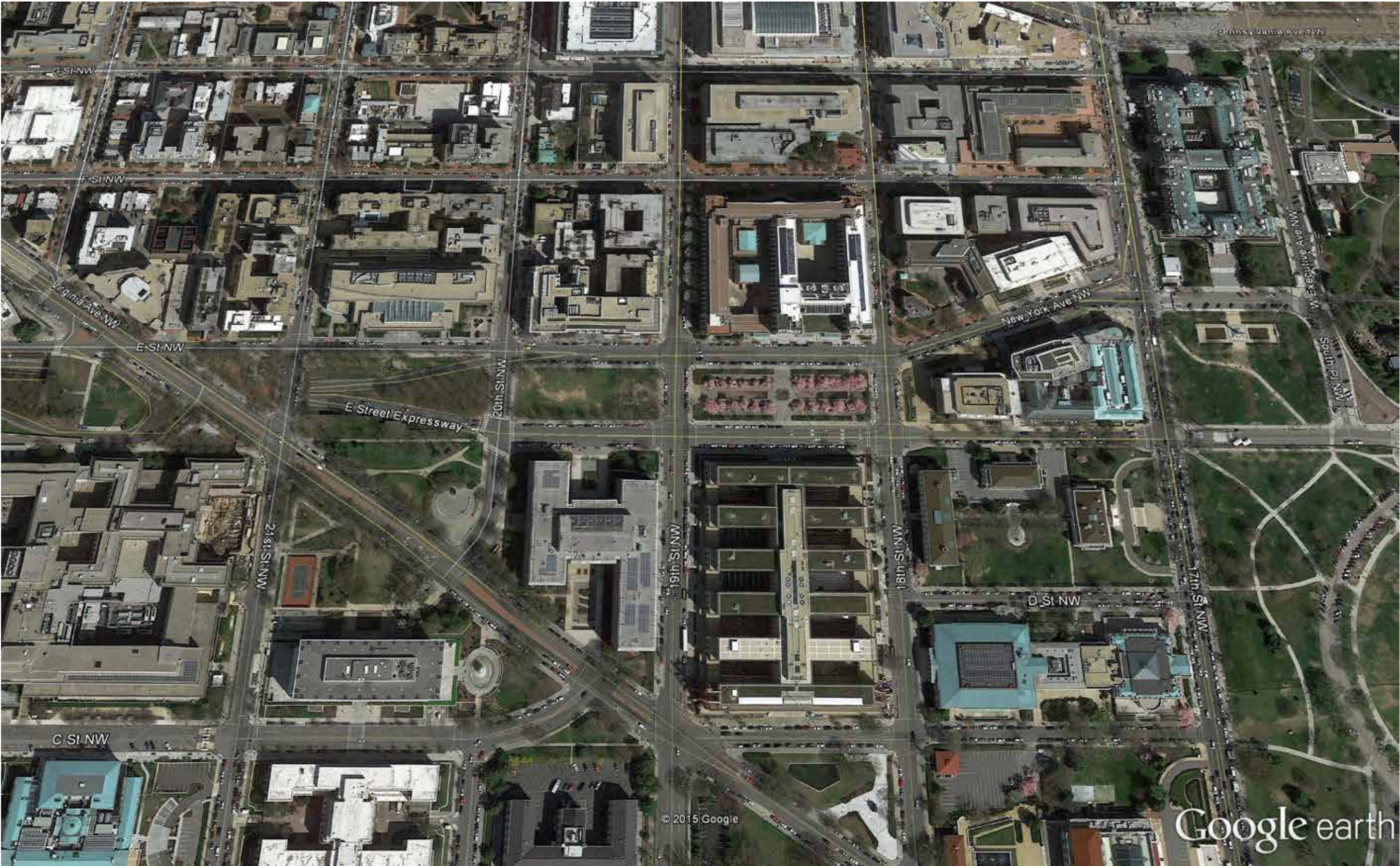
Site 1: Memorial Circle Area



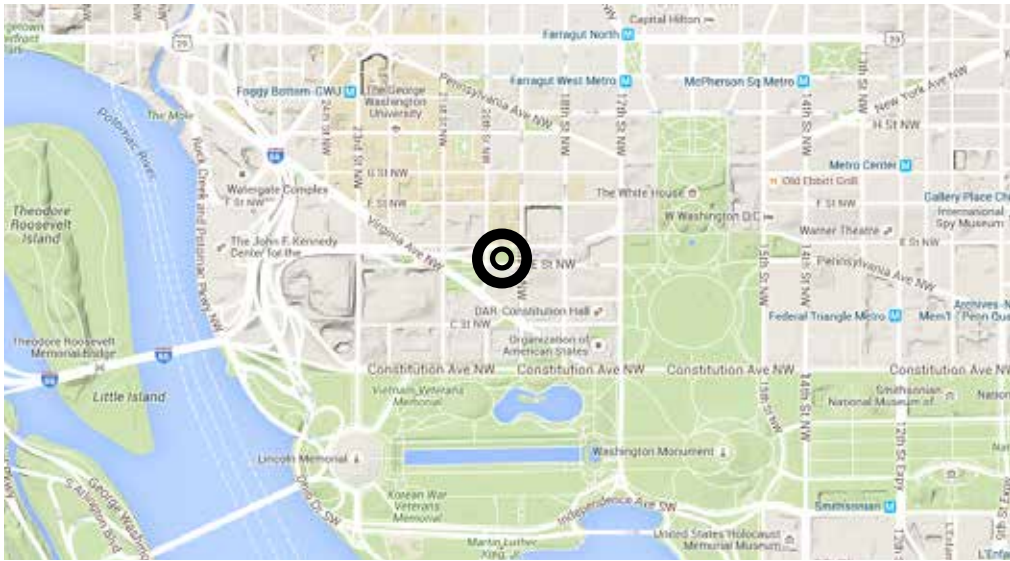
Looking southeast north of the traffic circle

SITE 1 CRITERIA	NOTES
Program Suitability	Site would meet size needs.
Accessibility	Site is very close to Metrorail station and Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) parking.
Site Prominence & Visibility	Site is a major element along memorial Memorial Boulevard connecting the Lincoln Memorial with ANC. Site is close to both the ANC and the Lincoln Memorial. Memorial Bridge offers strong pedestrian links between the two destinations.
Site Context	Thematic connections to the ANC and other war Memorials at the western end of the National Mall are present.
Infrastructure Requirements	Some traffic/pedestrian connections may need reconfiguration.
Tranquility	Memorial Circle is a busy, high-traffic intersection, but adjacent parkland parcels are quieter.
Security & Maintenance	Site has potential pedestrian/vehicular conflicts, especially in dark conditions. The NPS currently maintains the site.
Resiliency & Sustainability	Site is located outside the 500-year floodplain and offers opportunity for sustainable design features.
Other Considerations	Site is in Area I and would require additional approvals.

Site 11: Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)



