



Commission Action

April 4, 2013

PROJECT Millennium Project Arlington National Cemetery Arlington County, VA	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7457
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Defense Department of the Army	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.61(38.00)43705
	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on concept design
	ACTION TAKEN Approve comments as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Project in the Environs 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The Commission notes that:

- Arlington National Cemetery is projected to reach full capacity in 2023.
- In recognition of this fact, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to transfer a portion of the Arlington House Woods, then under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, to the Secretary of the Army for the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery, under Public Law 107-107.
- Arlington House Woods are part of the historic setting for the Robert E. Lee Mansion, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act directs federal agency officials to take into account the effect of the undertaking on any resources listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Federal Environment Element of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital states that when tree removal is necessary, trees should be replaced to prevent a net tree loss.
- The creation of new burial sites in this area cannot be accomplished without substantial tree loss, including adverse effects to the Arlington House Woods.

The Commission also notes that the current proposal:

- Reflects the result of ongoing efforts to reduce adverse effects to the Arlington House Woods.
- Includes mitigation measures including stream restoration within the Woods.

The Commission therefore comments favorably on the concept design and directs the Department of the Army, in subsequent submissions, to:

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- Continue to refine the design to minimize harm and provide appropriate mitigation through consultation as required by the National Historic Preservation Act.
 - Continue to refine the Visual Impact Survey in ways that are responsive to consulting parties, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation and members of the community.
 - Encourage a thorough exploration of decreasing the width of the road bed in the area of the Arlington House Woods and any other available means of further reducing tree loss.
 - Prevent a net tree loss by exploring the possibility of planting trees at Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall or on National Park Service property.

Deborah B. Young

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Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission