Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: April 2, 2026

PROJECT
White House Visitor Screening Facility
White House Grounds
472 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC

SUBMITTED BY
Executive Office of the President

REVIEW AUTHORITY
Federal Projects in the District
per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

NCPC FILE NUMBER
8763

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER
1.31(38.40)46186

APPLICANT'S REQUEST
Approval of comments on concept plans

PROPOSED ACTION
Approve comments on concept plans

ACTION ITEM TYPE
Staff Presentation

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Executive Office of the President, in conjunction with the United States Secret Service (USSS) and with the National Park Service (NPS), has submitted concept plans for the construction of a new permanent security screening facility for visitors to the White House, in downtown Washington, DC. The new visitor screening facility consists of two components: a below grade facility with an entrance plaza on the south side of Sherman Park, within President's Park, at the corner of E and 15th Streets, NW, and a ground-level facility on East Executive Avenue, between the proposed White House Ballroom and the Treasury Building. The facility will be used for visitors arriving for tours and events.

The below-grade portion of the facility is approximately 33,000 square feet. The depth of the building accounts for a 12'-0" clear floor to underside of structure, 2'-0" allocated for concrete structure, and a minimum of 3'-0 ground cover above. Most of the proposed structure is intentionally positioned below-grade within the park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid a large existing sewer tunnel that passes through the southeast corner of the park. The at-grade facility on East Executive Avenue will be 4,000 square feet, where visitors will exit once they are screened in the below-ground facility. Badged White House workers and contractors will be able to enter the White House grounds once they go through the new ground- level facility. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to reinstate and enhance the park's character.

While the proposed White House Visitor Screening Facility provides a permanent solution to ensure the safety of visitors and workers to the White House complex by removing temporary trailers and tents currently used, this is only in a relatively small section of President's Park along 15th Street, NW. As such, a similar holistic and comprehensive approach to perimeter security and

public space is needed for all of President's Park and Lafayette Park which currently have layers of temporary fencing and bike racks.

KEY INFORMATION

- The new visitor screening facility consists of two components: a below-grade facility with an entrance plaza on the south side of Sherman Park, within President's Park, at the corner of E and 15th Streets, NW, and a ground-level facility on East Executive Avenue, between the proposed White House Ballroom and the Treasury Building.
- President's Park is an 82-acre park that serves as the setting for the White House and other federal buildings as well as memorials and monuments. It is a nationally significant cultural landscape in the monumental core of Washington, DC, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The 2000 White House and President's Park Master Plan envisioned the creation of an underground screening facility located at the Department of Commerce and 15th Street.
- Currently, Sherman Park is not accessible to the public due to the current construction project of the East Wing modernization and new ballroom.
- The applicant has expressed that a comprehensive perimeter security project is needed in the area around Sherman Park, and will be explored at a future date.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the following comments on the concept plans for the new White House Visitor Screening Facility.

Supports the project goals to provide a permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility (VSF) for the United States Secret Service (USSS) that can support security screening needs for visitor tours, large-scale events, White House staff, and contractors.

Finds that the applicant considered an adequate number of other locations for the new screening facility, but these were dismissed due to impacts and functional challenges.

Notes the underground facility component of the project is located in Sherman Park, within President's Park, a cultural landscape that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Notes that the 2000 White House and President's Park Master Plan envisioned the creation of an underground screening facility located at the Department of Commerce and 15th Street.

Notes that as proposed, the concept plans for the new White House Screening Facility will require removal of the vegetation and ground within Sherman Park to create the below-ground facility.

Encourages the applicant explore opportunities to refine the design of the ground-level facility to be more compatible with its setting, with high-style classical buildings, such as the Treasury Building.

Public Space and Perimeter Security

Notes that currently "no trespass" signs and layers of bike racks are being used to prevent pedestrian access to Sherman Park because the prior temporary fencing on the west side of Sherman Park has been removed due to the East Wing Modernization construction.

Notes that USSS intends to reopen access to the Sherman statue in the park via the stairways off 15th Street but needs to determine a permanent security solution in between the park and the White House.

Requests that the USSS work with NCPC early on the design of a more permanent perimeter security around Sherman Park.

Finds the existing use of temporary security elements around President's Park and the White House, particularly along Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street, continue to detract from the visitor experience and should be improved to help beautify President's Park once the East Wing Modernization project and White House Visitor's Screening Facility are completed.

Requests the applicant work with the National Park Service, General Services Administration, U.S. Secret Service, and others to brief the Commission on a comprehensive security and beautification plan for the White House complex, President's Park, and the vicinity that will replace temporary security measures with an attractive, unified, permanent design solution without further limiting public access.

Next Review

Requests the applicant provide, as part of the next submission:

- Information on the location of the mature trees to be removed to construct the below-ground facility.
- A landscape plan showing proposed new tree and landscape plantings, consistent with NCPC policies.
- Proposed materials for the entrance area into the below-ground screening facility.
- Additional views from the Treasury Building's south elevation towards the new ground-level facility.

Recommends the applicant work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service, NCPC, and other consulting parties to determine the potential impacts of the new screening facility on historic resources.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	None.
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– Preliminary and final site and building plans.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

The Executive Office of the President, in conjunction with the United States Secret Service (USSS) and with the National Park Service (NPS), has submitted concept plans for the construction of a new permanent security screening facility for visitors to the White House, arriving for tours and events, in downtown Washington, DC. The new visitor screening facility consists of two components: a below-grade facility with an entrance plaza on the south side of Sherman Park, within President's Park, at the corner of E and 15th Streets, NW, and a ground-level facility on East Executive Avenue, between the proposed White House Ballroom and the Treasury Building.

The below-grade portion of this facility is approximately 33,000 square feet. The depth of the building accounts for a 12'-0" clear floor to underside of structure, 2'-0" allocated for concrete structure, and a minimum of 3'-0 ground cover above. Most of the proposed structure is intentionally positioned below-grade within the park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid a large existing sewer tunnel that passes through the southeast corner of the park. The ground level facility on East Executive Avenue will be 4,000 square feet, where visitors will exit once they are screened in the below ground facility. Badged White House workers and contractors will be able to enter the White House grounds once they go through the new ground level facility. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to reinstate and enhance the park's character.

Currently, the USSS uses temporary trailers on East Executive Avenue to screen visitors, following an initial identification screening on Hamilton Place in temporary tents. As such, staff recommends the **Commission approves the comments on the concept plans for the new White House Visitor Screening Facility, and supports the project goals to provide a permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility (VSF) for the United States Secret Service (USSS) that can support security screening needs for visitor tours, large-scale events, White House Staff, and Contractors.**

Analysis

The applicant has indicated that the project is needed to provide a permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility (VSF) for the United States Secret Service (USSS) that can support security

screening needs for visitor tours, large-scale events, White House staff, and contractors. This new facility will expand the screening capacity/capabilities and eliminate the need for temporary screening tents for events. As a result, the permanent facility will strengthen campus security and enhance the overall visitor experience. The USSS has evaluated visitor numbers for White House tours and events over the years and the concept design includes adequate screening lanes to accommodate current events inside the White House and most events on the grounds. In addition, the USSS has evaluated the projected visitor numbers for future White House events including the East Wing Modernization Project and the concept design includes enough screening lanes to accommodate these events with staggered guest arrival. The applicant also notes there are site constraints that preclude considering a larger facility.

The project site for the below-ground facility component is located in Sherman Park on the south side of the Treasury Building adjacent to proposed screening facility location included in the NPS led interagency Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park (CDP, 2000). Staff notes that that the existing White House and President's Park Master Plan envisioned the creation of an underground screening facility located at the Department of Commerce and 15th Street.

Project Description

The below-grade facility component of the project is intentionally positioned below grade within the Sherman Park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid infrastructure conflicts in the southeast corner of the park. The south quadrant of the park sits at the lowest elevation. This location naturally provides an opportunity to enter the below grade building directly from the sidewalk with the least ramping required. The 5,000 square foot recessed entry plaza provides a gathering space for visitors and allows queuing to begin along the ramp, helping to reduce congestion on the adjacent 15th Street sidewalk. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to reinstate and enhance the park's character. The below grade portion of this facility is approximately 33,000 square feet. The depth of the building accounts for a 12'-0" clear floor to underside of structure, 2'-0" allocation for concrete structure, and a minimum of 3'-0 ground cover above. A stairwell located at the southwest corner of the park, immediately adjacent to the south gate of East Executive Avenue, will function as a badged access point for USSS and facility personnel, as well as an emergency egress from the below-grade building.

In terms of use, visitor queuing would begin outside in the lower plaza at the southeast corner of 15 and E Streets, adjacent to Sherman Park, where visitors form entry lanes for the initial ID check at the vestibule. They then proceed through the lobby to a second ID checkpoint, followed by the pre-screening sequence. The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial requirements necessary to achieve the throughput capacities established by USSS for large events. Primary screening is laid out as an open floor plan to provide maximum flexibility with the current screening process and equipment, and to support adaptation to evolving screening technologies and capabilities. Upon successfully clearing primary screening, visitors proceed to the escalators that return them to grade level north of the secure fence line along East Executive Avenue. The new ground level exit facility is 4,000 square feet located on East Executive Avenue.

Badged staff and contractors will enter via the ground level building. The north side of this building will also enclose the escalators from the below-grade program, serving as the exit point from the facility into the cleared side of the campus.

Staff notes that currently "no trespass" signs and layers of bike racks are being used to prevent pedestrian access to Sherman Park because the prior temporary fencing on the west side of Sherman Park has been removed due to the East Wing Modernization construction. The monument at the center of the park will be protected in place. The two walkways on the western side of the park will be removed as part of the project. Upon completion, the park will re-open to the public and be accessible from the northeast and southeast pathways from 15th Street. Alexander Hamilton Place and E Street located north and south of the site respectively will remain restricted to authorized vehicles and pedestrians. The applicant has indicated that a more comprehensive perimeter security project is needed for this area of Sherman Park and the White House grounds, which will occur at a future date, but is not part of this project. As such, staff notes that USSS intends to reopen access to the Sherman statue in the park via the stairways off 15th Street but needs to determine a permanent security solution between the park and the White House. In addition, staff **request that the USSS work with NCPC early on the design of a more permanent perimeter security around Sherman Park.**

The applicant has indicated that six existing trees in Sheman Park will need to be removed for the project, but these would be replaced with suitable native species and landscaping in accordance with the NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission request that the applicant submit for the next review information on the location of the mature trees to be removed to construct the below-ground facility; and a proposed landscape plan showing proposed new tree and landscape plantings, consistent with NCPC policies.**

Project Design

For the new ground level exit facility, the applicant is proposing an architectural form and materiality based upon existing security booth vocabulary used throughout the campus. Details will be enhanced to improve the visitor experience. The building composition incorporates a sloped standing-seam metal roof with extended overhangs supported by columns, along with stone cladding and granite base. Glazing systems maintain visual continuity for security purposes and connection to the East Wing as visitors exit the facility. Materials for the project will be refined as the design is developed. The initial materials for the entrance plaza started with the existing screening buildings within the White House Complex. Understanding this structure is more prominent, the design is evolving to incorporate granite, stone, and glass as the primary materials, similar to those used on the Treasury Building and White House. The intent for the entrance plaza is to match the existing granite materials and style similar to the site walls located in Sherman Park.

