



FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Peace Corps Commemorative Park

NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS
Washington, D.C.

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (Foundation), in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that would result from the implementation of the Peace Corps Commemorative Park (PCC Park) at the intersection of Louisiana Avenue and C and 1st Streets, in Washington, DC (all streets referenced in this document are NW unless otherwise specified). Public Law [(P.L.) 113-78] authorized the Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps, and for other purposes.

The purpose of the PCC Park is to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded. The planning, design, and construction of the PCC Park is necessary to carry out PL 113-78 and to address the current lack of formal commemoration for those who have served in the Peace Corps.

The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended [42 United States Code (USC) § 4332(2)(C)] the implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)[40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508]; the Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46); the NPS Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making*; and the accompanying 2015 NPS NEPA Handbook. As required by NPS Management Policies 2006, a finding of non-impairment is included as **Appendix A**. The statements and conclusions reached in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are based on documentation and analysis provided in the EA and the associated decision file. To the extent necessary, relevant sections of the EA are incorporated by reference.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public Scoping – The NPS involved the public during the NEPA process to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed project. The NPS held one public scoping meeting during each of the two 30-day public scoping periods: October 8-November 11, 2014, and January 15-February 13, 2015. During these scoping periods, the public, agencies, and interested parties were invited to submit comments on the proposed project. The scoping information is available at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) project webpage: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/peacecorps>.

EA Public Review – The EA was made available for public review and comment from July 29 through September 16, 2022, on the NPS PEPC project website <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/peacecorps>. The EA public review period was announced on the NPS PEPC webpage and by news release. A total of seven pieces of correspondence were received from the EA public review period. Concern Statements and Responses are provided in **Appendix B**.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation – The NPS initiated consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on October 9, 2014, and again on March 25, 2019. As part of the Section 106 process, the NPS held a Section 106 consulting parties meeting on

April 15, 2019. A determination of No Adverse Effect was submitted to the SHPO on April 8, 2024, with a concurrence from SHPO on April 30, 2024. Relevant correspondences are included in **Appendix C**.

Tribal Consultation – The NPS consulted with the Rappahannock Tribe, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Catawba Nation, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Tribe Easter Division, the Delaware Nation, the Monacan Indian Nation, the Nansemond Indian Nation, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, on July 21, 2022. The Catawba Nation responded on September 21, 2022, and requested to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of the project. Relevant correspondences are included in **Appendix C**.

Commission Review – The National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC), National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) also reviewed the proposed project. The NCMAC reviewed the site selection study on May 16, 2014, and the design on February 11, 2020. NCPC reviewed the site selection study on December 4, 2014, and the design on May 2, 2019, and September 1, 2022. The CFA reviewed the project's site selection on November 14, 2014. The CFA reviewed the project's design five times during 2019 and 2020: March 21st, September 19th, February 20th, June 18th and September 17th and November 18, 2021. During each of these meetings, the public was offered the opportunity to comment. Relevant correspondences are included in **Appendix C**.

Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation – On July 7, 2022, the NPS conducted Section 7 consultation via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)'s Information, Planning, and Consultation (IPaC) System, which identified the potential for the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) (NLEB). On March 31, 2023, the NLEB was uplisted from federally threatened to federally endangered. The interim guidance associated with this uplisting required all federal agencies to re-initiate Section 7 consultation with the USFWS if their projects had the potential to affect the NLEB. Due to a pause in the planning of the proposed Peace Corps Memorial, this consultation was never re-initiated. The USFWS expects to release its final guidance on the endangered NLEB in the summer of 2024. The NPS will re-initiate consultation with the USFWS on the NLEB after the final guidance has been released, and as far in advanced of the known construction date as possible. Initial IPaC report from July 7, 2022, is included in **Appendix C**.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND SELECTED

The NPS analyzed two alternatives: (A) no action, and (B) action alternative (Establishing the Park). The no action alternative was carried forward to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the proposed action (40 CFR Part 1502.14). Based on the analysis presented in the EA, the NPS selected Alternative B: Establishing the Park (the NPS Preferred Alternative-proposed action) for implementation. The selected alternative is described on page 9 of the EA. The selected alternative will establish a new Peace Corps Commemorative Park, as authorized in P.L. 113-78, at Reservation 727 bounded by Louisiana Avenue and C and 1st Streets. The approximately 0.15-acre memorial would include a central plaza inlaid with a world map, edged by three benches, with entry provided by three walkways from the sidewalks. The curved benches, each shaped to resemble a different open hand, would be approximately 2 to 3.5 feet in height and approximately 32 feet in length. Visitors would access the plaza via three pathways leading from approximately mid-block Louisiana Avenue, the intersection of 1st and C Streets, and mid-block C Street.

Of the eight existing trees within the project site, seven of which would be replaced. Approximately twenty-two new and replacement trees in addition to new vegetated groundcover would be installed. The site would also include an approximately 1,600-square foot bioretention area to address stormwater runoff and new night-sky friendly lighting.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The NPS identified Alternative B, the proposed action, as the selected alternative for implementation because it best meets the purpose and need of the project, as it will establish a permanent Peace Corps Commemorative Park as authorized by P.L. 113-78.

WHY THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As documented in the EA, the selected alternative has the potential for adverse and beneficial impacts on archeological resources (see EA pages 7-9) and on visitor use and experience (see EA page 9). The NPS has determined that the selected alternative can be implemented without significant adverse effects, as defined in 40 CFR § 1508.27.

Archeological Resources. Although the selected alternative will install a plaza, seating, and pathways at the project site, along with the replacement of seven trees and the addition of 15 new trees, ground cover vegetation, and bioretention areas, the project will not disturb potentially deeply buried archeological resources. This is due to the anticipated limit of disturbance being a maximum of 5 feet. In addition, the NPS conducted a Phase IA archaeological and geo-archaeological analysis to determine whether any potential to affect archaeological resources may exist on the site. The analysis revealed that there was low potential for such resources to be present on site. The Phase IA was sent March 5, 2024, for review. On April 30, 2024, the SHPO concurred with the finding of the Phase IA, as well as overall determination of “No Adverse Effect (Appendix C).”

Visitor Use and Experience – The selected alternative will result in beneficial impacts on visitor use and experience. Alternative B would replace the approximately 0.15-acre area encompassing turf and trees with a new memorial, including a plaza, seating, additional trees, and vegetative ground cover. Three new paths to the new memorial would connect from the Louisiana Avenue and 1st and C Streets sidewalks. The construction of these elements would temporarily close areas of the park to visitors. New pathways leading to existing sidewalks would not noticeably alter circulation patterns around the perimeter of the site. Within the site, the new paths to the memorial would formalize circulation. Pedestrians would continue to passively recreate and receive shade from trees within the project site. It is anticipated that the improvements associated with the PCC Park would attract more visitor interest to the site, which would increase the use of the site. Therefore, the selected alternative would not result in adverse impacts on visitor use and experience.

CONCLUSION

As described above, the selected alternative does not constitute an action meeting the criteria that normally requires preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The selected alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA.

Based on the foregoing, it has been determined that an EIS is not required for this project and, thus, will not be prepared.

Recommended:

Jeffrey P. Reinbold
Superintendent
National Mall and Memorial Parks
National Capital Region

Date

Approved:

Lisa A. Mendelson
Acting Regional Director
National Capital Region

Date

Appendix A: Non-impairment Determination

Appendix B: Concern Statements and Responses

Appendix C: Agency Consultation Correspondence

APPENDIX A: NON-IMPAIRMENT DETERMINATION

By enacting the National Park Service (NPS) Organic Act of 1916 (Organic Act), Congress directed the U.S. Department of the Interior and the PS to manage units “to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (54 USC 100101). Congress reiterated this mandate in the Redwood National Park Expansion Act of 1978 by stating that NPS must conduct its actions in a manner that will ensure no “derogation of the values and purposes for which the System units have been established, except as directly and specifically provided by Congress” (54 USC 100101).

