



WELCOME

TO THE OPEN HOUSE FOR THE

CONSTITUTION GARDENS REHABILITATION

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS:

1 Complete the comment form and leave it with us before you go or return it to us by mail. (Comment form is pre-addressed.)

2 Provide your comments at the project website, at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/coga>

3 Mail or hand-deliver comments to:

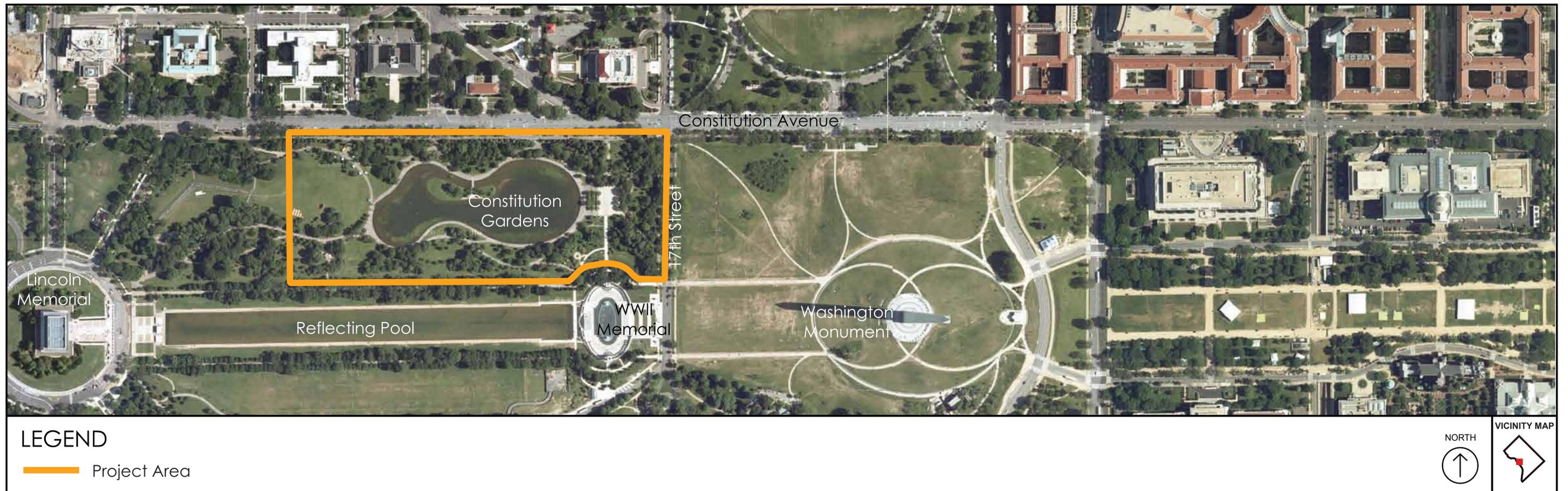
ATTN: Constitution Gardens Rehabilitation Project
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, D.C., 20024-2000

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL COMMENTS PRIOR TO JUNE 5, 2014

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Situated between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, Constitution Gardens was designed as a pastoral landscape oasis. Completed in 1976, with the memorial to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence dedicated in 1982. Within just a few years of its opening, the conditions of the lake and the trees began to be of concern.

Poor soil conditions have stunted tree growth. A concrete lake does not function ecologically and requires an unsustainable maintenance regime. Although topography could promote surface water run-off into the lake, the lake is filled from public water supply. Walkways have deteriorated and the visitor services facility once imagined at the eastern end of the lake was never realized.



PURPOSE & NEED

PURPOSE

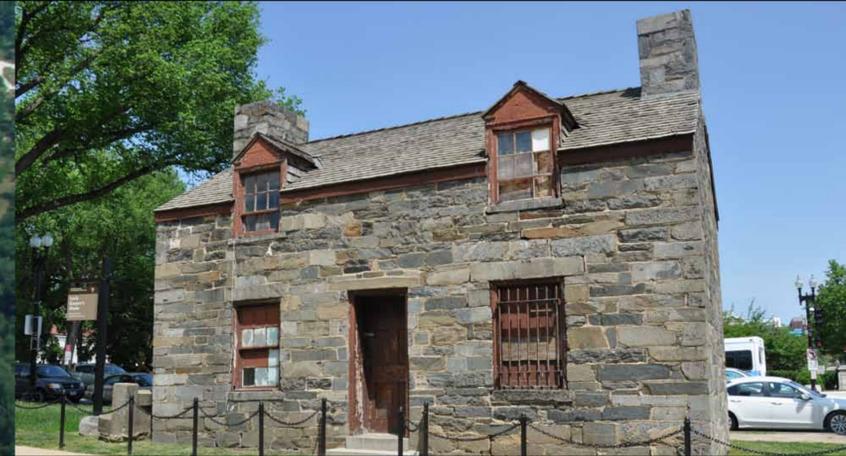
Rehabilitate Constitution Gardens to improve the ecology, visitor services, and accessibility. The project implements the National Mall Plan, which calls for the rehabilitation of Constitution Gardens to improve resource conditions and circulation, relocate the canal lockkeeper's house, provide flexible opportunities for relaxation, entertainment, and recreation, as well as improved visitor service facilities.

NEED

Action is needed because Constitution Gardens was never completed as a visitor services destination, the lake water quality is poor, the landscape suffers from poor soil conditions, there are pedestrian and vehicular circulation challenges, and it remains an underused opportunity. Constitution Gardens today does not achieve its original design intent, the vision of the National Mall Plan, or what the public expects in this key location on the National Mall.



Algae growth on Constiution Gardens lake



Lockkeeper's House



Poor condition of pavement and lack of accessible pathways



Flooded pedestrian pathways

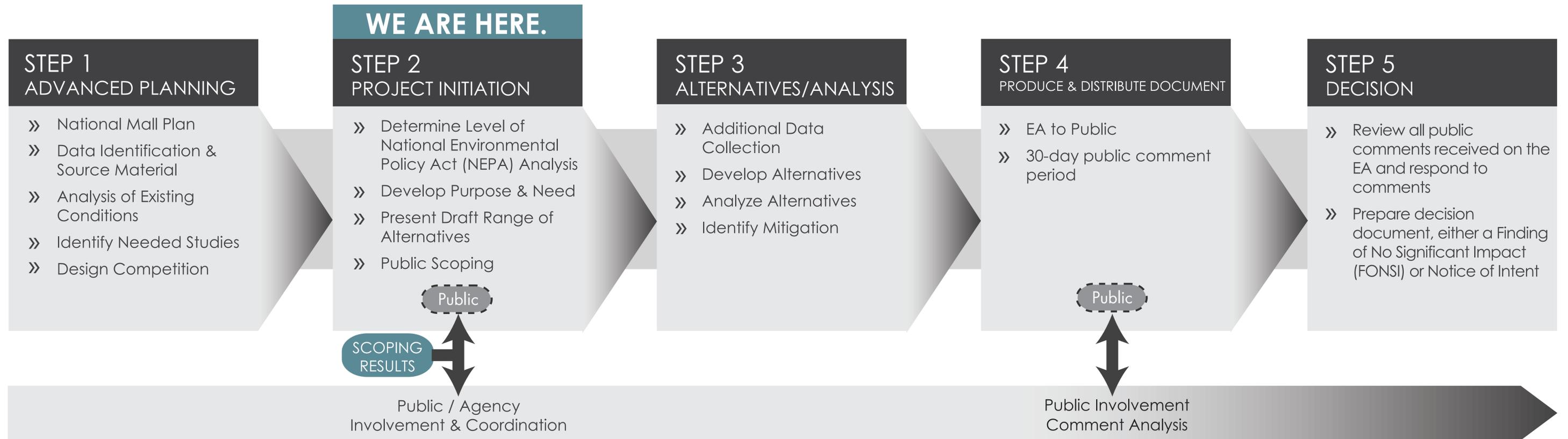


Minimal visitor amenities



Terraced area with non-accessible pathways

NEPA PROCESS



Data Collection - data identification and source material from advanced planning

Define Purpose & Need – for the proposed action, define the project area and alternatives framework

Internal and External Scoping - hold public scoping meetings to introduce project, draft range of alternatives, and identify issues

Additional Data Collection - perform resource inventory and analysis, determine resource topics affected by the proposed action, and continue data collection/research needed to carry impact analysis forward

Prepare Environmental Assessment (EA) – describe affected environment, refine alternatives, and prepare impact analysis of alternatives

Release Environmental Assessment (EA) for 30-day public review and comment

National Park Service to review and address public comments received on the environmental assessment and respond to comments

Prepare and Finalize Decision Document - if appropriate

SECTION 106 PROCESS

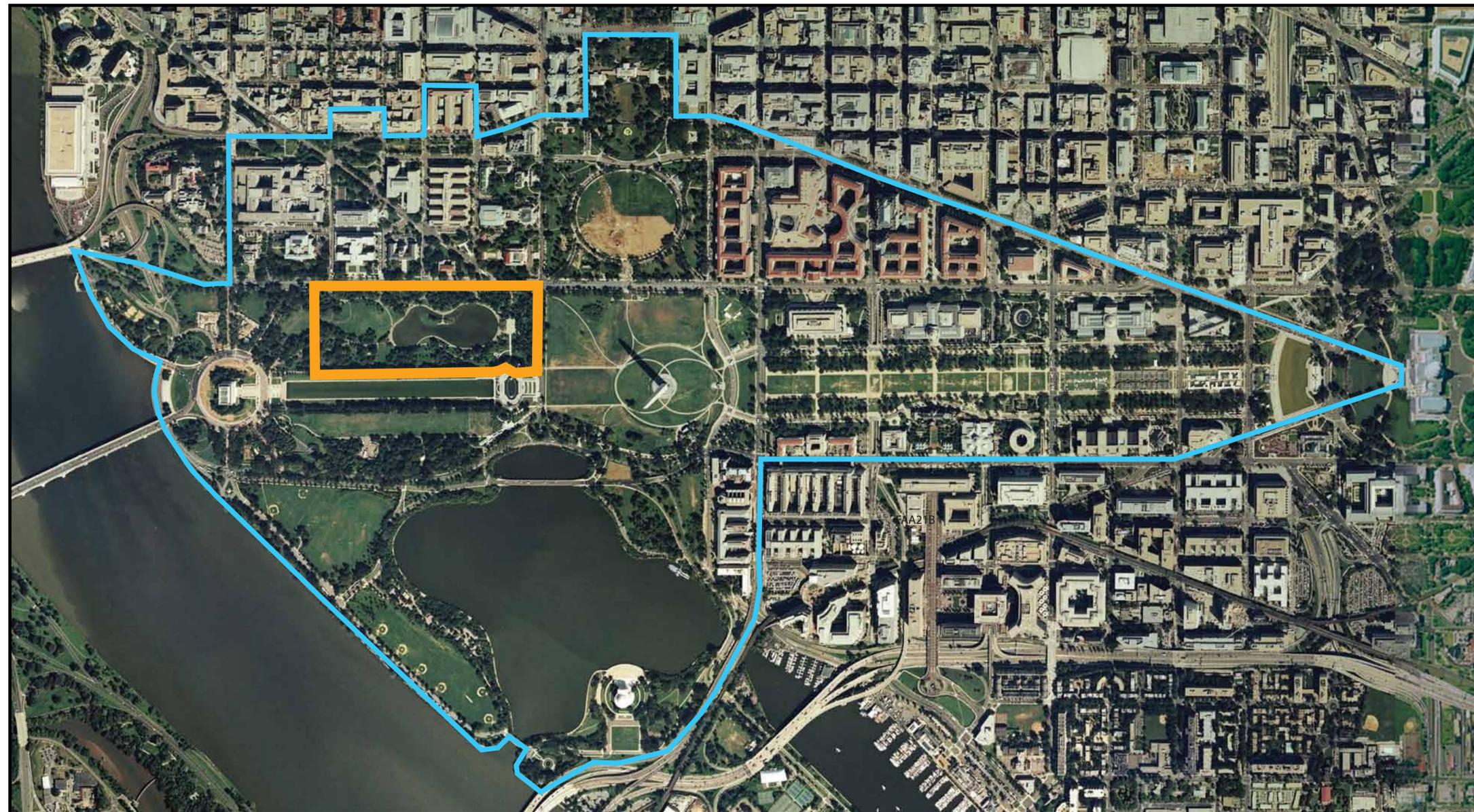
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. If it is determined the proposed action could affect historic properties, Section 106 is triggered. The Section 106 task and the NEPA assessment need to be closely coordinated.

SECTION 106 PROCESS

- Define undertaking / initiate Section 106
- Identify consulting parties
- Involve the public
- Define Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Identify significant cultural resources in APE
- Assess effects on significant resources
- Apply criteria of adverse effect
- Continue consultation
- Draft agreement document, if needed

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The APE is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.



LEGEND

- Draft Area of Potential Effect
- Project Area

NORTH



NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Current conditions persist, which includes a 1970s landscape with limited visitor services.

- Poor condition of Lockkeeper's House
- Poor water quality in lake
- Poor soils resulting in unhealthy trees and landscape
- Poor pedestrian and vehicular access and circulation
- Minimal visitor amenities, education and services



LEGEND

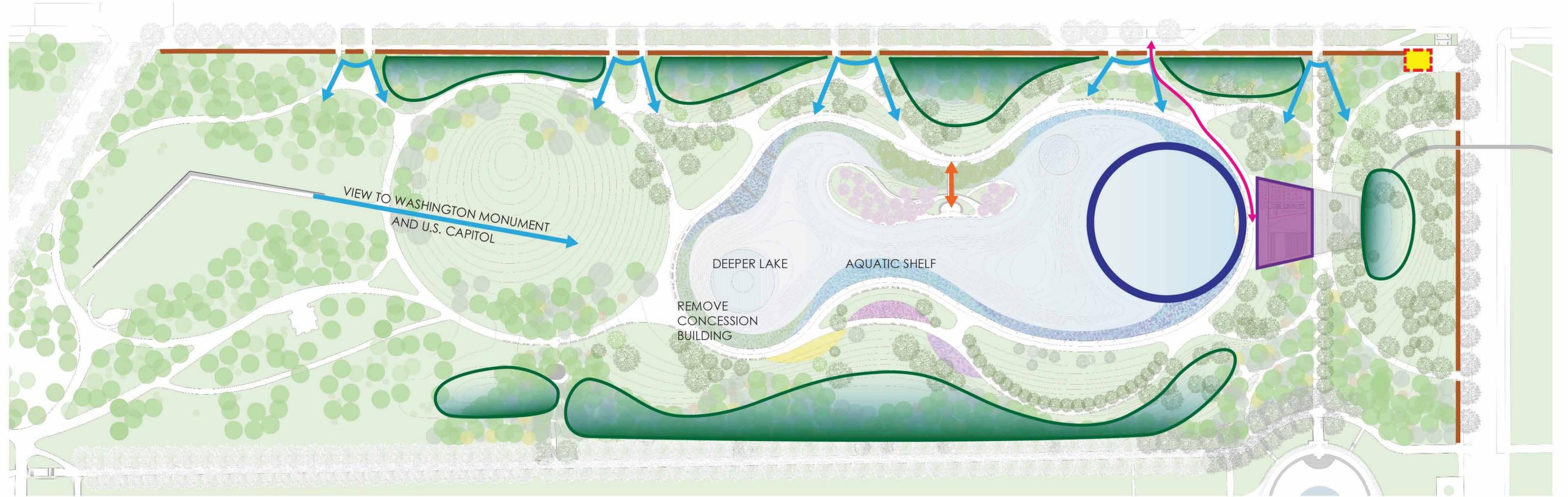
-  West End Concession
-  Unhealthy Trees and Landscape
-  Lockkeeper's House

ALTERNATIVE 1

THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

Rehabilitate the landscape to improve ecological health, diversity and function and interpret ecological systems.