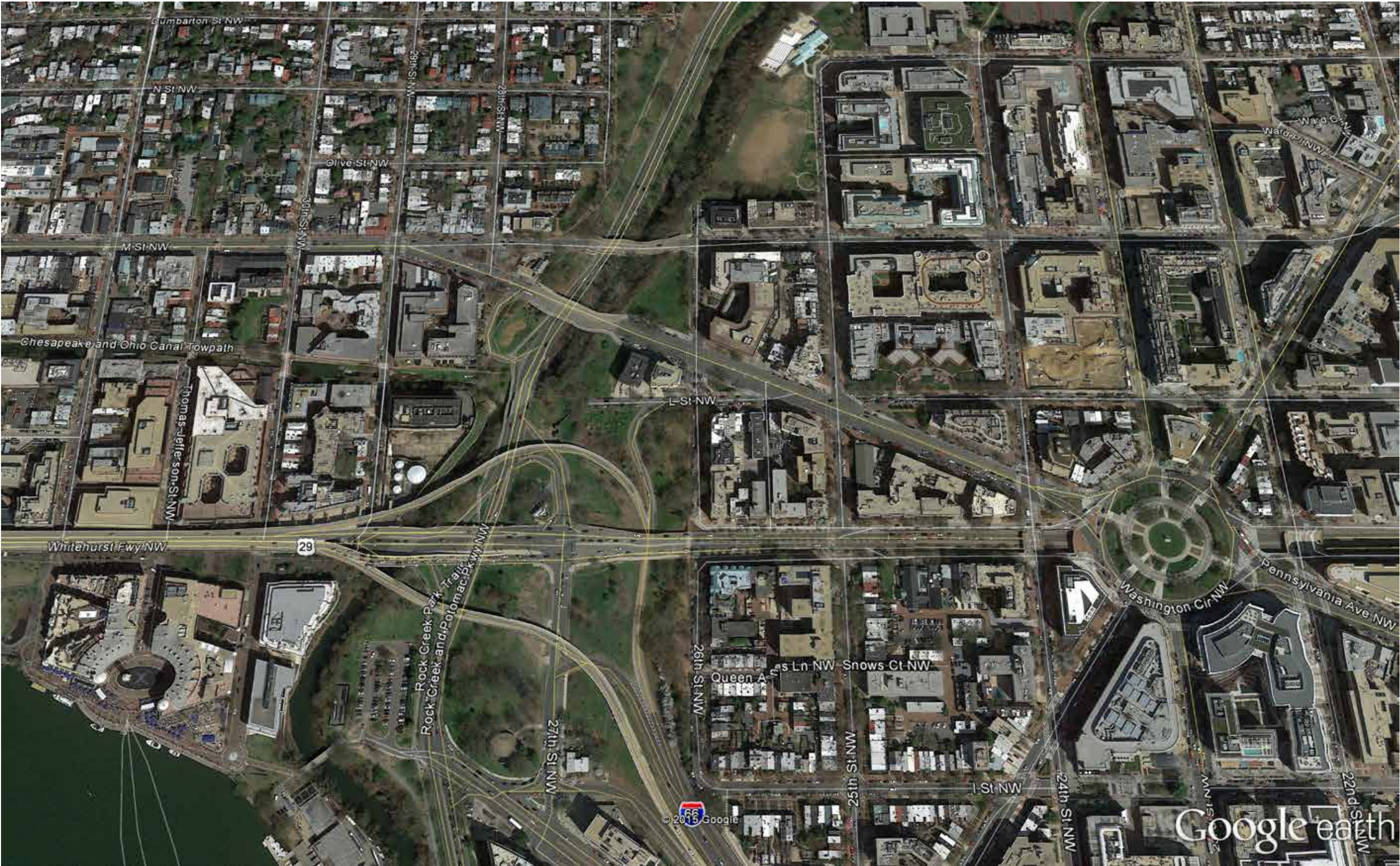
Site 11: Walt Whitman Park (E Street Corridor)



