



revised Preliminary Alternative 4 - Portals

This alternative focuses on revitalizing the Memorial through enhanced visual and physical connections from the surrounding neighborhoods to the Memorial. It features four gateways (North, South, East, and West) to enter the Memorial that include a nearly 3-block, at-grade lid centered on the Old Courthouse, two elevated pedestrian bridges and pedestrian at-grade improvements at major entrances. Further connectivity is promoted with a new transportation system linking visitor attractions within and outside of the Memorial. Visitors can also access the Memorial from the east via a commercial water taxi from East St. Louis, Illinois. The museum under the Arch is expanded and incorporates a new main west entry into the museum.

The lead preservation goal is to protect the National Historic Landmark and the fundamental resources and values of the Memorial. The Memorial grounds remain, on the whole, unchanged. Sensitive rehabilitation or renovation of the designed landscape and structures is allowed to improve accessibility, security and provide a modest increase in heritage education so long as the integrity of the National Historic Landmark is protected.

In this alternative, visitor activities, programs and services would be expanded to provide more opportunities and conveniences than are currently provided. The exhibits at the Old Courthouse and in the museum under the Arch are redesigned to provide more interactive and engaging experiences for visitors. The museum under the Arch is renovated to expand its size, provide a new, state-of-the-art storage facility for collections and archives and to provide a new pedestrian entrance on Memorial Drive. Luther Ely Smith Square is zoned to include visitor orientation and services such as site information, parking and restrooms. The area at the North end of the Memorial is renovated to provide visitor orientation and services and the North and South Overlooks are renovated for heritage education and visitor amenities.

The NPS will continue to work with the City of St. Louis to proactively encourage compatible riverfront improvements on the west bank of the Mississippi River, and initiates similar partnerships for the east bank of the Mississippi River. The NPS sustains existing partnerships for the provision of educational and interpretive programs, visitor services, and transportation, and develops new partnerships to assist in the new seasonal water taxi linking the east and west units of the Memorial and the management the East St. Louis addition.

Barrier-free routes from the Arch grounds to the riverfront are established within the Memorial, at either existing entrances to the visitor center and museum under the Arch, or at new entrances in close proximity, to meet ADA/universal design standards. Visitor screening for security under the Arch stays at the current entrances or in close proximity to the existing entrance of the visitor center and is added to the new entrance on Memorial Drive. Any new facilities developed under this alternative include barrier-free access and heightened security requirements.

The parking lot adjacent to the Old Cathedral is reconstructed as a new underground facility with the surface renovated to enhance visual compatibility with the Memorial landscape, and to provide improved bus/shuttle drop-off and pick-up. Visitor parking at the north end remains, but the garage is reconstructed to put parking facilities below grade and to allow for a moderate amount of oversized recreational vehicle parking. Parking is also installed below grade at Luther Ely Smith Square. The food service (vending) currently available in the existing visitor center under the Arch is expanded, and may be accommodated in the new orientation facilities at the north end of the Memorial, as well as with portable carts at Luther Ely Smith Square and the overlooks. The Memorial's maintenance facility remains at the South end of the Memorial.

The 91-acre boundary of the Memorial is amended to add approximately 50 acres in East St. Louis. Any acquisitions are by willing seller only.

How We Got Here

In June 2008, the National Park Service (NPS) released a set of preliminary alternatives outlining potential management scenarios for Jefferson Expansion National Memorial. Thousands of comments were received and subsequently analyzed by the NPS. As a result of public input, Alternative 2 was dropped and the remaining preliminary alternatives were revised. These alternatives will be described in more detail in the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) to be released for public review and comment during January 2009.



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Heritage Education and Visitor Amenities	Original Landscape	Orientation	Streetscape	Service	Design Competition
Provide visitor orientation, interpretation, education and amenities.	Preservation of the National Historic Landmark (NHL).	Provide visitor orientation, enhance visual and physical connectivity and support Memorial operations (parking).	Create visual and physical connectivity between the city streets, waterfront and the Memorial.	Support Memorial operations.	Provide a canvass for a design competition to explore creative approaches to revitalizing the Memorial.

Next Steps

The No Action alternative and alternatives 3, 4 and 5 will be carried forward into the Draft Jefferson National Expansion Memorial GMP/EIS, to be released in Winter 2009. In the draft plan, each of the alternatives will be more fully described and the financial and environmental consequences of each alternative will be presented. The public will have 45 days to review the document, and during this time, the NPS will host public meetings in order to provide the public an opportunity to speak directly with park managers and members of the planning team. I encourage everyone to comment on the document and provide ways the alternatives can be strengthened.

Following the close of public review, each of your comments will be read and considered carefully. The team will respond to all substantive comments and document any changes to the plan before issuing a final GMP/EIS.

Sincerely,

Tom Bradley