

National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial
U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SITE SELECTION SUBMITTAL



July 20, 2017

Introduction

Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, involving more than half a million American servicemen and women, is the largest major military conflict of the 20th Century without a memorial. Though 383 Americans never returned from Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, not only did the conflict liberate an occupied country with broad international support, but also revived the public's faith in the U.S. military and helped to heal the wounds of the Vietnam War. In 2014, the U.S. Congress authorized a memorial 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 to be placed on federal land within the District of Columbia in Public Law 113-291. In 2017, Congress authorized the potential location of the commemorative work within Area I in Public Law 115-18. This future memorial intends to create a meaningful and deeply moving sequential experience that informs visitors about the historical events of the operation. This commemorative work would memorialize the Americans who sacrificed their lives, reflect the unique environmental and battle conditions experienced by servicemen and women, and leave visitors with an enduring memory of the historical significance and moral accomplishments of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

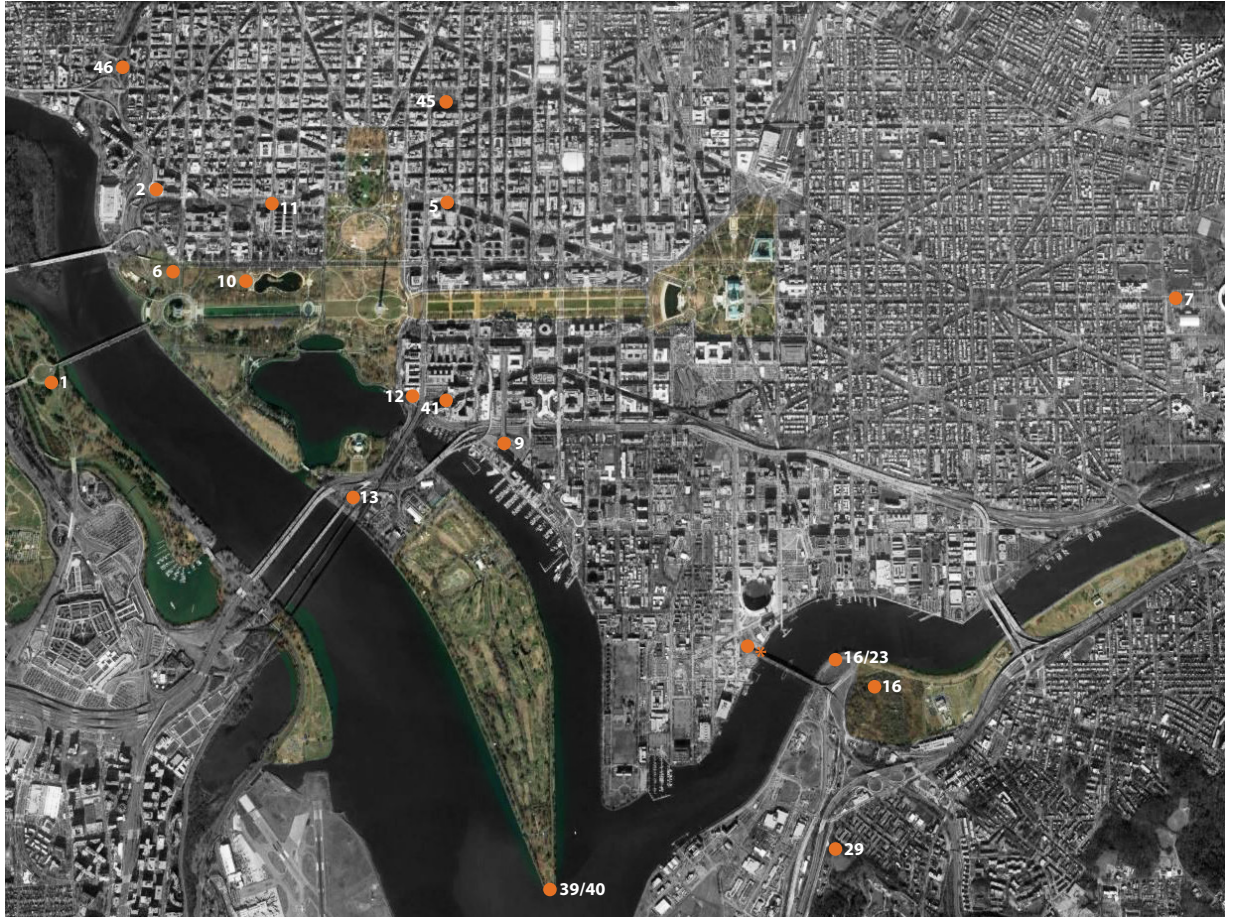
Site Selection and Memorial Background

- ▶ Congress authorized establishment of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Public Law 113-291 on Federal land in the District of Columbia. This memorial is anticipated to be known as the National Desert Storm War Memorial
- ▶ In 2017, Congress authorized the location of the commemorative work in Public Law 115-18 within Area I as defined under the Commemorative Works Act
- ▶ Work must be consistent with the Commemorative Works Act; Construction of the memorial will be sponsored and funded by the NDSWM Association
- ▶ The NDSWM Association conducted a Site Selection study in 2015-2016
- ▶ The memorial will be maintained by the NPS
- ▶ The anticipated construction date for the memorial is 2021, which marks the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm

Site Selection Process

Developed 9 preliminary site selection criteria:

- ▶ Within the District of Columbia
- ▶ At least 1.5 acres in size and able to accommodate a minimum of 80-100 people
- ▶ Accessible to pedestrians, transit, and visitors and meet ABAAS standards
- ▶ Near other visitor destinations
- ▶ Thematically connected to the memorial
- ▶ Minimal infrastructure improvements
- ▶ Appropriate environment for reflection
- ▶ Safe environment for both visitors and memorial features, and minimal potential maintenance issues of memorial features
- ▶ Resilient to the environment and the potential effects of climate change and enable sustainable design practices



Site Location Map



— RESERVE - - - AREA I

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Design Intent

As part of the site selection process, multiple design considerations have been identified that influence the location of the memorial. The following considerations help inform the overall suitability of each potential memorial site and may inform the design once a site has been selected:

- ▶ **Complement the existing attributes and limitations of the site.** These include topography and drainage, floodplains, notable surrounding and nearby buildings and monuments, views into and out of the site, pedestrian and vehicular access routes to/from the site, universal accessibility, solar and wind exposure, and existing vegetation.
- ▶ **Study and analyze how a memorial would fit onto the site.** The scale and design of each alternative will be studied in relation to all of the attributes listed above.
- ▶ **Respect the historic context, preserve existing view sheds, and develop a poignant design;** one that is both meaningful to veterans and their families and harmonious with its setting beyond the boundaries of the site.
- ▶ **Create an intimate, reflective experience within a compact footprint for the memorial.**
- ▶ **Use precedent to inform the scale of the memorial.** Relative to previously built commemorative works, the memorial will have a smaller footprint than the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam memorials.
- ▶ **Connect with existing circulation while providing visual and acoustic buffers.** This should create a central sacred space for reflection.
- ▶ **Evoke the unique spatial qualities of the Kuwaiti desert.** This could be accomplished with low sloping walls and landforms that integrate the memorial into the surrounding landscape, direct circulation, provide dedicated commemorative space, and frame views to surrounding historic properties and the city.

Design Parameters

The following design parameters are intended to ensure the Memorial provides an appropriate commemorative experience as well as fit within the context of the site. The Memorial should:

- ▶ Be compact in size with a footprint of less than 1.0 acre within a site of less than 2.0 acres
- ▶ Serve as more than a stand-alone object, and provide a place of reflection
- ▶ Maintain a generally low horizontal profile
- ▶ Be integrated within, and complementary to, the existing landscape
- ▶ Maintain existing trees, particularly designed rows or allees of trees, to the extent practicable
- ▶ Utilize existing circulation resources (sidewalks and pathways) to the extent practicable
- ▶ Provide minimal parking (likely to be universally accessible parking only)
- ▶ Be located outside of 100 year floodplain; if located within the 500 year floodplain, the Memorial must be flood resilient



The landforms above represent the desert landscape and serve to inspire the memorial.

Site Location Map



— RESERVE - - - AREA I

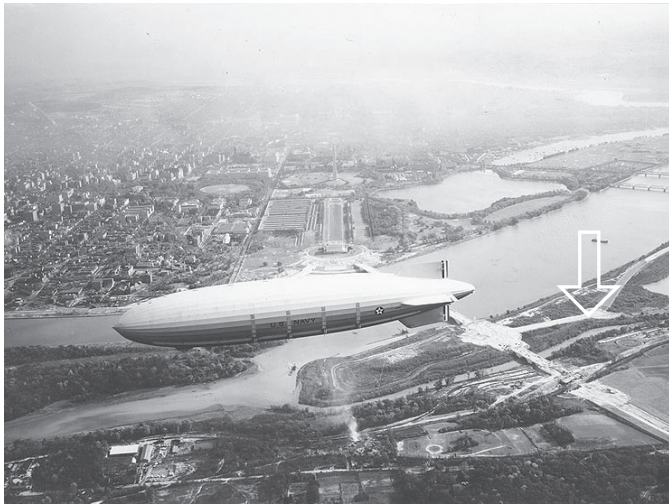
Memorial Circle Area

The Memorial Circle Area is a 9.3-acre site located on Columbia Island. The site lies near Memorial Bridge, Memorial Drive, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This site was identified as Site 1 in the *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*.



