



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Introduction Garden – Phase 1</b> United States National Arboretum 3501 New York Avenue, NE Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 7414
	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 52.00(38.00)43637
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of Agriculture National Arboretum	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Preliminary and final approval of site development plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for Phase 1 of the Introduction Garden project. The Introduction Garden project is a multi-phased landscape and site enhancement project for an existing administration building at the 466-acre U.S. National Arboretum located in Northeast Washington, DC. Phase 1 includes the following elements:

- replacing the existing concrete bridges at the administration building with new concrete bridges that meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements
- replacing the pooling lining which is leaking;
- repairing the pool coping which is in disrepair; and
- introducing bog gardens to the pool to help filter the pool water and feed the coy fish.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the USDA determined that the proposed Phase 1 will not adversely affect historic properties. The project was submitted to the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) for review. The DC SHPO concurred with the USDA's finding of no adverse effect. NCPC staff also reviewed the project materials and found that Phase 1 of the project would not have an adverse effect on historic properties. In addition, both the DC SHPO and NCPC staff recommend that the USDA prepare a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the administration building prior to review of future phases of the Introduction Garden.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Arboretum has determined that the proposed modifications are a categorical exclusion under its regulations at 7 CRF 1b.3(4) for implementing NEPA, for educational and informational programs and activities. Staff review of the current submission regarding its NEPA responsibilities finds the proposed site improvements are in conformance with the NCPC categorical exclusion criteria of §8(C)(21) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures as an action minimally modifying the existing landscape.

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The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its October 10, 2012 meeting and forwarded it to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the construction of Phase 1 of the Introduction Garden Project at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Phase 1 includes pool repairs and pedestrian bridge replacements at the existing Arboretum administration building.

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Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

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