



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive SW
Washington, DC 20024



March 13, 2018

Dear Interested Party:

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), is seeking public comments on the potential design of the proposed National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial (NDSWM). The purpose of the Memorial is to commemorate and honor members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield. The US Congress authorized establishment of the Memorial on federal land in DC in Public Law 113-291. The NDSWM would carry out Public Law 113-291 and address the current lack of a formal place for commemoration of those who served during Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

This public scoping period focused on the potential memorial design builds on the public scoping that was conducted for site selection in the summer of 2017. The NDSWM Association and NPS received public comments regarding two sites considered during the site selection process: the Memorial Circle Area at George Washington Memorial Parkway on Columbia Island and the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area near 23rd Street NW. Based on comments received, the NDSWM Association and NPS found that the Memorial Circle Area site poses difficult challenges and removed the site from further consideration. After considering the public comments along with a new comprehensive evaluation of five sites, three sites were identified for consideration as a site for the Memorial: the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area near 23rd Street NW, the historic Constitution Avenue Belvedere near Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway NW, and Walt Whitman Park on E Street NW. Memorial design concepts for the three sites have been prepared for public comment.

Following the design scoping period, the NPS will prepare an EA in accordance with NEPA that will evaluate the proposed memorial's site selection and design. The EA will address the project background, the purpose and need for the proposed actions, a determination of environmental issues and potential impacts resulting from the alternatives considered (including the no action alternative), and public involvement and agency coordination. The public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the design of the proposed memorial so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the preparation of the EA. **A public scoping meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on March 27, 2018 at 2020 K Street NW, Washington, DC.** Greeters will meet attendees in the lobby of the building and escort attendees to the meeting room. This public meeting will also serve as a public meeting for the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The public and interested parties are invited to identify ways to avoid and minimize the potential for adverse effects to historic properties in the vicinity of the proposed memorial sites.

The public is encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, providing comments at the public scoping meeting. Comments received during the scoping period will be considered in the analyses to be

conducted for the EA. The comment period will begin March 13, 2018 and close April 13, 2018. The public is encouraged to submit comments online via the project website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ndswm> until April 13, 2018. Mailed comments must be postmarked by April 13, 2018 to receive consideration and sent to the following address:

Karen L. Cucurullo
Acting Superintendent
Attn: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial EA
National Park Service
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Dr. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this process and we appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Cucurullo
Acting Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks