

Washington Monument Visitor Security Screening

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Welcome to the Public Meeting for the
Washington Monument
Visitor Security Screening Project

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Project Area

Washington Monument Visitor Security Screening



Proposed Actions

This EA presents a range of alternatives to improve the security and visitor screening at the Washington Monument (the Monument) located on the Washington Monument grounds in Washington, D.C.

In 2002, the NPS completed a design for the Washington Monument Permanent Security Improvements that included a comprehensive landscape solution for a perimeter vehicular barrier system and a new screening facility. However, only the vehicular barrier system and a portion of the landscape design were implemented. The NPS is currently revisiting the feasibility of a new entrance and visitor screening facility and the removal of the existing temporary facility. These proposed actions are the subject of this EA and are explored in several alternatives.



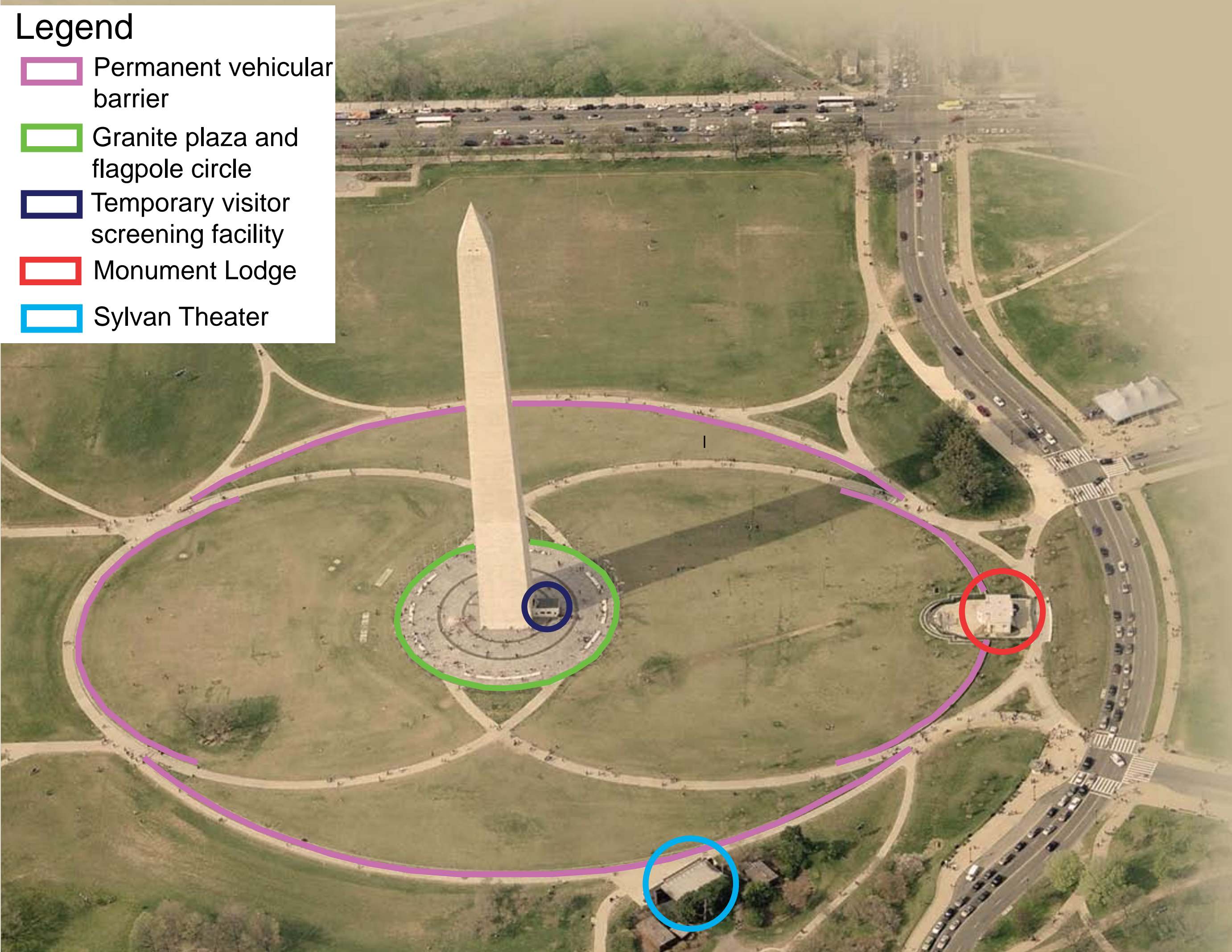
Temporary visitor screening facility



Visitors waiting to enter the Monument

Legend

- Permanent vehicular barrier
- Granite plaza and flagpole circle
- Temporary visitor screening facility
- Monument Lodge
- Sylvan Theater



Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed actions is to improve the security of the Monument in a manner that maintains and preserves the visitor experience and cultural landscape of the Monument grounds.

As the primary memorial to the nation's first president, the Monument is one of the most prominent American icons and is toured by approximately one million visitors annually with many more visiting the surrounding grounds. Its popularity, combined with its status as an icon, makes it a potential target for terrorist attacks. In 2001, a visitor screening facility was constructed that was intended to be temporary. In 2006, a permanent perimeter vehicular barrier system with landscape improvements was completed. Action is needed to complete the comprehensive perimeter security improvements.