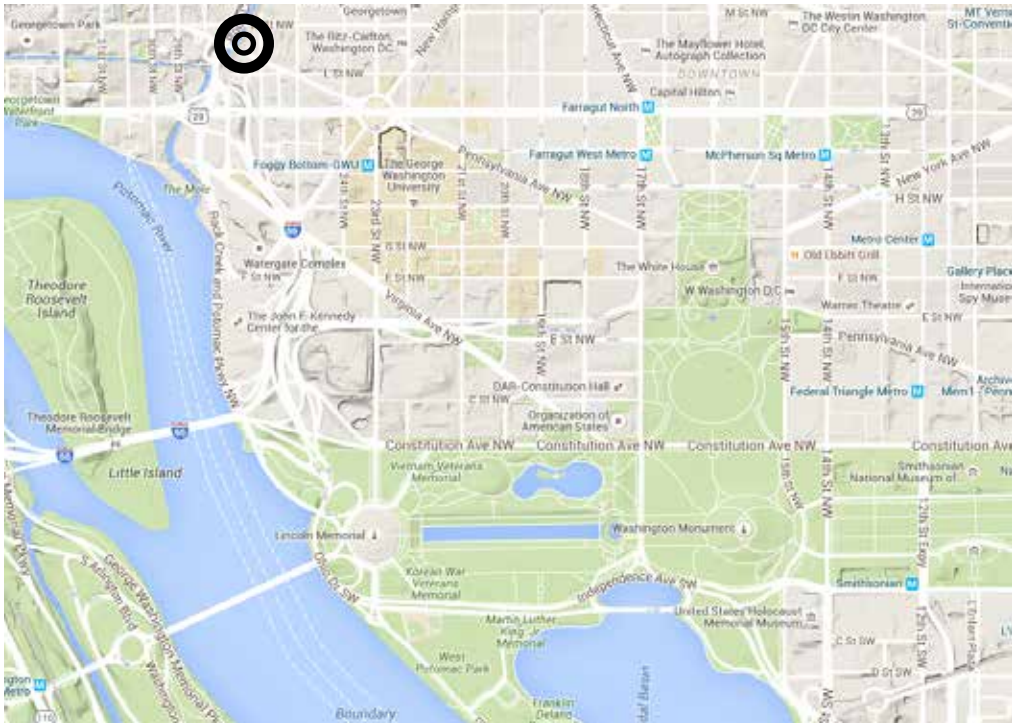
Looking east towards the White House South Lawn from 20th st. NW

SITE 11 CRITERIA	NOTES
Program Suitability	Site is approximately one acre.
Accessibility	Nearest Metro stop is approximately six blocks to the northwest; parking available on-street. No designated tour bus parking.
Site Prominence & Visibility	Easily visible from nearby streets and sidewalks; three blocks from President’s Park and five blocks from the White House.
Site Context	No known thematic nexus; adjacent properties include Dept. of Interior and GSA HQ, and office buildings.
Infrastructure Requirements	No known obstacles.
Tranquility	Park offers relative quiet in an urban environment.
Security & Maintenance	Site is in an area with high daytime, but less nighttime traffic.
Resiliency & Sustainability	Site is located outside the 500-year floodplain and offers opportunity for sustainable design features.
Other Considerations	Area is along a corridor connecting the White House to the Kennedy Center, and is considered a potential presidential memorial corridor.

Site 46: Rock Creek Park at Pennsylvania Avenue



Site 46: Rock Creek & Potomac Parkway at Pennsylvania Avenue



SITE 46 CRITERIA	NOTES
Program Suitability	Approximately .88 acres of usable space.
Accessibility	Approximately 4 blocks from Metrorail station with sidewalks.
Site Prominence & Visibility	Located along prominent avenue.
Site Context	No known context.
Infrastructure Requirements	No known conflicts.
Tranquility	Site currently feels like a neighborhood park along a major avenue.
Security & Maintenance	Site is in a largely mixed-use neighborhood, although the vegetation does limit some views.
Resiliency & Sustainability	Site is located outside the 500-year floodplain and offers opportunity for sustainable design features.
Other Considerations	Site is remote from all other memorials.



