

Life

PRICE 10 CENTS
Vol. 66, No. 1703. July 1, 1915
Copyright 1915, Life Publishing Company



1776—RETOUCHING AN OLD MASTERPIECE—1915

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

National Capital Memorial
Advisory Commission
October 4, 2023



WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
National Monument Foundation

Introduction

In December 2020, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation was authorized by the United States Congress through Public Law 116-217 to establish a commemorative work on federal land in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote. The Foundation leads the effort to design, develop, and construct the Women's Suffrage National Monument to serve as a lasting legacy of women's fight for full equality. This site selection study seeks to illustrate context, provide data, and articulate memorial goals to guide the selection of an appropriate site for the new memorial.

Area I Justification

The Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation seeks authorization to establish the memorial within Area I as defined by the Commemorative Works Act. In addition to specific site analysis, this site selection study will show that the Women's Suffrage National Monument is "of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States," meeting the requirements for Area I justification as defined in the Commemorative Works Act.

Goals

Build a dynamic memorial in the monumental core of our Nation's Capital that:

- Weaves the great women of American history in amongst the giants of our national story;
- Ensures every girl who visits the National Mall sees herself represented in the American story;
- Permanently enshrines women's contributions to building, securing, and expanding American democracy; and
- Inspires a continued investment in America's constitutional promise of freedom, justice, and equality for all.

"Monuments do more than just help us remember - they make our society's values visible."

- **National Monument Audit**, Monument Lab + Mellon Foundation

Program

The Women's Suffrage National Monument will enhance the nation's most important commemorative landscape by establishing a dynamic memorial in the monumental core of our Nation's Capital that weaves the great women of American history in amongst the giants of our national story, permanently enshrines women's contributions to building, securing, and expanding American democracy, and inspires a continued investment in America's constitutional promise of freedom, justice, and equality for all.

Themes

The following commemorative themes have been developed through consultation and coordination with the nation's leading historians, artists, and educators. The monument should:

- Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the other transformative commemorative works, weaving women into the heart of the nation's most important commemorative corridor and inspiring visitors to revere the role women played throughout American history in building, shaping, and expanding our democracy.
- Celebrate the role of our foremothers in building a more just and equal America.
- Tell a diverse and broad story of the fight for the 19th amendment, which is the history of struggle, of a fight for rights by a group without them, of self-government, and of civic participation.

Physical Requirements

In order to achieve the goals of the monument, the site should:

- Accommodate a highly landscaped design and a series of commemorative features that tell the movement's complex and multigenerational story from a diversity of perspectives.
- Accommodate true place-making and offer the opportunity to create a distinct memorial location within the monumental core.
- Accommodate public programming and events of all kinds, including discussions, commemorations, concerts, school groups, group tours, civic group ceremonies, and family gatherings.
- Facilitate a transformative experience for all visitors, but especially school groups, multi-generational families, and civic organizations, to ignite curiosity in women's contributions throughout American history.
- Allow visitors to safely visit and participate in programming during the day and at night.

Site Selection Criteria	Description
Program Suitability	The site should accommodate a highly landscaped design and a series of commemorative features that tell the movement's story from a diversity of perspectives.
Thematic Nexus	The context of the site should be physically, thematically, or conceptually connected to the founding principles of the Nation's democracy and should weave the heroes of the women's suffrage movement amongst the great leaders of this country's history.
Addition to Commemorative Landscape	The placement of the monument should add to the commemorative fabric of Washington, DC, invite visitors to better understand our Nation's democracy, and broaden the telling of our country's rich and diverse history without removing or diminishing established memorials.
Integration into Monumental Core	The site should be integrated within Washington's monumental core in a way that fully and intentionally weaves the great women leaders of American history and the story of the largest expansion of voting rights in American history into the national commemorative landscape.
Implementation Coordination	The site should be independent of other plans for the monument site that could substantially delay implementation.
Transformability	The site should avoid constraints limiting the changes possible at a site. Preferred sites will offer the opportunity to change the landscape and create a distinct place within the monumental core.
Safety & Security	The site should enable a welcome, celebratory, and safe experience, including for pedestrians approaching the site.
Site Access	The public should be able to continually access the site, except for related special events. The site should not be closed off regularly due to security requirements.
Accessibility & Proximity to Transit	The site should be within a 15-minute walk of a Metrorail station. The site should be accessible to pedestrians, transit (tour buses, city buses, and Metrorail), and visitors to the Nation's Capital.

Site Selection Criteria

Program Suitability

The site should accommodate a highly landscaped design and a series of commemorative features that tell the movement's story from a diversity of perspectives. The site should be bright and inviting. To effectively accommodate the scope and scale of the story the monument will tell and welcome the high number of visitors expected, the site should be a minimum one half (0.5) acre in size.

Thematic Nexus

Women's fight for the vote is the story of a great American movement for change that led our Nation ever closer to a more perfect union. It is a story—written by women—about democracy at work and the power and courage of the American spirit. This monument will highlight this critical chapter of American history, broadening and deepening our understanding of the ideals of equality, freedom, and justice so central to the founding of the republic. Therefore, the context of the site should be physically, thematically, or conceptually connected to the founding principles of the Nation's democracy and should weave the heroes of the women's suffrage movement amongst the great leaders of this country's founding history.

Addition to Commemorative Landscape

The placement of the monument should add to the commemorative fabric of Washington, DC, invite visitors to better understand our Nation's democracy, and broaden the telling of our country's rich and diverse history. A monument at the site should protect public space and enhance public use without removing or diminishing established memorials.

Integration into Monumental Core

The site should be integrated within Washington's monumental core in a way that fully and intentionally weaves the great women leaders of American history into the national commemorative landscape.

Implementation Coordination

The site should be independent of other plans for the monument site that could substantially delay implementation. The site should ideally accommodate progress that could be coordinated, in some way, with the U.S. Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary of the nation's founding).

Site Selection Criteria (continued)

Transformability

The site should avoid constraints limiting the changes possible at a site. Preferred sites will offer the opportunity to change the landscape and create a distinct place within the monumental core.

Safety and Security

The site should provide a safe environment for both visitors and memorial features. The site should enable a welcome, celebratory, and safe experience, including for pedestrians approaching. Visitors should be safe and feel safe at the site during the day and during the night. As such, the site should be prominently placed amongst the monumental corridor and allow for security elements, such as lighting. Visitors within the site should be able to focus on the commemorative experience rather than have safety concerns of nearby traffic.

Site Access

The public should be able to continually access the site, except for related special events. The site should not be closed off regularly due to security requirements.

Accessibility and Proximity to Transit

The site should be within a 15-minute walk of a Metrorail station. The site should be accessible to pedestrians, transit (tour buses, city buses, and Metrorail), and visitors to the Nation's Capital.

“Without a monument to the great women of American history who paved the way for us to fully participate in and shape our democracy, the telling of the American story on our National Mall is not yet complete. It will be a proud day for our country when every girl who visits the National Mall is able to see herself represented amongst the giants of our national story and understand the role her foremothers had in building, securing, and expanding our democracy.”

- **Senator Barbara Mikulski (Ret)**, longest serving woman in congressional history

Area I Location

Area I Location

Women's fight for the vote is the story of a great American movement for change that led our Nation ever closer to a more perfect union. It is a story - written by women, led by women - about democracy at work and the power and courage of the American spirit. When completed, the Women's Suffrage National Monument will make visible the role of our foremothers in building, securing, and expanding our democracy; celebrate the suffragists' patriotism and resilience; and inspire a continued investment in America's constitutional promise of freedom, justice, and equality for all.

The Women's Suffrage National Monument will tell the diverse, inclusive, and inspiring 72-year+ story of the American women who lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. It will tell the story of the suffragists who were ridiculed and threatened, arrested and beaten in their pursuit for a better America. The monument will tell the story of the women who never gave up and they never gave in, and whose courage led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 and the largest single expansion of voting rights in American history.

The Commemorative Works Act allows for the location of a memorial within Area I if it is determined that the subject is "of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States." As a critical chapter of America's founding history, the victories and achievements of the women's suffrage movement are of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States.

"I am thrilled that a women's monument will finally have a prominent place in our Nation's Capital. Our children and grandchildren must remember that American women were not handed their right to vote; they fought for and won their right to vote. This monument will serve as a permanent reminder that we should appreciate our rights and actively participate in our democracy."

- **First Lady Laura Bush**, Honorary Chair of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation

"The contributions to our democracy by the pioneering women of American history, like my great-grandmother, Ida B. Wells, are too often overlooked, undertaught, and underappreciated. By locating the Women's Suffrage National Monument on the National Mall, we address important omissions and make visible the role of our foremothers in building, securing, and expanding our democracy and celebrate the great women leaders of American history who dedicated their lives to the pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive union."

- **Michelle Duster**, Author & Public Historian & Great-Granddaughter of Pioneering Journalist and Suffragist Ida B. Wells

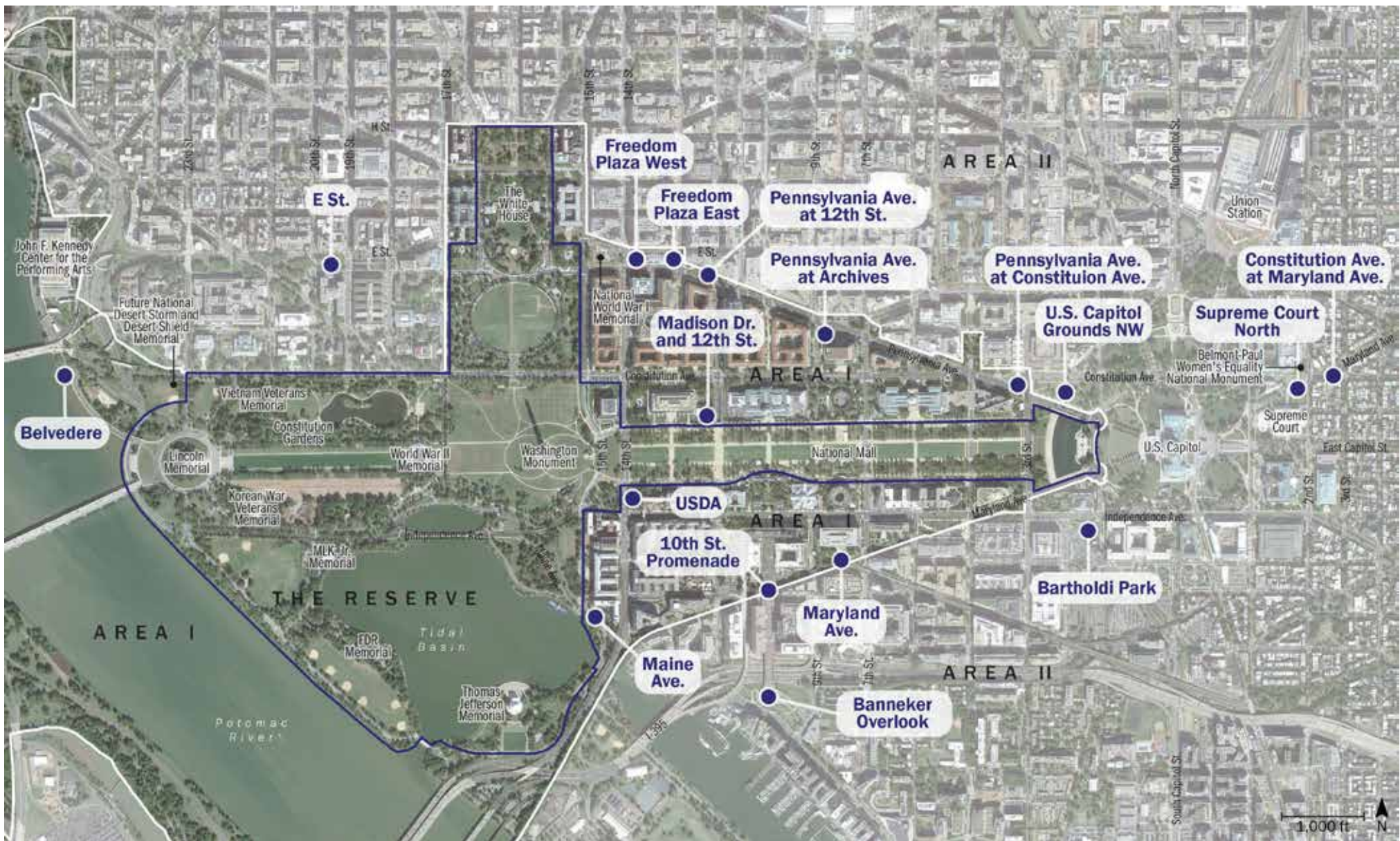
"The suffragists fought to ensure women would have an equal voice in our democracy. They paved the way for the strides women have made over the last century, and theirs is one of the most important stories in our nation's journey toward a more perfect union. I am honored to join the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation and my fellow First Ladies in this effort to finally give due recognition to these brave women in the core of the commemorative heart of our Nation's Capital."

- **Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton**, Honorary Chair of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation

“The generations of women who led the long movement for voting rights equality did so in service of freedom, justice, and democracy. One of the most important and compelling political movements in American history deserves prominent representation in our commemorative landscape.”

- **Ken Burns**, Filmmaker and Ambassador of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation

Potential Sites: Initial Range



Initial Range of Potential Sites in Area I and Area II



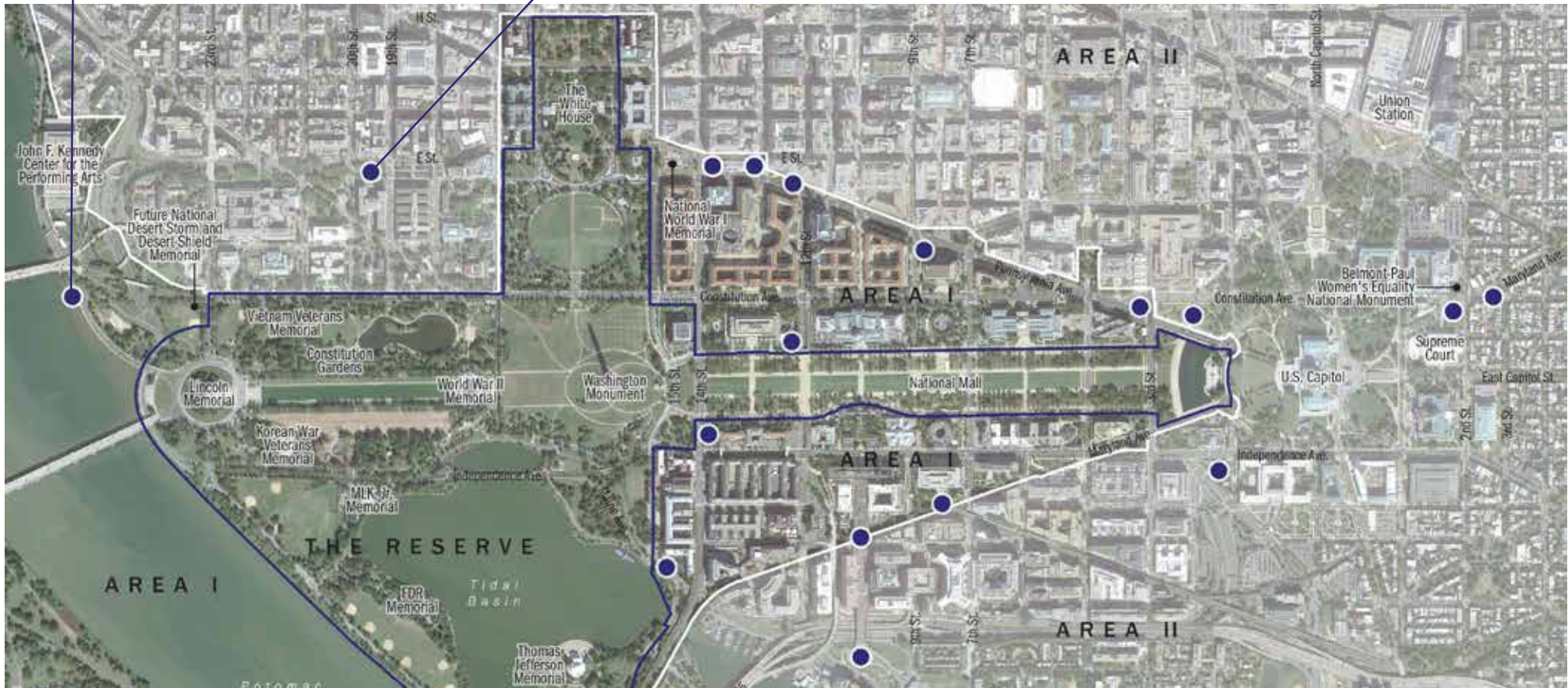
Belvedere

View looking west towards the Potomac River



E St.

View looking north from E Street



Initial Range of Potential Sites in Area I and Area II: West

11



Freedom Plaza West

View looking southeast towards the U.S. Capitol



Freedom Plaza East

View looking southwest



Pennsylvania Avenue at 12th St.

View looking southeast from Pennsylvania Ave



Pennsylvania Avenue at Archives

View looking southeast from Pennsylvania Ave



Madison Drive and 12th Street

View looking northeast from Madison Dr SW

Initial Range of Potential Sites in Area I and Area II: Federal Triangle



Constitution Avenue at Maryland Avenue
View looking northeast



Supreme Court North
View looking west towards the Potomac River



Pennsylvania Avenue at Constitution Avenue
View looking northwest from Pennsylvania Ave



Bartholdi Park
View looking northeast from Washington Ave



U.S. Capitol Grounds NW
View looking northwest

Initial Range of Potential Sites in Area I and Area II: U.S. Capitol East

Site	Program Suitability	Thematic Nexus	Addition to Commemorative Landscape	Integration into Monumental Core	Implementation Coordination	Transform-ability	Safety & Security	Site Access	Accessibility & Proximity to Transit	Area I Location
USDA West Lot	●	●	●	◐	●	●	●	●	●	✓
10th St. Promenade	●	◐	●	◐	◐	●	◐	●	●	✓
U.S. Capitol Grounds NW	●	●	◐	○	○	●	●	◐	●	⊖
Madison Dr. and 12th St.	◐	●	●	◐	○	◐	◐	●	●	✓
Freedom Plaza West	◐	●	●	○	○	◐	◐	●	●	✓
Freedom Plaza East	◐	●	◐	○	○	◐	◐	●	●	✓
Constitution Ave. at Maryland Ave.	○	◐	○	○	◐	●	◐	●	●	⊖
Pennsylvania Ave. at Archives	◐	◐	○	○	◐	◐	◐	●	●	✓
Maryland Ave	○	○	○	○	●	●	◐	●	●	✓
Banneker Overlook	◐	○	○	○	●	◐	◐	●	●	⊖
Supreme Court North	●	◐	○	○	○	◐	●	◐	●	⊖
E St.	◐	○	○	○	●	●	◐	●	●	⊖
Belvedere	◐	○	◐	◐	●	◐	◐	◐	◐	✓
Maine Ave.	○	○	○	○	●	●	○	●	●	✓
Pennsylvania Ave at Constitution Ave	○	◐	◐	○	○	●	○	●	●	✓
Pennsylvania Ave. at 12th St.	○	◐	◐	○	○	●	○	●	●	✓
Bartholdi Park	○	◐	○	◐	○	◐	●	●	●	⊖

Ratings: ○ Site Would Not Provide ◐ Site Would Partially Provide ● Site Would Fully Provide

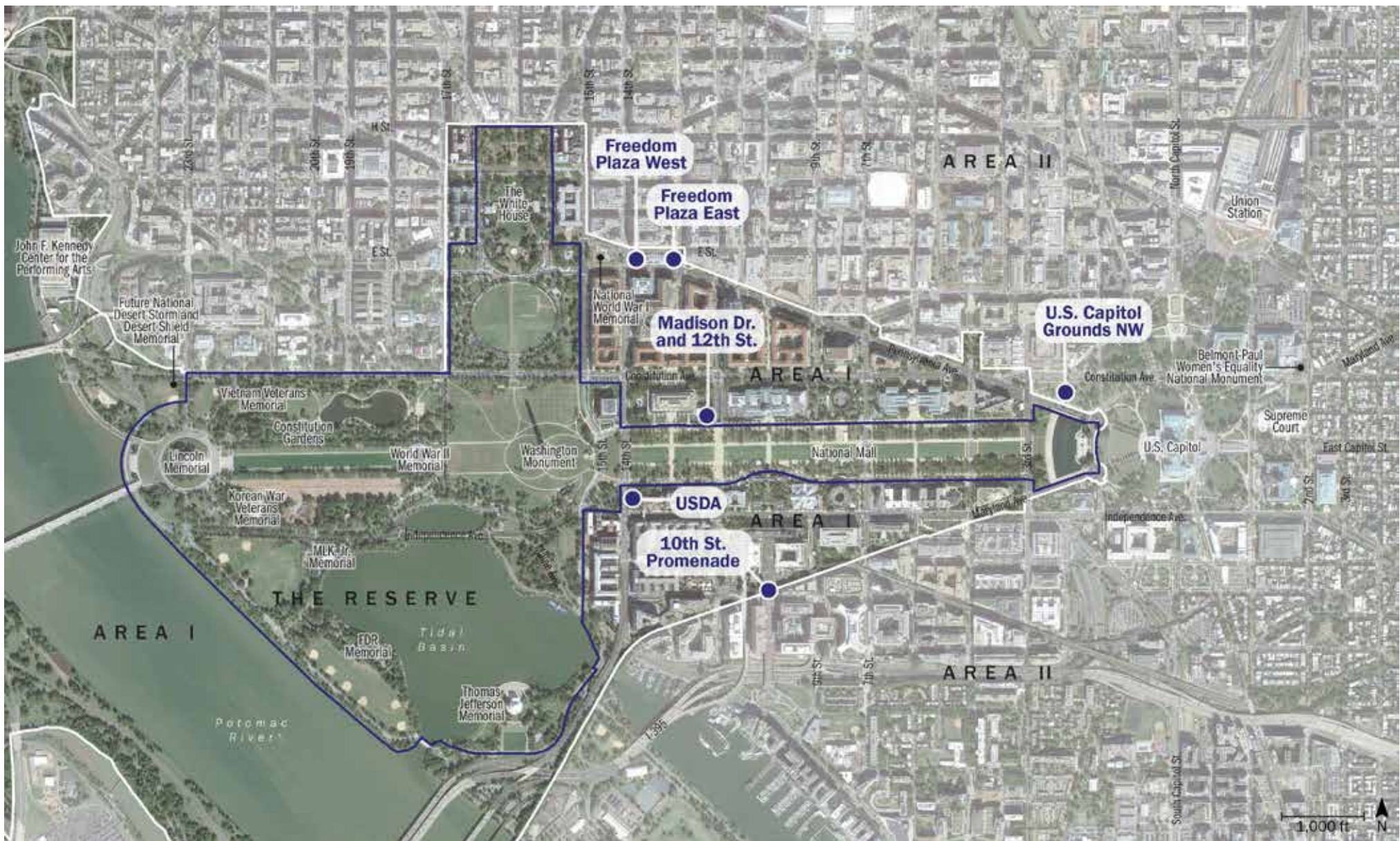
Initial Range of Potential Sites in Area I and Area II: Site Evaluation

15

“This monument will honor the marginalized heroes of American history who long ago earned their place on our National Mall. I hope all Americans will join me and the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation as we work to ensure that nearly 250 years after our country’s founding, the commemorative core of our Nation’s Capital finally weaves a diverse tapestry of American histories.”

- **Rosario Dawson**, Actress and Ambassador of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation

Site Evaluation: Viable Sites



Range of Viable Sites in Area I and Area II



Site Size: ~0.6 acre

- Places a critical and missing chapter of America's founding history near the monumental core of the National Mall
- Returns what is currently a surface parking lot to the spirit of the Olmstead vision for natural gardenscape and respite. The siting of a highly landscaped monument on this site is consistent with previously approved plans for the USDA Site Improvement and Perimeter Security Plan
- Sits near multiple transit connections and adjacent to a vibrant pedestrian path leading to our Nation's most iconic monuments and memorials

USDA West Lot



View looking northwest from the USDA parking lot towards the Washington Monument



View looking south from Jefferson Drive towards Independence Avenue



View looking north from Independence Avenue towards Jefferson Drive



Site Size: ~2.3 acres

- Reinforces established NCPC and CFA plans to facilitate an expansion of a cultural corridor down 10th Street, which symbolically reinforces suffrage leaders as trailblazers
- Provides unique opportunity in Washington, DC to build a highly landscaped monument with a series of commemorative features that tell the movement's long story from a diversity of perspectives in a linear park
- Provides an opportunity to extend a new cultural gateway from the center of the museum corridor

10th St. Promenade



View looking south from Independence Avenue towards Banneker Park



View looking southeast



View looking north towards the International Spy Museum



Site Size: ~1.3 acre

- Centers the story of women's fight for political representation near the Capitol
- Brings opportunities and challenges through proximity to the historic start site of the 1913 Suffrage March
- Provides opportunity for landscape treatment
- Positions monument near the National Mall
- Presents jurisdictional concerns
- Sits within the Capitol security perimeter, resulting in significant challenges

U.S. Capitol Grounds NW



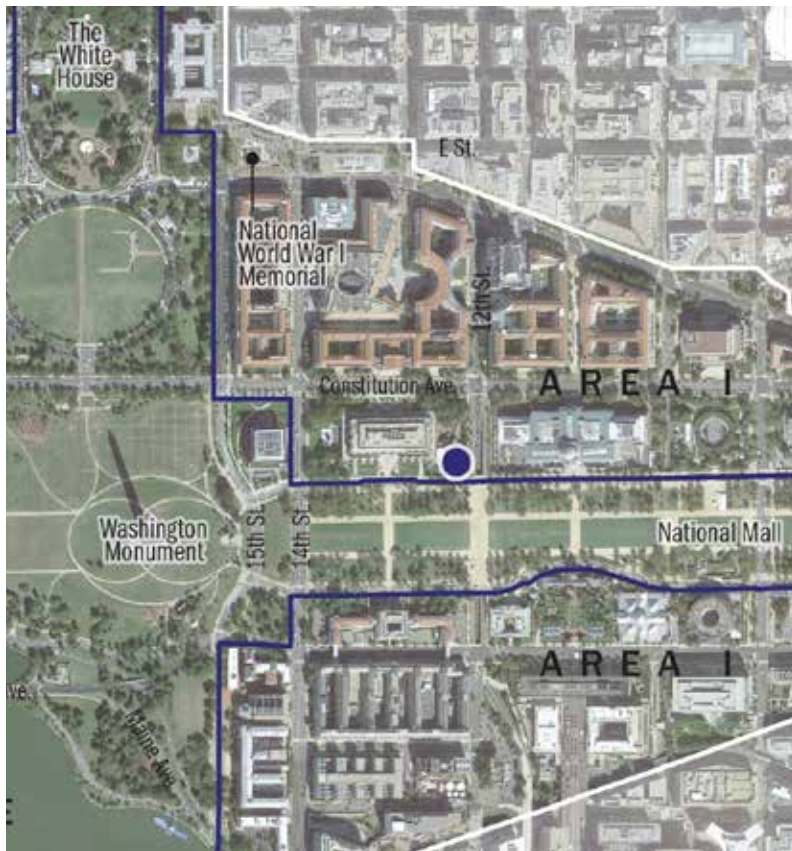
View looking southeast towards the U.S. Capitol



View looking northeast



View looking towards the U.S. Capitol



Site Size: ~ 0.2 acre

- Extends commemoration eastward and away from the monumental core
- Offers relatively flat, open turf panel
- Poses question regarding property jurisdiction and subsurface infrastructure
- Emits a mechanical humming background noise
- Size of site does not accommodate the Program ideals



View looking northeast from Madison Drive

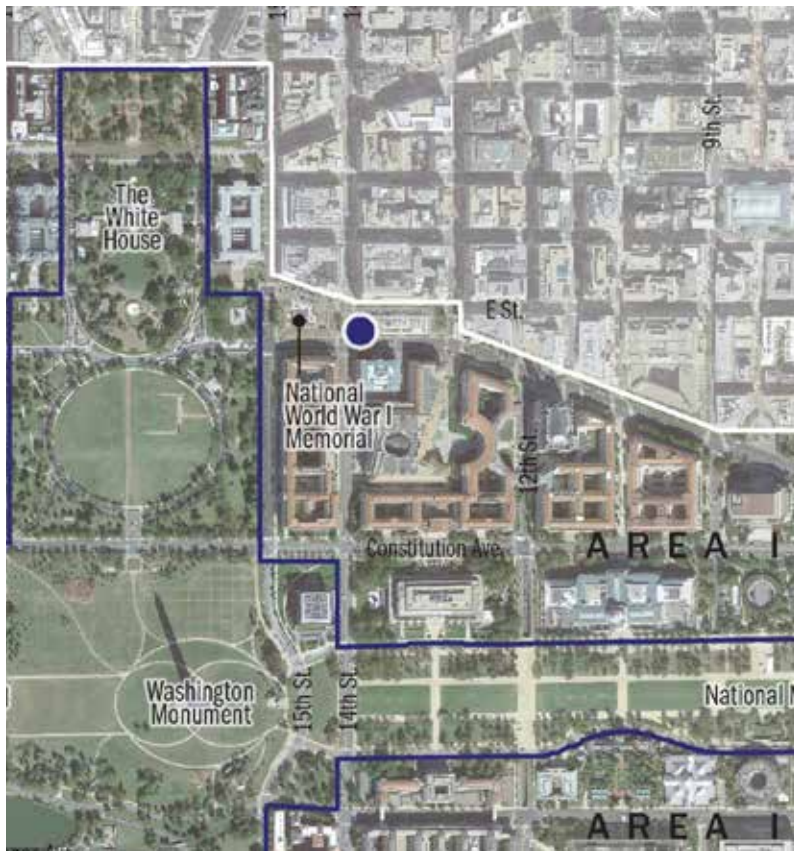


View looking north from Madison Drive



View looking northwest from Madison Drive

Madison Dr. and 12th St.