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) The EA Process

NEPA requires all federal agencies to consider and document the potential impacts of management actions on the human environment. The National Park Service (NPS) applies NEPA in the planning process to evaluate alternative courses of action and impacts so decisions are made in accord with the conservation and preservation mandate of the NPS Organic Act of 1916.

The NPS utilizes Director's Order 12, Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making, and Handbook 12 to establish these guidelines. Handbook 12 defines the steps within the NEPA process and outlines the necessary requirements and contents for environmental document preparation.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a NEPA document that is prepared to assist in planning and decision-making and to determine if an action has the potential for significant impact. The NPS is completing an EA for this project so that the existing conditions and the potential impacts to the following resource areas can be assessed: Visitor Use and Experience, Public Safety, Park Management and Operations, Soils, Visual Resources, and Cultural Resources.

- **Public Notification**
- **Define Purpose & Need** for the proposed action - determine project area, define framework within which reasonable alternatives can be developed, and develop preliminary alternatives
- **Data Collection** - Begin resource inventory and analysis, determine resource topics affected by the proposed action, and initiate data collection/ research needed to carry impact analysis forward
- **Define Preliminary Alternatives**
- **Internal and External Scoping** - to introduce project and identify issues
- **Public Scoping Meeting**
- Describe the **Affected Environment**, refine alternatives, and prepare impact analysis of affected resource topics
- Prepare **draft Environmental Assessment (EA)** for Internal Agency Review, prepare final EA for Public Comment
- Release **Final EA for 30-day Public Comment Period**
- **Review** all public comments received on the EA and **respond** to comments
- Prepare and finalize appropriate **Decision Document**



