

PRESS RELEASE



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National Capital Framework Plan Announced by National Capital Planning Commission and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

Washington, DC – The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) today announced the “*National Capital Framework Plan*,” an initiative to encourage the siting of future memorials and museums on land other than the National Mall.

“Washington is a vibrant city, full of life that extends well beyond the National Mall,” said John V. Cogbill, III, NCPC Chairman. As outlined by Cogbill, the plan has four goals: “to preserve the open space of the National Mall, to relieve pressure on decision makers to place additional memorials and museums on the Mall, to extend the desirable qualities of the Mall to surrounding areas, and to improve connections to existing and new destinations.”

The announcement was made from the courtyard of the Navy Memorial with visitors and office workers surrounding the speakers.

“We are here today at the Navy Memorial, a great example of a beautiful and meaningful memorial that can be built within the city without creating another commemorative site on the National Mall,” said Earl A. Powell, III, CFA Chairman. “Enhancing the areas around the National Mall will be a long-term effort requiring input from the public, from many agencies, and from design and planning professionals.”

In an amendment to the Commemorative Works Act of 2003, Congress designated the National Mall as a “Reserve,” essentially a no-build zone as first proposed by NCPC in its 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*.

“I co-authored the provision to declare the Mall a no-build zone because I believe the National Mall is a completed work of civic art,” said U.S. Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY), chairman of the U.S. Senate’s National Parks subcommittee. “When the Framework Plan is completed, it will encourage future decision makers to look to newly identified locations throughout the city for commemoration and celebration.”

The Framework Plan will focus on the areas of the Northwest Rectangle, Federal Triangle, East Potomac Park, Southwest Federal Center, Banneker Overlook, RFK Stadium site, South Capitol Street, and Poplar Point.

“The National Trust supported the National Capital Planning Commission’s *Legacy Plan*, and we are pleased that the new Framework Plan will help realize that vision by restoring L’Enfant streets and vistas, reusing historic buildings, and safeguarding our National Mall,” said Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation. “The Commission is truly preserving the best of the District’s past for the future, while providing exciting opportunities for new development.”

The timetable for the Framework Plan includes development of a study by late 2006. The Framework Plan will address how to improve streetscapes, public spaces, recreation areas, sites for museums, memorials, and the areas that surround them. Recognizing that improving these areas will take many years, and that public funds for such efforts are limited, the Plan will strive to prioritize its proposals for improvement.

“The National Capital Framework Plan complements the Park Service’s National Mall Comprehensive Management Plan,” said Joseph Lawler, Regional Director, National Park Service. “We are proud to be a partner in this effort that will provide a roadmap to relieve pressure on the Mall and benefit the city as a whole.”

“As the federal government’s real estate arm, we look forward to the outcome of the National Capital Framework Plan, said David Winstead, Commissioner of GSA’s Public Buildings Service. “When the plan is complete, many federal work places will see tangible benefits from the Plan—new and lively settings, convenient retail, and restaurant options – to name a few. GSA looks forward to working closely with partners in this endeavor.”

The Framework Plan announced today is grounded in the principles set forth in the original *L’Enfant Plan* and its successors, the *McMillan Plan* of 1901 and NCPC’s *Legacy Plan* of 1997.

Announced partners in this project include the General Services Administration, National Park Service, Architect of the Capitol, Department of Agriculture, Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, Kennedy Center, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. NCPC and CFA also will collaborate closely with the city throughout this ongoing initiative.

The first public meeting to receive comment on the Framework Plan will be held in June.

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.

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