For the next review, staff recommends the **Commission request the applicant provide additional views from the Treasury Building's south elevation towards the new ground level facility.** In addition, staff recommends the **Commission encourage the applicant explore opportunities to refine the design of the ground level facility to be more compatible with its setting, with high-style classical buildings, such as the Treasury Building.** Also, staff recommends the **Commission request for the next review the applicant provide the proposed materials for the entrance area into the below-ground screening facility.**

Alternate Locations Considered and Dismissed

According to the applicant, the proposed location for the Visitor Screening Facility at Sherman Park and East Executive Avenue was strategically selected with consideration to multiple factors including, but not limited to security, functionality, visitor flow, aesthetics, and cost. Siting the facility was performed in a manner to mitigate the permanent impact to the surrounding areas as much as possible. Alternate locations around the complex have been considered extensively. As such**,** staff recommend that the **Commission finds the applicant considered an adequate number of other locations for the new screening facility, but these were dismissed due to impacts and functional challenges,** as described below.

Dismissed Locations for Facility:

- Lily Triangle / Below East Executive Avenue and E Streets
  Challenges:
  - Additional below grade square footage required to reach exit location on East Executive Avenue within the secure perimeter.
  - Major disruption of Campus operations with Lower East Executive Avenue not available 30 months due to facility constructed underneath.
  - Closer to the White House view shed.
  - No direct access from public sidewalk, would require crossing closed E street without additional tunnel to the south.

- North Treasury -Below Ground Plaza / Partial Courtyard Infill
  Challenges:
  - The North Courtyard site has several subterrain conflicts with major existing utilities, structural upgrade issues with Treasury Moat walls,
  - Screening capacity only allows for 5 lanes and not adaptable for evolving screening technologies and capabilities.
  - Significant change to Treasury entrance plaza, main entrance steps, and reduction of grass courtyards.
  - A visible structure parallel to Pennsylvania Ave is necessary to connect over the Annex tunnel.
  - Badged staff for White House and Treasury would use the same entry point as visitors.
  - Does not provide screening for staff who park on the Ellipse or Sherman Park.

- Sherman Park -Below Ground Facility -North Entry Plaza
  Challenges:
  - The north quadrant is at the highest elevation within the park, and substantial excavation and ramping would be required to reach the depth needed to place the entire facility below ground without significantly altering the park's aesthetics.
  - Circulation pinch point as visitors must descend into the west quadrant of the park (below ground) and then ascend to the tunnel connection at the East Executive Avenue egress building, complicating flow and operational efficiency.
  - Potential Treasury archeological site in North side of Park.

- Sherman Park – Below Ground Facility – East Entry Plaza
  Challenges:
  - Three quadrants of the park would be affected by implementing an east entry.
  - Reaching the necessary depth to enter the facility is not feasible due to a large sewer tunnel traversing the southeast quadrant of the park.
  - Additional below grade square footage required to reach primary screening area under west side .

- Sherman Park -Above Ground
  Challenges:
  - The building would be highly visible from the park and the surrounding public spaces.
  - Complete removal of existing trees in the west quadrant, with no available space to introduce replacement plantings.
  - Without a dedicated plaza area, visitors would queue throughout the park and along the 15th Street sidewalks.
  - Entry into the screening facility would occur inside the current security perimeter.
  - Cleared visitors would exit into Sherman Park, which remains on the non-secure side of the complex.
  - Additional USSS personnel would be required to monitor all individuals exiting the screening facility to verify who has been cleared prior to entering the East Executive Avenue gate.

Public Space and Perimeter Security

While the proposed White House Visitor Screening Facility provides a permanent solution to ensure the safety of visitors and workers to the White House complex, by removing temporary trailers and tents currently used, this is only in a relatively small section of President's Park along 15th Street. As such, a similar holistic and comprehensive approach to perimeter security and public space is needed for the entire complex, including President's Park and Lafayette Park.

As noted in the NCPC Executive Director's Report for the preliminary and final review of the East Wing Modernization project at the White House, at the Commission's March 5, 2026 meeting, NCPC staff evaluated the public streets around the White House and President's Park as part of the project review. Temporary perimeter security, including bicycle racks and "snow fencing", are

commonly used in this area. The submission materials for the East Wing Modernization project also include several views that contain these temporary elements. These elements detract from the visitor experience. While the proposed permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility will remove the temporary tents and trailers currently used, the continued use of temporary means of perimeter security needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

The Commission has reviewed several temporary security installations, with the expectation that they would be time-limited until a permanent solution is implemented. However, to-date no permanent solution has been presented to NCPC.

History of Security Related Projects at the White House and President's Park

Beginning in 2003, the Commission reviewed and approved a series of projects for the White House and President's Park that provided perimeter security in a more permanent way, that were well-thought out, and considered the setting and the visitor experience. These included projects on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House (2003), the Treasury Building's 15th Street Wing (2006), and the White House Fence Replacement Phase 1 (2017).

However, as security needs have evolved and changed since that time, the Commission has reviewed a series of temporary security projects ranging from temporary screening facilities at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) (2011, 2012, 2013), to the temporary perimeter fencing at the White House (2015) and at the EEOB and Treasury Building (2024 and 2026).

These elements add visual clutter and distract from the setting. The Comprehensive Plan provides a number of policies related to urban design and security elements, with a focus on "balance[ing] building security with the functional and visual quality of public space" (UD.C.3). Thus, consistent with that guidance, upon completion of the East Wing Modernization project and the permanent White House Visitor Screening facility, the public realm in the vicinity of the White House should be improved to remove the temporary elements and provide a permanent, safe, and beautiful system. This will benefit both visitors to the White House and state ballroom, and the public at large which experience these public spaces every day. Further, such enhancements would be consistent with Executive Order 14252, *Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful,* which highlights the goal of showcasing beautiful, clean, and safe public spaces.

As such, staff recommends the **Commission find the existing use of temporary security elements around President's Park and the White House, particularly along Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street, continue to detract from the visitor experience and should be improved to help beautify President's Park once the East Wing Modernization project and the White House Visitor Screening Facility are completed.** A permanent plan for a well-designed perimeter security system will require coordination among a number of agencies to be successful. The applicant has indicated it will submit individual security projects, both temporary and permanent, throughout the White House complex and surrounding areas to the Commission in the near future. Understanding how all these projects work together to both beautify and protect the area will be important. As such, staff recommends the **Commission request the applicant work with the National Park Service, General Services Administration, U.S. Secret Service, and**

others to brief the Commission on a comprehensive security and beautification plan for the White House complex, President's Park, and the vicinity that will replace temporary security measures with an attractive, unified, permanent design solution without further limiting public access.

Additional Coordination

As the applicant refines the proposed new White House Visitor Screening Facility, **staff recommends the applicant work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, the National Park Service, NCPC, and other consulting parties to determine the potential impacts of the new screening facility on historic resources.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff reviewed the project considering the policies set forth in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital,* particularly those found in the Urban Design, Historic Preservation, Parks and Open Space, and Visitors and Commemoration Elements as described in this report. Several Comprehensive Plan policies acknowledge the need to balance new uses and contemporary needs within existing landscapes and the built legacy of Washington, DC (POS.A.8 and POS.A.12). The policies recognize that the Nation's Capital will continue to change and develop over time.

As a reminder, the Commission takes a holistic approach when applying the Comprehensive Plan policies in the context of the project's needs and objectives when making a determination regarding consistency. On the whole, the project is generally consistent with the Federal Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*.

National Historic Preservation Act

For a concept plan, Section 106 is not required to be completed. The applicant has indicated that Section 106 consultation will occur with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties.

National Environmental Policy Act

For a concept plan, NEPA is not required to be completed. The applicant indicates they will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

Following their March 11, 2026 meeting, the Coordinating Committee forwarded the proposed comments on concept plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal was coordinated with some, but not all, participating agencies. SHPO is not coordinated since it appears that portions of the proposed facility will fall outside of the White House grounds and, therefore, be subject to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The effects of such a substantial new construction project on historic properties will need to be assessed accordingly. SHPO also noted that it has no record of being notified of this proposal. DOEE is not coordinated and requested that the applicant contact it to schedule a PDRM, if needed, as work will likely trigger stormwater requirements. It noted that the applicant seems to be aware of DOEE stormwater requirements and has a plan to meet the stormwater retention volume. CFA noted that the project is on its March meeting agenda. DCOP asked where people would exit if they don't pass security. NCPC noted that this is one of the questions it will ask the applicant. The participating agencies included NCPC, the U.S. General Services Administration, the NPS, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the District State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the District of Columbia Office of Planning, the District Departments of Transportation and Energy and the Environment, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the concept for the new White House Visitor Screening Facility at their March 19, 2026 meeting, providing comments of support for the goals of the project but requested the applicant to reconsider the design approach for the ground level facility.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Lee Webb
03/24/2026

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

National Capital Planning Commission

White House Visitor Screening Facility

472 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC

Approval of Comments on Concept Plans

Executive Office of the President

April 2, 2026 | File: 8763

Project Summary

Commission Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

NCPC Review Authority: 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

Applicant Request: Approval of Comments on Concept Plans

Session: Staff Presentation

NCPC Review Officer: Lee Webb

NCPC File Number: 8763

Project Summary:

The Executive Office of the President in conjunction with the United States Secret Service (USSS) and with the National Park Service (NPS), and the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) proposes constructing a permanent security screening facility for visitors to the White House for tours and events. The facility will be located underneath Sherman Park, which is located Southeast of the White House.

Most of the proposed structure is intentionally positioned below grade within the park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid a large existing sewer tunnel that sweeps through the southeast corner of the park. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to reinstate and enhance the park's character. The below grade portion of this facility is approximately 33,000 square feet .The depth of the building accounts for a 12'-0" clear floor to underside of structure, 2'-0" allocation for concrete structure, and a minimum of 3'-0 ground cover above.

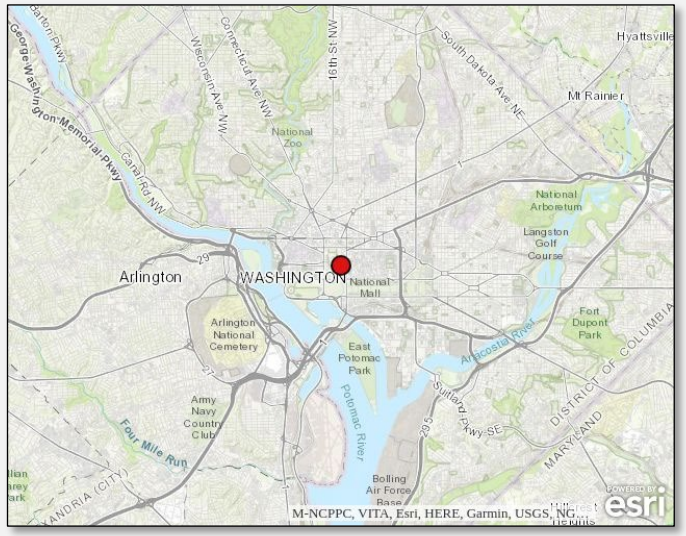
Queuing would begin outside in the lower plaza, where visitors form entry lanes for the initial ID check at the vestibule. They then proceed through the lobby to a second ID checkpoint, followed by the pre-screening sequence. The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial requirements necessary to achieve the throughput capacities established by USSS for large events. Primary screening is laid out as an open floor plan to provide maximum flexibility with the current screening process and equipment, and to support adaptation to evolving screening technologies and capabilities.

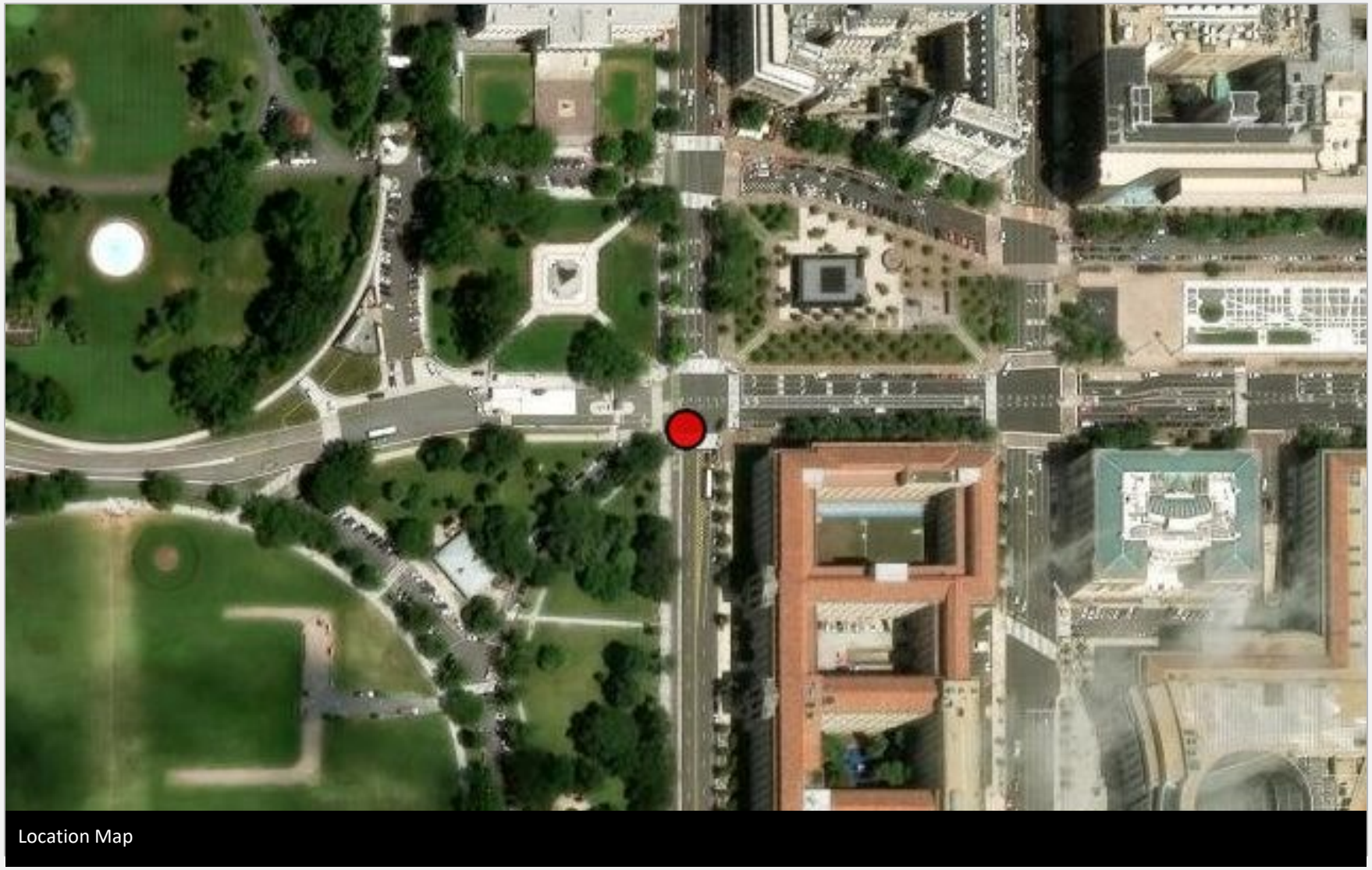
Project Summary

Upon successfully clearing primary screening, visitors proceed to the escalators that return them to grade level north of the secure fence line along East Executive Avenue. A stairwell located at the southwest corner of the park, immediately adjacent to the south gate of East Executive Avenue, will function as a badged access point for USSS and facility personnel, as well as an emergency egress from the below-grade building.

Since 2005 USSS has utilized temporary trailers on East Executive Avenue for security screening of White House tours and event guests.

Site Location





Location Map

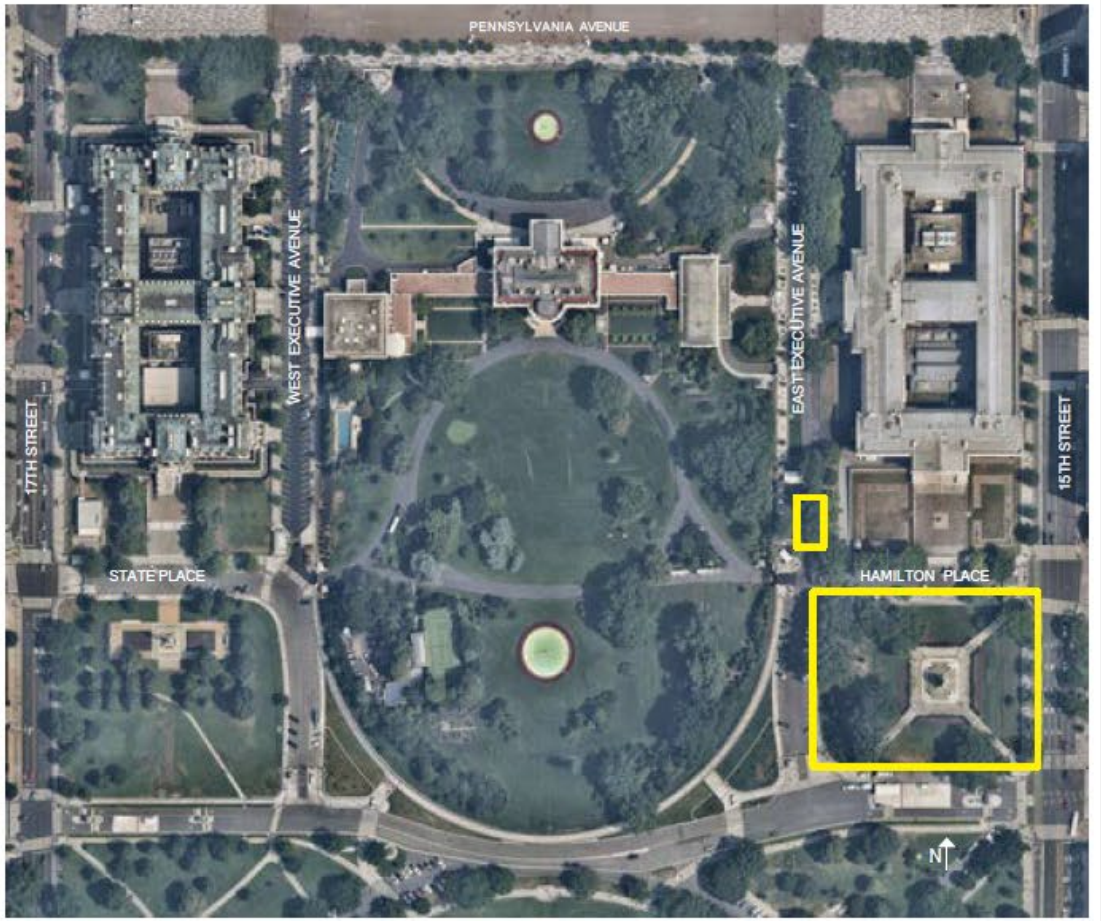
White House Visitor Screening Facility Project

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION
CONCEPT REVIEW SUBMISSION

THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY PROJECT

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE/ NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AECOM



Project Overview

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 AGENCIES AND PROJECT SUMMARY

The United States Secret Service (USSS) in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS), United States Department of the Interior (DOI, and Executive Office of the President proposes constructing a permanent security screening facility for visitors to the White House for tours and events. The facility will be located underneath Sherman Park, which is located Southeast of the White House.



