



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service and U.S. Secret Service Invite Public to Open House on the President's Park South Project

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Secret Service (Secret Service) will hold a public open house on the joint-agency President's Park South Project on **Tuesday, July 9, 2013, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. President's Park South is located immediately south of the White House and includes E Street, N.W. between 15th and 17th Streets, Washington, D.C. The meeting will follow an open house format, and will include a presentation to describe the alternative concepts being considered for the project's Environmental Assessment (EA). Following the presentation there will be additional informal open house opportunities for comment and discussion. If you require additional information or special assistance to attend and participate in the open house, please contact the Office of the National Park Service Liaison to the White House at (202) 619-6344.

The NPS and Secret Service underscore that the alternative concepts being developed for the EA are conceptual in nature and address how and where visitors would access the area and view the site's historic resources. The alternatives also include a range of concepts on where barriers would be located; how and where authorized vehicles would access and circulate through the area; how bicyclists would access the site; and how the historic cultural landscape of President's Park South would be protected and preserved.

The comments received on these alternative concepts will be used to finalize the alternatives that will be described and analyzed in the EA. These comments will also help facilitate the NPS and Secret Service selection of their preferred alternative.

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The public open house will be informal in structure and will give interested persons the opportunity to ask questions and share their views on the project and the area it will cover. The open house is both a public scoping session under the National Environmental Policy Act and a Section 106 consulting parties' session under the National Historic Preservation Act. "Scoping" is used to gain insight into the issues to be addressed in a project and to identify other significant issues related to proposed actions.

The proposed actions for the President's Park project are as follows: the Secret Service will be deciding whether to permanently close (1) the section of E Street, N.W. between 15th and 17th Streets, N.W., South Executive Avenue, and the Ellipse roadways to unauthorized vehicular traffic, and (2) State Place and West South Executive Avenue and adjacent sidewalks (contiguous to First Division Monument) and Hamilton Place and East South Executive Avenue and adjacent sidewalks (contiguous to Sherman Park) to unauthorized vehicular and unauthorized pedestrian traffic. The Secret Service also seeks to install durable, more aesthetic security elements in the area to replace the temporary, unsightly security elements currently in place, such as jersey barriers, temporary officer booths, canopy tents, bike rack, concrete planters and standing canine vehicles.

The NPS will be deciding on landscape and infrastructure changes to the area that respond to the street closures and re-design of security elements to ensure the iconic historic nature of the landscape that is the White House and its environs, which are also important destinations for visitors.

Comments, concerns, and/or questions regarding the President's Park South Project can either be submitted at the open house, or submitted electronically at the following web address <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/PRPA>. Written comments may also be mailed to: President's Park South Project, Office of the National Park Service Liaison to the White House, 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W., Room 344, Washington, D.C., 20242. All comments must be received prior to August 17, 2013, in order to be considered in the analysis phase of the EA being prepared for the project.

All comments submitted during scoping, including at the open house, will be considered by both the NPS and Secret Service. When submitting your comments, please note that your entire comment, including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information, may be made publicly available. While you can ask in your comment that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the agencies cannot guarantee that they will be able to do so.

To be added to a mailing list about the proposed actions, contact the NPS at (202) 619-6344.

The NPS manages President's Park South pursuant to its statutory authorities, regulations and policies, the *Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park* (2000) (*Plan*),

the *Design Guidelines for the White House and President's Park* (1997), and in light of the area's National Register of Historic Places status.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.