- Lockkeeper's House relocated
- Seat wall & taller berm
- Surface service access to pavilion from Constitution Avenue
- Remove west end concessions building
- New visitor Pavilion (restrooms, food, recreation rentals and retail)
- Access to 56 Signer's Island improved



LEGEND

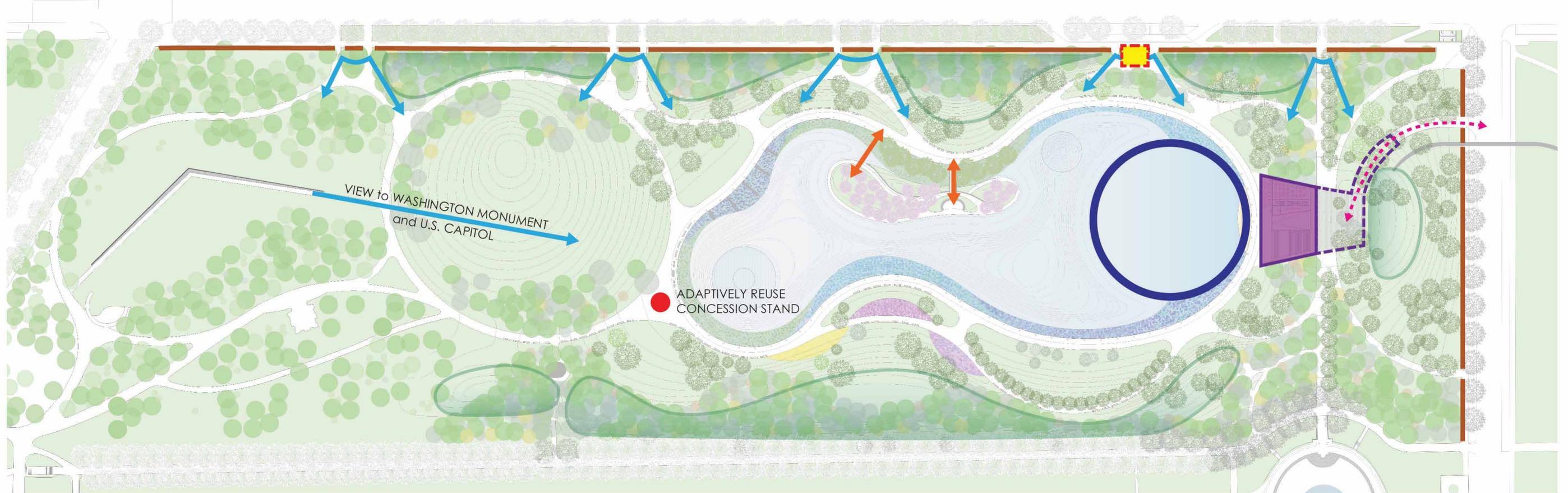
 Pavilion	 Lockkeeper's House East End Relocation	 Water Ring (seasonal ice skating, model boats)	 Taller Berm	 Seat Wall	 Improved access to Signer's Island	 Views In	 Surface Service Access
--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--

ALTERNATIVE 2

THE SOCIAL PARK

Rehabilitate the landscape to maximize visitor experiences, enjoyment, recreation and focus on interpretation of history.

- Lockkeeper's House moved to west site
- Seat wall & shorter berm
- Underground service access to pavilion from 17th Street, NW
- New visitor Pavilion (restrooms, food, recreation rentals and retail)
- Adaptively reuse west end concessions
- Additional access to 56 Signer's Island



LEGEND

- Pavilion
- Pavilion Lower Level Service Area
- Lockkeeper's House West Relocation
- Water Ring (seasonal ice skating, model boats)
- Shorter Berm
- Seat Wall
- Additional access to Signer's Island
- Views In
- Underground Service Access