



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000

December 1, 2014

Subject: Franklin Park Vision and Transformation Plan

Reference: Environmental Assessment Available for Comment

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and in collaboration with the District of Columbia (the District) and the Downtown DC Business Improvement District (DowntownDC BID), is making available for public review and comment an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Franklin Park Vision and Transformation plan. This EA evaluated feasible alternatives to revitalize Franklin Park in a manner that respects and enhances the historic and urban qualities of the park while transforming it into an active, flexible, and sustainable park that is connected to its community.

Franklin Park occupies an entire city block of about 5 acres in downtown Washington, D.C. It is bordered by K Street NW on the north, 13th Street NW on the east, I Street NW on the south, and 14th Street NW to the west. The project area is situated in a residential and business district three blocks northeast of the White House. The park features a central fountain plaza and a historically significant statue commemorating Commodore John Barry. Rows of trees surround the park on all sides and are spaced throughout the park. Elliptical pathways define the park's circulation system and pattern of open areas that are symmetrical on an east-west axis.

Currently, the park features are deteriorated, and essential services, such as adequate seating, recreation and programming, are lacking. In addition, opportunities exist for better connection to both the historic and current urban context. The current project is needed to address these deficiencies and revitalize the park so that it attracts and serves all visitors.

The EA analyzed two action alternatives which provide a range of revitalization efforts. The EA also evaluated a no action alternative, which would include no changes to the existing layout, function, or use of Franklin Park.

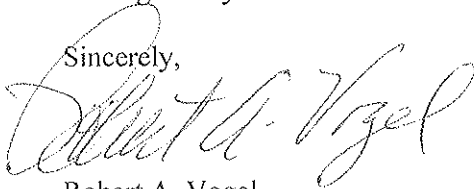
Because public participation is very important to the success of the project, the NPS encourages your review and comment on the EA. The EA will be on public review with comments accepted through January 9, 2015. The document is available electronically for review and comment online by visiting <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FranklinPark>. Comments also may be sent to the address below:

Robert A. Vogel, Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks
Attn: Franklin Park EA
900 Ohio Drive SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Commenters should be aware that their entire comment — including personal identifying information — may be made publicly available at any time. While commenters can ask that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

We appreciate your input on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Eliza Voigt, Planner, National Mall and Memorial Parks, at Eliza_voigt@nps.gov or 202-245-4694. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Vogel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Robert A. Vogel,
Superintendent