

# White House Visitor Screening Facility

472 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC

Approval of Comments on Concept Plans

Executive Office of the President

# 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.

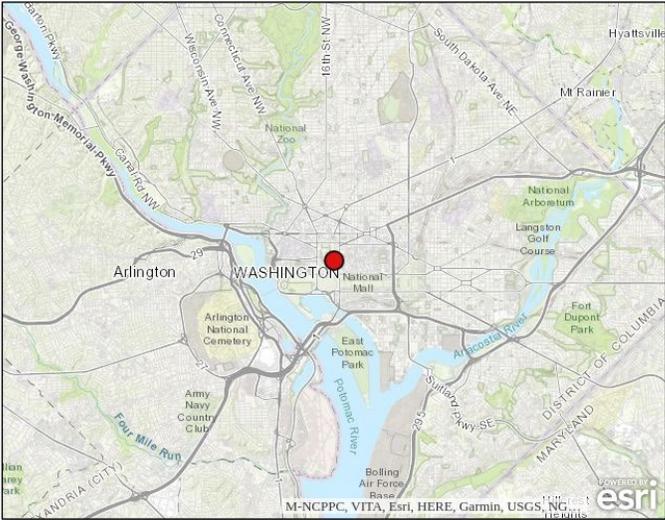
Queuing would begin outside in the lower plaza, where visitors form entry lanes for the initial ID check at the vestibule. They then proceed through the lobby to a second ID checkpoint, followed by the pre-screening sequence. The primary screening area is sized to accommodate the equipment and spatial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

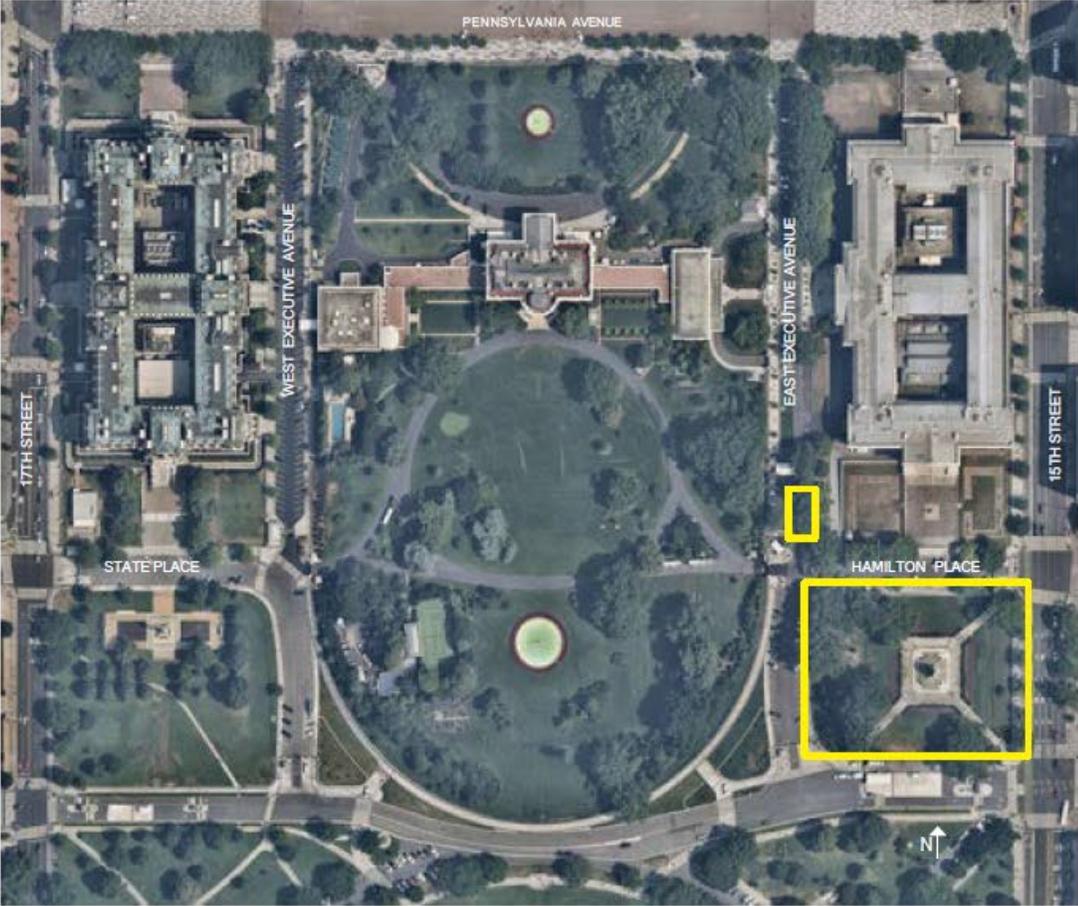
# White House Visitor Screening Facility Project