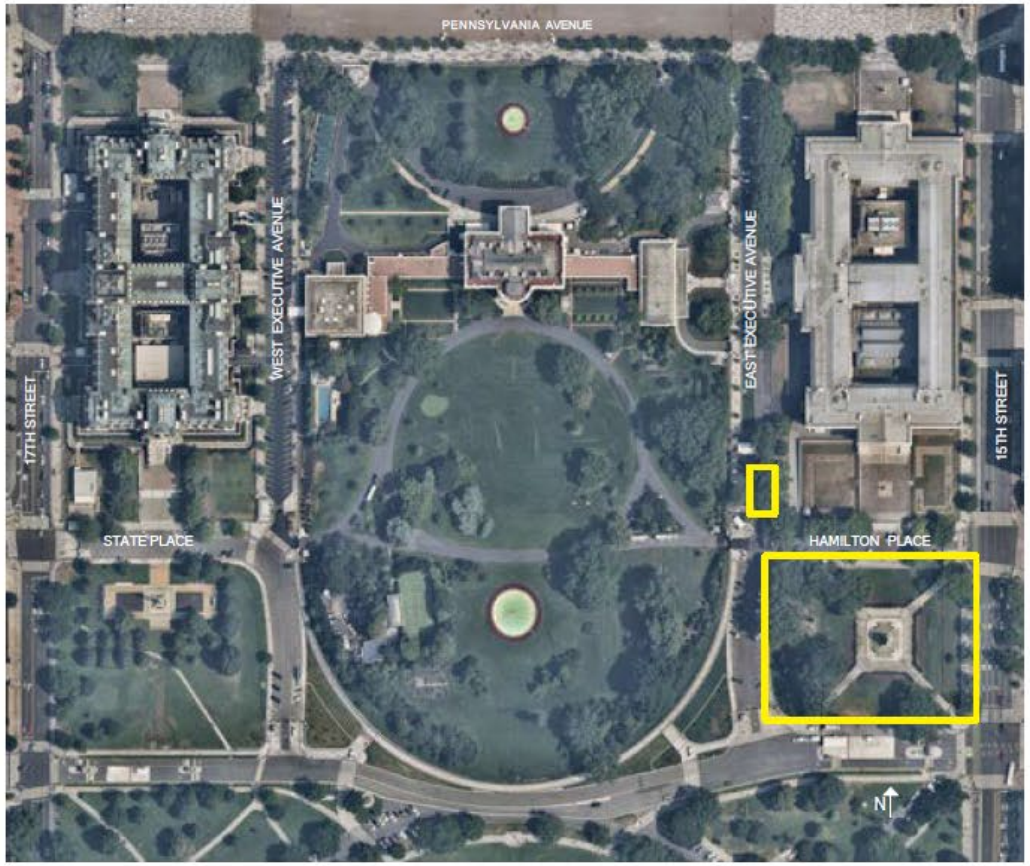
Description of Project Area

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The project area falls within the Monumental Core of the District of Columbia (D.C.) and is at the heart of the Central Washington Planning Area of the National Capital Planning Commission's (NCPC) Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital (Comprehensive Plan) adopted on June 6, 2024. The project location is entirely on federal land in President's Park, an 82-acre park that serves as the setting for the White House and other federal buildings as well as memorials and monuments.

Jurisdictional control, stewardship, and oversight responsibilities for the White House and President's Park are shared by various departments and the District of Columbia. East Executive Avenue to the West, E Street to the South and Alexander Hamilton Place to the North of the project area are managed by NPS. 15th Street on the east periphery of the park is managed by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT).



AERIAL SHOWING PROJECT AREA

Description of Project

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The purpose for this project is to provide a permanent White House Visitor Screening Facility (VSF) for the United States Secret Service (USSS) that can support security screening needs for visitor tours, large-scale events, White House Staff, and Contractors. This new facility will expand the screening capacity/capabilities and eliminate the need for temporary screening tents for events. As a result, the permanent facility will strengthen campus security and enhance the overall visitor experience.

The project site is located in Sherman Park on the south side of the Treasury Building adjacent to proposed screening facility location included in the NPS led interagency Comprehensive Design Plan for the White House and President's Park (CDP, 2000)

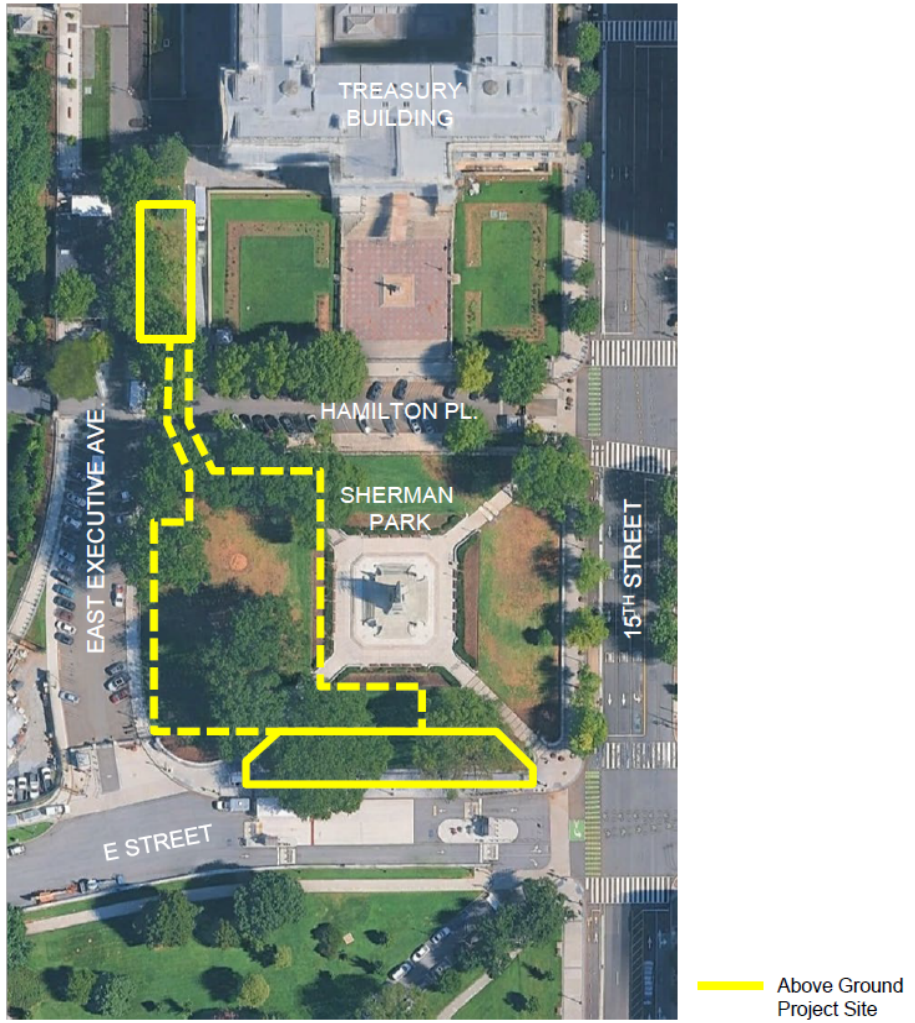
Most of the proposed structure is intentionally positioned below grade within the park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid infrastructure conflicts in the southeast corner of the park. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to reinstate and enhance the park's character.

The below grade portion of this facility is approximately 33,000 square feet .The depth of the building accounts for a 12'-0" clear floor to underside of structure, 2'-0" allocation for concrete structure, and a minimum of 3'-0 ground cover above.

Queuing would begin outside in the lower plaza, where visitors form entry lanes for the initial ID check at the vestibule. They then proceed through the lobby to a second ID checkpoint, followed by the pre-screening sequence.

The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial requirements necessary to achieve the throughput capacities established by USSS for large events. Primary screening is laid out as an open floor plan to provide maximum flexibility with the current screening process and equipment, and to support adaptation to evolving screening technologies and capabilities.

Upon successfully clearing primary screening, visitors proceed to the escalators that return them to grade level north of the secure fence line along East Executive Avenue.



AERIAL SHOWING PROJECT SITE AT SHERMAN PARK AND EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.

Existing Conditions of Sherman Park

2.1 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

EXISTING CONDITIONS



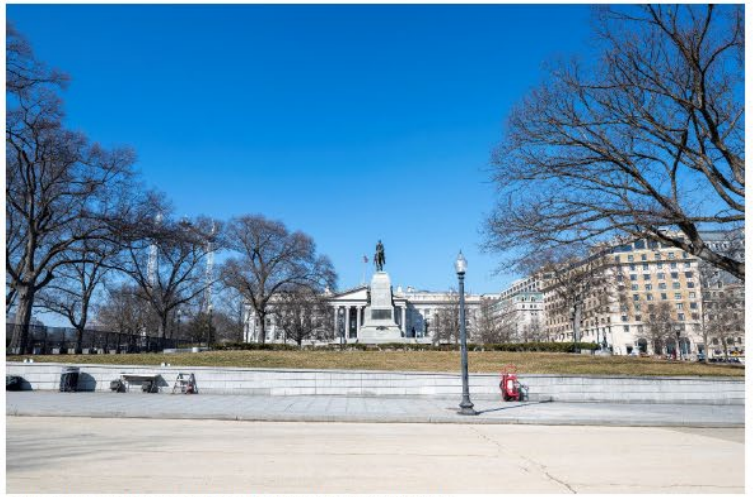
EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, NORTHEAST CORNER.



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, EAST SIDE.



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST CORNER.



EXISTING VIEW OF SHERMAN PARK, SOUTH SIDE.

Existing Conditions of Sherman Park

2.1 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

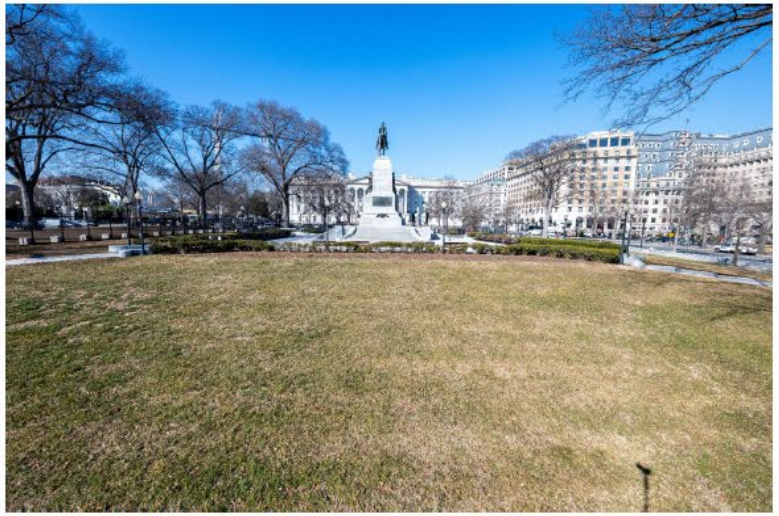
EXISTING CONDITIONS



EXISTING VIEW OF SHAERMAN PARK, SOUTHWEST CORNER.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHAERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST SIDEWALK.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHERMAN PARK, SOUTH SIDE LAWN.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST LAWN.

