



401 9th Street, NW
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004
Tel: 202 482-7200
Fax: 202 482-7272
www.ncpc.gov

October 5, 2006
For Immediate Release

Contact: Lisa MacSpadden
202-482-7263 or lisa@ncpc.gov

NCPC Explores Future of RFK Stadium Site

Washington, DC – A strategic site in Washington—the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Memorial Stadium—could be transformed into a dramatic gateway to the city under a new plan developed by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

Recognizing that the sports teams now using the stadium may soon vacate the site, NCPC staff studied a variety of potential uses to create a lively destination for residents and visitors. NCPC's vision is to transform the area into a well-designed, environmentally friendly gateway into the monumental core.

The redeveloped site would include a large waterfront park, with recreational fields and open space, augmented by commemorative works and connected to the surrounding neighborhoods by pedestrian and bicycle paths.

“The National Capital Planning Commission has long recognized this vital stretch of land as a dramatic gateway to the city, and staff has worked with a wide range of stakeholders and the general public to develop these recommendations,” said John V. Cogbill, III, chairman of NCPC. “With careful planning, redevelopment of the RFK Stadium site presents a tremendous opportunity in an area of the city that is ripe for revitalization.”

Located on East Capitol Street along the banks of the Anacostia River, the stadium site is considered strategic federal property. It is located in a key position of the original L'Enfant city on approximately 190 acres of land leased to the District of Columbia by the federal government. The site serves as the eastern gateway to the monumental core and as a direct link between the residential Capitol Hill neighborhood and the western banks of the Anacostia River.

“NCPC envisions this area with a major memorial on the East Capitol Street axis surrounded by recreational space and residential and commercial development,” said Patricia Gallagher, NCPC's executive director. “NCPC's 1997 Legacy Plan, our 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*, and our recently released National Capital Framework Plan all recognize the RFK site as one of the city's best locations for future memorials and museums.”

NCPC planners recommend that the interior of the site include residential and retail mixed-use development and a new commemorative site located across from the existing DC Armory that is currently adjacent to the stadium. The proposed new commemorative site would mirror the scale of the armory and encompass a 15-acre superblock surrounded by a well-designed landscape.

The revitalized area would feature restaurants and cafes as well as services like dry cleaners and bookstores. In addition, a federal building could locate in the area, provided that any perimeter security did not limit public access to the site and was designed in a manner befitting the gateway.

The plan also calls for upgrading the street network to make Constitution, Independence, and East Capitol the main axial streets. Currently, Independence Avenue and C Street, NE, act as the main roadways feeding into RFK Stadium.

In addition, the plan calls for increasing public access to the waterfront, including constructing a riverwalk on both sides of the Anacostia River. The site is an important part of the District's Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, which is aimed at transforming the Anacostia River into a viable waterfront. NCPC planners recommend improving environmental conditions at the site and in the river, which currently receives a substantial amount of untreated run-off from the stadium site.

While conducting their study, planners at NCPC solicited input from numerous stakeholders including the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the District's Office of Planning and Department of Transportation, National Park Service, Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, and the general public. A special public meeting was held in the community in July, and planners incorporated many of the resulting suggestions into their recommendations.

“We look forward to the time when much of this property can be returned to Anacostia Park, from which it was taken,” said John Parsons, an associate regional director with the National Park Service. “This would bring expanded recreation to this underserved area as well as fulfill the continuing federal need for new cultural and commemorative sites.”

NCPC will hold a second public meeting to solicit final input on the agency's recommendations for the RFK Stadium site on Thursday, October 19, from 6-8:00 p.m. The specific recommendations will be available online on October 6. Visit *What's New* at www.ncpc.gov to access the report.

###

The National Capital Planning Commission is the federal government's central planning agency in the District of Columbia and surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region. It also reviews the design of federal projects and memorials, oversees long-range planning for future development, and monitors capital investment by federal agencies.