The NPS has discretion to allow impacts on park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a Park (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.3). However, the NPS cannot allow an adverse impact that will constitute an impairment of the affected resources and values (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.3). An action constitutes an impairment when its impacts “*harm the integrity of Park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values*” (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.5). To determine impairment, the NPS must evaluate “*the particular resources and values that would be affected; the severity, duration, and timing of the impact; the direct and indirect effects of the impact; and the cumulative effects of the impact in question and other impacts*” (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.5). This ensures that park resources and values will continue to exist in a condition that will allow the American people to have present and future opportunities for enjoyment of them.

This determination on impairment has been prepared for the selected alternative described in this Finding of No Significant Impact. An impairment determination is made for the resource topic of archaeological resources which was analyzed in the EA. An impairment determination is not made for visitor use and experience because impairment findings relate back to park resources and values. These impact areas are not generally considered to be park resources or values according to the Organic Act and cannot be impaired in the same way that an action can impair park resources and values.

Natural and Cultural Resources - Implementing the selected alternative will result in the removal of seven urban trees (some of which are in poor health), which will be replaced by 15 trees after construction is complete. In addition, because the potential for archeological resources to exist on-site are very low, and the fact that the anticipated depth of disturbance will be at a maximum of 5 feet in depth, there is not likely to be any impacts to archeological resources. Design actions will be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. On, April 30, 2024, the DC SHPO concurred with the NPS’s determination that the project will have “no adverse effect” on historic properties, including archaeological resources. Overall, Implementation of the selected alternative will not affect the overall values and purposes for which the National Mall and Memorial Parks were established, nor will it limit the public’s ability to enjoy these spaces. Therefore, there will be no impairment to Park’s resources related to this project.

CONCLUSION

The NPS has determined that the implementation of the NPS selected alternative will not impair the resources or values of National Mall and Memorial Parks. As described above, adverse impacts anticipated from implementing the selected alternative on a resource or value whose conservation is necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park, or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park or identified as significant in the National Mall and Memorial Parks Foundation Document or other relevant NPS planning documents, will not constitute impairment. This conclusion is based on consideration of the park’s purpose and significance, a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the EA, comments provided by the public and others, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction of the *NPS Management Policies 2006*.

APPENDIX B: CONCERN STATEMENTS AND RESPONSES

Topic	Summary of Concern Statement	NPS Response
Support for Proposed Action	Support for establishment and design of the PCC Park to honor the members who served in the Peace Corps.	The NPS appreciates the support for this Project.
Opposition for Proposed Action	The proposed PCC Park does not accurately represent the values of the Peace Corps.	The specific design of the park will continue to evolve and be refined as it progresses through the design review process.
Design	<p>The design is generic and insular; it should have more meaning and create more engagement with sidewalk passerby.</p> <p>The Park does not feel joyful, warm, or welcoming. The hands could be joined to signify the coming together of cultures, and the marble could be different colors.</p> <p>The design seems singular in its gray appearance; adding color would represent the diversity of the Peace Corps.</p> <p>The design should incorporate blue to match the Peace Corps logos.</p>	The specific design of the park will continue to evolve and be refined as it progresses through the design review process.

APPENDIX C: AGENCY CONSULTATION CORRESPONDENCE



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chesapeake Bay Ecological Services Field Office
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401-7307
Phone: (410) 573-4599 Fax: (410) 266-9127



In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2022-0061873
Project Name: Peace Corps Commemorative Park

July 08, 2022

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Wetlands
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Chesapeake Bay Ecological Services Field Office