Looking northeast from Pennsylvania Avenue

Site 41: Maryland Avenue



Site 41: Maryland Avenue

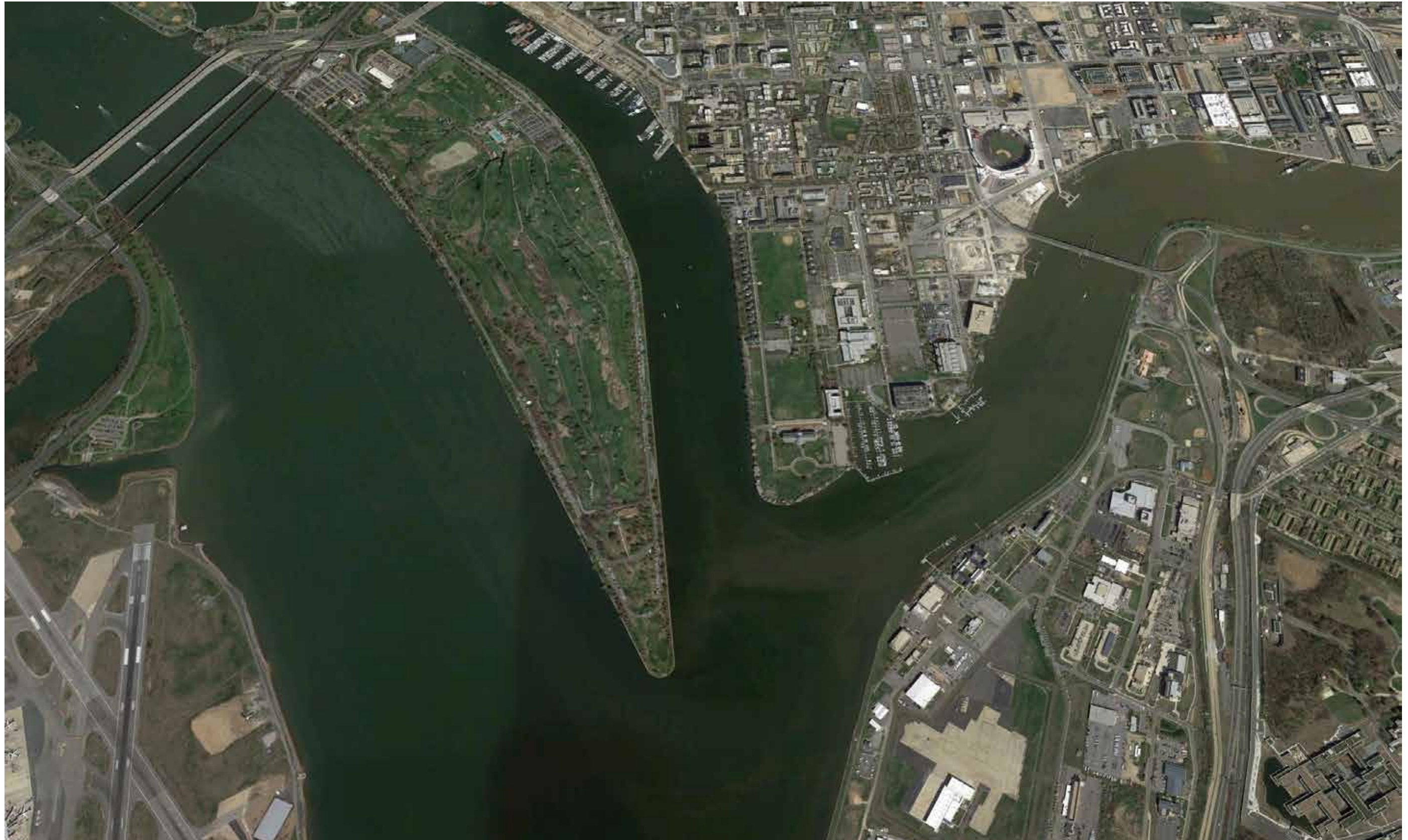


SITE 41 CRITERIA	NOTES
Program Suitability	Site is smaller than desired.
Accessibility	Site is located approximately two blocks from Metrorail and easily accessible by car.
Site Prominence & Visibility	Site is located away from other memorials along a primary avenue.
Site Context	No known context.
Infrastructure Requirements	Site sits above CSX tracks.
Tranquility	Site serves as a terminus, with primary traffic from nearby offices and hotels.
Security & Maintenance	Nearby buildings and their tenants, including hotel, offer high visibility. Currently no under NPS maintenance.
Resiliency & Sustainability	Site is located outside the 500-year floodplain and offers opportunity for sustainable design features.
Other Considerations	Several plans exist and are underway to improve this area and Maryland Avenue in general.