Site Size: ~ 0.2 acres

- Provides open plaza space with large trees and opportunity for landscape treatment
- Features protected historic vista down Pennsylvania Avenue and provides clear view of the U.S. Capitol
- Connects easily to the Washington Monument and National Mall via 14th Street
- Presents challenges due to the Pennsylvania Avenue redevelopment and undetermined site options for Freedom Plaza



View looking west towards 14th Street

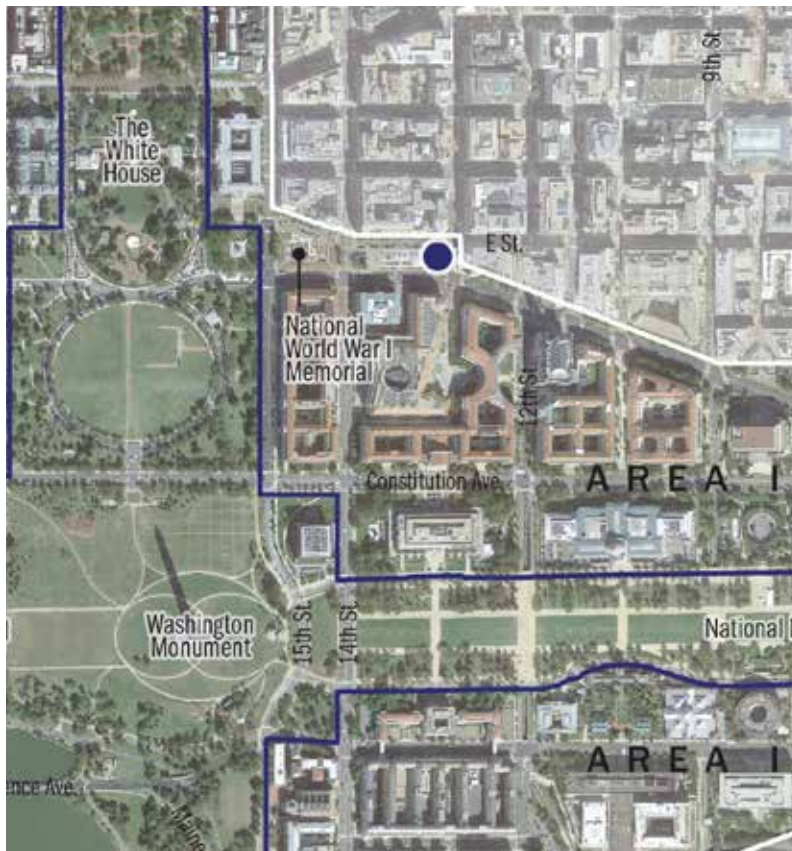


View looking northeast



View looking east towards the U.S. Capitol

Freedom Plaza West



Site Size: ~ 0.12 acres

- Provides plaza space with mature trees, seating, and existing monument/statue
- Features protected historic vista down Pennsylvania Avenue, but does not provide clear views of the U.S. Capitol
- Would require relocation of existing memorial
- Presents challenges due to the Pennsylvania Avenue redevelopment and undetermined site options for Freedom Plaza



View looking east towards the Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski Statue



View looking west towards the plaza space



View looking northeast showing plaza seating

Freedom Plaza East

“This monument is a promise of a more equal and just future. I look forward to the day when I can stand with my daughter on the National Mall and proudly show her that her country values who she is and who she will be.”

- **Brad Meltzer**, Historian & New York Times Best-Selling Author and Ambassador of the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Foundation

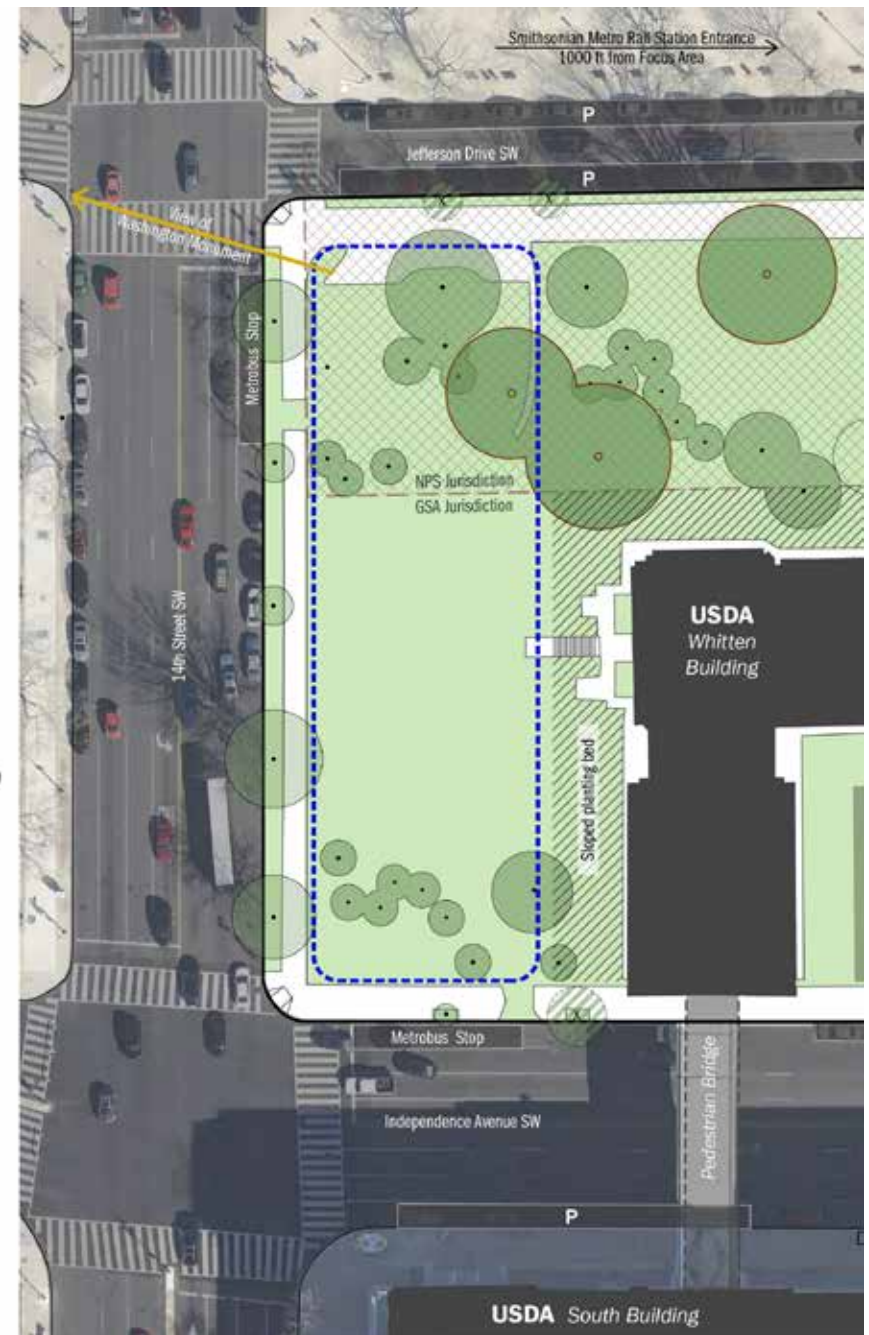
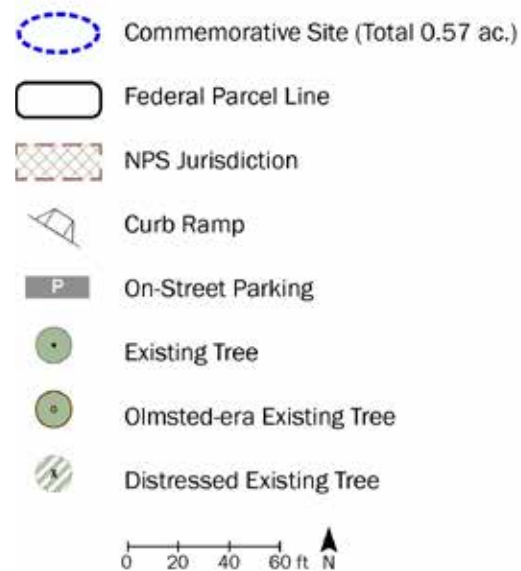
Site Studies: Area I