## **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

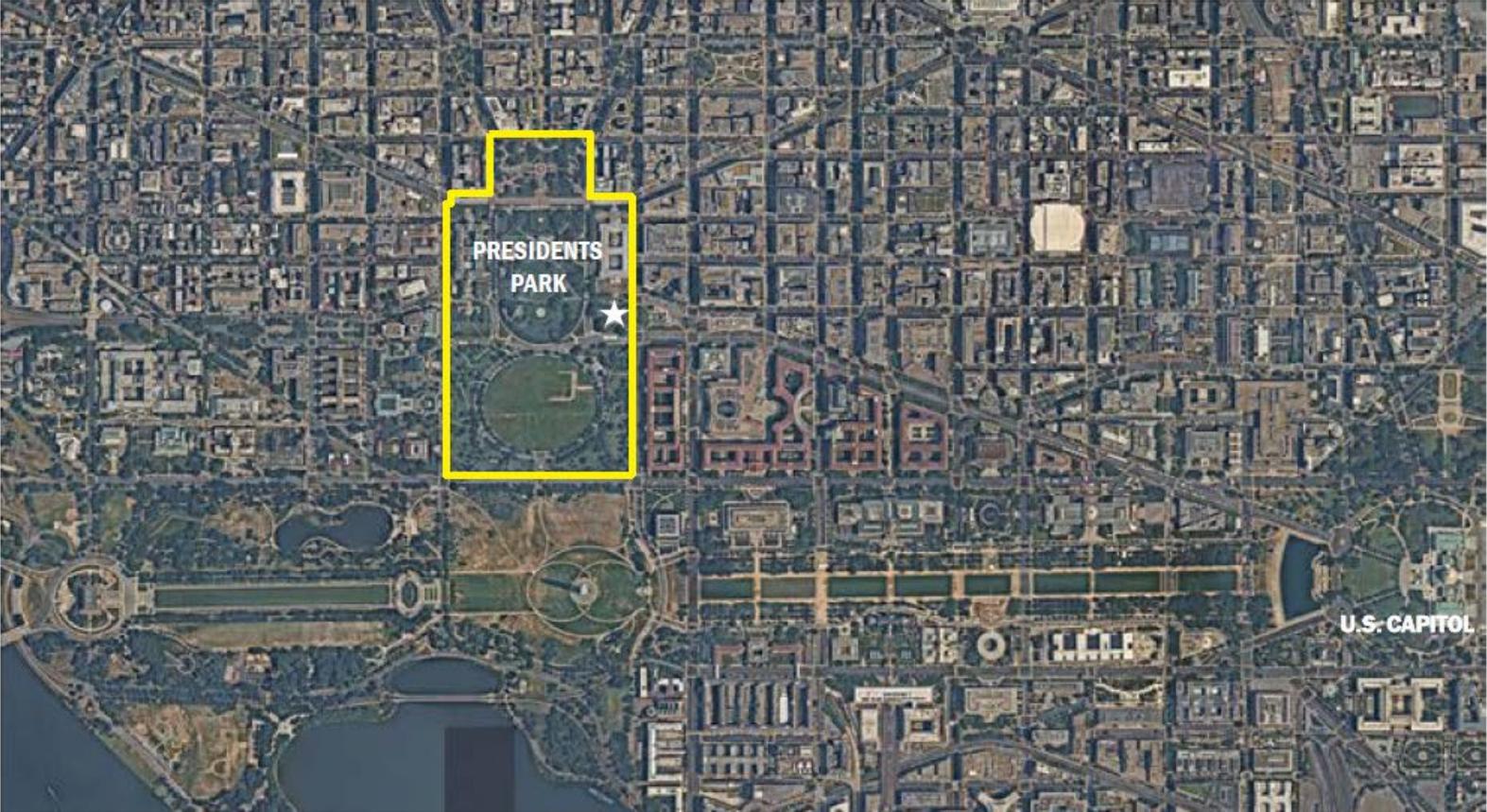


# Project Overview

## 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.



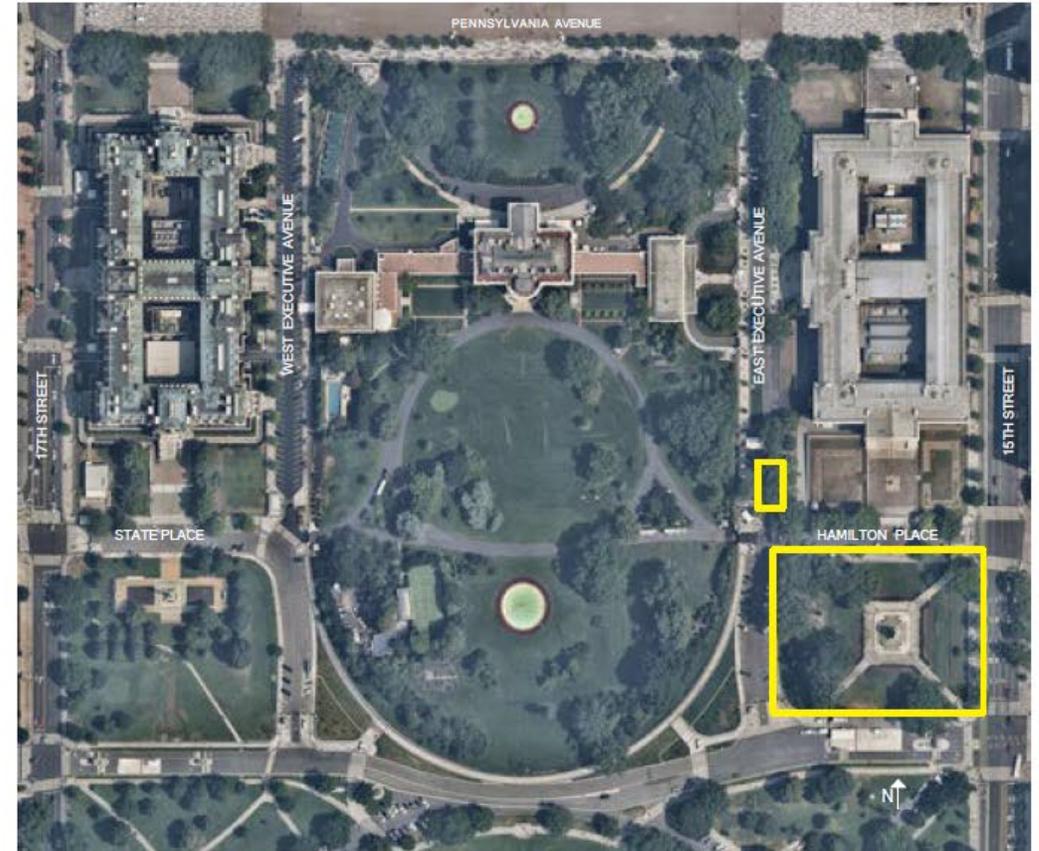
# Description of Project Area

## 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)

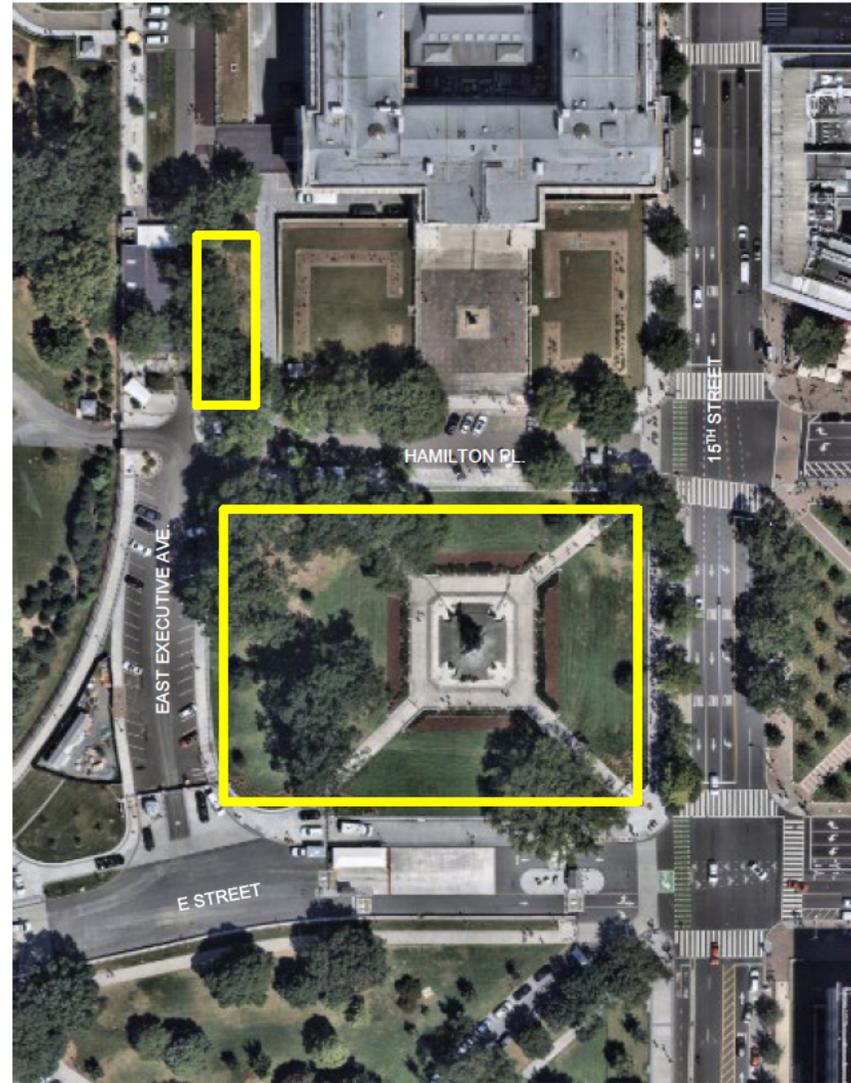
Most of the proposed structure is intentionally positioned below grade within the park's west quadrant to reduce visual impact and to avoid infrastructure conflicts in the southeast corner of the park. Landscape restoration, including new tree plantings, will be provided within all impacted zones to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



EXISTING VIEW IN SHAERMANN PARK, SOUTHEAST SIDEWALK.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHERMAN PARK, SOUTH SIDE LAWN.



EXISTING VIEW IN SHERMAN PARK, SOUTHEAST LAWN.