Memorial Circle Area

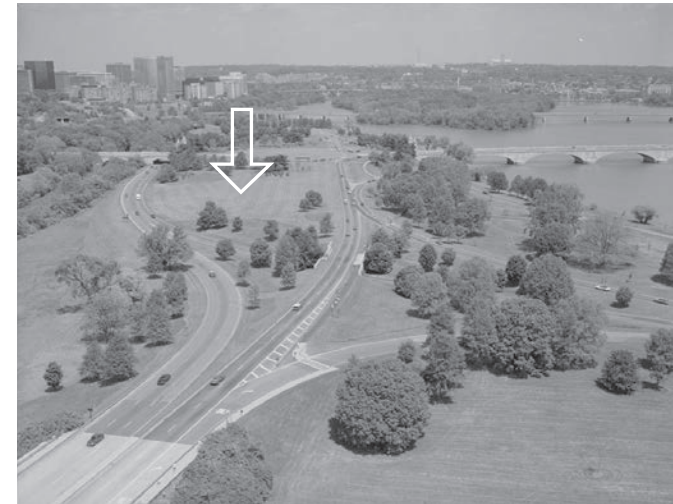
Historical Photographs



MEMORIAL CIRCLE SITE - 1931



MEMORIAL CIRCLE SITE - CIRCA 1940



MEMORIAL CIRCLE SITE - 1973

Memorial Circle Area

Current Photographs



Memorial Circle Area

Visitor Context

The Memorial Circle Area has attractions with four million visitors within a half mile.



Memorial Circle Area

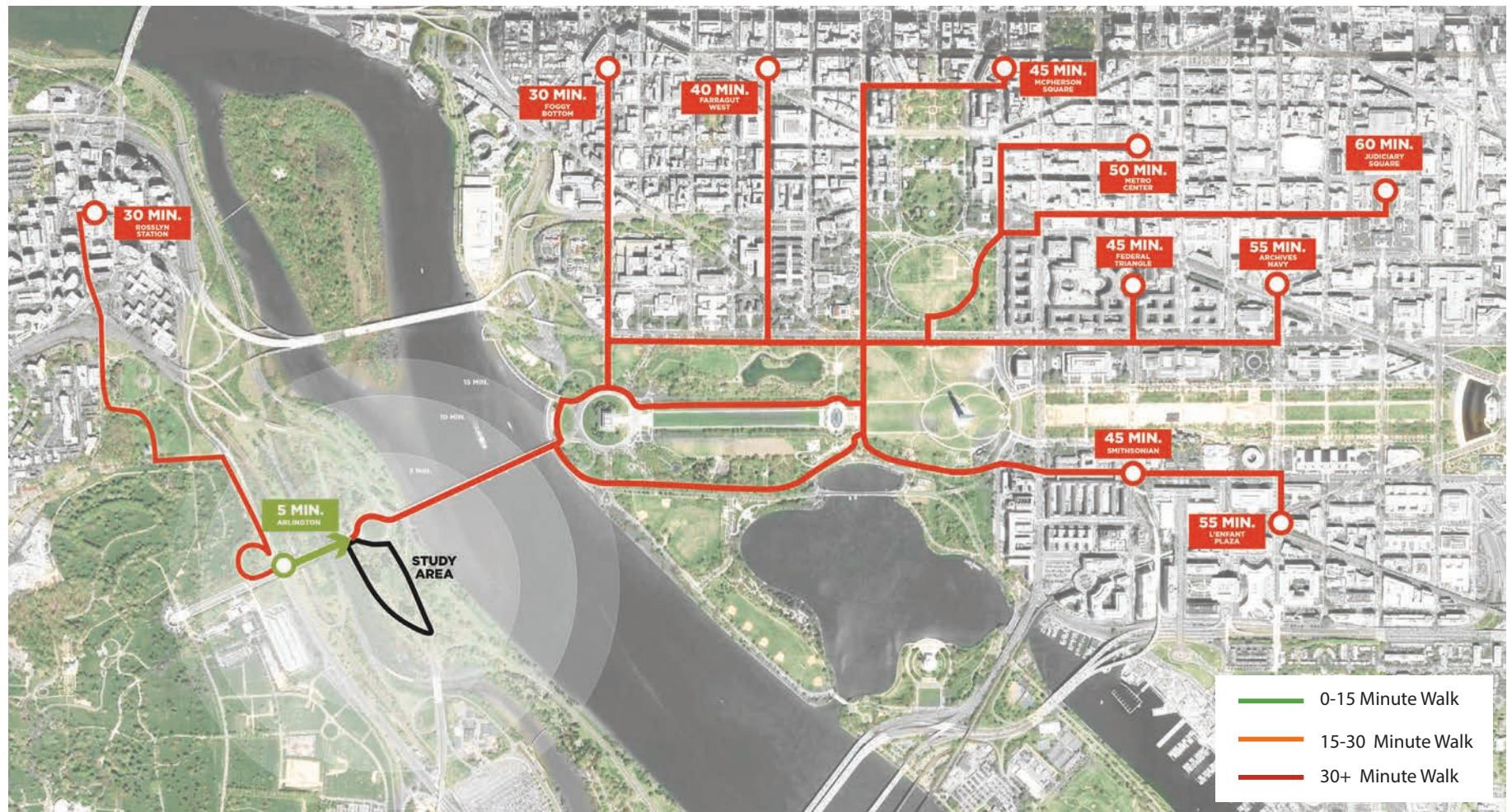
Thematic Context

Arlington National Cemetery, the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial offer thematic links for NDSWM at this site.



Memorial Circle Area

Access from Metro



Access to transit and parking is primarily through the Arlington National Cemetery Metrorail station and parking garage. Pedestrian connections would be via Memorial Bridge to West Potomac Park and its memorials; Memorial Drive; and the Mount Vernon Trail. The Parkway presents safety concerns for pedestrians and challenges.

Memorial Circle Area

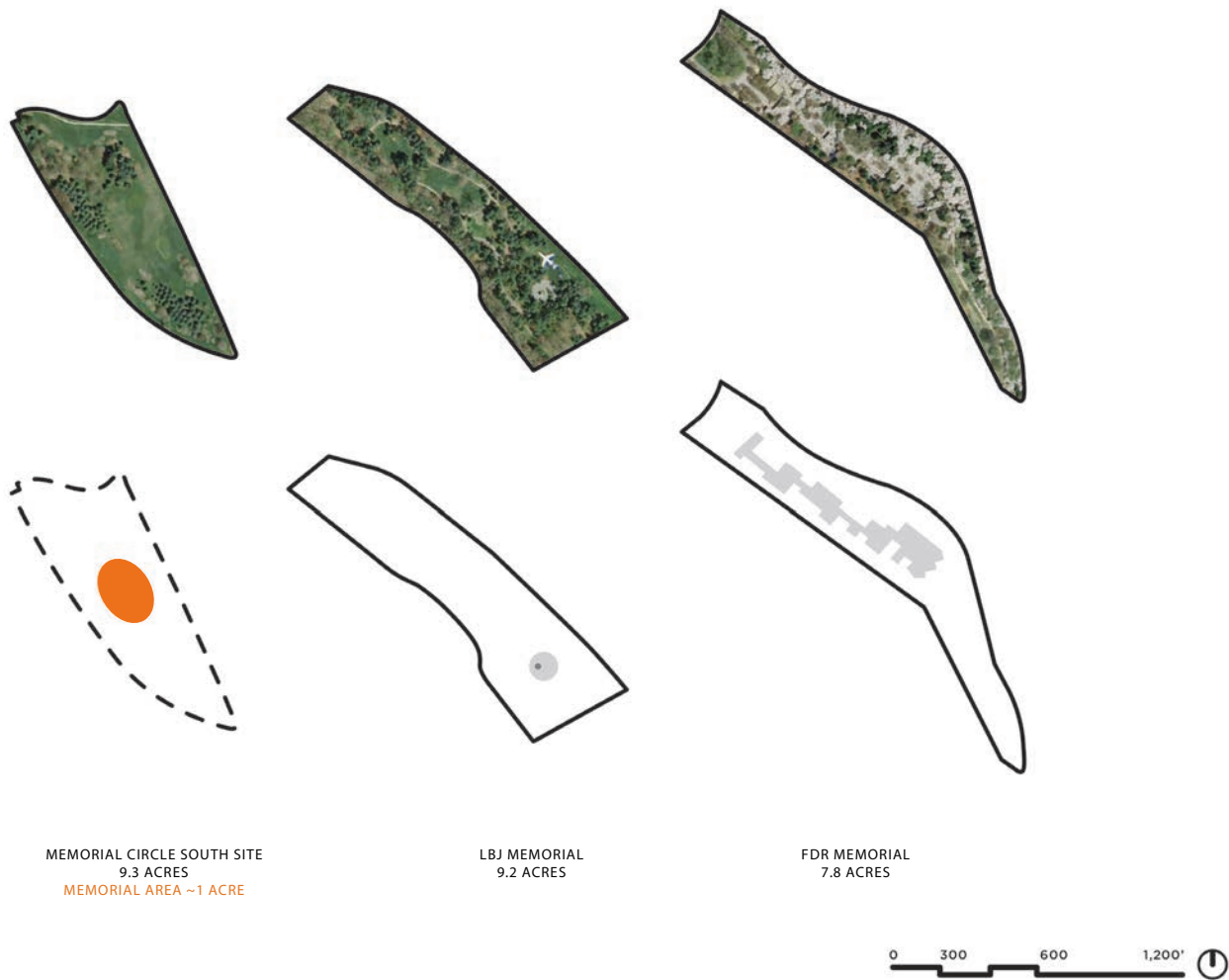
Circulation and Constraints

The site is largely outside the floodplain. New infrastructure, such as utilities, would be required.