177 Admiral Cochrane Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401-7307

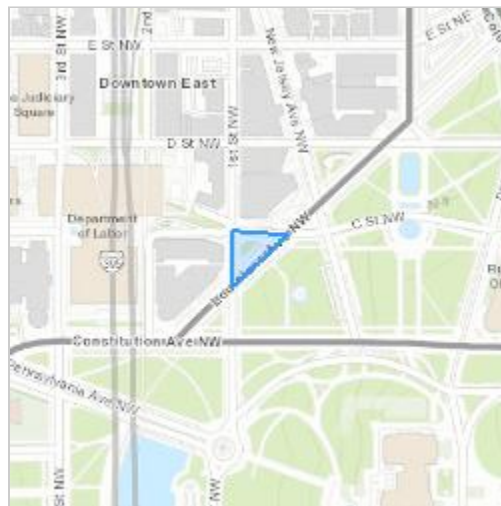
(410) 573-4599

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0061873
Event Code: None
Project Name: Peace Corps Commemorative Park
Project Type: New Constr - Above Ground
Project Description: The National Park Service and the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation, in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission, propose to establish a permanent Peace Corps Commemorative Park near the U.S. Capitol at a site bound by Louisiana Avenue NW and 1st and C Streets NW in Washington, DC. The approximately 0.15-acre memorial would include a central plaza edged by three benches, with entry provided by three walkways from the sidewalks. Of the eight existing trees within the project site, seven of would be replaced; approximately 19 new and replacement trees and new vegetated groundcover would be installed. The site would also include an approximately 1,600-square foot bioretention area to address stormwater runoff and new lighting.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@38.893224849999996,-77.01191805322377,14z>



Counties: District of Columbia County, District of Columbia

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 2 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects with a federal nexus that have tree clearing = to or > 15 acres: 1. REQUEST A SPECIES LIST 2. NEXT STEP: EVALUATE DETERMINATION KEYS 3. SELECT EVALUATE under the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) Consultation and 4(d) Rule Consistency key Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The monarch is a candidate species and not yet listed or proposed for listing. There are generally no section 7 requirements for candidate species (FAQ found here: https://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/FAQ-Section7.html). Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: AECOM

Name: Lauren Tuttle

Address: 2000 K Street NW, Suite 800

City: Washington

State: DC

Zip: 20006

Email: lauren.tuttle@aecom.com

Phone: 2027720668



April 30, 2024

Mr. Jeffery P. Reinbold
Acting Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
National Park Service
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024-2000

RE: Conclusion of Section 106 Consultation for the Peace Corps Commemorative Park (Peace Corps Memorial)

Dear Mr. Reinbold:

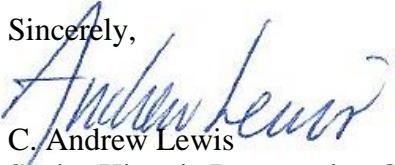
Thank you for consulting further with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the above-referenced undertaking. The NPS initiated consultation for the Peace Corps Memorial on October 9, 2014, and then re-initiated consultation on March 25, 2019. Since that time, we have heard relatively little about the proposal, but we received your most recent letter on April 8, 2024, and are writing to provide additional comments regarding effects on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

As noted in the most recent NPS letter, a consulting parties meeting was held on April 5, 2019, to discuss the design concepts for the memorial which is proposed for the reservation bounded by Louisiana Avenue, First Street and C Street, NW. Comments offered during the meeting focused on design features such as the potential for viewshed issues resulting from the memorial's proposed pergola. Taking comments from the meeting into account, the NPS and the project proponent refined the memorial design over the subsequent years. This ultimately led to the elimination of the pergola which had raised previous concerns. The most recent design is pasted below for reference.



In addition to refining the design concept, the NPS also conducted a Phase IA archaeological and geo-archaeological analysis to determine whether any potential to affect archaeological resources may exist on the site. These efforts established that there was low potential for such resources to be present and we agreed but offer the attached final comments on the report.

For the reasons outlined above, we concur with the NPS determination construction of the Peace Corps Memorial will have “no adverse effect” on historic properties, including archaeological resources. If you should have any questions or comments regarding any of these matters, please contact me at andrew.lewis@dc.gov or 202-442-8841. Questions or comments relating to archaeology should be directed to Ruth Troccoli at ruth.troccoli@dc.gov or 202-442-8836. Thank you for providing this opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Officer
DC State Historic Preservation Office

19-0360 (previously 14-398)

COMMENTS THE PEACE CORPS MEMORIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

We received the revised draft technical archaeological report for the Phase IA investigation on Mach 5, 2024, and thank you for addressing our comments (*DC SHPO Archaeological Report # 850*). We can accept this report as final and move ahead with final submission of copies of all data generated, to SHPO. Copies of all data include but are not limited to all GIS spatial data (including cut & fill files, project area polygon, etc.), any field photos, notes, and the electronic version of the final report. Please note that the revised draft report PDF is optimized however is a very “slow” file to open and scroll through page by page. Does NPS have this issue? SHPO will also receive (2) hard copies of the final report for SHPO library. Consultants need to complete & submit our “HPO Collections Submission” checklist for this process. A copy is in their folder on our FTP, Box.com. Submission of electronic files can be completed using Box.com.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

The NPS consulted with the Rappahannock Tribe, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Catawba Nation, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division, the Delaware Nation, the Monacan Indian Nation, the Nansemond Indian Nation, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, the Shawnee Tribe, and the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, on July 21, 2022. The following letter was sent to each of the above listed Tribes.



United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

July 21, 2022

[SAMPLE LETTER]

Subject: Section 106 Consultation and Environmental Assessment for Establishment of the
Peace Corps Commemorative Park, Washington, DC

Dear NAME:

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation (Foundation), in cooperation with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the establishment of a permanent Peace Corps Commemorative Park (PCC Park) near the U.S. Capitol at a site bound by Louisiana Avenue NW and 1st and C Streets NW in Washington, DC. The NPS understands that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma has an interest in the preservation of Native American cultural resources of significance in this region and is writing to formally initiate consultation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) and its implementing regulation 36 CFR 800.3.

We apologize for coming to you so late in the Section 106 process. This letter includes materials for your review, including the EA, which was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). We request that you provide comment by September 16, 2022, to the contact provided below. Below is a summary of the undertaking and the result of consultation with the DC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Background and Description of Undertaking

In 2014, Public Law 113-78 authorized the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to commemorate the mission of the Peace Corps and the ideals on which the Peace Corps was founded. The memorial must be consistent with the Commemorative Works Act, which ensures that commemorative works in areas administered by the NPS in Washington, D.C. are appropriately designed, constructed, and located. The NPS will be responsible for its long-term maintenance.

The project site, Reservation 727, emerged as the preferred location for the PCC Park after a site selection study; presentations to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC), the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and NCPC; and a site selection public

scoping period. The approximately 0.15-acre memorial would include a central plaza inlaid with a world map, edged by three benches, with entry provided by three walkways from the sidewalks. Of the eight existing trees within the project site, seven would be replaced; approximately 19 new and replacement trees and new vegetated groundcover would be installed. The site would also include an approximately 1,600-square foot bioretention area to address stormwater runoff and new lighting.

Area of Potential Effect and Identification of Historic Properties

The area of potential effect (APE) for this project is the project site. The L'Enfant Plan of the City of Washington encompasses the project site and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Reservation 727 is considered a possible contributing element to the L'Enfant Plan and is adjacent to multiple contributing views and vistas. No known archeological resources have been documented for the site.

Consultation and Potential Effects to Historic Properties

The NPS initiated consultation with the SHPO on October 9, 2014. The NPS held one Section 106 consulting parties meeting, which occurred on April 15, 2019. Consulting parties primarily focused on the proposed pergola and its potential adverse effects, most notably on views to the U.S. Capitol. This proposed element has since been removed from the design.

The project's elements are anticipated to require disturbance of the site up to a depth of four feet. The Foundation and the NPS propose to conduct additional site investigations through archeological monitoring and geoarcheological analysis of geotechnical borings for the proposed PCC Park. The site investigations would provide information for potential for the subject property to contain significant archeological resources. If the site investigations indicate the potential for such resources, the Foundation and the NPS would prepare a Phase IB archeological survey.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management for NAMA at 202-245-4711 or via email at catherine_dewey@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

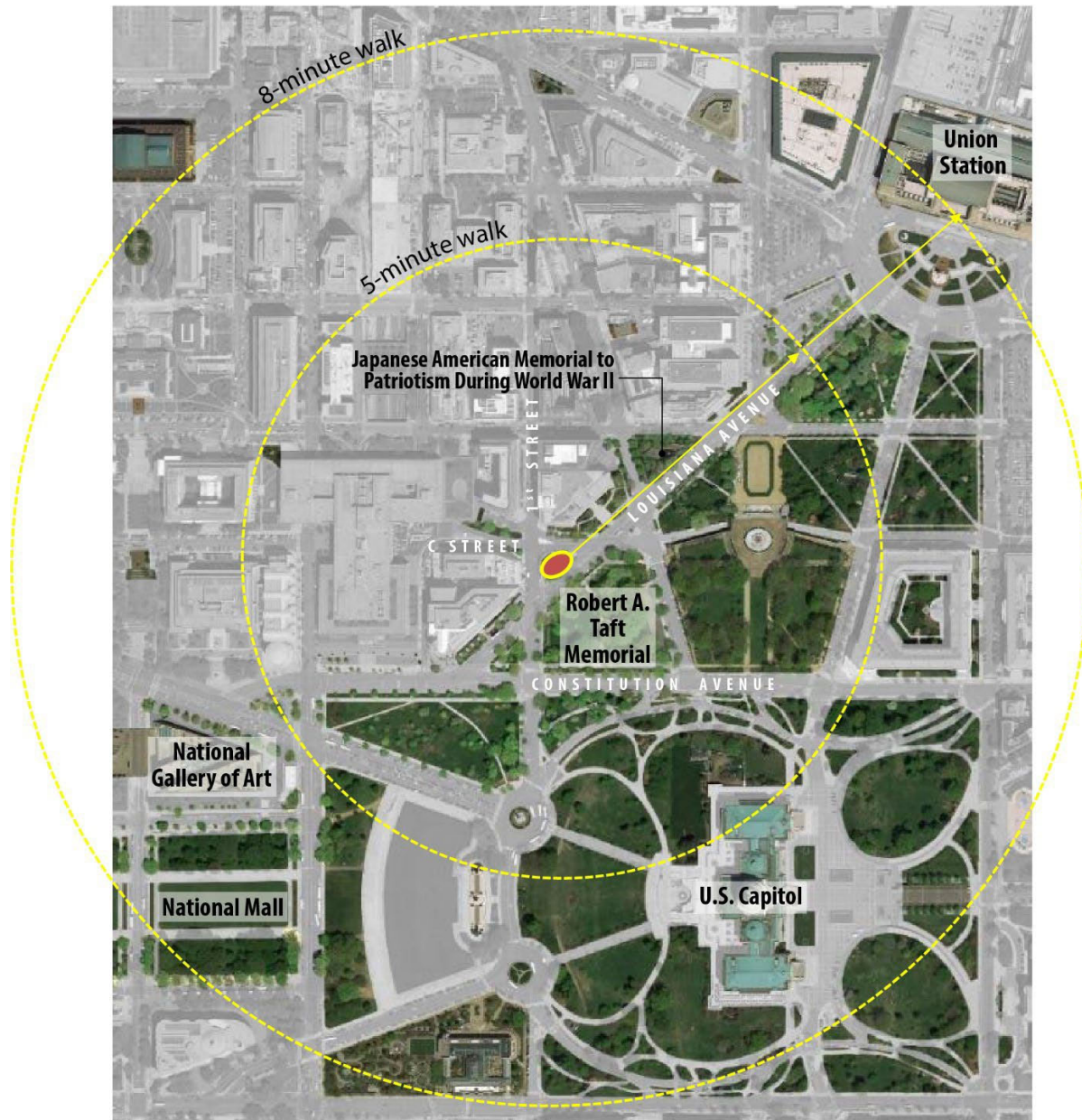


Jeffrey P. Reinbold
Superintendent

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Site Location Map
Attachment 2: Proposed Boring Locations

Attachment1: Site Location Map



Attachment 2: Proposed Boring Locations