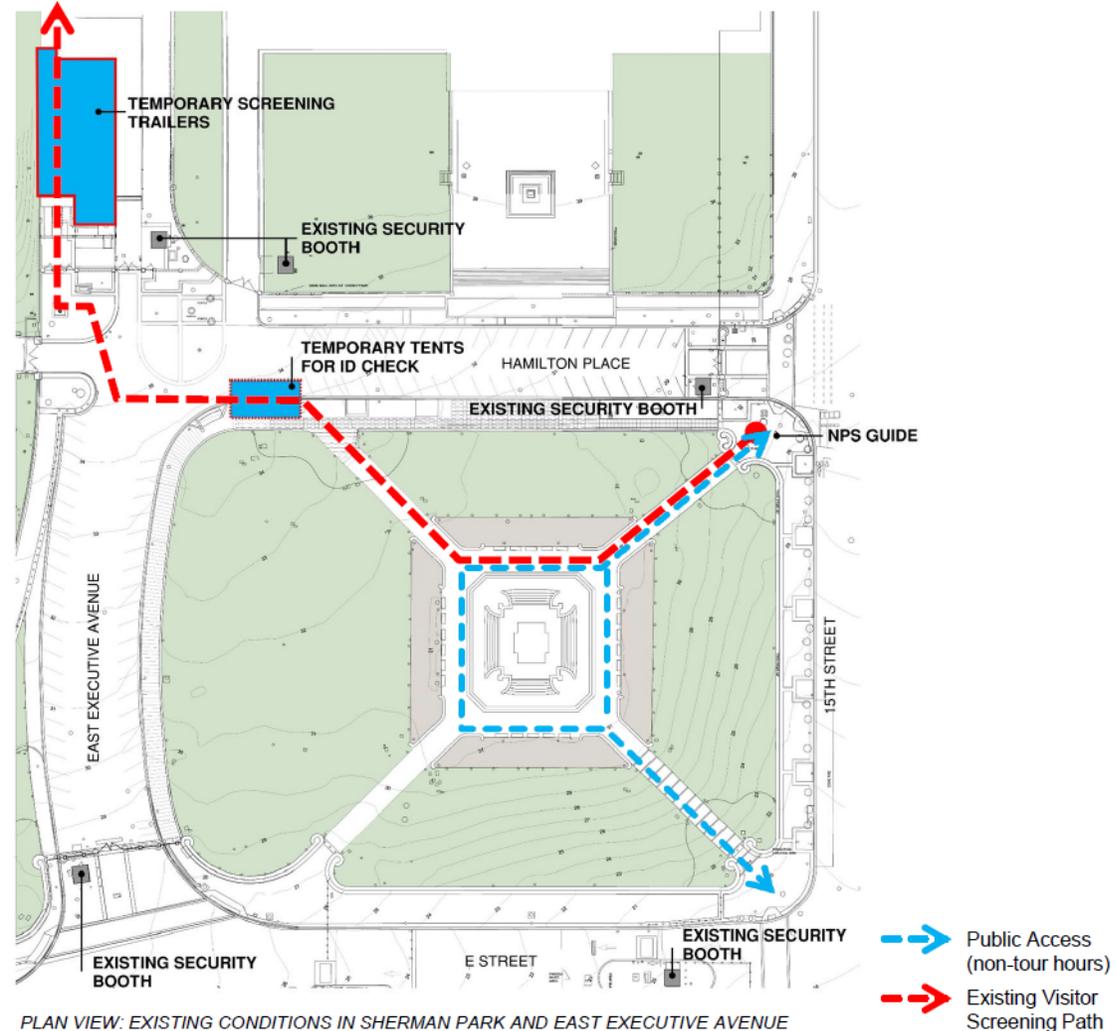
# Existing Site Plan and Screening Access

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



# 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.

# Proposed Facility

## 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY PROPOSED FACILITY



RENDERING SHOW VIEW OF FACILITY ENTRANCE RAMP AT E STREET AND 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET ADJACENT TO SHERAMN 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.

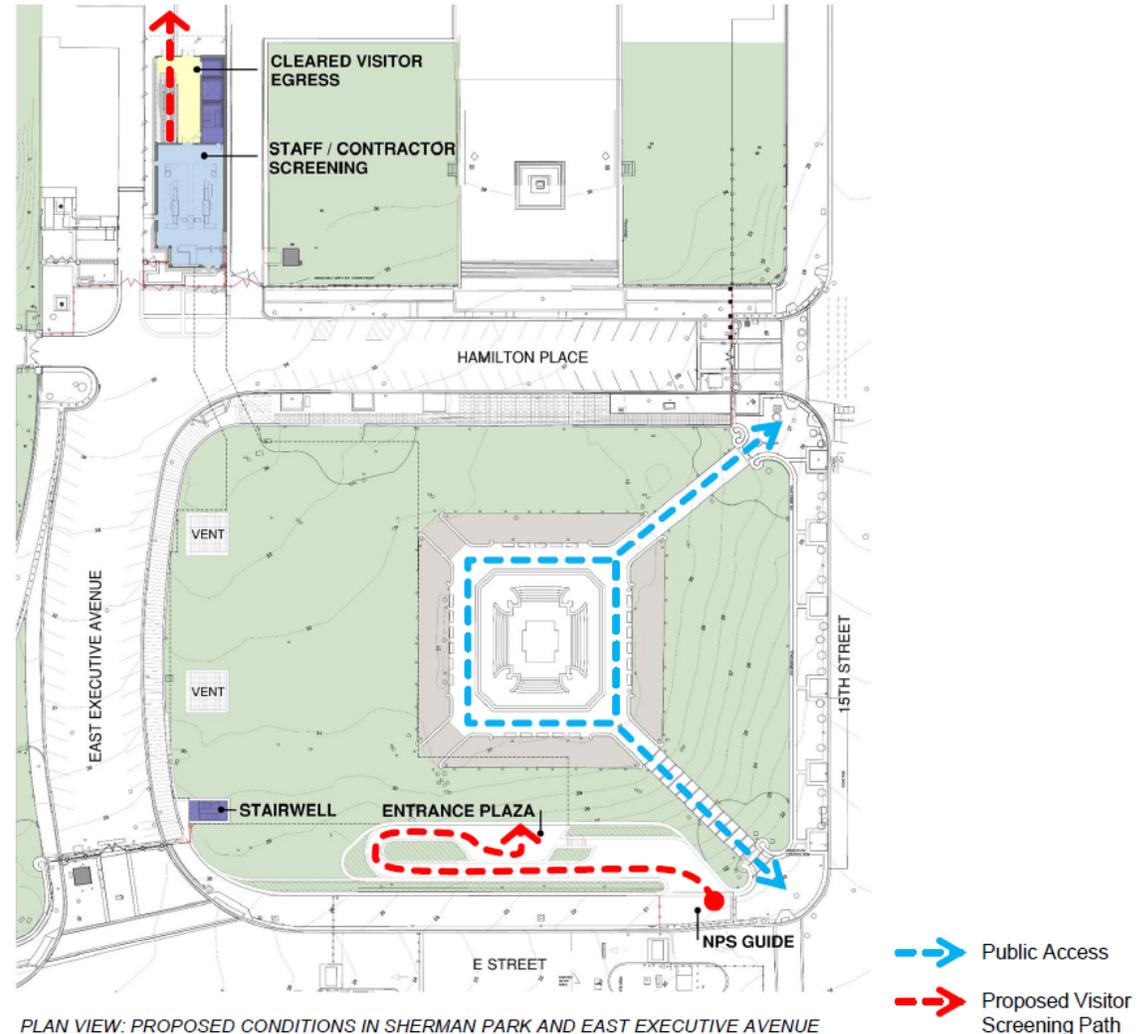
The south quadrant of the park sits at the lowest elevation. This location naturally provides an opportunity to enter the below grade building directly from the sidewalk with the least ramping required.

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

-  Public Access
-  Proposed Visitor Screening Path

# Proposed Facility

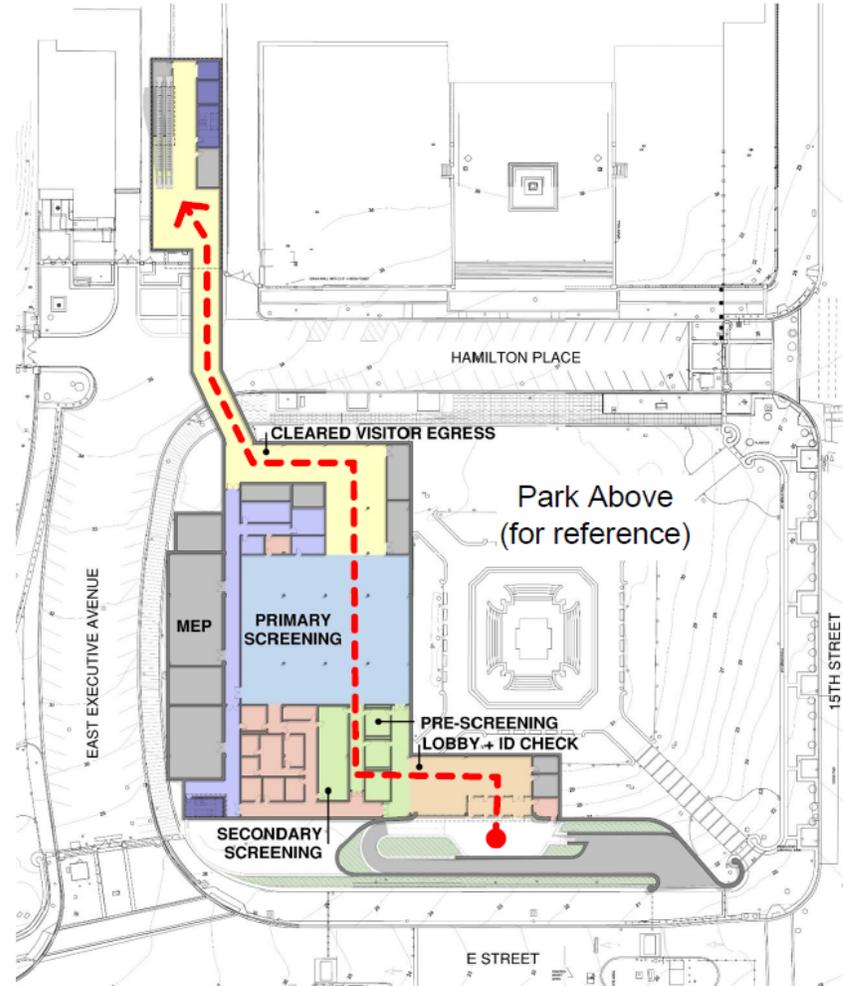
## 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY PROPOSED FACILITY

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

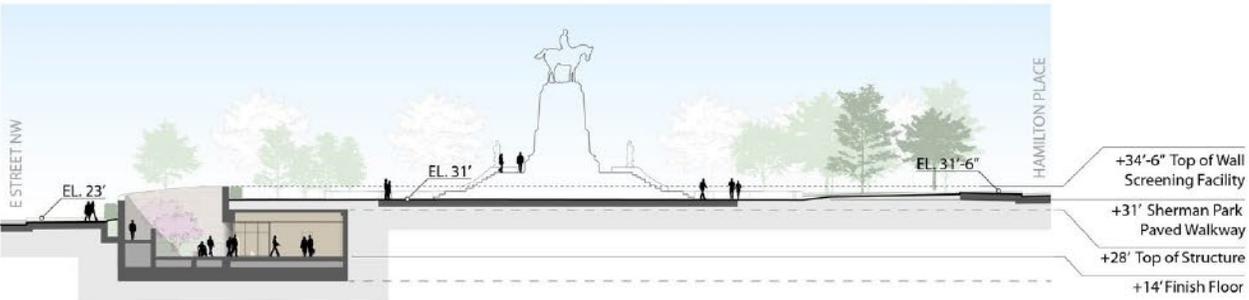
Proposed Visitor Screening Path

# Sections of Proposed Facility

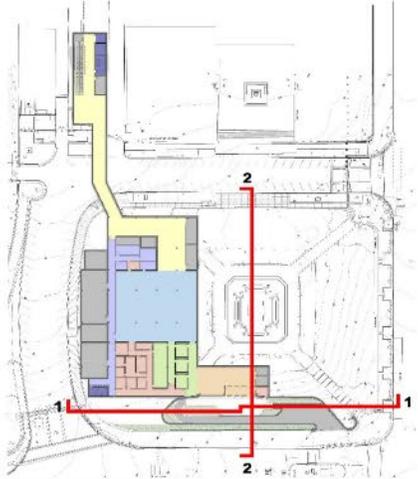
## 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY PROPOSED FACILITY



1 | Entry Plaza  
A.2 | Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"



2 | Entry Plaza  
A.2 | Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"

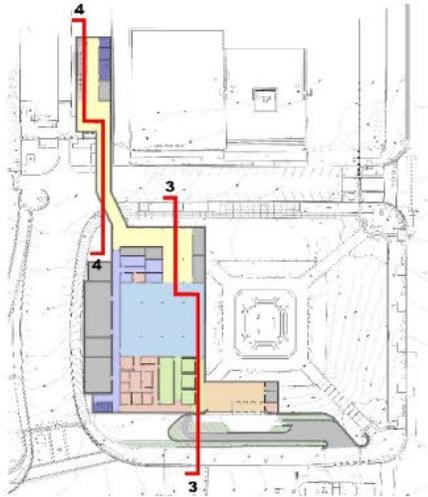
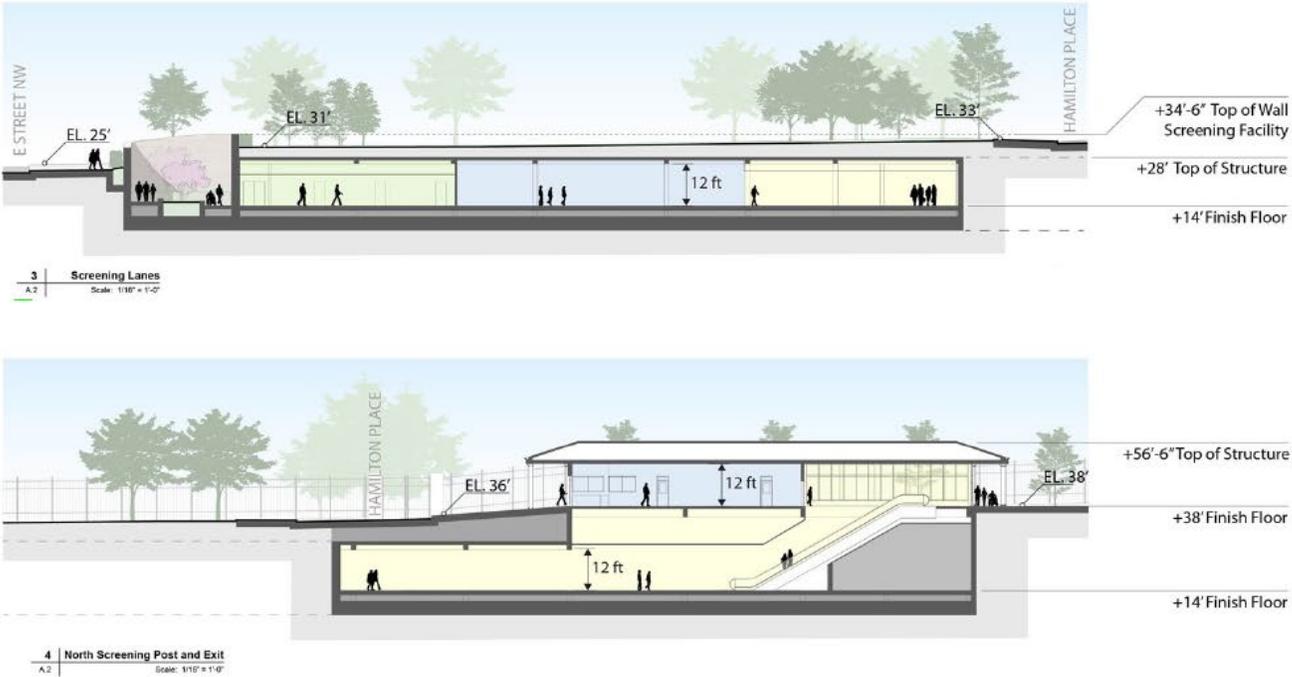


LEGEND SHOWING WHERE SECTIONS ARE CUT THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERAMN PARK

SECTIONS SHOWING VIEW S THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERAMN PARK

# Section of Proposed Facility

## 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY PROPOSED FACILITY



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

SECTIONS SHOWING VIEWS THROUGH THE FACILITY UNDERNEATH SHERAMN PARK

# Elevations and Materials of New Exit Facility

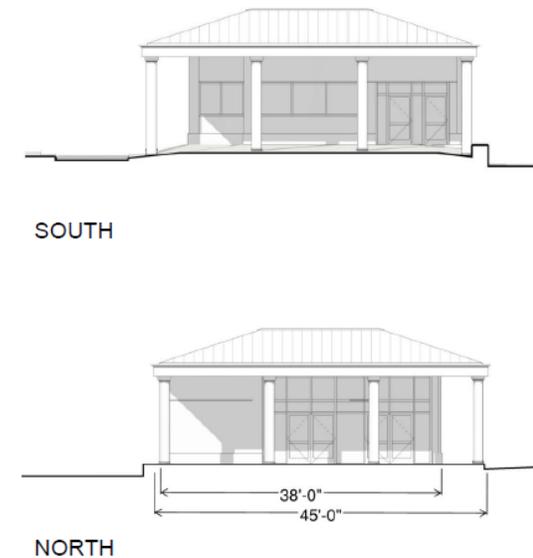
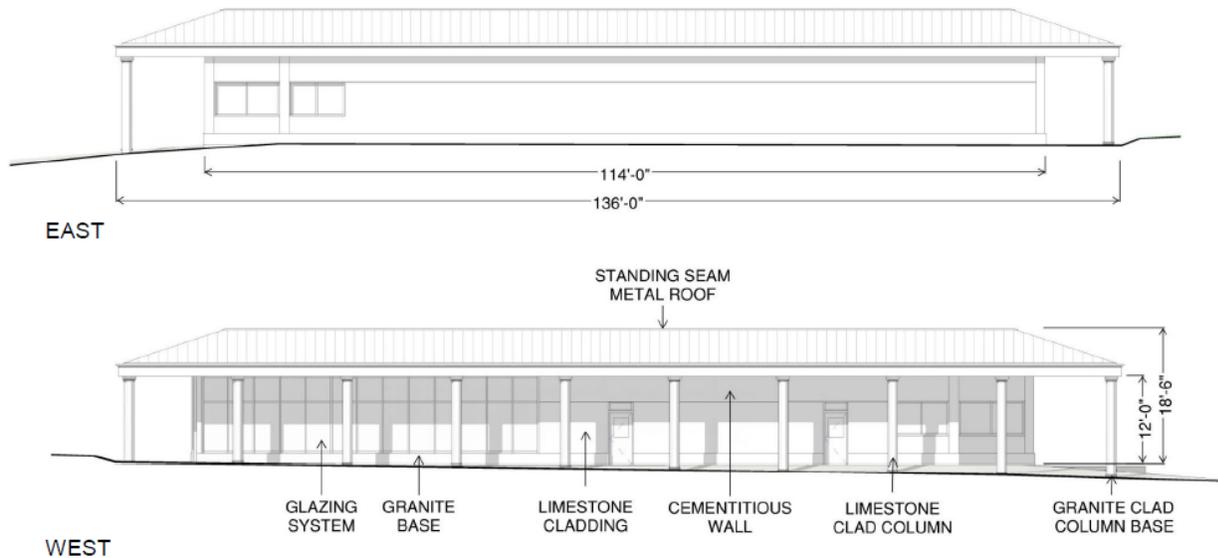
## 2.2 WHITE HOUSE VISITOR SCREENING FACILITY PROPOSED FACILITY

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



ELEVATIONS OF EXIT STRUCTURE ON EAST EXECUTIVE AVENUE

# 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:

- o Additional below grade square footage required to reach exit location on East Exec Ave within the secure perimeter.
- o Major disruption of Campus operations with Lower East Exec Ave not available 30 months due to facility constructed underneath.
- o Closer to the White House view shed
- o 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:

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

#### Sherman Park - Below Ground Facility - North Entry Plaza

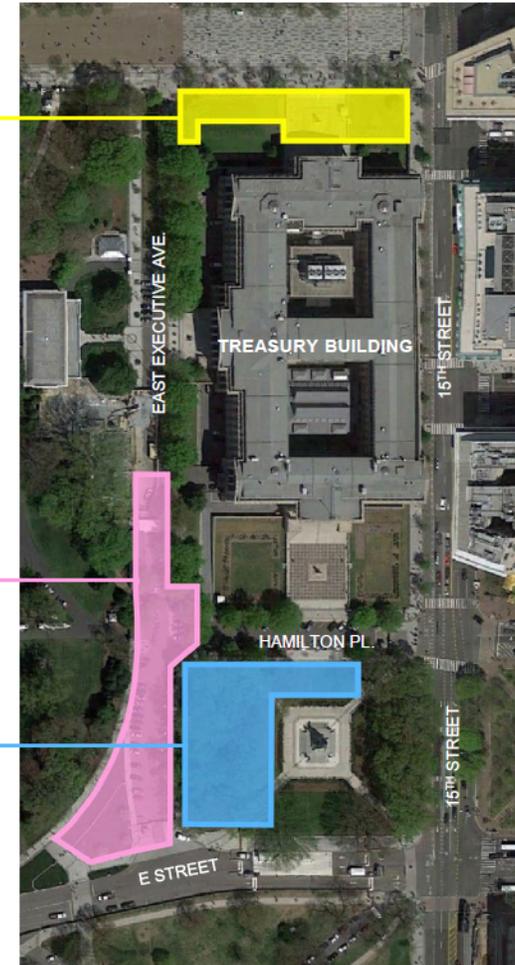
##### Challenges:

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Potential Treasury archeological site in North side of Park.

NORTH TREASURY  
- BELOW GROUND  
PLAZA SITE

LILY TRIANGLE -  
BELOW EAST  
EXEC AVE SITE

SHERMAN PARK -  
BELOW GROUND  
SITE, NORTH  
ENTRY



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:

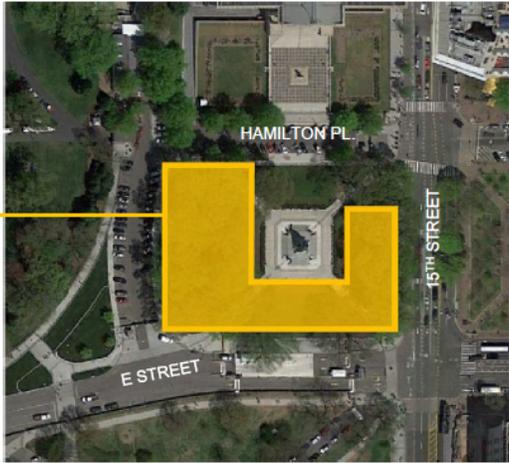
- o Three quadrants of the park would be affected by implementing an east entry.
- o Reaching the necessary depth to enter the facility is not feasible due to a large sewer tunnel traversing the southeast quadrant of the park.
- o Additional below grade square footage required to reach primary screening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

#### Sherman Park - Above Ground

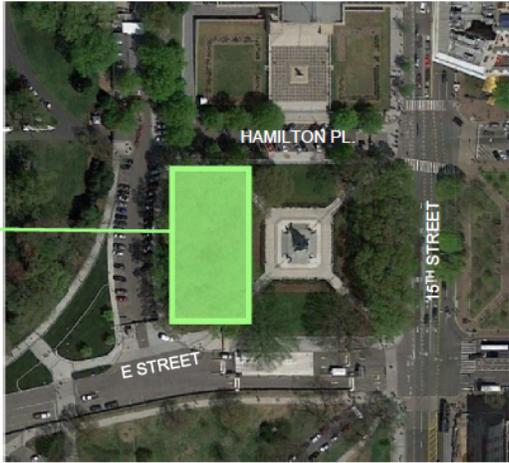
Challenges:

- o The building would be highly visible from the park and the surrounding public spaces.
- o Complete removal of existing trees in the west quadrant, with no available space to introduce replacement plantings.
- o Without a dedicated plaza area, visitors would queue throughout the park and along the 15th Street sidewalks.
- o Entry into the screening facility would occur inside the current security perimeter.
- o Cleared visitors would exit into Sherman Park, which remains on the non-secure side of the complex.
- o 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.

SHERMAN PARK –  
BELOW GROUND  
SITE, EAST  
ENTRY



SHERMAN PARK –  
ABOVE GROUND  
SITE



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 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 NCPD 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.



# 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.

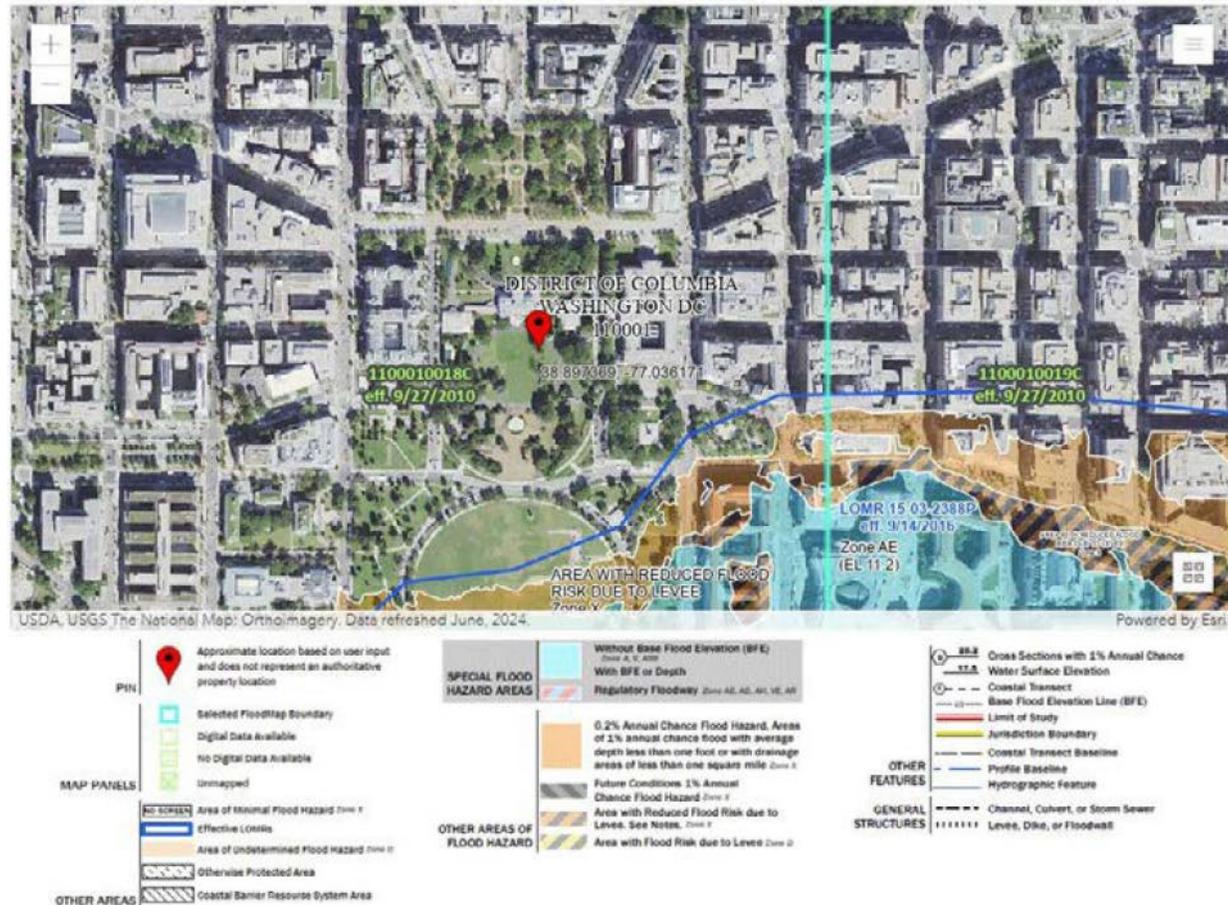


FIGURE 3.2.1 FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) NUMBER 110001 ACCESSED MARCH 5, 2025.