Section 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

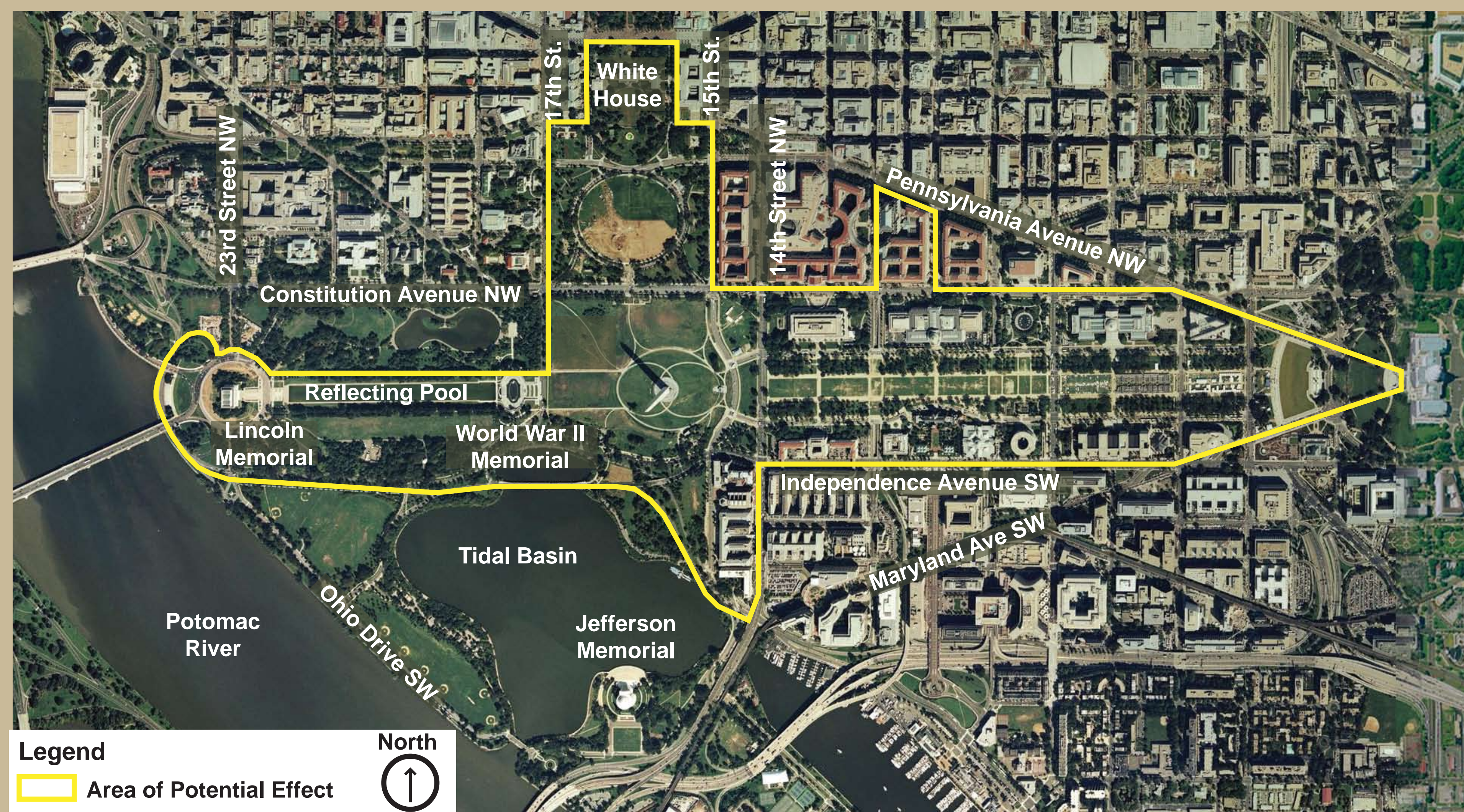
If it is determined that the proposed action could affect historic properties, Section 106 is triggered. The Section 106 task and the NEPA assessment need to be closely coordinated.

Section 106 Process

- Define Undertaking / Initiate Section 106
- Identify Consulting Parties
- Plan to involve the Public
- Define Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Identify Significant Cultural Resources in APE
- Assess Effects on Significant Resources
- Apply Criteria of Adverse Effect
- Continue Consultation
- Draft Agreement Document, if needed

Area of Potential Effect

According to 36 CFR 800.16(d), the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of the undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.





Opportunities to Comment

Your comments are essential to the environmental assessment and the development of alternatives. We seek your comments on the scope of issues to be addressed and in identifying any issues related to the proposed action by December 8, 2010.

Additional opportunities to provide comment on this project will occur during public release of the EA.

You may submit comments on the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment Site:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NAMA>

OR e-mail to:

Joni Gallegos, National Park Service at
Joni_Gallegos@nps.gov

OR mail to:

Greg Cody, National Park Service at
12795 W. Alameda Parkway, P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225