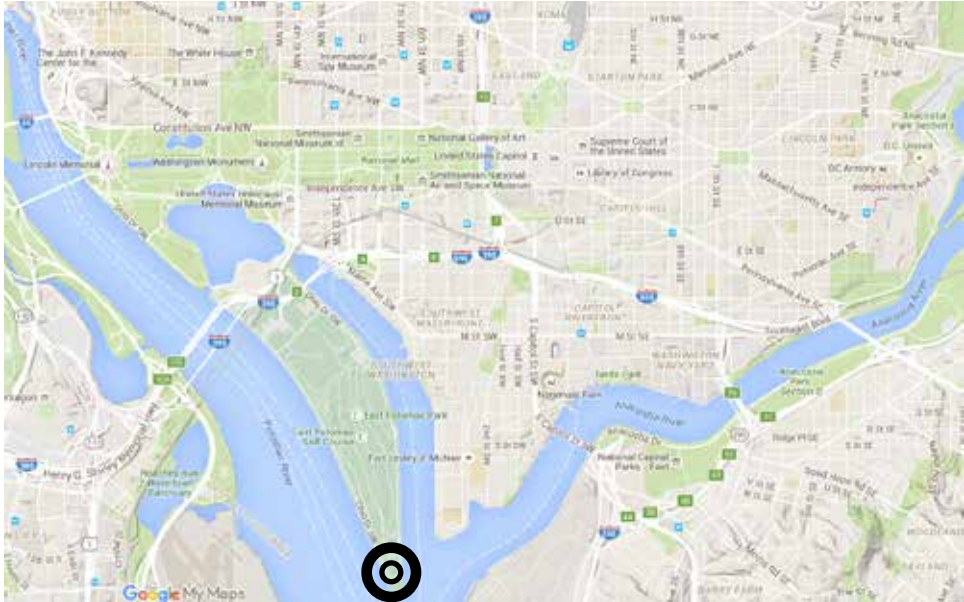


Looking southwest down Maryland Avenue SW

## Site 39/40: Hains Point Area



Site 39/40: Hains Point Area



SITE 39/40 CRITERIA	NOTES
Program Suitability	4.1 acres
Accessibility	The site is near parking and sidewalks, making it easily accessible by pedestrians and tour buses; it is removed from transit.
Site Prominence & Visibility	The site is removed from other memorials. The areas nearby have several recreation amenities for local residents, including picnic areas, golf course, and swimming pool.
Site Context	River focus counters the desired memorial context.
Infrastructure Requirements	No known conflicts.
Tranquility	The area is frequently used for causal active recreation, and is near picnic areas.
Security & Maintenance	The area is largely isolated; the roadway reaching the memorial is closed at times due to flooding.
Resiliency & Sustainability	Hains Point presents concerns regarding the long-term stability of the ground level.
Other Considerations	Site is within East Potomac Park, and would need no additional Congressional approval.



Looking north from Hains Point

## Area 1 Criteria

The Commemorative Works Act requires that “the subject of the commemorative work is of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States.” The National Desert Storm Veterans War Memorial meets these criteria due to the following:

- The Gulf War-Operation Desert Storm represented a coalition of 34 countries, an unparalleled international effort that was led by American Armed Forces to liberate the country of Kuwait
- The buildup of Desert Storm included almost 700,000 American service members
- 293 service members gave their lives in protection of their country
- Desert Storm was an unqualified combat success that restored faith in the prowess of the U.S. military
- Desert Storm holds a unique place in history by helping close the wounds of the Vietnam War, including the treatment of returning service members, and offering the respect given now to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

## Next Steps

- Request and receive approval for authorization of a site within Area I
- Further explore and study suitability of top three sites (Memorial Circle, Constitution Avenue Terminus Area, and Walt Whitman Park), including generalized concept plans as appropriate
- Conduct NEPA and Section 106 processes

Thank you