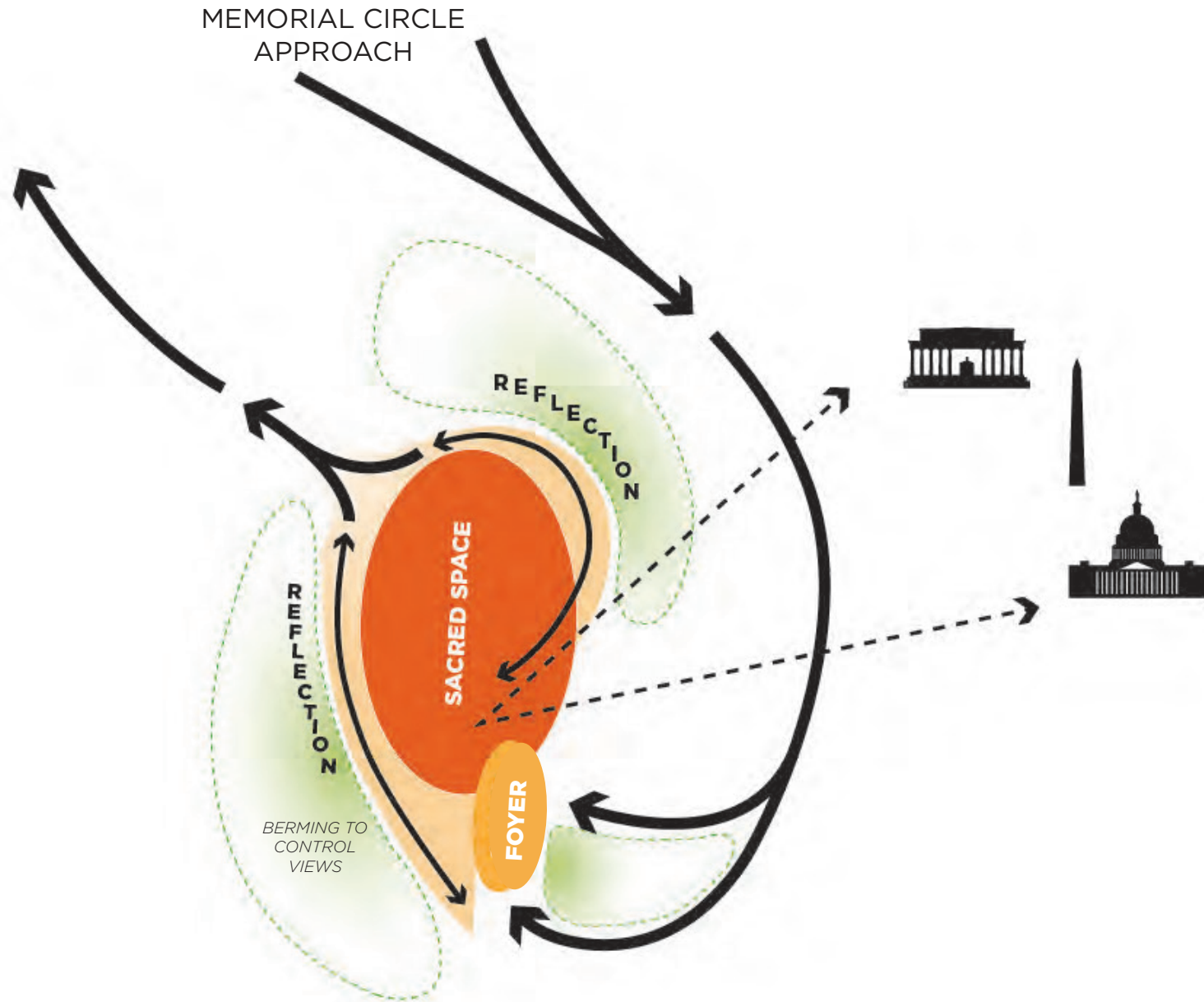
Memorial Circle Area

Scale Comparisons



Memorial Circle Area

Experiential Concept



Memorial Circle Area

Potential Future Memorial Sites

The Memorial Circle Area could accommodate other future memorials that would want to be located in proximity to the NDSWM.



Commemorative connection



Potential commemorative sites



Arlington Cemetery Metro Station



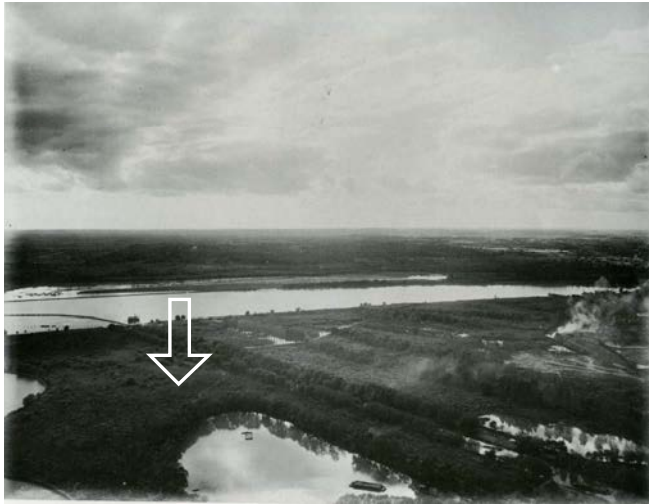
Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

The Constitution Avenue Terminus Area is a 3.8-acre site at the southwest corner of the intersection of Constitution Avenue NW and 23rd Street NW. This site was identified as Site 6 in the *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*.

