



Commission Action

March 7, 2019

PROJECT National Zoological Park Supplemental Perimeter Fencing 3001 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7986
SUBMITTED BY Smithsonian Institution	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 2.00(38.40)44886
REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary and final site development plans
	ACTION TAKEN Approved preliminary and final site development plans with comments

The Commission:

Approves preliminary and final site development plans for supplemental perimeter fencing at the National Zoological Park (NZN), which will serve to close gaps in perimeter security and streamline visitor access points.

Notes that the Smithsonian Institution (SI) is consolidating redundant points of entry throughout the zoo in an effort to enhance safety and security, improve wayfinding for visitors, and better protect the animal collection. Public access will be retained at the three main entrances and from each parking lot, and access routes from adjacent neighborhoods will remain unchanged.

Notes that, per NCPC request, the SI conducted public outreach regarding the project that was submitted in July 2018, which included both civic groups and local leaders. Based on public concerns and an assessment of current security needs and risks, the SI is no longer considering permanent security screening pavilions as part of the overall project.

Notes that the NZN will continue its current practice of screening visitors only during periods of high visitation and/or high risk, which is typically for two weeks during the spring. The NZN will continue to allow zoo access at all six points of entry during these screening periods.

Notes that the SI is not proceeding with the public-private partnership agreement to build and operate the Central Parking Facility as considered in previous submissions. The fencing has been modified to reflect this change, including the construction of a permanent fence line at Parking Lot B and retained entry points at Parking Lots A, B, and C.

Notes that the SI has indicated its intent to conduct a comprehensive update to the NZP master plan in the future, which would include a transportation component that considers long-term parking needs and would revisit the idea of a structured parking facility. The master planning process would include opportunities for public input and comment.

Julia A. Koster
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission