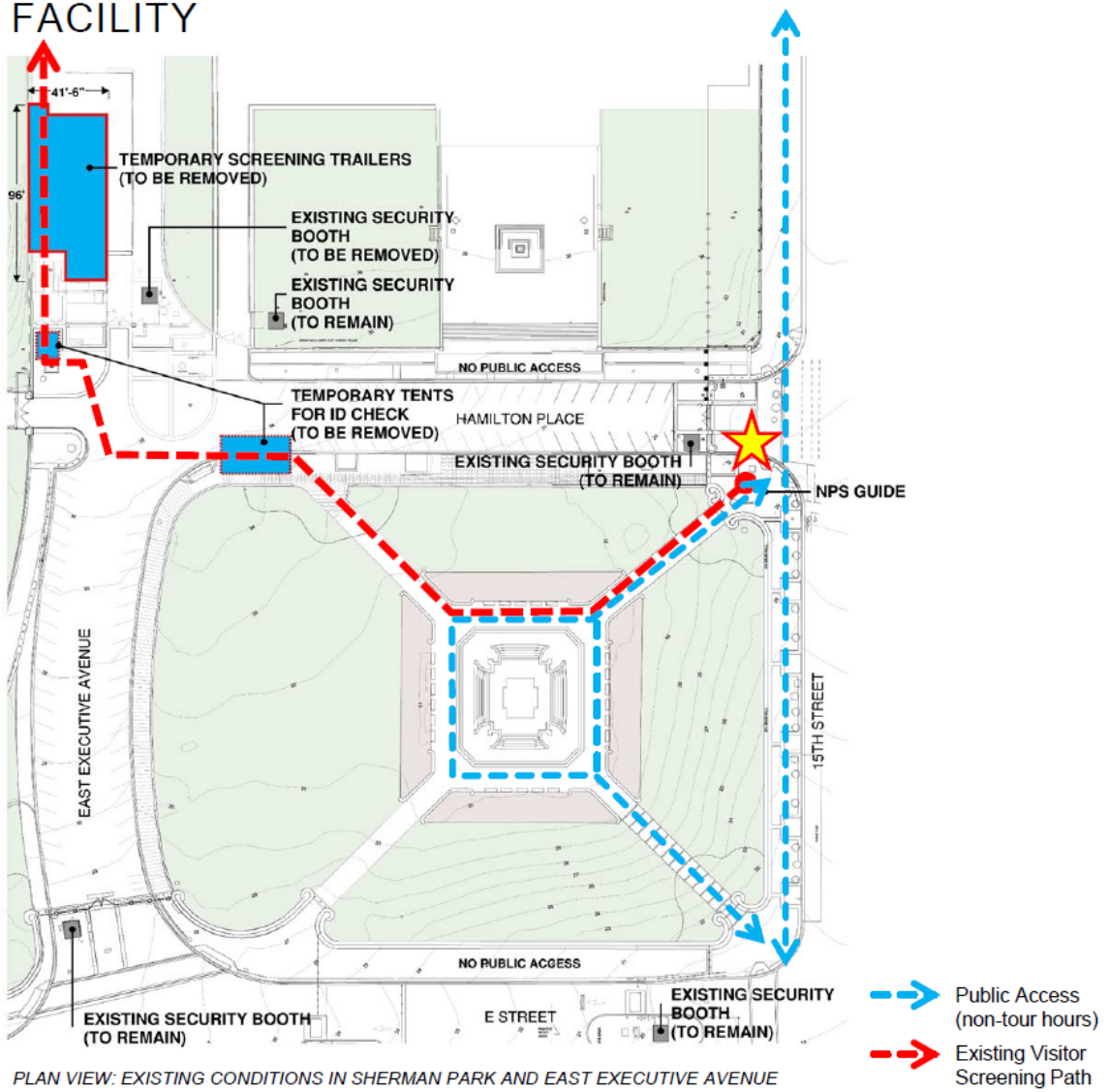
Existing Site Plan and Screening Access

2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

EXISTING SITE

Since 2005 USSS has utilized temporary trailers on East Executive Avenue for security screening of White House tours and event guests.

White House visitors would arrive at the corner of 15th Street and Alexander Hamilton Place and begin queuing within the hardscape pathways within Sherman Park. Visitors would be processed through an initial security check point under temporary tent structures and proceed to East Executive Avenue for security processing. Visitors would enter a double-wide temporary trailer on East Executive Avenue and be processed through a single lane of security equipment. Once processed, visitors would exit the facility and walk northbound on East Executive Avenue to proceed to the East Wing.



PLAN VIEW: EXISTING CONDITIONS IN SHERMAN PARK AND EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

Existing Conditions

2.1 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

EXISTING CONDITIONS



VIEW OF THE EXISTING VISITOR SCREENING TRAILER ENTRANCE ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.



VIEW OF THE EXISTING VISITOR SCREENING TRAILER EXIT ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.



VIEW OF TEMPORARY SCREENING TENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR LARGE EVENTS ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.



VIEW OF GUESTS BEING SCREENED THROUGH TEMPORARY TENTS ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE.

Rendering of Proposed Facility

2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

PROPOSED FACILITY



RENDERING SHOWS VIEW OF FACILITY ENTRANCE RAMP AT E STREET AND 15TH STREET ADJACENT TO SHERMAN PARK

Proposed Facility

2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

PROPOSED FACILITY

Visitors to the White House will be instructed to arrive at the Southeast corner of 15th Street and E Street adjacent to Sherman Park. They will enter the facility via the exterior ramp into the sunken plaza to have their tickets and IDs checked.

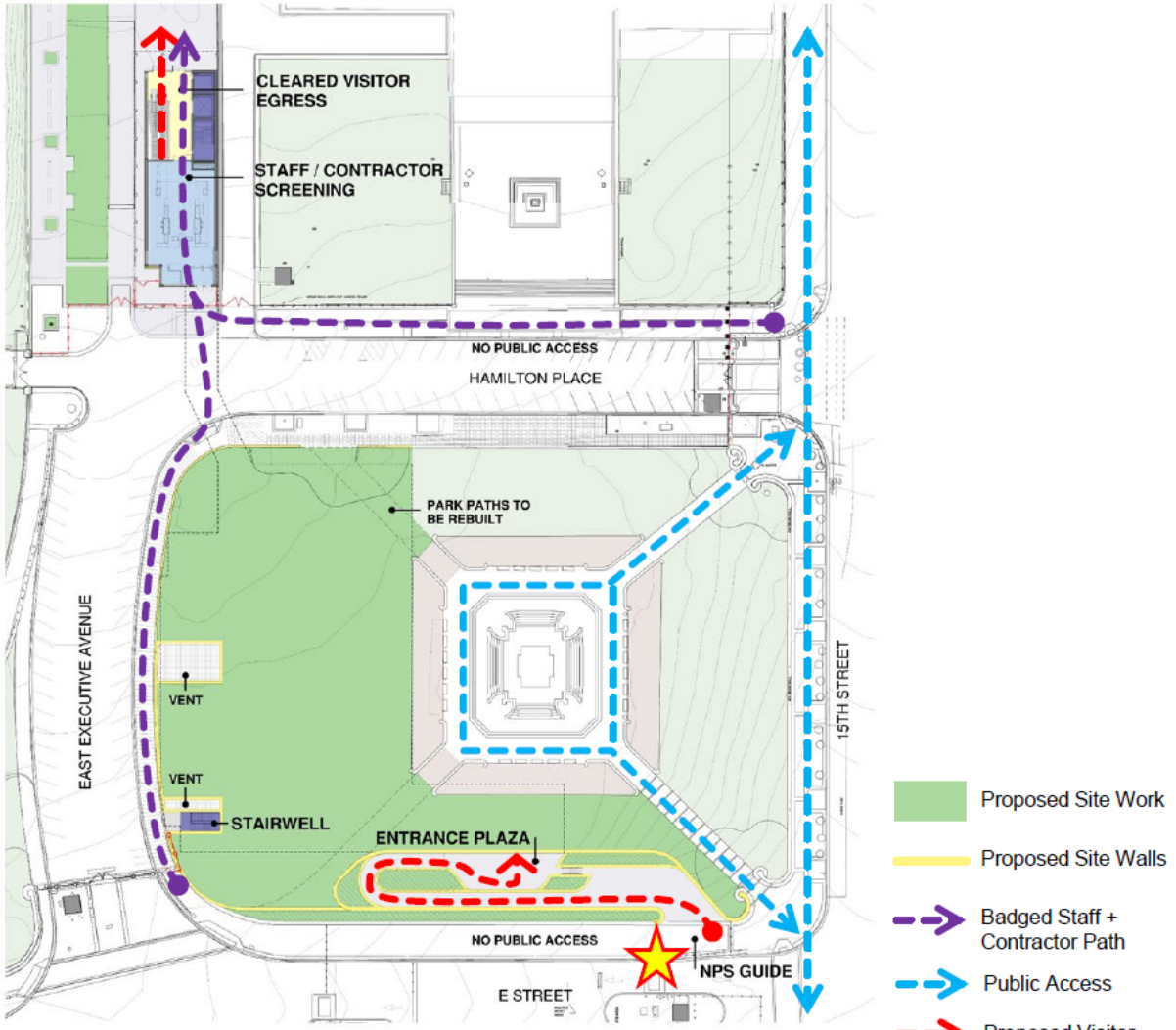
The south quadrant of the park sits at the lowest elevation. This location naturally provides an opportunity to enter the below grade building directly from the sidewalk with the least ramping required.

The 5,000 square foot recessed entry plaza provides a gathering space for visitors and allows queuing to begin along the ramp, helping to reduce congestion on the adjacent 15th Street sidewalk.

Badged staff and contractors will enter via an above-grade screening post integrated into a new 4,000 square foot building along East Executive Avenue. The north side of this building will also enclose the escalators from the below-grade program, serving as the exit point from the facility into the cleared side of the campus.

A stairwell located at the southwest corner of the park, immediately adjacent to the south gate of East Executive Avenue, will function as a badged access point for USSS and facility personnel, as well as an emergency egress from the below-grade building.

The monument at the center of the park will be protected in place. Upon completion of the project, the park will remain open to the public and accessible from the northeast and southeast pathways from 15th Street. Alexander Hamilton Place and E Street located north and south of the site respectively will remain restricted to authorized vehicles and pedestrians.



PLAN VIEW: PROPOSED CONDITIONS IN SHERMAN PARK AND EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

Proposed Facility

2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

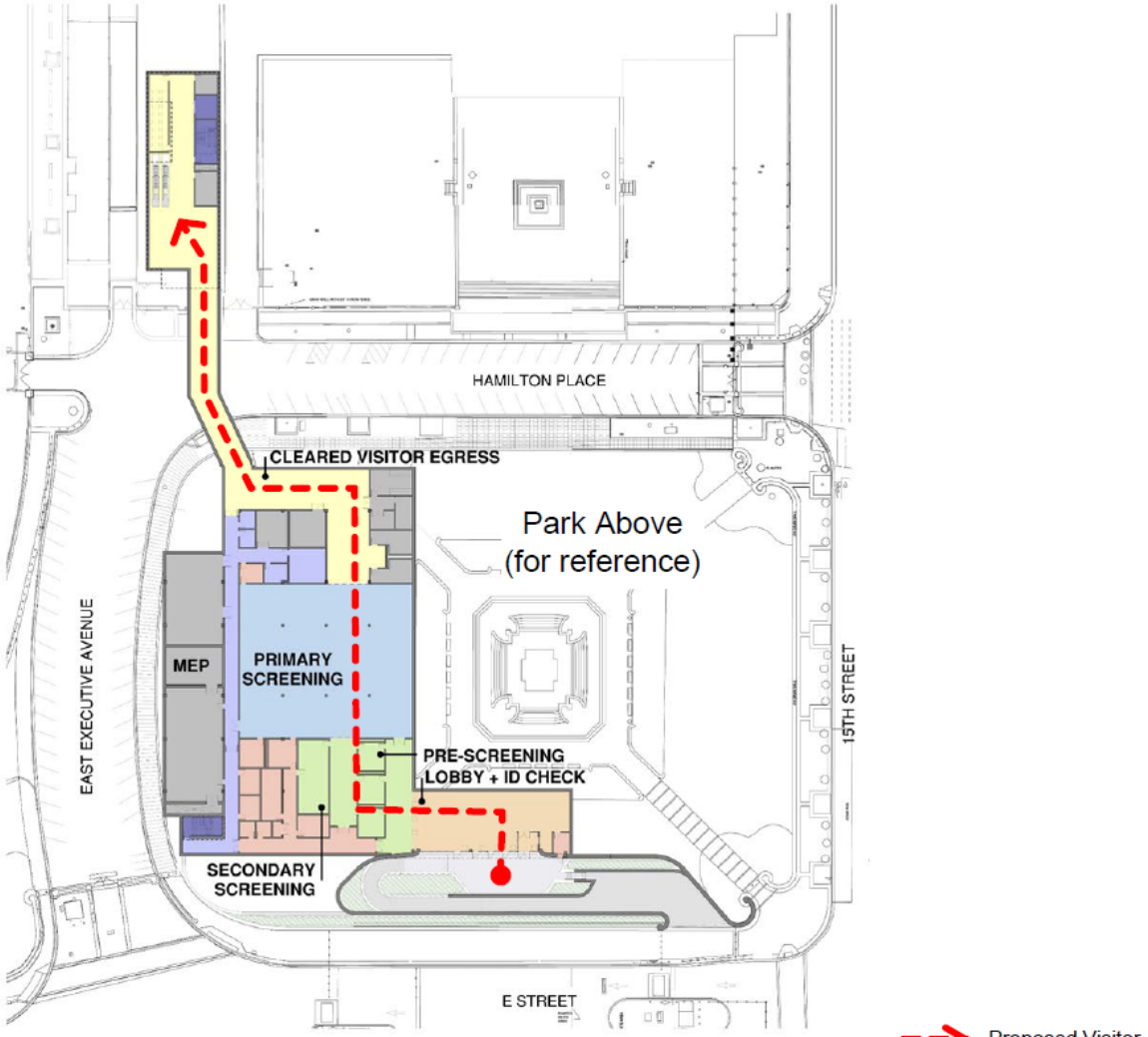
PROPOSED FACILITY

Once in the facility, visitors will process through pre-screening, primary screening, traverse the tunnel to escalators and ascend to the exit structure within the secure fence line. From there they will proceed to their tour or event at the White House.

The visitor screening facility is approximately 33,000 square feet and will include the necessary security procedures, technology and support space to meet the USSS protective mission for screening all visitors entering the White House for tours and events.

The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial requirements necessary to achieve the throughput capacities established by USSS for large events. The space is organized as an open floor plan to provide maximum flexibility with 7 lanes to accommodate current screening processes and equipment, and to support adaptation to evolving screening technologies and capabilities.

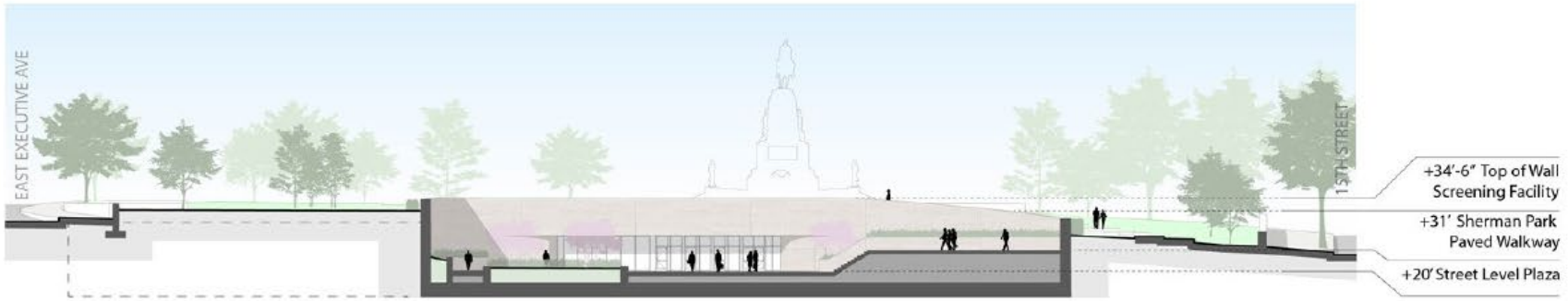
Upon successfully clearing primary screening, visitors proceed through a tunnel with opportunity for EOP and tour office to provide informational displays to enhance the visitor experience. Escalators return visitors to grade level north of the secure fence line along East Executive Avenue.



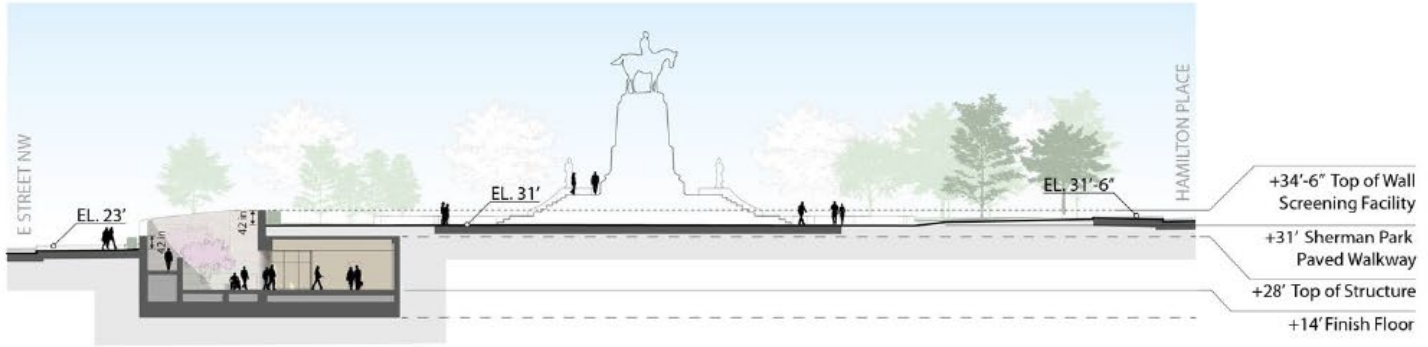
PLAN VIEW: PROPOSED CONDITIONS BELOW SHERMAN PARK AND EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

Sections of Proposed Facility

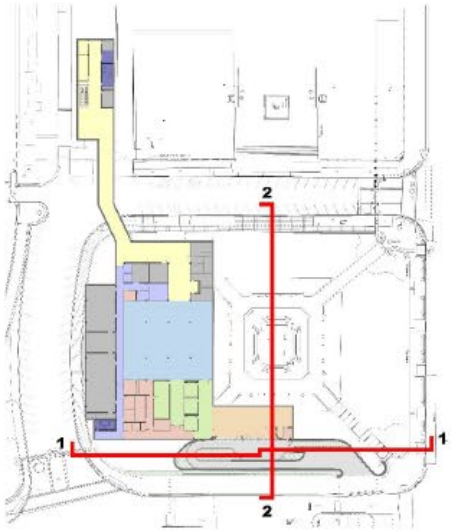
2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY
PROPOSED FACILITY