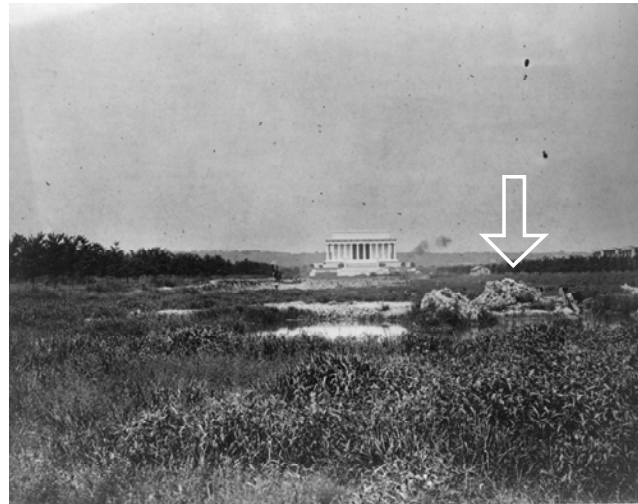


Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Historical Photographs



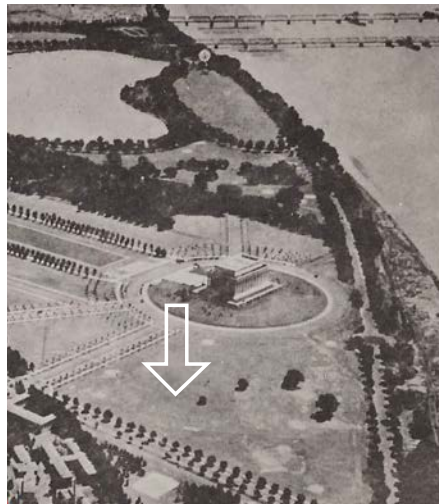
CONSTITUTION AVENUE SITE - MID 19TH CENTURY



CONSTITUTION AVENUE SITE - 1917



CONSTITUTION AVENUE SITE - 1919



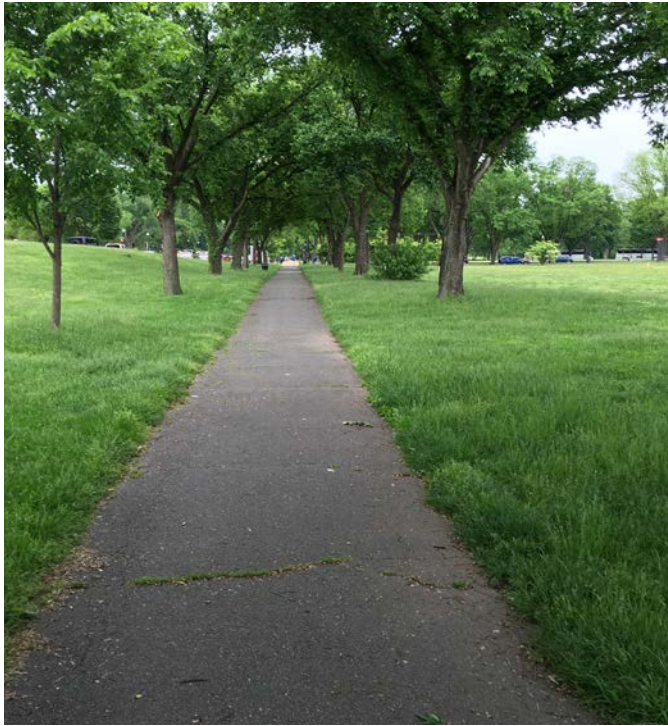
CONSTITUTION AVENUE SITE - 1925



CONSTITUTION AVENUE SITE - 1935

Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Current Photographs



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Visitor Context

The Constitution Avenue Terminus Area has attractions with eight million visitors within a half mile (18 million visitors cumulatively).



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Thematic Context

The site provides a highly relevant thematic nexus to Vietnam Veterans Memorial and other 20th Century war memorials, including the Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial, as well as close proximity and access to these and other memorials.



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Access from Metro



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

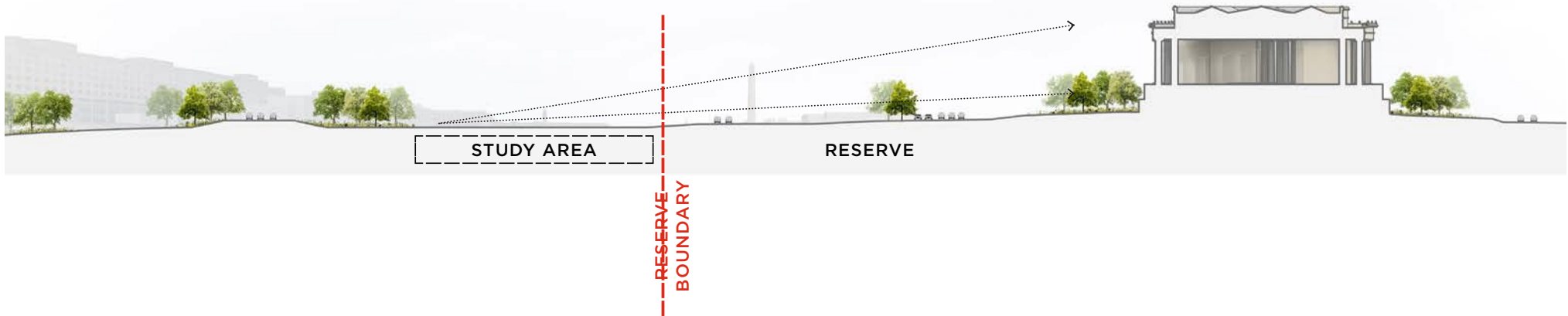
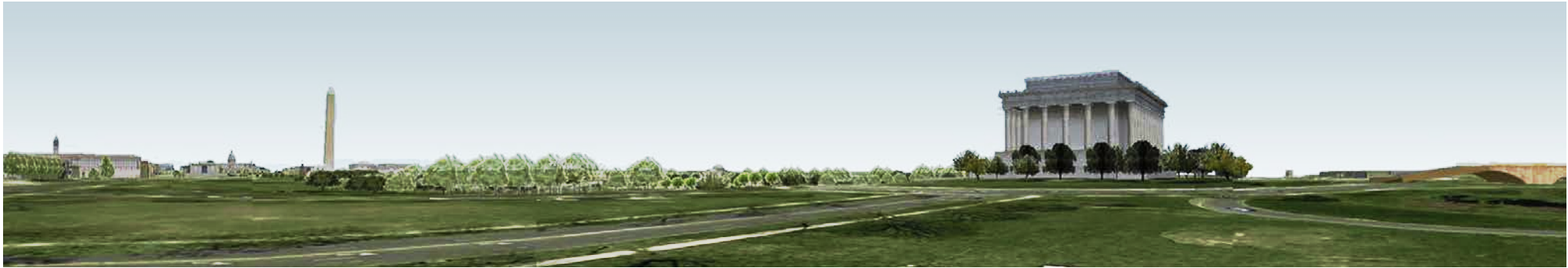
Circulation and Constraints

The site would accommodate the desired program to a high level, but would present minor challenges in terms of resiliency due to the location of the floodplain. However, a levee is being evaluated for the area to help protect downtown Washington from flooding. The memorial would be coordinated with the potential levee.



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Existing Section



The Constitution Avenue Terminus Area site offers the opportunity to enhance the existing Constitution allee and tree planting framework of the National Mall. The site would allow the Memorial to sit within the sloping topography and present a horizontal profile that maintains views from the Lincoln Memorial and surrounding streets.

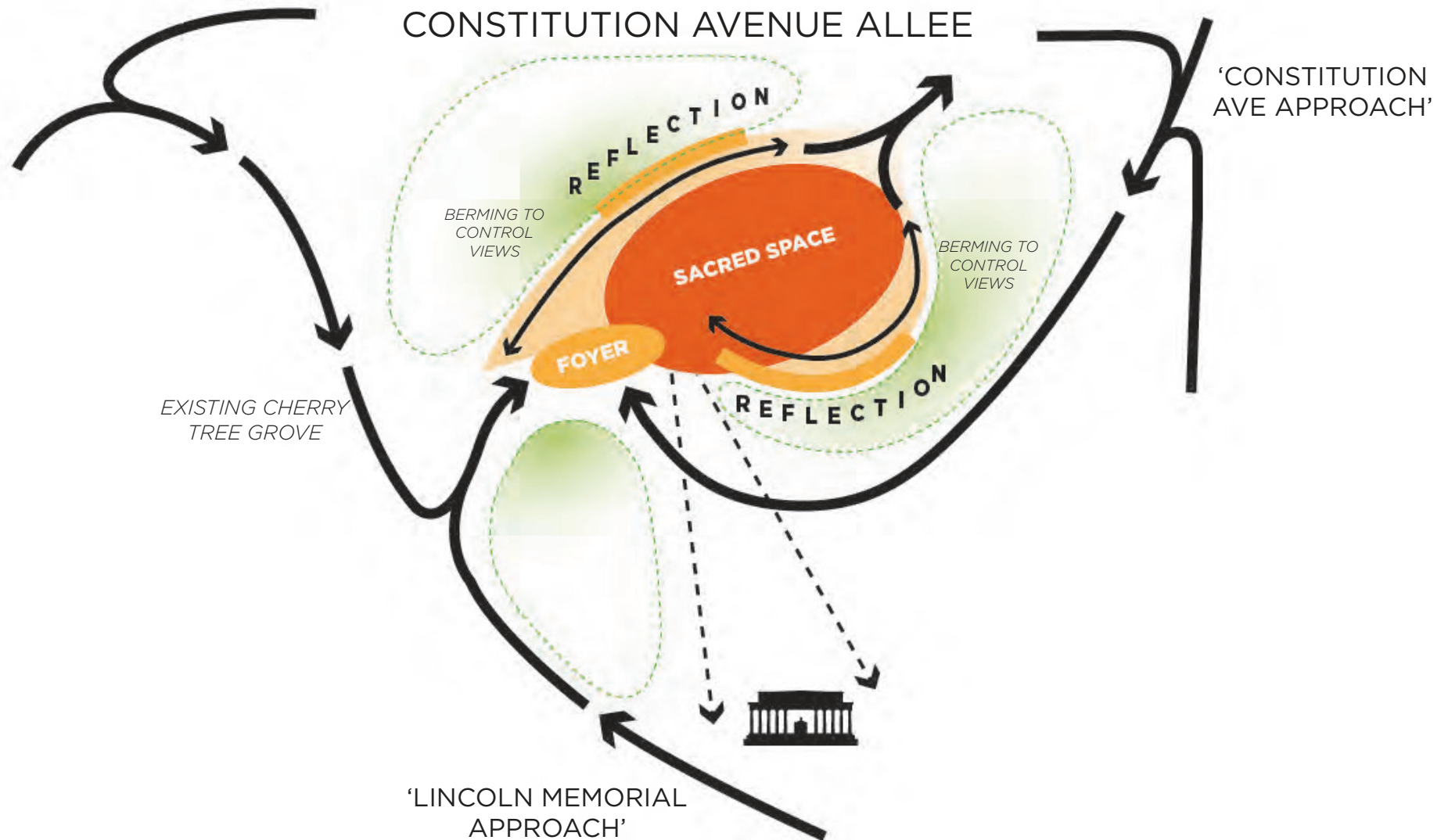
Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Scale Comparisons