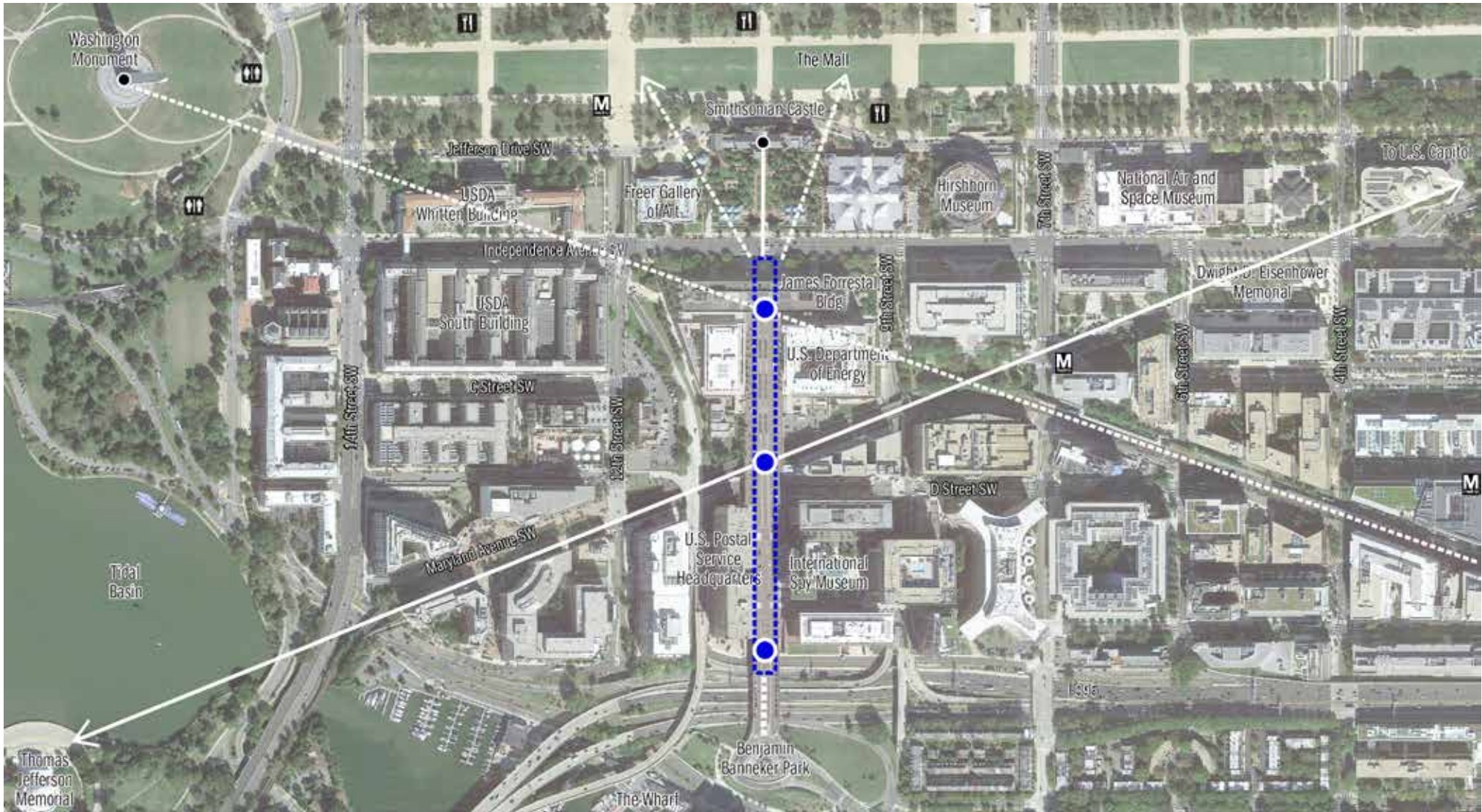
USDA West Lot Context

USDA West Lot Site Analysis contains the memorial site within the NPS property west of the USDA Whitten Building. The site analysis includes the conversion of the existing parking lot into a green space, which will enable a suitable setting for this commemorative work.

This would result in the loss of 27 parking spaces, which is consistent with the approved site plan document for the site.



USDA West Lot: Site Analysis



Commemorative Site (with reduced levels of automobile traffic)



Commemorative Focal Point



Thematic Connection



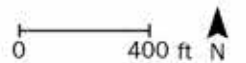
Metro Station



Public Restroom



Refreshment Kiosk

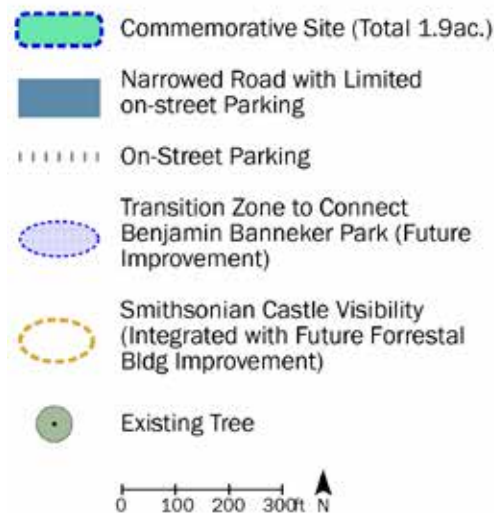


10th St. Promenade Context

27

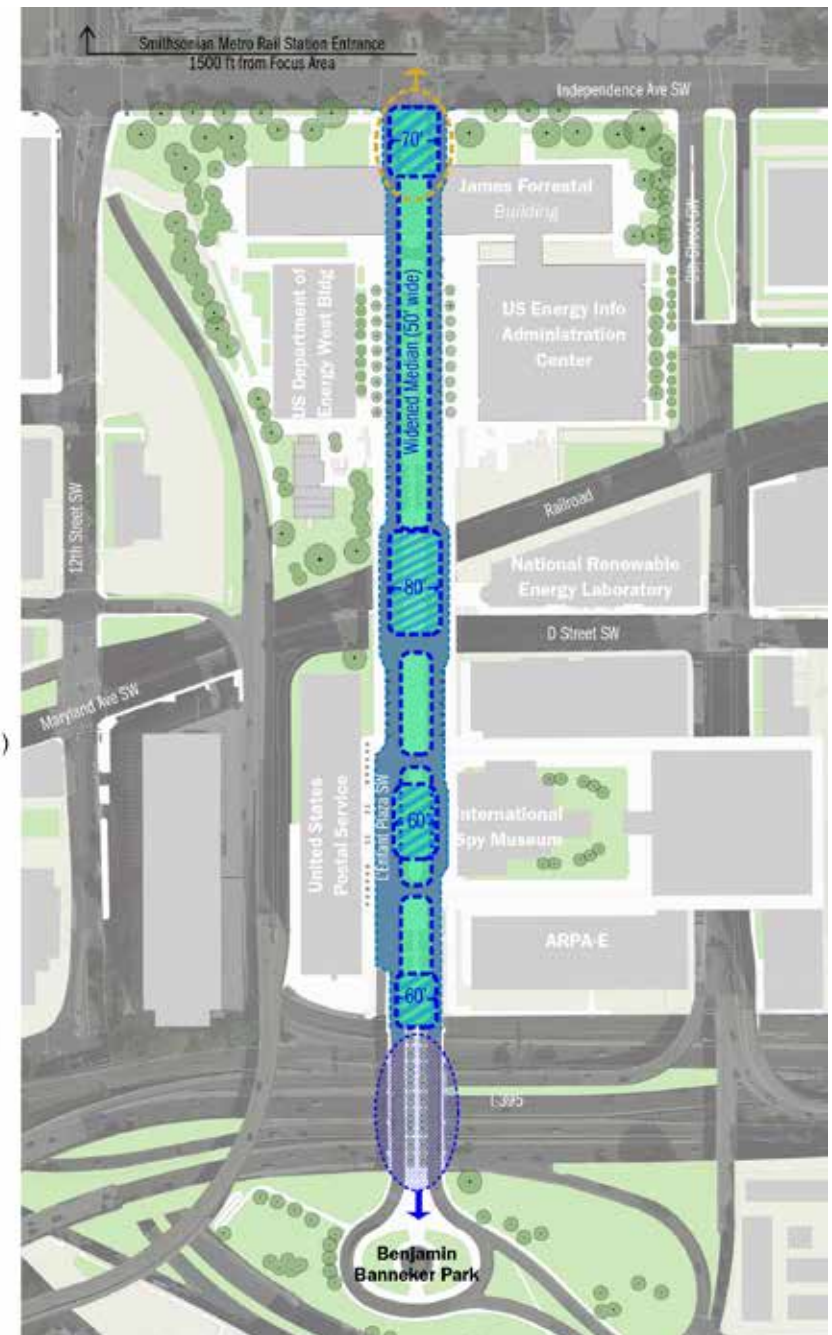
10th St. Promenade Site Analysis A adapts the existing raised median along 10th St Promenade as a monument to provide a linear visitor experience. The current travel and parking lanes would be narrowed, removing approximately 50 parking spaces along the roadway.

At the north end of the site, future adaptation of the intersection with Independence Avenue would occur as the Forrestal Building improvements occur.



10th St. Promenade Site Analysis B takes an expansive approach to the potential establishment of the monument. In this scenario, the linear elements of the site would be expanded in a series of nodes at key focal points, e.g. crossings with roadways. These expanded nodes would offer opportunities for special features of the monument. Site Analysis B would remove approximately 60 on-street parking spaces.

At the north end of the site, future adaptation of the intersection with Independence Avenue would occur as the Forrestal Building improvements occur.



10th St. Promenade: Site Analysis B

“The true power of American democracy is its willingness, its determination, to better itself. This ideal can be seen, felt, and heard through the places and stories preserved and celebrated at National Mall and Memorial Parks.”

- **Foundation Document for the National Mall and Memorial Parks**, National Park Service, 2017