1 ENTRY PLAZA



2 QUEUING AND ID CHECK

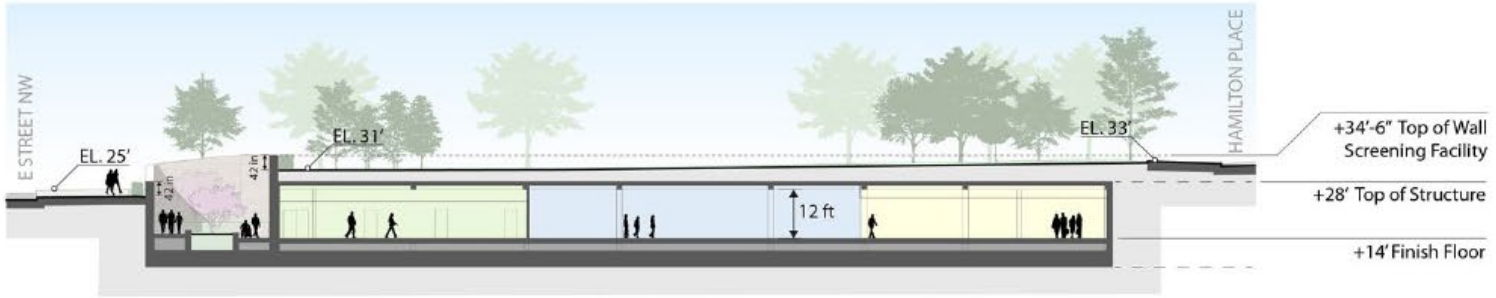


LEGEND SHOWING WHERE SECTIONS ARE CUT THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERMAN PARK

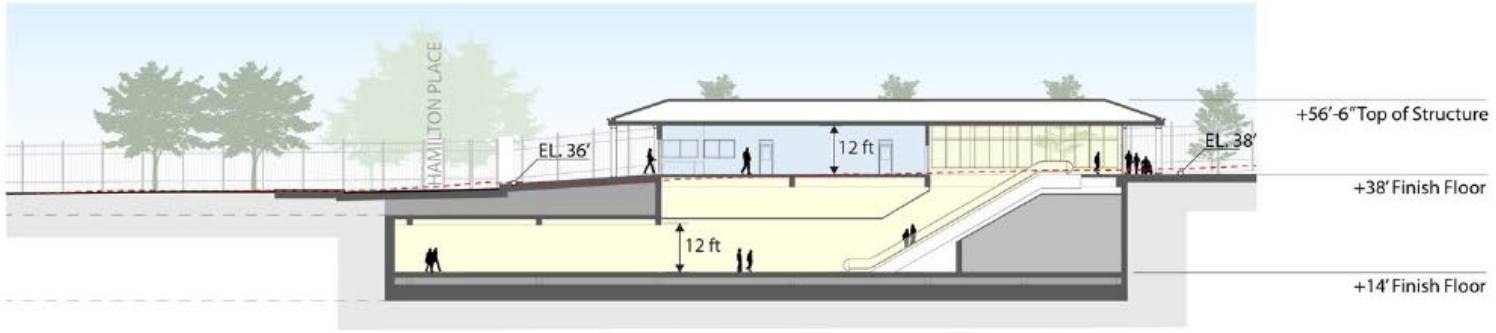
Section of Proposed Facility

2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

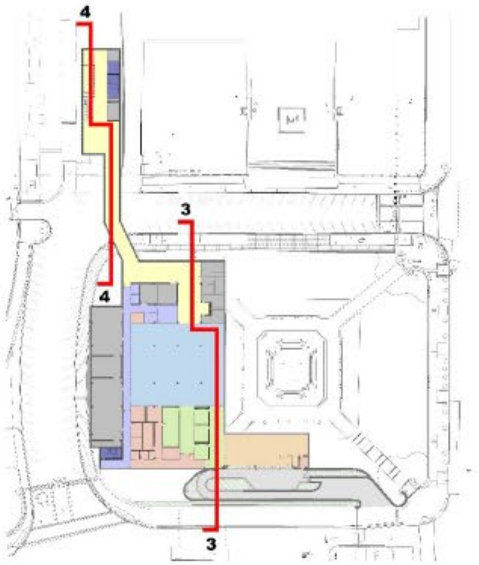
PROPOSED FACILITY



3 SCREENING LANES



4 NORTH SCREENING POST AND EXIT



LEGEND SHOWING WHERE SECTIONS ARE CUT THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERMAN PARK

Elevations and Materials of New Exit Facility

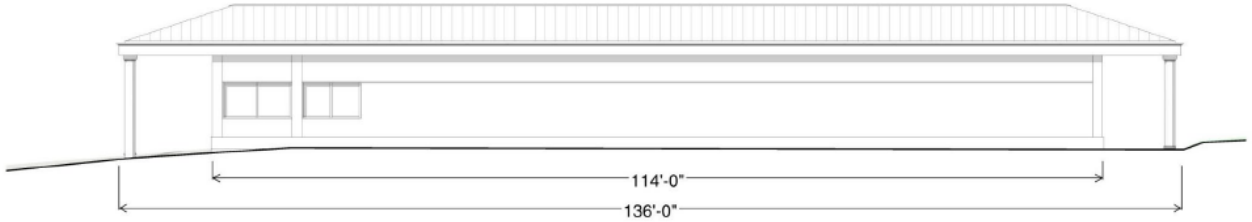
2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY
PROPOSED FACILITY

Architectural form and materiality will be based upon existing security booth vocabulary used throughout the campus. Details will be enhanced to improve the visitor experience.

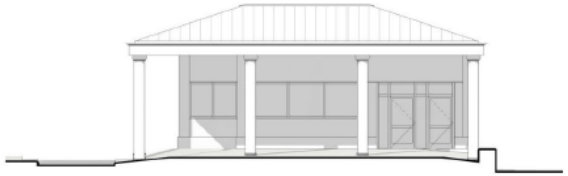
The building composition incorporates a sloped standing-seam metal roof with extended overhangs supported by columns, along with stone cladding and granite base. Glazing systems maintain visual continuity for security purposes and connection to the East Wing as visitor exit the facility.



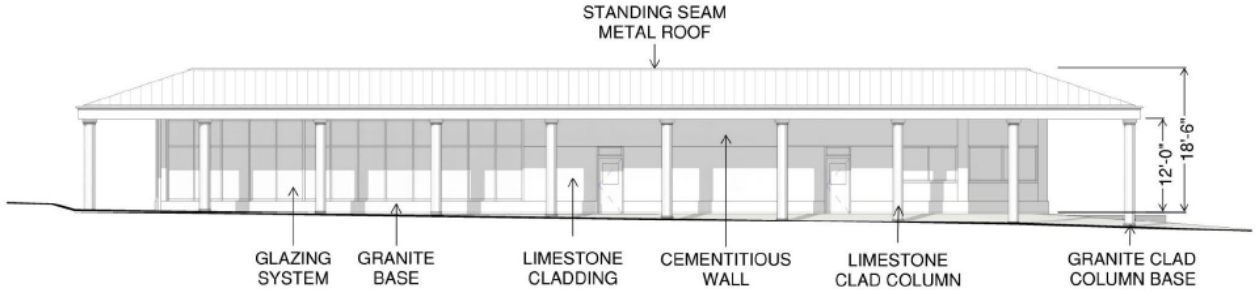
EXISTING A1 SECURITY BOOTH



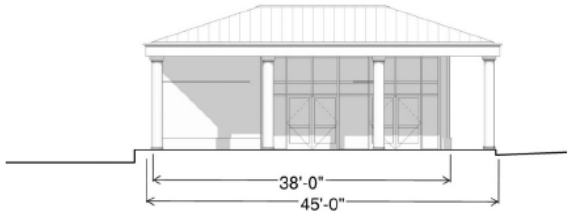
EAST



SOUTH



WEST



NORTH

Considered Alternate Locations for Facility

2.3 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

The proposed location for the Visitor Screening Facility at Sherman Park was strategically selected with consideration to multiple factors including, but not limited to security, functionality, visitor flow, aesthetics, and cost. Siting the facility was performed in a manner to mitigate the permanent impact to the surrounding areas as much as possible. Alternate locations around the complex have been considered extensively.

Lily Triangle / Below East Exec and E Street

Challenges:

- Additional below grade square footage required to reach exit location on East Exec Ave within the secure perimeter.
- Major disruption of Campus operations with Lower East Exec Ave not available 30 months due to facility constructed underneath.
- Closer to the White House view shed
- No direct access from public sidewalk, would require crossing closed E street without additional tunnel to the south.

North Treasury - Below Ground Plaza / Partial Courtyard Infill

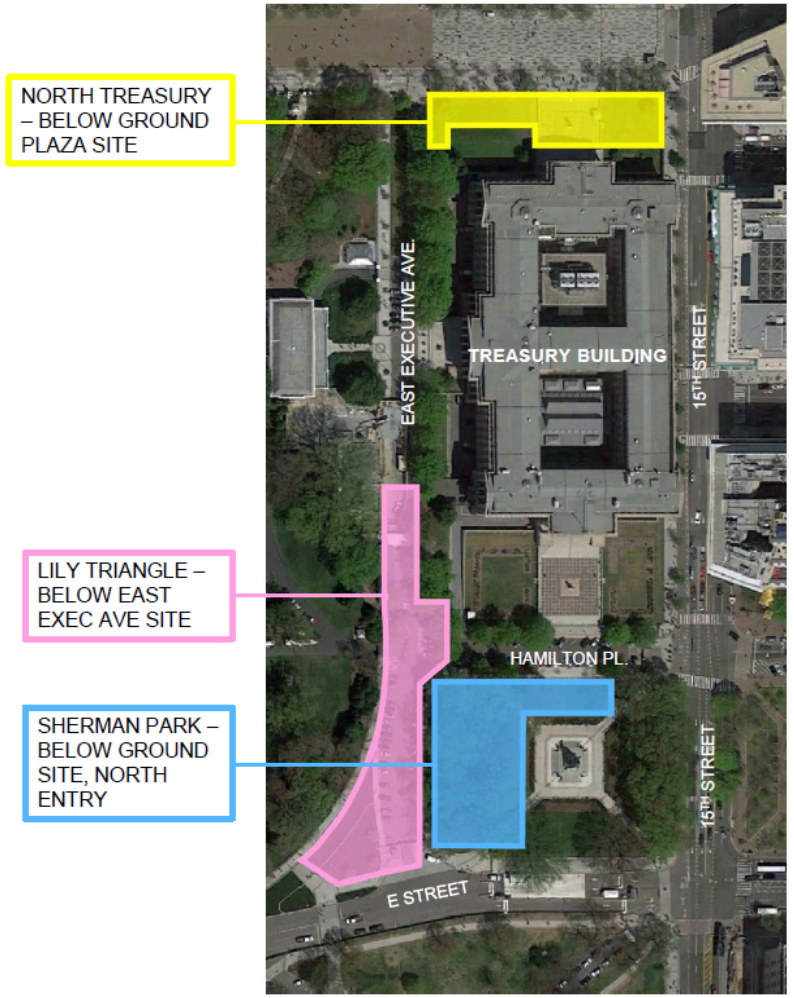
Challenges:

- The North Courtyard site has several subterrain conflicts with major existing utilities, structural upgrade issues with Treasury Moat walls,
- Screening capacity only allows for 5 lanes and not adaptable for evolving screening technologies and capabilities.
- Significant change to Treasury entrance plaza, main entrance steps, and reduction of grass courtyards.
- A visible structure parallel to Pennsylvania Ave is necessary to connect over the Annex tunnel.
- Badged staff for White House and Treasury would use the same entry point as visitors.
- Does not provide screening for staff who park on the Ellipse or Sherman Park.