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

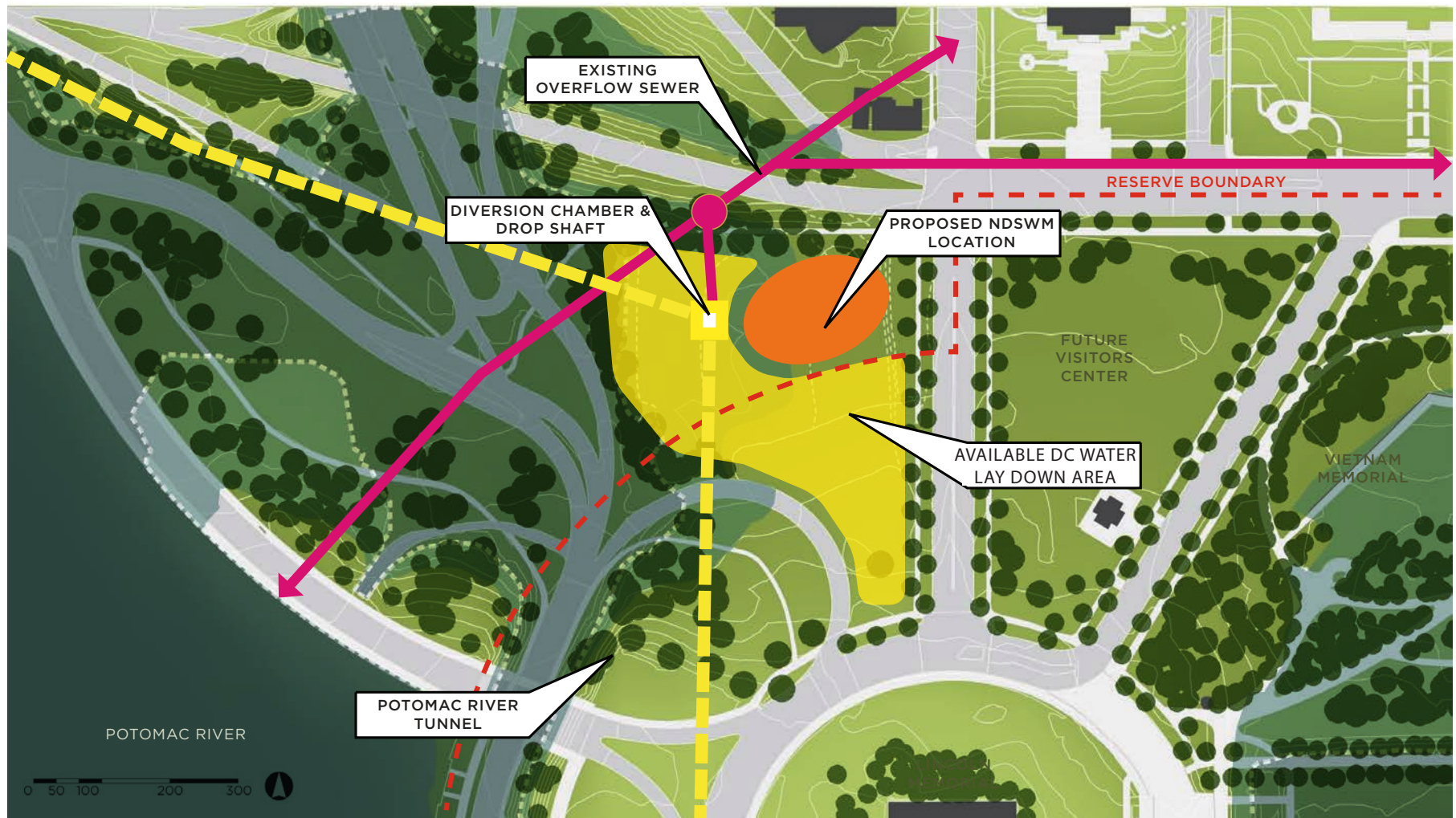
Experiential Concept



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Example of DC Water Potomac River Tunnel Project Configuration at the Site

DC Water is considering the Constitution Avenue Terminus Area for use in its Potomac River Tunnel project. The image below reflects one potential configuration of potential DC Water operations at the site with the Memorial.



Constitution Avenue Terminus Area

Potential Future Memorial Sites

The Constitution Avenue Terminus Area could accommodate other future memorials that would want to be located in proximity to the NDSWM. This would particularly be the case with the implementation of the *Monumental Core Framework Plan's* revised roadway network.



Potential commemorative sites



Approximate 'Reserve' Boundary