Sherman Park - Below Ground Facility - North Entry Plaza

Challenges:

- The north quadrant is at the highest elevation within the park, and substantial excavation and ramping would be required to reach the depth needed to place the entire facility below ground without significantly altering the park's aesthetics.
- Circulation pinch point as visitors must descend into the west quadrant of the park (below ground) and then ascend to the tunnel connection at the East Executive Avenue egress building, complicating flow and operational efficiency.
- Potential Treasury archeological site in North side of Park.



SCREENING FACILITY ALTERNATIVES

Considered Alternate Locations for Facility

2.3 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY

ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

Sherman Park - Below Ground Facility - East Entry Plaza

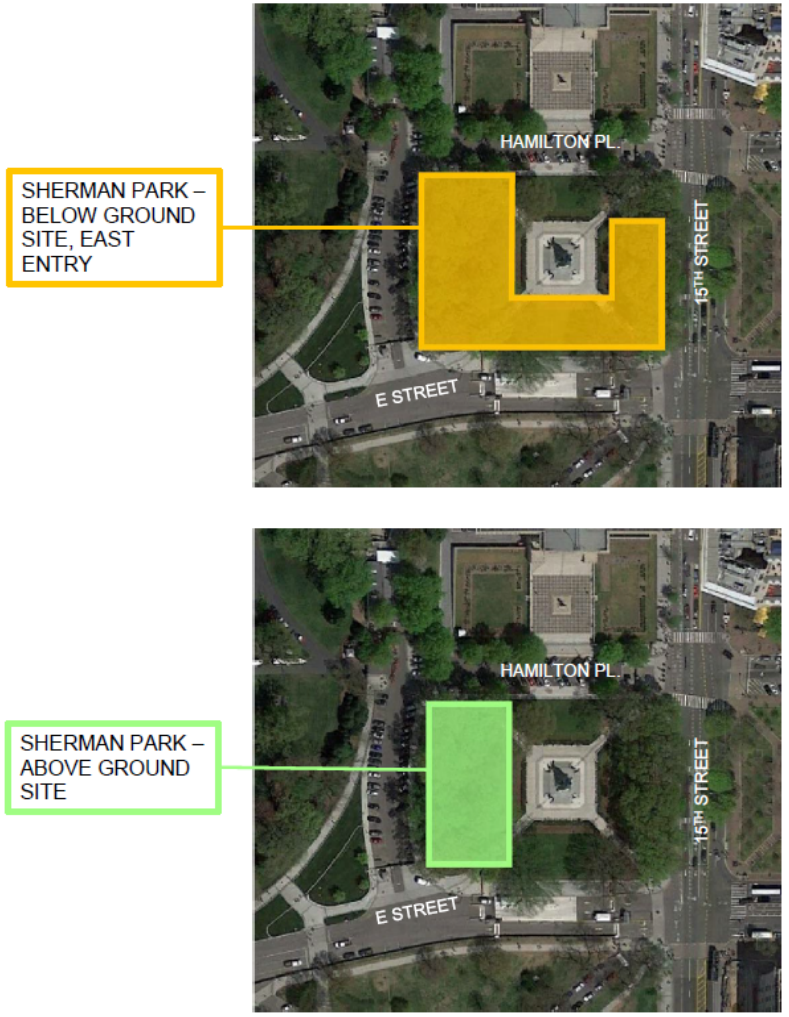
Challenges:

- Three quadrants of the park would be affected by implementing an east entry.
- Reaching the necessary depth to enter the facility is not feasible due to a large sewer tunnel traversing the southeast quadrant of the park.
- Additional below grade square footage required to reach primary screening area under west side.

Sherman Park - Above Ground

Challenges:

- The building would be highly visible from the park and the surrounding public spaces.
- Complete removal of existing trees in the west quadrant, with no available space to introduce replacement plantings.
- Without a dedicated plaza area, visitors would queue throughout the park and along the 15th Street sidewalks.
- Entry into the screening facility would occur inside the current security perimeter.
- Cleared visitors would exit into Sherman Park, which remains on the non-secure side of the complex.
- Additional USSS personnel would be required to monitor all individuals exiting the screening facility to verify who has been cleared prior to entering the East Executive Avenue gate.



SCREENING FACILITY ALTERNATIVES

Environmental and Historical Considerations

3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 HISTORIC PRESERVATION - DESIGN APPROACH

President's Park is a nationally significant cultural landscape in the monumental core of Washington, D.C. The design team will work with DC SHPO and other consulting parties to minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic resources.

The project has been designed to minimize cultural, visual, and environmental impacts to the extent practicable.

- Site selection was carefully considered to ensure new elements blend with the park's historic fabric and the city's architectural character. The project will be situated to the west of Sherman Statue and will preserve existing contours and historic viewsheds.
- NEPA and Section 106 processes are currently underway.
  - The project is being developed in accordance with NEPA to evaluate potential environmental impacts and provide an informed and transparent decision-making process.
  - The project would adhere to Section 106 of the NHPA and coordinate with the SHPO as appropriate to actively avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on historic properties, archaeological resources, and cultural landscapes.
- The project takes into consideration visitor use and aesthetic appeal by maintaining public access through key park corners and avoiding the introduction of incongruent visible structures that would detract from the surrounding national buildings and monuments.
- While approximately six trees would be removed, these would be replaced with suitable native species and landscaping in accordance with the NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy.
- In addition, construction activities would follow guidelines in The Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: The Federal Environmental Element to minimize impacts related to stormwater runoff, noise disturbance, and air quality, and utilize BMPs to the extent practicable.
- Further, archaeological monitoring of excavation is anticipated to avoid impacts to resources that are known or suspected to have been present in the vicinity of Sherman Park. If resources are identified within the limits of disturbance, they would be documented in coordination with DC HPO.



Environmental and Historical Considerations

3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS

3.2 NATURAL RESOURCES AND FLOODING

Natural Resources

The project sites are in an urban zone in Washington D.C.'s Monumental Core. There are no existing natural resources that will be affected by the project.

Flooding

President's Park is located on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Number 110001 effective September 27, 2010. The Potomac Park flood control levee, located just south of the intersection of 17th Street, SW and Constitution Avenue, NW, was altered in 2014 to provide a reliable removable flood control system that meets FEMA's standards. As a result, FEMA has issued a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), effective September 14, 2016, that includes President's Park. As shown on the FIRM, the project sites are outside the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Existing and future site features within the project area are not likely to increase flood levels, impede flood flow, or adversely impact floodplain function.

3.3 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The D.C. Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) requires that projects involving land disturbance exceeding 50 square feet undergo plan review, approval, and implementation of Erosion and Sediment Control measures. Additionally, for projects with more than 5,000 square feet of land disturbance and a post-project impervious surface area of 2,500 square feet, Stormwater Management practices are required.

This project will adhere to D.C. Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) requirements for Erosion and Sediment Control.



FIGURE 3.2.1 FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) NUMBER 110001 ACCESSED MARCH 5, 2025.

Current Perimeter Security Images at White House, President's Park, and Lafayette Park


H St NW
Lafayette Square
15th St NW
G St NW
G St NW
The White House
F St NW
F St NW
New York Ave NW
The
President's Pk
Pershing Park
E St NW
E St NW
E St NW
17th St NW
Pennsylvania Ave NW
D St NW
18th St NW
D St NW
The Ellipse
Herbert C. Hoover
Federal Building
14th St NW
Organization of
American States
Constitution Ave. NW
Constitution Ave.

Lafayette


RESTRICTED AREA
DO NOT ENTER


DO NOT
ENTER
NO TRESPASSING
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY



15th & Pennsylvania Avenue







17th & Pennsylvania Avenue







17th & E Street







Constitution Avenue







15th & E Street







U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

401 F STREET NW SUITE 312 WASHINGTON DC 20001-2728 202-504-2200 FAX 202-504-2195 WWW.CFA.GOV

26 March 2026

Dear Mr. Fisher:

In its meeting of 19 March, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a concept design submission for a new White House visitor screening facility to be located beneath Sherman Park and along East Executive Avenue, NW. While expressing strong support for the program to improve security at the White House, the Commission did not take an action on the proposed design, instead providing the following comments and recommendations.

The Commission members emphasized that the nationally important context of the site—including the White House and its grounds, the Treasury Building, and the General William Tecumseh Sherman Monument—demands the highest quality of architecture and landscape design for a project of this size and prominence. They cited the recent Executive Order "Making Federal Architecture Beautiful Again," which states that the preferred and default architecture for federal public buildings in the District of Columbia shall be classical; accordingly, they said that the project should be beautifully designed in a classical architectural language by an architect with experience in this enduring style. They recommended that a classically designed entrance portal be developed, centered on the north-south axis established by the Treasury Building, the Alexander Hamilton statue, and the Sherman Monument; they also suggested that the walls surrounding the descending ramps at the entrance ramp area include architectural or artistic elements to provide articulation for these large surfaces. For the above-grade exit pavilion, they recommended developing a more explicitly classical expression while reducing its footprint and height to lessen its prominence at the south end of East Executive Avenue.

For the landscape design, the Commission members observed that the proposed design would significantly alter the historic paths and retaining walls surrounding the Sherman Monument; they instead recommended that the project preserve the monument's setting as much as possible. Specifically, they recommended keeping the diagonal pathways in lieu of removing two of them as proposed, and using bollards and chains for pedestrian control. They also recommended retaining the perimeter walls at the existing height where possible, rather than raising them to six feet tall as proposed, in order to maintain a more visually open and comfortable experience for pedestrians on the sidewalks, and to raise them more gradually only where taller walls are necessary.

The Commission looks forward to further review of this important security project, including documentation of the interiors and landscape plans showing

detailed existing and proposed conditions. Please coordinate the next submission with the staff which, as always, is available to assist you.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA
Secretary

Joshua Fisher, Assistant to the President
Director, Office of Management and Administration
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

cc: Andy Stohs, U.S. Secret Service
Jeff Harner, AECOM
John Stanwich, National Park Service
Marcel Acosta, National Capital Planning Commission
David Maloney, D.C. Historic Preservation Office